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# Students embrace anti-genocide efforts

By **CATHERINE BAUM**  
Staff Writer

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**NORTHAMPTON** - Northampton High School senior Rachel Brazie said her grandparents, who are Holocaust survivors, inspire her to take on anti-genocide efforts, including her participation in the Pledge2Protect Conference in Washington, D.C.

"If they hadn't survived I wouldn't be here," Brazie said. "The majority of their families died and therefore I have a responsibility to help others in the same situation."

Brazie joined Northampton classmates Miriam Kudler-Flam, Emmaline Deihl and Isabella Leo on Capitol Hill Friday through Monday for workshops, discussions and seminars focused on the movement to prevent and stop genocide in Sudan, Burma and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The young women are members of the high school's STAND club - Students Take Action Now - Darfur.

Club founder Kudler-Flam learned of the conference through emails and Facebook. STAND, the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, organized 1,000 students, community leaders and activists for the three-day conference, which featured training on grassroots organizing, media outreach and social media techniques; panel discussions by policy makers, members of Congress and administration officials, and networking events.

"It's our responsibility to recognize our own fortunes and to protect those who don't have a voice," Kudler-Flam said.

The four young women listened to survivor stories, attended lectures and took part in specialized sessions such as media outreach, lobbying and the like. They woke up at 6 a.m. Monday, marched to the Senate Building and lobbied in Rep. John Olver's Washington office, pushing the representative to support legislation that calls for Congress to establish an emergency crisis fund for intervention to mass killings and rapes; proposes audit systems that enables American consumers to decide whether they will purchase conflict-free products, and to sign the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009.

When the STAND club meets next Wednesday at Northampton High School, Kudler-Flam said she will encourage members to write more letters, make more phone calls, read more books, watch more movies and have more dialogue about genocide intervention and prevention. "No American is allowed to have Darfur fatigue," Kudler-Flam said. "We don't have a reason or excuse to feel tired."

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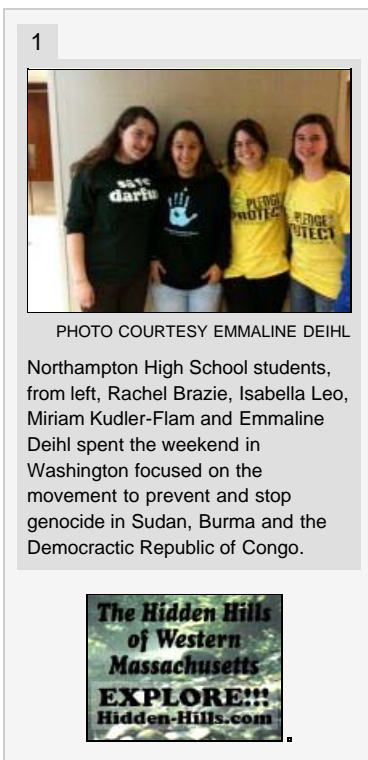


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Northampton High School students, from left, Rachel Brazie, Isabella Leo, Miriam Kudler-Flam and Emmaline Deihl spent the weekend in Washington focused on the movement to prevent and stop genocide in Sudan, Burma and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



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## School's garden harvest

Parents, students and teachers at the Jackson Street School enjoyed the bounty of their harvest, including dips made from garden herbs, strawberries, salad with lettuce and radishes and cauliflower all grown in the school garden. Students made popcorn from the garden's corn.

Gov. Deval Patrick got a tour of the school's garden when he visited Oct. 21, and he learned about how the garden fits into curriculum and is a space for student investigation and exploration, said teacher Mary Bates. The garden helps provide science lessons on organisms, food chain and seasonal changes, social studies teachings on community building, the economics of services and products and Native American culture. Mathematics is used in counting, sorting, and measuring crop areas and the garden's parameter.

"Basically we wanted to use the garden as an outdoor classroom," Bates said.

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## Boosters raise \$10,000-plus

Northampton High School athletes and volunteers have raised more than \$10,000 to benefit the Northampton Athletic Booster Club during its Booster Week events and Hamp T'Day - Thirty Dollars a Day - fundraisers. The club took in about \$400 during its carnival on Halloween day, which featured a cow plopping contest.

Athletics Director Jim Miller said during basketball season, a volunteer will search for a car with a Hamp T'Day sticker on it and announce the license plate at half time - the winner will receive free admission to a basketball game.

Coming fundraisers include the annual dodgeball tournament in March and casino night in January. Miller said he is currently looking for volunteers to serve on that committee. Visit [www.hamphigh.org](http://www.hamphigh.org) or call Miller at 587-1356 for more information.

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