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JEWISH  
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ORTHODOX UNION  
1898-1998



CELEBRATING OUR  
CENTENNIAL

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## *Rabbinic Leadership Honored at OU Dinner*

Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander, president of Touro College, was the keynote speaker at the Orthodox Union's Rabbinic Centennial Medallion Awards Dinner on February 24 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. A gifted speaker, the distinguished educator was one of the eight awardees honored that evening, as more than 500 guests applauded in approval.

A statement by OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Raphael B. Butler stressed the importance of the rabbis, synagogues and communal institutions working together to ensure a thriving Orthodoxy. "Each community is built around a vibrant synagogue led by a dynamic rabbi," said Rabbi Butler. "It is that leadership that we are proud to honor."

Synagogue rabbis who received well-deserved tribute were:

**RABBI STEVEN DWORKEN** of Anshe Chesed Congregation in Linden, N. J. A *musmach* of RIETS who holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton, Mass., Rabbi Dworken has served as the spiritual leader of his congregation for 23 years. He is the executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America, a professional organization of more than 1,000 Orthodox

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## RABBI DAVID KAMINETSKY NAMED NCSY NATIONAL DIRECTOR



A search lasting nearly five years for a new National Director of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth has finally concluded with the appointment of Rabbi David Kaminetsky of Teaneck, New Jersey, announced by OU President Dr. Mandell I. Ganchrow. He succeeds Rabbi Raphael B. Butler who left the post to become the executive vice president of the Orthodox Union after 13 years of service to NCSY. In the interim, OU Senior Executive

Rabbi Pinchas Stolper was called upon to serve as national director, for the second time in his career. The youth organization was ably administered more recently by NCSY National Executive Director Paul Glasser. Mr. Glasser looks forward to working with Rabbi Kaminetsky as the organization's numerous programs improve and expand.

Planning is already underway. Among the new executive's objectives are strengthening the bonds between NCSY and community synagogues and day schools, and programs geared to the interests of Sephardic and Russian youth.

No strangers to NCSY, Rabbi and Mrs. (Sury) Kaminetsky and their children exemplify the deeply committed NCSY family. Honored by the Etz Chaim (New Jersey) region in 1989, the Kaminetskys raised their four children as enthusiastic participants in many facets of the organization. With three of their children married and the fourth engaged, they are proud that all found their spouses through their NCSY involvement. Rabbi Kaminetsky reports that they are "thrilled" with their new *kallah*, Heather Goldstein, an outstanding alumna of

*Continued on page 6*

## Dinner *Cont. from page 1*

rabbis throughout North America and Israel.

**RABBI TZVI FLAUM** of Congregation Kneseth Israel in Far Rockaway, N. Y.. Rabbi Flaum is chairman of the Vaad Harabonim of Far Rockaway and Lawrence and serves on the Board of Governors of both the Orthodox Union and the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists. He was ordained at RIETS and holds an MA from the Bernard Revel Graduate School.

**RABBI BARRY FREUNDEL** of Kesh-er Israel Congregation in Washington, D.C.. Rabbi Freundel received *smichah* from RIETS and an MS from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. A prominent writer and speaker, Rabbi Freundel is a vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America.

**RABBI STEVEN PRUZANSKY** of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun in Teaneck, N.J.. Ordained by Yeshiva Bnei Torah of



Far Rockaway, Rabbi Pruzansky received a Juris Doctor degree from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law. He is vice president of the Rabbinical Board of Bergen County and the American co-spokesman for the International Rabbinic Coalition for Israel.

**RABBI SOL ROTH** of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York City. An adjunct professor of philosophy at Yeshiva University and the author of numerous works, Rabbi Roth has served as president of the RCA, the New York Board of Rabbis and the Religious Zionists of America, and was instrumental in the founding of KIRUV, a college outreach organization.

**RABBI MOSHE D. TENDLER** of Community Synagogue in Monsey, N.Y.. Rabbi Tendler has served as the synagogue's rabbi since 1965. A *musmach* of RIETS, he earned a doctorate in biology from Columbia University. He currently serves as a *rosh yeshivah* at RIETS and as a professor of biology at Yeshiva College. Rabbi Tendler serves on the Medical Ethics Task Force of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and is chairman of the Bioethical Commission of the RCA.

**RABBI CHAIM WAKSLAK** of the Young Israel of Long Beach, N.Y.. Rabbi Wakslak created a Vaad Kashrus and established the Jewish Youth Community

Rabbinic honorees with Orthodox Union administration at the gala dinner (standing left to right): OU Senior Executive **Rabbi Pinchas Stolper**; **Rabbi Barry Freundel**; **Rabbi Steven Dworken**; **Rabbi Chaim Wakslak**; **Rabbi Tzvi Flaum**; **Rabbi Steven Pruzansky**; **Rabbi Sol Roth**. Seated left to right are OU Executive Vice President **Rabbi Raphael B. Butler**; **Rabbi Dr. Bernard Lander**; OU President **Mandell I. Ganchrow, M.D.**; **Rabbi Moshe D. Tendler**; Dinner Chairman **Rabbi Jacob S. Rubenstein**.

Organization for the Long Beach community. He received *smichah* from Yeshiva Torah Vodaath and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Hofstra University. The clinical director and administrator of the Brunswick Physical Medical and Rehabilitation Hospital in Amityville, N.Y., he is also consultant to the Hebrew Academy for Special Children and Bais Ezra/Ohel as well as the New York State Department of Education and Department of Disability Determinations. ■

### ORTHODOX UNION NATIONAL DINNER

June 6, 1999

Grand Hyatt Hotel, NYC

Centennial Medallion Award  
**GEORGE E. PATAKI**  
Governor of New York State

National Centennial Kashruth Founders Award  
**WILLIAM R. JOHNSON**  
President and C.O.O. of H.J. Heinz Company

National Centennial Kashruth Award  
**RICHARD BERNSTEIN**  
Chairman of the Board of B. Manischewitz Co., LLC

National Rabbinic Leadership Award  
**RABBI JACOB S. RUBENSTEIN**  
President of the Rabbinical Council of America  
and Rabbi at the Young Israel of Scarsdale (N.Y.)

Distinguished Community Service Award  
**WILLIAM RAPFOGEL**  
Executive Director of the Metropolitan New York  
Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty

President's Award  
**NEIL ELLMAN**  
Member, OU Board of Directors

Joseph Stechler  
Dinner Chairman

Alan Miller  
Dinner Vice Chairman

#### LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

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## MR. DIAMENT GOES TO WASHINGTON

### OU/IPA MOVES TO D.C.

In his address at November's convention, Orthodox Union President Dr. Mandell I. Ganchrow stated that establishing a permanent Union presence in our nation's capital, a "long-held dream," is a milestone that "will afford us greater opportunities to impact on public policy and influence legislation."

That dream was realized in February when Director of the Institute for Public Affairs Nathan J. Diament opened an OU/IPA office in Washington. The office will focus on substantive issues such as education reform, including securing greater support for families sending their children to parochial schools, as well as more "family friendly" tax policies.

Also staffing the Washington office is the IPA's new Associate Director Josh Sussman. A graduate of Baltimore Hebrew College's special program in communal service, Mr. Sussman is devoting his initial efforts to the IPA's summer congressional internship program. This program places more than 40 Orthodox college students in internships on Capitol Hill so that they can learn the dynamics of the political process firsthand. In the coming months, the IPA will work toward effectively harnessing the power of grassroots and synagogue communities toward promoting the interests of the Orthodox community through political activism.

The Union will maintain its IPA office in New York City under IPA International Affairs and Communal Relations Director Betty Ehrenberg.

**The new OU/IPA office is located in the heart of downtown Washington at 1640 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Tel: (202) 857-2770. ■**

## First Collegiate "Kollel" Builds Achdut

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SYNAGOGUE YOUTH EXTENDS ITS REACH TO THE CAMPUS

"Whether you wish to learn Talmud or the *alef-bet*, this is the right program for you," read the brochure announcing a new NCSY collegiate initiative. A big promise? Yes! But the participants of the first NCSY Winter Break Collegiate Scholars Mission to Israel found that the three-week program more than met their expectations - and in some cases, even fulfilled a dream. Five of the 32 men selected from 23 colleges across the country did indeed learn *alef-bet* material, while those with more extensive Judaic backgrounds benefited from learning and touring at levels appropriate to their needs.

Only three of the participants had NCSY backgrounds and approximately 1/3 of the students were from non-*shomer Shabbat* homes. Others had a yeshivah education and came from observant families. Did the mix work? According to Joey Goldberg, a junior at the University of Cincinnati, the mission was a "huge success" precisely because Jewish students from so many different backgrounds realized that "everyone's a *Yid*, even though they see things differently. They gained a new respect for each other." The highlight of the tour, for Joey? Seeing how sincerely members of the group prayed together, particularly at the Cave of Machpelah and Rachel's Tomb. The *achdut* among the diverse group made them all the more interested in connecting to the common roots of their Jewish heritage.

The program was hosted by Yeshivat Hamivtar in Efrat and, thanks to the gracious hospitality of Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, the students were housed free of charge in the retreat center of Ohr Torah Stone. NCSY Director of Regions Rabbi Baruch Lanner modeled the college program after NCSY's high school level summer "kollel" program, which he founded and developed. The students participating in the mission, which came to be known as the Winter Kollel, were privileged to hear *shiurim* by Rabbis Mendel Blochman, Chaim Brovender, Aharon Lichtenstein and Shlomo Riskin.

In addition to the immediate benefits of the intensive three-week experience, long range results were promising as well: Two of the students continued their Jewish education the following semester in Israel, five more are returning there this summer and one will be returning to Israel for a year of study next fall. The impact of the program also went far beyond the participants who were directly involved. Follow-ups to the Winter Kollel include weekly chat rooms and weekly *divrei Torah*; *Shabbatonim* or speakers sent to the University of Michigan, Cornell, and the University of Cincinnati; and OU Pardes Project groups (for monthly discussions of Jewish ethics) were started at Columbia University and George Washington University.

The NCSY Collegiate Winter Kollel was co-sponsored by the Jewish Agency and NCSY Israel Center, along with grants from Mr. and Mrs. A. George Saks of New York and Mr. and Mrs. David Shapell of Los Angeles. Rabbi David Felsenthal of Columbus, Ohio, was of invaluable help in recruitment in the United States and coordination of the program in Israel. Gratified by the outstanding results of this year's Winter Kollel, the Orthodox Union is planning to expand the program to 45 men next winter and will initiate a similar study/tour for women.

**For more information about the Collegiate Kollel, call 888-SOS-ASAP or email rabbidave@ou.org. ■**

**CLARIFICATION** The last issue of Leadership Briefing listed the wrong toll-free exchange for the NCSY Summer Program. The correct number is: 888-TOUR-4-YOU, or email ncsy@ou.org

## “Standing Room Only” at West Coast Convention

CALIFORNIA SHULS BRING OU SPEAKERS TO BROADER COMMUNITY



OU West Coast Director **Rabbi Alan Kalinsky** presenting a plaque to OU West Coast President **Drew Parker** and his wife, **Careena**, in honor of his presidency.



A silver *tzedakah* box is presented by **Rabbi Kalinsky** to **Dr. and Mrs. Larry Eisenberg** in appreciation of Dr. Eisenberg's success in chairing Convention '98.

There was standing room only at many of the sessions at the eighth annual Orthodox Union West Coast Torah Convention. Chaired by Dr. Larry Eisenberg, the Convention was held in Los Angeles on December 24-27, and addressed “The Seventy Faces of Torah in Theory and Practice: The Spectrum of Orthodoxy.” The keynote address was given by Rabbi Berel Wein on the first evening. “Morality in a Secular Society” was the topic discussed by Guest Speaker Dr. Laura Schlessinger. OU National Chairman of the Board Marcel Weber delivered the State of the (Orthodox) Union address, and California Congressman Brad Sherman (D) recounted the travails of a “nice Jewish boy” in politics.

The convention featured *shiuim* and addresses by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Rabbi Raphael B. Butler, Betty Ehrenberg, Rabbi Moshe Elefant, Rabbi Tzvi Flaum, Rabbi Gershon Gewirtz, Dr. Mindy Gewirtz, Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg, Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, Dr. David Luchins, Rabbi Dr. David Schnall and Shira Smiles. Many of these speakers participated in the community-wide scholar-in-residence programs hosted by area synagogues as well.

The Shabbat evening dinner program at B'nai David-Judea, for example, was highlighted by a forum discussing “Orthodoxy: Where is it going?” featuring Rabbis Wein and Goldin and moderated by Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky, and was filled to capacity, with over 400 attendees. *Oneg Shabbat* programs in Beverlywood, Hancock Park, North Hollywood, Calabasas, Woodland Hills and six other synagogues, from Century City to San Diego, also drew large audiences.

Valley residents were presented with a new Yom Iyun pro-

gram which was also utilized by the girls' division of Valley Torah High School. The program, which had a full morning of *shiuim* with two choices at each time slot on timely topics such as women and *mitzvot*, pluralism, and Jewish parenting, evoked a lively response.

**To see and hear Convention speeches, visit [www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org) and choose “OU West Coast” from the drop-down menu. ■**

## Rabbi Brander Speaks at Inauguration

The congregants of Boca Raton Synagogue, an Orthodox Union *shul*, are justifiably proud of the achievements of their rabbi. Rabbi Kenneth Brander, spiritual leader of the synagogue for the past six years, increased the *shul* membership from 60 to 400 families and created the Helen and Julius Reiter Institute of Judaic Studies which serves more than 300 adults weekly. In addition, he was instrumental in building the first *mikvah* complex in Palm Beach County and developed the Boca Raton Judaic Fellows Program. As a result of his many efforts and personal charisma, he has in many respects, “put Boca Raton on the map.” Last January, Rabbi Brander was asked to speak at Governor Jeb Bush's Inaugural Prayer Breakfast, where he recited and explained Psalm 23. “The psalm concentrates on King David's relationship with God, and I elaborated on it, [emphasizing] the relationship leaders have with God,” said Rabbi Brander. ■

# Far Out! OU Outreach in the Far East

Thousands of Israelis who finish their tour of duty in the army travel to India searching for spiritual fulfillment. Alienated from Torah Judaism throughout their young lives, many of these Jews turn to Taoism or Buddhism during their travels. In response to this tragedy, the Orthodox Union/NCSY Israel Center in Jerusalem sponsored an "India initiative." For many, according to Israel Center Director Shai Solomon, contact with the Israel Center emissaries was the first positive taste of their heritage, despite the fact that they grew up in the land of our forefathers.

Utilizing the talents of Michi Yosefi, a gifted teacher dedicated to outreach, the Israel Center funded a multifaceted *kiruv* project in Dharmsala, high in the Himalayan Mountains of India, for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. Yosefi, accompanied by his wife, child, and assistant Adi Friedman, was so successful at that time that he returned to the city of Goa at the height of India's winter tourist season.

Yosefi's "open house" offered classes and workshops on Jewish meditation, prayer and philosophy. Through direct contact with Shabbat, Yom Tov and joyous festival celebrations, hundreds of young Jews from Israel, as well as other foreign lands, experienced a Judaism they had never known existed. For some, it was a first step to discovering more about Jewish beliefs and traditions. Upon return to Israel, they turned to Yosefi and the Israel Center for guidance.

Israel Center's goal in India was to connect spiritually-seeking Jews to Judaism, "to give them a place to ask questions," said Friedman. People who intended to visit for one day stayed many days longer and "experienced new things," he continued. The former NCSY regional president (from Skokie Valley, Illinois) was responsible for organizing the trip, building a *sukkah* and publicizing the open house programs, while "Michi took care of the spiritual teaching," he said.

The current (Spring) issue of *Jewish Action*, the magazine of the Orthodox Union, features the full story of this exotic outreach effort, authored by Michi Yosefi himself. The spread includes photos and letters written by Israeli travelers whose first-hand experiences of "Yahadut from the heart" speak for themselves. **To order the Spring issue of Jewish Action, contact [kalishl@ou.org](mailto:kalishl@ou.org) or call (212) 613-8154.** ■



The warmth of the OU Israel Center *sukkah* built by volunteers in Dharmsala provided a true Yom Tov atmosphere. Guests ate and studied there throughout the holiday; and the *Simchat Beit Hasho'evah* attracted hundreds of participants with an alluring blend of music and mysticism.

## New Address for OU Kashruth in Israel

### NCSY-IN-ISRAEL INCLUDED IN CONSOLIDATION

The Orthodox Union's Kashruth department in Israel, which certifies approximately 75 companies there, is moving from Rechovot to the OU/NCSY Israel Center in Jerusalem. In addition, NCSY-in-Israel, which has been based in Ramat Gan, will also occupy offices in a newly renovated area of the same building at 10 Straus Street.

The move will facilitate management operations, cut costs and improve communications with the New York OU headquarters. To accommodate the consolidation of all OU departments on Israeli soil to this single location, a large section of the Israel Center is under reconstruction. According to Israel Center Director Shai Solomon, the new complex of offices will be completed soon.

**For more information on the OU Israel Center in Jerusalem, contact [philch@virtual.co.il](mailto:philch@virtual.co.il) or call [011-972] 2-5384-206.** ■

# “K’NOS” Unity Campaign Focus of OU Sisterhoods



STARTING SHABBAT APRIL 30-MAY 1

“Women have the power to unite the Jewish people with three little words: ‘Come for Shabbos!’” according to Marilyn Golomb Selber, national president of the Orthodox Union’s Women’s Branch. And she should know. The daughter of a *hachnasat orchim* legend, Eve Golomb, a”h, of Los Angeles, she was often witness to the inspirational impact of Shabbat hospitality on guests and family alike.

So it is no surprise that as president of the nationwide network of Orthodox women, she has initiated K’NOS, a project designed to “sensitize people to this *mitzvah* which is in our hearts, but not always expressed,” she explains. To do that, Women’s Branch is urging each synagogue women’s group to organize committees to implement a three-pronged program:

1) **Hachnasat Orchim:** Welcoming guests to your home is not limited to visitors from other communities. There are individuals and families in every *shul* who may “fall through the cracks,” despite the congregation’s best intentions. In addition to simply providing the warmth of Shabbat to a neighbor, a friendly home can help keep Jews who may feel alienated from the community in the fold.

2) **Meet ‘n’ Greet:** Helping a “new face” in *shul* feel comfortable will include matching new residents and last-minute visitors with a hospitable family as well as appointing “greeters” to make the *shul* a true *beit kneset*, a house of ingathering.

3) **Home Away from Home:** Organizing classic hospitality through the synagogue can make all the differ-

ence to a visitor. A phone number to call, answered by a friendly voice, can help an outsider feel at home. The committee then lends a hand in familiarizing him or her with the Jewish facilities and points of interest in the community and finds a home for Shabbat hospitality as well.

While these concepts go back to our ancestors Avraham and Sarah, Mrs. Selber points out that raising the consciousness of women about their potential role in creating Jewish unity through *hachnasat orchim* is particularly timely. Commenting on the derivation of the unusual name of the project, K’NOS, she points out that in addition to being at the root of the terms *hachnasat orchim* and *beit kneset*, it also harkens back to Queen Esther’s words to Mordechai, “*Lech, k’nos et kol hayehudim*” [Go, gather all the Jews...] and “*Nidchei Yisrael yikanes*” [He shall gather together the dispersed Jews] from Psalm 147.

There is no doubt that many OU synagogues have already become magnets to diverse Jews in their communities. By formalizing their efforts through this sisterhood project, “warm *shuls* will become even warmer,” attests Mrs. Selber, adding that not every aspect of the project will apply to every *shul* and every household. Flexibility is essential, but what is important is that a welcoming *shul* and Shabbat table have the power to help Jews’ souls feel that they belong. “It’s our job to bring them home.”

**Contact your sisterhood and synagogue leadership to help launch this unity initiative.** Rabbis and sisterhood presidents have been supplied with information and publicity materials from Women’s Branch of the Union. ■

## Rabbi Kaminetsky

Continued from page 1

NCSY, who will marry their son, Daniel, in June.

Highly respected as an educator, Rabbi Kaminetsky has been the principal of Manhattan Day School for the past 18 years, and has been associated with Camp Magen Avraham for 30 years, the past 21 as camp director. He views his new role as national director of NCSY as an opportunity to use the flexibility of the existing structure to benefit teens and pre-teens of all backgrounds. “I believe in NCSY on two levels,” he said recently, “as an outreach organization, but also for providing support to religious teens growing up in today’s society. I believe that NCSY has a great deal to offer every child in this country.”

It is precisely Rabbi Kaminetsky’s keen understanding of NCSY’s potential for influencing teens at every level that creates a meaningful bond between him and Rabbi Butler. Commenting on Rabbi Kaminetsky’s appointment, Rabbi Butler said: “This signifies the heightened appreciation of the primacy of informal education in shaping the next generation. A master of formal education, Rabbi Kaminetsky brings with him a wealth of knowledge of *chinuch* along with a boundless passion to engage every Jewish child. We welcome him aboard.”

The choice of Rabbi Kaminetsky for the position met with the strong approval of NCSY founder and former national director, Rabbi Pinchas Stolper as well: “It was my deepest prayer and fondest hope that NCSY be entrusted to hands that are not only seasoned, talented and experienced, but are sensitive to NCSY’s unique challenge and mission, capable of bridging the broad and diverse worlds of NCSY and meeting the challenges of a new generation. My hopes and prayers have been answered with the appointment of Rabbi

# New East Coast Tour for Yad B'Yad Teens

The outstanding success of the Yad B'Yad tour of Israel last year has prompted the creation of yet another innovative teen trip. This summer, in addition to the Israel tour, an unusual trip from New York to Florida will be offered to a limited number of participants. Yad B'Yad, which is Hebrew for "Hand in Hand," is a new concept in youth programs, joining Yachad, the Orthodox Union's group for the developmentally disabled, with NCSY (National Conference of Synagogue Youth) members interested in volunteering their leadership skills in

this unusual setting.

The month-long bus trip will take 25 NCSY teenagers, 16 Yachad members and 10 staff members on a tour down the East Coast. They will tour Washington, D.C., visit Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, stop at the Coca Cola plant and watch a live CNN broadcast in Atlanta, Georgia, and do much more along the fun-filled route to Orlando's theme parks.

Orthodox Union *shuls* will host the travelers for daily *minyanim*, and Yad B'Yad members will have *Shabbatonim* at Etz Chaim Synagogue in Jacksonville

and the Boca Raton Synagogue in Florida.

The trip offers a valuable opportunity for teenagers who want to combine leadership training and summer touring, according to Yachad's Director of Summer Programs Elana Goldscheider, who initiated the program and will be supervising the excursion to Orlando. NCSY volunteers who participated last year received training in leadership and learned to design and run Yachad programs in their communities. Past participants are eligible to refresh their leadership skills by joining again this summer.

The trip will take place from July 25-August 22, and costs \$2,450 + \$200 registration fee. **For more information about the Israel or East Coast tours, call Yachad Summer Coordinator Liz Jarrett at (212) 613-8223, or email [yadbyad@ou.org](mailto:yadbyad@ou.org).** ■

## LET'S GET TOGETHER, OUR WAY

Deaf children outside the New York metropolitan area feel isolated from the Jewish community, according to Batya Jacob, program coordinator of Our Way. To give them a connection to the Jewish world, Our Way is pairing hearing-impaired children with older role models for social activities. The Big and Little Brothers and Sisters are paired from the same geographic area, all across the United States.

The Little Brothers and Sisters, who are elementary school children attending public schools, day schools and *yeshivot* across America, are all hearing impaired. The Big Brothers and Sisters, who all attend colleges or graduate schools, may or may not be deaf. The deaf and hearing-impaired Big Brothers and Sisters serve as role models, showing their Little Brothers and Sisters what it's like to grow up being deaf in the Jewish world; the hearing adults are studying speech, audiology or deaf education. Big Brothers and Sisters act as liaisons between their Little Brothers and Sisters and the general Jewish community, and help integrate the children into synagogue and youth activities. They may serve as Judaic tutors at times, or take the children out for bowling, ice cream or skating.

An offshoot of Our Way's Big Brother and Sister program is Our Way's internet pen pals program. Deaf children can contact Our Way for a list of email addresses of other hearing-impaired children their own age, allowing deaf children in different geographic locations to chat with each other online, or through email. Sponsored by the National Jewish Council for the Disabled, Our Way offers a number of programs for the Jewish deaf. **For more information about any of Our Way's programs, contact Batya Jacob at [arielib@ou.org](mailto:arielib@ou.org) or (212) 613-8234.** ■

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### NYC COMMISSIONER IS A GOOD SPORT

Good Sports, a monthly athletic program which draws 200 developmentally disabled children and their peers, hosted **New York City Sports Commissioner Kenneth J. Podziba** at Edward R. Murrow High School (Brooklyn, N.Y.) in January. Launched in 1992 by the Orthodox Union's National Jewish Council for the Dis-

abled, the program fosters self-esteem and sportsmanship through group sports. "Good Sports is the only program that unites the disabled and the non-disabled, giving them equal opportunity on the court," said NJCD National Director Dr. Jeffrey Lichtman. Commissioner Podziba (center) joined the fun during a rigorous game of hockey.



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