Be Happy It’s Adar

משבת אדר מרבים בשמחה
Mishenikhnas Adar marvim besimha
– When Adar begins, joy increases.
– Talmud Eruvin 29a

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over 20 centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is usually observed the day before Purim; this year, it is advanced two days since the fast cannot coincide with Friday or Shabbat. Taanit Esther marks the serious side of the holiday. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatchers, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide.

The Fast of Esther begins at dawn (5:20) on Thursday, Feb. 25. The Thursday shaharit morning service is from 8:15 to 9 and includes “Avinu Malkenu – Our Father, Our King,” as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any significant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. The minha afternoon service is at 5:45. The fast ends at 6:20 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Megilla Readings

The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read during the evening service, which begins at 6:30 on Motse’ei Shabbat Satur-
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.

Now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is embarking on a major campaign to support this bastion of Conservative life. We urgently need your participation to help us complete this dream.

Support the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, your home within the homeland.

Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue’s Connecticut Valley Region at (860) 563-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org

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.

David Teichman
Chair
Board of Trustees

Lisa A. Stronger, Esq.
Director

Visit us at www.beki.org
News

Purim at BEKI
Continued from Page 1

resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door – we mean it). In accordance with revised FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are again permitted. However, shampoo, eye drops and more than 3.2 ounces of any liquid are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service; this applies on Purim as well as year-round. Enriched uranium from Iran is permitted in the building only if the bearer promises that it will not be used for weapons.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be gogglier than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18 centimeters).

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

No worry! No fuss! No shopping!

Just send in the order forms in this Bulletin or the ones you have received in the mail. (Order forms are also available at www.beki.org/forms.html.) Start making your list. There is enough time to check it twice!

BEKI PURIM SEUDA (Festive Meal)

Sunday Feb. 28; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the BEKI downstairs social hall; A LIGHT dairy lunch will be served
$13 per adult, $11 per child (age 3-12); 2 and under, no charge
Preregistration with payment please by Mon. Feb. 22

Purim Spiel, Created & Directed by Amy Aaland & Jonathan Freiman
BEKI Bulletin: Special! by Paul and Carole Bass
Face-painting with Rachel Sutin
Purim Sing-a-long, Ada Fenick & Yair Minsky
Dance, Games and Light Show! By DJ Andy Berman & Fresh Fruit Entertainment

Volunteers! Help! Call: Eva Shragis, Food Chair, (203) 258-1243, for food set-up and serving; Jessey Palumbo, Membership Chair, (203) 387-8359 for outreach to, meet and greet new and prospective BEKI members; Liora Lew, Decorations Chair, at (203) 389-1048, for decorating; Miriam Benson, (203) 389-6137 for set-Up, registration table, or clean-up

Registration form and check due in BEKI office by Monday, Feb. 22; Your prompt registration will help a lot!

Name of each attendee: ____________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Address: _______________________________________________________________________

Phones: _______________________________________________________________________

# Adults _____ @ $13 each = $______ + # Children (age 3-12) _____ @ $11 each = $______ (2 and under free)

TOTAL (please enclose your check, payable to BEKI) __________________

Send to BEKI Purim Seuda, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515
Thank you for your support of the Purim Basket project! Carefully circle the name you wish to send a basket to. Non-members are marked with an asterisk. *If you wish to send baskets to people not on this list, write their names, addresses, phone numbers, and your name, on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this form. The cost for each basket is $5.00 for each member, $7.00 for each non-member.

- If you would like to reciprocate for each basket you receive, please mark off this space _____ and sign your name here ____________________________. 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 this option, mark off this space _____ and simply send in this form with your check.

Baskets will be available for pick-up Saturday night February 27 after the megilla reading. Recipients who do not pick up their baskets may receive a card in lieu of a basket depending on the availability of volunteer deliverers. PLEASE CONTACT INA SILVERMAN TO VOLUNTEER: 387-6019 or principal@beki.org. Deliveries will be made the afternoon of Sunday, February 28. Thanks!

- Please return the completed form with your check made out to "BEKI" (and please double-check your math!)

- Mail the order form and check to: BEKI Purim Baskets, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515, or Email your order to Peggy Hackett at office@beki.org

This Order Form with Payment Must Be Received By February 17!

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Yakerson, Laura & Jack
Zahler, Rhoda & Allen Samuel
Zax, Shoshana & John Weiser
Zeid, Sylvia
Zerbarini, Rabbi Lina
Zlotoff, Ronald & Donna Kemper
Zusman, Howard
**Mazel Tov to**
Shannon Finan on completing her formal process of gerut and entering into the House of Israel

**ANL Library News**
The following were acquired through generous donations to the Ari Nathan Levine Fund, and are available in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room on a non-lending basis. They will be especially helpful to the parent volunteer leaders of our BEKI Shabbat Morning Children’s Programs:

- *Jacob’s Travels*, Carol Racklin-Siegel
- *Joseph the Dreamer*, Alison Greengard
- *The Brave Women Who Saved Moses*, Alison Greengard
- *Rebecca*, Alison Greengard

**While the Rabbi’s away…**
During Rabbi Tilsen’s sabbatical, you can find the information or help you seek at the synagogue by contacting office manager Peggy Hackett office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14 or those contacts listed below.

Should you or a loved one be in need of a rabbi for a funeral, please contact your Jewish Funeral Director such as Robert E. Shure, Inc. (Jimmy Shure) at (203) 562-8244, who will either locate Rabbi Tilsen or find another local rabbi suitable for your family. In case of a medical or pastoral emergency, please contact Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Office Manager Peggy Hackett: office@beki.org

Bulletin, Happenings and Announcements: editor@beki.org or announcements@beki.org

Ritual Committee Chairperson Steven Fraade: steven.fraade@yale.edu

Torah Reading: Carole Bass

Benei Mitzva Program: Tani Cohen-Fraade

Hospitalization or Illness: Muriel Banquer or Rabbi Murray Levine, Hesed Committee

Personal Problem or Pastoral Counseling: Alan Lovins or Rabbi Murray Levine

Conversion: Steven Fraade steven.fraade@yale.edu

Service times: www.beki.org/schedule.html office@beki.org

Selling Hametz: www.beki.org/forms/hametz.pdf

Marriage & Divorce: Rabbi Joel Levenson (Congregation B’nai Jacob)

The rabbi’s absence is a great opportunity, and time of special need, for new and increased participation, through attending daily services and classes, and by reading Torah and leading services. To find out how you can be part of it, contact Steven Fraade at steven.fraade@yale.edu.
Rabbi Tilsen is away on sabbatical during January, February and March. For further information on classes and program, please contact Office Manager Peggy Hackett office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14.

**Darshanim in February**

Rabbi Baruch Levine will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashat Yitro, Feb. 6.

Gila Reinstein will serve as darshanit on Shabbat Sheqalim, parashat Mishpatim, Feb. 13.

Rami Schwartzer will serve as darshan on Shabbat parshat Teruma, “Jewish Theological Seminary of America Shabbat,” Feb. 20.

Robert Forbes will serve as darshan on Shabbat Zakhor, parashat Tetsave, Feb. 27.

**Shabbatot**

**Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan**

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Isaiah Cooper and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

**Shabbat Minha Winter Study**

Each Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon, following the Minha service, there will be a 25-minute period of study before the Maariv service and havdala. This winter, Nadav Sela will lead an investigation into parashat ha-shavua (the weekly Torah reading) and into Pirkei Avot from the Mishna.

**Sundays**

**Sunday Talmud with Moshe Meiri**

Adults and advanced youth are invited to bask in the light of Talmud on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The third chapter of *masekhet Baba Qama* (“First Gate”) serves as the base text. This winter series meets on consecutive Sunday mornings from 10:30 until noon, according to the Religious School schedule. For more information, contact Moshe 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. During Rabbi Tilsen’s sabbatical, Nadav Sela is facilitating the Study Group.

**Wednesdays**

**Word for the Day**

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) includes a 60-second “Hebrew word for the day” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English. Word for the Day is on hiatus during Rabbi Tilsen’s sabbatical.

**Rabbis’ Study Group**

*Wednesdays with Murray* is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz.
 Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedaka Fund (minimum $25)
• Delci Lev with prayers of refua shelema

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $280)
• The Auerbach Family
• Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne
• Karel Koenig & Bob Oakes
• Rebecca Gratz
• Janice & Robert Lettick
• George G. Posener

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
• To Bob Oakes in his honor by Steve & Rachel Wizner
• To Bob Oakes in celebration of his first Aliyah by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
• To George G. Posener in honor of his 99th birthday by Beatrice Gimble

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10 to support synagogue operations)
• To Vivian Rudnick in honor of her 90th birthday by Marjorie Simson
• The Batsheva Labowe-Stoll Fund for the Support of Jewish Life at Congregation BEKI
• Jo & Doron Ben-Atar
• The Colten and Berry Family
• The Tova Benson-Tilsen Fund for Animal Welfare at Congregation BEKI and in Israel
• Al & Margaret Barnett
• Simon Allentuch & Leora Netter
• Morris Bell & Raine Sotsky
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• Caryn Azoft & Cory Slifstein
• Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik
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• The Colten and Berry Family
• Mara Benjamin & Miryam Kabakov
• The Eric I.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund
• Robert & Harriet Zomback
• The Diana Friedman-Opton Fund for the Benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
• Leslie & Susan Brisman
• Sara Joseph
• Harold & Janice Gelfand
• Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund
• To Judi Janette with thanks for tying the tzitzit on her granddaughter’s tallis by Elma Guttenberg
• Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
• In memory of Isadore Frankel by Shirley Mattler
• In memory of Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler
• To Shirley Mattler in memory of Rebecca Miller (Shultz) by Sylvia Botwinick
• Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund
• In memory of Murray Kahn, Miriam Kahn and Evelyn Kahn by Richard & Michael Kahn
• Rabbi Andrew Klein Fund
• Mindy Portnoy
• Hesed
• Ten VHS tapes & two DVD’s to the lending library by Rabbi Murray Levine
• A DVD to the lending library by Mimi Glenn
• To Gila Reinstein in honor of her retirement by the Rothman Family

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
• In memory of Bessie Golden by Marjorie Simson
• In memory of Samuel Simson by Marjorie Simson
• In memory of George Weiss by Marjorie Simson
• In memory of Sidney Weinstein by Dan Goldberg
• In memory of Benjamin Levine by Diane Hoberman
• In memory of Robert Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell & Jeffrey Podell
• In memory of Jacob Cohen by Carol J. Cohen
• In memory of their grandmother Esther Yehudis Cucker by Robert Silverman & family
• In memory of her husband Fred Shure by Gertrude Shure
• In memory of Mildred Israel by Doris & David Sagerman
• In memory of Stanley Watsky by Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried
• In memory of Samuel Adam Margolis by David Margolis
• In memory of Hyman Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
• In memory of Mollie Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
• In memory of Jordan & Belle Goldberg by Rich & Robin Goldberg
• In memory of Ida Kantrowitz by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
• In memory of Marjorie Reynolds by Ellen Dixon
• In memory of her father David B. Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
• In memory of her mother Kyla Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
• In memory of her sister Goldie Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
• In memory of her brother Emanuel (Mendy) Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
• In memory of her brother Louis Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
• In memory of Evelyn Rosenstein by Edythe Tanenbaum
• In memory of M. Michael Franzman by Larry & Susan Franzman
• In memory of Irving Weinstein by Anita B. Weinstein
• In memory of her father Irving Weinstein by Elaine Weinstein
• In memory of Louis Israel by Doris & David Sagerman
• In memory of Mary Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
• In memory of Lester Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
• In memory of Samuel Markovitz by Lynne & Ben Marks
• In memory of her mother Ida Zelkovitz by Helen Z. Kaplan
• In memory of Louis Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
• In memory of her mother Shirley Charleston by Delci Lev
• In memory of Harry Miller by David & Dorothy Lipton
• In memory of Deborah Mendelson by Myra & Andrew Harris
• In memory of Kate Herscherfer by Sherman & David Herscherfer
• In memory of Max Rubenstein by Allan Rubenstein & Carolyn Kone
• In memory of Gloria & Jordan Goldberg by Arlene & David Thrope
• In memory of Sasha Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
• In memory of Pearl Weiner by Stephen & Joann Rudof
• In memory of Kate Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
• In memory of loved ones by Allen & Sheila Mushin
• In loving memory of her sister Phyllis C. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
• In memory of Seymour Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
• In memory of her mother Fannie Meyerson by Helen Meyerson Elston
• In memory of George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
• In memory of Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen
• In memory of Max Haves by Hyman & Ethel Haves
Hungry Mind  
Continued from Page 7

Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Mini Maariv Learning Service
The Wednesday evening services during the school year are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily evening service. The learning service resumed on Sept. 16. Minha and Maariv services are from 5:45 to 6:15 each weeknight, at 6 p.m. on Fridays, and 20 minutes before sundown on Shabbat (Saturday) afternoons in September. Tani Cohen-Fraade is conducting the service in February and March.

Thursdays
Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group
The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) at a downtown location. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

Thanks to attorney Isaiah Cooper for arrangements. For information contact Isaiah at his law office icoo-per@cooperlaw.net.

Every Day
Divrei Torah on the Web
A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI’s website under “Adult Studies” and “Meet Rabbi Tilsen.”

Contributions  
Continued from Page 8

- In memory of her father Jacob Pepper by Marilyn & Basil Friedman
- In memory of Joseph Rosen by Rochelle Adani
- In memory of E. Lester Feldman by Sara & Steven Salomon
- In memory of Rose Koblintz Olmer by Diana O. Bander
- In memory of Forest London by Sharon & David Bender

Torah Fund
Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to the 2009-10 Torah Fund Appeal letter. All funds were sent directly to Women’s League to support the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS).

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 a Conservative Synagogue.

No need to go to the store this cold winter for a card – send a Torah Fund card. They are only $4 each including the stamp and are promptly sent out for you. Whatever the occasion we have a beautiful card for it and you support Women’s League Torah Fund. Just call me at (203) 407-0314 and your card will be sent right out.
Barbara Cushen
BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair

Mazel Tov to:
- George G. Posener on his 99th birthday from Adele Tyson, Barbara Cusden & Stanley Saxe, Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Stefania & Dennis Borisov on the birth of Benjamin from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Rhoda Zahler & Allen Samuel on their marriage from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Barbara Cusden & Stanley Saxe
- Kathy Nargi-Toth & Jo Wynschek on their 20th anniversary from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Joyce Saltman on her new grandchild from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Maria Sinnamon & Matthew Wightman in the birth of their new baby from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Steven Stoll & Sara Labowe-Stoll on Batsheva’s Bat Mitzvah from Barbara Cusden & Stanley Saxe
- Doris Sagerman on her birthday from Bea Smirnoff

Get Well to:
- Stanley Saxe from Barbara Cushen, the BEKI Hesed Committee, Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Reeva & Gary Lynes, Adele Tyson
- Violet Ludwig from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Belle Greenberg from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Lenny Fish from Violet & Charlie Ludwig

In Memory of:
- Bruce Marcus to his sister Ethel Marcus from Barbara Cushen, Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Adele Tyson
- Morris Goldfield to Carl Goldfield from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Diana Friedman Opton from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Her brother to Goldie Taub from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Stanley Watsky to Dr. Kalman Watsky from Louis Petrillo
- Her brother to Debbie Lurie from Adele Tyson

Thank You to:
- Marsha Beller from Violet & Charlie Ludwig

Cards for Own Use:
- Rabbi Murray Levine
Please help keep BEKI peanut free

For the safety of children who have life-threatening peanut allergies, please do not bring peanuts or peanut products into the building. Thanks!

---

Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.
A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP
Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP
Carol Dorfman, M.D., FAAP
Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP

303 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 776-1243
Fax (203) 785-1247

1 Bradley Road, Suite 102
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243
Fax (203) 397-1241

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Visit us at www.beki.org
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

It's about our unique approach to building educational excellence on a foundation of Jewish tradition and values, an appreciation of modern culture and a firm belief in the importance of weaving learning into living.

To learn more about the Ezra Academy difference, visit www.ezraacademy.net

75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, CT
(203) 389-5500   www.ezraacademy.net
**Deli Boxes**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010!!!**

**PICK-UP FROM 11:45 - 1:30PM**

On **SuperBowl Sunday**, invite some friends over and don’t worry about the food.

**LET US PREPARE THE MEAL FOR YOU!**

You don’t have to be watching the big game – watch a movie, play bridge, have a party or just relax and enjoy the break!

**JUST DON’T COOK!**

---

**All profits benefit youth programs at both BEKI and B’nai Jacob**

Only $12 each!!! - Each Deli box contains:

1 delicious **Deli Sandwich**, on freshly baked rye bread (see choices of sandwiches below), 1 container of freshly made **coleslaw**, 1 beverage, 1 bag of **potato chips**, 1 scrumptious **pareve brownie**, 1 large barrel **pickle**, 1 piece of fresh **fruit**, condiments, napkin, flatware - all food certified KOSHER and prepared under supervision.

---

**AGAIN THIS YEAR – FIND A "GOLDEN TICKET"**

3 Golden Tickets will appear in random boxes and can be exchanged for 4 movie tickets each! Good for the whole family or a night out with friends!

---

**All order forms must be received by MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

Payment by check-- made out to "BEKI/BJ YOUTH COMMISSION"-- must accompany all orders.

Please send all order forms and checks to:

Darryl Rotman Kuperstock, 2 Debby Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525

For more information or to order via Email, contact Darryl at (203)387-0304 or kuperst@aol.com

Please do not send any orders to synagogue offices.

---

**DELI BOXES ORDER - 2009**

(please fill in ALL information and return w/payment – PLEASE PRINT)

Name_________________________ Phone_________________ Email_________________

I will PICK UP my Deli Box(es) at ___BEKI ___B’nai Jacob

Please indicate the NUMBER of boxes you would like:

___ Corned Beef ___ Egg Salad (vegetarian) ___ Pastrami ___ Portobello & peppers*(vegan) ___ Salami ___ Tuna Salad

___ Turkey Breast ___ Roast Beef

Total # of Boxes________ x $12 = $________

Choice of Beverage (1/box) ___ Coke ___ Diet Coke ___ Sprite ___ Apple Juice ___ Spring Water

ADDITIONAL DONATION TO BEKI/BJ Youth Programs $________

---

* served on a hard roll

Total amount of check made out to BEKI/BJ Youth Commission $________
Mitzva Indigestion

Is it possible to do too much of a mitzva?

Halakha (Torah law) specifies minimums for some mitzvot (commandments). A person should give at least 10 percent of their wealth annually for tzedaka (charity); leave at least 1/60 of their crops unpicked (“pe’a”) for the poor to collect; drink at least four cups of wine or grape juice at the seder; recite the Shema’ at least twice a day. But does halakha specify maximums?

Indeed it does. One should not give so much tzedaqa as to impoverish one’s self or drink so much wine at the seder as to become inebriated. And while not a matter of law, there is a midrash that has God complaining that someone was a nudge because he prayed too much.

Our shul community is ardent in providing mitzva-opportunities to its members. Members are constantly called and called upon to help make a minyan, read Torah on Shabbat, prepare a qiddush, contribute money, or in other words, give give give. It is no surprise that from time to time active members experience “burn-out” or what we might call “mitzva indigestion.”

JTS Shabbat

Jewish Theological Seminary of America List College student Rami Schwartzer will visit BEKI on Shabbat, Feb. 19-20. He will present a Devar Torah on Shabbat morning, visit with adults, and interact with youth.

Rami Schwartzer, originally from West Hartford, is a senior at List College, working towards bachelor’s degrees in Philosophy at Columbia and Talmud and Rabbinic Studies at JTS. Having grown up in a more secular environment and having learned in the public school system straight up until his time at JTS, Rami is thankful for the opportunity to learn in an environment as Jewishly inspiring as List College.

In addition to his classroom work this year, Rami is working on his senior honors thesis about Special Education in Jewish Law and Rabbinic literature, and after completing his undergraduate studies, he aspires to continue his pursuits in the world of Jewish leadership by attending Rabbinical school and moving on to serve the Jewish people as a rabbi and spiritual leader, both in the synagogue as well as in the field of chaplaincy. Outside of classes, Rami serves as the Youth Director of the Pelham Jewish Center in Westchester County, running social and educational programs and Shabbat services several times per month, and is also a proud tour guide for the List College Admissions Office, enthusiastic to show prospective students the great opportunities that exist at List College. Beyond his work and school work, Rami enjoys taking advantage of the New York scene and spends some of his free time paying visits to a holocaust survivor living near the JTS neighborhood, the result of a friendly visits program through Dorot and the ICHEIC Service Corps.

Several BEKI members and rabbis are graduates of JTS, and still others have taught there, or are parents or children of JTS students. The Seminary includes an undergraduate college, a graduate school, a graduate school of education, a cantorial school, a rabbinical school, and other programs. Current JTS students include Shai Silverman (son of Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman) and Sandy Johnston (son of BEKI alumni Robert & Anne Johnston), both of whom are enrolled in the Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies.

The Sisterhood has been a continuing and dedicated supporter of the Seminary for decades. Torah Cards support the Seminary, as do your direct donations. For more information on the Seminary and its programs, see www.jtsa.edu.

Following the Shabbat morning service, there will be a Qiddush sponsored by BEKI Friends of JTS (see listing of “Qiddush Sponsors” in the next issue of the Bulletin).
February 2010
17 Shevat 5770 - 14 Adar 5770

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Darshan: Baruch Levine 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Kaufman/Frankel &amp; Rosenberg/Richter 4:55pm Minha-Maariv</td>
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<td>7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7:30pm Tribute Dinner Meeting</td>
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<td>Rosh Hodesh I No Religious School No Talmud with Moshe</td>
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<td>Rosh Hodesh II Office Closed/President's Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group</td>
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<td>JTS Shabbat Darshan: Rami Schwartz 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: JTS Sponsors 5:10pm Minha-Maariv</td>
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<td>No Religious School No Talmud with Moshe Kadima She'lah Manot Senior Prom</td>
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<td>Fast of Esther 9:20am Fast of Esther Begins 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 6:20pm Fast of Esther Ends</td>
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<td>Purim No Religious School Classes/Purim Celebration Instead 9:00am Megilla Reading 11:00am Purim Seuda (see related article)</td>
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Service Times

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Dear Rabbi Tilsen,

Thank you so much for offering the prayers and house blessing at the dedication of the Amity Cares/Habitat for Humanity Home on Nov. 15. The Cuevas/Vazquez Family are thrilled to move in with their three children. They worked hard on the home and are excited to be homeowners.

Your BEKI congregation – thanks to the dedication of Darryl Kuperstock – has been a leader in our efforts and we appreciate all the hours BEKI folks have spent volunteering on the construction of the home. We hope to continue to partner with you in the effort to alleviate poverty housing and transform our neighborhoods in New Haven.

Sincerely,

Cathie Miller