

# YLC Report

## Four Generations of OU Presidents attend YLC Reception

On December 17, YLC members and their spouses gathered together with four generations of OU presidents at the home of noted philanthropists **Zev and Nechama Wolfson**.

Mr. and Mrs. **Jules Berman**, Mr. and Mrs. **Harvey Blitz**, Mr. and Mrs. **Sheldon Rudoff**, and Mr. and Mrs. **Steven Savitsky**, had a chance to meet with a new generation of OU leaders and hear a presentation from the two leading stars of the hit film *Ushpizin*, **Shuli and Michal Rand**.



Shuli and Michal Rand Address YLC Reception

The Rands spoke about the impact that *Ushpizin* is having upon the Israeli public and Jews worldwide.

As part of the evening, Steven Savitsky was presented with an engraved silver menorah in appreciation for establishing the YLC.

## Message from the OU President about the YLC

Excerpted from the *President's Shmooze*, Jan. 4, 2006

There have been many bright spots during the past 13 months and among them was the establishment of our Young Leadership Cabinet, chaired by Charlie Harary as the lay chairman, and Rabbi Daniel Schonbuch as our professional on staff. We now have a dynamic

core group of close to one hundred young men and women who are immersed in the Union and all of its activities. Besides being on our commissions, they have undertaken to run our new singles program (which will be called OU-Soulmates.com). Also they will be taking a very active role in Yachad. Their involvement in our Areivim program, which started this year, is con-

necting the OU to smaller Jewish communities throughout North America. I urge all of you to contact Rabbi Schonbuch and give of your time for one Shabbos to visit and be the scholar-in-residence in a small Jewish community in North America. Not only will you find it rewarding and stimulating,

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### Young Leadership Cabinet

#### Orthodox Union

Steven Savitsky, President

Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb,  
Executive Vice President

Rabbi Moshe Krupka,  
National Executive Director

#### Young Leadership Cabinet

Charles J. Harary,  
Chairman

Rabbi Daniel Schonbuch,  
Director



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## OU Dinner to Honor the Top YLC's Leaders—April 2, 2006

OU Dinner, April 2, 2006



This year's OU Dinner will honor five of the top YLC leaders. Each individual has been chosen for showing their commitment and leadership abilities in areas involving OU programs and initiatives.

As of one of the premier events in the Jewish community, the OU Dinner will be held on April 2 at the Grand Hyatt in NYC.

YLC member **Michael Gewirtz** will chair YLC's participation in the dinner that last year was attended by over 1000 participants.

The five YLC members to be honored are:

- Neima Chasky**
- Elisheva Diamond**
- David Gerstley**
- Shlomo Koyfman**
- Uri Schneider**

A pre-Dinner YLC reception will be held as well as special opportunities to meet with political, business and religious leaders.

For more information please contact

Michael at  
michael.gewirtz@us.cibc.com.

*"United Jewish Communities or UJC represents and serves 156 Jewish federations and more than 360 independent Jewish communities across North America, that together raise more than \$1 billion each year from more than 700,000 donors."*

## YLC Members to meet with UJC head, Howard Rieger Feb. 15

As part of the YLC's continuing Education Initiative, YLC members will meet with

**Howard Rieger**, Executive Director of United Jewish Communities, the North American umbrella for all UJA branches, to discuss the structure of the UJA and

ways by which YLC members can get involved.

The meeting will offer a unique opportunity to learn more about one of the most important organizations in American Jewish life and the impact the UJA has upon

Jewish education, social welfare and Jewish continuity.

For more information please contact **Avi Feinberg** at feinberga@gtlaw.com.



## Shidduchim Initiative Moves Forward

Spearheaded by YLC member **Zahava Farbman**, the YLC Shidduch Initiative is participating in the creation of a new OU Shidduch website that will be called OUSoul-Mates.com. The site will combine features of leading websites, offer a

private national Shidduch registry for the OU community and work in tandem with new educational and social programs on dating and relationships.

The website will be only one part of the Shidduch Initiative which aims to bring greater awareness

and to propose new ideas and programs to alleviate the growing crisis.

For more information on the Shidduch Initiative please contact Zahava Farbman at [zahavaf@ou.org](mailto:zahavaf@ou.org).

## YLC to Launch Radio Show and Podcast on ouradio.org

*Future Tense*, the YLC's new radio show, will soon appear on [www.ouradio.org](http://www.ouradio.org).

As part of ouradio's expanding line up of shows, *Future Tense* is being produced by YLC members and will highlight the people and ideas that are making an impact in the Jewish community.

Some of the topics on the show will include:

- Dating and Relationships
- Interviews with Jewish music stars
- YLC Programs and Initiatives
- Divrei Torah for Orthodox Professionals
- Judaism in the workplace
- Jewish figures in sports
- Jewish Movie Reviews with YLC member **Jordan Hiller**

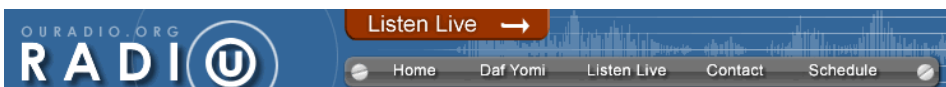
and much more.

The *podcast* is scheduled to appear online in

February. Utilizing the latest in internet technology, *Future Tense* will be available as part of ouradio.org's line up of shows and as an easy to download *podcast*.

The YLC is encouraging its members to become correspondents, interviewers and producers of this new show. For more information please contact Jordan Hiller at [Jtrick1@aol.com](mailto:Jtrick1@aol.com).

“YLC Radio Show to highlight people making waves in the Jewish Community”



## Project Areivim Update

Over 40 Project Areivim Shabbatons have now been organized in OU Synagogues across the country.

To date Project Areivim has visited: Manhattan Beach, NY; Linden, NJ; Richmond, VA; Worcester, MA; Buffalo, NY; Stamford, CT; Ellenville, NY; Oakland, CA; Los Angeles, CA; and Washington, DC with many more to come.

Here is some of the feedback from around the country:

### Oakland, CA

“Dear Rabbi Schonbuch-

Thank you for sending Dr. John Loike our way through project Areivim. The opportunity to host him was a big treat for our community!

To give you a rundown of the weekend, I hosted Dr. Loike personally. Aside from getting to know our wonderful Shabbat guest, it also offered me the chance to share a bit more about his audience with him ahead of time. After shul on Shabbos morning, we had a kiddush brunch. At the end of brunch, we went back into the main sanctuary to learn with Dr. Loike. His lecture began

with a general (and quite good) dvar Torah about Torah and science, followed by an analysis of the major halachik issues related to stem cell research and then the actual science (and thus application of halachik principles) in stem cell research. He finished with a question and answer period.

His talk was very well attended (about 65 - half our shul!), which was far better than I expected. People were very interested to hear a first rate, Orthodox scientist on such a current issue. There was a great "buzz" around the community after he

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## Areivim Continued

spoke, and people were very impressed. As I mentioned on the phone, I had opened by describing the OU's new project Areivim program, and how it was tapping and sharing the incredible brain trust in the Jewish community. I also pointed out how it was helping share Torah and applied learning in smaller communities such as ours with limited Scholar in Residence funding and access.

I have continued to receive positive feedback all week. We very much enjoyed Dr. Loike's visit, including his last-minute, "pinch

hit" laining at mincha! Thanks again."

Rabbi Judah Dardik  
Beth Jacob Congregation

Oakland, CA

### Stamford, CT

"Thank you very much for including Congregation Agudath Sholom as part of the Areivim project of the OU. The weekend with Rabbi Gideon Rothstein was thought-provoking and engaging. Particularly, his address on Friday night about mitzvah observance crystallized the challenge of passionate

observance among a culturally orthodox community. Highlighting the importance of mitzvot as a vehicle for Deveikut characterizes the timely issue of cultivating greater spirituality in our communities.

Rabbi Rothstein's presence also bolstered the image of the OU in our shul and effectively serves a way to strengthen ties with the OU. We are looking forward to more partnerships between the OU and CAS. Thank you again. "

All the best, Rabbi Daniel Cohen

"OCN:  
Helping  
People to  
relocate to  
new Jewish  
communities  
nationwide."

## Orthodox Communities Network Update

Created and guided by YLC members **Shlomo Koyfman and Kostia Feldman**, the Orthodox Communities Network (OCN) website is gathering data from synagogues nationwide about the size of their communities, Jewish day schools, Mikvaot, kosher restaurants and professional contacts.

This database will assist individuals and families seeking to relocate to various possible communities across the United States and Canada. The OCN website will feature:

?? Detailed descriptions of communities in cities all across North

America.

?? A search engine that can help search through communities that meet specific selection criteria.

?? A message board

?? A communities-calendar with coordinated events

?? Short videos, and pictures highlighting OU synagogues and their communities.

### Data Collection Nationwide

There are two phases in the OCN project. Phase I, which has already begun, is the registration and collection of data from numerous syna-

gogues nationwide. Phase II: which will begin by March, 2006, will display data of your community that will allow individuals to search for communities of their choice and view your data on the OU website.

Within the first six weeks, over 70 communities have submitted data for the data base which will be displayed by March, 2006.

**For a list of OCN Registered communities see page 5.**

## OCN Communities Registered

Nusach Hari Bnai Zion	St. Louis	MI
Young Israel of Merrick	Merrick	NY
Synagogue on the Palisades	Fort Lee	NJ
YI of North Bellmore	North Bellmore	NY
Lincoln Square Synagogue	New York	NY
Young Israel of Kendall	Miami	FL
Beth Israel Synagogue	Halifax	NS
LIDO BEACH SYNAGOGUE	LIDO BEACH	NY
Bais Abraham Congregation	St. Louis	MO
Silver Spring Jewish Center	Silver Spring	MA
Young Israel Of Tampa	Tampa	FL
Silver Spring Jewish Center	Silver Spring	MA
Hebrew Institute of White Plains	White Plains	NY
Beth David Synagogue	West Hartford	CT
Cong Shaare Tora	Kew Gardens	NY
Lido Beach Syn.	Lido Beach	NY
Cong. Aitz Chaim	W. Palm Beach	FI
Brith Shalom Beth Israel	Charleston	SC
Young Israel of Southfield	Southfield	MI
Congregation Sons of Israel	Allentown	PA
Pacific Jewish Center	Venice	CA
Pacific Jewish Center "Shul on the Beach"	Venice	CA
Cong Ahavath Achim	Fairfield	CT
Y.I. Of Long Beach	Long Beach	NY
Baron Hirsch Congregation	Memphis	TN
Am Echad	San Jose	CA
Congregation Shaarei Tefillah	Newton Centre	MA
Cong Ahavath Torah	Englewood	NJ
Shaar Hashamayim	Oceanside	NY
Young Israel of East Brunswick	East Brunswick	NJ
Congregation Toras Emes	East Windsor	NJ
West Side Institutional Synagogue	New york	NY
Kiever synagogue	Toronto	Ontario
Manhattan Beach Jewish Center	Brooklyn	NY
Congregation Anshe Chesed	Linden	NJ
B'nai Israel Congregation	Norfolk	VA
Knesseth Israel Congregation	Birmingham	AL
Avenue N Jewish Center	Brooklyn	NY

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OCN Continued

Congregation Sherith Israel	Nashville	TN
Cong. Beth Israel	Malden	MA
Beth David Synagogue	Binghamton	NY
Utopia Jewish Center	Fresh Meadows	NY
Kehillat Shaarei Torah	Toronto	Ontario
CONGREGATION SONS OF ISRAEL	LONG ISLAND CITY	NY
Westwood Kehilla	Los Angeles	CA
Green Road Synagogue	Beachwood	OH
Fleetwood Synagogue	Mount Vernon	NY
Congregation Kneseth Israel (The White Shul)	Far Rockaway	NY
Calabasas Shul	Calabasas	CA
Kehillat Yaakov	Cleveland Heights	OH
Beth Sholom Congregation adn Talmud Torah	Potomac	MD
Suburban Orthodox Toras Chaim	Baltimore	MD
Congregation Adat Yeshurun	La Jolla	CA
Congregation Ahabat Sholom	Lynn	MA
Sinai Synagogue	University Heights	OH
Beth Israel Synagogue of Westport/Norwalk	Norwalk	CT
Congregation Poale Zedeck	Pittsburgh	PA
Young Israel of Oak Park	Oak Park	MI
Congregation Degel Israel	Lancaster	PA



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but the community will appreciate it immensely and feel a stronger connection to the Orthodox Union.



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Phone: 212-613-8202

## YLC Mazel Tovs/ Upcoming Events

Mazel Tov to **Ami Avraham** on completing his CPA

Mazel Tov to **Estie Berman** on completing her Masters in Education

Mazel Tov to **Elisheva Diamond** on taking the GREs

### Parenting Conference

Parenting Conference to be held in West Hempstead and New York on Jan. 8.

For More info please visit [www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org).

### NCSY Alumni Shabbaton

NCSY Alumni Reunion Shabbaton to take place on Feb. 17-19, in NJ. Register at [ncsy.org](http://ncsy.org).

### ASK OU Pareve Mesorah

“A Halachic and Historical Perspective of Fish, Plants and Color”

Feb. 19, at Lander College Queens, NY. For more info [www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org)

### OU Dinner

April 2, 2006, Grand Hyatt Hotel NY.