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# BEKIbulletin

April 2006

Nisan 5766  
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## Autographed ER “scrub” to be Auctioned BEKI Spring Fling Auction

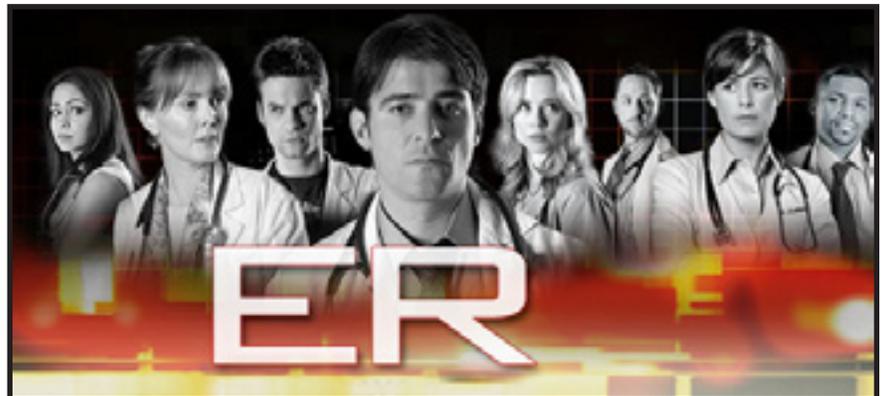
If you are an fan of the TV show ER then you are in for a treat at the BEKI auction. A TV scrub signed by the current cast of this long-running TV show will be auctioned off.

On Sunday evening 30 April 2006, BEKI will hold its second silent and live auction Bidding for BEKI Spring Fling from 5-8 PM. Charles Rosenay!!! of Boppers will be auctioneer for the live auction.

The evening starts with wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres during the silent auction, followed by the live auction beginning at 6:30p. Dessert and coffee complete the evening. The cost for the evening is \$25.00 in advance and \$30.00 at the door. The event is open to the public.

Elayne Dimenstein, chair of the event says “we are seeking donations of goods and services from merchants, service providers, and individual friends and neighbors. Auction items that usually attract enthusiastic bidders include gift certificates, vacation homes, tickets to performances and athletic events, jewelry, gift baskets, memberships, electronic devices like iPods, crafts, and services.”

Donations to the BEKI auction are tax deductible. BEKI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. If you would like to make a donation, call the synagogue office at 203 389-2108. Any questions should be directed to Rob at 795-3329 or robolettick@aol.com, or Elayne at 877-2692. For reservations and information contact the BEKI office at 203 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org.



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## 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](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)

or see our web page: [www.beki.org](http://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.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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## Renovations Update

Much progress was made in the renovations project during February and March. The memorial tablets were mounted on a new wall built in the social hall. The new wall also serves to conceal the items stored in that area.

Two walls were removed in the newly expanded lobby. This entailed building new support columns and installing one support beam. The carpet, ceiling and wall treatments were removed. The frame for the new nursing room and handicapped washroom was built; plumbing for that area will be installed during April. Some electric work was accomplished as well.

While much of the progress is visible, several “invisible” mechanical improvements will be made in the coming weeks. In the boiler room, insulation will be applied to some of the “exhaust” vents and valves, and the ceiling will be patched, which will control the excess heating experienced in the office area. The venting of this waste heat will not improve efficiency but will improve comfort.

In the original construction (1959), the heating and cooling water circulated through the eight large fan coil units (“blowers”) whenever the heating or cooling system was on, whether or not the rooms were in use or needed heating or cooling. This means, for example, on a summer day when only the sanctuary was in use, the system was pumping water through the entire upstairs sanctuary and social hall space as well as the lower-level social hall. In the coming weeks, valves and

electronic controls will be installed in all eight locations that will shut off the flow to those units when heating or cooling is not needed. We expect that these new controls will provide significant energy savings and will very noticeably improve the effectiveness of the cooling system for the sanctuary and other areas. Eventually, however, the distribution system in the sanctuary and social hall will need to be replaced in its entirety.

Funding for this project is from BEKI members and supporters. If you would like more information, please contact Renovations Chairperson John Weiser at 389-0931.

## Solar Project Update

The installation date for the Photovoltaic Solar Array at BEKI is tentatively scheduled for mid-May.

Those interested in observing, helping or photographing the installation are invited to contact the office at [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) or 389-2108 x14 to confirm the date. The array is a bar mitzva project of Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, with the support of many members and friends of BEKI, and with major funding from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, and is being installed by Paul Israel

of Sunlightsolar. Contributions to support the project should be sent to “BEKI” with a note indicating it is for the solar project.

## SATO: Social Action Tiquin Olam

The Amity Cares Habitat for Humanity House Dedication will be Sunday 2 April at 3p at the house site, 526 Winchester, New Haven. All are welcome, especially the over fifty BEKI members who have generously given of their time and energy on this project. Rabbi Tilsen will participate in the ceremony as the house is officially turned over to Vanessa Cooper and her family. It promises to be a truly moving afternoon! For info and directions contact Darryl Kuperstock.

Food Collection for Pesah and Year-Round: Bins for collecting non-perishables (cans and dry goods) are located near the entryways in the lobby. Food collected will be distributed locally through the Jewish Family Service Food Bank and other local food banks. Our goal is to collect one pound per person per month, that is, about 1000 pounds per month.

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*Jimmy & Patti Shure*

## April Schedule Changes

In April, our Shabbat afternoon services return to our “summer” schedule. Shabbat Minha service begins at 5:45p each Saturday afternoon, and is not followed by Maariv evening service at the synagogue. The winter schedule (Minha, study, Maariv & Havdala) will resume in November.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday 2 April 2006 and will end on 29 October 2006. 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. In 2007, a new law (the Energy Policy Act of 2005) is set to begin that dictates that DST will be in force from 11 March 2007 to 4 November 2007.

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## Mazal Tov to

**Celia Schultz & David Driscoll**, and Liam Driscoll, on the birth of their son and brother Eli Sylvan Driscoll, on 24 February 2006. Eli was entered into the covenant through Brit Mila at BEKI.

**Amy & Adam Cuker** on the birth of their son Shalom Greenstein Cuker, on Shabbat 25 February 2006 in Boston, MA. Shalom was entered into the covenant through Brit Mila in Boston. The family plans to move to Philadelphia in June, where Adam will begin a fellowship at the hospital at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Ariel Serkin & David Samuels** on the birth of Aaron Daniel Samuels, and to grandmother Tamar Edelkind and aunts Esther Serkin and Sarah Serkin.

**Allison Graham**, daughter of James Graham & Melissa Perkal, on celebrating her becoming a bat mitzva in April.



Shalom Greenstein Cuker

**Joan Margolis**, daughter of David & Amy Margolis, granddaughter of Lester & Bernice Margolis, on celebrating her becoming a bat mitzva in April.

## Welcome New Members & Their Families

Belle Greenberg  
Paul Fiedler & Susan Birke-Fiedler,  
and Elizabeth, Jacob and Matthew

## Benei Mitzva in April

**Lea Winter**, daughter of Michael Winter & Ellen Mackler, will lead and participate in services, and will read and teach scripture as a bat mitzva on Shabbat 1 April 2006 – parashat VaYiqra

**Mollie Goldblum**, daughter of David & Joanne Goldblum, will lead and participate in services, and will read and teach scripture as a bat mitzva on Shabbat HaGadol (“The Shabbat of ‘The Great’”) 7-8 April 2006.

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Liam Driscoll with baby brother Eli

**With sorrow we note the passing of**

**Marvin Pizer, husband of Mila Pizer  
Rita Moskowitz, mother of Michael Moskowitz  
James Joseph Barnett  
Emma Bigman Zahler  
Arthur Magid**

**May the Almighty Comfort Those Who Mourn**

Kosher for Pesah guidelines are available in the "Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide" in the BEKI literature rack (also available by request from the office) and at [www.rabbinicalassembly.org](http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org).

## Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible *hametz*. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive hametz such as liquor, one can sell their hametz for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz to someone who is allowed to own it, please sign the form available at each daily morning and evening service beginning at Purim or sign and return the form included in the March synagogue mailing for that purpose. If you need a form faxed to you, give Peggy (389-2108 x14 or [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org)) your fax number or fax her at 389-5899; you can also find a form at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html). The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you.

## KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah

BEKI members and supporters with questions regarding Passover observances are welcome to contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10. Answers to frequently asked questions can also

be found at the website of the Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly: [www.kinahara.org](http://www.kinahara.org).



## Kulanu - Special Needs Seder

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and Kulanu, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service and Abel Catering, will host the twenty-fourth annual Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI on Monday 3 April. Each year the Sisterhood has hosted an enthusiastic group of Jewish adults from the New Haven area with a variety of special needs. This year, about 75 people are expected to participate.

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 Hagada 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 Dr. Lauren Kempton, the generosity of Abel Catering and the good offices of the Jewish Family Services, the Exodus is re-enacted

through song, food and story at a table set in the Passover tradition.

Kulanu is BEKI's outreach program for adults with special needs. Kulanu is supported by The **David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel**, which is managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

## Hagadot and Seder Plates at Giftshop

*Hagadot* (do-it-yourself guide and service books) for Pesah, including the Rabbinical Assembly's *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*, are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and wherever fine Judaica is sold. The Giftshop also offers a significant collection of decorative seder plates.

If you purchase your *hagadot* or other items from Amazon.com or Buy.com and access these merchants via the links at [www.beki.org/links.html](http://www.beki.org/links.html), BEKI receives a small commission on your purchase, at no additional cost to you. You must use these links each time you access the merchants' website in order for BEKI to receive a commission.

## Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

On the night of Tuesday 11 April 2006, it is customary to perform *Bediqat Hametz*, the final check for leaven before Passover. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. The next morning, Wednesday 12 April,

the morning before the seder, it is customary to perform *Biur Hametz*, a final “search and destroy” mission for leavening, to insure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating hametz during the festival. Instructions for *Bediqat Hametz and Biur Hametz* can be found in most Hagadot, including the Rabbinical Assembly’s *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*.

## **Siyyum Bekhorot: Feast or Famine**

The Fast of the First Born is Wednesday 12 April 2006 beginning at dawn. Firstborn who attend the Wednesday morning service at 7:00a may conclude their fast by partaking of the *seudat mitzva* (obligatory feast) celebrating a *siyyum*, the conclusion of a study project. Services and *siyyum* will end by 8:05a. All may attend. That time will also be the last opportunity to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your *hametz* (see “Selling of Hametz” in this issue).

## **Let All Who Are Hungry...**

The Seder of Pesah is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others into our homes. Our congregation comprises many people who may not have extended family locally, do not have Jewish relatives, are new to the area, or who otherwise would benefit greatly from a Seder invitation. If you are able to open your Seder to additional guests, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at your earliest opportunity at 389-2108 x10 (jtilsen@beki.org). If you are able to host an adult who is

a mental health services consumer or who has developmental disabilities, please contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton (389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org).

## **Service & No Service Schedule for Pesah**

There are no afternoon and evening services at BEKI on the first and second nights of Pesah. Festival morning services begin at 9:15a on Thursday 13, Friday 14, Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 April. For a complete listing, see the calendar page in this issue or [www.beki.org/schedule.html](http://www.beki.org/schedule.html).

## **Pesah Candle Lighting**

The first night of Passover is Wednesday night 12 April 2006; candle lighting in New Haven is 7:10p. For the second night, candle lighting should be *after* 8:10p.

## **Conservative Community Second Seder**

Temple Beth Shalom is hosting the Conservative Community Second Seder, which is presented along with Congregation B’nai Jacob, Congregation Or Shalom and BEKI. For information or reservations contact the Beth Shalom office. Advance reservations are required.

## **Shir HaShirim Song of Songs**

The Biblical love poetry of *Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs* will be read on the morning of 15 April 2006 during the Shabbat Pesah 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.

## **Yizkor Memorial Service**

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15a Festival morning service on Thursday 20 April 2006. 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.

## **Sefira – Counting the Omer**

At the second Seder (Thursday 13 April 2006), we begin 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.

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## Passover at BEKI

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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 the 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.

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

*Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom*  
– Psalm 90:12

## Beyond Pesah: Yom HaShoah Candles

BEKI Sisterhood is giving away Yom HaShoah candles for a suggested donation of \$6.00. These are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and the office.

## Leave a Legacy

*Dear Donna:*

*I would like to donate to BEKI, but I cannot afford to give up the income. In fact, with current interest rates being so low, I'm struggling to make ends meet since I primarily live off the income from my savings. I guess I just can't afford to give, right?*

*Sincerely,  
Struggling in New Haven*

Dear Struggling:

I sympathize with your plight, but there may be a way you can give to BEKI, and increase your income at the same time. A charitable gift annuity through the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven will insure you a regular income payment at a decent interest rate, and can provide that the principal at your death passes to BEKI. Because you make an irrevocable election to donate the principal to BEKI, you are entitled to a charitable deduction on your income tax return in the year of the gift. The Foundation will accept a charitable gift annuity of as little as \$5,000. If this idea appeals to you, please contact Lisa Stanger at the Jewish Foundation (387-2424) or contact me (Donna Levine 785-8079 [sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com)) to assist you with your planning.

Donna



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*Shlepping* is a Yiddish word, perhaps once only used in the shtets of Eastern Europe.

The mothers *shlepped* their *cholent* to the community ovens and *shlepped* their parsnips and potatoes home from the market. Then the usage of the word spread and *shlepping* became an internationalized word.

On my ZIV, Jewish Educators' Mitzvah Hero Tour of Israel, I redefined *shlepping* for myself. I want to thank the parents and students of BEKI Religious School for their *shlepping* to me so that I could fulfill my ZIV Tsedaqa promises. On the eve of my trip as I surveyed the countless bags of donations, I thought; "I need a bigger suitcase, it is time for the 'Green Monster,'" the EL Salvador *Shlepping* suitcase. For years Brooks and I did volunteer work in El Salvador, actually long before I knew the meaning of Tikkun Olam or tsedaqa.

So the "Green Monster" came downstairs and the serious packing began. I filled the suitcase with the BEKI donations and my own, carefully following the ZIV Tsedaqa Fund check list. Some people may ask why bother to *shlep*... doesn't the Israeli economy need stimulation? Shouldn't we just bring money? The answer is not so simple. The truth is that many non-profits that are working on the front lines are not getting the funding they need. So by bringing items, they can use their limited funds for other pressing needs. So I zip-locked all my donations by categories, *shlepped* to Newark Airport and hoisted "Green Monster" onto the conveyer belt. The machine creaked and groaned and the



Dr. Lauren Kempton with Kiki, a ragdoll cat used in animal-assisted therapy at Humans and Animals in Mutual Assistance, Jerusalem

clerk smiled and said, "You are way over the 50-pound limit." I stared at her and said, "It's for Tsedaqa" and she smiled knowingly and replied, "It's just right."

Once in Jerusalem, I kept the suitcase open for each day we visited at least two Mitzva Heroes, to learn their stories and deliver out tsedaqa. We met with Barbara Silverman, founder of "A Package from Home." We made a conveyer-belt-type line and in two hours produced 600 packages for an IDF unit. So the batteries, socks, toiletries and underwear were much appreciated. With Rabbanit Kapach we left wedding gowns and tights and women's supplies for the Nahlaot neighborhood she provides for.

So each night I would retrieve the donations for the next morning; school supplies for Beit HaYeled, dental supplies and pill boxes for Dental Vol-

unteers for Israel, and children's socks and underwear for Lev Ramot. At most stops we also left many stuffed animals and gently used beanie babies. The last night the "Green Monster" was empty.

But Arnie Draiman, ZIV's agent, said he could use the suitcase. So I had come full circle, and I have learned that the Mitzva Heroes that I met, through the right methods and contacts, help to make people across Israel happy, healthy and full of life and hope.

## Religious School News

Part of the curriculum at BEKI Religious School has always been strengthening the understanding of our Jewish Holidays and teaching *tiquin olam*. During March, we were so pleased to have Master Puppeteer, Daniel Barash present at our Purim carnival. Daniel told the traditional Purim story through the puppets he helped the religious school students create. The creative dramatics was well-received by all ages.

Also in March, the students of BEKI Religious School responded to a request from a local Jewish Veterans group for Purim cards for Jewish soldiers stationed in Iraq. The students made Purim cards and also decorations for the soldiers for their tents and their barracks.

April will find the students of BEKI busy preparing for their Model Seder. The Model Seder is a long-standing tradition at BEKI Religious School.

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*continued from page 11*

The youngest students learn the Four Questions and the upper grades each have a part in the seder. The students also prepare decorations for the Special Needs Seder hosted by BEKI Sisterhood. The students are making invitations and placemats for their families for this special seder.

## **Focus On: BRS Faculty member Ariella Puterman**



Faculty member Ariella Puterman

Ariella came to BEKI in Spring 2005. Her husband, Gal Levita, is a Doctoral candidate at Yale in the Law School. They live in New Haven. Ariella was born in New York and moved to Israel with her family when she was seven

Ariella was raised in Rishon LeZion. She completed her service in the Israel Defense Force in the Intelligence Corps. Her university degree is in Law and Political Science from Tel Aviv University.

## **Kulanu**

The members of the Community Living Group at Chapel Haven concluded

their Film Series and Discussions on Black History month. For March and April they are studying about other times in world history when groups struggled for Civil Rights. In March, the group focused on Rwanda and watched "Hotel Rwanda." In April, the group will focus on the current situation in the Sudan. One of the members, Gordon, is a great history buff and prepared a report on "Crisis in Sudan."

## **Chapel Haven & Saul's Circle**

The members of Chapel Haven continue to meet in the Learning Barn to explore both topics of interest and concern. The topic for April is Jewish Holidays. The group decided to work with Dr. Kempton to create their own *hagada*. To help inspire this project, she brought many *hagadot* for the group to review, including *The Four Question Haggadah* and *The Survivor's Haggadah*. The group from Saul's Circle will display their *hagadot* at the BEKI Sisterhood Special Needs Seder on 3 April.

## **Sisterhood News**

BEKI Sisterhood is donating \$15,000 toward our new chapel. This money was earned through the hard work of our many members. They had rummage sales, card parties, gift shop sales and are pleased to support our shul.

Join Sisterhood and contribute your time and talent for BEKI.

Once again Sisterhood is a sponsor of the annual Seder for people with special needs and we thank all who help set up, serve and clean up. Special thanks to Neil Abel for donating the food. Our guests will have an inspiring Seder and a delicious meal.

The annual Book of Life Dinner will be 13 June 2006. Ruthie Greenblatt will be this year's honoree.

Wishing everyone a beautiful Passover holiday.

*Adele Tyson & Ruthie Greenblatt,  
Co-Presidents*

## **Torah Fund**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund Appeal for 2005-06. We have surpassed our goal and the funds were sent directly to support The Jewish Theological Seminary, ensuring the legacy to future generations of Conservative Jews by providing: Rabbis, Cantors, scholars, social workers, synagogue & day school administrators and lay leaders.

Your Torah Fund contribution strengthens & perpetuates Conservative Judaism throughout the world.

Please continue to purchase cards for all occasions by calling Barbara Cushen at 407-0314. Cards are \$3.00 and this includes the stamp! A real bargain.

# April 2006

3 Nisan 5766 - 2 Iyar 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Service Times for Spring /Summer</b> Sundays: 9a Shahrarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Mondays: 7a Shahrarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Tuesdays: 7a Shahrarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Wednesdays: 7a Shahrarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Thursdays: 8:15a Shahrarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Fridays: 7a Shahrarit 6p Minha-Maariv Saturdays: 9:15a Shahrarit 5:45p Minha						1 9:15am Lea Winter Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Winter/Mackler 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 6:57pm Havdala  3 Nisan
2 Daylight Savings Time 9:00am Religious School 10:00am MAKOM Mishna with Moshe 11:00am Ivrit with Margolit  4 Nisan	3 7:45am Rashi Study Group 5:00pm Special Needs Seder 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting  5 Nisan	4  6 Nisan	5 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program  7 Nisan	6 12:30 Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.  8 Nisan	7 7:05pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Mollie Goldblum Bat Mitzva  9 Nisan	8 9:15am Mollie Goldblum Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Goldblum 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 8:05pm Havdala  10 Nisan
9 9:00am Religious School - Model Seder 10:00am MAKOM Mishna with Moshe 11:00am Ivrit with Margolit  11 Nisan	10 7:45am Rashi Study Group  12 Nisan	11  13 Nisan	12 Erev Passover 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program No Minha-Maariv 7:10pm candle lighting First Seder (at home)  14 Nisan	13 Passover I Office Closed 9:15am Service No Talmud Study Group No Writing Group No Minha-Maariv Candle Lighting After 8:10pm  15 Nisan	14 Passover II First Day of Omer Office Closed 9:15am Service 7:12pm Candle Lighting  16 Nisan/1 L'Omer	15 Hol Hamoed Passover I 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Song of Songs Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 8:12pm Havdala  17 Nisan/2 L'Omer
16 Hol Hamoed Passover II No Religious School  18 Nisan/3 L'Omer	17 Hol Hamoed Passover III 7:45am Rashi Study Group  19 Nisan/4 L'Omer	18 Hol Hamoed Passover IV Fifth Day of Omer 7:16pm Candle Lighting  20 Nisan/5 L'Omer	19 Passover VII Office Closed 9:15am Service No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program Candle Lighting After 8:16pm  21 Nisan/6 L'Omer	20 Passover VIII (Yizkor) Office Closed 9:15 Service No Talmud Study Group No Writing Group Pesach ends 8:20pm  22 Nisan/7 L'Omer	21 Eighth Day of Omer 7:20pm Candle Lighting  23 Nisan/8 L'Omer	22 Darshan: Robert Forbes 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Cake & Fruit 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 8:20pm Havdala  24 Nisan/9 L'Omer
23 9:00am Religious School 10:00am MAKOM Mishna with Moshe 11:00am Ivrit with Margolit  25 Nisan/10 L'Omer	24 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting  26 Nisan/11 L'Omer	25 Yom Hashoah 12th Day of Omer  27 Nisan/12 L'Omer	26 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program  28 Nisan/13 L'Omer	27 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.  29 Nisan/14 L'Omer	28 Rosh Hodesh I 15th Day of Omer 7:27pm Candle Lighting  30 Nisan/15 L'Omer	29 Rosh Hodesh II 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Hadassah 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 8:27pm Havdala  1 Iyar/16 L'Omer
30 9:00am Religious School 10:00am MAKOM Mishna with Moshe 11:00am Ivrit with Margolit 5:00pm Bidding for BEKI Spring Fling Auction  2 Iyar/17 L'Omer						

**BEKI Events**

*Shabbatot*

## **Darshan in April**



Robert Forbes

Robert Forbes will serve as darshan (“Torah commentator”) on the morning of Shabbat parashat Shemini, 22 April 2006.

## **Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan**

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in Classroom 4, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan 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 for the services. Everyone

is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

*Sundays*

## **MAKOM Mishna with Moshe**

MAKOM for Jewish Teens is presenting *Mishna with Moshe Meiri* on Sunday mornings from 10:00a to noon in the Posener Chapel Library. For information, contact Dr. Arnold Carmel at [a.carmel@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:a.carmel@jewishnewhaven.org) or (203) 387-2424 x316.

## **Ivrit with Margolit**

Learn to decode the Hebrew alef-bet and learn 100 vocabulary words and a few songs on Sunday mornings from 11:00a to noon with Margolit Kern. For information, contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org).

*Mondays*

## **Rashi Study Group**

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Torah. 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. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

*Wednesdays*

Wednesday 12 April 2006

## **Siyyum Bekhorot**

The Siyyum Bekhorot (see article in Pesah section) includes a brief period of Torah study. The *siyyum* will be on Wednesday 12 April following the 7:00a *shaharit* service and concludes by 8:05a. All are welcome.

## **Rabbis’ Study Group**

*Wednesdays with Murray* is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Moshe 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. For more information, call Rabbi Moshe Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

*Thursdays*

## **Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group**

The “Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group,” hosted by Isaiah Cooper, meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) with Rabbi Tilsen at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. 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. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or [icooper@cooperlaw.net](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net).

## Writing Group

The writing group meets on each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Each week a group of interested writers comes together to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the writers come together with a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at [bergida@yahoo.com](mailto:bergida@yahoo.com) or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org).

## AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets 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. It is currently engaged in a 12 & 12 Study – Discussion. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or [sokolow@snet.net](mailto:sokolow@snet.net).

*Every Day*

## Audio Library on Web

Various blessings and prayers are recorded for educational purposes on BEKI's web site. Shabbat, Festival, and daily liturgical selections are presented. To hear the selections, go to [www.beki.org/audio.html](http://www.beki.org/audio.html).

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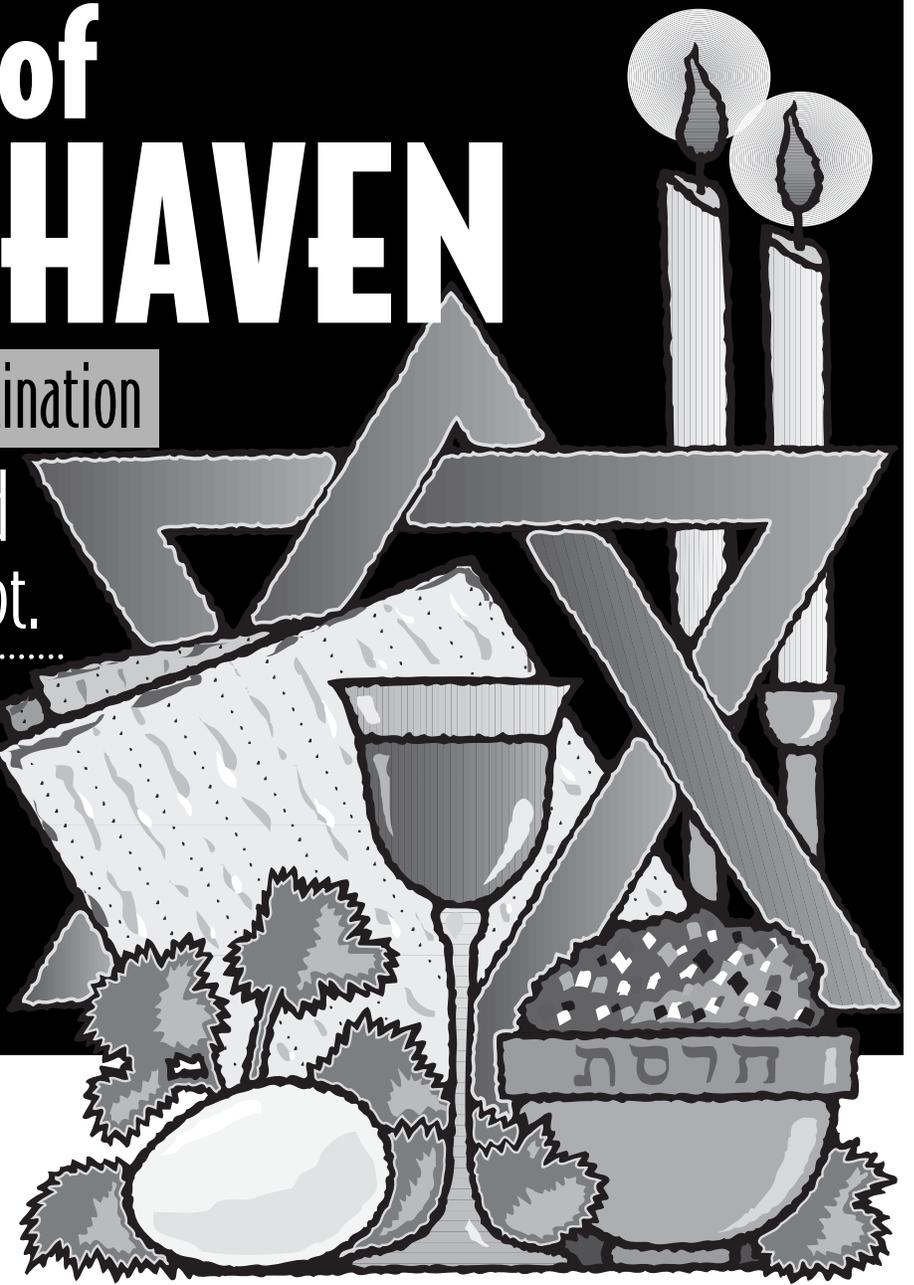
If you might like to serve as a "Greeter" on a Shabbat or Festival morning, to welcome guests, direct visitors, and assist those with special needs, please contact Ritual Committee Chairperson Steven Fraade at 397-9430 or [steven.fraade@yale.edu](mailto:steven.fraade@yale.edu), or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).

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