

## The Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society

It's relatively easy to join USY. Becoming a committed and active member of the Jewish community is not so easy. But the future of the North American Jewish community lies in the hands of those who are conscientiously learning about Judaism and practicing what they learn.

To encourage USYers to learn more about Judaism and the observance of Mitzvot, USY established the **Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society** in 1979. The society is named after Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972), a faculty member of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and one of the most influential Jewish figures of modern times. Through the development of his original philosophy of Judaism and the application of that philosophy to the problems of modern times, Rabbi Heschel became a man to honor and emulate.

The Heschel Society is a very special core group of USYers who are committed to their Judaism. Because Heschel Society members are a significant and elite group within USY, USY offers special programs for them.

Some of these programs are:

- The annual **International Heschel Study Kinnus** (convention) held in a different city each year.
- Special mailings of various topics sent to Heschel Society members throughout the year.
- A **special pin** which identifies Heschel Society members.
- **Special activities** which take place at Regional and International USY Conventions. Most regions hold special study sessions and receptions open only to Heschel members. Many regions also honor their Heschel Society members with small gifts.
- The annual USY International Convention is the site of the Heschel Society **induction**. This is in addition to a special educational program at the convention only for Heschel Society members.
- Membership expires one year from receipt of form. You must recertify each year.

# Membership Standards

על שלשה דברים העולם עומד –  
על תורה, על עבודה, ועל גמילות חסדים.

*“The world rests on three things - on Torah, on service to God, on deeds of love.”  
- Pirkei Avot 1:2*

The Heschel Society requires a USYer to demonstrate active involvement in each of the following three areas:

### תורה - The Study of Torah:

Society members must take part in at least two hours of supervised Jewish study per week.

### עבודה - Prayer:

Society members must participate in congregational prayer at least four times a month – three of which should be on Shabbat.

### גמילות חסדים - Acts of Loving Kindness:

At least once a month, society members must engage in a community service project such as visiting the sick, tutoring, assisting in Hebrew Schools, etc. Heschel Society members are currently involved in many of these worthwhile projects.

How to join the Society:

Members are supervised by synagogue rabbis, teachers, youth directors, USY advisors, or others associated with the synagogue youth program.

To join, return the attached application (including name, address, e-mail, and signature of sponsor) to: USY Heschel Honor Society, 820 Second Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10017.

If you have any questions, be sure to call us at (212) 533-7800, ext. 1115.

## Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society Application

Please return this form to: *AJ Heschel Honor Society*, 820 Second Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10010; (212) 533-7800, ext. 1115; Fax: (212) 353-9439; Web: [www.usy.org](http://www.usy.org). Please write legibly!

DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
CURRENT GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ REGION: \_\_\_\_\_  
SYNAGOGUE: \_\_\_\_\_

I fulfill the TORAH requirement by (circle one):

- A) Attending Hebrew High School  
B) Private study with a teacher:  
(Describe your course of study) \_\_\_\_\_  
C) Attending a Jewish day school

Describe your G'MILUT HASADIM project below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I attend the required number of religious services (initial here): \_\_\_\_\_

I pledge to take my standardized tests on a non-Saturday date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORSHIP:** I wish to sponsor the above USYer as a member of the Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society of United Synagogue Youth. S/he fulfills all the requirements, including: TORAH study (at least 2 hours per week); AVODAH (attends synagogue services at least 4 times a month, three of which are on Shabbat); G'MILUT HASADIM (involvement in a community service project of at least 3 hours per month).

SPONSOR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
RELATIONSHIP TO USYER: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

*“The dignity of being a Jew  
is in the sense of commitment.”*

*- Abraham Joshua Heschel*



**Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society  
United Synagogue Youth**

