

YOUTH VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT

This is my first report to the congregation as Vice President of Youth for Temple Aliyah. I have been very proud to participate in many of this past year's USY events and to experience the impact our youth program has on many of your children. Our award winning Temple Aliyah Youth Department and USY programs would not exist without our amazing Youth Director Sue Shrell Leon. Sue works long hours to guide and teach our children. I want to take this opportunity to not only thank her for making our USY chapter a "Chapter of Excellence" winner for four years in a row, but also for her help in making my job as Youth Vice President an educational and rewarding experience for me. Again this year, USY has completed and submitted its application to Far West USY for consideration as USY Chapter of Excellence.

This past year our Youth Department has continued its participation on Wednesday evenings in the TCN (Teen Community Night) program, run by both our Education and Youth Departments. TCN involves 7th – 12th grade students receiving an hour of a Midrasha Seminar followed by an informal program bringing them together with our USYers for a 45 minute activity put together by our USY Board members and the Youth Director. After the informal program, the TCN students have the option of joining in the USY lounge. This program brought more students into our USY and gave them an insight into the comradery amongst our USYers and the activities on Wednesday nights which focus on fun with a Jewish theme. Our Youth Department also coordinates a special needs youth group called B'Yachad Alef for 7 to 11 year olds as part of Temple Aliyah's OurSpace Special Needs Program. This program meets once a month.

USY had another great year of regular events, beginning with the selling of High Holiday flower baskets. This past year, a portion of the proceeds were used to purchase live potted trees which were used to decorate (and still decorate) both the Bimah and the Temple Galleria. Our next fundraiser was the USY Car Wash held in November in conjunction with Mitzvah Day. USYers raised money for Jewish World Watch and its activities in Darfur by washing almost 50 cars. The annual Bowl-A-Thon was held in January and the money raised went to Familial Dysautonomia. Aliyah USY again staged its annual Café SATO night in February. This year over 100 USYers showed up to showcase their musical talents, including many members of Hevre which is the Far West USY special needs youth group. Also this year, our Chapter hosted a Sr. USY dance with over 100 USYers from all over Southern California in attendance.

On Super Bowl Sunday, our Youth Department put together lox boxes to raise money for USY scholarships. Again, this year we had our USYers, Kadimaniks and parent volunteers help assemble the lox boxes and deliver them to Temple members. Everything went forward without a hitch and all of the boxes were completed and delivered before 9:00 in the morning! An amazing feat! Our annual USY Rummage Yard Sale in April grossed more than \$1,300.

As in years past, USYers participated in assisting Sisterhood in assembling Mishloach Manot packages for Purim, and in leading evening Minyan every Wednesday. USYers were present and ready to also help the Men's Club with the Purim carnival even though five inches of rain fell that Sunday.

Part of our responsibility is to keep in touch with Aliyah youth that have gone away to college. We do this with several holiday gift mailings during the school year and select campus visits for Rabbi Vogel to meet with our college age congregants. Sue has done a fabulous job of organizing this effort and working with Rabbi Vogel to expand this program which now reaches out to 110 Aliyah college students.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Youth Committee for their participation and efforts in making USY events over the last year a success as well as all of the parent volunteers without whom many programs could simply not run.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Glaser,
Youth Vice President