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# BEKI bulletin

Congregation  
Beth El-Keser Israel

October 2007

Tishrei – Heshvan 5768  
Vol. 13 Issue 10

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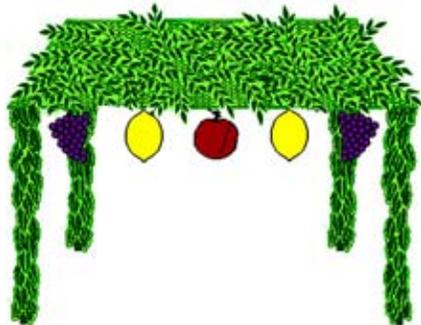
USY Pie Time

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## Sukkot is Here

### Hol HaMoed Sukkot

“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* (palm branches)



and *etrog* (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to eat is to live) 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 9:15 a.m. service on Oct. 6. 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 Wednesday, Oct. 3, begins at 9:15 and ends by 11 a.m. 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 permit-

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

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108 or
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or
- Email: [jttilsen@beki.org](mailto:jttilsen@beki.org) or
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office.

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

Annual subscription is \$36

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
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<b>Editor</b>	<i>Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen</i>
<b>Associate Editor</b>	<i>Donna Levine</i>
<b>Associate Editor</b>	<i>Donna Kemper</i>
<b>Associate Editor</b>	<i>Herbert Winer</i>
<b>Circulation Manager</b>	<i>Saul Bell</i>
<b>Advertisement Editor</b>	<i>Sheila Gardiner</i>
<b>Photographer</b>	<i>Charles Ludwig</i>

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# Sukkot is Here

*Continued from cover*

ting, the Hoshana Rabba service will be in the sukka.

## Shemini Atseret and 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 Wednesday night, Oct. 3. It is appropriate to prepare an eruv tavshlin and light a memorial candle on Wednesday night immediately before lighting the Festival candles.

The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini Atseret liturgy, during the morning service on Thursday, Oct. 4, beginning at 9:15. 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.

## 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 6 p.m. and evening services begin at 6:30 on Thursday night, Oct. 4. Candle lighting on Thursday is after 7:11 p.m.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15 on Fri-



day, Oct. 5. Goodie Bags will be presented by the Sisterhood to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. Afternoon minha services begin at 6 p.m. as usual for Friday.

## Sukka Storage

The deconstruction of the Sukka will take place on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 9:30 a.m., immediately following the morning minyan service (join us at 9 o'clock). Bring your ladders, tools and gloves if you have them; if not, come anyway. Your help is greatly appreciated. For more information about the BEKI Sukka construction, contact David Kuperstock (387-0304, [ndk1024@aol.com](mailto:ndk1024@aol.com)) or Saul Bell (389-1647, [sbell1470@aol.com](mailto:sbell1470@aol.com))

## News

### Need a Letter for Employer or School?

Shul members occasionally need letters to employers or principals explaining 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 Yom Kippur or Sukkot, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).

### Parking and No Parking

Members and visitors to BEKI are advised that parking is prohibited at all times on the east side of Harrison Street as indicated by the “No Parking” signs. It is also prohibited to obstruct the residential driveways on either side. Parking is usually available across Harrison Street, and ample parking is available in the BEKI lot east of the building.

### 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, and at [www.mercazusa.org](http://www.mercazusa.org).

### 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 a.m.), Tuesday evenings (5:45 p.m.), Thursday mornings (8:15 a.m.) and Sunday evenings (5:45 p.m.).

### 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.

## Children Are Seen *and* Heard at Weekly Shabbat Services

Every Saturday morning, while adults pray together in the main sanctuary or at a learning service, the youngest members of BEKI participate in their own weekly ritual. Designed to meet the spiritual and social needs of preschool children, the Children's Havura is a very special tradition at BEKI.

The Children's Havura is a hands-on, volunteer-led Shabbat service specifically aimed at young children. Children and their grown-ups sit in a circle and read from special prayerbooks, or *siddurim*, with covers lovingly decorated by the kids themselves. The service is replete with many ancient and sacred Hebrew prayers, but it also includes some modern English songs that touch on themes important to the youngest children. For example, the verse of one favorite song is "thank You for my friends, thank You for my toys; thank You, God, for taking care of all the girls and boys." Just before settling down for a discussion of the weekly *parasha*, the children sing and march around with room with stuffed toy Torah scrolls. Parents attend the Havura with their children, so there are plenty of adults to help make the service meaningful for the little ones.

Parent volunteers take turns leading services and organize a special activity that relates to the weekly Torah portion. This may include teaching a new song, reading a favorite story, or acting out a Bible story, complete with costumes and props. Parents tend to focus on the most

accessible lessons from the Torah, and recurring themes include being a good friend and a kind and caring person, the value of *tzedaka* (charity) and the importance of *mitzvot* (religious duties). Following the half-hour of songs, stories, prayers and dance, the children have their own *qiddush* refreshments and then enjoy supervised play until they join the adult worship for

Children's Havura with my two children for over two years now, and from the first Shabbat I was blown away by the warm and welcoming atmosphere. That first Saturday, everyone was so friendly and inviting. Though it was clear that everyone else was a 'regular,' my children and I were included and we caught on to the service very quickly. I never thought

I'd be a regular Shabbat attendee, but my kids adore being part of a Havura and BEKI has helped me reclaim the peacefulness of Shabbat by creating a space that is welcoming to and stimulating



the Concluding Service and *qiddush*.

The Havura, which is most appropriate for children under five years, enjoys strong support from parents and the Synagogue. Currently about 60 children and their parents actively participate in the Havura. Visitors have come from across New England to observe this program as a model for their own synagogues. For older children, there are other age-appropriate services that also meet every Shabbat. Children in kindergarten through second grade attend K-2 Kehila; Junior Congregation is for children in grades 3-6; Cosmic Conversations is designed for students in middle or junior high school. It is not necessary to be a member of the synagogue to participate. However, many Children's Havura families have joined BEKI because it is such a welcoming community.

Marcia Landesman of Woodbridge is one of the many parent leaders and regular attendees. "I've been attending the

for children."

Sara Labowe Stoll of Woodbridge explains her commitment to the Children's Havura. "We lead the Children's Havura because it keeps us returning to shul on a regular basis. It keeps us religiously active, socially connected and participating in what we believe is good and important to our lives and the lives of our children." Her four-year-old son, Jaden, says "Mommy, I want to go to shul this *Shabbos* and play in the kiddie room!"

Rob Schonberger of New Haven was attracted to BEKI because it is a family-oriented shul. "The Children's Havura has a down-to-earth lay-led feeling to it, but thanks to the skilled facilitation of Miriam Benson, it also has a robust resource file cabinet and logistical support to make it consistently strong. Beyond that, BEKI welcomes families with small children by offering a child-friendly *qiddush* including high chairs. Our daughter and son look

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# Children Belong at BEKI

Continued from Page 4

forward to shul each week, as do I.”

If you are interested in learning more about the BEKI Children’s Shabbat Havura or any of the other three youth Shabbat programs, come any Shabbat (Saturday) at 10:45 a.m. and see for yourself. Or contact program coordinator, Miriam Benson, at [mirbenson@aol.com](mailto:mirbenson@aol.com).

## Mmmmm, PIE! Triple Mitzva!

Please be sure to check your mail for the flyer and order form for this year’s

annual BEKI/BJ USY Thanksgiving Pumpkin & Apple Pie Sale. As always, in addition to supporting the activities of our youth by ordering delicious ready-to-bake pareve pies for your holiday table and home, plan to order additional pies for donation to the CT Food Bank for distribution over the Thanksgiving holiday to those in need. All proceeds are donated to tzedaka through the USY Social Action - Tikkun Olam Fund. Thanks for your support. More info in next month’s Bulletin.



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Please join us for breakfast at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 28, for our first meeting of the year.

Our guests will be the student recipients of the Marcel Gutman Scholarships who will speak of their varied experiences over the summer, at activities in Israel and here in the U.S.



**Marcel Gutman,  
of blessed memory**

Rabbi Murray Levine will also speak of his volunteer work in Israel last May.

Our [gift shop](#) is brimming with new merchandise and a 10 percent off coupon is being sent to all BEKI members. Use it to purchase wedding, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, and special occasion gifts.

Please send in your dues and ideas for future meetings and activities — we welcome all requests and ideas.

Adele Tyson  
Ruth Greenblatt  
Co-Presidents

## Torah Fund

All donations are always welcome as the Torah Fund Campaign of Women's

League for Conservative Judaism offers the opportunity for you to preserve, promote and perpetuate Conservative Judaism and to support the Jewish Theological Seminary.

This year all benefactors will receive a beautiful pin on the theme: *Kol Ishah, A Woman's Voice*. (Please see the September BEKI Bulletin for more details and pictures of the pin.)

Women's League is a main supporter of the JTS and through its members all over the United States, Canada and Israel is able to ensure the continuation of this wonderful institution. Become a benefactor today (\$180). So far this year we thank the following women for their support:

- Barbara Cushen
- Violet Ludwig
- Caryl Kligfeld
- Mimi Glenn
- Ruthie Greenblatt
- Margot Roten

For cards for all occasions (proceeds from cards go directly to Women's League for Torah Fund) and to save gas and a trip to the store call Barbara Cushen at 407-0314. Your card goes right out and is only \$4 including the stamp. Thanks to all who purchased cards last month.

Barbara Cushen  
Torah Fund Chair

## Cards sent last month

### Get Well to:

- Rick Grossman from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe
- Harold Miller from the Hesed Committee, Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe

### Mazal Tov to:

- Harriet & Noel Barstein on Wendy's marriage from Adele Tyson
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Weichbrodt in their new home from Hyla Greenberg
- Hannah Schwartz in her new home from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Cassidy Brook Siso on her Bat Mitzvah from Lou Petrillo

### Thank You to:

- Kathy Rosenbluh & Michael Stern from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Herb Etkind from Violet & Charlie Ludwig

### Happy New Year to:

- Mr. & Mrs. Alan Weichbrodt from Hyla Greenberg
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael Weichbrodt from Hyla Greenberg
- Mrs. Sally Weichbrodt from Hyla Greenberg
- Mrs. Esther Rose from Hyla Greenberg

### In memory of:

- Dorothy Mattler to Shirley Mattler from Adele Tyson
- Sidney Joseph to Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Kabakoff from Claire & Bud Volain
- Sheila Greenstein's mother from Arthur Nepiasky
- Lorraine Cohen to Reeva Lynes from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe



*David B. Margolis, CIC*

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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.

## Sunday Brunch with Political Science Professor Donald Green

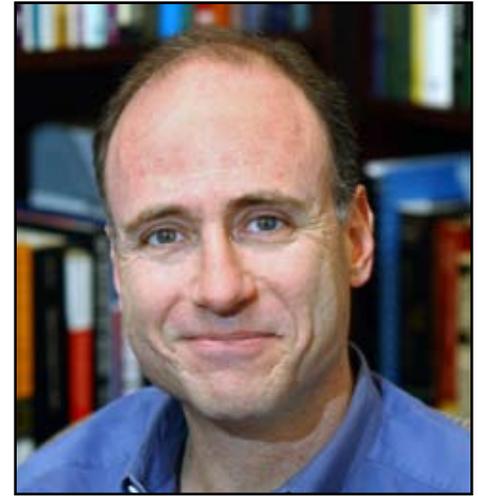
Please join us Oct. 21, at 9:45 a.m., for an eye-opening talk — “How Do Political Campaigns Turn Dollars Into Votes?” — and a delicious brunch.

After earning his BA summa cum laude from UCLA, Donald Green completed his MA and PhD at UC Berkeley in 1988. The following year, he joined the Yale faculty, where he is currently the A. Whitney Griswold Professor of Political Science and Director of the Institution for Social and Policy Studies.

A long-time BEKI member, Don is married to Ann Green. They have two

children, Aaron and Rachel.

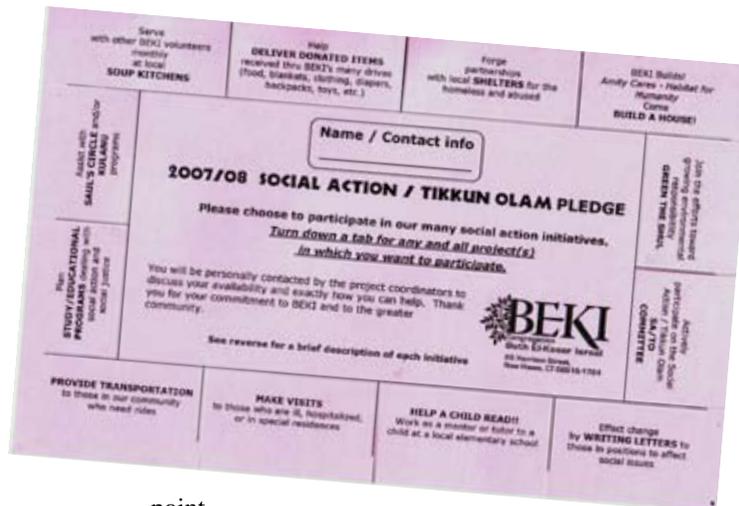
With his colleague and fellow-BEKI member Alan S. Gerber, Don wrote *Get Out The Vote! How to Increase Voter Turnout*. (Brookings Institution Press, 2004), and with Bradley Palmquist and Eric Schickler, *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters* (Yale University Press, 2002). Don’s areas of expertise include voter turnout, party identification, campaign finance, polling, and hate crimes. He is a member of the Board of Overseers for the American National Election Study.



Donald Green

# A Different Kind of Pledge

Many synagogues give out pledge cards during the High Holidays as part of their annual fundraising. This year, BEKI added an innovative twist to that time-honored tradition: a pledge card with fold-over tabs that indicated — not amounts of money to be donated — but commitments to specific volunteer activities in the community. The cards, available beginning at Rosh Ha-Shana, identified a range of projects that included, among other choices, volunteering at a local soup kitchen, participating in the Amity Cares Habitat for Humanity project, volunteering weekly with a public school literacy project, and driving BEKI members lacking transportation to doctors’ appointments and synagogue activities. In addition to hands-on volunteering, people could promise to write to elected and ap-



pointed officials to advocate for social justice. Another choice was to help organize educational programs for BEKI and the larger community.

Some of the programs are based at BEKI or organized through our Social Action-Tikun Olam (SATO) Committee. Others are run by community organizations in which BEKI is a partner.

The goal is to get more BEKI members

involved in making the world a better place. The impetus for this effort came from a group that prepared an application to the Women of Vision Society of the Jewish Foundation. This group included the enthusiastic leaders of SATO, Jennifer Botwick Joanne Goldblum, and Darryl Kuperstock, along with Paula Hyman, Rabbi Lina Zerbarini and Rhoda Zahler.

If you were not with us on Rosh Hashana, or were not able to get a Social Action / Tikun Olam Pledge Card, they are available in the office. Take this opportunity to join with others in the BEKI community to repair the world! For more information, contact Social Action Chairs: Jennifer Botwick ([drjbotwicknd@aol.com](mailto:drjbotwicknd@aol.com)) or Joanne Goldblum ([joanne@newhavendiaepaperbank.org](mailto:joanne@newhavendiaepaperbank.org)).

# Role Models for Justice



**Abzug**

**Goldman**

**Schneiderman**

**Solomon**

**Szold**

**Weil**

**Polier**

With support from the Women of Vision Society of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, BEKI is hosting a series of programs this year that will highlight American Jewish women who have made a difference in the world.

These women took leadership roles to speak out and work for social justice, care for the less fortunate, and advocate for equality for all. The series will culminate in a special Shabbaton celebration Jan. 4-5, in preparation for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

“The issues we face in America today are not identical to those of the 1960s, but the need to achieve a just society continues,” notes Paula Hyman, who is one of the foremost scholars in the field. “We want to learn as a community about what has been done by Jewish women in the past, and stimulate community dialogue about what needs to be done today to continue this journey toward a just society.” Hyman, the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Modern Jewish History at Yale, is co-editor of *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia* (with Dalia Ofer); *The Jewish Woman In America: Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History* and many other publications.

During the High Holidays, the lobby was decorated with posters featuring seven important women: Bella Abzug, Emma Goldman, Rose Schneiderman, Hannah

Solomon, Henrietta Szold, Gertrude Weil and Justine Wise Polier. These women pioneered social activism, health care in Israel, labor rights, philanthropy, juvenile justice, civil rights, and feminism. These and other women, and the men with whom they worked, are intended to be role models, encouraging the congregation to continue the long tradition of social action rooted in the values of Judaism and in Jewish historical experience.

“Most of us have seen pictures of Abraham Joshua Heschel marching with Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, but we may not know about the women like Rita Schwerner, who went to Mississippi to organize black voters, and Florence Howe, who coordinated the Blair Street Freedom School in Jackson, Mississippi, and even Jacqueline Levine, who became President of the Women’s Division of the American Jewish Congress and a vice-president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds,” Hyman notes. “A few of these women came from traditional Jewish families, most from immigrant families that were energized by the leftist movements of the immigrant Jewish world. But all were part of the disproportionate representation of Jews in American social activist movements.”

During the High Holidays, children’s programs featured activities that focused on Jewish women who worked for social

justice. Study sessions during the afternoon of Yom Kippur explored this issue. At the congregational Sukkot dinner, held the first night of the holiday, local women who are community leaders in New Haven were invited as special Ushpizin — honored guests. During Hanuka, the BEKI Religious School will study “women warriors for social justice” in Jewish history.

The entire series will culminate in an intense and inspiring Shabbaton at BEKI, Jan. 4-5. The weekend will include guest speakers, study sessions, and opportunities to get involved in issues of social justice that face our community, such as defending the rights of immigrants and refugees, fighting racial discrimination, providing the basics — food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education — to those in need. The Shabbaton will prepare BEKI members to participate in Martin Luther King Jr. Day community programs.

Members of the committee that applied for the Federation grant and organized these events include Rhoda Zahler, Carole Bass, Marsha Beller, Linden Grazier, Joanne Goldblum, Darryl Kuperstock, Gila Reinstein and Paula Hyman.

All activities involved in this program will be open to the larger community. For additional information and to join the committee and help plan this exciting program, contact the office.

## ***New Law Makes it Easier to Create a Jewish Legacy for BEKI and Save***

The new *Pension Protection Act of 2006* presents a unique chance for you to create a Jewish Legacy for BEKI from your IRA with no adverse tax consequences.

This charitable IRA rollover is available for those 70½ and older and is only available for gifts made in 2006 and 2007.

To qualify, the charitable IRA rollover must be a direct distribution of up to \$100,000 to charity. This direct distribution counts toward your annual IRA distribution requirement and **it is tax neutral for federal and state tax purposes.**

We encourage you to use this charitable IRA rollover to Create a Jewish Legacy by establishing an endowment for the benefit of Congregation BEKI or making an outright gift to BEKI. Your endowment or gift can be for the benefit of the capital campaign, education programs, youth programs, scholarships, social action, or

any of the many other vital programs and projects at BEKI.

**Details:** Unlike a cash withdrawal from your IRA, your direct contribution will be excluded from income for federal purposes and not taxed. It will not be eligible for a charitable tax deduction, but it will not count toward the percentage limitations on your other deductible gifts.

For example: Mr. Cohn distributes \$18,000 from his IRA to Congregation BEKI to establish a permanent endowment to provide annual funding for children's music programs. Mr. Cohn names the fund after his grandchildren. Although there is no charitable income tax deduction for this gift, for federal and state tax purposes the \$18,000 is not taxable income (even if it is being used toward his minimum distribution) — it is tax neutral. Mr. Cohn has created a wonderful Jewish legacy for his family and community and reduced his taxable estate!

Your IRA charitable rollover cannot be made to a donor-advised fund, supporting organization, charitable trust or in exchange for gift annuities.

*What is the advantage?* If you already

have substantial income and your IRA minimum distribution requirement only increases your tax liability, this allows you to donate your distribution directly to charity without realizing income tax liability on the charitable rollover. In addition, if you have a taxable estate, your IRA will be subject to income *and* estate taxes (once both spouses are deceased and the IRA is left to your children, grandchildren or other individuals). In fact, in a taxable estate, your non-spouse family members could end up with 25 cents on the dollar for your IRA assets! This charitable IRA rollover allows you to remove some of those tax-plagued assets from your estate while making a significant charitable gift.

Of course, we encourage you to seek the advice of your professional advisor before you make a charitable IRA rollover gift. For more information please contact Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen or BEKI member, Lisa A. Stanger, Esq. Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, [lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org), 387-2424x382 or BEKI Treasurer Donna Levine, Esq., 985-9033 sdsij@aol.com.



**Jay Sokolow**

## **Linda Eder to Star at the Fifth Annual Community One Fundraiser Oct. 24 at the Shubert Theater**

### **What is Community One and Whom does it Benefit?**

Everyone in New Haven is a potential beneficiary! The services include adult and child day care, a food pantry, Jewish camps and day schools, recreational and educational services for youth, affordable housing, assisted living services and skilled nursing services for the frail and elderly.

*Community One's agencies include Camp Laurelwood, Ezra Academy, Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Home for the Aged, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, and Tower One/Tower East and together these 7 agencies serve thousands of individuals from all backgrounds in the Greater New Haven area. Advance tickets are available only through the 7 Community One agencies.*

### **Linda Eder**

This year Community One is thrilled to welcome Linda Eder. A renowned Broadway singer and recording artist, she has recorded several albums, each a blend of standards, pop hits and original songs and each showcasing her extravagant vocal gifts. Her starring role in Broadway's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* received rave reviews comparing her to Judy Garland and Barbara Streisand.



For tickets, ads and sponsorship opportunities (includes VIP receptions and premium tickets) please contact one of the Community One agencies or the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, 387-2424 x303.

## Upcoming Benei Mitzva Observances

Sasha Weitzman, daughter of Marc & Carol Cohen Weitzman, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat Oct. 19-20, *parashat Lekh-lekha*. Sasha is a student at Ezra Academy and attends Camp Ramah.



**Sasha Weitzman**

Mila Rostain, daughter of Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat Oct. 26-27, *parashat VaYera*. Mila is a graduate of BEKI's Benei Mitzva Program.



**Mila Rostain**

- Steven S & Rachel A and Leo
- Daniel & Stephanie Jacoby and Benjamin
- Alison Suarato

*With sorrow we note the passing of*

**J. Paul Levine, father of Roger Levine & Susan Stone, brother of Richard Levine**

**Sylvia Sachs, mother of Rhoda Zahler**

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

## Welcome to New Members and Their Families

- Harold & Stephanie Birn and Benjamin

## Kulanu and Saul's Circle

Kulanu and Saul's Circle had a busy fall season at BEKI. The season began with a High Holiday workshop at Jewish Family Services for Kulanu, Saul's Circle, and the Shalom group at Jewish Family Services. Dr. Lauren Kempton, BEKI Coordinator for both groups, and Jennifer Cohen from the Shalom group at Jewish Family Services led an interactive session. Members reviewed the themes of Rosh Hashana: repentance, reflection and renewal. Afterwards they crafted hand-made Rosh Hashana cards for family and friends. The evening concluded with apples and halla dipped in honey for a sweet new year.

### Saul's Circle

The next event was a High Holiday program at Fellowship Place, hosted by Sara Mag. The community members were led by Dr. Lauren Kempton, Coordinator for Kulanu and Saul's Circle. Together they reviewed some of the beloved customs and prayers of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur: serving two round sweet halot symbolizing the roundness and fullness of life, wearing new clothes, the wearing of white to symbolize purity, lighting yahrzeit candles and the blowing of the shofar.

The Fellowship members reviewed the liturgy of Avinu Malkeinu and the Kol Nidre prayers. The program ended with apples, halla and the poem "On the Day of Atonement" by Yehuda Amichai.

### Kulanu

The members of the Community Life group at Chapel Haven have a weekly, on-going project at the New Haven Holocaust Memorial on Whalley Avenue. They were connected to the project by Dr. Lauren

Kempton, Coordinator of the Holocaust Education and Prejudice Reduction Program (HEPRP) at the Jewish Federation, and Doris Zelinsky, HEPRP Board member and leader of the renewal project at the New Haven Holocaust Memorial. They also met with Marvin Cohen, overseer of the site and member of Greater New Haven Memory Inc., for tips on the upkeep of the plants and trees enhancing the memorial.

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Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel • 85 Harrison St., New Haven  
Lana Gad-Director 203.389.7445

*Shabbatot*

## Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

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

Sundays

## Talmud with Moshe Meiri

Serious high school students are invited to dive into the "sea of Talmud" on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri beginning Oct. 7. Students are expected to have studied some Mishna and be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet. An acquaintance with Rashi's commentaries is helpful. The text, the *El-Am* edition, will be supplied. This text is vocalized for easy reading and is accompanied by an English commentary and translation



**Moshe Meiri**

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

Mondays

## Rashi Study Group

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

Thursdays

## Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group begins New Term

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group," meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.) with Rabbi Tilsen at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study and is hosted by Isaiah Cooper. 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. Following a festival hiatus, the group will resume on Thursday, Oct. 11. **Now is a good time to join; everyone is welcome.** For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or [icooper@cooperlaw.net](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net).

## AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* group of AA meets at BEKI every Thursday night at 8 p.m. 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 387-6019 or [sokolow@snet.net](mailto:sokolow@snet.net).

Every Day

## Divrei Torah

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

## 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](mailto: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.