

BEKI Bulletin

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July-August 2002 Vol. 8 Issue 7-8

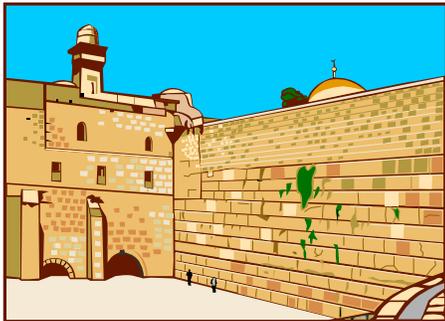
ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Av-Elul 5762

Tisha BeAv at BEKI

The fast day of *Tisha Be'Av* ("ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av") will be observed on Wednesday night 17 July & Thursday morning 18 July. Minha afternoon services are from 8:10p to 8:25p. The traditional *Maariv* (evening) service begins at 8:30p. The *Shaharit* (morning) service on Thursday 17 July is from 8:15a to 9:30a. The evening and morning services include the reading of the Biblical Book of *Eikha* (Lamentations). The fast is from sundown Wednesday until 9:00p Thursday night. As a sign of mourning, many refrain from wearing leather shoes and ostentatious clothing, and do not enjoy music, intimate physical relations or entertainment.

Tisha Be'Av commemorates the destruction of the first two Temples and other tragedies that have taken place in our long and glorious history. On



Tisha Be'Av in 1290, King Edward I signed an edict expelling the Jews from England. Likewise, the expulsion of Jews from Spain occurred on that date in 1492. The fast is the only full day fast on the Hebrew calendar besides Yom Kippur. Those with medical conditions that require oral medications or eating are urged to consult their medical and rabbinic authorities.

Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe

Rabbi Alan H. Lovins will again serve as our *Hazzan Rishon* (lead cantor) for the High Holy Days. Dr. Alan Lovins, a BEKI member, is a graduate of Yale University and holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Columbia University. He was ordained as a rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and lives in Westville with his wife, Trish Loving. In addition to Rabbi Lovins, the services will again be lead by BEKI members serving as volunteer hazzanim. For the tenth consecutive year, Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services.



Rabbi Alan Lovins

The Conservative-Masorti Selihot Penitential service will be held at BEKI on Saturday night 31 August. A program will begin at 9:00p with Havdala. The Selihot service begins at 11:00p and ends at midnight.

Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services will be held on Sunday 1 September, at 10:00a at [Beth El Memorial Park](#) in Hamden and at 11:00a at [Keser Israel Memorial Park](#) in West Haven. Families who wish to memorialize loved ones buried in distant cities are welcome to attend this service along with families with loved ones buried locally. Maps and verbal directions to the cemeteries can be found at www.beki.org/findbeki.html.

Continued on page 4

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.

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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A Message from Stephen Pincus

Immediate Past-President

My wife Amy and I moved to New Haven nearly nine years ago. Our first visit to BEKI was Rabbi Tilsen's first Shabbat.

Since Rabbi Tilsen's arrival, there has been a true renaissance in the life of the congregation. By every measurement, the synagogue is doing very well. Spiritually, there are more people participating in services than ever before, especially on Saturday morning when there are frequently as many as six different services. Educationally, BEKI is providing opportunities for learning for every generation of members — from the Children's Shabbat Havura to the revitalized Religious School to the ever-growing Benei Mitzvah Program to numerous Adult Education offerings. Members are participating in family education programs, award-winning Kadima & USY chapters, Sisterhood meetings, book club discussions, and volunteering for Habitat for Humanity. Financially, we continue to raise record amounts of money every year which allows BEKI to balance its books and expand its services to members while keeping

dues affordable.

Very little of what makes BEKI work what it is could be done without the willingness of members to volunteer thousands of hours of time each year. BEKI is a unique place in that newcomers are welcome to participate in the life of this synagogue right away. In fact, the majority of our members have joined in the last nine years, and the majority incoming-Executive Board comprises volunteers who have joined in the past five years. For me, participating in the life of this synagogue has been one of the most personally rewarding experiences of my life. If you are not yet active in the synagogue, I encourage you to think about getting more involved.

My family and I will be relocating to Pittsburgh in July and thus, I will not be renewing my term as President. It has truly been an honor to serve you as Board Member, Vice President and President. I would like to express thanks to the members of the Board and countless others for all of their work in making this year as successful as it was. In particular, I want to especially thank Rabbi Tilsen and Past President Brian Karsif for their guidance and the confidence they have shown in me.

Past Presidents Honored at Kol Nidre

Our Kol Nidre service, held immediately before the sunset beginning Yom Kippur, Sunday 15 September, is an ancient solemn ceremony that seeks to address unfulfilled commitments and our limitations. The aura of the ceremony is enhanced by the opening of the ark and the holding of Torah scrolls as the Hazzan chants the Kol Nidre formula. The Torah and additional Sacred Scrolls are held by leaders of the Congregation. Among those leaders who may hold a scroll are Past Presidents Brian Karsif, Saul Bell, Milton Smirnoff, David Sagerman, Alan Gelbert, Herbert Etkind, Andy Weinstein, Adele Tyson, Nadav Sela, Herb Galvin and Paul Goodwin, along with current president Gila Reinstein.

Alternative Torah-Reading Planned Yom Kippur Afternoon

After thoughtful discussion, the Ritual Committee, with guidance from Rabbi Tilsen, has decided that at this year's Yom Kippur afternoon Torah service, we will use the alternative Torah reading provided in the Mahzor, Leviticus 19:1-18, instead of the more common reading, Leviticus 18.

There are several significant reasons to make this change. The alternative reading, called the "Holiness Code," contains some of Judaism's core beliefs and ethics. Beginning with the familiar words, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God, am holy," it reaffirms the centrality of monotheism, respect for parents, reverence for Shabbat, kindness to those less fortunate, honesty, justice, and more. It concludes, "Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord." As an added advantage, this portion resonates with the theme of the Yom Kippur morning haftara, which also emphasizes moral behavior.

Many find the standard reading for Yom Kippur Minha to be problematic. Members of BEKI have asserted, and the majority of those at the Ritual Committee meeting agreed that the description of homosexuality as "an abhorrence" is offensive, does not reflect our beliefs as Conservative Jews and may alienate Gay and Lesbian members of our community. While we generally do not avoid reading the problematic passages in Scripture, the Yom Kippur afternoon setting provides little opportunity for analysis, discussion or commentary. Furthermore, the subject matter of the more common reading—*forbidden sexual relations*—does not seem relevant to the modern observance of Yom Kippur.

Rabbi Tilsen has found no compelling halakhic (legal) or other reason against the change. The committee decided to adopt the alternative reading this year. We will continue to read Leviticus 18 when it arises in the normal reading cycle and will continue to discuss our struggle to come to grips with this passage in light of our acceptance of the Gay and Lesbian members of our community.

Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe

Continued from page 1

Rosh HaShana services begin Friday 6 September at 7:00p. Morning services begin at 8:30a. Information on celebrating the High Holy Days at BEKI, including schedules and ticketing, will be mailed in August. For a complete schedule of services, please call the office at 389-2108 or see the schedule at www.beki.org/schedule.html.

Tickets are required for adult entrance to most services. Among other reasons, this is to ensure the safety and security of the Congregation. Full-time students, military personnel on active duty and police personnel may enter upon presentation of proper identification and do not need tickets. Children should be pre-registered but do not need tickets.

Additional information will appear in the September Bulletin. *For information on seating and ticketing, call 389-2108 ext. 14.*

July & August Schedule Notes

The afternoon service on Wednesday 17 July will be at 8:10p, in preparation for Tisha BeAv.

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A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

Rita Sela, Betsy Rosenberg and I spent a day learning with Cherie Koller Fox under the auspices of Keshet LaMishpacha of the Jewish Federation (Family Education grant). We focused on planning our Family Education programs here at BEKI in seven-year cycles and on the major theme of Mitzvot. Then sitting at the lovely Sisterhood dinner honoring Darryl Kupperstock, and learning of George Posener's wonderful donation to support Kadima and United Synagogue Youth, all the pieces came together. "What is a hero?" asked Rena Cheskis-Gold when she gave the Devar Torah on Darryl and her amazing service and leadership to BEKI.

I believe we have another hero in our midst, George Posener. I had the good fortune to spend an afternoon with Mr. Posener in preparation for the BEKI Religious School graduation. Mr. Posener always gives each Religious School student a book and we were planning on the age appropriate purchases. We started to talk and Mr. Posener shared a bit of his personal history. He is one of six children and mentioned that "whatever I was taught, I got from my parents." Mr. Posener went on to describe how each week his family would contribute to their family Tzedaka box, a lesson that George certainly learned well as evidenced by his many charitable contributions to Yale, to the area hospitals, to Ezra Academy and to us here at BEKI.

Perhaps what struck me most was Mr. Posener's discussion of his work ethic; a lesson for us all.

His first job was to light the streetlights. He often worked with snow to his knees. He had no toys so he used his ingenuity and built a scooter from one roller skate.

As a young adult he was the first man in the state of Connecticut to work for Allstate Insurance.



Dr. Lauren Kempton

The afternoon with Mr. Posener crystallized my thinking on what is a mitzva and who are our mitzva heroes. Mr. Posener is certainly a mitzva hero to us at BEKI. His life models good deeds and his generosity enables us to conduct, enrich and expand many programs for our youth here at the synagogue. I left Mr. Posener with these words of advice from him: "God said to Moses, if I give you the Torah it will never be forgotten." Mr. Posener continued by saying that if you teach Torah to our children, the learning will go on and on. So a mitzvah hero is a role model and a teacher and giver of good deeds. Thank you George G. Posener for your teachings and generosity.

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Israeli Human Rights Activist to Visit BEKI

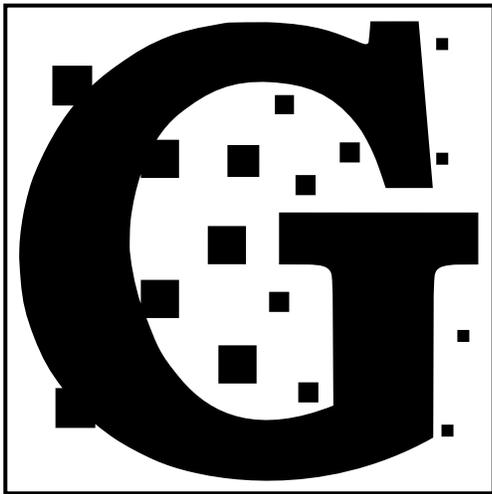
In Mandatory Palestine, the British government used house demolitions as a sanction for terrorists, believing that it was an effective deterrent. Upon assuming the responsibility of administering the "West Bank" territories of Judea and Samaria, the Government of Israel adopted the existing legal framework for governance, including the mechanism of house demolitions. By the late twentieth century, such demolitions came to be viewed as a form of collective punishment in violation of fundamental human rights. Israeli human rights organizations have been working to end their government's use of house demolitions.

On Shabbat afternoon 13 July, at 12:30p, following qiddush, Fred Schlomka will discuss the situation on the ground in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza and his work with The Israeli Committee

Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). He will present an analysis of the continuing Israeli military governance, possibilities for peace and reconciliation, and ICAHD's practical steps towards this goal. Details of "Right to a Home . . . and a Homeland Global Campaign to Rebuild Palestinian Homes" will be presented along with information for those interested to become involved.

Fred Schlomka has had a dual career in both the business world and with nonprofit organizations on both sides of the Atlantic. After five generations in Palestine his family moved to Scotland where he was raised and schooled. His multicultural experience began at sixteen when he embarked on a three-year tour of Europe and North Africa, working, learning, and associating with a wide variety of peoples. After moving to the USA in 1972 he began a series of building construction businesses. In the 1980s and 90s Fred divided his time between the USA and Israel, becoming involved in a variety of activities including disaster reconstruction after Hurricane Andrew in Florida in 1993, and retrofitting Israeli homes against gas attacks during the Gulf War. Fred was also a founding member of the Twin Cities CoHousing Network in Minnesota and a Principal of Cultural Gateways International. He moved permanently to Israel with his wife and two children in 2000. As an Israeli citizen Fred continued his work towards a just solution to the conflict and an end to the Israeli control over the West Bank and Gaza. His political activism has been expressed through joining food convoys to besieged villages, demonstrations at military checkpoints, planting trees for the Bedouin, and rebuilding demolished Palestinian homes. For the past year, he has been Operations Manager for ICAHD, responsible for financial affairs and day to day operations. He can also be found on the streets, checkpoints and demolition sites of the West Bank.

BEKI members hold diverse views on the best approaches to Israel's conflict with the Palestinian Arabs. Respectful and honest discussion and debate is one way that we improve our own understanding and share our viewpoints and experience with others.



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With sorrow we note the passing of

- Edward Lettick, uncle of Robert & Janice Lettick
- Max Romanoff, father of Donna & Sidney Levine

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mimi Glenn will celebrate a Bat Torah observance on Shabbat Ekev, 27 July 2002, during the morning services. Mimi is a dedicated leader and volunteer in the BEKI, Jewish and civic community. She has especially been active on the BEKI Tiquin Olam – Social Action Committee. Mimi lives in New Haven with her husband Ephrem.



Mimi Glenn

Mimi will lead services, read Scripture and teach Torah during the services, which begin at 9:15a. The Bar- and Bat Torah ceremony is an adult celebration marking a new phase in an adult's participation in the religious community. It affirms the celebrants' commitment to Jewish learning and Jewish life. Akin to the Siyyum (the celebration which formally marks the completion of study of a rabbinical text), the Bar- or Bat Torah observance recognizes a significant step in an adult's Jewish education and personal growth in mitzvot. Please join Mimi and her family on this special day.

Mazal Tov to

- Joseph & Ravi Avni-Singer, and Nathan and Lital, on the birth of their son and brother Eran Moshe Avni-Singer on Shabbat 8 June 2002 and on his being entered into the covenant through brit mila
- Richard & Rachel Goodwin, and Paul Goodwin, Susan & Rob Lerman, and Debi Goodwin, on the naming of their daughter, granddaughter and niece, Jessie Claire Goodwin (Haya Sara) at BEKI
- Brian Karsif on his graduation from Columbia University School of Public Health with a Masters in Public Health
- Gabriel Reinstein, son of BEKI President Gila Reinstein, on his graduation from MIT in computer science
- Alisa Zlotoff, daughter of Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper, and of the late Beverly Zlotoff, on her graduation from Vassar College
- Ezra Academy Graduates Jonathan Ezra Beller, Leora Bezahler, David Brotman and Ariella Cheskis-Gold
- Rabbi Elliot B. Gertel, BEKI rabbi from 1982-1988, on the publication of his book *What Jews Know About Salvation*. The book explores the meaning of salvation and its application from the perspective of Judaism, and mentions BEKI and some of its staff members and former staff members
- Margaret Martin on winning the Silver medal in swimming relay in the Special Olympics

LeHitraot: Farewell to

- Stephen & Amy Pincus and family, moving to Pittsburgh, PA
- Jonathan & Yoko Silk and family, moving to 10936 Fairbanks Way, Culver City, CA 90230. Jonathan will join the faculty of UCLA
- To Offer & Paula Lieberman and family, returning to 5 Yeshayahu St., Haifa 35702 Israel (offerl@ie.technion.ac.il)

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BEKI Youth Eligible for Free Israel Trip

KOACH, the College Outreach Department of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, invites students ages 18-26 to participate in the KOACH Birthright Israel 2002 program. Students who have never been to Israel on a peer educational program are invited to apply for this free 10-day travel and study mission, scheduled for early January 2003. (A required deposit of \$250 is refundable following the return from Israel. Covered expenses do not include travel to and from New York from other American cities.)

This is a marvelous opportunity to experience Israel through the prism of ancient and contemporary texts, walk in the footsteps of our ancestors and have first-hand experience with the

USY News

Join us! BEKI-BJ USY is open to second-semester eight graders thru twelfth graders. Call us at 389-6077, or e-mail our Membership VP at clem1010@aol.com.

Masorti Movement. The trip will observe Kashrut and Shabbat and the group will daven regularly.

Registration will take place on-line now through October, on the KOACH website, www.koach.org. For questions and more information, check the KOACH website or contact Rabbi Elyse Winick at winick@uscj.org or 781-784-8434.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth," commented Rabbi J-J Tilsen. "My cousin went on the Birthright Israel 2000 program and thought it was tremendous. I encourage any eligible BEKI youth to go."

Tiqun Olam – Social Action at BEKI Habitat for Humanity

BEKI has joined Habitat for Humanity's "Covenant of Faith." We are volunteering to work with other local congregations in rebuilding two houses on Rosette Street in New Haven. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to work at the site. BEKI volunteers will work on Sundays 28 July and 25 August from 11:00a to 4:00p. If you make financial contributions to Habitat, please designate them as "Covenant Build/BEKI." For information contact Elisabeth Youngerman at jongot@aol.com (248-5832).



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Rotations List

The "Master Rotation List" for Shabbat & Festival service participation was mailed in late June to some households on the BEKI membership list. (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 compilation of parts to be lead by those who volunteered for the services listed. If you would like to lead a children's or adult service, or learn to do so, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 ext. 10 (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 the Late Friday service and weekday services, those who prepare BEKI mailings, the work of the Board and its committees, the work of the Sisterhood and Religious School, and much more.

BEKI has a long history of volunteerism. Over the past decades, much of the building was built and maintained by its members' own labor. Food preparation for programs and cleanup was done by members. In our day, many have now extended this "Jew-it-yourself" approach to the worship and teaching services as well. This has earned BEKI the epithet of "The People's Temple."

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July-August 2002

Renovations Update

Phase 1B Renovations are in progress, and you may notice construction activity at the rear of the building near the loading dock during July and August. Phase 1B includes the installation of a new central Air Conditioning plant. As the project advances, check "BEKI Happenings" for updates that may affect parking or climate control. The project is planned not to disrupt the provision of air conditioning on Shabbat mornings. Should any disruption be expected, notice will be given if possible. Hugh Fryer is working closely with President Stephen Pincus in managing this project.



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BEKI Events

July - Tammuz - Av

5762

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
	21 Tammuz 1	22 Tammuz 2	23 Tammuz 3	24 Tammuz 4	25 Tammuz 5	26 Tammuz 6
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan BRS=BEKI Religious Schl	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Independence Day Office Closed 9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 8:11p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Qiddush Honoring</i> Jonathan & Yoko Silk 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
27 Tammuz 7	28 Tammuz 8	29 Tammuz 9	1 Av 10	2 Av 11	3 Av 12	4 Av 13
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p Executive Bd.	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Rosh Hodesh 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 8:00p Late Service 8:08p Candles	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 12:30p ICAHD Forum 5:45p Minha
5 Av 14	6 Av 15	7 Av 16	8 Av 17	9 Av 18	10 Av 19	11 Av 20
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00-7:30p Mashgiah Training	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Erev Tisha B'Av 7:00a Shaharit 8:10p Minha 8:30p Maariv	Tisha B'Av 8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 8:04p Candles 20s/30s Havura Group Dinner (by RSVP)	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Gila Reinstein</i> <i>Board of Directors Installation</i> <i>Qiddush Sponsored by Tina Rose</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
12 Av 21	13 Av 22	14 Av 23	15 Av 24	16 Av 25	17 Av 26	18 Av 27
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00-7:30p Mashgiah Training 7:45p General Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:58p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Mimi Glenn Bat Torah</i> <i>Qiddush Sponsored by Mimi Glenn</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
19 Av 28	20 Av 29	21 Av 30	22 Av 31			
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00-7:30p Mashgiah Training	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33	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

BEKI Events

August - Av - Elul

5762

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
				23 Av 1	24 Av 2	25 Av 3
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan BRS=BEKI Religious Sch	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	Email Addresses: Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Edu. Director: lkempton@beki.org Benei Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org website: www:beki.org	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:50p Candles	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
26 Av 4	27 Av 5	28 Av 6	29 Av 7	30 Av 8	1 Elul 9	2 Elul 10
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p Executive Bd.	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:42p Candles	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
3 Elul 11	4 Elul 12	5 Elul 13	6 Elul 14	7 Elul 15	8 Elul 16	9 Elul 17
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:33p Candles	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha <i>Galen Lowell Bar Mitzva</i>
10 Elul 18	11 Elul 19	12 Elul 20	13 Elul 21	14 Elul 22	15 Elul 23	16 Elul 24
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p Executive Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:22p Candles	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
17 Elul 25	18 Elul 26	19 Elul 27	20 Elul 28	21 Elul 29	22 Elul 30	23 Elul 31
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School Begins 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p General Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:11p Candles	<i>Selihot</i> 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha 9:00p-12:00a Selihot <i>Community Service at BEKI</i>

Where There's a Will...

Wills and estate plans are not just for the wealthy. Financial advisors suggest that anyone with children – regardless of age – and anyone who cares what happens to their financial resources or property after their death, must have a formal will or estate plan. Even if a donor leaves just 10% or 5% or even 1% to BEKI, it can make a big impact on the Congregation's future. Designating BEKI as a beneficiary in one's will demonstrates to one's heirs and neighbors the importance of *tzedaka* (charity), of BEKI, and of the continuity of the Jewish People.

If you would like information on including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please contact your financial advisor or estate planning attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at 787-1633 (sdsij@aol.com). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or David Tein at The Jewish Foundation at 387-2424 x304 (dtein@jewishnewhaven.org) for a confidential discussion.

20s-30s Havura Enjoys Dinner, Brunch

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 every few weeks at BEKI for Shabbat services, dinner and *shmoozing* and informal discussion.

An Invitation to Gay & Lesbian Bulletin Readers

Local Gay Rights activist John Anderson is interested in learning of the experiences of Gay and Lesbian couples and individuals at BEKI and in the organized Jewish community, including other local synagogues. If you would like to discuss this, please contact John at 397-3382, latindoc@att.net, or 3 Barberry Lane, Woodbridge CT 06525.

BEKI is exploring the possibility of hosting a forum on this subject. If you are interested in organizing or participating in this project, please contact John Anderson, or contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

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Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

Mashgiah Training in July

Those interested in learning to serve as *mashgi-him* (Kashrut Supervisors) at BEKI and at local Conservative synagogues and schools are invited to participate in a Mashgiah Training Program to be held on Monday nights in July. The program will meet on 15, 22 and 29 July from 6:00p to 7:30p. The Program is presented by [KINAHARA](#): The Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly and is sponsored in part by a grant from the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. For information, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Darshanim (Torah Commentators) in July & August

Gila Reinstein: 20 July parashat VaEthanah

Mimi Glenn: 27 July parashat Ekev

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to participate for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the peshat of the Biblical text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, lit-

erary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group has been meeting weekly since 1994.

AA Meeting

A Thursday night [AA meeting](#) is held 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. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at drjays.nai@rcn.com.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's [Rosenkrantz Family 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** and **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, 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.

Attend Daily Services

The *Shaharit* (morning) service is held at BEKI every Sunday morning at 9:00a and every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 7:00a, and every Thursday morning at 8:15a, in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. *Minha* (afternoon) and *Maariv* (evening) services are held at 5:45p Sunday through Thursday. These daily services provide the opportunity to fulfill numerous mitzvot (religious imperatives) such as daily recitation of the Shema and Amida prayers, Torah study, *Tzedaka* (charity), *nihum avelim* (comforting mourners), and attendance at the House of Study. In addition, the services provide a structure for per-

sonal spiritual development and fulfillment as well as an opportunity to improve one's facility in the Hebrew language.

Sometimes there are services for which attendance is one or two short of the minyan (quorum) needed to recite certain communal prayers. If you'd like to be that "tenth" (or maybe eighth...) person, come on a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning. And if you just want to come regardless of what anyone else is doing, then just come. While only legally adult Jews are counted toward the quorum, all are encouraged to attend both for their own sake and for the sake of adding to the spiritual strength of the Congregation.

BEKI at Whalley & Harrison

Two years ago, the traffic signal at the corner of Whalley Avenue and Harrison Street in front of BEKI was upgraded from a flashing amber light to a full three-color control signal. When leaving Harrison Street, be sure to wait for the green light, and wait for crossing traffic to stop. On Shabbat, the pedestrian cross light is timed to give an exclusive pedestrian phase for 17 seconds every two minutes. Please wait for the walk light and for traffic to halt before crossing.

Children's Shabbat Havura

The Children's Shabbat Havura meets every Shabbat morning from 10:45a to noon in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Designed to address the spiritual and social needs of preschool children, the Havura meets concurrently with [K-2 Kehila, Junior Congregation, Cosmic Conversations](#), the [Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan](#) and the main Sabbath service. Following the half-hour of songs, stories, prayers and dance, the children have their own qiddush refreshments and then enjoy supervised play until they join the adult worship for the Concluding Service and qiddush.

The Havura enjoys strong support from parents and the Synagogue. Currently about 70 children and their parents actively participate in the Havura. Visitors have come from across New England to observe this program as a model for their own synagogues.

Meeting the spiritual and social needs of pre-

The traffic signal uses a microwave sensor to detect vehicles leaving BEKI on Harrison. If your vehicle is traveling very slowly, it may not be detected. If that happens, carefully back up about ten meters and drive forward to the signal at normal speed, then wait for the green light.

Thanks to Mayor John DeStefano and his Parking and Traffic Director Brian McGrath for helping to make these busy intersections safer. Thanks also to Alderman Phil Voigt, Susan Voigt, Eric Beller of blessed memory, and others for working with Mayor DeStefano and Mr. McGrath to implement these improvements.

school children is an obligation of the Jewish community and an important part of the Synagogue's mission. The *Havura* (Friendship Circle) links the children to one another, to other concerned Jewish parents, and to the Synagogue. The Havura enjoys the active participation of parents who themselves are enriched by the experience. For many adults, the Children's Shabbat Havura serves as their introduction to active participation in the Synagogue Community.

If you are interested in learning more about the BEKI Children's Shabbat Havura, come any *Shabbat* (Saturday) morning at 10:45a and see for yourself. Or contact Miriam Benson at 389-6137 or mirbenson@aol.com, who, along with Ellen Cohen, coordinates the program. You can also contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org, the staff person who supports this parent cooperative.

Cemetery Cleanup

Volunteers are welcome to clean and tend the Beth El Memorial Park and Keser Israel Memorial Park. Your one hour or more, once a week, once a month, once a year or once, would be appreciated. To volunteer please contact David Sagerman at 389-2108 x57 or davdorsagerman@webtv.net.