



Beach Hillel End of Year Brunch

On Sunday 2 May, Beach Hillel held its end of the year brunch at the home of Leon and Barbara Shoag. It marked the official welcome for Rachel and Rabbi Drew Kaplan to being a part of the Beach Hillel team, as well as, a farewell to the graduating seniors from CSULB. At the brunch, Rabbi Drew spoke about graduating college as being a time of *havdallah*, of separation and distinguishing between two different times in one's life. To commemorate this change, Rabbi Drew and Rachel Kaplan gave *havdallah* candles to the graduating seniors as a gift in appreciation for their time and involvement in Beach Hillel.

Rabbi Drew and Rachel Kaplan filmed, edited, and published a five-minute video from some of the graduating seniors on their reflections of their time with Beach Hillel – it is available to watch at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLYfkftog5Y>



Rachel and Rabbi Drew Kaplan showing off video alongside Beach Hillel Board of Directors member Neil Wasserman (picture courtesy of Josh Kaplan)

Jewish Club at Poly HS Marks Semester's End

The spring semester came to an end at Long Beach's Polytechnic High School and, with it, it's Jewish Club. All semester Rabbi Drew serviced it by leading classes and bringing pizza. Among the topics covered over the course of the semester were "Jewish Clothing", "Kosher Food," and "Commemorative Days: *Yom Ha'Atzma'ut*, *Yom HaZikaron*, and *Yom HaShoah*". The last topic covered was on "Travellings of the Jews: A Class for Helen Thomas", which was only days after Helen Thomas made her career-ending comments at the White House. A brief video on this past semester of the Jewish Club at Poly HS is available at <http://socaljss.org/polyvideo2010.htm>



Rabbi Drew speaking on 9 June at Long Beach Polytechnic High School with a Powerpoint presentation behind him on the many travellings of the Jews

The SoCalJSS Newsletter will be back in September as Volume 2 kicks off with a new look and a new logo. If you are interested in sponsoring an issue, please contact Rabbi Drew.

CSUF Hillel Elections

On May 4th, the Cal State Fullerton Hillel group held elections for a new board. Rabbi Drew, acting as the group's advisor, was there to monitor the elections and help them succeed. The outgoing board, which helped get CSUF Hillel off the ground and running with many meetings and a few programs this spring, has handed off the proverbial baton to the new group, many of which were from the old board.



Rabbi Drew with Emilie Sperling, the outgoing president of CSUF Hillel, and now secretary.

Beach Hillel Bonfire



Rabbi Drew with students at Beach Hillel End of the Year bonfire (Picture by Rachel Kaplan)

On Sunday 9 May, Beach Hillel had an end of the year bonfire at Bolsa Chica State Reserve Park beach. There were hotdogs, chips, and smores.

ZBT National Convention



Rabbi Drew and Rachel Kaplan representing Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life at the ZBT National Convention on July 15th in Manhattan Beach (Picture by Jennifer Weinstein)

Tattoos & Jews

On May 18th, Rabbi Drew held a class on tattoos in the Jewish tradition. Held on the first night of the holiday of Shavuot, Beach Hillel hosted a festive dinner to go along with the learning session. Approached by students at Jewlicious Festival 6.0 who had seen other Jews with tattoos, they were curious as to how the Jewish tradition views tattoos. After learning various texts, including from the Torah, Mishnah, and the Talmud, on this topic, students gained a better understanding of the views of tattoos in Jewish tradition.



Patrick Aleph showing off a tattoo on his arm at Jewlicious Festival 6.0 (Picture courtesy of Heshy Fried)

OCC & CSUF Hillel Groups Receive Soref Status

Two Hillel groups with which Rabbi Drew works - Orange Coast College (a/k/a Coast Hillel) and CSU-Fullerton - recently received Soref status



Rabbi Drew with Coast Hillel students

from Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus. The Soref Initiative helps out small Hillel groups both financially and otherwise.

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 learning and living on college campuses. 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 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 and RabbiDrew@SoCalJSS.org.