

## Cantor Porat's Installation "This is My Arrival"

So sang Cantor Juval Porat in his original composition, "Arrival," which he premiered at his installation service on Friday, June 18. The sanctuary at BCC was filled to the rafters that evening, literally standing room only (as some discovered when they came late), for BCC's first clergy installation since Rabbi Lisa Edwards 16 years ago. Formally welcoming Cantor Porat to the BCC



PHOTO: SYLVIA SUKOP

community were Rabbi Edwards and Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin. In an evening filled with song, Fran was reunited with the BCC choir to conduct several

blessings and prayers for the occasion. Also gracing our bimah were guest cantors Sam Radwine and David Berger, and pianists Tamara Kline-Rivera and Jeanelle LaMance. One of the highlights of the evening was an original melody composed by Cantor Radwine for "Yismekhu v' Malkhuta," sung with Fran and the choir.

Other dignitaries in attendance included Wolfgang Drautz, consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany and his colleagues Daniella Sonntag and Jana Henrich, Rabbi Alan Henkin of the Union for Reform Judaism, Rabbi Sanford Ragins, emeritus of Leo Baeck Temple and a longtime BCC supporter, and newly ordained Rabbi Lindy Davidson (our most recent student rabbi).

The celebration continued on Saturday evening, June 19, with a festive garden reception at the home of BCC member Dean Hansell in Hancock Park. Guests enjoyed sumptuous desserts, a Havdalah service, more songs by Cantor Porat and Tamara, and some heartfelt words by consul Drautz about how impressed he and his colleagues were with Cantor Porat and BCC's family spirit during both evenings.

More inside: Cantor Porat's drash and Rabbi Edwards's remarks on pages 5-7, and photos on page 13.

## Humanitarian Awards Brunch BCC on the Walk of Fame

Larry Nathenson

230 BCC members, family, and friends gathered on Sunday, May 23 at the elegant new W Hotel at Hollywood and Vine, just steps from the Walk of Fame. Honoring three highly deserving BCC members for their selfless devotion to BCC and the larger community, this year's Humanitarian Awards Brunch raised \$140,000 to support BCC's ongoing programs and services, including \$24,000 from the silent auction. All of these numbers are BCC record breakers!

Following welcoming remarks by Brunch co-chairs Lauren Schlau and Mark Farber, the formal program



PHOTO: AMELIA WEINMAN

Honorees Kenna Love, Bill Resnick, Hannah Theile

began with our own Rabbi Lisa Edwards as emcee. She joked that she overcame her fears of serving in this role by realizing that she serves as an emcee for God on Friday nights! BCC Cantor Juval Porat and member Tamara Kline-Rivera also entertained us with renditions of "The Climb" by Jessi Alexander and Jon Mabe (sung by Miley Cyrus in Hannah Montana) and "Because" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

The first award of the day was presented by BCC President Bruce Maxwell to Wells Fargo Bank in recognition of its outstanding commitment to diversity and philanthropic support of non-profit organizations. Wells Fargo is the largest corporate donor to non-profits in Los Angeles and among the top five in the U.S., and has provided assistance to BCC in the purchase and

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reconstruction of our new building above and beyond normal banking services. The award was accepted by Senior Vice President Jan Upton.

Next came the presentation of this year's Presidents Award to Hannah Theile and Kenna Love. The Presidents Award began in 2003 as a way for BCC to honor its own members for dedicated service to BCC and the larger community. Hannah and Kenna, who celebrate 25 years as a couple in 2010, were introduced by their longtime friends Karen Sandler, Linda Broughton, and Renee Lamkay. The friends gave us some insight into a typical busy day for Hannah and Kenna, filled with work, charitable activities, home remodeling, and visiting with friends like them. Hannah, who joined BCC in 1992, has balanced her activism in the burgeoning women's and civil rights movements with raising her two

children, her teaching career, and forming the union at the high school where she taught. As an active leader at BCC, Hannah has been on BCC's Board of Directors since 2005. She has served on the Capital Campaign Committee, the L'Chayim Legacy Circle, and the Outreach Committee. Kenna, a member since 1998, is an accomplished artistic and commercial photographer and a founder of Women in Photography. Her work has been on display in numerous galleries and has been featured in a number of important magazines and art books. She currently serves as official photographer for the City of Rancho Mirage. Hannah's and Kenna's acceptance speeches are reprinted below on pages 3-4.

BCC's annual Rabbi Erwin and Agnes Herman Humanitarian Award was established in 1985 to recognize and honor individuals or organizations who have made major contributions toward tikkun olam, the repair of the world, through outstanding work in the Jewish and LGBT communities. The Hermans were instrumental in BCC's founding in 1972 and its



Bill Resnick accepting his award

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Rabbi Lisa Edwards is available for private appointments. Please call at least a week in advance, if possible, to schedule.

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### G'VANIM

G'vanim "Hues (of the rainbow)" is the monthly newsletter of

**BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM**  
 6000 West Pico Blvd., L.A. CA 90035

Founded in 1972 as the world's first gay and lesbian synagogue, today BCC is an inclusive community of progressive lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and heterosexual Jews, our families, and friends. Everyone is welcome to attend weekly Friday evening services at 8:00 p.m.

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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.**

acceptance into the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism) in 1974. This year's recipient, Dr. Bill Resnick, was introduced by Harriet Rossetto, CEO of Beit T'shuvah, a congregation and residential treatment center for those suffering from addiction and their families. Drawing a parallel between BCC and Beit T'shuvah as communities serving Jews who have not always been welcome in the mainstream Jewish community, she proudly described Bill's past leadership role in Beit T'shuvah and looked forward to his future service as president of its Board of Directors.

A BCC member since 1999, Bill lives in West Hollywood with his partner Doug Cordell. In addition to his professional work as a psychiatrist, he serves as co-chair of BCC's Capital Campaign Committee for our new building and has also devoted countless hours as a leader and volunteer with other organizations including the Venice Family Clinic, the Menninger Clinic, the Advance Equality Fund of the Liberty Hill Foundation, the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, and the Courage Campaign for the marriage equality movement. In his acceptance remarks, Bill modestly said that he is surrounded by humanitarians and owes much of his success to the fact that he has chosen leaders well. On a more personal note, he recalled that his first exposure to BCC was when he was 14 years old and lived in Culver City near Temple Akiba, which BCC then rented for High Holidays. While walking his dog, he met some BCC members who "looked normal," and he formed a good impression even before coming out. Bill kept his remarks short on the advice of his young goddaughter Jessica, and played back her phone message telling him to "thank people" and "not talk too long so people won't get bored."

Rounding out the event was the premiere of a short film by BCC members Pam Postrel and Omer Bar-Sadeh about BCC's history, featuring many current and past BCC members. Rabbi Edwards introduced the film by reminding us that the preceding day, May 22, was California's first official "Harvey Milk Day" and would have been the 80th birthday of California's premier gay activist. The film, entitled "BCC at 38: the Life and Times of the World's First LGBT Synagogue," is available for viewing on the BCC website, [www.bcc-la.org](http://www.bcc-la.org).

BCC member Steve Sass made an appeal for additional contributions to be matched by a group of BCC members, and Executive Director Felicia Park Rogers drew the winning raffle tickets for a Hollywood Bowl concert (won by Larry Nathenson) and a Dodger game (won by Peter McCarthy of Wells Fargo).

Many thanks are due to BCC's incredibly hard-working Brunch committee chaired by Lauren Schlau and Mark Farber and including Debby Chanen, Ray Eelsing, Denis Hiebsch, Joanne Laipson, Kenna Love, Bruce Maxwell, Cecilia Quigley Groman, Herb Toplan, and Brett Trueman. We also owe a debt of gratitude to all our

table sponsors and captains, the Brunch honorary committee, and all who contributed to the silent auction and the beautiful tribute book that all attendees received. Last but not least, thanks to Felicia Park-Rogers, office manager Victoria Delgadillo, and custodian Tim Goad, and all the volunteers whose hard work made this event the great success that it was.

## Hannah and Kenna Accept their Award

Hannah: Thank you Linda, Karen, and Renee for your unique introductions. We have been friends for many years and you certainly know us well!

Good afternoon everyone, it may be a surprise to those who know me, but presenting this talk is really scary, but very exciting. While it is true that I have believed and always acted on the premise of helping others by giving service to causes I believed in, BCC has been in a special category, our spiritual home and our extended family. Describing what BCC means to me on a personal level is difficult. Aside from our friends who have enriched our lives, BCC has actually become a challenge, a challenge



*Hannah and Kenna accept their award*

to project our synagogue out to the broader community, to have other Jews straight and gay know who we are, and how our members make a significant community contribution.

And then came a forceful challenge, a challenge that I could actually help create a site for a new building for the BCC members. Brett, imbued with a dream organized the Capital Campaign Committee, which was energized by Bruce, supported by our persistent Rabbi, and her partner Tracy, a woman with unending drive and motivation, and Lauren, a determined and persuasive partner in requesting contributions from our members -- all of them encouraged me to believe that we could actually leave a legacy of a new home for our congregation and all gay and Lesbian Jews. BCC has already purchased a larger building and the dream is becoming a reality. Ira has donated his heart, soul and architectural skills toward the design for what will be our

*Continued on Page 4*

beautiful and spiritual new home. With all this love and devotion, how can we go wrong!

The driving force that I referred to previously was truly an extension of my earlier life, where for many years I walked picket lines and encouraged others to help. When I raised my two children I took them out into the activist community. It was my hope that I would be a model they would want to emulate, and that they would grow up with a sense of responsibility as to how they could be of service. I must tell you that I have had naches from both of them.

When our dear friends in and outside of BCC offered to join us today we felt grateful, we must have done something right. Barbara and Robert, are dear to us, Kathy and Ruth, whose artwork enhances our lives and the lives of others, Joel, who was involved when we established the annuity program at the Gay and Lesbian Center, and Ray, whose sincerity and dedication created the BCC L'Chayim Legacy Circle, have all influenced me in my journey of giving service. My niece Gail, who represents my nuclear family, spent many days growing up in my home, and we share many memories.

I intend to continue my BCC participation, it has actually been the first and probably the last synagogue I will have been a member of. Felicia has taken my unending ideas and suggestions and woven them into a useful pattern of how I can give service. My ties to this shul are too deep to do otherwise. If I try to state at this moment what BCC

me. It's when Juval with his sweet smile invites us into the rhythm of his unique musical expression. It's when Rabbi Lisa speaks from her heart and spiritual soul about life...how it affects us and how we can affect it.

In August 1999, when I wasn't a member yet, Hannah and I joined with Rabbi Lisa, Tracy and 34 other people on a magical journey to Israel. There we spoke to soldiers at Gaza, left our notes at the Wall, strolled the



streets of the Old City and sailed the Sea of Galilee. I had the good fortune of documenting this life-altering event with my camera. Through my lens I saw faces eating ice cream, faces in awe and faces with tears. I thought it was a through the lens experience but it turned out to be a through the heart experience. Upon returning home I became a BCC member.

On June 17, 2008, Rabbi Lisa and Tracy led another group of people on a life-altering experience. This time it was to West Hollywood City Hall. Nine couples followed their lead and stood in line waiting for the doors to open to a new-found freedom, the freedom to marry and exchange vows in a legal manner. A first for gay and lesbian couples living in California. Again I had the good fortune to document this day with my camera. Through my lens I saw the faces of same-sex couples in love, who have been together for many years, finally realizing a dream they thought was out of reach. I saw their expressions of joy and elation as they raised their hands to promise legally, what they have been promising to one another many times before.

It is because of events such as this that I would not be surprised if a situation were to arise that would have a negative impact on our community or society in general, where we would have the opportunity to have our voices be heard or to wave our signs, I would not be surprised to find Rabbi Lisa and Tracy on the front line. And guess what.... I'll be right behind them peering through the lens of my camera with Hannah at my side and our BCC community and friends on the other.

I am blessed to have Hannah as my partner and we are blessed to have our loving supporting friends here to share with us this special day. We are blessed to have BCC as our spiritual home and we're extremely proud to receive this honor.



truly means to me it means not only a community, but rather a way of life, a spiritual sense of connection and well being. Our Clergy have played an important role; Rabbi Lisa has given guidance and direction to two opinionated women, Kenna and myself, helping us to learn how to be tolerant and accepting.

I will close by saying that we are appreciative and overwhelmed by the honor you have given us. As I look out into the audience I connect with every one of our friends, you give meaning to our lives. Please know that this is a day that Kenna and I shall treasure always.

**Kenna:** Throughout the years BCC has become an important part of my life. For me it's about the people—when I walk into shul on a Friday night and I'm greeted with big smiles and arms wide open waiting to receive

# Opening Hearts

Cantor Juval Porat | Drash given at Installation Service, June 18, 2010

About a month ago, when I entered the festive convention hall at the W Hotel for BCC's annual Humanitarian Awards Brunch, I found my seat at my assigned table by noticing the little placard with my name on it. As I went to sit down I noticed the same placard in front of the seat next to me, and another one in front of another seat at the same table. As I looked around and saw the cards at all the tables, I realized this wasn't a nametag, but a reminder for the brunch guests about today's installation, here at BCC.

Seeing my name all over that room, and hearing people being told about my installation and about me being the first Cantor to be ordained in Germany since the Second World War, filled me with a healthy amount of nervousness and anxiety. I reacted by telling myself that all I need do is simply be myself, enjoy myself, and be grateful for all that has happened over the past

luggage. Experiences of luck and love, of disappointment and despair. I can't help but wonder whether I was changed by these experiences. Did I go through what I went through so far in order to learn something? To see some sort of light and to change myself? Is that what life's journey is about? Changing for the better through the ever growing baggage that attaches itself to us on our journey?

Amazingly, some of the most significant experiences in my journey are held in this weekend. 32 years ago today, (according to the Jewish Calendar - the 6th of Tammuz), I was born in a small hospital in Hadera, Israel. 13 years later, in the Great Synagogue of Netanya, Israel I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah, surrounded by friends and family as I was reading from this week's Torah portion, Chukat. One year ago, on the 18th of June 2009, I celebrated my graduation from Cantorial School in

Berlin surrounded by friends from Germany and Los Angeles. And tonight I'm here with you, celebrating my installation at BCC in what seems to be a closing of one chapter and an opening of another.

In this week's Torah portion, we read about another journey that is about to come to an end. The people of Israel, after having wandered in the desert for 40 years, are about to enter the Promised Land. Before that happens though, they find themselves in a situation that bears a great resemblance to another story that occurred 40 years earlier, just when the people were leaving Egypt.

In what has turned out to be a consistently repeating pattern, the Israelites complain. They complain about the lack of water, and God orders Moses to perform a miracle by making a rock produce water. On the first year of the exodus, in Refidim, Moses is commanded to hit the rock with his rod, whereas in our portion, 40 years later in Kadesh, Moses is told to make the rock produce water by speaking to it.

In Refidim, Moses obeys God's commandment and hits the rock. In Kadesh he disobeys God's instruction and hits the rock twice instead of talking to it and as a result he is prohibited from entering the Promised Land together with the people. Obviously there's an affinity between these two occasions, the first being told at the beginning and the second at the end of a journey.

A rock doesn't produce water, whether you speak to it or whether you hit it with a rod. Water coming out of a rock is always a miracle. So why the different instructions? And why did Moses act differently in each case?



PHOTO: SYLVIA SUKOP

*Fran Chalin offers Cantor Porat an "official" cantorial garment*

months. Yes, everything would work out fine if I would just be myself.

As I walked on stage to sing a song together with Tamara I was all at ease, until a familiar voice in my head, seemingly out of nowhere, decided to pop a question:

Great, Juval, you want to be yourself – that's fantastic, but do you actually have any idea who you really are? Do you know yourself? Do you really know where you've come from? Where you're going?

And there I was, really wanting to be myself and all of a sudden, I wasn't so sure anymore whether I actually knew what it meant to know myself. Songs sung, the question remained: who am I?

Surely, I thought to myself, I am a collection of my past experiences so far. Over the years I've been affected by all kinds of wonderful things that became part of my

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One answer that is offered by a Midrash suggests the following: The rock is a metaphor for a heart. In a hardened state it is as good as inaccessible to outer signs, only a brutal hit by a rod can reach this heart. In a softened, open state this heart becomes much more receptive to the universe's signs. Gentle words can touch and stimulate it.

The same cry for water that occurs at the beginning and at the end of 40 years of wandering through the desert requires a different reaction in order to show us, the readers of the story, the people's heart, represented by the rock. When newly in the wilderness, newly freed from slavery, the people's heart was closed and hardened for fear and insecurity. Their cry for water had included a challenge of Moses' role and God's existence. Moses calls the place "Massah [testing] and Meribah [quarreling] because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested God saying, Is God among us or not?" Exodus 17:7

Forty years later the people know Moses is on their side and God's existence is not put into question. With growing trust their heart opens up and this time, they are just asking for a drink of water. The waters of Kadesh

that once their heart was hardened and in need of a stick that physically hits a rock in order to create a miracle, but not anymore. That's where the emphasis on the transition from being shut and scared to open and content lies: in awareness of what has become a baggage over 40 years of wandering. The people did not change their ways. When they want to complain, that's exactly what they do. But over 40 years they have learned to trust themselves and others and to open their hearts.

I'd like to take that insight and work with it in my little mission of finding out who I am and who I am becoming. I realize that nothing got lost in all these years that led up to this day. I've been carrying it with me all along: The good and the bad, the chance encounters, the peace and the terror, the longing and the comfort, the conviction and the doubts, the shame and the pride. I have not changed the parts that I consist of, but rather learned to look at them and to find out which of these parts are a gift for me to share with others, and which are challenges that I need to face for myself.

I realize that arriving at a night like this is not so much about changing myself. It's not so much about trying to fit into a label like being the "first ordained Cantor since World War II." It's not so much about reaching a point and stopping there. I guess for me, realizing the constant flow and motion that I am in as a human being, like the formless steadily streaming water (also known as the Hebrew word *לבו* / Yuval) coming out of the rock. This realization is the greatest arrival of all and I'm thankful to be here and be given the opportunities, the stimulation, the inspiration and the tools to work with that realization.

The Journey that started in last year's graduation ceremony and that is coming to an end in tonight's installation service was rich with experiences of joy and loss and I'm grateful for the chance to have

experienced all of these things. I'm grateful for the people who came along the way to express their encouragement and faith in me. I am grateful for the friendships that have been created, for the moments of grace and compassion and for the lessons learned. Thank you all for that. As a new chapter is about to begin, my remaining hope is that with you and me at BCC, this new journey will be as exciting as the last one. Shabbat Shalom.



PHOTO: SYLVIA SIKOP

*Cantors David Berger, Sam Radwine, Soloist Fran Chalin, and Juval Porat*

are waters of quarreling, not waters of testing, as it says: "These were the waters of Meribah [quarreling], where the Israelites quarreled with God and where God showed himself holy among them" Numbers 20:13

The people's behavior stays the same – the people complain, but their heart has developed into a more opened state. Moses is told to hold the rod and to speak to the rock, not to hit it, and even though the rod is not used, Moses still holds it as if to remind the people

# From the Rabbi's Study

## Gifts from the Wilderness

Rabbi Lisa Edwards



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Remarks at Cantor Porat's installation service, June 18, 2010:

It's a blessing for me any time I get to stand on the bimah with Fran or Juval. But tonight I am twice blessed to be here with two colleagues so dear to me, clergy people whose voices never fail to

open my heart and deepen my connection to my Jewish soul.

This is a first for BCC — to be honored with an emerita clergyperson, and to have her here to offer blessings to her successor, to pass the mantle. Thank you, Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin, for being part of us in general, and for being here tonight in particular. You will always be one of our most precious treasures — BCC's *bat kol*.

Juval, in your talk you said that you "realize [now] that nothing got lost in all these years that led up to this day." That you've been carrying it with [you] "all along: The good and the bad, the chance encounters, the peace and the terror, the longing and the comfort, the conviction and the doubt, the shame and the pride." And now you say, you have to figure out what to do with all those parts of you — to see what belongs to you alone, and what's there as a gift to share with others.

Your reflections reminded me of another teaching about two words in this week's Torah portion, Chukat. The two words appear in the long list of places the Israelites stopped to camp along the way during their 40 year journey in the wilderness. *U'mi-midbar Mattanah*, says the text, and its simple meaning is that along the way the Israelites went from the wilderness to a place called Mattanah. But these two place names — *midbar* and *mattanah* — are mysterious, no one knows for sure where they are or why they appear on this list, and so the midrash writers looked for a different reading, a different meaning for these words besides as the names of

places:

*u'mi-midbar* — from the wilderness, they said, *mattanah*, comes a gift.

Juval, I don't bring this up to suggest that your life until now has been a wilderness! I bring it up to say that I hope you will take your own realization to heart, and look for the ways the wilderness — the wandering in your life — has indeed given you many gifts... gifts to share with others.

Already, even in your so far brief time with us, we feel showered with gifts from you: your music, your voice, your gentleness, your intensity and your playfulness, your reliability and strong sense of responsibility and of being part of a team, your appreciation of what BCC has to

**“the wandering in your life —  
has indeed given you many gifts...  
gifts to share with others”**

offer you, and the way you seem to breathe in Jewish tradition and its sacred texts and music and offer them back to us in ways that fill our souls, that make our hearts pound and our hands clap and our mouths too fill with song.

How blessed we feel already, Juval, to be traveling forward in company with you, to receive *mi-midbar mattanah* — from the wilderness, from your wanderings — gifts, the gifts you've come here to share. Juval, we are so happy about your arrival here at BCC, here in a place we hope you too will call home. Welcome.

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## LA2010: All the Latest News

*Jonathan Falk*

### Happy Pride month!

Excitement is building for Los Angeles 2010 - the 20th World Conference of GLBT Jews coming to Los Angeles this summer. Registrations are coming in from around the United States and internationally. The weekend of Aug 13 – 15, 2010, will see the Hillel at UCLA transformed into a beehive of activity as queer Jews from everywhere gather to study, renew friendships, and celebrate a major milestone with the World Congress of GLBT Jews.

The conference committee is hard at work planning a fun-filled weekend, starting with Shabbat services Friday evening led by our own clergy, Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Cantor Juval Porat. A delicious Shabbat dinner will follow, culminating with a keynote address by Elissa Barrett of the Progressive Jewish Alliance. Elissa's address will be a call to action for community involvement. We look forward to her words of wisdom.

Saturday morning will feature multiple options for Shabbat services, to provide a rich worshipful and spiritual experience. After Shabbat services, the conference will feature a variety of fascinating seminar sessions, with five time slots spread out over the remainder of Saturday and Sunday morning, and at least five seminar offerings per session. Some of our featured seminar leaders are: Former World Congress president Michael Levine, Rabbi Jocee Hudson of Temple Israel of Hollywood, Nehirim's Zvi Bellin, Naomi Goldberg of the Williams Institute, California Faith for Equality's Kerry Chaplin, Dr. Joel Kushner of the Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation, Rabbi J. B. Sacks, the first

openly gay rabbi in the Conservative movement, writers Andrew Ramer and Maggie Anton, Rabbi Carla Howard, Prof. Richard Lippa of California State University Fullerton, film producer Howard Rosenman, photographer Albert J. Winn, and others too numerous to mention!

Here are a few program highlights:

- Reclaiming Torah: A Lesson in Modern Day Tikkunim.
- Spiritual Play
- Mapping the American LGBT Community: Diversity, Geography and the Law
- How to Engage Diverse Faith Communities in Policy Change
- GLBT Inclusion in Jewish Institutions.
- Kweer Words-Writing New Liturgy and Telling Sacred Stories
- Being Part of a Club That Will Not Have me as a Member
- Telling Our Stories, Healing our Wounds, Finding Our Souls
- How Do I Advocate For My Kids in the Mainstream World?
- Improvisation Workshop
- What LGBT Jews need from LGBT and Jewish Communities as we are Aging
- Persecution and Refugees: What the International LGBT Community Must Learn from the Jewish Experience.
- Playing the Game: Men who loved Men in the Middle Ages
- Be Fruitful and Multiply: Sperm Donors, Surrogates, and what you need to Know about making Mishpocha
- Building Bridges with Israel
- Ruthie and Connie: Every Room In the House
- Gay Revolt At Denver City Council — And The Beginnings Of An Organized Gay Community

- Same gender marriage: Issues of Jewish Law and Justice/Jews for Marriage Equality in the Fight Against Prop. 8
- The Science of Sexual Orientation
- Getting Our History Out of the Closet
- The Next Generation of Young Jewish Lesbians in LA

Saturday lunch will feature lesbian comedian and activist Robin Tyler, taking a break from preparing for her one-woman show, Always a Bridesmaid, Never a Groom. Saturday night's gala dinner will feature the presentation of the second World Congress leadership award to California State Senator Mark Leno, in recognition of his efforts in the area of same sex marriage. Registrants will be in for a treat as Bay Area comedian Lisa Geduldig performs, with musical interludes from the community klezmer band Gay Gezunt and the BCC choir.

Sunday's schedule includes more seminars and a fabulous closing brunch, followed by an optional bus tour of the queer history of Los Angeles, with a possible surprise stop at 6090 Pico Blvd. (see p. \_\_)

So register today at [la2010.org](http://la2010.org), and help spread the word!

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Correction: the last issue of G'vanim had an error in the name of one of our presenters. Elissa Barratt, an organizer of the 4th annual West Hollywood Women's Leadership Conference, will be presenting about the next generation of Jewish Lesbians in Los Angeles; Elissa Barrett of the PJA and of BCC will be the keynote speaker. These are two different people!



# The Season of Return is upon us

Felicia Park-Rogers

**Life is something that happens when you can't get to sleep.**

—Fran Lebowitz

We all must be very sleepy at BCC, because we have been overflowing with life and happenings over the last few

months—and many more adventures are around the corner for us.

Thanks to the hard work of so many, we've recently had our most successful Humanitarian

Awards Brunch to date. Together we've installed Cantor Porat, and have come through that beautiful rite of passage a stronger, closer community. Now, we prepare to break ground on our new building. And, no one is more shocked than me to say this: the Days of Awe are just nine weeks away.

Yes, our season of re-turning is nearly upon us.

One of the rituals we go through as we prepare ourselves for the

High Holy Days is membership renewal season. Membership renewal can be seen as a season of paperwork and yet more communications from your temple office. But, it can also be seen as an important season of renewing our commitment to the institution that allows us to sustain our Jewish lives like no other place can.

Each member is responsible for sustaining this synagogue, which in turn sustains our members. BCC is a shul that shines a light not just for its members, but for people everywhere who follow our example of living a rigorous Jewish life while also living under rainbow colored lights. It is impossible to underestimate what BCC means symbolically to individuals and communities around the world, many of whom will never step through our doors.

**This will be the third year BCC will offer automatic membership renewal.** What does that mean? Your membership at BCC will continue seamlessly into the new membership year, which begins September 1. Right now is the time to get caught up on your current year if you have an outstanding balance. **All members are asked to have no outstanding balance AND**

**to have paid at least one month's membership contribution for the new year.** If you will need to make special arrangements, please be in touch with me as soon as possible. It is much easier to work it all out in advance and allows us all to concentrate on the importance of the Holy Days as they get closer.

All members whose accounts are current can expect to receive their Days of Awe tickets in the mail in mid-August. If you pay your membership contribution by credit card, the payment schedule will continue as it has. If you pay by check, please make a payment as soon as possible upon receipt of your statement. In our continuing efforts to be as green as possible and to reduce administrative costs wherever possible, we are transitioning to e-statements. All members will have the option of continuing to receive statements by mail as well.

**If you do not want to continue as a member, and I hope this is not the case for any of our valued and beloved members, please let me know right away, no later than July 31.**

It has been a full and happening year at BCC. I expect no less of the year ahead. Most of all, I look forward to 5771 being a year of happening *together*.

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE



Save the Date

## I dig BCC

A groundbreaking Jewish community

Join us for the Groundbreaking on our new synagogue building.

August 15, 2010 - 5 Elul 5770  
4:00-5:00 p.m.  
6090 W. Pico Blvd. at Alvira St.  
Enter on Alvira

Watch for more details in weekly e-bulletin



# Ohr Chayim Update



Leah Zimmerman

Ohr Chayim and other BCC family programming are off for the summer, but we are now registering for the fall.

Ohr Chayim provides a warm, creative and communal atmosphere for children and their parents. Children work in small groups to learn Hebrew, history, music and culture, while their parents meet to study Jewish texts. This coming school year we will be reinstating our monthly "Shabbat and Me" program where babies and children under 5 can listen to stories, learn fun songs and engage in activities around Shabbat and Jewish life.

We look forward to seeing all our families at the High Holy Day family services. And mark your calendars — the first day for the new Ohr Chayim year will be Saturday, September 11.

## Games, Swimming, and More: Summer with the Women's Havurah

Donna Quigley Groman

Here comes the summer of 2010! Join the Women's Havurah for these very exciting events.

**Sunday, July 18 - Third annual bowling extravaganza** at Midtown Lanes, 2-5 p.m. Everyone Welcome

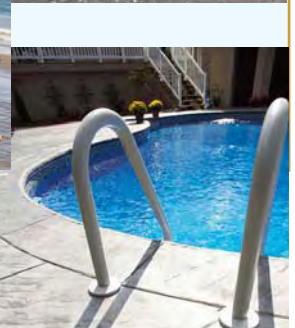
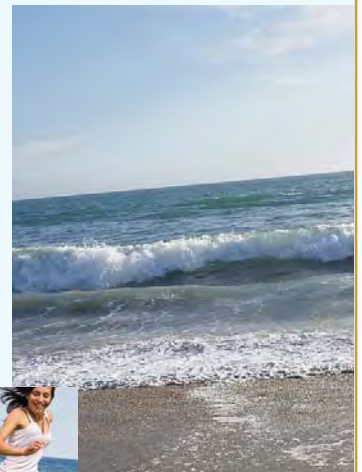
**Saturday, July 31** – Our ever popular **game night** at BCC, 7-10:30 p.m. Women Only. Join others in a board game or learn to play mah jongg.

**Sunday, August 8** (change in previously announced date) – Women's Havurah **Welcome Reception for Cantor Juval Porat** at Rabbi Lisa and Tracy's home, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Pool Party, barbeque, luncheon, kibbitzing. A Women Only event except for the guest of honor.

**Saturday, August 28 – Roller Derby!!** Yes, Roller Derby is alive and well in Los Angeles. Come see the Derby Dolls duke it out on the banked track at the "Doll Factory," 1910 W. Temple Street, 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. Everyone Welcome.

**Monday, September 6 – Second annual beach party** on Labor Day at the Annenberg Beach House in Santa Monica, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Relax, play mah jongg, bike, walk, swim. Women Only.

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



## Men's Havurah Summer Plans

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

BCC's Men's Havurah Planning Committee is working on the following events for July and August:

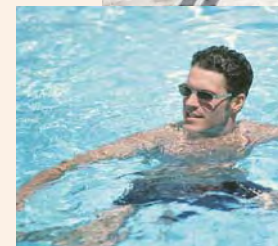
- **Visiting the Huntington Library, Gardens, and Art Collections in San Marino**
- **A splashy pool party on Sunday, August 1, 1:00 p.m. at a private home**
- **Hike-and-brunch outing**

Event dates and information will be e-mailed out as soon as details are finalized.

There are two ways you can stay in touch with us:

- Through e-mail: [bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com).
- Through our Facebook page ("BCC Men's Havurah") where we post event details and share pictures from events

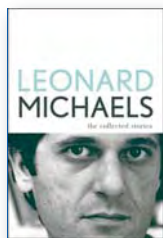
If you'd like to be part of our event planning team please let us know... we can use everyone's help, especially in hosting a Men's Havurah event. We will tailor the event to the size of your home.



## BCC Book Group

Larry Nathenson

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



**Sunday, July 25, at 10:00 a.m.,**  
**Collected Stories, by Leonard Michaels**

A collection of short stories by one of the late 20th century's great Jewish writers, written over a period from 1969 to 1993 and covering numerous topics relating to sex and love in the modern world.



**Sunday, August 29, at 10:00 a.m.,**  
**Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean, by Edward Kritzler**

Subtitled "How a generation of swashbuckling Jews carved out an empire in the New World in their quest for treasure, religious freedom, and revenge," this non-fiction history begins in Spain with secret Jews who make their way to the Caribbean and also to Amsterdam, then assist the English in conquering Jamaica from Spain so they can live openly as Jews.

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](mailto:Larrynath@aol.com).

## Mazel Tov

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

**Yetta Howard** graduated in May with a doctorate in English and a special acknowledgment for her work in Literature and Women's Studies.

**Shifra Teitelbaum** received her EdD (doctorate of education) from Fielding Graduate University. Shifra continues to work with youTHink, an innovative arts and education program offered by the Zimmer Children's Museum.

**Cynthia Jo Nath (Vandenberg)** graduated from CSUN in May with a BA in Modern Jewish Studies.

**Eitan Timoner**, son of BCC Executive Director **Felicia Park-Rogers** and **Rabbi Rachel Timoner**, graduated from pre-school in June and will be attending kindergarten at Open Charter in the fall with older brother Benji.

**Matt Postrel**, son of **Mindy Blum** and **Pam Postrel**, graduated on June 17 from Arroyo Vista Elementary and will be attending South Pasadena Middle School in the fall.

**Eve Postrel**, Matt's sister, graduated June 11 from Waverly Middle School and will be attending Waverly High School in the fall.

**Shoshanah Weinreich**, daughter of **Rebecca Weinreich** and **Tara Rose**, graduated from Larchmont Charter and will start 7th Grade in the fall at The Marlborough School for Girls.

**Gretchen Peterson** was appointed as staff attorney for Bet Tzedek's new medical-legal partnership project.

**Seth Harrington** was nominated for a Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Game Participation Show.

**Gayle Paperno**, her daughter **KC** and son-in-law **Nick Wilsey**, celebrated the birth of their son/grandson **Blake Austin Wilsey** on May 19.

**Sylvia Sukop's** story about cantor Juval Porat was, as of June 7, the top blog featured on HuffPo's Gay Rights page, and also appeared on the Los Angeles page. It can be found via the following links:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/gay-rights>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sylvia-sukop/germanys-first-jewish-can\\_b\\_600219.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sylvia-sukop/germanys-first-jewish-can_b_600219.html).

**Hannah Theile** and **Kenna Love** hosted a group of board members from the University Women of American Jewish University on June 29 for their annual art tour to raise scholarship money. Kenna and **Ray Eelsing** acted as docents for this event.

**Gabriella Ruif** has moved to Israel to begin her studies for the rabbinate at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. She'll return to Los Angeles for her second year.

**Rabbi Lisa Edwards, Cantor Juval Porat, and Davi Cheng** attended the 2010 LGBT Jewish Movement-Building Convening in Berkeley, June 27-29.

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

## Weekly Sova Food Drive

Roughly 900,000 people, or 1 in every 10 in Los Angeles County,  
is in need of food, and count on food pantries like Sova.

Please bring a can of tuna, canned veggies, pasta or rice when you come to BCC.

The need is great!

# More Photos from the Humanitarian Awards Brunch

All photos by Amelia Weinman



Resnick family with paintings during silent auction



Rabbi Mark Borowitz and Harriet Rossetto of Beit T'shuvah



Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Bill Resnick



Brunch co-chairs Mark Farber and Lauren Schlau



Cantor Juval Porat sings at the Awards Brunch



Cantor Juval Porat and Tamara Kline-Rivera at the Awards Brunch

# More Photos of Cantor Porat's Installation

All photos by Sylvia Sukop



Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin conducts the BCC choir



BCC President Bruce Maxwell lights Shabbat candles with Davi Cheng, Allison Diamant, Rabbi Edwards, and Cantor Porat



The BCC congregation at the Installation Service. The German consul Wolfgang Drautz and his colleagues are in the center.



Another view of the BCC congregation at the Installation Service



German consul Wolfgang Drautz addresses the garden party for Cantor Porat's installation, June 19



Tamara Kline-Rivera and Cantor Juval Porat performing at the garden party for his installation, June 19

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">                     All events at BCC unless otherwise noted*                 </div>				<b>1</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Henry Wudl	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Cantor Porat Robin Berkovitz	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> INDEPENDENCE DAY	<b>5</b> BCC OFFICE CLOSED	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Henry Wudl	<b>9</b> 8:00 Shabbat Service Cantor Porat Jeff Bernhardt Drash by Richard Seltzer	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b> 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark 3:00 pm Congregational Meeting and Elections	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	<b>15</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Henry Wudl	<b>16</b> 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Lee Alhadeff Herb Toplan	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and Dairy Potluck	
<b>18</b> 2:00 pm Women's Havurah Bowling at Midtown Lanes (all welcome)	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Tisha B'Av Service	<b>20</b> TISHA B'AV	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Henry Wudl	<b>23</b> 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Davi Cheng Bracha Yael	<b>24</b>	
<b>25</b> 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group Leonard Michaels Collected Stories	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	<b>29</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Henry Wudl	<b>30</b> Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest musicians	<b>31</b> 7:00 pm Women's Havurah Game Night (women only)	

August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 1:00 pm Men's Havurah Pool Party (private home)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm High Holy Days Preparation Class	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Cantor Porat Kadin Henningsen	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:00 am cook, 11:30 am deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark 11:00 am Women's Havurah Reception for Cantor Porat (private home)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:30 pm High Holy Days Preparation Class	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	<b>12</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	<b>13</b> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GLBT JEWS (UCLA) 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat (at UCLA Hillel)	<b>14</b> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GLBT JEWS (UCLA)
<b>15</b> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GLBT JEWS (UCLA) 4:00 Groundbreaking New BCC building 6090 W. Pico Blvd.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30 pm High Holy Days Preparation Class	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	<b>20</b> 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Elissa Barrett Gershick	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and Dairy Potluck
<b>22</b> 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 pm High Holy Days Preparation Class	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	<b>26</b> 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	<b>27</b> Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest musicians	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Women's Havurah Roller Derby 1910 W. Temple St. (all welcome)
<b>29</b> 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30 pm High Holy Days Preparation Class	<b>High Holiday Schedule for 5771:</b> Selichot ..... Sept. 4 Erev Rosh Hashanah ..... Sept. 8 Rosh Hashanah ..... Sept. 9 Second Day Rosh Hashanah ..... Sept. 10 Taschlich and Shabbat Shuvah on the Beach . . . Sept. 10 Kol Nidre ..... Sept. 17 Yom Kippur ..... Sept. 18 Sukkot Service ..... Sept. 24 Simchat Torah and Yizkor ..... Sept. 29			