

BEKI Bulletin

A New Haven Tradition since 1892. Visit us at www.beki.org

April 2000 Vol. 6 Issue 4

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Nisan 5760



SPRING FLING DANCE

**Second Annual
Spring Fling Benefit Dance for BEKI
Saturday Night 1 April 2000 8:00p
Tickets \$18.00 each
For Reservations call (203) 389-2108
beki@snet.net
Also available at the door**

PESAH AT BEKI

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Let All Who Are Hungry...
Community Second Seder at BEKI
Yizkor Memorial Service
Shir HaShirim—Song of Songs
Special Hallel Service For Passover**



How to Contact the BEKI Bulletin

Responses to "A Message from Rabbi Tilsen," questions for "Dear Rabbi" and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Editor, BEKI-Bulletin, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515 or by email to jjtilsen@beki.org.

Rabbi Tilsen's mail and e-mail are opened directly and exclusively by the Rabbi himself and are as secure and confidential as mail and e-mail can be.

Calling BEKI

To call BEKI, dial (203) 389-2108.

When the automated attendant answers, dial any of the numbers below for the desired extension. You don't have to wait to hear the whole recorded greeting. If you don't have a "touch-tone" phone (i.e. a phone that dials by sending tones), wait to the end of the greeting and you will then be able to leave a message for the Administrator. A shortcut: To skip to the end of a greeting, press asterisk (*).

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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, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page created by Phill Simon:
www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Daily Services

Daily services at BEKI provide an opportunity to learn, pray, reflect, transition and center one's own spiritual life. Services provide a context for fulfilling the mitzva (religious obligation) of daily worship. Services are held every weekday morning and evening. See the calendar for a schedule. During April, there will be a special need for more participants on Tuesday mornings (7:00a), Thursday mornings (8:15a) and Sunday nights (5:45p).

No Parking

Members and visitors are advised that parking is prohibited at all times on the East side of Harrison Street as indicated by the "No Parking" signs. Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot at the rear of the building. When driving in the BEKI parking lot, please observe the 5 miles-per-hour speed limit, which is enforced by random speed bumps.

BEKI Endowments

Only about half of the Congregation's annual income comes from regular dues. Endowed funds are one of the best ways to insure the continuing financial strength of the synagogue long into the future. We have just begun the process of building our endowments. Below are listed the named funds established for our benefit. We take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the donors.

The Congregation maintains a portion of its endowments at the Jewish Foundation of New Haven. Under the Foundation's careful management, the "real" (after-inflation) value of the fund principals is maintained so that funds can provide increasing income to the Congregation in perpetuity. For information on establishing an endowment for the benefit of BEKI contact Rabbi Tilsen at (203) 389-2108 x10 (jtilsen@beki.org). For information on the Jewish Foundation or a confidential meeting contact its Director, Deborah Kaplan Polivy, at (203) 387-2424 x304 (dpolivy@jewishnewhaven.org).

The Beth El-Keser Israel Endowment Fund

The Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth

The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at Congregation BEKI

The George & Leah Posener Endowment for the Jewish Education of BEKI Youth

The Gladys R. Lipkin Fund for the BEKI Hebrew School

The Leah E. Posener and Betty D. Zelen Memorial Fund for Sisterhood

The Lester & Bernice Margolis Fund

The Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Sacred Music

The Posener Family Memorial Fund for Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel established by George G. Posener in blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons

The Robert Goodwin Memorial Endowment

The Rosenkrantz Family Library Endowment

Giving Stock

BEKI can accept stocks and securities as gifts during a donor's lifetime or as part of an estate. Please speak with your financial advisor or broker about the potential tax advantages of giving stock and securities. To arrange a transfer, call Mary Ellen Mack at 389-2108 x14.

(Reprinted from previous issues)

Dear Rabbi,

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

Signed, Early Bird

Dear Early Bird,

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

Dear Rabbi,

If we are using our Pesah dishes before Pesah, can we eat rice on them? Does that affect the dishes?

Signed, Early Bird

Dear Early Bird,

Rice is not *hametz*. You may prepare and serve rice in your Pesah utensils and dishes before Pesah without making the dishes *hametzdik* (unkosher for Pesah). If you are eating at someone's kosher house during Pesah and they eat rice (as some do) but you don't, you can just "passover" the rice and eat anything else without fear of violating the rules. Rice is "*kitniyot*," a category of foods that many Ashkenazic Jews do not eat during Pesah. *Kitniyot* do not affect dishes or utensils.

Dear Rabbi,

Can somebody married to a non-Jew sell his or her *hametz* [leavening] to him or her on Passover?

Signed, All in the family

Dear All,

No. Since under civil law spouses have some form of joint or co-ownership, one should not try to sell one's *hametz* to a non-Jewish spouse. One should not try to sell one's *hametz* to a non-Jewish business partner for the same reason. The best way to sell *hametz* is to grant power of attorney to an "authorized dealer" such as Rabbi Tilsen to sell your *hametz* for you. That way you can be sure that the law is strictly observed and the sale is valid.

Dear Rabbi: Can green beans be eaten at the seder?

Signed, Sick of Matza Brei.

Dear Sick:

You can eat the beans, but only if you bring a note from your mother.

The Torah forbids Jews from eating or possessing *hametz* during Passover. *Hametz* is defined as any product made from or having as an ingredient wheat, rye, spelt, oats, and barley unless specially prepared as "kosher for Pesah." This means that corn, rice, garlic, peas and, yes, Green Beans, are absolutely not *hametz*.

But in most Ashkenazic communities it has been the custom to refrain from certain foods besides *hametz* during Pesah. These proscribed foods are referred to as "*kitniyot*," often translated as "legumes and other small things." Rabbinic discussions record some twenty-five different reasons for not eating *kitniyot*, and the list of proscribed items varies from place to place. Depending on where your family came from, green beans may or may not be considered *kitniyot*.

While most *pisqei halakha*—determinations of Jewish Law—are made by your rabbi, this one is made by Mom. If it is the custom of your family not to eat Green Beans on Passover, then don't eat them.

But if your family does eat green beans on Passover—if you are Sephardic, or if you are a Jew by Choice, or if your family eats green beans on Passover for any other reason—then by all means eat the beans.

While maintaining the proscription on eating *kitniyot*, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative) has ruled that green beans are permitted on Pesah.

Even if you don't eat green beans, it is permitted to eat on the dishes of someone who does eat them on Pesah. Beans and other *kitniyot* are not *hametz*. If someone hands you the beans, just pass them over to the next person.

Library News

General Amnesty for Library Borrowers

There will be a general amnesty for individuals who have borrowed books from the BEKI library and not returned them if they return them within the next two weeks. No doubt many people borrowed items from the library with every intention of returning them, but subsequently forgot. The result is that many of the wonderful new books that the library has received are no longer available. Since some borrowing is done on Shabbat and borrowers cannot write on that day, the library has no idea to whom it is extending this amnesty nor has any recourse if the books are not returned. So, please be kind and return any books you borrowed within the next two weeks. If you've had it out a long time, you may want to add an overdue fine of another even better (newish Jewish hardcover) book. Thanks.

Marc D. Schwartz, M.D.,

(MSchwartz@HealthCalls.com) (203) 562-9873

Acquisitions

The following books have been acquired by BEKI and will be especially helpful for parents planning the K-2 and Junior Congregation Programs. They are part of the 'Do-It-Yourself Jewish Adventure Series,' by Kenneth Roseman. Each volume asks you to create your own story line by making decisions that continue to impact Jewish life today. The books will be kept on the back shelf in the Posener Daily Chapel alongside the "Magic Tanakh" and "Sedra Scenes" books of plays for easy access during Junior Congregation.

The Cardinal's Snuffbox

The Melting Pot: An Adventure in New York

Escape From the Holocaust

The Tenth of Av

The Other Side of the Hudson: A Jewish

Immigrant Adventure

Until the Messiah Comes

MEB

BEKI Sisterhood News

Sisterhood President Adele Tyson announces that the annual Seder for People with Special Needs will take place at BEKI on Thursday, April 6, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service. As he has done for many years, Abel Caterers will donate the food.

The Gift Shop has many new and interesting gifts for Passover. Come in and browse!

Gladys Lipkin, longtime Congregation and Sisterhood member, will be honored as "Woman of Valor" at Sisterhood's Book of Life lunch on Tuesday, June 6. Further details will be forthcoming.

HAPPY PESAH TO ALL!

LifeCycle

With sorrow we note the passing of Morris Freidman, grandfather of **Sharon & David Bender**

Mazal tov to **Beth Brumberg** on joining William Raveis as a Realtor; Beth can be reached at (203) 453-0391 (bbrumberg@snet.net).

Toda Raba - Many Thanks

To **Harold Miller** and **Hillel Auerbach** for their assistance in updating the synagogue's tax-exempt status.

Membership

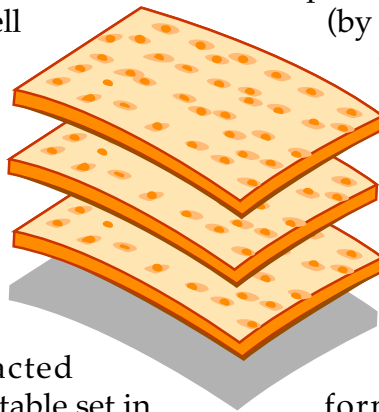
Thanks to all those who brought a friend to shul on "Bring a Friend to BEKI Shabbat" on Saturday, February 5th. And thanks to those who helped with the planning and qiddush: **Mary Ellen Mack, Diane Dumigan, Adele Tyson and Steven Stoll.**

Special Needs Seder

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and *Kulanu Ke'ehad Havura* at BEKI, in conjunction with the Jewish Family Service and Abel Catering, will host the eighteenth annual **Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI** on Thursday 6 April at 6:00p in the lower level social hall. Each year the Sisterhood has hosted several dozen Jewish adults from the New Haven area with a variety of special needs. For many, this will be their only taste of Passover and one that they relish and look forward to each year. The Torah teaches of four types of children, and the *Haggada* reminds us that we must tell the story of the Exodus to each son and daughter of Israel in the way that is most meaningful to him or her. Through the efforts of Sisterhood, Kulanu Director Anne Johnston, the generosity of Abel Catering and the good offices of the Jewish Family Services, the Exodus is reenacted through song, food and story at a table set in the Passover tradition.

Kulanu is BEKI's outreach program for adults with special needs. Kulanu is supported by **The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs** at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, which is managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. It is also supported this year through a special contribution of **Roger and Susan Levine**.

If you would like to volunteer to help set up or




participate in the seder, or if you know someone who might like to be invited, please contact Sisterhood President **Adele Tyson** at 389-9599 or Special Programs Director **Anne Johnston** at 389-2108 x33 (ajohnsto@connix.com).

Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of *Pesah* (Passover) it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible *hametz*. *Hametz* is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally one physically disposes of all *hametz* by the morning before Pesah (by 10:00a Wednesday 19 April 2000). In order

to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive *hametz* such as liquor, one can sell their *hametz* for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz on your behalf to someone who is allowed to own it, please sign the form available at each daily morning and evening service or sign and return the form included in the March synagogue mailing for that purpose. If you need a form faxed to you, leave a message for Mary Ellen Mack at 389-2108 x14 with your fax number. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you, which he will do in a sale that will be effective at 10:00a the morning before Pesah. Please sign and return the authorization form at your earliest opportunity.


Law Offices of Eric I. B. Beller, P.C.
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 New Haven, CT 06510-1802



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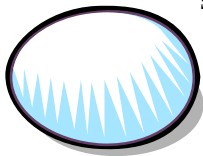
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Siyyum Bekhorot

The Fast of the First Born is Wednesday 19 April beginning at dawn. But firstborn who attend the morning service at 7:00a may conclude their fast by partaking of the *seudat mitzva* (obligatory feast) celebrating a *siyyum*, the conclusion of a study project. Services and *siyyum* will end by 8:00a. All may attend. That time will also be the last opportunity to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your *hametz* (see "Selling of Hametz" in this issue).

Let All Who Are Hungry...

The Seder of Pesah is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others into our homes. Our congregation comprises many people who may not have extended family locally, do not have Jewish relatives, are new to the area, or who otherwise would benefit greatly from a seder invitation. If you are able to open your Seder to additional guests, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at your earliest opportunity at 389-2108 x10 (jtilsen@beki.org). If you are able to host an adult who is a mental health



services consumer or who has developmental disabilities, please contact Special Programs Director **Anne Johnston** at 389-2108 x33 (ajohnsto@connix.com)

Community Second Seder at BEKI

The Conservative Masorti Community Second Seder will be hosted by BEKI this year. Jointly sponsored by Congregation Bnai Jacob, Congregation Or Shalom, Temple Beth Shalom and BEKI, the seder brings together adults and children from a wide area. On Thursday night 20 April 2000, at 6:30p, the Festival evening service is held. The seder begins at 7:00p in the lower level social hall which is accessible only by stairs. For information or reservations, call Mary Ellen Mack at 389-2108 x14 (beki@snet.net). Support for the Second Seder is provided by the BEKI Sisterhood.

Yizkor Memorial Service

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15a Festival morning service on Thursday 27 April. The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*, and the *Musaf* additional service, and concludes by noon. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are often especially intense during the Pesah season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Shir HaShirim Song of Songs

The Biblical love poetry of *Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs* will be read on the morning of 22 April during the Shabbat Festival morning service. Tradition ascribes the work to King Solomon himself, writing 2,900 years ago. Celebrate the spring holiday of Pesah with this beautiful and moving reading.

Special Hallel Service For Passover

Enhancements to both the sanctuary and to the singing will make Shabbat Passover services on 22 April particularly special.

Jeremy Golding has been teaching harmonies for existing songs to the Singers Circle as well as introducing beautiful new melodies for the services.

A committee has been formed to explore how to make the sanctuary more spiritual and attractive for the day. Congregants interested in loaning wall hangings, plants, objects of art, etc. that might be appropriate to place in the sanctuary for the day, or who would like to be on the committee, please contact **Marc Schwartz** at 387-1665.

MS



BEKI Events

April - Adar II - Nisan

2000

5760

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						25 Adar II 1
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Relig.School x13 Rabbi x10 Kulanu x33	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	BEKI email: Office: BEKI@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@aol.com website: www.beki.org			<i>Shabbat Hachodesh</i> 9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Rabbi Carol Stein</i> 10:45a Children's 10:45a Singers' Circle 5:45p Minha <i>8:00p-11:30p Spring Fling Dance</i>
26 Adar II 2	27 Adar II 3	28 Adar II 4	29 Adar II 5	1 Nisan 6	2 Nisan 7	3 Nisan 8
9:00a Shaharit 9:30a Relig.School 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00p Mishna Berakhot 7:15p Song of Songs	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 12noon-5:00p KISS 5:45p Minha-Maariv <i>(Deadline for May Bulletin submissions)</i>	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 10:30a Play Group 4:15p Relig.School 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:30p Exec. Board	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 8:15a Shaharit (NEW TIME) 5:45p Minha-Maariv 5:45p Benei Mitzva 6:00p Special Needs Seder 7:30p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:05p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Daniel Gordon Bar Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
4 Nisan 9	5 Nisan 10	6 Nisan 11	7 Nisan 12	8 Nisan 13	9 Nisan 14	10 Nisan 15
9:00a Shaharit 9:30a Relig.School 9:30a Congregational Breakfast <i>Speaker: Paula Hyman</i> 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00p Mishna Berakhot 7:15p Song of Songs	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv <i>(Deadline for mid-month mailing submissions)</i>	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 10:30a Play Group 4:15p Relig.School 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p General Board	8:15a Shaharit (NEW TIME) 5:45p Minha-Maariv 5:45p Benei Mitzva 7:30p A.A. 7:30p Book Group	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:13p Candles	<i>Shabbat Hagadol</i> 9:15a Shaharit <i>SaraLeah Cogan Bat Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's 10:45a Singers' Circle 5:45p Minha
11 Nisan 16	12 Nisan 17	13 Nisan 18	14 Nisan 19	15 Nisan 20	16 Nisan 21	17 Nisan 22
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00p Mishna Berakhot 7:15p Song of Songs	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Search for Hametz</i> <i>Office Open 9a-12p</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>First Seder</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 7:00a Shaharit 10:30a Play Group No Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:17p Candles	<i>Pesach</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00a Festival Service 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:30p Community Seder 7:30p A.A. After 8:15p Candles	<i>Pesach</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00a Festival Service 7:20p Candles 6:00p Minha-Maariv	<i>Chol Hamoed</i> <i>Shabbat Music Event</i> 9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Marc Schwartz</i> 10:45a Children's 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
18 Nisan 23	19 Nisan 24	20 Nisan 25	21 Nisan 26	22 Nisan 27	23 Nisan 28	24 Nisan 29
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Intermediate Days</i> 7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Festival Service 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:25p Candles	<i>Pesach</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00a Festival Service 10:30a Play Group No Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv After 8:20p Candles	<i>Pesach/Yizkor</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00a Festival Service 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:30p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 7:28p Candles 6:00p Minha-Maariv	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's 10:45a Singers' Circle 5:45p Minha
25 Nisan 30						
9:00a Shaharit 9:30a Relig.School 5:45p Minha-Maariv						

Darshanim (Speakers) and Benei Mitzva in April



Rabbi Carol Stein
(early photo)

Rabbi Carol Stein will serve as *darshanit* (Torah commentator) on 1 April (Shabbat HaHodesh).

Daniel Gordon, son of Steven Gordon and Deborah Wittes, will lead and participate in services on 7-8 April as a bar mitzva.

SaraLeah Cogan, daughter of Neil Cogan & Mannette Dodge Cogan, will lead and participate in services on 14-15 April as a bat mitzva.

Marc Schwartz, an officer of Congregation, will serve as *darshan* (Torah commentator) on 22 April Shabbat Hol HaMoed Pesah.

Cosmic Discussion Group to meet every two weeks

The Shabbat morning Discussion Group for young adults in grades 6 to 8 is now meeting every two weeks.

In addition, the Children's Shabbat Havura for preschoolers and their adults, the K-2 Kehila for kids in grades K-2, and the Junior Congregation for elementary age children continue to meet every Shabbat.

Sisterhood Spring Conference

An exciting spring conference is being planned by the Connecticut Valley Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. It will take place on Wednesday 17 May at Beth El Temple in West Hartford from 9:15a to approximately 5:00p. Our National Consultant will be Rita Wertlieb, a very dynamic young woman. The theme of the conference is "Why Sisterhood?" There will be interesting guest speakers, a Minha Healing Service, a lovely lunch, and a gala reception after the installation of our new Branch officers. Babysitting is provided by reservation only. Sisterhood will pay your registration fee and half the cost of the meals, so your own expense will be nominal. Anyone interested in attending should call Adele Tyson at 389-9599 or Violet Ludwig at 389-0349 by 26 April as the early bird registration is due by 1 May.

KISS to Meet 3 April

BEKI's unique "Kids In Shul when they close the School" program, also known as the "Snow Day" program, will meet on Monday 3 April 2000 from noon to 5:00p, in the Claire Goodwin Children's Room. The KISS program offers a fun-filled Judaic program for elementary-school aged children on a day when Ezra Academy and public schools are closed for conferences and holidays when parents may have to work. Space is limited. Contact Anne Johnston at 389-2108 x33 (ajohnsto@connix.com) to reserve your space or fax in the registration form available at www.beki.org/forms.html or from the office.

Upcoming scheduled days include Monday 3 April 2000 12:00 to 5:00p (Ezra Conferences); Wednesday 14 June 2000 12:00 to 5:00p (Ezra Early Dismissal); Thursday 15 June 2000 8:00a to 3:00p (Ezra Summer Vacation); Friday 16 June 2000 8:00a to 3:00p (Ezra Summer Vacation). Some dates are subject to minimum enrollment.

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Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Library, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Lead by **Steven Fraade** and **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening multi-generational setting.

Planning a bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI?

Parents planning a bar- or bat-mitzva observance at BEKI during the next three years are urged to call the BEKI office (389-2108 x14 or beki@snet.net) to reserve a date and to request a copy of the "Guide to Benei Mitzva Observance at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, second edition." The "Guide" is also available at www.beki.org/bmpolicy.html.

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- Expanded Groceries

Sun. 8:30-4:00 • Mon.-Wed. 8:30-6:00
Thurs. 8:30-7:00 • Fri. 8:30-3:00 • Closed Sat.