

# Kolenu

Kolenu – The Voice of Hanefesh

Tri-Regional Encampment 2005

## From Your Board



Hey Hanefesh! We hope that all of you had an amazing time at Tri-Regional Encampment 2005! The work that went into planning it this year certainly paid off in the end. We've provided you with an outstanding Kolenu to occupy some of your bus ride home. If this doesn't take up some time, come bother one of us or call us from the other bus!! We're a pretty friendly bunch and we would love to get to know you all a bit better! With a successful Encampment behind us, the year is off to a great start! We have many great regional events planned, and we know your chapters are active and

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*A look into the life on Bus D*

**Susie Greene**

USY on Wheels has not only been the best summer of my life, but has been the most incredible experience I have ever gone through. Before I participated in Wheels, my friends would often ask me, "What? You are spending your summer on a bus? That'll be boring!" This wasn't because they were ignorant; it was because they didn't understand. People who have not been fortunate enough to go on wheels assume the places and the numerous sites the bus stops at are what make the trip so unforgettable. They assume that the bus rides are only to get you from destination A to destination B. Looking back on the past 6 ½ weeks, however, I would tell them how very wrong they are.

I don't remember the specific museums, memorials or monuments. I don't remember which city I went to first, and I don't remember the money spent at various gift shops along the way. What I remember is every Shabbat. I don't know if you guys are familiar with the game Apples to Apples, because before June 26th, many of the Wheelniks on my bus weren't. Basically, it is a really funny card game, which leaves you with tons of memories. Every 4:00 free time, on Shabbat, my entire bus would congregate to the group room of whichever hotel, in whichever city we happened to be in, and would hold a massive Apples to Apples tournament. I remember the laughing of my 47 fellow wheelniks. I remember the proud smiles of my 4 staff and Rosh. I remember the drama over who was this week's tournament champion. Most of all, I remember having the time of my life, with 53 of my favorite people

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growing. We want to congratulate all newly elected chapter boards and wish them luck with the upcoming year.

With this first issue of the 2005-2006 Kolenu, we wanted to also point out some easy ways to get in contact with us. All board members have really similar email addresses. The email is: name@hanefesh.org. So Rami's would be rami@hanefesh.org for example. Feel free to e-mail for any reason! Whether it be a USY/Kadima question, or if you have anything else on your mind, we want to be in contact with you as much as possible. Hopefully, we will see you at the next regional event, the annual Boat Cruise or for Kadima – the Kadima Kick-Off. If you are a chapter president or board member we can't wait to see you at the Chapter Presidents' Dinner and Leadership Training! Have a fun end to your summer and see you at our next event!

### **Meet Your President:**

#### **Rami Schwartzer**



After a summer of hard work, learning, and a grand ole time, I am extremely enthusiastic about the year ahead of us. I just finished my fourth summer at Camp Ramah in New England where I worked on staff for the first time after three summers as a camper. I started my summer working in the office with the Assistant to the Director, organizing the infrastructure of the camper's mail, scheduling, security, and internal communication systems on top of handling day-to-day crises. This was certainly a job that I had never done before and did not even expect to be doing this summer, which in itself taught me a lot about surprises and dealing with the cards you are dealt.

After the first session, though, I moved into a counselor position for seventh graders and began piloting a brand new program in which campers with disabilities were mainstreamed into regular bunks. This new job brought me a new set of challenges that were more emotional and abstract as opposed to the concrete mental challenges of my previous job. I was

disappointed when the program ended earlier than I had expected and I wound up evaluating the success of the program and its possible and questionable continuation next summer.

I am thankful to have had both of these experiences in the same summer as I learned unimaginable amounts about myself as a person and as a worker and I am eager to jump into the 2005-2006 year in Hanefesh USY with every one of you!

### **Meet Your Israel Affairs VP:**

#### **Eric Merin**



Hey Hanefesh! I'm Eric Merin and I'm your 2005-2006 Israel Affairs Vice-President. I've had an extremely fun summer working at Camp Shalom in Windsor, CT. For the first two sessions I was a hand-in-hand counselor with two Autistic children, and for the third session I was a normal counselor for Tel Aviv Boys (3<sup>rd</sup> graders). It will certainly be an experience I won't forget. While it was hard work, I met some amazing people from the area.

I also met two amazing Tzofim (Israeli Scouts), Lior and Keren. Other than just learning how similar Israeli teenagers are to us, they also helped me really understand a lot about the situation in Israel.

I'm looking forward to an amazing year with Hanefesh USY. We have some great things planned already and I can't wait to see them in action.

*More Meet Your Board Members on Page 3*

## Meet Your Rel/Ed VP:

### Suzanne Chipkin



Hey Hanefesh!! My name is Suzanne Chipkin, and I'm so excited to be your 2005-2006 Rel/Ed VP. I'm from Longmeadow, Massachusetts where I'm going to be a senior in high school, and I love the Hanefesh region! I also love ice cream, USY on Wheels, Mission:Mitzvah 2005, Disney movies, bananas, Israel, Dispatch, Guster, playing the viola, the Red Sox, the ocean, and of course, USY. I'm so excited to work with all of you this year, to make tefillot special to each of you, make our ruach even more incredible, and to help bring that special USY atmosphere back to your chapters and homes. I am here for all of you, whether you want to teach a cool new ruach song, learn to lead a service, want to improve tefillot, are interested in keeping kosher or observing Shabbat, have questions about anything having to do with Judaism, or are just really bored and need someone to talk to. I know this year will be amazing!!

## Meet Your SATO VP:

### Adina Rosen



Hey Hanefesh! How are you guys? It's Adina your Social Action/Tikun Olam VP for the 2005-2006 year! I hope all of you had a really great summer, because I know I did! I spent my summer on Pilgrimage group 10! We traveled around Eastern Europe and Israel for 6 weeks, and saw all of the incredible sights! If anyone has any questions, or wants to talk to me about my summer, then feel free to email me! So basically, I wanted to let the region know a little bit about myself.

in the world.

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*It felt so real, and the memories were there, but it didn't seem like they happened in real life.*

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My return home from Wheels, was awkward. I had just made so many incredible friends, and I was forced to depart from them, for who knew how long? All my friends would ask me to tell them all about Wheels, but it seemed as if my summer was a blur. It was like a dream. It felt so real, and the memories were there, but it didn't seem like they happened in real life. When asked my favorite city, I would reply, New Orleans, thinking only about the bus ride bonding on our way there. I want to leave you all with something for the ride home from encampment. When you go to do something, whether it is writing an essay, or going on vacation, think of entire result, rather than the "finish line". When your essay is done being written, don't think of the grade you will get, think of the knowledge you gained. When your vacation is over, don't think of the souvenirs you brought back, or the tan you received, but all of the incredible memories you made while you were there. Look at the whole picture; because you have to search for many of life's best moments, they are hidden for those who choose to find them.

### Adina Rosen: Continued

As many of you probably know, I love Snoopy! He is hands down my favorite cartoon character! I also love Israeli music, like Subliminal, Hadag Nachash, and the Israeli scouts, Tzofim. However, my favorite band of all time is Guster! I love just hanging out with friends, and listening to music, but I also love going to the movies or the mall with people too! I have two cats, who are absolutely adorable! Their names are Choco, and Noa, and can play ping-pong against each other! I know all of you are as excited as I am for the upcoming USY year, and I really hope to see you all at the annual Boat Cruise, as well as all of the conventions throughout the year! I really love helping others out, and just talking with all of you, so if you ever want to talk then feel free to email me!

## Meet Your Mem/Kad VP:

### Jared Kafer



Hey guys, it's Jared, your regional Mem/Kad. I hope you've all been enjoying your summers and hopefully yours hasn't disappeared as quickly as mine has. I've been out baking in the sun everyday as a lifeguard at the Swim and Tennis Club in Bloomfield (formally known as Suburban). When I wasn't lifeguarding, I was usually traveling, hanging out with my friends, or scooping ice-cream at the brand new Coldstone that opened in Avon at the beginning of the summer. Usually when I wasn't working too late I went out mountain biking with some of my friends in the early evening, when it wasn't so hot.

I've been a little bummed we've had such hot nasty weather a majority of the summer- I know I'm not a fan of the humidity at all. But on some of the nicer days I've made some trips up to the beach either in Watch Hill, RI, or down by the CT shore. I even got to spend a weekend sailing down by the shore with some friends recently, which was a boat load of fun. I hope you all have been catching some rays and have been making good use of the nicer weather, and are somewhat looking forward to going back to school to see everyone. I know I'm pretty pumped to be a big bad senior, and I know I'm really pumped for USY to get started because I know this year is going to be lots of fun.

## Meet Your Communications VP:

### Allie Glass



## Allie Glass: Continued

Hey Hanefesh! It's your Kolenu editor, and your 2005-2006 Communications VP, Allie Glass! Whoa! I can't believe that it is already time to begin this upcoming year. My summer, while short, has been amazing, and I really hope yours has been too! Over the summer I went on vacation to Ocean City, Maryland for a week with my family and a friend in July, which was incredible! The weather was great and I loved just hanging out on the beach! I also just attended an overnight camp in Marlborough, where I was a co-counselor with one of my best friends! That was also really fun, and I met a lot of new people! Also, as many of you know, my sweet sixteen took place on final event last year, and I had my party in July. I took 10 friends to the Hilary Duff concert, and we sat in one of the sky boxes! That was really cool! All of my summer experiences were as amazing as encampment just was! So, as the next year is taking place, I want all of you in Hanefesh to know a little bit more about me! I love music and going to concerts, and my friends and I try to go to as many as we can! My favorite colors are pink and green together. I'm really "artsy" and enjoy coloring, making shirts, and photography. My favorite food is a tie between Sushi and strawberries, just not together! I seriously enjoy hanging out at my house with friends on a Sunday, watching the Philadelphia Eagles beat their opponents during Football season, but I also love a good shopping spree. If I could have any super power, then it would be either flying or selective ESP. Lastly, I am really outgoing, so if you ever need anyone to talk to, I am always here for you! I look forward to seeing all of you a lot this upcoming year!

## Want to write for Kolenu?

Kolenu is always looking for new articles, and new topics! If you want to write, or have an idea to publish in the next Kolenu then contact me!!

Email: [allie@hanefesh.org](mailto:allie@hanefesh.org)  
Cell: 8605432277

## **Classic Israel Pilgrimage:**

### **Davida Ginsberg**

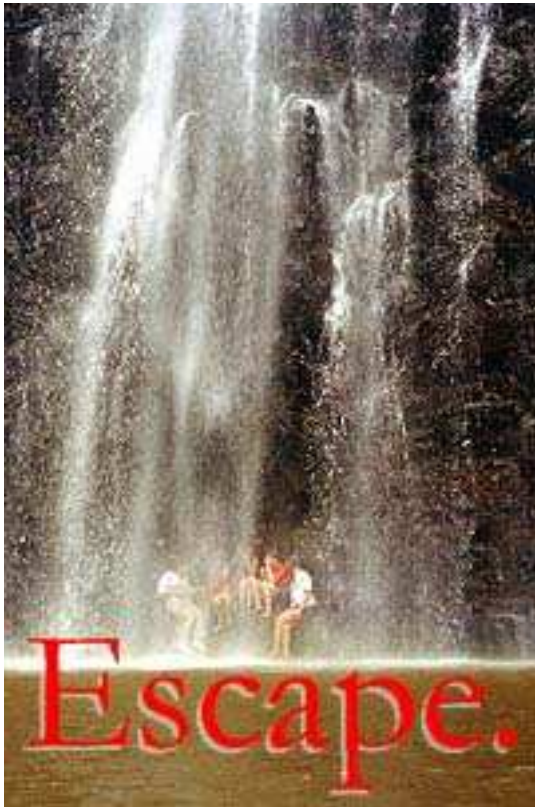
A canopy of navy blue stretches endlessly above me and white stone walls surround me. The melodious voices of my friends lift into the night air and echo off the walls of Beit Nativ. It is Saturday evening, and the voices belong to the rest of Group 2 as our slow ruach mournfully says goodbye to not just Shabbat, but our summer together. As one tune ends, another begins. Erev Shel Shoshanim blends into D'ror Yikra, which turns into Eili Eili, which becomes Al Kol Eileh, which finally gives way to Y'rushalayim Shel Zahav. Our voices blend together as we sing the chorus, and look around at each other. I stare at each face, look into their eyes, trying to memorize every feature.

*Y'rushalayim Shel Zahav  
v'shel n'choshet v'shel or  
halo l'chol shi-rayich ani kinor*

As each word spills from my mouth I stare into the sky and a slow realization settles over me. I am in Jerusalem. I am in Y'rushalayim, the same place I am singing about. The song suddenly takes on a new meaning as I realize how privileged I am to be sitting in Jerusalem. I had sung the same lyrics on Wheels, in my synagogue, with my family, but never before had the words meant the same thing. The words ring out against the Jerusalem stone on the building and patio around us, and I bend down to read the English translation.

*Jerusalem of gold, of copper and of light,  
Behold I am a harp for all your songs.*

And tzevet shtayim, Group 2 '05, created a harp on that Saturday evening to sing the melodies of Jerusalem in the heart of Jerusalem itself.



## **Make Your Own Memories With USY!**

**Ask your Regional Director or Israel Affairs VP how you can sign up for one of USY's amazing travel programs!**

**Israel: USY High, Nativ, Pilgrimage, Chalutzim Seminar, Etgar**

**United States: USY on Wheels, USY on Wheels: Mission Mitzvah, Outdoor Adventure Pacific Northwest, Summer in the City**

**Costa Rica: Outdoor Adventure**