

Shana Tova Have an
Yom Easy Fast
Kippur
Day of Atonement

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THE WEATHER, BEVERLY HILLS CA

☁ Friday	77° 62°
☁ Saturday	78° 64°
☁ Sunday	75° 64°
☁ Monday	75° 63°
☁ Tuesday	76° 65°
☁ Wednesday	81° 66°
☁ Thursday	81° 67°

A Quarter of a Century Later, City Remembers 9/11



Photo by Lisa Friedman Bloch

Commemorations in the city marked the 25th anniversary of 9/11.

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

On Sept. 11, Beverly Hills residents, elected officials and luminaries joined together to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001 and to honor those who lost their lives and risked their lives to save others. Commemorations included an event hosted by the city and an event hosted by Beverly Hills Unified School

District (BHUSD).

The city event was held at the Beverly Hills Fire Department (BHFD) Fire Station on Rexford Drive. Beginning at 6:45 a.m. with a gathering of firefighters, police and city personnel as well as residents and visitors, the event included the traditional ringing of the bell and a moment of silence.

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non-Black students calling Black students the n-word, physical attacks on Black students, race-based cyberbullying, encouraging a Black student to kill herself; statements praising slavery, verbal and physical attacks directed towards a Black student with autism and more. The complaint, which was filed by attorneys Rodney Diggs, Brandon Tanter and Tyrine S. Aman of Ivie McNeill Wyatt See RACISM, page 20

Gonzales Holds BHUSD Board Kickoff Event

BY JESSICA OGILVIE

Jared Gonzales, a teacher and candidate for the Beverly Hills Unified School District (BHUSD) Board of Education, launched his campaign with a kickoff party on Sept. 15.

Gonzales, a seventh- and eighth-grade math teacher at Yavneh Hebrew Academy, previously taught sixth- through eighth-grade See GONZALES, page 21



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Speakers included Amelia Brodney, whose grandmother died at age 52 on the American Airlines flight that hit the World Trade Center's north tower. Brodney, who was three months old at the time, has made it her mission to keep the memory of that day's events alive for a younger generation.

"Today and every day we remember our loved ones as more than names on memorials," she told the assembled crowd. "While I crave to physically hear [my grandmother's] laugh and feel her love, I have felt it in so many other ways. I'm going to focus on the good for the rest of the day and focus on the good for the rest of my life. I encourage everyone listening to think about the good, to live greatly, love fiercely and never take any ordinary day for granted."

Beverly Hills Police Chief Max Subin noted in his public remarks that 9/11 marked a moment in which "ordinary people became extraordinary."

"Firefighters climbed staircases they knew they may not walk back down," he said. "Police officers ran toward danger while everyone else ran from it. First responders, office workers, passengers on a plane from Pennsylvania, all of them chose courage in the face of the unimaginable ... Every day, the men and women of this department answer the same call, not knowing what is waiting for them when they respond. They go anyway. That's the legacy of September 11th."

The event also featured remarks from broadcast journalist Frank Mottek as well as

performances by former Beverly Hills City Clerk Byron Pope, the Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) Madrigals and actors Deborah Rennard and Al Sapienza. In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, Sapienza volunteered at ground zero to assist in the search for survivors.

As part of the ceremony, the Jewish National Fund-USA (JNF-USA) honored members of the BHFD and the BHPD with certificates of appreciation that were presented to Subin and BHFD Chief Gregory Barton.

The city estimates that between 150 and 200 people were in attendance.

"We remain profoundly grateful for the men and women who answer the call to serve and protect our communities," said Rick Hirschhaut, the JNF-USA national campaign director, West Coast and Mountain States. "Some acts of service can never be thanked enough, and this annual recognition is a small expression of our enduring appreciation."

Later in the morning, BHUSD held a remembrance ceremony at the K.L. Peters Auditorium in BHHS with a program that included Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss, Board of Education President Judith Manouchehri, Mayor Craig Corman and BFHD Chief Greg Barton.

As part of the ceremony, students read aloud the names of individuals who died during the attacks from cards they received.

Manouchehri remembered Edward Straub, the grandfather of a current BHHS senior who was killed while working in the World Trade Center's south tower.

"Today, we remember Edward Straub as a

person, not merely as one of the nearly 3,000 lives lost," she said. "We remember him as a father, a husband, a colleague, and now, as the grandfather of one of our own Normans."

Following the assembly, an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol on Sept. 11, 2001, was raised to half-mast. The flag was donated to BHHS through the efforts of BHHS senior Benny Salzman, who is the president of the school's Model United Nations (MUN). MUN gives students the opportunity to simulate diplomatic discussions about international issues.

Salzman told the Courier that the flag belonged to his great-grandmother, who was

a collector of American historical items, and that he knew immediately upon seeing the flag, which was stored in a box, that he wanted to display it at BHHS.

"My generation didn't grow up living through 9/11," he said. "We've only had the memory of it. When I saw the flag, it made me feel connected to it in a way that I really hadn't, and I wanted that for the other kids at my school as well. My great-grandma loved American history. I'm sure she wouldn't have wanted the history to be collected only to be tucked away. She would have wanted it to be displayed." ●



Photo by Gidas Peteris

Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton and Police Chief Max Subin at the Sept. 11 ceremony