

From the Rabbi's Study Jewish Support for Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Rabbi Lisa Edwards



PHOTO: KENNALOVIE

As frustrating as U.S. politics can be, there's always another way to look at it. For example, I felt inspired when I read that Senator Joe Lieberman walked 90 minutes on Shabbat, December 18, 2010, to go not from home to shul, but from home to the Senate Chamber so that he could cast his vote to repeal "Don't Ask Don't Tell." It passed 65-31, a milestone victory for the LGBT community.

And in case you're wondering where the rest of the Jewish community stands on DADT, a group of ten Jewish organizations signed a letter to Congress asking it to repeal the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military. The letter was organized by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA); signing were the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith International, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Union for Reform Judaism, and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Absent – not surprisingly – were the major Orthodox organizations.

[http://www.thejewishweek.com/blogs/political_insider/jewish_groups_congress_repeal_dont_ask_dont_tell_policy_gays_military Submitted by James Besser on Tue, 05/25/2010 - 15:48]

I'm always of two minds about DADT – glad to see another tool of discrimination fall away, yet I don't want to send *anyone* to war.

And then I think not only of the current queer soldiers who deserve to serve openly, I also think of someone like Frank Kameny — the nice Jewish gay boy from Queens, WWII combat veteran and Harvard PhD in astronomy, who was ousted from the military in 1957 because he was gay. "In 1960, Kameny protested his firing right up to the Supreme Court, marking the first civil rights claim based on sexual orientation. As a Jew, he wrote that the U.S. government's anti-gay policies were 'no less illegal and

no less odious than discrimination based upon religious or racial grounds.' Kameny lost his case, but soon co-founded the Mattachine Society of Washington, a pioneering gay/lesbian civil rights organization, and even made an unsuccessful run for Congress in 1971. ... Last year, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management formally apologized to Kameny on behalf

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Former Cantors Visit BCC



PHOTO: TRACY MOORE

(above) Former BCC cantor Don Croll (1985-92) leads kiddush at the end of Shabbat services, December 17, 2010, with Rabbi Edwards



(right): Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin (1992-2007) at the Hanukkah service, December 3, 2010

PHOTO: SYLVIA SUKOP

of the U.S. government for his 1957 firing. Last month [April 2010], when President Obama signed a memorandum expanding benefits for partners of gay Federal employees, Kameny stood next to him for photographs." [from The Jewish Forward, Benjamin Ivry, May 18, 2010]

My cousin, Professor Aaron Belkin, director of the Palm Center—a think tank that since 1998 has been a prime mover in commissioning and disseminating research in the areas of gender, sexuality, and the military—is elated and also somber about the repeal of DADT and of what still lies ahead. In the meantime, he reminded audiences of CNN on the day of the Senate vote that the first dishonorable discharge of a U.S. soldier for sodomy happened in 1778. That's a long history to be overturning as we step into the second decade of the 21st century.

By the way, Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Burr presided over the court-martial of Lieutenant Gotthold Frederick Enslin, and General George Washington himself gave the order that Lieutenant Enslin: "...be dismiss'd with Infamy. His Excellency the Commander in Chief approves the sentence and with Abhorrence and Detestation of such Infamous Crimes orders Lieutt. Enslin to be drummed out of the Camp tomorrow morning by all the Drummers and Fifers in the

Army never to return; the Drummers and Fifers to attend on the Grand Parade at Guard mounting for that purpose".

<http://www.gaypatriot.net/2008/01/21/first-us-soldier-discharged-for-homosexuality/> [excerpt from *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays & Lesbians in the U.S. Military* by Randy Shilts]

Have you ever wondered (or thought to wonder) about the origin of the expression "drummed out"? The drummers played slowly as the disgraced soldier's sword was broken over his head, and he was then dismissed to walk alone out of the camp.

In the spring or summer—when we're in our new building—I'll invite Aaron Belkin to come and talk with us about the long chain of events from Lieutenant Enslin through Frank Kameny to December 17, 2010 and beyond. Aaron's new book should be out by then: *How We Won: Inside Stories from the 17-Year Struggle to Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."*

Among the questions we can ask him is why Jews—from Kameny to Lieberman to Belkin—worked so hard to pull down DADT.

May it fall swiftly, and just as swiftly may we learn finally to beat our swords into plowshares and never again know war.

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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.

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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.

A New Song for our New Home

Cantor Juval Porat



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

"It has to be something the congregation remembers," he says to me, "something hymnal – like, when you sing Oseh Shalom at the end of a Ruach Chayim Service."

The musical notes of my third draft come to an end as I give my significant other an insightful nod and take his comment as one more necessary feature for a new song I've been trying to

come up with in the past weeks. A song for the "new" house of new life - with "new" referring to the new home to which BCC will move this coming spring. To mark this great moment of transition, I've been trying to come up with a musical message. A message that will lift up and touch and soothe, a song that will remind us of our unique story that connects us to our community, a beat that will conjure up long lost memories – all those incredible things that music is able to achieve.

In the following weeks we'll be reading about God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and interestingly enough, it seems as if a statement on the huge impact music can have on us can be found in just that story.

On *Shabbat Shira*, the Shabbat of Song, when the Torah portion contains the story of God parting the Red Sea and letting the people of Israel pass through it, followed by the Song of the Sea, the Exodus from Egypt reaches its climax. For the first time, the released slaves begin to get an idea of what it feels like to be fearless and maybe even independent. Also for the very first time in the Bible, the people who have just been saved by a miracle do what no patriarch or matriarch before them has done. They burst into song, led by (and presumably composed by) Moses and then by Miriam.

As with other puzzling facts about the Torah's stories, many answers are given to why it's only the people of Israel who get to choose song as a deeply emotional

response to a miracle and not Abraham, or Jacob or Rachel. Maybe, for the people under these incredibly intense conditions - being unified as a community by disbelief and relief, by uncertainty and optimism - the spontaneous, almost impulsive reaction expressed through song was the only thing right for them in that situation. Maybe the song, in that particular moment, was the best tool to underline that precious moment of clarity and a belief shared by all who experienced the parting of and passage through the sea.

And so, each time we chant a song as a community we conserve a little bit of that experience in the desert at the shores of the Red Sea. Each time we sing together, we are asked to figure out our own understanding of a Jewish community and our own path to God.

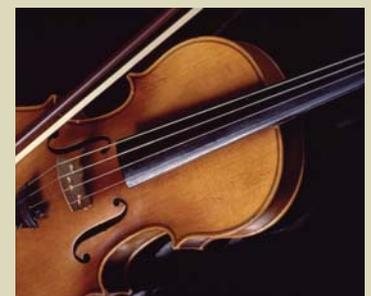
A *Midrash* tells us that when the angels asked God for permission to join the people of Israel in song, God restricted them from doing so, saying: "How can you burst into song when part of my creation [the Egyptians] has just drowned?" So the angels didn't sing and to answer why the Israelites did, the *Midrash* offers two explanations.

Even if there were other considerations, it was the Israelites' right to sing, as they were the ones who were saved. Also, the angels, with their ability to look far into the future, were able to see that times of miracles and redemption were far from being a constant everyday thing. They were able to see clearly all the challenges and conflicts of humanity lying ahead – so for them, in contrast to the confined horizon of the people, it would have been inappropriate to sing.

Hopefully, a new song for BCC will be ready by the time this article is published. I'm grateful already for the inspiration given and shared by congregants and friends during the writing process. Inspired by the *Midrash*, I hope for this new era in BCC's history to allow us as a community to burst into a new song followed by a time of joy and blessings, learning and sharing, that will let the angels sing with us in a completely guilt-free manner in our new home.

Fiddler in the Groove

On February 15 Cantor Juval Porat will offer another of his occasional classes in Jewish music: "Fiddler in the groove - exploring the world of klezmer music, from Eastern Europe to the United States, one krekhts at a time." Watch the weekly announcements for further information.



Rapid Progress on Remodel of BCC's New Building

Ira Dankberg, Building Committee Chair

What a difference two months makes since my last report on the remodeling of our new building! If you haven't been to the construction site since the beam signing in October, or the groundbreaking in August, you will be pleasantly surprised with our progress.

All the interior walls are framed and the insulation has been installed. Drywall is being put up as of this writing. You can now see how

the natural light makes the interior of the building glow. Speaking of natural light, the skylight over the bimah has also been installed.

Again I must profusely thank the BCC volunteers who continue to support our building by taking leadership on vital building elements. This includes Ray Eelsing and Richard Lesse

who have spent countless hours determining the scope, budget and technical requirements of our AV, security, telephone and computer system. Our building is wired for almost any electronic technology including on-line electronic streaming of BCC services.

Eldon Teper, with support from Maggie Parkhurst and Renee Lamkay, is spearheading researching furniture for our new home. We

have already evaluated several seating types for the sanctuary and will set our variously shaped tuchases on a few more before we select the chairs. This committee is also charged with finding the best deals on office furniture, tables and desks. They are working with our architects



BCC's future kitchen

to select or design bimah furniture that compliments the ark design.

Several passionate BCC members and clergy attended long and intense meetings at our architect's office to design the new ark and yahrtzeit memorial wall. Many ideas were evaluated and we agreed to a concept that spoke to all of us. What we especially loved about the final design is that not only is it beautiful but it represents BCC through the incorporation of our handiwork and stories. Members Jerry Hanson and Davi Cheng will be creating stained glass doors for our new ark specifically designed to complement our current stained glass windows that will be moved to the new sanctuary.

The construction of our new home is proceeding with little variation from our budgets and schedule. When one considers the complexity of remodeling an older building like this it would be a surprise if there were no surprises. But this was anticipated by including a construction cost contingency in our budget. And to all the doubters out there, we are still on target to complete construction in mid-March 2011 and plans for moving in are underway.



Ira Dankberg with reused denim insulation

all the rooms are shaped and arranged. The roof is completed and the supports for the 44 solar panels are installed. Although you won't be able to see these vital components you can feel comfortable knowing the fire sprinkler piping, electrical conduit, air conditioning equipment, and plumbing are installed and inspected.

Far more exciting, the south wall of the building has been opened up and is ready for the wall of glass with the entry doors. This was a very complex effort requiring shoring, sawcutting and installation of steel beams. You can already see how



Door arch in the new synagogue

Harriet Perl Shares the Wisdom of her 90 Years

This is Harriet's drash in celebration of her 90th birthday, delivered at BCC on Friday, December 3, 2010, by Barbara Kroll, as Harriet was too ill to attend.

Although I am celebrating my birthday tonight, the actual day of my birth was November 30, which happens to be the birthday also of Shirley Chisholm, Mark Twain, and Winston Churchill. I arrived in honorable company.

There aren't many privileges attached to old age in our youth-oriented culture, but there are two that I will take advantage of tonight. The first is the opportunity to tell others about the past – my past.



I was born into a world that for most of you is history, and not very real. I remember the first "talkie" movie I saw, in the mid-1920s – Rudolph Valentino in "Alias Jimmy Valentine." A voice coming off the screen was startling magic. I also remember the first time I heard a radio, a man's voice coming from a black box with a bunch of dials. I ran into the adjoining room to find him. Since I was in Texas, I also remember water fountains for "colored" and sections for "colored" in the streetcar and my mother giving me a surprising spanking when I brought home the N word. My honorable parents were trying to raise a non-racist child in a place where the population enjoyed the double satisfaction of despising and discriminating against not one but two groups, Latinos and African-Americans. And there was the memorable New Year's Eve of 1930, when there was a party at my aunt's, and we gathered around the piano to sing "Happy Days Are Here Again." They weren't, of course, and my memories of the Great Depression are many and sad and to this day can make me angry – such as finding a piece of cardboard on the floor that came

out of my girlfriend's shoe, used to cover a hole she hadn't money for repairing. Or the 15-year-old girl who offered herself to a man friend, for ten cents.

The Depression coincided with my adolescence, to make matters more perilous – an adolescence confused by my growing suspicion that something was very wrong with me. That was how I felt about my lesbianism. Plus my politics. Born a red diaper baby, I became a committed member of the Young Communist League, absolutely sure that when I sang, off key, the Internationale, I was envisioning the happy future of humanity. I got rid of the YCL much sooner than I accepted my sexuality. I became a teacher and fell in love with teaching the first day I stood, trembling, before a class of 8th graders at Emerson Junior High, and I knew that the slightest suspicion of my sexuality would get me fired and forever unable to use that cherished credential. My condition was called moral turpitude then; can you imagine what it felt like to find myself so classified? To complicate matters, I fell in love then, and Jean and I lived so far back in the closet we didn't know there was a door. In truth we didn't believe there could be a door. We lived a lie.

World War II was happening then. I spent two summers working as a pipefitter's helper in the shipyards, since I was frozen in my teaching job and not allowed to join the WAC, though I tried. Just as well, because teaching was where I belonged, and that was where I stayed for 35 years. I've been retired now for 32, and I intend to live long enough at least to even it up.

And that brings me to the second privilege of old age – the right to offer a philosophy of life to people who can be induced to listen, like you. In other words, have I learned anything in my years about Life, with

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(top) Harriet Perl. (Above) Barbara Kroll delivers Harriet's drash at BCC Hanukkah service, December 3, 2010

PHOTO: SYLVIA SIKOP

a capital L, that is worth passing on? Yes, and here it is, the simple secret to the good life – become involved in something bigger than yourself. Enlarge your life by living outside its personal parameters.

I found out about this concept by falling into it, without knowing in advance that I was doing so. I was in love with teaching, as I said, and I devoted myself to my profession with passion. I worked hard and long; I spent most of my time – far beyond the so-called working hours – in the classroom, preparing lessons, with the kids whenever I could make contact with them, with their parents, with the union that represented me. I can still remember some of the first kids – Paul Ware, Bob Wilson, Betty Griskonis, Ruth Gorsky, Leonore Benvenuto. I can still see, in my mind's eye, dozens of them as they were more than 60 years ago.

And then I fell into feminism, on the advice surprisingly of a heterosexual male therapist. In the feminist movement I learned women's history, and found out how and why society hated – still hates – homosexuals. That understanding finally released me from the feeling that my sexuality was in any way wrong; with that knowledge I finally felt full self-respect. I led consciousness raising groups from Alaska to Maine, was active in NOW in every way, and gave my heart, time, and money to my work for that cause.

That made two involvements bigger than myself, and they led me into the third and best, BCC. I can't remember the name of the woman whose idea of a date was to visit BCC, and I was reluctant. I had got along so far without any involvement in Judaism and didn't see the point of starting then. I was not only a secular Jew but a completely disengaged one. But I went, and I saw that BCC followed a male-oriented liturgy, and my feminist soul was outraged. More in hostility than friendship, I attended a BCC board meeting and insisted that things be changed, that God stop being male. President Milt Jinowsky said fine, go to work on our language, and Jesse Jacobs volunteered to help. Help isn't the right word, because I was so ignorant that I could never have accomplished anything without Jesse, whose knowledge and patience not only helped make BCC's liturgy gender neutral but also showed me that it was not only possible but delightful to have a male friend. Or two, or three, or dozens, because I got sucked into the Temple from that point, and it became my third big thing bigger than myself. BCC put together all the parts of my life and person – it joined my feminism with Judaism, validated my lesbianism, and made me a whole person. And the icing on the cake was that almost all my dearest friends came with BCC, and BCC became my family.

I didn't become religious – that seems to be

impossible for me – but being BCC Jewish became the center of my life. I worked hard for BCC in those days, when I had plenty of energy. We had arguments, fun, fears, excitements, triumphs, tragedies. AIDS hit us hard, and I still remember Steve Kassler, Alan Mitnick, Fred Shuldiner, and all those darling men we lost, one after another. We were daring and frightened when we hired our first rabbi, Janet Marder, on a part-time basis. We were daring and frightened when we bought this building and when we parted company with a rabbi who wasn't right for us. But always there was a spirit in this temple that overcame whatever problems we had, a spirit that kept us together, that I can only call by its proper name, love.

So there you have my advice: become part of and give yourself unstintingly to a cause that matters to you. In my good luck, I had three – teaching, feminism, and BCC; you may not be as lucky as I have been, but find



BCC's oldest member Harriet Perl and youngest member Blake Wilsey, mother KC Paperno Wilsey and grandmother Gayle Paperno

something bigger than you are and give yourself to it. Give heart and time and money (don't kid yourself that it won't take gelt) and the cause will carry you safely past the failed love affairs, past ruined debts and broken friendships and lost jobs and busted budgets and all the other junk that happens to us all. You will note that my causes have not perfectly "succeeded" – schools are in trouble, women are still not even in the Constitution, BCC still needs your money and your time, and gays and lesbians are not yet first class American citizens. There is still much work to be done, so if you choose these causes, you will have plenty to do. There are many other paths to take in a country in danger politically and a planet on the brink. Don't stay home and moan; get busy.

If you are as lucky as I have been, your cause will also carry you to a 90th birthday, and to being allowed to stand before a roomful of friends and tell them that you have had a good life. There is nothing more to ask for.

The Story Lines Project

Cantor Juval Porat and Felicia Park-Rogers

It won't be long until BCC moves west into our new building at 6090 Pico. In what is shaping up to be another milestone in our amazing history, the move will be accompanied by a project that will live on as part of BCC's legacy for generations to come. It's the Story Lines Project, in which each member of our community will have a chance to shape and create our new bimah wall in our new sanctuary with a unique gift – our own stories!

In the next two months you'll be invited to submit your story – about your relationship to BCC, to Torah, to Judaism. Your story, together with all other stories, will be a witness to BCC's vibrant and colorful life made possible by its members. Fragments of your story will be written by you on copper strips, which will become an integral part of the bimah wall surrounding the ark holding our sacred Torahs in the new sanctuary – a wall of "story-lines", conceived by our incredible team of architects, and by you!

Each BCC member will be invited to participate in a writing workshop led by one of our own BCC writers and teachers. In the workshops facilitated by our talented writers we'll explore the process of writing something meaningful and special, a portion of which will be written onto a metal strip that will then be integrated into the bimah wall. A special web page with renderings of the new bimah wall, a submit-form, and more details on the project will launch on December 23rd.

The workshops will all take place in January, as the wall needs to be constructed during February. The dates and times for the writing workshops (all at BCC) are:

- Saturday, Jan. 8 during Ohr Chayim
- Sunday, Jan. 9, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, Jan. 16, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- Monday, Jan. 24, 7:00 – 9:00 pm
- Sunday, Jan. 30, 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- Monday, Jan. 31, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Don't miss this amazing opportunity. RSVP to bcc@bcc-la.org and make your story a part of BCC's new home.

Women's Havurah Winter Events

Donna Quigley Groman

The BCC Women's Havurah has the following events planned for the winter of 2011.

Sunday, January 9, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Hike Franklin Canyon! 2.5 mile moderate hike. Easy walk also available. Women only. Followed by an optional lunch.

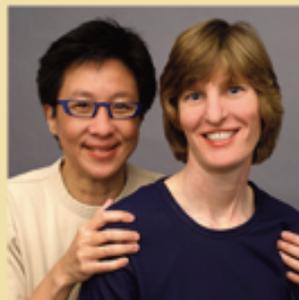
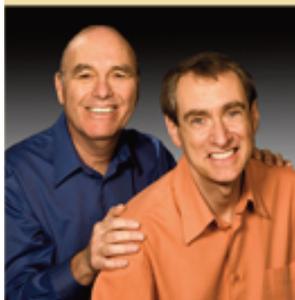
Sunday, January 30, 2:00 pm. "Exploring the Crazy World of Maira Kalman" at the Skirball Center. Panel discussion begins at 2 p.m. Peruse the exhibits before or after the panel discussion. View more than 100 original works by the celebrated illustrator, author, and designer as she illuminates contemporary life with a profound sense of joy, spontaneity, and humor. Free to Skirball members, \$10 to general public. Everyone welcome!

Sunday, February 6, 1:00 pm. Women's College Basketball – UCLA v. USC at the Galen Center. Everyone welcome! We will meet at the Galen Center before the game and purchase tickets at the gate.

Saturday, February 19, 7:00 pm – 10:30 pm. Women's Havurah Game Night. Women only, at BCC. Bring a beverage and snacks to share.

For more information or to RSVP, e-mail Donna Quigley Groman at dlgroman@hotmail.com or call the temple office at 323-931-7023.

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The Different Shabbatot of Ohr Chayim

Leah Zimmerman, Education Director



The second Shabbat of the month is a special day at Ohr Chayim. At 9:15 we hear the quick patter of little feet as our families with young children arrive for "Parent and Me." Ms. Purple always has something fun planned: a song, a story and crafts. At 10:00 the younger children and their parents join our regular Ohr Chayim crowd for

singing with Cantor Porat. We sit in a circle in the main room, voices coming together as one community. Afterwards our Parent and Me families depart and our Ohr Chayim program continues as usual. Parents separate to have their own schmooze time and Torah study, the B'nai Mitzvah students meet to learn with a clergy member and the K-5 students learn about the Torah portion through storytelling drama and crafts and learn to read Hebrew. At 12:00 everyone regroups for a family service led by the Cantor. Sometimes other BCC members visit us and periodically we have been lucky to have families with children and individual members just coming to get to know us.

Each month on the first Shabbat of the month (if it isn't a holiday weekend) we read from the Torah. We unravel the Torah on a table in front of the ark and stand around it so that everyone can see the scroll and the words in it. This year we have been honored to have Shoshanah

Weinreich, a very recent Bat Mitzvah, read for us. Shoshanah used the skills she learned from Jeff Bernhardt in preparation for her Bat Mitzvah and with a little help prepared a few lines of Parshat Toldot and a few lines of Parshat Miktetz. It's an honor to have Shoshanah join us as a post Bat –Mitzvah in this important leadership role. We invite anyone in the congregation who would like to try their Torah reading skills to join us. This service is an easy and accessible place to try out your Torah reading skills and we welcome any BCC member who would like to try the experience. Contact me for more details.

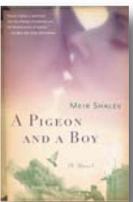
In addition to our Cantor-led family service and Torah reading service, we have family services on the fourth (and if there is a fifth) Shabbat of the month as well. At those family services we focus on one or two prayers and their meaning. This past fall we discussed the literal and figurative implications of the words in the blessing in the morning prayers that follows the Barchu "yotzer or uvorech chosech, oseh shalom, u'voreh et hakol." Some of our younger yet wiser students share their insights and understandings with us alongside the adults and B'nai Mitzvah students as we search for meaning in these familiar prayers.

We welcome all BCC members, with or without children, to join us for any of our Ohr Chayim Shabbatot and experience the joy of learning and praying with this growing part of our congregation.

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, January 30, 10:00 a.m.

A Pigeon and a Boy, by Meir Shalev

This Israeli novel (in English translation) interweaves two love stories with Israel's fight for independence and its personal implications for those who fought in that brief but very intense war.



Sunday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.

36 Arguments for the Existence of God, by Rebecca Goldstein

This novel centers around an atheist professor of the psychology of religion who is forced by personal experience to reconsider his assumptions about God's existence and the role of religion in modern life.

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.

Advanced Beginner Hebrew Reading Class

If you can read Hebrew, but want to read more fluently as well as to begin to understand what you are saying, this is the class for you. Join Todd Shotz to learn the basics in how to break down Hebrew words, from three-letter roots to some key vocabulary. In this class, you will practice reading and gain basic comprehension by looking at prayers like the Shema and the Torah blessings as well as some modern poems, songs and stories. For those of you who took the Intro to Hebrew Reading class in the fall — this is the perfect next step for you. Everyone is welcome.

Sundays — Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb 13, March 6 at BCC, 6:30-8:00 pm

Monday — Feb 28, 7- 8:30 pm

\$60 for members of IKAR, BCC and Kol Ami;
\$75 for nonmembers

RSVP: todd.shotz@gmail.com

Men's Havurah Update

Mark Miller, Richard Lesse, and Mark Brown,
BCC Men's Havurah Planning Committee

BCC's Men's Havurah sponsored the following very successful events during November and December 2010:

Deadly Medicine Exhibit and Lecture on November 7th

We had a wonderful time visiting the Hannon Library at Loyola Marymount University to see the Deadly Medicine Exhibit, which explored the perversion of medical ethics in Nazi Germany, and listening to a special lecture given by U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum historian William Meinecke.

Art for Our Sake Gathering on November 14th

This very enjoyable event at the home of BCC members Hannah Theile and Kenna Love included fine art, affordable gifts, fantastic food, music by BCC Cantor Juval, and lots of friends, and raised money for BCC as well.

Chanukah Celebration on December 5th

We had a fantastic time at the home of Brett Trueman and Mark Miller, the former First Family of BCC, with more than 25 people attending and enjoying great food – including latkes and sufganiyot – menorah lighting, lots of camaraderie, and fun exchanging gifts with each other.

The Men's Havurah Planning Committee is considering many ideas for upcoming events in January and February. As soon as event details are finalized, information 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.

Mazel Tov

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

Jonathan Falk and George Garcia, on the finalization of the adoption of their son, James Falk-Garcia, age 6. Many of us have known James since he came to live with Jonathan and George more than a year ago.



Judge Donna Quigley Groman with James Falk-Garcia and fathers Jonathan Falk and George Garcia (and furry friends) at the adoption ceremony on November 19, 2010.

Donna Quigley Groman, on being sworn in on December 17, 2010 at BCC for her second term as Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Chris Marshall of the San Bernardino Superior Court, also a BCC member, presided.

Henry Wudl, on his new home.

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



LAW & MEDIATION OFFICE OF
DIANE M. GOODMAN, APC

FAMILY LAW
Adoption, Step Parent Adoption, Cohabitation,
Divorce, Child Custody, Spousal Support,
Domestic Partnership, Family Mediation

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January 2011

Tevet/Shevat 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>The Sabbath World</i>	3	4	5	6 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	7 6:30 pm Pre-Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Michael Sarid	8 9:15 am Parent and Me 10:00 am Ohr Chayim Story Lines Workshop 12:00 pm Family Shabbat
8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 10:00 am Women's Havurah Hike Franklin Canyon 3:00 pm Story Lines Workshop	10	11	12 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	13 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	14 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat	15 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and dairy potluck
16 11:00 am Story Lines Workshop	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY BCC OFFICE CLOSED	18 7:00 pm Story Lines Workshop	19	20 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards TU B'SHEVAT (New Year for Trees)	21 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Cantor Porat Rabbi Heather Miller	22 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 pm Family Shabbat
8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark 6:30 pm Advanced Beginner Hebrew Reading Class Todd Shotz	24 7:00 pm Story Lines Workshop	25	26 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	27 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	28 Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest Musicians	29 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 pm Family Shabbat
10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group 2:00 pm Women's Havurah at Skirball 4:00 pm Story Lines Workshop 6:30 Hebrew Class	31 7:00 pm Story Lines Workshop	<i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i>				

February 2011

Shevat/Adar 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	4 6:30 pm Pre-Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Cantor Porat Eric Kamm Drash by rabbinic student Adrian Schell	5 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 pm Family Shabbat
8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark 1:00 pm Women's Havurah basketball Galen Center	7	8	9 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	10 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	11 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Michael Sarid	12 9:15 am Parent and Me 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 pm Family Shabbat
6:30 pm Advanced Beginner Hebrew Class Todd Shotz	14	15 7:00 pm Class – Fiddler in the Groove (klezmer) Cantor Porat	16	17 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	18 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat	19 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and dairy potluck 7:00 pm Women's Havurah Game Night
20	21 PRESIDENTS' DAY BCC OFFICE CLOSED	22	23 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	24 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	25 Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments and schmooze 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest Musicians	26 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 pm Family Shabbat
8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>36 Arguments for the Existence of God</i>	28 7:00 pm Advanced Beginner Hebrew Class Todd Shotz	<i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i>				

SEE BCC-LA.ORG FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES.