

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

July/August 2004

Tamuz & Av 5764 Vol. 10 Issue 7

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Page 12. Baruch Levine as *darshan* for *parashat Balaq*.

Recognition & Installation of Directors & Officers

Directors and officers of the Congregation will be recognized and honored during services and during the *qiddush* on Shabbat 31 July 2004. Past and outgoing directors and officers, as well as returning and new directors and officers will be given honors and blessings during the service. Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini will serve as *darshanit*.

Gila Reinstein has agreed to serve a third year as President. Recent past-presidents include Stephen Pincus, Brian Karsif, Saul Bell, Milton Smirnoff, David Sagerman, Adele Tyson, Nadav Sela, Andy Weinstein, Herbert Etkind, Alan Gelbert, and Paul Goodwin.

Officers include President Gila Reinstein; Vice Presidents Robert Forbes, Alan Lovins, and Isaiah Cooper; Treasurer Natan Weinstein; Secretary Donna Levine; and Bryna Pauker, Sherry Rothman, and Saul Bell.

Directors, in addition to officers, include Ghislaine Palumbo; Jill Citron-Pousty; Steven Fraade; Muriel Banquer; Rena Cheskis-Gold; Adele Tyson; Ruth Greenblatt; David Sagerman; Darryl Kuperstock; Roger Colten; Morris Bell; Brian

Karsif; Jay Sokolow; Michael Stern; Harold Miller; Roger Levine; Barbara Cushen; Leonard Stern; Marsha Beller; Gloria Cohen; Jennifer Botwick; and Victor Stein.

A number of non-directors serve as chairpersons and on committees and task forces.



Gila Reinstein

Administrative Announcements

Come to Israel

If you are interested in going on a trip to Israel with Alan Lovins and Jon-Jay Tilsen in October-November this year or February 2005, please contact Jon-Jay at 389.2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org or Alan at alovins@snet.net. We are contemplating a flexible trip of about eight days, with an optional three to seven day extension, that would include a segment to explore peace and security issues, as well as cultural, archeological, historical and recreational locations.

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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A preschool
program for
children
ages 2 to 6

Celebrating Jewish Tradition

Opening September 2004

The success of the Montessori classroom is dependent on its core beliefs—freedom within limits, and respect for each other and the environment. The goal of the program is to cultivate the child's own natural desire to learn.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel ■ 85 Harrison St., New Haven

Lana Gad - Director 203.389.7445

Kulanu

Kulanu participants meet twice a week with Olivia Wood at Chapel Haven in a program called the Community Day program. The program is structured around community service, field trips, and socialization. During July, Dr. Lauren Kempton will present two programs. One is her reflections on The March of the Living with photos from her trip to Poland and Israel. The second program is a session on Peace. The group will discuss the barriers to peace around the world and conclude by making origami paper cranes for peace. The teacher for this session will be Hiroko Hatakeyama, the Japanese intern from the International Friendship program who is staying with Dr. Kempton. The Kulanu group will make a bulletin board with their paper cranes and quotations about peace

Garinim Montessori Preschool

Plans are progressing for the opening of Garinim Montessori Preschool for children ages 2 to 6 at BEKI this September. The school combines the methods of Montessori with the traditions and culture of Masorti-Conservative Judaism. For information, contact Lana Gad at 389.7445 or lane@garinim.org.

Tisha Be'Av at BEKI

The fast day of Tisha Be'Av ("ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av") will be observed on Monday night 26 July and Tuesday 27 July 2004. Minha afternoon services are from 8:00p to 8:15p. The traditional



Maariv (evening) service begins at 8:15p. The Shaharit (morning) service on Wednesday 27 July is from 7:00a to 8:15a. The evening and morning services include the reading of the Biblical Book of Eikha (Lamentations). The fast is observed from sundown Monday night until 9:00p Tuesday 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. The destruction of the Temples represents the downfall of the independent Jewish government, the devastation of Jewish society and tragic loss of life. 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.

Report on First BEKI Wine Tasting

In March, BEKI hosted its first kosher wine tasting, "Kosher Wines from Around the World." This was a fun, fund-raising event for the community that provided an introduction to eleven interesting kosher wines from Argentina, Australia, Chile, Israel, and Italy. The event was made possible by the generosity of *The Wine Thief* (378 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, 865-4845), which donated the wine. *The Wine Thief* provided two knowledgeable servers who poured and described the wine at no charge to the congregation, and donated 10% of the purchase price of wines ordered during or shortly after the event. We raised over \$900 for the synagogue during this event. *The Wine Thief* also supplied the wines, at cost, for the 6 June Tribute cocktail hour at BEKI. Be sure to thank the storeowner when you stop in to buy a bottle.

Many people helped shop, prepare food, set-up tables, clean up, and contributed in many other ways to the success of the wine tasting event. I would particularly like to thank Gila Reinstein, Sarah Berry, Sherry Rothman, Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe, Michael Reis, Jennifer Botwick, Robert and Janice Lettick, Brian Karsif, Jennifer Fleming, Judy Janette, Steven Steinlight, Natan and Lori Weinstein, and Jessey Palumbo for their assistance, and apologize to anyone I may have forgotten.

For those interested, a "wine thief" is "a long glass or metal tube used for withdrawing samples of wine from barrels or carboys," not necessarily someone who steals wine.

Roger Colten

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Several Catholic Bishops in America made the headlines when they announced that they would not provide the sacrament of the Eucharist (communion) to Catholic public officials who vote to support abortion rights.

I'm all for clergy – especially Conservative rabbis – using the aptly-named bully pulpit to wield political power, but I am not quite sure how we could implement a comparable sanction in the Jewish world. I do not believe that denying Senator Lieberman the rite of single malt Scotch whiskey at *qid-dush* unless he votes according to our instructions will work. As far as I can tell, Joe is a man of principle, and besides, he seems to be able to get along with the blended Scotch, or even the Manischewitz Concord (which, coincidentally, is the same wine used by many churches).

Although there are important views widely held by the Jewish People, it would be difficult to pick out one single issue that we can claim as fundamental and universally held. "Support of Israel" comes close, but we have a very broad range of opinions as to what this "support" actually means. While our Rabbinical Assembly does issue little-read resolutions on questions of public policy, we are neither hierarchical nor centralized, as is the Catholic Church. The Chancellor can say whatever he wants, and we can agree or disagree. The Law Committee can issue *teshuvot* (legal determinations), and we can adhere to them or not. I have never heard

of any synagogue being expelled from the United Synagogue for any policy violation, except failure to pay dues.

Our religious heritage, as documented by the Mishna and other rabbinic texts, endorses the values of free speech, intellectual integrity and democracy. Individual sages were allowed to teach whatever they actually believed, even if it was not in keeping with the majority's view. The sages could speak their minds and vote their consciences.

It is true that the State of Israel has an official "Chief Rabbinate" (actually, two official Chief Rabbinate) whose determinations on everything from conversion to kashrut are "government endorsed." But that institution is scorned by all except the functionaries who feed at the public trough. The government rabbinate is a relic of Ottoman rule in Palestine and has no religious basis or legitimacy among the Jewish People.

There are no "sacraments" in Jewish life, at least in the way Catholics think about them. Don't tell anyone, but you don't really need a rabbi to become a bar- or bat-mitzva, get married or divorced, or have a funeral. It may be desirable to have rabbinic guidance and supervision, but there are really no special "powers" a rabbi has other than the endorsement of some rabbinical school attesting to the rabbi's training. The Cemetery Association may require (for good reasons) that a rabbi officiate at a



funeral, but there is no such requirement in Jewish law or tradition. In contrast, Church doctrine has it that there is no communion or sacrament without the authorized Church official.

The Jewish world is not prepared to make that kind of a claim on a diverse civil society. In general, we hold that the *mitzvot* apply to the Jewish People but, with a handful of exceptions, we are not to impose them on the rest of humanity. Hunting is illegal in Jewish law, but there is nothing in our law that prohibits non-Jews from game hunting or that impels us to try to stop them. Eating bacon is prohibited for Jews, but there is nothing immoral or wrong about non-Jews eating it (current medical advice and PETA radicalism notwithstanding).

We must confess that some sages believed that a prohibition on abortion is one of those few rules (such as the prohibition on murder) that we as Jews *should* impose on others. But even if we hold that view, we must see "abortion" in the context of a larger set of social conditions and weigh it with other values. If one really wants to stop abortions, then it is necessary to

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Irv Weinstein

Late Friday Night Service in July & August

Join Soloist Irving Weinstein, Kevin Mack and Rabbi Tilsen for a Late Friday Night Service on 16 July and 20 August. Service begins at 8:00p and is followed by an Oneg Shabbat (refreshment period) presented by Sisterhood. An early service at 6:00p is held every Friday night as well.

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 in eternity, would be appreciated. To volunteer please contact David Sagerman at 389-2108 x57 or davdorsagerman@webtv.net.

Calling All Teens

All BEKI Teens (9th-12th grade) are encouraged and welcome to assist in leading Junior Congregation on an occasional basis. We welcome your leadership. Please contact Miriam Benson at 389-6137 for further information.

Service Leaders' Rotation List

The "Master Rotation List" for Shabbat & Festival service participation was mailed in late June to one hundred households. (Additional copies are available in the lobby literature rack, from the office and at www.beki.org/rotate.html). The list is the compilation of parts to be lead by those who vol-

unteered for the services listed. If you would like to lead a children's or adult service, or learn to do so, or if you would like to request a specific date between January and June 2005, 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 (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."

Torah Scroll Restoration

Our Torah scrolls are all about 100 years old and in need of restoration. Some of the scrolls were restored in the 1980s, but the passage of time and daily or weekly use has taken their toll. All of the scrolls need lettering cleaned, replaced and

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treated. Some need sewing and taping of parchment, and some need a new set of *etz hayim* (spools).

The cost of restoring our best scrolls is \$3,600 to \$6,000 each; a fund of \$50,000 would provide for the permanent regular maintenance of the scrolls. If you would like to learn more about the condition of our scrolls or about the restoration process, or would like to fund the restoration of one or more scrolls, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

KINAHARA Kosher Alert

Based on the following information, we are now permitting the use of Hebrew National meat and other "Triangle K" supervised products at BEKI.

The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has accepted the supervision of Triangle K kosher supervision for all products. With this decision of the CJLS, the products of Hebrew National are approved as kosher. Members of the Law Committee made site visits to Hebrew National food processing plants in the mid-west, met with the supervising rabbi of Triangle K, with ritual slaughterers and with others supervising kosher meat preparation for Hebrew National, before reporting to the entire Committee on Jewish Law and Standards

High Holidays Children's Programs

We are starting to plan our Children's Programming for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. As in the past we have strong programs for all three days run by parents. We have age appropriate thematic teaching material available for all volunteers in packets. This year we will have copies of each Children's Program materials for all group leaders.

We will offer two programs each day for the four age groups: Children's Havura, K-2, Junior Congregation and Cosmic Conversations. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x 13 or lkempton@beki.org.

Jobs?

There are always BEKI members and members of the extended BEKI family who are in employment and professional transition and who are looking for full-time and part-time work. Our members looking for work include medical specialists, computer mavens, laborers, salespeople and more. In addition, many of our members work as professionals, trades people, salespeople and shop owners, and welcome the patronage of BEKI families.

If you have a position to fill, contact office manager Peggy Hackett at 389.23108 x14 or Rabbi Tilsen at 389.2108 x10.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

look at the underlying matrix of issues including unwanted pregnancy, birth control, access to medical services and education, and women's social and economic status. Abortion cannot be a "stand alone" or "single" question. If you are really against abortion, can you vote against the "morning after" pill? Reasonable people (although not doctors) disagree.

At the level of actual legislation, it is not always clear what the relationship is between our values and a particular bill. A vote for or against a bill does not simply mean that a legislator is "for" or "against" anything. Sometimes conscientious legislators vote against a bill that is poorly written or unworkable even though they may support the bill's goals. Sometimes legislators compromise on a "package" of issues, or support a bill that is not optimal because it is just the best that they think is attainable. It is not fair to oversimplify the process – doing so is itself a poor way to influence public policy.

I do think clergy can, and should, play a significant role in the development of public policy, and that our religious values should inform our positions on civil questions. The Bishop's attempt seems clumsy, but who am I to comment on internal Church issues. Their approach would have no chance of success in our setting.



Religious School graduation

Registration for Religious School

Registration packages will be mailed in July for returning BEKI Religious School students. Registration is ongoing and we always welcome new students and their families. Two Religious School open houses are planned. The first will be 7 July from 3p to 5p at BEKI. The second will be 18 August from 1p to 3p at BEKI. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Lauren Kempton, Education Director at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org.

Special Education

BEKI Religious School is accepting ongoing registration for the Meyuhad class which is part of the Religious School. The Meyuhad class is for students with special learning challenges. The lead

teacher is Susan Jacobson and she is assisted by Shlomit Daniel-Small, a specialist in Hebrew Language instruction. BEKI's services to children with special needs are supported by the **Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth at BEKI** and by the Department of Jewish Education of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Beloved Teachers

BEKI Religious School feted two beloved teachers at the Graduation ceremony. Guy Lord, grade four teacher, is leaving to pursue doctoral studies, and Rita Sela, grade three teacher, will be in Jerusalem for a year as a proud grandmother to newborn twins as her son Ahud continues his rabbinic studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Schechter Institute.

New Teachers

BEKI Religious School is proud to welcome three new teachers for the 5765 2004-2005 school year. Melissa Marder comes to us from Huntington Station, New York, where she was the *kita vav* teacher at Temple Beth Israel for Project Etgar. She will be leading the grade seven students in Project Etgar. Iris Back joins us as the grade four teacher. Iris was educated in Israel and holds a degree in Psychology. She has two children, Ben and Dana. She has worked at Gan Hayeled in Woodbridge. Sabrina Specator will be teaching grade two. We are very pleased to welcome these educators new to our faculty.

Mazal Tov to

- Paula Hyman on receiving the Eleventh Annual Jewish Cultural Achievement Award in Scholarship from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture
- Jennifer Klein on receiving the 2004 Hagley Prize in Business History from the Business History Conference for her book, *For all These Rights: Business, Labor, and the Shaping of America's Public-Private Welfare State*. Jennifer earlier received the Organization of American Historians Ellis W. Hawley Prize for this book
- Peter Stein & Ilana Kurshan on celebrating their *aufruf* at BEKI on Shabbat 07 August. Pete is a son of members Victor & Susan Stein; Ilana is a daughter of Rabbi Neil & Alisa Rubin Kurshan
- Rhoda Zahler on the birth of her grandson Joshua Alejandro Her-



Peter Stein & Ilana Kurshan

- ra to Joanna & Ramon on 14 May 2004. Joshua (*Yehuda*) was entered into the covenant through *brit mila* on the eighth day and is named after Rhoda's father, the late Dr. Julius Johnson Sachs
- Betsy & Robert Sachs on the birth of their son Dylan Jacob (*Natan Yosef*) Sachs; to grandparents Ivan &

Rita Sachs, uncles and aunts Mark & Ilene Sachs and Ken & Linda Buckman

- Margaret Martin on winning the Gold Metal in the 100-meter free-style swim competition in the 2004 Connecticut Special Olympics

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Shabbatot

Darshanim – Commentators – in July and August

Baruch Levine will serve as *darshan* for *parashat* Balaq, Shabbat 03 July 2004. Baruch is an editor of the popular *humash Etz Hayim* and is the Skirball Professor of Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University.

Steven Fraade will serve as *darshan* for *parashat* Matot-Masei, Shabbat 17 July 2004. Steven is an officer of the Congregation and the Mark Taper Professor of the History of Judaism at Yale University.

Lauren Kempton & Noah Ottenstein will serve as *darshanim* on Shabbat Hazon – Sabbath of Vision, *parashat* Devarim, 24 July 2004. Noah is a son of David & Reyna Ottenstein. Lauren and Noah were among the participants in the March of the Living.



Steven Fraade



Baruch Levine

Rabbi Lina Grazier-Zerbarini will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat Nahum – Sabbath of Comfort, *parashat* VaEthanah, 31 July 2004. Lina is Associate Rabbi of the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale University.

Peter Stein will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat *parashat* Ekev, 07 August 2004. Peter is a son of Victor & Susan Stein and is a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Peter Stein & Ilana Kurshan will celebrate their *aufrauf* (pre-wedding observance) at BEKI that same day.

Gila Reinstein will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat *parashat* Ki Tetsei, 28 August 2004. Gila is President of BEKI and is an officer of Public Affairs at Yale University.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BE-

KI's [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#), is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shahrith (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.

Sundays

Survey of Masekhet Shabbat

A six-week survey of *Masekhet Shabbat*, the tractate of Mishna dealing in part with Sabbath laws and procedures, hosted at the residence of Shoshana Zax and John Weiser on Yale Avenue in Westville on six Sunday nights, began 27 June. The study period is from 7:00p to 8:30p and is led by Rabbi Tilsen. An excursion into Talmud may take place during one or more of the sessions. Knowledge of Hebrew is helpful but not required. *Text: Mishna Shabbat*

Mondays

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 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 *shaharit* morning service.

NEW: Hebrew Language Level 1 for Beginners

An introduction to prayerbook Hebrew for beginners will be presented on seven consecutive Monday nights in the Chapel-Library from 6:10p to 7:15p beginning 05 July with Rabbi Tilsen. The class is appropriate for students who wish to learn the fundamentals of Biblical, rabbinic, prayerbook or modern Hebrew. Text: *Prayerbook Hebrew the Easy Way* is provided to registrants. Registration fee: \$40 per person (includes text).

Wednesdays **Berakhot Talmud Study Group**

A Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7:30a to 8:00a during the academic year (but not in July and August). The Group will resume meeting this autumn. The Study Group focuses on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of basic Hebrew or Aramaic is very helpful but not required. The Group is open to all.

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 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 information, contact Marc Schwartz at 562-9873 or mschwartzmd@hotmail.com.

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 ac-

ording 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 call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at 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." Dayna Rothman's Devar Torah is posted on the website and is available by request from the BEKI office.

*I have been thinking a great deal about
memorials since I returned from Israel.*

*Memorial Day is also the yahrzeit of my
father Laurence Kempton who died*

twenty-two years ago...



I remember a conversation I had with Ongy Zisling, our former Israeli emissary as Memorial Day approached last year. Knowing full well the depth of sorrow and far reaching response to Memorial Day (Yom Hazikaron in Israel), I felt almost guilty explaining that here in the United States, yes we have a few parades. But many families simply picnic or shop for the “white sales.”

This year I am honored to host a Japanese intern, Hiroko Hatakeyama, the International Friendship intern for Ezra Academy. As Memorial Day approached, I spoke to her about the American custom of the day. She noted the flags and we went to a traditional backyard picnic in Orange. Later that evening I thought to myself, I have not taught this lesson well to her about Memorial Day in the United States.

I tuned to CNN and watched a special on the new World War Two Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Veteran after veteran was interviewed with comments like, “It’s about time for this

honor” and “I was so young” or we were “a band of brothers.”

I saw the monument itself, very traditional with stations to each of the theatres of the war. I watched the young people mix with the veterans and hear story after story of Normandy and “D-Day.”

I was still left with a question: Why do we not do more for Memorial Day? Are our work weeks so hectic that we have made many holidays – Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day – into long weekends so we can vacation or spend time with family? Are the lessons now up to the schools to teach?

Then my mind went back to Israel, to Yom HaZikaron in Afula. I guess I was contrasting the two countries. Israel so young, still struggling to exist, each family having lost a brother or a sister, a mother or a father in the War for Independence, the Sinai Campaign, the Six-Day War, the War of Attrition, the Yom Kippur War, Lebanon and on and on. I pictured the cemetery in Afula

and the throngs of people pouring in for the service: Russian grandmothers in their babushkas and Ethiopian grandmothers with beautifully woven scarves on their heads to shield them from the noon day Israeli sun; IDF soldiers everywhere, a young soldier in front of me with her hairclip on her ammunition cartridge, soldiers giving us armloads of flowers for the gravesites, and a chair, a simple chair at every grave for family members if they wanted to tarry there and reflect.

And then the answer for me: I should not compare. Each country celebrates and memorializes as they deem appropriate with their national spirit. I am simply blessed that I was able to experience Yom HaZikaron in Israel. Perhaps my celebration of Memorial Day will change due to my experiences. Perhaps that is the lesson.

–LK

USCJ Tribute Letter



The Association of
Conservative
Congregations

April 26, 2004

Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen and Miriam Benson
Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel
85 Harrison Street
New Haven, CT

Dear Rabbi Jon-Jay and Miriam:

On behalf of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, we are delighted to extend to you our sincere congratulations upon being honored by Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel for ten years of devoted service. It is always gratifying to have an opportunity to pay tribute to a rabbinic couple that has served with particular distinction, bringing the congregation to new heights in the areas of religious commitment, educational activities and outreach. To a great extent, Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel is what it is today because you have helped to shape it.

The congregation's commitment to quality Jewish education for members of all ages is evident in its fine Hebrew school, thriving adult education program, and outstanding synagogue library. Through dynamic youth programs, classes for members with special needs, and courses for those considering conversion, Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel serves to instill in all its members an appreciation of our rich Jewish heritage.

We are especially privileged to acknowledge the important role Miriam has played in the work of our organization. As Director of the Connecticut Valley Region for six years, Miriam has earned the respect, admiration, and affection of all those privileged to work with her. We have come to treasure her wise counsel and to value her friendship, and we pray that our close relationship will continue for many years to come.

We congratulate you both and offer our sincere wish that Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel --and the entire Conservative Movement -- may continue to benefit from your unique gifts as you begin your next decade of service.

Sincerely,

Judy Yudof
International President

Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein
Executive Vice-President

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Endowments



Ben and Ruth Marks

Endowed funds are one of the best ways to demonstrate one's commitment to the community, honor a loved one, or create a permanent memorial, while insuring the continuing financial strength of the synagogue. Annual dues provide less than half of the synagogue's operating income.

The Ben & Ruth Marks Endowment, the first of these funds to be established, was created by Ben Marks in 1985. [The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment](#) was established in 1989. The rest of the endowments were created after 1993.

We are still in the initial stages of building our endowments. Below are listed the named funds established for our benefit. We take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the donors and to recognize those whose names are honored by these endowments.

The Congregation maintains most of its endowments at the [Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven](#). Under the Foundation's careful management, the "real" (after-inflation) value of the fund principals is maintained so that funds can provide *increasing* income to the Congregation in perpetuity.



George and Leah Posener



Eric Beller

We express our appreciation to those who have established and contributed to the following permanent endowments. For further information, contact Office Manager Peggy Hackett, Officer Donna Levine, or Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.

- [The Ari Nathan Levine Memorial Fund for the Continuity of BEKI](#)
- [The Ben & Ruth Marks Endowment](#)
- [The Beth El-Keser Israel Endowment Fund](#)
- [The Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth](#)
- [The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs](#)
- [The Eric I.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund](#)

Endowments

- [The George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break-Fast Fund](#)
- [The George G. Posener Kadima & United Synagogue Youth Fund](#)
- [The George & Leah Posener Endowment for the Jewish Education of BEKI Youth](#)
- [The Gilah Benson-Tilsen Fund for Youth](#)
- [The Gladys R. Lipkin Fund for the BEKI Hebrew School](#)
- [The Leah E. Posener and Betty D. Zelen Memorial Fund for Sisterhood](#)



Morris and Sara Oppenheim

- [The Lester & Bernice Margolis Fund](#)
- [The Louis & Mary Rosenkrantz Family Library Endowment](#)
- [The Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Sacred Music](#)
- [The Posener Family Memorial Fund \(Building\)](#)
- [The Robert Goodwin Memorial Endowment](#)
- [The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment](#)



David and Lillian Levine

July 2004

12 Tammuz 5764 - 13 Av 5764

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A. 12 Tammuz	2 8:10p Candle Lighting 13 Tammuz	3 Darshan: Rabbi Baruch Levine 10:45a Children's programs 14 Tammuz
4 - 15 Tammuz	5 Office Closed (Independence Day Observed) 9:45a Rashi Study Group 9a Shharit 6p Beginning Hebrew I class 16 Tammuz	6 Fast of Tammuz 17 17 Tammuz	7 18 Tammuz	8 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A. 19 Tammuz	9 8:08p Candle Lighting 20 Tammuz	10 10:45a Children's programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan 21 Tammuz
11 7p Survey of Masekhet Shabbat class at Zax/Weiser meets MONDAY this week 22 Tammuz	12 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6p Beginning Hebrew I class 7:30p Executive Board Meeting 23 Tammuz	13 24 Tammuz	14 25 Tammuz	15 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A. 26 Tammuz	16 8p Late Service 8:04p Candle Lighting 27 Tammuz	17 10:45a Children's programs 28 Tammuz
18 7p Survey of Masekhet Shabbat class at Zax/Weiser home 29 Tammuz	19 Rosh Hodesh 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6p Beginning Hebrew I class 7:30p General Board Meeting 1 Av	20 2 Av	21 3 Av	22 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A. 4 Av	23 7:59p Candle Lighting 5 Av	24 Darshanim: Dr. Lauren Kempton & Noah Ottenstein 10:45a Children's programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan 6 Av
25 7p Survey of Masekhat Shabbat class at Zax/Weiser home 7 Av	26 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6p Beginning Hebrew I class 8p Minha-Maariv & Tisha BeAv Service 8 Av	27 Fast of Tisha B'Av 7a Shharit & Tisha BeAv Service 9 Av	28 10 Av	29 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A. 11 Av	30 7:53p Candle Lighting 12 Av	31 10:45a Children's programs 13 Av

BEKI Events

Service Times for Spring/Summer

Sundays: 9a Shharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Mondays: 7a Shharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Tuesdays: 7a Shharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Wednesdays: 7a Shharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Thursdays: 8:15a Shharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Fridays: 7a Shharit 6p Minha-Maariv	Saturdays: 9:15a Shharit 5:45p Minha
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August 2004

14 Av 5764 - 14 Elul 5764

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 7p Survey of Masekhet Shabbat class at Zax/Weiser home</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 Av</p>	<p>2 Tu B'Av 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6P Beginning Hebrew I class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 Av</p>	<p>3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">16 Av</p>	<p>4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">17 Av</p>	<p>5 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">18 Av</p>	<p>6 7:45p Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">19 Av</p>	<p>7 10:45a Children's programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Victor & Susan Stein</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 Av</p>
<p>8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 Av</p>	<p>9 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6p Beginning Hebrew I class 7:30p Executive Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 Av</p>	<p>10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">23 Av</p>	<p>11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 Av</p>	<p>12 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 Av</p>	<p>13 7:35p Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26 Av</p>	<p>14 10:45a Children's programs Qiddush: Joe & Ravit Avni- Singer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 Av</p>
<p>15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">28 Av</p>	<p>16 7:30a Rashi Study Group 6p Beginning Hebrew I class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 Av</p>	<p>17 Rosh Hodesh I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">30 Av</p>	<p>18 Rosh Hodesh II</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Elul</p>	<p>19 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2 Elul</p>	<p>20 7:25p Candle Lighting 8p Late Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 Elul</p>	<p>21 10:45a Children's programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 Elul</p>
<p>22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 Elul</p>	<p>23 7:45a Rashi Study Group 7:30p General Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 Elul</p>	<p>24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7 Elul</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 Elul</p>	<p>26 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 Elul</p>	<p>27 7:15p Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Elul</p>	<p>28 10:45a Children's programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 Elul</p>
<p>29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12 Elul</p>	<p>30 7:45a Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13 Elul</p>	<p>31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14 Elul</p>				

BEKI Events

Service Times for Spring/Summer

Sundays: 9a Shahaarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Mondays: 7a Shahaarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Tuesdays: 7a Shahaarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Wednesdays: 7a Shahaarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Thursdays: 8:15a Shahaarit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Fridays: 7a Shahaarit 6p Minha-Maariv	Saturdays: 9:15a Shahaarit 5:45p Minha
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Renovations: June 2004



Photos by Charlie Ludwig