



Dear Ramah Family:

Aily and I just returned from an amazing week in Israel, where we interviewed and hired a group of 16 wonderfully talented Israeli shlichim to serve on staff this summer. One is a martial arts specialist, one is a dancer and gymnastics instructor, and another is a highly touted basketball player. These young Israelis, most of them just on the brink of completing their army service, represent the cream of the crop of Israeli society. They all spoke with such excitement and passion about their shlichut (ambassadorship) and about wanting to come to Ramah this summer to share both their specific skills and their love of Israel.



Adi Jaffe, Gymnastics

The relationship between Camp Ramah in Canada and Israel is strong, the ties run deep. We were reminded of this throughout our trip:

-We visited Ramah's semester program in Israel, Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim (TR Y). With 7 participants representing Canada, many of them will be returning to camp this summer to share their experiences.

-We learned that, to date, this summer more than 35 Alonim graduates (representing nearly 70% of the edah) will be participating in Ramah Seminar in Israel.

-We met with more than a dozen North American staff on various year-programs in Israel, including spending time with Ramah Canada alumni Alissa Abrahami and Erica Mindel, both chayat bodedot (lone soldiers) serving in the Israeli army. Most of them credit their Ramah experience as having given them an appreciation and love for Israel, and they also spoke about ways of bringing their year in Israel back to camp with them - if not this summer, then perhaps in the future.

-We spent time with dozens of former shlichim who speak of Ramah Canada as their "home away from home." In fact, many of them continue to be an address for Ramah families and staff to contact while in Israel, and several of them actually came out to help us interview this summer's new prospects!



Alissa Abrahami



Aily Leibtag with Leora and Erica



Leora and Erica



Leora, Erica Mindel, Aily, Natalie Urbach, Randi Taison, Jonah Levitt, Leora Mielkewicz, Ron



TR Y (L to R): Molly Toby, Emily Wise, Jacob Eisen, Ron Polster, Jeremy Urbach, Eitan MacKler, Jacob Wise

In addition to our mishlachot of post-army shlichim coming from Israel, we also welcome Bar Avital and Yuval Aviram to our summer staff team. Bar and Yuval are part of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto shishinim program, where they spend the year in Toronto offering programming in Jewish day schools and synagogues and then join us in camp over the summer.



Bar Avital and Yuval Aviram

Strong relationships take work. We at Ramah Canada value our relationship with Israel and continue to find meaningful ways to nurture and strengthen that relationship. Camp-wide programs like Yom Yisrael and our annual Israeli-led Tisha B'Av ceremony represent the tip of the iceberg. The real strengthening of that relationship happens through building meaningful, individual relationships: with our Israeli mishlachot on the one hand, but also with campers who come off of TR Y and with current and future staff members who experience Ramah Seminar or year-programs in Israel and bring those experiences with them back to camp. Each Israel experience plays a critical role in keeping that relationship alive and strong.

Shabbat Shalom!

Dr. Ron Polster  
Director

PS – SPOILER ALERT: Meet this summer's Rosh M'ishlachah/Rosh Tefillah  
and Rosh Amanut!



Shom Edelstein & Yaara Edelstein  
Rosh M'ishlachah/Rosh Tefillah & Rosh Amanut

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STAY IN TOUCH!

