



WEST COAST NEWS

9831 WEST PICO BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90035
310.229.9000 EXT. 200 WESTCOAST@OU.ORG WWW.OUWESTCOAST.ORG

Purim/Passover
Edition
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Banquet 2009 Celebrates 40 years of West Coast OU/NCSY

Please join us in honoring our
Founders, Advisors, Directors, NCSYers & Beth Jacob Congregation

Annual Awards Banquet
Tuesday, June 23rd

*If you were part of NCSY in the 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's
please find those old photos and help us create a memorable journal!*

Trustee Society Growing

Over 40 families became members of our Trustee Society in 2008. They were treated to special events and lectures throughout the year and were our guests at our Annual Banquet and at the Opening Dinner of our West Coast Torah Convention. Participation in this special group of contributors begins at the \$1,800 level. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our wonderful supporters for their generosity throughout the years. You have made it happen!

On Sunday evening, February 22nd our 2008 and 2009 Trustees were treated to a very interesting presentation by **Aryeh Green**, Executive Director of **MediaCentral**, a non-profit organization based in Yerushalayim that helps foreign journalists to get the job done right and provides them with the facts.

Dr. David Pelcovitz will be the featured speaker at our second Trustee event of 2009 on Saturday night, March 21st. Invitations to this exclusive event will be forthcoming.



Aryeh Green



Dr. David Pelcovitz

5th District Race: March 3rd

On Tuesday evening, February 17th at Bnai David-Judea, all six candidates for the 5th District office presented their views on the needs of the very large and diverse City Council District. Sponsorship of the event was by **Alan Lowy, Esq. of Akerman Senterfitt, LLP**. While each candidate was articulate and offered intelligent ideas about the future of the area, there was clearly a difference of opinion among the candidates. Candidates included **Adeena Bleich, Ron Galperin, Paul Koretz, Robert Schwartz, Robyn Simon and David Vahedi**.

This was one election where voter turnout was important.

Rabbi Weil Addresses the West Coast Board



Rabbi Steven Weil

At the recent semi-annual meeting of the OU West Coast Board on Monday February 9th, **Rabbi Steven Weil**, OU National Executive Vice President-designate, was invited to address the group.

The meeting gave the opportunity for various commission reports to be given by those professionals and lay-leaders to inform our Board of things that have taken place as well as a full discussion of those events in the planning stages.

Although Rabbi Weil is known by many as Rabbi of Beth Jacob of Beverly Hills, it was a pleasure to introduce him to the wider Board and allow him the time to share his candid analysis of what the OU has accomplished as well as sharing his visions of the future of the OU. Following his remarks, there was much discussion around the table as to how the West Coast region would fit into the overall plans and the future direction of the Orthodox Union.

The members of the Board, individually and collectively, wished Rabbi Weil a hearty *Yasher Koach* on the assumption of his new position. All agreed that they would pledge to work with him for the benefit of the organization.

OU Synagogues Around Our Region

Rabbi Korobkin Visits...Sacramento

11.26.08

Boker tov, Rabbi Korobkin,

On behalf of everyone here at KITC, I wanted to thank you once again for the absolutely wonderful Shabbaton that you gave to us this past weekend. You carried it out with such generosity of spirit and love for one of the disparate communities constituting your "watch" at the OU! Literally everyone I have heard from, from Rabbi Bailey on down, felt that the event was a signal one for KITC - truly deep in Torah and tremendously positive from a community strengthening perspective.

The idea, which you so effectively communicated in your Shabbat morning drash, that Yitzhak Avinu davka chose Be'er L'chai Ro'i, with its elemental significance to Avraham and Hagar and their own future, to daven mincha and to receive Rivka his wife-to-be, was particularly trenchant. I believe, in fact, that it symbolizes our task here at KITC. Like Yitzhak - who, as you demonstrated, understood that his father's future domestic happiness was intimately tied up with his own - we must learn to understand that our effectiveness as a community as a whole is dependent on our concern for the well-being of each one of us as individuals. "All for one and one for all", as Dumas would have said. Thank you for that insight, and for the myriad others that you brought to us!!

May you have continued success in building and supporting Torah-observant communities, and please come back to Sacramento soon!

Appreciatively,

Andy Rubin

Adult Education Chair

Kenesset Israel Torah Center, Sacramento, CA



At KITC: Andy Rubin, Rabbi Ian Bailey, Rabbi Daniel Korobkin

Rabbi Korobkin Visits...Mercer Island

01.11.09

*Until last weekend, all that the members of **Congregation Shevet Achim** in Mercer Island, WA, knew about the OU was the familiar symbol that we look for on kosher food products. But after having OU President **Stephen Savitsky** and West Coast Region Director of Community and Synagogue Services **Rabbi Daniel Korobkin** join us, we know that the OU offers much more than just a good hechsher.*

Rabbi Korobkin spent Shabbat with our 100-family shul on January 9-10, and enlightened our membership with discussions ranging from the responsibilities of a Jewish parent to philosophical differences between Maimonides and Yehudah HaLevi. Most importantly, he left plenty of time for questions, and ensured that we left with a practical understanding of how these topics were relevant in our lives today.

Saturday evening, we were joined by Mr. Savitsky, who had just spent Shabbat across Lake Washington in the Seward Park community. He delivered an inspiring talk on how to make an ordinary day into an extraordinary life-changing experience (wow!) and then helped us understand the many other ways that the OU benefits us as an affiliated shul and as individual American Jews.

The shul membership was thrilled to have such wonderful opportunities for learning and growth, and we look forward to a long, fruitful relationship with the OU.

Randy Kessler

Education Chair, Congregation Shevet Achim

...Continued on pg 3...

Rabbi Korobkin Visits... ...Westwood Kehilla

02.16.09

We were excited to have the easy accessibility of Rabbi Daniel Korobkin, a renowned expert on the Kuzari text, to our Kehilla for a weekend of lectures. His introductory remarks on how he evolved into an expert on the Khazar King's contemplations, as well as his clear summary of the textual material, influenced many in our diverse crowd to indeed acquire the text. His other interesting lectures on Medieval Jewish Attitudes to Christians and Christianity and the Relevance for Today were a credit to both his knowledge and his receptivity and approachability. His gift as a thorough and humble presenter and warm speaker helped for all to easily approach both the concepts presented and the Rabbi.

Dr. Myrna Jacobson Meyers,

Professor of Biology at USC

and Westwood Kehilla member



Mechitzah in Edmonton Reaches "New Heights!"

Edmonton Beth Israel is excited to announce the decision to raise the *mechitzah*! Since 2000, we have been in our current west-end location, the third building of the congregation, in its history of over a century. The first building was set up in the traditional format of men downstairs and women upstairs. In 1954, we moved from downtown Edmonton to the outskirts of the centre, just off Jasper Ave. The seating arrangement in our second building saw the men sitting in the front and the women behind with a waist-high *mechitzah*. Our newest building moved the women to either side of the men, with the same *mechitzah* style. Rabbi Friedman has been with the congregation now for seven years and has spent time working with the congregation on a design that would bring the shul into normative *halachic* practice.

"We want a shul that is welcoming to all," says Friedman, "This new *mechitzah* has been created according to the instructions of **Rav Moshe Feinstein, zt"l** and the specific design was voted on recently at a general meeting of the shul membership. We are all excited to have found a solution that is aesthetically-pleasing and *halachically*-sound." The *mechitzah* is currently under construction and will be unveiled at a special gala event on 22 March by **Chief Rabbi of Israel Yona Metzger**.

New Rabbis & Presidents Join Our Region in 5769-2009

We welcome and wish much Hatzlacha to these Rabbis and Rebettzins in their new positions:

Rabbi Yisroel & Natalie Ciner:

Beth Jacob of Irvine

Rabbi Eliyahu & Tova Fink:

Pacific Jewish Center, Venice, CA

Rabbi Yisroel & Deborah Miller:

House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, Calgary

Rabbi Adir & Dr. Hindi Posy:

Beth Jacob Congregation, Beverly Hills (Assistant)

Rabbi Chaim & Natalie Williams:

Congregation Mogen David, LA (Assistant)

We congratulate the following new presidents of shuls in our region and wish them much success in all their endeavors:

Beth Jacob Oakland – **Dr. Brian Kaye**

Beth Jacob San Diego – **Rand Levin**

Bikur Cholim-Machzikay Hadath – **Andy Jacobs**

B'nai David-Judea – **David Diamond**

Congregation Emek Beracha – **Aron Rosenfeld**

Congregation Kesser Israel – **Steve Meyerowitz**

Ezra Bessaroth – **Ruben Owen**

Kehillat Ahavat Yisrael – **Dr. Jeffrey Max**

Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation – **Dr. Elie Levy**

The Stern Family OU West Coast Annual Synagogue Leadership Seminar Sunday, May 3rd, 9am-12:30pm

8:00am: Davening

8:30am: Breakfast

8:55am: Welcome:

David Zeffren, President

9:00am:

**"Developing Creative
Fundraising Strategies
During Turbulent Times"**

with **Paul Glasser**

10:15-10:45am: Q & A

11am-12noon:

**"Yeshivot and Day
Schools in Financial
Crisis: Approaches to
Solving the Problems "**

with **Rabbi Saul Zucker**

12-12:30pm: Q & A



Paul Glasser

Exec. Vice President
American Committee for
Shaare Zedek
Medical Center, Jerusalem



Rabbi Saul Zucker

OU Director
Educational Services

This free seminar is for
**OU Member
Synagogues**

Rabbis, Presidents
Executive Directors
Officers & Board Members

AND

Yeshiva Day Schools

Principals, Presidents
Executive Directors
Officers & Board Members

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

310.229.9000 ext 200 - westcoast@ou.org

Location: **OU-NCSY Headquarters-9831 W. Pico Blvd.**

In memory of - Emanuel Stern ז"ל



Manny Stern was president of Beth Jacob, Beverly Hills, from 1961-1963 and again from 1965-1967. He was a synagogue leader by his own example. Manny was one of the first to subscribe to the Luach Limud, the daily learning program of the OU. Manny and his Eishes Chayil, June, were honored at the 2005 OU West Coast Banquet with the "Founders Award" in recognition of their life long commitment to the OU & NCSY. He was a true shul "mensch"

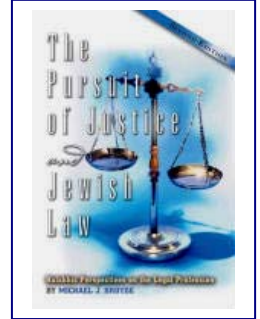
Rabbi Michael Broyde Visits LA – May 15-17:

“Jewish Law & Crime: Informing on Criminals, Prosecuting Criminals & Defending Criminals”



Michael Broyde, a professor of Law at Emory University School of Law and the Academic Director of the Law and Religion Program at Emory University; founding Rabbi of Young Israel of Atlanta, and a member of the Beit Din of America, is no stranger to our community. He will return to serve as a Scholar-in-Residence at Young Israel of North Beverly Hills over Shabbat and then lead a 3 hour MCLE class at OU headquarters on Sunday, May 17th from 12noon-3pm.

The MCLE session was organized by **Allan Lowy** and his law firm, **Ackerman Senterfitt LLP**. The topic, *“Jewish Law & Crime: Informing on Criminals, Prosecuting Criminals & Defending Criminals”* is based on Broyde’s latest book, *The Pursuit of Justice and Jewish Law*, which will be given out to all participants at the course. Cost for the course is \$ 85. Please reserve a space at estherr@ou.org



Ralphs Continues Their Community Involvement

Once again, we are pleased to assist the **Ralphs Market** organization with the **Annual Kosher for Passover Tours** in their stores. Our thanks go to the efforts of **Annie Barlett**, Ralph’s Director of the Grocery & Dairy/Deli Division, together with those store managers who attended the special seminar conducted by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky, OU West Coast Director.

We encourage all to join us and support the efforts of Ralphs while enjoying an interesting, educational and fun trip down the isles of your neighborhood Ralphs....*there’s always something new to learn and discover.*

OU & Ralphs Annual Kosher for Passover Supermarket Tours



The first Seder is Wednesday night, April 8, 2009

You are invited to join us for a practical workshop on Kosher for Passover products at the following stores:

The annual **OU Passover Guide Magazine** will be available at the tours.

► Woodland Hills Tour

Monday, March 16, 7:30 pm

*Topanga Canyon
21909 Ventura Blvd.*

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH BEIT HAMIDRASH OF WOODLAND HILLS-CHABAD-of West Hills, Woodland Hills, Calabasas, Chatsworth, and CONG. BEIT AVRAHAM

► Westwood Tour

Thursday, March 19, 7:30 pm

10861 Le Conte

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH OU-JLIC @ UCLA, WESTWOOD KEHILLA; and CHABAD-WESTWOOD

► Irvine Tour

Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 pm

*Ridgeline/University
5331 University Dr.*

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH BETH JACOB-IRVINE and CHABAD of IRVINE

► Century City Tour

Monday, March 23, 7:30 pm

10309 W. Olympic Blvd.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

CO-SPONSORED WITH: YICC; ADAS TORAH; BETH JACOB-BH, and WESTWOOD KEHILLA

► Pico/Beverwil Tour

Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 pm

9616 W. Pico Blvd.

Led by Rabbi Alan Kalinsky

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

► La Brea & 3rd Tour

Tuesday, March 24, 7:30 pm

260 S. La Brea Ave.

Led by Rabbi Reuven Nathanson

CO-SPONSORED WITH: SHAAREI TEFILA; YOUNG ISRAEL-HP; KEHILLAT YAVNEH; CHABAD of the MIRACLE MILE and HANCOCK PARK

► Torrance Tour, Wednesday, March 25, 7 pm

2909 Rolling Hills Rd. - Led by Rabbi Reuven Nathanson

CO-SPONSORED WITH CHABAD of LOMITA