

# BEKI Bulletin

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October 2003 Vol. 9 Issue 10

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Tishrei 5764

## Sukkot at BEKI

### Sukka Setup

Time to get ready for Sukkot! This "Feast of Booths" is considered by many the most joyous festival on the Hebrew calendar. Sukkot begins the night of Friday 10 October 2003.



On Tuesday 7 October – the day after Yom Kippur – we will reassemble the BEKI Super-Sukka, which is dedicated to the memory of Morris "Moishe" Schnitman. We will need a few strong backs to move the parts from storage to the front courtyard and many willing hands to fit the pieces together. All materials, complete instructions, refreshments and lots of encouragement will be supplied. Everyone is welcome. No previous experience is required. Work begins at 2:00p. If you can bring a cordless driver with a #2 phillips head or a small step ladder, all the better.

For information contact David Kuperstock at 387-0304 [kuperst@aol.com](mailto:kuperst@aol.com) or Saul Bell at 389-1647 [sbell470@aol.com](mailto:sbell470@aol.com) and let us know when you can come and how long you can stay.

**Sisterhood Giftshop is open  
Sundays 10:30a to 12:10p  
During October, November &  
December**

### Lulav & Etrog

Remember to order your *lulav* & *etrog* from the BEKI Religious School. *Lulav* and *etrog* are not used on Shabbat, but they are used on all of the other days of Sukkot, ending with Hoshana Rabba. For information, contact the School office at 389.2108 x13 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org).

### Shabbat & Sunday Sukkot

Sukkot begins Friday night 10 October. The Mincha Afternoon services begins at 6:00p. The Shabbat Festival Service begins at 6:10p. Candle lighting is 6:02p.

Morning services begin at 9:15a. Because the first day of the festival coincides with Shabbat, *lulav* and *etrog* are not used on the first day. Mincha service begins at 5:45p, and candle lighting is *after* 7:02p.

On Sunday, festival morning services begin at 9:15a and include the use of *lulav* and *etrog*. The *sheheheyanu* blessing is recited by each at the first use of *lulav* and *etrog* during Sukkot. During the entire festival, meals and other activities take place in the *sukka*. Audio recordings of some of the Sukkot berakhot are available at [www.beki.org/audio.html](http://www.beki.org/audio.html).



Continued on page 5

## Parking & 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: "No operator shall stop, stand, or leave any horse or other animal or vehicle, in any of the following places... (d) In front of and so as to obstruct a driveway..." (New Haven Code of General Ordinances §29-35).

Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot at the rear of the building.

## 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 389-2108 x14. Prepayment reserves a space and a plaque.

## 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](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)

or see 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 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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## Minimal Torah

The Torah of Moses does not generally purport to present the highest ideal of human (or Jewish) civilization. It does not represent the ideal world nor is it a blueprint for a perfect and just society.

Rather, the Torah often presents a *minimal* level of human decency. The specific mitzvot that define our obligations to the poor (e.g. the corners of our fields representing 1/60 of the produce, or the 10% annual contribution to Jewish community) represent *minimums*, not “ideals.” The rights afforded slaves (sanctuary for escapees, eventual emancipation, bodily protection) or war captives (limited protection from rape and enslavement) are the *minimal* level of human decency acceptable in the Torah’s original historic context.

While we are often inspired by the lofty ideals expressed in Torah (“Justice, justice you shall pursue”; “One law shall apply to all”), at other times Biblical laws seem “primitive” to us (“He shall surely be stoned to death”; “her hand shall be cut off”). It is important to keep in mind that these laws were to be implemented in an actual historical circumstance, and were intended to be a significant evolutionary if not revolutionary improvement over the extant practice. When the sages said, “The Torah was given in human language,” they meant, in part, that the Torah was given in a form that humanity (or at least the Jewish people) could

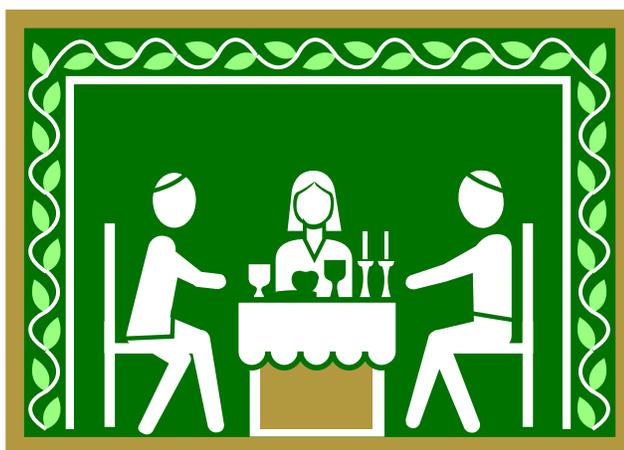
understand, accept and actually implement.

Unfortunately, in most cases, we have not yet achieved the Torah’s minimal standards of decency. One-third of the global population enjoys fewer political and human rights and has less economic opportunity than a Hebrew slave did in Torah law. Half of women worldwide have less protection from rape than that afforded in Biblical law. Two billion poor and destitute enjoy less support, proportionally, than that mandated in Torah. Billions of animals are treated and slaughtered with less concern and less decency than dictated in Jewish law.

There are a few areas – and only a few – where we as American Jews seem to have evolved beyond the Torah’s minimums. The status and rights of women, slaves and children in America generally meet or exceed the minimums in Torah. Progress has been relatively rapid on some fronts; some among us remember the days before women even had the right to vote in America. But before we knock ourselves out patting ourselves on the back, we ought to be reminded that there is a large gap between our vision of a society in which men and women have equivalent status and the reality in the field. “You’ve come a long way, baby,” but you haven’t arrived. This observation describes our Jewish community as much as our general society.



Rabbi Tilsen



Office Hours by Appointment  
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## A Message from Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton

In preparation for launching Project Etgar, the new Middle School curriculum from United Synagogue, Ina Silverman, Grade Six Religious School teacher, and I attended an intense training session at the [Jewish Theological Seminary](#). We were fortunate to have two sessions with Dr. Steven Brown, Director Research Center, JTS. The majority of the teaching was by Cindy Dolgin and Cantor Marcey Wagner, Curriculum Development Directors.

Project Etgar is based on the premise that all students learn differently. Pirqa Avot teaches us there are four types of learners and Project Etgar embraces and advances that theory. Project Etgar recognizes the four types of learners as Imaginative, Analytic, Common Sense, and Dynamic.

Authentic Jewish learning is not quiet and frontal; it is engaged and active. We alternate between word-based and image-based instruction. Project Etgar teaches to the four types of learners. Each class begins with ten minutes of an engaging activity called Moach Madness.

The curriculum is divided into two sections: Hebrew & Tefillot and Core. The Core curriculum

contains the themes of Sifrei Qodesh (sacred writings), Biquir Holim (tending the ill), Kashrut (dietary laws) and Friendship. In Sifrei Qodesh, we study the nature and unique characteristics of the four key sacred Jewish texts: the TaNakh (Hebrew Bible), Mishna (Law Compendium), Talmud (Discussion on Mishna) and the Shulhan Arukh (Sixteenth century law code).



Dr. Lauren Kempton

In the Biquir Holim unit, we plan to learn the biblical roots of the Mitzva of Biquir Holim and express this artistically and linguistically. We will examine the guidelines of both the visits and prayers of Biquir Holim. The unit on Kashrut will be ongoing and is based on Jewish identity, reverence for life and kindness to animals. The unit on friendship covers the history of Judaism's quintessential friendship and makes connections to the concept of Friendship within a broader Jewish, biblical and historic concept. We would love you to visit our Sixth Grade and see Project Etgar in action.

## 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 2004 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 January 2004. (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* (pray) regularly.

Registration will take place on-line now through mid-October 2003, on the KOACH website, [www.koach.org](http://www.koach.org). For questions and more information, check the [KOACH](#) website or contact Rabbi Elyse Winick at [winick@uscj.org](mailto:winick@uscj.org) or 781-784-8434.

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

Continued from page 1

“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 60 minutes, instead of our usual 30 to 45 minutes. Afternoon and evening services are the usual length. The *lulav* (branches) and *etrog* (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to live is to eat) in a *sukka*. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI *sukka*. Some people do not wear tefillin during Hol HaMoed.

### **Hosanna! Hosanna!**

The *Hoshana Rabba* (“Great Hosanna”) morning service occurs on Friday 17 October 2003. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the shul with *lulav* and *etrog* (palm and citron) 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.” The Hoshana Rabba service begins Friday 17 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 festi-

vals. 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 18 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.

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 Festival candles.

### **Simhat Torah Celebration**

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Shabbat Minha services begin at 5:45p and Evening services begin at 7:00p on Saturday 18 October. Candle lighting on Saturday night is *after* 6:50p.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15a on Sunday 19 October. Goodie Bags will be presented by the [Sisterhood](#) to all the deserving children at services evening and morning.

# LifeCycle

**With sorrow we note the passing of**

**Irving Guttenberg**, husband of Elma Guttenberg  
**Zelda Katz**, sister of Shirley Mattler  
**Max Modell**, Past President of Keser Israel

**Welcome to New Members & Their Families**

- Martin & Lana Gad, and Matthew, Dustin and Ari
- Adena Herskovitz

**Benei Mitzva in October**

Hannah Rose, daughter of Tina Rose and of Aron & Stacey Rose, will lead and participate in services and teach Torah as a bat mitzva on Sunday morning 26 October (Rosh Hodesh) during the 9:00a service.

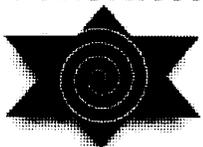


Hannah Rose

**Mazal tov to**

- Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter on their *Nisuin* (Jewish Marriage) at BEKI on 17 August. Rabbi Tilsen served as the *mesader qiddushin* (officiant)
- Arthur & Betty Levy on the *Nisuin* of their daughter Rachel Levy to Corey Shemtov on 17 August
- Clarence & Helen Bromell on celebrating their fortieth wedding anniversary
- Harold & Barbara Miller on celebrating their thirtieth wedding anniversary
- Debby & Stephen Joy, and to Olivia and Julia, on the birth of their son and brother Alexander David Joy

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Hours	
M, T, W, F	8:00-5:30
Thurs.	8:00-7:00
Sat.	8:00-3:00

## BEKI's Contingent Largest at Camp Ramah

### Fourteen BEKI Kids at Palmer

During the summer, fourteen BEKI youth attended camp Ramah in Palmer, Massachusetts, representing the largest Connecticut synagogue contingent to the camp. Campers included Benjamin Bell, Zachary Bell, Jochai Ben-Avie, Yedidya Ben-Avie, Gilah Benson-Tilsen, Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, Solomon Botwick-Ries, Joanna Etra, Rachel Forbes, Sarah Grazier-Zerbarini, Hannah Katz, Maxwell Pauker, and Matthew Prober. Joshua Prober attended as a staff member.

"The sense of community built during the summer will last a lifetime," commented Rabbi Tilsen. "I urge parents to consider sending their children to fine Jewish summer camps, such as Ramah."

Camp Director Billy Mencow will be the special guest a gathering hosted by Janice Wolf & Barry Etra and by Dan & Sharon Prober, at the Prober's sukka, 115 Colony Road, New Haven CT 06511 on Thursday 16 October 2003 from 7:30p to 9:00p. Please contact the Ramah Office, 781-449-7090 x225 [emilyp@campramahne.org](mailto:emilyp@campramahne.org) for reservations or information.

For more information on Camp Ramah, contact the National Ramah Commission, 1-212-678-8881 or [ramah@jtsa.edu](mailto:ramah@jtsa.edu). For information on other Jewish camps, contact The Foundation for Jewish Camping at 1-212-792-6222 or [info@jewishcamping.org](mailto:info@jewishcamping.org). If you would like to help send a student to summer camp, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org). BEKI children need up to \$30,000 in camp scholarships per year.



## Your Ad Here

The BEKI *Bulletin* is sent to over 600 households and is repeatedly consulted as a reference document. Advertisers report positive results.

For rates and to place your ad, contact Peggy at [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) (389-2108 x14).

## Yom Kippur at BEKI

On Sunday 05 October, the afternoon before Yom Kippur, the Minha afternoon service begins at 6:00p. Candle Lighting is 6:10p (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:15p and end by 8:30p. On Monday 06 October, Shaharit Morning services begin at 9:00a and Minha Afternoon services begin at 5:00p. The service ends with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:18p.

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 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 and visitors as they can.

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Preregistration is **required** for children for most programs and services. To register, contact Lauren at 389-2108 x33 or [lkempton@beki.org](mailto:lkempton@beki.org).

Following the service, everyone is invited to a Break-Fast in the Lower Level Social Hall presented by **George G. Posener** as a loving memorial to his dear departed family members, whose *yahrzeits* we observe during this season (*see story on page 8*).

For a complete schedule of services please call the office at 389-2108 x14 or see the schedule at [www.beki.org/schedule.html](http://www.beki.org/schedule.html). Schedules are also available in the literature rack in the lobby, and are included with the High Holy Days mailings sent to all BEKI members.

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



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## Posener Yom Kippur Break-Fast



George G. Posener with  
President Gila Reinstein

The George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break-Fast Fund at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons was es-

tablished by George G. Posener in 2001 to create a lasting memorial at the time of the yahrzeits of his family members. Proceeds from this endowment provide for a special and meaningful community gathering at the end of Yom Kippur.

George Posener is a leader in volunteer, directorship and financial support at BEKI, and a recipient of the Congregation's [Distinguished Service Award](#)." Several of George's family members' yahrzeits occur during Elul and Tishrei, that is, during the "Penitential Season." Our members sometimes memorialize their loved ones by sponsoring a qiddush at the time of their yahrzeit each

year. George has gone a step further by making his sponsorship permanent through the creation of an endowed fund.

The evening Break-Fast following the Yom Kippur *Neila* (Closing) and Havdala services serves as a spiritual transition from the intense introspection and prayer of the Holy Day to the joyous beginning of a new year with all of its potential for good. The Break-Fast unites and elates our community as we renew our relationships with others after completing a long period of prayer and meditation. Participants often comment that it is a high point in their religious life. It is therefore fitting that this community event be dedicated to the honor and memory of the George G. Posener family.

*If you are interested in creating an endowed fund for the benefit of BEKI, or in including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please feel free to contact estate planning attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at 787-1633 ([sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com)). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) for a confidential discussion.*



# October 2003

5 Tishrei 5764 - 5 Heshvan 5764

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7a Shahrít 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 4p Benei Mitzva Program 5:45p Minha-Maariv	2 8:15a Shahrít 12:30p Talmud Study (off-site) 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8p A.A.	3 7a Shahrít 6p Minha-Maariv 6:15 Candle Lighting	4 9:15a Shahrít Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine Qiddush Sponsor: Mimi Glenn 10:45a Children's Program 10:45a SSLM 5:45 Minha
			5 Tishrei	6 Tishrei	7 Tishrei	8 Tishrei
5 Erev Yom Kippur 9a Religious School 6p Minha 6:10p Candle Lighting 6:15p Kol Nidre & Maariv	6 Yom Kippur (Yizkor) 9a Shahrít & Musaf Yizkor Memorial after 11a LM after Yizkor 2:30p Study Session 1 3:30p Study Session 2 5p Minha 6:10p Nella 7p Maariv 7:12p Havdala & Shofar 7:19p Posener Break Fast	7 7a Shahrít 5:45 Minha-Maariv	8 7a Shahrít 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4p Benei Mitzva Program 4p Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	9 8:15a Shahrít 12:30p Talmud Study (off-site) 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8p A.A.	10 Erev Sukkot 7a Shahrít 6p Minha-Maariv 6:03p Candle Lighting	11 Sukkot I 9:15a Shahrít Birthday Qiddush 10:45p Children's Program 5:45 Minha & Festival Maariv Candle Lighting after 7:01p
9 Tishrei	10 Tishrei	11 Tishrei	12 Tishrei	13 Tishrei	14 Tishrei	15 Tishrei
12 Sukkot II 9:15a Shahrít Special Religious School Prog 5:45p Minha-Maariv	13 Hol Hamoed Sukkot I Columbus Day Office Closed 7a Shahrít 8:10a Rashi Study Group 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7p Kosher Fitness	14 Hol Hamoed Sukkot II 7a Shahrít 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7p Put the Ah in Shabbat	15 Hol Hamoed Sukkot III 7a Shahrít 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4p Benei Mitzva Program 4p Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	16 Hol Hamoed Sukkot IV 8:15a Shahrít 12:30p Talmud Study (off-site) 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8p A.A.	17 Hoshanah Rabbah 9:15a Shahrít 5:52p Candle Lighting 6p Minha Maariv	18 Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor) 9:15a Shahrít Shemini Atseret 10:45 Children's Prg 10:45 Yizkor Memorial SSLM after Yizkor Qohelet 5:45p Minha Candle Lighting after 6:50p 7p Festival Maariv & Haqafot Simhat Torah
16 Tishrei	17 Tishrei	18 Tishrei	19 Tishrei	20 Tishrei	21 Tishrei	22 Tishrei
19 Simhat Torah 9:15a Shahrít Special Religious School 10a Haqafot 5:45p Minha-Maariv	20	21 7a Shahrít 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7p Put the Ah in Shabbat	22 7a Shahrít 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4p Benei Mitzva Program 4p Religious School 5:45p Minha-Maariv	23 8:15a Shahrít 12:30p Talmud Study (off-site) 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8p A.A.	24 7a Shahrít 5:42p Candle Lighting 6p Minha-Maariv	25 9:15a Shahrít Qiddush Sponsor: Hugh Fryer 10:45a Children's Program 5:45p Minha-Maariv
23 Tishrei	24 Tishrei	25 Tishrei	26 Tishrei	27 Tishrei	28 Tishrei	29 Tishrei
26 Rosh Hodesh I 9a Shahrít 9a Religious School Hannah Rose Bat Mitzva 12:30p Teacher's Meeting 5:45p Minha-Maariv	27 Rosh Hodesh II 7a Shahrít 7:45 Rashi Study Group 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7p Kosher Fitness	28 7a Shahrít 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7p Put the Ah in Shabbat	29 7a Shahrít 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4p Religious School 4p Benei Mitzva Program 5:45p Minha-Maariv	30 8:15a Shahrít 12:30p Talmud Study (off-site) 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8p A.A.	31 7a Shahrít 4:32p (EST) Candle Lighting 6p Minha-Maariv	
30 Tishrei	1 Heshvan	2 Heshvan	3 Heshvan	4 Heshvan	5 Heshvan	

## 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).

## Service Schedules and Candle Lighting Times

Information on service times at BEKI and other Conservative synagogues, and candle lighting times for the upcoming months, can be found at BEKI's website and [www.beki.org](http://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!

### Standard Time Resumes

Clocks are "turned back" one hour on Sunday morning 26 October 2003.

## Tiqun Olam – Social Action

### Cook & Care Walkathon: Food Fun and Entertainment

Sunday 19 October 2003

Join the three mile walkathon sponsored by the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc. The walkathon begins at 2:00p, with registration beginning at 1:00p at Edgerton Park in New Haven (corner of Whitney & Cliff). Donations will support the Community Soup Kitchen at Christ Church on Broadway, the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers and FISH of Greater New Haven. More information is available at 776-9526. BEKI is a member of the [Interfaith Cooperative Ministries](#) and our participation is one expression of our commitment to [Tiqun Olam – Social Action](#).

### Adopt a Social Worker

Our synagogue has become a part of an organization that attempts to meet the concrete needs of children in Connecticut served by the Department

of Children and Families. "Covenant to Care" is a statewide, not for profit organization working with faith communities to meet the needs of abused, neglected and impoverished children. We are becoming a part of the "Adopt - a - Social Worker" program which connects individual faith communities with their own "adopted" social worker. The synagogue has a volunteer liaison who is in frequent contact with the social worker in order to exchange information on the needs of individual children and to arrange delivery and pick up of donations from the congregation.

The liaison to the program is Joanne Goldblum. You can call or email her with any thoughts about the program and also if you are interested in assisting her with the program. Alan Rosner will be serving as the assistant liaison. Our Social Worker is Felicia Perry, who has twenty children in her caseload. If you feel you would like to be called on for specific types of donations please call or e-mail Joanne and let her know.

You can contact Joanne at [jsg38@email.med.yale.edu](mailto:jsg38@email.med.yale.edu) or 624-0536.

JG

**Ari Levine Library News**

Fifteen copies of the *Tefillotai: My Siddur* prayerbook were purchased through the Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund. These *siddurim* will be used by the K-2 Kehila, and will be housed in Classroom 6 for this purpose. This *siddur* is composed and edited by Saralee Shrell-Fox, a Masorti-Conservative educator, singer and songwriter. Shrell-Fox is a Minnesota native now living in Jerusalem. The beautiful background photographs, by Paul Shrell-Fox, reflect Masorti-Conservative themes, and are all taken in Jerusalem. Miriam Benson will provide a tape of the *siddur* for K-2 parent volunteer leaders.

MB

**Book Review**

*Lost in America* by Sherwin B. Nuland (Alfred Knopf, N.Y. 2003)

*Reviewed by Rabbi Murray Levine*



Rabbi Murray Levine

Nuland’s book could be described as an autobiographical success story of an orphan in a household with a physically disabled and intemperate father and an “inseparable bond of perpetual low-level tension” between his father, aunt, grandmother and brother. His love/hate relationship with his father clearly contributed to Nuland’s severe bouts of depression as an adult and his decision to change his name from Nudelman to Nuland.

There is a bit of local color as Nuland moves from the Bronx, NY to New Haven to attend the Yale Medical School. Nuland provides an interesting insight into his Jewish behavior at Yale where he recited the Shabbat morning prayers at home regularly. He writes, “It never occurred to me that my religious practices and my unbreakable ties to

home were of a piece.”

The book is beautifully written, sometimes poetic in style, and often very moving. It is a must read.

**Now Showing: Children’s Hebrew Video Collection**

A Children’s Hebrew Video Collection comprising Hebrew Language versions of American and Israeli films is now available for our members’ use. Most are in DVD Region 2 PAL format, which are not playable on American DVD players, computers or televisions. They require special equipment. These videos are viewable on the Library equipment. This collection is housed in the School Lounge (Classroom 6).



**Or Hadash Siddur with Commentary**

*Or Hadash* — A Commentary on Siddur Sim Shalom by Rabbi Reuven Hammer is available in our Sanctuary and Library for members’ use. In *Or Hadash*, Rabbi Hammer offers extensive and edifying commentary of the religious themes, historical background, and literary context on the traditional Ashkenazic prayerbook. The commentary appears in the margins around the previously-published

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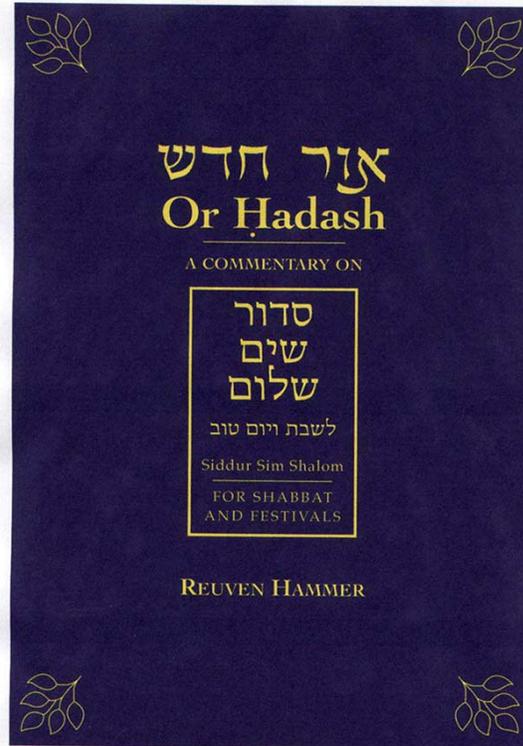
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Dining Area</li> <li>• Bakery Products</li> <li>• Expanded Groceries</li> <li>• Home-Made Deli Items</li> <li>• Fresh-Meat &amp;-Poultry</li> <li>• All Meat &amp; Poultry Kosher &amp; Kasherod</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Foods Freshly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

*Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat & Festivals* (the siddur we use in the Sanctuary), retaining the earlier work's pagination, making this volume both familiar and usable in public worship.

Dr. Hammer addresses exegetical and homiletic issues raised by the text. He comments on words, phrases, themes and structure, and adds pointers on generally accepted practice. A concise and informative introduction, commentary on *Pirrei Avot*, and a glossary are a bonus. This is a "must have" for the student of classical traditional Judaism and a great aid to the worshiper in the contemporary synagogue.

Those wishing their own copy may purchase one at the Sisterhood Giftshop, from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), or wherever fine Judaica is sold.



MICHAEL MARTONE  
MANAGER



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## Torah For the Hungry Mind - Adult Studies

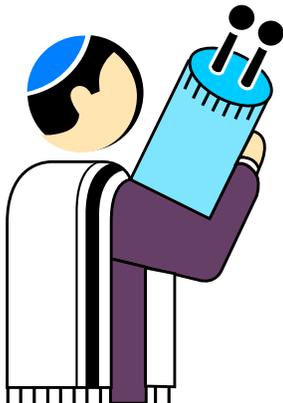
### Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#) to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the Biblical text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group has been meeting weekly since 1994.

(The Rashi Study Group will not meet on the Monday of Yom Kippur. On Monday 13 October, Columbus Day, shaharit morning services will be from 9:00a to 9:45a and the Rashi Study Group will meet from 9:45a to 10:30a.)

### AA Meeting

A Thursday night AA meeting is held at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly 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. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019 or email Jay at [drjays.nai@rcn.com](mailto:drjays.nai@rcn.com).



### Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's [Rosenkrantz Family Library](#), is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Led by **Steven Fraade** and **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening multi-generational setting. The SSLM meets on the 4th & 18th of this month (October). Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

### Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For many 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. For information contact Marc Schwartz at 562-9873 or [mschwartzmd@hotmail.com](mailto:mschwartzmd@hotmail.com).

### Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7:30a to 8:00a. The Study Group will focus on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. A knowledge of basic Hebrew is very helpful but not required; the Group is open to all. The study group will meet every Wednesday morning (except 15 October) through and including 24 December.

## **Put Ah in Shabbat:**

**Or, Should Massage Therapy be Declared a Mitzva?**

In our crazy, fast-paced world, it takes a conscious effort to carve out a day of rest, study and renewal. How can we carry some of the peace of Shabbat with us during the hectic week?

Heighten your ability to keep "in touch" through this introductory class to Massage Therapy. Jennifer Botwick will lead "Put the Ah in Shabbat" on Tuesday evenings from 7:00p to 8:30p beginning 14 October. Registration fee is \$50.00 for six weeks. Preregistration is required; subject to minimum enrollment. Class meets 14, 21, 28 October, 04, 18 November, 02 December. JB

## **Kosher Fitness**

**Or, What You are Looking for is not in the Refrigerator**

Food is central to Jewish family life and celebrations. Our Western consumer culture reinforces the mitzva of *ess, ess mine kind* – eat, eat, dear children! But the super-sized fast-food portions have led to an epidemic of obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and other ailments.

Kosher Fitness asks us to be conscious when we eat through attention to the five Ws: Why, where, when, what and with whom we eat. Sanctification, moderation, and celebration will nourish us as we bring attention and awareness to our meals and snacks.

Kosher Fitness will be lead by Jennifer Botwick on Monday evenings from 7:00p to 8:00p, beginning 13 October. Registration fee is \$50.00 for six weeks. Preregistration is required; subject to minimum enrollment. Class meets 13, 20, 27 October, 03, 10, 17 November. JB

## **Guest Darshan**

Rabbi Moshe "Murray" will serve as *Darshan* (Torah commentator) on Shabbat Shuva, 04 October, during the Shaharit morning service.



*Rabbi Murray Levine*

## **Reading Torah at BEKI**

Willa Needler is coordinating the readings for Devarim (Deuteronomy) and Sukkot. If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read Torah, call Rabbi Jon-Jay at (203) 389-2108 x10 ([jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)) or Darryl Kuperstock at (203) 387-0304 ([kuperst@aol.com](mailto:kuperst@aol.com)).

