

Presidential Matters

by Steve Aronowitz



Every parent appreciates there is no greater joy than to watch his or her child excel. So, permit me to *kvel* for Jordan on recently being named *Youth of the Year* by our Men's Club in coordination with the New York Metropolitan Region of Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. He will join George Klein and Gerald Schwartz. The three OJC-LNJC members will be formally recognized at a Federation dinner on April 21st, at Crest Hollow Country Club. The fact Jordan is in such prestigious company accentuates the honor!

Jordan's involvement in Jewish causes is well documented. He serves the synagogue's USY chapter as its Vice-president of Israeli Affairs. "Jordan was the driving force behind our Israeli Movie Night," explained Daniel Graber, the USY chapter director. "He created our 'HaAch HaGadol' program', comparing Israeli and American TV, games, and foods so that we could glimpse at how our Israeli counterparts are both alike and different from us here in New York. He is a promising leader of Judaism's future."

Julie and I would like to think we have had some influence serving as role models; the truth is he has taught us about reaching out to help others. He joined an East Hills JCC initiative in New Orleans last winter, assisting residents in re-building their homes following the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. "I saw the results of the hurricane even though it was months later and I will not forget." That experience inspired him to reach out in a similar activity, also sponsored by the JCC, in Long Beach, a few weeks after Hurricane Sandy left Long Island's south shore in shambles.

For Jordan, being involved describes him best! At OJC-LNJC, where Jordan became a bar mitzvah three years ago, he worked with others in a "Pack It Up for Purim" feed the hungry effort, in which members shopped and filled 40 Shalach Manot bags with essential food items and a personal holiday greeting that were delivered to those in need on the holiday. The 'drive' was also sponsored by the Samuel Field Y and Jewish Federation. Jordan was also a member of an LNJC championship Bible team, which emerged victorious against teams from other METNY synagogues. Wow! I rarely brag about my child, but Jordan deserves the acclaim!

See this year's Purim Montage and the Oakland and Little Neck Jewish Centers do the Harlem Shake on the Purim Page of our Website.