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**CAMP TAWONGA ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CONTINUITY PLANS  
Jamie Simon-Harris Named to Succeed Ken Kramarz in 2017**

**San Francisco, CA, October 13, 2015:** The Camp Tawonga Board of Directors announced today that Jamie Simon-Harris, current Camp Director, will succeed long-time Executive Director Ken Kramarz in 2017 as part of a leadership continuity plan designed to meet the growing needs of the community. Kramarz, who has led Tawonga for 30 years, will remain closely involved with the agency, refocusing his efforts to support the implementation of Tawonga's Master Site Plan, a strategic growth vision to enhance the camp's land and facilities on the Tuolumne River. This month, Simon-Harris will move into the role of Associate Executive Director, and Rebecca Meyer, Tawonga's Associate Director, will assume the post of Camp Director.

This leadership plan is aligned with an overall agency expansion; Tawonga's programs are growing in scope and reach in order to offer year-round and lifelong engagement opportunities for children and families. Beginning in 2016, the organization will launch exciting new ventures, including a Bar and Bat Mitzvah program, Kibbutz Tawonga, and a 10-year multifaceted campus expansion to improve the camp's property in Yosemite.

"We are incredibly fortunate to be able to build on Ken's deep knowledge and background with Tawonga's land and facilities management as part of this leadership plan, which reflects a thoughtful, year-long process," said Ilana Drummond, Tawonga Board President. "Ken is a visionary leader whose creative, strategic mind has led the agency into its strongest chapter yet. As we look ahead to an exciting period of growth, the entire board, with Ken's full support, is confident that Jamie is the ideal person to carry forward Tawonga's legacy of visionary leadership. A strong and beloved Tawonga leader, Jamie is respected by her peers and community leaders and trusted by families."

Simon-Harris has worked closely alongside Kramarz, serving as Tawonga's Camp Director since 2007. She has led the development and implementation of the agency's strategic planning process, revamped the summer staff training into a national model for camp supervision, and catapulted Tawonga as a camping leader on issues of gender inclusion and teen health education. Simon-Harris and Kramarz regularly lead trainings for organizations and religious groups on emergency preparedness and response.

"Jamie is a true Tawonga leader in her inclusive approach and decisive nature, and I am certain she is uniquely qualified to lead us into our most exciting chapter yet," Kramarz said. "She clearly understands the needs of our diverse community, and is motivating and inspiring as a manager and leader. Together, Jamie and Becca have 25 years of experience in leadership roles within the agency, and make an inspiring, thoughtful and highly capable team to take us from strength to strength."

"There is a tremendous amount of work ahead as Tawonga evolves in its 90th year to become a year-round and lifelong community resource for our kids and families," said Simon-Harris. "Ken and I will continue to work closely together and with the board over the next year plus to ensure a seamless continuity of leadership."

A Tawonga camper since 1990, Simon-Harris joined Tawonga's year-round team in 2006 from Sonoma County's United Against Sexual Assault, where she served as Prevention Education Director. As Camp Director, she participated in both the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Executive Leadership Institute as well as the Bureau of Jewish Education's Shofar Fellowship. She lives in Oakland with her husband and son (bio [here](#)).

Meyer joined Tawonga's year-round staff in 2007 after working as Staffing Director at Camp Walt Whitman in New Hampshire. As Tawonga's Associate Director, she has skillfully managed many of the agency's most complex activities, including backpacking, teen travel, transportation, and medical care at camp. Meyer served on the Steering Committee of the Emerging Professionals in Camping organization. A lacrosse coach of 10 years, she received a Double-Goal Coach Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance. Meyer lives in Berkeley with her husband and two children (bio [here](#)).

Read a full statement from Kramarz [here](#) as he looks ahead to Tawonga's future.

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### **ABOUT CAMP TAWONGA**

Since 1925, Camp Tawonga has served as a leader in Jewish camping, fostering in children and families an appreciation for cooperative community-building and positive self-image while forging a partnership with nature within an inclusive and welcoming Jewish community. Tawonga serves the greater Bay Area and beyond, and is located on the Tuolumne River, right next to Yosemite National Park.