

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

July/August 2006

Tamuz & Av 5766
Vol. 12 Issue 7/8

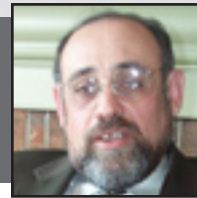
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Legacy Heritage Fund to Support BEKI Education Effort

As reported in the February *Bulletin*, BEKI received an unusual gift as the *bar mitzva* project of Tsvi Benson-Tilsen. Tsvi raised funds for and contracted for the installation of a 12,000 watt grid-tied photovoltaic solar array, to be installed on 2 August 2006 (weather permitting) on BEKI's roof. The electricity generated by these solar panels will offset about \$180 per month of BEKI's electric bill (more in absolute figures as our rates increase, but representing about 10% of our use).

Through the research and public interest developed in preparing for this project, we were able to secure a grant of \$30,000 from the **Legacy Heritage Fund** for an innovative family education project based on solar energy and conservation that will help transform our congregation. As an adjunct to that grant, Miriam Benson and Rabbi Tilsen received an award from Legacy Heritage recognizing their work as educators. Dr. Lauren Kempton, Miriam and Rabbi Tilsen attended a two-and-a-half day Legacy Heritage conference together in New York to help them better execute the project. The conference was moderated by the grant administrator,

former New Haven resident and occasional visitor Rabbi Marc Margolius.



In addition to the grant from the Legacy Heritage Fund, major funding for the solar array was provided by the **Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCFEF)**, Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, the Buckman & Sachs Family, with 180 additional donors. Altogether, we are making a substantial investment in hardware and educational training and services this year in connection with what began as an ambitious *bar mitzva* project. We are truly fortunate to have visionary supporters such as the Legacy Heritage Fund and local donors investing in the future of our community.

Our project has attracted wide interest. It has been covered or mentioned in the *Forward*, the *New Haven Independent*, the *Connecticut Jewish Ledger*, and *SmartPower*.

As a result of the solar initiative, we are taking additional steps to improve the efficiency of our energy use at BEKI. This will be

continued on page 3


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BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to:

85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

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BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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garinim A preschool program for children
montessori ages 2 to 6

Celebrating Jewish Tradition
Now Accepting Enrollment

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

continued from page 1

a continuing theme in the coming years, as the energy issues assume crisis proportion. **It's time to put the conserve into Conservative Judaism.** Our seniors who lived through the Great Depression understand the importance of conservation, but many of us grew up in an era when power companies convinced us that "electricity is penny cheap." Now it is "dollar expensive." We also believe that the educational framework implemented for this project will have a significant impact on our community, beyond the energy savings. You can read more about the solar project at www.beki.org/ecology/energy.html. Some of the Divrei Torah (sermons) developed, such as Rabbi Tilsen's "How Many Jewish Leaders Does It Take To Screw In A Lightbulb?" (on *parashat* BeHa'alotekha) will appear on our website.

The Legacy Heritage Innovation Project is a non-denominational grant and award program to support synagogues which have pioneered family-based educational initiatives, provide funding to further these innovations, and honor the responsible congregational professionals with an LH Innovator Award. In addition to the grant for the synagogue, Rabbi Tilsen and Miriam Benson have received a grant to further their training as Jewish Educators.

SunlightSolar Energy, Inc., has been chosen as our contractor. Parts are on order and installation is planned for Wednesday 2 August (weather permitting). Volunteers are welcome to help in the installation project.

Jewish & Christian Trip to Israel

Members of Spring Glen Church in Hamden have invited members of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) in Westville to explore the possibility of traveling to Israel together.

While the details of the trip are intentionally open-ended at this time, the ten-day trip (22 April – 1 May 2007) will consist of visiting historical, holy sites and meeting with Israelis and Arab Palestinians who are working for peace. Some participants may elect to arrive early or stay longer.

The adult participants will share in the planning of the trip and will meet regularly (perhaps monthly) as a group for study, good food and camaraderie.

If you are interested, please contact Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen (389-2108 x10 jjtilsen@beki.org) or Rev. Andy Nagybenson (288-3381).

Space is limited to 18, with the hope that there will be equal representation

from the two congregations. Sign-ups will be first come-first served.

The initial planning meeting will be held in mid-July.

This trip is distinct from the BEKI Congregational Trip to Israel to be led by Rabbi Tilsen & Dr. Kempton in February 2007.

Wanted: Youth Advisor

Seeking advisor for the BEKI/BJ chapter of USY (grades 9-12) for fall 2005 in the New Haven area. The job is part-time and reports to the two synagogues' lay youth commissioners. Some background in youth leadership, either as a participant or as an advisor, is desirable, along with an interest in working with teenagers, and a desire to help create the next generation of Jewish leaders! Please reply to Rena Cheskis-Gold, BEKI Youth Commissioner, r.cheskis-gold@snet.net; 203-397-1497.

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Mazal Tov to

Margaret Martin on winning a gold medal in swimming competitions in the Special Olympics

Peter Stein on receiving semikha (Rabbinic Ordination) from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Valerie (Sandler) & Alexander Thaler on the birth of Sabrina Rose Thaler on 12 June 2006 in New Haven

Yedidya B-A on receiving Cheshire Academy's Community Service Award and the academic award in Spanish

HaMaqom Yinahem

With Sorrow We Note the Passing of

Leo Mandelkern
father of Marshal Mandelkern
(& Wendy Haskell)

Victor Shanok, brother of Pearl Zale

Goldie Kasimer

*May the Almighty Comfort
those who Mourn*

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Planning a Trip to Israel

Rabbi Tilsen and I sat down to start planning for the BEKI congregational Trip to Israel for February of 2007. It was very interesting how similar our interests are as to what we want to share of Israel with congregants. Jon-Jay has lived and studied in Israel and has been there for a much longer period than I. I have been to Israel sixteen times, often as a learner for the Jewish Educators' Assembly, Mitzva Heroes, Yad VaShem and Ghetto Fighter's House. I have led the Ezra Academy Grade Eight trip three times and the March of the Living trip five times. Our group will be small and flexible, and what we actually end up doing will be the choice of the participants. So what and where do I believe travelers to Israel should go? Here are some of my recommendations.

The first stop must be the tayelet (Hass Promenade) overlooking Jerusalem. From this vantage point you see Jerusalem, city of gold, the Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock. Custom dictates that you say a berakha there and say *shehehianu* if it is your first visit. We are thanking God for bringing us to this place. From the tayelet you go to the Kotel, the Western Wall. My next favorite place is the Galilee, especially Lake Kineret. Mount Gilboa is a must-see and also Rachel's tomb on the banks of the Kineret. This visit could also include a study of the *habonim*, the early pioneers.

My third destination would be the Negev. Traveling here you feel the realization of Ben Gurion's dream: "A rose shall bloom in the desert." I

love to visit Sede Boker, home of Ben Gurion. I especially am drawn to his place of rest, high on a mountain, looking down on his beloved Negev, beiges and browns, purple and fuchsia sands.

My fourth favorite place takes us back to Jerusalem. I love the Keneset (parliament) building – not the legislative chambers and the huge menorah, but rather the *basement*. Here you can wander at your leisure and look at old photographs of Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan and Yitshaq Rabin. Nearby in Jerusalem is the new Supreme Court building. This building is an architectural wonder. It is an interplay of lightness and dark. The building is inspired by Biblical verses that relate to the architectural design. And while in Jerusalem, we must see some of Danny Siegel's Mitzva Heroes: the Rabinete, or the "Chicken Lady."

Now what have I left out...? Masada, Ein Gedi, the Bullet Factory, the Dead Sea, Tel Aviv, Rabin Square.... We are only going for eight to ten days, but we really need about a month just to hit the highlights.

Now the great appeal of this trip is that it will be designed by the people who go on it. To me the lure of Israel is the people, many from the Young Emissary program.... Ongy's Zisling's parents, Biff Markem and Phil Adler, parents of emissary Becky Adler from 2004-2005, Arnie the ZIV delegate in Jerusalem. So we will journey as BEKI members, to learn and to explore and to study in Eretz Israel.



Registration for Religious School

Registration packages will be mailed in July for returning BEKI Religious School (BRS) students. Registration is ongoing and we always welcome new students and their families. If you have any questions please contact Dr. Lauren Kempton, Education Director at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org.

BRS students at their graduation bade a fond farewell to Mr. Guy (Guy Lord) who is relocating in New Mexico. We also honored Rita Sela who is “retiring” from religious school teaching to devote more time to her grandchildren. We are interviewing for teaching positions for fall. We will have two Religious School Open House sessions this summer, on 9 August and 23 August.

We have some exciting programs planned for next year. Save the date of 22 October. We will have a special program on “Conservation & the Sustainable Diet” conducted by Becky May. More details will follow.

Dr. Kempton will be in Israel for a month this summer in a Hebrew language ulpan (intensive workshop) at Kibbutz Yizrael in Afula, our “sister-city” through Partnership 2000. She will be available at lkempton@beki.org during that period.

Kulanu

Kulanu participants who are members of the Community Day program at

Chapel Haven have been studying about Israel with Dr. Lauren Kempton. They viewed the film *Promises*, which follows the lives of eight pre-teen children in Jerusalem, four Israeli and four Palestinians. The film prompted a great deal of dialogue and discussion. In June and August we will explore “Symbols of our Faiths.” We will explore the history of the Magan David, the Crescent and the Cross.

Saul’s Circle

Saul’s Circle continues to enjoy the Lunch and Learn which is planned by Billy Bromage, Director of Programming for Fellowship Place and by Dr. Lauren Kempton. As a group, they met and co-planned their areas of study for the year. In July and August we will explore the controversy of the Muhammad Political Cartoons. These two sessions will also explore “What We Know Of One Another’s Faith.”

Saul’s Circle provides synagogue outreach and directed services to address the spiritual and Jewish communal religious needs of adult Jews and others who are mental health services consumers. Programs are held at the

synagogue and at other sites in Greater New Haven. **Saul’s Circle** helps adults locate the resources in Jewish tradition and synagogue community that add meaning and structure to their lives, including those that can be of particular value to users of mental health services. Concomitantly, the project helps synagogue members and staff learn to better understand and welcome this segment of our community. It is a unique outreach program of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel. The support of the Congregation is essentially in making this program possible.

High Holidays Are Coming

The Education Committee and High Holy Days Committee are meeting to coordinate the Children’s Programming for the High Holidays. There are twenty-four separate programs for the three days in the four age categories: Havura, K-2 Kehila, Junior Congregation and Cosmic Conversations. Please call Lauren at 389-2108 x13 lkempton@beki.org if you would like to volunteer to be a program leader or otherwise help.

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Our annual "Book of Life" Dinner was a huge success - - \$2,000 was presented to the synagogue and a large audience honored our Woman of Valor 2006; Ruthie Greenblatt.

Ruthie, co-president of Sisterhood at BEKI has been an active participant on Shabbat and serves on the Board and tutors students for Benei Mitzvah. Sisterhood thanks Ruthie for all she does for our congregation – may she continue her good work in good health!

Patronize our gift shop for all your summer weddings and think fall too. For the Holidays we will have many new items.

Torah Fund

The Jewish Theological Seminary conducted its 112th Commencement this year awarding 151 degrees from its five schools. We at BEKI are very proud of Peter Stein, son of Vic & Sue Stein, for being awarded his degree from the Rabbinical School. We are bursting with pride! And wish him success in all he does.

Due to the rising costs (postage, etc.) the cost of cards will be \$4.00 starting Sept. 1, 2006. This is still a great bargain as it includes the postage and you save a trip to the store.

Please call our chairperson – Barbara Cushen at 407-0314 and your card will be sent out promptly.

Mazel Tov to:

- Vic & Sue Stein on Peter's graduation from Barbara Cushen, David Wright, Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Barbara Stein from Barbara Cushen
- Roz & Coby Ben-Chitrit on Daniel's Bar Mitzvah from Donna & Sid Levine, Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Joanne & David Goldblum on Mollie's Bat Mitzvah from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Jill & David Brant on the birth of twins from Shirley Mattler
- Julie Klein on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughters from Helen Miller, Rena Miller
- Matthew Wightman on graduation from Divinity School from Vic & Sue Stein
- Adam Gordon on graduation from Law School by Vic & Sue Stein
- David Wright on Sarah's graduation from Pace University from Vic & Sue Stein

Get Well to:

- Saul Bell from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, David Wright, Ruth & Mort Silver
- Hyla Greenberg from Louis Petrillo

In Memory of:

- Annie Cammaker Bresson from Anna Goldberg
- Linda Landwirth from Ruthie Greenblatt
- Helen Reifler from Donna & Sid Levine
- Robert McClenning from Shirley Mattler
- Lenard Seldon from Shirley Mattler
- David Peska from Shirley Mattler
- Mack Miller from Shirley Mattler, Adele Tyson
- Francis Young from Shirley Mattler
- Adele Lew from Helen Miller
- Judith Brause from Stanley Saxe
- George Greenstein from Adele Tyson
- Edna Zusman from Adele Tyson

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

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Recognition & Installation of Directors & Officers



Donna Levine, President

Directors and officers of the Congregation will be recognized and honored during services and during the qiddush on Shabbat 1 July 2006. Past and outgoing directors and officers, as well as returning and new directors and officers will be given honors and blessings during the service.

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

A number of non-directors serve as chairpersons and on committees and task forces. As this issue went to press, the new list of directors was being prepared.

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 2 August and Thursday 3 August 2006. The afternoon minha service is at a special time, 7:50p to 8:00p. The traditional Maariv (evening) service begins at 8:00p.

The Shaharit (morning) service on Thursday 3 August is from 8:15a to 9:30a. The evening and morning services include the reading of the Bibli-

cal Book of Eikha (Lamentations). On Thursday morning, according to the Ashkenazic custom generally followed in our community, *tallit* and *tefillin* are not worn (although *tallit qatan* is worn).

At the afternoon Minha service, from 5:45p to 6:30p on Thursday, *tallit* and *tefillin* are worn, with the recitation of their usual *berakhot*, and a brief Torah reading is chanted along with a *haftara*.



The fast is observed from 8:00p Wednesday night until 7:50p 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. 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 oc-

curred 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.

Service Times for Summer

Sundays:
9a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Mondays:
7a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Tuesdays:
7a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Wednesdays:
7a Shaharit
5:45p Minha-Maariv

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

Fridays:
7a Shaharit
6p Minha-Maariv

Saturdays:
9:15a Shaharit
5:45p Minha



Garinim Montessori Preschool & The Children's Shabbat Havura

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Sunday 9 July 10:00a to 10:30a
Claire Goodwin Youth Room

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lana@garinim.org office@beki.org

July 2006

5 Tammuz 5766 - 6 Av 5766

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Service Times for Summer		Sundays:	Tuesdays:	Thursdays:	Saturdays:	
		9a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	9:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha	1 Darshanit: Gila Reinstein 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Gerber's and BEKI Board Installation 5:45pm Minha
		Mondays: 7a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Wednesdays: 7a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Fridays: 7a Shaharit 6p Minha-Maariv		5 Tammuz
2	3 7:45am Rashi Study Group	4 Office Closed/Independence Day 9:00am Shaharit	5	6 12:30PM Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	7 8:10pm Candle Lighting	8 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Zahler & Koenig 5:45pm Minha
6 Tammuz	7 Tammuz	8 Tammuz	9 Tammuz	10 Tammuz	11 Tammuz	12 Tammuz
9 9:35am Shavuot Shiur Part II with Moshe 10:00am Children's Shabbat Havura & Garinim Montessori Music Program by Isaiah Cooper	10 7:45am Rashi Study Group	11	12	13 Fast of Tammuz 17 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	14 8:07pm Candle Lighting	15 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha
13 Tammuz	14 Tammuz	15 Tammuz	16 Tammuz	17 Tammuz	18 Tammuz	19 Tammuz
16 9:30am Summer Mishna with Moshe	17 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	18	19	20 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	21 8:02pm Candle Lighting	22 10:45am Children's Programs Darshan: Baruch Levine 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha
20 Tammuz	21 Tammuz	22 Tammuz	23 Tammuz	24 Tammuz	25 Tammuz	26 Tammuz
23 9:30am Summer Mishna with Moshe	24 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	25	26 Rosh Hodesh	27 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	28 7:55pm Candle Lighting	29 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Lovins/Loving 5:45pm Minha
27 Tammuz	28 Tammuz	29 Tammuz	1 Av	2 Av	3 Av	4 Av
30 9:30am Summer Mishna with Moshe	31 7:45am Rashi Study Group					
5 Av	6 Av					

August 2006

7 Av 5766 - 7 Elul 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 Av	2 Solar Array Installation (weather permitting) 7:50pm Minha 8:00pm Maariv - Eikha Tisha BeAv 8 Av	3 Fast of Tisha B'Av 8:15am Shaharit & Eikha 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 5:45pm Minha 8:00pm A.A. 9 Av	4 7:48pm Candle Lighting 10 Av	5 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha/Thaler Baby Naming 11 Av
6 9:30am Summer Mishna with Moshe 12 Av	7 7:45am Rashi Study Group 13 Av	8 14 Av	9 Tu B'Av 10:00am BEKI Religious School Open House 15 Av	10 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 16 Av	11 7:39pm Candle Lighting 17 Av	12 Darshanit: Dr. Lauren Kempton 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Sokolow/Silverman 5:45pm Minha 18 Av
13 19 Av	14 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting 20 Av	15 21 Av	16 22 Av	17 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 23 Av	18 7:29pm Candle Lighting 24 Av	19 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha 25 Av
20 26 Av	21 7:45am Rashi Study Group 27 Av	22 28 Av	23 3:00pm BEKI Religious School Open House 29 Av	24 Rosh Hodesh I 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 30 Av	25 Rosh Hodesh II 7:18pm Candle Lighting 1 Elul	26 Darshan: Nadav Sela 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha 2 Elul
27 3 Elul	28 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting 4 Elul	29 5 Elul	30 6 Elul	31 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 7 Elul		

Shabbatot

Darshanim in July and August



Gila Reinstein will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat morning 1 July, *parashat* Qorah



Baruch Levine will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning 22 July, *parashat* Matot-Masei



Lauren Kempton will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat morning 12 August, *parashat* Ekev

Nadav Sela will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning 26 August, *parashat* Shoftim

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine** 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 of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background

Sundays

New: (One Day Only)

Shavuot Shiur Part Two

9 July

Moshe Meiri will present Part Two of "This is a condition of beit din': The Halakha & the Evolution of Torah," on *Ketubot* Chapter 4. This shiur on Sunday morning 9 July begins at 9:35a, immediately following the 9:00a morning service. Participants will benefit from the lesson whether or not they attended "Part One" on the night of Shavuot.

New: Summer Mishna with Moshe: The Middle Gate

Summer Mishna with Moshe Meiri meets on selected Sunday mornings in the summer (2006), from 9:30a to 11:15a, with Moshe Meiri. The class examines selected material related to chapter 3 of Baba Metsia chosen for their length and interest. All are welcome for one or more sessions; materials are supplied. Knowledge of English, Hebrew, Judeo-Aramaic, Yiddish, Latin and classical Greek are helpful but not required. The class is suitable for students at all levels. Mishna with Moshe will meet on Sundays 16, 23, 30 July and 6 August.

Torah for the Hungry Mind - Adult Studies

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. The Rashi Study Group has met weekly since 1994 and is currently reading the book of Numbers. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group," hosted by Isaiah Cooper, meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) with Rabbi Tilsen at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Writing Group

The Writing Group meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Interested writers gather to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the participants bring a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. This community aims to generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org

AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. It is currently engaged in a 12 & 12 Study – Discussion. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or sokolow@snet.net.

Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Ask us about
establishing a fund, trust or annuity
to ensure BEKI's future.

Charitable giving strengthens our Community
and provides the donor with tax savings.

Dr. John S. Levy
Chairman,
Board of Trustees

Lisa A. Stanger, Esq.
Director
203 387-2424 x382
lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

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.

The Tri-Regional USY & Kadima Encampment for people entering grades 6 through 12 will be held 18-23 August 2005 at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, at Lake Como, Pennsylvania. For information, contact Hanefesh@uscj.org 860-563-5531. If you would like to provide a scholarship for a worthy teen, please contact President Donna Levine at 785-8079 sdsij@aol.com or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 jjtilsen@beki.org.

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 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, or if you would like to request a specific date between January and June 2007, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 ext. 10 (jjtilsen@beki.org).

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 Pirquei 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.

Office Hours by Appointment
(203) 389-9174

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214 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525

***You give us 22 minutes –
We'll give you the world to come***

**Attend Minha-Maariv Daily Services
5:45p to 6:07p**