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West Coast News

Passover Edition
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A Publication of the
ORTHODOX UNION
WEST COAST REGION

9831 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035
[310] 229-9000 Ext.200
FAX [310] 229-9011
westcoast@ou.org
<http://www.ou.org>

Banquet Set for June 19th -- Honorees Include...

The date for our Annual Banquet, our major fundraiser for all of our programs and initiatives throughout the year, is set for Monday evening, **June 19th**, at the Sephardic Temple. You know that the food will be great and the company as well. This year we will be honoring people that have done much for our community in the past and in the present. They include **Steve and Helena Usdan**, *OU Community*

Chesed Award; **Rabbi Reuven Huttler**, *Lifetime Rabbinic Achievement Award*; The Honorable **Jack Weiss**, Councilman, 5th District; *Community Leadership Award*; **Rabbi Sholom & Elaine Strajcher**; *OUNCSY Chinuch Award*.

David & Mira Zeffren and **Alan & Lisa Friedman** have graciously agreed to chair what promises to be a very beautiful evening.



Helena & Steve Usdan



Rabbi Reuven Huttler



Hon. Jack Weiss



Rabbi Sholom & Elaine Strajcher

60 Days – 6 Million.....

The West Coast Region of the Orthodox Union is and adults of all ages. Starting on *Rosh Chodesh* December 20-21, OU member synagogues and Teachers will read with their students, parents will textbook of 60 different testimonies, writings and Office in London. The goal is to read one section commemorate and honor the memory of the 6

We are collaborating with **Rabbi Andrew Shaw**, with **Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks** coming to LA for



embarking on a project that will include youngsters, teenagers *Cheshvan*, Oct 22-23, and ending on *Rosh Chodesh Tevet*, Yeshiva Day Schools throughout our region will participate. read with their children and adults will read on their own. A scholarly articles has been composed by the Chief Rabbi's each day for 60 days, to learn *Misnayot* and recite *Tehillim* to million who perished *al Kidush Hashem*.

Executive Director of the project in London. It will culminate our **16th Annual West Coast Torah Convention**.

Kollel Yom Rishon

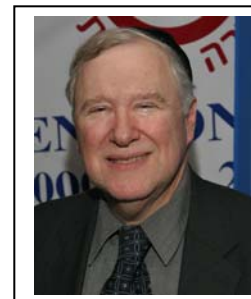


Our fourth successful Kollel Yom Rishon program was held on Sunday, February 19, at **Congregation Mogen David**. Approximately 40 people enjoyed **Rabbi Baruch Zheutlin's** very meaningful and informative *shiur* on Tefilla-Prayer. A sumptuous breakfast was lovingly prepared by the *shul*. We are very grateful to **Rabbi Gabe Elias** of Mogen David and to Rabbi Zheutlin for helping make our program so successful. The next and final Kollel Yom Rishon program of the year will be held Sunday morning, March 19th, at **Young Israel of North Beverly Hills**, located at 9350 Civic Center Drive, Beverly Hills, starting with breakfast at 9 am, followed by *chavrusa* learning and a *shiur* by **Rabbi Daniel Korobkin** on the topic, "Inviting Non-Jews to Your Seder.", For more information, please contact **Rabbi Daniel Korobkin** at dkorobkin@ou.org.

Pacific Jewish Center in Venice to Host Dr. David Luchins and... Their Wish Gets "Granted"

OU member synagogue, **Pacific Jewish Center**, invites you to join them as they host the inimitable **Dr. David Luchins** as their Scholar-in-Residence over **Shabbat, March 17-18**. The theme: "Is the Party Over? American Jewish Political Power in the New Millennium" will highlight the weekend. The weekend will conclude with a provocative *Melave Malka*, 8:30p.m., at "The Shul on the Beach" – 505 Ocean Front Walk on the famous Venice 'boardwalk.' If you wish to join them for Shabbat, the nearby Venice Suites may be of interest to you. Go to: <http://www.venicesuites.com/> or call 310.566.5224. To RSVP for the *Melave Malka* (cost: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door) please call 310.392.8749.

PJC is really in the news this month with the assistance of the OU, they recently received a grant from the Department of Homeland Security in the state of California to install much needed security cameras in and around the *shul*. This is in addition to the OU Grant awarded to them earlier this year for new and innovative *shul* projects.



NCSY News From the Pacific Northwest

Snow! Mountains! Skiing! Snowboarding! On the Northwest Region's first ever Winter Regional, which took place January 27th-29th, 150 teens gathered to experience what the Northwest is all about. They came from Seattle, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Portland, and even a few from California, to spend Shabbat in Wenatchee, Washington, and Sunday skiing and snowboarding at Mission Ridge.

Rabbi Avi Berman, Northwest's Regional Director, ran a wonderful weekend filled with Torah, friendships, and tons of activities. He brought out advisors from all over North America who were so enthralled with the warmth and friendliness of the teens that they can't wait to come back for more *Shabbatons*. **Rabbi Kornbluth**, author of "Why Marry Jewish," spoke to the

NCSYers about why dating Jewish is a necessary precursor to marrying Jewish, and inspired many teens to change their lives for the better.

The Northwest's new official band who've humorously nicknamed themselves the "**Bitul Zman Band**," inspired even the quietest teens to get up and dance! The band consists of **Rabbi Avichai Pepper** on keyboard, **Josh Russak** on the drums, **Rabbi Ben Klein** on bass, **Josh Wenner** on guitar, **Ilan Schwed** on vocals, and were joined by a very special guest vocalist, West Coast NCSY's very own **Chai Shai!**

Having broken away from West Coast NCSY this past summer to form its own region, Northwest's own style and traditions are beginning to form. As Northwest NCSYers ebb away Shabbat, singing songs

and hearing stories, they dance and excitedly leap to their feet, smiles on their faces, celebrating and joyously extending the last moments of Shabbat. And just as alumni of West Coast NCSY still remember every word to "Questions," the official regional song, the Bitul Zman Band will be introducing Northwest's very own regional song on Spring Regional, Memorial Day weekend in Edmonton. Sunny weather, theme hotel rooms, and an indoor amusement park await Northwest teens for an amazing Spring Regional.

If you know a teen in the Northwest, from Oregon up to Alaska, who would like to become involved with the Northwest Region, visit www.NorthwestNCSY.com for links to their local chapter information.

The Seahawks were robbed! At least that was the opinion of Seattle NCSYers as they attended the Seattle Chapter's Superbowl Party this past Sunday at Sephardic Bikur Holim synagogue. Dressed to support their team, in a contest to win Seahawks gear, 50 Seattle teens yelled at the big screen, protesting at referees' horrible calls, angry that the refs were handing the game to Pittsburg on a silver platter. During halftime they *davened mincha* and played a game of football on the synagogue's lawn. And even though the Steelers technically won the game, Seattle NCSYers know better, and are set to root for their team in next year's Superbowl!.

Jessica Hoffman
City Director, Seattle NCSY
www.seattlencsy.com



NCSY News From the Southland

Super Bowl Sunday was marked with more than just touchdowns, field goals and cool commercials. In Tarzana, California, at the home of **Jason Pietruszka**, Valley NCSY had close to 50 Jewish teens come together to enjoy the game, be among friends and hang out with staff members. **Devora**, **Eliezer**, **Yudi** and **Rabbi FE** were all in attendance to make sure everyone had a great time. There was also the "Game Ball" that everyone signed to be raffled off at the end of the game. Congratulations to **Odeliah Bouganim** for winning the ball.



However, what truly elevated the game (besides the Steelers winning), was the beautiful *Mincha davened* together instead of watching the half-time show. What also showed the spirit of **West Coast NCSY** was the spontaneous *Kumzits* that broke out in the backyard when it became obvious Seattle was not coming back to win. What started out as an ordinary Super Bowl Sunday became a wonderful Jewish experience.

JLIC at UCLA – Rabbi Aryeh and Sharona Kaplan really rock!

A Student's Impression.....By David Bardo

As an Orthodox Jew at UCLA, the Orthodox life at Hillel has become central to my life on campus. The first day of my college career happened to fall on the first day of *Sukkot*. For me, the question was not whether to go to classes or not, but where to spend the holiday? Fortunately, Hillel was open and JLIC was conducting services for the entire 49 hour period complete with a *sukkah*, *minyanim* and meals. There I got to meet and know **Rabbi Aryeh** and **Sharona Kaplan**, the leaders of Hillel at UCLA's Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus.

At the *Beit Midrash* in Hillel I can attend *minyan* every morning and every afternoon. I feel my education is dry if it is not supplemented by traditional Jewish learning and individually and also offers a myriad of classes. JLIC's Shabbat program runs all day Saturday and it's so successful that students who don't even live on campus travel to Westwood to spend Shabbat with JLI at Hillel. My closest friends are the people I've met through JLIC programs, morning *minyan*, and Shabbat. The orthodox community at Hillel means a lot to me; I really don't know how I'd fit into UCLA life without it.

The OU Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC) at UCLA is anchored by an ongoing weekly program complete with 40 individual *chevrotot* between students and the JLIC educators and punctuated with weekly classes including a Lunch & Learn at the Law School, a Men's Halacha Chabura, an advanced Gemara class and the flagship Parsha and Pizza program. Contact Rabbi Aryeh or Sharona Kaplan at 310-208-3081 ext 102.



Rabbi Aryeh learns Talmud with me each week



Sukkah Building at UCLA

OU and AIPAC

March 5-7 marked the latest AIPAC Delegates Conference. AIPAC is the most important political organization for the state of Israel in the United States, and this was especially noticeable at the conference, with the majority of Congress and Vice President **Dick Cheney** in attendance. More Orthodox representatives than ever before attended the conference in Washington, D.C. (this was especially noticeable in the daily *minyanim* that had overflow standing room only).

One of the OU's senior vice presidents, **Howard Tzvi Friedman** of Baltimore, MD, was installed as the new national president of AIPAC, marking the first time that an Orthodox Jew has held this position. Howard is also the brother of our own **Alan Friedman**, board member of the West Coast Orthodox Union, member of the NCSY Youth Commission and one of this year's banquet co-chairs.



Howard Tzvi Friedman

Representatives from the OU turned out to show support for this important organization, as well as to pay tribute to Mr. Friedman. In attendance were OU National President **Stephen Savitsky**, Executive Vice President **Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb**, National Director of Synagogue Services **Rabbi Mayer Waxman**, and IPA Director **Nathan Diament**.

We are pleased to report that the state with the largest delegation to AIPAC was... **California!** Included in the delegation were many rabbis and members of OU shuls, including **Rabbi Elazar Muskin** of YICC and **Rabbi Uri Pilichowski** of Beth Jacob. Also in attendance was West Coast Director of Community and Synagogue Services **Rabbi Daniel Korobkin**, who, in addition to representing the OU and his shul, Kehillat Yavneh, chaperoned 11 YULA high school students to their first AIPAC conference.

Synagogue Leadership Seminar

Our second annual Synagogue Leadership Seminar is slated for Sunday, April 30, 2006. Last Year's event was highly successful as OU member synagogue presidents and board members came

together for a lovely buffet supper and then heard from two motivating presenters. This year's co-chairs are **Amram Hassan**, Executive Director, B'nai David-Judea and **Rebekah Jalali**, administrator, Young Israel of Century City. **Rabbi Daniel Korobkin** is planning a very informative event for the lay leadership in our region. This year's scheduled topics are: "Keep our Shuls Open in an Insecure World" and "Kosher Tikkun Olam for the Orthodox Community."

On the Road Again....with Rabbis Kalinsky & Korobkin

This month, **Rabbis Alan Kalinsky** and **Daniel Korobkin** traveled to numerous communities to spread OU goodwill and provide synagogue services to these communities. Since our **Las Vegas Shabbaton**, at **Shaarei Tefilla**, with **Rabbi Yaakov Wasser**, Rabbi Korobkin has traveled to **Beth Joseph Congregation**, **Rabbi David Rebibo's** community in Phoenix, to **Congregation Emek Bracha**, **Rabbi Yitzhok Feldman's** community in Palo Alto, CA, and to **Adath Israel Congregation, San Francisco**, which has just retained an exciting new rabbi, **Rabbi Joshua Strulowitz**. All three congregations have vibrant congregations and most amenities of larger communities. They are warm and welcoming and would love to have us visit. In the future, we will be working on creating Shabbatonim for the Los Angeles community to visit these communities.

Most recently, Rabbi Korobkin joined the **Desert Synagogue** and their rabbinic intern, **Rabbi Shai Gutenberg**, in Palm Springs to celebrate together with them their 18th anniversary as an OU shul and to honor **Jeff Zucker**. Mazel tov, and may the next 18 be even more successful!

Rabbi Kalinsky's travels took him to the Northwest visiting **Schara Tzedek**, Vancouver, with **Rabbi Andrew Rosenblatt**; and several meetings with OU National V.P of Northwest Region **David Emanuel** to discuss our upcoming regional project, "60 Days—6 Million." In Seattle, a meeting with lay-leadership of that community, and then on to New York to attend the Strategic Planning Meeting with Senior Staff and National President **Steve Savitsky** to chart the future of the OU. On his return to L.A., Rabbi Kalinsky attended the annual dinner of the **Lodger** organization, where he delivered a D'var Torah and accepted a major gift for Orthodox Union-West Coast from **Harry Eisen**, President of the Lodger Organization of California.

Our Teens' Future: Getting on the Same Page

Inspired by our most recent West Coast Convention, we are offering the opportunity for parents, shul Rabbis and Yeshiva high school principals to meet together toward creating better Jewish education and healthier environments for our children. Key issues

involving the quality of our children's Jewish education, social interactions, and other issues of importance will be highlighted. The first session will take place on Thursday, March 30th from 7-9pm at Beth Jacob, 9030 W. Olympic Blvd., Beverly Hills.

Ralphs Supermarket Tours – a Passover Guide

As a loyal reader of our quarterly Newsletters, you know that when you see the word **Ralphs**, you know that our lovely holiday of *Pesach* is just around the corner. The OU has been working closely with the Ralphs Supermarket chain for many years. Much time and effort goes into the preparation of the OU/Ralphs Expanded Passover Selection brochure which is distributed at the markets. This year we are conducting no less than 9 different pre-Passover tours of Ralphs Markets throughout the Southland. They are very helpful to the novice newlywed or *ba'al teshuva* preparing *Pesach* and to the seasoned *balabusta* who really needs to hear about new products and new guidelines for *Pesach*. So check the listings below and find one in your neighborhood and attend!

Kosher for Passover Supermarket Tours

The first Seder is Wednesday night, April 12th

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, Monday, March 20, 7 pm

9616 W. Pico Blvd.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH
BETH JACOB-BH, YICC,
BD-J. AISH. MOGEN DAVID

► Canoga Park Tour, Tuesday, March 21, 7 pm

22333 Sherman Way

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH BEIT
HAMIDRASH-WOODLAND HILLS

► Encino Tour, Wednesday, March 22, 7 pm

17840 Ventura Blvd.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH
EMEK HEBREW ACADEMY-
TEICHMAN TORAH CENTER

► La Brea & 3rd Tour, Thursday, March 23, 7:30 pm

260 S. La Brea Ave.

Led by Rabbi Reuven Nathanson

CO-SPONSORED W/SHAAREI
TEFILA; YOUNG ISRAEL-HP;
KEHHILLAT YAVNEH; CHABAD
of the MIRACLE MILE

► Calabasas Tour, Monday, March 27, 7:30 pm

4754 Commons Way

Led by

Rabbi Reuven Nathanson

CO-SPONSORED W/CALABASAS
SYNAGOGUE ; YOUNG ISRAEL of
CALABASAS; CHABAD of CALABASAS

► Beverly/Doheny Tour, Tuesday, March 28, 7 pm

9040 W. Beverly Blvd.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED W/YOUNG ISRAEL of
NORTH BH & WEST COAST TORAH CTR

► Torrance Tour, Wednesday, March 29, 7 pm

2909 Rolling Hills Rd

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH
CHABAD of LOMITA

► Desert Area Tours, Thursday, March 30

Palm Springs, 11 am

1733 E. Palm Canyon Dr.

Bermuda Dunes, 3 pm

42150 Washington St. Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

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

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