

Schechter HS Student Summer Activities 2009

Schechter High School students engage in a variety of activities each summer, including academic and creative pursuits, work, travel, summer camp and camp leadership, community service and social action. The range of their interests is always quite extraordinary. Reports from this past summer indicate that it was no exception; once again our high school students have grown intellectually, creatively, spiritually, emotionally, socially, and physically, and contributed to our world in the spirit of *tikkun olam*—"repairing the world." We can't list every activity our students participated in; in some cases students were involved in two or three different programs and/or travel or volunteer opportunities, but we'll attempt to represent a broad sampling here, in no particular order. With apologies for any omissions and/or inaccuracies, please read on to learn about some of our students' very impressive, high-impact activities and interests.

Academic Pursuits

Douglas Hoch spent the summer doing research at **Stony Brook University**. He studied polymer blends in order to synthesize cost-efficient, biodegradable plastics. His team's research will be submitted for national recognition at an upcoming science competition.

Max Silverman attended **Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy**, a Spanish language immersion program.

Perry Barnoy studied computers and software design at **eCamp** in *Alonei Yitzchak*, one of the top technology-based camps in Israel.

Jordan Dashow attended a ten-day mini-course at **George Washington University** called **Foreign Policy: Multilateralism** and interned at the **American Jewish Committee** in the Middle East and International Terrorism division.

Israel Geselowitz took part in the **Samberg Family History Program** in NYC, where he learned about Jewish history and was granted the resources to research his own family's history.

Justin Buro attended the **University of Miami**, where he studied Neurology and general health care medicine. He also participated in the **AIPAC Information and Lobbying Program** in Washington, DC.

Daniel Nassim attended a pre-college program at **Brown University** and also planned a gallery exhibition at the **Great Neck Arts Center**.

Moriah Albert participated in **Genesis**, a pre-college program at **Brandeis University**.

Ilan Har-El attended Pennsylvania State University to take courses in Psychology and Expository Writing.

Gil Landau attended "**JSA**," the Junior Statesmen Political Program at **Georgetown University**.

Creative Pursuits

Jenna Turow participated in the theater program at **The Tisch School of the Arts at NYU**, including one semester in the **Experimental Theatre Workshop Studio**.

Maria Dominguez participated in the summer pre-college musical theatre program at the **University of the Arts** in **Philadelphia**.

Jamie Adges participated in a theater program at the **Theater Arts Center**.

Carly Rubenfeld attended “**BIMA**” at **Brandeis University**, a program designed to help teenagers connect their artistic identity to their Jewish identity.

Camp and Camp Leadership

Noam Yossefy was selected to be one of three **USY METNY Encampment** Co-chairs. She spent the summer planning and running programs for the over 300 USYers who attended Encampment this summer.

Adina Cooper and **Sharon Reshef** both participated in a CIT leadership training program called **Madatz** at their summer camp, **Camp Na’aleh**, which is affiliated with the **Habonim Dror Youth Movement**.

Melanie Eisenberg and **Natalie Yamin** volunteered at **Sunrise Day Camp**, where they worked with young children suffering from cancer and their siblings, making a difference in their lives by giving them an opportunity to have a “normal” summer.

Arya Cohn and **Erica Rubin** both participated in a leadership program at camp called **Pioneer Program**, where they learned to be self-reliant, work cooperatively and plan for the future—without any modern conveniences.

Morgan Hammerman worked as a counselor for autistic children at **Coleman Country Day Camp**.

Martine Berkowitz and **Joshua Schwartz** both worked as camp counselors at **Beth Sholom Day Camp** at Temple Beth Sholom in Roslyn.

Joshua Berman worked as a counselor at the **Science Museum of Long Island**.

Sara Finkelstein worked as a counselor of four-year olds at the local JCC.

David Mendelowitz worked as a counselor of 12 and 13 year old boys at a sleep-away camp.

Social Action

Josh Rubin participated in the **Bronfman Youth Fellowship** along with twenty-five other fellows from North America. The program, which takes place in Israel, focuses on four pillars: Jewish learning, pluralism, social action and engagement with Israel. The fellows met with Israeli authors, journalists and politicians, as well as with representatives of non-governmental organizations.

Volunteer Efforts

Emily Goldberg traveled to Africa on a community service program, where she worked in various primary schools and orphanages throughout South Africa, Zambia, and Botswana.

Anael Marrache volunteered at **St. Francis Hospital**.

Rachel Cahn volunteered at a soup kitchen at the **Universal Unitarian Church** in Manhasset.

Travel

Sabrina Brotons traveled to **Israel** for the first time this past summer, including **IDF** training for a week.

Jacob Feinberg, Danielle Kristal, Jessica Leeman, Avi Pusateri, Rebecca Silverman and **Rachel Tallis** all traveled to Poland and Israel on a **USY Poland/Israel Pilgrimage**, which includes one week in Poland and four and a half weeks touring Israel.

Rachel Samuels and **Falen Rauchwerger** participated in the **USY Eastern Europe/Israel Pilgrimage** and traveled to Poland, Czech Republic and Lithuania for two weeks and then on to Israel for four more weeks.

Beth Canova participated in the **USY on Wheels Program** and traveled coast-to-coast by coach bus touring many sites throughout North America that included among them Washington Monument, Grand Canyon and Disneyland.

Eliana Goodman, Shoshana Klayman and **Ari Weiss** also traveled to Israel, but for six weeks with Ramah Campers from all over North America, with **Ramah Seminar**.

Arik Adhami, Aurash Abrishamchi and **Grace Southworth** traveled to Israel, participating in a *mifgash* (“encounter”) program called “**Crossing Borders**” which is, not coincidentally run by **Shmulik Baumvoll**, one of our HS Hebrew instructors.

Lianne Canarick and **Daniel Reiss** traveled to Hungary on a program sponsored by Ronald Lauder called **Szarvas**, where they spent time with children from Turkey, India, Lithuania and Hungary.

Jay Canarick participated in a teen tour with **BBYO** to Eastern Europe and Israel.

Danielle Abada spent the month of July in Spain, traveling and taking classes in Spanish culture and society, and international business at the **University of Seville**.

Liza David participated in the **Nesiya** travel and community service program in Israel.

Tal Gershon spent the summer in Israel with family and friends, and improved her Hebrew.

David Beroff traveled to Israel on a teen tour with over 300 other students.

Leeor Amsalem traveled with her family to Israel to visit with family.

Alex Spenadel traveled to Arizona to perform community service with 15 other teenagers.