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Young Leadership Cabinet. 1969.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

Notes taken at a meeting on June 6, 1969 concerning the question of UJA's developing an expanded program among university students

Participants: Herb Garon
 Ben Zion Leuchter
 William Smulowitz
 Morey Myers

I. Purpose

To devise a program intended to discover, recruit and train a leadership group among Jewish students on American university campuses.

II. Objective

To utilize this leadership group for two purposes: long range, to provide community leadership 20 years hence; short range, to spread their influence among peers in order to enlarge leadership potential ranks.

III. Some suggested methods

1. Create a literature dealing with those specific subjects which currently agitate Jewish university youth and alienate them from Jewish organizations.

2. Since a commitment to Israel seems to be the key to Jewish commitment in general, expand the summer tours by every conceivable method:

a. Involve CJFWF and local communities in the granting of subsidies and scholarships.

b. Develop a national scholarship program approach to give status like the National Merit Scholarships.

c. Offer trips during the long vacations, both winter and spring.

3. Contact all other campus organizations to see what leadership potential they are developing.

4. Involve students themselves in the creation of this program by intensive consultation, including possibly subsidizing small group trip to Israel, in order to obtain suggestions from them regarding creation of entire program from the beginning, including literature, etc.

5. Develop retreats on feasible geographic basis.
6. Tie individual American student to individual Israel student (or team, or orchestra or institutions) based upon common denominator.
7. Seek to establish contact with all pied-pipers (Allen Ginsberg) who might have influence on students.
8. Open opportunities for student participation in establishment, ranging from participation in Young Leadership retreats to active membership in national and local Jewish organizations, including receiving invitations to National Conferences
9. Question remains open as to desirability of creating some sort of national student organization into which the recruited leaders achieve membership.
10. Create opportunities for students to manifest their leadership abilities in real (not make-work) situations, such as speaking to high school students.

IV. Specific functions to be performed

1. This leadership cadre can help to combat Arab propaganda on the campuses.
2. Speaking to confirmation classes and youth groups in synagogues to create favorable Israel attitude.
3. Work to build decent audiences for visiting Israeli lecturers

V. Procedures

1. Find out what everybody else has done. Get minutes of all meetings held by Hillel and CJFWF regarding program they have for students.
2. Work with Hillel and CJFWF calling together consultative body of selected students. Obtain nominations from usual sources. Also check with Sabin organization.
3. Organize carefully confrontation between selected list of students and selected list of senior lay leaders of UJA.

LAW OFFICES OF
GARON, BRENER, McNEELY & HART
1304 NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70112

Un 8,

HERBERT J. GARON
MILTON E. BRENER
JACKSON P. McNEELY
CAROL B. HART
TRUDY H. OPPENHEIM

AREA CODE 504
TELEPHONE: 524-1171

Friday
May
Thirty
Sixty-nine

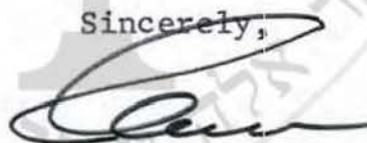
Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Executive Vice Chairman
United Jewish Appeal
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Herb:

I have asked each of the "thinkers" to be present at 10:00 o'clock A.M. instead of 11:00 o'clock as agreed as I have Yahrzeit for my father and must leave on a 2:55 flight.

The fifth name that I added to our group is Wally Wolf of Worcester, who may not be able to make the meeting but will be in New York the previous four days and will contact you for a briefing.

Sincerely,



Herbert J. Garon

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Thursday
May
Twenty-nine
Sixty-nine

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman
Executive Vice Chairman
United Jewish Appeal
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019

Dear Herb:

This will confirm that our meeting is scheduled at the office of the United Jewish Appeal on Friday morning, June 6th, at 11:00 o'clock A.M. I understand that our three committed attendees will be driving from their respective homes and that the appointed time is suitable to them. I am considering one or two other names and will attempt to pursue those for this meeting.

In order to be present for the 11:00 o'clock meeting I will leave on the evening before and would very much appreciate your having your secretary obtain a reservation for me at the Hilton and have confirmation sent to me.

Looking forward with great excitement to our new project and to being with you again, I am

Sincerely,



Herbert J. Garon

HJG/jk

cc: Mr. Ben Z. Leuchter
Mr. William J. Smulowitz
Mr. Morey M. Myers

Herb,

For your attention only, I want to thank you ever so much, not only for affording me the opportunity to attend the Conference on Human Needs, but for your very personal and warm feeling for my wishes in this connection. I would lie to you if I said I did not have great ambivalence. However, all things being considered, I think my judgment is correct if not wise.

Warmest best wishes and many thanks.

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LEE H. JAVITCH
VICE PRESIDENT

TELEPHONE
717-249-1424

May 2, 1967

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All National Chairmen
SUBJECT: UJA - Hillel Target Plan
FROM: Lee Javitch

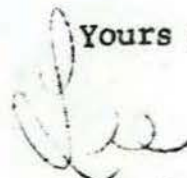
Attached you will find the Hillel report. I could have written volumes on this subject! It's a broad and challenging area. The targets have been kept to a minimum because I feel it is better to accomplish these well than to have a long list of unattainable goals.

I will appreciate any thoughts you have on this report. Please tell me what I've missed or any place you feel I'm off base. All criticism is welcome.

My committee will be firmed up by the end of this week and we'll be ready to meet at Onchiota.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Retreat.

Yours most cordially,



Lee Javitch

HILLEL COMMITTEE

YOUNG LEADERSHIP CABINET - UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN -

Lee H. Javitch, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

COMMITTEE MEMBERS -



PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE -

To develop a sense of relationship between the Jewish college student and the State of Israel, world Jewry, and the objectives of UJA as part of the student's training for future leadership in the Jewish community.

BACKGROUND -

In order to more fully appreciate the purpose of this committee, it is important to focus on the objectives of the Hillel program. The major aim of Hillel is to deepen the student's knowledge of his Jewish heritage, to strengthen his wish to identify with the Jewish people and the Jewish community, and to serve as the vehicle for the interpretation and representation of Judaism in the academic world.

Mordecai Kaplan said, "Next to Zionism, so far, the most potent influence for the perpetuation of Judaism is the Hillel program."

It is important to point out that UJA is only one facet of the Jewish tradition; however, the members of the Young Leadership Cabinet do have a great challenge and opportunity to contribute to the educational value of the Hillel program. By exposing themselves to the local Hillel director, the cabinet member can help to develop a local program which can add to the college student's sense of understanding and belonging integrally to the people of Israel.

The Jewish college student is a superb reservoir of manpower for the development of Jewish life and leadership. Unfortunately, too many Jewish students come to the campus ill-equipped intellectually on the facts of Jewish life and heritage. For the most part, their conceptual understanding of Judaism and their identification with Jewish values is a pediatric approach, at best. Nevertheless, this is the situation and we must fashion our tools to accomplish our purpose. The great need is to deepen the student's (and faculty's) consciousness as a Jew and to give him a sense of belonging to the Jewish community and a wish to make Judaism relevant to contemporary student life with a desire to participate in the community after graduation. The Hillel Foundation has a broad program to accomplish these aims - the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet members can be of assistance.

Many college students feel that UJA is for "rich people." Their interest lies with current cultural, intellectual and political questions. Many are more interested in CORE or SNCC than the problems of the State of Israel. Only education and exposure can begin to alter this attitude.

On the other hand, there are many campuses where there is a core of interested, active young Jewish students who have a definite concept of mutual responsibility to Jewish tradition. They have a moral and ethical commitment to Jewish values and recognize that Judaism has a unique message for the world. These students are in the minority, but leadership is always a matter of a hard core consisting of a few. It is upon the shoulders of this hard core that our efforts must begin.

A great deal depends upon the attitude of the local Hillel director with respect to UJA. For the most part, these men are rabbis. Each has his own priorities. None can be zealous in all areas. It is vitally important for cabinet members to establish a rapport with these directors to insure the UJA story being at those priorities. Hillel is not a command system. No matter how fruitful the relationship between the National UJA office and National Hillel office, the campus is where the action is! It is on the individual campus level that the day-to-day relationships must be developed. National Hillel has been most cooperative - but they can only recommend action, not insure it. The bright, alert cabinet member can add a dimension to the Hillel program, but it must be pointed out that this is a

layman-rabbi relationship and cabinet members must tread lightly and cautiously so as not to delve into areas of Hillel programming which is not his domain. A good rapport and relationship with the local director is therefore infinitely important.

Once the director recognizes that it is the cabinet members' sincere desire to help preserve Jewish identification and responsibility and that part of that responsibility is the fulfillment of our commitment overseas, then his cooperation will be enhanced. The director will recognize the possibility that the cabinet members may be able to help create a feeling of heritage and sense of kinship among the Jewish students. The cabinet member-director relationship has many complexities. Suffice it to say that the cabinet man doing the contact work must be of intellectual substance; having good common sense and by all means, he cannot parade as an authority in areas beyond his own individual scope.

PRESENT UJA HILLEL PROGRAMS - (MAJOR PROGRAMS)

1. The UJA Training Institute.

There have been three in N.Y.C.; one in Chicago; one in Pittsburgh; and one in San Francisco. The purpose of these institutes has been to train students for leadership on the campus and for their community and to expose them to the objectives of UJA.

2. UJA Campaigns on Campus.

The success varies from campus to campus. Each school has its own history and peculiarities. \$85,000 was raised in 1966. Fund raising on the campus has its limitations. What we really need at this level is involvement, not money.

3. Hillel - UJA Speakers Program.

An interchange between Israeli intellectuals and Jewish students on the college campus. This program is extremely well received and has excellent long-term educational potential advantages.

4. UJA University Study Mission.

This is an extension of the five-year old campus education program. The Mission is limited to 40 males from the entire country. As of April 20, 1967, 28 college men had been confirmed. This program has unlimited potential for the future and will play an important roll in the years to come.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR THIS COMMITTEE -

1. Help secure twelve additional college men to go on the University Study Mission.
2. Establish a map of the United States showing the major Hillel Foundations. Correlate these campuses with the residence of cabinet members. Assign the responsibility of these campuses to specific men who would be responsible for accomplishing the following objectives:

- a. Establish a good working relationship with the Hillel director. Remember - He is the key!
 - b. Help the director to generate interest among the students in UJA as part of the Hillel program. Establish a relationship with key students who have been in Israel or show an interest in UJA.
 - c. Establish a relationship with Jewish faculty members, wherever possible.
 - d. Maintain close contact with any members of the University Study Mission, after their return.
3. During the UJA-Hillel Speakers Program, the local cabinet member should be notified of the schedule. If the local cabinet member could accompany the speaker on the campus, the mere fact that the cabinet member would be identified by the students with the guest speaker would help improve the cabinet member-student relationship. This idea would be ruined if the student felt this was related to fund-raising. The purpose of this exercise would be identification only; but if used tactfully and discreetly, the idea could help build bridges for the future.

The college community is evolving and changing as never before. In order for us to realize the potential from this reservoir of potentially committed Jews, it will require self-evaluation, re-thinking methods and hard work!



Lee Javitch
UJA-Hillel Chairman

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING THIS PROGRAM:

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2.

3.

