



Newsletter

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 10

SUMMER 2011

Year-End Issue

As my first full academic year as the Southern California Jewish Student Services rabbi & director has come to an end, this is the last issue of the newsletter for the summer, with the next one coming out in September.

With this year under my belt, my aspiration is to build upon year for the upcoming year.

If you want to catch up on past newsletters, they're available at <http://socaljss.org/newsletters> (you can scan the QR code to the left to get there). Throughout the summer, you can keep up on what's going on at <http://twitter.com/socaljss> (you can scan the QR code to the right to get there).

Have a great summer and God bless,
Rabbi Drew



Engaging in World-Fixing

The inaugural “Tikkun Olam Institute: Fixing the World Through a Jewish Perspective” took place June 15-17 in Long Beach and LA for students and young adults in Southern California to come together and mingle as well as learning about fixing the world from a Jewish perspective.

The program came about having found many students and other young adults wanting to engage seriously with Jewish texts and traditions along with students who wanted to



Discussion on Food Ethics on June 17th at the Alpert JCC as part of the inaugural Tikkun Olam Institute

positively influence the world.

The event was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Larry Tichauer and Dr. Harvey & Adrienne Goldstone of Dr. Goldstone High-Definition Vision Centers in memory of Harvey's grandfather מנחם מנדל בן משה.

The Tikkun Olam Institute (TOI) kicked off with a

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THIS ISSUE OF THE SOCALJSS NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY RABBI DREW KAPLAN IN APPRECIATION OF HIS FIRST FULL ACADEMIC YEAR SERVING JEWISH YOUTH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Rabbi Drew at UCR Hillel's Year-End Brunch



Rabbi Drew pictured here with students at UC, Riverside at Inland Empire & Desert Hillel's last bagels brunch of the school year on May 26th. The bagels brunches throughout the year offered students an on-campus refueling opportunity, both physically and socially; on this last one, Rabbi Drew was there to chat with students and answer any questions they had.

Rabbi Drew with Students at Disneyland



Rabbi Drew with students from Fullerton and Long Beach at Disneyland on May 25th. It was an opportunity for students to get together in a laid-back environment and enjoy the beginning of their summer break from school.

Rabbi Drew Educates Top National Youth Leaders



Rabbi Drew educated two hundred of this nation's Jewish teen leaders for two weeks this summer. One of two Judaic educators at this year's annual International Leadership Training Conference (ILTC) of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO), Rabbi Drew created a curriculum for and taught about Jewish Heroes as well as leading other discussions and being available to students generally. BBYO is the leading pluralistic teen movement aspiring to involve more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. ILTC, which was held in late June through early July in Lake Como, PA, is designed for leaders on the regional and council levels of BBYO to elevate their leadership skills both within BBYO and beyond.



Inaugural Tikkun Olam Institute

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clean-up of the Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach, where participants removed non-native plant species near the debris barrier as well as transplanting other plants to be saved. Following the clean-up, we all headed over for a barbeque at the Kaplans' house to chill out.



We then headed up to LA for some Judaica shopping and then heard from Rabbi Yonah



Bookstein about his implementing and success of Tikkunfest over dinner.

We returned down to Long Beach for Beer, Bible & Baked Goods to hear a talk by Rabbi Osnat Margalith on being an Or Lagoyim, light unto the nations.



The next day was packed full of stuff, beginning at the Alpert Jewish Community Center with

OJ and Krispy Kreme donuts and Rabbi Drew discussing "Some Maimonidean Aspects of Tzedakah." Carie Rael then spoke about the situation in Darfur.

Following that, Rabbi Dov Fischer spoke on "The Art of Tzedakah". Next up was a lunch and learn over sandwiches with Rabbi Abba Perelmuter, who spoke on



Chasidism and Tikkun Olam (to view a clip from his talk, you can scan the QR code to the left or visit <http://youtu.be/DzHdZ2zKfp4>). Following him was Rabbi Yehuda Hausman, who



by Carie Rael speaking on education. We then heard from Amanda Gelb & Asher



discussed the mitzvah of lending money and used a creative way of



teaching it – handing out source sheets and tasking

small groups to come up with answers to the questions using the texts.

what went well, what can be improved for next time, as well as ideas for the future.



Shasho-Levy from Uri L'Tzedek on "Hey Mom What's For Dinner? A Candid Exploration of the Traditions, Treatment, and Tolerance of Food Ethics in Judaism". The concluding session was an opportunity to provide feedback about the event –

Myriam Gurba covered the Tikkun Olam Institute for SoCalJSS and her coverage of each of the three days of the event are available at <http://socaljss.org/toi2011dispatchday1>, <http://socaljss.org/toi2011dispatchday2>, and <http://socaljss.org/toi2011dispatchday3>.

Poly Jewish Club Wraps Up

Rabbi Drew's first full year with the Jewish Club at



Long Beach Polytechnic High School came to a close on May 18th. Speaking on the then upcoming holiday of Shavuot over pizzas brought up from the Hebrew Academy of Huntington Beach,

Rabbi Drew also reviewed with the club what they had covered in the twenty sessions with the club in the 2010-2011 year. For more information on the Jewish Club, please visit

<http://socaljss.org/polyhsjewishclub>.

Beach Hillel Taglit-Birthright Israel Orientation Concludes

Rabbi Drew led the last of three orientation sessions on May 25th for the Beach Hillel participants going on its Taglit-Birthright Israel trip in late June and early July. Speaking on modern Israel as well as the more imminent issue of what to pack, the session was immediately followed by a BBQ, which helped the group hang out together before going on the trip and contributed to the cohesiveness of the group. CSULB student Zach Katona said that Beach Hillel's group was the most tight-knit group of the three Hillels that travelled together.



Rabbi Drew Named to Rabbinic Fellowship

Rabbi Drew was one of 23 rabbis across the country named to the third annual cohort of the Rabbis Without Borders (RWB) fellowship. RWB's goal is to communicate in ways that make Jewish wisdom useful and meaningful to Americans, regardless of region, ideology or ethnic background. Engaging in conversation with rabbis from across the Jewish ideological spectrum and throughout the country, RWB's mission is to nurture and develop a network of rabbis with a shared vision to make Jewish wisdom available to anyone looking to enrich his or her life. RWB provides rabbis with cutting edge methodologies for addressing the challenges people face today.



RWB is an initiative of CLAL - The National Center for Learning and Leadership. Founded in 1974, CLAL is a leadership training institute, think tank, and resource center. For more information, please visit <http://rabbiswithoutborders.org>.

Published ten times a year, the SoCalJSS Newsletter is a publication of Southern California Jewish Student Services (SoCalJSS). Past issues are available at <http://socaljss.org/newsletters>. To sign up to receive the SoCalJSS Newsletter via email, please <http://eepurl.com/hy5-/>.

SoCalJSS is 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 Jewish students in Southern California. SoCalJSS provides the only rabbi for Jewish students at California State University (CSU), Long Beach and for Long Beach Polytechnic High School's Jewish Club, as well as the primary rabbi with the Hillel at CSU-Fullerton. SoCalJSS also provides for a rabbi to visit other schools in Orange County and the Inland Empire.

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 emailed at RabbiDrew@SoCalJSS.org.