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Introductions from your Jewish Gangs Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to StuyMUNC 2022! My name is Sophia Yuditsky and I am very excited to be your chair for the *Jewish Gangsters* committee. I am a Junior at Stuyvesant and I've been a member of StuyMUN since my freshman year. Throughout the last 3 years I have made incredible friends and countless memories when attending conferences and after-school club meetings. Alongside all the fun, Model UN has given me invaluable public speaking and communication skills that I will forever be grateful for. I hope to pay those experiences forward to you all during our time together in committee, as well as continue to learn from you all.

Before we jump into the nitty gritty of committee and all the MUN stuff I thought I'd introduce a little bit about myself outside of MUN. I'm a photographer for Stuyvesant's student run newspaper *The Spectator*, I love skiing and ice skating and pretty much anything outside in the cold, my favorite color is green, and whatever free time I have is taken up by painting and phone-banking at the same time (because it's way more fun that way, bonus points for playing music as well).

We will convene for a day of scheming, backstabbing (no actual stabbing! please), forming and breaking alliances, and general mucking about all while New York City, and its alcohol supply hangs in the balance. If you have any questions feel free to email me or any other member of the dias. We will be very happy to hear from you and to answer any of your questions. I wish you all good luck in your criminal pursuits in our 1920s New York City, as well as in your future Model UN pursuits. Go forth and stay organized!

Sincerely,
Sophia Yuditsky
syuditsky30@stuy.edu

Honorable Gangsters,

I am pleased to be your committee director for StuyMUNC 2022. Before we begin with the illegalities and schemes, let me tell you a little more about myself.

I am a senior at Stuyvesant and I joined StuyMUN in my freshman year of high school in an effort to gain a greater understanding of global issues and interactions across the world. Despite my original expectation of Model UN being a strictly diplomatic event, I discovered my love of crisis committees, which merge the critical thinking of a general committee and the fast-paced, high energy environment of something almost like improv in the context of anything from actual foreign crises, to historical events, and even famous tales of fiction. Outside of Model UN, I am interested in pursuing a career in medicine, specifically reconstructive surgery. I am also interested in neuroscience and worked in the Weill Cornell Lee Lab studying obsessive compulsive behavior in rats and drugs that can help people with numerous mental disorders. Despite my seemingly grueling educational interests, I love to go out with friends, shop, and play with my French Bulldog.

I was a crisis staffer in the committee “The Godfather” in my freshman year and I was introduced to the mafia world. There I became infatuated with the Jewish gangsters and the history of New York City and I cannot wait to learn more from all of you! Whether it be racketeering, beefing with the Italian mafia, bootlegging, or generally wreaking havoc on the streets of New York City, I hope each one of you will contribute to an unforgettable committee.

If you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to contact me or one of the other DIAS members. And remember what Meyer Lansky said in his *Little Black Book of Mafia Wisdoms*: “Don’t lie. Tell one lie, then you gotta tell another lie to compound on the first.” Happy scheming gangsters!

Best of luck,

Charlize Trostinsky

ctrostinsky20@stuy.edu

Tere päevast delegates,

I would like to welcome each and every single one of you to StuyMUNC! My name is Andrey Sokolov, and I'm going to be the crisis director of your committee. In my free time I like reading the SCP Foundation and spend time maintaining various Stuy websites (including stuymun.com!). I've been part of Model UN since my freshman year, participating in various conferences all around New York City, and I am incredibly excited to be your crisis director for this committee!

Urban gangs and their development is a multifaceted piece of modern history which I am interested in exploring at this year's StuyMUNC. I am especially excited to see the complex relationships all of you are going to have between one another. To those of you who will read this letter - keep your crisis notes detailed but ambitious. If you give me something grandiose to work with, I'll make sure to give you the best shot to become the head honcho of the Big Apple.

If you have any questions regarding the committee topics, feel free to ask me by sending an email to asokolov30@stuy.edu. I am looking forward to hearing any questions or comments from every single one of you! As Theodore Roosevelt said, "Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground."

Слава Україні!

Andrey Sokolov

asokolov30@stuy.edu

Committee Information

In this committee, you will represent different Jewish gangsters as they compete against each other and other gangs in their race to become the dominant crime syndicate of New York City.

Debate will alternate between moderated and unmoderated caucuses, and there will be no speakers list. Delegates may further their agenda in two different ways: either directives, which are essentially shorter, more direct versions of the resolutions seen in GA committees, or by using crisis notes, which are sent directly to the chair. Crisis notes contain actions that one may use to accomplish a more personal agenda. The actions one relays to the chair in crisis notes will not be shared with the committee, unless intercepted through a different delegate's actions.

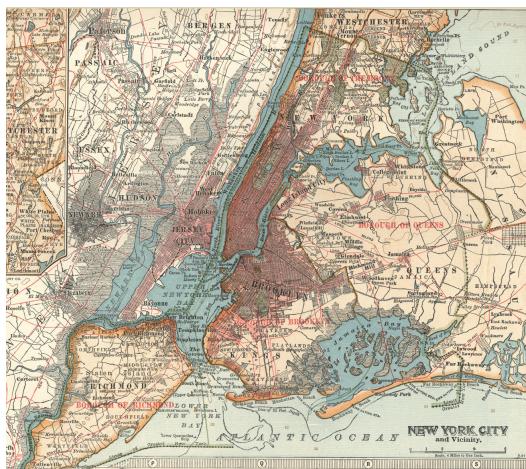
Delegates do not necessarily need to have a general understanding of standard parliamentary procedure before going to the committee, as there will be a workshop on crisis procedures before the committee starts. This includes the explanation of moderate and unmoderated caucuses, along with directive and crisis note practice. It is worth noting however that the committee might be conducted a bit differently from a normal crisis, and procedures may be elaborated on the day of the committee.

Our committee will function as a crisis committee. If you would like to learn about crisis committee procedures, please refer to this [helpful guide](#). In brief, crisis committee delegates are assigned a specific character to portray. With this character comes certain "portfolio powers." The powers of each character are briefly outlined at the end of the background guide, but **further research** is *highly encouraged* to allow one to really use those powers to the fullest in committee. Creativity in power usage is encouraged, and resourcefulness and ingenuity will prove to be rewarded.

StuyMUNC does not require position papers, but they are **highly recommended**. Position papers are a great way to combine all of your research into one document that can be referred to throughout our committee, and can help you solidify your stance on the topics we will be discussing. If you would like to receive feedback on your position paper, submit papers to syuditsky30@stuy.edu by 04/30/22. The chair will still be accepting position papers until the start of the first committee session, but feedback is not guaranteed after the deadline.

Committee Background

New York City



Modern New York City was officially formed in 1898, when the five counties bordering the Hudson river consolidated under one municipal government. By the 1920s, the majority of the city's economic power was located in the prosperous hub of Manhattan¹.

Even before consolidation Manhattan was always treated as New York proper. Because of its central location between all the boroughs and advanced transportation infrastructure such as the subway and trolleys², Manhattan was able to continue rapidly growly all through the early 1900s³. This rapid growth attracted an immense amount of migrants. In fact, in 1920 about 35% of the city's 5.6 million residents, with 480,000 of those residents being Russian Jews⁴

Gangs of the Past



The late 19th century saw the origin of criminal activity in New York City, with significant influence and power placed in the hands of organized crime families, mob bosses, and other gang activity. The Bowery Boys, the Dead Rabbits, and the Daybreak Boys, just to name a few, dominated New York Cities organized crime circles, working with, or against Tammany Hall. The many gangs busied themselves with a variety of extralegal ventures, from running casinos to peddling opium. Although being a gang member was incredibly risky and dangerous, the success stories of the likes of the Irish John Morrissey⁵ most certainly influenced the minds of the poor Jewish boys growing up in the early 1900s Lower East Side.

¹ britannica.com

² <https://www.loc.gov/>

³ <https://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3895.html>

⁴ <https://blogs.ancestry.com/>

⁵ <http://ibhof.com/>

Lower East Side



The Lower East Side always used to be an immigrant's neighborhood. Back in the 1860s it used to be as Little Germany⁶, with numerous immigrant workers settling in its crowded tenements. As years passed, the Germans moved on and were replaced by Greeks, Poles, and, of course, Jews. The Jewish people especially would be dominant in this part of town, with 95% of the 480,000 New York Jews settling along Second Avenue. Those who lived here especially reminisce on the various Kosher stores and other immigrant culture brought to those who sought to escape oppression in the New World.

Living in the neighborhood was not all a walk in the park, however. The

crowded and unsanitary nature of the neighborhood meant disease could spread rapidly. More than that, people were crammed like sardines, and the overall poverty within the populace proved enticing enough for some to seek money and success through less than legal means. Whether to secure wellbeing for their families or simply for glory, hundreds of Jewish boys joined gangs such as the Lenox Avenue Gang and became part of what would later be known as the Kosher Mob⁷.

Labor Slugger Wars

When labor unions began to grow in the late 19th and early 20th centuries labor slugging became a major gang activity. Major companies and unions would both hire gang members in their struggle against one another. Companies hired gang members as strikebreakers to undermine the union efforts. Often companies also employed gangsters to preemptively discourage union activity. On the flip side, unions hired gangsters to protect against the strikebreakers, as well as to counteract the gangsters hired by companies to discourage union membership. Some unions went so far as to hire labor sluggers to recruit union members, sometimes forcibly.

By 1912 most small gangs had been incapacitated or consolidated into one of the two major remaining gangs. The two major gangs were led by

⁶ <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/>

⁷ <https://en-academic.com/>

“Dopey” Benny Fein and Joe “The Greaser” Rosenzweig⁸.

First War (1913 - 17):

What remained of the gangs destroyed by Fein and Rosenzweig united in 1913 under a loose alliance attempting to overthrow the pair. A “war” was declared and major street gunfights became common around Grand and Forsyth Streets. Fein and Rosenzweig eventually defeated the opposing gangs but were arrested in part due to testimony from the gang leaders they had just defeated.

Second War (1918-19):

The absence of Fein and Rosenzweig left a power vacuum in labor slugging until “Kid Dropper” Nathan Kaplan and Johnny Spanish were released from prison in 1917. The two temporarily formed an alliance. In 1918, however, Johnny Spanish left the gang and there was war between the two until Kaplan killed Spanish on July 29, 1919.

Kosher Mob

The transition period between the 19th and 20th centuries proved to be defining for the Jewish organized crime in New York City. Men like Fein and Rosenzweig came to dominate the Lower East Side and rivaled the likes of the Italian Mafia. Huge parts of the Jewish syndicate dominated the City’s

labor unions, especially within the garment industry.

That being said, the Mob was not as massive and influential as portrayed in the media. Jews in New York, on average, committed far less crimes than the wider society⁹. In fact, while Jews constituted a third of the city’s population, they only committed a sixth of all the crime.

This did not stop the Jewish mob from being a prominent force in the city, however. The mob always sought to expand its influence across the five boroughs - and it would gain its best chance to do so on January 16th, 1920.

On that day, the 18th Amendment went into effect and selling and distribution of alcohol was prohibited all across the nation. With the multi-million dollar industry outlawed overnight, crime mobs everywhere were bestowed with an opportunity of a lifetime. What happened afterwards was all up to them.

⁸

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_Slugger_Wars

⁹ <https://commentarymagazine.com/>

Current Situation

January 17th, 1920

"After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited"

- *Amendment XVIII of the Constitution of United States of America*

We are two weeks into 1920, and tensions are already brewing. With the War to end all Wars over, a new culture is evolving around the city. Gone are the days of yore when a gang could survive on murder and racketeering along. It's a new era, defined by bootlegging, moonshine, and speakeasies. The rules of the game have changed: if you want to rule New York City, alcohol is your one and only friend.

There are those of you who might be currently serving time in jail, or those who are not even involved with criminal activities. Your circumstances do not forbid you from thinking of what you can achieve today, however. You can still start businesses, make connections, and get the entire Lower East Side to know your name. All you have to do is ask yourself one question:

Where were you on January 17th, 1920?

Questions to Consider

Consider these questions in your research and during committee:

- 1) How will my powers/connections benefit my gang?
- 2) What obstacles stand in my way and how can I overcome them (ex. currently serving a prison sentence)?
- 3) What are my past motives? Am I going to follow them, or will I come up with my own?
- 4) Do I want my gang to succeed by the end of committee, or do I want to betray them?
- 5) Do I want to help the people of the Lower East Side and New York as a whole, and what will I do to do so?
- 6) Which sort of person do I want to be by the end of the committee?
- 7) Given my strengths and weaknesses, what sort of impression do I want to leave on those around me?

Committee Positions

(The characters were assembled into “gang” blocs based on common interests. Whether you wish to cooperate with your delegates is up to you)

The “Brain” Gang

Arnold "The Brain" Rothstein

Arnold Rothstein was born into a wealthy Jewish family in Manhattan, his father was often referred to as “Abe the Just”, and his brother studied to be a rabbi.¹⁰ He was a difficult child, and neglected most school work outside of math. He also quickly picked up a gambling habit. Through the years he earned nicknames such as “Brain of Broadway”¹¹. At 38, he is the millionaire owner of Big Tim’s gambling parlor, as well as being heavily invested in Horse Racing and other bidding sports. With a few proteges on his side, Rothstein has a lot of cards up his sleeve.

Waxey Gordon

Waxey Gordon, originally Irving Wexler, was born in the Lower East Side in 1888. As a child he was a very successful pickpocket which is where he earned the nickname “Waxey”¹². Originally an associate of Benny Fein in the 1910s, he organized Fein’s labor slingers. Now he has been noticed by crime giant Arnold Rothstein and hired away from Fein’s business.

Louis "Lepke" Buchalter

Louis “Lepke” Buchalter was born in Manhattan in 1897, and the nickname “Lepke” comes from his mother calling him “lepkaleh” (Yiddish for “Little Louis”)¹³. His first arrest came in 1915 for burglary and assault, but the case was dismissed. Unfortunately for Buchalter, several following arrests led to stints of up to 18 months in prison¹⁴. He was finally released on January 27, 1919. Buchalter and Jacob Shapiro were childhood friends and the streets of New York City presented the two with a bountiful reason for reunion.

Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro

Jacob Shapiro was born in Odessa in 1899¹⁵. He later immigrated to New York City where he met a young Louis Buchalter trying to rob the same pushcart. He and Buchalter became an inseparable criminal duo, with Buchalter being the brains and Shapiro the muscle.

¹⁰ [Arnold Rothstein](#)

¹¹ [Arnold Rothstein | Infamous New York](#)

¹² [Waxey Gordon - Wikipedia](#)

¹³ [Lepke Buchalter](#)

¹⁴ [FBI Vault — Louis \(Lepke\) Buchalter](#)

¹⁵ [Jacob Shapiro](#)

Jacob "Little Augie" Orgen

Jacob was born to an Austrian Orthodox Jewish family in January of 1893. By the early 1910s he was a prominent labor slugger under Benny fein. In 1911 he broke off and formed his own gang “The Little Augies” which reigned supreme until 1917 when Nathan Kaplan and Johnny Spanish were released from prison. His growth has been further hindered by a 1919 arrest as he currently serves a sentence on robbery charges. This doesn’t stop him from planning his moves further, as he can easily communicate with the outside world through corrupt policemen using just a little bit of his capital.

Hyman "Curly" Holtz

Hyman Holtz was born in 1896. He recently joined up with Jacob Orgen as a labor slugger. He is a lieutenant of Orgen and is vital in the fight against Nathan Kaplan, an opposing labor slugger. Holtz’s loyalty to Orgen is steadfast but his moral code doesn’t entirely align, as Orgen is unafraid of dealing in drugs. Whether that becomes a problem later shall be decided by Holtz himself, however.

Bugs and Meyer Mob

Meyer Lansky

Meyer Lansky was born in 1902 in Russia and immigrated to the States in 1911. He met Bugsy Siegel soon after and the two became friends and partners in crime. Lansky was mentored by Arnold Rothstein and still has his favor. At only 18 years old, he is a bright mind with a gift for accounting, balancing the numbers, and evading capture.

Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel

Bugsy Siegel was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1906. At a very young age he became involved in gangs in the Lower East Side. After he met Meyer Lansky the two became an unstoppable criminal duo. While Lansky is the “brains” behind the operation, Bugsy is the “brawn.” The two complement one another, which makes the likelihood of them separating ever so less likely.

Moe Sedway

Moe Sedway was born in 1894 in Poland. He later moved to America, eventually meeting Bugsy Siegel. The two were involved in Lower East street gangs together for a time. Over time, Moe grew quite loyal to Bugsy and by extension Meyer Lansky. Sedway is a lieutenant of the gang, which makes him a formidable opponent to anyone who stands in his way.

Abner "Longy" Zwillman

Abner Zwillman was born in 1904 in Newark. His early life was just like any other kids, but when he was 14 his father died, forcing him to drop out of school to help support his family. He began by working at a cafe. He was eventually forced to switch and start selling fruits. Fruits came with a surprising side benefit, as he started selling lottery tickets to housewives as well. It didn't take long for Zwillman to begin to exploit this profit source. Zwillman, now 16, controls the numbers racket with the help of some hired muscle. With some financial power on his side, however, he might want to consider becoming something more than just a lottery ticket swindler.

Joseph "Doc" Stacher

Joseph Stacher was born in Russia in 1902. He, along with his family, immigrated to the United States in 1912. They settled in Newark, New Jersey where a teenaged Stacher met Meyer Lansky and Abner Zwillman. He is vital to Zwillman's gambling empire and the three friends are known to work together from time to time.

Samuel "Red" Levine

Samuel Levine was born in 1902. A working man ever since age 8, he had a major record of truancy until age 15 when lied about his age to join the US Navy. During his short lived time in the Navy he was mocked for his red hair and for being Jewish. Eventually he grew sick of the teasing, jumped ship in Panama and headed back to New York City. Now he is back to his childhood's Lower East Side, ready to take advantage of all the opportunities New York City has to offer.

Abraham "Kid Twist" Reles

Abraham Reles was born in 1906 to Austrian Jewish immigrants living in Brooklyn. He attended school up until eighth grade, when he decided to drop out. Directly after school his full time occupation was hanging around pool rooms and candy stores in Brownsville, where he met a mixed group of Jewish and Italian gangsters. Working them started off his career as a notorious hit man. He adopted his nickname "Kid Twist" from an earlier iconic Austrian Jewish Lower East Side gangster who had a reputation for being a cunning and dangerous gangster until he died in 1908.

Noe-Schultz Gang

Dutch Schultz

Dutch Schultz was born in 1901 in Manhattan. When he was still young his father abandoned the family. Around the time he reached the eighth grade, he had to drop out of school to help support his now fatherless family. For a time he worked legal jobs, but at age 18 he began to work at a questionable nightclub, beginning his life as a criminal. The club was owned by a local mobster, for whom Schultz often stole game money. He quickly graduated from petty theft to burglary and was caught and sentenced to prison. While he is scheduled to be released later this year, that does not mean he can't plan out what he shall do once released.

Amberg Brothers

Hyman Amberg

Hyman Amberg was born in 1902. He was only 2 years old when his family immigrated from Russia to the United States. He and his two older brothers made a fearsome and effective trio well known among the criminal underground. Out of the infamous trio, Hyman is often the "enforcer", or the muscle.

Louis "Pretty" Amberg

Louis Amberg was born in 1897. The middle Amberg in the trio, he is actually the fifth of eight siblings, but is most often involved with his brothers Joseph and Hyman. He is often the violent brother of the trio.

Joey Noe

Joey Noe was a local New York City gangster. He ran small casinos and gambling rooms. He runs in similar circles as Dutch Schultz, operating small scale smuggling enterprises.

Abraham "Bo" Weinberg

Abraham Weinberg was born in 1900 New York City. He and his brother often worked odd jobs for mobsters, even being hired as hitmen. Weinberg and Schultz crossed paths from time to time and were on friendly terms.

Joseph C. Amberg

Joseph Amberg was born in 1892. He was 12 when his family immigrated to the United States. Along with two of his younger brothers he was famous in New York Cities crime scene for his work in labor racketeering. Within the trio, he is often considered the "brains" and his charisma helps the brothers make connections.

Mystery's

The delegates who receive the Mystery Positions **MUST** write position papers and send them to syuditsky30@stuy.edu at least a day before the committee session begins, so that the backroom can prepare accordingly.

Whether the position is revealed before or during the session is up to the delegates.

Mystery Gang Person

"I don't like violence, Tom. I'm a businessman. Blood is a big expense"
- *The Godfather* (1972)

Whether be a lowly gangster in one of the aforementioned gangs, or a gang leader on his own accord, the Mystery Gang Person must be able to clearly know whose side he is on and what he wants to do as a delegate. The gang need not be real, but in the case that it is, the delegate must make sure the gang is time appropriate and allowed Jewish people into its ranks.

Mystery Jewish Person

A Jewish man who lost everything in the pogroms and escaped to the New World. A Jewish woman born in the wrong era and unafraid to get her hands dirty to break the glass ceiling. A kid recently turned 16, in a precarious position as a hospital porter. The Mystery Jewish Person is as much of a mystery to the chairs as well as to the delegates. All are miserable, but all have that glimmer in their eyes. Will the Mystery Jewish Person be able to rise from poverty, or will they remain in the mud, forever forgotten by history?