

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

# BEKI bulletin

Congregation  
Beth El-Keser Israel

Kislev-Tevet 5773

Vol. 18 Issue 11

Page 13: A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

## HANUKA

The first night of Hanuka is Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) Dec. 8. Hanuka candles or lamps should be lit at 5:05 p.m. or later (but not before, since we do not light them while it is still Shabbat). The blessings for candle lighting are available as audio files at [www.beki.org/audio.html](http://www.beki.org/audio.html) and are printed in our prayerbook *Siddur Sim Shalom* on p.192 (weekday edition), p.242 (classic edition) or p.307 (Shabbat edition). On subsequent evenings, except Friday and Saturday, the *hanukiya* (Hanuka *menora*) can be lit around 4:30 p.m. or later.

The *Hanukiya* (Hanuka Menora) will be lighted each evening (except Friday and Saturday) at BEKI at 5:45 p.m., immediately before the Maariv 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.

Next year, the first night of Hanuka will be Wednesday Nov. 27, 2013, the eve of Thanksgiving. Anyone for turkey-flavored latkes or cranberry *sufganiyot*?

### Hanuka Event

BEKI Religious School (BRS) invites its special needs adult friends and all BEKI kids (and their grown-ups) to a Chanukah celebration Sunday Dec. 9, 11 a.m. to noon in the Social Hall. Come learn about The Magic of Hanuka with our resident magician, mogul, and mensch, CJ May. Sisterhood will generously provide the requisite latkes and other refreshments. Play dreidel, enter a raffle, and eat chocolate gelt. How else would you spend the first morning of Hanuka (light the second candle that evening)? BRS looks forward to seeing you there.

## Modern Day Maccabees

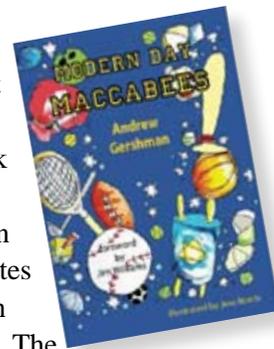
- **Jews and Sports - Modern Day Maccabees: A BEKI Book Talk Event**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7- 8:30 p.m.**
- **Free admission**
- **Author Andrew Gershman - Exclusive Area Appearance**

Come hear author Andrew Gershman discuss Jews, sports and his new book about the two. Dedication perseverance and pride. These words describe the Jewish athletes in *Modern Day Maccabees*. Athletes such as Kevin Youkilis, Omri Casspi, and Morgan

Pressel are featured among others. *Modern Day Maccabees* includes personal letters from some of the athletes and the profiles in *Modern Day Maccabees* are sure to inspire kids to pursue their dreams of personal success and *tiquin olam* on and off the field.

Andrew Gershman was born and raised in Richmond, Va., with a love of sports, especially when Jewish athletes were involved. In 2009, Andrew and his family moved to Jerusalem, where he hosted The American Sports Talk Show on Rusty Mike Radio. A year later, Andrew founded Israel Sports

Radio, an all sports talk internet radio station. Since moving back to Silver Spring, Md., he has written about Jewish athletes for the Washington Jewish Week, JTA, The L.A. Jewish Journal and The Jerusalem Post, among others. *Modern Day Maccabees* is Gershman's first book and features 20 profiles about today's Jewish sports stars' accomplishments on and off the field.



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## 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: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://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.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
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## A Letter from Rena Cheskis-Gold, BEKI-BJ Youth Commissioner

A typical Shabbat morning for me at BEKI... Tasks already accomplished: participated in prayers, heard announcements, ate food. Next task: stumping for the Youth Program. "Do you know that 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to the USY Shabbaton with Danny Siegel?" "Can you volunteer for the pie-making event for our USY tikkun olam project?" To USY officers, "Do you need training from the Regional officer for your job?" "Have you planned your activity for the upcoming meeting?"



**Rena Cheskis-Gold**

"Why do you do all this stuff with youth?" one parent asked me quizzically. "Do you have an hour?" I responded. Actually, I can sum it up in a few sentences. **I believe in providing our youth with the tools to prioritize the Jewish community in their very busy lives and to have the leadership skills to take a seat at the table of the Jewish community of the future.** Take a look at some of the surnames of teens who have been our USY officers: Bass, Kuperstock, Weiser, Cohen-Fraade, Benson-Tilsen. I don't think it's a coincidence that many of our teen leaders come from homes that put an emphasis on communal involvement. Youth learn by 'doogma,' by example, and it is powerful when that comes from home and family. But, hey, these are kids – it's all about the peers! It's not a surprise that youth become devoted to Jewish activities and think it's fun and cool when they do it with their peers.

There are a lot of Jewish youth groups out there, but I

like Kadima and USY because they are synagogue-based. We imbue the goals, spirit, and priorities of BEKI into our youth groups. While we are part of the larger United Synagogue, we fine-tune our youth groups to our own community's needs. If we want, we can provide more *tiqun olam*, accommodate Shabbat observers, make Torah study more creative, or keep our socializing low-key in the BEKI way.

You know that Deli Box fundraiser the Youth Commission does every year for Superbowl Sunday? That fundraiser provides subsidies for most Kadima or USY programs that cost more than \$50, for families that have more than one child participating, or just because it is needed. *Cost should never be an obstacle to participating in our youth programs*, so please feel that you can confidentially discuss this with me at any time.

If we are providing what your youth needs in our youth groups, that's great – send 'em to us. If you are looking for something else, let me know, and I'll caucus with our dedicated Youth Commission (7 members strong) and great advisors, and get back to you on that.

Whether you have kids in grades 5-12, would like to volunteer your time to youth, or donate money, here is an opportunity for you to give me your thoughts. Go to this site and participate in my short survey.

<http://BEKI-Youth-Survey.questionpro.com>

Of course, you can always stop me at qiddush...if you can catch me.

B'shalom,

Rena Cheskis-Gold

### Jump In

Want to Lead Services, Read Haftara, Greet Members & Guests?

The calendar is now open to request specific dates to lead Shabbat and Festival services, recite haftara, and serve as Friday Night or Shabbat morning greeter from January to June 2013. Please send email to Jon-Jay at [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org) or call (203) 389-2108 x10 with your requested dates, or to be added or dropped from the rotation schedule. For participation and leadership of Children's Programs, contact Miriam Benson at [mirbenson@aol.com](mailto:mirbenson@aol.com) (203) 389-6137. If you would like to learn to lead services or to read Torah, contact Jon-Jay.

Friday night ushering (from 5:45 to 7) was recently organized. This includes greeting members, helping guests find the correct book and otherwise guiding visitors, and serving wine or grape juice. If you would like to serve in this way at least one time in the next six months, contact Jon-Jay at [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org) or (203) 389-2108 x10.

### Memorial Plaques Available

The Memorial plaques displayed at BEKI serve as a reminder and memorial to departed loved ones. Plaques are available for \$360 by calling Peggy at (203) 389-2108 x14. Prepayment reserves a space and a plaque.

## HaMaqom Yinahem

*With sorrow we note the passing of*

**Lee Irwin Perkal,**

father of Melissa Perkal (& Jim Graham)

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

## Benei Mitzva

**Sophia Bruce**, daughter of Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce, grandson of Albert Friedman, Dec. 1, *parashat VaYishlah*.

**Eitan Minsky-Fenick**, son of Yair Minsky & Ada Fenick, Jan. 4-5, *parashat Shemot*.

## Welcome New Members

David Sasso & Dana Small and Darwin.

## Gaining Appeal by Losing Appeal

We are continuing to solicit ideas from our members regarding how to eliminate the Kol Nidrei Appeal, without adversely impacting the synagogue's financial stability. Please contact Yaron Lew at yaronlew@yahoo.com or (203) 676-0281 to share your ideas.

## Vatiquim Seniors Events

Hearing the call for activities for our BEKI community seniors (and friends), BEKI is offering a tefila and learning program. On seasonal Thursday mornings BEKI elders and their friends are specially invited to morning minyan beginning at 8:15, followed by breakfast, learning, and possibly a field trip. The next scheduled date is Dec. 6.

The speaker will be Dr. Steve Werlin, who specializes in ancient Judaism and religious studies.

The programs begin at 8:15 with minyan. Participants are requested to be on time and to please plan to attend all three sessions to promote a cohesive group. There is no charge,

donations towards breakfast will be appreciated, and transportation can be provided if needed.

BEKI members are welcome to invite friends to the series but RSVP to Ina Silverman at (203) 389-2108 x13, and feel free to make suggestions for future topics and speakers (and a different name for the group).

## Important Tax Information

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, paid pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. BEKI has been determined to be 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. Additional benefits may be realized by contributing appreciated securities. Contributing appreciated assets can obviate the need for complex and costly calculation of capital gains. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

## Take Care of Your

## Cemetery Need

The time to take care of your cemetery need is before there is a need. Now is the perfect time to select your sites...while there is a good selection. BEKI cemeteries are located in Hamden and West Haven, within minutes of the synagogue and with easy access to main thoroughfares. Member discounts are available.

We can help you select a site and discuss payment terms. Contact the BEKI Cemetery Association office today at (203) 389-2108 x57 or [cemetery@beki.org](mailto:cemetery@beki.org) and arrange a meeting with a Cemetery Association officer. For directions to the cemeteries see our website at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) under "Directions."

## Reserve Your Date

Bar- and bat-mitzva celebrants for 2013 to 2017 who do not have a written confirmation of a date reservation may wish to reserve a date by contacting Peggy at (203) 389-2108 x14. Dates are available on a first-come basis to members. Your early reservation maximizes your chance to reserve your choice of dates.

## Introducing Steve Werlin – New BEKI-BJ Kadima Advisor

Hello to all Kadimaniks and parents. My name is Steve, and I'm excited to be the new BEKI-BJ Kadima Advisor. I've spent years participating in all sorts of Jewish programs, from Jewish day camps in Massachusetts to archaeological digs in Israel. I've moved around quite a bit over the years, serving as a Hebrew tutor in Chapel Hill, N.C., and a 6<sup>th</sup>-grade Hebrew school teacher in Tucson, Ariz.

At BEKI, I'll be helping out this year as a *benei mitzva* tutor (so some of you may be seeing me often). I recently completed a PhD at the University of North Carolina, where I studied ancient Judaism and the archaeology of Israel. Since moving to New Haven with my wife and son last year, I've been volunteering my time with



**Steve Werlin, Samuel, and Lesley Frame**

local community initiatives, New Haven's Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, and the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network.

We have an exciting year of Kadima events planned for the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. I'll be sure to keep you posted via email and on the BEKI-BJ Kadima Blog ([bekibjkadima.blogspot.com](http://bekibjkadima.blogspot.com)), where we'll have the year's calendar, details about upcoming events, and photos and recaps of past events. If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you'd like to become a parent volunteer, feel free to email me at

[bekibjkadima@gmail.com](mailto:bekibjkadima@gmail.com). I'm looking forward to meeting you all and having a great year.



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## Sisterhood Gift Shop

The Sisterhood Giftshop is featuring many Hanuka items for sale.

Hanuka candles from Israel, Hanukiot, games, jewelry, serving dishes and more. Please shop for all your needs at the BEKI Sisterhood Giftshop.

Store hours are Sunday 11:15-12:15, Wednesday 5:30-6:15. Peggy will be happy to assist you weekdays and Adele and I will be available every day during the holiday.

Your support helps Sisterhood donate refreshments to many BEKI functions.

## Hanuka in History

In ancient times, Jews had a yearly midwinter celebration. It marked the time of year when days are shorter, just before they begin to grow longer. Hanuka was a festival of joy and was observed as a second Sukkot.

Jewish history recounts the winter of 167 BCE, when Judah and his followers triumphed over the Syrians and rededicated the Temple.

Hanuka is a Hebrew word for "dedication." Today we celebrate Hanuka as a reminder of the wondrous miracles that occurred long ago. It is a miracle that the faith and courage of a few Jews were able to overcome the might and power of many Assyrians. It is a miracle that the little cruse of oil in the Temple burned for eight days. It is a miracle that the Jews survived



thousands of years of oppression in many different lands.

Jews eat many foods to commemorate the holiday. We eat foods containing cheese to honor a woman named Judith whose bravery helped win the war over the Syrians. She learned that the Syrians were about to kill all the Jews in her town. To save her people she pretended to be a traitor. She offered to tell Holofernes, a Syrian leader, how to defeat the Jews. To win his trust she fed him cheese and wine. The cheese made him very thirsty, so he drank much wine and became drunk. As he was sleeping she killed him and showed the attacking Syrians their dead leader. Frightened, they ran away, sparing the Jews further warfare.

We also celebrate the holiday by eating potato pancakes fried in oil and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts) which are also fried in oil to represent the miracle of the oil found in the temple.

The board of Sisterhood wishes all our BEKI members, family and friends a Happy Hanuka.

## Some Torah Fund History

The original Torah Fund Campaign was started in 1942 by National Women's League. In 1958 a special project was begun to build The Matilda Schechter Residence Hall for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS). These two efforts were merged to become a combined campaign completing the Schechter Residence Hall in 1976.

Since then the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism has raised millions of dollars to support JTS.

Our BEKI Sisterhood has sent in many thousands of dollars to support this great institution over the years. As we start the New Year your support is as necessary and meaningful as in the early years. Please continue your support by purchasing cards for all occasions: benei mitzva, get well, new baby, sympathy, new home – we have the card.

Cards are \$4 each and includes the stamp. Just call me, (203) 407-0314, and your card will be sent right out. No need to go to the store and you save gas, time and support the JTS.

Thank you for supporting the Torah Fund.

Barbara Cushen, Chairman

*Shabbatot (Saturdays)*

**Darshanim**

Darshan –noun, plural dar·sha·nim [Seph. Heb. dahr-shah-**neem**; Ashk. Heb. dahr-**shaw**-nim], dar·shans. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggadah or Halakha in a synagogue.

*Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim:*

Sophia Bruce, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning Dec. 1, parashat VaYishlah.

Michael Kligfeld will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Dec. 8, parashat VaYeshev, erev Hanuka.

Eitan Minsky-Fenick will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Jan. 5, parashat Shemot.

**Shabbat Shalom Torah Study**

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting.

Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, with **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray Levine**, **Nadav Sela**, **David Kuperstock**, **Isaiah**



**Michael Kligfeld**



**Steven Fraade**

**Cooper, Rabbi Eric Silver** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study 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 Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.



**Alan Lovins**



**Nadav Sela**



**David Kuperstock**



**Eric Silver**

*Mondays*

**Rashi Study Group: Shoftim**

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The RSG is studying the Book of Shoftim (Judges). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Devora, Baraq, Yiftah, Mrs.

Manoah, and Samson and Delila. 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. Hebrew and English texts are available. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

*Tuesdays*

**Hebrew**

*New sections may open this season. To register for the next session, contact Peggy at [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org).*

*Wednesdays*

**Hebrew Word of the Week**

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 120-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



**Jon-Jay Tilsen**

Continued on **Page 8**

## Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 7**

dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often 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. The group will not meet on Dec. 19 and 26. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.



**Murray Levine**

*Thursdays*

### 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. Shacharit service is from 8:15 to 9:15 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 o'clock.

### 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.



**Isaiah Cooper**

Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time.

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. It will not meet on Dec. 21 and 28 (winter recess).

For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office [icooper@cooperlaw.net](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net).

### Hebrew: Modern and Prayerbook Hebrew

*See description, above, under "Tuesdays"*

*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." New: Jonathan Freiman's devar Torah on *parashat Toldot* (Nov. 17).



### Tree Of Life Leaves

We have a beautiful Tree of Life in our synagogue. The fruit from our Tree of Life can serve as a great way to contribute to the life and strength of our synagogue. Inscribe a leaf on our magnificent tree is a thoughtful and meaningful way to commemorate a joyous event.

Inscribe a leaf to celebrate an event like a Bar or Bat Mitzva and you will have a lasting memory of the great

day. Inscribe a leaf to celebrate a milestone birthday.

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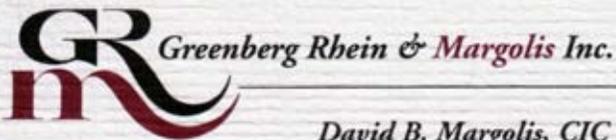


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## Buying Groceries?

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 commission. Available from Gloria Cohen and from Office.

## Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Evelyn Benson in sympathy to Barbara Cushen at the passing of her mother Rose Brunswick
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo in sympathy to Barbara Cushen at the passing of her mother Rose Brunswick
- Barbara Cushen in appreciation
- Judith Resnik & Dennis Curtis in memory of Nathan Resnik
- Judith Resnik & Dennis Curtis in appreciation of the Congregation
- Caryl & Michael Kligfeld in memory of parents Joseph & Claire Engleman & Rabbi Bernard & Julie Kligfeld to support Ramah campers

## Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$280)

- The BEKI Congregation
- Rick & Judy Eisenberg
- Dan & Sharon Prober
- Libby & Mark Abraham
- David & Darryl Kuperstock
- Bob Oakes & Karel Koenig
- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce
- Betsy Ratner
- Sarah Miller & Lee Cruz
- Mimi & Effi Glenn
- Annie Wareck & Iain York

## Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations

- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Esther & Irwin Nash and family
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by the Avni-Singer family
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by David Wright
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Jonathan Freiman
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by the

Ziskin and Berson family

- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Lynn & Jay Brotman
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Beth & Dan Weintraub
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Amy, Rob, Sophie, Jacob & Esther Marx/Schonberger
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Glenn, Betsy, Zachary & Zoe Schulman
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Seth Pauker
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Rachel Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Jonathan Freiman
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Harriet and Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Harriet and Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent
- To Isaiah Cooper and family in their honor by the Kolodny family
- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with thanks by Barbara Cushen & Stan Saxe
- To Miriam Benson for being a wonderful lady by Rabbi Murray

Levine & Goldie Taub

- To the Consiglio family with sympathy on the passing of Flora "Flo" Consiglio by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Barry & Peggy Berman with sympathy on the passing of Rosalind Berman by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Jonathan Freiman
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Jennifer Fleming
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by David Schwartz
- To David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by David Schwartz
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Marge & Al Barnett
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Belle Greenberg
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Harriet and Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Sheila Caplan & family
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Goldie & Zelly Goldberg
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Betty Sumner
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring

Brunswick by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Moulter

- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Marsha Landesman & Oren Sauberman
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by the Gad family
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by David Wright
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Gerald & Judith Oppenheim
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by the Azoff-Slifstein family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Azoff-Slifstein family
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Gloria Cohen
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Gloria Cohen
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Gloria Cohen
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To the BEKI community in honor of their wonderful, welcoming daily minyan by Rabbi Larry Sebert

**Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations**

- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Sharon & Dan Prober
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Sara Labowe & family
- To Carole & Paul Bass with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Sharon & Dan Prober
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by the Lettick family
- To Carole & Paul Bass with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Lettick family
- To Sarah Berry & Roger Colten with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by the Lettick family
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by the Lettick family
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Sharon & Dan Prober
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Bea Smirnoff
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Charlotte Teitelman
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Leon Cummings
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by Leon Cummings
- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Leon Cummings
- To David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Leon Cummings
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Lori & Natan Weinstein

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Lori & Natan Weinstein
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Lori & Natan Weinstein
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Lori & Natan Weinstein
- To Nathan & Judi Janette with sympathy on the passing of Ralph John "Jack" Janette by the Lew family
- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by the Lew family
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by the Lew family

**Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedaka Fund**

- To Elie Azoff-Slifstein in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Katya Labowe-Stoll in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Leora Weitzman in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Maya Lew in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Ben Levine in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Gabriel Freiman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Ben Gerber in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Eric Duhl in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Jonathan Hayward in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Dustin Gad in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Ari Kaufman-Frankel in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Daniel Cooper in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family
- To Ben Surman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Cohen-Fraade family

family

**Hesed Committee**

- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

**BEKI Religious School**

- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

**Ari Nathan Levine Memorial Endowment**

- To Donna Levine in her honor by Adena Herskovitz

**Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library**

- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Donna & Sid Levine

**The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund**

- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

**The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund**

- To Alan & Rachel Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of Irwin Gerber by Betsy Ratner
- To Mikki Ratner in honor of her milestone birthday by Ann Tilow
- In memory of Nora Gimble by Betsy Ratner
- To Barbara Cushen & David Wright with sympathy on the passing of Rose Goldring Brunswick by Mikki Ratner
- To Mikki Ratner in honor of her milestone birthday by the Lew family
- To Mikki Ratner in honor of her special birthday by Helen Drucker
- To Sue Karp in honor of her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday by Betsy, Howie & Shilo Ratner
- To Barrie Drazen with loving, healing blessings by Betsy, Howie & Shilo Ratner

**Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund**

- To Mimi & Effi Glenn in honor of their milestone wedding

anniversary by Thelma & Irv Schwartz

- To Mimi Glenn in honor of her milestone birthday by Thelma & Irv Schwartz
- To Mimi & Effi Glenn in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Gloria Cohen
- To Mimi & Effi Glenn in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Mimi & Effi Glenn in honor of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by the Lew family

**Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations**

- In memory of his mother Elaine Lettick by Robert & Janice Lettick
- In memory of her mother Sophie Merz by Janice & Robert Lettick
- In memory of Abraham Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of loved ones by Syma Solovitch & Bruce Haynes
- In memory of Regina Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie
- In memory of Esther Prober by Dan & Sharon Prober
- In memory of Samuel F. Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of Morris Chain by Marty & Shirley Shepro
- In memory of Sam Granoff by Sherman & Jeff Granoff
- In memory of Fannie Samowitz by Sherman & Jeff Granoff
- In memory of Norma Granoff by Sherman & Jeff Granoff
- In memory of Martha Kantrowitz by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Martha Goldman by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Sheila Gardiner by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Elsie Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Mary Ann Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Edith Sokoloff Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Sylvia Feldman by Sara & Steven Salomon
- In memory of Samuel Flamer by Mickey & Bud Chorney
- In memory of Jack Dimenstein by Morton Dimenstein
- In memory of Bernice Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- In memory of her father Julius Margolis by Helene Axelrod



## MAKING THINGS WORSE

**W**hen we are told that things will get worse before they get better, the warning is usually at least half right – the first half. It is easier to predict that things will get worse in the near term than to accurately predict that things will get better in the long term. More than that, some projects *require* things to get worse before they *can* get better. Sometimes the course of an illness, or a medical course, can make the patient worse, but with the promise or possibility of recovery. A diet, a fiscal correction, an academic program, or an exercise of right, all sometimes involve paying a price now for hoped-for gains later. As they say, “no pain, no gain.”

Most recently Israel experienced an escalation in its military conflict with Gaza, an episode that evoked intense concern in our local community and world Jewry due to our many personal, national and religious connections with Israelis and our own ideals and hopes. Some leading Israeli military strategists and intelligence analysts believed that a certain course of action against the HAMAS and associated organizations’ military and leadership capacity would

make the violence more intense for a short period but in the intermediate or “long term” make things less violent for Israel (and for Gaza) and would make the political environment more favorable as well. Others held just the opposite view or were unconvinced. There was a general consensus, though, that the daily missile attacks against Israel were intolerable.

Israeli politics are highly complex, and so are the politics of Palestinian Arabs. The interaction of these two complex systems is even more complex. Exactly how, and how much, they affect each other is an open question. It is foolish to act as if Israeli or other external interactions have no affect on Palestinian Arab politics and society, but it is equally mistaken to believe that Israeli or other external actions are determinative of Palestinian Arab politics or policies. How this affects the politics of Egypt (which ruled Gaza for 20 years and which has a border with Gaza) and other regional actors, and the relative importance of these

Continued on **Page 14**

### Making Things Worse

Continued from Page 13

effects, is yet another vast set of multifarious, indeterminate and incalculable considerations.

The idea that Palestinian Arabs constitute an innocent (unsophisticated) community whose development and equilibrium is upset only by, and determined by, Israeli actions is a relic of a colonialist attitude. Because Westerners are generally unaware of broader Arab and Muslim history and politics, they think as if the only stimulus to these societies is Israeli and Western influence. We tend to think of our own societies as the frame of reference in which all else occurs. By analogy, we might recognize that Soviet policies affected those of the United States during the Cold War, but they were by no means the only – nor even the most important – determinant of the course of American society. The developments of women's rights and civil rights, technology, labor relations, educational systems, monetary policy, capitalism, and so much more, were driven by a complex history and material or cultural dynamic, which would have continued in some fashion regardless of the outcome of the Russian Revolution.

In the Old South, conventional wisdom had it that blacks should acquiesce to their oppression and thereby stay out of trouble, that is, avoid at all costs “provoking” further violence from Klansmen and discrimination from their neighbors. In the 1950s and 1960s, a concerted and persistent effort on the part of “uppity” blacks and their supporters to overcome the culture of racism was undertaken, and did, as predicted, make things worse for a while, intensifying and expanding their own suffering and disadvantage. Eventually a tipping point was reached, and with the help of the federal government and other supporters, southern blacks

managed to initiate a cascading social transformation. While that transformation is not complete, the reduction in fear, violence and hate speech, and the change in attitude among the broad public are measurable and significant. Klansmen may not have changed, but they fell from power due to the change in their cultural environment, and they could no longer count on the next generation to continue their movement.

In Gaza, Israel (and the Palestinian Authority and the rest of the world) faces a HAMAS government that is defined by an ideology of supremacism that is part of a global movement independent of the direct local conflict with Israel. The movement has its own internal driving forces, without reference to Israel, but at the same time is utterly hostile to Israel. Some people have advised doing everything possible to avoid provoking HAMAS, noting that almost anything Israel does might elicit missile or bomb attacks or might change the balance of power unfavorably in Palestinian politics. That is to say, no matter how Israel responds, HAMAS will use that response for its own benefit. Others have just the opposite analysis. Even if we believe these are rational actors, it is hard to guess the consequences of any actions because there

are so many competing factions, interests and goals on all three sides of the fence. And even if we were confident in a course of action, the likelihood that politicians would adopt it at the right time, and then that the relevant agencies would execute it competently, seems minimal.

Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why did You bring harm upon this people? Why did You send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has dealt worse with this people; and still You have not delivered Your people” (Ex. 5:22-23).

Jon-Jay Tilsen, December 2012



# December 2012

## 17 Kislev 5773 - 18 Tevet 5773

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						<p><b>1</b> <i>Vayishlah</i> Sophia Bruce Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Friedman-Bruce 2:00pm Kadima Shabbat Hangout 4:05pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 Kislev</p>
<p><b>2</b> 9:00am Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Kislev</p>	<p><b>3</b> 7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">19 Kislev</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 Kislev</p>	<p><b>5</b> 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 Kislev</p>	<p><b>6</b> 8:15am Vatiqim Seniors 12:30pm Talmud Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 Kislev</p>	<p><b>7</b> 4:04pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 Kislev</p>	<p><b>8</b> <i>Erev Hanukkah Vayeshev</i> Darshan: Michael Kiigfeld 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 1:00pm Kadima Meeting 4:05pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 Kislev</p>
<p><b>9</b> <i>Hanukkah I Numbers</i> 9:00am Religious School 11:00am BRS/Special Needs Hanuka Program 5:00pm Kadima Hanukah Party (@B'nai Jacob, reservations required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 Kislev</p>	<p><b>10</b> <i>Hanukkah II Numbers</i> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26 Kislev</p>	<p><b>11</b> <i>Hanukkah III Numbers</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 Kislev</p>	<p><b>12</b> <i>Hanukkah IV Numbers</i> 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">28 Kislev</p>	<p><b>13</b> <i>Hanukkah V Numbers</i> 12:30pm Talmud Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 Kislev</p>	<p><b>14</b> <i>Rosh Hodesh - Hanukkah VI Numbers</i> 4:05pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Tevet</p>	<p><b>15</b> <i>Hanukkah VII Miketz Numbers Zechariah</i> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 4:05pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Tevet</p>
<p><b>16</b> <i>Hanukkah VIII Numbers</i> 9:00am Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 Tevet</p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 Tevet</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 Tevet</p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 Tevet</p>	<p><b>20</b> 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 6:00pm Kadima Leadership Meeting (off-site, reservations required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 Tevet</p>	<p><b>21</b> 4:08pm Candle Lighting 20's/30's Havura Dinner (off-site/reservations required)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 Tevet</p>	<p><b>22</b> <i>Vayigash</i> 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:10pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 Tevet</p>
<p><b>23</b> <i>Fast of Tevet 10 Exodus Isaiah</i> No Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Tevet</p>	<p><b>24</b> Office Closed 7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 Tevet</p>	<p><b>25</b> Office Closed/Federal Holiday 9:00am Shaharit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 Tevet</p>	<p><b>26</b> No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 Tevet</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 Tevet</p>	<p><b>28</b> 4:12pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Tevet</p>	<p><b>29</b> <i>Vayehi</i> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 4:14pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16 Tevet</p>
<p><b>30</b> No Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 Tevet</p>	<p><b>31</b> 7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Tevet</p>					

### Service Times

<b>Sundays</b> 9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	<b>Mondays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	<b>Tuesdays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	<b>Wednesdays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	<b>Thursdays</b> 8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	<b>Fridays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Minha-Maariv	<b>Saturdays</b> 9:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha
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