WHAT'S UP GEORGE?

Message from the Director

Dear Camp George Families,

Recruitment is in full swing and I always feel it is such a treat to see our campers and their families during the year. It is always such a great reminder to visit our Reform congregations and to witness our campers participating in their local communities and bringing their flavour of camp home, helping to enrich those congregations and adding to the local "Kehillah Kedosha," a sacred community full of ruach!

And I love when the visits remind me of what I spend all year working towards: camping on Maple Lake.

In the office, we call this period of time the 'home stretch' and is typically met with nervous excitement as we wonder, "are we ready?" Well, I can assure you all that, while we are not quite there yet, we are indeed READY!

The Countdown Is On!

This year promises to be another very exciting summer at Camp George.

- Our youngest campers will begin their camping career in NEW cabins!
- We've hired an amazing staff to take care of all our camper's needs.
- We are EXPANDING our communications effort and growing our team to keep our families connected to camp throughout the summer. We will be providing updates through Bunk 1; our blog; facebook (URJ Camp George Fan Page), twitter (@URJCampGeorge), and through a weekly Director's Shabbat email.
- Stay tuned to Facebook and Twitter for more program highlights as we get closer to the start of camp!

As you prepare for camp, please fee free to contact the camp office if you have any questions.

Can't wait to see YOU at camp! The countdown is on!

Sincerely,
Jeff Rose, Director

Our Newest Camper

We are thrilled to introduce our newest Camp George camper - Avery Hope Rose. Avery was born on January 24, 2013 much to the delight of her parents Jeff and Kerryn Rose, big sister Chloe, and of course Kirby! Already Avery has told us how excited she is to be at Camp George this summer where she will get to enjoy the sunshine, the singing, and a few dips in Maple Lake. Mazel Tov to the Rose family!

Message from the Vice Chair

Several summers ago while we were staying at a resort on the day prior to Visitor's Day, I overheard several women chatting about what a great experience they just had up at a camp during Shabbat. They loved seeing their kids participate in the Shabbat service and they were overwhelmed by the camp's spirit during the "Super Spesh Song Sesh". I asked one woman what camp had they had just visited and she said her child was at Camp George. At that moment I realized I wanted to get up to camp on Shabbat to see my kids participate in the ritual and music of Shabbat. I inquired how I could get up to camp during the summer and I was quickly contacted by the Chair of the Steering Committee and asked to become a volunteer and get involved with camp. What might have started as a selfish decision to see my children at Camp has evolved into a rich and rewarding experience assisting the professional staff to sustain and develop the Camp to ensure that every Jewish child has the opportunity to experience Jewish camping.

I began working on the Events committee and helped organize our New Family Day which is now an annual event each spring. I then chaired the Strategic planning process and worked with several committed volunteers to formulate the camp's roadmap for the next 5 years. Although the work was sometimes more than I had imagined, what really kept me engaged and motivated were the other volunteers that I met. We all share a common passion and commitment to Camp.

At Camp George there are approximately 45 volunteers – parents, rabbis, alumni and Camp staff who work during the year on various sub-committees. The sub-committees are Development and Fundraising, Environment and Sustainability, Parent Ambassadors, Communication, Alumni Affairs, Medical and Event planning. The volunteers' work is invaluable because they along with the professional staff are raising camp's awareness, fundraising dollars for scholarship and capital projects, spirit, environmental consciousness and the future leaders of our movement. Volunteers play an important role in helping to carry out the camp's mission.

If you want to help us in this highly rewarding work, please feel free to reach out to me directly at **sfsarchitects@rogers.com**

Sandi Smith is the Vice Chair of the Camp George Steering Committee. Along with her husband Jeff Dicker, she has achieved many accomplishments, her finest of course being raising three boys – Matthew, Isaac and Jacob – who have grown up at Camp and now help lead the Camp George community as staff and alumni.

An Update from our Program Team

Hey Camp George!

Summer is just around the corner and we CANNOT wait to see you at Camp George for our 15th season!! A summer at Camp George means friends, fun and lots of great activities. We have been planning all year to make sure that this summer is going to be the best one yet!! Since his mentor Jose Bautista went to play for the Toronto Blue Jays, our Program Director Seth Freedland has spent his time planning camp wide theme days, evening programs, special events and of course our Saturday afternoon baseball games! As our Head Specialist, Julia Guest has been working with our activity specialists from athletics to waterfront and everything in between. We are excited for new skill based activities, canoe and bike trips, and chugim choices that we are sure you will all love!

See you soon - Seth and Jules

Junior Camper Village Update

We're excited to share an update on our NEW Junior Camper Village! After lots of fundraising, planning and of course building we are thrilled to see the physical results of our efforts. The first phase of the village, two cabins (one large building that is joined and split down the middle) will be ready for this summer!!

These cabins, will not only welcome some of our youngest campers but it will also add to the excitement of their first Camp George experience! Like this new camper village, our campers will continue to grow and integrate into our community.

Here are some of the details that we want to share with you:

- Right in front of the cabin is a fire pit, perfect for campfires and sing alongs and unit gatherings
- The cabins share a large front porch which is perfect for relaxing, during down time
- Both cabins contain separate (but attached) living spaces for senior staff members

To see photos of the construction process, go to our Facebook page and check out our album "The NEW Jr. Camper Village!"

A Home Away from Home

The initial thought of sending your child to overnight camp could send chills down your spine. You think "oh no", what if they are homesick, left out or have trouble sleeping in a new bed? Then you realize this is the opportunity of a lifetime for your child. They will have the opportunity to make wonderful new friendships, connect with Jewish campers from all over and to have a fantastic Jewish camp experience with lifelong memories.

After 8 years on faculty at Camp, I am so thrilled to take on my new role as Camper Care Director working second session with Ellyn Freedland. Ellyn and I, along with the camper care team, will work together to insure each child has their best experience possible. My passion as a social worker is to work with children and how lucky am I that I get to do it at my favorite place - Camp George.

As we all know, Camp George is a very special place for our kids! George is truly the most exceptional overnight camp that I have ever seen. From the inclusion program to the camper to staff ratio our kids are given a gift of an overnight camp experience like no other. I almost think of my role as a camp mom. It is my job to protect them, make sure they are happy, having fun and adjusting to our wonderful camp community.

As a parent of 3 Camp George Campers, Jake, Noah and Ellie our house mantra is always "Gotta Get Back to George"!

Can't wait for this summer!

Kari Provizer, LMSW, ACSW is the Director of the Family Life Center at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan. She and her husband, Dr. Jeff Provizer, who can sometimes be found on Maple Lake doing a Fishing Chug on Shabbat, will be joining us Second Session.

We are thrilled that Ellyn Freeland, who has worked with us for 13 summers will still be able to join us at Camp for a portion of Second Session. Along with Orlie Soroka our July Camper Care Director, Ellyn is instrumental in the work we do with families throughout the year and we are grateful for what both of them provide to our community.

Stay in Touch!

Hi, I'm Jane Harris-Koblin. But when I'm up on Maple Lake, I go by "Jane H.K.", and I am thrilled to be returning to camp for my second summer as Communications Director. This is my 15th summer at camp. That's right!! I've been here since the very beginning. In 1999, I began as a young camper working my way through all the units, becoming a CIT counsellor, and for the last 3 summers a Unit Head for Nitzotzot and Lehavot.

Instead of just communicating with our Camp George community during the summer, you can hear from us all year round. Check Facebook each weekday afternoon at 4 PM for a variety of new content: polls, caption this photo, videos, messages and more! NEW for 2013 is Sunday night content! Over on twitter, we'll be playing a game of the month. Follow us on twitter @URJ Camp George.

Each week, we feature blogs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. And we want to talk WITH you about what interests you and what you would like more information on.

Each month I will be writing a column called "Jane Says"...in which I will answer your questions about camp. So please...write in with comments, write in with questions... I can't wait to hear from you. Let's get this conversation started!!

Email me at **janesays@urj.org** !

Bye for now!

Our Year Round Community – UJA Walk for Israel and New Family Orientation

We might count down the days until the summer is here but Camp George is a proud community all year round. We were thrilled to see so many of you join us at our February "Sledding and Havdalah" event at Cedarvale Park and the Leo Baeck Day School. It was a great evening where families had the opportunity to meet one another, campers were able to reunite with their camp friends, and together we said goodbye to Shabbat and welcomed in the new week. Throughout the spring there are more opportunities for us to be together. We hope that you will join us on Sunday, May 26 to walk in support of Israel at UJA's Walk for Israel. Camp George will be walking together as a team and we look forward to having you join us. Additionally, we invite all new Camp George families to join us at our Annual New Family Orientation being held on June 2, 2013. Watch out for more information on all these great events coming soon!

If Not Now, When?

Two summers ago, I had the opportunity to join Nitzotzot and Lehavot for a "game-changing" evening program on the baseball field. It was called "Hillel Tag", created by a young staff member and Cornerstone Fellow named Michael Weiss (who will be returning this summer in his second year as a member of the Jewish Living team!)

I knew that Hillel was a famous Rabbi from the first century who raised a generation of brilliant scholars. I knew that Tag was a rite-of-passage childhood game played on most every playground and sports field. What I couldn't figure out was what these two things had in common.

Michael expertly devised three versions of the game – Budge, Dragon Tag, and Freeze Tag – to parallel Rabbi Hillel's most famous 3-part teaching: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And IF NOT NOW, WHEN?" The quotation emphasizes both the worth of the individual and being part of a greater community. The last question – in Hebrew, V'im lo achshav, eimatai? – reminds us that there is no time like the present to make a positive difference in the world

Hillel's quote lends itself so perfectly to the Jewish values of Camp George – building self-confidence and self-esteem while contributing to the whole (and playing Tag, of course). We are therefore excited to announce it as the Education Theme for Summer 2013. Because, really...IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Rabbi Noam Katz is the Dean of Jewish Living for URJ Camp George and the Leo Baeck Day School.

A Word from our Campers

It's time to check in with a few of our own Camp George campers to see what they are looking forward to this summer. Thanks to Sharon Cole, Isaac Quiroz and Alex Wasser for sharing their thoughts.

What is your favourite camp activity?

Sharon: The high ropes course. With my friends below encouraging me, I know that I can complete all of the elements of the course.

Isaac: Sports.

Alex: Wakeboarding.

What are you most excited about for this summer?

Sharon: This year will be my last summer as a camper before I move onto CIT (counselor in training) and I'm just so excited to make new memories.

Isaac: The Baseball game!

Alex: Seeing my friends!

Do you have a favourite camp memory or evening program?

Sharon: My favourite evening program at camp is cabin Shabbat Walks. I love going on my cabin Shabbat Walks because it only happens on Saturdays and is with your cabin only. Your counselors work together and figure out something to do to help the cabin develop closer bonds.

Isaac: Chopped (like the cooking show)

Alex: Dare Night. (Where we have to compete in fun challenges!)

What is one thing that you bring to camp each summer that you couldn't live without?

Sharon: Each year at camp I ALWAYS bring pictures of my friends and family so that when I miss them I can just look at the photos and know that they are there with me. I also ALWAYS bring my teddy bear because you still sometimes need to have a part of home with you.

Isaac: My ipod. (I like listening to it when I go to sleep)

Alex: footy pajamas because what's camp without a onesie?

Any advice for new campers?

Sharon: The session goes by really quickly, so once in a while take time to stop and look around and enjoy the beauty of Camp George and everything it has to offer.

Isaac: Be yourself.

Alex: Enjoy every moment of each summer because the summer goes by in the blink of an eye and no two summers are ever the same so savor the moments and make memories.

Word Scramble

AZMHAT ☐☐☐☐☐☐

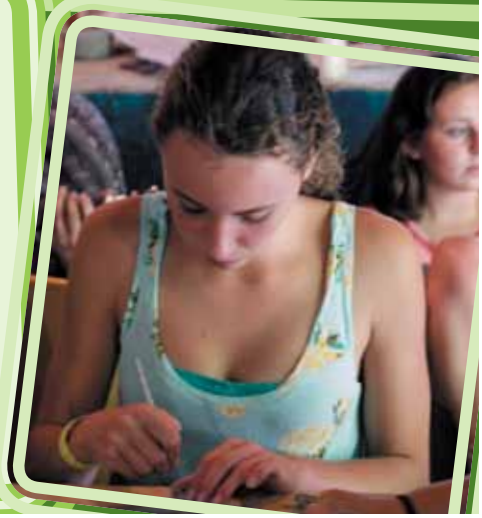
TEPYG ☐☐☐☐☐

RSDEE ☐☐☐☐☐

SENKRSAD ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

SOESM ☐☐☐☐☐

Answers: Matzah, Egypt, Seder, Darkness, Moses



Alumni News

Talia Goldberg shares with us a bit about what she's been up to since her days on Maple Lake!

Hi Camp George!

Currently I am a third year student at Western University studying Physiology. After attending camp as both a camper and swim specialist for 10 summers I developed many skills which continue to benefit me today. Currently, I am the chair of a Western club called Adult Making Waves, which provides swimming lessons to blind adults in the London community. The lessons I learned while working on Swim at camp, have continually helped give me the necessary expertise to develop programs for such a unique and rewarding organization. I have also spent my last few summers volunteering with Child Life at SickKids Hospital, where I had the incredible experience of getting to hang out with and help program for many amazing children. This summer I plan to work in a research lab at the same hospital. I maintain a constant connection to camp by helping run the alumni chapter at Western University, where we regularly get together to catch up. Camp George gave me some of my best experiences and memories, and introduced me to many people who remain my closest friends today. I continue to miss Camp all the time but am so thankful for everything that it has done for me. I cannot wait to come up for alumni day this summer!

-Talia Goldberg

There is a lot happening in our alumni community...

This past February over 30 Camp George alumni joined us for our second annual Karaoke event at the Free Times Café in downtown Toronto. In the spirit of Purim, we joined together to celebrate through singing, connecting, and lots of laughter. Our alumni community remains strong both in Toronto and around the Globe where alumni are making a big impact on the world around them. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our alumni and love that they stay connected to Camp through their friends and great events like Karaoke night. Our next event is up at Camp – we hope all alumni will join us on Saturday August 10, 2013 for a great Shabbat afternoon experience complete with a baseball game, fun on the Ropes course, swimming, and of course havdalah and campfire overlooking the Maple Lake sunset! We look forward to seeing you there. Remember to stay in touch through facebook and the alumni page on our website to get all the details.

Passover Fun and Food!

Jews around the world celebrate Passover in their own way that reflects the culture and history of their people. Try some of these Haroset recipes at your Seder and see which ones you like best. (recipes taken from A Night to Remember by Noam Zion). Why not try making up your own recipe!

Mystical

7 sorts of chopped nuts and fruits mentioned in the song of Songs: walnuts, dates, figs, pomegranates, grapes, apples, pears, and 3 spices like ginger, cinnamon, and sweet spikenard.

Yemenite

1 cup raisins; 1/3 cup each of figs, almonds, walnuts; ½ cup sesame; 1/3 cup cinnamon sticks; 1 pinch black pepper, cumin and ginger. Blend in food processor and mix with red wine.

Moroccan

1 cup Silan Date Honey; ½ cup chopped walnuts.

Ashkenazi Eastern European

½ cup chopped almonds and walnuts; 2 chopped apples; 1 teaspoon cinnamon; red wine to bind the ingredients.