

# Arin Lauren Kerstein

Desired Position: Regional President

CBS USY

## USY Activities

### Chapter - CBS USY:

Membership/Kadima Vice President 2011-2012  
Hamentashen for Hunger fundraiser committee 2012  
98% attendance

### Regional - CHUSY:

**Regional Communications Vice President** 2012-2013  
Regional General Board:  
Kadima Konvention tri-chair 2011  
Yearbook 2011-2012  
Camp CHUSY/CRUSY attendee 2012  
Leadership Training Institute attendee 2011, 2012  
CHUSYFest attendee 2011, 2012  
Turkey Dance attendee 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012  
Midwinter Convention attendee 2012, 2013  
SA/TO Marathon attendee 2012, 2013  
Kinnus attendee 2010, 2011, 2012  
Voting delagate 2011, 2012  
100% attendance 2013

### International:

#### International General Board

Achshav! Editor 2013  
HeChalutzim Member 2012-present  
613 Mitzvah Corps Member 2012-present  
Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society 2012-present  
Fall Boards Convention attendee 2012

## Jewish Education and Involvement

Hebrew program at Glenbrook North  
Student 2010-present  
Teacher's aid 2012-present  
Alexander Muss High School in Israel 2012-2013  
Completion of University of Miami Courses:  
Israel, Origins, Culture and Society  
Jewish Civilization, Society, Culture, and Religion  
JCC Camp Chi  
Junior Counselor 2013  
Participant in Staff-in-Training Leadership program 2012  
Chi-Town Connection Advisory Board member 2009-2012

Camper	2004-2011
"Write on for Israel – Teens Stepping Up for Israel" online course participant	2013
Writer for Fresh Ink For Teens (Jewish online publication)	2012-present
J-serve Teen Walk with Israel planning committee	2012
Congregation Beth Shalom's Israel 101 Advocacy Course	2011-2012
Solomon Schechter Day School student	2001-2010

### *Religious Skills:*

Able to lead Birkat HaMazon, and Hamotzi  
 Able to write and deliver D'var Torahs  
 Able to chant Torah, Haftarah, and Megillat Esther

## Secular Education and Involvement

Glenbrook North High School, Honor Roll	2010-present
Student Advisory Board Representative	2010-present
Class Treasurer	2010-2011
School Newspaper - Torch	
Staff Writer	2011-2012
News Editor	2012-2013
Editor-in-Chief	2013-2014
Tutor	
Writing tutor in Academic Resource Center	2011-present
After-School All-Stars Tutoring	2010-2012
Guitar Club	2010-2011
Science Achievement Award	2011
Habitat for Humanity volunteer	2012
Assistant Coordinator at Great Events Party-Planning	2009-present
JUF Women's Board Presidential Merit Scholarship recipient	2012

## Brief Statement

When I graduated from Solomon Schechter, CBS USY became a second home to me, giving me a new Jewish base. Thursday night lounges became the highlights of my week and as I got involved regionally, CHUSY Region as a whole worked its magic on me by teaching me and by helping me make amazing friends. Our region has so much potential of what we can do for one another. We are so lucky to be so geographically close, and I want us to be just as close as a community. This is why as your president, I would combine all of our resources to <sup>appeal</sup> to as many Jewish teens as possible. I want to help each USYer's experience to be as meaningful as mine have been. As president, I will try to intertwine the great things about being a Jewish community and a social one – by entangling these two, we will become better than ever. Vote for me, Arin Kerstein, and I promise I will make it my duty to lead CHUSY region to grow together as a community.

## President

Noa Deena Ohcana      נועה אוחנה  
BEANS USY

## USY Activities

2007-2010 BEANS Kadima Executive Board Member  
2010-2011 BEANS Freshman Representative  
2010-2011 CHUSY Freshman Liaison  
2011-2012 BEANS Membership/Kadima Vice President  
2011-2012 CHUSY Ruach Committee  
2012-2013 BEANS Honorary Board Member  
2012-2013 CHUSY Membership/Kadima Vice President  
2013-2014 Membership/Kadima International General Board  
2012-2014 613 Mitzvah Corps Member  
Kadima Konvention: International Spies 2012  
CHUSY Turkey Dance 2010, 2011, 2012  
Kadima Turkey Dance 2007, 2008, 2009  
CHUSY Kinnus 2010, 2011, 2012  
CHUSYfest 2010, 2011, 2012  
CHUSY Midwinter 2012, 2013  
CHUSY SA/TO Marathon 2012, 2013  
International Convention in Boston 2012 (Flag Bearer!)

## Jewish Education

Honors Hebrew II, III, and IV at Highland Park High School  
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El Sokol Hebrew High School 2009-2013  
B'al Korei Institute Member and Madricha  
Able to read/lead Torah (High Holiday and Shabbat Cantillation), Megillat Esther, and Haftarah, Pseukai d'Zimrah, Kiddush for Friday nights and Saturday mornings, Havdallah, and Hamotzi  
Learning to lead the Torah Service, the Amidah, and Schacharit services  
Regular Torah Reader at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

## Secular Education

Educators of Tomorrow  
- Member, Co-President      2011-present  
Israel Interest Group  
- Member, Co-President      2010-present  
Class Council  
- Freshman Board      2010-2011  
- Sophomore Executive Board      2011-2012  
- Junior Board Charity Drive Co-Chair      2012-present  
Science Olympiad  
- Member      2011-present  
Student Senate  
- Member      2010-2012

Girls Tennis	
- Freshman Team	2010
-JV Girls Tennis	
- Conference Champs #4 Doubles	2011
- Co-Captain	2012
Hebrew Honor Society	2011-present
PE Leader	2012-present
J Kyle Braid Nominee	2012
Student of the Quarter	2012
National Spanish Exam	2011-2012
-Premio de Plata	
-Premio de Bronce	
8th Grade Commencement Speaker	2010

Hi there, CHUSY. I hope you are all excited for the most fantastic convention of the year! This weekend will definitely be one of the most memorable weekends you will ever experience. Why, you might ask. Well, because you are with USY, CHUSY to be exact. And CHUSY is simply the best. CHUSY has the best ruach, the best friends, the best staff, the best programming, the best, most dedicated boards that I have ever seen. My enthusiasm for USY comes from everything that I just mentioned. With that, I'd like to thank you all for everything that you have done for USY. I have kept my focus on membership with my time on board so far because I believe that everyone should get the chance to have the time of their life at USY programs. I think everyone should be able to make strong relationships that can be found in USY because of the deeper connections and discussions that USYers create. I believe that I have increased CHUSY spirit this year, and for that I am proud and very happy. Seeing the smiling faces during ruach sessions and programs at USY events is what makes me the happiest I can be.

I believe that I would be a wonderful CHUSY President because of my enthusiasm, dedication, and creativity when it comes to USY. As a previous member of the Ruach Committee, I think one of the best parts of USY conventions is the Ruach! The ruach provides the emotional setting of the room. Whether it be the excitement needed to transition after meals, or the goodbye we say to Shabbat on Saturday nights, the ruach feeds into the atmosphere and changes the environment of the room. CHUSY Ruach is the best I have seen, and I know we can only grow from this point. My dedication to USY can be seen through my board experience. I have always wanted to be on board and plan and lead programs, and I love making programs that others enjoy. My dedication is also demonstrated through my attendance. I try and make every single chapter program that I can, regional programs as well, and this year I even got to attend an International program (with an awesome CHUSY delegation!). Attendance is one of the commitments made as a board member, and I look forward to each and every program because I love going to programs and hanging with friends and meeting new people and learning new things! Leading and planning programs is also extremely rewarding. I love planning events because I get a chance to showcase my creativity and collaborate with others. I have the best interests for CHUSY in mind, and I know I will do a great job in implementing my ideas and keeping the ruach at a great height for the best region in USY.

Desired Position: Executive Vice President  
**Cara Golberg (חיה שורה)**  
Chapter: BJUSY

**Chapter Involvement- BJUSY:**

Member in good standing since 2010  
Kadima Member: 2007-2010  
Kadinker Member (CRUSY): 2005-2007  
Freshman Representative: 2010-2011  
Photographer: 2010-2011  
Membership/Kadima Vice President: 2011-2012  
President: 2012-2013  
Attended 95% programs

**Regional Involvement:**

Regional General Board: 2012-2013  
    Kadima Konvention Co-chair  
    Public School Outreach  
Kinnus: 2011, 2012, 2013  
    Voting Delegate: 2012, 2013  
LTI: 2011, 2012  
Turkey Dance: 2011, 2012  
CHUSYFEST: 2011, 2012  
Midwinter: 2012, 2013  
SA/TO Marathon: 2013

**International:**

Wheels Classic: 2012  
613 Mitzvah corps member: 2011-present  
International Convention: 2012  
    Voting Delegate: 2012  
Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society member: 2013  
HeChalutzim member: 2013  
Israel Pilgrimage/ Poland Seminar: 2013

**Religious Education:**

Teferith Israel Hebrew School: 2003-2007  
Beth Judea Hebrew school: 2007-2009  
Beth Judea University Hebrew High: 2009-Present  
    Confirmation: 2012  
Hebrew class at Stevenson: 2011-Present

**Secular Activities:**

Dancer at Marcia's Dance Studio: 2007-present

Intramural Flag football captain and participant: 2010-2011

P.E. Leadership: 2012-present

**Personal Statement:**

Traveling across the country on USY on Wheels this past summer, I experienced that no matter where you are, a community is made special by linking together several vital pieces. This showed me that we can be anywhere as a region and still have a special community. Through prayer, ruach, social action, and friendship, all of the pieces can link together to make a beautiful picture. As your CHUSY Executive Vice President, I look forward to creating a beautiful picture with all of you and completing this puzzle.

# ELI KRULE

ישראל ירחמיאל שמחה

## Position Desired:

### Regional Israel Affairs Vice-President

Chapter: Congregation Beth Shalom USY

#### USY Activities:

##### Chapter Participation:

CBS Chaverim Member:	2005-2008
CBS Kadima Member:	2008-2011
CBS USYer:	2011-present
Chapter Events Participation:	
2011-2012	100%
2012-2013	100%
<b>CBS Israel Affairs Vice-President</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>

##### Regional Participation:

Regional Participation:	
2011-2012	100%
2012-2013	100%
<b>CHUSY Regional General Board Member:</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>
<b>Israel Awareness Committee--Head of Israel Updates</b>	
Camp Kadima:	2008-2010
SA/TO Marathon:	2011-2013
Leadership Training Institute:	2012
CHUSYfest:	2011, 2012
Turkey Dance:	2008-2012
<b>Israel Shabbaton:</b>	<b>2011</b>
CHUSY Midwinter Convention:	2012, 2013
Spring Kinnus:	2011-2013
Voting Delegate:	2012-2013
Kadima Kallah:	2008
Kadima Konvention:	2010

##### International Participation:

Attended USY International Convention:	2009, 2011-2012
Voting Delegate:	2011-2012
USY on Wheels Classic: Bus B	2012
Member of Va'ad Israel	
Member of HeChalutzim Club	2011-present
<b>International General Board</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Israel Affairs Committee--Head of the HeChalutzim Club</b>	

#### Jewish Education:

JCC Preschool:	2000-2003
Solomon Schechter Day School:	2003-2008
Solomon Schechter Middle School:	2008-2011
Ramah Day Camp:	2003-2008
Camp Ramah in Wisconsin:	2008-2011, 2013
Chicagoland Jewish High School:	2011-present
<b>Active member of Va'ad Israel</b>	<b>2011-present</b>
<b>Co-Chair of Yom HaAtzmaut Celebrations</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>

## **Secular Education:**

Buffalo Grove Recreation Association Baseball Teams:	2006-2011
CJHS Debate Team	2011-present
CJHS Basketball Team	2011-2012

## **Brief Statement:**

USY has been a large part of my life since I was a baby. I was taken to many conventions, as a young child and I loved watching the ruach and their love for USY. The older kids and the unknown world of USY and the kids in charge on Regional Executive Board always amazed me. Now, with this opportunity to be on board and influence CHUSY Region with my love for Israel, my dream is coming true. My love for USY is only surpassed by my love for Israel, and being able to spread my passion across the region is something I know I want to do. As a Regional Executive Board member, I will commit myself to this position entirely and bring great ideas and help CHUSY reach its highest potential.



**Harris Benjamin Bezark**  
הרשל פסק  
Religion/Education Vice President  
Chapter: BHUSY

**USY Activities**

- Chapter Involvement/Experience
  - BHUSY Member: 2010-Present
  - BHUSY Rel/Ed: 2011-Present
  - Approximately 90% Attendance at Chapter Programs
- Regional Involvement/Experience
  - Regional General Board: Rel/Ed Committee: 2011-2012, Camp CHUSY/CRUSY Chair 2012-2013
  - Camp CHUSY/CRUSY 2012
  - CHUSYFEST Attendee: 2010, 2011, 2012
  - LTI Attendee: 2011, 2012
  - CHUSY Basketball Participant 2010-11 Season, 2012-13 Season
  - CHUSY Bowling for Bucks Attendee: 2011
  - Turkey Dance Attendee: 2011, 2012
  - Midwinter Attendee 2013
  - SA/TO Marathon Attendee: 2012, 2013
  - CHUSY Spring Kinnus Attendee: 2011, 2012, 2013
    - Voting Delegate: 2012, 2013

**Jewish Education**

- Present Studies:
  - Independent Study with Rabbi Kensky of Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah
  - Israeli Culture Club at Evanston Township High School
  - Hebrew Language Class at Evanston Township High School
- Previous Studies:
  - Mayer-Kaplan JCC Day Camp: 1999-2002

- Solomon Schechter Day School: 2002-2007: 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Independent Study with Ruthie Halpern: 2007-2009
- Religious Skills:
  - Can Read/Write in Hebrew
  - Can Speak Hebrew with Near-Fluency
  - Able to Lead/Teach
    - All Weekday Services
    - Havdallah
    - Gabbai
    - Kabbalat Shabbat
    - Shabbat Shacharit
    - Shabbat Psduekei D'Zimra
    - Aliyah
    - Torah
    - Brachot over Food

## Secular Education

- Evanston Township High School: 2010-Present
- Featured on Honor Roll since 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Freshmen Honors Society
- Teacher's Aide: 2009-2010
- F.A.A.M. Volunteer Basketball Coach: 2011-2013
- Employee at Casteel Coffee: 2010-2012
- Peer Jury: 2010-Present
  - Highly Involved

As it is said in Prekai Avot: "Who is wise? One who learns from all persons." Such has been my experience in life. Wherever I find myself and whomever I may find myself with, I am always teaching others what I know while allowing their experiences to enrich me. Although I have much to learn, I am more than willing to dedicate my time engulfing myself in Judaism and CHUSY. I want to be able to share what I know with CHUSY as much as I want CHUSY to teach me all they have to offer.

**Talia Plofsky**  
**Religious Education Vice President**  
BTUSY Nation

**USY ACTIVITIES:**

**Chapter Involvement:**

Religious Education Vice President 2012-2013

**Regional Involvement:**

Kinnus 2010, 2011, 2012

Chusyfest 2010, 2011, 2012

Midwinter 2011, 2012

**JEWISH EDUCATION:**

**Previous Studies:**

Attended Solomon Schechter Day School K-8

Attended Camp Ramah in Wisconsin for 6+ summers

Attended Etz Chaim at Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 2010

Took Hebrew at Deerfield High School, 2010-2012

8<sup>th</sup> grade Israel Trip with Solomon Schechter, spring of 2010

**Religious Skills:**

Can read torah and haftorah

Can lead shacharit, maariv, mincha, musaf, torah service, birkat hamazon, and kabbalat Shabbat services

**SECULAR EDUCATION:**

**School and Extracurricular Activities:**

Deerfield High School Theatre Department, 2010-current

- Performer
- Stage Crew Member

Deerfield High School's Award Winning Literary Magazine Troubadour, 2013

- Assistant Submissions Editor

**Special Honors and Distinctions:**

First Class Recognition

High Honor Roll

Theatre Participation Award

Bit Harder Award in Deerfield High School Theatre Department

**A BRIEF STATEMENT:**

USY is the way that I stay in touch with my Jewish culture and identity. It is also a place where I can be myself and through USY I have met some of my best friends. Each convention presents the opportunity to make new friends and learn more about my place in Judaism. Being on my chapter board has taught me how to work as a part of a team and to come up with creative ideas for educational programming. My position as Rel/Ed is challenging because it isn't always easy to get people interested in a religious or educational program. I have learned how to make my programming fun while maintaining religious and educational aspects. I used an interactive scavenger hunt to teach my chapter members about the 7 days of creation and I used the TV show "The Bachelor", as a theme for my lounge night where we learned about biblical characters. If I were to be given the opportunity to be on Regional Board I would work my absolute hardest to make USY an amazing and welcoming environment for everyone. Organizing spirited ruach sessions and planning creative minyans are things I would love to plan. If I were given the opportunity to organize each service at a convention I would reach out to different people and make sure that they feel comfortable coming to me for help in learning. I recently organized my synagogue's Youth Shabbat and the level of participation was higher than it had been in the past few years. I enjoyed seeing so many members of my chapter participate. I felt a sense of accomplishment in knowing that I encouraged them to participate.

# Julia Braude

Position Desired: Communications Vice President

## USY ACTIVITIES

Chapter: **CBS USY**

### Chapter Involvement/Experience

- President** **2012-2013**
  - 98% of programming
  - Surpassed membership from last year!
- Communications Vice President** **2011-2012**
  - CBS USY yearbook and year in review slideshow
  - Created CBS USY Twitter
  - Created CBS USY Friends and Fans Facebook page
- Freshman Representative** **2010-2011**

### Regional Involvement/ Experience

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Shabbaton 2009
- CHUSYfest 2011-2012
- Midwinter 2012-2013
  - Lead Icebreakers 2013
- Kinnus 2012-2013
  - Voting Delegate 2012-2013
  - Lead Icebreakers 2012
- Camp CHUSY/CRUSY 2012
- SATO Marathon 2013

### International Programs/Affiliations

- USY International Convention (Boston) 2012
  - Chosen to lead a Junior speed dating program
  - Voting Delegate 2012

## Jewish Education

### Present Studies

3<sup>rd</sup> year high school honors Hebrew

### Previous Studies

- Congregation Beth Shalom Hebrew School (grades 2<sup>nd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>)
- Ta'am Yisrael (8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Etgar 36 2012(Jewish teen national political and social issue summer tour)

### Religious Skills

- Lead blessings/participation (Aliyah, Candle Lighting, Friday Night Kiddush, G'lilah, Hamotzi, Read Torah,)

## Secular Education

- Glenbrook North High School
  - Best Buddies
  - GSA Day of Silence
- Freshman-Junior year Honor roll

**Brief Statement**

A strong Communications Vice President is extremely important in order to have a fantastic year with CHUSY region. I have built great relationships with USY members throughout our region. These relationships will only assist my efforts in being a great Communications Vice President. I am friendly to everyone and I am also a very good communicator. This being said, I will be able to spread the word about programming and upcoming events in effective and exciting ways throughout the 2013-2014 year.

CHUSY Communications Vice President  
Jacqueline Geraty יוספה לאה  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade  
McDUSY

**USY Activities:**

Member in good standing of CHUSY Kadima 2007-2010  
Attended Camp Kadima, 2007-2009  
Attended Turkey Dance, 2007-2009  
Attended Kadima Kallah, 2007-2008

Member in good standing of CHUSY 2010-2013  
Attended Camp CHUSY, 2010-2012  
Attended CHUSYfest, 2010-2012  
Attended CHUSY Midwinter Convention, 2013  
Attended CHUSY Kinnus, 2010-2013  
OTUSY Freshman Representative 2010-End of OTUSY

Attended International Convention Boston 2012  
Voting Delegate at International Convention Boston 2012

**Secular Education:**

Chicagoland Jewish High School  
Antioch Upper Grades School  
Oakland Elementary School

Girls Iceless Hockey Association's Hockey League, Competitor (Defenseman) 2004-2013  
CJHS Women's Varsity Volleyball Team, Seasons 2010-2012  
CJHS Women's Varsity Soccer Team, Seasons 2011-2013  
2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference Athlete, Soccer, 2011  
CJHS Shabbaton Committee, 2012-2013  
CJHS Women's Varsity Basketball Team, Season 2012-2013  
CJHS Jazz Ensemble Member, 1<sup>st</sup> Chair Alto Saxophone 2012-2013  
Played part of *Young Cosette* in Camp Ramah in Wisconsin's Nivonim 2012 Play, *Les Miserables*  
CJHS "CJ Factor" Musical Performer, 2013

**Jewish Education:**

Student at Chicagoland Jewish High School, 2010-2013  
Camper at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, 2011-2012  
Student at Congregation Or Tikvah Hebrew High School, 2009-2010  
Student at Congregation Or Tikvah Hebrew School, 2001-2009

**Religious Skills:**

Can lead Mincha and Ma'ariv Services  
Can lead Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat Ma'ariv Services  
Can lead Birkat Hamazon, Birka Acharona  
Know how to navigate a *daf* of Talmud

**Brief Statement:**

As a Jewish family living in Antioch, a town which lacks a visible Jewish community altogether, finding a Conservative synagogue was a challenge on its own. The distance makes of my synagogue from my home makes consistent participation difficult, but when my oldest sister was introduced to USY, she showed me distance means very little as her chapter dedication grew into her outstanding commitment to Regional Executive Board, as CHUSY's 2007-2008 Communications Vice President. When she went to college, my older sister and I had to prove our dedication by continuing to commit to USY on our own by joining a new chapter that was much farther from home after our synagogue's chapter, OTUSY, ceased to exist. Although the distance is larger than it was before, I've found my dedication to my chapter and to our region at an all-time high. While transitioning from a tiny chapter to a much larger chapter, I also transitioned from public school to private school at Chicagoland Jewish High School. Through the many transitions I've been through in the past couple of years, CHUSY Region has been the only constant community I've been a part of, and it strongly influenced my decision to transfer to CJHS. I wouldn't be a leader at the high school I would have gone to if I had stayed in the public school track, and I wouldn't have met the leaders that inspired me to run for Regional Board.