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CAMP LOWN

OPERATED BY CAMP LOWN ASSOCIATION

OAKLAND, MAINE

October 28, 1966

TO: ALL LIFE MEMBERS OF CAMP LOWN ASSOCIATION
AND ALL PARENTS OF 1966 CAMPERS

Dear Friends:

Camp Lown was founded in 1946 for the purpose of developing in each camper a sense of pride in his Jewish heritage and tradition, and to have a happy emotional experience in Jewish living while in a recreational atmosphere. These basic objectives guided the camp in all its decisions during the past 21 years, even though it has gone through many changes as to directorships, policies, and the physical facilities of the camp.

The Executive Committee of the Camp Lown Association was true to these objectives and managed the camp to the best of their abilities, giving a great deal of their time and effort, and even of their means. However, over the past number of years, it became evident that the camp cannot be operated without deficits with a small enrollment. We cannot depend upon a part time Director to spend a great deal of time soliciting campers. Accordingly, the Executive Committee struggled with this problem, trying to find a solution.

We had two alternatives: (1) to close the camp, sell the property and contribute the net assets to some charitable institution or (2) find some national organization experienced in camping who are committed to the same objectives which motivated the founders of Camp Lown, and to work out an understanding for operating the camp.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 31, 1966 at Camp Lown, it was definitely decided to approve the proposals made by The Jewish Theological Seminary who operate the Ramah Camps - Hebrew speaking camps - to operate also Camp Lown as a new type of camp; not Hebrew speaking, for those children who are not qualified to attend Ramah Camps. The educational program will be strengthened, but it will not be as extensive as Camp Ramah. The language of the camp will be English. The recreational activities will be continued as heretofore and improved. The Seminary expects to open up a number of camps patterned after Camp Lown.

"HAPPY EXPERIENCES IN JEWISH LIVING WHILE IN A RECREATIONAL ATMOSPHERE"

Over the years the Ramah Camps, consisting of about 11 units, have been oversold by February, and the potential for campers for an English speaking camp will be even greater. We, therefore, inserted a clause to the effect that children from the State of Maine should be given priority until January 1, and furthermore, while the minimum age requirement will be 9 years, for Maine children it will be lowered to 8 years.

Camp Lown will be operated under the general supervision of a new Commission composed of 11 members, of which 3 will represent Camp Lown Association. Mr. Philip W. Lown has been asked to serve as the first chairman of that Commission.

It will be operated under the same name, CAMP LOWN, and Mr. Abraham F. Yanover, who has been Director of Camp Lown for the past three years, has been engaged by the Jewish Theological Seminary to remain as Director for the camp season 1967.

Camp Lown will be open for registration the early part of November. We would urge all parents who plan to register their children in Camp Lown next summer to do so promptly - upon receipt of application.

We trust that you will approve of our action and that we will continue to have your cooperation and encouragement.

With greetings for meaningful Jewish education.

Sincerely,

CAMP LOWN ASSOCIATION

Philip W. Lown

Philip W. Lown
Honorary President

Saul G. Chason

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President