

A NEW LIFE

Beth Chayim Chadashim had its unofficial beginning in 1972 when four gays who had come to a Metropolitan Community Church meeting found they had something else in common: they were also Jews. Actively encouraged by Rev. Troy Perry of MCC and visiting Rabbi Ernie Kaiman, this nucleus of four pooled its efforts and, through dedication and tenacity, Beth Chayim Chadashim was born. An initial meeting of 20 people organized the structure of the Temple, which has grown impressively since then. Today BCC is like an extended family.



IMMEDIATE GOALS INCLUDE:

- An increased voice and visibility in the Gay and Straight communities
- A growing, active membership

TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

is a commitment to share.

It is for those who feel a secret spiritual strength in and around themselves, and want to share the mystery.

It is for those who, without vanity, say "I am important", and, in sharing it with others, are not diminished.

It is for those who struggle to realize themselves and come to recognize others.

It is for those who would reject the darkness of isolation and come to kindle the light of community.

The sense of our Temple is people.
The what, where and how is our functional form.
The substance is our membership.

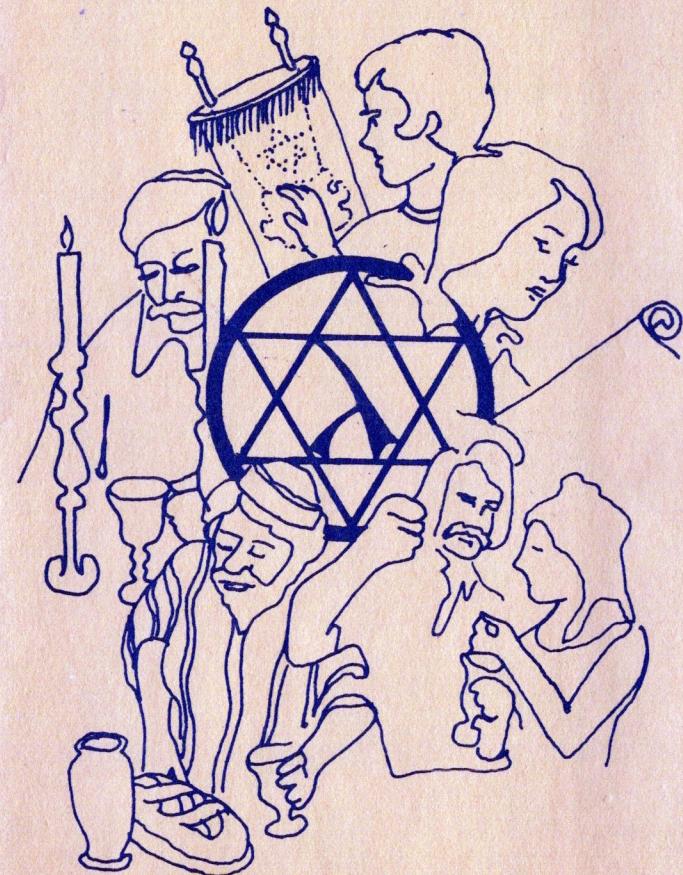
For those who would like to join our family, we extend an appreciative and special shalom. Membership inquiries may be made at any Friday night service or by phoning or writing the Temple at:



BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM
6000 West Pico Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90035
(213) 559-0320 (213) 931-7023

Friday services are at 8:15 p.m.

BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM



FOR THOSE WHO WOULD REJECT
THE DARKNESS OF ISOLATION
AND COME TO KINDLE THE
LIGHT OF COMMUNITY

MEMBER: UNION OF AMERICAN
HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

Beth Chayim Chadashim

WITH AN OUTREACH TO THE GAY COMMUNITY

TRADITION AND INNOVATION

The name Beth Chayim Chadashim (House of New Life) is most appropriate to our situation since it offers many alienated gay Jews, who are experiencing new lives, the opportunity to renew their religious faith in a comfortable setting.

Symbolically, our Torah's history parallels that of the Temple members since it, too, has undergone the transition from a traditional existence to unsettling times and, finally, to its new home and new life in Los Angeles. Originally housed in a synagogue in Czechoslovakia and stored for a future museum of Jewish history by the Germans, Beth Chayim Chadashim's Torah was rescued after the World War II holocaust and shipped to England for safe-keeping until a new home could be found for it. Rabbi Erwin Herman, Director of the Southwest Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, advised Beth Chayim Chadashim of the availability of a torah and through a donor, it was obtained on permanent loan for our Temple.



Through the efforts of its members and the able and welcomed assistance of Rabbi Herman and other influential members of the UAHC, Beth Chayim Chadashim achieved unique and significant recognition: membership in the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Straddling traditional and non-traditional life styles, BCC is truly unique in that it enjoys this membership status while maintaining its individuality with its gay congregation. Because of this dual status, BCC has become more than just a gay organization. It is a recognized community of Jews.

The congregation encompasses a wide spectrum of professions as well as religious backgrounds, and Beth Chayim Chadashim has been very successful in developing a variety of services to meet their needs. Also, in keeping with current advances in male and female liberation and with progressive movements in Judaism, the prayer book has been re-written to eliminate sexist language. Feminist portions have been added and feminist services performed. A choir is also being organized by our Cantor.

FELLOWSHIP

To meet the needs of its ever-expanding congregation, many social activities are provided by the Temple. The social committee, one of the most active of the various Temple groups, is responsible for the planning, organization, and production of many social functions throughout the year. An example is the Oneg Shabbat, which follows Friday night services and provides the congregation with opportunities to see old friends as well as meet new ones. Other social functions include our Passover Seder, Chanukah and Anniversary dances, theater and dinner parties, fund-raisers, auctions, picnics,

and periodic open houses. All of these events are becoming bigger and better as the Temple's reputation grows within the community and attracts other gays as well as many non-gays.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

EDUCATION

Beth Chayim Chadashim's expanding educational program taps the talents and resources of its Rabbinic Intern and various congregants. Hebrew and Judaic studies, Crafts, Languages, and Dancing are some of the classes currently being offered.

SOCIAL ACTION

The Temple's community involvement includes:

- Inter-action with other Temples
- Liaison with Gay organizations
- Active political participation in the greater Los Angeles community
- Financial support for local needy, elderly Jews
- Association with Parents and Friends of Gays Organization
- A Speakers Forum
- Communication with campus Gay and religious organizations
- Increasing public awareness through expanded media coverage
- Project Caring

