



*Shelter Rock Jewish Center*

*Josh Shlefstein*

Josh is currently a senior at the Schechter School of Long Island. He grew up at Shelter Rock Jewish Center, having his bris in the shul and celebrating his bar Mitzvah on that very same bimah. Josh also served as the Communication Vice President of the Ruach Division in the METNY Region of USY in 2016-2017 and is active in the BethRock Chapter which includes Shelter Rock Jewish Center, Temple Beth Shalom, and Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation. After his sophomore year, Josh went on USY on Wheels, and last summer he went on USY Pilgrimage to eastern Europe and Israel. His trip to eastern Europe was a truly defining moment in his life and something he will never forget. He has learned and now understands the importance of remembering the past and celebrating the future of the Jewish people. Josh has also spent 7 summers at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires.

Josh has a deep love for Judaism. You can see him on Shabbat morning on a regular basis either reading Torah or haftarah and leading services. He brings these skills outside the synagogue too. He is a regular participant in daily minyan at school and at USY events and conventions. Josh recently returned from USY International Convention where the highlight of his trip was giving back to the community. The entire delegation was dispersed out to different parts of Orlando to participate in activities that help those in community.

Josh also has a deep love for Israel. As mentioned above, Josh spent 5 weeks in Israel this past summer and will be going again for three weeks with his entire class from the Schechter School of Long Island. Since his freshman year of high school, Josh has found an interest in the US-Israel relationship and has been attending AIPAC Policy Conference as a student delegate for the past 3 years. This year, he is excited to be attending again, and he is looking forward to learning about something that means so much to him.

When not doing schoolwork and hanging out with friends, Josh has been on the cross-country team at school for all four years of high school and served as the captain of the team in his senior year. He also plays on the new ultimate frisbee where his team won their championships. Out of a new-found love for hockey, Josh loves to watch, play, and go to hockey games. His favorite team is the New York Islanders and will never turn down an opportunity to go to a game. For his last year of high school, he decided to pursue his love for hockey and joined the school's floor hockey team.

With all that Josh does, he is a loving and caring brother, son, and grandson and great friend to all. We are very proud of Josh in all his accomplishments and especially this one.