

# Nag Noah

Ask Noah any question about USY or Judaism and he will respond in the latest Kol Ha'Maarav. Check out what he said this issue:

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Check out some photos of the most memorable moments of Lead 2009. Go to [fwusy.net](http://fwusy.net) and enter the picture zone to see hundreds more!



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## THE KOL HA'MAARAV

**Exclusive**

**USYers flock to VBS for a chance at Reality TV**

### BREAKING NEWS

International Convention just took place in Chicago and we had 29 Far West USYers who went! Read about what happened and why you can't miss the opportunity to go next year.

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After several failed terrorist attempts we must be increasingly aware about what is happening politically and how Judaism stands on the subject.

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**Letter from the Editors**

**Read about Tefillin**

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### What else is Inside:

- The Jewish response to terrorism
- Experiences at International Convention
- An Inspirational Iambic Pentameter
- And much, much more....

## VIOLATION OF JEWISH VALUES

On Christmas Day, there was an attempted terrorist attack on an American Airlines flight to Detroit. Fortunately, the attack did not fully go through and the passengers were unharmed. In response to this, the government has established new security measures to stop future attacks.

One of the new measures now being employed is racial profiling for people coming from Muslim nations. This new measure is against both our Jewish and American ideals. Many believe that this will stop terrorist attacks because Muslims will now have to go through further screening. However, this will only lead to further attacks. Many Muslims will be angered by this outright discrimination and if they had not before, they will now begin to hold anti-American feelings. Just as we Jews have long held onto our anger over discrimination against us, we must expect Muslims to do the same.

The United States Constitution guarantees that everyone has equal rights and cannot be discriminated against based on religion. This new measure completely contradicts these basic rights, and undermines the belief in an America of the free. Furthermore, Judaism believes that all people were created “b'tzelem elohim” (in the image of God). If we as Jews believe this, then we cannot tolerate such a violation of equality for Muslims.

Although there is much tension between Jews and Muslims, we must remember that most Muslims are good people. Only a very small percent of the Muslim population are extremists, and there are many extremists Jews as well. That is why we must not believe that these new measures the government is imposing are acceptable.

- Alex Thomson



**Q: What Is *Nag Noah*?**

**A:** Nag Noah is a segment that will be in every Kol Ha'Maarav issue. From the Far West website ([www.fwusy.net](http://www.fwusy.net)) you can [submit a question](#). The most interesting questions asked will be answered and displayed in the next issue of the Kol Ha'Maarav. So get online and start asking questions!

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**Q: This past April-May, my youth director and youth advisor grew these ridiculous, long, disgusting beards for no apparent reason. What was the deal with that?**

**A:** Every year between Passover and Shavuot, we say a special prayer to "count the Omer." The counting of the Omer reminds us of the link between Passover, when we made the exodus out of Egypt, and Shavuot, when we received the Torah. It is customary during the thirty-five days in which we count the Omer to not shave. This is why Scott and Joel had those ridiculous beards.

**Q: What are the rules when it comes to fish not being considered meat or dairy?**

**A:** Fish can't be cooked with or eaten with meat. However, since fish isn't technically meat or dairy, it can be eaten during the same meal as meat in separate courses on separate plates. It is a common custom that between fish and meat courses, you eat and drink something (preferably wine, or something that isn't water). It is also a common tradition to rinse your hands between fish and meat courses. Fish and dairy follow the same guidelines. They can be eaten at the same meal, in different courses. Like most Jewish traditions, the rules about combination of fish and dairy vary from community to community.

**Q: When I see my friends putting on Tefillin for services, I hear them counting the seven days of the week, or something else that adds up to seven. Why don't we just count from one to seven when wrapping Tefillin?**

**A:** This is a custom some people have; however, it is not actually a law. There is a law stating that you are not supposed to have any type of conversation during the wrapping of Tefillin other than saying "amen" to people saying the Brachot for Tefillin, and some people interpret counting from one to seven as "conversation."

**Q: When is the next Far West regional weekend?**

**A:** SATO/HeChalutzim Shabbaton at Temple Beth Am, Los Angeles, March 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. It will be an amazing, fun-filled weekend. Come and learn about Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and Israel!

- Noah

## IAMBIC PENTAMETER

Some days I wake up and I find that I  
Will lose myself in all of the days' work  
I'll work so hard that I just want to cry  
I'll be so mad that I'll act like a jerk

But then there are those days that I feel  
great

The days that I'm so happy and alive  
The days that were chosen by my own  
fate

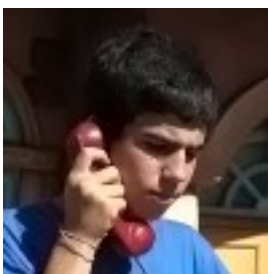
The days in which I don't just live, I thrive

What makes one day more different than  
the rest

I might just want to laugh, or just to cry  
I don't have all the answers but I've  
guessed

What makes my days great are my USY!

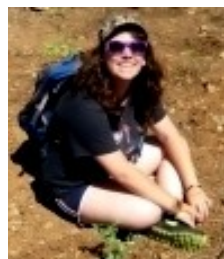
Don't take for granted anything you do  
You never know what may inspire you.



- Edan Chen-Zion

## SENIORS

Wow I can't believe I'm a senior! It's my last year in USY which is so unbelievably sad but I also know that it will be the greatest year ever. It really hit me at LEAD that it's my last year when all of the senior girls got to light the candles Friday night. I had always seen the senior girls go up and light candles and I was so excited to finally be part of that. The best part about being a senior is that I get to take part in the senior programs! We've only had one so far and it was great; staying up late and hanging out with friends around a campfire. One thing about being a senior is the issue of senioritis and I am for sure feeling it in school. But as far as USY I'm just as into it as I was when I first started. Even though there are programs and events that get repeated they are still exciting because there are always new people to meet. I remember being in 9th grade not really knowing anything and seeing all the seniors having the times of their lives. Now I'm having the time of my life in USY and I don't want it to end.



- Nina Ferro

# LEAD 2009 MEMORABLE MOMENTS



Matt Alfasso dressed up as an Oompa Loompa.



Eitan and Talia came all of the way from Israel to represent NOAM.



Ashleigh dressed up in this red Onesie for a spectacular performance.



Chelsea Director and Jake Kotz battle during this game to support SATO.



This picture was taken only seconds before Matt Alfasso fell on his face.



Gil Chen-Zion all ready for LEAD!

Check out Far West's website to see at more pictures at:  
[www.fwusy.net](http://www.fwusy.net)

Get updates from Far West on Twitter at:  
<http://twitter.com/FWRUSY>

## MY EXPERIENCE AT IC

Nothing is more exhilarating than being in a room filled with 700 Jews. International Convention 2009 in Chicago was one of the most exciting USY experiences that I have had. With an amazing theme, building healthy relationships, IC this winter was at its top. In my opinion, the best program of week was the Israel Lunch. We were placed into four different cities in Israel. In each of our cities, we had an Israel bingo challenge. Zalman had a slide show and on each slide there was a different question about an Israeli celebrity. The correct answer to the question was located on the bingo card. All in all, the program was planned very well.



Chicago is a very cold, but amazing city. While we were there, it snowed! It was very new for Far West. Our stay in Chicago was completed with an awesome snowball fight. During our sightseeing days, we visited the *Shedd Aquarium*, *Lincoln Park Zoo*, and the *John Hancock Center*. We also did a little retail therapy at the *Water Tower Place*. The best place that we visited was the *John Hancock center*. Traveling to the 100<sup>th</sup> floor with Far West and looking out onto the city of Chicago made the experience unique.

Besides the great programming and amazing sights, the week was made better because of the new friends I had made. From spending one week in Chicago, I made at least 50 new friends from all over the US. I know that these people will stay my friends for the rest of my life. If you have yet to attend an International Convention, my advice is to go to IC in Orlando next winter. You will not regret it.



- Tobi Rosenzweig

## TEFILLIN



Tefillin. For some a regular ritual for others more of an obligation and then for the rest just a once in a while delight. But these little black boxes are part of our religion. They live among us every morning except the holy morning of



Sabbath. But the question is why do we put them on? Some say that they are like antennas to G-d and when we put them on we have a "direct line" to G-d. Whether this is true or not I cannot answer but what I can tell you is that when I put them on during that rare Sunday morning I feel more connected to the service. I don't know if it's because there's a mystical force or because it's so tight I have to keep my mind on something else. But why do we have to put them on? The answer is in the Shema we say every day. You say you will put them between your eyes and in

your arm. We don't exactly know what that's referring to but Tefillin is the tradition we follow. The true question is still not answered as to why we do it. I don't know but I encourage all of you to try it at some point and maybe you will find the answer yourself.

- Gabe Cemaj

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Happy New Years Far West!

Thanks for reading the second edition of the Kol Ha'Maarav for 2009/2010. We hope you enjoyed this issue and remember you can always view the Kol Ha'Maarav online at [www.fwusy.net](http://www.fwusy.net). Remember that we can't do this without you!

If you would like to write an article, please email us at: [areagle18tcx2@yahoo.com](mailto:areagle18tcx2@yahoo.com) or [tracemonster@aol.com](mailto:tracemonster@aol.com).

- Adam Eagle

- Traci Laichter

## MORE PICTURES...



Madrichim in training drawing what they think a leader is.



A bus full of Madrichim in training.



Matt wearing a very stylish Yoo-hoo hat.

# SOVA

It takes  
more  
than food  
to end  
hunger.



## COMMUNITY FOOD AND RESOURCE PROGRAM