

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



BEKI bulletin
 Congregation
 Beth El-Keser Israel

Sivan-Tammuz 5773

Vol. 19 Issue 6

Page 5: BEKI's Fantastic Finances

PAULA HYMAN MEMORIAL GIFT

A special gift from Stanley, Judith and Adina Rosenbaum and their family has continued the good work associated with Paula Hyman, of blessed memory, through furthering specific projects in the Congregation.

Although most widely known as a distinguished scholar in modern European and American Jewish history, as a professor at Yale University and the [Jewish Theological Seminary of America](#) devoted to challenging and advocating for her students, and as a global leader of Jewish feminists, Paula Hyman was also an admired and beloved leader in our local community. Her leadership and volunteer efforts as a synagogue director, Ritual Committee mainstay, Torah reader, gabbait, Torah reading coordinator, Renovations Committee member, darshanit and teacher, meant that her efforts directly affected and benefitted every member of the community.

Paula and her husband Stan funded the initial plan for building renovations (2000). She was the Sisterhood's "Eishet Hayil" awardee (2003); she was honored as "Kalat Bereishit" by her fellow officers; and she developed events at the synagogue particularly related to social justice and the advancement of women. Copies of several of her books are included in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library collection.

BEKI President Carole Bass commented, "Paula set an extraordinary example – at BEKI, at Yale, and in the world



**Paula Hyman,
 of blessed memory**

– as someone who was fully engaged with her work and her Jewish community. Coming to BEKI and to Judaism in the mid-1990s, as a young woman with two young daughters, I saw Paula as a model: for leading prayer and reading Torah, for wrestling with our texts and traditions, and for serving on the board of directors, with responsibility for such mundane matters as fixing the roof and paying the bills. (Some things never change.)

"I knew that Paula was a prominent member of the Yale faculty, but not until after her death did I learn from the [New York Times](#) that she essentially created a new field of scholarship. If she had been less modest, I would probably have been too intimidated by her professional accomplishments to see her as a model even in synagogue life. To learn from Paula and to serve the congregation alongside her was an incredible privilege."

Before moving to New Haven to teach at Yale, Paula served as a Dean of List College at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. During that period, Rabbi Tilsen, as well as others from New Haven or later associated with BEKI, were students in one of the Seminary's schools.

"The biographies of some global-class scholars and leaders – without mentioning names – have a recurring theme of scholarly greatness and human failure, the latter when it comes to their families, personal life and local community," observed Rabbi Tilsen. "But Paula believed that politics are personal, and that social justice begins at home. Paula is remembered as

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BEKI Bulletin

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- 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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Pay Now or Later

Your payment of outstanding dues, pledges or charges this month will help us close our books on the fiscal year ending in June. If you need help setting up a monthly or regular direct payment to the synagogue, please contact Peggy at office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14.

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Paula Hyman

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a deeply involved, loving and wise mother, grandmother and wife. She was an extremely generous, involved, caring and devoted member of our local New Haven Jewish community, particularly at BEKI. She was one of the rare people who achieved greatness at all of these levels. I think of her almost daily and counter my sorrow at her passing by appreciating the extraordinary blessings that she provided for our

Congregation and the civic and Jewish worlds.”

The current gift provides for the restoration of a 120-year old Torah scroll, one the legacy scrolls brought from Europe before the founding of the congregation; the enhancement of our sanctuary sound system through the installation of additional speakers; and major support for the good work of the Hesed Committee and the Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund. These areas recall some of Paula's concerns, as well as express the continuing concerns and involvement shared by Stanley, Judith and Adina and their family. ✡

SEE YOU IN 120 YEARS!

BY REBECCA WEINER, CO-CHAIR

As the 120th anniversary year of our congregation's founding draws to a close, we are pleased and proud to announce the successful completion of the pledge-gathering phase of the BEKI 120 Fund. The final total pledged for the five-year campaign is about \$200,000, including donations that will help us beautify our sanctuary with new Torah scroll covers and other furnishings.

While this total fell short of the “reach” goals the campaign team set for ourselves, it is a significant amount to have raised with no new building or renovation plans to act as a draw. Since the campaign was 100 percent volunteer-run – including the gorgeous campaign artwork generously donated by BEKI member Bruce Oren – we spent nothing bringing this money in beyond minor printing and mailing costs.

Already, the nearly \$40,000 that has come in from first-year pledges is increasing our beloved community's sustainability by helping to:

- Reduce our debt
- Strengthen our endowments
- Pay for needed building repairs

- Create a “rainy day fund”
- Cover our operating shortfall

If anyone was somehow not reached by our campaign outreach – our apologies! If anyone who was formerly unable to commit to a pledge now finds that circumstances have changed for the better – mazal tov, and welcome aboard! It's not too late to make a last-minute pledge; please contact BEKI 120 Fund co-chairs Rebecca Weiner (rhweiner@sbcglobal.net) or John Weiser (johnw@bwbsolutions.com).

Meanwhile, to everyone who helped with the campaign, and/or pledged to the campaign, please accept our heartfelt thank you! If you have fulfilled your pledges so far, thank you again!

If not, we will send a reminder.

The next phase of this effort will focus not on current gifts but on “legacy” gifts: bequests that will further strengthen BEKI's future by continuing to build our endowments. You will hear from Donna Levine and her team in the coming months about how you can leave a legacy to BEKI.

Thank you again to all BEKI members and friends for all you do to support our unique, vibrant and thriving congregation!



Youth

BEKI-BJ USY welcomed back eight of its members from Regional Spring Convention this Monday for a lounge room decorating session and a chance to chat about the convention. We are proud to announce that BEKI-BJ USY received a silver chapter award. Our very own Tova Benson-Tilsen has been elected to be the Regional Executive Religion/Education VP and Kate Shragis has been elected to be the Regional Executive Social Action/Tik-

kun Olam VP for the 2013-14 year. We would also like to thank another BEKI-BJ USYer, Sarah D. Gans, for all her hard work as the past Regional Executive Religion/Education VP. Mazel tov to all. A May meeting featured a social action program from our Social Action/Tikkun Olam VP, Maya Levine Ritterman. Be sure to post snack choices in our open BEKI-BJ USY Facebook group.

Lifecycle

הנולד במזל טוב

HaNolad beMazal Tov

Nathaniel Zerwitz Fine, son of Alisa Zlotoff & Aaron Fine, grandson of Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper, and of the late Beverly Zerwitz Zlotoff, born in April.

Baby, daughter of Danielle Rothman & Aryeh Carr, granddaughter of

Stephen & Sheryl Rothman, born in May.

Mazal tov to

Ezra Academy (Eighth Grade) graduates Madeleine Cahn, Daniel Cooper, Matthew Fiedler, Dustin Gad, Ari Kaufman-Frankel, Katya Labowe-Stoll and Benjamin Surman. BEKI kids constitute 41 percent of the graduating class, the largest synagogue

representation in the school; more BEKI kids are graduating from Ezra Academy than from any other school.

Benei Mitzva

• **Justin Lazarus**, son of Illana & Sean Lazarus, Shabbat June 21-22, *parashat Balaq*.

• **Rachel Buckman**, daughter of Ken & Linda Buckman, Sunday June 9, Rosh Hodesh Tamuz.

News

Letter of Thanks

This thank you letter comes from Badria, the 17-year-old daughter of BEKI's "adopted" Darfurian family. The family arrived in New Haven one year ago, with only the two oldest children knowing basic English, and the rest of the family with no English at all, and with no familiarity with American life. Cynthia Rubin, who has led an amazing team of BEKI volunteers, helped Badria with spelling; the words are Badria's own.

Dear BEKI Members:

Thank you for everything that you have done for us since we came here. You make us feel like we are in our

country.

Thank you for making everything as we like it. You help us to finish the things that we like.

Thank you for the art class I went to when I came. And thank you for helping my brother to play soccer and other things that he likes. Thank you for helping Aekrame to do the things she likes. Thank you for helping Mariam and Aya.

You make us feel like we are in a safe place.

Best Wishes,

Badria and the rest of the family

Read Lead Feed Seed

Darryl Kuperstock is coordinating

Torah Reading for Numbers. Readers are needed especially for Shabbat June 29 and July 6; Contact Darryl (203) 387.0304 kuperst@aol.com. The **Children's Program** and **Service Leaders** Rotation Schedules are being prepared for late June distribution; to join, drop or change your status for children's programs, contact Miriam Benson mirbenson@aol.com, and for the Shabbat and Festival service leading and greeting contact Jon-Jay jjtilsen@beki.org; to join a **Qiddush Committee** to help prepare Qiddush meals, contact Peggy office@beki.org. To volunteer to help in grounds-keeping, contact Eric Dunsker edan-ziger0@yahoo.com.

The Big Picture

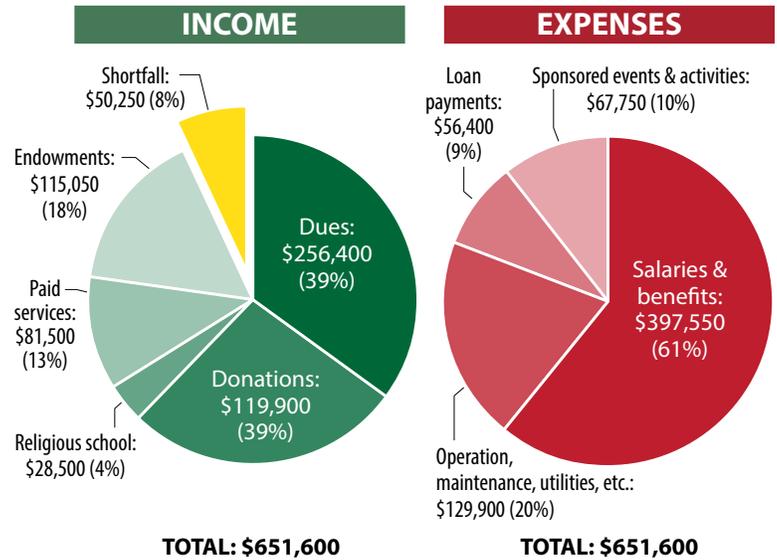
BEKI is a nonprofit organization. All the money we raise (or, to look at it another way, all the money we contribute) goes into making the congregation run.

Historically, BEKI has had barely enough income to cover ordinary operating expenses. In decades past, we have borrowed to cover extraordinary expenses. We cannot afford to borrow again, and we need to continue paying off our past debt.

We are fortunate to have the help of new endowments, and we are working to build our endowments further ... but they're not yet enough to close the gap.

BEKI is our home and our community. We all need to be part of keeping BEKI strong, now and for the future.

Here is an overview of key income and expense categories in the 2013-14 budget.



Fascinating FAQs* About BEKI's Fantastic Finances

BY CAROLE BASS, PRESIDENT

A year at BEKI has many cycles: the holidays, the Torah readings, lifecycle events, the bicycles some of us ride to shul. But greater than all these — surely, foremost in everyone's mind — is the fiscal year, which begins July 1.

So, happy new year! In that spirit of celebration, we hereby bring you some fascinating FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) about financial phenomena at BEKI. If you're not entirely convinced that this is a must-read ... well, don't say we didn't warn you.

Q: The new fiscal year means we have to pay dues again, right? Any surprises there?

A. So glad you asked! Your dues statement will no longer include a separate line for the Special Projects Fund (formerly known as the Prayerbook Fund). That amount will be folded into the total dues amount.

As always, BEKI members need to pay at least one-third of their dues amount before Rosh Hashana (which comes very early this year, on the evening of September 4), and the rest by the end of the calendar year. Exceptions are readily made for members who create regular payment plans. We are happy to arrange abatements (dues reductions) for any members who are unable to pay the full amount. Those arrangements also need to be made before members can receive their High Holy Days tickets.

Q: New dues already? I just finished paying this year's!

A: Thank you for paying your balance. If you haven't done so, please do—right away. If that's a problem, please contact our office manager, Peggy Hackett, to work it out (203.389.2018 or office@beki.org).

Q: I'd like to pay sooner, but cash flow is tough.

A: We know exactly what you mean. In the past several months, BEKI has been struggling with cash flow and has had to borrow from non-operating funds (not our endowments) to cover our bills. We greatly appreciate your paying all outstanding balances on dues and pledges. Our expenses occur every month, not just before the High Holy Days, so cash flow is very important.

Q: Speaking of the High Holy Days, did I hear that there's no Kol Nidrei appeal this year? What's up with that?

A: True. Very soon you will hear from the chair of BEKI's newly revamped annual appeal, which will be conducted over the summer—before the High Holy Days—in place of the Kol Nidrei appeal. (For more on that, see the April 2013 BEKI Bulletin article "There's No Free Lunch [Unless You Don't Pay].")

This appeal is an important part of BEKI's annual

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*Frequently Asked Questions

Fascinating FAQs

Continued from Page 5

income; without it, we could not meet the synagogue's financial obligations. If you would like to help Yaron Lew and his team carry out the appeal, please let him know (aronlew@yahoo.com).

Q: Why do you need to keep asking for money? Didn't someone leave the synagogue a lot of money a few years back?

A: Irma Hamburger, of blessed memory, left a large sum to the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven for the benefit of BEKI. The money doesn't belong to the synagogue, but BEKI receives a share of the income every year. Mrs. Hamburger's extremely generous bequest has allowed us to meet most of our operating expenses while also beginning to repay our debts and to address urgently needed maintenance.

But we are far from set for life. In fact, our regular operating income (dues, the Kol Nidrei appeal, and other pledges, plus interest on our endowment funds) does not quite cover our expenses. We have had to rely on unbudgeted donations—such as bequests—to stay in the black.

Q: Seriously? Isn't that irresponsible? Maybe we should cut spending.

A: We think the budget is quite lean, and our capable office manager, Peggy Hackett, and volunteer financial officers keep a close eye on spending. Still, we always welcome suggestions for how we could save money. Copies of the budget are available to all BEKI members from the office; please feel free to scrutinize it for possible savings.

Q: What if I don't want to read through the whole budget? Can't you just give me the big picture?

A: So glad you asked! See accompanying article, "The Big Picture."

Q: OK, a bit more detail, please. You mentioned urgently needed building maintenance and debt repayment. Tell me a little more.

A: We need to budget for several major building repairs, including a new roof (which has four separate sections) and new windows. On the debt: BEKI has two loans totaling about \$480,000. Both stem from previous building projects: the *last* time we had to replace the roof, and the major renovation project that included making the lower level accessible by installing an elevator; improving safety by creating an entryway from the parking lot; significant HVAC upgrades; and aesthetic and functional improvements.

Q: Speaking of the lower level: can we get a tenant to replace Abiyoyo, the daycare center that used to rent space downstairs?

A: We're trying. If you know of possible tenants, please speak with Rebecca Weiner (rhweiner@sbcglobal.net), or forward the information to Peggy in the office.

Q: What about a big fundraising event?

A: After many years of successful annual fundraising events, such as auctions and tribute dinners, we simply ran out of steam. Such events require countless hours of volunteer time; they can be expensive for attendees; and the dollar return is relatively low. (The Purim baskets, by contrast, continue to raise a substantial amount with less effort.)

If you would like to help organize an event just for the fun of it, let me know! Any season is a good time for fun.

Q: Whatever happened to the BEKI 120 fundraising campaign?

A: So glad you asked! As this fiscal year draws to a close, so does the pledge-gathering phase of the BEKI 120 Fund, commemorating the 120 years since our predecessor congregation was founded. (For more on that, see the accompanying article, "See You In 120 Years.")

Out with the old, in with the new: BEKI is participating in a new effort, the Grinspoon Legacy Campaign, to increase the synagogue's endowments through estate planning. A number of local Jewish organizations will participate in this program, overseen by the [Jewish Foundation](#). Donna Levine will lead BEKI's team, joined by Carl Goldfield, Karen Kassap, and Alan Lovins.

The good news for BEKI participants is that you will not be asked to make current gifts. Instead, you'll be asked to commit to making a gift or bequest through your will, life insurance, retirement account, or other estate planning vehicle.

The even better news is that BEKI will receive incentive grants over the next two years as we meet agreed-upon goals. If you have already made estate plans that include a legacy gift to BEKI, please let Donna or [another](#) committee member know so that we can sign you up for Grinspoon "credit."

You'll hear more in the coming months about this important part of our long-term strategy to make BEKI financially sustainable.

Q: Speaking of out with the old, aren't you the old BEKI president? Who will be the new one?

A: Great question! Hopefully by the time you read this, there will be a great answer.



January 1966 Sisterhood Bulletin: Those Were the Days . . .



The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El held its annual meeting and installation of officers recently at the synagogue. The newly installed officers pictured above are: From left to right, seated, Mrs. Jack Alter, vice president; Mrs. Paul Lopatin, president; Mrs. Abbot Rosen, vice president; standing, Mrs. M. Sheldon Rubin, financial secretary; Mrs. Harold Shor, vice president; Mrs. Gerald Giltitz, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Henry Levin, treasurer; Mrs. Julius Seidel, vice president, and Mrs. Harold Cohen, recording secretary.

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“ We have a most interesting meeting planned for you this month. This Tuesday January 11 we are having a paid-up membership petite buffet starting at 12:30 p.m. Program for the afternoon will be a talk by Rabbi Ofseyer. The Rabbi will talk about “The High Points of Jewish Life.” Won't it be interesting and informative to find out ways, do's and don'ts of Bar and Bas Mitzvahs, weddings and other important ceremonies and events in Jewish life?

For those who haven't already done so, you may pay your dues at our meeting.

You won't want to miss some of the important Sisterhood events coming up.

April 19th Tree of Life Luncheon. If you have not renewed your leaf or bought one this year, don't wait too long. Call Mrs. Wilbur Witten to purchase a leaf. On Tues. eve we will have a bridge party. Tickets will be \$1.00. Remember 25 cents will go towards your donor.

Our gala dinner will be held May 16. Your husband will certainly want to join you for cocktails and dinner and a delightful program.

”

June 2013 – Sivan-Tammuz 5773

Leaves for the Tree of Life are still being sold. The tree is in the entrance way from the parking lot.

To purchase a leaf please contact Miriam (Miki) Ratner (203) 387-7882

Shop BEKI Gift Store not Home Goods

Our gift store is featuring many new Judaic items for all occasions – Benei Mitzva, weddings, graduations, Fathers Day, High Holidays.

Congratulation to Mimi Glenn upon receiving the “Women of Distinction Award” this past April in Springfield, Mass., during the annual North Atlantic Region Conference of Sisterhoods.

We are still accepting applications for the Marcel Gutman scholarship. BEKI students who wish to participate in Jewish programs this summer are welcome to apply. Application is on BEKI [Sisterhood website](http://www.beki.org) or contact Mimi Glenn (203) 397-3851.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דַּרְשָׁנִים

Darshanim in June

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.

Ina Silverman, Principal of BEKI Religious School, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning June 1, parashat Shelah Lekha.

Jonathan Freiman will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning June 15, parashat Huqat.

Justin Lazarus, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning June 22, parashat Balaq

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 scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting.

Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, with **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray**



Ina Silverman



Jonathan Freiman



Steven Fraade

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.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shoftim

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) is study-



Alan Lovins



David Kuperstock



Eric Silver

ing the Book of Shoftim (Judges). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Devora, General Baraq, Warlord Yiftah, Mrs. Manoah, and Samson and Delila. 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.

With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Tuesdays

Hebrew (עברית)

New sections may open this season. To register for the next session, contact Peggy at office@beki.org.

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.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

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Adult Studies

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

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention

to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

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.

Hebrew: Modern and Prayerbook Hebrew

See description, above, under “Tuesdays”

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.”



News

Women’s Lounge and Washrooms Renovations Completed

Through the generosity of The [BEKI Sisterhood](#) and of the Buckman and Sachs Family, the complete renovation of the downstairs washrooms (off the lower lobby) and women’s lounge was completed in May. Materials and services were donated by Cherry Hill Construction (www.cherryhillinc.com) and Stuart Cohn, and provided at wholesale by Bender Plumbing (www.benderplumbing.com) and Sasso Tile Company (www.sassotileco.com). With the vision and guidance of these sponsors, and the hands-on work of John Weiser, Bob Spear, Ken & Linda Buckman, Robert Sachs, Adele Tyson, Mimi Glenn, Jay Brotman, Carole Bass, Eric Dunsker and our officers and staff, and others who have consulted, the project took into account the concerns of much of our membership and proceeded on schedule and within budget.

The project has made these facilities [accessible](#) and usable to all of our members and visitors, including those who

use wheelchairs and walkers and those who had difficulty entering and using the washrooms as they were formerly configured. The doorways have been widened – cutting through concrete block – and the partitions expanded. Fixtures are now at the optimal height, lighting is improved, and other design features make the rooms more easily usable to most users. Convenient baby changing stations are located in the Men’s and Women’s rooms. The project also made these rooms more beautiful. The colors are complementary; the fixtures match; the appliances work correctly; the atmosphere is better. Care was taken to use materials and designs that are attractive and easy to use and clean.

Fifteen years ago, the “BEKI 2000” visioning process identified [washroom upgrades as one of the highest priorities](#) of the surveyed membership, and it has been on the Sisterhood’s agenda for some time. Thanks to the generosity and efforts of our supporters, this vision has become a reality.

See Rabbi Tilsen’s “*It’s a Mitzva, or Yes We Can!*” in the [May 2013 BEKI Bulletin](#).



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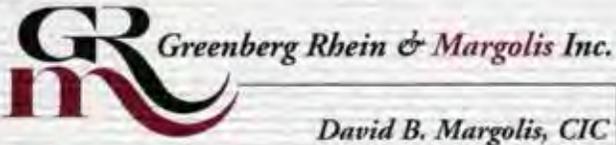


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Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins with wishes of Refua Shelema to Arthur Levy
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo in memory of Lisa's father

Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$280)

- Rabbi Murray Levine
- Cynthia Rubin
- Helene Sapadin
- Rhoda Zahler-Samuel
- Esther & Irwin Nash

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

- To the BEKI Community by Steven & Leah Chatinover
- To Harriet Pearlman with sympathy on the passing of Thelma Kugell by Toby & Alan Ignal and Irv Greenberg
- To Linden Grazier with prayers for healing and wellness by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in honor of his special birthday by Adina Kling & Judah Levine

- To Rabbi Murray Levine in honor of his 85th birthday by Rabbi Arnie & Sarah Gluck
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in honor of his 85th birthday by Roz & Irwin Spivack
- To the BEKI Community by Ivan & Cyndi Alvarez

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- To Mrs. Estelle Horwitz with sympathy on the passing of her sister Shirley Stephson by Betsy & Mikki Ratner

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

- In memory of Israel H. Alderman by Bernard & Sonya Alderman
- In memory of Freda Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- In memory of Hyman H. Haves by Maeera Haves Mouglin
- In memory of Irma Kabel by Allan Kabel
- In memory of her mother Goldythe E. Hyman by Shirley & Harold Fidler
- In memory of Harriet Chorney by Bud & Mickey

- Chorney
- In memory of Bev Zlotoff by Ron Zlotoff
- In memory of Gail Cutler by Charlie & Violet Ludwig
- In memory of Mildred Kantrowitz Rieser by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Eli & Goldie Kasimer by William & Tina Kasimer
- In memory of his brother-in-law Arnold D. Spiegel by Howard Gold
- In memory of Rose Hodes by Lynne & Jeff Heisner
- In memory of Katie Press by Lynne & Jeff Heisner
- In memory of Eli & Goldie Kasimer by Joseph Kasimer
- In memory of Milton Weiner by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- In memory of Anne Benson by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- In memory of Margo Siegel by Lou & Debbie Siegel
- In memory of Ida Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of her beloved mother Mollie Nuht by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of his beloved father Dr. Samuel Gelbert by Alan & Joan Gelbert
- In memory of her dear grandmother Taube Nuht by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of Morris Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Mendel Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Isaac Walinsky by Albert Friedman
- In memory of Marilyn Levine by Rabbi Murray Levine
- In memory of Israel Glazman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Sara Oppenheim by Anita & Michael Malina
- In memory of Sara Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Eli Slopak by David Schwartz
- In memory of her grandmother Ida Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Sophie Rosell by Mort Dimenstein
- In memory of loved ones by Paul "Pat" Goodwin

News

Amazon's Back

Amazon has reinstated its "Associates" program for Connecticut –and that means BEKI. If you are buying items from Amazon and use the link on BEKI's [home page beki.org](http://www.beki.org) (bottom) (or <http://www.amazon.com/b?node=283155&tag=beki1-20>)

then BEKI will receive a small commission on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link.

It's a Gas!

Use your Stop & Shop gift card for gasoline and benefit the synagogue. Cards good for groceries, too. See "Buying Groceries?" below.

Buying Groceries?

Use gift cards for Peapod, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Westville Kosher Market, available at face value – no additional cost to you – and BEKI receives a significant commission (about 5%). Available from the office.

IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

For those of you who are considering a gift to BEKI (or wanting to pay your dues or other obligations to BEKI promptly) and are over the age of 70½, you should consider making payment by means of an IRA Charitable Rollover, which will avoid federal and Connecticut income tax on the distribution. Although you may receive a charitable deduction on your federal return if you take the IRA distribution directly, report it as taxable income and then pay it to a charitable organization (i.e. BEKI), you may not have sufficient itemized deductions to benefit from this technique and would be better off with a charitable rollover and the standard deduction. Moreover, Connecticut does not allow itemized deductions in any case, so the only way to avoid income tax on your IRA withdrawal entirely is with a charitable rollover.

12 Things to Know About the IRA Charitable Rollover

- The distribution from your IRA must be made directly to the charitable organization.
- You must be 70 ½ or older at the time that the distribution is made (note, this differs from the minimum distribution requirement where you only need to turn 70 ½ during the year).
- The distribution must be completed by Dec. 31, 2013.
- The maximum amount that can qualify is \$100,000.
- The IRA Charitable Rollover will satisfy your minimum distribution requirement.
- You can rollover more than your minimum distribution requirement and in addition to your minimum distribution

requirement.

- The amount of the IRA Charitable Rollover does not need to be reported as income on your federal or Connecticut income tax return.
- Only distributions from traditional and Roth IRAs qualify.
- To qualify, the distribution can only be for charitable purposes and cannot be designated for a donor-advised fund, supporting organization, private foundation or life-income gift (charitable trust or annuity). No goods or services can be received in exchange for the distribution (i.e., tickets or dinner).
- In most cases, you will need to contact your IRA plan administrator/financial institution directly.
- Although the most recent extension was enacted on Jan. 2, 2013, the extension allows individuals who received an IRA distribution in December 2012 and who make a charitable gift i. after receiving the IRA distribution but ii. before Feb. 1, 2013, to elect to count that distribution (or a portion thereof) as a 2012 qualified IRA charitable rollover.
- A qualified charitable distribution made in January 2013 is permitted to be (1) treated as made in the 2012 calendar year and permitted to count against the 2012 \$100,000 limitation on the exclusion, and (2) treated as made in the 2012 calendar year and thus permitted to be used to satisfy the taxpayer's minimum distribution requirement for 2012.

Please consult your professional advisor concerning your tax plans.

– Donna R. Levine

Annual Appeal

You will soon receive the Annual Appeal Card in the mail. As announced earlier, we will not be soliciting pledges this year during the Kol Nidrei service. We will not do that because we would like the holiest day of the year to be free of distractions and we want to enable everyone to focus on their prayers.

Since the card you will receive doesn't have to be used on a holiday, you will be able to actually write the amount of your pledge. You'll have

time to contemplate it and make your pledge count. Because one thing is quite certain ... BEKI needs you and BEKI needs your support. Please return your pledge cards before the High Holidays to ensure the success of our Annual Appeal.

Annual Meeting

The synagogue's annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 26 at 6:30 p.m., following the 5:45 to 6:15 afternoon and evening services. All members, friends and supporters are welcome.

By Appointment

Tuesday office hours are "by appointment only" every week. Please do not expect to conduct regular synagogue business with the office manager on Tuesdays or expect access to the building without prior arrangement.

All the News

Combined July-August [BEKI Bulletin](#) submissions deadline is June 1. Items submitted after the deadline will be included if possible, otherwise in next issue if fitting.

CALL WAITING



Bringing a phone on a date or to a meeting reduces your chances of success. Writing in [Scientific American](#) (September 2012), Helen Lee Lin reports:

“We might expect that the widespread availability of mobile phones boosts interpersonal connections, by allowing people to stay in touch constantly. But a recent set of [studies](#) ... showed that our phones can hurt our close relationships. Amazingly, they found that simply having a phone nearby, without even checking it, can be detrimental to our attempts at interpersonal connection.”

With the advent of mobile phones, the occasional ring during services seems as inevitable and annoying as the interrupted concert or theatre performance. You’d think people could at least set their ringtone to “Hava Nagila.”

At services, we are at some points trying to listen to the Word of God as conveyed in scripture (such as the Torah reading or Haftara) and in the Siddur (in passages such as the Shema which are Biblical passages), and that implies a certain level of importance, whether we consider it literally God’s word or something more indirect. At other points, we

are seeking to articulate our personal feelings and thoughts through prayer, or recite the formulas or boilerplate texts prescribed or recommended by our sages, directed to the Almighty. This might be a simple prayer for healing for a loved one (or for oneself), a concern about justice or fairness, or a plea for material support.

The Mishna observes that our early sages would spend a good hour getting themselves in the right frame of mind before reciting the Shema in the morning. The *kavana* (concentration, intent, and sincerity) of prayer and study is more important than its quantity or form. Our sages suggest that a single sentence said sincerely and with undivided attention is better than the entire confessional of Yom Kippur.

In the sanctuary, we are trying to “talk with God,” either very literally or in some poetic sense. Now, if someone is expecting **a more important call**, then of course it is fine to keep that phone handy, preferably set with the ringtone “We are the Champions.” Medical workers and other emergency responders who really do have to carry their phones can set them to silent mode. If you need help setting your phone to ring silently, don’t ask me, but ask any nearby teenager, as they have mastered the intricacies of phone technology.

June 2013

23 Sivan 5773 - 22 Tammuz 5773

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

							<p>1 Shelah Silverman & Drabman Aufruf Darshanit: Ina Silverman 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Silverman/Sokolow 5:45pm Minha 23 Sivan</p>
<p>2 1:00pm Pomegranate Guild 24 Sivan</p>	<p>3 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour 25 Sivan</p>	<p>4 26 Sivan</p>	<p>5 27 Sivan</p>	<p>6 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 28 Sivan</p>	<p>7 8:04pm Candle Lighting 29 Sivan</p>	<p>8 Rosh Hodesh I Korah Numbers Isaiah Preceding Rosh Hodesh: I Samuel 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Minsky/Fenick 5:45pm Minha 30 Sivan</p>	
<p>9 Rosh Hodesh II Numbers 9:00am Rachel Buckman Bat Mitzva 11am Kadima End-of-Year Beach Party (off-site, reservations required) 1 Tammuz</p>	<p>10 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour 2 Tammuz</p>	<p>11 3 Tammuz</p>	<p>12 4 Tammuz</p>	<p>13 5 Tammuz</p>	<p>14 8:08pm Candle Lighting 6 Tammuz</p>	<p>15 Hukkat Darshan: Jonathan Freiman 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Ludwig & Ravid 5:45pm Minha 7 Tammuz</p>	
<p>16 8 Tammuz</p>	<p>17 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 9 Tammuz</p>	<p>18 10 Tammuz</p>	<p>19 11 Tammuz</p>	<p>20 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 12 Tammuz</p>	<p>21 Justin Lazarus Bar Mitzva 8:10pm Candle Lighting 13 Tammuz</p>	<p>22 Balak Justin Lazarus Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Lazarus 5:45pm Minha 14 Tammuz</p>	
<p>23 15 Tammuz</p>	<p>24 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am 55+ Yoga Hour 16 Tammuz</p>	<p>25 Fast of Tammuz 17 Exodus Isaiah 17 Tammuz</p>	<p>26 6:30pm Annual Meeting 18 Tammuz</p>	<p>27 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 19 Tammuz</p>	<p>28 8:11pm Candle Lighting 20 Tammuz</p>	<p>29 Pinhas Jeremiah 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha 21 Tammuz</p>	
<p>30 22 Tammuz</p>							

Service Times

Sundays

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

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

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

Fridays

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

Saturdays

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



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