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BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

July-August 2010

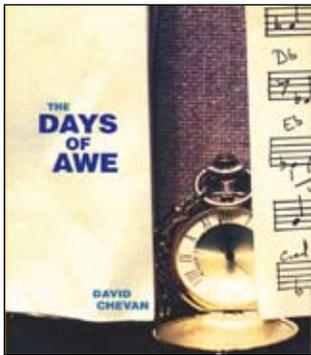
Tamuz-Av-Elul 5770
Vol. 16 Issue 7

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DAZE OF AWESOME CONCERT

David Chevan, Cantor Jack Mendelson and the Afro-Semitic Experience at BEKI



As an intriguing prelude to the High Holy Days and a dynamic preparation to the season, BEKI is excited to present an exciting and unusual concert for the entire community on Sunday evening, August 29, featuring David Chevan, with members of the Afro-Semitic Experience and noted cantor Jack Mendelson performing Chevan's radically altered

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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:

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

Concert

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settings (or interpretations) of traditional Jewish music for the high holy days. This developing project is a sequel to David's 2003 album entitled "*Days of Awe.*"

An active bassist and composer, David Chevan is involved in some of the most dynamic and musically exciting jazz projects in Southern Connecticut. In addition to his busy performance schedule, Chevan also holds a Ph.D. in jazz history and is a full-time professor of music at Southern Connecticut State University. David is also a co-leader, founder and bassist for the Afro-Semitic Experience which includes co-leader composer, pianist and keyboards Warren Byrd, saxophonist and clarinetist Will Bartlett, drummer Alvin Carter, Jr., percussionist Baba David Coleman, trumpeter Saskia Laroo, and Stacy Phillips playing violin and dobro.



"With The Afro-Semitic Experience, New Haven gets to claim the harbingers of one of the freshest, most distinctive, culturally explicit and ultra-PC sounds in jazz. For [they evoke] the sound of cultural shift, of a melting pot, of spirituality and devotion and ceremony, of partying and praying and jamming . . . Underneath all the oomph you feel the warmth, wealth, fury and pain of whole nations, repressed cultures, challenged beliefs. This band is the sound of the past, the present and the great beyond all at once," wrote *Christopher Arnott of The New Haven Advocate*. The repertoire of this band includes a blending of musical themes from traditional klezmer melodies, bebop, gospel, cantorial songs and African rhythms and melodic lines.

In reviewing the documentary film "The Cantor's Tale," which profiles Cantor Jack Mendelson, *The New York Times* called him "a voice that heralds a culture." Now, as both an international performer, and one of the leading cantorial masters of our times, he is passing on his art to a new generation of cantors. For 25 years he has taught at the Hebrew Union College, School of Sacred Music and the H.L.

Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Cantor Mendelson has the unique honor of receiving honorary doctorates from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College.

Chevan describes the concert this way, "I have this vision of a concert that might best be described as a *spiritual tribal jam*. The cantorial music for Selihot includes some pretty incredible pieces that lend themselves to the grooves and drones that the Afro-Semitic Experience excel in and we want to explore that wonderful slippery quality of moving

from in-time grooving to the out-of-time vestigial out-of-the-past drone that accompanies the cries of an old school hazzan. Jack Mendelson is one of the greatest living singers of Hazzonos – the ancient cantorial style of improvisation that is, in most synagogues today, only a memory. The combination of this group with Cantor Mendelson is a spiritual fire waiting to be ignited and our performance at BEKI will be

the moment that brings this all together."

The concert will be recorded for the group's upcoming new CD of music for the High Holy Days and will begin at 7 p.m. There will be a dessert intermission, and the concert is expected to end at approximately 9:15 p.m. Tickets are available through the synagogue office in advance or for will call (by Thursday, August 26) and are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors (65 and over). Tickets at the door will be \$15 for adults and \$12 for students/seniors.

This promises to be a compelling evening of music and community and a wonderful way to move into the High Holy Day season. Groove, dance, trance, daven, engage past memories, ignite new musical passions. This will be a more groove, dance, and trance centered evening of music – you can dance, you can stand and daven, or you can just sit back and listen, but whatever you do the sounds will be compelling. Come, participate and enjoy!!

For more information, please contact Darryl Kuperstock, kuperst@aol.com, (203) 387-0304; Isaiah Cooper, icooper@cooperlaw.net, (203) 233-4547; or the BEKI office, office@beki.org, (203) 389-2108.

Parents: An Introduction to Kadima & USY

Welcome to Kadima and USY! Our United Synagogue youth groups are sponsored jointly by both Congregations BEKI and BJ, and are overseen by our volunteer Joint Youth Commission and our two professional advisors. Kadima is for 6th through 8th graders, and 5th graders beginning in January. USY is for 9th through 12th graders, and 8th graders beginning in January.

We offer many chapter and regional activities throughout the school year, and, in the summer, there are U.S. and Israel trips and a 5-day tri-regional summer camp at the end of August.

Local activities include hikes, games, ice skating, sleepovers, Shabbat dinners, and tikkun olam activities to help others. You can find our activities listed at both synagogues' websites and weekly e-newsletters, and our teen leadership and advisors will make contact with parents and teens throughout the year.

Both synagogue Rabbis have had strong involvement in United Synagogue youth groups – in fact, Rabbi Levenson served as international President when he was in high school! We hope your pre-teen and teen will join the fun!

Rena Cheskis-Gold and Susan Dardik
Representatives, Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission

Kadima News

We say a fond goodbye to Caryn Azoff, our Kadima advisor for 2009-10. During the past year, Caryn organized a whopping 21 events for Kadima members (plus attending the many events offered at the regional level). Yet to come – an event this summer for rising 5th graders to get them into the spirit of Kadima for January when they can become chapter members. Thank you Caryn for a job well done!

We are also excited to welcome our new advisor, Tara Strogov. Tara is getting married soon and she and her spouse will move to New Haven in July. She will be visiting both BEKI and B'nai Jacob periodically – please make an effort to meet her and to welcome her to the community! Here is a note from Tara:

Dear Kadima Members,

I am so excited to meet all of you this fall! My name is Tara Strogov, but as of July, it will be Tara Kipnees ... so I suppose that is how you will all know me. I graduated from Tufts University in 2007 and since then have had a broad range of professional experiences, including positions at Sotheby's Auction House in New York and the Worldwide

Orphans Foundation. However, by far the most rewarding experience I have had was as a Hebrew school teacher at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell, N.J. Having attended a Jewish day school until college and having spent



Tara Strogov

many summers with my family in Israel, I feel a strong connection to and love for Judaism, which I hope we will be able to share this year. I am also an avid writer and reader, and I believe that much like Judaism, those interests have helped shape who I am today.

So, whether you want to talk about Shabbat, books (one of my favorite Israeli writers is Etgar Keret), or anything else under the sun, feel free to email me this summer

at tjacqueline7@gmail.com. I am also very appreciative of your ideas and suggestions as to how to make the most of our year. My fiancé and I will be living in Connecticut for the very first time, so I look forward to settling into my new job as you settle into your new year at Kadima. I promise it will be filled with fun events, challah (did I mention I can make it from scratch?), and new friends!

Congratulate our 21 High School Grads

This spring, BEKI had an unusually large group of high school graduates. Many of them grew up at BEKI – attending the Religious School, Junior Congregation on Shabbat morning, participating as a Religious School madrikh or in our Kadima and USY youth groups, serving as Shamashim on Shabbat morning, or as teen members of the BEKI Board of Directors. On a typical Shabbat morning, there are 10 to 15 teens sitting together on the couches in the BEKI lobby or at a lunch table, and many attend whether or not their parents do. While this group of high school seniors was not the first group to be so ever-present at BEKI, it is probably the biggest group in decades. We are very proud to be a shul where teens can feel comfortable!

Mazal tov to our graduates, and may they bring the

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Congratulate

Continued from **Page 4**

BEKI spirit of ruah, inclusiveness, and community with them to their new homes away from home. Here are the graduates and their plans for next year. We are so proud!

Nati Avni-Singer, Manhattanville; Yedidya Ben-Avie, Nativ program in Israel, Brandeis; Esther Bogorov, McGill; Carmi Cheskis-Gold, Nativ program in Israel, Brandeis; Liora Cohen-Fraade, Franklin and Marshall; Jonathan Curtis-Resnik, Wesleyan; Elizabeth Fiedler, Barnard; David Forbes, United States Marines; Jesse Goldblum, Macalester; Yael Grazier-Zerbarini, Vassar; Rachel Green, Hamilton; Kaili Janette, to be decided; Seth Miller, to be decided; Laina Pauker, Young Judea Year Course in Israel, Clark; Hannah Rosner, Columbia; Nathan Smernoff, Johnson and Wales; Hannah Stone, Wellesley; Allan Visochek, Georgia Inst. of Technology; Reba Watsky, Amherst College; Ariel Weiser, University of Michigan; Nikki Wynschenk, University of Hartford.

BEKI/BJ Kadima Kvelling

Well, another year has flown by, especially with such a busy May and June for the BEKI/BJ Kadimaniks! We started off in May with the Walk Against Hunger and met at East Rock Park in New Haven. It was a beautiful spring day and it felt good knowing we were helping raise money for the Connecticut's food pantries around the state. Thank you to Talia Colten, who really made sure this happened for all of us this year! Instead of climbing Mount Sinai, it was off to CT Rock Gym for a mini pre-Shavuot climb. The Kadimaniks really worked to reach the bell on all the walls. Afterwards, the snacks and break were well-deserved by one and all! The end of year final event for Hanefesh Region for both USY and Kadima was held at Six Flags New England. Our Kadimaniks showed no fear, as they went on one ride after the other. The dinner was yummy and it was great to be with both new and old friends! Our final chapter event was a hike up the Sleeping Giant State Park and to say our farewells for the year! Don't forget to sign up next year for more fun events! Thank you for a fun year and thank you to all of the parents who helped chaperone, shlep, carpool and host events!

Yedidya Ben-Avie, Esther Bogorov Awarded

BEKI is fortunate to have several benefactors to its youth. Thanks to the generosity of Tille and Edward Hor-

witz, z"l, we are able to make periodic monetary awards to teens who make an important contribution to BEKI through their involvement in our youth programs and the synagogue. This year the Youth Commission, along with Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen and Steve Wizner, is proud to announce two winners of this award, seniors Yedidya Ben-Avie and Esther Bogorov.

Mazal tov to you both for exemplifying high standards of leadership, hard work, inclusiveness, personal growth within the framework of Conservative Judaism, and tikkun olam!

Rena Cheskis-Gold
Chair, BEKI Youth Commission

Notes from Winners.

Last month I attended the Heschel Honor Society international convention. This was my fourth and last time attending this special USY convention. What I think makes



Yedidya Ben-Avie

it so special is the type of people who attend. Everyone there is dedicated not only to Judaism, but also to the ideals of USY and the Heschel Honor Society in general. Each person there was friendly and excited to be there. My favorite memory of the Kinnus was the random games we played. What started out as a simple icebreaker became a game that was constantly being played, even when we probably should have been doing

other things. What made it truly special is that the International President of USY and a freshman of no particular importance were having fun together and playing side by side. Everyone there was included in the fun, whether they were friends from years of active USY participation, or this was their first international program.

I would like to thank Tillie Horwitz z"l, members of the Horwitz family, and the BEKI-BJ youth commission for generously providing me with a scholarship in Tillie's name

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Notes

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that allowed me to go to the amazing convention. I think that it is very apparent how much BEKI supports its youth, and how this is one of many examples of the youth being given many amazing opportunities.

B'Shalom,
Yedidya Ben-Avie

Sugar cookies lay on the carpet in the middle of the room. We gathered around with pens and ideas to start the year. The first meeting I scheduled as president on the board of the BEKI/BJ chapter of United Synagogue Youth (USY), the teen youth group of the conservative movement, was only an hour long, dedicated to renewing and creating our programs. We have pushed through fiscal concerns and personal strife to improve our chapter. Motivating peers to lead and high school students to participate in a Jewish youth group is challenging. Successful programming that connects us with the politics, religion, and community that we are invariably associated with only happens after countless meetings, emails, spreadsheets, and hours of time. Through the year, I have connected with my board and with our chapter as we have grown stronger.

As an immigrant from a country where religion was forbidden and anti-Semitism was rampant, USY offers a place to live all that my family was denied. After nine years at

Ezra Academy, I left the comfort to find myself a minority at Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven. In an attempt to replace what Ezra provided with a religious environment, I joined BEKI as a teen member and soon became involved in USY. At home my family supports my participation, encouraging me to learn and understand, compensating – in a way – for their oppression. Here, I have enveloped myself in the enthusiasm of the people around me.

The BEKI community has honored me as a recipient of the Tillie Horwitz youth award, which I have used with extreme gratitude for the costs of our Shabbaton, our trip to the Israel Day Parade, and I plan to use it for our final event. As this year comes to an end, I plan to use this gift as I pack my own Shabbat candles, hannukiah, and mezzuzah. As I move on to study at McGill University, I plan to keep the tradition of

tikun olam, religion, and leadership of USY alive.

Esther Bogorov

BEKI/BJ USY are Big Winners

BEKI/BJ USY won a total of 13 end-of-the-year regional awards! We won the coveted Chapter of the Year, and a wide range of other awards including largest amount of Tikkun Olam donation, most members, and largest increase in membership. Thanks to our advisor, Matt Wiener (may we brag – Matt grew up at BEKI!), and our wonderful chapter board led by President Esther Bogorov. Chapter elections for next year were held on June 13.

Rena Cheskis-Gold, Chair Youth Commission



USY 2010

David & Wendy Chorney would like to thank the BEKI Community for sharing in the simcha of Marlee's Bat Mitzva!

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Bat Mitzva Observance in July

Talia Colten, daughter of Roger Colten & Sarah Berry, July 2-3, parashat Pinhas



Talia Colten

Mazal Tov to

Ezra Academy Graduates Evan Buckman, Jacob Fiedler and Sophie Rosner (representing 21 percent of the Class of 5770).

Marcia & Louis Migliozi on the birth of their grandson David.

Jonathan Hayward on winning first prize in the NCJW Gladys Bear Violence in our World Contest.

Welcome New Members

Hilary & David Kawall, and Rachel, Tessa and Sophie

David Fulop & Shannon Finan

Getting Ready for Babies

In preparation for upcoming baby arrivals, *be-shaa tova*, we will arrange a schedule of meal provision to the families. Please contact Miriam at mir-benson@aol.com to be added to the lotsahelpinghands group that has been

set up to facilitate this gemilut chesed. "Just do it." You will then receive all directions and announcements with details of the meal scheduling process. Please: make sure to follow the directions that you will receive from lotsahelpinghands. Thanks!

High Holy Days Schedule

A complete High Holy Days schedule is posted at www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html (or under "Service Schedule" on the main page).

Sukkot Schedule

A complete Sukkot & Shemini Atseret schedule is posted at www.beki.org/sukkot.html (or under "Service Schedule" on the main page).

FAQs

A list of FAQs (fervently asked qashyas) is available at www.beki.org/dearrab.html.

Tu BeAv

From The Jewish Encyclopedia (1906), s.v. Ab, Fifteenth Day of:

Popular festival in Judea during the time of the Second Temple According to a tradition preserved in the Mishnah (Ta'anit, iv. 9, 10; Gem. pp. 26, 31), on that day, as well as on the Day of Atonement, the maidens of Jerusalem, rich and poor, without exception, dressed in white, went out to dance in the vineyards with the young men, asking them to make their choice of a partner for life.

The fair ones sang: "Young men, turn your eyes to beauty; for woman stands for beauty."

The patricians' daughters sang: "Young men, turn your eyes to noble parentage; for woman is the preserver of family pride."

Those possessing neither beauty nor noble birth sang: "Grace is beautiful

and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Of the many reasons given in the Talmud for the celebration of this day, that attested by the oldest authority, R. Eliezer ben Hyrcanus of the first century (Megillat Ta'anit, v.) is that it was the great day of wood-offering, when both priests and people brought kindling-wood in large quantities to the altar, for use in the burning of sacrifices during the whole year.

The actual explanation is given in Meg. Ta'anit, v. and Mishnah, iv. 5, according to which nine families of Judah brought at certain times during the year the wood for the burning of the sacrifices on the altar, in accordance with Neh. x. 34; on the Fifteenth Day of Ab, however, all the people, the priests as well as the Levites, took part in the wood-offering.

-- Kaufmann Kohler, *Jewish Encyclopedia*

Mark Your Calendar

Bat Mitzva: Talia Colten, July 2-3

Kitchen Closure for Renovations: 5 July 5 – Aug. 31.

Kulanu & Saul's Circle Shabbat Program: July 10

20s-30s Havura Shabbat Dinner: July 16

Tisha BeAv: July 19-20

Darshan: Nadav Sela, July 24

Shofar Sounding Begins: First Day of Elul, Aug. 11

Shabbat Schmooze: IRIS Aug. 14

Concert: Afro-Semitic Experience Aug. 29

Selihot: Community Service at BEKI, Sept. 4

Rosh HaShana Evening: Sept. 8

Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine, Sept. 11

Darshanim in July & August

Talia Colten, Bat Mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat parashat Pinchas, July 3.

Steven Fraade will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashiyot Matot-Masai, July 10.

Nadav Sela will serve as darshan on Shabbat Nahamu, parashat VaEthanah, July 24.

A Special Guest will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashat Ki Tetsai, Aug. 21.

Shabbatot

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office, 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 of the services. Everyone is



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins

welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30, 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 a.m. *shaharit* service (but begins at 9:45 a.m. on July 5, Independence Day). With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

New: Hebrew 101 in July-August

On eight Monday nights beginning July 12, study or review basic Hebrew vocabulary, morphology, grammar and syntax. The course explores fundamentals of the language suitable for students interested in Biblical, rabbinic, prayer book and modern Hebrew. Not a conversational Hebrew class, but a study of the fundamentals useful for reading, writing and speaking. Course fee \$10 members / \$20 non-members plus book fee \$40 (library copies available free). Monday nights 6:05 to 7:25 in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library, from July 12 through Aug. 30. Prerequisite: Alef-Bet. With Jon-Jay Tilsen et al.

Wednesdays

Word for the Day

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 90-second "Hebrew word for the day" to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew lan-

guage is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English. The Word for the Day often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

Rabbis' Study Group

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



Murray Levine

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

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

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Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Gladys Lipkin marking the *yahrzeit* of Philip J. Lipkin
- Harold & Stephanie Birn in honor of Rita & Hayden Leventhal's generosity
- Bob & Sandy Tilsen marking the milestone birthday of Miriam Benson and the seventh birthday of Noam Benson-Tilsen
- Morton & Ruth Silver in appreciation for prayers and wishes of *refua shelema* for Morton
- Jacquelyn Stengel honoring the memory of Melvin Kleinman on Father's Day

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Leon Cummings
- Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- Cary Caldwell & Karen Kassap
- Daniel Lovins & Keiko Suzuki
- Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- The Winter-Mackler family
- Bud & Claire Volain
- The Golub family

Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support *synagogue operations*

- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by David & Rayna Belowsky

- To the Cofrancesco family with sympathy on the passing of Alex Cofrancesco by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Violet Ludwig with prayers for a speedy recovery by Hannah & Herb Winer
- To Avital Sutin in honor of her birthday by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of the graduations of Carmi & Ariella by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Weinstein family in honor of Jon's graduation from college by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Avni-Singer family in honor of Nati's graduation by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Carolyn Kone & Allan Rubenstein
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Anita & Robert Feld
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Frances Lepensky with sympathy on the passing of George Lepensky by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in his honor by Carol & Carl Chudnofsky
- father Charles Miller by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of her beloved mother Etta Miller by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Max Bronfin by Mikki Ratner
- To the Levine family with sympathy on the passing of Molly Levine by Betsy & Mikki Ratner
- To Mrs. Ruth Blum with sympathy on the passing of Molly Levine by Betsy & Mikki Ratner
- The Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
- To Shirley Mattler in memory of William Shultz by Sylvia Botwinick
- To Shirley Mattler in memory of Samuel Botwinick by Sylvia Botwinick

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

- In memory of Robert Colten by Roger Colten & Sarah Berry
- In memory of Mildred K. Rieser by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Eli and Goldie Kasimer by William & Tina Kasimer
- In memory of Marilyn Levine by Rabbi Murray Levine
- In memory of Milton Weiner by Joanne & Stephen Rudof
- In memory of Rose Leiman by Howard Zusman
- In memory of Robert Zusman

- by Howard Zusman
- In memory of her first husband Israel Glazman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Ezra Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Dr. & Mrs. S.M. Gelbert by Alan & Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Jack & Mollie Nuht by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of Adolf Weisberg by Joan & Alan Gelbert
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- In memory of Raye Leavitt by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Abraham Golden by Marjorie Simson
- In memory of Rose Cohen by Doris & Stephen Brody
- In memory of LeRoy Loitz by the Chorney family
- In loving memory of their father & grandfather Milton Smirnoff by Gabrielle, David, Danielle & Brandon Honig
- In memory of Estelle Gottfried by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of her beloved

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 8**

Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

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

has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

The Sanhedrin Study Group is meeting in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Fam-

ily Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

A collection of *Divrei Torah* (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's website under "Adult Studies" and "Meet Rabbi Tilsen."

Food Collection

This is a time of year when the Connecticut Food Bank really needs our help most, as this is a dry season for donations. Please bring in new or unexpired canned, boxed, or packaged food products (need not be kosher). There will be a collection bin in the shul lobby during July and August.

Toy Collection

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys (no stuffed or plush toys) to be donated to the Yale-New Haven Hospital Toy Closet. These toys are given to children who are staying at the hospital for medical treatment. Toys can be dropped off at the shul in a collection bin in the lobby in July and August.

Duffle Bag Collection

Please donate your used, good condition duffle bags (or buy a new one for donation when you are next at Target/Walmart) for New Haven's foster children. Many foster children need to relocate from their homes using garbage bags. They can be dropped off at the shul (in a collection bin in the lobby) or at Stephanie Listokin's house, (270 McKinley Avenue, (203) 745-3927) during July.

For questions about SATO or to help with a project, please contact Jennifer Botwick at drjbotwicknd@aol.com or Stephanie Listokin at stephanieielistokin@yahoo.com.

BEKI Builds – Again!

We are getting ready to begin work building our fourth house for Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven.

For the last six years, we have actively participated in Amity Cares, a non-profit project dedicated to working in partnership with Habitat to build homes in the New Haven metropolitan



area. Amity Cares is comprised of businesses, religious congregations, civic organizations, schools and individuals from the Woodbridge, Orange, Bethany and Westville communities. Most of Amity Cares work days are scheduled for Saturdays, however, as one of four synagogues participating in Amity Cares, along with Congregation B'nai Jacob - Woodbridge, Congregation Or Shalom - Orange, and

Temple Emanuel – West Haven, we have greatly appreciated the opportunity provided by Habitat to take part in special Sunday workdays.

Due to a recent leadership change, Amity Cares will blend with another active community-based build sponsor – Sleeping Giant Build, made up of volunteers from Hamden and North Haven and includes Congrega-

Continued on **Page 11**

BEKI Builds

Continued from Page 10

tion Mishkan Israel. The meetings that have taken place with these two groups over the last six months have been a great chance to meet new folks and for us to plan for a really dynamic next build. We are excited about our future working together.

A ground-breaking ceremony is expected for the end of June, or very early July – and then, *we begin to build again!* The site for the new house will be on Sylvan Avenue in New Haven, one of three new Habitat homes that will be built on that street this year. A hard-working, worthy family who we are looking forward to getting to know, has been chosen and will be working alongside us.

We are so proud that BEKI has been able to provide over 60 volunteers over the years (more than any other synagogue), and we look forward to our upcoming build days with eagerness. This time, **BE ONE OF THEM.** *Being a part of the actual building, the wider community, and watching as each new home is dedicated and the keys turned over to its new owners has been a great joy for all of us who have participated!*



We generally work from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on specifically scheduled Sundays. Volunteers working with Habitat for Humanity must be 16 years old or older, for insurance reasons. However, we have been assured that at least two youth work days will be scheduled during this new build for 12- to 15-year-olds.

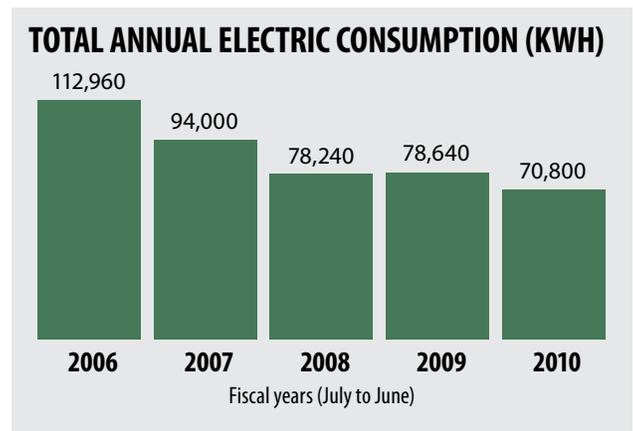
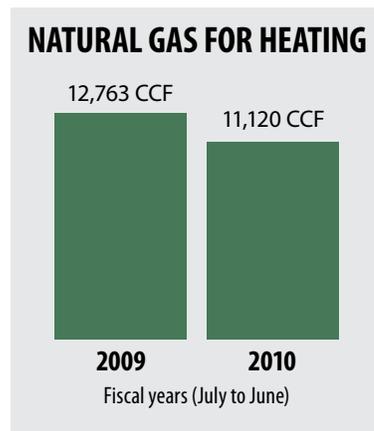
Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven’s mission is to eliminate poverty and substandard housing by building simple, decent houses

for low-income families, which in turn contributes to the revitalization of New Haven neighborhoods. They encourage people of all faiths – or no faith – to dedicate their words and actions to the elimination of poverty housing.

If you want to volunteer this summer or fall, or want more information about BEKI Builds and Amity Cares/Sleeping Giant Build, please contact Darryl Kuperstock, kuperst@aol.com (203) 387-0304.

Putting the “Conserve” in Conservative

These charts summarize the results of our efforts to control our energy use at BEKI. We have also made every effort to use the lowest-cost suppliers. Thanks to Eric, Bob and Moshe for helping to make this possible through their major efforts.



Torah Fund

On behalf of our BEKI Sisterhood I want to thank everyone who purchased cards, made donations and became benefactors during the past year. Your unrelenting dedication to the Torah Fund of Women's League has enabled us to reach our goal, affirms our support of the Jewish Theological Seminary and ensures our future as Conservative Jews.

Please continue to purchase cards over the summer months. Save gas and time! Your card will be sent out immediately when you call me at (203) 407-0314. They are \$4 each and include postage.

As the High Holidays near, please consider becoming a Torah Fund benefactor. Many special occasion gifts can also be made to support the Seminary.

Barbara Cushen
BEKI Torah Fund Chair

Thanks to all who purchased cards:

In honor of:

- Rabbi Richard Eisenberg from Adele Tyson
- Rabbi Murray Levine from Adele Tyson
- Rabbi Alan Lovins from Adele Tyson
- Rabbi Lina Zerbarini from Adele Tyson
- Mazel Tov to:
- Claire Volain on her milestone birthday from Bea Smirnoff
- Enid Scheps on being honored by the National Council of Jewish Women from Adele Tyson

In Memory of:

- Terri Stern to Brian Karsif and family from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, The BEKI Hesed Committee, Claire & Bud Volain
- Shula Lubarr to Gila Reinstein from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Genia Weinstein to Natan, Lori & the

- Weinstein family from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Leonard Fish to Inge Fish & family from Shirley Mattler
- Harry Griesman to Todd & Emily Griesman from Louis Petrillo
- Rabbi Jay Jacobs to Mrs. Eve Jacobs & family from Louis Petrillo
- Sally Broido to Ms. Linda Friedman from Louis Petrillo
- Roz Kleper to Bonnie Goldberg from Adele Tyson
- Isadore Miller to Charlotte Miller from Claire & Bud Volain

Get Well to:

- Thomas Brown from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe
- Mort Silver from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe
- Abe Zuskin from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Morris Cohen from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Carrie Schnee from Bea Smirnoff

Chapel Haven Students Train at BEKI

Unless you were at BEKI on Tuesday and Thursday mornings over the last year, you probably never met Katie Courage, Brett Golinvaux, Dani Kasinsky, Eric Kay, Tina Marino, Micah Robinson, Kate Scoba, or Gail Thurston.

But you have probably seen the fruits of their labors: fall leaves raked up; bushes watered and trimmed; flower beds weeded; grass seed planted.

These young people were students at Chapel Haven, the facility for adults with developmental and social disabilities that makes its home just across Whalley Avenue from BEKI. Two years ago, the synagogue and Chapel Haven teamed up to provide hands-on work experience for students in Chapel Haven's Exploratory Vocational Experience program, or EVE.

Under the tutelage of a Chapel Haven job coach, students learn real-life work skills at job sites around New Haven. In BEKI's case, that means landscaping, painting, cleaning, and the like.



Kate Scoba, Tina Marino and Micah Robinson rake

BEKI member Bob Spear – a hands-on guy himself, who is active on the synagogue's house committee – has volunteered countless hours, working closely with the students and their job coach to tackle project after project.

"BEKI is an ideal job site for our EVE program," says Chapel Haven teacher Vicki McGeorge,

"and I can't say enough about the great job Bob does working with everyone."

Some of their work is less visible than the gardening chores. For example, they applied water sealant to the loading dock, painted a storage closet, and picked up litter, litter and more litter.

All the tasks are of great value to BEKI. Many of them fall outside our budget for building and grounds maintenance. If not for the Chapel Haven students – whom Bob describes as "conscientious, reliable and willing to learn" -- these chores would either have to be done by BEKI volunteers, or they wouldn't get done at all.

MICHAEL MARTONE
MANAGER



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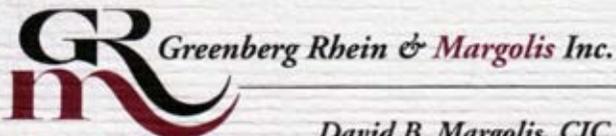


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Rabbi's Annual Report

Rabbi Tilsen's Annual Report (July 2009 – June 2010) is available at www.beki.org/tilsen/annual10.pdf and in the literature rack in the lobby. The report supplements the reports of synagogue committees and describes highlights, progress and challenges of the year.

20s-30s Havura Event

Join others in the 20s-30s Havura (for people ages 20 to 39.99) for a Shabbat Evening dinner on Friday, July 16. Please meet for the 6 p.m. mincha, Qabbalat Shabbat and Maariv services in the George G. Posener Beit Midrash at BEKI. The dinner will immediately follow off-site, hosted by Eva Landau, who lives about five blocks away. Reservations *required* directly to Eva at eviel3@aol.com by July 12. Kosher hekhshered packaged desserts, wine, drinks or hallot would be appreciated – and please indicate what you'd like to bring when you RSVP.

Kitchen Update

Please note that the BEKI downstairs kitchen is currently being updated. This will limit menu options

during the summer months, particularly items regarding cooking, although hot items are rarely served in summer anyway. We appreciate your understanding as the hard-working kiddush committee volunteers adapt with their usual creativity to these temporary restrictions, as always producing delicious results. If there is any menu item you particularly want, please feel free to ask for it, and I am sure the kiddush team will accommodate if possible, and let you know if not.

Sheqolarships

Your extra Israeli currency (New Israeli Sheqels) can be used for scholarships for BEKI youth studying in Israel. Deposit currency in the "foreign currency and tokens" pushke (charity box) in the beit midrash; or if you want a receipt (in US dollars at current published exchange rate) please send or deliver to office. Save yourself and our students the cost of currency exchange and encourage them in their studies.

Service Leaders' Rotation

The schedule for service leaders for July-Dec was mailed to 100 participating households in mid-June. It is posted at www.beki.org/rotate.html

and available in the literature rack in the lobby or by request via schlep-post from office@beki.org. If you would like to request specific dates for January-December 2011, or to be added or dropped from a roster, please contact Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org for all services, and Miriam Benson mirbenson@aol.com for children's programs. Additional leaders are needed for Pesuqei DeZimra, Shabbat Greeters, Shabbat Mincha (Saturday afternoon) and Maariv (Saturday Night during winter).

Schmeckfest Manners

Persons of all ages are welcome to take all they want and are urged to eat all they take at the Shabbat Qiddush and other food presentations. Please help your children learn that being very hungry at the outset does not mean that they need to eat or take any more than usual. "If you're ten times as hungry, you will not eat ten times as much food." Persons unfamiliar with the menu might like to take a sample of each item and then return after tasting. Children who participate in the children's programs are offered nutritious snacks at programs' end. Please help control waste.



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THINGS I DON'T GET

There are lots of little things I still don't understand.

Why is it acceptable public policy to place the name of the governor of the state on highway signs and state construction project signs? When driving through a state on the freeway, it might be useful to know how seriously the speed limit is enforced, or where the next bathroom is, but why would a visitor need to know the name of our governor? I don't know the names of the governors of Rhode Island, Vermont or New Hampshire – am I missing out on something?

Why do we include the name of the mayor on signs at our city construction projects and stamp his or her name in the new sidewalks? I'd like the name and number of the guy to complain to about construction noise or to alert when a scaffold is flapping dangerously, but why would I need to know the name of the mayor?

What's with the large highway signs on the Merritt and interstate highways proclaiming the victors of college basketball games from last year or the last century? Why could that possibly be important enough, and more important than anything else, to advertise on our thoroughfares?

Does it really honor or promote the concerns of Jewish War Veterans to name a stretch of interstate highway in their name or recognize the contribution of African-American War Veterans to give that name to a nondescript freeway bridge in Waterford?

Why is the new "Q" bridge named the "Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge" when the harbor below is not called "Pearl Harbor"? Is the harbor below the bridge the site the Japanese Imperial striking force attacked in 1941? Why didn't they attack in Groton, which at least has a submarine base? Will the Hawaiians re-name their harbor the "Quinnipiac Bridge Harbor" to memorialize the Eansketambawg nation destroyed by the European (British) invaders and to memorialize the bridge that used to pass over the river bearing their name? Did anything of historic interest or importance ever happen in Connecticut that is worthy of memorializing by naming our local bridges and other public facilities?

Why are thousands of parking tickets issued in New Haven but apparently never any for running red lights or speeding? The police already have cameras at many intersections, and have access to private live and recorded video feeds at ATM machines and numerous businesses. The police can track us through our mobile phones, E-Z Pass

transponders and Lo-Jacks, and the Feds can watch us from satellites. What privacy or protection from government intrusion would we relinquish by allowing local authorities to use existing police cameras as a basis for issuing tickets to red-light runners or prosecuting hit-and-run drivers?

Why doesn't the Second Amendment protect my right to own nuclear arms? True, they didn't have nuclear arms in the late 18th century, but they didn't have assault rifles or machine guns, either. The Amendment just says "arms" and does not say it applies only to "non-nuclear" arms. If terrorists and criminals are going to have nuclear arms, why shouldn't the law-abiding citizenry?

Why did the government force urban residents to subsidize bringing electric service to every home in Connecticut, charging the same rate to each utility customer, even if it cost \$100,000 to run the wires to that fancy home far from the road, but allows insurance companies to charge different auto insurance rates based on neighborhood of residence even when the government requires every driver to have car insurance? Why is it acceptable to subsidize owners of costly estates but not urban residents?

Why do we provide vast government subsidies to the fuel oil and nuclear power industries while cutting off minimal subsidies to solar, wind and other "green" power sources? What if 10 percent of the \$200+ billion spent by the U.S. government each year to protect the import of foreign oil were used to promote local resources? What if the oil companies had to pay the real cost of the pollution that their products impose on the economy? We wouldn't let United Technologies dump its manufacturing waste on the town green; why should we let energy companies dump their pollution in the air and water for free? Why should we pay for police and fire services to protect the transportation of their products through our municipalities?

Why should actors, lawyers or rabbis who offer their views on matters of public policy outside of their spheres of expertise be heeded any more than raving citizens at large?

There are seven features which typify the clod and seven the wise person: (6) Of what he [the wise person] has not learned, he says, "I have not learned." ... The opposite typifies the clod. – Avot 5:9

Editor's Note: Rabbi Tilsen is apparently feeling crabby. He will probably be better after a summer vacation or a break in the weather.

July 2010

19 Tammuz 5770 - 20 Av 5770

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 19 Tammuz	2 Talia Colten Bat Mitzva 8:11pm Candle Lighting 20 Tammuz	3 Talia Colten Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Colten-Berry 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 21 Tammuz
4 22 Tammuz	5 Office Closed/Independence Day Observance 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 23 Tammuz	6 24 Tammuz	7 4:00pm Parshanut ha-Miqra with Moshe 25 Tammuz	8 Office Closed/Staff Vacation 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 26 Tammuz	9 Office Closed/Staff Vacation 8:09pm Candle Lighting 27 Tammuz	10 Darshan: Steven Fraade 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Kulanu/Saul's Circle Discussion Group Qiddush: Gerber 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 28 Tammuz
11 29 Tammuz	12 Rosh Hodesh Office Closed/Staff Vacation 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:05pm Hebrew 101 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 1 Av	13 2 Av	14 4:00pm Parshanut ha-Miqra with Moshe 3 Av	15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 4 Av	16 20/30's Havura Friday Night Dinner following 6pm service (off-site, reservations required) 8:06pm Candle Lighting 5 Av	17 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Goldberg-Blander 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 6 Av
18 7 Av	19 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:05pm Hebrew 101 8:00pm Minha 8:20pm Maariv & Eikha 8 Av	20 Fast of Tisha BeAv 7:00am Shaharit & Eikha 9 Av	21 4:00pm Parshanut ha-Miqra with Moshe 10 Av	22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 11 Av	23 8:00pm Candle Lighting 12 Av	24 Darshan: Nadav Sela 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Jacoby 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 13 Av
25 14 Av	26 Tu B'Av 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:05pm Hebrew 101 7:30pm General Board Meeting 15 Av	27 16 Av	28 4:00pm Parshanut ha-Miqra with Moshe 17 Av	29 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 18 Av	30 7:54pm Candle Lighting 19 Av	31 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Lovins-Loving 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 20 Av

Service Times

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



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Gilad Shalit

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Thank you to those who have donated so far, and thanks to Al Barnett for managing this program.

Andy Weinstein

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