

BOOK IT TO SHABBAT



**2025
PROGRAM GUIDE**



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER ATLANTA

PJ Library



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER ATLANTA



Shabbat Shalom!

We are thrilled to spend this weekend with your families at Ramah Darom for Book It To Shabbat. This program has always been about bringing people together, and this year we're especially excited to welcome new families and reconnect with those who have joined us at past retreats. We have so much to celebrate this weekend—Shabbat, Purim and new connections.

PJ Library Atlanta sends free, Jewish-themed books to over 5,000 children in the Atlanta metro area each month, and our reach continues to grow! But books are just the beginning of what PJ Library offers. We also support families' Jewish journeys through a wide range of programs throughout the year across the Metro Atlanta area. You can find dynamic PJ Library-sponsored events in partnership with many amazing Jewish organizations throughout the community as well as JBaby and PJ Library programs run by our fantastic neighborhood connectors, many of whom are here with us this weekend.

So, take a deep breath, enjoy the fresh air, unplug and have a wonderful weekend with us at Ramah Darom!

Pam Cohen, Director, PJ Library Atlanta and the entire PJ Library Team



Shalom!

Welcome to the largest (yet) Book It To Shabbat with PJ Library and Ramah Darom! This retreat offers the opportunity to unplug with your family, play in the mountains, make new friends and experience a magical Shabbat. The focus of this weekend is community, Shabbat and Purim. These themes will come to life in the books we read, games we play and songs we sing. Please read through this Program Guide and bring it along with you wherever you go. Enjoy every moment and don't hesitate to reach out to us—we're always happy to answer your questions.

Shabbat Shalom,

Eliana, Rachel, Andrea + The Ramah Darom Team

Board of Directors Chair

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Giselle Canales Diego
Craig Hartley-Johnson
Sam Woodard

Housekeeping

Jorge Canales Castillo
Jorge Jr. Canales Diego
Lucie Diego Cancino

BOOK IT TO SHABBAT TOP 10

- 1. Counselors & Supervision:** Our amazing staff and counselors are here to help enhance our programming. Activities throughout the day are meant for the whole family, unless noted otherwise in the schedule. During family activities and meals, parents are responsible for the supervision of their children. On Shabbat, there are a few time slots when certain ages can be dropped off for babysitting under the supervision of our counselors.
- 2. Emergencies:** In an emergency, call 911 from your mobile device or any phone on campus. Be prepared to state the nature of the problem and your location (70 Darom Lane, Clayton, Georgia 30525). Also, please notify a staff member of the situation by calling 706.782.9300. There are landlines in the Welcome Center office, at the pool, in the kitchen and in all living spaces. See *Ramah Darom Emergency Protocols* for more information.
- 3. Firearms, Illegal Substances & Smoking:** Firearms, illegal substances and related paraphernalia are not permitted on campus. Smoking is not allowed inside any building. There is a designated smoking area outside on the back porch of the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall) and in the Welcome Center parking lot. A fee will be assessed for rooms or areas showing evidence of smoking or smoke damage.
- 4. Maintenance Requests:** Please report maintenance requests to RamahDarom.org/Maintenance. Facility staff are always on call. We ask that you avoid submitting requests before 7:30am or after 9:00pm unless it is an emergency.
- 5. Meals, Snacks & Beverages:** We are an AKC-Certified kosher campus and we thank you in advance for helping us maintain our kashrut. All meals, snacks and beverages are provided. Outside food is not allowed in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall).
Mealtime:
 - There will be an opportunity for communal blessings before and after each meal led by our Rabbi-in-Residence.
 - All special dietary food needs will be served from the kitchen prep area in the back of the Chadar Ochel.
- 6. Phone Service:** Cell phone signals can be spotty. We suggest enabling WiFi calling. All accommodations have landlines. The extension number is posted near each phone. To call from one campus phone to another, dial the four-digit extension for the room or location you are trying to reach. You can make free calls to any place in North America and most of Canada from these phones.
- 7. Tefillot & Shabbat:** All services will be family friendly. Dedicated prayer space will be made available for those wishing to engage in individual prayer. Shabbat is a very special time of the week for our community. Out of respect for this value and our community, we ask that guests refrain from using electronics in public spaces during Shabbat. While some choose to dress a little nicer on Shabbat, especially Friday evening, the attire at this retreat is casual. We encourage you to wear whatever makes you feel most comfortable.

We will provide tea lights for Shabbat candle lighting in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall). Please do not light candles in your room!
- 8. Valuables & Room Keys:** Ramah Darom is not responsible for any missing or lost items. Hotel room keys are available upon request, although most guests choose to leave their rooms unlocked. Keys must be returned to a Ramah Darom staff member before checkout or a charge of \$50 will be assessed. Please note that we only have one key available per room.
- 9. Vehicles:** The speed limit on campus is 5mph. Please only park in the approved parking locations near your accommodation and leave your vehicle parked for the duration of the retreat. Guests are not permitted to drive through campus during the retreat. There are two EV charging stations in the parking lot on the upper level of the Mountainside Hotel. These level two charging stations operate on the FLO network.
- 10. WiFi:** Wireless internet service is available through-out campus via "Ramah Darom WiFi" (no password). If you have any issues connecting to the internet, try turning your device's WiFi off and back on, then try reconnecting. If you still have connectivity issues, contact the Bridge Communications Help Desk: 866-632-2717, hit 1 (for after-hours emergency support, hit 5), email support@bridge-comm.net, or inform a member of the Ramah Darom staff.



Shmira (Night Listening)

We are happy to provide complimentary shmira for families staying in cabins and hotels. During shmira hours a staff member is assigned to sit in your cabin's common room or hotel's hallway. Staff will be present to listen for children who wake up or assist if a special need arises. If a parent is needed, shmira will be in touch with a Ramah Darom staff person at the adult evening program.

Shmira takes place at the following times:

- Friday, March 7 | 9:00-11:00pm
- Saturday, March 8 | 9:00-11:00pm

In/Out Signs: Your door handle has a hanging sign on it that says "In" on one side and "Out" on the other.

Every evening, please:

1. Hang your door sign to read "In" if the adults are staying in for the night and you do NOT need shmira.
2. Hang your door sign to read "Out" if the adults are going out and you DO need shmira.
3. Check in with shmira! Go into your hallway and chat with the counselor assigned to your location at the start time of shmira. Make note of where they are sitting and share your plans for the evening!

Please note:

- Families do NOT have their own individual babysitter or night listener.
- Staff are there to respond to needs that arise, not to supervise bedtime.
- If shmira must go to the bathroom during their shift, they will not leave the building they are assigned to and will leave a note where they were sitting to indicate why they are not in a visible location for that short window of time.
- Staff on shmira will use one of the bathrooms in the hotel hallways or cabins.

Shmira is not responsible for:

- Putting children to bed.
- Entertaining or playing with children.
- Overseeing bedtime rituals.



SCHEDULE

Friday, March 7

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
3:30-5:00pm	Check-In	Welcome Center
4:00-5:00pm	Pre-Shabbat Extravaganza: Get ready for Shabbat by braiding challah and enjoying TONS of hands-on crafts to get you in the Shabbat spirit.	Lakeside Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
	Reading Corner Open: Snuggle up with your favorite PJ Library books, now and throughout the weekend.	
4:00-6:00pm	Snack Available	Center Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
5:30-6:00pm	Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with Candle Lighting, Kiddush & Hamotzi led by Carla Friend: Let's welcome Shabbat with song and prayer led by our Musician-in-Residence, Carla Friend. Candle Lighting in Clayton, GA is at 6:16pm. Individual candle lighting is available in the Chadar Ochel from 5:30-6:16pm.	Mountainside Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
6:05-7:00pm	Shabbat Dinner: Find any seat, check out the table-friendly toys and enjoy.	Center Chadar Ochel
7:05-7:30pm	Shabbat Story Time & Activities: Make the best decision for your family!	
	Ages 2 & Under–Story Time & Music with Carla Friend: End the evening with a story and gentle songs.	Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	Ages 3-5–Story Time & Movement with Rachel Herman: Enjoy bedtime stories and a Shabbat themed scavenger hunt.	Beit Knesset (Synagogue)
7:05-8:00pm	Kindergarten & Up–Fun & Games with The Shinshinim: Icebreakers and games led by Atlanta Shinshinim. Parents are welcome to join or drop off their child(ren). Counselors will walk campers back to their accommodations after peulat erev (evening activity).	Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
9:00-11:00pm	Shmira (Night Listening) Available	Accommodations
9:15-10:45pm	Adult Peulat Erev (Evening Activity)–Shabbat Oneg (Party) & Games: Adults will enjoy an evenings of drinks, food and more!	Lakeside Chadar Ochel

Saturday, March 8

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30am	Cereal, Milk & Coffee Available	Center Chadar Ochel
8:00-9:00am	Aruchat Boker (Breakfast)	
9:00-9:40am	Ideal for Ages 4 & Under–Musical Tot Shabbat led by Carla Friend: Join Carla in song, movement and Shabbat stories. This service will not include a Torah reading. Acoustic instruments will be used.	Beit Knesset
	Ideal for Kindergarten & Up (Open To All)–Camp Style Shabbat: Enjoy interactive songs and simple prayers in an engaging and welcoming way–perfect for those new to services. Includes plenty of singing (but no instruments) and no Torah reading.	Moadon
9:45-10:15am	Family Kiddush: Gather to make the blessings over grape juice and challah. Enjoy a casual spread of cheese, crackers, fruit and snacks while connecting with friends and community!	Ohel (Tent)
	Family Obstacle Course: Our little adventurers will have fun getting their wiggles out as they run, crawl, jump and play!	Kikar (Activity Field)

Saturday, March 8

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
10:15-11:00am	Camp Tour led by Julia Weiss: Get the lay of the land! Take a tour of Ramah Darom's campus and also learn how the space is used during summer camp!	Meet at Levine Center Portico
	Ages 0-3–Boker Tov (Good Morning) Shabbat: Say "good morning" to Shabbat with story time, yoga and Shabbat games.	Lakeside Chadar Ochel
	Ages 4-5–Keshet (Rainbow) Kids with The Shinshinim: Let's explore the vibrant colors of Jewish traditions and holidays through some of our favorite PJ Library books and hands-on sensory play.	Mountainside Chadar Ochel
	Kindergarten & Up–I Love Camp! Games, Treats & Traditions: Explore what makes camp so fun through games, stories and edible art.	Kikar
	Babysitting for Ages 0-2: Drop off your young ones with counselors. <i>Please only use one of the two babysitting time slots for 0-2 year olds.</i>	Mercaz Aryeh
11:15am-12:00pm	Hike to the Waterfall for All Ages: Enjoy a beautiful hike to Ramah Darom's very own waterfall. This hike is not too challenging, but the ground is bumpy. It is not stroller accessible and goes outside the eruv.	Meet at Levine Center Portico
	Ages 0-3–Keshet (Rainbow) Kids: Let's explore the vibrant colors of Jewish traditions and holidays through some of our favorite PJ Library books and hands-on sensory play.	Mountainside Chadar Ochel
	Ages 4-5–Boker Tov (Good Morning) Shabbat: Say "good morning" to Shabbat with story time, yoga and Shabbat games.	Lakeside Chadar Ochel
	Kindergarten & Up–Keshet (Rainbow) BIG Kids with The Shinshinim: Let's explore the vibrant colors of Jewish traditions and holidays with games, slime and Hebrew bingo.	Ohel
	Babysitting for Ages 0-2: Drop off your young ones with counselors. <i>Please only use one of the two babysitting time slots for 0-2 year olds.</i>	Mercaz Aryeh
12:00-12:50pm	Aruchat Tzoharaim (Lunch)	Center Chadar Ochel
1:00-2:30pm	Shaat Menucha (Rest Hour): Take a nap, hang with friends or enjoy one of our sport fields and courts.	Accommodations
	Family Game & Puzzle Time: Hang out and schmooze as you enjoy playing board and lawn games with family and friends.	Mercaz Aryeh
	Mah Jongg 101: Come learn how to play! Already know how? We have sets and cards available too.	
2:30-3:15pm	Hike to the Waterfall for All Ages: Enjoy a beautiful hike to Ramah Darom's very own waterfall. This hike is not too challenging, but the ground is bumpy. It is not stroller accessible and goes outside the eruv.	Meet at Levine Center Portico
	Ages 0-3–Shabbat Bubbles & Blessings: Celebrate the wonder of Shabbat through the joy of bubbles–watch, create and explore as we bring Shabbat's magic to life with every pop and shimmer.	Picnic Benches Under Chadar Ochel Porch
	Ages 4-5–Little Explorers Teva (Nature) Adventure: Engage your senses through nature-themed play, including a scavenger hunt, sensory bins and a nature mural. Through hands-on activities, discover the beauty of the natural world and its special connection to Shabbat at camp.	Mirpesset Tefillah (Lower Roads Pavilion)
	Kindergarten & Up–Team Building & Israeli School Yard Games with The Shinshinim: Challenge yourself with team building games and more!	Beit Am (Covered Court)
	Babysitting for Ages 3-4: Drop off your young ones with counselors.	Mercaz Aryeh

Saturday, March 8

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2:45-3:30pm	Snack Available: Grab some pre-packaged snacks perfect for kiddos to keep their energy up!	Levine Center Portico
3:30-4:15pm	Parents Deserve Rest Too with Elana Pollack Halfaker: Join Elana from Honeymoon Israel Atlanta for an adults-only conversation. Shabbat is the day of rest, but how do we rest when our families require so much of us at all times? How do we determine the best type of rest for ourselves—and then prioritize it?	Beit Knesset
	Ages 0-3—Little Explorers Teva (Nature) Adventure: Engage your senses through nature-themed play, including a scavenger hunt, sensory bins and a nature mural. Through hands-on activities, discover the beauty of the natural world and its special connection to Shabbat at camp.	Mirpeset Tefillah
	Ages 4-5—Shabbatasaurus Time: Enjoy a roaring good time as we read Dinosaurs on Shabbat, then dig into dino-themed fun! Play in the sand, make volcanoes, search for fossils and stomp like a dinosaur as we celebrate Shabbat together.	Volleyball Court
	Kindergarten & Up—Big Kid Explorers Teva (Nature) Adventure: Engage your senses through nature-themed play. Through hands-on activities, discover the beauty of the natural world and its special connection to Shabbat at camp.	Meet at Pizza Patio
	Babysitting for Ages 0-1: Drop off your young ones with counselors.	Mercaz Aryeh
4:30-5:15pm	Parenting & Joy in Challenging Times with Rabbi David Helfand: How do we cultivate joy even in difficult moments? Through the lens of Purim, timeless Jewish texts and engaging storytelling, this session for parents will explore the power of resilience, laughter and finding light in unexpected places.	Beit Knesset
	PJ Library Games: Read stories and play games with your favorite PJ Library characters, like Sammy the Spider and Engineer Ari.	Beit Am
	Ages 0-2—Afternoon Music Circle with Carla Friend: Get together for some Shabbat singing!	Moadon
	Sensory Slow Down for All Ages: Need a quiet break? Spend time with your kiddo in a cozy space for calm reading and gentle sensory play, perfect for little ones who need a moment to recharge before rejoining the fun.	Mercaz Aryeh
5:30-6:15pm	Aruchat Erev (Dinner)	Center Chadar Ochel
6:15-7:00pm	Havdallah Tales & Traditions: Enjoy a Havdallah storytime and learn about the smells, lights and sounds of this beautiful ritual!	Ages 0-1: Mercaz Aryeh Ages 2-3: Beit Knesset Ages 4-5: Moadon K & Up: Beit Am Stage
7:15-8:00pm	Havdallah, S'mores & Rikud (Dancing): Transition from Shabbat into the new week as a community, hang out by the campfire and eat yummy s'mores.	Beit Am
9:00-11:00pm	Shmira Available	Accommodations
9:15-10:45pm	Adult Peulat Erev—P is for Purim Costume Party: A fun night out brought to you by the letter "P" and the holiday of Purim. Dress up in an awesome costume (or don't, it's up to you!) as you pour wax for hamentashen scented candles, make pasta, play ping-pong, try printmaking, eat pancakes and pickles, and plenty more!	Lakeside Chadar Ochel

Sunday, March 9

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:30am	Cereal, Milk & Coffee Available	Center Chadar Ochel
8:00-10:00am	Aruchat Boker (Breakfast)	
9:00-9:45am	Camp Classics	
	Friendship Bracelet Making	Mercaz Aryeh
	Gaga	Lower Roads Gaga Pit
	Hot Chocolate Bar	Center Chadar Ochel
	Tie-Dye: Enjoy this classic camp activity. Bring a white cotton shirt, socks or a pillowcase to color-up.	Kikar
10:00-10:45am	Purim Songs with Carla	Beit Kneset
10:00-11:30pm	Purim Palooza: Put on your Purim costumes for an epic Purim party! Enjoy Purim themed arts & crafts, play games, make hamentaschen and listen to Purim stories. A costume parade will take place at 11:00am!	Mountainside Chadar Ochel
11:30am-12:00pm	Pack Out Lunches & Schmooze Feel free to grab your lunch and eat with your PJ friends before you hit the road.	Center Chadar Ochel
12:00pm	L'hitraot! (See You Next Year!)	



THANK YOU

Musician-in-Residence

Carla Friend

Rabbi-in-Residence

Rabbi David Helfand

JBaby Atlanta Coordinator

Shira Hahn

PJ Library Connectors

Alisa Feldman, Brittany Kazinec & Erin Schauder

Ramah Darom Counselors

Josh Crowley, Baylee LaBarge, Gideon Oren & Shayna Rosenthal

Honeymoon Israel

Elana Pollack Halfaker

Honeymoon Israel is here to help young couples with at least one Jewish partner bring Jewish life and understanding into their homes in a personal, meaningful way. Now more than ever, young couples are searching for a Jewish community to celebrate the good times, lean on during the hard times, and navigate life, love and Judaism. Learn more at honeymoonisrael.org and follow us on social media @honeymoonisrael to explore the opportunities available to you.

The Schoenbaum Shinshinim

Gili Aisenberg, Adi Lemberger & Amit Ozeri

Amit, Gili and Adi have spent the past year bringing exceptional Israel programming to the Atlanta area through their work with various organizations and PJ Library as part of the Schoenbaum Shinshinim. The Schoenbaum Shinshinim are a cohort of recent Israeli high school graduates taking a gap year in Atlanta before their military service. Each year Shinshinim work to enhance Israel education in a number of Jewish organizations from Jewish day schools to synagogues to after-school programs to summer camps and more!



Security & Emergency Protocols

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.

The Sheriff's department has an on-site officer guarding this facility throughout the program.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

First aid kits are available at the Welcome Center reception desk, Marcus Lodge community room (ground floor), Mountainside Hotel (lower level), Lakeside Hotel (bottom floor) and in the Main Dining Hall. AEDs are located at the Welcome Center (on bottom floor by room 102), Mountainside Hotel (lower level), Main Dining Hall, pool and boathouse.

In the Event of a Medical Emergency:

- IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911. Give location, gender and approximate age of victim and if possible, the type of emergency. Then dial 706.782.9300 from your cell phone or any campus phone and follow the prompts to alert a Ramah Darom 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 arrive at the scene, summarize the situation and answer questions.

SEVERE WEATHER

Thunder and/or Lightning:

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

Tornado Warning:

- Head immediately to one of the following designated emergency locations: Welcome Center lower level hallway, Marcus Lodge lower level community room, Mountainside Hotel lower level hallway, Levine Center lower level hallway and lower level common space of bunks 1/2 or 29/30.
- When at location, stay away from windows.
- Stay at designated emergency location until the "all clear" signal has been given over the emergency speakers.

FIRE

If You Spot a Fire:

- Leave the building and do not re-enter to remove personal property.
- Pull the fire alarm if your building has one and IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911. Give location, and if possible, type of fire (grease, electrical, paper, etc.). Then dial 706.782.9300 from your cell phone or any campus phone and follow the prompts to alert a Ramah Darom staff person of your emergency. The office will sound the alarm over the campus wide emergency system.
- 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 field in front of the Levine Center Dining Hall and remain there until the "all clear" signal has been given over the emergency speakers.
- If the fire occurs on or near the field, all guests should proceed to the Beit Am (Covered Court).

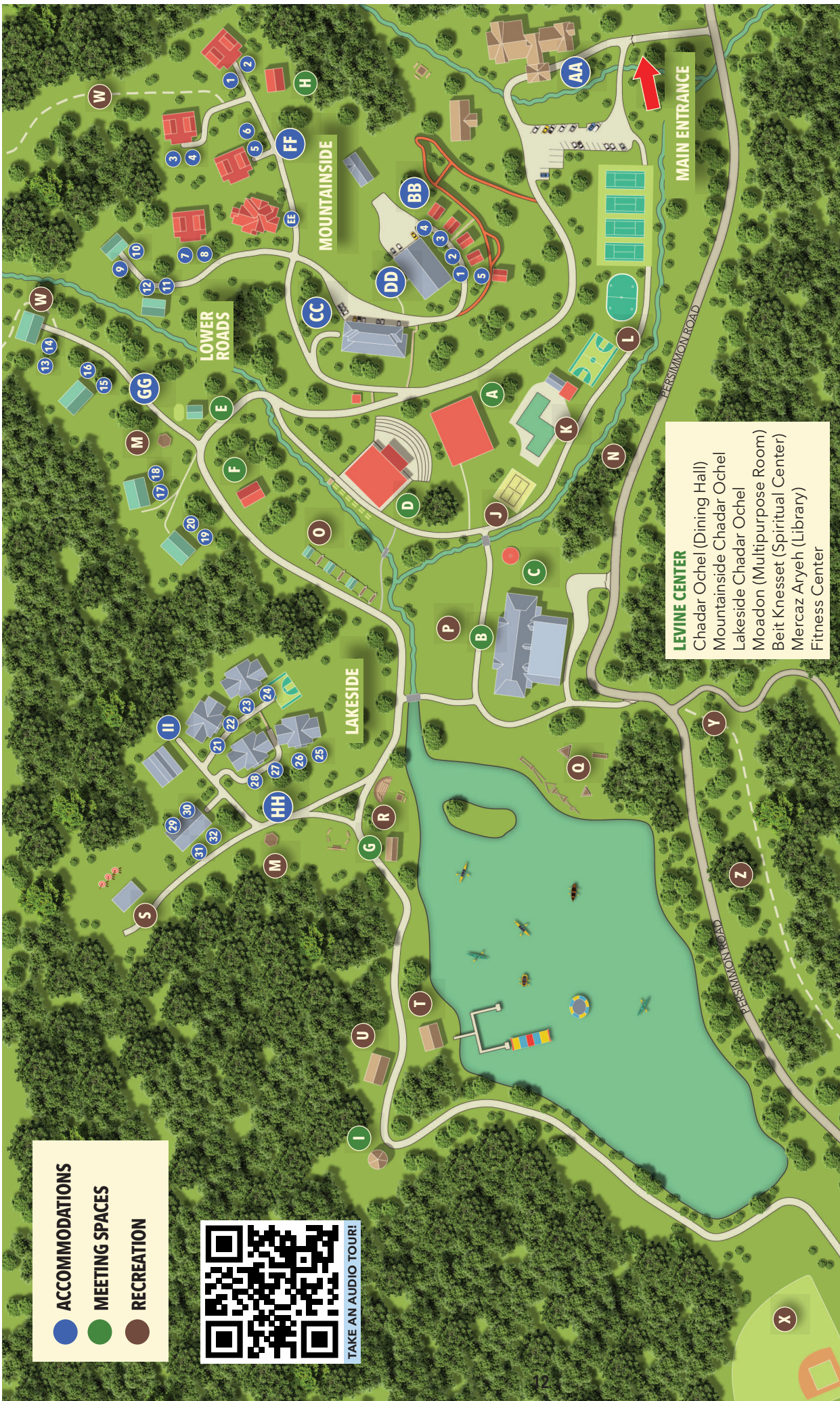
ACTIVE THREAT

- 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.

- ACCOMMODATIONS
- MEETING SPACES
- RECREATION



TAKE AN AUDIO TOUR!



LEVINE CENTER

Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
 Mountainside Chadar Ochel
 Lakeside Chadar Ochel
 Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
 Beit Knesset (Spiritual Center)
 Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
 Fitness Center



AA	Welcome Center	J	Volleyball	S	Archery Range
BB	Deluxe Cottages (Z1 - Z5)	K	Breicha (Pool)	T	Agam (Lake) & Boat Dock
CC	Mountainside Hotel	L	Sports Courts: Basketball, Hockey, Tennis, Pickleball	U	Omanut (Art Building)
DD	Marcus Lodge	M	Gaga	W	Waterfall Trail
EE	Deluxe Cabin (1-4)	N	Farm	X	Softball Field
FF	Mountainside Cabins (1-12)	O	Odyssey Course	Y	Menkowitz Trail
GG	Lower Roads Cabins (13-20)	P	Kikar (Activity Field)	Z	Future Home of the Mayor "Bubba" Mitchell
HH	Lakeside Cabins (21 - 32)	Q	Climb & Swing		Campus
II	Lakeside Hotel	R	Medura (Lakeside Firepit)		