USY Event of the Season: Limo Scavenger Hunt

Ever think about living the life of a star, driving around in a limo with people watching and wondering “who’s that in the limo? Must be someone famous.” Well it’s not quite that, but BEKI-BJ USY’s Limo Scavenger hunt is pretty close. For one night you’ll be going all over the city in a limo, doing fun things like filming college students, Israeli dancing, and simply chilling with a bunch of other Jewish teens in a limo. After the fun-filled night, we all come back to one house and watch videos of each limo.

This is the most amazing night ever, especially because 8th graders are invited, too. The sooner you sign up and the more people that sign up, the better this will be. Forms will be going out soon, but you must be a paid member of USY to participate.

Can’t wait to see you there! (And don’t forget the Bagel Brunch at BJ on January 27).

Yedidya Ben-Avie
Limos co-chair
BEKI-BJ USY Religious Education VP

Questions?
Contact Yedidya at ifyouwereajew@gmail.com 464-1371, or advisor Shiri Friedman at usy@beki.org, 789-0322.
**The Smallest Holiday**

An extra month is added to the Hebrew calendar before Passover seven out of nineteen years in order to keep the calendar in sync with the solar year. This year, 5768, there are two months called “Adar,” or for our convenience, “First Adar” and “Second Adar.”

But which one is the “real” Adar? That is, for someone born in Adar in a 12-month year, on which Adar do we celebrate when it is a 13-month year? When do we observe a yahrzeit? And most crucially, when do we observe Purim?

The Mishna (Megila 1:4) says:

> וְנָתַּהוּ בָּאַדָּר הָאוֹרְשֵׁים הַשְּׁנֵה קְרַבָּה

If the Megila were read during First Adar and they then decided to add a month, the Megila is read (again) in Second Adar.”

That is, before the third century of the common era, the extra month was added on an *ad hoc* basis based on the observations of the rabbinic equivalent of Ground Hog Day, the immediate goal being to keep Passover at springtime.

Once the calendar was fixed, however, it was decided that Purim would be observed in Second Adar. This was, in part, because Purim is “supposed to” be one month before Passover. However, given that in the past Purim was sometimes celebrated in First Adar, that date retains a sense of distinction.

The Shulhan Arukh (OH 697) describes the observance of the date in First Adar this way:

> On the 14th and 15th of First Adar, we don’t recite Tahanun or Psalm 20 (in the daily prayers), and eulogies and fasts are prohibited; but the other practices (of Purim) are not observed on those dates; but there are those who say that eulogies and fasts are permitted.

Rabbi Moshe Isserles (contemporary with the Shulhan Arukh) adds:

The actual practice (in the Ashkenazic lands) is according to the first approach (above in the Shulhan Arukh). There are those who say that we are obliged to feast and celebrate much on the 14th of First Adar. We don’t do that, but in any case we feast a little bit to comply with the strict view; it is always better to celebrate.

The 14th of First Adar is called “Purim Qatan,” minor Purim. In our community we are strict about not reciting Tahanun and Psalm 20 on that date, but that is about all we do. This year, Purim Qatan is on Tuesday night, Feb. 19, and Wednesday, Feb. 20. The following day is Shushan Purim Qatan, the date on which Purim would be observed in cities that were walled in ancient times. If you want to be a religious fanatic, be sure to wish others a “Happy Shushan Purim Qatan” on Thursday, Feb. 21.

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**USY News**

We have many organized events coming up, and 8th graders are now welcome to all chapter events! In addition, we plan to have two or more Shabbat dinners — a time for the group to just chill on Shabbat — and some SATO (Social Action / Tikun Olam) events. Stay tuned for more information. For any questions, contact advisor Shiri Friedman at 789-0322, shirisf@gmail.com.

**Visit our facebook group (BEKI/BJ USY)!**

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**BEKI/BJ USY**

**Winter-Spring 2008 Calendar**

- Feb. 3 – Deli Boxes *
- Feb. 8 – 10th Regional Mid-Winter Kinnus *
- Feb. 23 – Annual Limo Scavenger Hunt *
- March 1 – Regional Semi-Formal Dance
- March 23 – Broomball *
- April 4-6 – Regional Spring Convention *
- April 13 – Chocolate Seder *
- May 18 – Final Regional Event – Six Flags *
- May 30-June 1 – Inter-Chapter Shabbaton *
- June 8 – Beach Day / Beach Bonfire / Elections *

* 8th graders welcome  
# Members-only event
Fruit of the Vine

In recent years, the number of kosher wines on the market has increased dramatically. From light, crisp whites to robust reds to lush dessert wines, the options have become too numerous to count.

Vintners in Israel, California, Italy, France, South Africa, Argentina and Australia now offer an extraordinary range of wines, and it’s become very hard for wine-lovers to keep up.

In the spirit of public service, BEKI is stepping forward to guide the perplexed wine enthusiast. On Saturday night, March 1, BEKI will host a kosher wine-tasting event, open to all adults. Beginning at 7:30 p.m., numerous bottles will be uncorked for comparison tasting, and accompanying kosher snacks will be served. Soft drinks for non-drinkers and designated drivers will be provided.

Tickets are $25 per person at the door, $20 in advance. Lori and Natan Weinstein are coordinating this event. Participants will be able to order bottles and cases for pickup in advance of Purim and well ahead of the Passover rush.

BEKI membership is not required to attend this fun event, so feel free to invite friends. Call the office at 389-2108 x14 or email office@beki.org, to reserve your spot, or purchase your ticket at the door on the night of the event.

Kulanu Friendship Circle Initiative

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven has awarded a grant to BEKI to partially fund an initiative of the Kulanu Ke’Ehad Havura for adults with special needs. This initiative will increase outreach to participants to make Jewish observance more a part of their lives. It will also inaugurate a Shabbat discussion group modeled after our teen discussions on topics integral to their lives.

We are looking for a part-time worker to assist with this program. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 387-7720 or l kempton@beki.org. As a congregation, we are hopeful that this next step will benefit all stakeholders.

Saul’s Circle

Saul’s Circle participants celebrated Hanuka twice this year. The first celebration was at Fellowship Place, hosted by Sara Mag. The celebration focused on the lighting of the menorah, the retelling of the Temple miracle and of course dreidels, gelt and latkes. The second celebration was hosted by Norm Seeley. Since Fellowship Place hosts a diverse community, the program focused on the theme of light — the lights of Hanuka, Kwanza and Three Kings Day.

The beloved chef at Fellowship Place always makes a festive meal in accord with the topic for Lunch and Learn each month. The Fellowship members each took an active part in the telling of their holiday tradition. BEKI participant Jon Singer retold the story of the Maccabees. His story was followed by the story of Kwanza and Three Kings Day, Los Dia de los Reyes. The program ended with the lights of the menorah and the kenora (Kwanza Menora) reflecting the myriad faces of Fellowship members, secure and happy in their holiday symbols and remembrances.

Dr. Lauren Kempton
Director of Special Outreach
Before we know it Passover will be here and BEKI Sisterhood will again be sponsoring the model Seder for People with Special Needs. If you would like to volunteer on this project call Adele or Ruthie. A very large selection of Passover items are now in our Gift Shop — shop early and support Sisterhood.

Students who are planning Judaic summer studies, trips or camp can apply for the Marcel Gutman Scholarship now. An application and rules are available in the office. Parent or guardian must be a Sisterhood member. Dues are $25 and can be sent to the office.

Adele Tyson & Ruthie Greenblatt
Co-Presidents

Torah Fund

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the 2007 Torah Fund appeal letter. All funds went directly to support the Jewish Theological Seminary.

JTS is the “heart” of our Conservative Movement, and for it to continue to flourish, it depends on a small segment of the Jewish population — those of us who belong to Conservative Synagogues.

By purchasing cards for all occasions, your donations and our benefactors to Torah Fund, we support our Conservative Movement mainstay — JTS.

No need to go to the store this cold winter for a card — send a Torah Fund card. They are only $4 each, include the stamp and are promptly sent out for you. Whatever the occasion we have a beautiful card and you support Women’s League Torah Fund. Just call me at 407-0314.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair for BEKI Sisterhood

In Honor of:

- Rabbi Elliot Gertel – 25 years in the Rabbinate from Celia Lerner, Barbara Cushen, Adele Tyson
- The marriage of Howard & Shilo to Mikki Ratner from Adele Tyson

Get Well to:

- Eve Berson from the Hesed Committee
- Arthur Nepiarsky from Stanley Saxe, Barbara Cushen
- Margie Brown from Barbara Cushen
- Robert Lettick from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, the Hesed Committee, the Lew family, Adele Tyson, David Wright
- Mort Silver from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, the Hesed Committee
- Rena Miller from the Hesed Committee
- Ann Levine from the Hesed Committee
- Mimi Glenn from the Hesed Committee, Adele Tyson

Thank You to:

- Bernice Gillman from Hyla Greenberg
- Tom & Sue Brown from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe

Mazel Tov to:

- George Posener on his 96th birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Leonard & Inge Fish on their 60th anniversary from Helen Miller, Violet & Charlie Ludwig

In Memory of:

- Morton Meyers to Mrs. Harold Kasowitz from Sheila Caplan
- Alan Campbell from the Hesed Committee
- Dr. Marvin Henken to Dr. Eleanor Henken from Gladys Lipkin
- Sylvia Dworski to Tillie Horwitz from Adele Tyson

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).
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OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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The Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is a home within the homeland for Conservative Jews from North America.

It's your center of Conservative life and learning, prayer and play, culture and creativity in the heart of Jerusalem.

At the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, you can enjoy concerts in our auditorium, feast in our elegant dining rooms, attend discussions in lecture halls, pray in our synagogue, study in the Conservative Yeshiva, and there is so much more.

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Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue’s Connecticut Valley Region at (603) 663-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org
Welcome New Members and Their Families
• Eva Landau
• Marlo Palumbo
• Sarah Serkin
• Naomi Driesen & Nathan Bixby and Aliyah Mazal Tov

Mark the Almighty comfort those who mourn

HaMiqom Yenahem
With sorrow we note the passing of
Sylvia Dworski,
sister of Tillie Dworski Horwitz
Irma Hamburger
Mel Miller,
uncle of Jay Sokolow (& Ina Silverman)

Shabbat Dinner in February
Fun, friendly, delicious communal dinner following Friday night services on Feb. 8. Dairy/non-dairy vegetarian choices. Advance reservations required. $18 per adult, $60 maximum per household. Services at 6 p.m., dinner at 6:50. To reserve, contact Peggy 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org.

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 cemetery@beki.org, or contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

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 percent or 5 percent or even 1 percent 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 985-9033 (sdsij@aol.com). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) for a confidential discussion.

Mark Your Calendar
Bidding for BEKI
Sunday, June 1, 5-8 p.m.
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Torah for the Hungry Mind - Adult Studies

Shabbatot
Darshanim
Baruch Levine will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning, Feb. 16, parashat Tetaveh. Baruch is an editor of the popular humash Etz Hayim and is the Skirball Professor of Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University.

Shulamith Chernoff will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning, Feb. 23, parashat Ki Tisa. Shula is the author of The Stones Bear Witness and of other published poems, and is an Associate Professor of Education Emerita at Southern Connecticut State University.

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

Sundays
Talmud with Moshe Meiri
Serious high school students are studying Talmud on Sunday with Moshe Meiri. The class meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:45. Students wishing to enroll for the Spring Semester should speak with Moshe and should register with the office (office@beki.org). The classes are open only to students in grades 8-12. This class is taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Registration and materials fee is $120 for the spring semester. Moshe may be reached at moshe@snet.net.

Mondays
Rashi Study Group
Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the peshat of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. shaharit service (except on Feb. 18, Washington’s Birthday, also known as Presidents’ Day, when it follows the 9 a.m. service). New participants are welcome.

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.”
Point of Grammar

Notes on Hebrew Morphology, Syntax and Grammar to Aid Ba’alei Qeri’a (Torah & Haftara Readers), Shelhei Tsibbur (Service Leaders) and Gabbaim at BEKI.

Shortened Vowels in Pausal Form and Semikhut

Sometimes in Biblical or poetic Hebrew the vowels of a word in pause (i.e. at the end of a phrase or verse, most often at an etnahta or sof pasuq) or a word in construct (semikhut, that is, attached to an adjacent word, often indicated by a hyphen in a vocalized text), the vowels will shorten.

Thus va-yomar = va-yomer, arets = erets, lekha = lakh.

Gabbaim note: If a Torah reader pronounces this incorrectly, it usually is not necessary to correct the reading, as this error does not affect the meaning or intelligibility of the text.

Purim Is Coming

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

No worry! No fuss! No shopping! Just send in the order forms you will receive in the mail. (Forms are available at www.beki.org/forms.html and will be on their way via schlepost.) 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 Thursday night, March 20 and Friday, March 21. 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. Contact Ina (387-6019 or ina@aya.yale.edu) to volunteer to deliver. Thanks!

Cost/Reciprocity / BEKI Option:

The cost for each basket is $5 for each member, $7 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, unless you choose ONLY reciprocity in which case the cost is $6 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 $275.

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, March 20, (dawn to dark)

Megilla Readings
Thursday night, March 20; and Friday morning, March 21.

Megila Reading
If you would like to read part of Megilat Esther at BEKI on Purim (Thursday Night 20 March & Friday Morning 21 March 2008), please contact our 24-hour Megila Hotline 389-2108 x10 or jtilsen@beki.org.
## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**USY Shabbat Dinner** Feb. 1  
**Youth Commission Deli Box** Pickup Feb. 3  
**Shabbat Dinner** Feb. 8  
**USY Mid-Winter Kinnus** Feb. 8-10 off-site  
**Darshan: Baruch Levine** Feb. 16  
**Darshanit: Shula Chernoff** Feb. 28  
**Kulanu Shabbat Discussion** Feb. 28

### Service Times

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<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
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<td>6 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
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### Events

<table>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>USY Limo Scavenger Hunt</td>
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</table>
| Feb. 23 | Darshan: Rabbi Pete Stein  
Wine Tasting  
March 1 |
| Mar. 9 | Brunch with Stephen Steinlight  
Taanit Esther  
March 20 |
| Mar. 20-21 | Purim  
Shushan Purim Costume Party (Adults)  
March 22 |
| Feb. 16 | Darshan: Baruch Levine  
USY Limo Scavenger Hunt |
| Feb. 20 | Darshanit: Shula Chernoff  
Taanit Esther  
March 20 |
| Mar. 20 | Purim  
Shushan Purim Costume Party (Adults)  
March 22 |
| Feb. 28 | Shushan Purim Costume Party (Adults)  
March 22 |

### Weekly Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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</table>
| 3 | 9:00am Religious School  
9:30am Talmud with Moshe  
11:45am Deli Box Pick-Up | 4 | 7:45am Rabbi's Study Group | 5 | 6:45am Rabbi's Study Group  
4:00pm Religious School  
5:00pm Beni Mitzva Program | 6 | 7:45am Rabbi's Study Group  
4:00pm Religious School  
5:00pm Beni Mitzva Program | 7 | 8:00am A.A.  
USY Limo Scavenger Hunt  
Feb. 23 |
| 8 | 4:58pm Candle Lighting  
5:07pm Candle Lighting  
Darshanit: Shula Chernoff | 9 | 10:45am Learner's Programs  
Qiddush: Myer/Kempton & Gratz | 5:00pm Minha-Maariv | 5:00pm Minha-Maariv |
| 10 | 9:00am Religious School  
9:30am Talmud with Moshe | 11 | 7:45am Rabbi's Study Group  
3:00pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) | 12 | 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group  
4:00pm Religious School  
5:00pm Beni Mitzva Program | 13 | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)  
8:00pm A.A. | 14 | 5:07pm Candle Lighting  
Darshan: Baruch Levine  
USY Limo Scavenger Hunt |
| 15 | 10:45am Learner's Programs  
Qiddush: Gerber | 16 | 10:45am Childre... |
| 17 | 9:00am Religious School  
9:30am Talmud with Moshe | 18 | Office Closed/President's Day  
9:00am Shaharit  
9:45am Rashi Study Group | 19 | 10:00am New Haven Ballet Children's Workshop | 20 | Purim Katan I  
8:30am Rabbi's Study Group  
No Religious School  
No Beni Mitzva Program | 21 | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)  
8:00pm A.A. | 22 | 5:16pm Candle Lighting  
Darshanit: Shula Chernoff  
10:45am Childre... |
| 23 | 16:30pm Kulanu Ke'Ehad Havura  
Qiddush: Chernoff  
5:15pm Minha-Maariv  
USY Limo Scavenger Hunt | 24 | 9:00am Religious School  
9:30am Talmud with Moshe | 25 | 7:45am Rabbi's Study Group  
3:00pm General Board Meeting | 26 | 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group  
4:00pm Religious School  
5:00pm Beni Mitzva Program | 27 | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)  
8:00pm A.A. | 28 | 5:24pm Candle Lighting |

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