



Shalom Chaverim,

My name is David Lewis, the CEO of the Bureau of Jewish Education, and I'm happy to welcome you to TALIT Nation. TALIT Nation is a gift that has been given to all 9th – 12th grade teens from both your congregation and the Bureau of Jewish Education for decades. TALIT Nation's sole purpose is to provide transformative experiences with other Jewish teens that will cultivate Jewish pride, participation and leadership in your Southern California teen. We provide an opportunity for deep connection to Jewish friends, Jewish community, Israel, and our heritage and culture.

Specifically, through our core program, TALIT Nation @ the Bureau, participants spend three camp-based weekend retreats at the University of Judaism's Brandeis Bardine Institute in Simi Valley with 250 other Jewish teens from Orange, Long Beach, Riverside and San Gabriel Counties. But, our camp retreat program is just the tip of the iceberg. From our Jewbilation program (series of Saturday night Jewish teen social events) to our social action oriented alternative school breaks; from our Sacramento lobby program Panim el Panim, to our 4 week summer Israel adventure, TIES, we offer your child a steady diet of fun and engaging experiences, that create the strong bonds to Judaism that last them a lifetime.

I invite you, parents and participants, to join us for our mandatory TALIT Nation Orientation on Sunday, September 13th, from 2PM – 5PM, hosted at Temple Beth Sholom in Santa Ana. At this event, you will learn more about this year's program, meet the professional and camp leadership staff, and get every question you have answered. And, of course, a little nosh, and a closing circle will be included! In addition, all parents will attend our Parent Forum, a blend of parent learning, socializing, and supporting that is open to all parents and runs parallel to the student programming on every Sunday weekend prep session. Please contact us at the Bureau if you have any questions you may have regarding the program and registration prior to this mandatory orientation.

Thirty years ago, the congregations of Orange County prioritized the need to touch and impact Jewish teens beyond their B'nai Mitzvah. All this time later, and with over 10,000 served, we continue to work in partnership to offer your child the very best in Jewish experiences, and plug them into the premier Jewish teen organization in the county. We look forward to welcoming you on September 13th. Also, bring your calendars to mark down future dates.

Attached to this email is the TALIT Nation Handbook, calendar and welcome letters. Please read through them prior to attending the opening day orientation. This year in an attempt to save money and the environment, all of our contact will be via email. If you would like copies of the handbook or any future documents in hardcopy, please let us know.

L'Shalom,

David Lewis