



GREAT LAKES & RIVERS REGION

Program/Resource Descriptions

(Contact Dr. Richard Lederman in the region office for details)

Leadership Development

Biennial Convention

Five days of meetings, workshops, presentations and celebrations designed to vitalize the Movement and help congregational leaders create a vibrant Jewish life in their synagogues

SULAM

Leadership training for synagogue presidents and Vice-Presidents held Thursday through Sunday, usually in March, at two North American locations

Large Congregations Conference

A biennial gathering for congregations with memberships of 750 or more

Small Congregations Conference

Held annually for congregations with memberships of 250 or fewer

Regional Board

An opportunity for congregational leaders to participate in the affairs and determine the direction of the region and to discover ways of tapping into the resources of USCJ

Ritual

IMUN

Held annually in the summer at Camp Ramah locations, trains lay synagogue members to assume religious leadership responsibilities within their communities

Luah

A complete calendar containing order of prayers, blessings and Torah readings available from the Book Service

Kashrut CD

Kosher: Sanctifying the Ordinary, an interactive CD designed for both Jewish professionals and laypeople of all ages and levels of religious knowledge

Yad LaTorah

A Guide for Gabba'im and Torah readers containing a wealth of information regarding the various laws that pertain to the Torah Service, including topics such as assigning *aliyyot*, special Torah reading *minhagim*, blessings for going up to the Torah and a comprehensive listing of *haftarot*

Services to Affiliated Congregations

Affiliation

Bringing unaffiliated congregations into USCJ as a way of building the Conservative Movement and bringing service to these congregations

Placement

Assisting congregations in the recruitment of rabbis, cantors, executive directors and educators

Rabbinic Residence Program

Providing small congregations with weekend visits by rabbinical students

Cantorial Ambassadors

Providing small congregations with weekend visits by members of the Cantors Assembly

HAZAK

Programming resources and materials to help congregations meet the social and religious needs of senior adults

Operations General**Insurance**

Offered to members of our congregations at group rates in the following categories: Term Life Insurance, Excess Major Medical Plan, Comprehensive Major Medical, and a plan for members without coverage; also a Cancer Plan that helps defray expenses of cancer treatment, a Medicare Supplement Plan, and a Property & Casualty Insurance Plan for congregations; all plans are underwritten by prestigious companies

Web Hosting

Free of charge on the USCJ server for affiliated congregations

Listserves

Including a Presidents Listserve, a Financial Listserve, a bulletin editors listserv and a Programming Listserve

Israel Operations**Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center**

The Center for Conservative Judaism in the heart of downtown Jerusalem; can help you plan your itinerary or arrange a bar/bat mitzvah ceremony in Israel for your children and grandchildren; arrange home hospitality or let you use its computer facilities to e-mail a message to relatives at home

Conservative Yeshiva

Housed at the Fuchsberg Center, offers men and women a serious study opportunity for learning traditional Jewish texts during a year in Israel in an egalitarian, open-minded environment, combined with a warm religious community

Center on Campus

Housed at the Fuchsberg Center, provides educational, cultural and social experiences for college students studying in Israel

Youth Programs**Regional *kinnusim* and Convention**

Bring hundreds of teens from throughout the region together for weekends dedicated to leadership development, social action, as well as Shabbat learning and celebration

USY International Convention

Brings hundreds of teens from affiliated congregations together for a week of Jewish life, learning and enjoyment for four days during the winter break

USY Summer Programs

USY on Wheels, "Classic," USY on Wheels Mitzvah Mission, Summer in the City, Outdoor Adventure, as well as Israel and European experiences

NATIV

A unique college leadership program for USY graduates who demonstrate academic and leadership skills; a standard academic year from September to May, the first five months in Jerusalem at Beit Nativ, and study either at Hebrew University or at the Conservative Yeshiva; the second half of the year on Kibbutz Sa'ad, in the Negev

USY High

An 8-week program at the Goldstein Youth Village in Jerusalem (eventually to be housed at the Fuchsberg Center); class time is interspersed with time experiencing our "classroom without walls" - the Land of Israel, including an ancient cave, a mountain fortress, an army bunker, riding on a camel, or even at the beach

Koach

Provides college-age students the opportunity to maintain and develop connections to Conservative Judaism by nurturing a love of Torah, the Jewish people, Israel and God through a variety of activities, including social, religious, educational, cultural and social action programs

Region Youth Commission

An opportunity for congregational Youth Commission chairpeople to participate in the affairs and determine the direction of the regional youth program and to discover ways of tapping into the resources of the regional and international USY program

Adult Education

Perek Yomi

A program of daily Bible study with helpful study material provided online or by mail

Mishnah Yomit

A program of daily Mishnah study with helpful study material provided online or by mail

Jewish Living Now

A series of booklets, pamphlets and program suggestions and outlines covering various areas of personal and congregational religious life such as Shabbat, *kashrut*, *tefillah* (prayer), *tzedakah*, including a complete plan for a *Tikun Leyl Shavuot* (Shavuot evening study program)

Conservative Compact of Jewish Commitment

A monthly inspirational, educational, spiritually motivating e-mail newsletter in areas of living as a Jew, learning as a Jew, creating a bridge to Israel, incorporating acts of *hesed* (kindness) and perpetuating Jewish life through the calendar

Education Programs

New Directors' Institute

Held in New York for one week in the summer, provides religious school directors with 0-2 years experience in the field with strategies and resources to succeed; the conference is followed by year-long mentoring

Framework for Excellence

New standards for synagogue religious schools offering important benchmarks for learning and a choice of six educational models

U-Step

Teacher Enhancement Program that works with congregations to design a teacher-training program that meets their needs and engages teachers in training for 12 hours during each of two years

Resources

Directory and Resource Guide

An online listing of all executive professional staff; regional lay and professional leadership; a directory of USCJ programs and publications; a list of other organizations of the Conservative Movement; Standards for Congregational Practice; A Guide to Congregational Practices; a listing of all congregations affiliated with United Synagogue

Synagogue Resource Center Catalogue

A listing of thousands of successful programs and projects covering every aspect of synagogue life, most of which can be ordered free of charge

Book Service

Available by phone, fax or e-mail, provides valuable materials for synagogue, home and school libraries focusing on topics such as prayer, the Jewish life cycle, education and contemporary subjects

United Synagogue Review

Official publication of the United Synagogue, sent twice a year to members whose congregations update their mailing lists; includes articles on many of the subjects listed in this publication as well as reports of newsworthy projects sponsored by congregations and regions

Program Suggestions

A catalogue of successful programs developed by affiliated congregations; each year a different theme is highlighted; this year, the suggestions are online, but can be ordered in hard copy

Holiday Leaflets

A packet of nine leaflets includes: "Selihot: Some Reflections," "Making the New Year Sweet," "Tashlikh: Casting Our Sins Away," "Welcoming Guests: Ancient Custom/Modern Lesson," "Hanukkah: Rekindling the Internal Light," "Hanukkah: The Gift of Giving," "Tu B'Shevat: Celebrating Nature's Bounty," "Eat Drink and Be Holy: The Holiday of Purim," "Keeping the Story Alive: Questions and Reflections for the Seder Table," "Yom Ha-Shoah," and "Counting the Omer and Making Each Day Count."

USCJ Website

www.uscj.org, includes the full array of resources and programs offered by USCJ

Model Rabbi Engagement

A model engagement agreement designed jointly by USCJ and the Rabbinical Assembly

HADASH

A broadcast listserv of new program ideas for officers, board members and professional staff