



UPDATE

The Newspaper of the Westchester 2009 JCC Maccabi Games

MONDAY

Athletes Get Set for the Big Week

By Andrea Ditkoff

How have the athletes gotten themselves ready for the big week? In May, we polled three delegation heads to find out.. Here's what they had to say:

How are athletes preparing for the competitions?

“Athletes who play individual sports (like tennis) are responsible for maintaining their skills. Teams (like baseball), however, have been meeting once a week until school ends, so they can practice and get to know each other a little bit better.”

*Joanne Citrin (top left)
Mid-Westchester*

What's the hardest part of getting the athletes ready?

“The most difficult aspect is

getting them out of bed in the morning! Thankfully we pick their outfits for the day the night before, which saves some time. But we often have to drag them out of their beds in order to get them dressed and ready to go!”

*Kyle Berger (middle left)
Vancouver*

What are the athletes most excited about?

“Those who have been to the JCC Maccabi Games before are looking forward to again meeting other Jewish teens from around the world. The "first timers" tend to focus on the competition. They soon realize, however, that the main focus of the Games is to meet other Jewish teams.”

*Karen Gordon (bottom left)
Detroit*

What's on the Menu?

By Jacob Koffler

As Jews, one of our cultural pastimes is eating! So the Maccabi menu is a hot topic.

Last May, the JCC of Mid-Westchester assembled a Food Committee to deal with the task of feeding all the Maccabi athletes and coaches. The committee created a menu that would be appetizing to teens, but still healthy and glatt kosher. This committee sampled food and voted unanimously to hire

Five Star Catering.

The menu includes lunch and dinner, with unlimited food per person. A hot meal will be available, with meat on two days and dairy on the other two. The salad bar will have vegetables, tuna, eggs and pasta with sauces on the side. (All the food is nut free.) There will also be fresh cut-up fruits. In this way, not only will the Games be epic, but the salad bar will be, too!



A Preview of the Evening Extravaganzas

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By Robin Klein

After days of intense competition and good sportsmanship, the athletes and coaches will relax and enjoy themselves at great parties throughout the week.

The evening venues include the Bronx Zoo; Playland Amusement Park; and the Westchester County Center. There will also be a Host Family Night, which athletes will spend getting to know the families whose homes they are staying in during the week.

At the Bronx Zoo, there will be music, dancing and a chance to see some of the animals. At Playland, athletes can go on rides and play carnival games.

The party at the Westchester County Center will be “like the biggest Bar or Bat Mitzvah you have ever attended,” according to Joanne Citrin, head of the Mid-Westchester delegation. The theme of the party is “carnival,”

she said, adding that it is sure to be a memorable event.

Transportation to each event will be provided. At the end of the night, host families will pick up their athletes at a designated spot. Casual attire is the dress code for all evening events, although athletes may want to be slightly dressier, but still “summer casual,” for the party at the County Center.

Finally, dinner will be served at all three parties. All entrance fees and rides are included, so no money is necessary, unless you want to buy souvenirs at the Bronx Zoo or play carnival games at Playland.

What a great way to end four great days of athletics!



The Bronx Zoo, one of the evening venues

Calling All Spectators: Sight-Seeing Suggestions

By Dorin Azerad

When it's time for a break from the games, check out these local highlights. (Call ahead for hours/directions.)

Thomas Paine Cottage – A great historical landmark, located in New Rochelle. 914-633-1776.

Pepsico Sculpture Garden – Statues, wildlife, and walking paths, located in Purchase. 914-253-2000.

Rye Playland – Westchester's popular amusement park. 914-813-7010.

Bronx Zoo – A famous attraction, with animals not often seen. 718-367-1010.

Bronx Botanical Gardens – A renowned spot, with some of the world's finest flowers and plants. 718-817-8777.

Manhattan – If you have the time, why not?!



One of the rides at Playland, a Westchester favorite