

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



BEKI bulletin
 Congregation
 Beth El-Keser Israel

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.

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 rabbini-calassemblies.org/pesah-guide.



Kulanu – Special Needs Seder

The [Sisterhood](#) of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and BEKI's [Kulanu](#) Havura outreach program, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service and Abel Catering, have hosted the annual Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI during the weeks before Pesah. Each year the Sisterhood has hosted an enthusiastic group of Jewish adults from the New Haven area with a variety of special needs. Last year, about 50

people participated.

This year, with the support of Abel Catering and the BEKI Sisterhood, the Special Need Seder is being held concurrently with the Masorti Community Second Seder, this year hosted by Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden. Thanks to the Sisterhood and to Kulanu Coordinator Ina Silverman for assisting TBS in making arrangements to host our Kulanu and Saul's Circle participants.

For many, this is their only taste of Passover and one that they relish and look forward to each year. The Torah teaches about four types of children, and the Haggada reminds us that we must tell the story of the Exodus to each son and daughter of Israel in the way that is most meaningful to him or her. Through the efforts of Sisterhood, our outreach coordinator, the generosity of ACI Catering and the good offices of the Jewish Family Services, the Exodus is re-enacted through song, food and story at a table set in the Passover tradition.

Kulanu is BEKI's outreach program for adults with special needs. Kulanu is supported by The [David & Lilian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel](#), which is managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

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).

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BEKI Bulletin

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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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Pesah

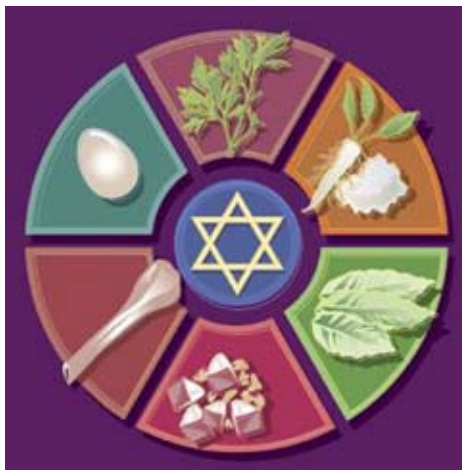
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Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

On the night of Sunday March 24, it is customary to perform *Bediqat Hametz*, the final check for leaven before Passover. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. On the next morning, Monday March 25, 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 March 25, 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 a.m. 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 (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 March 26.

For reservations (required) and information, contact Temple Beth Sholom (203) 288-7748 bethsholomhanden@aol.com. Special Needs Seder participants may ask for help in arranging transportation from (203) 288-7748.

Service Times for Pesah

Festival morning service is 9:15a to noon on Tuesday March 26 and Wednesday March 27.

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 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.

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Pesah

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Pesah Candle Lighting

The first night of Passover is Monday night March 25; candle lighting in New Haven is at 6:51 p.m. For the second night, candle lighting should be *after* 7:51 (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 March 31, is at 6:51 p.m., and on Monday night April 1 at 7:51.

Shir HaShirim – Song of Songs

The Biblical love poetry of *Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs* will be read on the morning of Shabbat Pesah March 30 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 March 26), 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 mea-

sure (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 Shabbat Festival morning service on Tuesday April 2. 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 Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) April 6 and Sunday April 7.

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 14 April and Monday 15 April 2013; Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day, is observed on Monday night 15 April and Tuesday 16 April 2013. 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.



HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Sherman Granoff

Rosabelle Rosenberg

Eddie Seashore, father of Becky (& CJ) May

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal tov to

Nicole Korda-Grutzendler & Jaime Grutzendler, and their children Michelle and Joel, on birth of Eli Daniel

in February and his entrance into the covenant through brit mila.

Meet New Members

Nicole Korda and Jaime Grutzendler moved to Woodbridge from Chicago in the summer of 2011, and in summer 2012 they moved to Westville. They have three children, Michelle, 8, Joel, 3, and a new son born in February. Nicole is originally from Switzerland and Jaime from Colombia. Jaime is an Associate Professor in the Neurology Department at Yale and Nicole is a physical therapist but is not working at the moment. They wanted to be part of the Jewish community here, and after visiting BEKI a few times because they have friends who are members, they joined and have found BEKI to be very welcoming.

Sisterhood

Peace and Kos Miriam

The kos Miriam has become an increasingly popular addition to the Passover seder. It is derived from the legend of Miriam's Well that appears in a number of midrashim. The rabbis propose the existence of this well by connecting the circumstances of Miriam's death in Numbers 20:1 with the account of the waters of Meriba (Numbers 20:2ff) that follows immediately. Based upon this connection, the rabbis surmise that Miriam's death resulted in the dearth of water, and they accredit to her the existence of a miraculous well that accompanied the Israelites on their wanderings in the wilderness and provided them with drinking water.

"An objection was raised: R. Jose the son of R. Judah says: Three good leaders had risen for Israel, namely: Moses, Aaron and Miriam and for their sake three good things were conferred upon Israel, namely the well, the pillar of cloud, and the manna. The well, for the merit of Miriam; the pillar for the merit of Aaron: the manna for the merit of Moses. When Miriam died the well disappeared, as it is said: And Miriam died there (Num 22:1) and immediately follows the verse: And there was no water for the congregation..." BT Ta'anit 9a

There are those who argue that Moses is not mentioned

in the Haggada or during the seder so why should we include Miriam. Agree or disagree?

Hiddur Mitzva

Uri Uri. Awake and greet the new dawn as we celebrate 70 years of Torah Fund. Share Our Pride in What We've Accomplished: \$90 Million in 70 years. The letter ayen represents the number 70 according to the ancient system of gematria, which gives numerical value to all Hebrew letters. In this way, it summons us to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Torah Fund. Mark 70 Years of Accomplishment with a Special Donation of \$70 to Torah Fund. In gratitude for your support, you will receive a beautiful commemorative ceramic tzedaqa box as our gift to you.

Your donation ensure the continuing development of the educational programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel, and the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires.

To donate and for more information please contact Barbara Cushen, (203) 407-0314.

Shalom from BRS

Tu beShevat came with the requisite eating of dried fruits from Israel, but this year our celebration was supplemented by a lesson about ba'al tashhit (don't be wasteful) provided by our beloved wizard, CJ May. Students learned about Tu beShevat as the original Earth Day, and CJ taught them about the magic of composting. We took a little field trip out to the parking lot to visit the new BEKI composter.

Most of us are familiar with recycling paper, glass, metal, and plastic, but not everyone knows that most food waste can be recycled into nutrient-rich soil by composting. BEKI's Kiddush Committee does its best to renew the earth with food waste from Saturday lunches. You also may have noticed the list of proposed names for the composter on the bulletin board in the school wing. My favorite is The Compostador. If you want information about composting I can put you in touch with knowledgeable folks.

Purim saw BRS families celebrating, some in costume,

at the seuda (literally "meal," but it really means "party"). Thank you to parents who helped deliver shalah manot bags to people who could not attend. A great time was had by all. We look forward to Pesah and learning about what freedom from slavery meant to our ancestors and what it means to us today. If anyone does not have seders to attend please contact me ASAP.

Kol tuv, Mora Ina

ANL Library News

Thanks to generous donations to the Ari Nathan Levine Fund, the following books have been purchased. They will be available on a non-lending basis in the Children's Room, and will be especially helpful to our volunteer parent leaders of our Shabbat Children's Programs.

- *Morah, Morah, Teach Me Torah*, by Nechama Retting and Tobey Greenberg
- *Sadie and the Big Mountain*, by Jamie Korngold
- *The Brave Women Who Saved Moses* by Alison Greengard



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An occasional feature of answers, advice and helpful household hints

Dear Rabbi,
How early can we make our house kosher for Pesah? Can we eat kosher for Pesah foods on our Pesah dishes before Pesah?

Signed, Early Bird

Dear Early Bird,

You can make your kitchen kosher for Pesah anytime you want. You can even keep it kosher for Pesah all year if you want. Just don't eat matza in the couple of weeks before Pesah.

Dear Rabbi,
How clean is clean for Passover? I have spent two weeks cleaning, but no matter how much I clean, I can never be sure all the hametz is gone.

Signed, Compulsive Kitchen Cleaner

Dear Compulsive,

Pharaoh freed the slaves. This means that Pesah is supposed to be a *happy* holiday. Joy on the festival is a *halakhic* (legal) requirement. As the Good Book says, "You shall rejoice on your festivals." *Clean* is not the same as *kosher*, although they are related concepts. If you put in two to three times your normal weekly effort into cleaning (assuming you do clean regularly), then it is time to say *dayenu* (enough). Any hidden crumbs of *hametz* are sold and nullified, relieving you of liability. The process of kashering your kitchen, if done diligently, also relieves you of any liability. Happy Pesah!

Dear Rabbi,
The following notice appeared as a "special alert" in Kashrus Magazine (March 2004 p. 7): "Manischewitz Chocolate Coins ('OU-Pareve') bear the words: 'In G-d We Trust.' A number of leading rabbonim have Paskened that one may not eat them nor throw away the chocolate and wrappers, if they too have those words. Consult your rabbi."

So rabbi, I am consulting you. What should I do if we have those coins?

Signed, In R-bbi We Trust

Dear Trust,

Our *halakha* (law) holds that there are five basic Hebrew names of the Almighty that are so sacred that they may not be treated casually or erased. Among those are the tetragramaton, the four-letter name beginning with yud, which is unpronounced and is usually replaced by "Adonai" ("my Lord") when reading or praying aloud, and is sometimes replaced with "HaShem" ("The Name"). It is sometimes symbolized as a *hei* apostrophe or as a double *yud* in Hebrew.

Another sacred name is the Hebrew equivalent of "Allah" and its variations. This name begins with the letters

alef *lamed* and ends with a consonantal *hei*, or, in the most common variations, ends with the *im* or *enu* suffix. This name is most often translated as "God." It is the generic name used to describe both God and false gods (as in, "You shall have no other gods before me").

Some people wish to transfer that sanctity to the common English word "God" (hence, "G-d"). But then the substitute "G-d," since it signifies "God," would have to be written "G - -" and there would be no end to it. Nevertheless some people persist in granting sanctity to this English word. Although there is no basis for this in law, who am I to stand in the way of popular or personal piety. If you have such coins, especially if the chocolate is still there, and especially if it is milk chocolate, please bring them to my office and I will dispose of them properly. If the chocolate is already gone, and you have only the foil wrappers, recycle them.

Reprinted from the BEKI *Bulletin* [April 2004](#)

Dear Rabbi,
I saw the Pope on television and noticed that he wears a yarmulke. No offense meant, but is the Pope Jewish?

Signed, Bareheaded in Beaver Hill

Dear Bareheaded

No, the Pope is not Jewish. The correct word for the Pope's skullcap is a *zucchetto*, which is an Italian word that basically means "beanie." *Zucchettos* are color-coded skullcaps worn by Catholic clergy: priests wear black, bishops wear purple, cardinals wear red, and the Pope wears white.

The Jewish practice of covering the head dates back to ancient times when the *kohanim* in the Temple wore special headdresses.

The morning blessing "*oter Yisrael betifara* – who crowns Israel with beauty," was originally said before putting on the turban. The Talmud states that a man should not take four steps without his head being covered. We can keep our heads covered by wearing any sort of hat or turban. One choice is the *kippa*, which in Yiddish is called *Yarmulke*, in English, skullcap, or in Italian *Zucchetto*. The *kippa* has no religious significance in and of itself — it is merely one type of hat. It is nothing more than a beanie.

Today, we follow a moderate path and make a point to keep our heads covered during prayer, study, meals and other religious acts, such as playing baseball.

Although he wears a *kippa*, the Pope is not Jewish. And although we wear *Zucchettos*, we are not the Pope. Once again we see that you don't have to be Jewish to be Jewish, but it helps.

Reprinted from the BEKI *Bulletin* [December 2000](#)

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

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

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim:

Yaakov Gottlieb, son of Miriam Feinstein, bar mitzva celebrant, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning March 2, *parashat Ki Tisa*, Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow).

Steven Fraade will serve as darshan on March 23, Shabbat HaGadol (The Great Sabbath), *parashat Tsav*.

Rabbi Murray Levine will serve as darshan on April 6, *parashat Shemini*. Rabbi Levine is celebrating the 72nd anniversary of his becoming a bar mitzva.

Helene Sapadin will serve as darshanit on April 20, *parashiyot Aharei Mot – Qedoshim*. Helene is a faculty member of the BEKI Religious School.



Yaakov Gottlieb



Steven Fraade



Murray Levine



Helene Sapadin

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 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.



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela



David Kuperstock



Eric Silver

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.

Mishna Megila

On the first two Shabbat afternoons in March following the mincha afternoon service (which begins at candle lighting time), explore chapter two of *Mishna Megila* compiled in the third century by Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi of Tzippori, northern Israel. *Megila* deals with the laws of Purim and the exegesis of the Book of Esther, as well as the rules for reading Megilat Ester (Book of Esther), the Torah and other liturgical practices. Thirty minutes; with Rabbi Tilsen and others; Hebrew text and live oral translation provided.

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 studying 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

Continued on **Page 7**

Adult Studies

Continued from Page 6

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 Monday March 25, erev Pesach, the Study Group will be

superseded by a *siyyum bekhорот*. On Monday May 27, Memorial Day, the Study Group will meet after the 9 a.m. service, that is, from 9:45 to 10:30.

With Jon-Jay Tilsen.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

Tuesdays

Hebrew

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.

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.

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 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.” Now available: Jonathan Freiman’s *devar Torah* on *parashat Toldot* (Nov. 17, 2012).



Isaiah Cooper



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Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

- Harriet F & the Bruce Family with condolences to Becky May on the passing of her father Charles Seashore
- Robert & Dianne Golub
- Barbara Cushen for mekhirat hamets
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Edie Seashore
- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce and Family in memory of Edie Seashore
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo in memory of Jacob Pepper
- Polina Naiman in memory of mother Haie-Bertha Naiman
- Rabbi Murray Levine for mekhirat hamets
- For selling hamets: Rachel Bashevkin

Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$280)

- Yair Minsky & Ada Fenick
- Michael & Caryl Kligfeld
- Art & Betty Levy
- Steve & Rachel Wizner
- Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

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

- To Nathan Janette and family with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Alan Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Ina Silverman and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Richard Schottenfeld and family with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Steve Wizner with wishes for a speedy recovery by Marilyn Katz
- To Eitan Minsky-Fenick in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Lynn & Jeffrey Heisner and Joyce & David Popowski with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Hodes by Lois K. Feldman

- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Carole & Paul Bass
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Herb & Hannah Winer
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow, Avital & Shai with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain, Joseph & Mila with sympathy on the passing of Alvin Schottenfeld by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ketaineck in memory of their father Ruby Ketaineck by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Stephanie & Daniel Jacoby in honor of the birth of their son Asher Vincent by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Eitan Minsky-Fenick in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Shula Chernoff in honor of her birthday by Gloria Cohen
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Gloria Cohen
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Jonathan Freiman
- To Tom & Georgette Hyman with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Hyman by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To John & Merri Hyman with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Hyman by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To Lynn & Jeffrey Heisner with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Hodes by Gail & Butch DiReinzo
- To Joyce & David Popowski with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Hodes by Gail & Butch DiReinzo

BEKI Religious School

- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Marilyn Katz
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Silverman by Cathie & Ron Miller
- To Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of her aunt Gladys Kaufman by the Friedman-Bruce family
- To Sophia Bruce in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Eitan Minsky-Fenick in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Eitan Minsky-Fenick in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Harriet Friedman & the Bruce family
- To Becky & C.J. May and family with sympathy on the passing of Charles Seashore by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedaka Fund

- To Rachel, Miriam & Eva Gerber in honor of their birthdays by Faye Gerber

Social Action/Tikkun Olam

- In memory of his sister Marilyn Savin by Jimmy Shure

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of their father Murray E. Kahn by Richard Kahn and Michael Kahn

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

- In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- In memory of George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Ben Siegel by Debbie & Louis Siegel
- In memory of Rose Alderman by Bernard & Sonya Alderman
- In memory of her father Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In loving memory of Phyllis C. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Gerald & Judith Oppenheim
- In memory of Sam Kantrowitz by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- In memory of her parents Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Maurice "Moe" Miller by Sandy & John Balayan
- In memory of Sam Miller by Richard & Vicki Miller
- In memory of Ruben Schwartz by David Wright
- In memory of Gertrude Slopak by David Wright
- In memory of Rose Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Max Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Rae Leavitt by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Sam Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Ida Byer by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Anita & Michael Malina
- In memory of David Tiven by Larry & Barbara Tiven
- In memory of Anita Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds
- In memory of Murray Arshell by Mike Moscovitz

Art Talk & Psalms: Shabbat Schmooze

A Shabbat Schmooze on the Psalms will take place at 1 p.m. on Shabbat, March 16, in the BEKI Chapel. It will feature a talk by Sharon Dagan, whose Psalm-based paintings are currently on exhibit at BEKI, on the inspiration for her art work. BEKI's Bob Oakes will present background information on the Psalms and both will be available to discuss the paintings and their literary elements.

Lead On

BEKI is looking for new leadership ideas, energy, expertise, and commitment. If you would like to take on a leadership role, please send me an email (president@beki.org) or give me a call (203.397.3046) and let me know what area(s) you're interested in. Of course, if you'd rather be a worker bee, there's always room in the hive for that, too!

-- Carole Bass, president

Yishar Kohakhem & Toda Rabba – Purim Readings and Seuda

Megila readers: Steven Fraade; Ellen Cohen; Rachel Gerber; Tova Benson-Tilsen; Marsha Beller; Corey Stone; Rachel Light; Roz Ben-Chitrit; Noam Benson-Tilsen.

Food (set-up, serving and clean-up): Eva Shragis, with help from: Helene Sapadin, Rita Sela, David Wright, Sarah Berry, Roger Colten, Jacques Ben-Avie, Stephanie Birn, Mimi and Efraim Glenn. Decorations: Liora Lew. Meet and Greet: Mark Oppenheimer.

Singalong: Isaiah Cooper. Sutin family: Rachel Sutin: face painting. Shpiel: Rabbi Tilsen, with Tova and Noam Benson-Tilsen, Steve Werlin, Roya Hakakian and a cast of thousands. BECKY Bulletin, Special Edition: Rebecca Weiner. Staff: Clarence, Michael and Peggy.

Fresh Paint

The aroma of drying paint lingers in the washrooms in the classroom wing upstairs, as they were painted in February.

Warm Enough

Six classrooms were fitted with programmed thermostats. Room users should find the rooms more temperate during the heating season. The upgrade will make the rooms more comfortable and will insure that our heating resources are used more efficiently. Please report any "cold" or "hot" rooms to the office.

Abraham's Tent

The week of March 11-17, BEKI will co-host 12 men from Columbus House in a joint program with Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, as we did last year. The men are housed at the Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven. Volunteers are needed for support activities.

Cook at BEKI in the early afternoon of Tuesday March 12 (three volunteers needed). To volunteer to cook, sign up at <http://doodle.com/u8bck26qr7ba7xa9>

Join the men and volunteers for dinner, conversation and after-dinner activities at the church from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday March 12 (4 volunteers needed). To volunteer to dine with the men and other volunteers from BEKI and the church, sign up at <http://doodle.com/bvcywf3kfad-vegme>

Overnight supervision with others from church and BEKI (3-4 each night) each night from Monday March 11 through Sunday March 17 from no later than 9 p.m. through 6:30 a.m. (many volunteers needed); sign up at <http://doodle.com/8qwyz7qd924mg2b7>

Contact Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@aol.com or Ivan Alvarez ivan.alvarez@officedepot.com for more information or to volunteer.

Read Torah

Thank you to Marsha Beller for coordinating Torah readings for the book of **Shemot** (Exodus) through March 9. Rabbi Tilsen is coordinator for the book of VaYiqra (Leviticus) from March 16 through May 4 (including Pesah); to reserve a reading contact jjtilsen@beki.org.

Now Hear This

A chart showing the enhanced amplification zones in the sanctuary is posted in the sanctuary just inside the entry.

Got Tools?

We could use a few quality common tools such as screwdrivers, hammers, wrenches, pliers and the like, as well as good snow shovels. Please contact Peggy office@beki.org if you have items you'd like to donate.

Building Codes

The old building access and alarm code is going to be inactivated as of 15 March. If you are currently using the old code or do not know which code you have, contact the BEKI office office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x 14.



It's Snow Ordinary Minyan

Welcome to the new BEKI minyan — the Sheleg Shleppers minyan. Amazingly, people made it to BEKI on Shabbat morning and throughout the weekend of our record-breaking 36-inch snow. Here is a photo of the Sunday Maariv minyan. A big thanks to the intrepid skiers, snow-shoers, and hikers who helped BEKI provide a regular daily minyan for community members.

Mark Your Calendar

Bar Mitzva: Yaakov Gottlieb March 2
The History of Conservative Judaism: With Mark Oppenheimer March 3
Kadima Laser Tag Night: March 9
Kashrut 101: With Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen March 10
USY Hanefesh Region: Sports Day March 10
Abraham's Tent: March 11-17
Art Opening Schmooze: March 16
Darshan: Steven Fraade March 23

Kadima Overnight: March 23-24
Taanit Bekhorot / Siyyum Bekhorot: March 25
Erev Pesah – First Seder: March 25
Second Seder at TBS Hamden: March 26
Special Needs Seder: At TBS March 26
Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine April 6
Yom HaShoah: April 7
Yom HaZikaron: April 15
Yom HaAtsmaut: April 16
Darshanit: Helene Sapadin April 20



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