

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



BEKI bulletin
Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Shevat-Adar 5773

Vol. 19 Issue 2

Page 14: A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

PURIM AT BEKI

Be Happy It's Adar

משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה

Mishenikhnas Adar marbim besimha –

When Adar begins, joy increases.

– Talmud Eruvin 29a

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over 20 centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is normally observed the day immediately before Purim, but this year is advanced to the Thursday before Purim (as the fast cannot occur on Friday or Shabbat). *Taanit Esther* marks the serious side of the holiday. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatchers, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide. This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn (5:16 a.m.) on Thursday Feb. 21. The Thursday *shaharit* morning service is from 8:15 to 9:15 and includes “*Avinu Malkenu* – Our Father, Our King,” as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any significant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. The *mincha* afternoon service is at 5:45, followed immediately by the *maariv* service. The fast ends at 6:04 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.



Purims Past: Saul Bell

Shabbat Zachor

The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, Shabbat Feb. 23. This Sabbath is marked by the reading of the Biblical passage reminding us to remember and never forget the cruelty of Amalek. The reading of this passage is in fulfillment of the mitzva that it references, and hearing this reading is considered a mitzva unto itself. For that reason, children’s programs may be timed to let adults and children hear this required reading. Like *Taanit Esther*, *Shabbat Zachor* expresses the serious side of Purim.

Reaching the Shushan Cliff

Unless the Sanhedrin acts immediately to add another month to the Hebrew calendar, the Jewish world will plunge

over the cliff into the observance of Purim on Saturday night Feb. 23 and the following day, Sunday Feb. 24. A severe slow-down in economic activity is impending, and some fear public drunkenness and a breakdown in order.

The *Megilla* (Scroll of Esther) is read following the Shabbat afternoon service (5:15) and during the evening services (6:15) on Saturday Feb. 23, and then again during the Sunday morning service, which begins at 9 o’clock and ends at 11 on Feb. 24. Since Daylight Saving Time does not begin until March 10, our *Megila* reading is at an “earlier” hour this year. Nevertheless, children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed or asleep in sleeping bags or napping in nap sacks.

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BEKI Bulletin

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To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: jjtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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All of us. One Foundation.

Purim

Continued from Page 1

Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it oneself) is a Biblical commandment (*mitzva*). Other Purim *mitzvot* (religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor, alms for the poor and a feast on Purim day. Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will



Purims Past: Member of the Tribe

have to start over to insure that everyone hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story's villain reverberate through our sacred halls on our sacred cinderblocks. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Please do not bring assault rifles, firearms, explosive devices or weapons of any sort, or any toy that



Purims Past: Lettick & Botwick

resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door – we mean it). In accordance with revised FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are again permitted. Shampoo, eye drops and more than 3.2 ounces of any gel or liquid are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service.

Persons dressed as Lady Gaga wearing meat suits should sit in the designated fleishig area and are advised to keep a distance from people wearing M&M and other dairy costumes.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be *groggier* than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18 centimeters).

Following the evening and morning services, help is requested in collecting and delivering the *mishloah manot* (Purim Baskets) to neighboring households. Delivering just one can be a big help and a great joy.

BEKI Purim (Festive Meal)

The Purim Festival Meal is on Sunday Feb. 24, immediately following shaharit and megila reading, at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the downstairs social hall. A light dairy brunch will be served; \$14.50 per adult, \$12.50 per child (age 3-12); 2 and under, no charge. Registration with payment required by Feb. 18.

- Purim Spiel by Rabbi Tilsen
- BEKI Bulletin: Special! by Rebecca Weiner
- Face-painting with Rachel Sutin
- Ruthie Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown
- Purim Sing-a-long with Alice Kosowsky & Isaiah Cooper
- Dance and Games with Boppers Entertainment

Volunteering: Who D'Ya Call?

Eva Shragis, Food Committee Chair, (203) 258-1243; Mark Oppenheimer, Membership Chair, (203) 387-1317 – Meet and Greet Committee; Liora Lew, Decorations Committee Chair, (203) 389-1048; Rachel Sutin, Face Painting Committee, (203) 393-3059; Alice Kosowsky, Sing-a-long Committee, (203) 287-1390; Miriam Benson, (203) 389-6137 for set-up, registration table, or clean-up.

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Purim

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Purim Festival Meal Registration Form

Registration form & check due in BEKI office by Feb. 18. Your prompt registration will help a lot.

Names of each attendee (please list each name clearly): _____

Address _____

Phones _____

Adults _____ @ \$14.50 each = _____ + # Children (age 3-12) _____ @ \$12.50 each = _____ (2 and under free)

TOTAL _____ (please enclose your check, payable to BEKI)

Send to BEKI Purim Seuda, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515



Sisterhood

We just celebrated the holiday of Hanukah and here we are celebrating the month of Adar and Purim.

The miracle of Purim is unique in that it occurred through natural causes. The sea didn't split. The earth didn't shatter. There were no plagues. Had it not been for the daring intervention of Ahashverosh's Jewish queen, Esther, Haman's plot would have wiped out the entire Jewish population of Persia in one day. Queen Esther was in the right place at the right time. The hand of God was "masked" beneath the "costume" of natural events. To symbolize this, the children and adults wear face masks or costumes on Purim.

Please join Sisterhood in celebrating Purim by enjoying the Megilla reading, twirling the groggers when Haman's name is mentioned and partaking in the holiday refreshments.

Your Help is Needed: Urgent Appeal to Inspire the Next Generation

You can help college students explore their Jewish heritage in ways that are open and accepting, traditional and pluralistic.

Women's League is committed to ensuring that the many influences on our children and grandchildren,

nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors are balanced by an environment that allows them to experience Conservative Judaism in their own way, with their own peers.

Koach kallah is what makes that happen! From February 14-17, college students will come together at the U of Penn. to develop and reinforce their connections to Conservative Judaism. Women's League (Sisterhood) is hoping to raise enough funds to guarantee that many students will be able to attend Kallah. To help make a difference in Jewish life on campuses by keeping Koach strong please donate to this worthy cause. If you wish your college student to receive information about this program please call (857) 231-3690 or koach@uscj.org. Please send your check to Women's League for Conservative Judaism, marked for the Koach kallah, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 820, New York, NY 10115. Gail Golfarb, Chair.

Patronize Your Gift Shop

Please support BEKI Sisterhood projects by purchasing your Passover items, bar- and bat-mitzva, wedding and graduation items from our gift store.

HaMaqom Yinahem

*With sorrow we note the passing of
Charles Seashore, father of Becky (& CJ) May
May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

Upcoming Observances

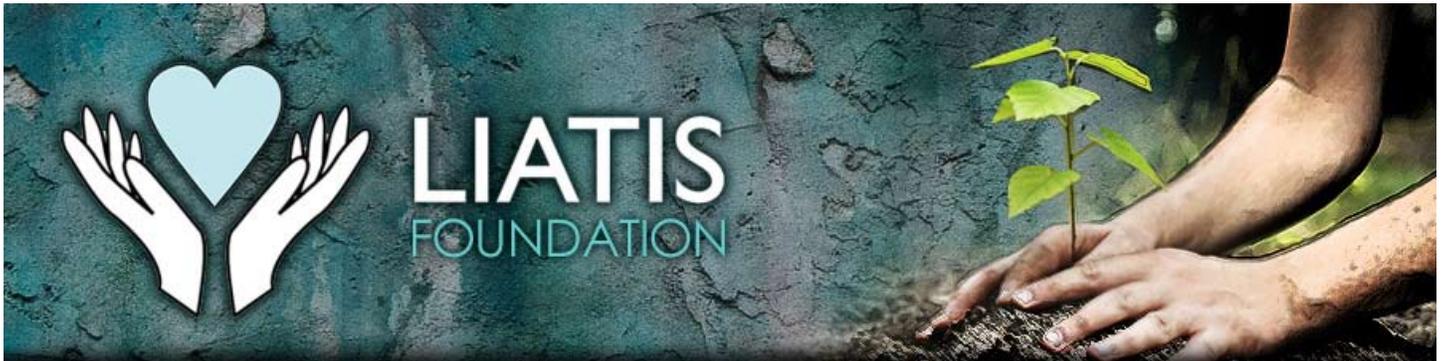
- **Shulamith Chernoff** will mark a milestone birthday and celebrate her becoming a bat mitzva (78 years ago) on Shabbat Feb. 2.
- **Yaakov Gottlieb**, a son of Miriam Feinstein, will celebrate becoming a bar mitzva on Shabbat March 2.
- **Rabbi Murray Levine** will mark a milestone birthday and celebrate the anniversary of his becoming a bar mitzva on Shabbat April 6.

New Members

We welcome new and returning members and their families:

- Eva Hoffmann

News



Education Gets a Boost

Thanks to the LIATIS (Love Is All There Is) Foundation and the Borick Family for a generous addition to the Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth at BEKI and for their support of our special education efforts.

The Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth at BEKI was established in 1998 through the generosity of the Borick Family and the LIATIS Foundation to help provide for children with special learning needs in our Congregation. The Congregation took a leading role in special education through the creation of a [Special Education Program](#) in 1995; it was the first program of its kind in the region. Tailored to the needs and abilities of each student, the Special Education Program provides for a “protected” learning environment as well as for individualized degrees of “mainstreaming” in the context of the larger religious

school which meets concurrently.

The Houston-based LIATIS Foundation supports numerous local, national and international causes. The Foundation has taken a particular interest in providing for children in challenging environments and difficult circumstances. The friendship of the Borick Family and the Tilsen Family dates back to the 1930s.

Each year, the Borick Family has made significant additional contributions to the Endowment. The proceeds of the endowment are used to provide a special education teacher and aide for the BEKI Religious School and to support associated expenses. The Congregation has affirmed its commitment to provide the best educational programs for our youth whatever their style of learning or particular or special needs.

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

BEKI-BJ USYers' Reflections on International Convention



BY NATALIE MAY, BEKI-BJ USY VP FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Introduction

Every year, USY holds an International Convention, also known as “IC,” a culminating eight-day event that allows USY members from all regions to interact as part of the larger USY community. USYers anxiously await the unforgettable festivities and friendships to come for weeks, even months, before convention doors open. This year’s IC was held in Boston and BEKI-BJ USY was proud to have five of its members in attendance. Here are reactions from three of our USYers – their enthusiasm speaks for itself.

Shayna Weinstein, BEKI-BJ USY President, wrote:

Tova Benson-Tilsen, Eva Gerber, Kate Shragis, Sarah Gans, and I had the time of our lives at International Convention for USY this year in Boston. We spent two days with our region, Hanefesh, and the upstate New York region, Tzafon, in Natick, Mass. Then we headed over to Boston where we met up with the other 15 regions covering the United States and parts of Canada. The energy and enthusiasm during the opening session was incredible – about 800 Jewish teens in one room. We cheered, sang, and reunited with friends from Camp Ramah and USY Summer Programs. The rest of the week was just as exciting. I got to see the people I spent my summer with on USY on Wheels: Mission Mitzvah. I also had a chance to meet the 2012 International President, Josh Ull, a truly inspiring leader to all USYers. We participated in a rally against gun violence with some amazing speakers including the only man who was shot and managed to survive the Virginia Tech Shooting. We had experiences that will live within us forever and made friends that will last a lifetime.

Another USYer wrote:

I spent my summer with USY on Wheels, so when I walked into the opening floor for IC the first thing I did was go and look for all my bus friends. It’s the best feeling to know that you are surrounded by the most welcoming people on Earth. International Convention is all about bringing USYers together as a community and as a family. This year’s theme was spirituality, so during many of the activities we would find our own spirituality in different ways. There was drawing, meditation, Zumba, deep discussion, and many more activities.

Each time I went to a different group, I got to meet new people. By the end of a convention, anyone, even if it’s their first time, is sure to have met people who are, and forever will be, their friends.

Tova Benson-Tilsen, BEKI-BJ VP for Religious Education, wrote:

I had an incredible experience at International Convention in Boston. After we had settled into the gorgeous Marriott Hotel, around one thousand excited Jewish teens crowded into the ballroom for opening ceremonies. It was overwhelmingly crowded, loud, exciting, spiritual, and charged with energy. That continued throughout the whole week, through all the learning, creative, and leadership opportunities. I met hundreds of new people, reunited with old friends, made new ones, and experienced Judaism in an entirely unique way. I can’t wait to return to International Convention next year in New Orleans.

An occasional feature of answers, advice and helpful household hints

Dear Rabbi,
*Is there an official Jewish position or
Conservative ruling on gun control?*

Signed, Holy Shoot

Dear Holy Skeet,

Hebrew law affords public officials very broad discretion in imposing legislation to promote public safety and well-being. Whether to prohibit, regulate or ignore guns and armaments in private hands would be a determination of the public interest to be made through whatever deliberative process exists in Jewish law. Those are the parameters available in accord with our tradition.

Jewish law prohibits hunting animals as a violation of the specific prohibitions of *bal tashhit* (detracting from nature, harming the environment or wasting resources) and *tsa'ar ba'alei hayim* (causing suffering to animals). Beyond the strictures of law, numerous sages have condemned hunting as an abhorrent ethical violation. That does not in any way preclude target shooting as a recreational activity or military training, provided it can be done in a way that is safe in proportion to its purpose. However, it may be that target practice could be fully satisfying without using assault weapons or even standard handguns; that is to say, with some device that is less hazardous, such as a BB gun or Nerf Blaster.

Hebrew law requires us to follow civil law in this instance, under the broad application of the halakhic principle of *dina de-malkhuta dina* – civil law is binding on Jews. As American citizens or residents, we are bound to follow the Constitution, including the Second Amendment. Perhaps the Supreme Court should review the scope of that Amendment, revise its 2008 ruling, and apply the Amendment broadly, as strict constructionists (i.e., as “conservative”) so that the “right to bear arms” includes the right of the individual to own, as the amendment says, arms, which includes nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. That may be the only way to keep unwanted intruders out of my back yard. Why should the Nanny State tell me what not to do?

However, should the Court wish to read the Amendment more narrowly, as conservative original-meaning textualists, it would define for legal purposes the word “arms” as it was obviously meant and understood at the time of the Amendment’s passage; that is, to refer to muskets, bayonets and cannons. All other assault weapons,

ammunition and similar hazardous devices should be banned.

Should the Court wish to impose an interpretation of the Amendment in keeping with what scholars tend to believe was the original *purpose*, then we should consider the law satisfied with a well-stocked New Haven Armory so that vigilant citizens can defend our liberty against yet another British invasion.

American law, like Hebrew law, provides the possibility and ample precedent of amending its basic laws. A radical democratic alternative to the Court’s determination would be for the states to repeal the “bear arms” Amendment outright, or to simply change the word from “arms” to “Nerf Blasters.”

The impetus of Jewish tradition is to create laws and cultural norms that promote the common good. Israeli law, only a vague reflection of Hebrew law, provides very strict (by American standards) gun controls that are enforced strictly – that in a setting with a citizen army and “universal” military service. Like other developed countries, Israel suffers only a small fraction (less than one-fifth) of the gun violence experienced in the United States, even including terrorist attacks. Like in so many areas, Jews could benefit America by offering our own historical and contemporary experience and ethical perspectives on questions of public policy.

Hebrew law requires us to make public policy decisions based on the best evidence and analysis available that is consistent with other laws and values. I believe Jewish law provides a process and attitude toward the question, but not necessarily a specific answer.

The Rabbinical Assembly has joined with other religious and non-profit groups in urging concerted effort to end gun violence.

Signed, Dear Rabbi

Dear Rabbi,
*The lines at the qiddush after services are really
long. Can't something be done?*

Signed, JFQ

Dear Qiddush Qrasher,

If people would stand closer together, the line would be shorter.

Signed, Dear Rabbi

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

Darshan –noun, plural dar·sha·nim. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggadah or Halakha in a synagogue.

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim in January and February.

Shulamith Scharfstein Chernoff will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning Feb. 2, *parashat* Yitro. Shula is Professor Emeritus of Education at Southern Connecticut State University and a published poet. She is celebrating the anniversary of her becoming a bat mitzva 78 years ago.

Carole Bass, BEKI President, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat Sheqalim, *parashat* Mishpatim, 9 February 2013.

A guest will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Feb. 16, *parashat* Teruma.

Yaakov Gottlieb, son of Miriam Feinstein, bar mitzva celebrant, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning March 2, *parashat* Ki Tisa, Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow).

Steven Fraade will serve as darshan

on March 23, Shabbat HaGadol (The Great Sabbath), *parashat* Tsav.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting.

Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, with **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray Levine**, **Nadav Sela**, **David Kuperstock**, **Isaiah Cooper**, **Rabbi Eric Silver** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the Torah reading, Haftara

(Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

Mishna Megila

On Shabbat afternoons in January and February following the mincha afternoon service (which begins at candle lighting time), explore Mishna *Megila* compiled in the third century by Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi of Tsiפורי, northern Israel. *Megila* deals with the laws of Purim and the exegesis of the Book of Esther, as well as the rules for reading Megilat Ester (Book of Esther), the Torah and other liturgical practices. Thirty minutes; with Rabbi Tilsen and others; Hebrew text and live oral translation provided.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shoftim

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) is studying the Book of Shoftim (Judges). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Devora, Baraq, Yiftah, Mrs.



Shula Chernoff



Carole Bass



Yaakov Gottlieb



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela



David Kuperstock



Eric Silver

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Adult Studies

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Manoah, and Samson and Delila. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time.

Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

Visitors and new participants are welcome. Hebrew and English texts are available. The RSG meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. On Monday Feb. 18, Presidents' Day, the service begins at 9 and the RSG meets from 9:45 to 10:30. On Monday March 25, erev Pesah, the Study Group will be superseded by a *siyyum bekhoret*.

With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Tuesdays

Hebrew

New sections may open this season. To register for the next session, contact Peggy at office@beki.org.

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (*shaharit*) features a 180-second "Hebrew word of the Week" to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-

forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine.

The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. *Shaharit* service is from 8:15 to 9:15 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The

Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text.



Isaiah Cooper

Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net. The Sanhedrin Study Group will not meet on Feb. 7, 14, and 21 for the mid-winter break and Taanit Esther.

Hebrew: Modern and Prayerbook Hebrew

See description under "Tuesdays"

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's website under "Adult Studies" and "Meet Rabbi Tilsen." Now available: Jonathan Freiman's *devar Torah* on *parashat Toldot* (Nov. 17, 2012).





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- Robert & Marcia Jacoby in honor of Asher's brit mila
- Sandy Miller & John Balayan in memory of Helen Miller
- Marshall & Joan Weiss at the monument dedication for Marjorie Weiss Simson
- Evelyn R. Benson in gratitude to Marsha Beller
- Michael Stern & Kathy Rosenbluh in appreciation of the BEKI community
- Evelyn R. Benson in sympathy to the family of Robert Silverman
- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in sympathy to Becky & CJ May at the passing of Charles Seashore

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- The LIATIS Foundation and the Borick Family

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- To Eva Shragis with wishes for a speedy recovery by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Eric Silver with wishes for a speedy recovery by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Judy Hoberman with wishes for a speedy recovery by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Jon-Jay Tilsen from the Hirshfield-Starr family in honor of Yoni Hirshfield's Bar Mitzva
- To Jonathan Freiman and family from the Hirshfield-Starr family in honor of Yoni Hirshfield's Bar Mitzva
- To Brian Karsif & Elizabeth from the Hirshfield-Starr family in honor of Yoni Hirshfield's Bar

Mitzva

- To Rachel Light and family from the Hirshfield-Starr family in honor of Yoni Hirshfield's Bar Mitzva
- To Margie & Jay Hirshfield from the Hirshfield-Starr family in honor of Yoni Hirshfield's Bar Mitzva
- To Yoni Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Yoni Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by David Wright
- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her Bat Mitzva by David Wright
- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Stanger Colodner family
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by the Stanger Colodner family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Stanger Colodner family
- To BEKI with thanks by Rachel & Larry Schonberger
- To Yoni Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Yoni Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Elfi & Gilbert Starr
- To Stephanie & Dan Jacoby in honor of the birth of their son Asher Vincent by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Stephanie & Dan Jacoby in honor of the birth of their son Asher Vincent by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Rob & Marcia Jacoby in honor of the birth of their grandson Asher Vincent by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Bob Oakes with wishes for a speedy recovery by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Stephanie & Dan Jacoby in honor of the birth of their son Asher Vincent by Gloria Cohen
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Gloria Cohen
- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman
- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her

Bat Mitzva by Lauren Miller

- To BEKI with thanks by Jonathan Gutman
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by David & Joanne Goldblum
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Jonathan Freiman
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To the Heisner & Popowski families with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Hodes by Jonathan Freiman

Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations

- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Laura & Jack Yakerson

The Eric I.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund

- To Marsha Beller from the Hirshfield-Starr family in honor of Yoni Hirshfield's Bar Mitzva
- To Marsha Beller in memory of Eric I.B. Beller & Helen Gold Beller by Robert & Elisa Wiygul
- To Daniel & Stephanie Jacoby in honor of Asher's brit milah by Rob & Marcia Jacoby

Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedaga Fund

- To Joy Kaufman and Stewart & Ari Frankel from the Hirshfield-Starr family in honor of Yoni Hirshfield's Bar Mitzva
- To the Starr-Hirshfield family in honor of Yoni's Bar Mitzva by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To the Friedman-Bruce family in honor of Sophia's Bat Mitzva by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

BEKI Religious School

- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Harold & Stephanie Birn
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Mary Doyle Zuskin & Abe Zuskin
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Alan & Joan Gelbert
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Harriet Kantowitz, Richard Kantowitz & Sherry Kent
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by the Avni-Singer family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Morton Dimenstein
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Ilana Levine
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by the Azoff-Slifstein family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Deborah Ziskin & William Berson and family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Roya Hakakian & Ramin Ahmadi
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Jim Berger & Jennifer Klein

Continued on Page 13

Contributions

Continued from **Page 12**

- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Alice Kosowsky
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Jay Brown
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Belle Greenberg
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Eleanor Stutz
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Leon Cummings
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Al & Marge Barnett
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Betsy Ratner
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Barbara Cushen
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Hyla & Barry Vine
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Lewis & Roberta Kurlantzick
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Herb & Hannah Winer
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by David Wright
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the

passing of Robert Silverman by the Friedman Bruce family

- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Susan E. Jacobson
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Laura & Jack Yakerson
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Jennifer Fleming
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Abe & Debbie Silverman and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Mimi & Effi Glenn
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Sharon L. Bender
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Lori & Natan Weinstein
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by the Gad family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by the Stanger Colodner family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by the Lettick family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by the Friedman Yang family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Mark & Judith Sklarz

Hesed Committee

- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Dennis & Barbara Rader

- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Sherry & Steve Rothman
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Rena Cheskis-Gold, Marty Gold, Danya, Ariella & Carmi

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of Ida Ratner by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Louis Egalka by Mikki Ratner

BEKI/BJ Youth Commission

- In memory of Joop van Creveld by Sascha van Creveld

Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

- In memory of her aunt Martha Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In memory of her Bubbe Ida Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Ethel Siegel by Debbie & Lou Siegel
- In memory of Deborah Mendelson by Myra & Andrew Harris
- In memory of Stanley Watsky by Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried
- In memory of Freda Virshup by Richard & Georgi Virshup
- In memory of Kate Herschderfer by Sherman & David Herschderfer
- In memory of Esther Bashevkin by Rachel Bashevkin
- In memory of George Weiss by Marshall & Joan Weiss
- In memory of her grandmother Sara Schnitman by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef
- In memory of Irving Weinstein by Anita B. Weinstein
- In memory of Sydney Weinstein by Dan Goldberg
- In memory of Mollie Cohen Fleischer by Sara-Ann & Hillel

Auerbach

- In memory of Sasha Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of George Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Samuel Glaser by Howard Glaser
- In memory of Bernard Levine by Nancy Koppel
- In memory of Paul Levine by Nancy Koppel
- In memory of Michael & Sarah Franzman by Susan & Larry Franzman
- In memory of her daughter Paula Hyman by Ida Hyman
- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Carol Cohen & Sandra Blair
- In memory of Mildred Israel by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Kate Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Lawrence Moscovitz by Michael Moscovitz
- In memory of Hattie Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Rose Cohen by Stephen & Doris Brody
- In memory of Milton Cohen by Stephen & Doris Brody
- In memory of Pearl Weiner by Joanne & Steve Rudolf
- In memory of Benjamin Levine by Diane Hoberman
- In memory of loved ones by Allen & Sheila Mushin
- In memory of Louis Israel by Doris & David Sagerman
- In memory of his father Jack Frankel by Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman
- In memory of Mary Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Samuel Levine by Bernice & Lester Margolis
- In memory of Ida Caminear Levine by Bernice & Lester Margolis
- In memory of Samuel Adam Margolis by Lester & Bernice Margolis
- In memory of loved ones by Marshal Presser & Nancy Sherman
- In memory of his wife Amy Aaland by Jonathan Freiman
- In memory of Reuben Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Eleanor Hepler by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Samuel Adam Margolis by David Margolis



A MESSAGE FROM RABBI “APE-MAN” TILSEN

As a college student in New York City, I sometimes paused in my path to listen to the rantings of street-corner lunatics. Although “lunatic” has finally been purged from the U.S. Code as a legal category, and “lunacy” is no longer listed in the DSM as an official scientific medical term, it seemed the right label back then to describe someone who looked even more disheveled than I did and who shouted endlessly about death, destruction, and corruption. A shocking realization came to me: Some of the lunatics made more sense than the public officials babbling on the TV and radio. Was it them, or was it me?

The national press has recently discovered, thanks to [MEMRI](#), that Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi referred in recorded interviews and statements to Jews as “descendants of apes and pigs” and to the Palestinian Authority as a “puppet” of Israel and America. Like the street-corner lunatic, I think Morsi is right – at least in comparison to what is said by some of our public officials.

While Jews are not precisely descendants of apes, we are apparently descendants of primates who were the common ancestors of modern apes and humans. That is the teaching of science based in part on our understanding of evolution. Contrast Morsi’s statement to the view of public officials who not only do not believe in evolution, but oppose it being taught in our schools. This same creationist viewpoint was held by many of the presidential candidates in last year’s primary elections. Morsi was only a little inaccurate, but our officials are way off.

Morsi was wrong if he implied that it is only Jews who have this ancestry, since all humanity springs from the same ancestors (according to science, and according to rabbinic teaching). It could be that he believes, as my mother did, that everyone in the world is Jewish; it is just that they don’t know it. And of course Morsi was wrong about our relationship to pigs, although in his defense we can point out that Congress has a pork problem, too.

Due to the subtleties of language and culture, it is hard to

know precisely how to understand his statement. If I were to say, for example, that “Morsi’s mother is a jackass,” readers would understand that I do not mean it as a literal

claim about the subject’s ancestry, nor even as an insult toward his mother, who for all I know could be a perfectly enlightened person. It would clearly be understood as an insult toward Morsi himself. Yet given the history of dehumanizing speech and violence against Jews from others in Morsi’s cultural environment, it is hard to dismiss his statement as a figure of speech. So, Morsi is a jackass, but this is not meant as an ethnic slur or dehumanizing insult, but simply a political comment in response to his viewpoint.

And then there is the characterization of the Palestinian Authority as a puppet entity. As a matter of fact, most of its funding comes from the United States and Israel, along with other Western and US-allied Arab governments, and its existence is more often advocated as being in Israel’s best interest than in the interest of its nominal constituents. It is generally recognized that if Israel withdraws its support, the PA will quickly fold. The Israelis’ complaint is just that the PA is not a

very good puppet. One may prefer another way of looking at these facts, but Morsi’s viewpoint is not the craziest, and not the most brutal, just perhaps brutally honest, and in any case not especially helpful.

Esther and Mordecai faced down Haman & Co. many centuries ago. The ritualized response to the attempted genocide and the massacres described in the Book of Esther which we read on Purim is two-fold: A deadly serious side, Taanit Esther (Fast of Esther), on which we fast and pray and reflect on the threat of genocide and ethnic violence; and a farcical side, the carnival atmosphere of the celebration of Purim day. How do we respond to hateful words that are worthy of both serious response and merciless ridicule? If the traditional observance of Purim is the model, the answer is “with both.”

Hug a Persian and have a Happy Purim.

Jon-Jay Tilsen, New Haven, February 2013



February 2013

21 Shevat 5773 - 18 Adar 5773

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>1 4:49 Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 Shevat</p>	<p>2 <i>Yitro</i> Darshanit: Shula Chernoff 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Chernoff 4:50pm Minha-Maariv 5:20pm Mishna Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 Shevat</p>
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<p>3 9:00am Religious School 11:45am-1:30pm Deli Box Pick-Up</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 Shevat</p>	<p>4 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 Shevat</p>	<p>5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 Shevat</p>	<p>6 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26 Shevat</p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 Shevat</p>	<p>8 4:58pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">28 Shevat</p>	<p>9 <i>Mishpatim Shabbat Shekalim Exodus II Kings</i> Darshan: Harold Miller 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Miller 5:00pm Minha-Maariv 5:30pm Mishna Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 Shevat</p>
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<p>10 <i>Rosh Hodesh I Numbers</i> 9:00am Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30 Shevat</p>	<p>11 <i>Rosh Hodesh II Numbers</i> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Adar</p>	<p>12</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Adar</p>	<p>13 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 Adar</p>	<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 Adar</p>	<p>15 5:07pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 Adar</p>	<p>16 <i>Terumah</i> 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Friedman-Yang 5:10pm Minha-Maariv 5:40pm Mishna Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 Adar</p>
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<p>17 No Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 Adar</p>	<p>18 Office Closed/President's Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 Adar</p>	<p>19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 Adar</p>	<p>20 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Adar</p>	<p>21 <i>Fast of Esther Exodus Isaiah</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 Adar</p>	<p>22 5:16pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 Adar</p>	<p>23 <i>Teitzaveh Shabbat Zakhor Deuteronomy I Samuel</i> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Ben-Chitrit 5:15pm Minha-Maariv 6:15pm Megila Reading & Purim Box Pick-up</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 Adar</p>
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<p>24 <i>Purim Exodus</i> 9:00am Religious School/Purim Celebration 9:00am Megila Reading 11:00am Purim Seuda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 Adar</p>	<p>25 <i>Shushan Purim</i> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Adar</p>	<p>26</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16 Adar</p>	<p>27 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 Adar</p>	<p>28 12:30pm Talmud Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Adar</p>
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Service Times

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Minha-Maariv	9:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha



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