

10 • saturday

Party at tonight's sixth annual **Barbie and Ken Toy Drive** and you'll give the kids a reason to smile, too. Cover per person is one new unwrapped toy or combination of toys with a minimum \$25 value, for which you get music, open bar and food till the wee hours, or as long as it lasts. Event title notwithstanding, anatomically correct toys are also accepted.

8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Beverly Hills. R.S.V.P., bfarash@earthlink.net.



11 • sunday

The Katrina devastation is worth your attention and donations, but take some time to think about Sept. 11 today, and while you're at it, help out some other victims of terror. **The Society of Young Philanthropists** hosts a trunk sale, with 10 percent of proceeds going to OneFamily Solidarity Fund, an organization that provides assistance to terror victims in Israel. For a \$5 donation at the door, you can shop their "**Philanthroshop**" for premium women and men's denim brands and knits, plus names like T-Bags, Joyaan, Bijou Designs, Trisje Handbags and Christiano men's shirts.

9 a.m.-9 p.m. \$5. Beverly Hills residence, 1006 Elden Way. (310) 271-0060.

12 • monday

They say music can reach you where words fail, and so why not investigate the connection between song and soul? This evening, the Gal Eina! Center of Los Angeles brings you Kabbalah master **Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh** in a discussion and exploration titled, "**Wings of the Soul: Kabbalah and the Art of Music.**" Ginsburgh will be accompanied by violinist **Marc Brodsky**.

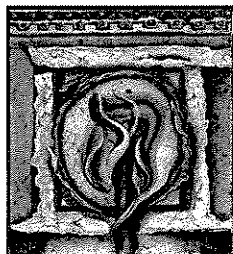


Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh
8 p.m. \$25. Edgemar Center for the Arts, 2437 Main St., Santa Monica. (310) 392-7327.

7 days

BY KEREN ENGELBERG, CALENDAR EDITOR

13 • tuesday



22622 Vanowen St., West Hills. (818) 464-3218.

Artist: **Gillah Yellin Hirsch's** painting style varies from graphic to expressionistic, and incorporates the natural world with Judaic symbols and feminine forms. The New JCC at Milken features her works in their exhibit, "**Nature**," on view through Oct. 23.

14 • wednesday

If you've missed seeing former Journal staff writer and gifted artist **Michael Aushenker's** words and drawings in these here pages, we've got fix for ya, at least as far as the art is concerned. On display at Santa Monica's Novel Cafe through the end of September are 13 of Aushenker's vibrant paintings. For East Siders, he also has a painting on permanent display at Birds Cafe on Franklin Avenue in Hollywood.



Novel Cafe, 212 Pier Ave., Santa Monica. Birds Cafe, 5925 Franklin Ave., Hollywood. www.elgato.com.

"Bennie Gambles His Soul and Loses His Dreams," by Michael Aushenker

15 • thursday

With a title as lovely as "**Heir to the Glimmering World**," how can you resist? Especially when it comes from the celebrated literary mind of **Cynthia Ozick**. This evening, **ALoud** at Central Library presents the author, in conversation with new Los Angeles Times book editor **David L. Ulin** on the subject of her new work based on the real-life Christopher Robin. (Ozick also appears at Dutton's Beverly Hills on Wed., Sept. 14, at 7 p.m.)

7 p.m. Free. Central Library Mark Taper Auditorium, Fifth and Flower streets, downtown Los Angeles. (213) 228-7025. www.aloudla.org.



Cynthia Ozick

16 • friday

In his latest off-Broadway comedy, actor and playwright **Daniel Stern** ("**City Slickers**") explores the old cliché about keeping up with the Joneses, as it applies to one out-of-work television actor whose "Jones" happens to be a **Streisand**. "**Barbra's Wedding**" opens the Falcon Theatre's 2005-2006 series this week, and stars Stern as Bab's neighbor, and **Crystal Bernard** ("**Wings**") as his wife.

Runs through Oct. 9. \$25-\$37.50. 4252 Riverside Drive, Burbank. (818) 955-8101. www.falcontheatre.com.



Daniel Stern and Crystal Bernard in "Barbra's Wedding." Photo by Wesley Horton

The Great 'Wall' of Israel

by Gaby Friedman
Contributing Writer

Simone Bitton's new documentary, "**Wall**," opens with long, meandering shots of the Israeli security fence, the great concrete and barbed-wire structure that straddles more than 450 miles of land in Israel's disputed territories.

As the camera lingers on the wall, the disembodied voices of two Israeli children are heard talking to the filmmaker.

"We shoot the Arabs from there," one says of the wall.

"No," says the other. "The Arabs shoot at us."

"Who shoots at whom?" the filmmaker asks them, and they have no answer.

What Bitton tries to establish in this scene, and indeed throughout the rest of the film, is that notions of security are murky and propagandistic (despite the fact that since the construction began on the fence in 2003, the government says that terror attacks were reduced by 90 percent) while what she sees as the devastation of the wall is real. For Bitton and most of her subjects, the wall is something that concurrently, divides friends, separates farmers from their land, creates a prison (of Gaza), ruins the environment and prevents people from getting to work.

SPECTATOR



Man in the "Wall." Photo courtesy Life Size Entertainment

Though Bitton interviews both Israelis and Arabs, none of her subjects has been personally affected by the terror attacks that caused the wall to be built in the first place.

Bitton intersperses her interviews with both Israelis and Arabs with excruciating shots of the wall itself — concrete sections being craned into place, giant bulldozers shoveling gravel, and buffering them all is the ambient soundtrack of machinery and helicopters humming loudly and obnoxiously.

Bitton, a French filmmaker who has made seven other documentaries about the histories and cultures of the Middle East and North Africa, considers herself

an "Arab Jew." She said that she made the film because "The very idea of a wall erected between Israelis and Palestinians tore me apart.... I felt this wall would be insurmountable for all the good-willed people like myself, while creating hundreds of new suicide bombers."

Her film, she said, "is an act of resistance [against the wall]"

"I identify myself with [Israel], because I, too, am a Jew and an Arab at one and the same time," Bitton said. "Judaism is part of this country's history, but one day, Israelis must agree to become a little Arabic, too. That day, the walls will come tumbling down."

"Wall" opens in Los Angeles on Sept. 23 at the Laemmle Royal Theatre, 11523 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles. For more information, call (310) 477-5581 or visit www.laemmle.com. ■