

Two of BCC's Finest to be Honored at 2008 Humanitarian Awards Brunch

Cecilia Quigley

On May 18, 2008, BCC will kick off its Double Chai anniversary celebration with a fantastic gala at Sofitel Los Angeles honoring BCC members Steven Koltai and Dr. Allison Diamant. Yes, BCC turns 36 this year! What better way to begin the festivities than by celebrating the contributions of two exceptional individuals at our most important non-religious event and biggest fundraiser of the year!

We are proud to honor Steven Koltai with this year's Rabbi Erwin and

Tufts University, he attended Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium as a Fulbright Scholar and received his Licence in European Economics and then his Masters Degree in International Trade from Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts/Harvard Universities.

Since 2003 Steven has served as Board Chair, Chair Emeritus and Board Member of the Literacy Network of Greater Los Angeles. He tripled the budget, tripled the staff, largely revamped the Board and most

students of the university.

He has also been active in the Jewish community, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel of Hollywood and of the Museum of Hungarian-speaking Jewry. Steven is the father of 2 children.

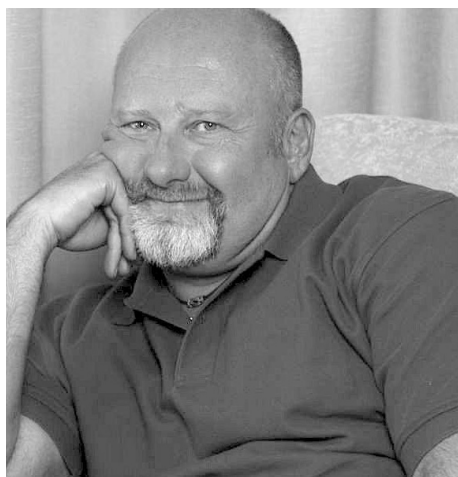
The Hermans, for whom the award was named, were instrumental in guiding BCC in its earliest years and were passionate advocates of BCC's historic admission to the UAHC (now URJ), the Reform Movement's national organization, which occurred in 1974, only two years after BCC's founding. Their humanitarian spirit then and since has inspired this annual award at BCC.

The Presidents' Award is also presented annually and recognizes dedicated service and outstanding leadership by BCC members both within the synagogue and in the community at large. It reflects the deep respect of current and past BCC boards and leadership. This year we are pleased to recognize our own "resident" physician, Dr. Allison Diamant.

Allison is a Los Angeles native. After completing her undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley, she joined the Peace Corps and taught in Botswana. Upon her return to the US she attended medical school at Hahneman University in Philadelphia and fulfilled her residency requirements at UCLA.



Presidents' Award recipient Dr. Allison Diamant



Humanitarian Award recipient Steven Koltai

Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award for his philanthropic work focused on adult literacy and social responsibility.

Steven was born in Budapest, Hungary and came to the US with his parents following the unsuccessful 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Steven grew up in Los Angeles and Kansas. After earning his BA (magna cum laude) in History from

importantly, substantially increased the population served, of the leading literacy entity in America's least literate (in English) major city. Steven also teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) at Belmont Adult School. Through his service on two of Tufts' boards, he has given of his time and of his financial resources to support the

Continued on Page 2

Allison joined BCC in 1998 and has been serving on committees, the Board and the Executive Committee ever since. As an Associate Professor of Medicine at UCLA, she is a teacher/professor, a physician and a health services researcher focused on underserved populations and health care disparities. Allison does a great deal of work with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, community groups, and the RAND Corporation on health services research. In her spare time she volunteers at the Venice Family Clinic seeing patients and regularly participates in the Aids Life Cycle Ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Allison was recently named one of Los Angeles' Top Mensches by The Jewish Journal of Los Angeles. Allison's life partner of over five years is Eileen Gorman.

The BCC Brunch is known for its warmth and excitement. It is also an excellent opportunity for BCC members and friends of the honorees

to express their unique appreciation of them in the Commemorative Album. The BCC Brunch begins with a Silent Auction at 10:30 a.m. with many fabulous products and services donated by BCC members and local businesses to benefit BCC.

An important element of the BCC Brunch is community support. You can help make the BCC Brunch a success by taking advantage of various Sponsorship levels or volunteering to be a Table Host, which means that, in addition to buying your own ticket, you will invite nine others to buy tickets at any level and sit at your table. Event and Table Sponsors and Table Hosts will be listed in the invitation and Commemorative Album in thanks for the important assistance they provide. Invitations with information about the Commemorative Album and Sponsor and Host opportunities will be in the mail soon. For further information or to volunteer in any of the many tasks needed for this event, please contact Cecilia Quigley at mceciliaq@sbcglobal.net.

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website: www.bcc-la.org

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.

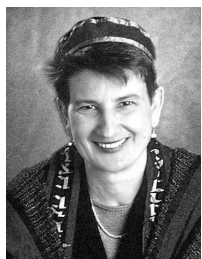
Editor: Larry Nathenson. Graphics & Layout: Hilary Lentini. Articles submitted should be typed, emailed or attached as Word documents, and arrive by the 1st of the month preceding publication. To subscribe to G'vanim, send name and address and a check or money order for \$18 per year, attention: Subscriptions. Free to members.

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

From the Rabbi's Study...

Lisa Edwards

Excerpted from a drash given at Shabbat services on February 8, 2008.



Almost 14 years ago, when BCC interviewed me to be rabbi here, Lauren Schlau was chair of the search committee, Carol Saragossi was on the board (in her 12th year on the board, I think!), Lana and Lauren hosted me during my interview days, Larry Nathenson was on the Executive Committee, Jerry Nodiff was chair of the Social Action Committee, and Bonnie Moore was an active parent advocating for BCC family programming. And that's just some of what they were doing for BCC at that little moment in time – if I listed all the things these six people have done for BCC over the years we'd be here all night.

Despite their involvement in BCC (or because of it?) Lana and Lauren, and Carol and Bonnie will be celebrating their 25th anniversaries this month, Larry will be turning 50, and Jerry marks the completion of 70 years on this earth!

I was only sort of joking when I said "because of it." Not that I think BCC has literally kept these two couples together or these two men alive these many years, but I do think it has played a major role in their lives and their relationships.

In this week's Torah portion, Terumah, God tells Moses to tell the Israelites to bring Me gifts, you [Moses] shall accept gifts for Me from every person whose heart is moved to do so. [Exodus 25:1] And let them use what they bring, says God, to make Me a holy place that I may dwell among them.

V'asu li mikdash v'shokhanti b'to-kham [25:8]

It makes God sound a bit materialistic – asking quite specifically for gold and silver and fine linen, yarn and leathers and beautiful wood and gemstones – the gift registry God compiles is long and the commentaries let us know that most of the objects on it are rare and beautiful and costly. At first read, we might think the people are being asked to build a place for God – the sanctuary in the wilderness is the precursor of the Temple in Jerusalem, the center of their religious life during their 40 year sojourn in the wilderness.

But we're fooled into thinking we're bringing gifts to God and building God a magnificent home. In fact, what God wants (and what happens) is for these ragtag former slaves to become a people. What God wants is for us to develop a unified vision, to come together to build something. What God wants is for each of us to bring our own gifts not for God but for the community. And God wants us to take those individual gifts and together use them to build a gathering place – not a place to meet God, but a place to meet each other. V'asu li mikdash v'shokhanti b'to-kham Make me a holy place, says God, and I will dwell among them.

Not dwell in the holy place, but among them, says God – among people, people whose hearts lead them to come together into community, whose hearts direct them to build a center – a heart

center, a community center, a gathering place – and then says God, among people who come together with unity of purpose, among individuals who create a home for their community, there will I find the place I want to dwell, and there they will find Me.

Long ago – thousands of years already – the Jewish people left behind the idea of all of us gathering at just one



Rabbi Lisa Edwards and BCC past president Davi Cheng leading services together on February 1, 2008

place. Instead we found something better...we found the pleasure, the comfort, the joy of gathering in smaller communities. And we learned the blessing of God's trick – we learned what it means for smaller groups of people to come together to share not only our material gifts but our values too – we learned that this sharing of values gives us the desire and grants us the opportunity to come into community to mark the passages in our lives – the sacred moments, the achievements, the blessings – to mark them with and among our nearest and dearest, our friends, our kehillah k'dosha - our holy congregation.

May it always be so for these six individuals and for all of us at BCC!

L'shalom,
Lisa

Ritual Committee Report Purim, Pesach, and Shabbat

Cara Hanes and Aaron Tornell

2008 is a secular leap year with a 29th day in February, and 5768 is also a Jewish leap year, which means we have two months of Adar. We get two celebrations of Rosh Chodesh but only one Purim with lots of debate as to the time of Purim. BCC will be celebrating Purim in the second month of Adar on March 20.

Pesach begins at the end of Shabbat on April 19 and lasts until Sunday, April 27. This year the Ritual Committee is organizing a different celebration in place of our community seder. Some of you may remember our last congregational seder where one seat was saved for the stranger or Elijah (the prophet who often visits us in the form of a stranger). The Board of Directors and Ritual Committee have already committed to host people who would otherwise be alone for seder. If you would be willing to open your home seder celebration to one or two people from our congregation who would be alone, please contact Cara Hanes (carabr@aol.com or 562-426-2260) by April 9. If you are playing the part of Elijah and do not have a home seder celebration to participate in, but

would like to join one, please contact Cara Hanes as well.

Shabbat services will continue through our holiday season and many of you may have noticed that we are trying to establish some consistency in the absence of a formal cantorial soloist. Shabbat services will continue to include Ruach Chayim on the last Shabbat of the month and a guest cantor once a month. Stephanie Valadez will be rejoining our congregation on April 11, so if you missed the melodic Shabbat she led on February 8, make sure to catch this service. Experienced music leaders from the congregation will be leading the remaining Shabbats. If you are interested in helping lead services please contact Cara Hanes or Aaron Tornell. We are also planning some different Shabbat services for the summer months. If you have always been interested in seeing something incorporated into a special Shabbat, this is your opportunity to help rejuvenate our Shabbat services. Contact Cara Hanes or Aaron Tornell if you are interested, so we can include you in the planning process.

Looking for Afikomen in all the wrong places? Come to BCC's Seder-Leading Workshop! And find a seder too!

Seder-Leading Workshop

Passover begins Saturday evening, April 19. You'll find gefilte fish at the supermarket, seder guests in your rolodex: but how to unpack all that complicated stuff in the Haggadah? Help is at hand! Author Maggie Anton Parkhurst and BCC Student Rabbi Joe Hample will conduct a seder-leading workshop on Saturday afternoon, April 12, 3:00 to 5:00 pm at BCC. We'll use Sue Levi Elwell's Haggadah "The Open Door" as our text; you can borrow copies from BCC for your own seder table. Dayenu and door opening, four questions and four children, Miriam's cup and the orange on the seder plate: it's all there; we'll show you how to set it free!

Purim Cabaret at MCC LA

Come to the Cabaret, my friends!

This year something new has been added for Purim! Congregation Kol Ami has invited BCC to join them for Purim, and MCC LA has invited us all to their home for the event! Multi language Megillah reading and a Purim parody of Cabaret are part of the festivities... See your friends at and IN the gay Cabaret! Festivities begin at 7pm Thursday night March 20

MCC LA
8714 Santa Monica Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069-4508

Generously underwritten by Herbert Berk
Thank you, Herbert!

Family Purim at BCC

Saturday, March 22

Family Purim Celebration

All are Welcome!

11am – Purim Activities

Come in your costume and join us for some fun Purim activities including making masks, groggers and mishloach maa'not baskets.

12pm – Family Megillah Telling

Children can participate in this fun telling of the Purim Megillah story. Followed by snacks and refreshments. While this program is especially for families, the whole community is warmly welcomed and invited. Bring back the fun of Purim by watching it through a child's eyes!

BCC Men's Havurah Celebrates 10th Anniversary

BCC's Men's Havurah celebrated its tenth anniversary on January 12, 2008, with a catered dinner at the home of Noel Salisbury in Larchmont Village. Those who attended all agreed that it was a wonderful evening, and joined in offering thanks to Jerry Nodiff and Mike Halstater for all their hard work on behalf of the men of BCC and their friends.

Over the past ten years, Jerry has worked tirelessly to conceive, organize, and publicize some 90 events for the Men's Havurah, including dinners in members' homes and in restaurants, theater parties, museum visits, pool parties, and other social and cultural events. During these past years, part of the focus of the group has been to build community within BCC, and to grow Jewishly. Jerry has been a member of BCC since 1973, and has served in a variety of other capacities including Board member and social action chair. He also spearheaded and organized the very successful Bridges to Understanding series of interfaith discussions and presentations over the last two years, bringing Jewish, Muslim and Christian dialogue to BCC and the larger community.

Mike has assisted Jerry for more than three years and has also given much of his time and effort to BCC during that time, including countless hours working on the Bridges to Understanding series. He is also one of the faithful folks who meet every two months to fold, stuff, staple, and mail this newsletter (along with Sue Terry, Bob Adels, and Avram

Chill). Eldon Teper and Jeff Bernhardt also did much to assist the committee before Mike's participation. Jeff will be especially remembered for organizing the highly successful Gay Rabbis series.

Jerry and Mike will step down at the end of April for a much-needed rest. In the meantime, Men's Havurah programming will continue in March and April, as follows.

Sunday, March 16: Skirball Tour and Brunch (Women Included)

All BCC members and their friends are warmly invited to our March event. On Sunday, March 16 at 10:45 am, we will gather for a delicious self-pay brunch at Zeidler's café in the Skirball

Cultural Center, followed by a docent led tour of the exhibit "R.B. Kitaj: Passion and Memory."

Who is R.B. Kitaj? He is a celebrated major 20th century artist. Among his exhibits were a retrospective at the Tate Gallery in London, LACMA, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Skirball exhibit focuses on his "highly personal exploration of Jewish identity, history, and culture." (A concurrent exhibit is being offered at UCLA.)

The vital details: We will gather in the lobby at 10:45 am to collect admission; brunch follows at 11:00 am. A minimum of 10 people is required for the docent and discounted admission of \$6.00 for the tour. Please bring exact admission. (Skirball members and their significant other are free.) The tour is not recommended for children under 13 as the docent would have trouble gearing content for them. The tour is scheduled for 12:30 pm. The deadline to RSVP for both activities is Sunday, March 9. Please contact Jerry Nodiff at 310-450-9520 or Mike Halstater at mikeyh2@earthlink.net.

We hope to see you at the Skirball. Watch for future publicity about our April dinner and discussion event.



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Welcoming All Families to BCC

Leah Zimmerman



Straight. Me? I have always been pretty curvy. But, here I am at BCC, very aware that in this context I wear that label. So I have started to think about what it means for me personally to be a "straight" person working in the LGBT community. Reflecting on my personal experience has also been an exercise for me in figuring out

how we as a community might insure that as Ohr Chayim, our family education program, grows, it can be inclusive of all families, including non-LGBT families.

I was first introduced to BCC through Rabbi Ellen Lippmann at Kolot Chayeinu in Brooklyn. I had one meeting with Ellen during the small window of time between when Jeff (my husband) accepted a professorship at UC Riverside and I unexpectedly started my maternity leave three weeks early. I wondered out loud to her where I could find another values-based Jewish community where I could feel as much at home living Jewishly. Ellen responded by offering to send letters of introduction to some rabbis that she knew on the west coast. Of BCC she said, "It is an LGBT synagogue, is that okay?" Honestly, I didn't get the question. I wondered, "Should it not be okay?" As a human being with friends and families of all kinds of sexual orientations, I did not think it mattered.

I come to BCC having been a member of other Jewish communities that value inclusion and that welcome all people no matter their sexual orientation, race, cultural, class or religious background. Yet, in all the previous Jewish environments in which I have worked, studied, celebrated or prayed, I was still in a dominant group: straight, white, Jewish with a Jewish spouse, from a Jewish home, etc. It is new to me to be of a minority within a Jewish inclusive environment. So, why am I here, what makes being at BCC feel like home to me and my family? And how can I use that understanding to help attract more families that might find a home at BCC?

I can best share my answer with you by sharing my

investigation of another question. I have been working on developing an opening paragraph for recruitment materials that gives a clear idea of who BCC is and what is unique about this community. I have studied the written materials that we have in our membership packet and have spoken extensively with Felicia and Rabbi Lisa about what defines our community. With each conversation and experience at BCC, I have felt a stronger sense of belonging and certainty that I have found a home for myself on the west coast.

When Rabbi Lisa says that at BCC we care more about the questions than the answers – I say to myself "Yes, I belong here." When Felicia tells me about how we value the concept of "B'tzelem Elohim," that we are all created in God's image, I say to myself, "Yes, I belong here." When BCC speaks out about human rights and issues of equality, I say to myself, "Yes, I belong here." When Rabbi Lisa explains to me that "we assume that our community is stronger and more interesting if people can be themselves and grow into themselves," and that "it takes each of us sharing our version of Torah to create the Torah that we live by", I say to myself, "Yes, I belong here. Yes, I want to teach here and to elicit from children, parents, and friends the Torah that they have to give us."

And most significantly, when week after week my family gets in the car in Claremont in order to come to BCC, and we arrive with my daughter excited to learn more Hebrew and my husband happily anticipating the Torah study for that day, I know that I am happy that my family and I are a part of BCC.

My first step towards using my experience to understand how we might attract more families is to share the experience with you. Hopefully through your conversations with friends, family, neighbors and colleagues you can help us spread the word that BCC now has an educational program that embodies BCC's values and that is open to all Jews (straight or curvy!!) who are excited to share BCC's values.

Sunday March 9th – 2pm-4pm

Please join us for a special reception in the beautiful and child-friendly home of Josh Wayser and Richard Schulte to celebrate our first year of BCC's new Family Education Program. This event will feature presentations by students in the program, showcasing the outstanding learning that is taking place. We will also provide an opportunity for interested families to learn more about BCC's educational offerings for children and families.

All BCC families are encouraged to bring friends and guests. RSVP for address to bcc@bcc-la.org by Thursday, March 6.

Scenes from BCC's family education program Ohr Chayim in January and February 2008



Demonstrate for Darfur

Rabbinic Intern Joe Hample



PHOTO: BARRY WENDELL

China, host of this year's Summer Olympics, is also the main supporter of Sudan, a country which is massacring its own minority citizens in the Darfur region. Jewish World Watch is encouraging synagogues to protest this genocide and to pressure China to change its Sudan policy before the Olympics.

On Friday, March 7, at noon, BCC will rally at the Chinese consulate in Wilshire Center, 443 Shatto Place. Our picket signs will bear messages such as:

- NEVER AGAIN! GENOCIDE THREATENS US ALL / CHINA FUNDS DARFUR MASSACRE
- YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD CRIES OUT TO ME FROM THE GROUND (Gen. 4:10)
- DARFURI PLAGUES, CHINESE PHARAOH / 200,000 KILLED SINCE 2003
- YOU SHALL NOT STAND IDLY OVER YOUR NEIGHBOR'S BLOOD (Lev. 19:16)

Please join us if your schedule permits. If you have questions, please contact Student Rabbi Joe Hample through the BCC office.

Reconsidering the High Holiday Supplement

Rabbinic Intern Joe Hample

There are only six short months till the High Holidays. What do you expect to pray for in 5769? What will you need to atone for? Why is the Machzor (High Holiday prayerbook) full of material that strains belief? What's missing from the Machzor that ought to be there? Most important: Why does the Machzor open from right to left, while the BCC supplement opens from left to right?

Please help us address these and related issues in an open-ended series of workshops. This program is partly adult education, partly a task force to revise the BCC High Holiday supplement. Our first meeting is from 3 to 5 pm on Saturday, March 8. If you have questions, please contact Student Rabbi Joe Hample through the BCC office.

Tikkun Olam Events at BCC

Avram Chill

On Friday, March 7 at noon, in conjunction with Jewish World Watch, BCC will be demonstrating in front of the Chinese Consulate at 443 Shatto Place near downtown Los Angeles. China is the main purchaser of oil from Sudan, and Sudan is the main financier of the violence and starvation in Darfur. The Jewish community is united in the belief that genocide must never be allowed to happen again, and to realize that belief we need to make our voices heard. Signs will have been made at BCC on February 15th. For further details see Joe Hample's column above.

The following Shabbat, March 14, Robin Podolsky will be giving the drash on healthcare in Los Angeles and how it relates to Jewish values. Robin has taught at BCC before and is an aide to State Senator Sheila Kuehl. There will be time for a discussion after services.

On April 18 we will have a speaker on food, hunger and Jewish values. This is part of our continuing series of Shabbat evening presentations and discussions on various issues of tikkun olam. If you have any questions, please email Avram Chill at hagolem@sbcglobal.net.

The Pledge

Felicia Park-Rogers

This past fall my partner and I celebrated our 15th anniversary. Wow! We've had many happy years together, but to be honest, it wasn't exactly love at



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

first sight. We met about six months before we first started dating. Rachel didn't really notice me, but slowly I started noticing her, and after a while I couldn't

help but become captivated by her wisdom, her commitment, her sparkly green eyes, and those cute red converse high tops she always wore! The rest, as they say, is history.

How is it we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to get know each other over a long period of time, allowing us to grow from mere acquaintances to partners for life? You guessed it—we were both volunteers! We were volunteering at a queer youth center in San Francisco. After co-leading coming out groups, planning dances for the youth, about a zillion committee meetings, and even a camping

trip, we realized we didn't care about how poorly the meeting was facilitated as long as it provided us an opportunity to be in the same room together.

Why do I share this story with you? This is yet another reminder that this is BCC's Year of the Volunteer. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a pledge form asking you to commit to volunteering with your temple for ten hours before High Holy Days. Please complete it and return it to me. Your temple needs you, so even if you don't meet your Rachel (and if you're looking, I hope you do!), I know you won't regret it!

A Humble List of Volunteer Options...

Come in once a month to take care of the siddurim: take out old flyers, replace missing pages, repair binder covers.

Love plays, music, sports or movies? Organize an occasional activity that is open to the whole congregation.

Join the Green Team—help BCC find economical and environmentally responsible products to use at our temple. Plan something for Earth Day. Help involve the temple and our congregants in reducing our carbon footprints.

In two hours a week or a month you could re-organize our files! We have a treasure trove of files that need to be re-organized since we switched to a computerized membership database.

Want to work from home? Spend time already on the computer? Help us keep our lists current by tracking bounced emails and finding new contact information for people.

Another great project from home—getting names and addresses into a spreadsheet

for the fundraising committee to send solicitations for the silent auction and invitations for the Humanitarian Awards.

...these are just a few of the things we're looking for help with RIGHT NOW. Pick one, call Felicia to craft something to your availability and talent, or dream of something all your own (be it a special Shabbat at BCC or an advanced Talmud Study session or anything of your imagination!). Felicia can be reached at: templdirector@bcc-la.org or 323-931-7023, ext 203

Rabbinic Sightings

BCC's rabbi Lisa Edwards and rabbinic intern Joe Hample are both very active in the greater Los Angeles community. Here are some of the places you might have seen them recently.

In December Joe Hample was a featured guest on KPFK's queer show IMRU talking about Chanukah and Judaism and BCC and LGBT folks. Take a listen! Enter this URL http://www.kpfk.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2101&Itemid=134&lang=en and scroll down to Monday December 16 programs, find IMRU and click either on podcast at the left or "play" on the right, depending on your equipment.

Joe could also be found leining Torah for services at Hebrew Union College.

Rabbi Edwards could be found clapping for BCC member Dr. Bill Resnick and serving on the Honorary Committee, at The Steps to Recovery Gala for Beit T'Shuvah, at the Beverly Hilton.

Her writings were published on several websites and publications: the Human Rights Campaign website, Jewish Mosaic website, Tattoo Zine Website, and in the new version of Kulanu, a publication of the URJ on LGBT inclusion.

Mazel Tov

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

Mark Katz and **Bob Goodman**, who were married in Vancouver in early January. On January 13, they reported "we did something sort of spontaneous and sweet--went to Vancouver last week and got married! Very affirming moment in our lives; we chose the 'legal' route over what would have been a home-based spiritual commitment ceremony. We live the latter every day! Just took Marcus and our witnesses."

Cate Whiting, on the publication of her poem "Yerushalayim" inspired by the BCC trip to Israel in April 2007. You can read her poem at <http://www.thebluejewishyorker.com>.

Ruth Spielman, Harriet Perl and **Ilene Cohen**, for taking part in NPR's "StoryCorps," the "largest oral history project of its kind, creating a growing portrait of who we really are as Americans." **Sylvia Sukop** interviewed Ruth about her growing up in Egypt, England and Israel and later embracing her lesbian identity in England and the U.S. Interviewed by **Tracy Moore**, Harriet spoke about her career as an inspirational teacher of history and English, while Ilene described three decades as a children's librarian who "found her voice" as a puppeteer. Each StoryCorps conversation is archived for generations to come at the Library of Congress. You can listen (or podcast) at <http://www.storycorps.net/listen/>.

Cara Hanes and **Heidi Hale**, on their beautiful nuptials in BCC's very own sanctuary in December, 2007.

Shoshannah Weinreich, age 10, for making the All-Star soccer team for her regional AYSO league!

Dr. Bill Resnick, for being selected by Beit T'Shuvah to receive the 2008 Harriet Award, given in honor of Harriet Rossetto to an individual whose life is devoted to saving Jewish souls, because of his dedicated volunteer service leading groups and providing counseling to staff and clients of Beit T'Shuvah, a residential care center for people struggling with addiction.

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

Welcome to our newest members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members who joined BCC in January.

George Garcia (partner of member Jonathan Falk)

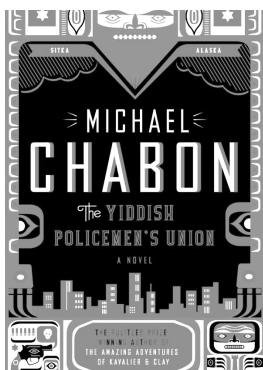
Michelle Huneven (wife of member Jim Potter)

Michael Zeldin

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. Our book discussion is:



Sunday, March 30, at 10:00 a.m

The Yiddish Policemen's Union, by Michael Chabon.

What if Israel failed to achieve its independence in Palestine after World War II, but instead the U.S. gave the Jews a temporary homeland in Alaska? That is the premise of this novel by the author of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. Part murder mystery, part historical fiction, part examination of Jewish identity and community, this novel contains much to discuss and much to ponder.

Please watch for further publicity concerning our April meeting. 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.



L'chayim Legacy Circle chair Ray Eelsing addresses the estate planning workshop on January 27, 2008.

PHOTO: TRACY MOORE

MARCH 2008

ADAR I/ADAR II 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted*</div>						1 Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Children's Learning 11:15 am Adult Learning 12:00 pm Family Service
2 2:00 pm Circle of Life Workshop	3	4	5	6 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	7 12:00 Darfur Protest at Chinese Consulate (see page 8) 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Miri Hunter Haruach	8 10:00 am Ohr Chayim (See March 1) Parent and Me 3:00 pm Joe Hample Reconsidering High Holiday Supplement
9 8:00 am (cook) 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 2:00 pm Ohr Chayim party (private home)	10	11	12 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	13 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study	14 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Student Rabbi Joe Hample Jeff Bernhardt Speaker Robin Podolsky on health care	15 10:00 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Dairy Potluck 11:00 am Project Caring Country Villa Wilshire 855 N. Fairfax
16 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 10:45 am Men's Havurah Brunch and Tour at Skirball (open to all)	17	18	19	EREV PURIM 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Purim Celebration Megillah reading and Cabaret At MCC LA, with Kol Ami	21 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Herb Toplan	22 Purim Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Children's Learning 11:15 am Family Purim activities 12:00 pm Family Megillah telling
23 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>The Yiddish Policeman's Union</i>	24 31	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 and Schmooze 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Drash by Rabbi Edwards	29 Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Children's Learning 11:15 am Adult Learning 12:00 pm Family Service

APRIL 2008

ADAR II/NISAN 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						5 Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Children's Learning 11:15 am Adult Learning 12:00 pm Family Service
		1	2	3 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	4 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Student Rabbi Joe Hample Davi Cheng	12 10:00 Ohr Chayim (see April 5) 11:00 am Project Caring Country Villa Wilshire 3:00 pm Seder-Leading Workshop Joe Hample and Macie Parkhurst
6 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 5:30 pm (private home) Men's Havurah Dinner And Discussion Daniel Mikelberg	7	8	9 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	10 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	11 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Guest Stephanie Valadez	19 10:00 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Dairy Potluck FIRST NIGHT OF PASSOVER
13 8:00 am (cook) 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax		15	16	17 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	18 Shabbat Hagadol 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Robin Berkovitz Tikkun Olam speaker on hunger	
20 FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER (Second Seder in Evening)	21 SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER (BCC closed)	22 EARTH DAY	23 7:00 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 Services Drash by Rabbi Edwards	26 10:00 Shabbat morning service Leah Miller bat mitzvah Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin leading
27 10:00 (private home) BCC Book Group	28	29	30			

SEE **BCC-LA.ORG** FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES.



**BETH
CHAYIM
CHADASHIM**

6000 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA
90035

What do
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"Always in Our Hearts" Lives On!

We are thrilled to announce that high quality video and audio recordings of the farewell and tribute concert "*Always In Our Hearts*" from December 2007 honoring BCC's Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin are now available for purchase. The moving tribute montage created by BCC member Pam Postrel is also available. Order forms are at the temple and on-line. Purchase all three for just \$30. We will mail your purchase to you.

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INFORMATION, CONTACT LARRY NATHENSON AT

Larrynath@aol.com.