

# MEETING FOSTER YOUTH IN LIVE OR VIRTUAL EVENTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
KIDSAVE



Kidsave is one of Second Nurture's community partners. They find permanent families and lifelong connections for children who otherwise might grow up without family.

Through our partnership with Kidsave, synagogue members who are interested in mentoring or fostering meet foster youth in a safe, fun and interactive environment.



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# MEETING FOSTER YOUTH IN LIVE OR VIRTUAL EVENTS



While we provide thematic activity ideas connected to Jewish holidays, you can use any activity that stimulates conversation and interaction. After meeting at these events, some of the youth and families may privately identify who they would like to get to know better.

Kidsave then works to make that happen, while Second Nurture helps the community support the family in their needs going forward.



There is a training, available on-line, that all adults must do before participating in a Kidsave event. The events have two broad types:

- 1.) A round robin type get-to-know-you, akin to speed dating, that could be many things: arts and crafts activities, bowling, anything that is both active and provides a context for relaxed conversation.
- 2.) A follow-up gathering, such as a hike or picnic, that allows particular synagogue members to get to know particular youth.

These events are meant for Kidsave youth and adults from the synagogue community. However, teens from the community can participate as volunteers (maybe the confirmation class or older youth group).

Second Nurture works with Kidsave to coordinate the volunteers and require they are clearly identified using T-Shirts or badges. This is not an event for younger children of the synagogues.







You can be creative and have fun with the kinds of events you hold. Events can be centered thematically around the next Jewish-holiday—even though the Kidsave youth are of a wide range of ethnicities.

We have included, below, a number of holiday event ideas that have activities, songs and teaching themes that you can draw from.

The teachings may work on two levels:

- 1.) Offering a new inner resource to the youth
- 2.) Encouraging the members to consider fostering

The holidays—their stories and themes—provide texture (a tiny introduction to Judaism for the Kidsave kids, and a Jewish context for the members) and are a launching pad for a more universal discussion.

This discussion will give everyone an opportunity to share something about themselves, their life experience, and maybe even a bit of their hopes and fears. This is not meant to be therapeutic or religious—but a safe, relaxed, thoughtful event.





# Rosh Hashanah



**Apple-  
picking**

Tashlich-  
type  
activity

**Round-  
challah  
baking**

## Questions for Discussion:

- What did I do well this past year (or "in the past")?
- What did I struggle with this past year (or "in the past")?
- What do I want to improve in myself over this next year?
- What help do I need from others in order to improve in this next year?

## Shofar Blowing Workshop

Teach each type of shofar blast and  
a midrash about what each one means.  
(Participants can use kazooos.)

### Questions for Discussion:

- What would you like to call out  
for all the world to hear?
- What does each kind of blast  
make you feel or think about?



### Themes to Integrate

- Tshuva: Personal change is possible
- Relationships can evolve and heal
- Forgiveness of self and others

**Songs:**  
**Circle Game**  
**All My Life's a Circle**



# Sukkot



**Make sukkah  
decorations/  
fall art**

**Make Ugandan Fall  
Harvest Fruit Salad like  
Ugandan Jews make for  
Sukkot**

**Discussion on ushpizin:  
Who would you invite to a  
meal if you could invite  
anyone?**



**Themes to Integrate:**  
— Welcoming  
— Vulnerability

**Song:**  
**Turn, Turn, Turn**  
(The Byrds)





# Hanukkah



*play  
dreidl*

Modeling-clay  
menorahs

*Painting  
wooden  
dreidls*

Symbolic  
candle lighting  
on a hanukkiyah

*cookies in the  
shapes of  
Hanukkah  
symbols*

## Songs

Light One Candle (Peter, Paul and Mary)  
Dreidl Song (Julie Silver)  
Dreidl Song (Barenaked Ladies)  
Miracle - Matisyahu  
Hanukkah Song (If you're feeling brave)  
Latke Song (Debbie Friedman)



**Themes to Integrate**

- Light, like love, is not diminished when it is shared.
- Demonstrate with lighting a full Hanukkiah.
- Maintaining sense of self in trying times
- Belief in one's self to overcome great challenges
- Our inner light can remain aflame when we thought it couldn't





# Purim



Song:  
Wicked Wicked Man  
(to the tune of BINGO)

Make mishloach manot  
Bake Hamentashen  
Make Masks  
Ometz Lev Game  
Make Groggers



## Questions for Discussion

—Esther did not have parents and was adopted/fostered (This can be told simply without special emphasis, to subtly get across the idea of a foster child having the power of redemption.)

—What happens when people who don't understand right and wrong have control over our lives?

—Sorrow turned to joy. Has that happened for you? Vice versa?

—How much of life is beyond our control? How much can we impact our lives? Our city?





# Passover

## Activities

- Decorate a “Miriam’s Cup”, with each child representing the gifts they bring to others in their art
- Decorate a seder plate and each person/child chooses seven foods: some that symbolize their history and some that symbolize their hope

## Songs

- Redemption Song (there’s a mi khamocha/Redemption Song mashup)
- Miriam’s Song (Debbie Friedman)
- Let My People Go

## Themes to Integrate

- Despair and Hope
- Min hametzer: When our world feels tiny and we call out for a more expansive life







# Shavuot



- Make cheesecake
- Decorate paper tablets and write the “commandments” of your life
- Make flower crowns
- Mt Sinai Muffins (bake or buy and decorate)
- Decorate flower pots and on foam flowers write ways we each want to grow

## Songs

Garden Song (Pete Seeger) If I Had a Hammer (Pete Seeger) God's Counting on Me, God's Counting on You (Pete Seeger) We Shall Overcome

## Themes to Integrate

- Naomi adopts Ruth, who also joins Jewish people
- The power of outsiders
- Naomi teaches Ruth about the Jewish people. What might Ruth teach Naomi from her life experience?
- Seeds, Planting and Harvest