

BERNARD AND AUDRE RAPOPORT

L'Taken

SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINARS

A Jewish Social Justice Program in Washington, D.C.



Get ready for a fun, meaningful and exciting trip to Washington, DC.

Throughout the weekend, we will give you the knowledge and tools to write an effective, persuasive and passionate speech on a topic of your choice to present when you visit the offices of your Senators and Representatives. Lobbying a Member of Congress is a unique experience that very few Americans take advantage of and one that can have a significant impact on the course of legislation: after meeting with our students, Members of Congress have chosen to co-sponsor, offer amendments to and vote for pieces of legislation that participants discussed. We expect to have similar stories to tell after you present your remarks this year. We're excited for you to join us in Washington where you'll discover your power to be an effective advocate and a Jewish voice for justice in the nation's capital. And, of course, we'll also make sure you have time to explore D.C. and to make new friends from across North America!

For more information about the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, visit www.rac.org.

FRIDAY

6:10 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat and Welcome

Together we welcome Shabbat and introduce ourselves and the L'Taken program.

6:30 PM

Shabbat Dinner

A festive dinner and get-to-know-you mixer for students.

7:45 PM

Shabbat Services

9:00 PM

Opening Economic Justice Program

This interactive program educates students about the challenges facing low-income Americans. It includes a simulation illustrating how federal poverty alleviation programs operate and an overview of Jewish texts and values that inform the Reform Movement's position on economic equality.

Chaperone Meeting

Chaperones gather for an overview of the weekend and important information for Saturday.

Returning Student Program

For students who have previously attended the L'Taken Seminar, a program that explores concepts of power, social justice and creating change.

10:50 PM

Free Time & Snacks

11:00 PM

Meet with your congregation/group

Debrief with your congregation/group to discuss the evening program and the next day's schedule.

11:30 PM

Lilah Tov – All students in their own rooms



SATURDAY

8:00 AM
Boker Tov

8:30 AM
Breakfast

9:00 AM
Shabbat Services

10:45 AM
Kesef, Koach, and Politika: A Lobbying Simulation (KKP)
Explore how money and power influence politics. Students are broken up into interest groups and work to win the votes of three "senators" on a proposed bill.

12:15 PM
Lunch

Early Afternoon
Visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and National Mall
Buses will first go to the MLK Jr. Memorial. Then, there will be drop-offs at the The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Museum of Natural History, and the National Air & Space Museum, all on the National Mall. Groups can spend the afternoon at the museum(s) of their choice.



Late Afternoon
Free Time & Dinner in Georgetown

6:45 PM
Havdallah Service at a National Monument *(weather permitting)*

8:30 PM
Elective Program 1

- Examples Include:**
- Voting Rights: Let My People Vote!
 - Gun Violence Prevention: Battling the Most Lethal Epidemic in the US
 - Immigration Reform: A Global Crisis
 - Reproductive Rights: The Meaning of "Choice"

9:30 PM
Chaperone Meeting
Review Sunday and Monday logistics, including transportation and the lobbying process.

9:45 PM
Free Time & Snack

10:30 PM
Meet with your congregation/group

11:00 PM
Lilah Tov –
All students in their own rooms

SUNDAY

8:00 AM
Boker Tov

8:30 AM
Breakfast

9:00 AM
Storytelling for Action

Ever heard an amazing story from an activist or at a protest? Stories communicate our values and inspire others. In this program, students will learn the art of social justice storytelling and use what they've learned to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and beyond.

10:00 AM
**Debrief & Check-in by Congregation/
Group**

10:45 AM
Elective Program 2

Examples Include:

- Mental Health: Ending the Stigma and Improving Services in Schools
- LGBTQ+ Rights: Beyond Marriage Equality; The Full Rainbow of LGBTQ+ Rights
- Antisemitism: Identifying & Combatting Prejudice
- Climate Justice: Confronting Extreme Weather

12:00 PM
Lunch

12:30 PM
Advocacy Prep – How to be an Effective Advocate

We'll learn about the legislative process through skit, song, and game show!

1:30 PM
Advocacy Prep – State Delegation Time

Visit Smithsonian Museums on National Mall

Buses will have drop-offs at the The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Museum of Natural History, and the National Air & Space Museum, all on the National Mall. Groups can spend the afternoon at the museum(s) of their choice.

Dinner at Westpost at National Landing – Arlington, VA

7:20 PM
Lobby Prep – Issue Briefings
Students will meet with RAC legislative staff to review important information to craft their remarks.

7:30 PM – 10:45 PM
Students write speeches & present to LAs
Students will write their lobby speeches and then review them with a member of RAC legislative staff. The RAC staff will have printers to print copies of the students' final remarks.

7:50 PM
Optional: Chaperone Meeting – Capitol Hill Review

10:45 PM
Lobby Prep Ends

11:15 PM
**Lilah Tov –
All students in their own rooms**

MONDAY

7:35 AM
Boker Tov

7:50 AM
Breakfast

10:00 AM – 1:45 PM
Meetings on Capitol Hill

2:00 PM
Where Do We Go From Here? – Wrap up
Students will gather on Capitol Hill to reflect on lobby day and discuss how to build on the experience once back home.

2:30 PM
L'hitraot!



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