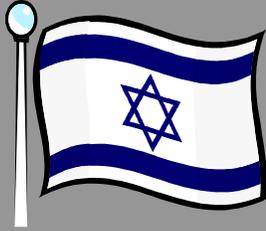


SWUSY to the 'izzle.



# The Swizzle<sup>USY</sup>



Kadima & United Synagogue Youth, Southwest Region

March, 2012

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*From inside her chambers, your Mem/Kad writes.....*

Dear SWUSY,

Kadima convention is just around the corner! March 16-18! It's in Austin, Texas and the REB and Kadima Convention Chair, Alexa Price, have a fun candy filled weekend planned that will have you craving more SWUSY!!! The theme of this year's Kadima Convention is SWUSY's Kadima Candyland, we have never had a convention so sweet! I personally can't wait for this convention! We have amazing programming that will keep you going crazy the whole weekend! It's not to late to sign up! See you there!

Love,

Susie Cicconie, 2011-1012 Membership/ Kadima VP

## ALL IN THE NAME OF FUN: YOUR MONTHLY JOKE

Moshe was taking to his psychiatrist. "I had a weird dream recently," he says. "I saw my mother but then I noticed she had your face. I found this so worrying that I immediately awoke and couldn't get back to sleep. I just stayed there thinking about it until 7am. I got up, made myself a slice of toast and some coffee and came straight here. Can you please help me explain the meaning of my dream?"

"The psychiatrist kept silent for some time, then said, "One slice of toast and coffee? Do you call that a breakfast?"

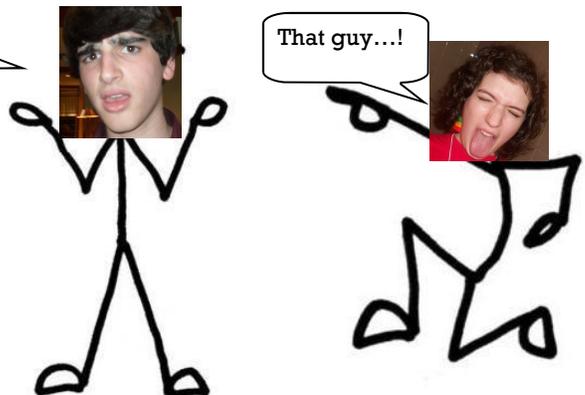


**EXTRA EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT**

Are you a chapter president? Do you have information on Jewish holidays? Do you have something that you need to say to the region? Please contact Freda Coren for questions, answers, information, or letters to the editor!

Yeah it's a SWIZZLE  
What of it?

That guy...!



Designed and compiled by:

**Douglas Coppock (left)**

**Freda Coren (right)**

SWUSY to the 'izzle.



The <sup>USY</sup> SWizzle



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## A Message from your Regional President

I just returned from one of the most amazing weekends of my life. Every USY convention is incredible, but this one, SWUSY Presents: Spring Kallah 2012, had something different. A little bit of humor was constantly in the air. Everything seemed to flow well, just like how a convention is supposed to work. The chairs did amazingly well, the synagogue was always helpful, and the programming seemed to pretty much be perfect. In addition, I came home with one of my new favorite pieces of literature, past SWUSY and International USY President Aaron Jacobs' book about his time in office, *The President's Book*.

I read the entire book the Sunday night after Spring Kallah. The book's net proceeds go to the Richie Herskowitz USY Summer Program Scholarship Fund, in honor of his cousin who was a SWUSYite with Cystic Fibrosis who passed away in 2007-- taken much too soon. The book is mainly full of fun tidbits of information about what running for International USY board is about and some of the duties and privileges that International President of USY fulfills while in office. However, it also contains insight on the importance of USY, how it can impact someone's life, and how influential one person can be. For Aaron, that person was an International President who came to a SWUSY convention. For me, it was an executive board member at my first convention, which was three years prior to this Spring Kallah.

I don't remember how I met her, but I am almost positive that I sat with her at every single meal that convention. Since then, I have been lucky enough to thank her and a few other people from that convention. I thanked them for opening up their circle of junior and senior friends to a shy freshman girl who didn't know anyone. I thanked them, because without them, I honestly do not know if I would have come back to my second convention.

That one person is crucial. It absolutely does not matter who it is. All it matters is that the person is inclusive, warm, and friendly. It doesn't matter if that person is Regional President or never been on chapter leadership. For me, I didn't even know that she was on regional board. All it mattered was that I felt like I belonged, not only with her, but in USY.

B'ahava (with love),

Eliana Horwitz

SWUSY Regional President 2011-2012



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The *SWizzle* <sup>USY</sup>



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**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE**

Questions? Contact Melissa Duchin, Matthew Portman or Richard Stayman. Or check out the Facebook event!

It's not impossible to come to Rashi USY's Group Dynamix 2012: Mission Impossible on March 24, 2012 from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. on March 25!

Regular registration ends March 16, for only \$48!

Final registration ends March 23, for only \$56!

Still not sure? Pay \$60 at the door for GDX!

Join RASHI for Shabbat Dinner on March 23 for only \$20.

## Chapter Updates

### AAUSY

- Successful Spaghetti Dinner!
- Laser tag event right after Spring Kallah was really fun
- Joint USY-Kadima programming

### BZUSY

- Spaghetti Dinner raised \$2,000
- 9 members came to Spring!
  - Hosted BZUSY Shabbat!

### CATUSY

- Hosted a very successful painting event
- Brought 8 to Spring!
- A youth tzedakah box goes out at morning minyan

### CLUSY

- Members marched in the MLK day parade with pro-Israel groups
- Participated in blood drive

### FWUSY

- Organized a FWUSY Shabbat
- Planning a lock-in and car wash later in the semester

### HOUJEW

- 15 went ice skating!
- Had an event at SkyZone!

### RASHI

- Bowl-a-thon raised \$3,300 for Youth Activities!
- Had a mall scavenger and USY-Kadima pizza lunch
- Hosting a teen Purim party

### SOONER

- Hopefully planning a great Shabbaton in April!
- Brought six to Spring

### ZOHAR

- Hosted another great Superbowl party, with new faces
- Had a great casual coffee hangout event

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## J-Serve hits the cities soon, unifies teens and cements identity

Between the silly antics of the festivities of Purim and the monumental marking of the beginning of our identity in Pesach, there is an event right in between the two, not religious but a key representation of our faith. In April 2012 more than 10,000 Jewish teens from around the world will come together to serve their communities and make a difference. J-Serve, The Official Day of Jewish Youth Service, is a great unifier for Jewish teens around the world to go out for a day and help their communities. Tikun Olam is, of course, a fundamental element that all Jews should live by, Facebook event or not. But this is a rare occasion for Jews, and more importantly Jewish teens to celebrate their love for community together. The website is <http://www.jserve.org/>. Hope to see you out there.

-Aaron Weintraub, 2011-2012 Social Action/Tikun Olam VP

## Basketballers give Jews a good rep' and play a mean game

Beren Academy is a small, private Modern Orthodox Jewish day school in Houston. It happens to have a good basketball team. Ok, maybe a great basketball team. A team which has been featured on news outlets ranging from the Jewish Herald-Voice in Houston to the Houston Chronicle to ESPN to The New York Times to The Jerusalem Post to The London Times. I'm sure that by this point, you've heard the details of the story, so I'm going to spare y'all and not go into them again. If you haven't seen the story yet, it was all over the news last week, so a quick Google search should give you more information than you could dream of.

On a personal note, it is very strange for me to see my Beren Academy friends appear on television interviews on ESPN, especially considering I was on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade varsity middle school team with them when I was at Beren Academy in middle school- a team who won their conference championship outright without having to schedule or reschedule any playoff games. It's interesting to see Beren have so much publicity. The whole unfortunate situation that my friends were put in because of their faith did more than just inform the public about an ethically questionable series of decisions by the TAPPS board. It spread the word about Judaism, specifically about the observances of Shabbat. In the Houston Chronicle, I saw at least two articles outlining the basic principles of an Orthodox Shabbat observance. While the situation is unfortunate, it is fantastic to see such favorable press for Judaism.

As a whole, this reminded me a lot about the story of Purim. In the Purim story, the Jewish way of life is threatened, a few important Jewish people intervene, the Jews inspire fear in the eyes of those who threatened them, and we celebrate. With the Beren story, the same plot holds true. The normal way of Jewish observance was brought into conflict over a game of basketball, a few parents took the case to the legal authorities, their lawsuit inspired fear within TAPPS, the team was able to play, and we celebrate the fact that they can play just like any other team within TAPPS.



In this month of March, as we celebrate the festivities surrounding the holiday of Purim, let us remember the struggles in the past and in the present for the protection of our right to be Jewish, and let us move from strength to strength.

—Jonas Actor, 2011-2012 Religion/Education/Culture VP

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# Jews, food, and football

Earlier this year, I had the great opportunity to witness an amazing celebration of what it means to be an American. It involved chips, guacamole, some form of a barbecued meat, cheesy yet (sometimes) hilarious commercials for useless products we don't need, an over-the-top celebrity performance, and a half-decent sports competition. That's right: On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012, I watched the 46<sup>th</sup> installment of the Super Bowl, made even sweeter by the victory of my favorite team, the New York Giants.

At first glance, there may not be a lot of Jewishness when you look at the Super Bowl. However, once you start to dig below the surface, there's actually quite a few connections. For example, with Super Bowl Sunday, the entire population of America comes together for festivities and food. For the Super Bowl, we state: There's football, let's eat. Even when it's not our favorite teams playing, we still eat. Compare this to any Jewish holiday: We survived, let's eat. Both the Super Bowl and Judaism have a profound interest in food.

Here's another example: with the Super Bowl, you have those many Americans who watch solely for the commercials. I think it's the only time my mom ever watches football, unless it's the LSU Tigers in the BCS national championship game. There is a significant segment of the population that watches the game only to watch the part that isn't important to the game's outcome. This group of people makes a ruckus about the commercials when they start so that once the game (what's actually important) resumes, those guys who are actually watching the game have to tell people to quiet down. Again, this whole setup is very similar to Judaism. Replace the actual football game with services in synagogue, and the commercials with any of the following: food, friends, schmoozing, and more food. At synagogue on a weekly basis, congregants talk, eat, and talk some more, even though the reason why they're there- what's important- is the service. And you still have those guys in the front shushing people if they think the talking has gotten out of control.

A third similarity is the tradition involved. I'm a New York Giants fan, just as my father was before me, as his father was before him. We've actually had multi-generational Giants game celebrations on the TV, with the three generations of Actor men all watching the same television set. Judaism also has its traditions, rooted deep in our faith. Every Jewish family I know has some unique tradition, for Shabbat or holidays, with the extended family or without. My family has a tradition of having barbeque chicken for Shabbat dinner every week. Judaism at its core is a religion based on the legacy of tradition just as Giants fandom is one of the core values of my family.

There won't be another Super Bowl for quite a while. However, there will be plenty of American or Americanized events between now and then- Valentine's Day, Independence Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving. My task for you this month is to connect the American celebrations we have and find the Jewish element hidden in them. If you look hard enough, I'm sure you'll find quite a few.

-Jonas Actor

2011-2012 Religion/Education/Culture VP

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# Leadership: Should I or Shouldn't I?

It's that time of year again! It's that time of the USY year when people start thinking about the next year and the word election comes up in every other conversation with current or potential leaders of the organization. It is a critical time of the year. People wonder if they want to make the commitment to make a greater contribution to USY. Many factors play in to the decision whether to run or not, but I want to make aware of a few. Almost nothing is worse for the organization when someone wins and does not or cannot perform the job adequately. Here is my list of things to consider before running for some USY board position:

Do I want to do this? This seems obvious, and it is, hence the spot on the list. Consider more than the fact that you love saving the world or making flyers. Being on board is a more than just what is visible to people at events or programs that you go to. Talk to people who currently hold that position or those who have in the past to find out more about what it involves.

Do I have the time to commit to this position? Being on board, no matter the position, is a lot of work. Some more than other, but you still need to make sure that you will be able to give all that you have to your position.

Do I have my own ideas? Finding your own spot in the history of your position, while not vital, is still important. Make sure that you have your own ideas that you would like to carry out over the course of your term. It's is very rewarding to be able to put your own spin on the job. Find a different way for people to connect with Israel or a new initiative to encourage membership to increase. Even if you aren't that creative, you can still shake things up a little.

Are my parents on board with ME being on board? It is **VITAL** that your parents are not only cool with you being on board, but also willing to help you. Maybe you need to de-stress yourself by talking out the problems – they need to be willing to listen. Maybe you have board meetings every week at the shul and you need a ride, every week – they need to be willing to drive you. It is imperative that you have their support, otherwise your year and theirs will not be nearly so fun.

Can I handle it? While this is a more ambiguous question, still try and come up with a valid answer and be able to back it up. Being on board is stressful. Some positions might not be as stressful as others, but if you are doing your job (and if you are running in the first place then you should be striving for that) then there will be a certain amount of stress involved. There will be some late nights. Time management is key. If you don't already have the skills, and that's fine if you don't, you **MUST** be willing to learn how to manage your time effectively.

There's more to running for a board position, and being on board, than this, but I hope this is a helpful guide for those of you considering making the ultimate commitment to this fantastic organization. If you or your parents have any questions about running or what being on board is like, you are always welcome to email me at [swusypresident@gmail.com](mailto:swusypresident@gmail.com).

B'ahava (with love),

Eliana Horwitz

SWUSY Regional President 2011-2012

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# Doug's Top 5 iPhone Apps for Killing Time

- 5) **Doodle Jump** - Of course you haven't lived in this world for very long if you have never heard of this game. This fun addicting vertical platform is simple yet extremely entertaining. Although it is an oldie, I still frequently jump on it to try and beat my old high score. There is no better accomplishment in life when you barely make it to the next platform that is holding your last resort, a jetpack. Words can not describe. I highly recommend this game if you do not already have it.
- 4) **Jetpack Joyride** - This is a relatively new game that can relate with the addictingness of Doodle Jump. Much like the opposite of Doodle Jump, this horizontal platform game is all about collecting coins, avoiding lasers, and high-fiving scientists. The task is simple. Try to get as far as you can with the stolen jetpack all the while collecting coins and doing objectives that in return give you more coins. With these coins you can buy new jetpacks, new clothes, and power-ups. This game is extremely fun and in reality will never grow old.
- 3) **Draw Something** - The reign of Words with Friends seems to be coming to an end. But, as one door closes, of course a new one opens. The door leads to a new game, Draw Something. The point of the game is simple. Much like Pictionary, you draw a specified picture for your opponent and then submit it. Your opponent then tries to guess the picture you just drew. If he guesses it right you both receive a monetary reward. And then you switch. The game goes on forever with no end until one of you can no longer guess the other persons picture. I personally have only gotten through 18 turns before one of could no longer guess each others picture. It is really fun and sometimes I can't put it down.
- 2) **Temple Run** - No top 5 list is complete without the notorious Temple Run. The goal of the game is to get as far as you can before the seemingly athletic monkeys catch up to you. During your escape you will encounter coins and powerups. The coins are the currency to upgrade the powerups that you run into while playing. This is all the rave right now and anybody who is anybody will go and get this game. The best part is that it is FREE. And for all of you readers out there, I dare you to try and beat my high score: 13 million.
- 1) **Cut the Rope** - My all time favorite game on the iPhone is Cut the Rope. Its flawless graphics and use of comic design makes this the perfect puzzle game. Om Nom mysteriously arrives at your doorstep with a note "Feed with Candy." The candy you have to feed him is attached to a rope and the object of the game is to collect all three stars and get the candy successfully to Om Nom by cutting the rope. It sounds simple enough but can get challenging as the levels go on. Now unlike the rest of the games this one costs \$.99 but I promise it is highly worth it. The best part is they have expanded. There are two other games once you beat this one. There is Cut the Rope: Experiments and Cut the Rope: Holiday Gift. If you want a challenge and a good game I suggest buying this one!