



## LEGACY L'CHAYIM

Over the last several years, one of the initiatives members of our Finance Committee has been the Grinspoon Legacy Campaign to increase BEKI's endowments. We have been successful in creating an impressive list of congregants (and others!) who have included BEKI in their estate plans. For the past three years, as a result of our success in meeting our goals in raising our commitments to endowment, we have received incentive grants from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, a charitable organization which sponsors a number of programs to support the Jewish community.

This is the last year that the Grinspoon Foundation will be shepherding this effort but the effort is far from over for BEKI. As many of you may know, we receive well in excess of \$100,000 per year from our endowments at the Jewish Foundation at the present time, as well as a smaller amount from endowment funds held by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, all while the principal continues to be invested and to grow. Our robust endowment income has allowed BEKI to balance our budget in recent years, and allowed us to dream of improvements to our building and our community.

BEKI has no building fund for members, and although we

of course request payment of dues and contributions from time to time, we operate on a lean and carefully managed budget. If not for our endowment income, we would be scrambling to make ends meet and would no doubt find ourselves having to cut back on many of the services our members enjoy (even weekly qiddush lunches are subsidized by our budget). Having administered hundreds of estates over the years, I cannot recall an heir or beneficiary who did not respect a decedent's commitment to Tzedaka. At a time when family members or others may receive a "windfall" – big or small – having a percentage go to charitable causes which their loved one cared about can provide a powerful and positive message about one's values.

At BEKI we make it very easy for you to update your estate plan to include BEKI. We will help you prepare a codicil, beneficiary form, discuss charitable annuities, IRA rollovers, and other techniques to make your endowment plans a reality. If you haven't already done so, please contact me at [sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com) or 203.985.9033 x 5 to discuss creating your Legacy for BEKI. If you have made a legacy commitment to BEKI and we are not aware of it, please let us know.

Donna R. Levine, Chair, Finance Committee

### Staff Holiday

Office Manager Peggy Hackett and Custodian Clarence Bromell will be on holiday 26 December 2016 and will return to duty on Tuesday 3 January 2017. If you have urgent matters, please contact Peggy at [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org)

### Refugee Settlement

The Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) welcomed a new family to Westville in November. To help this family settle into our community, contact Rachel Doft at [rdoft@yahoo.com](mailto:rdoft@yahoo.com).

### Hanuka Blessings

Hear recordings of the Hanuka menorah lighting blessings at [beki.org](http://beki.org) under "[Resources: Audio Files](#)."

### Eruv Update

For status and contribution info see <http://www.nheruv.net/>.

## Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



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## BEKI Bulletin

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

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: 203.389.2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://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.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
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If you are buying items from Amazon and use the link on BEKI's home page [beki.org](http://beki.org) (bottom) then BEKI will receive a small commission (about 4%) on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link. (Other Amazon programs provide only 0.5% so use our link.)



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## What is Hanuka?

This is a strange question for the rabbis of the Talmud to ask. Did they not themselves ordain Hanuka as an eight-day celebration beginning 25 Kislev?

We are all aware to some degree of the story of Hanuka, of the victory of the brave Maccabees against the Greeks and the miracle of the cruse of oil that burned for eight days instead of one. Yet upon closer examination, the early history of the holiday of Hanuka is not clear, and the story is not simple.

Hanuka is the most historically documented of the Jewish holidays. We have early sources for the story in the First and Second Books of the Maccabees and in the works of Josephus, as well as in some later accounts in the Talmud and other rabbinic literature.

### *Where is it found?*

Though the versions found in Book One and Book Two of the Maccabees do not become part of the Hebrew Bible, they were preserved by the church and can be found in collections of Apocrypha literature. Thus Hanuka is a significant Jewish holiday that has no basis in the Bible.

Both books of the Maccabees are fairly similar to the traditional story. Though there is no mention of the cleaning and rededication of the Temple and just a brief mention of the relighting of the lamps in the Temple, nothing is said of the miracle. Hanuka is instituted specifically for eight days not because of the miracle of the menorah, but because it is modeled after the holiday of Sukkot, which the Maccabees could not observe while they

were still fugitives in the mountains of Judea.

## Hanuka's Changing Role

Hanuka as a holiday continued to change and develop. During the Middle Ages, the focus on Hanuka remained on the miracle of the oil, of the menorah which burned for eight days. Another important focus was the religious martyrdom of the story. All the accounts speak of Jews who preferred to die rather than submit to Antiochus's decree. The martyrs have served as models to Jews under persecution throughout the ages, but particularly to the Jews in the Middle Ages.

## In Israel

In the State of Israel, the nationalist and military aspects of the festival have come to play a central role. The heroic struggle of the Maccabees against a larger foe is, of course, much in keeping with Israel's self-image. Celebrations are held in Modi'in, the hometown of the Maccabees, and torches of freedom are carried by runners from there to all parts of Israel and even by plane to other countries.

\* \* \*

The Sisterhood gift store will be open Sundays and Wednesdays in December for your shopping convenience for Hanuka candles, menorot and other related items.

Open Sundays 11a-12m and Wednesdays 5:30p-6p or by appointment. Peggy will be happy to open the store during office hours for your purchase.

The board and members of Sisterhood wish our congregation a Happy Hanuka and Happy Secular New Year.



Shop the Sisterhood Gift Store

## Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

- Gerald & Judith Oppenheim with Get Well wishes for Barbara Cushen
- The Saslow Family in appreciation
- Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield wishing Mazal Tov to Arthur Levy on his milestone birthday
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo marking the yahrzeit of Melvin Stanger
- Eva Shragis and Christopher Sewell wishing Mazal Tov to Helen Gerber on celebrating bat mitzva
- Joan Gelbert in appreciation and remembering Alan
- Rabbi George & Sue Driesen in appreciation to Rabbi & Congregation
- Family of Saul Bell in appreciation

## Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

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- Daryn David & Jeffrey Levick
- Gerber family
- Daniel Goldstein & Grace Jenq
- Baruch Levine
- Arthur & Betty Levy
- The Schonberger Family

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

- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the passing of Corinne Levine by the Freiman-Light Family
- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the passing of Corinne Levine by Julie Cohen
- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the passing of Corinne Levine by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Sherry Kent
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Eva Shragis & Christopher Sewell
- In loving memory of her dear father Irving Greenberg by Toby & Alan Ignal
- To Mia Goldstein in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Colodner & Stanger family
- To Wendy & Tim Currihan with sympathy on the passing of Norma Wolper by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Rabbi Tilsen in his honor by Yvonne & Herb Kolodny
- To Nikki Kolodny with wishes for a speedy recovery by Yvonne & Herb Kolodny
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of Aliza & Scott's wedding by Cathie & Ron Miller

- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Mia Goldstein in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Howard Gralla in honor of his milestone birthday by Kim & Diane Schneider
- To Howard Gralla in honor of his milestone birthday by Jeff & Marci Dwyer
- To Sophie Schonberger in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Arthur Levy in honor of his milestone birthday by Ellen Cohen & Steve Fraade
- To the Bell family with sympathy on the passing of Saul Bell by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the passing of Corinne Levine by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To the Bell family with sympathy on the passing of Saul Bell by the Lettick family
- To the Bell family with sympathy on the passing of Saul Bell by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Randi Saslow
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield (to the George G. Posener Kadima & USY Fund)
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Fania Levine
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
- To Sophie Schonberger in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Muriel Banquer
- To Sophie Schonberger in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Emily Snitow
- To Lynda Greenberg with wishes for a speedy recovery by Barbara Cushen
- To Rachel Gerber & family with sympathy on the passing of J. Gordon Miles by the Saslows
- To Arthur Levy in honor of his milestone birthday by Margie & Jay Hirshfield
- To Joy Kaufman with wishes for a speedy recovery by Margie & Jay Hirshfield
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Margie & Jay Hirshfield
- To Arthur Levy in honor of his milestone birthday by Joanne & Steve Rudolf
- To Arthur Levy in honor of his milestone birthday by Sam & Paulette Bobrow

## Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations

- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the

passing of Corinne Levine by Dan & Sharon Prober

- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the passing of Corinne Levine by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the passing of Corinne Levine by Rabbi Murray Levine
- To Baruch Levine with sympathy on the passing of Corinne Levine by Leon Cummings
- To Karel Koenig with thanks for all her help in making the High Holy Days at BEKI a meaningful community experience by Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Bell family with sympathy on the passing of Saul Bell by Bill Shragis
- To the Bell family with sympathy on the passing of Saul Bell by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Bell family with sympathy on the passing of Saul Bell by Leon Cummings

## Social Action/Tikkun Olam

- In honor of Darryl Kuperstock by Lauren Beslow

## Ari Nathan Levine Memorial Fund

- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of their great generosity by Betsy, Howard, Shilo, Indigo & Sage Ratner

## Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by the Silverman & Sokolow family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Leon Cummings
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Bill Shragis
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by the Freiman-Light family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by the Rastelli-Weiner family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Alice Kosowsky
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Julie Cohen
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Dan & Sharon Prober

## Contributions

- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Helen Rosenberg
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by David Wright
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by the Weitzman family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Sherry Kent
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Marsha Beller & Rob Hoffnung
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Corey Stone & Sue McDonald
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by the Lettick family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Lynn & Jay Brotmen
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Varda & Ken Sauer and family
- To Maxine & Michael Bonn and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Varda & Ken Sauer and family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by the Colodner & Stanger family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Sydney Perry

- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Aliya Cheskis-Cotel & Paul Cotel
- To Maxine & Michael Bonn and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Aliya Cheskis-Cotel & Paul Cotel
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Lief Gold by Margie & Jay Hirshfield

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### Hesed Committee

- To Ayelet Kaminsky in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Lew family
- To Barbara Cushen with wishes for a speedy recovery by the Lew family

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### Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In loving memory of Nora Gimbel by Betsy, Howie, Shilo, Indigo & Sage Ratner
- In loving memory of Harold Gimbel by Betsy, Howie, Shilo, Indigo & Sage Ratner
- In memory of their mother Miriam L. Kahn by Richard & Michel Kahn

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### Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In memory of her husband Edward Mattler by Shirley Mattler

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

- In memory of Harry Saltz by Richard & Lynn Saltz
- In memory of Michael Harold Rudof by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- In memory of Abraham Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of her son Bruce Newman by Rheba Newman
- In memory of Beth Margolis by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Benjamin Zipper by Carol Nabatoff
- In memory of her mother Florence Supowitz by Barbara Greenberg
- In memory of Sylvia Feldman by Sara & Steven Salomon
- In memory of Michael Castroll by David Schwartz & Hannah Schwartz
- In memory of her sister Myra Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of her mother Rose Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Jacob Sokoloff by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Joseph Abramovitz by Joseph Alper
- In memory of Esther Kabakoff by Marvin Kabakoff
- In memory of Robert Zlotoff by Ronald

- Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In memory of Jerome Stein by Eden Stein
- In memory of Gertrude Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Lester Isenberg by Janis Isenberg
- In memory of Mary Edelkind by Tamar Edelkind
- In memory Herman Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of his wife Ellen Slopak Schwartz by David Schwartz
- In memory of Irving Rudof by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- In loving memory of her dear grandparents Yetta & Morris Gary by Toby & Alan Ignal
- In memory of A. David Nabatoff by Carol Nabatoff
- In memory of Samuel Flamer by Mickey & Bud Chorney
- In memory of Zevi Scharfstein by Shula Chernoff
- In memory of Sol Kolodny by Yvonne & Herb Kolodny
- In memory of Louis Marshall Winer by Herb Winer
- In memory of Milton Cohen by Doris & Stephen Brody
- In memory of Elsie Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Morris Chain by Shirley & Marty Shepro
- In memory of Hope Bell by Saul Bell
- In memory of Benjamin Brodner by Leatrice & Richard Brodner
- In memory of Samuel Levine by Bernice & Lester Margolis
- In memory of her father Dr. Abraham E. Hyman by Shirley & Harold Fidler
- In memory of Harold Saslow by Linda, Randy & Wendy Saslow
- In memory of Leon Stern by Robert & Jane Stern
- In memory of Henry Stein by Melanie Wolf
- In memory of Susan Gell by John & Marcia Gell
- In memory of Tessie Galvin by Joel Galvin
- In memory of Marshall Eisenberg by Rabbi Richard & Judy Eisenberg
- In memory of Robert Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell & Jeff Podell
- In memory of her beloved father Ben Kugell by Harriet Pearlin
- In memory of Edith Sokoloff Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Esther Melnick by Margie & Jay Hirshfield

# Kadima & USY News - December

What do twenty-two 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders jumping up and down with plastic bags of ice, salt, cream, sugar and vanilla have to do with Judaism? The answer may lie in a paraphrased version of a saying from Pirke Avot\*: ‘Ein Keraḥ, Ein Torah’ – If there is no ice (or in this case, ice and ice-cream), there is no Torah. [\*Ein Kemaḥ, Ein Torah – If there is no flour/food there is no Torah]. All of which is to say, BEKI Kadima had a great turnout for its kickoff event in October.

According to one participant, “The Kadima Kickoff was sweet and salty because the ice cream was sweet and salty.” (Some of the salty ice, used to chill the cream mix, did, in fact, lend a little extra flavor to more than a few servings of finished product.) “Plus, it was sweet to see my friends on a Sunday.” (Or did she mean, Sundae?)

In addition to homemade ice cream, plus, of course, a bit of happy mess, we made cards for Kadima chapters in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew, which was blowing through that weekend, helped with High Holiday prep, and played group games, including generating an acrostic of things we had in common. Who knew ‘(N is for) Never having been to Antarctica’ could be a source of bonding?

(See the Kadima bulletin board for the remaining range of obvious to rather eclectic results.) Participants also brainstormed and voted about activities for the year ahead. As this went to print, Kadimaniks were gearing up to take on the 22-year-old traditions of preparing Thanksgiving pies, which are sold to the BEKI congregation and beyond as well as for donations to the JFS Food Pantry and to raise money for tzedaka. December’s plan included making homemade Hanuka candles and learning the latest Israeli line dances with New Haven’s new Israeli emissaries – think Hanuka candles on the menorah – as well as on site Shabbat games after services as we settle in to winter.

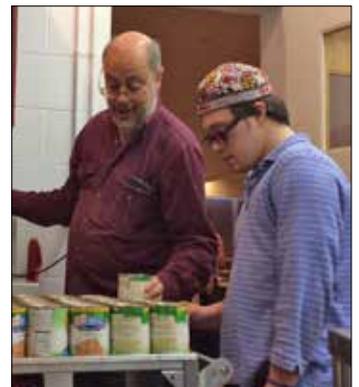
On the teen front, BEKI USY is taking a little sabbatical this semester in terms of formal activity owing, in part, to the high school graduation or promotion to regional USY of most of last year’s officers. Interested teens have a great opportunity to shape its next incarnation and a number of exciting possibilities are being explored (details still classified...stay tuned).

Hope to see some of you at any of these as either participants or chaperones.

– *Becky May, BEKI Youth Advisor*



**Baking Thanksgiving pies.**



# BEKI Youth Group January Update

Well, they did it. Kadima kids showed they could pull their weight in pie, helping make 173 of the traditional Thanksgiving treats which for the last 21 years had been made exclusively by the older USYers. Sixty-two pies went as donations to the Jewish Family Services Food Pantry and profits from pie sales raised over \$600 for Tzedaka. Now the question is, where will they decide to give it? Stay tuned to find out the exciting conclusion to the 2016 BEKI Youth Pie Project. A big thanks to members Jacob Botwick-Ries, Eva Shragis, her friends, Chris Sewell and Bill Broome, and parent volunteers – Laural Boone, Mike Rastelli, Sarah Berry, Suzanne Fields, Jennifer Myers and Jennifer Botwick. Thanks also to all who supported this effort by purchasing pies.

As of this writing we were still gearing up for our December Kadima events which had already evolved into something bigger and better than those announced in the previous bulletin. A quick recap of our plans as this went

to print: In December, our Kadimaniks will have zipped, climbed and freefell (safely harnessed of course) at the “IT -World’s Largest Indoor Ropes Course,” a fun activity to thank the kids for all their hard work on High Holiday prep and Thanksgiving Pies.

Also on December’s docket was “Hanukapalooza,” an 8th night holiday party complete with candle-making, sufganiyot-frying, make-your-own latke “bar,” music, games and more.

Look for details of the January activity on the Youth page <http://www.beki.org/youth/kadima-usy/> of BEKI’s website, BEKI Youth Bulletin board (in the back hall by the bathrooms) and front lobby, Weekly Happenings and announcements from the Bima.

Also, as of January, 8<sup>th</sup> graders become eligible for USY and we are looking forward to seeing some of them explore some new roles and increasing levels of leadership. Welcome new USYers.



**Baking Thanksgiving pies.**



## Upcoming!

**Kadima & USY Events:** Kadima/USY...Save the date! for Snowtubing! Sunday, 15 January, 2017 3-5pm and/or 5-7 pm (under lights!) Details and RSVP <http://evite.me/dbe9HvUFw3> .

**Kadima Hanukapalooza:** Eighth Night Hanukapalooza for grades 5-8, Saturday night 31 December at BEKI. Membership not necessary. (<http://evite.me/A8k6c2jmAd>) or Contact Becky May at [203-584-6291](tel:203-584-6291)

**USY Event & Convention:** STOMP IT OUT! - A Night to End the Stigma of Mental Illness is rescheduled to 28 January 2017 at the USY Regional Winter Convention, weekend of 27-29 January, 2017 in West Hartford, CT. Convention open to grades 8-12, only \$49 for the whole weekend, subsidies also available, prior membership not required. Info [www.tinyurl.com/hanefesh1617](http://www.tinyurl.com/hanefesh1617)

**Masorti Youth in Summer:** Program info at [summer@usy.org](mailto:summer@usy.org) and [info@campramahne.org](mailto:info@campramahne.org).

## Taxpayer Information

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, paid pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. BEKI has been determined to be a 501(c)3 organization by the US Treasury. (The letter is posted at <http://beki.org/forms/letterofdetermination.pdf>.) For many people it is advantageous to pay dues, pledges and contributions before the end of the tax year (for most people 31 December). It is also helpful to BEKI to receive your payment at an early date. For those over age 70-1/2 by 31 December, payment may be made by a direct rollover from your retirement account. This can avoid taxation or a mandatory distribution for federal and state purposes. Additional benefits may be realized by contributing appreciated securities. Contributing appreciated assets can obviate the need for complex and costly calculation of capital gains. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

## Torah Reading Coordinator

Noam Benson-Tilsen is coordinating Torah readings for the Book of Bereishit (Genesis). Contact at [noam@tilsen.org](mailto:noam@tilsen.org).

## Free Books

In classroom 4 and in basket on table in Library. Some are fine books for which the library already has a copy or are outside of our focus. Take books on condition you don't return them.

## Israeli Dance

Weekly Israeli Dance is not meeting on 27 December 2016 or on 10 January 2017. Meets Tuesdays 7:30p (beginners) and 8:30p-11p (everyone).

## Torah Sparks

Brief commentary on weekly parasha from the Conservative Yeshiva (Jerusalem). Also see JTS Student Sam Blustin's Divrei Torah at <http://samblustin.com/divrei-torah/>



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דַּרְשָׁנִים

### Darshanim

Darshan – *noun, plural dar-sha-nim.* Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggadah or Halakha in a synagogue.

*Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim in the coming weeks:*

Rabbi Andy Hechtman, 3 December, parashat Toldot

Rabbi Eric Silver, 10 December, parashat VaYetsei

Rabbi Murray Levine, 17 December, parashat VaYislah

Ina Silverman, 21 January 2017, parashat Shemot

Rabbi Richard Eisenberg, 25 February 2017, Shabbat Sheqalim – parashat Mishpatim

### Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shulgoers alike to explore the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, with **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray Levine**, **Nadav Sela**, **Isaiah Cooper** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study 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 Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses



**Eric Silver**



**Ina Silverman**



**Steven Fraade**



**Alan Lovins**



**Nadav Sela**

the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.



**Isaiah Cooper**

### Hebrew with Will

*Hebrew with Will* meets every other Saturday morning from 10:45a – 11:45a in the office (on the weeks that Shabbat Shalom Torah Study does not meet). Practice Hebrew listening, speaking, and Alef-Bet recognition. Modern Hebrew; suitable for those interested in Biblical and Prayer Book study as well. Free; all welcome. With Will Auriemme.

*Mondays*

### Rashi Study Group: I Kings

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) is beginning First Kings. 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. Hebrew and English texts are available. The RSG meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service; not meeting on Festivals. Will meet at 9:45a on 2 January and 16 January 2017 (Federal Holidays). With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

*Wednesdays*

### Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (*shaharit*) features a 180-second "Hebrew word of the Week" 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

Continued on **Page 10**

### Adult Studies

Continued from Page 9

from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

### 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. 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. Shahrut service is from 8:15a to 9:15a on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7:00a.

### Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets on Thursdays from 1p to 2p and 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.

The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. The Group was on winter break for all of December, and will next meet on 7 January.



Jon-Jay Tilsen



## LifeCycle

המקום ינחם

*HaMaqom Yinahem*

With sorrow we note the passing of

**Saul Bell**, Past President

**Carol Englart**,  
mother of Mindy Englart

*May the Almighty comfort  
those who mourn*

### Welcome New and Returning Members

• Stuart Jacobson • Marc Silverman & Laurel Grodman, and Anabelle and Westley • Joshua Perry & Ana Vancleave, and Miriam, Alexandra, and Eliana • Eugene Fidell & Linda Greenhouse • Robert & Carolann Wiznia • Allan Visochek • Emily Snitow • Dan & Stephanie Jacoby and Benjamin, David and Asher • Samuel & Julie Katz, and Miles and Zoe • Michael & Elona Logue and Rachel, Noah and Ezra • Eli & Mira Lebowitz and children • Alice & John DiNocola,

and Angelina and Hunter • Sarah Levine & Tim Gersch and Maya and Madeline • Roger & Susan Levine, and Benjamin

### HaNolad beMazal Tov

Mazal tov to Marsha Beller on the birth of grandchild Abigail Erica Wiygul in October, and to parents Elisa & Rob Wiygul

### Upcoming Benei Mitzva

**Serena Sachs**, daughter of Robert & Betsy Sachs, granddaughter of Rita Sachs, 7 January 2017, (*minha afternoon service*) *parashat VaYehi*

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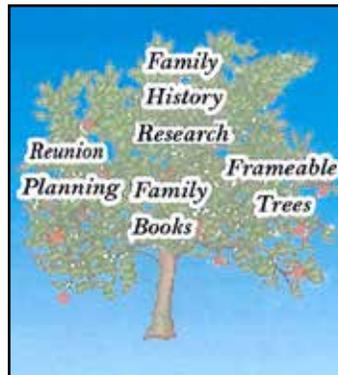
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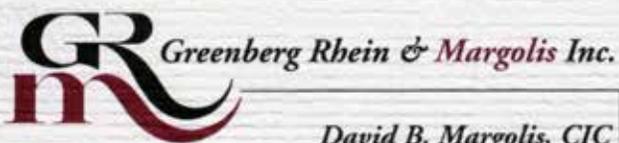
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# TILSEN UNIVERSITY

In the 1950s and 1960s, when my father and grandfather were building houses in Minnesota and Florida, developers were free to assign names to the roads they paved, and so I grew up with streets named after my siblings and cousins, such as Caren Court, Vicki Lane and James Road. By the time my youngest sister and I were born, though, city councils were less liberal with naming rights, and so all I got was a one-block avenue with one house and two drainage ditches on it behind Pomp's Tire in Lino Lakes, Anoka County, Minnesota. At least no one will ever be embarrassed to live on the streets bearing these names.

Yale University is considering renaming Calhoun College, and the university itself, in light of the fact both John C. Calhoun and Elihu Yale are said to have been heavily involved in the slave trade, massacring Indians, and other activities that are now viewed unfavorably in some quarters. My solution: Yale should take the initiative and rename the entire enterprise Tilsen University, after Ebenezer Tilsen, the great hero from the Revolutionary War era.

Ebenezer Tilsen has no recorded association with the slave trade. There is no evidence that he ever owned any property at all, nor had any successful business venture to speak of. His hands are clean of the stain of massacre and atrocity, as far as the record shows, in as much as there is no indication that he ever picked up a blade or musket. He is recalled only as a hero, although it is not known which side in the war considered him such; no specific charge of disloyalty or wrong-thinking can be definitively pinned on him.

Tradition suggests the hero Ebenezer Tilsen was a descendant of Good King Til of Norway (no relation to Til the Terrible), a name honored in the annals of history and legend, respected if not loved even by hostile Swedes. There is no corporation or other major institution named

for him yet – a green field branding opportunity.

That's my suggestion, anyhow. The name even looks good in big lights at the top of a tower, such as those the university favors to house its most important offices.



Our liturgical tradition has refrained from heroizing our ancestors. The minor holidays bearing the names of individuals – Fast of Esther, Fast of Gedalia – are so named for the historical event, not to honor the individuals, most certainly not Gedalia, who was not well regarded, at least before being assassinated. Our legends and history openly display the flaws and reveal the shortcomings of our ancestors and rulers. Even Noah – the sole family head picked to re-start a corrupted humanity after the flood – is described with the qualification, “righteous, for his time,” the equivalent of saying, “a good football player, for a

Jew” or “a good dancer, for a white person.” While the Maccabees get some play for their role in the Hanuka victory, the Hasmonean dynasty was viewed as corrupt and problematic, and ultimately the liturgy presents God as the hero. We call the holiday “Hanuka,” not the “Feast of the Maccabees.” So, too, with the Exodus story, as told in the Bible and recounted in the Hagada, where God is thanked and praised, while the human failings of Moses are portrayed bluntly alongside his greatness.

As heirs to an evolving civilization, a certain modesty befits our attempts to celebrate people of merit. Our moral shortcomings are ubiquitous and thus “invisible,” but even a minimal retrospection suggests that few of us will stand the test of time. It would be good if our descendants really can advance in their moral lives beyond our corruption, narcissism and greed. At most, we can hope that we will be remembered as “good, considering the times” and that we will do nothing that our descendants will be ashamed of but rather will be a source of pride.

# January 2017

3 Tevet 5777 - 4 Shevat 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Hanukkah VIII No Religious School  3 Tevet	<b>2</b> Office Closed/Federal Holiday 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour  4 Tevet	<b>3</b> 7:30pm Israeli Dance  5 Tevet	<b>4</b> 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program  6 Tevet	<b>5</b> 1:00pm Talmud Study Group  7 Tevet	<b>6</b> 4:20pm Candle Lighting  8 Tevet	<b>7</b> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Sachs 4:30pm Minha-Maariv 4:30pm Serena Sachs Bat Mitzva  9 Tevet
<b>8</b> Fast of Tevet 10 9:00am Religious School  10 Tevet	<b>9</b> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour  11 Tevet	<b>10</b> No Israeli Dance  12 Tevet	<b>11</b> 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program  13 Tevet	<b>12</b> 1:00pm Talmud Study Group  14 Tevet	<b>13</b> 4:28pm Candle Lighting  15 Tevet	<b>14</b> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Hebrew with Will Qiddush: Foodim/Forbes 4:30pm Minha-Maariv  16 Tevet
<b>15</b> No Religious School  17 Tevet	<b>16</b> Office Closed/MLK Jr. Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour  18 Tevet	<b>17</b> 7:30pm Israeli Dance  19 Tevet	<b>18</b> 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program  20 Tevet	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Talmud Study Group  21 Tevet	<b>20</b> 4:36pm Candle Lighting 7:00pm BEKI-Ezra Community Shabbat Dinner (reservations required)  22 Tevet	<b>21</b> Darshanit: Ina Silverman 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Chirmonas/Hurwitz 4:40pm Minha-Maariv  23 Tevet
<b>22</b> 9:00am Religious School  24 Tevet	<b>23</b> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  25 Tevet	<b>24</b> 7:30pm Israeli Dance  26 Tevet	<b>25</b> 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program  27 Tevet	<b>26</b> 1:00pm Talmud Study Group  28 Tevet	<b>27</b> 4:44pm Candle Lighting  29 Tevet	<b>28</b> Rosh Hodesh 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Hebrew with Will Qiddush: Goldberg & Stone/McDonald 4:45pm Minha-Maariv  1 Shevat
<b>29</b> 9:00am Religious School  2 Shevat	<b>30</b> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour  3 Shevat	<b>31</b> 7:30pm Israeli Dance  4 Shevat	<h2>Service Notes</h2> <p>In January, Shabbat Minha (Saturday afternoon) services begin about 20 minutes before sunset; see weekly schedule. Morning services on Monday 26 December 2016, Monday 2 January 2017, and Monday 16 January 2017 (federal holidays) begin 9a (not 7a). In February, Shabbat Minha (Saturday afternoon) services are 1p–1:35p in the Posener Beit Midrash.</p>			

### Service Times

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

**Alan Falk's paintings are on exhibit in BEKI's lobby through January 17.**

