Ten years ago, the BEKI Bulletin (October 2001) reported:

“Veteran BEKI member Marvin Missan has joined George Posener and Rabbi Murray Levine as guarantors of the Congregation’s future by including BEKI as a beneficiary in his estate plan. The Congregation’s long-term vitality can only be assured through the support of forward-thinking members and supporters.”

Following Marvin’s passing in July 2011, the Congregation learned it will receive proceeds as a beneficiary of his life insurance policy to provide for immediate needs of the Congregation as well as to create a memorial to Marvin’s name to help meet the continuing needs of the Congregation in the future.

Marvin Missan, a graduate of Hillhouse High School and of Yale College in New Haven and of Teachers’ College in New York, died last summer at home in New Haven. Remembered for his devotion to the daily minyan, his green jalopy and his support for the Postal Workers’ Union, Marv read widely and especially enjoyed history and science.

One member, Stan Saxe, recalls how Marvin helped take care of the member’s elderly aunt, and indeed Marvin did reach out to his elderly neighbors, sometimes helping people get to medical appointments.

Another of our members, Margie Weiner, shared this recollection:

“When we first came to BEKI in 1995, it was in preparation of (our son) Matthew’s Bar Mitzva. I remember talking with Marv and he always had a joke to share. Once the Bar Mitzva plans were in full swing, we had always “kibbitzed” with Marv at Saturday services. Marv requested an invitation to Matt’s big day; of course we granted his request. The big day came and you would think we were related. He gave Matt a very generous gift and never failed to ask about ‘sonny boy.’ I would see Marv at Stop and Shop and beyond the jokes we would talk about his health, medical issues and of course Matthew. I will miss him.”

BEKI President Carole Bass recalls:

“I met Marvin many years ago, through attendance at daily minyan, and I fondly remember his round, smiling face and his warm, friendly manner. It turns out he remembered BEKI fondly, too – fondly and generously. Given my love for this community and my shared responsibility for safeguarding its future, I am deeply grateful that Marvin – who supported the shul during his lifetime – continues to do so after his passing.”

Rabbi Tilsen tells this story:

“Once a man said, ‘After I’m gone, I know my children will make a donation in my memory. It’s for them to do.’ But when he died, his children said, ‘If Father had wanted to leave...”

Continued on Page 3
The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:
- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: jtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.
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Editor
Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen

Associate Editor
Donna Levine
Donna Kemper
Herbert Winer

Photographer
Charles Ludwig
Thanks to two very different melakhim ("angels"), one “Good” and one “Bad,” this year is one of the best on record for daily and Shabbat & Festival service attendance at BEKI.

The first malakh is the several members who have taken upon themselves the obligation to attend daily services and to organize, inspire and recruit others. Some of the frequent attendees are recognized by name in the Rabbi’s Annual Report; all can be seen by others who attend occasionally any weekday. In recent months, Rachel Gerber, Sara Labowe, Jen Goldberg, Mark Oppenheimer, Jennifer Botwick, Jennifer Myer, Miriam Benson, Corinne Blackmer, Dennis Rader, Jonathan Freiman and Harriet Friedman have served as organizers and recruiters. Rachel Gerber has provided guidance and support to them all. These melakhim have brought new life to the daily services.

The second malakh is the Malakh HaMavet, the “Angel of Death.” Several deeply beloved members of the Congregation, as well as parents and close relatives of our members, have been taken in death in the past year. What is different this year is that several of the survivors are inclined and able to honor the memories of their loved ones by attending daily services morning or evening, or both, at BEKI and reciting qaddish. In their desire to show support, their friends have also made an increased effort to attend to insure a minyan (quorum) and to enhance the feeling of community and depth of feeling.

Attendance at daily services is an opportunity to fulfill the mitzvot of daily prayer (recitation of the shema and amida and other liturgy) in the preferred way – with a community – as well as an opportunity for learning about Jewish thought as conveyed in the liturgy, learning about Hebrew language, personal meditation, and fellowship.

Marvin
Continued from Page 1

something to charity, he would have, but he didn’t; we will respect his wishes. ’ In that way, this man and his children missed the opportunity to fulfill a great mitzva and lost their share in creating a vibrant future for the synagogue. If we want to teach our children and demonstrate to others the importance of Jewish continuity, of responsibility to the community, and of the mitzva of tsedaga, then we have to do it ourselves in a significant way.”

During the next decade, BEKI will need to raise $7 million to $10 million to provide for its basic operations and building maintenance. Beyond that, another $5 million to $10 million will need to be raised to provide for the capital needs of the Congregation and to improve our facility. For our Congregation to thrive in the coming years, forward-thinking supporters must make provisions now.

Rabbi Tilsen continues: “People like Marvin Missan are essential to our present and future. Marvin was very involved in daily services, contributed financially as a member, and has helped to provide for our future through his estate planning. While dues-payers and donors may receive the benefit of a tax deduction for their donations, they are also able to actively participate in the numerous activities of the synagogue if they so choose. They might attend the classes, services or other programs offered, or they may feel proud that their generosity helps people and insures the vibrancy of Jewish life among our community. But those who generously bequeath funds for use after their days in this world have ended, are sure to feel satisfaction in the knowledge that they are giving a gift for others and for the future. It is a gift of faith, trust and love.”

There are many ways to include the Congregation in an estate plan. Besides a simple bequest, one might name BEKI as the beneficiary of an annuity, insurance policy, or charitable remainder trust or gift annuity.

For some people, the “charitable remainder gift annuity” is an ideal way to help the Congregation in the future. The annuity allows the donor to enjoy interest distributions during his or her lifetime (and that of a spouse or partner), and to receive tax benefits, and then to leave the principal to the synagogue after death.

For information on this and other ways to include BEKI in your estate, or to learn more about helping BEKI now or in the future, please consult your own financial planner or attorney or call estate attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at (203) 985-9033, Rabbi Tilsen at (203) 389-2108 x10, or Jewish Foundation Director Lisa Stanger at (203) 387-2424 x382.
All Together Under Abraham’s Tent

A Tiqun Olam Initiative, March 12-19

Churches and synagogues in the New Haven area will cooperate during the winter months this year to provide extra overnight emergency shelter for homeless men from Columbus House.

The program known as Abraham’s Tent references an episode in Genesis 18, when Abraham provides hospitality in his tent for three strangers and is an initiative of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries in partnership with Columbus House.

“Hospitality” is at the very core of what the Abraham’s Tent program is all about. Churches, synagogues and mosques provide shelter, meals and companionship for 12 homeless men pre-screened by the Columbus House staff, with each host putting the group up for a week at a time.

Volunteers from the houses of worship provide the services, food, companionship and overnight supervision, while Columbus House provides the sleeping cots and transportation. During the day, the men return to Columbus House to participate in job training and counseling programs.

The program frees up 12 beds at Columbus House so that more people can receive help.

A Strong Support Network

Transportation requirements limit the locations of hosts to churches and synagogues close to Columbus House. The locations include houses of worship in New Haven, Branford, Hamden, North Haven and West Haven.

However, people from churches and synagogues in towns further away, including Woodbridge, have also volunteered to assist in Abraham’s Tent.

Economic Realities Led to Program

Started in 2009 when a city-funded shelter was destined to remain closed for the winter due to lack of funds, the immediate purpose of Abraham’s Tent was to find additional shelter for homeless people during the fast approaching cold season. The Interfaith Cooperative Ministries rallied congregations to open their facilities to house approximately a dozen men for one week during the season. The response was immediate and over-subscribed. The experience for both the homeless “guests” and the members of the various congregations hosting them was character building and memorable. Eleven of the twelve guests were in permanent or transitional housing the following year, at least in part due to their Abraham’s Tent experience – an outcome that was never anticipated.

The threatened city-funded shelter did open at the last minute in 2009 and was to be open again starting in 2010. But the overwhelming success of Abraham’s Tent, by every measure, during its first year compelled that the program go forward.

Each year, the Abraham’s Tent grows stronger. Already this year, two of the men who have participated have transitioned to permanent housing.

BEKI’s role in Abraham’s Tent

This is the first year that BEKI will be participating in the Abraham’s Tent program. We will be partnering with the Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven and the Turkish Cultural Center (TCC) in West Haven to provide the men with a home from March 12 through March 19. The men will be hosted at the church, and together with church and TCC members, BEKI will cook and serve meals, help provide companionship and overnight supervision.

Heading up the volunteer efforts in support of Abraham’s Tent are Darryl Kuperstock and Mimi Glenn, who need much help and shared enthusiasm from those in the BEKI community to uphold the congregation’s commitment to help provide support for the men participating in the program.

How You Can Help

• Shopping
• Cooking at BEKI or at the church
• Transporting food to West Haven
• Heating and serving food at the church
• Providing companionship during evening (watch TV, movies, talk, play board games, etc.)
• Providing overnight supervision at the church (lights out 10 p.m.)
• Prepare breakfast at church (before 6 a.m.)

If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Darryl, kuperst@aol.com, (203) 387-0304; or Mimi, mimiglenn1@hotmail.com, (203) 397-3851.

For more information about the Abraham’s Tent program, go to:

www.interfaithnewhaven.org/Abrahams%20Tent.htm
**LifeCycle**

**Benei Mitzva**


**Jacques Ben-Avie**, son of Sascha van Creveld and of Michael Ben-Avie, March 9-10, *parashat Ki Tisa*.

**Daniel Cooper**, son of Isaiah Cooper & Lauri Lowell, April 20-21, *parashat Shemini*.

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**HaNoledet beMazal Tov**

Mazal tov to Sivan Doron & Asaf Carmeli, and to Nina, on the birth of Ella Tamar in December.

May this be a portend of blessing for our community, the Jewish People and all humanity.

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**News**

**Japan and the Jews: A Paradoxical History**

Benjamin Karp will speak at BEKI on Shabbat, Feb. 4, at 12:45 p.m., on the paradoxical perception of Jews in pre-World War II Japan. Karp, who is completing a Ph.D. in African-American studies at Yale, has spent extensive time in Japan and is the co-founder of the Eliezer Society, Yale’s cosmopolitan Jewish dining and discussion club.

In March 1941 the rabbis of the Mir Yeshiva, formerly of Poland, re-opened their academy in Kobe, Japan as guests of the imperial government. While later transported to Japan-occupied Shanghai, where they remained until 1947, Mir’s student body and leadership represented the only European yeshivah to survive intact and functional throughout the war and Shoah.

How was this possible after six years into Japan’s friendship and partnership with the Nazis and in months a pregnancy away from its launching a war fought alongside Germany? Why did the Japanese government and its agents protect Jewish communities across their empire while visiting Nazi-like brutality on their enemies and other subject groups?

Anti-Semitism and what might be called “philo-semitism” have been two sides of a unified perception in Japan, widely disseminated since the Russo-Japanese War, that the Jews are a special and powerful nation. Some Japanese nationalists in the pre-war period sought to harness this assumed power and some resented and feared Jews for their perceived uniqueness. Almost no nationalist writer of the years before the war, however, rejected (or even suspected) the basic facts of the recently translated Protocols of the Elders of Zion – that the Jews were not only a nation that could break currencies and cause wars to be won or lost, but which was run by a small cadre that made and implemented such decisions.

Karp’s informal talk will focus on the pre-war period but include some observations about the continued wide availability (even popularity) of books like the Protocols in Japan.

**Ramah Fellow at BEKI for 2012**

Hi! My name is Max Beede and I was recently given the unique opportunity to become a Ramah Fellow for BEKI. I will be organizing several youth and family programs in the near future.

In high school, I served as United Synagogue Youth (USY) president for the Conservative movement’s Hanefesh region (which includes western Massachusetts and Connecticut). I spent the following year on USY’s Israel NATIV program. This was a gap-year program between high school and college where I learned about leadership, Judaism in the Conservative Movement and volunteering in Israel. Last summer I worked as a senior counselor at Camp Ramah in New England.

As a Ramah fellow, I will be participating in several webinars (online seminars) throughout the year which will prepare me in bringing Ramah-style spirit to youth and family activities at BEKI. This means utilizing a range of informal learning techniques such as games, songs, creative arts and competitions, to create a fun, engaging and interactive learning experience.

Ramah programs view the learning experience in a holistic nature, meaning that the goal is not just for participants to learn a particular skill or piece of knowledge, but to also feel empowered and inspired from the experience itself. In this regard, concepts of team-building and personal growth are taken into account when designing each Ramah learning experience.

I look forward to working with the Youth Commission, the Religious School Principal, and the Kadima and USY Advisors on promoting youth and family activity in the Conservative movement.
From Ancient Mesopotamia to the modern day, the show leads the audience on a remarkable tour across the landscape of Jewish history, portraying the great female personalities who have contributed to Jewish survival and identity. Each heroine’s story will be brought to life - in words and imagery, song and dance - by a brilliant local cast of models and performers walking the runway, costumed and bejeweled, in intricate attire from each character’s era.

In an unforgettable exhibition of story-telling and pageantry, the Matriarch Sarah, Moabite Princess Ruth, Donna Gracia, Hannah Szenes, and others will share their lives’ greatest challenges and triumphs. The show will culminate with a celebration of today’s Jewish woman and a fashion show modeling modern designer outfits and chic couture. This unique evening will appeal to Jewish women of all ages and backgrounds throughout Connecticut, uniting each of us in a celebration of our common identity, culture, and heritage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT: WWW.JEWISHWOMENTHROUGHTHEAGES.COM OR CALL 203 903-1333

PRESENTED BY THE JEWISH WOMEN'S CIRCLE. THIS EVENING IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR WOMEN.
Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

Jack Gilron, Senior Scientist at the Ben Gurion University and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Engineering, and BEKI member, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Shira, parashat BeShalah, Feb. 4.

Ari Kaufman-Frankel, bar mitzva, son of Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman, will serve as darshan on parashat Yitro, Feb. 11.

Carole Bass, BEKI President, will serve as darshanim on Shabbat Sheqalim, parashat Mishpatim, Feb. 18.

A special guest will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashat Teruma, Feb. 25.

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 explore the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generation-al setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Parasha Preview

Preview Parashat haShavua (the weekly Torah portion) on Shabbat afternoons following minha service with Nadav Sela in February. Minha service on Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon begins at the same hour as was candle lighting the day before; the study begins about 30 minutes after that, or about ten minutes after sunset.

In Praise of Elijah the Prophet

Explore the legends of Elijah the Prophet through the 18th century poem “Likhvod hemdat levavi” by David ben Aharon ben Hasin. In this 20-stanza poem published in the collection Sefer Tehila leDavid, the North African poet recounts the story of Elyahu ha-Navi (Elijah the Prophet) from the Biblical Pinchas to the “Throne of Elijah” at the contemporary brit mila celebration. Learn a popular and simple melody for the poem. Original Hebrew and verse-by-verse English translation provided; song in transliteration. Shabbat afternoon March 3, following the 5:30 minha service, about 25 minutes, with Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.

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 Book of Joshua. 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. (RSG will meet at 9:45-10:30 a.m. on Monday Feb. 20, Presidents’ Day.) With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 90-second “Hebrew word of the Week” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week

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Adult Studies
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usually relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

Rabbis’ Study Group

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

**Thursdays**

**Mini Morning Learning Service**

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shaharit service is from 8:15 to 9:11 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

**No Beginning, New Beginning: Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group**

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

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

The Sanhedrin Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@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.”

![Murray Levine](image)

![Isaiah Cooper](image)

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Joshua Rubenstein, author of *Leon Trotsky: A Revolutionary’s Life*, will speak at BEKI on Shabbat March 3 at 12:45 p.m. The book, published in October 2011, is among the “Jewish Lives” series at Yale University Press.

Mr. Rubenstein is the Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA and a long-time Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. He is the author of *Soviet Dissidents: Their Struggle for Human Rights and Tangled Loyalties, the Life and Times of Ilya Eherenburg*, a biography of the controversial Soviet Jewish writer and journalist.

In addition, he is the co-editor of several books, including *Stalin’s Secret Pogrom: The Postwar Inquisition of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee*, which was awarded the National Jewish Book Award in the category of the category of Eastern European Studies for 2001-02, *The KGB Files of Andrei Sakharov*, which was published by Yale University Press in 2005, and, in 2008, *The Unknown Black Book: The Holocaust in German-Occupied Soviet Territories*.

As a human rights organizer, he helped Amnesty members in Russia open an office in Moscow, and he was among the principal organizers for the first Amnesty International conference for members throughout Russia that was held in St. Petersburg in 1994. He has also been involved in several other international projects, including the reorganization of Amnesty International’s Israeli section there in 1985, participation in a research mission to Uzbekistan, as well as performing various roles in events held in Calgary, Vienna and Mexico.

In a recent review of the Trotsky book, the Israeli newspaper *Ha’aretz* stated that “Rubenstein’s study focuses on the tragic paradox of Trotsky’s life: that even the combination of his keen intellectual grasp of politics and culture, catholic interests and tastes and sympathy for the persecuted and downtrodden failed to prevent this once anti-autocrat idealist from himself founding a despotic regime and becoming an enduring apologist for repression in the service of dogma.”

The program featuring Mr. Rubenstein, which will begin following Shabbat morning services and qiddush, is free and open to the public.
Sholem Aleichem: On Being Considerate

Introduction: Some rabbis understood hidur mitzva to include personal relations (mitzvot ben adam le-havero), that we treat our fellow humans with honor and respect. In this short humorous piece by Sholem Aleichem – the quintessential “expert” on human behavior – he takes regard for others’ feelings to the extreme.

A person should always be considerate of the feelings of his neighbors ... So, for instance, if I went out to the fair ... and did well, sold everything at a profit, and returned with a pocketful of money, my heart bursting with joy, I never failed to tell my neighbors that I had lost every Kopeck and was a ruined man. Thus I was happy and my neighbors were happy. But if, on the contrary, I had really been cleaned out at the fair, and brought home with me a bitter heart and a bellyful of green gall, I made sure to tell my neighbors that never since God made fairs had there been a better one.

You get my point? For this I was miserable and my neighbors were miserable with me...

Question: What is Sholem Aleichem suggesting about the human condition? Would you call this realistic or cynical?

Please write your opinion and bring it to the BEKI Sisterhood gift store. One opinion will be printed in the Sisterhood column.

Membership

We are proud to announce that 50 women are now BEKI Sisterhood members. Thank you to those who joined other members around the country. For more information about Women’s League for Conservative Judaism at womensleague@wlcj.org or (800) 628-5083

Gift Store

Please Shop in our Sisterhood Gift Store; there is something there for everyone, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, weddings, anniversaries, graduation.

Deli Boxes

For the 21st year, our community will be treated to festive, flavorful and fantastic boxed kosher deli lunches and dinners, thanks to the efforts of the BEKI/BJ Joint Youth Commission. The event, DELI BOXES, is our only annual fundraiser for the joint youth programs of the two synagogues, and will take place this year on Sunday, Feb. 5 – Superbowl Sunday (as usual).

The Youth Commission would like to encourage you to volunteer to help out at BEKI on Saturday Feb. 4 from 7:30 p.m. on, and/or on Sunday, Feb. 5 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. as the great “Deli Boxes” machine rolls into action. We need all the help we can get to make sure the program is a success.

If you are interested in providing additional support for our youth (with funding or volunteer participation), please contact the BEKI Youth Commission Chairperson: Rena Cheskis-Gold (203) 397-1497.

Thanks for your support.

Erev Shira on Shabbat Shira

Join us on Motse’ei Shabbat Feb. 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Minsky-Fenick Residence in Woodbridge (RSVP (203) 393-1394 by Feb. 1) marking Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song). Bring songsheets, musical instruments (no pianos or pipe organs), and a kosher dessert or drinks to share, or just bring your voice. This event is supported by the Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Sacred Music at BEKI.

Youth Scholarships Available

If your pre-teen or teen is considering a USY/Ramah trip within the U.S. or to Israel, the Youth Commission has subsidies available. Contact Rena Cheskis-Gold at rcheskis-gold@snet.net. Scholarships to any Jewish camp, kinnus, or U.S./Israel trip are also available from the Sisterhood’s Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund. Contact Mimi Glenn at mimiglenn1@hotmail.com.

BEKI-BJ Kadima Events

Feb. 12: Ice Skating at Milford Ice Rink. 1- 2:30 p.m. $10 for members, $12 for non-members. Snacks and drinks included. RSVP to Sarah by Feb. 3. bekibkadima@gmail.com.

March 4: Clay Painting at The Clay Date in Woodbridge. 1- 2:30 p.m. $12 for members, $15 for non-members. Includes snacks and drinks. RSVP: bekibkadima@gmail.com.

Notary of Note

BEKI Office Manager Peggy Hackett has been duly appointed as a Notary Public within and for the State of Connecticut.
Purim at BEKI

Be Happy It’s Adar
משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה
Mishenikhnas Adar marbim besimha – When Adar begins, joy increases. – Talmud Eruvin 29a

Shabbat Zakhor
The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, Shabbat March 3. This Sabbath is marked by the reading of the Biblical passage reminding us to remember and never forget the cruelty of Amalek. The reading of this passage is in fulfillment of the mitzva which it references, and hearing this reading is considered a mitzva unto itself. For that reason, children’s programs may be timed to let adults and children hear this required reading. Like Taanit Esther, Shabbat Zakhor expresses the serious side of Purim.

Fast of Esther
The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over twenty 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 observed the day before Purim (except when Purim is on Sunday). 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.

This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn (4:54) on Wednesday March 7. The Wednesday shaharit morning service is from 7 to 7:55 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 6:24 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Call for Demonstration and Protest
An Occupy Shushan Demonstration against the despotic King Ahmadineshverosh and his wicked associates has been called for March 7 and 8. Peaceful masses will gather at BEKI to chant and listen to public protests against the repressive Ahmadineshverosh regime.

Expectation are for a riotous and outrageous gathering.

Megilla Readings
The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read following the afternoon service (5:45) and during the evening services (6:30) on Wednesday March 7, and then again during the Thursday morning service, which begins at 8:15 (ending 10 a.m.) on March 8. Since Daylight Saving Time does not begin until the following Sunday, our Megila reading is at an “earlier” hour this year. Nevertheless, children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed or asleep in sleeping bags or napping in nap sacks.

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Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it oneself) is a Biblical commandment (mitzva). Other Purim mitzvot (religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor, alms for the poor and a feast on Purim day. Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will have to start over to ensure that everyone hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story’s villain reverberate though our sacred halls on our sacred cinderblocks. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Please do not bring firearms, explosive devices or weapons, or any toy that 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 oz of any gel or liquid are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service.

Persons dressed as Lady Gaga wearing meat suits should sit in the designated fleishig area and are advised to keep a distance from people wearing M&M and other dairy costumes.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be groggier 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).

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**BEKI Purim Seuda (Feast)**

**WHEN:** Thursday March 8, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** In the BEKI Downstairs Social Hall

**NOSH:** A light dairy dinner will be served

**TICKETS:** $14 per adult, $12 per child (age 3-12); Age 2 and under, no charge. Preregistration with payment by Friday March 2

- Purim Spiel created and directed by Bruce Altman & Darcy McGraw
- Ruthie Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown
- Face-painting with Rachel Sutin
- BEKI Bulletin: Special! by Rebecca Weiner
- Purim Songs Sing-a-long
- Dance and games with Boppers Entertainment

**Volunteers! Help!**

- Call Darryl Kuperstock, Food, (203) 258-1243, kuperst@aol.com
- Mark Oppenheimer, Membership Chair, (203) 387-1317 Meet & Greet
- Liora Lew, Decorations (203) 389-1048
- Rachel Sutin, Face Painting, (203) 393-3059
- Darcy & Bruce, Purim Spiel, darcymcgraw@comcast.net, baltman2@comcast.net
- Miriam Benson, Set-Up, Registration Table, or Clean-Up, (203) 389-6137
Thank you for supporting the Purim Box project! Carefully circle the names you wish to send boxes to. To send boxes 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 box is $5 for each member, $8 for each non-member.

- **If you would like to reciprocate for each box you receive, please mark off this space _____ and sign your name here __________.** The cost for each reciprocal purchase is $5, unless you choose ONLY reciprocity in which case the cost is $6 per box. You will be billed for reciprocity.
- **We offer a special rate of $280 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.**

Boxes will be available for pick-up March 7 after the Megilla reading. Recipients who do not pick up their boxes may receive a card in lieu of a box depending on the availability of volunteer deliverers. Please contact Ina Silverman to volunteer:

(203) 387-6019 or principal@beki.org. Thanks!

- 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 Boxes, 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 Feb. 29.

Your name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

Your address: ____________________________

Continued on Page 16
Order Form
Continued from Page 15

Jacob, Daniel & Stephanie
Jacob, Robert & Marcia
Janette, Nathan & Judi
Joy, Stephen & Debby
Kantrowitz, Harriet
Kantrowitz, Richard
Karp, Oliver Ben
Karsif, Ben & Erin Moulthrop
Karsif, Brian
Kassap, Karen & Cary Caldwell
Katz, Marilyn
Kawall, Hilary Fink & David
Kempton, Lauren & Brooks Parmelee
Klebenow, Karen
Kligfeld, Caryl & Michael
Koblentz, Liram & Alexander
Koenig, Karel & Robert Oakes
Kohn, Mark & Renee
Kramer, Richard
Krosnick, Charlotte
Kuperstock, David & Darryl Labowe, Sara
Landau, Eva
Landesman, Marcia & Oren Sauberman
Lash, Shoshana
Lazarus, Illana & Sean
Lebow, Bruce
Lehrer, Paulette & Sam Bobrow
Lemkin, Edward & Rhoda
Lesser, David & Mary
Lettick, Robert & Janice
Levine, Baruch & Corinne
Levine, Ilana
Levine, Karen & Daniel
Levine, Murray
Levine, Sidney & Donna
Levy, Arthur & Betty
Lew, Yaron & Lia
Lipkin, Gladys
Lovins, Alan & Trish Loving
Lovins, Daniel & Keiko Suzuki
Lovins, Rachel & Andrew Hogan
Ludwig, Charles & Violet
Mandelkern, Marshal & Wendy Haskell
Margolis, David
Margolis, Lester & Bernice
Martin, Andres & Rebecca
Martin, Margaret
Marx, Amy & Robert Schonberger
May, Becky & C.J.
Meiri, Moshe
Meisel, Harriet
Michael, Daniel
Migiozzi, Marcia & Louis
Miller, Elinor
Miller, Harold & Bobbie
Minsky, Yair & Ada Fenick
Moscowitz, Mike
Myer, Jennifer & James Kempton
Naiman, Polina
Nargi-Toth, Kathy & Jo Wynschenk
Nash, Esther & Irwin
Natlo, Kerryanne & Pat Iorfino
Needler, Howard & Willa
Nova, Lisa
Olmer, Morris
Olmer-Luther, Elaine
Oppenheimer, Mark & Cyd
Oren, Bruce & Angela
Ottenstein, David & Reyna
Palumbo, Ghislaine & Joe
Palumbo, Marlo
Papowitz-Markowski, Melinda
Pauker, Bryna
Pauker, Seth
Pizer, Mila
Pollowitz, Ruth
Prober, Dan & Sharon
Rader, Dennis & Barbara
Ratner, Betsy
Ratner, Miriam
Ravid, Shlomit & Rafi
Reese, Belle
Relave, Debra & Arnold Gans
Resnik, Judith & Dennis Curtis
Ries, Michael & Jennifer Botwick
Rieser, Paul & Polly
Robbins, Gadiel & Julie
Rose, Tina
Rosenbaum, Stanley
Rosenberg, Helen & Keith Richter
Rosner, Alan
Ross, Richard & Helen
Roten, Margot
Rothman, Stephen & Sheryl
Rubenstein, Alan & Carolyn Kone
Rubin, Cynthia
Rubin, Deena
Rudof, Stephen & Joanne
Sachs, Greg & Lisa
Sachs, Ivan & Rita
Sachs, Louis
Sachs, Mark & Ilene
Sachs, Robert & Betsy
Saltz, Richard & Lynn
Sapadin, Helene
Saslow, Harold & Linda
Saxe, Stanley
Schottenfeld, Richard & Tanina Rostain
Schwartz, David
Secchiaroli, Dina & Michael
Seigel, Paul
Sela, Nadav & Rita
Serkin, Esther Zahava
Serkin, Sarah
Sheinberg/Arnedt
Shragis, Bill & Eva
Shure, James
Siegel, Debbie & Louis Silver, Eric & M.J.
Silver, Morton & Ruth
Sklar, Beth
Slifstein, Cory & Caryn Azoff
Smeroff, Cindy
Smirnoff, Beatrice
Sobel, Suzanne & David Lewin
Sokolow, Jay & Ina Silverman
Spear, Robert & Susan
Spielman, James
Stahl, Nanette & William Hallo
Stahl, Sherin & George Anderson
Starr, Monica & Andy Hirshfield
Stein, Peter
Stern, Leonard & Barbara
Stoll, Steven
Stone, Corey & Sue McDonald
Strassburger, Zach & Kate Jenkins
Stutz, Eleanor
Sugarmann, Richard & Marcie
Sutin, Allan & Rachel
Tilsen, Jon-Jay, & Miriam Benson
Tyson, Adele
van Creveld, Sascha
Visocheck, Larry & Julie Cohen
Voigt, Susan
Volain, Bud & Claire
Walstedter, Scott & Lisa
Weiner, Rebecca & Mike Rastelli
Weinstein, Andrew & Paige
Weinstein, Suzanne
Weintraub, Beth & Dan
Weitzman, Marc & Carol
Wiener, Marjorie
Wiener, Matt
Wightman, Matthew & Maria Simmon
Winer, Herbert & Hannah
Winter, Michael & Ellen Mackler
Wizner, Stephen & Rachel
Woolfson, Roni
Wright, David
Yakerson, Laura & Jack
York Iain & Annie Wareck
Yussman, Yonatan & Lisa
Zahler, Rhoda & Allen Samuel
Zax, Shoshana & John Weiser
Zeid, Sylvia
Zlotoff, Ronald & Donna Kemper
Zusman, Howard
Contributions

- Please make all checks payable to “Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel”.

Rabbi’s Tzedaka Fund (minimum $25)
- Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen in memory of Dorothy Fraade
- Rabbi Eric & Dr. M.J. Silver in support of the Congregation
- Richard Horenstein honoring Ben Gerber Bar Mitzva
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Dorothy Fraade
- Helen Rosenberg in memory of Dorothy Fraade
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Ken Lieberman
- Hedda Rubenstein & Michael Dizenstein in memory of Elayne R. Dizenstein
- Sandy & John Balayan in memory of Helen & Moe Miller

Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum $280)
- The Jewish High School of Connecticut
- Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- Jimmy Shure
- Anonymous
- The Friedman and Bruce family
- Phyllis Kitzerow & Eugene Strassburger
- Children’s Havura Snack Sponsor
- Phyllis Kitzerow & Eugene Strassburger

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To Kate Jenkins & Zach Strassburger in honor of the birth of Maya by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Gary Fish & family with sympathy on the passing of Inge Fish by Armand Rossi
- To Kate Jenkins & Zach Strassburger in honor of the birth of Maya by Jennifer Fleming
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Dan & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by David & Barry Rubenstein
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Leon Cummings
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Jonathan Freiman
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Cynthia Beth Rubin
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Jennifer Fleming
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Andy and Paige Weinstein & family
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by the Avni-Singer family
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by the Marx/Strassburger family
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield
- To Lecora Netter and Simon Allentuch in honor of the birth of Nadav & Matan by Jennifer Fleming
- To Lecora Netter and Simon Allentuch in honor of the birth of Nadav & Matan by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To BEKI from Rachel H Green’s Build a Tzedaka Fund
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by David & Sharon Prober and family
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Dan & Sharon Prober and family
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Ann & Don Green
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by William Hallo & Nanette Stahl
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Rabbi Murray Levine & Goldie Taub
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by the Marx/Strassburger family
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Mary Doyle Ziskin & Abe Ziskin
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Mary Doyle Ziskin & Abe Ziskin
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by the Marx/Strassburger family
- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Bruce Altman & Darcy McGraw
- To Marty Feldman and family with sympathy on the passing of Cathy Schwartz by Jonathan Freiman
- To Marty Feldman and family with sympathy on the passing of Cathy Schwartz by the Landesman & Sualberman family
- To Marty Feldman and family with sympathy on the passing of Cathy Schwartz by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Mr. & Mrs. David Hennes and family with sympathy on the passing of their dear sister and aunt Sophie Kramer Hennes by Lillian, Charles & Jonathan Alpert
- To Ken & Sheila Dubak with sympathy on the passing of their dear sister and aunt Sophie Kramer Hennes by Lillian, Charles & Jonathan Alpert
- To Robert & Gail Benedetto with sympathy on the passing of Salvatore Benedetto by David & Dennis
Contributions

Continued from Page 17

Rayna Belowsky
• To Anne DiLorenzo Slais with sympathy on the passing of Howard “Howie” Slais by David & Rayna Belowsky
• To BEKI in memory of George Posener by the Lettick family
• To Coby Ben-Chitrit with sympathy on the passing of Moshe Ben-Chitrit by the Lettick family
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by the Lettick family
• To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of their birthdays from the Gad family

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
• To Steve & Sherry Rothman in honor of their daughter’s engagement by Joan & Alan Gelbert
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Robert & Susan Spear
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Leon Cummings
• To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by the Botwick-Ries family
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by the Botwick-Ries family
• To Lisa Stanger and family with sympathy on the passing of Melvin Stanger by the Botwick-Ries family
• To Sid & Shirley Solowitz and family with sympathy on the passing of Mark Solowitz by Harriet Meisel

Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedaka Fund
• To Mort Dimenstein and family with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Cynthia B. Rubin
• To Ben Gerber in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Marx/Schonberger family
• To Ben Gerber in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Friedman & Bruce family
• To Jonathan Hayward in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Friedman & Bruce family
• To Ben Gerber in honor of his Bar Mitzva from the Gad family

Hesed Committee
• To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Gila Reinstein
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Gila Reinstein
• To Marty Feldman and family with sympathy on the passing of Cathy Schwartz by Gila Reinstein
• To Mort Dimenstein with sympathy on the passing of Elayne Dimenstein by Gloria Cohen
• To Muriel Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Daniel Banquer by Gloria Cohen
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Gloria Cohen
• To Kate Jenkins and Zach Strassburger on the birth of Maya by Gloria Cohen
• To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by the Friedman & Bruce family
• To Linden Grazier in honor of the latkes by Aaron, Ben & Sophia Bruce

The Eric I.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund
• To Marsha Beller in honor of her gifted teaching and mentorship by Jonathan Freiman

Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund
• In honor of Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen by Daniel Leisawitz & Daniella Viale
• In honor of Rabbi Eric Silver by Daniel Leisawitz & Daniella Viale
• In honor of Rabbi Murray Levine by Daniel Leisawitz & Daniella Viale

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
• To Anne Weiss and Michael Livingston with sympathy on the passing of Robert Weiss by Rena, Dayna, Ariella and Carmi Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
• To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Rena, Dayna, Ariella and Carmi Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
• To John Weiser commemorating the yahrzeit of Barzillai Cheskis with thanks for extraordinary help during shiva by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
• To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Rena Cheskis-Gold, Marty Gold & family

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund
• In memory of Arthur Ratner by Mikki Ratner
• In memory of Ida Ratner by Mikki Ratner
• In memory of Harold Ratner by Mikki Ratner

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
• In memory of Gloria & Jordan Goldberg by Arlene & David Thrope
• In memory of Hyman Fleischner by Suzanne Weinstein
• In memory of her father Samuel Levine by Bernice & Lester Margolis
• In memory of Isaac Press by Elsie Hodes
• In memory of Rabbi Samuel Simon by Marshall, Joan & Robert Weiss
• In memory of Hyman Fleischner by Sara-Anna & Hillel Auerbach
• In memory of Morris Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
• In memory of Ida Kantrowitz by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
• In memory of Jack Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
• In memory of her grandparents Joseph and Sarah Schwartz by Joan & Alan Gelbert
• In memory of her aunt Mona Zitomer by Joan & Alan Gelbert
• In memory of her uncle Samuel Schwartz by Joan & Alan Gelbert
• In memory of her beloved father Jack Nuit by Joan & Alan Gelbert
• In memory of her grandmother Esther Yehudis Cuker by Robert Silverman
• In memory of Louis Liner by Howard Miller
• In memory of her father David B. Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
• In memory of her mother Kaila Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
• In memory of her sister Goldie F. 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 her grandfather Louis Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
• In memory of George Weiss by Marjorie Simon
• In memory of Bessie Golden by Marjorie Simon
• In memory of Rabbi Samuel Simon by Marjorie Simon
• In memory of Fred M. Shure by Betsy Shure Gross, Gary Gross and his grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren
• In memory of Sarah Schnitman by Helene & Edward Vanderhoeffe
• In memory of Sarah & Michael Franzman by Larry & Susan Franzman
• In memory of George Weiss by Marshall, Joan & Robert Weiss
• In memory of Freda Virshup by Richard & Georgi Virshup
• In memory of Mollie Fleischner by Sara-Anna & Hillel Auerbach
• In memory of loved ones by Sheila & Allen Mushin
• In memory of Milton Cohen by Doris & Stephen Brody
• In memory of Sasha Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
• In memory of Sydney Weinstein by Dan Goldberg
• In memory of his father Murray E. Kahn by Richard E. Kahn
• In memory of Peter Altman by Bruce Altman & Darcy McGraw

Torah Fund
• Thank you to everyone who very generously responded to the 2011 Torah Fund appeal letter. All funds went directly to support the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS).
• You can also support the Seminary by purchasing cards for all occasions, without leaving home; just call Barbara Cushen at (203) 407-0314 and your card will be promptly sent. Just $4 per card including postage.

Visit us at www.beki.org
## Service Times

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<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
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## Safety in Numbers

- Murders in New Haven (2011): 34
- Murders in Israel (2010) (including terrorism): 158
- Population of New Haven: 130,000
- Population of Israel: 7,000,000
- The murder rate in New Haven is about 4.6 times that of Israel