The fast day of Tisha Be’Av ("ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av") will be observed on Wednesday 6 August 2003. Minha afternoon services are from 7:45p to 8:00p. The traditional Maariv (evening) service begins at 8:00p. The Shaharit (morning) service on Thursday 7 August 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 observed from sundown Wednesday night until 8:45p 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.

### Tisha BeAv at BEKI

**A Midsummer Night’s Gala**

**Launch of Campaign at Evening Affair**

You’re invited to dress up and step out for a summer evening of cool fun at BEKI, Sunday night 20 July 7p–10p

Celebrate the launch of BEKI’s renovation with a sophisticated mix of drinks and hors d’oeuvres, live music, surprise guest speaker, door prizes, dessert and coffee

Childcare will be available on site

Watch for your invitation in the mail
Food Donations
Food Donations for local food charities can be left in the BEKI coatroom. Canned and other dry packaged foods are accepted. Clean out your cupboard - if that can or box has been there for a year and you haven’t used it, you may as well give it away.

Rivercliff Fuel, Inc.
155 Wheeler’s Farms Road
Milford, CT
877-9101
All your fuel needs

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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Milford, CT
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All your fuel needs

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Harriet Levitanksy (203) 777-8966

BEKI Bulletin 2
A Message From BEKI President Gila Reinstein

It’s summer! That means long, hot days and well-deserved vacations. It also signals the start of a new year, according to BEKI’s institutional calendar. Our official year began 1 July, with a balanced budget, a new (but remarkably familiar) Board of Trustees, and many exciting plans for the months ahead.

I want to thank you for entrusting me with the leadership of BEKI for a second year. It’s an honor to serve as your President. I learned a lot in my first year and worked much harder than Stephen Pincus told me I would have to, but I also enjoyed myself far more than I anticipated. Getting to know so many caring, generous people has been a delight and an inspiration. Before this year, I really didn’t know how much time and energy so many people gave to the synagogue. Now I have a better idea, and I want to thank you for all that you’ve done in the past and will, I trust, continue to do in the future.

To the members of the General and Executive Boards, my special thanks for your loyal attendance at long meetings, for your great ideas, and for the hard work that transformed those ideas into actions.

If the level of preparation is an indicator, once again our Annual Meeting will have been a success. The Silent Auction was bigger and better than last year, thanks to Donna Levine, Carl Goldfield, and everyone who donated and bid on goods and services.

Later this month we will hold a Midsummer Night’s Gala on Sunday 20 July 7p to 10p, featuring drinks and hors d’oeuvres, dessert and coffee, special guests, live music, and other entertainment. It will be a chance to dress up, step out, and celebrate the beginning of our Phase II renovations. Tickets are not required, admission is free, and childcare will be provided. If you need a ride, contact the office. Come!

If all goes according to plan, this will be the last BEKI social event before the parking lot is excavated, rebuilt, and resurfaced. Now that’s something to celebrate.

Gila Reinstein

Toda uLeHitraot

Mary Ellen Mack, our capable office manager, has decided to accept another position and completed her work at BEKI in June.

This past year, I have enjoyed working with Mary Ellen and getting to know her, and I’ll miss her very much. I expect most of you feel the same way. Although this is a loss for us, her next job is an excellent career move, and I wish her well. I hope she’ll stay in touch and come back to visit us often.

A search committee is looking for a new office manager. If you know someone who might be interested in the job and who could rise to its many challenges, please let me know. We are making short-term arrangements for office coverage, as well.

Synagogue and office functions at BEKI will go on uninterrupted, but please have patience and understanding if there are some bumps in the road as we make the transition to a new office manager.

Gila Reinstein, President

Mary Ellen Mack

Office Hours by Appointment
(203) 389-9174

RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW
Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychotherapy

214 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525
A Message from the Education Director

Our Mitzva Hero Brunch and Program is now a sweet memory.

So we want to reflect about one of the themes of mitzva heroes, those people behind the scenes at our shul. These people keep all our services and our myriad programs up and running.

The first person who comes to mind is Clarence, a man of much action and few words. Whatever we need for a Model Seder, Purim Cabaret, Bar Mitzva Qiddush, Clarence provides, in a conscientious and courteous way. Clarence takes pride in his work and in the appearance of our facility. He is a staff member, but he often goes beyond the call of duty.

My next “Behind the Scenes” hero is Saul Bell. Did you ever wonder who does the mid month and Bulletin mailings? It is Saul Bell and his cohort of volunteers. You know Saul is at work when the classical music “pumps up” and the folding machine starts whirring! So thank you Saul for all your work and organization.

The list continues with countless small efforts. Jay Sokolow & son Shai Sokolow Silverman picking up stones around the building to enhance security...Adele Tyson laundering all the tablecloths after each event...Shoshana Zax zooming out of the school tiyul (field-trip) for glue sticks to save the Ethiopian Matza Cover project...Vi and Charlie opening and closing the shul for services...Brian Karsif recruiting volunteers...Darryl and Miriam planning for the High Holy Days.

I could go on and on, but my message is simple: We are stronger as a whole due to the strength and volunteerism of our many parts – our staff and congregants. As Margaret Meade said, “Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world, indeed they are the only ones that can.”

LK
Welcome to New Members & Their Families

- Etta Goldberg and Erica, Adam and Alexis
- Judith & Nathan Janette and Shira, Kaili and Rigel
- Joan Spangler
- Neil Cohen

Bar Mitzva

Aaron Green, son of Donald & Ann Green, will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva on Shabbat 29-30 August. Aaron is a graduate of the BEKI Religious School and of the Benei Mitzva Program.

Birth Announcements

Mazal tov to Annie Wareck & Iain York on the birth of their son Malachai Elias (Malakhi Eliyahu) York on Shabbat 06 June 2003, and to older brother Zev. Malachai was entered into the covenant through brit mila on the eighth day.

Mazal tov to Miriam Benson & Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen on the birth of Noam Benson-Tilsen, on 17 June 2003, and to grandmother Evelyn Benson, and to older siblings Gilah, Tsvi and Tova. Noam Benson-Tilsen was entered into the covenant through brit mila on 24 June.

Letters

We would like to invite all our friends at BEKI to join us at the qiddush after services on Saturday 12 July, to help us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We hope you can be there on that day.
Charles & Violet Ludwig

Farewell to Robert & Anne Johnston Family

Robert & Anne Johnston and their sons Sandy and Isaac are relocating to Chicago following Robert’s acceptance of a faculty position at a major university and Anne’s acceptance of the position of school director at a Chicago congregation. Anne has served with distinction as an educator in our Congregation and in Greater New Haven. She was instrumental in the development of our special education and outreach programs for children and adults as well our family education projects and Religious School. Robert & Anne have served as volunteers at our children’s and youth services. Sandy has served as an occasional Torah reader, and the entire family has been frequent Minyan Makers and service leaders on Shabbat afternoons and other services. The Johnston Family is sponsoring a Farewell Qiddush on Shabbat morning 26 July.

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of
- Sylvia Hoberman, mother of Judith Hoberman (& Dominic Kinsley)
- Jill Heisler-Jacks, daughter of Alexander & Lillian Heisler

Charlie & Violet Ludwig

Johnston Family
**News**

**Torah for the Hungry Mind:**
**Adult Studies at BEKI**

**Mishna Qiddushin Survey**

A six-session survey of Mishna Qiddushin with Rabbi Tilsen begins on Sunday 6 July from 6:00p to 7:25p. The Mishna, compiled by Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi in the second century of the common era, represents an essential source of rabbinic law and wisdom. Tractate Qiddushin deals with the acquisition of women, slaves and property; valid, invalid and annulable betrothals; the mitzvot from which women are exempt; issues of personal status of married and single women; social classes and other topics. The survey will seek to introduce participants to the four chapters of Qiddushin. Study of Qiddushin sheds light on ancient and modern wedding and marriage rules, the role and status of women in marriage, law and society; as well as numerous topics of business, society and personal status.

Participants must acquire and bring their own copy of the text. Recommended edition: *Mishnah: Seder Nashim* Vol. 3 by Pinhas Kehati (Hebrew & English), available wherever fine Judaica is sold. Knowledge of Hebrew is helpful but not required. Class will meet on 6, 13, 27 July and 3, 17, 24 August.

**Darshanim (Torah Commentator) in July & August**

A special guest will serve as darshan on 5 July, parashat Qorah.

President Gila Reinstein will serve as darshanit on 19 July, parashat Pinhas, the Shabbat of the Installation & Recognition of Officers & Directors.

A special guest will serve as darshan on 2 August, parashat Devarim, Shabbat Hazon, the Shabbat immediately before Tisha BeAv.

A special guest will serve as darshan on 16 August, parashat Eqev.
Szyk Artwork in Lobby

Four prints by Jewish-American artist Arthur Szyk are now on display in the lobby. Member Muriel Kaltman donated this fine art from the estate of her Aunt Natalie Edison.

Szyk (1894–1951) earned an international reputation during his lifetime for his richly detailed illustrations and illuminations of Jewish themes. Szyk was also a skillful caricaturist and a passionate crusader for political causes. From his early childhood in the Polish city of Lodz until his death in New Canaan, Connecticut, he drew inspiration from the history of the Jewish people.

During World War II, he devoted his energies to defeating Nazi Germany and its allies and calling the world’s attention to the mass murder of Europe’s Jews. His incisive wartime cartoons and caricatures filled the pages of American newspapers and magazines, earning him a reputation as a “one-man army” in the Allied cause. His moving portrayals of Jewish suffering and heroism bespoke a political activism that demanded “action—not pity.” A major exhibition of Szyk’s work was mounted at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, earlier this year. The prints in our lobby, dated 1944, express sorrow, anger, and resolve to fight.

GR et al.
## Beki Events

### July - Tammuz - Av 5763

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<td>BEKI/BJ Kadima: <a href="mailto:kadima@beki.org">kadima@beki.org</a></td>
<td>Mon 9a-12 &amp; 1p-3p</td>
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### BEKI Phone Numbers:

- **Office Closed All Week**
- **Shaharit=Morning**
- **Minha=Afternoon**
- **Minha-Maariv=Evening**
- **SSLM=Shabbat**
- **Shalom Learners’ Minyan**
- **Cemetery Pres.**
- **Kiddush Sponsors:**
  - Charlie & Violet Ludwig
  - Gila Reinstein & Bryna Pauker
  - The Johnston Family
- **Board of Directors Installation**
- **Kiddush Sponsors:**
  - Charlie & Violet Ludwig
  - Gila Reinstein & Bryna Pauker
- **Rabbi:** jjtilsen@beki.org
- **Religious School/Education:**
  - Director: lkempton@beki.org
  - Benei Mitzva Teacher:
    - aschultz@beki.org
- **BEKI/BJ Kadima:**
  - kadima@beki.org
- **Email Addresses:**
  - Office: office@beki.org
  - Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org
  - Religious School/Education:
    - Director: lkempton@beki.org
  - Benei Mitzva Teacher:
    - aschultz@beki.org
  - BEKI/BJ Kadima: kadima@beki.org

- **Phone Numbers:**
  - Shaharit: (203) 389-2108
  - Minha: Fax (203) 389-5899
- **Rabbi:** x10
- **Dr. Lauren Kempton:** x33
- **Cemetery Pres.:** x57
- **Kiddush Sponsors:**
  - Charlie & Violet Ludwig
  - Gila Reinstein & Bryna Pauker
  - The Johnston Family
- **Kiddush Sponsors:**
  - Charlie & Violet Ludwig
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  - The Johnston Family
- **Rabbi:** jjtilsen@beki.org
- **Religious School/Education:**
  - Director: lkempton@beki.org
  - Benei Mitzva Teacher:
    - aschultz@beki.org
- **BEKI/BJ Kadima:**
  - kadima@beki.org

### BEKI Board of Directors Installation

**Kiddush Sponsors:**
- Charlie & Violet Ludwig
- Gila Reinstein & Bryna Pauker
- The Johnston Family

**Shabbat Singalong (after Kiddush):**
- 5:45p Minha

**Rosh Hodesh**
- 7:00a Shaharit
- 5:45p Minha-Maariv
# BEKI Events

**August - Av - Elul 5763**

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### BEKI phone numbers:
- Shaharit=Morning 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: office@beki.org
- Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org
- Religious School/Education: director@beki.org
- Ben Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org
- BEKI/BJ Kadima: kadima@beki.org

### Cemetery Pres. x57
- 5 Av: Shaharit=Morning Office Hours:
  - Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p

### 5 Av:
- 5:45p Minha-Maariv
- 6:00p Mishna Qiddushin

### 6 Av:
- 7:00a Shaharit
- 7:00a Shaharit

### 7 Av:
- 7:00a Shaharit
- 5:45p Minha-Maariv

### 8 Av:
- 7:00a Shaharit
- 8:00p Maariv & Eikha Tisha B'Av
- 8:15a Shaharit & Eikha Tisha B’Av

### 9 Av:
- 5:45p Minha-Maariv
- 7:45p Minha-Maariv

### 10 Av:
- 7:00a Shaharit
- 7:00a Shaharit
- Tisha B'Av-Fast Day

### 11 Av:
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**New: Or Hadash Siddur with Commentary**

*Or Hadash* — *A Commentary on Siddur Sim Shalom* by Rabbi Reuven Hammer, is now available in our Sanctuary and Library for members’ use. In *Or Hadash*, Rabbi Hammer offers extensive and edifying commentary on the religious themes, historical background, and literary context on the traditional Ashkenazic prayerbook. The commentary appears in the margins around the previously-published *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat & Festivals* (the siddur we use in the Sanctuary), retaining the earlier work’s pagination, making this volume both familiar and usable in public worship.

Dr. Hammer addresses exegetical and homiletic issues raised by the text. He comments on words, phrases, themes and structure, and adds pointers on generally accepted practice. A concise and informative introduction, commentary on Pirqei Avot, and a glossary are a bonus. This is a “must have” for the student of classical traditional Judaism and a great aid to the worshiper in the contemporary synagogue.

Those wishing their own copy may purchase one at the Sisterhood Giftshop, from Amazon.com, or wherever fine Judaica is sold.

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**Israel Task Force**

Our Directors have formed an Israel Task Force. BEKI’s Israel Task Force has been charged with several goals. First would be to educate our congregation with respect to the many aspects of the situation from all points on the political spectrum. The Israel Task Force will organize and arrange for educational programs and speakers at BEKI, who, taken collectively, present a balanced point of view, while understanding and acknowledging that each given speaker or program will represent a particular (and perhaps controversial) viewpoint. The goal will be to foster discussion of the complex issues involved in supporting Israel, while respectfully acknowledging different positions.

Second, to the extent that we can agree on a collective (presumably non-controversial) plan to raise funds for Israel and organizations in Israel, the Israel Task Force will organize at BEKI to this end. Finally, the chair(s) (or some other member) of this BEKI Israel Task Force would be BEKI’s liaison in coordinating our efforts with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Israel Task Force and with the Connecticut Council of Israel Task Force Chairs. I have agreed to be the chair for this task force. If you want to work with me on BEKI’s Israel Task Force, please contact me at W (203) 762-9000 x309, H (203) 287-5440 or icooper@gregoryandadams.com.

*Isaiah Cooper*
**Rotations List**

The “Master Rotation List” for Shabbat & Festival service participation was mailed in late June to eighty households on the BEKI membership list. (Additional copies are available in the lobby literature rack and at www.beki.org/rotate.html). The list is the compilation of parts to be led 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 (jttilsen@beiki.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 (usually Irv Weinstein) 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.”

**Now Showing: Children’s Hebrew Video Collection**

A Children’s Hebrew Video Collection comprising Hebrew Language versions of American and Israeli films is now available for our members’ use. Most are in DVD Region 2 PAL format, which are not playable on American DVD players, computers or televisions. They require special equipment. These videos are viewable on the Library equipment. This collection is housed in the School Lounge (Classroom 6).