**The idea came about in one of those “Ah**-Ha” moments. One of our Men’s Club members suggested that the 7th Grade students should participate in the Sunday morning minyan.

He convinced both our Rabbis and the Educational Director to incorporate the Sunday morning minyan into the Religious School curriculum with the goal that the students would become more comfortable with the service. The Rabbis ran with this idea and soon this morphed into something more with each pre B’Nei Mitzvah student receiving their own set of Tefillin. With the financial help of donor families we were able to purchase tefillin sets for all the students.

The students participate and learn more about the minyan and the art of laying tefillin. Our Men’s Club has a presence and this program has been well received. Once a month the STS Men’s Club host a breakfast after the Minyan followed by a lecture that is of interest to all those present. (Examples: Guest lecturers including Holocaust survivor, movies and more.). It is not uncommon for see fathers and their children putting on their tefillin together.

The kids start the school year knowing very little about tefillin and the morning service. By the end of the school year, the students were familiar with the service and comfortable laying tefillin with their peers. If you are fortunate to have students that are willing to learn to lead services, this is an added bonus. Many of our students attend Jewish summer camps; now they will take their new knowledge and share with their fellow campers their comfort in laying tefillin.

This program is now in its second year and we anticipate that it will continue for years to come!

This is a Men’s Club sponsored event. Once a month, the Sunday morning minyan swells from a mere 20-25 persons to close to seventy, with the addition of the students, parents and some club members.

As a perfect complement to an FJMC signature event, an unprecedented 125 attendees including 28 7th graders and their parents participated in World Wide Wrap 2012. The 2nd year of the program is in full swing with a smaller class this year and again we had a terrific turnout for World Wide Wrap 2013. **Parents participate in this program and for the last two years at World Wide Wrap.**

**I can assure you that most parents will get involved especially when their child puts on their tefillin for the very first time. We have advised parents as to where to purchase a new set of Tefillin (FJMC web site) as often they would bring their old Bar Mitzvah set that no longer fits, and possibly is no longer Kosher. Most of these younger parents are not involved in either the Men’s Club or in Sisterhood. We now have the perfect opportunity to “schmooze” with them over breakfast in a very relaxed setting. Bear in mind this is not a one off, we see these parents every month. The result – some of the parents have participated in some of the club events and now they are no longer strangers to us.**

Our membership continues to interact with the parents of these students and we are hopeful that they will see the “good” that the club brings to our community and participate in our club.

**We do not expect every club member to participate as we need men that are, comfortable teaching the students and their parents to put on tefillin. Also we need men that can schmooze and explain the value that the club brings to our community. Lastly we need volunteers to prepare breakfast. On a side note we have had a couple of our regular Sunday minyonaires join our club after seeing our commitment to the minyan.**

**For any other club willing to get this program off the ground, the participation and involvement of the Rabbi, Educational Director and community Men’s Club is a must.**

**This program is not without a significant cost to our club and volunteers. The tefillin cost in excess of $175.00 per set then there is the cost for the breakfast that we prepare once a month for the students and their families.**

**Seek donors and create a fund within the synagogue to fund future purchases.**

**In the past it was not uncommon for the Bar Mitzvah student put on a set of borrowed tefillin on the Thursday prior to his Bar Mitzvah for the 1st and last time. This is no longer the case. These youngsters have their own sets that they bring to services and will use certainly more often than some of their peers.**