

BEKI Bulletin

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March 2003 Vol. 9 Issue 3

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Adar 2 5763

Purim at BEKI ***Be Happy it's Adar - Again***

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocide plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over twenty centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

The Fast of Esther, observed the day before Purim, marks the serious side of the holiday. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatchers, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide. The Fast of Esther begins at dawn on Monday 17 March 2003. Monday *shaharit* morning services are from 7:00a to 7:45a and include "Avinu Malkenu — Our Father, Our King," as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any significant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. The *mincha* afternoon service is at 5:45p and ends at 6:15p. The fast ends at 6:30p, or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Megilla Readings

The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read during the evening service, which begins at 6:30p on Monday 17 March 2003, and then again during the morning

service, which begins at 7:00a, Tuesday 18 February 2003. If you are a Megilla reader and have not yet reserved a chapter to read, please run, don't walk, to the nearest telephone and call Rabbi Tilsen at the 24-hour Megilla Readers' Hotline, 389-2108 x10, or email jjtilsen@beki.org.

Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it oneself) is a Biblical commandment (*mitzva*). Other Purim *mitzvot* (religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor, alms for the poor, and a feast on Purim day. Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story's villain reverberate through our sacred halls on our sacred cinderblocks. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Continued on page 6

Renovations Campaign Kick-Off

Sunday 9 March 2003

9:30a to 11:15a

Phase 2 Renovations Update

Capital Campaign Kick-Off

Brunch

A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

Rabbi participated in a United Jewish Communities (UCJ) mission to Israel from 2-7 February, along with BEKI members Jewish Federation President **Barry Etra** and Executive Director **Neil Berro**, and our neighbor Michael Wiesner and leaders of other communities, who stayed a few days longer. The purpose of this mission was to prepare for future congregational and communal visits to Israel, to offer support to Israelis directly by using visitor services, and to offer the promise of continuing support through future tourism and other involvement. It was also hoped that this trip would call the attention of the local civic community to the importance of Israel to the local Jewish community and will be an example of our level of involvement and support. It is also hoped that this trip will encourage and inspire others in our community to plan their own trips. Rabbi Tilsen was invited to participate as spiritual leader of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in New Haven and as President of the New Haven Board of Rabbis.

In addition, Rabbi Tilsen returned to Israel from 16 to 27 February, along with his daughter **Gilah Benson-Tilsen** and sister **Janie Tilsen**, for a private family adventure, in part marking Gilah's becoming a bat mitzva.

Why I went to Israel Twice in February

I would love to receive the frequent flyer miles from BEKI members visiting Israel. Between Robert & Anne, Steve & Rachel, Michael & Kathy, Jay & Ina, Paula, Neil, Art & Betty, Leoard & Inge, Yaron & Liora, Nadav & Rita, Allon & Merav, Efram & Mimi, Ken, and Alan & Trish, and their children, along with USYers and a few others who make frequent trips to Israel, there are probably enough bonus miles to sponsor an entire congregational trip.

But it has been a long time since I have visited Israel myself. Between 1982 and 1989 I spent four years in Jerusalem. My first visit was during the War in Lebanon. My second stretch included the original "Intifada." But those conflicts were almost incidental to the wonderful experiences I enjoyed during those years. Just one highlight was meeting Miriam Benson, then a law student at Hebrew

University, and now my wife.

Although Israel has been described as being in a "perpetual state of crisis," the current period is particularly difficult. Israel has just completed a parliamentary election. The US war with Iraq may commence shortly. The toll from homicide terror is comparable to the death toll during war. Tourism is at a 20-year low. The economy is contracting more sharply than in any Western democracy in the past 50 years. Nevertheless, I believe Israel is a great place to visit, and I encourage all members of our Congregation and the community to plan a trip in the next year.

Some people are frightened about visiting Israel. The terror bombings and prospect of an Iraq attack are horrible. But the media sensation of terror bombings and shootings creates a picture that overstates the measurable risk of visiting Israel.

The Rabbinical Assembly annual convention is scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, California, this year, and in Jerusalem, Israel, next year. Let us compare information about these two places.



Rabbi Tilsen

(Year 2002)	Los Angeles	Israel
Population	3.7 million	6.7 million
Civilian Murders	650	219
Terrorist Murders	3	360
Traffic Deaths	647	556
Total	1300	1135

There were 1,230 motor vehicle fatalities in Los Angeles in 1988.

The killing of three people at the El Al Los Angeles airport ticket counter last July was initially classified as a regular murder by the authorities, who did not deem it a terrorist attack. Maybe they think the gunman was just upset about bad airline food. But I have listed it here as a "terrorist murder."

Continued on page 7

A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

At times, it seems that this generation of young people has had many national losses to deal with. As parents and teachers, we look for ways to explain, to comfort, to grieve, to give hope and to go on. The Columbia space shuttle tragedy provided just that test. Our Religious School students had followed the preparations of Ilan Ramon with particular attention to the Jewish objects he brought with him to space.

Together we studied his choices: a Torah, a mezuzah, and a drawing of a rocket ship to space by Petr Ginz, a child interned at Terezin and killed at Auschwitz. As a child of survivors, Ilan Ramon felt a particular affinity to the children lost in the Shoah.

We struggled to share with our children information that was developmentally appropriate for their level of understanding. I was inundated with helpful emails of teaching topics from United Synagogue, from Sydney Perry through the Principal's Council of Federation, from the Ghetto Fighter's House in Nahariya, Israel, from *Babaganewz*, and from friends.

In our teaching and writing to students and parents, we strove to teach the launch as an integration of our values as both Americans and Jews. We connected science, religion, Israel, Hebrew and current events. We felt an obligation to mark the tragedy because we are Jewish and because we are Americans. We commemorated the special meaning of Ramon's participation in the mission; his recitation of the Shema over Jerusalem, and the hope

and excitement his mission generated in Israel. We also mourned for the loss of all of the astronauts.

In our service we were sustained by the words of Hannah Senesh:



Dr. Lauren Kempton

Yesh Kochavim

There are stars whose light reaches earth only as they themselves are lost and are no more.

There are people whose radiance illumines their memories

When they themselves are no longer in our midst.

These lights that cause the darkest light to shine-

They light the way for humanity.

We wrote prayers to be placed in the Western Wall on my February trip to Jerusalem. We collected funds for the Jewish National Fund and hope to purchase a grove of trees in Illan Ramon's memory. From space, Ramon requested that so many trees be planted in Israel that they would be visible from outer space. Since the mission took place during Tu BeShevat and Ramon's first name, Ilan, means tree, we felt this was a most fitting way to make a real memorial in Israel for Col. Ramon.

Therefore:

May merciful God in heaven, grant perfect repose to the soul of Ilan ben Eliezer, and to the souls of Kalpana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Clark, Rick Husband, William McCool, and Michael Anderson, who have passed to their eternal dwelling place; may they be under God's divine wings among the holy and pure who shine bright as the sky; may their places of rest be Gan Eden, in paradise. Merciful one, keep their souls forever alive under Your protective wings. God is their heritage, may they rest in peace, and let us say, Amen.

Office Hours by Appointment
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RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW

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A Message from President Gila Reinstein

If all goes as planned, March will be a delightful month at BEKI.

At the beginning of the month, my brother Stephen Steinlight will speak on "Open Immigration: Is It Good for the Jews?" at a brunch on Sunday 2 March at 9:30a. A Fellow of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, DC, Steve is deeply concerned that excessive immigration from Muslim countries diminishes the political and social influence of American Jews. Come and hear what he has to say about this timely topic.


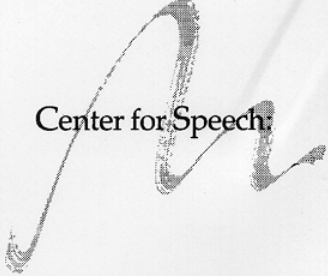
On 9 March, we will kick off our Rebuilding Campaign with a gala congregational meeting and brunch. The kick-off will feature great food, a presentation by the architect, and a chance to learn all about the project.

As you probably know, Phase II will provide us with a new main entrance from the parking lot that is safe, accessible, and attractive. Our current side entrance will become an emergency exit only. We will install an elevator for those who cannot manage the stairs. And the building will become more efficient and secure by relocating the offices near the entrances and lobby.

We will also gain a more spacious and beautiful lobby with new carpeting, light maple wainscoting, and lighting. The George G. Posener Daily Chapel and Rosenkrantz Library will be moved into large, inspiring, light-filled adjoining spaces that can function as a place for prayer, study, celebration, and meetings. The Claire Goodwin Youth Room will be given new prominence and upgraded with new furnishings. It will be in the education wing and will open directly into the front courtyard, where the children can enjoy supervised outdoor play in good weather.

To make all this happen, we need to raise \$850,000 to cover design and construction costs for both Phase I & II and related capital expenses. We do not intend to put a heavy burden of debt on the next generation, and therefore every one of us must make a generous pledge and pay it as promptly as we can. There will be "naming opportunities." Details will be available at the 9 March meeting.

On 17 and 18 March, we'll celebrate Purim with costumes, groggers, feasting, and fun. Bryna Pauker, Ina Silverman, and Roger Colten have created a new order form and promise to fill the "*mishloach manot*" boxes with outstanding treats. We will read *Megillat Esther* in the evening on 17 March and at Shoharim on 18 March. Janet Brown is coordinating the Purim family dinner on 18 March. Come one, come all!



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Purim Se'uda Celebration

On Purim afternoon, Tuesday 18 March 2003, a *se'uda* (Feast) will take place from 5:00p to 8:00p, including a light dairy dinner. Preregistration and payment is **required** by Wednesday 12 March. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$8 per child (age 3-12) free (2 and under), when registered and paid in advance (or \$100 per adult, \$50 per child or \$200 per family at the door).

Highlights

- Participatory square dance with caller Alan Brozek (all children 12 and under must be partnered with an adult for the square dance).
- Purim Talent Show/Theater in the Round, produced and directed by Dr. Lauren Kempton (sign up in advance with Dr. Kempton; first 10 2-minute acts will be included! First come first served! To perform in the Talent Show, call Dr. Kempton at 389-2108, ext. 13 or e-mail lkempton@beki.org today!)
- Ruth Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown, with face painting and balloon animals
- Special Purim Birkat Hamazon
- Special Purim Edition, BEKI Bulletin

Volunteers! Call Janet Brown, Food Chair, at 288-9073 to volunteer to help in food preparation and serving. Call Jessey Palumbo, Membership Chair, at 387-8359 to volunteer to meet & greet new BEKI members & prospectives at the Seuda. Call Liora Lew, Decorations Chair, at 389-1048, to assist with decorating. To volunteer for the Set-Up, Registra-

tion Table, or Clean-Up Committees, call Miriam Benson at 389-6137.

Registration forms are available in the lobby and from the BEKI office. Advance registration and payment is *required*.

Support for the music and dancing at the Purim Se'uda is provided by the **Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music** at BEKI.

Koakh Outreach to Students

We will be sending *mishloah manot* (Purim baskets) to our students away at school. If you would like to send one or more packages, please contact Mimi Glenn at 397-3851 by 12 March 2003, with name, address and a short message to be included in the package.

MICHAEL MARTONE
MANAGER

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Thurs. 8:00-7:00
Sat. 8:00-3:00

Why I went to Israel Twice in February

Continued from page 3

Many murders in Los Angeles are related to drugs, and many in Israel to domestic disputes (i.e. husbands killing their wives), and for that reason, most visitors who exercise reasonable caution have a good change of avoiding those dangers. About half of the terror murders of Israelis and visitors have taken place in the disputed territories. The random nature of terror attacks is part of what is so frightening, which is the intent. Traffic fatalities are also "random," but we are used to them, and they occur out of negligence or accident, not malice.

It is also true that Los Angeles is a much more dangerous place than most other American cities. St. Paul, Minnesota, typically records only five to 10 murders per year (and all of them are in cold blood). But most people consider Los Angeles an "acceptable risk." At least the Rabbinical Assembly does, apparently.

Israelis live on the "front line" 24/7/365. Many serve in police, military or security services. In this context, it is not unreasonable for an American like me to take the "risk" of visiting Israel for a few days. Moreover, as a matter of principle, I would not feel right being deterred from visiting Israel, or from doing anything else, by Hamas threat. It is easy for me to say "I will not give in to terror" from the safety of New Haven. It is only a symbolic gesture for me to say the same from Sbarro (kosher) Pizza in Jerusalem on a brief visit, but it is a gesture that I feel I need to make.

I say this mindful that our community has lost members and relatives to terror and war in Israel in recent years. Many remember Joan, as well as Matthew and Sarah, and Betty's cousin Sarah. Those deaths are tragedies, and are traumatic. There are lessons to be learned from their deaths, but the message is not that "Israel is too dangerous to visit." We have lost more members of our community in traffic accidents, and certainly many more to cancer. As Maimonides pointed out (as

did Freud), we suffer spiritually (or emotionally) more from maladies inflicted on us by other people than from those that are part of "nature."

This is also not to minimize the tragedy of the deaths of innocent Arab residents of the West Bank and Gaza (Arab Israelis are included in the death toll above). Nor is it to say that visiting Israel implies endorsement of the any particular government or its policies.

Our connections to Israel go beyond the current politics. Our ties are historic, religious, familial, and national. My daughter will have a chance to meet some of her Israeli cousins, and perhaps place a stone on the burial place of her ancestors in Sefat. We will climb Masada, swim in the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean, pray at the Temple Mount, and watch the sun rise over Jordan. We may also visit Ramla and Haifa, where Arabs and Jews live peacefully in mixed neighborhoods. We will also see the new "walls" being built to separate Israelis and West Bank Arabs and will act as "international observers" at an Israeli checkpoint. Unfortunately, on this trip, we will not be able to visit Ramallah, Bethlehem or Jericho, but we pray that we will be welcome in those cities in the future.

It is not Hamas or Islamic Jihad that has kept me from visiting Israel. Rather it has been the air fare, my responsibilities to my young children and congregation, and other "logistic" considerations. They are the same considerations that have kept me from visiting the Hawaiian Islands. Thanks to the support of UJC and of my wife, Miriam Benson, I was able to make a short trip with the Federation. And thanks to the generosity of Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman, who are hosting us in their Jerusalem apartment, and the support of Miriam, we are able to enjoy a longer stay. I plan to visit more often, and I hope that our Congregation can make a trip together sometime in the next year. Hotel rooms are available, the lines at the tourist attractions are very short, and the desert is in bloom. Our families and friends in Israel will especially appreciate our visits now.

Meet Guy Lord

Guy Lord arrived at BEKI in August of 2001. When introduced to his class of Sixth graders, he was instantly dubbed "Mr. Guy". Guy comes to us originally from Texas. He moved with his family to Denver, Colorado, when he was nine years old. A few years later, he moved again with his family to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. This was an interesting and unique cultural experience for him. Families came from all over the Middle East and India to live and work in Saudi Arabia, and their children went to school with Guy. He began to learn about different religions, having many friends who were Muslim and Hindu.



Guy Lord

When he returned to Colorado, he would remain fascinated by his experience. Guy attended college at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where

he majored in English.

Afterward, he left the southwest for the east coast, arriving at Washington, D.C. There, he started a master's program in Irish Studies at the Catholic University of America. During a semester spent in Ireland, Guy made a study of the Jewish community in Dublin. At the end of that semester, he traveled to Israel. After graduation, Guy began to pursue his interest in Judaism by attending services at a Conservative synagogue in Albuquerque, New Mexico, his family's new residence.

In the meantime, he applied to UConn for a master's program in comparative literature. Again on the east coast, Guy continued to learn about Judaism and attend services at Hillel and a local synagogue. After he graduated from UConn, he moved to New Haven and began teaching at BEKI Religious School. At the same time, he pursued the formal conversion process with Rabbi Tilsen. On 29 January (26 Shevat), Guy was formally converted.

LK

Family Education Update

What do Jews do in the middle of the snowiest winter in recent years? Think trees! On Friday night 18 January, over 100 people gathered to share Shabbat dinner and celebrate Tu BeShevat, the new year for trees. Sponsored by BEKI's Jewish Family Education program, the dinner featured songs and readings from a *haggada* for Tu BeShevat. Four cups of grape juice, which moved from light to dark, reminded us that spring really will come, eventually. The walls and tables were decorated with artwork from children of the religious school, in which they reflected on *midrashim* (rabbinic stories) looking at trees as a metaphor for our people's relationship with our creator. We feasted on a sumptuous meal prepared by Linden Grazier-Zerbarini, and enjoyed the colorful table covers provided by the Sisterhood.

Ten BEKI families made their own *havdala* sets and learned about the ritual marking the end of Shabbat on 1 February. In this Jewish Family Education program, parents and children shared stories about Elijah the prophet and a Rabbi Nachman tale about the moon, and learned colors in Hebrew. Thanks to JoAnn Goldblum and Helene Sapadin for preparing our stories, to the Battat family for teaching colors in Hebrew, and to the Dinovetsky family for being greeters. Brooks Parmelee closed the evening for the kids with a fascinating discussion of the night sky, while their parents discussed the role of separation in Jewish life with Anne Johnston, family educator. Thanks to all who helped that night, including Saul Bell. Special thanks to Dr. Lauren Kempton for her continuing support of the family education program.

AJ

LifeCycle

With sorrow we note the passing of

- Linda Karacaova, daughter of Tillie Horwitz
- William Ries, father of Michael Ries (& Jennifer Botwick-Ries)
- Morris Levine, father of Sid (& Donna) Levine
- Yetta Aronow, mother of Rita (& Nadav) Sela

May the Almighty Comfort those who Mourn

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

Mazal Tov to

- Morris & Gloria Cohen on their Golden Wedding Anniversary
- Harold Miller on his Milestone Birthday

Sunday Brunch

Stephen Steinlight, fellow of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, DC, will be the featured speaker on Sunday 2 March, at a brunch which immediately follows the 9:00a service. The brunch is open to all without reservation.



Stephen Steinlight

Stephen will speak on "Open-ended Immigration: Is it Good for the Jews?"

Dr. Steinlight's remarks are intended to open a discussion of the impact of today's levels of immigration, especially of Muslims, on the political situation of American Jewry and its implications for Israel.

Stephen Steinlight's controversial essay "The Jewish Stake in America's Changing Demography: Reconsidering a Misguided Immigration Policy" has ignited a firestorm among policy analysts, and his key role in the rising debate on immigration within the American Jewish community is underscored in a recent front-page feature in *The Forward* (29 November 2002) titled "Community Questioning 'Open Door': Debate Raging on Immigration."

Stephen is editor of "South Asia: In Review," a publication of the US Institute for Strategic Study of South Asia, and has been closely involved in the work of the Ibn Khaldun Society of independent Muslim intellectuals. His most recent work, *Fractious Nation? Race, Class, and Culture in America at the End of the 20th Century*, will be published this spring by the University of California Press-Berkeley. Several months ago, Dr. Steinlight was part of a team of experts on civil society, inter-religious relations, Islam, and conflict-resolution sent by the Soros Open Society Institute to Macedonia to help avert a return to civil war between the country's Macedonian Orthodox Christians and its large Muslim minority and to lay the foundations for transparent and violence-free elections.

JEWISH FOUNDATION



of Greater New Haven

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OF GREATER
NEW HAVEN.**

BEKI Events

March - Adar I - Adar II

5763

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						27 Adar I 1
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33	Email Addresses: Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Education Director: lkempton@beki.org Benei Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org website: www.beki.org			9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Rabbi Colin Brodie</i> <i>Kiddush Sponsor: Rabbi Murray Levine</i> 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 5:25p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
28 Adar I 2	29 Adar I 3	30 Adar I 4	1 Adar II 5	2 Adar II 6	3 Adar II 7	4 Adar II 8
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 9:30a Congr. Brunch <i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Stephen Steinlight</i> 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 5:32p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Jewish Theological Seminary Shabbat</i> <i>Darshan: Ari Greenberg</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:40p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala ----- <i>USY Shabbaton</i> -----
5 Adar II 9	6 Adar II 10	7 Adar II 11	8 Adar II 12	9 Adar II 13	10 Adar II 14	11 Adar II 15
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 9:30a Congregational Meeting - Renovations 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 7:30p Exec. Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 5:45p Maariv 5:45p Benei Mitzva Pgm Dinner	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 5:40p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
12 Adar II 16	13 Adar II 17	14 Adar II 18	15 Adar II 19	16 Adar II 20	17 Adar II 21	18 Adar II 22
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 6:30p Maariv & Megila Reading	<i>Purim</i> 7:00a Shaharit & Megila Reading <i>5:00p Purim Seuda</i> 5:45p Maariv	<i>Shushan Purim</i> 7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 5:47p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Kiddush Sponsor: Pam Howard</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
19 Adar II 23	20 Adar II 24	21 Adar II 25	22 Adar II 26	23 Adar II 27	24 Adar II 28	25 Adar II 29
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 12:00n-5:00p KISS 5:45p Maariv 7:45p General Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 5:55p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Shira Winter Bat Mitzva</i> 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
26 Adar II 30	27 Adar II 31					
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv					

Samuel Louis Yardeni, Bar Mitzva

Samuel Louis Yardeni, son of Pam Howard and of Edward Yardeni, celebrated becoming a bar mitzva at his grandparents' synagogue in Florida on *parashat* Shemot during the winter break. It was a truly joyous and special celebration.

Sam's grandparents were injured in a terrorist attack in Israel in July 1989 on a bus from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Sam's grandfather was brought DOA to Hadassah Hospital but was revived. Sam's grandmother also suffered critical injuries but also survived. They now live in Florida but no longer travel. For that reason, the observance was held in their area. Many other local relatives attended as well. He was presented with a tallit, kippa and tefillin.

Pam Howard works as a Jewish special education specialist, and has worked closely with the BEKI Religious School faculty in meeting the needs of the students in the Talmud Torah Meyuhad – Special Education program. Part of the Congregation's commitment to our youth includes doing the utmost to recognize each student's way of learning and to affirm and celebrate each student's Jewish identity as they become *benei mitzva* and continue to deepen their involvement in the adult Jewish community. Sam's bar mitzva celebration is one inspiring expression of that commitment.

On Shabbat 22 March, Sam's family will sponsor a qiddush following morning services to create an opportunity for the community to recognize and celebrate with Sam and his family.

Shira Winter Bat Mitzva

Shira Winter, daughter of Michael Winter & Ellen Mackler, will lead and participate in services on Shabbat HaHodesh (The Sabbath of 'This Month'), 28-29 March, *parashat* Shemini. Shira is a student at Ezra Academy.



Samuel Louis Yardeni

Darshan in March

Rabbi Colin Brodie will serve as *darshan* (Torah commentator) on the morning of Shabbat Sheqalim (The Sabbath of the Sheqels), 1 March, *parashat* VaYakhel. Colin is married to Rabbi Amanda Brodie and works at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and at the Jewish Community Center.



Rabbi Colin Brodie

On Shabbat 8 March, *parashat* Pequdei, Jewish Theological Seminary of America List College student Ari J. Greenberg will serve as *darshan*, in recognition of JTS Shabbat.

On Shabbat Para (The Sabbath of the Cow), *parashat* Tsav, 22 March, Stephen Wizner will serve as *darshan*. Stephen lives in New Haven with his wife, Rachel.

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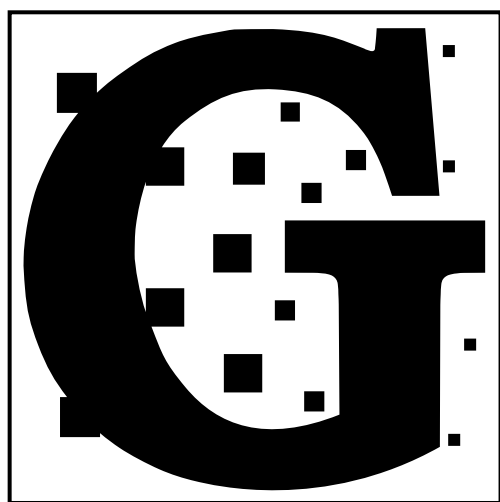
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SAT ACT MAT on Sunday

Students who are Shabbat observers and who plan to take standardized tests may register for regularly scheduled Sunday test dates. The SAT will be administered on Sundays 6 April, 4 May, 8 June, 10 October, 2 November and 7 December 2003. For more information on Sunday testing, see www.collegeboard.com/sat/html/students/reg004.html. If you need a letter from a rabbi, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

BEKI Religious School Announcements Shabbat Services

Two resources have been established to assist parents in their preparation for leading Children's services on Shabbat mornings. The file cabinet located in the Youth Lounge has two commentaries on the weekly *parasha* (Torah portion) for you to take home to prepare your lessons. The Religious School Library is open in Room 3. Books are displayed that are relevant to the *parasha*. A complete bibliography of library holdings will eventually be available in the lobby literature rack with the other announcements. Also for parents of younger children, there is flannel board available to portray the scenes of the *parasha*.



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Kulanu and Saul's Circle

March is a busy month for both Kulanu and Saul's Circle at BEKI. On 11 March, we will join with Jennifer Cohen from Jewish Family Services and the Shalom group. The evening will begin with a festive meal followed by a Purim play led by Rabbi Gerald Breiger of Temple Emmanuel. The evening is a tribute to the JFS volunteers coordinated by Alice Rain.

LK

Recycling at BEKI

A receptacle for recyclable plastics is placed next to the trash barrel at Shabbat morning qiddush and other events. Please place plastic cups (not Styrofoam) and other plastic items in the recycling bin.

Watch those Kids!

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

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BEKI-BJ USY Universe

Come join us!

Our Tenth Annual Deli Boxes sale was a huge success. Thanks to everyone for your help and support. We especially want to thank parents Coby Ben-Chitrit, Liora Lew, and David Kuperstock who helped with all the preparations!

February was a busy month. We kicked it off with a delicious Israeli Supper and Info night. It was great learning about the amazing opportunities USY provides for travel and learning in Israel, and hearing first-hand stories from Aliza Kuperstock, Danya Cheskis-Gold, and Verred Hamenachem about the awesome experiences they had last summer on USY Israel Pilgrimage.

We spent a terrific Shabbat with kids from all over Hanefesh Region at our Mid-Winter Kinnus in early February. Our study topic was "Who is a Hero?" The study was especially poignant coming only a week after the Columbia Shuttle disaster.

In Mid-February, one of our chapter's co-presidents, Rachel Shulman traveled to Israel as this USY region's representative on the annual HeChalutzim Israel Seminar. We are eager to hear all about it.

February ended with an Ice Skating Party. We had a blast.

March will be no less exciting. It will include

- Regional Semi-Formal Dance at Or Shalom in Orange 1 March
- Annual BEKI/BJ Shabbaton at BEKI 7-9 March
- Three BEKI/BJ USYers attend the International Abraham Joshua Heschel Society Convention, an intense Shabbat and study weekend in Teaneck, NJ 14-16 March
- Regional Spring Kinnus in North Haven, at which our new Regional Board will be elected, Regional Awards will be bestowed, and at which our current Regional President, BEKI/BJ member Aliza Kuperstock, will give her farewell address 21-23 March
- Matzo Ball Dance at West Hartford 29 March

For more information about these programs, or about USY (United Synagogue Youth) please contact one of our co-presidents: Rachel Shulman (raylo1021@aol.com), Ellie Reis (clem1010@aol.com), or our advisor Darryl Kuperstock (kuperst@aol.com).



USYers Baking Pumpkin Pies

Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

Pirque Avot

Mishna Avot, also known as *Pirque Avot* or Ethics of the Fathers is studied at BEKI each Shabbat afternoon between the *mincha* and *maariv* services during the winter months. Everyone is welcome. See the calendar page or www.beki.org/rotate.html for the service time.

Divrei Torah on the Web

The texts of some Divrei Torah by BEKI members is available at www.beki.org/hungry.html

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome.

AA Meetings Thursdays at 8:00p

The Thursday night [AA meeting](#) has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. The meeting now features a speaker. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at jay@jacswweb.org.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan for adults meets in BEKI's [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) every second *Shabbat* (Saturday) morning year-round from 10:45a to noon. The SSLM meets on the 8th and 22nd of March. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Kadima is back!

Kadima kicked off its new season by baking brownies for the Super Bowl deli boxes on the night before the big game in January. Kids from BEKI and BJ gathered to bake brownies, play fun games, socialize and meet the new advisor.

Also in January, Kadimaniks and USYer's joined together to pack the delicious deli boxes that so many of you received. This year was the 10th Anniversary of this program as well as the year with the most orders ever — 180 boxes!

We hope you all enjoyed your deli boxes. Watch out for other fun activities scheduled for this year. See you there!

Gilah Benson-Tilsen

Kadima is a national youth group organization for 6th – 8th graders. For more information, please contact Sabrina Spector at 203-562-1460 or kadima@beki.org.

Gilah Benson-Tilsen is a BEKI Kadima member and 6th grade student at Ezra Academy. If you would like to write an article for Kadima, please contact Sabrina.



Kadima Kids