

Hebrew Highlights Post Confirmation ...Just Do It

As delivered by Rebecca Gerger at Temple Israel Confirmation Services

I chose to keep going to Hebrew High after my confirmation. Having gone through two years of Post Confirmation, I can honestly tell you that it was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I've had the opportunity to participate in programs like Panim El Panim and the David Project.

Every year, Post Confirmation takes a trip to Washington, DC, where they take part in Jewish leadership conferences. In these conferences, students learn how to be an active part of a progressive society. At the same time, Panim guides students in applying Jewish values to the actions that they chose to take.

Another great program, the David Project, is taught every other year to Hebrew High juniors and seniors. The David Project is essentially a series of curricula that train Jewish youth to be effective



Rebecca Gerger

advocates for Israel, while providing historical support for Jewish claims. In fact, I found the program to be so fascinating, that I chose to take part in a David Project Fellowship in Boston this summer.

Up until now, your parents have probably made you have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and go to Confirmation class. They have probably promised you that when you get past Confirmation you are free to make your own choices about your Jewish education. Most of you have reached an intersection in the journey of your life experience as a Jew. You can keep going, keep pursuing Jewish knowledge, or you can veer the other way and

stay at the plateau that you have reached here today. I challenge all of you to look beyond the obvious.

Of course, we live for our families, and our friends, but the real question we must ask ourselves is who has always been there for us? In our case, as Jews, we must remember our community. No matter where we go or what we do, we will always be Jewish. Post Confirmation prepares us to be leaders of our community.

Now, guys, I'm sorry if you couldn't relate to all of what I've said so far, but relate to this. You are Jewish teens living in a secular society, being given the opportunity either to remain active in your Jewish community or become dormant. Post Confirmation is only one of many intersections you will reach throughout your life. In my case, I chose to keep going, and it was one of the best decisions I've made yet. Because of what I learned at Post Confirmation, I know what I live for. I live for my family, my friends, for Israel, and most of all, for my Jewish community. ☆

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What you'll miss if you don't join us at Hebrew High:

- ☆ Great, casual, learning environment
- ☆ Time to be with Jewish friends
- ☆ An opportunity to connect with your rabbis
- ☆ Fun retreats and special programs
- ☆ Open and honest dialogs about things that matter to teens
- ☆ Chance to meet Jewish teens from around the Carolinas
- ☆ A boost to your college resume
- ☆ Social action and community service projects
- ☆ Taking your Jewish knowledge to the next level
- ☆ Increasing your connection to the Jewish community
- ☆ Learning leadership skills to last a lifetime
- ☆ Lots of fun

Hebrew High ... The Place To Be On Wednesday Night

Temple Beth El Teens Visit Hadera, Israel

By Susan Jacobs, Director, Temple Beth El Religious School

Seventeen Temple Beth El teens visited Hadera, Charlotte's sister city in Israel and became a part of Partnership 2000, a program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte. The morning was spent visiting the Kaplan Elementary School. Upon arrival we were greeted enthusiastically by director Mair Davidesco, and after enjoying a delicious snack, we spent time in classes with the fourth grade students. One class collected autographs from our teens because they were so star-struck. Our teens played games and led songs with them. We delivered gift bags to the students that were filled with school supplies and letters from the Temple



TBE teens at Yad Labanim.

and could not stop thanking us. From there, we went to the Hadera city center and visited Yad Labanim, the memorial and garden to the fallen soldiers of Hadera. We were met by the four Hadera teens that were getting ready to come to Charlotte in July. In no time, the two groups became friends, exchanging email addresses and phone numbers. After listening to a very moving presentation about Hadera's soldiers, we placed flowers on the memorials for each of Israel's wars. It was hard to see so many names written on the monuments. No



A school child from Hadera shows off the gifts she received from TBE.

Beth El Religious School students on Mitzvah Day. They were so overwhelmed at our generosity

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