



Max M. Kampelman Papers

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P.e.P. TALK

VOL. 3 NO. 1

Panim el Panim

FALL 1992

Advanced Seminar Scholarships

Alumni of P.e.P. who are interested in applying for a scholarship to the June 20-23, 1993 Advanced Seminar should read this box carefully.

Our Advanced Seminar provides an opportunity to look at issues in much greater depth than our *Panim el Panim* program allows. We assume that participants have received a general orientation to the ways of Washington during their initial *Panim el Panim* experience.

The seminar is structured so that one day is spent on Middle East issues and the second day is spent on domestic concerns. The group gets an opportunity to hear many sides of each issue through visits to key individuals and institutions around Washington. On day 3, each participant is placed in a Jewish agency engaged in public policy work. This provides a chance to experience political work first hand as well as the ability to make contacts for future jobs or internships in Washington.

Alumni interested in receiving a scholarship to the 1993 Advanced Seminar should send a letter to Rabbi Sid c/o the Institute explaining how you have made use of the *Panim el Panim* experience. Particular emphasis will be placed on volunteer work in the Jewish and general communities, leadership roles in organizations, work with public interest organizations and/or political campaigns.

The deadline for submissions is December 31, 1992 and the program is open to all alumni, even if you are in college. Scholarship winners will have all but \$75 of the tuition waived for the four days in Washington (hotel and food included). Travel arrangements will be the responsibility of the student. Winners will be informed by February 1, 1993. ♦

Meyerhoff, Soref Grants Expand Institute

This past summer The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values received two major grants which will allow for a significant expansion of its program offerings.

The Rebecca Meyerhoff Trust of Baltimore provided \$30,000 to open field offices in three major Jewish communities. As a result, the Institute has hired Steve Lipman in Los Angeles, Evelyn Harris Schwartz in Philadelphia and Sharon Yudewitz in South Florida. These individuals have been charged with expanding the base of our *Panim el Panim* recruitment, identifying scholarship monies to help students attend the program and follow-up programming with returning alumni in those communities.

If you live or now attend college in one of those communities, you should call the respective field rep: Steve-(818) 771-7747; Evelyn-(609) 424-7201; or Sharon-(305) 654-8148. Each of these communities have exciting plans for alumni and would also love to make use of you for their ongoing recruit-

ment efforts.

The Samuel and Helene Soref Foundation of Ft. Lauderdale has made a grant of \$13,500 to underwrite the annual Advanced Seminar open to alumni of *Panim el Panim*. Although the Institute has sponsored Advanced Seminars in each of the past two years (see the report on the 1992 session in this newsletter), the attendance at each has been small owing to the burden of tuition and transportation costs. The goal of the Soref grant is to make it possible for the "best and brightest" of our alumni to come back and get the added exposure to Washington under our auspices.

According to the guidelines set up by the Institute Board, 30 P.e.P. alumni will be able to attend the upcoming Advanced Seminar (June 20-23, 1993) for \$75 plus travel costs. Selection of scholarship winners will be based on an essay submitted to the Institute office detailing the ways in which you have put your *Panim el Panim*: High

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Advanced Seminar meeting with Egyptian Embassy Counselor, Mohammed Orabi, with model of new Embassy (under construction) in the center of photo.

The Tree of Life

Editor's note: The following was part of a speech delivered by Ariel Parker, a Panim el Panim participant from Cincinnati in February, 1992, to a Trustee-Student program.

We all have common roots,
Anchored deeply in the ground,
Then we concentrate on growing—
Up and outward- future bound.

As we spread and thrive,
We branch out until others
Are different from us.

(Let's Say:)

We have more of the rainwater,
more light from the sun.
Then slowly, limb by limb,
Branch by branch...others are shunned.

Such is the situation in our nation; This is what's happening in the world. It is time to come up with some answers to our questions, as problem after problem, like a new leaf is unfurled.

In the tree of life our roots are anchored deeply in the ground as are our traditions and our history: our commonness is unalterable since we cannot change the past. In the trunk, we are growing and working together.. strengthening as we learn from others and from our own experiences as well. Finally, the tree branches are in all different directions. In some cases (as in our economy) one part of the tree may get more sunlight or rainwater (more resources) than other parts.

It is interesting to note that while our session was labeled "Economic Jus-

tice", we ended up speaking more about economic injustices occurring in the world that we live in. When faced with such inequality, we have to decide: Shall we share our water and sunlight, our resources, with the rest of the other sides of the tree? How much? Which sides? Does it make a difference? The opinions and suggestions about how to solve the problems concerning such unequal distribution of wealth are almost as diverse and spread out as the branches of the tree.

We heard from two speakers. David Bernstein took a rather conservative point of view in saying, "When somebody knocks you down, you pick yourself up, brush yourself off, and move on." By contrast, Ed Lazere insisted that, "it is the responsibility of society, as a whole, to insure the welfare and security of those less fortunate." Just as the survival of the whole tree is dependent upon all of its parts, the general consensus of students was that the tree we live in is ailing, and something must be done.

To get some Jewish perspective on the issue, we looked at excerpts from the Bible and Talmud, concerning *tzedekah* and caring for those less fortunate in society. We then compared them to our own views. While our opinions were diverse the group's consensus was that we must give to those who are in need.

On Sunday night we experienced the problem of poverty first-hand. After preparing sandwiches and salads of the left overs from dinner, we went out into the streets of Washington, D.C. and distributed the food to homeless people. The experience was at once fulfilling and upsetting. While we enjoyed meeting these people, hearing their stories, and fulfilling a *mitzvah* we were dismayed to see the White House immediately across the street from the park where so many homeless sleep, every night.

We have learned about the unequal distribution of wealth, and an equally valuable lesson, as well. That when we want something to be done about a problem—in one way or in another—we must be the ones to take action, to improve and contribute to society: this is itself a reward, as it is said.

Etz Chaim he lamahazekeem bah vtomcheha meooshar. "It is a tree of life to them that hold fast to it, and all of its supporters are happy..."

Ariel Parker
Cincinnati, OH
February 16-19, 1992



March 1-4, 1992 Panim el Panim group doing a role play exercise on the Refugee issue in the "pit" at the George Washington University Hillel.

A Word From Rabbi Sid



In a matter of weeks, you will be receiving a very special mailing from us. We have commissioned the Jewish Educational Service of North America to do a survey of all *Panim el Panim* alumni. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of our program and to see how we might make it even better.

It should come as no surprise to you to know that there are not all that many programs in the Jewish community that have a good track record of attracting large numbers of Jewish teens. Even fewer have a reputation of turning Jewish teens on to involvement in the Jewish and general communities. We have a lot of anecdotal evidence that *Panim el Panim* has had particular success in both these areas but we now would like to document that.

In order to do this effectively it is very important that you take the short amount of time needed to fill out and return the survey. Over the years the comments made on the back of the evaluations filled out on the last day of our programs have helped us to improve *Panim el Panim* immeasurably. This survey, by an outside agency, will move us even further down that road.

Thank you in advance for participating.

Advanced Seminar: 1992

The *Panim el Panim*: Advanced Seminar took place June 21-24, 1992. Seven P.e.P. alumni, who came to Washington D.C. from Chicago, Philadelphia, Dayton, Potomac, and Richmond, participated in this most interesting and informative program.

On Sunday evening the participants met for a brief orientation over dinner. The next morning we got right to work. The topic for Monday was "U.S.-Israel Relations: Crisis and Resolution". As was the case in previous sessions, P.e.P. gave us the opportunity to meet with various experts, representing a wide variety of perspectives on the issues at hand. First we met with Mohammed Orabi at the Egyptian Embassy. Orabi, a charming diplomatic man, described to us his government's view of Egyptian-Israeli relations and Egypt's role in the peace conference. He painted a very positive picture of his country and its desire to act as a catalyst to bring all the countries in the Middle East together. Our next stop was the State Department, where we spoke with Aaron Miller, who works for the Bush administration at the Middle East Desk. Miller was very quick to defend Bush's dealings with Israel and argued that this administration has been one of the best in regard to U.S. support of Israel. He used the Persian Gulf War and the Peace Conference as examples of how Bush has worked towards ensuring a safe and peaceful future for Israel.

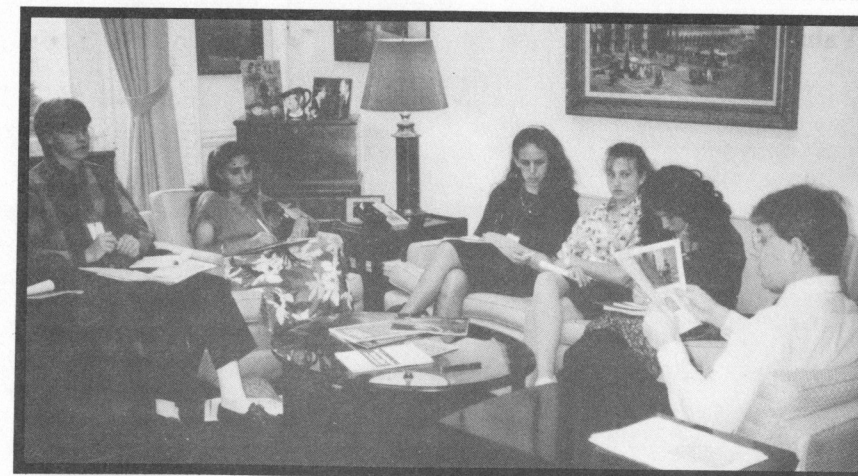
After lunch we met with Mark Monsour of the National Association of Arab Americans, which is the chief pro-Arab lobbying group in America. Although most participants entered the meeting expecting to find Mr. Monsour to be antagonistic or extremist, we were

pleasantly surprised to find him quite moderate, sincere, and honest. He explained to us that his group focuses mainly on anti-Arab discrimination and the plight of the Palestinians. Although he advocated the concept of exchanging land for peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state, his ideas were not radical and he was also very open to our ideas and willing to debate key issues in a congenial manner. We proceeded from NAAA to its pro-Israel counterpart, AIPAC. There, Joe Blumenfeld talked to us about the organization and its lobbying activities.

Our final destination for the day was the office of Nishma, an organization similar to Peace Now, which also advocates exchanging land for peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Tom Smerling explained to us the advantages of returning land and allowed us to question and debate his group's position. After this busy and interesting day, we returned to the hotel and over dinner discussed our reactions to the day and how our attitudes were affected by the speakers. This discussion led into a lively debate as to whether Israel should give up land for peace. (We also did an unofficial rating of the offices, chairs, and refreshments of each organization. NAAA won for best office and most comfortable chairs, while the Egyptian Embassy and Nishma tied for best refreshments-Turkish coffee and big cookies).

The next day we focused on domestic issues in the U.S. We started our day with Bill Douster, the chief counsel of the Senate Budget Committee, and his assistant. The two explained to us through the use of charts the intricacies of the budget process.

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Jay Lefkowitz, domestic policy advisor to President Bush, makes a point to the June, 1992 Advanced Seminar group in his White House office.

The Senate Page Experience

When I left Washington, D.C. in mid April of 1991, after spending a week as a participant in the *Panim el Panim* program, I took away with me a treasure that could not be bought with money. This treasure was my newly found interest in the government that runs this great country of ours and my freshly discovered love for the city of Washington, D.C.

During the *Panim el Panim* program, I was given a "behind the scenes" tour of the United States Congress, which included a visit to the Senate and House floors and visits to the offices of various Congressmen and Senators. I had the opportunity to meet with my Senator, Donald Riegle. I told Senator Riegle of my interest in politics and he told me about the Senate Page program.

If someone at the time of my visit with my Senator had told me that I would be spending the second semester of my Junior year as a United States Senate Page, living and breathing politics in Washington, D.C., I would have said he/she was *meshuggah*.

I applied for the Senate Page position several days after I returned from the *Panim el Panim* program. I did not hear anything about the position until almost nine months since the date of the submission of my application. Suddenly, I received a phone call from Riegle's aide informing me that I had been selected to be a Page and that they wanted me on Capitol Hill in a week. Without hesitation, I accepted my appointment, packed my bags, and prepared myself for five of the most exciting, interesting, hectic, busy, and sleepless months of my life.

I went to Washington, D.C. that February ignorant of how prestigious the Senate Page program was. When I applied, I did not know that there are only 25 page positions available in the entire country!

The basic duties of a Senate Page include the opening of the Senate Chambers each morning, the set-up of the Senators' desks which includes the distribution of the *Congressional Record*, and the set-up of the presiding officer's desk. Other duties include the distribution of legislative material to all the Senate offices and helping the Senators set up for their debates. The most important and interesting duty of

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Seminar

continued from page 3

cies of the national budget and the major causes of the huge deficit. We then went on a tour of the White House and afterwards met with Jay Lefkowitz, who works in President Bush's domestic policy department next door. Lefkowitz expounded his views on major problems in the U.S. including the breakdown of family values and the abuse of welfare by unwed mothers. Many of his opinions were met with outrage by the participants, and much lively debate followed.

Next, P.e.P. participants met over lunch with Helen Blank of the Children's Defense Fund. Blank explained to us how her organization lobbies on behalf of programs such as Head Start, designed to aid children. She expressed her opinion that the Bush administration simply had not done enough on behalf of children. The last stop for the day was at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. There we met with Mark Johnston. Johnston impressed us with his soft-spoken, sincere concern for the homeless. He described programs that have been set up for the homeless and told us about a new program designed especially to help mentally ill homeless males. Once again, as on the preceding day, the group convened in the evening for dinner at the hotel and reviewed the speakers and our reactions to them.

The final day we interned at various organizations including AIPAC, B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Commit-

tee, Anti-Defamation League, National Council of Jewish Women, and the Council of Jewish Federations. This half-day internship gave us a taste of what goes on behind the scenes at these organizations while enabling us to meet and make contacts with key individuals. At noon we met at the G.W. Hillel, where we lunched at the Kosher Chinese restaurant there, shared our internship experiences with our fellow participants, and filled out evaluation forms. (We did not receive those ever-fashionable P.e.P. T-shirts, however.) Thus ended another excellent P.e.P. program, and wonderful learning experience.

Sarah Weiss
Chicago
June 21-24, 1992



Meyerhoff

continued from page 1

School in Washington experience to good use. Evidence of Jewish or civic community involvement, volunteer work on public policy issues or on political campaigns will be especially valued.

Thanks to the generosity of the Soref Foundation, the 1993 Advanced Seminar promises to be not only a great exposure to leadership opportunities and issues of concern to the Jewish community, but also a great chance to meet other Jewish "high achieving" teens from across the country. (See page 1 article for application details). ♦

The Senate...

continued from page 3

the page was the responsibility of being ready to help the Senators with whatever they needed. In order to do this, pages have to sit on the Senate floor, whenever Senate is in session, ready at a Senator's beckon call.

While in Washington, D.C., I met an interesting array of people. I met Boris Yeltsin, President Bush, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, Mikhail Gorbachev, Salmon Rushdi, Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead, Woodie Harrelson, Dave Justice of the Atlanta Braves, Mohammed Ali, Richard von Weizacker, the President of Germany, and Governor Jerry Brown. I sat through two joint sessions of Congress. I was yelled at by Senator Ted Kennedy. I heard all of the Senate gossip, most of which never was leaked to the press. I learned how to shake hands, but most importantly, I made 25 of the best friends anyone could ever hope for.

This Senate Page experience was the most interesting five months of my life. I felt that I grew both mentally and emotionally. I can honestly say that I owe much gratitude to the *Panim el Panim* Jewish leadership program in Washington, D.C. If it weren't for *Panim el Panim*, I would be just another boring 17 year old without this amazing tale to tell.

Ben Roberts
Flint, MI
April 14-17, 1991



The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values

6101 Montrose Road, Suite 208
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 770-5070

REMARKS BY
MAX M. KAMPELMAN
HONORING THE PEOPLE OF DENMARK
ON THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESCUE OF DANISH JEWRY

Washington Institute of Jewish
Leadership and Values
Washington, DC

May 18, 1993

Anthropologists tell us that there is such a thing as folk memory, a phenomenon that digs itself deeply into the cultural roots of a people and lasts perhaps as long as the people themselves. I have no doubt, Mr. Ambassador, that the rescue of its Jewish citizens by the people of Denmark during the evil days of the Nazi period has been and will continue to be an integral part of the Jewish folk memory, a story that will be told and retold by generations into history. Its fringes may be exaggerated in the retelling, but its intrinsic essence of heroism, spiritual strength and human dignity will be remembered and preserved.

That is why I consider it most appropriate that this generation of American Jews, some of whom were contemporaries of the event and others who learned about it from their parents, is, through the symbolism of our event this evening, passing the memory on to their children and grandchildren, the high-school students of today.

Jews have been called the People of the Book. Learning stands high in the hierarchy of Judaic values. That learning, which starts with children, must never stop. It has historically been a part of the daily and Sabbath periods of prayer. It is that tradition which is being carried out by the Washington Institute of Jewish Leadership and Values, through its most successful program of bringing to Washington high-school students from all over the country to learn about religious and democratic values.

Jewish values accept the fact there is evil in our universe. We have no illusions about its power and influence. Our early sages wrote of the "yaitzer hatov" and the "yaitzer hara" within each of us -- that in the heart and soul which is good and that which is evil. We and the societies we create have the capacity to be heroic and lofty; and we have the capacity to become cruel and to hate. Freud translated this insight into his psychiatric teaching, with his "ego" and "id". The Protestant theologian Reinhold Niehbur called it "Children of Light and Children of Darkness."

Jews, who have seen evil and experienced a great deal of it in their history are aware of the need to identify it, resist it, and overcome it with the persistence of that within the

human being that is noble and God-like. This, to me, is the secret of the evolutionary struggle of the species homo sapiens toward becoming the species human being, worthy of being considered children of God.

The onward movement of civilization requires heroes and role models. We suffer today from too few of such heroes. Mr. Ambassador, through you, we thank the people of Denmark for supplying us with that indispensable ingredient as we prepare to enter a new world with the opportunity to decide whether it will be one based on the values of human dignity for all peoples.



The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values sponsors seminars on American democracy, public policy and Jewish values. Its flagship program is Panim el Panim: High School in Washington.

Panim el Panim motivates Jewish teenagers to become involved in their community by showing them the relationship between current social and political issues and Jewish values. Students from 70 communities across the United States come to Washington for four-day seminars throughout the year to learn how to become more active, knowledgeable and committed Jews and Americans. The program inspires students to accept the responsibility to help make the world a better place for all people.

We honor the Danish people for the example they provided to all humanity to face evil with courage and moral bearing. Our commitment is to train future generations of American Jews to face the challenges of tomorrow with just such courage and moral bearing.

Invitation Printing Courtesy of Duke Printing of Rockville, Maryland

*The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values
invites you to support our commitment
to inspire Jewish continuity through our youth*

***Join us
as we honor
the people of Denmark
on the
50th anniversary
of the rescue of
Danish Jewry from the Holocaust***

*This event stands out as a shining moment
of leadership and values in an era of darkness*

***Tuesday, May 18, 1993
7:00 o'clock***

***The Historic Car Barn - Penthouse
3600 M Street, Georgetown***

Valet Parking
RSVP on enclosed card by May 7
Couvert \$75 per person

7:00 p.m. Cocktail Buffet - Danish Cuisine
8:00 p.m. Presentation to Danish Ambassador
Peter Dyrving
Remarks by Ambassador Max Kampelman
8:30 p.m. Dessert Reception

CELEBRATE ONE SHINING MOMENT

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PROGRAM

WELCOME

Holly Funger, Co-chair

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

Gustav Goldberger

INTRODUCTION OF *PANIM EL PANIM* ALUMNUS

Ellen Waghelstein, Co-chair

REMARKS

Naomi Weinberg, *Panim el Panim* Alumnus

INTRODUCTION OF AMBASSADOR KAMPELMAN

Rabbi Sidney Schwarz, President

The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values

REMARKS

Ambassador Max Kampelman

PRESENTATION TO DANISH PEOPLE

Aaron Goldman, Chairman, Board of Trustees

ACCEPTANCE

Ambassador Peter Dyving

CLOSING

David Waghelstein, Co-chair



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CELEBRATE ONE SHINING MOMENT



2

AARON GOLDMAN

1725 K STREET N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
(202) 833-8714

May 19, 1993

Amb. Max Kampelman
3154 Highland Place, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Max,

On behalf of the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership, I thank you for your role in making last night's reception a memorable one. The challenge now is how we can equal it next year!

What I appreciated most about your remarks, Max, was that they came from no warmed-over speech suitable for any occasion--not an unknown phenomenon from the lips of the famous. Knowing how much you are in demand these days, I was deeply moved that your words were carefully crafted for our special occasion. Thank you again.

I am proud that I can call you a friend of long standing and, I hope, for many years to come--until 120!

Sincerely,



cc: Rabbi Sidney Schwarz



The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values

6101 Montrose Road, Suite 208, Rockville, Maryland 20852 • (301) 770-5070

Pending

5/18/93

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March 31, 1993

Ambassador Max Kampelman
Freed, Frank, Harris, Schriever and Jacobson
1001 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Max,

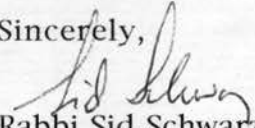
Thank you so much for agreeing to bring remarks at our community-wide fundraising event scheduled for Tuesday evening, May 18th at the Historic Car Barn in Georgetown. I have held off sending you this confirmation note for a few weeks so that I could enclose the invitation which we just received from the printer.

Your place on the program will serve as a bridge between a student presentation and the actual presentation to Ambassador Peter Dyring. The student is an alumni of our program and will talk about the impact *Panim el Panim* has had on her. Our hope is that you would serve as an embodiment of the kind of American Jewish leader we are trying to cultivate. Specifically one who is deeply committed to America and democratic principles but who is, as well, committed to the Jewish community and the values that the Jewish tradition represents. Remarks that you make about the importance of our work for the future of the Jewish community and America would have a great impact because of your singular accomplishments.

I am enclosing some background material about our Institute and our *Panim el Panim* program to better equip you to address this. We would ask that you would keep your remarks to five minutes in length.

If you have any question please feel free to call me. We look forward to seeing you on the evening of May 18th.

Sincerely,


Rabbi Sid Schwarz
President

cc: Aaron Goldman



The Washington Institute
for Jewish Leadership and Values

CP 8148

1493

Schwartz

11/20

5/18

7pm

Dear Max,

If we have trouble getting
through to the Daves in the next two
weeks I may ask you to make a
phone call on our behalf.

Thank you for your help

Ed Schwartz



The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values

6101 Montrose Road, Suite 208, Rockville, Maryland 20852 • (301) 770-5070

5/18
7pm

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November 18, 1992

His Excellency Peter Dyvig
Ambassador of Denmark
3200 Whitehaven Street, N.W.
Washington D.C., 20008

Dear Ambassador Dyvig,

The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values is a non-profit educational foundation dedicated to training American Jews how to assume responsible leadership in American society and in the Jewish community. Our Board of Trustees and Advisory Board consist of some of the most outstanding individuals in the American Jewish community, both lay and professional.

Our guiding principle has always been to promote political activism inspired not solely by group self-interest but by a concern to make the world a better place for all humankind. Some 70 Jewish federations from all over the United States send students to our *Panim el Panim*: High School in Washington program. has met with extraordinary success. We are proud that our approach to civic responsibility is having a major impact on the way young people are being taught about their own leadership opportunities and responsibilities.

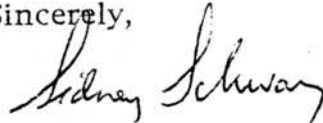
This spring we are planning to have our first major community-wide event to highlight our important work. Our intention is to honor a person or institution whose own work serves as a model for what we work every day to achieve. In discussion with our Board of Trustees, a consensus emerged that we would like to bestow this honor on the Danish people on the 50th anniversary of the rescue of Danish Jewry from the Nazis.

We would be deeply honored if you would agree to receive this award on behalf of the Danish people. The event stands out as a moral beacon during an age that was otherwise enveloped by evil darkness. It represents to all humanity the capacity of a people to respond with goodness and decency even when it means placing personal safety at risk.

Since we are hoping to have this event attended by the leadership of the Jewish community we have chosen the date of Saturday night, May 22, 1993 as the one that would ensure optimal attendance. We would expect between 200-250 people at the event. If you would be agreeable to accept this honor, we would like to meet with designated members of your staff to discuss the details of the event.

We truly hope that you will honor us by accepting this award as a token of our community's esteem and appreciation. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sidney Schwarz".

Rabbi Sidney Schwarz
President

P.S. Since you may not have heard of our organization, Ambassador Max Kampelman would be glad to provide you with a reference for our organization.

cc: Mr. Jorgen Grunnet, Press Attache



The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values

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PANIM EL PANIM: HIGH SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON

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PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values is a non-profit educational foundation which sponsors Panim el Panim: High School in Washington. The Institute started bringing Jewish high school students to Washington in December, 1988. Groups of approximately 40-60 students spend 4 days in Washington. They meet with lobbyists on both sides of current public policy issues, examine Jewish texts for guidance in Jewish values, and conclude with visits to their congressional offices.

The objectives of the program are:

- 1) to provide Jewish youth with an understanding of how the U.S. political process and government work and about current public policy issues;
- 2) to help students understand how they can be part of the political process, broadly defined, and take advantage of opportunities to assume leadership roles in our society as good Americans and knowledgeable and committed Jews; and
- 3) to delineate the specific agenda of the organized Jewish community as it relates to public policy and, in an experiential learning environment, get students to explore how such positions can be based on traditional Jewish sources.

NEED

- 1) In a study, published by People for the American Way in 1989, entitled "Democracy's Next Generation", students aged 15-24 were surveyed about their attitudes towards politics and government. The results were dramatic and distressing. The major conclusions were that young people cherish America's freedoms without understanding what it takes to preserve them; that today's youth are far less inclined to be politically involved than previous generations; and that personal happiness and professional success are far higher priorities than any interest in communal or public involvements that might benefit society as a whole.

2) A generation of Jews that found themselves powerless to prevent the tragedy that befell European Jewry at the hands of the Nazis succeeded, in the post-war era, in creating an informed, involved and politically sophisticated Jewish community. Their children, raised in relative social and economic comfort, sense little of the same need for political involvement as their parents did. There is reason to be concerned that the "best and brightest" of young American Jews will not be interested in succeeding to the stewardship of the American Jewish community. This observation is confirmed by the results of the National Jewish Population Study which showed an alarmingly low commitment on the part of the younger generation to the institutions that comprise the organized Jewish community. A community's vitality is dependent on its ability to replenish its leadership.

3) The major focus of Jewish education remains the rudiments of synagogue skills culminating in the ability to perform the bar/bat mitzvah ceremony. Very few students emerge with a sense that Judaism bears a heritage of values that can be meaningfully applied to the issues confronting people and society in the 20th century. In an age that increasingly wonders where we are going to find the moral compass to negotiate the dilemmas facing us, Judaism offers much wisdom that remains unexplored by the typical American Jew.

Panim el Panim is a unique program in that it seeks to instruct high school students about the political process and the Jewish involvement in that process. The program examines contemporary public policy issues against the backdrop of traditional Jewish texts and values. The topics studied include Israel, Imperiled Jewish communities, Economic Justice, Nuclear Arms, Interfaith Relations, Church-State Separation, Hunger and Homelessness, Refugees and Sanctuary, Social Justice and Equal Opportunity, Civil Liberties and Human Rights. Each seminar topic includes presentation of a spectrum of political opinion on the subject as well as consideration of study units published by the Institute. The units include Jewish texts, learning exercises, questions for discussion, suggestions for further reading and a listing of organizations that students can contact should they decide to pursue further involvement in the topic.

The Panim el Panim learning model makes a dramatic impact on students at the high school level at a time when students are making life decisions with regard to college and career. Such an intensive learning experience promises to have a major impact on the future pool of leadership talent for the Jewish community.

EVALUATION

The Panim el Panim: High School in Washington program is now entering its fifth program year. Over 70 communities have sent some 1,200 Jewish teens to Panim el Panim with the number growing steadily each year. Approximately 40 of these federation communities provide some form of subsidy to encourage participation. Both students and their accompanying staff have raved about the program. We expect that the program will continue to grow as more institutions realize the many programmatic possibilities that can follow participation in Panim el Panim. The Institute works in close collaboration with schools and communities in developing courses that better prepare students for Panim el Panim. In addition we make suggestions about hands-on experiences that can be provided upon the students' return home so as to channel the students' excitement into constructive and positive directions.

We recently surveyed our past student participants to determine the extent to which they increased their involvement as a result of their Panim el Panim experiences. Sixty-eight percent report they are getting involved or increasing their involvement in Jewish organizations. Most of them found that the program helped them focus on college or career plans - selecting schools with an active Jewish student body, looking for Judaic studies courses or electing to study politics and government. A third of the alumni are getting involved with public-service organizations or are organizing new groups. More than one-fourth are getting personal experience in politics either volunteering on campaigns or interning in offices of public officials. Over 20% of our alumni have begun to consistently write letters to public officials and to the press on issues as varied as Israel, endangered Jewish communities and environmental issues. They are training for leadership roles as American Jews.

BUDGET

The Institute's modest annual budget for FY 1993 is just under \$350,000. Of that, we project that approximately \$200,000 will be raised through tuition revenue. The remaining \$150,000 must be raised through foundation grants and private contributions. The Institute is registered with the IRS as 501C3 organization and contributions to it are tax deductible.

STAFF

The Institute is run by Dr. Sidney Schwarz, a rabbi and former director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. The Institute also has a full-time program director, an administrator and a development consultant. All speakers are professionals in government or lobbying groups who volunteer their time to meet with the participants.

CONCLUSION

American Jewry has prospered from the unparalleled opportunities available in American society. In turn, American Jews have made significant contributions to American society in all fields of endeavor, including the political system. In Washington, one can experience first hand the relationship between a politically active Jewish community and the corridors of power where policy decisions are made.

By giving Jewish high school students an exposure to the people who make these policy decisions, the Institute seeks to develop an appreciation for the American political system, the Jewish investment in public policy, and the participants' own ability to assume future leadership roles in America and in the Jewish community.