Be Happy It’s Adar

_mesheniknas 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 com- ic) 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 normally observed the day before Purim. 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. This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn (5:38) on Thursday March 17, advanced two days to avoid impinging on the Sabbath. The Thursday _shaharit_ morning service is from 8:15 to 9:15 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 service is at 5:45. The fast ends at 7:34 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Shabbat Zakhor

The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, March 19. This Sabbath is marked by the reading of the Biblical passage reminding us to remember and never forget the cruelty of Amalek. The reading of this passage is in fulfillment of the mitzva that it references, and hearing this reading is considered a mitzva unto itself. For that reason, children’s programs may be timed to let adults and children hear this required reading. Like Taanit Esther, Shabbat Zakhor expresses the serious side of Purim.
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: jtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.
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Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

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

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

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THERE IS A DIFFERENCE
Day of Rage Demonstration

A Day of Rage Demonstration against the despotic King Ahashverosh and his wicked deputy has been called for March 19 and 20. Schools and stores throughout New Haven will be closed and riotous masses will gather at BEKI to chant and listen to public protests against the repressive Ahashverosh regime.
Expectations are for a riotous and outrageous gathering.

Megilla Reading

The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read following the afternoon (6:45) and during the evening services (7:30) on Saturday March 19, and then again during the March 20 Sunday morning service, which begins at 9 o’clock and ends at 10:45. Due to the earlier start of Daylight Saving Time, our Megilla reading is later this year. Children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed or asleep in sleeping bags or napping in nap sacks.

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 cinder-blocks. 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.

BEKI Purim Seuda (Feast) with Boppers

WHEN: Sunday March 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
WHERE: In the BEKI Upstairs Social Hall
NOSH: A light dairy lunch will be served
TICKETS: $13 per adult, $11 per child (age 3-12); Age 2 and under, no charge. Preregistration with payment by Monday March 14

Purim Spiel created and directed by Bruce Altman & Darcy McGraw
Ruth Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown
Face-painting with Rachel Sutin
Special Purim Birkat Hamazon

Purim Songs Sing-a-long w/Ada Fenick & Yair Minsky
Dance and games with Boppers Entertainment

Volunteers!

Call Eva Shragis, Food (203) 258-1243
Jessey Palumbo, Membership Chair, (203) 387-8359
Meet & Greet
Liora Lew, Decorations (203) 389-1048
Ada Fenick & Yair Minsky, Songs, (203) 393-1394
Darcy & Bruce, Purim Spiel, darcymcgraw@comcast.net, baltman2@comcast.net
Miriam Benson, Set-Up, Registration Table, or Clean-Up Committees (203) 389-6137 or mirbenson@aol.com
with revised FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are again permitted. However, shampoo, eye drops and more than 3.2 oz of any liquid are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service.

**Weather or Not**

Please exercise caution and allow extra travel time to and from BEKI and your other destinations. Daily and Shabbat services are held regardless of weather conditions. Office hours may be curtailed or canceled in inclement weather; please contact the office to confirm availability when in doubt.

**Snow What?**

Services are held regardless of weather conditions. Please use your best judgment to determine if and how it is safe for you to travel to BEKI or other destinations.

**Lots of Parking**

Thanks to the Ivan & Rita Sachs Families (Cherry Hill Const.) for excavating Mount BEKI from our parking lot in February to reveal dozens of parking spaces, a second lane in our driveway, and a loading dock, all of which had been unusable due to snow and ice; and thanks to Building Cmte member Bob Spear for overseeing this project. Thanks as well to Moshe Meiri for overseeing the removal of snow from 16,000 square feet of roof.

**Hesed Shel Emet**

Thanks to a minyan of BEKI members who attended the burial service for Sheila Clugman, who died in February without local family or contemporaries. She was buried next to her grandmother in the Beth El Memorial Park. It is a kindness which can never be reciprocated.

Persons dressed as Lady Gaga wearing meat suits should sit in the designated fleishig area and are advised to keep a distance from people wearing M&M and other dairy costumes.

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

**Gutman Youth Scholarship**

In memory of Marcel Gutman, father of Mimi Glenn, a Youth Scholarship was established through the Sisterhood. Teens in grades 8 to 12 who are going to Israel with a youth group or school program or engaging in a Jewish youth program during the summer or next academic year are eligible to apply. Parent or guardian must be a BEKI and Sisterhood member. Applications are available in the office and at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html).

**Hadassah Meeting**

We are having a joint meeting with Hadassah on Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at BEKI. Claire Criscuolo, proprietor of Clair’s Corner Copia, will be our featured speaker on “Healthy Eating – Healthy Living,” everyone is invited and refreshments will be served.

**ANL Library**

*Let My People Go*, by Tilda Balsley, was purchased for the Ari Nathan Levine Fund Library, available in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room.

**Walk-a-thon Report**

Excitement filled the air as over 80 adults and children assembled in BEKI’s auditorium on a Sunday in November to participate in a walk-a-thon to raise money to help those in need in our community as the result of the recession. Contributions would be distributed by our local Jewish Family Service. One Temple member volunteered to match any funds pledged. It was a happy group that marched to the sound of blaring music and the blowing of the Shofar. Rabbi Murray Levine and Rabbi Jon-Jay led the parade.

**Torah Readers Wanted**

If you would like to read from VaYiqra, contact Jon-Jay Tilsen at jjtilsen@beki.org. If you would like to learn to read Torah, contact Darryl Kuperstock at kuperst@aol.com.

**ANL Library**

*Let My People Go*, by Tilda Balsley, was purchased for the Ari Nathan Levine Fund Library, available in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room.

**Keep Those Cards Coming**

By purchasing cards for all happy occasions and to memorialize a loved one, through BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund, you support the Jewish Theological Seminary. The Seminary depends on small donations as well as major gifts.

Purchase of cards is very easy – call Barbara Cushen at (203) 407-0314 and your card will be right out. Just $4 each (includes postage).

As always, Sisterhood will be supplying groggers and refreshments on Purim and sponsoring The Annual Seder for People with Special Needs on April 11.

There are many new items in the gift shop for Passover and all other gift occasions. Please support BEKI Sisterhood.

Mimi Glenn Adele Tyson

Co-Presidents Torah Fund

**In Memory of:**

- Samuel Kantrowitz to Harriet Kantrowitz & family from Sheila Caplan, the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Samuel Kantrowitz to Violet Ludwig from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, Peggy & Don Hackett, Reeva & Gary Lynes
- Gertrude Slopak to David Schwartz from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Louis Petrillo
- Amy Aaland to Jonathan Freiman from the BEKI Hesed Committee, Ruth & Morton Silver
- Karel Citroen to Sascha van Creveld from the BEKI Hesed Committee
- Jerome Miller to his family from Sheila Caplan
- Gabriel Zimmerman to his family from Louis Petrillo

**Get Well to:**

- Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords from Louis Petrillo

**Thank You to:**

- Dr. Samuel Bobrow from Louis Petrillo

Thank you to everyone who purchased cards last month.

Barbara Cushen

Torah Fund Chair

Visit us at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)
Births and Arrivals
Mazal tov to parents Jen Goldberg & Marc Blander and sister Mara on the arrival of Jacob, born in February.

Welcome New Member Families
Matthew & Hannah Feldman and Rachel

Letters
Dear BEKI Friends,

This is, at once, an apology and a thank you. Ideally, I would thank each & every one of you for your expressions of caring – visiting Morris before his death, visiting my family during shiva, bringing mountains of food, sending cards and letters, offering words of condolence, contributing to BEKI and other charities in his memory. Acknowledging this wonderful outpouring of community support en masse would not be approved by Miss Manners. But as I remember these past months and as I look at the pile of mail I have received, I am overwhelmed, and I fear that I may never get to respond individually to the many acts of thoughtfulness. So please accept this “Thank you” and know that I appreciate it all and am very aware of my good fortune in being part of this extraordinary BEKI community.

Gloria Cohen

Benei Mitzva
Alyssa Sachs, daughter of Robert & Betsy Sachs, Shabbat afternoon March 12, parashat Tsav. Service begins at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by Maariv and Havdala. Alyssa is also a granddaughter of BEKI members Ivan & Rita Sachs and niece of members Ken & Linda Buckman and of Mark & Ilene Sachs.

Elie Azoff-Slifstein, son of Caryn Azoff & Cory Slifstein, March 25-26, Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow), parashat Shemini.

Joni Weintraub, daughter of Daniel & Beth Weintraub, April 1-2, parashat Tazria – Shabbat HaHodesh.

HaMaqom Yinahem
With sorrow we note the passing of Harold “Pat” Goldberg, brother of Grace Geisinger

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn
Darshanim
Baruch Levine will serve as darshani on Shabbat Sheqalim, parashat Pequedei, March 5.
Dr. Lauren Kempton will serve as darshani on Shabbat parashat VaYiqra, March 12.
Elie Azoff-Slitstein, bar mitzva, will serve as darshani on Shabbat Parah, parashat Shemini, March 26.
Joni Weintraub, bat mitzva, will serve as darshani on Shabbat Ha-Hodesh, parashat Tazria, April 2.
Mark Oppenheimer will serve as darshan on Shabbat parashat Metsora, April 9.

Shabbatot
Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan
The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Rabbi Eric Silver and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Shabbat Schmooze
A Shabbat afternoon conversation with educator and poet Shulamith Chernoff is slated for April 30 following the morning service and qiddush (about 12:45 p.m.) in the Rosenkranz Family Library.

Sundays
New: The Evolution of Judaism in the Second Temple Period
Explore topics in the emergence of Rabbinic Judaism and its evolution in the Second Temple period with Steven Fraade on three consecutive Sunday nights in March (6, 13, 20) following the 5:45 afternoon and evening services. Steven Fraade is the Mark Taper Professor of the History of Judaism at Yale University; he teaches courses on rabbinic literature, the history of the Second Temple and rabbinic Judaism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. English and Hebrew texts (and occasionally texts in other languages) are provided. From 6:07 p.m. to 7 p.m. Suitable for adults and mature youth. Costume optional at March 20. Coffee, tea and hot cocoa available.

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 RSG began in January 1994 with the first verse of Genesis and is currently reading the final chapters of Deuteronomy. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. shaharit service. Most participants attend the service before the Study Group. With Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays
Word for the Day
The Wednesday morning service

Continued on Page 8
(shaharit) features a 90-second “Hebrew word for the day” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English. The Word for the Day often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion. The Wednesday morning service normally begins at 7 o’clock and ends at 7:31. (The service ends later on Hol HaMoed Sukkot and Pesah, Hanuka and Rosh Hodesh; Word for the Day is not presented on those occasions.)

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. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

**Thursday Mini Morning Learning Service**

The Thursday morning services are dedicated to encouraging those learning to serve as *ba’alei tefila* (precensors or prayer leaders), *ba’alei qeri’a* (Torah readers), *gabbaim* and other leaders, and are sometimes supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shaharit service is from 8:15 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. 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.

The Sanhedrin Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.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.” For a complete list, see http://beki.org/hungry.html.
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

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- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Andy Hirshfield, Monica Starr, Yoni & Eitan
- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Andy Hirshfield & Monica Starr
- To Eitan Minsky-Fenick in honor of his birthday by Yoni & Eitan Hirshfield
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Sydney Perry
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by her book club; Trish Loving, Karen Baar, Nancy Yedlin, Sally Connolly, Lisa Omark & Jean Larson
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Guido & Anne Calabresi
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To Jonathan, Gabriel, Elijah & Caleb Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Betsy & Glenn Schullman
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- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Charles & Myra Novogrodsky
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Harold & Stephanie Birm
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by the Gad family
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by the Gad family
- To Jonathan, Gabriel, Elijah & Caleb Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Joan, Stuart, Aaron & Micha Margolis
- To the BEKI Community with thanks for the hospitality by Robin Goldberg & Steve Spear
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To David Schwartz with sympathy on the passing of Gertrude Koletsy Slopak by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Michael P. O’Connell
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by the New England Law Library Consortium
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by the Lettick family
- To Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Andy & Paige Weinstein
- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Andy & Paige Weinstein
- To Harriet Kantrowitz & family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne
- To Harriet Kantrowitz & family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by the Lettick family

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Sara Labowe-Stoll & Steven Stoll
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Leon Cummings
- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Leon Cummings
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Heni & Mark Schwartz
- To Gloria Cohen in loving memory of Morris Cohen by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Sascha van Creveld with sympathy on the passing of Karel Citroen by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Paul Goodwin
- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Paul Goodwin
- To Harriet Kantrowitz with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Edie Wolkovitz
- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Rissa Mendlestein

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
- To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce, Aaron, Ben & Sophia
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy...
on the passing of Amy Aaland by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce, Aaron, Ben & Sophia

• To Caleb Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rena Cheskis-Gold
• To Elijah Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rena Cheskis-Gold
• To Gabriel Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rena Cheskis-Gold
• To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland from Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
• To Karen Kaplan in memory of Judy Gordon by Rena Cheskis-Gold
• To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by the Winter-Mackler family
• To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by the Lew family
• To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by Barbara & Jeffrey Orell
• To Joanne Foodim for extraordinary help in a time of need by Rena Cheskis-Gold, Marty Gold and extended family
• To Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Rena Cheskis-Gold & family

Hesed Fund
• To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland from Marjorie & Jay Hirshfield
• To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Gila Reinstein
• To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Muriel Banquer

BEKI Library Fund
• To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Gila Reinstein

Qiddush Fund
• To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Marjorie & Jay Hirshfield

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• In memory of Esther Black & Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler
• To Shirley Mattler in memory of Harry Schultz and Rebecca Miller (Schultz) by Sylvia Botwinick

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• In memory of Hattie Henken by Gladys Lipkin
• In memory of Milton Cohen by Stephen & Doris Brody
• In memory of her dear mother Basha-Chaya bath Peretz by Polina Naiman
• In memory of her mother Esther Heller by Rhoda Lemkin
• In memory of Jack Nankin by David Nankin
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• In memory of Ruth Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
• In memory of Annie Cohen by Ted Maltin
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• In memory of James J. Barnett by Caroline Barnett
• In memory of Sidney Cusen by Barbara Cushen
Western intelligence in general and Israeli intelligence in particular did not foresee the scope of change in Egypt. Likewise, almost all of the media analysis and academic experts got it wrong. In his first appearance at a meeting last Wednesday of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the new head of military intelligence Major General Aviv Kochavi said to members of Knesset, “There are currently no doubts about the stability of the regime in Egypt” (Amos Harel, Haaretz, January 29).

The recognition that “no one” saw it coming is itself not remarkable. We heard such a claim after Hurricane Katrina, when President Bush said, “I don’t think anyone could have anticipated the breach of the levees,” even though the Army Corps of Engineers and other leaders sounded the alarm bells about that precise eventuality months and years before New Orleans was wiped out. And that was just a simple “weather” prediction.

What is remarkable about the statement by columnist Harel is that after observing that “no one” (himself) knew what was going on, he then predicts with great confidence and precision what will happen next and into the distant future. In other words, we can’t understand what is happening right now, but we can clearly predict the future. The claim lacks credibility at the outset.

I am reminded of the story of an Israeli who was out hiking and came upon a Bedouin scout lying flat on the ground with his ear pressed against the sandy earth. Without looking up the Bedouin said: “Jeep... 6-cylinder jeep... man driving jeep... long beard... wearing green shirt... woman in passenger seat... dressed in jeans...” The Israeli was duly impressed. “You can tell all of that just by pressing your ear to the ground?” he asked.

“No,” replied the Bedouin, “The Jeep ran me over twenty minutes ago.”

There is a lot of trepidation about the collapse or potential collapse of several allied and moderately repressive regimes, due to the uncertainty about what could happen next. I worry that things could well get worse for our North African and other Arab neighbors. But I’m always for a good overthrow. As Thomas Jefferson said, “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.”

We can’t agree on what is taking place around us in America today, and we certainly don’t understand the complexities of politics and revolution in other societies. It is possible that replacement Arab regimes could be even more anti-Jewish or hostile than their predecessors. As an advocate of democracy, though, I believe that the power of people around the globe to develop progressive and democratic societies respecting human rights and sharing opportunities will in the long run succeed, and that it behooves us to support such efforts. Maybe it is a one step backward and two steps forward kind of process. Without a consistent application, our “American ideals” are just self-serving hypocrisy.

In general, we can never really know all of the consequences of our actions. The life you save might be that of a future mass murderer. Instead, we are guided by a system of mitzvot, of rules, and of principles or guiding ideals. Ki hem hayenu – They are the source of our life and length of days.
### Service Times

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<th>Sundays</th>
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### March 2011

#### 25 Adar I 5771 - 25 Adar II 5771

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<td>4:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</td>
<td>5:00pm Religious School</td>
<td>12:30pm Talmud Study Group</td>
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**Rosh Hodesh I**

- 9:00am Religious School
- 1:00pm Purim Program
- 6:00pm Evolution of Judaism 2nd Temple

**Daylight Savings Time Begins**

- 9:00am Religious School
- 12:00pm Helene Goldberg Memorial Service
- 6:00pm Evolution of Judaism 2nd Temple

**Purim**

- 9:00am Religious School
- 9:00am Shaharit & Megila Reading
- 11:00am Purim Seuda (reservations required)
- 6:00pm Evolution of Judaism 2nd Temple

**Shushan Purim**

- 7:45am Rashi Study Group
- 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)
- 8:00am Yom Iyyun (Rabbi’s Group)
- 4:00pm Religious School
- 5:00pm Benet Mitzva Program

**Elie Azoff-Slifstein Bar Mitzva**

- 6:51pm Candle Lighting
- 6:45pm 20’s/30’s Havura (off-site, reservations required)

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I WANT YOU . . .

. . . TO ATTEND DAILY SERVICES