

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

October 2008

Tishrei 5769
Vol. 14 Issue 9

Youth News – Page 7

YAMIM NORAIM: DAYS OF AWE

Schedules, Information, Order Forms

Information, schedules, registration and order forms for Yamim Noraim Days of Awe are available at www.beki.org by clicking the Yamim Noraim High Holy Days image at the upper left corner.



Volunteers & Participants Needed

To volunteer to either help with planning or participate in our High Holy Day worship services, please return the form you received in the mid-month mailing, or to complete the form online, follow the link for “information, registration and ticketing” and then to [Yamim Noraim High Holy Days Participation and Volunteer Opportunities](#). Help is needed for mailings, Break Fast shopping and planning, greeters and ushers, minyan makers (early attenders), English readings, printing Yizkor Memorial Book, and more. If you have any questions, please speak with Darryl Kuperstock.

Need a Letter for Employer or School?

Shul members occasionally need letters to employers or principals explaining the nature of the Jewish holiday observance. Despite the high level of understanding in our community, there is still a need for education and information. It is important that our children be in shul for all of *Yontif*.

If you would like such a letter for Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur or Sukkot, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services

The annual Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services will

be held at 10 a.m. at the Hamden Cemetery, and at 11 a.m. at the West Haven Cemetery on Sunday, Sept. 28. Rabbi Tilsen will lead a communal prayer and will be available for individual prayers as well. Those who wish to visit the graves of their ancestors or loved ones but are unable to do so because of distance are invited to attend along with those whose loved ones are buried in the BEKI cemeteries. If you would like a ride to the service, please contact the office a few days in advance.

In addition, a representative of the Cemetery Association will be present to answer questions and concerns of those owning or considering the purchase of plots at the BEKI cemeteries.

Directions to the cemeteries can be found at www.beki.org/findbeki.html. For information on cemetery purchases or upkeep, please call the BEKI Cemetery Association at 389-2108 x57.

Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur

Rabbi Alan H. Lovins will serve as our Hazzan Rishon



Alan Lovins

(lead cantor) for the High Holy Days, and will be joined for some services by Dr. Rachel Lovins. In addition to Rabbi Lovins and Dr. Lovins, the services will again be led by BEKI members serving as volunteer *hazzanim*. For the sixteenth consecutive year, Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services.

Tickets are required for adult entrance to most services. Among other reasons, this is to ensure the safety and security of

Continued on Page 3



Isaiah D. Cooper

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BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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

Annual subscription is \$36

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Shabbat Sukkot Dinner

Friday, Oct. 17, at 6:45 (following evening service)

In the Sukka (indoors in case of rain or snow)

Advance reservations and payment

Adults \$18, Children \$15, Families \$55

389-2108 x14 office@beki.org Volunteers welcome

Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Ask us about
establishing a fund, trust or annuity
to ensure BEKI's future.

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and provides the donor with tax savings.

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Chairman,
Board of Trustees

Lisa A. Stanger, Esq.
Director
203 387-2424 x382
lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

Continued from Page 1

the Congregation. Full-time students and military personnel on active duty may enter upon presentation of proper identification. Every person must be identified before entry.

Some of the ushers serving during the Holy Days may be new members. Veteran members who do not recognize the ushers are urged to introduce themselves, as our ushers wish to meet as many members and visitors as they can.

For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in these services. For registration information, call 389-2108 x14.

If you are interested in babysitting service, please call 389-2108 x14. Walk-in babysitting is not available.

Rosh HaShana services begin Monday, Sept. 29, at 6:15 p.m. with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 6:30. Candle Lighting is at 6:18. The service concludes by 7 p.m. Morning services begin at 8:30 on Tuesday, Sept. 30; several services for children and youth, and a learners' service, are held as well.

Not So Fast

In preparation for the full-day fast of Yom Kippur, it is suggested that caffeine users reduce their intake to avoid withdrawal symptoms on the Holy Day. Some people avoid wearing leather shoes on Yom Kippur, so do not be surprised to see canvas sneakers or other non-leather shoes in use. Some also follow the custom of wearing a *kittel* (white robe) or other white garments on Yom Kippur. People who need to eat or drink or take medication on Yom Kippur may speak with an usher, or contact the office in advance, for assistance. Rabbi Tilsen notes that "People for whom fasting represents a significant medical threat are prohibited from fasting. Water, milk or a simple meal should be consumed as needed."

Tashlikh ("casting") services will be held on the *first* day of Rosh HaShana, Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 5:15 p.m., at the Edgewood Bridge and at the Whitney Museum Covered Bridge. For *tashlikh* at Beaver Pond Park, contact office@beki.org 389-2108 x14. The *Tashlikh* service is a popular outdoor event for people of all ages, and includes a brief prayer, poetry and singing. It is held beside a body of natural water. Minha and Maariv services on Thursday afternoon are also at 6:15 and 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, morning services are also at 8:30. Youth services are held as well. On Wednesday afternoon, the second day of Rosh HaShana, the

Minha service begins at 5:45 and concludes by 6:05.

For a complete schedule, see www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html, your members' High Holy Days mailings or request a copy of the information booklet from the office.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Wednesday, Oct. 8, the Minha service begins at 5:45. Candle Lighting is 6:04 (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6 and end by 8. Shahrith Morning services begin at 9; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11 a.m. The Minha Afternoon service begins at 4:15, and is followed immediately by the Neila and Maariv services. The services end with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:12 p.m.

George G. Posener Break Fast Concludes Yom Kippur



George G. Posener

Following the concluding Yom Kippur services on Oct. 9, please join us as we gather for our amazing community break fast. This year we are again pleased that, to honor the memory of his beloved family, George Posener's generosity is enabling us to provide you with a lovely meal and great company.

Each year, the George G. Posener Family Memorial Break Fast is prepared entirely by members of the BEKI community. Overseen by Darryl Kuperstock and Linden Grazier, some of the prep work is done in advance, but the bulk of the assembly and plating (and clean-up) of this banquet is done by *you*, the fantastic

Operation Isaiah

Re-usable bags will be provided this year on Rosh HaShana to enable and encourage our members and guests to bring non-perishable food packages on the eve of Yom Kippur to help provide for neighbors in need. The bags are *re-usable* in an effort to integrate conservation into our ongoing Tikkun Olam efforts.

Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe

Continued from Page 3

volunteers who join us in the kitchen during the afternoon break on Yom Kippur. It's fun, intense, and extremely satisfying – so come help us out this year.

The **George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break Fast Fund at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons** was established by George G. Posener in 2001 to create a lasting memorial at the time of the *yahrzeits* of his family members. Proceeds from this endowment provide for a special and meaningful community

gathering at the end of Yom Kippur. The Posener Fund is held and managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

For a complete schedule of services please call the office at 389-2108 x14 or see the schedule at www.beki.org/yamim-noraim.html. Schedules are also available in the lobby literature rack, and are included with the High Holy Days mailings sent to all BEKI members.

For information on seating and ticketing, contact 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org.

Standard Procedure

While it is customary to stand for some parts of the service, those for whom standing is difficult, impossible or dangerous should feel comfortable sitting. Rabbi Tilsen comments that “You get five points for answering ‘Amen!’ but only one point for standing, so keep it in perspective. This applies to people of all ages.”

Contributions

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

(Minimum \$25)

Benjamin Lebow

Delci Lev with prayers for wellness for Dani

Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$250)

Alan Lovins & Trish Loving

Alan Rosner

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Sarah Berry & Roger Colten

The BEKI Membership Committee

Shoshana Zax & John Weiser

Marc & Carol Weitzman

Joe & Ravit Avni-Singer

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

To Mr. Burton Tenner with sympathy on the passing of his dear brother Arnold by Joan & Alan Gelbert

To Debby & Stephen Joy with sympathy on the passing of Joyce Mann Stanger by Robert & Janice Lettick

To Nathan & Judi Janette in honor of the Bar Mitzva of their son Rigel by Joe & Ghislane Palumbo

To Lori & Natan Weinstein in honor of their daughter Beth's marriage, from the Palumbo family

To Shoshana Lovett-Graff in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family

To Earl Banquer in honor of his milestone birthday by Shirley K. Stephson

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80th birthday by Joan & Alan Kliger

The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment

The Sylvia Dworski Trust

The Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

To Shirley Mattler in memory of Irene Krauss & Bessie Botwinick by Sylvia Botwinick

The Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund

To Mimi Glenn in honor of her birthday by Thelma & Irv Schwartz

Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund to provide needs-based religious school scholarships

Marcia Landesman & Oren Sauberman

Thomas & Elisa Black

Stephanie & Harold Birn

Emily Bazelon & Paul Sabin

David & Wendy Chorney

Jennifer Myer & James Kempton

David & Joanne Goldblum

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

In memory of Samuel Garfinkel by Lawrence & Doralee Garfinkel

In memory of George Ralph Schnitman by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef

In memory of Norman Rosenberg by Lillian Rosenberg

In memory of Raymond Snyder by Irwin & Zeldia Snyder

In memory of her father-in-law Louis Chain by Shirley Chain

In memory of her brother-in-law Eli Rozycki by Shirley Chain

In memory of Dave Berger by Saul Berger

In memory of Irving Guttenberg by Elma T. Guttenberg

In memory of Marilyn Stern by Ellen & Warren Katz

In memory of Bennett Needler by Willa & Howard Needler

In memory of Louis Henken by Gladys Lipkin

In memory of Harry & Fannie Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow

In memory of Robert Smirnoff by Milton & Bernice Smirnoff

In memory of Nisan Smirnoff by Milton & Bernice Smirnoff

In memory of Herbert Weiner by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli

In memory of Harry S. Fleischner by Robert Fleischner

In memory of Renee Abend by David & Doris Sagerman

In memory of Hannah Zarnes by David & Doris Sagerman

In memory of Joseph Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman

In memory of Rose Nabatoff by A. David Nabatoff

In memory of his father Max Silverman by Robert Silverman

In memory of Sylvia Glassman Sachs by Rhoda Zahler

A complete schedule of services is available in table format at www.beki.org/schedule.html.

Sukkot is Coming

If you feel a sense of loss at the end of the High Holy Days, do not despair: it is time for Sukkot, called *the* Festival by our ancestors. Lulav & Etrog are used each day of Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabba. Information on the festival observances appears in the October *Bulletin*.

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Sunday, Oct. 5, from 9:30 to noon. Add a personal touch by bringing some of your own *sekhakh* (evergreen branches are preferred) for the roof to enhance the beauty and aroma of our congregational *sukka*. Breakdown and storage are planned for Sunday, Oct. 26, following *Shaharit*. Additional power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information, contact Saul Bell (389-1647) or David Kuperstock (387-0304).

Sukka Hop

Join the annual BEKI Family Sukka Hop on Tuesday, Oct. 14. The procession departs at 12:45 p.m. from BEKI’s Moishe Schnitman Memorial Sukka.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each *sukka*; RSVP to Miriam, 389-6137, by Oct. 7 so hosts can plan! Wear good walking shoes for the trek “up the hill.” Bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks. The Hop may visit the Weiner-Rastelli, Benson & Tilsen, Van Crevel, Mackler-Winter, Marx-Schonberger, and Botwick-Ries Sukkot, ending back at the Moishe Schnitman Memorial Sukka at BEKI at 5:45 p.m.

Hol HaMoed Sukkot

“Hol HaMoed,” also known as the “intermediate” days of the festival, are those days between the first two and last two days of Sukkot (and of Pesah). They have a “semi-holiday” status. The rules against *melakha* (“work”) that apply on Shabbat and Festivals are not fully in force during this period, although we are encouraged to take this time as a holiday and to avoid work as much as possible. Our weekday morning services are enhanced with a brief Torah reading, the recitation of the musical “Hallel” section of Psalms, and a brief Musaf (additional) service. Weekday morning services thus take 60 minutes, instead of our usual 30 to 45 minutes. Afternoon and evening services are the usual length. The *lulav* (branches) and *etrog* (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to eat is to live) in a *sukka*. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI *sukka*. Some people do not wear tefillin during Hol HaMoed.

Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Shabbat Hol HaMoed Sukkot is marked by reading selections from the

Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”) during the 9:15 a.m. service on Oct. 18. Qohelet, attributed by tradition to King Solomon in his old age, is a “wisdom” book that many see as being out of step with the rest of the Torah. While it includes such well-known passages as “To everything there is a season,” it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody. In addition, Hallel will be chanted.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Monday, Oct. 20, begins at 9:15 and ends by 11 a.m. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the *sukka* or shul with *lulav* and *etrog* (palm and citron) and the *hoshana* service in which willow twigs are beaten on the chairs. Special holiday melodies make this an unforgettable spiritual experience. Be sure to come to this “service for all ages.”

Hoshana Rabba is a semi-festival on which work is *not* strictly prohibited as it is on the major festivals. It

Continued on Page 6



Continued from Page 5

serves as a “closing ceremony” for the weeklong Sukkot observance in preparation for the concluding festival of Shemini Atseret. Weather permitting, the Hoshana Rabba service will be in the sukka.

Shemini Atseret & Yizkor Memorial Service

The Festival of Shemini Atseret (“Eighth Day of Assembly”) serves as a conclusion to the autumn Festival of Sukkot (“Booths”). It begins Monday night, Oct. 20. It is appropriate to light a memorial candle on Monday night immediately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 5:45 (or earlier).

The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini

Atseret liturgy, during the morning service on Tuesday, Oct. 21, beginning at 9:15. In the Yizkor service we call upon the memories of our ancestors and loved ones who, while not physically present, are part of our “Assembly.” During that memorial service, individual and communal prayers and remembrances will be offered for all of our departed loved ones.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Minha services begin at 5:45 p.m. and evening services begin at 6 o’clock on Tuesday, Oct. 21. Candle lighting on Thursday night is *after* 6:45.

Festival Morning services begin at

9:15 on Wednesday, Oct. 22. Goodie Bags will be presented by the [Sisterhood](#) to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. Afternoon minha services begin at 5:45, as usual for weekdays.

Sukka Storage

The deconstruction of the Sukka will take place on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 9:30, immediately following the morning minyan service (join us at 9). Bring your ladders, tools and gloves if you have them; if not, come anyway. Your help is greatly appreciated. For more information about the BEKI Sukka construction, contact David Kuperstock (387-0304, ndk1024@aol.com) or Saul Bell (389-1647, sbell1470@aol.com)

Sisterhood

Torah Fund

The theme for 5769 (2008-09) is – Lev v’ Nefesh – Heart and Soul. This is an apt metaphor for the dual aspects – physical & spiritual – that compose the whole self. When the Shema instructs us daily to love G-d with all our heart and all our soul, it means the entirety of our being. Through the performance of mitzvot, we bring these dualities into harmony.

Your support of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Zeigler School of Rabbinic Studies and Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, ensures the solid and healthy future of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

Receive our beautiful “Heart and Soul” pin as our gift when you become a contributor at any level: Benefactor \$180; Guardian \$300; Associate Patron \$600.

Another positive way to support Torah Fund and save gas and a trip to the store is through the purchase of cards for all occasions. Please call me at 407-0314. Your card will be mailed promptly and your cost is only \$4.



Heart and Soul pin

Thanks to all who purchased cards over the past few months and wishing everyone a sweet and healthy New Year.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair

Mazel Tov to:

Willa & Howard Needler on the birth of a granddaughter, from the Hesed Committee; Victor & Susan Stein Sarah Grazier-Zerbarini on the birth of Teresa, from the Hesed Committee
Ned Herzog on his 85th birthday, from Ruth & Morris Olmer

Get Well to:

Hinda Massey from Barbara Cushen
Lenny Margolis from Barbara Cushen and Stanley Saxe; Helen Miller
Irving Weinstein from the Hesed Committee
Stanley Saxe from Adele Tyson, the Hesed Committee

In Memory of:

Leslie Niederman to Mrs. Susan Niederman, from Anna Goldberg
Mr. Rubin, father of Sharon Rubin from Hyla Greenberg
Joyce Stanger to Debby & Stephen Joy from the Hesed Committee; Donna & Sid Levine
Joseph Gutherz to David Gutherz from the Hesed Committee
Peter Myers to Dr. Paul Goldenberg from Louis Petrillo
Ruth, daughter-in-law of Sylvia Rifkin from Adele Tyson

BEKI-BJ USYers at Encampment, Summer 2008

“Most Camps Do In Two Months What We Do In Five Days!”

For five stupendous days in August, several hundred 6th through 12th graders attended USY Encampment at Ramah Poconos. We came from four different United Synagogue regions: Tzafon (Northern New York); Hagesher (Southern New Jersey/Philadelphia); EPA (Eastern Pennsylvania); and Hanefesh (our region – most of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts). We had eight USYers from our chapter attend – the biggest attendance ever.

I’m a senior, and this was my first time attending. I can’t believe I hadn’t gone before because this was the best camp ever!

When I think of Encampment I think of: Color War ... Bowling Senior Outing ... Ruah (spirit) ... Hypnotist Show ... Interesting Discussions (Jewish heroes) ... Shabbat with all our friends ... Israeli dancing ... Ultimate Frisbee ... The last-night dance



Eight BEKI-BJ USYers at Encampment with new advisor NoriAnna Cohen

... Watching the sunrise on the final morning.

We’re all back now and can’t wait for the upcoming regional events when we can see our new friends. Stay tuned for Fall Convention 2008 (in November), and International Convention in D.C. (in December)!

We also have a ton of fun chapter

events coming up like an ice cream social, rock-climbing, pie-baking for tzedeqa, and more – our events will be posted on our Facebook page (BEKI/BJ USY), and synagogue bulletin boards and web sites.

Maya Sutin, USY Co-President
NoriAnna Cohen, Advisor

News

Cemetery News

The cost of gravesites at both BEKI cemeteries, Farwell Street in West Haven and Warner Street in Hamden, will increase as of Jan. 1, 2009. New prices will be \$1000 for BEKI members and \$1500 for non-members. If you are considering buying plots, do it now to avoid the price increase. Contact David Sagerman, Cemetery Committee Chairperson, at 248-0048 or cemetery@beki.org for information or to arrange a site visit.

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BRS News

BEKI Religious School (BRS) is on its way! We enjoyed the dedication of the new stained glass windows, the reception and the learning centers in the Social Hall. "Thank you." to teachers Helene, Judi, Tikvah, Iris, and David for such a fun day!

Rabbi Pete has begun teaching our madrikhim (teachers' aides) Sunday mornings.

Just as teachers have continuing education requirements, this is an opportunity for our teenagers to work and continue learning Torah too.

We welcomed our new Young Emissaries from the Afula-Gilboa region, Tsilil and Oshri.

This highly successful program brings a taste of Israel into BRS classrooms.

I am very excited to be the new principal and look forward to a fabulous year! Feel free to contact me at 389-2108 or principal@beki.org any time. If you know of families with children who are not yet signed up for a religious school experience, it is not too late. Have them call me!

Ina Silverman

Principal, BEKI Religious School

Free Israel Trip

This winter for 18- to 26-year-olds; Taglit-Birthright Israel will send thousands of 18- to 26-year-olds to Israel at virtually no cost. This program is available for those who have not been on a peer group trip to Israel. (NB: *If you attended March of the Living in high school, you can do a Taglit trip after age 22.*) There is a *very short* registration period opening Sept. 10 at www.KOACH.org; more info at same site. For more information, contact koachbirthright@uscj.org.



Tali takes a taxi in Tel Aviv

Youth Commission Hires New BEKI-BJ Kadima Advisor (Grades 6-8)

A big welcome to our new Kadima advisor who will work with our middle-schoolers and, coincidentally, also sub at the BEKI religious school. Brucha habaa, Nitzan!

Rena Cheskis-Gold

Chair, BEKI Youth Commission

Hello,

My name is Nitzan Deborah Stein Kokin and I am the new Kadima advisor.

Originally I grew up in Germany where I was very involved in different youth groups in my teens. After finishing high school, I spent a year in Jerusalem working in a home for disabled people and studying Hebrew. During that year, I discovered my real love for Israel and decided to come back to study at Hebrew University after college. I lived in Jerusalem for five years and received an MA in Jewish Civilization from Hebrew University.

During this time, I also met my husband and joined him in Boston in 2002 where

we got married. While there I taught at the Prozdor Hebrew School program at Hebrew College in Newton and at Maimonides School in Brookline. My husband and I moved to New Haven in August 2006 and we have two lovely daughters, Meira (3 years) and Salome (9 months).

I look forward to meeting Congregation BEKI and B'nai Jacob families and your wonderful Kadima-aged kids!

Please feel free to contact me at steinkokin@yahoo.com or 752-0361 with your ideas for Kadima programs, to sign your kids up for events, or if you are interested in volunteering.

L'Shalom,

Nitzan



Nitzan and Salome

Barukh Dayan HaEmet

With sorrow we note the passing of

Jeremy Saxe,
grand-nephew of Stanley Saxe

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Benot Mitzva in October

Aliyah Bixby-Driesen, daughter of Naomi Driesen & Nathan Bixby, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat *parashat Bereishit*, Oct. 24-25.

Sophie Rosner, daughter of Deren Manasevit and of Alan Rosner, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat *parashat Noah*, Oct. 31-Nov. 1.



Sophie Rosner

Welcome New Members

- Adam & Dorothy Glass and Piper
- Daniel Radoff & Hillel Agüero
- Cory Slifstein & Caryn Azoff and Elie and Shayna

Youth News

Nativ-Gesher

The Youth Department of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Nativ College/Leadership Program in Israel are pleased to announce the launching of a new venue: Nativ-Gesher.

The Nativ-Gesher program will focus on the centrality of Israel for one's Jewish identity while creating a relationship with Masorti communities (Conservative Movement) in Europe. The first half of the program will match an academic semester, with a second half composed of visiting and volunteering in Masorti communities in Europe. During the semester there will be two volunteer periods of four to five weeks that will incorporate projects with Masorti Europe. The volunteering in Europe will be supplemented with preparatory seminars aimed towards working in the communities, as well as Israel-related seminars and *tiyulim* (fieldtrips).

The primary goal of this program

is to give participants an active role within the bigger picture of international Masorti community. Through working in these communities, rather than touring, participants will gain a deep understanding of Jewish life and Masorti life in Europe. Living in Israel at the beginning of the program will not only accomplish the Nativ program goal of connecting with the land and the people, but it will give more substance to serving the European communities.

The first semester will be spent at Oranim College, Israel's leading education school, located outside of Haifa. This opportunity for academic credit will focus on Jewish identity, history of European Jewry, and Israeli society. Students will also participate in an Ulpan program.

The second semester will be centered around two stays in European cities, each four to five weeks. During each trip abroad, the group will be divided into three, each going to a different city. Participants will volunteer in

London, Budapest, and Berlin and rotate for the second trip. The volunteer projects will all be people-oriented and will include work in kindergartens, Hebrew schools, adult centers and conducting special programming. During the second semester the group will also participate in seminars in Israel relating to Israel Today, Leadership, as well as *tiyulim*, and other programs.

The Nativ-Gesher program is a Gap year program for high school graduates from North America. The program will commence in September 2009 and run through May 2010. Information regarding this new program can be found on the Nativ website at www.nativ.org. Online applications are available as of Sept. 1, 2008. For more information please contact the Nativ office at (212) 533-7800 ext 1119.

Nativ-Gesher is a program of The Youth Department of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and is supported and recognized by the Jewish Agency and MASA.



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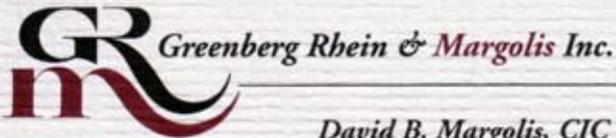
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Shabbatot

Darshanim in October

Rabbi Moshe Murray Levine will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning Oct. 4, parashat VaYelekh, Shabbat Shuva.

Aliyah Bixby-Driesen, bat mitzva, will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat morning Oct. 25, parashat Bereshit.

Sophie Rosner, bat mitzva, will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat morning Nov. 1, parashat Noah.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the *Shaharit* (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Isaiah Cooper, Nadav Sela** 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.

Kulanu Discussion Group

Adults who take part in the Kulanu Friendship Circle and the Saul's Circle outreach programs are invited to participate in a Shabbat morning discussion group that meets on selected Shabbat mornings from 10:45 to 11:45 with Dr. Lauren Kempton. For information, contact Lauren at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org

Sundays

Talmud for Teens with Moshe Meiri

Serious high school students are invited to delve into the depths of Talmud with Moshe Meiri on Sunday mornings this autumn and winter. In this semester, the class is exploring chapter two of *Masekhet Ketubot*, "HaIsha She-Nitarmela."

Students are expected to have studied some Mishna and be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet. An acquaintance with Rashi's commentaries is helpful. Texts are vocalized for easy reading and are accompanied by an English commentary and translation. The classes meet Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. Instructor's permission required; students wishing to enroll should speak with Moshe and should register with the office (office@beki.org). The class is open only to students in grades 8-12. This class is taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Registration and materials fee is \$100 for the semester. Moshe may be reached 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. New participants are welcome.

The Rashi Study Group has just completed the Book of Numbers and

is beginning the Book of Deuteronomy. This is an especially good time for new participants to join. No reservations required; just come.

Wednesdays

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis and clergy, 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



Murray Levine

other's experience and insight. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at 397-2513.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah Cooper 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.

The Sanhedrin Study Group is reading chapter eight of Sanhedrin, "The Rebellious and Obnoxious Boy." It is a perfect time for new participants to join.

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

One hundred years ago, the Morgan dollar was a widely circulated coin in the United States. But those large and popular coins contained $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce of silver, and when silver prices rose, the dollar coins were melted for their silver content. Its successor, the Peace dollar, had a nice run but was last minted in 1935. Today, the raw silver in those coins is worth over \$10.

In that era, a dollar had a lot of buying power – the 1908 dollar bought as much as \$20 does today. So you might walk around with one to two dollars, but not a pocketful. If you were a big spender, you might carry an eagle – a \$10 coin with \$200 of buying power in today's terms.

Although paper dollars are inexpensive to print, they don't last long. In an effort to economize on its currency for small transactions, the United States minted a new \$1 coin in 1971 – the Eisenhower dollar with the American eagle on the moon. They minted half a billion of them, but few people ever used them. If you could have a nice night out with two dollars in 1917, you'd need forty of those large coins – weighing a pound – in your pocket in 1975. Cash registers had no tray for them, and they were too big for vending machines. Paper dollars were so much more convenient, and the Ikes ended up in collectors' albums or were melted by the government to make something more useful. The project was a failure.

The US Mint tried again in 1979 with the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin. They made the coin smaller so it would be easier to carry. They thought it would be popular because instead of depicting a dead white man as was universal on all other denominations of coin and paper, it depicted a dead white woman, thereby shattering the copra-nickel clad ceiling. Originally they were supposed to be hendecagon-shaped, but the vending industry objected as eleven-sided coins were not compatible with their equipment. So the coin was made round with the depiction of a hendecagon on its perimeter. Unfortunately, the coin was so similar in size to the quarter that they were easily and often confused. There was still no tray for them in cash registers, and they still were not accepted in vending machines. The paper dollar was much more convenient. After producing 900 million of them that were rarely used, the mint gave up in 1981 (although they produced another batch in 1999 for specialty use). It was another failed attempt to replace the paper dollar.

If at first you don't succeed, and if you don't succeed the second time, try, try again. In 2000, the mint issued the Sacagawea dollar, depicting the Shoshone woman Sacagawea, who was part of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The attractive coin was made smaller and lighter, and given a golden color and smooth edge to make it convenient and distinguishable from other coins. Nearly

two billion have been minted, and they are widely used – in Latin America. Few are used in the United States, where the paper dollar is still more convenient and more available. Many people have never seen one and if they do see one, they don't recognize it as "real money." The effort to replace the paper dollar with a less expensive option failed again.

After three failures, the US Mint, at the direction of Congress, began producing a new dollar coin depicting dead United States presidents, released for circulation in 2007. Compounding the earlier mistakes, the Mint has made a coin that is not only inconvenient, but absolutely unrecognizable – few Americans will know if a golden token bearing the image of a nineteenth-century statesman is a real US government-issued dollar coin or Chinese-made token for amusement centers. Few Americans (myself included) are able to name all past United States presidents or state with certainty that Alexander Hamilton and John Jay were never president or that James Polk and Millard Fillmore were.

To make matters worse, Congress dictated that the Sacagawea dollars continue to be minted, even though there is no demand for them, and even at the cost of millions of dollars, to assuage the sentiments of North Dakotans and American Indians who especially identify with the design. Then Congress could not find the motto "In God We Trust" on the Presidential dollars, so millions were melted down and the coin redesigned. Congress forgot to check the rim of the coin, where the motto had been beautifully engraved in the original design. A simple governmental function – coinage for commerce – has turned into a politicized morass and a huge waste of public funds.

Our sages have said that it is a special gift to see the faults in others, because those faults are always found in ourselves in some measure or form. Are we making the same mistakes repeatedly? Where we have failed as sons or daughters, as spouses or partners, as neighbors or members or citizens, are we truly changing or are we just putting a new portrait on the same failed coin? As a synagogue or city or nation, are we making minor adjustments when we need to make big changes? Are we missing the big picture, are we forgetting our objectives and aims?

The most trivial change Americans will have to make in the next five years is the loss of the one- and five-cent coins and the withdrawal of the paper dollar from circulation. The metal value of the penny is more than two cents for pre-1983 issues and about $\frac{1}{2}$ cent for later ones. The metal value of the nickel today is more than five cents – you are better off selling your change for scrap than spending it. This does not even take into account the cost to mint and distribute these coins. If we can't make these small adjustments to our lives, how are we going to make the big changes that our survival, prosperity and moral compass demand?



October 2008

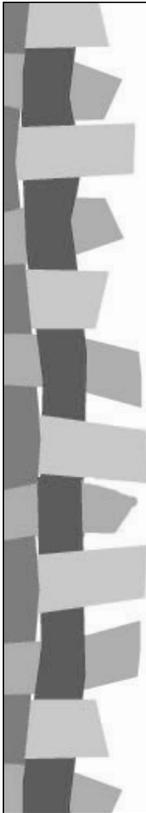
2 Tishrei 5769 - 2 Heshvan 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Rosh Hashana II Office Closed No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 8:30am Morning Service 9:00am Shaharit See High Holiday article for program times 5:45pm Minha	2 Fast of Gedaliah 12:30pm Talmud Study Group	3 6:46pm Candle Lighting	4 Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA
			2 Tishrei	3 Tishrei	4 Tishrei	5 Tishrei
5 9:00am Religious School 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe	6 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	7	8 Erev Yom Kippur No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 5:45pm Minha 6:00pm Kol Nidre & Maariv 6:04pm Candle Lighting	9 Yom Kippur (Yizkor) Office Closed 9:00am Shaharit & Musaf after 11:00am Yizkor Memorial Service See High Holiday article for program times 7:13pm Posener Break Fast	10 6:01pm Candle Lighting	11 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: "Take a Friend Home for Shabbat"
6 Tishrei	7 Tishrei	8 Tishrei	9 Tishrei	10 Tishrei	11 Tishrei	12 Tishrei
12 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Sukka Set-Up 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe	13 Erev Sukkot Office Closed/Columbus Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 5:45pm Minha 5:56pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Festival Maariv	14 Sukkot I Office Closed 9:15am Festival Shaharit 12:30pm Sukka Hop 5:45pm Festival Minha & Maariv Candle Lighting after 6:57pm	15 Sukkot II Office Closed No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 9:15am Festival Shaharit 6:00pm Festival Minha	16 Hol Hamoed Sukkot I 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)	17 Hol Hamoed Sukkot II 5:50pm Candle Lighting 6:45pm Shabbat Sukka Starlit Dinner (by reservation only)	18 Hol Hamoed Sukkot III 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: ACI Catering (formerly known as Abel's)
13 Tishrei	14 Tishrei	15 Tishrei	16 Tishrei	17 Tishrei	18 Tishrei	19 Tishrei
19 Hol Hamoed Sukkot IV 9:00am Religious School in Sukka 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe 1:00pm Kulanu & Shalom Group Lunch in Sukka	20 Hoshanah Rabbah Office Closed for Vacation 9:15am Morning Service 5:45pm Candle Lighting	21 Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor) Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service 10:30am Yizkor Memorial Service 5:45pm Festival Minha 6:30pm Simhat Torah & Haqafot (Dancing)	22 Simhat Torah Office Closed No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 9:15am Festival Shaharit 10:00am Haqafot (Dancing) 6:00pm Minha	23 Office Closed for Vacation 12:30pm Talmud Study Group	24 Office Closed for Vacation 5:39pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Aliyah Bixby-Driesen Bat Mitzva	25 Aliyah Bixby-Driesen Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Bixby-Driesen
20 Tishrei	21 Tishrei	22 Tishrei	23 Tishrei	24 Tishrei	25 Tishrei	26 Tishrei
26 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Sukka Deconstruction 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe	27 Office Closed for Vacation 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	28 Office Closed for Vacation	29 Rosh Hodesh I Office Closed for Vacation 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 9:30am NHBOR 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	30 Rosh Hodesh II Office Closed for Vacation 12:30pm Talmud Study Group	31 Office Closed for Vacation 5:30pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Sophie Rosner Bat Mitzva	
27 Tishrei	28 Tishrei	29 Tishrei	30 Tishrei	1 Heshvan	2 Heshvan	

Service Times for Fall

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

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