



SUKKOT 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 & 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.

Sukkot Festival days

Sukkot begins on Sunday evening Sept. 30. Minha afternoon service begins at 5:45, followed immediately by the evening service, ending at 6:20. The services will be held in the Sukka, weather permitting. Candle lighting on Sunday night is at 6:17.

The morning service on Monday Oct. 1 begins at 9:15 and includes the recitation of Hallel, waving of Lulav and Etrog, and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Services on Monday night also begin at 5:45, but candle lighting on Monday night is after 7:16. Services on Tuesday morning Oct. 2 are from 9:15 to 11:36 and again include the taking of Lulav and Etrog.

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.

Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Candle lighting on Friday night Oct. 5 is at 6:09. Services begin at 6 on Friday night, and are followed by a Shabbat Sukkot dinner (for those with reservations only). Services begin 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. Although the Shabbat nusah (musical mode) predominates, certain passages are recited according to the unique Festival nusah.

Shabbat morning of Hol HaMoed is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”). 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.

Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon service begins at 5:45 and

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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: jjtilsen@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.

Annual subscription is \$36

BEKI Bulletin © 2012 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



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Sukkot

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ends about 6:20.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Sunday Oct. 7 begins at 9 and ends by 10:50. 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”). The festival begins Sunday night Oct. 7. The *minha* service begins at 5:45 p.m.; the festival *maariv* service begins immediately after, about 6 p.m.. It is customary to light a memorial candle on that night immediately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 6:05 (or earlier).

During the morning service, which begins at 9:15 on Monday Oct. 8, Hallel is chanted. The unique festival *nusah* (musical mode) is used for this service. For Carole Bass’s comment on Hallel, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak2Wqg2Xyks (YouTube c.v. “Carole Bass Hallel”).

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.

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 on Monday Oct. 8. 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.

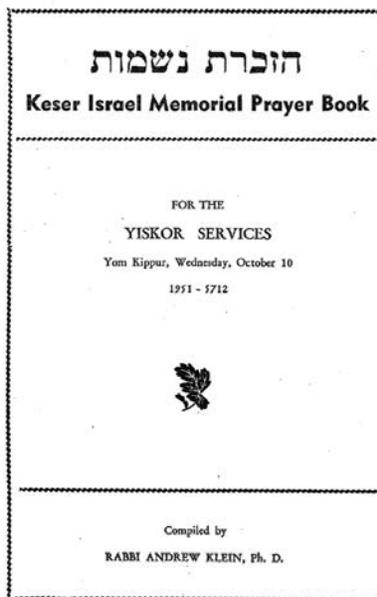
Candle lighting on Monday night is *after* 7:05. Goodie Bags will be presented by the [Sisterhood](#) to children attending services.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15 on Tuesday Oct. 9. Three Torah scrolls are removed from the ark (around 10 o’clock) and seven brief *haqafot* are conducted. The final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, *parashat Ve-Zot Ha-Berakha*, 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 to 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. Afternoon *minha* service begins at 5:45 and concludes about 6:10.

Sukka Storage

The deconstruction of the Sukka will take place on Sunday Oct. 14 at 9:40 a.m., immediately following the morning 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 Sukka deconstruction, contact David Kuperstock (203)-387-0304, ndk1024@gmail.com.



Benei Mitzva Observances

Zev York, son of Iain York & Annie Wareck, Oct. 26-27, *parashat Lekh lekha*

Yonatan Hirshfield, son of Monica Starr & Andrew Hirshfield, grandson of Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield, Nov. 9-10, *parashat Hayei Sara*

Sophia Bruce, daughter of Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce, grandson of Albert Friedman, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, *parashat VaYishlah*



Zev York



Sheri Hoffman



Rachel Bashevkin

Welcome New & Returning Members

Sheri Hoffman; Ron & Cathy Miller; Robert & Jane Stern; Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield; Anya & Nathaniel Brodsky-Fay; Jason Weiner; Sam Weiser; Jenni Kantor; Robert Silverman; Shai Silverman; Emily Melnick and Matt McDermott, and Sophia and Lucy.

Meet our new member Rachel Bashevkin

I'm Rachel Bashevkin from Middlebury (near Water-

bury), where I've lived for over 30 years. I'm the Director of Studies at Westover School, an independent school for girls in grades 9 to 12. While I've maintained some connections to my prior congregations in the area, I look forward to becoming part of the BEKI community. After all, I've probably been sitting next to some of you for years at events at the JCC! I have one child, Elie, who is a teacher in St. Louis, Missouri, through Teach for America.

Wishing you a *Shana Tova*,
Rachel

Darfur Family

We need school supplies such as paper, pencils, crayons, notebooks, calculators, and math flashcards. Homework helpers needed at all grade levels. The children go to schools that require uniforms. Long sleeves especially needed. Goodwill gift certificates welcome (they have half-price day on Mondays) Contact Cynthia B Rubin cbr@cbrubin.net

Library News

Did you know that books can be borrowed from the BEKI Library? The Library is still being organized, but BEKI members may borrow books on an honor system.

We have no staff to check books out, so we ask that when you take books home, please return them within

four weeks. Please leave books that you are returning on the shelf near the sink with the sign "return books here."

The only books that do not circulate are reference books (such as encyclopedias and dictionaries), prayer books and the Judaic texts on the shelf facing the Aron Qodesh.

The books are sorted and the shelves are labeled in general categories. Many of the books do not fit easily into categories, so look around.

You will find fiction and anthologies, biographies, history books, volumes on Jewish thought, ideas and practice. There are cookbooks and art books and books on Hasidism, to name just a few. There is a section labeled Women of Vision. Paula Hyman, of blessed memory, and Rhoda Zahler Samuels obtained a grant from the

Jewish Foundation to provide BEKI with this collection of Jewish women's writing and scholarship.

The library's newest acquisition is a superb collection of LGBTQ books selected and donated by Carole Bass.

If you have books you would like to donate to the BEKI library, please contact Rachel Wizner or Hannah Winer, who will make arrangements to receive the books. Books that are not suitable or are duplicates are put in Room 4. The books in Room 4 are free for members and friends to take and to keep and should not be returned.

Please visit our library and choose some books to read at home. We are counting on you to return borrowed books to BEKI so that all of our members will have access to them.

BEKI-BJ YOUTH GROUPS in 2012-13

Dear Parents,

This year, we have some very exciting changes in store for our BEKI-BJ Youth Groups, Kadima (for 5th through 8th grade), and USY (for 9th through 12th grade).

First, we have two dynamite advisors with loads of experience between the two of them.

Second, we are going to a regular meeting format, supplemented by special chapter and regional activities. Kadima will meet every other Shabbat afternoon, with occasional Friday night and special Sunday activities. USY will meet weekly on Monday nights, with a monthly Shabbat activity plus occasional special activities.

We are also encouraging all of our youth group members to attend regional Hanefesh activities where they can see friends from Jewish camps like Ramah, and make new Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts friends. BEKI-BJ Youth Groups are also supported by a hard-working Joint Youth Commission – hats off to a very dedicated team of volunteers.

Want to volunteer to help Kadima or USY? You don't need to be a parent to do so – all volunteers welcomed. Please contact our advisors – see below.

Have a 4th grader? Stay tuned – we'll have some activities this year to get your child ready for Kadima in 2013-14.

B'shalom,
Rena Cheskis-Gold
Chair, BEKI Youth Commission, and Joint BEKI-BJ Youth Commission

Susan Dardik
Chair, BJ Youth



Sarah Guariglia

USY Advisor Sarah Guariglia

My name is Sarah Guariglia, and I am so excited to begin this year as BEKI and B'nai Jacob's USY advisor. I am looking forward to working with the board and meeting all of the members. In high school I was very involved in NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth) and served as the Social Action Vice President for my synagogue's chapter.

I am currently studying Occupational Therapy and Gerontology at Quinnipiac University where I have been very involved in my sorority and served on the Executive Board for two years. This summer I went on Birthright and had the time of my life. I'm so happy to be using my leadership skills within the Jewish community. Please contact me with any questions or ideas at bekibjusy@gmail.com.

Kadima Advisor Limor Shefer

My name is Limor Shefer, and I was born in Tel-Aviv. I currently teach Hebrew and Judaics at Ezra Academy, and I also have a 13-year-old daughter

who studies there. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience about Israel and Judaism with my pupils.

I have worked in the JCC summer camp as a drama director and also in Woodbridge Rec as the athletic director for ages 3-5.

My experience also consists of teaching ice skating in Israel and the U.S; in Israel, I was the Israel National Champion, and competed professionally in the U.S.

Besides skating, I also love different types of art, which I studied in high school, music, and baking. I'm very honored and excited to be the new Kadima advisor, a place where I feel I can share my passion for teaching and Judaism with the Kadima members. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone and I know we are going to have a fun and creative year. Please feel free to contact me at bekib-jkadima@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Free Youth Trip to Israel

Youth to age 26 can contact www.birtherightsrael.com for information about a free visit to Israel.



Noam dons a beekeeper outfit at Pre-High Holy Day Bee Program

Once again it's time to renew your membership in BEKI Sisterhood, which is part of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Your membership supports our partner organizations such as United Synagogue Youth Commission, the National Ramah Commission, the Jewish Museum, the Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel, Tnuat Am – the Movement for Conservative Aliya, Neve Hanna Village for Children and Youth, and other organizations.

When our annual letter comes to your home asking you to be a member of Sisterhood please say "yes" by joining. Dues are still only \$25.

Torah Fund

We have three Torah Fund benefactors this year and hope to have more. They are Violet Ludwig, Caryl Kligfeld and Barbara Cushen. Thank you.

Support of Torah Fund and thus



Barbara Cushen

support of the Conservative Movement's Jewish Theological Seminary can be on a smaller scale. Purchase cards for all occasions without leaving home, save gas and time. Just call Barbara Cushen at (203) 407-0314.

Your card is sent promptly, you can save a trip to the store and Torah Fund benefits. Cards are only \$4, including the stamp.

Thanks to everyone for supporting Torah Fund.

Barbara Cushen

BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair

Get Well to

- Muriel Banquer from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, BEKI Sisterhood
- Al Barnett from Stanley Saxe & Barbara

Cushen

- Arlene Campeau from Barbara Cushen
- Noel Barstein from BEKI Sisterhood, Adele Tyson

Mazel Tov & Best Wishes

- Mazel Tov to Tina Rose on Jenna's marriage from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Best wishes to Gladys Lipkin in her new home from Adele Tyson

In Memory of

- William Kaplowitz to Sally Abramovitz & family from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, BEKI Sisterhood, Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Raymond Smith to Carole Bass & family from BEKI Sisterhood, Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, Louis J. Petrillo, David Wright, Adele Tyson
- Stacy to Sue & Tom Brown from Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe
- Robert Nelson to Sarah Berry from Violet and Charlie Ludwig
- Herb Rose to Blossom Rose from Barbara Cushen
- Crosby Forbes to Robert Forbes & family from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe
- Peter Myers from Louis J. Petrillo
- Joseph Horton to Phyllis Horton from Adele Tyson
- Lillian Rubin to Ruth Raflowitz from Claire & Bud Volain

Sunday Testing for SAT and ACTs

The Youth Commission encourages all BEKI-BJ teens to utilize the special Sunday testing date for the SATs. Testing on Sunday instead of Saturday is an especially nice form of Shabbat observance. It provides solidarity with other Jewish teens, and, as an extra benefit, you'll test in a smaller, quieter environment.

How to? SAT <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/special-circumstances> ACT <http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/nonsat.html>

What's Cooking?

The BEKI KC cookbook – *Is It Kiddush Yet?* A collection of 130 recipes used for our wonderful Shabbat qiddush lunches and Yom Kippur Break Fast, including 26 soups, 45 salads, and more is a great resource for delicious recipes to use for Rosh Hashana, Sukkot, Shabbat and all year round. Now available for purchase through the office and Sisterhood Giftshop. Makes a terrific gift. office@beki.org Giftshop@beki.org

Torah Reading

If you would like to read Bereishit, from Oct. 13 to Dec. 29, please contact Rabbi Eric Silver at eric.silver@sbc-global.net. If you are interested in learning to read Torah, please contact Darryl Kuperstock at kuperst@aol.com or call (203) 387-0304.

Buying Groceries?

Use gift cards for Peapod, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Westville Kosher Market, available at face value – no additional cost to you – and BEKI receives a significant commission. Available from Gloria Cohen and from Office.

Produce – More

Enjoying the local produce at qiddush lately? Come learn how to preserve some of that great taste of summer for the cold months ahead. We'll freeze some for BEKI and some for participants to take home for themselves. Scheduling to be announced based on response of interested members. Contact Becky May at bseashoremay@aol.com or (203) 624-2798.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

–noun, plural dar·sha·nim [Seph. Heb. dahr-shah-**neem**; Ashk. Heb.

dahr-**shaw**-nim], dar·shans. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggada or Halakha in a synagogue.

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim:

Robert Oakes will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Oct. 13, parashat Bereshit.

Mimi Glenn will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning Oct. 20, parashat Noah.

Zev York, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Oct. 27, parashat Lekh-lekha.

David Kuperstock will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning Nov. 3, parashat VaYera.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore



Robert Oakes



Mimi Glenn



David Kuperstock



Steven Fraade

the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, with **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray Levine**, **Nadav Sela**, **David Kuperstock**, **Isaiah Cooper**, **Rabbi Eric Silver** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study 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 Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

Sunday Nov. 4

Keeping Kosher at Home

A practical guide. A 65-minute



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela



Eric Silver

practical introduction to home kashrut observance. How to acquire kosher foods, maintain kosher utensils, and accommodate guests with conflicting practices. Sunday Nov. 4, 9:45 to 10:50 a.m., at the residence of Libby & Mark Abraham (just a few blocks from the synagogue), with Rabbi Tilsen.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shoftim

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The RSG is studying the Book of Shoftim (Judges). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Devora, Baraq, Yiftah, Mrs. Manoah, and Samson and Delila.

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. Hebrew and English texts are available. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service.

There will be no meeting on Mondays Oct. 1 and 8, which are the first day of Sukkot and Shemini Atseret. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Tuesdays

Hebrew

New sections may open this season. To register for the next session, contact Peggy at office@beki.org.

Continued on **Page 8**

Adult Studies

Continued from Page 7

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 120-second “Hebrew word of the Week” 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 less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

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



Murray Levine

own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. The group is in recess until after the Shemini Atseret festival and resumes on Oct. 17. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shaharit service is from 8:15 to 9:15 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 o’clock.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). 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.

The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time.

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group will be on recess until after the Shemini Atseret festival, resuming on Thursday Oct. 11.

For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Hebrew: Modern and Prayerbook Hebrew

See description, above, under “Tuesdays”

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.”



Isaiah Cooper



More Produce

Sukkot was traditionally a time to bring agricultural tithes to the Temple. You, too, can contribute your garden’s bounty to the BEKI sukka meal. Contact Becky May at bseashoremay@aol.com or (203) 624-2798 if interested.

Shoppers Needed

Anyone interested in helping shop for local produce for weekly and holiday qiddushim please contact Becky May

at bseashoremay@aol.com or (203) 624-2798. No experience necessary.

Say When

The New Year is 5773. It has 12 months and is 353 days long. Heshvan and Kislev each have only 29 days (some years they have 30); this 353 is the least number of days in the variable Hebrew year. It is year 16 of the 19-year lunar cycle, year 5 of the 7-year shemita cycle, and year 5 of the 28-year solar cycle.

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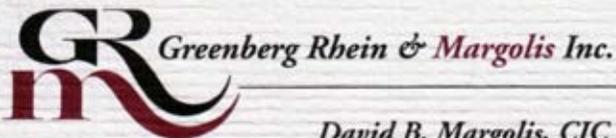


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(203) 776-1243
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Contributions

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Lori & Natan Weinstein in appreciation
- Jack & Harriet Kitavitz in memory of Jennie & Samuel Kitavitz
- Jack & Harriet Kitavitz in memory of Sylvia & Samuel Matloff
- Elaine Kreiger honoring Rabbi Tilsen & Miriam Benson
- Evelyn Benson with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith to Carole & Paul Bass and family

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- David & Joanne Goldblum
- Roy & Karen Herbst
- Dan & Beth Weintraub
- Helen Rosenberg
- Jessey Palumbo
- Tina Rose

Chai Fund (minimum \$18) *to support synagogue operations*

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Amy, Rob, Sophie, Jacob and Esther Marx Schonberger
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Steven & Joanne Rudolf
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Mary Doyle Zuskin
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Seth Pauker
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Colten and Berry family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Eleanor Stutz
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Shoshana Lash
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Herb & Hannah Winer
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Joy family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Joanne & David Goldblum
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Jay Brown
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Mort Dimenstein
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Jennifer Fleming
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Alice Kosowsky
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Jonathan Freiman
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Avni-Singer family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Ziskin & Berson family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Rothman family
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim

and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by the Rothman family

- To the Isenstein family with sympathy on the passing of Peric's father by the Rothman family
- To Helen Rosenberg and family with sympathy on the passing of Ruth Rosenberg by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To the family of Samuel G. Santro with sympathy on his passing by Rayna & David Belowsky
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Jay Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Palumbo family
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by the Palumbo family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Beth & Dan Weintraub
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Belle Greenberg
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Pete Stein
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Esther & Irwin Nash
- To Marsha Beller with sympathy on the passing of Helen Beller by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Trish Loving with sympathy on the passing of Lominta Loving Loftis by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Gadiel Robbins with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Robbins by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Esther Nash with sympathy on the passing of Charles Rosenberg

by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen

- To Helen Rosenberg with sympathy on the passing of Ruth Rosenberg by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Sarah Berry with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Sally Abramovitz with sympathy on the passing of William Kaplowitz by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Robert Forbes with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Carole Bass with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Amy & Jack Gilron

Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) *to support synagogue operations*

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Violet & Charles Ludwig
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Sara Labowe
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Leon Cummings
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by the Gad family
- To Rob Forbes & Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by the Gad family
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Leon Cummings
- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Sherry Kent, Harriet Kantrowitz & Richard Kantrowitz

BEKI Religious School

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Continued on **Page 11**

Contributions

Continued from **Page 11**

Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedaka Fund

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Cynthia Beth Rubin

Hesed Committee

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Barbara & Dennis Rader

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the passing of Raymond Smith by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold and family

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- To Carole & Paul Bass and family with sympathy on the

passing of Raymond Smith by Betsy Ratner

- In memory of our beloved Arthur Ratner by Mikki & Betsy Ratner
- To Fern & Roger Tausig in honor of their birthdays by Betsy Ratner

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In loving memory of her sister Zelda Katz by Shirley Mattler
- In loving memory of her dear sister-in-law Dorothy Mattler by Shirley Mattler

In-Kind Donations

- Two bean bag chairs for the children's room by Beth & Dan Weintraub

Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

- In memory of Debra Steinberg by Anita Henowitz
- In memory of Norman Rosenberg by Lillian Rosenberg
- In memory of Joseph Swinkin by

Betty Swinkin

- In memory of Isaac Greenberg by Irving Greenberg
- In memory of George Schnitman by Helene & Ed Vanderhoef
- In memory of Fannie Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of Harry Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of Louis Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Rose Markovitz by Lynne & Ben Marks
- In memory of Barnett Popkin by Lynne & Ben Marks
- In memory of Lillian Popkin by Lynne & Ben Marks
- In memory of BeBe Greene by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Belle Bender by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Benjamin Braginsky by Sidney Braginsky
- In memory of Philip Axelrod by Helen Axelrod
- In memory of Louis Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Philip Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- In memory of Sylvia Fleischer

by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach

- In memory of Sophie Ludwig by Charlie & Violet Ludwig
- In memory of Joyce Tepper by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- In memory of Ben Zipper by A. David Nabatoff
- In memory of Rose Nabatoff by A. David Nabatoff
- In memory of his father Max Silverman by Robert Silverman
- In memory of Ezra Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Joseph Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Hannah Zarnes by Doris & David Sagerman
- In memory Renee Abend by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Sarah Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- In memory of Joseph Abramovitz by Joseph & Lynda Alper
- In memory of Bernard Avroch by Martin Avroch
- In memory of Rubie Vine by Roberta Vine
- In memory of Cindy Arshell by Mike Moscovitz



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ARE WE LEGAL?

A funny thing happened when the census taker came to the door.

After comparing hundreds of census forms of my relatives in America, I noticed that the men got older faster than the women. They may have been the same age when they got married, but twenty years later, the husband had aged 20 years but the wife had aged only 18. When the government was giving away land, the children suddenly became a few years older (and therefore eligible for their own homestead). When draft registration was required for the Great War, some of the men got either five years younger or five years older – and thereby less likely to be conscripted. When Social Security benefits became available, they got older again. But after Dec. 7, 1941, some of the 15- and 16-year-olds suddenly became 18 and went off to serve their country. Because records were incomplete and inaccessible, they could, and did, get away with it.

Little did they care about the government's purpose in requiring a census, nor in the accuracy of their answers. It wasn't that they had anything *against* the Constitution and its requirements; it is just that they did not care about that. Their concerns were more important, more personal, more immediate, and hardly abstract. They were law-abiding citizens, as long as you did not worry about ritual observance. Some of them may not have entered the country legally, or in full accord with the regulations, but they considered themselves, with justification, law-abiding residents or citizens.

By all measures, these were loyal, proud and dedicated Americans. But it was not the constitution or abstract notions of process that made them so. And they were typical Americans.

America is often described as a "constitutional democracy," but is it so? The majority of American adults don't

vote, and most of those who do vote choose candidates for trivial reasons, without concern for their devotion to law or the constitution. Most Americans can't name even one element of the Bill of Rights or identify the most basic constitutional ideas. Americans don't care about the law, its theory or its practice, as long as they stay out of trouble.

Major social institutions endorsed by the American Constitution are rejected by modernity. We have moved beyond the Constitution and founding documents. The Constitu-

tion recognizes and regulates slavery; fails to enfranchise women; and has a process for electing the president and vice-president vastly different from today's practice

Privacy, abortion rights or the right to own machine guns, or the right of Black people to ride on public buses, are all absent. Though we say we are sending our soldiers to "defend the Constitution," it is a mere figure of speech; it has little relation to the real motives of members of our armed services, how-

ever noble their calling. Most Americans think the United States was founded as a Christian country and do not care about the process used by the Supreme Court to decide law as long as the Court comes up with the "correct" answer, i.e. whatever the citizen happens to wish. If the Court has to attach its ruling to some pretext such as the "interstate commerce" clause of the Constitution, it is only legal scholars who care, not the population. Americans are concerned about more important things, like jobs, taxes, cancer, Social Security, al Qaida and their fear of clowns (sic.).

If we accept this deconstructionist outlook, we might conclude that America is *not* a constitutional democracy. The Federalist Papers, the Constitution, the system of law are outside the scope of concern of most Americans. The legal process is tolerated only when it is convenient, and it will not stop us from interning immigrants from Japan or



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Legal?

Continued from Page 13

droning American citizens who might be dangerous. These ideals are only of interest to a small set of lawyers, scholars, dialogs and idealists, academics and political activists. Most of America just is not interested.

The “Governance of Jewish Life by Halakha [law]” was identified as one of the seven core values of Conservative Judaism by Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, former Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, in his essay “Sacred Cluster” (1995) (<http://www.jtsa.edu/x497.xml#3>). Rabbi Schorsch explained, “...halakha expresses the fundamental thrust of Judaism to concretize ethics and theology into daily practice. ... [Conservative Jews] are more inclined to sacrifice personal autonomy for a reasonable degree of consensus and uniformity in communal life.”

Is Conservative Judaism a “halakhic movement?” Numerous observers have pointed out that the typical members of Conservative synagogues and institutions have little allegiance to, or understanding of, halakha either as a process or as a set of rules; that most “rulings” of Jewish law by individual rabbis and rabbinic bodies pay lip service at best to the “halakhic process” and “binding nature” of law; and that we have gone so far in repudiating Biblical laws in that it makes no sense to talk of a continuity of process.

Instead, as the founders of the Reform Movement pointed out 150 years ago, Jewish law is at best a source of ethics that can be drawn upon for modern practice but has neither continuity with modern practice nor a binding quality. Even more, the State of Israel has rejected Hebrew law as a basis for its legal system, preferring British Common law, Ottoman law, Jordanian law, American law and just about anything other than historical Jewish jurisprudence. We look back 2,000 years to the moment when St. Paul rejected law as the basis for our connection to the Almighty and replaced it with a messiah figure.

But at the core of our movement, a coterie of schol-

ars, idealists and activists lives in a self-generated world of Jewish law – a law that in their minds is evolutionary, continuous, edifying and binding. It is a law that determines our practical deeds and ethical choices, a law that we accept as binding not because it is enforced through fines or imprisonment but through the dictates of our personal conscience and communal strivings.

While it is true that most of Jewish law that is practiced in our day is in the “trivial” realm of ritual, it has long been the case that areas of law were inoperative. The Jubilee system fell out of use 3,000 years ago, the sacrificial system was rendered obsolete in July 70 (i.e., 1,942 years ago), the agricultural laws when exile began, and business

rules when the modern state placed Jews under its jurisdiction. According to most of the sages, some Biblical Laws such as the “Wayward and Rebellious Son” were *never* implemented. Yet the remaining ideals and ideas of these institutions and areas of law, and our knowledge of their evolution, fundamentally determine our Jewish philosophy, culture, practical life and law to this very day.

The Torah was given to humanity through the Jewish People to serve as a guide for the improvement and advancement of civilization; that is, to be implemented in the real world. For that reason, the Torah addresses real-life issues explicitly. In most cases, the Torah does not seek to describe the ideal society, but rather to delineate a minimal level of development and decency toward which we are to strive. The right of the firstborn, the social classes, the rules of impurity, and much more have fallen by the wayside. But thirty-five centuries later, humanity has attained or exceeded those minimums of decency in only a few instances.

I believe that Masorti-Conservative Judaism, as it is in practice today, *defines* what halakhic Judaism looks like in an integrated modern setting, in the same way that America defines a constitutional democracy. Both fall far short of my ideal; both are among the best things we’ve got going.



October 2012

15 Tishri 5773 - 15 Heshvan 5773

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	<p>1 <i>Sukkot I</i> <i>Leviticus, Numbers</i> <i>Zechariah</i></p> <p>Office Closed 9:15am Festival Shaharit 5:45pm Festival Minha & Maariv Candle Lighting after 7:15pm</p> <p>15 Tishri</p>	<p>2 <i>Sukkot II</i> <i>Leviticus, Numbers</i> <i>I Kings</i></p> <p>Office Closed 9:15 Festival Shaharit 5:45pm Minha & Maariv</p> <p>16 Tishri</p>	<p>3 <i>Hol Hamoed Sukkot I</i> <i>Numbers</i></p> <p>4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 6:30pm Religious School and Special Needs Sukka Dinner</p> <p>17 Tishri</p>	<p>4 <i>Hol Hamoed Sukkot II</i> <i>Numbers</i></p> <p>18 Tishri</p>	<p>5 <i>Hol Hamoed Sukkot III</i> <i>Numbers</i></p> <p>6:09pm Candle Lighting 6:45pm Shabbat Sukkah Dinner (reservations required)</p> <p>19 Tishri</p>	<p>6 <i>Hol Hamoed Sukkot IV</i> <i>Exodus, Numbers</i> <i>Ezekiel</i></p> <p>10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha</p> <p>20 Tishri</p>
<p>7 <i>Hoshanah Rabbah</i> <i>Numbers</i></p> <p>6:05pm Candle Lighting</p> <p>21 Tishri</p>	<p>8 <i>Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor)</i> <i>Deuteronomy, Numbers</i> <i>I Kings</i></p> <p>Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service After 10:30am Yizkor Memorial Service 5:45pm Festival Minha & Maariv & Haqafot (Dancing) Candle Lighting after 7:05pm</p> <p>22 Tishri</p>	<p>9 <i>Simchat Torah</i> <i>Deuteronomy, Genesis, Numbers</i> <i>Joshua</i></p> <p>Office Closed 9:15am Festival Shaharit 10:00am Haqafot (Dancing) 5:45pm Minha-Maariv</p> <p>23 Tishri</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p>24 Tishri</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:30pm Talmud Study Group resumes</p> <p>25 Tishri</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:57pm Candle Lighting</p> <p>26 Tishri</p>	<p>13 <i>Bereshit</i></p> <p>10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha</p> <p>27 Tishri</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:00am Religious School 9:30am Deconstruction of the Sukkah</p> <p>28 Tishri</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)</p> <p>29 Tishri</p>	<p>16 <i>Rosh Hodesh I</i> <i>Numbers</i></p> <p>7:00pm Jewish Family Service Bereavement Group Meeting</p> <p>30 Tishri</p>	<p>17 <i>Rosh Hodesh II</i> <i>Numbers</i></p> <p>8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p>1 Heshvan</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:30pm Talmud Study Group</p> <p>2 Heshvan</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:47pm Candle Lighting 6:30pm 20's/30's Havura Dinner (off-site, reservations required)</p> <p>3 Heshvan</p>	<p>20 <i>Noah</i></p> <p>Darshan: Mimi Glenn 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Glenn 5:45pm Minha</p> <p>4 Heshvan</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Religious School</p> <p>5 Heshvan</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting</p> <p>6 Heshvan</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Jewish Family Service Bereavement Group Meeting</p> <p>7 Heshvan</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p>8 Heshvan</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:30pm Talmud Study Group</p> <p>9 Heshvan</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Zev York Bar Mitzva 5:37pm Candle Lighting</p> <p>10 Heshvan</p>	<p>27 <i>Lekh Lekha</i></p> <p>Zev York Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Wareck/York 5:45pm Minha</p> <p>11 Heshvan</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:00am Religious School</p> <p>12 Heshvan</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:45am Rashi Study Group</p> <p>13 Heshvan</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm Jewish Family Service Bereavement Group Meeting</p> <p>14 Heshvan</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program</p> <p>15 Heshvan</p>			

Service Times

Sundays

9 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Mondays

7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Tuesdays

7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Wednesdays

7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Thursdays

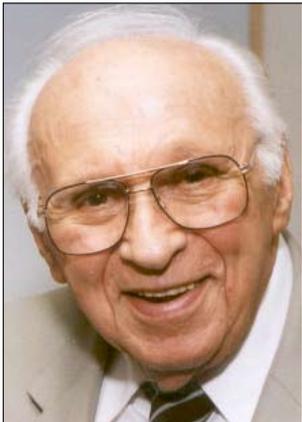
8:15 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Fridays

7 a.m. Shaharit
6 p.m. Minha-Maariv

Saturdays

9:15 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Minha



**George G. Posener,
of blessed memory**

Posener Hanukat Matseva

A hanukat matseva (tombstone dedication service) for George G. Posener will be held on Sunday Oct. 21 from 10 to 10:15 a.m. at the cemetery on Jewell Street on the hilltop just above the elementary school.



The Shul in the News

“[Rabbis Give Republicans An Out,](http://www.newhaven-independent.org/index.php/archives/entry/rabbis_give_republicans_an_out/)” by Paul Bass, New Haven Independent, Sept. 12, http://www.newhaven-independent.org/index.php/archives/entry/rabbis_give_republicans_an_out/ .

**Rabbi Tilsen speaks with
editor Paul Bass, courtesy
New Haven Independent**