

OU Leaders Head to Washington

One hundred national lay and rabbinic leaders of the Orthodox Union (OU) traveled to the nation's capital just days before Rosh Hashanah for the OU's annual Leadership Mission to Washington. The two-day mission was organized by the OU's Institute for Public Affairs (IPA).

The event opened with a gala dinner at which former Deputy National Security Advisor Elliott Abrams was honored for his years of public service. OU leaders then spent a day meeting with senior advisors to President Barack Obama and key members of Congress. During visits to the White House and the US Capitol, participants discussed critical issues with officials, such as support for Jewish day schools, US-Israel relations, the threat of Iran and homeland security funding for community institutions.



After discussing critical issues confronting Israel and the Middle East, Rabbi Weil and Mr. Savitsky present a basket of apples and honey to Dennis Ross, Senior Director of the National Security Council.

OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Steven Weil, IPA Director Nathan Diament and OU President Stephen J. Savitsky present an award of appreciation to Elliot Abrams, former Deputy National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush and a senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, and his wife, Rachel.

Photos: Lloyd Wolf



OU leaders discussed key domestic policy issues with David Axelrod, Senior Advisor to President Obama. Afterwards, OU Senior Vice President Allen Fagin and Rabbi Asher Lopatin of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation, an OU-member shul in Chicago, presented Mr. Axelrod with apples and honey. From left: Mr. Diament, Rabbi Weil, Mr. Fagin, Mr. Axelrod, Mr. Savitsky and Rabbi Lopatin.





OU leaders lunched with officials at the US Capitol, including Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and [above, right] Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). From left: Rabbi Weil; Rabbi Menachem Genack, CEO, OU Kosher; Senator Casey; Rabbi Akiva Males of Keshet Israel Synagogue, an OU-member shul in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Mr. Diamant and IPA Legislative Fellow Jesse Hertz.



Mission participants met with Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee [above, second from right].

Republican Whip Eric Cantor (VA) [right] also briefed OU leaders.

