

ג'וּנִיִּם



G'VANIM

VOLUME 36, NO.1

September/October, 2007

High Holy Days Then and Now

Davi Cheng, Immediate Past President,

I remember the first time I attended BCC's High Holy Days. It was eleven years ago.



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Services were held at Temple Isaiah, the same as today.

I remember feeling both excited and a bit uncomfortable...as I often did back then at all Jewish events. Bracha and I were new to BCC, and I, being a non-Jew and Chinese, felt especially awkward. Services seemed to drag on forever, and I was merely an observer. I remember thinking to myself and making a vow that I would never attend another High Holy Day service!

But then I fell in love with Judaism, and it is a good thing that we get to nullify our vows on Yom Kippur; because I haven't missed a Days of Awe service since then.

The next year, I attended my first Erev Rosh Hashanah service as a Jew. Having decided that I would not merely be an observer, I signed up as a volunteer, and Marie-Jeanne, BCC's then president, assigned me to 'parking lot duty' at the golf course across the way from Temple Isaiah. My job was to station myself at the gate and stop people from driving into the lot, because we did not obtain permission for parking that year. I remember the puzzled and frustrated

looks I received as people arrived, "Why is that Asian parking attendant from the golf course telling us we can't park in the lot! We park there every year!" they kvetched. But as the chaos calmed, and I finally sat down at the start of the service, I felt good that I'd done a deed - making sure that no one got a parking ticket on the Days of Awe.

This year Bracha, Denis, and I are co-chairing these Days of Awe, and we want to invite you to consider being more than just an observer; be a participant instead. Sign up as a volunteer and help us to make sure that everyone has an enjoyable, meaningful, and spiritual experience. You never know whose life you'll touch and help by volunteering.

There are many ways to participate, actively and passively. You can help physically by schlepping prayer books, or cooking your favorite recipes and sharing them at the Rosh Hashanah potluck, help at the ticket table, greet at the door, sponsor the oneg, or just show up. There is no shortage of needs at these important days of the Jewish calendar, and there are great opportunities for all of us to contribute and make a difference. Call the BCC office at 323-931-7023 and leave us a message if you are interested or put your name down on the volunteer signup sheet at BCC.

New this year will be a special family service; it will be held in the social

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HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 8

Selichot

10:00 pm at BCC

(including a reading from

Rashi's Daughters, Book II – see page 12)

Wednesday, September 12

Erev Rosh Hashanah

8:00 pm at Temple Isaiah

Thursday, September 13

Rosh Hashanah

9:30 am at Temple Isaiah

Followed by potluck lunch

Friday, September 14

Second day Rosh Hashanah

10:00 am at BCC

Tashlich

NEW TIME: 4:00 pm at Venice Beach

(gather in front of Figtree Café, 429 Ocean Front Walk)

Kabbalat Shabbat

NEW TIME AND LOCATION:

5:30 pm at Venice Beach

Followed by a light Shabbat dinner hosted by Allison Diamant

at 7:00 pm. RSVP is required.

(There will be NO Shabbat Service at 8 pm at BCC)

Saturday, September 15

Shabbat Shuvah Egalitarian Minyan

10:00 am at BCC

Followed by potluck dairy lunch

Friday, September 21

Kol Nidre

7:00 pm at Temple Isaiah

Saturday, September 22

Yom Kippur Services

10:00 am at Temple Isaiah

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Break

(Yoga, film, Social Action discussion)

4:00 pm, **Yizkor** Service

5:00 pm, **Afternoon/Neilah** Services

8:00 pm, **Break-the-Fast** light refreshment

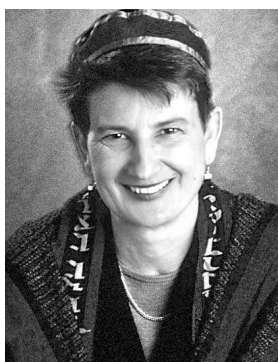
From the Rabbi's Study...

Lisa Edwards

Preparations for the Days of Awe are in full swing at BCC – among the clergy, the office staff, the many volunteers who help make them happen, the BCC Board. I've already shed more than one tear, knowing this is the last of the 13 years that Fran and I will be preparing together for the Days of Awe with BCC.

How about you? Are you preparing yet?

Every year I make an invitation. One of these years you'll take me up on it. Or have you already? Perhaps you even make a habit of it. The invitation of course is to do some preparation for the Days of Awe before



you find yourself in the midst of them, before you walk away from them after they're over wondering what they were about

or why you bother going or whether you'll go next year.

Does it seem to you that the year has gone very quickly? It goes faster and faster the older you get, and the Days of Awe come along as markers. Don't just notice that the days have flown by – notice what happened in them. Notice yourself. Was it a good year or not? Much of that is beyond our control. Were you a good person or not? That's way more within our control. How did you respond to the good, the bad, and the in-between? Are you a better person for having lived this year, or are you just a year older?

Shanah (as in Rosh Hashanah)

is not just "year," it is tied also to the Hebrew roots meaning "change," "different," and, oddly, "repeat." It marks not just a new year (a cycle repeated), but also transition, difference, change, newness. Ideally, a new year ought to be all of these things, like the comforting embrace of old friends one moment followed by the promising handshake of new acquaintances.

The month of Elul that began on August 14 is set aside in Jewish tradition to begin our preparations, to do cheshbon hanefesh – take an accounting of our souls. Consider the questions laid out for us by a tradition that invites us – year after to year – to reflect on our lives and to become, every year, a better person:

Where did you go wrong and how can you fix it?

Where something can't be fixed, what kind of amends can you make?

What kind of changes do you want to make, and where do you want to hold your course?

Have you grown, and if so, how?

Have you learned, and if so, what?

Are you ready to enter a new year, to make new contributions to the world you live in, to become more the person you want to be? The person God wants you to be?

Don't be afraid, and don't let it get away from you, this precious time of reflection and repair. Let this be the year you enter ready, willing to encounter whatever lies ahead. It won't happen without you.

Shanah Tovah. I look forward to welcoming you to the Days of Awe, to BCC, to this new year.

L'shalom,

Lisa

OFFICE

Temple Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday 9:00 – 5:00 pm

Friday 9:00 – 4:00 pm

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e-mail: bcc@bcc-la.org

website: www.bcc-la.org

Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Cantorial Soloist Fran Chalin are available for private appointments. Please call at least a week in advance, if possible, to schedule.

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Cantorial Soloist	Fran M. Chalin, MSW/MJCS
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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 and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

Music Old and New

Fran Chalin



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Last week I had a meeting with a very accomplished musician, 24 years old, raised Jewish. He's thinking about the

melodies of Jewish prayer. "Music is my life and I'm not being moved by what I hear inside the synagogues. People my age are wanting, needing to hear something very different. The tunes are old and they don't move us!" While inwardly I was picking my very old self off the floor, I realized that we are at the start of another major change in Jewish liturgical music. My very old self also began to tell him that 40 years ago Jewish people in their 20's were feeling much the same way.

40 years ago, the antiwar movement brought its music to the streets, and Jewish music has never been the same. Songs like "Blowing in the Wind", "Masters of War", and "The Times They are a Changing" were being sung everywhere, and that music was transforming the political and social climate. Or maybe the social and political climate caused the music to change. Jewish young adults were in the middle of a revolution and they felt that their synagogues weren't keeping up. So, just as these young adults were changing mainstream culture, they were also changing Jewish liturgical music, drastically and forever!

"Music, perhaps more than any other medium, has the unique ability to express and mirror the full range of human emotions, consciousness, and experience. Its appeal on one hand is universal... while on the other hand, nothing captures the

particular essence of a specific culture, religion or era, or individual better than music. It allows the soul to soar to heavenly heights, giving wing to our most glorious aspirations and dreams. It expresses as well our greatest pain, sadness and existential loneliness." ("The Mystical Power of Music", rabbi Avraham Trugman)

So here we are, about to enter into the Days of Awe, the days in the Jewish calendar that are marked by changes in the liturgical music and in the melodies we hear when Torah is chanted. And yet, these special melodies speak directly to our hearts and hold us together. There have been attempts in the past to change the melodies of such prayers as Avinu Malkeynu, and even Kol Nidre. As you may have guessed, those attempts failed. It makes sense to me, and it speaks to the "awe" in these Days of Awe. These Holy Days are inspiring, but they can also be quite disconcerting and even frightening. The music of the Holy Days is what comforts us and propels us toward change at the same time! I encourage you to let yourselves be swept up, even opened up by the melodies of these awe-inspiring days.

I also encourage you to add your voice to that of this congregation, the one that's known as the "singing congregation." Because the mystical power of music is not only in the song, it's in the voices joined in song. As we join together in community to look honestly into ourselves with the hopes of turning and returning to ourselves, let's use the power of our collective voices joined in melodies, some ancient, some new, to enable our souls to soar to heavenly heights. Let it be so!

With blessings
Fran

EDITOR'S NOTE

Larry Nathenson

As I begin my third year in a row as editor of G'vanim, I can't help but notice how much more vibrant our congregation has become. I have no trouble filling these pages; I even have to trim some articles to fit them all in because we are doing so much at BCC. Whether you are new to us or have been with us a long time, please take a look at all we have to offer.

The first three pages are dedicated to High Holidays, led by our amazing clergy Lisa and Fran since 1994. Our President Brett Trueman reviews the past two years on page 4, then on page 5 we introduce two new faces, our Rabbinic Intern Joe Hample and our new Education Director Leah Zimmerman.

We have an amazing variety of social action projects (pages 6-8), from donations to worthy causes to formulating a "kashrut of transformation" to visiting the elderly and feeding people with HIV. We are also taking care of ourselves with our search for a new and larger home and planned giving opportunities (page 9) and our several havurot and other social and cultural activities (pages 10-11). We have innovative religious services (pages 12-13) and we never forget to note our own simchas (page 14).

There's something here for everyone. Please get involved in as many ways as you like.



A Look Back at the Last Two Years

Brett Trueman

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE



As I finish my first term as president of BCC and begin my second, I'd like to take a look back at all we've accomplished together as a community over the last two years. It's an amazing list! On the spiritual side, we introduced a monthly special Shabbat service, Ruach Chayim, a telephone Shabbat service and minyan (for those who are unable to come to BCC), and a monthly family Shabbat service. On the social front, we inaugurated the 20s and 30s Men's Havurah, and will soon have a 20s and 30s Women's Havurah as well. With respect to social action, we held a series of "Bridges to Understanding" weekends, providing the opportunity for dialogue among Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Then, there was our truly memorable "Etz Chayim" weekend, which featured an unprecedented gathering of approximately 30 Czech Holocaust Torah scrolls, including our own.

We hired our first Executive Director, Felicia Park-Rogers, nearly two years ago, and we will soon inaugurate our first family religious school. We established the L'Chayim Legacy Circle, to recognize all those who have remembered BCC in their wills. I have been told that the proportion of our members who have joined the Circle is extraordinarily high compared to other shuls. Thank you to everyone who is participating in this mitzvah to ensure BCC's future. Many of our committees have recently expanded and revitalized their programming, including Arts and Leisure, Men's Havurah, Tikkun Olam, and the Tzedakah Council.

Last, but certainly not least, we embarked on our "Home for the Future" capital campaign. When we started the campaign, our consultants estimated that we would raise about \$2.2 million. At this point, with just 1/3rd of the membership approached, our total is almost \$3.1 million! Our consultants have told us that we are the most successful small synagogue they have ever worked with! To all of you who are already participating in our shared vision, thank you very much. For those of you who haven't yet been approached to take part in the campaign, please know that we will be in touch.

BCC has signed an exclusive agreement with a commercial real estate broker to search for our new home. The real estate search committee has already visited a few potential sites and will be visiting other sites as they are identified. In its search, the committee is being guided by the input from the many focus groups that were held during the last few months. To all of you who participated in these groups, thank you very much.

All that we have accomplished (and all that we will accomplish) at BCC stems, without doubt, from the deep love we feel for our shul and our community. As many members have told me, they

came to BCC looking for a place where they could feel comfortable being themselves, but found so much more...a large, loving, and supportive community.

Over 40 new members have joined our community during the last two years; many of them have already become active in synagogue life. I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new members; thank you for joining our community.

I would like to extend a special invitation to those of you who are not yet members to become part of our shul. I'm sure that you'll be amazed, as I was, by the wonderful community you've joined. And BCC will gain as well, because each new member adds to the strength and vitality of our family. As an added incentive, if you join by November 1, the cost of your High Holiday tickets will be deducted from your first year membership contribution pledge.

I wish you and yours a very healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year and hope to see you soon, as our community celebrates the Days of Awe together.

Shanah Tovah,
Brett

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Hi, I'm Joe Hample. I'm a fourth year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College, and a BCC member since 2005. I'm thrilled to be BCC's incoming rabbinic intern. It's a great privilege for me to work with, and learn from, this unique and history-making congregation.

I was born and raised in New York State, celebrated my bar mitzvah at Larchmont (NY) Temple in 1969, and graduated from Harvard in 1978 with a Russian major. I moved to California in 1980, and worked for many years as a systems analyst at Wells Fargo Bank.

In 1993 I joined San Francisco's Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, and soon became active as a board member, service leader, newsletter chair, High Holiday coordinator, teacher and tutor. Deciding at last to make a career of serving my community, I flew to Jerusalem in 2004 to begin rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College. Along with many classmates, I spent Passover 2005 leading seders in the former Soviet Union.

I then returned to HUC's Los Angeles campus to finish my

studies. I now live in West Hollywood with my partner, longtime BCC member Barry Wendell. My past internships include Congregation Or Ami (in Calabasas), Temple Beth Zion (in Buffalo, NY), and Congregation Beth Haverim (in Spokane, WA). This past summer I interned part-time in the L.A. county jails with the Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Yossi Carron.

Each internship is different, but each is a lesson in adapting my style to the distinctive needs of the specific congregation. I depend on you to show and tell me how I can best serve this community. Among other things, I hope to work with the sick and the bereaved, with prospective Jews-by-choice and prospective lay leaders, with children's education and updating our prayerbooks.

I know this is a synagogue that welcomes people of all sorts, because you've been welcoming me for two years. In English there's no specific reply to the word "Welcome," but in Hebrew there is. The Hebrew equivalent of "Welcome" is B'ruchim ha-ba'im, "Blessed are those who come": and the answer is B'ruchim ha-nimtza'im, "Blessed are those who are found." It is my blessing to have found you.

BCC Hires Education Director For New Family School

As reported in the July/August issue, this fall BCC will inaugurate a weekly family education religious school. Our clergy and Board of Directors are committed to educating BCC's children here at BCC, and to providing education for the entire family. Here is an introductory letter from Leah Zimmerman, who will serve as BCC's Education Director as we launch our new learning experience.

Dear BCC Friends,

I am very excited to be joining the BCC community this year as the Education Director. It is a thrill for me to have a found a welcoming progressive community as I start a new life with my family on the West Coast. I feel lucky to have this opportunity to work with you to build a brand new school and a new vision for family education. I plan to

bring my experience, knowledge, skills gained from previous experiences working in Jewish Education at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York City and most recently as the Education Director at Kolot Chayeinu in Brooklyn to your community.

At BJ, I taught for many years and played many educational roles including preparing students for B'nai Mitzvah, advising and mentoring teachers, and leading the Youth Activities. At Kolot, I collaborated with the Rabbi and lay leadership to establish a unique vision of programming and education that matched that community's goals. I enjoyed working with teachers as we prepared for formal classes as well as leading informal learning, Jewish Shabbat experiences, family services and holiday programming.

Much of my work is about facilitating experiences through which students and families can discover the richness of Jewish life and what it means specifically to them. To do so, I use my understanding of how learners learn, my training in the performing arts and years of experience working in Jewish institutions.

I look forward to talking with all of you, meeting you, learning about BCC and how I can work with your Congregation to implement a pluralistic, creative and vibrant Jewish education program. I hope that you will join me as I work with this community to enliven family involvement in the synagogue.

Leah Zimmerman

Tzedakah Council Announces Pushke Coin Drive

Robin Baltic

The 19th semi-annual BCC pushke coin drive is now underway, concluding October 26, 2007. To lend your support to help someone in need, please return your pushkes, however full, to the BCC office, or bring them with you when attending services held at Temple Isaiah for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We also have a new option — participate with a contribution using a credit card or check. For further information please contact Victoria in the BCC office.

The Tzedakah Council, on behalf of the BCC community, will distribute the funds from the current fall coin drive to the following organizations.

Agudah — The Association of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender in Israel. The BCC donation will provide financial support for maintaining YESH ("Someone to Talk to"), a volunteer hotline program run by the Tel Aviv branch of Agudah. The hotline is free and available to anyone seeking information and assistance locating GLBT resources.

Alcoholism Center for Women — Los Angeles based residential substance abuse treatment program for women. Funds will provide personal hygiene products for 30 women.

Beit Daniel — Center for Progressive Judaism in Tel Aviv-Jaffo —

Combination community center and synagogue affiliated with the Reform Movement. Funds will be used to help support Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation/training for disadvantaged youth.

BookEnds — Southern California based organization that recycles children's books through student-run book drive programs. The books are then distributed to schools and youth organizations in short supply of library books. BookEnds' diverse recipients include inner-city schools, youth centers, homeless shelters, family literacy centers, after-school enrichment programs, children's group homes and juvenile detention facilities. In many of the recipient organizations the ratio of books to kids is just 3 to 1. The national average is 22 to 1. The BCC tzedakah donation will be used to purchase children's books.

Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association — Nonprofit organization helping to support education and conservation programs at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. BCC tzedakah funds will help support ZooPals, a program that provides underserved school groups with transportation, admission and a docent-guided tour of the Zoo.

A Prayer for Action

Vaughan Rachel

When we meet for Tzedakah Council (TC) meetings it is our tradition to begin with what we call an "educational activity." The topic can be anything having to do with tzedakah. The source could be a Jewish text, a story, an article and so on. The responsibility for selecting the source material and leading the 15-20 minute discussion rotates among all TC committee members.

The values of this activity are many. It helps enrich our understanding and knowledge about the giving of tzedakah. It becomes an opportunity for sharing ideas, listening and learning from, and more about, one another. It also helps us focus our attention on the responsibility of making decisions, on behalf of the congregation, regarding the charities we select and the donation each will receive.

There are times when the education activity sparks an idea we want to share with all of you, our BCC family. This past June we read aloud in unison a prayer by Rabbi Jack Reimer. In the spirit of tikkun olam, in the spirit of tzedakah and at the start of our year 5768, the members of the Tzedakah Council would like to offer the following poem.

"A Prayer for Action" By Rabbi Jack Reimer

We cannot merely pray to G-d to end war:
For the world was made in such a way
That we must find our own path of peace
If we could only find it within ourselves and our neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to G-d to root out prejudice:
For we already have eyes
With which to see the good in all people
If we would only judge them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to G-d to end starvation:
For we already have the resources
With which to feed the entire world
If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to G-d to end despair:
For we already have the power

To clear away slums and to give hope
If we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to God to end disease:
For we already have great minds
With which to search out cures and healings
If we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray instead
For strength, determination, and will power,
To do instead of merely to pray:
To become instead of merely to wish;
That our world may be safe,
And that our lives may be blessed.

Ken yehi ratzon, v'nomar, Amen.



Toward A Kashrut of Transformation

Steps Toward a Progressive Jewish Way of Living in the World

Avram Chill

The Tikkun Olam Committee is planning a series of Shabbatons for the coming year to explore progressive Jewish ways of living in the world.

We begin with general principles in a discussion during the break on Yom Kippur afternoon.

Shabbat Chanukah will be devoted to ecology and green buildings, including a discussion of our possible new home.

The Shabbat before Purim, known as Shabbat Zachor, will deal with health, AIDS in the world, LGBT issues and a kosher healthy sexuality.

Pesach will be about food and hunger. We'll look at some interesting proposals for new forms of Kashrut from both the Jewish Renewal movement and

from the Conservative movement.

On the Shabbat before Tisha b'Av, known as Shabbat Chazon, we'll talk about kosher clothing and labor and exploitation of workers. If we have time, we'll also look at the effects of globalization.

Finally on Sukkot of next year, we'll discuss any projects that may interest us as a Temple.

Of course we cannot cover all the problems of the world in a few Shabbatots. So each session will focus on one area, looking at what our tradition teaches, what the current state of affairs is, and how the two relate. This program is tentative and anyone interested in helping or finding out more should contact Avram Chill, hagolem@sbcglobal.net, or talk with

Rabbi Edwards.

Since there will be much that we cannot discuss, we would like to create resource sheets of organizations and reading materials. Anyone with expertise in this field is particularly needed, but all help is gratefully welcomed. If you're interested in discussing these issues and how they relate to the Jewish tradition, we have a discussion group on Yahoo, open to BCC members and friends. To join send a message with the word subscribe in the title to BCC_Tikkun_Olam_subscribe@yahoo.com. Be sure to note that there are underscores, "_", between the first three words, or send a message to hagolem@sbcglobal.net

Project Caring

Bonnie Leopold

The first time I read these words I had no idea what the project was and why was I to care. Yet, over the past four years I have come to care greatly about this project and I know why.

Once a month I carry my box of percussion instruments, a boom box and CD's, and a Torah to the Country Villa Wilshire Convalescent Home in Fairfax. I do this in order to bring a Shabbat feeling to the Jewish and non-Jewish residents of this facility. This project has been a tradition of BCC for over 25 years. Under the direction of Larry Nathenson for many years, a small group of BCC members have found joy in the mitzvah of visiting the residents one Shabbat each month.

Beginning with a very upbeat version of Shalom Aleichem, the tambourines, maracas, bells, and sticks are passed out. Residents, who very seldom speak, welcome the instruments into their hands and keep to the beat of the music as we thank God for this wonderful day.

Hallelujah is a word that is said in

many religions. We all sing Hallelujah together with the music of Debbie Friedman and the little social hall of the facility becomes a holy place.

I look into the eyes of residents and see a sparkle of life. In their eyes I see the connection to God and great appreciation for this time that we share together.

One Shabbat, the music playing on the CD was the blessing for lighting the candles. I looked over to see a fragile, elderly, woman raising her hands to cover her eyes as if to bless the Shabbat candles. I spoke to her and said, "you remember?" She did not speak yet the tears in her eyes answered my question.

I feel blessed to carry on this BCC tradition. You are welcome to join us the second Saturday of each month. The musical Shabbat gathering is from 11:00 am until about 11:45. You are welcome to come earlier or stay after to visit with residents.

For more information or questions, please contact Bonnie Leopold at ptyplnr@aol.com or 310-613-3559.

High Holy Days Then and Now...

(continued from page 1)

hall with its own ark and made more special than ever for the kids. In addition to the regular yoga session during the Yom Kippur afternoon break, we will have a showing of a film about Torah scribes, "Write for Yourself," by Judy Kriger, and a Social Action discussion session led by our Tikkun Olam Chair Avram Chill.

So, bring your friends and family, and join us for the Days of Awe. Bracha, Denis and I will be looking forward to seeing you and wishing you a good year 5768!

Shanah Tovah
Davi

BCC Food Drive Benefits Project Chicken Soup

BCC's High Holiday food drive will once again benefit the clients of Project Chicken Soup. With your help, Project Chicken Soup will be able to deliver a special bag of kosher non-perishable packaged goods and toiletries along with their freshly prepared food and nutritional supplements.

Los Angeles Jewish AIDS Services/Project Chicken Soup is a non-profit organization which provides nutritious, kosher meals to people living with HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles County, in observance of the Jewish principle of tikkun olam, healing the world through service to humankind. Project Chicken Soup provides nechama - comfort - to those in need, regardless of race, religion or creed, and provides a connection to the Jewish community.

Two Sundays each month, we gather at Hirsh Family Kosher Kitchen at 330 N. Fairfax to prepare meals for approximately 110 clients living with HIV/AIDS. Each delivery to clients includes a grocery bag containing three complete entrees, two quarts of soup, two vegetable side dishes, fresh fruit salad, desserts, a breakfast package, and nutritional supplements. We frequently deliver additional "supply bags" that include nonperishable packaged goods and toiletries. We also provide special holiday food bags for Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Thanksgiving and Chanukah. We remain unique in that we are the only organization in the area providing kosher meals to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Except for one administrative staff person, the mission of PCS is accomplished entirely by volunteers. BCC has generously supported PCS through the years, and the PCS/BCC partnership continues today with many members of the BCC community regularly volunteering with PCS in roles that include serving as members of our Board of Directors, delivery volunteers, and cooks. Last April, a wonderful group of volunteers from BCC came to help us cook the Passover meal for our clients, and donated special holiday treats we delivered with the prepared food. We really appreciated having everyone there, and we're looking forward to the next time we can all work together in the kitchen!

We always welcome new volunteers to join us. In addition to cooks and delivery volunteers, we are currently recruiting for volunteer positions that include shopping for containers prior to each cooking, taking an inventory of supplies, packing special meals (we customize meals in response to clients' special dietary needs), and outreach. Please call Cathryn at the PCS office at 323-933-5402 or send an email to projectchickensoup@sbcglobal.net for more information. Our cooking dates are always posted on our website at www.projectchickensoup.org.

Please take one or more empty grocery bags at Rosh Hashanah services, and return them full on Yom Kippur. Please use the list attached to the bags as a guide for items to include. Thank you to everyone at BCC for your continued support of Project Chicken Soup. We wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

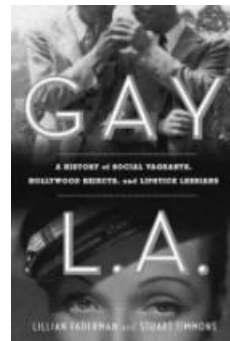
Cathryn Friedman
Associate Director

BCC Book Group

Larry Nathenson

For over ten 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 will not meet in September during the High Holidays. Our next book discussion is:

Sunday, October 28, at 10:00 a.m.
***Gay L. A.: A History of Sexual
Outlaws, Power Politics, and
Lipstick Lesbians*, by Lillian
Faderman and Stuart Timmons.**



This has become the definitive work on the history of GLBT communities in Los Angeles in the 20th century and today. It encompasses the role of gays and lesbians in the film industry, the dark years of hiding in the 1940s and 1950s, L.A.'s pioneering role in the formation of GLBT community institutions (including religious ones, with discussion of the founding and early history of BCC), the impact of the AIDS crisis, and ongoing political struggles today.

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.

Our New Home for Our Future

Ray Eelsing

Twelve years ago when my life partner Ed and I first walked through the doors of BCC, it never occurred to me that it would be a “life changing” event. After years of personal study, Ed had chosen BCC as the home where he’d eventually enter the covenant. I’d come to support him. I remember the building was unimpressive --- no stained glass windows, a planned renovation not yet started. We listened to Rabbi Edwards’ calm and thoughtful words, the Cantor’s moving voice... and suddenly, unexpectedly, I began to feel reconnected to a spirituality I had long since turned away from. On June 1st as I stood for Ed’s fifth yahrzeit, I was deeply aware of the profound impact BCC had had on our lives.

A few months ago when Brett and Allison left my home after asking for a pledge to the building campaign, I must admit I was excited. Not often do we have a chance to participate in something much larger than ourselves --- something that would result in a physical testament of what we hold dear. Giving to the building campaign was giving to a temple that had given us “new life,” one that had allowed us to reconnect with our spirituality in a safe and accepting environment. Considering the new building, I imagined someday being able to tell others that I/we had been a part of special group that had made this possible.

I was touched by Steve Koltai’s words in an earlier G’vanim: “That as the first recognized GLBT synagogue, BCC was becoming an ‘elder statesman’, a ‘standard bearer’ for other gay Jewish organizations in the US and around the world.” Realizing this, I felt enormous pride in being part of this historic congregation. I encourage those of you who’ve not yet been approached to take advantage of this rare opportunity to be part of this campaign; to join your personal legacy with others in creating a synagogue that truly befits an “elder statesman”; one that would allow our congregation to meet together in more than two rooms, provide space for our children to learn in a nurturing and open environment, and yet continue to house BCC’s integrity, its precious rabbi, congregation, and sanctuary, wherein future generations could experience, as we have, truly “life changing” events.

If you would like to join the campaign, please be in touch with Brett Trueman, president@bcc-la.org, or leave a message for him at BCC.



L'CHAYIM LEGACY CIRCLE CORNER

Chair: Ray Eelsing

Committee Members: Hannah Thiele, Bracha Yael, Tracy Moore, Evelyn Poplawski

The L'Chayim Committee has a series of important and exciting events scheduled to take place at BCC over the coming months.

Legacy Planning: Sunday, October 21st from 2:00 to 4:00 PM: Juan Ross will be the featured speaker. Juan has vast experience as a professional in the field, and is well versed in the unique challenges and opportunities faced in the GLBT community. He'll introduce planning strategies that can allow you to lessen your tax burden, enhance your retirement by generating income for you and/or your loved ones, and bestow a legacy for years to come. The seminar is free to BCC members; \$20 for nonmembers. RSVP is required by Monday, October 15th.

Sunday, January 27th and Sunday, March 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 PM:

In response to numerous requests, the L'Chayim Legacy Circle will again offer the **two-part 'Circle of Life Workshops'**. Please mark your calendars. A \$60 fee covers all costs of materials provided for both sessions; otherwise the two-part workshop is free to BCC members; \$20 for nonmembers. BCC will begin taking names now through December 15th. Participation is limited. Our last workshop sold out well in advance, so please contact BCC and register early.

Next year we're planning to bring you a series of seminars on **Elder Care**, and one on **California Domestic Partnerships**. Look for more information in the next L'Chayim Legacy Circle Corner.

If you have interest in being a part of the L'Chayim committee, please contact Ray Eelsing at (310) 305-9785 or email to reelsing@ca.rr.com.

If you've included BCC in your will or trust, or would like to find out more about providing a legacy for BCC, please contact the L'Chayim Legacy Circle at (323) 931-7023.



20s/30s Men's Havurah

David Mozes

Welcome to the inaugural column of the BCC 20s/30s Men's Havurah!

There are very few groups that specifically gear programming towards 20s and 30s adults in the Jewish community. While Hillel is an option for college and graduate students, there are very few institutions or programs for post-college, pre-married or pre-partnered Jews. The BCC Board of Directors understood this void and organized two 20s/30s Havurot (one for men and one for women) to address it.

The purpose of the BCC 20s/30s Men's Havurah is to build community among our younger male membership and to help do our part to make BCC a place that feels comfortable and inviting to men of all ages. The 20s/30s Men's Havurah is comprised of graduate students and working men, single men and couples, individuals who are new to BCC and some who have been at BCC for years. The point is not for this group to become a separate wing of the congregation but to be a sub-community that can integrate new members and "BCC-curious" individuals in their 20s and 30s and provide some social programming that speaks specifically to their interests. All participants in 20s/30s Men's Havurah events are also encouraged to participate in the "regular" Men's Havurah at BCC, which also has

terrific programming.

Our first event was an Oscar-viewing party held at the home of David Mozes and Peter Bastien. The second event was a Havdalah service and "gayme" night held at the welcoming home of Jay Jacobs. There was terrific conversation, yummy food, great fun, and lots of getting to know one another. As friendly and warm as the greater BCC congregation is, it is exciting to see our younger membership continue to grow, because we are the future of BCC.

Our newest upcoming event is a pool party and outdoor movie screening to be held in late September. We're also teaming up with the 20s/30s Women's Havurah to plan a BCC 20s/30s beachside bonfire & picnic event in early September (see accompanying article).

My co-chair Jordan Francke and I are just the ones that have been charged with getting the ball rolling on this new social institution that we're sure will be a part of BCC for generations to come. If you should have any suggestions for 20s/30s Men's Havurah events or occasions, or if you know of anyone (gay, straight, or otherwise) who might like to be included on our phone and email list for notification of future events, please email the BCC Office at bcc@bcc-la.org with 20s/30s Men's Havurah in the subject line.

BCC's 20s & 30s Men's and Women's Beach Bonfire

...And on the 8th day God created bonfire. And on September 9th BCC will. BCC cordially invites its 20's and 30's members to attend a social gathering at Dockweiler Beach on Sunday, September 9th from 5 - 10 pm. We will get to know our fellow BCC-ers a little better, while enjoying roasted marshmallows and the like! Men and women are both welcome. Please RSVP by September 5th to 2030.mens.havurah@gmail.com if you are interested so we can get an idea of how many people to expect.

The beach is located at the western terminus of Imperial Highway in Playa del Rey (Dockweiler Beach State Park, 12001 Vista Del Mar, Los Angeles, CA). Look for a BCC sign to find our group. We'll distribute contact information to those people who will be attending. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Jordan Francke, Dave Mozes, Candice Levy, and Diana Reiss

Life Transitions Group

Shirley Hirschberg

For the last five years BCC has sponsored the Life Transitions Group. From a mere handful of people it has grown dramatically, essentially through word and mouth. This growth is primarily the result of friends and members of the congregation sharing the successes they are having from participating in the group. We have become an extended family committed to helping each other grow by sharing experiences, strengths and hope in a safe and confidential environment.

Everyone is welcome (members and non-members). FREE.

Anyone dealing with changes and/or challenges in relationships, family, health, career or personal loss issues is welcome.

The group meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 7-9 pm, at BCC. It is led by Shirley Hirschberg, social worker and lifestyle and bereavement facilitator. If you have any questions, you can reach her through the temple office at (323) 931-7023.

Jerry Nodiff and Mike Halstater

An Interfaith Voice for Marriage Equality

The Men's Havurah welcomes all BCC men and their friends, singles and couples. It offers a mix of home-hosted and public events, and meets roughly once a month. Past events have included patio parties, potlucks in member's homes, plays, museum visits, and discussions.

Sunday, October 7: Planning Meeting

Your input is encouraged! Help us decide what events you would like for the Men's Havurah over the coming months. Join us for a planning session on Sunday, October 7, 2007, at noon. The location is in the Hancock Park area. RSVP to Mike Halstater, mikeyh2@earthlink.net or 818-705-1563, for location.

Saturday, October 13: Havdalah, Dessert Potluck, and Discussion

We all have opinions about the Middle East. Lend your voice to a discussion on the vexing questions on the world scene: Is there hope for Israeli - Palestinian peace?

Join us on Saturday, October 13, 2007 at 6:30 PM, at a home in West Los Angeles for Havdalah, dessert potluck (bring your favorite), and discussion. RSVP to Mike Halstater, mikeyh2@earthlink.net or 818-705-1563 for location. The deadline to RSVP is Wednesday, October 10, 2007.

Please Help Update our Email List

Sometimes people change their email addresses and forget to notify us when this happens, then the providers bounce the email back. If you are not receiving Men's Havurah emails and want to do so, please notify Mike Halstater at mikeyh2@earthlink.net. Thank you.

The freedom to marry is again politically controversial as a lawsuit for marriage equality approaches the California Supreme Court, as the State Senate passes AB 43, and as socially conservative groups attempt once again to repeal domestic partnership and constitutionally define marriage as between "one man and one woman." California Faith for Equality, an interfaith coalition of faith communities that support civil marriage equality, and Let California Ring, a statewide educational campaign on the freedom to marry, are proactively educating people of faith and the general public on the significance of marriage equality to prepare for these three threats.

The Supreme Court case is result of an Appellate Court decision not to reinstate those marriage licenses issued by the City of San Francisco in 2004 and revoked by the State of California six months later. California Faith for Equality has partnered with several other statewide organizations to collect signatories on an interfaith amicus brief. Signed by Rabbi Edwards, the brief offers legal and spiritual perspectives on marriage and the freedom of religion. It can be viewed online at www.cafaithforequality.org.

While the State Senate has passed AB43, Governor Schwarzenegger has vowed to veto the bill, as he did in 2004.

Other opponents of marriage equality have filed four potential ballot initiatives, two of which revoke domestic partnership and two of which alter California's constitution to define marriage as between "one man and one woman." California Faith for Equality and Let California Ring are asking those of us most affected by this threat to share our stories. Whether through conversations with friends and family or through forums, panels or other events, we can proactively educate California

about marriage equality. Faith for Equality carries the poignant and often overlooked or misrepresented voice of progressive faith communities that fully support the freedom to marry.

For more information about marriage equality in California, please sign the sheet at the entrance to services. To share your story, please be sure to check the "volunteer" box and a staff person or volunteer from California Faith for Equality will contact you.

Chagim S'machim!



BCC members and friends traveled to San Diego on August 12 to see the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit, organized by Arts & Leisure chair Cecilia Quigley. From left to right: Sandy Clarke, Larry Nathenson, Cecilia, Beth Salamensky, Donna Groman, Helen Brand, Mara and Elaine Silverberg, and Jerry Nodiff.

BCC's Innovative Religious Services

Selichot

Join us as we prepare for the Days of Awe with Selichot on Saturday, September 8, at 10:00 pm at BCC. An hour of learning followed by an oneg and then the simple, elegant prayers of Selichot will launch us gently into the season of holiness. BCC's own Maggie Parkhurst, (aka author Maggie Anton) will be talking about her new book *Rashi's Daughters, Book II: Miriam*, including a reading of the scene that takes place at a Selichot service in medieval France. (For a preview about the book check out her website: <http://www.rashisdaughters.com> Autographed copies will be available for sale after the discussion.)

Come discover how this late evening gathering helps prepare our souls for the Days of Awe. The service begins at 11:15 pm.

Shabbat Shuvah, September 14

As the second day of Rosh Hashanah draws to a close, the special Shabbat of

the Days of Awe - Shabbat Shuvah (the Sabbath of Return) begins. Come with us to Venice Beach for a moving Tashlich ceremony as we symbolically cast our sins into the ocean, followed by a musical Kabbalat Shabbat Shuvah right there on the beach. We'll gather for Tashlich at 4:00 pm in front of the Figtree cafe at 429 Ocean Front Walk, and walk to the beach together. Kabbalat Shabbat will begin at 5:30 (walk down to the beach in front of Figtree Cafe). Children are welcome!

Note: There will be no service at BCC on this night, but when we leave the beach we're invited to a private home nearby for a light supper and Shabbat candle lighting. Please RSVP to the BCC office at (323) 931-7023 to attend the supper.

Sukkot

Celebrate Erev Sukkot in BCC's own on-site sukkah on Wednesday, September 26 at 7:00 pm. If you have never been in a sukkah, here is your chance, with a light

and musical service led by Rabbi Lisa Edwards, Cantorial Soloist Fran Chalin and Rabbinic Intern Joe Hample. The service will start at 7:00 pm at BCC and will proceed to the sukkah behind the building. Children are welcome!

Simchat Torah and Shabbat B'resheet Celebration

On Friday evening, October 5, we close the season of awe with another special celebration at BCC. As Simchat Torah draws to an end, and with it our annual reading of the Torah, we'll end our Torah cycle with a brief Yizkor (memorial service) and move immediately into a celebration of Shabbat B'resheet, as we begin the Torah all over again! Yizkor service at 7:00 pm. Our celebration of Simchat Torah and Shabbat B'resheet - including singing, dancing with the Torah and the reading of the beginning of Genesis - will begin at 7:30 pm. Children are welcome!

Telephone Minyan Brings the High Holidays to You!

If you are unable to attend High Holiday Services because you're out of town, live too far away, may be ill, or for any other reason, you're only a phone call away from enjoying the invigorating experience of the Days of Awe. BCC's ongoing **Telephone Minyan** offers services that are lively and encourage intellectual curiosity and personal reflection. Want to join us? It's easy. Just pick up your phone, dial, and we'll enjoy the holidays together.

Led by BCC member Bracha Yael Cheng, the Telephone Minyan will celebrate Rosh Hashanah on Thursday, September 13, 4:00-5:15 pm, including a Shofar service and a discussion on the Akedah (the binding of Isaac) and Jewish perspectives on faith. Yom Kippur will be observed on Saturday, September 22, 2:30-3:45 pm, and

will include a Yizkor service and a discussion on the Book of Jonah and Biblical understandings and responses to depression. **The Telephone Minyan machzor** (High Holiday prayerbook) is specially prepared for these services and places an important emphasis on prayers and meditations of comfort, peace and hope. A copy of the machzor will be sent to you either by email or mail prior to the services. Please call the BCC office at (323) 931-7023 or contact Bracha at bracha18@cam.ac.uk for further details.

Study and Services Throughout the Year

We invite you to participate in our many other activities throughout the year. The Telephone Minyan holds a Shabbat service on the second Friday of each month, 6:45-7:45 pm. (please note date

Bracha Yael Cheng and time change); a weekly Torah study every Thursday 4:00-5:00 p.m.; and other holiday services including Chanukah, Passover, Yom Hashoah, Shavuot and others. Telephone Minyan activities are offered free. Depending on the type of phone plan you have there might be long distance charges; however, no one is turned away due to lack of funds, so BCC will reimburse you for the call if needed.

Bracha has an M.A. in religion from Claremont Graduate University, and is a published liturgist, an advocate for a diverse and inclusive Judaism, and a dedicated spokesperson for finding comfort and healing within Jewish spirituality. Bracha and her life partner Davi Cheng, BCC's immediate past president, have been together for 29 years (and counting!).

The Year of the Volunteer

Felicia Park-Rogers



Photo: Kenna Love

To be a part of a community, to shape it, and to strengthen it is the most urgent, the most vital obligation facing the Jewish individual.—Elie Wiesel

Each year when we compile the list of names of people who have volunteered for something at BCC, it is astounding to see how long it is! Nearly one third of our congregants volunteer in some capacity

at some point during the year. What a blessing!

Please see page 14 for details on our upcoming volunteer appreciation reception on September 30.

With a staff as small as ours, volunteers are the bedrock of BCC. It is through the initiative and elbow grease of volunteers that much of our exciting and innovative programming happens at BCC. But like many small congregations, we often find ourselves turning to the same people over and over to help with projects large and small. These people become worn out. And at the same time, other people feel “out of the loop” and less connected to their synagogue community.

In her column, Rabbi Edwards challenges us to look at changes we want

to make in the New Year. **I’d like to challenge each of us to commit to helping BCC thrive by volunteering 10 hours in the year of 5768.**

What will you do? Will you greet and usher at Days of Awe services or on Friday nights? Will you plant a garden in the back to surround our Sukkah? Will you help assemble and mail G’vanim? Will you host a new member for dinner at your home? Will you join the Education Committee? Will you help “green” our temple? Will you spend two hours filing?

Think of something grand or modest that you’d like to help with at BCC and make this year the year you volunteer at YOUR synagogue. You will be glad you did. I can’t wait to hear from you!

Children and Family Programming Update

We are thrilled to be bringing on our new Education Director, Leah Zimmerman at the start of the New Year (see page 5). She will be in touch with parents and families to learn more about your needs and desires for family services and programming. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch with her to share your two cents! Join us for our family-friendly observations of Tashlich, Shabbat Shuvah on the Beach, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. The monthly Family Shabbat Service and occasional family Havdalah are temporarily on hiatus while we assess our programming. We’ll be in touch shortly as we unveil our new plans! Detailed information about our new school is also on its way soon.

Ruach Chayim (Living Spirit)

“Shabbat is a palace in time.”

— ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

Kol haneshamah tehalal Yah...
Let every soul sing praise... [Psalm 150]

Join us on September 28 and October 26 to welcome Shabbat with drum, with song, with open heart.

7:00 Wine, cheese, schmooze
8:00 Special musical Shabbat service
9:30 Israeli Dancing

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Jewish Journal

Location: Los Angeles
Term: Full-time

Join the team of the Jewish Journal as we expand. Our Sales Team is growing and so can your career. Support community journalism and earn six figures. For more information, please email your resume to allisond@jewishjournal.com.

July Congregational Meeting Highlights BCC's Growth

Larry Nathenson

BCC's semi-annual congregational meeting, held on July 15, highlighted the many ways in which BCC continues to grow and prosper. It was preceded by a discussion concerning BCC's new religious school, soon to be established. For more information on this, please see the front-page article in the July/August issue, and the article on page 5 in this issue. To explain why we need our own school, Cantorial Soloist Fran Chalin shared some personal stories of BCC children who were frustrated by having to go elsewhere for their religious education, including her own son Eli.

Brett Trueman and Donna Groman were each elected to a second term as President and Vice President. Allison Diamant continues as Secretary, and Bruce Maxwell as Treasurer.

Newly elected as members of the Board of Directors were Robin Berkovitz, Avram Chill, Candice Levy, David Mozes, Jerry Nodiff, and Diana Reiss. Candice, David, and Diana are relatively new members, and are spearheading BCC's new 20s/30s Men's and Women's Havurot. Robin is a long-time member and former Ritual Committee chair. Avram is revitalizing our Tikkun Olam Committee (see page 7). Jerry has been a BCC member since 1973 and has chaired the successful Men's Havurah for several years now. Hannah Theile and Aaron Tomell were each elected to a second term on the Board. Also continuing as Board members in unfinished two-year terms are Erik Hyman, Joanne Laipson, Maggie Parkhurst, Cecilia Quigley, Steve Schneider, and Davi Cheng.

The congregation approved a new budget that includes funding for the religious school, and a new dues structure that is expected to raise the percentage of BCC's income derived from membership dues and reduce the need for additional fundraising. There will now be a standard membership contribution of \$1,200 for individuals and \$1,800 for multiple adult households, with a reduced rate of \$250 for full time students. In keeping with BCC's tradition of equal access regardless of financial ability, those who are unable to pay these amounts may pledge what they can afford. Those who wish to pledge higher amounts will receive recognition at various levels as chaverim (friends), tomchim (supporters), tormim (contributors), bonim (builders), and shomrim (guardians) of BCC.

Sail Into San Diego - Register Now

Join 5,000 Reform Jews in sunny San Diego for the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial Convention, December 12-16, 2007.

Registration is now open! Go to www.urj.org to register.

See for yourself why faces light up with the mere mention of the Biennial.

Come discover new resources for you and your congregation, engage in meaningful worship, hear the latest Jewish music and celebrate with your Reform community.

Whether for the first time or the tenth, whether meeting old friends or making new ones, San Diego is the place to be. So let your spirit sail to new heights and meet us at the warm edge of the Pacific. Save the date and begin to make your plans now.

Are you interested in attending? Please let Felicia know! Templedirector@bcc-la.org.

Mazel Tov

Please join the whole community in wishing the following members a big "Mazel Tov!" on their recent good news:

Melissa Irom, in her new job as a Support Staff/Job Coach for Developmentally Disabled Adults, at Cole Vocational Services- Yucaipa in Beaumont, a branch of Mentor Network.

Robin Baltic, on her new job as an account executive with the Jewish Journal.

Herbert Berk, on his move to a new home.

Diane Schatz, on the birth of her first grandchild.

Cara Hanes on her recent engagement and upcoming wedding to Heidi Hale.

Maggie Parkhurst (Anton) on the outstanding success of the recently published second volume of her Rashi's Daughters trilogy.

Vaughan Rachel, whose handmade artist book "Girls" was selected by 23 Sandy Gallery for its national, juried exhibition of handmade books titled "Sense and Sensuality." To view images of the work, go to

www.23sandy.com/sensecatalog/Rachel-V.html.

Victoria Delgadillo, BCC Office Manager, on inclusion in a recent bi-national art show in Mexico paying homage to the legacy of Frida Kahlo.

Leah and Tanya Sussman on welcoming a new baby girl, Sonia, into their home through the county foster adopt program. They are hoping to make Sonia a permanent addition to their family.

Ralph Cataldo, BCC Bookkeeper, on the recent arrival of his granddaughter and the recent nuptials of his son.

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

New and Prospective Member Reception, Sunday, Sept 30, 2pm-3:30pm Volunteer Appreciation Reception, Sunday, Sept 30, 4pm-6pm

Rabbi Edwards and her partner Tracy Moore are once again opening their home for these two special receptions and Sukkot celebration. This year they will be on the same day. All members who have joined BCC in the last three years, or any guests or visitors considering membership, are warmly invited to join the Board of Directors for a Sukkot reception at the lovely home of the Rabbi and Tracy. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialize and get to know BCC better in a relaxed and homey atmosphere.

We hope to see you there! Please RSVP by Tuesday, September 25 to the office for location address.

SEPTEMBER 2007

ELUL 5767/TISHREI 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>The Search for Major Plague</i>	3 Labor Day BCC Closed	4 7:00 pm Days of Awe Preparation Class Student Rabbi Joe Hample	5 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	6 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm NO Torah Study	7 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Fran Chalin	8 10:00 pm Presentation of Maggie Parkhurst's <i>Rashi's Daughters, Book II: Miriam</i> 11:15 pm Selichot Service
9 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 8:30 am Arts & Leisure Brunch and Hike 5:00 pm Beach Bonfire 20s/30s Men's and Women's Havurot, Dockweiler Beach	10	11	12 8:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Services (at Temple Isaiah)	13 9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Services (at Temple Isaiah) 4:00 pm Telephone Minyan	Second Day Rosh Hashanah Services 10:00 am (at BCC) 4:00 pm Tashlich (Venice Beach) 5:30 pm Shabbat Shuvah Service on the beach 7:00 pm Light dinner (private home, RSVP needed) No Shabbat service at BCC	15 10:00 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Dairy Potluck 11:00 am Project Caring Country Villa Wilshire Fairfax and Willoughby
16	17	18	19	20 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm NO Torah Study	21 7:00 Kol Nidre Services Temple Isaiah	22 10:00 am Yom Kippur Services (Temple Isaiah) (see page 1 for details)
23 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax	24	25 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting (re-scheduled due to Sukkot)	26 7:00 pm Erev Sukkot Service Rabbi Edwards, Fran Chalin, Student Rabbi Joe Hample Oneg in BCC Sukkah	BCC Closed-Sukkot 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm NO Torah Study	28 Ruach Chayim 7:00 Refreshments and Schmooze 8:00 Shabbat Services 9:30 Israeli Dancing	29
30 2:00 - 3:30 pm New and Prospective Members Reception 4:00 - 6 pm Volunteer Appreciation Reception (both at Rabbi Edwards & Tracy's home) RSVP for address	<div>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted*</div>					

OCTOBER 2007

TISHREI/HESHVAN 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Simchat Torah (BCC Closed) 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm NO Torah Study	5 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 7:00 pm Yizkor Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Services Simchat Torah Celebration at BCC	6
7 12:00 noon Men's Havurah Planning Meeting (private home)	8	9	10 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	11 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	12 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Fran Chalin	13 11:00 am Project Caring Country Villa Wilshire Fairfax and Willoughby 6:30 pm Men's Havurah Potluck/Discussion (private home)
14 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 8:30 am Arts & Leisure Brunch and Hike	15	16	17	18 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	19 8:00 pm Shabbat Services tba Robin Berkovitz	20 10:00 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and Dairy Potluck
21 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 2:00 pm L'Chayim Legacy Circle Planned Giving Seminar	22	23	24 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	25 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	26 Ruach Chayim 7:00 Refreshments and Schmooze 8:00 Shabbat Services 9:30 Israeli Dancing	27
28 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>Gay LA.</i>	29	30	31			

What do you do with **YOUR** pushke ?



On July 8, 2007, thanks to the organizing efforts of BCC's Arts and Leisure chair Cecilia Quigley, members of BCC and their friends filled the temporary exhibits gallery at the Skirball Cultural Center to hear the artist Ruth Weisberg present a personal tour of her exhibition, "Ruth Weisberg Unfurled." She explained how she wove her religious beliefs and artist's interpretations into her 1994 drawing "The Scroll" and numerous other works of art. Ms. Weisberg is in the front row on the left.

The Arts and Leisure Committee organizes social and cultural events throughout the year for men and women, members and friends. Planning for fall events is underway, including monthly brunch and hikes, a trip to the Pantages Theater to see "Wicked," and other events. Please contact Cecilia through the BCC office to let her know your ideas for other activities.

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