

Ma'ayan Mayim Chayim (Fountain of Living Waters) Comes to BCC

On Friday evening, July 31, in a moving and joyous celebration, the BCC community dedicated our new fountain at the entrance to our synagogue building. The dream of a fountain that would welcome guests into our new spiritual home goes back four years to the completion of our new building. While that dream was not realized then, it was not forgotten. Thanks to our dear Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Lezbtzen Tracy Moore, the dream was awakened and, with heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed, the dream is becoming reality!



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Rabbi Lisa Edwards (right) and Lezbtzen Tracy Moore speak at the fountain dedication

On Friday evening, July 31, in a moving and joyous celebration, the BCC community dedicated our new fountain at the entrance to our synagogue building. The dream of a fountain that would welcome guests into our new spiritual home goes back four years to the completion of our new building. While that dream was not realized then, it was not forgotten. Thanks to our dear Rabbi Lisa Edwards and Lezbtzen Tracy Moore, the dream was awakened and, with heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed, the dream is becoming reality!

The inscription on the fountain reads:

*U'shavtem mayim b'sason mimainei hayishua.
Draw water joyously from the fountains of liberation.
Isaiah 12:3*

This verse was set to music by the pioneers of Israel—they recognized that their collective efforts were both literally and metaphorically making the desert spring with waters manifesting new life. These kibbutzniks gathered together, rolled up their sleeves, and built something great. They would use the meaning of this verse, pair it with a joyful melody and persistent beat to motivate, encourage and inspire one another to work together in a coordinated effort to make their dream a reality.

So, too, have Rabbi Lisa and Tracy, for over 21 years now, inspired



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Tracy Moore and Rabbi Lisa Edwards admire the new fountain dedicated in their honor

Continued on Page 2

Days of Awe 5776



Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 13, 7:15 pm
Temple Isaiah (10345 W. Pico Blvd.)

Rosh Hashanah, First Day

Monday, September 14,

Temple Isaiah
9:30 am Morning and family services
(Childcare with pre-registration)
1:00 pm Rosh Hashanah catered luncheon
(Separate ticket required)
4:00 Telephone minyan service

Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

Tuesday, September 15
10:00 am Morning service at BCC
4:30 pm Tashlich service at Santa Monica beach

Kol Nidre at Temple Isaiah

Tuesday, September 22, 7:15pm

Yom Kippur at Temple Isaiah

Wednesday, September 14

10:00 am Morning and family services
(Childcare with pre-registration)

2:00-3:00 pm Break and study sessions
2:30 pm Telephone minyan service
3:30 pm Reading of memorial names
4:00 pm Yizkor service
5:00 pm Afternoon/Neilah services
7:30 pm Havdalah and light community Break-the-fast following services

Sukkot and Simchat Torah

See page 5

us to organize, gather around, and build this community that is BCC. We are grateful to all who contributed (too numerous to mention here, but listed on the fountain wall) and especially to our architects Toni Lewis and Marc Schoeplein and graphic designer Carol Newsom who donated their services for the fountain.

The dedication ceremony began with remarks and the presentation of a plaque by California State



Cantor Juval Porat and Rabbi Heather Miller at the fountain dedication

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Assemblymember Richard Bloom, and continued with songs and blessings by Cantor Porat and Rabbi Miller and remarks by BCC President Lauren Schlau, BCC members Brett Trueman and Mark Miller and Amy Pomrantz, and by Lisa and Tracy themselves. It was followed by an especially joyful Ruach Chayim (spirit of life) musical Kabbalat Shabbat service.

Fittingly, we dedicated this fountain at the twilight hour between Tu B'Av, a joyful holiday celebrating love, and the arrival of Shabbat Nachamu, a solemn Shabbat of

Comfort from suffering. We thank our dear



Assemblymember Richard Bloom presents a plaque to BCC

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

rabbi and lezbtzen for offering joy and comfort, and everything in-between, all these 21 years.

This article is adapted from remarks during the ceremony and posted on the BCC website.



Steve Hochstadt and Steve Sass admire the new fountain

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

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

In this Issue...

New fountain, Days of Awe..... 1-2
 Rabbi's column 3
 Cantor's column, Sukkot 4-5
 Jewish Learning Committee..... 6
 Ohr Chayim 7
 President's message 8
 Tzedakah Council 9
 Men's/Women's Havurot 10
 Film club 10
 World Congress, Life transitions ... 11
 Book group, Mazel tov 12
 Calendar 13

G'vanim Advertising Rates

Rates

(Rates in bold are discounted 20% for BCC members)

1 issue 3 issues: 10% disc. 6 issues: 20% disc.

1/8 PG:

\$50	\$135	\$240
\$40	\$108	\$192

1/4 PG:

\$100	\$270	\$480
\$80	\$216	\$384

Specs

1/8 PG or BUS. CARD: 3.625" W x 2.218 H (live area and trim)

1/4 PG: 3.625" W x 4.685" H (live area and trim)

Artwork specifications available upon request.

OFFICE

Temple Office Hours:

Monday–Thursday 9:00 – 5:00 pm

Friday 9:00 – 4:00 pm

Phone: (323) 931-7023 • Fax: (323) 931-1490

e-mail: bcc@bcc-la.org

website: www.bcc-la.org

Rabbi Lisa Edwards is available for private appointments. Please call at least a week in advance, if possible, to schedule.

STAFF

Senior Rabbi	Lisa A. Edwards, Ph.D.
Cantor	Juval Porat, M.Arch.
Rabbi	Heather Miller
Executive Director	Ruth Geffner
Office Manager	Victoria Delgadillo
Education Director	Leah Zimmerman
Bookkeeper	Ralph Cataldo
Facility Manager	Tim Goad
Social Media Coordinator ..	Yanir Dekel

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President	Lauren Schlau
Vice President	Hannah Theile
Vice President	Ginger Jacobs
Secretary	Richard Lesse
Treasurer	Michael King

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debby Chanen	Everlyn Hunter
Ira Dankberg	Bruce Maxwell
Allison Diamant	Maggie Parkhurst
Marc Gottehrer	Herb Toplan
Leigh Grode	

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Adult Education	Adam Barron
BCC Awards Brunch ..	Michael King
BCC Live	Bracha Yael
Bikur Cholim	Position available
Chair Campaign	Janet Meskin, Rob Schoenberger
Film Club	Gordon Blitz, Bracha Yael
Financial Task Force ..	Position available
House	Position available
L'Chayim Legacy Circle	Gordon Blitz, Ray Eelsing, Hannah Theile
Membership	Ira Dankberg
Men's Havurah	Brett Trueman
Newsletter	Larry Nathenson
Professional Liaison ..	Position available
Ritual	Davi Cheng
Technology	Richard Lesse
Tzedakah Council ...	Robin Baltic
Women's Havurah ...	Ronnie Wexler
20s/30s Havurah	Position available

G'VANIM

G'vanim "Hues (of the rainbow)" is the monthly newsletter of

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM
 6090 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.

Editor: Larry Nathenson. Graphics & Layout: Lentini Design. Articles submitted should be typed, emailed or attached as Word documents to Larrynath@aol.com, by the 15th of the month before publication. To subscribe to G'vanim, send name and address and a check or money order for \$18 per year, attention: Subscriptions. Free to members.

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.

God's Fondness for Beetles, and Other Thoughts for the Days of Awe

Rabbi Lisa Edwards



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

There is a story, possibly apocryphal, of the distinguished [early 20th century] British scientist, J.B.S. Haldane, who found himself in the company of a group of theologians. On being asked what one could conclude as to the nature of the Creator from a study of creation, Haldane is said to have answered, "An inordinate fondness for beetles."

Footnote of a paper published in *The American Naturalist* in 1959, quoted in

<http://quoteinvestigator.com/2010/06/23/beetles/>

I recently attempted to rescue a June bug/beetle from drowning. Alas, too late, I thought, as it lay unmoving on the sidewalk for over an hour. I emptied a little cardboard jewelry box, leaving in it only the cotton pillow, and I placed the motionless body in the box and put the lid on. My intention was to mail it to a friend who collects bugs. I knew she would like its bright green wings and iridescent belly. The box sat on our kitchen counter for a couple of days, as I hadn't managed to get to the post office yet. But Shabbat morning the lid of the box was ajar and a beetle leg was poking out. Assuming I'd knocked the box with the morning paper, I lifted the lid to have a look and, yikes, its legs were moving!! I placed it gingerly outside in the dirt and put a tiny dish of water next to it – it moved slowly, not even a crawl, it seemed unable to spread its wings, but when I came back to check on it a little while later it had apparently flown away.

After "rescuing" the June bug I went off to our monthly Shabbat morning minyan at BCC. And during our private Amidah prayers as I read the Gevurot, I couldn't help thinking about my "returned from the dead" June bug:

"Your love sustains the living, Your great mercies give life to the dead. You support the falling, heal the ailing, free the fettered. You keep Your faith with those who sleep in dust. Whose power can compare with Yours, Master of life and death and deliverance?"

I laughed a little to myself, wondering if it was a beetle that long ago inspired the writing of such a prayer, and then I teared up because of the humans I wished had experienced such "great mercies," but who did not.

We are fast coming up on Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, a time of year that can be such a blessing or such a challenge depending on where one is in one's life and one's relationship with God. This year I know some of us will not only feel challenged by, but will be challenging God. As a community we've lost a number of friends this year – too young; some of us have suffered other personal sorrows; and the world certainly has experienced no shortage of disasters and threats, many induced by human carelessness or deliberate action.

When we arrive at the prayers that invite our grief or fear or awe at the mystery of the known and unknown world, some of us will surely have difficulty offering praise or feeling appreciative. Anger and grief or anxiety can take over.

In those moments I often find that focusing close helps. Maybe this year I'll even remember my June bug and my delight when I saw that leg moving in the box on the kitchen counter. And maybe I'll think about some of the inspiring facts I've read about beetles since spending a Shabbat with that surprising creature [facts from <http://insects.about.com/od/beetles/a/10-Facts-About-Beetles.htm>]:



Green June beetle.
©Debbie Hadley, WILD Jersey

Today beetles can be found almost everywhere on the planet. One out of every four animals on Earth is a beetle. If we include plants in the count, one in every five known organisms is a beetle. Beetles as we know them first appeared on Earth about 230 million years ago.

The scientist Haldane was also an atheist, and so his response, if made at all, may have been just a witty remark on his part. But I take it a little more seriously. His idea, especially during these Days of Awe, invites us to spend some time awestruck by all the large and small amazements to focus on — the blessings and hurts, the griefs and joys, the people in our lives (whether sitting beside us or living in our memory or imagination), the wonder brought by the brilliant hue of a June bug or the depth of the love we feel this moment – no matter who or what is the object of our love.

May the new year 5776 and the Yamim Noraim (Days of Awe) with which it begins bring awareness, amazement, and "inordinate fondness" to us all.

Reflections on Marriage Equality and the Work Yet to be Done

Cantor Juval Porat



PHOTO: KEINA LOVE

A version of this article will be published in the bimonthly newsletter of the American Conference of Cantors.

Friday, June 26, 2015 might be one of those days we'll ask each other about in years to come. Where were you on June 26? Where were you when marriage became a constitutional right for all citizens of

the United States?

I was in bed, as the news came trickling in through my Facebook wall, then my email inbox and then various other news outlets. I live right next to West Hollywood Park, where later that day the "Day of Decision" rally would take place. The more the news spread out, the more palpable the excitement in the air and the energy of celebration became. Rabbi Lisa Edwards was among the speakers at that rally, there with other representatives of faith communities to assure the attendees that voices of faith have always had a place in the struggle for marriage equality, even though so many other "voices of faith" spoke so loudly against everybody's right to civil marriage.

While Rabbi Lisa was delivering her remarks, I was at BCC going over my music library, trying to find the perfect tune to reflect the significance of the Supreme Court's decision to be sung during Kabbalat Shabbat that evening. I ended up with two choices that could probably not be further apart from each other: Bruno Mars's [Marry You](#) and Yonatan Razel's setting to [D'ror Yikra](#).

I chose "Marry You" because it felt appropriate to sing about the ease of getting married, a simple act which was now granted to all citizens on that very day, and "D'ror Yikra" because of its sentiment of true freedom for all of God's sons and daughters and the emphasis on God's protection of all of God's children on that very Shabbat day.

Yet with those choices came some doubts and dilemmas. When Bruno Mars sings "It's a beautiful night, We're looking for something dumb to do. Hey baby, I think I wanna marry you." - might that be interpreted by some as a devaluation of the institution of marriage they hold up so high? And when the poet Dunash ibn Labrat writes about freedom for all in [D'ror Yikra](#), how

might that reach those in our community who still struggle to attain full freedom and acceptance, or those who do not feel protected under the law? What about those who don't agree with the concept of civil marriage? Or those in polyamorous relationships? What about those who carry the pain of being single? What about those who are single by choice? What about those who see the emulation of heteronormative relationship models as an assimilation that dilutes the gay/queer experience?

What are the chances, I asked myself, that the focus on and celebration of the institution of a monogamous and heteronormative marriage might alienate some of our community members?

I ended up integrating both pieces into the service. I'll never fully know how they were received by the congregation, and I can only hope my intentions were understood. What's most satisfying though is the knowledge that at BCC, trying to give an answer to the

questions asked above and carrying the intention for inclusiveness and visibility for all, is a principle that informs every aspect of our work.

I'm also very happy to live in a time and place in which a discourse can be held on the many lifestyles and constellations that make up our society and the creative ways with which we can address each individual ritually, liturgically and

musically. It's quite a remarkable testament to the evolution we've made as human beings and particularly in the Reform Jewish community, which I do not take for granted.

And yet, some of the recent news that has reached us from the Land of Israel - stabbings in the gay parade in Jerusalem and the killing of a teenager, the burning alive of an entire Arab family by a Jewish terrorist group, a Molotov bottle hurled at a young Jewish woman's car by Arabs leading to severe burns, the Israeli president being depicted as a Nazi and threats to his life being heard by Jewish radicals - serve as a sad reminder that our work is not finished. Over the days surrounding the holiday of love *Tu B'av* we were reminded that the very basic condition of acceptance, respect and love of the "other," whether LGBTQ people, people of color, or people of different faith groups, ethnicities and origins, is still a condition that requires constant maintenance and cultivation. We are not yet fully resistant against forces of hatred, violence, ignorance and incitement. It's a sad fact that the so-called "voices of faith" who propagate separation, mistrust, and isolation often use the same Judaism that we



Continued on Page 5

utilize for inclusion and community. Our work is not finished and - as the verses from *Pirkey Avot* suggest - we're not free (yet) to desist from it.

In my attempt to shift my focus away from the darkness that wrapped itself around this recent eruption of hate, I found comfort in the encouraging words from Proverbs: "Do not fear sudden terror!" I found inspiration in the image of a light being sown within us (Psalm 97) I'm given hope from all the acts of [compassion](#), [empathy](#), [dialogue](#) and [reflection](#) being triggered by and despite those recent events.

Our work is not yet done. The Supreme Court's decision and the stabbing during Jerusalem pride stand in stark contrast to each other, as if to remind us of the long way we've come and yet we still can't allow ourselves to rest. With the New Year approaching, let us use this time to remind ourselves of our given voices that enable us to express ourselves. Our voices can accompany us, as we recommit to a world that is guided by love, tolerance and acceptance between religions, people, communities and most fundamentally *Beyn Adam L'chavero* - between a human and their fellow human being.

From *Kehilla Datit Ge-ah*, Israel's religious LGBTQ community, comes this adapted version of the prayer

for the road written by Israeli activists Zehorit Kadosh and singer-songwriter Chaim Elbaum:

"May it be Your will, Adonai, our God and the God of our ancestors, that You lead us toward peace,

guide our footsteps toward peace, and make us reach our desired destination for life, gladness, and peace.

May our journey be a success, may we be provided with blessings on our struggle for equality and love for all. Shelter us from contempt and discrimination and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of humankind.

For You are a god that hears the prayers and pleas. Blessed are You, Adonai, who hears prayers.



Sukkot and Simchat Torah at BCC

Community and sukkah building and potluck

Saturday, September 26 at BCC
9:30 am Building the sukkah
(Bring palm fronds if you have them)
11:00 am Decorating the sukkah

Erev Sukkot service and potluck

Sunday, September 27, at BCC
6:00 pm
Join all BCC clergy for a potluck dinner in our sukkah, Followed by Sukkot service.

Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 4 at BCC
6:00 pm Dinner
6:30 pm Yizkor service
7:00 pm Simchat Torah service and celebration



PORTRAITS



KennaLove.com

by
KENNA LOVE

BCC Makes Jewish Learning Fun!

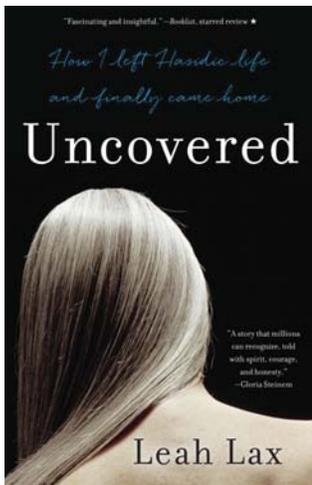
Adam Barron and Ilene Cohen

One of the things that make Judaism so special is God's commandment to study Torah. This being a kinder, gentler age, we might say God's encouragement to study Torah. So what is Torah? The first five books of the Bible of course. Yet again, we might say, torah (with a small t) is anything that nurtures our mind and spirit, making us wiser, kinder and happier. In other words, we learn from and create our own personal torah.

To this end, the Jewish Learning Committee at BCC strives to make studying informal and fun! The emphasis is on learning from one another and growing together. Classes can be *instructional* like b'nai mitzvah preparation, experiential like shofar-making, or *transformative* like exploring Jewish spirituality. We also host *social justice* speakers. Please join us to brainstorm ideas, or send your suggestions to education@bcc-la.org.

Here are two dynamic speakers who will help us begin our adult education journeys in this New Year:

Leah Lax, Self-Styled “Cultural Immigrant,” to Lead us into Selichot



Leah Lax, author of the recently published memoir *Uncovered*, will speak at BCC on Saturday, September 5 at 5:00 p.m., immediately before our Selichot service. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Named one of Booklist's Top 10 LGBT Literature books, *Uncovered* will be available at a discount. Here is some of what she says about her work.

"My memoir is about falling into Hassidic life as a young teen and leaving it at a run in my more-conscious forties. While writing that book, I was fascinated with the intertwining of sexuality with one's spiritual sense. Both go to the core of who we are. Both can trigger passion and desire and need....

"Here's a scenario from twelve years ago when I first stepped out: I meet new friends in a restaurant. When we start thinking about ordering, someone nods at a dish on another table and says, 'I'll have what she's having.' They all grin. My face goes blank. I have missed decades; don't know even the classics that seeped into culture long before, never heard of Harry or Sally. One friend tells the others, 'It's a Rip thing—she went to sleep for thirty years.' Then the waiter comes. The others order, they are casual and quick about it, but I have to read every line on the menu. Such abundance without doing any of the work! My friends pick at their food, chatting away, but to me, after years of kosher restrictions (and the novelty of food I

didn't cook) every morsel is amazing.

"As I eat, I listen to the conversation like an anthropologist. I note terms and references still foreign to me. I try to discern what these women value, how they hold themselves in the world, how they spend their days. Then the waiter brings the bill and my friends have to teach me how to figure a tip and go about paying.

"it's been twelve years now of re-learning the world. After my cloistered years, I've come to love gardening and the outdoors. But my great love is listening to voices....

"So. Here I am. Anyone else out there a cultural immigrant in your own country? What role did religion play in that for you?"

Rabbi Rachel Adler Brings Books of *Ruth* and *Isaiah* to Life this Fall

Rabbi Rachel Adler will return to BCC this fall for a series of lectures on Thursday evenings, focusing on the Book of Ruth and the Prophet Isaiah. This five-week series will run from October 8 to November 5 from 7:30-9:00 pm at BCC. Admission is free. Come join us for these stimulating and thought provoking lectures and discussions.

Rabbi Adler is one of a kind in her scholarship and charisma. She is the Rabbi David Ellenson Professor of Jewish Religious Thought and Professor of Modern Jewish Thought and Feminist Studies at HUC-JIR/Los Angeles. She was one of the first theologians to integrate feminist perspectives and concerns into the interpretation of Jewish texts and the renewal of Jewish law and ethics. Her essay "The Jew Who Wasn't There," first published in 1971, is generally considered the first piece of Jewish feminist theology. She is the author of *Engendering Judaism*, which won the National Jewish Book Award for Jewish Thought. She is the first female theologian to win this award. Rabbi Adler is a long-time friend of BCC and is pleased to offer her insights to our community once again.

Ohr Chayim Models Community Learning

Leah Zimmerman, Director of Education



I am looking forward to welcoming returning and new families on September 26 for our first Shabbat together in the new year! This year we will welcome some children and their parents who have attended other BCC family events in the past and who are now old enough to be fully enrolled in the weekly Shabbat program!

Although content and learning is an essential part of the Ohr Chayim curriculum, it is the experience of celebrating Shabbat and studying Torah together that models and teaches what it means to be part of a kehillah, a congregation. Before separating into flexible mixed aged groups for T'filah/Hebrew studies and Jewish studies, parents and students participate in a service together. While our students are studying, the parents schmooze and have Torah study with one of our clergy. We close each week with some reflections and kiddush and motzi. Our students see their parents as learners, and have opportunities to spend Shabbat together.

We are very lucky to have our stellar teaching team, Ms. Purple and Rae Antonoff, returning for yet another year. Ms. Purple has a magical way of connecting with each child. She blends fun and creativity with Jewish learning in ways that are engaging and meaningful for our students. She is a never ending well for ideas for craft projects. Rae has a degree in Jewish Education from HUC, is an accomplished artist, and plays guitar. Currently, she is developing some of her own Hebrew learning materials that we will be lucky to pilot this year at BCC. She brings a wealth of Torah knowledge and artistic talent to our students, often finding ways to expand their thinking through engaging questions and art projects.

Just as important as what we teach our students is how we teach our students. We teach liturgy and Torah in ways that invite our students to develop their own



interpretations and to create meaning. We teach that Jewish learning is based on textual learning that prompts questions, searching for answers, honoring the interpretations that have come before us, and sharing our own insights. Our students enliven the textual learning by creating artwork or dramatic interpretations. As they do, they engage more fully in the meaning of the text.

I have learned so much from the eight years so far of running this program and am excited for all the new ideas the clergy, the teachers, parents and I will bring to this new year!



HOLLYWOOD

James Sutherland

323-219-6755

Making Your Real Estate Dreams

Come True

{Together We Will}

5827 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, Ca. 90028



Anne Bloom, MFT, CADC

Psychotherapist

323-397-2517

Individuals, Couples, Family and children. Addiction Specialist

MFT 45606 CADC #C2000203

E-mail anniewithjoy@yahoo.com



LATherapistFind.com

8230 Beverly Blvd. Ste.21

Los Angeles, Ca. 90048

President's Message

Planning Ahead – Individually and as a Community

Lauren Schlau



The month of Elul is the month before and leading us into the Jewish High Holy Days, the Days of Awe, a time of reflection, repentance, return and renewal. This is our time to take an accounting of our lives, looking back and thinking ahead. One of the central prayers of this period is unatanah tokef – it's awesome, mighty and scary – with the words

“who shall live and who shall die.”

I had occasion to think about this recently (though not entirely willingly) thanks to BCC member Aviyah Farkas, who organized an Advance Planning Workshop on what I believe to be an essential topic for all of us. The workshop provided information about end of life decisions that must be made. In that it was titled “advance” planning, the key point is to make our all-important end of life decisions before it is too late. As these decisions have to be made at some time by someone, it is best that we make them ourselves. Many people do not specify these details and then, unfortunately, others who do not know the individual's wishes are left to make these highly personal (and permanent) decisions for them.

The main decisions that need to be made are advance health care directives, later-life living contingencies, wills and estates, and funeral arrangements, which themselves require many additional specific decisions and directives. I am not going to go into the details here. The point is that while the workshop offered vital facts and information, it even more so illuminated the stark realization that I (and all of us) need to do this work now. As we are aware, anyone may need these arrangements at any time, often unpredictably. It is best and responsible to make arrangements when one is of sound mind and body – that is, still vital! Aviyah plans a follow-up workshop to help us engage in the arrangements process (i.e., filling out the paper work that was distributed). I urge you to consider your own arrangements and whether through BCC or your own resources, please do so soon.

As the New Year begins, BCC is poised for new and innovative programming to extend our temple family to our post-b'nai mitzvah youth thanks to a grant we received from the Jewish Federation. We also just

learned that we have received a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to upgrade the temple's safety and security systems to benefit everyone using our building. More info on both these grant programs will be forthcoming in the next few months. I want to especially thank Executive Director Ruth Geffner for finding, applying for and successfully getting us this funding to do new and needed programming and upgrades.

On behalf of the entire BCC community, I wish each of you a very sweet and good new year, look forward to seeing you at our upcoming High Holy Day services and activities and throughout the year at BCC.

L'shanah tovah.

Lauren



TAMARA L. KLINE, M.F.T.
MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST
COUPLES AND SEX THERAPIST

ADULT INDIVIDUALS,
COUPLES, TEENAGERS
PARENTS OF TEENAGERS



Tools and Insight for Living your Best Life

9171 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 600
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210
(310) 226-7000

WWW.TK THERAPY.COM
TAMARA@TK THERAPY.COM

Photograph by Kenna Love

News from the Tzedakah Council

Steve Hochstadt



Organizations Receiving BCC Tzedakah - Summer 2015/5775

As stewards of the BCC community tzedakah, this past August the Tzedakah Council selected and distributed \$500 each to five nonprofits. Each organization has a unique mission helping those in need, sometimes in life-saving ways.

The Youth Center on Highland is a program of the Los Angeles LGBT Center. The Center provides shelter, food, training, clothing, housing referrals, recreational activities, support groups and other vital services to gay, lesbian bisexual transgender and questioning kids, ages 18 to 24, who are without a home and have nowhere else to go.

The Stink Bug Project, a program of the Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation, was created by a child going through cancer treatment who received a dog to keep her company on her long journey from illness to wellness. She started the charity to make and sell dog bones to raise money to enable other kids going through chemotherapy to receive a specially trained dog to keep them company during treatment and recovery. Before a child receives a pooch, each dog has special training at a prison in Buena Vista, Colorado by prisoners at the facility specially trained for this purpose. Our support pays for the training of one dog given to a child to care for and love during treatment and wellness.

College Path LA is a community organization of volunteers who help Los Angeles public high school students explore careers, apply to college, and thrive once they get there. Many of the students are the first in their families to pursue a college education. Many speak a language other than English at home. These kids need personalized guidance to navigate the bewildering college application process. Our tzedakah support provides scholarship stipends to graduates of College Path LA during freshman year of college for essentials such as textbooks and tuition.

Meeting Place Clubhouse in San Diego supports adults in San Diego County with mental health disorders by providing training and socialization so that they can be better integrated into society. The BCC tzedakah donation will be used toward a computer-training course for 15 adults.

Hadassah Hospital's Endovascular Neurosurgery Unit – Dr. Jose Cohen

Dr. Cohen is also known as "The Wonder Doctor" and he has helped to save the lives of hundreds, maybe thousands of people over his years in Israel. His attitude is that we can't say no, and if there is something to be done that can save a life, "then we don't say no" no matter what it takes or what it may cost.

What's Next? We'll see...after High Holidays. Please fill your pushkes and bring them with you when attending BCC services held at Temple Isaiah for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur or the next time you are at BCC. Be a part of "what's next" by helping with a stitch or two to repair the world. The current BCC tzedakah coin drive runs through October 6, 2015.

YOUR FAMILY IS
PRECIOUS
TO YOU

Plan ahead with a gift of love for
those you care about most.

Josh T. Ryan

Beth Chayim Chadashim's Advance Planning Representative
805-306-6411 | jtryan@mountsinai.org



MEMORIAL PARKS AND MORTUARIES

Simi Valley FD 1745 6150 Mount Sinai Drive, Simi Valley CA 93063
Hollywood Hills FD 1010 5950 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles CA 90068

www.mountsinai.org 800-600-0076

Dedicated to the entire Jewish community as a service of Sinai Temple of Los Angeles.

BCC Film Club to Screen “Out in the Dark”

Gordon Blitz and Bracha Yael



On Saturday evening, October 17, the BCC Film Club will screen the Berlin Jewish Film Festival winner “Out in the Dark.” NPR calls this 2013 Israeli film an “atmospheric neo-noir” that “pave[s] the way for a brand-new subgenre — the gay romantic thriller.” “Out in the Dark” is the directorial debut of Israeli filmmaker Michael Mayer. Below is a movie summary by Rotten Tomatoes:

Nimer (Nicholas Jacob), an ambitious Palestinian student in the West Bank, dreams of a better life. One fateful night in Tel Aviv, he meets Roy (Michael Aloni), an Israeli lawyer, and the two fall in love. As their relationship deepens, they are both confronted with the harsh realities of a Palestinian society that refuses to accept Nimer for his sexual identity, and an Israeli society that rejects him for his nationality. When Nimer’s close friend is caught hiding illegally in Tel Aviv and sent back to the West Bank and a terrible fate, Nimer is forced to choose between the life he

thought he wanted and his love for Roy.

Bracha Yael will introduce the film and after the screening will lead a group discussion on reactions to the film.

All BCC Film Club events are free and open to the public. Bring your favorite snacks to share! Havdalah and schmooze are at 7:00 pm, and the movie screens at 7:30 pm.

The Men’s Havurah is Back!

Brett Trueman

After a short hiatus, the BCC Men’s Havurah is back in action! I’ll be serving as chair. Our first event was a brunch at Mark’s and my home in Santa Monica. Our chef extraordinaire, Richard Lesse, prepared homemade waffles and whipped cream, and I made hummus and a variety of vegan ice creams. The event was delicious! Upcoming events (dates to be announced) include a chocolate tasting led by Mark Miller, a hike in the Santa Monica Mountains, and a game night (including dinner).

Our next Men’s Havurah event is a hike of the Temescal Canyon Loop Trail. We’ll meet on **Sunday, September 27**, at 10:00 a.m. at 15601 Sunset Blvd. (at the intersection of Sunset and Temescal Canyon Road). The hike should take about 1 ½ hours. Afterwards, we’ll head out to brunch at a nearby restaurant.

The Men’s Havurah is open to both members and non-members. If you are not on our e-mail list (all members are automatically on this list) and would like to be, please e-mail me at bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com and I’ll add you.

Also, if you have an idea for an event and/or are willing to help organize one, please get in touch with me. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Women’s Havurah Returns to BCC!

Ronnie Wexler

I am pleased and proud to be the new chair of the Women’s Havurah at BCC. We have already begun our new season with a day at the beach in Santa Monica and an LA Sparks women’s basketball game, both on the weekend of August 29-30. We are considering a variety of future events, including a new walking tour of the Arts District in Downtown LA., bowling, miniature golf, visits to the Getty, LACMA and MOCA, challah baking lessons, a trip to Descanso Gardens, a game night, and hiking in local mountains. Some events will be for women only, and others will be open to the Men’s Havurah and the 20s and 30s group as well.

If you have questions or suggestions for events or activities you would like to enjoy, please contact me at rwexler@mac.com. With your help and participation, this will be the year of the Women’s Havurah like you’ve never seen before.



LAW & MEDIATION OFFICE OF
DIANE M. GOODMAN, APC

FAMILY LAW
Adoption, Step Parent Adoption, Cohabitation,
Divorce, Child Custody, Spousal Support,
Domestic Partnership, Family Mediation

Law & Mediation Office of Diane M. Goodman, APC
17043 Venture Boulevard, Encino, California 91316
Tel: 818-386-2889 e-mail: info@goodmanmediation.com

WORLD CONGRESS OF GLBT JEWS CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Jonathan Falk

2015 marks an important anniversary for the World Congress of GLBT Jews: Keshet Ga'avah. It was in 1975, 40 years ago, that BCC joined with several other lesbian and gay Jewish organizations from along the US east coast and from Israel to inaugurate the First International Conference of Gay Jews. And it was in 1980 that the World Congress was formally established to fight homophobia and anti-Semitism around the world.

In 2015, the World Congress held its annual board meeting in Tel Aviv, elected a new president from Paris, Frank Giaoui, welcomed new member organizations in Ann Arbor and in Italy, and made plans to simplify its bylaws and coordinate its activities with other organizations to make a more lasting impact. BCC members Glen Chester and Jonathan Falk continue to serve as the treasurer and secretary, respectively, for the World Congress.

President-elect Giaoui (who also spells his last name as Jaoui) spoke at BCC in July, and commented that BCC remains "one of the cornerstones of the World Congress

and a role model for our other member organizations. Our member organizations are stronger when they act together. I envision the World Congress as a lever through which member organizations launch their own ambitious initiatives and call for others' support worldwide."

Serafino Fiammelli, spokesperson for the new Italian group Magen David Keshet Italia said simply: "For us it is critical to be part of the World Congress, as it builds our credibility when we introduce our group."

The World Congress invites you to save the date of Sunday, January 10, 2016, for an Evening of Art in the Hollywood Hills to celebrate the World Congress.

Anyone interested in helping to plan the evening is invited to contact Jonathan Falk, at secretary@glbtjews.org.



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

Here is some advice from BCC member Les Amer:
"Over the last year, my morale has been weighed down by the death of a close friend and my mother's memory impairment. In reading the temple bulletins, I noticed that the Life Transitions Group was still meeting twice a month.

"Years ago I attended one session at our old BCC location, when I was having burdens over my father's failing health. It was an opportunity to break down and cry in frustration. I only needed the one session at the time, but I remembered it years later when I again needed some help.

"Over this past year, I have been able to express myself in confidence about the moods of sadness and depression that my recent experiences have caused. I continue to attend sessions with Shirley Hirschberg and others in the group, and have found it helpful to both express my inner feelings as well as to listen to the needs and concerns of others. Thanks to everyone involved, and to BCC for making the space available."

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.

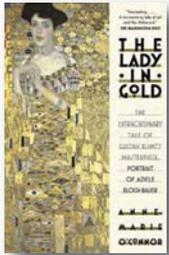
This support group is facilitated by Shirley Hirschberg, Social Worker. For more information, please call the BCC office at (323) 931-7023, ext. 205.

The advertisement is a rectangular graphic with a dark blue background. On the left side, there is a photograph of a two-story house at night with its interior lights on. Below the house photo is the Sotheby's International Realty logo. On the right side, there is a portrait of a man in a suit and tie, identified as Jory Burton. Above the portrait is the text "I'm never too busy for your Referrals". Below the portrait is the name "JORY BURTON" in large white letters, followed by the website "www.JoryBurton.com" and the phone number "310.766.5679 | Jory@JoryBurton.com".

BCC Books and Bagels Group

Larry Nathenson

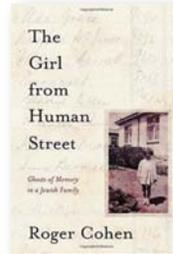
BCC's Book Group (Books and Bagels) has been meeting continuously since January 1995. The group meets monthly in members' homes for a bagel brunch and discussion of a book selected by the group. We read a variety of books: fiction and non-fiction, American and Israeli, historical and contemporary. The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



Sunday, October 4, 10:00 am

***The Lady in Gold*, by Anne-Marie O'Connor**

This book was the basis for the recent movie "Woman in Gold," starring Helen Mirren. The book covers much more ground, including the back story of the painting by Gustav Klimt as well as its seizure by the Nazis and retention by the Austrian government after the war, and the legal battle waged by Maria Altmann and her attorney Randy Schoenberg to recover it for her family.



Sunday, November 1, 10:00 am

***The Girl from Human Street*, by Roger Cohen**

Subtitled "Ghosts of Memory in a Jewish Family," this memoir traces the author's family across continents and decades to trace their diverging yet intertwining cultural, religious, national, and individual identities.

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. For more information, contact Larry Nathenson at Larrynath@aol.com.

Mazel Tov

We wish the following BCC members a hearty "mazel tov" for their recent accomplishments and simchas:

Cantor Juval Porat is now a full member of the American Conference of Cantors (the Reform movement's cantorial association), the first who was not trained at Hebrew Union College in the U.S.

Jackie Lara has embraced the covenant, and also has a new job.

Mark Vrbka has embraced the covenant.

Esti Rothstein and **Laura Kilmer** were recently married.

Janice Wien and **David Cranford** were recently married.

Stephen Klein has retired after a long career as a librarian.

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

Save the Date for BCC Rainbow Bazaar

We are planning a rummage sale in March 2016. Please hold onto items you might consider discarding or donating. Here are the basics, with more to follow.

BCC Rainbow Bazaar

March 20, 2016 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

In the parking lot of the temple

*Donate your items, come have fun,
games for kids, food and drinks.*

WANT TO SUPPORT?
BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM?

DONATE A VEHICLE

EASY PROCESS FREE PICK UP TAX DEDUCTION

JUST CALL: 855-500-RIDE

Our friendly operators toll-free at (855) 500-RIDE (7433) seven days a week. When you call the number, you'll be asked who would you like the car to be donated to, so you can say either "BCC" or "Beth Chayim".

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> All events at BCC unless otherwise noted </div>		1 7:00 pm Class Preparation for Days of Awe Cantor Porat Jeanelle LaMance	2 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	3 	4 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	5 5:00 pm Book Reading <i>Uncovered</i> , by Leah Lax 7:00 pm Dinner and Selichot Service with Music and Study Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat
6 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark St. 10 am - 3:00 pm Choir Retreat	7 LABOR DAY (BCC Office Closed) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 pm Class Preparation for Days of Awe Maggie Parkhurst	9 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	10 	11 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat	12
13 EREV ROSH HASHANAH 7:15 pm Service at Temple Isaiah	14 ROSH HASHANAH 9:30 am Service at Temple Isaiah 1:00 pm Rosh Hashanah luncheon	15 10:00 am at BCC Second Day Rosh Hashanah Service 4:30 pm Tashlich Service at Santa Monica Beach	16 BCC Office Closed 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	17 	18 6:30 pm Experimental Early Shabbat Shuvah Service Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	19 SHABBAT SHUVAH 10:00 am Saturday Morning Minyan and Dairy Potluck
20 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark St.	21 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 7:15 pm KOL NIDRE Service at Temple Isaiah	23 YOM KIPPUR (Temple Isaiah) 10:00 am Morning Service 2:00 pm Break/Study 3:30 pm Reading of names 4:00 pm Yizkor 5:00 pm Neilah service	24 BCC Office Closed	25 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Davi Cheng	26 9:30 am Community Sukkah Building 10:00 am Ohr Chayim 11:00 am Decoration of Sukkah and potluck
27 10:00 am Men's Havurah Hike and brunch, Temescal Canyon EREV SUKKOT 6:00 pm Potluck dinner and Sukkot service All BCC clergy	28 SUKKOT, FIRST DAY (BCC Office Closed)	29 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards (in the sukkah)	30 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> All events at BCC unless otherwise noted </div>					1 	2 8:00 pm Shabbat Service in the Sukkah Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat	3 10:00 am Ohr Chayim
4 10:00 am (private home) BCC Book Group <i>The Lady in Gold</i> 6:00 pm BYO Dinner 6:30 pm Yizkor 7:00 pm Simchat Torah Service and celebration	5 SHEMINI ATZERET (BCC Office Closed)	6 SIMCHAT TORAH 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	7 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	8 7:30 pm Class on Ruth and Isaiah Rabbi Rachel Adler	9 8:00 pm Shabbat Service Rabbi Edwards Herb Toplan	10 10:00 am Ohr Chayim (Baby, Parent and Me)	
11 	12 	13 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	14 7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting	15 7:30 pm Class on Ruth and Isaiah Rabbi Rachel Adler	16 8:00 pm Shabbat service Davi Cheng Bracha Yael Celebrating their 36 th anniversary	17 10:00 am Shabbat Morning Minyan and Dairy Potluck 7:00 pm Film Club "Out in the Dark"	
18 8:00 am cook, 11:30 deliver Project Chicken Soup 3975 Landmark St.	19 	20 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	21 7:00 pm Life Transitions Group Shirley Hirschberg	22 7:30 pm Class on Ruth and Isaiah Rabbi Rachel Adler	23 6:30 pm Early Shabbat service Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	24 10:00 am Ohr Chayim	
25 	26 	27 7:00 pm Torah Study Rabbi Edwards	28 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	29 7:30 pm Class on Ruth and Isaiah Rabbi Rachel Adler	30 8:00 pm Shabbat service Ruach Chayim Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat Guest Musicians	31 HALLOWEEN (Gay Purim) 10:00 am Ohr Chayim	