

גוֹרְנִים



G'VANIM

VOLUME 39, NO. 6

July/August 2011

Annual Awards Brunch Honors BCC Humanitarians and Builders

Larry Nathenson

Over 200 BCC members, friends, family, and supporters gathered on Sunday, May 22 at the beautiful oceanfront Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel for our annual Humanitarian Awards Brunch. The theme this year was "the year for building," in commemoration of our new home at 6090 W. Pico and of the continued building of our very special community.

The celebration began at 10:30 am with a champagne reception and fabulous silent auction filled with a variety of offerings for every taste and budget. There were gorgeous works of art, travel packages, restaurant and theater packages, personal services ranging from massages to dentistry, and Hollywood memorabilia, to name just a few. Many thanks to all those who donated or helped obtain items for the silent auction this year, and to our extremely hard-working silent auction co-chairs Kadin Henningsen and Eric Kamm.

The brunch began at 12:00 noon with a welcome by



President's Award recipient Ira Dankberg

BCC President Bruce Maxwell, blessing (ha-motzi) by Cantor Juval Porat, and a scrumptious buffet. Adam Kulbersh, BCC member and up-and-coming character actor, served as emcee for the program. Adam's growing resume includes film and stage credits along with appearances on television programs such as "Modern Family," "Desperate Housewives," "Make it or Break it," and "Miami Medical." He is also the writer and co-star of the very funny comedy "Wake up, it's Tuesday." Adam began by congratulating the Loews Hotel for booking a group of Jews the day after the rapture was supposed to occur ("They knew we'd still be here") and said he was sorry the rapture didn't happen because he was looking forward to finding parking at Trader Joe's and being able to drive the 405 again.

The first group of ha'Bonim (builders) awards were presented by President Bruce Maxwell to six individuals and organizations whose contributions were crucial to the successful completion of our new building: Brett Trueman,

BCC treasurer and past president, for his vision and years of hard work as chair of our capital campaign; Felicia Park-Rogers, our executive director, for her dedicated service to the new building project; Toni Lewis and Marc Schoepflein, our extraordinary architects; Howard CDM, our general contractor; Glenn Melnick, our real estate broker for the purchase of 6090 and the sale of 6000 W. Pico; and Mark Randall, our capital campaign consultant. Mr. Melnick, Mr. Schoepflein, and Ms. Lewis were also awarded lifetime honorary memberships in BCC.

We were then treated to the world premiere of a short, clever, amusing, and tear-jerking film by Kenna Love, Pam Postrel, and Denis Hiebsch about the move from 6000 to 6090 W. Pico. The film included video of the procession down Pico Blvd. on April 10 and our arrival and dedication ceremony in the new building, as well as some of the background of the hard work that made it possible. Kudos to our fine filmmakers!

Rabbi Lisa Edwards introduced the recipient of this year's Presidents Award, Ira Dankberg, a professional architect and founder of Urban Strategies Real Estate Consulting. The Presidents Award has been given since 2003 to outstanding BCC members for dedicated service to BCC and the larger community, and Ira's qualifications are exceptional. When he joined BCC in 1993 Ira immediately joined the Building Committee as well as the "Prettee" Committee designing and managing the remodel of 6000 W. Pico for the 25th Anniversary in 1997. Over the last year he has served as BCC's volunteer project manager for our new home. He worked on a daily basis to help select key building contractors and acted as liaison between the architect, construction manager, and BCC building committee.

Outside BCC, Ira's extensive project management experience includes the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum, Warner Bros. Studios, and Tribune/KTLA



Humanitarian Award recipients Nicolasa Nevarez and Diane Goodman

Continued on Page 2

Broadcasting. He has worked on several LEED® certified residential and commercial buildings and in 2008 he became a LEED® Accredited Professional with the United States Green Building Council. He is a member of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, the Jewish Federation Real Estate Cabinet and a Board Member of the non-profit Hollywood Community Housing Corporation. Excerpts from Ira's acceptance remarks can be found on page 3 of this issue.

Our second major award, the Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award, was established in 1985 and named for two Jewish leaders who were instrumental in helping BCC gain acceptance as a Reform congregation in 1974, only two years after its founding as the first GLBT synagogue in the world. It is given annually to deserving individuals or organizations for outstanding service to the Jewish and LGBT communities. This year's Humanitarian Award recipients are Diane Goodman and Nicolasa Cecilia Nevarez. In light of their more than thirty years together, it was fitting that they were introduced by well-known lesbian entertainer Robin Tyler, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that led to the California Supreme Court ruling granting marriage rights to same-sex couples in

2008, and one of the first to marry once the ruling took effect. It was also fitting that Diane should receive an award named for Rabbi Herman, who recommended her to Mayor Tom Bradley in 1980 for appointment to the LA City Commission on the Status of Women. She was the city's youngest commissioner, and served for ten years including one year as president.

Diane and Nicolasa have been BCC members for over thirty years and have both served as vice president and in other positions. They were heavily involved in our early efforts to establish children's programming. They met in 1978 while members of the ACLU gay rights chapter, where they worked to defeat Proposition 8 (the "Briggs initiative") that would have barred lesbians and gays from employment as teachers. Nicolasa also helped found the Harvey Milk Gay and Lesbian Democratic Club, and in 1985 she founded an organization for collectors of Disneyana and has served on the board and as President. Nicolasa has been an elementary school teacher for thirty years and a math coach and is currently a Title 1 coordinator. She has served as UTLA chair at her prior school.

Diane has been a practicing lawyer for twenty-six years. She is a member and Past President of the Academy of California Adoption Lawyers, and

Continued on Page 3

In this Issue..:

- BCC awards brunch. 1-2
- Ira Dankberg acceptance. 3
- Nicolasa/Diane acceptance . . . 4
- Rabbi's column. 5
- Cantor's column and concert . . . 6
- Rachel Adler, Virtual Minyan 7
- President's column. 8
- Men's Havurah, Book Group 9
- Women's Havurah, Ohr Chayim. . 10
- Mazel Tov, Membership 11
- Awards Brunch Photos 12-13
- Calendar. 14

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1 issue 3 issues: 10% disc. 6 issues: 20% disc.

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Rabbi Lisa Edwards is available for private appointments. Please call at least a week in advance, if possible, to schedule.

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G' VANIM

G'vanim "Hues (of the rainbow)"
is the monthly newsletter of

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM

6090 West Pico Blvd., L.A. CA 90035

Founded in 1972 as the world's first gay and lesbian synagogue, today BCC is an inclusive community of progressive lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and heterosexual Jews, our families, and friends. Everyone is welcome to attend weekly Friday evening services at 8:00 p.m.

Editor: Larry Nathenson. Graphics & Layout: Lentini Design. Articles submitted should be typed, emailed or attached as Word documents to Larrynath@aol.com, by the 15th of the month before publication. To subscribe to G'vanim, send name and address and a check or money order for \$18 per year, attention: Subscriptions. Free to members.

BCC is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews: Keshet Ga'avah and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

serves on the California State Bar Family Law Executive Committee. She lectures and teaches throughout the U. S. and Canada on law related to adoption, assisted reproduction and parentage, and has written a chapter in a family law reference book on parentage law. Diane helped found and served as President of the Special Children's Art Foundation, which creates murals with special needs children. Portions of Diane and Nicolasa's acceptance remarks can be found on page 4 of this issue.

Following the awards, we enjoyed Cantor Juval Porat's performance of his original song "House of New Life," first performed at the new building dedication. Juval wrote the music and co-wrote the lyrics with BCC member Tamara Kline. The brunch program closed with the announcement of the winner of this year's raffle for an iPad 2. The winner was Marcella Cortez, a cousin of Diane Goodman who works for John Perez, the first openly gay speaker of the California Assembly, and who arranged for legislative certificates honoring this year's awardees.

Many thanks to this year's brunch committee, chaired by Lauren Schlaw and Kenna Love and including Mark Farber, Bryan Cooper, Joanne Laipson, Denis Hiebsch, Tracy Moore, Bruce Maxwell, Brett Trueman, and Felicia Park-Rogers, as well as all of the volunteers, table sponsors, BCC staff, and others who helped make this event a great success.

Excerpts from Ira Dankberg's Acceptance

First I would like to thank former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and the Republican Congress of the early 2000's. Their success at de-regulating the financial industry resulted in the boom and ultimate collapse of the real estate market. So by the end of 2008 I found myself with plenty of time to serve as Project Manager for BCC's new building!



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Ira exults in the new sanctuary at 6090 W. Pico.

I would like to introduce Rob my life partner of over 25 years who always supported my commitment to this BCC project. I would like to quickly introduce my astonishingly shy family...I hope you had a chance to meet them. Also several cousins, friends and business colleagues have joined

us here today. I am very aware that I am extravagantly blessed.

Despite all the memories and life events that occurred at 6000 W. Pico Blvd., our home for 33 years, we always knew the building strained to meet our needs. In April

2006, under the leadership of then president Brett Trueman our capital campaign was launched. Its success proved the congregation was firmly behind the goal of creating a larger, modern and more attractive home for BCC that included a larger sanctuary, classrooms, a real kitchen, usable outdoor area, functional offices and space for our clergy.

Since I love buildings and BCC, my involvement was inevitable. I was honored to provide the project management leadership, though not without trepidation. But I was thrilled to discover BCC members came together as an amazingly functional family. There were many hard decisions to make, yet almost all of them were made by consensus. It was a lot of work, many hours were invested and there was much drama we experienced together.

While we were searching for a site, an email went out and 8 or 10 of us would show up to tour a potential building, including a vacant synagogue in Mar Vista and a former movie theater at Pico and La Brea. Fortunately 6090 W. Pico became available. We determined it would indeed suit our needs. We sweated out the negotiations and arrived at an appropriate price. 6090 was ours.

About a dozen of us attended the dramatic Planning Department hearing to allow us to have our parking off-site. We anxiously waited to see if any of our contentious neighbors would appeal our application. Nope, we received our approvals.

We spent many late night hours interviewing architectural firms, ultimately deciding on Lewis Schoeplein. Their creativity and passion for design were a perfect match for us. We had long meetings with Marc and Toni evaluating different floor plans and design concepts. We had to revisit various aspects of the design especially the ark design until we got it right. We had intense discussions yet respected each other's input. There were moments I feared the process would spin out of control. But we reeled it in and made excellent decisions.

Now that it is mostly completed I take enormous joy watching our congregation experience the building and learn to live in it. I am excited to hear about all the programs we can now consider hosting. I can't wait to fire up the kitchen. It is amazing at Friday Shabbat services to listen how the room blends our voices together in ways that never occurred at our old space. We successfully created the sacred space in the sanctuary surrounded by our own precious stained glass, bathed in soft indirect lighting while gazing at the ark wall that contains all of our stories. Note how people stay long after services because we all enjoy being in our new home.

You have all been so appreciative during this long complex process and I am immensely flattered by this honor. This would not have happened without you.

Excerpts from Diane and Nicolasa

Diane:

I want to thank BCC for selecting us this year to receive the Erwin and Agnes Herman humanitarian award... Rabbi Herman has a special place in my heart as he assisted me in becoming the youngest city commissioner and the first lesbian appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley by writing a letter to the Mayor endorsing my appointment in 1980.

When I joined BCC, I was 18 or 19 years old and one of the youngest members at that time... I watched as we bought an old storefront on Pico Blvd. and transformed it into a synagogue. Although we thought it was very modern at the time, 30 years later it still looked like a storefront. Now a new generation has again taken an old building and has transformed it into a beautiful synagogue. I'm hopeful that this synagogue will bring sustenance to the congregation for another thirty years. And I'm hopeful that in another thirty years, ... with KC, Nick and our other young members, as the then older generation and Blake and Cole and Josh and Richard's six kids and our other BCC children as the younger generation, [we] will build an even bigger building.

I've been involved in charities and politics ever since I was a child. I first learned about the importance of volunteering and giving back to the community from my mother. She was always active in some organization whether it was the fair housing council, Hadassah or something else. As an adult, I've had many mentors and role models. I want to thank some of them who are here today including Robin Tyler, Judge Henning, Roberta Bennett and Leslie Shear. I'm grateful for all of the people in my life who have inspired me, pushed me and helped me along the way....

Nicolasa:

Thank you. It is with the deepest thanks that I accept this award today.

31 years ago I converted to Judaism and very soon afterwards I became a vice president of BCC. I was privileged to serve this synagogue as vice president under the presidency of Tom Johnson and served alongside Fred Shuldiner, of blessed memory, Stan Notkin, Nick Paul, and Mark Miller. These amazing men were very dedicated and committed to doing the work necessary for sustaining our synagogue as it transitioned to a new Rabbi, Rabbi Janet Marder. During those two years friendships were forged that are present to this day.

Eight years later, our son was born and we began a journey at BCC building a

community that embraced our son Marc, whose heartfelt absence is ever present, and the other children born around that time. That evolved into the family that continues to sustain us today. First with

the birth of Rebecca, then Ross arriving five years later, children of David Pardess, and Susan Pardess and Linda Mahru, of blessed memory. Lydia and Ari, sons of Naomi Katz, K.C., daughter of Gayle Paperno and Charlotte Marten, Elyse, daughter of Bonnie Moore and Carol Saragossi, and then Danny, son of Mitchell Blum and Don Lively. Together, we built a family that has supported one another for over 25 years, celebrating High Holidays, Hanukah, Passover and other events together. Most of them are here today and I thank them for the continued support and love they have given Diane and me these many years.

The friendships forged and sustained at BCC these 32 years have taught me that BCC is not a successful synagogue just because we have a great Rabbi and an amazing Cantor. Nor is it because we have a beautiful new building. BCC is a successful synagogue because of the friendships and family that have been able to grow and be nourished within this community. I have been fortunate to be a part of the success of our synagogue because of those friendships and bonds, and family that continue to support me, even today at this important event....



Nicolasa Nevarez, Diane Goodman, and brunch emcee Adam Kulbersh with the Humanitarian Award.

PHOTO: LOREENBERLIN



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From the Rabbi's study... I Don't Get Tisha B'Av

Rabbi Lisa Edwards



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Have you ever noticed how often people apologize if they happen to shed a tear or two about something – whether tears of joy or of sorrow?

The other day I sat and talked with a congregant going through some difficult times. "Have you prayed about it?" I asked, handing over a prayer book opened to a prayer called "when my burdens

seem too heavy." Immediately tears fell. I wasn't surprised; at least 90% of the time I put a prayer in front of someone having a hard time, tears happen. "That's the first time I've cried about this." I wasn't surprised at that comment either – it too is a common response.

Why are we apologetic about tears? Why do we fight them off, or feel somehow "weak" or "wrong" if we shed them (why do we even use the term "shed" as though we were trying to throw them away)? Why do we shy away from tears, or from situations that might elicit them?

"I don't 'get' Tisha b'Av," a congregant said to me recently. I could only reply, "You're not alone!"

Especially among progressive Jews, whether raised Jewish or not, Tisha b'Av (the 9th of Av), is thought of (if it's thought of at all) as one of those "minor" and therefore "invisible" Jewish holy days. Who wants to lament all the bad things that have ever happened to the Jewish people, as Tisha b'Av calls on us to do?

Coming as it does in the heat of summer, when we'd rather be laughing and splashing in the pool than sitting and crying in the shul, it's no wonder that it's not a big draw. It's not as though any of us are unaware that Jews through the centuries have been subject to tragedy, but do we really need to stop for a day each year and remind ourselves of all the trials and tribulations to which the Jewish people have been subject? Yet what about the people – you perhaps – who suppress their tears? Have you ever felt better when you've let yourself cry?

"Why would people want to repress lament?" asks Professor Rachel Adler, BCC's scholar-in-residence and Rabbinic Intern this year, who's currently writing about lament and the biblical book of Lamentations (the text we read on Tisha b'Av). The moment she asks the question I find myself eager to discuss the matter. (In truth, I find myself eager to study just about every topic Rachel Adler brings up. This has been true for many years, and it is one reason why I am so excited and honored that she will be "in residence" with us this year at BCC).

On Monday night August 8 beginning at 7pm, we'll gather for our first Tisha b'Av at our new building. Tisha b'Av is a fast day (the only other 25-hour fast on the Jewish calendar besides Yom Kippur), and we will begin our evening with a light vegetarian potluck. As we eat our pre-fast meal, we'll study with Prof. Adler. She calls her teaching time "The Necessity of Lament." What does it mean to mourn a destroyed universe of meaning?

In addition to the study session, Dr. Adler will be working with BCC's Ritual Committee, including me and Cantor Porat, to create within the sanctuary an emotionally moving "scene" that night, experimenting with some of the traditional *minhagim* (customs) for portraying a universe of meaning that has been destroyed. Imagine a black sheet over the Aron *Ha-Kodesh* (ark), chairs overturned on the bimah, yahrtzeit candles for light. It's meant to look shocking, says Dr. Adler—see what impact the scene has for you that night, in our beautiful new sanctuary.

If you've ever given a moment's thought to Tisha b'Av (even if only by reading these few paragraphs) or the power of lament, of tears, of grief, join us on Monday night, August 8. Even in the middle of summer, let's open ourselves together to the possibilities of tears, and the sharing of sorrows. I expect it will be a powerful evening, and I want you to be a part of it.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Edwards

P.S. I am delighted to tell you we will have many opportunities this year to learn with Prof. (soon to be Rabbi) Adler. See her introduction elsewhere in this newsletter, and then watch for specific dates and times to be part of an extraordinary year of learning at BCC.

Join Us for Tisha b'Av

Monday, August 8, 2011

7pm light vegetarian pre-fast meal

8pm study "The Necessity of Lament" with
scholar-in-residence and BCC Rabbinic Intern
Dr. Rachel Adler

Followed by a sitting-on-the-floor reading of
Lamentations by candlelight.
Dr. Adler and Cantor Juval Porat will be sharing
visual projections to accompany the chanting.

Finding "Home"

Cantor Juval Porat



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

"Most songs about home involve motion: you are either leaving or returning, rarely actually staying there."

Dorian Lynskey, music writer for The Guardian

Pondering the idea of home, I have to admit my mixed relationship with that concept. I wonder if it might be something I regularly have to leave behind

in order to redefine it again in a later stage of my life.

Once, home was the pleasant sensation of my bare feet touching the cool stone tiles in the living room of my parents' apartment in Netanya, Israel, as I was playing with the Dalmatian on a Friday afternoon. Spending my early years going back and forth between Israel and Germany, partially by myself, partially with my family, home could be found in physical places, in smells, in rituals and in friendships.

Later, in my first relationship in Berlin, following one's nesting instincts became a joint effort, often challenged by previous perceptions of what it meant to develop a domesticated little universe for two.

Then I moved to Los Angeles, and finding a place to belong started all over again. Here in LA I got re-acquainted with my inner judgmental self, had some dates with fear and anxiety, wrote some songs, built relationships with congregants and colleagues, successfully found new friends, tasted new flavors, listened to new tunes and experienced some of the loveliest moments in my life. Have I ever felt at home during all that time? I'm not sure. Maybe the feeling of being on the run and feeling slightly lonely is a default that just sticks with me due to my own personal history.

Nonetheless, it did take me by surprise when familiarity and comfort overcame me as I was landing in LAX, coming back from a Passover holiday in Israel. It was the first time something close to feeling like "coming home" stepped into my consciousness. It's nice to look back at my first year since my official installation and to realize that somehow I've survived, personally and professionally. Nothing was ever really as scary and threatening as it seemed.

It makes sense to me that all these impressions are valid for everyone experiencing change and obviously, I'm not the only one who has somehow found a new home in this past year. BCC, as most of you have noticed, is getting used to its new - may I say, quite magnificent - space as I write these lines and I am so happy that so many cantors have agreed to participate in a concert simply titled "HOME", to celebrate BCC's move. With fantastic musicians lined up, in an event that will hopefully trigger a tradition of annual musical encounters at BCC, I invite you to take part in this event that will musically remind us what it takes to turn a house into a home. Please visit BCC's website for more information about the concert.

B'shalom

Cantor Juval Porat

On a different (musical) note:

- The choir has been starting to rehearse for the High Holidays and anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join. Please contact me for further information.
- I look forward to attending the national convention of the American Conference of Cantors, as well as the North American Jewish Choral Festival over the summer.

CONGREGATION BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM
PRESENTS

Home

CANTORS IN CONCERT
CELEBRATING BCC'S NEW BUILDING

SUNDAY EVENING
AUGUST 14, 2011
7:00 PM

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF ECLECTIC MUSIC AND SONG FEATURING:

CANTOR DAVID BERGER	CANTOR REBEKAH MIRSKY
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BCC CLERGY EMERITA FRAN CHALIN	CANTOR JUVAL PORAT
CANTOR KEN COHEN	CANTOR SAM RADWINE
CANTOR TIFANI COYOT	CANTOR DAVID REINWALD
CANTOR MAGDA FISHMAN	CANTOR AVIVA ROSENBLUM
CANTOR EVAN KENT	CANTOR LANCE TAPPER

PIANIST: JEANELLE LA MANCE
GUEST PIANIST: TAMARA KLINE
PERCUSSIONIST: JAMIE PAPISH

TICKETS: \$25 / \$50 - ORDER ONLINE
BCC-LA.ORG/CONTENT/CONCERT/

Virtual Minyan Summer Events

Bracha Yael

The Virtual Minyan is a primarily lay led unique BCC 'meet-up' that provides support and connectedness for people who are isolated, ill, homebound, out of town, living elsewhere including abroad, unaffiliated or just looking for a small, welcoming community no farther away than their phone.

All activities are via conference call, which is free—excluding any long distance charges from your personal carrier. To join in just dial 702-851-4044, when prompted punch in 2, then our pass code, 22252#.

Upcoming events:

Guest lecturers for our monthly Torah scholar series:

Thursday, July 7, 4-5 pm,

Fran Chalin, BCC Cantorial Soloist Emerita

Thursday, August 11, 4-5 pm,

Student Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould

Study and discussion:

"What is Jewish Prayer?" A two-part study and discussion on the meaning and practices of Jewish prayer. Part 1: Tuesday, August 23, 4-5 pm; Part 2: Tuesday, August 30, 4-5 pm.

Ongoing:

Weekly Torah study on Thursday afternoons from 4-5 pm. For additional information on how to participate or lead a Virtual Minyan event please contact me at bracha18y@gmail.com.

BCC Welcomes Rabbinic Intern Dr. Rachel Adler

Shalom everyone. I am Rachel Adler, your new rabbinic intern for this year. My day job is Professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Gender Studies at Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles, but I decided I wanted to study for rabbinic ordination too. When it came to looking for an internship my first choice was Beth Chayim Chadashim, for a number of reasons. My dear friend Vicki Goldish, may she rest in peace, was a stalwart member of this congregation, as was my friend Professor Barbara Meyerhoff. I have friends and former students here: Maggie Anton Parkhurst and briefly Dave Parkhurst were zestful and delightful Talmud students as was Ahavah Brooks. Rabbi Lisa Edwards is an old friend and study partner (chevruta) of mine. It felt like a homelike place to be and I am so grateful that Rabbi Edwards and Cantor Juval Porat and so many of you have warmly welcomed me.

I will say a little more about what I've devoted my life to. I was one of the first feminist Jewish theologians. I wrote an essay called "The Jew Who Wasn't There" in 1971, followed by a piece on mikveh in the first Jewish Catalog. I critiqued that piece twenty years later after it had become a classic. Some people weren't so happy about my critique, but I no longer believed all I had said and felt obligated to say so. In 1999 I wrote a book called *Engendering Judaism*, which was the first work by a female theologian to win a National Jewish Book Award. Currently I am writing about lament and the biblical book of Lamentations.

During my time at BCC, I hope to establish a Shabbat morning learners' minyan, to teach a Talmud class, and to participate in Shabbat and holidays in an imaginative way. I've met many of you at Shabbat evening services, and I look forward to meeting more members of this extraordinary congregation.

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President's Column

A Few Words from Bruce...



Where do we go from here?

As we move forward as a Congregation, beginning to celebrate each holiday for the first time and enjoying each approaching season in our new building, let us take inventory and celebrate all that we have to offer here at BCC. We have a lovely new and "green" space!

We have earned certification as a "LEED" (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building, the first synagogue so designated in all of LA County! We have a kitchen, library/classroom, social hall, and separate offices for our Rabbi, Cantor, Executive Director and an administrative area for our staff. Our new building is really fantastic and we are so very proud to be living in and utilizing this very special space!

But most importantly, we have each other. We are a tight-knit community. We care for one another. We show up to help one another. We pray together. We study together and we sing together. We offer compelling and dynamic speakers, educational programs from visiting and world-renowned scholars, music from outstanding musicians and cantors (and not just on Friday nights either

— see page 6 about the Cantors' Concert that Juval has put together on August 14).

As a community, we join together in membership in this unique and incredible congregation and we jointly support BCC by contributing our share to keep the doors open and the lights lit, and to pay for the salaries of our incredible Rabbi and Cantor and staff. Each of you already knows that as we grow in numbers, as we have done recently, that each of our shares of the total cost to run

BCC decreases. But at the same time, with our new building, our costs to operate are also slightly higher too. Just for example, we have twice the number of restrooms to be cleaned, twice the square footage to heat/cool and keep clean, etc. And although we have minimized these additional costs as much as we can, they are still higher than they were at 6000 W. Pico.

We have moved into a larger building that will accommodate a larger number of people and

programs, and thus a larger number of members at any given time. To sustain this, we need to continue to build our membership rolls. We need you to reach out to your friends, your neighbors, anyone you think would benefit from being affiliated with BCC. Bring them to services, introduce them to other members, and introduce them to Rabbi Lisa and Cantor Juval. Let them know they are welcome and that we honor their presence in our community. Invite them to join you at one of our many Havurah activities. And ask them to join you in supporting and sustaining BCC through **membership**.

As we enter this summer of 2011, and as we approach the upcoming High Holiday season, take inventory and ask if you are doing everything you can to bring new members into BCC? Are you doing everything you can to help retain our current members? And are you contributing as much as possible to BCC to allow us to continue to operate and continue to provide the services and programs, and to maintain our excellent clergy?

Our focus this summer and in the new year 5772 will be Membership, Membership, Membership. I hope our entire Congregation will join the officers, Board, clergy and me to work as one community to share our special Congregation with others and to bring in new members.

As your President, I remain faithfully yours,

Bruce Maxwell

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, July 24, 3-5pm, 2011

All BCC members are invited to this annual gathering with updates on the new building and the programs and finances of BCC. The budget for the upcoming year will be presented, reviewed, and voted on. We will also elect some of our officers and Board members. Your participation is key to BCC's future!

To ensure that we have a quorum, please give your proxy to another member if you are unable to attend. Watch your email for proxy forms and all the congregational meeting items in early July.

Bruce Maxwell at the podium during the Awards Brunch on May 22, 2011

BCC Book Group

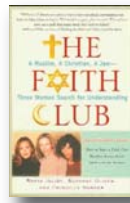
Larry Nathenson

For more than fifteen years, BCC members and friends have gathered in private homes for monthly potluck brunches and discussion of books selected by the group. Fiction and non-fiction, historical and contemporary, American and Israeli, the books read by the group include something for everyone's tastes and interests. We welcome new members to the group, as well as occasional visitors who may be interested in discussing a particular book. Our next two meetings are:



Sunday, July 24, 10:00 a.m.
The Frozen Rabbi, by Steve Stern

This is a comic novel in which an Old World rabbi is frozen in the late 1800s and thaws out a century later in the United States, observing what has happened to Judaism and the Jewish people in his absence (sort of a Jewish Rip van Winkle).



Sunday, August 28, 10:00 a.m.
The Faith Club, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner

A non-fiction book co-authored by three American women, a Muslim, Christian, and Jew, who came together after 9/11 to find commonalities among their religious traditions, found they would have to address their differences first, and ended up strengthening each of their beliefs.

BCC members and non-members alike are invited to attend. Because the discussions are held in members' homes, space is limited. Please RSVP to the BCC office early to guarantee your seat at the table, or contact Larry Nathenson at Larrynath@aol.com.

Summer Movies and the Hollywood Bowl with the Men's Havurah

BCC's Men's Havurah sponsored the following very successful events during May and June 2011:

Architecture and Central Garden Tours at the Getty Center on May 15th

About 20 people were treated to a private tour of the Getty Center's beautiful architecture and gardens by docent and BCC member Adam Kulbersh, who provided us with a wonderful behind the scenes look at the Getty Center with facts, stories, and anecdotes. The group also enjoyed lunch at the Center's restaurant.

Houdini and Jewish Magicians Exhibits at the Skirball Cultural Center on June 26th

About 15 people attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Houdini: Art and Magic and Masters of Illusion: Jewish Magicians of the Golden Age exhibits at the Skirball Cultural Center together with a great lunch at Zeidler's Café. The Houdini exhibit explored him – born Ehrich Weizsas in Budapest, Hungary – as an individual, a cultural phenomenon, and a mass-marketing star. The Masters of Illusion exhibit displayed the feel of outdoor street performances, Victorian magic parlors, and Vaudeville stage sets that featured many Jewish magicians of the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries.

The Men's Havurah Planning Committee is planning many events in the next several months. Here's a thumbnail sketch of these upcoming events:

- Outing at OUTFEST 2011, the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, held July 7 – 17. We will be going to see **Mary Lou** by acclaimed Israeli director Eytan Fox (The Bubble and Yossi & Jagger) on Sunday afternoon, July 10th at the Directors Guild in West Hollywood. Announcements have already gone out to the Men's Havurah e-mailing list.
- Hollywood Bowl production of Disney's **Fantasia** on Saturday evening, August 20th together with a potluck dinner and havdalah at the Bowl.
- Summer Pool Party in September hosted by a BCC member. As soon as details are finalized for the Hollywood Bowl and Pool Party,

announcements for these events will be sent out via e-mail, BCC's e-bulletin, and Friday evening's seat bulletin.

There are two ways you can stay in touch with us:

- Through e-mail: bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com.
 - Through our Facebook page ("BCC Men's Havurah") where we post event details and share pictures from events
- We can use everyone's help and very much encourage
- Your ideas for additional types of events that would be of interest to the Men's Havurah, and
 - Volunteers to plan and host events naturally tailored to the size of your home.

BCC Men's Havurah Planning Committee: Mark Miller and Neal Weisenberg (Co-chairs), Mark Brown, Ira Dankberg, Jay Jacobs, Adam Kulbersh, and Richard Lesse



Coffee 'n Schmooze Open to All

Our next "Coffee 'n Schmooze" will be on Monday, July 25th, 10:30am-Noon. This is an opportunity to kibitz over coffee and a pastry at a local café. Now open to all BCC members, not just those who participate in Virtual Minyan. For further information contact Bracha Yael at bracha18y@gmail.com.

Ohr Chayim's Busy Spring Finish

Leah Zimmerman, Education Director



Ohr Chayim finished with a busy spring. In April, we held our own seder using the Haggadot that our children created. We had a special Shabbat reading Torah in the new building in anticipation of our big move. In May, we participated in Big Sunday by making and delivering flower pots for our neighbors at

Country Villas, a trash walk, and delivering candied nut packages to our new neighbors on Alvira. We finished the year in June with our annual "holidopoly game" and pool party. When we play holidopoly, the children and parents roll the dice, walk the spaces as if they are on a

game board, and do the activities written on the spaces. Hiding and finding the afikomen was a favorite, as well as eating challah, and playing Pin the Candle on the Menorah. We had one last gathering at the home of Sofia, Dora and Giovanni Ames for an end of year pool party.

We said goodbye to teacher Matt Kahn who worked with us for a year and half. Matt's wife received smichah (rabbinic ordination) this year and we wish them luck at her new pulpit in Houston. Shari Charalambous (aka Ms. Purple) will be rejoining our regular Ohr Chayim staff next year. Over the summer, she and I will be getting ourselves ready for the coming year's lessons and activities.

Women's Havurah Summer Events

Donna Quigley Groman

Sunday, July 31, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. Women's Havurah pool party, our most popular event of the year. This is a **women only** event. Bring whatever you want to barbecue and your bathing suit for another fabulous summer splash at Rabbi Lisa and Rebbetzin Tracy's home. Lunch will be served. RSVP to dlgroman@hotmail.com for further details.

Saturday, August 13, 7:00 - 10:30 p.m. Women's Havurah game night. Play mah jongg and board games with other BCC women's havurah members. Learn to play mah jongg if you don't already know how to play (Jewish style). A **women only** event! Please RSVP to dlgroman@hotmail.com. Bring a beverage and a snack to share, along with your favorite board game!

Sunday August 28, Sunday morning at LACMA. Join us for brunch, then the Tim Burton exhibit at LACMA. Purchase tickets on your own from the LACMA website. Our tickets are for 11 a.m. Let's meet at 9:30 a.m. for brunch, then get to the museum by 11a.m. for the exhibit. RSVP to dlgroman@hotmail.com. **Everyone welcome!**

BCC Live Debut on Pride Shabbat

Bracha Yael

BCC Live launched its first limited beta live streaming audio/video broadcast on June 10th for Pride Shabbat and Ginger Jacobs' 30 years cancer free celebration. People around the United States tuned in to see it on their computer or smart phone or listen in via conference phone. You can view it on our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/bethchayimchadashim>

Our next streaming broadcast will be later in the summer. In the meanwhile, you'll be able to hear our Friday night services with your telephone. To call in through our conference line (call is free, excluding any long distance charges from your personal carrier) follow these instructions: Dial 702-851-4044, when prompted punch in 2, then our pass code, 22252#.

Also, are you a techie, YouTube enthusiast, social media lover, website maven, writer or some other cool cat? Join our BCC Live crew! Whether you want a leadership role or a "one-and-done" task, we want you!

Make a difference and contact the BCC office or Bracha Yael at bracha18y@gmail.com.

High Holy Days 5772—Save the Dates

Erev Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, September 28

Rosh Hashanah: Thursday, September 29

**Second Day Rosh Hashanah and Tashlich:
Friday, September 30**

Kol Nidre: Friday, October 7

Yom Kippur: Saturday, October 8

Mazel Tov

Please join the BCC community in wishing the following individuals a hearty "mazel tov" on their recent accomplishments or good news.

Karen Wilson completed her dissertation and was awarded her PhD. in History at UCLA. She also gave a lecture on May 15 entitled "Sarah Newmark's Grand Tour of 1887: A Jewish Angelino Recalls her Encounter with a Shtetl," as part of the USC Casden Institute's program on "Los Angeles Jews of Yesterday and Today" at the Autry National Center in Griffith Park.

Elizabeth Savage received her Executive MBA from the Peter F. Drucker School of Management at Claremont Graduate University. Elizabeth graduated with Honors, was awarded a Diversity Fellowship, and named Executive Management Student Leader of the Year.

Mark Miller, on his well-deserved retirement from the University of California. Mark is already volunteering as a reading tutor with Koreh LA, a Jewish Federation reading program, at his old elementary school near BCC.

K.C. and Nick Wilsey, on the birth of their son Cole, born April 27, 2011, and given the Hebrew name Yitzhak during Shabbat services on May 13.

BCC Office Manager **Victoria Delgado** has been honored by Self-Help Graphics and Art, a nationally recognized center for Latino arts located in Boyle Heights. Victoria was recognized at SHG's fundraiser as one of the artists who helped keep SHG going through difficult times.

If you have an achievement or good fortune to share, please send it to the BCC office. We want to celebrate with you!

Gail Suber on her new job with a family law firm in West LA.

Allison Diamant was a guest expert on Warren Olney's "Which Way L.A.?" show on KCRW on June 1, on the topic "Kids Need More Exercise" based on her research at UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Cantor Juval Porat joined other queer clergy at the annual Pride Interfaith service on Santa Monica Blvd. just prior to the start of the Pride Parade on June 12. Watch it online and hear Juval's beautiful rendition of "True Colors."

http://www.mccla.org/tv/shows/11_06-12_10am_interfaith.html

Davi Cheng published a blog post entitled "Which One of These Just Doesn't Belong?" in the Union for Reform Judaism's Spotlight on Diversity. It has already been translated and picked up in Israel (in Spanish!) and in Germany.

<http://blogs.rj.org/reform/2011/06/which-one-of-these-just-doesnt.html>

All of BCC, for Ryan Torok's article in the Jewish Journal on June 2, 2011, about our new building and plans for our future.

http://www.jewishjournal.com/los_angeles/article/bcc_looks_to_future_with_new_home_programs_20110601/

BCC Sponsors Two Movies at Outfest

BCC will be a community collaborator at the 2011 Outfest GLBT film festival for two fabulous movies:

MARY LOU

Sunday, July 10, 1:30pm, at Director's Guild, theater 1

What "Mamma Mia!" did for ABBA, "Mary Lou" does for Israeli pop sensation Svika Pick. Meir grows up obsessed with his mother, who left him on his tenth birthday. As a teen, he and his best female friend fall for the hot new boy in school, and as the three friends reach adulthood, Meir's yearning for his mother - and his elaborate drag performances - both bring the trio together and tear them apart. This latest film from Eytan Fox ("The Bubble," "Yossi & Jagger") is funny, moving and packed with catchy tunes.

ANYBODY'S GIRL

Saturday, July 9, 9:30 pm, at Laemmle's Sunset 5
Saturday, July 16, 12:00 pm, at Director's Guild, theater 2

What's your line? The ladies in these beguiling shorts might have different approaches, but don't be fooled: they've all got moves. Whether she's a teacher in a tennis skirt, that cute girl at work, or the mother of your children - you better bring your 'A' game if you wanna have a chance.



Membership Renewals Coming Soon

BCC's new membership year begins September 1, 2011. All outstanding balances for membership contributions and High Holy Day pledges for the current year 5771 are due by August 15, 2011 to remain a member in good standing. At least one month's payment of your new year's membership contribution is also due that day. Members making scheduled payments via credit card will continue on their normal payment schedule.

If you have any questions regarding your account, please contact Felicia Park-Rogers, Executive Director or Brett Trueman, Treasurer. Please alert us by August 15 if you will not be renewing your membership for any reason.

**We appreciate ALL of our members!
Thank you for your membership.
YOU are BCC!**

***Photos from the
Humanitarian Awards
Brunch, May 22, 2011***



Brunch co-chair Lauren Schlau views items for sale at the silent auction



Cantor Porat peruses some of the art for sale at the silent auction



Cantor Porat offers ha-motzi at the start of the brunch



Brunch emcee Adam Kulbersh



BCC Treasurer Brett Trueman receives his award from Rabbi Lisa Edwards as Executive Director Felicia Park-Rogers looks on.



HaBonim awardees Brett Trueman, Felicia Park-Rogers, Glenn Melnick, Toni Lewis, and Marc Schoeplein with President Bruce Maxwell

(Continued on page 13)

Photos from the Humanitarian Awards Brunch, May 22, 2011

All photos by Loreen Berlin



Ira Dankberg and Adam Kulbersh with flowers and certificate



Nicolasa Nevarez and Diane Goodman pose with their award and comedian and activist Robin Tyler (left) who introduced them at the brunch



Nicolasa Nevarez, Adam Kulbersh, and Diane Goodman with certificates from the California Assembly



Rabbi Lisa Edwards draws the winning ticket for the iPad 2 raffle



Nicolasa and Diane with family and friends who attended the brunch



Ira Dankberg with family and a silent auction purchase

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i> </div>					<p>1 6:00 pm Pre-Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Davi Cheng Bracha Yael Cheng</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY (BCC Closed)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study Fran Chalin 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>8 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbinic Intern Rachel Adler Jeff Bernhardt</p>	<p>9 9:30 pm Outfest "Anybody's Girl" (BCC co-sponsor) Sunset 5 theaters</p>
<p>8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark 1:30 pm Outfest "Mary Lou" movie (BCC co-sponsor) Directors' Guild</p> <p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>15 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Michael Sarid</p>	<p>16 5:30 pm 20s/30s Havurah outdoor Screening of "Office Space" (Grand Hope Park)</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>18 7:00 pm BCC Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>22 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Student Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould Cantor Porat</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 10:00 am BCC Book Group (private home) The Frozen Rabbi 3:00 pm Congregational Meeting (see p. 8)</p> <p>24</p>	<p>25 10:30 Virtual Minyan Coffee 'n' Schmooze (open to all) 7:00 pm BCC Choir</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p>28 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>29 Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments and schmooze 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest Musicians</p>	<p>30 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service (no potluck)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>July 31 12:00 pm Women's Havurah Pool Party Rabbi Lisa and Tracy's home (women only)</p>	<p>August 1 7:00 pm BCC Choir</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>5 6:00 pm Pre-Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Lay leader</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark</p>	<p>8 7:00 pm Tisha B'Av veggie potluck, service, and study with Rabbinic Intern Rachel Adler</p>	<p>9 TISHA B'AV</p>	<p>10 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting</p>	<p>11 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study Student Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>12 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat</p>	<p>13 7:00 pm Women's Havurah Game Night (women only)</p>
<p>14 7:00 pm HOME, a BCC Cantors' Concert</p>	<p>15 7:00 pm BCC Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>19 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbinic Intern Rachel Adler Cantor Porat</p>	<p>20 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and dairy potluck 6:00 pm Men's Havurah Disney's Fantasia Hollywood Bowl (potluck and havdalah)</p>
<p>21 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Study/Discussion "What is Jewish Prayer?"</p>	<p>24 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p>25 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards</p>	<p>26 Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments/schmooze 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Student Rabbi D'ror Chankin-Gould Cantor Porat Guest Musicians</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>9:30 am Women's Havurah Tim Burton at LACMA (everyone welcome) 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group The Faith Club</p> <p>28</p>	<p>29 7:00 pm BCC Choir</p>	<p>30 4:00 pm Virtual Minyan Study/Discussion "What is Jewish Prayer?"</p>	<p>31</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i> </div>		