

Kol Kadima

Volume 33, Issue 3 Winter 2007

קול קדימה



On the Road Again

This summer, Kadimaniks criss-crossed across North America on some fantastic voyages. Hear about their journeys and begin to plan your next big adventure!

A Bit of a Change, a World of Difference

All I was looking for was a bit of a change. For the past five years I had been attending the same overnight camp and I loved it, but it became predictable. I knew what was going to happen before it happened, and I just had a feeling there had to be more out there for me.

Fortunately there was more in store for me; I was informed about the wide world of USY Summer Programs, and it seemed as though doors had opened. I dipped my foot into the water by applying for USY on Wheels Mission: Mitzvah, and by the end of the summer, could not even believe what an outstanding time I had. I believed that no summer could compare to this one. Little did I realize that I had two equally amazing summers coming up with USY. That's right boys and girls, I was fortunate enough to go on three USY Summer Programs: Mission: Mitzvah ('03), USY Poland Israel Pilgrimage ('04) and Etgar! The Ultimate Israel Challenge ('05).

What had started out as just a need for a change from summer camp, turned into a bunch of changes in me. The summer I was on Mission: Mitzvah, I grew more than I could have ever hoped for. Coming back from that summer, I now had two families: my mom, dad, and brother, and my Wheels bus. As a bus, we told each other everything, always had someone to talk to and were surrounded by our best friends 24/7, getting to embark on new adventures as well as sharing old stories. Not only had I gained a brand new support system, I had attained new skills, as well as a new sense of maturity that I continue to be thankful for. As much as Wheels allowed me to grow, it helped me realize that it was still okay for the child in me to come out and play.

Wheels ignited a spark in me that has gotten me to where I am today. I am fairly certain that my participation on Wheels is almost entirely the reason as to why I have gone so far in USY. The fun that I had that summer seemed to carry into everything that I did that involved USY. This didn't just occur for me, I have gone through enough years in USY now to see my friends, who were on my Wheels bus, become Wheels staff for a whole new group of Wheelnicks. Seeing this occur has only reaffirmed my love for this program.

Any summer program will always be the time of a lifetime, but one that allows you to have a beyond memorable experience in, of all places, Cody, Wyo., is a summer program you will never forget. Now, with the reinstatement of USY on Wheels East, you all have the opportunity to experience how USY can change your summer a year sooner! So get pumped for a bit of a change in your summer, and a world of difference in you!

B'ahava,

Francie Schrank, USY 2006 International Membership/Kadima Vice President

**From
Francie Schrank**



**USY 2006 International
Membership/Kadima
Vice President**

From the Editor

Wonderful friendships, amazing sites, GREAT food and an incredibly enriching experience collectively describe my summer of 2005. That summer I went on USY's Israel Pilgrimage/Poland Seminar where I spent one week in Poland and six weeks in Israel. During the week in Poland, I had the opportunity to visit many of the places where the horrors of the Shoah took place, such as Auschwitz, Treblinka, and the Warsaw Ghetto, and also some synagogues and towns where Jews still thrive. After this week, I traveled to Israel, where I was immersed in the Israeli culture and Jewish tradition. I visited many cities, hiked, snorkeled, shopped, rode a camel (and a donkey) and saw many historical sites. I was able to learn about Israel IN Israel with 43 other amazing USYers. This summer taught me so much about being a Jew in today's society and allowed me to make some great friends and amazing memories! I can't stress enough how incredible it is to travel to Israel or to Poland or across the United States with a group of amazing people who are all Jewish teenagers just like you.

In this edition of *Kol Kadima*, you can read articles, written by Kadimanicks from across the United States and Canada, about their summer experiences.

You will read about Kadima Encampments, Ramahs across the country, trips to Israel, and more. HEY, you could even read an article written by one of your future USY Pilgrimage friends! In this issue you will also find information about a brand new summer program for kids going into 9th grade. On this program, called USY on Wheels East, you will be able to spend four weeks traveling to places like Toronto, Disney World, Washington, D.C. and more while making new friends and having an amazing USY adventure.

So sit back, relax and enjoy, as you go through this edition of *Kol Kadima*!

B'Ahava,

Ariel Stein, Co-Chair

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Kol Kadima

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On the Road Again

Every summer, Kadimaniks travel across North America and around the world to create their own special adventure. As a chill settles in the air and that “summertime funtime” feels like a distant memory, *Kol Kadima* features little slices of what you did and where you were during Summer 2006.

Encampment Excitement From East to West, Kadimaniks Enjoy Encampment the Best

By Alessandra Farrar, NERUSY

This year is my first year as a Jr. USYer. That means that this summer I had my first opportunity to go to Encampment. Encampment is a week of camp run by USY. You meet people from all over the region. I decided to go, and I’m glad that I did.

When I first got to Camp Ramah I was really nervous because I didn’t know anybody. But after a few hours, I had already made some friends. As the week went on, I became really good friends with the girls in my bunk, and with some of the people who were outside of my bunk. We have kept in touch, and I always look forward to seeing them at regional events. I have basically been as active as possible in USY since fifth grade. I go on almost all of the trips that my chapter goes on.

So far, Encampment has been my favorite event. We even went to Six Flags! We also went roller skating, and rented some blow-up obstacle courses for almost a full day. We had a color war, also known as Maccabiah. I was on the green team, and we won! During Maccabiah we did lots of pretty random but fun activities.

The meals at the camp weren’t as bad as I thought that they would be, but they weren’t good either! We said *Birkat Hamazon* after every meal, and we did services every day, so it was definitely a “religious experience,” but definitely fun!

If you are thinking about going to Encampment next summer, I highly recommend it.

By Alli Penfil, EPA

This summer I went to Encampment ‘06 for about five days. It was a lot of fun. One of the coolest things was that I was one of only two sixth graders there.

My favorite thing about encampment was Maccabiah (our color war). There were two teams, the Red Paratroopers and my team, the Blue Navy. Everybody got their own t-shirts according to what team they were on. Most of the games were sports-related. If you don’t like sports, don’t worry though. I’m not a sports person at all and I loved it. Another one of the parts of Maccabiah was Jeopardy. There was also a relay race and the games ended with a song, skit, and banner competition. It was very close but the red team found the Chai that gave them an extra 30 points. In the end, my team (the Blue Navy) won.

On the Road Again

Encampment Excitement From East to West, Kadimaniks Enjoy Encampment the Best

By Sivan Rinat, METNY

This summer, I went to sleep-away camp. I had a great time there and I made a lot of new friends. However, throughout all the fun I had at camp, I couldn't wait till Kadima Encampment.

This summer was my third summer at Kadima Encampment. Some of my friends from school heard how much fun I was having, so they decided to join as well. I had a great time with them, and I saw some of my old friends from previous years. Also, I made some new friends from my grade and from others.

I enjoyed all the activities at Encampment, like cooking. In cooking, we made cookies. Also, I enjoyed arts and crafts, in which I made many projects, including lanyard and a *mezuzah*. We did some *mitzvah* projects, like making quilts for the "Make a Wish Foundation."

Every summer at Encampment, there is a program called Maccabiah. Maccabiah is a series of events in which campers are split up into four groups of colors: white, blue, green and red. Teams choose a name and write songs and cheers in both Hebrew and English. Teams get more points for showing good sportsmanship to other teams. I was on the white team this year. Our name was "White Lightning," and we won. It was so exciting!

One of the most amazing aspects of Encampment was the *ruach*, also known as spirit. I once heard a USYer say that from the inside looking out, the feeling is impossible to explain, and from the outside looking in, it is impossible to understand. I feel that this is very true. *Ruach* is a time when everyone feels happy and is singing, dancing, and jumping. It is an amazing experience.

I had an amazing summer, and the highlight was an incredible eight days of Encampment. I can't wait to go back next year.

By Theo Silverberg, Hagalil

This year's Kadima Encampment lasted for one incredible week that I will never forget. Although initially reluctant to go, since many of my best friends in Kadima had moved onto USY, I had an excellent time. Not only was it great to reunite and catch up with my old friends who were still in Kadima, but I also made so many great new friends.

Maccabiah was the highlight of my week. As an eighth grader, I had the opportunity to run for captain. Not only did

I win, but my best friend was elected captain of the other team! Although filled with competition, in the end, it didn't matter who won, because everybody had the time of their lives.



The rest of the week was amazing, too. Every day the sports were amazing, and the dance on the last night was incredible. I cannot wait to go back next year, as a USYer, to form new friendships and see all my friends!

Smiles at Sleep-away Camp

A Lifetime of Memories in One Summer

For many Jewish children and teenagers, their connection to Jewish life began or was enhanced through their summertime experiences at Camp Ramah. Here are a few of the stories.

By Max Gering, Hagesher

I spent my summer at Ramah in the Poconos. During my eight-week session, I had the chance to participate in aquatics, arts and crafts, Jewish cooking, Israeli dancing, archery, hiking, musical productions and more. It's about one thing - the people.

Being surrounded by 800 fellow Jewish people is something that I can only experience at Ramah. I know that many people, including myself, had a great summer at camp and that it was the best summer of my life, without a doubt. Everyone in my group bonded in a way that you can only experience for yourself, it is indescribable.

In any summer program or activity someone is involved in they make friends and make close relationships with people. Regardless how many years you have attended Ramah in the Poconos or if you have just begun, the warm welcoming atmosphere is refreshing. Anyone who has experienced Ramah in any way understands that when you enter the camp, you automatically have this huge group of new friends who are there to experience the same thing you are, the ultimate Jewish lifestyle and experience.

About Camp Ramah

Begun in 1947, Camp Ramah oversees several Jewish summer camps throughout the United States, Canada and Israel.

It is sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the main academic hub of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. With seven overnight camps, three day camps and a facility in Israel, campers have multiple opportunities to engage in both educational and social activities in a comfortable and warm Jewish environment.

The camps serve more than 6,500 campers, ages 7-16, and have 1,500 staff, ages 17-25.

To learn more about Camp Ramah, contact the National Ramah Commission at (212) 678-8881 or www.campramah.org.

By Ian Davis, SWUSY

Everyone loves Jewish sleep-away camp. The friendships you make, the great counselors you have, the memories you will keep forever. As most who have gone to camp know, your bond with your cabin is so strong, that it could never be broken. You spend four weeks with 12 other people, sometimes strangers, and sometimes longtime friends. Whether you are 6 or 16, everyone shares these special feelings about camp.

Whether your "special" place is Cleveland, Ga., or Jerusalem, if your "special" people are your teachers or your counselors, or if your "special" memory is sleep-away camp or your Bar Mitzvah, all of us have one common link. One thing that binds us together for generations past, and generations to come: we all believe in the same power. The same creator. The same God.

Smiles at Sleep-away Camp A Lifetime of Memories in One Summer

By Aliza Small, CHUSY

For the past three years, I have spent eight weeks of my summer in Conover, Wis., at Camp Ramah. This past year, I was going into 8th grade, and my *aidah* (age group) was called *Shoafim*. *Shoafim* was my best summer yet. Not only did I make new friends, but I also became closer to the friends I already had. I found friends in my amazing counselors as well, who I still keep in touch with.

The atmosphere at camp is like no other in the world. Where else can you see bald eagles, the northern lights, and over 400 *davening* teenagers in the same 24 hours? Even the most average

of activities can be turned into once in a lifetime experiences. For instance, each *aidah* has to learn a bunch of songs, and in about three weeks, perform those songs in a musical done entirely in Hebrew! This year, my *aidah's* show was *Beauty and the Beast*. It was awesome!

Shabbat is also an amazing experience at Camp Ramah. On Friday evening, the entire camp comes together to do *Kabbalat Shabbat* by the lake, followed by Shabbat dinner and *z'mirot*.

Camp Ramah is my home away from home. I look forward to going back year after year, and reconnecting with my friends from home, and from other states. Ramah has been part of my life for a long time, and it will always be a special place for me.

By Shoshana Lauter, Hanegev

This summer I went to Ramah Darom in Clayton, Ga. Ramah Darom is what I would call my summer home. I love everything about it: my friends, the activities, and not to mention the food.

My favorite thing about camp is Shabbat. Every Friday night we go to services as a camp and eat together. After this, we dance and sing until it is time to go to sleep. *Havdalah* on Saturday nights is the best. We eat dinner and then head outside to say all of the *Havdalah* prayers and after, we dance.

The sports, such as volleyball, basketball, tennis and yoga, are all fun and very energetic. Other activities like dancing, arts and crafts, drama, radio and newspaper are also a lot of fun.

The activities are not only fun but they also have Judaic sides about them. We make *mezuzot* in art, we perform Hebrew plays in drama, and we Israeli dance in dance. All in all, I love Ramah Darom because together with my friends, it makes a summer the most fun it can be.

Finding a Camp Ramah near you

Overnight Camps:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Ramah in the Berkshires | www.ramahberkshires.org |
| Camp Ramah in California | www.ramah.org |
| Camp Ramah in Canada | www.campramah.com |
| Ramah Darom | www.ramahdarom.org |
| Camp Ramah in New England | www.campramahne.org |
| Camp Ramah in the Poconos | www.ramahpoconos.org |
| Camp Ramah in Wisconsin | www.ramahwisconsin.com |

Day Camps:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Ramah Day Camp in Chicago | www.ramahday.com |
| Ramah Day Camp in Nyack | www.ramahnyack.org |
| Ramah Day Camp - Philadelphia | www.ramahpoconos.org |

On My Summer Vacation ... Kadimaniks travelled from the Lakes to the Ocean, the City to the Country

By Stav Alon, New Frontier

I was born in Haifa, Israel and moved to Sacramento, Calif., with my family when I was 8-years-old. Every summer my family and I visit our relatives in Israel and stay for about one month. Every year I know that I will be going to Israel; it gives me something to look forward to throughout the year.

But this particular year things didn't go according to plan. We were supposed to leave for Israel late in July but when the war broke out we had to change our plans. It would have been very dangerous to visit my family in the North of Israel at that time. Usually I visit my family then travel around the wonderful country with them. My relatives informed me that visiting them would be like visiting a ghost town because many people, including themselves, refused to leave their homes.

Because we couldn't go to Israel my family and I visited a city that I always wanted to visit: New York. I had an amazing time in New York. One of my favorite activities was seeing musicals

and plays on Broadway. Still that couldn't compare to Israel. Every night when we watched the news, the thought of Israel, and me not being able to go there, was very upsetting.

For most Jews in the United States the images on the news seemed very foreign and unknown, but it hit close to home for me, literally. When I got home from New York a lot of my friends were talking about what was going on Israel as if it was happening on another planet. This wasn't the case for me, each night I knew that I should be there, and I thought about all the fun I would be having if I was there. It wasn't fair!

Even though I had a wonderful summer with my friends and visiting New York, I still wished that I had gone to Israel. It is hard for people in America to understand what it is like to not be able to visit your family, and your home city because rockets are being launched towards it. Although I couldn't go to Israel in the summer, fortunately I will be going to Israel in February for my cousin's Bar Mitzvah.

By Rebecca Lang, ECRUSY

This summer, I did many things. Here are a few;

In the beginning of the summer, I went to Quebec City with a few friends. We had a blast. That was one of the best weekends of my life! We went rock climbing, horseback riding and much more!

Then I hung out in Montreal and did a lot of swimming at my summer pool, Westpark. I went to many swim meets for the Westpark swim team and we won a few. It was fun. I also went shopping and went to see movies with my friends. I basically did everything I could possibly do right here in Montreal.

Then, I went on a traditional family vacation. This year, we went to Smugglers Notch in Vermont. There were camps, beautiful sights, big mountains, small rivers, lakes but also, my personal favorite, The Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory! It was a great and very delicious family vacation.

A few weeks after, I went to a camp in Mont-Tremblant. There were many activities like wakeboarding, waterskiing, rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, tubing on water and much more.

After that, I did something nobody likes to do: shop for school supplies! That obviously meant my summer was almost over.

Overall, I spent a great summer this year and can't wait for school to end again!

On My Summer Vacation ...

Kadimaniks travelled from the Lakes to the Ocean, the City to the Country

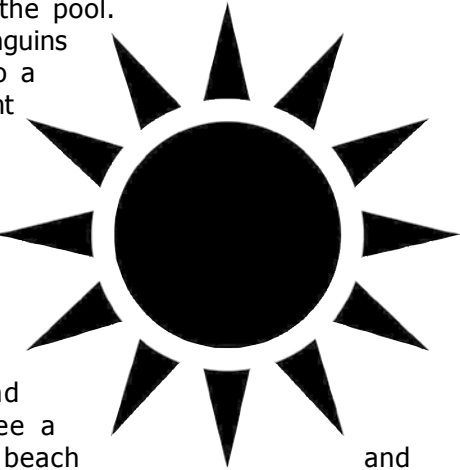
By Emily Idell, Far West

This summer, I went to Disney Land for two days in June with my mom, my friend and my friend's mom. It was a lot of fun. We spent one day in Disney and the other in California Adventure.

Then, we drove home. A few weeks later, I went to a camp in Pennsylvania for seven weeks. I also went to Hawaii for a week. When we were going to Hawaii our flight got delayed an hour! We had gotten to the airport early, so I spent about six hours sitting in all! My family went to Maui and stayed at the Hyatt; we went snorkeling and saw dolphins and turtles. We went to the beach and took walks. We had a lot of fun and

relaxed by the pool.

We saw penguins and went to a luau. We went on a road trip for about nine hours and saw beautiful waterfalls and other scenery. We stopped and hiked to see a black sand beach



and see a gorgeous waterfall.

We ate a picnic lunch by the ocean, it was beautiful.

We flew home and relaxed for the rest of the summer until school started. If you add it all up, I spent about 18 hours sitting on planes! So I guess, my break was over when I got back from Hawaii, but it was a great summer.

By David Jevotovsky, Tzafon

My summer started with some serious hanging out time. Just being with friends and going to my lake house. The lake house sits close to the waters of Canandaigua Lake. I loved it when I took windy boat rides on our "oldy, but goody" motorboat. It appears to me that every time I go on the boat, when it's calm and waveless, the water seems to slide right beneath the hard shell of the motorboat. On other days the waves could be as rough as the middle of the ocean.

The lake was great but I needed a break from all of the relaxing, I needed to be active. In June, my parents had registered me for soccer camp. I've been going to that camp since my younger years. This year was different. I was in one of the oldest groups. Now, I looked down on the Mighty Tikes, the youngest group. I remember how I always noticed the older kids and how big they seemed to me. I looked up to them. I hope the Mighty Tikes looked up to me, as I did when I was younger.

By Maddy Shakun, Hanefesh

This summer was a lot of fun. For the first part of my summer, I spent three weeks at sleep-away camp. I went swimming and canoeing in the lake. I played sports and made a basket in art and crafts. I made friends from all over Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Then I spent ten days at the Jersey Shore with my cousins. We went to the beach everyday. We also did lots of shopping and biking.

At the conclusion of the summer I was left with a dark tan and many new friends. Summer 2006 was one of the greatest. Now that I am back in school I can't wait for the first Kadima event!

Time for Something Different

People to People Ambassador Program

By Ben Greenberg, Seaboard

This summer I had amazing experiences that I will never forget. One of the things I did this summer was a People to People student ambassador program. This program travels throughout the globe to various locations. The program's goal was to bring the future generations of the world closer together and to educate children around the world about different cultures.

This summer I was lucky enough to go to Europe. I experienced the countries of Italy, The Vatican, France, Monaco and Spain! In each of these countries we experienced the cuisine, people and some kind of energetic activity. For example, in Italy, my delegation and I repelled down a castle wall! It was one of the most exhilarating things I have ever done.

Although I was busy with things this summer, I still took time to pray for our friends in Israel. On my trip I received word of the first bombing. I was running up and down my hotel floor looking

for some kind of phone to call home with. When I had called my mom and made sure everyone was all right, I turned to my friend Sam, and said "Well, that was my heart attack for the day."

It was nearing the end of the summer and I was really bored, I looked at the calendar and realized that USY/Kadima Encampment was in two weeks! Those two weeks went by so slowly. Finally, I woke up on the morning of Encampment. When I got there I knew only my sisters' friends. When the first activity started, the other kids and I started talking. By the end of the third day, I had more friends than I could remember the names of. So after it was all done, I said to my friend next to me on the bus ride home, "that was awesome!"

Throughout my summer, I had many experiences, People to people, the ocean, but the thing that really got me wanting more was USY!

Cool Bat Mitzvah in Cool Canada

By Bella Starr, Pinwheel

I had my Bat Mitzvah this past summer, in Victoria, B.C. When I was learning my Bat Mitzvah portion, it was a big change from what I had known where I used to live, in Toronto. There, you would be in a Jewish Day school, learning your Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a subject, like Math or English. Instead, here, because there is a much smaller community, you go to an after-school program and you have a tutor. It was cool though, because my family's tradition was to not have women lead services, I was one of the first girls in my family to have a bat mitzvah.

Having it in the summer changed a lot of things because I didn't have to have my party indoors. I was able to have my party in our front yard, where we put tents, tables and chairs. I think it was a change for everyone, because all of my friends had fancy parties that were catered and everything. In my case, my mom made enough food for everyone and my family set it up on a table.

The weather was also very different from what I was used to in Toronto, where the heat is unbearable and extremely humid. Here in Victoria, it is much milder, and there was even a cool breeze when I had my party a day after Canada Day.

In Toronto, I don't think I would have been able to have had it outside. I'm proud to have had a Bat Mitzvah, and I'm happy that I had it in the summer.

*From East
to West*

Kadima Coast to Coast

*From North
to South*

ECRUSY Kadima Opening Program

Roll out the red carpet! Move over Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt! ECRUSY Kadimaniks are taking over! On Oct. 28, more than 40 Kadimaniks took to the red carpet and had a "Night out with the Stars!"

ECRUSY's opening program saw Kadimaniks test out their acting talents on the big screen and re-enact-



ing scenes from various movies. The talent was oozing all over the place that night.

The evening was preceded by an "Oscar Night" party before and after the movies were screened. All in all, everyone had an amazing time and new talents were discovered.

New Frontier Kadima Day



October 22, 2006
San Francisco, CA

By Ruth Hollander, New Frontier

New Frontier Kadima Day was held on October 22 in San Francisco in Golden Gate. There were about 60 Kadimaniks from chapters all over the New Frontier (Northern California) region.

It was an awesome event with tons of fun and ruach. We started by eating a lunch from Izzy's (a kosher bagel place in San Francisco). Then we divided into teams and went on a digital scavenger hunt led by USYers. A digital scavenger is when you are given clues as to what you are to find and then find or create them and take picture. For example, one clue was "make a Jewish star using people on your team and take a picture of it." Another clue was write the word "Massachusetts" with leaves and branches (because USY International Convention is going to be held in Boston this year).

My team (the Crazy Monkeys) came in Second place in the digital scavenger hunt. Then we did Edible Israel. This was my favorite part. Each team was given a map of Israel and told to use a ton of candy to decorate the map. Afterwards we got to eat the map.

The afternoon ended with our New Frontier song, "...from the Bay Area to the Sierra, New Frontier is Number One!"



Seaboard Region Fall Kadima Kallah

October 20-22
The Smith Center, Rockville, MD



More than 150 Kadimaniks and staff attended Seaboard Region Fall Kadima Kallah on Oct. 20-22 at the Smith Center in Rockville, MD. Our theme was Friendship and highlights included icebreaker games, the "Friends" Game Show, Food Olympics, Project Runway: Destination Israel, a bonfire and smores, ruach-filled song sessions and attending a Rick Recht Jewish Rock 'n Roll Concert on Saturday night. We even got to join him on stage

The Kallah concluded on Sunday by making friendship projects and leaving with new Kadima friends from Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and North Carolina.



Hanefesh Region Snowtubing



**January 7, 2007
Woodbury, CT**

To kick off the new year, 44 Hanefesh Kadimaniks enjoyed an afternoon of snowtubing in Woodbury, CT. Since this winter has produced hardly any snow in the northeast, no one knew what to expect! We were the only group there and had lots of snow just for us – we had the mountain basically to ourselves! We had hot chocolate and cookies and had a fun day meeting new friends!



Hanegev Fall Sub-Regional Conventions



Arvot Sub-Region October 27-29, 2006 • Boynton Beach, FL

By Jennifer Patterson, Hanegev

I can describe our Kadima Fall Sub-regional convention with one word: grrrrrrreat! The Shabbat services were really fun because we sang songs before we started services and our youth director told a story interrupting the services a few times. The study group was fun because the USYers did a game before the classes, which allowed us to meet new people, but my favorite part was the Quest game. My friends and I really had fun running in front trying to get as many points as possible. My team lost but it was OK.

Saturday night was the best part of convention. We all had to dress in costume to play a game called "Let's

make a Deal." When I told my mother she laughed, because she remembers watching this game on TV when she was a kid. The game was fun, I won a pretty cool prize and I think everyone had a great time. Of course everyone had an awesome time at the dance; the DJ was really good. When I finally went to bed I was so so tired, I didn't change into my pajamas!

Convention was really fun there were lots of games and prizes, a fun dance some really cool services. This was my first convention and I can't wait till the next one.

Ein Gedi Sub-Region October 20-22, 2006 • Charlotte, NC





The United Synagogue Of Conservative Judaism
 Department of Youth Activities
 Rapaport House
 155 Fifth Avenue
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