



HABONIM DROR CAMP MOSHAVA

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Dear Friends of Mosh,

As we approach the 75th anniversary next year of Habonim Dror Camp Moshava, we want to bring you up to date on the many exciting things that have happened and are in the works. Over the last two years, a lot of changes have occurred to make Mosh stronger and better than ever. Our goal is to ensure that Mosh continues to thrive for another 75 years, infused with the same spirit and ethos that have made it unique in the increasingly competitive world of Jewish camps. We have strived to be responsive to the input of parents, campers and alumni. We are building on the foundation laid with love and care by generations of Mosh *chalutzim* (pioneers).

New Board Structure

With help from the Grinspoon Institute for Jewish Philanthropy -- a Springfield, Massachusetts-based foundation -- Mosh has undertaken significant changes to improve our operation. The old camp committee has morphed into a more formal board of directors under a new set of by-laws, replacing the outdated 1962 version. Under this structure, we adopted our first strategic plan and our first long-range capital plan. We hired camp planners to produce a vision for Mosh's physical future in line with its values. A new personnel committee is working to establish orderly procedures aimed at staff evaluation and enhancement. Not only have these steps provided greater oversight of camp operations, but a larger committee structure enables more parents and Mosh alumni to participate in the direction of the camp.

In the fundraising arena, 16 families each made donations and pledges exceeding \$200,000 toward capital improvements, with Grinspoon providing a one-third match. A scholarship appeal in September raised nearly \$7,000 from 72 members of the Mosh community. These contributions represent small down-payments on our future, with much more needed.

Improvements to Camp

We recently marked the one-year anniversary of Jennafer (Naffer) Curran as our first full-time, year-round executive director. Last summer, Naffer demonstrated extraordinary skill in supervising the camp effectively in the face of a flu epidemic that would have proved challenging to someone with even more tenure. Under her management, Habonim Dror Camp Moshava received glowing reviews in three articles in Baltimore and Washington newspapers.

In response to requests from families, last year we acquired new software (Bunk1) that allows parents to register their children on-line, send emails and order photographs of their kids at Mosh as well as enhance our ability to reach out to the greater Mosh family. In the off-season we have begun to make modest improvements in the camp's appearance and structures.

Enrollment for Summer 2010

In light of the downturn in the economy, we will not be raising camp fees for this coming summer. Additionally, we will be offering a one-week session for rising third graders to enable them to get their first taste of overnight camping and Mosh magic.

We hope you will share the joy of Mosh with your friends and families. Families that provide successful referrals will receive a \$200 camp discount. Open houses are being conducted in Baltimore, Washington, Northern Virginia, Annapolis, Columbia and Montgomery County. Online enrollment makes signing up easier than ever. And this summer we will be offering two visitors' days for prospective campers and their parents. Scholarships for first-time campers are available from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and from the Associated of Baltimore. Links can be found are on our Web site: www.CampMosh.org. Go to Registration, then click on Scholarships.

Year-Round Programming

I am thrilled to report that our Eizor, our Habonim Dror regional youth group, is more active than ever. Mosh campers have been able to demonstrate their commitment to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) and Israel through get-togethers in the Baltimore and Washington areas. For example, the children have volunteered with Wider Circle, a warehouse that provides goods and furnishings to the needy. Our *ma'apilim*, recent Mosh alumni, are teaching area religious schools about kibbutzim, Israel and the Labor Zionist movement. You can read about these activities at: <http://eizor-moshava.blogspot.com/>

Our 75th Anniversary

On Sunday, September 5 (Labor Day weekend), the entire Mosh community – campers, parents and alumni -- will return to camp to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Planning for the 75th anniversary reunion is in full swing, and we look forward to an amazing celebration. If you know of any Mosh alumni you think we might be missing, please let us know.

Staying in Touch

It has never been easier to stay in touch with Mosh. The new Mosh Web site, provides a wonderful, engaging introduction to the camp, and easy online registration. Numerous Facebook pages (including one for the 75th anniversary) enable parents, campers and alumni to stay connected.

Mosh needs your help to spread the word, to widen our circle of alums and campers, and to boost our enrollment so that we may continue to offer the value-based camping experience that money can't buy. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, there's plenty of work to be done. Let us hear from you.

As we move forward, Mosh will always seek to develop in our young people a dedication to *tikkun olam* and social justice along with a strong and enduring connection to Israel. Nurturing "caring campers for a better world" has been and will always be our central mission. From the spiritual foundations laid at camp, Moshniks have made their mark as leaders in the Jewish community and beyond. When value counts, Mosh teaches values. Opportunities to help continue this hallowed tradition are unlimited.

B'shalom

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