

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



BEKI bulletin
 Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Sivan-Tammuz 5774

Vol. 20 Issue 6

Page 14: Dear Rabbi

TIQUN LEIL SHAVUOT



Marsha Beller



Joshua Ratner



Robert P. Forbes

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study takes place on the first night of Shavuot, Tuesday June 3. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served. That means **cheesecake**.

Candle lighting is at 8:02 p.m. The evening begins with the Minha Afternoon Service, from 8 to 8:15 in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. A shiur will begin at 8:15 p.m.

The brief Festival Evening service, from 9 to 9:20, will be followed by refreshments and additional presentations.

Shiurim begin at 8:15 p.m. and will be presented late into the evening. Marsha Beller will present at 8:15 on "The Fifth Commandment Theory & Practice," an exploration into the values and rules of honoring one's parents and elders, along with some strategies to deal with the sometimes challenging compliance with this mitzva. At 9:45, Rabbi Joshua Ratner will present "Revelation in Writing," a text-based study of the ideas of revelation as recorded by our ancestors. At 10:45, Robert Forbes will present "Freedom & Slavery in Lincoln's Torah," an exploration into the Biblical roots of the political philosophy of President Abraham Lincoln.

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In Case You Hadn't Heard . . .

A "Hearing Loop" has been installed and activated in the sanctuary. This assistive listening system magnetically transmits sound to hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils ("T-coils"), bringing clear processed sound directly to listeners using suitably equipped hearing aids. Instead of the sound traveling from the loudspeakers and reverberating through the room before entering a hearing aid, the sound from the Hearing Loop is broadcast directly to the hearing aid, ensuring better clarity and volume.



This is the same system used in the New York City subway system at information booths as well as in many museums.

Almost all in-the-ear and behind-the-ear hearing aids come equipped with T-coils that enable them to function as wireless loudspeakers. Some hearing aids require that the T or MT mode setting be switched on by the user; users may experiment to find the optimal setting. Please ask your audiologist for instructions or demonstration of how to enable this feature in your hearing aid. Most seats in the sanctuary will provide excellent reception; users are encouraged to experiment with seating positions to optimize performance.

This project was made possible thanks to the generosity of Stanley Rosenbaum, Adina Rosenbaum, Judith Rosenbaum & Rabbi Or Rose, in memory of Paula Hyman, and by others, and through the efforts of John Weiser.

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BEKI Bulletin

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To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Pauline Lipton, grandmother of Deborah Chirnomas (& Michael Hurwitz)

Rosa Maria Sanchez, mother of Marisol (& Thomas) Sanchez-Moycik

Ida Hyman, mother-in-law of Stanley Rosenbaum (& the late Paula Hyman)

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal tov to

Rabbi Murray Levine, celebrating 60 years since his rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, on being honored at Temple Beth Sholom (Framingham, Mass.).

Ezra Academy graduates Rachel Buckman, Yaakov Gottlieb, Yonatan Hirshfield and Eitan Minsky-Fenick, who constitute 31 percent of the class.

Upcoming Benei Mitzva Celebrations

Emily Sachs, daughter of Robert & Betsy Sachs, granddaughter of Ivan & Rita Sachs, July 19, *parashat Matot*.

Aufrufen (Pre-Huppa Aliya)

Jessie Karsif & Eli Chalmer, Shabbat Morning June 14.

Annie Bass & Marissa Weiss, Shabbat Morning June 21.

News

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Continued from **Page 1**

Young children are welcome to bring sleeping bags, or alternatively, to enjoy the sugary treats and caffeinated beverages available in the social hall.

Marsha Beller is the President and Geriatric Care Manager at Elder Care Options, Inc. She speaks and teaches widely on strategies and resources in elder care, and has taught on Jewish teachings on this topic. She is a veteran Torah reader and teacher of liturgy, and has served on the BEKI Board of Directors and in numerous offices and capacities. She is also especially involved in BEKI's Green Team.

Rabbi Joshua Ratner was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in May 2012, where he was a Joseph Neubauer Fellow. Rabbi Ratner earned a Master's Degree in Midrash and a Certificate in Pastoral Care. During his time at JTS, Rabbi Ratner served as a rabbinic intern at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison, New York. He was a public policy fellow for the Rabbinical Assembly and was a Rabbinic Fellow for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. He also received training in congregation-based community organizing.

Rabbi Ratner was raised in La Jolla, CA, and attended a Conservative Hebrew Day School and Camp Ramah. He graduated from Columbia University with double degrees

in Comparative Religion and International Politics, studied at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem, and attended Columbia Law School. He practiced law for five years. He is widely regarded for his service at Congregation Kol Ami in Cheshire.

Rabbi Ratner serves as the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New Haven, the public affairs arm of the Jewish Federation. Along with his wife Alana and their children, he attends tefila at BEKI periodically.

Robert Pierce Forbes joined the faculty of UConn in Fall 2007. He helped to direct Yale's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition from its inception in 1998 until 2004 and has taught at Yale, Wesleyan and Rutgers. He has lectured widely on the topics of slavery, abolition, and American history, and has chaired committees on history, culture and tourism in Connecticut. He has extensive experience in outreach to K-12 educators and public historians, and served on the steering committee that created the Connecticut Department of Education's Amistad curriculum. In 2001, he was named the Multicultural Faculty of the Year – Higher Education by the Connecticut Association of Multicultural Educators. Robert has served as a director and on various committees and program task forces at BEKI. He is married to Dr. Joanne Foodim.



A Successful Year with BEKI-BJ USY

BY TOVA BENSON-TILSEN

This year has been incredible for **BEKI-BJ USY**. Our attendance at both chapter and regional events has been phenomenal and I could not be more proud. One of the highlights of this year was our brilliant sweep of chapter awards at Hanefesh Spring Convention at the beginning of April. We won the **Chapter Games trophy**, a **Gold Chapter of Excellence award**, and most important, the title of **Chapter of the Year**. These impressive wins truly reflect our chapter's dedication to Israel, tiqun olam, Hanefesh, and Conservative Judaism.



Tova Benson-Tilsen

We also worked diligently to secure a Youth room in BEKI that will be specifically geared toward creating a positive environment for current and future USYers. The new room is just a part of the regenerating efforts we have put in to make this chapter a true USY family. We have become well-known in our region as one of the most well-bonded and cohesive chapters, and we want to keep our family strong. I am incredibly excited to see what the teens of BEKI-BJ will do in the next year.

USY News

Congratulations to our 2014-15 USY board election winners- Jacques Ben-Avie, President; SATO; Deanna Heine, Comm; and Elie Azoff-Slifstein, Memkad. Mazal tov to all! We are still looking for a Reled so please contact Emily, BEKI-BJ Youth Group Coordinator, if you are interested in running!

Kadima end of year pool party will be held at the home of Owen Kempton on June 8 from 2-4 p.m. Please RSVP to Emily at BEKIBJkadima@gmail.com before June 1 if your Kadimanik would like to attend.

BEKI Religious School

This year BEKI Religious School (BRS) hosted our Young Emissary from the Afula region who came to teach about life in Israel, enjoyed holiday celebrations and dinners, and instituted "BRS on Shabbat." Once per semester BRS met on Shabbat with special children's and parents' programming before sharing qiddush together. Next year promises some surprises as well.

If you have a post-bar- or bat-mitzva teen who would be interested in learning and getting out into the community next fall contact principal Ina Silverman principal@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x13. BRS would like to start a new educational (and fun) program for our teens combining text study with learning about local Jewish resources and tiqun olam work. We are in the initial planning stage so all suggestions are welcome.

We seek a guitar playing, Hebrew singing music teacher for the fall. If you can teach some of the popular Israeli and simha songs on occasional Sundays, let Ina know.

BRS thanks its talented teaching staff, Morot Helene, Shlomit, Rita, Tikva, and Susan for a wonderful year and greatly appreciates Morah Chen who taught while Shlomit was on maternity leave. School registration packets are available in the lobby literature rack. Contact Ina (203) 389-2108 x13 principal@beki.org for more information.



Mora Shlomit joins some of her students as they receive certificates and gifts in the sanctuary during May graduation ceremonies.

Rabbi's Tzedaqa Fund

- Natan & Lori Weinstein marking the yahrzeit of Bernard Bober
- Trish Loving and Alan Lovins in memory of Ida Hyman

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- The Sutin family
- The BEKI L'chayim Legacy Committee
- Alan & Sally Abramovitz
- Art & Betty Levy

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

- To Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff & family with sympathy on the passing of Sydney Sylvan Kemper by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff & family with sympathy on the passing of Sydney Sylvan Kemper by Raina Sotsky & Morris Bell
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Raina Sotsky & Morris Bell
- To Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff & family with sympathy on the passing of Sydney Sylvan Kemper by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff & family with sympathy on the passing of Sydney Sylvan Kemper by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff & family with sympathy on the passing of Sydney Sylvan Kemper by Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Cynthia Beth Rubin
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Hannah & Herbert Winer
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by the Avni-Singer family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the

- passing of Violet Ludwig by Mary Doyle Zuskin
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by David, Wendy & Marlee Chorney
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Jay & Lynn Brotman
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Mort Dimenstein
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Jennifer Fleming
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by the Freiman-Light family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Julie Cohen & Larry Visochek
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by David Schwartz
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Harry & Harriet V. Harris
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Hyla & Barry Vine
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Sonya & Henry Barrow
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Enid & Julian Grossman
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Gaylord Bourne & Carl Goldfield
- To Avital Sutin in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Stanger Colodner family
- To Talia Weintraub in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Stanger Colodner family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Marvin & Fern Rosenfeld
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by John Huettner
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Steve Wolfson & Elsa Stone
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the

- passing of Violet Ludwig by Kenneth & Sheila Dubak
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by the Rothman family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Amy Marx & Rob Schonberger
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by The David & Sharon Bender Family Foundation
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Lenore Fromkin
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Harriet & Irving Calechman
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by the Lettick family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Marsha Cohen
- To Talia Weintraub in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Rena & Steven Haberfeld
- To Martin Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold in appreciation for their hospitality by Rena & Steven Haberfeld
- To Hana Feldman in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Avital Sutin in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Jacob Lettick in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Carole & Paul Bass with thanks for their hospitality during Pesach
- To Fran & David Goldberg with sympathy on the passing of Ethel Epstein by the Rothman family

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

- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Alan & Joan Gelbert
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Albert Friedman
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Charlie Bruce, Harriet Friedman & family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Gerald & Judith Oppenheim
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Jack & Rissa Mendlestein

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Contributions

Continued from Page 5

- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Shirley Chain
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Les & Bernice Margolis
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Rayna & David Belowsky
- To Bud Volain with sympathy on the passing of Claire Volain by Rayna & David Belowsky
- To Frances Goldberg-Cohen & family with sympathy on the passing of Ethel Epstein by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Leon Cummings
- To Donna Kemper, Ron Zlotoff & family with sympathy on the passing of Sydney Sylvan Kemper by Leon Cummings

The Eric I.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund

- In memory of Eric Beller by Marsha Beller

BEKI Religious School

- In memory of their beloved mother Rebecca Govrin Jacobson by Susan E. Jacobson & Dr. Stuart A. Jacobson
- To Donna Kemper, Ron Zlotoff & family with sympathy on the passing of Sydney Sylvan Kemper by Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Kelly and Zev Klein & family with sympathy on the passing of Sema Chaimovitz Menora by Rena Cheskis-Gold, Marty Gold & family
- To Miriam & Gary Schreiber with sympathy on the passing of Sema Chaimovitz Menora by Rena Cheskis-Gold, Marty Gold & family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the

passing of Violet Ludwig by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

- To Marisol Sanchez-Moycik, Tom Moycik & family with sympathy on the passing of Rosa Maria Sanchez by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Avital Sutin in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

The Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- To Mr. & Mrs. Donald Stein with sympathy on the passing of Elana Stein by Shirley Mattler

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

- In memory of Herman & Lelia Braunstein & Jean Haves by Irwin Braunstein
- In memory of Jenoe Goldberg by Anna Goldberg
- In memory of Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Robert F. Miller by Cathie & Ron Miller
- In memory of Samuel Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of her mother Thelma Kugell by Harriet Pearlman
- In memory of Morris & Esther Baer by Irving Baer
- In memory of Charles Byer by Barbara & Larry Tiven
- In memory of Minnie Abramovitz by Joseph Alper
- In memory of Maurice Prober by Dan & Sharon Prober
- In memory of Harriet Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
- In memory of Samuel Herschderfer by Sherman & David Herschderfer
- In memory of Charlotte Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Bennett Schultz by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of her sisters Frances G. Smith,

Eva G. Rozycki & Kate Margolies by Shirley Chain

- In memory of Pearl Yaffe by Cliff Yaffe
- In memory of Sophie Hershbaum by Debbie & Louis Siegel
- In memory of Harriet Winer by Herbert Winer
- In memory of Toby Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Philip J. Lipkin by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Moses J. Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Walter Greenwald by Roberta Vine
- In memory of Albert Martin by Bill Martin
- In memory of his father Louis Lovins by Alan Lovins
- In memory of Minnie Abramovitz by Joseph Alper
- In memory of Susan Schnitman by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef
- In memory of Jack Dimenstein by Morton Dimenstein
- In memory of his father Matthew Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of Helene Kasha by Henry Kasha
- In memory of Lilyan Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell & Jeffrey Podell
- In memory of Seymour Weiner by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- In memory of Marilyn Levine by Rabbi Murray Levine
- In memory of Margo Siegel By Louis & Debbie Siegel
- In memory of Marilyn Shure Savin by Ronald Savin
- In memory of Hyman H. Haves by Maera Haves Mouglin
- In memory David E. Sugarmann by Marcie & Richard Sugarmann and family
- In memory of Rose Bailey Sugarmann by Marcie & Richard Sugarmann and family
- In memory of Howard B. Sugarmann by Marcie & Richard Sugarmann and family



FROM PESAH TO SHAVUOT

***Sefira* – Counting the Omer**

At the second Seder (Tuesday night April 15), we began 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

Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish *Hajj*

The Festival of Shavuot (“Weeks”), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,326 years ago. The word *hag* (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, *hajj* (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, “Three times a year – on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths – all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall

not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you” (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance at BEKI this summer. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI’s Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

Shavuot Mornings

Yizkor Memorial Service

Book of Ruth

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shaharit Morning Service begins at 9:15 on Wednesday June 4. The service includes the full recitation of Hallel. The afternoon and evening services begin at 5:45. Candle lighting Wednesday night is at 9:02 p.m. or later.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15 on Thursday June 5. The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*. Following the *Haftara* (prophetic reading), the *Yizkor Memorial Service* is held. The *Yizkor* memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Following *Yizkor*, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of *ta`amei hamiqra* (“trope”) found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival *Musaf* additional service is recited.

Some Congregants may leave during *qiddush* for a hike to the top of West Rock. Weather permitting, bring appropriate shoes and leave with friends from the lobby.

The Festival *Mincha* service is held in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel from 5:45 to 6:05 p.m.

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:

Rabbi Eric Silver will serve as darshan on Shabbat Rosh Hodesh morning June 28, parashat Huqat.

Baruch Levine will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning July 5, *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 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**, **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



Eric Silver



Baruch Levine



Steven Fraade



Nadav Sela

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

Origins: The Genesis Mythology

Sunday mornings Sept. 14 - Oct. 26, 2014 9:45-10:45
The Torah is the basic document of our religion. It teaches values and promotes principles that help civilize humankind and enhance our quality of life. It isn't history or science as we understand those today. The book of Genesis teaches many of Judaism's revolutionary insights and truths via myth. Many of these circulated among the peoples in the Middle East thousands of years ago, and the Jews gave them their own unique direction and stamp, by which we deviated from paganism and more primitive morality. It is a lesson in how the Jews differed and developed ideology that has sustained us and kept us relevant for three thousand years.

This study series, beginning on Sept. 14, will look at the Bible stories as Jewish myth in the context of the other cultures that we lived among. We will see how our myth was a version of the more universal myth of the region and the times. We will attempt to see how we differed and went on to establish a world view that was radical and more adaptive to the times – a religious and ethical world view that became the basis of the other two Abrahamic faiths, both Christianity and Islam and the cornerstone of the Western World. With Alan Lovins.

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



David Kuperstock



Alan Lovins

Continued on **Page 8**

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 8**

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. On Labor Day, Sept. 1, the RSG will meet at 9:45, after the 9 o'clock morning service. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.



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.



Murray Levine

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

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

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.



Isaiah Cooper

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 June 5 & 26, and will be on recess from July 17 until resuming Oct. 23.

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.” ☆

Buying Groceries?

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

June is busting out all over. We can finally enjoy spring by celebrating Shavuot on 6 and 7 Sivan (June 4-5).

Aqdamut is a 90-line liturgical poem in Aramaic extolling the greatness of God, the Torah and Israel, recited in some congregations before the Torah reading on the first day of Shavuot. It attributed by legend to Rabbi Meir of Worms, whose son was murdered during the Crusade of 1096. Rabbi Meir was forced to defend the Torah and his Jewish faith in a debate with local priests, and successfully conveyed his certainty of God's power, God's love for the Jewish people, and the excellence of Torah. In the legend, he engages the help of a miraculous emissary of the Ten Lost Tribes from across the Sambatyon. The poem is written in a double acrostic pattern according to the order of the Hebrew alphabet. Each line ends with the syllable "ta" (tav alef), the last and first letters of the Hebrew alef-bet, alluding to the endlessness of Torah.

Why is it a tradition to eat dairy foods on Shavuot?



Mimi Glenn

Several explanations are given in rabbinic literature for the consumption of dairy foods on this holiday. Before they received the Torah, the Israelites were not obligated to follow its laws, which include shehita (ritual slaughter of animals) and kashrut. Since there were no kosher meat and utensils immediately available, they opted to eat dairy foods.

The gematria of the Hebrew word halav is 40, corresponding to the 40 days and 40 nights that Moses spent on Mount Sinai before bringing down the Torah.

The Psalmist calls Mount Sinai "Har Gavnunim," "mountain of majestic peaks," which is etymologically similar to gevina (cheese).

Many weddings are held in the month of June. Why under a *huppa*? The marriage canopy called a *huppa*. The tradition is to set it out beneath the stars of the heaven, "look towards the heavens and count the stars if you are able to count them....so will your descendants" (Bereshit 15:5). They will increase in number, radiant and enlightening. The *huppa* (or *tallit* used as such) envelops the new couple surrounded by the love of their family and friends and showered with celestial blessing.

— Mimi Glenn

**We are offering a 10% discount
on all merchandise purchased
from the Sisterhood Gift Shop
during June and July.**

**So hurry in for the best selection. Open by appointment.
Contact giftshop@beki.org For more information please
contact Mimi Glenn (203) 397-3851.**

Windows 2014 Project Update

During the Windows 2014 window replacement project, the George G. Posener Daily Chapel (Beit Midrash) will be unavailable for use for several days. The current plan is to use the sanctuary for some daily morning and afternoon-evening services during the construction periods. During June through August, please check for signs and further notice as to the location of daily services.

More Israeli Dancing

New Haven Israeli dancing meets regularly at BEKI on Tuesday nights, 7:30 to 8:30 beginners and teaching, 8:30 to 11 open session. \$10 for BEKI members, \$12 others, teens free. No prior experience needed. Pay at the door. Teachers Leng & Igal www.ctisraelidance.com.

Briefs

• **BEKI-BJ Kadima Party:** End of year pool party at residence of Owen Kempton, June 8, 2-4 p.m. RSVP to

Emily bekibjkadima@gmail.com by June 1.

• **BEKI-BJ USY Shabbat Dinner: June 13**, details TBA.

• **Torah Reading:** [Darryl Kuperstock](#) is coordinating for BeMidbar Sinai (through July 26).

• **Book of Life:** Sisterhood is honoring Carole & Paul Bass as 2014 Book of Life honorees. Book displayed in lobby; inscriptions \$18 from Sisterhood.

• **Jewish Family Service Food Pantry:** Non-perishables needed. Food must not be expired and food packages must not be open. Collection area at JCC and Pantry. Contact Enid Groves (203) 387-2424 x267.

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

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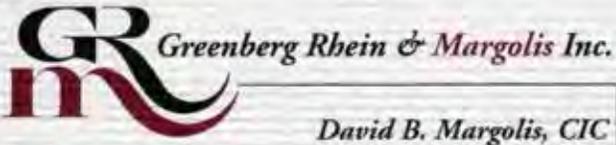


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Dear Rabbi,
I read in the *New York Times* (“[Risque Names Reap Rewards for Some Companies](#)”) that companies that adopt provocative names are more successful. An outfit called *HVLS Fan Company* changed its name to “*Big Ass Fans*” and business soared; a wine called “*Sassy Bitch*” is a best-seller. Maybe *BEKI* could really take off if we change to a catchier name.

Signed, Blow Up The Temple’s Name in the Headlines
Dear B.U.T.T. Head,

While a name such as “The Big Ass Shul,” “Congregation Beth El-Qaida” or “Damn Good Temple” might be get more attention, it is not certain that a provocative name would be more effective in attracting or retaining members (at least, the kind we want), promoting our mission, or projecting our values and style. The less provocative suggestion “Shul Haven” runs the risk of confusion with “Shoe Haven” – though on the other hand it might be a revenue opportunity.

“Big Ass Shul” is especially not fitting for a number of reasons, one of which is that we actually discourage people with large tushies from attending our Shabbat and Festival services. Although entirely unintentional, the discouragement is real. The sanctuary seats are 18 inches wide (compare with typical economy airplane seats at 17

inches or movie theatre seats at 22 to 25 inches), which means that the 5 percent or so of the population (one in 20) who are larger than that are discouraged from attending (unless they want to stand in the back for three hours). That does not include those who find the seating merely cramped or uncomfortable. Even sitting next to an empty seat does not help, because the arm rests are fixed.

Similarly, people who are over five-foot-four, and people who do not enjoy knee pain, have a hard time with the narrow rows (“pitch” in airplane terminology). The front row has greater legroom but has its own disadvantages, and not everyone can sit in the front.

A leading recommendation from the *BEKI-2000* visioning process almost 20 years ago was to provide “a wider variety of seating options in the sanctuary.” Perhaps they meant to say “a variety of wider” seating. Short of spending over \$120,000 to remove all of the current seats, buy quality moveable sanctuary chairs and recarpet, we might simply someday remove a couple of “middle” rows and create smaller zones of moveable seating to accommodate people with wider tushies, as well as people who use wheelchairs and walkers and those who suffer the disability of being taller than 5’-4”. Then maybe we could rightfully change the name to “The Kickass Shul” – or not.

Turning Over a New Levy

The [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#) reported in 1928 that Mr. Everett Levy’s petition to the New York Supreme Court to change his last name to “Leroy” was granted. The petitioner said that he discovered his name to be

a handicap in seeking employment.

In granting the application, the judge wrote, “Character and courage are essential in fighting off these vicious and bigoted influences but as he prefers to run, let him. Doubtless he is wholly ignorant of the fact that

the Bible tells us that the tribe of Levi never worshipped the golden calf. Let the application be granted, so that his people might be well rid of him.” The decision was signed by Justice Aaron J. Levy ([American Jewish World](#), Feb. 3, 1928, p. 2).

Benei Mitzva Program Briefing

Parents of benei mitzva celebrants in 2015 to 2016 are invited to meet with Rabbi Tilsen on Sunday June 8 following the 9 a.m. service (that is, at 9:30 to about 10:15) in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel for a briefing on the Benei

Mitzva Program. We will talk about the goals, methods and structure of the program, and what parents might do now to help students make the most of the experience. The program is for parents, but students are welcome to attend and younger siblings are welcome to play in the room.

June 2014

3 Sivan 5774 - 2 Tammuz 5774

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 3 Sivan/47 L'Omer	2 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 4 Sivan/48 L'Omer	3 Erev Shavuot 8:04pm Candle Lighting 8:00pm Minha 8:15pm Shiur I 9:00pm Maariv 9:45pm Shiur II 10:45pm Shiur III 5 Sivan/49 L'Omer	4 Shavuot Exodus, Numbers Ezekiel Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service Qiddush: TBA 6 Sivan	5 Shavuot II (Yizkor) Deuteronomy, Numbers Habakkuk Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service Qiddush: TBA 7 Sivan	6 Office Closed 8:06pm Candle Lighting 8 Sivan	7 Behaalotekha 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Abraham 5:45pm Minha 9 Sivan
8 9:30am Benei Mitzva 2015-2017 parents meeting 2:00pm Kadima End-of-Yaer Pool Party (off-site, reservations required) 10 Sivan	9 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 11 Sivan	10 7:30pm Israeli Dance 12 Sivan	11 13 Sivan	12 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 14 Sivan	13 8:09pm Candle Lighting USY End-of-Year Shabbat Dinner (off-site, reservations required) 15 Sivan	14 Shelah Karsif Aufruf 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Karsif 5:45pm Minha 16 Sivan
15 17 Sivan	16 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 18 Sivan	17 7:30pm Israeli Dance 19 Sivan	18 20 Sivan	19 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 21 Sivan	20 8:12pm Candle Lighting 22 Sivan	21 Korah Bass Aufruf 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Bass 5:45pm Minha 23 Sivan
22 24 Sivan	23 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 25 Sivan	24 7:30pm Israeli Dance 26 Sivan	25 6:30pm Annual Meeting 27 Sivan	26 28 Sivan	27 8:12pm Candle Lighting 29 Sivan	28 Rosh Hodesh I Hukat Numbers Isaiah Preceding Rosh Hodesh: I Samuel 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha 30 Sivan
29 Rosh Hodesh II Numbers 1 Tammuz	30 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 2 Tammuz					

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. Qabбалat Shabbat	9:15 a.m. Shaharit Before sunset: Minha



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