

BEKI BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel, a Full-Service Synagogue for Greater New Haven Jewry
February 1995 ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל שבט-אדר א תשנ"ה

BEKI Building Fund: An Urgent Appeal

At our recent congregational meeting held on Tuesday, January 3rd, it was voted and passed by the congregation that we would go ahead with repairs to our building's roof and exterior masonry. These repairs are scheduled to begin in April. Since BEKI has no existing building fund, we must make this appeal directly. We urgently need your help to meet the cost of these repairs as soon as possible so that the work can begin as scheduled.

As we all know, extensive roof repairs have been needed for (at least) the past four years. The severity of the past winters has increased the damage. Unfortunately, we have had to "make do" with patches. While these attempts have temporarily staved off the inevitable, they have been very costly and have not resolved the underlying problems. In addition, every roof leak causes damage to the interior ceilings and walls. Repairing this damage is especially expensive in the main sanctuary because it involves the use of scaffolding and special equipment. The longer we put off repairing the roof and exterior masonry, the greater the interior damage will be.

The Building and Maintenance Committee has requested bids from a number of contractors to do the following: put on a new roof over all four sections of the building with a 25-year warantee, replace damaged bricks (glazed bricks that must be ordered specially), recaulk the window frames, power wash the entire building to remove all stains and mold, and completely

waterproof all the brickwork in the building. The lowest bids combined to equal \$110,000, if we begin the process now. Waiting would raise the bids by at least \$5,000. We must be prepared to pay for the project by the end of January.

We are pleased to announce the following members have already graciously pledged the sum of \$12,500:

BEKI Sisterhood
Ken and Elaine Braffman
Diane Dumigan
Steve Fraade & Ellen Cohen
Irving & Elma Guttenberg
Ellen Jawitz
Marvin Missan
George G. Posener
Sybil Richards
Aron & Tina Rose
Adele Tyson
Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried
Natan & Lori Weinstein
Steve and Rachel Wizner
Betty Zelen

If you have given all you can afford, we are truly grateful. If you can give a little more, we are deeply appreciative. If you have not yet given a tax-deductible contribution, please do it now. Help make the necessary repairs to our beloved synagogue and prevent further damage. Any amount is acceptable.

We count on you to add your name to this growing list.

—George G. Posener

Administrative Announcements

E-Mail Address

E-Mail users may reach Rabbi Tilsen at:
JJTilsen@AOL.COM.

Deadlines for Submitting Material for Publication:

For the BEKI Bulletin, submit your material by the 1st of the month for the following month.

For mid-month flyer mailings, submit your material to the office by the 15th of the month.

Gathering and producing the synagogue's publications takes time. We cannot include material submitted beyond these deadlines, and we cannot call to remind you. Please submit your material **ON TIME**.

Office Hours:

Office hours for the synagogue are:
Monday – Thursday 9 AM–3 PM
Friday 9 AM–noon

Food Deliveries:

If food is being brought into the synagogue for the weekend (Friday night or Saturday morning), it must be delivered by 11:00 AM on Friday.

Donations for Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund:

If you are making a donation to the Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund, please be sure to make the check out to "Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund" and send it to the attention of the Rabbi.

New Security System:

The new security system of the BEKI Synagogue is now in force. To gain admittance to the building, on Harrison St. during office hours, ring the door bell at the front door, next to the driveway.

Beth El-Keser Israel Board of Directors

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Paulette Lehrer	Mikki Ratner	Adele Tyson
Harriet Barstein	Amy Margolis	Andrew Weinstein
Jay Brotman	Donna Wardle	
	Laura Yakerson	
Myra Myers		Office Manager
Linda Caplan		Secretary

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.

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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Editor	Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen
President	Milton Smirnoff
Production Editor	Rita Sela
Advertisement Editor	Linda Schultz
Printer	Goodcopy

My First Cousin

I am the youngest of my paternal grandparents' twenty-two grandchildren and almost the youngest of my maternal grandparents' fifteen grandchildren. All of us grew up in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area in Minnesota. No seder table was too long, no home was too large, no park was too spacious for our family gatherings. A week did not go by without seeing my cousins.

My cousin Nicholas Chaim Tilsen was born in 1951. He was more than ten years older than me, and I did not know him as well as did my siblings who were his contemporaries and his classmates in high school.

Nick was a talented chef, and when he lived in the San Francisco Bay Area he had a catering business. Nick was fit and energetic and had developed an extensive network of friends who cared deeply about him and about each other. He was an essential part

of his community and of his family.

Nick was my first cousin to die. He died of AIDS in 1990, among the first few thousand to succumb to this retrovirus. He died in the loving care of his family and friends. His death left us diminished and we are still grieving to this day.

As we approach his fifth *yahrzeit* I observe that the level of pain and death brought by the disease seems incomprehensible. Millions of people are infected with a virus with a 100% mortality rate and no cure in sight. The agonizing medical effects of the virus are compounded by the social and legal stigma of the HIV-positive label. The devastation touches us all.

My first cousin performed many deeds of kindness during his life and enriched the lives of his family and friends. May his memory be a blessing.

Darshanim & Speakers in February

Leon Medvedow is a veteran politico of the New Haven area. He is a BEKI member and lives with his family in Westville. Leon will speak on Friday 3 February at the 8:00 p.m. service.

Steven Cohen is a Professor of Sociology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at Queens College. His research focuses on the Jewish Community. He lives in Jerusalem with his family and is visiting in New Haven for this year. Steven is a BEKI member. He will lead a Torah Discussion on Shabbat Morning 18 February at the 9:15 a.m. service.

Martin Gilens is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yale University. His research interests are in American public opinion, mass media, and race and poverty in the United States. He is currently conducting a study of racial stereotypes and opposition to welfare, examining public attitudes, political discourse, and media representations of race and poverty from 1950 to the present. He is a BEKI member and lives with his family in Westville. Marty will speak on "Race & Poverty" Friday 24 February at the 8:00 p.m. service.

Rachel's Table Benefit Concert

Rachel's Table is presenting an afternoon family concert of woodwind quintet music on Sunday, January 19, at 1:30 PM at the JCC. For more information and the cost, please call 387-2424 ext. 325.

United Synagogue Convention

The United Synagogue is holding a convention November 2-6 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC. For cost and information, call 1-212-533-7800, ext. 2611.

BEKI Recycles

The office at BEKI wants to do its part in the recycling of paper. The city will not pick up our papers, so we need a volunteer to oversee and remove our office paper and junk mail. Recycling is a mitzvah. To volunteer, please call the synagogue at 389-2108.

Dear Rabbi,

At weekday evening services you read two different lists of yahrzeit names. What's going on? I don't get it.

Dear Reader,

The first list is the names of those whose yahrzeit occurs on the day that is coming to an end (the date on the Hebrew Calendar changes at sundown). This first list goes along with the Minha afternoon service. The second list is the names of those whose yahrzeit occurs on the new day that is beginning at sunset. This second list goes along with the evening service.

Dear Rabbi,

I have noticed that the candle lighting times are different in the BEKI Bulletin, the Ledger, and on my Jewish calendar. Why are they different? Which one is right?

Signed,
Four Minutes Off

Dear *Four Minutes*,

The candle lighting times published in the BEKI Bulletin are calculated for the exact polar coordinates of Beth El-Keser Israel. Some other sources use a point in the region a few miles away, which accounts for a minute's difference.

Some sources simply guess by splitting the difference between New York and Hartford sunset times. Some sources rely on the civil definition of sunset (i.e. when one-half of the solar sphere appears to be below the horizon) instead of the halakhic definition (i.e. when the entire sphere is below the horizon), accounting for the difference of another minute or two.

Your most accurate source for New Haven candle-lighting times is the BEKI Bulletin.

All letters to Dear Rabbi should be addressed to Rabbi J-J van Tilsen, care of this newsletter. Due to the volume of mail received, Dear Rabbi cannot answer all inquiries.

E-Mail Directory

To facilitate communications among shul members, we will be publishing an E-Mail directory (in print, no less) in the April Bulletin. If you would like to be included (at no cost) please send a message to Rabbi Tilsen at JJTilsen@AOL.COM.

Taste of Honey: Big Fed Ed Night

Join **Miriam Benson, Rabbi Tilsen** and the Greater New Haven Jewish Community for a night of adult education at the JCC on Saturday Night 4 February at 7:45 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to study with the great teachers in our community or with Rabbi Tilsen.

Amazing Facts

51% of BEKI members live in Westville

12% of BEKI members joined in the past 18 months

BEKI draws from a larger geographic area than any other Greater New Haven Area shul, boasting members from Bethany, Boca Raton, Branford, Derby, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Miami, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, Northford, North Haven, North Miami, Orange, Seymour, Stratford, Trumbull, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge.

No other Conservative shul in Connecticut has either a hyphenated name or a Rabbi with a hyphenated name. BEKI has both. Amazing!

Men's Club News

Our monthly Men's Club sponsored congregation breakfast on December 18 was well attended and very informative. Alderman **Philip P. Voigt** (27th Ward) gave his views on the "State-of-the-City" and what we can look forward to from the new administrations in Hartford and Washington. His talk was factual and generally upbeat for the future and led to lively discussion in the question period that followed.

We would like to emphasize that the monthly Sunday morning breakfasts that we sponsor are congregation breakfasts. We welcome everyone to come and enjoy the socializing, food and guest speaker. If you come for Shahrarit, stay for breakfast; if you bring the kinder to Sunday religious school, stay for breakfast. We start at about 9:30 am. No reservations are necessary and there is no charge. We do welcome contributions at the door and sponsors who would like to celebrate a simcha.

The February breakfast on the 19th will be sponsored jointly with Sisterhood. We have invited Dr. **Alan Gelbert** to present a new travel slide show that he is working on (if it is not ready in time he will put on one of his "ten best"). Watch for the flier.

Shalom,
Saul Bell,
Men's Club President

Support BEKI!
Buy & Use Food Certificates
Available at the BEKI office
or call Mimi Kahn at 387-8105
or Mikki Ratner 387-7882

Kosher Club Coupon Books

Kosher Club coupon books are now available at 50% off their original price. Originally \$20, they are now only \$10, and expiration has been extended to August 1, 1995. They contain coupons for restaurants, wines, deli products and general household goods. Reserve your book by calling 389-2108 today.

Tree of Life

Inscribing a leaf on the magnificent bronze Tree of Life is a thoughtful and memorable way of observing a milestone birthday, anniversary, wedding, Bar and Bat Mitzvah or any special occasion. By doing this you are also contributing to the life and strength of Congregation Beth El - El Keser Israel.

Inscriptions cost \$118 for a leaf and \$500 for a rock. Call **Mimi Kahn** at 387-8105, and she will assist you with the wording.

We thank the following contributors:

In memory of **Millie and Lenny Stein**
from the Wednesday Tennis Group
Donors—Jeanne Alterman, Sylvia Sweedler, Helen Rich, Joan Chetrick, Ellie Greenberg,
Dottie Landman, Margaret Mack, Meryl Drabkin,
Harriet Miller, and Irene Greenberg

Mildred and Leonard Stein
will be remembered by
the Synagogue and Arms
for their devotion and dedication.
Donors—BEKI, Sisterhood, men's Club, and
Singles and Doubles

With love the children and grandchildren of
Sara Oppenheim honor her
on her 80th birthday, October 12, 1994
Donors—Judith, Gerald, Robert and Stephen;
Joyce, Michael, Sharon, and Debbie;
Anita, Michael, Rachel, Stuart and Joel

In memory of my dear friend
Evelyn Cohen
Donor—Zelda Katz

In honor of my granddaughter
Emily Lauren Salomon
Bat Mitzvah, September 24, 1994
Donor—Lois Feldman

In honor of the 80th birthday of
Rose A Feen
December 3, 1994
Donors—Husband George,
daughters Betty Sue and Hildy,
and Grandson Todd

HAMAQOM YINAHAM

המקום ינחם אתכם

We note with sorrow the passing of:

Alice Bender
mother of **David Bender**

Freda Arotsky
sister-in-law of
George G. Posener

Mazal Tov

מזל טוב

To **Eunice & Louis Rogoff**
on their 55th Wedding Anniversary

To **Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain**
on the birth of their daughter, Mila.

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Dear Departed Family
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Synagogue Fund

In Memory of Ernest Pedoto by the BEKI Sisterhood.

Wishing Continued Good Health to Bernice Margolis by Milt & Bea Smirnoff.

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Marilyn Gluck by Milt & Bea Smirnoff.

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Hope Bell by Muriel Kaltman.

In Appreciation of BEKI & the Board of Directors by Louis & Eunice Rogoff.

In Memory of Matthew Lettick by Edward Lettick.

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

Simon Konoff in appreciation

Betty Levy on bentshing gomel.

Posener Family Memorial Fund

In Memory of Morris Posener by Virginia Posener.
Sincere Congratulations to George Posener on his 84th Birthday by Betty Zelen.

Tillie & Edward Horwitz Endowment Fund

In Memory of Rose Litoff by Mrs. Edward Horwitz & family.

In Memory of Rose Dubin Budnitz by Mrs. Edward Horwitz.

In Memory of Jane Lieberman by Tillie Horwitz & family & Dworski Sisters.

In Memory of Sarah by Tillie Horwitz & family & Dworski Sisters.

In Memory of Ed Horwitz by Edward Lettick.

Thank You For Your Generous Donations

Murray Kahn Memorial Fund

In Honor of Mimi Kahn on her birthday by Evelyn Kahn.

In Memory of Murray E. Kahn by Evelyn Kahn.

In Memory of Mrs. Edward (Helen) Lettick by Edward Lettick.

I. J. Frankel Fund

In Memory of Ida & Isadore Frankel by Shirley & Ed Mattler.

In Memory of Esther Black by Shirley & Ed Mattler.

In Memory of Jacob Mattler by Shirley & Ed Mattler.

Yizkor Fund

In Memory of Dear Departed Family by Marian Stein.

Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Louis F. Shore by Judi Weiss,
Dominic Aprile, Robert Friedman, Patricia Scarpella.

Torah Fund

Rose Feen, chairman (387-8743)

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To Carol Gordon by Hyla Greenberg.

To George B. Saxton by Eunice & Louis Rogoff.

Rejoicing With You

To Dr. & Mrs. Irving Kushner by Ceel & Arnold Lerner.

Especially For You

To George Feen by Evelyn & Ernie Fiedler, Janet & Jay Brown, Violet & Charlie Ludwig.

To Rose Feen by Hyla Greenberg.

To Rose Pergament by Grace Geisinger.

To Edward Mattler by Violet & Charlie Ludwig.

To Richard Ticotsky by Ceel & Arnold Lerner.

To Mae Etkind by Marion & Abe Goldstein & Hyla Greenberg.

To Eunice & Louis Rogoff by Adele Tyson.

On This Joyous Occasion

To Eunice & Louis Rogoff by Rose & George Feen.

Thank You

To Mrs. Carol Shapiro by Mimi Kahn.

Get Well

To George Feen by Inge & Lenny Fish, Lillian & Alex Heisler, Mimi Kahn, Mikki Ratner.

To Edward Mattler by Inge & Lenny Fish, Mae & Herb Etkind.

To Sidney Steinbach by Inge & Lenny Fish.

To Harry Castroll by Ruth & Morris Olmer.

To Rose Pergament by Rose & George Feen, Violet & Charlie Ludwig.

To Rabbi & Mrs. Gerald Brieger by Eunice & Louis Rogoff.

Sympathy

To Betty Zelen by Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Rose & George Feen.

To Mr. & Mrs. Louis Brumberger by Ruth & Morris Olmer.

To Mr. & Mrs. Louis Merberg by Evelyn & Ernie Fiedler.

To Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Pearlin by Ada & Abe Fish.

To Herman Platcow by Ada & Abe Fish.

Dates and Times to Remember

February

3	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service Speaker: Leon Medvedow
4	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Learners' Minyan
		4:50 PM	Minha
		5:42 PM	Maariv & Havdala
5	Sunday	9:30 AM	Mitqarvim
6	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
7	Tuesday	2:00 PM	Deadline for Shabbat Dinner RSVP
10	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat ONLY
		6:35 PM	Shabbat Dinner by RSVP
11	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Jr Congregation
		5:00 PM	Minha
		5:50 PM	Maariv & Havdala
13	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
17	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service
18	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
			Darshan: Steven Cohen
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Learners' Minyan
		5:10 PM	Minha
		5:50 PM	Maariv & Havdala
19	Sunday	9:30 AM	Men's Club - Sisterhood Breakfast
20	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
24	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service Speaker: Martin Gilens on "Race & Poverty"
25	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Jr Congregation
		5:20 PM	Minha
		6:07 PM	Maariv & Havdala
27	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
		7:30 PM	Mitqarvim

March









3	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service Speaker: Paul Bass
4	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Learners' Minyan
		5:30 PM	Minha
		6:15 PM	Maariv & Havdala
6	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
10	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service Speaker: Elaine Braffman
11	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
			Darshanit: Susan Wall
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Jr Congregation
		5:30 PM	Minha
		6:22 PM	Maariv & Havdala
13	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
15	Wed		Taanit Esther
		5:45 PM	Minha Service
		6:00 PM	Megilla Reading
16	Thu	7:00 AM	Megilla Reading
17	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service
18	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
			Darshan: Rabbi Alan Lovins
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Learners' Minyan
		5:45 PM	Minha
		6:30 PM	Maariv & Havdala
19	Sunday	4:00 PM	LaMaazel at Benson-Tilsen's
20	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
24	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service Speaker: Richard Schottenfeld
25	Shabbat	9:15 AM	Morning Service
			Darshanit: Ilana Biton
		10:45 AM	Children's Shabbat Havura
		10:45 AM	Jr Congregation
		5:45 PM	Minha
		6:38 PM	Maariv & Havdala
26	Sunday	9:30 AM	Men's Club Breakfast
27	Monday	7:45 AM	Rashi Study Group
31	Friday	6:00 PM	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
		8:00 PM	Late Evening Service Men's Club Shabbat Speaker: Rabbi Murray Levine

Shabbat

begins at candle lighting: ends:

3 February	4:52	5:42
10 February	5:00	5:50
17 February	5:09	5:58
24 February	5:18	6:07

Beth El - Keser Israel *** February 1995 - Adar I 5755

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Service Times: Sunday 9:00 am. Mon. - Fri. 7:00 am. Sun. - Thu. 5:45 pm.	TAKE TIME OUT FOR GOD AND FOR YOURSELF - ATTEND WEEKDAY MINYAN.		1 Adar I Rosh-Chodesh.	2 Adar I	3 Adar I Services 6 & 8 pm. Guest Speaker: Leon Medvedow   4:52 pm.	4 Adar I Terumah Services 9:15 am. Children's Havura & Learners' Minyan 10:45 am. Mincha 4:50 pm. Maariv 5:42 pm.
5 Adar I	6 Adar I 7:45 am. - Rashi Study Group	7 Adar I Deadline for the Shabbat dinner.	8 Adar I	9 Adar I	10 Adar I 6:00 pm. Qabbalat Shabbat only 6:30 pm. Shabbat Dinner   5:00 pm.	11 Adar I Tetzavveh Services 9:15 am. Children's Havura & Jr. Congregation 10:45 am. Mincha 5:00 pm. Maariv 5:50 pm.
12 Adar I	13 Adar I 7:45 am. - Rashi Study Group	14 Adar I	15 Adar I	16 Adar I	17 Adar I Services - 6 & 8 pm.   5:09 pm.	18 Adar I Ki Tissa Services 9:15 am. Darshan: Steve Cohen Chn's Havura & Learners' Minyan 10:45 am. Mincha 5:10 pm. Maariv 5:50 pm.
19 Adar I 9:30 am. - Joint Men's Club and Sisterhood Breakfast Guest speaker - Alan Gelbert	20 Adar I 7:45 am. - Rashi Study Group	21 Adar I	22 Adar I	23 Adar I	24 Adar I Services 6 & 8 pm. Guest Speaker: Martin Gilens "Race & Poverty"   5:18 pm.	25 Adar I Va-Yakhel Shekalim Services 9:15 am. Children's Havura & Jr. Congregation 10:45 am. Mincha 5:20 pm. Maariv 6:07 pm.
26 Adar I	27 Adar I 7:45 am. - Rashi Study Group	28 Adar I	Keep your New Year's resolution - use food certificates every time you go shopping. These are available for Stop & Shop, Shop Rite, Waldbaum's, & Westville Kosher Market. Call Mimi 387-8105, Mikki 387-7882 or the BEKI office 389-2108 today.			

Tzedaka and Hesed

**Perform a
Planned
Act of Kindness**

*Call the Hesed Committee
to find out how you can help your fellow
congregants in times of need.*

*Make a commitment to attend
minyan on a regular basis.*

*Buy and use gift certificates
when you do your food shopping.*

*Join and work on
a synagogue committee.*

Pay your pledges before you are billed.

Congregation Beth El -Keser Israel
85 Harrison Street
New Haven, CT 06515

DATED MATERIAL

Superbowl Deli Boxes

January 29th is the night of the Superbowl Sunday. It is also the night to enjoy a delicious boxed meal prepared and delivered by the members of BEKI-USY.

Whether you're planning to watch the game or just relax with your friends and family, take this opportunity to order your deli boxes from BEKI-USY. Each box contains a sandwich, a soda, coleslaw, potato chips, a pickle, and a brownie—all strictly kosher. Order forms are available at the BEKI office or at Westville Kosher Market.

The proceeds of this USY fund-raising effort help to support the group's activities which include charitable contributions for Tikkun Olam.

Call Ahud Sela (624-2035) or Esther Serkin (776-2919) if you have any questions.

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