Hanuka

The first night of Hanuka is Sunday night 25 December 2005. 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 and are printed in our prayerbook Siddur Sim Shalom on p.242 (classic edition) or p.307 (Shabbat edition and Or Hadash).

A Hanuka Party is planned at BEKI for early Sunday evening 1 January 2006.

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.
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.

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) so we can send them a welcome and invitation to visit and join BEKI.
**Renovations Update**

*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, completed earlier this year, is within budget.

Q: The new entry from the parking area looks great, but once you get past the entry, the area looks unfinished. How will that area be used?

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: When will the rest of the work be done?

A: The remaining work, “Phase 2C,” is being scheduled for this winter. 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 (November) 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 entry-way 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

*continued on page 4*
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 are always welcome. Contact Renovations Chairperson John Weiser at johnw@brodyweiser.com or 389.0931 or President Donna Levine at president@beki.org to find out how you can get involved.

Q  How much did all of this cost?

A  The total funding need for this project is $1.25 million. That includes Phase 1 (about $300,000) for replacement of the central heating and cooling plant and associated financing expenses. As of 1 November, about $950,000 had been raised in contributions and firm pledges. During the remaining weeks of 2005 and the month of January, the balance must be raised.

Q  I read something in the Forward about solar panels at BEKI. Is this a part of the Renovations project?

A  A solar array is being planned at BEKI this spring as part of a bar mitzva project by Tsvi Benson-Tilsen (son of Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen & Miriam Benson). It is not part of the renovations project. It does support the renovation’s objective of increased energy efficiency and will contribute to the “bottom line” of the synagogue.

Q  Some of the things we heard about earlier don’t seem to be included in the plan. What happened?

A  While there were many good ideas of what might have been done in the renovations project, the committee in charge, with the Board of Directors’ approval, has implemented a conservative project that will not overextend our resources. Priority was given to essential building infrastructure, and then to our priority goals.

Q  The renovated areas look great. But how about the sanctuary, kitchen, social hall, classrooms and lobby? What about the rest of the building?

A  A master plan was drawn up outlining the areas that need attention. After the current renovation is completed, it will be up to the leadership to identify the next priorities. That discussion will not begin in earnest until the current phase is completed and all the bills are paid. There are, however, certain major mechanical systems that are likely to need replacement sooner rather than later, and the long-term (5 to 15 years) planning has to take this into account.

Q  How can I be sure that money I donate to the renovations effort won’t be siphoned off for the operating budget?

A  All renovations donations are kept in a separate account. The directors and others involved in financial oversight, particularly Donna Levine, Natan Weinstein and Vic Stein, along with office manager Peggy Hackett, carefully monitor all transactions. In addition, the Renovations Committee, under the direction of Chairperson John Weiser, diligently guard the renovations funds which they have worked hard to solicit. At most times, and certainly from this point on, the renovations account represents a construction loan, so there is no money to “take” in any case.
New: BEKI Updates

In addition to “BEKI Alerts” and “BEKI Happenings,” we are now offering a new email service called “BEKI Updates,” which are occasional detailed messages and reminders about programs, events and other news from our officers and staff. If you would like to receive BEKI Updates, you can subscribe by sending a blank message to updates-subscribe@beki.org. You will receive a message requesting confirmation; to confirm and activate your subscription, just press “reply” and send the message. To unsubscribe, simply send a blank message to updates-unsubscribe@beki.org.

If you would like to receive weekly “BEKI Happenings” and occasional urgent lifecycle notices by email, you can subscribe by sending a message to jjtilsen@beki.org. Some subscribers report that they were dropped from the list or that their messages are not getting through. If that has happened to you and you wish to be reinstated, please contact jjtilsen@beki.org.
This month I want to write about the Writing Group here at BEKI. The group, founded by myself and BEKI member Ruth Silver, has been meeting each Thursday from 2:00p to 4:00p here at BEKI for one year. The group has seven regular participants and three additional participants who attend occasionally. We hold that time on Thursday as an important space in the business of our week. We are a varied lot, in age, in temperament and in beliefs. Some of us are very political in our writing and some of us are apolitical. We have become very close through our writing. We have laughed together and cried together. We know the names of each other’s loved ones and celebrate simhat bereshit and often discuss our difficulties.

We enter the Chapel – Library just before two o’clock. The rules of similar writing groups are adhered to. Our ground rules are wrapped in respect and include promptness, respect for differences, and reaction to the writing in a constructive manner. The group commences with a free-write – that is, a topic that is suggested by a group member. We write freely for ten minutes in silence. The free-write is then read aloud. We provide constructive criticism to one another on the free-write. Sometimes the comments are simply, “I loved the sentence that…” or sometimes it is a suggestion of a word or a phrase to be changed.

Then the group moves to the prompt that was assigned the previous week; we normally write from two to four pages in the week between sessions. Some of our prompts have been: 125 minutes, Nothing Is Real, What Do We Know?, Loyalty, Travel, Joy, Terri Schaivo, Borders, Outside the Box, the Wind, and Finding the Ox.

Each group member reads their “piece” aloud and all comment. Some of the group has been professionally published and some are in the process of publishing. We do not have a name yet. But we do have a strong sense of community. So if you are free on Thursday afternoon, please stop by!

**Youth News**

**Teen Minyan at BEKI**

A Teen Minyan for people in grades 9 through 12 has begun meeting on an occasional basis on Shabbat mornings. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Jochai at teenminyan@beki.org or through the BEKI office at 389.2108 x14.

---

**BB Scholarship**

The B’nai B’rith Career & Counseling Services of New York College Scholarship Committee offers eight college scholarships, totaling almost $30,000, to high school seniors who demonstrate strong academic performance and financial need. Financial need is considered on a broad basis. Any graduating high school senior, who will be attending college next year, is eligible to apply. The only restriction is that applicants must live in the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau/Suffolk Counties, New York State or the New England States.

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 2005.
With sorrow we note the passing of

Mary Graham
sister of Jim Graham
(& Melissa Perkal)

Rena Shupakevitz
mother of Rachel
(& Stephen) Wizner

Patricia Janette
mother of Nathan
(& Judi Shanok) Janette

BEKI Welcomes New Members

• Mary Doyle Fritz

Mazal tov to

• Mimi & Efram Glenn on the birth of their granddaughters Abigail Lauren Glenn & Sydney Nicole Glenn to Meredith & Ilan Glenn on Shabbat 1 October in New York

• Barzillai Cheskis on the birth of a great-grandchild Ava Blair Satinsky, and to grand-aunt and uncle Rena Cheskis-Gold & Martin Gold

• Mary Doyle Fritz on completing her gerut process

• Carl Goldfield on his reelection to the New Haven Board of Aldermen

• Ina Silverman on her reelection to the New Haven Board of Aldermen

Library news

The following books have been generously donated to the Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library, housed in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. These books will be of particular interest to the parent volunteer leaders of the Shabbat Children’s Programs, and are available on a non-lending basis.

Thirty-One Cakes by Loren Hodes
Sammy Spider’s First Rosh Hashanah by Sylvia A. Rouss
The Story of Ruth by Maxine Rose Schur
The Perfect Prayer by Donald Rossoff
The Mystery Bear: A Purim Story by Leone Adelson
The Sukkah That I Built by Rochel Groner Vorst
Colors of Israel by Laurie M. Grossman
Lech Lecha: The Journey of Abraham and Sarah by Alison Greengard

Ten Tzedakah Pennies by Joni Klein-Higger
God’s Garden: Children’s Stories Grown from the Bible by Adam Fisher
A to Z Israel by Justine and Ron Fontes
It’s Sukkah Time by Latifa Berry Kropf
Reach for the Stars: A Little Torah’s Journey by Sylvia Rouss
Two by Two: by John Winch

BEKI Religious School

BEKI Religious School opened on 11 September for the 2005-2006 year. Welcomed back to school after spending a year in Israel is Rita Sela. Guy Lord has also rejoined us to teach Grade Five. The students also welcomed Ira Caplan to teach Project Etgar in Grade Six. Ariella Puterman is teaching Grade Two with Ina Silverman and Terri Stern is teaching Grade Seven Project Etgar on Wednesdays.

The year started with a Memorial Service to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of 11 September. The service was adapted to be age appropriate from a service by Serene Victor, USCJ National Consultant for Synagogue Education and Rabbi Stuart Seltzer of Baltimore.

The service began simply with the lighting of two yahrzeit candles for remembrance of the Twin Towers and those who perished there that day. The Religious School students then sang America the Beautiful and Hatikva, to express their hope for a world that will embrace peace. The service closed with the blowing of the shofar.
In November the students and staff geared up for the international effort entitled Teach Israel Month. Rita Sela brought back some teaching materials from her year in Jerusalem. There is a dedicated a bookcase in Room Eleven, just for materials about Israel. We are fortunate to have Tali Zion and Hila Arie as our Young Emissaries from the Afula-Gilboa Region this year. On 9 November they led a very moving ceremony marking the yahrzeit of Yitzhak Rabin. Later, the Emissaries set up the interactive teaching map of Israel, provided by the Department of Jewish Education, called Attractive Land. The students stood on the map of Israel and located Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Jaffa and many other cities. Once they explored the geography of Israel, they proceeded to learn about agriculture and local features in the various regions of Israel: they simulated milking cows in the Galilee, and tasting the water of the Dead Sea. The morning concluded with Israeli dance and snacks. Later in the month, the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh graders visited the Interfaith Food Bank on the New Haven Green. For the fourth year they donated kosher pies and worked setting up for the Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner and cutting pies for the holiday.

BEKI Religious School is pleased to welcome new madrikh, Adam Goldberg who will be working with Nora Goldfield and Paula Samuel in Kindergarten and Grade One. Daphne Lew will be working with the students in Meyuhad. Sarah Grazier-Zerbarini will return as Office Assistant and Zach Bell will be joined by Josh Levine for Snack and general Teaching Assistant duties. We are pleased to have Anna Abramovitz return in her multifaceted roles.

Benei Mitzva Program

Sarah Serkin has settled nicely into her new role as Benei Mitzva Program Director. She welcomes Dayna Rothman, Anna Abramovitz, Gilah Benson-Tilsen, Shai Silverman and Daphne Lew to her cadre of trainers as Benei Mitzva teen tutors.

Kulanu

The members of Kulanu will be hosting their Fourth Annual Hanuka party on 20 December 20th. As is their custom, the latkes will be prepared by Chapel Haven graduates. This year the group will view both dreidels and from around the world.

Saul’s Circle

Members of Saul’s Circle continue to meet in the Learning Barn at Fellowship Place. The sessions are a blend of topics including discussions about the Jewish Holidays. For September we held a service to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of 11 September. We also had a session to prepare for the High Holidays focused on songs such as Ma Tovu, and liturgy such as the Barekhu and Yotzer Or.

In October the group focused on learning more about Simhat Torah and Shemini Atseret. Then in November the group heard a presentation on Hiroshima and Nuclear Disarmament led by Dr. Lauren Kempton and Billy Bromage, Member Services Coordinator at Fellowship Place.

Participants in Kulanu and Saul’s Circle joined the members of the Shalom Group from Jewish Family Services in October here at BEKI for their traditional dinner in the BEKI sukkah. The group reviewed the history of Sukkot as a pilgrimage festival and welcomed guests -- haknasat orhim. They were pleased to recite the holiday qiddush. LK

Bat Mitzva in December

Netanya Lerner, daughter of Peter Lerner & Gwen Weltman, will lead and participate in services on Shabbat 30-31 December, Rosh Hodesh Tevet, Shabbat Hanuka, parashat Miqets. Three Torah scrolls are used on that day.
**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 501(c)3 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 usually allow the donor to deduct the appreciated value of the security. Illustration: You bought 100 shares of XYZ at $10 two years ago 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.

Charitable contributions also avoid the penalty of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). In addition, special tax advantages were created by Congress for certain contributions for the 2005 year only. Please consult your tax or financial advisor for details.

**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. 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 Tzedaqa (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 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.
Sukka Hop Report
Thank you so much to the hosts of the Sukka hop: Frankel & Kaufman, Grazier-Zerbarini, Bass, Cohen-Fraade and Lovett-Graff families. 54 people enjoyed text study, Trivial Pursuit, singing, basketball, swings, baseball playing, trampoline jumping, badminton, Wacky Mack, chili, muffins, apples, sandwich wraps, ginger snaps, and more thanks to these intrepid hosts. They opened their sukkot and generously provided hospitality to an age-diverse group of BEKI folks. Save the date for next year’s Family Hop: Shabbat 7 October 2006. There will be 2 routes -- upper and lower Westville -- for the first 4 stops, to join together for the last 2 stops in lower Westville.

MEB
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)</td>
<td>4:07pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td>Darshan: Morris Cohen 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:05pm Minha-Maariv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm Writing Group</td>
<td>4:10pm Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Kligfelds 4:15pm Minha-Maariv</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00pm A.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29 Heshvan</td>
<td>1 Kislev</td>
<td>2 Kislev</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 9:00am Religious School
5 7:45am Rashi Study Group
6 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Beni Mitzva Program
7 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Beni Mitzva Program
8 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.
9 4:05pm Candle Lighting 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.
10 4:05pm Candle Lighting 4:05pm Candle Lighting 4:07pm Candle Lighting Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Ludwigs 4:05pm Minha-Maariv

3 Kislev | 4 Kislev | 5 Kislev | 6 Kislev | 7 Kislev | 8 Kislev | 9 Kislev |

11 9:00am Religious School
12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)
13 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Beni Mitzva Program
14 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Beni Mitzva Program
15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.
16 4:07pm Candle Lighting 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.
17 4:07pm Candle Lighting 4:07pm Candle Lighting 4:10pm Minha-Maariv Darshan: Michael Kligfeld 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Kligfelds 4:10pm Minha-Maariv

10 Kislev | 11 Kislev | 12 Kislev | 13 Kislev | 14 Kislev | 15 Kislev | 16 Kislev |

18 9:00pm Religious School Hanukah Party
19 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting
20 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Beni Mitzva
21 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Beni Mitzva
22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.
23 4:10pm Candle Lighting 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.
24 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Posener 4:10pm Minha-Maariv

17 Kislev | 18 Kislev | 19 Kislev | 20 Kislev | 21 Kislev | 22 Kislev | 23 Kislev |

25 Erev Hanuka
26 No Religious School Hanuka I Office Closed 7:45am Rashi Study Group
27 No Religious School Hanuka II
28 No Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Beni Mitzva Program
29 No Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.
30 4:15pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Netanya Lerner Bat Mitzva
31 9:00am Netanya Lerner Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Lerner/Weitman 4:15pm Minha-Maariv

24 Kislev | 26 Kislev | 26 Kislev | 27 Kislev | 28 Kislev | 29 Kislev | 30 Kislev |
Shabbatot
Darshanim in December

• Morris Cohen will serve as *darshan* (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 3 December, *parashat* Toldot. Morris is a professor emeritus of law at Yale University and former Yale Law Librarian.

• Rabbi Moshe (Murray) Levine will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning 10 December, *parashat* VaYetsei. Rabbi Murray served as an Army chaplain in the 1950s and is rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham, Massachusetts.

• Michael Kligfeld will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning 17 December, *parashat* VaYishlah. Michael is a psychiatrist in private practice and has been active for more than 50 years in Jewish communal life, as a religious school teacher, youth director and synagogue board member. He served for more than 20 years on the New Haven Board of Jewish Education, and for 10 years on the national board of JESNA. He has been a High Holiday Cantor most years since 1959, and has composed numerous Jewish liturgical works.

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.

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.

Wednesdays
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
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 both 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 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

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 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.
Welcome to Your Brand NEW Kosher Foods Dept.

You’ll be delighted to find hundreds of Kosher items including all your favorite dairy, frozen, meat and grocery Kosher products. Come in and see what we have in store for you.

**Take Advantage of the SAVINGS**

1131 Campbell Avenue (203) 934-5660

**Super Coupon**

$10.00 OFF $75.00 or more on your Total Shopping Order

With this coupon and an additional purchase of $75.00 or more (Excluding items prohibited by law). Limit one per family. Good at any ShopRite. Effective Thursday, Dec. 1 thru Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005.