

Heather Todd, Sarasota Teen Court Executive Director, welcomed at Temple Beth Sholom

The Temple Beth Sholom Men's Club presents a Monthly Breakfast Program Series, highlighting one captivating speaker per month.

On Sunday, November 19, we welcomed Heather Todd, Sarasota Teen Court Executive Director.

Todd has been with Sarasota Teen Court for 16 years and oversees the peer judgment process in the courthouse near Sarasota's central police station. She explained how teens on both sides of the law help each other get out of trouble and live a productive life. A brief video depicting part of an actual youth trial was screened. Stefan Campagna, now an attorney in town who started out on the "wrong side of

the tracks," was also present, offering his personal testimony to Teen Court's effectiveness.

The philosophical framework of Teen Court's services is to offer educational classes and intervention services that unquestionably transform the lives of young people. They provide students ages 8-18 with ways they can make positive change in both their community and in their own lives, and they become active participants in finding solutions for problems that impact their community.

The recidivism rate of Teen Court is 6.8% in comparison with Juvenile Court, which has a 42% recidivism rate. All who attended this event were capti-

vated by both speakers, as well as TBS Co-President Emma Joels, who is the President of the Board of Sarasota Teen Court, and has been involved there for about 20 years.

This was a jointly sponsored event by both TBS Men's Club and TBS Sisterhood. We are planning a tour of Teen Court's program sometime this month, for anyone who wants to join us. Please contact Rabbi Dr. Ed Weinsberg, Program Vice President, at 941.444.9790



Stefan Campagna, local attorney, Board of Directors of Sarasota Teen Court; Heather Todd, Executive Director of Sarasota Teen Court

for more information regarding the tour.