HISTORY ON OUR SIDE

25 Years Ago at BEKI

June 2, 1985: Cocktail Buffet Celebrating 25 Years  Event Chairman: Paul Goodwin

Sagerman, Goodwin and Kantrowitz

Continued on Page 3
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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: jjtlsen@beki.org
• Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.
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Charitable giving strengthens our Community and provides the donor with tax savings.

Visit us at www.beki.org
History (25 years)
Continued from Page 1

50 Years Ago at BE(KI)

Celebratory Week of Programs Dedicating New Building – June 1960
Event Chairman: Paul Goodwin

Dear Congregation B’nai Israel:

The erection of a new synagogue by B’nai Israel is of great significance not only to all members of your congregation but to the entire New Haven community.

I have long been impressed by the growth of religious congregations of all leading denominations throughout Connecticut. One evidence of this growth is the construction of many new houses of worship.

Active, vital religious groups serve communities in a way that other organizations cannot duplicate.

I am sure that your new synagogue will mean new vitality and an even stronger spiritual life for your congregation.

My congratulations are extended to all of you together with my sincere best wishes for many years of worship and fruitful service in B’nai Israel’s new home.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Governor

Continued on Page 4
News

History (50 years)
Continued from Page 3

Left to right: Mrs. Arthur Gorfain, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Abraham Goldstein, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. Louis Rosen, Cor. Secretary; Mrs. Isadore Rachovsky, Mrs. Isadore Joseph, President; Mrs. Shalom Arman, Past President; Mrs. David Levine, Treasurer.

The Sisterhood Officers

Paul Goodwin
President

It is with a deep sense of pride and humility that I write this message, upon the occasion of the dedication of our new synagogue. For, as we gather, at this very wonderful moment in our lives and the life of our congregation, we must surely and humbly give thanks to Almighty God, that He has seen fit to have us reach this memorable day.

It is my fervent hope that these walls, which we have built, and which we dedicate to the service of the Almighty, will be used by us and a long period of succeeding generations, for peaceful prayer, as a meeting place for people and ideas, thoughts and learning. May “Simchas”, happy occasions of all kinds fill our spiritual home.

Brick, cinder block, and mortar are important ingredients in any building, but it takes people to plan and to work before these building materials begin to be put into place.

It was people who worked so energetically and conscientiously that made this day possible for us, too, and to each one of them who contributed his or her time and talents, I extend my sincerest gratitude. I trust that their pride this day is no less than my own.

Our New Home

Paul Goodwin, president, presides at the ground breaking July 13, 1950.

Mr. Isaac Magid and Robert Neikin combine age and youth at the ground breaking.

The foundation is completed and the first floor goes down.

Planned by our own Jacob Weinstein, Architect.

The walls go up.
“Make the study of Torah a set priority in your life. Say little and do much. And receive every person with a pleasant face.”

— Pirkei Avot, 1:15

In honor of Rabbi Murray Levine, with appreciation and love always from your children & grandchildren:

Reena, Arthur, Michael, & Aura Seltzer
Adina Kling, Judah Levine,
Dov & Eitan Kling-Levine
Elizabeth, Mordy, & Jonah Levine

Notice of Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 23 beginning 6:30 p.m. (after daily services).

Cup of Joe – Hova
Have a free cup of coffee or tea on the house after fulfilling the obligation of daily prayer at a morning or evening service. Start your day with a spiritual jolt, or calm yourself with the getoret bisamim. Coffee is normally $1 a cup; tea is 50 cents a cup, unless you don’t pay, in which case it is free.

Sundays 9 to 9:35 a.m.; Mondays, 7 to 7:50 a.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays 7 to 7:33 a.m.; Thursdays 8:15 to 8:50 a.m.; Fridays 7 to 7:20 a.m.; Sunday through Thursday evenings 5:45 to 6:12 p.m.

Historical note: Joe is short for Josephus.

Stop & Go
The traffic light on Harrison St. at Whalley Ave. 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 St. a green light within two minutes. It may not detect a vehicle that approaches at less than 3 mph.
Benei Mitzva in June and July

Marlee Chorney, daughter of David & Wendy Chorney, June 4-5, parashat Shelakh Lekha

Matthew Gad, son of Martin & Lana Gad, June 18-19, parashat Huqat

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

Welcome New Members and Their Families

- Polina Naiman
- Rabbi Eric & Dr. M.J. Silver

Publication Deadlines

Submissions for the July-August combined edition of the Bulletin should be sent to jjtilsen@beki.org or office@beki.org and are due June 1. Submissions for the mid-month mailing should be sent to office@beki.org (or delivered to Peggy) and are due by noon on the ninth of the month; please let Peggy know in advance if you plan to submit material. Submissions for “This Week at BEKI” (a.k.a. Happenings) should be sent to happenings@beki.org and are due on noon Wednesday (late submissions are included when possible). Submissions for Shabbat announcements should be sent to announcements@beki.org and are due at noon on Wednesday (late submissions are included when possible).

Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library News

Thirty-six copies of the K-2 Siddur Tefillotai by Saralee Shrell-Fox have been purchased through a generous donation to the Ari Nathan Levine fund, by Steve S and Rachel A. This siddur, beautifully illustrated with photos of Israeli Masorti children at sites around Jerusalem, has been successfully used for 10 years in the K-2 Kehilla, which meets every Shabbat morning, year round. The siddur is in large-print Hebrew, with vowels. A CD of the siddur is available to the K-2 parent volunteer leaders.

20s-30s Havura: Seuda Shlishit

BEKI 20s-30s Havura, Seuda Shlishit (Shabbat Third Meal), Shabbat, June 19 June; please meet at 5:45 p.m. for minha service in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. The seuda shlishit will immediately follow off-site, hosted by Shannon Finan and Dave Fulop. Please RSVP directly to Shannon at shannon4nh@aol.com or (203) 909-0491 by June 14. Please indicate what you’d like to bring when you RSVP. If you have any food allergies, please let Shannon know that as well.

SATO Project: Duffle Bags Needed

We are collecting duffle bags for New Haven’s foster children through the Covenant to Care Program in which BEKI participates. (Many children need to relocate from their homes using garbage bags.) They can be dropped off at the residence of Stephanie Listokin 270 McKinley Ave., New Haven, (203) 745-3927.

KINAHARA Kosher

KINAHARA Kosher – the Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly – is now supervising bagels produced at the Bagelman factory, 15 Old Sherman Turnpike, in Danbury. For information on purchasing, contact Marc (203) 792-0030 or (203) 775-4005, www.kinahara.org.
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 Shacharit (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.

Sundays

Sunday Talmud with Moshe Meiri

Adults and advanced youth are invited to bask in the light of Talmud on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The third chapter of masekhet Baba Qama (“First Gate”) serves as the base text. This spring series meets on consecutive Sunday mornings from 10:30a until noon each Sunday through the end of June. For more information, contact Moshe at moshe@snet.net.

The Exegesis of Nehama Lebowitz (in Hebrew)

Explore the extraordinary methods and insights of a leading 20th Century commentator, Nehama Lebowitz, with Moshe Meiri on Sunday afternoons in June from 12:30 to 2 o’clock. Texts and discussion in Hebrew. For more information, contact Moshe at moshe@snet.net.

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. With Jon-Jay Tilsen and Nadav Sela.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary

Continued on Page 9
Contributions

Please make all checks payable to “Cong. Beth El–Keser Israel.”

Rabbi’s Tzedaqa Fund
- Miriam Helfer in appreciation

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $280)
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- Dan & Sharon Prober

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy
- For the Yazluk family with sympathy on the passing of Richard Yazluk by David & Rayna Belowsky.
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Ellen Jawitz & Robert Leikind
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Arthur & Selma Braid
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Jessey, Joseph, Marlo & Darren Palumbo
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Marge & Ty Steinberg
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Cindy Voloshin Smernoff
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by the Lew family
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Nathan & Hilda Wertheimer
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Doris Dickstein
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Sharon, David, Max & Nina Bender
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Rita & Nadav Sela
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Donna & Sid Levine
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Cathie Miller
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Gerry Rudman
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Shirley Kanfer
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Helene Sapadin
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Phil & Barbara Grossman
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Judith Siverson
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Andy & Paige Weinstein
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Stephen & Amy Pincus
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- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in his honor by Colette Hanlon
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Jennifer Fleming
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Marcia Brodsky
- To Rabbi Lina Zerbarini in her honor by Shula Lubarr
- To Rabbi Alan Lovins in his honor by Judith Hoberman & Dominic Kinsley
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in his honor by Lynn Brotman
- To Brian Karsif & family with sympathy on the passing of Terri Stern by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of his father Maurice Prober

SATO (Social Action Tikun Olam)
- To Paula Hyman & Helen Rosenberg in their honor for the creation of the beautiful art symposium at BEKI by Mary Lesser

In-Kind Donations
- A 1997 Mercury Mountaineer by Roz Ben-Chitrit & Coby Ben-Chitrit
- 50 new copies of his bencher “Let Us Sing” with the BEKI logo imprinted on them by Barry Dow Walfish

Frankel-Mattler Fund
- To Shirley Mattler in memory of Jacob (Jack) Botwinick by Sylvia Botwinick

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Idas Brunswick by Barbara Cushing
- In memory of Sylvia Hoberman by Judith Hoberman & Dominic Kinsley
- In memory of Anna & Abraham Voliansky by Bud & Claire Volian
- In memory of Estelle A. Kone by Carolyn Kone & Allan Rubenstein
- In memory of Sherwin Brotman by Jay & Lynn Brotman
- In memory of Ruth Heydemann by Lynn & Jay Brotman
- In memory of Gussie Gollinger by Gertrude Gollinger
- In memory of her parents Rose & Louis Katz by Sharon & Daniel Prober
- In memory of his father Maurice Prober

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Contributions (continued)

by Daniel & Sharon Prober
- In memory of Bennett Schultz by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Harry Lubov by Walter Lubov
- In memory of Helena Kash by Henry Kasha
- In memory of Michael “Mickey” Glaser by Harriet Glaser
- In memory of Israel H. Alderman by Bernard & Sonya Alderman
- In memory of Morris “Moishe” & Susan Schnitman by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef
- In memory of Philip Kantrowitz from Samuel & Harriet Kantrowitz
- In memory of Paul Dworkin by Estelle Dworkin
- In memory of Helen Israel by Estelle Dworkin
- In memory of Aaron Israel by Estelle Dworkin
- In memory of Freda Dimenstein by Mort & Elayne Dimenstein
- In memory of Harry Kabakoff by Marvin Kabakoff
- In memory of Mendel Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Marilyn Levine by Judah Levine
- In memory of Anne Benson by Joanne & Stephen Rudof
- In memory of his father Matthew Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of his aunt Florence Sheinfeld by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of Marilyn Levine by Rabbi Murray Levine
- In memory of Murray Ratoosh by Sheri Ratoosh & Alan Glombicki
- In memory of Ruth Magid by Helen Gandelman
- In memory of her mother Sara Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Beverly Zerwitz Zlotoff by Ron Zlotoff, Donna Kemper and the children
- In memory of Louis Goldbloom by Norman & Edith Goldbloom
- In memory of Howard Levy by Paula Rudnick
- In memory of David Glaser by Harry & Renee Mansfield
- In memory of Morris Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Rose Hodes by Elsie Hodes & family
- In memory of Kate Press by Elsie Hodes & family
- In memory of his father Marvin Spielman by James Spielman
- In memory of Milt Smirnoff by Bev Smirnoff
- In memory of her mother-in-law Dora Shure by Gertrude Shure
- In memory of Sophie Rosell by Elayne & Mort Dimenstein
- In memory of Leonard Brill by Doris Brill
- In memory of her mother Ida Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Marilyn Levine by Mordechai Levine

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 Family 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.”
Please help keep BEKI peanut free

For the safety of children who have life-threatening peanut allergies, please do not bring peanuts or peanut products into the building. Thanks!

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Microsoft Certified Professional Systems Engineer
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Gee–Had . . . They Thought Of This Before . . .

Several years have passed since the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten published a dozen editorial cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad in critical or ridiculous ways. Those cartoons served as the inspiration for organized riots in which more than 100 people were killed, and in which numerous European embassies, cultural and business locations were vandalized or destroyed.

Critics described the cartoons as Islamophobic or racist, and as criminally blasphemous (at least under the laws of several countries). Supporters of the newspaper observed that the cartoons were making an important point about Islamic terrorism, and in any case, thousands of illustrations of Muhammad have appeared in books by and for fellow Muslims.

The topic reemerged recently with the decision of Yale University Press to delete the images from the book The Cartoons that Shook the World, written about those very cartoons, and with the decision of the producers of South Park, that obnoxious and vulgar TV cartoon, to self-censor out its episode that made fun of Muhammad along with other religions. At the same time, several episodes treating the Latter Day Saints, Judaism, Witnesses and other religions with the dignity of the famous Piss Christ photo (Andres Serrano, 1987) remain available on South Park’s website or for purchase on DVD and Blu-Ray. Many view this as shocking cowardice for a show that has hitherto (unfortunately) shown no bounds in broadcasting the most utterly vile and offensive material.

This is a sad capitulation to terrorism and threat. In the end, it means that purveyors of violence and terror get their way.

This dynamic is especially familiar and controversial in Israel, where controlling violence is an ongoing concern in ways unknown to most developed countries. To speak of affairs internal to the Jewish community, we note that the police have repeatedly prohibited women from praying lawfully at the Western Wall on the grounds that their assembly will incite men to violence. This, even when the women hold a court order in their hands requiring the police to provide protection. Similarly, several thousand squatters occupy illegal outposts (illegal under Israeli law) while the government fears to evict them. Those who use and threaten violence win through a policy of capitulation. Yet for the most part, the broad Israeli public has been the world’s best example of standing firm in the face of terrorism.

Opposing violence and terror as a coercive tool requires unity from the broad public. What would happen if all newspapers, news magazines, internet and broadcast media were to band together and publish the offending cartoons on a single day? If no paper or publisher can withstand threat alone, let them withstand it together.

A third alternative to capitulation is negotiation. Perhaps we should make a deal with the media and governments in countries such as Egypt, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia that if we don’t publish defamatory images of Muhammad or statements blasphemous to Islam, then they will stop publishing anti-Semitic, anti-Christian and other bigoted material. It would be worth it to trade all of the cartoons in the world ridiculing Muhammad for some reduction in the anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred and intolerance propagated in those countries. Let the media decide together to stop publishing cartoons and images offensive to any religious or ethnic group.

Capitulate, amalgamate or negotiate. Capitulation may provide a reprieve to violence, but in the long run is likely to lead us to ruination.

If you follow My laws and faithfully observe My commandments…I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down untroubled by anyone. Lev. 26:3–6.
## June 2010
**19 Sivan 5770 - 18 Tammuz 5770**

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### It’s 12:30p; Do You Know Where Your Children Are?

Adults are reminded to provide continuing and periodic supervision for their children on Shabbat mornings and afternoons in the synagogue. Adult supervision insures physical and moral safety.
JHS Hosts Renowned Genealogist at BEKI

Arthur Kurzweil, author of From Generation to Generation: How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Family History, will be guest speaker at the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven’s Annual Meeting at BEKI on Sunday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will present, “How to Climb Your Family Tree: A Spiritual Journey from Generation to Generation.”

In his presentation, “How to Climb Your Family Tree: A Spiritual Journey from Generation to Generation,” Kurzweil will explain how — and why — Jews of all ages should explore their family origins.

Trained as a professional librarian, Kurzweil was editor-in-chief of the Jewish Book Club for 17 years, past president of the Jewish Book Council, literary agent, and currently Judaica consultant for Jossey-Bass, a division of John Wiley Publishers.

He co-founded the first Jewish Genealogical Society in the 1970s; today there are nearly 70 Jewish Genealogical Societies throughout the world. His other books include The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy; My Generations: A Course in Jewish Family History; On the Road with Rabbi Steinsaltz: 25 Years of Pre-Dawn Car Trips, Mind-Blowing Encounters and Inspiring Conversations with a Man of Wisdom; and most recently, Pebbles of Wisdom from Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (2009). Based on his studies with some of the leading authorities in the field of qabala, and because of his reputation as a teacher who can explain difficult spiritual concepts in accessible language, he was invited to write Kabbalah for Dummies. He is also the author of The Torah for Dummies.

At the JHS annual meeting, new officers will be installed. For more information, contact Marian Ottaviano, (203) 392-6125, email to jhsgnh@yahoo.com or go to www.jhsgnh.org.

Tickets cost $15 per person. A catered brunch will be served. This event is sponsored by Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, the Jewish Community Center, and Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel. BEKI members and their guests and friends are welcome.