Dear Friends,

This is the season of Teshuvah (turning, returning). We are instructed to turn from our mundane, material and routine concerns and “re-turn” to our true spiritual priorities. As Pierre Teilhard de Chardin said, “We aren’t human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience.” A High Holy Day prayer (by Rabbi R. Levy) says: “Now, is the time for turning. The leaves are beginning to turn from green to red & orange. The birds are beginning to turn and head once more.

Continues on page 17
Schedule of **HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES**

Conducted by **Rabbi David Baron**
Cantors **Ilysia J. Pierce** & **Jordan Bennett**
Music Director **Sharon Farber** and Choir

**EREV ROSH HASHANAH**
Sunday • September 29th • 8pm

**ROSH HASHANAH**
Monday • September 30th • 10am

**KOL NIDRE**
Tuesday • October 8th • 8pm

**YOM KIPPUR**
Wednesday • October 9th • 10am

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**Children’s Services**
Led by Karen Abrams (AGES 6-11)

**ROSH HASHANAH**
Monday, Sept. 30 • 10:30am

**YOM KIPPUR**
Wednesday, Oct. 9 • 10:30 am

**Approximate Yom Kippur Schedule**

- **12 NOON** Rabbi’s Sermon
- **12:30PM** Yizkor Memorial Service
- **2 - 5:30PM** Discussion, Q&A w/ special guests, film screenings
- **5:45PM** Mincha & Neilah services ending in Final Shofar Blast

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**From the President**

Dear Fellow Congregants,

I am incredibly proud of our Temple of the Arts for serving as a community gathering place and becoming the destination for a meaningful Jewish experience in prayer, culture and the arts. The Temple has truly become a cornerstone for the community and we look forward to welcoming all of you back to our Temple home during the High Holy Days.

Our High Holy Day services are magnificent. Our sermons, cantors, choir and instrumentalists will inspire you and our special guests will provoke meaningful thought and conversation. Our Distinguished Speaker series brings top speakers, including former President George W. Bush, to challenge us intellectually. We also host the opening night of the Israel Film Festival at our Temple’s Steve Tisch Cinema Center.

In addition to the High Holy Days, please consider experiencing Temple of the Arts during the year including our inspirational and thought provoking monthly Shabbat services. Please let your family and friends know about our services and

Continues on page 17
Attorney James Blatt grew up in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. He had two significant influences in his life, his mother, Lillian Blatt, and the town in which he grew up. Both have contributed greatly to the development of his successful legal career. His mother taught him to stand up for what he believed in, to be tough and determined but caring, and she always stressed a deep loyalty to family. As for the influence of his home town, Punxsutawney, the benefit lay in his observance of the limited opportunity there.

To see the rest of the Temple Officers and Board members, please turn to page 6
Our Temple Music

ILYSIA J. PIERCE
Cantor

JORDAN BENNETT
Co-Cantor

SHARON FARBER
Music Director
Composer
Ilysia J. Pierce has led Shabbat and High Holy Day services for Temple of the Arts since 1999. Prior to her tenure at the Temple, Ilysia enjoyed a successful career entertaining audiences on stage, television, concert halls, and nightclubs. Some of her theatrical highlights include: Janina (Irena’s Mother) in a reading of a new musical, Irena Sendler, Disney’s King David, an oratorio concert sparking the reopening of the New Amsterdam Theatre in New York, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, playing the Narrator in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Hodel in Fiddler on the Roof, Frumah-Sara in Fiddler on the Roof with Theodore Bikel and Lainie Kazan, Eva Peron in Evita, for which she received a Dramalogue Critics’ Choice Award for outstanding performance, and Johanna in Sweeney Todd.

In 2003 Rabbi Baron and the Temple produced a CD, Enlighten, which has elicited outstanding audience and critical review. Ilysia’s stirring rendition of We Came To Sing In Jerusalem was chosen to be on the Keeping the Faith, Voices for Israel 2 CD benefiting survivors of terrorism in Israel (www.voicesforisrael.org/faith/). Her vocal talents are also featured in the title song, Keeping the Faith. Ilysia’s emotional and powerful version of Lift My Eyes by Sam Glaser was chosen for his 25th Anniversary Tribute CD, Stages.

Ilysia is thrilled to announce she is finally recording her first solo album! She lovingly refers to her album project as “Better Late Than Never” since it has taken so long for her to commence its creation! This album is about G-d, spirituality, and most importantly, gratitude. https://ilysiapiercealbum.wedid.it/

Ilysia continues to share her vocal talents outside the Temple. In February 2019, Ilysia was hired for her 1st (hopefully of many) voice over project. She is so honored to be one of the readers for the first all-female audio Bible for at-risk and incarcerated women, produced by Amick Byram. Soon after, she was hired to record the voice of Mrs. Bennett in a dramatic audio book reading of Pride and Prejudice.

Her reputation as a consummate performer has prompted invitations to sing in concerts as the featured guest artist at local venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Ford Amphitheater, the Saban Theatre, various fundraising events, including the Jewish Federation, and at Pan Pacific Park’s Holocaust Memorial Yom HaShoah. Ilysia feels honored to have been asked to sing our National Anthem over 100 times for various events and fundraisers.

Of all her successes and accomplishments, Ilysia says she is most thankful for her supportive family and friends. She feels blessed to have the most loyal and loving husband, David, and two beautiful children, Braxton and Madison.

Our Temple of the Arts High Holy Days co-cantor for the ninth year, Jordan Bennett has toured the world performing his one-man show in venues including Disney Hall to performing centers to Chabad conventions to cruise ships. The Miami Times News said, “Jordan Bennett is flat-out spectacular.” Jordan has had recurring roles in well-known TV shows, starred in film and has enjoyed a successful career on the theatre stage. He has starred on Broadway as Cyrano in Cyrano and in Shenandoah. He also starred as the heroic Jean Valjean in the original LA Shubert Theatre production of Les Miserables. The LA Times said, “Jordan Bennett is often quite mesmerizing.”

Jordan just released a new CD of original songs appropriately titled, Original. It includes a song written with 10 time Grammy winner, Eddie Palmieri. Find it on iTunes and on his website, JordanBennett.com.

Our Music Director Sharon Farber is a member of The Academy of Motion Pictures, four-time Emmy Award nominated, winner of the 2013 Society of Composers and Lyricists Award for “Outstanding work in the Art of Film Music”, the 2012 Visionary Award In Music by The Women’s International Film & TV Showcase, winner of the Telly Award and the co-vice president of the Alliance for Women Film Composers (The AWFC). Sharon is a celebrated Film, TV and concert music composer and she is a mentor to young composers at the request of Berklee College of Music, where she graduated summa cum laude from the Film Scoring and Concert composition programs (dual major).

Sharon has been working with networks and cable broadcasters like NBC, CBS, Showtime and the WB as well as writing music for feature films. Her music for the film When Nietzsche Wept (Millennium Films) was commercially released and performed live in film music concerts. Her upcoming projects include a slate of films for Aegis Film Group as well as other projects.

The International Film Music Critics Association wrote about her piece: “Composer Sharon Farber wowed the crowd with a suite of music from three of her scores: Children of the Fall, When Nietzsche Wept and The Dove Flyer.

In the concert music world, Sharon has many credits to her name, including The Los Angeles Master Chorale, NY Virtuoso Singers, Pacific Serenade Ensemble, The Israeli Chamber Orchestra, The Northwest Sinfonietta, The Bellingham Symphony, Orange County Women’s Chorale, Culver City Symphony Orchestra, The Jewish Symphony Orchestra, iPAlpiti Artists International, The National Children Chorus and more. Her music has been performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center (NY), Disney Hall and Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (Los Angeles) and in many more, including internationally in Germany, the UK, Mexico, Sweden and Israel.

Sharon’s acclaimed concerto for cello, orchestra and narrator, Bestemming (“Destination”), based on the life story of Holocaust survivor and hero Curt Lowens (whom she met at our Temple), has received many performances since its creation, recently on a 4-city tour of the Pacific Northwest, with renowned cellist Amit Peled and conducted by Maestro Yaniv Attar, who said: “Sharon Farber is definitely one of the most exciting and versatile voices on the contemporary music scene today. Cellist Amit Peled, added: “The Bestemming Concerto is truly a jewel in our repertoire! A deep musical Journey!” Sharon is planning on recording “Bestemming” for an album release this in near future.

On September 20th, Sharon will be one of 8 female composers invited to be a part of a historical concert entitled “Women Warriors” at Lincoln Center in NY, where her music will be performed by Orchestra Modern – a 70 piece orchestra conducted by Maestra Amy Andersson. For details please visit https://orchestramoderne-nyc.com/

Visit: www.SharonFarber.com
Adrienne Baron, Board Member

Adrienne Baron was born and raised in New York City. Upon graduation from the High School of Performing Arts, she attended acting classes at Herbert Berghof Studios with Uta Hagan, the Neighborhood Playhouse with Sandy Mesiner and studied music and voice at The Julliard School of Music. She worked classical concerts and Broadway shows in New York and abroad. After moving to Los Angeles, she attended UCLA for interior design and the Gemological Institute of America, specializing in diamonds and black pearls. Adrienne has two beautiful children, a daughter who teaches at a temple school and a son in music production. Her Jewish education has always been extremely important to her and she is happily married to Rabbi David Baron.

Dorian Bilak, Board Member

Dorian Bilak has been an active member of the Los Angeles and Beverly Hills community for most of his life. He lives in Beverly Hills with his wife Frances and their two children, Michael and Maddie. He is a graduate of the Beverly Hills School System and attended several colleges in the Los Angeles Area (Otis, SCI-ARC, UCLA and the University of Judaism). He is a real estate investor and oversees a group of companies that invest in and manage commercial properties throughout the western states. He is also an owner and principal in a capital and debt advisory company in Orange County. He has been active with a number of charities and non-profits.

Joseph Folender, Board Member

Joe Folender grew up on the Lower East Side of New York City. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at NYU. Upon graduating, he worked at a number of publicly traded companies in New York in market research. Later, he moved to St. Louis to explore his entrepreneurial ability by becoming the licensee for Weight Watchers, where he expanded the enterprise to two thirds of Missouri and the lower half of Illinois.

He is now retired, having moved to Los Angeles at his daughter’s suggestion. Joe is happily married with two children and two wonderful grandchildren.

Michael Karlin, Treasurer

Michael Karlin, along with Fred Nigro and Mickey Segal, is a founding partner of Nigro Karlin Segal & Feldstein LLP. Michael has responsibility for managing the business and financial affairs of many high net worth clients comprised of business executives, real estate developers, and entertainment industry screenwriters, actors, musicians, composers, publishers, producers, directors and executives. Michael attended USC where he received an undergraduate Bachelors of Science degree in Accounting and a Masters of Taxation degree. Michael is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. He currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Motion Picture and Television Fund and serves on the Board of Advisors of the USC Leventhal School of Accounting.

Matt Lichtenberg, Treasurer

Matt Lichtenberg is a CPA who started his career at Price Waterhouse and Co. then ventured into entertainment business management in 1981. He is a partner at Level Four Business Management, LLC with a client list reflecting a heavy presence in the world of comedy in addition to artists from all aspects of the industry. He is known to occasionally inject some humor into the business and his best advice is “live within your means.” Matt is a New York City native currently living in Pacific Palisades with his wife Maria, an internationally renowned concert pianist, and their sons, Asher (9) and Maksim (6).
Brian Weinstock, Board Member

Brian Weinstock has been a respected member in the real estate development community for over 50 years. He has developed thousands of dwellings, commercial and industrial centers in his career. Former Commissioner of the Motion Picture Council for the state of California as well as a Commissioner Advising the State Senate on Real Property Insurance. For the City of LA he served on the Construction Services Committee and was an advisor to the LA Department of City Planning and the CLA’s office developing new ordinances. He has a variety of charitable interests beyond the scope of real estate including the American Friends of The Hebrew University, past Board Member of the Joffrey Ballet. He has been active with the Guardians of the Jewish Home for the Aging and a past member of the Directors Forum at MOCA.

James Ross, Board Member

James Ross has almost 40 years of experience as an attorney. After completing his studies at the University of North Carolina and Tulane University School of Law, he served as a Federal Prosecutor in the United States Tax Court and as a corporate litigator with a large national law firm. He has also participated as a principal in several real estate development and syndication projects. He now divides his time between the practice of law and serving as a director of a firm that provides financing for the development of municipal, educational and medical facilities. He and his wife, Darolyn Austin Ross, a longtime member of the Temple of the Arts, live in Beverly Hills.

Ari Ryan, Board Member

Ari Ryan is a multi-faceted creative entrepreneur; he is a real estate investor, restaurateur, film director and philanthropist. Ryan is an active investor, developer and manager of a large commercial and residential real estate portfolio. He also owns and operates several restaurants in LA, Las Vegas and Chicago. In addition, Ryan has worked as a free-lance film director/producer. His directorial debut was distributed by HBO. He also works as a consultant for startups and devotes time to charity service. Ari is a Co-Founder of the YLD of The FIDF LA and currently serves on the Board of Directors of The FIDF Western Region. Ari has also served as the YL Co-Chair for the LA Division of AIPAC and is a member of AIPAC’S National Council and LA Cabinet. Ryan attended USC, and majored in film production and business administration.

Raymond Rosenthal, Board Member

Raymond Rosenthal and his wife Peggy Shapiro Rosenthal are proud parents of children Wendy, Erin, Jessica, Samantha, and David. They are also proud grandparents of Asher, Ryan and David. Ray and Peggy were married by Rabbi Baron, and are longtime members of our Temple, and pillars on our Founder’s Wall. Ray went to Fairfax High School, and then to The University of Texas, where he earned his BA. Ray was on the board of Brentwood School (2001-2011), Jewish Big Brothers, and was Chairman of Food Division UJF (1976-1985). Ray is president of King Meat Inc., director Transpac Foods, and director of King Food Service Hawaii.

Jill Black Zalben, Board Member

Jill Black Zalben, daughter of longtime members and generous donors Joyce and Stanley Black graduated from The American University in Washington, D.C. with a B.A. in Public Communications. Jill is a director of the Joyce and Stanley Black Family Foundation, and in 2004, joined Black Equities Group, becoming involved with property management and acquisition of retail and industrial properties. Jill has been involved with several philanthropies including The Jewish Federation, Vista Del Mar, Beit T’Shuva, LA Neighborhood Land Trust, and was on the board of Beyond Shelter for 4 years, an organization that combats poverty and homelessness in Los Angeles. She has two children; Zach Zalben and Torie Zalben.

Zach Zalben, Board Member

Zach Zalben is a third generation LA native. During his teenage years, he spent his summers working at Black Equities. Throughout college, Zach continued to work part-time at Black Equities which helped to rapidly grow his knowledge of the real estate business. A graduate of Loyola Marymount University with a BA in Urban Studies, Zach has truly applied his education to many aspects of his work. From a young age, Zach has been active in his community as well as philanthropic endeavors. He devotes much of his spare time to many charitable organizations. Zach serves on the board of Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts and is currently Chairman of the LA Young Leadership of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF. As a Board Member/Director at The Stanley & Joyce Black Family Foundation, he is dedicated to supporting many organizations that are helping to change the world for the better.
NEWLYWED  Jerry & Tina Moss, with Rabbi Baron

NEWLYWED  Carolina Guerra & David Reuben

NEWLYWED  Silvana Tucciarone & Simon Rashidy

ENGAGED  Melissa Stein & JL Singer
MAZEL TOV!

Emmy Pynes
Bat Mitzvah
Rabbi Baron, Emmy, Cantor Ilysia Pierce

Noah Saken
Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem
Rabbi Baron, Noah, Jonah, Sophia, Lani & Rico Saken

Baby Naming
Alexandra Grace Goldman, daughter of Liz & Jason Goldman, granddaughter of Janis Black Warner & Douglas Warner and Sarah White, great-granddaughter of Stanley and the late Joyce Black

Baby Naming
Ace, son of Jackson & Ruby Eisenpresser

Baby Naming

Baby Naming
Savannah Grace, daughter of Anthony Buruleich & Hayley Taylor, granddaughter of Alex Ben Block & Jodi Block
LOOK WHO’S TALKING!
Six great nights out.
You’ve GOT to be there!

Jane Fonda & Lily Tomlin
Legendary Actors and Activists
Sunday, October 20, 2019

Fr. Gregory Boyle
Founder & Executive Director of Homeboy Industries & Best-Selling Author
Sunday, November 17, 2019

Anderson Cooper
Award-Winning Broadcast Journalist & Best-Selling Author
Sunday, January 26, 2020

Dr. Robert Sapolsky
Neuroscientist, Primatologist & Best-Selling Author
Sunday, February 16, 2020

Pres. George Bush
43rd President of the United States of America
Sunday, April 19, 2020

Dan Buettner
Longevity & Happiness Expert, Explorer & Best-Selling Author
Sunday, May 17, 2020

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Laura Fuhrman, Director of Development

Laura has been a development and fundraising professional in the Los Angeles philanthropic community for more than 25 years. Much of her professional experience is in the world of Jewish philanthropy, serving as Director of Development at Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services; American Friends of Hebrew University and American Friends of Beit Issie Shapiro. Additionally, she served as Associate Director of Special Events at Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Associate Director, for the Board of Governors, at Cedars-Sinai. She joined the team in 2016, working on the New Torah project. She is now working with Rabbi Baron on development and fundraising for the Temple. Laura, a native to Los Angeles, attended school in Los Angeles and attended California State University, Long Beach.

ESTATE PLANNING

As part of the congregation of Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts, we hope you share the importance of ensuring the meaningfulness and beauty of our High Holy Days, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Shabbat dinners and the many other events, for future generations. Please join with Temple members and others in making Temple of the Arts part of your estate planning. We will be happy to assist and provide you with the necessary information to include us in your estate. Please contact Laura Fuhrman or the Temple office at 323.658.9100 for additional information.

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A special Thank You to

for their continued support of Temple of the Arts
Rabbi Baron’s High Holy Day Guests

Brooke Goldstein

Brooke Goldstein is a New York City-based human rights attorney, author, and award-winning filmmaker. She serves as Executive Director of The Lawfare Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about and facilitating a response to the abuse of Western legal systems and human rights law. Brooke is also the founder and director of the Children’s Rights Institute (CRI). CRI has a special focus on the state-sponsored indoctrination and recruitment of children to become suicide-homicide bombers, child soldiers, and human shields.

Brooke’s award-winning documentary film, *The Making of a Martyr*, uncovers the illegal, state-sponsored indoctrination and recruitment of Palestinian children for suicide-homicide attacks. Filming *Martyr*, Brooke secured firsthand interviews with active and armed members of the Al-Aqsa, Fatah, Islamic Jihad, and Hamas terrorist groups as well as with families of suicide bombers, children imprisoned for attempting to blow themselves up, teachers at terrorist-run schools, and others involved in the phenomenon of child suicide bombing.

Brooke is a regular commentator on FOX News. She also hosts the television series Outspoken on Jewish Broadcasting Service (JBS). Brooke is the 2007 recipient of the E. Nathaniel Gates Award for Outstanding Public Advocacy and the 2009 Inspire! Award bestowed by the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, was listed in 2009 as one of “36 Under 36 Young Innovators” by the Jewish Week and has received many other honors. Most recently, this year, she was inducted into the Manhattan Jewish Historical Initiative’s (MJHI) Manhattan Jewish Hall of Fame.

Jonathon Morales

On April 27, 2019 at Passover, Jonathan Morales attended the Poway Chabad Synagogue near San Diego. Jonathan, an off-duty US Border Patrol Agent, lives in El Centro near the United States/Mexico border with his wife and three children. On that fateful day, when a hate-filled shooter burst into the synagogue firing his weapon, killing Lori Gilbert-Kaye and wounding Rabbi Goldstein, Jonathan, an armed officer and another congregant chased the attacker. His act of heroism averted many more deaths and injuries.

Morales began rediscovering his Jewish roots after a few mentions from his mother and grandmother regarding their Sephardic Jewish ancestry. After his first son was born, he was inspired to become stronger in his Judaism and started to attend synagogue on a regular basis. Jonathan says that his Jewish discovery has been a great journey that has formed new friendships, experiences and countless blessings.

GLOSSARY of HIGH HOLY DAY TERMS

Greetings:

Shana Tova!  
A Good New Year!

Gemar Tov!  May you be sealed in the book of life

A Zissen Yohr  A sweet New Year, custom of apples dipped in honey

Tekia  Blast of Shofar (rams horn)

Mechila  Seeking and granting forgiveness

Avinu Malkeynu “Our Father, Our King” prayer seeking another year of life

Tzom  Fasting on Yom Kippur

Al Chayt “For the sin,” a confession prayer listing sins

Mahzor  High Holy Day prayer book

Teshuva  Repentance

Tashlich  Symbolic casting off sins in water

Kapparot  Custom of waving a live chicken to pass off sins
According to Jewish Law (Halakha) the entire month preceding Rosh Hashana (Elul) is a time for spiritual inventory-taking and reconciliation. In Orthodox synagogues, the shofar is actually sounded every morning at the daily service (minyan) to awaken us to a repentance frame of mind. I would like to recommend a few steps for you to consider taking in preparation for the Days of Awe.

**Reconciliation:** Take the first bold step by phone, email or in person with someone you have felt alienated from and enjoy the possible fruits of reconciliation.

**Take a few Sacred Moments:** Open our beautiful Chagall prayer book and read the meditation passages before coming to Temple. I recommend pages 1, 15, 20, 50, 88, 91, 108, 239–268. Try reading one each day between now and Yom Kippur. Also, you might want to refamiliarize yourself with the Hebrew refrain to the classic prayers. If you don’t read Hebrew, try reviewing the translations: “Avot” on page 15, “B’rosh Hashana” on page 98, “Ha-Yom” on page 109, “Avinu Malkeynu” on page 49, and “Barchu” on pages 33 and 34.

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**Frequently Asked Questions at Yom Kippur**

**Question:** What if I can’t fast or must drink water with my meds?

**Answer:** Jewish Law insists that anyone ill, or taking medications or pregnant women do not have to fast. (However out of respect for fellow worshipers please do not bring food or drinks into the sanctuary).

**Question:** What if I can’t stand each time the Holy Ark is opened?

**Answer:** Please feel free to remain seated if rising for each Ark opening is too arduous.

**Question:** What if my parents are still alive – shouldn’t I leave for Yizkor?

**Answer:** No, you can recite the Yizkor memorial prayers for other relatives or fallen American and Israeli soldiers. It is superstition that you must skip Yizkor if your parents are still living.

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**A NEW YEAR MEDITATION**

to be recited before the Amida

Silent Meditation, candle lighting or Tallit (prayer shawl)

Dear G-d,

On this new year 5780 fill me with a new heart and a new spirit to do your will and be of service to my family and to all people who cross my path in life. I need to replenish my soul and my being, especially this year. Grant me the open heart to perceive and understand that any challenge I face is an opportunity for growth. As I ask for your compassion, may I grow in compassion for others and merit blessing, health, and being, inscribed in the Book of Life.

Amen

by **Rabbi David Baron**, Lead Participant in the TED Charter for Compassion Project
We are pleased to announce the Dressing Rooms and Green Room are now complete.
DAVID CROSBY & FRIENDS
SEP 10TH

DAVE MASON FEELIN' ALRIGHT
OCT 6

GINO VANNELLI
OCT 12

A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN
OCT 18

THE ISLEY BROTHERS
NOV 8

JESSE COOK
NOV 14

OINGO BOINGO
NOV 23

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK
OCT 26

ROY ORBISON & BUDDY HOLLY
SEP 27

PATTY BENATAR & NEIL GERALDO
OCT 19TH - 2019

THE FAB FOUR: THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE
FEB 4

OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
FEB 15

THE FAB FOUR: THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE
DEC 7

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From the Rabbi

The animals are starting to turn to storing food for winter. For leaves, birds and animals, turning comes instinctively. But for us, turning does not come so simply. It takes a bold act of will. But unless we turn, we remain trapped forever in yesterday’s ways. Turn us around Adonai and bring us back to you. And turn us towards one another, Lord, for in isolation, there is no life.

The start of a new year affords each of us the opportunity to rewind the tape of our life and begin again with a fresh, clean slate. At times, we speak of “reaching the point of no return.” Hardly any of us have reached that point and that, is the essence of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; the point of return. The High Holy Days forbid us to declare that we have passed that particular point in life: the point of no return. You may be shocked to discover just how much goodness there is within you waiting to be actualized.

Our tradition teaches that it’s never too late for any one of us. The fact that we choose to be at services gathering, praying and reflecting means that we are, Jewishly speaking, still at a point of return. Our High Holy Day prayerbook, makes it clear: none of us has reached that point of pessimism, boredom, frustration and apathy which rationalizes one’s absence on these days of solemn assembly. How many opportunities for spiritual recovery and reanimation have been squandered in the year gone by? How many “points of return” have we allowed to dissipate? As usual, we must each decide when we have reached this crucial point in life; the point of restoration, healing and homecoming. For this purpose, our calendar designates these 10 days for the work of spiritual healing and a new start.

Often, in our people’s history it was assumed that we had reached the point of no return. In the wake of Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic, Spanish, German and Soviet waves of persecution, it clearly looked like the end of Jews and Judaism. But each time we experienced rebirth and renewal, transformation and redemption.

Today, there are still groups that eagerly await the chance to recite Kaddish over us and announce the end of our people. However, “Am Israel Chai - the Jewish people live!” In this New Year, let us pledge to return and gather — to do, to read, to write, to give and to forgive, to support and organize, to take and receive.

In our nation, political strife has given way to coarsened speech, demonization and outright hatred. Let us commit to a different way of communicating our disagreements. We must rebuild durable, sturdy bridges to neighbors, friends, loved ones, to Israel and to all humankind.

Amen!

L’shana Tova Tikatevu, A sweet healthy New Year to you and your loved ones!

Rabbi David Baron

From the President

encourage them to join you and all of us as members. Simply forward our special September High Holy Days newsletter to their attention or have them check our website BHTOTA.org or call our Temple office. Help your Temple grow in the New Year!

Many of us stay all day on Yom Kippur for a fascinating discussion with our Rabbi and his guests. We forget hunger as the hours fly by! Our BHTOTA.org website will feature a special Yom Kippur webcast. See you in Temple.

From my family to yours, a sweet, healthy New Year 5780. L’Shana Tova,

James Blatt

If you have lost a loved one in the past year, please call our office at 323.658.9100. The names of the recently departed will be read by the Rabbi during our Yizkor Memorial service on Yom Kippur.
Susanne M Reyto, as Chairman of VIOLINS OF HOPE Los Angeles County, took the lead to bring the violins on a global tour and has arranged for two fully restored violins to be played at our Yom Kippur service. An award-winning author, speaker, world traveler and an ardent supporter of Israel and the free world, Susanne is an immediate past Chairman of the Board of Governors of City of Hope, American Freedom Alliance and board member of Beverly Hills Women’s Club. She served as president of Hadassah Los Angeles and ZOA Western Region.

Being a child survivor, she is a frequent speaker at Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. Her childhood experiences and her ultimate escape from Communist Hungary in the late 1950’s left Susanne with an unwavering spirit of optimism and perseverance. She works tirelessly for the preservation of our American way of life, liberty and the education of our future generations about history including the Holocaust.

Maria Newman
American violinist and composer, Maria Newman, has been commended and recognized by the U.S. Congress for her work in the field of music composition, performance, and recording. A passionate advocate for music of Jewish composers and traditions, Newman most recently collaborated with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony in the world premiere of her newly commissioned symphonic work based on the verbal introspection of the great Leonard Bernstein. Newman also has partnered on multiple occasions with the Los Angeles Jewish Commission in original music composition and live concert performance over the course of many seasons.

Maria Newman is the daughter of 9-time Academy Award-winning composer, Alfred Newman, the sister of film composers and conductors Thomas Newman and David Newman, and the cousin of Randy Newman. Maria Newman’s recording studio is based in Malibu inside a California craftsman venue designed by renowned architect, Eric Lloyd Wright.

Michael Fitzpatrick
Hailed by the New York Times as possessing “A sense of humor, virtuosity, and an ear for musical dialogue,” Michael Fitzpatrick is the recipient of The Prince Charles Award for Musical Excellence conferred by HRH The Prince of Wales. Fitzpatrick’s collaboration with The Dalai Lama has been featured on PBS’ The Newshour with Jim Lehrer and on National Public Radio, and his pioneering recording COMPASSION, the unprecedented East-West musical convergence forged in the depths of Mammoth Cave, the largest cave system in the world.

Fitzpatrick was instrumental in bringing together Muhammad Ali and The Dalai Lama for their historic Blessing Ceremony, and currently serves as Music Director of The Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Awards.

Fitzpatrick performs as cello-soloist around the world, with notable spotlight performances at The Vatican, Hollywood Bowl, United Nations and many more. He comes from a Jewish family of Polish and Ukrainian musicians that includes Bronislaw Huberman, legendary violin virtuoso and Founder of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.
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