

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

October 2005

Tishrei 5766
Vol. 11 Issue 10

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Tribute Dinner Dance to Honor Saul Bell & Paul Goodwin



Saul Bell



Paul Goodwin

Please celebrate with us as we honor two of BEKI's outstanding leaders, Saul Bell and Paul Goodwin, on Saturday evening 12 November 2005. Please look for your invitation in the

mail or check our website at www.beki.org/forms.html.

Cocktails at 6:30p in the upstairs Social Hall with Music by Gary Lynes

Dinner at 7:30p in the downstairs Social Hall

Dancing 9:30p with Charles Rosenay, DJ

Couvert \$90/person

Limited seating; Dietary laws strictly observed; Meat and vegetarian choices

Saul Bell and Pat Goodwin, two of BEKI's beloved elder statesmen, personify the history of the synagogue and embody its values. They have served the congregation as leaders, officers, and presidents, and have continued through the years to lend assistance and support to all its worthy endeavors. We are delighted to honor them and hope you will join us.

Credit Card Use Suspended

Most not-for-profit organizations are challenged by the need to make ends meet. BEKI is no exception. BEKI's Board of Directors, together with its numerous committees, strive to control costs in its effort to maintain our annual dues at the lowest possible level. Every effort is made to avoid non-essential expenses. Based on recent years' annual credit card usage, the cost to BEKI in service fees charged by the credit card processor has been several thousand dollars annually. A recent analysis shows that the option of paying by credit card has not improved our collection efforts as hoped when the credit card policy was instituted.

Therefore, effective 1 December 2005, *credit cards will no longer be accepted* as a method of payment for annual dues and annual and major fundraising campaigns, although credit card payments will be accepted on the days of special fundraising events such as an auction. BEKI's Board of Directors is confident that you share its objective to maintain prudent financial policies and that you will understand the need to reduce costs by making your payments to BEKI by check or securities.

DL

BEKI Bulletin

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

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to:

85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724

or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the

1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Editor

Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen

Associate Editor

Donna Levine

Associate Editor

Donna Kemper

Associate Editor

Herbert Winer

Circulation Manager

Saul Bell

Layout & Design

Media Arts Center

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Charles Ludwig

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The success of the Montessori classroom is dependent on its core beliefs; freedom within limits and respect for each other and the environment. The goal of the program is to cultivate the child's own natural desire to learn.

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

Lana Gard-Director 203.389.7445

Founders' Shabbat



Rabbi Andrew Klein

We will honor our founding members on Shabbat Shuva, 8 October, during morning services and at a special festive qiddush immediately following.

“Founders” are all those who were members of either synagogue, Beth El or Keser Israel, when the two congregations merged in 1968 to create BEKI. They, their children and their grandchildren will be specially honored that day.

Delivering the Devar Torah during services that morning will be Stephen Wizner, the William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law at Yale University.

In connection with Founders' Shabbat, a display of historic photos and documents will be mounted in the building.

Organizers of Founders' Shabbat this year are Harold Miller and Bryna Pauker. Two of the Founders, Paul Goodwin and Saul Bell, will be further honored by the community at a Tribute Dinner on 12 November.

The story of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel begins over a century ago and involves two congregations in the City of New Haven. Congregation Beth El was founded in 1892 as Benai Israel. Temple Keser Israel was formally established in 1909.

Benai Israel, in the Hill neighborhood, built a synagogue at 10 Rose Street in 1895 and thrived there for 60 years as the Rose Street Shul. When the City of New Haven acquired the property as part of its “Model Cities” urban renewal in 1955, the congregation had to move. Although by then most of the members lived in the western part of the city, those who remained in the Hill would not ride on Shabbat, and two locations were needed.

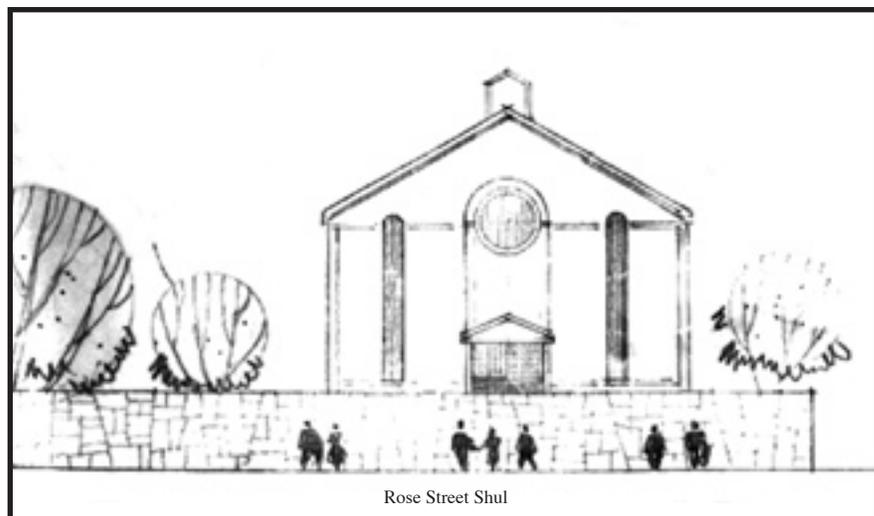
The larger contingent in Westville acquired property at the corner of

Whalley Avenue and Harrison Street and renovated a house to serve as a temporary synagogue. The membership decided to adopt mixed-seating, and a rift developed between the Hill and Westville branches, leading ultimately to a bitter legal split.

Despite the legal problems, construction went forward on Harrison Street, and a new synagogue building was dedicated in June 1960. The legal settlement required the Westville branch to relinquish its name to the Hill contingent, and the members took on the name Congregation Beth El. It was home to 170 families.

BEKI's other parent congregation, Keser Israel, also had a long and venerable history. It was established in 1909 on Foote Street, and in 1945 joined the Conservative movement. Rabbi Leon Spitz, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, was invited to the pulpit. Rabbi Spitz was a scholar and a man of great organizational ability. Keser

continued on page 4



Rose Street Shul

Founders' Shabbat

continued from page 3

Israel expanded into the Romanesque-style, former Plymouth Church at the corner of Chapel Street and Sherman Avenue in 1951, under the leadership of Rabbi Andrew Klein. Both congregations had their problems, and for years considered merging as a solution. Beth El's growth was steady, but it carried the large financial overhead of the building, school wing (1964) and staff. Keser Israel lost young families as people moved to the suburbs, and needed to rethink its future. The event that finally precipitated the merger was the untimely death of Rabbi Andrew Klein in July 1967.

Negotiations went into high gear, and on 31 March 1968, the two became one community. And the rest, as they say, is history. GR

For more information on the Congregation's past, see www.beki.org/history.html.

United Synagogue Youth

We'd like to introduce everyone to BEKI/BJ's (BEKI & B'nai Jacob's joint chapter's) new USY advisor for the 05-06 year, Katie Ryzhikov. Katie is British and has a very strong background in youth work. Her husband is a medical resident at Yale, and she will be beginning an Occupational Therapy program at Sacred Heart University. She has done a great deal of volunteer work with teens, most recently through United Way. She

will be at BEKI on a Shabbat morning in the upcoming weeks. Please introduce yourself to her and make her feel welcomed!

Here are some words from Katie:

Hello everybody. I am Katie Ryzhikov BEKI/BJ's new USY advisor. I am really excited to be working with the BEKI/BJ teens this year. My aim is to help them to have a great Jewish leadership and teen experience, with lots of fun along the way. I would love to hear some suggestions from teens and parents alike, so please feel free to contact me especially if you have any questions.

This year we are fortunate that the holidays are late so we will be able to get off to a good start with a few early programs. There will be plenty of new programs this year in addition to the usual programs that I've heard the teens and synagogues know and love, like the Limo Scavenger Hunt, Deli Boxes, and the Shabbaton.

To my delight we have a great board this year. I am sure that together we will make the community very proud.

I look forward to meeting you,
Katie Ryzhikov

Ivan & Rita Sachs Honored at New Entry Dedication

A festive gathering at noon on Sunday 16 October will honor Ivan & Rita Sachs and the Sachs family as a plaque bearing their name will be dedicated over the new eastern entrance from

the parking area to the lobby and as the mezuzah is affixed to the doorpost. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

The dedication is made possible through the generosity of Ivan & Rita's children, marking their parents' 50th wedding anniversary, and expresses the community's appreciation for their major support of our renovations project.

Ivan & Rita exemplify the ethos of our congregation in that both have worked very hard over their lifetimes and in their marriage, facing many challenges, to create a strong family and successful business. "There are many things that one could say in tribute of Ivan & Rita and their family," commented Rabbi Tilsen. "The one thing I think of when I see their names on the plaque is the fact that every Friday night, all of their children and grandchildren – about 38 people, not counting guests – gather in their extended dining room for Shabbat dinner. Every Shabbat."

For information on the dedication gathering, the renovations project, or ways you can participate, speak with Renovations Chairperson John Weiser or President Donna Levine.



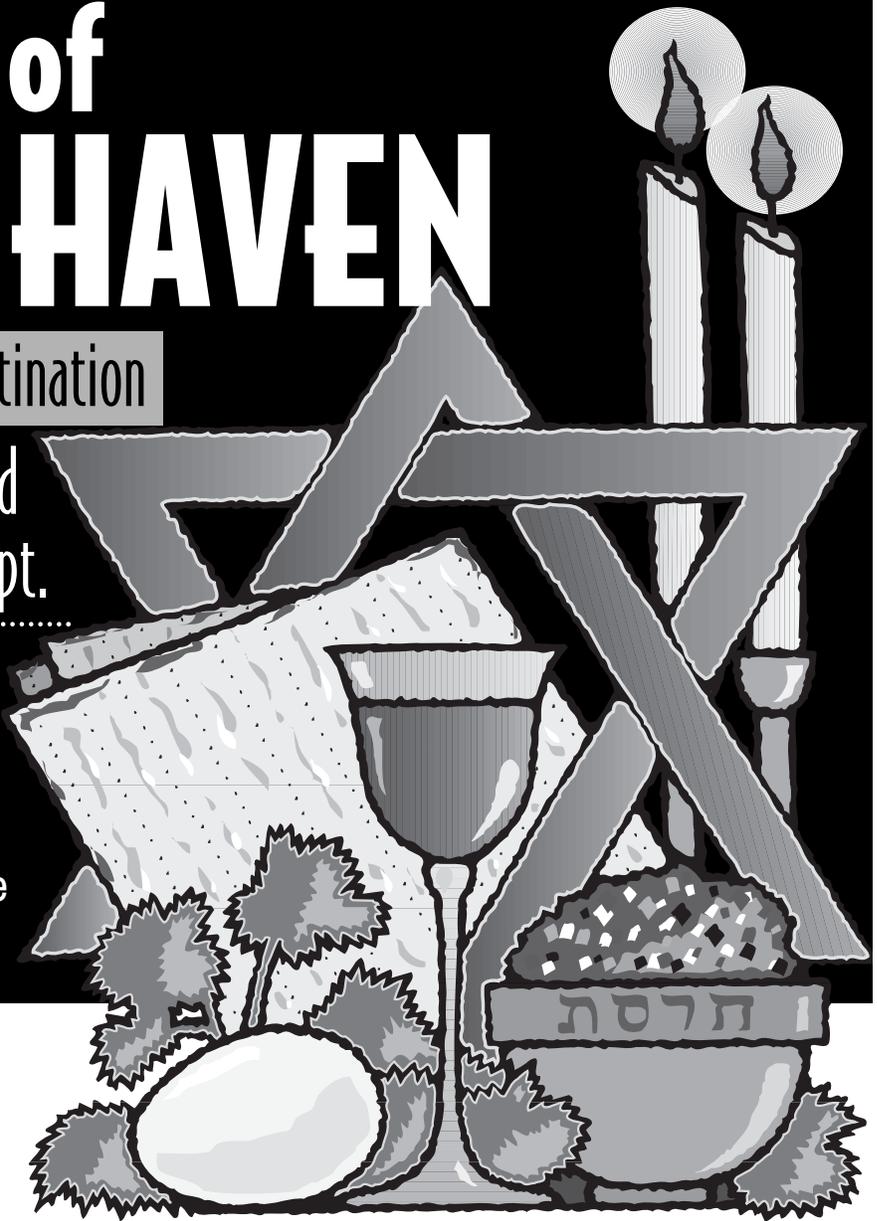
Ivan & Rita Sachs

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A Message from the Education Director



Dr. Lauren Kempton

Vacations are good for the soul. This past August, Brooks and I traveled to Japan to visit our dear friend Tomoko Ito

who lives in Nagoya Japan. (Nagoya is the fourth largest city in Japan and the site of the 2005 World's Fair.) We have known Tomoko since 2001 when she stayed with us for six months as a visiting Japanese Art and Culture teacher at Ezra Academy under the International Internship Program.

Tomoko planned our trip for months down to the last detail – tickets for Expo, the bullet trains, subways, reservations for the Ryokans (country inns) and amazing traditional Japanese food. We visited four cities; Nagoya, Kyoto, Nara and Nagano. I strongly believe that in life we should seek out experiences that place us in the minority, and that was certainly the case for Brooks and me in Japan. We deliberately chose to visit Japan during Obon, the major Japanese holiday to honor ancestors. Following Japanese custom, it is obligatory to travel to your hometown from August 13th to 15th to pay homage to your lost loved ones. We went to Okisaki, Tomoko's hometown for the fireworks on the first night of Obon. There were over 50,000 in attendance and perhaps five Westerners. We enjoyed bento boxes sitting on the riverbanks watching the spectacular fireworks.

Perhaps the most spiritual place for

me was the Temple of Sen No Rikyu, the father of the Tea Ceremony and founder of Zen Buddhism. It was sparse and light and open. My second favorite place was the home of Lady Murasaki, considered to be the first novelist in the world for her "Tale of Genji." Her meditation garden was so simple; three large rocks, one bonsai pine tree and stones lovingly raked to resemble waves. I learned that temples are public and for worship, and shrines are personal, for the ancestors, and often in each home.

Perhaps the most vivid memory was the last night of Obon. Our taxi driver arrived in a navy blue suit, cap and white gloves. He spoke like a professor, so steeped in the history of Nara, the ancient capital of Japan. He drove us high up the mountain to a temple that was festooned with paper and brass lanterns. As we descended we saw the city aglow; thousands of paper lanterns, along the streets in ponds, lighting the way for the ancestors to return home for Obon. Many of the people, especially the young were dressed in kimonos out of tradition and respect for their ancestors. The mood was festive, yet also spiritual.

The next day we actually had the opportunity to visit a home shrine at the home of Maiumi Yasuea,

Tomoko's friend. Her home altar had flowers, vegetables and orange Flower lanterns. That night was Tisha BeAv and I was struck by a similarity; after the destruction of the temple Jews kept Shabbat in their homes, the Buddhists keep home shrines to honor their customs. In our personal beliefs, our religion, our spirituality. I believe that respect for the cultures and religions of others is paramount. My respect for the Buddhist customs, removing my shoes, ritual washing at each temple only strengthened my faith.

I found Japan to be a warm, respectful country, spotlessly clean and so attuned to beauty – one lotus blossom, a garden at each home, bright porcelain bowls, simplicity in landscape and an amazing pride of country.



BEKI Religious School

Israeli Emissary Program Continues

BEKI Religious School is proud to have two Israeli Young Emissaries as part of our Religious School curriculum to expand our teaching of Israel. This is the fifth year that BEKI is participating in the Young Emissary Program. The Emissaries have finished their High School studies in Israel and are deferred from their obligations to the Israel Defense Forces for one year to teach about Israel here in the United States.

The program is funded by the Jewish Agency, SNEC (Southern New England Consortium of federations in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts) and private donors. This year we welcome Tali Zion from Ganer and Hila Arie from Afula. Hila is staying with BEKI members, the family of Martin Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold.

This summer we bade a fond farewell to Beccy Adlaer and Eilam Oren who returned to Israel and will join the IDF in October. In Eilam's final letter he stated, "I can't even count the new friendships I made. It is just impossible to describe the experience I had here. It fills me with satisfaction and happiness to think how much I got and what I gave to you, to myself to this amazing, loving and caring community. I say goodbye to this place which became my new home; the smells, sights and the sounds and the strong feeling of being, belonging are bonded and will never be forgotten."

I personally shall miss Beccy Adler who became like a daughter to me during this past year. As a result of bonding with her and her parents, I now, for the first time, feel as though I have family in Israel. We at BEKI are indebted to Mimi Glenn, George Posener, Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper and David & Joanne Goldblum for their continued support of this vital program. LK

BEKI's Contingent at Camp Ramah

Many BEKI Kids at Palmer

During the summer, over a dozen BEKI youth attended camp Ramah in Palmer, Massachusetts, representing one of the largest Connecticut synagogue contingents to the camp. "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."

Campers included Zach Bell, Yedidya Ben-Avie, Tova Benson-Tilsen, Tsvi Benson-Tilsen, Solomon Botwick-Ries, David Forbes, Eva Gerber, Miriam Gerber, Sarah Grazier-Zerbarini, Matthew Prober, Batsheva Stoll, and Alex & Kate Shragis. Dana Etra served on staff at Palmer, and Joanna Etra served on staff at Ramah Darom.

For more information on Camp Ramah, contact the National Ramah Commission, 1-212-678-8881 or ramah@jtsa.edu. For information on other Jewish camps, contact The Foundation for Jewish Camping at

1-212-792-6222 or 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. BEKI children need up to \$30,000 in camp scholarships per year.

MERCAZ – The Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement

MERCAZ USA represents the Conservative Movement in the American Zionist Movement and the Jewish National Fund and is affiliated with MERCAZ Olami. MERCAZ represents the Conservative Movement in the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel. MERCAZ is committed to bringing Conservative Jews closer to Zionism and Israel and works to fashion in Israel the ideal Jewish society based on the values of social justice and ecology. Information about MERCAZ is available on the bulletin board in the hallway, from the BEKI office, and at www.mercazusa.org.

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!

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 east of the building.

Daily Services

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

Food Certificates Fundraiser

With the Sukkot Holy Days upon us, you will probably be doing a large amount of food shopping. Your food purchases can produce significant income for BEKI if you use food

certificates that are available for Stop & Shop, Shop-Rite, and Westville Kosher Meat Market. Certificates can be ordered from Gloria Cohen, at 203-389-2070 morris.cohen@yale.edu or purchased at the synagogue office. It does not add anything to your food bills, but it can help BEKI pay *its* bills. GC

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 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 2005 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 2005. (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 2004, on the KOACH website, www.koach.org. For questions and more information, check the KOACH website or contact Becky Adelberg at adelberg@uscj.org or 847-714-9130.

"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."

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 *Yontif*.

If you would like such a letter for Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur or Sukkot, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Standard Time Resumes

Clocks are "turned back" one hour on Sunday morning 30 October 2005. Please note that the convention for changing from Standard to Daylight Saving Time may be altered next year.

Welcome to New Members & Their Families

- Oren Sauberman & Marcia Landesman and Benjamin and Abigail
- Paul Duhl and Eric
- Robert Schonberger & Amy Marx and Sophie
- Moshe Meiri



Bat Mitzva in October

Ariel Weiser, daughter of John Weiser & Shoshana Zax, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat 28-29 October, *parashat Bereishit*. Ariel is a graduate of BRS and of the Benei Mitzva Program.

HaNoladim BeMazal Tov

Mazal tov to Sarah Berry & Roger Colten on the birth of their children Marcia Yaarit Colten and Reuben David Colten on 2 August 2005; and to Talia on the birth of her siblings. Reuben David underwent *brit mila* (rite of circumcision) and Marcia Yaarit was welcomed at a *simhat bat* (naming celebration) at BEKI.

Mazal tov to Alan & Joan Gelbert on the birth of their grandchildren Daniel Aaron Gelbert and Sarah Malka Gelbert, born to Andy & Emily Gelbert on Thursday 11 August 2005. Daniel A. underwent *brit mila* (rite of circumcision) and Sarah Malka was welcomed at a *simhat bat* (naming celebration) in Brookline, MA.

Mazal tov to

- Journalist Paul Bass on launching New Haven Independent (www.newhavenindependent.org), an on-line daily newspaper
- John Weiser on completing the gerut (conversion) process under the auspices of the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly
- Morris Bell on being recognized by



the Veterans Administration Hospital for thirty years of service (so far)

With sorrow we note the passing of

Marvin Goldberg, father of Etta Goldberg

Rose Dworski, sister of Tillie Horwitz

Louis Rosenkrantz, husband of Mary Rosenkrantz

Sidney Gordon, brother-in-law of Rita (& Ivan) Sachs; uncle of Mark (& Ilene)

Sachs; uncle of Linda (& Kenneth) Buckman

May the Almighty Comfort Those Who Mourn



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Rabbi Murray Levine

Shabbatot **Darshanim in October**

- Rabbi Moshe “Murray” Levine will serve as darshan (Torah commentator) on Shabbat Nitzavim, 1 October.



Stephen Wizner

- Stephen Wizner will serve as darshan on Shabbat Shuva, parashat VaYelekh, 8 October.

Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan

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

Sundays

New: MAKOM Talmud for Youth with Moshe Meiri

Serious youth are invited to dive into the “sea of Talmud” on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The course will cover the first mishna of Tractate Berakhot with its Gemara. Students are expected to have studied some Mishna and be able to read Hebrew. An acquaintance with Rashi’s commentaries is helpful. The text, the *El-Am* edition of Tractate Berakhot, will be supplied. This text is vocalized for easy reading and is accompanied by an English commentary and translation. The

class meets Sunday mornings from 10:00a to noon at BEKI. Students wishing to enroll should speak with Arnold Carmel at MAKOM. This is an AP class and will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Moshe may be reached at moshe@snet.net.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. The Rashi Study Group has met weekly since 1994 and is currently reading the book of Numbers. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The “Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group,” hosted by Isaiah Cooper, meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) with Rabbi Tilsen at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on

the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Writing Group

The Writing Group meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Interested writers gather to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage writing, critiques of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the participants bring a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. This community aims to generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org.

AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets 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 contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or sokolow@snet.net.



Rev. Louis Friedman

Every Day

New: Liturgical Audio Recordings

Recordings, for educational purposes, of liturgical selections are available for sound-enabled computers or downloading to audio players at www.beki.org/audio.html. Selections include the blessings for Torah aliya and haftara, for candle lighting and qiddush. Recently added: Vintage recordings of Rev. Louis Friedman, with thanks to the Al Barnett family for sharing the recording made for David Barnett.



Andy Weinstein

40 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
203-933-AUTO (2886)

New: Divrei Torah

Divrei Torah (commentaries) by BEKI members are published on the web at www.beki.org/hungry.html. Recent additions include Gila Reinstein's acceptance speech as the Sisterhood Woman of Valor awardee.

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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 (Warner Street), and at 11:00a at the West Haven Cemetery (Farwell Street) on Sunday 2 October 2005. 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.

In addition, a representative of the Cemetery Association will be present to answer questions and concerns of those owning or considering the purchase of plots at the BEKI cemeteries.

Directions to the cemeteries can be found at www.beki.org/findbeki.html. For information on cemetery purchases or upkeep, please call the BEKI Cemetery Association at 389-2108 x57 or email cemetery@beki.org.

Rosh HaShana & Yom Kippur

Rabbi Alan H. Lovins will serve as our Hazzan Rishon (lead cantor) for the High Holy Days. In addition to Rabbi Lovins, the services will again be led by BEKI members serving as volunteer *hazzanim*. For the thirteenth consecutive year, Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services.



Rabbi Alan H. Lovins

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.

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. For safety and planning reasons, children must

be pre-registered to participate in these services. For registration information, call 389-2108 x14.

Babysitting is available by *prior arrangement* for infants during most of the Holy Day services, and for older children during hours when the Children's Programs are not meeting. Walk-in service is *not* available. To reserve babysitting service, please call 389-2108 x14.

Rosh HaShana services begin Monday 3 October 2005 6:15p with the Mincha service, followed by Maariv at 6:30p. Candle Lighting is at 6:13p. The service concludes by 7:00p. Morning services begin at 8:30a on Tuesday 4 October and on Wednesday 5 October. Youth services are held each morning.

Tashlikh ("casting") services will be held on the first day of Rosh HaShana, Tuesday 4 October, at 4:15p, at the Edgewood Bridge, Beaver Pond Park, and Whitney Museum Covered Bridge. The *Tashlikh* service is a popular outdoor event for people of all ages, and includes a brief prayer, poetry and singing. It is held beside a body of natural water. The Mincha afternoon service is from 6:15p to 6:30p, followed by the Maariv evening service, which concludes by 6:50p. Candle lighting time for Wednesday evening is *after* 7:10p.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Mincha service will be from 5:45p to 6:00p.

In preparation for the full-day fast of Yom Kippur, it is suggested that caffeine users reduce their intake to avoid withdrawal symptoms on the Holy

Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe

Day. Some people avoid wearing leather shoes on Yom Kippur, so do not be surprised to see canvas sneakers or other non-leather shoes in use. Some also follow the custom of wearing a *kittel* (white robe) or other white garments on Yom Kippur.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Wednesday 12 October 2005, the Mincha afternoon service begins at 5:45p. Candle Lighting is 5:58p (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:00p and end by 8:15p. Shaharit Morning services begin at 9:00a; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11:00a. The Mincha Afternoon services begin at 4:30p. The service ends with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 6:59p.

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.



George G. and Leah Posener

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 established 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.

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 are also available in the lobby literature rack 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 or office@beki.org.

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Habitat for Humanity Update

Well, finally we are seeing a real house take shape. After a couple of delays, the Amity Cares Build is well on its way. You can watch the progress online at www.amitycares.org, or drive by the build site at 526 Winchester (at the corner of Thompson St.). The crews have been hard at work. Construction is being done every Saturday by the church and civic groups and on the last Sunday of each month by the three participating synagogues (BEKI, Temple Emanuel and B'nai Jacob). BEKI has had a really admirable showing each of the three Sundays for which we have been scheduled so far, not to mention the fantastic expert help that members Hugh Fryer (carpenter) and Coby Ben-Chitrit (general contractor) have added to the project. Thanks so much to all the wonderful volunteers. Hope you'll consider joining us for the next build date on Sunday 30 October. The following people worked on the build during the July and August build dates. Carole Bass; Marsha Beller; Jonathan Beller; Roz Ben-Chitrit; Coby Ben-Chitrit; Ariella Cheskis-Gold; Miriam Feinstein; Hugh Fryer; Marty Gold; Nathan Jannette; Aliza Kuperstock; Darryl Kuperstock; David Kuperstock; Eva Landau; Rabbi Moshe Murray Levine; Goldie Taub; Lynn Miller; Melissa Perkal; Dan Prober; Helen Rosenberg; Rita Sela; Shai Sokolow Silverman; Rabbi Peter Stein

To volunteer for future build dates, or for more information about BEKI's role in the Amity Cares Habitat for Humanity project please contact Darryl Kuperstock 387-0304 or kuperst@aol.com.

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— Service Times —

Mondays:
7a Shahrith
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Tuesdays:
7a Shahrith
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Wednesdays:
7a Shahrith
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Thursdays:
8:15a Shahrith
5:45p Minha-Maariv

Fridays:
7a Shahrith
6p Minha-Maariv

Saturdays:
9:15a Shahrith
5:45p Minha

Sundays:
9a Shahrith
5:45p Minha-Maariv

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October 2005

27 Elul 5765 - 28 Tishrei 5766

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1 Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Mary Doyle Fritz
						27 Elul
2 9:00am Religious School 12:00pm Religious School Faculty Meeting	3 Erev Rosh Hashana 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:13pm Candle Lighting	4 Rosh Hashana I Office Closed Please see the High Holy Days Articles for service times. Candle lighting after 7:10pm	5 Rosh Hashana II Office Closed No Religious School Please see the High Holy Days Articles for service times.	6 Fast of Gedaliah 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	7 6:07pm Candle Lighting	8 Founders' Shabbat Darshan: Stephen Wizner 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: In Honor of BEKI's Founders & Dimensteins
28 Elul	29 Elul	1 Tishrei	2 Tishrei	3 Tishrei	4 Tishrei	5 Tishrei
9 9:00am Religious School	10 Office Closed/Columbus Day 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	11	12 Erev Yom Kippur 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School 5:58pm Candle Lighting	13 Yom Kippur (Yizkor) Office Closed Please see the High Holy Days Articles for service times.	14 5:56pm Candle Lighting	15 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: John Weiser
6 Tishrei	7 Tishrei	8 Tishrei	9 Tishrei	10 Tishrei	11 Tishrei	12 Tishrei
16 9:00am Religious School (Sukkot Workshop) 9:30am Sukka Set-Up 12:00pm Dedication of the Ivan & Rita Sahcs East Entrance	17 Erev Sukkot 7:45am Rashi Study Group 5:51pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Festival Maariv	18 Sukkot I Office Closed 9:15am Festival Shaharit 5:00pm Kulanu, Saul's Circle & Shalom Group in Sukka 5:45pm Festival Minha 6:00pm Festival Maariv Candle Lighting after 6:48pm	19 Sukkot II Office Closed No Religious School 9:15am Festival Shaharit 5:45pm Festival Minha	20 Hol Hamoed Sukkot I 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	21 Hol Hamoed Sukkot II 5:45pm Candle Lighting 6:30pm Starlit Shabbat Dinner in Sukka	22 Hol Hamoed Sukkot III 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Kuperstocks
13 Tishrei	14 Tishrei	15 Tishrei	16 Tishrei	17 Tishrei	18 Tishrei	19 Tishrei
23 Hol Hamoed Sukkot IV 9:00am Religious School	24 Hoshanah Rabbah 9:15am Shaharit No Rashi Study Group 5:40pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Festival Maariv 7:30pm General Board Meeting	25 Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor) Office Closed 9:15am Festival Shaharit 10:30am Yizkor Memorial Service 5:45pm Festival Minha 6:30pm Simhat Torah Candle Lighting after 6:36pm	26 Simhat Torah Office Closed 9:15 Festival Shaharit 10:00am Haqafot No Religious School	27 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A.	28 5:35pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Ariel Weiser Bat Mitzva	29 Ariel Weiser Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Lreaner's Minyan Qiddush: Zax-Weisers
20 Tishrei	21 Tishrei	22 Tishrei	23 Tishrei	24 Tishrei	25 Tishrei	26 Tishrei
30 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Sukka Take Down	31 7:45am Rashi Study Group					
27 Tishrei	28 Tishrei					

A complete schedule of services is available in table format at www.beki.org/schedule.html.

Sukkot is Coming

Lulav & Etrog

If you feel a sense of loss at the end of the High Holy Days, do not despair: it is time for Sukkot, called *the* Festival by our ancestors. Lulav & Etrog sets may be ordered from the BEKI Religious School at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org. Sets are \$36 each. They are used each day of Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabba.

Sukka Setup

The **Moishe Schnitman Sukka**, our congregational Sukka, will be put up (rain or shine) in the synagogue's front courtyard on the morning of Sunday 16 October. We will start our efforts immediately after morning services at around 9:30a. We have had a wonderful crew in recent years, and have been able to complete this task in about

2 hours. With an adequate corps of volunteers, we should be able to repeat that outstanding performance! Bring drills or electric screwdrivers if you have them, and extra ladders are appreciated. In addition, in order to add a personal touch, please feel free to bring a bit of *sekhakh* such as pine and juniper branches which generally stay green and fragrant through the holiday, but your favorite branch will do. After the setup, participants are invited (work clothes are fine) to the new entry dedication, mezuzah placement, and refreshments at noon honoring Ivan & Rita Sachs.

What goes up must come down

Help also is needed to take down the Sukka and pack it away. This will occur on Sunday 30 October, once again right after morning services. Again, drills, electric screwdrivers and ladders will be needed.

Please contact David Kuperstock (h) 387-0304 or (w) 925-3820 or Saul Bell 389-1647 if you have questions. Thanks so much. DK



Sukkot Festival Days

Sukkot begins Monday night 17 October 2005. The Mincha Afternoon service is at 5:45p. The Festival service begins at 6:00 and concludes by 6:30p. Candle lighting is 5:51p.

Festival morning services begin at 9:15a on Tuesday and Wednesday. *Lulav* and *etrog* are used on the first day and second day, and each day of the Festival, except Shabbat, up to and including Hoshana Rabba. Mincha & Maariv services on Tuesday afternoon begin at 5:45p, and candle lighting is after 6:48p.

The *sheheheyanu* blessing is recited by each person 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.

Family Sukka Hop – Tuesday 18 October

A Family Sukka Hop departs from the BEKI Sukka at 12:45p on Tuesday 18 October.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; please make reservations with Miriam at 389-6137 by Tuesday 11 October so hosts can plan.

Schedule: First Stop: Benson-Tilsen Sukka, 281 West Elm St., 1:15p-1:40p; depart at 1:40p for Second Stop: Frankel-Kaufman Sukka, 9 Richmond

Avenue, 2:00p-2:25p; depart at 2:25p for Third Stop: Grazier-Zerbarini Sukka, 122 West Rock Ave., 2:45p-3:10p; depart at 3:10p for Fourth Stop: Bass Sukka, 493 Central Ave., 3:30p-3:55p; depart at 3:55p for Fifth Stop: Cohen-Fraade Sukka, 40 Burton St., 4:15p-4:40p; depart at 4:40p for Sixth Stop: Lovett-Graff Sukka, 352 West Rock Ave; 5:00p-5:25p; depart at 5:25p for BEKI; Pickup at BEKI at 5:45p; and stay for Minha, 5:45 PM in the BEKI Sukka.

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 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.

Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Shabbat Hol HaMoed Sukkot is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”) during the 9:15a service on Shabbat 22 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.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Monday 24 October 2005 begins at 9:15a and ends by 11:00a. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the *sukka* or *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.”

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. Weather permitting, the Hoshana Rabba service will be in the *sukka*.

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 begins Monday night 24 October 2005.

The Yizkor Memorial Service is 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 Monday night immediately before lighting the Festival candles at 5:40p.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Minha services begin at 5:45p and evening services begin at 6:30p on Tuesday 25 October 2005. Candle lighting on Tuesday night is *after* 6:36p.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15a on Wednesday 26 October. Goodie Bags will be presented by the Sisterhood to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. Afternoon *minha* services begin at 5:45p.