

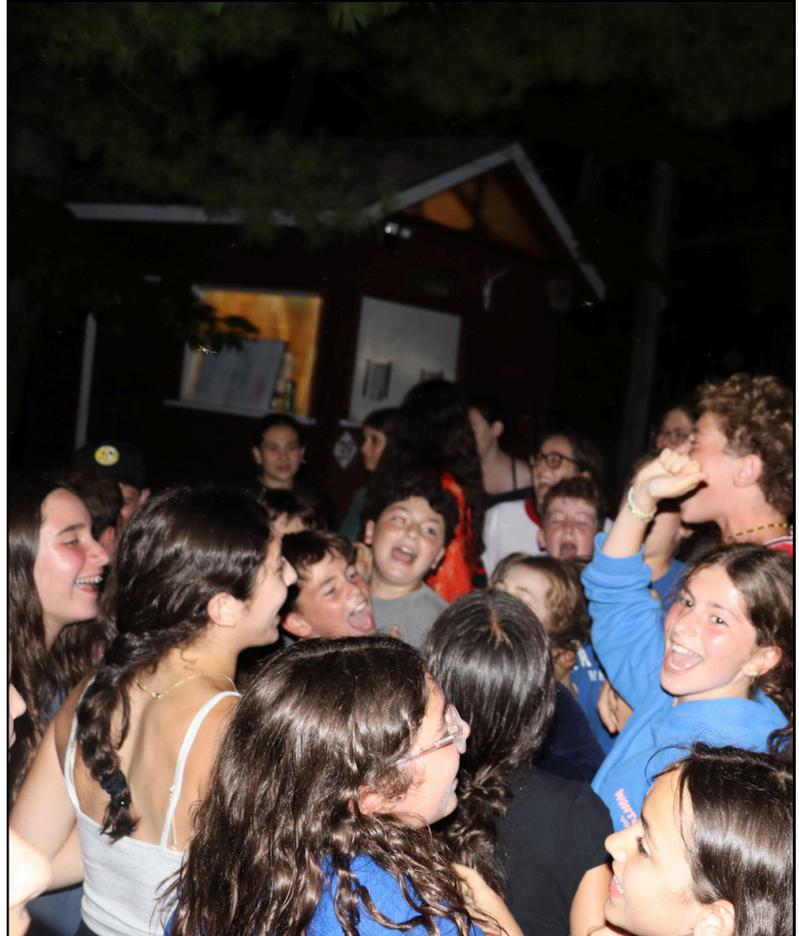
SHALOM SCHMOOZE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CAMP SHALOM

It was an ordinary evening at Camp Shalom, or so the campers thought. The sun had dipped below the horizon, and a quiet hush fell over the camp as everyone was told it was an early lights-out night. Whispers of confusion floated through the bunks—early bedtime? On this beautiful summer night? Something didn't add up.

Just as the campers were settling in, the lights flickered back on, and an announcement crackled over the loudspeakers: "Everyone to the waterfront!" Murmurs filled the air as campers scrambled out of bed.

When everyone arrived, the night truly came alive. The stage was set, and the show began. The yellow team surfed in with Cody and Chicken Joe from "Surf's Up." The blue team spread their wings with Blu and Jewel from "Rio." Everybody on the red team was Kung-Fu fighting with Po from "Kung Fu Panda." Finally, the green team moved it, moved it with King Julien and Alex from "Madagascar." The theme for this summer's Maccabiah was revealed: Animal Kingdom! The cheers were deafening as campers embraced their team identities, ready for the fierce competition that awaited them over the next two days.



OOOH! AAAH! IT'S MACCABIAH!

Maccabiah is a cherished tradition at Camp Shalom, a time when the camp transforms into an arena of competition. It's more than just games and contests; it's a celebration of teamwork, ruach, and camp camaraderie. Each event is designed to challenge campers, foster collaboration, and ignite a sense of pride and unity among teammates. The anticipation of Maccabiah builds all summer, culminating in two days of intense and exhilarating activities.



THE GREAT TEAM RELAY

The Great Team Relay (GTR) was the first major event. Campers raced from the waterfront in a loop around camp, tackling activities like water chugging, leap frog, the elephant walk, and one-handed cup stacking. The grand finale, a rope burn, lasted an intense 45 minutes as teams frantically built the tallest fires they could to burn rope and seal their victory.

CHEER-OFFS

From the GTR, the action moved into the Ruach and cheer-offs, where each team showed off their spirit. The energy was contagious as campers cheered and danced, making sure their team's colors shone the brightest. The enthusiastic cheers echoed across the camp.



WATER REGATTA

Next up was the Water Regatta, featuring water and beach competitions. Campers showcased their skills and creativity with synchronized swimming routines that were as graceful as they were precise, and impressive sandcastles that turned heads. Each creation and performance reflected the dedication and hard work of the campers.

TRACK AND FIELD

Following the water events, track and field tested everyone's speed and agility. From sprints to hurdles, the friendly competition brought out the best in our campers, with plenty of cheering and support all around. Every race was a battle of wills, every finish line a new chapter in the story of Maccabiah.



AND THE WINNER IS.....

Throughout it all, the spirit of Maccabiah shone brightly. Every camper gave their best, pushing themselves and supporting each other. Friendships were strengthened, new skills were discovered, and the bonds of the Camp Shalom community grew even tighter. In the end, it was the Red team that came out on top. Their determination, teamwork, and ruach earned them the victory. Congrats to the Red team on their win, and a big shoutout to all campers for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Here's to another amazing Maccabiah at Camp Shalom!





FRESHYS, JUNIORS, AND LOWERS BAMA: THE WIZARD OF OZ

Our Freshys, Juniors, and Lowers took us on a magical journey down the yellow brick road with their Bama play, "The Wizard of Oz." The campers did an amazing job bringing the beloved characters to life, from Dorothy and Toto to the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion. Their performance was filled with song, dance, and a lot of heart, showcasing their incredible talent and dedication. It was a delightful evening that had everyone in awe of our youngest stars.

INTERCAMP

This week, our Uppers had the incredible opportunity to visit Camp George for a fun-filled Intercamp experience that combined the best of both sports and arts. Our campers engaged in spirited competitions, showcasing their skills in sports like tennis, hockey, and basketball. It was a thrill to watch them give their all on the courts and fields. But the excitement didn't stop there! The arts component of Intercamp brought a beautiful, collaborative competition that commemorated the bond between Camp Shalom and Camp George. Our campers worked together with their peers from Camp George to create stunning pieces of art. These collaborative artworks symbolized the unity and friendship between our camps, and both Camp Shalom and Camp George will share these pieces as a lasting reminder of the special day.

MEET OUR MISHLACHAT - ASSI GOPHER

This summer, we are delighted to have Assi Gopher from Israel. Assi has been an incredible addition to our camp community. He learned about Camp Shalom through one of his counsellors in his Kibbutz, who encouraged him and his friends to take this opportunity.

Assi has had a fantastic time in Canada so far, enjoying the beautiful sunsets by the lake and the friendly camp environment. When asked about his experience working at the camp, Assi shared, *"It's really fun. It's hard, it's 24-7 shifts, but when you work with people you like, in a place that accepts you and lets you express yourself, it's fun."*

He appreciates the supportive environment at Camp Shalom and enjoys interacting with the campers, especially during evening gatherings where they share jokes and stories. Assi has formed strong connections with the campers, who are eager to learn about Israel and enjoy his sense of humor.

He mentioned, *"The kids are awesome. They love asking questions, especially about Israel. We sit every night around the chairs and tell jokes."*

Overall, Assi rates his experience at Camp Shalom highly, noting the joy and camaraderie he's found here. Assi's positive energy and enthusiasm have made him a favourite among both campers and staff, and he's excited to continue making memories this summer.



HALFWAY THERE



Time flies when you're having fun, and this session has practically sprouted wings! We can't believe just how quickly this session has flown by. It feels like only yesterday we were welcoming everyone back to camp. As we head into our final week of first session, we will cherish every moment and make these last days the best yet. We are grateful for our amazing campers and dedicated staff who make each moment magical.

Chazak Ve'Ematz,

The Camp Shalom Team