Darryl Kuperstock Honored Receives USCJ Award Qiddush at BEKI 6 January 2001

If you visit BEKI on a Shabbat morning, you are likely to see Darryl Kuperstock at the reader’s table, wrapped in a bright blue tallit, calling people up for aliyot and reading, very beautifully, from the Torah. At the end of services, when the Rabbi asks for announcements, Darryl usually has something to say about current USY and Kadima Youth activities. At the qiddush afterwards, she is surrounded by friends and family who love and respect her.

As a teenager in her home town of Chicago, Darryl was involved in pre-USY and USY, on the local, regional and international level. Later she was employed as a Judaica librarian for about seven years and is a skilled Hebrew calligrapher and ketuba artist.

She moved to New Haven with her family 12 years ago and quickly became involved in the Jewish community. She has served on the BEKI Board of Directors for the past ten years, chairs the Youth Committee, sits on the Ritual Committee and serves on the Steering Committee of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) Regional Youth Commission. In overseeing the local USY and Kadima chapters, she brings together young people from Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel and nearby B’nai Jacob. As chair of BEKI’s High Holy Days Committee, she puts in endless hours planning and distributing honors, arranging for children’s programs, and supervising preparations for the communal break fast, solving logistical problems and averting emergencies. She volunteers her time to teach both adults and children how to read Torah, and serves as an adult mentor to teen Benei Mitzva tutors at BEKI.

You Can Be a Part of a Strong Future Today

Rabbi Murray Levine is a member of our congregation. He has established a Charitable Gift Annuity for the benefit of BEKI because he wanted to share some of his assets “with the Jewish institutions here in New Haven and at the same time to receive income” during his lifetime. He explained, “My feeling is that BEKI is a responsible institution which will help guarantee Jewish values and Jewish continuity forever.”

Rabbi Levine, a widower, also wished to memorialize his wife, Malka. “I wanted to guarantee and perpetuate the principles of Judaism that she lived during her lifetime.” He will receive income from the Charitable Gift Annuity for the rest of his lifetime. Upon his death, the undistributed income and principal in the annuity will be used to establish the Malka and Murray Levine Memorial Fund for the Benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

You too can invest in the future of BEKI by creating a Charitable Gift Annuity. For further information please contact estate planning attorney Donna Levine at 787-1633 (sdsij@aol.com). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or Deborah Kaplan Polivy at The Jewish Foundation at 387-2424 x304 (dpolivy@jewishnewhaven.org) for a confidential discussion.
How to Contact the BEKI Bulletin

Responses to "A Message from Rabbi Tilsen," questions for "Dear Rabbi" and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Editor, BEKI-Bulletin, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515 or by email to jjtilsen@beki.org.

Rabbi Tilsen’s mail and e-mail are opened directly and exclusively by the Rabbi himself and are as secure and confidential as mail and e-mail can be.

Calling BEKI

To call BEKI, dial (203) 389-2108.

When the automated attendant answers, dial any of the numbers below for the desired extension. You don’t have to wait to hear the whole recorded greeting. If you don’t have a “touch-tone” phone (i.e. a phone that dials by sending tones), wait to the end of the greeting and you will then be able to leave a message for the Administrator. A shortcut: To skip to the end of a greeting, press asterisk (*).

Extensions
Cemetery Association ...................... 57
Kadima & USY Youth Groups .......... 30
KISS Program .................................. 33
Kitchen ........................................ 19
Kulanu KeEhad Havura ................... 33
Lower Lobby .................................. 17
Office Manager Mary Ellen Mack ..... 14
Rabbi Tilsen ................................. 10
Rosenkrantz Library ....................... 11
Service Times Recording .............. 88
Religious School Principal Terri Stern 13
USY & Kadima Youth Groups .......... 30

Daily Services

Daily services at BEKI provide an opportunity to learn, pray, reflect, transition and center one’s own spiritual life. Services provide a context for fulfilling the mitzva (religious obligation) of daily worship. Services are held every weekday morning and evening. See the calendar for a schedule. During the winter, there will be a special need for more participants on Tuesday mornings (7:00a), Thursday mornings (8:15a) and Sunday nights (5:45p).

No Parking

Members and visitors are advised that parking is prohibited at all times on the East side of Harrison Street as indicated by the “No Parking” signs. Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot at the rear of the building. When driving in the BEKI parking lot, please observe the 5 miles-per-hour speed limit, which is enforced by random speed bumps.
“Happy New Year”

You don’t have to be Jewish to be Jewish, but it helps. You don’t even have to be Jewish to celebrate Rosh HaShana, the New Year. A few days after the winter solstice, millions in the Western world will celebrate “New Years Eve.” Like our Jewish holidays, this celebration begins in the evening. In comparing Rosh HaShana and “New Year’s Day,” we observe certain similarities in form, but contrasts in content.

We celebrate the New Year, and they celebrate the New Year: We celebrate the Creation of the World as decreed by the Holy One Blessed be God; and they celebrate the new calendar year as decreed by William the Conqueror.

We blow a horn, and they blow a horn: We blow a horn to awaken our souls to repentance; and they blow a horn to awaken us from our drunken slumber.

We wear funny hats, and they wear funny hats: We wear funny hats as a sign of respect to others, as an acknowledgement that there is One above us; and they wear funny hats to show that we shouldn’t take things too seriously.

We offer a toast, and they offer a toast: We offer a toast to the Creation and the Exodus; and they offer a toast to auld lang syne.

We refrain from driving, and they refrain from driving: We refrain from driving to free and elevate ourselves from dependence on technology and commerce, to create a spiritual space in our mechanized lives; and they refrain from driving to avoid a DWI arrest or car wreck.

We make resolutions, and they make resolutions: We resolve to free ourselves from sin and live ethical lives; and they resolve to exercise and lose weight.

To heighten the contrast, I have presented the observances in their "pristine" forms, but I realize that many of us have modified these observances to better express our American Jewish outlook. Although the American “New Year” is not a Jewish holiday, and is often associated with forms and types of celebrations that I do not promote, have a happy one anyway.
Darryl Kuperstock Honored
Continued from page 1

Darryl is Executive Director of Remedy, a non-sectarian, non-profit organization that helps medical facilities set up programs to recover unused, sterile supplies that would otherwise be discarded. Through hospital-charity partnerships, these items are sent to developing countries where they are desperately needed. She is married to David Kuperstock, vice president for product development at American Skandia Life Assurance Company. They have two daughters, Dina, 19, and Aliza, 15.

Darryl was honored for her work in November by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism at its Connecticut Valley regional convention. On Shabbat 6 January 2001, Darryl will be honored with a qiddush following Shabbat morning services at BEKI.

You can email a note to Darryl at kuperst@aol.com.

20s-30s Havura at BEKI

Jewish singles and couples in their 20s and 30s are invited to contact BEKI member Valerie Sandler (777-4784 or valerie.sandler@yale.edu) or Mary Ellen Mack (389-2108 x14 or beki@snet.net) for information on special events of interest. BEKI’s new 20s-30s Havura is primarily for adults without children, and meets about once a month at BEKI for Shabbat services, dinner and shmoozing and informal discussion. People with children are encouraged to contact Anne Johnston (389-2108 x33 or anne@beki.org) or Mary Ellen Mack (389-2108 x14 or beki@snet.net) for information on the Children’s Shabbat Havura and other activities of special interest.

Rotation Schedules Mailed

A rotation schedule of Shabbat service leaders was mailed in December. Copies are available in the literature rack in the lobby or at www.beki.org/rotate.html. You may also request the office to fax you a copy; call 389-2108 x14.
News

LifeCycle

With sorrow we note the passing of
Moshe Avni, father of Ravit & Joseph Avni-Singer

New Members
Leonid & Svetlana Gekhman

Mazal Tov

Letters
I want to thank Rabbi Tilsen and everyone at BEKI, who have helped Ellen’s mom and me through this difficult time.

David Schwartz, on the passing of his wife Ellen Slopak Schwartz

Order Your Deli Boxes From USY Today!
Whether you plan to watch the Superbowl on Sunday 28 January or just spend a quiet evening at home with friends and family, let BEKI-BJ USY prepare a great meal for you. Don’t miss this opportunity to get a night off from cooking, enjoy a large, fresh, and delicious deli dinner — and support the teens of our community. Expanded meat and vegetarian options will again be available (including the very popular portabella and peppers sandwich). Orders are due soon — additional forms are available from the synagogue offices. This program is sponsored by the joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission for the benefit of BEKI-BJ USY. For more information, please call or email Aliza Kuperstock (387-3351, dinker41@aol.com) or Rachel Levarek (387-9467, bogart685@hotmail.com). Thank you for your support.

DK

Thyme & Season Natural Market

Health Care
Full line of supplements
Herbs & Homeopathy
Solgar, New Chapter
Country Life Eclectic Institute
D’Adamo 4 Your Type

Food
Full selection of groceries including:
Regular & Organic Produce,
Soy & Dairy Free Products & Wide
Selection of wheat & gluten free foods
Kosher Items

Skin Care
Dr. Houshka & Zia Skin Care Lines
Essential Oils & Specialty Soaps

Come for Lunch
Homemade soups, sandwiches
Hot vegetarian entrées

Gift Certificates Available
3040 Whitney Avenue, Hamden
1/2 miles south of Sleeping Giant State Park
203-407-8128

Guaranteed Lowest Prices on all Brands of Tires and Custom Wheels
Fast, Courteous Service
Huge Inventory
Full-Service Auto Repair
ASE Certified mechanics Always on Duty
Free Estimates

40 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT
933-2886

STARS
Auto Repairs & Tires
One Stop, On The Spot
Car Care!

Hours
M, T, W, F 8:00-5:30
Thurs. 8:00-7:00
Sat. 8:00-3:00
**Torah for the Hungry Mind:** Adult Studies at BEKI

**Pirqe Avot**
Mishna Avot, also known as *Pirqe Avot* or Ethics of the Fathers is studied at BEKI each Shabbat afternoon between the mincha and maariv services during the winter months. Everyone is welcome.

**Taste of Honey 27 January JCC**
Several BEKI members will be teaching at the JCC on Saturday night 27 January for the annual “Taste of Honey” night of adult study. The program is presented by the Department of Jewish Education of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. For information call 387-2424.

**Book Group Thu 18 Jan 7:30p**
BEKI’s monthly Book Group meets on Thursday 18 January at 7:30p in BEKI’s “Rosenkrantz Family Library.” For further information, contact Helen Rosenberg at 389-9594 or Marc Schwartz at marc.schwartz@healthcalls.com

**Rashi Study Group**
Special time: 1 January 9:45a to 10:30a
Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meets in the Rosenkrantz Family Library to read Rashi’s commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study 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 at a special time, 9:45a to 10:30a, on Monday 1 January 2001, immediately following the 9:00a morning service.

**AA Meetings Thursdays at 8:00p**
The Thursday night AA meeting has a new time — 8:00p — and a new format. A weekly AA meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. The meeting now features a speaker. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at jay@jacsweb.org.

**Ari Nathan Levine Library**
The following books were donated to the Ari Nathan Levine Collection by Miriam Benson and Rabbi Tilsen:
- *God Said Amen* by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
- *Because Nothing Looks Like God* by Lawrence Kushner and Karen Kushner
- *Becoming Me: A Story of Creation* by Marin Boroson
- *Thank you, God!: a Jewish child’s book of prayers* by Judyth Groner and Madeline Wikler
- *My Little Siddur: A Child’s First Prayer Book* by Rabbi Azriel Dvir

**Chess Club at BEKI**
The BEKI Chess Club for kids and adults meets on Thursday evenings from 6:00p to 8:00p on 4, 11, 18 and 25 January. There is no charge. Players at all levels are welcome, and players may invite friends. For more information contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org). The Chess Club usually meets in the Rosenkrantz Family Library or the Social Hall.
BEKI Endowments

Only about half of the Congregation’s annual income comes from regular dues. Endowed funds are one of the best ways to insure the continuing financial strength of the synagogue long into the future. We have just begun the process of building our endowments. Below are listed the named funds established for our benefit. We take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the donors.

The Congregation maintains a portion of its endowments at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Under the Foundation’s careful management, the “real” (after-inflation) value of the fund principals is maintained so that funds can provide increasing income to the Congregation in perpetuity.

▶ The Ari Nathan Levine Fund for the Continuity of BEKI
▶ The Beth El-Keser Israel Endowment Fund
▶ The Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth
▶ The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at Congregation BEKI
▶ The George & Leah Posener Endowment for the Jewish Education of BEKI Youth
▶ The Gladys R. Lipkin Fund for the BEKI Hebrew School
▶ The Leah E. Posener and Betty D. Zelen Memorial Fund for Sisterhood
▶ The Lester & Bernice Margolis Fund
▶ The Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Sacred Music
▶ The Posener Family Memorial Fund for Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
  established by George G. Posener in blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons
▶ The Robert Goodwin Memorial Endowment
▶ The Rosenkrantz Family Library Endowment

Descriptions of each of these endowed funds can be found at www.beki.org/endowment.html or may be obtained from the BEKI office (389-2108 x14).
## BEKI Events

**January - Tevet - Shevat 5761**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>12 Shevat</td>
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<td>Shaharit=Morning</td>
<td>New Year's Day - Holiday</td>
<td>7:00a Shaharit</td>
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<td>Minha =Afternoon</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>4:15p Religious School</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>4:18p Candles</td>
<td>10:45a Children's Programs</td>
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<td>Maariv=Evening</td>
<td>9:00a Shaharit</td>
<td>4:15p Religious School</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>6:00p Maariv</td>
<td>6:00p Maariv</td>
<td>10:45a SLM</td>
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<td>SSLM=Shabbat Shalom</td>
<td>9:45a Rashi</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>6:30p 20/30s Havura</td>
<td>Darshanit: Corinne Blackmer</td>
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<td>Learners' Minyan</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>8:00p A.A.</td>
<td>Group Shabbat Dinner</td>
<td>Kiddush Sponsors: Friends of Darryl Kuperstock</td>
<td>4:15p Minha</td>
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<td>TNS=The New [Religious] School</td>
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<td>9:30a Religious School</td>
<td>7:45a Rashi Study Grp</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
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<td>9:00a Shaharit</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Holiday</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>8:00a-3:00 KISS</td>
<td>9:00a Shaharit</td>
<td>9:45a Rashi Study Grp</td>
<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
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<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>10:45a Children's Programs</td>
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<td>9:30a Robert Goodwin Memorial Brunch</td>
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<td>5:45p Maariv</td>
<td>4:41p Candles</td>
<td>10:45a Cosmic Conversations</td>
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<td>11:30a-1:00p Deli Box</td>
<td>5:30p-7:00p Family Ed</td>
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<td>Pickup, Social Hall</td>
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<td>11:30a TNS Parent Group</td>
<td>7:45p General Board</td>
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**BEKI phone numbers:**
(203) 389-2108
Fax (203) 389-5899
Mary Ellen-Office x14
Religious School x13
Rabbi x10
Kulanu x33

**Office Hours:**
Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p
Tue by appt. only
Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p
Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p
Fri 9a-2p

**BEKI email:**
Office: BEKI@snet.net
Rabbijjitben@beki.org
Anne Johnston: anne@beki.org

**website:** www.beki.org
Darshanim

Corinne Blackmer will serve as darshanit (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 6 January, parashat VaYigash. Corinne teaches literature at Southern Connecticut State University.

Eliana Falk will serve as darshanit (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 20 January, parashat Shemot. Eliana is a rabbinical student at the Academy of Jewish Religion in New York.

Rabbi Murray Levine will serve as darshan (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 27 January, parashat VaEra. Rabbi Murray is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Beth Shalom of Framingham, MA.

Robert Goodwin Memorial Brunch 21 January

BEKI Brunch to Feature Herb Winer

BEKI member Herb Winer was one of the participants in the controversial “obedience experiments” conducted in the 1960’s by psychologist Stanley Milgram. Participants were given permission to administer electric shocks to any persons responding incorrectly to a given question. The results of these tests gave rise to questions about whether human beings have an inherent sadistic bent, perhaps explaining how the outrages of Nazi Germany could have occurred. The ethics of conducting such experiments were also very controversial.

This brunch honors the memory of Robert Goodwin, a member of BEKI who was instrumental in bringing many fine speakers to the synagogue. Robert was one of the four Goodwin brothers and the husband of Lilyan Goodwin. Funding for this event is made possible through proceeds from the Robert Goodwin Memorial Endowment for BEKI and is managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

Please join us on Sunday 21 January from 9:30a until 11:00a when special guest Herb Winer will discuss his personal experience with the Milgram project. Reservations are not required; a donation of $2 per person is suggested. Please direct any questions about this event to Helen Rosenberg. Her number is 389-9594.

MLK Day at BEKI

Morning services at BEKI begin at 9:00a on Martin Luther King Day, Monday 15 January 2001. The Rashi Study Group meets from 9:45a to 10:30a that morning.

BEKI’s unique “Kids In Shul when they close the School” program, also known as the “Snow Day” program, will meet on that day from 8:00a to 3:00p, in the Claire Goodwin Children’s Room. The KISS program offers a fun-filled Judaic program for elementary-school aged children on a day when Ezra Academy and public schools are closed for conferences and holidays when parents may have to work. Space is limited. Contact Anne Johnston at 389-2108 x33 (anne@beki.org) to reserve your space or fax in the registration form available at www.beki.org/kiss.pdf or from the office.

A Community MLK Day Service will be held at the United Church on the Green beginning at 11:00a. Rabbi Tilsen will participate in the service. The service is organized by the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, of which BEKI is a member.
Buying Books?

Buying books, music, software, or electronics on the internet? BEKI earns a small referral fee for purchases made from Amazon.com when the purchaser accesses Amazon from the Amazon icon at the bottom of www.beki.org/links.html. From November 1999 to October 2000, BEKI earned $208.29 in referral fees on sales of $4,169. There is no added charge to the purchaser.

Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Library, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Lead by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening multi-generational setting.

Planning a bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI?

Parents planning a bar- or bat-mitzva observance at BEKI during the next three years are urged to call the BEKI office (389-2108 x14 or beki@snet.net) to reserve a date and to request a copy of the "Guide to Benei Mitzva Observance at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, second edition." The “Guide” is also available at www.beki.org/bmitva.pdf.

Take Care of Your Cemetery Need

The time to take care of your cemetery need is before there is a need. Now is the perfect time to select your sites...while there is a good selection. BEKI cemeteries are located in Hamden and West Haven, within minutes of the synagogue and with easy access to main thoroughfares. Member discounts are available.

We can help you select a site and discuss payment terms. Call the BEKI Cemetery Association office today at 389-2108 x57 and arrange a meeting of one of the officers of the cemetery association. For directions to the cemeteries see our website at www.beki.org under “Directions.”

WESTVILLE Kosher MARKET

95 Amity Rd. (Next to Amity Wine)
New Haven (off exit 59 Meritt Pkwy)

Glatz 389-1166 Kosher

- New Dining Area
- Bakery Products
- Expanded Groceries
- Home-Made Deli Items
- Fresh-Meat & Poultry
- All Meat & Poultry Kosher & Kashered

- All Foods Freshly Made on Premises
- Under Strict Rabbinical Supervision
- Expanded Groceries

Sun. 8:30-4:00 • Mon.-Wed. 8:30-6:00
Thurs. 8:30-7:00 • Fri. 8:30-3:00 • Closed Sat.

January 2001