

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

September 2004

Elul 5764 - Tishrei 5765
Vol. 10 Issue 9

In this issue



*Page 2, Thank you
for the honor*



*Page 7, Rabbi Alan
Lovins and other BEKI
members will lead High
Holiday services*



*Page 21, Kids Cobble
Courtyard*

Going Up: Elevator Dedication The New Year observance at BEKI is sure to be uplifting this year. Through the generosity of our members and supporters who participated in the Renovations Campaign, and thanks to a special contribution by George G. Posener, an elevator now insures access to all three levels of our building from the central lobby.

Assembly and installation of “Turbolift One” – BEKI’s new Shabbat-compliant elevator – was completed in “extremely late June” (actually the second week of August). The elevator, part of a \$1.25 million building renovation project, affords easier access to both lower levels for our members and guests attending luncheons, receptions, classes, concerts and other programs held in the large social hall.



George G. Posener with Gila Reinstein.

On Sunday morning 12 September, at 11:45a, we will gather in the lobby area and the adjacent temporary coat storage area to dedicate the George G. Posener Family Memorial Turbolift.

Physical access to our facility is a prerequisite to participation in the activities intended to help members and guests understand and perform mitzvot. Improving access is a priority identified in the BEKI 2000 visioning process and is a central impetus in the current renovation process. Other goals of the renovation are improving energy efficiency, safety and ease of use.

For use on Shabbat and Festivals, Turbolift One is set in “Shabbat mode,” which means that it is

operated by a timer. Riders simply enter, and within a short time, the doors close and the short ride is underway. While open, caretakers of young children should ensure their wards do not enter the elevator – just as children must be watched near open stairways and doors.

The remaining work of Phase 2C Renovations will include completing the nursing room and accessible washroom off the lobby; expanding the lobby and the creation of a new coatroom; and the relocation of the George G. Posener Daily Chapel and the Claire Goodwin Youth Room.

Letters

We were greatly honored by the spectacular Tribute Dinner-Dance and Tribute Book marking this past decade of progress at BEKI. The tribute was especially meaningful to us because this is a congregation of dedicated volunteers. Whether as presidents, officers, directors, minyan-makers, Torah-readers, teachers, builders, cooks or gardeners, or as dues-payers, contributors and philanthropists, this community comprises people dedicated to accomplishing the Congregation's sacred work. For us to be recognized by such good and dedicated people was truly an honor. Although we are glad to take credit for anything good that happens, those whose hands are involved realize that the rabbi and *rebbetzin* are only a small part of making the synagogue work. In part for that reason, we accepted the honor of the Tribute as recognition of the progress that we have made *together* in this community. We know a lot of people worked really hard to make it a fun, loving, spectacular and successful event. Thank you for the honor, and for your friendship and support.

Jon-Jay Tilsen & Miriam Benson



BEKI-Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724

or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

Writing on the Wall As an idealist, I was deeply disappointed in the United Nation's recent gyrations concerning Israel's security barrier, and even more dismayed at the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) finding that the barrier is an impermissible violation of international law.

I believe that the international movement for human rights and international law represents a great hope for the advancement of human civilization. But the UN institutions meant to promote rights and the rule of law have been hijacked by political partisans. This is not late-breaking news. For that reason, I was disappointed by recent events, but not in the least surprised.

The ICJ is a politically-appointed board of jurists available to serve as mediators in international disputes. By its constitution, parties may choose to use its services or not, with an understanding of its composition, stature and bias. On that basis, it is a good institution with the potential for positive influence in international affairs.

What went wrong was that it was used to provide an "opinion" on a complex legal and political matter with broad implications. While there is some place for such "advisory opinions" by this court, the current instance was exactly what the framers tried to avoid by making it a purely voluntary board of arbitration. In its decision, the Court considered the

submissions of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Morocco, the Organization of Islamic Conference, Sudan, Pakistan, and Malaysia among others. Israel was not even a formal party in this case, and its filings were not even given the dignity of a response.

It is not merely a problem of formalistic legal theory; it is a problem of real bias. While I would not impugn the integrity or competence of Justices Abdul Koroma (Sierra Leone), Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan), Nabil Elaraby (Egypt), and the others on the panel who issued the opinion, I would suggest that Israel trying to get a fair hearing in any United Nations forum is like a black teenager trying to get a fair trial before an all-white jury.

Worse, Justice Elaraby himself was involved in urging the UN to take this case to the Court. Were some of these justices even to suggest an argument in Israel's favor, they would face ostracism and possible death in their home countries.

The Court's bias was shown as well in its language, which de-



scribed the barrier as a "wall," even though the barrier is more accurately described as a fence or traffic barrier in most segments. Further, the process the Court followed, of accepting written opinions in a short time frame, without creating the possibility of refutation or careful consideration, precluded the possibility of a fair hearing. I cannot imagine how these justices had time to even read the thousands of pages submitted. These conditions make their hearing the case, and their "opinion," a travesty.

The American Justice, Thomas Buerghenthal, who voted against the majority, wrote that the court "avoided addressing the very issues that are at the heart of this case.... Lacking is an examination of the facts." Most significantly, his stance was that it was inappropriate to hear the case at all. This puts me in the awkward position of actually agreeing with the position of my own government.

Although I am not a fan of Israel's new security fence, I recognize that it has apparently been effective in drastically reducing the acts of terrorism and crime perpetrated by West

Bank Arabs against Israelis. I should think that the fence is less of a hardship on the civilian Arab population than are the military operations used to combat terrorism. Even more, the Court ruled that Israel is free to place the fence inside the 1949 armistice line – the “Green Line.” This, even though doing so would cut a Palestinian Arab village in half, keep children from school and separate farmers from their fields. This, even though the armistice agreement, at the insistence of the Arab signatories, says that the line will not serve as an “international border” or create any precedent or prejudice about where the final border will be. (Historic irony: In the 1950s and 1960s, Israel vociferously argued that the line should be the border, and the Arab states argued against it, until 1967, when their positions reversed.) This, even though the security purpose of the barrier is dependent in part on topology, traffic flow and population distribution, and not on a political border or armistice line.

The fence is being built in response to Israeli public pressure to stop terrorist attacks. If the terrorism goes away, the fence goes away. I do agree with those who believe that Prime Minister Sharon’s vision is one of creeping annexation, with significant steps liable to be made before the November presidential elections, but I don’t see the barrier as a great tool in that process. Sharon’s unilateralist “disengagement” policy, as one Israeli pundit put it, amounts to saying, “Yes to Peace, No to Palestinians.”

Ironically, Israel’s “right wing” mostly opposed the barrier on the grounds that it might be considered a future border. To satisfy the territorial maximalists, the government went to great pains to route the barrier according to military criteria, not political considerations, and to repeatedly and publicly emphasize this fact. Of course, everything is political. But in the limited sense, the technical military opinion prevailed.

To its credit, the Supreme Court of Israel ruled on several cases brought over the barrier, and found a way to balance the various conflicting interests, including the security of Israel’s population, the wellbeing of Palestinian Arab residents, international law and other considerations.

The question, though, is whether the UN’s resolutions

will lead to any real action. The sponsors had intended the court case and subsequent UN meetings to produce economic and diplomatic sanctions against Israel. The Palestinian Authority seems to think they are on the verge of total victory in their struggle against Israel. Meanwhile, the Israeli government plans to ignore the UN, and to expand and strengthen Israeli control over Judea and the Jordan Valley in the West Bank.

*God rises in the court of the mighty,
Pronouncing judgment over judges:
“How long will you pervert justice?
How long will you favor the
wicked?”
But they neither know nor under-
stand;
They wander about in darkness,
While the earth’s foundations are
shaken.
-- Psalm 82*

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A Message from the President

Even though the days are hot enough for swimming and the calendar claims that it's still summer, fall is upon us. School is open. The college kids have packed and gone. Preparations are in full swing for the High Holidays all over the Jewish world.

At BEKI, Darryl Kuperstock and Jay Brown are making sure that hundreds of logistical details fall smoothly into place so the rest of us can concentrate on prayer, introspection, and rededication to our highest ideals during the holidays. Under Jay Brown's direction, ushers and greeters have been assigned to time slots, service leaders are studying the liturgy, and Torah readers are preparing their parts. Dozens of volunteers are planning programs for our children, coordinated by Sherry Rothman and Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton.

Tickets have been mailed. Visitors' requests have been accommodated. All is on target for beautiful High Holy Days. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered and who will offer your help during this season.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year. May you be written in the Book of Life for a sweet and good year.

This promises to be a very good year at BEKI. In addition to completion (or near-completion) of the long-awaited elevator and eastern entrance, centrally located administrative offices, brick patio, and other improvements, we look forward to continuing work on the building and grounds. Stay tuned

for details on the next improvements to the lobby and landscape.

At least as important as the physical improvements are the events and programs that we plan to launch this year. Linden Grazier-Zerbarini has volunteered to coordinate a Yom Kippur food drive, kicking off what we hope will be a series of social action projects in the spirit of Hillel's "If I am only for myself, what am I?" Please bring non-perishable kosher food items when you arrive for Kol Nidre. On Yom Kippur, we experience first-hand what it feels like to be hungry. There are people in our community who know that feeling all too well, and we can help them. It seems appropriate to perform this particular mitzva on a fast day, exactly when we need to add to our ledger of good deeds. Linden will deliver the donations to a food pantry after the holiday.

This fall, with leadership from a new BEKI trustee, Muriel Banquer, we are launching a Hesed Committee to help those in our congregation who need a visit, a phone call, or a bit of practical assistance. If you know of someone who is ill or lonely or who, for any reason, could use a kind word or helping hand, please contact the BEKI office and leave information with Peggy. The Hesed Committee will be in touch. If you'd like to join the Committee to offer one-time help or ongoing assistance, please leave your name with Peggy or contact Muriel directly.

On 30 October we will celebrate Founders' Shabbat, honoring all those who were part of the BEKI family when its two parent

congregations merged and moved to Westville. We will honor the visionary people who participated in this decision and who worked hard and gave unstintingly, both in the early days of the congregation and in the years since. Plan to attend services that Shabbat to celebrate our Founders. If you were one of the original members of BEKI, you will receive more information about this soon.

Looking way ahead, we plan to have a gala Silent and Live Auction this spring, tentatively scheduled for 2 April. We'll need lots of volunteers to help organize this event, and we expect it to be a great success as a party and a fundraiser.

Many other events are in the works, thanks to Bryna Pauker, who heads our Programming Committee: a book discussion, concert, wine tasting, Shabbat dinners, holiday parties, speakers, and more. Please send her your ideas about speakers, performers, and programs you'd like to see at BEKI, and volunteer to help organize an event.

Summer is ending. Fall is beginning. The holidays are approaching fast, and a busy year is ahead. I hope that this will be a good year for us, for Israel, and for all people everywhere.

President Gila Reinstein



Selihot at Congregation Or Shalom

Congregation Or Shalom will host the Conservative-Masorti Community Selihot Service on Saturday Night 11 September 2004. Havdala Services will be held at 9:30p followed by refreshments until 10:00p. At 10:00p, Sidney Perry, Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, will speak on "Eile Ezkera & The Liberation of Auschwitz." The Selihot service will be from 11:00p to midnight.

The selihot (penitential) prayers are said during the middle of the night during the days immediately before Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. It is believed that a heightened sense of spiritual awareness can be achieved during those hours.

Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services

The annual Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services will be held at 10:00a at the Hamden Cemetery, and at 11:00a at the West Haven Cemetery on Sunday 12 September. 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.

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 & Yom Kippur

Rabbi Alan H. Lovins will serve as our Hazzan Rishon (lead cantor) for the High Holy Days. In addition to Rabbi Lovins, the services will again be lead by BEKI members serving as volunteer hazzanim. For the twelfth 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 the Congregation. Full-time students and military personnel on active duty may enter upon presentation of proper identification. Every person in the building must be identified before entry.

The Rabbi Murray Levine Family is again sponsoring the outstanding High Holy Days programs for children at Beth El-Keser Israel in memory of Malka Levine.

Malka, who died in May 1996, was a renowned Jewish educator and wife of Rabbi Murray Levine. She was a beloved member of the BEKI community. For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in these services. For registration information, call 389-2108 ext. 14.

Babysitting is available by prior arrangement for infants during most of the Holy Day services, and for older children during hours when the Children's Programs are not meeting. Walk-in service is not available. To reserve babysitting service, please call 389-2108 x14.

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.

Rosh HaShana services begin Wednesday 15 September at 6:45p with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 7:00p. Candle Lighting is at 6:43p. The service concludes by 7:30p. Morning services begin at 8:30a on Thursday 16 September and on Friday 17 Sep-

tember. Youth services are held each morning.

Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held on the first day of Rosh HaShana, Thursday 16 September, at 4:45p, at the Edgewood Bridge, Beaver Pond Park, and Whitney Museum Covered Bridge. 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. The Minha afternoon service is from 6:45p to 7:00p.

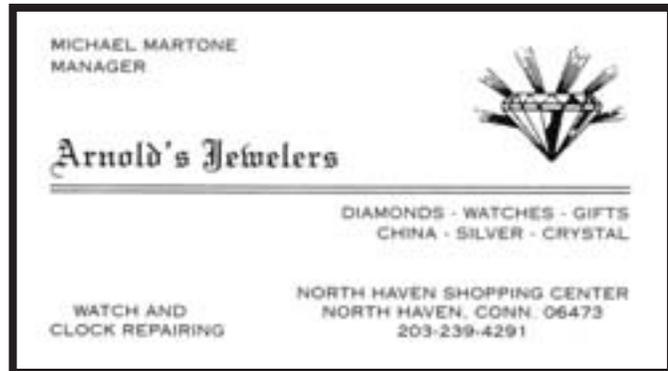
On Friday afternoon, the Minha service will be from 6:00p to 6:15p, followed by the Maariv Evening services. Candle lighting time is 6:39p.

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.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Friday 25 September, the Minha afternoon service begins at 6:15p. Candle Lighting is 6:27p (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv



Alan Lovins



Evening services begin promptly at 6:30p and end by 8:30p. Shaharit Morning services begin at 9:00a; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11:00a. The Minha Afternoon services begin at 5:00p. The service ends with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:30p.

Following the service, everyone is invited to a Break Fast in the Lower Level Social Hall presented by George G. Posener as a loving memorial to his dear departed family members, whose *yahrzeits* we observe during this season.

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.

For a complete schedule of services please call the office at 389-2108 x14 or see the schedule at www.beki.org/schedule.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 ext. 14 or office@beki.org.

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 sets may be ordered from the BEKI Religious School at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org. Sets are \$36 each. They 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 26 September, the day after Yom Kippur, following the 9:00a shaharit morning service. 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 is planned for Sunday 10 October, again 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).

Religious School classes opening is Sunday 12 September 2004. Late registration is still open. The School is under the direction of Principal Dr. Lauren Kempton.

Again this fall educational services will be available for students with special education needs. If your child might benefit from special education services, please call Principal Lauren Kempton (389-2108 x13 (lkempton@beki.org)) at your earliest opportunity.

We welcome Paula Samuel as the teacher of Kindergarten and Grade One, Sabrina Spector as the teacher of Grade Two, Miriam Khurgin as the teacher of Grade Three, Iris Back as the teacher of Grade Four, Rabbi Boaz Tomsky returning to Grade Five, Ina Silverman returning as Project Etgar teacher for Grade Six, and Melissa Mander as Project Etgar teacher for Grade Seven.

Our love and prayers go with Rita Sela as she accompanies her twin grandchildren to Jerusalem and Guy Lord as he pursues his doctorate at the University of Connecticut. Our prayers continue for Carol Takacs.

We have some new and exciting programs planned for this school year. In October we will host a workshop for area Jewish Educators led by BabagaNewz, the innovative Jewish magazine for religious schools. We will bring our Seventh graders to a program sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League entitled Facing Anti-Semitism. We will also travel to the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side in New York City to broaden our understanding of Jews in America, 350.

Thanks to Gladys Lipkin for establishing The Gladys Lipkin Fund for the BEKI Hebrew School, to George G. Posener for establishing The George G. & Leah Posener Fund for Youth Education at BEKI, and the Borick Family for establishing the Borick Family Endowment for Special Education at BEKI.

These endowments provide an annual contribution to support BEKI's religious school. We also thank Dr. Ralph Friedman and all those who contribute to the Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund.

We urge all children's participation in either the Children's Shabbat Havura (for preschoolers),

K-2 Kehila (for kids in K-2) or Junior Congregation every Shabbat morning year-round at 10:45a until about noon. Older youth, in grades 6-8, may participate in Cosmic Conversations. There is no additional charge for these programs that reinforce and supplement the School's curriculum. These programs are also ideal for children attending Ezra Academy and other Jewish Day Schools. We urge all families to participate in BEKI's Family Education Programs.

For more information, please call BEKI Religious School Principal Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 (lkempton@beki.org).

Bar Mitzva in September

Nathan Avni-Singer will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva on Monday 06 September during the 9:15a shaharit morning service.

Nati is a son of Joseph & Ravit Avni-Singer.



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USY

When I first started USY, I was worried that I didn't know anyone and that I would not enjoy myself. Despite my hesitations, I went to the first event and had a blast. I realized that USY was not a scary thing. Instead, it was a great place to meet other Jewish teens my age who live in my community. Also, USY is not only on a local basis but also on a regional basis, providing teens many opportunities to spend time with teenagers in the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts area. While USY provides a very social environment, it also provides connections with Judaism and Israel. In our local BEKI-BJ chapter, past events have included a limousine scavenger hunt, cosmic bowling, and laser tag. Social action projects, such as the Thanksgiving Pies and Deli Box sandwich sales, are also a great way to help the community by raising money. This past year, the BEKI-BJ chapter had over 40 members and hopes expand even more in terms of numbers and activities. All 9th-12th graders are encouraged to become members and participate in USY events. The BEKI-BJ board is looking forward to another great year, and all 9th-12th graders are encouraged to participate in USY events and become members of our chapter.

-Sharon Sutin



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Kulanu – Program

Kulanu, BEKI's outreach program for adults with developmental disabilities, will begin its sixth year this autumn. Kulanu participants have had a very busy summer. We had many programs preparing for the High Holidays. Parents of new community members at Chapel Haven now visit BEKI when they bring their family members to join Chapel Haven. Attendance on Shabbat morning has increased. We are exploring Service Learning projects for the autumn such as grounds clean-up. For information on Kulanu, please contact BEKI's Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 Lkempton@beki.org. Kulanu is funded by the David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at BEKI and by the Congregation. LK

Shabbatot

Darshanim – Commentators – in September

Yitzhak Frankenthal will serve as darshan on the morning of Shabbat parashat Ki Tavo, 04 September 2004. Yitzhak Frankenthal is the chairperson of Families Forum, an organization for families who have lost a member to terror and is the past executive director of Oz veShalom in Israel.

Rabbi Moshe Murray Levine will serve as darshan on the morning of Shabbat Shuva – the Sabbath of Return – parashat Haazinu, 18 September 2004

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library, 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 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.

Mondays

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 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.

Back by Popular Demand:

Hebrew Language Level 1 for Beginners

An introduction to prayerbook Hebrew for beginners will be presented on ten consecutive Monday nights in the Chapel-Library from 6:00p to 7:15p beginning 13 September. The class is appropriate for students who wish to learn the

fundamentals of Biblical, rabbinic, prayerbook or modern Hebrew. Text: Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way is provided to registrants. Registration fee: \$40 per person (includes text).

Wednesdays

Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7:30a to 8:00a during the academic year. The Study Group focuses on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of basic Hebrew or Aramaic is very helpful but not required. The Group is open to all. Due to the Holy Day schedule, this group will not meet next until Wednesday 13 October.

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively

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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@snet.net.

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 ac-

ording 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 call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at 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.”

In July, Melissa Mander, new Project Etgar teacher for Grade Seven, and I studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary for three days to learn the new curriculum. Our days and evenings were full with text study, curriculum presentations and process activities we can use in our BEKI classrooms

.As an education director, I arrived a day early to study with the 19 other education directors from across the country continuing in this United Synagogue pilot program. I was pleased to learn that for 2005-2006 the pilot will be for grade Eight and then back to Kindergarten, a new grade each year. That first day we explored “Year Two, Enriching and Deepening the Learning, Education Director As Mentor and Coach, and Looking Ahead.”

On the second day, we were joined by our teachers as we studied the concepts and content of Project Etgar. We investigated how to evaluate student work and viewed Creation, Revelation and Redemption as key concepts in both Judaism and Project Etgar.

We concluded the day by attending Golda’s Balcony with a post theatre discussion facilitated by Dr. Alex Sinclair from JTS.

The third day, we focused on the study of Israel and had the honor of learning with Dr. Steven Brown, Dean of the Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education and Director of the Melton Research Center.

Two particular aspects of the training have stayed in my thoughts, and I cannot wait to implement them at BEKI Religious School. The first is a much deeper observation of student work based on reflective practice. Cindy Dolgin and Marcey Wagner, the authors and initiators of Project Etgar, reminded us that, “Student work is sacred text.” We spent an hour and a half looking at one example of student work. We passed it around the table repeatedly, each time with new observations. Notice, describe and value.

And yes the act of noticing is a very Jewish idea! As it states in Pirque Avot, “Turn it and turn it over again; You will find everything in it; Do not depart from it. There is no better portion in life than this.”

The second aspect of the training that impressed me was the emphasis on continuing education of the teachers. Eighty educators in a room studying Israel was a sight to behold ... and hear! The basic premise is that we must provide our Religious School children with age-appropriate experiences about Israel. First we teach Biblical Israel, then the Dream and the Vision, A State is Born, and then Modern Israel. The Etgar curriculum uses diaries, memoirs, news reports, videos and eyewitness accounts to accomplish this teaching.

So, come and visit; meet our new teachers... preview the curriculum ... and be with us as we turn it over and over again.



Saul's Circle at Fellowship

Saul's Circle, BEKI's qeruv (out-reach) program for adult mental health services consumers, presents programs at Fellowship House in New Haven and at BEKI.

This outreach program seeks to welcome its participants into the BEKI and the broader Jewish community, and to help bring the healing and saving power of Torah and Jewish tradition to those in need. The program also aims to help the general BEKI membership learn to understand, welcome and appreciate Saul's Circle participants. The Saul's Circle group at Fellowship Place is still deeply involved in the reporting process that accompanies the honor of being chosen as a Center of Excellence by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. On 12 September, Saul's Circle will celebrate the High Holidays with a teaching session led by Dr. Lauren Kempton. A special dinner and program is planned to celebrate Sukkot at BEKI with Kulanu, Saul's Circle and Jewish Family Services. For more information contact Lauren at 389-2018 x13 LKempton@beki.org.



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Mazal Tov to

Morris Bell on his promotion to Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine

Paula Hyman on her election to President of the American Academy of Jewish Research. The Academy represents the oldest organization of Judaic scholars in North America. Fellows are nominated and elected by their peers and thus constitute the most distinguished and most senior scholars teaching Judaic studies at American universities

Alan Lovins & Trish Loving on grandson Yossi becoming a bar mitzva

Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff on celebrating a milestone anniversary

Judith Bartosiewicz on completing *gerut* (conversion) under the auspices of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly

William M. Auriemme on completing *gerut* (conversion) under the auspices of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Virginia Posener, Sister-in-law of George G. Posener

Mary Mortenson, Mother of Karel Koenig

Welcome New Members

Adam Gordon
Judith Bartosiewicz
William M. Auriemme
Michael & Caryl Kligfeld

LeHitraot

We offer our wishes of success and blessing to BEKI families who have relocated this summer

Matthew & April Lieberman & Family who have moved to New Orleans

Dan & Sonia Levy & Family who have moved to Chicago

Julie Stein & Robert Makowsky & Family who have moved to New Jersey

Evelyn Levine who is moving to Rhode Island

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Calendar & Daily Services

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv	9:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha
			1 15 Elul	2 16 Elul 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A.	3 17 Elul 7:03p Candle Lighting	4 18 Elul Darshan: Yitzhak Frankenthal 10:45a Children's Prgms 10:45a Learner's Minyan
5 19 Elul	6 20 Elul 9a Nathan Avni-Singer Bar Mitzva	7 21 Elul	8 22 Elul	9 23 Elul 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A.	10 24 Elul 6:52p Candle Lighting 8p Late Service	11 25 Elul SELIHOT 10:45a Children's programs Qiddush: BEKI Rel. School in honor of Dr. Lauren Kempton 9:00p Selihot Penitential at Cong. Or Shalom
12 26 Elul 9a Religious School Begins 10a Qever Avot at Beth El Memorial Park 11a Qever Avot at Keser Israel Memorial Park	13 27 Elul 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6p Hebrew 101 Class 7:30p Executive Board Meeting	14 28 Elul	15 29 Elul EREV ROSH HASHANA 6:43a Candle Lighting 6:45a Minha 7p Maariv	16 1 Tishrei ROSH HASHANA I Please see the High Holy Days Articles for service times. Candle Lighting after 7:45p	17 2 Tishrei ROSH HASHANA II Please see the High Holy Days Articles for service times. 6:39p Candle Lighting	18 3 Tishrei Darshan Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45a Children's programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan
19 4 Tishrei FAST OF GEDALIA 9a Religious School	20 5 Tishrei 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6p Hebrew 101 Class 7:30p General Board Meeting	21 6 Tishrei	22 7 Tishrei 4p Religious School 4p Benei Mitzva Prgm	23 8 Tishrei 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A.	24 9 Tishrei EREV YOM KIPPUR 6:15p Minha 6:27p Candle Lighting 6:30p Koi Nidre & Maariv	25 10 Tishrei YOM KIPPUR (YIZKOR) Please see the High Holy Days Articles for service times.
26 11 Tishrei 9a Religious School	27 12 Tishrei 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6p Hebrew 101 Class	28 13 Tishrei	29 14 Tishrei EREV SUKKOT 5:45p Minha 6p Festival Maariv 6:18p Candle Lighting	30 15 Tishrei SUKKOT I 9:15a Festival Shaharit 5:45p Festival Minha 6p Festival Maariv Candle Lighting after 7:15p		



Caption?

Courtyard Patio Completed

The completion this summer of the courtyard patio was initiated by Matt Prober, son of Dan & Sharon Prober, as an Eagle Scout project. To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank for a Boy Scout, the scout must conduct a service project where he leads the scouts (and other kids) in a community service project. He also has to pass a number of skill Merit Badges, and also provide leadership within the troop.

The patio is part of a larger

courtyard development project, and will complement the updated Claire Goodwin Youth Room, which will open onto the courtyard. Other elements of the project will include fencing, window well grating, benches and new plantings. The project is planned to be completed in the scope of the Phase 2C renovations.

Dan Prober reports, "Over 5,000 bricks, weighing 40 tons, were used. In addition to Matt, Yakov Stern, Kaili, Shira, Rigel, and Nathan Janette, Tani Cohen-Fraade, Avital Silverman, Dustin Epstein

and a dozen other youths helped in the project. John Weiser and Hugh Fryer were instrumental in planning and preparation. The landscapers, Spring Glen, were enthusiastic and helpful." Dan and Sharon Prober also helped in planning and laying bricks.

"Besides building synagogue patios, the Scouts also hike, camp and perform public services," noted Dan. "It is a great activity for boys 11 and older, and new participants are welcome."

Give HUB a Hug

A Note from Paul Goodwin

Hudson United Bank (HUB) in Woodbridge are the people who helped to finalize the financing of our synagogue renovations. I introduced BEKI vice-president Isaiah Cooper to HUB as well as other local banks. But it was HUB that picked up the ball and ran with it. I am grateful. They now advertise in our Bulletin.

HUB is relatively new to our area and while other local banks did not "come through," HUB did. So, if you can patronize HUB, I would encourage you to do so.

Paul



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Garinim Montessori Preschool

Plans are progressing for the opening of Garinim Montessori Preschool for children ages 2 to 6 at BEKI. The school combines the methods of Montessori with the traditions and culture of Masorti-Conservative Judaism. For information, contact Lana Gad at 389.7445 or lane@garinim.org.

Buying Stuff on the Web?

Those buying items over the Internet can find registered referral links on BEKI's website to Amazon.com and to Buy.com. If you are ordering items through Amazon.com or Buy.com, and you access their sites through our website, a 5% referral fee will go to BEKI. There is no cost to you. The link is at BEKI's Website www.beki.org/links.html at the bottom of the page and you will see the Amazon.com and Buy.com logos.

Food Certificates Fundraiser

With the High Holidays and Sukkot approaching, you will probably be doing a large amount of food shopping. Your food purchases can produce significant income for BEKI if you use food certificates that are available for Stop & Shop, Shop-Rite, and Westville Kosher Meat Market.

Certificates can be ordered from Gloria Cohen, at 389-2070 or at morris.cohen@yale.edu. It

doesn't add anything to your food bills, but it can help BEKI pay its bills. GC

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 Sukkot, call Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 ext. 10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Information in the Lobby

Literature may be placed in the literature rack and on the Community Bulletin Board by permission only. To request permission for placement on the Community Bulletin Board, please contact Office Manager Peggy Hackett at 389-2108 ext. 14 (office@beki.org). After office hours, you may leave one copy of your submission, with your phone number, under Peggy's door, or you may fax it to Peggy at (203) 389-5899 (24-hours).

The lobby display areas are reserved for BEKI programs and activities. We receive frequent requests to promote activities of the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation, Jewish Home, Jewish Family Services, Ezra Academy, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and

the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, along with a host of other worthy and important communal agencies and institutions. It would not be possible to place them in our literature rack. Posters and flyers for these institutions are found on the Community Bulletin Board.

Sometimes flyers and posters that are inappropriate for display at BEKI have been found placed without permission. Flyers and posters placed without permission are immediately discarded. Your cooperation in maintaining a fair and respectful policy is appreciated.

Kadima Sukka Hop

Join the BEKI-BJ KADIMA (6th-8th grade) for Festival Services and Sukka Hop on Thursday 30 September 2004. Services begin 9:15a at BEKI, followed by qiddush in the sukka, followed by a sukka hop departing 12:45p from BEKI.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; there will be an adult chaperone the entire path; RSVP to Miriam, 389-6137, by Monday 27 September. Children must stay together as a group for the whole route; if a child must depart early, a parent must pick them up and speak to that stop's host.

Hop Route will include the Benson-Tilsen Sukka, 281 West Elm Street; the Sokolow-Silverman Sukka, 25 Woodside Terrace; the Grazier-Zerbarini Sukka, 122 West Rock Avenue; the Bass Sukka, 493 Central Avenue; the Cohen-Fraade Sukka, 40 Burton Street; the Ches-



Andy Weinstein

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kis-Gold Sukka, 334 McKinley Avenue; the BEKI Sukka. An updated route and schedule will be available at the event. The Hop ends at 6:15p.

Memorial Plaques Available

The Memorial plaques displayed at BEKI serve as a reminder and memorial to departed loved ones. Plaques are available for \$360 by calling Peggy at 389-2108 x14. Prepayment reserves a space and a plaque.

Calling all College Students

We would like to correspond with college, university and yeshiva students and other post-high school youth. In addition to sharing holiday greetings, we

seek to inform them of United Synagogue programs that might be of interest. Please send your or your youth's email address and other contact information to Mimi Glenn (203) 397-3851 or to Peggy at office@beki.org.

Remember our Students & Youth

We are happy to send a holiday package with sweets and good wishes to students and youth away from home. Help us let them know that we care. If we have their con-

tact information by 08 September, we will be able to send a New Year package. Please provide contact information (name, address, email and phone, and parents' phone) to the attention of Mimi Glenn care of office@beki.org.

Vote Early & Often

National and local elections are to be held Tuesday 02 November 2004. To be able to vote, you must register in advance. Call Registrar of Voters at 946-8035 for instructions. Your vote counts!

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