

TEFIRAH LEV SHALEM CHAPTER:

At our meeting discussing tallit making we found that some of our group have had this experience and some had not. It was a great discussion involving what is a custom (minchag) and what is a requirement (halacha) when approaching this type of project. Some of the group who had not considered making or wearing a tallit for themselves were inspired to do it.

As a continuation of the tallit-making theme, our next meeting was a TziTzit tying workshop. We invited Rabbi Ellen Triebwasser to teach us techniques and options when performing this mitzvah.

Our Chapter had fun with Lunch and Learn in conjunction with the Membership Committee of Woodstock Jewish Congregation. Congregants were invited to come to a showing of various projects and watch a presentation by Guild members about what they had made, how it was made, and what the inspirations were. Very informative and enjoyable!

We learned that the Congregation would be hosting a group of eight visiting Israeli teenagers and their four adult teacher/chaperones. The teens are part of an interfaith group called the Galilee Dreamers that works toward increasing tolerance and understanding between Jewish and Arab high school students in Israel. This trip to America was a reward for their hard work. Our Chapter members worked quickly to make hat and scarf sets for each of our visitors, welcoming them to the cold and snowy Catskill Mountains we call home. These were worked on throughout January and presented to our visitors on February 1st. Very fun, very festive, and the teens were able to wear our gifts on the snow tube outing the next day.



Rabbi Ellen Triebwasser (seated) demonstrates tzitzit tying for Desiree O'Clair.



Jenny Acosta White holds up two knitted tallitot she made for each of her son's B'nai Mitzvah.



Betty Suder Feldman concentrates on her tzitzit tying project.



Our visiting Galilee Dreamers group, with their teachers and host family teens, along with some of our Chapter members.



One of the Israeli students wearing a hat and scarf set made by Stacy Mapstone. Other sets were created by Judy Kerman, Robin Berger, Jenny Acosta-White, Diane Colello, Ann Silverman, and Melissa Hartka.