

NCSY's New Program...JEWQUEST

DESCRIPTION: This is a new program developed by Eliezer Jones and piloted this year. It is a weekly program held at different NCSYers homes each week. The NCSYer has to be a kid who has no affiliation with NCSY prior to having the program at their house. The staff member must seek out new kids to host the program. The new NCSYer is expected to have at least nine other



friends show up for the program. The staff member will then bring a carload of NCSY members, pizza, snacks, and soda and a Jewish topic to discuss and teach. The locations of each

JewQuest will be tracked on our website.

PURPOSE: To get new Jewish teens involved with Jewish learning and West Coast NCSY. The staff member in charge of the particular JewQuest will follow up with each new member and encourage them to get more involved with West Coast NCSY.

IMPACT: The teens involved with the pilot had a great time and did get more involved with West Coast NCSY.

SUCCESS: The program has already started and continues to be great. Devorah Lunger, the Valley Chapter Director had the first JewQuest in Calabasas with over 20 kids and the second one in Northridge. Our goal is to run a Valley and a City JewQuest every other week.

For more information on this program or any other West Coast NCSY program please check out our website at www.westcoastncsy.com or call 310-229-9000 ext. 209

For information on the NCSY Card which can save you up to 30% at stores & restaurants in LA and the Valley, check out www.ncsyncard.com for the full list or call 310-229-9000 X 209.

Yavneh Hebrew Academy Thanks the OU

26 Cheshvan 5767/November 17, 2006

Dear Rabbi Kalinsky,

On behalf of all of us at Yavneh Hebrew Academy, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for helping us at our hearing before the City Council last week. Your words made a tremendous impact on our city officials. They heard loud and clear that people of all faiths and denominations stand united in the belief that all Americans have the constitutional right to assemble for prayer.

Yavneh has always prided itself in being a good neighbor to all of our neighbors in Hancock Park. We are confident that with the proper cultivation and healing, we will be able to grow together with our community in a spirit of kinship and brotherhood.

It goes without saying that if there is ever any way that we may reciprocate your kindness; please do not hesitate to call upon me or anyone else on our faculty.

Thank you again. May God who watches over all of us bless you and your loved ones.Best Wishes, Miriam Pery, Executive Director

Excerpts – thank you letter from
Knesset Israel Torah Center of Sacramento
 To Rabbi Steve Burg, National NCSY Director and
 Rabbi F.E. Goldberg, West Coast NCSY Director

In appreciation to NCSY

Dear Rabbi Burg and Rabbi Goldberg,

Thank you for your support of KITC's NCSY Chapter.

Ahron Glazer, Director fo East Bay Chapter is doing a fantastic job of energizing our teenagers, educating them and helping them feel a part of K'lal Yisroel – a very important aspect of his work, since we are such a small community...

Ahron runs "Latte & Learning" each week – it is attended by 15 teens. He makes everyone feel like they belong. He also runs the JSU at Mira Loma High twice a month and attracts teens with pizza and conversation. Many of these public school students come to our Shabbatonim and other local events.

Our NCSY members conduct a weekly Shabbat morning children's class and organize special programming for the younger children.

Our chapter has been honored with 3 awards since it was established. This year, Sam Weiss received the Torah Growth Award and our chapter won the Chapter of the Year Award.

We deeply appreciate your support of our youth and our community through the funding of NCSY.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Yossi EtzHasadeh

Debby Stoller, President

Rena Haberefeld, NCSY Coordinator

OU's Bar-Bat Mitzvah Gift Siddurs - Thank You's



Dear Rabbi Kalinsky and the Orthodox Union,
 Thank you so much for the generous gift of a siddur. I hope to use it very often in the future. It is very nice of the Orthodox Union to give each Bar and Bat Mitzvah student in the community a siddur. It is a very special gift.

Sincerely, Batya Schultz



Dear Orthodox Union,
 Thank you for the thoughtful weekday Siddur on behalf of the organization in honor of my Bar Mitzvah. May we share in many more simchas together.

Sincerely, Jeremy Goldstein

How Great is Your Marriage?...Annual Marriage Enrichment Shabbaton

It can always get better – hold the weekend of March 9-11, 2007, to join the OU at it's 5th Annual Marriage Enrichment Retreat at the Luxe Hotel–Bel-Air. We will be changing the format and staying over on Saturday night. It's the get-away that's only 20 minutes away from within the city or the valley but a world away from your usual weekend activities. Just mark this weekend on your calendars – call Savta & Saba to watch the kids.

Press Release: *OU Adopts Resolutions on Israel's Challenges, Prospects for an Israeli Constitution, the Tragedy in Darfur, and Other Topics at Jerusalem Convention*

Saturday night, November 25th, delegates to the 108th Anniversary Biennial Convention (held in Jerusalem) of the **Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America** adopted Resolutions expressing the positions of the largest Orthodox Jewish umbrella organization on a range of critical issues. The Resolutions included the following:

Israel's Current Challenges: The UOJCA reaffirmed its commitment to support the people and State of Israel. More than one year after the Gaza Disengagement, the UOJCA noted that "anarchy roils Gaza from within, while Palestinians...launch rockets and terrorist attacks...upon Israeli towns." In light of past events, the UOJCA further stated it is "skeptical" of any policy "that relinquishes part of Israel without obtaining...security and peace." In anticipation of possible future proposals for further disengagements, and other matters of concern to the UOJCA community, whether regarding territorial issues or issues relating to the Jewish character of Israel, the adopted Resolution also empowered the senior leadership of the UOJCA to, on a case by case basis, express opposition to Israeli government policies in any appropriate way – including publicly.

The delegates also adopted a separate resolution related to the continuing plight of evacuees from Gaza and Northern Shomron. The resolution called upon the government to finally and fully expedite the resettlement and compensation of the evacuees.

A Constitution for Israel? On the eve of a meeting in the Knesset which will take up anew proposals to enact a written Constitution for the State of Israel, the UOJCA, while neither endorsing nor opposing the ratification of a Constitution, adopted a resolution setting forth the key principles the UOJCA believes must be in any such Constitution. The resolution states that an Israeli Constitution should: "affirm...Israel's Jewish character...strengthen the bond between Israel and...the

Diaspora...affirm the role of...Judaism in the public realm...and set reasonable procedures for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court...and expressly establish limits to the court's jurisdiction."

Confronting Substance Abuse: Acknowledging that the "Orthodox...community is...not immune to the dangers of substance abuse," the UOJCA adopted a resolution urging the community to resist an attitude of "tolerance" toward such conduct. The UOJCA resolution further calls on the community to be "proactive and responsive" to this challenge through education and public information programs in schools, synagogues and homes.

The Tragedy in Darfur: The UOJCA has previously joined with other communal organizations to call for action to end the genocide in Darfur. The convention was an opportunity for the organization to formally adopt a resolution decrying this humanitarian crisis. The resolution commits the UOJCA to continued efforts to press the American government and the international community to end the genocide in Darfur.

Affordability of Jewish Education: The UOJCA renewed its call to the Jewish community to address the crisis of financing Jewish education in the United States. Noting "we are past the crisis point," the adopted resolution urges others in the Jewish community "to rethink its long-time, knee-jerk opposition to government funding for...parochial schools and to support...vouchers, tax credits" and other forms of aid.

Anti-Semitism on College Campuses: The UOJCA decried the "accelerating problem of anti-Semitism infecting academic institutions..." An adopted resolution committed the organization to continuing its efforts in partnership with other Jewish organizations, to monitor and combat this scourge. The resolution also committed the UOJCA's 'Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus' to engage in this fight as well by "providing a safe" environment for Jewish students on the many campuses on which JLIC operates.



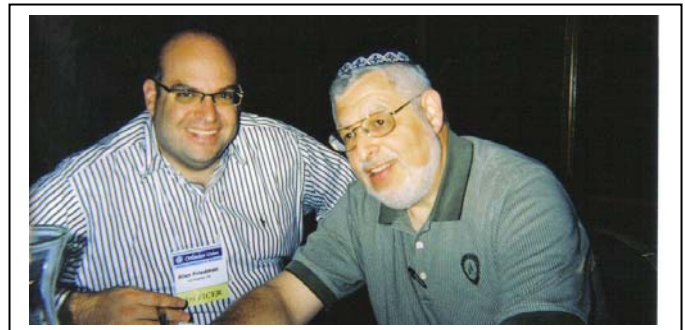
(l to r) Irwin Nachimson, Yitz Novak, Isabelle Novak, seated, Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb



HaRav Yona Metzger, Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Israel with OU National President Steve Savitsky



(l to r) Zvi & Betty Ryzman with Sandy Kalinsky



Newly installed National Vice President for West Coast Region, Allan Friedman with Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

Ya'amode...Report on a Most Successful Gabbaim Conference

September 10, 2006 was a real treat for Gabbaim in our region. Gabbaim from 20 OU West Coast member synagogues and even those that weren't OU shuls came - they flew in from Oakland, from Sacramento and drove up from Irvine. They all came to hear from **Rabbi Gershon Bess, Eli Genauer, Rabbi Uri Hirsch, Rabbi Shimon Kraft** and **Rabbi Marc Mandel**. The Chairmen for the event were Eli Genauer from Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath in Seattle, **Yanky Lunger** from **Shaarey Zedek, North Hollywood** and **Benny Adler** from Benny's Minyan at **Beth Jacob, Beverly Hills** and **Rabbi Uri Hirsch** from **Young Israel, Century City**. Participants were treated to lunch and *sofrim* were on hand to check *Mezuzot* & *Tefillin*.



OU Vice President of West Coast Region, Eli Genauer, who flew in for this Seminar had this to say...

A standing room only crowd filled the OU's West Coast Headquarters to attend the region's first Gabbai Conference. Modeled after a similar conference held in New York last year, the West Coast Conference featured lectures by **Rav Hershel Schachter, Rav Gerson Bess** and **Sofer Shimon Kraft**. Gabbaim often are only noticeable when they make a mistake, but they in fact play a key role in any synagogue service. The Gabbaim who attended this conference were all serious about their jobs and the Halachic responsibilities that come with it. Aside from learning "on target" halachos from the three main presenters, the Gabbaim were able to interact with each other and share similar experiences. A big Yasher Koach goes to the OU West Coast Office, **Rabbi Alan Kalinsky, Rabbi Daniel Korobkin, Esther Rothberg** and **Susie Srebro** for organizing this event.

60 Days for 60 Years – We Must Not Forget!!!

Starting on Oct. 22nd and ending 60 days later with our Convention on Dec 22nd, 2,000 students, adults and families are learning for 60 consecutive days and each is learning in memory of a martyr of the Shoah. The West Coast Region of the OU launched this program in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Rabbi of London.

Rabbi Harvey Belovski flew over the pond, as they say, and helped launch the program. He started out in San Diego, went on to Irvine and then out to Calabasas. He went to six yeshivot and eight shuls and everyone raved about his presentations and his great personality. Rabbi Belovski is the Rabbi of Golders Green Synagogue in London.

The following, is a response from Melody Bandary, a Junior at Yeshiva University Girls High School, LA: [60 Days for 6 Million:](#)

A few weeks ago I was given a small book from my school and told to read one essay every day for sixty days in memory of a holocaust victim. At first I thought this was a very nice idea and I would try to do it. However, I committed myself to accomplish this goal knowing that there is a large chance this book would not be interesting. Day by day as I read an essay I could not wait until the next day, as each essay inspired me greatly. One day I came across one of the essays which was about a Nazi who had inherited three Orthodox Jewish grandsons, because he had saved three young boys from entering the gas chambers. This essay had by far the most interesting and uplifting message of all, it taught me that we are rewarded for every good deed we do. The message this book has shown me is so great that it has inspired me to continue finishing the book, but even more so to recommend it to others.

OU Kollolel Yom Rishon-5767: Sundays at 8:45am

Please come to one of our OU Member Synagogues for some food and food for thought...namely our **Kollolel Yom Rishon** program organized by **Rabbi Daniel Korobkin**. The morning begins with a complimentary breakfast followed by directed *Chavrusa* learning and a *Shiur* by a visiting Rabbi. Here's the schedule – so what are you waiting for...

Dec. 3	Mogen David	Rabbi Ben Geiger
Dec. 31	Bnai David-Judea	Rabbi Yitz Eishalom
Jan. 7	Yeshiva of LA	Zvi Ryzman
Jan. 21	Shaarei Tefilla-LA	Rabbi Daniel Korobkin
Feb. 4	Young Israel-Century City	Rabbi Jonathan Benzaquen
Feb. 18	Pacific Jewish Center	Rabbi Nachum Kosofsky
Mar. 11	Shaarey Zedek, NH	Rabbi Yakov Vann
Mar. 18	Yeshiva of LA	Rabbi Avrohom Union



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