

Maia

Waxman

Leader of the Month

Age: 13

Parents: Sabra and Dan Waxman

Hometown: Tenafly

School: 8th grade, Tenafly Middle School

Accomplishment: For her bat mitzvah project, Maia wanted to use her love of knitting to help others, so she knit bears for the Mother Bear Project, an organization which gives comfort and hope in the form of hand-knit teddy bears to children affected by HIV/AIDS in emerging nations. In eight months, Maia knit 13 bears using donated yarn and a special pattern provided by the Mother Bear Project.

Background: Maia learned to knit at the age of 10 from her grandmother. She began the project during her February school break and finished up just before her bat mitzvah in September, working in her spare time, while watching TV or hanging out with friends. She especially enjoyed choosing yarn colors to make striped sweaters and skirts for some of her bears.

Quote: "I was a little overwhelmed when I started, but it turned out to be really fun because it combined knitting, which I love, with doing something nice for kids in another part of the world. If anybody's interested in helping, you can go to www.motherbearproject.org."

