



Shevet Glaubach Fellows spend Shabbos in Hollywood with their teens

SHEVET GLAUBACH FELLOWS BUSY BETWEEN PESACH AND SHAVUOT

As we count the days between Pesach and Shavuos, each day increasing the number by one, our Shevet Glaubach Fellows are building relationships that they have built one by one. There has been so much happening across our Shevet Glaubach communities and our fellows continue to have meaningful interactions with their teens. So much has happened this month from Pre-Pesach events to Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut events. Many of our Shevet Glaubach Fellows participated in their regions annual Giving Days and so much more!

A NOTE FROM RABBI DAVE ROTENBERG, DIRECTOR, NCSY OTTAWA, NCSY CANADA



RABBI DAVE ROTENBERG

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It's 2am on a Sunday morning last spring, and Ottawa's Glaubach Fellows have just helped me pull off a fantastic but exhausting weekend of programming. As I finally get ready for bed, my phone buzzes with a notification from our group chat. "Jew's harp concert in Rabbi Dave's basement!" the text reads. Apparently, the two young men staying at my place want to keep the party going, and from the texts that follow, it's clear that the two young ladies sleeping elsewhere in the neighbourhood wish they could join in. I chuckle to myself when I realise that NCSY Canada's Head of Advisors and the Director of the Shevet Glaubach Fellowship, both also members of the group chat, must have zero clue what's going on - a fact that sends the Fellows into hysterics when I point it out the next morning. And it is this kind of humour and camaraderie that both exemplified Year 1 of the SGF in Ottawa, and got this year's cohort (including one returning Fellow) as fired up as conceivably possible for Year 2.

At the time of this writing, it's now late April 2023, and we're only a couple of months away from wrapping up our second year of SGF in Ottawa. Over that time, we've run four incredible mini-Shabbatons for our awesome teens. Each has had its own distinct flavour and unique programming elements, but all have been extremely meaningful and amazingly fun.

For our most recent weekend, dubbed "Hype-Up Shabbat," we were joined by the incomparable DJ Howie Rosenberg who DJs at NCSY Canada's regionals. Howie, who also runs Junior NCSY in Toronto, tagged along for our largest Grade 7/8 JSU on Thursday, followed by Jewish music dance parties on Thursday and Friday, at the public school with the largest Jewish population and at the Jewish community day school, respectively.

Then on Friday afternoon was the main event, as nearly 30 teens piled into Beit Tikvah shul for an unforgettable Pre-Shabbos dance party, with DJ Howie spinning tracks and our Glaubach Fellows helping to kick off Shabbos

SGF SPOTLIGHT ON
GAP YEAR COMMUNITY
BY: FIRST YEAR FELLOW, HAYDEN KLEIN
FROM LOS ANGELES, CA



The Gap Year Shevet Glaubach Community planned a trip which joined forces with the Regional Board SGF Community for a special end of the year trip catered strictly to the seniors to end their high school experience on a meaningful note

The trip is going to be located at Westgate River Ranch Resort & Rodeo and filled with fun and meaningful activities.

I had never gone glamping. To me, it felt a little like a cop out. If us advisors and teens were going to experience the great outdoors, relaxing in the shadow of trees and smelling the clean southern air, lets do it for real... But wow was I wrong.

Don't get me wrong, the massive tents with hotel quality towels and beds definitely added to the experience, but it was the activities that really made glamping glamorous. We all loved shooting bows and arrows at hail bails, many of us shooting for our first time ever. Then we went mechanical bull riding. That was pretty tough for the

chevra. I personally did very well, but most of us wiped out with in 30 seconds. Then the head advisors shocked the teens with two human sized hamster balls. We spent a while with those knocking eachother done in a perfectly protected in the safety of a bubble.

But what took the trip from glamorous to a lifelong memory, Bezras Hashem, was the campfire. Gorgeous songs, hilarious stories, delicious hot dogs, it was geshmak. My favorite part and the part that the rest of the advisors still talk about was the thigns the seniors were saying. The advisors were asking question after question about their journey with ncsy and how they are going to take those experiences to their next chapter in their lives. Unbelievably inspiring. You got to watch these teens think and think about the life they truly want to be living. These are kids from whichever background and crazy life story they have talking about all the sacrifices they have made. The crying moments, the laughing moment, the moments that can't even be explained. All now sititng around the campfire with smiles. They have realized how special it is that they

have a Jewish Neshama and how much they love being who they are. The ultimate happiness someone could have. God willing it will grow and grow and grow for all the future chapters in these seniors lives.

WORDS OF TORAH

AYLI TAVAKOLY
FROM GREAT NECK, NY
*FIRST YEAR FELLOW,
GREAT NECK, NY COMMUNITY*



"Only by giving are you able to receive more than you already have-Jim Rohn". Life without giving is meaningless. Giving creates social connection, love and gratitude. Often times we might think that giving is only beneficial to the opposite party. In reality the giver is receiving the biggest gift. Giving cultivates self growth and self identity. This outcome is everlasting. This quote stood out to me since it speaks to my values and beliefs. Through organizations like NCSY I am presented with an opportunity to give to others and discover more about myself. I look forward to a year filled with giving, connection and self discovery!

FACES OF THE FELLOWSHIP



EZRA BARON

SOUTHERN REGION

My name is Ezra Baron, and I'm from Teaneck, NJ. I had the privilege of attending TABC for high school before attending Yeshivat Sha'alvim for two years. I just started studying at the Sy Syms business school at Yeshiva University and have no idea what I'm going to major in. I am super excited to be part of the Shevet Glaubach Fellowship this coming year as it will allow me to develop relationships with like-minded individuals who want to inspire the Jewish future.



MEIRA STEINER

WOODMERE, NY

Hi! My name is Meira Steiner and I'm from Woodmere, New York. After graduating from SKA High School I spent a year and a half at MMY. I am currently a junior at Stern College, majoring in history, and looking to pursue a career in medicine. I've been a Northeast advisor since getting back from Israel. I am super excited to be participating in the Shevet Glaubach Fellowship! I am passionate about focusing on becoming a better person, learning, and getting to spend as much time as possible facilitating environments filled with Torah. I am so excited about the ability to be involved in different communities I can't wait to see where this takes me—I'm sure it will be epic!



MOSHE BENHAMU

SOUTHWEST REGION

Hi! My name is Moshe Benhamu, hailing from Brooklyn, New York. I am currently a senior studying in Yeshiva University, majoring in Strategy and Entrepreneurship and looking to go into the REITS Semicha program after I graduate. I was an advisor on NCSY Next Step during the 2022 summer and had a life-changing experience on the program. I learned so much from the teenagers on the program, as well as gave over what I could as someone who has been around the different cultures within the Jewish world. I am absolutely thrilled to be given the opportunity to be a Shevet Glaubach Fellow for the first time to give over all that I learned from the summer. The Fellowship doubles as an extremely exciting opportunity for someone who has primarily been exposed to the New York Jewish communities to travel across the country and experience new areas and people. As a Sephardic Jew who went to an Ashkenaz high school and Yeshiva, my primary takeaway is just how much there is to learn about the varying cultures of different Jewish communities, as well as how similar and connected we all are when it comes to our values and ideals.

A NOTE FROM RABBI DAVE ROTENBERG (CON'T)

with unbelievable energy and fabulous dancing. Following the Pre-Shabbos pump-up, we kept the energy level high as our Shabbaton took over the shul's davening, bringing the whole congregation along for an incredible Carlebach minyan featuring plenty of singing and more dancing. The teens then joined our staff, the Fellows, and the shul's rabbi and rebbetzin and family (also part of the NCSY team) for a delicious dinner and raucous oneg.

On Shabbos morning, we all met back at the shul for an inspiring teen-led minyan - something we tried for the first time at our Glaubach mini-Shabbaton in December and have now instituted as a bi-monthly feature of our schedule. After davening, we enjoyed a tasty Shabbos lunch filled with beautiful singing, followed by an informative guest presentation from Allied Voices for Israel, on combatting antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment in our schools and communities.

Although we had a bonfire and kumzitz scheduled for Saturday night, pouring rain forced us to shift gears slightly. Not to be deterred, we

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lit candles throughout the shul social hall, pulled our chairs into a circle, and enjoyed a musical Havdallah and a beautiful and inspiring kumzitz indoors. Despite the poor weather and the change of venue, we were nonetheless joined by many of the teens who had participated over Shabbos, who, led by a couple of guitars and drums, belted out song after song until late into the night.

Ottawa is a wonderful small community, and our NCSY operation has been growing significantly over the last number of years. While our staff team has grown this year, we currently only have one local advisor. This has made our chapter an ideal fit with the Shevet Glaubach Fellowship. In addition to their invaluable presence on these Ottawa mini-Shabbatons, the Fellows have been matched up with Ottawa teens on regional Shabbatons, continuing to build those relationships in between visits. The Fellows have also enabled us to offer remote alumni learning, chavrusa opportunities for teens with specific interests or unavailable on the

nights of our in-person Learn & Earn, and have even been working on a Shabbos Candle-lighting initiative for girls.

Before we put a wrap on another successful year, a large group of Ottawa teens is looking forward to connecting with our Fellows on our upcoming Spring Regional, and plans are in the works for one additional visit for our end-of-year "Shabbattawa Weekend".

Whether it's for a regional Shabbaton, local programming, ongoing one-on-one support for our teens, or even just connecting with our local staff for a post-program debrief featuring late-night nachos, video games, or music, the Shevet Glaubach Fellowship has been a wonderful enhancement to NCSY in Ottawa. As an ambitious and often overwhelmed City Director, I am grateful to my wonderful fellows, our partners at NCSY Canada's head office, the SGF staff, and of course, the Glaubach Family, for making this tremendous initiative a reality.



Shevet Glaubach Fellows enjoying the outdoors with their teens



SGF Ottawa Community Shabbaton



SGF Ottawa Community Shabbaton

HIGHLIGHTS



Shevet Glaubach Fellows participating in Day of Giving



Jacksonville Fellows going paintballing with their teens



Teens singing and shmoozing with Shevet Glaubach teens