



United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Azor Hof HaYam/Seaboard Region 2008 BIENNIAL CONVENTION DECEMBER 12-14

B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION • 6301 MONTROSE ROAD • ROCKVILLE, MD

STRENGTHENING OUR CONGREGATION THROUGH OUR MOVEMENT

FRIDAY • DECEMBER 12

- 3:00-4:00 pm REGISTRATION
4:30-6:00 pm Study Session
6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat • Maariv
7:00 pm Shabbat Dinner
8:15 pm Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Ph.D.
Scholar-in-Residence
What Does Judaism Add to Life

SATURDAY • DECEMBER 13

- 9:00 am Shabbat Services
Sermon • Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Ph.D.
Wrestling With God
Noon Kiddush Luncheon
12:45 pm Discussion with Rabbi Dorff
*Welcoming the Stranger: New Directions
in Interfaith Dialogue*
5:00 pm Mincha • Maariv
7:00 pm Dinner • Seudah Shlishit
8:00 pm Havdallah • Melaveh Malkah

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 14

- 8:00 am Shacharit
9:00 am Business Meeting and Installation
Dr. Raymond B. Goldstein,
USCJ International President
9:45 am Brunch
Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Ph.D.
*God Without Ethics, Ethics Without God:
What does Judaism Add to the
Moral Enterprise*

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 14

- 11:30 am **WORKSHOP SESSION #1** *please select one*
A. *The Basics of Development*
• Rabbi Michael Meyerstein
B. *Going Green: The Greening of our Congregations*
• Janice Kimmelman, Art Fabel, Michael Simmons
C. *The Adventure of Lifelong Jewish Learning:*
• Dr. Erica Brown, Shelley Remer
D. *Israel: The Evolving Israel-Diaspora Relationship:*
• Rabbi Matthew Simon, Gilad Golani, Ira Rifkin
12:45 pm **WORKSHOP SESSION #2** *please select one*
A. *Why Can't Hebrew School Be More Like Camp
(or USY)? Re-imagining Congregational Education*
• Steve Kerbel
B. *The Lay-Rabbi Partnership in Major Gifts and
Endowments*
• Rabbi Michael Meyerstein
C. *Stepping Up: Encouraging a New Generation
of Leaders*
• Shelly Goldin, Rabbi Moshe Edelman
D. *Continuing the Dialogue*
• Rabbi Elliot Dorff, Ph.D.

1:45 pm Musical Mincha and Wrap-up

To join us please fill out the registration form on page 8
or register on line at
www.uscj.org/seabd/regionalconv.html

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

A block of rooms have been reserved at the
Legacy Hotel
1775 Rockville Pike • Rockville, MD 20852
301•881•2300 • www.thelegacyrockville.com
Call the Legacy Hotel for rates and availability.
Mention United Synagogue when reserving.

WELCOME TO THE Seaboard Region 2008 BIENNIAL CONVENTION



RABBI ELLIOT DORFF, PH.D. SCHOLAR-IN RESIDENCE

Dear Seaboard Region Member,

The synagogue of today is not the synagogue of my father's presidency. Yet, the core values of Conservative Jewry in the United States remain the same:

beit tefilah – to serve as a house of worship, a spiritual center

beit midrash – to serve as a house of study-a center for life-long learning

beit k'nesset – to serve as a house of assembly-a center for creating community

Through the past 45 years since my dad's synagogue presidency the mobility of our population, the technology of administering to our membership, the assimilation of our population and full time after school programming of our youth have all had an impact on our Movement. How do we meet these challenges and view them as opportunities instead of obstacles? This year our Biennial Convention will break new ground.

We will partner with B'nai Israel Congregation and the Berman Family as participants in their Scholar-in-Residence weekend featuring Rabbi Elliott Dorff. We have made the registration fee more affordable and have endeavored to present a full weekend of study with Rabbi Dorff ending with our Sunday workshops that will address youth and adult education, board leadership development, fundraising – both basic and major gifts/endowments and the greening of our synagogue. Our election and instillation will also take place on Sunday. I hope you will join us for a weekend greeting old friends, meeting new friends, Torah study and strengthening our congregations.

Vickie Abrutyn
Convention Chair



Elliot Dorff, Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at American Jewish University, earned his Ph.D. in philosophy with a dissertation in moral theory. Since then he has directed the rabbinical and Masters programs at American Jewish University for 23 years. For 30 years, he also taught a course on Jewish law at UCLA School of Law as a Visiting Professor. He was awarded the Journal of Law and Religion's Lifetime Achievement Award, and he holds three honorary doctoral degrees.

Rabbi Dorff is Vice-Chair of the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and served on the editorial committee of Etz Hayim, the new Torah commentary for the Conservative Movement. His papers have formulated the validated stance of the Conservative Movement on infertility treatments and on end-of-life issues and his Rabbinic Letters on human sexuality and on poverty have become the voice of the Conservative Movement on those topics.

He has chaired three scholarly organizations: the Academy of Jewish Philosophy, the Jewish Law Association, the Society of Jewish Ethics. In Spring, 1993, he served on the Ethics Committee of Hillary Rodham Clinton's Health Care Task Force. In March, 1997 and May, 1999, he testified on behalf of the Jewish tradition on the subjects of human cloning and stem cell research before the President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission. In 1999 and 2000 he was part of the Surgeon General's commission to draft a Call to Action for Responsible Sexual Behavior; and from 2000 to 2002 he served on the National Human Resources Protections Advisory Commission, charged with reviewing and revising the federal guidelines for protecting human subjects in research projects. He is currently working on a project on Judaism and genetics for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and he is a member of that organization's Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Ethics Committee charged with establishing the moral norms that govern stem cell research in the State of California.

In Los Angeles, he is Immediate Past President of Jewish Family Service, and he is a member of the Ethics committees at the Jewish Homes for the Aging and UCLA Medical Center. He serves as Co-Chair of the Priest-Rabbi Dialogue of the Los Angeles Archdiocese and the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, and he is a Vice-President of the Academy for Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Studies.

Rabbi Dorff's publications include over 200 articles on Jewish thought, law, and ethics, together with 13 books. Rabbi Dorff is married and has four children and five grandchildren

Convention Registration

Please make copies for additional registrants or go to www.uscj.org/seabd/regionalconv.htm

Last Name	First Name	MI	Salutation
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Phone	Fax	Email	
Name of Congregation/Current Position			
Special Dietary or other needs			
Hebrew Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Cohen	<input type="checkbox"/> Levi	<input type="checkbox"/> Yisrael

New to Convention Previous Attendee I have attended _____ conventions
First time delegates are eligible for a 50% subsidy on registration for the full package program.
Contact Jo-Anne Tucker-Zemlak at zemlak@uscj.org

I WOULD LIKE TO LEAD/DO THE FOLLOWING

(select all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hamotzi | <input type="checkbox"/> Shabbat Mincha | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiddush |
| <input type="checkbox"/> English Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrew Reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Birkat Ha-Mazon | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday Shacharit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hagbah | <input type="checkbox"/> Geilliah | <input type="checkbox"/> Z'mirot | |

SUNDAY WORKSHOP PREFERENCES

(select one for each session)

SESSION #1 • 11:30 am

- A. *The Basics of Development*
- B. *Going Green: The Greening of our Congregations*
- C. *The Adventure of Lifelong Jewish Learning*
- D. *Israel: The Evolving Israel-Diaspora Relationship*

SESSION #2 • 12:45 pm

- A. *Why Can't Hebrew School Be More Like Camp (or USY)*
- B. *The Lay-Rabbi Partnership in Major Gifts and Endowments*
- C. *Stepping Up: Encouraging a New Generation of Leaders*
- D. *Rabbi Dorff Continuing the Dialogue*

CONVENTION PACKAGES AND FEES

Registration Deadline is December 1, 2008. A \$25 late fee will be charged after this date.
Please check appropriate fee(s) per registrant. Please note the hotel cost is not included.

- Full Package • \$80 per person
Includes registration fee and convention kit, meals from Friday Shabbat dinner through Sunday brunch and Saturday evening entertainment
- Friday Night Dinner • \$30 per person
- Saturday Evening Dinner, Melaveh Malka & Dessert Reception • \$35 per person
- Melaveh Malkah & Dessert Reception • \$15 per person
- Sunday Only • \$60 per person
Includes registration fee and convention kit and Sunday brunch
- TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please detach this form and place in envelope. Send registration and full payment to: Seaboard Region USCJ . Biennial Convention
121 Congressional Lane . Suite 210 . Rockville, MD 20852 or print out registration form at www.uscj.org/seabd/regionalconv.htm

Workshop Presenters

Dr. Erica Brown, is director of adult education and academics for the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning and scholar-in-residence at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Art Fabel, is a member of the Environmental Committee at Tikvat Israel in Rockville, Maryland.

Rabbi Elliot Dorff, a philosopher, ethicist and writer who is the convention's Scholar-in-Residence, is rector and distinguished professor of philosophy at American Jewish University in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Moshe Edelman, USCJ Director of Leadership Development.

Gilad Golani, is the community shaliach (emissary from Israel) at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Shelly Goldin, a lay leader in many organizations, is a past president of Tikvat Israel Congregation in Rockville, Maryland, and a past president of the Seaboard Region's Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

Steve Kerbel, Join local educator Steve Kerbel, from Congregation B'nai Tzedek, for a forum (give and take, no couches) on bringing the best of our movement to our schools. We'll look at opportunities and obstacles to overcome in making our congregations inviting, engaging places to learn.

Janice Kimmelman, is the preschool director at Congregation Etz Hayim in Arlington, Virginia.

Rabbi Michael Meyerstein, C.F.R.E., is president of The Aleph Group, a fundraising consulting firm in Baltimore, Maryland.

Shelley Remer, is director of Gan Haya'el at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, D.C. and a former president of the National Jewish Early Childhood Network.

Ira Rifkin, Israel Affairs Committee Chairperson Seaboard Region

Rabbi Matthew Simon, a vice president of the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, is rabbi emeritus at B'nai Israel Congregation and a past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Washington Board of Rabbis.

Michael Simmons, FSA, ATz, is the executive director of Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac, Maryland.