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Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

bulletin

December 2007

Kislev-Tevet 5768

Vol. 13 Issue 12



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Hanuka at BEKI

Page 3

Phase Two Renovation Moves Ahead

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



The renovation crew

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

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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:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108 or
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or
- Email: jjtilsen@beki.org or
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.
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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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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.

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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

RENOVATION *continued from Page 1***George and Leah Posener**

rary 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.

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 lit first at about 4 p.m., followed by Shabbat Candles at about 4:05.

The *Hanukiya* (Hanuka Menora) will be lit each evening (except Friday)

at BEKI at 5:45, 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.



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.



‘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.

SATO Shifts into High Gear



Jennifer Botwick with 1,645 pounds of donated food

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 pumpkins 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.



Four of the 23 Habitat volunteers

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**Lillian Heisler,
of blessed memory**

HaMaqom Yenahem

*With sorrow we note the
passing of*

Lillian Heisler,
wife of Alexander Heisler

*May the Almighty comfort
those who mourn*

Mazal Tov to

Jake Wizner on the publication of a young adult novel,
Spanking Shakespeare, by Random House; see
www.jakewizner.com for details.

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.

News

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little better for
the many BEKI
members and
guests who bike.



**Checking out the new bike rack are, from left, Rabbi Jon-Jay
Tilsen, President Jay Sokolow, Guy D’Aniello, Sue D’Aniello.**

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.

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- 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.

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80	8.0%	\$ 800	\$ 522	\$5,100
85	9.5%	\$ 950	\$ 675	\$5,404
90	11.3%	\$1,130	\$ 849	\$5,833

* 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 securi-

ties 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.

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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

Cards sent last month

Mazel 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 Hessed

Committee

- Rabbi Murray Levine from BEKI Hessed Committee
- Grace Jenq Goldstein from BEKI Hessed Committee

In Memory of:

- Sylvia Sachs to Rhoda Zahler from Jennifer Fleming
- Reuven Pa'amoni to Liora & Yaron Lew from Barbara Cushen, BEKI Hessed Committee, Donna & Sid Levine, Adele Tyson
- Avie Cohen to Michael Ben-Avie & Sascha van Creveld from the BEKI Hessed Committee, Donna & Sid Levine
- David Abramson to Charles & Violet Ludwig from the BEKI Hessed Committee

- Lillian Heisler to Alexander Heisler from the BEKI Hessed Committee
- Marcia Lev to Lorraine Geltman from Shirley Mattler
- Ted Satin to Molly Satin from Helen Miller

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

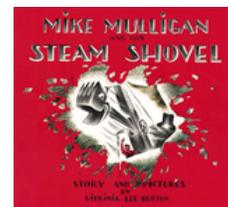
Mike Mulligan and his beloved steam shovel, Mary Anne, dug the foundation for Popperville's City Hall in one day, according to the classic children's book by

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 Pier 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

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 Shaharit (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.

Pirke Avot

Pirke Avot: Ethics of our Sages Study Session is held every Shabbat afternoon



Alan Lovins

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.



Moshe Meiri

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 worshippers.

Qamatz Qatan and Hataf-Qamatz



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

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: אֲ

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

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

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* כל-ישראל (which

happen to be two words attached by a hyphen, treated as one word), the *qamatz* in the word *kol* is pronounced “O” (and not “A”). Similarly in the word *qorban* קרבן the first *qamatz* is pronounced “O” since it is in a closed unaccented syllable.

Biblical forms such as *va-ya-qom*, וַיָּקָם 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 *hodashim* חֳדָשִׁים 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 *qeriat shema* (recitation of the Sh-

ema), *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 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 at www.beki.org/audio.html.

Liturgical Note

Beginning Wednesday night Dec. 5 in the Maariv service, we use the phrase “veten 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.

Contributions

Continued from Page 17

- In memory of Julius Margolis by Helene B. Axelrod
- In memory of Mae Tevelitz by Elma Guttenberg
- In memory of Jack Frankel by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- In memory of Albert Berman by Ruth Berman
- In memory of Betty Katten by Henry Katten
- In memory of Edward Weinstein by James Weinstein
- In memory of Isaac Press by Elsie Hodes
- In memory of Samuel Flamer by Muriel & Morton Chorney
- In memory of Edith Sokoloff Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento & Frank Frumento
- In memory of her beloved father Jack Nuht by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of her aunt Mona Zitomer by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of Solomon Kolodny by Herbert & Yvonne Kolodny
- In memory of Stanley Sawyer by Michelle Avenia
- In memory of Anna Mitnick by Lawrence Mitnick
- In memory of Benjamin Zipper by David Nabatoff
- In memory of her beloved husband Ben Kugell by Thelma Kugell & daughter Harriet Pearlman
- In memory of Louis Brunswick by Barbara Cushen & family
- In memory of Bernice Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- In memory of their mother Miriam L. Kahn by Richard & Michael Kahn

News

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.

The monthly Bulletin is also available at www.beki.org under "News & Events." Printed copies are available in the litera-

ture rack in the lobby. If you would like a single copy mailed to a friend or relative, send a request to Peggy at office@beki.org (389.2108 x14).

Guide to Benei Mitzva Preparation

The 5768 (2007-08) Guide to Benei Mitzva Preparation at BEKI is available at www.beki.org/bmitzva.pdf and by request from the office.

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.

December 2007

21 Kislev 5768 - 22 Tevet 5768

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p>Darshan: Steven Fraade 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:10pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 Kislev</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p>9:00am Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 5:00pm USY Iron Chef Party-location TBA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 Kislev</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 Kislev</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>Erev Hanuka First Light</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 Kislev</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>Hanuka I 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 Kislev</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>Hanuka II 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26 Kislev</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>Hanuka III 4:04pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 Kislev</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>Hanuka IV 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 4:10pm Minha-Maariv Kadima Hanuka Party</p> <p style="text-align: center;">28 Kislev</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>Hanuka V 9:00am Religious School & Hanuka Party 9:30am Talmud with Moshe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 Kislev</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p> <p>Rosh Hodesh - Hanuka VI 7:45am Rashi Study Group 5:00pm Kulanu/Saul's Circle Hanuka Party 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>Hanuka VII 7:30pm Auction Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p> <p>Hanuka VIII 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>4:05pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p>Darshan: Rabbi Alan Lovins 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Klifgfeld 4:15pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 Tevet</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p>9:00am Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 9:30am Sofer on Site</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:30pm Chironomy Workshop 7:30pm General Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Fast of Tevet 10 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>4:07pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Posener 4:15pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 Tevet</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p>No Religious School No Talmud with Moshe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Office Closed 7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Office Closed 9:00am Shaharit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p> <p>12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>4:11pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">19 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>Darshan: Special Guest TBA 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:15pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 Tevet</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>No Religious School No Talmud with Moshe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 Tevet</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>Office Closed 7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 Tevet</p>	<p>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</p> <p>Hanuka First Night: Tuesday, Dec. 4</p> <p>Kulanu & Saul's Circle Hanuka Event: Dec. 10</p> <p>Shabbaton: Jan. 4-6</p> <p>Bar Mitzva: Jon Friedman, Jan. 12</p> <p>Youth Commission Deli Box Pickup: Sunday, Feb. 2</p>				

Service Times

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Minha-Maariv	9:15 a.m. Shaharit Check Calendar