

CARAVAN

for DEMOCRACY

High School Edition

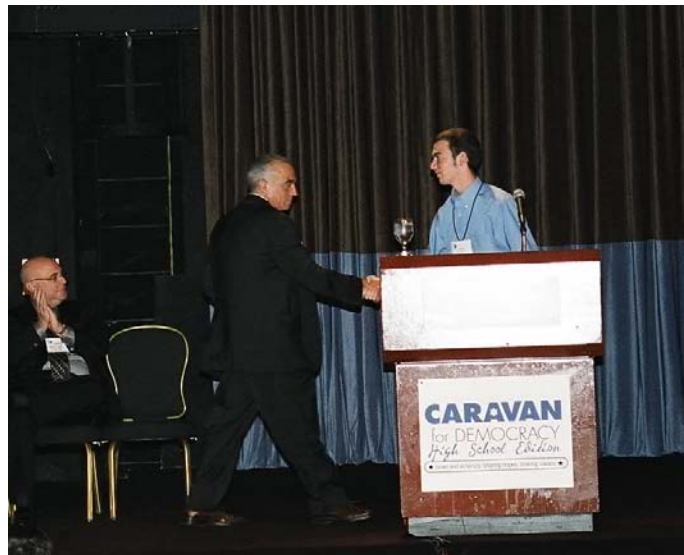
★ Israel and America: Sharing hopes. Sharing values. ★

Newsletter - Fall 2004

Hi, my name is Michelle Beller and I am the new coordinator of Caravan for Democracy High School Edition and the Israel Advocacy High School Coalition (IAHSC). The Caravan for Democracy HS program is an initiative of American Friends of Likud, in cooperation with the Jewish National Fund and Media Watch International. These organizations are just three of over 30 Jewish organizations which contribute to the IAHSC in the hopes of empowering Jewish teens with Israel advocacy skills. The goal of the Caravan program, and the IAHSC, is to prepare Jewish teens with concrete skills to battle the continually growing anti-Israel and anti-Semitic fervor raging on North American college campuses. In addition to the Caravan for Democracy program, the IAHSC is currently working on an interactive website for teens, and an educator's committee to make educational material relating to Israel advocacy more accessible.

Caravan for Democracy High School Edition is off to a strong start this year. We held our National Kick-Off event on Sunday, October 17 in Los Angeles, California. We had students from over 10 area high schools, as well as representatives from the different youth movements, join us. The program was highlighted with a keynote speech by Dr.

Ra'anan Gissin, spokesman to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. The students learned from him first hand about the importance of advocating for Israel and the challenges at hand. The day continued with various sessions of advocacy training and the premiere of a new film by CampusTruth.org on the realities of anti-Israel actions on campus, and how they can lead to anti-Semitism. All of the students that participated thoroughly enjoyed the program, and commented that they had no idea why Israel advocacy would be so important for them. Many stated that they were thankful to have had such an opportunity, and that they look forward to joining us again in the future. Two students have already begun their advocacy work and have written articles for the teen e-newsletter Israel Highway (www.IsraelHighWay.org) about the Caravan program.



With our national kick-off behind us, we are continuing on and doing more programs across the nation. On Thursday, November 11 we are bringing the Caravan to Philadelphia. We already have over 100 students registered for that event featuring author Mitchell Bard and David Gilbert, CBS Middle East news correspondent. On Tuesday, November 30, Minister Natan Sharansky

will join us as we head back to LA for our first follow-up program in that city. The first week in December is packed with possible events in Denver, CO with Arnon Pearlman and in Miami, FL with Minister of Education Limor Livnat. The 2004 year will come to a close with a Caravan program in New York City, a follow-up to our very successful pilot programs there last year.

The Caravan for Democracy High School program has gained attention across the country. In the few weeks since our program has been off the ground we have been receiving calls from Kansas City, KS to Boulder, CO to Houston, TX, and many other cities all requesting that we bring the Caravan for Democracy program to their school. We receive calls from parents, teachers, and youth workers, all wanting more information and looking to utilize our services, as we are the only national group organizing Israel advocacy programs for teenagers.

Thank you for all of your support of the Caravan for Democracy High School program. Your involvement has helped to make this program the great success that it is. It is a program which is vital to American Jewish teens today and vital to support of Israel tomorrow. We only look to see it continue to grow and flourish in the months and years ahead.

Best regards,

Ari Harow
Executive Director, Americans Friends of Likud

Michelle Beller
Coordinator, Caravan for Democracy