

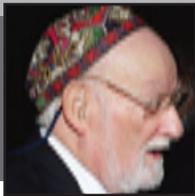
A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

January 2006

Tevet 5766
Vol. 12 Issue 1

In this issue:



Earl Banquer
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DELI BOXES ORDER - 2006
Name _____
I will PICK UP my Deli Box(es) at _____
Please indicate # of boxes: _____ Corned Beef _____ Egg Salad _____
Choice of Beverage (1/box) _____

Deli Boxes for
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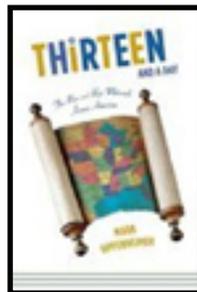


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Book Talk: January Brunch featuring Mark Oppenheimer

Author Mark Oppenheimer will speak about his book *Thirteen and a Day: The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Across America*, at a brunch at BEKI on Sunday 29 January, beginning at 9:30a.

Called "a very personal rumination on Judaism" by Publishers' Weekly, the book focuses on how benei mitzva are observed at several very different synagogues—including BEKI—to uncover what role the rite of passage plays in the lives of modern Jews. For two years, Oppenheimer traveled around the country, from New York to Alaska, dropping in on benei mitzva celebrations of every persuasion, interviewing rabbis, teachers, celebrants, and their families, and exploring his own relationship to Judaism in the process.



Mark happened to visit BEKI on the Shabbat morning of Annie Bass's bat mitzva observance, and he describes it in some detail in the second chapter of the book, "The Girl." He spoke with Paul and Carole Bass, Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, and then-president Gila Reinstein, as well as with Annie herself, and quotes from them extensively in the book. All in all, BEKI is

presented in a very favorable light, one that is likely to make its friends and members *kvell*.

Not all congregations are given the same positive treatment. Oppenheimer is especially critical of synagogues where the bar mitzva party hijacks the service and where the party overwhelms the religious significance of the event.

One online reviewer wrote, "This wonderful book charts a double journey. It is a journalist's voyage through Jewish America, with

continued on page 3

*Elm City Girls' Choir
Back by Popular Demand
Hamden Cantata
Sunday 22 January 2006
11:00a
Repertoire of Peace, Spirituals,
Jewish and Civil Rights Songs
Open to all
Reception to Follow*

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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.

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BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Mark Your Calendar

- **Hanuka Party:** Sunday 1 January 2006 4p
- **Elm City Girls Choir** presentation Sunday 22 January 2006
- **DeliBox Orders** Due Friday 27 January 2006
- **Sunday Brunch** with Journalist Mark Oppenheimer 29 January 2006
- **Tu BeShevat - Shabbat Shira Concert** Saturday night 11 February 2006
- **Bar Mitzva: Tsvi Benson-Tilsen** 17-18 February 2006
- **Wine Tasting Event:** Motse'ei Shabbat 25 March 2006
- **Bat Mitzva: Lea Winter** 31 March - 1 April 2006
- **Bat Mitzva: Mollie Goldblum** 7-8 April 2006
- **Auction** Sunday 30 April 2006
- **Bat Mitzva: Chloe Lerman** 5-6 May 2006
- **Bat Mitzva: Emma Golub** 12-13 May 2006
- **Bar Mitzva: Jared Levine** 19-20 May 2006
- **Bar Mitzva: Daniel Ben-Chitrit** 26-27 May 2006



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continued from page 1

Oppenheimer serving as a kind of traveling anthropologist who is examining an important religious ritual in its various manifestations. But it is also an autobiography, a coming-to-grips with roots, with the possibilities for religious belief. Oppenheimer presents a full and generous (as well as a funny and informative) account of why people worship and believe as they do. The book makes sense for anyone involved in a similar personal quest, or for anyone interested in fine writing.”

Oppenheimer is currently editor-in-chief of the New Haven *Advocate* and a resident of Westville. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Yale.

Thirteen and a Day was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in June 2005 and reviewed by *The New York Times*, *The Forward*, *Salon*, the American Library Association, and numerous other media. Mark will sign copies of the book after his talk.

Thanks to the support of the Robert Goodwin Memorial Fund at BEKI, this event is open to the community and free. Donations will be accepted at the door to cover the cost of refreshments.

The Robert Goodwin Family established an endowment at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven to provide an annual special program at Beth El-Keser Israel as a memorial to Robert Goodwin, of blessed memory. One of the four Goodwin brothers (Louis, Sonny, Robert, Paul) and husband of the late Lilyan Goodwin,

Robert Goodwin is remembered as an exceptionally personable man who enjoyed the love and respect of others, in part because of the exemplary way in which he fulfilled the mitzva of treating others with equality and dignity. He was a leader in the civic and Jewish communities, a good-natured man who, through his many contacts, enjoyed bringing fine speakers to BEKI.

Music in the Air

The Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble will present a festive family concert at BEKI on Saturday night 11 February at 7:30p in the downstairs Social Hall, in celebration of Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song.

Tickets for the concert are \$18 per person. Proceeds will be used to support the work of the Hesed Committee and the general operations of the synagogue.

The program will feature a string quartet by Antonin Dvorak, adapted for winds, in the first half. Following intermission, the ensemble will perform a medley of Jewish folk music.

During intermission, refreshments will be available, and the audience will have an opportunity to purchase CDs by the Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble, recorded at Yale University.

The ensemble is an unusual combination of instruments with a balance, diversity and homogeneity of sound that are similar to a string quartet. String quartets have a huge body of music to

draw on, unlike woodwind ensembles. Early in his teaching career, Banquer decided to extend the repertoire of music available to clarinet and flute players to include works composed for strings and keyboard. In the years since, he has arranged and published many pieces, spanning 400 years of musical history. These arrangements have been supplemented by works commissioned specifically for this combination of instruments.

Members of the ensemble are Naomi Senzer, flute; Gregory Lunin, Nyomi Guberman-Pfeffer, and Amanda Hetric, clarinets; and W. Miles Freeman, bass clarinet.

This concert was donated by Earl Banquer in last year's Bidding for BEKI Auction, and purchased on behalf of the congregation by Gloria and Morris Cohen.

(This event is scheduled for Saturday 11 February at 7:30p. The snow date is the next evening, Sunday 12 February, at 7 p.)



The BEKI/B'nai Jacob Joint Youth Commission sponsors the 13th Annual

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Total # of Boxes _____ x \$9.50 = \$ _____

Choice of Beverage (1/box) ___Coke ___Diet Coke ___Sprite ___Apple Juice ___Spring Water

ADDITIONAL DONATION TO BEKI/BJ Youth Programs \$ _____

*served on a roll

Total amount of check made out to BEKI/BJ USY \$ _____

Mazal tov to

- Rhoda Zahler on the birth of her grandson Lucas Benjamin Herrera, born to her daughter Joanna & Ramon Herrera on Tuesday 22 November 2005. Lucas was entered into the covenant through *brit mila* on the following Tuesday.
- Inge Fish on being honored with the Auxiliary Service Award by the Jewish Home for the Aged
- Mikki Ratner on being honored with the Auxiliary Service Award by the Jewish Home for the Aged
- Alex Shragis, son of William & Eva Shragis, on his Bar Mitzva observance at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, Bridgeport, CT on Monday 16 January
- Matthew Prober, son of Dan & Sharon Prober, on being conferred the rank of Eagle Scout
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo, BEKI supporters, on Lisa's becoming a US citizen



Alex Shragis, Bar Mitzva

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Some of our readers have noted that my messages often reflect my personal views and so tend to be leftist and anti-war. That is probably a fair characterization. Indeed, I have been a consistent opponent and critic of the American Wars in Iraq. In the interest of balance in our publication, we are pleased to present as our guest columnist, Vice President Richard "Dick" Cheney, one of the architects of the war. As the VP has a very busy schedule, we are not actually able to present a message written specifically for the Bulletin. Instead, we are printing a selection from his presentation to the Washington Institute as Secretary of Defense of the United States ("The Gulf War: A First Assessment," Soref Symposium, 29 April 1991) in which he comments on the decision to not invade Baghdad and depose Saddam Hussein fifteen years ago. - JJT

Guest Columnist: Vice President Dick Cheney

I think that the proposition of going to Baghdad is also fallacious. I think if we were going to remove Saddam Hussein we would have had to go all the way to Baghdad, we would have to commit a lot of force because I do not believe he would wait in the Presidential Palace for us to arrive. I think we'd have had to hunt him down. And once we'd done that and we'd gotten rid of Saddam Hussein and his government, then we'd have had to put another



Richard Cheney

government in its place.

What kind of government? Should it be a Sunni government or Shi'i government or a Kurdish government or Ba'athist regime? Or maybe we want to bring in some of the Islamic fundamentalists? How long would we have had to stay in Baghdad to keep that government in place? What would happen to the government once U.S. forces withdrew? How many casualties should the United States accept in that effort to try to create clarity and stability in a situation that is inherently unstable?

I think it is vitally important for a President to know when to use military force. I think it is also very important for him to know when not to commit U.S. military force. And it's my view that the President got it right both times, that it would have been a mistake for us to get bogged down in the quagmire inside Iraq.

A Message from the Education Director

Meyuhad



Meyuhad has been an integral part of the BEKI Religious School since its inception in 1995. It is the first special education religious school program in the region. The lead teacher at BEKI is Susan Jacobson along with Shlomit Daniel-Small, the Hebrew specialist. The program has two amazing madrikhim, Nora Goldfield (daughter of Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne) and Daphne Lew (daughter of Yaron & Liora Lew). Meyuhad is supported by the Department of Jewish Education of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and by the Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

The program is part of an expression of the commitment of this congregation to offer the best supplemental Jewish education to all of the children of our congregation, regardless of their learning styles or special needs. Thanks to the strength of our Religious School program and the support of the DJE, we are able to

accommodate a handful of students who belong to other congregations.

As educators, we feel that there are many success stories contained within Meyuhad and at times are reticent to tell these stories due to the confidentiality of the learning issues addressed in the Meyuhad program. But this fall, we had three simhot that we must share. Dustin Epstein celebrated his Bar Mitzva at Temple Sinai. Adam Goldberg celebrated his Bar Mitzva here at BEKI, and we were

all moved by his introspective *devar* Torah. Jesse Gullo celebrated his Bar Mitzva at Temple Beth Shalom.

Jesse is definitely an artistic learner so I suggested he use his wonderful gifts to interpret his *parasha*, "Toldot." In the Meyuhad class Jesse and Susan Jacobson sketched out his interpretation of his parasha. Jesse chose myriad colors showing Jacob grasping the heel of his older brother Esau. According to Shlomit Daniel-Small, "He worked so hard on his readings, he wanted it and he got it!" Jesse Gullo himself stated, "My first classes at BEKI I was confused about my Bar Mitzva. I wanted to have a havdala service because for a year we have been saying qaddish for my grandmother, Sallie Tenner, of blessed memory, each week at this service. Due to learning disability, this synagogue, BEKI, accepted me for who I am, and allowed me the confidence to attain this mitzva at age thirteen." Jesse is so proud of the developmental educational challenges that he has met, and the freedom of expression encouraged by the



Religious School

Meyuhad program for each child according to their abilities and their needs.

We will be arranging for Jesse's parasha interpretation on canvas, which is six feet by seven feet, to be displayed here at BEKI. As Jesse's dad, Steven Gullo, states, "Because of the dedication, perseverance, and encouragement of these teachers, Jesse became a Bar Mitzva." We are proud of our Meyuhad program and even prouder of the journeys of these three young men.

Religious School

Calendar of Upcoming Events (suitable for Refrigerator Posting)

15 January 2006: No School.
All teachers will be at the day-long Judith A Kaye Jewish Educators' Annual Conference on "The Spirit of Teaching."

22 January 2006: Elm City Girls Choir Concert.
Open to all at BEKI, from 11:00a to noon, with a reception to follow.

1 February 2006: Memorial Service for Ilan Ramon, Israeli Astronaut, 5:00p.

12 February 2006: Tu BeShevat Celebration at Edgewood Park with the Park Ranger.

Hebrew Class for Parents

The BEKI Religious School Hebrew language class continues to meet every Sunday from 11- 12:00 in Room 5.

The class is open to all adults wishing to learn Hebrew. The class is led by Margalit Kern. The participants are very pleased with their instruction.

Beautify the School

Late in November a team of parents, Sherry Rothman, Sharon Lovett-Graff, Roz Ben-Chitrit and Liora Lew, met at BEKI to begin a general "spruce up" of the classrooms.

Dr. Kempton had posed this project with Sharon Lovett-Graff. She consulted with each teacher and identified the most important free or low-cost "fix-ups" needed in each classroom. The projects ranged from putting up and redistributing bulletin boards to changing tables and desks to be "age appropriate" in size. The school has some 1950's desks they will be giving to Free Cycle. The project will be ongoing and the teachers are extremely appreciative.

From the Classrooms

Part of the teaching in December focused on the miracle of Hanuka. The students learned the story and culminated with a Hanuka play in which the entire Religious School participated. They concluded the play with the traditional latkes.

The students are very excited about the second appearance of the Elm City Girls Choir as they prepare to study the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

BEKI Religious School students "adopted" a Religious School in Broward



Dr. Lauren Kempton

County, Florida, that had been ravaged by the last hurricane. The school sustained two million dollars worth of damages. The students voted on replacing two important items, *kipot* and *dreidels*, that the Florida congregation had requested. We want to thank our congregation for their support! We sent 250 *dreidels* and 250 to Temple Beth Torah Religious School, so their tops are covered one way or another.

Kulanu

The Community Day program at Chapel Haven is beginning the year with a film series presented by Dr. Lauren Kempton. The film series will explore current topics of interest in Israel.

Saul's Circle

Participants at Fellowship Place are continuing their afternoons of fellowship and learning in the Learning Barn on Thursdays led by Billy Bromage and Dr. Lauren Kempton. The topics to be explored for January and February are civil rights, Black-Jewish relations, and current events.

USY Scavenger Hunt

Kick off 2006 in style by joining USY's annual Limousine Scavenger Hunt on Motse'ei Shabbat Saturday night 8 January, a guaranteed evening of fun. Look out for forms and further information in the mail! For more information or to reserve your seat call Jessica Bell at 203 671 8005. For general information on USY, contact usy@beki.org.

This event is open to youth in grades 8 ½ to 12. We can't wait to see you there!

And the Winner Is...:

Thanksgiving Pie orders set an all-time record of 280 pies, many of which were donated to people in need. Thanks to absentee orders from Florida and a hand recount, BEKI retains its title as Pie Purchasing Champion. Try again next year, B'nai Jacob. The winner: BEKI-BJ Youth, and everyone who enjoyed the pies.

Eighth Grade Ezra Israel Trip

Every year, the Ezra 8th grade class completes its Ezra experience with a trip to Israel. The class is responsible for raising money to fund part of the cost of the trip. This year, the 8th graders are required to find 16 hours of work at \$7 per hour and donate the money they earn to the trip fund. You can help by hiring an 8th grader for babysitting, leaf raking and bagging, pet walking, painting, pesach preparation, or anything else you can think of appropriate for a 13-year-old. Most students live in Westville, Woodbride

and Hamden. Please email me your needs and I will try to match you up with a student. My email is DRosner13@aol.com, or you can call me at home 387-2902. DMR

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Rotation Schedule Available

The "Master Rotation List" for Shabbat & Festival service participation was mailed in December to participating BEKI households. (Additional copies are available from the BEKI office at 389-2108 x14, in the literature rack, or at www.beki.org/rotate.html). The list is the schedule of services and programs to be led by volunteers. If you would like to lead a children's or adult service, or learn to do so, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org).

The "Master Rotation List" offers only a partial picture of the volunteerism at BEKI. Not listed there are the over fifty Torah Readers and the Torah Reading coordinators, the leaders of weekday services, those who prepare BEKI mailings, the work of the Board and its committees, the work of the Sisterhood and Religious School, the Renovations Committee and Qiddush Committee, and much more.

The Teen Minyan (now in its second year), is not listed, as its participants arrange for leaders from meeting to meeting.

Leaders of the *shaharit* (morning) service on Shabbat may sometimes be asked to yield leadership of the Torah service (*hotsaat haTorah*) to benei mitzva students. Leadership of this segment of the service is not scheduled separately.

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. Purim is observed on Monday night 13 March and Tuesday 14 March 2006 in New Haven and other cities that were not walled in the thirteenth century BCE.

Reading Torah at BEKI

If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read, contact the Torah Reading Coordinator through the synagogue office at 389-2108 x14 or through Rabbi Tilsen at jjtilsen@beki.org. Marsha Beller is the Coordinator for Shemot (Exodus), which we read 21 January – 25 March 2006.

Friendly Face?

If you might like to serve as a "Greeter" on a Shabbat or Festival morning, to welcome guests, direct visitors, and assist those with special needs, please contact Ritual Committee Chairperson Steven Fraade at 397-9430 or steven.fraade@yale.edu, or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

-- *Shammai taught: Greet every person with a cheerful face (Avot 1:15)*

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 normally allow the donor to deduct the appreciated value of the security if it has been held for more than one year.

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). Additional tax benefits were provided by Congress for the year 2005 for some taxpayers. Further, unlike other deductions, charitable deductions usually can be enjoyed even by those subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). For some people, January presents a new opportunity to contribute in a way that is deductible in the new year. It is also helpful to BEKI to receive your payment at an early date. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

Viruses Available: Pick Up at Synagogue or Acquire by Email

To reduce transmission of illness-causing viruses and bacteria, some people refrain from shaking hands or embracing. Please do not be offended if others refrain from contact greetings on Shabbat or other occasions. Perhaps we can invent a "Secret BEKI Handshake" that does not involve actual contact.

BEKI email addresses, like those of many other fine institutions, have been

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

“spoofed,” that is, used as the “sender” address in forged messages containing viruses or spam. The “sender” information can be easily set by any user and there is nothing we can do about it. Some viruses read the addresses in a computer’s “in box” or address book and then send the virus-laden message or spam to every other address, falsifying the addresses of legitimate users. That is why you often get email with spoofed addresses of people or

institutions you know. This means a mutual friend or contact may have a virus. Legitimate email from Rabbi Tilsen always includes a subject beginning “BEKI:” or another meaningful subject line. Actual email sent by BEKI is checked by current anti-virus software. “If in doubt, throw it out.”

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9a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Mondays:
7a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Tuesdays:
7a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Wednesdays:
7a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Thursdays:
8:15a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Fridays:
7a Shaharit
6p Maariv

Saturdays:
9:15a Shaharit

See calendar for Minha-Maariv

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January 2006

1 Tevet 5766 - 2 Shevat 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Rosh Hodesh - Hanuka VII No Religious School 4:00pm Hanukah Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Tevet</p>	<p>2 Hanuka VIII 7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Tevet</p>	<p>3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 Tevet</p>	<p>4 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 Tevet</p>	<p>5 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 Tevet</p>	<p>6 4:26pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 Tevet</p>	<p>7 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Roten 4:20pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 Tevet</p>
<p>8 9:00am Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 Tevet</p>	<p>9 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:00pm KINHARA Program 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 Tevet</p>	<p>10 Fast of Tevet 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Tevet</p>	<p>11 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 Tevet</p>	<p>12 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 Tevet</p>	<p>13 4:29pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 Tevet</p>	<p>14 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush : TBA 4:30pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 Tevet</p>
<p>15 No Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Tevet</p>	<p>16 9:45a Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16 Tevet</p>	<p>17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 Tevet</p>	<p>18 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Tevet</p>	<p>19 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">19 Tevet</p>	<p>20 4:37pm Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 Tevet</p>	<p>21 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Sisterhood 4:40pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 Tevet</p>
<p>22 9:00am Religious School Elm City Girs Choir Concert</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 Tevet</p>	<p>23 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 Tevet</p>	<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 Tevet</p>	<p>25 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 Tevet</p>	<p>26 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26 Tevet</p>	<p>27 4:45pm Candle Lighting 6:45pm Winter Shabbat Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 Tevet</p>	<p>28 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Rose 4:45pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p style="text-align: center;">28 Tevet</p>
<p>29 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Brunch with Mark Oppenheimer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 Tevet</p>	<p>30 Rosh Hodesh 7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Shevat</p>	<p>31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Shevat</p>	<h3>Calendar Notes in January</h3> <p>On Monday 16 January 2006, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, morning services are from 9:00a to 9:45a; the Rashi Study Group meets from 9:45a to 10:30a; and the office is closed. Other services are at their usual times.</p>			

Shabbatot

Darshanim in January

A special guest will serve as darshan (Torah commentator) on Shabbat 14 January, *parashat* VaYehi

A special guest will serve as darshan on Shabbat 21 January, *parashat* Shemot, BEKI Sisterhood Shabbat

Shabbat Shalom

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

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the

text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shahrut* morning service.

Monday 6 January

KINAHARA: Topics in Kitchen Procedures & Supervision

Monday 6 January 2006 6:00p (immediately following 5:45p to 5:55p Maariv evening service). Presented by KINAHARA: Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly. For people who work in BEKI kitchen (special events, Qiddush Committee, Religious School, USY & Kadima, Sisterhood, mashgihim).

Wednesdays

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

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. 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. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233.4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Writing Group

The writing group meets on each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Each week a group of interested writers come together to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage both writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the writers come together with a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org

AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly 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. It is currently engaged in a 12 & 12 Study – Discussion. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or sokolow@snet.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."

Required Reading & Reference Books on Web

A listing of basic Judaic reference and introductory works is posted on BEKI's website at www.beki.org/books.html with a brief annotation by Rabbi Tilsen.

Sisterhood News

BEKI Sisterhood has purchased new black (& white for Yom Kippur) kippot for the congregation and was pleased to sponsor the refreshments on Simchat Torah.

Torah Fund

So far this year we have three benefactors: Barbara Cushen, Violet Ludwig & Rita Sela. This category of giving supports The Jewish Theological Seminary in a great variety of programs:

The Library of the JTS, founded in 1893 is recognized today as the greatest Jewish library in the western hemisphere. It has a collection of more than 385,000 volumes that span the 10th century to the 21st century. Its new website with a very extensive display of rare Judaica images is: www.jtslibrarytreasures.org . On-line catalog: catalog.jtsa.edu at www.jtsa.edu/library .

Your support of the Seminary is appreciated and our Sisterhood is and

hopefully will continue to be a generous contributor.

Purchase cards for all occasions (births, weddings, bar & bat mitzvah's, sympathy) at \$3.00 each, from Barbara Cushen at 407-0314. Each card supports the Seminary.

Thanks to the following who purchased cards in November month:

Mazel Tov to:

- Helen & Richard Ross on grandson Matthew's Bar Mitzvah from Barbara Cushen
- Sally Weichbrodt on her birthday from Hyla Greenberg
- Roger Colten & Sarah Berry on birth of twins from Ruthie Greenblatt
- Daniel & Sharon Prober on their nest of "eagle scouts" from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Barbara Cushen
- Mimi Glenn being honored by Hadassah at "Hand of Healing" by Adele Tyson
- Happy New Year to Esther Rose from Hyla Greenberg
- Good health & happiness in her new home to Sue Cohen from Adele Tyson

Get Well to:

- Grace Geisinger from the BEKI Heses Committee
- Gerry Genezer from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To John Malin from Natan, Lori, Beth & Justin Weinstein

In Memory of:

- Carol Mitnick to Larry Mitnick & Family from Bea & Milton Smirnoff, Stanley Saxe, Sheila Caplan, Ruth & Sam Rafterowitz, Adele Tyson
- Philip Voigt to Susan Voigt & Family from the BEKI Heses Committee, Hyla Greenberg, Louis Petrillo, Natan, Lori, Beth & Justin Weinstein, Susan & Victor Stein, Adele Tyson, Ruthie Greenblatt, Inge & Lenny Fish
- Henry Rosser to his Family from Sheila Caplan
- David Rogovin to his Family from Sheila Caplan
- Henry Barr to Robert Barr from Gladys Lipkin
- Leo Mayne Fine to Robert & Susan Amatruda from Louis Petrillo
- Sharon Chasin-Hoxley to Mrs. Shirley Chasin from Adele Tyson
- Belle Weiner to Mrs. Linda Margolis from Adele Tyson

Purim Is Coming

This year we will again help you celebrate the Purim mitzva of *mishloah manot* -- the sending of gifts -- and *matanot la-eyonim* -- 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 in the mail. (Order forms are available at www.beki.org/forms.html and will be on their way via *schleppost*.) Start making your list. There is enough time to check it twice!