



Our amazing Teen Institute students spent December engaging in ideas about giving, rather than getting. After interacting with the game Sent (playspent.org), groups of students became aware of how hard it is to actually make it with limited funds in our world. If you choose a lower rent apartment further from work, you wind up paying more for transportation. If you choose to get health insurance your money runs out faster, but if you get socked with an emergency-room visit, you wind up owing even more. Coming out ahead at the end of the month is gratifying, but the rent is due tomorrow.

After discussing this, the students decided to work on a Social Action project in conjunction with TBAY USY. The teens chose the recipients after studying Jewish texts on giving and reviewing materials on-line and from Good People Fund. In the coming month they will continue their fund raising efforts. Watch for information about the projects!

During January we will work on photography through the Jewish Lens. Shmueli Green will be a guest teacher. The students will relate photography to Jewish values by studying some classic pictures. They will also produce a photography exhibit for the congregation's enjoyment.

When they arrive on a Tuesday evening in the upcoming months, TI'ers will have the choice of learning with Rabbi Mallach or Cantor Nadel; working on their Social Action project; creating Midrashic Art with Gail or discussing current events and issues that affect the Jewish Community. We will inform them of the options available each week.

The energy and enthusiasm of our teens is outstanding. It's great to see them interact and learn during our Tuesday night sessions.

Judy Levine, Teen Institute Instructor