

CARAVAN

for DEMOCRACY
High School Edition

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

Winter 2004 Newsletter

Caravan for Democracy High School program has taken off in full force since its inaugural event this past October in Los Angeles. Following the success of our first event, our second program in Los Angeles was even greater. We had 325 high school students join us from four high schools area high schools throughout Los Angeles and



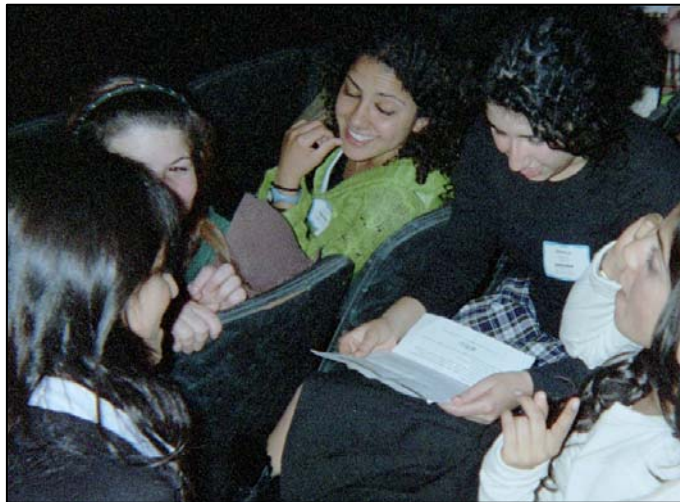
Orange County. Students were addressed by Minister Natan Sharansky who spoke about his experiences as a civil rights activist and related these experiences to Israel advocacy. Student had time to interact with Minister Sharansky through a question and answer period. Question topics ranged from the situation of Israel on American college campuses to Israel and the threat of Iran. Following a pizza lunch break students engaged in an Israel Advocacy training session with Anna Kolodner of The David Project. The David Project works to represent a fair and equal understanding of the Middle East and provides students with a new look at the history of the conflict. The highlight of their presentation was teaching students how to utilize their newly acquired knowledge and to respond to anti-Israel statements in the campus setting.

More events for the Los Angeles area are currently being planned. On January 23 we will be hosting an event with Stand With Us. Stand With Us is a well known organization in the LA area, most often recognized for their shocking pro-Israel marketing and strong advocacy skills trainings. In February Caravan High School Edition will be working with Young Judea to host a city-wide event as part of their new Israel leadership program for teens.

In November CFD-HSE kicked-off a new program series in Philadelphia, PA featuring Dr. Mitchell Bard as the keynote speaker. Dr. Bard spoke to students on the realities that Israel faces on the college campus each day and provided concrete facts and ways that students can rise to the occasion of becoming an effective Israel advocate. We were

also joined by David Gilbert, CBS News Middle East Correspondent, who spoke to the students about media bias towards Israel and his struggle to cover the conflict fairly both as a Jew and a journalist. Another program in Philadelphia is scheduled for Sunday, January 9 and will be hosted by Gratz Community Jewish High School. Sarri Singer of the One Family Fund will join us to speak about her experiences as a victim of terrorism and how that experience encouraged her further to advocate on behalf of Israel.

Arnon Perlman, former Chief Spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, brought the Caravan for Democracy program to Denver, CO on November 26. He spoke with 45 students and teachers from the Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy about the realities of the current situation in Israel and the implications of the choices the government is making. When asked about the program, Bryan Hay, Head of School, stated, "I am thankful... that this visit happened



in our school. Mr. Perlman is an extraordinary person who shared a valuable perspective on affairs in Israel. He made both an intellectual and visceral connection with our students and faculty. I heard students thank him for blending knowledge of and realism about Israel's situation and history with a fundamental humanity in his perspective that engenders an element of cautious optimism. The balance and power of his presentation will help many of our students to be better advocates and supporters of Israel in the years to come." Clearly the goal of the Caravan for Democracy high school program was accomplished. Since that event we have been in touch with the school to provide them materials and resources to teach their students Israel advocacy skills so that they can put their new knowledge to use.

As this semester comes to close we are busy planning for the months ahead. Already we have five program series planned for Baltimore, San Francisco, and Pittsburgh. We are also hoping to do programs in New Orleans and Kansas City. For more information about our past and future programs please visit our website at:

<http://www.thelikud.org> or www.CaravanforDemocracy.org