

## Mitzvah Mania 2017 Details

Date	Timing	Activity	Brief Description	Detailed Description	Location	Partner	Point Person	Number of Participants	Link to Photos	Jewish Learning (Key concepts)
<b>Monday 8/21</b>	<b>2pm – 4pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setup 1:30-2pm</li> <li>icebreaker 2-2:15,</li> <li>Service 2:15 – 3:30</li> <li>Jewish Learning FOR TEENS ONLY 3:30 – 4pm</li> </ul>	Intergenerational Service for the Hungry	Teen volunteers will join the residents of Westfield Senior Citizens Housing to create kosher lunches to be donated to St. Joseph's Social Services in Elizabeth.	Close to 20 Mitzvah Mania teens worked side by side with seniors to make sandwiches and personalized bags for St. Joseph's Social Services in Elizabeth. We created about 150 snack bags, each to be paired with two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a complete serving.	Westfield Senior Housing 1129 Boynton Avenue Westfield NJ	Westfield Senior Housing	Carrie Motley, ADPC Recreation Director Westfield Senior Citizens Housing 1129 Boynton Avenue Westfield, NJ 07090 908-518-9586 ext. 5 <a href="mailto:carezza.motley@westfieldseniorhousing.com">carezza.motley@westfieldseniorhousing.com</a>	19	<a href="https://photos/iYV7UbfntWYk4fS7">https://photos/iYV7UbfntWYk4fS7</a>	Learning from elders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generations coming together for the common good</li> <li>Even though younger people are often considered more idealistic, we should be inspired by Seniors who refuse to let idealism fade away and continue to strive to make the world a better place</li> </ul> <p>Game: Crossword puzzle (to show persistence)</p>
<b>Tuesday 8/22</b>	<b>10:30am – 12:00pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setup 10-10:30am</li> <li>Talk with teens 10:30-10:45</li> <li>Service 10:45 – 11:40</li> <li>Jewish Learning FOR TEENS ONLY 11:40am –</li> </ul>	Activity at the Wae Center	Engaging with adults with disabilities from Wae Center of West Orange to perform a joint service project (Creating inspirational puzzles for kids in hospitals, with disabilities, and facing bullying).	We are happy to report that our second day of Mitzvah Mania was a wonderful success. Teens went to the WAE Center of JSDD (Jewish Service for the Developmentally Disabled) to TEAM UP with adults with special needs to develop colorful, inspirational puzzles for children who have been hospitalized or are facing bullying. Staff at the WAE center were extremely pleased with the enthusiasm and spirit that the teens brought, and remarked that several clients that are usually very disengaged were actively participating.	Wae Center 270 Pleasant Valley Way West Orange	Wae Center in West Orange	Aubrie George <a href="mailto:AGeorge@JSDDMETROWEST.ORG">AGeorge@JSDDMETROWEST.ORG</a> Ext7164  Rande Lesser <a href="mailto:RLesser@jsddmetrowest.org">RLesser@jsddmetrowest.org</a>	12	<a href="https://photos/RZuPGTYj3WdxgWgu6">https://photos/RZuPGTYj3WdxgWgu6</a>	Empowering those with disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exploring Jewish text regarding empowerment of individuals with special needs</li> <li>Explaining Jewish efforts to support people with disabilities in Greater MetroWest</li> </ul> <p>Game: "Minefield" Trust Exercise (to show how to empower individuals to accomplish feats)</p>
<b>Weds 8/23</b>	<b>8am – 12pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intro and orientation 8:00-8:30</li> <li>Service 8:30 – 11:30</li> <li>Jewish Learning FOR TEENS ONLY 11:30 – 12pm</li> </ul>	Food Pantry Packing	Assisting the clients of the food pantry with shopping for their food selections in the client choice pantry	On Wednesday, over a dozen Mitzvah Mania teens served at the Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges. Teens were involved with either serving food to clients or greeting and personally leading clients of the pantry around to collect nutritional food. We were directed by Jodi Cooperman, who is a huge supporter of JTEEN <sup>GMW</sup> and a Board Member of the Interfaith Food Pantry. Afterwards, we performed the nutrition simulation activity to show the difficulty in providing a balanced meal on a limited income.	Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges 105 Main Street, Orange, NJ 07050	Interfaith Food Pantry of the Oranges	Jodi Cooperman 347-675-5016 <a href="mailto:jodicoperman@comcast.net">jodicoperman@comcast.net</a>	13	<a href="https://photos/KFawaKHQ66j4naaS7">https://photos/KFawaKHQ66j4naaS7</a>	Hunger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting yourself in someone else's shoes</li> <li>Story of Joseph and his brothers-famine and times of hunger</li> <li>Imagine if on Yom Kippur, you did not have food after the fast or you were not sure if you would</li> </ul> <p>Game: "Survive the Week" grocery game (to understand the difficulty of providing for a family with a limited income/supply)</p>
<b>Thurs 8/24</b>	<b>1:00-2:30pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setup 12:30-1pm</li> <li>Orientation - 1pm - 1:10</li> <li>Service 1:10 – 2:00</li> <li>Jewish Learning 2pm -2:30</li> </ul>	Shabbat in a Box	Support Friendship Circle's "Shabbat in a Box" initiative by packing premade Shabbat kits for Jewish seniors throughout Greater MetroWest.	We went to Morristown Medical Center to help Friendship Circle by creating personalized "Shabbat in a Box" packages to be delivered to Jewish seniors. We were supported in this effort by Mr. and Mrs. Lebovic, who head the Jewish chaplaincy at Morristown Medical Center. In total, we created about 140 Shabbat in a Box kits, each decorated and with personalized cards included. Afterwards, we discussed techniques to celebrate Shabbat in your own way – finding ways to set aside a day of rest and do small things to have it stand out from the rest of the week. We then played Shabbat Charades, Heads Up for Shabbat, and find the Havdalah Spices.	Morristown Medical Center 100 Madison Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960	Friendship Circle  Jewish Chaplain at Morristown Medical Center	Toba Grossbaum <a href="mailto:Toba@fcnj.com">Toba@fcnj.com</a>  Pearl Lebovic Jewish Chaplain 973-652-4549, 973-978-7244; 973-652-4549 (cell) <a href="mailto:ylebovic@gmail.com">ylebovic@gmail.com</a>	21	<a href="https://photos/BoEPKkZtnFGX3jwQ9">https://photos/BoEPKkZtnFGX3jwQ9</a>	Speaking about Shabbat in general <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nature of Shabbat- doing something that is different than regular days of the week</li> <li>Explaining Shabbat practices</li> <li>Understanding the sensory elements involved in Shabbat and Havdalah</li> </ul> <p>Game(s): Shabbat Charades, Heads Up for Shabbat, Sniff out the spices</p>
<b>Friday 8/25</b>	<b>11am-1pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jewish Learning 11:00 – 11:20am</li> <li>Service 11:20 – 12:15</li> <li>Pizza and Reflection 12:15 - 12:30</li> </ul>	JFS Urban Community Vegetable Garden	Pruning, picking and planting vegetables for the community food pantry at Jewish Family Service Central, providing fresh produce to families in need in the Elizabeth area.	16 wonderful volunteers went to Jewish Family Services of Central in Elizabeth to tend to the community vegetable garden. We harvested a lot of crops, pruned plants, and planted seeds for the fall harvest. It was also wonderful to see that Iris Teen Tzedakah grant money was already applied towards the installation of a huge freezer at their new community food pantry (you can see it in the pictures) – this is a great compliment to the community vegetable garden, which was also seeded through Iris teen tzedakah allocations (pun fully intended). JFS helps feed 2,200 individuals in need annually, and the work we performed today helped towards this mission.	Jewish Family Service of Central NJ 655 Westfield Ave, Elizabeth, NJ  (Front lawn)	JFS Central	Elie Bodner, JFS Phone number – 908-352-8375 Email- <a href="mailto:EBodner@JFSCentralNJ.org">EBodner@JFSCentralNJ.org</a>  On site: Naomi Horowitz Secretary: Natalie Garcia <a href="mailto:ngarcia@jsscentralnj.org">ngarcia@jsscentralnj.org</a>	16	<a href="https://photos/5fEHM3uxZYqt6rMW8">https://photos/5fEHM3uxZYqt6rMW8</a>	Jewish social justice through agricultural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leket, Shichecha, and Pe'ah</li> <li>Chzasser used as a counterexample</li> </ul> <p>Games: Physical Kahoot: is it Leket, Shichecha, Pe'ah or Chzasser?</p>

<b>Sunday 8/27</b>	<b>9:30am – 12pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation 9:30-9:45</li> <li>Service 9:45 – 11:40</li> <li>Jewish Learning 11:40 – 12pm</li> </ul>	Trail Restoration	Maintain the trails and environment in this beautiful area.	Close to 20 teens went to South Mountain Reservation to remove invasive species from the area. We were led by Tricia Zimic of the South Mountain Conservancy, who came all the way from PA to guide the service. The teens worked very well – the results looked dramatically different from when we arrived.	South Mountain Reservation 10 Bear Lane, Maplewood, NJ	South Mountain Conservancy	Tricia Zimic 973-650-6106 <a href="mailto:info@triciazimic.com">info@triciazimic.com</a>	17	<a href="https://go.o.gl/photos/8p5e8dwzvNezmjCx8">https://go.o.gl/photos/8p5e8dwzvNezmjCx8</a>	Jewcology (Jewish ecology) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental movement</li> </ul> Tu'bshvat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance of having a new year for the trees</li> </ul> Israeli's environmental impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only nation with net positive tree growth</li> </ul>
<b>Monday 8/28</b>	<b>1:30pm-3pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setup 1pm – 1:30pm</li> <li>Jewish Learning FOR TEENS ONLY – 1:30 - 2:00</li> <li>Service 2:00 – 3:00</li> </ul>	Just Bead it!	Unleash your creativity beading beautiful friendship bracelets with seniors at Lester Senior Housing for children with special needs.	Day 7 went very well, with teens teaming up with Jewish seniors from Lester Senior Housing to create friendship bracelets and inspirational puzzles for children experiencing a difficult time. What our Jewish learning and “telestrations” game taught was that Jewish experience is lived and passed down in our collective memory. Teens were encouraged to make connections and inquire about the seniors stories so that they can be remembered and become part of their shared memory (hopefully transmitted better than during the game!).	Lester Senior Housing Center 905 NJ-10, Whippany, NJ 07981	Lester Senior Housing	Keisha McDonald <a href="mailto:KeishaM@JCHCorp.org">KeishaM@JCHCorp.org</a> (973) 929-2700 <a href="tel:9739292700">X2731</a>	13	<a href="https://go.o.gl/photos/oE6mswfJaexe21Hw6">https://go.o.gl/photos/oE6mswfJaexe21Hw6</a>	Intergenerational service – Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passover – point of the Seder is to pass wisdom from the old to the young</li> <li>Within the Jewish community, nothing is history - only memory. Our communal knowledge is passed from one generation to the next. It is our duty to make sure that we remember and transmit it faithfully.</li> </ul> Game: Telestration with Jewish prompts (to show the difficulty of transmitting information and why we must therefore take special effort in listening and remembering)
<b>Tuesday 8/29</b>	<b>6-8pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setup 5pm – 6pm</li> <li>Orientation – 6:00 - 6:20</li> <li>Serving Dinner and playing games 6:20 – 7:40</li> <li>Jewish Learning FOR TEENS ONLY 7:40 – 8:00</li> </ul>	Hosting a dinner for children and adults experiencing homelessness	Come to Homeless Solutions in Morristown to serve dinner to the residents and families at Homeless Solutions in Morristown. Afterwards, make connections to the kids by playing yard games together.	On Tuesday evening, despite the rain we were able to provide 60+ residents of Homeless Solutions in Morristown with a delicious BBQ dinner. Teens worked the kitchen, served residents snacks at their seats, and had the opportunity to eat with the adults. Afterwards, the teens engaged in a meaningful discussion where we discussed the Jewish perspectives on serving individuals in need and the importance of personal empowerment, before reflecting on the major takeaways from the experience.  Tamala Reynolds, the volunteer supervisor, was extremely pleased by your conduct and dedication. Thank you again to the teens who volunteered to step down to make room once we needed to move indoors, you helped ensure that the event wasn't overcrowded and that everyone could do their part.	Homeless Solutions, Inc. 540 W. Hanover Ave. Ste. 100 Morristown, NJ 07960	Homeless Solutions in Morristown	Tamala Reynolds, Volunteer Manager 973-993-0833 <a href="mailto:tamalareynolds@hsini.org">tamalareynolds@hsini.org</a>	12	<a href="https://go.o.gl/photos/sCHX11iSFLq2q3hD8">https://go.o.gl/photos/sCHX11iSFLq2q3hD8</a>	Debate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-if a stranger comes and asks for food, is it wrong to ask why?</li> <li>- is it good for organizations such as Homeless Solutions to have their residents be looking for jobs, with Homeless Solution acting as a temporary housing environment?</li> </ul>
<b>Weds 8/30</b>	<b>9:30am -12pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation 9:30 - 9:45</li> <li>Service 9:45 – 11:40</li> <li>Jewish Learning 11:40 – 12pm</li> </ul>	Waterfront cleanup and maintenance	Prepare to get your hands dirty and put on waders – we will be working on the waterfront of Watchung Reservation to clean and maintain the area.	We went to Surprise Lake at Watchung Reservation. We were joined by Betty Ann Kelly of the Union County Parks Commission along with two adult staffers. Together, we learned a lot about the ecosystem of the park, and started the day by row boating out to floating vegetation gardens aimed at reducing pollutants in the lake and increasing oxidation. Next, we worked on trail maintenance removing invasive species and digging a drainage channel to prevent erosion. Afterwards, we discussed the importance of clean water and played a quiz game about Israel's ingenuity with water conservation.	Watchung Reservation Mountainside, NJ (Specific location TBD)	Union County Parks Commission	Betty Ann Kelly 908-789-3683 <a href="mailto:bkelly@ucnj.org">bkelly@ucnj.org</a>	8	<a href="https://go.o.gl/photos/QUVJxQfFGCV4wvnC9">https://go.o.gl/photos/QUVJxQfFGCV4wvnC9</a>	Cleaning up man's destruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- make the world better than how you left it</li> </ul> Clean water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flint, Michigan</li> <li>- How Israel conserves water</li> </ul> Game: Physical Kahoot with water facts/information about Israel's conservation efforts
<b>Thurs 8/31</b>	<b>1 – 3pm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation and Jewish Learning 1 – 1:30</li> <li>Service 1:30 – 3:00</li> </ul>	Maintaining Historic Newark Synagogue	Help the oldest operating synagogue in Newark sort and maintain its library.	We visited the historic Ahavas Sholom synagogue in Newark, NJ and cleaned out the congregation's basement, which included sorting through and cataloguing hundreds of Jewish books and texts, some of which were nearly a century old! The results were incredible, as we completely transformed the place in under 2 hours and set the stages for them to construct an organized, easily accessible library.	Ahavas Sholom in Newark 145 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104	Jewish Federation	Ilyse Shainbrown Ext 3080 <a href="mailto:Ishainbrown@jfedgmw.org">Ishainbrown@jfedgmw.org</a>  Hana Frankl <a href="mailto:HFrankl@jfedgmw.org">HFrankl@jfedgmw.org</a>	16	<a href="https://go.o.gl/photos/eFRGdEVzQhmqQBwVA">https://go.o.gl/photos/eFRGdEVzQhmqQBwVA</a>	Ilyse will run Jewish learning (history of Newark) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- History of Jewish community in Newark</li> <li>- why is it important to preserve a synagogue</li> </ul>