

גורנים



G'VANIM

VOLUME 45, NO. 1

September/October 2016

## From the Rabbi's Study A Time of New Beginnings

Rabbi Heather Miller



**Sing to God a new song! Sing to God, all the earth!**  
**Shiru L'Adonai shir chadash! Shiru L'Adonai kol ha'aretz!**

If this time of year had a soundtrack, it would definitely be right out of this Psalm! Psalm 96, recited often in prayers, begins with these rousing lyrics calling us, and all those around us, to pursue newness: perhaps a new way of life or newness in the way we

appreciate it.

Isn't this exactly the feeling we have at this season of the New Year? 5777 is here! Rosh Hashanah brings with it

the hopes and promises of a brighter future as we turn to make amends for our shortcomings from the past year and vow to hold ourselves to our best in the year to come. This is a great time to check in with yourself and ask yourself those important existential questions: What kind of life have I been leading this past year? What do I want the year to come to look like? How can I best express who I am at my core? How can I connect with others in a way that is truly sacred and meaningful? How can I make a positive difference, big or small, in the world around me?

As you embark on this serious task, remember to be good to yourself. Focus on the future and what you would like to do in the year ahead. Look for new ways you'd like to express who you are as an infinitely

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## Days of Awe 5777

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, October 2, 7:15 pm  
Temple Isaiah (10345 W. Pico Blvd.)

### Rosh Hashanah, First Day

Monday, October 3  
Temple Isaiah  
9:30 am – 1:30 pm Morning services  
For the first 45 minutes of our service, we will be joined by the youngest members of our congregation, intergenerational style. (Everyone is encouraged to attend!)

Rosh Hashanah Catered Luncheon  
(Separate ticket required)

### Rosh Hashanah, Second Day

Tuesday, October 4  
10:00 am Morning service at BCC  
4:30 pm Tashlich service at  
Santa Monica Beach

### Kol Nidre

Tuesday, October 11, 7:15pm  
Temple Isaiah

### Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 12  
Temple Isaiah  
9:30 am – 1:30 pm For the first 45 minutes of our service, we will be joined by the youngest members of our congregation, intergenerational style. (Everyone is encouraged to attend!)  
1:30 - 2:30 pm Break & study sessions  
2:30 – 4:30 pm Mincha and Avodah services  
4:30 pm Reading of memorial names  
5:00 pm Yizkor service  
6:00 pm Neilah services  
7:00 pm Havdalah  
Light community Break-the-fast after services

### Sukkot

Sunday, October 16  
Dinner starting at 6:00 pm in our sukkah, followed by Sukkot service

### Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 23  
6:30 pm with potluck dinner, followed by Yizkor and Simchat Torah celebration of dancing with the Torahs

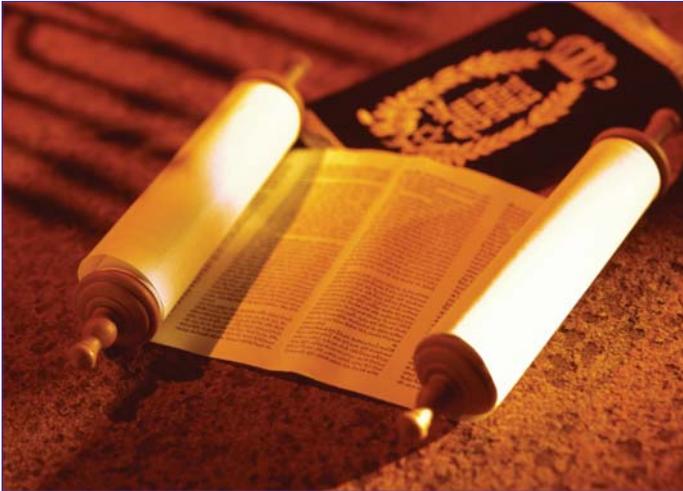
For more information or to purchase tickets please go to

<http://www.bcc-la.org/days-of-awe/>



valuable ensouled human, and new ways you'd like to interact with all around you. Be brave and challenge yourself to share the wisdom of your experiences, and learn from each other.

One of the things I love most is that Beth Chayim Chadashim is a community of individuals who offer opportunities to do just that. BCC is buzzing with the activity of people sharing experiences, resources,



sympathies, celebrations, and learning from our forebears and one another nearly every day of the week. Whether sitting in quiet contemplation during services or learning Torah in one of our classes, whether catching up with friends at an oneg or visiting

a member of our community who is ill or celebrating a simcha, plenty of opportunities present themselves for us to be our best selves.

As you consider your year ahead, please remember to consider how BCC figures into your plan. How can BCC help you sing a new song of life this year? After all, "Beth Chayim Chadashim" means "House of New Life." What kind of new life will you make for yourself in this new year? Will you step up to volunteer more or engage in social action to make a real difference to those around you? Perhaps you will attend services more often to provide yourself with reflection and introspection? Will you help participate in more of our social events to create lasting memories and new friendships? Or perhaps you will deepen your connection to Judaism and others through our educational opportunities?

There are so many ways to enrich your experience as a human being at BCC, and to sing the new song that is uniquely your own. Take full advantage, and we look forward to seeing you around!

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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<b>1 issue</b>	<b>3 issues: 10% disc.</b>	<b>6 issues: 20% disc.</b>
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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**  
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.

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**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.**

# Preparing for the Days of Awe

Senior Rabbi Lisa Edwards



PHOTO: KENNA LOVE

Preparations for the Days of Awe are in full swing at BCC – among the clergy, the office staff, the many volunteers who help make them happen, the BCC Board. How about you? Are you preparing yet?

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

some preparation for the Days of Awe before you find yourself in the midst of them, before you walk away from them after they're over wondering what they were about or why you bother going or whether you'll go next year.

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

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

The month of Elul that began on September 4 is set aside in Jewish tradition to begin our preparations, to do *cheshbon hanefesh* – to take an accounting of our souls.

Consider the questions laid out for us by a tradition that invites us – year after to year – to reflect on our lives and to become, every year, a better person:

*Where did you go wrong this year, and how can you fix it?*

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

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

*Have you grown, and if so, how?*

*Have you learned, and if so, what?*

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

Don't be afraid, and don't let it get away from you, this precious time of reflection and repair. Let us help you by attending one or more of our Tuesday evening sessions this month at 7:30 pm on "How to Make the Most of Elul, Our Month of Spiritual Preparation," with the following facilitators (more information can be found on page 6):

**September 6:** BCC member and author Maggie Anton Parkhurst

**September 13:** Rabbi Heather Miller

**September 20:** Cantor Juval Porat

**September 27:** Senior Rabbi Lisa Edwards

Let this be the year you enter ready, willing to encounter whatever lies ahead. It won't happen without you. I look forward to welcoming you to the Days of Awe, to BCC, to this new year.

Shanah Tovah,  
Lisa

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# The Hashtags of High Holidays

Cantor Juval Porat

PHOTO: KENNA LOVE



In the world of hashtags, tweets, taggings, and posts there's one tagline that's been making the rounds among my colleagues and friends. [#whatcantorsdo](#) accompanies posts and pictures of cantors proudly standing by a bar/bat mitzvah student, rehearsing a piece of music, getting ready for services, or offering words of consolation and insight on world

and lifecycle events. When cantors get together at conferences and retreats, it becomes obvious how united we are in our passions and commitments while we still recognize what makes each of us unique.

This notion of honoring one's uniqueness in a crowd of equally special individuals reminds me a bit of the somewhat controversial, well known piece of liturgy with which many services conclude - the Aleinu (its fame is largely due to the melody, which is based on a German drinking song). In the Aleinu we recognize the differences among the peoples of the Earth and are called to embrace this as truth and responsibility.

If you'd like to learn more about the Aleinu, its origins, alternative interpretations, melodies and English translations, I invite you to visit my class on September 20th at BCC. BCC's faithful pianist Jeanelle LaMance and I will do our best to present you with the many ways prayer can be heard and felt and understood by utilizing the many ways Aleinu has been introduced to communities.

Along with the BCC choir, Jeanelle and I have been working hard in preparation for the High Holidays to provide you with music that is accessible, inspiring, and at times challenging. Together with my co-clergy, Rabbi Lisa and Rabbi Heather, we carefully assemble a service flow that consists of many intentional moments of awe, meditation, community, joy and remembrance.

Whether it's a High Holiday planning meeting, or a Shabbat planning meeting, our clergy meetings are packed. We hardly ever end up discussing only the matter for which we have come together. We bring news headlines into our meetings and search for ways to frame them in a spiritual context. We share innovations gathered at conferences or retreats to see how they might fit the BCC community. We support each other and listen to each other and try to remain open and curious to new ideas and perspectives. If you were to summarize all of the above in one neat hashtag, I'd go with [#thisiswhatthiscantordoes](#)

I truly cherish this work, and I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't feel it was meaningful. I didn't get to check off my list all that I had planned for 5776, but looking back at the Jewish year I'm filled with humility for the privilege of trying to bring people closer to their divine selves through (Jewish) music ancient and new - whether it's at funerals, at a deathbed of a congregant or at a wedding, welcoming ceremonies of newborn, congregational meetings and communal gatherings and concerts. I'm filled with gratitude for the opportunity to introduce precious guest speakers who visit our community through spoken words and song and allow them to shine for who they are and the gifts they bring. I am grateful for the writing of music with partners. I am grateful for the retreats and conferences, the hours of studying and meditation, all the musicians with whom I've collaborated during services and concerts, and all the congregants with whom I've met for coffee and who shared time with me, providing me with a glimpse into their lives and me providing them with a glimpse into mine. I'm grateful for being able to be there for some of my colleagues in moments of challenge and discomfort and for the opportunity to interact with other musical organizations in Los Angeles who aspire to give voice and spiritual expression for LGBTQ people from all walks of life. If I were to summarize all of the above in one neat hashtag, I'd go with [#thisiswhatthiscantordidlastyear](#)

For 5777 and beyond I wish to find more ways to draw closer all those folks who've been alienated by organized religion. I'd like to explore how BCC, as the world's first(!) place of worship for LGBTQ Jews and their allies, can further be a place of joy and safety to all, providing ritual and liturgy for those in non-"traditional" relationships, asexual people, non-Ashkenazi Jews, Jews of color and non conforming ones. And I'm excited for going through the process of exploration with the BCC community and my co-clergy. Will you join me? If I were to summarize all of the above in one neat hashtag, I'd go with [#thisiswhatthiscantorhopetodonextyear](#)

We open up our High Holiday services by singing Pitchu Li:

*Open the gates of justice for me,  
I will enter them and thank God. (Psalm 118:19-20)*

The Psalmist recognizes that access to what's behind the gates of justice is not to be taken for granted. When there's a need to ask for the gates to open it implies that certain conditions need to be met, and it is after

*Continued on Page 5*

## President's Message

# Coming Together for the New Year

Lauren Schlau



As you will read throughout this issue, the Jewish High Holy Days (HHD), also known as the Days of Awe, will arrive in early October. HHD observance is rooted in the Torah and its practice is so central that even some Jews with little involvement in synagogue life during the year attend services on this occasion to pray and to reconnect with and reaffirm their place in Judaism and in the Jewish

community. What brings us and ties us together as a community in worship is different for each one of us, but by coming together in community we experience that we are not alone in the world and that our own personal pleas can improve our lives.

You will read in this issue (page 7) about our much-considered decision to reduce our traditional BCC practice from multiple HHD appeals to only one. We are aware that as we gather together for the New Year to give thanks to the source of life, some are put off by solicitation at this holy time. Though the Torah often mentions giving, modern HHD appeal practice is relatively new, tracing its origin to a special solicitation to help fund the war effort during World War I, then adapted and expanded over the years. Congregations recognized that this one time of year

when most of the community gathers is an opportune time to seek funds to provide part of the financial foundation for the rest of the year.

At BCC we generally hold HHD appeals for three main purposes. The most obvious is to raise needed operating funds. The second is to provide the opportunity for congregants to perform *tz'dakah* (charity/giving), one of the three key precepts to be inscribed for a good year, the other two being *t'shuva* (turning/repentance) and *t'fillah* (prayer). And at BCC we also value the appeal as a way to connect to one another through the compelling stories congregants share about their journey to and the significance of BCC in their lives.

However, this year we will present only one appeal. We therefore will count on you even more to look into your heart to meet our HHD funding goal through fulfillment of the mitzvah of *tz'dakah*.

Please join us as we celebrate Jewish New Year 5777, and reflect on the past year and what the New Year can be for us. In the spirit of gratitude for the good life we've been granted and our precious BCC *mishpuchah* (family) I ask that you consider the meaning of this most holy day and generously participate in the tradition of giving at this time.

*L'shanah tovah tikatevu, May you be inscribed for a good year.*

### (continued from page 4) The Hashtags of High Holidays

these conditions are met that access is granted. What conditions will need to be met for you to pass through the gates of justice this year?

It is my wish for us all to utilize this upcoming High Holiday season to reconnect with ourselves once more, to truly get a new insight of what drives us, what we're passionate about, and what we're

excited to spend our lives with and for. If I were to summarize all of the above in one neat hashtag, I'd go with [#whathumansdo](#)

A sweet new year to you and yours,

B'shalom,  
Juval



## BCC TO HONOR OUR FOUR JUDGES

On Friday evening, September 23, BCC member Dean Hansell, who recently became a Los Angeles Superior Court judge, will be honored at our Shabbat service along with our other three judges, Donna Quigley Groman, Chris Marshall, and Josh Wayser. Dean will also deliver the *drash* that evening.



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# BCC OFFERS A FULL MENU OF CLASSES BEFORE AND AFTER HIGH HOLIDAYS

*Adam Barron for the Jewish Learning Committee*

During the month of Elul (September) we offer four weekly High Holiday preparation classes taught by our clergy and one congregant, Maggie Parkhurst. You are invited to attend as many of them as you like. Donations will be requested to help support our educational programs.

## **Tuesday, September 6, 7:30 pm, with Maggie Parkhurst: Various Talmudic origins behind our HHD practices.**

Explore how Rosh Hashanah came to be in the seventh month of the Jewish year, not the first, as one would expect. And how the ideas of judgment and repentance, originally Zoroastrian, came into Judaism during Talmudic times. I'll be teaching about the Talmudic origins of Avinu Malkenu, how it morphed from 2 lines in the Talmud to 44 [and more] over time and the balagan when the Reform machzor tried to revise it in a way that didn't go with Janowski's melody. Also about the "sexism" in the prayer and the debate in progressive Judaism of what to do about it, which should lead to our class discussing how we feel about it.

**Tuesday, September 13, 7:30 pm, with Rabbi Heather Miller.** Join us as we explore the Yom Kippur alternative readings in the machzor. Dive into their context and theology, and bring new meaning to this sacred service of introspection.

**Tuesday, September 20, 7:30 pm: You say Aleynu, I say Aleinu.** Join **Cantor Juval Porat and Jeanelle LaMance** on piano as we explore the endless ways of accessing this ancient liturgical poem, originally exclusively utilized on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Learn about Aleinu's origin, varied interpretations and musical settings in this High Holiday preparation class in anticipation of reciting the Aleynu in its original placement during Rosh Hashanah.

**Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 pm: Inscribed and Sealed, with Rabbi Lisa Edwards.** During Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we often hear the term, May you be written/sealed in the Book of Life. What is the origin of the Jewish concept of a Book of Life, and what can it mean for us today?

## **Thursday, September 22, 6:00 pm at BCC. Bake your own Challah (in time for High Holidays) with Ginger Jacobs**

In this well-received class, Ginger Jacobs brings dough to show how to do the pounding and the braiding. While this is cooking, participants will make their own dough to bring home and cook there. A charge of



\$10 is requested to cover the cost of ingredients. Please RSVP to [gingerj18@gmail.com](mailto:gingerj18@gmail.com), so Ginger knows how much of the ingredients to bring. We need 5 to 10 students to proceed.

During and after High Holidays and into the next secular year (2017), Rabbi Heather Miller will offer the following courses.

## **Thursdays, September 22 through November 17, 7:30 to 9:00 pm: The Prophets with Rabbi Heather Miller.**

Encounter the various courageous, bizarre, and endearing acts of those who our tradition calls "The Prophets." In this ten-session course, we will explore those who have been glorified and ridiculed for years and begin to understand their historical context. For further information (including tuition) or to RSVP, contact [education@bcc-la.org](mailto:education@bcc-la.org).

## **Mondays, January 23 through February 13, 7:30 to 9:00pm: Prayerbook Hebrew with Rabbi Heather Miller.**

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! Pre-requisite: 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. Please RSVP to [education@bcc-la.org](mailto:education@bcc-la.org).



## **Thursdays, January 26 through May 18, 7:30 to 9:30 pm: Introduction to Judaism with Rabbi Heather Miller and BCC member Jackie Lara.**

If you ever wanted to explore Judaism with a rabbi passionate about social justice and a sex-ed teacher who recently became a Jew by choice, hosted by the world's first LGBT founded Jewish congregation, then this is the class for you! It is geared toward all who are exploring the path to Jewish identity, those interested in a foundation for their own expression of Jewish life, interfaith couples interested in exploring Judaism, and anyone seeking deeper knowledge of Jewish life. The topics to be covered include: foundational ideas, history, Israel, lifecycle events, calendar cycles, holy days, community diversity and more! The \$540/participant tuition includes all 18 classes. Materials will be provided and can be found online. For more information, please email [rabbieheather@bcc-la.org](mailto:rabbieheather@bcc-la.org).

# At the Season of Appreciation, Reconsidering the High Holiday Appeal

BCC Futures Task Force

The Jewish High Holy Days/Days of Awe are upon us – the most important ten-day period of the Jewish calendar year. It's ushered in with the New Year celebration and ends with deep self-reflection and a plea for a good life in the year ahead.

As we approach these important milestones, BCC's High Holiday planning group has been doing some soul-searching of its own, examining our usual practice of High Holiday appeals.

Historically, at each service a BCC member shares a personal reflection on the importance of BCC in their life, ending with an appeal for gifts from everyone present, to close the budget gap left after annual membership commitments are made. Whether poignant, interesting, or funny, appeals remind us of how much BCC means to us, and many congregants express their appreciation with additional donations.

In spite of the long tradition of High Holiday appeals and understanding their necessity, some congregants would rather our ritual observance didn't have to include a financial appeal at every service. Understanding the sincerity of that feeling, the planning group decided to see if only one appeal could achieve the goals of four.

So this year, a single appeal will be made during the High Holidays on Kol Nidre, the evening of Yom Kippur, the start of the holiest day of the Jewish year.

Also, the method of making our High Holiday gifts is being redesigned in the hopes of making it less intrusive and more personalized. On Kol Nidre, you'll receive an envelope with an enclosed pledge card personalized with your name, to be returned on Kol Nidre following the special appeal. If you're unable to be with us on Kol Nidre, you can turn in the card another time. The card will include tabs to fold

indicating the amount you wish to pledge and how your gift will be fulfilled – no need to write. Should you forget your card, no worries, you can request another on Kol Nidre.

Many people don't realize that donations at the New Year account for up to 10% of BCC's annual budget. Knowing that, we hope that High Holy Day worshippers will recognize that their pledge is their most significant voluntary contribution of the year and occupies a central role in meeting the needs of our *kehilla* (community) and

our *mishpucha* (family).

As BCC gathers to celebrate the Jewish New Year 5777, together we'll reflect on the past year and consider what the year ahead means to us and to our community. In the spirit of gratitude for the life we've been given and the precious *mishpucha* we're so much a part of, we ask that you reflect on the meaning of giving at this most holy time and generously participate in the Jewish tradition of *tzedakah* on Kol Nidre. Thank you.



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# News from the Tzedakah Council

Robin Baltic



In the past year, the BCC community has generously contributed tzedakah, in the form of spare change amounting to \$2265. The Tzedakah Council took all the coins and made donations, on behalf of the congregation, to seven nonprofit organizations offering, in a variety of ways, a

helping hand to those in need. This year our collective efforts made the following tzedakah donations possible:

**Equality Florida Institute, The Pulse Victim Fund: \$500** — Our BCC donation goes directly to the victims' families and survivors for funeral and medical expenses.

**Sova: \$400** — Much more than a food pantry, SOVA, which in Hebrew means "eat and be satisfied," provides free groceries and an array of supportive services to over 9,000 individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and religions each month. Our donation is for Pesach related food.

**American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Syrian Refugees: \$400** — Our donation helps supply refugees and relief workers with medical and other life-sustaining supplies.

**Ghetto Film Project: \$325** — This NY-based organization, with a branch in LA, provides at-risk high school students a free summer and weekend program learning how to produce short films and develop an extensive range of production skills.

**Heffier Project International: \$240** — This agency works worldwide helping families lift themselves out of poverty. Our donation provides one family with two goats and the training to get milk from the animals and use the surplus to sell.

**Mobile Clinic Project of UCLA: \$200** — UCLA project, based in West Hollywood, designed to improve health outcomes for homeless people. Our donation will help stock the clinic with six stethoscopes.

**Durable Equipment Aid Society: \$200** — This Tarzana-based organization lends medical equipment to people lacking the financial resources to purchase canes, walkers, and wheelchairs.

## What You Can Do With Your Spare Change

The semi-annual BCC coin drive is in progress now thru October 28. In this next cycle, the Tzedakah Council will donate to charities working toward building bridges of understanding to prevent and mitigate violence against individuals.

If you are inclined to part with spare change, the Tzedakah Council invites you to bring your coin filled pushke to any of the BCC High Holiday Services at Temple Isaiah or drop it off at the BCC office the next time you come to shul.

L'shanah tovah tikkateyvu v'tichatemu,  
-The Tzedakah Council

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

# New BCC Volunteer Committee is Forming

*William Garbutt*



My name is William Garbutt. I have been an active member of BCC for the past two years. During the last congregational meeting, I offered to serve as chair of our new Volunteer Committee.

I am forming the Volunteer committee now and am looking for a few members to serve on the

committee. We will organize a system for members to find volunteer activities they will enjoy doing and assist the clergy, staff and members to find volunteers for various temple events.

For instance, the following is a list of volunteers needed during the 2016 High Holidays. Please read it and think about what you would like to help out with.

## **Erev Rosh Hashanah – Sunday, October 2**

Ticket Table Volunteers  
Siddur Volunteers  
Ushers  
Pushkes Helper  
Greeters  
SOVA Bag Helpers  
Gofer

## **1st Day Rosh Hashanah – Monday, October 3**

Ticket Table Volunteers  
Siddur Volunteers  
Ushers  
SOVA Bag Helpers  
Pushkes Helper  
Greeters  
Luncheon Captain  
Luncheon Ticket Taker

## **2nd Day Rosh Hashanah – Tuesday, October 4**

Ushers  
Greeters  
Refreshment Coordinators  
Coffee Maker  
Clean-up Helpers

## **Tashlich Service, Santa Monica Beach, Tuesday October 4**

Schleppers

## **Kol Nidre – Tuesday, October 11**

Ticket Table Volunteers  
Siddur Volunteers  
4 Ushers  
Pushkes Helper  
Greeters  
SOVA Bag Helpers  
Gofer

## **Yom Kippur – Wednesday, October 12**

Ticket Table Volunteers  
Ushers  
Siddur Volunteers  
Greeters  
Pushkes Helper  
SOVA Bags Helpers  
Clean-up Helpers  
Gofers

For further details about joining the Volunteer Committee, offering to do something listed above, or to ask for descriptions of specific volunteer activities, please contact me via email at [whag2011@gmail.com](mailto:whag2011@gmail.com).

There will also be a sign-up poster in the foyer at BCC listing all the jobs during High Holidays, with lines for the number of people needed in each job.

I look forward to this new challenge, to providing service to BCC, and to helping BCC members find fulfilling and fun ways to serve our community as volunteers. Come join me!



HOLLYWOOD

**James Sutherland**

323-219-6755

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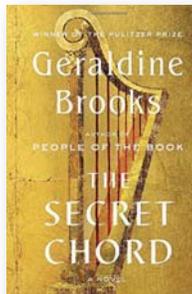
5827 Franklin Avenue  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90028



# BCC Books and Bagels Group

Larry Nathenson

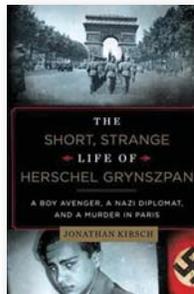
BCC's Book Group (Books and Bagels) has been meeting continuously since January 1995. The group meets monthly in members' homes for a bagel brunch and discussion of a book selected by the group. We read a variety of books: fiction and non-fiction, American and Israeli, historical and contemporary. The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



**Sunday, September 25, 10:00 am,**

***The Secret Chord*, by Geraldine Brooks.**

This Bible-based midrash by a prize-winning author explores the life of King David through the eyes of the characters surrounding him, including his wives, children, male companions, and the prophet Nathan.



**Sunday, October 23, 10:00 am**

***The Short Strange Life of Herschel Grynszpan*, by Jonathan Kirsch**

The story of a young Jewish man who assassinated a Nazi diplomat in Paris, an act that was used by the Nazis as a pretext for Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) in 1938, often regarded as the start of the Holocaust. We have read several books by this author previously.

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 required for location and to ensure enough food. For more information, contact Larry Nathenson at [Larrynath@aol.com](mailto:Larrynath@aol.com).

## BCC Men's, Women's, and 20s/30s Havurot

BCC has three havurot that meet periodically, separately and sometimes together, to build community and provide opportunities for social interaction beyond the formal setting of synagogue services and classes.

**The Men's Havurah** puts on fun events of broad interest to the men in our community. Last year's events included chocolate and wine tasting parties, a game night, brunch at a member's home, and a Chanukah party.

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 send an e-mail to [bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com).

Also, if you have an idea for an event and/or are willing to help organize one, please get in touch with Brett Trueman, Men's Havurah chair, at [bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you soon!

**The Women's Havurah** will be doing some wonderful events in the not too distant future, and we'll probably join up with the Men's Havurah as well. Some suggestions will be a day of bowling, a visit to the Peterson Automotive Museum, and maybe another walking tour of the historic parts of downtown LA. For suggestions or further information, please contact Women's Havurah chair Ronnie Wexler at [rwexler@mac.com](mailto:rwexler@mac.com).

**The 20s/30s Havurah** hosts events geared toward young adults who are part of our community (BCC members and non-members alike). If you have an idea for an event, are interested in co-chairing the Havurah, or simply would like to get in touch, please contact Cantor Juval Porat at [juval@bcc-la.org](mailto:juval@bcc-la.org). You can also join BCC's 20s/30s Havurah Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BCC20s30s/>

On Tuesday, September 13 at 7:30 pm, everyone is invited to join all three BCC Havurot for a free square dancing lesson. We will meet at Marine Park in Santa Monica, and no experience is needed. Have a blast and exercise at the same time! Bring friends or come alone—it will be lots of fun. For more information contact Marsha Epstein through the temple office at [bcc@bcc-la.org](mailto:bcc@bcc-la.org).

On Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 pm, the Vegans Group and the Men's, Women's, 20s/30s Havurot will have a private guided tour of the Farm Sanctuary, 5200 Escondido Canyon Road in Acton (45 minutes from LA). Prior to the tour, all those who are interested will meet for a self-paid lunch at Sage, a vegan bistro, 4130 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City at 11:30am. The price for the tour is \$10 per person. Please RSVP for lunch and/or the tour to [bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com](mailto:bcc.menshavurah@gmail.com) by September 14.

# Mazel Tov

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



**Jessica Donath** and **Vince Cerundolo** welcomed their second child, Elissa, into their family on August 19. She is pictured here with big brother Luca. Help us welcome her into the BCC community on Friday, September 16.

**James Sutherland** formally embraced the covenant on August 24 and was presented to the congregation with the Hebrew name Yaakov ben Avraham v'Sarah on Friday, August 26.

**Ronnie Wexler** has been accepted into the docent program at the Skirball Center, and began her extensive year-long training in August. She is excited to have the chance to learn and teach students and feels blessed to have this opportunity of a lifetime.

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

## 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. For more information, please call the BCC office at (323) 931-7023, ext. 205..



The BCC parking lot becomes a "rainbow bazaar" on Sunday, July 10.



### BCC "Rainbow Bazaar"

Photos by Sylvia Sukop

BCC Board member Allison Diamant displays plants for sale on the sidewalk outside BCC during the "rainbow bazaar."



BCC member Bonnie Kaplan displays wares for sale at the "rainbow bazaar."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i>				1 7:30 pm Class: <b>Hebrew Jumpstart</b> Rabbi Miller	2 8:00 pm <b>Shabbat service</b> Richard Seltzer Robin Berkovitz	3
4	5 <b>LABOR DAY</b> (BCC office closed) 7:00 pm <b>Choir rehearsal</b> Cantor Porat	6 7:30 pm <b>Preparation for Days of Awe</b> Maggie Parkhurst	7 7:00 pm <b>Life Transitions Group</b> Shirley Hirschberg 7:30 pm <b>20s/30s Havurah Outfest Movie Night</b> West Hollywood Library	8 7:30 pm Class: <b>Hebrew Jumpstart</b> Rabbi Miller	9 8:00 pm <b>Shabbat Service</b> Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	10 10:00 am <b>Ohr Chayim</b> New school year
11	12 7:00 pm <b>Choir rehearsal</b> Cantor Porat	13 7:30 pm <b>Prep for Days of Awe</b> Rabbi Miller 7:30 pm <b>All BCC Havurot Square Dancing</b> in Santa Monica	14 7:00 pm <b>Executive Committee Meeting</b>	15	16 6:30 pm <b>Early Intergenerational Shabbat Service</b> Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	17 10:00 am <b>Shabbat morning Minyan and Veggie potluck</b>
18 <b>Vegans Group and BCC Havurot</b> 11:30 am Lunch in Culver City 2:00 pm Farm Sanctuary Tour in Acton	19 7:00 pm <b>Choir rehearsal</b> Cantor Porat	20 7:30 pm <b>Preparation for Days of Awe</b> Cantor Porat	21 7:00 pm <b>Life Transitions Group</b> Shirley Hirschberg	22 6:00 pm Class <b>Challah baking</b> with Ginger Jacobs 7:30 pm Class: <b>The Prophets</b> Rabbi Miller	23 8:00 pm <b>Shabbat Service</b> Rabbi Edwards Lay Leader Drash by Dean Hansell, as we honor BCC's four judges	24 10:00 am <b>Ohr Chayim</b> 10:00 pm <b>Selichot service, Havdalah and study</b> All BCC clergy
25 10:00 am (private home) <b>BCC Book Group</b> <i>The Secret Chord</i> , by Geraldine Brooks	26 <b>Presale deadline for High Holiday tickets, Yizkor book</b> 7:00 pm <b>Choir rehearsal</b> Cantor Porat	27 7:30 pm <b>Preparation for Days of Awe</b> Rabbi Edwards	28 7:00 pm <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>	29 7:30 pm Class: <b>The Prophets</b> Rabbi Miller	30 8:00 pm <b>Ruach Chayim Shabbat Service</b> Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat Guest musicians	<b>October 1</b> 10:00 <b>Ohr Chayim</b>

October 2016

Elul 5776/Tishrei 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 7:15 pm <b>EREV ROSH HASHANAH</b> Service at Temple Isaiah	3 9:30 am <b>ROSH HASHANAH Morning Service</b> Temple Isaiah Catered lunch (separate ticket)	4 10:00 am (at BCC) <b>ROSH HASHANAH Second Day service</b> 4:30 pm <b>Tashlich Service</b> at Santa Monica beach	5 7:00 pm <b>Life Transitions Group</b> Shirley Hirschberg	6 7:30 pm Class: <b>The Prophets</b> Rabbi Miller	7 8:00 pm <b>Shabbat Service</b> Rabbi Edwards Cantor Porat	8 <b>SHABBAT SHUVAH</b> 10:00 am <b>Ohr Chayim</b>
9	10	11 7:15 pm <b>KOL NIDRE</b> Service at Temple Isaiah	12 9:30 am <b>YOM KIPPUR</b> Temple Isaiah (See page 1 for complete schedule)	13 7:30 pm Class: <b>The Prophets</b> Rabbi Miller	14 8:00 pm <b>Shabbat Service</b> Lay leaders	15 10:00 am <b>Shabbat morning Minyan and Veggie potluck</b> 12:00 pm at BCC Sukkah building
16 6:00 pm <b>Dinner and EREV SUKKOT</b> Service BCC clergy	17 <b>SUKKOT (FIRST DAY)</b> BCC office closed	18 7:15 pm <b>Torah Study</b> in BCC sukkah Rabbi Edwards	19 7:00 pm <b>Life Transitions Group</b> Shirley Hirschberg	20 7:30 pm Class: <b>The Prophets</b> Rabbi Miller	21 6:30 pm <b>Early Experimental Shabbat Service</b> Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat	22 10:00 am <b>Ohr Chayim</b>
23 10:00 am (private home) <b>BCC Book Group</b> 6:30 pm Yizkor service Dinner (bring own) <b>SIMCHAT TORAH</b> Service and Celebration	24	25 <b>SIMCHAT TORAH</b> BCC office closed 7:15 pm <b>Torah Study</b> Rabbi Edwards	26 7:00 pm <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>	27 7:30 pm Class: <b>The Prophets</b> Rabbi Miller	28 8:00 pm <b>Ruach Chayim Shabbat Service</b> Rabbi Miller Cantor Porat Guest musicians	29 10:00 am <b>Ohr Chayim</b>
30	31	<i>All events at BCC unless otherwise noted</i>				