

# Lekhu Lakhem



JCC Association and Foundation for Jewish Camp are pleased to announce *Lekhu Lakhem*<sup>1</sup>, a Jewish educational leadership fellowship designed for twenty Jewish residential camp directors. Lekhu Lakhem is funded by a grant from the AVI CHAI Foundation.

## **Lekhu Lakhem's Goals**

1. Take each director on a personal journey of Jewish learning.
2. Engage the fellows in the exploration of principles of Jewish education and vision, especially as they relate to their roles as directors of Jewish camps.
3. Create a community of directors who share a Jewish educational vision about the import and potential impact of Jewish camps on the lives of campers, staffs and families.
4. Infuse participants with the passion to provide the Jewish educational and visionary leadership to bring about fundamental change within their own camps.
5. Implant within each director the desire for continued Jewish learning and educational reflection beyond this fellowship.

## **Lekhu Lakhem's Structure**

1. Five four-day group seminars in North America and one ten-day group seminar in Israel.
  - a. Fall 2016
  - b. Winter 2017
  - c. Fall 2017
  - d. January 2018 (in Israel)
  - e. March 2018
  - f. Fall 2018
2. Individual/small group learning between seminars with master teachers/mentors twice a month via Skype/Zoom.
3. Site visits during the summer by the mentors, helping to apply the content of the program to the camp program.
4. A demonstration project, chosen by the director and guided by the mentor serves as a "capstone" experience for the program.

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<sup>1</sup> Lekhu Lakhem is the plural form of *Lekh Lekha*, God's command to Abraham to "get up and go." (Genesis 12:1) It identifies the personal Jewish journey as a primary goal of the program.

## Lekhu Lakhem's Content

Lekhu Lakhem focuses on two primary content areas: Jewish education and Jewish living. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- The camp director as Jewish educator, role model and visionary leader
- Developing a Jewish vision – existential and institutional
- Building Jewish community
- The camp as a Jewish educational institution
- Building Jewish identity
- Concepts of experiential/informal education
- Institutional change
- Jewish values education
- Torah through text study
- Jewish Practices and Observances
- God
- Jewish Peoplehood
- Israel and Zionism
- The Notion of Covenant
- Chesed (Tzedakah/Social Action)
- Jewish Lifecycle
- The Jewish Arts

## Eligibility

Lekhu Lakhem is open to full-time, year-round camp directors at independent or JCC Association-affiliated Jewish resident nonprofit camps. One need not have any Jewish educational background to be a candidate for the fellowship.

## Application Process

Lekhu Lakhem candidates must be nominated by the chair of the agency's board of directors or the Executive Director of the local JCC (where the camp is owned and operated by a JCC), and must complete and submit a complete application. Applications will be available via the internet shortly, so stay tuned.

## Program Cost to the Camp/JCC

Each camp or JCC must contribute \$2,000 toward the cost of the Fellowship for an accepted Fellow. (The full cost of the Fellowship, funded by the AVI CHAI Foundation is approximately \$50,000 per Fellow). **All other costs (travel, lodging, materials, etc.) are covered.**

For more information about Lekhu Lakhem, please contact Rabbi Ramie Arian, Project Manager, at (914) 682-2814, or via email at [ramie@ramiearian.com](mailto:ramie@ramiearian.com).