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PERSON TO PERSON

A Personalized Synagogue Social Action Project



A program developed at Temple Emanuel, Kensington, Maryland

Published by the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

INTRODUCTION

For years leaders of the Reform Movement have traveled across the country offering encouragement and advice to congregations trying to establish, or strengthen, social action programs. We urged Social Action Committees to set achievable goals, to involve individuals in specific tasks and to keep in mind the dramatic effects that even a few committed members can bring. Recently Temple Emanuel of Kensington, Maryland, under the direction of Rabbi Leon Adler, came up with the same approach but took it a step further and created a program that incorporated all of these ideas into a concrete process of implementation.

This guide is based largely on the Temple Emanuel program. We have published this pioneering work to give congregations a guide for developing personalized synagogue social action programming. The specific activities enclosed are but a small sample of the type of activities in which congregations may want to become involved. Hundreds of additional involvement opportunities can be found in the ACTION SUGGESTIONS section of the Commission's Social Action Manual (see order form on page 9). Therefore, **utilize the specific projects enclosed if you like, but more important, utilize the approach and process that make these projects successful.**

This guide demonstrates that social action is more than bold proclamations and big issues. It can also be personal and hands-on -- mitzvot in the modern manner. Rabbi Adler and his congregation demonstrate how individual Jews can make a difference in the lives of real people -- a dimension of social action which, together with striving for social change and improving the world, also is required for tikun olam.

Harris Gilbert
Chairman

Albert Vorspan
Director

Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people were involved in making this guide possible:

1. For the publication itself to be prepared--there were, among others, those who worked on text, prepared the graphics, did the typing, etc.
2. For developing the model around which this guide was created there are the Temple Emanuel Chairperson and Members of our Temple's Person-to-Person Committee.
3. For making possible all of what we do there is ultimately the devoted response of our members.

To all the above, mentioned and unmentioned -- for what they have done and for what they will do -- our heartfelt gratitude.

Rabbi Leon M. Adler
Temple Emanuel - Kensington, Maryland

THE IDEAL

There were two brothers who were farmers. One lived with his wife and children on one side of a hill, and the other, unmarried, lived in a small hut on the other side of the hill.

One year the brothers had an especially good harvest.

The married brother looked over his fields and thought to himself: "God has been so good to me. I have a wife and children, and more crops than I need. I am so much better off than my brother, who lives all alone. Tonight, while my brother sleeps, I will carry some of my sheaves to his field. When he finds them tomorrow he'll never suspect that they came from me."

On the other side of the hill, the unmarried brother looked at his harvest and thought to himself: "God has been kind to me. But I wish God had been as good to my brother. His needs are so much greater than mine. He must feed his wife and children, yet I have as much fruit and grain as he does. Tonight, while my brother and his family sleep, I will place some of my sheaves in his field. Tomorrow, when he finds them, he will never know that I have less and he has more."

So both brothers waited patiently until midnight. Then each loaded his grain on his shoulders and walked toward the top of the hill. Exactly at midnight, they met one another at the hilltop. Realizing that each had thought only of helping the other, they embraced and cried with joy.

And on that very hill the Temple in Jerusalem was built.

THE REAL



RATIONALE

Sometimes it seems as if people just don't care anymore, that Social Action is a thing of the past and that people today are more concerned with their personal lives than with "tikun olam" (helping the world). The beauty of this program is that it shows the opposite can be true, that people can still care and can get involved in efforts to make their community and the world a better place.

The differences between congregations today and those of ten or twenty years ago are that the modern temple member is more discerning, less likely to be motivated by cliches, wants to see results, is less likely to be motivated by guilt and more likely to be motivated by a sensible and clear cut plan of action. Therefore, today's synagogue Social Action programming must acknowledge and accept the following realities and adjust for them:

- 1) **Our congregants are busy -- but everyone has some time to give.** Our social action opportunities must be varied not only in topics, but in the level of individual involvement. We need to create specific opportunities for involvement in which our congregants can participate based on their schedules and their desire to become involved. We must not expect that they will want to, or be able to, be involved beyond the specific activity to which they agree.
- 2) **They must see a clear relationship between their involvement and an accomplished good -- no matter how small.** They must leave knowing what effect their action had and be satisfied with it.
- 3) **They should have personal contact with other people.** If it is impossible for them to have a personal contact with those they are serving, then they at least should come in contact with others involved in the same work.

It was around these principles that Temple Emanuel's Social Action program, described in this guide, was developed. It is not easy to begin this type of program, but once it starts, if nurtured and supported, it will certainly grow.

Our only advice is DO IT -- AND ONCE BEGUN -- DO NOT GIVE UP. It is all worth it. The concepts presented here are embodied in the talmudic teaching "one who saves a single soul, it is imputed to that person as if that person had saved an entire world." This program is testimony to the truth of that teaching. For those involved in this program, and for those whom they serve, there can be no exaggeration of the role it can play in their lives.

THE PROGRAM

There are two basic types of programs in which congregants can become involved: those created and run by the synagogue's social action committee and those which already exist and are run by community social service agencies.

Temple Emanuel's Person to Person Program is primarily a paradigm of the second approach. By focusing on finding volunteers for existing community programs the social action committee did not have to expend time and resources in creating and managing the programs themselves. Instead the committee was able to devote all of its time to an effective program of identifying volunteers and encouraging them to volunteer for the community programs.

Over 200 congregants participate in projects which are part of Temple Emanuel's Person to Person program. The community programs to which Temple Emanuel directs its volunteers are similar to programs that exist in most communities. They are:

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Zacchaeus Medical Clinic

This free medical clinic is located in downtown Washington, D.C. for people in desperate need. The Clinic provides free examinations and free medications within certain limits. It arranges x-ray and certain other diagnostic procedures with other city agencies.

The Temple has sent a pharmacist's aide, a trained laboratory technician, and a number of professionals who assist patients referred to them by the Clinic.

"After a prescription has been filled, I take it into the waiting room, call out a name and discuss the medication with the patient. When that person looks me in the eye and says, 'Thank you,' I know I have fulfilled one of the commandments of Judaism."



SOME (So Others May Eat)

SOME is an inner-city soup kitchen for the poor in Washington, D.C. Temple Emanuel was the first Jewish congregation to ally itself with Catholics and Protestants in providing this service. The people who come to SOME are usually alone; they often have friends in the line, but do not come with their families. Thin, quiet, humble in manner, they are primarily male and black, waiting for their meal.

Twice a year, at Christmas and Easter, Temple members go to the soup kitchen and take over the entire operation so the Christian volunteers can enjoy the holidays with their families knowing that SOME is in capable hands.



As one of the Temple's confirmands wrote, "Helping at an organization like SOME makes you thankful for what you have. Giving money to a needy cause is wonderful, but actually being able to give of yourself is an incredibly satisfying feeling. When you leave SOME you have a feeling of having done a great mitzvah."

Mobile Medical Care

Mobile Medical Care (Mobile Med) is a volunteer primary care service for low-income persons in affluent Montgomery County, MD. Mobile Med's staff of volunteer physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians and clinical aides care for 150 to 200 patients in six clinic sites on a weekly or bi-weekly schedule. These patients are seen for health assessment and health maintenance, as well as for treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.

There is the attractive, athletic teenager, who has been attending the clinic since she was a toddler for treatment of her allergies. An Ethiopian Jewish mother was pleased that her little daughter's respiratory infection was handled promptly and effectively. And a 34-year-old stroke victim comes to maintain control of his hypertension.



Soviet Jewry

Temple members are involved in a wide range of activities aimed at assisting Soviet Jews.

- a) Many Temple members are in regular correspondence with Refuseniks (Soviet Jews who have been refused permission to emigrate to Israel).
- b) Temple members regularly participate in a daily Soviet Jewry vigil held in front of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.
- c) The majority of Temple Emanuel's bar/bat mitzvahs are twinned with their peers in the Soviet Union. Information about interests, backgrounds, and families is exchanged by letter.

(excerpts from a letter written by a Soviet Jew involved in a Bat Mitzvah twinning program)

"Thank you for your warm letter. You know, it's very important for us to know we are not alone in the world...We congratulate you, all your family and especially Valerie on the wonderful day of her Bat Mitzvah. Our daughter Ekaterina is thirteen...We are very glad and thankful for your kind suggestion to share your Bat Mitzvah with you.

...You know about our situation and only God knows when we can embrace our relatives and friends...You know our life is not very joyful, but we try to make our children's lives calm and give them everything we can...We dream we can meet all our friends."

Visually Handicapped

Temple members work with Volunteers for the Visually Handicapped (VVH), a county-wide, non-profit, United Way-sponsored organization. Volunteers read books, newspapers, and work-related papers to the blind both at their homes or in their places of employment.

"As her eyes, I read through the paper with her, finding ads and coupons, reading and discussing articles of special interest and current news of local activities. We go through her mail, sorting out bills to be paid, letters to be answered, ads that we laugh at and toss out. We talk about her children - from whom I get a big hug and kiss when I arrive and leave."



Nursing Homes

Temple Emanuel serves elderly Jews in nursing homes by conducting religious services and friendly visits. Some volunteers conduct services the same Friday of each month; others lead a monthly service on an as-arranged basis. The prayer books are pamphlets made up from prayers from the old UAHC prayer books with typed transliterations, enlarged for easier reading.



The Hebrew Home

The Hebrew Home is probably the largest provider of geriatric care to the Jewish population of the Washington, D.C. area. Volunteers provide personal attention and friendship to lonely residents, many of whom, in their 80s and 90s, have outlived family and friends. Some volunteers feed residents who are unable to feed themselves, assist with doctors' visits, help with recreational programs, and run the soda shop. Others take the residents shopping or will shop for a resident who cannot go out.

An elderly resident at the Hebrew Home complained to the director: "I never get any volunteers; everyone else gets volunteers, but not me. Why? I want volunteers!" Upon checking the records, the director pointed out that, indeed, she had received a good deal of volunteer attention. When the woman heard this, she replied, "Those are not volunteers, they are my friends."

HOW TO DO IT

Launching the Program

- 1) This program can be effectively launched at any worship service or large gathering during the year. The Temple Emanuel program was launched at a High Holy Day service because at that time the pool of potential volunteers is greatest and it is a time when members are more receptive to the message of "I am my brother's keeper." However, even though the High Holy Days may be the easiest time to begin this program, the program's success will depend more on its continuity and ongoing support than on when and where it begins.
- 2) The sermon period should be used to describe the types of involvement opportunities available and how those that are served will benefit from the congregants' involvement.
- 3) As the congregants arrive in the synagogue they should receive a Personal Commitment Form (see sample on page 8) and a pencil with their prayer book. Immediately following the sermon the members of the congregation should be given an opportunity to choose a project and then sign and hand in the form at the conclusion of the service. Alternatively, for congregations which wish to provide members with more time to choose, or where there may be a problem writing, members can be asked to take the forms home and return them to the temple.
- 4) Within days after the members have committed themselves to a project they should receive a "thank you" and specific directions from the person in charge of that project as to next steps required to begin their involvement.

Developing A Pool Of Involvement Opportunities

- 5) The activities should be immediately attractive, at least to a proportion of the congregation. Experience has shown that working with the poor, the sick, the aged, the unemployed, the blind, the illiterate, among others, has had a good response. (In addition to the activities described on pages 2 and 3 of this guide, hundreds of action suggestions can be found in the Commission on Social Action's Social Action Manual -- see order form on page 9).
- 6) There should be a mix of opportunities to serve the needs of different constituencies -- Jewish and non-Jewish, within the congregation and without, local and national, etc.
- 7) There should also be a mix of the amount of time and commitment required to complete the activities. Options should include programs which can use volunteers on a one time basis, that is either from a few hours to a full day; and those which will require volunteers to commit to ongoing participation on a regular basis, that is weekly or monthly.

- 8) A recurring problem for social action committees is the erroneous belief that their activities must be novel to be effective. The opposite is true. Some of the programs which will bring your congregants the greatest satisfaction are those whose effectiveness have been refined through experience.
- 9) The agencies to which the congregation's volunteers are directed should be selected using the following criteria:
 - a) An agency, ideally, should be well-established with a "track record" or clear potential of effective use of volunteers in its programs.
 - b) In general, it is preferable (i.e. it is more rewarding for the volunteers) to use agencies which can involve volunteers in direct service work rather than office or administrative work.
 - c) The specific program chairperson or agency should be willing, and able, to brief all of the volunteers on the work and on how their involvement will help the work of the agency. They should also be willing to meet with volunteers after the completion of their work in order to answer questions, identify problem areas and make sure the volunteers leave with a clear sense of what they have achieved.

Implementation

- 10) There should be a chairperson and/or a committee to oversee the entire project. They should not be afraid to cut those activities which are not working and expand those that work well. They should always be on the lookout for new involvement opportunities.
- 11) There should be a chairperson who is responsible for each specific activity to help ensure that all those who volunteered will ultimately be doing what they volunteered for. This chairperson should be directly involved in the work of the volunteers as well.
- 12) The overall chairperson and the chairperson for each specific project must be both immediately and ultimately responsible for the Temple volunteers' successful integration into an agencies program. At no time should the agency be given sole or even primary responsibility.
13. There should be continuing reinforcement to ongoing participants and encouragement to potential participants. Publicity given to the program through the Temple bulletin, at Board meetings, annual meetings, reports, in addition to the Jewish and general press, can sustain and deepen the enthusiasm and awareness of the participants for the program during the course of the year. There should also be different forms of encouragement to the volunteers participating through recognition worship services, award certificates, published lists of participants and accomplishments, articles by participants in the bulletin, etc.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT FORM

"There are those who suffer very greatly and cannot tell what is in their hearts, and they go their way full of suffering. But if they meet someone whose face is bright with laughter, he can quicken them with gladness and it is no small thing to quicken a human being."

Hassidic saying

Select the program which you find personally meaningful. Check the appropriate space and return this form to the Temple office. A contact person will call you or send you the information you need. For additional information contact the Program coordinator: Jane Klubes, 942-0325.

Soviet Jewry Chairman: Jason Warran, 942-4644.

- ☐ Prisoner of Conscience (Jews in Soviet prisons for Jewish causes). Write a postcard or letter a month. Contact person: Bill Hess, 871-7629.
- ☐ Refusenik (Jewish family in Soviet Union denied right to leave). Inaugurate and maintain correspondence with a Refusenik. Contact person: Don Singer, 588-7847.
- ☐ Soviet youth's of Bar/Bat Mitzvah age. "Twin" with a Soviet Jewish youth during your own Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Contact person: Gail Zaslav, 762-8167.
- ☐ Vigil. Join other Temple Emanuel members across from the Soviet Embassy on the last Friday of each month at 12:15 P.M. Contact persons: Jason Warran, 942-4644, and Uri Schoenbach, 949-4031.

Hebrew Home Contact person: Dorothy Strelser, 460-4666.

- ☐ Work with residents in numerous activities. Volunteers of all ages needed.

Mobile Medical Care Contact person: George Cohen, 770-5842.

- ☐ Typists, office work (daytime hours).
- ☐ Nurses, social workers, physicians, laboratory technicians and other health workers (day or evening).

Senior Citizens Contact person: Helen Stone, 622-2764.

- ☐ Conduct a Sabbath Service on Friday (4:45 P.M.) in a nearby nursing home.
- ☐ Visit residents in a nursing home.
- ☐ Provide transportation to Temple services and other functions.

S.O.M.E. (So Others May Eat) Contact person: Sue Rudo, 897-8005.

- ☐ Volunteer to prepare a meal for 10 people twice a year.
- ☐ Volunteer to serve a holiday meal as part of a group.

Volunteers for Visually Handicapped Contact person: Helene Grant, 340-8082.

- ☐ Needed: readers in homes for tapes, transportation, friendly visitors, workers in the White Cane Shop.

Zacchaeus Medical Clinic Contact person: Lou Schwalb, 593-1134

- ☐ To work in lab or pharmacy.
- ☐ Physicians to take referrals from clinic at no charge to patients.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

SOCIAL ACTION MANUAL

Practical Guide to Programming the Synagogue

- CULTURE • RELIGIOUS RITUAL • ETHICAL BEHAVIOR
- HEBREW LANGUAGE • HEBREW CONCEPTS
- CHILDREN'S COEDUCATION • MULTIMEDIA
- ETHNICITY • JEWISH IDENTITY • CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS
- ENTREPRENEURIAL JEWRY • HANDBOOK FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

[illegible]

Most of the language in this manual refers to synagogue social action programming. In almost every case, however, the social action programs and techniques are equally applicable to community social action activities of CRC's, federations and local chapters of national Jewish agencies.

Over 300 sample programs described.

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10021

Please send me _____ copies of the manual, PROGRAMMING FOR SYNAGOGUE SOCIAL ACTION at \$12.00 per copy.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Congregation or Organization _____



אחדות
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באמריקה

Commission on Social Action
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10021

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 6, 1984

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

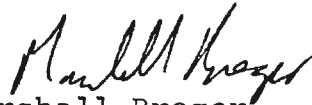
Thank you for your telegram of October 31 regarding the plight of Alexandr Kholmyansky, Yuli Edelstein and Yakov Levin.

As you know, President Reagan and Secretary Shultz share your deep concern about Soviet treatment of Jews wishing to emigrate from the Soviet Union. The issue of religious freedom in the Soviet Union, as well as the rights and welfare of those imprisoned for their religious activities, remain matters of fundamental concern to the United States Government. The Administration has repeatedly stressed that these abuses, such as the one you shared in your message, constitute a major negative factor in United States-Soviet relations.

Both the President and Secretary Shultz raised our human rights concerns with Foreign Minister Gromyko. The Soviets can have no misunderstanding of the importance we attach to these matters.

Thank you for sharing your concern with me.

Sincerely yours,



Marshall Breger
Special Assistant to the
President for Public Liaison

Rabbi Alexander Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 5th Avenue
New York, New York 10021

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DR MARSHALL BREGER
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20506

THREE JEWISH HEBREW TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY AUTHORITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGES INCLUDING POSSESSION OF DRUGS. A LINKAGE BETWEEN JUDAISM AND THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS HAS BEEN ALLEGED BY THE SOVIET MEDIA. PERSONAL RELIGIOUS OBJECTS HAVE BEEN BROKEN AND CONFISCATED BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES DURING "DRUG SEARCHES". WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD PROTEST TO SOVIET OFFICIALS AND ASK THAT CHARGES AGAINST ALEXANDR KHOLMYANSKY, YULI EDELSTEIN AND YAKOV LEVIN, ALL HEBREW TEACHERS BE DROPPED AND THAT THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES BE ALLOWED TO BE REUNITED WITH THEIR RELATIVES IN ISRAEL.

RABBI ALEXANDER M SCHINDLER

16:01 EST

MGMCMP

October 7, 1985

Dear Rabbi Schindler:

This is in follow-up to your earlier invitation for the President to address the 58th General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on December 1-4, 1985 in Los Angeles.

Again, we appreciate your extending this opportunity to the President. Unfortunately, I regret to write that in light of developments in his calendar for that time, we are unable to add this to his schedule. However, the President asked that I convey to you his very best wishes and sincere appreciation.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew
Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

FJR:JAJ:vm1f3
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cc: Marshall Breger - fyi

CHAI/IMPACT

A Service of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

2027 Massachusetts Ave. NW Washington DC 20036 (202) 387-2800



Chairman
Harris Gilbert

Directors
Albert Vorspan
Rabbi David Saperstein

October 18, 1985

re: Jordan

ARMS SALE TO JORDAN

Action Alert

On September 27, 1985, the Reagan Administration informed Congress of plans to sell sophisticated weapons to Jordan. The list of arms includes: advanced fighter aircraft, Improved Hawk air defense missiles, Stinger air defense missiles and Bradley M-3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicles. The administration is expected to formally notify Congress in the near future and will go into effect unless Congress passes legislation to defeat this sale within 30 days of such notification.

BACKGROUND

The Administration justifies the proposed arms sale, by suggesting that it will be viewed as a strong show of support for King Hussein's peace initiatives in the Middle East and is necessary for Jordan's self-defense against Syria and other belligerent Arab countries.

Unfortunately, King Hussein's efforts at working towards peace in the Middle East is difficult to identify. In August 1982, Hussein assured the Administration that he was nearing a decision to enter into negotiations with Israel. Since that time, he has placed several qualifying conditions on that assurance--including PLO participation in the negotiations. In September, 1985, Hussein told President Reagan that he favored an "international conference" in which the Soviet Union, as well as the PLO, would be a full party in the negotiating process. Both of these ideas have been repeatedly rejected by both Israel and the United States and are seen by many as delaying tactics, proof that Jordan is not sincere in its call for Arab-Israel peace.

In this context, the proposed arms sale might actually remove the incentive for Jordan to enter into negotiations with Israel. Congressional hopes that \$250 million in new economic aid granted to Jordan last June would stimulate Jordan's peace efforts have yet to be realized. By rewarding Jordan again, before King Hussein makes any definite commitments to direct negotiations, the United States would be supporting the ambiguous and procrastinating attitude which Hussein has displayed.

Jordan's critical need for new weapons is also difficult to understand in light of its numerous weapons purchases from France, Britain, Australia, Spain and the United States in recent years. Moreover, the major threat to Jordan's security is from terrorist attacks or a Syrian land assault. (Syria's air force capabilities are too inferior to wage an effective air attack.) The arms provided in the proposed air defense package would be ineffective in responding to such threats. However, the addition of these sophisticated weapons to Jordan's arsenal, particularly the aircraft, would mean an increased threat to Israel's security since Israel shares its longest border with Jordan and its towns are only an average of 5-10 minutes by air from Jordan's air bases. The result of this sale will be to weaken Israel's qualitative air force advantage (the cornerstone of its defense), force Israel to raise its level of defense spending in a search for effective counter-measures, and aggravate already unpredictable Jordan-Israel relations currently held in check only by Israel's margin of military superiority.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

Earlier this year, the non-binding Kennedy-Heinz "Sense of Congress Resolution" (S. Res. 177) calling on the President to refrain from an arms sale until Jordan enters into direct negotiation with Israel was passed by an overwhelming majority. A binding "Joint Resolution of Disapproval," initiated by Senators Edward Kennedy, John Heinz, Robert Kasten, Daniel Inouye, Alan Cranston and Rudy Boschwitz, will be introduced when formal notification of the sale is made by the administration. Language of the resolution is being circulated for signatures prior to formal notification as a means of deterring the sale. This resolution restricts President Reagan's ability to issue a letter of offer to Jordan of advanced weapons systems prior to the commencement of "direct bilateral negotiations between Jordan and Israel." The Resolution also states that if a letter of offer has already been issued, and accepted, before the Resolution is enacted, the President may not make any deliveries to Jordan without authorization by the Congress.

A similar Joint Resolution initiated by Representatives Dante Fascell, Larry Smith, Vin Weber, John McCain, William Gray and Mark Siljander is being circulated in the House.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 1. Contact your Senators and Representative and urge them to cosponsor the Joint Resolution disapproving the arms sale to Jordan. Particular attention should be paid to the House where strong opposition is not yet as evident as it is in the Senate.*
- 2. Write an editorial for your local newspapers and television stations emphasizing the urgency of this situation.*
- 3. Organize a delegation from your synagogue to meet with your Representatives when they are in town to encourage opposition to the proposed arms package.*

EMILY R. AND KIVIE KAPLAN BUILDING
2027 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
(202) 387-2800



religious action center

Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

Co-Director: ALBERT VORSPAN
Co-Director & Counsel:
RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN

October 23, 1985

Dear Mr. Green:

Enclosed are the manuals you requested. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me here at the Religious Action Center.

Sincerely,

Naomi

Naomi Fein



December 26, 1985

Max Green
Public Liaison Office
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

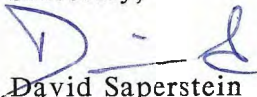
Dear Max,

It was good seeing you, albeit briefly, last week. We really ought to get together sometime soon for breakfast or lunch.


I'd like to put down in writing our brief conversation. I do hope that in the future, when there is something akin to an NSC briefing that all of the professional Jewish representatives ought to be invited -- at least those who have foreign policy as one of their formal concerns. This would include myself, Warren Eisenberg of B'nai B'rith and the National Council of Jewish Women representative. Arguably, Mark Talisman of the Council of Jewish Federation ought to be involved as well.

I look forward to having a chance to talk about this and other matters in the near future.

Sincerely,



David Saperstein


RABBI ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER
PRESIDENT

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
838 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 1986

Dear Representative:

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing 1.3 million Jews in the United States and Canada, strongly opposes U.S. aid to the contras at this time.

United States foreign policy in Central America should be based on two goals: the achievement of just and democratic societies and the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. Stable democracies can be achieved only by addressing the sources of instability, massive poverty, social injustice and illiteracy. Communism can best be contained by offering an alternative which promises real hope for equal opportunities, land reform, and political freedom - not by attempting militarily to contain it as was our policy in Vietnam. Regional stability can be achieved only through negotiations which involves all the parties in the region such as the Contadora process. One does not have to favor the Sandinistas to believe that U.S. interests are best served by negotiations and a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in the region. Military aid, which can only destabilize the situation, serves the interests neither of the United States nor of peace.

We are particularly concerned by the administration's politicization of the anti-semitism argument. While there are legitimate criticisms which can be levelled against the Sandinistas, the accusations of systemic anti-semitism and of the expulsion of the Jewish community have been repudiated by the media including the Washington Post and by the Department of State itself in a 1983 study. It is woefully inappropriate for the President to resurrect these discredited canards in an attempt to generate emotional support for his policies.

Last June, President Reagan promised the American people that he would resume negotiations with Nicaragua, if only Congress would vote for logistical aid. The President broke that promise; negotiations never took place. The logistical support failed in its purpose of bringing opposing sides to the negotiation table. Rather, it stiffened Sandinista opposition and provided the contras with the capacity to engage in activities which, at their best, were counterproductive and, at their worst, included crimes against innocent Nicaraguan civilians.

In this period of fiscal austerity when such questionable military expenditures abroad translates into a reduction in vital social services at home, Congress must oppose this needless military escapade. The UAHC urges you to join with your colleagues who view military adventurism as an affront to our quest for peace by voting against the continuation of aid to the contras as a stumbling block to a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in Central America.

Sincerely,



Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler
President
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

OVER



Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
ONE KALISA WAY, SUITE 108, PARAMUS, NJ 07652 (201) 599-0080

NEW JERSEY-WEST HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL

Rabbi Daniel H. Freeland
Regional Director

21 November 1986

Max Green
Associate Director Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Max,

I want to personally thank you for your participation in the "Sanctuary" workshop at our recent Biennial Convention. We could not have fairly held the discussion we did with out your presence. I know how much time and energy this particular appearance required and I'm all the more grateful to you knowing this.

Our Convention was successful due in no small part to your contribution. I hope that we can be of service to you at some time in the future. In the meantime you have our sincerest apopreciation.

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With best wishes


Rabbi Daniel Freeland
Regional Director

U A H C

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE -- January 1, 1988

*To identify legislation requiring immediate action look at the recommended action column for legislation marked "*** URGENT ***". For additional information contact the Religious Action Center, 2027 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 387-2800). Glossary of terms provided on last page.*

Issue & Bill No.	Description	RAC Position	Status	Comments	Recommended Action
SUPREME COURT					
KENNEDY CONFIRMATION VOTE	Confirmation of Supreme Court nomination of Judge Anthony Kennedy.	No position	A floor vote may come in late January.	Confirmation is very likely.	None at this time
ISRAEL					
FOREIGN AID S.1274 & H.R.3100	Authorization of all Foreign Aid including \$3 billion to Israel	Support	Passed House 286-122 on 12/10/87. No Senate action expected in near future.		None at this time
NUCLEAR ARMS					
DEPT. OF DEFENSE 1988 AUTHORIZATION	Includes provisions to limit S.D.I. ("Star Wars") funding to \$3.9 billion and to prohibit violations of the ABM treaty.	Support	Passed by both the Senate and House and signed into law on 12/4/87.	The House provision to limit nuclear explosion testing was eliminated in conference.	None at this time
INF TREATY RATIFICATION	To ratify the treaty between the US & USSR to reduce intermediate-range nuclear forces.	Support	Hearings are scheduled to begin on January 25th. A Senate floor vote is possible in March or April.	Ratification is very likely	None at this time
CENTRAL AMERICA					
SUSPEND SALVADORAN & NICARAGUAN DEPORTATION S.332 & H.R.618 (Deconcini/Moakley)	Suspends the deportation of Salvadorans and Nicaraguans while a study is conducted on the fate of those who have been deported.	Support	Passed in the House. Senate vote delayed until late January or early February due to agreement between Deconcini & Simpson.		** URGENT ** Contact Senators & urge their support.
FUNDING FOR CONTRAS	President Reagan expected to propose additional Contra funding.	Oppose	Funding request by President Reagan possible in late January.	Congress recently provided an additional \$8.1 million for the Contras.	None at this time

Issue and Bill No.	Description	RAC Position	Status	Comments	Recommended Action
SOUTH AFRICA					
COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS S.556 & HR.1580	Mandates complete disinvestment of all U.S. corporations from South Africa and Namibia within six months of passage.	Support	In committee in both the House and Senate. No action expected in near future.		Urge Senators & Representatives to co-sponsor.
CHURCH/STATE					
SILENT PRAYER SJR.37	Constitutional amendment in support of voluntary silent school prayer.	Oppose	Not moving. Probably will not even be voted on in committee.	The Supreme Court refused to hear the NJ "moment of silence" case.	None at this time
YARMULKE BILL S.248	The impact of the bill provides Jewish servicemen the right to wear a Yarmulke as part of their uniform.	Support	Become law when the Pres. signed the DOD Authorization bill on 12/4/87.		Celebrate passage!
CIVIL RIGHTS					
CIVIL RIGHTS RESTORATION ACT S.557 & HR.1214	Restores Civil Rights protections in accordance with the original intent of Congress before the Supreme Court <u>Grove City</u> decision.	Support	Senate floor vote not expected until 1988. House waiting for Senate action.	A 30 second television commercial by the UAHC and other religious groups is available on request.	None at this time
FAIR HOUSING S.558 & HR.1158	Strengthens the enforcement of housing anti-discrimination laws.	Support	Senate and House committee votes not expected until 1988.		None at this time
JAPANESE-AMERICAN REPARATIONS S.1009 & HR.442	Provides monetary reparations to surviving Japanese-American internees and establishes a fund to conduct educational activities about the internment.	Support	Passed in House 243-141 on 9/17/87. Passed by Senate committee on 8/4/87. Senate floor vote possible this month.	There are currently 73 cosponsors of the Senate bill.	** URGENT ** Contact Senators & urge their support.
WOMEN'S RIGHTS					
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT S.249 & HR.925	Guarantees 10 weeks of job security for workers needing to take work leave to care for a newborn, newly adopted or seriously ill child.	Support	Hearings underway in Senate committee. Passed by House committee on 11/17/87.	Only workers employed for at least one year in a company of over 50 employees qualify. Senate version does not include medical leave.	None at this time
PAY EQUITY S.552 & HR.387	Promotes equitable pay practices within the Federal civil service.	Support	Passed by Senate committee on 11/18/87.		None at this time
HATE CRIMES					
HATE CRIME STATISTICS ACT S.797 & HR.3193	Requires the Justice Department to collect data on crimes motivated by religious, ethnic or racial prejudice.	Support	Senate and House committee hearings are not expected in the near future.	The House bill also includes a sexual orientation provision.	None at this time

Issue and Bill No.	Description	RAC Position	Status	Comments	Recommended Action
ECONOMIC JUSTICE					
AID FOR THE HOMELESS HR.3058	Health and Human Services 1988 appropriation. Includes funding for primary health care and mental health services for the homeless.	Support	Passed House 336-89 on 8/5/87. Passed Senate 81-15 on 10/14/87. Currently in conference.	The Senators on the conference committee are Sens. Chiles, Byrd, Proxmire, Hollings, Burdick, Inouye, Harkin, Bumpers, Weicker, Hatfield, Stevens, Rudman, Spector, McClure & Domenici.	** URGENT ** Urge Senate conferees to support the House funding levels.
CATASTROPHIC HEALTH CARE S.1127 & HR.2470	Expands Medicare's coverage to include one year of hospital care, 80% of prescription drugs and 35 days of home health care.	Support	Passed House 302-127 on 7/22/87. Passed Senate 86-11 on 10/27/87. Differences are now being worked out in conference.		None at this time
HOME HEALTH CARE HR.3436	Provides quality home health care for the chronically and catastrophically ill.	Support	Passed House committee on 10/15/87. House floor vote expected in late January.		** URGENT ** Urge Peps. to support the bill.
LOW INCOME HOUSING S.825 & HR.4	Provides for new housing programs, prevents housing discrimination and protects tenants from displacement.	Support	Passed both the House and Senate and now awaits the President's signature.		None at this time
MINIMUM WAGE S.837 & HR.1834	Raises minimum wage from \$3.35 per hour to \$4.65 an hour by 1990.	Support	Hearings are continuing in both House and Senate committees. No committee votes expected in the near future.	The bill is stalled in committee.	None at this time
WELFARE REFORM S.1511 & HR.1720	Establishes a combination of work, child care, education and training programs. (S.1511 is weaker than HR.1720)	Oppose S.1511 in its current form.	Passed House 230-194 on 12/16/87 with a cost-reducing amendment included. Senate action possible in late January.	NJCRCAC supported HR.1720 and opposes the weaker provisions of S.1511.	** URGENT ** Urge Senators to support legislation similar to HR.1720.
ACT FOR BETTER CHILDCARE S.1885 & HR.3660	Provides \$2.5 billion for child care to be used to match state grants.	Support	Introduced in both the House and Senate on 11/19/87.		None at this time
CAMPAIGN FINANCE					
SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN ACT S.2 & HR.2717	Limits overall campaign spending, PAC contributions and personal contributions to finance elections.	Support	Seven cloture votes to break a filibuster failed. Senator Byrd has promised to bring it up again in 1988. House will wait for Senate action.		Urge Representatives to cosponsor the House bill.
VOTER REGISTRATION					
UNIVERSAL REGISTRATION ACT S 1888 & HR.3666	Establishes mail-in registration and election day registration for federal elections.	Support	Senate and House committee hearings are not expected until the spring.		None at this time