

May, 2014
Youth Committee Report
Haverhill Emanu-El Federation of Temple Youth (HEFTY) (grades 8-12)
Temple Emanu-El Junior Youth (TEJY) (grades 5-7)

To the Members of Temple Emanu-El:

This year, we had 25 paid Hefty members including 16 paid Regional members (a record high!) and nine Executive Board members in our senior Hefty youth group. We are grateful to Advisor Jesse Kamien for his devotion and guidance.

Each year, an improvement goal/s is set. This year's goals were to increase NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) Regional involvement, and Social Action programming. Both of these were accomplished. For the first time, NFTY-NE invited 8th graders to join 9th-12th graders at Spring Conclavette (a Shabbaton-like weekend) in Belmont, MA. We sent a record 11 participants including two 8th graders – one of the largest groups in the Region.

Social Action event "Operation Gratitude" was a success, where Hefty-ites learned how to make and made several paracord survival bracelets that were sent to first responders in Afghanistan through a charity called Operation Gratitude. In addition, the group collected over \$50.00 which was sent as a donation. This was not only fun to make together, but was a meaningful Mitzvah which was gratifying to our teens.

Ongoing activities included the weekly Wednesday "snack shack" where snacks were sold to Religious School children, and recycling efforts which included bringing empty soda bottles to the market for redemption.

Hefty-ites assisted the Religious School/Temple with Sukkah decorating, blood drive, Channukah party, and basket auction. Their assistance was appreciated and reflected positive role-modeling to our younger students.

Some other highlights from the year include:

- Laser Quest, Danvers – huge success as first social program of the year.
- Dinner and Shear Madness comedy in Boston (a favorite again with over 20 participants including parent chaperones).
- Annual shul-in with "Jewish Heroes and Villains" theme.
- Shabbaton weekend with the 7th graders in the White Mountains at Jesse's house for Shabbat rituals, games, swimming, sledding, etc. (again record participation with 25 students plus parent chaperones).
- Creative Service with "Jewish Heroes and Villains" theme.

At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to the next event at Jay Gees in Methuen for go-karting, mini golf, bumper cars, indoor arcade, and ice-cream. Finally, the year will end with the annual barbeque where the 2014-2015 Executive Board will be voted in.

Our younger youth group (TEJY) was not active this year. The Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation did not run any programs and it is difficult to find volunteers to plan and implement events. Therefore, I am grateful to the Budget and Executive Committees for allotting some additional funding to run 2 youth programs for the younger students next year. These opportunities to socialize outside of Temple Religious School are invaluable in maintaining the connection to Jewish friends and to the Temple.

In conclusion, I must recognize the commitment of our Advisor, Jesse Kamien, parents, and Youth Committee members whose input at meetings, willingness to drive and/or chaperone events when needed, and general support of our children are invaluable. As always, I look forward toward planning next year as we continue to build on the strengths of our youth, our future leaders.

Cordially,
Trudy Zakin, Youth Commissioner