The Men’s Club membership at Congregation Beth Emeth has been on ongoing supporter of the World Wide Wrap, and has continued to look for new ways for the students and congregation to gain experience and understanding of the T’fillin. The World Wide Wrap program at CBE provides an opportunity for the students in sixth and seventh grades to interact with Men’s Club members and regular service attendees as they learn how to put on T’fillin, but naturally you need a different program every year so the sixth grades don’t hear the save stories or see the same movie in seventh grade.

We connected with a local Rabbi who had the materials used by Scribes when writing the torah, and we brought him in to teach the children about the words, the letters, and the process of making a torah. He showed them parchment that was used, brought stamps of the different letters to spell their names, and supplied ink and feather pens to allow the kids to write their names as he stamped them out.

The kids loved the interactive learning session, the ability to see how a torah was made and understand how that translated into the T’fillin they had just put on for morning services. We had the students wear the T’fillin for services, and then had them lead services.

Our overall objectives were:

1. Give the CBE community an opportunity to learn about and put on T’fillin.
2. Expand the event beyond Men’s Club to include other groups in the Synagogue, especially the Religious School
3. Educate pre & post-Bar Mitzvah kids about *the importance of T’filin*:
4. These kids learn about & focus on the Shabbat morning & Torah service. So we had them lead a regular weekday *Shacharit* service thus integrating them more with the broader CBE community.
5. Because our students pretty much just attend Saturday services, they never “needed” to learn about or use T’filin. When one of our students has a Bar Mitzvah his parents traditionally only buy him a new Tallit without the pair of T’filin
6. Moving forward, we will work on students leading more weekday *Shacharit* services as part of the Religious School, giving them more opportunities to put on T’filin.
7. Developing Leadership-have our kids feel comfortable on the *Bima* and actively participating in the program. We had a few 8th graders, who took part in last year’s WWW, on hand to help show the 6th & 7th graders how to properly put on T’filin. Our goal is for “graduates” of the WWW to help us in future WWW programs.

Our Program:

* While focusing on T’filin is important, establishing the thread and connection between ***Mezuzah***, ***T’fillin*** & ***Torah*** is critical. Especially to Bar Mitzvah-age students (and their parents).
* Our program not only made the connection between these 3 pillars of Judaism, showed that the SHEMA was the common thread to all 3, but we started with the basics:
  + What is a ‘*Claf’*-kosher parchment that is used in all 3 scrolls? How are the prayers written on the Claf? By whom??
  + Our guest speaker brought in various skins at different stages of their treatment, on the way to becoming a Kosher Parchment.
  + The kids got to touch and feel the difference in each.
  + The hands-on portion of the program was the best part. The guest Rabbi brought special stamps with him, each outlining a Hebrew letter-the way it looks on the scroll (i.e.: with a crown on top, or other decorations).
  + Each student (40) used authentic ink and quills to fill in the letters in essence, writing out their Hebrew names in calligraphy.
* **So now when the students read from the Torah they will feel a stronger connection to the scroll-knowing how it was made, how the letters were written and actually remembering how *They* wrote Hebrew letters on a Kosher ‘Claf’.**

*Program Schedule:*

9:00-9:15 Am                  Kids arrive in class

9:15 Am                           Teachers bring kids to Sanctuary-Mina’s Opening remarks

9:20 Am-9:30 Am           Teachers, Men’s Club Dads & Congregants helping Students put on T’fillin correctly

9:30-10:15 Am                ***Shacharit*** led by students & USYers

10:15 Am                         Introduce Rabbi F.

10:20 Am-10:50 Am      Rabbi F. presentation on T’fillin, Mezuzah & Torah scrolls

10:50 Am- 11:15 Am     Nash + each table works on a WWW-Wrap *RAP*, based on a Jewish theme or what they’ve learned; Teacher/**MC Members shares interesting T’fillin story with the kids at their table**

11:15 Am-11:45 Am      Part 2 of Rabbi F.’s program: a hands-on calligraphy project of writing student’s Hebrew names on a Claf

11:45 Am-11:55 Am      Kids present their RAPs and/or chit-chat with friends at table

11:55 Am-12:00 Pm      Rabbi Steve-closing remarks

12:00 Pm                         End of program-everyone goes home

The feedback from all who attended was very positive. Everyone felt that they learned something new and enjoyed the dynamic aspects of the program. The program provided an opportunity for our synagogue’s rabbi to meet one of the local rabbi’s in the community. It was the first time they had met, and Men’s Club helped to facilitate that. And finally, this program is coordinated by a peripheral Men’s Club member, not someone who is overly active, but we found someone who was passionate about the program, and plugged him in to take charge and lead an outstanding event.