

# BEKI Bulletin

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April 2003 Vol. 9 Issue 4

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Nisan 5763

## **Passover at BEKI**

### **Selling of Hametz**

During the eight days of *Pesah* (Passover) it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible hametz. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for *Pesah*. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before *Pesah* (the morning of Wednesday 16 April 2003). 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 beginning at Purim 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 or fax her at 389-5899; you can also find a form at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html). 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 on the morning before *Pesah*.

### **Pesah Food Questions?**

BEKI members and supporters with questions regarding Passover observances are welcome to contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10. Answers to frequently asked questions can also be found at the website of the [Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly](#).

### **Kulanu - Special Needs Seder**

The [Sisterhood](#) of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and [Kulanu](#), in conjunction with the Jewish

Family Service and Abel Catering, will host the twentieth-first annual Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI on Monday 7 April 2003. Each year the Sisterhood has hosted an enthusiastic group of Jewish adults from the New Haven area with a variety of special needs. Last year, over 65 people participated.

For many, this is 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 Lauren Kempton, 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.

If you would like to help, please contact Adele Tyson (Sisterhood), Dr. Lauren Kempton (Kulanu) (389-2108 x33 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org)), or Jennifer Cohen (JFS).

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.

### **Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz**

On the night of Tuesday 15 April 2003 (the night before the first seder), it is customary to perform "Bediqat Hametz," the final check for leavening before Passover. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. The next morning, Wednesday 16 April (the morning

*Continued on page 6*

**Food Donations**

Food Donations for local food charities can be left in the BEKI coatroom. Canned and other dry packaged foods are accepted. Clean out your cupboard - if that can or box has been there for a year and you haven't used it, you may as well give it away.

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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](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)

or see our web page: [www.beki.org](http://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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## A Modest Proposal For the Parents of Teenagers

Are you and your teenager too busy with work and school to spend time together?

Does your teen challenge your requests to keep Jewish rituals?

Has your teen resisted attending Shabbat services after the bar or bat mitzvah?

Attend a weekday morning or evening minyan regularly with your teen. You'll spend time together, you'll reinforce Jewish rituals, and weekday services usually take only 30-45 minutes.

Teens have ambiguous roles because they feel like adults and have serious responsibilities, yet they still have many of the restrictions of younger children. At shul, however, they "count" as soon as they become bar or bat mitzva at 12 or 13. What's more, they know that they are needed and wanted by an adult community that views them as equals.

Some of you may have heard your child say, "Why do I have to learn all these prayers, I'll never use them after my bar or bat mitzva?" When you both attend minyan, the reason for learning how to daven is self-evident. In addition, if *your* Hebrew reading skills are rusty, you can slowly improve them in a relaxed environment. Even if you can't read every word in Hebrew, just your presence is valuable to make up the minyan.

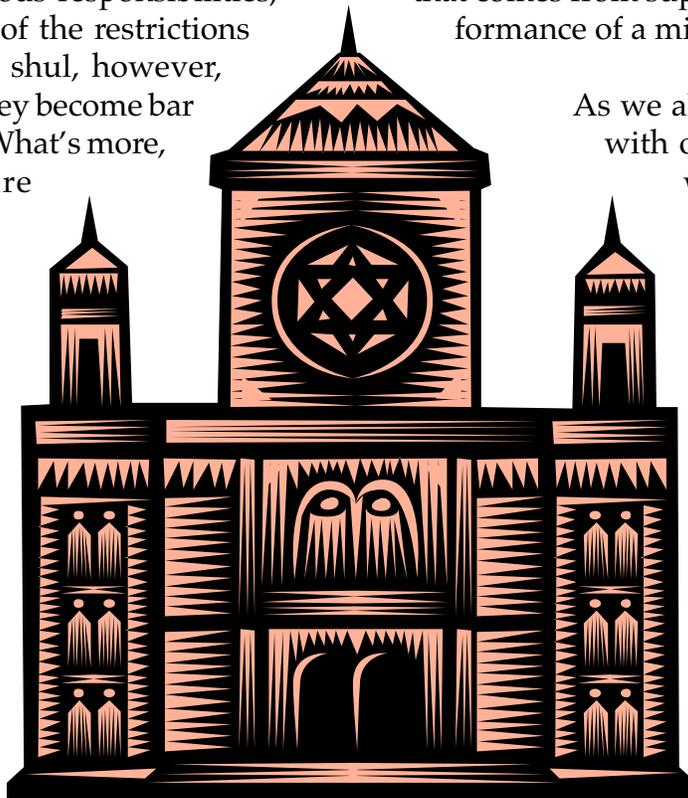
Sometimes you may not feel like going to minyan, but you'll go because you said you would and would be embarrassed not to. You know that, when dealing with teenagers, actions speak louder and far more forcefully than any lectures. Sometimes your child won't feel like making the effort, but will do it anyway to demonstrate to you how mature he or she is.

You forge a special bond as both of you struggle to get up for the 7:00 am minyan and drive to shul in silence in the dark of a winter morning. You may both rush to the evening minyan and find that the day's tensions fall away during the service, allowing your teen to confide in you on the way home. You will feel pride as you both polish your davening skills. You can share the good feeling that comes from supporting one another in performance of a mitzva.

As we all know, the times we share with our children are fleeting. If we are lucky, we have some lovely memories to look back on once the children leave home. Some of those memories are spectacular events like parties, vacations, and achievements. Some memories are built of the steady activities that literally fill our lives—mealtimes, chores, and carpooling.

Attending minyan regularly could become one of the activities that enhance your relationship with your teen, build your family life, and, best of all, create happy family memories.

Rita Sela



## A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

From 23 February to 2 March I was on a mission to Israel entitled "History and Hope: Building the Jewish People." Participants included twelve educators all associated with the Department of Jewish Education of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Each of the seven days was full of speakers, text study and connections to the land of Israel.

I left New Haven with two awesome responsibilities. The first was to deliver the "Kites for Peace" made by BEKI Religious School children. The second was to deliver sympathy cards for the Ramon family. After two days of snow in Jerusalem – one foot of snow – we left for our sister city Afula.

We stopped in the Galil for a visit to the grave of Ilan Ramon. The cemetery was old and very small, lush with green and the pink of the cyclamen and anemones in full bloom. Our group paid their tribute and I read the poem by Hannah Senesh, *Yesh Kochavim*. I lovingly placed the BEKI Religious School cards in the special bronze box at the grave site. I placed a stone on the fresh dirt at his graveside and mourned the loss of Ramon, the one bright light in the long Israeli winter.

We proceeded to Afula and were hosted by David Middleton at the guest houses at Kibbutz Israel. There I was able to fulfill my second mission – delivering the Kites for Peace. I delivered them to Tsafra, a teacher at Ein Harod. Her students will fly them in the Galilee in memory of Janus Korczak and in hopes of peace.

That afternoon we visited the home of the Deputy Mayor of the Afula-Gilboa Region. He spoke of his commitment to Israel as an Israeli Arab and reminded us of the interrelatedness of the Jews and the Israeli Arabs in that region. He detailed his close work with Danny Atar, the mayor, on projects such as "Arab and Jew: the Study of Art and Music" together; a Quran and Bible quiz, and the Women's Empowerment Forum. He was a most gracious host. In my mind's eye I see his living room, six coffee tables heaped with bowls dates and

nuts, apricots, star fruit, cookies and snacks. The coffee was strong and rich with a hint of cardamom. As we prepared to leave he invited us all up to his *mirpeset* (porch). We looked out over two square fields, one green, one brown; and there was the seamline for the Palestinian Authority and Jenin.



Dr. Lauren Kempton

That evening we attended a dinner hosted by Danny Atar, the mayor. We met the eighteen young Israelis who will be visiting the US in March on a *Mifgash*. I had the distinct pleasure to meet Ori and Rachel Zisling, parents of Ongy Zisling our Israeli Emissary and Yair, his younger brother. I expressed our gratitude from the BEKI community for the teaching by their son Ongy, to our children at BEKI this year and the deepening of our understanding of Israel due to his lessons.

It is hard to put into words the event of the next morning. The air of the Gilboa was clear and fresh and we traveled to the Rosh Yeshiva of Maale Gilboa. As the bus climbed Mount Gilboa, we were followed by a glorious rainbow... a sign of the covenant...a sign of our renewed love of the land of Israel...a sign of our important mission back home to teach Israel...and our hearts, minds and souls full of the power of the stories we have gathered on this mission. Each bend in the road was more spectacular...pines and poppies...truly this land has seen the hand of God.

As I reflect on the mission I am most grateful for all that I have learned and can impart to my students. I hold in my heart and my mind's eye the proud smile of Orgy's Dad, the square snowmen of Jerusalem, a hill of discarded multicolored Israeli snow boots, the air of the Jordan valley, the lights of the Citadel in the snow, the checkerboard fields of the Gilboa, the laughter and tears of our group, and a rainbow that has colored my soul and increased the depth of my love and the strength of my faith to Israel.

**With sorrow we note the passing of**

**Estelle Romanoff**, mother of Donna (& Sid) Levine  
*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

**BEKI Welcomes New Members & Their Families**

Stephen & Carole Volman

**Toda Raba – Thank You**

Thanks to those who organized the Purim *Seuda* (Feast) on Purim afternoon: Miriam Benson, Coordinator; Janet Brown, Food Committee Chair; Liora Lew, Decorations Committee Chair; Ruthie Greenblatt as Cutesie The Clown; Paul and Carole Bass, Associate Idiots for the BECKY *Bulletin*; Dr. Lauren Kempton, Talent Show Committee Chair; Jay Brown, Coby Ben-Chitrit, Sarah Bass, Sarah Grazier-Zerbarini, Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini, Shoshana Zax, Ariel Weiser, Yaron Lew, Rosenbluh-Stern family, Liz Meisel, Stacey Battat, and BEKI Religious School

**Letters**

Thanks to the BEKI Community for your outpouring of support following the death of my mom, Yetta Aronow. Your warmth, generosity, understanding, and actions helped us to weather this difficult period.

*Rita and Nadav Sela and family*

**Mazal tov to**

- Rabbi Murray Levine on celebrating a milestone birthday
- Bill Hallo on celebrating a milestone birthday
- Paul Goodwin on being honored at the Jewish Foundation Dinner on 1 May

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Continued from page 1

before the first seder), it is customary to perform "Biur Hametz," a final "search and destroy" mission for leavening, to insure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating hametz during the festival. Instructions for Bediqat Hametz and Biur Hametz can be found in most Hagadot, including the Rabbinical Assembly's *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*.

### **Siyyum Bekhorot**

The Fast of the First Born is Wednesday 16 April 2003 beginning at dawn. Firstborn who attend the Wednesday 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. Edward Abramovitz has been studying tractate Moed Qatan and will share a brief lesson from this rabbinic text. Services and *siyyum* will end by 8:00a. All may attend. That time will also be close to 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 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)). If you are able to host an adult who is a mental health services consumer or who has developmental disabilities, please contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton (389-2108 x33 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org)).

### **Service & No Service Schedule for Pesah**

Please note that there is no evening service at BEKI on the first and second nights of Pesah. Festival morning services begin at 9:15a.

For a complete listing, see the calendar page in this issue or our website at [www.beki.org/schedule.html](http://www.beki.org/schedule.html).

### **Conservative Community Second Seder**

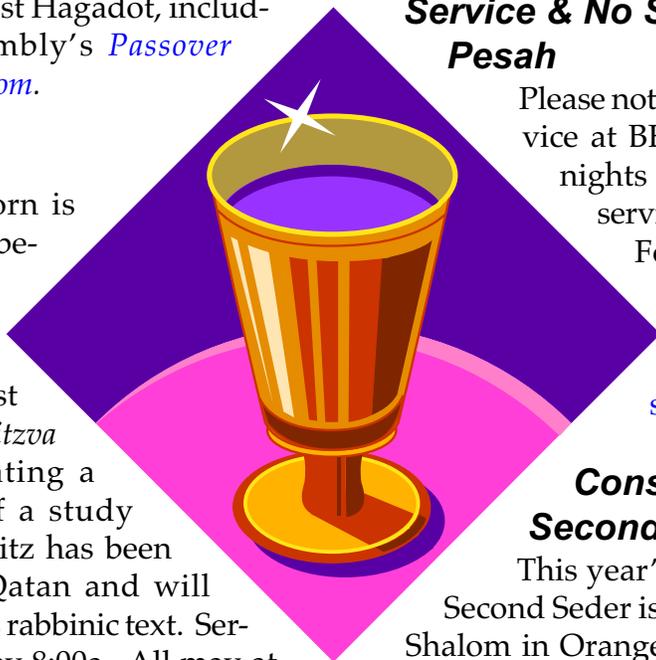
This year's Conservative Community Second Seder is hosted by Congregation Or Shalom in Orange. For information or reservations call 799-2341.

### **Shir HaShirim Song of Songs**

The Biblical love poetry of *Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs* will be read on the morning of 19 April 2003 during the Shabbat Pesah service. Tradition ascribes the book to King Solomon himself, writing 2,900 years ago. Celebrate the spring holiday of Pesah with this beautiful and moving reading.

### **Yizkor Memorial Service**

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15a Festival morning service on Thursday 24 April 2003. 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.



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## From Pesah to Shavuot

### Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second seder (Thursday 17 April), we began daily *sefirat ha-omer* (counting of the omer), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai.

The simple home ceremony is printed in most *siddurim* (prayer books), including *Sim Shalom*, immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, *sefirat ha-omer* can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the *sefira* served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment given dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term *omer* refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day's number.

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

*Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom*  
– Psalm 90:12

### Yom HaShoa – Holocaust Memorial Day

Yom HaShoa will be on Monday night 28 April and Tuesday 29 April 2003. This day will be recognized at BEKI in the liturgy at morning services and will be explored in the Religious School. Some in our community observe Tuesday as a fast day.





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933-2886	Thurs.	8:00-7:00
	Sat.	8:00-3:00

## USY

Interested in joining our chapter? Want more information? Contact either Ellie Reis at 387-2641 or Sarah Oren at 389-6077, or email Darryl Kuperstock, our adviser, at kuperst@aol.com.

USY is a Jewish youth group for boys and girls in grades 8-12. Our mission is to include local Jewish teens who want to make tons of new friends and come to awesome events with other people just like them!

Our Chapter, BEKI-BJ, associated with Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel and Congregation B'nai Jacob, is for teens who either belong to these synagogues or who live in the New Haven area. We have had many memorable and successful events, including the Limo Scavenger Hunt, Cosmic Bowling, Thanksgiving Pies, Charity (tzedakah) pro-

grams, Superbowl Deli Boxes, Movie Nite, Israeli Dinner, multi-chapter Shabbatons, and much more.

Every month, our board meets to plan our upcoming events, but if any chapter members wish to help with planning events, we always welcome new program chairs.

We've got many awesome upcoming events, including:

- Mock Kinnus (especially for those in grades 6-8!), Sun, April 13
- Rock Climbing!!! Sun 27 April @ Prime Climb
- Laser Tag!!!! @ Smiles Entertainment Center, Sunday 10 May

We can't wait to see all of you at future USY events!



*USY Shabbaton*

## BEKI Religious School

April finds the teachers and students of BEKI Religious School deeply engaged in preparation for Passover. Our goal is to make each child comfortable with learning a piece of the Seder liturgy. A Model Seder was scheduled for 6 April, conducted entirely by the students. For 30 April we plan a service for Yom Hashoa. Six memorial candles will be lit. The Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh graders prepared readings from Hannah Senesh, the Kovno Ghetto, Emanuel Ringelblum, and Olga Lengyel.

The BEKI Religious School is attempting to help fulfill the dream of Ilan Ramon to see "13 or 14 million new trees planted in Israel exactly one year from the anniversary of the launch." If you would like to join us in this endeavor the cost of a tree is \$18.00. You may contact Lauren Kempton at the BEKI office.

## Religious School News

### Meet the Madrikhim

#### Dan Rosenberg

Dan Rosenberg is a graduate of BEKI Religious School. He has been deeply involved in many capacities, especially helping Carol Takacs as classroom teacher, and his mom, Betsy, as Family Educator. Dan is the undisputed Snack Coordinator. He prepares snack each Sunday with his capable assistants, Ben Bell and Jared Factor, who are also BEKI graduates. Dan is also the man with the keys to every room and every door. He plans to continue his studies in September at SUNY Morrisville, in New York. We will miss him dearly.

#### Ben Karsif and Jessie Karsif

Ben Karsif and Jessie Karsif are graduates of our religious school. Both have returned to the school in an attempt to provide its current students with the same enriching and versatile Jewish learning experience that they had received. This is Jessie's third year as an employee, assisting Guy Lord in his Fifth Grade class, as well as general office work. She is in her sophomore year in High School in the Community (HSC), and is also enrolled in the Educational Center for the Arts (ECA). Ben is enjoying his second year on faculty, holding down the fort in the office as the resident master of technical stuff and general office person. He is a senior at HSC, and will be leaving us for college next year, although he has not yet decided where to go.



*Madrikhim*

## JEWISH FOUNDATION



*of Greater New Haven*

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# BEKI Events

## April - Adar II - Nisan

5763

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		28 Adar II      1	29 Adar II      2	1 Nisan          3	2 Nisan          4	3 Nisan          5
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 phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33	7:00a Shaharit 12noon-5:00p KISS 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Rosh Hodesh 8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:03p Candles	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha <i>Molly Sapadin Bat Mitzva</i>
4 Nisan          6	5 Nisan          7	6 Nisan          8	7 Nisan          9	8 Nisan          10	9 Nisan          11	10 Nisan          12
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00pm Special Needs Seder (by invitation)	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:10p Candles	<i>Shabbat Hagadol</i> 9:15a Shaharit <i>Joseph Schottenfeld Bar Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
11 Nisan      13	12 Nisan      14	13 Nisan      15	14 Nisan      16	15 Nisan      17	16 Nisan      18	17 Nisan      19
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:30p Exec. Board	<i>Search for Hametz</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Office Closed</i> 7:00a Shaharit 7:30a Siyyum Bekhorot No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Pgm No Afternoon Service <i>Pesah-1st Seder</i> 7:15p Candles	<i>Office Closed</i> 9:15a Festival Service No Afternoon Svc 8:16p Candles 8:00p A.A.	<i>Pesah</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:15a Festival Svc 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:17p Candles	<i>Hol Hamoed</i> 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a SSLM 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
18 Nisan      20	19 Nisan      21	20 Nisan      22	21 Nisan      23	22 Nisan      24	23 Nisan      25	24 Nisan      26
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 Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Pesah</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:15a Festival Service No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:23p Candles	<i>Pesah - Yizkor</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:15a Festival Service 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:25p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Dr. Lauren Kempton</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 7:30p Minha (special time) <i>Michelle Hopkinson Bat Mitzva</i> 8:20p Maariv (special time)
25 Nisan      27	26 Nisan      28	27 Nisan      29	28 Nisan      30			
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p General Board	<b>Yom Hashoah</b> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv		Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan	Email Addresses: Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Education Director: lkempton@beki.org Benei Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org BEKI/BJ Kadima: kadima@beki.org website: www:beki.org

## April Schedule Changes

In April, our Shabbat afternoon services return to our "summer" schedule. Shabbat minha services begin at 5:45p each Saturday afternoon, and is not followed by maariv evening service at the synagogue. The winter schedule (minha, Pirqa Avot Study, Maariv & Havdala) will resume in November.

Standard Time resumes on Sunday 6 April 2003. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed *Motse'ei Shabbat* (Saturday night). If your clock read 10:00p, set it to 11:00p.

Shabbat afternoon services on 26 April will begin at 7:30p.

No afternoon and evening services are held at BEKI on the nights of the first and second seder.

### **BEKI Recycles**

Please place plastic cups and plasticware in the "plastics recycling" bin next to the trash barrel following qiddush and other events. Please keep trash and recyclables separate.

## Benei Mitzva in April

**Molly Sapadin**, daughter of Helene Sapadin, will lead and participate in the Minha-Maariv-Havdala services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat afternoon 5 April beginning at 5:45p. Molly is a student in our Benei Mitzva Preparation Program.

**Joseph Schottenfeld**, son of Richard Schottenfeld and Tanina Rostain, will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva on Shabbat morning 12 April. Joseph is a student in our Benei Mitzva Preparation Program.



Joseph Schottenfeld

**Michelle Cyr**, daughter of Liann & Paul Cyr and of Jim Hopkinson, and granddaughter of Adele Tyson, will lead and participate in services on Shabbat afternoon 26 April beginning at 7:30p (note the special time). Michelle is a student in our Benei Mitzva Preparation Program.

### **The Jewish Care Network**

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## Order Etz Hayim

Etz Hayim Humash: Copies of the new Etz Hayim Humash may be ordered from the BEKI office or Sisterhood Giftshop for the special price of \$65 each for a limited time only. The regular retail price is \$75.

## Volunteer Needed

Would you like a morning or afternoon of sparkling and witty conversation? Would you like to share your favorite CD or tape with a select group of music lovers? Would you like to help BEKI disseminate important and timely programmatic information?

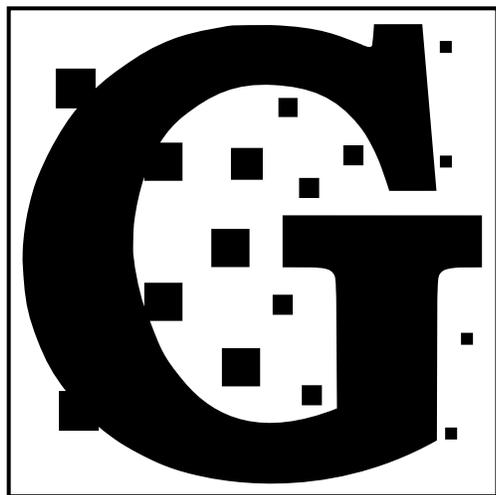
Curious..... Call Saul Bell.

## Saul's Circle

Chapel Haven and FellowshipPlace were both invited to participate in the Tile Project sponsored by the New Haven Festival of Arts and Ideas. Thanks to a wonderful contact of Sharon Lovett-Graff, Saul's Circle participants worked with Meg Bloom, the Artist in Residence for the New Haven Festival Of Arts and Ideas. The groups created tiles for a wall that will grace the Mitchell Library garden. The theme of the project is "There Are No Disposable People."

## Friendly Face?

If you might like to serve as a "Greeter" on a Shabbat or Festival morning, to welcome guests, direct visitors, and assist those with special needs, please contact Ritual Committee Chairperson Steven Fraade at 397-9430 or [steven.fraade@yale.edu](mailto:steven.fraade@yale.edu), or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).



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## Children's Shabbat Havura

The [Children's Shabbat Havura](#) meets every Shabbat morning at 10:45a in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Designed to address the spiritual and social needs of preschool children, the Havura meets concurrently with [K-2 Kehila](#), [Junior Congregation](#), [Cosmic Conversations](#), the [Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan](#) and the main Sabbath service. Following the half-hour of songs, stories, prayers and dance, the children have their own qiddush refreshments and then enjoy supervised play until they join the adult worship for the Concluding Service and qiddush.

The Havura enjoys strong support from parents and the Synagogue. Currently about 70 children and their parents actively participate in the Havura. Visitors have come from across New England to observe this program as a model for their own synagogues.



Meeting the spiritual and social needs of preschool children is an obligation of the Jewish community and an important part of the Synagogue's mission. The *Havura* (Friendship Circle) links the children to one another, to other concerned Jewish parents, and to the Synagogue. The Havura enjoys the active participation of parents who themselves are enriched by the experience. For many adults, the Children's Shabbat Havura serves as their introduction to active participation in the Synagogue Community.

If you are interested in learning more about the BEKI Children's Shabbat Havura, come any *Shabbat* (Saturday) morning at 10:45a and see for yourself. Or contact Miriam Benson at 389-6137 or [mirbenson@aol.com](mailto:mirbenson@aol.com), who, along with Ellen Cohen, coordinates the program. You can also contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org), the staff person who supports this parent cooperative.

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## Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

### Darshanit in April

Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning 26 April 2003. This Shabbat immediately precedes Yom HaShoa, Holocaust Memorial Day.

### Mishna Pesachim

Why is this night different from all other nights? Rabbi Colin Brodie will present a study of the underpinnings of the Seder from Mishna Pesachim. This class is presented by the DJE of the JFGNH. It meets in the BEKI Library on Sunday 5 April 2003 following services. For information contact Rabbi Colin Brodie at (203) 387-2424 x328.

### Reading Torah at BEKI

Thanks to Paula Hyman for coordinating Torah readings for the book of *Bereishit* (Genesis) and to Marsha Beller for coordinating the Torah readings for *Shemot* (Exodus). Rabbi Tilsen is coordinating the readings for *VaYiqra* (Leviticus). If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read Torah, call Rabbi Jon-Jay at (203) 389-2108 x10 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) or Darryl Kuperstock at (203) 387-0304 ([kuperst@aol.com](mailto:kuperst@aol.com)).

### Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meets in the [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to participate for a single meeting or to begin

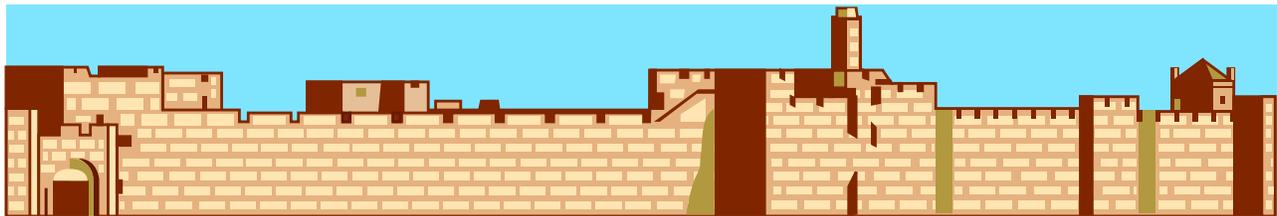
at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the Biblical text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group has been meeting weekly since 1994.

### AA Meeting

A Thursday night [AA meeting](#) is held at BEKI on Thursday nights at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019. AA will not meet on the two Thursdays of Pesah.

### Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's [Rosenkrantz Family 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.



## Why We Belong to USCJ

A small portion of the membership dues paid to BEKI—\$45 per family or individual—supports our participation in the [United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism](#) (USCJ), a national organization whose regional director is our congregant Miriam Benson, wife of Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.

BEKI receives many benefits of USCJ membership. USCJ coordinates services that would be too expensive or complicated for individual congregations to sustain, but when many communities pool their resources, these services become feasible.

Here are some specifics. USCJ hosts BEKI's Web site (<http://www.beki.org>). It coordinates regional and national programs for Kadima and USY youth groups. When our officers—who are volunteers with jobs of their own—have questions about the running of the synagogue, they turn to PALS (Program for Assistance by Liaisons to Synagogues), which offers pro bono consultation with experienced professionals.

Religious schools need strong educators and USCJ provides the high-quality training that prepares them. Dr. Lauren Kempton, education director and principal of [BEKI Religious School](#), attended the United Synagogue New Director's Institute and states, "The Institute was invaluable for my work this year. I received an incredible manual full of programmatic ideas and organizational tips. Through Serene Victor, I am connected with other leaders here in the East for planning and sharing of ideas. As I learned at the Institute and daily reaffirm at BEKI: Judaism well taught is its own best advocate."

Our religious school teachers are enrolled in a two-year regional program coordinated by Serene Victor, the USCJ consultant for synagogue education.

Darryl Kuperstock represented BEKI at the biennial convention last year, where five pillars of Conservative Judaism came together: the USCJ, the [Rabbinical Assembly](#), the Jewish Educators Assembly, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, and the Cantors Assembly. "The sessions I attended—especially the small, focused

ones—were stimulating, enlightening and very worthwhile," Darryl told the BEKI Board afterward. "I urge other BEKI members to go to future conventions. You'll find a wealth of resources for us to tap into."

In addition, USCJ coordinates a book service, which publishes and distributes its own resource materials as well as publications from the [Rabbinical Assembly](#), the [Jewish Theological Seminary](#), and Women's League. There are Internet discussion groups for synagogue presidents, webmasters, educators, and financial officers who network, brainstorm, and learn from one another on line.

All BEKI members are subscribed to the award-winning magazine, "The United Synagogue Review," and all are welcome at the Conservative movement's informal embassy in Jerusalem, the Fuchsberg Center.

"Perhaps most important of all is the intangible, yet very real benefit which derives from being part of a large and dynamic movement," says Miriam. "Through USCJ affiliation, a synagogue can gain the inspiration and motivation that keep a congregation flourishing."

Part of USCJ dues is directed toward building the Conservative-Masorti Movement in Israel and Eastern Europe. The knowledge that we are helping our Movement grow should be a source of pride and satisfaction for every BEKI member.

"I absolutely do not want to suggest anything," adds Rabbi Tilsen, "but USCJ membership allows a synagogue to be part of the Rabbinic Placement service. This means that only an affiliated congregation is eligible to engage a rabbi who is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly. I would always urge a congregation searching for a rabbi to hire only one who is a member of the Rabbinical Assembly or another legitimate rabbinic association. Anyone can use the title 'rabbi,' so a congregation must have a rabbi with credentials and an organization's endorsement. BEKI's membership in USCJ allows me as a Rabbinical Assembly member to work here."

For more information on USCJ, see <http://www.uscj.org/ctvalley> and <http://www.uscj.org>.

*GR et al*