

The background features several decorative elements: three concentric circles in shades of green (dark, medium, and light) arranged vertically on the right side. A white Star of David is positioned to the right of the title. The title itself is written in a bold, black, cursive font. The overall background is a light green gradient with faint white lines.

Kol HaMaarav

[2nd Issue]

[SATO/HeChalutzim "Going Green"
Edition]

-Letter from the Editors
-Israel
-SATO
-And MUCH MORE!!!

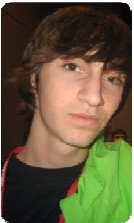
Brian Stone
Matt Alfasso
Rachel Rothberg

[January 18th, 2009]

Letter from the Editors

Hey Hey Far West!

Here it is, the second issue of the Kol Ha'Maarav, the "Going Green" Edition. Since the theme of the weekend is SATO and Israel, we thought it would be appropriate for the Kol Ha'Maarav to discuss just that. Thank you to all those who contributed and made this issue possible! Make sure to check out the Far West website at www.fwusy.net where you can see all the past Kol Ha'Maarav issues, as well as find out everything about our amazing region.



Brian Stone
Brian Stone
Far West Communications V.P. 2008-2009



Matthew Alfasso Rachel Rothberg
Matthew Alfasso Rachel Rothberg
Editors 2008-2009

Welcome to SATO Shab

*"Long time, we no have no nice time
Doo-yoo-doo-dun-doo, yeah, think about that
Long, long, long, long time, we no have no nice time
Doo-yoo-doo-dun-doo, yeah, think about that, mm"
-Bob Marley*



Ahh, yes! That's the sweet lyrical style of Bob Marley. Oh yeah, do you hear that? "Doo-yoo-doo-dun-doo, think about that." Well fellow USYers, think about this: On January 16, 2009 the most historical event known as... no not the inauguration of President-elect Barak Obama... known as SATO/Hechalutzim Shabbaton is coming to Adat Shalom in California.

It's just the only event that EVERYONE is talking about!!! Who's going to be there? Well, that's a great question Lonnie, I'm glad you asked: only the coolest people ever! Yeah, we're bringing One Love to California with that zesty twist to Israel and the environment! Sounds fun, right? It gets better, way way way way way better! Way!

Try this, a swap meet where USYers can buy other USYer's unwanted and old clothing- can you say "yes?!" How about, a drum circle, making a Shabbos dinner, watching Planet Earth, and much much more!
SATO/Hechalutzim Shabbaton at Adat Shalom on January 16th. Are YOU in?

See you there,
Lonnie Kleinman and Yoni Twena

Israel Update

*"One love, one heart
 Lets get together and feel alright
 One love, hear my plea, one heart
 Give thanks and praise to the lord,
 and I will feel alright"*
 - Bob Marley

Generally overlooked in Israel's history are the many unique environmental issues it has faced. Israelis have had to balance growth with preservation of the country's ancient archeological treasures, as well as developing both industry and agriculture in an arid landscape where water is both precious and scarce. Today, environmental concerns in Israel, as in the rest of the world, are multiplying and becoming more urgent. Consumption of electricity and cars has dramatically increased the carbon monoxide levels within the last decade. Irresponsible agricultural policies and industrial controls have placed water sources at risk. Open spaces are being quickly demolished by urban development. Sadly, environmental degradation most often affects those on the lowest rungs of the socio-economic ladder. Likewise, the Arab-Israeli conflict presents more problems for citizens to cope with daily. The current Israeli incursion in Gaza is a direct result of heightened tension between Hamas in Gaza and Israel.

These ongoing events are only separating the Arab world and the Israeli world even more so than before. Furthermore, overpopulation in the Gaza Strip remains a prevalent issue. It affects all aspects of Israeli life, from the economy to depletion of valuable resources (especially water), to cultural life.



In the words of Bob Marley, "We're all in the same boat, rocking the same rock." We have only *one* world and only *one love* can help restore peace and order in Israel and throughout the world. Truly understanding and feeling sympathy towards such dilemmas is one thing, but to whole-heartedly embrace these issues takes much more effort; much more love.
 One love: the environment
 One love: Israel

-Yoni Twena

Be Sure to Check out the
 Far West Regional Website:
www.fwusy.net

Starting 2009 with Dreams of Peace in the Middle East

Hey USY! I am SUPER stoked for this weekend. Our co-chairs, Lonnie Kleinman and Yoni Twena, have worked very hard to find organizations and activities that they feel are worthy of USY's support. This Shab, we are focusing specifically on Israel and the environment. The tzedakah that we collect throughout the weekend will be going to an organization that supports both Israel and the environment.

The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies is a regional center for environmental leadership. The Arava Institute is working towards peace and sustainable development by encouraging environmental cooperation and awareness between nations. The Institute's headquarters are located on Kibbutz Ketura, in Israel's southern Arava Valley. It offers academic programs, research materials, and opportunities for community involvement.

This institute offers the leading environmental teaching and research program in the Middle East and is available to Arabs and Jews alike. Arava's mission is to cooperatively solve the region's environmental challenges by including all of the citizens of the area. The Arava Institute not only explores environmental issues, but also allows for peace building and leadership training.



The institute has a very diverse student body, consisting of Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis, North Americans, and others. Students are given a rare chance to study and live together for an extended period of time, allowing for growth as a community and enabling future activism in the Middle East and around the world.

The Arava Institute says that "here, the idea that nature knows no political borders is more than a belief, it is a fact, a curriculum, and a way of life." Lonnie, Yoni, Max, and I are very excited to introduce this organization to USY and to support it throughout the weekend and beyond.

B'shalom,

Elyse Weissberger

2008-2009 S.A.T.O. V.P.

February 13-15 Sr. Kinnus -
Midbar Kodesh, Las Vegas,
Nevada!!!

Israel Peace



"One love, one heart, lets get together and feel alright" – Bob Marley.

Today in Israel it is apparent that things are getting pretty rough. With the situation in Gaza, it seems that peace may never be achieved. It is hard to keep this hope alive. But if Bob Marley teaches us anything, it is that we must always keep that hope going for that "One love" that will encompass the Middle East. Right now living in the United States it seems that there is little that we can do to help Israel aside from showing our solidarity. Well, that's wrong. Even though there is little we can do to help Israel with this conflict, there are plenty of other ways to help Israel. Like any other country, Israel has problems and as Jews it is our obligation and privilege to be there to have Israel's back. "One Love" does not only apply to conditions of war and peace but all aspects of life. At the 2009 SATO/Hechalutzim Kinnus we will be focusing on "One Love: the environment". Israel has a lot of things to worry about right now and the environment may not be it's top priority. That's where we come in. At this kinnus we will raise money and do social action projects to help the environment here in the states and over there in Israel. SATO/Hechalutzim Kinnus: Repairing the world here in the west and there in the east.

Max Gan

2008-2009 Far West Israel V.P.



*Want to write an article?
Contact Communications V.P.,
Brian Stone at
BStone525@yahoo.com*

Letter from the President



Hechal-o there Far West!

What I have to SA/TO you is, welcome to the 2009 Sato/Hechal Shabbaton. At this point of the year, we have the exciting opportunity to connect in a smaller setting to truly reach out to the community and stand with Israel at a time when our support is very important. Take advantage of the unique opportunities this event offers and enjoy every moment of the Prigat, Subliminal, and Elyse Weissberger's purple hair! Big ups and thanks to our co-chairs Lonnie and Yoni, and of course to their regional counterparts Max and Elyse. While we may be at the midpoint of the year, I still am excited to get to know any Far Wester who took the time to read this (or didn't). In the words of Scooby doo, "Peace Out Cub Scout."

Am Yisrael Chai,

Aaron Leven

2008-2009 Far West Regional President

What can I do to help?

Max – Create a fundraising program to help the Israeli teens in the Western Negev who have had their homes and schools which were hit by HAMAS rockets. For more information on what is going on in Israel in relation to the conflict between Israel and Gaza, please check out: www.jpost.com, www.ynetnews.com, www.haaretz.com and www.youtube.com/user/idfnadesk

Elyse - The most important thing that we can do now is to get involved. There are three ways that USYers can help the Arava Institute and environmental education in general: advocacy, monetary support, and activism.

USYers should act as advocates for Arava's cause by spreading the word about the fantastic work that it is doing. We should also educate others about that environmental issues facing Israel for they often go unnoticed due to other issues deemed more important.

Next, USYers should monetarily support the Arava Institute to keep its programs up and running. We do not have to do this simply from our own pocket, but we should encourage our friends and family to support the cause.

Lastly, and what I consider to be the most important, we need to become activists for the Arava Institute's message. The environmental lessons taught in the Arava programs should be implemented in the United States as well and when we travel to Israel we should make it a point to spend at least one day of our trip helping to end an environmental issue.

If we do these things we will be taking necessary steps toward bettering the environment of not only Israel, but also America, and even the world.



For the first time Far West USY will be holding a one of a kind battle of knowledge all about the State of Israel. It will take you on a journey full of adventures and surprises into the history, places, people, and culture of our homeland.

So get your mind working and step up to the challenge!!!

What do you need to know?

“HaChamishiya Hapotachat” The Starting Five. (The 5 topics you need to know)

Geography: Get to know the map- where are the main cities. Geographical regions, neighbors, borders and landmarks.

History of the State of Israel: Main events that occurred throughout the history of the modern State of Israel, since the First Zionist Aliyah in 1881 and up to today.

Current Events: Significant events that have had an impact on the State of Israel and its citizens within the past two decades.

Israeli Culture: Everything that makes Israeli-Israeli. Exploring the blue and white: **Sports, music, food, literature, fashion, slang** and much more.

The Israeli Society: The many different groups that make up the mosaic of the Israeli society- “Edot”, Religious Identity, Minorities and non-Jews, “Olim” and “Sabras”. This will also include famous figures that have taken their place in the history of the State of Israel.

Quiz questions will mostly be based on information from these web sites:

Jewish agency for Israel: <http://jafi.org/NR/exeres/2ADDB63A-2FAC-43E2-8264-5C4D00E8BBAB>

Israel ministry of foreign affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Israel+Ministry+of+Foreign+Affairs.htm>

(See ‘fact about Israel’, ‘History of Israel’ and more)

Operation ‘Cast Lead’

*“Israeli citizens have been under the threat of daily attack from Gaza for years. Only this week hundreds of missiles and mortar shells were fired at Israeli civilian communities including the firing of 80 missiles on a single day. Until now, we have shown restraint. But today there is no other option than a military operation. We need to protect our citizens from attack through a military response against the terror infrastructure in Gaza. **This is the translation of our basic right to self defense.**” (Foreign Minister Tzippi Livni, briefing to the foreign press, Dec. 27th 2008)*

Far West,

Many of you remember the moving presentation we experienced last May, by Dana and Hadas, at Regional Convention, about the situation in Sderot and the Western Negev. To hear first hand the struggle of the Israelis to lead a normal lifestyle under daily missile attacks was very moving. Yet, it left us with a lot of questions about what Israel is doing about it and what we can do to help.

Many of you are old enough to remember the war that Israel fought in the north of Israel during the summer of 2006 (The Second Lebanon War). As thousands of Hezbollah rockets fell in the towns in the north, the lives of the Israeli citizens were under constant threat.

Every war in Israel is a war for existence, as the radical Muslim world around wants to wipe us off the map. Every IDF soldier understands this, and knows that his/her actions are protecting his house where ever it might be in Israel. As an Israeli I would like you to know that it is very hard to be here and watch what is going on. Far West, it is very important to Israel, yourself, and me, for you to get involved in what is going on. Read the news, send support in anyway and get active!!!

Zalman Spivack

Far West on Wheels 2009



Wheels 2005- Vancouver, Seattle, Denver, Idaho...



Wheels 2006- Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, Yosemite...



Wheels 2007- Tucson, Boulder, Zion and Bryce National Park...



Wheels 2008- Banff, Juneau, Ketchikan, Alaska...

...Far West on Wheels 2009- Travel through Northern California, Oregon, and Washington...

Send me more information on Far West on Wheels 2009

Name _____

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Email _____

Anticipated Dates: July 20-August 6
Estimated Price: \$2650-Subject to Change