

Highlights of RRA Convention in San Diego, March 18-21 2012 as of Jan.16 2012:

Uri Maarav: The Innovative Spirit of the Jewish West.

Here is the preliminary schedule, some details still in process.....

Sunday Highlights

- **Opening Dinner:** Greeting old friends, making new friends, welcoming new colleagues from the RRC Class of 2011, greetings from the San Diego Federation and LA Board of Rabbis President (our colleague Judith HaLevy).
- Evening program: **Susan Berrin, the editor of *Sh'ma* magazine,** will be our guest speaker and help us set the context for understanding the development and character of Jewish life on the West Coast.

Monday Highlights

- **Convention Tefila** led by the RRA members from the JRF staff, and connecting us to the Womens Torah Project
- **Buses to Old Town,** San Diego for time off, lunch on your own
- **Rabbi Elliot Dorff** will be our teacher, discussing the evolution of the role of the rabbi in West Coast Jewish life. as we gather for our afternoon program in Old Town at the historic site of the building that was the oldest synagogue in San Diego.
- Late afternoon program back at the Catamaran Resort: **“Israel In Our Lives”** with our colleague **Amy Klein** from Israel and special guest **Rabbi Lisa Goldstein,** the new Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and previous Hillel Executive Director in San Diego for 15 years.
- Monday night dinner together at Catamaran followed by a program **honoring several of our West Coast *Vatikim*.**

Tuesday Highlights

- **The Annual RRA Meeting** (aka “business session”) will happen on Tuesday morning this year, as we welcome for the 3d time with us parliamentarian extraordinaire Jim Stewart...there will be a number of items to consider for action, forthcoming in a subsequent mailing.
- On Tuesday we will also be introduced to the work of our **Ishut Task Force,** which will present an initial “discussion-only” draft of an evolving document, and we will also have small break-out groups to share more deeply.

- On Tuesday we will also offer our **convention workshops**, including **Jeff Schein on an exciting pilot project on teaching texts**, and **Rabbi Lisa Goldstein**, the new Executive Director of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and a special program highlighting the new **A Guide to Jewish Ritual** by **David Teutsch**.
- Tuesday at dinner we will share in the *kavod* of the awarding of the **Rabbi Ira Eisenstein Award** to our colleague **Nancy Fuchs Kreimer**, and then an **evening of entertainment** by San Diego **Klezmer Band Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi**

Wednesday Highlights

The convention will conclude Wednesday morning with some briefer programming to be announced, ending in time for people who need to make earlier-in-the day flights home.