BEKI’s New Photo Directory

We are updating our BEKI Member Photo Directory. Each participating individual or family member will receive a free directory and one free portrait. Members can also buy extra photos; there is no obligation to purchase anything. Sign up for appointments can be done online or on paper. There is a $10 coupon toward purchases for those who sign up online.

Photos will be taken at BEKI on Wednesday Jan. 25 from 2:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.; Thursday Jan. 26 from 2:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.; and Sunday Jan. 29 from 11 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. To help work on this project contact Helene Sapadin at hsapadin@yahoo.com. There will be an orientation meeting with the Life Touch representative on Thursday Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Membership Has Its Benefits

Join BEKI as a member and you have the opportunity to be included in the new Member Photo Directory. Sign up at www.beki.org/forms/join.pdf or call Peggy at (203) 389-2108.

Shabbat Dinner

On Dec. 23, immediately following the Qabbalat Shabbat and Maariv Services (6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.), there will be a veggie, dairy pareve dinner. $15 per adult, $10 kids ages 3-12, free for kids under 3. Reservations required by 5 p.m. Monday Dec. 19. Contact: office@beki.org.

Help Wanted at the Soup Kitchen

BEKI members serve at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) on the second Monday of each month, from 5:30-7 p.m. We have four rotation groups, each serving three times a year. If you are interested in participating, please contact Judy Hoberman at jdhoberman@aol.com or (203) 389-2378.

Stuff it!

Volunteers are needed to help once, or once or twice a month, with office mailings. Friendly conversation, simple and sometimes relaxing work, essential community service provided. Contact Jay Brown jaybrown05@yahoo.com or Peggy Hackett office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14.

Is It Kiddush Yet?

Share the wonders of how to re-create our amazing Shabbat lunches. The Qiddush Committee’s recently re-printed cookbook Is It Kiddush Yet? makes an amazing gift. Available through the synagogue office, the Sisterhood Giftshop, or from Darryl Kuperstock.

20s-30s Havura

Shabbat Evening Dinner with Miriam Benson & Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, Jan. 13, following 6 p.m. service, off-site. RSVP and info on 20s-30s Havura mirbenson@aol.com.

Buying Groceries

Use gift cards for Peapod, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Westville Kosher Market, available at face value – no additional cost to you – and BEKI receives a significant com-
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:
- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: jjtlsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.
Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.
Annual subscription is $36
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Editor
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Associate Editor
Donna Levine
Associate Editor
Donna Kemper
Associate Editor
Herbert Winer
Photographer
Charles Ludwig
A Message from President Carole Bass

The closing of Abiyoyo this fall leaves a hole in the hearts of many who cherished the day care center. It also leaves a hole in BEKI’s budget.

Abiyoyo, a parents’ cooperative and a longtime BEKI tenant, closed at the end of September. Despite its strong reputation and the loyalty of many past members, it was unable to enroll enough children to meet its expenses.

We are sorry for the loss of a New Haven institution, which served BEKI families and many others. We are sorry for Abiyoyo’s staff and for the families who had to make other arrangements. And we are sorry as well for the financial difficulty it creates for us, the BEKI community.

With many of our members continuing to struggle economically, the synagogue’s board of directors adopted a tight budget for the fiscal year that began July 1. At the end of August, we learned of Abiyoyo’s impending closing.

We will keep a close eye on expenses and rein in discretionary spending as much as possible. There is no crisis, no emergency appeal, and no threat to our core mission of providing a religious, spiritual, and social home for the entire BEKI family. But we expect to call on those who are able to dig a little deeper, so that the community that sustains us in so many ways can continue to go from strength to strength.

Groceries
Continued from Page 1

mission. Available from Gloria Cohen and from Office. Connecticut residents and visitors are especially welcome to participate.

Habitat Build

Habitat Sunday workday has finally been scheduled for Jan. 8. Contact Darryl Kuperstock for details. Volunteers must be 16 years old or older, no exceptions.

Weather or Not

Please exercise caution and allow extra travel time to and from BEKI and your other destinations. Daily and Shabbat services are held regardless of weather conditions. Office hours may be curtailed or canceled in inclement weather; please contact the office to confirm availability when in doubt.

Posener Memorial Qiddush

Shabbat morning Dec. 17, a qiddush sponsored by James Shure, in memory of George G. Posener, follows morning service.

Important Tax Information

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. BEKI is a 501(c)3 organization by the US Treasury (a Letter of Determination available from our office).

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. Illustration: You bought 100 shares of XYZ at $10 ten 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 may also avoid the penalty of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). In addition, special tax advantages were created by Congress for some contributions for certain years. Please consult your tax or financial advisor for details.
A Message from Principal Ina Silverman

Shalom Haverim.

BEKI Religious School had its annual Sukka indoors due to rain but still enjoyed a joyous evening. As I write this it seems like a long time ago now that Hanuka is almost here. Parents are invited to join us for the second night Hanuka candle lighting Wednesday Dec. 21 at 6 p.m.

We have spent a lot of time on improving our Hebrew reading fluency using Shabbat prayers, and began our weekly study of the Torah reading right after Simhat Torah. This year we will be emphasizing the study of Israel as our homeland through history, culture, and visits from our Young Emissary.

A new program invites post bnei mitzva folks to learn Talmud with Moshe Meiri on Sundays right after morning minyan, 9:45 a.m. Feel free to join them in the Beit Midrash (library) any week.

Due to changes in Federation funding, our special needs program will require us to do some fundraising in the coming months to maintain our flagship program. I am sure you will be hearing more, but if you have any suggestions in the meantime, please let me know.

BRS families are reminded that in inclement weather they can check WTNH about cancellations. Your teacher will try to contact you if school is cancelled. Rest assured, however, I hate canceling school and do not feel at all obligated to abide by secular school cancellation decisions. You can safely assume there is school unless you specifically hear otherwise by phone message or WTNH listing.

Kol tuv, Morah Ina

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BEKI-BJ 8-9 Grade Kadima and USY Shabbat Event
Dec. 3, noon to 2 p.m at BEKI., lunch included, come for 9:15 a.m. service.

BEKI-BJ Kadima Pizza and Movie Night
Motse’ei Shabbat Dec. 3, 6:30 to 9 p.m., off-site, free for members, $5 non-members. RSVP to Sarah at bekib-jkadima@gmail.com.

BEKI-BJ Kadima Regional Hanuka Event
Sunday Dec. 18 Bloomfield, $10, members only.
Kadima’s Sukka Hang-Out

During October’s Hang-Out at the Hirshfields’ home in New Haven. More than 20 Kadimaniks came to play games and football (and nosh!), and Israeli Emissary Raz stopped by.
**HaMaqom Yenahem**

*With sorrow we note the passing of*
Melvin Stanger,
father of Lisa Stanger (& Greg Colodner)*

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

---

**Mazal Tov to**

Danielle Rothman on her engagement to Aryeh Carr, and to Danielle’s parents Stephen & Sheryl Rothman.

---

**Sisterhood**

It’s that time again when Sisterhood Gift Shop brings out all the Hanuka gifts and decorations for you to purchase for your home, family and gift giving. One-stop shopping in our own BEKI Shop.

We are selling Hanuka candles, Menorahs, gift items, toys and new jewelry.

Dues of $25 are being collected for Sisterhood and Women’s League. Please help support this endeavor for the year 2011-12.

Once again Sisterhood and BEKI Religious School will be celebrating Hanuka together. Please join us Erev Hanuka Wednesday Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m. for candle lighting, story telling, singing, dancing and refreshment.

**Hanuka and Judith**

Hanukiot in central and Eastern Europe were decorated sometimes with an image of Judith. What do you think is the relationship between Judith and Hanuka?

In this story a female hero first employs the possibility of seduction, and then murder, to accomplish her goals. Does the end justify the means? Does this model of female heroism still work?

The apocryphal book of Judith (from the Second Temple period) relates how the young Israelite widow, determined to save her people, beguiles (for ulterior valiant motives) Holofores, the Assyrian general who was in charge of troops laying siege to Israel.

One night while they are dining, Judith serves him salty cheese and then plies him with wine. When Holofores has passed out drunk, Judith seizes his sword and kills him, thus relieving her people from the siege. The story’s intention is to teach that powerful foes can be defeated with the help of God. And as with the Maccabees, spiritual strength begets physical strength.

As a result, Judith became a common figure on Hanukiot. Also, the Judith legend has led to the custom among some Jews of eating cheese and other dairy foods at Hanuka.

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**SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP**

Many new items

Open
Sundays
10:30 a.m. to
12:15 p.m.
During
November & December
Age Distribution by Area

Second installment in a series based on the 2010 Greater New Haven Jewish Community Population Study

(See the full report at www.jewishnewhaven.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>0-17</th>
<th>18-34</th>
<th>35-49</th>
<th>50-64</th>
<th>65 and Over</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The East</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>The West</td>
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<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Central Area</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>Hamden</td>
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<tr>
<td>The North</td>
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<td>All</td>
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Peshat – The Direct Meaning

Looking at the last set of columns in the chart, we see that 25 percent of the population of the North are children ages 0 to 17, and 17 percent of the population from the North are adults 65 and older. The table shows that the residents of the North are younger than the total community, where 17 percent are age 0 to 17 and 27 percent are 65 and older. The table also has additional information on each of the areas and more age group divisions.

Data not presented here show that the New Haven Jewish community is older than the national population of Jews or than all Americans. While 27 percent of Jewish New Haven is 65 and older, across Jewish communities in the U.S., 16 percent are 65 and older, and only 13 percent of all Americans (including non-Jews) are 65 and over.

Derash – The Comparative Meaning

Regardless of the size of the youth population, they are the future of our community, and it is important to always have strong programming for them. As of 2010, the 65 and over group is the biggest population within our community and needs to be recognized as such. By area, the North has the largest proportion of its population that are children (25 percent), and the West and Hamden have the largest proportion of their populations that are elderly (West: 35 percent; Hamden: 33 percent). Maybe it is time to also start prioritizing events within the community for the 65 and older group? Synagogues might be a focus for these events, but will that be appropriate for those 65 and older who are not synagogue members?
Darshanim

Rabbi Eric Silver will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashat VaYeshev, Dec. 17.

Dustin Gad, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashat VaYehi, Jan. 7.

Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office, 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.

Sundays

New: Torah Hand Signals Workshop

An introduction and practicum on hand signs for major trope sequences, with Tova Benson-Tilsen and Jon-Jay Tilsen, Sunday Jan. 8, 6-6:45 p.m. Ideal for beginning, intermediate and advanced Torah readers, gabbaim, and those interested in the history or linguistic aspects of text and tradition.

New: Bible Footnotes

A survey of Masoretic and other notes included in popular printings of the Humash (Pentateuch), with Jon-Jay Tilsen, Sunday Jan. 22, 6-6:45 p.m. For Torah readers, gabbaim and Torah scholars of all levels. What are those asterisked notes, dots, odd letters and symbols scattered about the page?

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 Book of Joshua. 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 o’clock shaharit morning service. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 90-second “Hebrew word of the Week” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

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. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Continued on Page 9
Adult Studies
Continued from Page 8

Mini Morning Learning Service
The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shaharit service is from 8:15 to 9:11 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group
The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. 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.

The Sanhedrin Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. The Group will be on recess on Dec. 22 and 29. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.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.”
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedqqa Fund (checks made to “Cong. Beth El-Keser Israel”)
- Flora Zoe Van Dyke honoring Ben Gerber, bar mitzvah
- Louis & Lisa Petrillo
- Linda & Leonard Bell in honor of Ben Gerber, bar mitzvah
- Victoria West in honor of Ben Gerber, bar mitzvah
- Janet Felton & Martin Gilens & Family in honor of Ben Gerber, bar mitzvah
- Howard & Willa Needle in honor of Ben Gerber, bar mitzvah

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $280)
- David & Joanne Goldblum
- Herb & Hannah Winer
- Stephanie & Harold Birn
- Lloyd & Kai Yang Friedman

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To the Dimenstein family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Goldie Taub & Rabbi Murray Levine
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Robert & Janice Lettick
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Jonathan Freiman
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Steve & Rachel Wizin
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Joy Kaufman, Stewart Frankel & Ari
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Barbara Cushen
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Jennifer Fleming
- To Harriet Friedman and family with sympathy on the passing of Tillie Leah Friedman by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Stephen & Judy Alderman
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Jennifer Fleming
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Marjorie Sydney
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Marvin & Arlene Cohen
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Hilary & Jerry Swisky
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Belle K. Greenberg
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Amy Gitlitz with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Jillian Hunt
- To Amy Gitlitz with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Stephanie Marks & Jonathan Zellen
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Mary Doyle Zuskin
- To Lewis & Renee Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Grace Cohen Geisenger by Carol Hoffman
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Richard & Marcie Sugarman
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Herbert & Hannah Winer
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their milestone birthdays by Noreen Gerson
- To Mort Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Roz Ben-Chitrit
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Roz Ben-Chitrit
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Roz Ben-Chitrit
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Carol & Marc Weitzman
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- To Mort Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Adele Tyson
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Richard & Judy Eisenberg
- To Evelyn R. Benson in her honor by Rebecca J. Benson & Arthur P. Keirger
- To Jon-Jay Tilsen and Miriam Benson in their honor by Rebecca J. Benson & Arthur P. Keirger
- To Andy Hirshfield, Monica Starr and family in their honor by Jay L. & Marjorie M. Hirshfield
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Barbara Casten & Sandra Solcot
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Rachel Hamenachem and family with sympathy on the passing of Moshe Arbib by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Shirley Chain
- To Emily Philips and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Marjorie Simson

Hesed Fund
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Mary Doyle Ziskin
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Mort Dimenstein
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Sid & Donna Levine
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Belle K. Greenberg
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Rhoda Zabler & Allen Samuel
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Jonathan Freiman
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Rebecca Kaufman
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Barbara Casten & Sandra Solcot
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Leon Cummings
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Alan Gerber
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Hunt Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Herb & Hannah Winer

Visit us at www.beki.org
Contributions (continued)

- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Sid & Donna Levine
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Muriel Banquer
- To Barbara Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Muriel Banquer
- To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Gila Reinstein
- To Mort Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Gila Reinstein
- To BEKI in honor of the warm and welcoming BEKI community by Gila Reinstein

Benzi Mitzva Qiddush Committee
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

Social Action/Tikkun Olam
- To the Dimenstein family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Jimmy Shure

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
- In memory of her husband Edward Mattler by Shirley Mattler

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund
- To Morton Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Betsy Ratner
- To BEKI in memory of George Posener by Betsy Ratner
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays by Betsy & Mikki Ratner

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Jacob Sokoloff by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Esther Kabakoff by Marvin Kabakoff
- In memory of Martha Kantrowitz by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Martha Goldman by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Moe Zigler by Pearle Schaperow
- In memory of his mom Elaine Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of Helene Pepper by Marilyn & Basil Friedman
- In memory of Jacob Pepper by Marilyn & Basil Friedman

- In memory of Ann Ratoosh by Sheri Ratoosh & Alan Glombicki
- In memory of Ruth and Al Berman by Carol & James Levenson
- In memory of Sidney Gordon by Lois J. Gordon
- In memory of Regina Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie
- In memory of Eugene H. Kone by Carolyn Kone & Allan Rubenstein
- In memory of her sister Myra Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Bette Merriam by Dorothy & Harry Levinson
- In memory of Samuel Laginsky by Gertrude Gollinger
- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Norma Granoff by Jeff Granoff
- In memory of Herman Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Edith Sokoloff Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Harry Saltz by Richard & Lynn Saltz
- In memory of Milton Rosell by Mort Dimenstein
- In memory of Carol Tendler by Mort Dimenstein
- In memory of Edward Weinstein by James Weinstein
- In memory of Morris Chain by Max & Shirley Shepro
- In memory of Irving Rudof by Stephen & Joanne Rudof
- In memory of Ben Kugell by Thelma Kugell
- In memory of Louis Marshall Winer by Herb Winer
- In memory of Susan Gell by John & Marcia Gell
- In memory of Esther Prober by Daniel & Sharon Prober
- In memory of Samuel F. Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of Diane Friedman Opton by Renee & Geoffrey Hartman
- In memory of his mother Fannie Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of Gertrude Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Bess Rosoff Brownstein by Patti Pitt
- In memory of his father Jack Frankel by Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman

Torah Fund

The Torah Fund Campaign of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism offers the opportunity to participate in preserving, promoting and perpetuating Conservative Judaism. A donation of $180 (Benefactor) or more entitles you to a specially designed pin in appreciation. This year our BEKI benefactors are Caryl Kligfeld, Violet Ludwig, Mimi Glenn & Barbara Cushen.

All donations and sale of cards monies are sent directly to New York to support programs and needs of our Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) now in its 118th year.

Thanks to everyone who has supported Torah Fund.

Cards for all occasions can be purchased and immediately sent out for you just by calling 203-407-0314. They are $4 and this includes postage.

In Memory of

- Elayne Dimenstein to Mort Dimenstein & family from the BEKI Hesed Committee, David Wright, BEKI Sisterhood
- Leonard Gold to Rita Gold from Claire & Bud Volain
- Lois Bushman to Irwin Bushman & family from Sheila Caplan
- Daniel Banquer to Muriel Banquer from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, David Wright, Adele Tyson, BEKI Sisterhood and the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Ellen Finkel Lurie to Marvin Lurie from Louis Pettrillo
- Irma Rosenfield to Jeff Golden from Louis Pettrillo
- Evelyn to Harold & Marion Schwartz from Ruth Rafflowitz
- Bernice to the Siegel family from Adele Tyson

Mazel Tov to

- Arlene Winters on her grandson’s Bar Mitzvah from Adele Tyson

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BEKI Bulletin December 2011
A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of these statements best express the viewpoints of our congregation? (See answer at bottom.)

1) Gimme That Old Time Religion

A—The synagogue and all of its services should be free and open to the public, without dues or ticket fees. Any Jew or interested person should be able to attend and participate in religious and cultural activities without reference to financial contribution. This is the birthright of every Jewish person. This is what we need to offer in order to ensure that no Jews are left out and to insure the survival of our people. The Temple in Jerusalem was open to everyone; no membership was required. The synagogue should be about giving and public service, not about membership and fundraising. Whoever wants to contribute money or time is welcome to do so. This is the sort of institution I want to support.

B—The synagogue is a community of adults who take responsibility for the institutions of Jewish life. Taking responsibility means paying dues and fees unless one is not able to do so. It also means providing personal time and effort for prayer quorums, prayer service leadership and event leadership and other activities. The existence and services of a Jewish institution should not be presented as an “entitlement” that comes without responsibility, nor should people be led to think that others can “be Jewish” for them while they sit at home. The Temple in Jerusalem was supported by a system of compulsory taxation of all Israelites as well as by free-will offerings. Jewish culture is organized around the idea of “responsibilities,” not “rights.” This is the sort of community where I want to belong.

2) Whose Shul? Our Shul!

A—The synagogue building should be beautiful and impressive, as well as clean and in perfect repair. The condition of the building reflects the congregation’s pride in Jewish identity and synagogue history. The general civic community as well as potential members form their judgment about the community based on what they see on the grounds and the building exterior and interior. Just as the Temple in Jerusalem was a wonder of the ancient world, so the synagogue building today represents the pride of the Jewish People. I want to belong to a synagogue that has a fully-functional, attractive and well-kept building.

B—The synagogue building should be functional and safe. But the quality of the educational and youth programs, the public worship, food and other events should always be a higher priority than the physical plant. The “edifice complex” – a grand and magnificent building instead of a nurturing and vibrant community – must be assiduously avoided. The Congregation has used six or seven buildings in its 120-year history; buildings come and go. The community and its spiritual life are the essence of a synagogue, not the building. I want to belong to a synagogue that values education, mitzvot and community above physical plant.

3) The Chosen People

A—This is a learning congregation. Children and adults have a safe and encouraging environment to try and train for new roles in informal and formal teaching such as the Shabbat children’s programs, and in public worship. Like students in a teaching hospital, our students see, learn and do; while the doing may not be perfect the first time, they have to start somewhere. Unlike in a teaching hospital, no one is liable to die if one of the procedures is performed poorly. This is the best way we have to train new Torah readers, service leaders and parent preschool educators. Sometimes people who do well in a trial do less well in the actual performance. This system has promoted the spiritual growth of the membership and empowered Jews to fulfill a new range of mitzvot. New talent has been developed that has enriched our spiritual life and that of other communities that benefit from students trained at BEKI. I want to be part of a congregation where everyone is encouraged to develop new skills and lead programs and services.

B—This congregation has high standards and expectations for performance in the classroom and sanctuary. Classroom teachers are paid well, and students and Torah readers have ample opportunity to learn and practice before entering the classroom or standing at the readers’ table. Parents leading children’s programs have a week or more to prepare, and have ample resources and consultants available to insure a successful program. As in a teaching hospital, you don’t give a scalpel to someone who is not sure which end to hold. Many of members are highly educated, fluent in Hebrew, appreciate music or feel bound by law to hear a correct recitation of the blessings and Torah readings; they deserve the best, or at least accuracy. It is a disgrace before visitors and a turn-off to potential members when a program or service or reading is not well-presented, and it shows disrespect to God and the community. I want to be part of a congregation where only the best qualified lead the programs and services.

Answer: Which of these statements best express the viewpoints of our congregation? Whichever one you choose.
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>12:30pm Talmud Study Group</td>
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<td>10:45am Children's Programs, 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Jewish High School of CT 4:05pm Minha-Maariv</td>
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<td>9:00am Religious School 1:00pm Pomegranate Guild</td>
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<td>4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</td>
<td>12:30pm Talmud Study Group</td>
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<td>9:00am Religious School</td>
<td>7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)</td>
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<td>9:00am Religious School USY Hanukkah Party (off-site)</td>
<td>7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting</td>
<td>Erev Hanukkah 5:45pm First Night Hanukkah Menora Lighting in Lobby</td>
<td>Hanukkah I 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 5:30pm Hanuka Program</td>
<td>Hanukkah II USY International Convention Week (off-site)</td>
<td>Hanukkah III 4:00pm Hanuka Candle Lighting 4:08pm Shabbat Candle Lighting 6:00pm Shabbat Hanuka Dinner (reservations required)</td>
<td>Hanukkah IV 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Anonymous 4:10pm Minha-Maariv</td>
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<td>Hanukkah V No Religious School</td>
<td>Rosh Hodesh - Hanukkah VI Office Closed 7:45am Rashi Study Group</td>
<td>Rosh Hodesh - Hanukkah VII</td>
<td>Hanukkah VIII Office Closed No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program</td>
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<td>10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 4:15pm Minha-Maariv</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**: 8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv
- **Thursdays**: 7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv
- **Fridays**: 7 a.m. Shaharit 6:00 p.m. Minha-Maariv
- **Saturdays**: 9:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha
I WANT YOU . . .

. . . TO ATTEND DAILY SERVICES