

Max Missner Budovitch Exhibiting and Speaking

Max Missner Budovitch, a recent graduate of Yale University, has created a body of artwork that introduces the carp into Jewish mysticism, Talmudic study, and Chicago scenes. He will be exhibiting his unique artwork at BEKI, during December to February, and giving an artist's talk here on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 12:30 p.m.

Budovitch developed an instinctual sense for nature, the urban environment and the mysterious border at which they meet through a childhood spent along the shores of Lake Michigan combing the sand, fishing, swimming and exploring the urban landscape of Chicago's downtown and ethnic neighborhoods. The carp, an ubiquitous if not always a welcome resident of Lake Michigan, made its appearance in his pictures after he heard the 2003 story of a fishmonger in New York who reported that one of his carp had spoken to him in Hebrew. His carp drawings elaborate on this anecdote, involving the viewer in believing that carp can indeed speak, even reciting pages of Talmud, which are



beautifully rendered in his "Formatted Page" series.

While the iconography often deals with Judaism and Jewish history, he made the carp to embody the human imagination in its universality. His artwork is heavily influenced by his childhood memories of Chicago and his love for fish, geology

and languages (he is a student of Arabic, Spanish, Hebrew and Yiddish). He has also been inspired by the proliferation of iconic images in the news media and his experiences over the last five years living and working in the Middle East.

Budovitch holds a BA in Philosophy from Yale University and has studied art both independently and at the Palette and Chisel Art Academy in Chicago. His work has been exhibited

in several Chicago galleries, privately commissioned and publicly displayed. He has pursued his love of water as a recreational fisherman, professional oysterman and surfer. Currently, he is based at his studio in New Haven. For more information visit <http://maxbudimages.blogspot.com/>.

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Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

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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המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Harry Sherman,
grandfather of Joanne (& David) Goldblum

Garbrielle Honig,
daughter of Beatrice Smirnoff

Thomas Nikkel,
brother of Mary Doyle Fritz (& Abraham) Zuskin

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn



Tina Rose's new grandson, Maor Meron Alpern

Mazal tov

Tina Rose on the birth of her grandson Maor Meron Alpern in Israel in December.

2014 Benei Mitzva Schedule

These youths have scheduled benei mitzva observances at BEKI for 2014. If you or your child are celebrating bar- or bat-mitzva at another venue this year, please inform us so we can include wishes of mazal tov in this publication. To reserve a date from 2014 to 2018, please contact Peggy at office@beki.org.

Hana Feldman, daughter of Martin Feldman and of the late Cathy Schwartz, Jan 10-11, *parashat BeShalah*.

Talia Weintraub, daughter of Dan & Beth Weintraub, March 7-8, *parashat VaYiqra*.

Jacob Lettick, son of Robert & Janice Lettick, March 21-22, Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow), *parashat Shemini*.

Avital Sutin, daughter of Allan & Rachel Sutin, April 4-5, *parashat Metsora*.

Elijah Labowe-Stoll, son of Steven Stoll and of Sara J. Labowe, May 9-10, *parashat BeHar*.

Randy Kohn, son of Mark & Renee Kohn, May 16-17, *parashat BeHuqotai*.

Jessie Goodwin, daughter of Richard Goodwin & Rachel Lampert, granddaughter of Paul Goodwin, Sept. 19-20, *parashiyot Nitsavim-VaYeilekh*.

Elijah Freiman, son of Jonathan Freiman & Rachel Light, and of the late Amy Aaland, Nov. 7-8, *parashat VaYera*.

Rafi Gottlieb, son of Miriam Feinstein and of Andres Gottlieb, Nov. 21-22, *parashat Toldot, Shabbat Mevarkhim (Mahar Hodesh)*.



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Foul Weather, Fair Instruction

On an icy December morning when just about every other synagogue in the area cancelled school, intrepid BEKI Religious School students had a special morning lesson about how a Torah is written with Rabbi Tilsen and Mora Tikvah. They discussed how the method for writing a Torah promotes reverence for the document, and noted how the letters and columns are the same in every Torah. They played a form of the “telephone” game to show how something verbally disseminated can have its meaning change drastically after being repeated several times. Careful copying of the Torah over thousands of years has produced a document that is remarkably similar to the oldest forms of the Torah we have, like the Dead Sea Scrolls and the

Aleppo Codex.

Some students had the opportunity to try to write Torah passages without errors using a quill pen on parchment paper. Other students designed their own version of a decorative silver breastplate, called a hoshen, and silver Torah handle covers called rimonim.

While we hope for better weather for the rest of the year, BEKI Religious School always welcomes students interested in joining us. Call Mora Ina at (203) 389-2108 ext. 13 for more information and come visit.

From the BEKI-BJ Joint Youth Commission

On behalf of the Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission, we want to extend a big thanks to the shul and the families for

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Youth

Continued from **Page 4**

being such great hosts for our regional teens at the recent Fall Kinnus held at BEKI in November. We worked in the BEKI kitchen along with many other volunteers over that weekend, and used our proximity to spy on the kids. Our conclusion: They were having a great time. USY is a great environment for teens. Teens want to try out their new ideas about life, religion, inspiration, and purpose, and they want to do it in the company of other teens. Our trained and talented advisory staff work hard to create a safe environment for kids to explore the big issues, and also just to blow off steam and be teens.

A host parent wrote the following after the Kinnus:

“Our USY guests were lovely. It is always great to have an excuse to tidy up. I wanted to tell the Youth Commission how grateful we are for the existence of an event like this. It was so inspiring to see so many enthusiastic teens in a safe, wholesome, engaging environment and giving back to the community at the same time by their presence as well as through leading services and the singing at Kiddush that drew little kids and elderly alike and was an upbeat backdrop for the rest of us. It is so different from most of the choices out there...the difference between someplace you can be happy your kids are vs. someplace you are allowing with serious reservations and caveats.”

New Youth Group Coordinator

This fall, we had an opportunity to work with a great Youth Group Coordinator, Jenn Greene. Originally from Hamden, Jenn discovered USY in high school, began attending chapter and regional activities, and participated in Nativ, the USCJ gap year program in Israel between high school and college. Because of her background in the movement, Jenn was the right person to jump into our newly reconfigured Youth Group Coordinator position, which now covers both Kadima and USY. Jenn is leaving

us to fulfill a dream of hers, which is to spend 6 months in Jerusalem at the She'arim College of Jewish Studies for Women. Nesia tova, Jenn. Thank you, and we will miss you.



Fall Kinnus

Now, the Youth Commission has the good fortune to announce our new Youth Group Coordinator, Emily Zaghi. She will be at both BEKI and BJ in the near future - please welcome her to our community.

B'shalom, Rena Cheskis-Gold, Chair
BEKI Youth Commission
and Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission

Susan Dardik, BJ Youth Chair

New Youth Group Coordinator

Hi everyone. My name is Emily Zaghi and I am the new Youth Group Coordinator for the BEKI-BJ chapter of Kadima and USY. I am very excited to start working with your children and I know we are going to have a lot of fun.

A little about me: I graduated Summa Cum Laude from City College of New York just last year with a B.A. in Jewish Studies. While in college, I founded the Sophie Davis Global Brigades Club with the mission of providing comprehensive health services to communities with limited or no access to healthcare. I organized and led two successful missions, to Panama in 2009 and to Honduras in 2011. Additionally, I served as an activities coordinator and intern for Save a Child's Heart in Israel and taught Judaic studies to second graders at the Ansche Chesed Synagogue. I am originally from Long Island but lived in New York City for about five years, and just moved to New Haven this past August! In addition to working as the Youth Group Coordinator, I have been working as the Development Associate at UConn Hillel, which has been really enjoyable and rewarding. I am very much looking forward to meeting each of you over the next few months and, even more so, I am looking forward to spending time with your kids. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any ideas, thoughts, or concerns that I can help you with. I can be reached at (516) 316-6154 and at BEKIBJUSY@gmail.com or BEKIBJKADIMA@gmail.com.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דַּרְשָׁנִים

Darshanim

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

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim in the coming weeks.

[Mark Oppenheimer](#) will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Jan. 4, parashat Bo.

Hana Feldman, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning Jan. 11, parashat BeShalah.

[Jonathan Frieman](#) will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Jan. 25, parashat Mishpatim.

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 scriptural 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



Mark Oppenheimer



Jonathan Frieman



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela

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 Sanhedrin at Minha

Every Shabbat afternoon through March 1, between Minha and Maariv services, there will be a 25-minute study period featuring the classic Mishna text of Mishna Sanhedrin. The *masekhet* (tractate) deals with judicial procedure in capital and other cases, along with related subjects. The Mishna is a compilation of Jewish law redacted by Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi around 220 CE in Tsiptori, northern Israel, based largely, apparently, on the teachings of Rabbi Meir and Rabbi Aqiva.

Who knows six? *Shisha sidrei Mishna*: Six are the Orders of the Mishna. The volume Sanhedrin (Supreme Council) is a tractate within the order Neziqin (Damages). The other five orders are Zeraim (Seeds); Moed (Festivals); Nashim (Women); Qodashim (Holies); and Tohorot (Purities). Sanhedrin is one of the sixty tractates of the Mishna.

Following the compilation of the Mishna, two sets of extended outlines of discussions based on the Mishna and called “Gemara,” were composed, one in Bavel (Iraq) and one in Jerusalem (Israel). The two works published together, usually with extensive commentaries and apparatuses, are called the Talmud.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

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) has begun the Book of Shemuel (Samuel). Characters in the



David Kuperstock



Eric Silver



Jon-Jay Tilsen

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Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 6**

narrative include the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David, Mikhal, Batsheva, and more. 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. Visitors and new participants are welcome. Hebrew and English texts are available. The RSG meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. On Jan. 20, MLK Day, and on Feb. 17, Presidents Day, morning services begin at 9, and the RSG meets 9:45 to 10:30. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

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 others’ 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.



Murray Levine

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.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

New Time: The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets on Thursdays during the lunch hour (noon to 1). 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. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.



Isaiah Cooper

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 Jan. 2.

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.”



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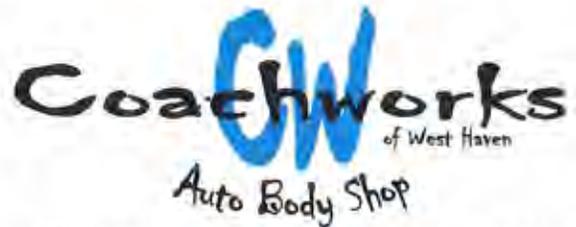
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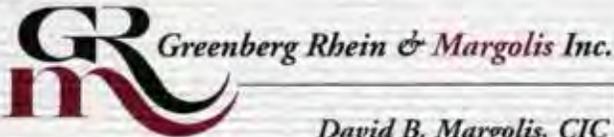


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BEKI Religious School

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For the 23rd year, our community will be treated to festive, flavorful and fantastic boxed kosher deli lunches and dinners, thanks to the efforts of the BEKI-BJ Joint Youth Commission. The event, **Deli Boxes**, is our only annual fundraiser for the joint youth programs of the two synagogues, and will take place this year on Sunday, Feb. 2 – Superbowl Sunday (as usual).

Buy Deli Boxes. You don't need to be watching the Superbowl game to enjoy a delicious deli meal prepared with love. Give yourself a break, have a party, fress – and support our award-winning youth programs.

Again this year, the choices are abundant including: pastrami, corned beef, roast beef, portobello mushroom with roasted red peppers, turkey, tuna salad, egg salad and salami – and our newest addition, a green salad (either plain or topped with turkey, egg or tuna).

Added bonus: “Golden Tickets” will be randomly included in three Deli Boxes. Each “Golden Ticket” will entitle the winners each to four free movie tickets.

The funds that are raised are used to provide subsidies to enable more of our youth to participate in a broad range of chapter, regional and international activities, and to supple-

ment the program activities of both USY and Kadima at BEKI and B'nai Jacob.

The Youth Commission would like to encourage you to volunteer to help out at BEKI on Saturday evening Feb. 1 from 7:30 p.m. on, and/or on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. as the great “Deli Boxes Machine” rolls into action. We need all the help we can get to make sure the program is a success.

Order forms are available in this bulletin, in your mid-month mailing (paper or email), on the BEKI website www.beki.org/deli.pdf, in the literature rack in the synagogue lobby, and by email request to kuperst@aol.com. *Deadline for orders is Monday, Jan. 26.* Please send orders with your advance payment to: Darryl Kuperstock, 2 Debby Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525, or send your order by email to Darryl at kuperst@aol.com. (Please note that all emailed orders are commitments for full payment at pick-up on Feb. 2.)

If you are interested in providing additional support for our youth (with funding or volunteer participation), please contact the BEKI Youth Commission Chairperson: Rena Cheskis-Gold (203) 397-1497. Thanks for your support.

Tax Advantage

Many people find a tax advantage to making contributions in December. Please consult your advisors. We welcome contributions any time.

Tablecloths

Tablecloths used for Shabbat seudot are washed by volunteers. We need the initial people who signed up to continue signing and new people to help with the work. The Doodle Calendar is <http://doodle.com/p5b3d3sfx-f2y8c22?#> and there are instructions on it about how to find the tablecloths,

etc. Info: Trish trishsliving@gmail.com (203) 389-2055 or (203) 641-0925.

Yoga for The People

Formerly for seniors, now for people of all ages, Mondays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Info: office@beki.org. Amazon Commission

Sisterhood Judaica Giftshop

Open Sundays 11a to 12:15p and Wednesdays 5p to 6:15p when BRS is in session, and by appointment. Contact giftshop@beki.org. Volunteers

needed.

Torah Reading Coordinator

Sarah Magidson (keepabrain@gmail.com) is the Torah reading coordinator for Shemot (on Shabbat mornings) (Dec. 21 to March 1). If you would like to read Torah during this period, please contact Sarah directly.

Dance

An Israeli Dance series will be held at BEKI this month. Please consult your weekly email notice or check at www.beki.org/bulletin/happenings.pdf or with the office for details.

The BEKI/B'nai Jacob Joint Youth Commission sponsors the 23th Annual

Super Deli Boxes

Sunday, February 2, 2014!!!

PICK-UP FROM 11:45 - 1:30pm

On SuperBowl Sunday, don't worry about the food.

LET US PREPARE THE MEAL FOR YOU!

You don't have to be watching the big game – watch a movie, play bridge, have a party or just relax and enjoy the break! Invite some friends over!

All profits benefit youth programs at both BEKI and B'nai Jacob

Only \$13 each!!! - Each Deli box contains:

1 delicious **Deli Sandwich** on freshly baked rye bread (see choices of sandwiches below) OR **Fresh Garden Salad** (no bread),
1 container of freshly made **coleslaw**, 1 **beverage**, 1 bag of **potato chips**, 1 scrumptious pareve **brownie**, 1 large barrel
pickle, 1 piece of fresh **fruit**, condiments, napkin, flatware - *all food certified KOSHER and prepared under supervision*

AND AGAIN THIS YEAR – FIND A “GOLDEN TICKET”

*3 random boxes will contain a Golden Ticket, which can be exchanged for
4 movie tickets! Good for the whole family or a night out with friends!*

All order forms MUST be received by MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014

ORDER BY MAIL:

**Payment by check (to “BEKI/BJ YOUTH
COMMISSION”)**

**Send to: Darryl Kuperstock, 2 Debby Lane,
Woodbridge, CT 06525**

ORDER BY EMAIL OR PHONE

(or for more information):

**kuperst@aol.com or 203-387-0304
Pay at pick-up (check or cash only)**

PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY ORDERS TO SYNAGOGUE OFFICES

-----cut along this line -----

DELI BOXES ORDER - 2014 (please fill in ALL information and return w/payment – PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please indicate the NUMBER of boxes you would like of each type:

___ *Corned Beef* ___ *Pastrami* ___ *Salami* ___ *Turkey Breast* ___ *Roast Beef*
___ *Tuna Salad* ___ *Egg Salad (vegetarian)* ___ *Portobello & Peppers (vegan/served on hard roll)*
___ *Garden Salad (no bread – specify 1 only: ___ w/turkey ___ w/hb egg ___ plain)*

Total # of Boxes _____ x \$13 = \$ _____

Beverage (CHOOSE 1 PER BOX) ___ *Coke* ___ *Diet Coke* ___ *Sprite* ___ *Apple Juice* ___ *Spring Water*

ADDITIONAL DONATION TO BEKI/BJ Youth Programs \$ _____

Total amount of payment due to BEKI/BJ Youth Commission \$ _____

I'LL PICK-UP MY ORDER AT ___ *BEKI* ___ *BJ*

Dear Rabbi,

Marriage is on my mind, but the “to death do us part” aspect is a hurdle. My parents were divorced and my potential fiancé’s parent was abandoned, divorced and widowed (it’s complicated). I can’t honestly see how I am supposed to make a life-long commitment – how can I know what I will want in five or ten or twenty years or how I will feel in the future? I know most marriages don’t last very long. Can’t we take out a five-year renewable contract?

Signed, Do Us Part?

Dear Adjustable-Rate Marriage,

All marriages end, either in death or divorce. There are many advantages to the committed relationship of marriage, and many people find that it helps to enter a marriage with the thought that it will be a lifetime commitment and long-term relationship. This is so even though we know that marriages do not last forever.

Sometimes we rely on small fictions to keep our balance. While the sages say wisely that we should “repent one day before death,” that is, keep our mortality in mind, it is probably not a great idea for us to walk around focused on the possibility that this is our last day on Earth. If we did so, we would not plan, invest or build. We would not undertake long-term projects or have a reason to finish our homework, show up for work or pay the bills. We could become obsessed with danger and death or depressed or paralyzed with fear and dread. Rather, it is better to act as if we will live forever.

When we make new friends, move into a new house, or join a synagogue community, we act as if the relationships will last forever.

At the very same time, we have to hold in our minds the reality that everything, including us, is temporary, and therefore we live and work and love with some sense of urgency.

Choose a mate who has concerns and commitments that you share and that you expect to share for a lifetime. Each day act as if you have that one day only to convince your loved one of the value of our togetherness, while at the same time view difficulties in the context of a long-term relationship.

Keep in mind the saying attributed to Rabbi Simha Bunim: “A person should have in one pocket a note that says, ‘For my sake the world was created,’ and in the other pocket a note that says, ‘I am but dust and ashes.’” Sometimes we have to embrace two opposing realities in order to keep an even keel.

Dear Rabbi,

I was surprised by the [academic boycott of Israel](#)

[announced by the American Studies Association](#) [Dec. 4, 2013]. I do have strong feelings about Israel and the government policy. Can you comment on the merits of the issue?

Signed, Boy-O-Boycott

Dear Closing Minds,

Alan Dershowitz published a most poignant critique of the boycott in *Haaretz* (see <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/premium-1.563920>). Others condemned it as a “travesty” ([Leon Wieseltier in The New Republic](#)) and mocked it. I am still looking for an intelligent and unbigoted statement in support of the boycott, but have yet to find one; please let me know if there is one.

Windows 2014 Update

BEKI has been awarded a matching grant option from the [Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven](#) and the [Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven](#) to replace windows on the east and north side of the building. This matching grant option of \$37,000 is part of the Federation and Foundation’s \$1 million program to support existing institutions through strengthening infrastructure or supporting innovative programming.

In order to receive the full \$37,000, BEKI will need to raise its share of the match, at least \$37,000. If we are able to raise more than that, we can address our building needs on a more optimal schedule.

The [November BEKI Bulletin](#) described a new major building maintenance and renovation project in the works for 2014. The “Windows 2014” project will replace original single-pane and mostly non-working windows in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel, as well as in the office and some classrooms. Deterioration in the associated masonry will be addressed at the same time. Installation of new custom-manufactured windows will enhance energy efficiency and ventilation, provide better temperature control, eliminate the water penetration and damage to masonry, finishes and office equipment, and will control dampness and mold. The new windows will also enhance safety and security.

The project will cost between \$74,000 and \$150,000, depending on how much of our need we address in this phase. Our current plan is that this will be at least an \$80,000 project. All of these windows will have to be replaced, but we are determined to avoid over-extending our resources. It is most efficient if we can replace all of them at once, but the needs have been prioritized. If we don’t replace all of these

Continued on **Page 14**

New Year Reflections

I decided to compare and contrast the Jewish New Year and the secular New Year celebrations.

Here is what I would like to share about it:

There are hats and horns at both New Year celebrations. But, depending on the holiday, they'll look and sound different. It's about this time of year that non-Jewish friends and colleagues begin to ask about the Jewish holidays. They are never certain about the dates. Well, guess what? Jews don't know the dates either! They are typically checking their Jewish calendars when asked that question. That is because the secular New Year always falls on December 31 and January 1, but the Jewish New Year -- Rosh HaShana -- always seems to be moving around. Actually, if you go by the Jewish lunar calendar the date stays the same, but it falls on different days of the Gregorian calendar used by the rest of the world. It is usually in September, sometimes in early October.

New Year's Day is an official

American holiday, so many businesses close and most people do not have to work. Jews typically refrain from working or going to school on Rosh HaShana. The civil New Year lasts 24 hours plus the hangover. Though Jews recite blessings over wine at holiday meals, there is rarely a hangover. Like New Year's Eve, Jewish holidays always begin at sundown.

The mood of the two holidays is distinctively different. Our American New Year is filled with dancing, hooting and hollering, good cheer. Parties may be held at home, or other places. Many people dress up in fancy clothes. Conversely, when Rosh HaShana ushers in the Jewish High Holy days or Days of Awe, a period of prayer and reflection that ends ten days later with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The mood is more somber and serious. Time is divided between home and synagogue.

Food is important to both holidays. The civil New Year's is about champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Jewish

families symbolically incorporate honey to signify a sweet new year. The typical secular greeting is "Happy New Year" versus the traditional Jewish greeting "Shana Tova," Hebrew for "good year." Making resolutions for the coming year are common to both. On Rosh HaShana, it is usually less about diet and exercise, and more about asking God and others for forgiveness, forgiving those who've hurt us, and reflecting on our own personal growth.

About those hats and horns. For the secular New Year's, paper hats are colorful, decorative, and disposable. For Rosh HaShana, skullcaps or *kippot* are donned for synagogue or all the time. As for horns, a solid toot on New Year's Eve version sounds a bit like the blast from the ram's horn, or shofar, the instrument that traditionally ushers in the Jewish New Year. But the paper ones are a lot easier to blow.

– Mimi Glenn

Dear Rabbi

Continued from **Page 13**

windows now, there will be a similar-sized project sooner or later. Thanks to the efforts of Barbara Rader, Dennis Rader, Bob Spear, Eric Dunsker, David Wright, Jay Sokolow and the officers, a detailed plan has been prepared.

Inasmuch as the Congregation has recently completed major (and costly) building work, and has also just completed its BEKI 120 Campaign and the Annual Appeal, the directors decided not to undertake another major general fundraising campaign. Instead, the Congregation is seeking support from a small number of supporters who may be interested and able to help in this project. We have already received

payment or pledge for part of the funding, and will need the balance by the next milestone deadlines 31 March and 1 June 2014. The work order will be placed this winter, and the windows will be installed in the spring and summer. We are trying to schedule the work to minimize the disruption to ongoing synagogue activities and special events.

To learn more about the project, or to provide significant support, please contact Peggy at office@beki.org (203.389.2108 x14), who can direct your communication to the person in charge of technical or financial aspects of the project, or contact Jay Sokolow or Rabbi Tilsen about funding.

For more **Dear Rabbi** see www.beki.org/dearrab.html.



January 2014

29 Tevet 5774 - 30 Shevat 5774

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 No Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 29 Tevet	2 <i>Rosh Hodesh Numbers</i> 1 Shevat	3 4:19pm Candle Lighting 2 Shevat	4 <i>Bo</i> Darshan: Mark Oppenheimer 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:15pm Minha-Maariv 3 Shevat
5 9:00am Religious School 4 Shevat	6 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 5 Shevat	7 6 Shevat	8 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7 Shevat	9 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 8 Shevat	10 Hana Feldman Bat Mitzva 4:26pm Candle Lighting 9 Shevat	11 <i>Beshalah</i> Hana Feldman Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Feldman 4:25pm Minha-Maariv 10 Shevat
12 9:00am Religious School 11 Shevat	13 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 12 Shevat	14 13 Shevat	15 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 14 Shevat	16 <i>Tu B'Shevat</i> 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 15 Shevat	17 4:34pm Candle Lighting 16 Shevat	18 <i>Yitro</i> 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Ratner 4:30pm Minha-Maariv 17 Shevat
19 No Religious School 18 Shevat	20 Office Closed/Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 19 Shevat	21 20 Shevat	22 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 21 Shevat	23 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 22 Shevat	24 4:42pm Candle Lighting 20/30's Havura Dinner (off-site/reservations required) 23 Shevat	25 <i>Mishpatim</i> Darshan: Jonathan Freiman 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 12:30pm Shabbat Shmooze Artist's Talk w/Max Missner Budovitch 4:40pm Minha-Maariv 24 Shevat
26 9:00am Religious School 25 Shevat	27 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting 26 Shevat	28 27 Shevat	29 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 28 Shevat	30 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 29 Shevat	31 <i>Rosh Hodesh / Numbers</i> 4:51pm Candle Lighting 30 Shevat	

Service Times

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