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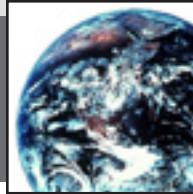
April 2007

Nisan 5767
Vol. 13 Issue 4

In this issue:



BEKI
Israel Trip
page 6



BEKI Book Brunch
with Steven Stoll
page 8



Karen Sutin
Receives Award
page 14

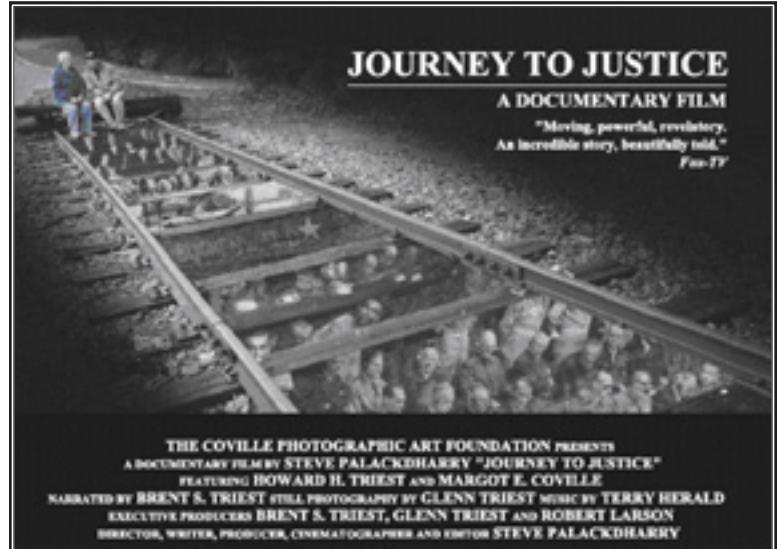
Journey To Justice

On Saturday night 14 April, BEKI will host a community event commemorating of the Holocaust, on the evening before Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah. The program will begin at 8p. with evening services and Havdalah, followed at 8:30 by a powerful, enlightening and disturbing documentary, *Journey to Justice*.

Journey to Justice is a 90-minute film produced by the Coville Photographic Art Foundation, featuring Holocaust survivors Margot Coville and her brother Howard Trieste. Margot is the mother of BEKI member Lynne Coville, assistant teacher in Garinim Montessori Preschool at BEKI. Margot and her brother Howard (Lynne's uncle) were born in Munich and inevitably became caught up in the horrors of Nazism.

Last year, Howard and his son turned the family's experiences in the Second World War and after into a moving documentary. The film is focused primarily on Howard, who escaped Germany and came to America. He joined the U.S. Army and was sent to fight in Europe, where, among other things, he witnessed the liberation of Buchenwald. Because he spoke fluent German and English, he was assigned to serve as a translator at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, and had to interview some of the worst of the Nazi criminals in the process. The documentary includes powerful and touching footage, some historic, and some recently taken on a family pilgrimage to Germany. There are graphic images of the concentration camps and Jewish victims of Nazi persecution as well as scenes of the Nuremberg Trials. has been shown at film festivals in the U.S. and Europe, to strong, positive reviews. See www.journeytojusticefilm.com for clips, stills, etc.

Margot Coville will introduce the film and take questions afterward. The community is welcome, and there's no admission charge.





Andy Weinstein

40 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
203-933-AUTO (2886)



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: jjtelsen@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.

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BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen

Donna Levine

Donna Kemper

Herbert Winer

Saul Bell

Media Arts Center

Sheila Gardiner

Ronni Rabin

Charles Ludwig

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Associate Editor

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Circulation Manager

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Photographer

• Mark Your Calendar •

- **Taanit/Siyum Bekhorot:** Fast of / Siyyum for the Firstborn Monday 2 April 2007 7:00a
- **First Seder** (home ritual) Monday 2 April 2007
- **Second Seder** (home ritual) Tuesday 3 April 2007
- **Community Second Seder** at Or Shalom Tuesday 3 April 2007 6:00p
- **JTS Shabbat** with Cantorial Student Michael Weis Shabbat 20-21 April 2007
- **Book Brunch with Steven Stoll** "What Happened to Earth Day?"
Sunday 22 April 2007 9:30a to 11:00a
- **Tribute to our Civic Leaders** Sunday 6 May 2007 6:15p to 10:00p
- **Bar Mitzva: Solomon Botwick-Ries** Shabbat 25-26 May 2007
- **Bat Mitzva: Dana Lew** Shabbat 1-2 June 2007
- **Picnic Sunday** 3 June 2007
- **Bat Mitzva: Lital Avni-Singer** Sunday Rosh Hodesh Tamuz 17 June 2007

Passover at BEKI

Kosher for Pesah guidelines, are available in the “Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide” in the BEKI literature rack (also available by request from the office) and at www.rabbinicalassembly.org.

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 March 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.

Some of our rabbis have alerted us to *hametz* problems with ground spices due to serious contamination at some Chinese plants. The careful consumer may wish to use kosher certified for Pesah ground spices this year, and in any event, should not acquire non-certified ground spices during Pesah.



Kulanu - Special Needs Seder

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and Kulanu, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service and Abel Catering, was set to host the twenty-fifth annual Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI in March. 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, about 75 people were 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 Hagada 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 Dr. 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 and other Pesah supplies (such as toy frogs).

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 Sunday 1 April 2007, it is customary to perform *Bediqat*

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

Hametz, the final check for leaven before Passover. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. The next morning, Monday 2 April, the morning before the 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*.

Siyumm Bekhorot: Feast or Famine

The Fast of the First Born is Monday 2 April 2007 beginning at dawn. First-born who attend the Monday 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 8:25a. 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 (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).

Service & No Service Schedule for Pesah

There are no afternoon and evening services at BEKI on the first and second nights of Pesah. Festival morning services begin at 9:15a on Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4, Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 April. For a complete listing, see the calendar page in this issue or www.beki.org/schedule.html.

Pesah Candle Lighting

The first night of Passover is Monday night 2 April 2007; candle lighting in New Haven is 7:00p. For the second night, candle lighting should be after 8:00p.

Conservative Community Second Seder

Congregation Or Shalom is hosting the Conservative Community Second Seder, which is presented along with Congregation B’nai Jacob, Temple Beth Sholom and BEKI. For information or reservations contact the Or Shalom office. 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 Shabbat Hol HaMoed Pesah 7 April 2007 during the 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.

Yizkor Memorial Service

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15a Festival morning service on Tuesday 10 April 2007. 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 (Tuesday 3 April 2007), we begin 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

Passover at BEKI

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

Beyond Pesah: Yom HaShoah Candles

Sisterhood is selling yellow Holocaust memorial candles this year for \$6.00 each (this represents 6 million who perished) candles may be purchased from the Sisterhood Giftshop on Sundays 11:15a-12:15p when Religious School is in session, or call Mimi Glenn 397-3851 any other time.

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BEKI Israel Trip: “*The Torah is my map!*” or *Jewish Geography*

BEKI launched its first trip to Israel on 17 February. The participants were Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, Dr. Lauren Kempton, David Wright, Sybil Richards, Hans Mas-saquoi, and Todd Strauss (former BEKI member). The goal of the mission was to introduce Israel to three first-timers and renew Israel for three who had been there before. We started in Jerusalem with a kid dish and a shehekhanu blessing on the Haas Promenade (“The Jerusalem Tayelet”). We were pleased to stay at the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Rabbi James Lebeau, Director of the center (and Jon-Jay’s former Seminary director) gave us a tour of the renovated and expanded center.

Day One found us exploring Jerusalem and visiting the Kotel. We went to Mt. Scopus and Hebrew University. Day Two found us at Latrun and Hans had a great time hearing from our IDF guide and climbing on tanks.

Day Three we headed up to Afula, our Sister City with Partnership 2000. We were warmly greeted by Rachel. That morning we had a tour of the dairy led by Qibbutz Yizrael member Kenny. Then we boarded two Jeeps and proceeded to the top of Mt. Gilboa. Our teacher was Gali, who is in charge of the cotton fields on qibbutz. We saw Israeli poppy-like flowers (kolaniyot) and fields of anemones. Gali told us all about the land, the natural separations when the land was farmed, with huge sabra (cacti) and stones as dividers. That noon we visited Qibbutz Sheluhot, home of David Wright’s cousin Haim and family. After a nice lunch he led us to his beit keneset (synagogue) which has an amazing wall scene of Jerusalem made from tile. We spent the rest of the afternoon at Beit Shean, a huge excavation site. After Beit Shean we again climbed Mt. Gilboa to visit Shai Silverman who is at Yeshivat Har Gilboa studying Talmud and other sacred texts. We were so pleased to see how immersed Shai is in his studies.

The next morning we were off to the Golan. The topography changed considerably, to rocks and low brush. We stopped and entered a bunker and viewed many bunkers on our route. We visited the Nimrod Fortress on the slopes of a snow-covered Mt. Hermon. The fortress according to legend was named after the mighty hunter Nimrod, great-grandson of Noah. We observed the borders with Jordan, Syria and Lebanon close-up, and found falafel in Qiryat Shemonah. Friday found us climbing Masada, some by the snake path, others by the cable car. We met the New Haven Federation mission at the top of Masada. Then we went to the Dead Sea and returned to Jerusalem for Shabbat.

Friday night we experienced a joyful qabbalat Shabbat at Kol HaNeshama. The spirit and ruah were amazing. The next morning we *davened* at Qedem and also at Kol HaNeshama. We had our final dinner together Saturday night and reflected on our amazing week of learning and reconnections. David, Todd and Jon-Jay stayed a few more days and visited Qibbutz Qetura, Eilat, Mitspe Ramon, Beer Sheva and the Negev, and old Jaffa. David then spent another week, including Purim, with his family at Sheluhot. We all left inspired with the hope for the future of Israel and actualizing the words of Psalm 29: “ May God give strength to God’s people, May God bless God’s people with peace.” LK



Honoring BEKI's Outstanding Civic Leaders

On Sunday 6 May, beginning at 6:30p, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel will host an elegant dinner party in honor of three of its most distinguished members: Carl Goldfield, President of the New Haven Board of Aldermen; Ina Silverman, Alderwoman; and Susan Voigt, New Haven Democratic Party Town Chair. All three volunteer their time and energy to civic leadership to make New Haven a better place, and all three are dedicated participants at BEKI.

To purchase tickets (\$90 per person), please contact the BEKI office at 389-2108 or email office@beki.org.

The evening will begin with a cocktail hour, featuring live music by an outstanding student string ensemble, led by Merav Stern. Student musicians from the Cooperative High School for the Arts and Humanities will entertain during a delicious, kosher, festive sit-down dinner.

To honor our honorees in a very special way, the congregation is making a special gift to the library at Wilbur Cross High School, the public school that the honorees' children have attended. This donation will include fiction, non-fiction and reference books, DVDs, and other resource materials on the Holocaust. It will substantially increase the resources on the Holocaust available to Wilbur Cross students.

In connection with the dinner, BEKI will publish a Tribute Book. The proceeds from the ads in this book will help support the congregation's many activities and projects. In addition to religious and

educational programs, BEKI is a community resource, housing a full-time daycare center, a Montessori nursery school, and a weekly AA meeting. BEKI provides an unusual range of outreach programming for adults with mental illness and other disabilities. It has the only religious school in the region for children with learning disabilities. BEKI recently made its building wheelchair accessible and environmentally more responsible by installing solar cells on the roof, energy-efficient light bulbs, and insulated windows in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. As a congregation, BEKI is also very active in community service projects, including blanket and coat drives, food drives, Habitat for Humanity, and more.

To purchase an ad, please contact the BEKI office at 389-2108 or email office@beki.org.

Seminary Shabbat

Jewish Theological Seminary of America cantorial student Michael Weis will visit BEKI on Shabbat 20-21 April and will serve as *darshan* (Bible commentator) on Shabbat morning. (Seminary Shabbat had originally been scheduled for March.) Michael Weis, a second-year student in The Cantorial School, is originally from Chicago and has lived in Los Angeles since 1987. He has a degree in economics from Stanford University and worked in graphic design and printing as well as acting.

For information on supporting the Jewish Theological Seminary, see the Sisterhood section in this issue. For information on the Seminary and its



JTS Cantorial Student Michael Weis

programs, see www.jtsa.edu. Several BEKI members are graduates or former faculty members of JTS. Ahud Sela is currently a senior in the Rabbinical School, and Shai Silverman is entering List College.

Civic Tribute Dinner Save the Date

Sunday 6 May 2007, 6:30p

Join us as we honor

BEKI's own outstanding civic

leaders:

*Carl Goldfield, Ina Silverman &
Susan Voigt*

Watch for your invitation in the mail.

Tickets: \$90 per person

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Scholarship Available

There is a scholarship available for High School Seniors from the Jewish Home for Children Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship is for the 2007-2008 year and is based on financial need. Applicants must have resided in New Haven County for the past year. If interested please contact Pat Mc Clintick at the office of Sidney Gimple at 776-8100 or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389.2108 x13.

Foods and Traditions of Pesah

The Kita Bet class of BEKI Religious School hosted BEKI members and their friends for an overview of the customs and traditions surrounding Pesah foods. The family education program focused on how Jews from around the world interpret Pesah cuisine.

The grade two class, parents and congregants went to the BEKI kitchen for a fun and delicious cooking demonstration. They learned how to prepare different harosets from around the world. They also learned some new dessert and snack recipes for Pesah. Our grade two teacher Judi Janette planned and executed this Pesah project. LK

BEKI Religious School

The students of BEKI Religious school hosted their parents for a Model Seder. The Sixth and Seventh graders taught the order of the seder. The Third grade taught the plagues complete with prompts. The children of Kindergarten,

First and Second grade asked the Four Questions. The children of grades Four and Five led the singing and the dancing.

BEKI Book Brunch with Steven Stoll

What Happened to Earth Day?



Join us for a fascinating talk on the environmental movement in America by Steven Stoll, associate professor of history at Yale and BEKI member, on Sunday 22 April from 9:30a to 11:00a (following 9:00a morning service).

Steven is author of several books: *U.S. Environmentalism since 1945: A Brief History with Documents*, *Larding the Lean Earth: Soil and Society in Nine-*

teenth-Century America, and *The Fruits of Natural Advantage: Making the Industrial Countryside in California—plus many articles, including “Fatal Premises: Agriculture and Capitalism” and “Postmodern Farming, Quietly Flourishing.”*

Mouth-watering food, intellectual stimulation, and great companionship are promised. All this, for free (donations welcome).

Purim Basket Wrap-Up

Thank you for supporting the Purim basket fundraiser! While we achieve 99% accuracy in compiling the donor lists, that still means we make an occasional mistake. Gila Reinstein, who sent a basket to everyone in the shul, was inadvertently omitted from donor lists.

This project would not be possible without our stalwart delivery team of Darryl Kuperstock, David Kuperstock, Jay Sokolow, Melissa Perkal, Robert Lettick, Sascha van Creveld, Liora Lew, Roger Colten, Sidney Levine, Sharon Lovett-Graff, and other unsung heroes of the Purim basket brigade. Blessings on your heads!

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SAVE THE DATE

Shabbat Shelah – Saturday 9 June 2007

BEKI Sisterhood will honor all its members and dedicate the “Book of Life” for the coming year. Inscription info and details will be mailed soon. Please plan to attend services on 9 June and enjoy Kiddush with Sisterhood women.

Patronize our gift shop for bar & bat mitzvah, shower and anniversary gifts – we have many new items and we can open the shop for you by appointment – just call the office. Special catalogs are available.

Thank you to all who helped make the Seder for people with special needs a very meaningful experience for them. We are especially thankful to Neil Abel for the food and Dr. Lauren Kempton & Rabbi Tilsen for their help.

Adele Tyson & Ruthie Greenblatt
Co-Presidents

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Thanks to all of you who donated generously to our appeal in November.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair

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With sorrow we note the passing of

Sophie Needler,
mother of Howard (& Willla) Needler, grandmother of
Elisabeth Needler Zahavy and of Mark Needler

Eunice Rogoff

Ronet Zeehandelaar,
aunt of Sascha van Creveld (& Michael Ben-Avie)

May the Almighty Comfort Those Who Mourn

Mazal Tov to

Ruthie Greenblatt on the birth of a grandson, Zachary Morton D'Agostino

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Karen Sutin Receives Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Youth Fund Award

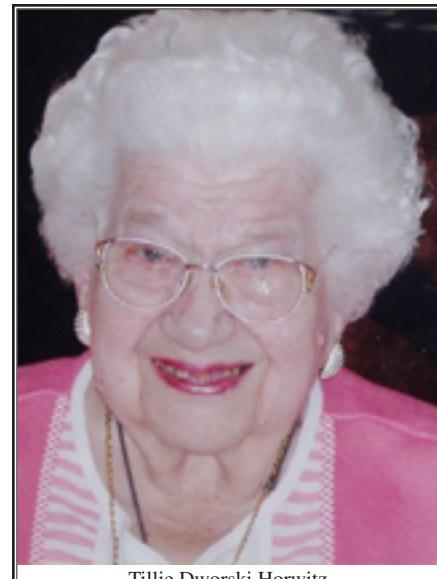
*Submitted by Rena Cheskis-Gold,
BEKI Youth Commissioner*

BEKI is fortunate to have several benefactors to its youth. Long-time BEKI member Tillie Dworski Horwitz established an endowment to provide for an award to be distributed to one or two teen children of BEKI members each year who show qualities in leadership, citizenship, and scholarship. The monetary award is to be used for attendance at a Jewish youth conference or event, Israel trip, or Jewish summer camp. The award is granted by a committee; there is no application for this award.

This year, the award goes to Karen Sutin, who is a junior at Amity high

school, and daughter of BEKI members Rachel and Alan Sutin. Karen's family joined BEKI when she was in high school, and she quickly rose as a leader among her peers, serving in several capacities on the BEKI-BJ USY board, including 2006-2007 co-president, and as this year's teen representative to the BEKI Board of Directors. Karen utilized her award to attend HeChalutzim, a national USY teen experience in Israel.

The 2005-2006 award was made to Jochai Ben-Avie, who is currently a student at Simon's Rock College, and son of Sascha van Creveld and Michael Ben-Avie. Jochai helped to create a BEKI Shabbat morning teen minyan, and was a USY board member, a member of the BEKI Gabbai team, and the teen representative to the BEKI Board of Directors. Jochai utilized his award to attend TRY, a high school semester in



Tillie Dworski Horwitz

Israel program administered by Ramah, the camping arm of Conservative Judaism.

Karen and Jochai, we thank you for your commitment to our synagogue and to our USY chapter. As Youth Commissioner of BEKI, I applaud you for your many leadership activities, and know that others will follow in your footsteps.

Here are Karen's and Jochai's stories about the Israel activities that they were able to attend with the aid of their Tillie Dworski Horwitz and Edward Horwitz Youth Fund Award.

Karen Sutin, 2006-2007 Tillie Dworski Horwitz and Edward Horwitz Youth Fund Award Recipient

This past February vacation I went on a trip to Israel. The trip was a seminar called HeChalutzim and I went as a representative of the Hanefesh region of USY (United Synagogue Youth). (One USY member is chosen to represent



Karen Sutin (second from the left, in a yellow shirt)

each region of USY in the United States and Canada.) My mission as my region's representative was to experience Israel at its best and bring my love for Israel back to my fellow USY'ers. I was one of seventeen teenagers on the trip. I met these kids for the first time at the airport and we instantly hit it off. We formed a cohesive group, sharing our love for Israel with one another. On HeChalutzim we participated in daily prayers, we studied at the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, as well as toured the famous sights in Israel. Something that really touched me on my trip to Israel was going to Qibbutz Malkia and the Golani army base. Qibbutz Malkia and the Golani army base are located directly next to the Lebanese border, and we were able to meet with the soldiers and talk with them about their experiences from the war this past summer. At the qibbutz we watched home videos of rockets that were shot at Israel by the Hezbollah while in the nursery school's bomb shelter, and discussed the effects of the war on people, not only physically but also mentally. This trip to Israel was an unforgettable experience I will be talking about for the rest of my life, and I look forward to sharing everything I have learned with my region. I am proud to have won Congregation BEKI's Tillie Dworski Horwitz and Edward Horwitz Youth Fund Award, which helped to make my Israel trip possible.

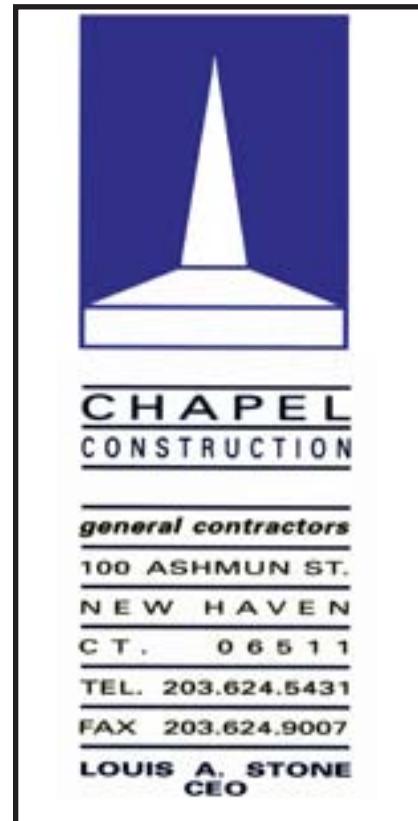
*Karen Sutin
2006-2007 USY Co-President
2006-2007 Teen Representative to the
BEKI Board*

Jochai Ben-Avie, 2005-2006 Tillie Dworski Horwitz and Edward Horwitz Youth Fund Award Recipient.

In spring of 2006 I had the privilege of participating on Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim (TRY), a high school program that gives Jewish students from the United States the opportunity to spend a semester in Israel. The program is based at the Israel Goldstein Youth Village, affectionately known as "the chava," in the San Simon neighborhood of Jerusalem. The 50-60 students of TRY and the 8-12 students of its sister-program USY High continue to take all of the courses they would be taking if they were at home, as well as Hebrew, a weekly Judaics course at the Hartman Institute, and Israeli History (called the Israel Core Course). TRY offers a unique opportunity, in that it allows students to learn about Israeli history (from biblical to modern times), and then experience it first hand; this is accomplished through twice-weekly tiyulim (trips) all over the country. In the Israel Core Course my fellow TRYers and I learned about how, in an attempt to keep Judaism alive after the fall of the Second Temple in 70 CE, the zealots fled to the desert fortress of Metzada (Masada). For three years, the zealots suppressed Roman attacks before they finally committed mass suicide rather than surrendering. When we went on tiyul to Metzada, we left the Metzada Youth Hostel at 3:45 am in order to be at the top of the fortress in time to do hashgama (praying at dawn). Rather than climbing the Snake Path (which most tourists take), we climbed the Runners Path, which is the path that

the zealots most likely took when they fled there. It was the most incredible feeling to be walking exactly where the zealots walked, hurrying as they hurried, until finally reaching the summit we bowed down and prayed. This tiyul was one of the many tiyulim on TRY that made TRY one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I am very appreciative to have received the Tillie Dworski Horwitz and Edward Horwitz Youth Fund Award and to have used it for this great Israel experience.

*Jochai Ben-Avie
2005-2006 Teen Representative to the
BEKI Board
BEKI Teen Minyan Organizer
USY Board Member
Member of BEKI Gabbai team*



April 2007

13 Nisan 5767 - 12 Iyar 5767

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Religious School	2 Erev Passover 7:45am Rashi Study Group First Seder 7:00pm Candle Lighting	3 Passover I Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service No Evening Service 6:00pm Community Seder at Or Shalom Candle Lighting after 8:00pm	4 Passover II Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program No Evening Service	5 Hol Hamoed Passover I 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	6 Hol Hamoed Passover II 7:04pm Candle Lighting	7 Hol Hamoed Passover III 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Passover Cakes Shir HaShirim
13 Nisan	14 Nisan	15 Nisan	16 Nisan/1 L'omer	17 Nisan/2 L'omer	18 Nisan/3 L'omer	19 Nisan/4 L'omer
8 Hol Hamoed Passover IV No Religious School 7:06pm Candle Lighting	9 Passover VII Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service Candle Lighting after 8:06pm	10 Passover VIII (Yizkor) Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service Yizkor Memorial Service	11 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	12 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	13 7:11pm Candle Lighting	14 Darshan: Dr. Lauren Kempton 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Friedman-Opton 8:00pm Screening of the Holocaust documentary "Journey to Justice"
20 Nisan/5 L'omer	21 Nisan/6 L'omer	22 Nisan/7 L'omer	23 Nisan/8 L'omer	24 Nisan/9 L'omer	25 Nisan/10 L'omer	26 Nisan/11 L'omer
15 No Religious School	16 Yom Hashoah 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	17	18 Rosh Hodesh I 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program	19 Rosh Hodesh II 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	20 7:19pm Candle Lighting	21 JTS Shabbat Darshan: Michael Weis 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Zahler
27 Nisan/12 L'omer	28 Nisan/13 L'omer	29 Nisan/14 L'omer	30 Nisan/15 L'omer	1 Iyar/16 L'omer	2 Iyar/17 L'omer	3 Iyar/18 L'omer
22 Yom Hazikaron 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Earth Day Brunch with Steven Stoll	23 Yom Ha'Atzmaut 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	24	25 8:30am Rabbi's Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	26 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	27 7:26pm Candle Lighting	28 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Foodim-Forbes
4 Iyar/19 L'omer	5 Iyar/20 L'omer	6 Iyar/21 L'omer	7 Iyar/22 L'omer	8 Iyar/23 L'omer	9 Iyar/24 L'omer	10 Iyar/25 L'omer
29 9:00am Religious School 5:45pm Tiku Shofar/High Holiday Training	30 7:45am Rashi Study Group					
11 Iyar/26 L'omer	12 Iyar/27 L'omer					

BEKI Events

Service Times

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

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Torah for the Hungry Mind - Adult Studies

Shabbatot Darshanim in April

Dr. Lauren Kempton, our Education Director, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat 14 April, parashat Shemini, the day before Yom HaShoa is observed

Michael Weis will serve as darshan on Shabbat 21 April, parashat Tazria-Metzora (see JTS Shabbat article)

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in Classroom 4, 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: Mishna with Moshe Meiri

MAKOM for Jewish Teens is presenting *Mishna with Moshe Meiri* on Sunday mornings from 10:00a to noon in the Posener Chapel Library. For informa-

tion, contact Dr. Arnold Carmel at a.carmel@jewishnewhaven.org or (203) 387-2424 x316.

Ivrit with Margalit

Learn to decode the Hebrew alef-bet and learn 100 vocabulary words and a few songs on Sunday mornings from 11:00a to noon with Margalit Kern. For information, contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org.

Hebrew 101 with Kathy Rosenbluh

An introduction to prayerbook Hebrew for beginners is being presented on ten Sunday mornings from 9:45a to 11:00a; the series began on 18 March. The class is appropriate for students who wish to learn or review the fundamentals of Biblical, rabbinic, prayerbook or Modern Hebrew. This class will be taught by Kathy Rosenbluh. Class will meet on consecutive Sundays except 1 April (immediately before Pesah). There is a book and registration fee of \$120 for the class. Students should be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet. To register, contact Peggy in the office, 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org. For scholarship information, please contact Peggy in the office or Rabbi Tilson.

Mondays

Monday 2 April 2007

Siyyum Bekhorot

The Siyyum Bekhorot (see article in Pesah section) includes a brief period

of Torah study. The *siyyum* will be on Monday 2 April following the 7:00a *shaharit* service and concludes by 8:25a. All are welcome.

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.

Wednesdays **Rabbis' Study Group**



Rabbi Murray Levine

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

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The “Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group,” hosted by Isaiah Cooper, meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) with Rabbi Tilsen 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 on each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Each week a group of interested writers come together 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 writers come together with a piece of their writing. The writer then has a “Read-Aloud” and the group provides

feedback. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida1@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 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.

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Join or REJOIN the Minyan Seekers / Minyan Makers Mailing List:

If you would like email notification when BEKI members are seeking additional participants for a daily service in order to insure a minyan, and might like to request that others attend on a specific date on which you seek a minyan, send a message to minyan-subscribe@beki.org. You can unsubscribe by sending a message to minyan-unsubscribe@beki.org and obtain additional instructions at minyan-help@beki.org. If that doesn't work, just send a request to jjtilsen@beki.org.

USY BEKI/BJ Shabbaton:

Because of the overwhelming number of new members we are scheduling the Shabbaton for LaG BeOmer! For more information on USY e-mail Jon Orell at usy@beki.org or Jeorell@gmail.com

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.

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