

גורנים



G'VANIM

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PRODUCER HOWARD ROSENMAN AND BCC FIRST COUPLE BRETT TRUEMAN AND MARK MILLER TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT BCC BRUNCH

Felicia Park-Rogers

SUNDAY | APRIL 26 | 2009

10:30 AM - RECEPTION  SILENT AUCTION

12:00 - 2:00 PM - BRUNCH AND AWARDS PROGRAM

**AT THE ELEGANT
LUXE HOTEL SUNSET BLVD**

It's time once again for BCC's major Spring event, our annual Humanitarian Awards Brunch. Take one part glamour, two parts gratitude, three parts community,



Mark Miller and Brett Trueman

then shake, stir, and pour. You'll have the perfect elixir—a great event recognizing deserving honorees, all to benefit our favorite cause. This year we are celebrating the service and achievements of BCC's first couple

Brett Trueman and Mark Miller as well as the humanitarian work of film producer extraordinaire Howard Rosenman. The Honorary Committee co-chairs are Erik Hyman and Max Mutchnik. Our emcee this year is BCC member and actor Yuval David.

Mark and Brett need little introduction, as they are long-time members of BCC. Mark joined in 1982 and Brett in 1985. They met here in early 1987, while Mark was on winter break from his academic studies at MIT, and have been together ever since. In the late 1980s they moved to the San Francisco Bay area, where Brett



Yuval David, Emcee

pursued a teaching and research career at UC Berkeley's business school and Mark a career as a transportation researcher at UC Berkeley's Institute of Transportation Studies. During the fifteen years they lived up north, Mark and Brett remained active members of BCC. They celebrated their affirmation ceremony in 1997 in Los Angeles, surrounded by their BCC friends and with Rabbi Lisa Edwards officiating. They returned to Los Angeles in 2003, with Brett taking a position at UCLA's business school and Mark telecommuting to his job at Berkeley. Last October they were married by Rabbi Lisa, again surrounded by their extended BCC family.



Howard Rosenman

Mark and Brett have often expressed their gratitude for all that BCC has given them – the opportunity to meet each other and the chance to form a close extended family of BCC members. Perhaps it is this gratitude that motivated them to serve for so many years as leaders of our synagogue. Mark was treasurer from 1983-84, the year that BCC paid off its mortgage, and again from 1984-85. Brett followed in Mark's footsteps, serving as treasurer from 1987-88 and then again from 1995-99 (while living 400 miles away!). A year after they returned to Los Angeles, Brett joined the Board of Directors as an at-large member and was elected president in 2005. During his tenure, Brett has overseen the rebranding of BCC and the start of our Ohr Chayim family education program, served as co-chair of the immensely successful capital campaign (over \$3.2 million was raised), and participated in the team that secured our new building. As first gentleman, Mark has also played an active role. He has co-hosted with Brett numerous brunches and

Continued on Page 2

dinners for members and potential members at their home, providing an opportunity for prospective members to experience the warmth of the BCC community. Over the nearly four years that they have been BCC's first family, more than 50 new members have joined our synagogue. As the man behind the man, Mark has also been the sounding board for many of the initiatives introduced at BCC during this time. Mark and Brett feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve their BCC family for so many years.

The recipient of our Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award may not yet be a household name, but we're certain you're familiar with much of his work and will agree with us that he is responsible for significantly shifting societal attitudes and shedding much needed light on subjects too long pushed into the shadows.

One of Hollywood's first openly gay producers, Howard Rosenman executive produced "Common Threads: Tales from the Quilt" (a documentary written and directed by Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein), which won both an Academy Award for Best Documentary and a George Foster Peabody Award for Outstanding

Journalism. He also executive produced "The Celluloid Closet" (also written and directed by Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein), which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary and won Mr. Rosenman his second Peabody Award. His third documentary was "Paragraph 175," about gays in the Holocaust, again written and directed by Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein.

Howard began his career working on Broadway for Katherine Hepburn and Sir Michael Benthall, who was directing Miss Hepburn in the Andre Previn musical of "Coco," the story of Coco Chanel, in 1968. He worked his way to Hollywood and has produced and executive produced countless features, series, and TV movies. Howard's credits include "The Main Event" starring Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal, "You Kill Me" starring Ben Kingsley, Tea Leoni & Luke Wilson, "Father of the Bride" with Steve Martin, "My First Mister," and David Milch's "John from Cincinnati" for HBO. He headed Sandollar & Brillstein-Grey Films. Most recently Howard produced "Breakfast with Scott" starring Tom Cavanaugh of "Ed" & Ben Shenkman about a gay couple becoming parents. This film opened up Outfest on July 8, 2008

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RATES:

(Rates in bold are discounted 20% for BCC members)

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

1/8 PG:		
\$50	\$135	\$240
\$40	\$108	\$192

1/4 PG:		
\$100	\$270	\$480
\$80	\$216	\$384

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1/8 PG or BUS. CARD: 3.625" W x 2.218 H (live area and trim)

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G' VANIM	
<p>G'vanim "Hues (of the rainbow)" is the monthly newsletter of BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM 6000 West Pico Blvd., L.A. CA 90035</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Editor: Larry Nathenson. Graphics & Layout: Hilary Lentini. Articles submitted should be typed, emailed or attached as Word documents, and arrive by the 1st of the month preceding 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

and closed Frameline in San Francisco.

Last year Howard finished his first acting job in Gus Van Sant's "Milk" produced by Bruce Cohen and Dan Jinks. The movie is in wide-release at this time, and was nominated for eight Academy Awards. He plays David Goodstein to Sean Penn's Harvey Milk. Josh Brolin, James Franco, Emil Hirsch, Diego Luna, Victor Garber, Steve Spinella and Dennis O'Hare round out the cast. With colleagues like this, you can only imagine who is on BCC's guest list this year!

In the early and overwhelming years of the AIDS epidemic Howard saw the need to provide nutritious, reliable food to people suffering and dying from AIDS, often in poverty and isolation. He co-founded Project Angel Food, which quickly became a lifeline to many and has remained a critically needed institution. Since its inception in 1989, Project Angel Food has prepared and delivered more than 3.4 million meals. Last year, the program prepared and delivered 412,446 meals to 1,600 individuals.

Howard has served on the Board of Directors of the AIDS Research Alliance, Bet Tzedek Legal Services, DIFFA, Youth AIDS Services, and the Advisory Board of GLAAD. He lectures at USC, the Stark program, UCLA, AFI, NYU, Dan Gordon's Documentary School in Sedona and Columbia. He has taught a Master Class in Creative Film Producing for the past six years at Tel Aviv University under

the auspices of the Jewish Federation's Los Angeles-Tel Aviv Cultural Partnership. He is currently serving on the Board of the Center for Jewish Culture & Creativity.

Howard was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up on Long Island. Since his parents were both born in Israel, Howard spent a lot of time shuttling between countries. His sister currently resides in Jerusalem and his parents moved back to Jerusalem and passed away in the Holy City. His parents have the honor of being buried on a hill overlooking the entrance to Jerusalem. He lives with his handsome German shepherd, Tom, and his prolix yellow-naped Amazon, Tucker.

We can't wait to see you at this year's brunch! Full invitations, including silent auction packets, sponsor and tribute information will all be arriving in your mailboxes soon! Help us make this year's brunch our most successful yet.

Want to learn more about Howard Rosenman? Here are some links to some great articles and interviews in the LA Times:

<http://www.latimes.com/features/magazine/la-mag-nov302008-gadfly,0,1051083.story>

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/the_big_picture/2008/11/milks-hot-new-a.html

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/la-et-brief8-2008oct08,0,7980606.story>

Jewish Music Course with Cantor Richard Schwartz



Cantor Richard Schwartz

In March and April, Cantor Richard Schwartz will offer a music course on five Saturday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at BCC.

The first session, on March 14, will bring us "Jewish music like you've never heard it before." From the sacred to the profane, you will enjoy listening to the best Jewish music you've never heard! This will be lots of fun and includes background information and insights into the texts and composers.

The remaining sessions, on March 21 and 28, and April 4 and 11, will center on the meaning of Jewish Shabbat prayers. Experience their beauty, and explore the hidden meaning of our liturgy through study, discussion, Chassidic commentary, journaling, and song. This class will open your mind and heart in unexpected and transformative ways. Hebrew reading ability is helpful but not required.

For much of the past 20 years, Cantor Richard Schwartz has served individuals and communities as a spiritual leader, synagogue soloist, life-cycle officiant, teacher, music specialist, choir director, B'nai Mitzvah instructor and mentor, Jewish music and liturgy consultant, performer, songwriter, and concert producer. He received his Bachelor of Arts in vocal performance from the University of Massachusetts and shortly following his graduation came to Los Angeles where he trained successively with Cantors Samuel Kelemer, William Sharlin and Nate Lam. Cantor Schwartz is a Fellow of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and is a commissioned and invested member of both the American Conference of Cantors (Reform) and the Cantors Assembly (Conservative). He resides in Culver City with his wife, Lily, and daughter, Lyric.

As always, the course is free for BCC members. There will be a fee of \$10 per session for non-members, or \$36 for all four sessions of the Shabbat prayer course. Please RSVP to the temple office, (323) 931-7023 or bcc@bcc-la.org.





PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Since this is the Purim issue of G'vanim... Joel Stein's December 19 LA Times column on the Jews of Hollywood made me chuckle. Stein

is upset because, according to a recent ADL poll, "Only 22% of Americans now believe 'the movie and television industries are pretty much run by Jews,' down from nearly 50% in 1964." What's wrong, Stein wants to know, with people thinking that Jews totally run Hollywood. "As a proud Jew," writes Stein,

"I want America to know about our accomplishment. Yes, we control Hollywood. Without us, you'd be flipping between 'The 700 Club' and 'Davey and Goliath' on TV all day. So I've taken it upon myself to re-convince America that Jews run Hollywood by launching a public relations campaign, because that's what we do best. I'm weighing several slogans, including: 'Hollywood: More Jewish than ever!'; 'Hollywood: From the people who brought you the Bible'; and 'Hollywood: If you enjoy TV and movies, then you probably like Jews after all.'"

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/sunday/la-oe-stein19-2008dec19,1,7113597.column>

Well, as you probably know, I do enjoy TV and movies, and I do like Jews, so I thought I'd just give you some film tips since I actually had an opportunity to see a few films after our wedding season came to a screeching halt in early November.

By the time you read this we'll know whether Sean Penn took home an Oscar for his portrayal of gay Jewish hero Harvey Milk in the wonderful film "Milk." Also giving an excellent portrayal of a real person in that film

is Howard Rosenman playing David Goodstein, the founding editor of The Advocate. I bring up Howard because, as you'll read elsewhere in this issue of G'vanim, BCC is honoring him with our Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award on April 26. We honor him, among other things, for his work as a producer of documentaries important to our community. We plan to screen two or three of the award winning documentaries he produced: "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt," "Paragraph 175" about persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany, and "The Celluloid Closet" about gays in Hollywood, which I showed at BCC last summer as part of my gay Jewish Hollywood film series.

In addition to "Milk," and all of the more mainstream films with Jewish themes that have appeared lately, I also want to draw your attention to one of the smaller new films. **"Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh"** is a powerful documentary made on a shoestring budget, a fascinating combination of archival photos and footage, narrative voice over, and dramatic re-enactments telling the story of the poet and fighter known as Israel's Joan of Arc. We know Senesh from her poems "Blessed is the Match" and "There are Stars" and the song "Eli, Eli (My God, My God)," all of which frequently make their way into our services at BCC. Numerous schools in Israel are named after her. The film may still be in theatres, but otherwise watch for it on DVD. The film was made by women: directed by documentary filmmaker Roberta Grossman, written by Sophie Sartain, produced by co-creator of "Friends," Marta Kauffman.

After the crushing disappointment in November with the passage of Proposition 8, and the fury that followed from our community, these films remind us – in ways very different from each other – that there are many ways to respond when we're under attack. And as we watch on March 5 for the cases to come again before the Supreme Court, we need to be thinking how we want to respond next, no matter the outcome.

The Purim story reminds us as well of the fact that we always have choices in how to respond to oppression and danger. Many claim the massacre at the end of the story of Purim is not our proudest moment. It may in fact be why the celebration of Purim evolved into a time of mostly merriment, focusing on our triumph while making the story's villains into cartoon characters, and thus easier to kill off. And why we add to our tradition the custom of giving gifts to friends, and food to the poor.

But the story of Esther and Mordecai also makes them into heroes that Jews learned to emulate, Hannah Senesh and Harvey Milk being distant descendants of their courage and defiance in the face of overwhelming odds. I recommend all three stories – the Book Esther, Blessed is the Match, and Milk.

But lest I leave you with too serious a note in a Purim column – I do want to remind you that Purim seems custom made for LGBT Jews to celebrate! Drag, shtick – what more could you want? And that is why we've decided to go back to two Purim celebrations this year. You'll find descriptions elsewhere in this issue.

Chag Sameach!

BCC Purim Brunch Honors Madoff, Limbaugh

BCC's Purim celebration this year kicks off with an awards brunch on Shabbat morning, March 7. The location is the now world-famous Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, home of President Barack Obama's new favorite preacher, Rick Warren. The menu will include shrimp cocktail, pigs-in-a-blanket, and cheese-filled hamentashen.

The Emcee for this event will be radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, the new self-appointed leader of the Republican Party. Mr. Limbaugh will explain the direction in which he hopes to take the country, including campaigns to promote obesity, provide unlimited prescription drugs to all Americans, and relocate gay ghettos to the tropical climate of the soon-to-be-available Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Rabbi Meir Kahane Humanitarian Award will be presented this year to Bernard Madoff, for his service to the community by building pyramids to rival those constructed by the Israelites in Egypt. Mr. Madoff follows previous award recipients Ivan Boesky and Michael Milken in helping to ensure the Jewish community will be prepared for a future of scarce resources and fiscal austerity.

As always, the event will begin with a fabulous silent auction, chaired this year by BCC's first lady, Ophelia Quigley Trueman. Among the items available for purchase are a four pack of tickets to Focus on the Family night at Disneyland, a basket of food items from Peanut Corp. of America, and an autographed copy of Ann Coulter's new book about Harvey Milk and the gay agenda, entitled Protocols of the Elders of San Francisco.

So, put on your costumes, get out your groggers, and join us for a wonderful time behind the Orange Curtain!

Cheers! Jeers! Laughter! Dancing! Celebrate Purim at BCC

Davi Cheng

Come join Bechol Lashon (In Every Tongue – www.bechollashon.org) and BCC for a multicultural, family-friendly evening celebrating Purim.

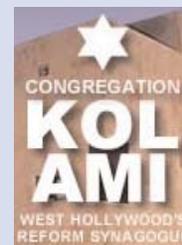
We will have the infamous BCC multilingual reading of the Megillah. And by popular request, Ray Eelsing will return as the Samurai King Achashverosh along with other characters! Be ready to laugh at skits performed by our actors-in-residence, Seth and Yuval.

Come and learn from BCC member Naomi Katz, who will be teaching us to make African masks and Chinese opera faces. Naomi is an artist, teacher and consultant whose art works range from traditional drawings and paintings to site-specific public artwork and temporary installations, most recently a series of drawings entitled "The Hamsa, Reinterpreted."

Watch a puppet show by Ilene Cohen, who worked as a youth services librarian at the Santa Monica Public Library for 38 years before retiring to become a professional storyteller/puppeteer and workshop leader. Ilene has a collection of over 150 puppets which she has used with children of all ages at schools, libraries, synagogues, and hospitals.

The evening will begin at 6:18 or thereabouts, on Saturday, March 7 at BCC, and will end with a Purim costume ball. Pizza and other food and drink will be available throughout the evening. Bring your friends and family. Be ready to have a blast! Don't forget your noisemakers and wear your favorite costumes.

Purim-Palooza with Congregation Kol Ami!



**Monday March 9, 7:00 pm,
at West Hollywood Park Auditorium
on San Vicente Blvd. near Santa Monica Blvd.**

Don your costumes as Kol Ami and BCC once again put on the bawdiest, funniest, most talent-laden Purim shpiel this side of Persia. This year we'll say goodbye to Dolly and instead say "Hello Esther!" Lyrics co-written by Fran Chalin, Mark Saltzman, Steve Addison, and Stephen Witkin, staged by Mark Saltzman and starring a cast of millions from BCC and Kol Ami. Hosted by Rabbis Edwards and Eger, and followed by tasty victuals and schmoozing.

Reflections on the Inauguration

Jeffrey Janis

I was fortunate to be in Washington, DC for the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. (And even luckier that I was able to get a ticket to the inauguration at the last

minute!) There was an excitement and energy in the air that is hard to describe. It was amazing to be a part of history - and knowing this while it was happening. A

friend said this is the first time she can remember attending a large event like this at which people were there to celebrate and not protest. Even Gay Pride, which is a celebration, is still ultimately fighting for our rights.

There was a tremendous mix of ages, from young children to senior citizens. I only saw one other person there with a rainbow flag. Rabbi Lisa Edwards gave me a rainbow flag

with a blue Jewish star in the middle, which I proudly carried all day. It was such an odd feeling to think back to four years ago when I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution. Under Peace Corps rules, I was not even allowed to wear any orange colored clothes. I spent two years in Ukraine in the closet as being both Jewish and gay. And yet there I was with my closest Peace Corps friend - with a rainbow and Jewish star flag wrapped around my neck like a big scarf.

People were friendly, warm, and helpful towards each other. In many ways it reminded me of my experience of how people treated each other on the AIDS Ride and the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer walk. We were all standing in the cold and we were all there for the same reason. And it was cold! I previously said I have only been really cold once in my life - when it was minus 20F in Ukraine. I can now say I have been really cold twice in my life.



Jeffrey Janis with friend Megan on the mall at the Obama inauguration

Right after Obama took the oath of office there was an electricity in the air which was amazing. People were jumping up and down and crying. Strangers were hugging each other. On the metro back to my Mom's I found it hard to believe that I really witnessed history first hand. I was a part of something bigger than me - and something which I still couldn't believe was true. I walked into my Mom's exhausted, hungry, cold, and dehydrated. I turned the TV on and saw Barack and Michele Obama have their first dance and I knew it wasn't a dream. We have entered a new era.

PETE SOUZA, THE OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT



World Conference of GLBT Jews Heading back to L.A.!

Jonathan Falk

Things look promising for a proposed World Conference of GLBT Jews to be held in the Los Angeles area in the summer of 2010. BCC is working with Congregation Kol Ami, JQ International, and the Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation at HUC to host a three-day conference next summer. Our committee is starting to meet, and there are lots of jobs to be done already:

evaluate possible venues, work on a budget, and start planning the conference program, guest speakers, schedule, and Shabbat services.

Do you have a connection to a great venue? A fantastic keynote speaker? We'd love to have you involved! Contact Jonathan Falk at jonfalk@aol.com, or Glen Chester at glenc18@gmail.com.



Jeanelle LaMance
 Beginner/Intermediate
 Ages 5 years through adult
Phone: (323) 819-9258
 E-mail: jtlamance@yahoo.com

PIANO TEACHER



BCC Member Elissa Barrett to Lead Progressive Jewish Alliance

After an extensive national search, the Progressive Jewish Alliance (www.pjalliance.org), a California-based social justice advocacy organization, has named BCC member Elissa D. Barrett as its new Executive Director.

Barrett sees her new position as an expression of the same values and commitments that motivate her involvement in BCC. "My membership



Elissa Barrett

at BCC provides me with a foundation in Jewish learning and prayer that will help me to inspire others to engage in civic life from that Jewish wellspring,

tikkun olam. BCC and PJA both espouse the value that social justice can and should be a central organizing principle in the life of American Jews. Both organizations also engage Jews of all ages at whatever level of Jewish learning they bring to the table. We embrace the same spirit of inquiry and commitment to civic engagement."

"As a lay service leader at BCC, Elissa brings insight and incite – helping us explore prayer and sacred text as agents of change," said BCC Rabbi Lisa Edwards, who married Elissa and her wife Zsa Zsa Gershick this past September. "Elissa is a *mentsch* with *chutzpah*. As a serious Jew and articulate activist, she possesses humor, accessibility and daring – all the ingredients necessary for PJA to continue its work as an organization determined to change the world."

Born in New York City and raised in Houston, Barrett earned her B.A. in International Relations and World History from Tufts University in 1992. She earned her J.D. from the University of Michigan

Law School in 1998, where she received the National Association of Women Lawyers Award for Outstanding Woman Law Graduate. As a Bates International Law Fellow, she worked with the Palestinian Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling in Jerusalem.

Most recently, Barrett comes to PJA from Bet Tzedek Legal Services – The House of Justice (www.bettzedek.org), which provides direct legal representation to low-income residents of Los Angeles and uses impact litigation and legislative advocacy to address the root causes of poverty. From 2002 to 2007, she directed Bet Tzedek's Sydney M. Irmias Housing Conditions Project, where she fought slum housing and led advocates in local and state legislative initiatives designed to provide safe, affordable housing for the poor, the disabled and the elderly. In 2007, she joined Bet Tzedek's management team as its founding Pro Bono Director and launched the Holocaust Survivors Justice Network (HSJN) (www.holocaustsurvivorsprobono.org), a ground-breaking pro bono project that links Jewish social service agencies, law firms and corporations who together assist Holocaust survivors to obtain funds from a new German reparations program. The National Law Journal named HSJN one of the Top Four Pro Bono Programs in the United States for 2008.

Barrett has been a vital force of next generation leadership on PJA's Board of Directors since 2000. She succeeds PJA's founding Executive Director Daniel Sokatch, who now serves as the CEO of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties. PJA will honor Sokatch and Erwin Chemerinsky, a noted constitutional law scholar and the founding Dean of the newly established UC Irvine School of Law, at its 10th Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

For Barrett, her work at Bet Tzedek and her new position at PJA are part of the same commitment. "Bet Tzedek and PJA already work together on one joint justice initiative – the campaign for car wash workers rights. Bet Tzedek has filed a class action case against a set of car wash employers who routinely retaliate against workers who ask for basic legal rights, like the right to be paid minimum wage and overtime, the right to safe working conditions, the right to take meal and rest breaks. PJA is there at Bet Tzedek's side, staging protests at the car washes and drawing community attention to the plight of these very vulnerable workers."

Barrett also foresees ways in which BCC and PJA can expand their cooperation. PJA was active in opposing Proposition 8 last fall, and Barrett intends to continue that work. "PJA supports its LGBT members and community allies in their struggle for marriage equality. From joining a petition to demand the California Supreme Court overturn Proposition 8 to marching with LGBT activists in Sacramento on Monday, February 16, 2009, PJA will continue its work for Marriage Equality."

Urging BCC members to join in other PJA projects, Barrett stresses that "PJA has many ways for people to get involved. We have working groups in economic justice and civil rights that plan campaigns to draw attention to social ills. We have a working group that analyzes ballot propositions and puts together a PJA Ballot Proposition Guide for each election. Then there are committees for people with special expertise, like development, dinner committee, communications and more. In short, there is something for everyone."

This article was compiled from an official written announcement by Progressive Jewish Alliance and a written interview with Elissa Barrett by G'vanim editor Larry Nathenson

BCC How does Jewish Education Fit into Synagogue Life?

On Friday, February 6 I joined about 25 other education professionals for a daylong conference at the URJ Biennial. The topic of our conference was "Holistic Jewish Education." Rabbi Jan Katzew, the Director of Lifelong Jewish Learning, along with URJ Regional Educators Craig Rosen and Debbie Niederman, led us through a process of understanding and envisioning holistic education and how it could apply to our home congregations.

Many of the underlying concepts were familiar to me but always refreshing to visit in a new context. Dr. Katzew put forth the idea that some communities are functional and provide the services that we expect from a synagogue. He then talked with us about visionary, holistic communities that operate in a more integrated way, supporting learning at all stages of life and building relationships between the different parts of a synagogue. Much of what Dr. Katzew presented

is the basis for the current format of our Ohr Chayim program. We created a program that integrated families into the celebration of Shabbat, involved parents and children learning together, and welcomed other members of the congregation as well. This year, our program integrated into the High Holy Day services with our students presenting a Haftarah play on Rosh Hashanah.

This June we will have an extraordinary opportunity for creating community connections. Our oldest student, Eve Blum-Postrel will have her bat mitzvah on the third Shabbat of the month in conjunction with the BCC traditional minyan. Her bat mitzvah is being supported by multiple segments of the BCC community. Ohr Chayim will support her preparation, she will work with Rabbi Edwards, and the Shabbat minyan will work with her family to create a meaningful Shabbat for all.

Despite these points of

Leah Zimmerman, Education Director

intersection, it feels like the more Ohr Chayim grows into itself as an educational program the more we are in danger of



nurturing a separate entity within BCC. Families who come regularly on Shabbat do not have the impetus or flexibility to come again to other congregational events. And when they are identified as events for families and children, our family services don't attract other congregants. So here is a question we need to ask ourselves: How do we teach our students that being a part of a Jewish life includes other aspects of synagogue life beyond the one they experience on Shabbat mornings?

I welcome your thoughts and ideas at leahzimm@gmail.com as

Learn to Read Hebrew in Four Easy Sessions



Todd Shotz

Tired of being lost in services? Just in time for Pesach, learn to read Hebrew in four easy sessions. You'll be amazed at how quickly you will be up and reading! Hosted by BCC and Kol Ami, the four sessions will be led by Todd Shotz, who has been teaching Hebrew for over 15 years. This class is appropriate both for beginners and for those who need a refresher. It is open to everyone. Todd uses lots of activities to get adult students up and reading - songs, stories, etc. It is definitely a lively class! While not 100% guaranteed, most students leave this class able to read along in the Hebrew during services.

Todd Shotz is the founder of Hebrew Helpers, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring service here in LA. After studying Hebrew at the University of Pennsylvania, he lived in Israel for a year on Project Otzma teaching in local schools. Since moving to LA, he wrote the seventh grade curriculum for Wilshire Boulevard Temple and currently teaches adult Hebrew education at IKAR and Leo Baeck Temple. Fees are \$60 for BCC & Kol Ami members and \$75 for non-members. RSVP to bcc@bcc-la.org or 323-931-7023, ext 203. We need a minimum of six participants registered by March 9 to proceed.

Mondays, March 16, 23, and 30 and April 6, 7:00pm, at BCC



An Active Winter and Spring With the BCC Men's Havurah

Dennis Bogorad



BCC Men's Havurah chair Dennis Bogorad (right) and partner Mark Apostolon

BCC's Men's Havurah is alive and well and going strong. During the past two months we have had five successful events. The Chanukah potluck dinner at Bruce Maxwell's home was a very big success with 30 members attending. Then a few nights later we met the Women's Havurah for a fifth night of Chanukah Chinese dinner with 30 members eating and

enjoying. And, in case we hadn't eaten enough, on Jan 29 we had a blowout dinner at Papa Cristo's restaurant. At this Greek feast we celebrated Jerry Nodiff's birthday. He was actually surprised!

On January 24 we enjoyed a screening of the SciFi classic, "The Queen of Outer Space." Mark and Brett graciously put on this high camp event at their beautiful home with the film's co-star Lisa Davis in attendance. Ms. Davis regaled us with stories about life on the movie set and life in Hollywood. Let's just say Miss Davis was not shy about dishing the dirt. And darling, she looked marvelous! And, she promised to come to a Friday night Shabbat service. Dig out your Betty & Veronica Autography book!

Then, on February 21, we joined the Men of Kol Ami for their annual cabaret evening of amusement, merriment and music. At this event we strolled the red carpet to a magical pre-show complete with champagne and desserts and silent auctions. But the highlight of the night was the performance by Broadway and Hollywood singing sensation Sean McDermott. Sean has performed with the goddess herself, Barbara Streisand, and Broadway megastars like Bernadette Peters, Mandy Patinkin and Elaine Stritch.

In March, our premiere event is unfortunately already sold out. On Sunday, March 22, BCC member Steve Sass will lead a Historic and Contemporary Tour of Jewish Los Angeles.

Then, on Sunday, April 19 at 12 noon, join us for the Sister Wendy Tour of LACMA With Sister Dennis. BCC member and Men's Havurah chair Dennis Bogorad will be giving a survey tour of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's European art

collection from 1300 to 1899. We will trace the growth of European art from the sacred to the secular. Following the tour there will be a group lunch at a local restaurant. There is an entrance fee to the museum. This event will be limited to ten members.

Upcoming and in the planning stages are:

- An evening of bowling and pizza
- A summer pool party and barbeque
- A dim sum breakfast in Chinatown followed by a tour of the Watts Towers
- A salon night of poetry reading, music, and conversation
- A night of cards, poker, black jack, old maid

Please note: If you can volunteer your home for a game night, potluck dinner, or salon night, for group of 10 to 30, please let me know. We really need help on this, and we will tailor the event to the number of people you can accommodate. Please contact Dennis Bogorad at tvpug@pacbell.net

Join your friends at BCC for a warm, festive, traditional Shabbat dinner before the Ruach Chayim service

Friday, March 27, 2009 6:15 PM (Doors open at 6 PM)

Gather for a traditional Shabbat dinner with blessings and song. Perfect for those who miss the rituals as well as those who have never experienced it.

Dinner will begin promptly at 6:15 PM. Dinner will be kosher with a vegetarian option. Space is limited. Due to the need to order in advance, payment and registration must be made by Tuesday March 24. No payments at the door.

Cost: \$18

To RSVP call the BCC office at (323) 931-7023.

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BCC Women's Havurah Offers So Many Options

Donna Quigley Groman



PHOTO: AMELIA WEINMAN

Cecilia and Donna Quigley Groman

Let's join our rabbi and rebbetzin in appreciating how "lucky" we are everyday. Part of the blessing of being a BCC woman is the opportunity to join our fun-loving sisters in Women's Havurah events each month. If you haven't joined us lately, check out the upcoming events in March and April. Unable to join us due to date conflicts? Suggest a date that is good for you and an idea for an event and we will round up BCC women to join you. Starting in March we will take advantage of the beautiful Southern California weather to explore our favorite parks, hiking under blue skies and checking out the spring wildflowers. If you have any favorite

parks, let me know so we can plan an event there.

On Sunday March 1, at 9 am, we will meet for a bagel breakfast at Kenneth Hahn Park in Baldwin Hills off La Cienega. This is a beautiful urban park that is very underutilized. Great views and mellow hiking trails. Learn to geocache (GPS treasure hunt – see www.geocaching.com) or just hang out and take in the views of the oceans and mountains.

Later that day, from 6 pm to 9 pm on March 1, we are invited by JQ women to join other Jewish lesbians for a screening of the L Word at the VIP Room of the Falcon on Sunset Boulevard.

Speaking of fun in the sun, there is a "bike to breakfast" event on Sunday March 15 at 9 am. We'll start off at Ilene Cohen's home in Culver City and ride the Ballona Creek bike path to a local breakfast place. The distance we ride will be determined by those who sign up for this event.

We've also been invited to join BCC member Karen Wilson at the Autry Museum on Sunday, March 22 to hear Willamette University Professor Ellen Eisenberg's lecture on the topic of her new book: *On Violence and Justice in the West. The First to Cry Down Injustice? Western Jews and Japanese Removal During WWII.*

At 9 am on Sunday morning, April 12, we will venture out to see the wildflowers. The location will be guided by the best available viewing listed on the Theodore Payne Wildflower hotline website:

www.theodorepayne.org/hotline.html.

Lastly, don't forget about BCC's Humanitarian Awards Brunch on April 26. If you are interested in sitting at a Women's Havurah table, let me know!

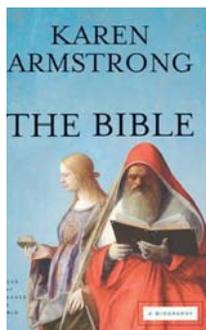
For information on any of these events, or if you have a suggestion for an event, contact Women's Havurah two-legged chair: Mrs. Donna Quigley Groman at dlgroman@hotmail.com or contact the temple office.

BCC Book Group

Larry Nathenson

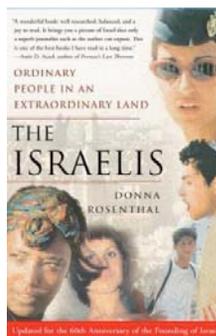
For over ten years, BCC members and friends have gathered in private homes for monthly potluck brunches and discussion of books selected by the group. Fiction and non-fiction, historical and contemporary, American and Israeli, the books read by the group include something for everyone's tastes and interests.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

Our next two book discussions are:



Sunday, March 29 at 10:00 a.m.
The Bible: A Biography, by Karen Armstrong

A short history of the Bible, covering its initial composition and editing and its later interpretation by Jewish, Christian, and modern scholars, by a well-known popular writer on religious topics.



Sunday, April 19, at 10:00 a.m.
The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land, by Donna Rosenthal. Based on dozens of interviews, journalist Donna Rosenthal gives us a portrayal of the Israeli people in all their variety -- Jewish and Arab, religious and secular, European and American and Russian and Ethiopian and Middle Eastern. Gay and lesbian Israelis are included as well. This is a long book (480 pages), so order it early if you plan to attend.

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.

Mazel Tov

Please join the whole BCC community in wishing the following members a big "Mazel Tov" on their recent good news.

Roy Liebman, whose latest reference book, *Musical Groups in the Movies, 1929--1970*, has just been published by McFarland and Company. It contains a wealth of information about the many hundreds of musical ensembles (from duos to symphony orchestras) which appeared in at least one feature film during the heyday of Hollywood musicals. Beside its print edition, Roy's book will be available in e-book format, as part of the publisher's new undertaking to market selected publications to academic libraries. McFarland is also reprinting in soft covers two of Roy's earlier books, *From Silents to Sound* and *The Wampas Baby Stars*. His previous book *Vitaphone Films* (2003) is also still in print.

Chris Marshall, on his appointment as a Superior Court judge in San Bernardino County, serving in the Rancho Cucamonga branch court.

Stephanie Plotin (belatedly, we apologize), on receiving her MLIS in June 2008 and her appointment as a reference librarian at UCLA.

Barry Wendell, who will have an essay published in the March-April issue of *Jewish Currents*, the national publication of the Workmen's Circle. The magazine requested brief essays on the subject of Jewish men, so Barry submitted an essay about how he and Student Rabbi Joe Hample decided to marry.

Sylvia Sukop, who was named one of the top ten writers of the year by *Flaunt Magazine* for her profile in that magazine of BCC member Vaughan Rachel.

Rabbi Lisa Edwards and **Student Rabbi Joe Hample**, who were shown in a photograph in the February 15, 2009 edition of the *Los Angeles Times* as they were participating in a Freedom to Marry action at the Beverly Hills Courthouse.

Please send your good news to the BCC office. We want to celebrate with you!

Greening Reform Judaism

The Reform Jewish Movement has launched a comprehensive new web resource - www.urj.org/green to help congregations and congregants live more environmentally sustainable lives and fulfill the Jewish mandate to be good stewards of the earth. The new web portal includes step-by-step greening guides for home and synagogue use, programming ideas and congregational best practices, suggestions for green celebrations, advocacy materials, Jewish texts and much more.

Would you like to tell us what your congregation is doing to go green? Do you have questions? Contact the "Green Team" at greening@urj.org

Please join us for the Web-Seminar: Greening Reform Judaism How-Tos on Thursday, March 19, 12:00-1:00 pm EDT (9:00-10:00 am PDT). Space is limited, so reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/896432821>

INTEREST-FREE LOANS



During these difficult economic times, we'd like to remind you about an important financial resource in our community. For over 100 years, the Jewish Free Loan Association (JFLA) has provided a helping hand instead of a handout through interest-free loans to people of all faiths in the

Greater Los Angeles area for **emergencies, education, developing small businesses, healthcare and life cycle events**. JFLA has more than 30 loan programs to meet the dynamic needs of the community, including day camp and sleep away camp loan funds, a children with special needs loan fund, undergraduate and graduate student loan funds and an Israel experience loan fund. Qualifications for an interest-free loan are uncomplicated, applications are processed within a week to ten days and all applications remain confidential.

If you or someone you know is in need of financial assistance, please contact **(818) 464-3331 (Valley Office)** or **(323) 761-8830** or visit www.JFLA.org for further information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 am 1 Women's Havurah Breakfast at K. Hahn Park 6:00 pm Women's Havurah L Word Screening VIP Lounge at Falcon	2	2:00 pm 3 Telephone Minyan Discussion on Jewish Personal Identity	4	4:00 pm 5 Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	6:30 pm Thai House 6 Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Davi Cheng	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 7 12:00 pm Family Shabbat 6:18 pm Purim Celebration Megillah Reading Costume Ball
8	7:00 pm 9 Purim Palooza BCC and Kol Ami West Hollywood Park	10 PURIM	7:00 pm 11 Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 pm 12 Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	6:30 pm Telephone 13 Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Guest Cantor Richard Schwartz	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 14 11:00 am Project Caring Country Villa Wilshire 4:00 pm Jewish Music Course Cantor Richard Schwartz
8:00 am (cook), 15 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 9:00 am Women's Havurah Bike to Breakfast	16 7:00 pm Hebrew Reading Class Todd Shotz	17	18	4:00 pm 19 Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	20 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Jeff Bernhardt	10:00 am 21 Shabbat Morning Service and Dairy Potluck 4:00 pm Jewish Music Course Cantor Richard Schwartz
8:00 am (cook), 22 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 9:00 am Men's Havurah Jewish Historical Tour TBA Women's Havurah Autry Museum	23 7:00 pm Hebrew Reading Class Todd Shotz	24	7:00 pm 25 Board of Directors Meeting	4:00 pm 26 Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	6:15 pm Traditional 27 Shabbat Dinner Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments and Schmooze 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Guest Musicians	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 28 12:00 pm Family Shabbat 4:00 pm Jewish Music Course Cantor Richard Schwartz
29 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>The Bible: A Biography</i>	30 7:00 pm Hebrew Reading Class Todd Shotz	31	<i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted*</i>			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	6:30 pm Thai House 3 Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Shabbat Hagadol David Mozes Seth Harrington	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 4 12:00 pm Family Shabbat 4:00 pm Jewish Music Course Cantor Richard Schwartz
8:00 am (cook) 5 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax	6 7:00 pm Hebrew Reading Class Todd Shotz	2:00 pm 7 Telephone Minyan Discussion – topic to be announced	8 FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER (first seder)	9 FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER (second seder) No Torah study	6:30 pm Telephone 10 Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Guest Cantor Stefani Valadez	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 11 11:00 am Project Caring Country Villa Wilshire 4:00 pm Jewish Music Course Cantor Richard Schwartz
12 9:00 am Women's Havurah Wildflower Viewing	13	14	7:00 pm 15 Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 pm 16 Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	8:00 pm Shabbat Service 17 Rabbi Edwards Student Rabbi Joe Hample	10:00 am 18 Shabbat Morning Service and Dairy Potluck
8:00 am (cook), 19 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 10:00 am BCC Book Group (private home) 12:00 pm Men's Havurah LACMA with Sister Dennis	20	21 YOM HASHOAH (Holocaust Remembrance)	7:00 pm 22 Board of Directors Meeting	4:00 pm 23 Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	Ruach Chayim 24 7:00 pm Refreshments and Schmooze 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Guest Musicians	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 25 12:00 pm Family Shabbat
26 BCC Humanitarian Awards Brunch 10:30 am Silent Auction 12:00 noon Brunch and Awards Luxe Hotel	27	28 YOM HAZIKARON	29 YOM HA'ATZMAUT (Israel Independence)	4:00 pm 30 Telephone Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards		