

## Letter from the Executive Director

We had another amazing year here at Camp Solomon Schechter. We have been and will continue to work hard to ensure that Schechter provides fun and engaging Jewish programming in a safe and nurturing environment . . . **TODAY, TOMORROW AND FOREVER.**

As you will read in this Annual Report, we have made significant strides, **TODAY**, towards this goal. Of particular note are the successful completion of our inaugural *Gesher* session in Israel and a number of improvements that we have made to our sports, *omanut* (arts) and *teva* (nature) activities.

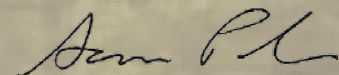
To guarantee that Schechter thrives for future generations of campers, we continue to work on developing a master plan to prepare for **TOMORROW**, addressing the health, safety, infrastructure and programmatic needs of the camp. We are studying solutions for a *Chadar Ochel* (dining hall) that can comfortably accommodate all campers, staff and guests; a Health Center that ensures the efficient care of our campers and staff; an administration center that welcomes guests and allows head staff to better observe, supervise and work; and additional indoor programmatic spaces and a covered sports/multipurpose area that allows camp activities to continue even during inclement weather.

We have started the Camp Solomon Schechter Alumni Association this year, so campers can maintain a **LIFETIME** connection to the place where their Jewish identity was shaped.

Schechter also initiated a Legacy Circle, where Friends of Schechter can commit to including us in their estate planning. Bequests and planned gifts will become part of our new Endowment Funds, managed by the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, supporting camp **FOREVER.**

Please read and enjoy our accomplishments during the past year and feel free to contact me with your thoughts and questions.

B'Shalom,



Sam Perlin  
Executive Director



## Introduction

Camp Solomon Schechter's mission is to provide a fun, safe and welcoming environment where children and young adults create their own unique Jewish community in the spirit of the Conservative movement, thereby becoming independent, caring individuals who are connected to Judaism, Israel and their local Jewish communities.

Our vision is to be the premier Jewish camping experience in North America by creating programs based around nature, music, art and sport that strengthen the bonds of our Jewish communities and by providing a high quality, critical Jewish intellectual, physical, emotional and social experience for our campers, staff and alumni.



# CAMP SOLOMON EST. 1954 SCHECHTER



## Year in Review

In February, a winter storm ravaged Schechter, blanketing the ground with about 18 inches of snow. This was followed by a windy ice storm. Well over 50 trees collapsed under the weight of the snow and ice, scarring the woodlands, knocking down power lines and hitting numerous structures. Our insurance covered a majority of the costs to remove downed trees and repair damaged structures and power lines. Through the generosity of our donors, over 500 new fir and hemlock trees were planted throughout the property.

Our Executive Director, Sam Perlin, completed the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Executive Leadership Institute. He was one of only 15 camp directors from around the country to participate in the latest cycle, and learned from esteemed leaders from around the world.

This summer we split the Guidance Director and Parent Liaison into two positions, allowing us to do an even better job of focusing on each and every camper. At Schechter, we take the health and safety of every camper very seriously, and this change allowed us to provide better care than ever before!

Schechter was home to two *shlichim* (emissaries from Israel) this past summer, as well as three Israeli staff, who are former Schechter campers. They added lots of Israel related programming and *ruach* (spirit) to our summer program.

The *Omanut* (Arts) program received some much needed improvements with the purchase of pottery equipment and equipment for photography and video production *chuggim* (activities). Thank you to the Samis Foundation for their generous grant to purchase this equipment.

We started awarding *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) bracelets to campers this summer for doing acts of *tikkun olam* or *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness).

Thanks to the generosity of the Holzman Foundation, we now have bowling at Schechter, which is wildly popular with our younger campers!

*Peulat Sababa* (Awesome Time), the newest iteration of our traditional *Limmud* (Jewish Education) program, received rave reviews this summer. Our theme for the summer was "*Sheilot*", or questions, and throughout the summer we stimulated discussion amongst our campers around the big Jewish questions of the day – Israel, kashrut, G-d and more.

Schechter athletes, both camper and staff, benefited from weight training equipment donated by the Stroum Jewish Community Center and a Fitness Grove that was made possible by a grant from the Samis Foundation.

Weekday Torah readings were re-imagined this summer by our Judaics team, and they brought us a new way of interacting with the text: Torah Zone! Through drama and skits, our staff and Odedim re-enacted the weekly Torah portion creating a more meaningful way to relate to the text...and it was so entertaining!

Over the summer, Schechter hosted five teaching artists in our new Teaching Artist Program, which was made possible by a grant from the Special Initiatives Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. Campers from all sessions had the opportunity to work with a ceramics artist making *mezzuzot*, *Kiddush* cups and more. Bet campers also experienced Jewish storytelling, and Gimmel campers were introduced to special effects makeup.\*





Thanks to a generous donor, we were able to bring *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) into *Maccabiah* (our team competition) this summer. As part of *Zimriyah* (the culmination of a day of competition in sports, Hebrew songs and skits), each team chose and presented a charity whose work they felt connected to, and funds were donated to each of the charities in their honor.

The Pacific Science Center came to Schechter and put on a very special evening program for our Aleph and Echad campers. They had the chance to learn about changing matter...and see some fireballs!\*

Craig Tomlinson, a former Seattle Sounder, came back to Schechter this summer, working with our Bet and Gimmel campers on their soccer skills and organizing our Schechter World Cup Tournament.\*

Our *Teva* (nature) program continued to improve, and this summer we took a huge step forward by arranging out-of-camp camping trips at Washington state parks for all of our Gimmel campers. We had lots of great feedback from the experience, and the trips next summer will be even better!

For a third year in a row, Camp Solomon Schechter treated our Gimmel campers to a performance and discussion with Jewish reggae and rap superstar, *Matisyahu*. This year, every Gimmel camper also received a copy of his latest CD, *Spark Seeker*.\*

Five hundred sixty parents, family members, alumni and friends attended Open House this year, and we raised over \$10,000 for our Scholarship Fund during the Schechter Show. Your generosity allowed us to finally tell our Board of Directors Co-President, David Schwartz, to go jump in the lake!

There is a place at Schechter for everyone! Women's Retreat allowed our moms, grandmothers and alumni to connect even as they unplugged. Men's Camp provided a weekend retreat for our dads, grandfathers and alumni. Family Camp gave our up-and-coming campers a chance to preview Schechter with their families. And, even our young alumni had a weekend to relive their Schechter memories.

\* Denotes an Alfred & Tillie Shemanski Trust Fund Special Program

## CSS Legacy Circle: Judaism and Joy through Future Generations

Camp Solomon Schechter gratefully acknowledges the founding members of the **CSS Legacy Circle: Judaism and Joy through Future Generations**. We launched the program in partnership with the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The goal is to help ensure that the youth and young adults in our community have the opportunity to experience a deep connection to Judaism, *I'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation. Bequests and planned gifts will become part of the **Camp Solomon Schechter Endowment Fund** and/or the **Stampfer Scholarship Endowment Fund**. This list is in formation; if you have included Schechter in your estate plans, please let us know.

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# 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Where Judaism and Joy are One!



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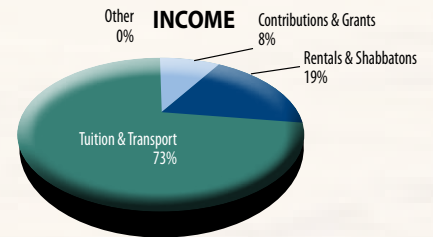
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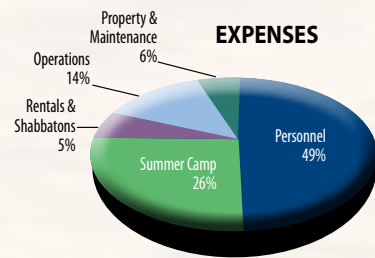
### INCOME (Unaudited)

Contributions & Grants	\$ 123,643
Rentals & Shabbatons	\$ 285,463
Tuition & Transport	\$ 1,074,995
Other	\$ 1,435
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 1,485,536</b>



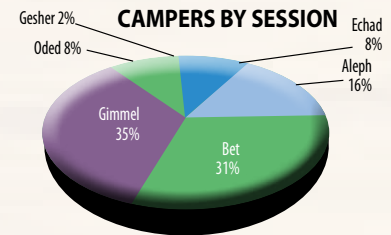
### EXPENSES (Unaudited)

Personnel	\$ 686,870
Summer Camp	\$ 366,912
Rentals & Shabbatons	\$ 73,781
Operations	\$ 185,295
Property & Maintenance	\$ 87,535
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,400,393</b>



### CAMPERS BY SESSION

Echad	45
Aleph	87
Bet	175
Gimmel	197
Oded	47
Gesher	9
<b>TOTAL CAMPERS</b>	<b>560</b>



# Friends of Schechter

Camp Solomon Schechter would like to gratefully acknowledge our contributors over the past fiscal year (October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012). Your generosity enables us to continue providing transformative experiences for our campers as they explore and enhance their Jewish identity. (Names are listed in alphabetical order within each section.)

## Annual & Scholarship Funds

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Moshe Agam &  
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**2012**  
*Where Judaism and Joy are One!*

## Gesher Program

Camp Solomon Schechter's new Israel program had a fantastic inaugural year! In the words of one of the campers: "Being back in Israel and being with my best friends in the world was the greatest gift Schechter could have given me. Although I have been to Israel before, this trip was especially unique because I got to hike, see beautiful sunrises, walk through water tunnels and swim in the Dead Sea while singing camp *shiro*t. I can't imagine spending my summer in any other way!"

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[info@campschechter.org](mailto:info@campschechter.org) • [www.campschechter.org](http://www.campschechter.org)

