

SOCAL JSS Newsletter

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New Office Hours with Area Hillels

Rabbi Drew has new office hours at area campuses to be available for consultation with students, whether it be for simply chatting, for counseling, for answering questions, or anything else. Being available twice a week with Beach Hillel and once a week



Rabbi Drew at the Bendat Hillel Center

with Orange County Hillel allows students to, without any prior scheduling, approach Rabbi Drew with any queries they may have.

Rabbi Drew is available at the Orange County Hillel's Bendat Hillel Center next to University of California-Irvine on Thursdays from 11-1 and at Beach Hillel's office in the Interfaith Center at California State University – Long Beach on Tuesdays from 12-3 and Fridays 10-1.

Beginning with the next issue, this space will be host to whomever would like to sponsor it. Tax-deductible sponsorship opportunities are available for \$100 per issue. For more details, you can contact Rabbi Drew (information on the backside).

Ask The Rabbi in Riverside

Rabbi Drew ventured out to Riverside for an event with the Inland Empire & Desert Hillel for an Ask the Rabbi session with University of California, Riverside's Hillel group on October 27th.

With over two dozen students in attendance, Rabbi Drew fielded all sorts of questions, ranging from religious to historical to psycho-sociological and others. It was an excellent opportunity for UCR students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to engage with a rabbi and to be able to familiarize themselves to ask further questions in the future.

Largely styled in much the same format as the Torah on Tap program, this event was in a relaxed patio atmosphere with food and beverages.



University of California, Riverside students asking Rabbi Drew a variety of Jewish questions at the Getaway Cafe in Riverside. (Photo courtesy of Scott Talkov)

New Email List

In September, I realized that while students can sign up to particular Hillels' weekly email announcements, there are students from other campuses that may be interested in what's going on in the area that they might decide to attend. So, I created a weekly email list for happenings in the OC-LBC-IE-LA area that may appeal to Jewish students. If you would like to sign up for this weekly email, simply go to <http://eepurl.com/oQol> to do so and fill in your email address.



Michael Cohen, Adam Gliddon, and Rabbi Drew at Jewlicious' first ever Tikkunfest in Los Angeles on Sunday 24 October.
(Photo Courtesy of David Miller)

Poly Jewish Club

Recently, in addition to hearing Rabbi Drew speak, the Jewish Club at Long Beach Polytechnic High School was privy to hear some guest presentors. On October 20th, Elizabeth Skrzynecky, the research associate at the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, out of CSU-San Bernardino, spoke on hate and extremism, along with a Powerpoint presentation. The following week, David Bentahar, a Berber Jew from Algeria spoke on some of his experiences growing up as a Jew in a largely Arab country.



Torah on Tap Events

Rabbi Drew led text-based discussions at two Torah on Tap events in October – one at California State University, Fullerton on the 13th and one at CSU-Long Beach on the 25th, both at campus pubs. The discussion at CSUF was on the topic of Judaism and Homosexuality, while that of CSULB was on Sex, Marriage, and Judaism, picked because of their interest to the Jewish students.



Beach Hillel students with Rabbi Drew at CSULB's The Nugget Grille & Pub



Rabbi Drew delivering the opening d'var Torah at the 2010 annual meeting of the Alpert Jewish Community Center on Sunday 24 October.

(Photo courtesy of Dell Crowder)

The SoCalJSS Newsletter is a monthly publication of Southern California Jewish Student Services (SoCalJSS), an enterprise of Beth El Synagogue, a synagogue without walls, generously funded by Allen & Deanna Alevy. SoCalJSS's mission is to facilitate Jewish living and learning, and engaging with the Jewish people in colleges and universities in Southern California. SoCalJSS provides the only rabbi for two universities (California State University (CSU) – Fullerton and CSU-Long Beach) and Polytechnic High School's Jewish Club, in addition to providing rabbinic support to five other universities (Chapman University, CSU-San Bernardino, UC-Irvine, UC-Riverside, and University of Redlands) and students at many area community colleges. Tax-deductible donations to support the work of SoCalJSS can be made out to Beth El Synagogue and mailed to Rabbi Drew, 3801 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815. Rabbi Drew Kaplan can be contacted at 562.400.5627 or at RabbiDrew@SoCalJSS.org.