



LIBERTY Has Led the Way at Temple Beth El

By Cherie Flitton - LIBERTY Advisor

1. We sent two of our Youth group leaders to attend UAHC Kutz Leadership Camp in Warwick, New York. The two campers had this to say: "This wonderful experience was full of lessons, not only from the teachers but also from other campers. "It is the most independent way of living, a World of its own!" "The friendships made with other Reform Jewish Youth from across the United States, created for me a sense of belonging and a special meaning" The two who attended were Katie Benfield and Lorraine Flitton.
2. We sent two of our Youth Group leaders and our Youth Advisor to attend the UAHC Leadership Training Institute in Fredericksburg, VA. This was indeed a positive and rewarding experience. One hundred representatives from Reform Temple Youth Groups in the Mid-Atlantic Region gathered to discuss and exchange ideas, attend workshops and services, and deal with leadership techniques in creating a successful youth group. It was certainly interesting in sharing our ideas.
3. Our Youth group leaders held training workshops for those members unable to attend the above. The workshops concentrated on the right and wrong ways in building LIBERTY dealing with the organization of the Board to recruiting new members.
4. LIBERTY participated in the 4th Annual High Holiday Hunger Project. Following the traditions of our texts, and the lead of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the National Federation of Temple Youth, of which LIBERTY is a part, took on the challenge of helping to feed the hungry people in our community. We handed out paper bags supplied by HarrisTeeter on our Rosh Hashanah services asking congregants to return them on our Yom Kippur services filled with food, symbolically that which would not have been eaten during the fast. The bags did not stop coming in! We collected 260 bags! The task now was to place all the food into boxes! It was a great feeling to see such a successful and worthwhile cause. This hunger project will be reported back to the Religious Action Center that we collected 3,600 lbs, almost 2 tons! Even after all the hard work of unpacking and packing the satisfaction of seeing what we had achieved was very rewarding. We even took the bags back to HarrisTeeter so that they could be recycled!
5. Katie Benfield, Lorraine Flitton, Adan Norwood and Paula White all members of LIBERTY - Temple Beth El Senior Youth Group chaired the NFTY-MAR (National Federation of Temple Youth, Mid-Atlantic Region) Fall Conclave here in Charlotte. The event was a great learning experience for Temple Beth El's Youth group with programs and creative services relating to the theme of the weekend: The Future of Judaism 2001 and Beyond. 181 kids from across the Mid-Atlantic region attended. Programs were led by Lisa McGinley, Josh Scher, Chad Glazer, Darren Katz, Jonathan Friend and Philip Schreibman. Services were led by Josh Klein, Jerry Feldman, Meredith Kufert, Jennifer Wismuller, Erin Naman, Stacy Blacker, Jill Frieberg, Marni Britton and the four Co-chairs.



Operation Solomon Success Story

Vorkenash Mekonan introduces herself to her class of third graders in Beit Shemesh on their first day of school.



She is one of 14 Operation Solomon immigrant teachers who began teaching in schools all across Israel after successfully completing a three year JDC-Israel sponsored retraining program at the David Yelin teacher's College in Jerusalem.


Israeli Legislation to Allow Couples Wider Choice of Last Name



The Knesset House Committee has prepared new legislation intended to grant newlyweds more flexibility in choosing a last name. Under the bill, which was submitted to the Knesset for a first reading, recently married couples will be permitted to continue to use their pre-marriage last name. In addition, couples will be able to elect to adopt the female's last name.

Questions for the CJN?
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