

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Heshvan-Kislev 5773

Vol. 18 Issue 10

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ZERO-WASTE BAR MITZVA FEAST

At Shabbat services, Oct. 27, Zev York celebrated becoming a bar mitzva at BEKI. Because he and his parents, Annie Wareck and Iain York, are dedicated to preserving the environment, they decided to hold what they call a “zero-waste bar mitzva feast.” This means that all of the dishes, utensils, cups, and paper goods used at the qiddush immediately following services were made of compostable materials—leaf, corn, and sugarcane by-products. The food waste and used plates, cups, utensils and paper goods were collected together in compostable trash bags and then taken to a commercial compost site. All the cans and bottles were recycled in a single stream, leaving zero waste from this reception for about 350 people.

Native New Haven resident Annie Wareck explains that the family’s passion for recycling and protecting the environment is a family affair that was started in the early 1970s, well before the current environmental movement, by Annie’s mother, Barbara Wareck. At that time Barbara began a grass-roots recycling effort to collect newspapers and bottles in New Haven. Today, fortunately, there are ways to do this that were not available in the 1970s when her mother drove around in a van delivering recyclables.

As Annie says, recycling and protecting the environment “are in my blood.” For instance, before making a buying decision, she and her family take into consideration whether

the packaging can be recycled. (Think about all the wasted plastic in which most consumer goods are packaged!) Annie has passed this passion along to her children. At five years old, Zev started growing fruits and vegetables under grow lights inside during the winter for later transplanting to the garden. For his bar mitzva project he plans to start a community

garden where he will teach inner-city children and adults to reduce waste by planting their own fruits and vegetables.

Now to the details of the zero-waste bar mitzva reception: Annie admits that it took energy, effort and research to make this happen. In a thoughtful approach, she searched the web for on-line vendors because compostable plates, cups, and utensils are not generally available in local party-goods stores. She even made sure the teabags selected for the reception did not have a staple, which cannot be recycled. For a hauler, she chose John’s Refuse, which serves

the New Haven area, because its Global Environmental division is committed to environmental protection. John’s Refuse picked up the bagged compostable waste and took it to a commercial compost site, and also picked up the recyclables for delivery to a recycling plant.

Annie admits that it costs more to purchase compostable paper goods, but buying in bulk keeps the unit cost down. And there is no additional labor to this initiative, only reward for the planet.



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BEKI Bulletin

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

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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

Annual subscription is \$36

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Ask us about establishing a fund, trust or annuity to ensure BEKI's future.

Charitable giving strengthens our Community and provides the donor with tax savings.

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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



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PUMPKIN & APPLE PIES! 18TH YEAR!!

*A Thanksgiving Treat for You, Your Friends, Your Family!!!
Or a fantastic holiday donation to the Connecticut Food Bank!!!*

**FRESHLY MADE, KOSHER, PAREVE, FROZEN, AND READY TO BAKE (AND DELICIOUS, TOO)!!!
SPECIALLY PREPARED JUST FOR YOU by BEKI/B'nai Jacob USY**

ALL PROFITS ARE DONATED TO TZEDAKAH PROJECTS

Each year before the Thanksgiving Holiday, the BEKI/BJ USY (United Synagogue Youth) chapter prepares delicious pumpkin and apple pies for the community. These pies are *UNBAKED and FROZEN* so when you receive them they can be defrosted and baked fresh for your holiday table according to the instructions enclosed with each pie.

*all preparation done under supervision in the BEKI kitchen

DONATE PIES!!!

In addition to the pies you order for yourself, you can support BEKI/BJ USY **and** do a *mitzvah* at the same time by ordering pies to be delivered to the **Connecticut Food Bank** as part of our social action/tikun olam (SATO) program. Your generosity is whole-heartedly appreciated.

BE SURE TO ORDER IMMEDIATELY - DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 5th !

QUESTIONS?

Contact USYers

Shayna Weinstein at usypies@gmail.com, or

Youth Commission member - Darryl Kuperstock at 203-387-0304 or kuperst@aol.com

Pies will be available for **PICK-UP** at **both**
Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel - BEKI (85 Harrison Street, New Haven) **and**
Congregation B'nai Jacob (75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge)
Tuesday, November 20TH 5:30 - 7pm

Please make all checks payable to **BEKI/BJ USY** and send to:
Shayna Weinstein, 12 Cow Path Lane, Woodbridge CT, 06525

THANK YOU!

Keep for your reference:

ORDER: ___ Pumpkin ___ Apple ___ For donation ___ Gift Boxes

PICK-UP AT: ___ BEKI ___ BJ on NOVEMBER 20th from 5:30 to 7pm



*Please **tear off** and **enclose** this FORM and your check when ordering pies
Retain top half as a reminder of your order!*

TOTAL ORDER:

___ Pumpkin Pies @ \$9.50 each = \$ _____

___ Apple Pies @ \$9.50 each = \$ _____

___ Pies for donation @ \$9.50 each = \$ _____

___ Gift Boxes @ \$2.00 each = \$ _____

___ **Total Pies Ordered** \$ _____ **Enclosed**



Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

I will pick up my pies at ___ B'nai Jacob ___ BEKI on **Tuesday, Nov. 20th**

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Ralph John “Jack” Janette,
father of Natan Janette (& Judi Shanok)

Lynn M. Sitrin,
mother of Steve Sitrin (& Rebecca Gratz)

Irwin Gerber,
father of Alan (& Rachel Wiseman) Gerber

Rose Goldring Brunswick,
mother of Barbara Cushen,
grandmother of David Wright

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Bruce, grandson of Albert Friedman, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1,
parashat VaYishlah.

Simhat Bat Baby Naming

Erica Haley Miller, daughter of Wes & Jaime Miller,
granddaughter of Harold & Bobie Miller, Shabbat morning
Nov. 3.

Mazal Tov to

Rafi & Bonnie Prober on the birth of Elisha Ruth in
September, granddaughter of Daniel & Sharon Prober.

Rebecca Gratz & Steve Sitrin on their Nisuin (mar-
riage under a huppa) during the summer.

Mimi & Effi Glenn celebrating the 50th Anniversary of
their Nisuin (Jewish marriage).

LeHitraot

Jack & Amy Gilron have returned to Be’er Sheva, Is-
rael, after a year as BEKI members during a sabbatical year
in New Haven. Jack & Amy write, “You were a wonderful
‘home away from home’ for us this past year. We deeply
enjoyed getting to know you, learning, praying, preparing
kiddushes together and eating together. Wishing all of you a
good New Year full of meaning and blessing.”

Benei Mitzva Observances

Yonatan Hirshfield, son of Monica Starr & Andrew Hir-
shfield, grandson of Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield, Nov. 9-10,
parashat Hayei Sara.

Sophia Bruce, daughter of Harriet Friedman & Charles

Introducing: Vatiqim Seniors Events

Hearing the call for activities for our BEKI community seniors (and friends), BEKI will offer a three-week tefila and learning program. On three Thursday mornings BEKI Elders and their friends are specially invited to morning minyan beginning at 8:15, followed by breakfast, learning, and possibly a field trip. Dates scheduled are Nov. 15 and 29 and Dec. 6.

Speakers include Rabbi Yossi and Ms. Rochel Baila Yaffe of Chabad of the Shoreline, Ms. Pam Reis who is an independent Torah scholar, and



Pam Reis

Dr. Steve Werlin, who specializes in ancient Judaism and religious studies. Topics are Hasidut today, close study of an intriguing text, and the history and archeology of the mikve. Speakers will encourage participants to discuss topics freely and ask questions.

The programs begin at 8:15a with minyan. Participants are requested to be on time and to please plan to attend all three sessions to promote a cohesive group. There is no charge, donations towards breakfast will be appreciated, and transportation can be provided if needed.

BEKI members are welcome to invite friends to the series but RSVP to Ina Silverman at (203) 389-2108 x 13, and feel free to make suggestions for future topics and speakers (and a different name for the group)

Shabbat Shmooze

On Nov. 3: Harry Houdini and Other Jewish Magicians of the Golden Age of Magic. Learn about the importance of Jewish magicians during the late Victorian Era and early 20th century. BEKI personality and magician CJ May offers a crystal ball look into this fascinating and little known field followed by a Shomer Shabbat demonstration of magical feats to illustrate the discussion. Information: cyril.may@aya.yale.edu. CJ offers this talk as one of many events taking place as part of Magic Week <http://www.magicnewhaven.com/>

Library News

New: Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, *The Particulars of Rapture: Reflections on Exodus*, gift of Jack & Amy Gilron.

Bar Mitzva Project

To my friends at BEKI:

I have always been interested in music, so much that I started Suzuki Cello lessons when I was four years old and I have been playing ever since. I have been involved in private lessons, group ensemble groups, chamber music and I am currently playing in a Youth Orchestra. I feel fortunate that I have had the opportunity to pursue something that I really love to do.

Living in the New Haven area, I realize that not all students have access to learning music like I have been able to. I learned about *Music Haven* from my Safta, Margie Hirshfield, and I thought I would like to try to help those kids who love music, but can't always afford it.

Music Haven is a non-profit organization committed to building a way for kids who live in the Dixwell, Hill, Dwight or Newhallville neighborhoods of New Haven to have access to tuition-free string music lessons, string instruments, chamber music classes plus many other things

For my Bar Mitzva project I will be making a donation to *Music Haven* and hope you can consider a donation of money, string instruments, bows, string instrument cases or even volunteer for them as well.

Please contact *Music Haven* by phone at (203) 745-9030 or via their website www.musichavenct.org and indicate that this is in honor of "Yoni Hirshfield's Bar Mitzva Project"

Thank you for helping me with this project.

Yoni Hirshfield

Trip to Israel

Please support our Ezra Academy 8th grade students as they raise money toward their trip to Israel.

Ezra 8th graders at BEKI include Madeleine Cahn, Daniel Cooper, Dustin Gad, Matthew Fiedler, Ari Kaufman-Frankel, Katya Labowe-Stoll, and Ben Surman.

Each year, Ezra Academy 8th graders are each required to work for a minimum of 30 hours to support their trip to Israel.

Please think ahead to all those tasks for which you need some extra hands and hire one of our wonderful Ezra 8th graders to do the job.

Examples: Babysitting, children's birthday parties, face painting, princess parties, yard work (e.g. weeding, mulching, raking, fall clean-up), car cleaning, soccer and basketball lessons, garage and basement cleaning, simple tutoring (Hebrew, math, reading, computer), help on snowy days, dog walking, pet sitting for vacations, Pesah "switchovers" & "switchbacks," supervision for your children during parent-teacher conferences, and more.

Feel free to contact an 8th grader directly or if you have a job to offer and would like help in finding an Ezra 8th grader, please contact Joy Kaufman at (203) 387-7262. Thank you. Ezra Academy is our affiliated Masorti-Conservative Jewish Day School.

Shabbat Winter Schedule

Erev Shabbat (Friday evening) begins with Qabbalat Shabbat; 6 o'clock is too late for mincha, which may be recited individually earlier in the afternoon. Shabbat mincha (Saturday afternoon) service begins at a variable time (getting earlier each week through the winter solstice), about the candle lighting hour, and is followed by a study period, Maariv and Havdala. See schedule for exact times each week.

Paula Hyman Memorial

A memorial celebrating the life and work of Paula Hyman will be held at

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America on Sunday Nov. 4 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Info and registration at (212) 678-8978 hymanconf@jtsa.edu and www.jtsa.edu/hymanconf. Photo ID required for entry.

Ramah Jerusalem High School

An info session on TRY and USY High in Jerusalem will be held in Westport on Sunday Nov. 4, details at (212) 678-8883 or ramahisrael@jtsa.edu.

Matisyahu Concert:

Sunday Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Toad's Place in New Haven.

Torah Reading

To read Bereishit through Dec. 29, contact Rabbi Eric Silver at eric.silver@sbcglobal.net. To learn to read Torah, contact Darryl Kuperstock at kuperst@aol.com or call (203) 387-0304.

Sukka Hop Toda

Thanks to the Abraham Family, the Robbins family, the Doherty/Ruderman Family, Rachel Light, Jonathan Freiman, the Avni-Singer Family, and the Weiner/Rastelli Family for their extreme and radical hospitality and generosity in hosting 65 people along the Sukka hop with food and activity.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

It's not too early to think about purchasing your Hanuka (Dec. 8-15; Kislev 24-Tevet 2) gifts from the Sisterhood Gift Shop at BEKI.

New merchandise arrived in October for your gift choices -- games and small and large menorot, jewelry and many Hanuka motif items for the home.

Store hours are Sunday 11:15-12:15, Wednesday 5:30-6:15 or by appointment with Peggy in the BEKI office (203) 389-2108, Mimi (203) 397-3851 or Adele (203) 389-9599.

Senior Moments: Abraham Joshua Heschel 1907-72

A test of a people is how it behaves toward the elderly. It is easy to love children. Even tyrants and dictators make a point of being fond of children. But the affection and care for the

old, the incurable, the helpless are the true gold mine of a culture.

As we see our Jewish population graying at a disproportionate rate to births, what can we do within our sisterhood and synagogue to reflect Heschel's stance.

What is Heschel's theological point about the treatment of the elderly?

As part of Sisterhood Tikun Olam we hope that you will join us in helping reach our elderly who are shut in, or are in need in many ways.

The Medicine of Friendship: Dr. Jerome Groopman

Dr. Groopman describes his professional ethos as: A medicine of friendship . . . one that is embodied in the prayer for healing (*tefilat mi sheberakh l'refuah*) and includes the imperative to the doctors that when he or she no longer has the drug to give or surgery to perform, that they are still there by

the patient's bedside . . . How much could I give someone sometimes?

But I was there . . . That's what you give them.

1) How does Dr. Groopman extend the mitzvot of *piquah nefesh* (saving a life) and *biqur holim* (visiting the sick) to one that shows *derekh erez*, especially in situations when his job appears done?

2) What kind of programs would help our membership support those who are ill or their families, yet still respect their privacy and/or personal wishes?

For suggestions and to volunteer to help please contact Mimi Glenn (203) 397-3851.

Sisterhood Presents

Joanne Rudof, Senior Archivist at the Fortunoff Video Archives at Yale University, Vision and Voices, Writers at Work. Sunday Nov. 11 at 2 p.m.

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 and 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 the response has been positive, for which we offer thanksgiving.

Minha service can be recited after noon; the evening service after 4:27 p.m.

This is an ideal occasion to enjoy USY pumpkin and apple pies (see notice this issue).

Weekday morning services on Thursday Nov. 22 are on the Federal Holiday schedule, from 9 to 9:45 a.m. Friday Nov. 23 services 7 to 7:32 a.m. and 6 to 6:50 p.m.

The synagogue office closes at 1 p.m. on Wednesday Nov. 21 and is closed on Thursday and Friday Nov. 22-23.

Fall Back

On Sunday morning Nov. 4 the United States resumes Standard Time. So at 01:59:59.9 Sunday, turn your clock back to 01:00:00.0 and enjoy the extra hour.

Important Tax Information

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, paid pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. BEKI has been determined to be a 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. Additional benefits may be realized by contributing appreciated securities. Contributing appreciated assets can obviate the need for complex and costly calculating capital gains. Please consult your tax advisor for more information.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

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

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim:

David Kuperstock will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning 3 November 2012, parashat VaYera

Yoni Hirshfield, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Nov. 10, parashat Hayei Sara.

Jonathan Freiman will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Nov. 17, parashat Toldot.

Sophia Bruce, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning Dec. 1, parashat VaYishlah.

Michael Kligfeld will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Dec. 8, parashat VaYeshev.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting.

Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, with **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray Levine**, **Nadav Sela**, **David Kuper-**



David Kuperstock



Steven Fraade

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

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

Sundays

Keeping Kosher at Home

A 65-minute practical introduction to home kashrut observance. How to acquire kosher foods, maintain kosher utensils, and accommodate guests with conflicting practices. Sunday Nov. 4, 9:45 to 10:50 a.m., at the Residence of Libby & Mark Abraham (just a



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela



Eric Silver

few blocks from the synagogue), with Rabbi Tilsen.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shoftim

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The RSG is studying the Book of Shoftim (Judges). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Devora, Baraq, Yiftah, Mrs. Manoah, and Samson and Delila. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. Hebrew and English texts are available. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Tuesdays

Hebrew

New sections may open this season. To register for the next session, contact Peggy at office@beki.org.

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 120-second “Hebrew word of the Week” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of

Continued on **Page 8**

Adult Studies

Continued from Page 7

verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine.

The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday



Murray Levine

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

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shacharit service is from 8:15 to 9:15 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text;



Isaiah Cooper

for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

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

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library. It will not meet on Thanksgiving (Nov. 22) nor on Dec. 21 and 28 (winter recess).

For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Hebrew: Modern and Prayerbook Hebrew

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

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



Take Care of Your Cemetery Need

Great Time To Invest in Real Estate

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 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 (203) 389-2108 x57 or cemetery@beki.org and arrange a meeting with a Cemetery Association officer. For directions to the cemeteries see our website at www.beki.org under "Directions."

Reserve Your Date

Bar- and bat-mitzva celebrants for 2013 to 2017 who do not have a written confirmation of a date reservation may wish to reserve a date by contacting Peggy at office@beki.org 203.389-2108 x14. Dates are available on a first-come basis to members. Your early reservation maximizes your chance to reserve your choice of dates.

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 at 203.389-2108 x14. Prepayment reserves a space and a plaque.

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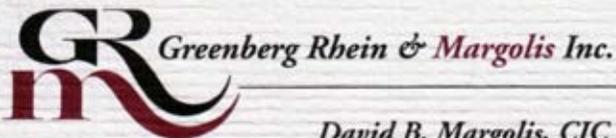


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K - 10

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Scott Walstedter

Buying Groceries?

Use gift cards for Peapod, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Westville Kosher Market, available at face value – no additional cost to you – and BEKI receives a significant commission. Available from Gloria Cohen and from Office.

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins wishing mazal tov to Yonatan Starr-Hirshfield on his bar mitzva
- Helene & Edward Vanderhoef in memory of their Schnitman forebears
- Herbert & Margot Stern in appreciation of the Congregation
- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins with condolences to Alan & Rachel Gerber Family on the passing of Irwin Gerber
- Darcy McGraw & Bruce Altman in sympathy to Nathan & Judi Janette at the passing of Jack Janette
- Harriet Friedman & Charlie Bruce and family in sympathy to Alan & Rachel Gerber and family on the passing of Irwin Gerber
- Harriet Friedman & Charlie Bruce and family in sympathy to Barbara Cushen at the passing of Rose Brunswick
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo in sympathy to Barbara Cushen at the passing of Rose Brunswick
- Adele Altschuler wishing mazal tov to Mikki Ratner on her 90th birthday

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Gloria Cohen
- Herb & Hannah Winer
- Carole & Paul Bass
- Robert & Marcia Jacoby
- The Stoll Family
- Alan Rosner
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving

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

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Gloria Cohen
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Gloria Cohen
- To Evelyn R. Benson in her honor by Rebecca J. Benson & Arthur P. Kreiger
- To Miriam Benson & Jon-Jay Tilsen in their honor by Rebecca J. Benson & Arthur P. Kreiger

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

The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs

- In memory of his brother J. Paul Levine by Richard & Nancy Levine

High Holiday Donation

- In honor of Aliyah Bixby-Driesen by George & Sue Driesen
- Rabbi Andrew Klein Scholarship Fund
- Rabbi Mindy A. Portnoy
- Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
- In memory of her husband Edward Mattler by Shirley Mattler

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

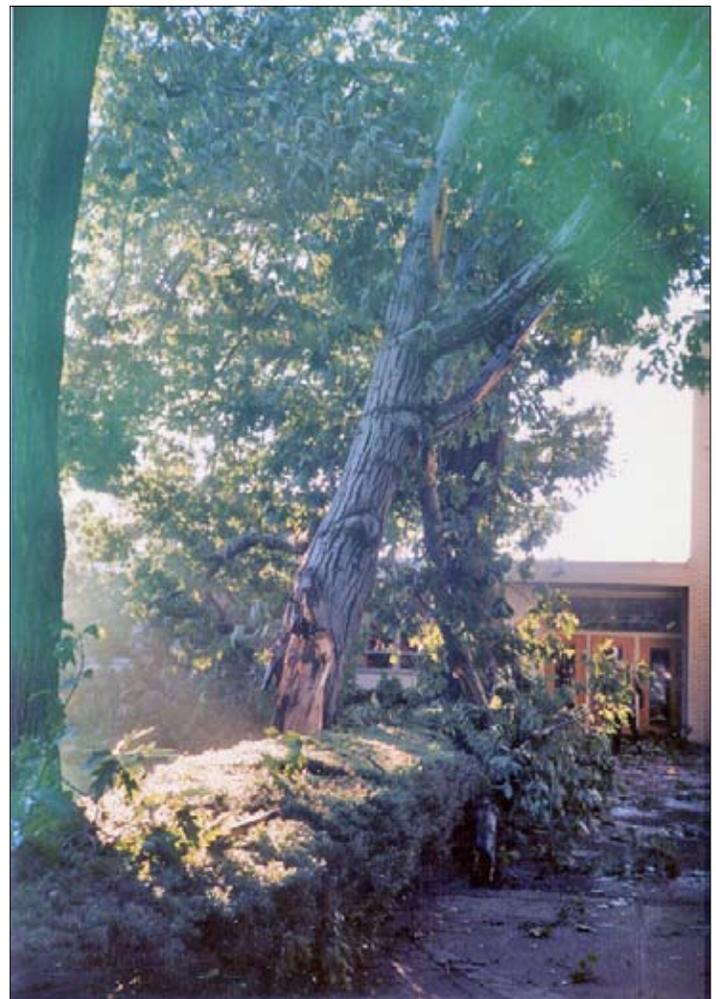
- In memory of Martha Miller Schwartz by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Barnett Popkin by Ben & Lynne Marks
- In memory of Ruth Magid Jacobs by Jane Bassett
- In memory of Beth Margolis by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Sarah Greenberg by Betty Swinkin
- In memory of Irving Kaufman by Florence Kaufman
- In memory of Abraham R. Goldman by Judy & Martin Shore
- In memory of Evelyn & Henry Cohen by Clifford & Donna Cohen
- In memory of Harriet & David Kroop by Donna & Clifford Cohen
- In memory of Larry Kroop by Donna & Clifford Cohen
- In memory of his father Samuel Singer by Joe & Ravit Avni-Singer
- In memory of Rena Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of Michael Harold Rudof by Stephen & Joanne Rudof
- In memory of Jay Moscovitz by

Mike Moscovitz

- In memory of Ellen Slopak Schwartz by David Schwartz
- In memory of Mary Edelkind by Tamar Edelkind
- In memory of Samuel Glaser by Howard Glaser
- In memory of John "Jack" Gerken by Ann & Donald Green
- In memory of Ruth Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Gertrude Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Esther Kabakoff by

Marvin Kabakoff

- In memory of Jacob Sokoloff by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Herman Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of her sister Myra Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Sylvia Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- In memory of Sheila Gardner by Rose & Harold Wexler
- In memory of Helene Pepper by Anna Pepper
- In memory of Moe Ziegler by Pearle Schaperow



Remembering storms past

In a photograph from the BEKI archives, a large tree leans precariously in BEKI's western courtyard in the aftermath of a 20th century storm..

Tree Of Life Leaves

We have a beautiful Tree of Life in our synagogue. The fruit from our Tree of Life can serve as a great way to contribute to the life and strength of our synagogue. Inscribe a leaf on our magnificent tree is a thoughtful and meaningful way to commemorate a joyous event. Inscribe a leaf to celebrate an event like a Bar or Bat Mitzva and you will have a lasting memory of the great day. Inscribe a leaf to celebrate a milestone birthday. Inscribe a leaf because someone is near and dear to you. Inscribe a leaf to honor your mother, father, sister or brother. Inscribe a leaf for an anniversary. Inscribe a leaf for your good health. Do it now and enjoy looking at your special leaf.

Mikki Ratner can assist you with the wording (203) 387-7882 mmrat22@aol.com.

Make It a Ritual

Want to Lead Services, Read Haftara, Greet Members & Guests?

The calendar is now open to request specific dates to lead Shabbat and Festival services, recite haftara, and serve as Friday Night or Shabbat morning greeter from January to June 2013. Please send email to Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@

beki.org or call (203) 389-2108 x10 with your requested dates, or to be added or dropped from the rotation schedule. For participation and leadership of Children’s Programs, contact Miriam Benson at mirbenson@aol.com (203) 389-6137. If you would like to learn to lead services or to read Torah, contact Jon-Jay.

Friday night ushering (from 5:45 to 7) was recently organized. This includes greeting members, helping guests find the correct book and otherwise guiding visitors, and serving wine or grape juice. If you would like to serve in this way at least one time in the next six months, contact Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org or 203.389.2108 x10.

Got Junk? We do

Please check the BEKI coatroom for your articles and claim them before Thanksgiving, when remaining unclaimed and unidentified items will be donated or discarded.

Got Milk?

Please keep beverages and food from qiddush and meals at BEKI in the social hall, and out of the lobby and other areas. Kindly remind those who might be unaware of this guideline.



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HAVE A NICE DAY . . . OR NOT

Should we pray for the peace of others?

Our siddur (prayer book) presents several variations of petitions and praises, such as in the *amida* and *qaddish*, that ask the Heavens for peace for Israel and, in some iterations, peace for all humanity. These variations as represented in *Siddur Sim Shalom* (the Masorti-Conservative prayer book we use at BEKI) constitute the traditional Ashkenazic liturgy as it has evolved over the centuries.

When we pray for peace (shalom) for ourselves, why not *always* wish the same for others? Why the inconsistency?

There are indeed perspectives that suggest we should *not* pray for “shalom” for the whole world.

“Shalom” is just one value among many. It is not the same as the broader word “*tov*” or “goodness,” but rather has specific meanings. Sometimes *shalom* as a value is in conflict with or opposition to other values. There may be situations where peace and justice, peace and law, even peace and truth are in conflict. Albert Einstein famously said, “The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, an almost fanatical love of justice, and the desire for personal inde-

pendence – these are the features of the Jewish tradition which make me thank my stars that I belong to it” (1934, *The World as I See it*). Perhaps among ourselves we have enough “justice” or judicial correctness or righteousness but not enough “peace.” Jewish civilization has gone far in creating a system of justice, but, arguably, has not yet quite as successfully developed ways for Jews to get along nicely with each other. We pray for what we need, and pray most for what we need most.

Nelson Mandela and the ANC created (for a while) a vibrant multi-racial society by placing the values of truth and peace *above* justice implemented by courts. Maybe our dear brothers in Syria also need peace, and our cousins in Somalia, too. But we might say that the North Koreans or Saudis or Iranians don’t need peace, they need a little more conflict, of the “Arab Spring” or “American Revolution” variety. Wishing “peace” on others may not be a blessing for them, but rather a curse. We may sincerely wish for

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Peace

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their well-being, but it may be that “shalom” is not what they need right now. Or we may simply not want to pray for “shalom” for the competing factions within Al-Qaida.

Praying for others may be “spiritual imperialism.” When we pray for “shalom” for all human beings, we may have the best intentions. But others might interpret it otherwise. When Mormons posthumously “baptize” the souls of Jews, some in our community object, even though we don’t believe the baptism is effective, and even though we may not believe in “eternal souls.” The Mormons baptize out of the goodness of their hearts. In their minds they are doing the most beneficial thing one can possibly do for another person – providing entry to the Kingdom of Heaven – and doing so without discrimination or prejudice. If they did it for everyone *except* Jews undoubtedly our leaders would complain of anti-Semitism. Yet there is something about the act that is offensive, a sort of spiritual imperialism. For whatever reasons, not everyone welcomes our prayers for them, even when offered with the best intentions. Not everyone views prayer the way we do, and we should be respectful of the religious integrity and autonomy of others.

Praying for the “shalom” of others de-focuses our attention to our own needs. The world is big and has many needs, but the central mission of the Jewish People is to build a strong, smart, just, nurturing and peaceful Jewish civilization based on Torah and the wisdom of our sages (and our own insight) that can serve as a model for others to emulate if they wish. In the same way, we have to take care of ourselves, our own household, our own synagogue, and our own local community, before we can effectively and credibly transform the world. It is wrong to think we can help others if we can’t even help ourselves.

If other people want to ask God to grant them peace,

then they should get off their lazy *tucheses* and go ask God themselves; why should we have to do it for them?

All of this depends on precisely what we have in mind when we pray for “shalom,” and on how we look at the world. But just because a Jew at prayer knows his or her own intent does not mean that the invocation in public worship will be understood by others in that way.

On the other hand, there are good reasons to pray for peace for all of humanity, and I believe it superfluous to outline this case for our readers. Inasmuch as the prayer for peace for “all humanity” has long been included in our public worship, it is clear that our ancestors and sages – at

least some of them – affirmed this approach.

Remarkably, the actual state of our liturgy – which sometimes includes “all humanity” in our prayers for peace and sometimes states only “upon us and all Israel” – might be worse than either alternative, that is, either always including or always omitting “all humanity.” In the instances where “all” are included in the prayer

for peace, we are subject to all of the negatives – a detrimental wish, spiritual imperialism, defocusing. And when we omit “all humanity” we are open to charges of – and perhaps being – self-centered, parochial and selfish, in a way that could offend others, thereby bringing the opposite of our wish upon ourselves.

Nevertheless, long ago those holding these opposing viewpoints decided to compromise and to reconcile variant versions of the liturgy to forge a common text that sometimes is universalist and sometimes particularistic in the prayer for shalom. And that variation in liturgy itself stands as a wonderful symbol and reminder and reification of the value of compromise and of shalom among our people – and so may it be for all humanity.

— Jon-Jay Tilsen



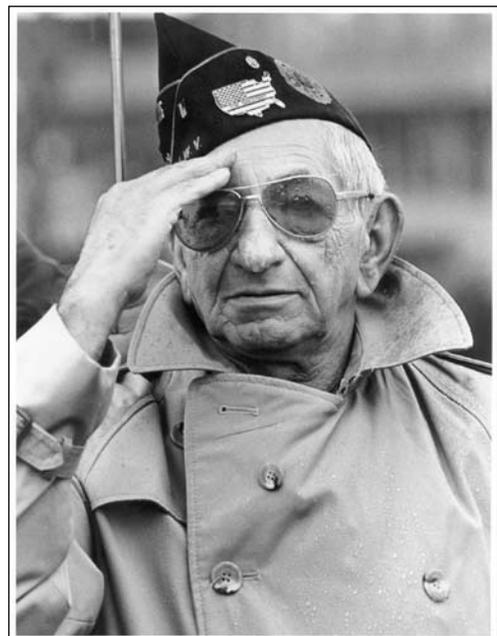


Vote

On Tuesday Nov. 6, attend services 7 to 7:33 a.m. at BEKI, then go vote for the candidates of your choice.

Veterans' Day Observance

On Sunday Nov. 11, Veterans' Day (USA), daily services will be held at the usual Sunday time, 9 a.m. On Monday Nov. 12 (a day off for some employees) the service is at its usual Monday time, 7 to 7:45 a.m. Join us in worship on this day when we honor veterans and the highest ideals of our nation.



The Late Lou Hodes on Veterans' Day