

Youth Visions

Two Eastern Region Teens Elected to BBYO's International Board

Presidents Day weekend, 118 teens from Eastern Region BBYO (35 from Charlotte) joined more than 4,000 teen leaders, educators, professionals, and philanthropists from 48 states and 27 countries in Baltimore to hear from distinguished change makers and break a Guinness World Record for the largest Shabbat dinner ever at BBYO International Convention (IC) 2016. With an attendance growth of 182% since 2012, IC 2016 served as a dynamic meeting place and real-world classroom providing today's teen leaders an

invaluable opportunity to join together for insights, shared leadership resources and new skills they will use to change the world.

"It was extremely powerful and inspiring to spend five days with Jewish teens, educators, and philanthropists, a priceless experience that I hope to have again," said Marissa Uri, Ohavim BBG of Charlotte. "The energy and passion that surrounded each event of the convention reinforced my beliefs that BBYO teens will be the ones leading the Jewish people into the future."

Some of the speakers and plenaries at IC included Cornell Brooks, president and CEO of the NAACP; Justin Baldoni, American actor and director; Casey Neistat, film director and popular YouTube creative, Meighan Stone, president of The Malala Fund; Dr. Einat Wilf, Israel's Rising Ambassador, and award winning singer and songwriter, Jason Derulo were all a part of IC 2016.

One other significant event included the election of the next International Board, a ten-member teen board that will help chart the

organization's vision for the coming year and provide leadership and support to teen leaders in local communities throughout the BBYO system.

All of us in Eastern Region BBYO are extremely proud of two local teens that were elected to serve on the AZA (boys) International Grand Board. Grey Silverman, Hank Greenberg AZA, was elected to serve as Grand Aleph S'gan (Vice President). Grey is a junior at Myers Park High School and the son of Dr. Marshall and Suzanne Silverman. In reaction to being elected Grey said, "In BBYO's 92nd year, I look forward to diligently working alongside my fellow board members and counterparts across the globe to develop quality programming with a goal of progressing our movement. The more Jewish teens we can reach out to through meaningful experiences, the stronger we inevitably come together ensuring a vibrant Jewish future for today's Jewish youth."



Aaron Cooper and Grey Silverman

Aaron Cooper, Neshama BBYO in Winston-Salem, NC was elected to serve as Grand Aleph Godol (president) for AZA. Aaron will take a gap year, travel the world, and strive to strengthen our movement. Aaron said, "I am looking forward to bringing a fresh perspective on the meaning of brotherhood and service to BBYO at the International level. My hope is to create an atmosphere that places a renewed emphasis on the 'how' and 'why' of our actions as a Jewish youth movement."

Grey and Aaron have an exciting year ahead. BBYO is a place where Jewish teens can stay connected to their Judaism, explore their leadership skills and make friends to last a lifetime. For more information charlotte@bbyo.org.



Calling All B'nai Mitzvah Alumni

Temple Israel Reunion May 20-22, 2016

Special guests confirmed! Both Rabbi Richard Rocklin and Rabbi Dov Kentof have confirmed that they will be joining us for the weekend, and each will be participating in our services on Friday night and Saturday morning.



Reservations are currently being accepted for Friday Shabbat Dinner, Saturday Kiddush (no cost), and Sunday Closing Brunch (no cost). And, Sponsorships are available! Visit templeisraelinc.org.

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