



Dear Camp Barney Medintz Family,

This has been a rollercoaster week for many in our extended Camp Barney family, as we shared the very difficult news last Friday that we would not be opening CBM this summer. This was inconceivable only a few months ago prior to our evolving awareness of the health and financial impact of the COVID pandemic.

Undoubtedly, we'll all have thoughts and feelings, perhaps in waves, about what cannot be realized this summer. If you've ever had moments of loss before, maybe you've recognized that our sadness about camp is totally normal and connected to our powerful memories of indescribable joys, like during previous summers at Camp Barney, or the "can't wait til camp" moments we all hoped we'd have for this summer.

NOTE: Once again, we are providing a collection of resources which we've written and compiled for you which may be helpful to you or your family. Please [click here](#).

We're starting to "rise up", and in a series of virtual events, we want to continue connecting with you throughout the summer.

This past Saturday night was a "beginning" to our collective healing as we presented an arrangement of our Camp Barney Shabbat music, performed by our long-time Israeli song leaders Deddy, Matan and Tal. Dozens of families sent us and posted their "watch parties", which were filled with sobbing and singing, smiles and laughter, friends, memories and apparently, the countdown to 2021! If you missed it or want to see it again, please [click here](#).

It's quite incredible to hear and see 1000 of us singing these songs and prayers every Shabbat in our Zaban Chapel under that "amazing roof" at Camp Barney each summer.

Our next CBM virtual event is in 3 days! We'll be coming to you LIVE this

Saturday, May 23rd at 8PM with more music, special guests, and our plans for bringing the CBM community together online all summer! “Like” our Facebook page and keep an eye out for more information.

While we’ve learned that it’s challenging to predict future global events, **our plan is to open registration for Camp Barney 2021 around mid-October.** Yes, it’s true. Our imaginations are already running wild as we’re thinking about bringing everything we love about Camp Barney back for 2021 and also a long list of exciting and cool new activities, programs, off-site trips, adventures on our ropes courses, beachfront, cultural and performing arts, and all over our amazing facility - plus, of course, those famous Barneybars and evening “milkline” cookies!

Thousands of you sent us incredibly heartwarming and supportive emails and texts during the past few days – parents, campers, staff members, alumni and more. Thank you so much, we are so grateful to you and for you.

Some parents asked us if we have any staff members we’d recommend to do ‘something’ with their kids this summer (independently from camp) like online programs - ie. Science Olympiad activities, nature/scouting, crafts, dancing, cooking, trivia, etc. Other parents asked if we could recommend childcare staff. Happy to check that out for you. Email us your thoughts: summer@campbarney.org.

And, we want to answer the Top 10 Questions we’ve been emailed in the past few days:

1. “You wrote something in the last email about our being BETTER TOGETHER at Camp Barney in 2021. That would be cool on next summer’s t-shirt. What do you think?”

We love it – count on it!

2. Speaking of t-shirts....”If we were supposed to get our 3-year, or 5-year, or 7-year, or 10-year t-shirt in 2020, would we still get it in 2021?” And how about people who would have gotten their t-shirt in 2021?

Yes and yes – we love that idea, too!

3. "What if we were going to be in a unit this summer that had special trips and other stuff and we were really looking forward to being in that unit. Can we repeat that unit next summer?"

Great idea...that's a tricky one and a little complicated. Give us some time to think that through and we'll let you know.

4. (From a mom) "It took us awhile to decide for this summer about 'CBM Experience' (1-week Atlanta option), 2-weeks or 4-weeks for our kids. Will all those options still be available next summer?"

Absolutely – that's our plan and we're happy to help you decide.

5. "Will you please have the Chalutzim Unit next summer? I'm going to miss not seeing all my friends this summer."

Absolutely. We're planning to do a big 'welcome back' for the Chalutzim Unit (for children with developmental disabilities) in 2021 – and for our special staff in 'Cabin 20', too!

6. "Are staff applications going to be available on November 1st as usual? I really miss not seeing my campers this summer and it's going to be hard not being at camp."

We know, this is hard for all of us. And yes, staff applications for summer 2021 will be available online beginning on November 1st.

7. "I've always celebrated my birthday at Camp Barney every summer. This is going to be weird this year!"

Really weird. Probably still fun, though. Maybe have your family and friends put you in "a chair" and raise it the right number of times, plus one for good luck! We'll get you back up in the chair at CBM next summer.

8. "I know I'm going to have a craving this summer for a Barneybar and for sure a 'milkline' cookie...make that 'double milkline' cookies."

Not sure if that was a question, a memory or a craving. We're all going to have that same feeling this summer at around 9:00pm EST every night! PS. We'll have Barneybars plus much more at our annual winter reunion in Atlanta in December.

9. "I love Shabbat at Camp Barney, everybody singing in the Chapel, eating with my friends and even my little brother on Friday nights for dinner. And Saturday lunch doing unit cheers and Sabbath Concert and Havdallah on Saturday nights. I'm gonna miss that."

Us, too. It's not Sabbath Concert, however our next CBM virtual event is this Saturday evening at 8pm very fun...we'll see you "there!"

10. "I don't really have a question. I just wanted to say that I'm going to really miss being a counselor at CBM this summer. I loved my kids from last summer, and my friends at school always thought it was so funny when I'd be hearing from them and snap chatting with them during the year. I didn't even care what age group I would have had this summer, new or returning campers. My camp friends and I talk about camp all year and being (we think) great counselors for our kids. Help us get through this year so we can do (seriously) our 'dream job' again in 2021!

That's awesome. Couldn't have said it any better. We're going to get through this, and it will be amazing and yes, "better together" in 2021!

Camp Barney is absolutely "our summer place" when we're all up at CBM each summer but as many people know, Camp Barney is also a pretty amazing community regardless of where we are – in different countries, states, cities, neighborhoods – or even sheltering in our own homes.

We miss you, we love you, and we'll be **Better Together** at Camp Barney next summer! Wishing you healthy and better days ahead.

Sincerely,

Jim Mittenthal, M.S.W., Director
Camp Barney Medintz

SPECIAL NOTE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

This pandemic has affected all of us in so many ways. In March, the MJCCA for which Camp Barney is affiliated, had to make many difficult decisions to reduce expenses, including the elimination of many staff positions.

Camp Barney is very sad to have said goodbye to Susan Berger, our Associate Director; Lynn Light, one of our Administrative Assistants; and Jimmy Rogers, one of our Facility Caretakers. For many many years, the extraordinary work of these extraordinary people personified their talent, passion, and devotion to families, staff and Camp Barney. Todah Rabah – we wish each of them well.