

BEKI Bulletin

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June 2002 Vol. 8 Issue 6

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

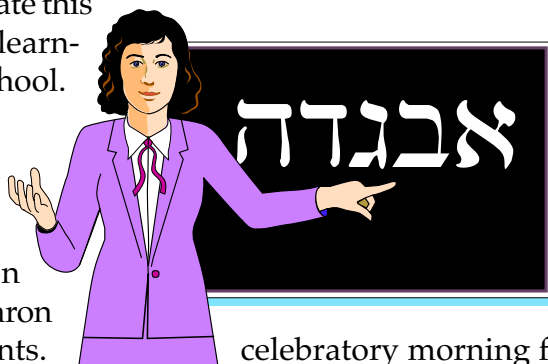
Tammuz 5762

Religious School News

Graduation & Promotion Sunday 2 June 10:30a

BEKI Religious School kicked off the month of May with our traditional Lag Be'omer hike and text study. As we reflect back on both April and May we are thrilled that we only lost one day of Religious School due to vacations. The parents and teachers have been meeting to evaluate this year and establish benchmarks of learning for the next year of Religious School.

We were very fortunate to have Adi Porat, the Israeli Emissary from Afula, our sister city in Israel, address our students by class. She made a very important connection between the holidays of Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut for our students. The feedback from the Emissary Program has been very positive. We plan to have our own emissary next year on both Wednesday and Sunday with the kind cooperation of Stacie Battat at the Israel Desk at JCC.



The BEKI choir members were such a hit at the Yom Ha'atzmaut event that Ruthie Greenblatt has graciously agreed to lead the choir in the Fall. It is a great opportunity to blend the youth of our synagogue. Choir rehearsal will be Sundays after Religious School, possibly in the 12:00 to 1:00 time frame, twice a month. Please see Ruthie or Lauren if you are interested.

BEKI Religious School Graduation will be held on Sunday 2 June at 10:30a. This will be a festive and celebratory morning for all. There is a strong possibility that a representative from Price Waterhouse will attend to validate the highly contested Parsha Quiz winning team. The Siddurim Stars, Hebrew Hamsters, Rockin Rebbes and Brachot Bears are in anxious anticipation.

LK

Annual Meeting 24 June 7:45p

The Annual Meeting of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel will be held on Monday night 24 June 2002 at 7:45p. All members and supporters are urged to attend. During the meeting important developments in the Congregation will be discussed and the efforts of our leadership will be recognized.

Sisterhood Names Darryl Kuperstock "Woman of Valor"

A dinner honoring Darryl Kuperstock as a "Woman of Valor" will be held Tuesday night 11 June 2002 at 6:00p at BEKI. For reservations, please call Harriet Barstein at 397-3782 or Belle Goldberg at 397-3091.

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.

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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.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Rehearsal for Expulsion

New York Times: RUMMANEH, West Bank, April 9 — The men, from the Jenin refugee camp, had been rounded up for interrogation, and were released near this village early Monday. ... About 400 men from the camp in Jenin have arrived in this neighboring village since early Monday, after they were released from an Israeli base nearby. Some came in their underwear after being held bound and blindfolded that way for more than 24 hours, they said, and they described harrowing days under Israeli attack and then their arrest. ... Rashid Mansour, 46, said soldiers using loudspeakers had called residents to leave their homes and go to the center of the camp, where men were separated from women and children, then told to take off their clothes.

During April and May, thousands of Palestinian Arab men were rounded up, interrogated and detained by Israeli military personnel as part of the ongoing "Operation Defensive Shield" (ODS) in the West Bank. In some cases, according to published reports, all of the adult males from entire neighborhoods were gathered and detained, in most cases without struggle. A few, wanted criminals, remained in detention. Most were released within a day or two unharmed, except for the "stinging indignity" of the arrest and detention.

Most readers of the *BEKI Bulletin* are well aware of the background to these actions, and whether or not they agree with Israel's approach are offended at any comparison to Nazi tactics during the Shoah. If it is understood simply as an attempt to isolate known terrorists, the roundup is justified as a direct act of self-defense.

For some Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews, however, the roundups resonate with a deep fear or hope, based on national experience and stated ideology: The fear or hope of the expulsion of Palestinian Arabs from the West Bank.

One aim of the siege of Arafat's headquarters in Nablus was to arrest four people responsible for

the assassination of Rehavam Zeevi, Israel's tourism minister, last October. The assassins stated that Zeevi was chosen for assassination because of his public advocacy of "transfer," i.e., the mass expulsion of Arab Palestinians from the West Bank, a plank in the platform of one of Israel's most "right wing" parties, now part of the governing coalition. For Palestinian Arabs, this threat of "transfer" is identified with the expulsion or flight of their parents' generation in 1948-49 or 1967, at which time they became refugees or displaced persons. The threat of expulsion, which they view as real, has an emotional effect similar to the effect that talk of "driving the Jews into the sea" has on Israelis. It elicits a most painful historic memory and constitutes "fighting words."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been an advocate of "a Palestinian State alongside Israel" all along. However, when Sharon agrees to a "Palestinian State," he is not usually referring to a state in Gaza and the West Bank. Rather, he means a state in what was once known as "Transjordan," today's "Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan," commonly known as "Jordan." Sharon would end the "Occupation" — end the Palestinians' occupation of the West Bank.

The "Jordan is Palestine" line has a certain logic. Until the early 1920s, the "British Mandate" for Palestine included what today is Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan. In the early 1920s, the British created a state called "Transjordan" in what was about 70% of Palestine. Jewish settlement was prohibited in that part of Palestine. For some, that was the act of "partition."

Twenty-five years later, the UN tried again to partition the remainder of Palestine into "Arab" and "Jewish" sections, reflecting the actual population distribution and land ownership at that time, without much consideration for defensibility of borders or future expansion. This attempted partition was not accepted by Arab governments; Israel's "War of Independence" was fought; and by the time of the armistice in 1949, the Jews con-



Rabbi Tilsen

Continued on page 4

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trolled a portion of Palestine much larger than envisioned in the UN's partition plan – but still only 20% of historic "Palestine."

Israeli leaders such as Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan and Yitzhak Rabin were never particularly enthusiastic about the "Jordan is Palestine" proposition for one primary reason: Iraq. Even before the rise of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi government has been particularly hostile toward Israel. The Iraqi army was among those who attacked Israel at the time of its declaration of independence. The Kingdom of Jordan, while not exactly friendly toward Israel, was somewhat "pro-Western" and served as a buffer state between Israel and Iraq. Further, the Hashemite rulers of Jordan shared with Israel a concern about the potential for destabilization from any potential Palestinian State. The government of Jordan was thus on balance a *de facto* ally and strategic asset of Israel, and worked directly with Israel in suppressing Palestinian nationalist activities.

All of that may change with the overthrow of the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq and its replacement with a pro-Western government. At the same time, it remains to be seen if the current ruler of Jordan has the same statesmanship skills and peaceful intentions of his father, the late King Hussein of Jordan.

What is Sharon's "endgame"? Where does all of this violence end? Clearly not in the withdrawal of the Israeli Defense Forces or the dismantlement of Jewish cities and villages in the West Bank. For Sharon, Israel's options remain either "creeping annexation" or "transfer." Creeping annexation, the processes of government confiscation of land through the legal system, has been used since June 1967 to gradually expand the area of Israeli development. Transfer would occur in the tumult of a general war, which might be triggered by the assassination of Hamas leader Sheik Yassin or of Arafat, or a massive attack against Israeli civilians. While "transfer" was considered outside the pale of polite conversation in Israel as recently as a couple of years ago, now following months of terrorist attacks in Israel by various Palestinian groups, nearly half of Israelis polled say they would

support mass expulsions. Even Republican House Majority Leader Richard Armey, and other congressional leaders, supports "transfer."

In either scenario, Palestinian Arabs "leave" or are removed from part or all of the "West Bank." The 15,000 residents of the Jenin Refugee Camp adamantly insist that Jenin, while "Arab" or "Muslim" land, is not their real home. They are "refugees." The same holds for about one-third of the Arab residents of the West Bank. If that is the case, their relocation twenty miles eastward in Jordan would not create new refugees. It would merely relocate people who are already refugees to a location more conducive to their prospering and remove them from the threat of human rights abuses and subjugation at the hands of the Israeli Army.

In that context, "Operation Defensive Shield" can be seen as a "rehearsal for expulsion." Israel learned that they can round up all of the men from a given neighborhood, put them on a bus, and drop them off a few miles away, with few injuries on either side. Israel learned that while the Arab world will complain and threaten, they will do little, practically speaking, to defend the Palestinian Arabs. We have all seen that other countries have used "ethnic cleansing" in the 20th century and gotten away with it.

From a practical point of view, the "Transfer" scenario carries with it the risk that Arab states actually would go to war – Israel will have finally gone "too far." In this age of nuclear weapons and intercontinental missiles, that could be truly disastrous for Israel (not to mention everyone else). "Ethnic cleansing," as the procedure is called elsewhere, generally goes against the vision for a just world that many Jews (and others) have dedicated their lives to promote. The human rights violations, injury and death that would be part of such a "Transfer" would undermine the moral underpinnings of Israeli society and the Jewish identification with Israel. It wouldn't be very popular among the Palestinians, either. Israel could lose the support of the US Congress and what little support it has from people of goodwill around the globe. It could ensure another one hundred years of conflict, in a world where physical or military security is decreasingly available. Other than that, the plot would probably work.

A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

Thinking about my message this month, I came across a quotation from Rashi, a commentary on Deuteronomy 33:12. Rashi was examining the use of the word "ever" in this passage. He took it to mean "forever" in reference to Jerusalem, for once Jerusalem had been chosen, God's spirit did not dwell in any other place.

These last months have certainly been difficult times for American Jewry (not to mention the people of Israel!). Here we are in America, listening to the news from Israel. We often find ourselves checking information and questioning sources, perhaps looking for bias in reporting, and always praying that the bad news isn't true.

As we wrap up the year at Religious School, we reflect back on what we have taught about Israel. And we fret and worry. Yes, we did a great job for Yom Ha'Atzmaut. But did we report enough on Ehud Barak's speech at Southern? Did the students understand the Teddy Kolleck film on Jerusalem? Has the Jewish History curriculum given the students the knowledge base they need to understand current dilemmas?

We are approaching *Yom Yerushalayim* [Jerusalem Day - 9 May]. And we think back to 7 June 1967. It seems miraculous that the young Jewish state was able to overcome her adversaries and reunite a divided city. What was then called the Wailing Wall would now be known as the Western Wall. The Jews would no longer need to wait for Jerusalem. As Gordon Fuller noted in his CAJE curriculum on Jerusalem, "Jerusalem has an undeniable physical beauty, but its spiritual beauty is its soul, especially on Shabbat. Jerusalem can be a city above and beyond the bounds of space and time. Shabbat is when one feels most tangibly the peace in the City of Peace. The blast of the shofar on Friday evenings announces the imminence of the Sabbath Queen's arrival."

As we come together each Shabbat as a congregation, our discussions often turn to Jerusalem and Israel. We know that God's spirit does dwell in

Jerusalem. And we wonder what will happen to this city that has been home to so many prophets. We wonder what will befall the heart of the Jewish nation and people.



At the recent rally for Israel in Hartford, a young emissary from Israel living in eastern Connecticut spoke for our concerns. He commented that, whereas throughout his youth his parents had always been the ones to look out for him and his safety, now he was worried for theirs. His words were eloquent and powerful, and conveyed his prayerful confidence in the bright future of Israel, in spite of the turmoil and violence of the present.

We continue to discuss, support, pray and follow the events in Israel. And perhaps we look for stars...

"And those who bring the people to do the right thing shall be as the stars, eternal. Just as one sees the light of the stars from one end of the world to the other, so too one sees the light of good people from one end of the world to the other. Just as the stars are sometimes visible and at other times hidden, so too with the good people. And just as the clusters of stars are so numerous they cannot be counted, so too are the groups of good people innumerable" (Sifre Devarim, Ekev 11:47 - Daniel 12:3).

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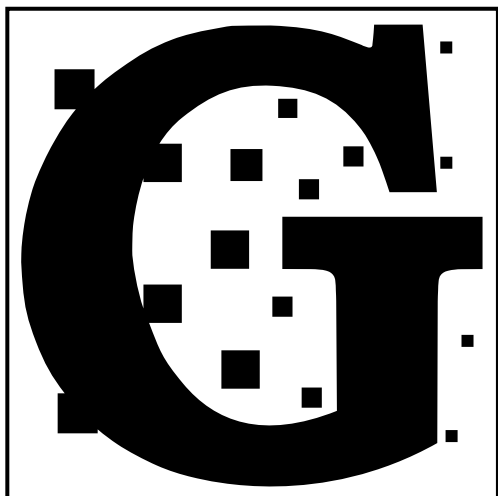
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Letters

I deeply regret being unable to personally respond to all the wonderful BEKI members and friends who were so wonderful during my recent hospital confinement as the result of a life-threatening accident. I sincerely appreciate and thank all for the motivational "get well" cards, flowers, books, donations and phone calls.

I thank God for giving me a second chance to live – and the wonderful team of doctors at the trauma section of Yale New Haven Hospital who are trained to be able to repair my injured body that God created. I have been blessed to be a member of this wonderful synagogue and Jewish community. May God bless each and every one, and may we all continue to go from strength to strength.

Most sincerely & shalom,
George G. Posener



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Responses to Noam Wiener's Appearance at BEKI

On Shabbat afternoon 4 May, Noam Wiener, an Israeli human rights lawyer and lieutenant (res.) in the Israel Defense Forces, who has signed the "Courage to Refuse" (*ometz lesarev*) statement of the officers and soldiers refusing to serve in the West Bank and Gaza, spoke at BEKI to about 60 people. Some members expressed concerns or objections.

To My Fellow BEKI Congregants:

I feel compelled to weigh in with my position on the presentation of Noam Wiener at BEKI last Shabbat. Whereas I respect the right of Mr. Wiener to express his opinions I believe his position is incorrect and harmful to Am Yisrael [the Jewish People]. I also question the propriety of his being allowed to speak at BEKI.

For many years I have considered myself fairly "left" on the peace process. I have felt that a Palestinian state was inevitable and appropriate, that the settlement policy was wrong and that Israel should withdraw from most (but not all) the territories, most (but not all) of the settlements and live side by side with an independent Palestinian State. I have felt that this was the only way to ensure that Israel remain both a democratic & Jewish State.

If Mr. Wiener had refused to serve in the territories 22 months ago I believe I would have supported his position. Since the onset of the current Intifada and especially the wave of homicide bombings I believe the situation, in the short term, has changed dramatically. We are now thrust into a war not of our choosing. The current incursions are defensive in nature. As such, there is no opt out. Halachically, there are opt out situations such as new brides, new homes, new vineyards etc. However, these opt out situations apply only to *milhemet reshut* (voluntary wars). They do not apply to *milhemet mitzva* (just wars) and defensive wars fall into the latter category. I have no illusions that the current incursions are a long term solution. I believe we must still attempt to resolve the Middle East crisis through

negotiations and once relative quiet is achieved I would personally favor putting a proposal similar to the Barak-Clinton plan back on the table. That is the long term goal but we have no choice but to deal with the short term problem without losing sight of that ultimate goal.

Had Mr. Wiener come to the Jewish community or any of its constituents directly I would have supported his right to speak, if only to argue the issue with him. However, he elected to go to the larger (i.e.: gentile) community. At this time virtually the entire world is arrayed against Israel and raw anti-semitism is rearing its ugly head. Only the United States stands by Israel. It was wrong for Mr. Wiener to imperil that. There is a legitimate difference of opinion but especially in wartime the dispute should be kept in "the family". And make no mistake about it, whether we like it or not we are engaged in an existential conflict. Because Mr. Wiener elected to air our "dirty laundry" in public I believe he should have been denied a venue at BEKI.

I would be remiss in ending here without making it clear that whereas I favor a two-state solu-

tion and withdrawal of most settlements, and whereas I feel that Israel has treated the Palestinians shabbily I still believe Israel is far more right than wrong. Whereas antecedent events don't matter pragmatically they do morally. Only if we look at how the current situation developed over the last 100 years does the true picture come to light.

Palestine was a Turkish province until World War I when Turkey chose the wrong side and lost the Middle East to Britain & France. Britain assumed the Palestinian Mandate and promptly turned over 2/3rds of it to the Hashemites (the current King Abdullah's great grandfather). The part of Palestine west of the Jordan remained under British control. There then ensued a three-way conflict—between Arab & Jew, between the Arabs and British & between the Jews and British. In 1937 the Peel Commission proposed a partition into Jewish and Palestinian States on terms much more favorable to the Palestinians than any subsequent proposal. This plan was rejected by the Arabs and represents the first time they missed the opportunity for a state. In 1947 the UN again proposed a Partition which was accepted by the Jews and rejected by the Arabs. This was their second missed opportunity. Israel was then invaded by four Arab Armies and Palestinian irregulars. For the next 20 years Israel endured continuous terror raids directed solely against civilians. In June 1967 Egypt blockaded the southern Israeli port of Eilat and along with Syria and later Jordan massed troops on Israel's borders. This was an act of war and in the ensuing combat Israel took the territories. Therefore, the occupation of the territories was not illegal any more than the Allies' occupation of Germany after WWII was illegal. Nor would any country relinquish such an occupation without assurance of peace. Yet peace was rejected continuously until Anwar Sadat took the first (and only) courageous step after the Yom Kippur war. This was the Palestinians' 3rd missed opportunity. The 4th missed opportunity came at Camp David. Israel is not legally compelled to give back *all* the territories. The word *all* was very consciously

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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.

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.

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 May, June and July. 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. The June and July-August BEKI *Bulletin* may contain technical and other information about this project. Hugh Fryer is working closely with President Stephen Pincus in managing this project.



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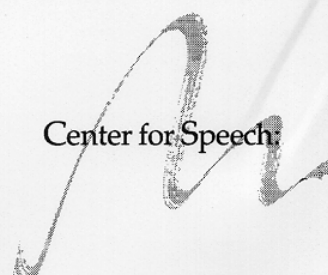
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20s-30s Havura Enjoys Dinner, Brunch

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.

LifeCycle

With sorrow we note the passing of

- Helen Lender, *sister of Murray Lender*
- Robert Colten, *father of Roger Colten (& Sarah Berry)*
- Stefanie Roth

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Raffle Drawing at Annual Meeting

Foxwoods? Mohegan Sun?....Why Bother ?
Enter the BEKI Raffle for fabulous prizes including a Free BEKI Membership (yes, that's FREE!). The drawing will be held at the annual meeting on 24 June 2002 although your presence is not required. Tickets are only \$36.00. Watch your mail for entry forms or call Mary Ellen at the BEKI office at 389-2108 x14.

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Benei Mitzva Program Meeting

Parents of youth who will celebrate becoming benei mitzva from January 2003 to May 2004 are invited to attend an orientation meeting to the Benei Mitzva Preparation Program on Sunday night 8 June at 6:00p in the BEKI Library. For information, please contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org.

Toda Rabba: Thank You!

- To Amy Pincus, Sarah Serkin and Ruth Greenblatt for reading the Book of Ruth on Shavuot
- To Paul Bass, Isaiah Cooper, Steven Fraade, Rabbi Joshua Guttoff, Dr. Lauren Kempton and R' Moshe Meiri for teaching at BEKI's Tiquen Leil Shavuot
- To Dr. Alan Gelbert, David Sagerman and Andy Weinstein for managing the BEKI cemeteries

BEKI operates largely by force of extraordinary volunteer effort. The list above does not include the many who read Torah, lead children's services and Shabbat morning services, help in the Religious School, support Kadima & USY, and other programs. There is still more to be done! If you would like to become more involved, contact Brian Karsif at 387-9268 (bkarsif@yahoo.com), Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 (lkempton@beki.org), Mary Ellen Mack at 389-2108 x14 (beki@snet.net) or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org).

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<i>June - Sivan - Tammuz</i>						5762
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						21 Sivan 1
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan BRS=BEKI Religious Schl KISS=Kids in Shul when there's no School	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			9:15a Shaharit <i>Rachel Forbes Bat Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45p SSLM 1:00p Book Group 5:45p Minha
22 Sivan 2	23 Sivan 3	24 Sivan 4	25 Sivan 5	26 Sivan 6	27 Sivan 7	28 Sivan 8
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 10:30a BRS Graduation 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p General 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.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 8:04p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Yaakov Stern Bar Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 7:00p Minha (Note Special 9:00p Maariv Times)
29 Sivan 9	30 Sivan 10	1 Tammuz 11	2 Tammuz 12	3 Tammuz 13	4 Tammuz 14	5 Tammuz 15
9:00a Shaharit 10:00a K-2 Siddur Workshop 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00-7:30p Benei Mitzva Program Intro-Class of 5763	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 6:00p Sisterhood <i>Book of Life Dinner</i>	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 8:08p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Dana Balter</i> <i>Kiddush Honoring Stephen & Amy Pincus</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
6 Tammuz 16	7 Tammuz 17	8 Tammuz 18	9 Tammuz 19	10 Tammuz 20	11 Tammuz 21	12 Tammuz 22
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 12:00-5:00p KISS 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 6:30p 20s/30s Havura Dinner 8:00p Late Service 8:11p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Taryn Belowsky Bat Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
13 Tammuz 23	14 Tammuz 24	15 Tammuz 25	16 Tammuz 26	17 Tammuz 27	18 Tammuz 28	19 Tammuz 29
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p Annual Meeting	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 8:12p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darren Palumbo Bar Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
20 Tammuz 30						
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv						

Benei Mitzva in June

On Friday night 31 May & Shabbat morning 1 June, Rachel Foodim-Forbes will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva. Rachel is the daughter of Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim and a student at Ezra Academy. The Friday evening service begins at 6:00p and the Shabbat morning service begins at 9:15a.



Rachel Foodim-Forbes

On Friday night 7 June & Shabbat morning 8 June, Yaakov Stern will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva. Yaakov is the son of Michael Stern & Kathy Rosenbluh and is a student at Ezra Academy. The Friday evening service begins at 6:00p and the Shabbat morning service begins at 9:15a. Yaakov will also participate in the Minha Afternoon & Maariv-Havdala Services. The Minha services begins at 7:00p on Saturday afternoon, a special time.

On Shabbat morning 22 June, Taryn Rachel Belowsky will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva. Taryn is a daughter of Rayna & David Belowsky. She is a graduate of the [BEKI Benei Mitzva Program](#) and of the BEKI Religious School. The service begins at 9:15a. Please join Taryn and her family on this special day.



Taryn Rachel Belowsky

On Friday night 28 June & Shabbat morning 29 June, Darren Palumbo will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva. Darren is a son of Ghislaine & Joseph Palumbo. He is a graduate of the [BEKI Benei Mitzva Program](#) and a student at the BEKI Religious School. The Friday evening service begins at 6:00p and the Shabbat morning service begins at 9:15a.

June Schedule Notes

On Shabbat afternoon 8 June, the Minha service will be held at 7:00p, a special time, instead of the usual 5:45p. The service lasts about 45 minutes.

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Tiqun Olam – Social Action

Donate Blood

11 June at the JCC

On Tuesday 11 June BEKI members will join other volunteers to donate blood at the Jewish Community Center on Amity Road in Woodbridge. This blood drive is sponsored jointly by B'nai Brith Youth Organization and BEKI. You may be receiving a phone call from Rita Sela, a member of BEKI, who is coordinating donations from BEKI members.

There is an additional dimension to these blood donations.

On a recent trip to Portugal, Rita Sela learned about the efforts of the Aristedes de Sousa Mendes Foundation to encourage blood donations to honor the memory of this Righteous Gentile, who saved the lives of 30,000 people during World War II. The overall mission of the Mendes Foundation is to promote and defend human rights, and promoting blood donations that save lives is a fitting memorial to a person who sacrificed his own professional and financial security to save the lives of others.

A blood donor herself, Rita promised to carry this mission back to New Haven and to tell the story of Aristides de Sousa Mendes, who, on one weekend in June 1940 signed visas that allowed so many people to escape certain death at the hands of the Nazis. The following story of Mendes's bravery was written by Professor Jose Cymbron, an active supporter of the Mendes Foundation.

"The night of 13 June 1940 was frightening. Paris was occupied by Hitler's troops. Thousands of refugees fleeing from the Germans converged on Bordeaux. A huge percentage of those refugees made their way to the Portuguese consulate, which occupied only two of the apartment's fourteen rooms, the other twelve being the residence of the consul, Aristides de Sousa Mendes, his wife Angelina, and their twelve children.



*Aristides de
Sousa Mendes*

"The refugees had heard that the consul had already disobeyed the Portuguese government's instructions not to grant visas to stateless people, Russians, holders of Nansen passports, Jews expelled from their homelands or any other country, and people without visas for other countries that could not guarantee that they would leave Portugal after entering the country.

"The consul spent three long days granting visas to Jewish refugees and to anyone who asked for a passage to freedom with the help of Rabbi Kruger, the consulate secretary, and members of the Mendes family. Rabbi Kruger, one of Mendes's best and long-time friends, collected the passports. Seabra, the consulate secretary, and Mendes's sons stamped them, and then the consul signed them.

"After three days, there were fewer people at the doors of the consulate, but Mendes's mission was by no means over. He hurried to the vice-consulate in Bayonne where he granted visas to the huge crowd of petitioners waiting there.

"When news of Mendes's blatant disregard of his government's instructions reached Lisbon, he was immediately recalled and dismissed from the consular service. He lost his salary and pension and the ability to support his large family. He was ostracized by his former friends and spent the last fourteen years of his life in poverty and misery. Yet he never regretted his decision to act 'rather with God against men, than with men against God.'"

Saving lives through blood donations is a fitting memorial to Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a person who saved lives through a dedication to principles of humanity that transcend race, religion, and nationality.

Habitat

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 23 June, 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).

Continued from page 7

omitted from the UN withdrawal resolution as there is considerable precedent for border rectifications as a result of war. The settlements are another matter.

At this crucial point in Jewish history we must stand together and not undermine each other.

Sincerely, Arthur L. Levy

Rabbi Tilsen Responds:

Art, you raise valid concerns and I am not unsympathetic to your viewpoint. I would like to separate two issues: The merits of MrWiener's position, and the question of the appropriateness of his being welcomed to speak at BEKI. In the scheme of things, I suppose the first question is of grander significance.

In his presentation at BEKI, Mr. Wiener did not detail Israel's "Human Rights abuses" in the territories. For the most part he presented them as a given and as the basis for his refusal to serve in the West Bank and Gaza. His position was the exact opposite of yours: He said that in the past, he was able to justify his service in the West Bank and Gaza because he saw it as part of a process of ending Israel's "occupation," but now that there is no such process (apparently), he could no longer justify being there. He was clear that "Human Rights" was the basis for his objection to serving there, and for that reason he would (and does) serve in the Golan, within the "Green Line" and elsewhere. I hope to address at least some of the issues he raised in other settings.

As to whether it was right for BEKI to welcome


him, I would note that this decision was made before the New Haven Register's article about him was published or his "60 Minutes" interview aired. The fact or content of those forums was not taken into account one way or the other. His visit to BEKI was publicized almost exclusively within the BEKI community, and all but four of the 60 people who came to hear him were BEKI members (the other four being guests of our members). Whatever he may have said in other forums (and I would not evaluate his position based on a report in the New Haven Register), his appearance at BEKI was a wonderful opportunity for us to hear a well-articulated presentation of an important issue of current interest.

Art, you stated that you "believe his position is incorrect and harmful to Am Yisrael," and in part for that reason you would not have wanted him to have a forum at BEKI. I would only answer that there are those who sincerely believe that the advocacy of the settlement project, or of the Israeli government's current military operation in the West Bank, or the advocacy of annexation of all or part of the West Bank, or the failure to expel all Arabs from Israel, or any number of other current viewpoints, are "incorrect and harmful" to Israel and the Jewish People. People in our community hold diverse viewpoints, and I affirm the liberal notion that open and respectful discussion and debate is beneficial to us, and this necessitates the expression of "incorrect" viewpoints, if only to point out why they might be wrong.

Our notice of his appearance included the following: "In particular, he will address the ques-

Continued on page 16

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tion of what American Jewish supporters of Israel can do to strengthen progressive Israeli voices of reason and conscience.” Many members of our community are deeply conflicted between their strong support of Israel and their objection to the Sharon government, the settlement enterprise, or other policies. I feel strongly that we must explore various ways of reconciling that conflict. Mr. Wiener gave one. You have suggested another. I would leave it to our members to evaluate these and other approaches. As for the anti-Semites, they are able to find ample ammunition in Israeli newspapers, Knesset debates and other public forums, and lacking that, are able to fabricate whatever complaints and accusations they find necessary. None of those anti-Semites attended the presentation at BEKI, but had they been here, would have found a sensitive and well-spoken Israeli officer who has a regard for human dignity, human rights and justice, and a love for Israel that would put them to shame.

Jon-Jay Tilsen

Noam Wiener writes:

I wish to thank you once more for having agreed to arrange for me to speak in your synagogue on the last Sabbath. I know my ideas are, to at least a part of your congregation, very radical and obtuse and I want to express my gratitude to you for allowing me to express myself non-the-less.

I suppose the Jewish audiences at synagogues

is probably the most important audience I could hope to try and communicate with, since it is to the Jews abroad, more than to any other international opinion, that the Israeli people and politicians listen to. I feel privileged that I have been given a chance to try and make a difference.

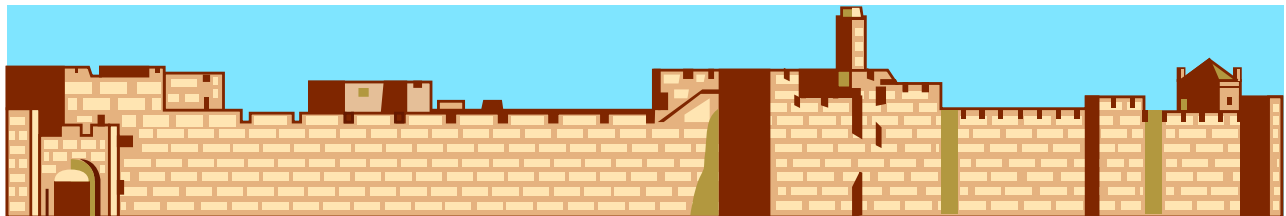
Sincerely,
Noam Wiener

Alan Lovin writess:

Dear Rabbi,

I was gratified to read the exchange of letters between you and Dr. Arthur Levy. I thought Dr. Levy wrote a very articulate and thoughtful explanation of his position, and I thought it was a valuable addition to our discussions at BEKI and elsewhere. I also liked the way Dr. Levy encapsulated the history. It was accurate, fair, and short. I thought your response was equally thoughtful, quite eloquent, and compelling. It all made me proud of BEKI, of my rabbi, and of Israel, which produces young men and women of conscience, allows them to travel around the world and express their thoughts, and continues to be a land of freedom and democracy. Where are Noam's counterparts in the Arab world? How could any thinking person not see this as an indication of Israel's and the Jews' dedication to free speech and fairness?

Sincerely,
Alan H. Lovins



Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

Mashgiah Training in July

Those interested in learning to serve as mashgi'im (Kashrut Supervisors) at BEKI and at local Conservative synagogues and schools are invited to participate in a Mashgiah Training Program to meet on Mondays in July. 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.

Darshan (Torah Commentator) in June

Dana Balter will serve as Darshanit (Torah Commentator) on Shabbat Qorah, 15 June.

Book Discussion Group

BEKI's monthly Book Group meets next on Shabbat 1 June 2002 following qiddush (about 1:00p to 2:30p) in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. The book to be discussed is *Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America* by Stephen G. Bloom, about the Lubavitcher community in a tiny Iowa town. If you order the book from Amazon.com, BEKI receives a small commission. (BEKI gets the commission only if you go to Amazon through the link at www.beki.org/links.html or wherever you see the Amazon icon on BEKI's web site.) Information on purchasing these books, and an updated list, can be found at www.beki.org/books.html. For further information, contact Helen Rosenberg at 389-9594.

Reading Torah at BEKI

Darryl Kuperstock is coordinating the readings for BeMidbar (Numbers). If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read Torah, call Rabbi Jon-Jay at (203) 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or Darryl Kuperstock at (203) 387-0304 (kuperst@aol.com).

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, literary 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 Shoharim (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Led 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.