Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study takes place on the first night of Shavuot, Tuesday, May 18. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served. That means cheesecake.

The evening begins with the Minha Afternoon Service, from 7:45 to 8 p.m. in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. The brief Festival Evening service, from 8 to 8:20 p.m., will be followed by presentations beginning at 8:30. Shiurim will be presented or led by Adele Reinhartz, Ina Silverman, Barry Dov Walfish, Rabbi Eric Silver and Jonathan Magen.

Adele Reinhartz is Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa (Canada), and currently Visiting Professor, New Testament, at the Yale Divinity School. Her main areas of research are the Gospel of John, early Jewish-Christian relations, feminist criticism, and the Bible and Film. Her most recent book is a study of the Jesus movies, entitled Jesus of Hollywood (Oxford, 2007). She is completing a book on Caiaphas the High Priest, with support from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Adele was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2005. She will speak on the Book of Naomi.

Ina Silverman is the Principal of the BEKI Religious School and a former New Haven Alderman. She will present “Sex in the Texts” exclusively for current and potential participants in the 20s-30s Havura.

Barry Dov Walfish is Judaica Specialist at the University of Toronto Library and a faculty member of the Centre for Jewish Studies and the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto. He is married to Adele Reinhartz. He will present “How do we know when Shavuot begins? Calendar Issues in Ancient Judaism.”

Rabbi Eric Silver is the spiritual leader of Temple Beth David in Cheshire; Rabbi Silver was meeting with the Pope in Rome when this issue went to press, and will announce his topic when the white smoke clears.

Jonathan E. Magen is a passionate software developer living and working in New Haven. He is a graduate of The Evergreen State College where he was part of the Advanced Operating Systems Laboratory. Jonathan attended Camp Ramah in the Poconos for 20 summers both as a camper and third-generation staff member. Jonathan’s areas of Judaic interest include Religious Zionism, modern Halakha, and the legal philosophy and theology of the Rambam. He will speak on “Sacred Cluster: The Framework of the Masorti Movement.”
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**News**

**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 week-day 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.

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope. In contrast to a “count-down,” which calls attention to the dwindling number of days ahead, sefirat ha-omer is a “count-up,” which enumerates the accumulation of days passed. This suggests that our past is not “lost,” but rather it is carried with us, enriching us, we hope, with lessons learned, enhanced maturity, happy experiences, the merit of good deeds, and fond memories.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom – Psalm 90:12

**Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish Hajj**

The Festival of Shavuot (“Weeks”), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,400 years ago. The word hag (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, hajj (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, “Three times a year—on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you” (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance at BEKI this spring. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI’s Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

**Shavuot Mornings**

*Yizkor Memorial Service*  
  The Shavuot First Day Festival Shaharit Morning Service begins at 9:15 on Wednesday, May 19. The service includes the full recitation of Hallel. The afternoon and evening services begin at 5:45.

  The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15 on Thursday, May 20. The Festival service includes a Shaharit morning service, Hallel (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and Haftara. Following the Haftara (prophetic reading), the Yizkor Memorial Service is held. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

  Following Yizkor, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of ta’amei hamiqra (“trope”) found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival Musaf additional service is recited.

  Some Congregants may leave during qiddush for a hike to the top of West Rock. Weather permitting, bring appropriate shoes and leave with friends from the lobby.
A Message from the Principal

Unbelievably, another year at BEKI Religious School will be completed May 16 with graduation ceremonies.

Some highlights of the year were significant accomplishments in all grades in Hebrew reading and prayer, the fabulous Sukkah dinner, Purim party, model seder, and the anticipated Graduation/Shavuot learning session with presentation of siddurim to third grade students.

We also had special presentations by Dr. Lauren Kempston for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and by Morah Iris Back and Morah Tikvah Shapiro for Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day). Our adopted Visiting Scholar, Pam Ries, was invited to teach a session for parents on reading between the lines of Torah stories to discover what isn’t said. The K-1 class should be commended for collecting tzedakah that was donated toward the rebuilding of Haiti through the Jewish Federation.

We welcomed two new teachers, Morah Deena Rubin and Reb Moshe Meiri, and our new Young Emissary Matan Aviel who enhanced the Israel curriculum. We say goodbye to Morah Tikvah who returns to Israel this summer after several years with BRS. With profound sadness we learned of the passing of Terri Stern, former principal of the school.

Next year will bring some exciting changes as well. If you know families with children who would benefit from BRS please let me know so I can contact them.

Kol tuv,
Morah Ina

BEKI / BJ Kadima Kvelling...

Kadima continues the fun! Back in January, we made fruit smoothies for Tu BeShevat at the Gerber’s. Thank you to Ben Gerber for hosting this fabulous event. We welcomed new members and fifth graders to Game Night at BEKI. The USYers hosted this event and we had great fun playing all sorts of games that night. In February, we headed off to Tower One/Tower East for our Senior Mixer and we had a great time playing board games and listening to wonderful music. The Kadimaniks made lovely Shaloah Manot baskets to give to the residents. USYers brought homemade hamentaschen too. In March, we had our traditional Chocolate Seder at B’nai Jacob. Special thanks go to Natalie May, Rachel Gerber and Lana Gad for helping out at the Seder. After the Seder, we continued the fun at a Hanefesh Regional Event. The Kadima Fun Day was so cool at Congregation Or Shalom. We listened to great music, had yummy snacks and played a lot of amazing games. In April, we went back to Tower One/Tower East to create butterflies for the Houston Holocaust Museum. Our butterflies will be part of an exhibit in June 2012. The museum is collecting 1.5 million butterflies to honor the memories of the children who perished in the Holocaust. We are so proud to be part of this exhibit. We had another wonderful Shabbat dinner in April at the Benson-Tilsen’s house. This event is always well attended and enjoyed by all.

Don’t forget eighth-graders can now participate in USY events.

For more info on USY events
Contact Matt Wiener BEKI/BJ USY Advisor at (203) 843-0781 or email at mattwien13@gmail.com

For more info on Kadima Membership
Contact Caryn Azoff BEKI/BJ Kadima Advisor at 203-389-6504 or email at crazoff@comcast.net

Coming soon, save the dates
May 2 Walk Against Hunger East Rock Park
May 16 Rock Climbing
June 13 End of year party
Arthur Kurzweil, author of *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Family History*, will be guest speaker at the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven’s Annual Meeting at BEKI on Sunday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will present, “How to Climb Your Family Tree: A Spiritual Journey from Generation to Generation.”

In his presentation, “How to Climb Your Family Tree: A Spiritual Journey from Generation to Generation,” Kurzweil will explain how — and why — Jews of all ages should explore their family origins.

Trained as a professional librarian, Kurzweil was editor-in-chief of the Jewish Book Club for 17 years, past president of the Jewish Book Council, literary agent, and currently Judaica consultant for Jossey-Bass, a division of John Wiley Publishers.

He co-founded the first Jewish Genealogical Society in the 1970s; today there are nearly 70 Jewish Genealogical Societies throughout the world. His other books include *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy; My Generations: A Course in Jewish Family History; On the Road with Rabbi Steinsaltz: 25 Years of Pre-Dawn Car Trips, Mind-Blowing Encounters and Inspiring Conversations with a Man of Wisdom*; and most recently, *Pebbles of Wisdom from Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz* (2009). Based on his studies with some of the leading authorities in the field of qabala, and because of his reputation as a teacher who can explain difficult spiritual concepts in accessible language, he was invited to write *Kabbalah for Dummies*. He is also the author of *The Torah for Dummies*.

At the JHS annual meeting, new officers will be installed. For more information, contact Marian Ottaviano, (203) 392-6125, email to jhsgnh@yahoo.com or go to www.jhsgnh.org.

Tickets cost $15 per person. A catered brunch will be served. This event is sponsored by Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, the Jewish Community Center, and Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel. BEKI members and their guests and friends are welcome.
Barukh Dayan HaEmet
With sorrow we note the passing of
Terri Stern
May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal tov to
Shula Chernoff and Sherry Rothman on their induction to the JCC Kavod Society.

Miriam Benson on her appointment as a delegate of MERCAZ USA, the Zionist organization of the Conservative Movement, to the 36th World Zionist Congress.

MAKOM graduates Carmi Chesks-Gold; Liora Cohen-Fraade; Ariel Wieser; and Yael Grazier-Zerbarini, representing 36 percent of the graduation class.

Benei Mitzva in May & June
Naomi Caldwell, Myles Caldwell and Samuel Caldwell, children of Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell, 7-8 May 7-8, parashat BeHar – BeHuqotai

Marlee Chorney, daughter of David & Wendy Chorney, June 4-5, parashat Shelakh Lekha

Matthew Gad, son of Martin & Lana Gad, June 18-19, parashat Huqat

Sisterhood
Our gift shop has many new items for brides, anniversaries and bar- and bat-mitzva students. Please patronize our shop and support BEKI at the same time.

The social hall kitchen has recently been remodeled by Sisterhood and will be dedicated at the BEKI annual meeting in June.

Our “Book of Life” mailing will be out soon. Please support this Sisterhood fund-raising project.

Our joint meeting with Wepawaug Chapter of Hadassah was a festive meeting celebrating Israel’s 62nd birthday. Everyone had a great time, so we hope to have more joint meetings in the near future.

Mimi Glenn & Adele Tyson Co-presidents

Torah Fund
We need your support of Torah Fund! By purchasing cards for all occasions – Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Birthdays, Anniversaries, New Babies – you support The Jewish Theological Seminary as all money goes directly to the JTS.

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Barbara Cushen Torah Fund Chairperson

Get Well to
• Violet Ludwig from Hyla Greenberg

In Memory of:
• Genia Weinstein to Natan & Lori Weinstein from Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe, the BEKI Hesed Committee
• Sid Chernin to Sheila Caplan from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe
• Madelyn Reich to Will Reich from Louis Petrillo
• Abraham & Miriam Goldstein to Hyla Greenberg & Myra Goldfarb from Louis Petrillo
• Carl & Helen Chorney Goldfarb to Marc Goldfarb from Louis Petrillo
• Hyman & Martha Goldenberg to Dr. Paul Goldenberg from Louis Petrillo
• Solomon Polikoff, Beatrice Polikoff Kessler and Naomi Zelnick to Linda Friedman from Louis Petrillo
• Leo & Marcia Fine to Susan Fine Amatruud from Louis Petrillo
• Al & Mollie Golden and Julius & Sylvia Rosenfield to Jeff Golden & Irma Rosenfield from Louis Petrillo
• Joy Levin Forrester & A. Theodore Forrester to Bruce Forrester from Louis Petrillo
Shabbatot

**Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan**

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

**Sundays**

**Sunday Talmud with Moshe Meiri**

Adults and advanced youth are invited to bask in the light of Talmud on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The third chapter of *masekhet Baba Qama* (“First Gate”) serves as the base text. This spring series meets on consecutive Sunday mornings from 10:30 until noon each Sunday through the end of June. For more information, contact Moshe at moshe@snet.net.

**The Exegesis of Nehama Lebowitz (in Hebrew)**

Explore the extraordinary methods and insights of a leading 20th century commentator, Nehama Lebowitz, with Moshe Meiri on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 2. Texts and discussion in Hebrew. For more information, contact Moshe at moshe@snet.net.

**Minding the Gaps with Pam Reis**

May 2, from 11 to noon, BRS’s Visiting Scholar, Pam Reis, leads a discussion entitled, “Mind the Gaps” reading between the lines of some well-known Bible stories, what we can deduce from what is not said. All welcome.

**Mondays**

**Rashi Study Group**

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

**Tiqun Leil Shavuot**

Tuesday, May 18, featuring presentations by Adele Reinhartz, Barry Dov Walfish, Ina Silverman, Jonathan Magen and Rabbi Eric Silver. Minha 7:45 p.m., Maariv 8 p.m., Shiurim and Cheesecake 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. or later. The schedule of presentations is subject to change depending in part on the activity of the Eyjafjallajokull glacier volcano.

**Wednesdays**

**Word for the Day**

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) now includes a 60-second “Hebrew word for the day” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English. The Word for the Day often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

**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 

Continued on Page 9
Rabbi’s Tzedaka Fund (minimum $25)
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Terri Stern
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving with wishes of refua shelema to Henry Mohrer

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To Trish Loving in honor of her birthday by Paulette Lehrer Bobrow & Sam Bobrow
- To Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik with sympathy on the passing of Hugh Curtis by Yair & Stephanie Listokin
- To Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik with sympathy on the passing of Hugh Curtis by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik with sympathy on the passing of Hugh Curtis by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik with sympathy on the passing of Hugh Curtis by Betty & Art Levy
- To The Curtis-Resnik family with sympathy on the passing of Hugh Curtis by the Avni-Singer family.
- To Morris & Rachel Statlender with sympathy on the passing of Sylvia Statlender by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Vi Ludwig with wishes for a speedy recovery by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Rabbi Rick Eisenberg in his honor by Jimmy & Melanie Listokin
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in honor of his birthday by Arthur & Betty Roswell
- To Natan & Lori Weinstein with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by Steve & Sherry Rothman
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by Joseph, Ghislane, Marlo & Darren Palumbo
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein from the Bass family
- To Natan & Lori Weinstein with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by Janice & Robert Lettick
- To Natan & Lori Weinstein with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Natan & Lori Weinstein with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by Rhoda Zahler
- To Natan & Lori Weinstein with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by Roger Colten & Sarah Berry
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by Jay Brown
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by the Lew family
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Genia Weinstein by Sybil Richards & Hans Massaquoi

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of her husband Jack S. Greenberg by Belle K. Greenberg
- In memory of Abraham J. Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Kate Rachlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Paul Klein by Morris Klein
- In memory of Philip Abramowitz by John & Marcia Gell
- In memory of Bluma Spoongan Soloway by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of Freda Kaufman by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of Fannie Shanok by Gertrude Shanok
- In memory of Shirley Rudof by Stephen & Joann Rudof
- In memory of Reuben Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Eleanor Hepler by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of her father Saul Hennes by Sheila Dubak
- In memory of Hyman Goldberg by Shirley Chain
- In memory of Celia Goldberg by Shirley Chain
- In memory of Abe Goldberg by Shirley Chain
- In memory of Mae Goldberg by Dan Goldberg
- In memory of Harriet Winer by Herbert Winer
- In memory of her mother Eunice S. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Elsie Gesund by Hans & Howard Gralla
- To Saul Bell with wishes for a speedy recovery by Jessey & Gary Fish
- With thanks and in memory of Leonard Fish by Inge & Gary Fish

The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment
- To the Horwitz family in memory of Tillie & Edward Horwitz by Leeza & Patrick Mullloy
- To Ruthie Greenblatt in honor of her birthday by David, Wendy & Marlee Chorney
- To the Horwitz family with sympathy on the passing of Tillie Horwitz by Rabbi Mindy Portnoy

Hesed Fund
- To Gila Reinstein with sympathy on the passing of Shula Lubarr by Janice & Robert Lettick
- To Gila Reinstein with sympathy on the passing of Shula Lubarr by the Lew family
- To Gila Reinstein with sympathy on the passing of Shula Lubarr by Linda Schutz
Contributions (continued)

Michael Freiman by Jonathan Freiman and Amy Aaland
• In memory of Nellie Rifkin by Norma Rifkin
• In memory of her mother Toby Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
• In memory of her mother Bella Avrin by Susan & Bob Spear
• In memory of their parents Rose & Louis Katz and Maurice Prober by Sharon & Dan Prober
• In memory of his brother David Silverman by Robert Silverman
• In memory of his mother Lillian Silverman by Robert Silverman

Adult Studies
Continued from Page 7

Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Mini Maariv Learning Service
The Wednesday evening services during the school year are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily evening service. The learning Minhah & Maariv services are from 5:45 to 6:15 each Wednesday night.

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 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group
The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

The Sanhedrin Study Group is meeting 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.”
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

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Scott Walstedter

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The major news services reported in April that a prominent Iranian Muslim cleric said that “promiscuous women were to blame for Iran’s seismic instability.” Iran experiences hundreds of earthquakes every year, most of them small.

If the cleric’s explanation is valid, contrary to the scientific theory of tectonics (and, like evolution, tectonics is “only a theory”), it may suggest a non-military option for destroying Iran’s incipient nuclear capabilities. Perhaps SLDs (Strategic Lewd Dancers) can collapse the underground weapon labs or cause the centrifuges to fly apart.

However, there is some uncertainty among the clerics on this point. Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati reportedly told worshipers in April that “Only repentance, prayer and charity” can prevent earthquakes. I am not sure why, but there was a familiar ring to that. I did once read somewhere about a guy blowing a horn, thereby causing a wall to collapse, so you never know.

Closer to home, there is a movement to replace the image of President Grant (the guy who is not buried in Grant’s Tomb) on the $50 note with an image of Ronald Reagan. I can’t say that I think Grant was a greater president than Reagan, but I’d rather see Reagan honored in some other way that does not detract from Grant. Reagan has an airport, numerous high schools and bridges and other things named after him already, and Reagan’s image is to appear on a dollar coin. Now, if Washington ($1) and Lincoln ($5) were the “greatest” presidents, and Grant ($50) somewhere farther down the line, it suggests that the lower the denomination, the higher the esteem for the president. So perhaps we could agree to have his image placed on a $16.75 bill.

Speaking of great Americans, I had to wonder about the letter writer in the New Haven Register who insisted that the Postal Service honor Malcolm X with his own stamp, just like other great Americans. Last time I bought stamps, they offered me a choice of the Bart Simpson or Daffy Duck stamp.

And then there was the writer who condemned eating chickens, since, as anyone who has seen the film Chicken Run knows, chickens are intelligent and sociable creatures. For the benefit of our readers above the age of 10, I might need to point out that Chicken Run is an animated cartoon. I’ve been off the farm awhile, but I don’t recall real chickens speaking English or knitting. Now I know where the expression “dumb cluck” comes from.

There seems to be some confusion about how the world works. Sometimes I feel that I am losing my grip on reality, but then again, maybe it would not be such a great loss. Or is this an island of relative sensibility in a crazy world?

One central element of Jewish culture, embedded in legal and communal structures, is the value placed on open discourse, a democratic marketplace of ideas. It is considered proper to politely challenge the ideas held by other, even – or especially – of clerics and government officials. We can only hope that our communication and education will in the long run make the world make more sense.
# May 2010

**17 Iyar 5770 - 18 Sivan 5770**

<table>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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| 1      | 10:45am Children's Programs  
Giddush: Cummings/Foodim-Forbes  
5:45pm Minha-Maariv | 2       | 2       | 2       | 2       | 2       | 2       |
| 2      | LaG B'Omer  
9:00am Religious School  
10:30am Talmud with Moshe  
5:00pm Tribute Dinner honoring Rabbi Richard Eisenberg, Rabbi Murray Levine, Rabbi Alan Lovins & Rabbi Lina Zerbarini  
18 Iyar/33 L'Omer | 3       | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
25 Iyar/40 L'Omer | 4       | 5       | 5       | 5       | 5       | 5       |
| 3      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
19 Iyar/34 L'Omer | 4       | 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group  
20 Iyar/35 L'Omer | 5       | 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group  
21 Iyar/36 L'Omer | 6       | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group  
22 Iyar/37 L'Omer | 7       | 6:00pm Myles, Samuel & Naomi Caldwell Benoit  
18 Iyar/38 L'Omer | 8       | Myles, Samuel & Naomi Caldwell Benoit  
16 Iyar/39 L'Omer |
| 4      | 4:00pm Religious School  
5:00pm Beneli Mitzvah Program  
21 Iyar/36 L'Omer | 5       | 4:00pm Religious School  
22 Iyar/37 L'Omer | 6       | 4:00pm Religious School  
23 Iyar/38 L'Omer | 7       | 5:00pm Beneli Mitzvah Program  
24 Iyar/39 L'Omer | 8       | 5:00pm Beneli Mitzvah Program  
24 Iyar/39 L'Omer |
| 5      | 10:45am Rashi Study Group  
25 Iyar/40 L'Omer | 6       | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group  
26 Iyar/41 L'Omer | 7       | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group  
27 Iyar/42 L'Omer | 8       | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group  
28 Iyar/43 L'Omer | 9       | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group  
29 Iyar/44 L'Omer | 10      | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group  
1 Iyar/45 L'Omer | 11      | 12:30pm Talmud Study Group  
2 Iyar/46 L'Omer |
| 6      | 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  
26 Iyar/41 L'Omer | 7       | 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  
27 Iyar/42 L'Omer | 8       | 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  
28 Iyar/43 L'Omer | 9       | 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  
29 Iyar/44 L'Omer | 10      | 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  
1 Iyar/45 L'Omer | 11      | 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)  
2 Iyar/46 L'Omer |
| 7      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
10 Iyar/46 L'Omer | 8       | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
11 Iyar/47 L'Omer | 9       | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
12 Iyar/48 L'Omer | 10      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
13 Iyar/49 L'Omer | 11      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
14 Iyar/50 L'Omer | 12      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
15 Iyar/51 L'Omer |
| 8      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
17 Iyar/52 L'Omer | 9       | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
18 Iyar/53 L'Omer | 10      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
19 Iyar/54 L'Omer | 11      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
20 Iyar/55 L'Omer | 12      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
21 Iyar/56 L'Omer | 13      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
22 Iyar/57 L'Omer |
| 9      | 9:00am Religious School  
10:30am Talmud with Moshe  
18 Iyar/33 L'Omer | 10      | 9:00am Religious School  
19 Iyar/34 L'Omer | 11      | 9:00am Religious School  
20 Iyar/35 L'Omer | 12      | 9:00am Religious School  
21 Iyar/36 L'Omer | 13      | 9:00am Religious School  
22 Iyar/37 L'Omer | 14      | 9:00am Religious School  
23 Iyar/38 L'Omer | 15      | 9:00am Religious School  
24 Iyar/39 L'Omer |
| 10     | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
23 Iyar/43 L'Omer | 11      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
24 Iyar/44 L'Omer | 12      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
25 Iyar/45 L'Omer | 13      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
26 Iyar/46 L'Omer | 14      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
27 Iyar/47 L'Omer | 15      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
28 Iyar/48 L'Omer | 16      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
29 Iyar/49 L'Omer |
| 11     | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
24 Iyar/46 L'Omer | 12      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
25 Iyar/47 L'Omer | 13      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
26 Iyar/48 L'Omer | 14      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
27 Iyar/49 L'Omer | 15      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
28 Iyar/50 L'Omer | 16      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
29 Iyar/51 L'Omer |
| 12     | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
25 Iyar/47 L'Omer | 13      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
26 Iyar/48 L'Omer | 14      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
27 Iyar/49 L'Omer | 15      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
28 Iyar/50 L'Omer | 16      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
29 Iyar/51 L'Omer |
| 13     | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
26 Iyar/48 L'Omer | 14      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
27 Iyar/49 L'Omer | 15      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
28 Iyar/50 L'Omer | 16      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
29 Iyar/51 L'Omer |
| 14     | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
27 Iyar/49 L'Omer | 15      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
28 Iyar/50 L'Omer | 16      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
29 Iyar/51 L'Omer |
| 15     | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
28 Iyar/50 L'Omer | 16      | 7:45am Rashi Study Group  
29 Iyar/51 L'Omer |

**Service Times**

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