



מכון ויינשטיין | תשפ"א • 2021

BERT B. WEINSTEIN WINTER LEADERSHIP
TRAINING CONFERENCE PROGRAM GUIDE





Ramah Wisconsin, 1950's

When I speak to a group of parents about Ramah, I talk about Ramah and not Camp Ramah.

Yes, the “Ramah experience” takes place in a camp setting, but the notion of Ramah as “just a camp” does injustice to it as the major force it is in Jewish life.

Ramah provides Hebrew language studies for everyone; Jewish ideas for everyone; each according to their own level, their own background and intellectual maturity.

But, most important of all: Ramah makes Jews.

adapted from Rabbi David Mogilner,

Director, Ramah Wisconsin (1958–59)

Director, Ramah Poconos (1960–67, 1975)

Director, Ramah Israel Seminar (1969–70)

Founding Director of National Ramah (1968–74)

MASTER SCHEDULE | All times are Eastern Time

- All-Group Session (one Zoom with breakouts)
- Electives (choose your session)
- Cohort-specific sessions
- Time with your camp
- Breaks/Optional Drop-ins

DAY 1: Sunday, January 3 2021 י"ט טבת תשפ"א		DAY 2: Monday, January 4 2021 כ טבת תשפ"א		DAY 3: Tuesday, January 5 2021 כ"א טבת תשפ"א	
12:00 - 1:00	ברוכים הבאים Welcome & לשבור את הקרח	12:00 - 12:45	הדרכה Electives Block ג	12:00 - 12:45	הדרכה Electives Block ה
1:00 - 1:15	חופש Chat with Mitch & Amy (Optional)	12:45 - 1:00	חופש	12:45 - 1:00	חופש
1:15 - 2:00	הדרכה Electives Block א	1:00 - 2:00	Keynote Presenter: Yavilah McCoy	1:00 - 1:15	Wellness: Vaad Presentation & צוות פעולה
2:00 - 2:15	מנחה והודעות	2:00 - 2:30	Prioritizing DEI at Ramah כמחנה	1:15 - 2:30	Keynote Presenter: Hanoch Piven
2:15 - 2:30	חופש	2:30 - 2:45	חופש	2:30 - 2:45	Chat with Kerem (Optional) חופש
2:30 - 3:15	What will this קיץ look like at Ramah? כמחנה	2:45 - 3:30	Ramah's Approach to Programmatic Excellence מנחה	2:45 - 3:30	What I want to bring to Ramah this summer כמחנה
3:15 - 4:00	הדרכה Electives Block ב	3:30 - 4:15	הדרכה Electives Block ד	3:30 - 4:00	Antiracism Vaad Presentation מנחה
4:00 - 4:30	Vaad Presentation on Inclusion The Nachshon Project הודעות	4:15 - 5:00	Program Sharing / Cohort Session ראש עדה	4:00 - 5:00	Israel Vaad Presentation & NRC Update with Mitch and Amy
4:30 - 5:15	Cohort Session ראש עדה				
Cohort sessions for high school seniors		Cohort sessions for high school seniors		Cohort sessions for high school seniors	
8:00 - 8:45	מדריך Orientation to Being a	8:00 - 8:45	professionalism צוות	8:00 - 8:45	Your role as camper care professional

DAY 1: SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
ALL SESSIONS IN EASTERN TIME

12:00 - 1:00	ברוכים הבאים Welcome & לשבור את הקרח
1:00 - 1:15	חופש Chat with Mitch & Amy (Optional)
1:15 - 2:00	הדרכה Electives Block א
2:00 - 2:15	מנחה והודעות
2:15 - 2:30	חופש
2:30 - 3:15	What will this קיץ look like at Ramah? כמחנה
3:15 - 4:00	הדרכה Electives Block ב
4:00 - 4:30	Vaad Presentation on Inclusion The Nachshon Project הודעות
4:30 - 5:15	Cohort Session ראש עדה
Cohort sessions for high school seniors	
8:00 - 8:45	מדריך Orientation to Being a

ELECTIVE BLOCK א | 1:15 PM



**RAMAH BEHIND THE SCENES:
THE BUSINESS OF CAMP**
Rabbi Joel Seltzer
Executive Director, Ramah Poconos



**BALANCING THE SCALES OF
INEQUALITY IN YOUR TZRIF**
Daniella Elyashar
Assistant Director, Ramah Wisconsin



**DECONSTRUCTING THE ROSH EDAH ROLE
(FOR RASHEI EDAH)**
Jacob Cytryn
Executive Director, Ramah Wisconsin



**TIPS AND TRICKS TO SUCCESSFULLY
MAKE THE LEAP FROM CAMPER TO STAFF**
Rabbi Eliav Bock
Executive Director, Ramah Rockies



**STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH YOUR
CO-COUNSELOR**
Rabbi Ed Gelb
Chief Executive Officer, Ramah New England
Talya Kalender
Director of Camper Care, Ramah New England

ELECTIVE BLOCK ב | 3:15 PM



**QUEER KEHILAH: PROACTIVE LGBTQ
COMMUNITY INCLUSION**
Ari Weinstein
Guest Educator



BUILDING A LEADERSHIP OF INCLUSION
Rabbi Ami Hersh
Camp Director, Ramah Nyack



**WE ALL HAVE A HAND IN BUILDING
(AND RE-BUILDING) CAMP CULTURE IN 2021**
Rabbi Sarah Shulman
Executive Director, Ramah Galim



**TOOLS FOR GIVING FEEDBACK &
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**
Julia Chatinover
Assistant Director, Ramah Rockies

ROSH EDAH COHORT SESSION | 4:30 PM



**CONFRONTING ADVANTAGE AND
DISADVANTAGE IN YOUR EDAH**
Jared Skoff
Program Director, National Ramah

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS COHORT SESSIONS | 8:00 PM



ORIENTATION TO BEING A MADRICH
Rabbi Mitch Cohen
National Director, National Ramah
Amy Skopp Cooper
National Associate Director, National Ramah

DAY 2: MONDAY, JANUARY 4
ALL SESSIONS IN EASTERN TIME

12:00 - 12:45	הדרכה Electives Block ג
12:45 - 1:00	חופש
1:00 - 2:00	Keynote Presenter: Yavilah McCoy
2:00 - 2:30	Prioritizing DEI at Ramah כמחנה
2:30 - 2:45	חופש
2:45 - 3:30	Ramah's Approach to Programmatic Excellence מנחה
3:30 - 4:15	הדרכה Electives Block ד
4:15 - 5:00	Program Sharing / Cohort Session ראש עדה
Cohort sessions for high school seniors	
8:00 - 8:45	צוות professionalism

ELECTIVE BLOCK ג | 12:00 PM



THIS YEAR'S LEADERSHIP TRENDS

Ariella Moss Peterseil
Camp Director, Ramah California



STAFF MINDFULNESS & WELLNESS PRACTICES

Dr. Aviva Levine-Jacobs
Director of Camper Care and Staff Wellness, Ramah California



QUEER KEHILAH: PROACTIVE LGBTQ COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Ari Weinstein
Guest Educator



HELPING CAMPERS ACCLIMATE TO RAMAH IN A COVID WORLD

Rachael Abrams
Director of Camper Care and Staff Development, Ramah Poconos

Orlee Krass
Tikvah Director, Ramah Poconos



BRINGING ISRAEL TO RAMAH THIS SUMMER

Rav Naama Levitz Applbaum
Director, Ramah Israel Seminar

Leora Mietkiewicz
Assistant Director, Ramah Israel Seminar

ELECTIVE BLOCK ד | 3:30 PM



MANAGING BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE

Rabbi Ethan Linden
Director, Ramah Berkshires



UNDER PRESSURE: MANAGING CAMP CRISES

Aviva Millstone
Associate Director, Ramah Canada



LEVERAGING YOUR INDIVIDUAL STRENGTHS AND SKILLS AS A MADRICH

Yael Kornfeld
Assistant Director for Programming, Ramah California



PEULOT TZRIF & POD PROGRAMMING (OVERNIGHT CAMP)

Ayala Wasser
Assistant Director, Ramah Sports Academy



JEWISH MINDFULNESS AT CAMP

Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appell
Director, Ramah Canada



BUILDING SHARED EXPERIENCES TO BOND YOUR TZRIF

Rachel Dobbs Schwartz
Camp Director, Ramah Poconos

DAY 2: MONDAY, JANUARY 4
ALL SESSIONS IN EASTERN TIME

12:00 - 12:45	הדרכה Electives Block ג
12:45 - 1:00	חופש
1:00 - 2:00	Keynote Presenter: Yavilah McCoy
2:00 - 2:30	Prioritizing DEI at Ramah כמחנה
2:30 - 2:45	חופש
2:45 - 3:30	Ramah's Approach to Programmatic Excellence מנחה
3:30 - 4:15	הדרכה Electives Block ד
4:15 - 5:00	Program Sharing / Cohort Session ראש עדה
Cohort sessions for high school seniors	
8:00 - 8:45	צוות professionalism

KEYNOTE PRESENTER | MONDAY JANUARY 4 | 1:00 PM



YAVILAH MCCOY

CEO of DIMENSIONS Educational Consulting

Yavilah McCoy is the CEO of DIMENSIONS Inc. in Boston. She has spent the past 20 years working extensively in multi-faith communities and partnering specifically with the Jewish community to engage issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. Yavilah is an educator, activist and spiritual teacher. She is a Jewish woman and a person of color and has designed numerous tools and methods that enable students and educators to be better citizens of the world through exploring differences and reaching for tangible solutions in allied engagement. Yavilah brings a wealth of wisdom and experience in DEI consulting, non-profit management, philanthropy and engagement to this project and has worked with numerous partners to build strong, healthy organizations with measurable commitments to racial justice, equity and anti-oppression strategies.

Yavilah will be speaking about the role of Ramah counselors in elevating diversity, equity, and inclusion at camp.

PROGRAM SHARING | 4:15 PM



PEULOT FOR DAY CAMP

Pamela Kekst, New England
Erez Davids, Nyack



PEULOT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL EDOT

Becca Stern-Shock, Berkshires
Paul Horvath, Nyack



PEULOT FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND YOUNGEST EDOT

Leah Schatz, Poconos
Sami Eisen, Canada



PEULOT FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND OLDEST EDOT

Avram Ellner, Galim
Allison Sherman, Darom

ROSH EDAH COHORT SESSION | 4:15 PM



YOUR YEAR-ROUND JOURNEY TO ROSH EDAH EXCELLENCE

Amy Skopp Cooper
National Associate Director,
National Ramah

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS COHORT SESSIONS | 8:00 PM



YOUR ROLE AS A MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Rabbi Ed Gelb
Chief Executive Officer, Ramah New England
Talya Kalender
Director of Camper Care, Ramah New England

DAY 3: TUESDAY, JANUARY 5
ALL SESSIONS IN EASTERN TIME

12:00 - 12:45	ה הדרכה Electives Block
12:45 - 1:00	חופש
1:00 - 1:15	Wellness: Vaad Presentation & פעולה צוות
1:15 - 2:30	Keynote Presenter: Hanoch Piven
2:30 - 2:45	חופש Chat with Kerem (Optional)
2:45 - 3:30	What I want to bring to Ramah this summer כמחנה
3:30 - 4:00	Antiracism Vaad Presentation מנחה
4:00 - 5:00	Israel Vaad Presentation & NRC Update with Mitch and Amy

Cohort sessions for high school seniors	
8:00 - 8:45	Your role as camper care professional

ELECTIVE BLOCK ה | 12:00 PM



PEULOT TZRIF & POD PROGRAMMING (FOR DAY CAMP)
Rabbi Jill Levy
Director, Washington DC Day Camp



MAKING EACH CAMPER FEEL TEN FEET TALL
Michelle Sugarman
Assistant Director, Ramah New England



THEY HEAR EVERYTHING! MAIMONIDES' TAKE ON DUGMA ISHIT
Rabbi Joe Menashe
Executive Director, Ramah California



BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE TEAM: VALUING OUR TZEVEH WITH DISABILITIES
Dr. Audra Kaplan
Associate Camp Director & Head of Community Care and Tikvah Support, Ramah Darom



CULTIVATING AN ANTI-RACIST ENVIRONMENT
Ariel Goodman
Program Director, National Ramah
Zach Usmani
Director of Camp Wellness, Ramah Rockies

KEYNOTE PRESENTER | TUESDAY JANUARY 5 | 1:15 PM



HANOCH PIVEN
Collage Artist and Creative Instigator

Hanoch Piven is an award-winning illustrator, educator and seasoned creative instigator. Piven's artwork is unique in both form and method. By reinventing the meaning and use of everyday objects he forges associations between these and the subject of his creation. Piven's art is playful, inclusive and transformative. He has lectured extensively about creativity and its applications to life in diverse platforms across the world. For the last 15 years, Piven has also been conducting creative workshops where he actively engages people in a revelatory experience. Participants are inspired to use Piven's method to explore and visualize their understanding of values, vision, emotions and abstract concepts.

Hanoch will be leading a hands-on workshop exploring personal vision, leadership, and educational approaches.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS COHORT SESSIONS | 8:00 PM



THE MADRICH AS CAREGIVER AND CAMPER CARE PROFESSIONAL
Rabbi Ami Herish
Camp Director, Ramah Nyack
Michelle Sugarman
Assistant Director, Ramah New England



WEINSTEIN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE 2020

Fall Fellowship Pre-Orientation and Vaadot

Participants & Sessions

70 Weinstein Fellows 

50 Weinstein Vaadot Participants 

20 Nativ Weinstein Fellows: Israel Leadership Program 

30 Fall Cohort Sessions 

Vaadot

Israel Education 

Anti-Racism Resources 

Peulah Planning Incubator



Tzevet Wellness and Self-Care



Camper Inclusion and Differentiation



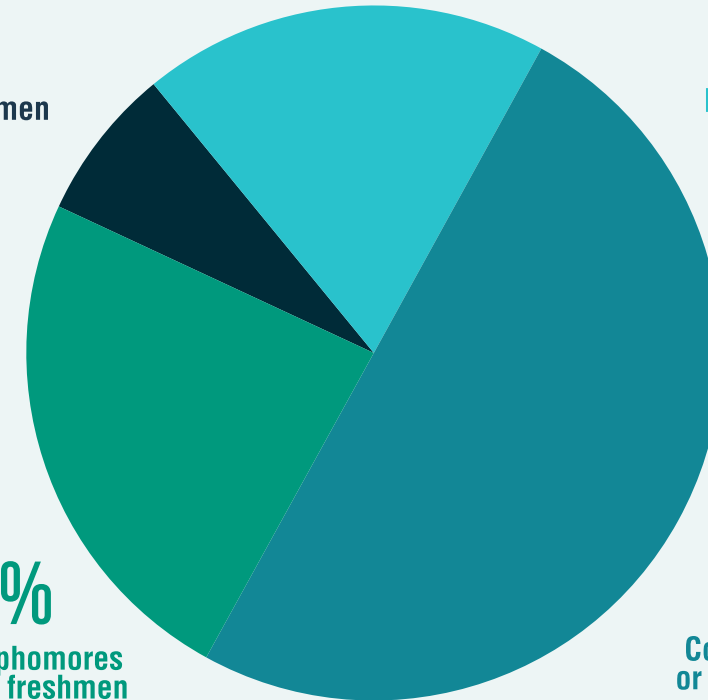
Cohorts

7%
College upperclassmen

19%
High school seniors

24%
College sophomores or gap year freshmen

50%
College freshmen or current gap year



Weinstein Leadership Program Overview

Fall 2020: Fellowship Pre-Orientation and Vaadot

January 3-5, 2021: Weinstein Conference: National Ramah's Virtual Leadership Institute

Spring 2021: Hachana & Hadracha: Counselor Training Seminars

PROGRAM TRACKS

BERT B. WEINSTEIN INSTITUTE

The Bert B. Weinstein Institute is the National Ramah Commission's signature counselor training and leadership program for incoming senior counselors. Participants work with Ramah directors and senior staff to hone critical skills, enhance programming, and share best practices from across the Ramah movement.

VATIKIM: LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Vatikim Leadership Institute is a program designed for experienced senior counselors. Geared toward upperclassmen (returning for their third summer as a counselor), this track focuses on more advanced topics of culture-building, staff dynamics, mentorship, and other leadership development skills.

TIKVAH

Tikvah is Ramah's movement-wide network of programs for children, teens, and young adults with disabilities. Our National Ramah Tikvah Network training includes staff members working as Tikvah counselors, as well as staff dedicated to vocational education and inclusion in other edot. Our Tikvah staff participants at the conference will be focusing on strategies and educational methods relating to building daily routines, nurturing independent living skills, collaboration with families, and strengthening inclusion efforts.

RASHEI EDAH

Rashei Edah are division leaders who will be returning to camp as supervisors this coming summer. At the conference, they will be learning from Ramah senior staff, leading and facilitating sessions for other cohorts, and overseeing components of the Weinstein Institute, providing them with hands-on opportunities to practice organization and executive functioning in a camp environment.

RAMAH COLLEGE NETWORK

Ramah College Network (RCN) Fellows implement Ramah community events on their university campuses. Events range from Shabbat and holiday celebrations to social and learning opportunities. At the conference, RCN Fellows will develop leadership skills and applications for community engagement on campus.

RAMAH SERVICE CORPS

Ramah Service Corps (RSC) Fellows work in Jewish educational institutions, creating experiential programs, as well as assisting with local recruitment efforts. At the conference, the RSC cohort will reflect on their past semester of work, brainstorm effective programming, share fellowship models from their respective sites, and develop new educational resources to bring back to their home communities.

To me Weinstein isn't about learning how to be a better camp counselor, Weinstein is about discovering that there are at least a hundred other people who care just as much about Judaism, care just as strongly about Ramah, and are motivated to have deep, personal conversations about how we can effect change.

Weinstein 2019 participant



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RACHAEL ABRAMS

Rachael works as the year round director of camper care and staff development for Camp Ramah in the Poconos. She holds an MSW from University of Maryland, School of Social Work and is a certified thanatologist, specializing in grief and loss. She spent many years at camp as a camper, staff member and also served on the board of directors. Rachael met her husband Josh at camp, and their two boys are proud Poconos campers.



RABBI JORDAN BENDAT-APPELL

Rabbi Jordan is the director of Camp Ramah in Canada. Rabbi Jordan was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, has a B.A. in Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin, and is an alumnus of the National Outdoor Leadership School. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Covenant Foundation Pomegranate Prize, which recognizes emerging leaders in the field of Jewish education.



RABBI ELIAV BOCK

Eliav is the executive director of Ramah in the Rockies. A native of the Boston area and former Boy Scout, he has spent 11 summers working in other Ramah camps, including 5 years at Camp Ramah in Canada. Ordained as rabbi by JTS in 2009, where he also received his BA and MA in Jewish Education, Eliav has been awarded the Pomegranate Prize by the Covenant Foundation and is a Schusterman Senior Fellow.



JULIA CHATINOVER

Julia is the assistant director of Ramah in the Rockies. Originally from Seattle, Julia attended the Nativ College Leadership Program in Israel before earning dual BA's in Earth Sciences and Talmud from Columbia University and JTS. She is an alumna of the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Yitro Leadership Program and the Yeshivat Hadar Fellowship. Julia's husband, Jacob, joins her at camp each summer.



RABBI MITCH COHEN

Rabbi Cohen is the national director of the Ramah Camping Movement. After graduating from Brown University, Rabbi Cohen attended the NYU School of Law before enrolling in rabbinical school at JTS. Rabbi Cohen worked at Ramah California between 1979 and 1988. He served as director of Ramah Canada for 11 years, 1990-2000. He became national director in 2003.



JACOB CYTRYN

Jacob is the executive director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, and a lifetime Ramahnik. A member of the year-round staff since January of 2007, Jacob previously served as Director, Assistant Director, among other staff roles. An alumnus of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, and JTS, Jacob is an advanced Ph.D. student in Jewish Studies and Education at Brandeis University.



EREZ DAVIDS

Erez is the marketing and communications associate at the National Ramah Commission. Erez worked at Camp Ramah in Nyack for many summers, as a madrich, rosh keif and as a rosh edah. Originally from Westchester, Erez graduated from Binghamton University with a degree in graphic design and a minor in Israel studies and now lives in New York City.



RACHEL DOBBS SCHWARTZ

Prior to taking on the role as Director at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, Rachel was the Assistant Director at Camp Ramah Darom from 2015 to 2020. Rachel has been a Ramahnik since 1998, when she first became a soccer coach at Ramah Darom. She has a Double Bachelor's Degree in History and Art History from the University of Michigan, and an MA from Emory University in Teaching.



SAMI EISEN

Sami is the Program Director for Camp Ramah in Canada. Growing up in Toronto, she spent her summers, since 2005, at Ramah Canada. Sami has been on staff for many summers, spending the last three as a Rosh Edah. She studied History at Queen's University and also has a degree in Education from York University, with a specialization in the Primary and Junior grades.



AVRAM ELLNER

Avram is the coordinator of the Advah Fellowship (Amitei Ramah Tzeirim) at Ramah Galim, and also serves as Rosh Nachshonim, the camp's oldest edah. Originally from Voorhees, NJ, he is a camper and staff alum of Ramah Poconos. After graduating from Tufts University, Avram served as a JDC Fellow in Mumbai, India and on the staff of Muhlenberg Hillel. He currently attends the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.

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DANIELLA ELYASHAR

Daniella is the assistant director of Ramah Wisconsin, where she has worked on the summer staff since 2014. Most recently, Daniella worked at an Israeli educational NGO for children of asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers. She has also worked for National Ramah and The Jewish Agency, where she screened and trained future shlichim. Daniella earned her BA in Education, History and Philosophy from Hebrew U.



RABBI ED GELB

Rabbi Gelb has served as director of Camp Ramah New England since September of 2005, and C.E.O. since October of 2018. Ed joined CRNE after a successful five-year tenure as director of Camp Alonim in California. Raised in Wyoming, Rabbi Gelb served on the staffs of Ramah California and Ramah Canada for many years. An alumnus of UCLA, Ed was ordained by the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.



ARIEL GOODMAN

Ariel is the program director of the National Ramah Commission. Originally from Evanston, Illinois, Ariel spent 5 summers at Ramah Wisconsin. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Ariel completed the Avodah Jewish Service Corps fellowship in Washington, DC and worked in both homeless services and education before joining National Ramah.



RABBI AMI HERSH

Rabbi Hersh is the camp director of Ramah Day Camp in Nyack and has worked at Nyack since 2000. Ami, an alum of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship, was ordained at JTS in May 2012 and also received an MA in Jewish education from the Davidson School of Jewish Education in 2013. A graduate of the University of Hartford, he holds degrees in elementary education and Judaic studies.



PAUL HORVATH

Paul is the Program Coordinator at Ramah Nyack. He has been at Ramah since he was a camper at Nyack, and then as a camper, counselor, and rosh edah at Ramah Berkshires. Paul studied politics and computer science at Princeton and was a fellow on the Nachshon Project. Paul is best known for his role in the Machon 2013 production of the Prince of Egypt as “the hebrew that Moses saves from the Egyptian.”



TALYA KALENDER

Talya Kalender is the Director of Camper and Staff Care at Ramah New England. A graduate of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, she lives in Fairfax, VA (when she doesn't live in Palmer). She is a 3rd generation Ramahnick and has been working full-time for CRNE for 12 years.



DR. AUDRA KAPLAN

Audra is the Associate Camp Director and Head of Community Care & Tikvah Support at Ramah Darom. Prior, Audra was the camp director of Camp Firefly in Chicago. Audra received her BA from the University of Michigan and Psy.D. from The Illinois School of Professional Psychology in 1996. Audra has worked with Jewish Child and Family Services since 1997 and is a Certified Autism Specialist.



PAMELA KEKST

Pamela is the Program Director at Ramah New England. She has been a Ramahnick since 2007, growing up at Ramah Canada and working at Ramah Nyack on staff and as a Rosh Edah. Pamela graduated from the University of Maryland with a BA in Psychology and was a fellow on the Nachshon Project.



Yael Kornfeld

Yael is the Assistant Director for Programming at Ramah California. Yael spent many summers at Ramah California including as a madricha and a rosh edah. Originally from Denver, Yael graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in organizational studies. Yael loves to travel, go hiking, and spend time with her friends and family.



ORLEE KRASS

Orlee is the Tikvah director at Ramah Poconos. Originally from Rockland County, NY, Orlee grew up at Ramah Nyack as a camper, counselor, and rosh edah. A graduate of the Nativ program, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Mercy College, Orlee holds a BA and an MA in Judaic studies and education. Orlee has also served as the director of camper care at Ramah Nyack and the Tikvah network.

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DR. AVIVA LEVINE-JACOBS

Aviva is the Director of Camper Care and Staff Wellness at Ramah California, working alongside Ramah's outstanding yoatzim/parent liaisons. An alumna of Brown University, she received her PsyD in clinical psychology from the CA School of Professional Psychology. She has a long history with Ramah California as a chanicha, madricha, rosh edah, and rosh mador. Aviva recently relocated to Skokie, Illinois with her family.



RAV NA'AMA LEVITZ APPLBAUM

Na'ama is the director of Ramah Israel Seminar. Na'ama was ordained by Rabbi Daniel Landes in Jerusalem and has worked and taught in various educational institutions, including several Ramah camps. Na'ama was on the mishlachta at Ramah Wisconsin in 2002 and was rosh tefila at Ramah Berkshires in 2016. She is a seventh generation Jerusalemite, and lives with her husband Ari and their four children.



RABBI JILL LEVY

Rabbi Jill Levy is the director of the Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington D.C. She joined the Camp Ramah New England staff after five years as Rabbi at the Houston JCC, where she also served as Director of their largest day camp, Camp Kaleidoscope. Rabbi Jill also spent summers on staff at Ramah Darom and Ramah Nyack. Rabbi Jill was ordained at JTS, where she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow.



RABBI ETHAN LINDEN

Rabbi Linden is the director of Ramah Berkshires. From Pittsburgh, Ethan has worked at Ramah Canada, Darom, and New England. A graduate of Cornell University, he majored in international relations and ethics and received his rabbinic ordination from JTS in 2007. Ethan was the congregational rabbi of Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation in New Orleans for seven years before returning to Ramah.



RABBI JOE MENASHE

Rabbi Joe is the executive director of Ramah California. He hails from Portland, Oregon and has been a part of the Ramah family since 1995. Rabbi Joe received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993. He obtained a master of Hebrew letters from the University of Judaism in Los Angeles in 1996 and received his rabbinic ordination and an MA from JTS in 2000.



LEORA MIETKIEWICZ

Leora is the assistant director of Ramah Israel Seminar. Born and raised in Thornhill, Ontario, Leora always dreamed of making Aliyah. She holds a B.Ed and Teaching Certificate from McGill University. Leora spent 18 summers at Ramah Canada, most recently as the year-round Program Associate. When she is not in the office, you can find her eating the most delicious breakfasts that Israel has to offer.



AVIVA MILLSTONE

Aviva has been the Associate Director at Ramah Canada for the last 9 summers. Aviva grew up at Ramah in the 90's. Before becoming the Associate Director Aviva spent time working with Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. She lived in Warsaw and Tallinn before moving back to Toronto. Aviva has a BA in Religious Studies and MA in Jewish Professional Studies. Aviva currently lives in Dundas, Ontario with her family.



ARIELLA MOSS PETERSEIL

Ariella is the camp director of Ramah California. Ariella came to Camp Ramah as a shlichah and served on staff at Ramah Canada for over a decade. Before she joined the Ojai community, Ariella was the assistant director at Ramah Canada. She studied Jewish philosophy at Hebrew University and theatre production at the School of Visual Theatre in Jerusalem.



GABY NATELSON

Gaby is the Assistant Director for Recruitment & Retention for Ramah California. She has worked on staff for many summers including three as a rosh edah. Originally from Orange County, CA, Gaby graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a BA in communications and a minor in Jewish studies.



LEAH SCHATZ

Leah is the program director at Camp Ramah in the Poconos. She is an alumna of Ramah Day Camp in Philadelphia and Camp Ramah in the Poconos. A proud member of Geshar 2011, Leah worked as a madricha for four years and a rosh edah for two. Leah graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in elementary education in 2017.

WEINSTEIN CONFERENCE FACULTY



RABBI JOEL SELTZER

Rabbi Seltzer is the executive director of Ramah Poconos. Rabbi Seltzer spent many years at Ramah Poconos as a camper and a counselor, rosh edah and rosh drama. He is a graduate of JTS and served as a rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, RI for four years before returning to Ramah. Rabbi Seltzer lives in Philadelphia with his wife, whom he met at camp, and his three daughters.



ALLISON SHERMAN

Allison is the program coordinator of Ramah Darom. She has spent the last 6 summers as a madricha and rosh edah at Darom. Allison graduated from the University of Florida in 2019 with a BA in education sciences.



RABBI SARAH SHULMAN

Rabbi Sarah is the executive director of Ramah Galim. She was ordained with dual MA's in Education and Rabbinic Studies from AJU in 2016. Originally from Seattle, Rabbi Sarah has a B.A. from Stanford University. After college, Rabbi Sarah completed the Day School Leadership through Teaching (DeLeT) fellowship, and taught at Jewish Day Schools in the San Francisco Bay Area for six years.



JARED SKOFF

Jared is the program director of the National Ramah Commission. He has worked on the summer staff of Ramah Canada and Ramah Wisconsin, where he is an educational consultant for special needs programs. Jared has led Ramah programming as a Jewish educator in Detroit, St. Louis, New York, LA, and in his hometown of Cleveland. He is a graduate of Wash. U, and attends the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies.



AMY SKOPP COOPER

Amy is the national associate director of the National Ramah Commission and the executive director of Ramah Nyack. She holds degrees in Jewish history and Jewish education from Hebrew University and an MA in Jewish education and communal service from Brandeis University. She is the recipient of the 2011 Covenant Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.



BECCA STERN-SHOCK

Becca is the office manager at the National Ramah Commission. Becca spent 14 summers at Ramah Berkshires including six summers on staff and most recently as a rosh edah. Becca graduated from Binghamton University in 2018 with a degree in English and education.



MICHELLE SUGARMAN

Michelle is the assistant director of Camp Ramah New England. Originally from Scranton, PA, she was a long-time camper and staff member at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, spending 26 summers there, including 12 as the Assistant and then Associate Director. She earned her BA in Jewish Studies and MSW from Temple University, and has also worked as Director of the N.A. Office of Academic Affairs of Hebrew University.



ZACH USMANI

Zach is the Director of Community Wellness at Ramah in the Rockies, where he has worked many summers since 2011. During the school year, he is a school social worker in Columbus, OH, and a community organizer for racial justice. He has a BA in sociology from The Ohio State University and an MSW from Columbia University.



AYALA WASSER

Ayala is the assistant director of Ramah Sports Academy. She spent many summers as a camper and staff member at Ramah Darom, including five summers as a rosh edah. Ayala is a graduate of List College and received her MA in Jewish Education from JTS. Ayala loves to travel, cook, and play basketball.



ARI WEINSTEIN

Ari is a former chanich, madrich, and rosh edah from Ramah in Wisconsin. Ari's proudest memories from his 11 summers at Ramah relate to imagining, creating, and witnessing the flourishing of the Kehilla Ge'ah initiative for LGBTQ+ community members. Outside of camp, Ari worked as the LGBTQ+ programs manager at a JCC in DC and at a community center for LGBTQ+ refugees in Athens, Greece.



האי גברא עלמא בחרובא אשכחתיה כי היכי דשתלי לי אבהתי
שתלי נמי לבראי

When I was born, I inherited a world full of carob trees.
Just as my ancestors planted for me, I too am planting for
my children and grandchildren.

תלמוד בבלי, תענית כ"ג א



OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Berkshires • California • Canada • Darom
New England • Northern California (Galim) • Poconos
Ramah Sports Academy • Rockies • Wisconsin

DAY CAMPS

Chicago • Jerusalem • Nyack
Philadelphia • Washington, D.C.

RAMAH ISRAEL

Ramah Israel Seminar • Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim (TRY)
Ramah Israel Institute: Synagogue, School, Family, and Adult Trips
Masa Israel Teaching Fellows (MITF)

NATIONAL RAMAH TIKVAH NETWORK

Programs for Children, Teens, and Young Adults with Disabilities:
Inclusion Camping • Vocational Education
Family Camps • Staff Professional Development