

JUNE 19, 2010 7 Tammuz 5770 Parshat Chukat

Orthodox Union-West Coast Offices: 9831 W. Pico Blvd., LA CA 90035 [www.ouwestcoast.org](http://www.ouwestcoast.org)

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Several months ago, a journalist called me regarding an article she was working on about the Jewish community of southwest Portland. She questioned me about our synagogue and its impact on the neighborhood. As I started to explain the nature of an orthodox synagogue and our "shabbos" community, she informed me that she herself was Jewish. She related to me that while passing through the area and seeing people walk to shul, she told her young daughter, "these are the people who really keep shabbos!" Her comment reminded me that the simple act of walking to shul is of great significance to those around us. Our synagogue, by its very existence, is a source of Jewish awareness and pride. While I say this about my own community, it is an insight which is relevant to all Torah communities and individuals. Our presence creates an important potential for Kiddush HaShem.

The concept of Kiddush HaShem is central in Torah – just take the *Mei Meriva* (waters of strife). To be sure, there are many turning points in Sefer Bamidbar – moments of irrevocable consequence. The *Mei Meriva* was particularly consequential. At that moment, we lost the possibility that *Moshe Rabbeinu* would lead us into the land of Israel. That fact had ramifications for all of Jewish history. Yet, that turning point known as the *Mei Meriva* is somewhat enigmatic. The Chumash and Chazal seem to point to several problems which defined that sin, from striking the rock, a lack of *Emunah* (faith), to chastising Israel as rebels.

The Maharal writes that in essence there was one issue at the *Mei Meriva* - the failure to teach *Emunah* to the Jewish people. The *Pasuk* states, "because you did not have *Emunah* in me to sanctify me (i.e., *Kiddush HaShem*)" (Bamidbar 20, 12). To speak about a lack of *Emunah* regarding Moshe is a very delicate issue. It is not possible for us to relate to what it means for Moshe, the greatest of all prophets, to have a deficiency in *Emunah*! Still, the Torah testifies that there was a lack of *Emunah*, albeit on his lofty level. What was demanded of Moshe at this moment?

On one level, Moshe Rabbeinu had a practical job of providing water to the Jewish people. However, the water would have to be given through a miracle. Facilitating that miracle had to be carried out in a very specific way. The Maharal explains that in that moment, it was necessary for Moshe and Aharon to personally attain a new height of *Emunah*. Had they reached that level, the Jewish people would in turn be able to respond and integrate that heightened level of awareness.

While the term *Emunah* implies a belief, it is expressed through our emotions. The basic emotion associated with *Emunah* is an inner calm and joy. The individual who has integrated the trait of *Emunah* feels attached to the Almighty, and does not feel anxious, nervous, or angry. Yet, the torah reveals that Moshe expressed something which was perceived as anger, a lack of joy. Weather striking the rock twice and not speaking to it, or addressing the Jewish people "Listen, rebels!" there was a lack of joy. That lack of joy suggested a lack of *Emunah*, albeit on the level of Moshe, the greatest of all prophets. Because of that, HaShem turned to Moshe and said, "Because you did not have *Emunah* in me, and did not sanctify me..." The opportunity to teach *Emunah* – to integrate it within Israel at the highest level - was missed, and that had long term consequences for Clal Yisrael.

On the one hand, leaders of Israel must provide services. But beyond the services themselves, there is something else leaders must convey. In this case the service was water. But, water was suggestive of something deeper, that the Almighty provides sustenance in a wilderness. The manner in which the water is provided must express a heightened awareness of the source of sustenance. So in this case, the lack of total joy at the moment of providing the water, translated into a missed opportunity for the ultimate in Kiddush HaShem. And a lack of Kiddush HaShem was a serious transgression.

This entire episode is suggestive of a broader theme in Torah. We are obligated not only to fulfill the technical aspects of G-d's command. Attaining our maximum potential demands that we integrate the qualities of Torah to a degree that our lives cause a living Kiddush HaShem.

**Rabbi Kenneth Brodtkin**  
Kesser Israel, Portland, OR

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(310) 229-9000 ext.200  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS @ OU WEST COAST

➤ **OU Annual Awards Banquet**  
**THIS Tuesday, June 22**

Honoring

**David & Debbie Schultz**  
**Seth & Ruth Berkowitz**  
**Dr. Steve & Linda Tabak**

and NCSY Awardees

**Nissana Boxstein** **Perri Lurie**  
**Noah Small** **Benny Statman**

**HAVE YOU CONFIRMED  
YOUR RESERVATION?**

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**Community Wide**  
**Shiva Asar B'Tammuz**  
**Mincha-Maariv**

**Tuesday JUNE 29, 7:30pm**

Held by

**Beth Jacob Cong.**  
Beverly Hills

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**Coming – October 22-24**  
**OU Weekend in La Jolla, CA**  
Info: [EstherR@ou.org](mailto:EstherR@ou.org)

## PLEASE HELP THE OU JOB BOARD IMPROVE ITS SERVICES

The OU Job Board, in its continuing quest to help the communities we serve needs your help. Can you make this happen?

**Please** help the OU Job Board improve its services. Would you like the OU Job Board to offer you more services? We need you to give the OU Job Board feedback to the services it currently provides? We encourage you to fill out the OU Job Board Survey. It will take a minute of your time and will ultimately help you and K'lal Yisroel as we fine tune our services. Please follow this link to take our survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PQ6JZ8F>

The OU Job Board is asking our entire membership to please go to the OU Job Board at [www.oujobs.org](http://www.oujobs.org) and register FREE OF CHARGE to become a member. Even if you have registered with us in the past, we are asking you to re-register now so we can update our current information and help us help you pinpoint jobs and services in your area.

**"Lone Jewish High School Student Faces Down Arab Mob in LA"**  
<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/137844>

## OU SYNAGOGUES AROUND THE REGION

### Beverly Hills: Cong. Beth Jacob (310) 278-1911

- **Women's Spring Seudah Shlisheit Series with the Rebbetzins:**  
JULY 10, 6pm: Rebbetzin/Dr. Hindy Posy @1531 Glenville

### Beverly Hills: Young Israel-North BH: (310) 276-7650 [info@YINBH.org](mailto:info@YINBH.org)

- **Shabbat JUNE 19:** Guest Rabbi Dr. Daniel Lerner—"What Happens in Vegas Doesn't Stay in Vegas: Gambling on Jewish Futures"
- **Shabbat JUNE 26:** Guest Elliot Brandt, AIPAC – Graduates Shabbat
- **Shabbat JULY 3:** Guest, OU President Steve Savitsky
- **Shabbat JULY 16-17:** S-I-R Rabbi Natan Slifkin, 'The Zoo Rabbi'

Calabasas Shul: (818) 591-7485

Canada-Calgary: House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel (403) 259-3230

Canada-Edmonton: Beth Israel (780) 488-2840

- **Shabbat JUL 3-4:** S-I-R Rabbi Daniel Lerner

Canada-Vancouver: Schara Tzedek (604) 736-7607

Denver, CO: BMH-BJ Cong (303) 388-4203

Denver, CO: EDOS (303) 322-7943

- **SUN JUNE 27:** Fiesta Reception honoring Aniko & Dr. Miguel Mogyoros  
Irvine, CA: Beth Jacob (949) 786-5230

LA: Adas Torah (310) 203-9659 [www.adastorah.com](http://www.adastorah.com)

- **FRI NIGHT JUN 18 Mincha:** Guest Speaker Rabbi Dr. Daniel Lerner  
"Torahnomics: Financial Planning for Families and Nations"

LA: Aish Hatorah (310) 278-8672 x 305 or [tsullivan@aishla.com](mailto:tsullivan@aishla.com)

LA: B'nai David-Judea (310)-276-9269 or [amram@bnaidavid.com](mailto:amram@bnaidavid.com)

LA: Etz Jacob (323) 938-2619

LA: Mogen David Cong. (310) 556-5609

- **Shabbat, June 19, morning:** Raphaella Segal, the Asst. Mayor, Kedumim
- **Seudah Shlisheit JUN 19, 7:45pm:** Guest Speaker Rabbi Dr. Daniel Lerner  
"Father Figures: Why Were the Avos Rich? A Torah Perspective on Affluence"

LA: Young Israel of Century City: (310) 273-6954

- **Shabbat afternoon JUN 19 6:30pm:** Speaker Rabbi Dr. Daniel Lerner --  
"Taking the 'Nasty' Out of Your Dynasty:  
The Torah program for a Successful Family Enterprise"

LA: Young Israel of Hancock Park: (323) 931-4030

LA: Yeshiva of LA (YOLA) 310-203-3197 [yeshivarabbi@juno.com](mailto:yeshivarabbi@juno.com)

**MINCHA/MAARIV: SUN-THURS, 15 minutes before Shkiah;**  
**LATE MAARIV: SUN-THUR 10pm. M-TH am/pm: adults/students chavrusas**  
Laguna Woods, CA: Beth Torah (949) 587-1967 (a retirement community)

La Jolla: Adat Yeshurun (858) 535-1196

- **SUN JUNE 13, 8:30am-2:30pm:** Blood Drive. [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) Code: CAY  
Las Vegas, NV: Shaarei Tefila (702) 384-3565 (Mikva 384-3317)

Oakland, CA: Beth Jacob (510) 482-1147

Palm Springs, CA: The Desert Synagogue (760) 327-4848

Palo Alto, CA: Emek Beracha (650) 857-1800 (Mikva 493-5555)

Phoenix, AZ: Beth Joseph (602) 277-8858

Portland, OR: Kesser Israel (503) 222-1239

Sacramento, CA: Keneset Israel Torah Center (916) 481-1159

San Diego, CA: Cong. Beth Jacob (619) 287-9890

San Diego, CA: Kehillat Ahavat Yisrael-KAY (858) 633-0181

San Francisco, CA: Adath Israel (415) 564-5665

Seattle: Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath (206) 721-0970

- **Shabbat JUNE 19-20:** S-I-R Rabbi Dovid Katz
  - **SUN JUNE 27:** Gala honoring Elaine/Marshal Hartholz & Joe/Julie Greene
- Seattle: Ezra Bessaroth (206) 722-5500

Seattle: Sephardic Bikur Holim (206) 723-3028

Valley Village, CA: Shaarey Zedek Cong. (818) 763-0560

Venice, Pacific Jewish Center-The Shul on the Beach: (310) 392-8749

Washington-Mercer Island: Shevet Achim (206) 275-1539

Woodland Hills: Beit HaMidrash (818) 999-2059 (5850 Fallbrook Ave.)

**SUNS @ 8:30am:** following 8am minyan-Shiur-Baba Kama w/Rabbi Yaakov Rechiniz

West LA: Westwood Kehilla (310) 441-5288x2 [director@kehilla.org](mailto:director@kehilla.org)

## NCSY-JSU-YACHAD ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS



**Office contact:** 310-229-9000 x 209 [www.westcoastnctsy.com](http://www.westcoastnctsy.com)

Want to help run a chesed project? call Solly at 310-557-6582

**CITY NCSY:** Call Solly @ 310-557-6582 or [Shess@westcoastnctsy.com](mailto:Shess@westcoastnctsy.com)

**DNL - MON-last one JUN 28- 7-8pm:** @ Pizza World 365 S. Fairfax Ave.

**Latte&Learning-TUES 7:30pm:** @CB&T-233 S. Beverly Dr. w/R'Josh Horwitz

**JR. NCSY:** (6-8 grade) Call Josh 310-694-2976 or [nctsyjosh@gmail.com](mailto:nctsyjosh@gmail.com)

... **NCSY Bar/Bat Mitzvah** tutoring available. **Talmud Torah** classes.

**YACHAD:** Call Perri @323-228-4191.

**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES!\*\***

Check out pics from Spring Regional at [www.westcoastnctsy.com](http://www.westcoastnctsy.com)

## B'NEI AKIVA OF LA ANNOUNCEMENTS

→ **Office:** 310-248-2450 [bneiakivaLA@gmail.com](mailto:bneiakivaLA@gmail.com)

→ **Upcoming Events:**

*Have a great Summer!*

**\*\*CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE GRADUATES!\*\***



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ **ONGOING: OU'S WOMEN'S TORAH NETWORK (WTN)**

**Classes with Geri Wiener—Summer sessions start June 21 & 23**

→ **MONs-Valley (private home):** → **WEDs-City (OU Hdqtrs):**

▶ **For Sale by Owner:** 2 bedroom plus den at end of cul-de-sac on  
Kirkside in Beverlywood. \$1,300,000. email: [KirksideDrive@gmail.com](mailto:KirksideDrive@gmail.com)

▶ **NCSY & JSU \*Raffle\* \$25 Tickets**

**\*Invest in a Jewish Teens future for only \$25**

Prizes include 5 Night Vacation in Cabo. One night at the Luxe,  
plus more. Call 310 229-9000 ext. 226 for more information!

## ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD

### Pre-empting multiple sclerosis

A breakthrough finding from Israel may lead to earlier diagnosis, more effective intervention, and perhaps even a cure for the autoimmune disease multiple sclerosis.

### Cool use of the sun

Heatwaves can lead to energy blackouts as customers turn their air-con on. Now an Israeli company is proposing to use the sun's heat to cool our homes, reducing harmful electricity surges in the process. ...

### A tool to detect sarcasm online? Yeah, right.

With increasing numbers of people consulting web reviews and forums prior to making a purchase, it's more important than ever to detect sarcasm online.

### Tel Aviv chef is a rising star

Chosen by Food and Wine magazine as the world's top "Rising Star Chef", Yonatan Roshfeld's Tapas Echad, is one more reason for Tel Aviv's growing prominence on the global culinary map.

### Top ten smart surveillance systems from Israel

Video surveillance systems have become a vital tool in enabling authorities to trace criminals and terrorists. Israel is one of the leading players in the field. ISRAEL21c brings you the top 10 video security technologies from Israel.

[www.Israel21c.org](http://www.Israel21c.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RABBI ADIR POSY, OF BALTIMORE, NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
OF COMMUNITY AND SYNAGOGUE SERVICES OF OU WEST COAST DIVISION**



**Rabbi Adir Posy, of Baltimore, is the new Assistant Director of Community and Synagogue Services for the Orthodox Union West Coast division.**

**Rabbi Adir Posy, of Baltimore, has been named the new Assistant Director of Community and Synagogue Services for the Orthodox Union West Coast division.**

“Adir Posy is one of the top young rabbis in America,” declared **Rabbi Steven Weil**, Executive Vice President of the Orthodox Union. “Not only is he an outstanding *talmid chacham* (Torah scholar) and a renaissance man, but he is a *baal chesed* (kind hearted), a listener and has the ability to network with lay-leaders and rabbis through the length and breadth of North America.”

For the past two years, Rabbi Posy has been busy sharing his time cross-country, serving both as Rabbinic Intern at **Congregation Shomrei Emunah in Baltimore** and teaching at the **Yeshivat Rambam** high school there during the week, and then flying to **Los Angeles** for the weekends where he serves as Assistant Rabbi at **Congregation Beth Jacob**, working with young professionals.

“It’s very rewarding to live in the universe that defines each distinct community, and I feel privileged to experience this on both coasts. Baltimore and Los Angeles are very different places, with different needs, and I have been able to take a step back each week to learn from each, and see what works for each,” declared Rabbi Posy.

One hard part about travelling so often is meeting great people, but not being able to nurture long term relationships. “I look forward to living and working in the same city now, but also that I’ll be able to enhance and strengthen the relationships I’ve built over the years,” said Rabbi Posy.

Part of his responsibilities will include expanding the resources and tools provided by the OU to new members of the community and new shuls. “Organic programming,” as Rabbi Posy calls it, involves tailor-made programs created and implemented to fit specific interests, such as workshops for parents to help their children develop connections with prayer and *emunah* (faith). Rabbi Posy will continue his work at Congregation Beth Jacob, with hopes to further expand a new generation of young leadership.

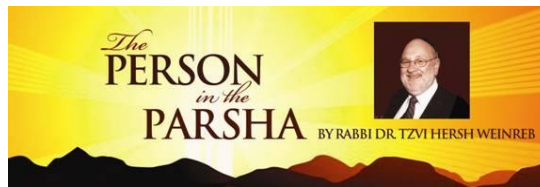
According to **Rabbi Alan Kalinsky**, OU West Coast Director, “Rabbi Posy brings a new energy that we know will help forward the vision and mission of the OU to synagogues. He is already knowledgeable and committed to our community; we are excited to have him to implement new projects and bring new leadership to the board. As our community continues to grow, his background experience and determination should be a successful fit to help us move forward as leaders in the Orthodox Jewish community.”

Rabbi Posy, a graduate of **Yeshiva University’s Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS)**, was invited to share some words of Torah at this year’s *Chag HaSemicha*, a celebration held every four years in honor of the recently ordained rabbis. In his speech, Rabbi Posy engaged his peers and mentors, beginning with a reflection of theoretically, how he would react if he were to get on a plane that afternoon and someone asked over the intercom if there was a rabbi on the plane. With grace and heart, he explored the various roles of what a rabbi is expected to be: to take words off of a page and bring them to life, to transform a place of mourning into a place of comfort and understanding, to bring together an assortment of personalities and create a community. A rabbi is a teacher, scholar, therapist combined together, plus more, he said.

Rabbi Posy wrapped up his speech with two reminders of what God promised Moses. First, that God’s presence and protection is with him every step of the way, and second, that he would never feel alone, he would have a support system wherever he went. Rabbi Posy assured his peers that those same promises are still valid today.

Rabbi Posy officially begins his new position **August 1**. He will be moving to Los Angeles with his wife **Hindi**, an L.A. native who will be doing a fellowship in High Risk Obstetrics at the **University of Southern California** and his sons **Yitzy** (two years old) and **Eitan** (one year old).

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## Parshat Chukat

June 19, 2010 – 7 Tammuz 5770

To read more articles and essays by Rabbi Weinreb, visit his blog at [www.ou.org/rabbi\\_weinreb](http://www.ou.org/rabbi_weinreb)

### "Discovering our Mortality"

It was at a house of mourning, and she was saying something that I had heard many times before. In fact, I had said it myself when I was sitting *shiva* for my own mother.

She is a friend of long-standing, and a member of my former congregation. I hope that I am not being unchivalrous by describing her as late middle-aged. She had just lost her own mother, having lost her father several years ago.

"It is not just that I feel orphaned," she said. "It is that I feel vulnerable. As long as even one of my parents was alive, it was as if there was a kind of buffer between me and death. Now that they are both gone, it begins to feel that it is my turn. No one to protect me. I face the *malach hamavet* (angel of death) directly, face to face, head on."

We all deny our mortality, and as long as the older generation is around we feel that they, and not we, are the ones on death's frontlines. We are insulated from death's claws by them. It is their turn and not yet ours. But once we lose our own parents, we can no longer deny our mortality. It is our turn.

There is an excellent book by my esteemed colleague, Rabbi Marc Angel, entitled *The Orphaned Adult*. I often recommend this book to mourners, particularly those who are fortunate to have entered adulthood, even late middle age, with both parents alive, and experience their deaths only after having long ago reached adulthood. Their feelings are unique and very different from those who experienced the trauma of a parent's death at an earlier stage of life. Rabbi Angel also describes this sudden sense of mortality, of vulnerability. With the death of parents, these older people finally must surrender their comfortable denial of their own inevitable demise.

In this week's portion, *Chukat*, we read of the death of two beloved leaders of the Jewish people, Miriam and Aaron. Both of them were parent figures, albeit not actual parents, of the Jews in the years of their wandering in the wilderness. Instructively, a period of vulnerability ensues immediately upon their respective deaths.

We read first of Miriam's death. "The Israelites arrived at the wilderness of Zin... Miriam died there and was buried there." And then, immediately, "The community was without water." (*Numbers* 20:1-2)

As long as Miriam was alive, she was a source of water, a source of life. While she was alive, the *be'er* Miriam (well of Miriam) provided water for the people. With her death, and in her case, the well immediately dried up, the water ceased, and the people were vulnerable. Without "mother" Miriam, death by thirst threatened the people.

Soon afterwards, we read, "...and Aaron died there on the summit of the mountain." And then, this time not immediately but after thirty days of mourning, "When the Canaanite king of Arad heard... he engaged Israel in battle and took some of them captive..." (*Numbers* 20:28-29 and 21:1) "Father" Aaron died, and peace and security were shattered. War and that worst of fates, captivity, reared their ugly heads.

It seems that it is more than mere psychological reality that with the passing of its leaders, a nation faces calamity. With the death of one's parents, one's own well being is threatened. No wonder that when the young sister-in-law of the 18th century sage Rabbi Yonasan Eybeshitz lost her husband, the Rabbi cautioned her, in a letter which has come down to us, to take special care of her own physical well being and the health of her young children. As our sages put it in the Talmud, "When one member of a group perishes, the entire group needs to be anxious."

How apt are the words of the Psalmist, "When my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will take me in" (*Psalms* 27:10). When our parents "abandon" us and leave this world, we are bereft in many ways, and our positions in life become precarious. We need God at those moments, and turn to Him, confident that He will "take us in".

#### RABBIS WEIL AND WEINREB OF THE ORTHODOX UNION TEAM UP FOR TISHA B'AV ALL-DAY WEBCAST

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An OU tradition continues again this year with OU Executive Vice President Emeritus Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb's annual four-hour Tisha b'Av webcast on [www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org) and [www.ouradio.org](http://www.ouradio.org), to be immediately followed by OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Steven Weil's Tisha b'Av presentation.

Rabbi Weinreb's live webcast will take place at 9am EDT from the Young Israel of Woodmere on Long Island, NY.

Rabbi Weil's will begin at 1pm EDT, 10am PDT, 3,000 miles away at Shaarey Zedek Congregation in Valley Village, CA.

**Tisha b'Av is observed on Tuesday, July 20 this year.**