



## An Update from Ramah Berkshires

Dear Ramah Berkshires Community Members,

We hope you are all doing well, and holding up under these continued challenging circumstances. We are thinking about you all and hoping that you and your loved ones are healthy. For those who are dealing with illness, we are praying for a *refuah shleimah*, a complete healing, for each and every one of you.

As the days and weeks pass, we know many of you are eager for updates on the status of *Kayitz* (Summer) 2020. While we are aware that things are changing rapidly, **we continue to plan for the opening of Camp this summer**. As our camp is scheduled to open on June 30th -- later than many other camps, including some of the other Ramah camps -- we have the advantage of postponing any final decisions a bit longer. We expect to provide our campers and staff with an update regarding our scheduled opening day and first session no later than June 1st.

At a time when we all can use some good news, we're thrilled to share that **The Harold Grinspoon Foundation has announced "All Together Now," a challenge grant to help provide support for Jewish camps. With this grant, they will match \$1 for every \$2 Ramah Berkshires raises.** We cannot thank Harold Grinspoon enough for his commitment to Jewish camping and for his continued support of Ramah Berkshires.



As previously announced, our Board of Trustees has decided that, in the event that Camp cannot open this summer, we will be offering a full refund of both tuition and fees. We make this offer knowing that it will be extremely difficult for our institution from a financial perspective, but also knowing that it is the right thing for us to do.

Though Camp has operated in a prudent and fiscally responsible manner for many years, tuition and fees make up over eighty-five percent of our revenue. The implications of closing Camp will be serious, as we have incurred -- and will continue to incur -- many costs regardless of what happens this summer. This will have a lasting impact on our budget, our programming, and our institution for years to come.

**If Camp cannot open, we will need the generosity of our community. We hope that you will continue to stand by our side through this difficult time. *Please help us ensure a strong and***

[bright future for Jewish Camping and for Ramah Berkshires with your donation today.](#)

Additionally, if you are interested in joining a conversation about how we, as a Ramah Berkshires community, can start planning to address the long-term financial implications of a potential closing, please be in touch with our Director of Institutional Advancement, [Jane-Rachel Schonbrun](#).

You can also help support the Dutchess County Community Action Agency's COVID-19 response *and* spread Ramah Berkshires *ruach* by purchasing from our [camp swag store](#).

Thank you to everyone who has joined our various online gatherings and activities over the past six weeks. Hundreds of our campers, parents, and alumni have participated in a dizzying array of online offerings, ranging from community-wide *Havdalah* and *shira* gatherings, *edah* and bunk reunions, *Hol Hamoed Pesach* cooking and wilderness survival classes, and alumni trivia nights. We are so proud of the ways our community has creatively come together during this unprecedented time, and we look forward to continuing these types of gatherings until we are able to once again be together in person.

We hope you will join us at our next Ramah Berkshires Musical *Havdalah*, this Saturday night, May 2nd, at 8:45 PM. To join, see the link below.

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support of our year-round team and our leadership. We are continuously inspired by the generosity of spirit of our Ramah Berkshires *kehillah kedosha* (holy community).

Rabbi Ethan Linden, Director  
Richie Friedman, President



Check out the [beautiful pre-Shabbat message](#) we sent our campers last week.

Visit our [COVID-19 webpage](#) for all updates and activities, including information on many National Ramah gatherings and events.



Show your Ramah Berkshires *Ruach*!

Order today from our online "[Swag Store](#)" (accepting orders through Sunday, May 3rd)



## Musical *Havdalah*

We hope to see you at our next community "Musical *Havdalah*," this Saturday night, May 2nd, at 8:45 PM.

Click [here](#) to join.



## Support Ramah Berkshires!

We are happy to speak with anyone who is **interested in a matching gift via the Grinspoon Foundation's "All Together Now" initiative**. Please reach out to Jane-Rachel via [email](#) or at 845-832-6622, ext. 116.

**You can also [give on our website](#) or by mailing a gift to our office (25 Rockwood Place, Suite 345 Englewood, NJ 07631).**