

December 30, 2003

THE · NATHAN · CUMMINGS · FOUNDATION

Steve Brand
Ways & Means Productions
310 East 12th Street
New York, NY 10003

Dear Steve,

Thank you for the material you've sent us regarding "Praying With My Legs," your documentary film about the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

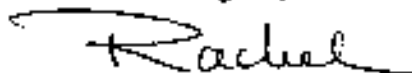
As you point out so eloquently in your proposal, Heschel was a giant, not only in Jewish theology but in his contribution to general spirituality and to the spirit of ecumenism in world religions, as evidenced by how deeply he is revered among Christians and by the Muslim clerics who met him. On top of that, the fact that he lived a life of such meaningful activism on behalf of social justice, that he was at the forefront of such important and searing issues as civil rights, Soviet Jewry and the anti-war movement, raises Heschel's stature to a greater level, showing that it is possible to mix a life of intellectual pursuit with a life of activism. His is an unusual and important profile in courage and conviction. His presence is much missed both in the Jewish community and the society at large and the prospect of bringing his words and ideas to a wide public audience is both exciting and timely in the difficult times we live in. I do believe with you that Heschel is a national treasure that not enough people are aware of.

As you know, the Jewish Life Program of the Nathan Cummings Foundation is devoted to supporting projects that promote the values of tolerance, social justice (tzedeq) loving kindness (chesed), mutual respect, and ethical behavior, in order both to enhance Jewish life and to assist in the promotion of a more just society. It is an additional goal of ours to promote communication, understanding and partnerships between Jews and peoples of other faith traditions through programs that focus on shared values and common goals. Surely your documentary on Heschel falls well within these strong interests of the Foundation.

We would therefore be very interested in screening your film as it is further along and will give very strong consideration to helping fund the film's completion and distribution.

I wish you much success with this very special project.

With best regards,



Rachel Cowan
Director, Jewish Life Program
The Nathan Cummings Foundation