

Schreiber students rockin' and roofin'

BY Willa Jones
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After a long, difficult year, the mere freedom of summer excites all who can't wait to relax and enjoy the time free from work and obligation. Yet some Schreiber students spend their time in most impressive and unusual ways. These students embarked on adventures completely different from their every day routine. A few Schreiber students came back with stories about their adventures, whether it was making a difference through community service, or even performing throughout Europe.

Junior Julie Suzzan spent her summer reaching out in one of the most generous and personal ways possible: for six weeks she built and repaired houses in a Tennessee community. Suzzan was given this chance by the American Jewish Society for Service, a program that grants Jewish adolescents the opportunity to restore parts of the country. It teaches the participants about "Tikkun Olam" translating to repairing the world in Hebrew.

In Tennessee, Suzzan was introduced to a different world. The town was a predominantly Christian community and unfortunately many people lacked sufficient funds and opportunity to repair their damaged homes. This different setting opened her eyes to life beyond Long Island and made her more aware of the poverty in parts of our nation.

The group stayed in a church, which "really helped us get to know the community and experience southern

hospitality first hand," said Suzzan. The group constructed new roofs, foundations, decks, and more. For their efforts, the local news even broadcasted their story. Suzzan was proud to be a part of such a program. "Seeing how grateful people were was a great feeling," said Suzzan.

Aaron Silberstein traveled with some of the best student musicians in the North East to Europe through the AMA Empire Tour. Silberstein became qualified for the tour through high level auditions and a high score on the New York State School Music Association's exam. While improving as a percussionist, Silberstein also learned about different cultures and the true power of music.

The concert band and choir gathered only a few days before leaving on their trip to practice and meet. Following this brief meeting, the group left for France, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland to perform in multiple churches and concert halls. Surrounded by such immense talent and culture, Silberstein said he gained "a playing experience with musicians of a high caliber and with similar goals for their future."

In addition, Silberstein and his friends had the opportunity to explore the countries they visited and learn about relationships with music across cultural lines. He felt that despite the language barrier they faced, audiences still enjoyed their performances greatly. "Their appreciation of our music showed universal appreciation of music as a whole," said Silberstein.

Though summer vacation gives us



Courtesy of Julie Suzzan

Junior Julie Suzzan, pictured above, is fixing a roof for an underprivileged Tennessee family.

all a chance to relax and even make a few bucks, Suzzan and Silberstein devoted their time to their passions and the people around them. They challenged themselves and made lasting contributions to the people around them. Suzzan and Silberstein both discovered new worlds outside of Port Washington for the summer, and their eyes were wide open during their cultural experience. Both students demonstrated the difference Schreiber students can make, the things we can achieve, and the opportunity summer vacation can bring.