

Lora Rosenblum

- A. Describe how your personal goals, challenges, or commitments exemplify or have been inspired by Michael Rothberg's legacy.

After hearing and reading about Michael Rothberg's contributions to all he was a part of, the word dedication pops into mind. It is evident that once he took an interest in something, it became a passion to which he gave his all, if not more. Not many people accomplish the feat of balancing a career and a family while also maintaining a well-loved personality and a strong sense of service to others, but it is more than evident that Michael succeeded in each.

As a young woman who has little idea the career path on which she may embark, who hopes one day to have a family, who participates in a variety of community service projects throughout the year and who thinks she has a pretty good head on her shoulders, it is encouraging to learn about someone like Michael, who both excelled and achieved balance in all of these areas. Often in today's society, one of the four categories stands out and overshadows the others. A man like Michael opens my eyes and gives inspiration for my future; I see that it *is* possible to balance family, work, and service while having a good heart to go along with it.

- B. How have acts of terrorism around the world affected your own life and your outlook on the future?

In most instances, the more a certain event tends to occur, the more mundane it becomes and the less people pay attention to the so-called event, for people simply “get used to it.” As acts of terrorism become more prevalent in today’s society and are emphasized on television and in the newspaper, I’ve noticed an adverse effect within myself. Each act of terrorism headlining the news makes me realize that it’s not “just another” car bomb or hi-jack that should be classified with all the others. I realized that each individual act of terrorism afflicts more than just those immediately targeted. Terrorism is like an earthquake: though each act occurs in one place in a single moment, the aftershock is felt, sometimes even more powerfully, by family members and friends of the victims of terror who must suddenly mourn the unanticipated loss.

Though I have never personally known someone who has been a victim of an act of terrorism, seeing how it has impacted those around me has been enough to shape my outlook on the future as it pertains to such malevolence. Traveling to Israel, living through the horror of September 11<sup>th</sup>, and knowing people who have lost close family members and friends to terrorist violence have each proven to me just how widespread terrorism’s consequences can be. It is unacceptable to simply observe and sympathize for those who are affected. As a junior, I joined Amnesty International to take a stand against terrorism. It is essential that more people get involved in as many ways as possible to fight against terrorism, regardless of whether or not it is something with which they have had a firsthand experience. I think few people recognize how many people suffer from the tragedy of each attack; in the future we need to reach out to first prevent the earthquake in order to avoid the strike of the aftershock, too.