

To: L'Taken Participants (& Their Families)
From: Religious Action Center Program Staff
RE: Schedule for the L'Taken Social Justice Seminar



Are you ready to change the world? Then, get excited for the Bernard and Audre Rapoport *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminar! In partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), you will have the opportunity to impact our political process as you share your views on social justice topics with decision-makers on Capitol Hill. Attached is a sample schedule for the *L'Taken* Seminar, which provides more details about the programming throughout the weekend and the different topics that we will explore together.

Our program is designed to both expose you to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues. **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 on the Monday of the program.** 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 speeches this year.

The trajectory of our programming goes from broad to narrow—first, exposing you to a range of topics and eventually encouraging you to focus on a single, specific issue about which you are particularly passionate. On Friday and Saturday, you will have the opportunity to **attend programs on a range of topics, including Israel, the environment, reproductive rights, LGBTQ civil rights, church/state separation, international relations and more!** On Sunday, with the support of your chaperones and the RAC Staff, you will pick a specific topic and **write a speech to deliver on Capitol Hill on Monday.**

Of course, we will also take advantage of the vast opportunities available in our nation's capital by visiting the **National Holocaust Memorial Museum** and the **Smithsonian National Mall** and celebrating ***Havdallah* at the Jefferson Memorial**. And, all the while, you will have the chance to meet and mingle with Reform Jews from across the United States, all of whom are in D.C. for the same reason that you are—to pursue *tikkun olam*.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C. and to visiting Capitol Hill to lobby, as a unified voice, on issues of importance to the Reform Movement. Together, we can fulfill the commandment of "*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof,*" "Justice, justice you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20).

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

L'Taken Social Justice Seminar

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

****SAMPLE SCHEDULE****

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Friday

- 6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat
- 6:30 PM Welcome and Introductions
Shabbat Dinner
- 7:45 PM Shabbat Services
- 9:00 PM The Hunger Games: An Economic Justice Program
- First Time Chaperones Meeting
- 10:00 PM Chaperones' Meeting
- 10:45 PM Shuk Program sign-up
- 11:00 PM Free Time & Snack
- 11:15 PM Meet with your congregation/group
- 11:30 PM *Lailah Tov* – All students in their own rooms



Our first opportunity to explore a social justice issue together! Hear from an individual who is currently experiencing or formerly experienced homelessness and in small groups learn about some existing federal poverty relief programs.

Sign up to learn about social justice issues that are particularly interesting to YOU! See the lists of *Shuk* programs below to explore some commonly offered topics.

Saturday

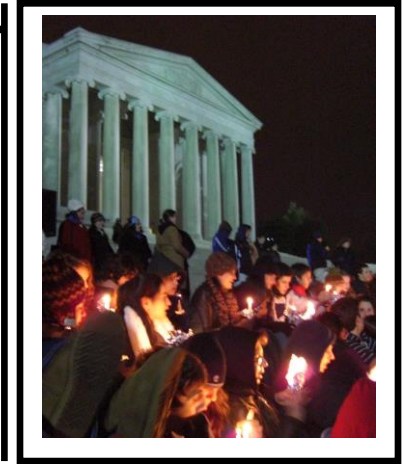
- 7:45 AM *Boker Tov*
- 8:15 AM Breakfast and
- 8:45 AM Shabbat Services
- 10:30 AM *Kesef, Koach, and Politika: A Lobbying Simulation*
Campaign Finance Reform



12:15 PM Lunch
1:15 PM Visit the National Holocaust Memorial Museum & Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

4:30 PM Free Time & Dinner in Georgetown

7:00 PM *Havdallah Service at the Jefferson Memorial*



8:30 PM **Program Shuk - Choose one program to attend**

Examples Include:

- Let My People Vote! Protecting our Civil Rights
- Reducing the Rollback of Reproductive Rights
- The Greenest Generation: Confronting the Challenges of Climate Change
- To Save a Life: Ethics of Embryonic Stem Cell Research
- Toward a More Just War on Terror: the Challenge of Torture and Indefinite Detention

9:30 PM Chaperones' Meeting

9:45 PM Free Time & Snack

10:30 PM *Meet with your congregation/group*



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

Sunday

7:45 AM *Boker Tov*

8:00 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM *Israel Programs*

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

10:45 AM **Program Shuk - Choose one program to attend**

Examples Include:

- A Nation Behind Bars: Mass Incarceration and the Criminal Justice System
- We're All in This Together: Disability Rights in Our World
- Immigration Nation: Working for Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- Beyond Marriage Equality: The Full Rainbow of LGBT Rights
- Bullet Points: Rifling Through America's Gun Violence Prevention Policy
- What's the Buzz? Ending the Spread of Malaria

In advance of the weekend, each congregation lets the RAC know in which of the four Israel programs their students wish to participate. Read a description of those program choices [here](#).

12:00 PM Lunch

12:45 PM *Lobby Prep – How to be an Effective Advocate*

- 1:45 PM Lobby Prep – State Delegation Time
- 2:30 PM Visit Smithsonian National Mall
- 5:30 PM Dinner in Pentagon Row - Arlington, VA
- 7:00 PM Lobby Prep – Time to Read Memos
- 7:30 PM Lobby Prep – Issue Briefings
- 8:00 PM Lobby Prep – Write speeches, review with RAC staff
- 10:45 PM Lobby Prep Ends
- 11:15 PM *Lailah Tov* – All students in their own rooms



Write a speech about an issue that YOU care about to deliver in the office of your Senators and/or Representative on Monday. Work with your chaperones and the RAC Staff to effectively and clearly convey your message and your passion.

Monday

- 7:45 AM *Boker Tov*
- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Final Lobbying Tips & Preparation
- 10:00 - 1:45 Meetings on Capitol Hill
- 2:00 PM *Where Do We Go From Here?* – Wrap up
- 2:30 PM *L'hitraot!*



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