



Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center



Will Kofman

William Kofman, 17, is a senior in the Da Vinci Program at Benjamin Cardozo High School. As a student, William's academic achievements are and have always been, outstanding. Due to hard work and dedication to his studies, William is ranked at the top of his class. Equally important, he has demonstrated a commitment towards leadership, both in and out of school.

William began his academic career as a nursery school student at the Hollis Hills Jewish Center (now known as the Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center), and continued his Jewish education there, attending and graduating from the Deutsch Hebrew School. He was Bar Mitzvah'd at the Hollis Hills Jewish Center, as well. The Hollis Hills Jewish Center not only provided William with a wonderful Jewish education, but a set of lifetime values, together with lifelong friends and memories.

As an active member in our community, William has truly impacted the lives of many. In his junior year of high school, William spent almost all of his weekends volunteering at the Go Project, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping underprivileged public school students with their English and Mathematics.

William has dabbled in many different hobbies and activities throughout the years. However, anyone who knows William knows how much he loves tennis. Playing since the age of nine, he has been on his varsity team since freshman year, as well as captain since sophomore year. His love of the game has led him to play USTA tournaments and achieve a national ranking. At first playing with his father, he now trains with some of the best players in the state, and can almost always be found on a tennis court. In his second year as captain, he led his team to an undefeated regular season and finished second in the city as well as top sixteen in the state. True to his nature, William also has found time during the summer to act as a coach at Alley Pond Tennis Center to young children who want to learn to play tennis. William instructed them on all aspects of the game. He also gave lessons to residents at the Bayside Tower Eatery where he worked last summer.

As William prepares to go to college next year, he looks forward to this new and exciting chapter in his life, with all the challenges and experiences it has to offer. William is grateful for the strong foundation he received from the Hollis Hills Bayside Jewish Center. William would like to thank his parents, sister and grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins for all the love and support they have consistently provided throughout his life. William also wishes to thank Rabbi Wise for his encouragement and support, not to mention his love of playing street hockey. He would like to extend his congratulations to all of this year's honorees.

Elie Wise

Elijah Wise is currently enrolled as an 11th grader at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School, in Bayside, Queens. He is very active in USY, as he is the Israeli Affairs Vice President of Sababa, covering Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. He is also very active in his synagogue, last year he co-led the shul's Junior Congregation, and has led services such as Kabbalat Shabbat, and read torah. In addition to his own Jewish community, Elijah spent four months of his 10th grade year living in Israel on Tichon Ramah Yershalayim.

Elijah is a graduate of the Solomon Schechter School of Queens and spent six summers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires. In addition to being a devoted Zionist, he loves Liverpool Football Club, the New York Mets, Villanova basketball, and since he is part-Canadian, the Toronto Maple Leafs