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BEKIbulletin

March 2006

Adar 5766
Vol. 12 Issue 3

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Seminary Shabbat

Jewish Theological Seminary of America rabbinical student Steve Schwartzman will visit BEKI on Shabbat 10-11 March and will serve as *darshan* (Bible commentator) on Shabbat morning. Steve has an M.A. in Contemporary Jewry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a B.A. in Oriental Studies and Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. He has worked as a writer, editor, and translator in Israel and in the United States, and is the editor (with Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins) of *Enveloped in Light: A Tallit Sourcebook*. His writings and translations have appeared in the *National Jewish Post & Opinion*, the *Jewish Bulletin of Northern California*, *Qedem*, and *Biblical Archeology Review*. Steve is married and the father of four children.

For information on supporting the Jewish Theological



JTS Rabbinical Student Steve Schwartzman

Seminary, see the Sisterhood section in this issue. For information on the Seminary and its programs, see www.jtsa.edu. Several BEKI members are graduates or former faculty members of JTSA, and Ahud Sela and Peter Stein are currently seniors in the Rabbinical School.

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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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Mark Your Calendar

- **Bat Mitzva: Mollie Goldblum** 7-8 April
- **Auction Sunday** 30 April 2006
- **Bat Mitzva: Chloe Lerman** 5-6 May
- **Bat Mitzva: Emma Golub** 12-13 May
- **Bar Mitzva: Jared Levine** 19-20 May
- **Bar Mitzva: Daniel Ben-Chitrit** 26-27 May

Renovations Update

Major demolition work associated with Phase 2C renovations began in early February. In anticipation of that work, a temporary daily chapel was set up in Classroom Four. Most Library and Daily Chapel activities will be held in that room for the next several months. Signs on the doors indicate the locations for the various scheduled activities.

The memorial boards, formerly in the Posener Daily Chapel and in the lobby, were relocated to the social hall in anticipation of lobby renovations.

On Friday afternoon, Shabbat, Sunday, Festival days and scheduled conference or major event days, entrance will be through the new main entry from the parking area and from the triple doors on Harrison St. The coat racks are in the social hall. The elevator will be available for use on those days as well.



Greg Sachs, son of Ivan & Rita Sachs, affixing mezuza to new entry



Building Site 1959

During the week, when those entrances will be used for construction access, entrance will be through the “old” office entrances on Harrison St. and along the driveway.

The Claire Goodwin Youth Room will be renovated after the school year. The new space will be created before the current space is demolished. We expect the use of the CGYR to be continuous throughout the year.

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An occasional column of answers, advice and helpful household hints

Dear Rabbi,

Regarding your recent presentation, “*The Dangers of Qabbala*”: Qabbalists discovered the “Big Bang” as the origin of the universe many centuries ago, and the ten dimensions of string theory were discovered long ago as described by the ten sefirot or “*Tree of Life*.” How come you don’t recognize the value of qabbala?

Signed, Chariot Rider

Dear Cheery Rioter,

Qabbala, the Lurianic mysticism concerning God and creation, did not achieve any particular insights into metaphysics nor anticipate either the Big Bang or String Theory. We have a creation story in Bereshit (Genesis). It surprises me to hear that religious fundamentalist Jews have a new mystical story that they think they “discovered” and that is better or more accurate than the Torah’s account.

Long ago, many people – Egyptians and Greeks, Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jews – wondered about the origins of the universe. Their speculation produced a limited set of plausible models. Either the universe was “always” here, the way it is now; or it was created “as is” *ex nihilo* in a flash; or it was created from a seed that expanded; or it was something that “leaked” out of God or out of something else; and the like. It should be no surprise that cosmologists – modern scientists – came up with the same set of ideas as starting points for their

own investigations. The “Big Bang” model is currently in favor. The difference is that Qabbalists and other ancients guessed; modern scientists seek to find evidence and prove their theory. Your question ignores all of the other theories or models proposed by Qabbalists that are completely rejected by science.

The same holds with String Theory, the proposition that our universe can best be described as ten (or eleven) dimensional. While it is the case that one popular Qabbalistic model is based on ten “spheres” or attributes, there are many other Qabbalistic models based on other numbers. If the String Theorists had posited seven dimensions, you would have trotted out one of the seven-sphere Qabbala models as your proof. If there is anything to be learned from the *sefirot*, it is not the number of dimensions of the universe that physicists are positing. In the same way, I don’t think that the three Avot (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), the Trinity, or for that matter the Three Musketeers Bar, anticipate the theory of the three most popular special dimensions of the universe. One may make lovely and inspiring poetic analogies or images, but they are no more than that. If you don’t want to believe in coincidence, but want to believe that there is a “reason” for everything, that is fine; just don’t presume to know what that reason is. Get a grip.



Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen

Dear Rabbi,

There are eggs at the Stop & Shop with an OU hekhshir. How are these eggs different from all other eggs? Do we still need to check them individually before use?

Signed, Eggstremely Curious

Dear Eggcited Furious,

The kosher certified eggs are no different from other regular commercial eggs. The chickens eat the same food and the eggs undergo the same treatment as other commercial eggs. They receive no eggstra attention. So if you paid more for the supervised eggs, the yoke’s on you.

If an egg contains blood or other questionable material, it should be discarded. To avoid contaminating a large quantity of food or batter, we recommend breaking and inspecting eggs one at a time, or in small groups, in a separate container before adding them to the other ingredients or placing them in a cooking utensil.



Elsie Morris

**With sorrow we note
the passing of**

**Elsie Morris
Jacob Pepper
Cantor Morton Shanok**

Bat Mitzva in March

Kaili Janette, daughter of Nathan & Judith Janette, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat HaHodesh, parashat VaYaqhel-Peque-dei, 24-25 March 2006

Mazal Tov to:

- Miryam Kabakov & Mara Benjamin on the birth of Baby Girl on 1 February 2006
- Stephen & Rachel Wizner on the birth of granddaughter Cecily Scarlett Dahlia Wizner to Jake & Kira Wizner on 22 January 2006 in New York

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Miryam Kabakov & Mara Benjamin with baby

Dear Rabbi Tilsen and the Qiddush committee,

I thank you for helping me celebrate my 95th milestone birthday on December 25th with a wonderful BEKI kosher qiddush prepared and served by our BEKI master cooks to about 200 BEKI members and friends who came to honor me for my special event. The food was delicious, and imagine a two-layer chocolate raspberry-filling birthday cake that was large enough to satisfy everyone in addition to the excellent meal. At home I have received flowers, birthday cards, phone calls and gifts as well as many visits from my neighbors and friends. I thank God for the blessings that his mercy has bestowed, as I'm drinking from the saucer as my cup has overflowed. If God gives me the strength and courage when the way grows steep and rough, I'll not ask for another blessing. I'm already blessed enough.

May God bless America and Israel and all those fighting in the armed forces to protect us. May God also inscribe all the BEKI members and their families in the Book of Life with good health and long life. And I also thank those who made my 95th milestone birthday such a wonderful event that I shall always remember.

George G. Posener

Dear friends at BEKI ,

My nephew, Michael Friedman, 16, who has been struggling with a rare form of cancer for two years that has required him to spend months in the hospital, recently established a foundation to support the purchase of electronic games for pediatric cancer patients and for improvement of entertainment facilities on pediatric hospital floors.

Michael has personally presented donations from the foundation to pediatric wards in two hospitals, including Yale New Haven Hospital, and is scheduled to visit several more in February. At Yale New Haven, each of the 14 children in the ward received a video game, and the hospital received two Playstation 2 units, with games, an XBOX, also with games, and a dozen DVD movies.

Michael has found a simple way to provide support to children who are facing unimaginable challenges. Please consider a donation to Mikey's Way. You can learn more about the foundation by visiting www.mikeysway.org or can call 1-716-741-4150 to make a donation. Donations can also be sent to: The Mikey's Way Foundation, PO Box 76, Easton CT 06612.

Helen Rosenberg

Be Happy it's Adar

Mishenikhmas Adar marbim besimha
– When Adar begins, joy increases.

Talmud Eruvin 29a

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over twenty centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is observed the day before Purim, Monday 13 March 2006. Taanit Esther marks the serious side of the holiday. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatchers, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide. The Fast of Esther begins at dawn on Monday 13 March. Monday *shaharit* morning services are from 7:00a to 7:50a and include “Avinu Malkenu -- Our Father, Our King,” as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any signifi-



cant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. The *minha* afternoon is from 5:45p to 6:15p. The fast ends at 6:30p, or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Megilla Readings

The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read during the evening service, which begins at 6:30p on Monday 13 March 2006, and then again during the morning service, which begins at 7:00a on Tuesday 14 March 2006.

Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it oneself) is a Biblical commandment (*mitzva*). Other Purim *mitzvot* (religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor, alms for the poor and a feast on Purim day. Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will have to start over to insure that everyone hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story's villain reverberate though our sacred halls on our sacred cinderblocks. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Please do not bring firearms, explosive devices or weapons, or any toy that resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door – we mean it). In accordance with revised



FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are again permitted. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service; this applies on Purim as well as year-round.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be *groggier* than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18 centimeters).

Purim Se'uda Celebration

The Purim Se'uda (Feast) at BEKI will take place on Tuesday 14 March from 5:00p to 8:00p. Preregistration and payment are **required** by Monday 6 March. Admission is \$12 per adult, \$10 per child age 3-12, and free for children 2 and under, when registered and paid in advance. Sorry, no exceptions. A light dairy meal will be served.

Registration forms are available in the lobby, from the BEKI office, and at www.beki.org/forms.html. Advance registration and payment are **required**.

Sisterhood News for March 2006

Thanks to everyone who participated at services on Sisterhood Shabbat on 21 January. Everyone was outstanding in her area of participation.

The Gift Shop is having a SALE – 40-70% off on selected items. We are open Sundays 11:00am-12:15pm or by appointment; call Peggy in the BEKI Office. We have gifts for all occasions. Stop by BEKI first!

Women's League for Conservative Judaism is dedicated to strengthening the bonds of Sisterhood women to their Conservative roots – join us – send us your ideas and dues.

Adele Tyson & Ruth Greenblatt
Co-Presidents

Torah Fund March 2006

Our newest benefactor to Torah Fund supporting The Jewish Theological Seminary is Caryl Kligfeld. She joins Violet Ludwig, Rita Sela, Barbara Cushen, Diana Friedman Opton and Rachel Sutin, who is a Guardian. Their donation goes directly to JTS to support its programs.

Your dedication and generosity to our Appeal, to purchase cards and for your large gifts insures the continuation of Conservative Judaism for future generations.

The Connecticut Valley Branch Annual Torah Study Day will be Sunday 26 March at Kol Ami in Cheshire. Please plan to attend.

Starting at 1:00p, the day will include a luncheon and a special guest speaker. Let's have a large turnout from BEKI.

Call me for cards, \$3.00 each with postage, at 407-0314.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair for BEKI Sisterhood

Thanks to the following who purchased cards last month:

Get Well:

- Adele Tyson from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Sally Abbey

Mazel Tov to:

- Sid & Donna Levine on their Anniversary from Barbara Cushen, Rena Miller
- Ann Grimarchi on her birthday from Hyla Greenberg
- George Posener on his 95th birthday from Sid & Donna Levine, Sylvia Zeid
- Steve & Rachel Wizner on the birth of a granddaughter from Adele Tyson

In Memory of:

- His father to Dr. Moshe Siev from Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries
- His father to Albert Rourke from Hyla Greenberg
- Ruth Yetwin to Bobby Sanofsky from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Irving Enson to Lucille Enson from Ruth & Sam Rafterowitz, Adele Tyson
- Her mother to Lee & Bernie Dickens from Vic & Sue Stein

SATO – Social Action Tiquin Olam

Bins for collecting non-perishables (dry goods and canned food) are placed near the entrances. Food collected is distributed by the Jewish Family Service and other local food banks.

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BEKI Auction 2006

Here we go again!

Join us for BEKI's 2006 auction, to be held this year on Sunday evening 30 April from 5p to 8p. Those who attended last year can tell you how much fun it was, and this year we will be entertained by auctioneer Charles Rosenay (from Boppers Djs). The event will be celebrated with hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Please contribute by:

- donating your special talents or collectibles
- helping us solicit items
- buying tickets to attend
- bringing some friends
- volunteering to help

Items which are highly desirable for auction include vacations, original art, electronics, good jewelry, gift certificates, dinners at kosher restaurants, beauty items, fine antiques and tickets to theatre and other events. Items will be accepted for this year's auction through 31 March 2006. Please contact Elayne Dimenstein before bringing donated items – not all items can be included in the auction. Look for the mid-month mailing for further

details. Pick up donor forms and letters on the BEKI website, from the office, or look for them in BEKI's literature rack. Call Peggy Hackett in the office, or call Elayne Dimenstein, Auction Chair, at 203-877-2962 or erdd@juno.com, with any questions, ideas or donations.

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Habitat for Humanity Update: BEKI Youth Builds

The house that we've been building at 526 Winchester in New Haven for oh, these many, many months, is really nearing completion. We have all worked very hard, doing and learning things we never thought we would! What a great joy to see this home spring from a vacant lot! (You can see it at www.amitycares.org.) While we are thrilled to have had over 40 different BEKI volunteers work on the Amity Cares – Habitat for Humanity build (a list is posted on the Social Action bulletin board), there have been many more who have wanted desperately to be involved...the youth of our community! Their enthusiasm has been frustrated, however, because Habitat for Humanity only allows those over the age of 16 to participate in the on-site building (insurance issues). But there have been so many requests for those younger to participate, that a special Habitat for Humanity Youth Build Day has been scheduled for Sunday 26 March. The youth (ages 13 and older only) from all of the participating organizations will gather to prepare the house and grounds for the dedication of the house, at which the keys will be turned over to its new owner family. For more information about this special event, or about BEKI's participation in Habitat for Humanity, please contact Darryl Kuperstock (387-0304 or kuperst@aol.com).

SUN SAT MAT ACT

Students who are Shabbat observers and who plan to take standardized tests such as the SAT, MAT and ACT

may register for regularly scheduled Sunday test dates. The SAT will be administered on several Sundays throughout the year. For more information on Sunday testing, see www.collegeboard.com/sat/html/students/reg004.html. If you need a letter from a rabbi, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

BEKI/BJ Youth Programs Score With Superbowl Deli Boxes

For the 13th year in a row, our community was treated to festive, flavorful and fantastic deli lunches and dinners, thanks to the efforts of the BEKI/BJ Joint Youth Commission. The event, a fundraiser for the joint youth programs of the two synagogues, took place on 5 February 2006 – Superbowl Sunday, and was again a huge success. Not only did over 80 families enjoy the delicious offerings, but many, many donations were received in addition to the funds raised by the sale itself.

Some of the funds will be used to provide subsidies to enable more of our youth to participate in a broad range of activities, the remainder will be divided equally between the USY and Kadima groups.

The Youth Commission would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with all of the preparations for the Deli Box Sale. In addition, a special thanks to **Westville Kosher Market** for all the extra help and use of their facility (for the last 13 years), and to **Unicorr** (formerly CT Container Corporation) for the donation of all the boxes.

If you are interested in providing additional support for our youth (with funding or volunteer participation), please contact one of the co-chairs of the BEKI/B'nai Jacob Joint Youth Commission: at BEKI – Rena Cheskis-Gold; at B'nai Jacob – Karyn Ravski.

Thanks for your support!

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March 2006

1 Adar 5766 - 2 Nisan 5766

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>Sundays: 9a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p>Mondays: 7a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p>Tuesdays: 7a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p>			<p>Wednesdays: 7a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p>Thursdays: 8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv</p> <p>Fridays: 7a Shaharit 6p Maariv</p>			<p>Saturdays: 9:15a Shaharit</p> <p><i>See calendar for Minha-Maariv</i></p>	
			1 Rosh Hodesh II 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	2 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	3 5:26pm Candle Lighting	4 Darshanit: Dr. Lauren Kempton 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Gad 5:30pm Minha-Maariv	
			1 Adar	2 Adar	3 Adar	4 Adar	
5 9:00am Religious School	6 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	7	8 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 9:30am NHBOR 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	9 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	10 USY Shabbaton (off-site) 5:34pm Candle Lighting	11 JTS Shabbat Darshan: Steven Schwartzman USY Shabbaton (off-site) 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Wizner 5:40pm Minha-Maariv	
5 Adar	6 Adar	7 Adar	8 Adar	9 Adar	10 Adar	11 Adar	
12 USY Shabbaton (off-site) 9:00am Religious School, Purim Carnival	13 Fast of Esther 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:30pm Megila Reading	14 Purim 7:00am Megila Reading 5:00pm Purim Seuda	15 Shushan Purim 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	16 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 6:00pm Garinim Montessori Open House 8:00pm A.A.	17 5:42pm Candle Lighting	18 Darshan: Matthew Wightman 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Shragis 5:45pm Minha-Maariv	
12 Adar	13 Adar	14 Adar	15 Adar	16 Adar	17 Adar	18 Adar	
19 9:00am Religious School	20 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	21	22 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	23 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	24 5:50pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Kaili Janette Bat Mitzva	25 9:15am Kaili Janette Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Janette 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 8:00pm Wine Tasting Event	
19 Adar	20 Adar	21 Adar	22 Adar	23 Adar	24 Adar	25 Adar	
26 9:00am Religious School	27 7:45am Rashi Study Group	28	29 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program	30 Rosh Hodesh 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	31 5:57pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Lea Winter Bat Mitzva		
26 Adar	27 Adar	28 Adar	29 Adar	1 Nisan	2 Nisan		

BEKI Events

Shabbatot

Darshanim in March



Dr. Lauren Kempton

Dr. Lauren Kempton, Education Director and Religious School Principal, will serve as darshanit for parashat Teruma, on Shabbat 4 March 2006. Rabbi Steve Schwartzman, JTS Rab-



Rabbi Steve Schwartzman

binical student, will serve as darshan on JTS Shabbat, Shabbat Zachor, parashat Tetsave, 11 March 2006.

Matthew Wightman, a student at Yale Divinity School, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Para, parashat Ki Tisa, 18 March 2006.

Schedule Note: Classes that usually meet in the Library or Chapel will meet in Classroom Four during Phase 2C renovations.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel (or in Room 4 during renovations), 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** 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 of and appreciation for the services and the weekly Torah reading. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Sundays

MAKOM Mishna with Moshe

Serious youth are invited to dive into the "sea of Talmud" on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The course covers the first mishna of Tractate Berakhot with its Gemara. Students are expected to have studied some Mishna and be able to read Hebrew. An acquaintance with Rashi's commentaries is helpful. The text, the *El-Am* edition of Tractate

Berakhot, will be supplied. This text is vocalized for easy reading



Matthew Wightman

and is accompanied by an English commentary and translation. The class meets Sunday mornings from 10:00a to noon at BEKI. Students wishing to enroll should speak with



Steven Fraade

Arnold Carmel at MAKOM. This is an AP class and will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Moshe may be reached at mosh@net.

Ivrit with Margolit

Learn to decode the Hebrew alef-bet and learn 100 vocabulary words and a few songs on Sunday mornings from 11:00a to noon with Margolit Kern. For information, contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Try the Rashi Study Group as we begin our thirteenth year. 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. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

Wednesdays

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 (12:30p to 1:30p) 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 icoooper@cooperlaw.net.

Writing Group

The writing group meets on each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Each week a group of interested writers comes together 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 writ-

ten pieces, and publishing. Each week the writers come together with a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. 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.

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." Recently added items include Morris Cohen's Devar Torah on *parashat* Toldot.

Required Reading & Reference Books on Web

A listing of basic Judaic reference and introductory works is posted on BEKI's website at www.beki.org/books.html with a brief annotation by Rabbi Tilsen.

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