

BCC Awards Brunch Goes Hollywood!

***Honoring BCC Members Bill Resnick, Hannah Theile, and Kenna Love
Sunday, May 23, 10:30 a.m. at the Fabulous New W Hotel, Hollywood and Vine***

BCC's annual Humanitarian Awards Brunch promises to be extra special this year, not least because of its location, the posh new W Hotel located above the Red Line Metro subway station in the heart of Hollywood. What better place to showcase BCC's community spirit!

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. with a silent auction chock full of valuable items ranging from travel packages to entertainment to personal services and beautiful works of art. It's not too late to contribute items, whether you provide them yourself or ask businesses you patronize to donate to this worthy cause. BCC members should have received silent auction donation materials, which can be accepted until May 10. The materials are also on the BCC website at www.BCC-LA.org.

Following the silent auction will be the brunch itself, with live entertainment and the presentation of the well-



Dr. Bill Resnick

deserved awards. This year's Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award goes to Bill Resnick, a dedicated and active participant in helping to build and sustain communities. Whether through his work as a psychiatrist, activist, philanthropist, or in volunteer leadership roles, Bill's overriding passion is creating a better world through strengthening communities that heal and

nurture our society's most vulnerable individuals. In addition to serving on the boards of many organizations, Bill has been a leader in the marriage equality movement. He has been active with the Courage Campaign and helped to make their activist training program "Camp Courage" possible. Bill has been a member of BCC since 1999 and is currently co-chair of BCC's Capital Campaign Committee for our new building. He resides in West Hollywood with his longtime partner Doug Cordell.

The President's Award this year goes to Hannah Theile

and Kenna Love, who have long devoted themselves, both individually and as a couple, to strengthening and sustaining BCC for future generations. Kenna is an accomplished artistic and commercial photographer and is a founder of Women in Photography. Her work has been on display in numerous galleries and has been featured in a number of important magazines and art

books. Kenna joined BCC in 1998 and has served on numerous committees, using her talents to enhance the beauty of our BCC home.

Hannah, who joined BCC in 1992, has balanced her

activism in the burgeoning women's and civil rights movements with raising her two children, her teaching career, and forming the union at the high school where she taught. As an active leader at BCC, Hannah has been on BCC's Board of Directors since 2005. She has served on the Capital Campaign Committee, the L'Chayim Legacy Circle, and the Outreach Committee.

BCC's annual Humanitarian Awards event was established in 1985 in order to recognize and honor those leaders who have made major contributions toward tikkun olam, the repair of the world. The event has grown significantly in size and importance since its inception, and is now BCC's primary fundraiser. The Humanitarian Award is named for Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman, who were instrumental in BCC's acceptance into the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism) in 1974. The award recognizes individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the LGBT and Jewish communities. The BCC Presidents Award recognizes



Dr. Hannah Theile and Kenna Love

BCC members for their leadership both within the synagogue and in the community at large.

This year BCC will also honor Wells Fargo Bank with a special award in recognition of its outstanding community spirit and support for organizations that serve the many

diverse communities of our city.

BCC brunch co-chairs Lauren Schlauf and Mark Farber, and the other hard-working members of the 2010 brunch committee, look forward to seeing all BCC members and friends at what promises to be an event to remember!

BCC Formally Welcomes Cantor Juval Porat

Special Installation Shabbat, June 18 at 8pm

Community Dessert Reception, June 19 at 8pm



On the weekend of June 18-19, BCC officially welcomes Juval Porat as our cantor, taking his place as BCC clergy alongside Rabbi Lisa Edwards.

If you were here in 1994 for Rabbi Lisa's installation, you know what a powerful service this will be. BCC members along with many friends and supporters, including LA dignitaries and press, will pack the sanctuary for this transformative event on Friday evening, June 18. Among the honored guests will be BCC cantorial soloist emerita Fran Chalin and Cantors Sam Radwine and David Berger.

On Saturday evening, the excitement and pleasure we feel at Cantor Juval's formal welcome into the BCC community will spill over into a festive champagne dessert reception hosted by BCC member Dean Hansell at his lovely home in Hancock Park. We'll all have a chance to mix and mingle with Cantor Juval, who will entertain us during the evening with a mini-concert of secular music. Formal invitations will be mailed soon.

We all know that BCC has a special place in our people's history as the first LGBT shul; with the addition of Cantor Juval to our community, we now have the distinction of having the first cantor to be invested in Germany since before World War II. Please gather as a community on the evenings of June 18 and 19 to show our pride in Cantor Juval's achievements and talent.

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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
 6000 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.

From the Rabbi's Study Of Artichokes and Wild Places

Rabbi Lisa Edwards

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE



Whenever I eat an artichoke, one of my favorite foods, I try to take a moment to appreciate the person who figured out how

to eat them. "Hmmm," I imagine Artie saying one day way back when, "I'm so hungry I could eat a thistle!"

But it's one thing to wish you could eat a thistle, and another to actually



figure out how to do so. For me, an artichoke is not only proof of the existence of God (if you consider the intricacies of artichokes, you might see what I mean); it's also evidence of the extraordinary partnership between humans and God. It takes cleverness and patience for us to enjoy this nutritious creation of God.

Artichokes are on my mind because, along with Cantor Juval, I just returned from a weekend at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma for the Nehirim West conference. I hope more BCC folks will go to this event next year (whether or not Juval offers to drive you!) – a weekend with queer Jews and allies of varied ages,

genders, interests and orientations brought together by skilled group leaders, especially Nehirim founder and director, Jay Michaelson, and its Engagement Associate, Zvi Bellin (who will be teaching at BCC on Monday night May 10). Nehirim's mission as found on its website (www.nehirim.org) is:

"Nehirim ('Lights') builds community for GLBT Jews, partners, and allies. Our retreats and other programs celebrate GLBT culture and spirituality, and empower GLBT Jews to become active voices in their home communities. Through this work, we welcome GLBT Jews into the Jewish community, and in turn, build a more vibrant, diverse, and inclusive Jewish community by incorporating the gifts of GLBT people."

What, you may ask, has all this to do with artichokes?

At our first meal there, Friday night after a wonderful kabbalat Shabbat service, we entered the dining hall to see a gigantic platter heaped high with steaming hot artichokes. This gourmet item, usually so expensive on fancy restaurant menus, was in such plentiful supply at this modestly priced retreat that you could have as many as you wanted. At Walker Creek Ranch all of the many vegetables they serve are grown right there in the vegetable garden. All were delicious, but the artichokes, with their soft hearts guarded by spikes and chokes seem especially relevant to the weekend. Again from the Nehirim website:

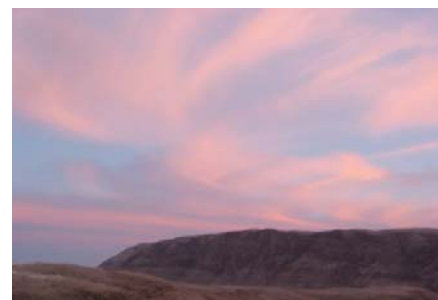
"We are a very diverse group. We are secular, religious, cultural, agnostic, frum, and post-denominational; we are youth, students, elders, families, singles, and 30-50somethings; we are trans, lesbian, bi, gay, queer, questioning, genderqueer, and straight allies; we are spiritual, cynical, alternative,

normal, urban, rural, of all classes and economic backgrounds, diverse in ethnicity and national origin. And yet if there is one belief that unites us, it is that being queer and Jewish is a gift, not a predicament!"

For such a group, you can imagine how, out and about in the larger world, spines, spikes and chokes are necessary protection. At Nehirim, the soft hearts can begin to emerge.

Walker Creek Ranch is the kind of place where "wild" animals (like deer, foxes, turkeys) have no fear of humans because the humans there pose no threat to them. It's also the kind of place where you can walk alone at night without a flashlight and, if you give your eyes time to adjust to the dark, still make your way down the path you choose. Above you are the "day-blind" stars – far more, and far brighter than you'll ever see in Los Angeles.

At Walker Creek Ranch the artichokes were so fresh, and cooked so well, that the chokes were soft and edible, extremely



tasty, posing no danger to the consumer. It's lovely to spend a whole weekend in a community where – I see it sometimes on a Friday night at BCC too – people who too often feel afraid, wrapping themselves in spikey armor of one kind or another, can let down their guard, and let their soft hearts shine through.

L'shalom,
Lisa

Driving (for the first time) in California

Cantor Juval Porat



I have never had a driver's license and I was never really interested in getting one – until I came to California. Since then

I've been taking driving lessons and it looks as if they have paid off.

On a recent Friday morning (April 16), four lovely companions and I set off for the Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma for a weekend with other GLBT Jews, their partners and families at Nehirim's West Coast retreat. Even though I have been on road trips before, this particular journey was the very first one where I spent most of the time behind the steering wheel. Who knew that such a small change of place from passenger seat to driver's seat could have such an impact on my own state of mind? I'm not referring to that higher sense of alertness that is expected from a driver, but to the sense of pride, joy and satisfaction that came over me while I was handling the car. With my driver's permit I was a step further toward being a little more independent and it felt fantastic.

My new place behind the wheel reminded me of a teaching from the Babylonian Talmud: Change of Place, Change of Luck (meshane makom, meshane mazal). This seemed to apply perfectly to my own situation.

On the night before my road trip, I was trying to come up with a column for the latest edition of G'vanim, without success. Looking at my calendar, it seemed almost impossible to pick out just one event to focus on. What would

my column be about? About Israel's Independence Day? About Shavuot? About Pride Shabbat? About my installation? Or maybe about BCC's Humanitarian Awards Brunch? Or maybe I should just focus on the Nehirim retreat in Petaluma?

During the drive, I kept on thinking about what I could write about. I thought about Shavuot and how, after counting seven weeks of the Omer, the completion of the liberation process of the Jewish people is celebrated: from a group of people who set out on an unknown journey in the desert after being slaves in Egypt to a people who discover their human potential by receiving and observing a set of rules, tools and values for life, as embodied in the Torah. And how, paradoxically, the liberation process is never completed, since it is celebrated over and over again with each yearly cycle. Like the commandments given to the people of Israel on Mount Sinai as a tool for completing the process of liberation, I was wondering about the tools that have helped me to make it to the places I've reached over the years.

On the road to Petaluma, I recalled a story I once read about the very first dove on earth. This dove was created without any wings – just a tiny feathered

creature. Wingless as it was, the little bird came before God and complained: "I have no sharp teeth, no hoofs, nothing to protect me from the larger animals. I can't even run away with my tiny little feet! The way you created me is not fair!" And God listened and promised to compensate the dove. Right after God's intervention, the dove came back and complained ever more bitterly: "I already had a difficult time before your little upgrade, but now that you've given me these huge two bulges on my back it's even more difficult for me to escape from my enemies!"

No one really knows the dove's reaction when God replied, "Well, all you have to do is to spread these wings and fly!"

Somewhere on Interstate 5 I had to smile, because it occurred to me that just like the dove, all the things that seemed heavy and obstructive to me were actually a blessing. I could use them as a tool to rise to higher ground, to get closer to a better sense of freedom and independence. What great timing for that insight, I thought to myself. What a gift to discover and be aware of just in time for all of these joyous events that were ahead of me!

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Family Shabbat Comes to Friday Night

Leah Zimmerman



One of the things we do when we get together at Ohr Chayim each week is sing songs. This year we have enjoyed Cantor Juval

Porat's presence and have learned a number of new songs with him that relate to the Friday night liturgy. On Friday, May 14th, our students will sing some of these songs for the congregation and lead tefilot that they have learned in our family service. This important event brings together our family program and our regular Friday night Shabbat community.

Ohr Chayim families make a weekly commitment to be at shul on Shabbat morning and between September and May come to at least 20 family services. Yet, despite this embracing of Shabbat and

synagogue attendance, they are not always present in the minds of our adult BCC community. Similarly, despite regular Shabbat morning attendance, our Ohr Chayim community has little experience with the central Shabbat communal experience at BCC. By providing an opportunity for our students to sing and lead some of our service on May 14th, we hope to connect them to a larger sense of community than what they experience on Shabbat morning.

In Ohr Chayim, our approach to tefilah is to build into our weekly family service and learning of prayers a relationship to the kavanah (the intent of the prayer). For example, if you were to join us for a family service, you would hear adults and children talking about their "Hallelujah moments" from the previous week. They share aspects of their lives that have generated the overjoyed feeling

that might lead one to shout Hallelujah were it more socially acceptable. When children make meaning from prayer text, they bring honest and refreshing perspectives to text that has been traditionally interpreted in certain ways. For those of you who will be joining us and embracing our youngest community members on May 14th, you will hear our students share personal interpretations of some of the key prayers and songs that they will sing.

One of the Ohr Chayim program goals for our children is to prepare them to participate in adult Jewish life. This event is an important step in that direction. By being present for this event, BCC members communicate to our students an appreciation of their learning and demonstrate that the work that they do has value for the community. We hope that you can join us and look forward to spending erev Shabbat together.

How do you Receive your Torah?

From Torah scribe to Printing Press to Digital Media

Shavuot at BCC: Tuesday, May 18, 7pm to Midnight

Come join us on May 18 for an exciting evening of film, learning and discussion. The tikkun leil Shavuot will begin at 7:00 pm with a vegetarian/dairy potluck - please bring something to share. Chanting of the Ten Commandments by Dave Parkhurst and Yikzor service will begin at 9:30 pm, led by Cantor Juval Porat and Rabbi Lisa Edwards, followed by more eating and learning till Midnight. Study sessions will be taught by:

- BCC member Maggie Parkhurst
- Henry Wudl, on medieval Jewish homoerotic poetry
- D'ror Chankin-Gould, the first out gay rabbinic student at American Jewish University (Conservative seminary), on "Romeo and Julio: Star-Crossed Male Lovers in the Talmud"

We will also see two short films:

- A documentary by Academy for Jewish Religion rabbinic student Judy Krieger on Torah scribes, including an interview with the first woman scribe; and
- A documentary by BCC member and USC film student Silvie Grossman on typography and the disappearance of the printing press.



Farewell and Thanks from Student Rabbi Lindy Reznick Davidson

Sadly my time at BCC has come and gone incredibly quickly. It seems like not that long ago I was very pregnant and meeting Rabbi Edwards and Felicia for the first time to discuss projects I would pursue while at BCC. Well, today that baby is already 11 months old, and I will be ordained in just a few weeks, on May 16 at 10 a.m. at Wilshire Boulevard Temple Downtown (all are welcome).

In my current job search for my future professional home, I have spent a lot of time sharing about my experiences at Beth Chayim Chadashim. When asked about BCC I always felt compelled to share one thing. I find BCC to be one of the most welcoming, loving, warm and heartfelt communities I have ever had the pleasure of worshipping and working in. Believe me, over my more than ten years as a Jewish professional I have worked in quite a few Jewish institutions in Los Angeles and its environs.

I shared with many of my interview committees how nervous I felt before becoming a part of BCC. I worried that I would not be accepted or might be judged as a

result of my sexual orientation and my conventional nuclear family. What I love is that to my surprise I was completely embraced by you, and none of my worries were warranted. I think the home away from home that is created by the community at BCC exists exactly for the reasons that I feared I would be judged. BCC is a place where all can come and be accepted for who they are. BCC truly is a House of New Life, a Beit Chayim Chadashim. Everyone is loved, welcomed and connected to Judaism, spirituality, God, social justice and more. I know that wherever I end up working, I will bring this important life lesson with me. So many of us fear rejection and long to be a part of communities that accept us for who we are. BCC is a community that opens its doors to all, especially embracing those who may have felt less than welcome in other communities. Thank you for this wonderful gift you have given me. I will take it with me to my next congregation and it will stay with me always.

As I walk into my new role as rabbi I want to thank you all for guiding me on this journey. You have taught me



openness and kindness, modeled how to be welcoming, and created an environment where deep prayer and introspection can flourish. You are brave, unabashed, willing to fight for your beliefs and stand up when you see injustice. You are wildly creative, filled with joy and love. I have been so fortunate to learn, pray, laugh and cry with you all. I thank you for sharing your talents, families and lives with me. May you continue to inspire those who dwell amongst you for many years to come.

(Almost) Rabbi Lindy Reznick Davidson



Pre-Shavuot Workshop With Dr. Zvi Bellin

The Jewish Journey to Revelation, in Four Acts | May 10th, 7pm at BCC

As we prepare for the holiday of Shavuot, it is helpful to tap into the science of spiritual revelation that has been transmitted through the daily prayer service. The Jewish prayer service is a metaphor for an exploration and integration of the physical body, the emotional heart, the contemplating mind, and the unifying spirit. In this workshop we will journey through these “four worlds” using the tools of Hebrew chant, gentle movement, and meditation. We will review the mystical terminology associated with the quest of tefilah (prayer) and how each segment intimately relates to our personal being and community relationships.

Our guest facilitator, Dr. Zvi Bellin, is the Engagement Associate for Nehirim: GLBT Culture and Spirituality and is responsible for student outreach, internal community relations, and programming at Nehirim retreats. He leads workshops and directs retreats in a variety of spiritual and religious contexts. Zvi earned a PhD in Pastoral Counseling and an M.A. in Counseling and Guidance. He is a Registered Yoga Teacher with the Yoga Alliance. He has worked as a therapist in a number of mental health settings, and has interned as a Psychiatric Chaplain. Zvi's most recent interests include exploring the raw experience of meaning in life, and the integration of personal spirituality into a practice of holistic well-being. He is currently traveling the country searching for beauty and adventure.



Los Angeles 2010
20th World Conference of GLBT Jews
 August 13-15, 2010

LA2010: compelling seminar leaders and all-star entertainment

Jonathan Falk

Los Angeles 2010 – the 20th World Conference of GLBT Jews is shaping up to be quite an event! Lisa



Senator Mark Leno

Geduldig of San Francisco will headline the entertainment at Saturday night's gala dinner, with guest entertainers the BCC Gay Gezunt band and the BCC choir. All

this will follow the acceptance of the World Congress Leadership Award by California State Senator Mark Leno.

Weekend seminars that have been announced so far include:

- Robin Podolsky and Steve Krantz on Jewish views of same-sex marriage
- Ruthie Berman and Connie Kurtz on their now-famous movie: Every Room in the House
- Michael Levine and other past leaders of the World Congress on the past and future of our movement
- Richard Lippa on current research on sexual orientation
- Mark Bowman of the LGBT Religious Archives Network on the importance

of maintaining our history

- Naomi Goldberg of the Williams Institute on the diversity of the LGBT community
- Kerry Chaplin of Faith for Equality on working with faith communities for policy change
- Sandy Warshaw, Michael Levine, and Lo Woudstra on the needs of our aging community



Elissa Barrett

August 13)

- Elissa Barrett on Los Angeles' next generation of young Jewish lesbians (Elissa is a BCC member and Executive Director of Progressive Jewish Alliance, and will be our keynote speaker on Friday evening,
- Rabbi Carla Howard on Telling Our Stories, Healing our Wounds, Finding Our Souls
- Neil Grungras of ORAM – the Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration – on current global issues of persecution, genocide and refugees
- Author Maggie Anton on men who loved men in the Middle Ages

- Filmmaker Howard Rosenman giving an inside look at his life of activism
- Writer Sarah Burghauer on growing up queer in an orthodox home
- And many others.

What an impressive bunch! We'll have to have a seminar on decision-making to help you decide which seminars to attend!

Conference registration is ongoing at the la2010.org website, and is currently \$275 for members of all our member organizations, until June 30, 2010. Register early!

We encourage scholarship fund donations so as to make the conference as accessible as possible, and we also encourage the donation of frequent flier miles, which could be used to help participants and presenters travel to LA for the conference.

For anyone who would like to get involved in planning the conference, please call Jonathan Falk at (562) 422-1861 or e-mail jonfalk@aol.com. The next meetings of our hardworking committee will be Tuesday May 11, 7 - 9 pm, at Kol Ami, and Tuesday June 8, 7 - 9 pm, at the Workmen's Circle.

BCC Book Group

Larry Nathenson

For nearly 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.



Sunday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m.,

Wandering Stars, by Sholem Aleichem

A Yiddish classic, this novel chronicles two young lovers who leave their shtetl in Russia to follow a Yiddish theater troupe across Europe and the Atlantic, finally reuniting in New York. This is a new English edition for the 100th anniversary of the original publication, with a foreword by Tony Kushner.



Sunday, June 27, at 10:00 a.m.,

Waltz with Bashir, by Ari Folman

picture a few years ago.

This is a graphic memoir of an Israeli soldier's experiences during the 1982 war in Lebanon. It chronicles both the fighting in Lebanon and the author's psychological scars from what he witnessed. It was also an animated motion

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.

Women's Havurah Plans Game Night, WNBA, and Beach Walk

Donna Quigley Groman

One of the many things I love about the Women's Havurah is the opportunity to spend time with different combinations of people at each event. On April 18, we took our trip to the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve. Cecilia and I carpooled with Ilene Cohen and Caroline Bernard. Estaire Press and Jeanelle LaMance drove up with Devorah Servi. Arlene Weinstock arrived with her friend Pearl and her brother Stan. Janet Meskin took the scenic route - Highway 138 (that's what her navigator told her to do). We all arrived within minutes of each other and soon found ourselves in small groups based on our walking speed and/or need to stop and take photos. Arlene and Ilene had these big old professional looking cameras and took fabulous photos. I used my cell phone to shoot pictures every once in a while. The pictures look OK. All in all it was a great day. Was it the women? Was it the poppies? The weather? The great

lunch afterwards? All of them! Another spectacular women's havurah event! So glad that I was able to enjoy the Poppy Reserve with such great company. Hope you can join us next year!

Here are some upcoming events: **Saturday, May 8, 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Women's Havurah Game Night at BCC.** Bring a snack and beverage to share and whatever board game you like to play. Playing mah jongg or learning to play mah jongg (American style) is always an option.

Sunday, May 23, the BCC Humanitarian Awards Brunch at the W Hotel in Hollywood: interested in sitting at the Women's Havurah table? In addition to honoring Dr. Bill Resnick, BCC honors our own women havurites Hannah Theile and Kenna Love.

Sunday June 13: kick off the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) season at Staples Center. Los Angeles Sparks vs. Minnesota Lynx. The game starts

at 5 p.m. with an optional early dinner before the game at LA Live across the street from Staples.

Sunday, June 27: Venice Beach breakfast and beach walk. We'll meet at 9 a.m. at Figtree Café. We will walk to Santa Monica and maybe geocache on the way.

Save the date! Sunday, August 22, 1-4 p.m. Women's Havurah welcomes Cantor Juval Porat to our annual summer splash at Lisa and Tracy's.

Questions? Interested in any of these events? E-mail Donna Quigley Groman at dlgroman@hotmail.com or contact the temple office.



Women's havurah members in the Antelope Valley poppy reserve, April 18, 2010.

ILENE COHEN

Men's Havurah Spring Report and Plans

Mark Miller and Richard Lesse, BCC Men's Havurah Co-Chairs

BCC's Men's Havurah sponsored three very successful events during March and April 2010:

Gay Comedy Night on March 3rd

We returned to the Improv in Hollywood for the monthly Gays R Us comedy show with about 10 men, a combination of BCCers and friends, enjoying a very funny show. Australian comedienne Julia Morris was the highlight of the nine comics in this month's show. This was the second time the Men's Havurah has gone to this monthly show, perhaps it won't be the last.

Academy Awards-themed Movie Night on March 20th

Hosted by BCC member and Men's Havurah co-chair Richard Lesse; we had a wonderful light supper together with a showing of *Inglourious Basterds*, nominated for eight Academy Awards with Christoph Waltz winning for Best Supporting Actor.

Game Night with Havdalah Service on April 17th

Hosted by BCC's former First Family Brett Trueman and Mark Miller; we had about 13 men who enjoyed playing several games including Scrabble (both in English and

in Hebrew), Taboo, Trivial Pursuit, and Uno. The group enjoyed a beautiful guitar-led Havdalah service led by member Cantor David Berger. A selection of scrumptious desserts was provided by Whole Foods.

Upcoming events that the Men's Havurah Committee is planning include:

- Outdoor events to one or more of the following:
 - The Arboretum (Arcadia)
 - Huntington Library & Gardens (San Marino)
 - Descanso Gardens (La Canada Flintridge)

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

If you'd like to be part of our event planning team please let us know... we can use everyone's help, especially in hosting a Men's Havurah event. We will tailor the event to the size of your home.

In two words: It's relational. One LA is not only about creating social change; it is equally about building relationships within and between the member groups that make up



One LA, as well as with the officials whose support we need to make social change.

The One LA assembly at Temple Isaiah on March 7 illustrated this very well. Focused on supporting Westside public school education, it brought together over 400 whites, Latinos, African-Americans and Asian-Americans. The gathering was concerned with bettering education at Emerson Middle School and the seven elementary schools that feed into it, including Saturn Elementary which is within BCC's larger neighborhood. LAUSD Superintendent Ramon Cortines, District 3 Superintendent Michelle King, and school board member Steve Zimmer were in attendance.

What did it accomplish in a concrete sense? It created time for teachers to work together to prepare 5th graders for middle

school. It expanded "Camp Emerson", the orientation program for graduating 5th graders. It addressed finding a safer spot for buses returning Saturn students.

Reporting on this assembly. Bill Boyarsky wrote in The Jewish Journal, March 24, 2010 in his "Pursuit of Justice" article: "It was clear that she {Rabbi Dara Frimmer} was talking about pursuing justice far beyond Temple Isaiah or the Westside Jewish community. 'If you only want to tell the story, "Isaiah cares about Emerson," you're missing the bigger story,' she said. 'This is the story of people who have come together to work for change. Who start with their relationships and expand out beyond the walls of Isaiah, beyond the classrooms of Emerson and the feeder schools, to South L.A., to Northeast L.A., to churches and synagogues and community groups.'"

BCC member Devorah Servi, commented: "Sitting in the pews of Temple Isaiah, surrounded by people of all faiths and races, was an inspiring experience. Hearing Rabbi Dara Frimmer preach passionately was also a gift. After counting my

blessings that I live in such a diverse city as L.A., I found myself questioning something. 'Why are all these people from South L.A. here for a West L.A. school issue? Why do they care about suburban issues when West L.A. schools are quite privileged in comparison to those in South L.A.' I pondered with curiosity. Then I remembered that One LA is all about building relationships all over the city. One LA 'builds relationships to build power for change,' as one of the organizers stated. I then realized that it would be our turn to 'show up and be counted' in South L.A. on another day. Let's hope we do because surely the future of our children depends upon it."

Ten BCCers met with Rabbi Lisa, Robert Hoo and Tom Holler (One LA organizers) on April 25 to discuss how to move our One LA work forward as well as what partnering could mean for BCC. Robert invited us to attend cluster meetings and meetings of other temples that are One LA members to gain more insight. For more information please contact either Jerry Nodiff, jerdn2@gmail.com or Robert Hoo Rhoo@metroiaf.org.

Mazel Tov

Please join the whole BCC community in wishing the following members a big "mazel tov" on their recent good news or upcoming naches.

Student Rabbi Lindy Reznick Davidson will be ordained on Sunday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. at Wilshire Boulevard Temple. All are welcome to attend.

Kathleen Early has a recurring role in Miami Medical as Nurse Kathy, 10 p.m. Fridays on CBS. Record it so you don't miss services at BCC!

Richard Seltzer recently became a great-uncle for the seventh time with the birth of Benjamin Seltzer in New York.

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

Weekly Sova Food Drive

Roughly 900,000 people, or 1 in every 10 in Los Angeles County, is in need of food, and count on food pantries like Sova. Please bring a can of tuna, canned veggies, pasta or rice when you come to BCC. The need is great!

May 2010

Iyar/Sivan 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 338 N. Fairfax 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>Angels in America</i> LAG B'OMER		7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class		4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Robin Berkovitz	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 pm Family Service 7:00 pm Women's Havurah Game Night	
MOTHER'S DAY	7:00 pm Workshop Guest Facilitator Zvi Bellin of Nehirim	7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class	7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	6:00 pm Family Dinner 7:00 pm Shabbat Service (NOTE EARLY START) Rabbi Edwards, Cantor Porat, Leah Zimmerman Honoring Lindy Davidson's ordination	10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and Dairy Potluck	
		7:00 pm Shavuot Study and Films Dairy dessert potluck 9:30 pm Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat (see page 5)	SHAVUOT	4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	8:00 pm Shabbat Service Cantor Porat Maggie Parkhurst		
10:30 am Silent Auction 12:00 pm Annual HUMANITARIAN AWARDS BRUNCH W Hotel, Hollywood		7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class	7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest musicians	10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 pm Family Service	
	MEMORIAL DAY BCC OFFICE CLOSED	All events at BCC unless otherwise noted*					

June 2010

Sivan/Tammuz 5770

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All events at BCC unless otherwise noted*		7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class		4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Eric Kamm Elissa Barrett	
8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 338 N. Fairfax 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>Wandering Stars</i>		7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class	7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	8:00 pm Shabbat Service PRIDE SHABBAT Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat	CHRISTOPHER STEET WEST FESTIVAL
CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST FESTIVAL AND PARADE 5:00 pm Women's Havurah WNBA at Staples Center		7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class		4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat CANTOR PORAT'S INSTALLATION	10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and Dairy Potluck 8:00 pm Dessert Reception for Cantor Porat's Installation
FATHER'S DAY			7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest musicians	
9:00 am Women's Havurah Breakfast and Beach Walk 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>Waltz with Bashir</i>						

SEE BCC-LA.ORG FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES.