

A NIGHT OF LEARNING WITH YESHIVAT CHOVEVEI TORAH AND
URI L'TZEDEK

Sex, Power, and Abuse in the Orthodox Community

CO-SPONSORED BY DRISHA AND JOFA



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Where Open Orthodoxy Begins

Uri L'Tzedek is an Orthodox social justice organization guided by Torah values and dedicated to combating suffering and oppression. Through community based education, leadership development and action, Uri L'Tzedek creates discourse, inspires leaders, and empowers the Jewish community towards creating a more just world.

Uri L'Tzedek – 25 Broadway, 17th Floor New York, NY 10004

info@utzedek.org 212-284-6540

Agenda

7:30-7:35	Welcome
7:35-7:55	Introduction and Spiritual Chevruta (Shayna Weiss)
8:00-8:45	Rabbi Mark Dratch
8:50-9:05	Ben Hirsch
9:05-9:20	Q and A
9:20-9:30	Closing announcements

Speakers

Rabbi Mark Dratch is founder and director of JSafe: The Jewish Institute Supporting an Abuse Free Environment. He served as a congregational rabbi for 22 years, was a Vice President of the Rabbinical Council of America, is chairman of its Task Force on Rabbinic Improprieties, and is responsible for spearheading and formulating its new policy guidelines for responding to allegations against member rabbis. Rabbi Dratch is also a member of the Clergy Task Force on Abuse of Jewish Women International, a member of the Jewish Advisory Committee of the FaithTrust Institute, a member of the Editorial Board of The Journal of Religion and Abuse, and a sought after speaker and consultant in matters of domestic violence and clergy abuse.

Survivors For Justice is an advocacy, educational and support organization for survivors of sexual abuse and their families from the right-wing Orthodox world. We offer support services to survivors, work within the right-wing Orthodox community to raise awareness of the issue and develop solutions to the problem.

Shayna Weiss graduated summa cum laude from Brandeis University in 2007 with a double major in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and International and Global Studies. At Brandeis, she received highest honors for her thesis on religious women in the Israeli Defense Forces. She is a 2008 graduate of the Drisha Beit Midrash Program, in which she spent the year studying Talmud and other Jewish texts full time. Shayna is now pursuing her Ph.D at NYU, focusing on issues of religion, gender, and nationalism in Israeli society.

Spiritual Chevruta

1. In your own life, what sort of abuses have you witnessed or experienced? Examples include work, home, school, popular culture, etc. (Remember that abuse of gender is not exclusive to women.)
2. What abuses have you seen specific to the Jewish community? What causes them? (Abuse does not have to be physical - includes verbal and emotional.)
3. How do you think the halachic system can be understood to perpetuate and/or prevent these abuses?

Upcoming Uri L'Tzedek Events

Uri L'Tzedek Beit Midrash – Agunot – Wednesday, November 18th 7:30-9 at Drisha

Uri L'Tzedek welcomes Yaffa Epstein of Pardes and Jeremy Stern of ORA to share valuable insight into the textual and current situation of Agunot. Co-sponsored by Pardes. Questions? Email info@utzedek.org

Mitzvah Day 2009 - Sunday, November 15th, 10:00 am

Join Uri L'Tzedek for Mitzvah Day 2009, a day of Jewish volunteering and social action on Sunday, November 15th (sponsored by the Council of Young Jewish Presidents (CYJP)). All are welcome. Sign up quickly before spots run out!

Mitzvah Day 2009 will begin with an opening kickoff brunch at 10 AM on the 7th floor of the JCC of Manhattan (76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue). Then Uri L'Tzedek will do some teaching and training before we canvass in the streets of NYC for the Tav HaYosher (Ethical Seal). Volunteers will leave for their volunteer sites at 11:30 AM

For more information, please visit the CYJP website: www.cyjp.org

Tav HaYosher: Food Ethic Meets Jewish Ethic – Sunday, November 15h 6pm

Join the Jewish Wagner Professional Association for an enlightening discussion with Rabbi Ari Weiss about the *Tav HaYosher*, the Ethical Seal. Learn about how Rabbi Weiss' organization, *Uri L'Tzedek*, is working to create a modern ethical food consumption policy based on ancient Jewish law and tradition. Please join us for dinner and discussion on Sunday, November 15th at 6pm at Sacred Chow (227 Sullivan St), a restaurant certified by the *Tav HaYosher*. There will be a \$15 fixed-price menu available. Please RSVP: Naomi.R.Rosenblatt@gmail.com.

Justice on the Battlefield and War Room: Jewish Ethics of War and Peace - Monday, November 16th 7:30-9

Uri L'Tzedek and Professor Michael Walzer Teach at the Princeton University Hillel on the evening of November 16th. The topic of learning will be: "Justice on the Battlefield and War Room: Jewish Ethics of War and Peace"

Drisha Course: Where is Our Moral Courage:

In this course we will develop a coherent philosophy of Jewish Social Justice while discussing pressing contemporary concerns including poverty and health care reform.

Tuesday, 7:45 - 9:15 p.m.

4-session course: November 24, December 1, 8, 15.

[Register at the Drisha Website](#)

Second Annual Uri L'Tzedek College Shabbaton – November 20-22nd at Columbia University

Join Uri L'Tzedek for our second annual college shabbaton, November 20-22nd at Columbia University. We will gather together for a weekend of learning, networking, and action with Jewish social justice leaders from college campuses around the country. Together we will explore Jewish texts relating to issues of Orthodoxy and social justice, develop social justice visions for our campus communities, and build relationships with other student leaders. On Sunday participants will take action as they hit the streets to support Uri L'Tzedek's [Tav HaYosher](#), an ethical seal for kosher restaurants.