

## From the Rabbi's Study Pray for the Welfare of our Government

Senior Rabbi Lisa Edwards



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Jews have been praying for whatever country we lived in for many centuries. Some say we are the first people to do so, although that seems hard to believe. Nonetheless as far back as the Mishnah, in Pirke Avot (the Sayings of our Ancestors), chapter 3, verse 2, we are instructed, with some irony, to do so: Rabbi Hanina, the Deputy High Priest, said, "Pray for the

welfare of the government, for were it not for the fear of it, one would swallow another alive."

And nearly every version of our Jewish prayerbooks contains exactly that, prayers for the welfare of our government. Unlike most other prayers in our prayerbooks, which come first in Hebrew and then in translation, prayers for the welfare of the government or country were generally written in the language of whatever country the book was published in (of course in Israel that meant Hebrew). I still remember the version of this prayer in the old Union Prayer Book for the Days of Awe, the 1945 machzor with which I grew up:

*Fervently we invoke Thy blessing upon our country and our nation...Enlighten with Thy wisdom and sustain with Thy power those whom the people have set in authority, the President, his counselors, and advisers, the judges, law-givers and executives, and all who are entrusted with our safety and with the guardianship of our rights and our liberties...* [Union Prayer Book II, Central Conference of American Rabbis, 1945, p.245]

In the Reform Movement's new machzor, *Mishkan Hanefesh*, the editors, Rabbis Janet and Shelly Marder, wrote a new prayer for Our Country. It is much longer, yet we might all do well to recite it daily. See p. 286 of your copy of the Yom Kippur volume (the silver one) of *Mishkan Hanefesh*.

But the prayer for our nation that I've been sharing

more recently at Friday night services, and reading on my own nearly every day since November 9, 2016, is one that appears in the 1994 Reconstructionist siddur, *Kol haNeshemah*, reprinted there from the 1945 Reconstructionist prayerbook. Interesting that both the Reform and Reconstructionist movements of Judaism published new prayer books (a rare occurrence in both movements) in 1945, the year World War II ended, and with so much still to be discovered about the plight of



Jews in Europe. Yet these two books remained the Reform and Reconstructionist standards, though with some revisions, for the next several decades (the Reform Movement published *Gates of Prayer* in 1975, and *Mishkan T'filah* in 2007).

I am writing this less than a month before Inauguration Day. It remains to be seen whether the changes to come in our nation and the world will be as significant as those that followed World War II, but as we head into this major transition in our country, and perhaps in our individual and communal lives, I invite us all to make use of this prayer in whatever ways we see fit, including as a reminder that it will be up to us to help make its visions come true. I look forward to joining with you to do so. May we encourage one another, as we walk together on the road ahead:

*Continued on Page 2*

"May America remain loyal to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and apply them to ever widening areas of life.

May our country be free from oppression, persecution, and unjust discrimination; may we overcome religious, racial, and class conflicts; and may we be restored as a haven of refuge for the victims of injustice and deprivation.

May we learn the art of living together, and come to understand how to appreciate differences, to reconcile clashing interests, and to help one another achieve a harmonious and abundant life.

May we acquire the wisdom to choose honest and capable leaders who will govern us by democratic and ethical principles.

And may the enterprise of our American people be blessed that we may utilize the resources of our land for the good of all the world."

[1945 Reconstructionist Prayer Book (adapted)]

And let us all say, Amen.

## Pre-Inaugural Rally and Demonstration



PHOTO: TRACY MOORE

Please join Rabbi Lisa, Cantor Juval, and other local clergy for an interfaith pre-inauguration rally and demonstration being organized by Inspire Spiritual Community on Thursday, January 19, 7 to 9 pm, at Plummer Park in West Hollywood. Rev. Jesse Brune-Horan (see photo) was a guest at BCC's Hanukkah celebration on December 30.

For news, events and keeping in touch with the community: Like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/templebcc](http://www.facebook.com/templebcc)

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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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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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<b>BCC is affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews: Keshet Ga'avah and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.</b>	

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## G'vanim Advertising Rates

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## President's Message

# Holiday Greetings, and Looking toward the New Year

Lauren Schlau

I am writing this on the first day of Hanukkah, which is also Christmas Day this year, and tomorrow starts the weeklong Kwanzaa festival. I like that many people are celebrating their respective or perhaps blended holidays at the same time. To me this is another sign that while our rituals and traditions may be different, we have much in common in our humanity and much to celebrate. It is a time when each of these traditions helps provide the literal and figurative light for its adherents and for the world at large.



In looking back over the past year, we at BCC have much to be proud of with many our holidays, services, programs, classes and activities. While the outcome and possible ramifications of the November election remain deeply concerning for many of us, BCC is the place where many of us came for solace and community. Sensing members' feelings after the election, our clergy immediately organized a session for people to come together, share their feelings, and be supported by words from our Jewish tradition. As always, BCC is an

eternal light, here when members are in need as well as in the happy times.

I would also like to provide an update on our strategic planning process. The Board will meet all day on January 29 to take up the plan in detail. We have obtained the services of a group facilitator from the Union for Reform Judaism to help guide our discussion, at no cost to us as part of our URJ membership. Once the plan is structured into a presentable draft, we plan to bring it to our members for review and input, and with member approval, make this our action blueprint for the next three years. Why is this so important? Having a written, community-driven plan will allow us to be more focused with more visible outcomes to better meet the needs of our members and others coming to BCC. One of the key areas of focus will be how to better engage members, with a goal of members seeing the personal and congregational benefits of involvement, whether on or chairing a committee, as a Board member or an officer. This not an option – it is critical to the future viability of the congregation and should be a priority for the Board and ultimately for members to discuss and implement.

All my best wishes as we enter a new secular year, and I look forward to seeing each of you soon at BCC!



Cantor Juval Porat spent a week at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand in December. He will tell us more about his trip in a drash on Friday, January 27.



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# Reflections on Jews and Patriotism

Larry Nathenson



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Rabbi Lisa's column about praying for the welfare of our government got me to thinking about the often troubled relationship between the Jewish people and the various countries we have inhabited and the governments under which we have lived. As a lifelong student of history, I always try to approach any issue from a historical point of view. Jews are uniquely positioned to examine the question of patriotism because

we have lived in so many different countries and have so rarely had a country and government of our own.

My first thought upon reading Rabbi Lisa's column was to recall my visit to Russia in 1992, six months after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. I attended a Shabbat morning service in the only synagogue in Moscow that had stayed open throughout the Communist period. On the wall there was a plaque with a prayer for the welfare of the Soviet Union, which the congregation had not yet gotten around to revising. At the time I wondered how these Jews could pray for a system that had suppressed their religion for 75 years, and whether they were sincere or only did it out of fear of being thought disloyal.

Rabbi Lisa quotes Pirke Avot to the effect that we should pray for the government not out of love but out of fear, specifically fear of what would happen to us without the security that the government provides. In the time of the Mishnah the Roman government was a persecutor of Jews but also sometimes their protector against mob violence. This ambivalent relationship between Jews and gentile governments has continued through the ages. In medieval Europe, kings and bishops often protected Jews from Christian mobs because they valued the Jews for their skills and their commercial contacts with other lands (especially Muslim lands, where Christians could not trade). But when times got tough, local authorities often gave in to the temptation to blame the Jews and confiscate their wealth in the process. More recently, in Germany in the 1930s, we saw what can happen when the mob becomes the government.

Although the Romans had brutally crushed the Jewish revolt and had destroyed the Second Temple, they did not try to destroy Judaism itself. We often think of the defeat of the Jewish revolt as the start of the Diaspora, but in fact a

majority of Jews already lived outside Palestine, especially in Babylonia (part of the Persian Empire) and in the Roman provinces of Egypt, Greece, and Asia Minor. Many of them were converts to Judaism as it spread through trade and proselytizing (yes, we did that in those days). The Romans were actually quite tolerant in matters of religion, allowing subject peoples to keep their own traditions so long as they also worshipped the Roman Emperor as a god. For polytheists this was not a problem; they simply added him to their existing pantheon. Jews of course could not do the same, but the Romans respected Judaism as the traditional religion of a subject people and allowed Jews to pray "for" the emperor rather than "to" the emperor. Perhaps this is the origin of Jewish prayers for gentile governments.

(Christians, by the way, were not given the same dispensation because theirs was a new religion, and this was the main basis for their persecution before the conversion of the Emperor Constantine).

Where Jews have been welcomed in other lands, they have generally responded enthusiastically and maintained that attitude even after the welcome wore off. Jews remember medieval Spain as a "golden age" of the *convivencia* (living together) of Jews with Muslims and Christians. But neither of the other groups felt the same way; they tolerated the others for a time but always wanted to be dominant and resorted to persecution when times were bad. Maimonides fled from Muslim persecution in his Spanish home some three centuries before the final expulsion by Christian rulers in 1492. In modern times, after the

French Revolution, many Jews in Europe eagerly left the ghettos and entered into Christian society and all its professions, businesses, and artistic endeavors. The patriotism of Jews did not prevent them from being scapegoated in France with the Dreyfus Affair in the 1890s. Nor did the loyalty and military service of German Jews in World War I carry any weight with the Nazis 20 years later.

The United States has always been an outlier in this respect, though it has certainly not been free of anti-Semitism. In 1790 George Washington wrote his famous letter to the Jews of Newport, Rhode Island, in which he said:

For happily the Government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection



Continued on Page 5

should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

Washington's open-minded attitude has influenced many of his successors. Abraham Lincoln was also known as a friend of the Jews and acted on his principles when he countermanded an order by General Grant to expel all Jews from certain occupied areas of the South based on allegations of profiteering by a few of them. Franklin Roosevelt, despite his unwillingness to take measures to save European Jews from the Nazis, was also known as a friend to Jews in domestic affairs. Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the U.S. government has generally been its friend and ally and has resisted accusations of dual loyalty against American Jews by some of our fellow citizens.

This brings me to the present day, when many of us are apprehensive about the intentions of the incoming administration. Although the President-elect has a Jewish daughter and son-in-law and has selected a staunch supporter of Israel as the next U.S. ambassador, he has also appointed alleged anti-Semites to some important advisory positions. The LGBT community also

has reason for concern about some of his appointees, even though the campaign was largely free of anti-LGBT bias. In fact, at the Republican convention shortly after the massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, the President-elect promised to protect LGBT citizens from Muslim terrorism, and this was one of the few times the assembled delegates seemed hesitant to cheer him.

Our country and its way of life will outlast this administration, even if it brings some setbacks in our progress toward a more just and equitable society. And we will continue to rely on our government to provide the security and the legal framework on which our prosperity and social progress depend.

So let us join with our fellow Jews and other citizens in praying for the welfare of our government, even if we have disagreements with the leaders of the moment, and let us maintain our hopes that it will one day continue on the path described by the Reconstructionist prayer quoted by Rabbi Lisa. Unlike many of our ancestors, we are privileged to live in a time and place in which our enthusiasm for our country is not unrequited by a majority of our fellow citizens and in which we can live proudly as Jews and as Americans at the same time.

## Save the Date to Celebrate BCC's 45th Anniversary!

*Sunday March 26, midday.*

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Concert? 🎵 🎶 🎷

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*Richard Lesse*

*Cantorial Emerita Fran Chalin*

*Cantor Don Croll*

*Phranc*

*Tamara Kline*

*Jeanelle LaMance*

*Cantor Juval Porat*

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Watch the weekly announcements  
for further information.*



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# BCC Learning for All Ages

BCC offers learning opportunities for the entire community – adults, families with children, and parents with babies. Here are Rabbi Miller's offerings for the coming months.

**Winter Session Baby Conclave: A Singing and Social Circle for Babies.** 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, Saturday, January 7 and February 4.

Parents and babies enjoy Jewish community, singing, Jewish prayers and songs. Learn about holidays and Jewish culture, followed by snacks for babies. Takes place at a host home near BCC. \$15/session for members and \$20/session for non-members. Please email Rabbi Heather at [rabbiheather@bcc-la.org](mailto:rabbiheather@bcc-la.org) for more details.

**Prayerbook Hebrew for Adults with Rabbi Heather Miller** — Mondays, January 23 through February 13, 7:30 to 9:00pm. This four-session class is designed to provide participants with greater familiarity with prayerbook



Hebrew— phrases and key prayers. Begin to decode the mystery of the prayers and appreciate them in a whole new language! Prerequisite: ability to recognize Hebrew letters. This class needs

a minimum of 5 participants to run. Tuition: \$80 for all four classes for members, \$100 for nonmembers. No BCC member will be turned away for lack of funds. Contact Jewish Learning Chair Adam Barron for information or to RSVP at [education@bcc-la.org](mailto:education@bcc-la.org).

## **Praying with our Feet: Extending the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. & Abraham Joshua Heschel** Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 - 8:30pm at BCC

How can new and old social justice allies join together in the struggle for racial and economic justice to combat hatred and bigotry and build the Beloved Community? Hosted by SCLC-SC/Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California and Bend the Arc.

### **Keynote Speakers:**

Pastor William Monroe Campbell II, Mount Gilead Missionary Baptist Church  
Aryeh Cohen, Rabbi-in-Residence at Bend the Arc.

### **Panelists:**

Rabbi Susan Goldberg, Wilshire Boulevard Temple  
Jamie Wright, Esq., Chairwoman of the Board of Inglewood Airport Chamber of Commerce  
Damien Goodman, Executive Director of Crenshaw Subway Coalition  
Alex Sherman, Esq., Bend the Arc of Southern California

## BCC Hanukkah at Factor's

*Marc Breindel*

Latkes! We love latkes!

BCC celebrated Hanukkah with a special dinner in a private room at Factor's Famous Deli before Shabbat



*The private back room at Factor's Deli.*

on Dec. 23. Rabbi Lisa Edwards, Lezbtzn Tracy Moore, and several more menorah makers enjoyed a delicious holiday meal served up by the very friendly Factor's staff.

We also had some pre-Hanukkah cheer as we sang several Hanukkah songs. Marjorie Rothman shared illustrated dreidel game sheets. I got to play with a light-up-musical "disco" dreidel, generously provided by Bruce Weil. We lit up the room with an electric menorah, but we didn't light candles – as Rabbi Lisa pointed out, it was still not quite Hanukkah yet!

New members Rosemary Strube and Penny Johnson brightened the evening, their first BCC dinner out since becoming members. "Penny and I had a lovely time," Rosemary said. "It was really nice to talk to people on an individual basis. We have always felt welcomed at all of the events we have been to, sponsored by BCC."

### *Editor's Note:*

Everyone is invited to join us for Shabbat dinner each month before Ruach Chayim musical services.

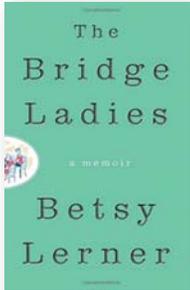
On January 27, please join us for a delicious catered vegan dinner at BCC before our Shabbat services. Chef Molly Basler will be cooking for us that evening. <http://www.mollybasler.com/cookbook.html> Please RSVP and pay the cost of \$20 per person by January 24 to Paypal at <http://www.bcc-la.org/support/>. There may be a limited number of dinners available on January 27, 6:30pm at the door. Tickets sold at the door will be \$25 per person.

On February 24 we'll meet for dinner and caravan back to BCC in time for services. Dinner will be at Fu's Palace, a Chinese restaurant at 8751 W. Pico Blvd. near Robertson. Free parking is in the back of the restaurant. This is a no-host dinner, about \$15-20. You can see the menu at <http://www.fuspalacela.com>. Contact Jeff Cohen [jeffreycohen@aol.com](mailto:jeffreycohen@aol.com) or Marc Breindel [marclb@yahoo.com](mailto:marclb@yahoo.com) for a count, or just drop in! Check out the menu <http://www.fuspalacela.com/>

# BCC Books and Bagels Group

Larry Nathenson

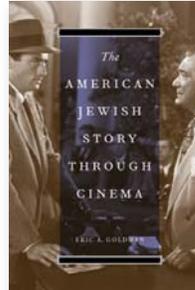
BCC's Book Group (Books and Bagels) has been meeting continuously since January 1995. The group meets monthly in members' homes for a bagel brunch and discussion of a book selected by the group. We read a variety of books: fiction and non-fiction, American and Israeli, historical and contemporary. The only requirement is some Jewish content (LGBT content is a plus, but not required). Our next two meetings are as follows.



**Sunday, January 29, 2017, 10:00 am**

***The Bridge Ladies, by Betsy Lerner***

A memoir by a baby boomer author and editor who uses her mother's bridge club as a vehicle to understand her mother's generation and to reconcile with her mother after decades of misunderstanding



**Sunday, February 26, 2017, 10:00 am**

***American Jewish Story Through Cinema, by Eric A. Goldman***

A film critic tells the story of American Jewish life through the decades of the 20th century and beyond with chapters focused on representative Jewish films of each decade.

The group is open to BCC members and non-members, and you are welcome to join us for a particular book that may interest you. RSVP is required for location and to ensure enough food. For more information, contact Larry Nathenson at [Larrynath@aol.com](mailto:Larrynath@aol.com).

## Need a Morale Boost? Try BCC's Life Transitions Support Group

If you could use some help dealing with the stress of relationships, careers, economics, social life, family life, health or bereavement, you might want to give the BCC Life Transitions Group a try. The goal of the BCC Life Transitions Group is to enhance participants' spiritual and emotional growth.

Participants have the opportunity to share their experiences, give and receive mutual support, and exchange coping skills with one another in a confidential atmosphere. Everyone is welcome - members and non-members. The group meets twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays from 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

This support group is facilitated by Shirley Hirschberg, Social Worker. Shirley is also available for individual sessions. For more information, please call the BCC office at (323) 931-7023, ext. 205.



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# Mazel Tov

We wish the following BCC member a hearty "mazel tov" on their recent achievements and good news.

BCC office manager **Victoria Delgadillo** has been with BCC for 20 years as of January 6. We thank her for her dedication to our community and her excellent work on our behalf.



**Rabbi Heather Miller** and **Melissa de la Rama** and their son **Julius Fernando (Judo)** recently expanded their family with the birth of their second son, **Leo Antonio**.

**Dr. Les Zandle** was elected by voters (with over 23,000 votes on November 8, 2016) to the Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors. Created in 1948, the District's original mission was to provide hospital services to residents of Desert Hot Springs, Thousand Palms, Palms Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage and Palm Desert. The District Board was responsible for building Desert Hospital (now Desert Regional Hospital, which since 1997 has been leased and run by Tenet Corporation). Today, with an annual operating budget of roughly \$9 million, the District pursues its mission through grants and other programs to enhance the health of its residents – especially those underserved by our current healthcare system. Les (who along with his husband **Jerry Hanson** have been BCC members since 1981) was president of BCC from 1988 to 1990. They moved to Palm Springs in 2006.

If you have a recent achievement or other good news to share, please contact the BCC office. We want to celebrate with you!

## Men's Havurah Welcomes New Leader, Mark Brown

It is with great pleasure that I take over leadership of the BCC Men's Havurah for the coming year. We began with our Havdalah/Hanukkah/New Year's Eve party on December 31 with dinner, a movie, and ringing in the New Year. As we enter the uncertainty of 2017, the Havurah will make a concerted effort to provide numerous and diverse opportunities for building community, fostering new friendships, deepening longstanding ones, and providing safe social space and activities. This mission will be important as 2017 unfolds with whatever it may bring for our Jewish LGBTQ community. Please keep an eye out for our upcoming events in the BCC newsletter, weekly e-bulletin, and seat bulletin every Shabbat, and feel free to email me with any suggestions you have for the group. I hope to see you soon!

Mark Brown;  
bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com

## Greetings from Olga Grilli

BCC member Sylvia Sukop, now attending graduate school in St. Louis, recently visited with BCC friend Olga Grilli in New York (see photo below). Those who were with BCC in 2005 will remember that Olga visited us when we restored a portion of our Holocaust survivor Torah and sponsored a reunion of survivor scrolls from around Southern California at Leo Baeck Temple. Olga grew up in the town of Chotebor, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic),



*Olga Grilli and Sylvia Sukop at their recent meeting in New York.*

the same town our scroll came from, and believes her grandfather read from it in their synagogue. As an 11 year old, she was a passenger on

the last Kindertransport of Czech children to England in 1939, just before the war began. BCC member Steve Sass conducted the research that located Olga, and Sylvia also established a personal connection with her. Olga is now 88 years old.

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# Photos from December 30th BCC Hanukkah Celebration

*Photos by Tracy Moore*



BCC members Murray Aronson, Sylvia Weisenberg, Raquel Zabronski, and Richard Seltzer light Shabbat candles while Rabbi Miller and Cantor Porat look on.



Glowing lights from BCC members' menorahs in the lobby during Hanukkah celebration.



Melissa de la Rama, wife of Rabbi Heather Miller, with new baby Leo Antonio at our Hanukkah celebration



More glowing lights in the BCC lobby windows.



BCC secretary Richard Lesse rides the bicycle for BCC's human-powered menorah, created by Will Korthof, z'l, who was responsible for many of our green building features.

January 2017

Tevet/Shevat 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EIGHTH DAY OF HANUKKAH HAPPY SECULAR NEW YEAR	2 BCC office closed	3 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	4 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	5	6 8:00 pm Shabbat service Rabbi Edwards Davi Cheng	7 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Winter Baby Conclave (see page 6)
8 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group The Mathematician's Shiva, by Stuart Rojstaczer	9	10 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	11 7:00 pm Praying with our Feet: Extending the Legacy of MLK and Heschel (see page 6)	12	13 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards and Miller Cantor Porat	14 10:00 am Bat Mitzvah of Sonya Siegel-Chanen
15	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY BCC office closed	17 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	18 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	19 7:00 pm (Plummer Park) Pre-Inaugural Interfaith Demonstration (page 2)	20 6:30 pm Early Intergenerational Shabbat Service Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	21 10:00 am Shabbat Minyan and Veggie potluck
22	23 7:30 pm Class Prayerbook Hebrew, with Rabbi Miller	24 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	25 7:00 pm Board of Directors meeting	26	27 6:30 pm Catered vegan Shabbat dinner (page 6) 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Ruach Chayim Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Drash by Cantor Porat	28 10:00 am Ohr Chayim
29 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group The Bridge Ladies, by Betsy Lerner	30 7:30 pm Class Prayerbook Hebrew, with Rabbi Miller	31 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	<i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i>			

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i>				2	3 8:00 pm Shabbat service Rabbi Miller Robin Berkovitz	4 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 10:00 am Winter Baby Conclave (see page 6)
5	6 7:30 pm Class Prayerbook Hebrew, with Rabbi Miller	7 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	8 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	9	10 8:00 pm Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat Service Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	11 TU B'SHEVAT (New Year for Trees) 10:00 am Ohr Chayim
12 12:00 pm Unveiling for Arnie Pincus (Hillside Cemetery)	13 7:30 pm Class Prayerbook Hebrew, with Rabbi Miller	14 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	15 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	16	17 6:30 pm Early Experimental Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat	18 10:00 am Shabbat morning Minyan and Veggie potluck
19	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY BCC office closed	21 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	22 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	23	24 6:00 pm Dinner in the Neighborhood (page 6) 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Ruach Chayim Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat Guest Musicians	25 10:00 am Ohr Chayim
26 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group American Jewish Story Through Cinema, by Eric Goldman	27 7:00 pm Lay Leaders Workshop Cantor Porat	28 7:15 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	March 1 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	2 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	3 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Lay leaders Guest Speaker Elizabeth Schwartz, Author of Before I Do: A Legal Guide to Marriage, Gay & Otherwise	4 10:00 am Ohr Chayim

SEE [BCC-LA.ORG](http://BCC-LA.ORG) FOR UPDATES AND CHANGES.