

United Synagogue Youth Information:

USY is a local, regional and international program through the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism. On the local level USY provides teens an opportunity to hang out with other teens in the synagogue in a variety of different ways. So far this year, our teens have had an ice cream social/game night, and movies every other Tuesday night with Temple Isaiah Senior Youth Group. Coming up in 2009 the USYers will welcome our 8th graders into the local chapter! We have a lot of great events planned such as snow tubing, Claire Sodden memorial weekend, USY formal, a mall scavenger hunt and lots more!



In addition to local activities, COLUSY participates in 2 Seaboard regional conventions with youth from Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia and Northeastern Carolina. This year Fall convention will be held November 21-23 in VA Beach. Spring Convention will be held at Camp Louise May 22-24. At convention, teens participate in meaningful Shabbat services and Jewish discussion groups. They also get a chance to meet and make friends with Jewish kids all over the region. The convention experience allows teenagers to create meaningful Jewish friendships that will last them a life time.

COLUSY participated in one international convention this year. International convention gathers Jewish teenagers from the United States, Canada, Israel and even Barbados! The 2008 International convention was held December 21-25 in Washington D.C. International is an extended version of regional conventions. Throughout the week, USYers had a chance to participate in: study groups; Israel culture workshops such as Israeli dancing, Krav Maga (martial arts), and film festivals; and Koach L'Moach (Brain Busters) such as Mitzvah Heros: How do ordinary people become superheros? Hechsher Tzedek: ethical Kashrut in the 21st century, and a discussion of external substances—Alcohol and Drug Use. There were also leadership workshops to help teens become a leader in their chapters and communities.

Membership dues for the 2008-2009 school year are \$45. This includes international, regional, and Beth Shalom dues. It will also include the Beth Shalom Youth Group t-shirt. Members will also receive discounted or free admission to chapter events. Membership is required to attend regional or international events.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact our youth director, Becca Roberts, at youth@beth-shalom.net



COLUSY is run by a youth board of dedicated teenagers where we discuss events, divide responsibilities and work together to make our amazing program work. Board members also enjoy leadership opportunities on the local, regional and international scale. These opportunities are great resume builders that are looked highly upon on college admissions and even during sorority and fraternity recruitment.

Our Youth Board is:

Moriah Counts- President

Marissa Schwartz- Vice President Communication

Amy Gartner- Religious Education

Ally Warren- Social Chair

Rebekkah Paisner- Cultural Education

Shelly Schwartz-Parent Liaison

There are executive board member positions that still need to be filled:

Vice President of Israel Affairs- The VP of Israel Affairs' job is to educate members about Israel and Israel trips. USY offers a variety of different programs such as HeHalutzim, an Israel Advocacy club, Israel Pilgrimage, a summer trip to Israel with fellow USYers and NATIV, a year off in Israel before college starts.

Vice President Social Action/Tikun Olam (SA/TO) - The VP SA/TO leads the chapter in doing Social Action events like helping at the local food bank, creating a mitzvah day or adopting a highway. Tikun Olam literally means, "healing the world." Basically, USY tikun olam is collected to support Jewish organizations around the world.

Vice President Membership/Kadima (Mem/Kad) - VP Mem/Kad works to increase and strengthen the membership of the USY chapter. They also work with the Kadima getting them excited about joining USY in the coming years!

If you would like to fill these positions please contact our Youth Director, Becca Roberts, at youth@beth-shalom.net.