

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

# BEKIbulletin

December 2004

Kislev 5765  
Vol. 10 Issue 12

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Cover story, Hanuka begins 07 December



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## Hanuka

The first night of Hanuka is Tuesday night 07 December 2004.

Hanuka candles or lamps should be lit about 4:00p. The blessings for candle lighting are available as audio files at [www.beki.org/audio.html](http://www.beki.org/audio.html) and are printed in our prayerbook *Siddur Sim Shalom* on p. 242 (classic edition) or p. 307 (Shabbat edition and Or *Hadash*).

A United Synagogue Youth (USY) Hanuka Party for people in grades 9-12 will be held on Monday 13 December.

The *Hanukiya* (Hanuka Menora) will be lighted each evening at BEKI at 5:45p, immediately before the Maariv



evening service. It is also lighted during the morning for “decorative” purposes, although not in fulfillment of a specific *mitzva*.

Tefillin are worn each day of Hanuka (except, of course, on Shabbat).

The passage “Al ha-Nisim – For the Miracles” is added to each *amida*, and Hallel, a collection of celebratory Psalms, is recited each morning. The Torah is read each day of Hanuka. Tahanun, the penitential prayer, is not recited.

## Mark Your Calendar

- USY Scavenger Hunt Saturday Night  
08 January 2005
- Jewish Theological Seminary &  
Library Tour Sunday February/March  
2005
- Gala Grand Auction Saturday Night  
12 March 2005 7:30p
- Wine Tasting Sunday April 2005

## Havdala Dance Party

Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday Night)  
25 December, join with friends and  
neighbors for a Havdala Dance Party  
with hors d'oeuvres, desserts, bever-  
ages, music and dance. The evening  
begins with Havdala at 7:30p and will  
go until 11:30p. Entertainment by  
Boppers. Reservations by 17 Decem-  
ber; \$25 per person or \$45 for two;  
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## School Entrance

For Shabbat services, as well as Reli-  
gious School, daily services, classes  
and programs, please enter at the main  
lobby entrances on Harrison Street  
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minutes before services and programs.  
During office hours for business,  
please continue to use the "old" office  
entrance on Harrison Street, until fur-  
ther notice. Egress is possible through  
any door at any time; the main lobby  
exits are recommended.

## 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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# Renovations Update

The current project, Phase 2B, is almost completely done. Safety railings have been installed along the walkway of the new Eastern entrance from the parking area. Painting is complete. The concrete block wall along the loading dock has been treated and painted. Concrete wheel stops have been delivered but have yet to be placed in the handicapped parking spaces. Additional lighting was installed and activated along the elevated walkway. Lighting was installed on the pillars at the new entryway

Security devices are being installed at the new doorway. The new doorway can be operated mechanically at all times for egress by simply pushing the door's exit bar, as one exits normally. Use of the door in this way does not involve electric circuitry and is permitted on Shabbat and festivals.

Preparation for occupying the new office space is under way. Furnishings, wiring, heating/cooling components, finish painting and window treatments were in progress as this issue went to press.

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

**Q:** The renovations look great. How can we afford this?

**A:** The renovations are being funded through the generosity of our members and supporters. Our conservative directors have authorized spending only up to an amount that has been already collected or recorded as formal pledges. Phase 2B, virtually complete, is within budget.

**Q:** The new entry from the parking

area looks great, but once you get past the entry, the area looks unfinished. What will that area be used for?

**A:** When the final phase of the project is implemented, the wall that had separated the lobby and the Posener Daily Chapel will be removed to create a more spacious lobby. The corner adjacent to the kitchenette will become a nursing room and handicapped accessible washroom. The Posener Chapel, Rosenkrantz Library and coatroom will be relocated. The new carpeting and wall treatments will be applied at that time. The carpet must wait as it is best laid all at once to avoid unnecessary seams.

**Q:** The new entry looks dark. Can't anything be done?

**A:** During October and November, the entrance was open before all of the lighting and painting was completed. By now, the lighting should be fully installed and operating correctly. Come again, and you can expect to find the entry bright and welcoming.

**Q:** When will the rest of the work be done?

**A:** The remaining work, "Phase 2C," has not been scheduled yet. Coordinating the logistical issues and arranging the financing proved to be among the most difficult challenges of the now-completed Phase 2B. We need to minimize disruption to essential synagogue functions while completing the work in a most cost-effective manner. The Renovations Committee is presently working on final fundraising, financing and construction scheduling.

**Q:** Isn't BEKI supposed to be about education, programming, worship, service, not about a fancy building. Why all the expense for bricks and mortar?

A BEKI's essential mission is the teaching and practice of Torah; service to God; and performing deeds of kindness and compassion. Certain maintenance of our building was required and could not be further deferred. This includes replacement of heating and cooling systems, carpeting, and windows. At the same time, a broad consensus had developed to live according to our stated values by making our building physically accessible through the creation of a new entryway and installation of an elevator, by enhancing our energy efficiency, and through adding safety and security features to our building. It is most cost-effective to accomplish these in the context of a large project. This way, we are sure to maintain focus on our priorities and avoid paying for work that will be "undone" or changed in just a few years. Through careful planning and the generous support of our members, we have been able to proceed with the renovations without compromising our operating budget. The new building features are, we hope, elegant and durable, but are by no account extravagant.

**Q:** I didn't get involved earlier, but I have some good ideas, and some complaints. Is it too late?

**A:** Input, advice, assistance and support is always welcome. Contact Renovations Chairperson John Weiser at johnw@brodyweiser.com or 389.0931 or President Gila Reinstein at gila.reinstein@yale.edu or 789.0188 to find out how you can get involved.

## Important Tax Information

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. BEKI is recognized as a 501c3 organization by the US Treasury. For many people it is advantageous to pay dues, pledges and contributions before the end of the tax year (for most people 31 December). It is also helpful to BEKI to receive your payment at an early date. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

You can contribute stocks and securities directly to BEKI. For some, significant tax advantages can be realized by contributing appreciated stocks. IRS regulations allow the donor to deduct the appreciated value of the security. Illustration: You bought 100 shares of XYZ at \$10 and it is now trading at \$20. If you sell your shares, you realize a gain of \$1,000, and pay \$150 in taxes – net \$850 profit. If you donate the shares directly to BEKI, you pay no taxes on the appreciation, saving \$150 in taxes, and you receive a tax deduction for \$2,000 – which could be worth \$600 if you pay a

marginal rate of 30%. That means your \$2,000 donation “costs” you only \$1,250. e i e r d e i s

## Weekday morning services at BEKI

Begin your day with spiritual renewal and fellowship. The Monday morning service (7:00a to 7:45a) includes a brief Torah service, and is followed by the Rashi Study Group (7:45a to 8:30a). Tuesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) are attended by a unique mix of people. Wednesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) features a continuing group of friends, followed by a 30-minute period of Talmud Study (7:30a to 8:00a). Thursday mornings (8:15a to 9:00a) are ideal for people who may not wish to rise earlier or who bring children to school, and includes a brief Torah service. It is perfect for those who wish to avoid crowds. Friday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) present an ideal setting for someone wishing to help develop a cadre of dedicated daily daveners.

In addition to fulfilling the daily mitzvot of qeriat shema (recitation of the

Shema), tefila (prayer), Talmud Torah (study) and Tzedaka (charity), attendance also affords those in mourning a Minyan so that they can recite qaddish. Audio recordings of some of the prayers are available at the BEKI website under “Audio Library.” Regular participants in these services are always glad to welcome additional worshipers. Call our office at 389-2108 x14 or see [www.beki.org/schedule.html](http://www.beki.org/schedule.html) for a complete schedule.

## Maariv Evening Service

The daily maariv evening service comprises the recitation of the Shema and its accompanying blessings, as well as the individual recitation of the Amida. The maariv service (also known as arvit) provides an opportunity to fulfill the Biblical commandment of reciting the Shema at night as well as fulfilling the rabbinically mandated recitation of the Amida. An audio recording of the Shema is available in BEKI’s web Audio Library.



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## USY – United Synagogue Youth

BEKI-BJ USY has had a highly successful year so far. The “Mystery Night” event in October was a blast, with USYers taking on the role of horse-betters and high society to play a Clue-like game. At the event, USYers made Havdala in the BEKI courtyard, enjoyed ice cream sundaes, and then enthusiastically took on their game roles. Clues were released throughout the evening, and in the end the “murderer” was revealed.

USY is also active in social action projects. The chapter bakes and sells apple and pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving. Pies can be purchased for the holidays or for donation to food pantries.

In celebration of Hanuka, the chapter will be hosting a holiday party on 13 December. Also coming up: The annual Limousine Scavenger Hunt, on 8 January 2005, with a snow date of 22 January. This event is always a hit, and all are encouraged to attend.

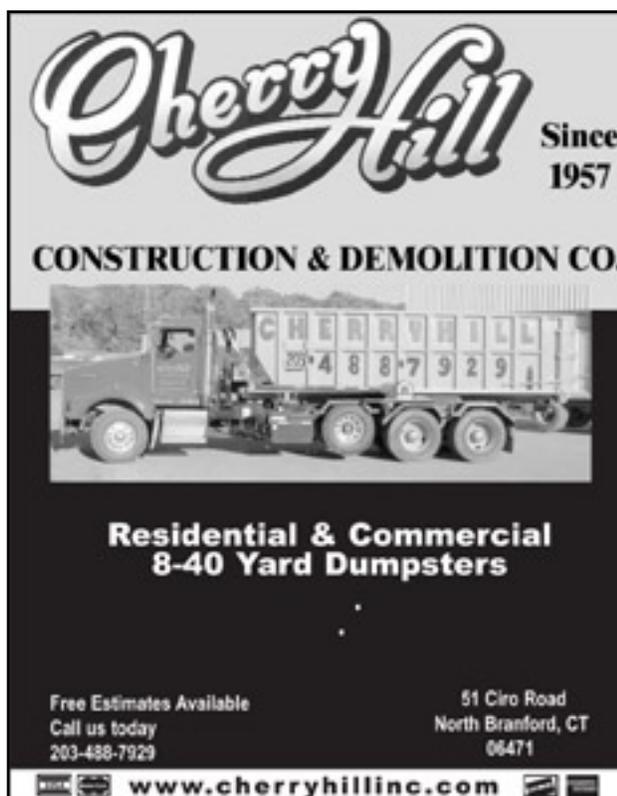
Not yet a member of USY? Please contact our advisor, Ari Teplitz, at [usy@beki.org](mailto:usy@beki.org) if interested in joining this great chapter.

### **New: Teen Minyan at BEKI**

A Teen Minyan for people in grades 9 through 12 has begun meeting on a tri-weekly basis. The Teen Minyan meets from 10:30a to noon in a carpeted space. During December, the

Teen Minyan will meet on Shabbat VaYeshev (04 December) and Shabbat VaYehi (25 December). For more information, or to volunteer, contact

Jochai at [teenminyan@beki.org](mailto:teenminyan@beki.org) or through the BEKI office at 389.2108 x14.



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# A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

I'm one of the few people I know who doesn't use illegal drugs. Never have. Past and present presidents, teachers, cops and rabbis, just about everyone, apparently, has inhaled (or not), injected or ingested substances prohibited by law.

One reason I have avoided drugs is that many of them cause users to lose their inhibitions. I like my inhibitions. The ones I have are just barely sufficient to keep me from saying and doing utterly ridiculous, embarrassing and dangerous things, and only much, but not all, of the time.

Another reason is that drugs alter one's perception of reality. As it is, I feel my grip on reality is tenuous at best. While some have noted that loss of connection to reality is not really such a great loss, given the state of reality, I have a commitment to remain engaged and to improve it, even if only in a miniscule way, through performance of mitzvot.

Some recreational drugs contribute to undesired genetic mutation. The thought of damaging my future

offspring has led me to defer consideration of drug use. At this point, my actual children, already born, would be endangered, since as their resident father, I am on call 24-hours a day to provide them emergency care, if not daily guidance and maintenance. My kids already think I'm a dope; I can't be doped up and fulfill my responsibility toward them.

To a lesser extent, I also have a professional responsibility to the congregation, although there seldom are true "emergencies" that require immediate rabbinic sobriety. Although it may not always seem like it, we do have professional standards.

For those reasons, years ago I had thought that I would defer recreational drug use until retirement. But now as I begin to see the glimmer of Golden Years on my horizon, a new deterrent rears its head: Many recreational drugs destroy brain cells. I can barely get my children's names straight, let alone remember new information, as it is. It is abundantly clear that I do not have any brain cells to spare.

Illegal drug use also presents the potential for arrest and prosecution. Although the likelihood is small, the price would be huge. Were I incarcerated, I am sure someone would send me an email message with a file attached, and I could file my way out. Even so, spending time in the clink jail just doesn't fit into my plans.

So, at least so far, I have sought consciousness-expanding experiences and new realities through more conventional, or at least non-chemical,



means. Fortunately, our sages have made suggestions to guide us in such quests.

Am I "holier than thou"? Although I am a card-carrying member of the Holy Men & Women's Association of America, as a professional matter, I definitely have my serious vices, but we will not explore that topic today.

Like many in our community, I have suffered the loss of family, friends and other loved ones through the use of illegal drugs, or through the illegal use of permitted substances (such as driving while alcohol-intoxicated). Most often, they have been innocent victims of others' drug abuse. As we approach the end of December, we are reminded of this danger. The qiddush cup is fine; beware of the "New Year's Toast."

*A person must stay away from things that harm the body.*

**Maimonides, Deot 4:1**

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# BEKI Religious School

The teachers, madrikhim and students of BEKI Religious School are totally involved in the study of 350 years of Jews in America. Each Wednesday, the students in Grade Three through Six study a different time period or famous Jewish person. The school divides into three study groups, mixed grades. One group uses the internet to collect information to be shared. The favorite website is [www.babaganewz.com](http://www.babaganewz.com). Another amazing resource is the Jewish Woman's History project. The other two groups work on a specific date for their 350 Years of Jews In America Timeline.

To date the study has been informative, fun, and noisy! (In educational terms this is called "good noise" when students are so involved in their learning's that the excitement and their

voices go higher and higher). Some of the interesting facts found so far are:

*America's first synagogue was Shearith Israel in New York (1730)*

*Limited American citizenship was granted in 1740.*

*First English translation of Hebrew prayers was published in 1761*

*Isaac Abrahams was the first Jew to graduate from an American University, King's College, now Columbia University.*

*Jews helped finance the Revolutionary War and were not repaid.*

*Jews came to New Haven in 1772.*



A question we still can not answer is : How did they get the first Torah in America and where was it from? BEKI Religious School children will culminate their studies in a community-wide event on 15 May 2005.



BEKI Religious School teachers and students

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## Bat Mitzva in December

Liora Cohen-Fraade, daughter of Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen, will lead and participate in services as a Bat Mitzva on Sunday 12 December, the sixth day of Hanuka. Services that morning begin at a special holiday time, 9:15a. The Hanuka morning service includes the recitation of Hallel and a Torah reading. Tefillin are worn as on any weekday.

*With sorrow we note  
the passing of*

**Samuel Lender**

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To receive a College Scholarship application, send a stamped, self addressed #10 envelope to Bershad College Scholarship Committee, c/o MetroNorth Region B'nai B'rith, 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Application deadline is 31 December 2004.



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## *Shabbatot* **Darshanim in December**

- **Michael Kligfeld** will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning 04 December, *parashat* VaYeshev
- **Rabbi Moshe (Murray) Levine** will serve as *darshan* (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 18 December, *parashat* VaYigash



Steven Fraade

## **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** 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.

## **Laws of Shabbat: Shabbat Afternoon Study**

The laws of Shabbat will be studied between Shabbat *minha* afternoon service and *maariv* evening services this season. The sixteenth century law code *Shulhan Arukh* will be the basic text. The *Shulhan Arukh* was written by Rabbi Yosef Karo and serves as an essential guide to modern practice. Hebrew and English texts are available. The study period lasts about thirty-five minutes.

## *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.

## **Hebrew Language Level 1 for Beginners**

An introduction to prayerbook Hebrew for beginners is being presented on ten consecutive Monday nights in the Chapel-Library from 6:00p to 7:20p; the series began 13 September. The class is appropriate for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of Biblical, rabbinic, prayerbook or Modern Hebrew. By popular demand, the course has been extended through December. New students may inquire about joining the class in progress.

## *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* **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](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net).

## **NEW: Women's Writing Group**

Member Ruth Silver has formed a women's writing group that is open to all women. It meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Each week a group of interested women 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 both writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the women come together with a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. The founder hopes that this community will generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at [bergida@yahoo.com](mailto:bergida@yahoo.com) or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto: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](mailto:sokolow@snet.net).

## *Every Day* **Divrei Torah on the Web**

A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's

website under "Adult Studies" and "Meet Rabbi Tilsen."

## **Required Reading & Reference Books on Web**

A listing of basic Judaic reference and introductory works is posted on BEKI's website at [www.beki.org/books.html](http://www.beki.org/books.html) with a brief annotation by Rabbi Tilsen.

## **Reading Torah at BEKI**

If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read, contact the Torah Reading Coordinator through the synagogue office at 389-2108 x14 or through Rabbi Tilsen at [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org). Marsha Beller is the Coordinator for Shemot (Exodus), which we read 01 January – 12 March 2005.

<p><b>JEWISH FOUNDATION</b></p>  <p><i>of Greater New Haven</i></p> <p>STEPHEN L. SALTZMAN CHAIR</p> <p>DENNIS J. MAGID DIRECTOR</p> <p>360 AMITY ROAD, WOODBIDGE, CT 06525 (203) 387-2424 EXT. 304</p>	<p><b>CONTACT THE FOUNDATION TO DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN BENEFIT BETH EL - KESER ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER NEW HAVEN THROUGH THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN.</b></p>
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# A Message from Education Director

On 26 December, I will leave for Israel with fifty teens and ten adult leaders from New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford and Providence, Rhode Island, all cities connected to Partnership 2000 and the Alfula-Gilboa Region. The trip is officially called the Southern New England Consortium Trip. Among the BEKI participants are Ariel Ben-Chitrit, Ariella Cheskis-Gold, Anna Abramovitz, Aubrey Graham, Jonathan Beller, David Brotman and Shai Sokolow Silverman.

The name of this new endeavor is IKAR - Israel Knowledge, Advocacy, and Responsibility. The program was created by the American Jewish Committee and the Solomon Schechter High School of New York, a pilot site. Professor Paula E. Hyman, of Yale University and a BEKI member, is on the IKAR Advisory Board.

The goals of IKAR are threefold: to help create a sense of connection to Israel among high school-aged Jewish students; to give the students a sense of confidence in speaking about Israel; and to develop the tools to stand up for Israel in sometimes hostile environments. The educators envision Israeli and American teens learning about Israel together on this *mifgash*, both at schools in Afula Gilboa and also across Israel. The American students will receive Home Hospitality with their Israeli counterparts and Junior year we will host the Israeli students for ten days. Joint activities for Senior year are still being planned.

The goal of IKAR is really realized when the students enter college. The curriculum presents four “talking”

points to examine key issues on Israel today and use these “talking points” to delve into broader issues of history and politics. Topics explored are: Israel and the Media, the Issue of Refugees, Israel and Palestine and History and Borders.

Just this month, two major American universities, Columbia and Duke reported anti-Semitic incidents. At Columbia, an investigation has begun on assertions that some professors have intimidated Jewish students during discussions of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. This action was prompted by a video, “Unbecoming Columbia” produced by the David Project. At Duke, following the Fourth Annual Conference of the Palestinian Solidarity Movement, an Op-Ed piece in the college paper stated, “What Jewish suffering—along with exorbitant Jewish privilege in the U.S.—amounts to is a stilted, one-dimensional conversation where Jews feel the overwhelming sense of entitlement not to be criticized or offended.” Responses to both the editorial and the conference are ongoing.



Israel Knowledge, Advocacy and Responsibility... this is one program, one group of teens and leaders, but I remain hopeful that it is a beginning for our teens as they move towards college age. As Professor Gil Troy states, “We Jews of the 21st Century must relearn the lessons that many of our parents and grandparents learned. In defending Israel, in embracing Zionism, we are not only fulfilling our ancestral obligation. We are not simply reacting to our enemies. ... We can also use Israel and Zionism to redeem ourselves, as Jews and as human beings.”

LK



Kotel (Western Wall) in Jerusalem

## Kulanu

On 10 December, Kulanu hosts the Fourth Annual Hanuka Celebration. The evening begins with the retelling of the Hanuka story. Kulanu members light the *menora* and sing Hanuka songs. This often transports them back in time to their childhoods and reflections on their home celebrations. Some Kulanu members have purchased electric *menorot* from the BEKI Sisterhood Gift shop to have a safe celebration in their residences.

Dr. Lauren Kempton will display her *dreidel* collection and teach the distinctions of the Jerusalem *dreidels* that say, "A Great Miracle Happened Here." The celebration concludes with latkes and applesauce for all.

## Saul's Circle

Fellowship Place hosts Saul's Circle for our Hanuka Celebration on Sunday December. The program begins with the viewing of the film, "Not In Our Town."

This is the story of Billings, Montana and an anti-Semitic incident that rocked the town. A young Jewish boy had put a *menora* in his bedroom window. A rock smashed the window and the family decided to go public with the story of this act of hatred.

The response from the town was unified. Churches, synagogues, newspapers, civic groups and labor leaders mobilized to say, "Not in our town." The anti-hate campaign concluded with 10,000 Billings families placing *menorot* in their windows in solidarity with the Jewish people. After the film, Saul's Circle participants will celebrate the fifth day of Hanuka with stories, songs, lighting of the *menora* and latkes. LK



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## Young Emissary Program of New Haven

Perhaps you are aware that there are two young Israeli teens busy at work in our community. Maybe you heard them speak at the BEKI Sunday brunch in October or at another synagogue's function. You may have children, grandchildren, or children of friends who are in daily or weekly contact with them through their participation at Ezra Academy, Makom or at the BEKI Religious School. If you have not yet had the pleasure of meeting Eilam and Beccy there will be many opportunities to do so before their program ends in June 2005.

We knew nothing about the Young Emissaries of this program until a few months ago when we were asked to host one of the two *shelihim* (emissaries) assigned to the New Haven area. We learned that this program has been in existence since 1999 and this is the fourth year that the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven has welcomed emissaries to our community.

At the onset, we were told that our formal obligations would be minimal. Basically, we were expected to provide meals and shelter. Both the teens are given a car to use, an overseas phone card with a generous number of minutes, and a monthly stipend to cover their everyday expenses. Our guest is expected to live by our house rules and it was up to us to establish the appropriate boundaries.

Almost immediately Eilam became an integral part of our family. He and our 17 year old son, Ben, have become as

close as brothers, and share their mutual interests in music, cars and girls. Eilam warmly expresses his appreciation for our efforts as host parents, and in turn, he helps out around the house and respects the family rules without balking. And, he makes us laugh...all the time. His sense of humor, sense of style and Ebay shopping prowess have become his trademarks in our house and well recognized by those who know him.

Eilam and the other emissaries have put their regular lives 'on hold' while they are separated from their family and friends back in Israel. They serve as Israeli representatives promoting awareness and support for their beloved country. The emissaries are not just "hanging out". They put in 50 to 60 hours a week of work between their commitments at Ezra four days a week, the Hamden and Woodbridge

Makom classes twice a week, their visits to different Sunday schools each week from as close as Orange to as far away as Chester for which they prepare lessons, and their appearances at various synagogue functions where they speak to different audiences about Israeli life and this program.

The fourteen emissaries who cover the New England region are very closely bonded as a result of the year of training they undertook before they came to the United States. We have met each of them; in fact all fourteen came for dinner and stayed at our house recently for Eilam's birthday. After dinner, some of the emissaries suggested that they *bentsh*, but no one could remember all the words to the prayers. Immediately we dug out the Pesah Hagadas so they could each have their own copy, and together they benched, with the same joy and

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camaraderie as they exhibited while singing Happy Birthday to Eilam earlier that evening. Most of these kids are not observant and we were told that their parents would probably have been quite stunned at their children's spontaneous impulse to *bentsh* after the meal. Perhaps it is related to what one young woman from the Westport community told us. She said that her Jewish roots have deepened and her pride in her heritage has increased as a result of teaching Americans about Israel. I believe what we saw here that night was a demonstration of that feeling.

Our hope is that these kids will return to Israel and tell their family and friends that Americans really do care about Israel, and want Israelis to know that they are supported here. We look forward to the day when we will visit Afula and meet many of the families of this group of very special teens. Eilam's parents have already extended an invitation to come and stay with them. Our guess is that the children, teens and adults whose lives they are touching in very profound ways will be more inclined to visit, send help and pray for the Jewish State.

This program is funded by the Jewish Federation, private donors and other sources. Additional support is required. This is why the Federation is hosting Hanuka parties to be hosted by various volunteers in the community this month. It is a way to introduce Eilam and Beccy to more members of the community, and to raise more money to keep the program going. As a result of our positive experience, we wish everyone could have the opportu-

nity to experience a cultural exchange in this very personal and fulfilling way. Hosting a teen-aged boy in our home has exceeded all our expectations. We now know first hand of the significance of this program. We look forward to the day when we will visit Afula and meet many of the families of this group of very special teens. Eilam's parents have already invited us to come and stay with them and we plan to take them up on that offer at some point.

It is just as important for our own young people to feel an affinity for our brothers and sisters in Israel, as it is for the Israelis to know that they can always count on the Jews in America. This program is important and we encourage you to give it your financial support.

*Donna Kemper and Ron Zlotoff*



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# December 2004

## 18 Kislev 5765 - 19 Tevet 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program  18 Kislev	<b>2</b> 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00p A.A.  19 Kislev	<b>3</b> 4:04p Candle Lighting  20 Kislev	<b>4</b> Darshan: Michael Kliffeld 10:45a Children's Programs 4:05p Minha, Maariv, Havdala  21 Kislev
<b>5</b> 9:00a Religious School  22 Kislev	<b>6</b> 7:45a Rashi Study Group  23 Kislev	<b>7</b> Erev Hanuka  24 Kislev	<b>8</b> Hanuka I 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program  25 Kislev	<b>9</b> Hanuka II 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00p A.A.  26 Kislev	<b>10</b> Hanuka III 4:04p Candle Lighting  27 Kislev	<b>11</b> Hanuka IV 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan 4:05p Minha, Maariv, Havdala  28 Kislev
<b>12</b> Hanuka V 9:00a Religious School 9:15a Liora Cohen-Fraade Bat Mitzva  29 Kislev	<b>13</b> Rosh Hodesh - Hanuka VI 7:45a Rashi Study Group 7:30p Executive Board Meeting  1 Tevet	<b>14</b> Hanuka VII  2 Tevet	<b>15</b> Hanuka VIII 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program  3 Tevet	<b>16</b> 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00p A.A.  4 Tevet	<b>17</b> 4:05p Candle Lighting  5 Tevet	<b>18</b> Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine BRS Grade 4 Shabbat 10:45a Children's Programs 4:05p Minha, Maariv, Havdala  6 Tevet
<b>19</b> 9:00a Religious School  7 Tevet	<b>20</b> 7:45a Rashi Study Group  8 Tevet	<b>21</b>  9 Tevet	<b>22</b> Fast of Tevet 10 7:30a Talmud Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program  10 Tevet	<b>23</b> 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00p A.A.  11 Tevet	<b>24</b> Office Closed 4:08p Candle Lighting  12 Tevet	<b>25</b> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan 4:10p Minha, Maariv Havdala 7:00p Havdala & Dance Party  13 Tevet
<b>26</b> No Religious School  14 Tevet	<b>27</b> 7:45a Rashi Study Group 7:30p General Board Meeting  15 Tevet	<b>28</b>  16 Tevet	<b>29</b> No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program  17 Tevet	<b>30</b> 8:00p A.A.  18 Tevet	<b>31</b> Office Closed 4:13p Candle Lighting  19 Tevet	

**BEKI Events**

# Service Times for Fall & Winter

## **Sundays:**

9a Shaharit  
5:45p Maariv

## **Mondays:**

7a Shaharit  
5:45p Maariv

## **Tuesdays:**

7a Shaharit  
5:45p Maariv

## **Wednesdays:**

7a Shaharit  
5:45p Maariv

## **Thursdays:**

8:15a Shaharit  
5:45p Maariv

## **Fridays:**

7a Shaharit  
6p Maariv

## **Saturdays:**

9:15a Shaharit  
See calendar for  
Minha-Maariv

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# Contributions

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## Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Goldie M. Taub in appreciation of BEKI Community
- Louis & Lisa Petrillo
- Andrew & Amanda Boltax in appreciation
- Morton & Ruth Silver to further the works of the BEKI Community
- Herbert Etkind
- James Shure in appreciation
- Cindy Smernoff celebrating Nathan's bar mitzva observance
- Grace Geisinger in memory of Regina Faymann
- Grace Geisinger in memory of Samuel Lender

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## Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$150)

- Barry Etra & Janice Wolf marking the 18th birthdays of Dana & Joanna
- Joanne Foodim & Robert Forbes in honor of David's Bar Mitzva
- Bob & Eileen Serow in honor of Andrew's Bar Mitzva
- The Board of Directors honoring BEKI's Founders
- Dina & Michael Secchiaroli celebrating the Simhat Bat - Naming of their daughter Jalina Mae

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

- In memory of their mother Regina Faymann by Bea Brodie & Judy Rudis
- To Gila Reinstein in honor of the birth of her granddaughter by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Barbara Cushen
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Stanley Saxe
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Diana Friedman Opton
- To Morris Bell & Rayna Sotsky with sympathy on the passing of Aaron Bell by Sherry Stien

- To Mr. & Mrs. David Belowsky with sympathy on the passing of Shirley Chatzek by Jimmy & Pattie Shure
- To BEKI in appreciation for the use of the Sukka by Rabbi Solomon & Esther Schwartzman
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by David Levee
- To Beatrice & Gordon Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Judith & Bernard Krutt
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Gladys Lipkin
- To Marvin & Murray Lender & Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Cecle & Josef Adler
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Caron & Norma Alderman & Family
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Jennifer & Jonathan Glazer
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Richard Ades
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Judi & Dick Shelling
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Marshal Gibson
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Sis & Howard Jacobs
- To Isaiah Cooper on his recognition by the USCJ by Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim
- To David Forbes in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim
- To Ruthie Greenblatt with gratitude for helping with David Forbes's Bar Mitzva by Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim
- To Rabbi Tilsen with gratitude for helping with David Forbes's Bar Mitzva by Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by the Shanbrom Family
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Friends
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Louise & Irwin Epstein, Debra & Stephen Goldberg and Alert Security Systems, Inc.



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- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Enid & Ron Groves
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman
- To Murray Lender & Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Norman & Mary Shemitz

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## Rosenkrantz Family Library Endowment

- To the Lender Family in memory of Samuel Lender by Mary & Louie Rosenkrantz

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## Harold Ratner Memorial Fund

- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Mikki Ratner
- To Mrs. Sanford Chesler with sympathy on the passing of her dear friend Max Simon by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Harold Ratner by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Ida Ratner by Mikki Ratner

# Contributions

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

- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Louise & Leon Kruk
- To Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Anna Goldberg
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Gila Reinstein
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Samuel & Harriet Kantrowitz
- To Beatrice Brodie & Family with sympathy on the passing of Regina Faymann by Stanley & Marsha Cohen
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Rena Miller
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Kaila & Len Margolis
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Barry & Hyla Vine
- To Isaiah Cooper in honor of his Leadership Award from the USCJ by Gila Reinstein
- To David Forbes in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gila Reinstein
- To David Forbes in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Muriel Kaltman
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Harry & Renee Mansfield
- To Mrs. Samuel Lender & Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Ruth & Paul Lopatin
- To the Lender Family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Lender by Violet & Charles Ludwig

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

- In memory of Edith Sokoloff Goldstein by Shirley & Frank Frumento
- In memory of Hope Rosenblat Bell by Saul Bell

- In memory of Jack Dimenstein by Elayne & Morton Dimenstein
- In memory of his mother Betty Katten by Henry Katten
- In memory of Mary A. Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of her sister Myra Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Ted Chatzek by Rayna & David Belowsky
- In memory of Louis Kasimer by Eli & Goldie Kasimer
- In memory of Ida Matloff by Eli & Goldie Kasimer
- In memory of Benjamin Zipper by David Nabatoff
- In memory of Rose Nabatoff by David Nabatoff
- In memory of Samuel Laginsky by Gertrude Gollinger

- In memory of Sam Glaser by Leila Stone
- In memory of his beloved mother Elaine Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of Ellen Slopak Schwartz by Gertrude Slopak
- In memory of Samuel Granoff by Sherman & Norma Granoff
- In memory of Fannie Samowitz by Norma & Sherman Granoff
- In memory of Ben Kugell by Thelma Kugell
- In memory of Julius Margolis by Helene & David Axelrod
- In memory of Sam Flamer by Muriel & Morton Chorney
- In memory of Rebecca Lieberman by Marcia Lieberman
- In memory of Sarah & Joseph Schwartz, Samuel Schwartz and her beloved father Jack Nuht by Joan & Alan Gelbert



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# Administrative Announcements

## Renovations Pledge Payments Welcome

Thanks to those who have already sent in payment on your Renovations Campaign pledge. Your payment now will reduce our expense in carrying a construction loan and other finance charges.

## Quit Horsing Around

Members and visitors to BEKI are advised that parking is prohibited at all times on the east side of Harrison

Street as indicated by the “No Parking” signs. It is also prohibited to obstruct the residential driveways on either side: “No operator shall stop, stand, or leave any horse or other animal or vehicle, in any of the following places... (d) In front of and so as to obstruct a driveway...” (*New Haven Code of General Ordinances §29-35*).

Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot at the rear of the building.

## Two-Way Traffic

The driveway from Harrison Street to the parking lot supports two-way traffic. (The “exit only” pattern is in force only for High Holy Days.) When exiting via the driveway, be sure to stop before crossing the sidewalk, in compliance with state traffic laws and in compliance with *halakha* (Jewish law) which strictly prohibits running over pedestrians.

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# Administrative Announcements

## Enter Only

The driveway ramp from Whalley Avenue to the parking area is for entrance only.

## Stop & Go

The traffic light on Harrison Street at Whalley Avenue is controlled by a microwave sensor. It will detect a vehicle traveling at normal to slow (but not very slow) speed in the driving lane and will give Harrison Street a green light within two minutes and

seventeen seconds. It may not detect a vehicle that approaches at less than 3 mph.

## New to New Haven?

If you have a friend, colleague or neighbor who is new to New Haven or who is not yet a synagogue member, please let our office know ([office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org)) so we can send them a welcome and invitation to visit



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