Dear friend,

In the summer of 2022, we returned to Camp Gilboa full of energy and enthusiasm about the hundreds of chanichimot (campers) and tzevet (staff) members about to spend a transformative camp experience full of joyful Judaism, friendship, and social justice. This report highlights the many achievements of the Habonim Dror Camp Gilboa community in 2022 - Gilboa is thriving!

In summer 2022, we welcomed more chanichimot than ever. At the same time, a record number of tzevet came together to make the camp magic happen. To accommodate this growth, we housed some older chanichimot in tents and staff members in new “Tiny Home” sheds.

We anticipate having to turn some chanichimot away until we increase our camp’s capacity. To address this, we’ve completed a master site plan that charts our expansion plans. We need to enlarge the dining hall and kitchen, add more bathrooms, and build a new healthcare center to care for more children. In order to grow, we must focus on tzevet retention, and ensure that our youth leaders’ experiences are as fun and meaningful as their chanichimot.

We are bigger and stronger than ever thanks to the generosity of our community. In addition to the countless hours dedicated by volunteers, we raised funds together to ensure every child who needed financial assistance could come to camp.

Whether you are a current camp family, an alum who spent your transformative years in Habonim, or a supporter cheering Gilboa from afar, we know you join us in celebrating all we have accomplished together in 2022. Thank you for your commitment and partnership!

Warmly,

Elana Bloomfield (Executive Director) and Tyson Roberts (Board Chair)
Chanichimot: In Hebrew, “im” is the male plural suffix, and “ot” is the female plural suffix, and traditionally a mixed-gender group is referred to with only the male suffix (e.g. Bonim, Shomrim). Feminist movements in Israel created the “imot” suffix in order to include people of all genders. Habonim Dror North America decided to adopt this language change to all groups (so all Amelim as Amelimot, all Chotrim as Chotrimot, etc.) and to wherever else gendered language had been used in the past.

CAMP BY THE NUMBERS

10 teens joined their national kvutza (peer group) in Israel on MBI (Machaneh Bonim Israel)

105 chanichimot received scholarships and grants to support their camp attendance (45% of all campers)

5 new tent platforms and 4 new tiny homes housed our growing community

78 miles of breathtaking Big Bear trails were hiked on tiyulim

112 skits and songs performed around the medurah (campfire)

0 COVID cases during summer camp!

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HEALTH & SAFETY

Hats off to our medical committee and the tzevet who deployed complex protocols to keep chanichimot COVID-free in both summer 2021 and summer 2022. And a big TODAH RABAH to our Gilboa families for complying with these safety procedures that helped keep camp safe. With your support, our growing summer medical staff now includes two full-time medical professionals that keep our children healthy and strong!

Two years of social isolation due to COVID created a national mental health crisis for children and teens. Across the country, we saw a dramatic rise in children with mental health diagnoses (e.g. anxiety and depression), and many, many children struggling with regular day-to-day social interactions.

The camping world recognized these challenges and identified camp as an essential part of the solution. We were granted funding and professional education for our year-round and summer staff by the Los Angeles Jewish Federation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp’s Yedid Nefesh program. With this guidance, we hired a full-time summer mental health professional, and brought in wellness programming, and mental health training for camp tzevet and year-round staff.

Kol Ha’Kavod to Sarah Breiner (madricha, Rosh ‘10, Board Member), an educational psychologist with expertise in working with children, who led our Camper Care team in nurturing campers who needed extra support. Stronger systems and more trained staff helped campers manage conflict, problem solve, become independent, gain self-confidence, disengage from social media and technology, manage homesickness, and make friends.

Thanks to a generous donation by Lee and Luis Lainer and a federal grant, we continued to upgrade camp’s security systems. For example, a heavy steel gate now protects our main power source, and a backup power and communications system now functions in the event of a power outage.
According to the annual parent survey, conducted by the Foundation for Jewish Camp, we continued our streak of incredible family satisfaction. Check out the highlights below where our parents and campers rated us with a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale.

98% rated camp’s overall environment as one that creates a sense of belonging and well-being for campers.

100% reported that Gilboa creates the feeling in campers of being connected to the Jewish people.

96% found that Gilboa nurtured an environment that helped campers experience growth, try new things, and build character.

96% agreed that Gilboa provides an overall healthy, safe, and secure environment for their children.

96% shared that they would be likely to recommend Camp Gilboa to new families.
The real magic of the Gilboa experience is how we live our values throughout the camp day and then bring those beliefs into our lives back in our home communities. Having a camp that is completely run by young people empowers us to be our best selves. They do everything at camp, from the cleaning and maintenance of the kitchen, bathrooms, water and power systems to the programming! This year, we wanted to share a little about how AVODAH - the work kids do around camp to keep it running - embodies Gilboa’s belief that each of us is responsible for our larger community. Working together cultivates a strong sense of personal responsibility and pride in our summer home.

“\nThe night my son returned from camp, he offered to clear the dinner table AND wash the dishes!!!! It feels like he grew up overnight!  

“ -- Parent, 2022

This year, the work of the tzevet mitbach (kitchen staff) was particularly challenging. With our dining hall operating at maximum capacity, the Rashei Mitbach (kitchen heads), Eliza and Hank, and our fearless mitbach team, prepared more than 15,000 meals! To manage the challenges of insufficient storage space in the kitchen, we purchased an additional freezer and a shed for non-perishable food during the summer. Tzevet created a new role of Rosh Chadar (head of the dining room) to help move people through the crowded dining hall quickly, efficiently, and happily!
Check out the campers problem-solving, fixing things, relying on each other, and learning how to work as a team to keep camp running smoothly.
A core component of the Gilboa experience for youth is developing leadership skills. Being a youth-led organization means that from the moment campers enter the community, they have opportunities to shape it. **From summer to summer, they are given more responsibility and their leadership skills grow!** One summer, campers are making decisions collectively about how to spend their “Yom Kvutza”, and the next, they are leading a camp-wide lip-syncing competition, having designed and prepared every aspect of the evening! From there, they are running full days, taking the rest of camp through storylines that weave wacky and creative ideas together with meaningful educational messages.

In last summer’s **Star Wars-themed Revo day**, the Madatz (counselors-in-training) took over camp for the day and encouraged campers to apply a critical lens to space exploration. Debating teams examined the effects of space travel and space research on the environment. They found that the pollution that results from testing rockets (and the commensurate health & safety hazards) often disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations. A subsequent *peula* (discussion) about the morality of colonizing Mars elicited lots of opinions and some great insights into the importance of “community” for both the brave explorers and those left behind!

It’s no coincidence that **Gilboa campers write in their B’nai Mitzvah divrei torah (torah commentary) and college applications** about running for class president, starting new clubs, and creating tikkun olam initiatives in their home communities. **Our alumni can be found throughout progressive and Jewish communities in America and Israel, using the tools they gained as youth leaders to make positive change in the world.**

“**Gilboa’s influence extends to the ideals and activism that shaped my beliefs and values -- I have a strong sense of community and a commitment to social justice.**”

-- Oren Ladd

“**Being a part of Gilboa means showing up and being the best person you can be.**”

-- Pearle Macht
The fun and learning don’t stop at the end of camp - they start right back up every September when our youth and young leaders join together for year-round activities. Campers took the experiences from their summer and put them into action throughout the year.

5 seminars (2-3 day weekend overnight in LA or Big Bear)

10 Tzedek (Teen Justice Group) Meetings, including a 1-day trip learning about LA’s housing crisis

9 ken Events in San Diego, San Francisco, and Los Angeles

24 times youth across California met together to learn, protest, educate, and have fun together in 2022.

The year-round activities are a chance for campers to stay connected to their friends and counselors, and continue learning about issues in the world! At Spring Seminar, the young Nitzanimot group played “fish pish” and learned about overfishing and endangered species. The Shomrimot (8th grade) focused on environmental racism and by playing “Top Chef,” learned about the problem of food deserts.
CONNECTION TO ISRAEL AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

MACHANEH BONIM IN ISRAEL (MBI): In 2022, Gilboa sent 10 chanichimot on MBI, the Habonim Dror teen Israel summer trip. In addition to connecting with their national kvutza through tiyulim (hikes) and tours of cities, our chanichimot also confronted the harsh realities of a country besieged by resurgent nationalism and ongoing occupation through meetings with representatives of different groups in Israeli society. Israeli teens joined the buses for a week as the MBI-ers met with some Druze representatives from our sister youth movement, Hanoar HaOved veHaLomed, and the chanichimot participated in a facilitated dialogue with Israeli Arab teens from Hanoar HaOved veHaLomed. In meeting with these different groups, the chanichimot left MBI with a deeper understanding of Israeli society and all its complexities.

This is the largest cohort we have had on MBI in recent years, thanks in part to RootOne, a new initiative to make Israel teen trips more affordable, as well as a Gilboa Israel program scholarship fund, generously created by Evelyn Steward.

SFLICHIMOT (Israeli counselors): Gilboa chanichimot grow their connection to Israel throughout their time at camp. Each summer we bring shlichimot (Israeli counselors) to be madrichimot (counselors) alongside their American counterparts. This summer we had three shlichimot on tzevet from our sister youth movement in Israel, including one who was a madrichol for the madatz kvutza (junior counselors). The shlichimot ran “Zman Shlichimot” workshops for each kvutza, where they taught Hebrew. They also ran discussions during elective blocks every Shabbat.

HDCA KENNES: Six representatives from Gilboa’s staff and board joined the Habonim Dror Camping Association Kennes (gathering) in the fall. This was the first in-person gathering since 2019 and it was invigorating to be back together at the incredible Pearlstone Retreat Center, operated by Hazon. Participants from the six machanot learned from Drew Fidler, Director of the BBYO Center for Adolescent Wellness, and Hadar Susskind, President and CEO of Americans for Peace Now, in addition to multiple sessions dedicated to sharing best practices across the machanot and addressing challenges as a united movement.
Tzedek is **Gilboa’s teen social action program**! In addition to participating in Gilboa’s year-round kenim as madrichimot (counselors), Gilboa teens also explore what it looks like to put their values into action.

In 2022, **Gilboa teens chose to focus their social justice learning on housing justice**. A highlight of this program happened during Spring Seminar, when Tzedek America brought our teens on their “Understanding Homelessness” walking tour of downtown Los Angeles. They learned about the historically, evolving socio-economic landscapes of the area and the negative impact on people struggling with housing insecurity. The group walked through Skid Row, spoke with unhoused people, and distributed water. They also spoke with the Skid Row Housing Trust about its approach, and the bureaucratic difficulties it faces in trying to address the housing crisis through policy change. The day finished off in Culver City, where the teens met with SHARE!, an organization that facilitates collaborative housing for unhoused people, and got to visit one of the homes and meet its residents.

**GILBOA’S HEADQUARTERS HAVE A NEW HOME!**

We have important news to share about the **Institute for Jewish Education (IJE) and our building at 8339 West 3rd Street** which housed the offices of Ameinu, NA’AMAT USA, and Habonim Dror Camp Gilboa. After years of declining engagement, the IJE voted to dissolve and the building was sold in December 2022. Proceeds of the sale will be shared equally by these three constituent organizations so that each can continue the IJE’s mission to support progressive Jewish education through their work with children, adults, and Israel.

Camp Gilboa’s offices are now located at the **Westside Jewish Community Center** - a vibrant hub of Jewish life in Los Angeles. Many Gilboa alumni will remember rehearsing and performing the annual Neshef here back in the day! As new members of the Westside JCC community, we look forward to growing relationships, including partnership programs, with the WJCC day camp, which will bring campers to Gilboa for a first overnight camp experience!
These numbers are great news! Growth means we are thriving. In addition to our budget growing, Gilboa’s camper numbers increased by 25% between summer 2019 and summer 2022, and our community has been there every year to help us meet our revenue goals.

Remaining true to our values, we’ve kept camp fees low and remain the least expensive Jewish camp in Southern California. Tuition and scholarships from community partners cover approximately 74% of what we need each year to operate a year-round camp experience. Our generous community enables us to close the gap that remains between our revenue and expenses. Gilboa’s core value of kupa--from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs--makes camp possible. Our entire community comes together and each individual gives what they can.

**GILBOA’S ANNUAL BUDGET**

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<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
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(No camp sessions because of COVID)

**GILBOA’S REVENUE SOURCES 2022**

- **Camp tuition paid by families**
- **Individual donations**
- **Tuition grants (from community partners)**
- **Foundations**
- **Year round program tuition**
- **Reserves**
PARTNERSHIPS

GRANTS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:
Gilboa pursued the highest quality of care by investing in the professionalization of our summer and year-round staff and lay leaders. We were awarded funding from major foundations, including The Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp, to pay for professional development. In 2022 three of our madrichimot participated in the Foundation for Jewish Camp Cornerstone Fellowship to enhance Jewish education and ritual at camp. Six board members and staff participated in the JCamp 180 Gift Leadership Institute to advance a culture of philanthropy in the Gilboa community. Our year-round staff attended the JCamp180 conference, HDCA Kennes, and the Foundation for Jewish Camp Leaders Assembly. And, we count ourselves lucky to have received the Yedid Nefesh grant and a grant from the Los Angeles Jewish Federation which enabled us to grow our adult support team at camp by hiring a mental health professional.

LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:
Gilboa campers come from communities across California! Not only are we growing pipelines for new campers by partnering with values-aligned Jewish organizations, but we strengthen the Jewish community as a whole when we work together. In 2022 we ran 13 events with 9 different community partners including PJ Library LA, Silverlake JCC, Temple Beth Israel Highland Park, Adam Chaverim, Sholem, IKAR, Congregation Dor Hadash San Diego, Temple Beth El Riverside, and Congregation Beth Sholom SF.

SCHOLARSHIPS
Camp Gilboa is committed to making camp affordable for every family. In 2022, the Go Go Gilboa team again participated in the Los Angeles Jewish Federation’s Tour de Summer Camps, which raises funds for needs-based scholarships. Our new campers once again all received generous first time camper grants thanks to the Foundation for Jewish Camp’s One Happy Camper program. And a huge TODAH RABA’AH to Steven Fainbarg for his generous gift and to all the individual donors who exceeded his match challenge, resulting in over $70,000 for Gilboa Scholarships!

2021-22 FINANCIAL AID

$154,152

awarded in financial aid and grants for 105 campers! This allowed every child who wanted to come to camp to join us!
Throughout 2022, our community – campers, parents, tzevet members, alumni, and our dedicated supporters – raised critical funds necessary to run camp. Not only are we growing, but the overall cost of running camp continues to increase each year, with record-high expenses in 2022. **THANK YOU** for helping us keep up with rising costs of everything from insurance, maintenance and repairs, food, propane, flights and bus travel, to program supplies and staff certifications!

**DONOR NAMES:**

- Ophra Ashur
- Naomi Axelrod
- Miryam Bachrach
- Aaron Barlev
- Julie Macht and David Beenhouswer
- Astrid Beigel
- Dena Belinkoff
- Adar Belinkoff
- Orit Lavee and Rani Ben-Ezra
- Robyn Berko
- Jack & Sharon Bershtel
- Bialik Fund for Freilachkeit
- Susan Black Smith
- James Johnstone and Naomi Blyveis
- Nira Brand
- Stuart Rudnick and Doreen Braverman
- Mary and Tom Breiner
- Sarah Breiner
- Donna and Michael Broder
- Joshua Brysk
- Sarah and Mark Bunin Benor
- John Campbell
- Sally Cassidy
- Joshua Weintraub and Iris Charney-Sirott
- Sarah Gregory and Etan Chatlynne
- Donna and Mathis Chazanov
- Leonia and Stanley Cleaner
- Michael Cohen
- Hilda Cohen
- Benjamin Cooley
- Alford Cooley
- Susan Cooley
- Daniel Dancis
- Dalya Dektor
- Elisa Delson
- Elana and Chris Dixon
- Lara and Richard Dutta
- Laurie Earp
- Bea and Jerome Edelman
- Stephanie Epstein
- Aileen Epstein-Ignadiou
- Steven Fainbarg
- Janet Farber
- Stephen Feingold
- Emily Fierer
- Selwyn Goldberg and Ericka Furr
- Anne Gefner
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- Robin Keller and Mark Geliebter
- Helen Ogilvie and Irving Girshman
- Carol Glazer
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- Abigail and Raymond Goldblatt
- Evan Goldin
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- Harold Grinspoon Foundation
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- Ari Howorth
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- Daniel Kane
- Joshua Kane
- Maimah Karmo
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- Sid Katz
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- Barry and Eleanor Krasner
- Eleanor and Mark Lainer
- Luis and Lee Lainer
- Zachary Lainer
- Jesse and Dan Lainer-Vos
- Judith and Uri Landau
- Ron Hart and Michal Lemberger
- Susan Levey
- Penny and George Levy
- Ben Lieberman
- Martin Lieberman
- Natalie Lovinger
- Suzanne and Stephen Macht
- Jeanette Macht
- Marc Mangel
- Robert Moore
- Ari Moore
- Lonny Moses
- Nancy and Jim Mullen
- David Nitzan
- Sid Oderberg
- Kizer Walker and Carmi Orenstein
- Ron Orenstein
- Maya Paz
- Marilyn Penrose
- Judy Phillips
- Levi Pinsky
- Michal Pflaikin
- Ernsetina Carillo and Larry Polon
- Gordon Polon
- Lenore and Rafe Pomerance
- Jacqueline Regev
- Gail Roberts
- Naomi Cohen and Tyson Roberts
- Milton and Mildred Rosen Foundation
- Melodie and Sherman Rosenfeld
- Robert Rosenthal
- Barbara Saxon
- Jay Waxman and Shira Schlesinger
- Donald Sevillia
- Rachael Sevillia
- Dalit and Gur Shlapobersky
- Noga Shlapobersky
- Nur Shlapobersky
- Charles Silverberg
- Steve Estes and Carol Spector
- Alyson and Michael Sprafkin
- Howie Stanger
- David Myers and Nomi Stolzenberg
- Ann Sturman
- Daniel Sturman
- Dalia and Noah Taft
- Tarzana B’nai B’rith 2866
- Debby Maddis and David Tillipman
- Mat Tonti
- Steven Wallock
- Karen Watts-Zagha
- Dorna Silverman and Chaver Steve Weinberg
- Tracey and Phillip Weintraub
- Patricia and Bennet Weintraub
- Morton Weishar
- Joni and Danny Weiss
- Samson Weiss
- Aaron Wertheimer
- Karen Wilson
- Zev Yaroslavsky
- Lonnie and Paul Zeltzer
- Deborah Zimmer
- Rob Kutner and Sheryl Zohn
- Sater Family Fund
- Brumberger Gruber Foundation Inc

The year-round activities are a chance for campers to stay connected to their friends and counselors, and continue learning about issues in the world! At **Spring Seminar**, the young Nitzanimot group played “fish pish” and learned about overfishing and endangered species. The Shomrimot (8th grade) focused on environmental racism and by playing “Top Chef,” learned about the problem of food deserts.

**seminars (2-3 day weekend overnight in LA or Big Bear)**

- **Tzedek (Teen Justice Group) Meetings**, including a 1-day trip learning about LA’s housing crisis

- **Ken Events in San Diego, San Francisco, and Los Angeles**

- **times youth across California met together to learn, protest, educate, and have fun together in 2022.**

- **TODAH RABAH!**
Amidst joy and growth, we were saddened by the passing of beloved icons of the Gilboa community.

Norm Kane, a chaver (friend), an alumni, board member, former President of the Board, and our treasurer, passed away unexpectedly last spring. We fondly remember Norm’s wit, warm smile, organizational skills, and endless dedication to Habonim’s values and connection to Israel. He played a critical role in purchasing Gilboa’s current site in Big Bear, CA, and stabilizing its finances so camp could thrive. He not only loved Gilboa campers but also respected the youth-driven model and deferred to Camp Gilboa’s young leaders while mentoring them and supporting their decisions. He was known to like his campers “baked, boiled or fried!”

More recently, Ettie Taft died. Ettie grew up in the Habonim movement and participated in one of the first Workshop-type programs in Israel in 1949. Upon her return to the US, the movement sent her to cities across the country to start Habonim hubs. As a lay leader, she was instrumental in the revival of Camp Gilboa in the early 90s and served on its board for many years. In her professional life, Ettie was in charge of the Russian resettlement programming at Jewish Family Service, in the early 1980s. The highlight of her career was as the Director at Jewish Vocational Services. Throughout all these years, Ettie represented the Labor Zionist community to the Jewish Federation Council and to the Jewish community of LA. Together with Bea Chankin, she led the West Coast Ameinu Chapter. She had a quick wit, a huge heart, and a sparkle in her eye.

May the memories of Susan Edelman, Marcia Pollak, and David Lieberman be a blessing to us all as we remember their dedication to Camp Gilboa.