

OU National Convention 2002 Sets New Goals

Hundreds of rabbis and lay leaders from across the country met for four days at the Rye Town Hilton in New York's Westchester County during the Orthodox Union's National Convention 2002, held in late December. With the theme of "Action Plans for an Uncertain Century: The OU Looks Forward," the Convention featured a wide array of lectures and programs extending across the Jewish life cycle.



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1. Convention Chair Elliot P. Gibber outlines the Convention's themes.

2. Faye Zakheim, domestic violence coordinator, Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, leading the workshop, "Shanah Rishonah: They Said It Would Be Perfect."

3. Rabbi Howard Zack of Columbus, OH (left), Shira Reifman, interim national director of operations of the National Conference of Synagogue Youth and Rabbi Dr. Leonard A. Matanky of Chicago, IL, participating in a panel exploring issues of concern to the Orthodox community.

4. Stephen H. Hoffman, president and CEO of the United Jewish Communities (UJC), stressing the unity of Klal Yisrael during his talk.

5. A family enjoys a meal together.

6. OU President Harvey Blitz and OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb speaking about new and future OU programs.

7. Rabbi Weinreb welcomes Rabbi Yitzchok Weinberger, deputy mayor of Jerusalem, to the Convention's *melave malkah*.



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8. Rabbi Yosef Gavriel Bechhofer, editor, *Yad Avraham Mishnah Series*, presents a *shiur* based on ideas in the *daf yomi*.

9. Rabbi Yitzchak Sladowsky of Forest Hills, NY makes a point during the Town Hall session.

10. Convention participants came from across the country.

11. Julius Berman, OU honorary president, chairing a commemoration of the one-hundredth birthday and tenth *yahrtzeit* of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, *zt"l*, held on Sunday morning.



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12. A standing-room-only audience attending the commemoration.



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13. Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter, dean of the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute in Brookline, MA, speaking about the Rav's thought and influence.



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14. A meeting of the OU's officers and board of directors, held on Thursday afternoon.



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15. Dr. Karen Bacon, the Monique C. Katz dean of Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University, delivering the keynote address.



16. Rami Levi (r), consul, North America, Israel Ministry of Tourism, presents an award to Rabbi Shmuel Goldin of Englewood, NJ, for his success in organizing missions to Israel; Rabbi Goldin represented over fifty OU synagogue rabbis so honored at the Convention.

Photos: Gary Koenig