

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

April 2005

Nisan 5765
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Passover at BEKI

Pesah on Motse'ei Shabbat – Saturday Night

The first night of Passover is Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) 23 April 2005; candle lighting in New Haven is 8:20p or *later*. It is recommended to light a 25-hour or longer candle on Friday night to use Saturday night as the source flame for Pesah festival lights.

About 11.3% of first Seders occur on Motse'ei Shabbat. This presents several complications, particularly regarding food preparation and handling of hametz. Rabbi Tilsen recommends making your home completely kosher for Pesah by Thursday night or Friday morning and using kosher for Pesah egg *matza* for the requisite *halla* on Shabbat.

Additional details, as well as alternative approaches to this issue as well

as kosher for Pesah guidelines, are available in the "Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide" in the BEKI literature rack (also available by request from the office).

Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible *hametz*. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive hametz such as liquor, one can sell their hametz for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz to someone who is allowed to own it, please sign the form available at each daily morning and evening service beginning at Purim

or sign and return the form included in the April synagogue mailing for that purpose. If you need a form faxed to you, give Peggy (389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org) your fax number or fax her at 389-5899; you can also find a form at www.beki.org/forms.html. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you.

KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah

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: www.kinahara.org.

(continued on page 8)

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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: 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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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, study, Maariv & Havdala) will resume in November.

Standard Time resumes on Sunday 3 April 2005. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night). If your clock reads 10:00p, set it to 11:00p.



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BEKI Sisterhood has been busy these past few months planning our annual spring event – “The Book of Life” luncheon, which will be held on Tuesday evening 24 May. We will honor BEKI president Gila Reinstein. Invitations will be out in April – mark your calendars and come out to honor Gila.

April 11th we will host the model Seder for special needs persons. This is an annual event which we have held for over twenty years. If you would like to help please call Adele (389-9599) or Ruth (389-4349). Sisterhood & Neil Abel provide the food.

Every year BEKI Sisterhood gives donations to other Jewish institutions. This year we donated funds to the Jewish Braille Institute, which serves thousands of visually impaired and disabled people of all ages worldwide, to Masorti, the Conservative movement in Israel; and to the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) for South Asia Tsunami Relief. We also gave funds so that Chanukah care packages and Purim baskets could be sent to BEKI college students; and purchased “groggers” for Purim here at BEKI.

We have 72 members and it’s never too late to join. Dues are \$20.00 a year – send your check to the office, become a member and help us continue our work. New Sisterhood Board members are welcome – we can always use new ideas. Contact Adele Tyson or Ruth Greenblatt – co-presidents.

Torah Fund – April 2005

By purchasing Torah Fund cards for all occasions your dollars go directly

to Women’s League for Conservative Judaism to support the Jewish Theological Seminary, the academic and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism worldwide.

Another meaningful way to support Torah Fund is by purchasing the beautiful pin that more than 10,000 women proudly wear. Each year a new pin is designed to match a different theme. This year the theme is Tikvah – Hope.

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BEKI has seven supporters and we are proud of them: Violet Ludwig; Grace Geisinger; Barbara Cushen; Diana Friedman Opton; Ruth Greenblatt; Margot Roten & Miriam Benson.

Thank you to everyone who bought cards, sent in donations for our annual appeal and purchased pins. Please call me for cards at 407-0314. They are \$3.00 each & this includes postage.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chairman

Mazel Tov:

- to Margot Roten on her milestone birthday from Barbara Cushen, Violet & Charles Ludwig
- to Honey Sender on her birthday from Grace Geisinger
- to Julie Klein on her grandson’s Bar Mitzva from Helen Miller, Rena Miller

Get Well:

- to Bill Hallo from Susan & Victor Stein

In memory of:

- Janet Brown to Jay Brown from Ruth Greenblatt, Lisa Corvera
- Dr. Karl Haas to his family from Louis Petrillo
- Rubin Schwartz to David Schwartz & Hannah Schwartz from Louis Petrillo, David Wright & Sandy McKenney
- Burton Deitch to Joyce Nepiarsky & family from Ruth & Sam Raflowitz, Stanley Saxe
- His sister to Herb Levinson from Stanley Saxe
- Her sister to Toby Gillman from Stanley Saxe
- Charles Groveman to Groveman & Winter family from Adele Tyson
- Her sister Betty to Marion Schwartz from Claire & Bud Volain
- Louis Belowsky to David Belowsky & family from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein, Shirley & Bernie Bober, Lisa Corvera
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- Richard Chirico-Lee to Carol Chirico-Lee from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein
- Dr. Alan Rozen to the Rozen family from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein, Shirley & Bernie Bober, Lisa Corvera
- Jennie Pinsky to Larry Pinsky & family from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein, Shirley & Bernie Bober, Lisa Corvera
- Danny to Beverly Drechsler & family from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein, Shirley & Bernie Bober, Lisa Corvera
- Their mother to Danny & Phyllis O’Brien from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Distressing Dressing: A Dress Code for BEKI

Tolerance of diversity – indeed, celebration of differences – is a hallmark of our Conservative community at BEKI. But from time to time, we hear concerns expressed about what other people are wearing. Sometimes people complain about what I am wearing, but that is the price I pay for being a fashion leader.

Our sages recognized that style is a matter of local custom and has no intrinsic value (see, for example, the 14th century *Tur* YD 182). But certain traditional values are expressed in our choice of clothing, and our sages did have something to say about it. One concern was that dress not lead to improper sexual contact (Sefer HaHinukh 564; Shulhan Arukh 696:8). The sages were concerned that dress express the value of *tsniut*, modesty. The precise implementation of this, though, is subjective. In our society, the sight of a woman's elbow or a man's neckline will generally not drive the congregation into an uncontrollable state of arousal. But there does come a point where the revealing goes too far, or the clothes do not go far enough.

Another concern expressed by our sages is that Jewish style be “distinctive.” By that they meant as a matter of cultural integrity we should not copy the fashions associated with other specific ethnic groups. This is based, in part, on the Biblical prohibition against “walking in the ways of the Egyptians.”

Masekhet Derekh Erets Zuta (5:3),

a minor tractate of the Mishna, has this to say about proper dress: “A scholar is recognizable in four ways: by his purse, his cup, his anger, and by his attire; and some say, by his speech too.” Attire is actually added to the original alliterative list of three, and here is understood to mean that the scholar is careful not to appear in clothing that is stained. Wearing torn clothing, too, was considered most improper. At the same time, the characteristic signs of the clod (7:1) do not include any particular style of dress; that is, clods can be well-dressed or not.

In general, then, our sages believed proper dress was clean, unornamented, unstained, and sufficient to cover the body to preserve modesty. What was acceptable in color or shape varied by place.

On Shabbat and festivals, however, there are additional expectations. Clothes should be “special” for Shabbat, and should be clean or newly-cleaned. For some communities, the “specialness” of Shabbat suggests “formality.” In some Western countries, “formal” might include a suit and tie for men and a long dress for women. In other Western locales, the tie was associated with specifically Gentile fashion and was banned.

An alternative expression of “specialness” for Shabbat and festival attire



is the preference for “leisure” style, which is somewhat opposed to “formal.” Leisure affirms the “comfort and rest” ideas embodied in the Shabbat observance, whereas “formal” suggests work clothes, which specifically ought to be avoided on Shabbat. For the laborer who wears jeans or a uniform at work, a “business suit” might be just the thing for special Shabbat dress; for the businessperson or professional who wears the suit during the week, the leisure suit or flowing dress might be more in keeping with the values embraced on the Sabbath.

Animal-based materials, such as fur, have been permitted as a legitimate use of animals. However, in our day, when quality alternatives are available, some have challenged the use of fur, especially in ornamental clothing, as a possible violation of the prohibition on *tsar baalei hayim* (causing pain and suffering to animals) and of *bal tashhit* (unjustified consumption of a natural resource).

Sometimes people ask me about what style of dress is appropriate for a particular occasion. Generally, I refer such questions to those who are more knowledgeable about such matters. The question, though, is legitimate, and the impulse behind it – to respect community standards – is admirable. People who live with others (such as with parents) might ask their input on the question of appropriateness of dress (e.g., “Mom, are nose chains okay on Yom Kippur?”). Parental discretion is advised.

I personally pay little attention to what others are wearing, although sometimes I scan for evidence of concealed weapons on visitors. My own preference is to value attendance without much concern for style of dress. I would rather people come to shul in work clothes, even covered with dirt, paint or food, at least during the week, than to miss the service. It has been a long-standing tradition for workers to attend services before and after work, and that necessitates them wearing their work clothes or uniforms.

Recent research on synagogue and church attendance in America has pointed to “excessive formality” in dress and décor as one disincentive to those who might come. At the same time, the community of people who actually do come generally wishes to create a sense of specialness, including in dress.

Reader response for publication is welcome; please direct response to jjtilsen@beki.org or office@beki.org.

The NEW BEKI Cookbook Project

Do you yearn for a new twist on Shabbat dinner? Are you wondering how to make that wonderful soup you had at qiddush? Are you waiting for an opportunity to creatively photograph food? Or sample the very best of what our BEKI cooks have to offer? Looking for new creative ways to raise funds for BEKI? Join the absolutely brand new and amazing BEKI Cookbook Project! We are looking for volunteers to help us organize and publicize the project, gather recipes, cook and test recipes, decide additional content, create a fantastic and dynamic layout, proofread, edit, type, give nutritional advice and info, solicit the donation of printing services and materials...well, just about everything

Oops...Sorry

Some congregants were concerned about receiving a letter addressed to “BEKI members” from Lewis Borofsky in March announcing his new position at a local real estate firm. Our mailing list is used only for BEKI mailings, and our address list is shared only for the purpose of organizing our events. Due to a misunderstanding, that list was shared with Lew and was used for a commercial purpose. We are sorry about that. Lewis also expresses his apologies to the BEKI community, and says he won’t be following up the letter with a phone call. At the same time, we wish Lew every success in his new venture.

and anything! It has been many years since Sisterhood published a highly successful and still sought-after (and available!) cookbook; the time has come to build on that success. We will begin planning the project in April and will continue throughout the year. Contact either Darryl Kuperstock (387-0304 or kuperst@aol.com) or Bryna Pauker (389-9603 or lynnslick@aol.com). Let’s have some fun!

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The **BEKI Bulletin** is sent to over 700 households and businesses and is repeatedly consulted as a reference document. Advertisers report positive results.

For rates and to place your ad, contact Peggy at office@beki.org (389-2108 x14).



Andy Weinstein

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Mazal Tov to

Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried on the bat mitzva observance of their daughter Rebecca

Welcome New Members

Robert & Dianne Golub and Emma and Anna

Benei Mitzva in April

Hannah Rosner, daughter of Deren Manasevit and Alan Rosner, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Friday night 1 April and Shabbat morning 2 April, Shabbat Para, *parashat Shemini*.



Allan Visochek, son of Julie Cohen & Larry Visochek, will lead and participate in services as a bar mitva on Friday Night Shabbat Pesah 29 April & Shabbat morning 30 April.



Renovations Update

Tree Sprouts in New Vestibule

The venerable Tree of Life sculpture by local artist Ruth Lapidés has graced the lobby for decades and memorialized lifecycle events of our commu-

nity. Much concern was expressed about its fate as plans advanced for lobby renovations.

Our Building Committee Chair, Roger Colten, has undertaken the painstaking process of relocating the Tree. Roger is a professional archeologist who happens to specialize in the relocation of ancient artifacts and artwork. With the assistance of Sarah Berry, his wife, Roger has mapped out the Tree using the best techniques of his field and began the actual relocation process in February. Once the transplant is complete, attention will be given to lighting and other issues of presentation.

During March, work has continued to prepare the new office space for occupation. New “blower” units were installed, and detail painting was completed.

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Our office accepts VISA and MasterCard in payment of any pledge, bill or purchase (except grocery certificates). BEKI is charged fees for the use of charge cards, so checks are still preferred. To pay by Visa & MasterCard simply call, write or visit our office with the card's name, number and expiration date.



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Cover Story (cont.)

Kulanu - Special Needs Seder

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and Kulanu, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service and Abel Catering, will host the twenty-third annual Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI on Monday 11 April. Each year the Sisterhood has hosted an enthusiastic group of Jewish adults from the New Haven area with a variety of special needs. This year, a record 75 people are expected to participate.

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 re-enacted through song, food and story at a table set in the Passover tradition.

Kulanu is BEKI's outreach program for adults with special needs. Kulanu is supported by **The David & 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.

Hagadot and Seder Plates at Giftshop

Hagadot (do-it-yourself guide and

service books) for Pesah, including the Rabbinical Assembly's *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*, are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and wherever fine Judaica is sold. The Giftshop also offers a significant collection of decorative seder plates. If you purchase your *hagadot* or other items from Amazon.com or Buy.com and access these merchants via the links at www.beki.org/links.html, BEKI receives a small commission on your purchase, at no additional cost to you. You must use these links each time you access the merchants' website in order for BEKI to receive a commission.

Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

On the night of Thursday 21 April 2005 (this year, two nights before the first Seder instead of one), 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, Friday 22 April (two mornings 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: Feast or Famine

The Fast of the First Born is Thursday

21 April 2005 beginning at dawn. Firstborn who attend the Thursday morning service at 8:15a 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 9:30a. 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).

The Fast normally is observed on the day of the first Seder (that is, on Wednesday if the first Seder is Wednesday night). But this year the first Seder is Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday Night), and since fasting is prohibited on Friday and Shabbat, the observance of the Fast is advanced to Thursday. For this reason, the "obligatory force" of this fast is diminished.

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). 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 x13 or lkempton@beki.org).

(continued on page 10)

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Service & No Service Schedule for Pesah

On Shabbat afternoon 23 April, the Mincha afternoon service will be held from 1:00p to 1:40p, a special time, as the first Seder of Pesah is that evening.

There is no evening service at BEKI on the first and second night of Pesah. Festival morning services begin at 9:15a on Sunday 24 April, Monday 25 April, Shabbat 30 April and Sunday 1 May. For a complete listing, see the calendar page in this issue or www.beki.org/schedule.html.

Conservative Community Second Seder

Congregation B'nai Jacob is hosting the Conservative Community Second Seder, which is presented along with Temple Beth Shalom, Congregation Or Shalom and BEKI. For information or reservations contact the B'nai Jacob office at 389-2111. Advance reservations are required.

Shir HaShirim Song of Songs

The Biblical love poetry of *Shir HaShirim* - Song of Songs will be read on the morning of 30 April 2005 during the Shabbat Pesah 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.

Yizkor Memorial Service

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be

held during the 9:15a Festival morning service on Sunday 1 May 2005. 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.

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder (Sunday 24 April 2005), 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 the 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

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, or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

BEKI Recycles:

Please place plastic cups and plastic ware in the “plastics recycling” bin next to the trash barrel following qiddush and other events. Please be careful to keep trash and recyclables separate.

A Message from the Education Director



Sherri Rothman, Education Chair of BEKI Religious School, attended the Jewish Educators Assembly 53rd Annual Conference in Jerusalem during Winter Break. The theme of the Conference was “Come and Walk the Educational Landscape of Israel.” The conference goals were threefold: to feel the energy of Israel through phenomenal speakers and educators, be inspired to bring the teaching about Israel home to our respective schools and synagogues in new and updated ways, and to visit new sites and grapple with the Israeli tensions of today.

Learning in Israel is tactile. In Jerusalem my new learnings were guided by the words of Dr. Daniel Gordis, who challenged us to walk the land with a Tanakh (Hebrew Bible) in one hand and a bottle of water in the other. Our days were divided between school visits and speakers. Our presenters

included Dr. Yonathan Mirvis- “Shemot: The paradigm of Anti-Semitism”; “Hertzl” by Dr. David Breakstone, Head of the World Zionist Organization; “Qumran,” by Dr. David Levin, MERCAZ, USA; JAFI Director General Alan Hofmann, “A Prayer for the State of Israel”; by Etti Serok, “Shatil: Melting Pot versus Multi-Culturalism in Israeli Society,” (issues between new olim and veteran Israelis, Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs) and Mini Israel, and visits to the TALI Schools.

On my visit to the TALI school I observed classes and met with the principal. The school, funded in part by Conservative Judaism, is a change agent, trying to blend secular studies with a study of Judaism, tefilot, text, and Benei Mitzva. The principal stated, “Children who live in the city need to touch the land” so the school has a large garden maintained by the students. The school is contiguous to an Arab village, so the classes study together at neutral sites. The principal related to us how after some initial visits, her Israeli students said, “The Arab children know so much about Islam, we don’t know much about Judaism”. So the school worked to incorporate more Jewish Studies into the curriculum. The TALI schools are financed by the government and parents pay a small tuition.

Walking the land.. oh yes. After the conference I went to Kibbutz Yisrael, part of our Partnership 2000 Sister City in Afula, home of our Emissary, Beccy Adler. I do not have personal family in Israel, but after four years of the Emissary program I feel like family while on kibbutz. They planned my visit to coincide with the blooming of their Israeli winter/spring. We hiked the Jerusalem hills and the hills and valleys of the Gilboa; Israeli poppies, vibrant red and the beloved daytime irises. Beccy’s dad, Phil Adler, manages the almond groves on kibbutz, trees liltling white and pink.

I am thankful for my learnings, in Jerusalem, Afula, Tiberius and Safad. Each trip deepened my connections to the land and energizes me in my teaching.

LK

Sponsor a Qiddush

To sponsor a qiddush following a Shabbat or Festival service, or to reserve a date, contact Peggy at office@beki.org 389-2108 x14

Torah for the Hungry Mind - Adult Studies

Shabbatot

Darshanim in April

Hannah Rosner, bat mitzva, will serve as *darshanit* (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 2 April, Shabbat Para, *parashat Shemini*

Jewish Theological Seminary of America rabbinical student

Adam Watstein will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning 9 April, Shabbat HaHodesh, *parashat Tazria*



Hannah Rosner



Adam Watstein

Dr. Lauren Kempton, BEKI Education Director, will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat morning 16 April, *parashat Metsora*

Allan Visochek, bar mitzva, will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat Pesah 30 April



Dr. Lauren Kempton



Allan Visochek

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the *Shaharit* (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray**

Levine and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan 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 for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Sundays

MAKOM: Talmud with Moshe Meiri

MAKOM for Jewish Teens is presenting Talmud with Moshe Meiri on Sunday mornings from 10:00a to noon in the Posener Chapel Library. For information, contact Dr. Arnold Carmel at a.carmel@jewishnewhaven.org or (203) 387-2424 x316.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. 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. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot

"Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot" is for adults wishing an overview of the Principles of Jewish thought and life. It is ideal for people new to Judaism, considering conversion, or wishing to begin a systematic study and practice of Judaism. Topics include The Torah, Halakha (Jewish Law), The Mitzva System, 3,600 Years of Jewish History, The God of Israel, Fundamental Observances, Conservative & Other Judaisms, Messiah, Eternal Life, Talmud Torah, The Sabbath, and more. The series meets on Monday nights 4, 11 and 18 April from 6:00p to 7:30p in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Library. The class immediately follows the 5:45p afternoon & evening service. To register, contact Peggy at 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org. Material & registration fee: \$18.00 per person.

Wednesdays

Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7:30a to 8:00a during the academic year. The Study Group focuses on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of basic Hebrew or Aramaic is very helpful but not required. The Group is open to all.

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. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Thursday 21 April 2005 Siyyum Bekhorot

The Siyyum Bekhorot (see article in Pesah section) includes a brief period of Torah study. The *siyyum* will be on Thursday 21 April following the 8:15a *shaharit* service and concludes by 9:30a. All are welcome.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. 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. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Writing Group

The Writing Group meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Interested writers gather to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the participants bring a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. This community aims to generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org

AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets at BEKI every Thursday night 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. It is currently engaged in a 12 & 12 Study – Discussion. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or sokolow@snet.net.

Every Day

Editions Additions

Our Rosenkrantz Family Library now has the Harry Potter books (first five) in Hebrew, in the “New Books” section.

Video Library News

Our Hebrew Video Library now has two Harry Potter DVDs in Hebrew (Chamber of Secrets and Sorcerer’s Stone). These are Region 2 DVDs which will not play on standard American DVD players or computer DVDs. You can watch them in the BEKI media room or obtain special software to enable home computer DVD players to read Region 2 DVDs

Audio Library on Web

Various blessings and prayers are recorded for educational purposes on BEKI’s web site. Shabbat, Festival, and daily liturgical selections are presented. To hear the selections, go to www.beki.org/audio.html.

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 (Satur-

day) morning at 10:45a and see for yourself. Or contact Miriam Benson at 389-6137 or mirbenson@aol.com, who, along with Ellen Cohen, coordinates the program. You can also contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org, the staff person who supports this parent cooperative.

Service Times for Spring/Summer

Sundays:

9a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Mondays:

7a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Tuesdays:

7a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Wednesdays:

7a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Thursdays:

8:15a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Fridays:

7a Shaharit
6p Minha-Maariv

Saturdays:

9:15a Shaharit
5:45p Minha

April 2005

21 Adar II 5765 - 21 Nisan 5765

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					21 Adar II	22 Adar II
3 9:00a Religious School	4 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6:00p Principles of Judaism Class	5	6 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program	7 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A.	8 7:08 (EDT) Candle Lighting	9 JTS Shabbat 10:45a Children's Programs Qiddush: Goldblum 8:30p Wine Tasting
23 Adar II	24 Adar II	25 Adar II	26 Adar II	27 Adar II	28 Adar II	29 Adar II
10 Rosh Hodesh 9:00a Religious School/Model Seder	11 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6:00p Principles of Judaism Class 6:15p Special Needs Seder 7:30p Executive Board Meeting	12	13 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Class	14 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A.	15 7:15p Candle Lighting	16 Darshanit: Dr. Lauren Kempton 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA
1 Nisan	2 Nisan	3 Nisan	4 Nisan	5 Nisan	6 Nisan	7 Nisan
17 9:00a Religious School	18 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6:00p Principles of Judaism Class 7:30p General Board Meeting	19	20 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program	21 8:15-9:30a Siyum Bekhorot 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A.	22 7:23p Candle Lighting	23 Erev Passover 10:45a Children's Programs 1:00p Minha Candle Lighting after 8:20p Pesah (First Seder)
8 Nisan	9 Nisan	10 Nisan	11 Nisan	12 Nisan	13 Nisan	14 Nisan
24 Passover I No Religious School 9:15a Shaharit 6:30p Community Service & Seder at B'nai Jacob Candle Lighting after 8:21 Pesah	25 Passover II Office Closed 9:15a Shaharit	26 Hol Hamoed Passover I	27 Hol Hamoed Passover II 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program	28 Hol Hamoed Passover III 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A.	29 Hol Hamoed Passover IV 6:00p Allan Visochek Bar Mitzva 7:30p Candle Lighting	30 Passover VII Allan Visochek Bar Mitzva 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Visochek/Cohen
15 Nisan	16 Nisan/1 L'Omer	17 Nisan/2 L'Omer	18 Nisan/3 L'Omer	19 Nisan/4 L'Omer	20 Nisan/5 L'Omer	21 Nisan/6 L'Omer

BEKI Events

Contributions

For information on donating by credit card online or by email, please see www.beki.org/donate.html. BEKI accepts VISA and MasterCard.

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Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Louis J. & Lisa Petrillo in memory of Rubin Schwartz
- Louis J. & Lisa Petrillo in memory of Dr. Karl Haas

Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$150)

- Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman marking Ari's birthday
- Andy Bedford & Becca Levy marking Talya & Shira's birthdays
- Leon Cummings marking the yahrzeit of his father Tsvi Ben Eliezer LaLevi
- Shula Chernoff marking her birthday

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

- To Adena Herkowitz with sympathy on the passing of Sean Bowler by Sidney & Donna Levine
- To David & Hannah Schwartz with sympathy on the passing of Rubin Schwartz by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Adena Herskovitz with sympathy on the passing of Sean Bowler by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Paul Goodwin marking his birthday from Pearl Zale
- To her nephew Stephen Rudof with loving appreciation by Ruth Savitt
- To Susan Stone & Roger Levine with sympathy on the passing of Charles B. Stone by Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim

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

- To Adena Herskovitz with sympathy on the passing of Sean Bowler by Gila Reinstein
- To David & Hannah Schwartz with sympathy on the passing of Rubin Schwartz by Gila Reinstein
- To Rebecca Gratz & Joseph Callaghan in

honor of the birth of their daughter Danielle Stephanie Callaghan by Gila Reinstein

- To Jay Brown with sympathy on the passing of Janet Brown by Daniel & Sharon Prober
- To Hannah & David Schwartz with sympathy on the passing of Rubin Schwartz by Violet & Charles Ludwig

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

- In memory of her beloved mother Anna Cooper by Rose Hodes
- In memory of Leon Rosoff by Patricia C. Pitt
- In memory of Mollie Friedman by Claire & Bernard Volain
- In memory of Sidney Cushen by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Harry Stein by Victor & Susan Stein
- In memory of Nellie Eisenberg by Victor & Susan Stein
- In memory of Annie Cohen by Theodore Maltin
- In memory of Reuben Gralla by Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz
- In memory of Eleanor Hepler by Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz
- In memory of Philip Abramowitz by John & Marcia Gell
- In memory of Morris Schnitman by Larry Schnitman & Lois Bures
- In memory of Samuel Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Raye F. Leavitt by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Saul Hennes by Sophie Hennes
- In memory of Herman Louis Grenet by Allen Grenet
- In memory of Faye Hankin by William Hankin
- In memory of Samuel Bittenken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Abraham Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Gabriel Opper by Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff
- In memory of Herman Louis Grenet by Shirley & Alan Silver

- In memory of Mae Weinstein Goldberg by Dan Goldberg
- In memory of her father Saul Hennes by Sheila M. Dubak
- In memory of their dear mother Fannie Fish by Leonard & Inge Fish
- In memory of Fannie Shanok by Gertrude Shanok

Torah Scroll Restoration

Our Torah scrolls are all about 100 years old and in need of restoration. Some of the scrolls were restored in the 1980s, but the passage of time and daily or weekly use have taken their toll. All of the scrolls need lettering cleaned, replaced and treated. Some need sewing and taping of parchment, and some need a new set of *etz hayim* (spools).

The cost of restoring our best scrolls is \$3,600 to \$6,000 each; a fund of \$50,000 would provide for the permanent regular maintenance of the scrolls. If you would like to learn more about the condition of our scrolls or about the restoration process, or would like to fund the restoration of one or more scrolls, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Leave a Legacy

Dear Donna:

I would like to donate to BEKI, but I cannot afford to give up the income. In fact, with current interest rates being so low, I'm struggling to make ends meet since I primarily live off the income from my savings. I guess I just can't afford to give, right?

*Sincerely,
Struggling in New Haven*

Dear Struggling:

I sympathize with your plight, but there may be a way you can give to BEKI, and increase your income at the same time. A charitable gift annu-

ity through the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven will insure you a regular income payment at a decent interest rate, and can provide that the principal at your death passes to BEKI. Because you make an irrevocable election to donate the principal to BEKI, you are entitled to a charitable deduction on your income tax return in the year of the gift. The Foundation will accept a charitable gift annuity of as little as \$5,000. If this idea appeals to you, please contact Dennis Magid at the Jewish Foundation (387-2424 or dmagid@jewishfoundation.org) or contact me (Donna Levine 785-8079 sdsij@aol.com) to assist you with your planning.

Donna

Save the Dates

- **Wine Tasting** 9 April evening
- **Bat Mitzva: Hannah Rosner**, daughter of Alan Rosner & Deren Manasevit Rosner, 1-2 April 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Allan Visocek**, son of Larry Visocek & Julie Cohen, 29-30 April 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Jonathan Curtis-Resnik**, son of Judith Resnik & Dennis Curtis, 6-7 May 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Jesse Goldblum**, son of David & Joanne Goldblum, 13-14 May 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Carmi Cheskis-Gold**, son of Martin Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold, 27-28 May 2005

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