




TEMPLE EMANUEL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

2007/2008 5767/5768





ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007/2008 5767/5768

Elul, 5768—September, 2008

Dear Friends:

Fully one half of the Book of Exodus—the portions of *T'rumah*, *T'tzaveh*, *Ki Tissa*, *Vayakhel* and *P'kudei*—are taken up with two themes.

The first is the building of a sacred space and a vibrant community so that God can dwell among the people.

The second is the generosity of the people that would make that sacred space and that vibrant community possible.

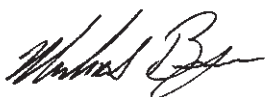
As it was with our biblical ancestors, so it is with us today.

We have a vibrant community in which God dwells among us. Here our members rediscover their heritage by learning Torah. Here we sing songs of praise and inspiration. Here we send record numbers of people to Israel. Here we connect our members more deeply to the spiritual regeneration of Shabbat. Here we perform acts of social justice, we build community, and we transmit Torah to our children and grandchildren. God lives here. Being here adds purpose to our lives.

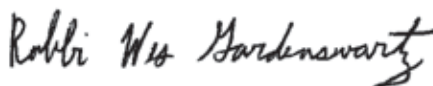
This vibrant community is sustained by the generosity of so many of its members.

Please enjoy this Annual Report which conveys what we are doing and acknowledges the gracious support of those who make it possible.

Shanah tovah u'metukah,
A healthy and happy New Year!



Michael S. Benjamin, President



Rabbi Wes Gardenswartz



THE SEVEN GATES

Our beloved shul is enjoying a golden age. Due in large part to our dedicated hard-working volunteers, our extraordinary staff and clergy, and the generosity of our membership, Temple Emanuel is thriving.

Seven Gates Mission

The Old City of Jerusalem can be entered and its inspiration can be felt through various gates. So too, our shul can be entered and its inspiration felt through Seven Gates which offer multiple points of entry for our members to become engaged in synagogue life. We are a broad and diverse community. One size does not fit all. Our members can find their place here through the gates of:

**Torah • Prayer • Israel • Shabbat • Redeeming the World •
Building Community • Teaching Jewish Values to Our Children**

Multiple ways in. Multiple small communities of intimacy, purpose and warmth welcome you once you are here.

Our Seven Gates mission—the imperative to provide multiple ways in, and to engage people once they are here—affects all we do: personnel, budgeting, programming and publicity.

Our New Governance Model

We have a powerful and sacred mission: to touch every soul, to inspire every heart, and to engage every mind, in the way that each of you can receive it. How do we fulfill that mission in our day-to-day work?

In 2007, Temple Emanuel implemented the most sweeping changes to its governance structure in decades. Through the work of a newly formed Governance Committee, Temple Emanuel adopted the principles of best practice in governance, principles that have become prominent among the more successful non-profit organizations. The linchpin of it was the creation, out of the more than 100-person Board of Trustees, of a 36-person Board of Directors vested with the power and responsibility of running our synagogue. Each Director signs a *brit*, a covenant, to be actively engaged as a member, ambassador and leader—to make our shul one of the urgent priorities of their lives.

Our Board of Directors and our professionals work together in ongoing leadership development and training in order to clarify our mission and to ensure that we are on target to fulfilling it. These teachings, under a program known as LEAD (Leadership Education and Development), have enhanced the collaboration and partnership between the Board and the professionals and enabled us to better do our sacred work together.

Our New People

We hired a new Executive Director, Michael Cantor, who, as an experienced Executive Director from a large west coast synagogue, hit the ground running and is currently thriving in his position.

Elias Rosenberg joined us as our Hazzan. He moves us with his prayers, his song, his smile, and his warmth. To hear him *daven*, and to *daven* with him, is a blessing.

Our Finances

As Pirkei Avot teaches us, *eyn kemakh, eyn Torah*: no sustenance, no spirituality. The last two years we have been blessed.

Our construction loan, which enabled us to build our wonderful new building, was finally paid off in full through a generous donation from Sheldon and Miriam Adelson.

In 2007/2008 we raised a record amount of contributions from our Annual Appeal, raising \$446,000, more than doubling the Annual Appeal in two years. This generosity has enabled us to sustain the vibrant programs, services, classes and happenings that light up our community every day.



BEN BAG-BAG TAUGHT:

*Turn the Torah and turn it
again, study it and scrutinize
it, for all things are contained
in it.*

– PIRKEI AVOT 5: 24

תלמוד תורה

We have more classes, at more levels, with more learners, than ever before.

- Me'ah classes, which involve 100 hours of intensive adult Jewish learning at the highest level in which our students encounter biblical, rabbinic, medieval and modern periods in Jewish history and thought;
- Ikkarim classes, in which parents of young children learn how to make their homes come alive with Jewish values such as Shabbat and holidays which promote sacred family time, and tzedakah and tikkun olam which promote an ethic of responsibility to repair our world;

THE GATE OF TORAH

"The biggest impact Ikkarim had on our Shabbat was the fact that we stopped shopping and running errands on Shabbat. We also don't have the kids scheduled for any activities. This has had a huge effect on our Shabbat. It has gone from being erev Shabbat to a whole day of Shabbat. We hang out at home, visit with friends, go to the park, or sometimes the library. Whatever we do, we do together and it is unscheduled. This definitely sets the day apart for me and I hope it will give my children the breathing space they need as they become more involved in our complex world."

– Julie and David Chivo

- A new Adult B'nei Mitzvah class, in which adult learners learn how to read Torah, Haftarah and deliver a d'var Torah, all the while wrestling with existential questions: what do the mitzvot mean to how I live my life? Is God real to me? How so?
- Classes from all four clergy every week, including the Rabbi's Talmud class which draws an overflowing crowd at 8:30 on Shabbat morning.

"Who are we, how shall we choose to inhabit this world, what provides us meaning, what is our place in this universe, what does faith mean, do we have it, do we desire it?"

– Michael Gardener, member of Talmud Class of 2007/2008, on the questions we wrestled with.

- We learn from fabulous speakers for the Rabbi Samuel Chiel Kallah, the Sisterhood Kallah and the Israel Action Forum.



עבודת הלב

THE GATE OF PRAYER

Adonai, open my lips, so I may speak Your praise.

– THE MEDITATION BEFORE THE AMIDAH

- Each Friday night, hundreds of people, many of whom had never regularly attended Friday night services (Kabbalat Shabbat) now eagerly participate in Shabbat Alive!, our new instrumental musical Friday night service which is earning a spectacular reputation throughout the community. Following the service we now enjoy a festive Oneg Shabbat so that all who come to daven as part of Shabbat Alive! as well as the traditional non-instrumental service in the Gann Chapel can gather before going to their homes to celebrate Shabbat.

"One of the first things my parents, Shirley and Edgar Grossman, did after they bought their house just a few blocks from Temple Emanuel in September, 1946 was to join the shul...It's a rich multi-generational history of which we're proud! Nothing, however, has created a stronger, more vibrant spiritual connection to the synagogue and to our tradition than our regular participation in Shabbat Alive!. I have totally revamped my Friday schedule to ensure arrival by 6:30 PM, as I don't want to miss a note nor the opportunity to greet friends before Shabbat begins. Barbara was particularly pleased to have been asked by Michelle and Elias to join the ensemble this fall. Now that Shabbat Alive! has taken a summer hiatus, we play the entire CD on Friday afternoons at the Cape to get ready for Shabbat. The music and the joyful performances have enriched our lives and those of our mothers in particular. We are deeply grateful for the regular refreshment of our souls that Shabbat Alive! has provided."

– Steve Grossman

- We offer multiple options on Shabbat mornings for prayer: an early morning service (the Hashkamah minyan), a lay-led service (the Chapel Minyan), a learner's service, our traditional service in the Rabbi Samuel Chiel Sanctuary and multiple children's services which have grown tremendously in popularity.

- Temple Emanuel conducts the most reliable Conservative daily minyan in the area each and every morning and evening, which attracts people throughout greater Boston who depend on a minyan.

"Kaddish got me to the community, but the minyan and total community provided something very special. This was better for me than any therapist."

– A woman who said kaddish for her father and joined our shul.

- This past year, thanks to the generous support of donors, our entire congregation received two CDs of Hazzan Rosenberg's inspiring Jewish music, one in connection with his Installation and the other a recording of the entire Shabbat Alive! service.

- In December 2006, Temple Emanuel led the largest-ever single synagogue mission to Israel with 200 congregants and staff, who traveled, prayed and experienced Israel together, creating lasting friendships and bonds to each other and to Israel.

"Awesome, inspiring, moving, historical, spiritual, indescribable. New friends!"

– Member of Temple Emanuel mission to Israel

- As part of that mission to Israel, and as part of our Make Your Mark program, Temple Emanuel donated a Torah scroll to the Yemenite Congregation Yachad Shivtei Yisrael in Haifa, which prior to that had no Torah.
- In December 2008, 60 congregants will travel to Israel on a covenanted mission sponsored by the Adelson Family Charitable Foundation in honor and memory of Gloria Adelson Field. The participants on the mission, parents and children, all will sign a covenant with the shul, pledging to grow as Jews and as active members of our congregation, by doing mitzvot within each of the Seven Gates.

"We are excited about participating in the Gloria Adelson Field Covenant Mission to Israel because it represents a wonderful way for us to enrich our children with the principles of our faith in a warm and nurturing environment surrounded by friends and fellow congregants. By participating in the Mission, we will be leading by example, teaching our kids the priorities we believe are important and underscoring the values and convictions we hope to impart to them. The Covenant is an opportunity to reinforce the themes of our core family values. It is the perfect method for furthering the development of our family and the goal of raising righteous and moral children."

– Gary and Kimberly Creem and their children Jacob (age 7) and Lily (age 5)

- In 2007 and 2008, Temple Emanuel sent the largest number of teens of any synagogue in the Boston area to Israel on the Passport to Israel Program.

"I had a blast on my Young Judaea trip to Israel! I came with no real connection to Israel and left planning to focus my college studies on the region and hoping to spend a year there in the future. I feel as if I have known the other kids on the trip and the YJ staff so much longer than the 5 weeks we spent together. I hope they are life-long friends. I feel very lucky to have had this experience and will remember it forever."

– Adam Levin

- In 2007, our Synagogue responded to our sister shul in Haifa by donating funds to build a safe room to protect their congregants from the constant threat of rocket attacks.
- Our Israel Action Forum ensures a steady stream of passionate and intelligent speakers about Israel on all sides of the political spectrum, from Leibel Fine to Rabbi Danny Gordis and Stanley Fischer to The David Project.

אהבת ציון

THE GATE OF ISRAEL

*As long as the heart
of the Jew beats,
And as long as the eyes of
the Jew look eastward,
Then our two-thousand-year
hope is not lost,
To be a free nation in Zion,
in Jerusalem*

– HATIKVAH



שמיירת שבת

TEMPLE EMANUEL SHABBAT ALIVE

"The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time. It is a day on which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation; from the world of creation to the creation of the world."

— ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL, *THE SABBATH*, p. 10.

THE GATE OF SHABBAT

"We had a truly beautiful and spiritual experience. I felt for the first time that I really understood how restful Shabbat can be."

— Lisa Tannenbaum about the sixth grade retreat at Camp Yavneh in May, 2008

"I know Wayne knows this, but I wanted to make sure that the two Rabbis know how happy my family was with the 6th Grade retreat at Camp Yavneh a few weeks ago. Initially, it was a struggle to get my family to go. There was a lot of grumbling in the car on the way up to New Hampshire and several pleas to turn the car around (most were made by my husband Raphael). But everyone had a GREAT time -- so much so, that by the end of the weekend, Raphael wrote on the evaluation that he wants to see more retreats at Temple Emanuel. All of us made new friends, which was one of my biggest goals for the weekend. It was especially nice to see Gabrielle and Rebecca playing with kids they hadn't spent time with before...The retreat was everything I hoped it would be."

— Kate Poverman about the sixth grade retreat at Camp Yavneh in May, 2007

- Shabbat Unplugged, now in its third year, helps our members celebrate Shabbat for 25 hours, from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday, so that we can truly feel Shabbat's power as what Abraham Joshua Heschel called "a sanctuary in time." Offerings include classes, yoga services, Israeli dancing, group discussions and lectures, walks and bike rides, culminating in a musical Havdalah.
- We hold several Shabbat community dinners each year in which we *daven*, enjoy a Shabbat meal, hear a story and sing *z'mirot*, festive Shabbat table songs.
- Our community organized one-on-one dinners in our members' homes, where people who had been strangers became friends over the Shabbat dinner table.

"We love the Festive Friday dinners at Temple Emanuel! Sharing a Shabbas meal is such an easy and delicious way to make new friends. It makes our community more intimate and welcoming. We are eager to do it again next year."

— Wendy and Jim Mnookin

- Bonds of community are strengthened during weekend retreats where the beauty and spirituality of Shabbat are experienced for all of Shabbat by parents and children, families and friends.

- In 2008, we created and produced an attractive Shabbat Guide, complete with photographs and explanations of the Shabbat morning service and information about our congregation. This booklet deepens the prayer experience for both our visitors and Shabbat morning regulars.



THE GATE OF REDEEMING OUR WORLD

HILLEL TAUGHT:

*If I am not for me, who will be?
If I am for myself alone, what
am I? And if not now, when?*

— PIRAI AVOT 1:14

- Over the past two years, we have been engaged in organizing our community: that is, having bottoms up, grass roots conversations about what our members are thinking about, worrying about, and are prepared to work to make better. We did this through hundreds of one-on-one conversations and about fifty house meetings, in which the host would have a conversation in a living room with twelve to fifteen members. As a result of these encounters, this talking and listening to one another, a grass roots social action agenda was born called Hillel's Call to Action. We have identified three broadly shared concerns in our community: (1) Aging with Dignity (2) Caring for Caregivers and (3) Caring for our Environment, all of which are being acted upon by Hillel's Call to Action members. This organizing project was nationally recognized and applauded.

- In 2008, Temple Emanuel became the only Conservative congregation in greater Boston to join the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and to host major GBIO events.

"What most motivates our commitment to Hillel's Call to Action is the opportunity to go outside our Temple to take action on social justice issues side-by-side with a diverse set of partners. In conducting one-on-one conversations and house meetings, we learned that a primary concern in the lives of Temple members is the challenge of being a caregiver for a loved one. Our membership in the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization allows us to be leaders on GBIO's campaign called "Aging with Dignity" in partnership with others from 60 GBIO congregations. It is very exciting for us to join with so many congregations throughout the Boston area to use our collective strength to act for meaningful change on difficult issues facing caregivers and their elderly loved ones."

— Sam Silverman and Abby Flam, Co-Chairs, Hillel's Call to Action

- Under Hillel's Call to Action, our teens took an active interest in recycling, increasing the Temple's recycling efforts and working with Mayor Cohen and the City of Newton to establish institutional recycling pickup. This has resulted in our shul recycling 9.3 tons of paper and cardboard—which has saved 158.1 mature trees, 65,000 gallons of water, 27.9 cubic yards of landfill space, 18.6 barrels of oil, and 37,330 kilowatt hours of electricity, enough to power the average American home for almost 4 years.

- This coming year will mark the 20th year of Project Manna, a concert in support of our ongoing partnership with the Massachusetts Avenue Baptist Church in Cambridge. Through a beautiful concert of the choirs of diverse faith communities, we raise funds that support its food kitchen, thereby fulfilling the important mitzvot of feeding the hungry and building bridges with other people of faith.

- Direct service social action thrives at Temple Emanuel.

"Can our generous community help repair the world in ways besides writing a check? By supporting clothing and book drives; providing volunteers to coach students in reading and math; contributing food to Family Table and food workers for Sunday's Bread; and offering many other chances to serve, the direct service arm of Social Action works to enrich our Temple family and its surrounding communities while fulfilling the precept from Pirkei Avot: 'You are not required to complete the task, but nor are you free to desist from it.'"

– Howie Zaharoff, Chair of Social Action, Direct Service

- Our b'nei mitzvah do social justice as part of becoming Jewish adults.

Dear Wayne:

Just a quick note to thank you for connecting me with MacKenzie Goldwasser and her smiling dog Chai. They have been visiting my mom at Evans Park Assisted Living for the past several months...

MacKenzie set time each week to bring her dog to visit my mom, a total stranger. I know it could not have been easy for a young girl to chit chat with an older woman she didn't know. But the dog made it easy. I also give thanks to MacKenzie's mom, Courtney, who made the effort to bring her daughter and obviously is instilling a caring, patient, loving soul within her daughter.

My mom is moving to California this week to live with family. She has a photo of her with MacKenzie and Chai which will occupy a treasured spot in her new bedroom. My mom was uplifted each time the dog visited and cherished every stray hair left behind.

Thank you for your hand in making this all happen. We will never forget the kindness.

**Warmly
Ann Levin**





THE GATE OF COMMUNITY

*There is an old joke that Cohen
goes to shul to talk to God,
and Garfinkle goes to shul
to talk to Cohen.
We have many members who
come to talk to Cohen.*

Our shul is where friendship happens.

- In 2007, we held our first major fundraising auction/social event, "Tulips at Twilight," which was both a social and a financial success.
- In 2008, we held our second social event, "Salsa Into Spring," which was also a social and financial success and firmly established the annual social event as a new tradition.
- Various groups successfully continue their devotion to building community for its own sake such as PG-45, Chavurah, Dor Hadash, Sisterhood and Brotherhood.

לבנות בית בישראל

- We created and distributed an enhanced membership directory in a hard cover three-ring binder to provide contact information for all of our members in a format that can be continuously updated and enhanced with additional information in order to strengthen community connections.
- We launched our ongoing Temple Emanuel Mitzvah project, a grass roots conversation about what mitzvot people do, and why they do them. This project culminated in the publication of a beautiful book of reflections entitled, "Blades of Grass and Angels." This is part of a national conversation taking place within the Conservative movement.
- Our Brotherhood and our Sisterhood have become more active than ever, holding numerous events and enhancing our community.

"PG45 is a funky name for the adult members of the synagogue who have the time and inclination to enjoy socializing with each other. We are couples and singles, men and women, middle aged (or a little younger or a little older), new members and longtime members, all with the same interest: enjoying both Jewish and secular life with friends. Whether biking, taking in a show or a jazz performance or sharing Shabbat dinner, everyone is welcome to meet new people or get better acquainted with someone you already know."

– Ellen Nissenbaum, member of PG-45



"Sisterhood is about connections with wonderful multi-generational women in our community. It is an opportunity to get to know the most amazing, interesting and diverse women while doing activities from celebrating Jewish holidays and cooking to running a road race together or simply participating in a new program. This inclusive and welcoming organization has a place for every woman where once you come through the gate the doors are unlimited!"

– JOANNE KAZARIAN, PRESIDENT OF SISTERHOOD



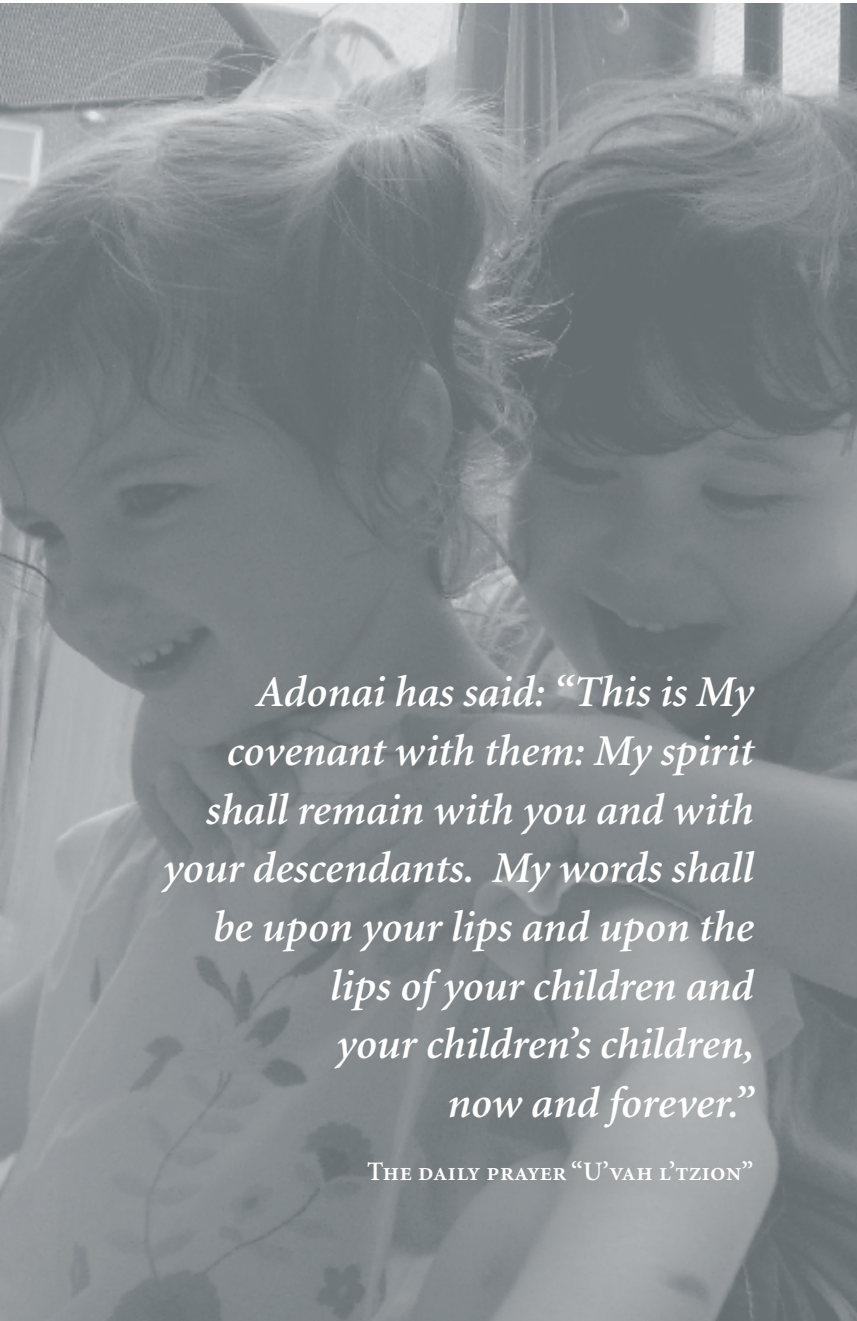
"Making connections can be simple, when you join in with the boys at TE Brotherhood. That's the shared ruach of TE Brotherhood. We come together as a team to foster and aid every movement and activity within the Temple. We can always count on one another; whether it is assembling a posse for doing mitzvot, going out for a good time and lifting a glass, or needing a shoulder to lean on. At our men's club we all join together – Kohens, Levites and Israelites are all welcome in our midst. Feel the ruach, enjoy the perks, and become one of the gang. Be part of the action; be part of Brotherhood."

– BRUCE GOLD, PRESIDENT OF BROTHERHOOD



ושננתם לבניך

THE GATE OF TEACHING JEWISH VALUES TO OUR CHILDREN



Adonai has said: "This is My covenant with them: My spirit shall remain with you and with your descendants. My words shall be upon your lips and upon the lips of your children and your children's children, now and forever."

THE DAILY PRAYER "U'VAH L'TZION"

We are all about transmitting Jewish values from generation to generation.

- The Temple Emanuel Nursery School continues to thrive at full capacity with a waiting list, and brims with happy children and their happy parents.

"I had another baby so that I could continue my relationship with Temple Emanuel Nursery School. I love this school."

– Stacey Schwartz, Temple Emanuel Nursery School Parent

- We are recreating our religious school from kindergarten through fifth grade to provide a coordinated and enhanced curriculum so that there is a thoughtful building of what our children learn from year to year. They don't redo what they learned last year; they *build* on what they learned last year.
- This year we are launching a program called Makor (which means the source), in collaboration with Hebrew College. Our sixth and seventh grade students will get the best of both worlds: the fabulous teachers and innovative classes of Prozdor, and an anchoring in their own shul, including personal relationships with all their rabbis, cantors and teachers.



- Temple Emanuel's USY won numerous major awards for its participation and programming. We have more of our children more deeply engaged in USY than ever before.

"There is no doubt that this year's TE USY chapter has had an impact on the entire congregation, whether it was hosting a community wide Israel-fest event or selling pasta groggers on Purim for Family Table and Tikkun Olam. By reaching out to more teens in the community than ever and creating a close group of teens who love USY, it is clear that the shul has relished in the joy of watching our USY teens this year. As teens, we love USY and hope to share our passion for it with as many others as possible."

– Jessica Hills and Sam Gardenswartz, USY Co-Presidents

- We are taking our Passport to Israel program to the next level, finding new ways to send more and more teens to Israel every year.
- We are building bridges between our day school and religious school communities, so that our children learn, daven, play basketball and spend time having fun together.



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