



Plan for Discussion Group-ARZA's Yitzhak Rabin Program

"Ani Ve'Ata Neshane Et Ha'Olam"-You and I will Change the World

Objective

Immediately after the assassination of the late P.M. Yitzhak Rabin, the feelings of 'togetherness' and joint mourning were overwhelming. The astonishment, confusion and shock appeared to be felt by all. These feelings were soon followed by a sense of expectation; expectation for reflection, for reexamination, for change, for some sort of **Tikun Olam**. Our goal is to ask, is this phenomenon is common amongst young people at times of crisis? Are there ways to maintain such willingness to make the world a better place?

Materials

1. The words of the song – Ani VeAta/Arik Einstein (appendix A)
2. Abstracts from letters of young Israelis 7 years after the murder (appendix B)
3. The words of the song – Father and Son/Cat Stevens (appendix C)
4. Pencils/pens

Time Frame

45 Minutes

The Program

Getting Started (10 minutes)

- The facilitator will present a question to the participants, and ask them to share their story:
Try to remember one or two significant social action activities that you lately participated in?
- How did you feel?
 - What was the response of your friends and family?
 - Did you feel you can change the world?
 - Do you think that your generation's social action is different than your parents? In what ways?

Presenting the Subject and letters (20 minutes)

Immediately after the assassination of the late P.M. Yitzhak Rabin the feelings of 'togetherness' and joint mourning were overwhelming. The astonishment, confusion and shock appeared to be felt by all. These feelings were soon followed by a sense of expectation; expectation for reflection, for reexamination, for change, for some sort of **Tikun Olam**.

Especially overwhelming was the response of the Israeli youth. The eyes of the Israeli society turned to these young people who lighted numerous candles at the Rabin square, who stood at junctions and rallied for peace. These young people felt great need to express and advocate their own Tikun olam and it was genuinely felt that perhaps change will stem from the Israeli youth.

All of the above was exemplified in the numerous letters young children and teenagers wrote following the assassination; letters that were mailed, mostly to the Rabin family, and also to Yitzhak, the Knesset etc. Seven years later, in 2002, the Rabin Center went back to these letters to reexamine, in retro perspective, the feelings and expectations manifested in these letters, and to explore what happened since. It was clear that feelings and expectations were not translated into social action. We have not witnessed Tikun olam and what appeared to be the beginning of the mobilization of Israeli youth soon evaporated...

The facilitator will hand out copies of letters abstracts to participants, asking them to identify words/phrases that express despair and ones that express hope.

Participants will share their thoughts.

Guiding questions:

1. Is this reaction after 7 years, an expected reaction?
2. Can you think of ways we could maintain this energy?
3. Maybe it is just the way our world is? We grow up and "get sober"?

Summarizing with Songs (15 Minutes)

1. The participants will read "Ani VeAta Neshane Et HaOlam" (you and I will change the world), and discuss the the sentence

"Others have said it before me but it doesn't matter you and I we'll change the world."

Why are we saying "It doesn't matter" if he wants to "Change the World"?

What is our role as Jewish leaders in educating the next generation about changing the world?

2. The facilitator will summarize with the Cat Stevens' song "Father and Son". This song projects a generational gap that is shown through the calmness of the father as opposed to the son who feels he has to go away ...

The summing question can be –

Is he going away to change the world???

Appendix A

אני ואתה
ביצוע: אריק איינשטיין
מילים: אריק איינשטיין
לחן: מיקי גבריאלוב

אני ואתה נשנה את העולם,
אני ואתה אז יבואו כבר כולם,
אמרו את זה קודם לפני,
לא משנה - אני ואתה נשנה את העולם.

אני ואתה ננסה מהתחלה,
יהיה לנו רע, אין דבר זה לא נורא,
אמרו את זה קודם לפני,
זה לא משנה - אני ואתה נשנה את העולם.

אני ואתה נשנה את העולם,
אני ואתה אז יבואו כבר כולם,
אמרו את זה קודם לפני,
לא משנה - אני ואתה נשנה את העולם.

ANI VE'ATA

Ani ve'ata neshaneh et ha'olam
ani ve'ata az yavo'u kvar kulam
Amru et zeh kodem lefanai
lo meshaneh, ani ve'ata neshaneh et
ha'olam.

Ani ve'ata nenaseh mehahatchalah
yiheyl lanu ra ein davar zeh lo nora.
Amru et zeh kodem lefanai
zeh lo meshaneh, ani ve'ata neshaneh et
ha'olam.

YOU AND I

You and I we'll change the world
you and I by then all will follow
Others have said it before me but
doesn't matter you and I we'll change
the world.

You and I we'll try from the beginning
it will be tough for us, no matter, it's
not too bad!
Others have said it before me but it
doesn't matter you and I we'll change
the world.

Appendix B

Abstracts from letters:

Mor Shemer, 17, (2002)

“Seven years ago I was in the fifth grade, I went to a school which was very protective and my mourning and sorrow over the Rabin assassination were in reaction to the mourning over the grownups around me. Today I am in the eleventh grade, and everyday my memory and mourning over Rabin changes. What would have been if this had not happened? Where were we today? Where would we stand economically, politically, socially – all these questions brought me to the understanding that now, all we have left is ask “what if...?””

Yael Tamir, 17, (2002)

“it always seemed to me that I was too young to understand the meaning of the Rabin assassination (actually, I am too young today as well...) but when I re-read the letter I thought of how much I was touched by it then... seven years passed since I got back to my routine life, the routine after the assassination, but in Israel, like in Israel, matters of war and peace are inseparable from everyday life. What was then shock was replaced by a feeling of souring...”

Roi Amozt, 21, (2002)

“It is hard to define the effects of the assassination on my world views. The feeling and emotions remain, only they faded, but what is really tragic to me is the fact that in retro-perspective I do not think it was a turning point for the Israeli society. The break in the sense of security and sanity that followed the murder was not rectified, it just became reality. This horrible murder, even as a symbol, appears to me today as a tiny point on this linear line going down which is the situation of the Israeli society. If the first question was “why did it happen?” became irrelevant, the next question – “what lessons did we learn?” remains standing.

My hope and the hope of many others that this tragic event will bring to sobriety, to the shaking of our society, faded and desperation became a habit. I have to admit, and I am not proud of it, that desperation made me detach my self from the social-political reality in an attempt to keep sane and to run a normal life, at least in my own small world...”

Orit Hazan, 15, (1995)

“... I respect and admire everything Rabin did... and I will never forget it... my dream is to help the world, the weaker people, to help stop violence and terror that brings fear to the world, it is not just a dream, and it is something I want to do.... I promised myself I would bring peace and quiet because violence must stop...”

Seven years later:

“... as a young women, who is part of today’s generation, who affects and is affected by the situations our state is under, it is important for me to say I am ashamed... for Mr. Rabin’s peace to come, to exist, we must first reexamine ourselves, amongst ourselves, in the people, the government, the corruption, the rich and poor... I hope that as the young generation we can an impact on our own society...”

Inbal Levi, 22, (2002)

“When I was 15 I was so aware of everything that was going on... very much involved. It is hard for me to say and it brings tears to my eyes but today I only want to survive. I do not know who the M.P’s are, I do not watch the news and I’m sorry to say, but I don’t care anymore. I just want to go to sleep and wake up when this is over. I have given up and it is not within my power to change the world...”

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Appendix C

Father and Son/Cat Stevens

Father

It's not time to make a change,
Just relax, take it easy.
You're still young, that's your fault,
There's so much you have to know.
Find a girl, settle down,
If you want you can marry.
Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy.

I was once like you are now, and I know that it's not easy,
To be calm when you've found something going on.
But take your time, think a lot,
Why, think of everything you've got.
For you will still be here tomorrow, but your dreams may not.

Son

How can I try to explain, when I do he turns away again.
It's always been the same, same old story.
From the moment I could talk I was ordered to listen.
Now there's a way and I know that I have to go away.
I know I have to go.

Father

It's not time to make a change,
Just sit down, take it slowly.
You're still young, that's your fault,
There's so much you have to go through.
Find a girl, settle down,
If you want you can marry.
Look at me, I am old, but I'm happy.
(son-- away away away, I know I have to
Make this decision alone - no)

Son

All the times that I cried, keeping all the things I knew inside,
It's hard, but it's harder to ignore it.
If they were right, I'd agree, but it's them you know not me.
Now there's a way and I know that I have to go away.
I know I have to go.
(father-- stay stay stay, why must you go and
Make this decision alone?)



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