

RCA Annual Convention 2026 - Tentative Schedule

Monday, May 11

9:30 AM

Welcome Buffet

10:00 AM

Opening Session: Mei-Afeilah Le'Orah

- Former Hostage **Bar Kuperstein** tells his story

11:15 AM

Taking the Fight to Antisemitism - Concurrent Sessions

- Winning in the Courts – **R. Moshe Goldfeder** (National Jewish Advocacy Center) and **R. Jon Gross** (Former Shul Rabbi; Civil Rights Litigator)
- On Campus and in Congress – **R. Micah Greenland** (NCSY) and **Nathan Diament** (OU's Advocacy Center)

12:15 PM

Lunch

- Video Address: **Ambassador Mike Huckabee** (Tentative)

1:15 PM

Behind a Posek's Derech HaPsak – **HaRav Hershel Schachter**

2:15 PM

Mincha

2:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions

- Rabbinic Response to Communal Tragedy and Personal Loss – **Rav Yehoram Ullman** (Chabad of Bandi Beach, Australia) and **Dr. Norman Blumenthal** (OHEL)

- The Future of AI – Today’s Profound Outlook and Tomorrow’s Fascinating Shailos – **Yaakov Haller** (VECHAI Foundation for AI Shailos)

3:45 PM

Tea Room and Vendors

4:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions

- Understanding Halakhic Mind – **Dr. Daniel Rynhold** (Revel Graduate School)
- When the Eruv Goes Down on Erev Shabbos – **Rav Chaim Jachter** (Shaarei Orah Cong. Teaneck, NJ; Beth Din of Elizabeth, TABC)
- Mechanchim Track: Q&A with **Rav Schachter** and **R. Tanchum Cohen** (MTA)

5:15 PM

Concurrent Sessions

- Breakout Workshops: Derasha Messaging, Fundraising, Tefillin Knots, Rabbinic Finances, and more [Sign-up Required]
- Chinuch in 5786: Inspiring Love for Israel, Torah and the Jewish People – **Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon** and **R. Leonard Matanky**

6:30 PM

Dinner

8:00 PM

Shagririm BaLev – Facilitating Shidduchim – **Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon**

8:15 PM

Maariv

8:45 PM

Farbrengen – **R. Yussie Zakutinsky** (K’hal Mevakshei Hashem. Lawrence, NY)and **Yoni Gelfand**

10:30 PM

Late Night: The inaugural “Iron Darshan” Competition & the Ping Pong Tournament

Tuesday, May 12

6:45 AM

Pre-Shacharis Options

- Daf Yomi – **R. Yona Reiss**
- Pre-Shacharis Run

7:45 AM

Shacharis

8:30 AM

Working Breakfast Discussions

Monsey Merchetz [Sign-up required]

9:30 AM

Plenary: Communicating Orthodox and Zionist Values

- **Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon** and **Rabbi Dr. Josh Joseph** (OU)

10:30 AM

Concurrent Sessions

- Surrogate Motherhood – **Rav Yehoram Ullman**
- Media Training – **Ariella Novick** (Bottom Line Media) – Empowering and Amplifying Your Rabbinic Voice through the Media

11:45 AM

Concurrent Sessions

- Letters from Atheist Jews and More: Unpublished Rabbi Sacks Thoughts for Shavuot – **R. Michael Laitner** (United Synagogue; Sacks Legacy Foundation)
- Navigating Mental Health and Halacha – **R. Yoni Rosensweig** (Maaglei Nefesh, Israel)
- Galut Got It Right: Why Israel Needs the Diaspora's Oldest Invention – **R. David Fine, R. Shlomo Sobol** and Barkai Rabbis

12:45 PM

Lunch and Military Chaplain of the Year: **Mitch Rocklin**

1:45 PM

Mincha and Azkara for Chayalim and for RCA members we have lost in 5786

2:45 PM

Concurrent Sessions

- Beyond your Bimah – **R. Efrem Goldberg** (Boca Raton Synagogue, FL)
- Inyanei Yuchasin – **Rav Yehoram Ullman** and **Rav Yona Reiss**

3:45 PM

Tea Room and Vendors

4:15 PM

Jewish Unity in Our Times – **Gary Torgow** (Jewish Federations of North America; Business Leader) - The critical opportunity for you to better engage with broader Jewish institutions, and impact the broader Jewish community

5:15 PM

Sheilos u'Teshuvos – **Rav Mordechai Willig**

6:00 PM

Mincha

6:15 PM

Dinner To Go