

BEKI Bulletin

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April 2002 Vol. 8 Issue 4

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Iyar 5762

From Pesah to Shavuot

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second seder (Thursday night 28 March), we began daily *sefirat ha-omer* (counting of the omer), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai.

The simple home ceremony is printed in most *siddurim* (prayer books), including Sim Shalom, immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, *sefirat ha-omer* can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the *sefira* served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment given dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term *omer* refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day's number.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom

– Psalm 90:12

Continued on page 5

An Open Letter Concerning Israel & Youth

Dear Parents and BEKI Members,

I am sending my teenage daughters to Israel this summer! The substance and quality of [United Synagogue Youth's Israel Programs](#) are incomparable, and the experienced staff, both in New York and in Israel, works diligently to ensure the success of all aspects of each trip. There is no detail overlooked in providing teens with a rich and unforgettable Jewish summer experience. Let me tell you how I learned this, because it might also apply to the trip of your child or someone you know.

A day after the tragic December 2001 bombing on Ben Yehuda Street, I boarded an El Al Plane with fifteen other parents who are committed to sending their children to Israel this summer with United Synagogue Youth (USY). We came from almost every region of the U.S. and Canada, and our mission was to experience for ourselves what USY is doing, in light of the current situation, to ensure the safety and security of our children as they have the experience of their lifetime in Israel.

During four intensive days and nights, we had a mini-pilgrimage experience of our own. The same tour guides and educators who will be teaching our teens took us to see many of the 'classic' sights of Israel. We started on the Tayelet, the boardwalk

Continued on page 6

Email Update

Please note that Rabbi Tilsen's email address is jjtilsen@beki.org. If you would like to be added to the list of members who receive occasional email messages of lifecycle and other events, please let Rabbi Tilsen know.

Our office (beki@snet.net) will also be very happy to learn of your new or revised email address.

No Parking

Members and visitors are advised that parking is prohibited at all times on the East side of Harrison Street as indicated by the "No Parking" signs. Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot at the rear of the building. When driving in the BEKI parking lot, please observe the five miles-per-hour speed limit.

April Schedule Changes

Beginning in April, our Shabbat afternoon services return to our "summer" schedule. Shabbat minha services begin at 5:45p each Saturday afternoon, and is not followed by maariv evening service at the synagogue. The winter schedule (minha, Pirqe Avot Study, Maariv & Havdala) will resume in November.

Daylight Time resumes on Sunday morning 7 April. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed *Motse'ei Shabbat* (Saturday night). If your clock reads 10:00p, set it to 11:00p.

BEKI-Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

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BEKI-Bulletin

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Why We Belong to USCJ

A small portion of the membership dues paid to BEKI—\$45 per family or individual—supports our participation in the [United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism](#) (USCJ), a national organization whose regional director is our congregant Miriam Benson, wife of Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.

BEKI receives many benefits of USCJ membership. USCJ coordinates services that would be too expensive or complicated for individual congregations to sustain, but when many communities pool their resources, these services become feasible.

Here are some specifics. USCJ hosts BEKI's Web site (www.beki.org). It coordinates regional and national programs for Kadima and USY youth groups. When our officers—who are volunteers with jobs of their own—have questions about the running of the synagogue, they turn to PALS (Program for Assistance by Liaisons to Synagogues), which offers pro bono consultation with experienced professionals. Russ Finer, executive director of Beth El in Springfield, has helped BEKI officers deal with financial management and fundraising in the past couple of years. BEKI President Stephen Pincus says, "Russ has been very generous with his time and has helped us tremendously in our fiscal plans."

Religious schools need strong educators and USCJ provides the high-quality training that prepares them. Dr. Lauren Kempton, education director and principal of [BEKI Religious School](#) attended the United Synagogue New Director's Institute and states, "The Institute was invaluable for my work this year. I received an incredible manual full of programmatic ideas and organizational tips. Through Serene Victor, I am connected with other leaders here in the East for planning and sharing of ideas. As I learned at the Institute and daily reaffirm at BEKI: Judaism well taught is its own best advocate."

Our religious school teachers are enrolled in a two-year regional program coordinated by Serene Victor, the USCJ consultant for synagogue education.

BEKI membership chair Sharon Lovett-Graff and board member Gila Reinstein took part in a conference call about membership in January that generated some ideas they hope to implement in the coming year.

Darryl Kuperstock represented BEKI at the biennial convention in February, where five pillars of Conservative Judaism came together: the USCJ, the Rab-

binical Assembly, the Jewish Educators Assembly, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, and the Cantors Assembly. "The sessions I attended—especially the small, focused ones—were stimulating, enlightening and very worthwhile," Darryl told the BEKI Board afterward. "I urge other BEKI members to go to future conventions. You'll find a wealth of resources for us to tap into."

In addition, USCJ coordinates a book service, which publishes and distributes its own resource materials as well as publications from the [Rabbinical Assembly](#), the [Jewish Theological Seminary](#), and Women's League. There are Internet discussion groups for synagogue presidents, webmasters, educators, and financial officers who network, brainstorm, and learn from one another on line.

All BEKI members are subscribed to the award-winning magazine, *The United Synagogue Review*, and all are welcome at the Conservative movement's informal embassy in Jerusalem, the Fuchsberg Center.

"Perhaps most important of all is the intangible, yet very real benefit which derives from being part of a large and dynamic movement," says Miriam. "Through USCJ affiliation, a synagogue can gain the inspiration and motivation that keep a congregation flourishing."

Part of USCJ dues is directed toward building the Conservative-Masorti Movement in Israel and Eastern Europe. The knowledge that we are helping our Movement grow should be a source of pride and satisfaction for every BEKI member.

Adds Rabbi Tilsen, "USCJ membership allows a synagogue to be part of the Rabbinic Placement service. This means that only an affiliated congregation is eligible to engage a rabbi who is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly. I would always urge a congregation searching for a rabbi to hire only one who is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly or another legitimate rabbinic association. Anyone can use the title 'rabbi,' so a congregation must have a rabbi with credentials and an organization's endorsement. BEKI's membership in USCJ allows me as a Rabbinical Assembly member to work here."

For more information on USCJ, see www.uscj.org/ctvalley and www.uscj.org.

GR et al

A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

This April I depart for the March of the Living with sixty Jewish teens from Connecticut, Rhode Island, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. The marchers come from thirty-three countries. We teach and learn of the Shoah and Resistance at Auschwitz, Treblinka and Maidonek. On the day of Yom Hashoah we march through the gates of Auschwitz to Birkenau. Our march is silent, four abreast, similar to the march of Janusz Korczak and his orphan children through the streets of Warsaw Ghetto to the Umschlagplatz and Treblinka.

I am the Bus Educator for the March of the Living. Twelve of the teens are from Makom and two from Merkaz. I consider this duty very seriously and find this year, my fourth march, the responsibility to be awesome. As a Jewish educator I believe with all my might that the lessons of the Shoah are among the most important lessons in all of life. The study of the Shoah teaches us that truly only a survivor can fully know what happened during those terrible years; but each of us must tell the story for memory and remembrance. Survivors teach us that one commandment "transcended everything that came from the lips of those who per-

ished and seared the souls of those who remained: Remember: (in Hebrew) Do not let the world forget. That is why I march, and teach, and continue to learn; to remember.

My Hebrew name is Hannah Ruth. The name of Hannah is in memory of Hannah Senesh.



Dr. Lauren Kempton

To understand the Shoah we must teach our Jewish youth of the Resistance, resistance in the forests, the ghettos, and the camps. The names, Vladka and Ben Need, Mordecai Anieleicz, Chaim and Selma Engel, Jan Karsky, and Peter Fishel, to name a few. Resistance was to live another day, to keep a calendar, to write a poem, to share your meager food; it was spiritual....to pray. Israel Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of the modern Hasidic movement said, "In forgetfulness is the root of exile, In remembrance the beginning of redemption."

The March of the Living Israel visit was canceled after this writing due to security concerns. Nevertheless, this message expresses my views on the Shoah.

Religious School News

Gan: The Kindergarten and First grade students took their preparation for Pesah very seriously, and Morah Batya had all their senses involved in their learning. They reviewed the symbols of Pesah and did a language experience lesson entitled, "What I Know About Pesah." Memorable statements included: Benjamin L.: "Moses spread the water so the people could go through"; Matthew L: "Freedom is a good thing"; and Mara R.: "Pharaoh's sister found Moses in the river." Please visit the Youth Lounge (Room 3) to see the ideas of the entire class.

Gan also created beautiful matza covers. Their musical interpretation of the holiday of Pesah has included the Afikomen Mambo and the Four Questions accompanied by Rabbi Joe Black.

Kita Alef: The Third graders have finished their Volume Two Hebrew text, A Time for Prayer. They are proudly learning to discriminate words. The Second graders are learning to discriminate vow-

els and also decoding in Hebrew. Both grades in Judaics are continued their study of Jewish values and the holiday of Pesah.

Kita Bet-Gimel: In the Prayer curriculum, the Fourth graders completed an in-depth study of the Shema. The Fifth graders ended a serious study of the Amida. In Jewish History the Fourth graders are continuing their study of King David. Both groups enjoyed the visits by four High School emissaries from Israel for a Question and Answer session on Israel, kindly arranged by Stacey Battat.

Kita Dalet Hei: The Sixth and Seventh graders are celebrating the completion of their

Hebrew Text in the New Siddur Program for Hebrew and Heritage. They are reading an Israeli novel, The Sand Game for their study of Shoah and Resistance. In Jewish history they have been studying the birth and growth of Jewish cities and sites. They are hard at work preparing for leadership roles in the BEKI Religious School Shabbat Service on 27 April.

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From Pesah to Shavuot

Shir HaShirim Song of Songs

The Biblical love poetry of Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs is read on the morning of Shabbat Hol HaMoed Pesah (30 March 2002) during the morning service. Tradition ascribes the work to King Solomon himself, writing 2,900 years ago. Celebrate the spring holiday of Pesah with this beautiful and moving reading. The reading of Shir HaShirim by Willa Needler, Sarah Serkin, Esther Serkin, Shoshana Cohen-Fraade, Sarah Beller, Ruth Greenblatt, and Michael Stern will be a festival highlight at BEKI.

Yizkor Memorial Service

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15a Festival morning service on Thursday 4 April 2002. The Festival service includes a Shaharit morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and Haftara, and the Musaf additional service, and concludes by noon. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are often especially intense during the Pesah season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

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and

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Yom HaAtzmaut Israel Celebration

On Sunday 21 April the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven will sponsor a Spirit of Israel day to celebrate *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day). The event will be held from 1p-5p at the JCC in Woodbridge. The celebration will include Israeli dancing, a shuk for Israeli products, food (especially falafel), a sing-along, arts and crafts, ballons, flag dancing, a puppet show, and a choir. The BEKI Religious School is creating a storyboard for display. BEKI members will be singing! Watch for a mailing with more details.

LaG BeOmer Kumsitz

On Monday evening 29 April, from 6:15p to 8:00p, everyone is invited to the LaG BeOmer Kumsitz campfire sing-along at the residence of Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim, 2055 Chapel Street (corner of Alden), New Haven, after dinner.

Bring a kosher dessert or beverage, instruments and song sheets. In case of rain the sing-along will take place indoors at the same residence.

LaG BeOmer is the thirty-third day of the counting of the Omer, the period between Passover and Shavuot, and marks the end of a semi-mourning period between the two festivals.

This music program is made possible through the support of the [Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music](#) at BEKI and the hospitality of the Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim family.

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An Open Letter Concerning Israel & Youth

Continued from page 1

that has a scenic overview of the City of Jerusalem. Despite the windy, 50 degree weather, we dove for our sunglasses as the white Jerusalem stone gleamed and glinted. "King David walked there," "the Roman army entered here," we learned. Immediately, we became part of the unbroken chain from generation to generation of Jews who either lived in Israel, visited Israel ... or dreamed about Israel. Over the next few days in Jerusalem, we toured the new excavations of the Old City, visited the structural shell of the new Fuchsberg Center for Conservative Judaism, which will be our teens' home base, sat in a talmud class at the Center, ate at a Kosher McDonald's (a first for me!), and walked through a new museum designed to open a dialogue of understanding and coexistence between Arabs and Jews, Beit Tourgemann. During a rainy afternoon, we cancelled an outdoor program to the archaeological site of Beit Guvrin and drove to Tel Aviv. There we wept as a group at Kikar Rabin, the memorial to Yitzhak Rabin (z"l), the leader who has come to symbolize the quest for peace. We also stood in the hall where David Ben Gurion declared the State of Israel, a very important site for me because of my family's personal involvement with the War of Independence.

In between touring, we filled our days with lectures and discussions with experts on the status of Conservative Judaism, post-Zionist thought, the media and current events in Israel, the strength of Palestinian groups on American campuses, and public relations between Israel and the American Jewish Community. Our most important meeting was with the Jewish Agency, where we learned how, each day, an early morning meeting is held between the Education Department, (which oversees student trips), the Israeli Police, the Israeli Military, and the Society for the Preservation of Israel to determine the security protocol for our teens that day. They reviewed for us in great detail how the security beeper system operates on a 24 hours a

day, seven days a week basis. I was surprised but pleased to learn that all aspects of their security operations have been in place for many years, and are not directly related to recent events, and that USY routinely goes above and beyond the normal security recommendations. To my amazement, when asked which year presented the biggest security risk to visiting students, the answer was the summer of 1973, the year I visited Israel as a teen!

One morning, after davening shaharit, we heard the sounds of what turned out to be a suicide bomber. The opportunity to see how quickly our group leader was apprised of both the incident and the assessment of further risk in the area and how he rapidly changed our plans for the morning, reinforced our understanding of the Security Department of the Jewish Agency's communications network for all visiting youth trips. I am confident that the Jewish Agency would not allow us to send our children to Israel if they believed that security was in any way compromised.

Through the winter, USY has several programs running in Israel. 25 recent high school graduates from North America are studying in Jerusalem with the Nativ program. No participants of the Nativ program either this year or last year have left the program for safety reasons, and with some movement and travel restrictions, they continue to enjoy and experience Israel as they had planned and hoped. During our last evening, we ate with the Nativ students and then paired up to have time for more in-depth discussions about their year to date. In talking to these remarkably vibrant students, I realized that in this room sat the next generation of North American Jewish leaders. My own trip to Israel as a teen instilled in me a commitment to our people, our culture and our religion which have always formed the basis for my current involvement, belief and dedication to my local Jewish community and to world Jewry, klal yisrael. I want no less for my children! There is no better way to establish in our children a love of Israel and a love of the Jewish people than through a trip to Israel. If

Letters

we fail to take advantage of this opportunity today, I feel certain that we will cripple the future of Israel and of diaspora Judaism.

After years of learning about the American government, many schools send their students to Washington to see and experience the U.S. seat of government first-hand. After years of infusing our teens with Jewish history, culture, religion, and the Hebrew language, I so want them to also see Israel! In particular, by sending our children to Israel at this time, we give them their own seat at the table and a voice in the critical discussion of Israeli policies and goals.

Answers About Safety and Security

Let me direct all who are interested to USY's excellent web site on "Security Questions and Answers." It can be found at <http://uscj.org/usy/ptrip/security.html>.

The website covers questions such as: What is USY's approach to safety? How does USY know which areas and sites are safe? Will changes be made to the itinerary as a result of the situation? Will my teen's experience be diminished by going this summer? What about the State Department warning? Does USY currently have any programs in Israel? How will I remain updated during the summer?

Most other teen trips to Israel, such as a Ramah trip, or March of the Living, will meet the same security standards as USY trips, falling under similar supervision from the Security Department of the Jewish Agency, or under related agencies such as the Ministries of Education or the Interior. There are other trips which look after logistics, security and programming themselves, but follow the same general guidelines as USY. Thus, I thought it would be useful for any parent interested in a teen trip for now or for the future to have the Jewish Agency's security guidelines.

L'shana hazot b'Yerushalayim! (This year in Jerusalem!)

B'shalom, Rena Cheskis-Gold
Participant, USY Parent Mission, December 2001
Member, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel,
New Haven
February 2002

To my BEKI family,

On behalf of myself and my family I would like to extend great appreciation for the delicious family Shabbat dinner sent to me on behalf of the passing of my mother, Mariann Salvati De Matteo. The shul has been good to me and my family over this horrible year we have had.

Thank you, Elaine Olmer-Luther & family

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Kulanu

Kulanu celebrated Purim with a festive party hosted by Jennifer Cohen of Jewish Family Services. Dana Etra read Megilla and the group were reintroduced to groggers. As Dana read, the Kulanu members gleefully tried to drown out the name of the villain. Dr. Kempton read the Purim story and the evening ended with hamentashen.

The [Sisterhood](#) of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and [Kulanu](#), in conjunction with the Jewish Family Service and Abel Catering, hosted the twentieth annual Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI on 13 March. Each year the Sisterhood has hosted an enthusiastic group of Jewish adults from the New Haven area with a variety of special needs. Last year, over 50 people participated. This year, over 65 people participated.

For many, this is their only taste of Passover and one that they relish and look forward to each year. The Torah teaches of four types of children, and

the Haggada reminds us that we must tell the story of the Exodus to each son and daughter of Israel in the way that is most meaningful to him or her. Through the efforts of Sisterhood, Kulanu Director Lauren Kempton, the generosity of Abel Catering and the good offices of the Jewish Family Services, the Exodus is reenacted through song, food and story at a table set in the Passover tradition. Thanks to Sisterhood members and supporters Adele Tyson, Barbara Cushen, Sylvia Zeid, Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Stan Saxe, Grace Geisinger, Janet & Jay Brown, Belle Reese, and others.

If you know someone who might like to be included in BEKI's outreach program for adults with special needs, or if you would like to help present these programs, please contact Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org. Kulanu is supported by the [David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at BEKI](#) and by Roger & Susan Stone Levine.



The Kulanu Special Needs Seder in 2000

Purim Seuda Report

A wonderful time was had by over 150 people at the Purim Seuda Feast in February. Many people made this event a success, including:

Amy Pincus, Food Committee

Assisted by Lauri Lowell, Liora Lew, Melissa Strong, and Stephen Pincus.

Liora Lew, Decorations Committee

Assisted by Roz Ben-Chitrit, Jonah Cooper, Sarah Pincus, Coby Ben-Chitrit, and Yaron Lew

Sharon and Benett Lovett-Graff, Greeter and generously sponsoring Dessert in honor of Josh's birthday

Melissa Strong, Guy Lord: Registration

Charlie and Violet Ludwig, Alan Rosner, Liora Lew, Stephen Pincus, Amy Pincus: Cleanup

Allan Brozek, Square Dance Caller,

Dr. Lauren Kempton: countless hours writing, rehearsing, directing play; doing sets and costumes

And the assistants: Roz Ben-Chitrit, Lauri Lowell, Gwen Weltman, Paula Lieberman

Jay Sokolow and Avital Silverman: Birkat Hamazon

Isaiah Cooper: Song-leading

Clarence B. and Mary Ellen Mack: support of all sorts

Ruthie Greenblatt: Cutesie the clown, facepainting, and balloon figures!

Bass family: skit

Adele Tyson and Sisterhood: Tablecloths and other support

Thank you to everyone for coming, helping, and making Purim a festive day.

-MEB



Purim Spiel 2002

20s-30s Havura Enjoys Dinner, Brunch, Saul's Circle

Jewish singles and couples in their 20s and 30s are invited to contact BEKI member Valerie Sandler (777-4784 or valerie.sandler@yale.edu) or Mary Ellen Mack (389-2108 x14 or beki@snet.net) for information on special events of interest. BEKI's 20s-30s Havura is primarily for adults without children, and meets about once a month at BEKI for Shabbat services, dinner and *shmoozing* and informal discussion.

Saul's Circle celebrated Purim with storytelling. On 26 March the group enjoyed a Passover presentation by Dr. Kempton at Fellowship House. Saul's Circle members were an important part of BEKI's Purim Se'uda. Each guest was especially grateful for the Mishloah Manot basket lovingly provided by Gloria Cohen.

BEKI Events

April - Nisan - Iyar

5762

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	19 Nisan 1	20 Nisan 2	21 Nisan 3	22 Nisan 4	23 Nisan 5	24 Nisan 6
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan BRS=BEKI Religious School	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:00p Religious School Parents Program	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 5:59p Candles	<i>Pesah Office Closed</i> 9:15a Festival Service No Religious School or Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv Candles after 7:00p	<i>Pesah Office Closed</i> 9:15a Festival Service and Yizkor 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:03p Candles 6:00p Minha-Maariv 8:00p Late Service	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Dr. Lauren Kempton</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45p SSLM 5:45p Minha
25 Nisan 7	26 Nisan 8	27 Nisan 9	28 Nisan 10	29 Nisan 11	30 Nisan 12	1 Iyar 13
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Yom Hashoah</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 7:10p Candles 6:00p Minha-Maariv	<i>Rosh Hodesh David Botwick-Ries Bar Mitzva</i> 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
2 Iyar 14	3 Iyar 15	4 Iyar 16	5 Iyar 17	6 Iyar 18	7 Iyar 19	8 Iyar 20
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p General Bd.	<i>Yom Hazikaron</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Yom Ha-atzmaut</i> 7:00a Shaharit No Religious School or Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 7:19p Candles 6:00p Minha-Maariv 6:30p 20s/30s Havura Group Dinner 8:00p Late Service	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Paula Hyman</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a SSLM 1:00p Book Group 5:45p Minha
9 Iyar 21	10 Iyar 22	11 Iyar 23	12 Iyar 24	13 Iyar 25	14 Iyar 26	15 Iyar 27
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 9:30a Congr. Brunch 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p Executive Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 7:25p Candles 6:00p Minha-Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>BEKI Religious School Shabbat Joint Kiddush Sponsors: Rena Cheskis-Gold and BEKI Religious School</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
16 Iyar 28	17 Iyar 29	18 Iyar 30				
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:15p Lag B'Omer Kumsitz @ Forbes-Foodim Home	<i>Lag B'Omer</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Education Director: lkempton@beki.org website: www.beki.org	

LifeCycle

With sorrow we note the passing of

- Norma Gerken, mother of Ann (& Don) Green
- Bernard Spector, husband of Esther Spector
- Hymen B. Lender, brother of Murray Lender
- John Liner, brother of Rena Miller

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

BEKI Welcomes New Members & Their Families

- Neil & Mackie Berro, and Malka
- Rabbis Colin & Amanda Brodie, and Yonatan, Elisheva, Rafael
- Alan & Rachel Gerber, and Miriam, Eva and Benjamin

Bar Mitzva in April

On Shabbat 12-13 April, David Botwick-Ries will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva. David is a son of Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries.



David Botwick-Ries

Mazal tov to

Tillie Horwitz on the birth of her great-grand-son Edward (Yitzhaq) Horwitz & his being entered into the covenant through *brit mila* .

A Poem

by Charlie Ludwig

In our lives we plant many trees
 From seedlings that we sow,
 And we are amazed at the ease
 and quickness with which they grow.
 The trees do offer fruit and shade
 Along with artistic splendor displayed.
 I enter the forests of future, present, past:
 I come to the forest so huge and so vast.
 I enter the forest and I see
 Nature in all its colorful splendor
 I see a cornucopia of fruit and leaf-
 An aura of serenity beyond belief.
 An aroma known to the woods alone
 As a sunlit stream thru the branches is shown.
 The trees become a forest one day
 And often it's difficult to find our way.
 The diverse paths beckon in varied direction
 Thus making difficult our selection.
 When in the forest faced with such density
 And having problems of such immensity,
 You may exit and not notice a tree-
 It's just beyond the forest that you actually see
 The true wonder and beauty of the tree.



Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

Darshanim (Torah Analysts) in April

Dr. Lauren Kempton, Education Director of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning 6 April, parashat Shemini.

David Botwick-Ries, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning 13 April, parashat Tazria-Metsora – Rosh Hodesh.

Dr. Paula Hyman, BEKI Board member, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning 20 April, parashat Aharei Mot-Qedoshim.

A Special Guest may serve as darshan/it on Shabbat 27 April, parashat Emor.

Book Discussion Group

BEKI's monthly Book Group meets on Shabbat 20 April 2002 following qiddush (about 1:00p to 2:30p) in BEKI's www.beki.org/library.html Rosenkrantz Family Library. The book to be discussed is *Jew vs. Jew*, Sam G. Freedman, paperback \$11.20, ISBN 0684859459. Explores the conflicts within the contemporary American Jewish community. If you order the book from Amazon.com, BEKI receives a small commission. (BEKI gets the commission only if you go to Amazon through the link at www.beki.org/links.html or wherever you see

the Amazon icon on BEKI's web site.) The next selection will be Stephen G. Bloom, *Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America* (1 June). Information on purchasing these books, and an updated list, can be found at www.beki.org/books.html. For further information, contact Helen Rosenberg at 389-9594.

Reading Torah at BEKI

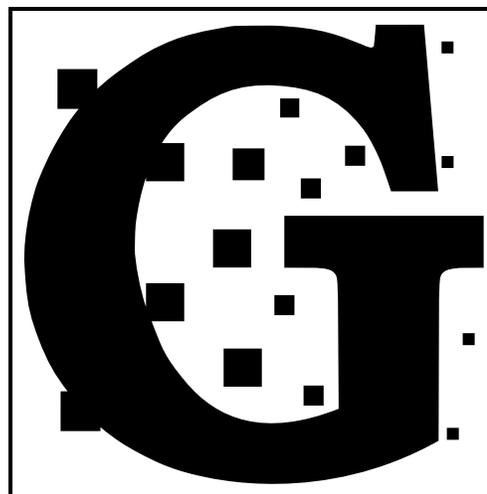
Thanks to Paula Hyman for coordinating Torah readings for the book of *Bereishit* (Genesis) and to Marsha Beller for coordinating the Torah readings for *Shemot* (Exodus). Rabbi Tilsen is coordinating the readings for *VaYiqra* (Leviticus). If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read Torah, call Rabbi Jon-Jay at (203) 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or Darryl Kuperstock at (203) 387-0304 (kuperst@aol.com).

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Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meets in the Rosenkrantz Family Library to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to participate for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the peshat of the Biblical text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group has been meeting weekly since 1994.

AA Meeting

A Thursday night **AA meeting** is held at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at drjays.nai@rcn.com.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the Shoharim (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Led by Steven Fraade and Rabbi Alan Lovins, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening multi-generational setting.

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Ramah Family Camp

The Ramah Family Camp will be held in May at Camp Ramah in Palmer, MA. The camp is for the Entire Family. For information call 781-449-7090 x231 or ramahfamilycamp@yahoo.com. Camp Ramah serves as the camping arm of the Conservative Movement. For information on other Jewish camping opportunities, contact The Foundation for Jewish Camping at 1-212-792-6222 or Info@JewishCamping.org.

Winter Classes End

The winter term has ended for Adult Studies at BEKI. All five courses were very successful and we are now planning Summer Sessions to reflect the interests of our BEKI congregants. Mishna Study, "Mishna with Moshe" (Rabbi Murray Levine) explored several topics including "Mishna, the six tractates"; "Halakha, a way to walk"; "the history of the four Rosh Hashanas"; and "the book of Esther." We were honored to have Rabbi Levine magnificently blow shofar on 5 March (which just happened to be his birthday), to demonstrate the teaching on Rosh Hashana. Tuesday evenings at BEKI were a wonderful blend of the aroma of stuffed cabbage created by the amateur "chefs" in the class of Master Chef, Michael Ries and the study of the Starry Nights led by Brooks Parmelee. Sunday's congregants studied "Talking to Your Child about God" with Amy Pincus and Rabbi Murray Levine. On Sunday evenings a devoted group explored "Shoah and Resistance" with Dr. Kempton, enriched by the personal history of Herb Winer and his experiences with the Milgram experiment on obedience at Yale.

RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW

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Announces the establishment of her practice in child, adolescent, and adult psychotherapy.

Children's Shabbat Havura

The [Children's Shabbat Havura](#) meets every Shabbat morning from 10:45a to noon in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Designed to address the spiritual and social needs of preschool children, the Havura meets concurrently with [K-2 Kehila](#), [Junior Congregation](#), [Cosmic Conversations](#), the [Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan](#) and the main Sabbath service. Following the half-hour of songs, stories, prayers and dance, the children have their own qiddush refreshments and then enjoy supervised play until they join the adult worship for the Concluding Service and qiddush.

The Havura enjoys strong support from parents and the Synagogue. Currently about 70 children and their parents actively participate in the Havura. Visitors have come from across New England to observe this program as a model for their own synagogues.

Meeting the spiritual and social needs of preschool children is an obligation of the Jewish community and an important part of the Synagogue's mission. The *Havura* (Friendship Circle) links the children to one another, to other concerned Jewish parents, and to the Synagogue. The Havura enjoys the active participation of parents who themselves are enriched by the experience. For many adults, the Children's Shabbat Havura serves as their introduction to active participation in the Synagogue Community.

If you are interested in learning more about the BEKI Children's Shabbat Havura, come any Shabbat (Saturday) morning at 10:45a and see for yourself. Or contact Miriam Benson at 389-6137 or mirbenson@aol.com, who, along with Ellen Cohen, coordinates the program. You can also contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org, the staff person who supports this parent cooperative.

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Planning Ahead...

If you are interested in including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please feel free to contact estate planning attorney Donna Levine at 787-1633 (sdsij@aol.com). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or David Tein at The Jewish Foundation at 387-2424 x304 (dtein@jewishnewhaven.org) for a confidential discussion.

Food Certificates Fundraiser

Food certificates can now be charged to VISA and Mastercard on-line through Helping.org. You will be receiving a mailing with the details. We are well stocked and they are available daily and Sundays from the Religious School office.

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Sat.	8:00-3:00								

BEKI Takes VISA & Mastercard on Internet

You can now make contributions and pay pledges to BEKI with your VISA or Mastercard. Normally, a merchant (in this case BEKI) would pay a transaction fee to the credit card companies. However, through the generosity of Helping.org and the AOL Foundation, no fees are collected when you donate to BEKI on the Internet through Helping.org. This means that 100% of your donation goes to BEKI.

To charge your donation or make your payment to BEKI with VISA or Mastercard on the internet, go to www.beki.org and click on the "Donate" button.

Audio Library on Web

Various blessings and prayers are recorded for educational purposes on BEKI's web site. Shabbat, Hanuka, and daily liturgical selections are presented. Check for additions! To hear the selections, go to www.beki.org/audio.html.



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