

# Family Camp Program Guide





# Welcome from Your Hosts!



PAMELA KEKST



MICHELLE SUGARMAN

*Shalom Families, Welcome to Ramah New England!*

We are so excited to welcome you to Family Camp 2023! Whether you've joined us at a previous Family Camp, or this is your first year, we have been eagerly awaiting your arrival. We are happy you have taken this opportunity to experience a Ramah-style *Shabbaton*.

The time has come for the FUN to begin! This weekend is Camp Ramah... For the WHOLE FAMILY!! We've planned numerous camp activities such as sports, arts, nature workshops, Gaga, singing and dancing. Through innovative Jewish learning, Family Camp provides special family activities, as well as separate programs for adults and children. And take advantage of our excellent childcare! We are offering daytime childcare for younger children, supervised day camp activities for older children, and nighttime supervision for all children.

This Program Guide has everything you need to know to make the most of your experience. Please take time to read through it and bring it with you wherever you go. We are always here to answer any additional questions you may have. Thank you for being a part of our Ramah New England family, and welcome home!

*Kol Tuv!*

*P.S. If you ever need to contact either of us, we will be in the Chadar Ochel during meal times!*



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## Ramah Family Camp A to Z

*This is by no means an exhaustive list of things to know about Family Camp! If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to let us know.*

**Accommodations:** We understand that accommodations at camp can sometimes be rustic. If there is anything we can do to make your stay more comfortable, please do not hesitate to ask. We ask that you refrain from moving beds around inside the cabins.

**Blankets:** If you're feeling a little chilly in your bunk, you can request a blanket from Pamela Kekst or Michelle Sugarman.

**Camp Map:** Located on the last page of the Program Guide, please refer to the Campus Map, along with the Daily Schedule (starting on page 7) for the locations of programming. Let us know if you feel lost!

**Candle Lighting:** Tealight candles will be provided for Shabbat candle lighting in the Chorsah (grove) starting at 5:45pm on Shabbat afternoon.

**Cell Phone Use:** While there is cell phone service throughout camp, we encourage you to use this weekend as an opportunity to unplug. Additionally, we ask that you refrain from carrying your cell phone throughout camp on Shabbat.



# Ramah Family Camp A to Z

**Check-In:** Check-in is open between 3pm and 5pm. Upon arrival, all guests must check in at the O"CH – the pavilion outside of the Chadar Ochel (Dining Room). During check-in, guests will receive the Family Camp Program Guide and any additional welcome materials. Our Welcome Staff can answer any questions you have and are happy to help you and your family settle into your bunks.

**Clothing:** The weather can be unpredictable here in Western Massachusetts and temperatures can drop quickly in the evenings and early morning. It is helpful to have layers of clothing and a raincoat with you. And no matter the weather conditions, comfortable walking shoes are a must!

**Drinking Water:** All water on our property is underground spring water – great for drinking! We encourage you to fill your reusable bottles at any of our water stations across camp.

**Emergencies:** In case of emergency, please call 911. Be prepared to state the nature of the problem and your location: 39 Bennett Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Please also notify a Ramah New England staff person of the situation.

**Eruv (Shabbat Boundary):** Ramah New England maintains an *Eruv*, checked by our *Mashgiach*, which allows one to carry items around camp on *Shabbat*. Please note: the hiking trails going out to the treehouse are outside the boundary of the *Eruv*.

**Food Allergies/Dietary Restrictions:** If you have any dietary concerns, please let us know. Chef Sean is happy to accommodate dietary restrictions and will be available to answer any questions throughout the weekend. Look for a list of major food allergens on the menu board.

**Food/Meals:** We are a kosher, nut-free campus. Please help us maintain our kashrut. All your meals, snacks, and beverages are provided. Outside food is not allowed in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Room). All meals are self-serve buffets. Beverages and snacks will always be available between meals in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Room).

**Gan (daycare):** For families with children 5 and under, we are excited to offer a full menu of programming designed for little ones to play and explore. Feel free to drop your children off at the Gan, located at Moadon Amitzim, throughout the weekend or stay and join in with their crafts and games! Check the Daily Schedule to see when the Gan is open.

**Lost & Found:** There is a Lost & Found table in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall) located near the main entrance. Please be sure to leave found items or check for lost items at this location throughout the weekend.

**Maintenance Requests:** If you encounter any facility or maintenance issues while at camp, please inform Pamela Kekst or Michelle Sugarman.

**Masks:** Masking is optional at Family Camp. Those who elect to wear masks are welcome to do so.



# Ramah Family Camp A to Z

**Mealtimes:** Mealtimes are one of the few things at Family Camp that cannot be changed, so please make sure to attend meals on time. There are always people around to answer your questions, but here are a few guidelines:

- Before each meal, all guests must wash their hands when entering the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).
- Guests can choose where to sit and with whom they are comfortable dining.
- Each table is asked to clear their dishes into the bus buckets at the end of the tables. When dishes are cleared, please roll up the trash and table paper, and dispose of it in the barrels provided.
- Please wait until we have said *Motzi* (blessing over bread) before entering the buffet line. The meal will conclude with *Birkat Hamazon* (grace after meals) and announcements.
- Please use a new plate for each visit to the buffet line or salad bar.
- All major food allergens are listed at each meal, and special dietary food needs will be served from the Allergy Station, located under the menu board TV screen.
- Lost & Found is located on a table by the main entrance of the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

**Medical Care:** For minor medical issues, a first aid kit and an AED are available at the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Hall). There is a medical professional onsite during the retreat and can be reached at (339) 237-2256 if necessary. Our *Mirpa'ah* (Health Center), will be open during set times throughout the weekend. Check the Daily Schedule for hours.

**Moadon Amitzim:** The *Moadon Amitzim* is the location of the *Gan* (daycare). For families with children 5 and under, we are excited to offer a full menu of programming designed for little ones to play and explore.

**Moadon Tzevet:** The *Moadon Tzevet*, or staff lounge, is designed to be adult space throughout the weekend. Stop by each night for late night snacks, adult programming, or to hang out with other parents.

**Nametags:** Please wear your nametags throughout the weekend and ask your children to do the same. Nametags help us learn each other's names, identify children when they're not with you, and help keep camp secure.

**Participation:** There are many ways to enjoy Family Camp, depending on what you think is most appropriate for your family. We have packed days of fun, camp-style activities! While there is some programming designed specifically for adults or children, most activities can be enjoyed by either or both! During all our Shabbat Chugim (elective activities), families are encouraged to participate together. We know you want to play hockey and Gaga just as much as your kids! Or, if you'd rather have some time apart from your kids, you can feel free to hang out with other parents, take a walk around camp, take a nap in your bunk, or take advantage of our sports facilities.

**Ohel Kef:** Located outside the Bet Am Gadol, the Ohel Kef (fun tent) is a gathering space designed for children throughout the weekend. Sometimes there will be staff present to run games, read books, and do puzzles with children. Other times, the Ohel Kef is a great place for you to take your child if they need some time away from organized activities or loud spaces. Feel free to use the Ohel Kef as much or as little as you would like.

**Running & Walking:** If you intend to run or walk outside of our property, please be aware that there are dogs in the area that might not be as friendly as we are at Ramah New England! If you'd like to stay on our property, you are invited to run or walk our hiking trails behind the K'far - just be aware of the rugged terrain and keep an eye out for wildlife!

**Security:** We have security guards on site throughout the weekend. If you see them around, wave hello! If you have any concerns regarding security, please bring them to Pamela Kekst's or Michelle Sugarman's attention.



# Ramah Family Camp A to Z

**Shabbat:** *Shabbat* is a very special time of the week for our *Shomer Shabbat* community, and we offer meaningful *Tefillah* experiences for all ages. Everyone is encouraged to wear *kippah* and *tallit* if it is their practice. Out of respect for this value and our community, we ask that guests refrain from using electronics, technology, writing, and turning lights on or off in public spaces.

**Shmirah (nighttime babysitting):** We are excited to offer *Shmirah* (nighttime babysitting/supervision) throughout the weekend! Enjoy your kid-free evenings and check out our menu of adult programming. Ramah staff will be strategically placed around camp between the hours of 9:00 pm and midnight. If you leave your bunk, take one of the provided cards and hand it to the *shomer* or *shomeret* (guard or babysitter) who is sitting near your porch. This will indicate that they should periodically check in on your children and ensure they are still sleeping. When you return, take the card back to indicate that you are in for the rest of the night, and they should no longer look after the kids.

**Smoking, Illegal Substances & Firearms:** As a childcare facility in the State of Massachusetts, smoking is not permitted anywhere within the boundaries of Ramah New England. Firearms, illegal substances, and related paraphernalia are not permitted on campus.

**Snacks & Beverages:** Snacks and beverages are always available between meals in the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

**T'fillot:** All participants are invited to join in daily prayer services. Times for services can be found in the Daily Schedule section of this guide. Please bring your own *tallit*, *tefillin*, and *kippah* to wear if it is your custom.

**Valuables:** Ramah New England is not responsible for any missing or lost items. There is a Lost & Found table in the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room) near the main entrance.

**Vehicles:** The speed limit on campus is 5 mph. Please only park in the approved parking locations after you settle into your bunk. We ask that you leave your vehicle parked for the retreat duration. Guests are not permitted to drive through campus at any time.

**Waterfront:** Waterfront activities, such as swimming and boating, are allowed only during designated hours, while lifeguards are on duty. At other times, please enjoy the view of our Agam (lake) from a distance.

**Wildlife:** Ramah New England is fortunate to be located on almost 100 acres of nature and we share our beautiful property with a variety of local wildlife. Please keep your eyes open, particularly when walking at night, and let a member of our staff know if you spot any wildlife that could pose a threat to our guests.

**Wireless Access:** There is limited access to Wifi throughout camp. If you need internet connection, please let a staff member know and we will be happy to help you.

**Workout Room:** For safety reasons, only guests 16 and older are welcome to use our workout room, however, guests 15 and younger are welcome under supervision of their parent/guardian. It is located along the far end of the Beit Am Gadol. The workout room is equipped with stationary bikes, treadmills, elliptical, bench press, cross fit equipment, a multipurpose weight machine, medicine balls, gym bands, and yoga mats. Please keep all gym equipment inside the workout room.



# Ramah Family Camp Daily Schedule

*In the upcoming pages you will find the Daily Schedule!  
Here are some tips as you navigate through it.*



## Children are Divided by Age!

Over the weekend, children are divided into four groups by age. *Gan* (0 - 5 years old), *Perachim* (6 - 7), *Shemesh* (8 - 9), and *Nozitzim* (10 - 13).

## Refer to the Camp Map!

Check out the Camp Map on the last page of your Program Guide to find the locations of events.

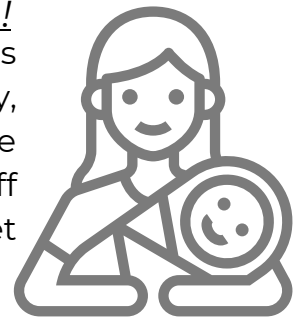


## Questions? Ask us!

If you are unsure what a program is, or where or when it will be, ask a staff member. We are thrilled to help you!

## A Message from Our Gan!

Our goal is to make this weekend a wonderful experience for both kids and adults! *Gan* activities are designed to give kids a great place to play, and are intended to allow everyone to have messy fun!! Parents are welcome to join children in these activities or leave them with our staff and take some well-deserved "me" time. And don't forget to come meet our *Rosh Gan*, Emma Gelb, on Friday afternoon!



## Feeling Hungry?

Whether it's that mid-afternoon snack, or those middle of the night munchies! Snacks and beverages are always available between meals in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Room).

# Ramah Family Camp

## Daily Schedule

Friday, June 2nd		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
3pm - 5pm	<b>Check-In</b> Welcome to Family Camp! At check in, join us for Shabbat-o-gram making, Family Challah Braiding, or to stay, play, and eat some snacks!	O"CH (outside of the Chadar Ochel)
3:45pm - 4:30pm	Come meet our <b>Rosh Gan, Emma Gelb</b>	Moadon Amitzim
5:30pm - 6pm	<b>Pre-Shabbat Family Dinner</b> Families with young children are invited to a small pre-shabbat dinner before <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> .	Chadar Ochel
5:45pm	<b>Mincha (optional)</b> Candle lighting available.	Bitan (New Pavilion)
6pm	<b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> Ramah Style Shabbat Service with lively tunes and Hebrew song! <b>JCA Kabbalat Shabbat</b> JCA Style Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Weiner!	Bitan (New Pavilion)
		Beit Kneset
6:15pm - 6:45pm	<b>Tot Shabbat</b> For Gesher and Shorashim aged children and their parents.	Bet Am Bet
6:45pm	<b>Shabbat Dinner</b> Enjoy a Ramah style Shabbat dinner followed by <b>shirah</b> (singing).	Chadar Ochel
7:45pm	<b>Family Camp Orientation</b> All participants welcome! Meet our Family Camp community, Ramah New England Staff, and hear about important safety information for the weekend.	Chadar Ochel
8pm	<b>Peulat Erev</b> An evening activity for <b>Shemesh</b> and <b>Noitzim</b>	Bet Am Gadol
9pm - 12am	<b>Shmirah</b> Nighttime supervision/babysitting for children, see pg. 6 for details.	Tzad Bet
9pm	<b>Adult Oneg</b> Join us for joy, happiness, snacks and beverages!	Moadon Tzevet

# Ramah Family Camp

## Daily Schedule

Saturday, June 3rd		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7am	<b>Early Morning Adult Jog</b>	Meet at Bet Am Gadol
8am	<b>Shabbat Breakfast</b>	Chadar Ochel
8:30am	<b>Edah Meetings</b> Meet your <i>Rosh</i> after breakfast!	Meet in the Chadar Ochel
9am	<b>Shacharit</b> - Ramah Style Family service for kids and adults in the Bet Am Bet - Traditional service in the Beit K'nesset - Tot Shabbat for Gan kids and parents in the Ivrit Classrooms - Contemplative Service on the back porch of the Guest House	Various locations
9:30am - 12:30pm	<b>Open Play at the Gan</b> Join us for baby field games and balloon play!	Meet at Moadon Amitzim
11am	<b>Kiddush</b>	O"CH
11am - 12pm	<b>Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open</b>	Mirpa'ah
11:15am - 12:30pm	<b>Ohel Kef is Open</b> Board games, bounce house, and parachute games!	Macheneh Gimmel
11:15am	<b>Ramah Rainbow Tag</b> Catch all the colors of the rainbow to complete the Ramah experience!	Macheneh Gimmel
11:45 - 12:30pm	<b>Shabbat Chugim</b> - Ultimate Frisbee on the Tzad Bet Migrash - Drama Games on the Bet Am Gadol Stage - Moon Sand in the Hebrew Classrooms - Kickball on the Tzad Bet Softball field - Magic the Gathering card game in Sifriyah	Various locations
11:30am - 12:30pm	<b>Community Learning with Rabbi Weiner</b> Join us for some Shabbat study!	Bitan (New Pavilion)
12:30pm	<b>Shabbat Lunch</b>	Chadar Ochel
2pm - 6pm	<b>Open Play at the Gan</b> Join in for an afternoon scavenger hunt and sensory play time!	Meet at Moadon Amitzim
2pm - 3pm	<b>Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open</b>	Mirpa'ah



# Ramah Family Camp

## Daily Schedule

Saturday, June 3rd		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2pm - 3pm	<b>Shabbat Chugim and Gan Open</b> - Ohel Kef - Soccer on Tzad Bet Migrash - Gaga in Tzad Bet Gaga Arena - Basketball and Knockout in the Bet Am Gadol - Nature Walk to Treehouse, meet at the Bet Am Gadol - Water Play on Macheneh Gimel - Magic the Gathering card game in Sifriyah - Parachute Games on Machaneh Gimel - Reverse Talent Show on Bet Am Gadol Stage - Moon Sand in the Hebrew Classrooms	Various locations
3pm - 4pm	<b>Edah Time</b> - Gesher and Shorashim in Moadon Amitzim - Perachim in Tzad Bet Gaga Arena - Nozitzim at Tzad Bet Migrash - Shemesh on Tzad Bet Tennis Courts	Various locations
	<b>Adult Programming - Learning with Rabbi Rami Schwartz</b> "When My Needs Conflict With My Child's: Jewish Voices on Self-Care in Parenting"	Bet Am Bet
	<b>Adult Programming- Yoga</b>	Guest House Back Porch
	<b>Adult Programming - Pick up Basketball</b>	Bet Am Gadol
4pm - 5pm	<b>Family Shabbat Carnival</b>	Tzad Bet Migrash
5pm	<b>Mincha or Rest Time</b>	Beit K'nesset
6pm - 7pm	<b>Seudah Shlishit (Shabbat Dinner and Singing)</b>	Chadar Ochel
7pm	<b>Havdallah Relay Race</b> <i>Grab your family and friends for this campwide Havdallah themed challenge course!</i>	Meet at the Beit Am Gadol
8pm	<b>Shower Time/Free Time</b>	Various locations
9pm	<b>Ma'ariv and Havhallah</b>	Bitan (New Pavilion)
9:15pm - 12am	<b>Shmirah</b>	Tzad Bet
9:30pm	<b>Medura</b> Campfire with S'mores! Kids allowed with parent permission	Next to the Bet Am Gadol
	<b>Trivia Night for Adults</b> <i>Test your knowledge in a variety of categories during this spirited competition! The adult lounge is open until midnight!</i>	Moadon Tzevet

# Ramah Family Camp

## Daily Schedule

Sunday, June 4th		
TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7am	<b>Morning Lake Swim</b> An invigorating way to start the day!	Tzad Aleph Agam
7:30am - 9:30am	<b>Coffee Hut Open!</b>	O"CH
7:30am	<b>Shacharit</b> Experience a Ramah-Style <i>Shacharit</i>	Bet Am Bet
8am - 8:45am	<b>Breakfast - Please wear your Family Camp T-shirt!</b>	Chadar Ochel
8:45am	<b>Group Photo!</b> <i>Everyone is encouraged to join us for the Group Photo to capture the memories of the weekend!</i>	Meet outside the O"CH
9am - 10am	<b>Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open</b>	Mirpa'ah
9:15am	<b>Edah Meetings</b> Meet your <i>Rosh</i> after breakfast!	Meet in the Chadar Ochel
9:15pm - 12:45pm	<b>Open Play at the Gan</b> Paint with sidewalk chalk, complete an art project, and join the bubble dance party!	Moadon Amitzim
10am - 1pm	<b>Ohel Kef - Fun Tent is Open!</b>	Outside Bet Am Gadol
10am - Rotation 1 11am - Rotation 2 12pm - Rotation 3	<b>Sunday Morning Peulot (Activities)</b> <i>Each activity is offered three times. You will receive your family's personalized Sunday Morning Activity schedule at breakfast!</i> - Boating at Tzad Aleph Agam (Rotations 1 and 2) - Swimming at Tzad Aleph Agam (Rotation 3) - Indoor Cooking in Ivrit Classroom - Omanut (Arts) Clinic in the Bet Am Bet <i>Fimo Art, rhinestones &amp; More!</i> - Ultimate Frisbee Clinic on Tzad Bet Migrash - Basketball Clinic in Bet Am Gadol - Outdoor Cooking Clinic in the Pinat Teva (Nature Corner) - Rikud on Machaneh Gimel Migrash - Gardening and Teva (Nature) at Pinat Teva - Science - Fun with Slime at the Classrooms	Various locations
12:45 - 1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	Chadar Ochel
12:45 - 2pm	<b>Coffee Hut Open + L'hitraot!</b>	O"CH
1:30pm	<b>Prospective Camper Tour</b> <i>Learn about Ramah New England's Summer programs. We will offer tours of CRNE!</i>	Meet at O"CH

# Ramah Family Camp Special Thanks!

Thank you to our incredible session facilitators, counselors, support staff, and year around staff. Without you, Family Camp would not be possible!

**Rabbi Bruce Bromberg Seltzer**  
*Mashgiach*

**Hadas Bromberg Seltzer**  
*Counselor*

**Danny Coyer**  
*Maintenance*

**Karen Dupre**  
*Housekeeping*

**Emma Gelb**  
*Rosh Gan*

**Maddie Gelfand**  
*Tzevet*

**Karl Gran**  
*Maintenance*

**Sarah Hasson**  
*Counselor*

**Grace Hitchcock**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Enrique Jimenez**  
*Maintenance*

**Josh Kessler**  
*Lifeguard*

**Dalia Levy**  
*Lifeguard/Counselor*

**Joe Libera**  
*Site and Facility Manager*

**Bogi Marki**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Laci Matyika**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Sarah Monderer**  
*Tzevet*

**Eitan Pessin**  
*Counselor*

**Jen Ramirez**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Libby Ramirez Ordaz**  
*Housekeeping*

**Felix Romero Oliver**  
*Maintenance*

**Olivia Romito**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Keren Rhodes**  
*JCA Partner*

**Scott Richter**  
*Maintenance*

**Elizabeth Richter**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**George Riopel**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Ramona Saft**  
*Counselor*

**Jodi Santos**  
*Maintenance*

**Olivia Santos**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Joey Sawicki**  
*Maintenance*

**Leah Schatz**  
*Rosh Shemesh*

**Rachel Scheer**  
*Counselor*

**Rabbi Rami Schwartz**  
*Adult Educator*

**Liam Shemesh**  
*Counselor*

**Ianne Sherry**  
*Rosh Edah*

**Devasha Solomon**  
*Counselor*

**Bruce Stanger**  
*Tzevet*

**Naomi Stoll**  
*Counselor*

**Hannah Stoll**  
*Counselor*

**Avi Torres**  
*Counselor*

**Shari Traiger**  
*Counselor*

**Rich Traiger**  
*Cookin' Crew*

**Veronica Tucker**  
*Housekeeping*

**Rabbi Benjamin Weiner**  
*JCA Partner*

**Jonathan Weinreich**  
*Rosh Perachim*

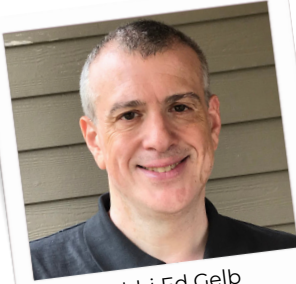
**Riki Wiederhorn**  
*Director of Year Round Programming*

# Todah Rabbah!



# Ramah Family Camp

## Meet Our Team



Rabbi Ed Gelb  
CEO

Rabbi Ed Gelb (he/him) has served as director of Camp Ramah in 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, which is affiliated with the Brandeis Bardin Institute in California. Raised in Wyoming, Ed is a longtime Ramahnik, having served on the staffs of Ramah California and Ramah Canada for many years. Prior to becoming director of Camp Alonim, Ed was a teacher, administrator, and basketball coach at Yeshiva University High School in Los Angeles. Ed received his ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism and graduated from UCLA with a BA in History. He lives in Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife, Tami, and their children, Yoni, Emma, Tova, and Zachary.

Pamela (she/her) joined Ramah New England in 2019 after growing up at several Ramah camps and working as a Rosh Edah at Ramah Day Camp in Nyack, NY. Pamela earned her BA in Psychology from the University of Maryland, where she also minored in Jewish Studies. Pamela is currently working towards her MSW at Columbia School of Social Work as well as an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is a Nachshon Project Graduate Fellow through which she has grown her love for Jewish community. Pamela loves to read, craft, and explore NYC.



Pamela Kekst  
Program Director



Michelle Sugarman  
Director

Michelle Sugarman (she/her) is thrilled to be joining the Camp Ramah New England team. 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. Prior to starting at Camp Ramah New England, Michelle was the Director of the North American Office of Academic Affairs of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She completed her BA in Jewish Studies and MSW at Temple University. Michelle brings with her a love of camp, a wealth of experience, and a plethora of innovative and creative ideas that will continue to make Ramah New England a leader in Jewish camping. When not watching the Eagles, Michelle is reading books, hanging out with family & friends, or watching The Office.

Josh Edelglass (he/him) has been spending his summers at Camp Ramah New England since 1987, and he began working on staff in the summer of 1995. Josh graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 1999 and received his Masters in Jewish Studies from Gratz in 2022. He joined the year-round team in 2000, and was the Assistant Director from 2011-2022. Josh has worked on the faculty of Prozdor Hebrew High School, Temple Aliyah in Needham, Temple Israel in Natick, Tifereth Israel in Andover, Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, and Congregation Kehillath Israel in Brookline. Somehow, on top of living and breathing Camp Ramah, Josh continues to work as a freelance illustrator, and to write about movies, TV shows, and lots more at his web-site: [www.MotionPicturesComics.com](http://www.MotionPicturesComics.com). He lives in Medfield, Massachusetts with his wife, Stephanie, and their children Tahlia and Reya.



Josh Edelglass  
Director

# Ramah Family Camp

## Meet Our Team



Ed Pletman  
COO

Ed Pletman (he/him) joined Camp Ramah New England as the Director of Finance and Operations in July, 2012. Prior to that, Ed worked professionally as the Director of Informal Education at the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, the Director of Camp Tevya (Cohen Camps), and for many years at the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston. Ed completed his BS in Psychology at Union College and his MSW at Boston University. For many years, Ed has also volunteered as a Standards Accreditation Visitor with the American Camp Association. During the offseason, Ed lives in Stoughton Massachusetts.

Rhonda Parker (she/her) has served as the Director of Development since December, 2008. But her connection to Ramah started long before that – in the early 1970s as a camper at Ramah Glen Spey and then Camp Ramah New England. Prior to joining the Ramah staff, Rhonda served in several other development roles in the Jewish community and also practiced law in New York and Boston. Rhonda received her undergraduate degree from Brown University (concentrating in art history) and her law degree from NYU. Rhonda lives in Sharon, MA with her husband Steve Binney. Her daughters, Hannah Binney and Sarah Binney, attended CRNE; Sarah also served on staff from 2015-2021.



Rhonda Parker  
Director of Development



Talya Kalender  
Director of Camper Care

Talya Kalender (she/her) has served as a parent liaison and Director of Staff and Camper Care since 2010. Talya joined Camp Ramah New England after several years as an educator in a variety of settings, including nearly a decade at the Geshur Jewish Day School of Northern Virginia. Part of a three-generation Ramah family, she has spent time in Palmer, Canada and Ramah Seminar in Israel. Talya holds a BA in Education from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She lives in Fairfax Virginia with her husband David. Their three children, Aryeh, Yaira and Nadav were all CRNE campers and staff members.

Sean Carey (he/him) has been the Chef Manager at Camp Ramah New England since 2010, and Jackie Romito-Carey (she/her) joined him in the kitchen in 2021. Both have worked in food service since a very young age, but Sean prefers preparing the food and Jackie enjoys serving the guests. They are at camp year-round, focusing on campers in the summer months, and retreats the rest of the year. In their free time, Sean and Jackie enjoy traveling the country with their dog, Fin, and cat, Stella, looking for new and different sights to see and foods to try.



Sean Carey & Jackie RC  
The Food People

# Ramah Family Camp Summer Programs



**Ramah  
Day Camp**  
GREATER BOSTON

June 26th -  
August 4th!

After an amazing inaugural year, Ramah Day Camp Greater Boston, will return for six weeks, June 26th - August 4th at Gann Academy with the very best Jewish camping experience. This well-rounded program will expose kids to sports, arts, outdoor education, and more! Your child is bound to come home happy, tired, and ready to share all about their day. Email [rachels@campramahne.org](mailto:rachels@campramahne.org) to learn more about this exciting new program!



**Ramah  
Day Camp**  
GREATER DC

June 26th -  
August 11th!

At the Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington, DC, we provide children entering grades K-5 with the very best camping experience in a setting of love, friendship, wonder and discovery, and a place where Judaism is integral to daily activities. We will offer three two-week sessions and a final add-on week. Of course, we love when families take advantage of our full summer discount and enroll their child(ren) for all 7 weeks! Email [dcdaycamp@campramahne.org](mailto:dcdaycamp@campramahne.org) to learn more about our 2 week sessions and full session.



**Camp  
Ramah**  
NEW ENGLAND

June 27th -  
August 20th!

For families who want their kids to love being Jewish, Camp Ramah is THE Jewish overnight camp! At Ramah New England, campers love being Jewish. We weave together fun and meaningful Jewish experiences with all the activities kids love – all in a welcoming, inclusive environment, where kids make life-long friends. We offer unparalleled camper care and inspiring role models. Campers have the option to come for the full summer or can take advantage of one of our 4-week sessions. We also offer a Mini-Kochavim session and a Mini-Amitzim session. Email [info@campramahne.org](mailto:info@campramahne.org) to learn more about any of our sessions!



Spring 2023 Family Camp  
families: register by 6/19 for 25%  
discount!



# RAMAH Family Camp

Wednesday, 8/23 - Sunday, 8/27

## Experience the magic of Ramah New England

Fun for the whole family with counselor-led adventures, family and adult-only time, and a magical Camp Ramah Shabbat!

***For families with children ages 0-13.***



**Ramah**  
NEW ENGLAND

Scan the QR code to  
register or learn more!



# Ramah Family Camp Safety & Security

## SAFETY & SECURITY

Ramah New England has developed comprehensive safety and security protocols in consultation with the Palmer Police Department and Security Experts and Consultants. Highlighted below are key elements of our protocols. We ask all guests to review this document at the beginning of your stay.

Every building has an emergency exit plan posted and is equipped with fire extinguishers. PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF EMERGENCY EXITS WHENEVER YOU ENTER A BUILDING.

Note that there is always a security officer on-site throughout the weekend.

### MEDICAL EMERGENCY

A first aid kit and AED are available at the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

#### In the Event of a Medical Emergency:

- IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911.
- Give location, sex, and approximate age of victim and if possible, the type of emergency.
- Then alert a Ramah New England staff person of your emergency.

Stay with the injured person until help arrives. Try to calm, reassure, and stabilize the person. Never move an injured person with a suspected neck or back injury. When medical staff arrives at the scene, summarize the situation and answer questions.

### FIRE

#### If you spot a fire:

- Leave the building and do not re-enter to remove personal property.
- IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911. Give location, and if possible, type of fire (grease, electrical, paper, etc.). Then alert a Ramah New England staff person of your emergency.
- If a phone is not accessible, sound the closest fire alarm.
- If a campus-wide fire alarm is sounded, all guests should proceed immediately to the *Machaneh Gimel* (field in between the *Bet Am Gadol* (Gym) and Alpine Tower) and remain there until the “all clear” signal has been given.
- If the fire occurs on or near *Machaneh Gimel*, all guests should proceed to the Tzad Bet field in between the B-Side Tennis Courts and Little House.

### SEVERE WEATHER

#### Thunder and/or Lightning:

Gather your family/group and move to a safe area (large indoor facility, bunk porch or common room) until the weather has passed.

#### Tornado Warning:

Head immediately to one of the following designated emergency locations: Library Basement, Guest House Basement, or Bunk 80 Basement. When at location, stay away from windows. Stay at designated emergency location until the “all clear” has been given.

### ACTIVE SHOOTER

- First and foremost: **EVACUATE** if at all possible, leaving the area by the quickest route available. If necessary, leave the campus grounds. Leave your belongings behind.
- Call 911 as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are not able to evacuate, **HIDE OUT** in an area out of the active shooter’s view. Block entry to your hiding place. If possible, lock the door. Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet.
- **TAKE ACTION** only as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger. Attempt to incapacitate the shooter. Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter.
- When law enforcement arrives, remain calm and follow the officers’ instructions. Immediately raise hands and spread fingers. Keep your hands visible at all times. Avoid quick movements toward officers whenever possible.



# מחנה רמה בניו אינגלינד







*Thank You!*

**See you at the next  
Family Camp!**

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

[ramahdcdaycamp.org](http://ramahdcdaycamp.org)

[ramahboston.org](http://ramahboston.org)