

# BEKI Bulletin

A New Haven Tradition since 1892. Visit us at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

February 2004 Vol. 10 Issue 2

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Shevat 5764

## Renovations Update

The community is cordially invited to the Ground-Breaking Ceremony for Phase 2B of the Renovations Campaign. The Ground-Breaking will be held from 9:00a – 11:30a on Sunday 15 February in the Posener Daily Chapel, Lobby, and upstairs Social Hall. Immediately following the 9:00a service, which may be the last in the chapel before renovations, there will be a brief ceremony. Those who wish will spend a few minutes helping to move chapel and lobby items to new or temporary locations. From 10:30a to 11:30a refreshments will be served while an update on renovation plans is presented in the social hall. This will be an exciting event, as it marks the formal start of construction for Phase 2B. Please come in comfortable clothes, as we may all need to pitch in to do a little ground-breaking (and schlepping) that day.

Major work for "Phase 2B Lobby Improvements" is scheduled to begin 16 February 2004. Phase 2B will include the installation of an elevator and the creation of an entryway from the parking area to the lobby. It will also complete the parking area renovation. During January, significant preparation work was

undertaken in the lobby and other areas. Careful work is underway to relocate artwork, memorial plaques and furnishings. The construction sequence has been revised so that disruption to Religious School and Shabbat programs will not be as great as earlier anticipated. The Phase 2C work, including replacing heating and cooling elements, relocation of the offices, chapel and library, will follow and complete the project later in the construction period.

Thanks to those who have already sent in payment on your Renovations Campaign pledge. For your tax planning, please consider making your 2004 payment in February. Your payment now will substantially reduce our expense in carrying a construction loan and other finance charges. Cash in the bank and in CDs is paying a miniscule interest rate for most deposit holders, but payment now to BEKI would "earn" significant savings for the synagogue.

### Our New Home



Paul Goodwin, president, presides at the ground breaking July 19, 1959.

If you would like to receive weekly updates on the Renovation project and other events, send a message to [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org) for email updates or check the literature rack for the current "BEKI Happenings." ❧

• Save the Date •

*Sunday 06 June 2004, 6:00p to 11:00p*

*A Dinner in Celebration of our first 10 years together!*

*Honoring*

*Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen & Miriam Benson*

**Calendar Notes in February**

Presidents' Day: On Monday 16 February, Presidents' Day, the Shahrut Morning Service is from 9:00a to 9:35a. The Rashi Study Group will meet from 9:45a to 10:30a.

**Checks VISA MasterCard Honored**

Our office accepts VISA™ and MasterCard™ in payment of any pledge, bill or purchase (except grocery certificates). BEKI is charged fees for the use of charge cards, so checks are still preferred. To pay by Visa™ & MasterCard™ simply call, write or visit our office with the card's name, number and expiration date.



**Playgroup/Parents' Group**

If you might be interesting in participating in a Parents' Group or Playgroup for preschoolers and their parents to meet on the first and third Thursdays each month from 10a to noon, please contact Janet Golden at [janetgolden@optonline.net](mailto:janetgolden@optonline.net) or 203.877.6099.

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The BEKI Bulletin is sent to over 600 households and is repeatedly consulted as a reference document.

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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.

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**BEKI Bulletin**

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Associate Editor  
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Circulation Manager  
Photographer  
Advertising Editor  
Advertising Associate

Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen  
Donna Levine  
Donna Kemper  
Saul Bell  
Charles Ludwig  
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## Is God Made Up?

Did God create us, or did we create God? Remarkably, our sages taught that *both* propositions are true.

It is easy for us to see in other religions the extent to which human projection and wishful thinking is responsible for notions of God. Religion is often a response to the vicissitudes and suffering of life, as well as a tool of the powerful to retain their power. When non-Jewish people declare their leaders prophets or deities, we dismiss it as foolishness or deception.

When we realize that this happens to others, we should be able to recognize that the same process happens among the Jewish People as well and shapes our image of God. Jonah Cooper, who recently celebrated becoming a bar mitzva, described his healthy skepticism this way in his [Devar Torah](#):

*Imagine yourself sitting alone on your couch watching TV and eating your favorite snack food. You have a family, many friends and a successful job. Suddenly, you hear a voice, a powerful commanding voice [such as that attributed by the Torah to God]. Would you do it [what the voice commands]? Would you make the choice that would dictate the future of countless individuals? To tell you the truth, I don't think I would. I wouldn't believe it was God; I would think I was crazy and get myself a good therapist A.S.A.P.*

Our sages knew that such “voices” in our day are usually either chicanery or the sign of mental illness. People create God, that is, *make up* what God says. For that reason, the sages ruled that *we do not listen to heavenly voices* (Bava Metsia 59ab and elsewhere) even if we hear them ourselves; certainly not those that others claim to hear. With all of the false prophets and false messiahs about, the rabbis had to take a stand. They essentially banned prophecy.

Our sages recognized that God, in our tradition, is experienced partly as a *literary character*. This recognition emerges from a study of Midrash, in which the sages felt free to create dialog for God for educational or inspirational purposes. While Midrash expresses profound truth, no one other than the fundamentalist or ignoramus would claim it to be a literal portrayal of Divine dialog.



Rabbi Tilsen

More than that, our sages recognized that any literary presentation of God is inherently limited by human experience and intelligence. Rabbi Saadia Gaon, who lived one thousand years ago, explained this notion by saying (as did others before and after him) that “the Torah is given in human language.” That is, the Torah is composed in a way that is comprehensible to us given our limitations. It uses anthropomorphism and is limited to words and ideas already comprehensible to its readers.

A dog’s ability to understand is great compared to that of a worm. Our ability to understand our world is great compared to that of a dog. Perhaps as humanity evolves, people will reach new levels of consciousness and understanding, such that they will look back at us as primitive and limited. Most adults consider children’s understanding of the world to be limited much the same way. For now, though, the Torah can only stretch the minds of its readers and followers, but cannot try to vastly exceed our capacity for understanding. For that reason, every representation of God in Torah is limited by what the human mind can comprehend. The limitations are partly biological and partly cultural. If the God of Torah is not *created* by the human mind, that God is perceived and thereby *shaped* and *edited* by the human mind. It could not be otherwise.

At the same time, there are certain experiences

—continued on page 8

## A Message from the Education Director

I remember vividly the Civil Rights era. I believe that many of my values that I live my life by, I learned during that era. We have been studying Dr. Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Heschel in Religious School. We conducted a Memorial Service for Dr. King and the Etgar students joined us with readings from Maya Angelou and Reverend King.

When asked about the long march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Rabbi Heschel said that walking and changing the world with Dr. King was just like praying in a synagogue. These words ring true for us today. If we teach our children social action and social justice, that is like praying. We are taking our Jewish core values and the prayers of our ancestors and turning them into action... to heal the world.

I love to learn from children; the younger the child often the more amazing is their innocence and the depth of their passion about what they believe. I had this experience with Julia Joy in Kindergarten. I mentioned Dr. Martin Luther King and she said, "I know the whole story." So I replied, "Tell me." As she spoke her brown eyes widened and widened and she became more enthused about her story telling. Here is Julia's story.

"A long time ago in the Olden Days there were laws that were not fair for dark people. The light people got to sit at the front of the bus, and the dark people had to sit at the back of the bus. One day Rosa Parks sat in the front of the bus. She got arrested. The Bus Company lost money. Then the dark people listened to Dr. Martin Luther King. After a while the Bus Company let the dark people sit anywhere on the

bus. Dr. King became very famous. Then a bad man shot him and he died five hours later. People were sad."



Dr. Lauren Kempton

As she ended her rendition of the story I was amazed by her storytelling, her word choice and her spirit.

Yes, we should learn from children and perhaps if we listen to them this fragile planet might shift toward universal human rights.

So as Dr. Martin Luther King said on the steps of the Alabama State Capitol after the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965:

*I know some of you are asking today, "How long will it take? I come to say to you this afternoon however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth pressed to earth will rise again.*

*How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever.*

*How long? Not long, because you reap what you sow.*

*How long? Not long, because the arm off the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. How long?*

If we listen to our youth like Julia, not long. We are on the right path.

## **BEKI Religious School**

### **Teachers Go To School Too**

In January, Educators from Greater New Haven and Fairfield County gathered for the Judith A. Kaye Annual Jewish Educators' Conference. The teachers were welcomed by Sydney Perry, Director of the Department of Jewish Education. The conference began with a keynote by Rabbi Tzvi Blanchard entitled: "I'm Not Sure I Want to be Who You Are: Mutual Recognition and Responsibility in Educational Settings."

The teachers then attended two series of themed workshops followed by a Working

continued on page 13

BEKI Religious School would like to announce  
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**Mazal Tov to:**

- Yaron & Mindy Baitch on the birth of Joshua Ryan Baitch, and to older brother Michael Zvi and to great-aunt and great-uncle Joanne & Stephen Rudof
- Stephen & Rachel Wizner on the birth of their granddaughter Leilani Zael Beatrix Wizner, and to parents Jake & Kira Wizner
- Lynn Coville on receiving her Hebrew Name and being called to the Torah for the first time (Shabbat Minha 07 February 2004)
- Rabbi Murray Levine on being honored by the Rabbinical Assembly, the global organization of 1600 Conservative-Masorti rabbis, at its annual convention in Jerusalem in February, for his first fifty years in the rabbinate. Rabbi Levine is a BEKI member and Chairperson of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly. He convenes and teaches local rabbis weekly for the "Wednesdays with Moshe" study group hosted at BEKI.

Births, Baby Event and Benei Mitzva Notices can be found on BEKI's website [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) in the **LifeCycle** section.

Death Notices and Yahrzeit Observances listed by name and date can be found on BEKI's website [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) in the **LifeCycle** section.

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Shirley Rubin, aunt of Donald (& Ann) Green  
Aaron Young, father of Irene Friedman  
Sol Osheroff, uncle of Evelyn Benson and great-uncle of Miriam Benson (& Jon-Jay Tilsen)  
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## **Is God Made Up?**

continued from page 3

that cause some people to suppose that there must be a great Force in the universe. For me, contemplating the wonders of the cosmos and the quantum, the miracle of life and love, and my own consciousness (not to mention yours), provides an inescapable intuition that there is something big going on that I do not comprehend. For lack of a better name, I call that creator, that repository of meaning, "Creator," "Merciful One," "Holy One," "Powerful One," "Almighty" or simply "God." Whatever that Force was that made the miracle of my life and consciousness (not to mention the rest of the universe), I call "Creator." God created Man (me for sure, you probably).

*Three things there are, together in my eye  
That keep the thought of Thee forever nigh.  
I think about Thy great and holy name  
Whenever I look up and see the sky.  
My thoughts are roused to know how I was made,  
Seeing the earth's expanse, where I abide.  
The musings of my mind, when I look inside –  
At all times, "O my soul, bless Adonai."*

*Solomon Ibn Gabirol (11th century)  
translated by Raymond P. Scheindlin  
in *The Gazelle* ♣*

## **USY Universe**

What an incredible time we BEKI-BJ USY'ers had at USY's International Convention held in Toronto!

In addition to doing some serious bonding as a region, Hanefesh met hundreds of the 1,200 teens from all over North America. I am sure everyone who attended would agree that this was the best possible way to spend our winter vacations. Canada was quite friendly towards us, and we got over the border in a flash (contrary to popular belief), after a long bus ride, to be

greeted by the most upbeat, friendly staff of the convention. The Sheraton Hotel where we stayed for the week was beautiful (as was the MALL attached to it!), and we got plenty of free time to explore.

There were "limuds," or learning sessions, where we learned everything from keeping kosher to getting married to joining the Israeli army. Throughout the 8-day trip, we saw a cool Imax movie called "Top Speed" at the Ontario Science Museum (and got to shop ourselves silly at the gift shop), took an informative tour of the famous Sky Dome where the Blue Jays play baseball, assisted at a soup kitchen, and had two fun dances. One night, a professional hypnotist entertained us. He was a riot, making innocent members of our region throw fits and instantly fall asleep on stage.

For Shabbat, we had a Friday night discussion and services. What's even more exciting than all of these super cool activities is that our chapter, BEKI-BJ, was nominated as international chapter of the year, due to our winning the Chapter of the Year Award at Spring Convention. That was truly exciting! The certificate will be displayed soon at both B'nai Jacob and BEKI. There are far too many memories to list, but I am sure that if you ask any person who went on this trip, they'll tell you that this was one of the most amazing experiences of their life.

Next year, International's in Chicago. Be there!

*Sarah Oren, BEKI-BJ vice president 2003-2004*

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Shabbat Dinner Coordinators & Helpers**

If you might be interested in helping to coordinate Shabbat dinners at BEKI about once a month or two, please contact Bryna Pauker at

[lynnslick@aol.com](mailto:lynnslick@aol.com). Tasks would include shopping and prepping the meal, helping to set up and clean up the dinner and serving of the dinner, advertising to the members, phone calls, possibly thinking about a small program.

### **Cemetery Cleanup**

Volunteers are needed to clean and tend the [Beth El Memorial Park](#) and [Keser Israel Memorial Park](#). One hour once a month is needed at each cemetery. To volunteer please contact David Sagerman at 389-2108 x57 or [davdorsagerman@webtv.net](mailto:davdorsagerman@webtv.net), or contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).

### **Erev Shira – Song Night**



There will be an "Erev Shira" – Song Night on Saturday Night 07 February 2004 from 7:30p to 9:00p at the Benson-Tilsen Residence at 281 West Elm Street, New Haven. *Call 389-2108 x14 or 389-6137 for directions. Please bring your voice, songs, songsheets and instruments. If you expect to attend, kindly let the hosts know by calling the Benson & Tilsen household.* This evening is made possible by the **Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music at Beth El-Keser Israel** and by the Benson & Tilsen Family.

## **Purim Is Coming**

This year we will again help you celebrate the Purim mitzva of *mishloah manot* - the sending of gifts - and *matanot la-eyyonim* - presents to the poor - with our beautiful BEKI Purim Baskets.

**No worry! No fuss! No shopping!**

Just send in the order form you will receive in the mail. (Order forms are available at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html), in the literature rack in the lobby, and from our office at 389-2108 x14.) Start making your list. There is enough time to check it twice!

Baskets will be available for pick-up at BEKI Saturday night 06 March through Monday 08 March. Volunteers are needed to deliver baskets! Recipients outside of the New Haven area may receive a card in lieu of a basket at the committee's discretion depending on the availability of volunteers. Call Ada Fenick to volunteer at (203) 397-3789.

The cost for each basket is \$5.00 for members, \$6.00 for non-members. The cost for each reciprocal purchase is \$5.00. You will be billed for reciprocity. We offer a special rate of \$250 to those families interested in sending to the entire BEKI community. The Order Form and Payment Must Be Received By 15 February 2004.

*Fast of Esther:* Thursday 04 March (dawn to dark)

*Megilla Readings:* Saturday Night 06 March & Sunday Morning 07 March

*Purim Event for Kids:* Sun. Morning 07 Mar.

*Purim Seuda:* Sunday afternoon 07 March

## Where There's a Will...

Wills and estate plans are not just for the wealthy. Financial advisors suggest that anyone with children – regardless of age – and anyone who cares what happens to their financial resources or property after their death, must have a formal will or estate plan. Even if a donor leaves just 10% or 5% or even 1% to BEKI, it can make a big impact on the Congregation's future.

Designating BEKI as a beneficiary in one's will demonstrates to one's heirs and neighbors the importance of *tzedaka* (charity), of BEKI, and of the continuity of the Jewish People.

*If you would like information on including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please contact your financial advisor or estate planning attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at 787-1633 ([sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com)). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) for a confidential discussion.*

## Buying Stuff on the Web?

If you purchase from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [Buy.com](http://Buy.com) and access these merchants via the links here or 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.

## KINAHARA: Kashrut Update

Information on local kashrut issues and kashrut in general is available at [www.kinahara.org](http://www.kinahara.org). KINAHARA is the Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly.

## BEKI Recycles

Please place plastic cups and plasticwear in the "plastics recycling" bin next to the trash barrel

following qiddush and other events. Please be careful to keep trash and recyclables separate.

## Weekday morning services at BEKI

Begin your day with spiritual renewal and fellowship. The Monday morning service (7:00a to 7:45a) includes a brief Torah service, and is followed by the Rashi Study Group (7:45a to 8:30a). Tuesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) are attended by a unique mix of people. Wednesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) features a continuing group of friends, followed by a 30-minute period of Talmud Study (7:30a to 8:00a). Thursday mornings (8:15a to 9:00a) are ideal for people who may not wish to rise earlier or who bring children to school, and includes a brief Torah service. It is perfect for those who wish to avoid crowds. Friday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) present an ideal setting for someone wishing to help develop a cadre of dedicated daily *daveners*.

In addition to fulfilling the daily mitzvot of *qeriat shema* (recitation of the Shema), *tefila* (prayer), *Talmud Torah* (study) and *Tzedaka* (charity), attendance also affords those in mourning a Minyan so that they can recite *qaddish*. Audio recordings of some of the prayers are available at the BEKI website under "[Audio Library](#)." Regular participants in these services are always glad to welcome additional worshipers. Call our office at 389-2108 x14 or see [www.beki.org/schedule.html](http://www.beki.org/schedule.html) for a complete schedule.

## Maariv Evening Service

The daily *maariv* evening service comprises the recitation of the Shema and its accompanying blessings, as well as the individual recitation of the Amida. The *maariv* service (also known as *arvit*) provides an opportunity to fulfill the Biblical commandment of reciting the Shema at night as well as fulfilling the rabbinically

mandated recitation of the Amida. An audio recording of the Shema is available in BEKI's web Audio Library.

## **Renovations Pledge Payments Welcome**

Thanks to those who have already sent in payment on your Renovations Campaign pledge. Your payment now will reduce our expense in carrying a construction loan and other finance charges.

## **Quit Horsing Around**

Members and visitors to BEKI are advised that parking is prohibited at all times on the east side of Harrison Street as indicated by the "No Parking" signs. It is also prohibited to obstruct the residential driveways on either side: "No operator shall stop, stand, or leave any horse or other animal or vehicle, in any of the following places... (d) In front of and so as to obstruct a driveway..." (New Haven Code of General Ordinances §29-35).

Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot at the rear of the building.

## **Two-Way Traffic**

The driveway from Harrison Street to the parking lot supports two-way traffic. (The "exit only" pattern is in force only for High Holy Days.) When exiting via the driveway, be sure to stop before crossing the sidewalk, in compliance with state traffic laws and in compliance with *halakha* (Jewish law) which strictly prohibits running over pedestrians.

## **Enter Only**

The driveway ramp from Whalley Avenue to the

parking area is for entrance only.

## **Stop & Go**

The traffic light on Harrison Street at Whalley Avenue is controlled by a microwave sensor. It will detect a vehicle traveling at normal to slow (but not very slow) speed in the driving lane and will give Harrison Street a green light within two minutes and seventeen seconds. It may not detect a vehicle that approaches at less than 3 mph.

## **Children's Shabbat Havura**

The Children's Shabbat Havura meets every Shabbat morning at 10:45a 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

—continued on page 12

## **Children's Shabbat Havura**

continued from page 11

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](mailto:mirbenson@aol.com), who, along with Ellen Cohen, coordinates the program. You can also contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org), the staff person who supports this parent cooperative

### **Watch those Kids!**

Parents of young children attending services at BEKI are asked to be sure their children are always under their supervision. Children are welcome to be in the sanctuary with their adults or in their age-appropriate youth service. Unsupervised children may represent a safety concern to themselves or to others

### **Megilla Readers Needed**

If you would like to read Megillat Ester (the Book of Esther) on Purim at BEKI, or learn how to, please contact Rabbi Tilsen (389-2108 x10 [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) at your earliest opportunity. Purim is observed on Saturday night 06 March and Sunday morning 07 March 2004 in New Haven and other cities that were not walled in the thirteenth century BCE.

## **A Message from Office Manager Peggy Hackett**

Dear BEKI Members and Friends:



I have now been at BEKI for 6 months and would like to thank everyone for the warm reception I have received. As expected, it has been quite a learning experience since I have never worked in an environment such as this before. I've always thought that running an office is pretty much the same

no matter where you go, but running a synagogue office is a bit different from running a doctor's office or a school office.

I have gained many new friends and acquaintances in the short time that I have been here. They have been extremely supportive in helping me to understand the customs and traditions of Jewish life. I started here just in time for the High Holy Days and survived without any scratches or bruises. I am slowly (very slowly) learning the Alef Bet and of course many Hebrew words and phrases. Potato latkes are now one of my favorite foods; it's a good thing I'm not on the Atkins diet.

Almost everyday I wonder where I would be working today if I weren't here. I really doubt that I'd be as satisfied with a job anywhere else as I am here at BEKI and I know that the feeling of family and friendship that I have found here is almost impossible to find in any job.

Again, thank you all for your kind support and patience as I strive to keep BEKI running as efficiently as I can. 🐾

**Teachers Go To School Too**

continued from page 4

Brunch. The Topics ranged from teaching Israel to Tefila, Special Needs, Text Study, Hebrew Language and Curriculum, to name a few. Dr. Lauren Kempton, BEKI Education Director, led the session on Planning for Yom HaShoah and led a session on Spiritual Resistance During the Shoah. BEKI member Dr. Jennifer D. Botwick led a session on Alef-Bet Yoga.

All left the day enriched and eager to try their new learnings in their Religious School teaching.

**Tu BeShevat**

The Fourth and Fifth graders of BEKI Religious School join with B'nai Jacob students for a special Tu BeShevat program with their peers from seven area Religious Schools. The focus to the morning was four stations around the theme of Tu BeShevat. The stations were: Dance, an Obstacle Course, The Giving Tree and the creation of a tree in memory of our astronaut, Ilan Ramon.

LK ♡

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## Shabbatot

### **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 proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, **Rabbi Alan Lovins** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan is a nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening, 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.

The SSLM meets on the 7th & 21st of February. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

### **Laws of Purim: Shabbat Afternoon Study**

The laws of Purim will be studied between *mincha* afternoon service and *maariv* evening services on Shabbat afternoons during February. The sixteenth century law code *Shulhan Arukh* will be a basic text along with the Talmud and other works. The study period is about one-half hour. The study period begins at about 5:00p each Saturday afternoon.

#### *Mondays*

### **Rashi Study Group**

Special time: 16 February 9:45a to 10:30a  
All other Mondays: 7:45a to 8:30a

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 join the study 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.

On Monday 16 February, Presidents' Day, the Shaharit Morning Service is from 9:00a to 9:35a. The Rashi Study Group will meet from 9:45a to 10:30a.

#### *Wednesdays*

### **Berakhot Talmud Study Group**

Back by popular demand: A Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7:30a to 8:00a. The Study Group focuses on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. A knowledge of basic Hebrew is very helpful but not required. The Group is open to all. The study group will meet every Wednesday morning in February.

### **Rabbis' Study Group**

*Wednesdays with Murray* is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

### **Hebrew Language**

Responding to members' requests, we will offer a program in January and February on Hebrew Language. The class is taught by Andy Schultz, our Benei Mitzva Program Director. The program will run on Wednesday evenings from 6:45p to 7:30p in the BEKI Library. The dates for the program are 4 and 11 February. To register,

please contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org). LK

Thursdays

### **Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group**

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour 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 information contact Marc Schwartz at 562-9873 or [mschwartzmd@hotmail.com](mailto:mschwartzmd@hotmail.com).

### **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 [sokolow@snet.net](mailto:sokolow@snet.net).

Every Day

### **Required Reading & Reference Books on Web**

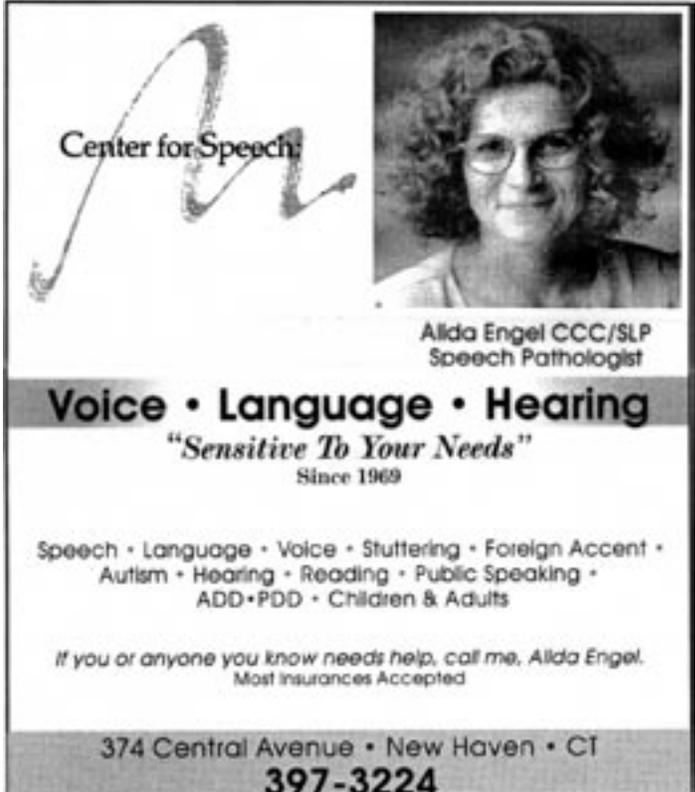
A listing of basic Judaic reference and introductory works is posted on BEKI's website at [www.beki.org/books.html](http://www.beki.org/books.html) with a brief annotation by Rabbi Tilsen.

### **Torah Readers Wanted**

Marsha Beller is coordinating Shabbat Morning Torah Readings for Shemot (Exodus). If you would like to read Torah on a Shabbat morning during the winter, or would like to learn how to read Torah, please contact Marsha (387-4657 or [mbellereco@aol.com](mailto:mbellereco@aol.com)). If you would like to plan to read Torah on a Shabbat afternoon or Monday morning, please contact Rabbi Tilsen (389-2108 x10 [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) or Andy Schultz at [aschultz@beki.org](mailto:aschultz@beki.org).

### **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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# February 2004

## 9 Shevat 5764 - 7 Adar 5764

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9a Shaharit 9a Religious School 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 Shevat</p>	<p>2 7a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Shevat</p>	<p>3 7a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 Shevat</p>	<p>4 7a Shaharit 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4p Religious School &amp; Benei Mitzva Prgrm 5:45p Maariv 7p Torah Reading Technique</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 Shevat</p>	<p>5 8:15a Shaharit 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 5:45p Maariv 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 Shevat</p>	<p>6 7a Shaharit 4:55p Candle Lighting 6p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 Shevat</p>	<p>7 Tu B'Shevat 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Prgrms 10:45a Learner's Minyan 5p Minha, Hilkhhot Purim, Maariv, Havdala 7:30p Erev Shira "Song Night" (off-site)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Shevat</p>
<p>8 9a Shaharit 9a Religious School 12:30p Teacher's Meeting 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16 Shevat</p>	<p>9 7a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Maariv 7:30p Exec. Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 Shevat</p>	<p>10 7a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Shevat</p>	<p>11 7a Shaharit 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4p Religious School &amp; Benei Mitzva Prgrm 5:45p Maariv 7p Torah Reading Technique</p> <p style="text-align: center;">19 Shevat</p>	<p>12 8:15a Shaharit 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 5:45p Maariv 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 Shevat</p>	<p>13 7a Shaharit 5:04p Candle Lighting 6p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 Shevat</p>	<p>14 9:15a Shaharit 10:45 Children's Prgrms 5:05p Minha, Hilkhhot Purim, Maariv, Havdala</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 Shevat</p>
<p>15 9a Shaharit No Religious School 9:30a Renovations Groundbreaking Ceremony 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 Shevat</p>	<p>16 Office Closed/President's Day 9a Shaharit 9:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Maariv 7:30p Ritual Committee Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 Shevat</p>	<p>17 7a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 Shevat</p>	<p>18 7a Shaharit 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School/Benei Mitzva Prgrm 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26 Shevat</p>	<p>19 8:15a Shaharit 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 5:45p Maariv 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 Shevat</p>	<p>20 7a Shaharit 5:12p Candle Lighting 6p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">28 Shevat</p>	<p>21 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Prgrms 10:45a Learner's Minyan 5:10p Minha, Hilkhhot Purim, Maariv, Havdala</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 Shevat</p>
<p>22 Rosh Hodesh I 9a Shaharit 9a Religious School 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30 Shevat</p>	<p>23 Rosh Hodesh II 7a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Maariv 7:30p General Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Adar</p>	<p>24 7a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Adar</p>	<p>25 7a Shaharit 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4p Religious School &amp; Benei Mitzva Prgrm 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 Adar</p>	<p>26 8:15a Shaharit 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 5:45p Maariv 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 Adar</p>	<p>27 7a Shaharit 5:21p Candle Lighting 6p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 Adar</p>	<p>28 9:15a Shaharit BRS Shabbat (K-2) 10:45a Children's Prgrms 5:20p Minha, Hilkhhot Purim, Maariv, Havdala</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 Adar</p>
<p>29 9a Shaharit 9a Religious School/Purim Rehearsal 5:45p Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 Adar</p>						

**BEKI Events**