

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



**BEKI** bulletin  
 Congregation  
**Beth El-Keser Israel**

November 2007

Heshvan-Kislev 5768  
 Vol. 13 Issue 11



*Sisterhood Giftshop is open Sundays  
 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. during November & December  
 Many new items!*

# Top Off Thanksgiving Dinner with a Delicious Pumpkin or Apple Pie

Again this year, BEKI/BJ [USY](http://www.usy.org) will be preparing delicious fresh Kosher pareve 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](http://www.kinahara.org) (Kashrut Initiative 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.



Every pie you purchase supports our United Synagogue Youth program and the Tiqun Olam *tsedaqa* (philanthropic) fund.

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. Orders are due by Nov. 6. Additional forms are

available in the synagogue offices, in the lobby literature rack, online at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html), and from our USYers, or email [usy@beki.org](mailto:usy@beki.org). Contact Darryl Kuperstock, 387-0304 [kuperst@aol.com](mailto:kuperst@aol.com) for information.

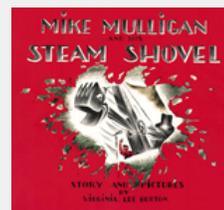


Pies can be picked up at BEKI or B'nai Jacob on Tuesday, Nov. 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Feel free to participate in the Maariv Evening service at BEKI from 5:45 to 6 that night. Thank you for your support.



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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 or
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or
- Email: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org) or
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

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

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
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establishing a fund, trust or annuity  
to ensure BEKI's future.

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203 387-2424 x382  
[lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org)

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

## Shabbat Dinner

Friday, Nov. 16, 6:45 p.m.  
Reservations Required

*An occasional feature of answers, advice and helpful household hints*

## Dear Rabbi,

How can we reconcile our vegetarian beliefs with the use of animal hides in tefillin, mezzuzot and Torah scrolls? It is very difficult to sit through a Torah service and remain in the correct frame of mind, all the while thinking about how many sheep were used in the manufacture of one scroll. Worse yet is the feeling we have when the ark is opened and half a dozen scrolls are revealed. The majority of vegetarian Jews either don't think about it at all or dismiss it as something that exists in a sacred realm in which the same rules do not apply.

Signed, Whether Leather

## Dear Not Persuaded,

Tefilin and mezuzot are "individual performance" *mitzvot*. That is, they are mitzvot that fall upon the individual, and for which you are accountable only to the Almighty. The received and universally accepted *halakha* requires that the mezuzah *klaf* (parchment) and *tefilin* in their entirety be made of animal products. However, if you choose to find a substitute and not technically fulfill these mitzvot, that is between you and the Almighty. Doing so does not directly affect anyone else (as long as you don't lend your tefilin to others). There are instances where people fashioned tefilin for themselves made of other materials, but without *halakhic* endorsement. If you follow this route, I would suggest that you not say the *berakhot* before putting on such tefilin or mounting such a mezuzah, or else preface the *berakha* (in your own words) by saying that it is your intent to fulfill the essence of the mitzva and that you are saying the blessing on condition that



minimize the use of animal materials, I would suggest using high-quality small mezuzah *kelafim* and protecting them by enclosing them in Saran Wrap inside of a case. Then essentially you are talking about maybe 5 square inches of paper-thin material that could last 20 to 60 years or longer. Likewise, a quality set of tefilin can last 50 to 200 years.

Another alternative, with respect to tefilin, would be to not own a pair but borrow that of another person. That would still mean using leather tefilin, but it would also mean you are not causing or benefiting from the creation of another set. A similar suggestion would be to ask a *sofer* (scribe) to make you a set of tefilin from recycled parts from used sets that might otherwise be discarded. The tefilin I use on most weekdays has *kelafim* from my grandfather's tefilin, and are over 100 years old. This is a common practice. These approaches might partially, but not fully, satisfy your concerns; that is really an issue of your own perspective.

The Torah scroll is a different matter, in that it is communal property and the fulfillment of the associated mitzvot for each person in the community and for the community as such depends on the use of a "kosher scroll." A well-cared for scroll can last for hundreds of years – the scrolls we use at BEKI are all over 100 years old.

this form is acceptable to your Creator. Ultimately, that matter is between you and the Almighty.

If you want to stay within *halakha* but

That perhaps minimizes the actual use of animal-derived material, but of course ultimately it is still an animal skin. Along the lines of the mezuzah, a community could opt for a smaller scroll, if that in any way is seen as symbolically minimizing the use of the material. At BEKI, we have multiple scrolls because our present congregation was formed from the merger of others; and indeed, many thousands of Torah scrolls from Europe survived, even while the people who read them did not. So there is a large inventory of usable scrolls for those who wish to recycle instead of make new ones.

In the United States, over 10 billion animals are killed each year for food. Animal products used for our sacred purposes are not a significant part of that industry, but are essentially reclaimed by-products. For that reason, we should not feel that our sacred objects support an industry that many of us find objectionable. An animal may have been served as a Big Mac, but at least some part of it had a more noble end. Think of it as being like a person killed in a senseless traffic accident whose organs are used to give life to others.

Long ago, animal sacrifice was a central cult in the Jewish world. About 2,500 years ago, frequent public reading of the Torah scroll began to replace animal sacrifice as a primary practice. One-thousand nine-hundred and thirty-seven years ago, ritual animal sacrifice ended. Today, you might view the very small number of animals used in making Torah scrolls as a "sacrifice" in place of the many thousands of animals that would be sacrificed were the Temple cult still in existence. Perhaps we can take some comfort in the fact that the long-term trend has been to vastly reduce the killing of animals for "ritual" purposes.

Signed, Dear Rabbi

## Calling All Torah Readers



If you would like to read Torah any time through the end of December, please contact Paula Hyman ([paula.hyman@yale.edu](mailto:paula.hyman@yale.edu) 387-3100), who is coordinating readings for the book of Genesis.

If you would like to read Torah between Dec. 29, 2007 and March 8, 2008,

please contact Marsha Beller ([mbellereco@aol.com](mailto:mbellereco@aol.com) 387-4657).

If you would like to read Torah for the first time and would like help, contact Marsha (as above) or Jon-Jay ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org) 389-2108 x10).

For tools such as “Trope Trainer” to help in preparing Torah readings or the blessings, see [www.beki.org/audio.html](http://www.beki.org/audio.html).

## 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, Nov. 22. 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 and would be axed, but our actual response has been positive, for which we offer thanksgiving.

This is an ideal occasion to enjoy USY pumpkin and apple pies (see cover article).

Weekday morning services on Thursday, Nov. 22, are on the Federal Holiday schedule, from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

## Veterans’ Day Observance



**Lou Hodes on Veterans’ Day**

On Monday, Nov. 12, Veterans’ Day (USA), daily services will be held at the Federal Holiday time, 9 a.m., followed by the Rashi Study Group at 9:45 a.m. The office is closed. Garinim Montessori Preschool is not meeting. The evening service is at 5:45, its usual time.

## 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 for exact times for each week. All other services at BEKI remain at their usual times.

Following Shemini Atseret (in early October), we began including the phrase “*mashiv ha-ruah u-morid ha-gashem*” (“You cause the wind to blow and the rain

to fall”) in all recitations of the *amida*. Beginning Wednesday night, Dec. 5, in the Maariv service, we use the phrase “*ve-ten tal u-matar li-verakha*” (“give winter dew and rain in proportion”) in each daily *amida*. The date Dec. 5 is based on the agricultural cycle in Bavel (Iraq) calculated according to the uncorrected Julian calendar. It is the fourth year of the four-year cycle in which the hour of the equinox has advanced to “evening,” according to this calendar, hence causing the date to move to Dec. 5 instead of the Dec. 4 date in the first three years of the cycle.

## Candle Lighting Times

For up-to-the-minute information on candle lighting, havdala and other liturgical times, see

[www.beki.org/schedule.html#candles](http://www.beki.org/schedule.html#candles). For

a Hebrew Calendar Add-on with candle lighting times for Mozilla Firefox, see <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/1379>. These are accurate to within a minute or two. See Candle Lighting Times on the BEKI site for polar coordinates and elevation, which affect the times.



## Minyan Seekers and Minyan Makers

If you would like email notification when BEKI members are seeking additional participants for a daily service in order to insure a minyan, and might like to request that others attend on a specific date on which you seek a minyan, send a message to [minyan-subscribe@beki.org](mailto:minyan-subscribe@beki.org). You can unsubscribe by sending a message to [minyan-unsubscribe@beki.org](mailto:minyan-unsubscribe@beki.org) and obtain additional instructions at [minyan-help@](mailto:minyan-help@)

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beki.org. If that doesn't work, just send a request to [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)

## Weekday morning services at BEKI

Begin your day in fellowship and with a spiritual direction. Sunday morning services (9 to 9:30) provide a convenient hour for the drivers of religious school students as well as for people whose work or sleep schedules preclude attendance on other days of the week. Monday morning services (7 to 7:50) include a brief

Torah service, and are followed by the Rashi Study Group (7:50 to 8:30, ending promptly). Tuesday mornings (7 to 7:30) are attended by a unique mix of people. Wednesday mornings (7 to 7:30) feature a continuing group of friends. Thursday mornings (8:15 to 9) are ideal for people who either may not wish to rise earlier or who take children to school, and include a brief Torah service. Friday mornings (7 to 7:30) present an ideal setting for someone wishing to help develop a cadre of dedicated daily *daveners*. Regular partici-

pants in these services are always glad to welcome additional worshippers. Call our office at 389-2108 x14 or see [www.beki.org/schedule.html](http://www.beki.org/schedule.html) for a complete schedule. Come once or come often.

## Auction 2008

Event planners and helpers are needed. An organizing meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at BEKI. For information contact Elayne Dimenstein [erdd@juno.com](mailto:erdd@juno.com) 877-2962

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## Important Tax Information

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, paid pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. BEKI is a recognized 501(c)3 organization by the US Treasury. For many people it is advantageous to pay dues, pledges and contributions before the end of the tax year (for most people Dec. 31). It is also helpful to BEKI to receive your payment at an early date. Deductions for charitable contributions may not be subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), and additional benefits may be realized by contributing appreciated securities. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

## Leave a Legacy: Where There's a Will...

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.



**Rabbi Murray Levine has included BEKI in his estate planning**

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 Tsedaqa 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.

"I have included BEKI in my will," says Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen. "I figure that in the unlikely event that I leave a large estate, my heirs will not miss a few percentages, and if my estate is small, likewise, they won't miss a few percentages. Either way, don't plan on collecting soon. But it is important for my heirs to know that my commitment to the future of the Jewish People and BEKI in particular is very important to me."

Consider including BEKI and other organizations in your will, so that you can continue to make a difference for genera-

tions 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 Treasurer and estate planning attorney Donna Levine at 985-9033 ([sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com)) or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)). You can also contact Jewish Foundation Director Lisa Stanger at 387-2424 x382 ([lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org)). Your call will be treated with the utmost discretion.

If you already have a will, Attorney Donna Levine will prepare a free codicil designating your gift to BEKI. If you plan to leave 25 percent or more, or \$25,000 or more to BEKI, Donna will prepare your will at no cost.

## Take Care of Your Cemetery Need

The time to take care of your cemetery need is before there is a need. Now is the perfect time to select your sites...while



**David Sagerman, Cemetery Association Director**

there is a good selection. BEKI cemeteries are located in Hamden and West Haven, within minutes of the synagogue and with easy access to main thoroughfares. Member discounts are available.

We can help you select a site and discuss payment terms. Contact the BEKI Cemetery Association office today at 389-2108 x57 or [cemetery@beki.org](mailto:cemetery@beki.org) and arrange a meeting with one of the officers of the Cemetery Association. For directions to the cemeteries see our website at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) under "Directions."



## Kadima Korner

I, Ruthie Greenblatt, am thrilled to be back for my third year as Kadima advisor. Kadima is our United Synagogue youth group for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I love working with the Kadima kids and parents. Our chapter grew to 36 members last year and I challenge you to help it grow even more.

We've started our year off with two terrific programs, a Beach Party at the Weinstein's and our amazingly wild and crazy Sukka Hop. We started at the BJ Sukka for halla, grape juice, snacks, berakhot and a little study about Sukkot. We then traveled (the Hop part) to three Sukkot of members where parents provided great food and fun activities. We ended at the BEKI Sukka for our second dessert, Hanuka card-making for Jewish soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and Birkat HaMazon.

We had girls and boys, old members and new members, and lots of parents. (We needed lots of parents to drive and to host.) We all had a ball -- me with kids, the kids with the kids, and me with the parents, (a bonus for me). I feel fortunate to guide the kids of such wonderful families. I couldn't do it without your support and help.

Join us for our upcoming Regional Sports day, Soup Kitchen program, Game Night and Ice Cream Social, Movie and Pizza night, and Hanuka Party.

Feel free to contact me at [ruthept@aol.com](mailto:ruthept@aol.com) or 389-4349.

## Open Letter to BEKI and B'nai Jacob Parents on Synagogue Youth Groups

As Youth Commissioners of Congregations BEKI and B'nai Jacob, we are writ-

ing you today to encourage you to help your children prioritize involvement with our wonderful synagogue-based pre-teen and teen youth groups, Kadima (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade), and USY (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>). We strongly encourage your teen to grab a friend and attend an upcoming event.

Here's why we feel so strongly about our United Synagogue youth groups: We collectively have 6 children, ages 15 through 24, and all have had satisfying and nurturing experiences through Kadima and USY. *When school friend groups press in upon our kids*, they have enjoyed having a second wider group of friends to turn to — our youth groups have fit that bill. *When even local kids aren't enough*, meeting kids in other chapters in the New Haven area or in our Connecticut and Southern Massachusetts region has been

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stimulating. *When academics and school sports get to be too pressured*, our kids have enjoyed the simple pleasure of just showing up at an event organized by teens for teens, such as our social, social action, and Jewish events. When they haven't felt like talking to us or to a teacher about deep topics but are looking for another adult to consult, they have enjoyed building a *close relationship with our wonderful advisors* (contact information below). When they are ready for *leadership*, whether for personal achievement or looking ahead to resumes for college, they have found opportunities within our youth groups as officers and as program chairs. And when they have gone off to *summer programs* such as Camp Ramah, USY on Wheels (cross-country), USY in NYC, or USY Pilgrimage (Israel), they have relished meeting Conservative Jew-

ish teens from across the country and even the world. And later on in life, our youth groups continue to be a first link in 'Jewish geography,' e.g., connecting in college with a 'friend of a friend' from USY.

Parents, our kids have so many activities competing for their attention; help them to make Kadima and USY a priority. Take a look at our regional website ([www.hanefesh.org](http://www.hanefesh.org)) and the national website ([www.usy.org](http://www.usy.org)). Feel free to call your Youth Commissioner or advisor. But most of all, **send us your kids**. Give them a leg-up on life by having a connection with a strong, organized, time-tested Jewish youth group.

We continue to wish you a wonderful holiday season,  
B'shalom,  
Rena Cheskis-Gold  
Youth Commissioner,  
Congregation Beth El Keser Israel

Karyn Ravski  
Youth Commissioner,  
Congregation B'nai Jacob

## Selected Upcoming events

**Kadima Regional Event**, (Sports Center of Connecticut), Nov. 4.

**Kadima Social Action Tikun Olam event** (visiting at Hospice, plus chapter pizza dinner), Nov. 18.

**USY Sports Activity** (Yale vs. Brown Hockey), Oct. 28.

**USY Social Action-Tikun Olam Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser** (pie-baking and selling to BEKI and BJ members and for donation to local soup kitchens), baking Nov. 6 & 11; pickup Nov. 20.

### Contact Information:

**USY Advisor**, Shiri Friedman,  
[shirisf@gmail.com](mailto:shirisf@gmail.com), 789-0322.

**Kadima Advisor**, Ruth Greenblatt,  
[ruthept@aol.com](mailto:ruthept@aol.com), 389-4349.

## News

### Library News

Thanks to generous donations to the Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund, many books have been purchased. They are available on a non-lending basis in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room, and will be of particular interest to the parent volunteer leaders of our kids' programs. The titles:

*The Magic Pomegranate* by Peninnah Schram; *The Kids' Fun Book of Jewish Time* by Emily Sper; *The Purim Surprise* by Lesley Simpson; *Grandpa and Me on Tu B'shevat* by Marji E. Gold-Vukson; *Lon-Lon's Big Night* by Miri Leshem-Pelly; *Bubbe Isabella and the Sukkot Cake* by Kelly Terwilliger; *Shlemazel and the Remarkable Spoon of Pohost* by Ann Redisch Stampler; *A Mezuzah on the Door* by Amy

Meltzer; *The Great Israel Scavenger Hunt* by Anne Berman-Waldorf; *The Mystery Bear: A Purim Story* by Leone Adelson; *Five Little Gefiltes* by Dave Horowitz; *Mendel's Accordion* by Heidi Smith Hyde; *Jonathan and the Waves* by Shira Sheri; *The Ziz and the Hanukkah Miracle* by Jacqueline Jules; *The Little Tree* by Sylvia Rouss; *Sammy Spider's First Haggadah* by Sylvia Rouss; and *The Littlest Pair* by Sylvia Rouss

### Reserve Your Date

Bar- and bat-mitzva celebrants for 2008 to 2011 who do not have a written confirmation of a date reservation may wish to reserve a date by contacting Peggy at [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) 389-2108 x14. Dates are available on a first-come basis to members. Your early reservation maximizes

your chance to reserve your choice of dates. Confirmed reservations are listed at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) under "Lifecycle."

### Parking and 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. It is also prohibited to obstruct the

residential driveways on either side.

Ample parking is available in the BEKI lot east of the building, near the new Sachs Family covered entrance.

# Social Action Tiqun Olam — SATO

## BEKI Builds

Fantastic progress has been made on our newest Amity Cares-Habitat for Humanity home. Most of the work on the structure of the house is complete, and now we begin the work inside. Please join us for our next workday on this terrific project Sunday, Nov. 11. Workdays are from 10-3. Please speak to Darryl Kuperstock about details and to let her know you'll be joining the crew. A Habitat for Humanity Youth Work Day scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 18. Please see flyer in the mail or



# Habitat for Humanity

contact Darryl for more information.

A big thank you to all who participated in our first SATO pledge cards at the Yamim Noraim, and thanks to Trader Joe's of Orange for helping us

to give generously to Operation Isaiah.

*Joanne Goldblum  
Dr. Jennifer Botwick  
SATO Co-Chairs*

## Renovations Update

Interim renovations of the new Chapel-Library commence Sunday, Nov. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a demolition day. We could use the help of as many people as possible — no skill required, just the ability to lift and carry. We will have additional construction days approximately every other weekend.



to *your* food bills, but it can help BEKI pay *its* bills.

## Memorial Plaques Available

The Memorial plaques displayed at BEKI serve as a reminder and memorial to departed loved ones. Plaques are available for \$360 by calling Peggy, 389-2108 x14. Prepayment reserves a space and a plaque.

## 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 o'clock), Tuesday evenings (5:45), Thursday mornings (8:15) and Sunday nights (5:45).

## Standard Time Resumes



Clocks are "turned back" one hour on Sunday morning, Nov. 4. This date is later than in recent years due to a change in the law. During this "winter" or "standard time" season, service times at BEKI remain the same except for the Shabbat afternoon service, which will be held beginning about 20 minutes before sunset on Saturday afternoons. Israel resumed Standard time in September this year.

## Food Certificates Fundraiser

With the Thanksgiving and Hanuka gatherings approaching, you will probably be doing a large amount of food shopping. Your food purchases can produce significant income for BEKI if you use food certificates that are available for Stop & Shop, Shop-Rite, and Westville Kosher Meat Market. Certificates can be ordered from Gloria Cohen, at 389-2070, [morris.cohen@yale.edu](mailto:morris.cohen@yale.edu) or purchased at the synagogue office. It does not add anything



**Sheila Gardiner,  
of blessed memory**

*With sorrow we note the  
passing of*

**Reuven Pa'amoni**, brother of  
Yaron (& Liora) Lew

**Avie Cohen**, father of Michael  
Ben-Avie (& Sascha van  
Creveld)

**Sheila Gardiner**

*May the Almighty comfort  
those who mourn*

## Mazal Tov to

Joanne Goldblum, on receiving a \$125,000 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Award for her work in creating the New Haven Diaper Bank. Joanne is one of ten outstanding individuals from across America and Puerto Rico to receive the Foundation's 2007 award. Joanne is BEKI's SATO Co-Chairperson, and lives in New Haven with her husband, David, and their family

## Welcome New Members and Their Families

- Jo Wynschenk & Kathy Nargi-Toth and Nikita and Gabrielle
- Alison Suarato
- Karen & Menachem Elimelech and Noa and David

## Letters

Dear Friends at BEKI,

I thank you for joining me after Yom Kippur for a wonderful Break Fast prepared and served by our BEKI master cooks to about 375 BEKI members and friends who came to worship on this holy day. I established **The George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break Fast Fund at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in blessed memory of my wife, parents, sisters, brother and**

*two precious sons* six years ago to create a lasting memorial at the time of the *yahrzeits* of my family members. Your sharing this sacred meal with me provides me with some comfort as I remember them, for you are now part of my family.

I thank God for the blessings that His mercy has bestowed, and I'm drinking from the saucer as my cup has overflowed. If God gives me the strength and courage when the way grows steep and rough, I'll

not ask for another blessing. I'm already blessed enough.

May God bless America and Israel and all those fighting in the armed forces to protect us. May God also inscribe all the BEKI members and their families in the Book of Life with good health and long life. And I also thank those who made the Break Fast such a wonderful event that I shall always remember.

George G. Posener

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95 Amity Rd. (Next to Amity Wine)  
New Haven (off exit 59 Meritt Pkwy)

*Glatt* **389-1166** *Kosher*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Dining Area</li> <li>• Bakery Products</li> <li>• Expanded Groceries</li> <li>• Home-Made Deli Items</li> <li>• Fresh-Meat &amp;-Poultry</li> <li>• All Meat &amp; Poultry Kosher &amp; Kasherod</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Foods Freshly Made on Premises</li> <li>• Under Strict Rabbinical Supervision</li> <li>• Expanded Groceries</li> </ul>
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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.

## Darshanim in November

Stephen Wizner will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning, Nov. 3, parashat Hayei Sara.

A special guest will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Nov. 10, parashat Toldot.

Michael Kligfeld will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning, Nov 17, parashat VaYetsei.

Shabbatot

## Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 a.m., is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. During Library Renovations (autumn-winter 2007), the SSLM is meeting in the synagogue office.



**Moshe Meiri**

## Sundays Talmud with Moshe Meiri

Serious high school students are studying Talmud on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The class meets

Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Students wishing to enroll for the spring semester should speak with Moshe and should register with the office ([office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org)). The classes are open only to students in grades 8-12. This class will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Registration and materials fee is \$120 for the spring semester. Moshe may be reached at [moshe@snet.net](mailto:moshe@snet.net).

Mondays

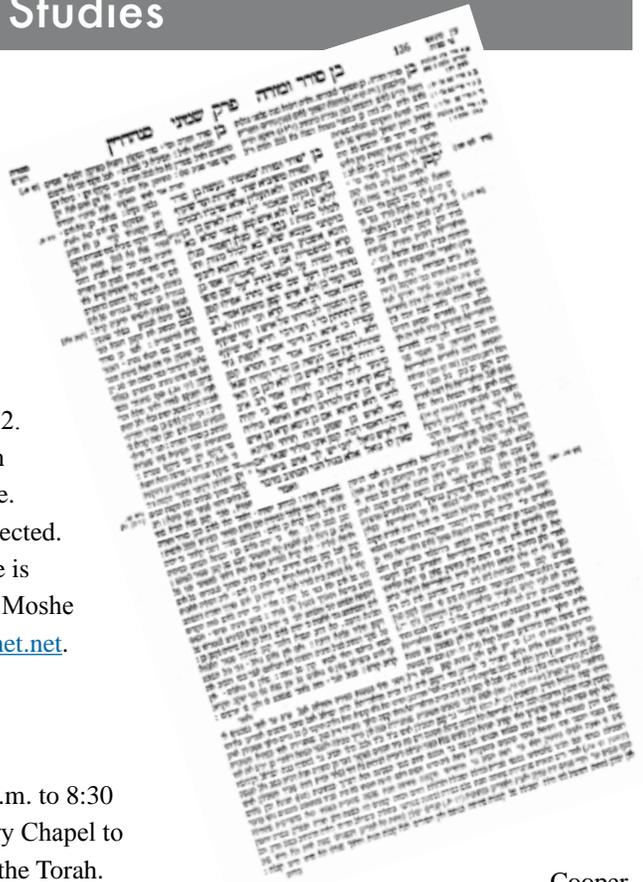
## Rashi Study Group

Each Monday from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. The Rashi Study Group has met weekly since 1994 and is currently reading the book of Numbers. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. (The RSG will meet at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 12, following the 9 a.m. Veterans Day service.)

Thursdays

## Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group begins New Term — Newcomers Welcome to Try or Join

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group," meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.) with Rabbi Tilsen at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah



Cooper

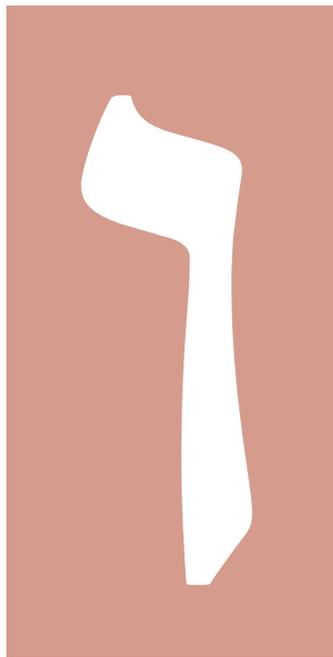
for Talmud

study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. **Now is a good time to join; everyone is welcome.** The group has just concluded the chapter, "The Four Means of Judicial Execution" and is beginning the chapter, "The Rebellious Son." For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or [icooper@cooperlaw.net](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net). The group will not meet on Thanksgiving and the last week of the month (Nov. 22 and 29).

Every Day

## Divrei Torah

Divrei Torah by Rabbi Tilsen on the Yamim Noraim High Holy Days are available at [www.beki.org/tilsen.html](http://www.beki.org/tilsen.html).



# Point of Grammar

*Notes on Hebrew Morphology, Syntax and Grammar to Aid Ba'alei Qeri'a (Torah & Haftara Readers), Shelihei Tsibbur (Service Leaders) Gabbaim and worshipers.*

## Point One: The Conjunctive vav

The conjunctive prefixed letter ו vav (at the beginning of a word) is *usually* a *shuruq* (pronounced as *u* instead of *ve*, *va*, or *vi*) when it precedes the letters פמוב *bet/vet, vav, mem and peffe*, and when it precedes a word that begins with

a *sheva* (the vowel written as two dots arranged vertically). Remember this as the “BUMP” rule.

So we read *u-va`ad, u-mipnei, u-far`o, u-veneï yisrael*, and also (before words beginning with sheva) *u-qeshartem, u-khetavtem, u-le`avdo, u-reitem*.

If a Torah reader pronounces this incorrectly, it usually is not necessary to correct the reading, as this error does not affect the meaning or intelligibility of the text. Now that we know this rule, Torah readers can almost always get this correct. Please strive for complete accuracy.

## Kulanu and Saul's Circle

Kulanu and Saul's Circle participants continue to be involved. The community members at Fellowship Place in Saul's Circle are continuing in their study of world religions. In November, they had a “Lunch and Learn” and viewed the film *Jerusalem: City of Three Faiths*. An involved discussion followed.

The members of the Community Life program at Chapel Haven participated in a Focus Group with Dr. Lauren Kempton. The group brainstormed about topics they would like to explore for a projected Shabbat morning discussion at BEKI. Some of the topics suggested: Israel, Immigration, Crime in New Haven, Being Different, and Who I Meet On Whalley Avenue.

Both groups will gather for their annual Hanuka Party at BEKI on Dec. 10 with the members of the Shalom group from Jewish Family Services.

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Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel • 85 Harrison St., New Haven

Lana Gad-Director 203.389.7445

# November 2007

## 20 Heshvan 5768 - 20 Kislev 5768

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 20 Heshvan 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00am A.A.	2 21 Heshvan 5:29pm Candle Lighting	3 22 Heshvan 10:45 Children's Programs Qiddush: Levy & Oppenheimer 5:30pm Maariv
4 23 Heshvan 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe 9:30am Demo Day - start renovations of the new Chapel/Library 2:30pm Earl Banquer Woodwind Ensemble concert "Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel"	5 24 Heshvan 7:45am Rashi Study Group	6 25 Heshvan BEKI/BJ USY Pie Baking	7 26 Heshvan 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	8 27 Heshvan 12:30pm Talmud Study Group 8:00pm A.A.	9 28 Heshvan 4:21pm Candle Lighting	10 29 Heshvan 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Gerber 4:10pm Minha-Maariv 5:20pm Maariv & Havdala
11 1 Kislev Rosh Hodesh 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe BEKI/BJ USY More Pie Baking	12 2 Kislev Office Closed/Veteran's Day 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	13 3 Kislev	14 4 Kislev 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	15 5 Kislev 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 8:00pm A.A.	16 6 Kislev 4:14pm Candle Lighting 6:45pm Shabbat Dinner (by reservation only)	17 7 Kislev Darshan: Michael Kliffeld 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Nargi Toth & Wynschenk 4:10pm Minha-Maariv 5:15pm Maariv & Havdala
18 8 Kislev 9:00am Religious School 10:00am Habitat for Humanity Youth Work Day	19 9 Kislev 7:45am Rashi Study Group	20 10 Kislev 5:30pm-7:00pm BEKI/BJ USY Pie Pick-Up	21 11 Kislev 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	22 12 Kislev Office Closed/Thanksgiving Day 9:00am Shaharit No afternoon/evening service	23 13 Kislev Office Closed 4:09pm Candle Lighting	24 14 Kislev 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Goldblum 4:10 Minha-Maariv 5:10pm Maariv & Havdala
25 15 Kislev No Religious School 9:30am Talmud with Moshe	26 16 Kislev 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	27 17 Kislev	28 18 Kislev 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	29 19 Kislev 8:00pm A.A.	30 20 Kislev 4:06pm Candle Lighting	

### Service Times

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