

Second Adar 5774 Vol. 20 Issue 3 Page 5: Tiqun Olam

# Purim at Beki: Be Happy It's Adar

משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה *Mishenikhnas Adar marbim* besimha – When Adar begins, joy increases – Talmud Eruvin 29a

### Mishloah Manot – Purim Baskets

The firm and final order deadline is 5 p.m. March 3. Contact the office at (203) 389-2108 x 14 or office@beki. org if you have misplaced your log-on code; you do not have internet access; you would prefer a paper order form; you would like the office to enter your order for you; You are a non-member who would like to participate. Please help distribute mishloah manot on Purim evening and day.

#### Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over twenty centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is normally observed the day immediately before Purim, but this year is advanced to the

Thursday before Purim (as the fast cannot occur on Friday or Shabbat). Taanit Esther marks the serious side of the holiday. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatchers, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide. This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn (5:45 Eastern Daylight Time) on Thursday March 13. The Thursday *shaharit* morning service is from 8:15 to 9:15 and includes "Avinu Malkenu – Our Father, Our King," as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any significant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. The *minha* afternoon service is at 5:45. The fast ends at 7:30 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

#### Shabbat Zakhor

The "Sabbath of Remember!" occurs immediately before

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# **Shabbaton with Rabbi Stuart Kelman March 28-30**



**Stuart Kelman** 

Rabbi Stuart Kelman, well-known Jewish educator and also Founding Rabbi of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, California, will lead us from March 28-30 in a weekend of learning, prayer, and community. A number of BEKI members know Rabbi Kelman –some from his days growing up in Bridgeport; some through Camp Ramah, and others at Netivot Shalom. Karel Koenig, who initiated the effort to bring Rabbi Kelman

to BEKI, studied with him in preparation for her first Aliya. Everyone at BEKI who knows Rabbi Kelman is thrilled that he is coming, and we on the Programming Committee are confident that his will be a rich, meaningful and fun visit.

Our Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton, **Shaharit** in 3 Acts: Who's Talking to Whom?, begins Friday evening, when we will be exploring the mean-

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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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### **March Shabbaton**

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ing, purpose and mechanics of prayer. Now before you say, "oy,vey - that is not for me," *please read on*.

For some of us, prayer is complicated, mysterious, just plain boring or even annoying. Rabbi Kelman knows this – and will be speaking to you as well as to those for whom praying is natural, comfortable and very familiar. Remember, this is an *exploration*, a chance to deepen our experience personally and as a community. I guarantee that if you come to any or all of the sessions, you will learn something, you will ask new questions, and you will have new answers to some of your old questions.

But that's not all. Here are a few more reasons to come. Shabbat, community, learning, friendship: This is a chance to have a deep, immersive experience of Shabbat. Bring in the Sabbath with a beautiful Qabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a delicious dinner with old and new friends; sing Shabbat songs and then learn with Rabbi Kelman. After that, go home for a good night's rest, knowing that you will return to the warmth and stimulation of Shabbat morning services; we promise a most thought-provoking and inspiring Devar Torah by our visiting scholar. After that, you will enjoy another sumptuous meal, and an afternoon session of learning and schmoozing. Go home for a shabbat nap and perhaps return for minha to put into action what you learned. A whole day of learning and community. A true Shabbaton. Top it off by returning Sunday morning for Shaharit service – vou are now an expert. You may not know ALL the words, but you will have a new understanding of what it means to you. After brunch (yes, more food), Rabbi Kelman will discuss his work with Hevra Qaddisha and the Gamliel Institute, sharing his wisdom about Jewish rituals pertaining to death and dying. By the end of all this, I guarantee you will know a lot more about yourself and about the BEKI community, as well as new insights into Shabbat and prayer. Come to talk to God, come to talk to your

neighbor, come for the food, come for the company, come to meet Rabbi Kelman. But whatever you do – come.

The Shabbaton is open to all, so bring friends and family with you. The only nominal charge will be for our Friday evening Shabbat dinner (for which advance reservations and payment are required by March 21). During the evening program, child-care will be available for those who register in advance. All other parts of the weekend for adults and children, members and those who are not yet members (including our Shabbat Kiddush lunch and Sunday brunch), are free.

If you are a *new BEKI member*, who has joined during 2014, please come as our **guest** for Shabbat dinner (reservations still required).

For more information about the BEKI Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton, or to offer volunteer help, please contact me.

Shoshana Zax,

Chair, Programming Committee

Contact: <u>zaxweiser@aol.com</u>



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# **Sunday Brunch Welcoming New and Prospective Members**

Want to meet the new members? Come March 9.

They are young. And they are old. They are single, or single parents, or grandparents, or couples without children, or couples with children. They are New Haveners — and some aren't. But they all come to BEKI.

In the past two years, 36 new individuals or families have joined Beth El – Keser Israel: a remarkable number for any Jewish congregation, but especially so for a congregation in a medium-size town with a modest Jewish population, like Greater New Haven. It hasn't been the result of any huge marketing campaign, or any viral social media strategy. It has happened because people hear that BEKI is a great community, they visit, and they find out that it's true.

On March 9, from 10-11:30am in the upstairs social hall

(you know, where we have kiddush), there will be a brunch to meet the new members. And you are all invited. BEKI Religious School parents can just stay for minyan and then brunch; all others are welcome for minyan at 9am, then brunch.

Or just come for brunch.

This will be an excellent opportunity to talk to new members, get to know them, and also to invite them to join you in your favorite aspects of the BEKI experience, from kiddush committee to davening, from Shabbat services to visiting the sick.

Let's have a huge turnout and make the new members feel welcome. RSVP is appreciated, to mark.e.oppenheimer@gmail.com

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# BEKI ARTSPACE

Conceptual Artist Elanit Kayne, whose artwork will be on exhibit at BEKI from March 2 to May 31, will be giving a Shabbat Shmooze artist's talk at the synagogue on March

15 at 12:30 p.m. (following the qiddush).

Elanit has created a universal iconography comprising the bucket, stone, landscape, dot and flower/plant to communicate all aspects of mysticism and Qabbala. She also tackles prosaic themes such as motherhood, shopping and fashion in venues that bring an interactive element to the art.

In the mysticism behind Elanit's work, the bucket can represent the body in order to communicate the soul and its expression with itself or with other souls. The stone represents ourselves in our most humble state – alive but willing to be moved to the right place at the right time. The crosshatchings in the paintings indicate a spiritual essence,

reflecting the multi-levels of the universe and their division and the process of contraction and concealment that the energy goes through in order to reach the lowest level, as described in Qabbala.

In 2013, Elanit continued exploring themes of value, minimalism, non-attachment and time-specific/site-specific life experiments with "The Value of Motherhood." Her three-book "non-baby" series is a result of this conception process. Her interactive efforts have allowed the audience, regardless of income level, to experience and own art. These events include, "All I Want for Christmas is Nothing," where, if the buyers took the time to write why they needed the object, they procured it, as well as "todayidumpedthebodies.blogspot.com aka eeekshare.com," The Wear Me Out" fashion event, and "Recession Art Sale,"

which focused on facilitating out-of-work people-as-sellers to make money.

Elanit received her BFA from the Tisch School of the

Arts at New York University. Her work has been covered nationally and internationally with full features on CNN, FOX5 News and CNRTL4 Dutch Television; coverage by NK Nextent Japanese Television and NY1; full feature articles by The Huffington Post, The Agence France-Presse, TIME OUT NY, The New York Post. The Brooklyn Papers and Italian Glamour Magazine, as well as by numerous radio broadcasts.

She has been curated into shows at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Pablo's Birthday in Tribeca, Spike Gallery in Chelsea, The Kentler International Drawing Center in Red Hook, and Lee Ming-

wei's exhibition at MOMA Queens, among others. She has received grants from the Skowhegan School of Painting

and Sculpture, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Joan Mitchell Foundation and sponsorships from Hanes and from OM Yoga. In addition, permanent installations of her work can be found at Mercy First, one of New York's leading not-for-profit human services agencies in Brooklyn, and at South Florida Cancer Center Care located in Margate.





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## המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

John L. Fryer, father of Hugh Fryer

**Rebecca Govrin Jacobson,** mother of Susan Jacobson (& Michael Teitelbaum)

**Tosia Schwartzbaum,** grandmother of Roz Ben-Chitrit

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

#### HaNolda beMazal Tov

Mazal tov to Rachel & Jason Greenberg on the birth of their daughter Anna Arielle Greenberg.

#### Mazal tov to

Mara Benjamin, past member, on her promotion and grant of tenure at St. Olaf College, as Associate Professor of Religion.

### Welcome New Members & Their Families

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

# Tiqun Olam: Abraham's Tent – You are Needed

Abraham's Tent

BEKI is once again participating in the amazing Abraham's Tent, a cooperative effort between Columbus House, Interfaith Cooperative Ministries and local congregations.

We are in the midst of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the program, which runs each year from the beginning of December until the end of March. Our partner, the Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven – with BEKI's considerable help – will host another group of men in the church from March 24-30.

Last year, with the help of only a few professional staff people, the program was able to not only involve 17 wonderful host sites, but an additional 15 congregations and schools providing much needed volunteer supports. BEKI is excited to have been one of these 15 "partner" congregations.

To remind you, each year, 12 men who would otherwise only have the choice to stay at the Columbus House for overnight shelter during the winter, are screened and enrolled in the program. Having gone through an application process conducted by Columbus House staff, they are chosen, in part, due to their ability to be part of such a small group throughout the winter. The twelve men are assigned a case manager, and from the beginning of the program are offered services that include employment and income support, basic life skills training and referrals to community resources for health care, mental health and/or substance

abuse treatment. Toward the end of the winter, these 12 men are also offered housing assistance. For each of the 3 previous years, a significant percentage of these men have

either found permanent or transitional housing.

Last year, there were well over 2000 volunteers involved at some level in the Abraham's Tent initiative from the various congregations and organizations involved. Over 20 volunteers from BEKI were among them, providing shopping, cooking, dining and evening companionship, and overnight support. Once again, we are looking for volunteers.

Our partnership in this program has remained strong with the Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal) in West Haven and has been a great experience. Responsibility for providing dinners is split between the two groups, and overnight support is provided by mixed groups of volunteers (with a majority from BEKI). In the past, we have provide vouchers for lunches for the 12 men for two days (for which your generous support would be appreciated), many, many supplies, two wonderful dinners for all the men and volunteers, and 4-5 nights of overnight support.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Abraham's Tent or have questions about the project, contact either Darryl Kuperstock <a href="mailto:kuperst@aol.com">kuperst@aol.com</a> or Ivan Alvarez ivan\_ta@yahoo.com, project co-chairs.

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USYers enjoy their Chocolate Tu b'Shvat Seder

### **BEKI-BJ USY**

This summer, I moved from CRUSY (Central Region USY) to Hanefesh. Hanefesh is often called the soul of USY and after being a part of this family for many months, I can confidently say that Hanefesh meets every definition of the word soul. The USYers are unique, curious, and most importantly they are looking to invite you into their outstretched arms.

Amongst all of the amazing opportunities I have received in the last couple of months, serving on BEKI-BJ USY's board has been one of the most rewarding. It has been an extremely fulfilling and rewarding experience to work closely with some of the brightest teens and reap the benefits from a successful program.

BEKI-BJ USY has grown as one of Hanefesh's strongest chapters. We have gone to Lake Compounce, hosted lounge nights galore (including Israeli themed lounge nights, Bencher decorating lounge nights, and candy sukkah making lounge nights), as well as celebrated an innovative Chocolate Tu B'shvat Seder. In addition, BEKI-BJ USY's first ever newsletter will be coming to print this March.

We look forward to continuing to increase membership, creating amazing events, and being a strong and connected chapter.

All the best, Noa Shapiro-Franklin

It's not too early to consider USY summer programs in the U.S., Central America, and Israel. Program subsidies are available for BEKI-BJ-TBS members.

Don't forget to check out our BEKI-BJ USY Facebook page for updates and pictures. And as always, please share questions, comments, concerns, and thoughts with Emily Zaghi, BEKI-BJ USY Youth Group Coordinator, at <u>BEKIB-JUSY@gmail.com</u> or (516) 316-6154.

#### BEKI-BJ USY Calendar

Sunday, March 2, 4 p.m.: Limo Scavenger Hunt. Starting location TBD.

Monday, March 10, 7p.m.: Hamentashen baking at BEKI

Friday-Saturday, March 28-30: Heschel Kinnus - sign up today.

Monday, March 24: Lounge night at BEKI

Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.: USY lounge night and dinner at Edge of the Woods.

Friday, April 25, 8 p.m.: USY Shabbat dinner. Location TBD.

## Kadima

BEKI-BJ Kadima has been having a fantastic new year filled with lots of fun activities. With such a great group of 5th-8th grade boys and girls, and with such exciting activities, it's hard to go wrong.

First and foremost, we had an awesome time at our bowling party, which we co-sponsored with Ezra Academy, with 14 attendees from BEKI, BJ, TBS, and Ezra Academy.



We also had a great time baking brownies for the deli boxes fundraiser, our yearly fundraiser to provide family subsidies for yearly and summer Kadima and USY activities. We won't forget the fun we had playing hide-and-seek and freeze dance while the brownies were baking.

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#### Kadima Kalendar

March 9, 12:45 p.m.: Dodge ball tournament in the Ezra gym followed by a pizza party.

March 13, 7 p.m.: Baking Hamentashen for Purim at Kadima advisor Emily's house in downtown New Haven.

April 6, 1 p.m.: Painting ceramic Seder Plates for Passover at The Clay Date in Woodbridge.

April 19, 8:45 p.m.: Matza-Pizza movie night. Please let me know if you'd like to host this event.



Don't forget to check out our informative Kadima Blog at bekibjkadima.blogspot. com. And as always, please share questions, comments, concerns, and thoughts with Emily Zaghi, BEKI-BJ Kadima Youth Group Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:BEKIBJKadima@gmail.com">BEKIBJKadima@gmail.com</a> or (516) 316-6154.

**Emily Ziaghi** 

### **BRS News**

BEKI Religious School participates in the Young Emissary program. Amit (the young woman) and Nir (the young man) come to BRS once a month to do a program about Israel. Connecticut invites several young adults to volunteer to live and work here for a year after high school before they go into the army. These young adults become a living bridge between us and the communities in the Afula region in Israel where they come from. In their BRS programs they share their lives as Israeli teenagers with our students and become friends.

This year, as in two past years, I have a special personal connection with one of the shelihim (emissaries). Nir Lustig comes to us from Qibbutz Geva, a lovely, old qibbutz near Afula. When I was his age I lived on Qibbutz Geva as a volunteer for a few months. When I arrived, I was assigned an old-timer qibbutznik named "Lustig" to show me the ropes. Turns out that Nir's grandfather was my as-

signed qibbutznik. He has since died and I was so thrilled to find my old photo album of my experience at Geva, including some photos of Lustig and Nir's other relatives, as well as photos of the qibbutz as it looked back then, decades before Nir was born. Some of the more dilapidated buildings, including the former garage with a tin roof that was my qibbutz home, have since been torn down and Nir had never seen them.

Besides the serendipity of my connection with Nir, in past years my family was lucky enough to host two other shelihim, Ariel and Hila, who both lived in the city of Afula. We make sure to see both of them and their families whenever we are

in Israel. As of a few months ago, Hila was an officer in the army, thinking about making it her career, and an expert in security on military bases. Ariel, having finished his army service, is in college and expects to study law. You may have met both Hila and Ariel when they lived with us in Westville and came to BEKI regularly.

All the shelihim go back home for February vacation before returning to us to finish the school year. Nir and Amit are in the photo and we look forward to seeing them again at the "BRS on Shabbat" event in March.



**BRS Emissaries Amit and Nir.** 

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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.

Bill Hallo will serve as darshan on Shabbat Sheqalim, Parashat Pequdei, March 1.

Talia Weintraub, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat Parashat VaYiqra March 8.

Jacob Lettick, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow) Parashat Shemini March 22.



**Bill Hallo** 



**Talia Weintraub** 

Rabbi Stuart Kelman will serve as darshan on Shabbat HaHodesh (Sabbath of the Moon) Parashat Tazria March 29. Avital Sutin, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat Parashat Metsora April 5.

## **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



Steven Fraade



**David Kuperstock** 

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.



Fric Silver

Sundays

## New – Tefillin Workshops

Guided help in wrapping and wearing tefillin (phylacteries – prayer amulets) on Sunday mornings March 9 and April 6 from 8:45 to 9:45. For Jewish adults and immediate pre-benei mitzva students. Individual help in donning tefillin, with some explanation of the practice during the morning. A specialist for left-handed persons will be present on each date along with helpers for right-handed people. Bring your own tefillin or borrow ours. With Steven Fraade, Sarah Magidson, Rabbi Tilsen and others.

Mondays

## Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) has begun the Book of Shemuel (Samuel). Characters in

the narrative include the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David, Mikhal, Batsheva, and more. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors



Jon-Jay Tilsen

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.

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

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#### **Adult Studies**

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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



**Murray Levine** 

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 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 <a href="mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net">icooper@cooperlaw.net</a>.

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

Every Day

### Divrei Torah on the Web

A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's website under "Adult Studies" and "Meet Rabbi Tilsen."



#### **Purim**

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Purim, Shabbat March 15. This Sabbath is marked by the reading of the Biblical passage reminding us to remember and never forget the cruelty of Amalek. The reading of this passage is in fulfillment of the mitzva which it references, and hearing this reading is considered a mitzva unto itself. For that reason, children's programs may be timed to let adults and children hear this required reading. Like Taanit Esther, Shabbat Zakhor expresses the serious side of Purim.

## Megilla Readings March 15, 16

Unless the Sanhedrin acts immediately to add a fourteenth month to this year on the Hebrew calendar, most of the Jewish world will observe Purim on Saturday night March 15 and the following day, Sunday March 16.

The Shabbat afternoon service is from 5:45 to 6:20.

The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read during the evening services (8 to 9:30) on Saturday March 15, and then again during the Sunday morning service, which begins at 9 (ending 11 a.m.) on March 16. Since Daylight Saving Time will have begun on 9 March, our evening Megila reading is at a very late hour this year. Children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed, asleep in sleeping bags, napping in nap sacks, or rocking in rucksacks.

Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it one-self) is a Biblical commandment (*mitzva*). Other Purim *mitzvot* (religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor, alms for the poor and a feast on Purim day. Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will have to start over to insure that every-

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Andy Weinstein



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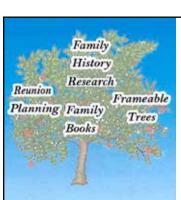
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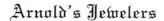
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#### **Purim**

Esther's story is much like the story of Joseph in Genesis 41. Both stories involve foreign monarchs who control the destiny of the Jews. Both accounts show the heroism of Israelite individuals who provide the means for the salvation of their people and nation. The hand of God is evident, in what appears to be a bad situation is indeed very much under control of the Almighty God who ultimately has the good of the people at heart.

The Book of Esther shows the choice we make between seeing the hand of God in our circumstances in life and seeing things as merely coincidence.

Esther risked her life by going not once uninvited before the king but twice. She was not content with the destruction of Haman: she was intent on saving her people.

The institution of the Feast of Purim is written and preserved for all to see and is still observed today. A reason given for costume-wearing is that it was a way of emulating God who "disguised" God's presence behind the natural events described in the Purim story.

**Some customs:** The custom of masquerading in costume and wearing of masks probably originated among the Italian Jews at the end of the 15th-century. The practice was introduced into the Middle Eastern countries much later, during the 19th-century.

Varied customs of foods: Special breads are baked among various communities. In Moroccan Jewish com-

munities, a Purim bread called Ojos de Haman or eyes of Haman is sometimes baked in the shape of Haman's head, and the eyes, made of eggs are plucked out to demonstrate the destruction of Haman.

**Ashkenazi Jews** eat a pastry called Hamentaschen ("Haman's pockets").

**Sephardi Jews** eat a fried pastry called Fazuelos, as well as a range of baked or fried pastries called Orejas de Haman (Haman Ears) or Hojuelas de Haman (Oznei Haman).

Seeds and nuts are customarily eaten on Purim, as the Talmud relates that Queen Esther ate only these foodstuffs in the palace, since she had no access to kosher food.

## Giftshop

Help us light a million candles to remember the six million. April 28 (28 Nisan). Sisterhood will be selling yellow Yahrzeit candles through the Giftshop.

Passover is not too far off. Consider shopping for your Passover gifts of Passover seder plates, qiddush cup and more in our Sisterhood GiftShop. The GiftShop is open Sundays and Wednesdays during BRS hours.

### Sisterhood Book of Life 2014-15

Carole and Paul Bass are our honorees this year. Inscription: in honor of, or in memory of. Each inscription is \$18.

## **National Gun Violence Prevention Shabbat**

March 14-15. http://marchsabbath.org

#### **Purim**

Continued from Page 9

one hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story's villain reverberate though our sacred halls on our sacred cinder-blocks. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Please do not bring assault rifles, firearms, explosive devices or weapons of any sort, or any toy that resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door – we mean it). In accordance with revised FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are permitted, as are personal electronic devises. Shampoo, eye drops and more

than 3.2 oz of any gel or liquid are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service.

Persons dressed as Lady Gaga wearing meat suits should sit in the designated fleishig area and are advised to keep a distance from people wearing M&M and other dairy costumes.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be *groggier* than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18 centimeters).

Following the evening and morning services, help is requested in collecting and delivering the mishloah manot (Purim Baskets) to neighboring households. Delivering just one can be a big help and a great joy.

Continued on Page 14

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## Rabbi's Tzedaqa Fund (minimum \$25)

- The Ratner Families in appreciation to Rabbi Tilsen and with thanks for the simhat bat for Indigo Aura Ratner
- Barbara Cushen & Family in appreciation and honoring the memory of Max Brunswick
- Judith Resnik & Dennis Curtis for Matanot LeEvyonim

## **Qiddush Sponsors** (minimum \$280)

- Tina Rose
- Marty Feldman & Family
- · Betsy & Mikki Ratner
- Daniel Leisawitz & Daniela Viale

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

- To David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Alice Kosowsky
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Sherry Kent
- To Tina Rose in honor of the birth of her grandson Maor Meron by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Mary Doyle-Fritz Zuskin
- To Darcy McGraw & Bruce Altman with sympathy on the passing of Anna Altman by Mary Doyle-Fritz Zuskin
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Rhoda Zahler and Allen Samuel
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Corinne Blackmer & Pilar Stewart
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Mary Doyle-Fritz Zuskin with sympathy on the passing of Thomas Nikkel by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Jonathan Freiman & Rachel Light in honor of their recent

- marriage by Irwin Gardner
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Edward & Mary Pergiovanni
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Jay Brown
- To Hana Feldman in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Mimi & Effi Glenn
- To Hana Feldman in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Mimi & Effi Glenn
- To Willa & Howard Needler in honor of the birth of their grandson in Israel by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Barbara Reese with sympathy on the passing of Belle Reese by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Erin & Ben Karsif with wishes for a speedy recovery for her mother Cheryl Moulthrop by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Barbara Reese with sympathy on the passing of Belle Reese by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Ruth Silver
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Vi & Charlie Ludwig
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Bob & Susan Spear
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by BEKI Sisterhood
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Al & Marge Barnett
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Goldie & Zelly Goldberg

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

- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Leon Cummings
- To David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Leon Cummings
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Fran Switkes
- To Mary Doyle-Fritz Zuskin with sympathy on the passing of Thomas Nekkel by Leon Cummings
- To Barbara Reese with sympathy on the passing of Belle Reese by Leon Cummings
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Harriet & Noel Barstein
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Adele Tyson
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Rheba Newman
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Bea Smirnoff

#### **BEKI Religious School**

 To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

#### The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To David Wright & Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max Brunswick by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Raina Sotsky & Morris Bell with sympathy on the passing of Mara Brill by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

## The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of Evelyn Kahn by Richard & Michael Kahn
- To Mikki Ratner in honor of the birth of her great-granddaughter by Adele Altschuler
- To the Kiddush Committee with many thanks from the Ratner family
- In memory of Nancy Gimble by the Ratner family
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Max

Brunswick by Mikki Ratner

## Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In memory of Ida & Isadore Frankel by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Esther Mattler Black by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of David Black by Shirley Mattler

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

- In memory of her father Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In memory of his mother-inlaw Gertrude Slopak by David Schwartz
- In memory of Rose Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Mollie Friedman by Claire & Bud Volain
- In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- In memory of Sally Zanrotsky by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Ruth Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
- In memory of Samuel Miller by Rich & Vicki Miller
- In memory of Wilbur Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- In memory of Ben Siegel by Debbie & Lou Siegel
- In memory of Ronda Bromberg by Debbie & Lou Siegel
- In memory of Abraham Golden by Judy & Martin Short
- In memory of Saul Ripps by Ronald Ripps
  In memory of Sid Cushen by
- Barbara Cushen
   In memory of Jack Yasgar by
- Howard Yasgar

  In memory of Morris Oppenheim
- by Joyce & Michael Bohnen

   In memory of Sam Miller by
- Howard Miller
   In memory of William Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Anita & Michael Malina
- In memory of James Barnett by Caroline Barnett
- In memory of Ida Rogoff Byer by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Max Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Murray Arshell by Mike Moscowitz

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#### **Purim**

Continued from Page 12

## **BEKI Purim (Festive Meal)**

A Purim Seuda (Feast) will be held at BEKI on Sunday Morning March 16; payment and reservation are required.

#### **Shushan Purim**

Persons who live in ancient cities that were walled in the 13th century BCE (such as Jerusalem and Mundigak, Afghanistan) will celebrate Purim a day later, and one dollar shorter, than the rest of the Jewish world. The observance of Shushan Purim is Sunday night March 16 and Monday March 17. At BEKI this day will be marked liturgically by the omission of the recitation of tahanun prayer. Also on this date, we will not recite the Star Spangled Banner, Yellow Submarine, The Gettysburg Address, and Miranda Rights. Please join us on Sunday evening at 5:45, and then again on Monday morning at 7, for this joyous non-recital marking Shushan Purim.

# WINDOWS 2014 UPDATE

The *Bulletin* reported in <u>January</u> that BEKI has been awarded a matching grant option from the <u>Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven</u> and the <u>Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven</u> to replace windows on the east and north side of the building. This matching grant option of \$37,000 is part of the Federation and Foundation's \$1 million program to support existing institutions through strengthening infrastructure or supporting innovative programming.

In order to receive the full \$37,000, BEKI will need to raise its full share of the match, at least \$37,000. If we are able to raise more than that, we can address our building needs on a more optimal schedule. As we approach spring, the project will begin. This is the last opportunity for contributors who wish to take advantage of the matching grant, which effectively doubles the value of a contribution.

The work order will be placed this winter, and the windows will be installed in the spring and summer. We are trying to schedule the work to minimize the disruption to ongoing synagogue activities and special events.

To learn more about the project, or to provide significant support, please contact Peggy at <a href="mailto:office@beki.org">office@beki.org</a> (203.389.2108 x14), who can direct your communication to the person in charge of technical or financial aspects of the project, or contact Jay Sokolow or Rabbi Tilsen <a href="mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org">jjtilsen@beki.org</a> 203.389.2108 x10 about funding. Directed donations should be made to "Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel" with a memo or note "Windows."

The <u>November BEKI Bulletin</u> described a new major building maintenance and renovation project in the works for 2014. The "Windows 2014" project will replace origi-

nal single-pane and mostly non-working windows in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel, as well as in the office and some classrooms. Deterioration in the associated masonry will be addressed at the same time. Installation of new custom-manufactured windows will enhance energy efficiency and ventilation, provide better temperature control, eliminate the water penetration and damage to masonry, finishes and office equipment, and will control dampness and mold. The new windows will also enhance safety and security.

All of these windows will have to be replaced, but we are determined to avoid over-extending our resources. It is most efficient if we can replace all of them at once, but the needs have been prioritized. If we don't replace all of these windows now, there will be a similar-sized project sooner or later. Thanks to the efforts of Barbara Rader, Dennis Rader, Bob Spear, Eric Dunsker, David Wright, Jay Sokolow and the officers, a detailed plan has been prepared.

## **Paying Corporate Taxes?**

Business firms or partners of firms that do business in Connecticut and are taxed under Chapters 207 through 213a of the Connecticut General Statutes may be eligible for tax credits of up to 100% from the State of Connecticut, as well as other deductions, for qualifying contributions between \$250 and \$130,000 to Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel through the State's "Neighborhood Assistance Act" for non-profits. If you or a person or a corporation you are involved in may be able to support BEKI through this mechanism, please contact Rabbi Tilsen (jjtilsen@beki.org 203.389.2108 x10) or Peggy Hackett (office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x14) at your earliest opportunity. Strict deadlines apply.

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## March 2014

### 29 Adar I 5774 - 29 Adar II 5774

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

## Shemura Hamantaschen

Extra-kosher hand-made Shemura Hamantaschen made with poppy seed filling guarded by long-bearded pious Jewish men dancing and carrying large Talmud folios are available wherever fine Jewish foods are sold. Place your order now to avoid disappointment.

Outurday

Pekude Shabbat Shekalim Exodus II Kings Isaiah 10:45am Children's Programs

Qiddush: Levine/Hallo/Saxe 5:25pm Minha-Maariv

29 Adar I

						29 Adar I
2 Rosh Hodesh I Numbers 9:00am Religious School	3 Rosh Hodesh II Numbers 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour	4	5 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	6 12:00pm Talmud Study Group	7 Talia Weintraub Bat Mitzva 5:33pm Candle Lighting	8 Vayikra Talia Weintraub Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Weintraub 5:30pm Minha-Maariv
30 Adar I	1 Adar II	2 Adar II	3 Adar II	4 Adar II	5 Adar II	6 Adar II
9 8:45am-9:45am Tefillin Workshop 9:00am Religious School 10:00am New Member Brunch	10 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	11 7:30pm Israeli Dance	9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	13 Fast of Esther Exodus Isaiah 12:00pm Talmud Study Group	14 6:41pm (EDT) Candle Lighting	15 Tzav Shabbat Zakhor Deuteronomy I Samuel 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Benson-Tilsen 1:00pm Shabbat Shmooze with artist Elanit Kayne 5:45pm (EDT) Minha 8:00pm Megilla Reading & Purim Bag Pick-up
7 Adar II	8 Adar II	9 Adar II	10 Adar II	11 Adar II	12 Adar II	13 Adar II
16 Purim Exodus 9:00am Religious School/Purim Celebration 9:00am Megila Reading 11:00am Purim Seuda & Purim Bag Pick-up	17 Shushan Purim 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour	18 7:30pm Israeli Dance	9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	20 12:00pm Talmud Study Group	21 Jacob Lettick Bar Mitzva 6:48pm Candle Lighting	22 Shemini Shabbat Parah Numbers Ezekiel Jacob Lettick Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Lettick 5:45pm Minha
14 Adar II	15 Adar II	16 Adar II	17 Adar II	18 Adar II	19 Adar II	20 Adar II
23 9:00am Religious School	24 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting	25 7:30pm Israeli Dance	26 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	27 12:00pm Talmud Study Group	28 BEKI Shabbaton featuring Rabbi Stuart Kelman "Shaharit In 3 Acts" 6:00pm Minha-Maariv 6:56pm Candle Lighting 7:00pm Shabbat Dinner (reservations required) 8:15pm Act I:"The Shema & Its Blessings"	29 Tazria Shabbat Hahodesh Exodus Ezekiel Darshan: Rabbi Kelman - Act 2:"Torah Service: Learning & Acting" 10:45am Kild's Programs Oiddush: TBA 1:15pm Act 3:"Getting Intimate-The Amida" 5:45pm Minha
21 Adar II	22 Adar II	23 Adar II	24 Adar II	25 Adar II	26 Adar II	27 Adar II
30 9:00am Shaharit and	31 7:45am Rashi Study Group	1,400		Ch.	iakan Caraus	.1

31 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 29 Adar II

Brunch 11:00am Chat with Rabbi

Kelman "Shmira & Chevra Kadisha"

28 Adar II



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## **BEKI BARFS**

Our Membership Committee is at it again. On Sunday March 16 we are especially encouraging attendance at the daily service (9 a.m.) by asking members to invite a relative or friend to come to BEKI. Please help us in making **Bring A Relative or Friend to Shul** on (BEKI BARFS) a projectile success.

### **Kashrut Alert**

Humantaschen made by The Soylent Green Company are not pareve and are not koshercertified. They may not be served at BEKI events and are not recommended for kosher homes. For more information see <a href="www.kinahara.org">www.kinahara.org</a> The Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly



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