

**Want more Israel info?**

- **Check out [usy.org](http://usy.org) for more information on USY trips and Israel Pilgrimages.**
- **Check out our website!!**  
[www.aiyouthandfamily.org](http://www.aiyouthandfamily.org) for upcoming programs and events!
- **Contact Brett at**  
[brett@adath-israel.org](mailto:brett@adath-israel.org) or one of the AIUSY board members for questions or comments!

**AIUSY**

**AIUSY**  
Adath Israel  
Congregation

**Adath Israel USY**

**3201 E. Galbraith Rd**

**Cincinnati, OH 45236**

# **AIUSY'S GUIDE TO**

**2009-5769**

**Israel**  **Affairs**

**Everything you  
need to know  
about USY, Israel,  
and more!!!!**

By AIUSY's Israel/  
World Affairs Vice  
Presidents

## Discovering USY...

USY on Wheels

by Lainey Paul (Religious/Education VP)

Thinking back on my summer trip of 2007, only one word comes to mind: AMAZING! USY on Wheels East is a 4 week summer program targeted to incoming freshmen wanting to have a head start in USY; and that's exactly what it did for me. Long bus rides and tours all around the east coast comprised our trip that went from New York, up to Toronto, Canada, down the coast of Florida, and then back up finishing in New York. I went knowing only one person (a boy no less) and I admit, I was very nervous; I never really liked going places and having to meet all new people without a friend to do that with. Luckily, almost every single person was in the same boat as I was and were all looking to make new friends. I immediately felt right at home and spent time with my new "family" like I had known them forever. Of course as the trip progressed, we only grew closer. Some highlights of the trip were: whirly ball (a combination of bumper cars and lacrosse, which was incredible), Maid of the Mist - Niagara Falls, The Hockey Hall of Fame, Salem Witch Museum, Pool Party at my [Lainey's] house, Disney World, and many more indescribable adventures! The friends I made on this trip two summers ago, I keep in touch with to this day and they are the reason I have gotten so involved with USY. It was the greatest decision I've ever made, and I would do the trip all over again. Thank goodness for most of you reading this piece there is still a way: other USY summer programs. Many of you reading this are too old to go on the Wheels East program for graduated 8th Graders, but wait, there's another Wheels program that travels CROSS COUNTRY from California to New York taking only 6 weeks of your summer! A bunch of my 8th grade trip loved it so much that they decided to do it again, but this time on Classic Wheels (the 6 week program). "I had an outstanding time on USY Wheels East, and Classic Wheels is right up there with it as the best summer programs ever!" said Garret, one of my really good friends from my trip. The friends you make on summer programs through USY are the friends you keep for a lifetime, and that's why I have done these programs and shared my experiences with you; get involved!

## Continuing USY in Israel....

USY Israel Pilgrimage

By Melanie Swartz (Co-Israel/World Affairs VP)

I can honestly say that Israel is the safest place in the world. Now, I know what you're thinking. How can that be? Is she talking about the same Israel I think she is? But it's true. This past summer I spent a month traveling around Israel on a USY Pilgrimage trip, traveling all the way from the Golan in the north to Eilat in the south. There was not a single time, throughout the entire month, that I felt unsafe or unprotected. We had an armed Israeli medic with us at all times, as well as tour guides who were very well trained and informed on the current news. In all sincerity, I felt safer everywhere I went in Israel than I do some places in Cincinnati. USY keeps you safe. They know where the trouble areas are in Israel, and they stay clear of them. So don't let this hold you back!

There is so much to learn and experience ארץ ישראל, the land of Israel. As Dr. Suess would say, "Oh, the places you'll go!" The people you'll meet, the experiences you'll have, and the lasting bond you will form with a group of individuals and your country, will discount any doubts you may have in your mind. Any trip of this sort is a once in a lifetime opportunity; why waste your chance?

I was thrilled to travel to Washington, D.C., over winter break, for International Convention. More importantly I was excited to see all of my friends there for our USY Israel Pilgrimage Group 1 reunion. When I left for Israel, I initially knew only 2 people on my trip; I came back with 45 new best friends. You have nothing to lose! Go to Israel, make lots of friends, see loads of exciting things, connect with the roots of your religion, pet an alpaca, swim, hike, sightsee, ride a camel, shop on Ben Yehuda Street, sleep in the desert, get a nice tan. What more could you ask for in a summer?



## Another look at Israel...

Don't Let the Dust Settle: An Epigrammatically Historical Look at Jerusalem

By Ari Shroyer (Co-Israel/World Affairs VP)

Taking a walk through the narrow streets and alleyways of Old City Jerusalem, it isn't hard to envision the rich history of such an ancient metropolis. Once filled with glorious holy temples, the scene of countless battles, and the footsteps of heroes, Jerusalem has been at the epicenter of World History for a millennia.

Just outside the walls of the Old City lies the infamous Mt. Zion. There one can find the tomb of King David, the Chamber of the Holocaust (the precursor to Yad Veshem), and even the grave of Oskar Schindler. To the east, the Mount of Olives; named for the plentiful olive groves that once covered its slopes. In the days of the Second Temple, Jews marked the celebration of a new month (Rosh Hodesh) within its lush confines. After the temple's destruction, however, they began to celebrate the feast of Sukkot and observe there the lamenting anniversary of Tisha B'Av.

If you're feeling especially *Indiana Jones'y*, the Hezekiah Tunnel is calling your name. Built in response to an impending Assyrian siege, King Hezekiah used the dark and murky tunnels to block the spring water from outside the city and through a channel, divert the waters' flow to the Siloam Pool. When looking at any skyline of Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock is always visible. With its breezy blue tiles and golden top shinning in the sun, this mosque is where the legendary Saracen warrior Saladin took refuge before engaging the Crusading army of Richard the Lionheart. And of course no historical excursion in Jerusalem could be complete without the Western Wall. Although the Romans destroyed an overwhelming majority of the Second Temple, built by Herod around 19 BCE, a last vestige remains. Twenty-four hours a day the prayers of all G-d's children can be heard from this site.

So for all those history-buffs out there like me, this is *our* Mecca. The rich traditions of her Jewish, Christian, and Muslim inhabitants make this the New York of the east; a true capital of diversity in culture and creed.