

# Camp Ramah in New England



**Elevate your summer!**

March 9, 2017

11 Adar 5777

## **Ramah Palmer and DC Day Camp Security Update**

*Shalom* Ramah Families,

The health and safety of our campers is the single most important thing to us at Camp Ramah in New England and The Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington, DC. With bomb threats and other anti-Semitic activities becoming more prevalent in the news today, and impacting many of our own day schools and JCCs, we wanted to share with you how we are approaching security for this summer. This is not new to us as we have done this type of review for years. Still, in light of recent events, we are spending even more time ensuring that we are taking the right steps.

We are still in our review process and we expect to write a second letter to the Ramah community updating you on our procedures prior to the summer season.

Each year we review security risks and plan revisions with our outside security company, Securitas (the largest security company in the world). We also meet with the Palmer police chief and their police officer in charge of school safety as well as representatives from the Germantown police department. Both police departments are in contact with the FBI. Every year, during the offseason, we participate in several conference calls, webinars and groups about security. Here is a recap of some of the people and groups with whom we are in contact.

In the last weeks, the Jewish camp directors roundtable (all Jewish camps in the Boston area) met with Robert Trestan, ADL's New England regional director, Daniel Levenson, ADL's NE associate regional director, M. Jeremy Yamin, director of security for the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston's Jewish Federation, and two professionals from the private security world to discuss what steps we should take.

We also attended The Foundation for Jewish Camp's webinars for both overnight and day camps covering similar information and additional resources including from Homeland Security.

**[www.campramahne.org](http://www.campramahne.org)**

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We also monitor regular emails from the Jewish Emergency Management System (CJP, ADL, JCRC) and the Secure Community Network of the Jewish Federations of North America. The day camp receives emergency and security updates from Montgomery County.

We are currently compiling our notes from our recent meetings and will be discussing these issues at our upcoming executive committee, day camp committee and full board meetings. Together we will work on what additional/new policies and procedures we want to implement.

At that point, we expect to write a letter briefing the community on our next steps. Please feel free to call or email us with your questions or concerns.

We appreciate that you trust us with your children and we will continue to keep their health and safety as our primary concern.

*Kol Tuv,*

Rabbi Ed Gelb  
*Director*

Rabbi Rami Schwartz  
*Director, Ramah Day Camp*

Belinda Krifcher Lehman  
*President, Board of Directors*