

Goals Continued

Workshops

When I first started as a Shaliach, I had a very loose idea of my responsibilities and very little idea what to do. I want to eliminate this confusion with workshops. Shaliach workshops are something that NTO has done in the past, and it was very successful. I would like to bring them back. These workshops would be times for the Shlichim to talk about their previous programs, what went wrong and what went well, so that the Shlichim can work together and learn from each other.

Tulsa and Fort Worth

I know how difficult it is to communicate with cities so far away from the Dallas, and I want to incorporate Tulsa and Fort Worth as much as possible. There should be nothing holding them back from having great Judaic programming just like the rest of the region. I would contact them just as I would anybody else in the region, through phone calls/ email/ Facebook. I will travel out as much as I possibly can.

"It is not enough to take steps which may some day lead to a goal; each step must be itself a goal and a step likewise"

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Aleph Godol and my Brother Alephs,

Our Judaism is what separates BBYO from any other youth group. It is what makes us brothers, guides our lives, and grants us our identities. I don't know who I would be without it and I want to make sure I never find out. The past two and a half years have been some of the most amazing years of my life. Without BBYO, I have no idea what I would be doing right now.

Our region is at a crossroads. With much of the Jewish population assimilating and many chapters picking fun over Judaic enrichment, we are losing that sense of Judaic identity that makes us who we are. I want to change that.

I love BBYO and that is why I stand before you today. I want to make sure that every Aleph that comes after me will not only have fun, but also find out who he is as a Jew and what that means to him. Thankfully, I have had many Jewish experiences in my life to help me answer those difficult questions, but not every Aleph get those chances. I want BBYO and AZA to be there to give them the chances to find themselves as it did for me.

Fraternally Submitted with undying love for the Aleph Zadik Aleph, North Texas-Oklahoma #74, Henry Monsky #791, and all of my brother Alephs, I remain,

Aleph Shane Dylan Appell

Aleph

Shane Dylan Appell

Caucusing for the High and Honorable Position of North Texas-Oklahoma's 29th Regional Aleph Shaliach



"I'm ready. I'm ready. I'm ready"- Spongebob S. SquarePants

Qualifications

AIT Shaliach (Fall 2010)
Aleph Shaliach (Fall 2011)
Aleph Shaliach (Spring 2012)
Aleph Shaliach (Fall 2012)

Conventions/Summer Programs

MIT/ AIT Convention (2010)
Regional Convention (2010)
Monksy Retreat (2011)
J-Serve Participant (2011)
Regional Convention (2011)
LTI (2012)
Monksy Retreat (2012)
J-Serve Participant (2012)
Regional Kallah (2012)

Other Qualifications

Attending Akiba Academy (1998 - 2010)
Active member of Congregation Shaare Tefilla (1998-)
Private Judaic learning(2009-)
Dallas Youth Tzedakah Foundation(2011,2012)
Boy Scouts of America, Troop 729 (The only Jewish troop in Texas)

- Quarter Master
- Scribe
- Assistant Patrol Leader
- 2 term Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Larry Landa Leadership award

The School for the Talented and Gifted

- Regional B.E.S.T. Robotics competition(2011)
- Regional Computer Science competition(2011, 2012)
- State Computer Science competition (2012)
- first place DISD Science Fair (behavioral sciences) (2011, 2012)
- first place DISD Science Fair (over all) (2011)

Goals

I have several goals for the region and during my term, **I will make the region more accessible to Jews of all levels of observance, promote a stronger sense of Jewish identity, and increase the level of Jewish knowledge.**

Kallah

After attending last regional Kallah, I realized not only how valuable and enjoyable an experience it was, but also that there are areas for improvement. Kallah should be a fantastic and enriching experience where Alephs and BBGs can learn about who they are and what they believe in. I will make Kallah more religious than other functions because it is the only opportunity that we have as a region to devote large amounts of time towards prayer and learning. With the help of a carefully chosen steering committee, **I will make Kallah a place where we learn about Israel, Torah, prayer, who we are, and how much we value those things.**

Including everyone in your programs

I want to encourage chapter shlichim to involve everyone in their projects. This is critical in the establishment of one's sense of Jewish identity. I want to make sure no Aleph feels left out or discouraged from participation because of a lack of Judaic knowledge. Another way I will combat this is by **making programs more educational.** Many Alephs don't participate because they don't know any better. Many drop out of BBYO all together for the same reason. I want to make sure that all Alephs know enough to not only feel comfortable and included, but also able to share and contribute to discussions. In order to know about who we are as Jews, we need to know what we believe in and what makes us Jews.

Goals Continued

Understanding

As Jews and as Alephs, we have many traditions and most members know what they are and how to perform them. However, very few know *why we do them.* I aim to change that. I will encourage the chapter Shlichim to **explain why we do what we do** and teach them if they don't know. Simply saying "that's how we've always done it" is not good enough. I want Alephs to also understand the Hebrew prayers we say. Every week, I have lead Havdallah and I have always been bothered by the fact that very few knew why we did it and even fewer knew what we were saying. This isn't hard to fix and it will be one of the first things I will fix. It's as simple as having a short discussion at the end of a program, but it needs to be done.

Havdallah

I want to make it very clear to Shlichim and their chapters that **Havdallah is not optional.** Not only should it be explained, it should be performed whenever possible on Saturday nights. I also want to make sure that every Shaliach has the supplies to correctly perform the Havdallah ceremony which has also been surprisingly lacking considering how easy, simple, and cheap it is to fix. I also want to make sure every chapter has a collection of kippot in order to correctly take part in Jewish traditions.