



# **HAGALIL USY**

**Presents:**

**עד מאה ועשרים**

**Until 120(and going)!!!**

**More than  
120 USY program ideas  
to get you going!**

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Welcome to the wonderful world of USY chapter programming! Here you will find brief descriptions of over 120 events. This booklet is indexed by the type of meeting (from Educational to Purely Social Programs) and also has ideas for a number of on-going programs in areas such as fund-raising and membership. We hope that this will be helpful in your chapter programming! For more information on any of these programs, please contact Michelle Rich at 732-738-7960 or rich@uscj.org

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

A Day Trip to Israel (see ISRAEL)

Apple Picking (see FUN)

Challah Make & Bake (see RELIGIOUS AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMS: SHABBAT PROGRAMS)

Combating Anti-Semitism (see SOCIAL ACTION)

Crafts Night (see FUN)

Dr. Seuss and Kristalnacht: *Although an unusual pair, this chapter took the Dr. Seuss story, Yertle the Turtle and discussed its theme of heroism and bravery. It was then related to the Holocaust and Kristalnacht.*

Heschel Honor Society Program: *This chapter held their own in-house special Oneg Shabbat program, three times during the year. Following the regular congregational services, the members had a study session during the Oneg Shabbat program.*

High Holiday Discussion Group: *This chapter meets in the synagogue library and holds their own, peer-led services followed by either a topical discussion or a game of Jewish trivia.*

Israel Awareness Program (see ISRAEL)

Israel Café (see ISRAEL)

Israel: The Great Debate (see ISRAEL)

Israel Scavenger Hunt (see ISRAEL)

Jerusalem-o-Poly (see ISRAEL)

Jewish Scattagories: *A fun religious event in which Jewish questions ranging from Bible stories to Israeli politics to Halacha were asked.*

L'dor V'dor: From Generation to Generation: *A Friday night service was held in conjunction with a Grandparent's Weekend in which grandparents were honored throughout the congregation. There were two speakers, one a grandmother who spoke about what it was like to be a grandparent and the other, a grandson speaking on what it was like to be a grandson. At the Oneg Shabbat, the USYers broke into groups and sat with grandparents while asking them then and now questions.*

Learn A Thon: *Prepare a night of learning in both religious/educational and social actions/tikun olam themes. Have the USYers get sponsors to studying for the night. They can move from one activity to another, learning lots and raising money for T.O.*

Make Your Own Pizza (see FUN)

Mock Shabbat (See PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS)

Mitzvah Monopoly Jeopardizing Your Judaism: *With a Jewish version of Jeopardy (or JEWpardy, USYers discovered many things about Judaism that they may or may not have known. This provided the USYers with insight on their religion as well as its history and other interesting topics such as geography and*

*Jewish celebrities. Mitzvah Monopoly, was a life-sized monopoly game. USYers were used as the pieces to move around the board.*

Night of A Thousand Stars: (See FUN)

Rap With The Rabbi : *Rap with the Rabbi was an ongoing discussion group led by the Rabbi of the congregation. While munching on pizza, this group discussed a plethora of topics that ranged from upcoming holidays to associated customs to inter-faith dating, and kashrut. (Can also be done during lunch after Shabbat services)*

Schindler's List: *The evening started with dinner and an introduction to "Schindlers List" by the temple's Mens Club President. After viewing the movie, a question and answer period was held, to discuss the feelings and reactions to the vivid portrayal of Oscar Schindler's struggle to save thousands of Jews from Nazi persecution. Can be done with other movies such as "Life is Beautiful"*

Shabbat Cantata: *Every year the chapter holds a USY Friday night service where the USYers lead the prayers. In addition to the prayers, the USYers perform a cantata (usually about 10 minutes). A cantata teaches about a topic or lesson while also including songs. The cantata from this past year taught about the sanctity of marriage. About 40-50 USYers participated, some had English parts others Hebrew. Not only did the congregation learn about the topic, but the USYers did too, while enjoying themselves.*

The Ultimate Israel Experience (see ISRAEL)

Wheels in December (See FUN)

## **FUN AND/OR PURELY SOCIAL PROGRAMS**

Academy Awards Night Lounge: *Have the kids come together to watch the Academy Awards on T.V. A pizza dinner can be served and then have the kids vote for the categories which come late in the program and that they cannot stay for (best actress, best actor, best movie).*

The Amazing Race: *This chapter began the event with a few icebreakers and then breaking up into two teams. These teams then competed in the USY edition of the TV The Amazing Race The teams traveled from "city" to "city" (including Edison, Teaneck, NYC, Madrid, and Jerusalem) and completed tasks at each location (such as Dizzy Izzy to Marshmallow Madness to building a bridge of straws). The USYers had a great time! For specific activities at each location please contact the regional office.*

Apple Picking: *The chapter went to a farm where they picked apples and pumpkins. The event ended with a hayride around the farm. As a twist- one synagogue gave a lesson on tithing and as the members paid for their apples, the "tithed" what they bought and donated those apples to a food bank.*

Around the World Cafe: *Have a program with foods from around the world as a theme. You can do research as to Jews around the world and present something unique about the Jews living in that location along with a food for the USYers to try. This goes hand-in hand with "Ethnic Desserts" on the following page.*

Battle of the Sexes Water Challenge: *This program was held at a local "Y". There were relay races, golf ball balancing on a spoon races, penny dives, water polo, water basketball, water dodge ball and a Jewish trivia race where the racers would advance if they answered the question correctly.*

Beautiful Baby Contest: *This is an excellent ice-breaker! Have the members of your chapter bring in a baby picture and set up a table to display the pictures. Then have a contest to see who can identify the most babies.*

Beach Party: *Works well in late spring and into the early fall, but the real challenge is to have a "beach party" in the winter. Invite your USYers to a gym, have them come dressed for summer, play volleyball while sitting on the floor using a beach ball, have limbo contests and make fruit kabobs to serve as a snack.*

were also video games and refreshments for all.

Bowling for Bucks: (see *TIKUN OLAM*)

Cake Decorating Contest: (we used Entenmens cakes, canned decorator icing in a few colors that they shared, sprinkles, etc..)

Carnival Thrills and Games: There were many games such as balloon shaving, shooting hoops and putting out a candle with a water gun in a carnival like atmosphere. Some other booths consisted of a pie eating contest, a marriage booth, jail and be a star. The marriage booth was a mock version of a Jewish wedding. The ceremony took place under the chupah, where the glass (plastic) was broken. A marriage certificate was then issued. Be a star consisted of stars with dares written on the back. A USYer would pick a number on a star and had to perform the corresponding dare. Board members acted as the USY police. People whom were "arrested" must complete a dare in order to be released.

Casino Night: As one of the first events of the season, this chapter sponsored a Casino Night. The USYers participated in a night of cards, music, friends and fun. At the beginning of the evening, each participant was given an amount of fake money. The USYers played cards, listened to music and socialized, making new friends.

Coffee House/Karaoke Night: Have a coffee house/karaoke night( one chapter did it in their Sukkah.) They also invited parents and made into a little fundraiser, but also a fun event. They had a list whereby you can add someone's name and a song request for \$5. If your name is on the list and you don't want to sing, you can pay \$5.

Crafts Night: Have your USYers/Kadimaniks make different Jewish crafts. (I.e.. Kipah painting, tie dyed challah covers and mezuzot , etc.)

Dancing With The Stars: Each person gets a partner, or a group of however big you want to make them (limit is probably five). They spend the first ten minutes picking a song they want to dance to and the dance moves that they will perform. If they need more time than that's fine. The rest of the time that they have will be spent dancing in front of the rest of the group. The advisors (and maybe also the president or whoever) judge to see who wins. (As a side note- people can vote on them by raising TO money to vote for them....the one with the most money wins)

Digital Day: The group divided into three teams and set out on a digital scavenger hunt. Each group had a driver, a camera, film and a task list. The first team to take pictures of all the items and be back at the designated location was the winner. Items Included: a kosher salami, somewhere you could see both Keanu Reeves and Mel Gibson, a local restaurant, etc. As a twist, hire limousines to shuttle the kids around!

Edible Olympics: Food is always popular in USY, that's why Edible Olympics was such a hit. The Edible Olympics was an all out war! Our first event was a licorice race. Other events included coffee cake shots, a pudding contest, soda chugging and bobbing for olives.

Ethnic Desserts: We had fun both making and eating various desserts. Members baked/brought desserts representing various countries from around the world. We all gathered around the table and described what the desserts were and where they originated.

Fear Factor: This chapter organized the USYers into teams to compete against each other. They played coke pong, grape toss, and had to eat strange combinations of food! Physical challenges can also be incorporated, as well.

Get Naked!: The members of this chapter were told to wear as many layers of clothes as possible. The attendees are broken up into two teams. Then, someone yells out an article of clothing and if you were wearing it, you receive points. Points can also be given for creativity. The most exciting part of this event is sending out the flyers because the catchy name draws a lot of curious people!

Human Dynamics: On one evening in January, this chapter decided to try communicating differently, build some trust and connect with each other. Through trust games and group dynamics, the USYers learned to listen to each other and trust one another. (The human knot, trust falls, "crossing the sea" with carpet tiles, etc.)

**Ice Cream Sculpting:** *This program was originally scheduled for the Sukkah, but got rained out! So we brought it inside. Ice cream sculpting brought out the creative and artistic aspects of the USYers/ Fifteen gallons of ice cream were placed on the table and each team was given a dish. Categories for sculptures were animals, something Jewish, and "What USY means to you!". The program was complete with awards for the best sculpture.*

**Iron Chef:** *This chapter participated in the kosher version of television's Iron Chef with assorted sweet and savory foods. The chapter was divided into teams of 5-7, and each team had to create a full three-course meal, with all three parts containing a secret ingredient (e.g. apples). Each team was given a full "pantry" of food, which they were able to use for their three-course meal. At the end, the "judges" voted on which team did the best! The event concluded with eating the delicious meals. (Can work well with Edible Olympics and/or Ethnic Desserts – See FUN above)*

**Israel Cafe** (see ISRAEL)

**Israel in Ice Cream** (see ISRAEL)

**Jammie Jam Slumber Party:** *Have your kids come dressed in their p.j.'s and have a pajama party. (Popcorn, movies, all sorts of good stuff)*

**Java Joint:** *This chapter meeting was turned into a coffee house. Local Jewish musicians and poets performed and local artist displayed their work throughout the room. Coffee and other desserts were sold for T.O.*

**Karate Self-Defense:** *This USY chapter brought in three professional black belts to teach members how to protect themselves. The evening began with shared safety tips and then they demonstrated several moves. The real fun was when the USYers got to practice on one another.*

**Kindergarten Night:** *A popular program for many chapters, this night lets the USYers revert to their childhood. Show and Tell, finger painting, childhood games (duck, duck, goose, etc.) building blocks, snacks, clay and Sesame Street Videos round out an evening of fun.*

**Make Your Own Pizza :-** *with a twist - A chapter paid a visit to their local kosher pizzeria. The owner led a tour of the kitchen and explained how the laws of kashrut are followed. The USYers then got to bake (and eat) their own pizzas, complete with their favorite toppings.*

**Mall Scavenger Hunt:** *Let loose in a mall, the members of this chapter had to find the answers to various questions and scout out clues, ie.. how many dressing rooms at The Gap? (Get permission first to bring the kids.) The clues were outlined in an original story written by two members of the chapter. Names of stores in which the participants had to look for the answers were hinted at by placing part of the name in quotation marks.*

**Mitzvah Monopoly: Jeopardizing Your Judaism** (see EDUCATIONAL)

**Murder Mystery:** *A Murder Mystery, an original creation by the members this chapter took place. The entire production was written and directed by the Executive Board. A semi formal evening was planned, with the Executive Board dressing as the characters for that evening. All attendees were given the chance to guess who committed the murder based on interaction with the characters.*

**Musical Game Night:** *Name that tune, don't forget the lyrics and musical chairs!*

**New Years Party:** *In celebration of the Jewish New Year, the USYers in this chapter threw a New Year's bash.*

**Newlyfriend Game:** *(Serves as an excellent ice-breaker as well) Everybody in attendance was divided into groups of two and given five minutes to get to know each other. One person was sent out of the room, while the other was asked three simple questions about the other person. If the answers correspond with their partner's answer they are awarded a point. The two people then switch positions. The couple with the most amount of points wins. Although some couples may not end up with any points, they have now met somebody new.*

**Night of A Thousand Stars :** *This chapter divided its USYers into teams of at least five people and then*

teams were then given random props (funny clothing and accessories collected by the chapter officers prior to the event) and were told they had 10 minutes to create their biblical scene and act out their interpretation of the story using all the props. **ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST PARTICIPATE.** Then the chapter had a bunch of laughs watching each team perform and voting on the #1 scene of the night, while learning a little something about the Torah. Make sure to bring your camera!

Not-So-Fashionable Show: Have each USYer bring 3 articles of clothing (anything, hat, shirt, shoes, pants, etc.) Have each USYer pick a partner (or assign them). Each team must pick 6 clothing articles out of the bag, without looking. The team must then walk down the "runway" wearing whatever they were given, not substitutes or changes. The point is to get **EVERYONE** laughing at the kid wearing 3 pairs of pants, or the girl who made a dress and turban out of 2 tee-shirts and a sock. Have an advisor or president be the judge, award some silly prize involving food. Optional: This event can be made into a SA/TO event in which the clothing used is donated at the end.

Opening Program Each member was asked to bring pictures and stories from their summer vacation to this opening program. While enjoying sundaes, the members each shared their summer experience. They then discussed ideas for the coming year and conducted a survey with different program ideas.

Pool and Barbecue: Find a pool and a kosher grill and invite the kids to go swimming. This works well as a beginning of the year program, or a great end of the year program.

Rededication and Installation: This program gets the board and the rest of the chapter back on track. When the year begins the ruach level is almost untouchable, but as the year goes on, it decreases tremendously. Everybody in attendance (the board and other potential leaders), listed his or her favorite memories of USY. Everybody then split up into groups of three and created a symbol of what USY means to them. There was then a presentation of the symbols that were created. A list of all the positive and negative aspects of the chapter was then compiled. Each person was then given a list of people to call in the chapter and ask for their feedback on the chapter. The program ended with a candle lit ceremony, renewing the year.

Regressive Dinner: Have a regressive meal beginning at one house with dessert and working your way backwards to appetizers. If you can do this in one development, the USYers can walk from one house to another. It's very active and a lot of fun!

Reverse Makeover: Allow boys to makeover girls, and girls to makeover boys. Award a prize to the pair that ends up with the least recognizable subject. This program is just funny.

Rocky Horror Overnight: [PLEASE CHECK WITH RABBI FOR PERMISSIBILITY] The chapter played games, listened to music and hung out until midnight, when Rocky Horror was shown on the big screen T.V. in the youth lounge. Money was collected at the door and there were also raffles. After Rocky Horror, Aladdin was shown. There was an abundance of food all night long. In the morning, Shacharit services were held.

Scavenger Hunt At the Zoo: For a change, this chapter brought their members to the Zoo, with a list of things they needed to find and bring back from the zoo (sorry, no elephants on the bus please!)

Sibling War: The event worked especially well for this chapter because of the high number of siblings. If that is not the case in your chapter, then pair up best friends, couples, neighbors, etc. At the event a question and answer game was set up to see how well they knew each other (like the Newlywed Game)

Sleepovers (See **OVERNIGHTS** Above)

Snapple Apple and Pie: After an afternoon of apple picking, each person made their own apple pie to take home with them.

Spa Night: The week before midterms was picked for a meeting where USYers had the chance to get a back and neck massage from a professional masseuse. This was followed by an intro to yoga from a professional instructor that included some de-stressing breathing techniques.

Surprise Purim Event: This surprise event, attracted many members. The members made posters for the upcoming carnival, ate pizza and then were treated to a murder mystery.

The Mystery Game: Set two long tables up at one end of the room, draped with an opaque tablecloth.

*Place five different sized cardboard boxes on the table and under four of them, put religious articles- siddur, havdalah candle, etc. Under the fifth box, have a USYer sit between the two tables, so that just their head shows. Decorate their face with clown make up and a wig. Have the kids come into the room one at a time and tell them, they will be timed to see who can identify the objects under the boxes. (number the boxes and give them a set order to go in) There really is no "timing", it's all a set up. Videotape them- have them give their name and grade and then with a "ready, set, go!" they're off. Imagine their faces when they get to the live head!*

T.O. Movie Madness (see TIKUN OLAM)

Tribute to Jerry Garcia: tie dying, Rolling Stones music, beads, and Cherry Garcia Ice cream made this a fun night.

Un-Birthday Party: This program was designed as a way to celebrate everyone's birthday on a day where, in fact, it is no one's birthday! This chapter began the program with some fun icebreakers (including the "Tummy HaHa Game") and classic birthday party games, such as pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, potato sack races, ping pong, mummy wrap, ultimate twister, Dance Dance Revolution, and much more. The USYers then had pizza and a birthday cake with everyone's name on it below the "Happy Birthday." The event concluded with goodie bags and a piñata full of candy. Make sure the room is decorated with balloons and streamers!

\*\*\*This event is also great for inviting Kadimaniks. Pair up each USYer with a younger Kadimanik brother/sister and have them work as teams to win each game. The USYers can also answer any questions the Kadimaniks have about USY.\*\*\*

Wheels in December (See PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS)

Woodstock Night: The members of this chapter met for a night of peace, love and music. With the tunes of musicians such as Bob Dylan, Peter, Paul & Mary, the group tie dyed, made jewelry and danced the night away.

Under The Stars Overnight: The program began with havdalah and then the kids went on a hayride with campfire and scores. When they returned to the synagogue, the youth lounge was transformed into a Bedouin tent. Israeli music was playing, incense was burning and the ceiling and walls were draped in sheets. Coffee, tea, humus and pita were served; we did some Israeli dancing and settled in for the night amongst the cushions and pillows. We finished off the "night" with an early Shacharit and breakfast. \*A twist on this program is to wake the kids at 5:00 a.m. and take them by bus to a local scenic overlook or mountain to daven Shacharit and eat breakfast.

Untalented Show Challenge: Divide USYers into groups. Assign each group a task, given to them in the paper bag. Give the groups 15 minutes to prepare. "Perform" the given tasks. Tasks

- Assign a Backstreet Boys song, objective is to create a 1990s style music video dance
- Give a group 15 note cards, each with one word on them. The group must tell a story including all 15 words (make them silly)
- Give a group bells, whistles, and pots and pans, and have them write a "Stomp" style song
- Give a group face-paint and nothing else.

USY's Funniest Home Videos: Have the members of your chapter bring in their funniest home videos to share as an exciting evening program.

## Larger Than Life Programs

Candyland: Given a few pieces of poster-board and a large gym, a chapter can create almost any life-sized board game! This chapter created a life-sized colorful Candyland board, throughout which were necessary "candy pit stops" and fun challenges/tasks at specific locations around the board (such as unwrapping candy in your mouth the fastest, gargling mouthwash the longest, etc.). The winners of these events would then take the leader's spot on the board!

Human Monopoly: Members of one chapter were treated to a night of "human monopoly" where they were able to play monopoly in teams on a life size game board.

*cards and to come up with the best poker hand.*

Nintendo Night: *This chapter used an open gym to play human Nintendo games such as Pacman, Pong, and the like. The second part of the program was left to playing real interactive video-games such as Dance Dance Revolution and Eye-Toy.*

*\*\*\*Other life-size games, such as Life or Survivor, can also be created and played!\*\*\**

## Overnight Programs

Laser Floyd and Overnight: *After venturing into NY City to see the laser light show at the Hayden Planetarium, and a snack at Jerusalem Pizza, the members of this chapter returned for an all night party. From karaoke, to movies, board games and a morning dance party, followed by Shacharit and breakfast- the USYers had a nightful!*

Late Night with USY: *This chapter held an overnight. The night was a busy one, Flavian a mind reader, performed some of his tricks. When he was finished, the USYers held a murder mystery mansion. Five USYers acted in it while the remaining USYers were split into groups and had to solve the murder mystery. A scavenger hunt list was then passed out. People talked, watched movies, ate and some even slept. The event ended with Shacharit (morning services) and breakfast.*

Maccabiah Sleepover: *This program featured a Maccabiah color war with two teams- blue & white. There were crazy relays, a "sing down", a timed contest to write the words to Hatikvah and the first verse of Maoz Tzur. Movies, TV and pizza along with a morning minyan and breakfast rounded out this program.*

Opening Overnight (Lock-In): *After the Regional Opening Dance, this chapter hosted an overnight or lock-in. The evening started with a Havdalah service and ended with Shacharit. In between, the chapter used the time to make their divided chapter a cohesive one. Games such as Human Bingo were played to introduce the members to each other. They also played Twister, watched movies, ate ice cream and stayed up till the wee hours of the morning.*

## ISRAEL PROGRAMS

A Day Trip To Israel: *Have your kids go on a trip to Israel without leaving your town and still experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of Israel. Give each kid a passport and as they visit each station they get a stamp. Each station is a different place in Israel and offers an activity that goes along with that city, such as: sand painting in the Negev, a Gadna obstacle course, make a piece of art in Tzfat. (Can also include falafel and Israeli dancing)*

Israeli Awareness Program: *The program began with Israeli Jeopardy, then the USYers broke off in discussions groups on anti-Semitism, the bible and intermarriage. The program culminated with a survey on Jewish Thought.*

Israel Cafe: *The chapter got together for a fun night of Israeli dancing, geography and culture. The USYers in attendance got a taste of Israeli dancing, music and food. Posters, balloons and the Israeli flag were hung up to make the room look more festive and fun. This program allowed everybody to learn more about Israel and its culture while having a great time. Hatikvah was sung during a candlelight conclusion.*

Israeli Double Dare: *A meeting where USYers get to show off their knowledge about Israel while playing an exciting game show.*

Israel: The Great Debate: *The program began with a USY senior teaching the other USYers various Israeli dances and names of some Israeli foods such as baba ganush, tehina, and humus (of course there were samples to taste). Then the heart of the program began. After a brief discussion of the political parties in Israel, this chapter held a debate led by the USYers "representing" the different political parties in Israel, on whether or not Israel should fight to retain the land in the West Bank or if they should return it to the Arabs.*



Israel in Ice Cream: Place a large map of Israel on a table or on a piece of plywood and cover with plastic wrap. Have members build Israel with different flavors of ice cream, toppings and candy.... then eat it! (Hint: rocky road makes good mountains and mint chocolate chip does great for grassy areas!)

Israel Scavenger Hunt: The questions dealt with the history of Israel as this chapter used items in the synagogue and rhyme as clues for this fun event.

Israel Schnitzelborscht: The entire evening was dedicated to Israel. The USYers arrived to the sound of Israeli music and the smells of Israeli food. The USYers looked through their friends' Israel photo albums, looked at Israeli posters and maps on the walls and picked up Pilgrimage applications and paraphernalia. Pilgrimage and wheels videos were then showed followed by USYers speaking about the programs they had previously attended. The last half of the evening was spent playing an educational game of Israel jeopardy.

Jerusalem -O-Poly: Make your own life size rendition of Monopoly, using Jerusalem as the parcels of land. Can be a great educational lesson as well as lots of fun.

The Ultimate Israel Experience : This program basically all of the aforementioned programs. At this program, the members of this chapter USY took an intensive tour of Israel all within the walls of the synagogue. From the airport to the plane, their briefings, the tour guides and a visit to the cafe, the tour culminated at the Western Wall. After the tour concluded, a review of all that was done was conducted by building Israel in ice cream.

## **MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES**

Bring A Friend Night: In an effort to bring up the total membership the chapter held a "Bring a Friend Night", where members were encouraged to bring non-USY Jewish friends with them. A phone chain was sent out along with a letter. In the letter two coupons were sent, which contained spaces for names, addresses and phone numbers in order to contact the potential members. Each new person attending received a follow up phone call.

\*Possible Initiative: If you bring a friend, you can come to this event free!\*

Freshman Welcome Brunch: The board "hosted" a reception and put together a series of icebreakers and fun games to play before and during the brunch. The officers also acted as the wait staff "serving" their newest members. But, they required them to sing for the utensils and food!

Kadima Picnic: In an effort to become familiar with the incoming freshman for their chapter, the chapter officers held a Kadima picnic for the incoming freshman class (the current 8<sup>th</sup> graders) right before summer.

Kidnap Program: Want a way to involve kids in your program? Kidnap a group of kids and have a special program. Arrange in advance with the parents of the kids who you want to kidnap and bring them to a location (either a program or to the synagogue). This works especially well with kidnapping an entire Hebrew School or Hebrew High School to give those not already involved, a taste of USY.

Welcome to the USY Family: This program acquainted new members in the chapter with USY. During the event, board members introduced themselves to the new members explaining their jobs as well as different parts of the USY structure. There were games played such as shlaflaff and the lap game to get the members acquainted. Each member was handed a copy of the membership book "The Insiders Guide to USY."

## **PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS**

The following programs help promote USY Summer Programs (and Conventions) by giving your chapter a taste of what a summer (or weekend) with USY would be like! Promotional videos and brochures available!!! Contact the regional office.

A Day Trip To Israel : (see ISRAEL) Gives USYers a quick tour of the places they would visit on Pilgrimage.

Israel in a Box : (see ISRAEL) Gives USYers a taste of the Israeli Culture

Israel Schnitzelborscht (see ISRAEL)

Mock Shabbat: *The goal of this event was for the chapter to increase its regional involvement at Kinnusim and Conventions. On a night OTHER THAN Shabbat, this chapter showed what a Friday night at a convention is like. The regionally active USYers led the other USYers through a typical Shabbat dinner, from Kiddush to Birkat Hamazon. After socializing and eating, the event concluded with the teaching of and singing Ruach songs!*

Outdoor AND Indoor Adventure: *This chapter planned an event filled with physical challenges and team building activities. The chapter first traveled to an indoor rock-climbing gym and then participated in the gym's outdoor ropes course. The USYers then returned to the shul's gym and participated in a bunch of human dynamics (team building) activities such as "rafting across the sea" with a limited amount of carpet squares. (see human dynamics in FUN). A modified version of television's Survivor can also be played!*

Wheels in December: *This chapter "departed" on December 4 and took a mini USY on Wheels trip to some highlighted spots of the "Classic" USY on Wheels route. In their makeshift bus, they traveled to Yellowstone National Park (where they saw Old Faithful = diet Coke and Mentos), Coca-Cola World in Atlanta (where they tasted new sodas), Hollywood (where they had a celebrity trivia game), The Grand Canyon, where they saw a photo of the Sunrise, and the Beach (where they had a fun beach party). The event concluded with a USYer speaking about her own real experience on wheels and answering any questions the rest of the chapter had!*

## **RELIGIOUS AND HOLIDAY PROGRAMS**

*\* Note - While you won't celebrate every occasion on the Jewish calendar each year, sometimes you might program for the following: any Rosh Hodesh, Kristallnacht, Yom Ha Shoah, Yom HaAtzmaut (or Yom Yerushalayim), and Lag B'Omer*

High Holiday Discussion Group (see EDUCATIONAL)

L'Dor V'Dor; From Generation to Generation (see EDUCATIONAL)

## **CHANUKAH PROGRAMS**

Chanukah Candle Making: *Members made candles for Chanukah from scratch. Various colors of wax were melted on stone and the patiently dipped a few times. The candles were given to the families of the USYers. The proper blessings were recited and a game of dreidel was also played.*

Chanukah Late Nighter: *Following Ma'ariv services, the chapter gathered to light the chanukiah. They then sang songs, broke up into groups for a discussion, watched a movie, had pizza, exchanged gifts and had a message train.*

Chanukah Party : *A Chanukah party was held for their paid up members, which included dreidel spinning contests, pin the candle on the chanukiah, make latkes and have a grab bag. They turned up the spirit with Israeli music and Shari Lewis and Lambchops' Hanukkah Special.*

Chanukah Play: *About 10 USYers performed a play that retold the story of Chanukah. This play gave everyone in attendance a better sense of the holiday while also enjoying themselves.*

Happy Hanukkah NOAM: *USYers met before Hanukkah to learn about NOAM, the Israeli counterpart to USY. They Made Hanukkah cards to send to NOAM members.*

Latkes and Lemons: *This is a twist on a Hanukkah grab bag. Have your members bring things from home that they have received as presents but haven't used. Bring them wrapped and then auction them off. What is your lemon could be someone's latke! Serve real latkes and chocolate gelt.*

Maccabiah Sleepover (see FUN)

Retro Chanukah Party: *"A Very Brady Time" This weekend night social program was on the second night of Chanukah with a 70's twist. This program included a lot of fun; food and the lighting of the*

*Chanukiah. We also had everyone dress in 70's dress and played some old 8-tracks. There was also a Brady Bunch trivia contest and round robin crafts as well as head to head competition on the dreidel.*

## **PASSOVER PROGRAMS**

Chocolate Seder: *This chapter used chocolate as a fun means of reviewing and teaching the Pesach story. The Seder plate was complete with a Chocolate bunny for the shank bone, mints for karpas, a chunky mix of nutella and candy for charoset, bittersweet chocolate for marror, and chocolate eggs for the egg. Each seat was equipped with four mini cupfuls of chocolate milk for the four cups of "wine". Don't forget to find the chocolate matzah afikoman. (You can contact the regional office for the Chocolate Seder Hagaddah!)*

Making Matzah: *This chapter visited a local Matzah factory and learned how to bake kosher for Passover matzah. Each USYer then had the opportunity to put what they learned to the test and left with a delicious souvenir.*

## **PURIM PROGRAMS**

Purim Carnival: *Every Synagogue has one! Have your USYers volunteer at the stations while getting the kids excited for their future Kadima/USY careers.*

Purim Seudah: *Have your kids come together and have their own Purim Seudah. Take them to visit a nursing home or hospital first and then celebrate at the synagogue or someone's house.*

## **SHABBAT PROGRAMS**

Alumni Shabbat Service and Luncheon: *After months of seeking out and contacting USY alumni, this chapter's USYers and alumni alike led Shabbat morning prayers and read torah. During the luncheon that followed, the alumni spoke about their best USY experiences as well as how they found Judaism on their college campuses. The chapter created a convention-like atmosphere, complete with Ruach. The event was not only open to USYers and alumni, but also to all of the congregants and potential/future USYers. (Thanksgiving weekend, when the colleges were on break, proved to be a great weekend for this chapter to hold the event)*

Challah Make & Bake: *This chapter taught its USYers how to bake homemade Challah. The chapter prepared the dough from scratch (although ready-made dough can also be used), learned the techniques for kneading and then braiding the challah and applied the traditional "egg wash" before placing the challot in the oven. The chapter also learned about and performed the mitzvah of separating a small portion of the dough (which in the old days was set aside for the Kohanim) and said the appropriate blessing to go along with it. All USYers left with challah for the upcoming Shabbat. (The ideal day for this activity is Thursday night so that the challah is fresh for Shabbat.)*

Dinner and Daven: *Have dinner as a chapter then join your congregation for Friday evening services. Or daven early as a chapter and then have dinner. USYers can also volunteer to lead or help lead services for the congregation*

Mock Shabbat (See PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMS)

Shabbat Contata (see EDUCATIONAL)

Teen Oneg Program: *Several times throughout the year, chapters have a separate teen oneg program following Friday night services.*

T.G.I.F.: *This program was developed to have USYers meet several times during the year, on a Friday night at one member's house for a Shabbat dinner, discussion, tefillah and songs.*

## **SHAVOUT PROGRAM**

Bible Cake: *Have the chapter make a cake giving them verses from the Tanakh. For a copy of this*

*program contact the regional office.*

## **SUKKOT PROGRAMS**

Gingerbread Sukkot: *The chapter created gingerbread sukkot by using graham cracker, licorice and icing. A fun event to do in the Sukkah!*

Pizza in the Hut: *The title of this program says it all!*

Singdown in the Sukkah: *Invite another chapter or break up into small groups and sing away.*

Sukkah Hop: *Here the members of this chapter began a one sukkah, and before the program was over, they visited and helped decorate two other sukkahs.*

## **TU B'SHEVAT PROGRAMS**

Tu B'Shvat Flower Pots: *Have your chapter paint flowerpots and then plant them. Donate these creations to the residents at a local nursing home.*

Tu B'Shvat Program: *An introductory passage was read about the meanings and origins of the holiday. Quotes were then handed out from the bible that either dealt with trees or growth. Each USYer was to interpret a quote and create a picture that represented their feelings on this quote. After this, two stories were read, one dealt with a man who discovered an oasis of fig trees in the desert and The Giving Tree, written by Shel Silverstein. A snack of figs, dates, olives and dried apricots were served in conjunction with Tu B'Shvat. Materials needed: construction paper, tissue paper, markers, glitter, glue and yarn.*

Tu B'Shvat Seder: *Hold a Seder for Tu B'Shvat. Have the kids participate in a seder for Tu B'Shvat. Use an already written Seder or write your own!*

Tu B'Schmooze: *A relaxing evening where you can learn about the holiday of Tu B'Shevat while making grass heads and decorating planters to give to a nursing home or hospital. Don't forget to eat Israeli fruits and nuts!*

## **SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMS**

Apple Picking (see FUN)

Army Base Goody Packages: *Have your members from a bring tapes or CDS with them to an event that they would like to donate. Have them decorate small boxes and fill them with candy and nuts and a CD or tape. Send the goody boxes to an army base in Israel.*

"As Time Goes By": *This event was done in conjunction with L'dor V'dor (Grandparents) weekend. To follow through with the concept of L'dor V'dor, there was a luncheon for all generations and the "Hester St. Troupe" a Klezmer band that performed Jewish Vaudeville and played music, which stemmed from Yiddish theater to present day songs to a Jewish trivia facts contest was hired.*

Awareness Games: *Everyone was assigned a disability. The USYers then walked around the building around the synagogue in small groups and each USYer tried to manage with their 'disability.' This was followed by a discussion.*

Breakfast Bowl and College Bowl: College Counseling Breakfast *There was a breakfast held in a Sukkah, where dynamic counselors were invited to discuss and role-play getting into college and the preparation needed. (This works especially well as a Junior/Senior Program.)*

Canned Food Drive: *Take the USYers to a food store and have them ask the patrons to buy a can of food to be donated to the local food bank. Have boxes ready so when the patrons leave the store, they can hand you the food to be donated. If you really want to get organized, hand the shoppers an index card with a certain food item on it, so that you don't wind up with too much of one item.*

Chametz For the Homeless: *This chapter collected the chametz from the congregation before Pesach and brought it to a local food shelter for the homeless.*

Combating Anti-Semitism: *This chapter watched T.V. clips which cited examples of anti-Semitism. Afterwards they assessed each situation and decided how they would have reacted under those circumstances. They then watched a video of an anti-Semite, which instigated another discussion. This program was run as an effort to combat anti-Semitism in the area.*

CPR Class: *Sponsor a CPR demonstration for your chapter. If there is enough interest, continue the class through certification. You can tie this into a lesson on saving a life and add Jewish texts.*

Mental Health Players: *This USY chapter invited their county's Community Mental Health Players to lead three skits; one each on the Elderly, Depression, and Rudeness. Many other topics are available.*

Mitzvah Clowning : *This chapter, taught by two previously trained official USY Mitzvah Clowns, learned all about Mitzvah Clowning – the history, its importance, and how it benefits hospitalized patients. The USYers then learned, step by step, how to apply clown make-up and how what to do as a Mitzvah Clown. The event concluded with a visit to a local hospital in which the USYers put their newly learned skills to use. (The Regional Board can help teach Mitzvah Clowning if need be – just contact the regional office!)*

Mothers Against Drunk Driving: *A retired policeman who works for M.A.D.D. spoke with the chapter. He informed them of all the dangers of drinking and driving.*

Night of Giving (see TIKUN OLAM)

Purim Seudah (see PURIM)

Recreational Therapy: *Twice a month for eight months, members of this chapter went to work on recreational therapy with the children at a local facility. The program culminated with a talent show as their final visit.*

"Souper" Bowl Sunday: *Social Action never tasted so good. This chapter met to celebrate Superbowl Sunday and made from scratch several large pots of soup to donate to a local soup kitchen. (This program does not necessarily have to take place on Superbowl Sunday.)*

Stuff-A-Pet : *This chapter held a program in which every USYer in attendance stuffed an animal, dressed it with accessories, and wrote a card. The USYers then delivered these animals to the Ronald McDonald house. ("Build-A-Bear" is a great option.)*

Talent Show: *This chapter traveled to a local Nursing Home/Senior Citizen Center, and put on a talent show. The USYers then invited some of the residents to come on stage and share their talents as well! the USYers had a great time and the residents really enjoyed the show as well. It was a huge success.*

Tolerance Discussion : *The advisor presented the chapter with a false dilemma for them to discuss. The chapter was led to believe that the situation was true and only a few members of the board new otherwise and were able to challenge the rest of the group. At the end of the meeting, the group was told about the false situation. (You can also include more than one topic of discussion and incorporate "what would you do" scenarios.)*

Tu B'Shevat Flower Pots (see TU B'SHEVAT)

Winter Party : *A chapter held a "winter party" at a local woman's shelter. The chapter brought the materials for a crafts project and helped the children at the shelter with the project. They finished with everyone sharing refreshments (provided by the USYers).*

## **TIKUN OLAM FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS**

Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction: *Prizes were obtained from local restaurants and movies theaters and then the USYers got to bid on the USY bachelor/bachelorettes. The highest bidders "won" the prizes as well as the prize-holders.*

Bingo For SA/TO This chapter played a large game of BINGO and gave all the proceeds to T.O. They raised lots of money and prizes were given to the winners.

Bowling for Bucks: The participants from this chapter gathered at a bowling alley on a Saturday evening to "Rock N' Bowl" for TO. Each participant was asked to raised \$18.00 in order to bowl. Participants had a great time eating, winning prizes and hanging out.

Candlelit Breakfast: This chapter raised a lot of money for T.O. by auctioning off their board members. The highest bidders (the winners) joined the board member he or she won for a "romantic" candlelit breakfast of bagels, orange juice, and doughnuts right after the auction. (This works particularly well for big chapters or a highly attended event.)

Car Wash-A-Thon: Aside from having a regular car wash, try this. Tell your USYers to get people to sponsor them for how many cars they can wash in an hour. Then publicize a free car wash and let the kids go to it. Keep a jar at the end for donations from your free car wash. Your chapter will collect twice, because you'll get money for the "free" car wash and money from the sponsors. (You can also have this event take place around Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and title it "Wash Away Your Sins")

Charity Auction for Tikun Olam: One chapter raised almost \$1,000 from a Goods and Services auction, which they held. Members of the congregation, chapter and local businesses donated prizes and services, which were then auctioned off.

Dreidel Tournament: Conducted as part of the chapter's Chanukah party, there was a \$2.00 entry fee. The tournament was a round robin elimination timed tournament. The winner got half the pot, TO the other half.

Dutch Auction: Have your kids bring items from their house. Split the kids into teams and call out items. If the teams have them, they get points.

Latkes and Lemons (see CHANUKAH)

Learn-a-Thon (see EDUCATIONAL)

Mishloach Manot Baskets : Several chapters have made and sold Mishloach Manot baskets to members of their congregation. You can take advance orders and involve the USYers in the baking.

Mystery Prize Auction: Members of the board went out and bought things ranging from \$.39 to \$10.00. Each item was then wrapped and auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Night of Giving : One USY chapter joined an existing program at a local mall. They sold tickets for a special shopping night at the mall and earned money on each ticket to donate to T.O. The night of the event the chapter visited the mall's 'Build a Bear' franchise and each USYer made a bear, which was then donated to a hospital.

Telethons: Always a good way to raise money for Tikun Olam!

T.O. Movie Madness: To raise money for T.O., get a bunch of USYers together and show a scary movie. Stop the movie at suspenseful places throughout and collect for T.O. to continue the movie.

## NON -MEETING PROGRAMS

### Fundraising - One time and Ongoing Programs

Anniversary Cards : Each month, a list of the couples in the synagogue that will be celebrating wedding anniversaries over the next two months, is sent out with the newsletter. Temple members can check off as many couples as they'd like to send greeting to. The cost is \$2.00 per couple. The youth group then sends a card to the anniversary couple with the names of the congregants who send their anniversary wishes.

Chanukah Balloon-O-Grams : For three nights during Chanukah, this chapter delivered mylar Chanukah balloons. For \$5.00, you received a balloon, dreidel, Chanukah card and a live rendition of popular Chanukah songs.

Cookbook: Have your kids put together a cookbook of their favorite recipes and sell the book to members and congregants. You can also sell ad space in the back to bring in even more money!

Count Your Blessings Tax: Create your own 1040 Form and send it to your congregation, asking them to declare their assets and deductions.

Discount Cards: This USY Chapter has been selling discount cards to family members, friends and congregants, for five dollars. The card entitles them to discounts or free items from popular businesses in or around town.

Fall Clean Up: A chapter picked a day when they would be available, for a small donation, to go to a synagogue members' home and clean up all visible leaves.

HAHA Box: Have each USYer/Kadimanik bring \$1 for a raffle. Put all the kids names in a can (whether or not they are present). Pull out a name- if the child is there, they get ½ the pot. If they are not there- it all goes to T.O. and you call the kid and have everyone scream- HAHA!

Lox Boxes: Five fresh bagels, Nova Scotia lox, cream cheese, orange juice, rugalach, tomato, onion and the Sunday newspaper all for Super Bowl Sunday. The cost \$18.00 and order were taken in advance.

Munchmobile: is the name given to the USY chapter's Hebrew School snack cart. T.O. donations were solicited from all religious school parents. In exchange, the USYers deliver small snacks to each classroom during Hebrew School.

Passover Flower Sale: This USY Chapter found a great way to spread the spirit and meaning of Passover through a great fund raiser. USYers sold flowers to family members and congregants.

Pennies For Purim: In a large water bottle, these USYers collected coins of any type at their Purim Carnival and Megillah Reading. The congregants were asked to collect spare change in their homes and bring it with them to help fill the bottle.

Snack Sales: Each week, these USYers sell food to the students in the Hebrew School.

Subs For Super Bowl Sunday: Have a hoagie sale for Super Bowl Sunday. Take orders in advance and arrange delivery.

Super Bowl Party Bags: Another great fundraiser. Take advance orders for Super Bowl Party bags. Include chips, pretzels, dips, soda and M & Ms. Deliver them early afternoon on the day of Super Bowl.

Tikun Olam Tea: The entire congregation was send an "invitation" to a Tea Party along with a tea bag. The invitation explained that since everyone has such busy schedules, the Tea Party won't be held, instead sit back and enjoy the cup of tea at home, think of T.O. and send in a contribution.

T.O. Treats: At each chapter event, a special "treat" was sold for Tikun Olam. From candy, to beaded rings and hair wraps, all money made from these sales went to T.O.

## Giving Back to the Shul and/or Community

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast: An all you can eat breakfast was advertised to the congregation and community through flyers and newspapers. The congregation's Men's Club cooked and the USYers served as the wait staff.

Baby-sitting : Whether your members volunteer or charge a flat fee as a donation to T.O., baby-sitting at synagogue events is always appreciated.

Hospital Visits for the Holidays: For Sukkot, Chanukah and Purim, the members of this chapter visited

*with patients at the local hospital.*

Painting House Numbers : *In an effort to identify houses in case of an emergency, USYers went door to door offering their services to paint house numbers on the front curbs.*

Passover Food Baskets : *In conjunction with Jewish Family Services, these USYers collected Passover food for eight families in their communities.*

Repairing Siddurim : *With the proper tape and a little patience anyone can bind books. Variations on this program include setting out machzorim for the High Holidays, Polishing the Torah silver, and straightening all the tallitot.*

Sukkah Kits : *One chapter took blue prints for a Sukkah and put together the wood and fabric. They then sold these Sukkah kits to congregants. There are other chapters who also offer a service to help build your Sukkah.*

## **Membership Boosters and Enticers - Ongoing Programs**

Bar/Bat B'kol Echads : *Immediately following a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service, have your USY chapter president or a representative from your USY chapter give a B'kol Echad to the Bar/Bat mitzvah along with a few lines saying how "we can't wait to see you in our chapter in the next few years!"*

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Certificates : *Certificates were issued as children reached the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah. These certificates are good for their first year of USY with free dues. (If this is too expensive for your chapter, you can issue certificates for free opening events, etc.)*

Birthday Card Program : *Everyone loves to receive mail, especially for their birthday! Each member received a personalized birthday card on their special day.*

Membership Contest : *Points were given to current members of this chapter for bringing their friends to chapter programs. Point values were assigned to age groups, and types of events. The initial point values were: Freshman 10 points, Sophomores 8 points, Juniors 6 points and Seniors 4 points. Event values depended on whether they were regional or chapter and what type of event it was. The person with the most points at the end of the school year wins a prize.*

## **Purely Social Action - Ongoing Programs**

Adopt A Highway : *Have your chapter adopt a highway and have members clean it of litter on an ongoing basis. You can also adopt a park!*

## **PLACES TO TAKE YOUR KIDS:**

Bowling

Comedy Club

Hiking

Horseback riding

Liberty Science Center

Miniature golf

Movie or IMAX

Museum

Mystery Bus Ride

Play - Broadway or off-Broadway

Rock-climbing

Skating - roller or ice

Sporting event such as Baseball, Basketball or Hockey

Sports program such as Chelsea Piers,

Sportsworld or Xtreme

White water rafting