

Temple Emanuel To Be Local Hub Of Big Sunday Community Service Program

Temple Emanuel, 8844 Burton Way, will be the official Beverly Hills hub of Big Sunday (May 6). The mission of Big Sunday is "to build community through community service." Begun in 1999 as a single Sunday, the weekend-long event now brings in more than 50,000 volunteers.

This year, projects in the synagogue-hosted community service event include creating baby bundles for the Exceptional Children's Foundation, a blood drive for Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, a book drive for Bookends, a clothing drive for the

residents of Ruby May Staine and Amity Foundations, creating care packages for Alexandria House, decorating flower pots for The Watermark & Carmel Assisted Living Facilities, making sandwiches for the Midnight Mission and making cards for Israeli soldiers. Temple Emanuel is also collecting new necessities for infants and babies, new travel-sized toiletries, new packages of white tube socks and gently used clothing of all sizes.

Big Sunday will be from 9 to 11 a.m. at Temple Emanuel and all are welcome to take part.



CELEBRATING ISRAEL—Thousands gathered Sunday for the first ever Celebrate Israel festival, organized by the Israeli Leadership Council (ILC), at Rancho Park's Cheviot Hills Recreation Center. The family event featured food, children's activities and performers on several stages. A concert by Israeli singer Eyal Golan, wrapped in an Israel flag, brought the crowd together to celebrate the country's 64th birthday. Enjoying the festivities were (from left) Sheriff Lee Baca, Danny Alpert, ILC board member; Consul Gen. of Israel David Siegel; Shawn Evenhaim, ILC board chair; activist Haim Linder; Naty Saidoff of Beverly Hills, co-chair of the festival; L.A. City Attorney Carmen Trutanich; Debbie Saidoff of Beverly Hills, festival co-chair; and Esther Rezner, StandWithUs president. **Photo by Diana Ezra**



FUTURE CIVIL SERVANTS—Parks and Urban Forest Manager Ken Pfalzgraf (left) poses with his daughter Kendra, 11, and Battalion Chief Gregory Barton as part of the City's "Take Your Child To Work Day" last week.

Courier Photo by Laura Coleman

Get Inspired With *Life Moments For Women*

By Laura Coleman

Life Moments For Women: 100+ Extraordinary California Women Share Turning Points in Their Lives is a wonderful resource to feel inspired.

Published by Blue Point Books, all profits from the sales of this motivational 324-page collection of stories, compiled by Patty De Dominic and Maureen Ford, will be donated to the Women's Foundation of California and its partners.

By simply turning to a page, readers are greeted by an inspirational quote chosen by one of the 108 successful Cal-

ifornia women who offer intimate glimpses into their world by sharing defining stories that proved catalytic for their life paths.

In one vignette, Chairwoman of the Women's Foundation of California Kathryn Downing shares how her parents' example of marriage shaped her growth to become publisher/president/CEO of the *Los Angeles Times*.

For more information or to purchase a copy visit www.lifemomentsforwomen.com.

BHHS Jazz Band Opens *Playboy Jazz Festival's* Free Community Concert Sunday

Beverly High's Jazz Band will open the *Playboy Jazz Festival's* free concert on Sunday from 3:30 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Civic Center Plaza, 450 N. Rexford Dr.

Latin artist Jose Rizo and his new 9-piece ensemble Mongorama headline the event.

Under the direction of Bill Brad-

bury, the BHHS group will perform a selection of music representing various styles of jazz, including blues, swing, rock and Latin.

The concert is part of *Playboy's* community concert series held in conjunction with the upcoming *Playboy Jazz Festival* June 16-17 at Hollywood Bowl.

Actress Patricia Medina Dies At 92

Actress Patricia Medina, leading lady in 1950s movies, died last Saturday at age 92, according to her friend Meredith Silverbach. The British-born beauty began her career in England and married actor Richard Greene, whom she divorced in 1951 after coming to Hollywood. She appeared in a number of films opposite such names as Alan Ladd, Glenn Ford, Fernando Lamas, Louis Hayward and Karl Malden.



In a 1960 ceremony at the Beverly Hills home of David O. Selznick and Jennifer Jones, she wed famed actor Joseph Cotton. The couple went on to co-star in Broadway plays until his death in 1994. Medina, who lived on the Wilshire Corridor, wrote an autobiography called *Laid Back In Hollywood*.

Beverly Hills High School's Ashley Aviram Named Ocean League MVP

By Matt Lopez

Beverly High's junior soccer player Ashley Aviram was named Ocean League "Most Valuable Player" last month after a season that threatened to break many school records.

In addition to her MVP award, Aviram was named to the California Interscholastic Federation Division IV

(see 'MVP,' page 12)



Ashley Aviram

Commission Reviews And Updates 5-Year CIP, Green Lights In-Lieu Parking For Mastro's

By Laura Coleman & Marla Schevker

At last week's Planning Commission meeting, commissioners voted to adopt a resolution that the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) conforms with the City's General Plan for the next five years, until 2016/17.

The document is foundational for the City's 2012/13 budget and emphasizes effective planning since it re-

quires the City to anticipate its infrastructure and facility needs, assess funding availability, prioritize projects and phase their implementation.

"It's a blueprint for the City's major infrastructure and facility development over the next few years," Commission Chair Craig Corman said.

The commission is tasked with de-

(see 'PLANNING COMMISSION,' page 12)

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