

BEKI Bulletin

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October 2000 Vol. 6 Issue 9

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Tishri 5761

Ari Nathan Levine Memorial Fund Endowed

The Ari Nathan Levine Memorial Fund for the Continuity of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, established by his parents, Donna and Sid Levine, has been endowed at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Annual distributions from the Fund will support the Congregation's work.



Ari with baby sister Ilana

Donna and Sid Levine have been members of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel since 1983, both have family roots in the Greater New Haven area, and both have served, and continue to serve, as directors, officers and volunteers of BEKI as well as of numerous other community charitable and service agencies. Donna and Sid are also the parents of Sarah, Ilana and Joshua, and live in New Haven. Several years ago, they established the Ari Nathan Levine Library at BEKI in memory of their son Ari Nathan, of blessed memory. Now they have established an endowment in Ari's memory that will provide significant financial support to the Congregation in perpetuity.

In explaining their decision to establish the Memorial, the Levines wrote,

Being Ari's parents has shaped and enriched our lives in many ways. Along with the sadness of losing Ari and knowing he missed out on having a long and joyous life, we feel tremendously indebted to him for having guided our lives toward *tsedaqa*. It's been 13 years since his death, long enough for a child to grow to Bar Mitzva. We felt it was time to do something special to honor his memory and let others know that we regard Ari's life as a blessing. We hope that BEKI will benefit from our gift and that it will

in some measure contribute to the long life and endurance of our congregation.

Rabbi Elliot Gertel, who served as Rabbi of BEKI during the 1980s, eulogized Ari with these words:

Little Ari Nathan Levine will always represent...that treasure which God loans to us in order to brighten our days for all-too-short a time, that treasure which brings more brightness to our lives than we could ever have experienced without him. Ari taught us the preciousness of life, of every life, of every moment, no matter what struggles or sacrifices are involved in clinging hopefully to life. ...Ari delighted his parents, his grandparents, Sarah, and even baby Ilana with his capacity to love, a love which they returned abundantly and creatively, giving him love and time and support in rare measure and quality and ways.

"The life and death of Ari Nathan Levine had an extraordinary impact on the Levine family and on everyone who knew him. In a few short years he created a place in the hearts of his loved ones that will always be remembered," commented Rabbi Tilsen. "Even before birth, parents have hopes and dreams for their children. The death of a child can shatter those dreams. But through their *maasim tovim* (good works of community service) and through their acts of *tsedaqa* such as the creation of this Memorial, motivated by their love for him and by the profound effect he had on the direction of their lives, we will see that some of the dreams they had for him will be fulfilled in another way."

High Holy Days at BEKI – see inside p. 4

Chop 'n' Glop: A Kosher Hands-On Family Experience

A three-session class (Monday nights 20 October, 6 & 13 November) will explore the basics of keeping kosher: basic texts, basic textures, basic directions, and basic delicacies. Peel 'n' squeal, chop 'n' glop your way as a family through recipes which illustrate how to cook within our Jewish dietary laws.

Kosher dinner before each class (5:30-6p), class (6-7p). Babysitting for children under 4 (fee charged). Registration and materials fee: Five dollars for each adult, \$4 for each child, or \$12 per family.

This class is for everyone, and complements the New Hebrew School unit on kashrut for the alef through hei classes.

BEKI Youth Eligible for Free Israel Trip

KOACH, the College Outreach Department of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, invites students ages 18-26 to participate in the KOACH Birthright Israel 2001 program. Students who have never been to Israel on a peer educational program are invited to apply for this free 10-day travel and study mission, scheduled for early January 2001. (A required deposit of \$250 is refundable following the return from Israel. Covered expenses do not include travel to and from New York from other American cities.)

This is a marvelous opportunity to experience Israel through the prism of ancient and contemporary texts, walk in the footsteps of our ancestors and have first-hand experience with the Masorti Movement. The trip will observe Kashrut and Shabbat and the group will daven regularly.

Registration will take place on-line now through 15 October 2000, on the KOACH website, www.koach.org. For questions and more information, check the KOACH website or contact Rabbi Elyse Winick at winick@uscj.org or 781-784-8434..

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth," commented Rabbi Tilsen. "My second cousin went on the Birthright Israel 2000 program last January and thought it was tremendous. I encourage any eligible BEKI youth to go."

USCJ

October 2000

BEKI-Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

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

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

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

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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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).

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.

Torah For the Hungry Mind - Adult Studies

Midrasha at BEKI

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

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 7th & 21st — of this month. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Mishna Sanhedrin Study Group

An ongoing BEKI Mishna & Talmud Sandhedrin Study Group meets in downtown New Haven every Thursday from noon to 1:00p. If you are interested in participating or for more information contact Eric Beller at eibbpc@aol.com or 782-2250 (w) or 387-4657 (h). Tractate Sanhedrin primarily deals with rules of criminal procedure, particularly for capital cases.

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.

Dear Rabbi

Dear Rabbi,

Do we need to have separate ketchup bottles for meat & dairy?

Signed, Catching up to kosher neighbors

Dear Catching Up:

If you generally do not touch the top of the bottle to the food when you apply ketchup, and you keep the bottle clean, it is not necessary to have separate dispensers for dairy and meat. Most major brands of ketchup are pareve. However, in institutional settings such as Camps Ramah or Solomon Schechter Day Schools (such as Ezra Academy), it would be advisable to have separate sets of ketchup dispensers. In response to that need, major ketchup producers will soon be offering green ketchup, conveniently color-coded for dairy meals.

This month's Helpful Household Hint:

When eating out, use only the ketchup in the top one-third of the bottle. Restaurants refill their ketchup dispensers, so the ketchup at the bottom may have been there since 1983.



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Rosh HaShana & Yom Kippur

Rabbi Alan H. Lovins will again serve as our *Hazzan Rishon* (lead cantor) for the High Holy Days. In addition to Rabbi Lovins, the services will



Rabbi Lovins

again be lead by BEKI members serving as volunteer hazzanim. For the eighth consecutive year, Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services.

This year we introduce *Mahzor Hadash*, a new edition of the High Holy Days prayerbook, edited by Rabbis Sidney Greenberg & Jonathan

D. Levine. Like the Silverman Mahzor which it replaces, the new mahzor was published in Connecticut by The Prayer Book Press. Compared to the Silverman Mahzor, published in 1939, the pages in *Mahzor Hadash* are slightly larger, but the book is slightly thinner. The Hebrew typeface is the same, and the layout is streamlined to make navigation easier. More transliterations of popular phrases are provided, and numerous English readings and meditation are included. The language, while often poetic, is contemporary, and issues of gender are treated thoughtfully. Developments such as the creation of the State of Israel and the *Shoah* (Holocaust), which took place after the publication of the Silverman Mahzor, are acknowledged in *Mahzor Hadash*. We hope that *Mahzor Hadash* will enhance our spiritual experience on the High Holy Days.

Tickets are required for adult entrance to most services. Among other reasons, this is to ensure the safety and security of the Congregation. Full-time students and military personnel on active duty

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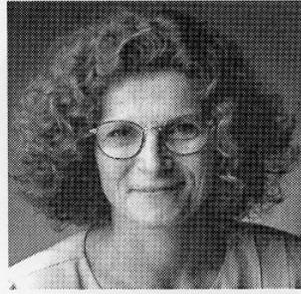
may enter upon presentation of proper identification. Every person in the building must be identified before entry.

Some of the ushers serving during the Holy Days may be new members. Veteran members who do not recognize the ushers are urged to introduce themselves, as our ushers wish to meet as many members as they can.

Rosh HaShana services begin Friday Night 29 September at 6:30p with the Mincha service, followed by Maariv at 6:45p. The service concludes by 7:15p. Morning services begin at 8:30a on *Shabbat* (Saturday) 30 September and on Sunday 1 October. Youth services begin at 10:45a each morning.

For a complete schedule of services please call the office at 389-2108 x14 or see the schedule at www.beki.org/schedule.html. Schedules can also be found on the counter by the coatroom, and are included with the High Holy Days mailings sent to all BEKI members.

For information on seating and ticketing call 389-2108 ext. 14.



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Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services

The annual Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services will be held at 10:00a at the Hamden Cemetery, and at 11:00a at the West Haven Cemetery on Sunday 8 October (the morning before Yom Kippur). Rabbi Tilsen will lead a communal prayer and will be available for individual prayers as well. Those who wish to visit the graves of their ancestors or loved ones but are unable to do so because of distance are invited to attend along with those whose loved ones are buried in the BEKI cemeteries.

“Healing Service” featured at High Holy Days

“Refu`a Shelema: A Healing Service” will be held on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, Monday 9 October, from 3:30p to 4:00p, in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. The service is designed to

help participants find ways to overcome the pain, isolation, fear and anguish of dealing with illness and disability, and to find sources of strength within tradition and within themselves. All are welcome; reservations or tickets are not required. The service will be lead by Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen & Amy Pincus.

Children’s Programs Memorialize Malka Levine

The Rabbi Murray Levine Family is again sponsoring the outstanding High Holy Days programs for children at Beth El-Keser Israel in memory of Malka Levine. Malka, who died in May 1996, was a renowned Jewish educator and wife of Rabbi Murray Levine. She was a beloved member of the BEKI community.

The sponsored children’s programs include the Children’s Havura for preschoolers, K-2 Kehila and Junior Congregations. These programs enjoy a reputation for excellence.

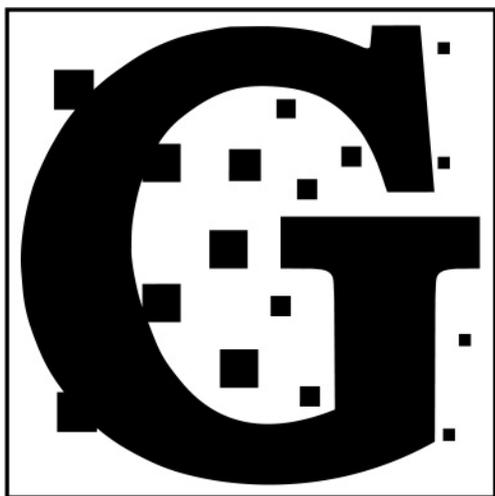
These programs are open to all children. For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in these services. For registration information call 389-2108 ext. 14.

The Last Big Blast

The sound of the shofar is one of the most memorable aspects of the New Year observance. This year, worshippers will really need to rely on those memories, as the shofar is not sounded on the first day of Rosh HaShana because it falls on Shabbat.

On the second day of Rosh HaShana, our services will include the full sequence of 100 shofar blasts. The shofar is sounded after the Torah service, during Musaf, and again in several sets at the very end of the service.

The shofar is also sounded at the end of Yom Kippur. Everyone with a shofar is invited to bring his or her shofar before Yom Kippur and to sound it at the end with the final *teqia gedola* (last big blast) after the *Neila* (closing) service.



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Sukka Set Up

Everyone is welcome to help set up the BEKI sukka, on Tuesday morning 10 October at 9:00a. For information call Saul Bell at 389-1647 (sbell470@aol.com) or Hugh Fryer at 387-4421 (HughFryer2@aol.com).

Children's Sukka Crafts Hour

BEKI and neighborhood kids are all invited to the BEKI sukka for crafts and fun on Thursday 12 October from 4:30p to 5:30p. The program will be held outside in the sukka unless it rains, in which case we will be inside. Dress for mess. Please feel free to invite friends and neighborhood children with their adults to join us and help decorate the BEKI sukka! Children are welcome to take home their creations or leave them in the sukka.

More Fun in the Sukka

The New Hebrew School at BEKI will celebrate Sukkot with a K-2 Family Erev Sukkot/Shabbat Dinner on Friday night 13 October. On Wednesday 18 October, the Alef through Hei classes and their families will dine together in the sukka at 6:15p.

Children's festival programs will be offered on all four festival days, 14, 15, 21 and 22 October, at 10:45a.

Sukkot Observances

The *Sukkot* ("Booths") Festival begins on Friday night 13 October. The service that evening will be from 6:00p to 6:40p.

The Moishe Schnitman Memorial Sukka will be erected for the use of the BEKI community through the generous support of two BEKI families and through the Men's Club. BEKI members are free to use the sukka for their meals or for study during the festival on a first-come-first-served basis. The sukka will be illuminated during the night to facilitate meals and study. Events are scheduled for Friday night 13 October, Monday night 16 October, and Wednesday night 18 October, but it is a big Sukka, and members should feel welcome to use our Sukka even during these events.

Building a sukka can be fun for the whole family, and it's a mitzva! If you've always wanted to build your own, now is the time. Sukka Kits are available from Steve Henry Woodcraft at 919-489-7325. Members of the Men's Club can be available to help a little, too.

Order your lulav and etrog from your supplier of fine Judaica. Lulav and etrog are not used on Shabbat, but they are used on Sunday 15 October. Services that morning begin at 9:15a.

Hol HaMoed: What is it all about?

"Hol HaMoed," also known as the "intermediate" days of the festival, are those days between the first two and last two days of Sukkot (and of Pesah). They have a "semi-holiday" status. The rules against *melakha* ("work") that apply on Shabbat and Festivals are not fully in force during this period, although we are encouraged to take this time as a holiday and to avoid work as much as possible. Our weekday morning services are enhanced with a brief Torah reading, the recitation of the musical "Hallel" section of Psalms, and a brief *Musaf* (additional) service. Weekday morning services thus take 55 to 60 minutes, instead of our usual 30 to 45 minutes. Afternoon and evening services are their usual length. The *lulav* (palm branches) and *etrog* (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (especially to eat) in a sukka. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI sukka.

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Sat. 8:00-3:00

Hosannah! Hosannah!

The *Hoshana Rabba* ("Great Hosannah") morning service this year occurs on Friday 20 October. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the shul with lulav and etrog and the hoshana service in which willow twigs are beaten on the chairs. Special holiday melodies make this an unforgettable spiritual experience. Be sure to come to this "service for all ages." Hoshana Rabba service begins Friday 20 October at 9:15a and concludes by 11:00a.

Hoshana Rabba is a semi-festival on which work is not strictly prohibited as it is on the major festivals. It serves as a "closing ceremony" for the weeklong Sukkot observance in preparation for the concluding festival of Shemini Atseret.

Shemini Atseret & Yizkor Memorial Service

The Festival of Shemini Atseret ("Eighth Day of Assembly") serves as a conclusion to the autumn Festival of Sukkot ("Booths"). It is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet ("Ecclesiastes") during the 9:15a service on Shabbat 21 October. Qohelet, attributed by tradition to King Solomon in his old age, is a "wisdom" book that many see as being out of step with the rest of

the Torah. While it includes such well-known passages as "To everything there is a season," it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody. In addition, Hallel will be chanted, and other musical enhancements will be made to the services.

The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini Atseret liturgy. In the Yizkor service we call upon the memories of our ancestors and loved ones who, while not physically present, are part of our "Assembly." During that memorial service individual and communal prayers and remembrances will be offered for all of our departed loved ones. It is also appropriate to light a memorial candle on Friday night immediately before lighting the Shabbat & Festival candles.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Festival Evening services begin at 7:00p on Saturday 21 October. Festival Morning services begin at 9:15a on Sunday 22 October. Goodie Bags will be presented by the Sisterhood to all the children at services evening and morning.

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 at 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!

BEKI Events

2000

October - Tishri - Heshvan

5760

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Tishri 1	3 Tishri 2	4 Tishri 3	5 Tishri 4	6 Tishri 5	7 Tishri 6	8 Tishri 7
Rosh Hashanah 8:30a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 4:30p Tashlikh: Edgewood Bridge, Beaver Pond Park, East Rock area (TBA) 5:45p Minha	Fast of Gedaliah 7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 20s/30s Havura Grp Shabbat Dinner 6:08p Candles	Shabbat Shuva 9:15a Shaharit <i>Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha
9 Tishri 8	10 Tishri 9	11 Tishri 10	12 Tishri 11	13 Tishri 12	14 Tishri 13	15 Tishri 14
Kol Nidre 9:00a Shaharit 10:00a Qever Avot Cemetery Beth-El Mem. Park, Hamden 11:00a Qever Avot Cemetery Keser Israel Mem. Park, West Haven 5:45p Minha 6:04p Candles 6:00p-8:30p Kol Nidre/Maariv	Yom Kippur <i>Columbus Day/Office Closed</i> 9:00a Shaharit/Musaf 10:45a Children's 3:30p Healing Service 4:15p Neila Closing 6:50p Maariv Evening 7:00p Havdala & Shofar 7:05p Break Fast	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Religious School 5:45p Minha	8:15a Shaharit 4:30p Sukka Crafts Hour 5:15p Benei Mitzva Program 5:45p Minha 8:00p A.A.	Erev Sukkot 7:00a Shaharit TNS K-2 Shabbat Dinner in Sukka 6:00p Minha-Maariv 6:00p Candles	Sukkot 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Singers' Circle 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 5:45p Minha Candles after 7:00p
16 Tishri 15	17 Tishri 16	18 Tishri 17	19 Tishri 18	20 Tishri 19	21 Tishri 20	22 Tishri 21
Sukkot 9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	Chol Hamoed			8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	Hoshanah Rabah 9:15a Hoshanah Rabah Service 6:00p Minha-Maariv 5:48p Candles	Yizkor - Shemini Atzeret 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha Candles after 6:46p
23 Tishri 22	24 Tishri 23	25 Tishri 24	26 Tishri 25	27 Tishri 26	28 Tishri 27	29 Tishri 28
Simhat Torah 9:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:15p Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 10a-2p Women's League "Torah Is Life Day" Luncheon 5:45p Minha-Maariv 5:45p Benei Mitzva Program 7:30p Book Group 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 5:37p Candles	9:15a Shaharit <i>Bar Mitzva Jonathan Beller</i> 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Singers' Circle 5:45p Minha
30 Tishri 29	1 Heshvan 30	2 Heshvan 31	Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-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 Kulanu x33	Office Hours: Mon 9a-12 & 1p-3p Tue by appt. only Wed 10a-12 & 1p-6p Thu 9a-12 & 1p-3p Fri 9a-2p	BEKI email: Office: BEKI@snet.net Rabbi:jjtilsen@beki.org website: www.beki.org
Rosh Hodesh 9:00a Shaharit 9:30a Religious School 5:00p TNS K-2 Dinner and Siddur Workshop 5:45p Minha-Maariv		7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv			

LifeCycle

BEKI Welcomes New Members and their Families who have joined from 1 July to 31 August:

- Seth & Bryna Pauker, Max & Laina
- Jean & Jim Lawrence
- Julius & Dorothy Falk
- Paul & Polly Rieser, Emily & Amanda
- Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell, Naomi, Myles and Samuel
- Lauren Kempton & Brooks Parmelee

Service Schedules and Candle Lighting Times

Information on service times at BEKI and other Conservative synagogues as well as candle lighting times for the upcoming months can be found at BEKI's website, www.beki.org, under the headings "Service Times" and "Candle Lighting." Our website contains a wealth of information on BEKI, Torah, Judaism and related topics. Explore!

New BEKI 20s/30s Havura Dinner

The first event for BEKI's new 20s/30s Havura will be on Friday evening 6 October at 6:30p. Join us for a Ma'ariv service, Shabbat dinner and informal discussion afterwards on a topic of contemporary Jewish significance. The cost is \$10. If you are interested in coming or know of additional people who may wish to be part of the Havura, please contact Valerie Sandler at 777-4784.

AA Meetings NEW TIME

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

Darshan & Bar Mitzva in October

Rabbi Murray Levine will serve as *darshan* (Torah commentator) on Shabbat Shuva, Saturday 7 October, during the 9:15a morning service.



Rabbi Murray Levine



Jonathan Beller

Jonathan Beller, son of Eric I.B. & Marsha B. Beller, will lead services and teach Torah as a bar mitzva on Shabbat 27-28 October. Jonathan is a graduate of BEKI's Benei Mitzva training program.

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).

K-2 Kids Get Siddurim

On Sunday 29 October, all BEKI K-2 children and their parents are invited to a family workshop at 5p (with dinner). We will explore Hebrew names and Jewish symbols, and each family will decorate a siddur cover for their child's siddur, to be distributed the following week (see below). Babysitting is available with advance registration for a small fee.

On Shabbat 4 November, all BEKI children in grades K-2 will receive their own *siddur* (prayer book), designed and crafted at BEKI just for them. A festive qiddush will follow.

Watch for the Children's Shabbat Havura siddur in the spring!

Rosenkrantz Library News

New Acquisition for the BEKI Library donated by Miriam Benson and family in memory of her father Morton Benson:

“The Ties That Bind”, a video released by the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, goes beyond simply explaining why Jews wrap tefillin and teaching how to perform this mitzva. “The Ties That Bind” interweaves intimate conversations with people from all walks of Jewish life about the profound experience of wrapping tefillin with gripping, dramatic and cinematically beautiful descriptions of tefillin’s history and its careful hand-crafting. Most importantly, it features Rabbi Joel Rembaum offering a patient and insightful explanation of how to perform the mitzvah of tefillin. Narrated by bestselling author Rabbi David Wolpe, and set against the backdrop of our complicated modern lives, “The Ties That Bind” evocatively demonstrates how tefillin provides us daily perspective, solace, and affirmation. The film presents a unique, inspiring and educational visual experience, and is now available for loan at the BEKI library. Length: approx. 30 minutes

We’re Able if You’re Willing

Tradition recommends that one bequeath at least 10% of their estate to *Tsedaqa* (charity) such as to Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, although in many cases financial advisers and estate lawyers have shown how such gifts can be increased through careful planning that takes tax policies into account. Willing a proportion of one’s estate to the Congregation is a concrete way of demonstrating one’s commitment to Judaism and establishing a moral example for others.

During the next decade, BEKI will need to raise at least \$5 million to \$10 million to provide for its basic operations and building maintenance. Beyond that, another \$5 million to \$10 million would need to be raised in that same period to provide for the basic capital needs of the Congregation and to improve our facility. For our Congregation to thrive in the coming years, forward-thinking supporters must make provisions now.

If you would like more information on how to

Corporate Donors

Corporations and S-corporations paying Connecticut State income tax may be eligible for significant tax credits (in addition to federal and state charitable deductions) for contributions to approved programs at BEKI. Projects include programs for adults with Special Needs and Energy Conservation. In some cases, permanent named Endowments are available.

An individual or corporation can contribute toward any of these programs even if they are not able to take advantage of the tax credits. If you have a connection to a corporation that might be willing to contribute toward any of these programs, or if you might like to contribute in an individual capacity, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at (203) 389-2108 x10 (jtilsen@beki.org) or Dr. Brian Karsif at 387-9268. The State deadline to apply for the tax credits is early October.

make a bequest or a charitable remainder gift for the benefit of BEKI, contact your own attorney or financial consultant, or call estate planning attorney Donna Levine at 787-1633 (sdsij@aol.com) for a confidential consultation. Attorney Levine will donate her time to help you establish a will or trust for the benefit of the Congregation. You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jtilsen@beki.org) for more information on bequests and endowment opportunities, or call Deborah Kaplan Polivy at the Jewish Foundation at 387-2424 x304 (dpolivy@jewishnewhaven.org) for a confidential discussion.

BEKI can also accept stocks and securities as gifts during a donor’s lifetime or as part of an estate. Please speak with your financial advisor or broker about the potential tax advantages of giving stock and securities. To arrange a transfer, call our Office Manager Mary Ellen Mack at 389-2108 x14 (beki@snet.net).

Tiqun Olam - Social Action

The Social Action Committee would like to thank all of the BEKI congregants who participated in the August blood drive held in conjunction with Congregation Bnai Jacob. The Red Cross collected a total of 70 pints of blood from both congregations. We thank all of those congregants who donated blood as well as those who volunteered their time at the drive.

-Mimi Glenn

Need a letter for Employer or School?

Shul members occasionally need letters to employers or principals explaining the nature of the Jewish holiday observance. Despite the high level of understanding in our community, there is still a need for education and information. It is important that our children be in shul for all of Yontiff.

If you would like such a letter for Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur, or Sukkot, call Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 ext. 10 or jjtilsen@beki.org

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