PASSOVER AT BEKI

Guidelines

Kosher for Pesah guidelines are available in the “Rabbinical Assembly Pesah Guide” in the BEKI literature rack (also available by request from the office) and at www.rabbinicalassembly.org.

Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible hametz. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive hametz such as liquor, you can sell your hametz for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz to someone who is allowed to own it, please sign and return the form available at www.beki.org/forms.html and in the literature rack. If you need a form faxed to you, give Peggy (203-389-2108 x14 or office@beiki.org) your fax number or fax her at 203-389-5899. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you.

KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at the website of the Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly, www.kinahara.org.

Kulanu - Special Needs Seder

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, and BEKI’s Kulanu Havura outreach program, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service and Abel Catering, will host the twenty-ninth annual Adult Special Needs Model Seder at BEKI on Monday 26 March. Each year the Sisterhood has hosted an enthusiastic group of Jewish adults from the New Haven area with a variety of special needs. This year, about 60 people are expected to participate.

For many, this is their only taste of Passover and one that they relish and look forward to each year. The Torah teaches about four types of children, and the Hagada reminds us that we must tell the story of the Exodus to each son and daughter of Israel in the way that is most meaningful to him or her. Through the efforts of Sisterhood, our outreach coordinator, the generosity of ACI Catering and the good offices of the Jewish Family Services, the Exodus is re-enacted through song, food and story at a table set in the Passover tradition.

Kulanu is BEKI’s outreach program for adults with special needs. Kulanu is supported by The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at Congrega-
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: jjtilden@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, 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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203.275.8448 admissions@jhsct.org www.jhsct.org
**Passover**  
Continued from Page 1

**Hagadot and Seder Plates at Giftshop**

*Hagadot* (do-it-yourself guide and service books) for Pesah, including the Rabbinical Assembly’s *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*, are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and wherever fine Judaica is sold. The Giftshop also offers a significant collection of decorative seder plates and other Pesah supplies (such as toy frogs).

**Siyyum Bekhorot: Feast or Famine**

The Fast of the First Born is Thursday April 5, advanced since the morning before the Pesah seder is erev Shabbat, a day on which we normally do not fast. Firstborn who attend the Thursday morning service at 8:15 may conclude their fast by partaking of the *seudat mitzva* (obligatory feast) celebrating a *siyyum*, the conclusion of a study project. Services and *siyyum* will end by 9:30 a.m. All may attend.

**Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz**

On the night of Thursday April 5, it is customary to perform *Bediqat Hametz*, the final check for leaven before Passover. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. On the next morning, Friday April 6, it is customary to perform *Biur Hametz*, a final “search and destroy” mission for leaven, to insure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating hametz during the festival. Instructions for *Bediqat Hametz* and *Biur Hametz* can be found in most *Hagadot*, including the Rabbinical Assembly’s *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*.

**Let All Who Are Hungry...**

The Seder of Pesah is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others into our homes. Our congregation comprises many people who may not have extended family locally, do not have Jewish relatives, are new to the area, or who otherwise would benefit greatly from a Seder invitation. If you are able to open your Seder to additional guests, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at your earliest opportunity at (203) 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org). If you are able to host an adult who is a mental health services consumer or who has developmental disabilities, please contact Special Outreach Coordinator Ina Silverman, (203) 389-2108 x13 or principal@beki.org.

**Community Second Seder at BEKI**

We are hosting a Masorti-Conservative Community Second Seder open to the public on the second night of Passover, Saturday night April 7. The minha service is 5:45 p.m., followed by Maariv at 6:15 and the seder at 6:30. The formal seder ends at 9 p.m. and will be followed by an additional period of singing. Admission to the seder by reservation only, $50 per person; please contact the office (203) 389-2108 x14 office@beki.org for menu choices and reservations, due by April 2.

To sponsor a Pesah meal for once or more people, please direct your check made to “Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel” to the office with a memo.

**Service Times for Pesah**

Shabbat (Friday) night services for erev Pesah begin with the minha service at 6 p.m., followed by the Maariv Evening service from 6:10 to 6:30. (The Qabbalat Shabbat service is not recited on festival nights.) Shabbat Festival morning service is 9:15 to 12:15.

Shabbat Festival afternoon service is 5:45 p.m., followed by festival Maariv ending at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday morning service is 9:15 to noon, and minha afternoon service is 5:45 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**Hol HaMoed: The Intermediate Days**

While we observe the two initial and two final days of Pesah as major holidays, which include most of the restrictions on *melakha* (“work”) followed on Shabbat, the intermediate days are observed as semi-holidays. Ideally, one avoids or minimizes *melakha* during this period as well, but in our setting most observant Jews simply go to work or school as usual. *Melakha* is a technical rabbinic term used to define the set of actions that are prohibited on the Sabbath Day, based on the 39 categories of acts involved in creating the Temple, which is the Biblical context in which the term is used.

On the festival days (*hag*), tefillin are not worn, but on Hol HaMoed it is common to wear tefillin in the morning until after the amida and to remove them before Hallel. (Others omit tefillin altogether in this period.) During Hol HaMoed, as in the entire month of Nisan, the Tahanun (supplication) is omitted in the daily services. Hallel and musaf are recited daily, and the passage *Ya`ale veYavo* is included in the amida and in Birkat haMazon (grace after meals).

The prohibition against possessing and eating hamets remains in force. One should seek to make the period cele-
Joshua Rubenstein, author of *Leon Trotsky: A Revolutionary’s Life*, will speak at BEKI on Shabbat March 3 at 12:45 p.m. The book, published in October 2011, is among the “Jewish Lives” series at Yale University Press.

Mr. Rubenstein is the Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA and a long-time Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. He is the author of *Soviet Dissidents: Their Struggle for Human Rights and Tangled Loyalties, the Life and Times of Ilya Eherenburg*, a biography of the controversial Soviet Jewish writer and journalist. In addition, he is the co-editor of several books, including *Stalin’s Secret Pogrom: The Postwar Inquisition of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee*, which was awarded the National Jewish Book Award in the category of Eastern European Studies for 2001-02, *The KGB Files of Andrei Sakharov*, which was published by Yale University Press in 2005, and, in 2008, *The Unknown Black Book: The Holocaust in German-Occupied Soviet Territories*.

As a human rights organizer, he helped Amnesty members in Russia open an office in Moscow, and he was among the principal organizers for the first Amnesty International conference for members throughout Russia that was held in St. Petersburg in 1994. He has also been involved in several other international projects, including the reorganization of Amnesty International’s Israeli section there in 1985, participation in a research mission to Uzbekistan, as well as performing various roles in events held in Calgary, Vienna and Mexico.

In a recent review of the Trotsky book, the Israeli newspaper *Ha’aretz* stated that “Rubenstein’s study focuses on the tragic paradox of Trotsky’s life: that even the combination of his keen intellectual grasp of politics and culture, catholic interests and tastes and sympathy for the persecuted and downtrodden failed to prevent this once anti-autocrat idealist from himself founding a despotic regime and becoming an enduring apologist for repression in the service of dogma.”

The program featuring Mr. Rubenstein, which will begin following Shabbat morning services and qiddush, is free and open to the public.
All Together Under Abraham’s Tent

A Tiqun Olam Initiative, March 12-19
Churches and synagogues in the New Haven area will cooperate during the winter months this year to provide extra overnight emergency shelter for homeless men from Columbus House.

The program known as Abraham’s Tent references an episode in Genesis 18, when Abraham provides hospitality in his tent for three strangers and is an initiative of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries in partnership with Columbus House.

“Hospitality” is the very core of what the Abraham’s Tent program is all about. Churches, synagogues and mosques provide shelter, meals and companionship for 12 homeless men pre-screened by the Columbus House staff, with each host putting the group up for a week at a time.

Volunteers from the houses of worship provide the services, food, companionship and overnight supervision, while Columbus House provides the sleeping cots and transportation. During the day, the men return to Columbus House to participate in job training and counseling programs.

The program frees up 12 beds at Columbus House so that more people can receive help.

A Strong Support Network
Transportation requirements limit the locations of hosts to churches and synagogues close to Columbus House. The locations include houses of worship in New Haven, Branford, Hamden, North Haven and West Haven.

However, people from churches and synagogues in towns further away, including Woodbridge, have also volunteered to assist in Abraham’s Tent.

Economic Realities Led to Program
Started in 2009 when a city-funded shelter was destined to remain closed for the winter due to lack of funds, the immediate purpose of Abraham’s Tent was to find additional shelter for homeless people during the fast approaching cold season. The Interfaith Cooperative Ministries rallied congregations to open their facilities to house approximately a dozen men for one week during the season. The response was immediate and over-subscribed. The experience for both the homeless “guests” and the members of the various congregations hosting them was character building and memorable. Eleven of the twelve guests were in permanent or transitional housing the following year, at least in part due to their Abraham’s Tent experience – an outcome that was never anticipated.

The threatened city-funded shelter did open at the last minute in 2009 and was to be open again starting in 2010. But the overwhelming success of Abraham’s Tent, by every measure, during its first year compelled that the program go forward.

Each year, the Abraham’s Tent grows stronger. Already this year, two of the men who have participated have transitioned to permanent housing.

BEKI’s role in Abraham’s Tent
This is the first year that BEKI will be participating in the Abraham’s Tent program. We will be partnering with the Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven and the Turkish Cultural Center (TCC) in West Haven to provide the men with a home from March 12 through March 19. The men will be hosted at the church, and together with church and TCC members, BEKI will cook and serve meals, help provide companionship and overnight supervision.

Heading up the volunteer efforts in support of Abraham’s Tent are Darryl Kuperstock and Mimi Glenn, who need much help and shared enthusiasm from those in the BEKI community to uphold the congregation’s commitment to help provide support for the men participating in the program.

How You Can Help
• Shopping
• Cooking at BEKI or at the church
• Transporting food to West Haven
• Heating and serving food at the church
• Providing companionship during evening (watch TV, movies, talk, play board games, etc.)
• Providing overnight supervision at the church (lights out 10 p.m.)
• Prepare breakfast at church (before 6 a.m.)

If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact Darryl, kuperst@aol.com, (203) 387-0304; or Mimi, mimiglenn1@hotmail.com, (203) 397-3851.

For more information about the Abraham’s Tent program, go to:
www.interfaithnewhaven.org/Abrahams%20Tent.htm
LifeCycle

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Burton J. Kassap, father of Karen Kassap (& Cary Caldwell)
Mildred F. Kassap, mother of Karen Kassap (& Cary Caldwell)
Myra Teleranta, sister of Angela (& Bruce) Oren
Demara Williams, sister of Angela (& Bruce) Oren
Elizabeth Ries, mother of Michael Ries (& Jennifer Botwick)
Robert Reiss, step-father of Katie Hereld
Leonard Woolfson, father of Roni Woolfson

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

New members, please send us your photo and an introduction for publication, to Mark Oppenheimer mark.e.oppenheimer@gmail.com and jtilsen@beki.org.

Abraham Family

We are the Abraham family: Mark, Libby, and baby Almanzo (4 months old). We live in Westville and are originally from Syracuse, NY. Favorite activities include biking, baking, and sucking our thumbs. We look forward to meeting our new neighbors and friends.

Yussman Family

Hi, we’re the Yussman family! Our family members include Yonatan, Lisa, Gefen (age 8), Aviva (age 6), and Noa (age 4). We live in Westville, although we moved here from Las Vegas. Yonatan is the Head of School at the Jewish High School of Connecticut. As a family our favorite activities include traveling and just hanging out with friends.

Carmeli / Doron family

Hi, we’re the Carmeli / Doron family. Our family members include Sivan Doron (a midwife), Asaf Carmeli (an HR professional), our 6 year old daughter, Nina (a first grader at Beecher Road School), and our newborn daugh-

Benei Mitzva

Jacques Ben-Avie, son of Sascha van Creveld and of Michael Ben-Avie, March 10, parashat Ki Tisa.
Daniel Cooper, son of Isaiah Cooper & Lauri Lowell, April 20-21, parashat Shemini.

Mazal Tov to

Steven Fraade on his election to the Academy of the Hebrew Language
LifeCycle

New Members
Continued from Page 6

Matthew Wiener
Hi, I’m Matthew Wiener. I live in New Haven in the City Point area and have been a resident of New Haven for almost my entire life. I grew up as a member of BEKI and even had my Bar-Mitzvah here. My mother Marge continues to be an active member of the congregation. I work as a high school English teacher in Waterbury, CT. What I most hope to get from the BEKI community is to continue the solid sense of community that it has always offered to me. What I most hope to give to the BEKI community is to continue to work with the Youth Commission to create stronger youth programs. I worked as the USY advisor for the past two school years and I continue to serve as an educator at Makom, the educational center for Jewish kids on Wednesday nights at the JCC.

Stahl/Anderson family
We’re the Stahl/Anderson family. Our family members are Sherin Stahl, George Anderson, Rachel Anderson (age 2), Eli Anderson (Age 1), and “Blackie” the cat (age 15). We live in Woodbridge, although we moved here from New Haven a few months ago. What we most hope to get from BEKI is friendship and Jewish learning. We can give back help with leading the children’s services and help with cooking.

Koblentz Family
Hi, we’re the Koblentz family. Our family members include Alex, Liram, and our children, Ori and Harel, our almost-four-year-old twins. We moved from Israel to Westville, New Haven a few months ago. Our kids are going to the JCC preschool and are starting to learn English. We joined BEKI to be part of the Jewish community and to make friends. What we most hope to give to the BEKI community is to make people feel more connected to Israel.

Saltz Family
We are Lynn and Rick (or Rich) Saltz. We recently moved to Branford after a short stop in Wallingford. Before that, we raised our family in Weston, CT for 30 years. We have three children: Jessica who is married to Kyle and living in Hudson, N.H.; Marcy who is currently working in Argentina but we expect her stateside in March 2012; and Ted who is currently a senior studying civil engineering at Cornell. When our children were much younger we were part of the founding members of the Conservative Synagogue of Westport, Weston and Wilton. We enjoy some easy outdoor fun such as hiking and biking. While in Weston, we were both very active in local politics. Now, we dedicate our time and efforts to Cornell. Rick also likes music – no, he does not play an instrument or sing, but listening to rock, folk or country (sorry – not rap) is important. Whether as a family or just the two of us, we really enjoy traveling…nothing too exotic but last year we visited Marcy and played with penguins in Patagonia (not the store) and drank some delicious wine in Mendoza. We did quite a bit of synagogue shopping to find a new and comfortable place to daven and have a sense of community. From the first time we walked into BEKI on July 4th weekend, people greeted us with smiles and enthusiasm for Jewish life. We were amazed at the number of congregants in attendance on a holiday weekend. We were very impressed when, following a Shabbat service, a member found our email address and sent us “hope we see you again” note. WOW – that blew us away. So as we get to know you, we hope you’ll get to know us.
Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim
Jacques Ben-Avie, bar mitzva, son of Sascha van Creveld and of Michael Ben-Avie, will serve as darshan on parashat Ki Tisa, March 10.

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 explore the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela 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 Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

In Praise of Elijah the Prophet
Explore the legends of Elijah the Prophet through the 18th century poem “Likhvod hemdat levavi” by David ben Aharon ben Hasin. In this 20-stanza poem published in the collection Sefer Tehila leDavid, the North African poet recounts the story of Elyahu ha-Navi (Elijah the Prophet) from the Biblical Pinchas to the “Throne of Elijah” at the contemporary brit mila celebration. Learn a popular and simple melody for the poem. Original Hebrew and verse-by-verse English translation provided; song in transliteration. Shabbat afternoon March 3, following the 5:30 minha service, about 25 minutes, with Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.

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 Book of Joshua. 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. shaharit service. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays
Hebrew Word of the Week
The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 90-second “Hebrew word of the Week” 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 wordforms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week usually relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

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.

Thursdays
Mini Morning Learning Service
The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shaharit service is from 8:15 to 9:11 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Continued on Page 9
Torah for the Hungry Mind – Adult Studies

No Beginning, New Beginning: 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 Talmud, based on an oral text, has no real beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time.

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.”

Sisterhood

Shevat: Environmentalism and Hiddur Mitzvah

With the rise of the modern state of Israel, Zionists offered an additional layer of appreciation to the mid-winter observance of Tu B’Shevat. It became the day devoted to tree planting and reforestation, both important to the reclamation of the land. Modern day Jewish environmentalists regard this holiday as yet another way to commemorate Jewish stewardship of the earth.

One of the midrashim that is most often quoted by Jewish environmentalists reflects the rabbinic attitude toward stewardship of the land:

“When God created the first human beings, God led them around the Garden of Eden and said, “Look at my works! See to it that you do not spoil and destroy my world; for if you do, there will be no one to repair it.”

Discussion Questions: How does this midrash connect the twin value of stewardship and hiddur mitzvah?

Please join Sisterhood in planting trees in Israel. Through Hadaddah Organization you still can purchase tree certificates for still only $15 each or water certificates for $18 each. Please contact Mimi Glenn to purchase the certificates. (203) 397-3851

Gift Shop

Sisterhood Gift shop is selling beautiful gift items for all occasions. Contact Mimi Glenn or Adele Tyson.

Scholarship

The Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications.

Please fill out the form which is in the lobby or online under Sisterhood.

Thank you to Jessey Palumbo, Ellen Cohen, Hyla Greenberg, Violet and Charlie Ludwig, Helen Rosenberg and Joanne Foodim for your donations to the Scholarship Fund.

Torah Fund

Please purchase cards for all occasions and to memorialize a loved one through our BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund. Card purchases support the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). 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 sent right out. Cards are $4 each including postage. Thanks to the following who recently purchased cards.

Get Well to:

- Barbara Rosenthal from Louis Petrillo
- Saul Bell from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, BEKI Hesed Committee
- Michelle Grossman from David Wright

Thank You “Todah Rabah” to:

- Charles & Violet Ludwig from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe

Mazel Tov to:

- Danny Sofer on his Bar Mitzvah from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Martin & Lana Gad on Dustin’s Bar Mitzvah from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Priscilla Garber on her 90th birthday from Adele Tyson

In Memory of:

- Sidney Greenberg to Irene Greenberg & family from Ruth Raflowitz, Claire & Bud Volain
- Sidney Greenberg to Rita Gold from Harriet & Noel Barstein, Claire & Bud Volain
- Dorothy Fraade to Steven Fraade & family from BEKI Hesed Committee, BEKI Sisterhood, David Wright, Barbara Cushe, Stanley Saxe, Violet & Charles Ludwig
- Leon Medvedow to Phyllis Medvedow from Bea Smirnoff
- Her sister, Myra Teleranta to Angela & Bruce Oren from David Wright
Children’s Library

Thanks to generous donations to the Ari Nathan Levine Fund, the following books have been purchased and are available on a non-lending basis in the Claire Goodwin Children’s Room. They are arranged by category in the Ari Nathan Levine Library, and will be a particularly helpful resource for the parent leaders of our weekly Shabbat Children’s Programs.

Heller, Linda; *How Dalia Put a Big Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Blue Box: And Other Wonders of Tzedakah*
Black, Rabbi Joe; *Afikomen Mambo*
Kleinberg, Naomi; *Elmo’s Little Dreidel*
Simpson, Lesley; *Yuvi’s Candy Tree*
Meltzer, Amy; *The Shabbat Princess*
Marshall, Linda Elovitz; *Talia and the Rude Vegetables*
Newman, Vivian; *Ella’s Trip to Israel*
Rosenstock, Barb; *The Littlest Mountain*
Korngold, Jamie; *Sadie’s Sukkah Breakfast*
Balsley, Tilda; *The Queen Who Saved Her People*
Kimmel, Eric A.; *The Story of Esther: A Purim Tale*
Greengard, Alison; *Let My People Go!*
Kohuth, Jan; *Estie The Mensch*
Fisman, Karen; *Problems in Purimville: A Purim Story*
Rouss, Sylvia A.; *Sammy Spider’s First Day of School*
Cohen, Deborah Bodin; *Engineer Ari and the Hanukkah Mishap*
Kimmel, Eric A.; *Joseph and the Sabbath Fish*

BEKI-BJ Kadima

BEKI-BJ Kadima would love to announce our upcoming Family Shabbat Dinner to be held at BEKI on March 30, with services beginning at 6 p.m. All BEKI and B’nai Jacob Kadima families are welcome for this free catered kosher dinner and Ramah-led children’s activities. Siblings and parents are invited too! After our successful Shabbat dinner at B’nai Jacob for Kadima kids earlier this year, we wanted to host another fun Shabbat event for all. This event is completely free for families of our paid Kadima members. And a special offer, we will have a discounted membership fee for any new Kadima members: $18 for the 2011-12 year. Once your child has become a BEKI-BJ Kadima member, your entire family attends the dinner for free.

This is going to be a special event, and we hope to see all our Kadima members and their families there! Please RSVP to BEKI-BJ Kadima advisor Sarah Oren: bekibjkadima@gmail.com. More information at: www.bekibjkadima.blogspot.com

We’ve had an extremely awesome year in Kadima so far. I hate to brag, but we’ve had a record-high amount of our members at regional events, well-attended chapter events, very active members, and have a huge chapter of over 35 kids (and counting!). Our new Fifth Graders have been a vital part of our chapter, showing their dedication to spending time with Jewish friends. That’s really what I want Kadima to be about: enjoying *being* Jewish! Our Eighth Graders are now invited to attend USY events, now that 2012 is here. They have the luxury of attending both Kadima and USY events, to get a feel for what USY is all about. Our past Kadima events this year included a Sukkah Party, Bowling, Movie Night, Shabbat Dinner, and more! We’ve got so many wonderful upcoming events, and hope that you join us for the fun.

Written by BEKI-BJ Kadima Advisor Sarah Oren. She can be reached at bekibjkadima@gmail.com
Purim

Be Happy It’s Adar
משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה
Mishenikhnas Adar marbim besimha – When Adar begins, joy increases. – Talmud Eruvin 29a

Shabbat Zakhor
The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, Shabbat March 3. 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 which 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.

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 (except when Purim is on Sunday). 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 (4:54) on Wednesday March 7. The Wednesday shaharit morning service is from 7 to 7:55 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 mincha afternoon service is at 5:45. The fast ends at 6:24 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Call for Demonstration and Protest
An Occupy Shushan Demonstration against the despotic King Ahmadineshverosh and his wicked associates has been called for March 7 and 8. Peaceful masses will gather at BEKI to chant and listen to public protests against the repressive Ahmadineshverosh regime.

Expectation are for a riotous and outrageous gathering.

Megilla Readings
The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read following the afternoon service (5:45) and during the evening services (6:30) on Wednesday March 7, and then again during the Thursday morning service, which begins at 8:15 (ending 10 a.m.) on March 8. Since Daylight Saving Time does not begin until the following Sunday, our Megila reading is at an “earlier” hour this year. Nevertheless, children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed or asleep in sleeping bags or napping in nap sacks.

Continued on Page 14

Visit us at www.beki.org
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 ensure 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.

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. However, shampoo, eye drops and more than 3.2 oz of any gel or liquid are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service.

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 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).

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**BEKI Purim Seuda (Feast)**

**WHEN:** Thursday March 8, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** In the BEKI Downstairs Social Hall

**NOSH:** A light dairy dinner will be served

**TICKETS:** $14 per adult, $12 per child (age 3-12);
Age 2 and under, no charge. Preregistration with payment by Friday March 2

Purim Spiel created and directed by Bruce Altman & Darcy McGraw
Ruthie Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown
Face-painting with Rachel Sutin
BEKI Bulletin: Speciall by Rebecca Weiner
Purim Songs Sing-a-long
Dance and games with Boppers Entertainment

**Volunteers! Help!**
Call Darryl Kuperstock, Food (203) 258-1243, kuperst@aol.com
Mark Oppenheimer, Membership Chair, (203) 387-1317 Meet & Greet
Liora Lew, Decorations (203) 389-1048
Rachel Sutin, Face Painting, (203) 393-3059
Darcy & Bruce, Purim Spiel, darcymcgraw@comcast.net, baltman2@comcast.net
Miriam Benson, Set-Up, Registration Table, or Clean-Up, (203) 389-6137

Registration form & check due in the office by Friday, March 2; your prompt registration will help a lot.
Names of each attendee (please list names clearly):

Adress ______________________________________
Phones ______________________________________

#Adults ______ @ $14 each = ______ + # Children (age 3-12) ______ @ $12 each = ______ (2 and under free)
Total (please enclose your check, payable to BEKI) __________

Send to BEKI Purim Seuda, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515
BEKI BBQ: FORGET JULY 4TH

This year it is the BEKI Barbeque on July 1, celebrating our 120th Birthday, that will be the summer’s must-attend event. Save the date: Sunday July 1.

Let them eat pork. We will be chowing down on some delectable, glatt kosher barbeque and sides. And as always there will be options for the vegetarians and vegans. Portobellos and tofu, brined and smoked slowly over a hickory fire for 12 hours in a special secret sauce kept under lock and key in the rabbi’s safe -- why not?

If you have any recipe ideas for kosher barbeque or you want to help planning and cooking, give your pit masters Jay Sokolow or Carl Goldfield a holler! Don’t know Jay or Carl? Just look for the guys at shul on Shabbat licking their fingers.

Feed Your Head:
BEKI Reads for 120

Of course barbeque (even smoked tofu) alone cannot satiate the mind, and so we are also planning a BEKI READS FOR 120. We are soliciting suggestions for a Jewish-themed book that the entire congregation can read and discuss.

Since the congregation is now officially blowing off the Fourth of July (see above), perhaps something patriotic would be appropriate. It would also be nice if we could find a book that would appeal to a wide spectrum of ages, so that our young people could join in the reading.

If you have any book ideas or you want to help planning the Read, give your pit masters Jay or Carl a holler! Don’t know Jay or Carl? Just look for the guys with the greasy finger marks all over their siddurs.

Baby Needs New Clothes
For Its Birthday

And then, of course, what would a birthday bash be without new clothes? Your mother, father, sister, daughter, son, niece, nephew -- whatever -- probably gave you a swell new sweater, scarf, tie, or shirt for your last birthday and then took you out for lunch.

Well, our Torah scrolls want to get dressed up for the birthday as well. We have six scrolls looking for new garb for Shabbat and maybe Yom Kippur too! A thousand dollars gets a brand new scroll cover, with a little gelt left over for BEKI. We are seeking generous persons, families, or any combination of persons (corporations are persons too and their money is fine with us) to earn a well-deserved place in place in BEKI history.

Want to make a donation? Give your pit masters Jay or Carl a holler! Don’t know Jay or Carl? Just look for the guys with their hands in their pockets when they march the Torahs around the shul. You think we are going let them mess up the new covers with their greasy fingers?
Part of our tradition, going back to Biblical times, has been the re-purposing of existing cultural practices. Our ancestors took the common rite of animal and human sacrifice and limited it to specific animals sacrificed by a limited clan in one specific place, for purposes such as thanksgiving, forgiveness and purity, and directed to one single deity. They made the almost universal winter festival of lights a celebration of Jewish autonomy against the Greek empire. And they made puberty and adulthood rites a recognition of moral responsibility and communal obligation.

As our Congregation is beginning to celebrate its 120th Anniversary, the Celebration Committee has placed their thinking caps on their heads hoping to think up a fitting slogan. But why re-invent the wheel? If it has done nothing else, consumer capitalism, while seeming to be on its deathbed, has produced a fabulous wealth of advertising slogans. Perhaps one of these can be re-purposed for BEKI.

It’s the Real Thing
Have it Your Way
BEKI Adds Life
Break-fast of Champions (perfect for the end of Yom Kippur)
Good to the Last Drop (hagba)
God Milk? (don’t ask at fleishig dinners)
Just Do It
Pork. The Other White Meat (well, maybe not)
So easy a caveman can do it (such as Og, King of Bashan)
Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don’t
The pause that refreshes
We do it all for you
You can do it. We can help
You deserve a break today
The best part of waking up
The best to you each morning
Kid tested. Mother approved
What’s in your wallet?
It makes you feel like the man you are
Empowering people

Many of those slogans probably fit BEKI better than their original trademark owners, some of which are already bankrupt. Can you reduce the community to a single phrase? Our Bulletin masthead has used the line “A full service synagogue” as well as “Serving New Haven Area Jewry Since 1892.” My home congregation in St. Paul, the Temple of Aaron, used the line “The Temple for All Ages.” There must be others out there we can plagiarize. If you can come up with a slogan that can fit on a banner, please send your suggestion to Jay at bek120@beki.org or to Carole at president@beki.org.
Rabbi’s Tzedqa Fund
- Sara Labowe and Family to Marty Feldman and Family in memory of Cathy Schwartz
- Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli in sympathy to Angela & Bruce Oren at the passing of Myra Teleranta
- Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli in sympathy to Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell Family at the passing of Burton Kassap
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in sympathy to Angela & Bruce Oren at the passing of Myra Teleranta
- Sheila & Kenneth Dubak in memory of Sophie Hennes and in appreciation
- Louis & Lisa Petrello marking the yahrzeit of Jacob Pepper
- Sara Stevenson & Richard Queen honoring Ben Gerber bar mitzva
- Caryl Jarmak in appreciation
- James Shure in memory of Cathy Schwartz and in sympathy to Hana Feldman and Family
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in sympathy to Michael Ries & Jennifer Botwick Family at the passing of Elizabeth Ries
- Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff in memory of Elizabeth Ries and in sympathy to Michael Ries & Jennifer Botwick
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in sympathy to Karen Kassap & Family at the passing of Mildred Kassap
- Deborah Ziskin & William Berson to support those in need at Purim and Pesah
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in sympathy to Angela & Bruce Oren at the passing of Janet Demara Williams

Qiddush Sponsors
(minimum $280)
- Martin & Lana Gad
- The Daily Minyan Captains
- BEKI Families
- Caryl & Michael Kligfeld
- Steve & Rachel Wizner

Chai Fund
(minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To Marty Feldman and family with sympathy on the passing of Cathy Schwartz by the Rothman family
- To Larry Schleicher & Paula Cohen in honor of their wedding by the Rothman family
- To Sivan Doron & Asaf Carmeli

in honor of the birth of Ella Tamar by Jennifer Fleming
- To Angela & Bruce Oren with sympathy on the passing of Myra Teleranta by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Angela & Bruce Oren with sympathy on the passing of Myra Teleranta by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Angela & Bruce Oren with sympathy on the passing of Myra Teleranta by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Karen Kassap and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Karen Kassap and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Karen Kassap and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Jonathan Freiman
- To Karen Kassap and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Sara Labowe & family
- To Karen Kassap and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Karen Kassap and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Stan Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Marty Feldman and family with sympathy on the passing of Cathy Schwartz by Kai Yang & Lloyd Friedman
- To Marty Feldman and family with sympathy on the passing of Cathy Schwartz by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Star Rosenbaum with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Sharon & Dan Prober
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Sarah Labowe & family
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Jennifer Fleming
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Jonathan Freiman
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by the Brotman family
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by the Stein family
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by the Kitchen family
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Donna & Sid Levine
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Leon Cummings
- To Karen Kassap with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

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**Contributions**

**Continued from Page 17**

- To Angela & Bruce Oren with sympathy on the passing of Myra Teleranta by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Joan & Alan Gelbert

**Hesed Fund**

- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce and family
- To Karen Kassap and family with sympathy on the passing of Burton Kassap by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce and family

**Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee**

- To Jonathan Hayward in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Sara Labowe & family
- To Dustin Gad in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Sara Labowe & family
- To Dustin Gad in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Birn family
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Joy Kaufman, Stewart Frankel & Ari
- To Dustin Gad in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Lew family

**Social Action/Tikkun Olam**

- To Stanley Rosenbaum and family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Hyman by Jimmy Shure

**The Barzilai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund**

- To Renita & Mike Miller and family with sympathy on the passing of Morris Gordon by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Angela & Bruce Oren with sympathy on the passing of Myra Teleranta by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Michael Ries and Jennifer Botwick in memory of Elizabeth Ries by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Gabriel Freiman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Angela and Bruce Oren with sympathy on the passing of Demara Williams by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Dustin Gad in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

**The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund**

- To Priscilla Garber in honor of her 90th birthday by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of her sister Louise Egalka by Mikki Ratner

**Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund**

- To Steven Fraade and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Fraade by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper

**Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund**

- In memory of Ida and Isadore Frankel by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Esther Black by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Esther Black by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Robert Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell & Jeffrey Podell
- In memory of E. Lester Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- In memory of Elsie Morris by Marge Bograd
- In memory of Pearl Weiner by Joanne & Stephen Rudof
- In memory of E. Lester Feldman by Sara & Steven Salomon
- In memory of Rose Alderman by Bernard & Sonya Alderman
- In memory of Thelma & Louis Bellowsky by David & Rayna Bellowsky
- In memory of Rose Koblintz Olmer by Zane Olmer
- In memory of Irving Weinstein by Anita B. Weinstein
- In memory of her mother Shirley Charleston by Delci Lev
- In loving memory of her sister Phyllis C. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of her mother Fannie Meyerson by Helen M. Elston
- In memory of Claire Abrams Goodwin by Pat Goodwin
- In memory of Sarah Levine Goodwin by Pat Goodwin
- In memory of her mother Hattie Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Fred Gross by Phyllis Gross & Betsy Shure Gross

**Yahrzeit Fund** ($5 minimum)

- In memory of George Weiss by Kenneth Matloff
- In memory of Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Sidney Cushen by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Seymour Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of her father Louis Israel by Doris & David Sagerman
- In memory of her mother Mary Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Jack Nagin by Howard Yasgar
- In memory of Jack Nankin by David Nankin
- In memory of her mother-in-law Gertrude Slopak by David Schwartz
- In memory of her mother Esther Heller by Rhoda Heller Lemkin & Edward Lemkin
- In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- In memory of Louis Rachlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Reuben Gralla by Linda Schwartz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Kate Weinstein by Carolyn & Charles Schnee
- In memory of Jack Yasgar by Howard Yasgar
- In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- In memory of her father Morris E. Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohmen
- In memory of Diane Lee Kaufman by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of her parents Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick

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**Roots**

Sunday March 18, 1:30 p.m. in the Library

A meeting co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven and the Connecticut Jewish Genealogy Society will investigate the topic, “How to uncover your family roots” and will feature speakers for the Jewish Genealogy Society.
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Service Times

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March 2012
7 Adar 5772 - 8 Nisan 5772

BEKI Events