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To live is to create -- To create means to build a dream.....

B'nai B'rith

biennial

report

1997

1998

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"To Bigotry No Sanction"

The George Washington Letter
to the
Hebrew Congregation in Newport

August 17, 1790

B'NAI B'RITH

"To Bigotry No Sanction"



B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

January 31, 2000

Mr. Ben Johnson
Assistant to the President
Director/ The President's Initiative for One America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ben:

Thank you for providing both Mark Meridy, Sam Kaplan and myself, the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Administration regarding Enlighten America™. We were most excited about the response and offer of support we received.

Per your request please find enclosed, an abbreviated summary of Enlighten America™. It is our desire to launch Enlighten America™ as a partnership program between The President's Initiative for One America and the Conference of Mayors. To that point we have included in the summarization of Enlighten America™, a request for specific support from the White House, including the endorsement of President Clinton for this project.

Ben, once again, thank you for your past and continued support.

Sincerely,

Rachelle A. Sweedler
Vice President - Marketing/ Corporate Development
B'nai B'rith International

ENLIGHTEN AMERICA™

Mission Statement

Americans know that freedom is not free – it depends on mutual respect and responsibility.

To reinforce the necessity of mutual respect and responsibility in a culture in which coarseness and even violence, particularly among youth, is too common, B'nai B'rith International has initiated the Enlighten America™ project. With it we provide a means to promote respect and responsibility through local programs aimed at America's young people.

Program Components:

➤ TEENS SPEAKING OUT ON HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION. (February 2000/begin work)

- ▶ *Petition Signing Campaign in communities across the nation.*
- ▶ *Press Conference on Capitol Hill where they present signatures to Congress*
- ▶ *Teens testifying before Congress at a hearing on Youth Violence. (date TBD)*

➤ ENLIGHTEN AMERICA™ – (September 2000)

- ▶ ***Symbolic turning on of Lights Against Hatred and Violence*** Held in Washington DC, 6-9 Target Market Cities, and local communities across the country. A major media campaign derived from corporate sponsor support will accompany this event.
- ▶ ***Symposium held for & with teens, on ways to combat hatred, bigotry and violence.*** (Washington, DC)

➤ ENLIGHTEN AMERICA™ ROAD SHOW (2001)

- ▶ Commencing in September 2000 and beyond, a road show will be developed to tour the country in a semi-tractor trailer supporting character education and various other means to combat hatred, bigotry and violence. This road show will include an on-stage program supporting character education and featuring dance, music, video and role-playing. This program will reach out to the youth of America through "lifestyle" media that will make an impact. It will also provide an opportunity to highlight the work of many diverse organizations that work against hatred, bigotry, and violence.

Support Requested from the office of the President:

- Endorsement letter from the President urging support of the Enlighten America program and requesting the recipient's support as well.
- Consultation from the U. S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service and the Department of Education in development of a national symposium on youth outreach programming in areas of character, respect, and responsibility education.
- An appearance by the President on Citizenship Day, Sunday September 17, 2000 in which he would launch the program across America by symbolically turning on the lights at the White House against hatred, violence, and bigotry.
- Permission to have the President host an underwritten reception for participating organizations and the major corporate sponsors.
- A co-promoting role commitment with mutually agreed upon responsibilities from the President's Initiative on One America.

Hate Crimes -- Possible Announcements

February 7, 2000

Executive Actions

1. **Improved Reporting of Hate Crimes by State and Local Law Enforcement.**

In 1998, there were 7,755 reported incidents of hate crimes -- down from 8,049 reported incidents in 1997. But these statistics almost certainly under-report hate crimes. There are two reasons for thinking this. First and most important, submission of hate crimes data to the FBI is voluntary, and many law enforcement agencies do not submit data at all or submit incomplete data. In addition, many victims of hate crimes fail to report the incidents because of fear, humiliation, or language difficulties. In conjunction with the Northeastern study (described below) or separately, the President could direct the Department of Justice to come up with a plan to work with state and local law enforcement to improve the reporting of hate crimes.

2. **New Study on Hate Crimes Trends.** The President could direct DOJ to perform a new study on hate crime trends. A similar study is included in Senator Hatch's legislation. DOJ could collect new data and use existing hate crimes data to identify any trends in the commission of hate crimes. The study could specifically look at (1) the geographic regions where hate crimes are committed; (2) the types of hate crimes committed, *i.e.*, based on race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, etc.; (3) and the number of hate crimes that are prosecuted and the number for which convictions are obtained. This study would go beyond DOJ's Hate Crimes Statistics book. DOJ is verifying with their research staff that a good study can be done.

3. **National Hate Crime Trend Analysis Center.** Modeled after the FBI's International Terrorist Trend Analysis Center, such a Center would analyze the current aggregation of hate crimes incidents and answer questions such as who is committing hate crimes; what happens to victims; and what the federal government can do.

Conferences

1. **Roundtable on Hate on the Internet.** The President could convene a roundtable to discuss how hate is disseminated on the Internet and how parents can get the tools to say "no" to hate on the Internet. We could work with Steve Case and AOL to come up with a way to disseminate tolerance messages more broadly over the Internet.

AOL also has a hate filter.

2. **Northeastern University, March 23-24.** DOJ and the Department of Education, along with The Center for the Study and Prevention of Hate Violence at the University of Southern Maine and Northeastern University, are hosting a conference at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts on March 23-24. This conference, "Combating Prejudice and Hate on Campus," will explore the prevalence of hate crimes on college

campuses and identify best practices. The audience will consist of approximately 350 deans of students and students from colleges across the country.

3. **Followup Conference or Roundtable to White House Conference on Hate Crimes.** The President could hold a conference or roundtable discussion with law enforcement, community groups, and the agencies to discuss what progress we have made since the White House Conference in November 1997. Despite the fact that there have been some regional hate crimes conferences, the groups, particularly the Anti-Defamation League, believe that it is important for the President to hold another conference. We could discuss what activities have taken place since the last conference.

see Blair Brill

Reports

1. **"Hate Crimes Prevention and Intervention: Innovative State and Local Justice Programs."** This is the first publication describing the success of hate crimes intervention programs that have been funded and supported by the Justice Department under this Administration. Currently, this publication is scheduled to be released at the "Combating Prejudice and Hate on Campus" conference on March 23-24. This publication will detail the objectives and results of five hate crimes prevention and intervention programs including programs in Los Angeles, California; Omaha, Nebraska; and the state of Maine. DOJ plans to release this publication to over 45,000 state, local, and tribal criminal justice policy makers and practitioners across the country.

2. **Hate Crime Reporting (ready in May).** The Department of Justice has commissioned a study by Northeastern University to analyze how law enforcement agencies report hate crimes. The study will also attempt to standardize law enforcement reporting practices to obtain better information about the frequency of hate crimes. It will also focus on barriers faced by local law enforcement in their reporting efforts. DOJ could likely use this study to create an action plan to improve reporting, and the action plan could be rolled out at the time the study is released. (This would then moot the need for the directive to improve hate crime reporting.)

3. **"Prosecutor's Resource Guide for Responding to Hate Crimes." (Ready April 2000)** This prosecutor's guide, produced by the National District Attorneys Association, will discuss topics such as case screening and investigation; case preparation; trial strategies; and prevention efforts. DOJ plans to distribute this guide to the approximately 3000 local prosecutors' offices in the United States.

Public-Private Partnerships and Media Campaigns

1. **New Media Campaign (ready April).** Five public service messages have been developed on behalf of the Hate Crimes Working Group in the District of Columbia. The ads depict recollections of actual instances of hate crimes. DOJ will fund their production for local display in the District of Columbia. DOJ also will distribute 150,000 posters (30,000 of each scenario) when the campaign is launched. DOJ will also provide

electronic disk copies of the advertisement material to local communities and law enforcement for use in their own anti-hate crime campaigns. These ads can be reproduced for any print medium from newsletters to television spots, but localities will have to come up with the money for the placements.

2. **Tolerance Materials for Schools.** Stephen Spielberg is developing tolerance materials for schools which use materials on the Holocaust. This could be a follow-up to the President's announcement on the public-private partnership that has developed a program for middle-school students to teach tolerance in the classroom and in their daily lives. The members of the partnership are AT&T, Court TV, the National Middle School Association, the Anti-Defamation League, and Cable in the Classroom, with assistance from the Departments of Justice and Education. Currently, Spielberg is scheduled to present this idea at the American Association of School Administrator's conference in San Francisco on March 3-6. Apparently Spielberg has not yet worked out a way to distribute these materials. We might be able to work with him and launch this as a follow-up to the curriculum that we worked on. Court TV is interested in helping.

Irene Bueno

01/24/2000 11:48:56 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas L. Freedman/OPD/EOP, Mary L. Smith/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: B'nai B'rith - Enlighten America

I meant to cc you on this - I'll drop off some info about this proposal. With the exception of this e-mail, I have not discussed yet with Eric. Please let me know what you think. Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP on 01/24/2000 11:49 AM -----

Irene Bueno

01/13/2000 09:18:39 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc: Anna Richter/OPD/EOP@EOP

bcc: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP, Records Management@EOP

Subject: Re: B'nai B'rith - Enlighten America

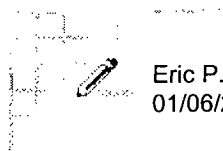
I attended this meeting and it was "enlightening" Actually, they are proposing something that is pretty interesting but similar to other programs (SHINE, National Campaign Against Youth Violence). Ben would like to submit a scheduling request and he would like DPC to cosponsor. I will send you some paper. Let me if you would like to discuss or I can raise it at the team leaders meeting on Monday.

Briefly, Enlighten America is an effort to teach the message of tolerance and equality particularly among youth. B'nai B'rith will serve as an umbrella organization for other organizations that have existing programs and will highlight those programs and develop and implement new programs which support character education as a means to combat bigotry, hatred and violence.

The Enlighten America plan has 3 components/stages:

- (1) **Teen speaking out on hate crimes legislation**- teens from around the country will get petitions signed and present them to Congress. This will occur in February.
- (2) **Enlighten America** - a symbolic turning on of lights against hatred and violence ceremony that would be held in Sept. and they are requesting that this be held at the WH and at 18 others sites across the country. Ben would like to submit a scheduling request for this event. This would be followed up with a symposium with teens on ways to fight hatred, bigotry and violence.
- (3) **Enlighten America Road Show** - will commence in September to support education and various other means to combat hate, bigotry and violence using dance, video, music.

Eric P. Liu



Eric P. Liu
01/06/2000 11:13:09 AM

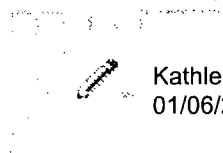
Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/OPD/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: B'nai B'rith - Enlighten America

----- Forwarded by Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP on 01/06/2000 11:12 AM -----



Kathleen K. Ahn
01/06/2000 11:07:24 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Eric P. Liu/OPD/EOP@EOP, Edward W. Correia/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Adrian E. Miller/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: B'nai B'rith - Enlighten America

hi there. Happy New Year. Ben wanted me to invite you to join us at a meeting we are hosting in the Roosevelt Room on 1/12 at 10:30 am with representatives from B'nai B'rith to discuss their program "Enlighten America". "Enlighten" will focus on young people and through grassroots involvement , coupled with high profile national events/road shows, will spread a message of tolerance and equality thought the country. For your information, I am forwarding a copy of the background packet . It would be really helpful to have DPC and the Counsel's office in the meeting with us. Please do not hesitate to call if there are any questions and please let me know if you are able to attend. Thank you! Kathleen 62578.

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: Py DATE: 9/18/2017
2017-1120-5

Confidential
(Draft form for discussion purposes)

Enlighten AmericaTM

Mission Statement

Americans know that freedom is not free – it depends on mutual respect and responsibility.

To reinforce the necessity of mutual respect and responsibility in a culture in which coarseness and even violence, particularly among youth, is too common, B'nai B'rith International has initiated our Enlighten America™ project.

With it we provide a means to promote respect and responsibility through local programs aimed at America's young people.

THE PROGRAM:

What is Enlighten America™

- To carry forward the message of tolerance and equality of our country's founders and strengthen the future of America and its youth, we will develop, implement, and highlight existing programs, which support character education as a means to combat bigotry, hatred and violence. The focus will be on teaching character education in homes, youth groups, places of worship, and schools. Implementation will be through B'nai B'rith members, our partner organizations, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, and other similar youth groups in major communities throughout the United States, to spearhead the involvement of youth groups across the country in promoting character education in their communities.
- Focusing on our country's founders' recognition of this citizenry's diverse origins and the rights of individuals to be different, we will refer to the George Washington Letter that declares ours to be a government that gives "to bigotry no sanction". The original letter, written by President George Washington in 1790, was presented to the Touro Synagogue in Rhode Island, and is on display in the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum.

ENLIGHTEN AMERICA_{TM}

Program Components:

I. TEENS SPEAKING OUT ON HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION. (February 2000/TBD)

- ◆ *Petition Signing Campaign in communities across the nation.*
- ◆ *Press Conference on Capitol Hill where they present signatures to Congress*
- ◆ *Teens testifying before Congress at a hearing on Youth Violence.*

II. ENLIGHTEN AMERICA_{TM} - September 2000

- ◆ ***Symbolic turning on of Lights Against Hatred and Violence***
Held in Washington DC, 6-9 Target Market Cities, and local communities across the country. A major media campaign derived from corporate sponsor support will accompany this event.
- ◆ ***Symposium held for & with teens, on ways to combat hatred, bigotry and violence. (Washington, DC)***

III. ENLIGHTEN AMERICA_{TM} ROAD SHOW

- ◆ Commencing in September 2000 and beyond, a road show will be developed to tour the country in a semi-tractor trailer supporting character education and various other means to combat hatred, bigotry and violence. This road show will include an on-stage program supporting character education and featuring dance, music, video and role-playing. This program will reach out to the youth of America through "lifestyle" media that will make an impact. It will also provide an opportunity to highlight the work of diverse organizations that work against hatred, bigotry, and violence.

I. TEENS SPEAKING OUT ON HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

➤ **Includes:**

- ◆ **Petition Signing Campaign in communities across the nation**
- ◆ **Press Conference on Capitol Hill where they present Signature to Congress**
- ◆ **Teens testifying before Congress at a hearing on Youth Violence.**

➤ **B'NAI B'RITH YOUTH ORGANIZATION**, forty thousand strong, will organize diverse youth groups across the country joining them as they gather teens' signatures on petitions to urge the passing of Hate Crimes Legislation both nationally and in their home states. These youth groups and/or their representatives will travel to Washington where they will present the signatures to Congress and testify at a public hearing about violence, bigotry and hatred in the schools.

➤ We would like to have a **member of Congress** sympathetic to the issue conduct a hearing with teenagers testifying about violence in schools. This would ideally be held in a hearing room in Congress and potentially covered by C-Span.

➤ **Necessary Support Materials:**

- ◆ Brochures
- ◆ Petitions with Enlighten America™ as header.
- ◆ Table Signs (as needed)
- ◆ Press Releases

II. ENLIGHTEN AMERICA™ – Sept '00

SYMBOLIC

TURNING ON OF LIGHTS AGAINST

HATRED & VIOLENCE

(Washington DC, 6-9 Target Market Cities, and local communities across the country)

- **Overview: Washington, DC / Cities across America** - A National Launch Event will be staged at either the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument or the White House announcing the development of a program entitled **Enlighten America™**. The lights of one of our Nations Monuments will be turned off and symbolically re-lit before Americans on network television. The evening's program will speak out against hatred, bigotry and violence by asking all Americans to turn their lights on for one night against hatred, bigotry and violence. This program allows for participation by all Americans ranging from corporations to government offices to individuals in their own homes. A major media campaign derived from corporate sponsor support will accompany this event.
- **Cities across America** will mirror the events of the evening in Washington, with their local politicians and celebrities participating in similar ceremonies. Satellite feeds will be generated, so that should they decide that they'd like to televise and recreate the event on a big screen at their own city hall, they may do so.
- **Six to Nine Major Target Markets** will be linked to the national event in their scope of on-sight activities, corporate sponsor activities, and local satellite feeds.
- **A Symposium** will be hosted in Washington DC on character education to launch the educational component that will be implemented across America. Youth groups, educators, and keynote speakers will be invited to attend.

DELIVER THE WORD

➤ “ICON AFFILIATION”

- ◆ In order to **make an impact among our youth** and the nation at large, we will **solicit the support of icons** from various “spotlight arenas” some of which may include: politics, sports, entertainment and education. These celebrities participating in the program will be asked to serve as role models and support the program by appearing in Public Service Announcements supporting the program.

Some of those names that have been recommended to date include: Senator Lieberman, Senator Feinstein, Denzel Washington, Jennifer Lopez, Mark McGwire, Will Smith, Steven Spielberg, Maya Angelou, Jimmy Smits, Sammy Sosa, and Oprah Winfrey.

- ◆ **National Co-Chairs** are currently under review. Some names that have been recommended include Steven Spielberg along with either Jessie Jackson or Oprah Winfrey.

GRASS ROOTS PRE-PROMOTION OF THE SEPTEMBER EVENT:

➤ Signing Tables:

(Provides awareness, traffic generation, bounce-back coupon & sampling opportunities.)

Prior to the September event, B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization members along with our partner organizations will **staff signing tables in front of strategically chosen locations.** (i.e.; primary signing will take place as necessary at corporate sponsor locations, thereby providing "traffic generation" and couponing opportunities.) People will be asked to commit to turning their lights on against hate. Members will **distribute information** regarding both the national event and the local event in their community. Those who sign up will receive manufacturer's coupons for light bulbs, batteries, etc., in addition to any other corporate sponsor samplings/coupons deemed appropriate.

➤ Direct Mail:

(Coupons may be included and a self-addressed mailer attached for those who want to contribute or be kept informed of upcoming programs)

We will secure mailing lists and send a reminder direct mail piece to those who have enlisted to turn their lights off and tune in to the local event. Everyone can make a difference.

EVENING LAUNCH PROGRAM

Enlighten America TM

A. National Launch/ WASHINGTON DC

♦ A Press Conference

The evening launch program may include the following:

- ♦ **A reading of a portion of the George Washington Letter** highlighting Washington's directive "To Bigotry No Sanction". Our intent is to have someone with the stature of Ozzie Davis or James Earl Jones to read the letter.
- ♦ There will be a **ceremonial lighting** of the Washington Monument, Capitol or White House by President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Majority Leader, or the Senate Minority Leader.
- ♦ **Dignitaries** will speak in support of the program. Representatives of our youth groups will also speak.
- ♦ **A Choir** will be asked to perform.
- ♦ **A Laser Light Show to music may be staged.** (We would seek a major radio/music cable network as underwriter)
- ♦ **A reception** will be held inside the Capitol for all program national chairs, dignitaries and corporate sponsors.

B. THE SIMULTANEOUS LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENING PROGRAM

- ◆ Simultaneously across the country with an intensified focus in **six major target markets**, mayors, B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization members, representatives of many ethnic, religious, and human rights organizations, and other youth groups will engage in a **ceremonial “turn on the lights” show to symbolize locally their support of the premise of the Washington Letter, “To bigotry no sanction”**. At their local events they will present opportunities for adults and youth alike in the community to “sign up” to participate in task forces to develop community activities supporting character education to combat hatred, bigotry and violence.

C. THE SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM (Washington DC)

Draft Outline

Enlighten America™

“TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION”

Conference Agenda

This one-day conference will be held in Washington, DC.

- ♦ **Audience:** High School Children from a local Washington DC public school, the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, B’nai B’rith members, representatives of the many ethnic, religious and human rights organizations engaged in the fight against hate (everything from the Southern Poverty Law Center to the African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American to the Gay and Lesbian groups, and members of the B’nai B’rith Youth Organizations, and Officials from: the U.S. Department of Education; the Maryland Department of Education; the National Education Association.

Part I: Welcome Richard D. Heideman, International President of B’nai B’rith

1. Overview of the conference and Enlighten America™ Program.
2. A reading from the George Washington letter to Touro Synagogue.

Part II: Keynote Speaker: (Possible Speakers)

- Jesse Jackson
- Oprah Winfrey
- Steven Spielberg

Part III: “Changing the Culture of Hate”

(Possible Speakers)

- Senator Joseph Lieberman
- Senator Diane Feinstein
- Marian Wright-Edelman
- Congressman John Lewis

Part IV: “Victims and Victimizers”

The Families of Victims and Reformed Victimizers

- Two or three representatives of families of hate victims to speak about their ordeal and the need to change the culture of hate
- One articulate, former neo-nazi or Klan member speaking about his conversion and how to change the culture of hate (Morris Dees’ Southern Poverty Law Center recommends ex-Aryan Nation member Floyd Cochran, who knew the man who fired on the Los Angeles Jewish Community Center.)

Part V: The Role of the Schools in Changing the Culture of Hate (Possible Speakers)

- Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend
- Esther S. Schaeffer, Executive Director,
- The Character Education Partnership
- Three carefully selected students who can discuss the issue from the teenage perspective and are the product of character education. They will describe how it affected or changed their lives (drawn from what the Character Education Partnership calls “success stories”)

Part VI: Final Session

(Possible Speakers)

- Thomas Lickona, Director, Center for the 4th and 5th RS (Respect and Responsibility) and author of the “textbook” on character education **or**
- Dr. Kevin Ryan, Director for the Advancement of Ethics and Character, Boston University

III. The Enlighten America™

“ROAD SHOW”

- **Develop a Road Show** - In the year 2000 and beyond, a road show will be developed to tour the country in a semi-tractor trailer supporting character education. This road show will include an on-stage program featuring, dance, music, video and role playing, supporting character education. This program will reach out to the youth of America through “lifestyle” media that will make an impact.
- **Obtain Corporate Sponsors** - This program is dependent on obtaining corporate sponsors. The Semi-tractor trailer will host the show, while distributing CD’s, magazines, and other support materials with the underlying theme being character education. (“The right/wrong way to handle conflict resolution, integrity, responsibility... all dealing with issues kids face today and how they can make a difference and deal with it.)
- **Enlighten America Accessories – hats, T-shirts**, etc. will be developed. **CD’s and Music videos** may be underwritten by a major retailer and sold in their stores with a portion of the proceeds being donated to the **Enlighten America™ Program**.
- **Road Show Highlights** - The road show may include an interactive area, sponsor displays, and an awards program, in which youth in the community who have supported program efforts, or “made a difference” would be highlighted and presented with a scholarship and award.

Enlighten America™ Timeline

September 1999

“Enlighten America” was developed by BBI staff in response to President Heideman’s request to see a program created B'nai B'rith, which would address the senseless acts of violence, hatred, and bigotry across America. The working committee of staff members included:

Center for Public Policy	Mark Meridy George Spectre
Marketing/Corporate Development	Shelly Sweedler
Programming	Rhonda Love
Communications	Harvey Berk Eric Roseman
Event Planning	Lisa Clearfield

Having gone through several development phases, the project emerged in outline form, and was presented as a recommendation to the Volunteer Steering Committee appointed by Richard Heideman. The committee is comprised of the following chairs of B'nai B'rith committees and program centers:

Seymour Reich	Chairman Task Force on Hate & Violence
Mark Gilgus	Center for Public Policy Chair
Frieda Stangler	Communications/Marketing Chair
Joel Kaplan	Program Implementation Chair

October 1999

October 6	Conference call between the Volunteer Steering Committee and staff.
October 6-9	Outreach to BBYO – Godol, Nisiah and Shaliachs, and Al Freedman, BBYO professional staff. Program reviewed to take back and present to BBYO.
October 17	Present concepts to regional presidents.

November 1999

Introduce Enlighten America™ to the B'nai B'rith family as a project of BBI and BBYO, as soon as all trademarks and time lines are in place.

Regions to select Enlighten Liaison Chair. The appointment of this position is crucial in order to bridge the administration changes for both regions and BBYO.

CPP focus on Legislative Issues:

- ❑ Hate/Bias Crime Bill presented to regions and BBYO via fact sheet.
- ❑ Creation of petition campaign to begin in regions, seeking support for the passing of Hate Crime Legislation.
- ❑ Table Days and Signature outreach programs scheduled in malls and other public spaces in the months ahead to support the petition campaign and gain visibility for the program.
- ❑ Templates will be provided to assist in flyer preparation, letter writing, outreach, etc. Materials will be created by respective departments and distributed to the regions in a complete and concise package via the selected region and BBYO liaisons.

December 1999 through April 2000

Ongoing activities in the regions:

- ❑ Steering committees are formed. These steering committees will develop plans to form a working group with local affiliates of the coalition partners to begin planning the September event. These working groups once formed will participate locally in events such as the petition signing campaign.

Continuance of Petition Campaign:

Upon completion petitions will be forwarded to DC and presented in conjunction with a press conference and congressional hearing.

The George Washington Letter Essay/Art Contest:

This competition may be implemented in the local regions. BBI will provide templates and "how to" kits on all programming opportunities associated with this project. Prizes will be offered and the winners of the regional contests will be displayed in Washington on the weekend of Enlighten America™ in Washington, DC. Community steering committees should be involved in the judging process, open to all schools & youth groups.

Steering committees continue to meet to plan the September event.

They may also begin to work on the following tasks:

- ❑ Recruiting in the general community for the Task Force we seek to build in September at Enlighten America.
- ❑ Review Character Education materials and host speakers on issues of culture, youth violence, etc.
- ❑ Secure site and details of actual September event. A separate checklist will be compiled for target cities and regions.
- ❑ Corporate sponsors will be pursued by Marketing/Corporate Development to fund this program. Information will be forwarded to the regions re: local sponsorship opportunities so a coordinated effort may be maintained, insuring the event's success, maximum and efficient outreach, as well as fulfillment of National Corporate sponsor obligations.

June – August 2000

Outreach to summer camps where possible so that we can get them involved. We will research the best outreach plan.

Present awards for essays and art to students at their graduation ceremonies. (We will seek listing in the graduation programs.)

Web site outreach, as well as calls to a central number to sign up for Enlighten, will be developed.

Sign up at the convention for anyone who hasn't been reached – outside speaker or promotion by B'nai B'rith leadership.

September 2000

Launch Enlighten America in DC, target cities, and regions.

All programs held in individual communities must be sanctioned and hosted by B'nai B'rith and BBYO.

Benefits

The opportunity for ongoing activities in the regions will allow us continuous visibility as leaders in the community, a platform for “new member” recruitment and activation, and a continuous means for promotion of the upcoming Enlighten America™ program.

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*"We had been liberated from death and the fear of death,
but not from the fear of life."*

—Dr. Hadassah Bimko Rosensaft,
Survivor and Head of the
Health Department of the
Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp



An exhibition organized by the World Federation
of Bergen-Belsen Associations in conjunction
with the United States Holocaust Memorial
Museum exhibition and conference, *Life
Reborn: Jewish Displaced Persons 1945-1951*.
Rebirth After Liberation has been made
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B'nai B'rith Klutznick
National Jewish Museum

Josef Rosensaft addressing a demonstration

Rebirth After Liberation: *The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp, 1945-1950*

January 14, 2000 through September 11, 2000
Open Sunday–Thursday 10:00 am–5:00 pm
Fridays in Winter, 10:00 am–3:30 pm
(for location and group tours, call 202-857-6583)

Rebirth After Liberation:
The Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp,
1945-1950

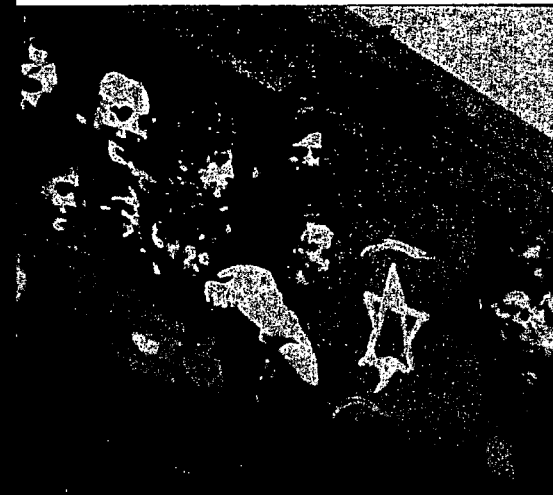


B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum
1640 Rhode Island Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

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רבינו חיים - אורי שניאורסון

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Kindergarten class, 1948

Although the Germans established Bergen-Belsen during the latter stages of World War II as a camp for civilian internees, the infamous site soon advanced into a full-fledged concentration camp. Located near Hanover, Germany, its inmates suffered unspeakable horrors — enduring dehumanizing extremes of deprivation, brutality, and starvation. They were exposed to every terror, saving only the dread of the gas chamber. From November 1944, Bergen-Belsen's numbers swelled, as retreating Germans, in an effort to erase all crimes against Jews, destroyed concentration camps in the East and forced the evacuation of already emaciated inmates. Tens of thousands of men, women, and children reached Bergen-Belsen after months of death marches. By March 1945 Bergen-Belsen harbored 41,000 persons with over 20,000 yet to come until the war ended.

With liberation in April 1945, survivors confronted a second, unrestrained wave of catastrophe. During the first month of freedom, 500 persons died daily — the unchecked result of starvation, typhus, and deprivation. In the midst of epidemic, however, survivors began to take steps at restoring life. Under the aegis of the Jewish Committee, the task of caring for the spiritual and political needs of those left began: the search for relatives, spiritual rehabilitation, and the quest for political rights.

Over the next five years Belsen became the symbol of the indomitable spirit of Jews and the setting of a remarkable resurgence of Jewish life.



A New Year's card, 1948

Belsen evolved into a haven for physical and spiritual reawakening of the "Sh'erit ha-Pletah" — the surviving remnant. Despite devastating suffering and loss, uprooted survivors had emerged from death with a limitless determination to rebuild their lives. Nearly 2,000 children were born to parents who had begun to piece their shattered lives together. Schools, theaters, exhibitions, and publications proliferated.

Perhaps more than any other displaced persons camp in Europe, Belsen came to epitomize not only the rebirth of the stateless Jews, but also their political resolve. Belsen evolved as the largest DP camp in Germany and the only camp exclusively Jewish in the British zone. With uncanny determination, the Belsen Jewish Committee challenged a host of British policies to alter the destiny of DPs. They warded off repeated British attempts at forced repatriation, resisted the eradication of the name of the infamous camp, and persevered to live exclusively free of their former persecutors. Above all, leaders fought head-on against British policy limiting immigration to Palestine. They were undeterred, sending Jews — legally or illegally — to the Land of Israel, then under British rule.

Belsen steadily rebounded to become the seat of Jewish self-determination. The Jewish military organization (*Haganah*), based in Palestine, operated a clandestine training center, using confiscated weapons from an undetected S.S. arsenal. When the famous "Exodus" ship, filled with hundreds of Holocaust survivors, was intercepted by the British and forcibly returned to Germany in September 1947, its passengers were disembarked not far from Belsen.

For five years, step by measured step, political, cultural, religious, educational and social activities emerged to restore what had been destroyed. The Belsen Displaced Persons Camp closed in September 1950. Most DPs immigrated to Israel, the United States, and Canada.

Emerging from Death

"One knew that 500 a day were dying and that 500 a day were going to go on dying before anything we could do would have the slightest effect."

— Lieutenant-Colonel M.W. Gonin
of 11 Light Field Ambulance

Medical Care

"The rehabilitation of the survivors has always been a source of wonder I shall never forget how many of them in those days of liberation, despite their own condition, continued to help our efforts to salvage lives and to ease the suffering of their fellow creatures. They deserve the everlasting gratitude of all mankind."

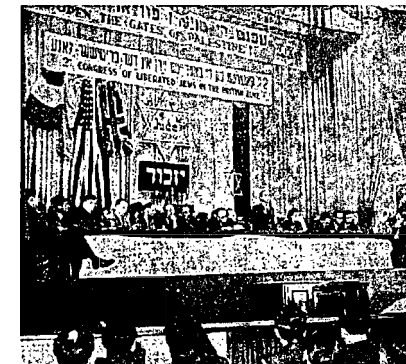
— Brigadier H.L. Glyn Hughes

Self-Government

"Our feelings, unfortunately, were at variance with the political climate in 1945, and the plans and calculations of those who held our fate in their hands."

There were political factors in Germany that attempted to deny the Jewish character of the problems that confronted the world as a result of the Hitler catastrophe. They sought by all means at their command to loosen the strong grip that Jewish pain and suffering and the tragic Jewish situation had on world conscience."

— Josef Rosensaft, Chairman,
Central Committee of the
Liberated Jews in the British
Zone of Germany



Congress of Liberated Jews convened under banners calling for "Remembrance" and the opening of the doors for emigration

Overseas Assistance

"(Dr. Earl G.) Harrison looked at us and chain-smoked as tears streamed down his face. He was so shaken, he could not speak. Finally, he whispered weakly: But how did you survive, and where do you take your strength from now?"

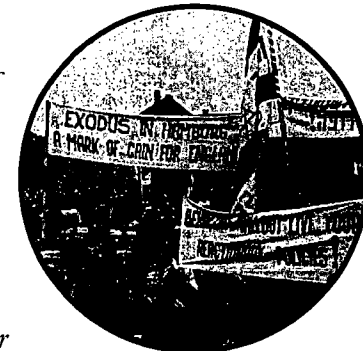
— Paul Trepman,
co-editor of *Unzer Sbtimme*

Political Rights

"The memory of my visit to Bergen-Belsen will live in my heart until my last moment We were at that time engaged in a hard and bitter struggle, almost a desperate struggle, The faith I

found among the survivors of Bergen-Belsen ... strengthened the spirit of our fighters in the Homeland."

— Remarks by David Ben-Gurion,
then Chairman of the Jewish Agency,
of his visit to Belsen, November 1945



Demonstration on behalf of the passengers of the ship "Exodus"



Elementary class at Bergen-Belsen DP camp

Rebirth After Liberation