

# Houston Trip

By Philip Koenig

# Shabbat Service

Although we made it late to the service, the people in the synagogue seemed very passionate about their religion. They treated us kindly when the service was over, and the speaker seemed to have two different views of Hurricane Harvey. On one hand, he was upset about the destruction of his neighborhood and everyone's homes, but on the other hand, he seemed glad that everyone had come together as a community to help each other get through it.

# Arboretum

The walk around the Arboretum was rather quiet and peaceful. It was change to be in nature without using our phones and just talk with each other, as well as just to hear the sounds of nature around us.

# Rice University

The tour of the university was rather informational, and the tour guide who showed us around the campus seemed to really enjoy her time there. She was also very helpful in understanding what the university had to offer and how the hurricane had affected her.

# Senior Home

The seniors at the retirement home seemed to enjoy their time there. This retirement home seemed to really treat them like independent individuals and let them have their freedom. Although not everyone received it, the tour of the senior home was also rather nice. Their rooms were fairly spacious, they had a pool, a bingo and rec center, etc.

# Rebuild Project

Although the work was hard, it was certainly worth it. The owner of the home we were spackling and repainting seemed very happy that we were helping to fix it up after what had happened with Hurricane Harvey. The lunch we had that day was also fairly good as well.

# Escape Room

The escape room was mentally exhausting in some ways, even if some of us found some of the more hidden clues at the start of it. Although I feel like some people were being a bit...uptight about others wanting to help at times, it was overall a good experience, especially since we were close to beating the record.

# Food Bank

Working at the food bank was more physically with packing all of the rice and moving them into storage. It was all worth it of course, knowing that we were helping to feed people who were in desperate need, and would gratefully take even one bag of rice.