

World Wide Wrap 2010

On Sunday morning, February 7, 2010, the OJC participated in its first World Wide Wrap. Although it was the 10th for the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, it was a unique experience for us. We were praying with Masorti Jews across the U.S. and Canada plus Brazil, Colombia, and Australia (although theirs occurred earlier). A very special thank you to Jeff Horowitz for coordinating the event, including the great brunch. Our rabbis lit up when they saw that there were more than 55 men and women of all ages plus about 8 children. This was one of those special days you hear about but that you just had to be there to experience. All came to learn and share in the *ruach*. The feelings in the room were best expressed by the writings of some of the participants.



I have two sets of tefillin. One belonged to my father and the other to my great-uncle and godfather. When Beth and I were wearing the two sets I felt like it brought us closer to them as well as God. *Lloyd Fishman*

I had not laid tefillin in many years. I was fortunate to have Marty Cohen explain to me that you form a *shin* twice. I never had been told that at any other time. It was a great experience. *Jay Rifkin*

I found this to be a very positive overall experience, although I felt somewhat uncomfortable "laying tefillin." I brought my grandfather's ancient tefillin with me but was a little afraid that he would be offended if I wore his. So I used someone else's and found it quite fascinating. The experience took some of the mystique and strangeness away—though not all of it. When I have attended a Thursday morning minyan service I have felt like a stranger in a strange land. I think I will now feel like an observer in an interesting land, which will be more comfortable for me. I don't think I will do this on a regular basis, but I am now thinking of wearing a tallit. We will see. *Judy Umlas*

Very empowering, especially for a woman. A true learning experience. You can feel the history. *Anonymous*

Laying tefillin was a first for me and was very spiritual as much as great fun! It was a great sense of community and felt so special. Not what I expected at all. *Eileen Bookman*



My journey began last night as I recalled seeing my grandfather putting on his tefillin. I was in awe of him. To me he looked like God or what my God would look like. Today, as I was helped to put the tefillin on, I thought again that he was with me. I'm not sure he would have felt that women should be involved, but he was smiling! I was very comfortable wearing the tefillin. My difficulty was not being able to follow the Hebrew. It made me promise myself to get more instruction to become a more fluent reader. All in all, the total experience was spiritually uplifting and wonderful. Again being part of this

great community is a precious gift. *Estelle Sollish*

This was my first time putting on a tallit and putting on tefillin! I especially felt a warm wrapped feeling of connection since I was using my father's tefillin: a feeling of connection. I was glad to see the inside of the tefillin cases and discuss their meaning. I would have liked to have spent more time learning about that. This was a great experience and the community effort really helped. I look forward to doing it again! *Ellen Rifkin*



This was the first time that I put on tefillin. Rabbi Drill was great! This was a great experience for my family. *Monica Levine-Sauberman*

This was a first for me—and the tefillin I used were (I think) never used before, compliments of Lee Berendt. I need to digest the experience in order to decide whether I will take on this mitzvah. Whatever the outcome for me, this was a valuable and enlightening experience.

Judy Cohen

I lay tefillin every day and try to have full-hearted kavannah as I pray. It is not easy to find something new in daily davening. This morning, seeing the awe and enthusiasm of our congregants reinvigorated me. I was reminded of what it means to attach myself to God's commandments ... and to have them attached to me.

Rabbi Paula Mack Drill



This was a marvelous opportunity to learn and fulfill the mitzvah at the same time. As Matthew is preparing now for his Bar Mitzvah, this was a perfect place for him to be exposed to the obligations that come with Bar Mitzvah, among them the obligation—and joy—of tefillin. *Howard Price*



I was happy to be here with my community and learn so much about putting on tefillin and how it is incorporated into the morning prayer. *Beth Fishman*

Perhaps the best comment came from our youngest participant:

I thought it was a moment to remember because you are wearing tefillin that has been passed down for many generations and is very

holy to us. *Emily Levine (age 8)*

Look for more photos on the OJC web site.

We look forward to seeing you at minyan and at the next World Wide Wrap on the morning of Super Bowl Sunday, 2011.

Bart Bookman

Men's Club President

