

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

September 2010

Elul 5770-Tishrei 5771
Vol. 16 Issue 8

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Torah for the Hungry Mind - Page 8

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 Needed

To volunteer either to help with planning or to 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 attendees), English readings, printing Yizkor Memorial Book, and more. If you have any questions, please speak with Darryl Kuperstock.

Selihot at BEKI

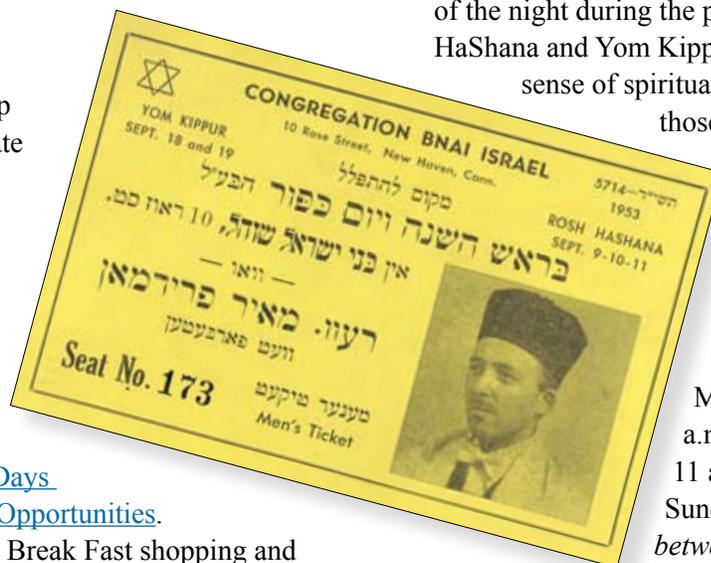
We will host the Conservative-Masorti Community First Selihot Service on Saturday night, Sept. 4. The evening begins at 9:00 with Maariv and Havdala in the Sanctuary. At 9:20,

“On the Record with Paul Bass” (see article); refreshments from 10:35 to 11 p.m. The service begins at 11 p.m. and ends at midnight.

The *selihot* (penitential) prayers are said during the middle of the night during the period immediately before Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. It is believed that a heightened sense of spiritual awareness can be achieved during those hours. The Conservative Communal service is sponsored by Congregations B’nai Jacob, Beth Sholom, Or Shalom and BEKI.

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. 12, which is the Sunday *between* Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Tilsen will lead a brief communal memorial service and will be available for individual prayers. 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.





Accepting Applications Now

2710 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
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WOODBIDGE, CT 06525

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BY APPOINTMENT

THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



WE'VE DEDICATED
OURSELVES
TO THIS DREAM

NOW WE URGE
YOU TO DEDICATE
YOURSELF

The Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is a home within the homeland for Conservative Jews from North America.

It's your center of Conservative life and learning, prayer and play, culture and creativity in the heart of Jerusalem.

At the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, you can enjoy concerts in our auditorium, feast in our elegant dining rooms, attend discussions in lecture halls, pray in our synagogue, study in the Conservative Yeshiva, and there is so much more.

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Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue's Connecticut Valley Region at (860) 563-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org



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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Photographer	<i>Charles Ludwig</i>

Web Buys

If you purchase from Amazon.com via this link www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/congregabethelke) or at www.beki.org through the "Amazon" box at the bottom of the page, BEKI receives a small commission on your purchase at no cost to you. You must use these links each time you access the merchant's website in order for BEKI to receive a commission.

Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

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

Charitable giving strengthens our Community
and provides the donor with tax savings.

David Trachten
Chair,
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.

Days of Awe

Continued from **Page 1**

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 and more information can be found at www.beki.org/cemetery.html. For information on cemetery purchases or upkeep, please contact the BEKI Cemetery Association at cemetery@beki.org or (203) 389-2108 x57.

High Holy Days Participation

Please be sure to return your High Holy Days volunteer/participation forms. We will definitely need help with every aspect of our holiday celebrations. The form is also available on the BEKI website at www.beki.org/forms.html.

Rosh HaShana and 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 led by BEKI members serving as volunteer *hazzanim*. We also are hopeful that additional members of the Lovins Family will join Alan on the bima. Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services, as he has each year since 1993.

Services are organized and led entirely by our members. Generally, Alan leads the morning Torah service and musaf on all three days, as well as Kol Nidre, Maariv and Neila on Yom Kippur. Birkhot ha-Shahar (morning blessings) and Pesuqei de-Zimra (Verses of Song) represent a poetry reading that creates or reinforces a spiritually sensitive atmosphere, which is an experience unto itself as well as prelude to the recitation of Shema and Amida. Shaharit morning services, essentially the recitation of Shema and Amida, include popular “sing along” Hebrew *piyyutim* (poems). Musaf services, the particular additional Amida for the holy day, include several interpretative or contemporary English readings as well as cantorial (and sometimes choral) elaborations. The shofar is sounded after the haftara reading and again during musaf on both days of Rosh HaShana. The recitation of Shema and hearing the shofar are both considered Biblical



Alan Lovins

precepts not to be missed.

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 and is subject to search.

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. If you forget your tickets, our ushers will be able to find your name on the members or guests list.

For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in these services. For registration information, call (203) 389-2108 x14.

If you are interested in babysitting service, please call (203) 389-2108 x14. Walk-in babysitting is not available and will not be available at all at most services unless prior arrangement is made.

Rosh HaShana services begin Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 7:10. Candle Lighting is at 6:56. The service concludes by 7:36 p.m. Morning services begin at 8:30 on Thursday, Sept. 9; several services for children and youth, and a learners' service, are held as well. Shofar is sounded at about 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary; please come to the sanctuary at that hour if you are elsewhere in the building, or as directed by the ushers.

Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held on the *first* day of Rosh HaShana, Thursday, Sept. 9, at 5:30 p.m., at the Edgewood Bridge and at the Whitney Museum Covered Bridge. For tashlikh at Beaver Pond Park, contact office@beki.org (203) 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.

On Thursday of Rosh HaShana, minha service begins at 7 p.m., followed by the evening service at 7:10. Candle lighting is after 7:57.

On Friday, Sept. 10, morning services are also at 8:30. Youth services are held as well. Shofar is sounded on Friday morning as well. Afternoon and Shabbat evening services begin at 6:00p on Friday.

For instructions on preparing meals for Shabbat in

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Days of Awe

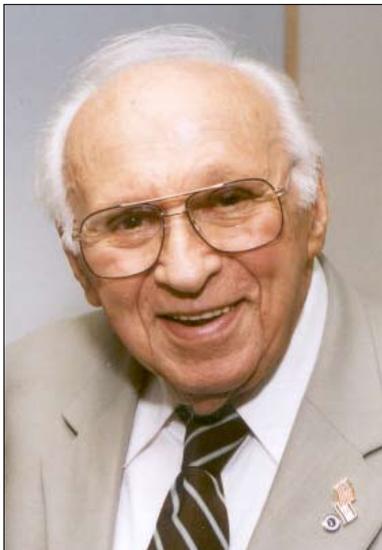
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compliance with halakhic considerations in light of the three-day sequence, please see *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals* p. 306 s.v. *Eruv Tavshilin*.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Friday, Sept. 17, the Mincha service begins at 6:30 p.m. Candle Lighting is 6:41 p.m. (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:45 and end by 8:15. Shahrith Morning services begin at 9 o'clock; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11 a.m. The Mincha Afternoon service begins at 5 p.m., and is followed immediately by the Neila and Maariv services. The services end with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:42 p.m.

George G. Posener Break Fast Concludes Yom Kippur

Following the concluding Yom Kippur services on Shabbat, Sept. 18, please join us as we gather for our amazing community Break



George G. Posener

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 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

Saykhel



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."

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."

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Days of Awe

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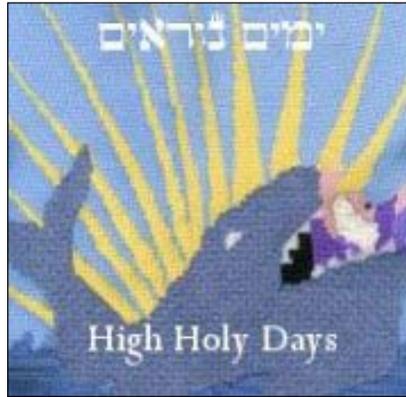
managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

Holy Day Info

A complete schedule of High Holy Days services, along with additional information and forms, is available at www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html

A schedule of Sukkot and Shemini Atseret services is available at www.beki.org/sukkot.html.

Also, you may see your members' High Holy Days mailings, request a copy of the information booklet from the office, pick up a schedule from the lobby literature rack, or



call the office at (203) 389-2108 x14.

For information on seating and ticketing, call the synagogue office or email office@beki.org.

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 (203) 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

סליחות
SELIHOT

at **Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel**

Presented by BEKI and

- Congregation B'nai Jacob •
- Congregation Or Shalom •
- Temple Beth Shalom •

Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) Sept. 4

9 p.m.: Ma'ariv & Havdala Service

9:20 p.m.: On the Record with Paul Bass

10:30 p.m.: Refreshments

11 p.m.: Selihot Service with

- Cantor Joshua Konigsberg •
- Rabbi Joel Levenson •
- Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic •
- Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen •
- Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus •

Join the Greater New Haven Conservative-Masorti Congregations for prayer and study in preparation for the Yamim Nora'im – The Days of Awe



Will Social Media Bring Us Together?

On the Record with Paul Bass

Selihot Evening • Saturday • Sept. 4 • 9:20 to 10:30 p.m.
at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

By Christopher Capozziello / NYT

Paul Bass converses with **Ben Berkowitz**, founder of SeeClickFix, State Rep. **Gary Holder-Winfield**, and **Joe Ugly**, founder of uglyradio.net, in an exploration of the transformation brought about by the emergence of social media, its hazards and opportunities.

Recent world events such as the Turkish running of the Gaza Blockade and the protests in Iran have called attention to the role of social media and the internet in global politics. This evening will explore the local impact of the communication revolution.

Will Twitter bring us together? Can we "SeeClickFix" our neighbor-

hoods? Will reinvented newspapers revive the town square? Are we becoming more polarized or better organized? Is it good for the Jews? Are we headed over a cliff or missing the boat?

Paul Bass is a noted journalist and editor of the New Haven Independent (newhavenindependent.org). He is a nationally-recognized and award-winning innovator in the field of online journalism and promoting not-for-profit business models for journalism. He is co-author of *Murder in the Model City: The Black Panthers, Yale and the Redemption of a Killer*.

Free and open to the public.



Sukkot is Here

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 and schedules are published at www.beki.org/sukkot.html.

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Sunday, Sept. 19 from 9:45 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. 3, following *Shaharit*. Additional power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information, contact Saul Bell

(203) 389-1647 or David Kuperstock (203) 387-0304.

Lulav and Etrog Orders

BEKI Religious School will offer *lulav* and *etrog* sets for Sukkot. To order, please leave a note for Peggy or Ina with your name and address and check for \$42 per set in the BEKI office, or mail to BEKI, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515. For more info contact principal@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x13.

Sukkot and Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Sukkot begins on Wednesday evening, Sept. 22. Minha service begins at 5:45 p.m., followed immediately by the evening service, ending at 6:20. The services will be held in the Sukka, weather permitting. Candle lighting on Wednesday night is at 6:32. For res-

ervations for a Sukkot dinner, contact the office at office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14.

For instructions on preparing meals for Shabbat in compliance with halakhic considerations in light of the three-day sequence, please see *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals* p. 306 *s.v. Eruv Tavshilin*. Attention should be given to this matter on Wednesday afternoon, before the onset of the festival.

The morning service on Thursday begins at 9:15 and includes the recitation of Hallel, waving of Lulav and Etrog, and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Services on Thursday night also begin at 5:45, but candle lighting on Thursday is after 7:33 p.m. Services on Friday morning, Sept. 24

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Sukkot

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are also from 9:15 a.m. to noon and again include the taking of Lulav and Etrog.

Candle lighting on Friday night is at 6:31. Services begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 9:15 on Shabbat morning. We do not use Lulav and Etrog on Shabbat. The morning service includes the recitation of Hallel and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Although the Shabbat *nusah* (musical mode) predominates, certain passages are recited according to the unique Festival *nusah*.

Shabbat Hol HaMoed is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”). 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” and

“There is nothing new under the sun,” it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody.

Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon service begins at 5:45 and ends about 6:20 p.m.

Sunday Sukkot

The Sunday Sukkot festival service begins at 9:15 a.m., and includes the recitation of Hallel, the use of Lulav and Etrog, and a Hoshana accompanied by a *haqafa* (circumambulation). The afternoon service begins at 5:45.

Family Sukka Hop

Join the annual BEKI Family Sukka Hop, Thursday, Sept. 23, departing 12:45 p.m. from BEKI’s Moishe Schnitman Sukka.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; RSVP to Miriam, (203) 389-6137, by Sept. 13 so hosts can plan. Wear good walking shoes for the trek “up the

hill.” Bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks, and running strollers for your little ones. Reservations required.

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

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Sukkot

Continued from Page 7

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.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

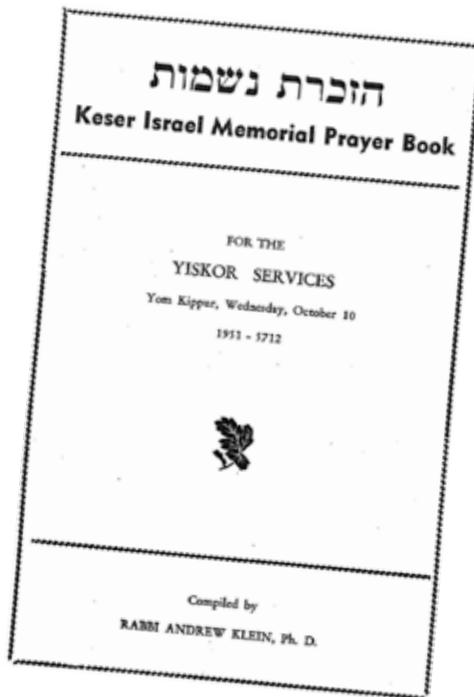
The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Wednesday, Sept. 29 begins at 7 a.m. and ends by 8:50 a.m. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the *sukka* or shul with *lulav* and *etrog* (palm and citron) and the *hoshana* service 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 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 and Yizkor Memorial Service

The Festival of Shemini Atseret (“Eighth Day of Assembly”) serves as a conclusion to the autumn Festival of Sukkot (“Booths”). The festival begins Wednesday night, Sept. 29. It is customary to light a memorial candle on Wednesday immediately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 6:20 p.m. (or earlier).

During the morning service, which



begins at 9:15 on Thursday, Sept. 30, Hallel is chanted. The unique festival *nusah* (musical mode) is used for this service.

The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini Atseret liturgy. 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 6 p.m. and evening services begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30. Candle lighting on Saturday night is *after* 7:20. Evening services include seven *haqafot* (circumambulatory dances) with Torah scrolls and a brief Torah reading, the only time that we read Torah in public at night.

Festival morning services begin at 9:15 on Friday, Oct. 1. Three Torah scrolls are removed from the ark (around 10 a.m.) and seven brief *haqafot* are conducted. The final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, *parashat Ve-Zot Ha-Berkaha*, are read, followed by the opening passages of the Book of Genesis, part of *parasha Bereishit*. This concludes the annual Torah reading cycle, and begins the new cycle. This is particularly joyful at BEKI because so many members are involved in Torah reading throughout the year, and these readers dedicate considerable effort in preparing accurate and melodious chantings.

A *maftir* portion is read from Numbers, which describes the observance of Shemini Atseret in the ancient Temple. The *haftara* is recited from the opening passages of Joshua, which is the sequel to Deuteronomy, sometimes called the “sixth book” of the Five Books of Moses. Goodie Bags will be presented by the [Sisterhood](#) to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. *Minha* services begin at 6 p.m. as is usual for Friday nights at BEKI, and is followed by the Maariv service, ending about 6:40 (earlier than usual).

Sukka Storage

The deconstruction of the Sukka will take place on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 9:30 a.m., immediately following the morning minyan service (join us at 9 o’clock). 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 (203) 387-0304, ndk1024@aol.com or Saul Bell (203) 389-1647, sbell1470@aol.com

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Herbert Sachs,

brother of Ivan (& Rita) Sachs, uncle of Robert (& Betsy) Sachs, Mark (& Ilene) Sachs, Linda (& Ken) Buckman, Gregory (& Lisa) Sachs, Louis Sachs et al.

Sidney M. Hyman,

father of Paula Hyman (& Stanley Rosenbaum)

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Who's Who?

Can you recall the first names of the members pictured?

If you've always wanted to know the names of the kind folks sitting near you in services but are too shy to ask or too embarrassed to ask *again*, take the test below and match the faces to the names of real people in services.

Note: All BEKI members look better in person.

Mazal tov to

Amy Marx & Robert Schonberger on the birth of their daughter Esther Meira, and to siblings Sophie and Jacob, and to grandparents Michael & Sarah Marx and Larry & Rachel Schonberger

Jamie & Wes Miller on their qiddushin (Jewish wedding under the huppa).

Joshua Prober & Denise Katz on their qiddushin.

Welcome New and Returning Members

Robert & Marcia Jacoby
Betsy Ratner
Belle Reese

Rabbi's Report

Rabbi Tilsen's Annual report for the 2010 fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 is available at www.beki.org/tilsen/annual10.pdf and by request from the office.



Jamie and Wes Miller's wedding



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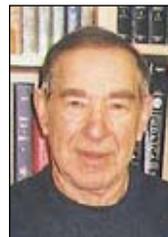
3



4



5



6



7



8

Answers: 1-Karen; 2-Margaret; 3-Harold; 4-David; 5-Belle; 6-Al; 7-Eric; 8-Mikki

Library News

The following volumes have been added to the Rosenkrantz Family Library through a generous contribution of Rabbi Eric & Dr. M.J. Silver:

Hebrew-English Edition of the Babylonian Talmud (London: Soncino) 1983; 11 volumes

Pesahim, *Taanith-Megillah-Hagigah*, *Bezah-Rosh Hashanah-Shekalilm*, *Baba*

Bathra vol. 1, *Baba Bathra* vol. 2, *Baba Kamma*, *Kiddushin*, *Erubin*, *Nedarim*, *Yebamoth*

En Jacob, S.H. Glick (NY: Moriah), Hebrew English, 5 volumes
Itturei Torah (Hebrew), 6 volumes
Talmud Yerushalmi, (Jerusalem: Shilo) 1969, Hebrew/Judeo-Aramaic
Eben-Shushan *Konkordantsia* (Hebrew), 3 vol., Israel, 1982
HaMafqid, selection from Talmud,

pamphlet, Hebrew English linear translation, paper

Fred Rosner, *Sex Ethics in the writing of Moses Maimonides*

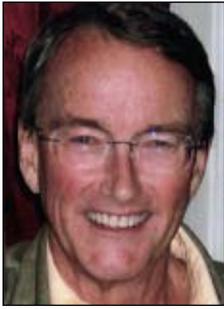
Harold Kushner, *When Children Ask About God*

Elliot Dorff, *Conservative Judaism: Our Ancestors to our Descendents*

S.Y. Agnon, *Days of Awe*

Max Kedushin, *Organized Thinking*

Darshanim in September and October



Bob Oakes

Rabbi Moshe Murray Levine will serve as darshan on Shabbat Shuva, parashat Ha'azinu, Sept. 11.

Jonathan Freiman will serve as darshan on Shabbat Bereishit, Oct. 2.

Bob Oakes will serve as darshan on Shabbat Rosh Hodesh Heshvan, parashat Noah, Oct. 9.

Julia Joy, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat parashat Lekhlekha, Oct. 16.

Jacob Botwick-Ries, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashat Hayei-Sara, Oct. 30.

Shabbatot

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to



Steven Fraade

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** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique

offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays

Word for the Day

The Wednesday morning service (*shaharit*) features a 90-second "Hebrew word for the day" to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English. The Word for the Day often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion. Word for the Day is not presented during September but will resume following Simhat Torah.

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. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. The group is on summer recess and will resume following Simhat Torah. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.



Murray Levine

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. *Shaharit* service is from 8:15 to 9 o'clock on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

Continued on **Page 11**

USY News

This past year, USY climbed to new heights. From game night, to a SATO scavenger hunt, to our annual Limo event, we did it all! We broke the ice with a Ben and Jerry's ice cream tasting and finished the year out with a Shabbaton at Camp Laurelwood. We received a record breaking 13 awards from the Hanefesh regional, including Chapter of the Year. We elected our new board at our tie-dye event. The new board for this year includes Tsvi Benson-Tilsen as President, Daniel Ben-Chitrit as Vice President, Sasha Wietzman as Israeli Affairs, Matan Markind as Religious Education, Maya Levine-Ritterman as Social Action/Tikun Olam, Alex Shragis as membership/Kadima and Dana Lew as Communications.

Our first event for the 2010-11 school year will be the annual FREE Ben and Jerry's ice cream social on Sept. 5! For more information on USY membership and events email advisor Matt Wiener at mattwien13@gmail.com

A letter from Kadima Advisor Tara Kipnees

A special invitation to our incoming 5th-8th graders to join Kadima, and a special welcome back to previous members! Kadima is a great opportunity to make new friends or reconnect with other Jewish friends from school or shul while participating in our fun events. Look for news about our Kadima events, which will be held every few weeks throughout the year, and mark your calendars. Parents, Kadima is the perfect place for your kids to build an extra-curricular support group of friends and leaders. Don't let your kids go another year without it!

Best wishes,
Tara



Sunday Testing for SAT and ACTs

The Youth Commission encouraged all BEKI-BJ teens to utilize the special Sunday testing date for the SATs. Testing on Sunday instead of Saturday is an especially nice form of Shabbat observance.

It provides solidarity with other Jewish teens, and, as an extra benefit, you'll test in a smaller, quieter, environment.

- SAT <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/special-circumstances>

- ACT www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/nonsat.html
2010-11 Sunday dates for the SAT are Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 23, March 13, May 8 and June 5. You must register by U.S. mail and include letter from Rabbi.

2010-11 Sunday dates for the ACT are Oct. 24 and April 10 (in West Hartford). Bring letter from Rabbi on test day.

Sheqolarships

Your extra Israeli currency (New Israeli Sheqels) can be used for scholarships for BEKI youth studying in Israel. Deposit currency in the "foreign currency and tokens" pushke (charity box) in the beit midrash; or if you want a receipt (in US dollars at current published exchange rate) please send or deliver to office. Save yourself and our students the cost of currency exchange and encourage them in their studies.

Benei Mitzva Program Begins

First class meeting is on Wednesday, Sept. 1 from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

For information and registration, see www.beki.org/forms/bmp.pdf or request a copy by *schleppost*, fax or email from the office at (203) 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org.

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 10**

The Sanhedrin Study Group is on recess and will resume Thursday, Oct. 7 in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net.



Isaiah Cooper



Nadav Sela

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." Nadav Sela's most recent Devar Torah on Shabbat Nahamu is available at <http://beki.org/dt/selanadavnahamu5770.pdf>.

Please consider joining BEKI Sisterhood this year. Dues are \$25 and with every woman's support we will continue to support the synagogue and enhance its function.

Please check out the newly remodeled kitchen on the main level. Our new kitchen is just one of the many projects Sisterhood has successfully seen through over the years.

Our gift shop is stocked with many new items and if you want something special we will get it for you.

Happy New Year from Sisterhood!
Mimi Glenn & Adele Tyson
Co-Presidents

Torah Fund

Torah Fund's theme this year, 5771, celebrates the energizing power of



Pin Design by Eytan Brandes.

community. Kehillah Kedoshah was the common term for Jewish Community in Eastern Europe, but also im-

plies a community bound together by similar values and beliefs. The images contained within this stylized *hamsa* reflect women in celebration, dancing and praising.

Your support of The Jewish Theological Seminary through Torah Fund ensures the solid & healthy future of Conservative Judaism.

You can be a benefactor (\$180); Guardian (\$300); or an Associate Patron (\$600) and receive the 5771 pin in recognition of your support. Please contact Barbara Cushen at (203) 407-0314 to donate or to just send out a card for any occasion at only \$4 (includes postage).

Thanks to everyone for your support and a sweet & healthy year to all.

News

Shabbat Clock at Whalley and Harrison

The crosswalk at Whalley Avenue at Harrison Street operates according to a Shabbat timer. On Friday nights from 5:45 to 7:30, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., a 15-second exclusive pedestrian phase occurs each minute. It is not necessary to push the "walk" button. Please exercise extreme caution at all times as some drivers do not obey the stop light. Thanks to our City of New Haven Transportation, Traffic & Parking Director Mike Piscitelli and Mayor John DeStefano for making this happen, and to Jay Sokolow and Ina Silverman for working with our city officials.

Don't Cross the Line

A sensor on Harrison Street at the corner of Whalley Avenue senses vehicles on Harrison Street (such as those leaving BEKI) and after a delay of less than two minutes provides a green light to vehicles on Harrison Street. The sensor will not work if a vehicle approaches at a very low speed. When vehicles cross the stop line (the white perpendicular line before the crosswalk) and partially enter the intersection, the system will treat it as if the vehicle is

gone and will not provide a green light, so be sure to stop at the "stop line" before the sidewalk as the law requires. The New Haven Municipal Code provides: "Except when directed to proceed by a Police Officer or traffic control signal, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop intersection indicated by a stop sign shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection or, in the event there is no crosswalk, shall stop at a clearly marked stop line..." (Section 335.040 B). *Executive summary: If you don't stop where you are supposed to, you won't get a green light.*

Stop Before You Go

"The driver of a vehicle within a business or residence district emerging from an alley, driveway or building shall stop such vehicle immediately prior to driving onto a sidewalk or onto the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway or driveway and shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian as may be necessary to avoid collision and upon entering the roadway shall yield the right-of-way to all vehicles approaching on said roadway" (New Haven Municipal Code Sec. 335.080). *Executive Summary: Halt at the stop sign at the driveway at BEKI.*

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Isaiah D. Cooper

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Dear Rabbi,

I was at services early on Shabbat morning for the introductory prayers. There were only three other people there, counting you. Why bother? Isn't the jury in?

Signed, Despaired

Dear Despaired,

The morning service is structured around the recitation of the Shema. The Mishna notes that the early sages used to wait "a good while" or "an hour" before reciting the Shema, so that they would be in the right frame of mind. We recite Psalms and other inspirational passages ("Pesuqei deZimra") for about fifteen minutes, and then begin with the brief introduction to the Shema and its blessings.

Pesuqei deZimra has been described as a "warm-up," "foreplay" or "centering." Many people find this ancient poetry to be provocative or interesting, while others simply need a wake-up reading. Even if you don't like poetry, you might find it a good chance to practice your Hebrew reading, or else to read the commentary in *Or Hadash*, the annotated edition of our *Siddur Sim Shalom*, a copy of which is found in most rows of our sanctuary. It is also a good time to think about the week that was and to consider what you really need to pray about during the morning.

The recitation of *Pesuqei deZimra* also serves as a "buffer" time so that those who come a few minutes late, despite intending to come at the start, will still not miss the recitation of Shema. The recitation of the Shema, on or close to its proper time, is the central Biblical requirement of the morning service. Of course, that doesn't work for those who plan to miss *Pesuqei deZimra*.

Some of our pious ancestors – and our contemporaries who attend BEKI weekday morning services in the winter – seek to recite the Shema at the earliest optimal moment, just as the sun is coming up. Doing so not only shows enthusiasm to fulfill the mitzva, but also takes advantage of a natural peak spiritual moment, especially on sunny days. On Shabbat morning we all like to sleep late, but there are limits.

Dear Rabbi,

On the fourth anniversary of the abduction of Israeli [citizen soldier] Gilad Shalit, [on Shabbat morning], [we at BEKI] said a prayer for his release, gave him an aliya in absentia, and put his picture up in the lobby. I was proud of that. But don't you think we should do that every week until he is released?

Signed, Captivated

Dear Captivated,

We do refer to Gilad Shalit prominently in every service during the week and on Shabbat. In the weekly amida, we describe the Almighty as "Matir asurim," the one who releases captives. There is no captive in Israel more in our hearts and mind than Mr. Shalit. Unfortunately, the concern for freeing captives has been a constant in our history, and for that reason it is built right into the daily prayer as a permanent fixture.

Our sage Sa'adia Gaon said, about a thousand years ago, that the daily amida is designed to touch on each area of concern of our lives. It is our task to elaborate and personalize that recitation. The Amida is not a text you are supposed to recite verbatim; rather, it is the basis and outline for your own prayer. In other words, the amida for personal recitation is designed as an outline to guide and remind you to remember and vocalize the major concerns of your life. That is the very purpose of the amida, and if that does not work in this most extreme case – that of Gilad Shalit – then there really would be no point in saying the amida at all.

Our prayerbook, *Siddur Sim Shalom* for Weekdays, goes so far as to suggest the form of a personal elaboration of the prayer for healing, a request that so often touches the hearts of the worshiper and motivates sincere prayer. That very same format can be used in praying for the safe release of Gilad Shalit and for our other requests, needs, concerns and wishes.

On Shabbat and major Festivals, however, our form is to not make requests, but at most to "remind" the Almighty of our concerns, or express our appreciation. Thus, we don't really "request" healing for our loved ones or ourselves on the Sabbath day, but given the urgency and

paramount importance of health and wellness, we might say, "You sure are a good healer, God; you're the only one whom we can count on to do it!" and hope that the Almighty will take the hint.

In keeping with the observance of Shabbat as it has been transmitted to us, we don't specifically request the release of prisoners, but simply remind the Almighty that we care and know how important the matter is.

At the same time, there is a communal political issue concerning what if anything is included in our public worship beyond the basic text. Should we add a separate prayer for Israeli soldiers guarding the homeland? Or for Americans serving abroad, or at home? Should we include the lawyers defending our liberties and civil rights who might come into harm's way? And should we not memorialize by name the American, or Allied, troops who have sacrificed their lives each week? Should we not invoke a prayer for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, or do we just forget them now that some months have passed?

We might agree that these are important concerns, but we might not agree on which if any ought to be placed in a prominent liturgical position. If you are parents of a soldier serving in a war zone as are Rabbi Eric & M.J. Silver (and for security reasons I can't say which zone, but I think they have camels there), you might think the most important concern is the safety of our soldiers. If you have siblings, parents or children in Israel, as do several of our families, you might consider the safety of Israeli soldiers or civilians of paramount importance. If you work in the field of public health, you might think that the consequences of a pandemic are orders of magnitude beyond the fate of just a "few" soldiers or civilian war victims. If you are among the millions unemployed, as are several BEKI members, you might consider the economic situation pushing individuals and families into homelessness or divorce more pressing than the outcome of a distant optional war. The structure of the amida as a personal prayer allows each person to concentrate on their heart's true concerns. The public recitation allows each person to hear what they need.

September 2010

22 Elul 5770 - 22 Tishrei 5771

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

High Holy Days Schedule

A complete High Holy Days schedule is posted at www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html (or under "Service Schedule" on the main page).

Sukkot Schedule

A complete Sukkot & Shemini Atseret schedule is posted at www.beki.org/sukkot.html (or under "Service Schedule" on the main page).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00pm Religious School Staff Meeting 5:00pm First Day of Benei Mitzva Program	2	3 7:05pm Candle Lighting	4 Seihot 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Bass 9:00pm Maariv-Havdala 9:20pm Program 10:30pm Refreshments 11:00pm Service
			22 Elul	23 Elul	24 Elul	25 Elul
5	6 Office Closed/Labor Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group	7	8 Erev Rosh Hashana 7:00pm Minha-Maariv 6:56pm Candle Lighting PM Refreshments: Sela	9 Rosh Hashana I Office Closed For High Holiday service schedule see related articles 5:30pm Tashlikh (off-site) PM Refreshments: Sela	10 Rosh Hashana II Office Closed Candle Lighting 6:53pm For High Holiday service schedule see related articles	11 Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Sokolow/Silverman 5:45pm Minha-Maariv
26 Elul	27 Elul	28 Elul	29 Elul	1 Tishrei	2 Tishrei	3 Tishrei
12 Fast of Gedaliah 9:00am First Day of Religious School 10am Qever Avot at Hamden 11:00am Qever Avot at West Haven	13 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	14	15 4:00pm Religious School 5:45pm Minha Maariv	16	17 Erev Yom Kippur 6:41pm Candle Lighting For High Holiday service schedule see related articles	18 Yom Kippur (Yizkor) For High Holiday service schedule and children's programs see related articles. 7:40pm Posener Congregational Break Fast
4 Tishrei	5 Tishrei	6 Tishrei	7 Tishrei	8 Tishrei	9 Tishrei	10 Tishrei
19 9:00am Religious School/Parent Breakfast Meeting 9:45am Building of the "Moishe" Schnitman Memorial Sukka	20 7:45am Rashi Study Group	21	22 Erev Sukkot No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 5:45pm Minha 5:55pm Festival Maariv 6:32pm Candle Lighting 6:20pm BRS & BEKI Community Posener Festival Dinner in Sukka (reservations required)	23 Sukkot I Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service 12:45pm BEKI Sukka Hop (reservations required) 5:45pm Festival Minha-Maariv Candle Lighting after 7:33pm	24 Sukkot II Office Closed 9:15am Festival Shaharit 6:00pm Festival Minha-Maariv 6:29pm Candle Lighting 20's/30's Havura Shabbat dinner (off-site/reservations required)	25 Hol Hamoed Sukkot I 10:45am Children's Program 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Hakakian/Ahmadi 5:45pm Minha-Maariv
11 Tishrei	12 Tishrei	13 Tishrei	14 Tishrei	15 Tishrei	16 Tishrei	17 Tishrei
26 Hol Hamoed Sukkot II 9:00am Religious School	27 Hol Hamoed Sukkot III 8:10am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	28 Hol Hamoed Sukkot IV	29 Hoshanah Rabbah 7:00a No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 5:45pm Minha 5:55pm Festival Maariv 6:20pm Candle Lighting	30 Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor) Office Closed 9:15am Festival Shaharit 6:00pm Minha 6:30pm Evening Services & Haqafot (dancing) Candle Lighting after 7:20pm	<h3>Daily Services</h3> <p>Additional participants are needed for the morning service in September. Can you come one morning a week? Sunday, 9 to 9:35; Monday 7 to 7:45; Tuesday 7 to 7:30; Wednesday 7 to 7:33; Thursday 8:15 to 8:50; Friday 7 to 7:20. Let us know at jjtilsen@beki.org or just come.</p>	
18 Tishrei	19 Tishrei	20 Tishrei	21 Tishrei	22 Tishrei		



Sundays
9 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Mondays
7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Tuesdays
7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Wednesdays
7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Thursdays
8:15 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Fridays
7 a.m. Shaharit
6 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Saturdays
9:15 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha