

BEKI Bulletin

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January 2002 Vol. 8 Issue 1

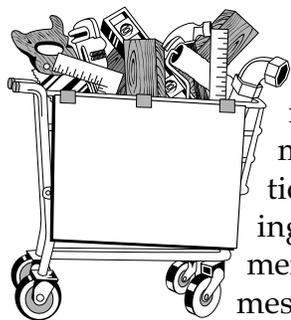
ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Shevat 5762

BEKI Renovations Update

During November and December, Phase 1A of BEKI's Master Plan for building renovation was completed. Phase 1A included the removal of asbestos insulation, and the replacement of the burner and boiler, which constitutes BEKI's heating plant. We are confident that this new system will be much more efficient, safe and reliable. These renovations were done in a way that is consistent with the visions of our building for the future.

Hugh Fryer and George Posener worked very closely with President Stephen Pincus to make sure the technical and engineering specifications were right. Our building custodian, Clarence B., went beyond the call of duty to accommodate this project; one morning he was at BEKI by 4:45a to let workers begin at 5:00a so they could keep on schedule. We also thank our members and visitors who patiently suffered the "cold" and "hot" treatment during the installation and adjustment of the new equipment. We have upheld our reputation of being a "cool place" as well as a "warm synagogue."



The next phase of the Renovations, Phase 1B, to be scheduled during the winter months, will be the replacement of the central air conditioning plant's chiller and cooling tower. The original equipment is over 40 years old. The domestic hot water system will also be updated.

It will also be necessary to revise and replace the heating and cooling "distribution" system, i.e. the thermostats, pipes, fans and blowers that deliver the heated or cooled air to where we need it. This part of the heating, ventilation and cooling upgrade will be undertaken as each area or room is renovated at some future date.



Grades 4 & 5 at Havdala

Shabbat Minha Afternoon & Maariv Evening & Havdala on Winter Schedule

Students in the fourth and fifth grade classes at the BEKI Religious School, along with their parents, will participate in the Shabbat afternoon, maariv and Havdala services on Shabbat afternoon 5 January. The services begin at 4:15p and end at 5:45p. Shabbat afternoon and Saturday evening services follow a winter schedule from November through March. Services on *Shabbat* (Saturday) afternoon begin about 20 minutes before sunset. As the time varies, please check the calendar in this Bulletin or www.beki.org/schedule.html for exact times for each week.

MLK Day at BEKI

Morning services at BEKI begin at 9:00a on Martin Luther King Day, Monday 21 January 2002. The [Rashi Study Group](#) meets from 9:45a to 10:30a that morning. The office is closed.

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 days when Ezra Academy and public schools are closed for conferences and holidays when parents may have to work. Space is limited. Contact **Lauren Kempton** at 389-2108 x33 (lkempton@beki.org) to reserve your space or fax in the registration form available at www.beki.org/kiss.pdf or from the office.

Email Update

Please note that Rabbi Tilsen's email address is jjtilsen@beki.org. If you would like to be added to the list of members who receive occasional email messages of lifecycle and other events, please let Rabbi Tilsen know.

Our office (beki@snet.net) will also be very happy to learn of your new or revised email address.

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 five miles-per-hour speed limit.

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 this month, there will be a special need for more participants on Tuesday mornings (7:00a), Thursday mornings (8:15a) and Sunday nights (5:45p).

BEKI-Bulletin

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Special Children

What do parents dream of for their children? It may come as a surprise to some that high income, wealth, good grades, advanced degrees, awards, publications, portfolios and innovations are not basic to the list of what most parents want for their children. Instead, parents want their children to be kind, loving, happy, healthy, honest, and decent. They want them to be *menschen* – “good people.”

I have found that at BEKI, like in my native Minnesota, all of the children are above average. I am constantly amazed at the insight, sensitivity, courage and kindness among our children and youth.

Parents of children with “special needs” – whether they be classified as developmental disabilities, physical challenges, unusual learning styles or attenuated attention spans – often come to appreciate most clearly what is important to them in their children.

The measure of success proposed by our tradition is the performance of *mitzvot* (“religious obligations” or “commandments”). As it turns out, the ability to perform most *mitzvot* depends not on talent, intelligence, education or social class, but simply on character and piety. Part of the message of the modern Hasidic movement, which began some 200 years ago in Europe, and which is incorporated in some ways in the Conservative Movement, is that every Jew has the capacity to be a “good Jew,” that is, to do what is pleasing to our Creator, and that this is not directly dependent on years of education, IQ points or account balances. While we honor and promote Torah study as a central value, we realize that it is not the basic measure of a person.

The BEKI community is committed to providing formal religious instruction to any child who enters our school or *shul* and to providing continuing opportunities for personal piety, religious expression and spiritual growth to people of all ages. We are fortunate to have the support of talented and dedicated educators, community institutions such as the Department of Jewish Education of the Jewish Federation, the Jewish Foundation, the Borick Family, and philanthropists and supporters who have helped us try to realize our vision. While we have a way to go before we can feel we have lived up to our ideals, we have at least taken some important steps.



Rabbi Tilsen

Some of our *benei mitzva* celebrants are blessed with musical, rhetorical or theatrical ability, which may in some ways enhance our worship experience. But when a *bar-* or *bat-mitzva* – or anyone for that matter – is leading services, I cannot really evaluate their prayers, because they are not praying to *me*. We do not say, “May my prayers be articulate and on key,” but “May the words of my mouth and the thoughts in my heart be acceptable to You, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

Ben Zoma taught:

Who is wise? One who learns from all persons.

Who is heroic? One who controls their own impulses.

Who is rich? One who is happy with his or her portion.

Who is honored? One who honors others.

Avot 4:1

A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

Hanuka is known as the festival of lights. There are rituals we must follow in the kindling of the Hanukkah lights. As the Rabbi explained for us, on the first night the shamash is used to light one candle, on the second night two candles. Then every night thereafter, the number is increased by one candle until on the eighth and last night of the holiday, eight candles and the shamash are aglow.

I thought about light in the context of this day, in early December. It is 65°F. We are surrounded by light....sparkle lights, twinkle lights, icicle lights, red, white and blue patriotic lights, lights in trees and lights in bushes, solitary candles in windows and lights so garish that their presence stops your car to stare. There are lights on the White House tree and lights in Rockefeller Center. And there are solitary Yahrzeit candles that we kindle to remember the loss of loved ones.

And perhaps in this season we listen to Debbie Friedman or Peter Yarrow sing *Light One Candle* or the Israeli folk song *Who Lit The Candles*, or *A Candle In The Middle* by Craig Taubman. And perhaps the music and the light help us to focus on the meaning of Hanuka.

The lights of Hanuka to me symbolize knowledge, for the root of the word *Hanuka* means "education" as well as "dedication." A story is told

that Hanuka *gelt* started in the Seventeenth century in Poland when Jewish parents gave their children money to give to their teachers. Over the years, the children started to receive small coins as a reward for studying. Then in the Eighteenth century, poor yeshiva students went door to door to receive Hanuka *gelt*. But the underlying message of Hanuka is a serious lesson that Judaism has withstood the forces of assimilation and has remained faithful to its traditions.

As Louis Brandeis said in 1912, "Hanuka, the Feast of the Maccabees, celebrates a victory of the spirit over things material. The Maccabees' victory proved that the Jews—then already an old people—possessed the secret of eternal youth: the ability to rejuvenate itself through courage, hope, enthusiasm, devotion and self-sacrifice of the plain people. This will bring again Jewish renaissance."

So may the lights of our Hanuka menoras remind us who we are, where we have been, and perhaps, where we are going as a people in the future.



Dr. Lauren Kempton

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Saul's Circle

Saul's Circle, BEKI's outreach program for adults who are mental health services consumers, celebrated Hanuka with a party at Fellowship place New Haven on 16 December. Latkes were served and lessons presented on the history of Hanuka and the menorah. Dr. Lauren Kempton and Sara Mag, Director of Fellowship Place, have instituted a series of mini-workshops for Saul's Circle participants. The first workshop was conducted by Imam Nasif Muhammed of the Council of Churches. Similar to his presentation at BEKI Religious School, Nasif explained the tenets of Islam and the Muslim faith. The discussion was spirited. Future workshops will be held on weekdays from 5:00p to 6:30p. If you have this time free and would like to present a workshop, please call Lauren at BEKI, 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org.

BEKI Religious School Announcements

The parents of BEKI Religious School are selling food certificates from Stop and Shop, ShopRite, and Westville Kosher Meat Market. You can purchase the certificates on Wednesdays and Sundays during Religious School hours. They are also available from 9:00a to 4:00p most days in the BEKI Religious School Office.

On Sunday morning 13 January BEKI Religious School will host a workshop on Stress Management conducted by the Dale Carnegie Institute. This workshop was arranged by Matthew Katz, BEKI Religious School parent. Breakfast will be served at 9:30a and the workshop will be held from 10:00a to 11:00a followed by a Question and Answer period.

Flyers will be forthcoming.

Our Religious School is planning a series of Open House events for parents according to grade levels. The parents may join their child for *tefillot* (worship) and then gather for a light breakfast in Room 3, our newly created Parent Lounge / Lending Library. Then the parents will join their child in either their Hebrew or Judaics class. The dates were sent to parents in the BEKI Religious School's update.

Hanuka at BEKI Religious School

December brought a focus on Hanuka at BEKI Religious School with the themes of dedication and education. The entire school participated in the "East Meets East" Family Education Workshop on 2 December. The students and their parents rotated through five stations: History of the Holy Temple, Profiles in Temple History, Jerusalem, City of Peace, Re-dedicating Ourselves, and Creating a Dedicated Space at Home (Mizrah Project). The entire Religious School enjoyed latkes on 16 December.

Kulanu

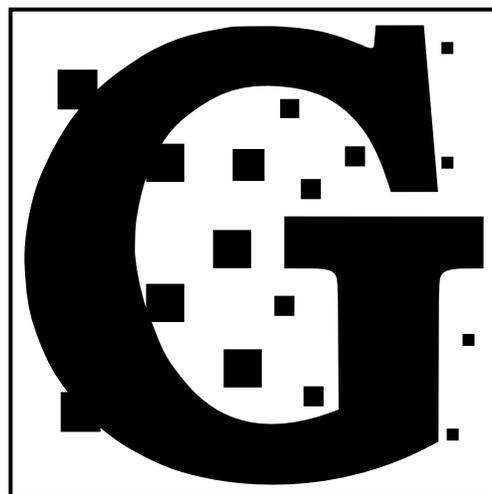
Kulanu, BEKI's outreach program for adults with special needs, celebrated Hanuka at Chapel Haven. Dr. Lauren Kempton told stories of Hanuka and led fun activities with the adults present.

January 2002

Family Education Programs

A special joint event of the Greater New Haven JCC, BEKI, Temple Beth Shalom, and Temple Or Shalom is being planned for Saturday evening 5 January 2002 at the JCC. Coordinated by the Keshet L'Mishpacha, Jewish Family Educators representing these institutions, the program will include a community Havdala service and will be followed by a "Mad Science" presentation. The program is free of charge and is for children and adults of all ages.

Also coming are a Tu BeShevat Program on 27 January and a Purim event on 17 February. The BEKI Jewish Family Education Task Force committee sponsors these events and is partially funded by Keshet L'Mishpacha, a grant from the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Rosenberg at 389-2108 x25.



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Dear Rabbi

An occasional feature of answers, advice and helpful household hints.

Dear Rabbi,

When should a young Jewish man approaching bar mitzva age begin putting on *tefillin*?

Signed,

Men in Black

Dear Men in Black Leather,

The Talmud (Sukka 42a) records a statement from the Mishnaic period: "A minor who knows how to wave the *lulav* is obligated to wave; to wrap in fringes (*tsitsit*) is obligated with respect to fringes; to care for *tefillin*, his father should buy him *tefillin*."

In general, we encourage pre-*benei mitzva* to begin performing *mitzvot* (religious obligations) as

soon as they are "age appropriate," even though minors are not technically *obligated* until they reach the age of majority. For some mitzvot, such as marriage and raising children, we generally encourage people to wait until after their teenage years. In the days of the Temple, kohanim did not serve in certain capacities, and men were not subject to military conscription, until age 20.

Jewish youths should begin wearing *tefillin* when they are able to treat *tefillin* with care and reverence. *Tefillin* contain parchments on which are written Biblical passages, much like a Torah scroll. A basic pair might cost over \$250. *Tefillin* are not child's play.

The time of becoming a *bar-* or *bat-mitzva* is special and should be marked by taking on new mitzvot, privileges and responsibilities. If *tefillin* are already part of a youth's religious life, there are many other mitzvot available to serve as "special" ones associated with becoming a *bar-* or *bat-mitzva*.

If a minor youth wears *tefillin*, it is possible that a *gabbai* or *shamash* (ritual director or service organizer) will mistakenly assume that the youth is an adult who should be counted toward the Minyan (quorum). A minor wearing *tefillin*, therefore, should make a point of informing the person responsible for a service that they are indeed a minor.

Dear Rabbi,

Does Yom Kippur ever fall on a Sunday?

Signed, Weekend Warrior

Dear Warrior,

No. Yom Kippur will occur on a Monday 28.5% of the time, Wednesday 28.2%, Thursday 11.3%, and Shabbat 32.0%. In fixing the calendar in the second century C.E., our sages determined that Yom Kippur could not occur on Friday or Sunday, as that would result in two consecutive days on which cooking and related activities are prohibited. (If you find the occurrence of Passover on a Sunday to be a challenge, image what you would have to do if Yom Kippur were on a Friday.) The sages also determined that Hoshana Rabba (the last regular day of Sukkot) could not occur on Shabbat, since its

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observance cannot be postponed and its observance would involve numerous conflicts with Shabbat restrictions. As a result, Yom Kippur can never occur on a Friday, Sunday or Tuesday.

To facilitate this jiggering, there are two "leap days" available on the Hebrew calendar. *Heshvan* (eighth month) and *Kislev* (ninth month) can each have 29 or 30 days. A 12-month year may therefore have 353, 354 or 355 days, and a "leap year" (with a second month of Adar) can have 383, 384 or 385 days. A "regular" year has 354 or 384 days, but if Yom Kippur were to fall on a Friday, Sunday or Tuesday, one of these "leap days" can be added or subtracted.

While the Hebrew calendar seems somewhat complex, it has the advantage of having months with either 29 or 30 days (compared to our civil calendar, in which months have 28, 29, 30 or 31 days). The Hebrew calendar, unlike the civil calendar, corresponds with the phases of the moon as well as other natural cycles.

Some years ago, Congress declared that certain federal holidays such as Memorial Day and Labor Day will be observed on Mondays only. Even Independence Day, popularly known as "The Fourth of July," is observed on a Monday. The result is that the Fourth of July might be celebrated on the third of July in some years. When the Fourth of July falls on a Saturday, it may be observed the previous Friday, so as not to deprive workers of the day's vacation. But as we see, such tinkering with the calendar was actually invented by the Jews.

LifeCycle

Mazal Tov

- To Sara Kohane & Michael Reifler, and Benjamin, on the birth of their daughter and sister
- To Bruce D. Haynes on the publication of *Red Lines, Black Spaces: The Politics of Race and Space in a Black Middle-Class Suburb*

Births and Baby Event Notices can be found on BEKI's website www.beki.org in the *LifeCycle* section.

Death Notices and Yahrzeit Observances listed by name and date can be found on BEKI's website www.beki.org in the *LifeCycle* section.

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Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

Pirqa Avot

Mishna Avot, also known as Pirqa 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.

Shoah & Resistance

Dr. Lauren Kempton will present "Shoah & Resistance" on Sunday nights in January and February. This eight-week study course will focus on the literature, poetry, and art of the Resistance during the Shoah (Holocaust). Through text, music, film and print media, we will redefine Resistance during the Shoah. We will focus particularly on the Warsaw Ghetto and Theresienstadt. The course begins on Sunday 5 January and continues for eight Sunday evenings (except 17 February) from 6:00p to 7:30p in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Library. For information or registration, please contact Lauren at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org.

Book Discussion Group

BEKI's monthly Book Group meets on Shabbat 19 January following qiddush (about 1:00p to 2:30p) in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. The book to be discussed is *The Chosen*, by Chaim Potok (paperback \$6.99, ISBN 0449213447). It is a story of the relationship of two Jewish boys in 1940's New York and their different approaches to Judaism. If you order the book from Amazon.com, BEKI receives a small commission. Upcoming selections include Neil Gabler, *An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood* (23 February); Shulamith Hareven, *Thirst: The Desert Trilogy* (23 March); Sam G. Freedman, *Jew vs. Jew* (20 April); Stephen G. Bloom, *Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America* (1 June). Information on purchasing these books, and an updated list, can be found at www.beki.org/books.html. For further information, contact Helen Rosenberg at 389-9594.

Darshanim in January

Peter Stein will serve as *Darshan* (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 5 January, parashat

Shemot. Peter is a student in the Rabbinical School at the [Jewish Theological Seminary of America](http://www.jtsa.edu).

Helene Kasha will serve as Darshanit (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 26 January, parashat BeShelah – Shabbat Shira.

Rashi Study Group

Special time: 21 January 9:45a to 10:30a

All other Mondays: 7:45a to 8:30a

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the [Rosenkrantz Family Library](http://www.beki.org) 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 21 January 2002, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, immediately following the 9:00a morning service.



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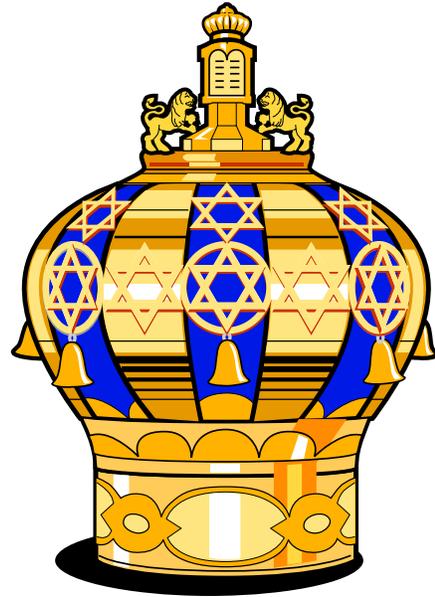
The Thursday night AA meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. The meeting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

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan for adults meets in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library every second Shabbat (Saturday) morning year-round from 10:45a to noon. The SSLM meets on the 12th and 26th of this month. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Taste of Honey 27 January JCC

Several BEKI members will be teaching at the JCC on Saturday night 26 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.





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BEKI Events

January - Tevet - Shevat

5762

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		17 Tevet 1	18 Tevet 2	19 Tevet 3	20 Tevet 4	21 Tevet 5
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan BRS=BEKI Religious School	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33	<i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:18p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Peter Stein</i> <i>Kiddush Sponsor: Tina Rose</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 4:15p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
22 Tevet 6	23 Tevet 7	24 Tevet 8	25 Tevet 9	26 Tevet 10	27 Tevet 11	28 Tevet 12
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Shoah & Resistance	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Maariv 7:45p General Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:25p Candles 6:00p Maariv 6:30p 20s/30s Havura Group Dinner	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 4:25p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
29 Tevet 13	1 Shevat 14	2 Shevat 15	3 Shevat 16	4 Shevat 17	5 Shevat 18	6 Shevat 19
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Shoah & Resistance	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:32p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 1:00p Book Group 4:30p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
7 Shevat 20	8 Shevat 21	9 Shevat 22	10 Shevat 23	11 Shevat 24	12 Shevat 25	13 Shevat 26
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Shoah & Resistance	<i>Martin Luther King Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 8:00a-3:00p KISS 9:00a Shaharit 9:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:41p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Helene Kasha</i> <i>Kiddush Sponsor: Helene Kasha</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 4:40p Minha, Avot, Maariv, Havdala
14 Shevat 27	15 Shevat 28	16 Shevat 29	17 Shevat 30	18 Shevat 31		
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Shoah & Resistance	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 7:45p Executive Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Education Director: lkempton@beki.org website: www:beki.org

Civil Holiday Service Times in January

On Tuesday 1 January 2002, "New Year's Day," morning services are from 9:00a to 9:30a. The office is closed. Other services are at their usual times.

On Monday 21 January 2002, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, morning services are from 9:00a to 9:45a; the Rashi Study Group will meet from 9:45a to 10:30a; KISS meets; and the office is closed. Other services are at their usual times.

Purim Is Coming

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

No worry! No fuss! No shopping!

Just send in the order forms you will receive soon. (Order forms are available at www.beki.org/forms.html.) Start making your list. There is enough time to check it twice!

Important Tax Information

You can contribute stocks and securities directly to BEKI. For some, significant tax advantages can be realized by contributing appreciated stocks. IRS regulations allow the donor to deduct the appreciated value of the security.

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. For many people it is advantageous to pay dues, pledges and contributions before the end of the tax year (for most people 31 December). It is also helpful to BEKI to receive your payment at an early date. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

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 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. An event is planned for Shabbat Evening 11 January; *reservations are required*. People with children are encouraged to contact Lauren Kempton (389-2108 x33 or lkempton@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.

KISS

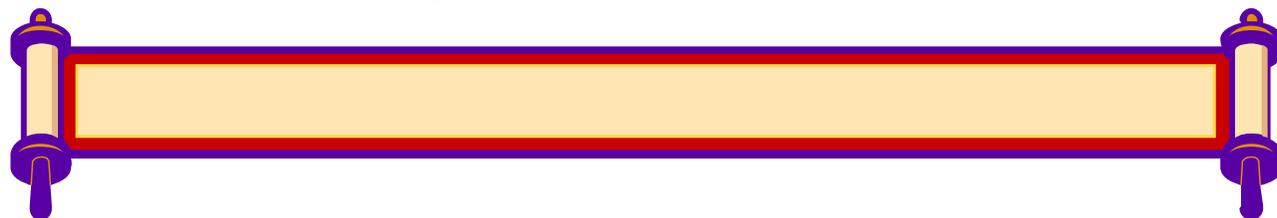
The KISS program ("Kids In Shul when they close the School") continues to run very smoothly under the direction of Sybil Richards. During December, participants had a special visit from Tomeko Ito, a schoolteacher visiting from Japan. She taught the group a lesson in the art of *origami* (paper folding). Now that winter has arrived, you may need childcare for an unplanned snow day. Or perhaps you must find placement for your elementary-age children when school closes for a civic or school holiday. Please call Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x 33 (lkempton@beki.org) to arrange for participation in KISS, BEKI's program of Judaic and fun activities when the schools are closed.

Torah Readers Wanted

Marsha Beller is coordinating Shabbat Morning Torah Readings for *Shemot* (Exodus), the reading of which we begin on 5 January. If you would like to read Torah on a Shabbat morning during the winter, or would like to learn how to read Torah, please contact Marsha (387-4657 or mbellereco@aol.com). If you would like to plan to read Torah on a Shabbat afternoon, Monday morning or after 9 March 2002, please contact Rabbi Tilsen (389-2108 x10 jjtilsen@beki.org).



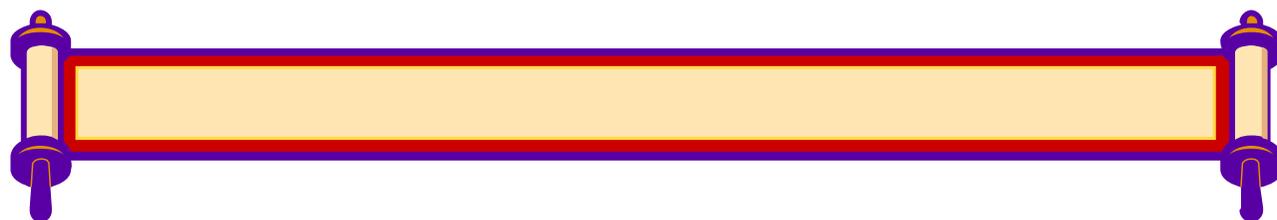
Nina Bender reviews Torah reading. Photo by Wayne Greene 933-5366



Amy Pincus & Students

Megilla Readers Needed

If you would like to read *Megillat Ester* (the Book of Esther) on Purim at BEKI, or learn how to, please contact Rabbi Tilsen (389-2108 x10 jjtilsen@beki.org) at your earliest opportunity.



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