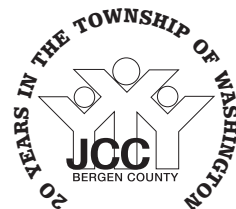




“Kehillah Partnership is a bold vision whose realization has begun. Key institutions – JCC, Synagogue, Federation – are selflessly working together for the Jewish betterment of all. Rabbis, educators, communal servants and lay leaders have reached across denominational lines and are fashioning a collaborative, creative and more affordable Jewish future. The partnership started with sixth graders, but when fully actualized it will reach the full mosaic of the Jewish community. The excitement is palpable.”

Rabbi Noam Marans



The Sixth Grade Cultural Arts Showcase

—A Project of the Kehillah Partnership—

Pilot Project: Building a Collaborative Jewish Community, Phase I
Israel@60 Through the Cultural Arts

2007-2008

Temple Sholom River Edge

Jewish Community Center of Paramus Paramus

Temple Beth Or Township of Washington

Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley Woodcliff Lake

Bergen County YJCC Township of Washington





The Kehillah Partnership pilot program, consisting of five sessions held over a period of seven months, brought together more than 150 sixth-grade students and their parents from four local synagogues (two Conservative and two Reform). The pilot program offered opportunities for children to choose among eight different cultural activities, such as videography, painting, cartooning, musical performance and culinary arts, with the common theme of their learning focused on "Israel at 60." The children also attended an overnight retreat to meet and learn with peers. Parents participated in an opening session that included Jewish text study and discussion as well as a closing session on raising Jewish teens. The program concluded in early March, 2008 with a community showcase of the children's creative work.



Kehillah Partnership reminded my son that he's part of a much larger community, and reminded my wife and me that we can be an even greater Community when we work together. The Partnership is the beginning of something that can make difference. Thanks to all those who made it happen. Please keep it growing.

Mark Botterman
Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley, Woodcliff Lake, NJ

We heard about Eli Cohen –a spy & what he did to save Israel from its enemies. We talked about what we would do in that situation.

Mitchell Hirsch
Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley, Woodcliff Lake, NJ



The Kehillah Partnership was a wonderful opportunity for my daughter to come together with other Jewish children outside of our temple. She reconnected with pre-school friends at the retreat and shared many laughs during the four Sundays at the YJCC. The videography chugim was a favorite, but Rachel also loved culinary and visual arts.

I particularly enjoyed the small group discussions we had about raising Jewish teenagers. Our group, a mix of people from different temples, had a spirited conversation, and realized that we are all facing the same issues.

I'm glad we were given this golden opportunity to participate in the Kehillah partnership. It reinforced what we are teaching our children in religious school, at home, and at summer camp.

Elaine Posner
Temple Beth Or, Township of Washington, NJ

We learned about drawing different characters and Israel all in one.

Molly Suss
Temple Beth Or, Township of Washington, NJ

We discussed what we need to do to defend ourselves and others.

Jonah Gould
Temple Beth Or, Township of Washington, NJ

Zachary really enjoyed the Kehillah program. He loved meeting friendly new people and making new friends. He especially enjoyed the videography elective while concurrently learning about Israel through the media process. Dani was someone Zachary felt he learned a lot from. He could not wait for us to see the finished product. The minute we came home, he could not wait to tell us all of the new and wonderful things and people that he had met. I know he really wants this program to continue, and his enjoyment from such a great experience makes me want it to continue as well.

Zachary's testimonial: I thought the Kehillah program was something that I'll remember for life. It was very enjoyable and a lot of fun. I have to give special thanks to Dani for giving me a both cool and fun project. It was a very memorable experience.

Jacqueline Reuveni
Jewish Community Center of Paramus, Paramus, NJ

We learned to express ourselves -- paint like famous Israeli artists. We discover all about Israel through Jewish artists.

Avra Mendelaw
Jewish Community Center of Paramus, Paramus, NJ

The Kehillah Project was great for both my daughter and for my wife and me. My daughter got the opportunity to learn about Israel in a creative and fun way. Normally, she complains about going to Sunday School; she was very excited about the Retreat and spoke positively about the rest of the program.

My wife and I found the parent education programs at the beginning and end of the program to be very helpful as we think about what we want to pass down to our children.

Michael I. Starr
Temple Sholom, River Edge, NJ

Video (class) is awesome. We got to draw, tell a story, act sing, dance, laugh and talk about all the important things that Israel has done for 60 years.

Jacob Seltzer
Temple Sholom, River Edge, NJ

