

BEKI Bulletin

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May 2003 Vol. 9 Issue 5

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Sivan 5763

Sefira – Counting the Omer

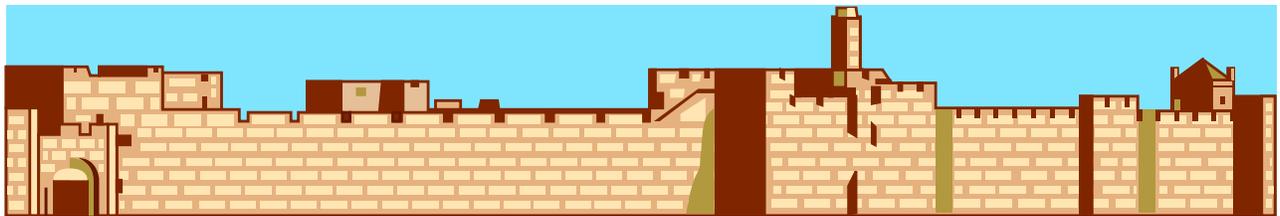
At the second seder, we began daily *sefirat ha-omer* (counting of the *omer*), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai.

The simple home ceremony is printed in most *siddurim* (prayer books), including *Sim Shalom*, immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, *sefirat ha-omer* can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the *sefira* served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment given dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term *omer* refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day's number.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom

– Psalm 90:12



Paul Goodwin Provides for BEKI's Future

Paul "Pat" Goodwin, George G. Posener, Rabbi Murray Levine, Marvin Missan and Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen are among those who have informed BEKI that they have included the Congregation as a beneficiary in their estate plans or wills. Who will join the ranks of these distinguished leaders?

Pat Goodwin, a "Founding Father" of the Congregation in its modern form, is a past president and has served the Congregation in numerous capacities over the years. In recent years, Pat has been a leader in Long-Term Planning and Income Development for the Congregation. He has received many honors from the Congregation, and on 01 May he will be honored by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven for his work on behalf of the New Haven Jewish community.

Continued on page 11

Food Donations

Food Donations for local food charities can be left in the BEKI coatroom. Canned and other dry packaged foods are accepted. Clean out your cupboard - if that can or box has been there for a year and you haven't used it, you may as well give it away.

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BEKI-Bulletin

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To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication. Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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At the Women's Seder

In early April, when more than 500 women from the greater New Haven community gathered to share an exciting Women's Seder, complete with tambourines and an orange on the seder plate, BEKI was very much in evidence.

In addition to the many members who attended and enjoyed the songs, readings, food, and conversation, two of our own were among the 19 educators honored at the event. Rita Sela was the honoree representing the synagogue as a whole, and Anne Johnston was the honoree representing Talmud Torah Meyuhad. They each led part of the service and made us very proud.

In the program, Rita was described as "a talented and dedicated educator who teaches with passion and infectious enthusiasm." Anne "brings an abundance of creativity to all that she does," the program said, calling her "the touchstone for all students" in TTM.

Our member Rabbi Amanda Brodie conducted the seder from start to finish, serving as mistress of ceremonies, prayer leader and cheerleader.

The Seder Sisters, a choir of a dozen women, performed several songs at the beginning of the program and throughout the seder. The beautiful voices of Ruth Greenblatt, Sascha van Creveld, Stacey Battat, and Mimi Glenn were among the talented singers.

Mimi, Marjie Wiener, and Lauren Kempton served on the Seder Committee, and they deserve a hearty "*toda rabba!*"

Mitzva Heroes to be Honored 8 June

Recently, I've been thinking, talking, and writing a lot about our building—the need to keep it safe and make it more efficient and accessible. I've also been contemplating with pleasure the mitzva of making our building more beautiful, as we move forward with Phase II of the planned renovations.

But today I want to talk about something very different — a project that involves some of the extraordinary people who make up this congregation, both young and old.

Under the guidance of educational director Dr. Lauren Kempton, this year's bar- and bat-mitzva

class has undertaken a project called Mitzva Heroes. Each young person was paired with an older role model. Most, but not all are members of BEKI who have made important contributions to our community in a variety of ways. The students are writing profiles of their "heroes" and preparing presentations about them.

The Mitzva Heroes will be honored at a brunch on Sunday 8 June, presented by the families of the Benei Mitzva class. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please mark your calendar. It will be a lovely event!

The Mitzva Heroes will also be recognized in a printed booklet that will serve as a memento of the occasion. We will all be able to purchase congratulatory ads and greetings to honor these wonderful community leaders. At the same time, we'll be showing our support of the benei mitzva class and helping BEKI continue to thrive. The Parents' Committee working on this event includes Lauri Lowell, Matthew Katz, Ronni Rabin, Liora Lew, Amy Lehrer, Anne Green, Helene Sapadin, and Carl Goldfield. As we approach the brunch, I will have the opportunity to thank a number of additional volunteers as well as our Religious School Staff.

Please watch for information about how to reserve ads in the tribute booklet. Call the office if you have questions.

The honorees, matched with their young people are:

- Adele Tyson with Michelle Hopkinson
- Saul Bell with Aaron Green
- Violet & Charlie Ludwig with Josh Cohen
- George Posener with Misha Lehrer
- Rabbi Murray Levine with Hannah Katz
- Henry Kasha with Molly Sapadin
- Aharon Zisling with Max Stern
- Mandy Lazar with Daphne Lew
- Bev & Morris Goldfield with Nora Goldfield
- Stanley Lowell with Jonah Cooper
- Alvin Schottenfeld with Joseph Schottenfeld

A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

As I sit at my desk searching for inspiration, one image keeps coming to me: the power of words. As people of the book, words are very important to us. As congregants, parents and educators we share our life experiences with children. We may view these life experiences as encounters. The encounters develop into conversations and education becomes the reflective and responsive task of inviting our youth into these encounters.

Here at BEKI we teach our students that as a BEKI community we speak a language of significance and structure about our faith. We respectfully study the *parsha* each week concentrating on the implicit learning, themes, and historical meaning. We teach the power of words...in tefillot and in everyday conversations.

But words took on a new meaning for me three weeks ago at the onset of the War on Iraq. Shock and Awe... Shock and Awe... was all that I heard on the radio and news. My mind vainly tried to comprehend the meaning of this phrase. "Shock" I understood – surprise – but not "Awe." In that context it was completely incomprehensible to me.

Awe is a word that has a connotation to me that is almost spiritual. Awe is the feeling at seeing my firstborn son — coal black hair, eyes that did not open for a week. Awe is the feeling within my soul at the close of services when all our voices blend and rise during the closing of the ark. And awe is the sensation when my hands touch the rough and

smooth stone of the Western Wall in Jerusalem; to place prayers for health, for love, for safety and for peace. And awe is also the sense of wonder in my heart when a violet crocus pushes through the April snow as a harbinger of Spring.



Dr. Lauren Kempton

So I will keep my definition of awe for it sustains me. My Days of Awe are each Fall during the High Holy days. My faith deepens and grows when I am awestruck at the profound words of a child as we discuss "disposable people," during the Devar Torah remarks of Molly Sapadin on the power of words in friendships, and in the awesome words of our sages.

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Mazal Tov to:

- **David & Janet Golden** on the birth of **Noah Michael Golden**, and his entering into the Covenant through *Brit Mila*
- **Adele Tyson** on being honored by the Auxiliary of the Jewish Home for the Aged on 13 May
- **Rene Miller** on the birth of her grandson **Max Miller**
- **Helen Miller** on the birth of her great-grandson **Samuel Glazer**



Noah Golden

Benei Mitzva in May

Sheree Sachs, daughter of Mark & Ilene Sachs, granddaughter of members Ivan & Rita Sachs and niece of Ken & Linda Buckman, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat afternoon 3 May 2003. The *minha* service begins at 6:15p and will be followed by a *seuda shelishit, maariv* (8:30p) and *havdala* (8:45p). Sheree is a student at the BEKI Religious School and of the BEKI Benei Mitzva Program.

Nora Goldfield, daughter of Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat morning 10 May 2003. The morning service begins at 9:15a and will be followed by a *qiddush*. Nora is a student at the BEKI Religious School and of the BEKI Benei Mitzva Program.



Nora Goldfield

Daphne Lew, daughter of Yaron & Liora Lew, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat morning 17 May 2003. The morning service begins at 9:15a and will be followed by a *qiddush*. Daphne is a student at the BEKI Religious School and of the BEKI Benei Mitzva Program.

Avital Sokolow Silverman, daughter of Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat 23-24 May 2003.

With Sorrow we note the passing of

- Dorothy Nodelman, Sister of Simon Konoff
- Bennett Schultz, Father of Linda Schultz

Letters

To the BEKI Community—

Our thanks for the many kindnesses and thoughtful support given us during the recent illnesses and loss of our parents. Being part of the BEKI community is a special blessing, and during the past year we were sustained by the warmth and loving support offered by so many of you. With much appreciation—

BeShalom,
Donna & Sid Levine

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Sisterhood Spring Conference *Kulanu and Saul's Circle*

The Connecticut Valley Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism will hold its annual Spring Conference on Sunday 18 May at the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford. The theme is "Congregate, Educate, Chocolate - Sweet Success for Sisterhood." A wonderful day is being planned. Anyone interested in attending, please call Violet Ludwig at 389-0349.

In May the members of Chapel Haven plan to complete their tiles for the Tile Project at Mitchell Library. The theme of the Project is "There Are No Disposable People." The members of Fellowship Place also made and glazed tiles under the direction of Meg Bloom, Artist in Residence for the New haven Festival of Arts and Ideas. So BEKI will have three tile sections: tiles created by the students of BEKI Religious School, Kulanu and Saul's Circle. The tiles will be used to create a permanent wall at the Mitchell Library. The wall will be the foundation of a garden and a metal sculpture. Since Mitchell Library is right across the street from BEKI, we can be constantly inspired by the power and permanence of the art work of these BEKI groups.

May Schedule Notes

Shabbat 03 May – Minha service begins at 6:15p

Memorial Day – 26 May – morning service begins at 9:00a; the Rashi Study Group meets from 9:45a to 10:30a

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933-2886	Thurs.	8:00-7:00
	Sat.	8:00-3:00

Mitzva Heroes Brunch

Calendar Meeting

There will be a calendar planning meeting on Monday 12 May from 09:30a to 11:15a in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. All officers, chairpersons and project leaders at BEKI are urged to attend so that our upcoming year of events can be coordinated. Please call Mary Ellen at 389-2108 x14 (net" office@beki.org) or Jon-Jay at x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) for more information.

LaG BeOmer Kumsitz

On Monday evening 19 May, from 6:15p to 8:00p, everyone is invited to a LaG BeOmer Kumsitz campfire sing-along at the Residence of Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim in Westville.

Bring a kosher dessert or beverage, instruments and song sheets. In case of rain, the sing-along will take place indoors at the same location.

LaG BeOmer is the thirty-third day of the counting of the Omer, the period between Passover and Shavuot, and marks the end of a semi-mourning period between the two festivals.

This music program is made possible through the support of the [Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment](#) for Sacred Music at BEKI.



Purim Basket Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in the shul's Purim Basket fundraiser! Special thanks to our blessed deliverers. Without their many hours of time and hundreds (yes, hundreds!) of miles put on their odometers, this project would not have been such a success. And special thanks to Avital Silverman, Shai Silverman, Merav Stern, Yael Grazier-Zerbarini, and Lil Silverman.

Next year the following jobs must be filled, so if you can lend a hand please give Ina Silverman a call at 387-6019:

- Data enterers after orders have been received
- Collators to make sure ordered baskets match donor forms
- Deliverers (We will be unable to provide this service without several more reliable volunteers next year!)
- Bill checkers to make sure reciprocity bills go out accurately

Looking forward to Purim 2004!

Ina Silverman, Purim Basket 2003 Chair

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BEKI Events

May - Nisan - Iyar

5763

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				29 Nisan 1	30 Nisan 2	1 Iyar 3
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr.Lauren Kempton x 33	Email Addresses: Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Education Director: lkempton@beki.org Benei Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org website: www.beki.org	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:33p Candles	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 9:15a Shaharit <i>Kiddush Sponsors: Jennifer Botwick & Mimi Glenn</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 6:15p Minha (special time) <i>Sheree Sachs Bat Mitzva</i>
2 Iyar 4	3 Iyar 5	4 Iyar 6	5 Iyar 7	6 Iyar 8	7 Iyar 9	8 Iyar 10
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Yom Hazikaron</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Yom Ha'atzmaut</i> 7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:40p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Nora Goldfield Bat Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
9 Iyar 11	10 Iyar 12	11 Iyar 13	12 Iyar 14	13 Iyar 15	14 Iyar 16	15 Iyar 17
<i>Mother's Day</i> 9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 9:30a Calendar Mtg 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:30p Exec. Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:47p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Daphne Lew Bat Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
16 Iyar 18	17 Iyar 19	18 Iyar 20	19 Iyar 21	20 Iyar 22	21 Iyar 23	22 Iyar 24
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Lag Ba'Omer</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School No Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 7:53p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Avital Silverman Bat Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
23 Iyar 25	24 Iyar 26	25 Iyar 27	26 Iyar 28	27 Iyar 29	28 Iyar 30	29 Iyar 31
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00a Shaharit 9:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p General Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	<i>Yom Yerushalayim</i> 7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 8:00p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>BEKI Religious School Shabbat</i> 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM Shabbat Singalong (after Kiddush) 5:45p Minha

Children's Shabbat Havura

The [Children's Shabbat Havura](#) meets every Shabbat morning from 10:45a to noon in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Designed to address the spiritual and social needs of preschool children, the Havura meets concurrently with [K-2 Kehila, Junior Congregation, Cosmic Conversations](#), the [Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan](#) and the main Sabbath service. Following the half-hour of songs, stories, prayers and dance, the children have their own qiddush refreshments and then enjoy supervised play until they join the adult worship for the Concluding Service and qiddush.

The Havura enjoys strong support from parents and the Synagogue. Currently about 70 children and their parents actively participate in the Havura. Visitors have come from across New England to observe this program as a model for their own synagogues.

Meeting the spiritual and social needs of preschool children is an obligation of the Jewish community and an important part of the Synagogue's mission. The *Havura* (Friendship Circle) links the children to one another, to other concerned Jewish parents, and to the Synagogue. The Havura enjoys the active participation of parents who themselves are enriched by the experience. For many adults, the Children's Shabbat Havura serves as their introduction to active participation in the Synagogue Community.

If you are interested in learning more about the BEKI Children's Shabbat Havura, come any *Shabbat* (Saturday) morning at 10:45a and see for yourself. Or contact Miriam Benson at 389-6137 or mirbenson@aol.com, who coordinates the program. You can also contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org, the staff person who supports this parent cooperative.

Watch those Kids!

Parents of young children attending services at BEKI are asked to be sure their children are always under their supervision. Children are welcome to be in the sanctuary with their adults or in their age-appropriate youth service. Unsupervised children may represent a safety concern to themselves or to others.

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- In memory of your sister to Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Press from Harriet & Noel Barstein
- In memory of William Ries to Michael Ries from Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe
- In memory of Michael Schacht from Zelda Katz, Shirley Mattler

Paul Goodwin Provides for BEKI's Future

Continued from page 1

Pat and his late wife Claire raised their children in the Congregation and provided a model for commitment to community. Unless he is away, Pat attends every Shabbat evening and morning service as well as frequent daily morning services. His children, Rick & Rachel, Susan & Rob and Debi, have also been wonderful supporters of the Congregation.

Paul's brothers, Louis, Sonny and Robert, all of blessed memory, and their wives and children have also served as leaders of the Congregation. The Robert Goodwin Memorial Endowment for BEKI was created in 1995 to serve as a lasting memorial to Robert and provides continuing funding for the Congregation's activities.

Wills and estate plans are not just for the wealthy. Financial advisors suggest that anyone with children – regardless of age – and anyone who cares

what happens to their financial resources or property after their death, must have a formal will or estate plan. Even if a donor leaves just 10% or 5% or even 1% to BEKI, it can make a big impact on the Congregation's future. Designating BEKI as a beneficiary in one's will demonstrates to one's heirs and neighbors the importance of tzedaka (charity), of BEKI, and of the continuity of the Jewish People.

If you would like information on including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please contact your financial advisor or estate planning attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at 787-1633 (sdsij@aol.com). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or David Tein at The Jewish Foundation at 387-2424 x304 (dtein@jewishnewhaven.org) for a confidential discussion.

Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI

Reading Torah at BEKI

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

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the setting of the Rosenkrantz Family Library to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to participate for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the Biblical text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. On Memorial Day, class begins at 9:45a. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group has been meeting weekly since 1994.

AA Meeting

A Thursday night [AA meeting](#) is held at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#), is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the *Shaharit* (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Led by **Steven Fraade** and **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening multi-generational setting.

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