

The last few days I have been traveling in Israel and meeting with different progressive Jewish educators throughout the country.

My encounters with many dynamic personalities, Israeli teens, and native Israelis have captivated me, and demonstrated that there is a sense of being Jewish here that is deeply engrained in both secular and religious culture. As Nachman Bialik, one of Israel's most influential poets once described, *"Here in the land of Israel the concept of culture receives its full meaning. Everything that is created by Jews with their own forces, tools, power of literature, and knowledge of science, is Jewish."*

Unlike Israel, Jews in the US and at Temple Sinai in particular, must work to create and develop Jewish life and culture. In SoSTY, we have been working to help build community and find new and fun outlets of Jewish life.

In December, SoSTY helped the religious school experience Chanukah by organizing and running a carnival fair for the entire religious school. SoSTY, with the help of Jr. SoSTY, ran carnival games, helped kids make dreidels and menorahs, and enriched Jewish life at the Temple in a fun way. In the month of February, SoSTY will also be organizing and running a Purim carnival for students (February 28).

In addition, on Monday, February 15 (there is no school this day), SoSTY and Mitzvah Corps will be participating in Hebrew Union College's Soup Kitchen. There they will help organize a dignified dinner for homeless families and distribute clothing to them. Details for these events will be distributed shortly.

*Josh Franklin*