



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

## 2017-2018 Results: IPEG Participant Survey

**Community:** Greater MetroWest, NJ  
**Program:** Shtick Together  
**CoP:** Community Home Based Shabbat  
**Date:** June 2018  
**Response Rate:** 34 out of 51 participant families (67%)

OVERALL ENGAGEMENT (% Yes)	GREATER METROWEST 2018 (34)	NATIONAL IPEG AGG. 2018 (664)	CoP AGG. 2018 (147)	GREATER METROWEST 2017 (19)
Did your participation in this/these program(s) support your family in having conversations about Jewish traditions, values, and/or customs? <sup>1</sup>	94%	92%	96%	95%
Did you connect socially with other adults during this/these program(s)? (For example: Did you meet someone new or get to know someone better? Did you have an interesting conversation or exchange parenting tips?)	94%	90%	97%	100%
Would you recommend this/these program(s) to a friend? <sup>2</sup>	94%	99%	99%	100%

MAKING CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM (% Yes)	GREATER METROWEST 2018 (34)	NATIONAL IPEG AGG. 2018 (664)	CoP AGG. 2018 (147)	GREATER METROWEST 2017 (19)
Did you have any further social contact with other parents who also participated in this/these program(s)? (i.e. contact outside the program(s))?	85%	72%	90%	100%
Of those who had further social contact--Via Digital/Social Media	62%	66%	61%	74%
Of those who had further social contact--Via Call/Text	76%	56%	69%	84%
Of those who had further social contact--In-Person	93%	78%	88%	84%
Of those who had further social contact--Other (Greater MetroWest 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shul.</li> <li>• Went to other synagogue events together too.</li> <li>• Being present at shul on both Shabbos and holidays.</li> </ul>			
<b>Did not have further social contact:</b>				

<sup>1</sup>In 2017 and 2016, we used a different question: "Did your participation in the program spark a Jewish moment with your child? This could be as simple as a conversation, or as in-depth as taking on a new tradition into your home."

<sup>2</sup>N for the question "Would you recommend this/these program(s) to a friend" for is slightly lower than N included for each column. (This question is located near the end of the survey, thus more likely to have drop off in number of people who answered.)

Is there anything this/these program(s) could have done differently to have helped you have further social contact with other parents?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes. Involved different families each time.</li> <li>• Participants more interested.</li> </ul>
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INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL JEWISH PROGRAMMING (% Yes)	GREATER METROWEST 2018 (34)	NATIONAL IPEG AGG. 2018 (664)	CoP AGG. 2018 (147)	GREATER METROWEST 2017 (19)
Did this/these program(s) spark your interest or involvement in other Jewish experiences? <sup>3</sup>	85%	81%	86%	79%
In what ways--I sought information about other programs or experiences	59%	60%	56%	67%
In what ways--I attended other programs or experiences	55%	58%	66%	73%
In what ways--I became more involved in other programs or experiences (e.g., planning, volunteering, leading, etc.)	55%	21%	42%	47%
In what ways—None of these	7%	6%	8%	n/a

## GREATER METROWEST-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Think back to the beginning of your participation in this/these program(s). Discuss how you may be more likely to "do" something Jewish in your home, in your local Jewish community and/or with the fellow members of your shtick.

- I am more likely to spear head a jewish activity in my community.
- Growing up in a Jewish home, my parents were very much focused on instilling Jewish values. We would celebrate Shabbat every Friday night. We would also talk about Judaism, our family history, etc. Since starting this program, it was a reminder for me to continue these traditions with my children.
- The program gave me a better appreciation of being Jewish and participating in Jewish culture.
- I have begun leading prayer groups for young children at our local synagogue.
- I learned about many program I was not previously aware of. The idea of going to these programs with the other families made me a lot more comfortable than going alone.
- would do something that brings in different groups of people.
- More activities with kids for holidays.
- Not sure.
- I am actively looking for more ways to bring Judaism into my home.
- Im not sure the program was as impactful as it could have been.
- This program brought Shabbat back into our lives. My family has made a significant effort when we are home on Friday nights to have a Shabbat Dinner.
- I am more likely to go to Jewish events because I now have friends I feel comfortable asking to go with me. We also realized how nice it is to share Shabbat with other families...we'd like to continue this "social" part of Shabbat in addition to the family traditions we had prior to this program.
- This program is a nice way to connect with other Jewish families in our neighborhood.
- Make Shabbat dinner an event with friends in addition to being a family tradition.
- We are more likely to do Shabbat blessings at home each week. We are more likely to discuss and do mitzvot as a family.
- It has become part of the routine with our families - it's now comfortable.
- Havdallah.

<sup>3</sup>In 2017 and 2016, we used slightly different wording: "Did this/these program(s) spark your interest or involvement in other Jewish programs?".

- I will definitely incorporate more shabbat traditions.
- Light candles and say prayers on Friday night.
- I went to Jewish Federation home host meetings as a result of a discussion had with another Shtick Together family.
- I see that the other shtick members care about Jewish traditions and want to incorporate that in their lives therefore I'd be open to inviting them to other holiday celebrations not only Shabbat or Havdallah.
- It's nice to have friends who share common Jewish traditions.
- We now celebrate Havdalah.
- It gave me ideas of how to be more creative to bring the customs and traditions more into my home to get the kids involved and get excited about the holidays and shabbat.
- We have decided to continue our monthly Shabbat dinners together.
- We are trying to continue shabbat traditions even if we are not at home on Friday nights (ie out to dinner or celebrate on Saturday night).
- Celebrate Shabbat every week with some kind of ritual, explore Israeli cultural things, attend more events at synagogue.
- Even if it's just a quick blessing, my kids always acknowledge Friday nights as Shabbat now. It may not be formal dinners, but there is much more awareness on my children's parts.
- We celebrate Shabbat as many Fridays as possible with our kids and also buy a weekly challah at our JCC to help encourage us to continue celebrating Shabbat each week.
- We hope to plan more Shabbat dinners with members of our shtick outside of the program.

Please complete the following sentence: "Because of Shtick Together ... "

- I am able to get to know other Jewish families and celebrate Shabbat with our kids.
- I became involved in Jewish Federation activities for my kids and myself.
- I celebrate shabbat and Havdalah now and have incorporated more bonding activities during this observance.
- I feel more connected religiously to the other families.
- I feel like my husband "gets" what Shabbat is all about and my immediate family looks forward to spending time together on Friday evenings.
- I felt people invited so they can have fun with their current Friends.
- I got to experience holidays and Shabbat with Other warm families to bond with.
- I grew closer to my friends who are now much more like family.
- I have a greater appreciation of being Jewish.
- I have been able to network with other Jewish families in my area that share my values.
- I have developed richer connections with others.
- I have many nice memories of sharing Judaism with friends and family.
- I have new ideas of how to bring Judaism to life for my children.
- I have stronger connections to other Jewish families in my community. I feel "part of" a shtick that will last long beyond the duration of this program.
- I hung out with families with similar Jewish values.
- I learned about the meaning of the Havdalah service.
- I learned that I can make my own rules about being Jewish.
- I look forward to a warm and educational Shabbat with friends who care to make it special for the kids and meaningful for the adults.
- I met new Jewish friends.
- I've come closer to Jewish traditions.
- Our family had a very enjoyable day.

- We do Shabbat blessings every week. We discuss doing mitzvot on a regular basis.
- We have made new family friends.
- We have more families over for shabbat.
- We were more mindful of Shabbat as a family and had the opportunity to strengthen relationships and friendships with other like-minded families.
- I was able to share the holidays and shabbat with other warm caring families to bond with.
- My children are more aware of the need to disconnect from the world and to connect with family on Shabbat.
- N/a.
- We become closer friends with a few families that attend our (current-but-not-for-long) shul.
- We have made long lasting friendships for ourselves and our children.
- We started doing Shabbat dinners.
- We try to do something fun tied into the shabbat dinner.

## **IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?**

- Leemor is AMAZING! she sparked my interests and help me to engage multiple families. She is resourceful and full of brilliant ideas to enhance Judaic learning.
- So happy my family did this. Thanks for all the support and encouragement. Think about ideal age group for shticks...young toddlers are tough in terms of achieving goals.
- Great program!
- Needs to be a more diverse group. i was invited as the only outsider. didnt feel welcoming.
- I think the programs or themes shouldn't be left to the families to figure out but already pre-determined.
- We've greatly enjoyed being part of this experience and strengthening the roots we are planting in our community.
- Thank you for a wonderful program!
- I can't explain the freedom this program gave me to make being Jewish fit our lives - rather than feeling like I was doing something "wrong" if I wasn't following Jewish rules. It was honestly one of the best experiences I've ever had and I'm sad it's ending.
- So grateful to have been in it.
- Stacy Reiber did an amazing job facilitating this program with busy families. She brought in ideas that helped us to connect on a deeper level with each other.
- I'm good thanks!
- No.
- I am so grateful to have been part of this wonderful program and wish it could continue on longer!
- Thanks so much for letting us participate. I realize we lost a lot of steam but that had to do with reasons beyond Shtick. We also realize we enjoy changing it up on Friday nights with different families and enjoy seeing our closer friends at shul and other community events, some Jewish and others not.
- Leemore is an unbelievable resource!
- I think this program is wonderful and felt privileged to be a part of it.