

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

February 2007

Shevat 5767
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Tu BeShevat at BEKI

The Mishna designated the date Tu BeShevat (15th day of the month Shevat) as one of the four days on which a new year begins on the Hebrew calendar. In civil life today, we have several "new years," viz., the school year, the federal government's fiscal year, and 1 January. Tu BeShevat is the "New Year for Trees" which was necessary to comply with certain arboreal laws. Today it is observed as an opportunity to deepen our awareness and compliance with ecological mitzvot. This year, Tu BeShevat coincides with Shabbat Shira ("Sabbath of Song").

Here's what's happening at BEKI on Tu BeShevat Weekend

- Shabbat Tu BeShevat Dinner: Friday Night Tu BeShevat Dinner 2 February 2007 (Reservations required)
- Erev Shira Song Night Saturday Night 3 February 7:00p to 9:00p off-site
- BEKI Sun-Day Solar Celebration Sunday 4 February 12:00 noon to 12:20p for adults and kids in lobby
- Deli Box Pickup
- Israel Trip Planning Meeting

Erev Shira on Shabbat Shira & Tu BeShevat

Join us on Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) 3 February from 7p to 9p at the Minsky-Fenick Residence, 56 McKinley Avenue (RSVP 397-3789). Bring songsheets, musical instruments, and a kosher dessert or drinks to share. This event is supported by the Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Sacred Music at BEKI.

Sun-Day Solar Celebration on Tu BeShevat

Please join us for twenty minutes at noon on Sunday 4 February 2007 for a brief inauguration of our rooftop photovoltaic system, a chance to learn more, and a very light refreshment.

continued on page 6





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**LOUIS A. STONE
CEO**

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.

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BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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BEKI Religious School would like to announce BARTONS PASSOVER CANDY FUNDRAISER



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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at**

the BEKI Religious School Office



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A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

I have always believed that writing comes from within... we write because we need to... we write because we have new information that we just must tell... or our heart and soul are burdened, and we must share. We have been learning about Darfur with our upper grades in BEKI Religious School and were honored to lead prayers for Darfur in December with thousands of other synagogues, churches and masjid across the United States. The beauty about children is their questions... Why? How come? They are often reaching for answers that we must deliver to them in an age-appropriate fashion after much reflection. The question that I hear the most about Darfur is Why? Why is the world standing by?



Here in the United States, you and I know about the rallies. We see articles in the *Jewish Ledger* and *Shalom New Haven*. The *New York Times*, almost weekly, runs full page coverage on updates on Darfur from the organization, Save Darfur. The pages are heartbreaking, "Get the world to do something about Darfur... so she will not be raped...again." And the contrast, always a contrast to prick our conscience. A color picture of two Sudanese women sitting in a café in their Western clothing as they drank their iced café lattes and the air conditioner misted them with a cool spray while their sister-women in a neighboring refugee camp wandered from camp to collect firewood and were violated.

Sixty Minutes decided to run a feature on Darfur that singed my heart and gave me hope at the same time. A reporter, Scott Pelley, found a set of school books in the dirt of a ruined village in Darfur. You know the photo, scorched earth with twenty or so large circles, sites of former homes. Scott brought the books to the United States Holocaust Memorial in Washington for advice on how to find the owner. All the reporter knew was that the book-owner's name was Jeffrey. The expert at the Museum thought that the village of the book's owner had been evacuated to a Refugee Camp near the Sudanese border with Chad. The Sixty Minutes reporter could not receive official government sanction for the trip, but he went anyway, guarded by turbaned rifle toting militia.

They found the camp and found the village teachers who knew Jeffrey. And yes, they found Jeffrey. Jeffrey, his sad dark face shining in the sun, looked at the blue examination books and said, "They are mine." And when he touched the dusty Arabic ABC book, he stiffened and said, "Yes, this belonged to my baby brother. He is dead." He then lovingly handed the books back to the reporter and stated, "Take my books back to the Holocaust Museum and tell my story. I am too close to it now. I cannot tell my story."

The men, women and children of Darfur are being deprived of their humanity. They have lost their homes, families, communities and dreams for the future. A set of books, one lone reporter, a man of conviction and courage; these dusty books wrapped in a life story may touch our collective conscience to take action for Darfur. Here at BEKI through the Social Action Committee we have a concrete plan. We are sending solar cookers to Darfur. The kit includes a cast iron pot and solar reflectors. Through the power of these solar cookers, the women are safe in the refugee camps and can feed their families with the food from the international communities. So the answer to Why? becomes How? How can we help? To learn about solar cookers please contact Jennifer Botwick- Ries or Dr. Lauren Kempton.

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 form you receive in the mail. (Order forms are available at www.beki.org/forms.html, in the literature rack, and from our office at 389-2108 x14.) Start making your list. There is enough time to check it twice!

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 Saturday Night 3 March and Sunday 4 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 \$275 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.

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: Thursday 1 March 2007 (dawn to dark)

Megilla Readings: Saturday Night 3 March & Sunday Morning 4 March 2007

Megila Reading

If you would like to read part of Megilat Esther at BEKI on Purim (Saturday Night 3 March & Sunday Morning 4 March 2007), please contact our 24-hour Megila Hotline 389-2108 x10 or iwannareadmegillaonpurim@beki.org.



Purim Seuda – Feast

Sunday 4 March 5-8p

Sunday 4 March 2007, 5p to 8p (break for 5:45p minyan); in the BEKI downstairs Social Hall; a light dairy/pareve dinner will be served; \$12 per adult, \$10 per child age 3-12; 2 and under, no charge.

Admission Preregistration **Required**, with payment, by Monday 26 February, 2007 (please register today! Food is free, but no **admission** without payment and preregistration.

Highlights: Purim Shpiel * 5:45 Minyan * Ruth Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown, with balloon animals * Face-painting with Rachel Sutin * Special Purim Birkat Hamazon * Purim Songs Sing-a-long with Yair Minsky * Jake Weinstein, the Circus Man: Participatory Circus Games * And More

Volunteers! Call Bryna Pauker (389-9603) or Sherry Rothman (397-2249), Food Co-Chairs, to volunteer to help in food preparation and serving. Call Jessey Palumbo, Membership Chair, 387-8359, to volunteer to do outreach to new and prospective BEKI members at the Seuda. Call Liora Lew, Decorations Chair, at 389-1048, to assist with decorating. To volunteer for the Set-Up, Registration Table, or Clean-Up Committees, call Miriam Benson at 389-6137.

**REGISTRATION FORM & CHECK (Please include your check with the form)
DUE IN BEKI OFFICE by
Monday 26 February 2007; Your prompt registration will help a lot!**

Names of each attendee (please list each individual name clearly):

Address _____

Phones _____

#Adults ____ @ \$12 each = ____ + # Children (age 3-12) ____ @ \$10 each = ____ (2 and under free);

TOTAL (check must be enclosed, payable to BEKI) _____

Send to BEKI Purim Seuda, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515

Sun-Day Celebration on Tu BeShevat

continued from page 1

In the autumn of 2005, Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, then a seventh-grade student at Ezra Academy, began the process of planning and installing a grid-tied photovoltaic array on the BEKI roof as a bar mitzva project.

A 10,500 Watt grid-tied array was installed in August-September 2006 (see image, below, by Allan Appel, courtesy of newhavenindependent.org). SunlightSolar Energy, Inc., served as our contractor.

The electricity produced by the array reduces the wattage that the synagogue draws from the power grid. When the array is producing more than the

synagogue's demand, the synagogue is a net energy generator, and the excess energy goes back into the grid.

Benefits of the solar array include reducing pollution and the detrimental effects on public health which is associated with the burning of fossil fuels. Production of greenhouse gasses, which contribute to global warming, is reduced. The array reduces the need for new centralized fossil-fuel-based power plants, new power transmission lines, and the potential for service interruptions. Most significantly, on hot or cold sunny days, when the demand on the power grid is highest, when power

companies turn on the dirtiest and least efficient backup generators, the array is busily and quietly producing pollution-free electricity for the grid. Photovoltaic generation can be a direct replacement for the most expensive and dirtiest power plants.

Major funding for the array was provided by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, and funding for the associated educational activities by the Legacy Heritage Innovation Project of the Legacy Heritage Fund. Additional funding was provided by over 150 individual donors.



Sun-Day Celebration on Tu BeShevat



The array comprises 48 panels manufactured by Sunpower Corporation (model 220). An inverter manufactured by Solectria Renewables (model PVI 13kW) converts the power to AC output to match the common power grid's voltage. The efficiency of the inverter is about 94%. The loss from wiring is 5%. The array is oriented 100% optimally toward True South, and the tilt toward



the sun is 91% of optimal. The roof is virtually unobstructed allowing 95% of the sunlight to reach the panels; the adjusted solar exposure (ASE) is 97%.

The rate of return on the investment (excluding the CCEF's support) is expected to be about 5% to 6%. However, factors such as electric rates, hurricanes, major earthquakes, and rapid catastrophic climate change could affect the rate of return. Since the array was a gift to the synagogue, it was "free" from the perspective of the Congregation's operating or capital budget. Maintenance costs are expected to be zero in the first fifteen years.

Civic Tribute Dinner Save the Date

Sunday 6 May 2007, 6:30p

*Join us as we honor
BEKI's own outstanding civic
leaders:
Carl Goldfield, Ina Silverman &
Susan Voigt*

Watch for your invitation in the mail.
Tickets: \$90 per person
Cocktail hour, live music, elegant
kosher dinner

Baseball hats for residents of a village in Guatemala

Dr. Larry Klein and other volunteers provide eye healthcare for the underserved Guatemalan citizens. The health team spent many, sweltering hours each day for a week treating a continuous stream of grateful patients. During the week the team treated 1,500 people and performed 85 surgeries, mostly for cataracts. The sunlight is so bright there that it is crippling to their eyes. Many people suffer from sun-related abnormality, pterygium.

According to Dr. Klein sunglasses and hats are very helpful. Hadassah is collecting hats and sunglasses to send to Guatemala. If you have new or gently used baseball type hats, soft hats and sun glasses please bring them to the BEKI office. A bin is provided for the donations. Please contact Mimi Glenn for more information. 397-3851.



Mimi Glenn

Torah Fund

Thank you to everyone who very generously responded to the 2006 Torah Fund appeal letter. All funds went directly to support the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS).

Founded in 1886 as a rabbinical school, JTS today is the academic and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism worldwide, encompassing a world-class library and five schools.

Founded in 1893, the Library has 385,000 plus volumes. It is the largest collection of Judaica in the western hemisphere and the first in the world to have its Cairo Geniza collection digitized.

In 1966 a fire burned 70,000 volumes in the upper floors. A new building was opened to the public seventeen years later thanks in large part to Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Torah Fund. Sisterhoods world-wide support this great institution. Your donations and purchase of cards continue to support the JTS and Library which still is working to recover approximately 35,000 books damaged in the fire.

No need to leave home to send cards for all occasions - - birthdays, mazal tovs, and get wells - - four (4) dollars per card includes the stamp! Please call me at 407-0314 and your card will be sent right out.

Barbara Cushen
BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair

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Mazel Tov to:

- George Posener on his 96th birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Adele Tyson
- Robert & Sarah Zimmerman on their 60th anniversary from Ruth & Sam Raflowitz
- Bud Volain on his birthday from Bea & Milt Smirnoff
- Karel Koenig on her new grandchild from Sue & Vic Stein
- Harriet & Noel Barstein on the engagement of their granddaughter Wendy from Adele Tyson
- Ruth & Sam Teitelman on their 50th anniversary from Adele Tyson
- David Wright on his milestone birthday from Reeva & Gary Lynes, Violet & Charlie Ludwig

Cards for own use:

- Rabbi Murray Levine

Get Well to:

- Max Brunswick from Barbara Cushen
- Bernice Gilman from Hyla Greenberg
- Margot Roten from Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe, David Wright

In Memory of:

- Her mother to Ilene Lefland from the Lew Family
- Abraham Hodes to Norma Hodes from Shirley Mattler
- Shirley Frank to Mrs. Judy Dubin from Helen Miller
- Aaron Mackler to Mrs. Robert Weiner & Family from Shirley Mattler

Mekhirat Hametz

Forms for selling hametz for Passover are available at www.beki.org/forms.html and will be mailed in the coming weeks.

Kitchen Organizing

Reorganizing our kitchen will improve the way we work. Help for an hour or two (or three) on Sunday 11 February 2007 from 10:00a (following morning services). For info, contact Bryna at brynap@sbcglobal.net or Darryl at kuperst@aol.com.

Qiddush Committee Recipe

NORTH AFRICAN RED LENTIL APRICOT SOUP (found online and adapted by Darryl Kuperstock)

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped (or more)
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/3 cup dried apricots, chopped (or more)
- 1-1/2 cup dried split red lentils, rinsed
- 5 cups of chicken stock (or pareve substitute)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 3 ripe plum tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped – (or a can of diced tomatoes works well, too)
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/2 tsp. curry

Saute onion, garlic, and apricots in olive oil. Add lentils and stock. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 30 minutes (until lentils are tender).

Stir in tomatoes, and season with cumin, thyme, and curry -- and then add salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for 10 minutes.

Stir in lemon juice. Let cook for another 30 minutes on medium heat to blend flavors.

If you want a smoother soup, you can puree 1/2 of the soup in a blender (or use an immersion blender to avoid the mess) then return it to the pot. Serve.

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Pearl Rubin, mother of Cynthia Rubin
Sidney Weinstein

Max Rubenstein, father of Allan Ruben-
stein (& Carolyn Kone)

Joyce Hoffman, mother of Rabbi Joel
(& Beth) Hoffman

Mazal Tov to

HaNoledet BeMazal Tov

Mazal tov to Mark & Cyd Oppenheimer
on the birth of their daughter Rebekah
Rose Oppenheimer

New Members

Becky & CJ May and Natalie, Nick and
Ella

Letters

Hello to All,

I am the Jewish Lay Leader in Baghdad. We received your Hanukkah care package from Operation Far From Home last week, just in time to light the first candles. I wanted to send you a quick note to say thank you for all of your support. The Jewish service members here all enjoyed the cards, cookies and snacks, and other treats as we each lit our Hanukkah lights. I am so proud to have support from Jewish communities back home. Thank you for thinking of us!

Sincerely,

Megan R. Williams
1LT, MP
2nd Platoon Leader
410th Military Police Company
Camp Stryker, Iraq

~ Your Ad Here ~

The BEKI *Bulletin* is sent to over 750 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)**

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.

SATO: Social Action Tiquin Olam

The **Coat Drive and Winter Blanket Drive** will continue through the winter. Coats in all sizes are always needed. Bins are labeled in the lobby or coat-room.

BEKI is a Partner in **Amity Cares Habitat for Humanity**. We are responsible for a share of the financial viability of the project, as well as contributing volunteer time and efforts. Our efforts as part of the first Amity Cares build were fantastic. Please continue to support our efforts in the following ways.

Earmarked Donations: If you are already planning to make a contribution to Habitat for Humanity this year, please earmark it for "BEKI - for Amity Cares" and send to the HFH of Greater New Haven. If not, consider doing so.

Work: Actual work will began on the next house in January. Consider being part of our Habitat for Humanity work crew (no skills necessary!) and let Darryl know so that she can keep you informed of schedules, etc. Last year we had over 40 volunteers participating!

Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Ask us about
establishing a fund, trust or annuity
to ensure BEKI's future.

*Charitable giving strengthens our Community
and provides the donor with tax savings.*

Dr. John S. Levy
Chairman
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Lisa A. Stanger, Esq.
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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



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Bea Zampano, JHA Admissions ext. 237 Judy Rolnick, Director, GLADHC ext. 310

February 2007

13 Shevat 5767 - 10 Adar 5767

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | 1 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 13 Shevat | 2 4:51pm Candle Lighting 7:15pm Tu BeShevat Shabbat Dinner 14 Shevat | 3 Tu B'Shevat Darshanit: Katie Herold 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Benjamin/Kabakov 4:50pm Minha 5:30pm Topics in Tefila 5:55pm Maariv 7:00pm Erev Shira Song Night (off-site) 15 Shevat |
| 4 9:00am Religious School 9:30am MAKOM 11:45am-1:30pm Deli Box Pick-Up 12:00pm Sun-Day Solar Celebration 16 Shevat | 5 7:45am Rashi Study Group 17 Shevat | 6 18 Shevat | 7 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 19 Shevat | 8 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 20 Shevat | 9 5:00pm Candle Lighting 4:00pm Kadima Shabbaton 21 Shevat | 10 Kadima Shabbaton Continues 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Kaufman/Frankel 5:00pm Minha 5:35pm Topics in Tefila 6:00pm Maariv 22 Shevat |
| 11 9:00am Religious School 10:00am BEKI Kitchen Clean-Up 7:00pm Movie Showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" 23 Shevat | 12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 24 Shevat | 13 25 Shevat | 14 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 26 Shevat | 15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 27 Shevat | 16 5:09pm Candle Lighting 28 Shevat | 17 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 5:10pm Minha 5:40pm Topics in Tefila 6:10pm Maariv 29 Shevat |
| 18 Rosh Hodesh I No Religious School 9:30am Brunch 30 Shevat | 19 Rosh Hodesh II Office Closed/President's Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group 1 Adar | 20 2 Adar | 21 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 3 Adar | 22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 4 Adar | 23 5:18pm Candle Lighting 5 Adar | 24 Darshan: Steven Fraade 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 5:20pm Minha 5:50pm Topics in Tefila 6:20pm Maariv 6 Adar |
| 25 No Religious School 7 Adar | 26 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting 8 Adar | 27 9 Adar | 28 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 10 Adar | <h3 style="margin: 0;">Calendar Notes in February</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">Presidents' Day: On Monday 19 February 2007, 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. The evening service is at its usual time, 5:45p.</p> | | |

BEKI Events

Shabbatot

Darshanim in February



Steven Fraade

Katie Hereld will serve as darshanit (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 3 February, Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song), *parashat* BeShalah.

Steven Fraade will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning 24 February, *parashat* Teruma. Steven is the Mark Taper Professor of the History of Judaism and teaches in the Department of Religious Studies at Yale University.

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, Rabbi Murray Levine 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 for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background

Shabbat Afternoon Topics in Tefila

What do the prayers in the siddur mean, and are they relevant? Should we say things we don't believe? Is there leeway between standardization and sincerity? What is our responsibility to truthfulness or tradition? Does "authentic" mean historical, or spiritual, or intellectual? Can we change the wording or the melody? What is the psychology of prayer? Where do the prayers come from? Is it all merely lip service?

On Shabbat afternoons throughout the winter, we will explore issues of prayer and the prayerbook. These forty-minute sessions will follow the Mincha afternoon service (which begins 20 minutes before sunset – about the same time as candle-lighting time on the preceding Friday night) and will be followed by the Maariv evening service and Havdala.

Presenters include Steven Fraade, Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini, Michael Kligfeld, Rabbi Pete Stein, and Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen. The time and topic will be published in the weekly "BEKI Happenings."

Sundays

MAKOM Beit HaMidrash at BEKI: "Introduction to Talmud" & "Talmud Berakhot, Chapter II" with Moshe Meiri

Beginning & Intermediate Sections

Serious youth are invited to dive into the "sea of Talmud" on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. Two sections will be offered; one for beginning students, and another for continuing students. Students are expected to have studied some Mishna and be able to read Hebrew. An acquaintance with Rashi's commentaries is helpful. The text, the *El - Am* edition, will be supplied. This text is vocalized for easy reading and is accompanied by an English commentary and translation. The classes meet Sunday mornings from about 9:45a to 11:00a and 11:05a to 12:15p. Students wishing to enroll should speak with Arnold Carmel at MAKOM. The classes are open only to students in grades 8-12. This is an honors program class and will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Moshe may be reached at moshe@snet.net

MAKOM Beit HaMidrash at BEKI: "The Genesis Chronicles" with Margolit Kern

Margolit Kern will be teaching *Miqra* (Scripture) for youth at two challenging levels on Sunday mornings. The classes are part of the MAKOM honors program at BEKI for students in grades 8-12. The classes meet Sunday mornings from about 9:45a to 11:00a and

11:05a to 12:15p. Students wishing to enroll should speak with Arnold Carmel at MAKOM. This is an honors program class and will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

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 down-

town 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 writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the 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 [\[yahoo.com\]\(mailto:yahoo.com\) or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or \[lkempton@beki.org\]\(mailto:lkempton@beki.org\).](mailto:bergida1@</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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."

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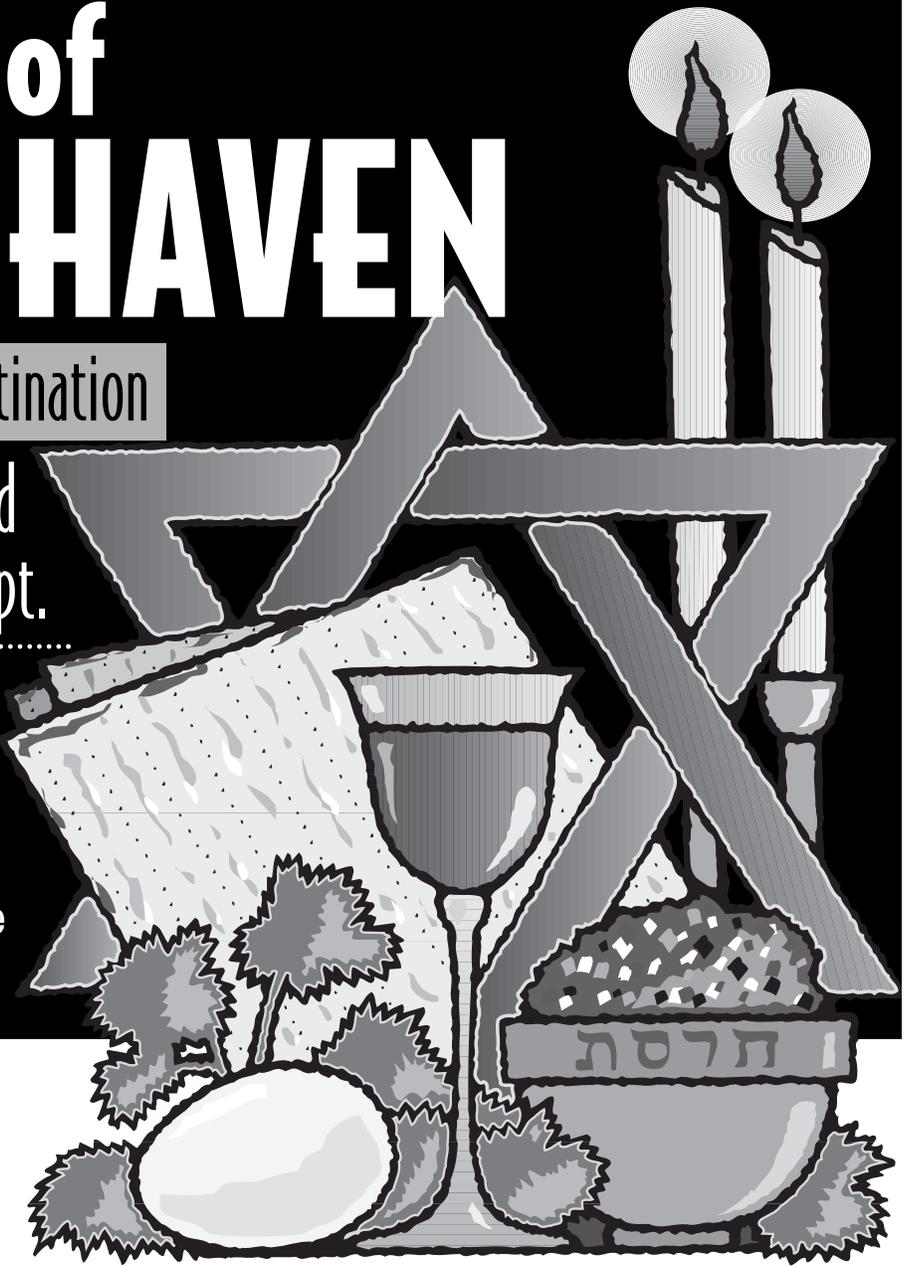
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Where There's a Will...

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 tzedaka (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 (jtilsen@beki.org) for a confidential discussion

It's Kosher, KINAHARA™!



Ahimsa Café, a new organic vegan full-service and take-out cafe serving fine wine and beer opened in January

under the strict kashrut supervision of KINAHARA™ Kosher. Ahimsa Cafe is at the corner of Chapel Street and Howe Street (parking in rear), and it is open from 8:00a to 11:00p. Further information is available at www.kinahara.org under "supervision." KINAHARA™ is The Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly, the local branch of the Rabbinical Assembly to which Conservative-Masorti rabbis belong.

Chinese in Philadelphia: If you are traveling in Philadelphia's Center City or Chinatown, be sure to visit one or more of the four Kosher Chinese restaurants supervised by the Philadelphia Branch of the Rabbinical Assembly.

Book Review

The Honeymoon is Over: Jonah's Argument with God, by T.A. Perry, Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody MA, 2006.

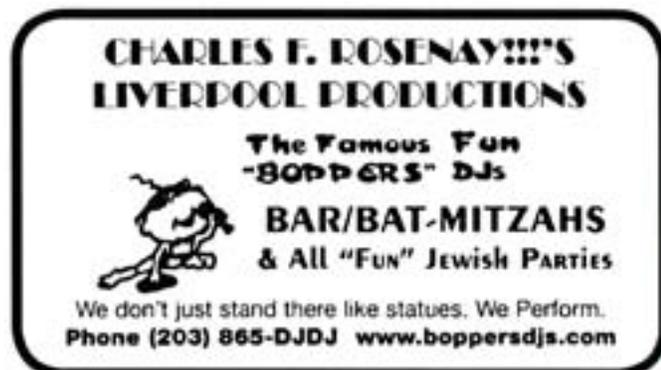
Reviewed by Rabbi Murray Levine

My grandson's name is Jonah. Would that he would understand the rich nuances of his name as elaborated by the author, Tony Perry, in his scholarly work on the book of Jonah as reflected

in the text, his ten pages of bibliography and eight pages of an index of names and subjects.

There are so many rich insights by the author as he analyzes the text. I was particularly impressed by Perry's insight into Jonah's "near-death" experience, his analysis of the book of Jonah as "in reality many books: of love, of prayer, of repentance, and of prophecy." Perry sees Jonah as one who "not only seek(s) life, he is upset with God." Perry's characterization of "Jonah's private interests" as being "amorous" is unusual. Jonah is pictured as having an "intimate friendship with God." A rationale is offered by Perry as to why the book is read in synagogue on Yom Kippur – it too is a call to repentance. "The book becomes a direct instrument of transformation." Interesting also is Perry's characterization of Jonah as a "magician." The book of Jonah concludes, Perry writes, "with a question."

If in this review, I have tempted the reader to read the author's text, *dayenu*, this will have been enough.



Kulanu

The Kulanu group was very active this winter. January found the members of the Chapel Haven Community Day program engaged in a study of the connections of Jews and the Civil Rights Movement. They are using a book called that traces the Civil Rights Movement. At the conclusion of their studies, they viewed the new movie on Rosa Parks provided by Teaching Tolerance.

Saul's Circle

Saul's Circle members have responded well to the new format for Lunch and Learn devised by Billy Bromage from Fellowship Place and Dr. Lauren Kempton from BEKI. The monthly program is now held in the main room at Fellowship. The very special food staff coordinates the luncheon to reflect the topic of the Lunch and Learn session.

In February, the topic was Jewish Response to African-American causes. The Fellowship members dined on particular foods in keeping with the Southern tradition. The group explored the poetry of Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou. The session concluded with a clip from "Eyes on the Prize" synthesizing the civil right movement.

BEKI Religious School

The month of February will find the students of BEKI Religious School exploring some of the major teachings of our Legacy Heritage Innovation Project focus. We sent home an "energy audit" to be filled out by parents. When the

surveys are returned we will develop an "energy action" plan for each home. Our theme is "Protecting God's World: That's What Jews Do!" We will tie in our teachings to respecting the earth to our studies for Tu BeShevat. In March we will sponsor a Poster Contest on Energy Conservation.

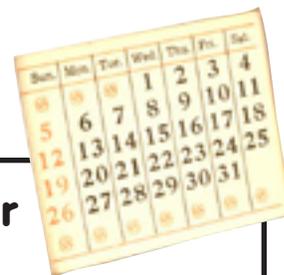
Kita Bet: Observe the activities of BEKI Religious School's kita bet at morah-judi.blog-city.com.

Sisterhood

Through the BEKI Sisterhood a scholarship has been set up by Mimi Glenn in memory of her father, Marcel Gutman. The scholarship will be given to deserving teens 8th grade-12th grade going to Israel with a youth group or school or engaging in Jewish programs. Applicant's parent or guardian must

be a synagogue member and a Sisterhood member or supporter (men can support Sisterhood, too) to be eligible for a scholarship. Applications may be picked up at the BEKI office (see Peggy).

For more information call Mimi Glenn 397-3851



Mark Your Calendar

- Shabbat Tu BeShevat Dinner Friday 2 February 2007
- Shabbat Shira Erev Shira Song Night 3 February 2007 off-site
- Solar PV Dedication Event Sunday 4 February 2007 noon
- DeliBox Pickup Sunday 4 February 2007
- BEKI Israel Experience 17 February - 1 March 2007
- Purim Saturday Night 3 March & Sunday 4 March 2007
- Purim Seuda Feast Sunday 4 March 2007 5-8p
- Wine Tasting Event Saturday Night 10 March 2007 7:30p to 9:30p
- First Seder (home ritual) Monday 2 April 2007
- Tribute to our Civic Leaders Sunday 6 May 2007 6:15p to 10:00p