

MODEL UN

Mrs. Kathy Sklar

Thirty-two years ago, Yeshiva University held its first YUNMUN-Yeshiva University National Model United Nations. Thirty-one years ago, I was honored to take our first delegation and this year, I took Farber delegation 31; 11 students, grades 9-12, representing Tunisia and Uganda. Each delegate represented one of the two nations and sat on a committee, the goal being to resolve two world dilemmas, with a focus on the mission of the UN, the committee and their nations. The work began in the fall with research on each nation and then individual delegates writing a one page position paper on the topics their committees would work to resolve. Often it took a great deal of digging to discover the viewpoint of the nation, the views of which were quite contrary to our belief as to how a government should interact in the world. The time then and before going to YUNMUN was spent learning how to be a delegate, how to speak in a session,, how to listen and counter what an enemy nation was positing and discovering allies and partnering to write resolutions in the hopes they would be passed. It was a meeting of 35 schools, 400 students at a conference run by the students of Yeshiva University and Stern College for Women, under the auspices of the admissions department. Our students returned exhilarated by the experience.



Maimonides Moot Beit Din

Judah Lopatin

The Farber Fire team went for the first time to the Maimonides Moot Beit Din Shabbaton in Baltimore at the Pearlstone retreat center! We came to compete, but the actual competition was only a small part of what the Shabbaton ended up being. We met a lot of cool people and we hung out with a lot of other students from the other teams that were there. On Friday we got to experience farming first-hand, dumping mulch on potatoes and removing straw from strawberries to take them out of hibernation, and we took a hike around the land of Pearlstone eating different “super-plants” and learning about the messages birds can tell us, if we listen hard enough. There were also several Shiurim where we learned about when to tell the truth and when to lie, the power of words, and the value of debate. And we also did a “Mini Moot Beit Din” where we were teamed up with other people from random teams and we argued the question of accepting tainted money. Finally, on Sunday we battled it out in a debate about whether it is okay—and even obligatory, perhaps—to post a video of bullies on social media according to Halacha. We got third place! We want to thank Rabbi Weber for his constant support, humor, teaching, and mentorship throughout the year, and especially on the Shabbaton: helping us learn the sources and prepare a compelling argument, get through security and travel, teaching us how to argue and ask good questions that aren’t “Gotcha” questions, and overall advice to be better people. We had an amazing time learning throughout the year and being on the Shabbaton! We hope to be back next year!





MARIO CLUB

Elana Hochbaum

In Mario Club, we get together after school at Yona's and Avi's houses, usually every other Tuesday, and play many different types of video games, all featuring Mario in some shape or form. Yona and Avi, the heads of the club, are extremely skilled at these video games and teach me (Elana) and Noa certain skills to make us better at these games, as we don't have the games at home. We also have been introduced to so many new games! We've done a few Mario Club dinners together and we also have bought a couple of games together to play during Mario Club. We've all participated in Mario Club for all four years of high school, and we've had a blast. We hope some of the kids in the lower grades of high school will take up the reins when we leave!

