



## Dr. David Ackerman, our Chazan for the holidays

When we learned that Yael Kreiger (who had been our High Holiday Cantor since 2011) had accepted a year-round position, we were happy for her but sad to be losing the artistry and knowledge she brought to our services.

Fortunately our search led us to Dr. David Ackerman. We were thrilled to hear his voice and his great diction and tonality. He told us a little about his philosophy of leading services, which is to encourage everyone to daven along and get better as the days progress so that by Neilah we are a powerful single voice together in worship. We are so happy that Dr. Ackerman has agreed to be our High Holiday Cantor.

David Ackerman currently is the Director of the Mandel Center for Jewish Education at JCC Association in New York. He received his PhD in Special Education at UCLA and was instrumental in establishing numerous programs for Jewish children with disabilities. He has worked in formal Jewish education at all levels from early childhood to professional graduate training. Most of the important things he knows, though, come from a lifetime growing up in and working in Jewish summer camps (from cook to specialist to program director). Jewish music has always been David's primary avocation (Yiddish folk song, Songs of Israel, and klezmer); he plays guitar, mandolin, and baroque recorder and has been a camp song leader, music teacher for children with disabilities, and High Holiday cantor since 1977 for Temple Beth El of San Pedro, UCLA Hillel, Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles, and B'nai Shalom in New Jersey.

Currently David is baking his way through the Jewish canon of babka, rugelach, mandelbrot, and strudel.



**707-360-3000**  
**office@BethAmiSR.org**

**4676 Mayette Avenue,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405**

**BethAmiSR.org**