

From the Rabbi's Study... Weddings and Other Partnerships

Rabbi Lisa Edwards

This unprecedented "summer of love," with its weddings galore (and my own "second" wedding to Tracy), has inspired me to reflect not only on the power and importance of marital partnerships, but also on partnerships in general, and on who and what else I love and appreciate.

For the first time this year, BCC will be welcoming a student rabbi back for a second year with us. We've been blessed indeed over the years to have wonderful student rabbis serving as interns with us, and I've been



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

touched too that so many of them have returned the next year as members of our congregation, occasionally blessing us with a return to the bimah as service leaders or darshanim (I'm thinking about Daniel Mikelberg and Sharon Gladstone before him). But



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Rabbi Lisa Edwards and wife Tracy Moore were legally married on July 13, 2008, by the Honorable Karen Bass, the first African-American woman speaker of the California Assembly.

this year Student Rabbi Joe Hample, now in his last year of rabbinical school, will be returning once again to BCC officially as our student rabbi until his ordination next May.

I feel twice blessed indeed to have Joe as a clergy partner two years in a row. His wisdom, his sense of humor, his "whatever you want me to do" attitude has been an incredible source of support and partnership for me, especially in this first year without Fran as co-clergy of BCC. Thank you, Joe, for wanting to continue your "training" at BCC. That's not an easy decision, I know, as you assess your last year of school and all the experiences you want to include in your learning before you enter the rabbinate. I look forward to growing our clergy partnership, knowing it will bring blessings to my own life and benefit BCC in so many ways.

Excitement continues to build in

High Holidays with BCC

Sat., 9/20

Selichot Service
at BCC, 10:00 pm

Mon., 9/29

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Temple Isaiah, 8:00 pm

Tue., 9/30

Rosh Hashanah Morning
Temple Isaiah, 9:30 am

Wed., 10/1

Second Day Rosh Hashanah
at BCC, 10:00 am
with Fran Chalin

Tashlich Service
at Venice Beach, 4:00 pm

Dinner at Allison Diamant's
Home, 6:00 pm

Fri., 10/3

Shabbat Shuvah
at BCC, 8:00 pm
with Juval Porat

Wed., 10/8

Kol Nidre
Temple Isaiah, 7:00 pm

Thu., 10/9

Yom Kippur Morning
Temple Isaiah, 10:00 am

Afternoon Breakout Sessions
2:00 pm

Yizkor Memorial Service
4:00 pm

Neilah Service
5:00 pm

Community Break-fast
6:30 pm

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our community with the coming of the Days of Awe and our eager anticipation of praying together in our familiar second home of Temple Isaiah. Joe and I and BCC's choir, under the direction of our Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin, have been working hard these last few weeks of August while our new High Holy Day Chazzan, Berlin based Cantorial Student Juval Porat, has been with us in LA. Juval led services with me on August 22 and from the first prayer he sang, I knew we were in good hands. With Joe and Juval on either side of me, and Fran in front of our extraordinary choir, I feel confident our congregation will indeed find inspiration during the Days of Awe.

Tracy and I look forward again this year to welcoming volunteers and new members to our home during Sukkot. This holiday open house is becoming an annual event, and we are both delighted to open our home to you, especially since other "partners" like Felicia, our Executive Director, plus some eager volunteers, help make it happen.

Partnerships abound too on the board of BCC and among our officers, who work so diligently and so in sync with one another to guide and sustain and grow our congregation. Sometimes I think I attend meetings just to be inspired by the dedication and skill of our lay leaders and Executive Director.

And in this last month or so, as we enter escrow on a building just up the street from our current home, I've had the pleasure of watching board members and real estate search committee members kick into high gear to do everything possible to make sure this is the right move for our congregation.

As they do so, I am reminded daily at BCC that a move is indeed the next right step for our community. For example, the day I returned from vacation I headed to BCC

eager to meet Juval who'd arrived while I was away. The sanctuary and front room were in use for the wedding I was about to officiate, and much to my surprise I found Juval sitting on the floor working with Fran in Felicia and Victoria's shared office. They were all good sports about it, but the fact that the building was filled to overflowing on a Wednesday morning served as a vivid reminder why we undertook the capital campaign, and why we'll all reap rewards from its continued success. Experiencing the buzz of activity in our small building, and occasionally literally throwing my back out trying to maneuver my way into my little "rabbi's nook" in the front room, I am reminded every time I'm in the building that it's time for us to stretch to something bigger. Good thing I take yoga classes!

As we move toward the Days of Awe and toward a new home for BCC, I feel blessed every day to be in such good company on these journeys. I look forward to seeing you soon as we enter yet another year together.

Shana tova –
Lisa

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Rabbi Lisa Edwards is available for private appointments.

Please call at least a week in advance,
if possible, to schedule.

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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.**

BCC Reintroducing Juval Porat

Larry Nathenson

In our last issue, Allison Diamant introduced us to Juval Porat, who will be our cantor for the High Holidays this year. There was quite a turnout at Shabbat services on August 22, with many members coming specially to hear him for the first time. We were quite impressed and look forward to hearing him again. Juval tells me he was also impressed with BCC, in



Juval Porat

particular with our high level of participation in singing and praying, the prominence of healing prayers and the Mourner's Kaddish in our liturgy, and our customs of linking arms for personal blessings and for Oseh Shalom at the conclusion of the service.

Born in Israel, Juval has lived

in Germany much of his life, and is the first cantorial student at the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, the first Reform seminary in postwar Germany. This has been quite a challenging role, as there is no set curriculum and he has helped to design his own courses, with help from professors from other countries. He has also participated in workshops with rabbinic students to help design services for the variety of congregations in Germany today. Judaism cannot be taken for granted in Germany, both because of the past tragedies and because of tensions between older and younger Jews, Jews by birth and German-born Jews by choice, Jews from the former Soviet Union and Jews from Western backgrounds. Each of the congregations in which he has served (in Berlin, Hanover, and Erfurt) has a different mix and a different set of challenges.

Juval will complete his studies by June 2009, and has not yet decided where he would like to serve as a cantor. He also continues to compose songs in Hebrew, German, and English. To learn more about Juval, you can visit his website www.juval-online.de (it's mostly in German and Hebrew, but there's a photo of the BCC choir and you can hear some of his songs in the "musik" link).

BCC At Your Service Again

Rabbinic Intern Joe Hample



PHOTO: BARRY WENDELL

Last year in my first column in G'vanim I told you that I was "at your service" for the coming year. Now I'm thrilled to be back for

another term as BCC's rabbinic intern, especially as we welcome a new High Holiday cantor, move toward acquiring a larger building, and consolidate last year's inauguration of our children's religious school. It's an exciting time to serve Southern California's LGBT synagogue.

I was gone for most of this past summer, working a CPE program (student chaplaincy) at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. This was a wonderful opportunity to expand my abilities in pastoral care and interfaith dialogue. I hope to use those skills extensively at BCC in the months to come.

I'm entering my fifth and final year as a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College, steeping myself in Jewish text, history, and sociology en route to ordination next May. I'll be seen on BCC's bimah on September 12 and at High Holidays; I'll lead a class on High Holiday folklore and customs on September 23; and I'll officiate at lifecycle events as the need arises. And I'm offering a new course this fall on the problem of God's justice (see below).

But my academic education becomes fully relevant only with your feedback. As I preach, teach, and bless transitions, I hope you'll tell me what I'm doing well or badly. You are the key to my education.

Fall Course – The Problem of God's Justice

Why does God allow the wicked to prosper and the righteous to suffer?

Our tradition has always wrestled with the issue of life's unfairness, from the destruction of the Temple to the Holocaust and beyond. Join student rabbi Joe Hample in exploring this obstacle to faith and the many different ways Jewish thinkers have confronted it.

Tuesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00,

October 28, November 4, 11, and 18, and December 2.



As I edit the first issue of G'vanim to be distributed electronically to our members and friends, I can't help but think that change is the dominant motif for BCC today. No, this is not an endorsement of Barack Obama! It is an acknowledgment of our growth and vitality as a synagogue community today.

Yet, as they say, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Our beloved Rabbi Lisa Edwards has just celebrated 14 years with us as our spiritual leader, insightful teacher, and personal counselor. But this year she has an additional role, as she is now able (thanks to the California Supreme Court) to officiate at legal wedding ceremonies for all BCC couples who desire them. The list of couples who have married this summer is long already (see page 13). But we have our work cut out for us to beat back the proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would take away this hard-won right (see Steve Hochstadt's column on page 10).

This will be our first High Holidays in 15 years without our beloved Fran Chalin as cantorial soloist, yet she will still be with us as choir director and leader of Second Day Rosh Hashanah services. As our cantorial search continues, we are excited to welcome to our bimah Juval Porat, the first cantorial student in Germany since before the Shoah (see page 3). Our student rabbi Joe Hample returns for another year (page 3). Our Executive Director Felicia Park-Rogers reminds us that it is up to us to make the community we desire a reality (page 12), while modestly omitting all the hard work she has done to facilitate all our recent accomplishments.

BCC continues to be a full-service synagogue offering all the programs and activities we have come to expect. In addition to our weekly Friday evening Shabbat services, we offer a monthly Saturday morning egalitarian minyan and an innovative telephone service for those unable to travel to BCC (see page 8). We also continue our highly popular Ruach Chayim musical service with guest artists on the last Shabbat of each month, and we celebrate all the Jewish holidays through the year.

Rabbi Edwards continues her weekly Torah study for adults, supplemented by periodic courses throughout the year beginning with Student Rabbi Joe Hample's course on the problem of God's justice (page 3), and by her queer film series which continues in November. For our children and their families, our religious school Ohr Chayim, under the direction of Leah Zimmerman, completes its first year and looks forward to expanding its activities in the coming months (page 6).

BCC continues its long-standing commitment to social action, with our Tzedakah Council celebrating ten years

of coin drives to support numerous charitable organizations around the world (page 10-11). Our more hands-on social action work includes participation in Project Chicken Soup (cooking and delivering kosher food to people with HIV/AIDS twice a month) and Project Caring (a monthly Shabbat service in a convalescent home) as well as other projects we choose to take on.

And we support one another with a litany of social activities organized by our reinvigorated Women's Havurah (page 8), our 20s/30s Havurah (page 9), our monthly book discussion group (page 11), and other groups throughout the year.

And let's not forget the biggest change of all. Thanks to the hard work of our Real Estate Committee and the generosity of all who have contributed to our Home for the Future Campaign, we are hopeful that by this time next year our new temple home will be a reality.

Whether you are new to BCC or have been with us for many years, you will find something here to satisfy your desire for an integrated and GLBT supportive Jewish experience. Please feel free to seek more information from any of our clergy, officers, or staff. And please provide us with your feedback on this first digital issue of G'vanim (Larrynath@aol.com).



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President's Message

Brett Trueman

PHOTO: KENNA LOUE



As we begin a new year I would like to thank you, the members of BCC, for your continuing support of our shared community. Your membership

and the volunteer time you generously provide to BCC have been vital in ensuring that our synagogue remains the energetic and exciting place we know it to be. Through our joint efforts new forms of Shabbat services have been introduced, social action activities have been expanded, and, as a result of the inauguration of our 20s and 30s Women's and Men's Havurot, and the reinvigoration of our Women's Havurah, the BCC calendar is full of social events. We established a religious school, which just finished a very successful first year.

And, we have been hard at work preparing for a new home.

Equally vital to the continued success of BCC has been the financial support you provide. Your generosity is reflected in the amazingly successful "Home for the Future" capital campaign, in which we raised over three and a quarter million dollars, as well as in this year's fundraising brunch, which was by far the most successful ever.

The increased success of the brunch has helped cover some of the higher operating costs that have accompanied our expanded activities. However, a budget deficit does remain. To eliminate this deficit and to have sufficient resources to hire a permanent cantor, BCC needs additional operating funds. Toward that end, we introduced a new membership contribution structure this past year. The goal of the new structure is to ensure that BCC can meet its annual operating needs while at the same time keeping its doors open to everyone, regardless

of financial means. Key to meeting that goal is the generosity of those members who are blessed with greater financial resources.

As part of its new membership contribution structure BCC has

established the "Mitzvah Circle."

Members of the Circle are those who pledge an annual contribution above the standard contribution level for the year. (The standard level is \$1,260 for a single-person household and \$1,890 for a multiple-person household.) I want to extend my deep appreciation to all of you who, through your generous pledges, have already chosen to join the Mitzvah Circle.

To those of you who are not yet members of the Circle, please consider becoming a member if you are financially able. (You should have received a mailing a few weeks ago detailing the various Mitzvah Circle contribution levels; if you need another copy, please contact the BCC office.) To those who are already members of the Circle and may have the ability to join the Circle at a higher membership contribution level, I would be so grateful if you would consider an increase in your contribution. The success of our new membership contribution structure is vital to the continuing success of BCC.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for your continuing support of our shul. I wish all of you a healthy, happy, and prosperous new year.

L'shanah tovah,
Brett

BEAUTIFUL AND ENDEARING GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

The children of BCC's religious school and family education program, Ohr Chayim, under the leadership of their teachers, have created lovely and touching greeting cards showcasing their art and Jewish learning in order to raise funds to help support their school. There is a display of the cards at the temple and on the BCC website. Please show your support for the learning of the next generation with your purchase! **Packets of eight unique cards are available for \$12 and you can purchase three sets for \$30!** What a bargain (Have you bought a greeting card recently—they average \$4.00 each!).

Thank you for supporting the children of BCC!

KENNA LOUE

PHOTOGRAPHY

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OF YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY**

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Ohr Chayim Builds on First Year's Success

Leah Zimmerman

Last fall was an exciting time for BCC as we looked forward to launching our new expanded Ohr Chayim program. This year is just as exciting as we look forward to



building upon our previous success.

In our first year we established a warm learning environment that introduced our students to Hebrew, Torah and

prayer in a communal and meaningful way. We interwove family learning experiences with separate children's and parents' learning experiences. By the end of the year, our students could communicate why Torah was meaningful to the Jewish people and an understanding of why people pray. This year we will continue

building community around Torah and prayer study. With additional learning experiences, we can expect our students to read Hebrew better by the end of the year, to lead more tefilot, to explain the meaning of more tefilot, to retell more Torah stories and to share their own personal understandings of Torah.

This year we will add one more dimension to our program. We meet on Saturday mornings. Partly this is a convenient time to meet as it is on the weekend when children do not have school. Partly it is convenient because of space availability. But mostly, we meet on Saturday mornings because it is Shabbat morning, a time that the Jewish community has traditionally come together to pray, read Torah, rejoice, and celebrate together. Yet, the kavannah of celebrating Shabbat together has not been a part of our

weekly experience. Kavannah refers to the direction of our thoughts, our feelings, our intentions as we pray or as we celebrate Shabbat

Every participant in our program deserves acknowledgement for having carved out a time each week to commit to Jewish learning in a Jewish communal context. Many of us commute long distances, juggling work, soccer, and family commitments in order to be present at Ohr Chayim. In this sense we have succeeded in establishing the keva of Shabbat morning. We have established the routine, the structure the framework for observing Shabbat together. Whereas keva refers to the framework and details of Jewish worship, kavannah is the spirit, the imaginative and meaningful aspect of our worship. This year we plan to put more kavannah into our observance of Shabbat and focus on what it means to celebrate Shabbat together.

Join us for our Family Shabbat Services where we will pray, study Torah and celebrate Shabbat together.

Learn to read Hebrew in Two Easy Sessions!

Tired of being lost in services? Just in time for the High Holy Days, learn to read Hebrew in two easy sessions. You'll be amazed at how quickly you will be up and reading! Led by Todd Shatz, who has been teaching Hebrew for over 15 years, this class is appropriate both for beginners and those who need a refresher. It is open to everyone. Todd uses lots of activities to get the adult students up and reading – songs, stories, etc. It is definitely a lively class! While not 100% guaranteed most students leave this class able to read along in the Hebrew during services.

Todd Shatz is the founder of Hebrew Helpers, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring service here in LA. After studying Hebrew at the University of Pennsylvania, he lived in Israel for a year on Project Oztma teaching in local schools. Since moving to LA, he wrote the 7th grade curriculum for Wilshire Boulevard Temple and currently teaches adult Hebrew education at IKAR and Leo Baeck Temple.

Minimum of six people registered by September 10 to proceed. Fees are \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. RSVP to bcc@bcc-la.org or 323-931-7023, ext 203

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Surprised by God" Author Danya Ruttenberg Speaks at BCC



Danya Ruttenberg

On Thursday, September 11, at 7:00 pm, BCC welcomes Danya Ruttenberg, author of *Surprised By God: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Religion* (Beacon Press, August, 2008). Ms. Ruttenberg will read from and lead a discussion of her new book, which is part memoir and part cultural criticism, about the personal and political implications of taking on a Jewish practice—and how this process is more fraught in contemporary America than it has ever been.

Publishers Weekly writes, "In this memoir of her journey from punk-partying atheist teenager to rabbi-in-training (yarmulke and all), Ruttenberg chronicles the awakening and intensification of religious life.... Although the details of Ruttenberg's experience—including wild parties in California's dotcom boom, a lonely Shabbat in Tel Aviv, and praying in tefillin—may be unique, her description of her growing awareness of the power of ritual, the support of community, and religion as relationship will resonate with all sorts of spiritual seekers."

The Amazon link is: http://www.amazon.com/Surprised-God-Learned-Worrying-Religion/dp/0807010685/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1207160882&sr=8-1

Second Day Rosh Hashanah Service, Tashlich, and Community Dinner

One of BCC's better-kept secrets is our Second Day Rosh Hashanah service. This year the service on Wednesday, October 1 will be led by Fran Chalin, Cantorial Soloist Emerita. Back at our home shul, this is a day of rare intimacy and quiet prayer time. If you haven't been before, maybe this is the year to arrange for that second day off from work!

Building on the rave reviews we received last year we are once again moving back the time we begin our annual Tashlich at Venice Beach to 4:00 pm. This allows people who do need to work to join the community for this amazing ritual and service. Also back by popular demand, Allison Diamant has generously offered to host the community in her home (which is fairly close to the beach) for dinner. Dinner will begin at approximately 6:00 pm and will be capped at 75 people. Please **RSVP (bcc@bcc-la.org) by Wednesday, September 24** to allow time to organize the food. You must RSVP to receive the address.

The full schedule for the day is:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10:00 am | Second Day Rosh Hashanah Service at BCC |
| 4:00 pm | Tashlich at Venice Beach (meet at the Fig Tree Café and walk to the water from there) |
| 6:00 pm | Community Dinner hosted by Allison Diamant at her home |

Potential and New Member Reception

Sunday October 19, 2-3:30pm

Please enjoy the wonderful hospitality of Rabbi Lisa and her wife Tracy under their Sukkah for an afternoon of tasty treats and scintillating conversation. Members of the BCC Board of Directors will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the BCC community. The feeling of warmth and community increases in so many ways when you decide to take the leap from participant to full-fledged member. Join us for an afternoon of conversation and discovery!

RSVP by October 15 to bcc@bcc-la.org or 323-931-7023, ext 205 for address.

Volunteer Appreciation Sukkot Party Sunday October 19, 3:30-5pm

Without the many wonderful volunteers of BCC, BCC simply would cease to exist! Sound dire? It's true--volunteers are the lifeblood of our synagogue. Let's come together to celebrate all our efforts large and small. We like to do this reception during Sukkot for many reasons—to offer blessings of peace and shelter under the Sukkah; to thank the many people who lend a willing hand and heart during the Days of Awe; and to start the new year with a fresh feeling of appreciation and gratitude for everyone's hard work. Don't wait for your individualized invitation in the mail—you know if you've helped with a mailing, served as a greeter, planned an event, schlepped a box or chair from here to there...so get on your party clothes and join together to partake in the wonderful hospitality of Rabbi Lisa and her super-volunteer wife Tracy for one of the most anticipated BCC parties of the year!

RSVP by October 15 to bcc@bcc-la.org or 323-931-7023, ext 205 for address and to help us plan accurately for food.

I can honestly say that being the Women's Havurah chair is a lot of fun! The Mrs. and I have enjoyed spending time with BCC women who have joined us in various events that the Havurah has sponsored. I can't think of a better no-pressure way to socialize with folks whom you don't know very well than joining them on a Women's Havurah adventure.

On Sunday July 27, Ellen Jaffe Gill hosted a late afternoon barbecue at her fabulous home in Culver City. There were about ten of us, just the right size to have some intimate conversation over good food. The following Sunday, August 3, a group of us met up at Westward Beach just south of Zuma Beach in Malibu. Westward Beach is significantly quieter than Zuma even though it is located on the same stretch of gorgeous beach. It was a beautiful

day – we gabbed, read, walked and ate watermelon – a perfect day at the beach. Other summer events included the Women's Havurah Bowling Bonanza, an outing to the Ford Amphitheatre to see the LA Jewish Symphony featuring Cantor Marcelo Gindlin, and an LA Sparks basketball game at the Staples Center.

Ladies, mark your calendar for Saturday night, September 13. It is a special evening celebrating Eagle Desert Moon's birthday at BCC. We'll be playing games all evening, including Bingo. Don't miss the carbfest of pizza, salad and cake that will be served. The festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. and the cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members (women only). RSVP to Donna by September 10.

Then join us the following Saturday evening, September 20 at 7:10 p.m.



PHOTO: AMELIA WENMAN

Donna and Cecilia Quigley-Groman

at Dodger stadium where the Dodgers take on the San Francisco Giants. Everyone is welcome to join us for the Dodgers game – this event is open to all BCC'ers and their friends and family.

For information on any of these events, or if you have a suggestion for an event, contact Women's Havurah chair Mrs. Donna Quigley Groman at dlgroman@hotmail.com.

Telephone Minyan Brings the High Holidays, Shabbat and Torah Study to Your Home

Bracha Yael Cheng

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 Tuesday, September 30, 4:00-5:15 p.m., 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 Thursday, October 9th, 2:30-3:45 p.m., 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@ca.rr.com 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 p.m.; 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!).

Welcome to the BCC 20s/30s Havurah! We thought we'd take this opportunity as we're all gearing up for the Days of Awe to update you on the exciting plans for the BCC 20s/30s community for the coming year.

The 20s/30s Havurah has been doing its thing for about a year and half now under our stewardship with a welcome and very appreciated helping hand from Candice Levy and Diana Reiss. It's been really personally rewarding having the opportunity and excuse to network and schmooze with our 20s/30s Jewish queer community here at BCC and in the greater Los Angeles area. We have an email and cell phone list that keeps growing as more and more members and friends of BCC have expressed interest in being kept in the loop about our 20s/30s programming.

Some of the BCC 20s/30s past events have included a beach bonfire, an Oscar-viewing party, a Chanukah latkes and sushi party, and a sing-along. We've been actively participating in Project Chicken Soup

during each of their twice-monthly cooking dates.

We have also been actively working with JQ International (www.jqish.org) on joint programming in order to foster open and frequent relations between our members and theirs. What we have found is that BCC and JQ are very complementary to one another. What JQ provides to the community socially, BCC provides spiritually and/or religiously. We have successfully gotten many members of JQ who were not even aware of a Jewish queer synagogue in town to try out BCC services and/or 20s/30s events. In addition to its established men's programming, JQ has also been making great strides in incorporating more women's programming, which we want to help them promote.

We hope to have more events this coming year, but we need your help! This coming year, we will operate our BCC 20s/30s group a little differently in order to foster more volunteerism and involvement resulting in more

fun and engaging events. We'd like to fill the following positions prior to High Holidays in what will become the 20s/30s Havurah committee for 5769:

- Chairperson
- Communications Director (emails and announcements)
- Food & Beverage Director (food and beverages at events)
- Ritual Director (havdalah, candle-lighting, blessings)
- 20s/30s Men Coordinator (point person for the guys)
- 20s/30s Women Coordinator (point person for the ladies)
- JQ liaison (collaborative programming)

We ask those of you that are interested in filling any of the above roles to contact Dave at dave.mozes@gmail.com or Jordan at 2030.mens.havurah@gmail.com. Your continued support and participation will help make this coming New Year very sweet indeed! Watch the weekly bulletin for further details on upcoming events. Suggestions are also always welcome!

World Congress Presents October in Philadelphia

Jonathan Falk

The World Congress of GLBT Jews is pleased to announce its 2008 Eastern Regional Conference of GLBT Jews to be held in the historic city of Philadelphia, October 24-26. Everyone is welcome to join GLBT Jews from across the Eastern US and Canada to participate in services, workshops, schmoozing, and noshing. Since 1974, these conferences have been amazing experiences, and the World Congress plans to resume its previous conference schedule. BCC's sibling congregation Beth Ahavah especially looks forward to hosting us all. Highlights will include: comedian Eddie Sarfaty (who has

appeared on the Today Show, RSVP cruises, and Human Rights Campaign fundraisers); Shabbat services and

Oneg Shabbat; speakers from Lambda Legal, HRC, and Beth Ahavah. Registration includes four catered kosher-style meals.

Friday and Saturday sessions will take place at the William Way LGBT Community Center in Philadelphia's historic Center City, with Sunday's sessions at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, PA. The

rabbinic and cantorial candidates since 1985, including BCC's own Sandy Rubenstein, and Reconstructionist clergy have officiated at same sex marriages and commitment ceremonies since 1993. They are also the first branch of Judaism to have an open gay or lesbian to head their rabbinic association.

Conference hotels include the Holiday Inn - Independence Mall, the Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, the Comfort Inn Penn's Landing, and the Philadelphia Downtown Marriott.

Please support the efforts of the World Congress and register for an interesting and eventful weekend. More information on registration and hotels may be found at: <http://conference2008.glbti Jews.org>.



World Congress of GLBT Jews
Fall Conference
in Philadelphia
October 24-26
For more info, write to:
coordinator@glbtjews.org
To Join our Mailing list, go to:
www.glbti Jews.org
We look forward to seeing you!

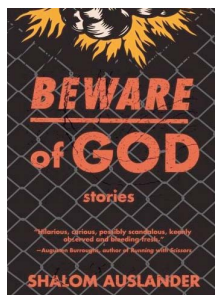
RRC has trained gay and lesbian

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 welcome new members to the group, as well as occasional visitors who may be interested in discussing a particular book.

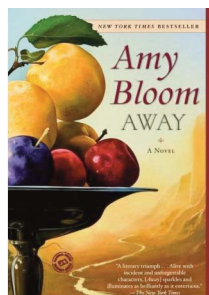
Our next two book discussions are:



Sunday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m.
***Beware of God: Stories*, by Shalom Auslander**

A collection of satirical and highly intelligent short stories poking fun at traditional everyday understandings of God's role in the world, by a former Orthodox Jew. His target is not Judaism itself but the simplistic expectations of a God whose personality resembles ours in all its foibles and contradictions. A good way

to get in the mood for High Holidays!



Sunday, October 26, at 10:00 a.m.
***Away*, by Amy Bloom**

A sweeping novel in which a Russian immigrant mother in the 1920s searches the North American continent for her lost daughter, and finds an extraordinary range of characters and situations along the way, from Yiddish theater to the Alaskan wilderness.

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.

No to Hate, No to Eight

Steve Hochstadt

The Tzedakah Council celebrates a milestone — \$25,000 contributed to non-profit charities and humanitarian aid organizations around the world. What an accomplishment! And at the same time, we as a congregation are celebrating so many weddings. What joy and gladness. Mazal Tov to us all!

But like the glass we break at the conclusion of the wedding ceremony to remind us of sorrow in the midst of joy, we are keenly aware of Election Day when those who are aligned against us aim to invalidate our marriages and forever enshrine discrimination in our

Proposition 8. So far, we've committed \$1000 from our 19th coin drive, and all the tzedakah from the 20th coin drive to the education campaigns Jews for Marriage Equality and Equality California.

In the months leading up to Election Day, Jews for Marriage Equality is mounting a statewide education campaign in the Jewish press to educate the public about the inequality Proposition 8 would establish if it were to pass. California based rabbis and cantors will lend their names to the campaign. As of this writing, in Southern

California alone, over 120 rabbis have signed on.

This is just some of what is being done.

Jewish law demands that we not stand idly by when there is an injustice. Each of us must get involved. We need to talk to people. We need to attend rallies. We need to donate personally to defeat Proposition 8. Everyone in our congregation has the opportunity to get involved in some way. The more we give and encourage others to do so, the

greater the ability for Jews for Marriage Equality and Equality California to effectively wage their respective education campaigns.

Here's how to donate: give directly to Jews for Marriage Equality or Equality California at the addresses listed below or donate to BCC designating your contribution to Tzedakah Council for JME or EQCA.

It is often said early money makes the dough rise. With this thought in mind, every two weeks between now and the end of October donations received from pushkes, checks or credit cards earmarked for the Tzedakah Council will be quickly forwarded directly to Jews for Marriage Equality and Equality California. Together we can make a difference.

BCC/Tzedakah Council
6000 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Jews for Marriage Equality
<http://www.jewsformarriageequality.org>

Equality California
<http://www.eqca.org>

NO ON 8
STOP THE MARRIAGE BAN



State's constitution.

Come November 4, we must defeat the proposed amendment and preserve our right to marry. To that end, the Tzedakah Council has voted unanimously to deviate from our usual practice of donating to a wide array of humanitarian organizations and focus all our efforts toward the defeat of

Small Change – Big Difference

Robin Baltic

BCC is on the verge of yet another milestone. It was ten years ago at Purim in 1998/ 5758 when the BCC Tzedakah Council kicked off its first tzedakah coin drive. At the conclusion of Sukkot this year in 2008/5769, we as a community will conclude our 20th semi-annual coin drive and will surpass the \$25,000 mark.

Over the past 10 years BCC members and friends have returned nearly 1000 pushkes (947 to be exact) filled with loose change. All those returning pushkes filled with nickels, dimes, quarters, a few bills and a slew of pennies add up to a chunk of change totaling \$24,546.32.

On behalf of the congregation, the Tzedakah Council has made decisions regarding the charities to which we give our communal tzedakah. All the tzedakah contributed from each coin drive has been distributed. In ten years we have made donations to 70 different organizations, some more than once.

Our joint tzedakah has touched the lives of people in need close to home and across the globe. We have made donations to provide camperships to children living with HIV/AIDS through Camp Laurel. We have continued our support of Project Chicken Soup, sponsoring cookings on more than one occasion, enabling its core of volunteers to prepare and deliver hot home-cooked wholesome kosher food to their clients living with HIV/AIDS.

Through organizations including Mazon, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Federation we have helped provide immediate relief in the form of food, clothing and shelter for people directly impacted by natural disasters including the massive Southern California wildfires in 2003, the Southeast Asia tsunami in 2004, and Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Through organizations such as Doctors Without Borders, Hadassah Medical Center, Shaarei Zedek Medical Center and the American Red Magen David for Israel, we've helped provide needed medical supplies and blood to people affected by war and terrorism.

Our tzedakah has helped expose children across Los Angeles to cultural enrichment activities at both home and school. Through programs such as the Hobart Shakespeareans, Sweet Strings and L. A. Center for Education Research our tzedakah has funded the purchase of violins and guitars so children wanting to learn to play an instrument have access to musical instruments for instruction and practice.

The list of charities we have impacted goes on and on. For a complete list of all the charities the BCC Tzedakah Council has made contributions to on behalf of the congregation please see the adjoining box.

But it doesn't just magically happen. It is because of

Continued on Page 12

Making a World of Difference

\$25,000

Contributed to

non-profit charities and humanitarian aid organizations around the world.

2008

Agudah
Alcohol Center for Women
Beit Daniel
Jews for Marriage Equality
L.A. Zoo Pals

2007

Project Chicken Soup

2006

Beit HaShanti
Downtown Women's Center Gay and
Lesbian Adolescent Social Services
(GLASS)
Hobart Shakespeareans
Jerusalem Open House

2005

American Jewish Joint Distribution Fund
– Tsunami Relief
Beit Frankforter
Early Learning Center
Jewish Family Service – Clarence
Gerber Memorial Passover Fund
Loyola State University Health Science
Foundation – New Orleans
Musicians Clinic
Humane Society International
Kobe Mandel Foundation
Mazon
Montrose Clinic
Operation Smile

2004

Chernow House
Children of the Night
Friends of the Israel Defense Force
Friends of Project 10
Jewish Free Loan Association
Hollywood Heart – Camp Pacific
Heartland
Shaarei Zedek Medical Center for Terror
Victims
Tikvah Israel Africa Fund
Trevor Project
Write Girl

2003

Clare Hammer Chicken Fund
Disabled Israeli Veteran's Program in
Tel Aviv
Doctors Without Borders
Friends of Animal Foundation
Jewish Federation – Southern California
Fire Emergency Relief Fund
North American Conference on
Ethiopian Jewry
Pups for Peace
Tree Planting in Israel in memory of
Israeli Astronaut Ilan Ramon
Vox Femina

2002

American Red Magen David for Israel
(ARMDI)
Food On Foot
For Heaven's Sake
Friends of the David Anderson Trust
Hadassah Medical Center
Jews in Crisis in Israel
Project Chicken Soup
Schneider Children's Medical Center in
Israel

2001

Braille Institute
Chai Life Line
Glen Roberts Child Study Center
Jewish Foundation for the Righteous
NCCJ Brotherhood/Sisterhood Camp
American Red Magen David for Israel
(ARMDI)
Prototypes
Sweet Strings Program
Van Ness Recovery House
Women's Reproductive Rights (WRRAP)

2000

A Brighter Future
B'nei Israel of Sacramento – Rebuild
Library Fund
Camp Laurel
Gateways Beit T'Shuvah
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education
Network (GLSEN)
LA Center for Education Research
(LACER)
Leo Baeck Education Center Foundation
Neve Hannah
No on Knight
Project Chicken Soup
Simcha Leib Productions

1999

American Jewish Joint Distribution
Committee – Kosovo Relief
Friends of Project 10 – Models of
Excellence Scholarship
Sukkot in April

1998

American Red Magen David for Israel
(ARMDI)
Aviva Center
EAGLES Center
Free Arts for Abused Children (FAFAC)
Project Chicken Soup



The Price of Community

Felicia Park-Rogers

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE



When I was interviewing for the position of Executive Director of Beth Chayim Chadashim I spoke about how I see my life's work as

being a part of building communities. Thriving communities help create stronger individuals, and therefore a stronger world. A stronger world made up of supportive communities has less violence, more healthy interdependence, more equality and less suffering. I want my life to be part of bringing that dream in to reality.

This is the time of year when we Jews begin to take stock of our individual and collective successes and failures. Let me take this moment right now to ask for your forgiveness if I have hurt you in any way this year, and to assure you that I forgive you your foibles. Let me take this moment to invite you to share with me anything that you would like to bring into the open and to closure.

Living in community is not always pretty or easy. We are each of us flawed. Each of us has moments we later wish we could take back. We have differing opinions, visions, needs, habits, methods. We each have times when we feel lonely or different or misunderstood; moments in which we question the point of even trying anymore. Believe me, I

have lots of moments sitting at my desk struggling with the endless river of tasks that have to do with getting the air conditioning unit fixed or the right check to the right person at the right time, or figuring out how to make the computers work, that I think to myself, "is this the glorious feeling of community-building that I devote my waking hours to?" In those moments I don't feel like I'm part of creating world peace or a better planet for my children to inherit. I just feel like a bureaucratic cog in wheel.

While I do feel that way sometimes, I can honestly say that that feeling quickly becomes overshadowed by an overriding sense of purpose and fulfillment. But I have to tell you that those moments are not overcome by my natural optimism or the sheer force of my will. It is you that causes me to ride the wave. It is the call on my voicemail thanking me for my help, telling me what a difference I made. It's the question about my kids at the end of an otherwise utilitarian email. It is witnessing the leadership of the Board of Directors. It is watching the children have an a-ha moment as they pour over the week's Torah portion together. It is witnessing the true love that flows through the Rabbi as she marries scores of couples in just a few short months. It is feeling the love that rushes like a tidal wave from the congregation over Tracy and Lisa as they marry in the eyes of the law. It is feeling the spirit of prayer that fills our sanctuary, even when it is empty.

We talk a lot about the precious

community of BCC. So much so that sometimes people don't hear it anymore. And there is always at least one of us that is not having a moment of warmth and comfort, but instead is in a place of questioning, maybe feeling let down. That is the price of community. It is not perfect every moment, but it is in the striving to reconcile our reality with our vision of what we can achieve together that we truly grow and strengthen as individuals and as a community.

Of course, this wouldn't be a column from your Executive Director if I didn't remind you that we can only do this work if we also collectively make sure we pay for the lights, the clergy, the food, the phones, the computers, and all the other bricks and mortar that it takes to make our house a home, to make our synagogue a true *kehilla kedosha* (sacred community). Each one of us must contribute to our ability in order to make the dream a reality; that too is the price of community.

Please join me this New Year in re-committing to building the community we know we can be. Together we can stretch and grow as individuals and a collective. Together we can work to usher in a better world for the generations that will follow us. Together we will make the price of community as sweet as the honey on our Rosh Hashanah apples.

L'shanah Tovah!

Small Change - Big Difference (continued from page 11)

the generosity of all of you who give tzedakah by returning your coin-filled pushkes to BCC. Over time the coins pile up. Our small change can make a big difference. So get ready to bring your pushkes to BCC by the end

of Sukkot.

Reaching this milestone moment could not have happened without the energy, ideas and commitment of all those currently and in the past serving with me on the Tzedakah

Council. They include: Jeff Bernhardt, Ahavah Brooks, Angela Brown, Steve Hochstadt, Mark Miller, Laurie Newman, Rob Phillips, Jim Potter, Vaughan Rachel, Sylvia Weisenberg, Michelle Weiss and Barry Wendell.

Mazel Tov

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

All BCC couples who have been legally married since the landmark California Supreme Court ruling took effect on June 17, 2008:

Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Tracy Moore

Cantorial Soloist Emerita Fran Chalin and Rob Phillips

Executive Director Felicia Park-Rogers and Rachel Timoner

Tanya and Leah Sussman

Cara and Heidi Hale-Hanes

Itay Siegel and Tony Smith

Bishop Ed Vasquez and Bill Koffinke

Ed Casson and Steven May

Avram Chill and Wesley Joe

Elizabeth Savage and Roxy Bickerstaff

Cate Whiting and Vanessa Eisemann

Davi and Bracha Yael Cheng

Les Zendle and Jerry Hanson

Josh Wayser and Richard Schulte

Ysied Gillette and Dalila Ferguson

Stan Notkin and Bruce Warner

Mindy Blum and Pam Postrel

Estaire Press and Janelle LaMance

Diane Goodman and Nicolasa Nevarez

Carol Saragossi and Bonnie Moore

Stephanie Plotin and Kristin McCrary

Aviva Kamin and Elise Asch

Stacy-Colleen and Kris Nameth

Neil Klasky and Adrian Koffka

Rachel Timoner, partner of Felicia Park-Rogers, who won a highly competitive scholarship from the Point Foundation, the nation's largest scholarship provider for LGBT research. Rachel's scholarship will support her senior thesis at HUC on expanding halacha (Jewish law) to encompass global concerns about the Earth and treatment of workers.

Leah and Tanya Sussman, on the finalization of their adoption of their daughter, **Sonia**, and her formal conversion to Judaism.

Ilene Cohen, on her retirement after 38 years from the Santa Monica library. Ilene also has a new home in Culver City that includes a special room for her puppets!

Gayle Paperno, on the wedding of her daughter KC Marten (Kassandra) to Nick Wilsey on July 12, 2008 in Santa Barbara.

Seth Harrington, on joining the writing team behind the hit show "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?"

Sam Maxwell, son of Bruce Maxwell, who has started his freshman year at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Rabbi Edwards in the News:

The week of July 13, news of Rabbi Lisa and Tracy's wedding and advocacy traveled through the Internet thanks to mentions in the weekly e-bulletins of Be'chol Lashon (In Every Tongue: Advocating for the Growth and Diversity of the Jewish People) and Jewish Mosaic (The National Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity).

Rabbi Edwards was also featured on the website of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, where she was a panelist in the panel "Women and Judaism: Questions of Equality" following a screening of the documentary "Praying in Her Own Voice" (she is one of the subjects of the documentary), following the screening of Praying in Her Own Voice on Sunday August 3rd at 4:15 p.m. at the Roda Theatre in Berkeley.

You can read Rabbi Edwards' June editorial in the Jewish Journal on the Jews for Marriage Equality website:

<http://www.jewsformarriageequality.org/>

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

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.



Leah and Tanya Sussman with their daughter Sonia, lighting candles to celebrate Sonia's adoption and conversion to Judaism.



Rabbi Lisa Edwards and wife Tracy Moore embrace at their wedding on July 13, 2008.

SEPTEMBER 2008
ELUL 5768/TISHRI 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY (BCC closed)	2	3	4 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	5 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Herb Toplan	6 Ohr Chayim 10:30 am Welcome Back 12:00 Family Service (All Welcome)
7 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax	8 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 pm High Holiday Prep Class Rabbi Edwards	10 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	11 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Surprised by God Reading and discussion Danya Ruttenberg	12 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Student Rabbi Joe Hample Davi Cheng	13 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 Family Service (All Welcome) 6:00 pm Women's Havurah Game Night
14	15 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 7:00 pm Prayerbook Hebrew Learn to Read Short Course Todd Shotz	18 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	19 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Cantor Richard Schwartz	20 10:00 am Shabbat Service and Dairy Potluck 7:10 pm Women's Havurah at Dodger Stadium 10:00 pm Selichot Service
21 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax	22 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Prayerbook Hebrew Learn to Read Short Course Todd Shotz	23 7:00 pm High Holidays Prep Class Joe Hample	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 pm Refreshments 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Drash by Rabbi Edwards	27 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 Family Service 6:00 pm Men's Havurah Dinner (private home)
28 10:00 am BCC Book Group Beware of God: Stories (private home)	29 8:00 pm EREV ROSH HASHANAH Temple Isaiah	30 9:30 am ROSH HASHANAH Morning Service Temple Isaiah 4:00 pm Telephone Minyan				

OCTOBER 2008
TISHRI/CHESHVAN 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 am SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH at BCC 4:00 pm Tashlich Venice Beach 6:00 pm Dinner (private home)	2 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	3 6:30 pm Thai House Dinner SHABBAT SHUVAH 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Yuval Porat Drash by Kate Henningsen	4 SHABBAT SHUVAH 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 Family Shabbat
5	6	7	8 7:00 pm KOL NIDRE Service Temple Isaiah	9 10:00 am YOM KIPPUR Morning Service 2:30 pm Telephone Minyan 4:00 pm Yizkor/Neilah 6:30 pm Break Fast	10 6:30 pm Telephone Service 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Elissa Barrett Robin Berkovitz	11 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 Family Shabbat
12 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax	13	14 SUKKOT (FIRST DAY) BCC Closed	15	16 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	17 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Edwards Stefani Valadez	18 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service and Dairy Potluck
19 2:00 pm New Member Reception 3:30 pm Volunteer Appreciation and Sukkot Celebration at Home of Rabbi Edwards and Tracy Moore	20	21 EREV SIMCHAT TORAH 6:30 pm Yizkor Service 7:00 pm Service and Dancing with Gay Gezunt band	22 SIMCHAT TORAH BCC Office Closed 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	23 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	24 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Student Rabbi Joe Hample Herb Toplan	25 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 12:00 Family Service World Congress Eastern Regional Conference Philadelphia
26 8:00 am (cook), 11:30 am (deliver) Project Chicken Soup 330 N. Fairfax 10:00 am BCC Book Group Away, by Amy Bloom (private home)	27	28 7:00 pm Class The Problem of God's Justice Student Rabbi Joe Hample	29	30 4:00 pm Telephone Torah Study 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	31 Ruach Chayim 7:00 pm Refreshments 8:00 pm Shabbat Services Aufruf for and drash by Barbara Kroll & Ruth Spielman	

SEE **BCC-LA.ORG** FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES.