

BEKI Bulletin

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November 2001 Vol. 7 Issue 11

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Heshvan 5762

Fifteen BEKI Youth Attend Ramah

**Applications now being accepted for
Summer 2002**

An unprecedented fifteen BEKI youth attended [Camp Ramah](#) during the summer of 2001. This exceptional representation placed BEKI as an outstanding congregation during this camping season.

Sharon & Dan Prober are veteran Ramah parents and themselves Ramah alumni. Sharon was asked to explain the importance and popularity of Ramah. Sharon writes,

Dan and I met at Camp Ramah (Palmer) in 1967 as counselors. We were also counselors the next year, also in the same Division (*aida*). Dan had been a camper at Canada and the old CT camp, and also American seminar in Nyack. Our 'kids' (campers) from camp are now all grown, with families; we sometimes meet them and have fun remembering the old days. We have many friends to this day who were Ramah couples. So our

Ramah legacy runs deep. Our three children have been (and are) Ramahniks and we have sent our two oldest children, Rafi and Josh, back to Camp Ramah in New England as counselors. Ramah friendships are enduring and deep. Though Rafi has been away from Ramah for some time, his Ramah friends are still very close to him and these ties only grow with time. As you might have guessed, we are very big Ramah cheerleaders and have found the Ramah network to be one of the most important gifts that we can give to our children. It is a gift of a wonderful summer experience, and even more importantly, it is a gift that can last a lifetime. Ramah is much more than a camp. It becomes a *hevera* (fellowship circle) and network that lasts a lifetime.

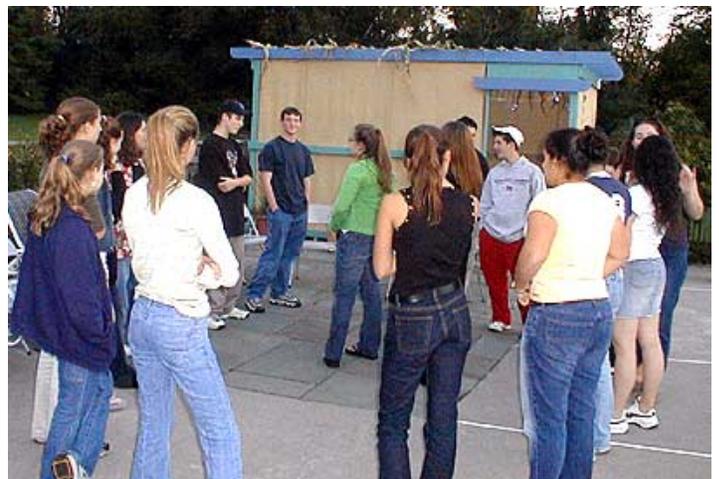
David Foodim-Forbes, son of Joanne Foodim & Robert Forbes, says, "It's the best camp in the world!"

Sascha von Crevald comments that her sons Jochai and Yedidya Ben-Avie "had a terrific time. I

Continued on page 4

USY

BEKI-BJ USY is having a terrific year. Our teens donated \$1800 to victims of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks, proceeds from the sale of Solidarity t-shirts. (A few t-shirts remain, \$20 each.) We had a wonderful Sukka Spaghetti Party (first chapter event of the year) at the Topf home. Jocelyn Topf and Yael Schochat organized the event, welcoming our new 9th grade members. USY members are looking forward to raising money for *tzedaqa* from the sale of Thanksgiving Pies, attending their Fall Kinnus (Convention), a River Cruise Dance, and ushering at the Harlem Boys' Choir Concert. For more info on USY: BEKIBJUSY@mac.com.



Sukkah party at the Topf home, Sukkot 5762/2001.

Email Update

Please note that Rabbi Tilsen's email address is jjtilsen@beki.org. If you would like to be added to the list of members who receive occasional email messages of lifecycle and other events, please let Rabbi Tilsen know.

Our office (beki@snet.net) will also be very happy to learn of your new or revised email address.

No Parking

Members and visitors to BEKI are advised that parking is prohibited at all times on the East side of Harrison Street as indicated by the "No Parking" signs. Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot at the rear of the building.

Daily Services

Daily services at BEKI provide an opportunity to learn, pray, reflect, transition and center one's own spiritual life. Services provide a context for fulfilling the *mitzva* (religious obligation) of daily worship. Services are held every weekday morning and evening. See the calendar for a schedule. During this month, there will be a special need for more participants on Tuesday mornings (7:00a), Thursday mornings (8:15a) and Sunday nights (5:45p).

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: 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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Fear of Flying

The level of anxiety over any form of travel is so high that a major travel and credit company is adopting a new slogan: "American Express: Don't Leave Home."

Some people now have to be afraid to open their mail. I throw most of mine away unopened anyway, unless it is a letter from a known sender. It's not that I'm afraid of anything, it's just that I don't have the time (or inclination) to read all the stuff I'm sent. But letter bombs have long been a concern for public officials and other targets of terrorists or criminals.

That white powder on my kitchen counter — Is it anthrax or is it Sweet 'n Low? Our Heinz ketchup now comes in red, green and purple, and I expect to see baby powder, Equal, and baking soda come out in non-white colors anytime soon.

And it was disconcerting to see the exterminator walking around spraying chemicals. Was she spraying "anthrax" or "ant tracks"?

Security is part reality, part perception. Sometimes terrorism succeeds in distorting a perception more than a reality. Air travel is still by far safer, by any measure, than automobile travel. Per mile, per passenger, per dollar, per minute, any way you measure it. This year there were several hundred air fatalities in the United States, and over 40,000 driving fatalities. Many of the latter are due to drunkenness or negligence.

The murder rate in Israel — even including the terrorism against Jewish Israelis — is still about one half that of the United States. In Israel, someone explodes himself in a crowded market. In America deranged addict pushes a commuter in front of an oncoming train. These acts of violence are horrible, dramatic and traumatic. But if you go by the odds, Israel is still safer.

Security at BEKI has long been a concern. We are aware of the dangers of fire, burglary and child abduction. We are also concerned about the danger of hate crime or even terrorism. Many important steps have been taken in the past couple of years to improve our safety. A few months ago, a major upgrade was performed on our fire and building security sensing, monitoring and reporting systems. Revised protocols were implemented

for controlling access to the building during Religious School and program hours. Exterior lighting was improved.

Uniformed and plain-clothed police were present during our High Holy Days services. Marked police cars patrol frequently and are often stationed in our parking area. Our professional staff occasionally receives training in dealing with menacing visitors and other potential problems. Safety and security concerns were incorporated into the BEKI Master Plan for Building Renovation, Phase One of which (Air-conditioning and Heating Plan replacement) was expected to be completed by the end of October. Safety and security concerns are among the several reasons many of us are eager to see the plans progress. We have at times worked with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), the Anti Defamation League (ADL) and the New Haven Police to respond to concerns as they develop.

Although highly visible, we do not expect BEKI to be a target of international terrorism. The threat from domestic hate-mongers, whether organized or individually criminally insane, is significant. Constant vigilance is required.

We are fortunate that in recent years our only fire problem has been burnt halla, and our only security breaches have been an occasional break-in (less than once a year). About three years ago the window air conditioning unit was stolen from my study. Imagine someone lugging that thing around. We had the last laugh, though, as the unit was already broken. They stole a dead air conditioner. Another time, a thief entered through the lower level. The only thing taken was a frozen package of Entenmann's chocolate chip cookies. The last time, two burglars tried to enter through my study (a popular entry point) but they were caught in the act by alert New Haven Police patrolpersons.

Our building is filled with riches, but none that can be stolen. Our richness is in human spirit, the strength of the heart and mind. There is a reason our reserved place of worship is called a "sanctuary."

Yisrael betah ba-Adonai, ezram u-maginan hu — Israel trusts in Adonai, their Supporter and Protector.



Rabbi Tilsen

Camp Ramah

Continued from page 1

see that they are much more aware of interpersonal mitzvot.” Jochai observed that “at Ramah you learn a lot of Hebrew.” Sascha and Michael Ben-Avie (her husband) visited the boys at camp and were impressed and interested by many aspects of camp life.

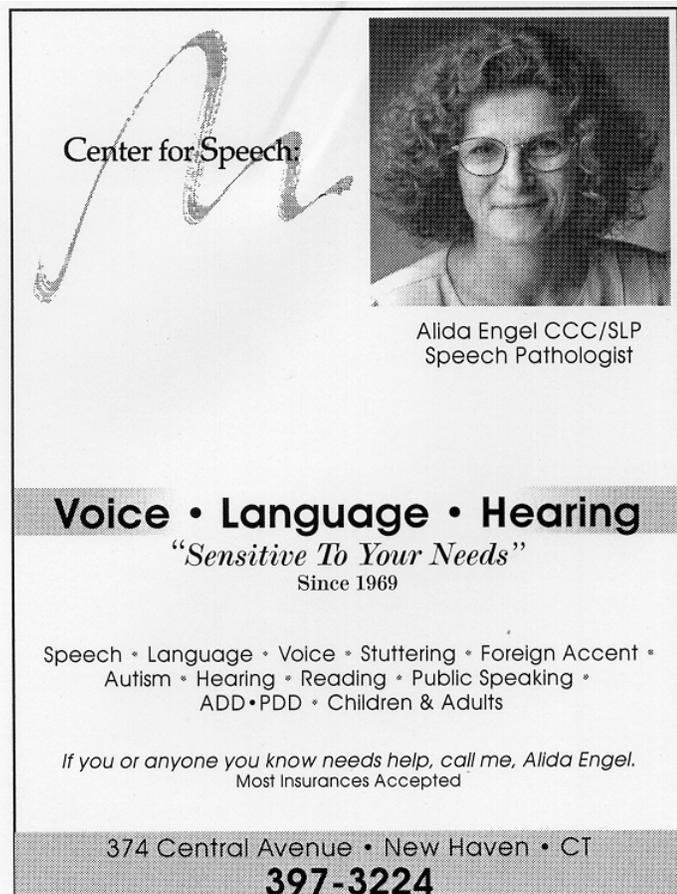
Josh Levine, son of Sid & Donna Levine, simply describes Ramah as “awesome.” His mother, Donna, says, “I believe it has connected him to Jewish friends and culture in a way that few other experiences can. He couldn’t wait to sign up for [Kadima](#) [youth group] when he returned home and has already asked to go to Ramah for two months next summer. Knowing first-hand how tenuous our influence on our children’s Jewish connectedness will be once they go off to college and then into the world, I feel that Ramah helps instill a deep love of *Yiddishkeit* (Jewishness) which will stay with Josh when he no longer listens to Sid and me.”

“Gilah and Tsvi were first-time campers this year,” said Rabbi Tilsen of his older children, “and

they both want to go back. Miriam [the Rabbi’s wife] and I both attended Ramah – Miriam in Pennsylvania and myself in Wisconsin – and so we both appreciate the impact Ramah has on campers and counselors.”

Among BEKI Ramahniks last summer were Rafi Prober (staff) and Matt Prober, Rachel Foodim-Forbes and David Foodim-Forbes, Jochai Ben-Avie and Yedidya Ben-Avie, Ben Bell and Zach Bell (sons of Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky), Aliza Kuperstock (daughter of David & Darryl Kuperstock), Gilah Benson-Tilsen and Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, Dana Etra and J Etra (daughters of Barry Etra & Janice Wolf), Josh Levine, and Max Pauker (son of Seth & Bryna Pauker). Let us know if we’ve missed anyone!

If you would like information on Camp Ramah, call 781-449-7090 or email billym@campramahne.org for Camp Ramah in New England (Palmer, MA) or 212-678-8881 in New York (International Office) or visit www.campramah.org.



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Israeli Emissaries Visiting

We are pleased to announce the arrival of two young Israeli Emissaries from Afula/Gilboa – our Sister City & Partnership 2000 Young Emissary Program with the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC). The emissaries are volunteering in the Jewish Community from September 2001 through June 2002. Adi Porat and Adam Atar, both 18, are volunteering at a variety of local Jewish institutions.

Adam & Adi are residing in homes of community members. In order for them to get to know as many families as possible, we would like them to enjoy a Shabbat evening meal or a weekday evening dinner with you and your family. If you are interested in hosting the emissaries for a meal please contact Mimi Glenn at 397-3851, and include your name, address, home phone, business phone and when available.

MG

KISS

The KISS Program (Kids in Shul when there is no School) is off to a great start. Sybil Richards, assisted by Dr. Lauren Kempton, plans each day as a blend of prayer, stories, arts and crafts and movies. The first two days were centered on the holiday of Sukkot. The students created a fifty foot paper chain and ceremoniously hung it in the sukka. Following the custom of welcoming *ushpizin* (historical figures as "guests") they voted on the women they would invite into their sukka and the reason for the invitation. All the mothers of KISS participants merited inclusion as well as Anne Frank, Golda Meir, the matriarchs and Betsy Ross (perhaps all the flags flying recently have prompted renewed interest in Betsy Ross.) The story of the day was *Tikvah Means Hope*.

Monday morning, Columbus Day, found the children in services for Hoshana Rabba, proudly marching with their willow branches, *lulav* and *etrog*. The movie and story for that day was *Mollie's Pilgrim*, the story of a young Jewish immigrant girl who teaches her American classmates the true definition of the word "pilgrim." The book chosen was *In Our Image*, to signify the week's Torah portion in Genesis. There are limited places available in the KISS program. If you are interested contact Sybil Richards at 397-5256.

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Kulanu and Saul's Circle

Kulanu (our outreach program for adults with special needs) and **Saul's Circle** (our outreach program for adults who are mental health services consumers) were very active during the High Holy Day and Sukkot Festival periods. Dr. Kempton conducted pre-Rosh Hashana and pre-Yom Kippur services at Fellowship Place. Each participant received a specially created *Mahzor* (prayer book). The services were a blend of readings, prayers, and music. Dana Etra is assisting Dr. Kempton as part of her Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society membership for United Synagogue Youth. Kulanu joined the Shalom group led by Jennifer Cohen of Jewish Family services for a festive Sukkot dinner and storytelling in BEKI's sukka. The story, *The Never Ending Song*, was a story of peace. As the story ended, and the stars appeared through the *sekhakh* (covering) of the sukka, the concluding comments reflected thoughts of peace such as, "We need to end the turmoil and be happy," and "We should be able to get along regardless of our religion, color or whether we are male or female."

As a result of renewed outreach, members of both Kulanu and Saul's Circle are regularly attending services at BEKI. It is a great joy to watch adults come back to Judaism. Words are not enough to describe the feelings when we witness a remembered prayer, a *berakha* (blessing) or a song. On the morning of Hoshana Raba, one such remembrance occurred. A young man watched the Torah process. He had touched the Torah respectfully on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur and then kissed his *siddur* as he watched other congregants do. But this morning, as the joy spread across his face and in the George Posner Daily Chapel, he kissed the Torah. Those around him felt the love and deep remembrance of his gesture. Now he is working on learning the Hebrew for his first *aliya*.

LK

BEKI Religious School Update

The BEKI Religious school has experienced some wonderful activity focused on the themes of the High Holidays. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur were approached through story telling in the four levels of Religious School.

After the events of 11 September we as teachers and students found strength in Deuteronomy



Dr. Lauren Kempton

29:13-14, ironically our Torah portion of the week. To paraphrase, "We are standing together...." We discussed the *parasha* with the students. In response to parent requests, Nasif Muhammad, Imam for Masjid Al-Aziz, addressed the BEKI Religious School on 23 September. Many parents

and congregants listened attentively as Nasif defined the tenets of Islam. His talk centered on the history and population of Muslims both in America and across the world. Many questions followed his remarks.

The next Sunday found Betsy Rosenberg leading a Family Education program on Sukkot. Each family decided whom they would invite into the Sukka following the custom of welcoming *ushpizin* (historical figures as guests). They created mobiles, some for home and some for the BEKI Sukka.

BEKI Religious School is proud to welcome four new Hebrew teachers: Guy Lord, Michael Factor, Ben Karsif and Amitai Sela. The first Parent Meeting of the year was held on 7 October. The parents reviewed the school calendar and the new attendance policy. Parents decided to assume the responsibility for the sale of Westville Bakery and Stop & Shop food certificates. Roz Ben-Chitrit and David Goldblum will be recruiting parents to sell the certificates during Religious School hours on Wednesdays and Sundays. The certificates are sold and redeemed at 100% of face-value. A commission on the sale benefits the BEKI Religious School.

We have instituted a new tradition of presenting a Devar Torah on Sunday during our *tefillot* (worship services). Different classes will prepare and present their Divrei Torah. Parasha teams are gearing up for the first competition after the High Holidays.

LK

November 2001

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library

The following books were purchased for the Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library, housed in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. They will be of particular interest and assistance to those parents preparing for the Children's Shabbat Havura. They are available on a non-lending basis, and are organized by subject category in the bookshelf thanks to Deren Manasevit. Additional information on BEKI's Libraries can be found at www.beki.org/library.html.

On Shabbat, by Cathy Goldberg Fishman

A Mountain of Blintzes, by Barbara Diamond Goldin

If You're Afraid of the Dark, Remember the Night Rainbow, by Cooper Edens

Stories my Grandfather Told Me: Vayikra, by Zev Greenwald

The Hardest Word: A Yom Kippur Story, by Jacqueline Jules

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch, by Eileen Spinelli

Why the Snake Crawls on its Belly, by Eric A. Kimmel

The Tawny Scrawny Lion, by Kathryn Jackson

The Flying Latke, by Arthur Yorinks

Fishy Friday, by Sashi Fridman

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LifeCycle

With sorrow we note the passing of BEKI member **Florence Supowitz**.
May the Almighty Comfort All Who Mourn

Library News

A Note From The Library Committee

Dear Members,

It is nice to see that the library books are being borrowed and read, but we don't have a system of keeping track of who takes what, and when. If you have any books at home, please call Mimi Glenn at (203) 397-3851 and give her the info. If you have any books at home that you are done with, please return them to the library as soon as possible.

Any member willing to donate new books or almost-new books are invited to do so, with our thanks. Please contact Mimi *before* donating books.

MG

Uncle Shemuel Wants YOU!

We encourage all eligible citizens to do their civic duty. Register and vote on Tuesday 6 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.

We also encourage all adult Jews to register and vote for MERCAZ, the Conservative-Masorti Movement Party, or for the party of your choice, in the World Zionist Congress Elections. The outcome of the election determines the priorities in distributing \$300 million in funds to organizations such as USY, Camp Ramah and Masorti Movement in Israel. Registration is due 14 December 2002. Forms are available at BEKI or call toll-free 1-866-236-3722 or visit www.mercazusa.org.

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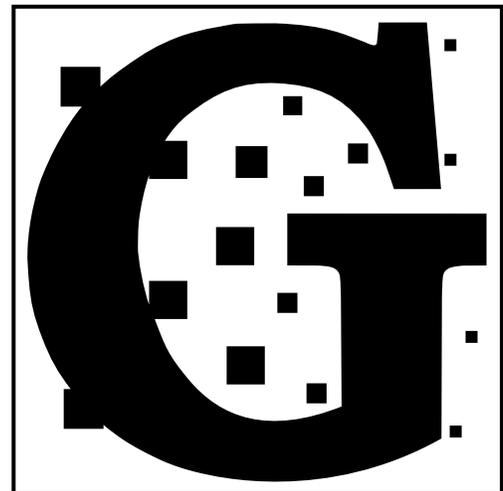
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Torah for the Hungry Mind - Continuing Education

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.

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 HelR12@aol.com. The group will meet in BEKI's [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) on Shabbat afternoon 17 November from 1:00p to 2:30p (after qiddush) 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 dis-

cussion have been selected.

Upcoming selections include Nicholas Delbanco, *What Remains* (17 November); Mimi Sheraton, *Bialy Eaters – The Story of a Bread and a Lost World* (22 December); Chaim Potok, *The Chosen* (19 January 2002); Neil Gabler, *An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood* (23 February); Shulamith Hareven, *Thirst: The Desert Trilogy* (23 March); Sam G. Freedman, *Jew vs. Jew* (20 April); Stephen G. Bloom, *Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America* (1 June).

Information on purchasing these books, and an updated list, can be found at www.beki.org/books.html.

For further information, contact Helen Rosenberg at 389-9594.

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 3d & 17th of this month. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Book of Joshua Study Group

BEKI member Nadav Sela is leading a text-based study of the Book of *Yehoshua* (Joshua) on consecutive Sunday nights from 6:15p to 7:30p through 18 November 2001 and possibly beyond. The class meets in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Library. There is an \$18 registration fee for students joining the class and a \$5 fee for continuing students. In addition, participants may need to acquire a text. For more information on the class, contact Nadav nadav.sela@snet.net or 624-2035. To register, contact Mary Ellen Mack at 389-2108 x14 or beki@snet.net.

Pirque Avot Study

The Pirque Avot – Ethics of our Sages Study Session is held every Shabbat afternoon before the evening service from November through March. This half-hour of study gives a taste of the wisdom of our sages and an opportunity to discuss the application of the teachings to our lives. Pirque Avot is



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a section of the Mishna, the law compendium compiled in the second century CE by Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi. Unlike the rest of the Mishna, Avot does not contain legal material, but rather records the wise sayings and provocative insights of sages spanning several centuries. The study session lasts 30 to 40 minutes. As the time of the class varies from week to week, please consult the calendar when you plan to attend.

Required Reading & Reference Books on Web

A listing of basic Judaic reference and introductory works is posted on BEKI's website at www.beki.org/books.html with a brief annotation by Rabbi Tilsen. Copies are also available in BEKI's literature rack.

Rabbi's High Holy Days Sermons Available

Copies of Rabbi Tilsen's High Holy Days and Yizkor messages are available in the literature rack in the synagogue lobby, or by request from the BEKI office (389-2108 x14). They are also available, along with other writings, at www.beki.org/tilsen.html.

Pumpkin & Apple Pie

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



Again this year, BEKI/BJ [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. You can also email bekibjusy@mac.com or call Rachel at 387-9467.

Pies can be picked up at BEKI on Tuesday 20 November from 5:30p to 7:00p only. Feel free to participate in the Maariv Evening service at BEKI from 5:45p to 6:00p that night. Thanks for your support.

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BEKI Events

November - Cheshvan - Kislev

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				15 Cheshvan 1	16 Cheshvan 2	17 Cheshvan 3
Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan TNS=The New [Religious] School	BEKI phone numbers: (203) 389-2108 Fax (203) 389-5899 Mary Ellen-Office x14 Religious School x13 Rabbi x10 Dr. Lauren Kempton x 13	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Education Director: lkempton@beki.org website: www:beki.org	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Maariv 4:30p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshanit: Nanette Stahl</i> 10:45a Children's Programs SSLM 4:30p Minha
18 Cheshvan 4	19 Cheshvan 5	20 Cheshvan 6	21 Cheshvan 7	22 Cheshvan 8	23 Cheshvan 9	24 Cheshvan 10
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:15p Book of Joshua	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	<i>Election Day</i> 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Maariv 6:30p 20s/30s Havura Group Dinner 4:20p Candles	9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 4:20p Minha
25 Cheshvan 11	26 Cheshvan 12	27 Cheshvan 13	28 Cheshvan 14	29 Cheshvan 15	1 Kislev 16	2 Kislev 17
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:15p Book of Joshua	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 7:45p General Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	<i>Rosh Hodesh</i> 7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Candles 6:00p Maariv	9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Neil Berro</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 1:00p-2:30p Book Group 4:15p Minha
3 Kislev 18	4 Kislev 19	5 Kislev 20	6 Kislev 21	7 Kislev 22	8 Kislev 23	9 Kislev 24
9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 5:45p Maariv 6:15p Book of Joshua	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:30p-7:00p USY Pie Pickup 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit No Religious School or Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	<i>Thanksgiving - Office Closed</i>		9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 4:10p Minha
10 Kislev 25	11 Kislev 26	12 Kislev 27	13 Kislev 28	14 Kislev 29	15 Kislev 30	
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Maariv 7:45p Executive Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 4:06p Candles 6:00p Maariv 8:00p Late Service (Last of the Season)	

Darshanim in November

Nanette Stahl will serve as darshanit (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 3 November. Nanette lives in Hamden with her husband William Hallo.



Neil Berro

Neil Berro, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning 17 November.

A special guest will present the Devar Torah on Shabbat morning 24 November.

Shabbat Minha Afternoon & Maariv Evening & Havdala on Winter Schedule

Shabbat afternoon and Saturday evening services follow a winter schedule from November through March. Services on *Shabbat* (Saturday) afternoon begin about 20 minutes before sunset. As the time varies, please check the calendar in this Bulletin or www.beki.org/schedule.html for exact times for each week.

20s-30s Havura

The BEKI 20s-30s *Havura* (Friendship Circle) for single people and couples in their 20s and 30s will meet for a Shabbat evening dinner on Friday 9 November. For information contact Val Sandler at 777-4784 or Valerie.sandler@yale.edu. Programs are also scheduled for 21 December 2001 and 11 January 2002.

Tiqun Olam Social Action

The 2001 Bowl-A-Thon will be held on 18 November from 1:30p to 5p at 80 Audubon Street, New Haven. You can purchase mugs and bowls at the Creative Arts Workshop Pottery Studio. All proceeds from the sale benefit the New Haven Community Soup Kitchen.

EY

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 22 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.



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.

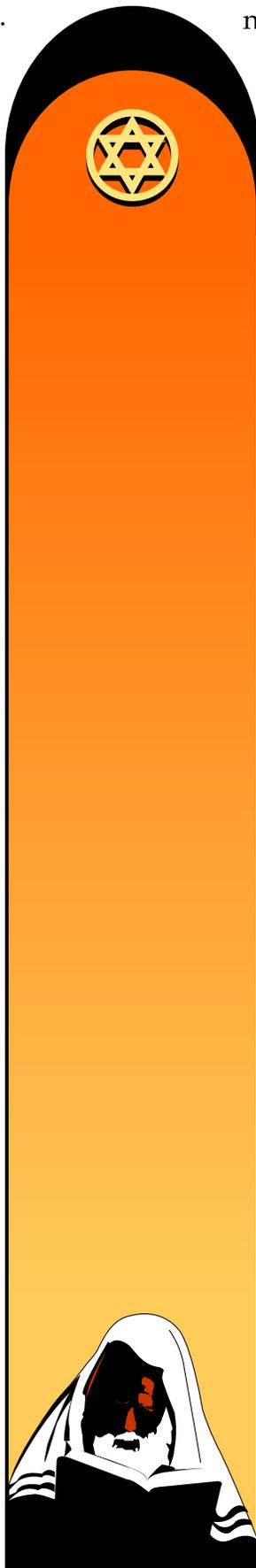
Leave a Legacy Connecticut is a statewide public awareness effort to promote charitable bequests. The campaign encourages people to make gifts from their estates to their favorite

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**, **Rabbi Murray Levine** and **Marvin Missan** 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 David Tein 387-2424 ext. 304 (dtein@jewishnewhaven.org).



Family Education Programs

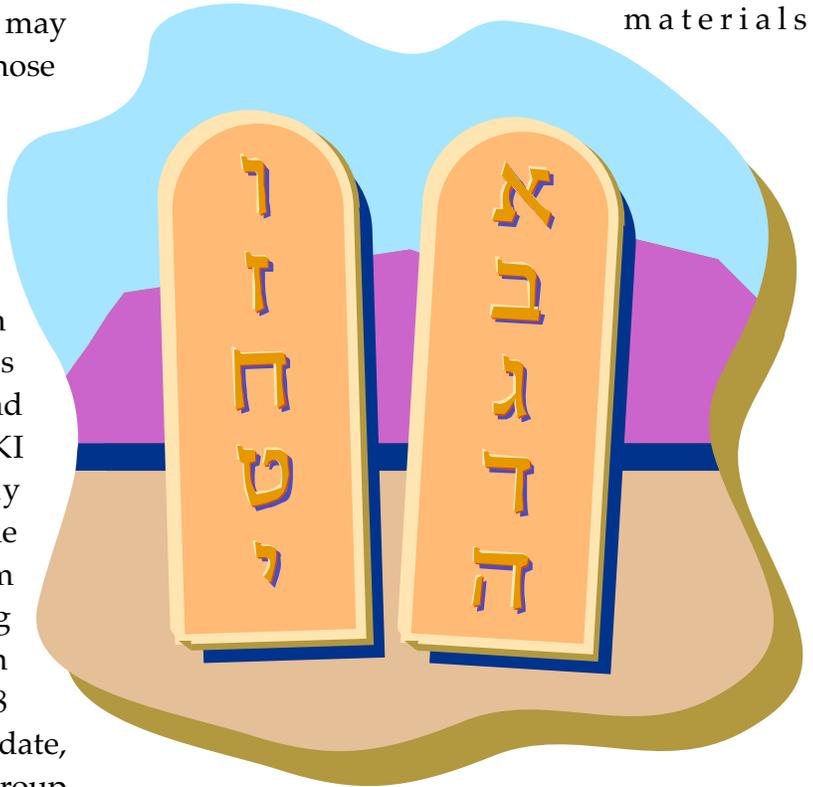
The BEKI Religious School and the Jewish Family Education project at BEKI completed this year's first program on 30 September. Many of the wonderful "Ushpizin Mobiles" created during the program could be seen decorating our BEKI Sukka. Due to communication issues which are being addressed for future events, some families may have missed the program announcements. Those who did attend enjoyed a variety of learning tidbits about Sukkot. Please watch the halls and walls of BEKI, as well as the mail and school folders, for future program announcements.

The BEKI Task Force Committee on Jewish Family Education is seeking congregants interested in participating in the design and implementation of programs for the BEKI community. Our format focus is "family education," with anyone welcome to join the Committee, or participate as a program attendee. It is requested that anyone wishing to attend a program be sure to call Jewish Family Educator Betsy Rosenberg at 389-2108 x25 before the event date. Please leave the date, your name, phone number, number and age group of those attending, and indicate the program you are interested in. This will ensure enough appropriate materials for all.

There is a core group of committee members who worked with Anne Johnston and Committee Chairperson Sherry Rothman last year, to set our initial direction. People who wish to teach (or learn how to teach) Jewish subjects, help with the creation of programs, help "on the sidelines" during programs, suggest and/or research program topics, or just share a Jewish learning experience with others, are encouraged to get involved.

A tentative schedule for this year has been set, but more programs may be developed. Prior to all events, flyers will be posted in the lobby, too.

A Hanuka Workshop, in conjunction with the BEKI Religious School, is scheduled for 2 December. Pre-workshop materials



will be available on 18 November, with any related home "projects" requested to be brought to the school on 28 November. For more information on program materials and projects, or the BEKI 'JFE' Committee, please contact Betsy at x25. She will return calls as quickly as possible.

Betsy's work at BEKI is partially funded by Keshet L'Mishpacha thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Betsy is usually available at BEKI during Religious School hours, and from 11 - 2 on Wednesdays. The committee meetings schedule has not yet been set.

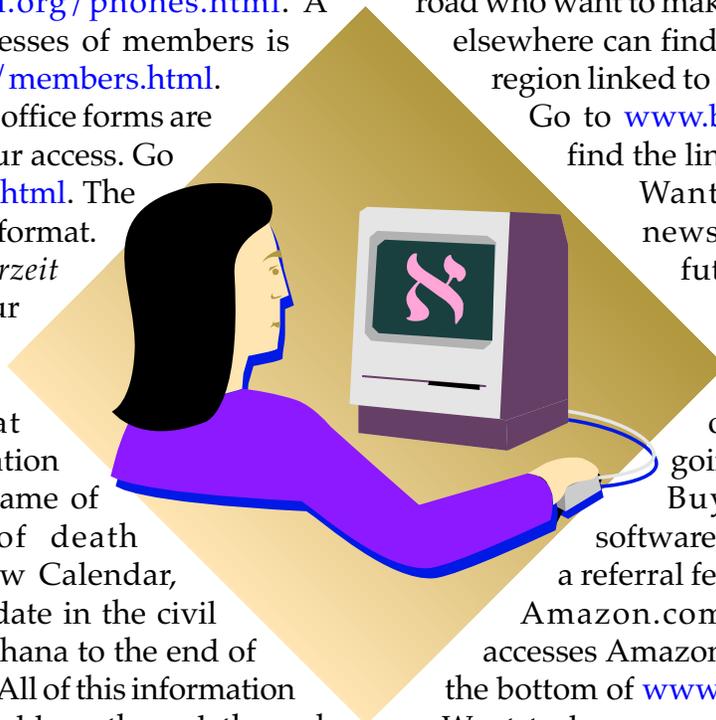
BR

BEKI Online

Need to contact someone at BEKI? A phone directory of staff members and program chairs is available at www.beki.org/phones.html. A directory of email addresses of members is available www.beki.org/members.html.

Need a form? Selected office forms are on the website for 24-hour access. Go to www.beki.org/forms.html. The forms are in Acrobat .pdf format.

Need to know a *yahrzeit* (death anniversary)? Our *yahrzeit* records are now available at www.beki.org at "yahrzeits." The information available includes the name of the deceased, date of death according to the Hebrew Calendar, and the corresponding date in the civil calendar from Rosh HaShana to the end of the current Hebrew year. All of this information and more is already available on the web through public sources. There is no private information displayed.



Want to pray elsewhere? BEKI members on the road who want to make a daily or Shabbat service elsewhere can find a minyan schedule of our region linked to our Service Schedule page. Go to www.beki.org/schedule.html to find the link.

Want to preview the next newsletter? Past, current and future editions of the BEKI Bulletin are available at www.beki.org/newsindex.html. Find out what happened or is going to happen.

Buying books, music, software, or electronics? BEKI earns a referral fee for purchases made from Amazon.com when the purchaser accesses Amazon from the Amazon icon at the bottom of www.beki.org/links.html.

Want to learn more about Judaism or about BEKI and its programs? A wealth of information is available at BEKI's website. Go explore!

Planning a bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI?

Parents planning a bar- or bat-mitzva observance at BEKI during the next three years are urged to call the BEKI office (389-2108 x14 or beki@snet.net) to reserve a date and to request a copy of the "Guide to Benei Mitzva Observance at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, third edition." The "Guide" is also available as a PDF document at www.beki.org/bmitzva.pdf. For more information on the Benei Mitzva program, contact Liora Lew at 389-1048 lioralew@aol.com.

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Thurs. 8:30-7:00 • Fri. 8:30-3:00 • Closed Sat.