



LAG BEOMER AND SHAVUOT

LaG BeOmer Campfire Kumsitz

On Wednesday evening May 9 from 6:15 to 8 p.m., everyone is invited to a LaG BeOmer Kumsitz campfire sing-along. This evening will be hosted by Andy Hirshfield & Monica Starr at 145 Cleveland Road in New Haven (about one mile south of BEKI; see map at www.beki.org/map.html).

Bring instruments and song sheets, and a blanket or folding chair. Desserts and beverages are provided. In case of rain, the sing-along will take place indoors at the same location (*sans* campfire).

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. For information on funding synagogue programs, please contact financial officer Donna Levine, (203) 985-9033; President Carole Bass, president@beki.org; Rabbi Tilsen, (203) 389-2108 x10, jjtilsen@beki.org; or Jewish Foundation Executive Director Lisa Stanger, (203) 387-2424 x382. For more information on the Oppenheim Endowment, see our web page at www.beki.org/endow.html.

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder (April 7), we begin 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 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.

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

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BEKI Bulletin

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

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: jjtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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All of us. One Foundation.

Refugee family from Darfur coming to Westville

BEKI is welcoming a family from Darfur who are resettling in New Haven. They fled Sudan several years ago, and have been living in Egypt. The seven-member family includes the mother (30), the father (42), four daughters (16, 10, 5 and 2½), and one son (13). The family is Muslim.

We were asked by IRIS (Integrated



Refugee & Immigrant Services) to help with this family. We seem to be a good fit, as they will be living in Westville just a few blocks from BEKI. Darfur has also been a special interest

for many in the Jewish community.

Additional needs will include tutoring, taking family members shopping, taking family members to the library, helping them understand the city bus

system, and anything else that comes up!

Please contact Cynthia B. Rubin, cbr@cbrubin.net, if you can help, or just drop your donations in the box.

Shavuot

Continued from **Page 1**

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 summer. 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.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study takes place on the first night of Shavuot, Saturday May 26. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served. That means cheese-cake.

The evening begins with the Minha Afternoon Service, from 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. A shiur will begin at 8:15 p.m.

The brief Festival Evening service, from 9:15 to 9:35 p.m., will be followed by refreshments and additional presentations.

Shiurim will be presented late into the evening,

Shavuot Mornings Yizkor Memorial Service

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shahrarit Morning Service begins at 9:15 on Sunday May 27. 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 Monday May 28 (Memorial Day). The Festival service includes a *Shahrarit* 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.

The Festival Minha service is held in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel from 5:45 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.



HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Ruth Joseph Polowitz

Helen Gold Beller

Eva Vine Weinstein

Harriet Chorney

*May the Almighty comfort
those who mourn*

Benei Mitzva

Ben Surman, son of Roni Woolfson, Shabbat May 18-19, parashiyot BeHar-BeHuqotai.

Mazal tov to

Jimmy Shure on the birth of a granddaughter in April in New York.

Jenna Rose, daughter of BEKI member Tina Rose, and of Aron & Stacey Rose, on her engagement

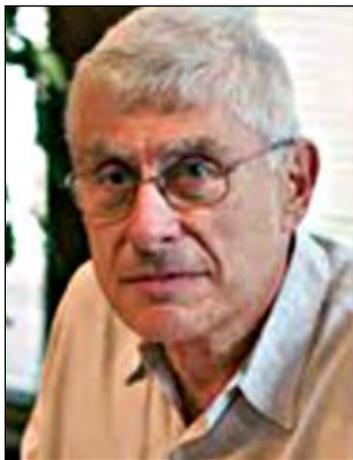
to be married under a huppa in Jerusalem.

Marc Blander & Jen Goldberg and to Mara on the entry into the covenant of their son and younger brother Jacob “Coby,” celebrated at BEKI in April.

Carolyn Lemkin, daughter of Edward & Rhoda Lemkin, on her engagement to be married under a huppa to Jeff Schapiro; a July wedding is planned.

Alan Lovins to Retire as High Holy Days Cantor

For the better part of two decades, he has been the voice of the High Holy Days at BEKI. From the solemn recitation of Kol Nidre to the soul-stirring “ay-ay-ay’s” of Ashamnu to the final, yearning notes as the gates close at the end of Neila, Alan Lovins’s voice has provided the soundtrack for the Days of Awe.



Alan Lovins

Until this year, which brings Alan’s retirement from his long service as BEKI’s High Holy Days cantor.

In keeping with BEKI’s participatory, do-it-yourself approach to prayer, Alan is a longtime member of the congregation. In keeping with the demands of the Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur liturgy, he is also a rabbi and cantor who previously served in those roles full-time.

BEKI has been extremely fortunate to have “one of us” who could lead those services with such skill, spiritual commitment, and musical ability. On occasion, some of his grown children -- Rachel, Daniel, and Jonathan Lovins -- have joined him on the bima, adding to the spiritual and musical intensity and to the joy of the congregation at hearing the Lovins family daven together.

Raised at Bridgeport’s Congregation Rodeph Sholom, where the cantor taught him to lead services, Alan gradu-

ated from Yale University in 1957. Then he accepted a one-year fellowship in Germany. “Everybody thought I was out of my mind,” he says: “How could a Jewish boy go to Germany after the war? But it was the most important year of my life.”

After ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary (picking up two master’s degrees along the way), Alan held two full-time pulpits -- first as a US Army chaplain and then at the Beth Israel Synagogue Center in Derby, Connecticut.

Then he went back to school, earning a PhD in clinical psychology at Columbia University and began a second career. He has a private practice in New Haven, counseling individuals and families and consulting with family-owned businesses, especially on the task of generational succession. Through the years, Alan also continued to serve small congregations as part-time rabbi and cantor.

Although he is retiring as High Holy Days hazzan, we certainly hope that Alan will continue to join the BEKI members’ rotation for weekly services, leading us in Shabbat musaf and chanting haftara with his beautiful, distinctive melody. Whether soaring joyously or hushed and pleading, his voice is always warm, always human, and always Alan.

We will honor Alan with an upcoming Shabbat qiddush. We also note that our cantor this Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur will be Michael Stern, a longtime former BEKI member who, with daughter Merav, studied the High Holy Days liturgy with Alan. Stay tuned for more information on that.

– Carole Bass, president

BEKI Picnic: Forget July Fourth

Can We Get 120 People Eating Snow Cones at Once?

The plans for the BEKI 120 picnic are beginning to take shape (and to change shape – what was once a barbecue is now a picnic).

Join us, rain or shine, on July 1 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to celebrate BEKI's 120th anniversary. Bring your favorite foods from home and join us at BEKI for a picnic supper. We'll provide a dazzling array of parve desserts. Snow cones and watermelon will help us beat the heat, while we watch the kids (and interested adults) toss water balloons, race with eggs and run sack races. And learn about the 120 ways to celebrate over the next year!

Stay tuned for more details. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jennifer Myer at (203) 241-7439.



Feed Your Head: BEKI Reads for 120

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

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

that our young people could join in the reading.

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

Baby Needs New Clothes for Its Birthday

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

Well, our Torah scrolls want to get dressed up for the birthday as well. We have six scrolls looking for new garb for Shabbat and maybe Yom Kippur too! A thousand dollars gets a brand new scroll cover, with a little gelt left over for BEKI. We are seeking generous persons,

families, or any combination of persons (corporations are persons too and their money is fine with us) to earn a well-deserved place in BEKI history.

Want to make a donation? Give your pit masters Jay or Carl a holler! Don't know Jay or Carl? Just look for the guys with their hands in their pockets when they march the Torahs around the shul. You think we are going let them mess up the new covers with their greasy fingers?

Help Wanted

Serve at the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) on the 2nd Monday of each month, from 5:30-7:00p. Four teams, each serves three times a year. Contact Judy Hoberman at jdhoberman@aol.com or (203) 389-2378.

Stuff it! Volunteers are needed to help once, or once or twice a month, with office mailings. Friendly

conversation, simple and sometimes relaxing work, essential community service provided. Contact Jay Brown jaybrown05@yahoo.com or Peggy Hackett office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14.

Torah Reading at BEKI

Darryl Kuperstock, kuperst@aol.com, will coordinate Torah reading at BEKI for the Book of BeMidbar Sinai (Numbers), which we read from

Shabbat afternoon May 19 through Shabbat morning July 21. If you would like to learn how to read Torah, contact Darryl or Rabbi Tilsen.

Annual Meeting

Attend the BEKI annual meeting on Wednesday night June 27 from 6:30 to 7:45. Find out what just happened and what the big plans are for the upcoming year.

Shavuot: Ladies First

Introduction: In an unusual departure from the generally unfavorable attitude toward women's capabilities, the rabbis, in this midrash, seem to suggest a different perspective.

Why were the women asked first whether they wish to receive the Torah?

On the eve of Shavuot, the Israelites stood at Mount Sinai, arranged with the men in one area and the women together in another. The Holy One, blessed be He, said to Moses, "Go speak to the daughters of Israel, (asking them) whether they wish to receive the Torah." Why were the women asked first?

Because the way of men is to follow the opinion of women, as it is said, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob" (Exodus 19.3); these are the women. "And declare to the children of Israel" (ibid); these are the men. They all replied as one mouth, and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do and obey" (ibid. 24.7).

Discussion Questions: Women wield the power: if they accept the Torah the men will follow. This can mean that women are either persuasive or are manipulative.

How might women understand this midrash today and use it to their advantage?

Scholarship Fund

The Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications. Please fill out the form located in the lobby literature rack or at www.beki.org under Sisterhood. Scholarships are given to students who wish to use it towards convention, camp, travel to Israel and more. The only stipulation is that the mother or caregiver joins Sisterhood for the year. Dues are still only \$25.00. Please send the application to the BEKI Office c/o Mimi Glenn.

Torah Fund

The original Torah Fund Campaign was initiated in 1942 by National Women's League.

Since then, the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism has raised millions of dollars to support the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). Our Sisterhood here at BEKI has sent thousands of dollars to support this great institution. As we mark our 60th anniversary in 2012, your support is as vital and meaningful today as in the early years.

Please continue your support of the JTS by purchasing cards for all occasions: Bar/Bat Mitzvah, get well, new baby, new home or new career – we have the card!

Cards are only \$4 each and include

postage. Call Barbara Cushen and your card will be sent promptly, (203) 407-0314.

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- Rabbi Murray Levine

USY Summer

It isn't too late to sign up for a USY summer program. They take place both in America and Israel and there is something for everyone. For more information check www.usy.org or email the USY VP of Israeli affairs, Mara Rothman, marsy4554@aol.com

BEKI-BJ Kadima

8th graders are now eligible to attend USY chapter events, in addition to chapter and regional Kadima events.

May 20: **Israeli Emissary Event**, 3 - 4:30 p.m. at B'nai Jacob youth lounge. Fun with the emissaries – learn about Israel. RSVP to Sarah, bekibjkadima@gmail.com

June 3: **Chapter Final Event: Laser Tag**, 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. \$14 per person. Location: Dadd's Xtreme Indoor Sports in West Haven. Let's end the BEKI-BJ Kadima year with a fun party. RSVP to Sarah: bekibjkadima@gmail.com

June 10: **Regional Six Flags Event**. Details TBD.

July 1: **Incoming Fifth Graders Event**

New:

Ivrit – Hebrew Language

Will Auriemme is planning one or more courses in Hebrew Language. If you are interested, contact Will care of office@beki.org and check “This Week at BEKI” for classes that might be scheduled in May.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

Noun, plural dar-sha-nim [Seph. Heb. dahr-shah-neem; Ashk. Heb. dahr-shaw-nim], dar-shans. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggada or Halakha in a synagogue.

Mimi Glenn will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning May 5, parashat Qedoshim.

Ben Surman, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning May 19.

ReNamed:

**Shabbat Shalom Learners’
Minyan Torah Study**

The “Shabbat Shalom Torah Study,” formerly known as the “Learners’ Minyan,” meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela, David Kuperstock, Isaiah Cooper, Jack Gilron, Rabbi Eric**



Steven Fraade



Nadav Sela

Silver and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The SSTS has been renamed to reflect its focus on scriptural text study and discussion. The word “minyan” has been dropped from the name, as it means “quorum” and implies that a formal prayer service with a quorum will be held, which is generally not the intent of the SSTS. The word “Torah” can be interpreted narrowly to refer to the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh), or more broadly to rabbinic and Judaic literature. In recent years, the program has evolved to focus on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern. The new name is provisional; please direct your suggestion for a better name to Steven Fraade or Jon-Jay Tilsen. An alternative name, “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Meeting” has been proposed as well.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

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 Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The RSG is currently in the final chapter of the Book of Joshua and sometime in May will begin the Book of Shoftim (Judges). 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. Hebrew and English texts are available for use in the Library. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. (RSG will not meet on Monday May 28 May, as it is the festival of Shavuot.) With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 90-second “Hebrew word of the Week” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week 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 opportuni-



Murray Levine

Continued on **Page 8**

Adult Studies

Continued from Page 7

ties to learn from each other's experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shoharit service is from 8:15 to 9:11 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



Isaiah Cooper

helpful but not required.

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

The Sanhedrin Study Group meets in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's website under "Adult Studies" and "Meet Rabbi Tilsen."



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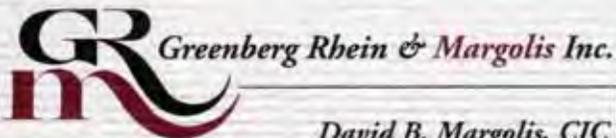


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Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven

Honoring Noted Historian and Scholar

Jonathan Sarna

at the **36th Annual Meeting Brunch**

Sunday, June 3
at 10am

Jewish Community Center of GNH
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT

Professor Jonathan Sarna is one of the founding members of JHSGNH. He will speak about his new book, *“When General Grant Expelled the Jews.”*

Professor Sarna will be available to autograph copies of his book.



Tickets are \$36 in advance.

Send checks payable to JHS,
PO Box 3251, New Haven, CT 06515.
More: **203-392-6125.**

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Jay & Lynn Brotman for mekhirat hamets
- Darcy McGraw & Bruce Altman for mekhirat hamets
- Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz for mekhirat hamets
- Morton & Ruth Bergida Silver for mekhirat hamets
- Herb & Hannah Winer for mekhirat hamets
- Harold & Stephanie Birn for mekhirat hamets
- Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell for mekhirat hamets
- Elma Guttenberg and Lisa & David Weiss for mekhirat hamets
- Shoshana Zax & John Weiser for mekhirat hamets
- Evelyn R. Benson for mekhirat hamets
- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce for mekhirat hamets
- Albert Friedman for mekhirat hamets
- Michael Stern & Kathy Rosenbluh for mekhirat hamets
- Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman for mekhirat hamets
- Jack & Amy Gilron for mekhirat hamets
- Muriel & Bud Chorney for mekhirat hamets
- For mekhirat hamets: Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky; Isaiah Cooper & Lauri Lowell; Rebecca & Andres Martin; Sharon & Dan Prober; Alan & Sally Abramovitz; Betty & Arthur Levy; Tina Rose; Leon Cummings; Michael Ries & Jennifer Botwick; Ephrem & Mimi Glenn

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Harold & Stephanie Birn
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- Karel Koenig & Robert Oakes
- Stanley Saxe
- Gloria Cohen
- BEKI Youth Commission
- The Gerber Family
- The Prober Family
- The Cohen-Fraade Family

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

- To Marshall & Joan Weiss with sympathy on the passing of Marjorie Simson by her friends at the Singles Intermediate Bridge Group
- To Marc Weitzman in appreciation and gratitude for the caring expertise, kindness and

generosity of his time by Lisa Weiss, Judy & Peter Zeidel and Judy & David Kiselstein

- To the BEKI Community by Monica Becker
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Seth Pauker
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Betty & Arthur Levy
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by the Avni-Singer family
- To Gloria Cohen in honor of her milestone birthday by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Karel Koenig & Bob Oakes in honor of their wedding by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Karel Koenig & Bob Oakes in honor of their wedding by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To Karel Koenig & Bob Oakes in honor of their wedding by Gila Reinstein
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Michael Stern & Kathy Rosenbluh
- To Michael Ries and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Ries by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner

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

- In honor of Joshua Rubenstein's talk on "Trotsky" by Gerald & Judith Oppenheim
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Paul Duhl in honor of his milestone birthday by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedaka Fund

- To Dustin Gad in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Paul & Carole Bass

- To Ari Kaufman-Frankel in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Paul & Carole Bass
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Paul & Carole Bass
- To Dustin Gad in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield
- To Ari Kaufman-Frankel in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield
- To Ari Kaufman-Frankel in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Ina Silverman, Jay Sokolow and family
- To Ari Kaufman-Frankel in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Lew family
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Lew family
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Sara Labowe and family
- To Ari Kaufman-Frankel in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Ben Gerber in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by David Wright

Hesed Committee

- To Linden Grazier with thanks for her wonderful efforts from the Palumbo Family
- In memory of her parents Burton & Mildred Kassap by Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell

In-Kind Donations

- A 1998 Toyota Sienna Minivan by Donna & Sid Levine

Social Action/Tikkun Olam

- To the BEKI Community with gratitude for the generosity and kindness on Purim by Jimmy Shure
- Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund
- To Alan Rosner with sympathy on the passing of Violet Rosner by Sid & Donna Levine
- To Bob Oakes & Karel Koenig in honor of their wedding by Sid & Donna Levine

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of her parents Etta & Charles Miller by Mikki Ratner
- In memory of Max Bronfin by Mikki Ratner
- To Leah Ratner in honor of her Green LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification from Betsy & Mikki Ratner and family
- To Mrs. George Saportin and family with sympathy on the passing of George Saportin by Mikki Ratner
- To Mimi Setlow in honor of her birthday by Mikki Ratner
- To Howie Ratner in honor of his acceptance into CIIS by Betsy Ratner

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

- In memory of her husband Jack Greenberg by Belle K. Greenberg
- In memory of Beatrice Schrouder by Sybil Richards & Hans Massaquoi
- In memory of Saul "Sonny" Hennes by Sheila M. Dubak
- In loving memory of her mother-in-law Bessie Kaufman by Florence Kaufman
- In memory of Dr. Samuel B. Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Lillian & Nathan Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
- In memory of Harry Gurian by Muriel Banquer
- In loving memory of her mother Eunice S. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Philip Kantrowitz by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Moishe Schnitman by Charlie & Violet Ludwig
- In memory of Benjamin Ludwig by Charlie & Violet Ludwig
- In memory of Marvin "Mendy" Spielman by James Spielman
- In memory of Faye Hankin by William Hankin
- In memory of Mae Goldberg by Dan Goldberg
- In memory of Hugh Curtis by Dennis Curtis & Judith Resnik
- In memory of Leon Rosoff by Patti Pitt
- In memory of Kitty Greenberg by Irving Greenberg
- In memory of his father David H. Levine by Richard Levine

Continued on **Page 13**

BEKI-BJ USYers Attend (W)-Inter Regional convention

Currently, New Haven falls within the Hanefesh region of United Synagogue's Kadima and USY chapters along with other chapters from Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Our regional youth director, however, is part of NERUSY – the New England region, which includes Providence and Boston, among other New England areas. This year, our BEKI-BJers have attended several events along with the NERUSY youth, thus expanding their social networks; bigger region, more Jewish kids to meet!

The Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission supports attendance at regional events through the funds raised through the sale of Deli Boxes, and direct contributions from BEKI and BJ members. We thank you for helping our youth to reinforce their Jewish identities in wonderful supportive environments such as Kadima and USY.

Rena Cheskis-Gold, BEKI Youth Commissioner, and Chair of Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission

Susan Dardik, BJ Youth Chair

New Friends

I attended (W)-Inter Regional convention with NERUSY (all of the New England region other than Con-



Kate Shragis and friend

necticut and Western Massachusetts) this past weekend with HANEFESH (Connecticut and Western Mass.) USY. “(W)-Inter” is a funny way to say that it was an interregional winter convention. It was held in Providence, R.I., at Temple Emanuel, and home hospitality was provided. This is the first convention that I have heard of, that HANEFESH and NERUSY have had together. This being so, I had the opportunity to make many new friends and see the ones that I met at International Convention. For me, friends are what makes USY so special and everlasting. Throughout the convention, we were put into different groups during activities, such as ice breakers

and limud (classes). The girl in the right of the photo is a new friend of mine who was in my limud group; she is part of the Providence chapter for NERUSY. The small groups created a safe environment for friendship building among the outgoing as well as the shy participants.

Kate Shragis (10th grade), BEKI/BJ chapter, Membership and Kadima VP

Newfound comfort

This was my first USY event without my older brother, Tsvi. It was sort of intimidating going into a place where many of the kids knew each other already, and some people only knew who I was because they had known Tsvi. I learned that even though making a good first impression is important, the kids and staff at USY are always open and accepting. Even though I was sort of awkward and not as social as everyone else at the beginning of the event, I eventually became very comfortable with everyone and made new friends. I can't wait to see those kids again, and I look forward to meeting more people and becoming a more active and integral member of the USY community.

Tova Benson-Tilsen (9th grade)

Contributions

Continued from **Page 12**

- In memory of Rose & Louis Katz by Sharon & Dan Prober
- In memory of Maurice Prober by Dan & Sharon Prober
- In memory of Herbert Hershain by Debbie & Louis Siegel
- In memory of Frances Ray by Barbara &

- Dennis Rader
- In memory of Rose Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- In memory of Minnie Abramowitz by Joseph Alper
- In memory of Samuel Herschderfer by Sherman & David Herschderfer
- In memory of his dear mother Lillian Silverman by Robert Silverman

- In memory of Anita Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds
- In memory of Kate Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of her husband Boris Levitan by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Philip J. Lipkin by Gladys Lipkin

- In memory of Moses J. Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Paul Klein by Morris Klein
- In memory of Jeno Goldberg by Anna Goldberg
- In memory of Sylvia Matloff by Harriet & Jack Kitavitz
- In memory of Mae Goldberg by Dan Goldberg

- In memory of Samuel Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Sherwin Brotman by Jay & Lynn Brotman
- In memory of Ruth Heydemann by Lynn & Jay Brotman
- In memory of Lilyan Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell & Jeffrey Podell
- In memory of Toby Blatt by Marilyn Margolis



Periodical Oversight

Dear Rabbi,

Newsweek issued its list of the 50 top rabbis, and we noticed that once again you are not included, along with several other great rabbis, including many Conservative rabbis, whom we know. Was it just an oversight?

Signed, Local Fan

Dear Nearby Air Blower,

I can't explain *Newsweek's* choices, but I can you tell that the Rabbinical Assembly is issuing a list of the "50 Top Magazines," and *Newsweek* is not on it.

Newsweek didn't seem to think many of the female rabbis are "influential," although that probably is not what kept me off the list. On the other hand, being "influential" is not necessarily the same as being "a good influence."

Classified Intelligence

Dear Rabbi,

We have noticed that some gentiles publish letters, Mothers Day and birthday greetings to their deceased relatives in the local newspaper, but Jews never do. Is there a prohibition against it, or some other reason?

Signed, Dying to find out

Dear Necrology Noticer,

I don't think there is any Jewish law against it, but I don't believe many deceased Jews regularly read the *New Haven Register*.

Dayenu

Dear Rabbi,

I like Shabbat services, but three or more hours is just too long. Can't you



Jon-Jay Tilsen

make it shorter? "Full-length" films are 90 or at most 120 minutes long.

Signed, Service Shortener

Dear Tefila Attenuator,

We didn't write the Shabbat morning and musaf services, we just recite them. That is how long they are, at least in "standard" form and at a leisurely pace. However, if you come at 11 and leave at noon, they are only one hour long. If you prefer a 90-minute service, come at 10:30, or come at 9:15 and leave at 10:45. Alternatively, try the Shabbat evening (Friday night) service at 6 p.m., which is under one hour, or the 36-minute Shabbat afternoon service, or a 36-minute daily shaharit morning service or 22-minute minha-maariv afternoon-evening double-header. You will find these services more intimate and possibly equally challenging or fulfilling. Or come on Shabbat morning and just sing faster.

The Shul in the News

See "Video: Making Matzo for Passover in New Haven," Friday April 6, *New Haven Register*, by Peter Hvizkak, Register Staff.

<http://nhregister.com/articles/2012/04/06/news/doc4f7fd-6038b3c485080866.txt>

Youth Scholarships and Subsidies

If your pre-teen or teen is considering a USY/Ramah trip within the USA or to Israel, the Youth Commission has subsidies available. Contact Rena Cheskis-Gold at r.cheskis-gold@snet.net. Scholarships to any Jewish camp, kinnus, or US-Israel trip are also available from the Sisterhood's Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund. Contact Mimi Glenn at mimiglenn1@hotmail.com.



David Wright, Bill Shragis and Sascha van Creveld make matzo.

May 2012

9 Iyar 5772 - 10 Sivan 5772

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	3 12:30pm Talmud Study Group	4 6:30pm BEKI Shabbat Dinner (reservations required) 7:35pm Candle Lighting	5 Ahare Mot Kedoshim Amos Darshan: Mimi Glenn 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddish: Glenn 12:45pm Shabbat Shmooze w/speaker Elana Sztokman discussing her new book "The Men's Section" 5:45pm Minha
		9 Iyar/24 L'Omer	10 Iyar/25 L'Omer	11 Iyar/26 L'Omer	12 Iyar/27 L'Omer	13 Iyar/28 L'Omer
6 Pesach Sheini 9:00am Religious School 11am-12pm Sisterhood Gift Shop Open	7 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:30pm Men's Support Group: Coping with the Divorce	8	9 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	10 Lag B'Omer 12:30pm Talmud Study Group	11 7:42pm Candle Lighting	12 Emor 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Minsky/Fenick & Wiener 5:45pm Minha
14 Iyar/29 L'Omer	15 Iyar/30 L'Omer	16 Iyar/31 L'Omer	17 Iyar/32 L'Omer	18 Iyar/33 L'Omer	19 Iyar/34 L'Omer	20 Iyar/35 L'Omer
13 9:00am Religious School Graduation 11am-12pm Sisterhood Gift Shop Open	14 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:30pm Men's Support Group: Coping with the Divorce 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	15	16 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group	17 12:30pm Talmud Study Group	18 6:00pm Ben Surman Bar Mitzva 7:40pm Candle Lighting	19 Behar Behukotai Ben Surman Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Woolfson/Surman 5:45pm Minha
21 Iyar/36 L'Omer	22 Iyar/37 L'Omer	23 Iyar/38 L'Omer	24 Iyar/39 L'Omer	25 Iyar/40 L'Omer	26 Iyar/41 L'Omer	27 Iyar/42 L'Omer
20 Yom Yerushalayim 3:00pm Kadima Israeli Emissary Event at B'nai Jacob	21 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:30pm Men's Support Group: Coping with the Divorce 7:30pm General Board Meeting	22 Rosh Hodesh Numbers	23 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group	24 12:30pm Talmud Study Group	25 7:55pm Candle Lighting	26 Erev Shavuot Bemidbar Karsif Aufruf 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Karsif 8:00pm Minha 8:30pm Maariv 8:45pm-1:00am Tiqun Leil Shavuot
28 Iyar/43 L'Omer	29 Iyar/44 L'Omer	1 Sivan/45 L'Omer	2 Sivan/46 L'Omer	3 Sivan/47 L'Omer	4 Sivan/48 L'Omer	5 Sivan/49 L'Omer
27 Shavuot Exodus, Numbers Ezekiel 9:15am Festival Service Qiddush: TBA	28 Shavuot II (Yizkor) Deuteronomy, Numbers Habakkuk Book of Ruth Office Closed/Shavuot & Memorial Day 9:15am Festival Service Qiddush: TBA	29	30 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group	31 12:30pm Talmud Study Group		
6 Sivan	7 Sivan	8 Sivan	9 Sivan	10 Sivan		

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
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