



West Coast News

Passover Edition
March 2007/ADAR 5767
A Publication of the
ORTHODOX UNION
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LA Clippers and the OU: Jewish Heritage Day at the Staples Center – April 15



Jeff Presser is chairing the OU and YACHAD/NJDC Jewish Heritage Day with the LA Clippers at the Staples Center on Sunday, April 15, 12:30pm. Through an anonymous donor, tickets have been made available to members of YACHAD, the OU's program for Jews with developmental disabilities. Additional tickets are available at our office for \$22 (at cost). Checks may be sent to the OU office, 9831 W. Pico Blvd. LA 90035.

Synagogue Leadership Conf – April 22

Our annual synagogue leadership conference will be Sunday, April 22, at the OU headquarters on Pico Blvd. The program is open to: synagogue lay and professional leaders, which means shul presidents and other executive board members, shul gabbaim, rabbis, and executive directors.

This year's seminar will feature **Frank Buchweitz**, national director of community services for the OU. He will address ways to increase membership for your shul, using a community outreach model. He will also discuss how to develop heightened volunteerism in the synagogue. The seminar will also feature local rabbis and community leaders who are involved with kiruv as a means of expanding synagogue attendance and membership. For more information, contact Rabbi Daniel Korobkin at dkorobkin@ou.org.

Project Areivim heads to Palm Springs-May 4-6

Project Areivim is a national OU initiative, which invites Jews from larger communities to spend Shabbat in communities that are smaller and have fewer Jewish resources. There is a beautiful OU shul in Palm Springs, which has some lovely resort hotels. The L.A. Orthodox community has been invited to make a Project Areivim Shabbaton with **The Desert Synagogue** over the weekend

of May 5-6. **Rena** and **Eli Okun** have graciously agreed to chair the Shabbaton. Please contact the office at 310-229-9000 ext 206 and let us know that you would like to participate. Also, let us know if your community would like to host a future Project Areivim Shabbaton.

Kashrus Awareness Month – May 5-7

Rabbi Seth Mandel, a Rabbinic Coordinator from the OU's Department of Kashruth will be here the week of May 5-7. He will be giving presentations on the following topics: The Atkins Diet & Meat; The Health Benefits of Certain Types of Meat; Vegetarian – Beef, Chicken or a Fruit Plate?; Kashruth Scandals – Safeguarding the Kosher Consumer. Rabbi Mandel will be speaking at: various synagogues in the Pico-Robertson area.

Please contact the OU office at 310-229-9000 ext. 200, for more information.

Day Long Legal Conference—May 20

Rabbi Michael Broyde, no stranger to Los Angeles, will visit the coast this coming May. He will be spending Shabbat with **Rabbi Yitzchok Feldman** and his **Emek Beracha** community in Palo Alto on May 18-19. On Sunday, May 20th, he will be in LA to present a 6 hour MCLE course. Cost is \$125 including lunch. Topics will include:



Rabbi Broyde

Representing Clients in Front of a Bet Din in a Jewish Divorce Case; Privacy Rights in Rabbinical Courts; The Use of Secular Law in Rabbinical Courts; When Should or Must a Bet Din Decline to Hear a Case?; Child Custody Matters in a Bet Din; Prenuptial Agreements and Halacha; Understanding the Rules of the Bet Din of America; What is a Zabla Panel and Do I Ever Want to Go to One? Pre-Registration is necessary. Contact Esther at EstherR@ou.org.

Kenesset Israel Torah Center, Sacramento, Dedication

Sunday afternoon, December 17, 2006, our member synagogue in Sacramento re-dedicated itself. Going back to June 18, 1999, the shul was firebombed and destroyed. The synagogue, the community, both Jewish and Gentile have contributed their monies, their expertise and their hard work (physical labor) to rebuild the shul. This rededication is a tribute to the community at large, the congregation's members, its Rabbi, **Rav Yossie &**

Rabbanit Tamar Etz Hasadeh – their dedication, perseverance and resolve. We hope they will always be blessed with the ability to *Mikadesk Shem Shamayim b'Rabim* – be able to sanctify the name of G-d wherever they go – to enhance Jewish life in Sacramento & throughout California. Below, the progression, in pictures, culminating with **Rabbi Alan Kalinsky** bringing greetings from the Orthodox Union.



West Coast NCSY Regional Report

Judaic Park is a multimedia production created by new Assistant Regional Director, **Dr. Eliezer Jones**, and is part of a long history of innovative and exciting educational programs presented at West Coast NCSY regionals. The focus of the multimedia presentation was the uprising of anti-Semitism in the world which is critical for our youth. As Jews, we respond to hate and prejudice not with weapons of destruction, but with weapons of prayer, acts of kindness, Jewish pride and activism, which was coined "Pro-Semitism" for the rest of the Shabbaton. This message was well received by our youth. The impact of this multimedia is strongly illustrated by a recent e-mail sent to **Rabbi Effie Goldberg**, the West Coast NCSY regional director, by an NCSYer who attended the event.

My name is D. I am from San Diego and attended the '06 winter regional. When I saw the multimedia presentation, it was in a sense, a wake up call. For the past few months I was looking into other religions. I looked

into Rastafarianism, Buddhism, Christianity, etc. When I saw the Judaic Park presentation and saw the video of the KKK and the Neo-Nazi groups doing their marches, I realized how they had dedicated their lives to destroying the Jews. And I told myself "If I leave Judaism, I will be giving them a victory. I will not stand to do that." So I would like to thank you. I was really ready to give up on Judaism and NCSY saved me..... Thank you.

What truly illustrated this point was the response to the charge of an ex-neo Nazi religious Mormon named **Tom Leyden**.

Mr. Leyden is a former neo-Nazi skinhead. As a leading recruiter, organizer and propagandist for the white supremacist and neo-Nazi movement, Leyden spent 15 years promoting hate, bigotry and racism. About 13 years ago he turned his back on the white power movement and has been lecturing and fighting the uprising of hate in America and the world. With his strong words and stories of his experiences, the NCSYers were in awe. However, it was

TL's final message that got him a thundering applause and standing ovation.

After discussing the importance of fighting intolerance, he charged the room with a mission -- that in order to truly fight hate in this world they should learn Torah for at least one half hour a day. The thunderous applause to the idea of regular Torah learning was wondrous especially given that over 60% of the participants do not attend a Jewish school.

The next day, the teens delved into Torah sources about Jewish pride and activism with fervor. At lunch, they sang Jewish songs and danced with joyful smiles. At Havdala, joined arm to arm, they sang and cried as they listened to inspirational words and music. Even being exhausted after an amazing Saturday night carnival event, the majority of the teens returned to the hotel and joined in a *Kumzitz* lasting into the early morning. West Coast NCSY's mission is to inspire the Jewish future and at this past regional event, that mission could not have been clearer.

News from Alberta: Beth Israel of Edmonton's Centennial Celebration



Congregation Beth Israel of 100th anniversary with a gala 2007.

The event was attended by Edmontonians who fondly and rich history as a pioneer of beautiful city. The city's and attended the event. Included in

was the Vancouver Jewish Men's Choir, who offered beautiful and classical Jewish songs. The OU was well represented by **Rabbi** of synagogue services for the west coast region, who offered his that the shul should continue to flourish and grow for another 100 years.

The following day, Rabbi Korobkin visited nearby Calgary, at OU synagogue, Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel where he gave an adult education lecture on: Criminality within the Orthodox Community.

"The Canadian OU shuls are a very important part of the west coast's network," said Rabbi Korobkin. "We are proud of the great growth of Torah and Yiddishkeit under the leadership of the very capable rabbis and lay leaders in Alberta and British Columbia, and look forward to future partnerships with these congregations."



Members of the Vancouver Jewish Men's Choir performed at the Centennial.

Edmonton, celebrated its banquet on January 28,

hundreds of faithful reminisced the shul's long Judaism and Torah in this province's dignitaries the evening's entertainment renditions of many modern **Daniel Korobkin**, director blessings to the attendees

Homeland Security Grant Recipients-2006

The following member synagogues have successfully applied and received funds during the last phase of US Homeland Security Grants to Synagogues that are Hard Targets for Terrorists: **Young Israel of Century City**--Installed large security gates, protective film on all glass doors, and upgraded cameras and monitoring systems. **Mogen David**--New doors and locks. **Pacific Jewish Center**--Installed new security doors, roll-up doors and a pedestrian door in the rear, new gate in the Beit Midrash and security cameras.

The funding is through individual states. Local Federations will receive official notice that the grants are available. We will then inform our member synagogues and local yeshivot of workshops, etc. For further details: EstherR@ou.org.

Annual Awards Banquet: – June 19

Tuesday, June 19, 5:45pm, is our Annual OU/NCSY Awards Banquet. It will be held at the Sephardic Temple with Pat's providing their scrumptious International Smorgasbord and delectable Viennese table. We look forward to welcoming you.

Daylight Saving Time Begins Earlier

Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2am on the **second Sunday in March** and revert to standard time on the **first Sunday in November**. **NOTE:** For the Greater LA area, please note that the times on the OU Candlelighting Card for March 16, 23, 30, should be adjusted as follows: March 16-17 (6:43/7:44); March 23-24 (6:49/7:50); March 30-31 (6:54/7:55)

Kollel Yom Rishon Follow-up...



Rabbi Daniel Grama discusses his topic "Telling It As It Is: A Torah Perspective on Circumstantial Evidence, at Beth Jacob.

This year's Kollel Yom Rishon program has been a tremendous success. More than twice as many Sundays as last year were utilized throughout the community for Sunday morning learning. Programs were held in **Beth Jacob Congregation** and **West Coast Torah Center**, both in Beverly Hills; **Westwood Kehilla** in West L.A.; **Bnai David-Judea, Mogen David, Shaarei Tefilla, Yeshiva of LA**, all in Los Angeles; **Young Israel of Century City**; **Shaarey Zedek**, Valley Village; and **Pacific Jewish Center** in Venice. Participating faculty guests included

Mr. Zvi Rysman and **Rabbis Mordechai Lebhav; Daniel Grama; Yitzchok Adlerstein; Ben Geiger; Yitz Etshalom; Daniel Korobkin; Jonathan Benzaquen; and Nachum Kosofsky.** Topics included; When Will They Finally Believe Me? A Practical Analysis of When We Can Trust a Child that He is Old Enough to perform the Mitzvot; Spa-Rituality: The Laws of Mikvah; A Time to Love & a Time to Hate: When Do We Love Our Fellow Jew & When Do We Hate. Join us at the Kollel Yom Rishon programs on **Sunday, March 11**, at **Shaarey Zedek**, with **Rabbi Yakov Vann**, who will discuss Halachic Concerns from the Frontlines of Community Kashrus; and then on **March 18**, at **YOLA**, with **Rabbi Daniel Korobkin**, who's topic will be Inviting Non-Jews to Your Seder.

The program involves *chavruta*-style learning and a lively, interactive *shiur* by a guest rabbi. Stay tuned for more updates, including a Kollel Yom Rishon program for women! For more information, contact Rabbi Daniel Korobkin at dkorobkin@ou.org

West Coast Convention '06 – The Sponsors Who Made it Happen!!!

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"Know What to Answer" – the Follow-up Program to Convention 2006

To: **Rabbi Weinreb and Steve Savitsky,**

I am pleased to inform that the program was a wonderful kiddush Hashem. Over 100 people were in attendance---that's a huge crowd for a weekday program in our community! The presentations from Rabbis Yitzchok Adlerstein, Asher Brander, and Sholom Tendler were excellent as well as their responses to questions from the audience. There was an overall expression that indicated---thank you to the OU for equipping us with the knowledge of how best to respond to the questions and dilemmas we face daily.

Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

On Tuesday evening, February 20, 2007, the OU sponsored an evening of *hashkafic* analysis of where we are today in the Orthodox world. The evening was titled, "Know What to Answer," which is a quote from the Talmud, telling all Jews to be prepared with answers when challenges to Judaism are presented.

The program, which featured panelists **Rabbi Sholom Tendler, Rabbi Yitzchok Adlerstein, and Rabbi Asher Brander**, was an outgrowth of the successful OU Torah convention which was held this past



Rabbi Tendler



Rabbi Adlerstein



Rabbi Brander

December. During the convention, a disputation on Orthodox Judaism was held; the huge attendance and desire for more knowledge, expressed by so many in attendance, prompted the OU to follow up.

People have legitimate questions about Orthodoxy and the *halachic* system in

general. Issues like, “Why does a string around a city help me carry on Shabbos?” or: “If being Orthodox is such a good thing, why are there still Orthodox Jews who commit crimes?” or: “What’s being done about the *agunah* issue?” These expert rabbis – each one of them an “all-star” in the field of *kiruv* and *hashkafa* – patiently and endearingly explained and defended the

halachic system with tremendous skill and success. The fact that this follow-up session, held at **Beth Jacob Congregation** in Beverly Hills, had such a large turnout – over 100 in attendance – is a testament to the fact that Jews are hungry for more Torah knowledge. The opportunity to hear three great rabbis on a panel in one evening,

addressing some of the great issues of Judaism, obviously had great appeal.

To hear a recording of the evening, go to www.ouwestcoast.org, and click on “Lectures.” The OU hopes to hold more events of this kind, which ultimately bring glory and honor to our Torah. For more information, contact Rabbi Daniel Korobkin at dkorobkin@ou.org

Passover at Ralphs...and Some Nutrition, too

Our efforts to provide the most helpful information to our Kosher consumers at this year’s Kosher for Passover Ralphs Supermarket Tours will include dietician, or livitician, as she prefers to call herself, **Deborah A. Klein, MS, RD**. Deborah will join Rabbi Alan Kalinsky at the Pico/Beverwil store on Tuesday, March 13, at 7pm, and give us a ‘nutritional guide to a palate pleasing Pesach’.

In addition to the neighborhood tours conducted by the OU Rabbi Reuven Nathanson, Rabbi Kalinsky will once again provide a special seminar and learning experience to the many store directors of the Ralphs chain at the request of the Ralphs Supermarket organization.

Ralphs and West Coast OU share a relationship going back over a decade. This will provide the opportunity for direct contact with store directors who have the closest contact with the kosher consumers and to provide some insight, kashruth information and address the needs and concerns of the consumers during the holiday, as well as throughout the year.

As always, we thank the Ralphs organization for their help in providing the resources to make the Passover experience both meaningful, as well as convenient.

Kosher for Passover Supermarket Tours

The first Seder is Monday night, April 2nd

Are you wondering what to buy for your Seder meals?

Marvel at the new products this year. What can we use -- what can't we use?

The Orthodox Union

Invites you to a practical workshop on Kosher for Passover products at the following



➤ **Pico/Beverwil Tour, Tuesday, March 13, 7 pm**

9616 W. Pico Blvd.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky and assisted by Dietician/Livitician,

Deborah A. Klein, MS RD

Who specializes in weight loss, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, disease prevention and long-term wellness

CO-SPONSORED WITH
BETH JACOB-BH,
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BNAI DAVID-JUDEA,
AISH HATORAH,
MOGEN DAVID
ADAS TORAH

➤ **Palm Springs Tour, Thursday, March 15, 11 am**

1733 E. Palm Canyon Dr.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH
THE DESERT SYNAGOGUE &
CHABAD of PALM SPRINGS

➤ **Century City Tour, Monday, March 19, 7 pm**

10309 W. Olympic Blvd.

Led by
Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED With YICC;
ADAS TORAH; BETH JACOB-BH

➤ **Encino Tour, Wednesday, March 14, 7 pm**

16325 Ventura Blvd.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

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➤ **Torrance Tour, Tuesday, March 20, 7 pm**

2909 Rolling Hills Rd

Led by Rabbi Reuven Nathanson

CO-SPONSORED WITH
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➤ **La Brea & 3rd Tour, Thursday, March 15, 7:30 pm**

260 S. La Brea Ave.

Led by Rabbi Reuven Nathanson

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➤ **Westwood Tour, Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm**

10861 Le Conte

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

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Please join us at these community service events to help you with the “why and wherefore” questions about Passover.

Groups and organizations welcome.

For more information please call the Orthodox Union at 310.229.9000 Ext. 200