

From the Rabbi's Study... Erwin Herman – BCC's Founding Rabbi



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

The following is the hesped (eulogy) delivered by Rabbi Lisa Edwards on behalf of BCC for Rabbi Erwin Herman on

April 6, 2008 in Poway, California. BCC will further honor Rabbi Herman's memory at our annual Humanitarian Awards Brunch on May 18, with one of the two awards being named for him and his wife, Agnes. The brunch was featured in the last issue of G'vanim, and additional information can be found on page 3 in this issue.

According to legend, in 1972 the Rev. Troy Perry approached Rabbi Erwin Herman, then the regional director of the UAHC (now URJ, Union for Reform Judaism). Rev. Perry called him to say there were five Jews participating in the Rev. Perry's newly forming congregation – the Metropolitan Community Church – MCC – the first congregation of any religion founded as a religious home for gays and lesbians. "I'm happy to have these Jews in my congregation," Rev. Perry reportedly said to Rabbi Herman, "but it seems to me that they ought to be founding a synagogue instead of going to church!" Without hesitation Rabbi Herman agreed, and at that very moment began a long and loving relationship between the Hermans and the members of what would first be

called The Metropolitan Community Temple (MCT), and soon became Beth Chayim Chadashim (BCC) – House of New Life. That was 36 years ago, by the way – BCC this year celebrates not only our 36th anniversary of existence, but the 36th anniversary of our friendship with the Hermans.

In an interview Joel Kushner had with Erv not long before he died, Joel asked if there was one event that stands out from all the rest, and received this reply: "If in my rabbinate, which now numbers 58 years, I have



Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman

accomplished nothing else, the experience of being part of Congregation Beth Chayim Chadashim in its birth and its constantly maturing development, is my 'Dayenu'."

I wish Erv had lived to know how moving that statement was to our congregation when I read it to them a month ago. But Erv, how appropriate

that we come together on Rosh Chodesh Nissan, as we walk toward Passover and enter z'man kheiruteinu – the season of our freedom.

For those of us at BCC and in the LGBT community have a few 'dayenus' of our own:

Had he helped found BCC, and not come with his wife Agnes to lead its first services for the Days of Awe in 1972 – Dayenu – It would have been enough for us.

Had he led High Holy Days, and not seen to it (with lots of behind the scenes politicking) that BCC was accepted into the UAHC in 1974, the first mainstream religious organization – and for many years the one – to accept a gay and lesbian congregation into its midst – Dayenu!

Had he seen to it that BCC was accepted into the UAHC, and not helped us secure a Shoah survivor Torah – Dayenu!

Had he helped us obtain a Holocaust Torah, and not worked to organize Jewish leaders to help defeat CA Proposition 6 in 1978, which would have banned gays and lesbians from teaching in public schools – Dayenu!

Had he worked against prop 6, and not, with Ag, been tireless advocates for LGBT inclusion since 1969 – Dayenu! It would have been enough.

Ag and Erv liked to tell the story

Continued on Page 2

of their coming to the newly formed Beth Chayim Chadashim, the House of New Life, to lead services for the Days of Awe. They tell how they arrived at the front steps of the meeting place for this new shul, and looked up to see a crowd of people smiling down at them. And then, they say, the whole crowd just spontaneously started down the steps to greet them and escort them into the building. They claim it was the warmest greeting they ever received.

Ag, you and Erv must have known – didn't you? – that it was surely to your smiles, to your open hands and open hearts, that the folks at BCC were responding.

If Erv and Ag had done all that they have done and not been endlessly embracing in the process – dayenu! It would have been enough, but thank God it was more, for what a blessing, what a gift, that their vision of inclusion is also how they lived.

Given all this it should come as no surprise that long ago BCC named its annual award "The Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award."

Poet and essayist Irena Klepfisz

wrote a speech on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, where her father had died a hero. What she wrote then about that strikes me also as a description of Erv Herman's values, a true description of the gift he gave the congregants of BCC and so many others he encountered through his 58 years in the rabbinate: "Ordinariness," wrote Klepfisz, "is the most precious thing we struggle for, what the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto fought for. Not noble causes or abstract theories. But the right to go on living with a sense of purpose and a sense of self-worth – an ordinary life."

It takes an extraordinary person, a person like Rabbi Erwin Herman, to help instill a sense of purpose and self-worth in others. It takes an extraordinary person, a person like Erv Herman, to treasure an ordinary life.

Rest in peace, Rabbi Herman, rest in peace, Erv, knowing your presence on this Earth made so great a difference, and brought so many blessings to so many lives.

Zikhrone livrachra

May his memory be for a blessing.

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Temple Office Hours:

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Friday 9:00 – 4:00 pm

Phone: (323) 931-7023 • Fax: (323) 931-1490

e-mail: bcc@bcc-la.org

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.

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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.



BCC Awards Brunch Kicks Off Double Chai Anniversary, Features Rising Star Chadwick and Comedian Judy Carter

The 2008 Humanitarian Awards Brunch on May 18 will be extra special because it kicks off BCC's Double Chai (36th) anniversary year. The Sofitel Hotel Los Angeles will be the setting for this gala event. We will honor two highly accomplished BCC members, Steven Koltai and Dr. Allison Diamant, with our Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award and our Presidents' Award.

Steven's and Allison's long lists of professional and community service activities were featured in the last issue of G'vanim. But even in the last two months, they have continued to add to their good deeds. Steven recently returned from a humanitarian trip with his alma mater Tufts University. He is highlighted on the website <http://www.tufts.edu/home/feature/>.

We are very excited to have as our MC for the brunch the lesbian comedian Judy Carter. She started her career as a magician and later as a stand-up comic, appearing on over one hundred television shows. Ten years ago she formed Comedy Workshop Productions, a school for wanna-be comics. Carter also produces the annual California Comedy Conference, which is attended by top Hollywood VIPs including executives from HBO, Warner Bros, William Morris Agency and others. She is the author of



Chadwick



Judy Carter

corporate and college speaker and workshop leader. She has inspired thousands of people to use humor to deal with change, increase sales and punch up speeches – in

short, to turn problems into punchlines. Carter has also organized a wide variety of fund-raising events, such as "HIV: Humor is Vital," – a comedy workshop for people living with AIDS. In addition, she has worked with groups such as Wellness Community cancer patients and Cedars Sinai social workers. Carter is also a passionate snowboarder and phenomenal matzo-ball soup maker. Her cat and two dogs allow her to share their home in Venice, CA.

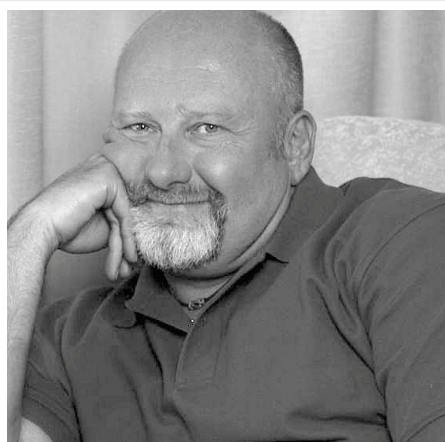
In addition, BCC is proud to welcome one of LA's rising stars as a performer at our Brunch this year. Vocalist and recording artist Chadwick is making his mark on the Los Angeles music scene. He has collaborated with many influential songwriters and film composers such as Allan Rich, Michael Jay, Art Reynolds, and Christopher Farrell. Using Chadwick as the voice for their creative energies, many of their compositions have been placed within commercial media. Chadwick also performs weekly in many of the hottest pop and jazz venues in the greater Los Angeles area.

Chadwick recently recorded the title track, "One Helluva Ride," written by Christopher Farrell, for the new documentary, "Steve McQueen, An American Rebel". In the summer of 2007,

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Presidents' Award recipient Dr. Allison Diamant



Humanitarian Award recipient Steven Koltai

And Allison was recently featured on the KPCC radio broadcast of the Pat Morrison show discussing the impact of state budget cuts for Medi-Cal on our state's most vulnerable patients. To listen to the program go to Pat Morrison's archive for March 24, 2008: http://www.scpr.org/programs/pattmorrison/listings/2008/03/pattmorrison_20080324.shtml

Standup Comedy: The Book (Dell Books, 1989), which has sold over 150,000 copies. Her latest book – The Comedy Bible (Simon & Schuster; September 2001) – is the definitive guide to making a career out of making people laugh.

Carter's expertise at teaching others to use comedy to transform their lives and careers has created a nationwide demand for her as a

Machzor Workshop

Student Rabbi Joe Hample



PHOTO: BARRY WENDELL

Do we really cancel all vows on Yom Kippur? How can we confess sins we haven't committed? What are God's thirteen attributes? Why do we recount the ancient Yom Kippur ritual of the High Priest? Help us unravel these and related issues in our Machzor (High Holiday Prayerbook) Workshop, 3:00 to

5:00 pm on Saturday, May 10. We welcome your ideas for refreshing BCC's High Holiday observance. If you have questions, please contact Student Rabbi Joe Hample through the BCC office.

(continued from page 3), **Awards Brunch**

Chadwick wrote, co-produced, and released his highly anticipated independent album, "Addicted." True to his heart, Chadwick continues to impassion his audience with the soul and sincerity of his music, while remaining on the cutting edge of the entertainment industry.

Learn more about Chadwick, and hear samples of his music at www.chadwickmusic.com.

Additional information about BCC's 36th anniversary year can be found in Felicia's column in this issue. On a sadder note, this will be our first Awards Brunch since the passing of Rabbi Erwin Herman, for whom one of our awards is named. Rabbi Edwards's moving eulogy for Rabbi Herman is reprinted on page 1 of this issue.

BCC's annual Awards Brunch is known for its warmth and excitement and is an excellent opportunity for BCC members and friends of the honorees to express their unique appreciation of them in the Commemorative Album. The 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. You can help make the 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. Invitations with information about the Commemorative Album and Sponsor and Host opportunities have been mailed. For further information or to volunteer for any of the many tasks needed for this event, please contact Cecilia Quigley at mceciliaq@sbcglobal.net.

Find your Piece of Torah on Shavuot with BCC

Rabbi Lisa Edwards

According to the midrash, every Jew possesses a unique piece of the Torah. Thus, until every Jewish soul is included, the Jewish people and the Torah remain incomplete. What is your piece of Torah? Find out on Shavuot at BCC, Sunday night June 8 – all night!

Join us then for our annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot observance. After a yizkor (memorial) and festival service, we'll gather for the LA premier of a new dramatic presentation and learning piece by BCC's own Jeff Bernhardt.

Many of us remember Jeff's powerful, post 9/11 Selichot drama "Who shall Live?" which premiered at BCC in 2002. Jeff's new piece – "Standing at Sinai" – is a dramatic presentation designed to trigger a conversation about our individual and

communal relationships to Torah and to God. We will follow it up with guided break-out discussions and activities.

As always we invite you to all or part of the evening – and, as always, there will be those of us who stay all night – following the tradition of a full night of learning in celebration and preparation for "receiving the Torah," bringing our pieces for the magnificent quilt of Torah still being woven by the Jewish people.

Yizkor 6:30 pm

Festival service 7:00 pm

"Standing at Sinai" 8:30 pm

Study all night

Please bring dairy/vegetarian refreshments to share –

BCC's New Women's Havurah Has a Full Schedule of Events

Donna Groman

I no longer have penis envy. I have my own havurah now, the Women's Havurah. I don't have to long for activities such as those set up for the men of BCC. Now we have our own havurah! BCC's new Women's Havurah has some great events planned for May and June:

**Saturday, May 3, 8 p.m.
at Getty Museum, Harold Williams
Auditorium-Selected Shorts: A
Celebration of the Short Story**

Join us for a mysterious weekend with Selected Shorts, when the celebrated series returns to the Getty with a dashing lineup of elegant crime tales and gritty, hardboiled detective stories. Actors from stage, screen and television read modern, edge-of-your-seat spine-tinglers from The Best American Mysteries including Gleason by Louise Erdrich and Going, Going, Gone by Peter

Blauner that will have you holding your breath. Produced by New York's Symphony Space. Tickets \$20; \$15 students/seniors. Parking is \$8. Contact Donna regarding dinner at 6:00 before the event

**Saturday, May 31, 6 p.m.
at BCC -**

Women's Havurah Game Night

Back by popular demand is an evening full of fun board games (yes, including mah jongg). Bring your favorite board game. We will supply the pizza, salad, and snacks. Cost is \$10. Please RSVP to dlgroman@hotmail.com so we know how much pizza to order!

**Sunday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
at Zuma Beach**

Relax, play, and schmooze at Zuma Beach with the Women's Havurah. Bring food,

shade, coolers, and beach toys for a day of fun. Please RSVP to dlgroman@hotmail.com so I can send you specific directions on how to locate the group at Zuma and directions to beach parking.

**Sunday, June 22, 6:30 p.m.
at Staples Center**

Los Angeles Sparks vs. Indiana - game time is 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to dlgroman@hotmail.com as I will be purchasing tickets for our group. Let me know if you are interested in meeting for an early dinner before the game at 5 pm somewhere close to Staples Center.

If anyone has suggestions for future activities, please e-mail me at dlgroman@hotmail.com. In Khavershaft - Donna Groman, BCC Vice President

Tikkun Olam Opportunities for Men and Women

(Sponsored by Women's Havurah)

Sunday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Big Sunday Volunteering (men included)

The Women's Havurah invites everyone to join us for all or part of the day in a Big Sunday activity. Volunteers from all across Los Angeles participate in a citywide event that pairs volunteer labor with over 250 nonprofit organizations. The projects in past years have included building homes, planting flowers and trees, mentoring young people, cleanup of trash and graffiti, and visiting the elderly. We will be working alongside the Omar Foundation and Hebrew Union College (partners at USC's Center for Muslim-Jewish Engagement). We will be collecting and sorting clothes and books for disadvantaged people. The address for the Omar Foundation where we will be volunteering is: 1025 W. Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007. You can view the information for this activity at <http://www.bigsunday.org/projects/display/id/0266/> or learn more about Big Sunday at www.bigsunday.org. Please RSVP to dlgroman@hotmail.com - Donna is registering BCC volunteers as a group.

Sunday, June 1, 9 a.m. to 12 noon - Walk for Darfur (men included)

Walk to raise support and awareness for the survivors of the Darfur genocide at the Jewish Federation Valley Alliance, West Hills. Please register at <http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/walkfordarfur/08/> as a team member of Team BCC. Please e-mail me at dlgroman@hotmail.com so I can keep track of everyone who is going from BCC.

20s/30's Havurah Hike & Brunch

David Mozes

On Sunday, May 4, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, all 20's and 30's BCC members are welcome to join for a morning of enjoying the beautiful outdoors with a refreshing hike through Runyon Canyon. Afterwards we'll reward our efforts with a delicious self-pay brunch at the French restaurant Comme Ca. This event is for ALL GENDERS so everyone's invited! Further details (including a meeting location) will be sent to our email distribution list. If you would like to receive details about this or any other 20/30's Havurah events, please write to 2030.mens.havurah@gmail.com and you will be added. Hope to see you there!

BCC The Color of Blessings

Leah Zimmerman



If you were to visit Ohr Chayim's Family Service on any particular Shabbat, you would notice that during our family service, we use the

large poster board size siddur pages in front of the group. You would notice on each board the words of the tefilah (prayer) and then various illustrations of the text. As part of our Ohr Chayim program we illustrate the boards as a group project once we have explored the kavannah, the intention or meaning of the text. The activities and conversations that lead to the creation of our siddur pages yield surprising gems. This month I am inviting you to participate in one of these discussions.

Recently on Shabbat, we started talking about the prayer the Barchu. This is the prayer that opens the Shacharit (Morning) service with a call and response from the leader to the congregation. The leader says – "Bless the Eternal the blessed." The Congregation responds, "Blessed is the Eternal the blessed forever and ever." It sounds stilted and somewhat silly in my literal translation. But, in Hebrew the word play with the root verb, in this case, bet, resh, chaf, meaning "bless" is quite a bit more poetic.

After looking for the root word and discussing its meaning, we turned towards exploring our personal connections to the text. What color does the idea or word "blessing" make you think of?

As you the reader continue to read this article, what color are you associating with blessings? Do you have just one color in mind, or more than one color?

Each participant ripped a piece of colored construction paper that matched the color they had in mind and placed the paper in the circle. As we went around in the circle listening to each other, we learned a lot about our ideas about blessings and the variety of ways which we interpret and internalize the concept. As you get ready to read some of what we shared, mark for yourself the color that you currently have in mind.

I shared first. I associate the colors light blue and light yellow with blessings. I think of brachot as wisps of white floating up to the sky as if they were floating in the reverse path of a falling feather.

Are you the reader surprised by this image? Does it match your idea of a blessing? Does it conflict with your idea of a blessing? Until we begin to share our associations and thoughts, we often imagine that we all think of blessings the same way.

Another participant in our circle shared that she associated blessings with

the color purple. She explained that she found purple soothing and when she thinks of how or ways that she has been blessed she relaxes and thinks of the color purple. Is this closer to what you were thinking? Does it spark a thought or a new idea for you?

I will share here only a couple more ideas with you. This should give you an idea of how we use personal connections to these concepts in our program, and how individual our interpretations are. Hopefully, you are inspired to think for yourself of what color and what meaning you associate with the word "blessing."

One participant shared that she thought of a blessing as a color that cooled or warmed the object of the blessing and brought the object back to neutral. If her car was overheated and malfunctioning, she thought of a blessing that enabled her to get with her car to safety as a cool color.

Another participant shared that she thought of blessings as gold because they radiate a glowing energy.

Come visit our family service to see or hear more about our colors, how we have illustrated our siddur page for Barchu or to share with us your own insights. Our service happens at 12pm on Shabbat mornings that are not the third Shabbat of the month or the weekend of a major holiday. Our May and June dates will be May 3, 10, and 31 and June 7.



BCC's renewed Israeli dancing after Ruach Chayim services, Feb. 28, 2008, led by well-known dance instructor and long-time BCC member David Katz (left in circle)

PHOTOS: SYLVIA SUKOP



Dance instructor David Katz (right front) leading an Israeli line dance.



President's Message: Can You Help?

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE



As president for the last two and a half years, I've been privileged to witness up close the dynamic growth of BCC and the increasing levels of vibrancy and

excitement that have accompanied it. We've introduced new types of Friday night services, and a telephone Shabbat service and minyan (for those who are unable to come to BCC). We inaugurated the 20s and 30s Women's and Men's Havurot, and restarted our Women's Havurah (open to women of all ages). We've expanded our social action activities and introduced the L'Chayim Legacy Circle, to recognize all those who have remembered BCC in their estate plans. A religious school has been established and we undertook an extraordinarily successful "Home for the Future" capital campaign, which has raised over three and a quarter million dollars! And, we have begun the search for a new home to house our expanding programs and services.

All of this would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our clergy, staff, and member volunteers. I continue to be amazed by how much time and energy the board of directors, committee chairs, and committee members devote to keeping everything running so

smoothly. With all this activity at BCC, though, our current volunteer base is being stretched thin. That's where my request comes in: could you please help?

If you aren't currently involved as a volunteer, would you please consider sharing some of your time with BCC? We've got a wide range of volunteer opportunities, many of which involve only a limited time commitment. Among the opportunities are: greeting before Friday night services, helping at an individual service and event, working with our religious school teachers, helping compile our membership directory, and working with our office staff. Even if you can only give a few hours a month, we need you!

Volunteering is a great way to get to know your fellow congregants and develop a greater sense of closeness with our shared community. On that score I have personal experience. Before I began volunteering at BCC (as a member of the Education Committee in the mid-

Brett Trueman, President

80's) I didn't know a lot of members. After joining the committee I quickly developed many friendships, most of which remain strong after 20 years. I gained much more from volunteering than I ever would have imagined; it has made a tremendous difference in my life.

Either I or another member of the board will be approaching you in the near future to ask for your help. When we do, please say yes. Please give some of your time to ensure BCC's continued growth and vibrancy. Working together, we have already accomplished so much. Let's keep the momentum going!

Please feel free to e-mail me (at president@bcc-la.org) or catch up with me at Friday night services if you have a particular activity for which you'd like to volunteer. Remember, no volunteer task is too small.

Kol tuv (all the best),
Brett

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BCC's Double Chai Anniversary

Felicia Park-Rogers

Some revolutions start with a bang, and some start with a whimper. The year of 1972 was a banging year—Nixon won re-election and the investigations leading

to his eventual resignation were already beginning. Kissinger was secretly meeting with the Vietnamese leadership in France; the risqué film Cabaret swept

the Oscars; the feminist and gay liberation movements were in full swing; the backlash that would become the "Moral Majority" was fomenting.

Quietly tucked away in a gay church in Los Angeles, a small group of gay and lesbian Jews were praying together and decided (with some prodding from the Reverend Troy Perry) to start their own prayer group. The first service of what we now call Beth Chayim Chadashim (House of New Life) took place on June 9, 1972 in the home of Jerry Gordon with 15 people in attendance. It was not much longer until Rabbi Erwin Herman, z'l, in his capacity as Regional Director of the UAHC (now URJ) provided institutional and rabbinical

support, as did our friends at MCC and later Leo Baeck Temple. And so the revolution of integrating openly LGBT Jews into organized Jewish life, and organized Jewish life into the lives of LGBT people, began!

This June 9 marks the 36th anniversary of that first service. This year BCC will celebrate our very special lucky, double chai anniversary. You will see our beautiful special 36th anniversary logo, created by congregant Davi Cheng, on our publications. We will add special anniversary elements to the celebration of our outstanding honorees Allison Diamant and Steven Koltai at our annual Humanitarian Awards Brunch on May 18. We will have special programming throughout the year: looking back; celebrating our current achievements; and looking forward to our next 36 years.

Sometimes it is easy to take all that we have achieved in such a short time for granted. Or to be upset by all that remains undone. My anniversary wish for our community this year is that we make time as a community to celebrate all that is and to agitate for all that yet needs to be achieved in order to secure our equal rights.

If you are one of our founders, or from our very early years, please be in touch with me by phone or email, we would like to hear from you!

Request from Rabbi Edwards

Especially since Fran is now BCC's Cantorial Soloist emerita, I am looking for congregants who want to help other congregants in times of need. So many of us do whatever we can when we hear of another BCCer taken ill, or injured, or in grief over the loss of a loved one. Your responses to difficult times are among the things I treasure about our congregation. I don't always even know when you are being there for each other.

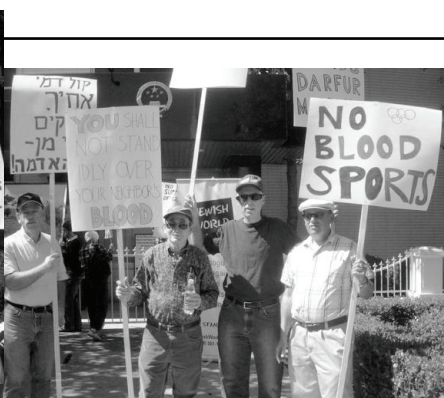
I'd like to know though, and I would also like to gather a group of folks that I can turn to when I need assistance in supporting others. If you have interest in becoming part of a hesed (loving-kindness) group, please contact me or Evelyn Poplawski (laiedebug@hotmail.com). Of course we all have different strengths and availabilities, and those can be determined later. For now I'm just seeking an indication of your interest in helping out when others reach out. Thank You!



PHOTO: KEINIA LOVE



Student Rabbi Joe Hample with Darfur protest signs



Avram Chill, Jerry Nodiff, Joe Hample, and Barry Wendell with Darfur protest signs



BCC Tikkun Olam chair Avram Chill with Hebrew protest sign



Rabbi Edwards, Jerry Nodiff, Joe Hample (kneeling), Barry Wendell, Gavriella Rut, Avram Chill, and Sue Terry at March 7 Darfur protest at Chinese consulate

ALL PHOTOS: BARRY WENDELL

Gay Ol' Jewish Hollywood Film Series

Curated by Rabbi Edwards

*Come out of the heat and into the
cool for our summer weekday
matinee program!*

*This summer Rabbi Edwards will
handpick four films to screen at BCC.
We'll provide the popcorn and the
air conditioning—you bring your
favorite beverage!*

*The first two dates are:
Wednesday, June 4, 2008 3-5pm
Wednesday, June 18, 2008 3-5pm
Stay tuned for the movie titles and the
July dates in the e-bulletin.*

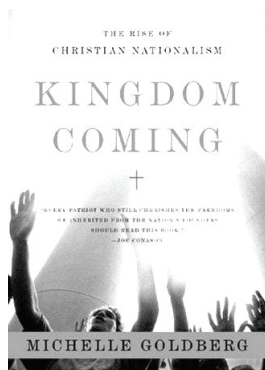
*Please RSVP to bcc@bcc-la.org so we
have the popcorn ready for you!*

*FREE to members—
\$5 for non-members.*

BCC Book Group

Larry Nathenson

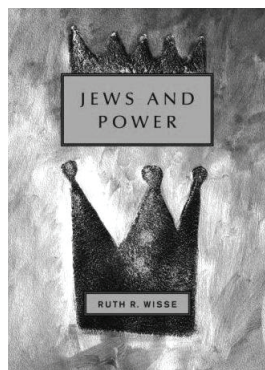
For over ten years, BCC members and friends have gathered in private homes for monthly potluck brunches and discussion of books selected by the group. Fiction and non-fiction, historical and contemporary, American and Israeli, the books read by the group include something for everyone's tastes and interests. Our next two book discussions are:



Sunday, May 25, at 10:00 a.m

Kingdom Coming, by Michelle Goldberg

An in-depth look at the Christian fundamentalist movement today, its wide-ranging goals, its ties to the Republican party, and its reliance on wedge issues such as same-sex marriage, by a self-proclaimed "secular Jew and ardent urbanite" who is "terrified by America's increasing hostility to... cosmopolitan values."



Sunday, June 29, at 10:00 a.m

Jews and Power, by Ruth Wisse

An analysis of Jewish relationships to political power during the 2000 years of Diaspora when we had little or none, and the impact on Israeli and Jewish politics since 1948.

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.

Remembering Robin Taback

Those who were part of the BCC community 20 years ago or more will remember Robin Taback, one of our early cantorial soloists in the 1980s. Robin moved to Israel in 1989 with her husband, Yonatan Ariel, and had two children, Ben and Shalev. She passed away only two years later of breast cancer, at the young age of 31.

Robin's mother, Lou Ann Taback, has started a website dedicated to Robin's memory, <http://www.robintaback.com/> and a posthumous recording of some of Robin's music. All proceeds from the CD will be donated to the Israel Cancer Research Fund, the Oncology Department of Hadassah, Sharsheret, a support group for young Jewish women diagnosed with breast cancer, or to the Temple Beth Tikvah Project Legacy Fund in Robin's memory. Music clips and more information can be found on the website. Our own Rabbi Lisa Edwards is one of the sponsoring rabbis for the project.

Mazel Tov

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

Leah Miller, daughter of Danny Miller and stepdaughter of **Kendall Hailey**, on becoming a bat mitzvah on Saturday, April 26.

Cate Whiting and Vanessa Eisemann, who welcomed their son Benjamin Jacob Whiting-Eisemann into the world at 4:30 am, April 1, 2008/25 Adar II 5768. He was 21 inches and 8 lbs., 4 ozs.

Josh Wayser and Richard Schulte, who welcomed their fifth child, Isaac Daniel Schulte-Wayser, into the world on Friday April 4, 2008/28 Adar II 5768. Siblings Julie, Derek, AJ, and Shayna are thrilled!

Daniel Mikelberg, BCC's former rabbinic intern, on his graduation and ordination this month at Hebrew Union College and his acceptance of a position as assistant rabbi at his home synagogue in Vancouver, Canada. We will miss Daniel, and we wish him well in his new career.

New BCC member **Dr. Michael Zeldin**, Professor of Jewish Education and Director of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC, who called for bold experimentation and innovation in Jewish Education in the Founders Day Address delivered in Los Angeles on February 26. Dr. Zeldin encouraged educators, rabbis and lay champions of Jewish education to think in new ways about the purpose and content of Jewish education.

Zsa Zsa Gershick, whose play "Bluebonnet Court" was successfully premiered in March by the Moxie Theatre in San Diego.

Rabbi Lisa Edwards, who was a featured guest speaker for LifeWorks, a program in West Hollywood for queer youth.

Allan Kaprow, formerly married to BCC Member **Vaughan Rachel**, who is having a retrospective of his work at MOCA's downtown exhibition space, the Geffen Contemporary (152 N. Central Ave). Also, on May 3 at 2:30 pm Vaughan will be participating in an interactive installation, "Trade Talk" by Suzanne Lacy, Michael Rotondi and Peter Kirby. Vaughan will be speaking with Sylvia Simpson for about a half hour on one of Kaprow's activities; afterwards BCC members are invited to join her in a walk-through of the exhibition. The entrance fee is \$8 per person and \$5 for seniors and students, parking is self-pay in surrounding lots.

Arlan Wareham, longtime BCC member now living in Safed, Israel with his partner **David Fyffe**, whose latest album of organ music, "Emet V'Shalom", is now selling on CD Baby and should soon also be available on iTunes. Arlan's album consists entirely of arrangements of Jewish melodies, and is named for the Reform congregation in Nahariya, Israel, of which they are members. Here's the link to the page on CD Baby where you can read all about it (and also follow links to check out his other albums): <http://cdbaby.com/cd/arlanwareham6>. Or you can search on iTunes for Arlan's name, where it's cheaper for you but Arlan actually makes more money, and you can download individual tracks. Arlan is now working on another album, which will consist of arrangements of old favorite American songs. His earlier albums include Aliyah (almost entirely Jewish music), Five Centuries (with some Jewish music including an organ transcription of a choral setting of "Ein Keloheinu" by 17th century Jewish-Italian composer Salamone Rossi), and Arlan's own "Torah Service Symphony" based on melodies from the Torah service.

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



PHOTO: MIKE HALSTATER

Former BCC student rabbi and soon to be ordained rabbi Daniel Mikelberg, leading a Talmud discussion at the Men's Havurah dinner on April 6, 2008.

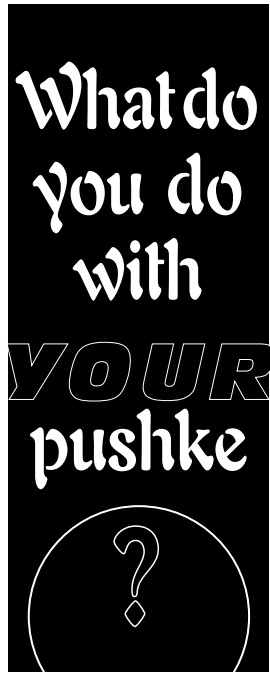
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All events at BCC unless otherwise noted*				1 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	2 YOM HASHOAH 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbinic Intern Joe Hample Barry Wendell Drash by Daniel Mikelberg on Social Justice Coalitions	3 Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Children's Learning 11:15 am Adult Learning 12:00 pm Family Service 8:00 pm Women's Havurah at the Getty (see page 5)
4 10:00 am Women's Havurah Big Sunday volunteering (men included, see page 5) 10:00 am 20s/30s Havurah Hike and Brunch Runyon Canyon (see page 5)	5	6	7 YOM HAZIKARON (Israel Memorial Day)	8 YOM HAATZMAUT (Israel Independence Day) 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	9 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Davi Cheng B'chol Lashon (Jewish Multicultural think tank)	10 10:00 am Ohr Chayim Parent and Me Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Project Caring 855 N. Fairfax 3:00 pm Joe Hample Reconsidering High Holiday Supplement
11 MOTHER'S DAY	12	13	14 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	15 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	16 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Fran Chalin Drash by Marie-Jeanne Lambert and Sandy Rubenstein for 25th anniversary and Sandy's ordination	17 10:00 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Dairy Potluck
18 10:30 Silent Auction, 12:00 Humanitarian Awards Brunch Sofitel Hotel LA 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup , 330 N. Fairfax	19	20	21	22 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Cancelled	23 8:00 pm Shabbat Services To Be Determined	24
25 10:00 BCC Book Group Kingdom Coming (private home)	26 MEMORIAL DAY (BCC Closed)	27 Student Rabbi Joe Hample leaves for summer	28 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	29 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	30 Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments and Schmooze 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Drash by Rabbi Edwards	31 Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Children's Learning 11:15 am Adult Learning 12:00 pm Family Service 6:00 Women's Havurah Game Night (see page 5)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 9:00 am Walk for Darfur West Hills Jewish Federation (see page 5)	2	3	4 3:00 pm at BCC Summer Film Series Rabbi Edwards	5 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	6 PRIDE SHABBAT 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Gay Gezunt Klezmer Band	7 Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Children's Learning 11:15 am Adult Learning 12:00 pm Family Service
8 10:30 Pride Interfaith Service West Hollywood 10:00 Women's Havurah Zuma Beach (see page 5) Tikkun Leil Shavuot 6:30 Yizkor, 7:00 Service 8:30 "Standing at Sinai"	9 SHAVUOT	10	11 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	12 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	13 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Stefani Valadez Drash by Zsa Zsa Gershick and Elissa Barrett	14 11:00 am Project Caring Country Villa Wilshire
15 FATHER'S DAY	16	17	18 3:00 pm at BCC Summer Film Series Rabbi Edwards	19 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	20 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Student Rabbi Ethan Blair	21 10:00 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Dairy Potluck
22 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 6:30 pm Women's Havurah Sparks game, Staples Center	23	24	25 7:00 Board of Directors Meeting	26 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	27 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Jeff Bernhardt Robin Berkovitz	28
29 10:00 BCC Book Group Jews and Power (private home)	30					



**BETH
CHAYIM
CHADASHIM**

6000 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA
90035



"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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Larrynath@aol.com.