

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

June 2006

Sivan 5766
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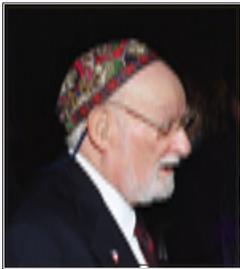


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Music in the Air – 11 June Concert!



The Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble will present a festive family concert at BEKI on Sunday night 11 June at 7 p.m. in the downstairs Social Hall.

Tickets for the concert are \$18 per person. Proceeds will support the work of the Hesed Committee. The Hesed Committee seeks to provide care and assistance to members in times of need, such as following a move, birth or arrival, death, or hospitalization.

The program will feature a string quartet by Antonin Dvorak, adapted for winds, in the first half. Following intermission, the ensemble will perform a medley of Jewish folk music.

During intermission, refreshments will be available, and the audience will have an opportunity to purchase CDs by the Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble, recorded at Yale University.

The ensemble is an unusual combination of instruments with a balance, diversity and homogeneity of sound that is similar to a string quartet. String quartets have a huge body of music to draw on, unlike woodwind ensembles. Early in his teaching career, Banquer decided to extend the repertoire of music available to clarinet and flute players to include works composed for strings and keyboard. In the years since, he has arranged and published many pieces, spanning 400 years of musical history. These arrangements have been supplemented by works commissioned specifically for this combination of instruments.

Members of the ensemble are Naomi Senzer, flute; Gregory Lunin, Nyomi Guberman-Pfeffer, and Amanda Hetric, clarinets; and W. Miles Freeman, bass clarinet.

The concert, donated by Earl Banquer in the 2005 Bidding for BEKI Auction, and sponsored on behalf of the congregation by Gloria and Morris Cohen, was originally scheduled for February, but postponed due to a blizzard.

Annual Meeting
Sunday 25 June 2006
7:00p

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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

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the

1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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garinim A preschool program for children
montessori ages 2 to 6

Celebrating Jewish Tradition

Now Accepting Enrollment

The success of the Montessori classroom is dependent on its core beliefs; freedom within limits and respect for each other and the environment. The goal of the program is to cultivate the child's own natural desire to learn.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel • 85 Harrison St., New Haven
Lana Gad-Director 203.389.7445

Gay Pride on Shabbat 10 June



Photo courtesy of www.newhavenindependent.org
Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) will celebrate Gay Pride on Shabbat morning 10 June. This coincides with a variety

of Gay Pride activities in the United States and Canada during that week.

During services, Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini will deliver the devar Torah. A festive Qiddush will follow services. Following Qiddush, BEKI Vice-President Rabbi Dr. Alan Lovins and BEKI member Dr. Mara Benjamin will conduct a discussion on “New Directions for Conservative Judaism.”

Rabbi Grazier-Zerbarini has served as Associate Rabbi at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale since 2002. Her work includes guiding students, supporting educational and social justice programs (including organizing the annual “alternative spring break” trip to Mesoamerica with American Jewish World Service and co-guiding the Netivot Fellowships), the convening of Yale Religious Ministries, and teaching. This past semester she taught “Introduction to Judaism and Jewish Meditation.”

Before coming to Yale, Rabbi Grazier-Zerbarini worked at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia, where she helped

strengthen the Jewish and general communities through advocacy and inter-faith dialogue. Before becoming a rabbi, she worked with a theatre troupe in Manhattan, a community development organization in Brooklyn, homeless and runaway teens in San Francisco, and a Jewish educational organization in Philadelphia. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Barnard College, studied at Nishmat Yeshiva for Women, and was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Rabbi Grazier-Zerbarini was a Cooperberg-Rittmaster Rabbinic Intern at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in NYC, the largest GLBT synagogue in the world. She and her family are members of BEKI.

As an urban congregation, BEKI is committed to serving the needs of all Jews, and especially welcomes the entire Jewish community to join us for this event.

Garinim Review

Garinim Montessori Preschool children and their families enjoyed a model Pesach seder at the school. In the days preceding and during the seder itself, the children dressed the part and re-enacted the Pesach story – the story of Moses growing up and the exodus

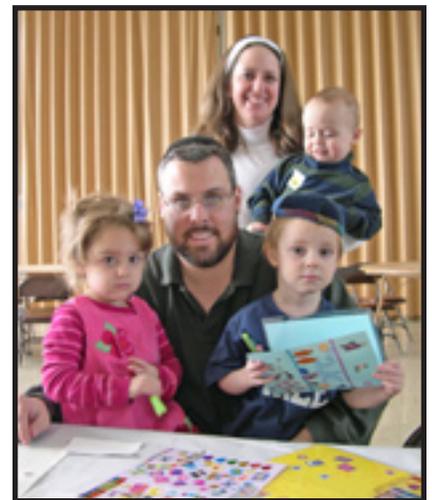


Pesach at Garinim

from Egypt. In the Montessori tradition, the children recognize Egypt as a country in Africa (Montessori puzzle maps) and played with toy camels and pyramids. The children prepared traditional Passover foods; *charoset*, egg and salt water and baked matza and our own invented “chocolate chip coconut macaranges.”

To find out more about Garinim Montessori, contact Director, Lana Gad, 203.389.7445 lane@garinim.org

Siddur Cover Workshop



Rabbi Joel & Bess Hoffman & Kids at Siddur Workshop

Twenty seven parents and children from the Children’s Shabbat Havura gathered on a Sunday morning for a Siddur Cover Workshop. The workshop was planned by Jennifer Myer and Dr. Lauren Kempton and the large turn-out was generated by Sherry Rothman and Miriam Benson. The siddur covers are a rich tradition at BEKI and personalizes the prayer experience for the children.

Reading Torah at BEKI

Darryl Kuperstock is coordinating the readings for BeMidbar (Numbers). If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read Torah, call Rabbi Jon-Jay at (203) 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or Darryl Kuperstock at (203) 387-0304 (kuperst@aol.com).

Service Leaders' Rotation List

The "Master Rotation List" for Shabbat & Festival service participation will be mailed in late June to one hundred households. (Additional copies are available in the lobby literature rack and at www.beki.org/rotate.html). The list is the compilation of parts to be lead by those who volunteered for the services listed. If you would like to lead a children's or adult service, or learn to do so, or if you would like to request a specific date between July and December 2006, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 ext. 10 (jjtilsen@beki.org).

JSI Scholarships

Let the Jewish Foundation Help You Send Your Children to Jewish Camps and Schools!

The Jewish Scholarship Initiative provides scholarships to Jewish individuals and families with children who reside in the Greater New Haven area. Scholarships are available for Jewish programs in Greater New Haven such as BEKI Religious School, Garinim, Ezra Academy, Kadima and USY, Jewish camps, and MA-KOM. Scholarships are up to \$1800 per family and are only available for programs in which a member of the household has *not* previously participated. For more information or for an application, contact the Jewish Foundation, 387-2424.

Lifecycle

HaMaqom Yinahem: We Mourn the Passing of

Joan Perkal Burns, z"l, mother of Melissa Perkal (& James Graham)
Helen Reifler, z"l, mother of Michael (& Sara Kohane) Reifler

Mazal Tov

To MAKOM graduates Jonathan Ezra Beller, Nina Caledonia London Bender, David Simon Brotman, Ariella Cheskis-Gold, Shai Moshe Sokolow Silverman

Letters

Thank You!

Many many thanks to all my friends at BEKI. You made my forced stay at home not just bearable but even pleasant by your visits, phone calls, cards and the goodies you brought. The delicious Shabbat dinner from the Hesed Cmte and the many quarts of invigorating chicken soup of all kinds (even with kreplach yet) you left lifted my spirits and eased the pain in my bones and bruises.

I hope to be in shul soon and to thank each of you for all you have done for me.

Saul Bell



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A Message from the Education Director



Dr. Lauren Kempton

Five teenagers from our congregation went on the March of the Living in April and May. The teens are Anna Abramowitz, Ariella

Cheskis-Gold, Shai Silverman, Rachel Forbes, and David Botwick-Reis. The March started with a trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage and a Shabbaton in New York prior to the departure to Poland. The international *March of the Living* brings six thousand Jewish teens from all over the world to Poland for intense study at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Maidonek and Treblinka and to the March of the Living on Yom HaShoah. The teens then spend a week in Israel to observe Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israeli Memorial Day and Independence Day.

Our students started this journey as collectors of tales... tales of Shoah and Resistance, tales of memory, tales of the builders of Israel and independence.

Here are their reflections.

Poland: If trees could talk, what would they say?

Israel: If there is a place that really is the strongest in unity, it would be Israel.

The March of the Living is an adventure from Poland to Israel and was certainly one of a kind. Meeting people from all over the world and being exposed to two very different cultures was an

amazing experience. My knowledge of both the world and myself has grown from this trip.

Rachel Forbes

Our trip through Poland and Israel had many links. Almost every horrible thing we saw in Poland (at the camps) had an uplifting connection in Israel. One idea that was never absent from us was the theme of togetherness. We bonded in New York over Shabbat, before we even left. In Poland, 6000 teenagers united as one Jewish people and we made the silent march from Auschwitz to Birkenau. Our group continued to bond as one voice on Shabbat in Warsaw and during our *ruah* sessions. Knowing we would soon be in *Erets Israel* only made it better. In Israel, our unity was based on happier events. We helped each other through the dark, wet tunnels at the City of David, and once again were one voice as we jumped and sang on our march through the Old City to the Western Wall on Israel's Independence Day. Through these two long weeks we cried and comforted each other; we were silent and sad, happy and celebratory; but whatever we did, it was as one New England group, one Jewish people.

Anna Abramovitz

There are some wounds too deep to heal. Some wounds that leave a deep and very real scar. Mankind, Godkind, Worldkind, suffered one such gash in Auschwitz, and yet one quote comes to my mind as I think of myself standing on those

train tracks. "God was in this place, and I, I did not know."

Shai Silverman

Coming into the March of the Living, I had one thing in mind to purchase for myself in Israel. I had never owned a Magan David before, and on my first visit to Israel I wanted to purchase one in the *Eretz Meqedesh*. So after looking around in Tzfat, I chose a simple, gold Magan David that I immediately put on. Knowing about the great horrors and terrors of the Shoah, I told myself that I will proudly wear the Star of David all the time, because no one now can put down my Jewish identity.

David Botwick Reis

Whenever I am in Israel, I feel proud of who I am... a Jew. Shabbat is always my favorite time in Israel. Being able to walk to shul and see so many people also walking is such a great feeling. I receive so many "Shabbat Shalom" greetings I am not able to count them. In Jerusalem on the March of the Living, we had many choices where to go for services. I chose to go to [Congregation] Shira Hadasha for Friday evening services. Having been there before, I knew what it was like, just the way I like it. The songs are sung with gorgeous tunes which make me shiver. The *ruah* - spirit - draws anyone in, inviting them to sing for the Shabbat Queen. Being there made me really feel the power of Shabbat and of being a Jew.

Ariella Cheskis Gold

The students of BEKI Religious School celebrated their fifth annual Model Seder for their parents. All students in grades kindergarten through seven sang "Ma Nishtana." The students of grade five performed a puppet show, depicting the "Four Children" of the seder. We are very grateful to Jay Sokolow for leading the seder for us. The singing of "Ehad mi yodea - Who Knows One" was led by teachers Rita Sela and Iris Back. The students in Ira Caplan's grade five explained the symbolism of the Seder Plate.

Grade three students performed an interpretative dance depicting Egyptian slavery. The upstairs social hall was transformed into a festive seder setting thanks to Sherry Rothman and her set-up team of BRS parents.

BEKI Religious School ended for the 2005-2006 5766 year with graduation and promotion on 21 May. As we went to press, the plan was to continue the tradition of George Posener shaking the hands of advancing students and presenting them with a book for summer reading. Sherry Rothman was to address the students as the representative of the BEKI Board of Directors and present each student with a Certificate of Grade Completion. *LK*

Kulanu and Saul's Circle

The members of the Community Day Program at Chapel Haven heard a presentation from Dr. Kempton on her recent trip to Israel. Her pictures took them from Caesarea to the Galilee to Jerusalem. The group is brainstorming topics of Jewish themes that they want to explore this summer.

Saul's Circle - Fellowship Place

Participants in Saul's Circle at Fellowship Place are continuing with a "Lunch and Learn" program. The upcoming themes are the Sudan and the impact of the new Israeli Cabinet.

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Rabbi Peter Stein

With the season of weddings & graduations upon us, shop for gifts in our BEKI Sisterhood shop. We have a very lovely selection and our prices are reasonable!

Our Book of Life dinner honoring Ruthie Greenblatt will be on 13 June. Honoring Ruthie is special; she is a devoted volunteer for Sisterhood and for the shul. Thank you Ruthie!

Torah Fund – BEKI Sisterhood has met our 2005-06 goal and it's all thanks to those who purchased cards, made donations during our annual appeal and became guardians and benefactors. We are proud to be a part of the future of Conservative Judaism through our support of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Congratulations to Peter Stein, son of Sue & Victor Stein. We are proud of your hard work and devotion and wish you success in your career.

Please call Barbara Cushen at 407-0314 to order cards for all occasions. No need to shop – just call, your card goes right out!

Book of Life Dinner to Honor Ruthie Greenblatt

Ruth Greenblatt, Sisterhood co-president, will be honored as the Woman of Valor at the 13 June Sisterhood Book of Life dinner.

Ruth was born in Meriden CT and attended a conservative synagogue, B'nai Abraham. Ruth loved attending religious school and was active in USY and attended Camp Ramah. Throughout her years, she has continued to love singing and working with kids.

During a four-year marriage in the 1970s, Ruth gave birth to her daughter Liela, who attended Ezra Academy. She returned to college and earned a Physical Therapy degree in 1980. She enjoys her work as a physical therapist, mostly with children.

Ruthie was mentored in cantorial skills from Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus. In 1994, she attended the National Havurah Institute, where she learned to read Torah. There she met Sharon Lovett-Graff, who introduced her to



Ruth Greenblatt

BEKI. Ruthie says, "The warmth, love, acceptance and commitment of this community have been like nothing I've ever known. I've learned what the joy of Shabbat observance is and it's become the sanity and haven in my busy life. When I was sick this year BEKI members were there and this eased the difficulties."

In addition to serving as Sisterhood co-President with Adele Tyson, Ruth serves on the Board of Directors of the Congregation. She leads and participates in services, privately tutors bene mitzva students, leads K-2 Kehila, and appears as "Cutsie the Clown" at Purim.

"Sisterhood has been for me a way to bridge the generations at BEKI," she says. "My mission as Sisterhood co-president is to help keep Sisterhood alive and vibrant at BEKI, to help it meet the needs of women of all ages and backgrounds. I thank the BEKI community for all the opportunities for me to learn and grow and share."

Ruthie is the *Bubbe* (grandmother) of Gabriella and Andrew, children of Liela & Tony.

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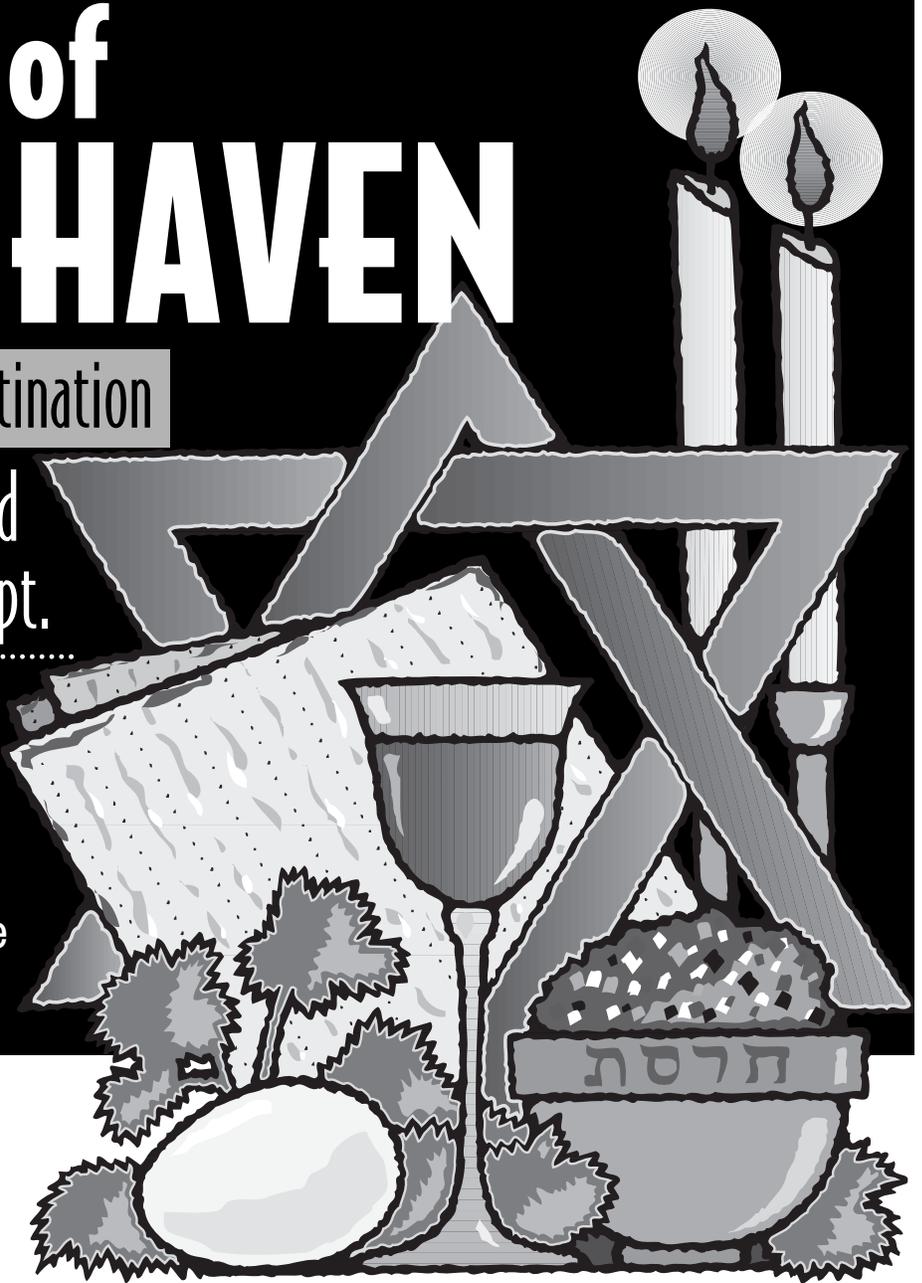
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June 2006

5 Sivan 5766 - 4 Tammuz 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Service Times for Spring/Summer Sundays: 9a Shoharrit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Mondays: 7a Shoharrit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Tuesdays: 7a Shoharrit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Wednesdays: 7a Shoharrit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Thursdays: 8:15a Shoharrit 5:45p Minha-Maariv Fridays: 7a Shoharrit 6p Minha-Maariv Saturdays: 9:15a Shoharrit 5:45p Minha				1 Erev Shavuot 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 8:00pm Shavuot Festival service followed by Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Adult Study 5 Sivan/49 L'Omer	2 Shavuot Office Closed-Shavuot 9:15am Shavuot Festival service 6:00pm Shabbat service 8:02pm Candle Lighting 6 Sivan	3 Shavuot II (Yizkor) 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: BEKI parents of EZRA students 5:45pm Minha 7 Sivan
4 8 Sivan	5 7:45am Rashi Study Group 9 Sivan	6 10 Sivan	7 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 9:30am NHBOR 11 Sivan	8 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 12 Sivan	9 8:06pm Candle Lighting 13 Sivan	10 GLBT Shabbat 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: GLBT 5:45pm Minha 14 Sivan
11 9:30am Tsitsit tying class 7:00pm Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble Concert 15 Sivan	12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting 16 Sivan	13 6:30pm Sisterhood Book of Life Dinner Honoring Ruthie Greenblatt 17 Sivan	14 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 18 Sivan	15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 19 Sivan	16 8:08pm Candle Lighting 20 Sivan	17 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Weinstein 5:45pm Minha 21 Sivan
18 22 Sivan	19 7:45am Rashi Study Group 23 Sivan	20 24 Sivan	21 25 Sivan	22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 26 Sivan	23 8:10pm Candle Lighting 27 Sivan	24 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush :TBA 5:45pm Minha 28 Sivan
25 7:00pm Annual Meeting 29 Sivan	26 Rosh Hodesh I 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting 30 Sivan	27 Rosh Hodesh II 1 Tammuz	28 2 Tammuz	29 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 3 Tammuz	30 8:11pm Candle Lighting 4 Tammuz	

Shabbatot

Darshanim in June

- Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat 10 June, *parashat Naso*

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel, 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 welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background

Sunday June 11

New: Tsitsit Tying Workshop

Learn about and practice the art of tying *tsitsit* (fringe) knots on Sunday morning 11 June with Judi Janette, following the 9:00a morning service. Judi will teach about the rules and meaning of the knots (9:30a to 10:30a), and will help participants practice tying their own knots (10:30a to 11:30a). Come and learn about

tsitsit, or come help us repair or replace the **tsitsit** on our supply of guest *tallitot*. The *tsitsit* are worn in fulfillment of the *mitzva* prescribed in Numbers 15.

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. The Rashi Study Group has met weekly since 1994 and is currently reading the book of Numbers. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

Wednesdays

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.

Writing Group

The Writing Group meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Interested writers gather 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 participants bring a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. This community aims to generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or 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.

Thursday 1 June

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

A Tiqun Leil Shavuot night of adult study will be held on Thursday night 1 June, the beginning of Shavuot, from 9:00p to 1:00a. See “Shavuot” section for details.

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Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish *Hajj*

The Festival of Shavuot (“Weeks”), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,400 years ago. The word *hag* (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, *hajj* (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, “Three times a year—on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you” (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance at BEKI this summer. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI’s Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

Shavuot Candle Lighting

Those who are able may light Festival candles at 8:00p or earlier on Thursday 1 June. It is also customary to light Yizkor Memorial candles immediately before lighting the festival candles. On Friday night 12 June, the

candles are lighted at 8:01p using the pre-existing flame of the memorial candles, pilot or other light.

The blessing recited over the Festival candles is “*Barukh...asher qideshanu bemitzvotav vetsivanu lehadliq ner shel yom tov*” and the “*Shehehianu,*” both of which can be found in most siddurim (prayerbooks). Audio recordings of these and other *berakhot* (blessings) are available at www.beki.org/audio.html.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

This year we specially welcome our neighbors from Congregation Or Shalom to our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Sweeter than Honey Night of Study, on Thursday 1 June 2006. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served. That means **cheesecake**.

The evening begins with the Mincha Afternoon Service, from 8:00p to 8:10p. The brief Festival Evening service, from 8:20p to 8:40p, will be followed at 9:00p by a presentation by Steven Fraade on “The Intersection of Law (Halakha) and Narrative (Aggada) at the Heart of Rabbinic Judaism.”

After another break for refreshments, exploration of Torah continues with a presentation on “The Metaphysics of Shavuot,” with Department of Jewish Education Director Rabbi Joel Hoff-



man. A late-night *shiur* by Moshe Meiri will begin sometime after 11:00p, entitled, “This is a condition of *beit din*’: The Halakha & the Evolution of Torah,” on Ketubot Chapter 4. Additional details were being finalized as this issue went to press.



Shavuot Mornings *Yizkor Memorial Service*

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shahrith Morning Service begins at 9:15a on Friday 2 June 2006. The service includes the full recitation of Hallel.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15a on Shabbat 2 June 2006. The Festival service includes a *Shahrith* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*. Following the *Haftara* (prophetic reading), the *Yizkor* Memorial Service is held. The *Yizkor* memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Following *Yizkor*, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of *ta`amei hamiqra* (“trope”) found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival *Musaf* additional service is recited.

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This Year, Shabbat Shavuot is being observed as Ezra Academy at BEKI Shabbat, to recognize and honor our students attending Ezra Academy, a Solomon Schechter (Conservative) Day School. Ezra students, alumni and parents will participate in and lead services. If our ancestors, and our agrarian fellows, celebrate the Shavuot as a Festival of First Fruits, then we may celebrate the students in the George G. & Leah E. Posener Elementary School, along with the graduates of the upper school, as our "first fruits." Following services, a Qiddush will be presented sponsored by the BEKI Ezra Parents honoring the graduates and continuing students. About 40 BEKI students attend Ezra Academy.

Annual Meeting Sunday Evening
25 June 2006 7:00p to 8:30p

Synagogue Decorum

It is suggested that worshipers not enter or exit the sanctuary while the congregation is standing for the Amida or during a Torah reading. When entering or exiting during the Torah service, it is best to do so between readings (i.e. between the aliyot). Please be sure to turn off mobile phones and pagers before entering the building on Shabbat and Festivals and before entering the Sanctuary or Chapel on any day. Those who must use mobile phones for medical or other emergency purposes on Shabbat or Festivals are asked to find a private place such as the Harrison Street stairwell. Your consideration for other worshipers is appreciated.

Leave a Legacy

Dear Donna,

All this talk about giving, but charity begins at home. That's why I'm giving all of my assets to my children and grandchildren.

Signed,
Family Man

Dear Family Man,

Of course, you have to provide for your family before carelessly spending your money! But giving to your children is not considered "charity," or "tzedaqa" in the language of our tradition. "Tzedaqa" means your obligation to support communal institutions financially.

When it comes to charity, you can teach your children and grandchildren a lot about your values by giving to the causes you care about. Perhaps the greatest legacy we can leave for our families is a strong sense of who they are and what their heritage represents. A charitable bequest in your will is a written statement of what you cherish. How proud we all are when we see our children growing into good, compassionate people; how proud you can make your children by demonstrating that their parents are righteous people. Giving to BEKI, in particular, demonstrates your commitment to the future of Judaism. Perhaps you can't afford to make a large donation or bequest, but if everyone made a sincere effort, we could all point with pride to our Judaic "home" and community.

*Sincerely,
Donna*