

David M. Braunstein Memorial Scholarship Fund of Congregation Or Shalom

Every year applications are received by the **David M. Braunstein Memorial Scholarship Fund** to help the youth of Congregation Or Shalom pay for Jewish Education, Jewish Summer Camp and Jewish related travel. In 2011, the fund helped five of our congregants have an experience of a lifetime; an experience that will promote their Jewish values and heritage.

The Congregation Or Shalom David M. Braunstein Memorial Scholarship Fund has become an additional venue for donations throughout the year. Donations can be made at any time and for any reason and sent to the synagogue office or to Diana Braunstein. Your donation will help keep the fund self-perpetuating and will allow David's good deeds to continue. If a donation is made in honor of a simcha or as a memorial, letters on beautiful Scholarship Fund stationary will be mailed on a timely basis.

Applications for 2012 scholarships are now available and decisions will be made by the committee on April 15, 2012

The Scholarship committee always asks those who received a scholarship to tell us about their experience and below are five moving statements.

These past two summers I went to the AWESOMEST camp ever; it's called Camp Ramah in the Poconos! At camp I can relate to almost everyone, because we all share one thing, our Jewish religion. Sometimes I felt left out at my regular school when my friends talked about Christmas, or Easter, but none of that at camp. Everyone at camp is just like me or you! I really like going to camp, but it is expensive. With help from the Braunstein Fund it makes it a little easier to pay for camp. I was so grateful that the Braunstein Fund gave me a grant for some of my camp tuition. I really enjoy Camp Ramah because of the many activities it has to offer. Some of my favorite things to do at camp are soccer, softball, cooking, tennis, basketball, art, and nature, just to name a few. Ramah makes learning Hebrew fun! Now I look forward to learning every summer, at Camp Ramah! Thanks again to the Braunstein Fund for making it happen for me.

-Sara Hyams

Last summer I spent a week at Camp Ramah in the Poconos. At first, I wanted to go to a camp where I knew everyone but, I chose to go to Ramah. That was one of the best decisions of my life. I went with one friend I knew and met A LOT more friends. I still communicate with some of them now. I love the camp because I hate it when my friends from elementary school are always talking about Christmas and Easter. At Camp Ramah I can relate to everybody because of our Jewish religion. There are a lot of sports to choose from at Ramah and there are always a lot to do. Since I loved it last year I definitely want to go back next year. I am very happy that I applied for a scholarship to attend Ramah from the Braunstein Fund. The fund gave me a grant so that camp didn't cost so much. That made it easier for my parents to send both me and my sister.

From, Jack Hyams

My Jewish Summer Experiences

In the past three years, I have travelled with two amazing Jewish organizations. In July of 2010, I journeyed to the Rocky Mountains for Ramah Outdoor Adventure. I spent two weeks at the camp that consisted of a 5-day excursion into the wilderness and a remaining 8 days at base camp. During the excursion, my group hiked to various cliffs and we set up ropes to climb. We all participated in cooking and cleaning up the campsite. Being that it was Ramah Outdoor's inaugural year, we also participated in building the facilities. At base camp, we engaged in many activities such as hiking, biking, and horseback riding. During free time, we played sports. On Shabbat, on weekday mornings and after meals, we prayed as a group. Plenty of time was spent resting and hanging out friends. Ramah in the Rockies was one of my fantastic Jewish experiences and I really enjoyed meeting new friends and being in the wilderness.

I have also been involved in the JCC Maccabee Artsfest for the past three summers. In 2009, I went to New Orleans, Louisiana with a delegation of 10 others. For a week, I played guitar in a rock band with 6 other kids from around the United States. We played a final show at the Tulane campus. We also spent a day helping to rebuild a park that had been destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In 2010, I went to San Rafael, California for JCC Maccabi Artsfest as well. We got to go on a cruise in the San Francisco Bay sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge. For our day of community service, we helped landscape and clean another local park. Finally, in 2011, I travelled to Israel with the JCC Maccabi Artsfest and Games. For one and a half weeks I toured many beautiful sites. I also spectated the Maccabi Games and cheered on my friends while they played sports. I performed two shows in Jerusalem with my rock band. I will remember this trip for the rest of my life and I plan on visiting Israel many more times in the years to come. I would like to thank the David Braunstein Foundation for helping to fund this incredible journey.

Hunter King, teen member Congregation Or Shalom, and Moreh Sondra B. Moore (West Chester) BBYO Chapter

Dear Mrs. Braunstein,

There is something that makes Galil special to me. When I'm at Galil, I feel comfortable being Jewish. Everybody is Jewish. I wasn't one of a kind. Everybody ate challah and lit the candles on Friday nights. I was happy there. At school, there are only eight or nine other Jews in my grade. Not a lot of people understand Judaism so I constantly have to explain things and that is really aggravating. It's why I like Galil so much. It's very immersive, the way we wake to Hebrew and listen to Hebrew constantly and learn about Israel. I meet new friends. Much of what we say there is in Hebrew and we're frequently thinking about Israel or Judaism or something like that. We're always having fun. I love many things about Galil, but not being a minority there is definitely in the top ten and so is constantly having a great time and meeting new people. It helps me out on all fronts. I feel renewed, reenergized after some time at camp. I

wish life was more like Galil. At Galil, everything is different. It's my little piece of Israel forty-five minutes away from my home.

Sincerely,
Adam Morrow

Mrs. Braunstein

Camp Galil is a place that I can call home. We bond completely and the friendships we make are lasting. At camp we build connections and break barriers. These are not just people that I spend my summer hanging out with, these people are as close to me as my family is. This summer I was in Bogrim, which is the oldest age group, and when translated into English means "the graduates". As the oldest campers, we assumed positions of leadership around the camp. We planned a special afternoon of fun around Mario and Luigi, and we planned a SpongeBob themed party. Every Saturday night we put younger campers to bed and every afternoon we hand out the snack. We were also responsible for putting on the weekly talent show and campfire. This summer we were granted a very special opportunity. We were given a grant from the Jewish Teen Funders Network in association with the Foundation for Jewish Camp, and as kvutzah (group) we chose what to do with the money. We went to the Broad Street Ministry in Philadelphia and donated \$800. We chose it because it fit all stipulations and it served the general community. This was the best summer of my life and I cannot wait to see my friends throughout the year!

Samantha Morrow

Diana Braunstein
Committee Chair