



Obama Foundation Summit Report-Back

What Gives Me Hope?

November 9th, 2017

Rabbi Sharon Brous

Just back from the Obama Foundation Summit, where I joined 400 civic leaders from around the world. What gives me hope? Having lunch with Ken Oloo from Nairobi who is fighting corruption and poverty by empowering children to tell their own stories through film. Sitting with Marshall Bizure from Zimbabwe, who was told by his mother after he was brutally bullied, “You are being prepared for greatness,” and witnessing how he has fulfilled his great destiny. Hearing the wisdom of Anand Giridharadas, “The best defense to hate is an evangelism of love.” Meeting Manal Al-Sharif, the first woman to drive in Saudi Arabia, who advises that when women walk into a room, we need to overcome our instinct to stand quietly by the door and instead *take a seat at the table*. Hearing Lin Manuel Miranda talk about love as a fuel source, and hearing Angie Thomas, author of New York Times #1 bestselling *The Hate U Give*, say that books are either mirrors, windows or sliding glass doors. “I want mine to be all three.” And learning from Bryan Stevenson that HOPE is our superpower. Plain and simple.

Read full article [including Rabbi Brous’ excerpt above], [A Surprising Surge of Hope: 12 Spiritual Leaders on the Year After the 2016 Election](#) by Paul Raushenbush.