

Youth Visions

Mickey Barak Aberman AZA

By Sopher: Josh Klemmons

Hello to all those out there keeping up with our chapter, Mickey Barak Aberman. Our chapter recently attended Regionals, a convention in Raleigh, NC, for all BBYOers in North Carolina and Virginia. We were honored to have two members receive Regional life, which is one of the greatest honors that a senior can receive prior to graduation in BBYO. Congratulations to Jason Kaplan, the NC Council Vice President of

New Membership, and Jonathan Friend, NC Council President. You have done your chapter proud.

We are preparing for the upcoming Junior/Senior convention, and for Sweetheart-Beau in February. Sweetheart-Beau is an annual dance held in Charlotte every year. Thanks for keeping up with our chapter. ☆

Notes from Erin

By Erin Naman

I wear it everyday. I don't remove it to take a shower or to go to bed. It hangs as a symbol of my pride in my religion. It shines because of the radiant feeling I have for my Judaism. So, what is it?

This magnificent piece of jewelry I am referring to is the small silver Star of David I wear around my neck. I found this star for 45 shekels at a street market in Israel; that is less than fifteen dollars. It is no larger than my thumb-nail, but it means the world to me.

I do not parade around in my Star of David necklace as if to say, "Look, I'm Jewish." Nor do I wear it as a reminder to myself of who I am. I do not wear it for anyone besides myself I wear my star because I am proud I am Jewish.

Never once have I hidden it beneath my shirt because I was embarrassed or didn't want someone to know. In fact, when I find it has fallen behind my shirt I make sure to uncover it. I don't mind when people ask questions. It is often interesting to find out how many people notice and how many people are educated enough to know what it is.

Many of my Christian friends wear crosses around their necks. I sometimes feel they wear their crosses for the mere reason that they are Christian, not because they are devoted or attached to their religion. Perhaps I got the idea of having a star because I see so many others with religious paraphernalia but that is not why I wear it.

I also wear a small silver ring from Israel with my Hebrew name on it. I get a considerable response on this one because it is so unique looking. I even get questions from Jewish kids. I like telling others my Hebrew name and why it is different than my English name. Again, I wear it because I am proud.

Both the necklace and the ring remind me of my trip to Israel. Whenever I look down at my finger I can see the hustle and bustle of the streets of Jerusalem and the people as they crowded around the

Western Wall. I hold my necklace whenever I have to make any decisions. I find myself moving it back and forth along its chain especially when I'm nervous. It seems to relax me and help me think a little more clearly.

I wear my Star of David necklace and my Hebrew name ring as a symbol of my pride in my Judaism. I have them with me despite the homework, teachers, television, cleaning my room, phone calls, and many other things I put up with everyday. Unlike

many other aspects of life, they are constant. And if you look very closely at the gleam on my star, you will probably see some of the Judaism inside of me shining back at you. ☆



Chai Chaverim BBG:

By Marissa Elko: Chai Chaverim Katvanit

Chai Chaverim. is starting the '98 year with a blast. Many attended the Regional convention in late December. Everyone came back with smiling faces as they got to reunite and make new friends with North Carolina and Virginia AZA's and BBG's. Many programs were going on throughout the fun-filled weekend including sisterhood programs, summer programs and a dance that got

everyone jumping with excitement.

As the new year starts so do new programs and new faces. We are honored to have Swooze as one of our new advisors. Her excitement and love for BBG is fantastic. If you want to join the fun in this great organization call Ellen Goldstein at 366-5007. We are always looking for new smiling faces. ☆

LIBERTY:

By Alina Johnson: Publicity

On January 3rd, LIBERTY had a Social Action/Midnight Bowling Sleepover. About 15 people showed up and we all had a great time making lunches for the homeless and then bowling until 2 in the morning! Much thanks to Brian Keene's family, who let us use their home for the sleepover.

LIBERTY has created a new leadership committee, composed of 7 active members. This new committee is called TYM. TYM has already begun to plan many exciting events for Temple Beth El's youth. On February 15, LIBERTY will be holding an educational program and service on Love and Sex. Then, on February 28, LIBERTY will be hosting a Masquerade Ball. All of NFTY-

MAR's southern region will be invited. This is the weekend before the next regional event, NFTY-MAR's ThEvent (a.k.a. colorwars) (March 13-16). Hopefully, this event will boost our southern spirit and get us ready to take over the rest of MAR!

We are really looking forward to all of the fun events we have planned in the near future. If you have not been getting the mailings from LIBERTY, and are interested in finding out more about each event, please call me (Alina Johnson, LIBERTY Publicity) at 541-9519. Hope you all had good luck on semester exams, see you on the slopes! ☆

USY:

By Bethany Bernstein: President

USY had quite a "cool" month in January. The ski-trip at Sugar Mountain was an unforgettable event. The day was filled with laughter and fun on the slopes. Beginner skiers "chilled" together on the bunny hill and admired those more advanced, black diamond skiers. Our Lounge Night for the month served as a wonderful opportunity to relax and socialize with each other, as lounge nights usually do.

February will be a very exciting month for USY. We have an afternoon of ice-skating planned. USYers are encouraged to bring a friend who is not a member of USY. We just want a chance to show our friends what it is we are always talking about.

Everyone is getting pumped up about the sub-regional convention which is going to be hosted here, in the Queen City. USYers from all over the South-East will be here from February 27th until March 1st. It will be an incredible weekend; we are all looking forward to it! ☆

SKIWEAR & SNOWBOARD SALE

ALWAYS GREAT PRICES!

- 15% OFF All Snowboards, Boots & Bindings
- 20% - 50% OFF All Ski & Snowboard Jackets
- 20% OFF All Ski Gloves, Hats, Goggles & Accessories

GREAT SELECTION OF SKATEBOARDS

SKI BIBS from \$19.95

MOE LEVYS

McMullen Creek Market • 8334-106 Pineville-Matthews Rd
Hours: Mon-Fri 10-8 • Sat 10-6 • Sun 1-6
543-4690

CAROLINA MARKING DEVICES, INC.

P.O. BOX 32143 3405 S. TRYON STREET
CHARLOTTE, NC 28232-2143
TEL. (704) 525-7600 FAX (800) 777-8619

**Rubber Stamps
Notary and Corporate Seals,
Laundry Markers, Stenciling Supplies**

SAME DAY SERVICE

Ada Shapiro Jeffrey Shapiro

Big Training. Little Gym.

Ask about our winter camp
and parents night out!

GYMNASTIC INSTRUCTION
Tower Place
8700 Pineville-Matthews Road
541-2940

Total Development For Your Child

Heart Shaped
VALENTINE'S
ICE CREAM & FROZEN YOGURT
CAKES

Pick your favorite ice cream or frozen yogurt flavors & call in your order today!

BEN & JERRY'S
VERMONT'S FINEST • ICE CREAM & FROZEN YOGURT™

202 So. Main St. • Davidson
The Arboretum • Charlotte
507 Providence Rd. • Charlotte
Broadway at the Beach • Myrtle Beach