

BEKI Bulletin

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November 2000 Vol. 6 Issue 10

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Heshvan 5761

Borick Family Boosts Endowment

A significant new contribution has been made by the **Liatis Foundation** and the **Borick Family** to support BEKI's educational programs for children with special needs. The contribution will add to [The Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth at BEKI](#), which was established in 1998 by the Borick Family. The Congregation has been in the forefront of



LIATIS Foundation

providing for the special education needs of children and adults.

The Houston-based Liatis Foundation supports numerous local, national and international causes. The Foundation has taken a particular interest in providing for children in challenging environments and difficult circumstances.

The Borick Family also made a significant additional contribution to the Endowment in 1999. Managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, the Endowment provides a steady stream of income to support BEKI's programs while insuring that the real value of the Endowment's principal keeps pace with inflation. In this way, BEKI is assured of continuing support for its programs.

"The Borick family," commented Rabbi Tilsen, "is based mostly in California and Texas, and is involved in business and philanthropic ventures globally. They are at the forefront of the 'Third Millennium' realization that we are one world, and that our children are our future. They have reached

Uncle Shemuel Wants YOU!

We encourage all eligible citizens to do their civic duty. Register and vote on Tuesday 7 November. Anyone needing a ride to a voting place can call Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 at least a day in advance for assistance.



BEKI 5760 1999-2000 Budget Results

The Congregation balanced its operating budget last year, according to the balance sheet prepared by **Bud Volain** and the cash flow figures produced by **Natan Weinstein**. The fiscal year, which ended 30 June 2000, produced income and expenses almost perfectly balanced. The figures do not include the growth in endowments held externally for the benefit of BEKI, nor the value of BEKI's building and land.

Less than half of BEKI's income is from membership dues. Much of the remainder comes from direct gifts to the Renaissance Campaign and other voluntary donations.

Administrative Announcements

How to Contact the BEKI Bulletin

Responses to "A Message from Rabbi Tilsen," questions for "Dear Rabbi" and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Editor, BEKI-Bulletin, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515 or by email to jjtilsen@beki.org.

Rabbi Tilsen's mail and e-mail are opened directly and exclusively by the Rabbi himself and are as secure and confidential as mail and e-mail can be.

Calling BEKI

To call BEKI, dial (203) 389-2108.

When the automated attendant answers, dial any of the numbers below for the desired extension. You don't have to wait to hear the whole recorded greeting. If you don't have a "touch-tone" phone (i.e. a phone that dials by sending tones), wait to the end of the greeting and you will then be able to leave a message for the Administrator. A shortcut: To skip to the end of a greeting, press asterisk (*).

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

or see our web page created by Phill Simon:
www.beki.org

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

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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National "Have a Minyan at Home" Day

Beth El-Keser Israel will join with other shuls in observing "National Have a Minyan at Home" day on Thursday evening 23 November. In marking this occasion, no afternoon-evening service will be held at the shul so that participants may have services in their own homes. For this purpose, plenty of kippot are available in your suit pockets or auto glove compartments where you have been stuffing them. Years ago, when this program was initiated, skeptics predicted it would be a real turkey, but our actual experience has been successful, for which we offer thanksgiving. As we read in Scripture, "*Hodu la-shem ki tov.*"

Weekday morning services on Thursday 23 November are on the Federal Holiday schedule, from 9:00a to 9:45a.



A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

Are you looking for a shul “where the size of your heart counts more than the size of your wallet”? That line in BEKI’s pre-High Holy Day newspaper advertisement, created by BEKI member Carole Bass, caught many readers’ attention. Had I seen that line in an advertisement for another synagogue, the cynic in me might have interpreted it to mean, “we don’t care how big your wallet is, as long as it holds one thin Platinum Mastercard.”

Over the years, some people have been put off from synagogues (even BEKI) and other Jewish communal agencies by the high cost of memberships and tuitions or by the constant emphasis on fundraising. For a family with an annual income of \$60,000, the annual basic dues and fees of about \$900 at BEKI is a sizable chunk of change. Even for a family with twice that income and with kids in private schools, writing a check for a thousand dollars is still a significant effort.

At the same time, people who become involved in synagogue governance — dedicated volunteers committed to the congregation’s mission — fairly quickly come to the conclusion that the shul needs more money. Six years ago BEKI’s annual budget was about \$250,000; the roof was leaking, the windows were broken, and bills were unpaid. Today, we know we need an annual operating budget close to \$500,000 just for basic operations and to provide essential maintenance to the building.

One perspective: Most Conservative and Reform synagogues require a building fund contribution (typically \$3,000 to \$10,000) as a condition of membership, and most have annual dues over \$1,000. BEKI actually is somewhat on the low end of the scale for basic membership dues requirements.

Another perspective: Connecticut Jewry, and New Haven in particular, seems to have a lower rate of philanthropic giving than most other parts of our country. Our local Federation raises about half, per capita, of what is raised (for example) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our synagogues, nursing homes and other agencies are funded well below the levels enjoyed in other parts of the country. This, despite the fact that Connecticut has the nation’s highest per capita income.

The “culture of giving,” to use a term Rob

Leikind made popular among BEKI leaders, is not as strong in Connecticut as elsewhere. In other places, corporations that earn hundred of millions of dollars donate millions annually to worthy causes. In New Haven, when a bank donates \$5,000 to a worthy cause, it makes the headlines.

Another perspective: Jewish law and tradition direct each Jewish person to contribute ten percent of their income annually to tzedaka — not necessarily to a synagogue, but donations to a synagogue count toward the minimum. The Torah itself lists, by name, donors to the original Tabernacle, the forerunner of the Temple. There are a few in our community who do give 10%, but as far as I can tell, most people do not.

This is not to diminish in any way the generosity of the true philanthropists among us, nor of those whose financial contributions represent a real effort on their part; quite to the contrary, as their philanthropy is even more praiseworthy in a setting where it is more the exception than the norm.

At BEKI, we have held a reputation (only partly deserved) for valuing every kind of contribution from members and supporters, including volunteer efforts, participation and leadership, along with financial contribution. In theory, no person is declined membership if they truly cannot afford it, and no child is turned away from the religious school due to an inability to pay. In reality, people have differing views of what “affordability” is. Moreover, many people who clearly could not afford minimum dues would not, as a matter of pride, request membership with “abated” dues. People who are deterred from membership by high dues are often single-parent families, families in transition or crisis (due to illness or job dislocation, for example), people with extensive disabilities and retired people living on minimal incomes — some of the people who would most benefit from the synagogue and have the most to offer in return.

In short, dues at BEKI are too high and too low.



Rabbi Tilsen

Continued on page 5

Borick Family Boosts Endowment

Continued from page 1

out to give a boost to our work in New Haven. We are truly fortunate to have the Borick family as friends and supporters.”

For more information on programs and services for youth and adults with special needs at BEKI, contact Religious School Principal Terri Stern, 389-2108 x13 (bejesteb@earthlink.net) or Special Programs Director Anne Johnston, 389-2108 x33 (anne@beki.org). For information on community services for youth with special needs, contact Department of Jewish Education Director Sydney Perry (sperry@jewishnewhaven.org) or Chairperson Sharon Bender (slbender@ct1.nai.net) at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, 387-2424 x302.

Top Off your Thanksgiving Dinner with a Delicious Pumpkin or Apple Pie!

Again this year, **USY** will be preparing delicious fresh Kosher parve pumpkin and apple pies for pick-up before Thanksgiving. These pies are made in the BEKI and B’nai Jacob kitchens under the strict supervision of KINAHARA (Kashrut Inspection of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly). The pies are unbaked and frozen so that you can bake them fresh for the holiday. Full baking instructions are included.

Each pie you purchase helps to support our USY (United Synagogue Youth) program and the Tikun Olam *tsedaqa* fund (philanthropic fund) to which the group is committed. If you would like to support USY but do not want a pie, you can sponsor a pie to be delivered to a local soup kitchen or family in need, or you can contribute funds directly.

Watch for order forms in the mail and please return promptly. Additional forms are available in the synagogue offices or from our USYers. Thanks for your support.



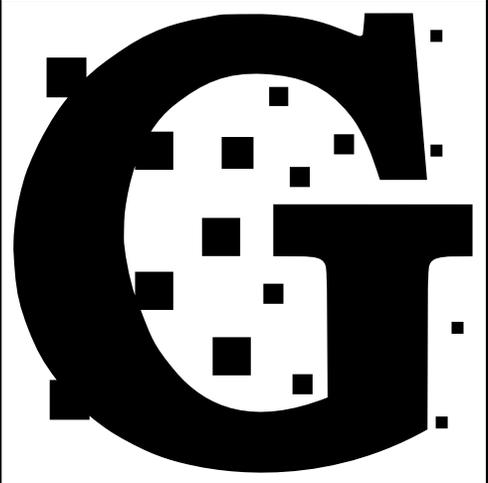

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A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

Continued from page 3

Fortunately, that is not an unsolvable problem. Only about 36% of BEKI's income is from membership dues, a figure typical for synagogues. A similar figure represents "free will" contributions such as to the Renaissance Campaign. A small but growing proportion, about 4%, comes from endowment and capital fund income.

Part of BEKI's answer to the problem of dues being both too high and too low is to place a new emphasis on non-dues contributions, such as the Renaissance Campaign. This concerted effort seeks to fund the synagogue's annual operations — including building maintenance — with "free-will" contributions from members and supporters who are able to make a financial contribution above basic dues. It is a way for contributions to be "graduated," that is, to increase according to the donors' financial resources and level of commitment.

The second part of BEKI's answer is to encourage "planned giving" and endowments. If our supporters provide for BEKI in their wills or estate plans, and if people create endowments that provide annual income, the Congregation will be in a better position to insure its future vitality. Thanks to the vicissitudes of the tax system, many people could be able to leave gifts that cost their estate little while providing significant support to BEKI.

A third possible solution, which BEKI has not embraced, would be to create additional "dues categories" that enable people to select a level of annual commitment commensurate with their resources. That might mean creating a symbolic dues payment for people under twenty-five. This group represents only about 2% of our members. When young adults leave home for college or work, it does not enter their

consciousness that being a synagogue member is one adult responsibility they might take on. We need to create a way to encourage young adults to become synagogue members.

Another new dues category might be for adults over 60 with incomes and net worth below a certain figure, who could join at a basic dues level of perhaps \$180 or \$360 or \$540. There are numerous possibilities. This approach is used successfully in some areas.

BEKI is serious about maintaining an environment where people's contributions of labor, leadership, and money are all valued, and where financial contribution is not over-emphasized. Ironically, to maintain that environment requires careful attention to financial matters. It is the gracious contributions of our supporters and the tireless efforts of our leadership that makes this possible. Tsedaqa is a mitzva, not the only mitzva, and perhaps not the most "important" mitzva, but it is a mitzva, one on which many others depend. Only when the synagogue's basic needs are met can we truly be a place where the size of one's heart is what counts most.

The people of Israel brought a freewill offering to Adonai; every man and woman, whose heart made them willing, as Adonai commanded. Exodus 35:29

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New Members

We welcome new and returning members and their families:

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- David & Rayna Belowsky, Taryn
- Lynn Rudich & Alan Kleinman, Eli, Lea, Leora, Ian
- Julie Cohen & Larry Visochek, Laura, Allan
- Amy Greenstein & Adam Cuker
- Ellen Wolpin
- Elayne & Morton Dimenstein
- Cynthia Rubin
- Robin & Charles Arntsen, Sarah, Tess
- Jo Wynschenk & Kathy Nargi-Toth, Nikita, Gabrielle
- Simon Allentuch & Leeora Netter
- Emily Nahmanson & Corinne Blackmer

With sorrow we note the passing of

- Irv Zerwitz, father of the late Beverly Zlotoff, father-in-law of Ronald Zlotoff & Donna Kemper, grandfather of Alisa, Daniel & Ben Zlotoff, on 8 Elul 5760 - 8 September 2000 in Baltimore, MD
- Martha Miller Schwartz, father of Harold (& Barbara) Miller, on 13 Elul 5760 - 12 October 2000 in Connecticut
- Helen Shelnitz, on 16 Elul 5760 - 16 September 2000 in New Haven
- Helen Young, mother of Irene Friedman, on 20 Elul 5760 - 20 September 2000 in Connecticut
- Hannah London, mother of Sharon (& David) Bender, grandmother of Max & Nina Bender, on 24 Elul 5760 - 23 September 2000 in Connecticut
- Milton Bass, father of Paul (& Carole) Bass, grandmother of Annie & Sarah, on 10 Tishrei 5761 - 9 October 2000 in Connecticut.

For additional obituary information, please see www.beki.org/deaths.html

Mazal tov to

Elisa Beller, daughter of Eric & Marsha Beller, on being elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Williams College.

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Torah for the Hungry Mind - Continuing Education

Midrasha at BEKI

Midrasha Adult Learning Institute, a cooperative effort between BEKI, twelve other area congregations, and the Federation is about to launch its Fall courses. Rabbi David Dalin, professor of Jewish Studies and widely publicized Jewish historian, will be the keynote speaker on 30 October at 7:00p at the JCC. His timely topic and title of his newest book is "The Presidents of the United States and the Jews." Three- and six-week Midrasha courses will be held 1-15 November at Congregation Beth David in Cheshire, and 6 November to 18 December at BEKI. Watch the mail for your brochure, or call (203) 387-2424 x310.

Laws of Kings & Wars: Rambam's Hilkhoh Melakhim

For Sunday night adult learners, a six-week survey of Rabbi Moses Maimonides' *Mishne Torah: Hilkhoh Melakhim — Laws of Kings and their Wars*, will be taught by Rabbi Tilsen. Classes meet on Sundays from 6:00p to 7:15p on 5, 12 and 19 November, and 3, 10, 17 December. There is a book and registration fee of \$36 per person (or \$40 for two people registering together and sharing one book). To register, call 389-2108 x14 or email Mary Ellen at beki@snet.net. You may pay in advance or request to be billed. Advance registration insures your book will arrive by the first class.

Maimonides, who lived some 800 years ago, wrote a comprehensive code of Jewish law, which later served as a primary source for the authoritative 16th century law code *Shulhan Arukh*. Current *halakha* (Jewish law) is not always identical to the law presented by Maimonides. The course should be considered of legal and historical significance, but not as prescriptive for current practice.

The text used in class will be in Hebrew and English. Topics include laws governing kings, rules of warfare, the treatment of prisoners, the Noahide laws, relations with Christians and Muslims, and the Messiah. While mature children may register for the class, passages discussing the treatment of prisoners may not be suitable for young readers; parental discretion is advised.

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a a small group of adults meets in the Rabbi's Study to read Rashi's commentary to the Torah. It is possible to join the study for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. For more information, don't call; just come once and find out what it is about.

Family Education

BEKI's Family Education Program on Monday evenings is suitable for adults and for children. For more information contact Anne Johnston at 389-2108 x33 (anne@beki.org) or Terri Stern at 389-2108 x13 (bejesteb@earthlink.net).

Book Discussion Group

If you would like to be notified by e-mail about the plans and schedule of the BEKI book discussion group that starts this fall, please send an e-mail to Mark Schwartz at marc.schwartz@healthcalls.com. The group will meet in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family

Library on Thursday 16 November from 7:30p to 9:00p in the evening under the auspices of the Education Committee and the Library Committee. Books that illuminate some aspect of the Jewish experience and lend themselves to interesting discussion will be selected.

For further information, contact Helen Rosenberg at 389-9594 or e-mail Marc Schwartz at marc.schwartz@healthcalls.com.



Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan for adults meets in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library every second *Shabbat* (Saturday) morning year-round from 10:45a to noon. The SSLM meets on the 4th & 18th of this month. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

BEKI Events

November - Heshvan - Kislev

2000

5760

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			3 Heshvan 1	4 Heshvan 2	5 Heshvan 3	6 Heshvan 4
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan TNS=The New [Religious] School	<u>BEKI phone numbers:</u> (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Kulanu x33	<u>Office Hours:</u> Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Religious School 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Chess Club 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Maariv 20s/30s Havura Grp Shabbat Dinner 4:29p Candles 8:00p Late Service	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM <i>Kiddush Sponsors: K-2 Parents</i> 4:30p Minha
7 Heshvan 5	8 Heshvan 6	9 Heshvan 7	10 Heshvan 8	11 Heshvan 9	12 Heshvan 10	13 Heshvan 11
9:00a Shaharit 9:30a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Rambam Class	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 5:30p-7:00p Family Education 7:00p-9:00p Midrasha	<i>Election Day</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Religious School 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 5:45p Benei Mitzva Program 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Chess Club 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:21p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Bat Mitzva Ariella Gold</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Singers' Circle 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 4:20p Minha
14 Heshvan 12	15 Heshvan 13	16 Heshvan 14	17 Heshvan 15	18 Heshvan 16	19 Heshvan 17	20 Heshvan 18
9:00a Shaharit 9:30a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Rambam Class	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 5:30p-7:00p Family Education 7:00p-9:00p Midrasha 7:45p Executive Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Religious School 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Benei Mitzva Program 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Chess Club 7:30p Book Group 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:14p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Bar Mitzva David Brotman</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 4:15p Minha
21 Heshvan 19	22 Heshvan 20	23 Heshvan 21	24 Heshvan 22	25 Heshvan 23	26 Heshvan 24	27 Heshvan 25
9:00a Shaharit 9:30a Religious School 9:30a Cong. Breakfast 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Rambam Class	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 9:30a Calendar Meeting 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv USY Pie Pickup	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	<i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	<i>Office Closed</i>	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Tamar Alexander</i> 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Singers' Circle
28 Heshvan 26	29 Heshvan 27	1 Kislev 28	2 Kislev 29	3 Kislev 30		
9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 7:00p-9:00p Midrasha 7:45p General Board	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Religious School 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 6:00p Chess Club 8:00p A.A.		<u>BEKI email:</u> Office: BEKI@snet.net Rabbi: jtilsen@beki.org website: www.beki.org

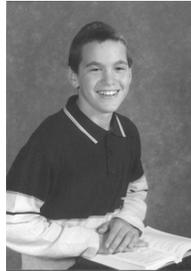
Benei Mitzva in November



Ariella Cheskis-Gold

Ariella Cheskis-Gold, daughter of **Martin Gold & Rena Cheskis**, and granddaughter of BEKI member **Barzillai Cheskis**, will lead services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat morning 11 November 2000. Ariella is a graduate of the BEKI [Benei Mitzva Program](#).

David Brotman, son of **Jay & Lynn Brotman**, will lead services as a bar mitzva on Shabbat morning 18 November 2000. David is a graduate of the BEKI [Benei Mitzva Program](#).



David Brotman

Darshanit in November

Tamar Alexander, a visiting Israeli scholar, will serve as *darshanit* (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 25 November.

K-2 Kehila Siddur Presentation

Celebrate with the families of BEKI children in grades K-2 as they receive their own, home-grown *siddurim* (prayerbooks) on Shabbat Noah, 4 November, during the morning service. A festive qiddush will follow.

The siddurim were created in response to parent suggestions that these early readers needed a siddur which could engage their developing reading skills in English and Hebrew, without being intimidating. The siddurim will be used every Shabbat for the [K-2 Kehila](#), as well as during *tefila* (prayer services) for students of The New School at BEKI. Parent-leaders of the Kehila will receive their own siddur with a tape of the prayers and songs to encourage continuity from week to week. The colorful covers on the siddurim were created by the children and their parents during a family workshop.

For more information, please contact Anne Johnston at 389-2108 x33 or anne@beki.org.

Calendar Meeting

The semi-annual BEKI calendar meeting will be held on Monday 20 November from 9:30a to 11:00a in the [Rosenkrantz Library](#). All committee heads, arm presidents and program leaders who wish to schedule programs or activities should attend. For more information, contact Mary Ellen at 389-2108 x14 (beki@snet.net).

BEKI World Travelers Brunch

More people than ever are finding long distance travel to be accessible and affordable, and many BEKI members have recently had the opportunity to explore Jewish communities in diverse locations. **Robert, Anne, Sandy, and Isaac Johnston** will share their experiences in Lithuania, where they journeyed this summer to explore their family histories, at the BEKI Congregational Brunch, on Sunday 19 November from 9:30a until 11:00a. Four additional brunches are planned for the coming year (January, February, March, and May) and other travelers who have visited sites of Jewish interest are being sought to discuss what they learned there. Please call **Helen Rosenberg** at 389-9594 if you would be interested in participating in the brunch program.

HR

Tiqun Olam Social Action Food Drive

Our Congregation has agreed to collect non-perishable foods (cans, boxes) for the Jewish Family Service Food Closet for the month of November. Please bring your food donations to the BEKI coatroom.

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Torah Fund

On Sunday 29 October 2000 at the rededication of the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, our Sisterhood will be among those whose names will appear on plaques prominently situated on the main floor of the Hall.

Sincerest thanks to all who purchased cards and made donations to the Torah Fund Campaign on behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Please call me, Barbara Cushen (407-0314) to have a card sent in honor of a special occasion, get well or sympathy.

Thank you to the following who purchased cards in September.

Mazal Tov

- To Mr. & Mrs. Miller on birth of their grandson, Richard, by Harriet & Noel Barstein
- To Mrs. & Mrs. Donald Cohen on their grandson's Bar Mitzva by Harriet & Noel Barstein
- To Loni & Andy Saxe on their daughter's Bat Mitzva by Barbara Cushen and Stanley Saxe
- To Dr. Stephanie Sugin and Family on new baby by Inge & Lenny Fish
- To Sally & Alan Abramovitz on Edward's Bar Mitzva by Violet & Charles Ludwig

Get Well

- To George Posener by Sheila Gardner, Henry Rothchild and Stanley Saxe
- To Regina Faymann by Violet and Charles Ludwig
- To Eunice Gorlick by Adele Tyson

Thank You

- To Rabbi Murray Levine for purchasing cards for own use

Sympathy

- To Mr. and Mrs. Joel Abromson in memory of their mother Ada by Harriet and Noel Barstein
- To Ms. June Margolin in memory of her sister Ada by Harriet and Noel Barstein
- To Phyllis Siegel in memory of her mother by Harriet and Noel Barstein
- To Irene Friedman in memory of her mother, Helen Young by Regina and Martin Faymann
- To Harold Miller in memory of his mother Martha Miller Schwartz by Inge and Lenny Fish and Claire and Bud Volain
- To Trueheart Family in memory of Martin Trueheart by Dorothy Mattler and David Wright
- To Shirley Stephson in memory of Cyrus Stephson by Stanley Saxe
- To Sharon Bender in memory of her mother, Hannah London by Adele Tyson
- To Michael Hantover in memory of Rebecca Anne Hantover by Adele Tyson

November 2000

Leave a Legacy

There's no end to the good you can do.

BEKI has joined a statewide effort to promote charitable giving through estate planning called Leave a Legacy Connecticut. This effort is organized by the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy. Leave a Legacy Connecticut encourages individuals to leave a gift in their wills for causes they care about.

Connecticut's Leave A Legacy program urges people to leave their mark on the community. Our synagogue comforts the afflicted, teaches our children, and empowers people to repair their lives. Our mission of teaching and living Torah, honoring and worshiping the Almighty, and serving humanity depends on financial support.

The Jewish community of Greater New Haven has lagged far behind many other American cities in its philanthropy, including support of Jewish institutions such as BEKI. This is the unfortunate truth despite the emphasis our tradition places on Tzedaqa as a religious obligation, and despite the generally civic-minded orientation of our community.

In Connecticut, only 5.7 percent of decedents leave charitable bequests in their wills. The number one reason for this gap: most people say they were never asked, or did not think about it.

Leave a Legacy Connecticut is a statewide public awareness effort to promote charitable bequests. The campaign encourages people to make gifts from their estates to their favorite nonprofit organizations such as BEKI. We urge people to discuss their intentions with financial and estate planners who specialize in this field. Many estate-planning professional organizations are a part of Leave a Legacy's collaborative efforts, as are more than 500 Connecticut nonprofit organizations.

"Everyone can help, regardless of income, and each gift makes an impact," says Lyn Walker, co-chair of Leave a Legacy Connecticut and a partner at Day, Berry & Howard.

BEKI members **George G. Posener** and **Rabbi Murray Levine** are among those who have included the Congregation in their estate plans, and welcome the opportunity to encourage others to do so as well. "I love BEKI," says Rabbi Levine, "and I want to do what I can now to support it, and to insure its strength in the future."

Consider including BEKI and other organizations in your will, so that you can continue to make a difference for generations to come. By remembering nonprofits in your estate plans, you can help improve the lives of generations of Connecticut residents. To find out more, contact BEKI officer and estate planning attorney Donna Levine at 785-8079 (sdsij@aol.com), Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org), or Jewish Foundation Director Deborah Kaplan Polivy 387-2424 ext. 304 (dpolivy@jewishnewhaven.org).

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library News

"The Shabbat Book: A Weekly Guide For the Whole Family" by Joyce Klein is now available in the Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Resource Section in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Thanks to Miriam Benson and Rabbi Tilsen for this donation. The book has material for families with young children for each Torah portion throughout the year.

Chess Club at BEKI

A BEKI Chess Club (BCC) for kids and people of all ages will meet on Thursday evenings in November & December from 6:00p to 8:00p. This will primarily be untimed freeplay, with some instruction for beginner and intermediate players. Everyone is welcome to come and play. The BCC will meet on 2, 9, 16 and 30 November, and 7, 14, 21 December. There is no charge for participation. For more information, contact Rabbi Tilsen at jjtilsen@beki.org or 389-2108 x10.

Membership

Thanks to **Brian Karsif** and **Terri Stern** for hosting the brunch for new and prospective members. Thanks also to **Diane Dumigan** and **Sharon Lovett-Graff** for all their hard work in planning the event, and to the entire membership committee for helping out and welcoming new and prospective members.

Steven Stoll

MICHAEL MARTONE
MANAGER



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AA Meeting New Time & Format

The Thursday night **AA meeting** has a new time — 8:00p — and a new format. A weekly AA Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. The meeting now features a speaker. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at jay@jacswweb.org.

J. Deborah Ferholt, M.D.
and
A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D.

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Sun. 8:30-4:00 • Mon.-Wed. 8:30-6:00
Thurs. 8:30-7:00 • Fri. 8:30-3:00 • Closed Sat.