

Kadima Programs and Advisor Aids

Hadracha-Advisor Development  
No. 2

# How to Make Your Social Programs Jewish

Written By:  
David Bianco

Edited By:  
Ari Goldberg,  
Kadima Director



Kadima  
Department of Youth Activities  
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rapaport House  
155 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10010-6802  
212-533-7800, ext. 2311 FAX 212-353-9439



## MAKING YOUR SOCIAL PROGRAMS JEWISH

In some Kadima chapters, many of the programs are purely social. When an occasional "Jewish" program is planned, it is usually of a purely religious nature, and is subsequently often poorly attended. Although these programs may be successful in imparting Jewish values to those who attend, they miss out on Kadima's ultimate goal of reaching all its members.

Kadima programming must be Jewish in some manner. Otherwise, what is the purpose of getting together under the Kadima name? Any group of friends could do most or all of the programs Kadima chapters plan.

However, Kadima events are a chance for Jewish youth to get together in a Jewish setting to learn, to experience, and to contribute, as well as to socialize. It is therefore important to include something Jewish in each and every chapter event.

Chapters should continue to schedule some programs which are religious or educational in nature, but they should also do what they can to make their social programs Jewish as well.

This booklet is a guide to adding a Jewish twist to your chapter's social programming. Included are a number of examples of social programs along with modifications to make them Jewish. This is only a start! Use your own creativity and experience to invent other ways of making your social programs Jewish.

Note: be careful that the programs you do are both within good taste and within Jewish law. It is NOT appropriate to go fishing and to say Mourners Kaddish after each fish is caught. Use your best judgement.

**A TO Z MYSTERY BUS TOUR:** Rent a bus or a van for a night and visit places and do things that start with the letters A through Z. (For more details, obtain program #27 from the Keshet Series) For the Jewish component, "L" can be learn a new Jewish song, "M" can be pray Maariv, etc.

**BOWLING:** Give out prizes to any final score that is a multiple of 18 (Chai) as well as to the highest scores.

**GAME SHOW NIGHT:** When playing Password, use Jewish terms such as matzoh ball, Shabbat, and Natan Sharansky. When playing Jeopardy, make up Jewish answers (and expect Jewish questions).

**HAVDALAH:** This is a must for any Saturday night program. It is an easy way to start off a dance, or any other program that might not otherwise be Jewish. Contact the Regional or International office if you would like to obtain some creative Havdalah services. There are a number of ways to make Havdalah appropriate to whatever event will be held that night.

**HAY RIDE/CAMP FIRE/SLEIGH RIDE:** Sing some Jewish songs and tell Jewish stories.

**KIDNAP BREAKFAST:** This is a common membership program where potential Kadima members are picked up early in the morning and taken to the synagogue for breakfast. Be sure to say the proper blessings before and after eating, and also the morning Shacharit services.

**MOVIE NIGHT:** Rent a movie by Jews, for Jews, or about Jews. (Obviously, make sure the movie is age appropriate). Or, you could rent a movie like Gremlins and have the Kadimaniks try to figure out why it's Jewish. (How do you know that Gremlins are Kosher? In one scene a Gremlin eats a plastic apple, spits it out, and says "Treif!") Good movies to rent include: The Chosen, Yentl, and An American Tail.

**PARASHA PROGRAM OF THE WEEK:** The Torah is divided into 54 sections, or Parshiot. Each week we read one (or two) of these Parshiot at the synagogue. Kadima programs can be planned to correspond to the weeks Parasha. For example, Parashat Noah is the story of Noah and the flood. Appropriate activities could include: a visit to the zoo, or a waterslide (climate permitting). Parashat Beshallach, also known as Shabbat Shira, describes the song the children of Israel sang after crossing the Sea of Reeds. This is a good time to attend a concert or have a sing-down. Use your creativity and imagination (as well as your Chumash) in developing programs like these.

**SCAVENGER HUNT AT A SHOPPING MALL, AIRPORT, ETC.:** Include "something Jewish" as one of the items the Kadimaniks have to find. Let them choose the object and try to explain why it is Jewish. You'll be amazed at the variety of objects the Kadimaniks collect as "Jewish."

**T'FILAT HADERECH:** This is a prayer that is traditionally said while departing on a lengthy journey. It is a good idea to say this prayer before any kind of trip with Kadima. Once the group has been traveling for a little while, one Kadimanik can read the prayer in Hebrew and English, and the rest of the group should answer "Amen."

**TREASURE HUNT:** Write out the clues in English, but using Hebrew letters, (sort of a backwards transliteration).

**TRIVIAL-PURSUIT-A-THON:** This is a Yad B'Yad fundraiser in which Kadimaniks are sponsored for five or ten cents per question answered correctly. Give double credit for questions of a Jewish nature. You'll be surprised how many questions in the card set are Jewish.

**TWIZRAEL:** This game is played like Twister, only on huge maps of Israel drawn on sheets. For example, "Right hand, Jerusalem."