

ELEVEN STUDENTS from Congregation Agudath Israel of West Essex in Caldwell participated in Panim el Panim: High School in Washington, an intensive four-day seminar for Jewish teens from across the country.

Members of the delegation, led by rabbinic intern Jason A. Miller, were Yuval Brokman, Adam Buchoff, Tracy Drossman, Avi Eisen, Zahava Finkel, Sarah Lipsey, Loni Mahler, Jonah Nelson, Ariel Rudin, Avi Schneck, and Alli Simon.

The keynote address was given by Rabbi Sid Schwarz, founder and president of PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. The students explored many of Washington's sites and met with a member of the staff of Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ Dist. 11). They also heard from representatives of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, and The Heritage Foundation.

"Not only does *Panim el Panim* help students relate Judaism to the hot issues of the day, it also helps them realize that their active involvement in social and political issues is a way to effect *tikun olam*," the mitzva of repairing the world, said Schwarz.

Junior Ariel Rudin of West Caldwell said, "*Panim el Panim* opened up my eyes.... I never realized how much teenagers can help in the world and how they can make a difference. One person can truly change a life for the better."

The students also took part in "Street Torah," in which Panim participants dispensed items and interacted with Washington's homeless. Senior Avi Eisen of West Caldwell said, "It was different from the typical stereotypes of the homeless we hear so much about. These were just people who were rejected from society and found themselves on hard times. There is a lot we can do to help them."



The Agudath Israel Panim el Panim delegation in front of the Supreme Court building in Washington.