

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



BEKI bulletin
Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Nisan 5774

Vol. 20 Issue 4

Page 6: Torah for the Hungry Mind

PESAH AT BEKI

Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible *hametz*. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive hametz such as liquor, you can sell your hametz for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz to someone who is allowed to own it, please sign and return the form available at www.beki.org/forms.html and in the literature rack. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you.

Hagadot and Seder Plates at Giftshop

Hagadot (do-it-yourself guide and service books) for Pesah, including the Rabbinical Assembly's *Passover Hagadah: The Feast of Freedom*, are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and wherever fine Judaica is sold. The Giftshop also

offers a significant collection of decorative seder plates and other Pesah supplies (such as toy frogs).

KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah



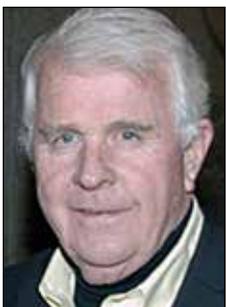
Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at the website of the Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly, www.kinahara.org. The Rabbinical Assembly's Pesah Guide is available at <http://rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide>.

Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

On the night of Sunday April 13, it is customary to perform *Bediqat Hametz*, the final check for leaven before Passover.

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Criminal Justice Reform: April 12 Shabbat Schmooze with John Santa



John Santa

Shabbat afternoon April 12

After a 40-year career in marketing, finance and finally as CEO at Santa Energy, John Santa now serves as an independent director for four private corporations. His record as a community activist as well as his ongoing commitment to social justice and community service is substantial.

Having served on many community boards in the past such as the Inner City Foundation

for Charity and Education and the Family Firm Institute, he is currently an active member of the Sentencing Commission of the State of Connecticut, the board of the Fairfield Museum and History Center and the Institute for Catholic Studies at Fairfield University. He has headed the inaugural capital campaigns at Luralton Hall in Milford and St. Joseph's Manor in Trumbull. John

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BEKI Bulletin

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

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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April Schmooze

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is a founder of the National Oilheat Research Alliance for which he was instrumental in putting a bill through Congress for its establishment. He is also the grateful recipient of a Paul Harris Fellowship from the Rotary Club of Fairfield Connecticut as well as the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Department of Correction of the State of Connecticut. In 2012, John received the Graymoor Award from

the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement for his work on behalf of current and formerly incarcerated men and women.

In 2002, John and his colleagues began Malta Prison Volunteers of Connecticut, now known as Malta Criminal Justice Initiative, whose charge is to inform and educate people in the Business, Faith and Academic communities about the opportunities available in Criminal Justice Reform. His programs were embraced as the first and only National Work of the

American Association of the Order of Malta. The Order now conducts Prison Ministry activities from coast to coast. The Order of Malta is a 900-year-old worldwide organization of Catholic lay people who do work on behalf of the sick and the poor.

John and his wife, Irene, live in Southport. They are the proud parents of their daughter, Kerstin of Bridgeport and their son, Devin, who lives in Fairfield with his lovely wife Beth and their precious daughters, Alyssa Lyn and Heidi Ann. ☆

Pesah

Continued from **Page 1**

This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. On the next morning, Monday April 14, it is customary to perform *Biur Hametz*, a final “search and destroy” mission for leaven, to insure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating hametz during the festival. Instructions for *Bediqat Hametz* and *Biur Hametz* can be found in most *Hagadot*, including the Rabbinical Assembly’s [Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom](#).

Siyyum Bekhorot: Feast or Famine

The Fast of the First Born is Monday April 14, the morning before the first seder. Firstborn who attend the Monday morning service from 7 to 7:45 may conclude their fast by partaking of the *seudat mitzva* (obligatory feast) celebrating a *siyyum*, the conclusion of a study project. Services and *siyyum* will end by 8:20. All may attend and participate in the *siyyum* and mini-seuda.

Let All Who Are Hungry . . .

The Seder of Pesah is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others into our homes. Our congregation comprises many people who may not have extended family locally, do not have Jewish relatives, are new to the area, or who otherwise would benefit greatly from a Seder invitation. If you are able to open your Seder to additional guests, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at your earliest opportunity at (203) 389-2108 x10 jjtilsen@beki.org. If you are able to host an adult who is a mental health services consumer or who has developmental disabilities, or would like to host another guest, please contact Special Outreach Coordinator Ina Silverman at (203) 389-2108 x13

or principal@beki.org.

Community Second Seder at TBS

Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden is hosting the Masorti-Conservative Community Second Seder open to the public on the second night of Passover, Tuesday April 15.

For reservations (required) and information, contact Temple Beth Sholom (203) 288-7748 bethsholomhanden@aol.com. People needing help with transportation are asked to call (203) 288-7748.

Service Times for Pesah

Festival morning service is 9:15 to noon on Tuesday April 15 and Wednesday April 16.

Afternoon and evening services are not held at BEKI on the nights of the seder (Monday and Tuesday nights). Services on Wednesday afternoon are from 5:45 to 6:05.

Hol HaMoed: The Intermediate Days

While we observe the two initial and two final days of Pesah as major holidays, which include most of the restrictions on *melakha* (“work”) followed on Shabbat, the intermediate days are observed as semi-holidays. Ideally, one avoids or minimizes *melakha* during this period as well, but in our setting most observant Jews simply go to work or school as usual. *Melakha* is a technical rabbinic term used to define the set of actions that are prohibited on the Sabbath Day, based on the 39 categories of acts involved in creating the Temple, which is the Biblical context in which the term is used.

On the festival days (*hag*), tefillin are not worn, but on

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Pesah

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Hol HaMoed it is common to wear tefillin in the morning until after the amida and to remove them before Hallel. (Others omit tefillin altogether in this period.) During Hol HaMoed, as in the entire month of Nisan, the Tahanun (supplication) is omitted in the daily services. Hallel and musaf are recited daily, and the passage *Ya'ale veYavo* is included in the amida and in Birkat haMazon (grace after meals).

The prohibition against possessing and eating hametz remains in force. One should seek to make the period celebratory. In the idyllic future, the period should be a general public holiday when all can skip work without concern for income or security.

Pesah Candle Lighting

The first night of Passover is Monday April 14; candle lighting in New Haven is at 7:12. For the second night, candle lighting should be *after* 8:12 (an hour later). Because it is not permitted to strike matches on the Festival days, our practice is to light a flame before the festival begins that will burn at least 26 hours, and to use that flame to light the Pesah candles the second night.

Candle lighting for the seventh day, Sunday night April 20, is at 7:19 or earlier, and on Monday night April 21 at 8:20 or later.

Shir HaShirim – Song of Songs

The Biblical love poetry of *Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs* will be read on the morning of Shabbat Pesah April 19 after the haftara reading. Tradition ascribes the work to King Solomon himself, writing 2,900 years ago. Celebrate the spring holiday of Pesah with this beautiful and moving reading.

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder (Tuesday night April 15), we begin daily *sefirat ha-omer* (counting of the *omer*), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai.

The simple home ceremony is printed in most *siddurim* (prayer books), including *Sim Shalom*, immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, *sefirat ha-omer* can also be a fun, artistic

and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the *sefira* served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment, given the dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term *omer* refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day's number.

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom.
– Psalm 90:12

Yizkor Memorial Service

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15 Festival morning service on Tuesday April 22. The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*, and the *Musaf* additional service, and concludes by 12:10 p.m. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are often especially intense during the Pesah season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Day

Yom HaShoah, a memorial day for the *hurban*, the destruction of Jewish civilization in Europe, will be observed on Sunday night April 27 and Monday April 28 (deferred so that it does not immediately follow Shabbat).

Sisterhood is selling yellow Holocaust memorial candles this year. Candles may be purchased from the Sisterhood Giftshop on Sundays 11 to noon when Religious School is in session, or call Mimi Glenn (203) 397-3851 any other time.

Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut

Yom HaZikaron, Israeli Memorial Day, is observed Sunday May 4 and Monday May 5; Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day, is observed on Monday night May 5 and Tuesday May 6. These back-to-back holidays recognize the combination of suffering and joy, of sacrifice and achievement that often necessarily come together in our lives. All of these days are marked liturgically in public worship at BEKI.



המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Allan M. Kabel,
cousin of Alan (& Sally)
Abramovitz

Claire Volain,
wife of Bernard "Bud" Volain

*May the Almighty comfort
those who mourn*



Claire Volain

Welcome New & Returning Members

- Gary & Michele Kupfer
- Michael Hurwitz & Deborah Chirnomas and Miranda, Ari and Shai
- Robin Goldberg
- Steven Gore & Amy Davidoff
- Linda Wilburn

Upcoming Benei Mitzva Observances

- Avital Sutin, daughter of Allan & Rachel Sutin, April 4-5, parashat Metsora
- Elijah Labowe-Stoll, son of Steven Stoll and of Sara J. Labowe, May 9-10, parashat BeHar
- Randy Kohn, son of Mark & Renee Kohn, May 16-17, parashat BeHuqotai

Contributions

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund
(minimum \$25)

- Marshall & Joan Weiss marking the yahrzeit of mother Marjorie Weiss Simson
- Stephen & Rachel Wizner for selling of hamets
- Caryl & Michael Kligfeld for selling of hamets
- Deborah Ziskin & William Berson for matanot le-eyonim on Purim
- Deborah Ziskin & William Berson for maot hittim on Pesah
- David Schwartz for selling of hamets
- Rachel Bashevkin for selling of hamets
- Judith Resnik & Dennis Curtis for matanot le-eyonim at Purim
- Hannah & Herbert Winer for selling of hamets
- Barbara Cushen for selling of hamets

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- Bobbie & Harold Miller
- Leon Cummings
- Shula Chernoff
- Mimi & Effi Glenn
- John Weiser & Shoshana Zax
- The BEKI Programming Committee

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

- To Tina Rose in honor of her

becoming a grandmother by Gloria Cohen

- To Mikki Ratner in honor of the birth of her great-granddaughter Indigo by Gloria Cohen
- To Betsy Ratner in honor of the birth of her granddaughter by Gloria Cohen
- To BEKI with thanks for hosting their children Joshua & Jessica during the Fall Kinnus by Steven & Ruth Graff
- To BEKI in honor of their daughter's birth and baby naming by Rachel & Jason Greenberg
- To Roz Ben-Chitrit with sympathy on the passing of her grandmother by the Lew family
- To Hana Feldman in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Gloria Cohen

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

- To Susan Jacobson with sympathy on the passing of Rebecca Govrin Jacobson by Leon Cummings
- To Susan Jacobson with sympathy on the passing of Rebecca Govrin Jacobson by Barbara Cushen

BEKI Religious School

- In honor of Shula Chernoff's Birthday by the Birn family
- To Susan Jacobson with sympathy on the passing of

Rebecca Jacobson by the Birn family

Hesed Committee

- To Barbara Cushen, David Wright & family with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

Qiddush Committee

- To Susan Jacobson with sympathy on the passing of Rebecca Govrin Jacobson by Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield
- In memory of Carol Jablow by Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of Etta & Charles Miller by Julian & Susan Miller

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

- In memory of Ida Goldstein by Richard Jameson
- In memory of Jack Yasgar by Howard Yasgar
- In memory of Morton A. Silver by Ruth Silver
- In memory of her husband Jack S. Greenberg by Belle Greenberg
- In memory of Mae Goldberg by Dan Goldberg
- In loving memory of her mother Eunice S. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Philip Abramowitz

by Marcia & John Gell

- In memory of Abraham Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of her parents Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick
- In memory of Dr. Samuel Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Irving Nabatoff by A. David Nabatoff
- In memory of Freda Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- In memory of Siegfried Gesund by Hans & Irmgard Gesund
- In memory of her father Saul "Sonny" Hennes by Sheila Dubak
- In memory of Harry A. Jacobson by Susan & Stuart Jacobson
- In memory of Mildred Marie Myers Weiner by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- In memory of Herman Grenet by Shirley & Alan Silver
- In memory of Charlotte Voliansky by Bud & Claire Volain
- In memory of Tillie Saxe by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Samuel Saxe by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Fannie Hankin by Rhoda Hankin
- In memory of Frances Ray by Barbara Rader
- In memory of Rose Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- In memory of Lillian Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
- In memory of Anna Hoffman by Bea Sherman

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דַּרְשָׁנִים

Darshanim

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

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

Avital Sutin, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat Parashat Metsora April 5.

Elijah Labowe-Stoll, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Parashat BeHar May 10.

Randy Kohn, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Parashat BeHuqotai May 17.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The Shabbat Shalom Torah Study meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers 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, David Kuperstock, Isaiah Cooper, Rabbi Eric Silver 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 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.

Sundays

Tefillin Workshop

Guided help in wrapping and wearing tefillin (phylacteries – prayer amulets) on Sunday morning April 6 from 9 to 10. For Jewish adults and immediate pre-benei mitzva students. Individual help in donning tefillin, with some explanation of the practice during the morning. A specialist for left-handed persons will be present on each date along with helpers for right-handed people. Bring your own tefillin or borrow ours. With Steven Fraade, Sarah Magidson, Rabbi Tilsen and others.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) has begun the Book of Shemuel (Samuel). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David, Mikhal, Batsheva, and more. 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 a.m. shaharit service. The RSG will be pre-empted on Monday April 14 by the Siyyum Bekhorot. 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 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 others' 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.

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 9:15 on Thursdays; on

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Torah Reading: [Jon-Jay Tilsen](#) is coordinating readings for VaYiqra (March 8 – May 17); [Darryl Kuperstock](#) is coordinating for BeMidbar Sinai (May 24 – July 26).

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 6**

other weekdays, the service begins at 7 o'clock.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets on Thursdays during the lunch hour (noon to 1). 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.

The 20s-30s Havura (Friendship Circle)

Next event: 20s30s Havura Shabbat Dinner, April 25 at Will & Mike's Residence.

The 20s-30s Havura is a group of singles and couples in their 20s and 30s who gather throughout the year to share a Shabbat Dinner or celebrate a

holiday.

The Havura serves as a network of friends (both BEKI members and non-members) to support each other as they face life's challenges.

The atmosphere of the Havura is intimate, warm and informal, with 10 to 20 people participating in a typical monthly event. It is a great place to

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. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net.

The Sanhedrin Study Group will not meet on April 10 and April 17.

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." 

meet people, but it is not a "singles' scene" like one might encounter at a large Jewish singles' dance. The Havura is operated largely through the volunteer effort of those interested, and thus reflects the interests and commitments of its participants.

For more information contact office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14.

Youth

From Youth Coordinator

2014 has been action packed and full of fun for the youth of BEKI. USY took part in many religious education activities, such as a chocolate Tu BeShevat Seder, halla baking, and Mishloah Manot packaging for Purim, as well as tiqun olam projects, such as delivering the hand-made Mishloah Manot packages to the seniors of Coachman Square. Our Kadimaniks have also been having a great time -- whether bowling, playing laser tag, baking brownies, playing dodgeball, or baking hamentashen for Purim. Both groups had a great time on their regional overnights – our USYers still cannot stop talking about the SATO dance sleepover and the Kadimaniks had an awesome time at Prime Climb on their overnight.

Want to see pictures and event updates? Check out our blog at www.bekibjkadima.usy.blogspot.com

and our Facebook page: BEKI-BJ USY. Here you can also find the Kadima and USY membership forms if you'd like to become a member of our family.

And now... for our exciting April activities!

For Kadima

April 6 at 1 p.m.: Painting ceramic Seder Plates at The Clay Date; \$30/person; signup at bekibjkadima@gmail.com before April 2.

April 19 at 8:45 p.m.: Matzoh-pizza movie night at TBD

April 26 at 4 p.m.: Shabbat game day at BEKI

For USY

April 4-6: Hanefesh Spring Convention at Camp Jori in Wakefield, R.I.

April 7 at 7 p.m.: Lounge night at BEKI.

April 27 at 2 p.m.: Limousine

Scavenger Hunt; April 27 1-4 p.m., RSVP bekibjusy@gmail.com by April 1. Members only; \$15 off membership fee to become a new member before April 1.

Summer

Looking for a meaningful way to spend your summer? It's not too early to check out the USY and Kadima summer programs at <http://www.usy.org/escape/>.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Emily Zaghi, Youth Group Coordinator of BEKI-BJ Kadima and USY. I'd love to get to know the parents of our youth, and to hear questions, comments, concerns, and of course new ideas. I can be reached at bekibjkadima@gmail.com or bekibjusy@gmail.com or at my cellphone, (516) 316-6154.

All the best, Emily Zaghi



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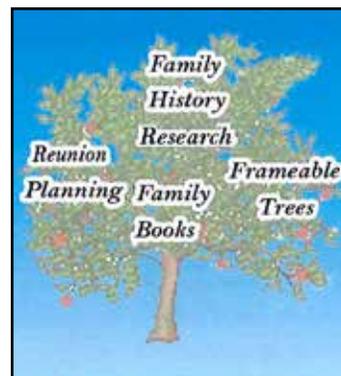
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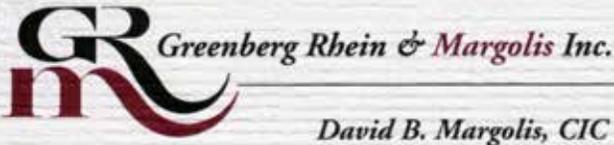


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Book of Life

This year's honorees for the Book of Life are Carole and Paul Bass.

Please honor them with one or more inscriptions in the Book of Life in the synagogue lobby. You may also purchase inscriptions in honor or in memory of family and friends.

The cost is \$18 per inscription. Please mail the inscriptions by May 15 to Mikki Ratner, 135 Seneca Road, New Haven CT. 06515.

Holocaust Memorial Keep the Flame Alive

Yom Hashoah: Light A Yellow Candle To Remember Those Who Perished. The day will be observed Sunday evening April 27 (27 Nisan). Please purchase a yellow memorial candle at \$6 per candle to remember the Six Million who perished.

The yellow candles recall the badges Jews were forced to wear in Nazi-occupied Europe, but their flame inspires hope that we can yet make our world a tolerant place to live.

Women's League for Conservative Judaism (Sisterhood's) goal is to sell one million candles this year. The candles may be purchased in the Sisterhood Gift Shop at BEKI any time.

Please join us for a Shabbat Schmooze after qiddush, Saturday April 26 (26 Nisan) with guest speaker Dr. Kempton who will discuss "Redefining Resistance During The Shoah."

Shop at BEKI Sisterhood Gift Shop for your Passover needs and get a free fabulous Sisterhood cookbook.

A Different Perspective on the Four Sons

You invited family, friends and the stranger among us to join you for the Seder this year.

You shopped, cleaning the home, searched for hamets, cooked the Seder meal, set the table with your best Passover dishes, cutlery and glasses, and now you are finally sitting and retelling the story of the exodus from Egypt.

We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and the Lord our God took us from there with a strong hand and with an outstretched arm. At one point in the *haggada* we are introduced to the Four Sons. One can look at the four sons as four generations of Jewish America today.

First generation of eastern European Jewry who immigrated to America at the turn of the century are presented as the **Wise Son**. This is a Jew who grew up with a strong connection to the Jewish way of life. He works from Monday to Friday, observes Shabbat and gets fired for not coming to work. He knows why Judaism is important. His

commitment is unshakable.

The Second generation is represented by the **Wicked Son**. This is the rebel who wants to succeed in his new life and take on Western values. He was raised in a home full of Jewish values and integrated Jewish life, yet he rejects this in favor of integrating into Western society and becoming accepted as the new American.

The third generation is represented by the **Simple Son**. This child spent Seder night with his grandparents, saw his grandmother light the Sabbath and holiday candles. He has a bit of knowledge from Hebrew school, but doesn't know how the meaning behind any symbols and is not very motivated to go beyond what he sees.

The fourth generation is represented by the **"One who doesn't know how to ask."** He does not have memories of his grandparents. He celebrates the American holidays not knowing that he is a Jew and has no connection to Judaism. He sits at the Seder night and doesn't know how to ask because it is all too foreign to him.

There is a fifth son today. He is often traveling all over the world on the Seder night not aware that Passover exists. We need to get him curious, interested and connected to the Jewish people and his heritage by being at a Seder and encourage him to ask questions that interest him and thus you can open the door to him.

Ask your kids, if they wanted to pass on a family tradition through the generations, how would they ensure that it gets passed on?

— Mimi Glenn, Sisterhood

Your Torah Fund Dollars at Work.

In 70 years of Torah Fund more than \$90 million. Look what we've done:

- Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall, 1976
- Goldsmith Hall, 1978
- JTS Library 500 Bookshelves, 1982
- Goldsmith Hall Mo'adon (Lounge), 1983
- Sculpture Garden at Schechter Institute, Jerusalem, 1984
- UJ/American Jewish University Residence Hall, 1989
- JTS Quadrangle, 1989
- W.L. Seminary Synagogue, 1995
- Kripke Tower Education Pavilion, 2004
- Financial Aid/Scholarship Fund, ongoing

Thank you to everyone who purchases cards and supports Torah Fund – Sisterhood is very appreciative of your support.

For cards, please call me (203-407-0314): save postage and they are still \$4.00. We have cards for all occasions.

— Barbara Cushen, Torah Fund Chair, BEKI Sisterhood

April 2014

1 Nisan 5774 - 30 Nisan 5774

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Purim Seuda Thank You's Food: Eva Shragis, Chair; with help from: Jacques Ben-Avie, David Wright, Bill and Kate Shragis, Liora Lew, Ivan Alvarez, Harold Birn, Ada Fenick, Margaret Martin, Sarah Berry, Talia Colten; Decorations: Liora Lew, with help from Maya Lew; Meet and Greet: Mark Oppenheimer. Singalong: Isaiah Cooper and Alice Kosowsky, with help from Ada Fenick. Weintraub family: Dan: face painting. Shpiel: JJT. BEKI <i>Bulletin</i>, Special Edition: Rebecca Weiner. Peggy and Clarence.</p>		<p>1 <i>Rosh Hodesh Numbers</i></p>	<p>2 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p>	<p>3 12:00pm Talmud Study Group</p>	<p>4 Avital Sutin Bat Mitzva 7:04pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>5 <i>Metzora</i> Avital Sutin Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Sutin 5:45pm Minha</p>
		1 Nisan	2 Nisan	3 Nisan	4 Nisan	5 Nisan
<p>6 9:00am Religious School 1:00pm Kadima Ceramic Seder Plate painting (off-site, reservations required)</p>	<p>7 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 7:11pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>12 <i>Ahare Mot Shabbat Hagadol Malachi</i> 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: The Legacy L'chayim Committee 1:00pm Shabbat Shmooze with John Santa discussing Criminal Justice Reform 5:45pm Minha</p>
6 Nisan	7 Nisan	8 Nisan	9 Nisan	10 Nisan	11 Nisan	12 Nisan
<p>13 No Religious School</p>	<p>14 <i>Erev Passover</i> 7:45am Siyyum Bekhorot 10:00am Yoga Hour No afternoon/evening service 7:14pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>15 <i>Passover I Exodus, Numbers Joshua</i> Office Closed/Passover 9:15am Festival Service No afternoon/evening service 5:30pm Community Seder at Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden (reservations required)</p>	<p>16 <i>Passover II Leviticus, Numbers II Kings</i> Office Closed/Passover 9:15am Festival Service No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 5:45pm Minha-Maariv</p>	<p>17 <i>Hol Hamoed Passover I Exodus, Numbers</i> No Talmud Study Group</p>	<p>18 <i>Hol Hamoed Passover II Exodus, Numbers</i> 7:19pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>19 <i>Hol Hamoed Passover III Exodus, Numbers Ezekiel</i> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha</p>
13 Nisan	14 Nisan	15 Nisan	16 Nisan/1 L'Omer	17 Nisan/2 L'Omer	18 Nisan/3 L'Omer	19 Nisan/4 L'Omer
<p>20 <i>Hol Hamoed Passover IV Numbers</i> No Religious School 7:21pm Candle Lighting</p>	<p>21 <i>Passover VII Exodus, Numbers II Samuel</i> Office Closed/Passover 9:15am Festival Service 5:45pm Minha-Maariv</p>	<p>22 <i>Passover VIII (Yizkor) Deuteronomy, Numbers Isaiah</i> Office Closed/Passover 9:15am Festival Service 5:45pm Minha- Maariv</p>	<p>23 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p>	<p>24 12:00pm Talmud Study Group</p>	<p>25 7:26pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm 20's/30's Havura Dinner (off-site/reservations required)</p>	<p>26 <i>Kedoshim Amos</i> 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 1:00pm Shabbat Shmooze with Dr. Lauren Kempton "Redefining Resistance During the Shoah" Kadima Shabbat Game Day</p>
20 Nisan/5 L'Omer	21 Nisan/6 L'Omer	22 Nisan/7 L'Omer	23 Nisan/8 L'Omer	24 Nisan/9 L'Omer	25 Nisan/10 L'Omer	26 Nisan/11 L'Omer
<p>27 <i>Yom Hashoah</i> 9:00am Religious School 1:00pm USY Limousine Scavenger Hunt (off-site/reservations required)</p>	<p>28 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 <i>Rosh Hodesh I Numbers</i> 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p>	<p>More Israeli Dancing: New Haven Israeli dancing now meets regularly at BEKI every Tuesday night, 7:30 to 8:30 beginners and teaching, 8:30 to 11 p.m. open session. \$10 for BEKI members, \$12 others, teens free. No prior experience needed. Pay at the door. Send email to teachers Leng & Igal to get updates, www.ctisraelidance.com .</p> <p>No Pesah Qiddush without Volunteers: Volunteers are needed for shop or prepare for qiddush on the first two (very simple, fruit, beverages, baked goods) and last two days of Pesah (with Darryl). Contact Darryl kuperst@aol.com .</p>		
27 Nisan/12 L'Omer	28 Nisan/13 L'Omer	29 Nisan/14 L'Omer	30 Nisan/15 L'Omer			

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



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Grounds Cleanup

Sunday April 6, 9:45 to 11:30 a.m. (after morning services), bring gloves, rakes, electric hedge clippers, extension cords, short step ladders, brooms or blowers. Socialize, exercise, fraternize, prepare grounds for Pesah; volunteers needed; contact David Wright rnda-vidlouis@yahoo.com 203-624-2490 .

Tablecloths

Tablecloths used for Shabbat se`udot are washed by volunteers. The Doodle Calendar and instruction are at <http://doodle.com/p5b3d3sfx2y8c22?#>. Info: Trish trishslowing@gmail.com (203) 389-2055 or (203) 641-0925.

When There's a Will . . .

On Shabbat April 12, the Legacy LeHayim committee will sponsor the Qiddush in honor of those people who have provided for BEKI in their estates. Please join us in thanking them for their commitment to tzedaka and to BEKI. Please consider becoming a Legacy LeHayim member. The Legacy LeHayim Committee Members will be happy to talk with you.



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