



Jewlicious Festival 6.0

By Kyle Schee & Drew Kaplan



On February 19-21, Jewlicious Festival 6.0 (JF6) was held at the Alpert JCC in Long Beach, CA. The three-day festival brought hundreds of Jewish students and young professionals from all around country and from many backgrounds

and denominations together to celebrate Jewish culture, art and music. JF6 was produced by Jewlicious.com, JConnectLA, Long Beach Hillel, and, of course, Southern California Jewish Student Services. Jewlicious Festival is one of the largest gathering of young Jews in the United States, with upwards of 1000 young Jews in attendance throughout the weekend.

Because the mission of JF6 was to bring together Jews of all backgrounds and beliefs, music played a central role at the festival. Rabbi Yonah Bookstein, the coordinator of the event said, "If you want to make something where everybody will come together, focus on things that people have in common, [like] love of music." And Jewlicious did just that, with many



concerts featuring artists such as Kosha Dillz, Diwon, Electro Morocco, Rinat Gutman and Moshav and a surprise musical appearance by

Matisyahu. Additionally, Yuri Foreman, the current World Boxing Association super welterweight champion, led a session on boxing.



Shabbat Bet Midrash

A new initiative for Jewlicious Festival 6.0 was the Jewlicious Learning Zone (JLZ). Modeled off of the בית מדרש ("house of expounding/inquiry") model, the JLZ was an opportunity throughout Shabbat for participants to attend sessions with presenters speaking on topics of Jewish content. Rabbi Drew was the coordinator for the JLZ, leading some of the sessions, as well as being there for the presenters. While there were a couple of glitches with the first implementation of the JLZ, it, nevertheless, was a good start for the initiative and opportunity at Jewlicious for participants to learn about Jewish topics.

Purim Party at University of Redlands

By Kyle Schee & Drew Kaplan

On Thursday 25 February, the University of Redlands Hillel held a Purim party – and Rabbi Drew was there.

One of the students put together a play that was a contemporary summarization of the Purim story in which the students took part. The group also enjoyed hamentashen baked by one of the students, and music playing in the background to help set the festive mood. And, of course, Rabbi Drew was on hand to share his knowledge of the holiday and its customs.



New SoCalJSSmobile

By Kyle Schee & Drew Kaplan

After driving around for the first few months since arriving to Southern California in a silver minivan, Rabbi Drew is now driving around in a blue Hyundai

Accent. With its diminutive size, it is efficient with fuel, which is important for all the driving needed to get Rabbi Drew everywhere he goes.



Poly HS Jewish Club Restarts

By Kyle Schee & Drew Kaplan

After lying dormant since last spring, the Long Beach Polytechnic High School's Jewish Club is now active again with the assistance of club president Kayla Kaplan and faculty advisor, Myriam Gurba. Since resuming on February 10, Rabbi Drew has been visiting and leading a discussion on Jewish issues with the club every Wednesday. The discussions are not only an opportunity for Jews to learn about their heritage, but for the many non-Jews to become aware of Jewish culture and Judaism.



Rabbi Drew not only brings good conversation, but he also brings the pizza, fresh from the Huntington Beach Hebrew Academy. The students are not only hungry for the pizza but for the information and knowledge that Rabbi Drew brings.

SoCalJSS Newsletter is a monthly publication of Southern California Jewish Student Services, a project of Beth El Synagogue, a synagogue without walls, generously funded by Allen & Deanna Alevy. SoCalJSS's mission is uniting Jews, spreading Jewish tradition and love of the Jewish people. SoCalJSS provides the only rabbi for four universities (California State University (CSU) – Fullerton, CSU-Long Beach, CSU-San Bernardino, University of Redlands), seven colleges (College of the Desert, Cypress College, Fullerton College, Long Beach City College, Orange Coast College, Riverside Community College, & Santa Ana College), and Polytechnic High School's Jewish Club, in addition to another three universities (Chapman University, UC-Irvine, & UC-Riverside). Tax-deductible donations can be made to either Beach Hillel or Beth El Synagogue. Contact info: Rabbi Drew Kaplan, 562.400.5627, RabbiDrew@SoCalJSS.org.