It was a gloriously sunny Sunday morning in November when volunteers demolished the former Claire Goodwin Youth Room so that it could be renovated and transformed into the new George G. Posener Daily Chapel/Rosenkrantz Family Library. This is nearly the last step in the current $1.5 million renovation project, Phase Two, which includes the creation of an accessible entryway, installation of an elevator, an expanded lobby, a new changing room and accessible washroom, and a sunny new Claire Goodwin Children’s Room opening to the courtyard.

Climbing ladders and reaching overhead, dozens of ceiling tiles and obsolete fluorescent bulbs and ballasts were removed. Bending down to the floor, the workers took out worn carpeting. The dust was awful, but everyone wore face masks. They moved out old furniture and detached a sink from the wall. Toward the end of the morning, Coby Ben-Chitrit and Rigel Janette stripped the last bits of carpet from the floor. Eric Dunsiker, Nathan Janette and Adam Glass carted the heavy rolls of carpet outdoors and heaved them into a waiting Cherry Hill Dumpster, where John Weiser presided from deep inside. Daniel Ben-Chitrit and Roger Colten put their muscles to work, and 4-year-old Piper Glass added her muscle. By noon the job was done.

In the spirit of environmental responsibility, several items were salvaged for recycling or repurposing: A bulletin board that had a long and happy life in the CGYR was taken off the wall to be mounted in one of the Religious School classrooms, and a solid-wood tabletop was set aside to be made into a desk.

Over the coming weeks, the chapel/li-
Continued on Page 3
Library will be painted and new carpeting, new ceiling and new lighting will be installed. A local cabinetmaker, will construct a new ark. The ark will be along the eastern wall, and we will again pray facing Jerusalem. Ikea bookshelves will complement with the light maple wainscoting in the lobby will be assembled, and the carefully winnowed collection of books will be reshelved. Bennett Graff, Paula Hyman, and Jon-Jay Tilsen went through boxes and boxes of books, from out-of-date textbooks to timeless reference works, as well as children’s picture books, deciding what to keep and what to give away. New books will be added to the collection once the library is set up — thanks to a Women of Vision grant from the Federation.

The BEKI Sisterhood has made a generous donation to provide fixtures, including the ark, for the new George G. Posener Daily Chapel & Rosenkrantz Family Library.

The project is scheduled for completion by mid-December and will be dedicated at a qiddush on Shabbat morning, Dec. 22. At that time we will express gratitude to all those who made the renovation possible through donations and hard work, and especially to George G. Posener in honor of his birthday, which falls on Dec. 25.

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.

Hanuka at BEKI

The first night of Hanuka is Tuesday, Dec. 4. Hanuka candles or lamps should be lit about 4 p.m. The blessings for candle lighting are available as audio files at www.beki.org/audio.html and are printed in our Siddur Sim Shalom prayerbook on page 242 (classic edition) or page 307 (Shabbat edition and Or Hadash). On Shabbat Hanuka, the Hanuka candles are lighted first at about 4 p.m., followed by Shabbat Candles at about 4:05.

The Hanukiya (Hanuka Menora) will be lighted each evening (except Friday) at BEKI at 5:45, 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.
‘Let Justice Well up as the Waters’

BEKI will host a Shabbaton on Jan. 4-5 to celebrate the legacy of the Civil Rights movement and focus on what remains to be done to realize social justice today.

The two-day program, titled “Let Justice Well up as the Waters: Moving Toward the Dream,” is open to the entire community as well as to all BEKI members. Most events are free and require no pre-registration.

In preparation for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Shabbaton will look back at the little known stories of Jewish women who helped lead the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. It will also consider the city and region we live in and explore what needs to be done to make a better, more just society. The overall goal is to inspire and motivate action through existing community programs and new efforts that BEKI’s Social Action -Tiqun Olam Committee has undertaken.

The Shabbaton will begin with a traditional warm and welcoming Friday service at 6 p.m. on Jan. 4. Following the service, there will be a family Shabbat dinner — reservations required. Specific information on cost and meal choices will be in a mid-month mailing.

FRIDAY: BONITA GRUBBS

After dinner, Bonita Grubbs, an impassioned community leader, will speak about how the ideals of the Civil Rights movement have played out in New Haven and what challenges the community faces today. Programming for children will be provided during her speech.

The Reverend Grubbs, an ordained minister in the American Baptist Church, is executive director of Christian Community Action in New Haven, a position she has held since 1988. Prior to that, she was assistant regional administrator for Connecticut’s Department of Mental Health. A graduate of Smith College, she earned master’s degrees from Yale University’s Divinity School and School of Public Health. She is a board member of the Hospital of Saint Raphael, the Connecticut Voices for Children, the Connecticut Housing Coalition, and the CT Center for School Change. She has served as president of the CT Coalition to End Homelessness and was a member of the board of trustees for the Mercy Center in Madison and Dwight Hall at Yale.

SATURDAY: DEBRA SCHULTZ

On Shabbat morning, the darshanit will be Debra L. Schultz, a social change historian and the author of Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement (New York University Press, 2001). Going South presents the experiences of 15 women who joined the 1960s civil rights movement, working primarily with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), a progressive, action-oriented civil rights group led by young black organizers.

A graduate of New York University, the City University of New York Graduate Center, and the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Dr. Schultz recently completed ten years as international director of programs for the Soros Foundation’s Network Women’s Program. This agency works to include women in the development of emerging democracies, primarily in Central/Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. In her role as a scholar, she has taught courses in Multicultural Women’s History and Black-Jewish Relations at the New School and Rutgers University and is currently working on an oral-history-based book about Roma (“gypsy”) women activists fighting racism and sexism in Europe.

During the Devar Torah, Dr. Schultz will speak about what drew her personally to study this topic and the values that these women espoused. Following a festive Qiddush luncheon, she will present “Fighting for the Dream: Jewish Women and the Civil Rights Movement.” The Jewish women who took leadership roles in the Civil Rights Movement aren’t widely known, but their history is fascinating and their lives are inspiring. The BEKI community will hear about some of these women, whose struggles and sacrifices helped change their world and will engage in a lively discussion about how we might take these women as role models for ourselves.

Afternoon programs will include a choice of activities such as Israeli dancing, yoga, text study, and discussion of community issues with civic leaders.

Children’s programming, babysitting, and a supervised napping room will be provided during the afternoon, so parents with small children can participate. Teens are welcome to join the adults.

The Shabbaton was made possible thanks to a grant from the Women of Vision Society of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, and the support of the Congregation.

Further information about the program, including how to register, can be found on the BEKI website http://www.beki.org and in literature available through the synagogue office. To get mailings or emails about program details, please contact the BEKI office at 389-2108 x14.
SATOShifts into High Gear

KOL NIDRE FOOD DRIVE

The spirit of helping others is very strong at BEKI. The Kol Nidre food drive, Operation Isaiah, combined with donations of Thanksgiving apple and pumpkin pies to yield 1,645 pounds of food for the Connecticut Food Bank, the regional center that distributes to local food pantries such as the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. Shopping bags provided by Trader Joe’s made it easy for BEKI members to give generously.

As the food drive wound down, a winter coat and blanket drive began. Every two months, BEKI’s Social Action-Tiqun Olam (SATO) Committee will focus on a different need, either in the local community or farther afield.

During the High Holidays this fall, in addition to the traditional fundraising pledge card, BEKI provided a card for members to pledge their time and energy to a variety of projects such as political advocacy on behalf of social justice, providing literacy tutoring in the public schools, working with Amity Cares—Habitat for Humanity to build a home, providing rides to those without transportation, partnering with a local shelter, and more. The response to this year’s first-ever community service/social justice pledge cards was so strong that it encouraged the SATO Committee to launch several important projects, in addition to the year-round “drives.”

Thirty-three people volunteered to work at a local soup kitchen. With such a large group, BEKI will be able to provide monthly or twice-monthly dinners at Columbus House, a homeless transient shelter for about 80 men and 20 women. Volunteers will work in teams of eight to 10 people, shopping, cooking, serving, and cleaning up.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity got 23 volunteers, including 17 people who haven’t participated in the past. On Dec. 9, the second Amity Cares house, which BEKI volunteers were very active in building, will be dedicated.

SATO co-chair Joanne Goldblum, who serves on the New Haven Homeless Coalition, is coordinating an effort to partner BEKI with the Life Haven shelter on Ferry Street, which serves a transient community of women and their children. Volunteers will be able to provide mentoring and employment advice, as well as supplies to meet the concrete needs of the residents.

MORE TO COME

Other social action projects are also in the works. Members of the SATO Committee include co-chairs Dr. Jennifer Botwick and Joanne, with Darryl Rotman Kuperstock, Mary Fritz-Doyle, Rob Lettick, Isaiah Cooper, and Mimi Glenn.
USY Ice Cream Social

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for 90 years serving the elderly in traditional Jewish surroundings

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Full Time Geriatricians Glatt Kosher Four season courtyard Reserved Parking

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BEKI Bulletin December 2007

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Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue's Connecticut Valley Region at (860) 563-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org

Support the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center your home within the homeland

Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue's Connecticut Valley Region at (860) 563-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org
Mazal Tov to

Mazal Tov to
Gary Ratner on the award of his doctorate from Emory University.
Herbert Etkind on the qiddushin of his granddaughter Wendy Schwam to Jared Siegel.

Welcome New Members
Mark & Renee Kohn and Randy.

HaNolad BeMazal Tov
Mazal tov to Thomas & Elisa Black on the birth of their son Samuel James Black, and to Dana Black on the birth of her brother, in November. Samuel James was entered into the covenant through the brit mila (rite of circumcision) at BEKI on the eighth day according to law and tradition.

Mazal tov to Iris & Adam Gafni-Kane on the birth of their daughter Zohar Haya Gafni-Kane, and to Arnon Gafni-Kane on the birth of his sister.

HaMaqom Yenahem
With sorrow we note the passing of
Lillian Heisler, wife of Alexander Heisler

Mazal tov to Lillian Heisler, of blessed memory
May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Amity Bikes Provides Bike Rack
A bike rack was contributed to BEKI by D’Aniello’s Amity Bike, of 18 Selden St, Woodbridge (387-6734) amitybikes@yahoo.com. The bike rack is placed near the handicapped parking zone at the northeast corner of the building. Thanks to Jay Sokolow and Bill Shragis and the good people of Amity Bike for making BEKI a little better for the many BEKI members and guests who bike.

Three “Squeaky” Stories
by Muriel Kaltman
Ages 4-6
Each story is about a little boy whose nickname is “Squeaky” and his adventures with a squirrel, with a cricket, with a chickadee — a delightful book of fantasies available with each donation of $50 toward BEKI’s financial needs.
Peggy has a small supply of the books 389-2108 x14.
Charity and Financial Planning

Create a legacy for BEKI

Let Us Show You How
Fulfill your philanthropic visions without risking your financial security or that of your loved ones. BEKI can support your goals to create a lasting legacy without compromising your family’s financial security — either now or in the future. All gifts can be designated for general purposes, renovations, to establish a restricted endowment, or for any program or project that is important to you.

Let BEKI Give You Money
Turn your appreciated assets, like stocks and mutual funds, into income for yourself and/or someone else. Often, you can receive part of the income tax-free, reduce or eliminate your capital gains for the donated property, and receive a current, charitable income deduction.

Create a Personal Legacy
Designate BEKI as a beneficiary of your Will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. It’s a simple and powerful way to create a family legacy. During your lifetime, your assets are not affected and you reduce your taxable estate.

Charitable Retirement Accounts
Donate property that creates a Deferred Gift Annuity. This allows you to lock in a fixed income stream for yourself that begins on a designated future date and entitles you to a current income tax deduction.

Don’t Let Assets Be Eaten by Taxes
Maximize what your heirs receive by reducing taxes — to do this, leave a portion of your retirement plan to BEKI and leave other assets to your heirs. Retirement plans (401k, 403b, IRA or pension plan) left to non-charitable heirs (other than a spouse) can result in beneficiaries paying income and estate taxes as high as 75%. Even if you will not have a taxable estate, your retirement assets are subject to income tax as they are distributed. In addition, until 12/31/07, individuals age 70 ½ and over can rollover up to $100,000 from an IRA directly to BEKI.

Reduce Capital Gains Taxes
Donate long-term appreciated property (like stocks and mutual funds) to BEKI to reduce or eliminate the capital gains tax for that property and receive an income tax deduction for the appreciated value of the property.

For more information contact BEKI member Treasurer Donna Levine, Esq., (203) 985-9033 or BEKI member Lisa A. Stanger, Esq., Director, Jewish Foundation, 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org, for a confidential conversation.

We Want to Pay You to Give to BEKI
Yes, that’s right! We can help you help BEKI.

When you establish a charitable gift annuity for the benefit of BEKI:

- We will pay you a guaranteed annual income for life (for you and/or your spouse).
- The remainder of the annuity will be paid to BEKI. You can designate that it be used for general purposes, to establish a restricted endowment for scholarships, educational programs, or any other program or project that is important to you.
- You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for part of the donation.
- Part of your annuity payment will be tax-free.

A charitable gift annuity is also a great opportunity to “convert” appreciated property into income payments to you.

$10,000 CASH GIFT ANNUITY*

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* Based on rates as of November 2007. Rates differ for two-life annuity. Tax-free portion differs when annuity is established with appreciated property. Charitable gift annuities for BEKI are established with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

Contacts
For more information about this and other “tax-smart” gifts for BEKI, contact Lisa A. Stanger, Esq., BEKI member and Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org, or Donna Levine, Esq., BEKI Treasurer, (203) 985-9033 sdsij@aol.com, for a confidential conversation.
New Tax Law Makes IRA Giving Better

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 presents a special opportunity to make a gift to BEKI or the BEKI Religious School (or other not-for-profit) from your IRA without adverse tax consequences.

Lisa Stanger, Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven (387-2424) and BEKI member, explains, “If you are 70½ or older, for a limited time (2007), you can instruct the trustee of your IRA to make a direct distribution of up to $100,000 per year to the charity of your choice. A direct distribution counts toward your annual IRA distribution requirement and it is tax neutral for federal and state tax purposes.”

Such a distribution can be used for a Renovations Campaign pledge, Annual Campaign contribution, to create an endowment for the benefit of the synagogue managed by the Jewish Foundation, or for other contributions. Stanger notes that “Unlike a cash withdrawal from your IRA, your direct contribution will be excluded from income for federal purposes and not taxed. It will not be eligible for a charitable tax deduction, but it will not count toward the percentage limitations on your other deductible gifts.”

Please speak with a qualified advisor before making a charitable IRA rollover gift.

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 Dec. 31). 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.

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 2006 or 2007 year only. Please consult your tax or financial advisor for details.

EXAMPLE: 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.
**Gift Shop Kippot**

Through the efforts of Darryl Kuperstock our gift shop is selling kippot from Guatemala-MayaWorks.

MayaWorks markets the work of Maya artisans who otherwise have no outlet for their handiwork. As a proud member of the Fair Trade Federation, artisans are paid at prices they set, are provided technical assistance and meet other Fair Trade criteria.

MayaWorks believes that community development happens through the economic development of women who otherwise have limited ways to participate or contribute to economic stability of their families.

By purchasing their beautiful kippot you can give these women the opportunity to earn an income from their skills and improve their families and their villages. Stop by the shop — see these outstanding kippot and support a wonderful project.

We also have gifts for all occasions — weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvah’s and birthdays.

Adele Tyson
Ruth Greenblatt
Co-Presidents

**Torah Fund**

Our Sisterhood, as a member of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, supports the Jewish Theological Seminary. We sell cards, and many women are benefactors each year at $180 and once a year we ask for donations when our appeal letter is sent out.

At 3080 Broadway in Manhattan, the Seminary was founded in 1886 and today is the center of Conservative Judaism worldwide. Women’s League support is vital to this great institution and you can do your part: Purchase cards for all occasions without leaving home. Call Barbara Cushen at 407-0314 and your card is sent right out. $4 per card includes postage.

Thanks to everyone who purchased cards last month.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair

**In Memory of:**
- Sylvia Sachs to Rhoda Zahler from Jennifer Fleming
- Reuven Pa’amoni to Liora & Yaron Lew from Barbara Cushen, BEKI Hesed Committee, Donna & Sid Levine, Adele Tyson
- Avie Cohen to Michael Ben-Avie & Sascha van Creveld from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Donna & Sid Levine
- David Abramson to Charles & Violet Ludwig from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Lillian Heisler to Alexander Heisler from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Marcia Lev to Lorraine Geltman from Shirley Mattler
- Ted Satin to Molly Satin from Helen Miller

**Mazal Tov to:**
- Mikki Ratner on her milestone birthday from Harriet & Noel Barstein
- Joanne Goldblum on her “Diaper Bank” award from Donna & Sid Levine
- Rita Rossner on the marriage of her granddaughter from Adele Tyson
- Doris & David Sagerman on their 61st anniversary from Adele Tyson

**Get Well to:**
- Marge Wiener from Jennifer Fleming
- Nancy Lobell from Anna Goldberg
- Carole Bass from BEKI Hesed

**Synagogue Directory Coming to BEKI**

We will be preparing a synagogue directory with a list of members and their photos. All who participate in being photographed will receive a free directory and a free 8-by-10 photo portrait. You may list just your name, or you may include any additional contact information if you wish. Participation is voluntary.

The dates for being photographed are Jan. 20-23. More dates in February will be announced. Please make sure that you look out for the notice in an upcoming mailing so that you can sign up to be included in a photo shoot.
Concert Review

Mike Mulligan and his beloved steam shovel, Mary Anne, dug the foundation for Popperville’s City Hall in one day, according to the classic children’s book by Virginia Lee Burton. The piece was set to original music by Tom Duffy, director of the Yale Bands, and performed at a special concert on Nov. 4 at BEKI. Duffy himself conducted the Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble. Instrumentalists were Naomi Senzer, flute; Reesa Gringorten, Julie Asuma Levine and Xiaoting Ma, clarinets; and W. Miles Freeman, bass clarinet. Mary Weigand narrated the text.

About 45 people, including numerous entranced students from Garinim Montessori Preschool and their friends, enjoyed the concert, which also included “The March of the Trolls” from Grieg’s Peer Gynt Suite, and a traditional klezmer freilach, both conducted by Earl.

The concert was a gift to the congregation, donated by Morris and Gloria Cohen, Alan Lovins and Trish Loving, Elayne and Mort Dimenstein, Isaiah Cooper and Lauri Lowell, and Ghis and Joe Palumbo.
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Darshanim in December

Steven Fraade will serve as darshan (Torah commentator) on Dec. 1, parashat VaYeshev.

Rabbi Alan Lovins will serve as darshan on Dec. 15, parashat VaYigash.

A special guest will serve as darshan on Shabbat Dec. 29, parashat Shemot.

Shabbatot

Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday at 10:45 a.m., is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shachrit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela 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 of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. During Library Renovations (autumn-winter 2007), the meeting is in the synagogue office.

Pirqe Avot

Pirqe Avot: Ethics of our Sages Study Session is held every Shabbat afternoon before the evening service from November through March. This half-hour of study gives a taste of the wisdom of our sages and an opportunity to discuss the application of the teachings to our lives. Avot is available on-line in English and Hebrew, and dozens of editions are available in print. It is included in some editions of Siddur Sim Shalom.

Sundays

Talmud with Moshe Meiri

Serious high school students are studying Talmud on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The class meets Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:15. Students wishing to enroll for the Spring Semester should speak with Moshe and should register with the office (office@beki.org). The classes are open only to students in grades 8-12. This class will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Registration and materials fee is $120 for the spring semester. Moshe may be reached at moshe@snet.net.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 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. The Rashi Study Group has met weekly since 1994 and is currently reading the book of Numbers. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. shaharit morning service.

Chironomy Workshop for Torah Readers

Introduction to chironomy, the sign-language of Torah reading. For intermediate and advanced Torah readers. Classroom 4 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., Monday, Dec. 17. For information, contact Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org 389.2108 x10.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group begins New Term

Newcomers Welcome to Try or Join

The “Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group” meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) with Rabbi Tilsen at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah Cooper 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.

Now is a good time to join; everyone is welcome. The group has just concluded the chapter, “The Four Means of Judicial Execution” and is beginning the chapter, “The Rebellious Son.” For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net. The group will not meet on Dec. 27.

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.”

Divrei Torah by Rabbi Tilsen on the Yamim Noraim High Holy Days are available at www.beki.org/tilsen.html.
Point of Grammar

Notes on Hebrew Morphology, Syntax and Grammar to Aid Ba’alei Qeri’a (Torah & Haftara Readers), Shelihei Tsibbur (Service Leaders) Gabbaim and worshipers.

Qamatz Qatan and Hataf-Qamatz

The qamatz is the “A” vowel that looks like a small letter “T” written under a letter: אָ.

There are two variations on this vowel that affect pronunciation. One is the qamatz qatan or “small qamatz” which, unfortunately, is written the same way as a “regular” qamatz in most books. Siddur Sim Shalom (the prayer book we use at BEKI) writes it uniquely as a horizontal line with a dot under it: אָ.

Siddur Rinat Yisrael writes it as a double-size qamatz (perhaps a bit confusing as this “small qamatz” is written large!): אָ.

The other variation on this vowel is the hataf-qamatz which is written as a qamatz with a sheva next to it: אָ.

Both the qamatz qatan and hataf vowel are pronounced more like the long “O” as in the words “vote” and “super-cold.”

The qamatz qatan can be identified as a qamatz that appears in a closed, unaccented syllable. A closed syllable is a syllable that ends in a consonant (consonant-vowel-consonant). An open syllable, in contrast, is one that ends in a vowel (consonant-vowel). Thus in the word-pair kol-Yisrael (which happen to be two words attached by a hyphen, treated as one word), the qamatz in the word kol is a pronounced “O” (and not “A”). Similarly in the word qorban korbeh the first qamatz is pronounced “O” since it is in a closed unaccented syllable.

Biblical forms such as va-yi-qom, יכמ which are accented on “ya,” often will have a closed unaccented final syllable, in which the qamatz is pronounced “O” (and not “A”).

The hataf vowel is easy to spot and appears in the words hodoshim הדרשים and oniya among others.

Gabbaim note: If a Torah reader pronounces this incorrectly, it usually is not necessary to correct the reading, as this error does not affect the meaning or intelligibility of the text.

Weekday morning services

Begin your day with spiritual renewal and fellowship. The Monday morning service (7 to 7:45) includes a brief Torah service, and is followed by the Rashi Study Group (7:45 to 8:30). Tuesday mornings (7 to 7:30) are attended by a unique mix of people. Wednesday mornings (7 to 7:30) features a continuing group of friends. Thursday mornings (8:15 to 9) 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 to 7:30) present an ideal setting for someone wishing to help develop a cadre of dedicated daily daveners.

In addition to fulfilling the daily mitzvot of geriat shema (recitation of the Shema), tefila (prayer), Talmud Torah (study) and Tzedaga (charity), attendance also affords those in mourning a Minyan so 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 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 Amidah. 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 Amidah. An audio recording of the Shema is available in BEKI’s web Audio Library at www.beki.org/audio.html.

Liturgical Note

Beginning Wednesday night Dec. 5 in the Maariv service, we use the phrase “ve-ten tal u-matar li-verakha” (“give winter dew and rain in proportion”) in each daily amida. The date, Dec. 5, is based on the agricultural cycle in Bavel (Iraq) calculated according to the uncorrected Julian calendar. It is the fourth year of the four-year cycle in which the hour of the equinox has advanced to “evening,” according to this calendar, hence causing the date to move to Dec. 5 instead of the Dec. 4 date in the first three years of the cycle.
Sofer On Site
A sofer (scribe), Rabbi J. Teitelbaum, will visit BEKI on a Sunday in December. If you would like to inspect, repair, adjust or purchase mezuzot or tefilin, you are welcome to make an appointment with him by calling (845) 536-3226 or to come on that Sunday and be served on a first-come basis.

New Bulletin by Email
Members and supporters who wish to receive the monthly BEKI Bulletin by email may send a blank message to bulletin-subscribe@beki.org from the email account you want to receive the monthly Bulletin. A request for confirmation will be sent to that computer, and then you must hit “reply” and then “send.” To cancel a subscription, send a message to bulletin-unsubscribe@beki.org from the email account you wish to unsubscribe. The email version of the Bulletin is typically about 3MB to 4MB.

Publication Deadlines
Submissions for the January Bulletin should be sent to jjtilsen@beki.org or office@beki.org by Dec. 1. Submissions for the mid-month mailing should be sent to office@beki.org (or delivered to Peggy) and are due by noon on the ninth of the month (or noon of the next business day). Please let Peggy know in advance if you plan to submit material. Submissions for Happenings (email) should be sent to happenings@beki.org and are due on noon Wednesday (late submissions are included when possible). Submissions for Shabbat announcements should be sent to announcements@beki.org and are due at noon on Wednesday (late submissions are included when possible).

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 Dec. 31, 2007.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 Kislev</td>
<td><strong>Darshan:</strong> Steven Fraade 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:10pm Minha-Maariv</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Kislev</td>
<td><strong>Hanuka V:</strong> 9:00am Religious School &amp; Hanuka Party 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 5:00pm USY Iron Chef Party-location TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Kislev</td>
<td><strong>Hanuka VII:</strong> 7:30pm Auction Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Tevet</td>
<td><strong>Hanuka IX:</strong> 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benel Mitzva Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Tevet</td>
<td><strong>Hanuka X:</strong> 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00pm A.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tevet</td>
<td><strong>Hanuka XI:</strong> 4:05pm Candle Lighting</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Tevet</td>
<td><strong>Hanuka XII:</strong> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 4:10pm Minha-Maariv Kadima Hanuka Party</td>
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**Service Times**

- **Sundays:**
  - 9 a.m. Shaharit
  - 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

- **Mondays:**
  - 7 a.m. Shaharit
  - 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

- **Tuesdays:**
  - 7 a.m. Shaharit
  - 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

- **Wednesdays:**
  - 7 a.m. Shaharit
  - 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

- **Thursdays:**
  - 8:15 a.m. Shaharit
  - 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

- **Fridays:**
  - 7 a.m. Shaharit
  - 6 p.m. Minha-Maariv

- **Saturdays:**
  - 9:15 a.m. Shaharit
  - Check Calendar