

BEKI Bulletin

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September 2002 Vol. 8 Issue 9

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Tishrei 5763

Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe Selihot at BEKI

BEKI will host the Conservative-Masorti Community Selihot Service on Saturday Night 31 August. Maariv Services will be held at 9:00p, followed by Havdala Service at 9:15p. From 9:20p to 10:30p, a forum on "Forgiveness" will be presented. The Selihot service will be from 11:00p to midnight.

The *selihot* (penitential) prayers are said during the middle of the night during the days immediately before Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. It is believed that a heightened sense of spiritual awareness can be achieved during those hours.

Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services

The annual Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services will be held at 10:00a at the Hamden Cemetery, and at 11:00a at the West Haven Cemetery on Sunday 1 September. Rabbi Tilsen will lead a communal prayer and will be available for individual prayers as well. Those who wish to visit the graves of their ancestors or loved ones but are unable to do so because of distance are invited to attend along with those whose loved ones are buried in the BEKI cemeteries.

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

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

New Directors Take Office Gila Reinstein President

Gila Reinstein has been elected as President of BEKI for the new year 2002-2003 5763, following the conclusion of the term of Stephen Pincus.

Gila has been part of the BEKI family for over five years. She has served on the Board of Directors and as an officer, including as a vice-president last year. Gila works as a spokesperson for Yale University. She lives in New Haven.



*Gila Reinstein,
President*

Also taking office are Vice-Presidents Robert Forbes, Roz Ben-Chitrit, and Hugh Fryer; Treasurer Natan Weinstein; Secretary Donna Levine; Special Appointees Saul Bell & Bryna Pauker; and Past President Brian Karsif.

General Board members include Jessey Palumbo; Steven Fraade; Elisabeth Youngerman; Darryl Kuperstock; Adele Tyson; Sheri Rothman; Valerie Sandler; David Sagerman; Gloria Cohen; Ruth Greenblatt; Paula Hyman; Roger Colten; Rabbi Alan Lovins; Harold Miller; Alan Rosner; Roger Levine; Carl Goldfield; Andy Bedford; Isaiah Cooper; Morris Bell; Nadav Sela; Jay Sokolow.

You can contact Gila Reinstein at 789-0188 or gila.reinstein@yale.edu.

**Inside:
Sukkot at BEKI**

Continued on page 4

Labor Day Service Times

Monday 2 September Shahrarit 10:00a (Anna Abramovitz bat mitzva); Minha-Maariv 5:45p. Rashi Study Group will not meet.

Information on the Counter

Literature may be placed in the literature rack, on the coatroom counter and on the Community Bulletin Board by permission only. To request permission for placement on this counter or on the Community Bulletin Board, please contact Synagogue Administrator Mary Ellen Mack at 389-2108 ext. 14 (beki@snet.net). After office hours, you may leave one copy of your submission, with your phone number, under Mary Ellen's door, or you may fax it to Mary Ellen at (203) 389-5899 (24-hours).

The lobby display areas are reserved for BEKI programs and activities. We receive frequent requests to promote activities of the Jewish Community Center, Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation, Jewish Home, Jewish Family Services, Ezra Academy, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, along with a host of other worthy and important communal agencies and institutions. It would not be possible to place them all on the counter by the coatroom. Posters and flyers for these institutions are found on the Community Bulletin Board.

Sometimes flyers and posters that are inappropriate for display at BEKI have been found placed without permission. Flyers and posters placed without permission are immediately discarded. *Your cooperation in maintaining a fair and respectful policy is appreciated.*

BEKI-Bulletin

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724 or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI-Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Are You My Cousin? Or, How I Spent My Summer Vacation

For a weekend this summer, Miriam, our children and I attended the "100 Years of Tilsens in America Family Reunion" in St. Paul, Minnesota, along with about 150 relatives. Most of my relatives had never met our children, and there were several I had never met, or had not seen in over 30 years. We gathered at Camp Butwin (St. Paul's equivalent of Camp Laurelwood). Most live in Minnesota; some in South Dakota or Wisconsin, and a few in California, Texas, New York, Connecticut, Ontario, British Columbia, Florida and elsewhere. Their diversity, creativity, and commitment to social change and justice is a testament to the values and work of our ancestors. Over the weekend, two babies were born.

Because my great-grandparents came to America so long ago, I have several hundred living relatives in America. I have not met even half of them. It used to be, when I met a new person in the Twin Cities, I would ask, "Are you my cousin?" I did not identify many cousins that way, but it proved to be a good pick-up line.

The greatest hardship that I experience as a rabbi, characteristic but not unique to the profession, is that my work requires me to live at some distance from my extended family. Annual visits, occasional phone calls, and developing a family website (www.tilsen.org) are nice, but they are no substitute for sharing daily life with family.

My children hear about their relatives frequently. When we see a lovely garden, they hear about grandma Joy Tilsen and great-grandma Esther Tilsen. When we see concrete being poured, they hear about uncle Ben Tilsen. When we see a barber pole, they hear about uncles Bill, Babe and Ben Marvy. When we see a house under construc-

tion, they hear about grandpa Bob, great-grandpa Ed, and uncle Jim Tilsen. At home they play with dolls made by aunt Laurie Tilsen, read books by cousin Steven Brust or by Meridel LeSueur, and listen to CDs cut by cousins Barbara Tilsen. A raquetteball, a handball, an airplane, a wheat field, a barn, a deck of cards or a chess board are sure to elicit a story or reference to a family member in our ancestral homeland of Minnesota.



Rabbi Tilsen

But the people who will most directly affect the growth of our children, and who will be best remembered by them, are the members of our BEKI family here in New Haven. For my household, like the majority of our members, the synagogue community serves the function of family. When there is a birth, a bat mitzva, a birthday, an illness or a death, members of our community are the surrogate or supplemental aunts and uncles, cousins, siblings, parents and grandparents. Members of the shul community are the people with whom we share our lives, and with whom we create a caring community. Because so many of us at BEKI do not have extended family in the area, our synagogue community is all the more important to us in this way.

Almost every day, a BEKI member is mentioned in the local newspapers, whether in the news, letters or obituary sections. Wherever we go in New Haven, whether it is City Hall, Yale University, Stop 'n Shop or the JCC, we find BEKI members. We are surrounded by our BEKI family. We have a sense of pride and belonging.

It is often said that you can't choose your family. My experience is that, in at least one way, the truism is not entirely true. We are truly blessed to be part of a great family in Greater New Haven.

Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe

Continued from page 1

Rosh HaShana & Yom Kippur

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



Rabbi Alan Lovins

Jewish men who wish to visit the Miqva (Ritual Bath) may join with the BEKI Men's Club for individual (private) immersion at the New Haven Mikvah, 86 Hubinger Street, on the mornings before Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur from 8:30a to 9:30a.

Tickets are required for adult entrance to most services. Among other reasons, this is to ensure the safety and security of the Congregation. Full-time students and military personnel on active duty may enter upon presentation of proper identification. Every person in the building must be identified before entry.

The Rabbi Murray Levine Family is again sponsoring the outstanding High Holy Days programs for children at Beth El-Keser Israel in memory of Malka Levine. Malka, who died in May 1996, was a renowned Jewish educator and wife of Rabbi Murray Levine. She was a beloved member of the BEKI community. For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in these services. For registration information call 389-2108 ext. 14.

Some of the ushers serving during the Holy Days may be new members. Veteran members who do not recognize the ushers are urged to introduce themselves, as our ushers wish to meet as many members and visitors as they can.

Rosh HaShana services begin Friday 6 September at 7:00p with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 7:15p. Candle Lighting is at 7:00p. The service concludes by 7:45p. Morning services begin at 8:30a on Shabbat 7 September and on Sunday 8 September. Youth services begin at 10:45a each morning and conclude at noon.

On Shabbat Rosh HaShana Afternoon, the Minha service will be from 7:00p to 7:30p. There will be a special study period from 7:30p to 8:00p. Maariv Evening services will be from 8:00p to 8:30p on Saturday night. Candle lighting time is after 8:00p.

Tashlikh ("casting") services will be held on the second day of Rosh HaShana (deferred because of Shabbat), Sunday 8 September, at 4:30p, at the Edgewood Bridge, Beaver Pond Park, and Whitney Museum Covered Bridge. The Tashlikh service is a popular outdoor event for people of all ages, and includes a brief prayer, poetry and singing. It is held beside a body of natural water. The Minha afternoon service is from 5:45p to 6:05p.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Sunday 15 September, the Minha afternoon service begins at 6:30p. Candle Lighting is 6:45p (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:45p and end by 9:00p. Shaharit Morning services begin at 9:00a and Minha Afternoon services begin at 5:00p. The service ends with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:52p.

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Yamim Noraim: Posener Break-Fast

Following the service, everyone is invited to a Break Fast in the Lower Level Social Hall presented by George G. Posener as a loving memorial to his dear departed family members, whose yahrzeits we observe during this season. (See accompanying article below.)

For a complete schedule of services please call the office at 389-2108 x14 or see the schedule at www.beki.org/schedule.html. Schedules can also be found on the counter by the coatroom, and are included with the High Holy Days mailings sent to all BEKI members.

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

Posener Yom Kippur Break-Fast

The George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break-Fast Fund at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons was established by George G. Posener this year to create a lasting memorial at the time of the yahrzeits of his family members. Proceeds from this endowment provide for a special and meaningful community gathering at the end of Yom Kippur.



Rabbi Tilsen and George Posener

George Posener is a leader in volunteer, directorship and financial support at BEKI, and a recipient of the Congregation's "Distinguished Service Award." Several of George's family members' yahrzeits occur during Elul and Tishrei, that is, during the "Penitential Season." Several of our members memorialize their loved ones by sponsoring a *qiddush* at the time of their yahrzeit each year. George has gone a step further by making his sponsorship permanent through the creation of an endowed fund.

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

If you are interested in creating an endowed fund for the benefit of BEKI, or in including BEKI in your estate planning or current planned charitable giving, please feel free to contact estate planning attorney and BEKI officer Donna Levine at 787-1633 (sdsij@aol.com). You may also contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or David Tein at [The Jewish Foundation](http://TheJewishFoundation.com) at 387-2424 x304 for a confidential discussion.

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Sukka Setup

Time to get ready for Sukkot! This "Feast of Booths" is considered by many the most joyous festival on the Hebrew calendar. Sukkot begins the night of Friday 20 September 2002.

On Tuesday 17 September – the day after Yom Kippur – we will reassemble the BEKI Super-Sukka, which is dedicated to the memory of Morris "Moishe" Schnitman. We will need a few strong backs to move the parts from the storage trailer to the front courtyard and many willing hands to fit the pieces together. All materials, complete instructions, refreshments and lots of encouragement will be supplied. Everyone is welcome. No previous experience is required.

For information contact David Kuperstock at 387-0304 kuperst@aol.com or Saul Bell at 389-1647 sbell470@aol.com and let us know when you can come and how long you can stay. We plan to take down the sukka on Sunday 6 October, the Sunday after Simhat Torah.

Children's Sukka Crafts Hour

There will also be a Children's Sukka Crafts Hour for BEKI and neighborhood kids. This time for fun and creativity will be on Thursday 19 September from 4:30p to 5:30p. The program will be held outside in the sukka unless it rains, in which case we will be inside. Dress for mess. Please feel free to invite friends and neighborhood children with their adults to join us and help decorate the BEKI sukka! Children are welcome to take home their creations or leave them in the sukka.

Lulav & Etrog

Remember to order your Lulav & Etrog from BEKI. Call Dr. Kempton at x33. Lulav & etrog are not used on Shabbat, but they are used on all of the other days of Sukkot, ending with Hoshana Rabba.

Shabbat & Sunday Sukkot

Sukkot begins Friday night 20 September. The Minha Afternoon service begins at 6:00p. The Shabbat Festival Service begins at 6:15p. Candle lighting is 6:36p.

Morning services begin at 9:15a. Because the first day of the festival coincides with Shabbat, lulav and etrog are not used on the first day. Minha service begins at 5:45p, and candle lighting is after 7:32p.

On Sunday, festival morning services begin at 9:15a and include the use of lulav and etrog. The *shehehiyanu* blessing is recited by each at the first use of lulav and etrog during sukkot. During the entire festival, meals and other activities take place in the sukka.

Hol HaMoed: What is it all about?

"Hol HaMoed," also known as the "intermediate" days of the festival, are those days between the first two and last two days of *Sukkot* (and of Pesah). They have a "semi-holiday" status. The rules against *melakha* ("work") that apply on Shabbat and Festivals are not fully in force during this period, although we are encouraged to take this time as a holiday and to avoid work as much as possible. Our weekday morning services are enhanced with a brief Torah reading, the recitation of the musical "Hallel" section of Psalms, and a brief *Musaf* (additional) service. Weekday morning services thus take 60 minutes, instead of our usual 30 to 45 minutes. Afternoon and evening services are their usual length. The *lulav* (branches) and *etrog* (citron) are waved each morning of *Hol HaMoed Sukkot* (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to live is to eat) in a sukka. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI sukka. Some people do not wear tefillin during Hol HaMoed.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba ("Great Hosanna") morning service occurs on Friday 27 September 2002. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile ser-

Sukkot at BEKI

vices of the year, featuring seven circuits around the shul with *lulav* and *etrog* (palm and citron) and the hoshana service in which willow twigs are beaten on the chairs. Special holiday melodies make this an unforgettable spiritual experience. Be sure to come to this "service for all ages." The Hoshana Rabba service begins Friday 27 September at 9:15a and concludes by 11:00a.

Hoshana Rabba is a semi-festival on which work is not strictly prohibited as it is on the major festivals. It serves as a "closing ceremony" for the weeklong Sukkot observance in preparation for the concluding festival of Shemini Atseret.

Shemini Atseret & Yizkor Memorial Service

The Festival of *Shemini Atseret* ("Eighth Day of Assembly") serves as a conclusion to the autumn Festival of *Sukkot* ("Booths"). It is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of *Qohelet* ("Ecclesiastes") during the 9:15a service on Shabbat 28 September. *Qohelet*, attributed by tradition to King Solomon in his old age, is a "wisdom" book that many see as being out of step with the rest of the Torah. While it includes such well-known passages as "To everything there is a season," it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody. In addition, Hallel will be chanted.

The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini Atseret liturgy. In the Yizkor service we call upon the memories of our ancestors and loved ones who, while not physically present, are part of our "Assembly." During that memorial service, individual and communal prayers and remembrances will be offered for all of our departed loved ones. It is also appropriate to light a memorial candle on Friday night immediately before lighting the Festival candles.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Shabbat Minha services begin at 5:45p and Evening services begin at 7:15p on Saturday 28 September. Candle lighting on Saturday night is after 7:20p.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15a on Sunday 29 September. Goodie Bags will be presented by the Sisterhood to all the deserving children at services evening and morning.

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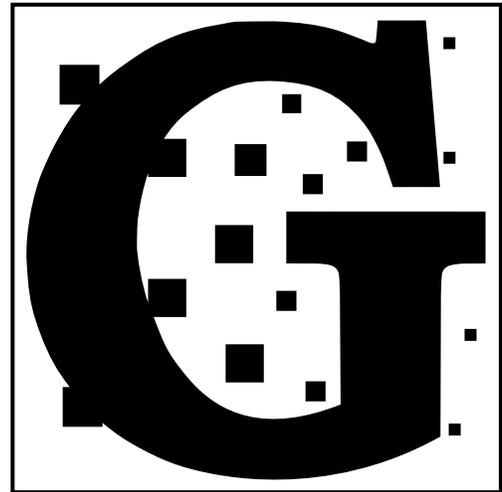
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LifeCycle

Benei Mitzva in September

Anna Elaine Abramovitz, daughter of Alan & Sally Abramovitz, will lead Shoharit Morning services and read Torah as a bat mitzva on Monday 2 September 2002 at 10:00a. Anna is an eighth-grade student at Ezra Academy.



Anna Elaine Abramovitz

Aaron Gordon, son of Steven Gordon & Debbie Wittes, will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva on Shabbat evening 13 September at 6:00p and Shabbat morning 14 September at 9:15a.

With Sorrow we note the passing of Charles Joseph Coleman, father of Lynn Coleman (& Phillip) Miller

Mazal Tov to:

Simon Allentuch & Leeora Netter on their *nisuin* (Jewish marriage) under a *huppa* on 4 August 2002. Rabbi Tilsen served as *mesader qiddushin* (officiant).

Andy & Mindy Schultz on their *nisuin* (Jewish marriage) under a *huppa* on 4 August 2002 in New Jersey.

Letters

A heartfelt thanks to the BEKI community for your many expressions of support and sympathy on the passing of our beloved Mother, Sophie Merz and Uncle, Edward Lettick.

Robert and Janice Lettick and Family



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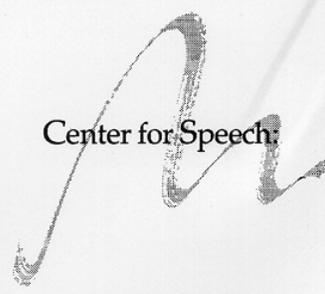
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Annual Meeting & Silent Auction & Raffle a Rousing Success

Thanks to BEKI Board members Gila Reinstein, Carl Goldfield and Donna Levine, this year's Annual Meeting was accompanied by a silent auction and raffle which raised over \$1800 for BEKI while generating delightful entertainment for the evening. Because this year's Silent Auction was conceived of and pulled together in a very short time, many of the donors were BEKI members. It was fun learning the talents of our fellow congregants and even more pleasurable for those of us who bought the services of a congregant and then had the opportunity to get to know someone personally in a new way. We are hoping to make the Silent Auction and Raffle an annual event and expect it will grow bigger and better each year. Our thanks to the following founding donors:

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Richard Goodwin
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Thanks also to all the bidders and others who helped to make this event a success.

T & E Horwitz Youth Award

The Tillie & Edward Horwitz Youth Fund Award is awarded to deserving BEKI youth to support their attendance at USY events. The award is made possible through the generosity of Tillie Horwitz to encourage the activities of the BEKI Youth Groups.

Cosmic Conversations Discussion Group Meetings

The Shabbat morning discussion group for young adults in grades 6 to 8, [Cosmic Conversations](#), meets on selected Shabbatot. In addition, the Children's Shabbat Havura for preschoolers and their adults, the K-2 Kehila for kids in grades K-2, and the Junior Congregation for elementary age children continue to meet every Shabbat.

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BEKI Events

September - Elul - Tishri

5763

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Elul 1	25 Elul 2	26 Elul 3	27 Elul 4	28 Elul 5	29 Elul 6	1 Tishri 7
9:00a Shaharit No Religious School Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services: see schedule below* 5:45p Minha-Maariv	<i>Labor Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 10:00a Anna Abramovitz <i>Bat Mitzva</i> 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i> 7:00a Shaharit 7:00p Candles 7:00p Minha 7:15p Maariv	<i>Rosh Hashanah - 1st Day</i> 8:30a Shaharit & Musaf 10:00a Children's Programs 12:00p SSLM 7:00p Minha 7:30p Special Activity TBA 8:00p Maariv ; candles after 8:00p
2 Tishri 8	3 Tishri 9	4 Tishri 10	5 Tishri 11	6 Tishri 12	7 Tishri 13	8 Tishri 14
<i>Rosh Hashanah - 2nd Day</i> No Religious School 8:30a Shaharit & Musaf 10:00a Children's Pgms 10:30a Shofar Service 4:30p Tashlihk: see locations below** 5:45p Minha	<i>Fast of Gedaliah</i> 7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p Exec. Board	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha-Maariv 6:48p Candles	<i>Shabbat Shuvah</i> 9:15a Shaharit <i>Aaron Gordon Bar Mitzva</i> 10:45a Children's Programs 5:45p Minha
9 Tishri 15	10 Tishri 16	11 Tishri 17	12 Tishri 18	13 Tishri 19	14 Tishri 20	15 Tishri 21
<i>Kol Nidre</i> 9:00a Shaharit 9:00a Religious School 6:30p Minha 6:45p Candles 6:45p Kol Nidre & Maariv	<i>Yom Kippur</i> 9:00a Shaharit & Musaf 10:45a Children's Pgms after 11:00a Yizkor Memorial after Yizkor SSLM 2:30p Yoma Mishna Study 4:00p 2nd Study Period 5:30p Minha 6:40p Neila 7:37p Maariv 7:46p Havdala & Shofar 7:52p Posener Break-Fast	7:00a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv	7:00a Shaharit 4:00p Religious School 4:15p Benei Mitzva Pgm 5:45p Minha-Maariv	8:15a Shaharit 4:30p Sukka Crafts Hour 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	<i>Erev Sukkot</i> 7:00a Shaharit 6:00p Minha 6:15p Festival Maariv 6:36p Candles	<i>Sukkot</i> 9:15a Festival Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a SSLM 5:45p Minha 6:30p Festival Maariv after 7:32p Candles
16 Tishri 22	17 Tishri 23	18 Tishri 24	19 Tishri 25	20 Tishri 26	21 Tishri 27	22 Tishri 28
<i>Sukkot</i> 9:15a Shaharit No Religious School 9:00a Family Ed Pgm: T'filot & Lunch in Sukka 5:45p Festival Minha	7:00a Shaharit 8:10a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv 7:45p General Board	<i>Intermediate Days</i>		8:15a Shaharit 5:45p Minha-Maariv 8:00p A.A.	<i>Hoshana Rabba</i> 9:15a Shaharit 6:00p Minha 6:15p Festival Maariv 6:24p Candles	<i>Shemini Atseret & Yizkor</i> 9:15a Festival Shaharit 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Cosmic Conversations 10:45a Yizkor Memorial Service 5:45p Shabbat & Festival Minha 6:30p Special Program 7:15p Simhat Torah Festival Maariv & Haqafot (Dancing) after 7:20p Candles
23 Tishri 29	24 Tishri 30					
<i>Simhat Torah</i> 9:15a Festival Shaharit No Religious School 10:15a Haqafot (Dancing) 5:45p Minha	7:00a Shaharit 7:45a Rashi Study Grp 5:45p Minha-Maariv	*Sunday, September 1 - Qever Avot Memorial Service Schedule: 10:00a Beth El Mem. Pk, Hamden 11:00a Keser Israel Mem. Pk., West Haven			Shaharit=Morning Minha =Afternoon Minha-Maariv=Evening SSLM=Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan	Email Addresses: Office: beki@snet.net Rabbi: jjtilsen@beki.org Religious School/Edu. Director: lkempton@beki.org Benei Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org website: www.beki.org
		**Sunday, September 8 Tashlihk Schedule, 4:30p: Edgewood Bridge, Beaver Ponds Park, Whitney Museum Covered Bridge				

Service Schedules and Candle Lighting Times

Information on service times at BEKI and other Conservative synagogues, and candle lighting times for the upcoming months, can be found at BEKI's website and www.beki.org under the headings "Service Times" and "Candle Lighting." Our website contains a wealth of information on BEKI, Torah, Judaism and related topics. Explore!

Uncle Shemuel Wants You!

The *Shaharit* (morning) service is held at BEKI every Sunday morning at 9:00a and every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 7:00a, and every Thursday morning at 8:15a, in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. (Note, though, that morning services on Monday 1 September begin at 10:00a for the Labor Day holiday.) *Mincha* (afternoon) and *Maariv* (evening) services are held at 5:45p Sunday through Thursday.

These daily services provide the opportunity to fulfill numerous *mitzvot* (religious imperatives) such as daily recitation of the Shema and Amida prayers, Torah study, *Tzedaka* (charity), *nihum avelim* (comforting mourners), and attendance at the House of Study. In addition, the services provide a structure for personal spiritual development and fulfillment as well as an opportunity to improve one's facility in the Hebrew language.

Sometimes there are services for which attendance is one or two short of the *minyan* (quorum) needed to recite certain communal prayers. If you'd like to be that "tenth" (or maybe eighth...) person, come on a Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning. And if you just want to come regardless of what anyone else is doing, then just come. While only legally adult Jews are counted toward the quorum, all are encouraged to attend both for their own sake and for the sake of adding to the spiritual strength of the Congregation.

For a complete schedule of BEKI services, see www.beki.org/schedule.html.

KISS "Snow Days - No School Days" Program

Elementary schools close for scheduled "teacher training" and "parent conference" days as well as unplanned "snow days." Many families need placement for their children on such days. BEKI has a comfortable children's room and library, conveniently located on a State snow emergency route, with ample and convenient parking.

The BEKI "Snow Days - No School Days" program provides an educational and recreational Judaic activity day on scheduled school-closed days when businesses are normally open, and on unplanned "snow days" for the New Haven Public Schools and Ezra Academy. Space is limited. The Program will be held regardless of weather conditions. The Program does not guarantee that streets, sidewalks or the BEKI driveway will be passable. Only the parents determine whether they can safely transport their children to and from the program in inclement weather. Parents will have a "hot line" phone number for last minute information on program plans.

The "Snow Days - No School Days" program will use the Claire Goodwin Youth Room and BEKI's Rosenkrantz Library. Participants bring their own dairy lunch. Snacks are provided. Activities are under the supervision of Dr. Lauren Kempton.

The participation fee is \$20 per day or part thereof per child; a "subscriber" discount is available. Pre-payment reserves a space; otherwise, spaces are available on a first-come-first-served basis, with priority to BEKI members. Payment is required before service. Reservations are non-transferable (except between siblings). A pre-payment of \$20 reserves a space for the first New Haven or Ezra "Snow Day."

For a list of scheduled school closing dates, or to register, or for more information, please call Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33.

Tiqun Olam – Social Action

Habitat for Humanity Update

A crew of BEKI members -- Alan Kleinman, Marshal Mandelkern, Roger Colten, Diane Heisler and Steve Wechsler – put the finishing touches on the Habitat house at 133 Rosette Street in New Haven. A family moved in at the end of June. At the same time, the land next door was dedicated for a new home. Now, the foundation has been poured, and BEKI work crews will join other congregations working on the framing and building a new home at 129 Rosette Street. The fall schedule for work crews will be distributed as soon as it is available.

If you are making any financial contributions to Habitat/New Haven, please make sure to note that you are a BEKI member or supporter. Your contribution will count toward BEKI's donation to this project. Please contact Elisabeth Youngerman at 248-5832 for more information.

Kulanu Program

Kulanu, BEKI's outreach program for adults with developmental disabilities, will begin its fifth year this autumn. For information on Kulanu, please contact BEKI's Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 Lkempton@beki.org. Kulanu is funded by the David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at BEKI and by the Congregation.

Office Hours by Appointment
(203) 389-9174

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Food Collection

Beginning in early September, we will begin collecting food for local food pantries, including the Community Soup Kitchen, St. Ann's and the Jewish Family Service. Containers will be set up in the coat room area. Only non-perishable food will be collected. Canned goods and packaged, healthful food is needed.

Saul's Circle at Fellowship

Saul's Circle, BEKI's *qeruv* (outreach) program for adult mental health services consumers, will present programs at Fellowship House in New Haven and at BEKI. This outreach program seeks to welcome its participants into the BEKI and broader Jewish community, and to help bring the healing and saving power of Torah and Jewish tradition to those in need. The program also aims to help the general BEKI membership learn to understand, welcome and appreciate Saul's Circle participants. For more information contact Lauren at 389-2018 x33 LKempton@beki.org.

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Buying Stuff on the Web?

Those buying items over the Internet can find registered referral links on BEKI's website to Amazon.com and to Buy.com. If you are ordering items through Amazon.com or Buy.com, and you access their sites through our website, a 5% referral fee will go to BEKI. There is no cost to the book purchaser. The link is at BEKI's Website www.beki.org/links.html at the bottom of the page – you will see the Amazon.com and Buy.com logos.

Divrei Torah on Website

Divrei Torah (sermons) by BEKI members and Rabbi Tilsen can be found on BEKI's website at www.beki.org under the "Adult Education" heading.

Wanted: Shabbat Afternoon Torah Readers

Be part of the BEKI Shabbat Afternoon scene! The weekly *Shabbat* (Saturday) afternoon *minha* service has become a new home for people who have wanted to read Torah but do not feel ready to read on Shabbat morning.

Readers have learned and recited three to five verses during the *minha* (afternoon) service in the intimate setting of the George G. Posener Chapel.

If you are an adult or child who would like to learn to chant Torah or who would like to relearn it, this is your chance. Or, if you simply enjoy a spirited, musical 45-minute service, come and help make the minyan. The service begins at 5:45p and ends by 6:30p during September and October. For service times in November through March, check the listing in the Bulletin or at www.beki.org/schedule.html.

Take the plunge and learn Torah-reading. For help in starting, call Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Kulanu and Saul's Circle

Our congregant involvement in Kulanu and Saul's Circle is increasing we believe thanks to Dana Balter's Devar Torah in June. Four of our congregants, Ruth Silver, Mimi Glenn, Helene Sapadin and

Rital Sela completed training at the Connecticut mental Health Center. The training is part of a grant written by Rob Biggs from Fellowship Place. The purpose of the program is to match BEKI members with mental health service recipients. The pairs will meet weekly for social outings. The scope of the project seeks to reconnect participants with everyday activities and events through the pairings. If you would like to learn more about this project please see Dr. Kempton.

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Education Director's message

When I attended the BEKI annual meeting I noticed Harold Miller bidding on the sculpture of Tevia from *Fiddler On The Roof*. Then in midsummer I attended the Audubon Arts Theatre Camp production of *Fiddler* with Ben Karsif as Tevia. And for days the songs played in my head and perhaps with the news from Israel and the issues in France. I sought solace in a look back, at the play itself and the two young men from our shul playing Tevia to exemplify the best example of tradition. And the word tradition stayed with me.

I spoke to Harold Miller and he related his feelings about his son playing Tevia at the Amity Summer Theatre. He said he could not describe his pride in his son Steven having the part of Tevia since the entire production revolves around that part. Harold related that, when his son sung and danced to "If I Was A Rich Man" it was so powerful, he was mesmerized. Harold remarked that Steven had mastered the Yiddish accent, grown a beard and "even had the shimmying down."

Harold went on to relate that his son is pursuing a career in the stage. Harold stated, "When I watched my son he was performing a Jewish role in a Jewish play. You want to bring your children up the right way in Judaism." He added that his son, as Tevia, was "Magic, he felt it for real." As I interviewed Harold, and he spoke of his parents Izzie and Elsie Miller, founders of Keser Israel; I saw a Father's pride and sense of both continuity and tradition.

Benei Mitzva Class first meeting

The Benei Mitzva Program was created at the request of parents who wanted to combine individual tutoring with a group experience for youth celebrating benei mitzva. Registration and payment are required. The Program meets mostly on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00p to 6:15p. This period includes the required service attendance, group study and individual work. The first class meeting date is 28 August 2002. For more information, contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 lkempton@beki.org or Andy Schultz at aschultz@beki.org.

I had the same feeling as I watched Ben Karsif become Tevia. Ben Karsif is our Madrikh at BEKI Religious School. So when he came on stage he became Tevia -- proud, poor, loving father of five daughters. He had the booming voice and the stance. He was authoritative and bossy, gentle and forgiving. He schemed and planned, hoped and dream for his family and clung to the traditions of his small village. I watched Teri Stern wipe the tears from her face as her Tevia carried the show. And I watched Brian Karsif videotape each second to be shared with family and friends. And Ben's Safta, Marilyn Stern related her conversation with Ben, after the audition; "Ben, how did you hold your hands for the 'If I Was A Rich Man' scene." And she saw his gesture... though it was a phone conversation.... (now hum to yourself the chorus "yade yade...").

Both my conversation with Harold and my night watching Ben Karsif as Tevia filled me with a sense of both hope and pride. Yes, we will continue as a people in spite of our troubles... we will laugh and sing and dance. And perhaps sense that fiddler on the roof and how his song speaks to us as Jews. Tradition....Tradition.

-Lauren Kempton



Dr. Lauren Kempton

Youth Lounge - Room 3

In preparation for more extensive programming for the High Holidays, Hattie McMillian has kindly undertaken the improvement of Room 3. Room 3 is now a Youth Lounge and Family Center. The room has been painted, and chairs purchased. In light of our future building plans the Board of Directors decided to focus further improvements on items that can be moved and enjoyed after the renovations. To that extent we are seeking specific items, especially an AudioVisual Mobile Station to house our VCR and tapes. We are also in need of bookcases. If you would like to help with this project please see or call Hattie McMillian.

Religious School First Meeting

BEKI Religious School classees began with many new faces. All the students and teachers were most pleased to welcome back Anne Johnston. Anne is teaching in the Talmud Torah Meyuhad class. We were also pleased to welcome Lisa Stern who is doing graduate studies at Yale and Mindy Schultz. We have made some curriculum revisions to strengthen our growing Religious School.

This school year the Religious School staff will be involved in U-Step, a staff development program of the Connecticut Valley Region of United Synagogue. The presenter is Stephanie Bernstein, the Director of Professional Development at Temple Emunah in Lexington, Mass. The workshop themes are "Steps of Hebrew Reading," "Learning Prayers Really Can Be Fun," and "Co-operative Learning To Enhance Your Hebrew Reading Program."

Religious School classes opening is Sunday 25 August 2002. Late registration is still open. The School is under the direction of Principal Dr. Lauren Kempton.

Again this fall educational services will be available for students with special education needs. If your child might benefit from special education services, please call Principal Lauren Kempton (389-2108 x13 lkempton@beki.org) at your earliest opportunity.

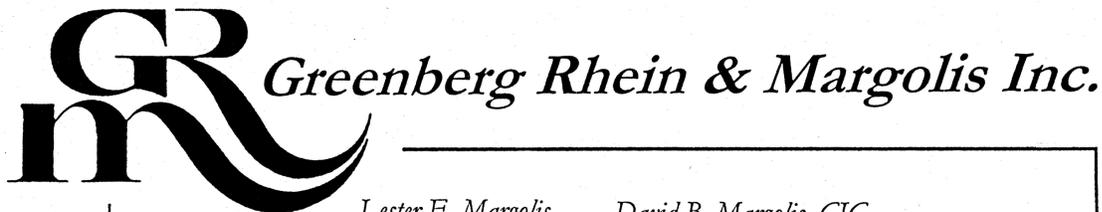
Thanks to Gladys Lipkin for establishing The Gladys Lipkin Fund for the BEKI Hebrew School, to George G. Posener for establishing The George G. & Leah Posener Fund for Youth Education at BEKI, and the Borick Family for establishing the Borick Family Endowment for Special Education at BEKI.

These funds provide annual income to support BEKI's religious school. We also thank Dr. Ralph Friedman and all those who contribute to the Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund.

We also urge all children's participation in either the [Children's Shabbat Havura](#) (for preschoolers), [K-2 Kehila](#) (for kids in K-2) or [youth.html](#) [Junior Congregation](#) every Shabbat morning year-round at 10:45a until about noon. Older youth, in grades 6-8, may participate in [Cosmic Conversations](#). There is no additional charge for these programs which reinforce and supplement the School's curriculum. These programs are also ideal for children attending Ezra Academy and other Jewish Day Schools. We also urge all families to participate in BEKI's Family Education Programs.

For more information, please call BEKI Religious School Principal Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 LKempton@beki.org.

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