



CELEBRATING

20

YEARS



WELCOME!



Almost 60 years ago to the day, three progressive thinkers — Sol Singer, z”l, from Columbus, Georgia, Philip Selber, z”l, from Jacksonville, Florida, and Morris Speizman, z”l, from Charlotte, North Carolina, came together with the vision of bringing a Camp Ramah to the south. That vision became a reality in 1997.

If Singer, Selber and Speizman were alive today, they would marvel at what Ramah Darom has become.

Ramah Darom’s first 20 years have been a great success story, one that reaches beyond the simple, yet vitally important, summer camp these three community leaders imagined. Our programs, including Camp Ramah Darom, Camp Yofi, and the numerous experiential programs offered throughout the year, have touched thousands of lives, young and old, and our impact has been felt across the Southeast, our nation, and even overseas.

Our success has been fueled by the vision and support of leaders and doers who cared deeply about the present and future of our own Jewish community and understood the importance and significance of shared communal experiences.

In Ramah Darom they built an unparalleled campus in the mountains of North Georgia, creating a welcoming organization and respite retreat space committed to celebrating and sharing the joy and meaning found in Judaism. The results of their efforts and their commitment to excellence are evident to everyone who experiences our programs or spends time on our campus.

All the reasons that inspired Singer, Selber and Speizman to pursue a southern Ramah continue to motivate us to build upon their vision, focus on the future, and ensure the vibrancy of our children and Jewish community at large.

In the changing landscape of the American Jewish community, the need for communal experiences that educate, engage, and inspire Jews of all ages to find rich and rewarding lives of meaning in Judaism is more important than ever. If we are to succeed in addressing and staying ahead of the challenges of today and tomorrow in a world that is changing at break-neck speed, we need a supporting community which shares our commitment and passion.

We invite you to explore how far we’ve come in the last 20 years. While just a snapshot of our success, we hope it will move you to join us in ensuring that our next 20 years will bring even greater benefits to all who cherish the richness of Judaism.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick R. Levick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Frederick R. Levick
Chief Executive Officer

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20

YEARS OF IMPACT

20 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES IN JEWISH LIVING AND LEARNING

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of Ramah Darom. Since we first opened our campus in the summer of 1997, thousands of people of all ages have come together to celebrate a deep love of culture, religion, diversity, nature, spirit and community in one of the most picturesque places in the country. We remain grateful to our visionaries and supporters who have made Ramah Darom a world-class, year-round campus, where enriching, transformative experiences steeped in tradition take place.



20 YEARS OF BUILDING CHARACTER

"We often hear buzz about the way camp changes people. However, rather than change us, the Camp Ramah Darom community understands the uniqueness of every individual and equips us to develop into the most capable, self-assured, passionate, and compassionate versions of ourselves. We come to learn that this enhances our self-understanding, our relationships with others, and our concern for our local and global communities."

— Sarah Ossey, Atlanta, GA



CONNECTION TO ISRAEL

- **More than 750** Israeli staff have called Ramah Darom home for the summer
- **Thousands of programs** have been created to strengthen our connection to Israel
- **Nearly 500 Ramah Darom campers** have travelled to Israel on Ramah programs



10,000

PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED
RAMAH DAROM SINCE 1997



20 YEARS OF CELEBRATING LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS

Ramah Darom is a place where families come together. In addition to our summer and winter family camps, our Passover retreat and other family programming, Ramah Darom provides a spectacular setting for celebrating special moments: weddings, b'nai mitzvah, even family reunions. Our serene and breath-taking campus is an ideal setting for creating special memories.

20 YEARS OF JEWISH CAMPING

We have nurtured thousands of young people as they grow from shy first-time campers into veteran 'Ramahniks' and community leaders, shaping their Jewish identity in life-changing ways.

- **3,600** campers developed life-long connections at Ramah Darom
- **1,500** staff members learned and worked at camp
- **95** communities from the United States and 12 countries have been represented

OVER **\$8** MILLION
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
HAVE BEEN
DISTRIBUTED FROM
RAMAH DAROM



20 YEARS OF MENTORSHIP

The leaders at Ramah Darom are helping to shape the future of American Jewry. These impressive men and women were once young children who benefited from their years as campers. They are leaders in their home communities, have lived in Israel, made *Aliyah*, have participated in Ramah Israel Seminar programs, and know what it's like to be Jewish in the South. They are soccer players, musicians, artists, bikers, and hikers, as well as rabbis and early morning *daveners*. Our well-trained staff helps to shape our campers into tomorrow's well-rounded, self-assured, confident leaders.



20 YEARS OF INCLUSION

More than a program, inclusion is a deep, ingrained value at Ramah Darom, reflected in our daily life. Our nationally recognized Camp Yofi started in 2005, and our newer Tikvah program is a testament to our continuing commitment to *B'tzelem Elohim*, our belief that each one of us is created in the image of G-d.

"I still can't quite put into words what Camp Yofi meant to me as a parent but I will try. It's a place where you feel like you truly belong. Those of us in the special needs world understand how rare that is. We were definitely a part of something bigger than ourselves."

— Elizabeth Brown, Columbia, SC

20 YEARS OF FAMILY BONDING

"Ramah Darom has always been a magical experience for our family. For the past eight years, we have come together from so many places and with so many generations — from young children to Papa in his 80's — but we always find something unique to do in this extraordinary environment. For us, the countdown to the next Pesach at Ramah Darom starts the day we head home." — Leah Polin, Skokie, IL



63 FAMILIES CELEBRATED
PASSOVER WITH US
IN 2002.

162 FAMILIES CELEBRATED
PASSOVER WITH US
IN 2017!

"I have never had the pleasure of experiencing this type of family vacation especially on Pesach ... I will carry that happiness with me as I approach next year's Chag."

—Rivka Keinan, Toronto, Ontario



20 YEARS OF CREATING COMMUNITY

At our core, Ramah Darom is about celebrating and strengthening our Jewish community. More than a camp and retreat center, we are a place where gratitude, inspiration, and joy are the fabric of daily life, and lifelong friendships are made. Ramah Darom transforms us and connects us to something greater than ourselves. Every visitor to Ramah Darom becomes part of our extended *mishpacha*.

For more information about all of our offerings, please visit our website, www.ramahdarom.org



THE NEXT 20 YEARS



Ramah Darom is committed to remaining at the forefront of inspiring young and old to create lives of meaning through our Jewish tradition and heritage. We continue to be a creative force in educating and developing knowledgeable Jewish leaders.

Our goal is to ensure that:

- Programs are accessible irrespective of financial ability
- Facilities are sustainable, environmentally friendly, first-class, and well maintained
- Experiences are compelling and relevant to our daily lives and challenges

We invite you to join us with your support as we work to meet the needs of new generations of campers and retreat participants. Visit ramahdarom.org/donate to leave your mark today.

WHY WE GIVE

"I give because after two years as a camper and 12 years on staff, I know the magic of Ramah Darom. I give because I would have never had the opportunity to be a Ramah Darom camper without the generosity of others. As it says on the walls of the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall), "Just like others planted before me, so too do I plant for those who come after me." — David "Schwoty" Schwartz, Chicago, IL



"We have been proud supporters of Ramah Darom since day one. When we go to Ramah Darom every year for Passover, we feel the same ruach (spirit), and sense of community as campers do during the summer. We know that with Ramah Darom, a community of people of all ages will have their connection to Judaism reinforced that will be carried on for generations."

— Sally and Philip Kaplan, Atlanta, GA



"We give to Ramah Darom because it is the best investment we can make to ensure future generations of proud, confident, and engaged Jewish campers and families. Our children use their experiences at Camp Ramah as the benchmark for everything they do in their lives. They are creating connections today that will last a lifetime."

— Alison and Alan Lebovitz, Chattanooga, TN



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