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# BEKI bulletin

Congregation  
Beth El-Keser Israel

March 2008

Adar Rishon / Adar Sheni 5768  
Vol. 14 Issue 3

*Kosher Wine-tasting*  
Page 6

*Seminary Shabbat*  
Page 13

## Purim at BEKI

### Be Happy It's Adar

#### משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה

*Mishenikhnas 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, which is Thursday, March 20.



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 (5:32 a.m.) March 20. The Thursday shaharit morning service is from 8:15 to 9, and includes "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 significant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. The minha afternoon is at a special time, from 7 to 7:20 p.m. The fast ends at 7:36 p.m., 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 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March

## SHUSHAN PURIM BALL: COME AS YOU ARE NOT

You're invited to an adults-only Shushan Purim Costume Party, Saturday, March 22, 9 p.m. to midnight. Experience BEKI as you've never seen it before! The evening will include live entertainment (you wanted dead entertainment?), foolishness and fun, dancing, plenty of food and drink, and a costume contest.

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\$30 per person.

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*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:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

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

Annual subscription is \$36

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
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## New: Kulanu Discussion Group

Shabbat, March 15 and 29

For information contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at  
[lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org) or 389-2108 x33.

## Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

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**Purim** continued from Page 1

20, and then again during the morning service, which begins at 7 a.m. on Friday, March 21.

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 through 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 18cm).

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**BEKI/BJ USY Spring 2008 Calendar**

- March 23 – Broomball \*
- April 4-6 – Regional Spring Convention \* #
- April 13 – Chocolate Seder \*
- May 18 – Final Regional Event – Six Flags \* #
- May 30-June 1 – Inter-Chapter Shabbaton \* #
- June 8 – Beach Day/Beach Bonfire/Elections \* #

\* 8th graders welcome  
 # Members-only event

# Sunday Brunch to Explore Controversial Immigration Issues

Dr. Stephen Steinlight, senior policy analyst at the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) in Washington, DC, will be the next brunch speaker at BEKI on March 9, at 9:45 a.m. in the Downstairs Social Hall. His topic will be “Immigration Policy: what it means for America and America’s Jews.”

Dr. Steinlight has spoken widely on immigration and immigration policy and has testified before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives. He has written on the impact of mass immigration on the status and political power of American Jewry, and his articles have appeared in such publications as the *Forward*, the *New York Jewish Week* and Boston’s *Jewish Advocate*. The organization for which he works supports immigration at lower than current levels, advocates the patriotic assimilation of immigrants, and believes in protecting American sovereignty and upholding the rule of law.

Prior to joining CIS, Steve was executive director of the American Anti-Slavery Group, a Boston-based abolitionist group that seeks to inform the public about the

persistence of chattel slavery and global trafficking in human slaves. For eight years he was National Affairs Director and Senior Fellow at the American Jewish Committee (AJC), where he was respon-



**Stephen Steinlight**

sible for the organization’s ambitious public policy agenda, focusing on such areas as First Amendment issues, civil rights, immigration, and social policy, and he directed its intergroup relations, particularly with communities of color. At AJC he founded and served as co-editor of *common-Quest: The Magazine of Black-Jewish Relations*, co-sponsored by Howard University. He was chief investigator for a major grant exploring charitable choice that resulted in the publication *In Good Faith: A Dialogue on Government Funding of Faith-Based Social Services*.

Before his years at AJC, Dr. Steinlight was Vice President for Programs at the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ) where he coordinated the first global interreligious dialogues involving Muslim scholars and directed *Taking America’s Pulse: A Survey of Intergroup Attitudes in the United States*, a study that has become a seminal work in the

field. Before joining NCCJ, he served for three years as Director of Education at the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the body that oversaw the development of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Dr. Steinlight was also the co-creator of the “Remember the Children Exhibition” at the Museum.

After completing his Ph.D. in English literature, Dr. Steinlight was for 16 years a professor of English with a specialization in Victorian Studies. He has also been a Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was a Fellow of the Institute on Polish-Jewish Relations at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. He is also an Associate Fellow of Timothy Dwight College, Yale University. He was selected by the United States Institute of Peace and the Soros Open Society Institute to be a member of a team of conflict-resolution and civil society experts, religious scholars, and scholars on Islam sent to Macedonia to maintain the ceasefire in that nation’s civil war.

Dr. Steinlight is co-author of two books: *Fractious Nation? Unity and Division in Contemporary American Life* (UC-Berkeley Press, 2003), and *Children of Abraham* (K’TAV 2002), an introduction to Islam and Islamism (with the noted dissident scholar Khalid Durán). Steve is also Gila Reinstein’s brother.

## Friendly Face?

If you might like to serve as a “Greeting” on a Shabbat or Festival morning, to

welcome guests, direct visitors, and assist those with special needs, please contact Ritual Committee Chairperson Steven

Fraade at 397-9430 or [steven.fraade@yale.edu](mailto:steven.fraade@yale.edu), or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).

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# Gutman Teen Scholarships

*Apply for or Donate to Scholarships Provided by Sisterhood*

In memory of her father, Marcel Gutman, Mimi Glenn has set up a teen scholarship program through the Sisterhood.

Eligible teens are those in grades 8 to 12 who are going to Israel with a youth group or school program, or engaging in Jewish youth programs during the year or the summer. Some examples of appropri-

ate programs would be the Ezra 8th Grade Israel trip, Mifgash, March of the Living, USY Kinnus, USY on Wheels, Camp Ramah. The parent or guardian of the eligible teen must be a member of BEKI Sisterhood (annual dues \$25) or a contributor to Sisterhood (at least \$25 per year).

Scholarship applications can be down-

loaded at [beki.org](http://beki.org) or picked up at the BEKI office along with information about Sisterhood membership. Tax-deductible donations to the scholarship fund can be sent to: BEKI Sisterhood, c/o Miriam Ratner, 135 Seneca Rd., New Haven, CT 06515.

## SUN SAT MAT ACT

The Youth Commission would like to encourage all BEKI teens to consider the special Sunday testing date for the SATs. Testing on Sunday instead of Saturday is an especially nice form of Shabbat observance. It provides solidarity with other Jewish teens, and, as an extra benefit, you'll test in a smaller, quieter, environment.

How to? Go to this link for information on SAT or ACT Sunday testing: <http://www.usy.org/yourusy/reled/sunday-sat.asp>.

Or go directly to the SAT and ACT websites: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg/circum/sunday.html>  
<http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/nonsat.html>

Upcoming Sunday SAT test dates are March 11 (SAT only), May 6, and June 3.

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*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

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**Bidding for BEKI**

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**Change of Address**

BEKI member Sarah Goldstein has a new address: The Whitney Center, 200 Leeder Hill Drive, Apt. 442, Hamden CT 06517. She can be reached at her new phone number (203) 248-0206

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This year we will again help you celebrate the Purim mitzva of *mishloach manot* – the sending of gifts — and *matanot la-eyyonim* — presents to the poor — with beautiful BEKI Purim Baskets.

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*and your name, on a separate piece of paper and attach it to the form.*

**Pick-up and Delivery:** Baskets will be available for pick-up at BEKI Thursday night, March 20 and Friday, March 21. Volunteers are needed to deliver baskets. Recipients who do not pick up their baskets may receive them after Purim, or a card in lieu of a basket will be sent at the committee's discretion and depending on the availability of volunteers. Contact Ina (387-6019 or [ina@aya.yale.edu](mailto:ina@aya.yale.edu)) to volunteer to deliver. Thanks!

**Cost/Reciprocity/BEKI Option:** The cost for each basket is \$5 for each member, \$7 for each non-member. If

you would like to reciprocate for each basket you receive, please indicate on the form. The cost for each reciprocal purchase is \$5, unless you choose ONLY reciprocity in which case the cost is \$6 per basket. You will be billed for reciprocity. We offer a special rate of \$275 to those very generous families wishing to send to the entire BEKI community. If you choose "The Entire BEKI Community" option, indicate that on the form and simply attach your check in the amount of \$275.

Please contact Ina Silverman at 387-6019 or Peggy Hackett in the office at 389- 2108x14 or [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) with any questions.

**News**

**BEKI/BJ USY To Volunteer at Downtown Soup Kitchen**

On Sunday, March 16, 4-6 p.m., join our USY chapter in serving dinner at the DSK. Please RSVP by March 9 to Maya Sutin, USY Social Action Chair, [vballcutie967@yahoo.com](mailto:vballcutie967@yahoo.com) or Miriam Benson at [mirbenson@aol.com](mailto:mirbenson@aol.com). We need 4-10

USY'ers to make this a "go." **Location:** Center Church Parish House, 311 Temple St. (near Wall St.); go to the left basement entrance. Dress warm, and don't bring backpacks or purses. Hairnets and gloves will be provided and must be worn. We hope you are healthy; please don't come if you are not feeling well.

**Pesah**

Mekhirat Hametz: Forms for selling hametz for Passover are available at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html) and will be mailed in the coming weeks.

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*Shabbatot*

## Darshanim in March

**Rabbi Peter Stein** will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning March 1, parashat VaYaqhel

**Donna Levine**, Past President and current Treasurer, will serve as darshanit on the morning of March 8, Shabbat Sheqalim, parashat Pequdei, Rosh Hodesh Adar Sheni.

**Micah Liben**, a Rabbinical Student at the [Jewish Theological Seminary of America](#), will serve as darshan on national "Seminary Shabbat," March 15, parashat VaYiqra.



**Peter Stein**



**Donna Levine**



**Micah Liben**

## Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shahrarit (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 for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

## **NEW:** Kulanu Discussion Group

Shabbat morning, March 15 and 29 from 10:45 to 11:45.

Adults who may take part in the Kulanu Friendship Circle and the Saul's Circle outreach programs are invited to participate in a Shabbat morning discussion group which will meet March 15 and 29 from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with Dr. Lauren Kempton.

For information, contact Lauren at 389-2108 x33 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org)

*Sundays*

## Talmud with Moshe Meiri

Serious high school students are studying Talmud on Sunday with Moshe Meiri. The class meets Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:45. Students wishing to enroll for the Spring Semester should speak with Moshe and should register with the office ([office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org)). The classes are open only to students in grades 8-12. This class is taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Registration and materials fee is \$120 for the spring semester. Moshe may be reached at [moshe@snet.net](mailto:moshe@snet.net).

*Mondays*

## Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 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 a.m. *shahrarit* service. New participants are welcome.



*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 397-2513.

## **NEW: Mishna Makot with Rabbi Peter Stein**

Wednesdays, March 5 to April 9, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., George G. Posener Daily Chapel Beit Midrash at BEKI  
This class will cover the laws concerning scheming witnesses, cities of refuge and corporal punishment as recorded by the rabbis of the 2nd century in Mishna Makot. Discussion will focus on the religious and social ideas presented as well as the structure and literary features of the text.

Each class will include learning in both hevruta (partners) and shiur (seminar). No prior knowledge of Hebrew or rabbinic texts is necessary. Free with advance registration to [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) 389-2108 x14.

*Thursdays*

## **Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group**

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah Cooper 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@cooper-law.net](mailto:icooper@cooper-law.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."

# Seminary Shabbat

Jewish Theological Seminary of America rabbinical student Micah Liben will visit BEKI on Shabbat, March 14-15 and will serve as *darshan* (Bible commentator) on Shabbat morning.

Micah Liben grew up in Natick, Mass. As an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, where he majored in history, Micah ran the Conservative minyan at Hillel and performed with Yofi, Penn's Israeli dance troupe. After college he spent a year in Israel on the Lilmod Ulelamed Fellowship, studying at the Conservative Yeshiva and staffing Ramah's high school program (TRY). Prior to starting rabbinical school, Micah worked for two years

at Geshet Jewish Day School in Virginia, where he taught Judaics to fifth, sixth and seventh graders. Now in his second year at JTS, Micah continues to fulfill his passion for teaching, both as the bar-mitzvah class teacher at the Pelham Jewish Center and as a volunteer reading-partner for the Everybody Wins program. In addition to his rabbinic studies, Micah is in the process of applying for an advanced degree in Talmud in the JTS Graduate School, and last year received



**Micah Liben**

the Rabbi Joel Prize for an essay in the field of rabbinics. After graduating he hopes to serve as a rabbi in a warm and welcoming congregation.

For information on supporting the Jewish Theological Seminary, see the Sisterhood section in this issue. For information on the

Seminary and its programs, see [www.jtsa.edu](http://www.jtsa.edu). Several BEKI members are graduates or former faculty members of JTSA. Shai Silverman is currently a student in the Seminary's List College.

## **Minyan Seekers / Minyan Makers Mailing List**

If you would like email notification when BEKI members are seeking additional participants for a daily service in order to insure a minyan, and might like to request that others attend on a specific date on which you seek a minyan, send a message to [minyan-subscribe@beki.org](mailto:minyan-subscribe@beki.org). You can unsubscribe by sending a message to [minyan-unsubscribe@beki.org](mailto:minyan-unsubscribe@beki.org) and obtain additional instructions at [minyan-help@beki.org](mailto:minyan-help@beki.org).

# Point of Grammar

Notes on Hebrew Morphology, Syntax and Grammar to Aid Ba'alei Qeri'a (Torah & Haftara Readers), Shelihei Tsibbur (Service Leaders) and Gabbaim at BEKI.

## Stress, Meteg, Maqaf and Taamei HaMiqra (Trope)

In most Hebrew words, the stress is placed on the final syllable. When the stress is to be placed on a syllable other than the last, many books, such as our siddur and humash, indicate the syllable to be stressed with a *meteg*, which appears as a vertical ( | ) line under the letter. Some books also include a *meteg* on a stressed final syllable in cases of ambiguity or common error. In the *tiqun* and *humash*, when the stress is indicated by the *taamei hamiqra* (trope), sometimes a small vertical line will be included to indicate a *secondary* stress.

When two or more words are joined by a maqaf – a hyphen ( - ) – they are treated, for purposes of stress, as if they were a single word. Thus in the word pair *kol-Yisrael*, the main stress is on the final syllable “el,” and the word *kol* is not stressed.

Some *taamei hamiqra* are always written at the end of the word. When those *taamim* are to be pronounced on a syllable other than the last, they are, in some books, written a second time, on the syllable to be stressed. Examples: *pashta*, *telisha-qetana*. The *pashta* can be distinguished from the *qadma*, as the *pashta* is always written above and after the last letter of the word, whereas the *qadma* is indicated at a point before the end of the word.

Some *taamim* are always written on the stressed syllable. Examples: *etnahta*, *tevir*.

Some *taamim* are always written at the beginning of a word. When those *taamim* are to be pronounced on a syllable other than the first, they are, in some books, written a second time, on the syllable to be stressed. One example is *telisha-gedola*. The *yetiv* can be distinguished from the *mapah*, as the *yetiv* is always written before the first letter of the word, whereas *mapah* is written after it.

Common errors include:

ולא שִׁמְנוּ כַּמְשַׁפְחוֹת הָאֲדָמָה

In the opening line of “Aleinu,” the word “sa•ma•nu” should be accented on the “ma” syllable, as indicated by the meteg. In the next line, the word וגוֹרְלֵנוּ should properly be accented at the *lamed tseret*, “ve•go•ra•le•nu.”

וְהָיָה ה' לְמֶלֶךְ עַל כָּל־הָאָרֶץ

In the closing line of “Aleinu,” this passage from Zekharya 14:9 begins with “ve•ha•ya,” which should be accented on the final syllable “-ya,” not on the syllable before it.

אֲשֶׁר בִּידוֹ מִחֲקַר־יְאֲרָן

In this line from Psalm 95, which is included in the Qabbalat Shabbat service, the word “a•rets” should be accented on the “a,” not on the final syllable. Depending on the melody, this may require that an additional “beat” be added, musically, to the syllable “-qerei.”

ה' מֶלֶךְ ה' מֶלֶךְ ה' יִמְלֹךְ

In this familiar line from the Torah service, the word “me•lekh” is accented on

the first syllable, but the word “ma•lakh” should be accented on the final syllable.

מֶלֶךְ מֵמִית

In the second *berakha* of the *amida*, the word “me•mit” should be accented on the final syllable.

אַתָּה & אַתָּה

When the word “ata” comes in pause, such as at the end of a sentence in the *qedusha*, the accent is shifted to the first syllable, as in

מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל וְקָדוֹשׁ אַתָּה

Just look for the *meteg* (vertical line) under the *alef*, which indicates the stressed first syllable.

כִּי הוּא יוֹם תְּחִלָּה

In the Shabbat evening *qiddush*, note that the correct accent on the word “tehi•la” is on final syllable.

If you make a point to accent these words correctly, you will quickly become habituated to doing so, and it will feel “natural.”

**Gabbaim note:** If a Torah reader stresses a word incorrectly, it usually is not necessary to correct the reading, as this error does not affect the meaning or intelligibility of the text. However, in the few cases when the word would have a different meaning when stressed incorrectly, the reader should be corrected; for example, *ba'a* (I [f.] am coming) and *ba'a* (she came).

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## Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

*Please make contributions payable to "Congregation BEKI"*

- Elayne & Morton Dimenstein
- The Rudof Family – Joanne, Steve, Paul, Dom, Atticus & Mavis – honoring Stephen Wizner at his 70th Birthday
- Shirley Chain in memory of Morton Benzel
- The BEKI Sisterhood

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## Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$250)

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- Iris & Adam Gafni-Kane
- Eva & Bill Shragis
- Karen Kassap & Carey Caldwell
- Cathy Schwartz & Marty Feldman

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## Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations

- To Anne Johnston & family with sympathy on the passing of Harry W. Johnson, Jr. by Peter Stein
- To Tillie Horwitz with sympathy on the passing of Sylvia Dworski by Mary Doyle Fritz
- To Anne & Robert Johnston with sympathy on the passing of Harry W. Johnson, Jr. by Sybil Richards & Hans Massaquoi

- To Anne & Robert Johnston with sympathy on the passing of Harry W. Johnson, Jr. by Joe & Ravit Avni-Singer

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## Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In memory of Ida & Isadore Frankel by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Esther Black by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler

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## Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund

*to provide needs-based religious school scholarships*

- Murray Levine

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## Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations

- To Morton Silver with wishes for a complete & speedy recovery by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Rose Lipman with sympathy on the passing of Irma Hamburger by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Jonathan Friedman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gila Reinstein

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## Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

- In memory of Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of George Brunswick by Rose Brunswick

- In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- In memory of Harry Miller by David & Dorothy Lipton
- In memory of Ruth Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
- In memory of Morris Baer by Irving Baer
- In memory of Samuel Miller by Richard & Vicki Miller
- In memory of Fannie & Charles Rosenblat by Saul Bell
- In memory of David X. Brown by Lois & Sharon Brownstein
- In memory of Evelyn M. Kahn by Richard Kahn & Michael Kahn
- In memory of Maurice "Moe" Miller by Helen Miller
- In memory of her grandparents Anna & Louis Ginzberg by Barbara Supowitz Greenberg
- In memory of Diane Lee Kaufman by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of Shirley Lorber Charleston by Delci Lev
- In memory of Irving Nabatoff by A. David Nabatoff
- In memory of Julie Cohen by Michelle Avenia
- In memory of Jacob Pepper by Carol & Thomas Facin
- In memory of Ida Caminear Levine by Les & Bernice Margolis
- In memory of Samuel Adams Margolis by Les & Bernice Margolis
- In loving memory of their mother Eunice S. Rogoff by Eileen & Phyllis Rogoff

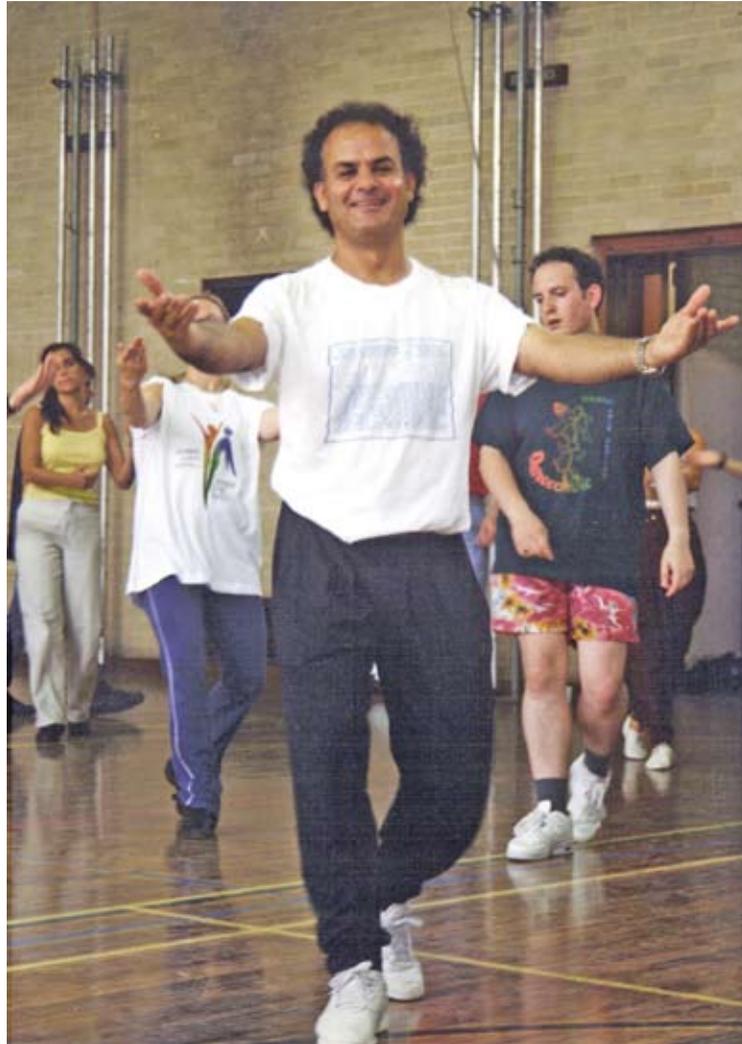
- In memory of Anne Schnitman-Irwin by Edward & Helene Vanderhoef
- In memory of Edith Levy by Paula & Maurice Levy
- In memory of Norma Gerken by Ann Gerken Green & Donald Green
- In memory of Tsvi ben Eliezer by Leon Cummings
- In memory of Rose Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Sam Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Ida Rogoff Byer by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Max Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Tsvi ben Eliezer by Diane Hilary Cummings
- In memory of her husband Sidney Cushen by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Gabriel Opper by Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff
- In memory of Wilbur Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- In memory of Etta & Charles Miller by Julian & Susan Miller
- In memory of Saul Hennes by Sophie Hennes
- In memory of Nathaniel Kaplan by Helen Z. Kaplan
- In memory of Joseph Samowitz by Sherman Granoff

# Café Israel: Eat, Dance, Celebrate

**Congregations BEKI and BJ invite you to Café Israel: A Night of Israeli Food, Dancing, and Celebration in Honor of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Internationally-Known Dance Leader Shmulik Gov-Ari**

On Saturday, April 5, from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Congregation B'nai Jacob, we hope you will join us for a fun, *high-energy* community-wide evening of Israeli culture in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's founding. Internationally-known dance choreographer Shmulik Gov-Ari will lead us at the event. (Shmulik leads dance groups from Paris to Australia. Look him up on YouTube.com)

Come learn how to do circle and line *dances with a Middle-Eastern beat* — not just the basic 'horas' you do at Bar Mitzvahs and weddings. Do you enjoy salsa or swing? You'll be surprised at how many modern



**Shmulik Gov-Ari**

Israeli dances incorporate elements of those great dances. Not a dancer? *Come and enjoy great music, eat and drink delicious Israeli wines, snacks, and desserts.* Shop on the side for Israeli and other goods from the B'nai Jacob and BEKI gift shops.

But, most of all, join us for a wonderful adult-only community event, and bring your friends!

Tickets can be obtained at [www.bnaijacob.org](http://www.bnaijacob.org) (under News/Events), or call the B'nai Jacob office at 389-2111. \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Event sponsorships also available. Reservations recommended.

If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact BEKI chairpersons Rena Cheskis-Gold at 397-1497, or Marsha Beller at 387-4657.



CARL TONUCCI JR.  
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**M**any thanks to Coby Ben-Chitrit for painting the Sisterhood Gift Shop. We have new merchandise; Challah covers, Passover items, candlesticks and Kiddush cups and jewelry. Gift certificates also available.

This year, as in the past, Sisterhood is supplying the Groggers and refreshments for Purim night.

Our annual Seder for people with special needs will be on Monday, April 14. If you would like to help that evening or do some shopping please call Ruthie or Adele. Extra hands are always needed.

Please get applications in early for teenagers who are planning summer activities now. The Marcel Gutman Scholarship assists children of Sisterhood members and men associates to attend United Synagogue programs, camps and trips to Israel. Applications are available in the office. For further information call Mimi Glenn.

Mimi Glenn volunteers at an after-school program at Casa Otonal. They bake with the children and need baking equipment (hand mixers, cookie sheets, bowls, etc. that you no longer use; need not be kosher). Please call her at 397-3851.

Happy Purim!

Adele Tyson  
Ruth Greenblatt  
Co-Presidents

## Torah Fund



Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to our Fall appeal for The Torah Fund to support the Jewish Theological Seminary.



Founded in 1886, its mission was to preserve the knowledge and practice of historical Judaism. In 1887, the first class of ten rabbinical students began. Today it is the pinnacle of rabbinic training for the Conservative Movement offering a five-year course of study.

BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund is very proud to support this leading Judaic institution. With your donations and purchase of cards for all occasions we will continue to do so. Please call me, 407-0314, for cards — only \$4 per card with stamp. And no need to shop!

Thank you to the following who purchased cards:

Barbara Cushen  
BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund

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### Cards for own use:

- Rabbi Murray Levine

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### Mazel Tov to:

- Inge & Lenny Fish on their 60th anniversary from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Steve Wizner on his milestone birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Dr. Ellen Leonard on her marriage to Greg Matthaey from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Sharon Rubin on her birthday from Hyla Greenberg

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### Get Well to:

- Mort Silver from Susan & Victor Stein
- Inge Fish from the Hesed Committee

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### In memory of:

- Sylvia Dworski to Tillie Horwitz from the Hesed Committee
- Peggy Hackett's grandmother from the Hesed Committee, Susan & Victor Stein
- Irving Katsoff to Mrs. Ada Katsoff from Helen Miller
- Her sister Ethel to Charlotte Saportin from Mikki Ratner
- Phyllis Kliman to Mr. Albert Kliman & Family from Susan & Victor Stein
- Evelyn Levine to her family from the Hesed Committee

## Community Second Seder at BEKI

Congregations Beth El-Keser Israel, Temple Beth Sholom, Bnai Jacob, and Or Shalom invite you to join the community in celebrating the second night of Passover at our Community Seder, Sunday, April 20 at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

A traditional kosher Passover dinner will be served:

Gefilte Fish with  
Horseradish, Chicken Soup  
with Matzo Balls

Choice of Entrée: Glazed  
¼ Roasted Chicken or  
Eggplant Marinara

Glazed Carrots, Cole Slaw  
and Potato Kugel

Assorted Cookies and  
Macaroons

Evening service: 6:30 p.m.

Seder and dinner: 7 p.m.

Cost: \$36 per adult; \$18 per child (12 or under); Reservations and payment due Thursday, April 10.

Kashrut information:

[www.kinahara.org](http://www.kinahara.org) under "Pesah."

Reservations: Peggy at 389-2108 x14 or [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org).

# If I Had a Million Dollars

**S**ometimes I am inspired by the New York Lottery's theme song (by the Canadian group Barenaked Ladies) to think about what I would do if I won a million dollars. I don't actually play the lottery, as I believe people who want a lot of money should get a job or otherwise do something productive to earn it. Maybe I will even do that myself some day. The lottery is just a tax on the mathematically challenged. The chances of winning the lottery are almost the same whether or not you buy a ticket, so I don't ever buy one. But that doesn't stop me from thinking about what I'd do with the jackpot.

At the Rabbinical Assembly's annual convention in Washington, DC, I heard several members of congress, activists and commentators speak about what they see as the issues of the day. A dominant theme was concern about Iran as a supporter of violent radical Islam and as a potential nuclear state. I like to believe that I'm not susceptible to war-mongering — I was against both American wars in Iraq, as well as the invasion of Granada — but Iran does have me worried.

I am certain that there are numerous non-military possibilities for resolving the Iran nuclear threat.



However, I do not have the confidence in American and European leadership, let alone Iran's leadership, to avoid catastrophe one way or the other. Some of the Iranian leadership, apparently, believes Iran to be impervious to economic or military pressure due to their great power over petroleum production and transportation. If there is even the threat of an American military action against Iran, we might see \$300 per barrel oil and \$10 per gallon at the pump faster than you can say "fill 'er up."

Not that higher gasoline prices would be so bad, but price volatility wreaks havoc. Tripling the price of oil for home heating or of electric rates would be a great hardship for our population, and would devastate much of the developing world.

It kills me, possibly literally, that our synagogue is sending thousands of dollars a year to Iran through

our profligate energy consumption, financing Ahmadinejad's nuclear ambition and armaments for Hizballah and Hamas, not to mention sponsoring the milk and cookies for Ahmadinejad's Holocaust deniers' convention. So if I had a millions dollars — or maybe just \$100,000 — I would replace the drafty and inefficient single-pane windows in our synagogue building, add another solar array, and replace the remaining incandescent lighting.

Our synagogue priorities are set by a somewhat democratic communal process, with a lot of guidance from people who are expert in financial matters and fiscal responsibility. If the synagogue comes into money, it is applied to the current priorities, such as retiring debt (i.e. paying for things we've already bought) and daily operations. That is as it should be; the rabbi does not make these decisions.

But if I had a million dollars — or maybe just \$100,000 — I would put *tuches afn tisch* (Yiddish for "put your money where your mouth is"), and make us less dependent on oil, or at least prepare us for the day when we will not be able to afford heating oil. A guy can dream, at least.

**Jon-Jay**

# March 2008

24 Adar I 5768 - 24 Adar II 5768

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

## Schedule Changes

Beginning Sunday, March 2, we will recite minha at 5:45 p.m., followed immediately by Maariv, at daily services until the autumn.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday morning, March 9 (earlier than in recent years).

Beginning March 14, until the autumn, Shabbat minha service will begin at 5:45 p.m., but will not be followed by Maariv and havdala, due to the late hour. Worshippers are encouraged to recite Maariv and havdala at home.

1  
Darshan: Rabbi Peter Stein  
10:45am Children's Programs  
10:45am Learner's Minyan  
Qiddush: Sokolow-Silverman  
5:20pm Minha-Maariv  
7:30pm Wine Tasting  
  
24 Adar I

2 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe  25 Adar I	3 7:45am Rashi Study Group  26 Adar I	4  27 Adar I	5 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7:30pm Mishna Makot with Rabbi Peter Stein  28 Adar I	6 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)  29 Adar I	7 Rosh Hodesh I 5:32pm EST Candle Lighting  30 Adar I	8 Rosh Hodesh II Darshanit: Donna Levine 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: BEKI Development Committee 5:30pm Minha-Maariv  1 Adar II
9 9:00am DST Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 9:45am Brunch with guest speaker Dr. Stephen Steinlight 12:30-9pm Photo Shoot for BEKI directory  2 Adar II	10 7:45am Rashi Study Group 2:30-9pm Photo Shoot for BEKI directory 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  3 Adar II	11  4 Adar II	12 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7:30pm Mishna Makot with Rabbi Peter Stein  5 Adar II	13 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)  6 Adar II	14 6:40pm DST Candle Lighting  7 Adar II	15 Darshan: Micah Liben, Rabbinical Student at JTS 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan 10:45am Kulanu Discussion Group Qiddush: Rabbi Murray Levine 5:45pm Minha  8 Adar II
16 9:00am Religious School - Purim Carnival 9:30am Talmud with Moshe  9 Adar II	17 7:45am Rashi Study Group  10 Adar II	18 10:30am Childrens program - NHSO presents a West African Folktale with drums  11 Adar II	19 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7:30pm Mishna Makot with Rabbi Peter Stein  12 Adar II	20 Fast of Esther Purim Basket Pick-Up 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 7:00pm Minha 7:30pm Purim Megilla Reading  13 Adar II	21 Purim 7:00am Purim Megilla Reading 6:47pm Candle Lighting  14 Adar II	22 Shushan Purim 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Stahl-Hallo 5:45pm Minha 9:00pm Adults Only Shushan Purim Costume Party  15 Adar II
23 No Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe  16 Adar II	24 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting  17 Adar II	25  18 Adar II	26 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7:30pm Mishna Makot with Rabbi Peter Stein  19 Adar II	27 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)  20 Adar II	28 6:55pm Candle Lighting  21 Adar II	29 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan 10:45am Kulanu Discussion Group 5:45pm Minha  22 Adar II
30 9:00am Religious School 9:30pm Talmud with Moshe  23 Adar II	31 7:45am Rashi Study Group  24 Adar II					

## Service Times for Spring / Summer

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Minha-Maariv	9:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 Minha

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      - Elevator access
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