

ECRUSY'S TABLOID

Jews and Music By: Eric Lander

For Jews, music has always been a successful tool for our collective emotional expression. As an oft-oppressed people, we've had our share of cries to G-d for

redemption. A despondent wail has been the famous melody of the Jews. Even G-d and company must sit by the throne of the universe and

weep, out of pure consternation at the plight of our people. And so go the words of our song. "O Lord my Lord, that will never end, the sand and the sea, the rush of the waters, the glare of the sky, the prayer of man." Channah Senesh, in her last hours, captures the passion

and pain of Jewish music. And while these words took shape as poetry in derivation, the sad, draining melody, which accompanies these emotional, hopeful words,



brings tears to our eyes half a century later, even for those of us unaware of the meaning of the words.

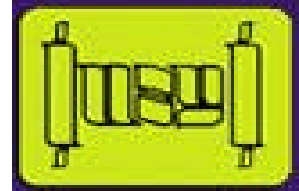
Music, in any form, of any era, in any kingdom, empire, or continent, conjures images and emotions. Jews use music to tell a story,

our story. We use these images and emotions to share our pain and joy. What kind of music exactly – doesn't really matter? As long as the notes on the page dance the

dance of the Jewish people, then details are merely details. From Carlebach to Aaron Copland,

from Beatie Boys to Leonard Bernstein, every musician carries their Jewish identity with them, and uses their soulful expression to show their world, and their Judaism, from their perspective.

Since our redemption by G-d in 1948, (cont. pg 3)



Volume 13, Issue 3

Regional Convention
2003

- Read interesting articles from your friends!
- Learn about the value of music in Judaism!
- Read up on that crazy Secret USYer!
- Check up on your President, Co-Chairs and Editors!
- Much, much more!!

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A Message from the Big Kahuna By David M. Goldberg

I am coming to this convention with very mixed feelings. I am excited, as I love spending Shabbat in ECRUSY! I am excited, as I get to complete the regional year on such a high note at an amazing location, Queen's University! However, I am saddened, as this is my last ECRUSY convention as a USYer, and this is my last Tabloid article. Thank you ECRUSY, for making this year so much fun and so successful!

This Shabbat, we read *Parshat Kedoshim*. The second verse of the portion states, "*kedoshim teeheeyu* – You [plural] shall be holy". The Hebrew is very emphatic, in stating that all Jews shall be holy. Holiness is not restricted to the *kohanim*, the priests, or the spiritually gifted

people. God is implying that every one of us has the potential to live a life of holiness.

The



plurality of this phrase further suggests that holiness is most easily achieved in the context of a positive community. People cannot live a life of holiness without a community that is holy. For instance, Noah and Abraham drifted towards unworthy behaviour when their surroundings did not strive for

holiness. Being holy can be easily achieved when we are in a holy atmosphere.

ECRUSY has provided a holy environment for me for the past 4 years. I have been able to grow spiritually, religiously, educationally, and socially through this amazing Conservative Jewish youth organization. United Synagogue Youth is a holy setting. But all of us must contribute to its holiness. When you come to conventions, sing during *ruach*, involve yourself in study sessions, and meet friends that will last a lifetime, that holiness will impact your life forever.

A Word from those crazy Editors!!!!

Well, the end is near. ECRUSY, it has been our pleasure as your Tabloid Editors to serve you this year (and in Jeremy's case, these past three years). We hope that you have enjoyed the Tabloid this year. We have both worked long hours for your enjoyment and we hope that it all has been worth it. We hope that you had a good time reading about what your friends think about Israel and Political Advocacy and you have heard the crazy antics of

the Secret USYer (who is he? I guess we will never know). Now it is time for these fun days to come to and end for us.

We thought that it would be appropriate to finish off the year with a fun theme for the Tabloid. With the theme of the convention being Jews and Music, we thought that that would be a great idea for a final edition of the Tabloid.

Music is very important in both of our lives. Not only as

teenagers, but as Jews. Whether we are listening to the latest from Dave Mathews or we are davening Musaf, music is important to us because we love it and we need it.

We hope that you have an amazing time to Regional Convention 2003 and that you have an amazing summer.

Your Tabloid Editors,

Jeremy Samuel Moses

Joshua Nachum Goldberg

Jews and Music (cont. from pg. 1)

Israeli music has been an expression of our national identity. Sarit Hadad's powerful voice is a reminder of our strength, our passion. Shlomo Artzi's quiet yet powerful lyrics are truly transforming. Just the sound of

Hebrew words put to Middle Eastern melodies, brings us in an instant to the bustling streets of Tel Aviv, or the spiritual walkways of Yerushalayim. Once we sang "By the rivers of Babylon, where he sat down,

and there he wept, when he remember Zion." Let us now rise up in one strong voice, and use the spirit of our music to declare "Next Year in Jerusalem!"

'Twas a Night to Remember: Formal Ball 2003 By: Adina Burden

Game on! Formal Ball 2003 and was held on Saturday March 1st, at Beth Tzedec Synagogue. Organized by Daniel Cappe and Eva Zucker, everyone had a great time. Around 120 people attended Formal Ball and out of that number, 25 of them were new members, a great thing to see at a regional program like Formal Ball.

The theme was sports and athletics, which was introduced in the opening skit, with different sports games between the Regional Executive. The night was filled with

dancing, singing, and schmoozing with friends. The highlight of the evening was the swing dance competition. It was 4\$ to enter as a couple, and all the proceeds went to Tikun Olam. Every couple got a number and danced up a storm. Jeremy Moses and Adina Burden (go #7!!) won the competition by a landslide, with a close second by Keren Shilling and Eric Lander (better luck next time guys). Another great highlight of the evening was the DJ. There was a great mix of music, and the DJ combined old songs, with new songs, as well as enough slow

dances. Prizes, like cameras were handed out to the best and most enthusiastic dancers, so that they could take pictures of the amazing time they had. Formal Ball was an awesome addition to an already exciting convention. It's always the highlight of the year and this year really made the seniors last Formal Ball truly a night to remember. On behalf of the region, I would like to thank Daniel Cappe and Eva Zucker for making this year's Formal Ball so much fun! Thanks for putting so much work into it; we all had an amazing time!

Highlights from Formal Ball!



Spotlight Chapter of the Month: Beit Rayim USY

By: Rachel Hindel

There are many incredible things about being Jewish, but the one thing that means the most to me is our community. Jewish people always find a community - whether it be in towns, at our Synagogues or most of all in USY.

Beit Rayim is one community that has touched my life in so many different ways. We are an egalitarian Shul, which means the major focus in our community is allowing the women to lead the same prayers as the men. It is so important to me to be able to have the same rights as men and I see that every single member feels the same way I do.

When I first began at BRUSY I was in grade ten and I had no idea what to expect. This chapter has brought great friendships and memories into

"This chapter has brought great friendships and memories into my life and has taught me a great deal."

my life and has taught me a great deal. I have learned many lessons here at Beit Rayim, but the most important lesson I have learned is to never give up. Life will throw you many challenges, but to all you aspiring Chapter Presidents, there is no experience like it. The most important advice I could give anyone is to get

involved. If I hadn't gotten involved with USY I would not be the person I am today.

I believe this year has been BRUSY's most successful year. And that being said, I wish many more years of success to my chapter and to ECRUSY. Hard work always has its rewards. "Through wisdom is a house built; and by understanding it is established." Proverb 24:3. We, as USYer's are the foundation of Conservative Judaism but each chapter contributes towards the final goal. BRUSY is a chapter that never gives up; something that we have learned throughout our journey.

Ofra Haza- International Sensation

By: Carmit Tzoubari

I was recently looking through one of my old family picture albums when I found a picture of my parents, their friends, and a woman who looked curiously familiar. When I asked my Dad who it was, he calmly replied that it was none other than Ofra Haza, the internationally renown Israeli singer. Ofra Haza had a very successful singing career since early in her life. Born in 1959, she was touring North America by 1976. She was known as the "Madonna of

Israel." I asked my father how she became known internationally. This is how it goes...

A man who was a



peace activist wanted permission from the Israeli government to broadcast his radio station, which used English, Hebrew, and Arabic. The government refused, but that didn't stop him. He bought a boat and broadcasted his station, called Kol Shalom (The Voice of Peace) from it. A British man was part of the broadcasting crew and often exchanged music with a fellow broadcaster in England. When he played Ofra Haza to his friend, the other (cont. pg 5)

This Jew Rocks! By: Jeff Bernstein

When I was initially asked to write about ‘Jews that Rock,’ there were so many thoughts rushing through my head. Firstly, I realized that Jews *do* rock – in all senses of the word. Second, there are a lot of cool Jews that like to rock it. There are tons and tons of Jews who are rockin’ it up in the music industry today. There are plenty that used to, as well. Today, I am only going to focus on one of them.

I don’t think that this edition of the *Tabloid* can take much more than him, as he’s truly all over the place. If you haven’t guessed who it is yet, I’ll give you a hint: most of you have come across him, or have sung to his ever-so popular tunes at USY conventions and the such. You guys really aren’t as adept at this music stuff as I thought. I would like to introduce you all to one of the coolest Jews that continually rocks, in every village, town,

settlement, city, province, state, nation and convention he goes to. Put it up for (*drum roll, if you will*)... **Rick Recht!**

In all fairness, it is true that there aren’t many Canadian



Jews who know of Rick’s incredible presence. He hasn’t really broken out into Canada yet, but after speaking with him and trying to bring him in, I know that he is eventually planning on spreading some of his talent a little north of the border. Some of you had the amazing opportunity to hear him sing and bring the house down last year at International Convention in Washington, D.C. Any and all of us can attest that he was a smash-hit, and that

he really did a great job at kicking off the party in the ’01.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to sing with him this summer. As part of his summer tour, Rick hits many of the Ramah camps in the U.S., and his visit to Ramah Nyack, where I work, was no exception. It was such an awesome experience. In the morning, he did recordings with all of the ‘*edot*,’ to be compiled on our camp CD, and in the afternoon he performed for the whole camp. The two of us hooked up to perform a sick version of ‘*Mi Kamocha*,’ and it was one of the coolest things that I’ve ever done. I will most certainly never forget that experience. Hopefully, it will be the start of a pretty cool career in the music biz, for myself. And who knows, if this whole Canadian Idol thing works out, maybe I could get him to perform another hit song from the Yids...

Ofra Haza-International Sensation (cont. from pg. 4)

man was immediately interested. He wanted more, and her career took off from there. In 1983 with her song “Chai,” she placed second in the Eurovision, a song competition between many European countries and Israel. She also

played the voice of Yocheved, Moses’ mother, in “Prince of Egypt” and performed at the Grammys. She released 28 albums, five international ones.

Ofra Haza is possibly Israel’s most successful international pop star. She died

of AIDS at the age of 41 in 2000. Even after her death, her music is known and listened to by people all over the world. One thing’s for sure: this is one Israeli that the world will never forget.

SA/TO: Mishloach Manot: Not only reserved for your friends By: Tova Silverman

Hey ECRUSY!

I want to tell you about one of the greatest SA/TO programs ever that JACCUSY held this year. We wanted to do something in the spirit of Purim that not only raised money for Tikkun Olam but also helped less fortunate people in Ottawa. We came up with a fantastic Mishloach Manot fundraiser. We got in touch with the Kosher Food Bank of Ottawa and found out they would really appreciate donations of Mishloach Manot baskets with oranges and a few humantachen. When someone made a donation of a Mishloach Manot basket for a friend of his

or hers, instead of the basket being sent to the friend, they would receive a card and a subscriber to the Kosher Food Bank would receive a beautiful gift just in time for Purim.

Many people in the Ottawa community and Agudath Israel Synagogue were very enthusiastic about this program and we were able to provide Mishloach Manot baskets to all of the subscribers to the Food Bank. People really enjoyed receiving a warm gift like this and it helped them have a Chag Purim Sameach. Because businesses gave us discounts on all the materials,

we were able to make a profit off the baskets to give to Tikkun Olam! So this amazing holiday program incorporated both Social Action and Tikkun Olam. Everyone really enjoyed planning and participating in this program.

Putting together the baskets helped us realize that we were really making a difference in our community. We hope to do it again next year. Raising money and helping others makes you feel really great, and I encourage you to do so at every moment possible!

SA/TO: Some SA/TO fun in London! By: Abiella Schneider-Friedman

There has been a long running joke in USY about the name of the London Ontario Chapter: L.O.U.S.Y. Us Londoners just laugh at this joke because we know that our chapter is far from lousy, and this is especially true when it comes to Social Action and Tikun Olam. From the little piggy bank we call Tweety, to the London Food Bank, LOUSY SA/TO is enjoying a wonderful year. I'll take this opportunity to talk about a few of our projects.

Last year we started working with the London Food Bank by creating a yearly USY volunteer night. Once a year our chapter heads to the warehouse to pack boxes and sort food. With some music and schmoozing what

sounds like work is actually a lot of fun. We were also at the London Jewish Community Center painting faces for the Purim Carnival this year. We even got ourselves into a "sticky" situation making sandwiches for the Salvation Army last week. Raising money for Tikun Olam is also very important to our chapter. Our annual all-nighter is our biggest program, and we have been able to raise a lot of funds during it. This year our theme was LOUSY SPA. The executive and advisors provided manicures, pedicures, and massages, with all the revenue going to T.O. We also sold a huge amount of candy throughout the night. Earlier in the year, we held a game and

study night before exams and charged a small price at the door, and all we allocated all the money we received to T.O. Our third big project has been the LOUSY t-shirts, which I hope a lot of you purchased at Winter Mifgash. We will continue to sell the shirts, with all the profits going to T.O.

This year has been incredible for SA/TO, but we are not finished yet. Our executive continues to create new and innovative SA/TO ventures. With the help of chapter members and Tweety, next year is sure to be even more successful than this year has been.

Israel: Israeli National Unity

By: Adam Zarek

Once a year in Israel, the collective spirit of national unity stands out. This time of year is not based on any religious significance or personal message to all. It comes in the weeks following Pesach and embraces all Israelis alike. It is the time of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut.

The Day of Remembrance for all Israeli soldiers, 4 Iyar, precedes the Israeli Independence Day. In a country where military service is mandatory, it adds a personal reflection for many. On this day Israelis stand as one to

remember their soldiers and all those that gave their lives for the state. Most, if not all Israelis, are related to or know a soldier that was killed. All around the country air raid sirens ring out for a moment of silence. Buses and cars come to a standstill, pedestrians stop walking, and all business stops as Israelis pay their respects to their war dead. Music is not played and memorial prayers and ceremonies take place across the country.

But come 5 Iyar and the country erupts in song and dance. Secular to religious Jews, with

the exception of a small group of Charedim, join together to celebrate Israeli independence. There is dancing in the streets as people join in to dance the *Hora*. All across the country a sense of national unity is alive. All Israelis let their patriotic feelings out in this one-day a year where secular Jews dance side-by-side with orthodox yeshiva students. On these two days all Israelis show their true national spirit and unity. Side by side they stand and show true Jewish unity.

Israel: Israel's Unknown Heroes

By: Adam Zarek

Perhaps you've seen their shadowy images on TV, mostly young and middle-aged Orthodox Jewish men wearing special yellow jackets with the word "Zaka" emblazoned across the back, slowly sitting their way through scenes of utter devastation, just minutes after a terrorist suicide bombing in Israel. At the Dolphinarium in Tel Aviv... at the Sbarro Pizzeria in Jerusalem... at the Park Hotel in Netanya... Amidst the utter chaos that follows a terrorist event, Zaka volunteers, who sometimes get to the victims before the ambulances arrive, methodically begin to administer first-aid to the injured, and advise Magen

David Adom ambulance crews as to who needs the most critical care. It is always a bone-chilling experience. Many Zaka volunteers have had the unenviable task of cradling a dying child in their arms or a severely maimed victim, crying out for mercy. As the smoke finally begins to clear and the sounds of ambulance sirens fade in the distance, Zaka volunteers then begin the grim task of scraping up blood, body parts and de-

ceased victims (of Jew and non-Jew alike) to prepare them for a proper burial.

Zaka volunteers are the true "unsung heroes" on the front-lines of Israel's incessant battles against terrorism. Zaka volunteers have had to not only endure the terrible sights and smells which are forever etched into their memory banks, they have had to dodge bullets from snipers, as well as secondary "human bombs" who have been trained by various groups to lurk in the shadows until after an initial suicide strike and then explode themselves amidst the volunteers, ambulance workers, police, soldiers, and innocent bystanders.



Rel/Ed: The lessons learned from Parashat Kedoshim

By: Jacob Zeliger

In this Parsha, the torah not only teaches the basics of getting along with one's neighbor but it also codifies the elementary rules of behavior that sets a moral standard for social interaction. "You shall not be a gossipmonger...you shall not stand idly by while your brother's blood is shed... you shall not that your brother in your heart...you shall not take revenge" (Leviticus 19:16-18). In one matter, however, the Torah also exhorts the Jewish people to act in a way that many might believe would cause neighbors to distance

themselves: the torah says reprove a fellow-Jew. Obviously, the concept of "live and let live" is foreign to Judaism. In fact, the mitzvah of reproof is placed immediately following the verse "you shall not stand idly by while your brother's blood is shed."(Leviticus 19:16-18)

Indeed, in the Torah's view spiritual distress is equivalent to physical distress. Just as a Jew cannot stand idle by when someone is drowning physically, so too, a Jew must act when one is drowning spiritually. But the Torah does

more than merely tell the Jewish people to admonish-it tell us how to do it. 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart; reprove, you shall surely reprove your fellow and do not bear a sin upon him'. The last part of the challenge is difficult to understand. What does the Torah mean, "And do not bear a sin upon him?" Rashi explains that the Torah does not want a Jew to sin while reprovng fellow Jew-"do not embarrass him publicly" The actual text, however, seems to read to "not bear a sin upon him," the sinner. How can we under stand this?

The feared Secret USYer

By: Oh, if only you knew...

Can you feel the love tonight?

Oh ... I can feel it baby, that stuff sticks to the back of your neck. Then it creeps into your soul and bites you on the upper lip until you scream for justice, sweet, sweet sweaty justice!! I refer to the great composer, John Williams, when I say that life is too short. Please be careful.

Cement? As in Cement?

Ah...hard question little Joey, but a fair one. You see these feelings originated from the African coast. There sat a

wombat of biblical proportions and sitting on his leg... a six-year-old sandwich. He felt a need to eat the sandwich, which he did. And the rest is history.

Tommy can you here me?

Nope, I'm deaf... Oh wait!! NO I mean what could you repeat

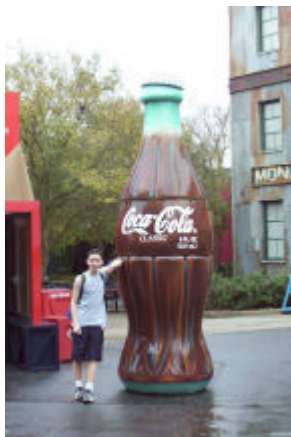


that because I AM DEAF, and mute!!! Perhaps if you wrote down the question in brail I could answer you with a series stylized blinking patterns.

Are the Beasty Boys actually Jewish?

I have searched long and hard to figure this one out and this is what I have concluded: [(3784a-39b)-3d(234d+3)]+[(d+3)-4] =Eleventy billion. With this, we can see that the Beastie Boys are obviously NOT Jewish.

Let us look back...What a wonderful year it has been



A wonderful joke for your pleasure...

One day a Jewish family invited a non-Jewish family friend for Shabbat dinner. They gave him a bowl of matzah ball soup. He was reluctant to try it, but they insisted that it was good. Hesitantly, he tasted the soup and agreed that it was good. When the finished the bowl of soup, the man asked, "So, what other parts of the matzah do you eat?"

Communications

Tabloid Editor in Chief

Jeremy Moses

Assistant Tabloid Editor

Joshua Goldberg

Communications Vice President

Clie! Gilbert-Schacter

Regional President

David Goldberg

Regional Youth Director

Tamara Kochberg

ECRUSY

1000 Finch Ave. West

Suite 508

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M3J 2V5

Phone: 416-667-1717

1-800-417-1332

Email: www.ecrusy.org



Koch's Korner!!!

This month...Tamara and...Sleppy??

Watch out Jon and Michelle. Our Tabloid snoops have uncovered this picture of Tamara Kochberg and BEBY advisor, Noah Slepkov, at ECRUSY's Formal Ball 2003!"



The Inspiring Words of a Co-Chair

By: Rachel Levy

It has taken me a long time to decide what I want to say in this article. In fact, I am actually past the deadline for handing this in, so I thank the editors for including it.

As I sit here, at my computer, writing this, I am reflecting back on my four years in USY. I can honestly say that USY has been the best experience of my life. I have met so many friends and I know we will be friends for life. I have learned so much, about myself and about being Jewish. Coming from a small town, there are not many chances to meet other Jewish teenagers, and that is why USY has been so important to me. I hope that everyone is having a great time at Spring Regional Convention 2003!!!! It is hard to believe that this is my last USY convention. I have had so much fun co-chairing this weekend. Ira has been an amazing co-chair, and Tamara and David have been

great to work with as well. This is my way of giving back to a region that has given me so much.

I think that it is amazing that Jewish teenagers from across Eastern Canada can come to ECRUSY conventions and have so much ruach and form such a strong friendship. That is what USY is all about. And that is why it is so special.