

Wow, how time flies! The Spring Celebration, Golf Tournament, Spaghetti Dinner, Association Meeting, summer camp, Mother/Daughter, Dad & Lad, and Turkey Bowl were mixed in with homeschool classes, staff meetings and outings, and board and committees meetings to make for a very full year.

And now summer camp season is upon us. I think back on the people who have passed through Tel Hai Camp & Retreat this past year, and I can reflect on God's work in so many lives: hundreds of decisions for Jesus Christ and thousands challenged and deeply impacted by God's Word. I have heard the voices of so many who have echoed the refrain: Tel Hai is a special that place God has used.

Please join with us in our ministry. We have some considerable financial needs. These days of economic uncertainty have left many organizations like ours with challenges, but God is able. Join with us! Pray. Volunteer. Contribute. *Thank you for your partnership!*

COMING EVENTS

- July 26 - July 31
Adventure Camp
 - October - November
Climbing Class for Homeschoolers
 - October 20
Membership Dinner & Meeting
 - November 26
5K Turkey Bowl Race
- Visit telhaicamp.org for more details about these events

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The HAI LIGHTS

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Four Cabins New for Summer 2009

We rejoice in presenting a new tool for Tel Hai's ministry



After over 50 years of use, our beloved cabins by the creek have been replaced. The old cabins were not designed for winter and off-season use, yet were pressed into such use on a regular basis. Because of their rustic nature and lack of insulation, proper heating, and bathroom facilities, many prospective groups did not book retreats if our old cabins were the only accommodations available to them. Since many of our operating costs remain constant, empty guest beds make it more difficult to cover these costs. A significant number of previous guests expressed a desire to see a safer, more effective, and more comfortable cabin design. The beds in

the creek-side cabins represented one-third of our approved capacity. Because it is our desire to serve our guests as well as we are able, we felt it was important to upgrade the cabins to make the most effective use of camp facilities.

We believe the new cabins will not only allow us to serve more guests and introduce more campers to Tel Hai, but also allow God to impact more campers' lives during the time they spend away from the busyness and routines of life.

The direct feedback that we received from past guests led us to design each new cabin with a small open meeting area. Our experience, and that of our guests, indicated that a place like this where leaders can meet with their campers in a small group setting is where a great deal of vital ministry takes place. Because of some additional feedback, we also provided sturdy new bunk beds and mattresses.

All of these improvements were designed with the goal of serving our guests and allowing effective ministry to take place with as few "distractions" as possible.

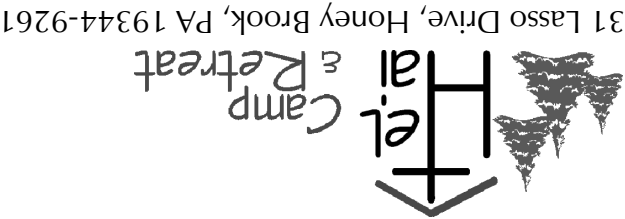
New Housekeeper Joins Camp Staff

Tel Hai Camp & Retreat welcomes Barbara Ranck as its new Housekeeper. Barbara was homeschooled all 12 grades, graduating in 2007. She lives with her family in the Gap area where her dad owns a business called FAMILIES. She has attended Rockville Mennonite Church all of her life. When not working at Tel Hai, Barbara can be found five minutes down the road at Little Barn Noodles where she works part-time, making and packaging noodles, soup, and cookie mixes. She also reupholsters furniture with her dad. Barbara enjoys the outdoors as well as sports and sewing. She is glad to be a part of the Tel Hai Family.



Barbara Ranck, housekeeper

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"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38).

I have found this to be true at camp this year. In light of all the uncertainty in our country and our economy, the harvest is indeed plentiful. Children, youth, and adults have been coming to camp with hearts open to hear a word from the Lord and find peace and refreshment through the services we offer. What a great opportunity the Lord has given us to be a blessing to others and to show them the love of Christ.



And even though the workers are few, the volunteers that come and serve are a blessing from the Lord. Whether they assist in the kitchen, work in maintenance areas, help run programs or counsel, facilitate at the challenge course or climbing wall, serve in the office or on committees, or board horses for the camp, they not only serve our guests but also are an encouragement to our staff. The volunteers are such a vital part of the ministry here at camp, providing much needed assistance to the staff and setting an example to all who come.

I just want to take this opportunity (on behalf of all the staff) to thank you for all you do! You may never know the difference you have made in the life of another person, but God knows. You may think that preparing food, caring for gardens, or belaying at the wall are small things, but God will use all that you do to minister to our guests. If teens are well fed and enjoy their activity times, and are surrounded by a pleasant atmosphere, they will be more focused on hearing the Word of God and their hearts will be changed. The Lord uses you to reach His children.

Thank you to all who have volunteered. If you have not had a chance to volunteer, give us a call and see how God can use you here at Tel Hai Camp. Remember the harvest is plentiful.

Making the Ministry Known

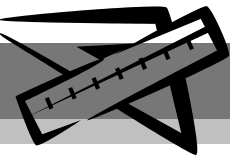
Tel Hai Camp plans several annual events designed both to raise financial and prayer support for the camp's ministry and also to raise awareness of the camp in the community.

- The 5K Turkey Bowl Race took place in Thanksgiving Day 2008. The weather was beautiful, and there was a record number of 492 runners. The top runner, Jon Gries, finished in a record time of 15 minutes, 27 seconds. More than \$5000 came in for the ministry of Tel Hai Camp.
- In April 2009, the Spring Celebration Banquet was held at Shady Maple Banquet Center. There were 278 people in attendance. Stan Deen was the guest speaker. After expenses, the generous offering provided \$9000 for the camp and for the Cabin Challenge project.
- The Spring Benefit Supper was held at the camp May 15. José Escalera, together with a small army of volunteers, tirelessly prepared 185 spaghetti dinners for dining in and for take-out. This event raised \$ ____.
- June 4 dawned wet and dark, but this lifted sufficiently to allow our 20th Annual Golf Tournament to progress. A total of 130 golfers competed for dozens of donated prizes as they played a round of 18 holes at Honey Brook Golf Club. Over \$10,000 was raised.

WISHTHIS

- Rowboats
- Canoes
- Hockey sticks
- Type II PFDs – various sizes (life jackets)
- Winter boarders for horses
- Walk-behind blower
- Air compressor
- Hand mower
- Circular saw & assortment of blades
- Commercial-grade cordless drill
- Various hand tools: tape measures, hand screwdrivers, etc.
- Golf cart for use around campus

If you can provide one of these items or services, please contact the Tel Hai Camp office by phone, (610) 273-3969, or email, admin@telhaicamp.org.



A Measurement from the Camp Board by Paul Stoltzfus

As Tel Hai Camp & Retreat (THCR) approaches the end of its 59th year and I look back on the past several years as board president, a few things have become clear.

1 The importance of people in the ministry of Tel Hai.

I've been reminded of this often when I've seen or heard first hand the impact that the staff has when they pray with a group at the meal, or when they teach a camper something new at the challenge course, or when they simply repair and improve something at the facility that helps to improve the guests' accommodations. At times we get caught up in the programs and facilities and we may forget that it's the people at Tel Hai that make the difference.

As for the volunteers, it's a simple formula. A ministry with the size and scope of THCR simply would not operate effectively without the hours given by volunteers. Thank you to each of you who have given of your time. It matters!

2 The importance and challenge of communication.

This is not a surprise to any of us, but probably one that we often take for granted until we see the effects of communications that are misunderstood, misinterpreted, or simply missed altogether. Historically we've surveyed and listened to guest comments and used those comments to improve programs and facilities (the new cabins are a prime example). However, we've struggled at times to stay in touch with supporters of the ministry.

You may see requests from staff for your email address. We want to be able to send out quick emails about volunteer opportunities and other camp news that will help you pray and support the camp more effectively. And we want to make connections with new camp supporters as well as renew connections with long-time supporters and their families who may not be as familiar with Tel Hai now as they felt in the past. Whatever the method and whatever steps are taken, they will each be an effort to communicate better and to improve relationships with the ministry's most critical resource—people.

3 Financial needs and opportunities. Did you know that anywhere from 15-25% of the camp's annual income is from individual or organization donations? Camp fees are continually reviewed and adjusted to help cover costs, but THCR cannot operate without financial support from individuals, churches, foundations, and

other organizations. We are constantly looking for ways to introduce new folks to Tel Hai so they can also come alongside through contribution of their time, talents, and finances. We're also looking for ways to get current and previous supporters "on the grounds" so they can see first-hand what God is doing here through supporters like you.

The staff and the board continue to work—as they have done over the years—to reduce costs and to operate within the budget. However, sometimes there are operational costs that cannot be delayed any longer and that must be incurred to keep the programs and people in place so that guest groups are hosted and accommodated.



Cabin Challenge

	\$ 300,000
	270,000
	240,000
	210,000
	180,000
	150,000
	120,000
	90,000
Raised to date:	60,000
\$62,699	30,000

We've recently undertaken the Cabin Challenge to replace five original cabins with four new log-cabin style buildings. As you read in the cover article of this newsletter you will see these are not buildings for the sake of something new. They were built with a purpose! We strongly believe that it was the right thing to do for the future of the camp, but honestly, it has caused us to stop and question more than a few times when the economy faltered and we recognized the uncertainty of how that would effect the upcoming camping year. Only time will tell whether it was the best decision, but we've already been encouraged

with the response of guests and groups calling about reservations. We truly believe the new cabins will open new doors to bring guests to the Camp and that's where the true ministry happens!

Thank you for continuing to pray and support the camp with your money and your time. You are a critical part of the THCR ministry and we look forward to each of you finding new opportunities to be involved in the future.