

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

March 2007

Adar 5767
Vol. 13 Issue 3

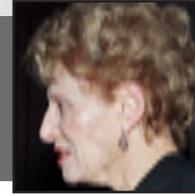
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Seminary Shabbat

Jewish Theological Seminary of America cantorial student Michael Weis will visit BEKI on Shabbat 16-17 March and will serve as *darshan* (Bible commentator) on Shabbat morning. Michael Weis, a second-year student in The Cantorial School, is originally from Chicago and has lived in Los Angeles since 1987. He has a degree in economics from Stanford University and worked in graphic design and printing as well as acting.

For information on supporting the Jewish Theological Seminary, see the Sisterhood section in this issue. For information on the Seminary and its programs, see www.jtsa.edu. Several BEKI members are graduates or former faculty members of JTSA. Ahud Sela is currently a senior in the Rabbinical School, and Shai Silverman is entering List College.



JTS Cantorial Student Michael Weis

Purim at BEKI

Be Happy It's Adar

Mishenikhnas Adar marbim besimha – When Adar begins, joy increases.

Talmud Eruvin 29a

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal 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.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is normally observed the day before Purim; this year, it is advanced to Thursday 1 March 2007, since we do not fast on Friday or Shabbat (except when it coincides with Yom Kippur). Taanit Esther 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 Thursday 1 March. The Thursday *shaharit* morning service is from 8:15a to 9:00a and includes “Avinu Malkenu -- Our Father, Our

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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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Schedule Changes & Notes

As noted in the Purim article, Taanit Esther (the Fast of Esther) is advanced to Thursday 1 March this year since Purim is on Motse`ei Shabbat Saturday Night.

In accordance with a new law, Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday morning 11 March 2007 (earlier than in recent years).

Beginning Sunday night 11 March 2007, we will recite minha at 5:45p, followed immediately by Maariv, at daily services until the autumn.

Beginning 17 March 2007, until the autumn, Shabbat minha service will begin at 5:45p but will not be followed by Maariv and havdala, due to the late hour. Worshippers are encouraged to recite Maariv and havdala at home.

On Tuesday 25 December 2007, Shaharit service will be at 9:00a in accordance with a new schedule issued by the Ritual Committee.

Purim at BEKI

continued from cover

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 *minha* afternoon is from 5:45p to 6:15p. The fast ends at 6:00p, 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 Saturday Night 3 March 2007, and then again during the morning service, which begins at 9:00a on Sunday 4 March 2007.

Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it oneself) is a Biblical commandment (*mitzva*). Other Purim *mitzvot* (religious imperatives) include send-

ing 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. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will have to start over to insure that everyone hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story’s villain reverberate though 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.

Please do not bring firearms, explosive devices or weapons, or any toy that resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door – we mean it). In accordance with revised FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are again permitted. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction



are permitted in the sanctuary during the service; this applies on Purim as well as year-round.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be *groggier* than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18 centimeters).

Purim Seuda – Feast Sunday 4 March 5-8p

Sunday 4 March 2007, 5p to 8p (break for 5:45p minyan); in the BEKI downstairs Social Hall; a light dairy/pareve dinner will be served; \$12 per adult, \$10 per child age 3-12; 2 and under, no charge.

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Admission Preregistration **Required**, with payment, by Monday 26 February, 2007. Please register today by contacting 389-2108 x14 office@beki.org. Food is free, but no **admission** without payment and preregistration.

Highlights: Purim Shpiel • 5:45 Minyan • Ruth Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown, with balloon animals • Face-painting with Rachel Sutin • Special Purim Birkat Hamazon • Purim Songs Sing-a-long with Yair Minsky • Jake Weinstein, the Circus Man: Participatory Circus Games • And More

Volunteers! Call Bryna Pauker (389-9603) or Sherry Rothman (397-2249), Food Co-Chairs, to volunteer to help in food preparation and serving. Call Jessey Palumbo, Membership Chair, 387-8359, to volunteer to do outreach to new and prospective BEKI members at the Seuda. Call Liora Lew, Decorations Chair, at 389-1048, to assist with decorating. To volunteer for the Set-Up, Registration Table, or Clean-Up Committees, call Miriam Benson at 389-6137.

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(389-2108 x14)**

Her Name is Daisy

I will revisit a theme that I have touched upon in the past: dealing with aging parents.

This is a very personal message, but those of you who know me, know that is how I write. I just turned sixty and my mother, Daisy Kempton will be 93 on 7 March. This has been a rough year for her with pneumonia and a bad virus. She arrived in November for a late family Thanksgiving celebration. My son Brett, a paramedic, pulled me aside and said, "Mom, get her to the hospital, she has pneumonia." So off we went to St. Vincent's Hospital. She was admitted and diagnosed with pneumonia and heart arrhythmia.

My Mom has advanced Alzheimer's and the ten day-stay in the hospital exacerbated her condition. My sister Beth stayed most nights and I took days. My Mom is a fashion plate. She may forget to brush her teeth or bathe, but her outfits are always coordinated. So it was really sad to see her in the hospital gown. She seemed smaller and much more vulnerable. The nursing staff and doctors were excellent, until the last day. Perhaps they did not check in as often on the night shift, being assured that my sister was spending nights there with my Mom. I arrived at 6:30a, my sister left to get some sleep and I found her I.V. ripped out. There was a trail of blood to the bathroom.

I called the nurse and she arrived with major attitude. "Dorothy, why didn't you call us or your daughter?" I said gently, "Her name is Daisy." She said again, in a condescending tone, "Now Dorothy, we are going to get you all cleaned up." My voice grew louder. "Her name is Daisy." When she called her Dorothy, in that fake-sweet voice, the third time, I flipped. "Get someone in here to change her and wash the floors. She has dementia; she did not understand the buzzer to call you."

As I watched the cleanup procedures, no soap and water, all antiseptic packaged wipes, I looked at her hands, bruised and swollen from the multiple attempts at inserting the I.V.s. I thought of those hands and what they meant to me as a child. With those hands she lovingly wiped my tears and made me "all better now." She sewed all my clothes, a white wool dress with my initials in light turquoise angora: LJK. Those hands held a book each night as she read me to sleep and I would pull open her eyes and say, "Sing it again, Mom, sing it again." And when I had children of my own, those hands lovingly held my dark-haired son Larry as he slept and attempted to hold the tow head, Brett, as he wiggled and squirmed.

Daisy is home now and seems frailer. Most days she knows my sister and me. She no longer knows Brooks, my husband or her six grandchildren. My son Brett, when not remembered by his grandmother, wiped the tears away and said, "You know me Gram, I'm Brett, and I'm your favorite!" And she smiled and said, "That's right, dear."

We are now looking for a home for her, for we can no longer provide the care that she needs. I am torn by this decision but realize she needs much more attention. As we move to this next stage, I am full of both love and appreciation for the core values that she lovingly taught me: respect for elders, concern for the planet, tikkun olam social action, a love of the written and spoken word. But the most important teaching is: Honor Your Mother and Your Father." I pray that I can continue to do that in her new environment. But the first lesson I will teach to her new caretakers is: "Her name is Daisy."



Toward a Moderate Communal Kashrut Regime

One day's mail brought two advertisements that highlighted the true dilemma of the kosher consumer. One was a full back-page newspaper ad for "Kosher" brand kosher-certified bottled water. The other was a separate oversized mailing for "Mizmor" brand kosher-certified water. The dilemma for the consumer: which brand is really more kosher?

I was somewhat upset to receive these advertisements, not only because my Purim gags had been preempted, but also because these actual products suggest an unethical practice and are religiously misleading.

Let us go back a step. The Torah outlines dietary restrictions, primarily the limitations on meat-eating and the prohibition against mixing meat and milk. The rest of the kashrut regime is intended to keep us far from violating those core Biblical laws.

The Torah gives us reasons for following these rules. One reason is that eating certain creatures, such as worms or lizards, is "disgusting." A second reason is to make us "Holy" like God (whatever is meant by that). A third reason is that "God says so." Beyond the reasons stated in Torah, our sages as well as nationalists and culturalists, modern psychologists, anthropologists, ethicists and other scientists have suggested other reasons for the historic and continuing observance of kashrut. I personally put a lot of stock in the Torah's reasons as well as the other rationale (see, for ex-

ample, my essay "Chews by Choice" on the BEKI website).

As faithful as we want to be to the Torah laws and rabbinic regulations, it is clear that the rules of kashrut are not supposed to prevent observant Jews from eating with each other, or keep people from ever eating meat. They are not supposed

to be the battleground for various factions to prove who is more "strict" or to delegitimize others.

Rather, the rules are intended to help make us holy through conscientious private and communal food preparation and eating. They are intended to reinforce the bonds of Jewish community. Unfortunately, the dynamic of kashrut is that restaurateurs, caterers and institutions sometimes seek the "strictest" rules so they can serve the widest clientele. Essentially, it can give veto power, or undue weight, to the particular strictures of some religious faction or organizations.

Working in the kosher food business – whether as a vendor or supervising agency – can be a thankless job. Ever-changing products and standards of practice, competing religious organizations, the confluence of religion, politics and money, dealing with fanatic rabbis, all make for a lot of aggravation.

Over the years, we have tried to stake out a moderate approach to kashrut that will enforce generally accepted kashrut practices and enable most observant Jews to eat with complete confidence.

The Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly (KINAHARA) has sought to provide continuing education on kashrut issues for consumers and those who work as volunteers in



to make eating twice as expensive for Jews, or make anyone wealthy. They are not intended to require rabbinic permission to drink water. They are not intended to enable commercial fraud or the "selling" of rabbinic authority. And, contrary to what the anti-Semites love to point out, these rules are not supposed to be a tax on non-Jews. They are not supposed to be a mechanism for a vast sub-

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

our communal kitchens. The hope is that understanding the “real” rules of kashrut, as well as developing simple procedures to follow them, will make kashrut easier to swallow, so to speak. Our model is akin to the “community policing” model that New Haven made famous – a “communal kashrut” regime where most participants have a stake in the outcome, and professionals or volunteer experts provide the support to keep everything on track.

It so happens that the Rabbinical Assembly is the largest, or one of the largest, organizations of rabbis in our area. This gives us certain advantages in offering kashrut supervision and certification. It means that we are able to adopt one set of standards and share our resources such as *mashgihim* (supervisors), and to ensure a market for any vendor we certify. It means that our work does not have to depend on a single rabbi, and we constitute a large body of rabbis who are not trying to “compete” with each other.

It has been noted that some non-Conservative rabbis will not accept our certification. It is also true that many of those same rabbis also don’t accept the certification of other non-Conservative rabbis, but only accept the certification of rabbis within their own organization or its allies. You can’t please everybody. Fortunately, our experience is that many kosher consumers rise above partisan religious politics, and most of the observant Jews in our area are secure enough in their observance and knowledge to cross institutional lines. Moreover, it turns out that half of the kosher consumers are not even Jewish to begin with and are not affected by partisan religious pol-

itics. It turns out that the broadest part of the market will accept our certification.

While visiting Philadelphia recently, my son Tsvi and I patronized three of the four restaurants supervised by the Philadelphia Branch of the Rabbinical Assembly. At a 2:00p lunch in a great Chinese restaurant, a couple came in, and I will guess that they were not Jewish. He says, “Everything is vegetarian!” She says, “And it’s kosher!” He says, “Yeah, I trust that.” Presumably, they are among the six to ten million non-Jewish Americans who rely on kashrut supervision to maintain their personal dietary ethic. A moment later, a single woman seated nearby asked the server to point her to a “washing station” – the request of a pious Jew.

There is a particular structural imbalance in the world of kashrut supervision. We will accept the certification of any credentialed and reliable rabbinic authority, even if it does not meet our standards in every way, as long as it is within the law. On the other side, some will not accept our certification without respect to any objective rules of kashrut but rather out of their own parochial institutional interests, lack of trust or respect, or exclusivist ideology. Can we survive with this imbalance? It is like those missionaries who believe everyone must follow their religion to be “saved,” whereas traditional rabbinic Judaism teaches that there are other valid ways to please our Creator and gain eternal life. Can our model compete?

There is also a terrible conflict of interest that comes into play in kashrut supervision. In short, supervising rabbis or agencies have an interest in the success

of the products or vendors they supervise, and an incentive to compete with other agencies, even by rejecting others’ certification. Our “community supervision” model can somewhat alleviate that conflict, but does not completely remove it.

Observing kashrut can be difficult. Observing kashrut without falling into the traps of spiraling strictness, corruption, or laxity is even harder. Our “moderate” approach to kashrut can keep its focus on the core Biblical rules and central rabbinic values only with the continuing process of dialog among the concerned consumers and rabbinic authorities, minimizing the profit motive and dampening competition. Doing so adds a sense of holiness to our lives and helps insure the future of the Jewish People and the continuation of our mission.

Rabbi Tsadoq says: Do not make the Torah a crown for self-aggrandizement nor a spade for digging one’s livelihood. For this is what Hillel warned against: One who uses Torah for personal gain perishes. (Avot 4:7)

For information on BEKI’s kashrut policies, see www.beki.org under “kashrut.” For communal standards, see www.kinahara.org.

BEKI Hosts Rabbinic Seminar

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel will host a Yom Iyyun Rabbinic Seminar in early March. The Yom Iyyun, organized by Rabbi Murray Levine, is jointly presented by the New Haven Board of Rabbis, the Connecticut Valley Rabbinical Assembly, and the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly (www.nahara.org). Featured speakers include UConn Professor Tony Perry, who will teach on "The Honeymoon is Over: Jonah's Argument with God," and Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz, JTS Associate Professor of Talmud and Chair of the Joint Bet Din of the Conservative Movement, who will teach on "Different Ways of Studying a Sugya."

In addition, the rabbis will recognize Rabbi Richard Eisenberg, as he completes his service at Congregation B'nai Jacob and begins new service as a rabbi in drug and addiction counseling and education.

This event is made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Shirley Kroopnick in memory of her beloved husband Irving Kroopnick; and of Mr. Leonard J. Holtz, Executive Director, Hebrew Funeral Association, Inc.

Rabbis interested in attending may make reservations and payment with Rabbi Murray Levine (397-2513).

Board Retreat: Precursor to BEKI 2012 or BEKI 2020?

Directors of the congregation will spend half a day together on Sunday 18 March envisioning a better BEKI and learning how to bring positive change to our culture. The retreat, planned by our officers with the support of John Weiser of Brody Weiser Burns, consultants to non-profits, will help begin the next step following the "BEKI 2000" process of the mid-1990s, and will further our process of management improvement initiated through our Legacy Heritage Innovation Project. Participants will have opportunities to share and develop visions, as well as learn to tackle some of the real challenges of implementing change in the wonderful and unusual BEKI community.



John Weiser

Minyan Seekers / Minyan Makers Mailing List

If you would like email notification when BEKI members are seeking additional participants for a daily service in order to insure a minyan, and might like to request that others attend on a specific date on which you seek a minyan, send a message to minyan-subscribe@beki.org. You can unsubscribe by sending a message to minyan-unsubscribe@beki.org and obtain additional instructions at minyan-help@beki.org.

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Once again, BEKI Sisterhood will have the yellow candles for Yom Hashoah in the gift shop. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

For Passover the gift shop has many gift items and beautiful seder plates, matza covers, etc. to enhance your holiday table.

Please patronize our **Sisterhood Gift Shop**.

Adele Tyson & Ruthie Greenblatt,
Co-Presidents

Torah Fund

Thanks to everyone who made donations to the annual appeal in November. Your generous donations go directly to the Women's League for Conservative Judaism to support the Jewish Theological Seminary and its affiliates, such as:

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem which was established in 1984. It is affiliated with JTS and the Masorti (Conservative) Movement. It is one of Israel's leading academic centers for modern Jewish learning.

Just a phone call is all it takes to send a card. Call Barbara Cushen at 407-0314, your card goes right out & you save time & gas! We have cards for every occasion.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair

Thanks to the following who purchased cards last month:

Mazal Tov to:

- Jerry & Judy Oppenheim on the birth of their grandson Evan from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe
- Cyd & Mark Oppenheimer on the birth of daughter Rebekah Rose from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Susan & Victor Stein
- Jennifer Myer & James Kempton on the birth of their son from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Charlotte Teitelman on the B'nai Mitzva of her twin grandchildren from Violet & Charles Ludwig

Get Well to:

- Sally Sender from Grace Geisinger
- Marlene Spaner from Louis Petrillo

In Memory of:

- Estelle Friedman from Barbara Cushen, Rose Brunswick
- Freda Rashba from Anna Goldberg
- Tiby Goldman from Anna Goldberg, Linda Houser
- Max Rubenstein from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Joyce Mandel Hoffman from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Sam Kravitz from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Rebecca Rader from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Susan & Victor Stein
- Dr. Aaron Lerner from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Florence Aylem from Shirley Mattler, Judy Resnick
- Rickey Kaplitz from Helen Miller
- Naomi Zelnick from Louis Petrillo
- Priscilla Kerson from Adele Tyson

Apply for or Donate to New Teen Scholarships Provided by Sisterhood

In memory of her father, Marcel Gutman, Mimi Glenn has set up a teen scholarship program through the Sisterhood. Eligible teens are those in grades 8 to 12 who are going to Israel with a youth group or school program, or engaging in Jewish youth programs during the year or the summer. Some examples of appropriate programs would be the Ezra 8th Grade Israel trip, Mifgash, March of Living, USY Kinnus, USY on Wheels, Camp Ramah. The parent or guardian of the eligible teen must be a member of BEKI Sisterhood (annual dues \$25) or a contributor to Sisterhood (at least \$25 per year). *Applications* for the scholarship can be picked up at beki.org or at the BEKI Office, as well as information about Sisterhood membership. Tax-deductible *donations* to the scholarship fund can be sent to: BEKI Sisterhood, c/o Miriam Ratner, 135 Seneca Rd., New Haven, CT 06515.

Civic Tribute Dinner Save the Date

Sunday 6 May 2007, 6:30p

*Join us as we honor
BEKI's own outstanding civic
leaders:
Carl Goldfield, Ina Silverman &
Susan Voigt*

Watch for your invitation in the mail.
Tickets: \$90 per person
Cocktail hour, live music, elegant
kosher dinner

**With Sorrow We Note
the Passing of**

Samuel S. Kravitz, son of Zelda Kravitz
Rebecca Rader, mother of
Dennis (& Barbara) Rader
Aaron Lerner, father of Peter Lerner
(& Gwen Weltman)

HaNolad BeMazal Tov

Mazal tov to Jennifer Myer & James
Kempton on the birth of Nathan Patrick
Kempton in February. Baby Boy was
entered into the covenant through brit
mila on the eighth day at BEKI follow-
ing a weekday morning service. Mazal
tov as well to Owen, the big brother of
Nathan Patrick Kempton.

Mazal tov to Betty Levy on receiving
the Equal Access to Justice Award from
New Haven Legal Assistance, to be
awarded on 2 May.

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Tiku Shofar - High Holiday Training

WHO: HH Junior Congregation Leaders (and any others in the BEKI community who want to deepen their understanding of and proficiency in HH liturgy)

WHEN: Sunday 29 April, 2007, 6:00p to 7:30p (immediately following 5:45p service)

WHERE: BEKI

PRESENTERS: Michael Stern and Isaiah Cooper, HH Shelihei Tsiibur (prayer leaders)

MECHANICS: Service outlines will be handed out at the session; digital recordings of the services sung “straight through” will be provided to all attendees. Recommended: purchase a copy of Tiku Shofar, by Shoshana Silberman, www.uscj.org for your own use and bring it to the session. You may bring a recording device to the session.

RSVP to Miriam 389-6137 by 22 April

Kulanu

Kulanu participants are gearing up for Purim. They will be making groggers and learning new aspects of the Purim story. They are investigating being involved in a beautification program at the New Haven Holocaust Memorial on Whalley Avenue.

Saul's Circle

The topic for March is customs and traditions of Judaism. The group first looked at Purim and how the celebration of Purim has grown over the centuries. The group made Purim masks as part of the Lunch and Learn program.

Support for “Operation Far From Home”

The BEKI Religious school students and teachers have developed a very nice relationship with the Jewish soldiers at Camp Stryker in Iraq, thanks to the work of Phil & Linda Bleich.

We are alerted well before every major Jewish holiday so we can prepare our packages for our Jewish soldiers in Iraq. This month he delivered groggers!.. So the entire Religious School, grades K through 7, painted the groggers. We had paint on our clothes, hands and faces and it was great fun. We were faced with a real dilemma. When the grogger is designed as a clacker, or noisemaker, how do you paint the inside? After all when we hear “Haman” we must make noise. The answer will be in next month's *Bulletin*.

BRS Project for Darfur: Solar Cookers

Thanks you so much for your support for the solar cookers for Darfur! The project is ongoing so to learn more please call Lauren at 389-2108 x13.

LJK

Solar Array Update



The rooftop photovoltaic array went into full-time service on Tu BeShevat in February. During these winter months, the typical output on a clear day is around 40,000 Watt hours. This is the electricity it would take to light a 40-Watt lightbulb for 1,000 hours. The maximum output achieved in the winter was about 7,750 Watts; that should rise to over 9,000 Watts in the summer when the higher sun shines more directly on the panels. This output is enough to light 150 60-Watt bulbs at once.

The array on BEKI's roof (classroom wing) occupies no more than 10% of the roof area suitable for solar collection. There is lots of room for expansion. The power produced by the solar array directly replaces electricity that we would otherwise buy from the electric company at peak hours.

The installation of the array was the initiative of Tsvi Benson-Tilsen as a bar mitzva project and was accomplished with the support and help of over 200 donors and participants. The project is also part of BEKI's Legacy Heritage Innovation Project, which seeks to promote Conservation and Alternative and Renewable Energy as Jewish values.

Teaching About Israel

Our BEKI Religious School curriculum provides for the teaching of Israel in a spiral fashion. Each year the students delve deeper into both past and present history and culture of Israel. Our learning was greatly enhanced by the teachings of Boaz Rappaport, former Israeli soldier, son of Tikva Shapiro, Grade Six teacher at BEKI Religious School. In grades four and five they did an intensive study of the IDF, the Israeli Defense Forces. They studied the logos for the various divisions and even designed their own badges.



Boaz Rappaport with BRS Students

March 2007

11 Adar 5767 - 12 Nisan 5767

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 Fast of Esther 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 11 Adar	2 5:28pm Candle Lighting 12 Adar	3 Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Ben-Chitrit, Belowsky, Sokolow Silverman 5:30pm Minha 6:30pm Purim Megila Reading 13 Adar
4 Purim 9:00am Religious School 9:00am Purim Megila Reading 5:00pm Purim Seuda Meal 14 Adar	5 Shushan Purim 7:45am Rashi Study Group 15 Adar	6 16 Adar	7 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 17 Adar	8 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 18 Adar	9 5:35pm Candle Lighting 19 Adar	10 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Cohen 5:40pm Minha 7:30pm Wine Tasting 20 Adar
11 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Book Brunch with guest speaker Shulamith Chernoff 21 Adar	12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 22 Adar	13 23 Adar	14 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 24 Adar	15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 25 Adar	16 6:42pm EDT Candle Lighting 26 Adar	17 JTS Shabbat Darshan: Michael Weis 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: BEKI JTS Supporters 5:45pm Minha 27 Adar
18 9:00am Religious School Leadership Retreat 28 Adar	19 7:45am Rashi Study Group 29 Adar	20 Rosh Hodesh 1 Nisan	21 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 2 Nisan	22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 3 Nisan	23 6:51pm Candle Lighting 4 Nisan	24 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Lovins/Loving 5:45pm Minha 5 Nisan
25 9:00am Religious School 6 Nisan	26 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting 7 Nisan	27 6:00pm Special Needs Seder 8 Nisan	28 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 9 Nisan	29 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 10 Nisan	30 6:59pm Candle Lighting 11 Nisan	31 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Weiner & Cohen Fraade 5:45pm Minha 12 Nisan

BEKI Events

Shabbatot

Darshan in March

Rabbi Murray Levine will serve as darshan (Torah commentator) on Shabbat Zakhor, parashat Tetsave, 3 March 2007. Rabbi Levine is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham, Massachusetts.



Michael Weis, a cantorial student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, will serve as darshan on Shabbat HaHodesh, parashat VaYaqhel-Pequdei, 17 March 2007.

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 Shharit (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 for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background

Sundays

Ivrit with Margalit

Study Modern and Siddur Hebrew with Margalit Kern on Sunday mornings from 9:00a to 9:45a during the academic year. For information, contact Dr. Lauren Kempton in the BEKI office.

New: Hebrew 101 with Kathy Rosenbluh

An introduction to prayerbook Hebrew for beginners is being presented on ten Sunday mornings from 9:45a to 11:00a; the series begins Sunday 18 March. The class is appropriate for students who wish to learn or review the fundamentals of Biblical, rabbinic, prayerbook or Modern Hebrew. This class will be taught by Kathy Rosenbluh. Class will meet on consecutive Sundays except 1 April (immediately before Pesah). There is a book and registration fee of \$120 for the class. Students should be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet. To register, contact Peggy in the office, 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org. For scholarship information, please contact Peggy in the office or Rabbi Tilsen.

MAKOM Beit HaMidrash at BEKI: "Introduction to Talmud" & "Talmud Berakhot, Chapter II" with Moshe Meiri

Beginning & Intermediate Sections

Serious youth are invited to dive into the "sea of Talmud" on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. Two sections will be offered; one for beginning students, and another for continuing students. Students are expected to have studied some Mishna and be able to read Hebrew. An acquaintance with Rashi's commentaries is helpful. The text, the *El - Am* edition, will be supplied. This text is vocalized for easy reading and is accompanied by an English commentary and translation. The classes meet Sunday mornings from about 9:45a to 11:00a and 11:05a to 12:15p. Students wishing to enroll should speak with Arnold Carmel at MAKOM. The classes are open only to students in grades 8-12. This is an honors program class and will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Moshe may be reached at moshe@snet.net

MAKOM Beit HaMidrash at BEKI: "The Genesis Chronicles" with Margolit Kern

Margolit Kern will be teaching *Miqra* (Scripture) for youth at two challenging levels on Sunday mornings. The classes are part of the MAKOM honors program at BEKI for students in grades 8-12. The classes meet Sunday morn-

ings from about 9:45a to 11:00a and 11:05a to 12:15p. Students wishing to enroll should speak with Arnold Carmel at MAKOM. This is an honors program class and will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected.

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

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) 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 on each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Each week a group of interested writers come together 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 writers come together with a piece of their writing. The writer then

has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida1@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

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."

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SUN SAT MAT ACT

Students who are Shabbat observers and who plan to take standardized tests such as the SAT, MAT and ACT may register for regularly scheduled Sunday test dates. The SAT will be administered on several Sundays throughout the year. For more information on Sunday testing, see <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg/circum/sunday.html>. If you need a letter from a rabbi, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Book Brunch with Shula Chernoff



Dr. Shula Chernoff

BEKI member Shulamith Chernoff will read from and discuss her poetry at the next Book Brunch on Sunday 11 March beginning at 9:30 a.m., after morning minyan.

Shulamith Scharfstein Chernoff is an Associate Professor of Education Emerita at Southern Connecticut State University. She is a specialist in

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www.celebratepartyshowcase.com

early childhood education and child development.

Born in Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, she attended the Yeshivah of Flatbush, the Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and Teacher's College, Columbia University. She moved to New Haven when she married Dr. Hyman M. Chernoff. She raised her six children in New Haven and resumed her professional life at SCSU. Her husband, a cardiologist and Associate Professor of Medicine at Yale, died suddenly while on vacation at the age of fifty-four. Her father, JTS Professor Zevi Scharfstein, died two months later.

After a long and illustrious career as an educator specializing in Early

Childhood Education and Child Development, Shula retired to a new career: full-time poet and chronicler of Jewish and family life.

Her poetry has been published in several journals. Her award-winning poem, *In Fantasy Run Free*, is a meditation on the Holocaust memoir *In Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezin*. In 2006, a few months shy of Professor Chernoff's 84th birthday, the Hanover Press published her first book of poetry, *The Stones Bear Witness*. Weaving together her major themes of family life, childhood memories, Jewish experience, grief, aging, and the persistence of hope, the collection has won praise from local and national writers and poets.