SUHKKOT IS HERE

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 and Etrog are used each day of Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabba. Information on the festival observances and schedules are published at www.beki.org/sukkot.html.

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Add a personal touch by bringing some of your own sekhakh (evergreen branches are preferred) for the roof to enhance the beauty and aroma of our congregational sukka. Breakdown and storage are planned for Sunday, Oct. 18, following Shaharit. Additional power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information, contact Saul Bell (203) 389-1647 or David Kuperstock (203) 387-0304.

Lulav and Etrog Orders

BEKI Religious School will offer lulav and etrog sets for Sukkot. To order, please leave a note for Peggy or Ina with your name, address and check for $42 per set in the BEKI office, or mail to BEKI, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515. For more info contact principal@beke.org (203) 389.2108 x13.

Shabbat Sukkot

Sukkot begins on Shabbat evening, Oct. 2. Candle lighting on Friday night is at 6:15. For reservations for a Shabbat Sukkot dinner, contact the office at office@beke.org (203) 389-2108 x14. Services begin at 6 o’clock on Friday night, and at 9:15 on Shabbat morning. We do not use Lulav and Etrog on Shabbat. The morning service includes the recitation of Hallel and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Shabbat afternoon service begins at 5:45 and ends about 6:20. Candle lighting for the second day is after 7:15 p.m.

Sunday Sukkot

The Sunday Sukkot festival service begins at 9:15 a.m., and includes the recitation of Hallel, the use of Lulav and Etrog,
BEKI Bulletin

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:
• Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
• Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
• Email: jitlsen@beki.org
• Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

WE’VE DEDICATED OURSELVES TO THIS DREAM
NOW WE URGENT YOU TO DEDICATE YOURSELF

SUPPORT THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER YOUR HOME WITHIN THE HOMELAND

The Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is a home within the homeland for Conservative Jews from North America.

It’s your center of Conservative life and learning, prayer and play, culture and creativity in the heart of Jerusalem.

At the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, you can enjoy concerts in our auditorium, feast in our elegant dining rooms, attend discussions in lecture halls, pray in our synagogue, study in the Conservative Yeshiva, and there is so much more.

Now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is embarking on a major campaign to support this bastion of Conservative life. We urgently need your participation to help us complete this dream.

Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue’s Connecticut Valley Region at (860) 563-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org
Sukkot
Continued from Page 1

and a Hoshana accompanied by a haqafa (circumambulation). The afternoon service begins at 5:45.

Sukka Hop
Reservations Required
Join the annual BEKI Family Sukka Hop, Shabbat, Oct. 3, departing at 12:45 p.m. from BEKI’s Moishe Schnitman Sukka.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; RSVP to Miriam, (203) 389-6137, by Sept. 27 so hosts can plan. Wear good walking shoes for the trek “up the hill.” Bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks, and running strollers for your little ones.

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 (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.

Hosanna! Hosanna!
The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Friday, Oct. 9, 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 permitting, the Hoshana Rabba service will be in the sukka.

Shabbat 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”). The festival begins Friday night, Oct. 9. It is appropriate to light a memorial candle on Monday night immediately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 6:04 p.m. (or earlier).

During the morning service, which begins at 9:15, Hallel is chanted. While the dominant musical motif is the Shabbat mode, specific passages are recited to the unique festival nusah.

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.

Shabbat Shemini Atseret is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”) during the 9:15 a.m. service on Oct. 10. 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” and “There is nothing new under the sun,” it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody.

Continued on Page 4
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 7 o’clock on Saturday, Oct. 10. Candle lighting on Saturday night is after 7:04. Evening services include seven haqafot (circumambulatory dances) with Torah scrolls and a brief Torah reading, the only time that we read Torah in public at night.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15 on Sunday, Oct. 11. Three Torah scrolls are removed from the ark (around 10 a.m.) and seven haqafot are conducted. The final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, parashat Ve-Zot Ha-Berka, are read, followed by the opening passages of the Book of Genesis, part of parasha Bereishit. This concludes the annual Torah reading cycle, and begins the new cycle.

This is particularly joyful at BEKI because so many members are involved in Torah reading throughout the year, and these readers dedicate considerable effort in preparing accurate and melodious chantings. A maftir portion is read from Numbers, which describes the observance of Shemini Atseret in the ancient Temple. The haftara is recited from the opening passages of Joshua, which is the sequel to Deuteronomy, sometimes called the “sixth book” of the Five Books of Moses.

Goodie Bags will be presented by the Sisterhood to all the children at services evening and morning. Afternoon minha services begin at 5:45 as is usual for weekdays.

Sukkah Storage

The deconstruction of the Sukkah will take place on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 9:30 a.m., immediately following the minyan service (join us at 9 a.m.). 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 Sukkah construction, contact David Kuperstock (203) 387-0304, ndk1024@aol.com or Saul Bell (203) 389-1647, sbell1470@aol.com

Benot Mitzva Families Establish Endowments for BEKI

An endowment for the benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel has been established by Sara Labowe-Stoll & Steven Stoll marking the bat mitzva celebration of their daughter Batsheva.

Sara and Steven explained:
To mark the beginning of Batsheva’s acceptance of adult responsibilities toward God and Humanity, we have endowed the “Batsheva Labowe-Stoll Fund for the Support of Jewish Life at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel” to be managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Proceeds from this fund will help sustain our congregation in perpetuity.

This is one way we wish to express our appreciation to our community, and to God, for the blessings of love, joy and Torah that we experience through Batsheva.

We are very glad for any way that you can share in our celebration, whether through your presence at a service that Batsheva will lead, or your cards, contributions and kind words.

If you would like to contribute to this fund in Batsheva’s honor, checks may be made to “Cong. Beth El-Keser Israel” (memo: Batsheva) and sent to “BEKI, 85 Harrison St., New Haven CT 06515.” Contributions are tax-deductible.

Batsheva Labowe-Stoll will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat, Oct. 23-24, parashat Noah.

Tova Benson-Tilsen, daughter of Miriam Benson & Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, has also established an endowment at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, along with her family and friends, to mark her bat mitzva observance, which is scheduled for Shabbat, Oct. 30-31, parashat Lekh-lekha. The Tova Benson-Tilsen Fund for Animal Welfare at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel and in Israel will promote awareness and observance of the mitzva of ts’ar ba’alei hayim (the prohibition against animal cruelty) and related mitzvot, through a qiddush sponsorship or educational programs at the synagogue and through the direct work of rescue, litigation, legislation and education in Israel. If you would like to contribute to this fund, checks may be made to “Cong. Beth El-Keser Israel” (memo: Tova) and sent to “BEKI, 85 Harrison St., New Haven CT 06515.” Contributions are tax-deductible.
Barukh Dayan HaEmet

With sorrow we note the passing of
Anita Deanna Fink Saxe, sister-in-law of Stanley Saxe
Norma Lovins, mother of Daniel Lovins (& Keiko Suzuki) and Rachel Lovins (& Andrew)

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Lifecycle

Sisterhood

The next Sisterhood meeting will be Sunday, Oct. 18 at 10 a.m. Brunch will be served.

Our guest speaker will be Stacey Battat. Her topic will be: “How Our Setbacks and Detours Open New Threads of Connection,” or, “When You’re Hanging by a ‘Thin Thread’ – What’s Next?” This Threads – Real Stories of Life Changing Moments.

Join us to hear Stacey give examples. All members and friends are welcome.

Our gift shop is brimming with many new items, for all occasions – weddings, anniversaries and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs.

Please send in your 2009 dues or attend the Oct. 18 meeting and pay at the door. Join Sisterhood – it’s a great way to support BEKI.

Adele Tyson
Mimi Glenn
Co-Presidents

Torah Fund

The theme for 5770 (2009-10) is Le’avadah ul-shamrah – To Plant and Preserve. In Genesis 2:15 after God completed the Creation and placed humans in the garden, the first command was to “plant and preserve” their bountiful home. This divine directive to protect the environment is as appropriate today as it was at the beginning of recorded time.

By your donations to Torah Fund you support The Jewish Theological Seminary and its affiliated schools. Receive our beautiful pin by becoming a benefactor ($180), or Guardian ($300). This can be paid out during the year. As of September we have three benefactors: Mimi Glenn, Violet Ludwig and Barbara Cushen.

This is also a nice way to honor a loved one on a milestone birthday, birth of a child or a special anniversary.

Another positive way to support Torah Fund and save gas and a trip to the store is through purchase of cards for all occasions. Your card is mailed promptly and your cost is only $4 including postage.

Thanks to all who purchased cards over the summer and wishing everyone a sweet and healthy New Year.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair

Get Well to:

• Tillie Horwitz from the Hesed Committee
• Blanche Sapadin from the Hesed Committee
• Rena Miller from the Hesed Committee

Mazel Tov to:

• Arthur & Betty Levy on the birth of their grandson from the Hesed Committee
• Edward Abramowitz, son of Alan & Sally Abramovitz, on his nisuin (marriage under a huppa) to Michelle Rosen
• Alisa Zlotoff, daughter of Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper, and of the late Beverly Zlotoff, on her nisuin to Aaron Fine

In Memory of:

• Arthur Ratner to Mikki Ratner from the Hesed Committee, Hyla Greenberg, Bea Smirnoff, Shirley Mattler, Estelle Horwitz, Sylvia Zeid
• Arthur Ratner to Betsy Ratner from Cel Lerner & Robin Caron, Estelle Horwitz
• Anita Saxe to Jack Saxe from Estelle Horwitz
• Dr. Alan Cohen to Mrs. Alan Cohen from Stanley Saxe
• William Weiner to Mrs. Lois Weiner & Family from Claire & Bud Volain
• Marian Stein to the Stein Family from Sylvia Zeid

Visit us at www.beki.org

BEKI Bulletin October 2009 5
My Pilgrimage in Israel

This summer, I went on the pilgrimage of a lifetime! Actually, I went on USY’s Israel Pilgrimage: Israel Adventure. The 45 USYers in our group from across U.S. and Canada quickly became friends and then a family as we traveled across Israel. Let me give you a (relatively) quick list of reasons why Israel is better than America: shwarma, the street markets (shuks), kipa vendors, jewelry stores, bargaining for better deals; you can wear Naot anywhere on any occasion; you can say “Shabbat Shalom” to random people walking down the street; the huge number of synagogues within walking distance; the lack of traffic during Shabbat; the number of Kosher restaurants; and the music.

One of my favorite memories was walking down the streets of Jerusalem on Friday afternoons. On our way to Qabbalat Shabbat, we sang different Hebrew songs as loud as we could. Now, we did get some weird glances from people who thought we were silly Americans, but if we had done the same thing in America, people probably would have thought we were crazy!

Israel was crazy amounts of fun, and I miss being there and I miss my group a lot.

BeShalom,
Yedidya Ben-Avie, BEKI-BJ USY Chapter Member, Regional Hanefesh Religious Education VP
P.S.: A big thanks to the BEKI-BJ Youth Commission for helping to fund my trip.

Kadima and USY Encampment

Recently, a few USYers from BEKI went to the Quad-Regional Kadima and USY Encampment, a week-long camp filled with fun, learning and friends for 6th through 12th graders. Here is one representation of that experience:

Mitvah Possible: Mission Accepted
By Yael Grazier-Zerbarini,
BEKI-BJ Co-Social Action VP

There was lots of excitement that day we came, Ice breakers and bunk bonding and lots of other games. Old friends and new come together saying My, how are you, how’s your summer been going? We prayed at least three times a day; Shacharit, mincha and ma’ariv all the way. Although there were classes, they were lots of fun—About mitzvot, body image, and the evil tongue.

Four BEKI-BJ USYers at Quad-Regional Kadima-USY Encampment, with current BEKI-BJ advisor Matt Wiener, left, and previous advisor NoriAnna Cohen, right.

The seniors went bowling and had a bonfire Tzafon, Hanefesh, EPA and Hagesher. Inspector Gadget and James Bond were the teams for color war These two teams compete in sports, races and more. During chuggim it’s time to play sports or do drama, Some kids play music, dance or do yoga. At the teen dance we have fun with our friends Moving, twisting and shouting until the end. Uach, ruach, rah rah rah, Slowach, slowach, sha sha sha. Make some noise or sing slow with pride As you bond with each region inside or outside. Bring money for SATO for people in need, Helping other people is a major good deed. A talent show puts the cherry on top Of this great week of fun, you don’t want it to stop. At the end of the week people cry in their slumber But don’t, be glad because there’s always next summer!

New Kadima Advisor Hired
Please welcome our new Kadima Youth Advisor, Caryn Azoff:
We are pleased to introduce you to Caryn Azoff who will be 2009-10 advisor for Kadima, grades 5 to 8. She can be reached at our joint synagogue youth email, kadima5770@beki.org.

Caryn teaches visual art at Hamden Hall Country
Darshanim in October

David Kuperstock will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning, Oct. 17, parashat Bereshit.

Batsheva Labowe-Stoll, bat mitzva, will serve as darshani on Shabbat morning, Oct. 24, parashat Noah.

Tova Benson-Tilsen, bat mitzva, will serve as darshani on Shabbat morning, Oct. 31, parashat Lekh-lekha.

Shabbatot

Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office, 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

Sunday Talmud with Moshe Meiri

Adults and advanced youth are invited to join in the light of Talmud on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The first chapter of masekhet Berakhot (“Blessings”), from the order of Zera’im (“Seeds”) will serve as the base text. This autumn series will meet on consecutive Sunday mornings from 9:45 (right after morning services) until 11:45, according to the Religious School schedule, beginning Oct. 25. For more information, contact Moshe at moshe@snet.net.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 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. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. shaharit service.

Wednesdays

Word for the Day

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) now includes a 60-second “Hebrew word for the day” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly-structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English.

Continued on Page 8
Day School in Hamden, where she is also the director of the Moira Fitzsimmons Arons Art Gallery. She lives in Westville with her husband, Cory Slifstein. They have four children. Elie, the youngest, is in 6th grade and is an enthusiastic member of Kadima. Caryn looks forward to working with the 5th- to 8th-graders of BEKI/BJ Kadima and would also like to thank everyone for the gracious welcome!

Hungry Mind

Continued from Page 7

New! The Remarkable Siddur: Past, Present and Future

A four-part informal lecture and discussion series on the history, status and prospects of the prayer book will be held on four consecutive Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library – Bet Midrash beginning in November.

Nov. 11: Baruch Levine will discuss “What is Biblical about the Siddur?” The discussion will investigate the direct incorporation of Biblical texts in prayer, such as Psalms, the three parashiyot of the Shema, and biblically-based prayers such as the qedusha.

Nov. 18: Steven Fraade will discuss “What is Rabbinic about the Siddur?” The discussion will examine the matbe’ah (fixed outline) of prayer, the basic “imprint” of the service, the berakha formula, the Amida, and the historical development of fixed, obligatory prayer.

Nov. 25: Michael Kligfeld will discuss “The Siddur of the Present.” The discussion will examine modern adaptations and translations, and a survey of what has happened to the Siddur during the last century or so.

Dec. 2: “The Siddur of the Future.” A panel discussion moderated by Jon-Jay Tilsen, with Baruch Levine, Steven Fraade and Michael Kligfeld. Issues of the contemporary and future prayer, ideas for further development of the Siddur, the role of public input, the textual and musical possibilities.

Rabbis’ Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own talmud torah (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group is recessed for the summer and will resume in the autumn. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Mini Maariv Learning Service

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

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah Cooper for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at (203) 233-4547 or icoooper@cooperlaw.net.

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

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

Rabbi’s Tzedaka Fund
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- Stacey & Jeff Podell in memory of Vickie Baskin
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Ari Nathan Levine

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- To Mikki Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Marc & Nancy Olins

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To Paula Hyman in her honor by Nanette Stahl
- To Charlene & Mark Desler in loving memory of Ann Saportin by Muriel Kalmann
- To Alan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of Ed’s marriage
- To Yvonne & Herb Kolodny in honor of the birth of their grand-daughter Yael Sarah by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Shai Winter in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Labowe-Stoll family
- To Alan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of Ed’s marriage to Michelle by Bobbie & Harold Miller

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Andy & Paige Weinstein and Family with sympathy on the passing of Richard Weinstein by Laura & Jack Yakerson

Hesed Committee
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- To Donna Levine in her honor by Marsha Landsberg

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• To Mikki Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Michael & Donna Leibowitz
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Francis McCarthy
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Larry & Peggy Cohen
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Sam Bobrow & Paulette Lehrer Bobrow
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Barrie & Joan Drazen
• To Mikki Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Linda & Ken Buckman and family
• To Mikki Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Rita & Ivan Sachs and family
• To Mikki Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Leon Cummings
• To Mikki Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Rozz Kleper
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Consulting Engineering Services
• To Mikki Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by William & Florence Vermeulen
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Peter Nagle
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Maria Garcia
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Kathy & David Barkin
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Mrs. Caeser DeMartino
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by The Bell family: Saul, Barbara & Michael, Mary & David
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Sue & David Miller
• To Betsy Ratner & Family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Ratner by Deena Schnitman

Yahrzeit Fund
($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

• In memory of Joseph Swinkin by Betty Swinkin
• In memory of Harry F. Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
• In memory of Ruth Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
• In memory of Harry S. Fleischner by Robert Fleischner
• In memory of Herb Weiner by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
• In memory of Carl Gesund by Hans & Irmgard Gesund
• In memory of Hannah Zarnes by Doris & David Sagerman
• In memory of Renee Abend by David & Doris Sagerman
• In memory of Milton & Frances Turkoff by Marge Wiener
• In memory of Rose Pergament by Deanna Tulin
• In memory of Albert Piskin by Diana Klatzkin
• In memory of Sophie Ludwig by Charlie & Violet Ludwig
• In memory of Louis Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
• In memory of his beloved father Max Silverman by Robert Silverman
• In memory of Louis Friedman by Ralph Friedman
• In memory of Fannie Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
• In memory of Stella Zusman by Howard Zusman
• In memory of Murray Leiman by Howard Zusman
• In memory of Patricia Zusman by Howard Zusman
• In memory of Sidney Gordon by Lois Gordon
• In memory of Sarah Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
• In memory of Sylvia Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
• In memory of Philip Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
• In memory of Max & Ida Buxbaum by Doris Buxbaum
• In memory of Sylvia Aaron Cohen by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• In memory of Martha Miller Schwartz by Harold & Bobbie Miller
Beki Bulletin October 2009

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On Nov. 14, Connecticut is implementing a mandatory 10-digit dialing plan. BEKI publications will begin listing area codes for all telephone numbers. New Haven County and Fairfield will use both area codes 203 and 475; other areas will use both 860 and 959. Those wishing to call the BEKI office, even from nearby, will need to dial (203) 389-2108.

Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Junk

Our congregation can now accept the donation of automobiles and trucks. For information on donating a vehicle, contact Peggy at (203) 389-2108 office@beki.org.

Reserve Your Date

Fifteen BEKI youth have reserved dates for bar- or bat-mitzva observances. Contact the office now to reserve the date of your choice. Dates are available on a first-come-first-reserved basis to members in good standing; surcharges apply to certain holiday or non-Shabbat days. Reserved dates appear at http://www.beki.org/beneim.html (subject to change).

Library News

Added: The Secret Shofar of Barcelona, by Jacqueline Dembar Greene

Rabbi’s Annual Report

Rabbi Tilsen’s Annual Report for 2009 is available at www.beki.org/tilsen/annual09.pdf. Copies are available in the literature rack in the lobby and by request: office@beki.org, (203) 389-2108 x14.

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Many years ago I found myself in a feud with a person who accused me of all manner of conniving and deceitful schemes. Although the accusations sounded plausible, there was absolutely no truth to them. I like to think that I am as clever as anyone, and I suppose I am as bad as the average person. But in this instance there were no grounds whatever for the charges made against me. As far as I could tell, in this instance, I had never said, done or wished any harm to this person; I felt no malice. Worse, I really could not understand why or how the outlandish charges could be made.

A good friend explained it to me: “People who are conniving, deceitful and scheming believe that other people are like themselves.” Now it all made sense. It turns out that this same person was indeed conniving, deceitful and scheming in business and family life, most of which, thankfully, had absolutely nothing to do with me.

This life-lesson comes to me when I see the frequent references made to Israel’s purported “genocide,” “ethnic cleansing,” “eradication of an entire people” and “population expulsions” past, present and planned.

During Jordanian rule of the West Bank, the population of that region shrank. During the 42 years of Israeli rule, the Arab population has grown dramatically. More Palestinians have been killed by Arabs (mostly by other Arab residents of Palestine, but also in other countries) than by Israelis. Most of the Arabs killed by Israelis in this period were engaged in violent armed actions at the time of their deaths. If the Israeli policy is ethnic cleansing, then they have done a very poor job of it.

While overall population has grown considerably, there is sizable emigration. This pattern of emigration has been in place for at least the past 200 years and is not unique to the period of Israeli rule, nor to the Israeli-controlled territories in the region.

Some 20 percent of Israel citizens are Arabs, and 90 percent of West Bank residents are Arabs. In contrast, zero percent of Gazans are Jews (despite the presence of Jewish residents in Gaza from ancient times until 1929, and then from 1967 until 2005), and zero percent of the residents of Jordan (which constitutes 75 percent of the land area of Mandatory Palestine) are Jews, while about 95 percent are Arabs, and of them about 75 percent are Palestinian, constituting the bulk of the Palestinian population. (The “no Jews in Palestine east of the Jordan River” law goes back to 1922 under British rule.) Zero percent Jews in Lebanon.
Zero percent Jews in Syria. Zero percent Jews in Libya. Zero percent Jews in Iraq. One older Jewish man I know in Jerusalem described how, when his family fled Baghdad 50 years ago, he was traumatized by the sight of Jews hanged from utility poles in the streets. All of those countries that once had thriving Jewish populations are now Jew-free. Areas in Israel such as Jaffa, Hebron and Gush Etzion were made Jew-free by Arab conquest for various periods in the 20th century. There is a long history of massacres perpetrated against Jews by Arabs in the Middle East, but a short history of massacres committed by Jews. With all the talk of “ethnic cleansing,” the reality on the ground is quite the opposite of the accusation.

It is true, of course, that Arab and Bedouin Palestinians have experienced expulsions and “ethnic cleansings” throughout history – often at the hands of fellow Arabs or Muslims, as well as by Europeans. Many Arab villages in Northern Israel were wiped out by Bedouin raiders or Druze forces in the 19th century, including most of those on Mount Carmel and in the area of what is today Afula. Virtually the entire Arab and all of the Jewish population of Gaza were expelled by the Turks during World War I, although 80 percent later returned.

During Israel’s War of Independence (1946-48), some 750,000 Arab and Bedouin residents fled or were expelled (official U.N. figure: 711,000), some by the urging of local Arab leaders, some by foreign Arab leaders, and some by local Jewish forces. Many of those persons bore greater or lesser responsibility for their fate. Some of them fled from areas that were at the end of the war under Arab, not Israeli, rule. The majority (over two-thirds) of these displaced persons simply resettled elsewhere in Palestine by 1950. Israel had offered to settle an additional 100,000 Arab refugees at that time in the portion of Mandatory Palestine under its control, but the offer was declined by the Arab states. The majority of these displaced persons were tenants who suffered the tremendous trauma of dislocation, regardless of how the blame is apportioned.

After Yasir Arafat and his associated organizations came out publicly in favor of Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait (1990), some 400,000 ethnic Palestinians were expelled (i.e., “ethnically cleansed”) from Kuwait (1991). At least 20,000 ethnic Palestinians left or were chased from Iraq during the current war. In August 2009, the press reported that the United Arab Emirates planned to deport hundreds of ethnic Palestinians, particularly Gazans, in the coming weeks.

In contrast, Israel has not forcibly expelled Arabs since Rabin dumped (“deported”) 415 Hamas terrorists into Lebanon in 1992, but subsequently took them back under Israeli court order. (This does not count the expulsion of tourists with expired visas and

Continued on Page 17
assorted individual political cases.) The scale of that Arab expulsion of Palestinians from Kuwait is more than half the number of Palestinian Arabs who fled or were expelled from Israel in 1947-49.

The “Jenin Massacre” (2002) turned out to be a hoax; while it was reported that hundreds or thousands had been massacred, the reality was that about 55 Arabs (including 5 or 10 civilians) died, along with 22 Israeli soldiers. The headline story in mid-August (2009) of the Swedish daily Aftonbladet, claiming that the Israeli Army has been capturing and killing Arabs in the West Bank and harvesting their organs, is widely repeated in the Arab press, without noting that the story is a hoax. At the end of 2007, Hamas bombed the petrol facility in Israel that served Gaza and shot the people operating the border crossing, and then complained to the international press that Israel was withholding fuel to collectively punish the Palestinian People – how do you say chutzpah in Arabic? There are dozens of recent examples, and these stories are manufactured and repeated intentionally, and unfortunately are widely believed.

As bad as Israeli military rule of the non-Israeli Arab population is, the death and destruction, and wanton killing, perpetrated by the American military in Iraq in the first and second Iraq wars is orders of magnitude greater by any measure than the violence experienced by Arabs in the West Bank. Lebanese, Gazans and Iraqis suffer far more death, violence and suppression at the hands of their own rulers or warring factions than do Arabs in the West Bank. It is inaccurate to view the problem in the West Bank as somehow beyond the norm of what goes on in much of the world. Unfortunately, the Israeli Army may be no better, or not much better, than those of the developed Western countries such as the U.S., UK or France, with respect to following rules of war, human rights, humane conduct or basic decency. Arabs are killed regularly in Palestinian prisons (both by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas) but not in Israeli prisons.

Instead of being expelled in 1967 when Israel took control (“liberated,” or “conquered,” if you prefer), Jerusalem Arabs were offered citizenship, as well as the alternative of special rights as non-citizen residents, including the right to vote and hold office and a wide array of social and municipal services. Perhaps this system doesn’t work well, and Arabs experience discrimination, but the arrangement stands out to Israel’s credit as an extraordinary effort at peaceful coexistence. It is not a policy of expulsion or genocide against an entire people, let alone the residents of this one city.

A Google search finds the vast majority of cases in which the terms “ethnic cleansing” or “transfer” are used in this context are the words of Israel’s enemies, not Israeli.
leaders.

From time to time, right-wing voices are reported to talk about the desirability transferring Arab populations out of Israel or Israeli-controlled territory. Rehavam Ze’evi (assassinated in 2001 by the PFLP) and his Moledet party advocated transferring the Arab population from the West Bank and Gaza “by agreement” or during war to neighboring countries. The fact that a major highway (No. 90) through the Jordan Valley is named “Gandhi’s Road” in his honor is taken as menacing by Palestinian and Bedouin residents of the region. More recently, Henry Kissinger (among others) has suggested gerrymandering the borders of Israel to exclude some Arab population centers. However, these are still considered “fringe” voices in Israel and are not the platform or policy of the government or major parties. In contrast, Hamas, which governs Gaza, and some of the PLO-affiliates are quite explicit about their intentions to expel, kill or subjugate non-Muslim or non-Arab residents of the territories they control or plan to conquer.

The bizarre accusation against Israel of genocide is frightening when we consider that genocide is actually taking place in Darfur (incidentally, related to pan-Arab racial imperialism) and in other places. All people interested in human rights and civil rights, as well as those interested in Jews and Arabs should pay attention to what is taking place in the territories under Israeli military control. But those concerned about recent and ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing ought to look elsewhere. The situation is all the more ominous when we ask ourselves why these hostile and defamatory accusations are being propagated.

All of what is stated above is objective demonstrable fact. Unfortunately, fact and truth are easily drowned by hysterical and false cries of “genocide” and the like, which are based on ignorance, bigotry and hatred. Hamas activists, European college students and celebrities generate zeal and intensity in their hatred of Israel and of Jewry. Is it possible for people genuinely committed to truth, human rights and the rule of law to be zealous so that justice and compassion can ultimately prevail, so that the world can be safe for Israel and all people safe from the threats of genocide, denial of human rights and bigotry?

The camel cannot see the crookedness of its own neck (Arabic aphorism).

The one who seeks to disqualify someone is himself disqualified based on his own defect (Hebrew aphorism).
### Service Times

**October 2009**

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<td>4:30pm Kulanu/Saul's Circle Sukka Meal</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Tishrei</td>
<td>8 Tishrei</td>
<td>9 Tishrei</td>
<td>10 Tishrei</td>
<td>11 Tishrei</td>
<td>12 Tishrei</td>
<td>13 Tishrei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sukkot I</td>
<td>Hol Hameed Sukkot I</td>
<td>Hol Hameed Sukkot II</td>
<td>Hol Hameed Sukkot III</td>
<td>Hol Hameed Sukkot IV</td>
<td>Hoshanah Rabbah</td>
<td>Shemini Atzeret (Yiskor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Religious School</td>
<td>7:45pm Rashi Study Group</td>
<td>1:30pm Writing Group</td>
<td>8:30am Rabbi's Study Group</td>
<td>12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)</td>
<td>9:15am Hoshana Rabbah Service</td>
<td>10:45am Children's Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15am Festival Service</td>
<td>Qiddush: Sagerman &amp; Richards/Massaquoi</td>
<td>5:45pm Minha</td>
<td>4:00pm Religious School</td>
<td>6:04pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td>6:45pm Minha</td>
<td>16:45am Learner's Minyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qiddush:</td>
<td>5:00pm Benel Mitzva Program</td>
<td>7:30pm Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>5:00pm Benel Mitzva Program</td>
<td>4:30pm Kulanu/Saul's Circle Sukka Meal</td>
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**Service Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Fridays</th>
<th>Saturdays</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>6 p.m. Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha</td>
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