



# Ambulance Exhibit Enhanced

In order to create more learning opportunities and better illustrate the Big Idea of "rescue", we have added exciting new features to one of our most popular exhibits.



Our "People Helping People: Rescue Around the World" installation centers around the Magen David Adom ambulance which now approaches a new mural depicting a hospital emergency entrance. The two way video communications between the ambulance and Call Center/Check-in desk allow "rescuers" to clearly communicate the problem at hand. Added interactive play in the interior of the ambulance features new electronics that illuminate images of rescue and

people helping people in different situations. Additionally, there are many new items in the hospital area including an examination table, sink, scale and resources on being healthy and keeping safe. Come visit soon!



## Hanukkah Mega-Festival Blast

Families from as far away as Orange County and Simi Valley attended this year's Hanukkah Mega-Festival. Generously funded by Shari and Ed Glazer, over 300 people participated in activities spread through many venues of the Museum.

Upon entering, children were greeted by Judah Maccabee who recruited them to participate in Hanukkah theater games. Holding forth in the tree house was Shelly, balloon artist extraordinaire, who awed the young guests with her unique creations. In the art room, youngsters decorated their own beautiful menorahs for lighting during the family celebration. Entertainer Doda Mollie performed favorite and

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“A group of students came up to us and said, 'No one wants you in America and you don't deserve to be in this country, so go back home.'”



youTHink student interns share their experiences with targeting and namecalling in a youth radio project. For the full story, and more on youTHink, see page 5.

# Toddler Programs

**D**esigned for children ages 18 months through three years, toddler classes are taught in an inspiring, creative and enriching environment where children and adults can explore and work together while engaging in hands-on projects.

## Toddler Art

September was an exciting time for toddler art! Due to high demand, the program was split into two classes. Frequently art became the tool for communication between children and families who may not speak the same language. These beginning artists explored textures, colors and patterns while sharing supplies and showing each other their art work.

## Toddler Shabbat

After a brief time out, Toddler Shabbat was back in September. This creative program brings children from various backgrounds together to explore Jewish themes. This class may be used as an introduction to Shabbat rituals



and practices or a fun reinforcement for families that celebrate Shabbat. During each session, children and accompanying adults create their own Shabbat objects, learn songs and

blessings, listen to stories and enjoy music with special guests. Highlights of September's session included a journey through the Jewish High Holydays, challah day and dancing and singing with musician Robbie Elfman.

## Toddler Movement Workshop

During the last week in December and the beginning of January, toddlers aged twenty months to three years joined Art and Education specialist Rebecca Green in a movement workshop. Using ribbons, instruments and imagination, Rebecca led the children in various exercises and



simple dances that engaged fine and gross motor skills and helping to improve both balance and listening skills.



# December 25th Pajama Party and Parade

**C**lose to three hundred people partied in their PJs at the Zimmer on Monday December 25th. Children, staff and many parents were dressed in suitable attire! Over half of these visitors were new families seeing the Museum for the first time. During these special hours, families broke bread – or rather bagels – together as they chatted with old and new friends. In the art room, children enjoyed decorating their own crowns in preparation for the Pajama Parade. Other activities included dancing and parachute games and an exciting scavenger hunt in which children located all the requisite items necessary for a great pajama party. It was a special time and guests expressed appreciation to the Museum for hosting the morning.

# Hanukkah Mega-Festival

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original holiday songs while Matt Artson brought Hanukkah stories to life in the Theater. Families delighted in Hanukkah snacks and delectable sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) in the tradition of the holiday. Needless to say a grand time was had by all!

# From Esther Netter, CEO

**O**ne day while walking on the road, Honi the Circle-drawer noticed a man planting a carob tree. Said Honi to the man: "You know that it takes seventy years before a carob tree bears fruit; are you so sure that you will live seventy years and eat from this tree?" 'I found this world provided with carob trees,' the man replied. 'As my ancestors planted them for me, so I plant them for my progeny.'" (Talmud Ta'anit23a).



This is the world according to Honi...similar to how we think about the world according to the Zimmer Children's Museum. We are planting for the future. We have faith in the future. We plant the seeds; we plant the lessons of responsibility and community in young minds, knowing that they will, over time, blossom and come to fruition. We teach about Big Ideas, about rescue, helping those in need, about repairing the world, making a difference...Tikkun Olam. Each of us accepts our responsibility for our well being and, at the same time, also understands that we need to focus on future generations.

As we conclude 2006 and begin 2007, we invite you to plant with us, to water and care for young minds, to support exhibitions, family programming and education, community building and more. Just as those before us created opportunities to learn and grow for us, so too, we must create groves of carob trees for our children and our children's children.



The Zimmer was pleased to host a meeting of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Pictured are some of the meeting attendees, including Laura Zucker, Executive Director of the commission (2nd from right), and Esther Netter, Zimmer CEO

# Upcoming Events at the Museum

## Exploring BIG IDEAS Through Interactive Play

### Home Blessings

January 21

Join us in our newly refurbished Lushing Family Home as we celebrate the importance of "home" and create unique blessing plaques to hang in our own homes.

### Magic Land of the Rainbow

January 28

Participate in an interactive, multi-sensory workshop that explores the Amazon rainforest through stories, music and dance. Learn about the importance of the Amazon and how we can all take care of the planet.

### Passport to China

February 18

The Zimmer Children's Museum and the Friends of Families with Children from China invite you and your family to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Make beautiful art, listen to cultural music and learn about Chinese New Year traditions.



For information about any of these events, please contact [sara@zimmermuseum.org](mailto:sara@zimmermuseum.org) or call 323-761-8998.

## Museum Staff

Esther Shapiro, *Director*  
323-761-8912

Sara Zolott, *Programming and Marketing Coordinator*  
323-761-8998

Rebecca Green, *Art and Education Specialist*  
323-761-8973

Joey Dennis, *Operations and Facilities Manager*  
323-761-8994

Rachel Landis, *Program Assistant*  
323-761-8910

# 2006 Discovery Award Gala

**A**t a sold out event at the Beverly Hilton, the Zimmer Children's Museum held its Sixth Annual Discovery Award Dinner, proudly honoring former Zimmer chairs Beth & Rodney Freeman and current Zimmer chair Wendy Moss Klein. Their on-going commitments to children and youth continue to inform their leadership efforts.



Rodney & Beth Freeman with Richard S. Ziman (center)

The Discovery Award is given annually to extraordinary individuals who are builders and leaders in

their fields and communities. The 2006 awards were presented by Richard S. Ziman, Chairman and CEO of Arden Realty, Inc. and Gary E. Knell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sesame Workshop.

Previous Discovery Award Honorees are Jenna & Dan Adler, Jennifer Cohen, Barbara Fisher, Jean Friedman, Andy Heyward, Arthur Hiller, Mark Itkin, Gary

Gary E. Knell and Wendy Moss Klein

E. Knell, Gloria & Jerry Lushing and Cynthia Sikes Yorkin.



Honorees admire Award art piece by Shlomo Hazizi

# We're so proud!

**S**ara Zolott, the Museum's Program and Marketing Coordinator, completed her Certificate in Early Childhood Education from UCLA and has been accepted to a combined Masters and Doctorate program in clinical psychology at Ryokan College. Fortunately for us, this is a part-time program so Sara will continue to contribute her special talents to the Museum.

Arts and Educational Specialist, **Rebecca Green**, was recently presented a Smotrich Family Foundation Award given to a young professional at the beginning of a promising career. Rebecca has taught at the BJE affiliated school at Temple Ahavat Shalom for 3 years and continues to be their Israeli Dance Specialist.

We are so pleased to have these multi-talented

# Welcoming Tracey

**W**e are pleased to formally introduce Tracey Benoliel our newest weekly volunteer. Tracey started at the Museum by welcoming guests at the front desk but her love of children and Judaism led her to assist in our Toddler Art and Toddler Shabbat classes.



In her native Australia, Tracey was a senior consultant for an IT company that implemented software into accounting firms. She and new husband Philippe came to Los Angeles eight months ago. As a Jew by choice, Tracey considers her whole conversion process wonderful and memorable.

Tracey learned about our Museum while researching Jewish agencies that accepted volunteers. Then, by chance, she met CEO Esther Netter through a mutual friend. After meeting with the Museum director and "friendly staff" Tracey decided this was where she wanted to contribute her time.

When asked what she liked about the Museum she quickly responded "Where do I begin? I love spending time with the children; they are so curious and innocent! It is wonderful watching them embrace the different experiences and challenges the Museum presents. I especially enjoyed being a part of Toddler Shabbat where I get to see the children interact with each other and see their knowledge of all the aspects of Shabbat grow."



## Pay It Forward: Philanthropy Education

**W**hen we think of engaging youth in making the world a better place, particularly in a school setting, the focus is generally on service learning or community service activities. YOUthink is launching Pay It Forward in 2007, a special YOUthink lesson that will encourage students to think about and experience the power of money and philanthropy as tools for social change.

Over the course of the spring semester, Pay It Forward will be piloted in three different schools. Participating schools are Foshay Learning Center in South L.A., East Valley High School in North Hollywood and Thomas Starr King Middle School in Silverlake. Through Pay It Forward, students will learn about non-profit organizations, what they do and how they work, identify issues or causes that they would like to support financially, conduct site visits to local non-profit organizations and decide, individually, where they each would like to donate \$25 provided by the program.

This pilot was made possible through a grant from the Resnick Family Foundation.



City Councilmember José Huizar meets with Shifra Teitelbaum, YOUthink Director. The Councilmember hopes to bring YOUthink lessons to more schools in his district.

## What's In a Name?

**T**his winter, YOUthink interns explored discrimination and targeting at school and on a personal level. To begin, interns conducted research for one week at their schools, recording and analyzing all the incidents they heard of slurs, name calling, and putdowns (targeting). Their findings are troubling. Middle or high school, public or private school, derogatory comments and putdowns are ubiquitous, regardless of school policy. Often the putdowns are presented as a joke, and students are expected to laugh and not take offense. Through this project, interns reflected on their own behavior, and on the challenges of speaking up for others. (See insert below for specific intern reflections.)

After examining targeting in the larger context of their schools and social circles, interns

examined the personal effects of targeting on their lives, and their roles in targeting or supporting others. Their increased awareness about its prevalence, and the ways that its impact is often minimized, led them to

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Student intern tells his story about targeting.

### Student Reflections About Targeting At Schools:

"I never noticed how many racist and offensive comments are made in a single day until I did this research."

"Putdowns and slurs are extremely common in my school.... It's rare for someone to intervene, maybe because they are afraid or don't care. I think people should pay closer attention to what they say."

"People say I can play piano and do math just because I'm Asian. These slurs downplay my talents, implying that it only comes naturally to me due to my race."

"Sometimes, even if they laugh, I can tell from their facial expressions and reactions that people are actually hurt. I want people to actually see how others react, and if they are hurt, don't do it again."

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# Student Interns – Learning, Having Fun, Making a Difference

**A** yearlong program for middle and high school students from throughout Los Angeles, the **YOU**THink Student Internship uses creative self-expression to engage youth to think critically about social issues affecting their communities and the world, to empower them to find and use their voices, and to take action for social change. In the process, interns develop important skills such as self-reflection, active listening, and engagement with people with different views, beliefs and experiences.

Internship training sessions use hands-on activities to teach collaboration, communication, social responsibility and leadership skills. At meetings, interns choose and plan events to offer for youth citywide.

Staff members personally mentor interns, supporting them with their school work and college applications, listening and providing resources to help address their personal concerns.

Student interns comment on their recent experiences:

**“Where I live, you don’t really get to talk about these issues. It’s not such a mixed community. I like that we get to learn about other people, and what they go through.”**

**“This year I am more confident in myself. Last year [as a new intern], when I was nervous, other people made me feel at home. This year, I’m helping to make others feel more comfortable.”**

**“I have learned to be conscious of other people, to realize that they may need more time and encouragement to speak than I do.”**

**“Through the internship I have become more respectful. If you need to say something, say it in a polite way. I’m also more patient.”**



Interns practice concentration, collaboration and communication in these teambuilding activities.



## About **YOU**THink

**YOU**THink uses the power of art to foster critical thinking, engage diverse learners, promote literacy and serve as a tool for social change. **YOU**THink brings interactive lessons to public school classes throughout California, using art to engage students in contemporary issues analysis, problem solving, and community involvement. **YOU**THink is a program of the Zimmer Children’s Museum.

The **YOU**THink program includes:

**School Services:** Arts-based classroom lessons (4th - 12th grades) and professional development for teachers

**Youth Services:** Leadership and community involvement opportunities for youth beyond the classroom

**Community Partnerships:** Exhibits of student art, community collaborations, corporate partnerships

6505 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90048  
(323) 761-8987 • email: [info@youthink.org](mailto:info@youthink.org)

[www.youthink.org](http://www.youthink.org)

## Youth Services

Interns, working with staff, organized a range of programs for L.A. youth this fall. With the Youth Services goals of leadership development, community involvement and arts in mind, interns chose a variety of fun and meaningful activities, including a full moon hike, an ecological workshop making art from junk, a ropes course and a beach clean up.



Students practice problem solving and adventure activities.



Educators participate in a YOUThink teacher's event at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research. The Library also hosted an exhibit of YOUThink student art on the walls.

## Schools Services

**Y**OUThink School Services provides arts-based lessons in public schools along with professional development opportunities for teachers. YOUThink lessons use the power of art to foster critical thinking, engage diverse learners, promote literacy, and serve as a tool for social justice.



Students explore the meaning of community in their lives through discussion and art making



Teamwork and participation in outdoor activities.



Despite cold, wet weather, students make a difference at a beach cleanup in Santa Monica.

# YOUThink Lessons in Schools A Teacher's Perspective

**H**eather Lighston currently teaches English at East Valley High School in North Hollywood. Last year, she taught at George Washington Carver Middle School. She incorporated YOUThink into her lessons at both schools. She shares her views about the impact of the program.

### What did you see as the value of the program for your students/curriculum?

YOUThink is an invaluable program. Having YOUThink facilitators interacting with our school children is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to network and learn from adults who find their thoughts and ideas important. Also, as a teacher, it is so vital for me to provide academic rigor and help students make connections between their content area classes and the world around them.

The YOUThink experience assisted me in challenging my students academically and enabled them to

think about topics in a concrete, new way. For instance, instead of merely brainstorming a list of societal problems, we composed a list of issues *and their solutions*, emphasizing the act of problem-solving and encouraging our youth to make a difference in the world.



Heather Lighston talks with a student about his artmaking.

### How did you incorporate YOUThink lessons into your curriculum?

My ninth grade honors English class had just completed a unit on persuasive writing, and was transitioning to read George Orwell's novel, *Animal Farm*. The YOUThink lessons fit perfectly into my standards-based curriculum because it gave my students the opportunity to apply what they had just learned (in terms of persuasive writing techniques) on the "Writing to Make a Difference" activity. The lessons also gave them an opportunity to explore many of the social issues that we had previously tackled in class and in the novel, through YOUThink discussions, writing and art-making.

### What was the impact of YOUThink on your students?

YOUThink impacted my students in various positive ways. They were inspired to "think outside the box" during each of the four sessions. Their level of participation and interaction increased; they felt the importance of their thoughts and ideas as they were being valued by adults outside of the East Valley High School community. And finally, it impacted my students by emphasizing the correlation between the creative processes of reading, writing and art-making.

### Any other thoughts?

In today's age of fewer electives and more standardized testing, I find it crucial to integrate as much art into my curriculum as possible. Working with YOUThink affords me the opportunity to give my students relevant academics and real-world experiences, coupled with an art project that reinforces their own self-selected message about the world in which they live.

# Youth Perspectives

**A**t the Zimmer Children's Museum's 2006 Discovery Award Dinner, guests heard from a current **youTHink** student intern and a **youTHink** alumna. They shared their experiences with **youTHink** and how it impacted them. Below are excerpts of their comments.

## Roberto Orellana:

"I am a student at Foshay Learning Center in the 12th grade. I came to Los Angeles from El Salvador when I was 10 years old. I started school here in 6th grade. I didn't know any English, so it was really hard at first, but after the first semester I learned English, mostly from TV and my friends. Then it got easier and I started to do well in school.



"I first got involved with **youTHink** through the Teens and Government in Action program last spring. It's an experience that should be available to every teenager. I learned that it doesn't matter who you are or how old you are; people will listen to you if you try hard enough and have the right guidance.

"I am currently an intern with **youTHink**. As an intern, I have developed leadership and teamwork skills. Being involved with **youTHink**, I have become a better person, by participating in activities which require me to think on my feet and learn how to work with others as one.

"The most important thing I have learned through my involvement with **youTHink** is that you should always speak your mind. Being an intern has helped me to get out of my comfort zone and try new things. **youTHink** has also taught me that youth can really make a difference in this world. Being involved with **youTHink** has been a great experience for me."

## Josephine Ferreiro:

"I am a recent college graduate from Loyola Marymount University. I have a bachelor's degree in European Studies and French. I speak English, Spanish and French fluently. I have a great interest in international relations and helping people all over the world.



"During my junior year in high school, I participated in a **youTHink** lesson. Facilitators showed us different pieces of art work, each illustrating a strong social message. Before that, I was never exposed to the study of art for the purpose of relaying an idea. The **youTHink** lesson made me think about social issues I care about and try to think of ways to do something about them.

"Curious to find out more, I became a **youTHink** student intern. This was a great opportunity to learn valuable skills and helped us all grow into socially conscious leaders. We discussed important issues that we cared about, and then we organized events to do something about them. Thanks to **youTHink**, I came out of my shell and spoke up about my views to others. I felt empowered as a young student, that my voice mattered.

"**youTHink** also helped me receive the Gates Millennium Scholarship, a full scholarship awarded to 1,000 students of color nationwide. I would not be where I am today without the wonderful people of **youTHink**."

# What's In a Name?

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want to share their own experiences with a wider audience. Each intern identified an experience when they were targeted, when they participated in targeting someone else, or when they were a witness to targeting. Working in collaboration with Johanna Cooper and her colleagues, students recorded their stories and what they hope listeners will take from their experiences. Johanna Cooper produced the audio stories, available for you to download from our website ([www.youthink.org](http://www.youthink.org)) beginning February 1. A shorter, composite piece is available for radio broadcast in conjunction with No Name Calling Week (Jan 22-26, 2007).

Student stories include: being accused of being a terrorist for being Persian; being bullied at school and passing it on to younger, smaller students; racial profiling and harassment by security guards; being taunted as a Satan-worshipper for wearing black; challenging a parent on their homophobia; being confronted with demeaning comments about Mexicans by a student in class and retaliating with racial slurs; and more. Please visit our website to hear their stories and post your comments.

## Targeting At Schools

Continued from page 5

"Homophobic slurs are popular; nothing else offends a person more than being called gay."

"People should watch what they say because certain comments can make someone feel very bad about themselves and even feel like they are hated by everyone. If a person sees someone being targeted, then they should intervene...no one likes being hurt."

"Slurs are used so commonly that people use them to joke around. People don't take it seriously. I noticed that no one, not even when teachers are present, really cares or does anything to stop it, or prevent it from happening again."

The Zimmer is pleased to acknowledge our special relationship with the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. As our largest single donor, the Jewish Federation provides critical financial support for our ongoing Museum and YOUThink programs and partners with us on our show&tell exhibit. The Zimmer Children's Museum is proud to be a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation Council.

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## The BIG QUESTION?

Ask a question and you get an answer!

**Our question:**

**What makes you special or unique? What are you good at?**

**2nd graders answer:**  
(with no spell-check!)

**"I know how to say nice words."** *Rachel*

**"I make my friends laugh."** *Rachele*

**"I am good in art. I am good in writing."** *Diana*

**"I help friends."** *Giovany*

**"I am a good writer!"**  
*Indya*

**"I'm a great friend."**  
*Maria*

**"I help people when they need help."** *Martha*

**"I love my mom."** *Mario*

**"I am good at cooking."**  
*Karen*

**Our question:**

**At this time of Thanksgiving, who and what are you thankful for?**

**"My mommy"**

**"Thanks for playing Candiland with me mommy!"**

**"Bananas"**

**"I am thankful for my family and chocolate"**

**"My family and friends and food"**

**"I love everyone in the universe"**

**"I am thankful for my family and presents"**

**"Food"**

**"Broadband"**

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# show&tell: the art of harmony

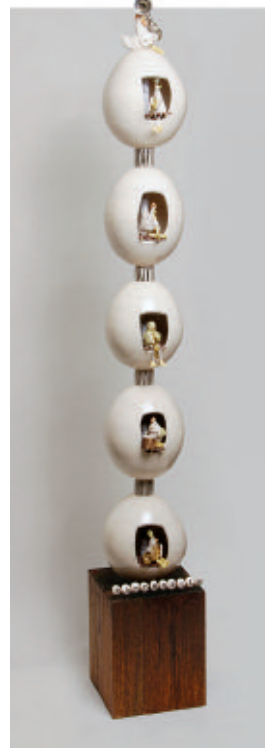
Following the successes of **show&tell: art of connection** and **show&tell: the art of time** exhibits, the Zimmer has invited 75 artists, humanitarians and social activists to participate in the 2007 **show&tell: the art of harmony** exhibit. Creativity will reign as musical instruments are transformed into masterpieces.

Using the metaphor of harmony, the art will include interpretations of the meaning of music and instruments of change. Art will be exhibited at the Zimmer and the Jewish Federation Bell Gallery in May 2007. Proceeds from the sale of the art works will benefit the Zimmer Children's Museum's youTHink arts education programs in public schools.

Participants include artists: **Robert Rauschenberg, Barbara Lazaroff, Gary Baseman, Paul Frank, Kingsley, Brad Howe, and Michael Kalish**; and environmentalist, **Julia Butterfly Hill**. For more information and to see a complete list of participants, go to [www.zimmershowandtell.org](http://www.zimmershowandtell.org).

**Exhibit Opening Reception: Sunday, May 6, 2007**

**Exhibit Dates: April 30 – June 14, 2007**



Ceramic sculpture assemblage, right: **Moye Thompson, Bandshells**

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Suite 100  
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