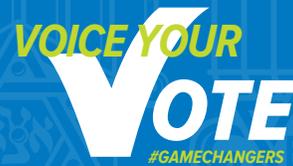


AFTER THE ELECTION: BRINGING OUR TEENS TOGETHER



My teens are saying...
Where do we go from here?
My candidate lost, but my neighbor's won.
My candidate won, but my neighbor's lost.
All I keep hearing is yelling and insults.
What do I do now?

ואהבת לרעך כמוך

Ve'ahavta le'reacha kamocha
Love your neighbor as yourself

This week's election has left people feeling every emotion. Hurt, excitement, sadness, pride, elation, confusion, and so many more. There is no doubt that our country is torn but as leaders our teens can help bridge that divide.

What can you do to help them?

In Judaism we learn to embrace others. To operate from a place of understanding (binah) and kindness (chesed), and to have empathy (rachamim). Right now it seems as if much of the country isn't working that way. People are yelling at each other, writing and saying hurtful things, and while the election is over the distance between people seems like it's growing. Our role is to help teens reflect so they understand themselves and embrace others. Here are some tips for you.

1. Engage them with questions when they want to understand how to move forward.

- How do I each embrace the other when there is such strong divide?
- How do I build relationships?
- How do I overcome obstacles?
- How do I leave myself open to learn about differences?

2. Our democracy, which has held us up for so long, will continue to do so. Encourage them to trust in that process and show them that Jewish values are deeply rooted in our system.

3. Remind them that BBYO is and will continue to be a safe space. BBYO stands united in providing a space for all Jewish teens, everywhere, anywhere to practice, to believe, to be themselves.

4. Encourage them to channel their energy into action. They are all Gamechangers.

- Create lists of organizations and causes that are important.
- Brainstorm methods of support, from advocacy to fundraising to service.
- Help them make action plans that can be implemented in BBYO and beyond.

Please remember, as staff and teachers, we experience our own form of this and it is important that we have outlets to allow ourselves to move forward and not impart our views onto our teens.

צדק צדק תרדף

Tzedek, tzedek tirdof
Justice, justice you shall pursue

