



They say a picture is worth a thousand words and I'm particularly fond of this one, taken circa 1993. A Camp Ramah in New England tradition, once each session – on a much anticipated but carefully kept secret day – firetrucks arrive on the sports field, spraying it with mountains of foam in which for campers to romp around. The event, aptly named Yom Foam (Foam Day), is one of the highlights of the summer and embodies the magic that is overnight camp – a place where impromptu mosh pits of froth can suddenly appear and where there is nothing more important to do than have lather fights all afternoon with your friends. That's me, in the middle, with my cabin-mates Sarah (Levine) Glasser and Shira (Miller-Jacobs) Fishman.

Next Saturday, December 9, we mark Camp Shabbat here at BHBE, our annual celebration of Jewish summer camping and all its blessings! As I have written many times before, attending Camp Ramah as a teenager was probably the single greatest influence on my own Jewish identity, providing me with lifelong friends, powerful role-models, and an immersive, joyful community in which to learn, grow, and experiment with Jewish living and observance. I cannot think of a better investment in Jewish continuity than a Jewish overnight camp experience, and the six institutions sponsoring Camp Shabbat this year – JCC/Camp Chi, Camp Nageela, OSRUI, Camp Ramah, Tavor, and Camp Young Judea (along with many others) offer incredible, life-changing opportunities for our young people. Please join us next Saturday for services featuring our campers and followed by a camp-style Kiddush and shira (singing), then come back on Sunday for our Camp Fair featuring the programs listed above. Wear your camp t-shirt, show your camp spirit, and help us bring a little bit of summer to BHBE!

This year, through the extraordinary generosity of our own Sheila and Larry Gerber, we are also pleased to announce the debut of the Next Generation Fund, dedicated monies given to support any child of BHBE congregants participating in an (approved) Jewish overnight camp program. Administered by the Gerbers along with Director of Education and Family Engagement, Aaron Frankel, and congregants Dan Friedman, Jessica Littman, and Amir Penn along with myself, the Next Generation Fund will give \$1000

to any camper attending an 8 week program and \$400 to any camper attending a 3 or 4 week program regardless of financial need. (We do ask that families who do not require such assistance not apply for this grant, so as to maximize the support we can give to other children.) These funds are in addition to scholarship monies we also have available for BHBE youngsters attending camp or Israel programs of the Conservative Movement and to situations of serious financial need which can sometimes be supported through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. We hope that this incentive grant will make overnight camp a more affordable and attractive option for families and look forward to seeing the many benefits that they, and we, will reap through participating in these excellent programs!

Information about the Next Generation Fund, including the application form and list of approved camps, can be found on our website, <https://www.bhcbe.org/jewish-camping.html>, and is also available in print form in the Synagogue Office. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with myself or any of the other Next Generation Fund administrators listed above should you have questions.

I won't have foam in my hair next Saturday, but I will certainly be wearing my Ramah t-shirt with pride as we celebrate Camp Shabbat 2017 – I hope you'll join us!

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Annie Tucker