Making a Connection With Peers in Israel

There are an infinite number of ways in which a TYG or community can form a personal connection to Israel. As a part of the North American Federation of Temple Youth, we are a part of something bigger that extends beyond the borders of our 19 regions. Whether it is writing letters of support to our brothers and sisters in the I.D.F., twinning our TYGs with a youth group in Israel, or regularly e-mailing Israeli friends, maintaining a connection to our homeland is one of the most valued elements in our youth movement.

NFTY is Netzer’s snif (branch) in North America. Noar Telem is Netzer’s snif in Israel. A resolution was proposed at Netzer’s Veida olamit (worldwide meeting) in 5766 to twin sniffim in Israel with other sniffim around the world. The twinning works on a biennial basis, choosing new twins every two years, or continuing the twinning with your previous youth group. With proper communication, TYG’s in North America can easily connect with youth groups in Israel.

Netzer Olami - Gabbi Sar-Shalom - gabbi.netzerolami@wupj.org.il
Connect with Netzer Olami to find ways to reach out to Israeli teens who are members of Noar Telem, Israel’s high school movement for Progressive Jewish Teens, and to find out how Diaspora Jews from all over the world are working to advocate on behalf of Israel.

Leo Baeck Young Ambassadors Program - Orly Kenig - orly_k@lbminhala.org.il
Each Fall, The Leo Baeck School in Haifa sends teens to spend a semester with families in the United States. Find out if there will be a teen in your region, or inquire about becoming a host family in the future!

- Ask the youth advisor of your TYG to form a connection with a Madrich of a youth group in Israel. (The Worldwide Oved Hinuch created a database of Madrichim who are ready and willing to form connections with other sniffim)

- Once a solid connection is formed, have your TYG exchange things with your twin that represent who you are as youth movements:
  - History and pictures of your youth group and NFTY
  - Emails discussing your cultures and traditions, as well as daily life as teens in your respective communities
  - Programs and tzedakah projects that you have run

- Create a flag to exchange with your twin.

- Choose a holiday to learn about and celebrate together with your twin. When twins celebrate specific holidays all over the world, progressive Jewish youth will celebrate together all throughout the year.

Share this information with other TYGs, your congregations, the region and your larger communities.
As teenagers today here in North America, many of us are thinking about college and the future. However, teens just like ourselves in Israel are committing themselves to defending their country. This difference in cultures creates a unique opportunity for Jewish youth in Israel and North America to connect and educate each other about our lives and societies/traditions.

Writing letters and sending packages to I.D.F. soldiers is an easy way to show your appreciation and support. This also presents you with an opportunity to connect with a teen living in Israel. This can be done on a local scale, such as a TYG event, on a regional scale at a convention, or other places in your communities.