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## BEKIbulletin

May 2005

Iyar 5765  
Vol. 11 Issue 5

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### Book of Life Dinner Honors Gila Reinstein

President Gila Reinstein will be honored as a "Woman of Valor" at the Sisterhood **Book of Life Dinner** on Tuesday 24 May 2005 at 6:30p. Gila is completing her presidency after three years of extraordinary leadership and accomplishment. Reservations can be made by contacting Peggy at 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org. The event is co-chaired by Mimi Glenn and Ruthie Greenblatt.

## From Pesah to Shavuot

### 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. Counting is the fulfillment of a *mitzva* specified in the Torah: "You shall count from the eve of the second day of Pesah, when an Omer of grain is to be brought as an offering, seven complete weeks. The day after the seventh week of your counting will make fifty days" (Lev. 23:15-16).

The simple home ceremony appears in *Sim Shalom* and most *siddurim* (prayer

books) 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 the 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.

(continued on page 10)

## A Request from the Hesed Committee

The Hesed Committee responds to life events that occur within our BEKI community. Families celebrating a birth or mourning a death receive a Shabbat meal. People who are alone or infirm and who want a visit or a ride are accommodated as far as possible. Home cooked meals are delivered to people experiencing special circumstances such as illness or post-hospital recovery. Telephone calls are made and cards are sent to everyone about whom Hesed is informed.

But our budget is slowly evaporating and before it disappears we are asking that people who are concerned and would like to help send a donation to BEKI earmarked for Hesed.

Future recipients thank you!  
MB

### BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to:

85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724

or email: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)

or see our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Please get your reservations in early for our "Book of Life" dinner on Tuesday 24 May 2005 at 6:30p, at which we will honor BEKI President Gila Reinstein.

Many people worked very hard to make the Seder for persons with special needs go so well this year. Thanks to everyone who helped shop, set up and serve; and special thanks to Neil Abel for providing the food.

BEKI Sisterhood was pleased to provide the refreshments for Purim.

## Torah Fund

By purchasing cards for all occasions through BEKI Sisterhood, you support the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism on behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary. All money goes directly to support programs at JTS.

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Thanks to the following for their support by purchasing cards:

## Get Well to:

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- Rabbi Murray Levine

## Mazel Tov to:

- Shelley Kreiger on the birth of a granddaughter from Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries
- Violet Ludwig for being honored by the Jewish Home for the Aged by Grace Geisinger, Gladys Lipkin
- Shirley Mattler on the birth of her great-grandson from Adele Tyson

## In Memory of:

- Stanley Lowell, father of Lauri Lowell from Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries; The BEKI Hessed Committee; Stanley Saxe; Barbara Cushen; Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein
- Joseph Kometz, father of Smadar Kometz-Rock from Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries
- Florine Greene to Sidney Greene from Rose Brunswick
- Violet Schneider to Andy Schneider from Anna Goldberg
- Juda Zahavi to Kati Zahavi from Anna Goldberg
- Joyce Cohen, daughter of Sue Cohen from Anna Goldberg
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- Norma Berger to Karen Freeman from Arthur Nepiarsky
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# A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Some years ago, I had the great pleasure of visiting the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City with my older children, Gilah and Tsvi. Among the fascinating exhibits we saw was “The Heilbrunn Cosmic Pathway,” which consisted of a spiral walkway around the building, with a timeline showing the step-by-step unfolding of the universe.

My children were as fascinated as I was, and read each display carefully. Gilah and I finished somewhat ahead of her younger brother. I asked, somewhat impatiently, “What’s holding up Tsvi?” “Don’t worry,” she said, “he’ll be here in three billion years.”

According to the latest science, the observable universe began about 13 billion years ago from a single grain, a seed-sized particle that exploded into everything we see. All of the stars, planets and cosmic dust, space itself, came from this single particle. This is what they call the “Big Bang.”

How do they know this? In part, scientists look at what is happening in the universe that they can see, they make a picture of motion in the universe, and then they “run it backward.” And when they run the picture in reverse, they see that everything came from a single spot. That’s pretty amazing! All from one little seed.

Scientists argue about the exact age of the universe. In fact, we noticed that on the exhibit everywhere the number “13” appeared, it had been changed from some other number, I believe 11,

or whatever. In the course of a couple years, the universe got 2 billion years older. Give or take two billion years.

*Our sages also argued over the age of the universe (Talmud Rosh HaShana 10b-11a): “Rabbi Eliezer says: ‘In Tishrei [when we observe Rosh HaShana] the world was created.’ Rabbi Yehoshua says: ‘In Nisan [when we celebrate Passover] the world was created.’”*

Scientists today argue over plus or minus two billion years. Our sages argued over plus or minus six months!

Some Jews believe that the World is 5765 years old, give or take six months. Such people, not prevalent in the Conservative Movement, can be found among the religious leadership of the Jewish People. They believe that the world was created, the sun and earth were formed, 5765 years ago, and that any artifacts such as dinosaur bones or astronomical phenomena suggesting much greater age are here to test our faith or are simply misunderstood. They reject the theory of evolution of species. Of course, we know that the age “5765” was made up relatively recently, a few hundred years ago; when the Torah dates an event it is always “so many years into the reign of King so-and-so.” The number 5765 is nowhere “canonized” or made authoritative in any way. Still, some hold to that date as if it were an essential element of Jewish faith.

Einstein believed that we should use all of the powers of science and logic to understand the world, no matter



where that investigation leads us. Our sage Moses Maimonides, writing some 800 years ago, said the same thing in his *Mishne Torah*. One way that we worship God, he said, is to try to know God indirectly through God’s work, which means all of the tools of reason and science should be used.

Through science we can clarify certain *halakhic* (practical legal) requirements of Jewish life and better understand the sacred texts.

For example, in that same Law Code of Maimonides -- and also reflected in the sixteenth-century law code *Shulhan Arukh* which serves as the standard starting point for modern legal discussion -- there are certain foods or combinations of foods that are prohibited because they are thought to be harmful. Exactly what is on that list will change over time as science (or nature itself) advances or changes. The law itself stays the same -- that we are to refrain from harmful substances -- but what we must do to comply with that law changes over time as our knowledge changes. In the 1950s, when a man had a heart attack, he was told to rest for a few weeks in bed and eat good foods like sausages

and eggs to regain his strength. And if that was the doctor's order, it was considered a requirement of Jewish law. Today, the prescription would be just the opposite, and it would equally be a fulfillment of Jewish law.

Smoking, too, is now prohibited as a violation of the prohibition against doing harm to oneself. As our knowledge of the world develops, what we must do to comply with Jewish law and ethics may change.

Even though we know our understanding may one day change, we have to act on the best knowledge we have today. As the Talmud says, "A judge decides based on what he sees with his own eyes."

One of the beautiful things about science is that it gives us a common language with all humanity, at least in a small way. It can give us a common base of knowledge and a procedure to evaluate and understand others.

The very origin and essence of Conservative Judaism was the full embrace of the scientific method, even applying it to the understanding of the development of Jewish civilization, even to *halakha* itself. Well-rooted in our rabbinic heritage, this approach to science is perhaps the fundamental point of distinction between Conservative and most non-Conservative expressions of modern Judaism. The use of reason, freedom of expression, and open discussion we always part of mainstream Judaism; the search for truth is an essential part of our culture. I believe it is the most authentic expression of our tradition, and the most viable path for our future.

## LifeCycle

### With sorrow we note the passing of

Stanley Lowell, father of Lauri Lowell (& Isaiah Cooper) and of Jeffrey (& Eleanor Stutz) Lowell

Doug Muller, brother of Lisa (& Ken) Marcus

### Welcome New Member

Charlotte Krosnick

### Benei Mitzva in May



Carmi Cheskis-Gold

Jonathan C-R, son of Judith & Dennis, 6-7 May, *parashat Qedoshim*

Jesse Goldblum, son of David & Joanne Goldblum, 13-14 May, *parashat Emor*

Carmi Cheskis-Gold, son of Martin Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold, 28 May, *parashat BeHuqotai*

## Leave a Legacy

Dear Donna,

*I know you've been pushing this "Leave a Legacy" idea, that everyone should leave something to charity in their will. I don't disagree, but I've already signed my will and it was such a big project to get done that I really don't want to have to redo it. I don't have life insurance or retirement accounts on which I can name BEKI as the beneficiary. I keep putting off dealing with this; is there an easy way for me to "Leave a Legacy"?*

Sincerely,  
Estate Plan Complete

Dear Estate Plan Complete:

If you are willing to share a copy of your will with me, and tell me the amount or percentage of your estate you would like to leave to BEKI, I would be pleased to prepare a codicil adding the necessary language to your will at no charge. Wouldn't it be nice if every BEKI member did this? Please contact me at 787-1633 or [sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com), or you can send me a fax at 787-9162. Please just do it!

Sincerely,  
Donna Levine

# Annual Campaign

The Officers and Directors thank the following individuals for their generous contributions to the 2004-2005 5765 BEKI Annual Campaign. This listing was current as of 1 April 2005. Please contact the office (389-2108 x14, office@beki.org) if you have any questions or corrections. To make or add to your pledge, please contact the BEKI office at 389-2108 x14.

Donations recognized below include only Annual Campaign Contributions and Pledges for the current year, which includes Kol Nidre pledges. The list does not include donations to the Renovations Campaign, Endowments, basic dues or other funds, nor donations made after 1 April 2005. Such contributions are also appreciated and are acknowledged elsewhere.

The Annual Campaign accounts for about one-fifth of the synagogue's annual operating budget. Proceeds provide for the basic expenses of the Congregation, including staff, programming, utilities, insurance, publications and administrative expenses.

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Continued on page 6

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## Saul's Circle

Dr. Lauren Kempton conducted the fourth annual seder for Saul's Circle members, hosted by Sara Mag at Fellowship Place. Participants received a personal Haggada for the seder. The May activities, to be led by Dr. Lauren Kempton, center around the art and music of Israel Independence Day and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. How is it celebrated in Israel? In June the group will explore the meanings of flags around the world. LK

## Kulanu

Kulanu participants focused on the study of Purim and Passover last month. They related the Purim story and had a mask-making workshop. They also studied parts of the hagada in preparation for Passover.

They are continuing in their study of Israel led by Dr. Lauren Kempton. In May they will visit with Beccy Adler and Eilam Oren, our Israeli Emissaries. Beccy will teach about Kibbutz life on Kibbutz Israel in Afula and Eilam taught about his Israeli Dance group Hora Afula. Since on Thursdays they have a shared lunch, they will make a lunch of pita, hummus, and Israeli salad. LK

## Social Action Success

February brought much cold to our area, but much warmth was felt at our information social action brunch. Our new social action chair, Dr. Jennifer

Botwick, facilitated a lively and informational morning brunch session in February (not to mention a delicious brunch catered by Michael Ries). The Social Action Committee (SATO: Social Action - Tiqun Olam) of BEKI is a happening group! We learned there are many current and upcoming projects in which members of all ages can participate. The list of projects includes: building a house for Habitat for Humanity, Adopt-A-Social-Worker program, volunteer work for Ziv, Jewish Family service outreach, and Jewish literacy programs.

Darryl Kuperstock inspired us with stories of Danny Siegel's work with Ziv so much so that we plan to bring him for a weekend workshop at our shul in early September. We will have summer fundraisers to offset the cost of his visit.

Joanne Goldblum informed us of the current status of the Adopt-A-Social-Worker program; you may be familiar with it from last year's successful fill-a-backpack program.

Alice Raim helped us understand what our community needs are and what we can do to help as expressed through Jewish Family Service, and Lauri

Lowell clarified our role as literacy volunteers via the Jewish Federation.

Clearly, there is much to do and we can all make a difference! And, if you think you are too small to make a difference, you've never been in bed with a mosquito!

For more information, feel free to contact Dr. Botwick at 203-887-4824 or leave a message for her at the BEKI office. JBR

## Purim Basket Roundup

Please note that Stanley Saxe sent mishloah manot to many of our members and supporters, but due to our error his name did not appear on the cards. Sorry, Stan, and thanks for your wishes for a Happy Purim. Our list of names was 98% accurate, and that means we left a couple of people out and misspelled a couple of names; thank you for being forgiving. If you have not already done so, please inform us of errors. Thank you, everyone, for making this a most successful Purim fundraiser. Special thanks to the deliverers.



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# From Pesah to Shavuot

Cover Story (cont.)

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

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

– Psalm 90:12

## Yom HaShoa – Holocaust Memorial Day

Yom HaShoa will be observed on Wednesday night 4 May and Thursday 5 May 2005. This day will be recognized at BEKI in the liturgy at morning services and will be explored in the Religious School. Some in our community observe Thursday as a fast day.

## LaG BeOmer Kumsitz

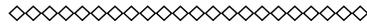
On Thursday evening 26 May 2005, from 6:10p to 8:00p, everyone is invited to a LaG BeOmer Kumsitz campfire sing-along at the residence of Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim, 2055 Chapel Street at Alden.

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.

Please call Ina Silverman, 387-6019, with ideas for next year. IS



## Rashi Study Group Marks Milestone

The Rashi Study Group began its study in January 1994 with the first verse of Genesis. Meeting weekly, the group has read each verse of the Torah in Hebrew and translated it directly, and then read, translated and discussed Rashi's commentary on that verse.

Just before Pesah, the RSG completed the book of VaYiqra (Leviticus), and after Pesah begin the book of BeMidbar (Numbers). Current and recent participants include Barbara Cushen, Miriam Helfer, Evelyn Maze, Harold Miller, Margot Roten, Stan Saxe, Morton & Ruth Silver, Joan Spangler, and Stephen Wizner, with Rabbi Tilsen. Additional, occasional and new participants are always welcome. For further description and schedule, see "Rashi" in the "Hungry Mind" section of this *Bulletin*.

Rashi's commentary on Lev. 19:15

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# A Message from the Education Director



## Symbols as Memorials

The Holocaust Education Prejudice Reduction Program sponsored a screening of the movie “Paperclips” and many BEKI congregants attended. The film tells the story of the small town of Whitwell, Tennessee; population 1,600. The town is all Christian and the schools have only six minority students. The school curriculum had never included the Holocaust, so the principal, Linda Hoper sent one teacher to a workshop.

The first day of school, one young eighth grader said, “I can not understand the number 6 million,” the number of Jews murdered. The teacher challenged them to come up with something they could collect to visually represent the six million. They discovered that not only was the paperclip invented by Norwegians but also that they wore paper clips on their clothes as a symbol of protest against Hitler’s persecution of the Jews.

The students sent letters across the country to celebrities, family, strang-

ers and friends in hopes of collecting 6 million paper clips. The project stalled at 100,000 paper clips and for a time they altered their plans, and had almost decided to lessen their goal collecting 1.5 million paper clips, the number of Jewish children lost during the Shoah. Then two journalists became involved. Their Paperclip Project was covered by the Washington Post and by NBC Nightly News. The paperclips started pouring in... from Germany and Israel and seventeen countries and 49 states.

The project then focused on building a Children’s Holocaust Memorial to house the paperclips in an authentic box car from Germany. The box car which had originally transported Jews to death camps arrived in the United States on 11 September 2001 so another teaching layer of prejudice reduction was added to their lessons. Four Holocaust survivors came from New York and gave their testimony to

the students and the entire town. The entire town worked on the Museum. Many of them said, “Can you imagine that the children of Survivors have no grandparents?”

The town of Whitwell decided to house 11 million paperclips in their museum; six million to represent the Jews that perished during the Shoah and 5 million to represent the Jehovah Witnesses, Gypsies and Homosexuals. Thirty million paper clips were ultimately collected.

Since funds were limited, the Whitwell townspeople dug up their own gardens to beautify the Memorial. At the dedication a student stated, “We showed the world that there is another way than hate and intolerance.” The path to the Memorial is painted with butterflies to symbolize the poem, “I Never Saw Another Butterfly” from a child’s poem from Terezin. The motto for the project is: “Never doubt that



# A Message from the Education Director

a group of thoughtful committed students can change the world one class at a time.”

The project is ongoing. The students are now docents and tour educators for visiting schools. Symbols make us think and sometimes symbols can change the world. This little town has taught us a great lesson about the lasting impact of symbols for students and the inspirational and profound lessons of social action.

## BEKI Religious School

This year’s Purim Carnival had an Israeli flavor, thanks to the teaching of Beccy Adler and Eliam Oren. The BEKI Religious school students love traditions so this year they blended their customs for the Carnival with ideas from our Israeli Emissaries. The added stations were: sack races, Find the Sweets, Candle in the Bottle and Write Your Own Megilla. The parents and students were thrilled to see the



Puppet Show

story of Purim enacted by master puppeteer Daniel Barash.

The students, parents, teachers and one grandparent of BEKI Religious School traveled to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park. The visit was planned as a culminating celebration for our Third, Fourth and Fifth graders as they complete their studies on Immigration – 350 Years of Jews In America. They attended the new exhibition on Immigration and also saw a preview of the new wing, All of Ours To Fight For, Americans in the Second World War.

The Sixth and Seventh graders attended the main exhibit on the Holocaust. Our docent was a Holocaust Survivor. The trip concluded with a Kosher meal at Dougies, enjoyed by all.

## What do you do when a dog comes to Religious School?

The first answer might be... you make sure that Skippy, the reigning neighborhood cat is not around. The students of BEKI Religious School had a very special visit from Helene Sapadin and her “Guide Dog in Training,” Fiona.

Helene and Molly received Fiona from the Fedelco Foundation kennels at two months of age. They will keep Fiona until she is one year old. Fiona attends training with her family three times a month.

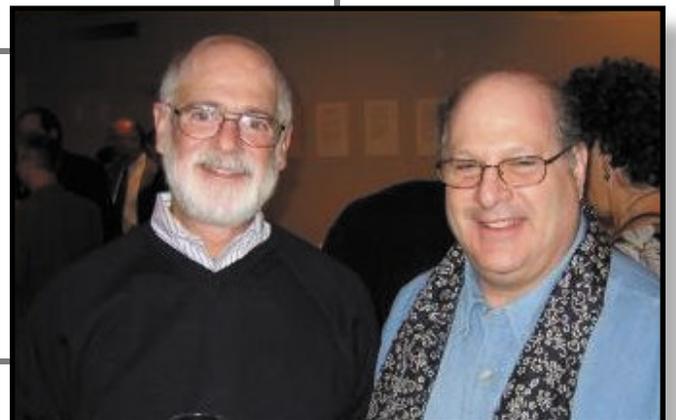
Helene and Molly are teaching Fiona to be a good citizen and to be comfortable with people and other animals.



Helene Sapadin with Fiona

Fiona has a vest and an ID card for her future role as a guide dog for the blind. Fiona will be matched with a blind person and they will train together. Helene and Fiona have been visiting local schools and organizations to teach about this important project.

# Scenes from Gala Auction



## Benei Mitzva Program - Mitzva Heroes for 5765

The Benei Mitzva Program class is very proud to announce the Mitzva Heroes for 5765 - 2005. The students have been conducting interviews of their Mitzva Heroes in preparation for their presentation to the congregation and Religious School on 22 May.

The morning of Sunday 22 May will begin with the BEKI Religious School Graduation at 9:00a followed by the Mitzva Hero Brunch at 10:00a in the upstairs Social Hall. Reservations are required, so keep an eye out for the mid-month mailing and please return your form. This intergenerational morning has become an important tradition here at BEKI.

The following is a list of the Benei Mitzva students and their Mitzva Heroes

**Alex Shragis - Judith Sardi**  
**Tsvi Benson-Tilsen - Jon-Jay Tilsen**  
**Jonathan C-R - Karen Fine**  
**Rachel Green - Darryl Kuperstock**  
**Jesse Goldblum - Harry Sherman**  
**David Friedman - Paul Goodwin**  
**Ariel Weiser - Mikki Ratner**  
**Seth Miller - Alan Lovins**

**Alan Visochek - Paul Newman and the Jordan River Village**



Paul Goodwin, Mitzva Hero

---

## Garinim Montessori at BEKI

*A preschool for children ages 2-6,  
Celebrating Jewish Tradition*

The school opened in November 2004 and is off to a wonderful start. The director, Montessori trained, Lana Gad, is very proud of the school and its students. "I started with a vision – a Montessori preschool that includes the celebration of Jewish Tradition." The school is nurturing, welcoming and open to all.

A Montessori classroom is a carefully designed environment where children of mixed ages work together, or independently with multi-sensory materials that invite them to touch, to think,

to explore. Children are free to choose an activity and attend to it with enthusiasm until a sense of accomplishment is attained. The teachers move around, helping the children where needed, guiding them or presenting a new activity.

A peek through the classroom window may reveal one child slicing bananas to be shared at snack time while another explores a sink and float experiment. Some are listening to a story, while others are having fun with play dough or busy with a collage which turns out to be a Purim mask. One might observe a child seated at a table grading sound cylinders from loud

to soft, while two others sit on a mat nearby placing animals on a puzzle map of Africa.

Such is the nature of our Montessori classroom – a myriad of choices and a room full of busy children experiencing the joy of learning in a comfortable happy environment.

We welcome visitors; come see for yourself!

For more information or to schedule an observation, please call Lana Gad 203.389.7445 or by email [garinim@optonline.net](mailto:garinim@optonline.net)

*Shabbatot*

## **Darshanim in May**

- Jonathan C-R, 7 May, *parashat Qedoshim*
- Jesse Goldblum, 14 May, *parashat Emor*
- Guest for Ezra Shabbat at BEKI, 21 May, *parashat BeHar*
- Carmi Cheskis-Gold, 28 May, *parashat BeHuqotai*

## **Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan**

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel, 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** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

*Sundays*

## **MAKOM: Talmud with Moshe Meiri**

MAKOM for Jewish Teens is presenting *Talmud with Moshe Meiri* on Sunday mornings from 10:00a to noon in the Posener Chapel Library. For information, contact Dr. Arnold Carmel at [a.carmel@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:a.carmel@jewishnewhaven.org) or (203) 387-2424 x316.

*Mondays*

## **Rashi Study Group**

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

*Monday 23 May*

## **KINAHARA: Kashrut in the Communal Kitchen**

Monday evening 23 May from 6:05p to 7:25p, join Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen in the BEKI Library for a look at kashrut procedures for the communal kitchen. This workshop is part of a mashgiah training program and is presented through KINAHARA: The Kashrut Initiative of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly.

*Wednesdays*

## **Berakhot Talmud Study Group**

A Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7:30a to 8:00a during the academic year. The Study Group focuses on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of basic Hebrew or Aramaic is very helpful but not required. The Group is open to all.

## **Rabbis' Study Group**

*Wednesdays with Murray* is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

## Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or [icooper@cooperlaw.net](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net).

## Writing Group

The Writing Group meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Interested writers gather to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the participants bring a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. This community aims to generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at [bergida@yahoo.com](mailto:bergida@yahoo.com) or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org)

## AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. It is currently engaged in a 12 & 12 Study – Discussion. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or [sokolow@snet.net](mailto:sokolow@snet.net).

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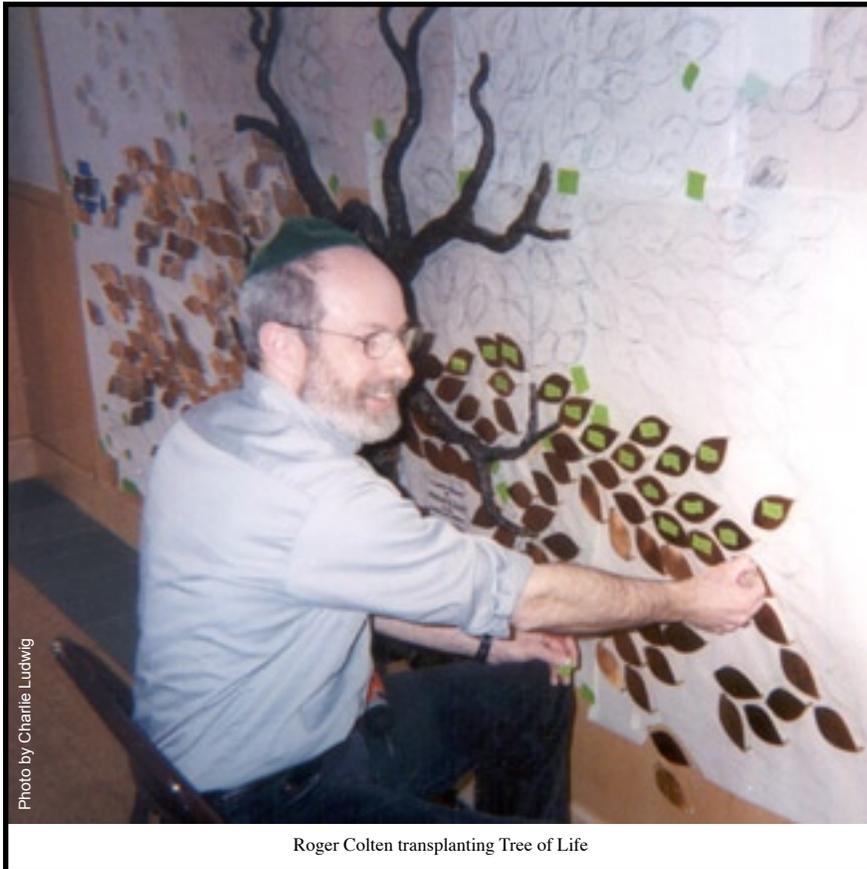


Photo by Charlie Ludwig

Roger Colten transplanting Tree of Life

A control board on the elevator has been revised to enable the elevator to skip the middle stop when operating in Shabbat mode, thereby shortening the trip. The elevator arrival buzz has been disconnected. Construction documents for Phase 2C are under review in preparation for bidding. The two major restraints are budget and scheduling. We need to raise at least \$300,000 to complete the project, and we hope to complete Phase 2C by spring 2006.

A process to select chairs for the Posen Daily Chapel and Rosenkrantz Library has begun. Model chairs are available for examination, and broad input is desired. The models do not

represent the color and finish choices, but do represent the style, construction and “feel” of the chairs we will acquire.

The new office is almost ready for occupation. A line conditioner has been added to the sanctuary sound system to reduce the “pop” heard when the blowers activate.

The “Tree of Life” lobby artwork is being relocated to the new entry vestibule. Our members Roger Colten & Sarah Barry have undertaken this painstaking process. Fortunately, Roger is a professional archeologist with expertise in relocating ancient and delicate artifacts and artwork, and

Sarah’s professional expertise is in an allied area. Once the Tree is relocated, additional attention will be given to lighting and other presentation issues.

## Service Times for Spring/Summer

### Sundays:

9a Shaharit  
5:45p Minha-Maariv

### Mondays:

7a Shaharit  
5:45p Minha-Maariv

### Tuesdays:

7a Shaharit  
5:45p Minha-Maariv

### Wednesdays:

7a Shaharit  
5:45p Minha-Maariv

### Thursdays:

8:15a Shaharit  
5:45p Minha-Maariv

### Fridays:

7a Shaharit  
6p Minha-Maariv

### Saturdays:

9:15a Shaharit  
5:45p Minha

# May 2005

22 Nisan 5765 - 22 Iyar 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>1</b> Passover VIII (Yizkor) No Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22 Nisan/7 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>2</b> 7:45a Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23 Nisan/8 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">24 Nisan/9 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30p Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25 Nisan/10 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>5</b> Yom Hashoah 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing group 8:00p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26 Nisan/11 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>6</b> 6:00p Jonathan C-R Bar Mitzva 7:36p Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27 Nisan/12 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>7</b> Jonathan C-R Bar Mitzva 10:34a Children's Programs Qiddush: C-R 8:36p Havdala</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28 Nisan/13 L'Omer</p>
<p><b>8</b> No Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29 Nisan/14 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>9</b> Rosh Hodesh I 7:45a Rashi Study Group 7:30p Executive Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30 Nisan/15 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>10</b> Rosh Hodesh II</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 Iyar/16 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>11</b> Yom Hazikaron 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 10:00a CVRA 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program 7:30p Renovations Committee Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 Iyar/17 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>12</b> Yom Ha'Atzmaut 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3 Iyar/18 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>13</b> 6:00p Jesse Goldblum Bar Mitzva USY Shabbaton 7:43p Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 Iyar/19 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>14</b> Jesse Goldblum Bar Mitzva USY Shabbaton 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Goldblum 8:43p Havdala</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5 Iyar/20 L'Omer</p>
<p><b>15</b> USY Shabbaton 9:00a Religious School</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6 Iyar/21 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:45a Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7 Iyar/22 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">8 Iyar/23 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9 Iyar/24 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>19</b> 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10 Iyar/25 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>20</b> 7:50p Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11 Iyar/26 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>21</b> Ezra Shabbat 10:45a Children's Programs Qiddush: BEKI Ezra Parents 8:50p Havdala</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12 Iyar/27 L'Omer</p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:00a Religious School Graduation 10:00a Mitzva Heroes Kadima Chapter Event</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13 Iyar/28 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>23</b> Pesach Sheini 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6:05p KINAHARA Workshop 7:30p General Board Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14 Iyar/29 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>24</b> 6:30p Sisterhood Book of Life Dinner honoring Gila Reinstein</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15 Iyar/30 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16 Iyar/31 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>26</b> 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 6:00p Kumstiz LaG BeOmer at Foodim-Forbes residence 8:00p A.A.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17 Iyar/32 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>27</b> LaG B'Omer 6:00p Carmi Cheskis-Gold Bar Mitzva 7:56p Candle Lighting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18 Iyar/33 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>28</b> Carmi Cheskis-Gold Bar Mitzva 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Cheskis-Gold 8:56p Havdala</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19 Iyar/34 L'Omer</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">20 Iyar/35 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>30</b> Office Closed/Memorial Day 9:00a Shaharit 9:45a Rashi Study Group</p> <p style="text-align: right;">21 Iyar/36 L'Omer</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">22 Iyar/37 L'Omer</p>				

## BEKI Events

# Contributions

*For information on donating by credit card online or by email, please see [www.beki.org/donate.html](http://www.beki.org/donate.html). BEKI accepts VISA and MasterCard.*

*BEKI accepts VISA & MasterCard as well as checks*

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

- Irma Hamburger for Matanot LeEvyonim at Purim
- Michael & Caryl Kligfeld for Maot Hitim at Pesah
- Marsha Beller honoring Rachel Green, bat mitzva
- Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper in memory of Stanley Lowell
- Bill & Eva Shragis Family in appreciation of Tsvi Benson-Tilsen
- Van Creveld/Ben-Avie Family in appreciation of friends at BEKI at Purim
- Miriam Helfer in appreciation
- Robert Silverman in appreciation for prayers for healing
- Morris & Gloria Cohen for Mekhirat Hamets
- Tamar Edelkind for Mekhirat Hamets
- Daniel & Sharon Prober marking yahrzeit of father Maurice Prober
- Deborah Ziskin & William Berson for maot hittim at Pesah
- For Mekhirat Hamets: Barbara Cushen; Charles & Violet Ludwig; Rabbi Murray Levine; Robert Silverman; Michelle Avenia; Arthur & Betty Levy; Daniel & Sharon Prober

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## **Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$150)**

- Donald & Ann Green in honor of Rachel's Bat Mitzva
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving marking Trish's birthday
- Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow marking Shai & Jay's birthdays
- Murray Levine marking his birthday
- Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper marking Daniel's birthday
- Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries marking David's birthday
- Ruthie Greenblatt marking her birthday

---

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

- From Toby & Alan Ignal in honor of their daughter Kim's engagement to Chris Maresca
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell from the Kuperstock Family
- To Jeff & Eleanor Lowell with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by the Kuperstock Family
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by David & Joanne Goldblum
- To Jeff & Eleanor Lowell with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by David & Joanne Goldblum
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Carol & Marc Weitzman
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Yvonne & Herb Kolodny
- To Stan Saxe in honor of his birthday by David Wright & Sandra McKenney
- To Rachel Green in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim
- To Rachel Green in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Michelle Avenia
- To Rachel Green in honor of her Bat Mitzva by the Shragis Family
- To Allan Visochek in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Alice S. Cohen
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Jay Brown
- To BEKI in appreciation of the Purim Basket by Jimmy & Pattie Shure
- To BEKI with many thanks for the lovely Purim Basket by Claire Proctor
- To Adena Herskovitz with sympathy on the passing of Sean Bowler by Marsha R.B. Beller
- To Jay Brown with sympathy on the passing of Janet Brown by Marsha R.B. Beller

- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Marsha R.B. Beller
- To David Schwartz & Hannah Schwartz with sympathy on the passing of Rubin Schwartz by Marsha R.B. Beller
- In memory of Grandma Jenny Kemper by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In memory of Grandma Anna Paley by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In memory of Bubbe Mary Lebow by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In memory of Aunt Millie by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In memory of Beverly Zerwitz Zlotoff by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In honor of Alisa's acceptance to Graduate School by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In honor of Ron & Donna becoming certified scuba divers by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In honor of Ben's award as an Academic All American by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- To Jeffrey & Eleanor Stutz Lowell with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Marsha R.B. Beller

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## **Harold Ratner Memorial Fund**

- In memory of Louis Egalka by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Etta Miller by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Charles Miller by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Max Branfin by Mikki Ratner

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## **The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment**

- In honor of Daniel's acceptance to Medical School by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper

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

- To Rachel Green in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Gila Reinstein
- To Lauri Lowell & Isaiah Cooper with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Lowell by Violet & Charlie Ludwig

# Contributions

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

- In memory of her parents Samuel & Ethel Salovitz by Shirley Brander
- In loving memory of Bessie Kaufman by Florence S. Kaufman
- In memory of Anita Palmer by John & Marsha Reynolds
- In memory of Freda Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- In memory of Sylvia Matloff by Jack & Harriet Kitavitz
- In memory of Rose & Louis Katz by Daniel & Sharon Prober
- In memory of Maurice Prober by Daniel & Sharon Prober
- In memory of Etta & Charles Miller by Julian D. Miller
- In memory of Shirley Rudof by Stephen Rudof
- In memory of Jenoe Goldberg by Anna Goldberg
- In memory of Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Kate Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Paul Wolfson by Steven & Susan Wolfson
- In memory of Sydney Weiss by Richard & Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of her father Murray Edelkind by Tamar Edelkind
- In memory of Samuel Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Max Gad by Martin & Lana Gad
- In memory of Harold Lidsky by Mildred Lidsky
- In memory of Paul Klein by Morris Klein
- In memory of Charles Byer by Barbara & Larry Tiven
- In memory of her uncle Morris "Moishe" Schnitman by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef
- In memory of Lewis Shindell by Marcia Geier
- In memory of Helene C. Greenberg by Irene Greenberg



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