

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES YEAR END SUMMARY 2008-2009

The Programs & Activities Committee had a very successful, program-packed year thanks to the dedication, creativity, and hard work of directors Debbie Bromberg and J.D. Weiss and our Program Director Lori Marx-Rubiner.

We began our year with a wonderful Scholar-in-Residence weekend. Dr. Jacques Berlinerblau joined us in November from Georgetown University to discuss a number of very timely topics relating to faith, religion, and politics, the Jewish vote in the Presidential election, and religion and government as they pertain to our personal lives. Dr. Berlinerblau definitely opened our minds and expanded our vocabulary.

We also continued our annual educational series with *Jews and Hollywood*. We met the third Tuesday of the month in January, February, and March. Award winning director Paul Mazursky joined us in January to show his film *Tippie* and then lead a question and answer session to a group of about 60 people. In February, we did an *Inside the Actors' Studio* type interview session with LA Times columnist Patrick Goldstein and Sony Pictures Co-Chairman Amy Pascal. Finally, Paul Wolf spoke in March about the notion that all films are about Teshuva (returning). The series was geared toward an older audience and was hugely successful. Each session attracted between 50 and 60 people, many of whom don't typically participate in temple activities.

Our programming for young families is still going strong, which can definitely be attributed to the hard work of those committee members who have taken on running these programs. Shabbat Romp continues to draw many ECE families once a month to sing, dance, and have a snack with friends. Mara Beck has done an incredible job keeping this program fun and relevant.

Julie Shpall has done an amazing job with Family Fusion/Family Picnic for ECE families. Many ECE families look forward to that evening every month to come together with family and friends for a casual dinner and kid friendly service with Rabbi Vogel and Cantor Stein.

Finally, we added two new volunteers to our committee to run Storytime at Barnes & Noble. Amanda Schwartz and Debbie Rubinstein helped organize, oversee, and ultimately run these Sunday afternoons at the Barnes & Noble in the Commons, complete with stories read by our Rabbis and art projects for the kids who attended.

As this was my final year on the Programs & Activities Committee, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to serve in this position. Being VP of this portfolio

was not only educational, but also extremely rewarding. I believe my committee and I helped to more accurately define the role of this portfolio and to bring the programming at the temple to a new level. I am extremely proud of the many unique and memorable programs we were able to provide for our members and our community. Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbra Neinstein