

☆USY2010 USY International Chapter of the Year Nominees☆USY
“Best of...” Programs
ISRAEL

1. CRUSY- Beth Shalom, Pittsburgh

USY/Kadima members attended the viewing of a documentary about the life of Hanna Senesh, during which our teens reached out to new (and future) members, both before and after the viewing with pointed conversations. In conjunction with other local organizations (United Jewish Federation and the Pittsburgh youth shaliach), we also helped bring an Israeli band and opened the performance as a community event. Over 40 Kadima-niks attended the concert, as well as many USYers.

2. CHUSY- Beth Hillel, Willmette, IL

- Israel Program
 - Israeli Cooking Class
 - BHUSY’s Israeli Cooking class was truly a unique experience for everyone. For this program, we had a professional chef come to

our synagogue and teach us how to make a “traditional” Israeli cuisine. As part of the program, each USY’er was to bring canned food items to donate to the local food pantry. As the program got underway, the chef demonstrated how to make home-made hummus, Mediterranean rice and beef kabobs. Following the demonstration we broke from evening minyan with the congregation. Following minyan, we broke into 4 groups and made our own Israeli cuisine using the techniques that the chef had taught us. After finishing all the cooking and making a mess, the chef judged each group on taste and presentation. Each member of the winning group received a \$10 Starbucks card. It was a night we shall truly never forget.

3. ECRUSY- Agudath Israel, Ottawa, ON (JACCUSY)

Our best Israel Program was Israel Cake-Off. This program was created by Michaela Sadinsky, our chapter IA. In this program we started out by learning about some places in Israel (the Western Wall, the JNF Forests, The Dead Sea, etc.). We were then divided into groups and each given one of these places. We had slabs of cake, icing and lots of decorations and we had to create our groups place. After the cakes were judged and then the program was finished with everyone eating their cake and discussing summer programs. This program had a great attendance and everyone had a lot of fun.

4. EPA- Keshet Israel, West Chester, PA

Israel Lounge Night (1/27/10)- Our I/A night at the beginning of 2010 was an Israel Lounge Night. We had a brand new youth lounge built in the basement, so we were able to hold Israel Night in the new lounge. We bought several

Israeli snacks to eat throughout the night while we talked about Israel. One of our I/A VPs was in Israel for 3 months at the beginning of the school year, so he showed everyone a PowerPoint of his pictures and experiences while teaching us some of the interesting things he learned. Our other I/A VP was in Israel for the summer. She also showed us a PowerPoint of the pictures she had taken. Next, one of the presidents shared a PowerPoint she made about her trip and events on Pilgrimage. Everyone enjoyed learning about and seeing some of the magnificent sights of Israel, and others who have visited Israel shared their memories. It was an Israel-filled night, and some of the USYers were convinced to go on Pilgrimage in the future summers!

5. METNY- Forest Hills Jewish Center

Israel

Program: Israel Bingo

Date(s): April 22, 2010

Goal of Program(s): The goal of this program was to learn about Israel in a fun way. Whenever a bingo word was going to be called, people would have to explain what it meant.

Preparation/ Implementation: Supplies:
Bingo boards, anything to mark the board with, bisli, Israeli chocolate, and prigrat
Each member received a unique bingo board with various words relating to Israel on them and poker chips used to mark off the spaces on his or her board.

Results: This program was so much fun for many reasons. Some people might think that bingo is a lame game only for the elderly; however, it is shocking how much fun people have when they play. It was also great because since everyone had the same chance at winning, it did not exclude those who had less knowledge of winning.

Number of Participants: 8

Flyers/ Publicity Included: See April calendar and included bingo boards

Program Notes: It is important to encourage chapter members to have fun during this program because people have preconceived notions that bingo is super lame but once they start playing they will definitely have fun (especially if food is involved).

6. EMTZA- Shaare Zedek, St. Louis, MO

Last year SZSL's favorite Israel program was by far A Taste of Israel. We took this program and updated it to make it a program full of learning and Israel awesomeness. USYer's paired up into teams on tables and were given a slip of paper with an Israeli city on it. Our REL/ED/ Israeli Affairs Vice President Josh Aroesty then gave a description about each city and a historical story from each city. Each team was given about fifteen minutes to make their city using ice cream, Twizzlers, M & M's, chocolate syrup, gummy candies, caramel, and various other toppings. The winning team got to go in line first for the falafel making station we had set up for dinner. The really cool thing about this program is that we usually charge people just five dollars to cover the food cost, but last year we decided to charge six dollars and thirteen cents. Every person who came to the program was automatically enrolled in the 613 mitzvah club. The taste of Israel program not only taught SZSL members about Israel, but also inspired many of our USYer's to learn more about it and make pilgrimage to Israel this summer.

7. NERUSY- Temple Israel, Sharon, MA

This year we had a *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* Party. At the party, we had Israeli food, sang *Hatikvah*, listened to Israeli music, and played a giant game that is a cross between Monopoly and trivia. We had a giant map of Israel that you can walk on that we used as a board. Teams were then able to walk around Israel and "purchase" sites in Israel by answering questions about the sites. We also had Israeli cuisine and listened to popular Israeli music. Our Israel affairs VP also led a discussion on what was going on currently in Israel and Iran.

8. Hagalil- Adath Shalom, Morris Plains, NJ

-Our best Israel Program was when we participated in a county-wide Yom Ha'atzmaut program at our local JCC. We represented a city in Israel, (Na'ariyah), and through arts and crafts projects and a very vivid poster, we were able to educate the public about this great city. (Just as a side note, although we did not actually host an Israel event at our synagogue this year due to calendar restrictions, at four events, our I/A VP gave us an Israel Update on what was happening in Israel.)

9. New Frontier- Palo Alto USY, Palo Alto, CA

In this event we and sjcusy went to Santa Clara paintball. There, after a few introductions and mixers, split up into two teams and played a few rounds of paintball. I arranged, with the help of Magali, to meet up with a former colonel of the IDF, to discuss not only discuss the IDF, but also apply military strategy to paintball. After a brief talk about the IDF and his life as a soldier, he spoke about his job as Director of the Northwest Region of the organization FIDF, or Friends of the IDF. This organization offers social, educational, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for the young men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting Israel. Learning about such a great

foundation was very inspiring. After Colonel Amit Tesler shared some battle strategies and techniques, and then were sent off again to play some more. It was amazing how instantly both teams performed much better, and the battle completely changed around. The even not only taught us how to paintball, but of the IDF, the importance to join, and the importance of supporting our troops.

10. Pinwheel- Herzl Ner Tamid (ACHIM), Seattle, WA

Every spring, Seattle Achim has an Israel event to celebrate Israel's birthday and to teach USYers more about our holy land! J-Team, the Jewish philanthropy program that looks for teens to join their board and help allocate money to charities all around the world, gave a short presentation to the USYers to encourage them to join the following year. Then we jumped right into our programs. Before each activity, we would explain that portion of Israeli history the game represents. To teach about the British blockade of Holocaust survivors from Israel, we played a modified version of Sharks and Minnows (in which the Sharks are the British and the Minnows are the boats full of immigrants). After that, we tried out the Kibbutz life with a water relay that requires the kind of teamwork needed for Kibbutzim workers, and split up into groups to try and build the tallest structures with only dried spaghetti and limited tape. Finally, after an a barbeque and Israeli salad, we twisted a mafia "murder" game to make it a Haggadah vs Irgun conflict that we historically explained beforehand. This event won Best Regional Israel Program and Regional Israel Advocacy Program as well.

11. Hagesher- Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park, PA

The Falafel Night is AJ USY's opening event. As food is one of the elements that gets all USYers to come to events, that's the appeal for this one as well. There is of course the fixings for Falafel, and other Israeli foods and candies. Israeli music is playing in the background to set the mood of the Israel theme. This past year, we set up a table for "make your own flag," an area where USYers could design their own Israeli flag with the parts they saw fit and then they would explain their reasons. Additionally we had several USYers speak to the group about their experiences on Pilgrimage, TRY and USY High, and camp Israel trips in order to get the USYers excited about going to Israel.

12. Hanegev- Temple Beth Torah, Tamarac, FL

"ShiratHasticker"

Goal- The Program focuses on showing USYer the meaning of bumper stickers on certain events and problems. They will be looking at Bumper stickers found in Israel and will be discussing the meaning behind them and what they think they mean. USYers will not only learn and discuss Israel, but also will be able to make stickers themselves.

Preparation/Result -Tell the USYers before the program that they should bring their favorite bumper sticker that they own or have seen. They may print one from online. Make sure you have the song on an mp3 player or a CD. Print and

make copies of the lyrics to the song. Read the information on HadagNachash and the origin of the Shirat HaSticker song. We created a power point presentation with the lyrics and 5 examples of bumper stickers, and a full explanation and trigger questions. We provided blank stickers for each USYer to create their own bumper sticker and then we auctioned them off raising \$100.00 for TO. All USYers were involved in discussion and nobody was left out. STEPHANIE NICHOL AND JAKE WINN ATTENDED THIS PROGRAM and was a lot of fun!

13. SWUSY- B'nai Zion, El Paso, TX

Tour of B'nai Zion Biblical Garden

BZUSY members gathered in the Cantor David Leon Biblical Garden, a replica of the state of Israel on the Synagogue property, on a Sunday afternoon for a snack of Bamba and wafers before touring the area. While walking the path from Eilat to Tiberias, BZUSY members shared stories of their personal journeys in the Jewish homeland and the Israel Affairs VP discussed the geography, landmarks and history.