

(1)

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW THAT IN BOSTON, DALLAS, IN CLEVELAND AND EVEN IN Charleston, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ^{share} ~~SARE~~ THE SAME CONCERNS, AND WHO ARE DEDICATED TO CREATING MEANINGFUL QUALITY EXPERIENCES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR YOUTH GROUPS. YOU SHARE A GREAT DEAL WITH KIDS FROM NEFTY, CAFTY OR OVFTY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU ARE UNIQUE. YOU REPRESENT COMMUNITIES WHERE JUDAISM IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE WORKED AT. YOUR YOUTH GROUPS PROVIDE ^{or ought to provide} AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THE FORMULATION OF JEWISH IDENTITIES OF ITS MEMBERS. YOUR TYG'S TAKE UP WHERE THE FAMILY, HOME OR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAS STRIVED AND SUCCEEDED OR FAILED.

YOUR YOUTH GROUP IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL. YOU CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO SAMPLE AND EXPERIMENT WITH JUDAISM. IT IS WITHIN THE ^{Framework} ~~FRAMEWORK~~ OF THE TYG WHERE A MATURE JEWISH CONSCIOUSNESS BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE. A REWARDING YOUTH GROUP EXPERIENCE CAN BE THE FOUNDATION FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SELF AND JUDAISM.

AS LEADERS OF LOCAL TYGS IN EAST SEFTY, YOU HOLD POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. YOU ARE CHARGED WITH PROVIDING REAL EXPERIENCES THAT EXCITE PEOPLE ABOUT THEMSELVES, THE GROUP AND THEIR JUDAISM. HOW DO YOU DO IT???

YOU ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE MANY NEEDS AND DESIRES THAT HIGH SCHOOL AGE PEOPLE HAVE. YOUR WELL BALANCED PROGRAMS REFLECT A YEARNING FOR SELF AWARENESS, IDENTITY, ACCEPTANCE AND PERSONAL FULFILLMENT.

YOUTH GROUPING HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY IN THE LAST 7 YEARS. IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT PAST WE WERE CONCERNED WITH PROGRAMS THAT STROVE TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY ALL THE TIME.

^{Don't}
DO NOT LET YOURSELF BE CAUGHT IN THIS TRAP.

IN YEARS PAST OUR INTERESTS WERE DETERMINED BY THE ^{didates} AND DESIRES OF THE GROUP. NO MORE!!

The inward SEARCH FOR PERSONAL GROWTH, FULFILLMENT AND HAPPINESS HAS DIRECTLY AFFECTED OUR TYG'S.

DO NOT JUDGE THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING BASED ON THE NUMBER OF KIDS WHO ATTEND EACH EVENT.

Numbers

once were

MEMBERS ARE NO LONGER THE VALID BAROMETER THEY USED TO BE. EACH INDIVIDUAL APPROACHES TYG WITH DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS AND EXPECTATIONS. SOME ARE IN IT FOR PURELY SOCIAL REASONS, THAT'S OK. SOME ARE SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN JEWISH THOUGH, PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY OR RITUAL. SOME SEEK TYG INVOLVEMENT BECAUSE OF THE SPORTS PROGRAM, OTHERS BECAUSE GOOD FOOD ^{is being} ~~IS~~ SERVED AND STILL ANOTHER FINDS PLEASURE AND MEANING IN SOCIAL CAUSES. YOUR YOUTH GROUP SHOULD SEEK TO RESPOND TO ALL THESE VALID MOTIVATIONS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY AT THE SAME TIME.

Each

EACH OF NFTY'S 21 REGIONS EXISTS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE, DIRECTION, PRACTICAL SKILLS, TRAINING AND OTHER EXPERIENCES THAT LOCAL TYGS CANNOT PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES. NFTY REGIONS EXIST TO SERVICE ITS TYGS. REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT MUST SERVE AS A CATALYST AS A SPARK TO ~~THE~~ AN INDIVIDUALS' INVOLVEMENT, not as an end in itself.

NFTY serves many of the same functions in relationship to its 21 regions as does septs for its local TYGs.

~~The~~ communication between Local Youth groups, septs and NFTY is a reciprocal arrangement. We will strive to set examples of excellence in programming and leadership. We must seek each other out!! We will do our best to make sure that you know what ~~happening~~ happenings creative happenings are taking place throughout the country.

③

NFTY, Sefty and our local TYB's would not be what they are IF it were not for our parents, advisors and Rabbis.

~~The support they provide on numerous levels enables us to be~~
The ~~Funding~~ that our congregations provide for ~~programs, advisors, services~~ campships and scholarships are the backbone of the TYB experience.

In simple Terms, I hope that ~~my~~ presence here this weekend will first give you a sense that you are very much a part of a National Movement - a National organization of young people who care a great deal about one another. I will spend the next 24 hours to reach out to ~~each~~ ^{the} ~~each~~ of you and your youth groups to open lines of communication.

Tomorrow I will have ample opportunity to tell you about the Kawod Award Program, NFTY about this program,

The NFTY Academy and Torah Corps at (4)
the Boto Camp in Warwick - not to
mention all that is NFTY in Israel.

I'm going to ask you to do a
number of things for me. Let me know
who you are and where your from - If you
are ~~specific~~ grappling with specific problems
confronting your TCB - tell me - let me
work with you.

In the next 24 hours I ^{will} suggest
ways of locating funds for TCB members to
attend ~~several~~ ^{NFTY events} ~~events~~. I ~~will~~ I'll share some
thoughts on how to involve more of your
peers in what your group is doing. I'll do my
best to bring you up to date on creative
program ideas other NFTYists are using
across the country.

Before this process can begin,
it is terribly import to uncover or
reaffirm what it is that brings

5
us together. When you meet
in groups after tonight's one, I'd
like you to do the following:
First - each person, individually, on your
own, list 5 reasons why TxB
is important to the survival of Judaism
and make a separate list of ~~into~~ your
motivations ~~to~~ and for being part of
~~setting~~ your local TxB, seftly and NFTY.

Once you've done that, compare
both lists with ~~those~~ the others in your
group. Then, reaching an
understanding or consensus, ~~answer~~
consider the ~~the~~ program you try ~~to~~
has on its calendar in the coming months.
Does it ~~aspire to~~ ~~then~~ meet your
personal needs, desires or goals - ~~is~~
is it compatible with ~~your~~ the
idealistic goals you've ^{set} set for your groups
in terms of Jewish content.

(6)

If not, talk about where you
feel you have succeeded or failed.
~~Again~~ Share with one another.

This values clarification exercise
will help ~~us~~ ~~and~~ us all understand more
about one another. ~~There~~ ~~Some time~~ tonight,
would each group present me with
a list of those things that are great
about your TVO and another list ~~with~~
listing the problems you confront.

Before I finish, I must give special
credit to Dr. Kabin, whose persistence
in a Southern gentlemanly way
made my being here possible - The ~~spirit~~
~~and~~ commitment the Savannah TVO has
made by allowing me to represent
NETV is exemplary, beautiful and appreciated
and the VARK

I want to thank the Bytew for being
making me feel very at home in their home.

May this weekend experience
be force of new ideas, inspiration leadership
and greatness for all of us.

I know I will return to New York
having made new friends, having shared
insights and a really good feeling about
Septis and Savannah -

Thank you for having ^{me here} and

Shabbat Shalom