


A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

February 2006

Shevat 5766
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Music in the Air

The Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble will present a festive family concert at BEKI on Saturday night 11 February at 7:30p in the downstairs Social Hall, in celebration of Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song.

Tickets for the concert are \$18 per person. Proceeds will be used to support the work of the Hesed Committee and the general operations of the synagogue.

The program will feature a string quartet by Antonin Dvorak, adapted for winds, in the first half. Following intermission, the ensemble will perform a medley of Jewish folk music.

During intermission, refreshments will be available, and the audience will have an opportunity to purchase CDs by the Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble, recorded at Yale University.

The ensemble is an unusual combination of instruments with a balance, diversity and homogeneity of sound that are similar to a string quartet. String quartets have a huge body of music to draw on, unlike woodwind ensembles. Early in his teaching career, Banquer decided to extend the repertoire of music available to clarinet and flute players to include works composed for strings and keyboard. In the years since,

he has arranged and published many pieces, spanning 400 years of musical history. These arrangements have been supplemented by works commissioned specifically for this combination of instruments.

Members of the ensemble are Naomi Senzer, flute; Gregory Lunin, Nyomi Guberman-Pfeffer, and Amanda Hetric, clarinets; and W. Miles Freeman, bass clarinet.

This concert was donated by Earl Banquer in last year's Bidding for BEKI Auction, and purchased on behalf of the congregation by Gloria and Morris Cohen.

(This event is scheduled for Saturday 11 February at 7:30p. The snow date is the next evening, Sunday 12 February, at 7 p.)

Shabbat Dinner
Friday 3 February 6:45p
Following Evening Service
Reservations Required
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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, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to:

85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724

or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the

1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Mark Your Calendar

- **Wine Tasting Event: Motse'ei Shabbat** 25 March
- **Bat Mitzva: Lea Winter** 31 March - 1 April
- **Bat Mitzva: Mollie Goldblum** 7-8 April
- **Auction Sunday** 30 April 2006
- **Bat Mitzva: Chloe Lerman** 5-6 May
- **Bat Mitzva: Emma Golub** 12-13 May
- **Bar Mitzva: Jared Levine** 19-20 May
- **Bar Mitzva: Daniel Ben-Chitrit** 26-27 May

Correction & Clarification

In the December *Bulletin*, a “Renovations Update: Frequently Asked Questions” answer mischaracterized the role of Victor Stein in the BEKI administration. While Vic is a valuable advisor and leader, bringing energy and expertise to the Board, he does not monitor transactions, nor audit or review the accounts.

Further, in answering the question, “How can I be sure that money I donate to the renovations effort will be directed to that effort,” it could be stated that the Directors as well as the renovations committee have a commitment to insure that our donors’ intentions are honored. It is the representation of President Donna Levine, Renovations Chairperson John Weiser, and Rabbi Tilsen that this commitment has been honored; the topic was addressed in the *Bulletin* because it is frequently asked, not because it is at issue.



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Andy Weinstein

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Purim Is Coming

This year we will again help you celebrate the Purim mitzva of *mishloah manot* -- the sending of gifts -- and *matanot la-eyyonim* -- presents to the poor - with our beautiful BEKI Purim Baskets.

No worry! No fuss! No shopping!

Just send in the order forms you will receive in the mail. (Order forms are available at www.beki.org/forms.html and will be on their way via schlep-post.) Start making your list. There is enough time to check it twice!

Our theme this year is “Israel.” Carefully circle the name of the party you wish to send a basket to. Non-members are marked with an asterisk. *If you wish to send baskets to people not on the list, write their names, addresses, phone numbers, and your name, on a separate piece of paper and attach it to the form.*

Pick-up and Delivery: Baskets will be available for pick-up at BEKI Monday 13 March (which is a fast day) to Tuesday 14 March. Volunteers are needed to deliver baskets! Recipients who do not pick up their baskets may receive them after Purim, or a card in lieu of a basket will be sent at the committee’s discretion and depending on the availability of volunteers. Call Ada Fenick to volunteer to deliver at 397-3789. Thanks!

Cost/Reciprocity/BEKI Option: The cost for each basket is \$5.00 for each member, \$6.00 for each non-member. If you would like to reciprocate for each basket you receive, please indicate on the form. The cost for each reciprocal purchase is \$5.00, unless you choose ONLY reciprocity in which case the cost is \$6.00 per basket. You will be billed for reciprocity. We offer a special rate of \$260 to those very generous families wishing to send to the entire BEKI community. If you choose “The Entire BEKI Community” option, indicate that on the form and simply attach your check in the amount of \$260.

The Order Form with Payment Must Be Received By 1 March 2006. Please contact Ina Silverman at 387-6019 or Peggy Hackett in the office at 389- 2108x14 or office@beki.org with any questions.

Fast of Esther: Monday 13 March (dawn to dark)

Megilla Readings: Monday Night 13 March & Tuesday Morning 14 March

A Letter from Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, Bar Mitzva



I am Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, a student in seventh grade at Ezra Academy, who will celebrate becoming a bar mitzva this February. I would like to tell you about my bar mitzva project.

My bar mitzva project is to install a 6,000 watt photovoltaic system on the BEKI roof. You might have read about it in the *Forward* (4 Nov 2005), the *New Haven Independent* (January 2006), the *Connecticut Jewish Ledger* (6 Jan 2006) or in other publications.

The solar array will produce as much electricity as is consumed by a typical household. The solar panels will reduce the amount of electricity we draw from the power grid, thus reducing the strain on the grid during peak demand periods. That will help obviate the need for new high-voltage power lines, and will lessen the likelihood of rolling blackouts. This will also cut down on the burning of fossil fuels, which are becoming more costly to extract and burn. This is especially important on sunny days when

electric demand is highest and power companies turn on their dirtiest, least efficient fossil-fuel plants – the very days the photovoltaic cells will be busily, silently, producing lots of pollution-free electricity. Since this system will be “tied” to the power grid, it will actually feed electricity into the grid whenever its output exceeds BEKI’s demand.

The BEKI roof is ideal for a solar array as it gets almost full sun all day, all year. It is very visible from Whalley Avenue, helping to increase public awareness of the importance, simplicity, and feasibility of solar installations in Connecticut. Because of the high price of fossil fuels and the expense of building high-voltage transmission lines from big power plants, and because of the medical expenses associated with the pollution those power plants produce, solar power is now a good buy in Connecticut.

The system we are installing is not new technology. In fact, thousands of these systems have been in use for years in California and other places. The system is warranted for 25 years and should last at least 40 years. It has almost no moving parts so there is virtually nothing to wear out. In some parts of the country, you can buy the whole system in a big box at stores like Home Depot. What is new, besides incremental technical improvements, is that these systems now make a lot of sense for Connecticut.

The total cost of the array that I am installing is about \$45,000. I am already three-fourths of the way to my goal, and so I just need a little more

help from my friends and concerned neighbors. If I am able to raise more than my target of \$45,000, I will be able to increase the size of the array, and proportionally increase the benefit. The larger the project, the more efficient it will be. The BEKI roof is huge and there is room for at least ten times as many panels I am planning in this project, so if I can do more, I will. Contributions to this project are formally sent to BEKI, and are tax-deductible. No contribution is too small or too large. I really want a lot of people to have a part in this project. Because I know that the synagogue is working hard to meet its annual budget, and to complete the renovations, I have raised most of the funds from people outside of the synagogue.

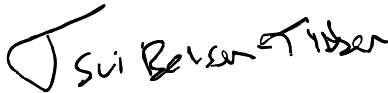
I have learned a lot about the practical issues involved in installing solar panels in Connecticut, so I can share my experience as well as valuable information with you. I can tell you how you can qualify for a Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) rebate on a system for your residence, workplace, or institution. The state and power companies are making these very generous rebates available because it is cheaper for them to subsidize putting solar panels on your roof than to spend billions of dollars building new fossil-fuel burning plants and criss-crossing the state with giant transmission lines. They actually want to help you do it. I can also tell you about the solar companies and electricians I met with who bid or made offers to install the system at BEKI. I can show you tools for calculating your “rate of return” on your investment in solar.

If you have questions, you can write me c/o the synagogue or at quack-duckcheese@hotmail.com. You can also contact my father, Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, who is one of the people helping me with this project, at (203) 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org. We can show you the system at BEKI once the installation is complete or speak at your school, organization or business.

Thank you for your help in my project and in building a better future for all of us.

Sincerely,

Tsvi Benson-Tilsen



LifeCycle

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

**Harold Weinstein, brother of
Irving Weinstein**

**Stanley Watsky, father of
Kalman Watsky (& Deborah
Fried)**

Mazal Tov to

Rene Cartagena on completing her gerut (conversion) process and entering the covenant in Kislev 5766 - December 2005

Rhona Bertazzo on the birth of granddaughter Isabella to Helene & Louis Maiorano



Rene Cartagena

Carl Goldfield on election to the Presidency of the New Haven Board of Aldermen

Trish Loving and Alan Lovins on the marriage of their son Stewart Loving-Gibbard to Terri Nelson on 29 October 2005 on Mt Hood, Oregon

BEKI Welcomes New Members & Their Families

Rene Cartagena

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The Two Sofas

In a conversation with Sherry Rothman about an Eder Leadership grant from the Federation for BEKI, we started to speak about the “symbolic frame” of leadership here at BEKI. All organizations have Human Resource Frames, Political Frames, and Structural Frames. Here at BEKI we place great importance on our symbols and traditions. On many days I look through my office window and see Mikki Ratner lovingly polish the leaves on the BEKI Tree of Life. Prior to this I watched Sarah Berry and Roger Colten for months, measure, sketch, and plan and use their archaeological skills to appropriately relocate our Tree of Life.

Synagogue members publicly expressed thanks and gratitude to the Ivan & Rita Sachs family during the dedication ceremony for the new foyer. The carefully chosen mezuzah and plaque serve as permanent symbols of their generosity.

I love to watch people in the synagogue on Shabbat. It deepens and enriches my worship. When there is a simcha, such as a bar or bat mitzvah or a celebration of a conversion, a smile starts on the face of Gila Reinstein and it spreads it seems to the shoulders of her rose and golden sari-like *tallit*. And it stays there, a beaming smile, a symbol of the pride in our members and their achievements that is the best of BEKI. When George Posener attained his milestone 95th birthday, he was surrounded by BEKI members, supporting, encouraging him as he proudly had his aliya. Then the strains of Siman Tov and Mazel Tov, the

blended voices of George’s friends and fellow congregants.

A major symbol in this shul are the sofas in the lobby. They were once beige and now are burnished beige brown. What do they symbolize? The youth of the congregation, for sure. The sofas are our designated location. Ten teens fit easily on the sofas. And there is space on the window ledge for ten more! Our conversations themselves are symbolic... what is the symbolism of light at this time of year? Are there symbols of the Shoah that were used again in the genocides of Rwanda and Darfur? What is the symbolism of “the fence” in Israel? Parents come by and we move closer together, for our conversations are ours and the sofas are symbolic of conversations for just teens.

But those two dilapidated sofas symbolize so much more. The sofas are a touchstone for our youth... the High Holiday service is long.... To the sofas... BEKI –BJ- USY needs to meet... to the sofas College students return on Winter Break... to the sofas.

When the renovations are complete, I wonder where the sofas will go. Will their symbolism of unity and conversation and closeness be transferred say to sparkling blue velour sofa? The question is not mine to answer.

Symbols bind us to our roots as Jews and strengthen our faith. And often we create symbols as a synagogue and those symbols denote why we are what we are! BEKI.



Dr. Lauren Kempton

Kulanu

The members of the Community Day program are viewing a series of films on their topic of Israel. In February, in honor of Black History month they are focusing on the role of Rabbi Heschel of blessed memory and his friendship with Dr. Martin King during the Civil Rights movement. The group is also studying the role of Rosa Parks.

Chapel Haven, a partner in working with Kulanu participants, sends this report:

Chapel Haven, Inc., founded in 1972 by local families (Sidney Krass and Jerry and Eva Rossman) has as its mission to teach adults with cognitive disabilities to live independent and productive lives. The two year Residential Program prepares young men and women for apartment living through a pragmatic educational experience. As the first program to teach life skills to the cognitively disabled, Chapel Haven continues to attract people from all over the U.S. and other countries. BEKI has been

a welcoming religious community for our new Residents. Lauren Kempton has worked with Chapel Haven staff to create a wonderful series of events that the entire Chapel Haven community looks forward to each year.

In addition to the Residential Life Skills Program we provide an extensive Education Program for life-long learning, Employment Services, Recreation Programs and the Supported Living Program. Currently, Chapel Haven is preparing to open an Aspergers Residential Program.

Independence cannot be achieved without addressing financial needs. The Chapel Haven clientele prides itself in providing area employers with dedicated and skilled employees. There are many barriers, mostly due to employers' lack of knowledge about cognitive disabilities and the belief that the disabled prefer SSDI, that make finding employment difficult. While many companies will hire the disabled for part-time work, full-time work with benefits is lacking. Chapel Haven is reaching out to the community to seek employment opportunities. We provide Job Coaches who assist with on the job training, acclimation to a new job site and assistance with other employees' understanding and comfort working with individuals with cognitive disabilities. There is no cost to the employer for the Job Coach. Employers are usually able to utilize tax credits for employing the disabled.

We will be featuring one individual each newsletter and letting you know of others and their skills.

Jeremy Jacobson hails from Bethesda, Maryland. He practices Kashrut and has educated his roommates and friends at Chapel Haven about this practice. Jeremy loves reading Torah, discussing Jewish theology, literature and history. He has become active in several Jewish communities in New Haven. Jeremy loves to play basketball and reads the New York Times to stay current with world news.

A second year Resident, Jeremy is preparing for graduation. He has recently started Gateway Community College and plans to continue on a part-time basis. He is currently seeking a position in an office setting where he can put his computer skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Outlook and Adobe Acrobat) to use. Prior work experience includes New York Life (Mailroom Asst.) and the Jewish Federation (Maryland, Office Asst.).

Chapel Haven is seeking several office jobs: Excellent computer skills, data entry with speed and accuracy, reception and phone work.

If you are interested in finding employees for your company please call Eileen Hansen (606-1364) or Thayer (397-1714 ext. 204).

Saul's Circle

Friends at Fellowship Place are continuing to focus on the Civil Rights era through February. They watched the Emmy award-winning documentary on Rosa Parks, produced by Teaching Tolerance, the educational division

of the Southern Poverty Law Center. The discussion starter was, referring to Rosa Parks, "She sat down so we could stand up."

BEKI Religious School

Each year BEKI Religious school chooses a theme for the late afternoon sessions on Wednesday afternoon. At this time grades Three to Seven come together for multi-age activities and learning. In past years we have focused on the weekly *parasha* and 350 years of Jews in America. This year our focus is on Israel. We are very fortunate to have our Israeli Emissaries Tali Zion and Hila Arie as teachers of Israel to our BEKI Religious School students. After our geography study of Eretz Israel, we are really delving into historic and modern Jerusalem. We will be building the eight gates of the city of Jerusalem and the history around each gate.

We will also become archeologists by exploring artifacts such as a clay lamp, a sheqel from the city of Tyre, a make-up dish and a stamp of kashrut.

Sisterhood & Torah Fund – February 2006

Recently Sisterhood members Mikki Ratner and Inge Fish were honored by the Jewish Home for the Aged Auxiliary for their many hours of volunteer work there.

Hanuka and Sid & Donna Levine's Anniversary were jointly celebrated with a "frailich" party on 1 January. Lighting candles, singing and dancing, delicious food and a good time were had by all who attended. Sponsored by Sisterhood and the Levines, this was a most enjoyable occasion!

Torah Fund

Thanks to all who responded so generously to the December appeal. We have reached our goal for 2005-06 and are pleased to announce that we have a new benefactor, Diana Friedman Opton, and a guardian, Rachel Sutin. The funds we raise go directly to the Jewish Theological Seminary and support programs of this great conservative movement institution. Using our Torah Fund cards also supports the JTS and it's an easy way to honor and remember friends and loved ones. Only \$3.00 each.

Please call me for cards at 407-0314.
Thank you
Barbara Cushen

Mazel Tov to:

- Hinda & Alan Massey in their new home from Barbara Cushen
- Reeva & Gary Lynes on their 25th Anniversary from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe

- Charlie Ludwig on his milestone birthday from Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe, Helen Miller, Rena Miller, Mikki Ratner, Adele Tyson
- Inge Fish & Mikki Ratner on being honored by the JHA Auxiliary from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Helen Miller, Rena Miller
- Bertha Levy on her 97th birthday from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein
- George Posener on his 95th birthday from Lenny & Inge Fish, Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Hattie McMillian, Rena Miller, Mikki Ratner, Sylvia Zeid
- Ann Grimarchi on her birthday from Hyla Greenberg

Get Well to:

- Margot Roten from Barbara Cushen
- Susan Cole from Anna Goldberg
- Marilyn Sudarsky from Shirley Mattler
- Dr. Alan Friedland from Adele Tyson

In Memory of:

- Rena Shupakevitz, mother of Rachel Wizner from Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe, Inge & Lenny Fish, Sue & Victor Stein, BEKI Hesed Committee
- Lorraine Hoffman from Barbara Cushen
- Edith Esner from Grace Geisinger
- Ann Sussman from Gladys Lipkin
- Patricia Janette from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Victor & Sue Stein, BEKI Hesed Committee, David Wright
- Paul Alper from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Freda Merriam from Shirley Mattler
- Freda Rosen from Ruth & Morris Olmer, Stanley Saxe
- Bernie Leventhal from Ruth & Sam Raflowitz
- Harvey Swirsky from Stanley Saxe
- June Bogatz from David Wright

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lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

Volunteer Opportunities

Cemetery Cleanup

Volunteers are needed to clean and tend the **Beth El Memorial Park** and **Keser Israel Memorial Park**. One hour once a month is needed at each cemetery. To volunteer please contact David Sagerman at 389-2108 x57 or davdorsagerman@webtv.net, or contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

USY News

Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Scholarship Awarded



Tillie Horwitz

Jochai Ben-Avie, son of Michael Ben-Avie & Sascha van Creveld, was awarded the Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz youth scholarship for 2005. Jochai has served as a Shabbat morning and Yamim Noraim aliya

usher and gabbai and has often made the presentations to Benei Mitzva during services welcoming them to the Kadima youth group. He initiated and directed the Shabbat Teen Discussion group and has held several offices in Kadima and USY.

RCG

Where There's a Will...

Wills and estate plans are not just for the wealthy. Financial advisors suggest that anyone with children – regardless of age – and anyone who cares what happens to their financial resources or property after their death must have a formal will or estate plan. Even if a donor leaves just 10% or 5% or even 1% to BEKI, it can make a big impact on the Congregation's future. Designating BEKI as a beneficiary in one's will demonstrates to one's heirs and neighbors the importance of *tzedaqa* (charity), of BEKI, and of the continuity of the Jewish People.

If you would like information on including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please contact your financial advisor or estate planning attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at 787-1633 (sdsij@aol.com). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) for a confidential discussion.

Your Ad Here

The BEKI *Bulletin* is sent to over 700 households and businesses and is repeatedly consulted as a reference document. The BEKI Bulletin is read by many families new to New Haven looking for professional and personal services. Advertisers report positive results.

For rates and to place your ad, contact Peggy at office@beki.org (389-2108 x14).

Watch those Kids!

Parents of children attending services at BEKI are asked to be sure their children are always under their supervision. Children are welcome to be in the sanctuary with their adults or in their age-appropriate youth service. Unsupervised children may represent a safety concern to themselves or to others.

February 2006

3 Shevat 5766 - 30 Shevat 5766

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	2 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	3 4:53pm Candle Lighting 6:45pm Winter Shabbat Dinner	4 Darshan : Steven Fraade 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Miller 5:00pm Minha-Maariv
			3 Shevat	4 Shevat	5 Shevat	6 Shevat
5 9:00am Religious School 11:45am-1:30pm Deli Box Pick-Up	6 7:45am Rashi Study Group	7	8 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	9 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	10 5:02pm Candle Lighting	11 Darshanit: Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Gerber 5:05pm Minha-Maariv 7:30pm Earl Banquer Concert
7 Shevat	8 Shevat	9 Shevat	10 Shevat	11 Shevat	12 Shevat	13 Shevat
12 9:00am Religious School	13 Tu B'Shevat 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	14	15 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	16 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	17 5:11pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Tsvi Benson-Tilsen Bar Mitzva	18 9:15am Tsvi Benson-Tilsen Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Mintan Qiddush: Benson-Tilsen 5:15pm Minha-Maariv
14 Shevat	15 Shevat	16 Shevat	17 Shevat	18 Shevat	19 Shevat	20 Shevat
19 No Religious School	20 Office Closed/President's Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group	21	22 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program	23 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	24 5:19pm Candle Lighting	25 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Lettick/Marx-Schonberger 5:20pm Minha-Maariv
21 Shevat	22 Shevat	23 Shevat	24 Shevat	25 Shevat	26 Shevat	27 Shevat
26 No Religious School	27 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	28 Rosh Hodesh I	<p>Calendar Notes</p> <p>Presidents' Day: On Monday 20 February, Presidents' Day, the Shaharit Morning Service is from 9:00a to 9:45a. The Rashi Study Group will meet from 9:45a to 10:30a. The office is closed.</p>			
28 Shevat	29 Shevat	30 Shevat				

BEKI Events

Shabbatot

Darshanim in February



Steven Fraade

Steven Fraade will serve as *Darshan* (Torah commentator) for *parashat* Bo, 4 February 2006. Steven is the Mark Taper Professor of the History of Judaism and teaches in the Department of Religious Studies at Yale University

Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini will serve as *Darshanit* on Shabbat Shira *parashat* BeShalah, 11 February 2006. Rabbi Grazier-Zerbarini serves as a rabbi at the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale University.

A Special Guest will serve as *Darshan* on Shabbat Sheqalim *parashat* Mishpatim, 25 February 2006.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the *Shaharit* (morning

and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding of and appreciation for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group



Try the Rashi Study Group as we begin our thirteenth year. Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

Wednesdays

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233.4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Writing Group

The writing group meets on each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Each week a group of interested writers come together to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage both writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the

Torah for the Hungry Mind - Adult Studies

writers come together with a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org

AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. It is currently engaged in a 12 & 12 Study – Discussion. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or sokolow@snet.net.

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." Recently added items include Morris Cohen's Devar Torah on *parashat Toldot*.

Required Reading & Reference Books on Web

A listing of basic Judaic reference and introductory works is posted on BEKI's website at www.beki.org/books.html with a brief annotation by Rabbi Tilsen.



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Buying Stuff on the Web?

If you purchase from Amazon.com or Buy.com and access these merchants via the links here or at www.beki.org/links.html, BEKI receives a small commission on your purchase, at no additional cost to you. You must use these links each time you access the merchants' website in order for BEKI to receive a commission.

KINAHARA: Kashrut Update

Information on local kashrut issues and kashrut in general is available at www.kinahara.org. KINAHARA is the Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly.

Weekday morning services at BEKI

Begin your day with spiritual renewal and fellowship. The Monday morning service (7:00a to 7:45a) includes a brief Torah service, and is followed by the Rashi Study Group (7:45a to 8:30a). Tuesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) are attended by a unique mix of people. Wednesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) features a continuing group of friends, followed by a 30-minute period of Talmud Study (7:30a to 8:00a). Thursday mornings (8:15a to 9:00a) are ideal for people who may not wish to rise earlier or who take children to school, and includes a brief Torah service. It is perfect for those who wish to avoid crowds. Friday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) present an ideal setting for someone wishing

to help develop a cadre of dedicated daily *daveners*.

In addition to fulfilling the daily mitzvot of *qeriat shema* (recitation of the Shema), *tefila* (prayer), *Talmud Torah* (study) and *Tzedaka* (charity), attendance also affords those in mourning a Minyan so that they can recite *qaddish*. Audio recordings of some of the prayers are available at the BEKI website under "Audio Library." Regular participants in these services are always glad to welcome additional worshippers. Call our office at 389-2108 x14 or see www.beki.org/schedule.html 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.

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.

Children's Shabbat Havura

The Children's Shabbat Havura meets every Shabbat morning at 10:45a in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Designed to address the spiritual and social needs of preschool children, the Havura meets concurrently with K-2 Kehila, Junior Congregation, Cosmic Conversations, the Teen Minyan, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan and the main Sabbath service. Following the half-hour of songs, stories, prayers and dance, the children have their own qiddush refreshments and then enjoy supervised play until they join the adult worship for the Concluding Service and qiddush.

Meeting the spiritual and social needs of preschool children is an obligation of the Jewish community and an important part of the Synagogue's mission. The Havura (Friendship Circle) links the children to one another, to other concerned Jewish parents, and to the Synagogue. The Havura enjoys the active participation of parents who themselves are enriched by the experience. For many adults, the Children's Shabbat Havura serves as their introduction to active participation in the Synagogue Community.

If you are interested in learning more about the BEKI Children's Shabbat Havura, come any Shabbat (Saturday) morning at 10:45a and see for yourself. Contact Miriam Benson (389-6137 mirbenson@aol.com) or Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton (389-2108 x13 lkempton@beki.org).

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