

CVR CONNECTION



Spring 2009
Edition

CREATED BY

Nina Leff & Nick

49TH REGIONAL MAZKIRIM

From the Program Director's

What a year it's been for CVR! We've accomplished so much in such a short period of time. We've raised over \$10,000 for different causes and charities, we've been called the hidden gem of BBYO, won the International Spirit Cup and on the regional level, everyone knows BBYO is on the move.

Our success hasn't come out of nowhere. It has come from hard work and dedication from our members. We have many people to thank for their leadership this past year but the question remains, who will take their place? Who will step up and lead our region. We are a good region right now but how do we become a great region? How do you go from a good chapter to a great chapter? It is solely up to you.

As you know, next year we celebrate 50 years of BBYO in Connecticut. Once again, all eyes are on us. We will be celebrating within our communities thanking our JCC's and Synagogues for supporting us over the last 50 years. We will be reconnecting with our alumni and sharing with them what we've accomplished.

Get excited for what will no doubt be the biggest, best and most important year in CVR history!

I look forward to growing from good to great with you.

JoshCo

Mazel Tov 50TH REGIONAL BOARD

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This year has been one of growth for CVR. We have improved our membership numbers, regional programming and have created an identity for ourselves within the International Order. When we first started this year, I had a vision of what I wanted CVR to be and I'm happy to say we've reached that goal. As Regional President I have traveled throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts visiting each BBYO and AZA chapter and was more impressed with every meeting I attended. CVR is a region full of rich traditions, which became even more apparent when we shared our Spring Convention with Big Apple Region. Many of our members got their first taste of International BBYO, while our 37 kids that traveled to International Convention got a chance to reconvene with some old friends. Yet, while we celebrate what we have accomplished, we must not let these current successes hinder our future. We must, as a region, look ahead to next year and reach for bigger and better goals. Not everything was perfect this year, events were canceled and members were lost. Let's use this year as a building block for the future and for the 50th year of CVR. Let generations past remember what the 49th year in CVR meant for them and the survival of our movement. CRAIG SWIDLER

My last connection article. Here it is, huh. What do I want to say? What do people want to hear? Isn't everyone else in this publication going to be talking about our remarkable achievements this year? Should I do that, too?

Well, I'm not going to be funny (I'm no Brian Zahn) and I'm not going to be fluffy (you don't want to hear that). I'm going to be real. I'm going to tell you something real.

BBYO is a gift. It is a remarkable gift wrapped in tradition and values, love and hope. So when you open the gift, always remember how fragile it is. Don't be selfish. Share. Don't assume anything about the gift. Let it grow, and grow with it.

The gift is not just for me, and it's not just for you. It's for so many Jewish teens – 26,000 worldwide – and there's no reason it can't be for more.

If you're reading this article, I know that you care about the gift. I know you care, and you know that you care. So what are you going to do with this gift? A child might rip it apart, ask mommy for a different one. But you're smarter than that. Hold it in your hands, pick it apart, look at it, analyze it, and think.

What can you do with this gift?

So, for one last time...

Respectfully submitted with undying love and dedication to the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and the unbelievable power of knowledge and the gift,

I remain,

EMILY REBECCA WYNER (THE 1st)
49th Regional N'siah

affirm life.

affirm life.

we got to carry each other now.

you are either with life, or against it.

affirm life.

- Suheir Hammad

Hello CVR,

By the time you're reading this, the seniors have already given life, and it was hopefully affirmed. I, myself, was not immune. In retrospect, all I can truly say is that I've tried my hardest for you guys.

Between running B'yachad and Spring Convention, overseeing programming in AZA chapters (and the occasional BBYO one as well), and doing my best to contribute to regional affairs, like AZAA, in addition to my duties as a Rakkaz last year, I have been pretty busy.

Now, to address Hammad again, obviously her poem is not to be taken so literally. The poem is a spoken word piece about the 9/11 attacks, and the calling for the unification of all people, not just Americans, or Palestinians, or females, or Jews, but all people. All I can hope is that the rest of this year continues to see the affirmation of many things. I hope it affirms Jewish identity, membership, chapter programming, fundraising, human life, all of it.

CVR, I love you.

Fraternally submitted to the 48th and 49th Regional Boards of Connecticut Valley Region, finally being dealt an amazing co by fate, Gottlieb AZA #2196, CVR #17, and all of it, affirmed. I remain, ALEPH BRIAN MATTHEW ZAHN

Hey CVR! This is my final officer report as your Regional S'ganit. Next year, I'm going to be at Barnard College and the wonderful Sarah Levine will be taking over as your VP. We've accomplished so much this year, especially with the new BBYO Program Bank (check it out at bbyoprogrambank.org) Congratulations to Jaime Vreeland, Sam DeSantis and Sophie Needleman for having programs accepted to the Program Bank. My counterparts have run amazing programs, from Tikvah BBG and Leviticus AZA's huge game of Clue to Layna BBG's Chocolate Seder to RAM BBG's Friendship Meeting to SDA BBG's meeting to promote awareness about human rights in Myanmar. I am so proud of everything that you have accomplished. In the meantime, SEND ME YOUR PROGRAM WRITE-UPS. Kimmie Kochman blew me away by handing all of her program write-ups, decorated and everything, throughout the year. You can send them to me now! If you ran a program in your chapter, write it up to send to me! You know why you should? Because it will help you win Chapter of the Year. Anyway, it's been wonderful serving as your 49th Regional S'ganit, and I'm totally thrilled to leave this position in Sarah Levine's hands. Next year -- keep up the great programming, submit programs to the program bank, and remember the Six Folds! Also, to the FOURTEEN CVR kids who are attending BBYO Summer Programs this summer, have a wonderful time! If you haven't signed up for a BBYO Summer Program yet, it's not too late!

With undying love and dedication to CVR BBYO #17,

I remain, ALICE ELIZABETH AUSTEN KAMENS

Oh hey there CVR,

It's been a long and fun year, but all good things must come to an end eventually and here I am writing my last connection article for Connecticut Valley Region as your 49th Regional Aleph Moreh. Just repeating what has been said thousands of times before but this year has been a monumental one for our region and I have to say it has been an honor to serve for you this year and this board. AZA membership has gone up, more guys are continuing to join our region, and almost every chapter has hit their membership goals. None of this could have happened though, without the help of you, the members. You, the members, have continued to recruit, work, and try to find every Jewish teen in your area to join our organization and I can't thank you all enough for your help. As great as this year was, we must continue to work harder then ever before and make the 50th year of CVR the best one that it can be,

Fraternally submitted, with an undying love towards the Notorious B.I.G., The Wizard, Finally Being A Licensed Driver, Mad Events I've Been To And Not Listing Them, Oral Fixation Mints, SSBB, White Castle Slyders, Exodus AZA #1372, Connecticut Valley Region #17, and the entire order of the Aleph Zadik Aleph,

I will forever remain,

Aleph Noah Zachary Lurie

CVR 49th Regional Aleph Moreh

Yo wuddup wuddup!

Nick Ginsberg here, your really really ridiculously good looking 49th Regional Aleph Mazkir, to give you my last connection as regional mazkir (don't cry too much). This year has been nothing short of super awesome, for both myself and CVR. The simple fact that you are actually reading this is proof of our success. Although we've had some hardships this past year, and several down points, the great things we have accomplished far outweigh the bad. As you i'm sure know, myself and my lovely co Nina have introduced cvrbbyo.net, a new connection (yeah, its the one you're reading), and have been able to successfully stay in contact with our chapter counterparts and have ensured that they are working as hard as we were. I'd like to take a moment to recognize Josh Volpe, Mara Nobel, Lila Kohrman-Glaser, Aaron Katz, Sam Michaelis, Dave Gaizler, Phoebe Wapnitsky, Gabe Ross, Josh Conecoff, Stephen Liebowitz,, Gabbie Wynschenk, Pete Kossar, Sarah Levine, and yours truly for signing up for BBYO Summer Programs!!!!!!! Those listed are all going to go have the times of their lives and everyone in CVR who has the opportunity to attend a summer program should most defiantly attend one. Thank you, CVR, for a great year and I look forward to having another one next year!

Fraternally submitted with an undying love for Exodus AZA #1372, Connecticut Valley Region #17, and the Grand Order of the Aleph Zadik Aleph, I remain, ALEPH NICHOLAS HAYDEN GINSBERG

P.S 0101011001101001011100110110100101110100001000000100001101010110010100100100001001000010010110010100111100101110010011100100111001001010101010000100001

P.P.S. For those of you who don't understand Binary (wow I'm a nerd), that says "VISIT CVRBBYO.NET!"

HEY CVR! It's your regional MIT MOM here. As the year is coming to a close, I want to remind you that BBYO registration is still open. BBG's, remember what I said in speech at Spring: What are you waiting for? Go out there, and recruit! NOW IS PRIME TIME to get members of all ages to join. Tell them that this way, they will have friends when the BBYO year begins in the fall. Other than that, I am excited to tell you that multiple chapters are preparing for their MIT inductions...I am looking forward to hearing about/attending them! I have the utmost confidence in my counterparts. If anyone needs any help with any part of their end of the year programming don't hesitate to ask. OH ANDDDD I just returned from March of the Living, which is a two week program, in which you visit the concentration camps in Poland, and then spend a weekend in ISrael for Independence Day. In case this is the last time any of you ever hear from me, I strongly recommend it to any junior or younger. It was one of the best experiences of my life, I learned so much and made a bunch of new friends, it was sick. DO IT! K thats it for now...don't hesitate to contact me about anything!

with undying love and dedication to no internet at my house so I'm sitting in Panera Bread, failing Calculus, SDA 1547, blue bus for MOTL!, the crew, Michigan plus Sarah, UPENN, mickey mouse board, pink ladies board, little boobs board...so on and so on, I remain, SARAH ALIZA SCOLNIC

Shalom CVR! Congratulations on such a fantastic, innovative, and successful year! It has been an absolute joy and honor to serve as your 49th Regional Mazkirah. My BCE (if you don't know what that means, then you were asleep during Life) Nick and I got cvrbbyo.net up and running, produced a CVR Connection for Fall, and made the first ever CVR Video Yearbook with the help of our awesome Yearbook Committee. We also went on a boat with my brother and Gabe Ross. It was also a great privilege to witness the adoption of our CVR BBG Constitution, and, of course, participate in winning the SPIRIT CUP! Kudos to everyone at IC for being so wonderfully spirited and respectful. I know I said this at Life, but it is very strange to be leaving CVR, though amazing at the same time. I have grown so much and watched this region grow and change, and though I will be abandoning CT for the Obama Homeland (a.k.a. Chicago!), I will never forget the wonderful times I have spent here. I have incredible confidence in our newly-elected 50th Regional Board, and my beautiful replacement, Sam DeSantis. Good luck next year...I love you!

Respectfully submitted with undying love for CVR17, Ruach5114, Mickey Mouse Club, Big Boobs Board, BCE, my brother Zach Leff, and Northwestern '13!!!!!! I remain, NINA SOLOMON LEFF

As CVR's 49th year is coming to a close, I look back and although not everything was perfect, I see a successful year in terms of the position of Sh'liach. As Sh'liach, it is my job to organize and coordinate community service events and Jewish programs at a regional level, and to oversee Jewish programming and community service at a chapter level. Regionally, we held a canned food drive at fall convention and participated in J-Serve, the national day for community service for Jewish teens, in both New Haven and Hartford. Kallah Judaism Institute was also a huge success. It was a great convention and also saw a first for CVR, a beautiful service where 8 teens and an advisor received their B'nai Mitzvah. On the chapter level, Achla helped out at their temples Purim Carnival and Exodus ran a "Jewish Apples to Apples" program that was accepted by the International BBYO program bank. These are only a couple examples of the community service and Jewish programming at the chapter level. As I look to next year, I hope to see community service thrive within the region especially at the chapter level through BBYO's "Stand Up" Campaign, a campaign that encourages local communities to stand up for what they believe in. As Jewish programming and community service continue to improve, I hope CVR will continue to thrive as a region. PETE KOSSAR

DO YOU WANT TO
help name
JoshCo&EvCo's child?
then you're in luck!

Shalom Chaverim! I would like to thank all of you for being so involved in our community and participating whole heartedly in Jewish activities. This year's Kallah was AMAZING and we couldn't have done it without all of our members and our very special B'nai Mitzvah participants. J-Serve was also a great success, and I was so proud to see so many lovely BBYO faces pitching in to help out this community. Although this year is coming to an end, that does not mean that there isn't more work to be done! Run a Judaic program in your chapter, educate new members about what being Jewish in today's world means, volunteer at a soup kitchen on a weekend, there's so much you can do!! I encourage all of you to continue to help out, and if you need any help or ideas please don't hesitate to give me a call or an email! I hope I get to see a ton of faces at installations and you all help us welcome in the newly elected 50th regional boards!

B'Ahavah
NIKKI WYNSCHENK, 49th regional Sh'liach

Hello CVR,

This is your 49th Regional Gizbor Aaron Gottlieb. Over the programming year the chapter Gizborim have run fundraiser and organized shuk items for sale at conventions. For spring shuk I had asked all of my counterparts to come up with a unique item to sell that did not involve food. Every chapter went above and beyond bring to CVR hat I believe was the best Shuk we have had in my BBYO experience.

As the programming year comes to an end it is great to say farewell. Good luck to all those who are moving on to college and keep up the hard work CVR.

Fraternally submitted to, Gottlieb AZA # 2196, CVR #17, The 49th Regional Board, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy Class of 2013, I remain, AARON GOTTLIEB

Hey CVR,

So this year is quickly coming to an end. We as a region have done so much especially when it comes to the Gizborim of CVR they have worked so hard this year and had so many great ideas and met the goals we have set for them and with that they all deserve major props. We as a region have done so well in fundraising next year and although today money is tight for many I hope next year can be just as successful. So schools almost out and I can't wait for summer even though I will miss all of you so much I can't wait for college next year. I wish all of you the best of luck next year and to have a great summer. Good Luck 2009-2010 girls and boys regional boards!

with undying love and dedication I remain your 2008-2009 Mickey Mouse Club Board Gizborit. ELISSA BETH ROSENFELD

Have fun at Summer
ILTC CLTC

Dani Battat
Pete Kossar
Sarah Levine
Gabbie Wvnschenk
Israel Journey
Josh Conecoff
Dana Lefland
Gabe Ross
Euro-Quest
Jacki Elkodsi
Phoebe Wapnitsky

Dave Gaizler
Aaron Katz
Lila Kohrman-Glaser
Sam Michaelis
Mara Nobel
Josh Volpe
Phoebe Wapnitsky
Project NYC
Nick Ginsberg
Kallah
Gabbie Wvnschenk

Shalom Connecticut Valley! It seems we have come to an end of our Programming year with all the conventions behind us, but that doesn't mean we don't have more work to do! We should all still be working on amazing chapter programs and recruitment drives. If you weren't at Beau a few weeks ago, I know you wish you were! We all had such an amazing time on our flash back to the roaring twenties electing our Flapper (Sweetheart) and Gangster (Beau). Congrats Emily Wyner and Max Singer! You both make us very proud. I hope to see you all at Installations, welcoming the new boards and saying goodbye to the old. Keep up the good work CVR!

Respectfully submitted with UNDYING love and dedication to the International Order of the B'nai B'rith Girls, CVR #17, ILTC 2009, Kallah 2009, SDA BBG, the Mickey Mouse Club <3, 50th Regional Board, CLTC3 2008, AND THE SPIRIT CUP!

I remain,
GABRIELLE KATHLEEN WYNSCHENK
Your 49th Regional Sadranit

Well, it's been almost a year since I've been installed as your 49th regional Rakkaz and honestly; I'm not ready for this year to end. In just one short year I have been blown away by not only our region but by the entire organization. We started the year strong with great attendance at Fall convention coordinated by Gabbie and myself. I need to take the chance to one last time thank my steering committee, guys everything we asked got done, everything was planned and run just the way I had imagined it, thank you so much for all of your help. I also need to thank Gabbie for everything she has done this year. She was an amazing co. because of you Beau sweetheart was run perfectly. It's amazing how well everyone followed the theme set in place. I've never seen a BBYO dance where every member in attendance followed the theme. Thank you so much guys.

I'm going to admit, I'm scared for next year to begin. We had such a strong year, I'm afraid to end it and lose our seniors. With the loss of some incredibly strong members I'm worried that next year we will fall back from where we are today. It's going to be up to every member next year to pick up the slack and keep CVR ahead of the pack. This year of being on board has truly changed a large part of my life. I hope I have been able to inspire at least one member this year, if I was able to do that I have accomplished my goal as your 49th Regional Rakkaz. So for the last time as your Regional Rakkaz,

Fraternally submitted with undying love for,
My absolutely incredible Co Gabbie Wynschenk, Gottlieb AZA #2196, Standing up for what you believe in and making a difference, CVR # 17, CVR's 49th Regional board, my Graduating brothers and sisters, the entire order of the Aleph Zadik Aleph, and the entire organization of BBYO that we all call home,

I will forever remain your 49th Regional Rakkaz,
ALEPH ERIC DAVID SOMIN

Every chapter must endure its hardships for its own growth. In recent months Achla AZA has gone through what might be considered by some to be a nomadic trek through the desert of life searching for a true home. Members have stepped up to hold meetings at their houses with the lack of a true meeting place for a period. In this stretch we saw programs such as a blindfolded Mario Kart trust exercise, the running of the annual Purim Carnival, and a quality brotherhood overnight. As one of two AZA chapters in the region to have met their membership goals, Achla is immensely proud of this feat and sees the future as being full of limitless potential for the group. Whether it is going all out for essentric themes at conventions, selling teddy bears and motivational posters for top notch profit or even being able to say we met membership goals despite no permanent advisor and an erratic meeting scheduling, things are on the up and up for the alephs of Achla AZA.

Fraternally Submitted with undying love and dedication or CVR BBYO #17, Achla AZA #80085, I remain, MAXWELL DANIEL SINGER

Hey CVR, levine has been up to some amazing things this year!

We had an great advisor appreciation program, where we went through the advisor's lives, and celebrating them and how much they give to us. We had a great yom hashoa program, where we each got a different holocaust survivor, and then we moved on to a presentation on march of the living. Recently we celebrated earthday, with an earthday birthday celebration with ram, and we played games like pin the leaf on the tree, we planted seeds, and we also are planting a tree in israel! It's been a honor to be nsiah, and with the help of all the board and the advisors, we've had a great year! With undying love and dedication,

I remain
tsivya sarah miller :)

This past year all of us in Exodus have had a great time. Our membership has been steadily increasing and our programming has been pretty solid all year. Some highlights of the second half of the year were our Brotherhood Overnight, our battle of the sexes with Layna, and various programs with SDA. It has been a great year and we all look forward to ending on a strong note. ALEPH PETER NORMAN KOSSAR

Genesis BBYO #5299 here with a little message for you...

THE DEFINITION OF A G:

- One who dominates CVR BBYO.
- One who attends chapter campfires, featuring a build-your-bow-and-arrow contest run by none other than Lila KG.
- One who competes in Jewish History Dodgeball. And wins.
- One who defeats other chapters with regional attendance.
- One who forever loves 5299.

Yeah, that's right. Don't ya wanna be a G?

Since Fall, Gottlieb has been doing very well. We had a very productive year in both the membership and knowledge aspects of the chapter. Our young board quickly learned how to effectively run a chapter and, by doing so, new members came. Our goal for the end of the year was 30 members. With still almost two months to go, we have hit this goal and will only continue to grow. We have consistently run productive and informative holiday programs and other programs including multiple folds. This year has been very rewarding and has set the chapter up for another excellent year to come. JOSH VOLPE

Hey Guys! Layna's been having a great year. This year, we've really celebrated the Jewish holidays. On Tu B'Svat, we made Family Trees (get it?) and ate delicious fruit. On Purim, we got together to bake hamentashen. Before Passover, we had a Chocolate Seder with a ton of girls in attendance. Everything on the seder plate was made out of chocolate! After the seder, we collected old clothes and sold each item to one another for \$3 apiece, and ended up making a bunch of money for the chapter. We brought the remaining clothes to Spring Convention Shuk, and also made a bunch of money off of them! Our next program will be watching Paper Clips, a documentary about Holocaust awareness, in honor of Yom HaShoah. Layna is not going to be the same without us seniors (Emily, Lauren, Grace, Samara, Stef, and ME) but you'll be seeing Layna next year with lots of cute new faces.

With undying love and dedication to the Playboy Bunnies of Layna BBG#2388, I remain, ALICE ELIZABETH AUSTEN KAMENS

Congratulations, R-Board Seniors!

Emily Wyner Tufts University

Craig Swidler Emory University

Alice Kamens Barnard College

Brian Zahn University of Connecticut

Sarah Scolnic University of Pennsylvania

Nina Leff Northwestern University

Elissa Rosenfield Naugatuck Valley CC

Aaron Gottlieb Merchant Marine Academy

hey there CVR! RAM is doing great! We're almost at our goal for membership, and we're just so excited! We recently had a great meeting called Board Auctions where girls got to bid for a board position and in two weeks they get to run an entire meeting as that position! We all had so much fun at Spring Convention and I really hope you got to meet some of our new girls because they're absolutely AMAZING. We're going to have inductions and another bake sale REALLY soon for ISF. RAM girls were lookin' pretty dank at Beauuuuu. We're doing so so good and we can't wait to celebrate the fact that CVR is going to be FIFTY next year!!! With UNDYING love and dedication to RAM BBG #1360, good introductions, r board '10, and CVR's 50th! I remain DANA ALLINSON :)

Hey CVR!

So it's coming to the end of the year, and I have to say, I am so proud of my lovely ladies of Sabbaba BBG. We have gained 6 new members, and had 83% of our girls at Spring Convention! We have elections coming up, as well as the Annual Sabbaba Pool Party. We are babysitting on the 9th for our local temple to give back since they have given so much to us. It's hard to say goodbye to our lovely seniors, but it's about time. Love you all ladies!

With undying love and dedication to Sabbaba BBG, 50th Regional Board, do fish have eyes?, I remain, SAMANTHA LYN DESANTIS

Tikvah has had many successful programs this year. Some of the stand out programs include a chocolate seder, murder mystery, trick-or-canning, and Israeli pop-culture. At the annual chocolate seder, the program incorporated Jewish culture with a twist, as all the traditional seder items were converted to something chocolate. Tikvah along with Leviticus, our brother chapter, created a murder mystery where all members worked together to solve a case. At the trick-or-canning event the chapter went trick-or-treating close to Halloween but asked for canned or non-perishable food items that would be collected and donated to a cause in need. The chapter was able to help people in need while having fun dressing up in Halloween costumes. For an Israeli pop-culture program the chapter was exposed to the social aspects of Israeli life, able to try different Israeli foods, listen to music, and learn a little Hebrew. As a fund raiser the chapter held a no-sleepathon with Leviticus, where every member found people to sponsor them to stay up. The evening was a great opportunity to get to know other members and was filled with exciting activities. Also, Tikvah attended a performance of "Anne Frank," which was entertaining along with informative. Tikvah also held the annual mother-daughter brunch, allowing perspective members to learn about the organization, meet people, and enjoy a nice brunch. Tikvah meetings were geared to include social, athletic, community service, and Judaic aspects. In addition to the chapter's successful programs the chapter is proud of the 19 new members gained to the chapter and the 100% retention. The chapter plans to continue recruiting new members to this great organization of which we are a part and maintain thriving programs. THE GIRLS OF TIKVAH