

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

## BEKIbulletin

December 2005

Kislev 5766  
Vol. 11 Issue 11

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## 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](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 Hanuka Party is planned at BEKI for early Sunday evening 1 January 2006.

The *Hanukiya* (Hanuka

Menora) will be lit each evening at BEKI at 5:45p,



immediately before the Maariv evening service. It is also lit 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.

**Sisterhood Giftshop** Open Sundays 10:30a to 12:15p Through Hanuka  
Gift Certificates Available

## 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.

### 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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## 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 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



Robert Sachs attaches mezuzah at dedication of new entrance honoring Ivan & Rita Sachs & Family

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 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

*continued on page 4*

*continued from page 3*

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 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 renovation 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.

## Mitchell Library Music Section

A secular CLASSICAL MUSIC section will soon be available in the Mitchell Public Library, Westville. Books include biographies of composers, instrumental scores for piano, concerti and some scores for violin and Grand Opera. All newly printed publications, mainly in hard cover and categorically arranged, a delight to borrow and to enjoy. In memory of Natalie Edison.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).



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# A Message from the Education Director

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 *simhot* 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



Dr. Lauren Kempton

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](mailto: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



Ari Nathan Levine, of blessed memory

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 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-Zerbarrini will return as Office Assistant and Zach Bell will be joined by Josh Levine for Snack and general Teach-

ing 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 sukka. The group reviewed the history of Sukkot as a pilgrimage festival and welcomed guests -- *hakhnasat orhim*. They were pleased to recite Hallel, the prayers of thanks and shared the lulav and etrog. They also recited 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 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 worshippers. 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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## 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.

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**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*

# December 2005

29 Heshvan 5766 - 30 Kislev 5766

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.  29 Heshvan	2 Rosh Hodesh 4:06pm Candle Lighting  1 Kislev	3 Darshan: Morris Cohen 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:05pm Minha-Maariv  2 Kislev
4 9:00am Religious School  3 Kislev	5 7:45am Rashi Study Group  4 Kislev	6   5 Kislev	7 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program  6 Kislev	8 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.  7 Kislev	9 4:05pm Candle Lighting  8 Kislev	10 Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Ludwigs 4:05pm Minha-Maariv  9 Kislev
11 9:00am Religious School  10 Kislev	12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  11 Kislev	13   12 Kislev	14 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program  13 Kislev	15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.  14 Kislev	16 4:07pm Candle Lighting  15 Kislev	17 Darshan: Michael Kliffeld 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Kliffelds 4:10pm Minha-Maariv  16 Kislev
18 9:00pm Religious School Hanukah Party  17 Kislev	19 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting  18 Kislev	20   19 Kislev	21 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva  20 Kislev	22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.  21 Kislev	23 4:10pm Candle Lighting  22 Kislev	24 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Posener 4:10pm Minha-Maariv  23 Kislev
25 Erev Hanuka No Religious School  24 Kislev	26 Hanuka I Office Closed 7:45am Rashi Study Group  25 Kislev	27 Hanuka II   26 Kislev	28 Hanuka III No Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program  27 Kislev	29 Hanuka IV No Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.  28 Kislev	30 Hanuka V 4:15pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Netanya Lerner Bat Mitzva  29 Kislev	31 Rosh Hodesh - Hanuka VI 9:00am Netanya Lerner Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Lerner/Weltman 4:15pm Minha-Maariv  30 Kislev

**BEKI Events**

## 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.

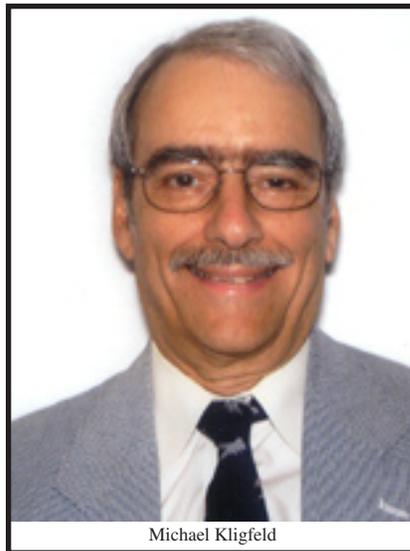
• Rabbi Moshe (Murray) Levine will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning 10 December, *parashat* VaYetsei. Rabbi Murray served as an Army chaplain in the 1950s and is rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth Sholom, Framingham, Massachusetts.



Rabbi Moshe (Murray) Levine

• 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.



Michael Kligfeld

### 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 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).

## 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](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

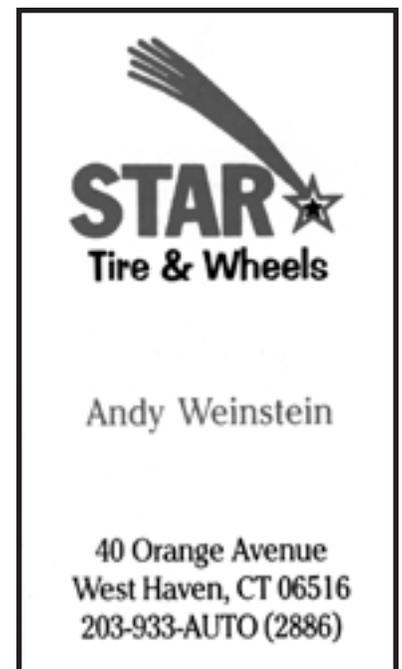
A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's website under "Adult Studies" and "Meet Rabbi Tilsen."

## 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).



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