

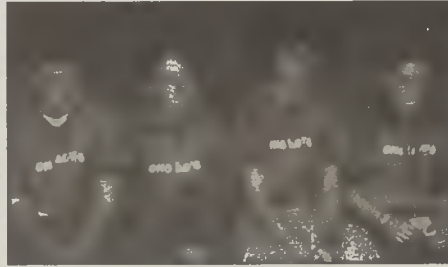
BBYO International Convention 2007

Bigger, Brighter, and Deeper in the Heart of Texas

By Sarah Platoek

From the second of the twelve Charlotte BBYO teens stepped off of the bus and onto the campgrounds of Greene Family Camp in Texas, we knew we were exactly where we wanted to be. We were at BBYO International Convention 2007 with 600 of our summer friends, friends from other countries, friends from other states, friends from our region, and friends we had yet to meet.

After dropping our stuff in our cabin and waiting for our friends we moved into dinner and opening ceremonies. The teen coordinators called in each region and the convention had begun. It was sure to be the best convention ever. We woke up the following morning and it was straight to AZA and BBG business meetings. After our business was complete, we went to programs that included



Andrew Putterman, Renee Sharon, Yaniv Barzilai, and Lisa Platoek at BBYO International Convention.

an AZA tournament and Mind Body Attitude programming for the BBGs before returning to our cabins to prepare for Shabbat. After our Friday night service, we participated in a song session lead by up and coming Jewish artist Sheldon Low. We all sang along together and enjoyed the spirit of Shabbat until it was time to grab a snack and go to bed.

The next morning we woke up and headed to Saturday morning services. There were several

options for services, ranging from yoga to a Conservative service, and there was sure to be something for everyone. Following services we picked various Shabbat electives. At the end of the day we participated in Havdallah service separated by grade level.

On Sunday the BBGs and the AZAs woke up and went to separate meetings to elect the 63rd International BBG board and the 83rd International AZA board. The elections were a success and it was time to move to the closing and award ceremonies. We are so proud of our very own Renee Sharon, from Charlotte NC, who was elected the 63rd International N'siah of the B'nai B'rith Girls.

As the final hours of the convention approached the dining hall was filled with mobs of friends saying goodbye, promises of calls and texts, and an undying love for BBYO. ☆

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Hebrew High-lights

How do you get rid of the winter doldrums? Come to see the Hebrew High students learning about and living their Judaism. This session, our students investigated the Jewish contribution to art and literature. Some learned about the Holocaust through the eyes of the movie industry, others the found messages of our people in lyrics written by Jewish rock and roll musicians. In Torah and the Twilight Zone, students learned that the Torah's teachings are hidden in unexpected places. The weather was cold and dreary outside, but at Hebrew High the warmth of Jewish learning and friendship was evident everywhere.

Our student council was the hit of the Purim Carnival, telling for-

tunes in our beautiful fortune telling booth, selling pretzels for the JFS Passover food drive, and volunteering wherever they were asked. This year, we had a repeat performance from our Mitzvah Clown Corp. The seven students that entertained the carnival attendees donned full clown costumes and make-up for their appearance at the carnival. *Kol hakavod* to all of them. The pretzel booth netted a \$250 profit that will help make Passover easier for many of Charlotte's Jewish poor. A special thanks to David and Dana Cohen for overseeing the sale of the pretzels for the entire length of the carnival. They are really troopers (and they've already volunteered for next year).

We have lots of exciting pro-

grams planned to close out the year at Hebrew High. Please watch your mail (both e and snail) for details about the following:

- * **Hebrew High Night at the Film Festival- April 18**
- * **Unity in the Community Youth Service Day - April 22**
- * **Hebrew High Last Day and free Pizza night - May 2**
- * **Yom Ha'Atzmaut Bonfire and Movie night - May 5**
- * **Graduation and Post Confirmation Party - May 9**

I look forward to seeing all of you at these exciting Hebrew High events. The entire staff joins me in wishing you and your family a meaningful Passover filled with joy and fun. ☆

Purim Construction Night – A Joint Program

On Sunday night, March 4, Temple Israel Kadima joined with Temple Beth El's Club Sheva and Eighth Grade Experience for a Purim Construction night. The evening began with everyone sharing their names and where they went to school and their favorite kitchen utensil. There were some great answers including a whisk, spatula and meat cleaver. After a delicious pizza dinner we began our construction. Each team was challenged with the task of building a model of the Shushan Palace. Their materials were graham crackers, icing, marshmallow fluff, chocolate chips, candy miniatures, animal crackers and much more. The teams worked feverishly for over thirty minutes. The final projects were awesome. After declaring a winner, everyone enjoyed eating his or her palace. ☆



David Fox, Asher Bernstein, Steven Kufert, and Aaron Snyder are deciding whether to eat or to build.

Samantha Damsky is ready to dive into her construction of Shushan Palace.



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