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BEKI Bulletin

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

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Days of Awe

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the High Holy Days, as he did in 5773. Michael is a BEKI alumnus and a student of Rabbi Alan Lovins, who served as Hazzan Rishon for seventeen years. In addition to Michael, the services will again be led by BEKI members serving as volunteer *hazzanim*. Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services, as he has each year since 1993.



Michael Stern

Services are organized and led entirely by our members. Generally, Michael will lead the morning Torah service and musaf on all three days, as well as Kol Nidre, Maariv and Neila on Yom Kippur. Birkhot ha-Shahar (morning blessings) and Pesuqei de-Zimra (Verses of Song) represent a poetry reading that creates or reinforces a spiritually sensitive atmosphere, which is an experience unto itself as well as prelude to the recitation of Shema and Amida. Shaharit morning services, essentially the recitation of Shema and Amida, include popular “sing along” Hebrew *piyyutim* (poems). Musaf services, the particular additional Amida for the holy day, include several interpretative or contemporary English readings as well as cantorial (and sometimes choral) elaborations. The shofar is sounded after the haftara reading and again during musaf on both days of Rosh HaShana. The recitation of Shema and hearing the shofar are both considered Biblical precepts not to be missed.

Tickets are required for adult entrance to most services. Among other reasons, this is to ensure the safety and security of the Congregation. Full-time students and military

personnel on active duty may enter upon presentation of proper identification. Every person in the building must be identified before entry and is subject to search.

Some of the ushers serving during the Holy Days may be new members. Veteran members who do not recognize the ushers are urged to introduce themselves, as our ushers wish to meet as many members and visitors as they can. If you forget your tickets, our ushers will be able to find your name on the members or guests list.

For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in children’s services. For registration information, contact office@beki.org or (203) 389-2108 x14.

If you are interested in babysitting service, please contact office@beki.org or (203) 389-2108 x14. Walk-in babysitting is *not* available and will not be available at all services unless a prior arrangement is made. Children and infants are welcome in the sanctuary; quiet non-electric toys are permitted.

Rosh HaShana

The date of Rosh HaShana with respect to the civil calendar is the earliest (night of Sept. 4) this year that it has been in the lifetime of our members; the next time the holi-

day occurs on Sept. 5 will be the year 2089 (may we merit good and long life).

Rosh HaShana services begin Wednesday night Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 7:15. Candle Light-

ing is at 7:03. The service concludes by 7:50 p.m. Morning services begin at 8:30 on Thursday Sept. 5; several services for children and youth, and a learners’ service, are held as well. Shofar is sounded at about 10:30 a.m. in the sanctu-



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Days of Awe

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ary; please come to the sanctuary at that hour, or as directed by the ushers, if you are elsewhere in the building.

Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held on the *first* day of Rosh HaShana, Thursday Sept. 5, at 6 p.m., at the

Edgewood Bridge and at the Whitney Museum Covered

Bridge. For *tashlikh* at Beaver Pond Park, contact office@beki.org 389-2108 x14.

The *Tashlikh* service is a popular outdoor event for people of

all ages, and includes a brief prayer, poetry and singing. It is held beside a body of natural water.

On Thursday afternoon of Rosh HaShana, *minha* service begins at 7 p.m., followed by the evening service at 7:20. Candle lighting is after 8:03.

On Friday Sept. 6, morning services are also at 8:30 a.m. Youth services are held as well. Shofar is sounded on Tuesday morning as well. Afternoon service (*minha*) begins at 6 o’clock on Friday, and is followed immediately by the Shabbat evening service, ending at 6:45 (ending time incorrectly printed on earlier publications). Candle lighting is 7 p.m. Because Shabbat immediately follows the Holy Day, the weekly *Qabbalat Shabbat* service is abbreviated and comprises only the Psalm for Shabbat, according to common practice.

For instructions on preparing meals for Shabbat in compliance with halakhic considerations in light of the three-day sequence, please see *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals* p. 306 s.v. *Eruv Tavshilin*.

Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services

The annual Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Hamden Cemetery, and at 11:30 a.m. at the West Haven Cemetery on Sunday Sept. 8, which is the Sunday *between* Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. The hour is 30 minutes later than most years because

of the longer morning service marking *Tsom Gedalia* that coincides this year with the Sunday of Qever Avot. Rabbi Tilsen will lead a brief communal memorial service and will be available for individual prayers.



Those who wish to visit the graves of their ancestors or loved ones but are unable to do so because of distance are invited to attend along with those whose loved ones are buried in the BEKI cemeteries. If you would like a ride to the service, please contact the office a few days in advance.

In addition, a representative of the Cemetery Association will be present to answer questions and concerns of those owning or considering the purchase of plots at the BEKI cemeteries. Now is a good time to purchase your choice of prime locations for traditional Jewish burial in these historic cemeteries. Members enjoy a substantial discount; only traditionally honored remains of legally Jewish persons may be interred in these cemeteries.

Directions to the cemeteries and more information can be found at www.beki.org/cemetery.html. For information on cemetery purchases or upkeep, please contact the BEKI Cemetery Association at cemetery@beki.org or (203) 389-2108 x57.

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Days of Awe

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Yom Kippur

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Friday Sept. 13, the Mincha service begins at 6:45 p.m. Candle Lighting is 6:48 p.m. (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 7:05 and end by 9. Shacharit services begin at 9 a.m.; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11 a.m. The Mincha Afternoon service begins at 5, and is followed immediately by the Neila and Maariv services. The services end with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:45 p.m.

George G. Posener Break Fast

Following the concluding Yom Kippur services on Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) Sept. 14, please join us as we gather for our amazing community Break Fast. For many years, George G. Posener sponsored the break fast in memory of his family. George G. Posener died on Yom Kippur 5772 (2011), so this year the break fast honors his memory as well.



George G. Posener

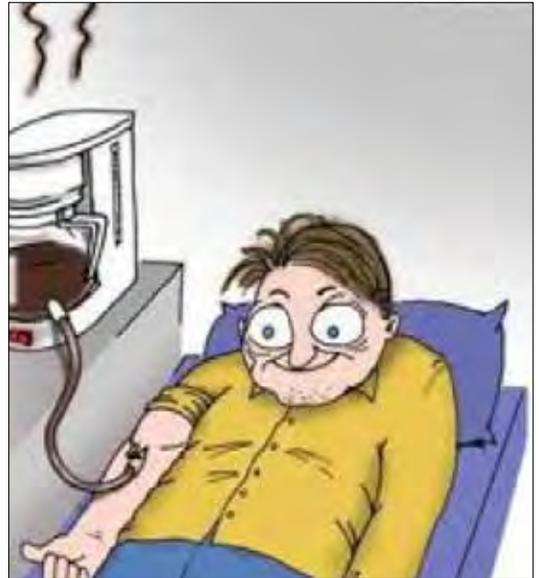
The George G. Posener Family Memorial Break Fast is prepared entirely by members of the BEKI community. Overseen by Darryl Kuperstock and Linden Grazier, most of the preparation and all of the cooking is done in advance, but the assembly and plating (and clean-up) of this banquet is

done by the fantastic volunteers who join us in the kitchen during the afternoon break on Yom Kippur. It's fun, intense, and extremely satisfying – so come help us out this year.

The **George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break Fast Fund at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel** in *blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons* was established by George G. Posener in 2001 to create a lasting memorial at the time of the *yahrzeits* of his family members. Proceeds from this endowment provide for a special and meaningful community gathering at the end of Yom Kippur. The Posener Fund is held and managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.



AWESOME TIPS



In preparation for the full-day fast of Yom Kippur, it is suggested that caffeine users reduce their intake to reduce withdrawal symptoms on the Holy Day. Some people avoid wearing leather shoes on Yom Kippur, so do not be surprised to see canvas sneakers or other non-leather shoes in use. Some also follow the custom of wearing a *kittel* (white robe) or other white garments on Yom Kippur. People who need to eat or drink or take medication on Yom Kippur may speak with an usher, or contact the office in advance, for assistance if needed. Rabbi Tilsen notes that “People for whom fasting represents a significant medical threat are prohibited from fasting. Water, milk or a simple meal should be consumed as needed.”

Taking a Stand

While it is customary to stand for some parts of the service, those for whom standing is difficult, impossible or dangerous should feel comfortable sitting. Rabbi Tilsen comments that “You get five points for answering ‘Amen!’ but only one point for standing, so keep it in perspective. This applies to people of all ages.”

Sukkot, Shemini Atseret and Simhat Torah

Sukkot is Coming

If you feel a sense of loss at the end of the High Holy Days, do not despair: it is time for Sukkot, called *the* Festival by our ancestors. Lulav & Etrog are used each day of Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabba. Information on the festival observances and schedules are published at www.beki.org/sukkot.html.

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Sunday Sept. 15 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come when you can. Add a personal touch by bringing some of your own *sekhakh* (evergreen branches are preferred) for the roof to enhance the beauty and aroma of our congregational *sukka*. Breakdown and storage are planned for Sunday Sept. 29, following *Shaharit*. Bring gloves; portable power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information and to let us know if you can help, contact David Kuperstock (203) 415-4026 or ndk1024@gmail.com.

Lulav & Etrog Orders

BEKI Religious School will offer *lulav* and *etrog* sets. To order, please contact Ina at principal@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x13.

Sukkot & Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Sukkot begins on Wednesday evening Sept. 18. Minha afternoon service begins at 5:45 p.m., followed immediately by the evening service, ending at 6:20. The services will be held in the Sukka, weather permitting. Candle lighting on Wednesday night is at 6:39.

The morning service on Thursday Sept. 19 begins at 9:15 and includes the recitation of Hallel, waving of Lulav and Etrog, and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Services on Thursday night also begin at 5:45, but candle lighting on Thursday is after 7:39. Services on Friday morning Sept. 20 are from 9:15 to 11:36 and again include the taking of Lulav and Etrog.

Candle lighting on Friday night Sept. 20 is at 6:36. Services begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 9:15 on Shabbat morning. We do not use Lulav and Etrog on Shabbat.

Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Shabbat Hol HaMoed, Saturday Sept. 21, is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet

(“Ecclesiastes”). Qohelet, attributed by tradition to King Solomon in his old age, is a “wisdom” book that many see as being out of step with the rest of the Torah. While it includes such well-known passages as “To everything there is a season” and “There is nothing new under the sun,” it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody.

Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon service begins at 5:45 and ends about 6:20.

Hol HaMoed Sukkot

“Hol HaMoed,” also known as the “intermediate” days of the festival, are those days between the first two and last two days of Sukkot (and of Pesah). They have a “semi-holiday” status. The rules against *melakha* (“work”) that apply on Shabbat and Festivals are not fully in force during this period, although we are encouraged to take this time as a holiday and to avoid work as much as possible. Our weekday morning services are enhanced with a brief Torah reading, the recitation of the musical “Hallel” section of Psalms, and a brief Musaf (additional) service. Weekday morning services thus take 60 minutes, instead of our usual 30 to 45 minutes. Afternoon and evening services are the usual length. The *lulav* (branches) and *etrog* (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to eat is to live) in a *sukka*. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI *sukka*. Some people do not wear tefillin during Hol HaMoed; others (common Ashkenazic practice outside of Israel) wear them for shaharit but remove them before Hallel.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Wednesday Sept. 25 begins at 7 and ends by 8:50. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the *sukka* or shul with *lulav* and *etrog* (palm and citron) and the *hoshana* service in which willow twigs are beaten on the chairs. Special holiday melodies make this an unforgettable spiritual experience. Be sure to come to this “service for all ages.”

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Festival

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Hoshana Rabba is a semi-festival on which work is *not* strictly prohibited as it is on the major festivals. It serves as a “closing ceremony” for the weeklong Sukkot observance in preparation for the concluding festival of Shemini Atseret. Weather permitting, the Hoshana Rabba service will be in the sukka.

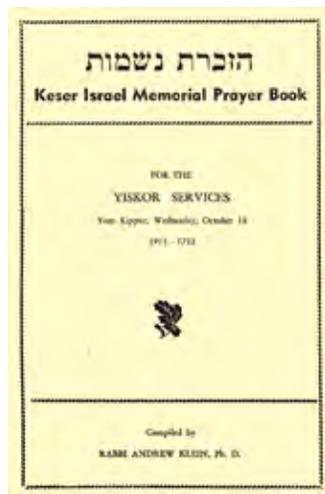
Must be at work or school before service ends? Come for shaharit, Hallel and Torah service, or as much as you can. Dropping off kids at Ezra Academy or another destination? Come for the later part of the service, and wave lulav and etrog following the directions in the red Siddur on page 49 or ask for assistance from another member.

This year, Shabbat immediately follows the festivals. As cooking on the festivals is permitted only for enjoyment on the festivals, and cooking for Shabbat must be completed before the onset of Shabbat, special measures may be taken. For instructions on preparing meals for Shabbat in compliance with halakhic considerations in light of the three-day sequence, please see *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals* p. 306 s.v. *Eruv Tavshilin*.

Shemini Atseret & Yizkor Memorial Service

The Festival of Shemini Atseret (“Eighth Day of Assembly”) serves as a conclusion to the autumn Festival of Sukkot (“Booths”). The festival begins Wednesday night Sept. 25. The *minha* service begins at 5:45 p.m.; the festival *maariv* service begins immediately after, about 5:55 p.m. It is customary to light a memorial candle on that night immediately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 6:27 (or earlier).

During the morning service, which begins at 9:15 on Thursday Sept. 26, Hallel is chanted. The unique festival *nusah* (musical mode) is used for this service. For Carole Bass’s comment on Hallel, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak2Wqg2Xyks> (youtube cv “Carole Bass Hallel”).



The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini Atseret liturgy. In the Yizkor service we call upon the memories of our ancestors and loved ones who, while not physically present, are part of our “Assembly.” During that memorial service, individual and communal prayers and remembrances will be offered for all of our departed loved ones.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. *Minha* services begin at 5:45 p.m. and evening services begin at 6 on Thursday Sept. 26. Evening services include seven *haqafot* (circumambulatory dances) with Torah scrolls and a brief Torah reading, the only time that we read Torah in public at night. Candle lighting on Thursday night is *after* 7:27.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15 on Friday Sept. 27. Three Torah scrolls are removed from the ark (around 10 a.m.) and seven brief *haqafot* are conducted. The final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, *parashat Ve-Zot Ha-Berakha*, are read, followed by the opening passages of the Book of Genesis, part of *parasha Bereishit*. This concludes the annual Torah reading cycle, and begins the new cycle. This is particularly joyful at BEKI because so many members are involved in Torah reading throughout the year, and these readers dedicate considerable effort to preparing accurate and melodious chantings. A *maftir* portion is read from Numbers, which describes the observance of Shemini Atseret in the ancient Temple. The *haftara* is recited from the opening passages of Joshua, which is the sequel to Deuteronomy, sometimes called the “sixth book” of the Five Books of Moses. Goodie Bags will be presented by the [Sisterhood](#) to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. Afternoon *minha* service begins at 6 o’clock as is usual for Friday nights at BEKI, and is followed by the *Maariv* service, ending about 6:40 (earlier than usual). Shabbat candle lighting is 6:24.

Annual BEKI Family Sukka Hop

Date: Thursday Sept. 19

Time: Departs 12:45 p.m.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; please RSVP to Miriam, (203) 389-6137, by Sept. 14 so hosts can plan. Each minor child must be with a parent; please wear good walking shoes for the trek; bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks; and running strollers for your little ones.





Leisawitz and Viale family with six-week old brings meal to Oppenheimer family with newborn.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

When a person appears before the Throne of Judgment, the first question asked is *not*, ‘Have you believed in God?’ or ‘Have you prayed or performed ritual acts?’ But, ‘Have you dealt honorably, faithfully in all your dealings with your fellow human beings?’

How we deal with one another, whether through action or language, is a reflection of our commitment to *derekh erez* – respect.

The Yom Kippur liturgy enjoins us to reflect on personal behavior and focuses principally on sins of speech and impaired interpersonal relations.

The rabbis asked: What is the most important day of the year? The answer: the day *after* Yom Kippur. That is when we determine if our prayers were sincere.

This year we hope that our focus on respect (*derekh erez*) will heighten sensitivity within our sisterhood and in the lives of our members.

I asked for **strength**, and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for **wisdom**, and God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for **prosperity**, and God gave me brawn

and brain to work.

I asked for **courage**, and God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for **favours**, and God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted.

I received everything I needed.

My prayers were answered.

Thank you for joining Sisterhood last year. We are looking to achieve 100 percent membership participation this year. Dues are still only \$25 for the year. An invitation to join will follow in October with more details.

Before you know it **Hanuka** will be here (early this year). The first candle is the night of Nov. 27; the second is Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day.

Our **BEKI Gift Shop** will have many new gifts for purchase for children, friends, relatives and your home.

BEKI Sisterhood wishes all our member congregants a Happy and Healthy New Year bright with hope and filled with peace and happiness.

Torah Fund

As we enter a new year I want to thank everyone who

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Sisterhood

Continued from Page 8

made a commitment to the Torah Fund Campaign last year.

You can continue to do so just by purchasing cards for all occasions or by becoming a Benefactor. Join hundreds of other Jewish women across the U.S. in supporting The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) as a Benefactor at \$180.:

Mishpaha: Family

Not for nothing does the Torah begin with stories about families. The family in Judaism holds a central place, from the first family beginning with Adam and Eve through our own. Indeed the *Amida* prayer invokes our relationship to those first Jewish families, praising the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, as a reminder that our connection as a community roots back to the fact that we are all – the entire Jewish people – one big family.

In choosing *Mishpaha* as the theme for the 5774 Torah Fund pin, as well as for the Women’s League focus for 5774, we are acknowledging both the sanctity that comes with being one big family and the complexity of our families and relationships. Today, there is no one kind of Jewish family. Our families are diverse and this pin, reflecting that diversity, is something to be worn proudly by women in all stages and kinds of family life: married, single, divorced, widowed, gay, straight, mothers, aunts, sisters, daughters. And as we support the programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, and Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, we proclaim that we as women in all walks of life are proudly shaping the future of the big, three-thousand-year-old Jewish family.



5774 Torah Fund pin

You can also support the JTS just by sending cards for any occasion. They are only \$4 and include the stamp.

Thanking all who supported Women’s League Torah Fund: Benefactors and those who purchase cards not only receive the 5774 pin but have the honor of supporting Jewish men and women at the Seminary who will become our rabbis, cantors, teachers and lay leaders.

Women’s League for Conservative Judaism through Torah Fund is insuring our legacy to future generations of Conservative Jews.

Call Barbara Cushen to become a Benefactor (also would make a lovely gift to your wife, daughter or mother) or to send cards – (203) 407-0314.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair for BEKI Sisterhood



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Buying Groceries?

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



Anna Ruth Oppenheimer



Madeline Arielle Gersch and Sarah Levine

HaNoledet BeMazal Tov

Mazal tov to Cyd & Mark Oppenheimer, and their children Rebekah, Elisabeth, and Klara, on the birth of their daughter and sister Anna Ruth in July.

Mazal tov to parents Sarah Levine & Timothy Gersch, and grandparents Sid & Donna Levine, on the birth of Madeline Arielle Gersch in August.

Mazal tov to

Jonathan Freiman and Rachel Light on their engagement for qiddushin (marriage under a huppa) in September

Judy Hoberman on receiving the Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award from the Connecticut Bar Association

Yonatan Yussman, Head of School, Jewish High School of Connecticut on the School's receiving full accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Benei Mitzva

Noah Sobel-Lewin, son of Suzanne Sobel & David Lewin, Oct. 4-5, *parashat Noah*, Rosh Hodesh Heshvan

Hana Feldman, daughter of Martin Feldman and of the late Cathy Schwartz, Jan. 10-11, 2014, *parashat BeShalah*

For a complete list of scheduled benei mitzva observances, and for info on the Benei Mitzva Preparation Program, see <http://www.beki.org/beneim.html> . For date reservation, contact office@beki.org .

The first meeting of the Benei Mitzva Preparation class this term is Wednesday Oct. 2 from 5 to 6:20 p.m. Registration at www.beki.org/forms/bmp.pdf .

Welcome New Members and their Families

Nancy Levene and Kinneret

Mark & Linda Malkin

Richard & Leatrice Brodner

Kadima News

Dear Parents,

As many of you already know, I won't be returning next year as the BEKI-BJ Kadima Advisor. I've very much enjoyed leading the group this past year. Organizing and hosting the events has been a lot of fun, particularly because all of the Kadimaniks have been so amazing. Over the past year, I've been continually impressed by the openness, comradery, and enthusiasm of our group. BEKI-BJ Kadima truly is an exceptional organization! And this, of course, is due in no small part to the parents whose participation and support have made our activities possible. (Thank you again.)



Kadimaniks, USYers, Parents & Advisor Steve at Lighthouse Point

Although I'll be exploring new opportunities in New Haven, I've been asked to stay involved through the BEKI-BJ Youth Commission. So, I'll still be around next year! And as always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any Kadima issues. (My personal email address is shwerlin@gmail.com.)

As we look ahead to the coming year, the Youth Commission has decided to combine the responsibilities of the Kadima Advisor and USY (high school students) Advisor into a single position: Youth Coordinator. I have pasted the official job announcement below. In addition, I'd like to point out that, in the past, our youth advisors have come from a variety of backgrounds, from college students to established adults. Many congregations have found that *parents* often make the best youth advisors, in part because they are more personally invested and experienced. I encourage any parents interested in the position to contact me or another member of the Youth Commission for more information. It's a wonderful way to actively be part of the "village" that raises our children.

– Steve Werlin

Seeking Youth Coordinator for Grades 4-12

The Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission is seeking a Youth Coordinator. This is a new 20-hour/week position, reporting to the Youth Commission. If you are interested, please apply (see below). If you know an appropriate candidate, please forward this announcement:

We are seeking a dynamic Youth Coordinator to run the Kadima/USY programs sponsored jointly by Congregations Beth-El Keser Israel (BEKI) and B'nai Jacob. This is a 20-hour/week position, providing top pay. Our ideal candidate must have a background working with youth, and, preferably, prior personal or professional involvement with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) (e.g., USY, Nativ, Ramah, Day School, Religious School). Our Youth Coordinator must be self-motivated, organized, computer savvy, able to work independently, and must have strong verbal and written communication skills appropriate for middle-schoolers, teens, and adults. Car ownership is required. If interested, please email letter of interest and resume to: BEKIBJyouthcommission@gmail.com. Full job description is available at <http://bekibjkadima.blogspot.com/p/jobs.html>.

Best, Steve Werlin

An Introduction to Kadima and USY

Welcome to Kadima and USY! Our United Synagogue youth groups are sponsored jointly by both Congregations BEKI and BJ, and are overseen by our volunteer Joint Youth Commission and our professional Youth Coordinator. Kadima is for 5th through 8th graders. USY (United Synagogue Youth) is for 9th through 12th graders, and 8th graders beginning in January.

We offer many chapter and regional activities throughout the school year, and, in the summer, there are U.S. and Israel trips and a weeklong tri-regional summer camp at the end of August. Local activities include hikes, games, ice skating, sleepovers, Shabbat dinners, and tiqun olam activities to help others. You can find our activities listed at both Synagogues' websites and weekly e-newsletters, and our teen leadership and Youth Coordinator will make contact with parents and teens throughout the year.

We hope your pre-teen and teen will join the fun! Have them bring a Jewish friend - we have had youth group members from Danbury to Essex, and from many different schools in the Greater New Haven region.

Rena Cheskis-Gold and Susan Dardik
Representatives, Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission



USY Update

As we say goodbye to days at the beach and the sticky, sugary bliss that is a hot popsicle in the sweltering New Haven heat, BEKI-BJ USYers are gearing up for another action-packed year. Our new board can't wait to share some of their goals with you.

Batsheva Labowe-Stoll (a junior at the Jewish High School of CT), our Religious Education VP, plans to hold holiday-specific USY meetings to help members get into the spirit with fun facts, activities, and an overview of the meaning and practice behind the observance.

Eva Gerber (a junior at the Jewish High School of CT), our Social Action/Tikkun Olam VP, promises not only to survey members in order to discover what causes are most meaningful to them, but also offer a wide variety of community service activities, ranging from fundraisers (such as auctions and our pie-bake) to field trips (visits to soup kitchens and senior homes) as well as much more.

Elie Azoff-Slifstein (a sophomore at Hamden Hall Country Day School), our Membership/Kadima VP, would like to reach out more to the B'nai Jacob community, encouraging BEKI USYers to attend services there more frequently, and is planning overnights at current USYers homes to help incoming members and transitioning Kadimaniks feel welcomed into their new USY family.

Noa Shapiro-Franklin (a junior at Amity Regional High School), our Communications VP, sums it all up by saying, "I want to show how amazing our chapter is by increasing membership, doubling event attendance, and ultimately doing the best that we can to win chapter of the year!" After their move from Ohio, we are so excited to welcome Noa and her family (David Franklin, Rona Shapiro--the new rabbi at B'nai Jacob – and Noa's sister Hallel) into our lives and our community.

As for me, I am thrilled by the excitement and commitment of our board. I think that all of our officers and members share a passion for USY and the way that it brings

us together to celebrate our Jewish identity, learn and laugh more, and make the school year special. You'll be hearing from us a lot over the year—we have already begun to plan our events, meetings, and SA/TO initiatives, and we can't wait to share it all with you. Please feel free to talk to us anytime, including after services or during our weekly meetings. Though the summer may be over, the opening of a fresh new year of USY means we're delighted that the school year's begun.

B'Shalom, Natalie May, 2013-14 BEKI-BJ USY President, Senior at the Jewish High School of Connecticut



Free Israel Trips this Winter for College Students and Young Professionals

Are you looking for an unforgettable trip to Israel this winter? On Taglit-Birthright Israel with Israel Experience, you'll spend 10 days witnessing Israel's natural beauty, networking with its innovators, examining its history, debating its politics, living it up in Tel Aviv, and participating in social action projects to leave your positive mark on Israel. We have trips for college students and young professionals. Registration opens on Sept.10 and lasts for only a few days. Sign up here for important trip updates: <http://www.freejourneytoisrael.org/getmore>

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דרשנים

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 in the coming weeks.

Noah Sobel-Lewin, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Oct. 5, parashat Noah.

Nadav Sela, marking the 60th anniversary of becoming a bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Nov. 2, parashat Toldot.

Nanette Stahl will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning Nov. 16, parashat VaYishlah.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, with Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela, David Kuperstock, Isaiah Cooper, Rabbi Eric Silver and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many

members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

New Book: 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 now beginning the Book of Shemuel (Samuel). Characters in the narrative



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



David Kuperstock



Eric Silver



Jon-Jay Tilsen

include the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David, Mikhal, Batsheva, and more. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. Hebrew and English texts are available. The RSG meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

On Monday Sept. 2, Labor Day, and on Monday Oct. 14, Columbus Day, the morning service begins at 9, and the RSG meets from 9:45 to 10:30.

Tuesdays

Hebrew (עברית)

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

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 180-second “Hebrew word of the Week” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural

Continued on **Page 14**

Adult Studies

Continued from Page 13

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. The group is on summer recess and resumes on Wednesday 9 October. 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. Shoharit service is from 8:15 to 9:15 on Thurs-

days; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

New Time: The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets on Thursdays during the lunch hour (noon to 1). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants,

this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The

Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

The 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 is in summer recess and will resume on Thursday Oct. 3 (after the festivals).

Hebrew: Modern and



Isaiah Cooper

Prayerbook Hebrew

See description, above, under “Tuesdays”

New: Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot

Six Thursday Nights in October & November 2013. Each Thursday Night beginning Oct. 10 from 6:15 to 7:20 p.m. in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Library, Immediately following 5:45 afternoon & evening service.

A survey for adults wishing an overview of the Principles of Jewish thought and life. Ideal for people new to Judaism, considering conversion, or wishing to begin a systematic study and practice of Judaism. Areas of investigation include The Torah • Halakha (Jewish Law) • The Mitzva System • 3,600 Years of Jewish History • God of Israel • Fundamental Observances • Conservative & Other Judaisms • Messiah • Eternal Life • Talmud Torah • The Sabbath • Homeland. To register, call (203) 389-2108 x14 or email at office@beki.org. Free. *With Jon-Jay Tilsen*

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.”



Daily Services

Additional participants are needed for the morning service in September and October. Can you come one morning a week? Sunday, 9 to 9:36; Monday 7 to 7:47; Tuesday 7 to 7:32; Wednesday 7 to 7:33; Thursday 8:15 to 9:11; Friday 7 to 7:32. Let us know at jjtilsen@beki.org or just come.

BEKI Religious School Classes Begin

Opening Day for BEKI Religious School is Sunday Sept. 8 at 9 a.m.; register www.beki.org/forms/brs.pdf; info principal@beki.org.

Benei Mitzva Preparation

First class for BEKI Benei Mitzva Preparation Program is Wednesday Oct. 2 at 5 p.m.; register at www.beki.org/forms/bmp.pdf; info jjtilsen@beki.org.

20s-30s Havura Shabbat Dinner

The 20s-30s Havura will hold a cooperative Shabbat (Friday Night) dinner on Friday Oct. 4 following the 6 p.m. services at BEKI, to be held at Will and Mike’s residence. RSVP: Will at perfectexodus@gmail.com, by Sept. 30.



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Andy Weinstein



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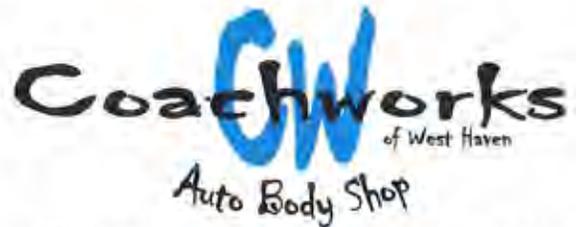
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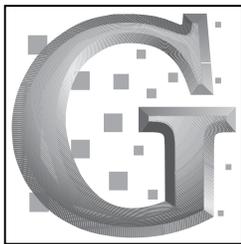
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Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Lou & Lisa Petrillo marking the yearzeit of Peter Meyers
- Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman marking the yearzeit of Jack Frankel
- Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman for mekhirat hamets at Pesah
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving wishing mazal tov on the birth of Anna Ruth Oppenheimer

Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$280)

- The families of Shai Sokolow Silverman & Robyn Drabman
- Linda & Ken Buckman
- Yair Minsky & Ada Fenick
- Charlie & Violet Ludwig
- Shlomit, Rafi, Nimrod, Yoav & Roni Ravid
- Illana & Sean Lazarus
- Ed & Rhoda Lemkin
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving
- Bruce Altman & Darcy McGraw Altman
- Dennis & Barbara Rader
- Steve & Joanne Rudof
- Carole & Paul Bass
- Joe & Ravit Avni-Singer
- Roya Hakakian & Ramin Ahmadi

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

- In honor of Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen by the Colodner & Stanger family
- In honor of Rabbi Joel Levenson by the Colodner & Stanger family
- In honor of Rabbi Eric Silver by the Colodner & Stanger family
- In honor of Dr. Bob Oakes by the Colodner & Stanger family
- In honor of Willa Needler by Sophia Colodner
- To Gloria Cohen with wishes for a full recovery by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Stan Saxe in honor of his birthday by Marge Brown & Burton Cohen
- To Sergio Rodriguez & Randi Rubin in memory of his brother by Steve & Sherry Rothman
- To Stan Saxe in honor of his 85th birthday by Sheila Caplan & Jim Wilkes
- To Jennifer Botwick in memory of her mother Elsie Botwick on the four-year anniversary of her yearzeit by Karen Kassap
- To Arthur Levy with wishes for a speedy recovery by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- To Stan Saxe in honor of his 85th birthday by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To the Sokolow & Silverman family in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Angela Oren in memory of her sister Myra Teleranta by Ruth Silver

- To Angela Oren in memory of her sister Janet Demara Williams by Ruth Silver
- To Daniela Viale & Daniel Leisawitz in honor of the birth of Hannah Gioia by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Daniela Viale & Daniel Leisawitz in honor of the birth of Hannah Gioia by Jonathan Freiman
- To the Abraham family in honor of the birth of Mordechai Halton by Jonathan Freiman
- To Rachel & Steve Wizner in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To BEKI with thanks for the use of the parking lot by Youth Continuum
- To Isaiah Cooper & Lauri Lowell in honor of Daniel's graduation by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Jon-Jay Tilsen & Miriam Benson in honor of Gilah's graduation from college by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Gilah Benson-Tilsen in honor of her graduation, from her grandmother Evelyn Benson
- To the BEKI community with gratitude for being so welcoming by Mark Malkin
- To Steven & Deb DelVecchio with sympathy on the passing of Jessica DelVecchio by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Lesley Frame & Steve Werlin in honor of the birth of Jacob August by Jonathan Freiman
- To BEKI in honor of the late Ida Goldstein's birthday by Richard & Susan Jameson
- To Ivan Sachs in honor of his birthday by Ginger Benowitz
- To the Youth Commission in honor of Darryl Kuperstock by David Margolis
- To Jon-Jay Tilsen & Miriam Benson with thanks by Steven & Barbara Zalesch
- To the Oppenheimer family in honor of the birth of Anna Ruth by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To the Oppenheimer family in honor of the birth of Anna Ruth by Jonathan Freiman
- To the Youth Commission by Anonymous
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of Shai & Robyn's wedding by the Light family
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of Shai & Robyn's wedding by Ruth Silver
- To Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman in honor of Shai & Robyn's wedding by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of the marriage of Shai & Robyn by Rabbi Murray Levine & Goldie Taub
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by the Leikind family
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Jonathan Freiman
- To Ben Sauberman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Birn family
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by the Birn family
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by the Friedman & Bruce family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Al & Marge Barnett
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Marilyn Katz
- To Lesley Frame & Steve Werlin in honor of the birth of Jacob August by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To the Abraham family in honor of the birth of Mordechai Halton by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Daniela Viale & Daniel Leisawitz in honor of the birth of Hannah Gioia by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Lana & Martin Gad

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

- To Harold Miller with wishes for a speedy recovery by Debbie & David Kaye

BEKI Religious School

- To Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by the Stanger & Colodner family
- To the Sokolow & Silverman families in honor of the union of Shai & Robyn by Betsy Ratner

In-Kind Donations

- Two hundred new matching chairs for the downstairs social hall by Robert & Betsy Sachs
- A new refrigerator for the Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee by Jay & Marge Hirshfield

Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedaka Fund

- Anonymous
- To Ben Sauberman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Lana & Martin Gad

The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz

Endowment

- To Marnie & Jerry Ruskin in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary by Janet & Murray Horwitz

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund

- To the Viale & Leisawitz family in honor of the birth of Hannah Gioia by Sid & Donna Levine
- To the Abraham family in honor of the birth of Mordechai Halton by Sid & Donna Levine
- To Lesley Frame & Steve Werlin in honor of the birth of Jacob August by Donna & Sid Levine
- To Noam Benson-Tilsen in honor of his birthday by the Yussman family
- To the Oppenheimer family in honor of the birth of Anna Ruth by Donna & Sid Levine

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of the wedding of Shai & Robyn by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Libby & Mark Abraham in honor of the birth of Mordechai Halton by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- To Mikki Ratner in honor of her 90th birthday by the BEKI Board
- In memory of her mother Marilyn Gimbel by Betsy Ratner
- In loving memory of Arthur Ratner by Betsy, Howie & Shilo Ratner

Hesed Committee

- Anonymous

Prayer Book Inscription

- To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 85th birthday by Susan, Marty, Hanna, & Joshua Squire

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

- In loving memory of her father Louis Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Samuel Siegel by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of William Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds
- In memory of Grace Goldberg Cohen Geisinger by Lewis & Renee Cohen
- In memory of Samuel Kitavitz by Jack & Harriet Kitavitz
- In memory of Samuel Matloff by Harriet & Jack Kitavitz

Continued on Page 18

Dear Rabbi,

I read that there is a water shortage. In some cities and states, lawns have been outlawed. BEKI should be a leader and remove the lawn.

Signed, Water Watcher

Dear Mayim Mavin,

At BEKI, we don't water the lawn. Ever. However, if an interested crew wanted to consider alternative landscaping to conserve resources, reduce maintenance cost (lawn service) or effort (volunteers trimming hedges, clearing roof drains), promote biodiversity, cast favorable shade in the summer (without disturbing sidewalks or clogging the roof drains), or enhance beauty, I am sure the Directors would welcome a proposal. Connecticut is blessed with a lot of rainfall, so we probably don't need a cactus garden, but there is a lot that could be done if you (personally) want to do it. The traditional "lawn" is not a matter of binding tradition of our forebears; it seems to be a European tradition that does not necessarily express our values or esthetics, but is better than a bare lot.

Dear Rabbi,

A day without eating is called a "fast" even though it is the slowest of days, and the meal at the end is called a "breakfast" even though it is at night. Using alcohol or marijuana is prohibited on Yom Kippur even though it is one of the "High" Holy Days. What gives?

Signed, Good Humor Guy

Dear Snow Cone,

To make it worse, some people drive on the parkway and then park in the driveway; others come "on foot," although it is much easier to come on feet. I suggest you take up another language, such as Klingon, that does not have such odd expressions.

Dear Rabbi,

The Torah is clear that we are not supposed to make others work on Shabbat, including non-Jews and [even] beasts of burden. If you mail a letter and it gets delivered on Shabbat, isn't that a violation of the rules?

Signed, Going Postal

Dear Mr. ZIP,

In general, if you ask a non-Jew to perform a service for you but do so in a way that does not require him or her to perform it on Shabbat, there is no violation of the rules. For example, if you drop off your dry cleaning on Friday and they promise a Tuesday pickup, it is really up to the business owner whether they work on Shabbat or not. They are permitted to work on Shabbat, but you are not permitted to make them do so. However, if you want to be pious about it, bring your laundry in on Monday, or mail your letter on Monday and hope it arrives by Friday (good luck with that). But in the name of piety, I have decided to stop the Postal Service from delivering letters on Shabbat, although it might take me a few months to get it implemented nationally. Anything else you want me to do?

Signed, Dear Rabbi

Contributions

Continued from Page 17

- In memory of her mother Hannah Stahl by Nanette Stahl & William Hallo
- In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Bessie Katz by Hy & Karol Katz
- In memory of Rose Appell by Karol & Hy Katz
- In memory of Raye Leavitt by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Alan Jay Hodes by Joyce & David Popowski
- In memory of Louis Hodes by Joyce & David Popowski
- In memory of Isadore Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Miriam Zerwitz by Ronald Zlotoff
- In memory of Maurice Henowitz by Anita Henowitz
- In memory of Richard Weinstein

- by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Benjamin Braginsky by Sidney Braginsky
- In memory of his father Ezra Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Dov-Bear Naiman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of her sister Francis G. Smith by Shirley Chain
- In memory of her sister Eva G. Rozycki by Shirley Chain
- In memory of her sister Kate G. Margolis by Shirley Chain
- In memory of her husband Harold Chain by Shirley Chain
- In memory of Grace Goldberg Cohen Geisinger by Carol Cohen & Sandra Blair
- In memory of Geraldine Hershman Lappie by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Grace Geisinger by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Samuel Garfinkel by Lawrence & Doralee Garfinkel

- In memory of Morton Benson by Evelyn Benson
- In memory of Louis Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Ruth Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Everett Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- In memory of Raymond Snyder by Zelda & Irwin Snyder
- In memory of Sondra Herschderfer by Sherman & David Herschderfer
- In memory of Debra Steinberg by Anita Henowitz
- In memory of Louis Hoffman by Bea Sherman
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- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Betty Swinkin
- In memory of George Ralph Schnitman by Helene & Ed Vanderhoef
- In memory of her aunt Lillian

- Resnick by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Gertrude Cheifetz by Robert Shaye
- In memory of Bessie Kaltman by Muriel Kaltman
- In memory of his father Henry Ashton Crosby by Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim
- In memory of Dave Berger by Saul Berger
- In memory of Rose Kresel by Audrey & Bernard Levine
- In memory of Norman Rosenberg by Lillian Rosenberg
- In memory of Hannah Zarnes by Doris & David Sagerman
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