Selihot at Congregation Bnai Jacob

Congregation Bnai Jacob will host the Conservative-Masorti Community Selihot Service on Saturday Night 20 September. Havdala Services will be held at 9:00p, followed by refreshments until 9:30p. From 9:30p 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 21 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.

Parking Area Renovation Completed

A major renovation of our parking area was completed during late July and early August. The renovated parking area now accommodates about 88 vehicles. The project represents a significant portion of the $1.25 million Phase Two Renovations project now underway to implement required updates and critical improvements to our facility. Construction for Phase 2B “Lobby Improvements,” including installation of an elevator, a welcoming entrance from the parking area, and an updated Claire Goodwin Youth Room, George Posener Daily Chapel, and Rosenkrantz Family Library, is scheduled to begin in November 2003.

The parking area improvements represent part of our commitment to making our facility and its services and programs more accessible and welcoming to all people. Priorities in the Phase Two renovations include creating a safe and welcoming access to the building from the parking area, an elevator to provide access to all three levels, improved energy efficiency, and safer, more attractive and more welcoming facilities in the lobby, offices, chapel and library. Some of these areas have not been significantly updated in over 40 years.

Thanks to Ivan & Rita Sachs and the Sachs Family and the contributors to the Renovations Capital Campaign for making the Parking Area renovation possible.

For technical information on the Parking Area, please contact Vice President Hugh Fryer. For information on the Renovations Capital Campaign, contact Campaign Co-chairperson John Weiser or synagogue President Gila Reinstein.
Need a letter for Employer or School?

Shul members occasionally need letters to employers or principals explaining the nature of the Jewish holiday observance. Despite the high level of understanding in our community, there is still a need for education and information. It is important that our children be in shul for all of Yontif.

If you would like such a letter for Sukkot, call Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 ext. 10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Memorial Plaques Available

The Memorial plaques displayed at BEKI serve as a reminder and memorial to departed loved ones. Plaques are available for $360 by calling Peggy at 389-2108 x14. Prepayment reserves a space and a plaque.

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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, 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.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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A Message From Vice President Rabbi Alan Lovins

There is a basic question that underlies our existence on the planet. This question has given birth to much of the content of Western religions. It has stimulated the development of democracy, political theory, philosophy, science and the arts, all of worthwhile human development and progress. The question is, *why are we here? What is the purpose and meaning of human life?*

I like to think that one early Jewish contribution to society is the answer that we can give our lives meaning by making the world a better place. So the Jews (and the religions that relate back to Judaism) established hospitals, orphanages, welfare agencies, institutions of solace and refuge.

Sometimes in the daily scramble for livelihood, personal comfort, family issues, children, parents, relationships, pursuits of physical and psychological satisfaction, we forget why we are here, and we lose the ability to experience the most profound satisfaction of all – deeds that actualize our need for transcendent purpose and meaning.

We belong to synagogues in order to worship God and to experience community. But there is more. We established synagogues to be vehicles for making the world a better place, and we use them to satisfy our need for that. In order for that to work, we must recognize our need for planned giving and for charitable intent. More than the synagogue needs us, we need the synagogue. Giving to this institution makes our lives more complete and provides us satisfaction that we crave, even if we do not always know it. The *mitzva* of giving was established in order to enhance our lives and give them meaning.

— Alan

Meet Peggy Hackett

Welcome to our new office manager Peggy Hackett, who assumed her position during early July. Peggy comes to us with significant managerial experience and was invited to fill this position after an extensive search process.

Peggy succeeds Mary Ellen Mack, who left to assume a position in another industry in our area. Although this was a loss for BEKI, it was a career opportunity for Mary Ellen that she could not miss. We are very fortunate to have found Peggy Hackett to fill this important position. We know that you will enjoy getting to know Peggy in the weeks and months ahead.

You can reach Peggy at the synagogue office at 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org.

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RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW

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A Message from Education Director

A Midsummer’s Night Dream

On Sunday evening 20 July, congregants of BEKI came together for the formal Launch of the Renovation Capital Campaign. The downstairs Social Hall was festive and we were greeted by a Jazz Quartet. The synagogue youth, quite snazzy in their black and white attire served hors d’oeuvres and the conversation flowed.

Gila Reinstein, synagogue President, gave an overview of the Renovation plan and John Weiser welcomed various speakers to the podium.

Alan Lovins began with a wonderful story of his fifty years here in New Haven, particularly Westville. He recounted his years as Principal of the BEKI Religious School and his fond memories of building both a rich curriculum of Jewish studies and a school simultaneously. Paul Goodwin began by expounding upon the original plans for the BEKI Social Hall with a great story about securing and storing the 36 foot steel beams, still in place and still providing structure and support. Then Diana Opton recounted a great story of the little yellow house and davening there. Helene Sapadin shared memories of her first services at BEKI and the rabbi’s whispered “Shabbat Shalom” as a welcome (since she was much younger than the other congregants).

As the speakers progressed, a rich sense of history emerged: the builders, the planners, the dreamers ingathered for a new task.... BEKI Renovation. It was a perfect Midsummer’s Eve, a renewal for our task that lies ahead. May the energy and commitment of that evening stay with us in the Fall as we begin this important journey.

LK

Religious School Beginning

Religious School classes opening is Sunday 07 September 2003. 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 x33 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 endowments provide an annual contribution 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 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).
Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe
Continued from page 1

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.

Rosh HaShana & Yom Kippur

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

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. Call the Mikvah at 387.2184 for an appointment, and tell them you are from the “BEKI Men’s Club.”

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. Everybody 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 26 September at 6:30p with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 6:45p. Candle Lighting is at 6:26p. The service concludes by 7:15p. Morning services begin at 8:30a on Shabbat 27 September and on Sunday 28 September. Youth services are held each morning.

On Shabbat Rosh HaShana Afternoon, the Minha service will be from 6:30p to 7:00p. There will be a special study period from 7:00p to 7:30p. Maariv Evening services will be from 7:30p to 8:00p on Saturday night. Candle lighting time is after 7:24p.

*Tashlikh* (“casting”) services will be held on the second day of Rosh HaShana (deferred because of Shabbat), Sunday 28 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 05 October, the Minha afternoon service begins at 6:00p. Candle Lighting is 6:10p (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:15p and end by 8:30p. 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 7:12p.

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.

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.
News

LifeCycle

With sorrow we note the passing of

- Gwen “Golde” Wizner, mother of Stephen & Rachel Wizner
- Chaim Engel, father of Alida Engel & Gene Burger
- Beatrice M. Takacs, mother of Richard Takacs & Carol Ferency-Takacs

Welcome to New Members & Their Families

- Karel Koenig
- Wendy & David Chorney and Marlee
- Dan & Sonia Levy and Nicolas, Alex and Dakota

Mazal Tov to:

- Herb & Hannah Winer on grandson Joshua Vazquez-Winer becoming a bar mitzva
- Howard & Patricia Zusman on the birth of granddaughter Kayla Jessica in Houston, TX, on 03 July

Your Ad Here

The BEKI Bulletin is sent to over 600 households and is repeatedly consulted as a reference document. Advertisers report positive results.

For rates and to place your ad, contact Peggy at office@beki.org (389-2108 x14), or Ronni at rrabin@comcast.net (397-3699), or Sheila at 387-1376.
An occasional column of answers, advice and helpful household hints

Dear Rabbi,

I converted to Judaism through a Chabad rabbi and a Modern Orthodox shul. This process took many months of intensive study of Torah, learning the mitzvot, and struggling with “the women’s issue.”

I read every woman’s book I could find. My rabbi is open and willing to discuss things with me. But I can’t get away from feeling degraded and held back from Godliness. I love Torah so much, I love halakha, I love the mitzvot, and I love hassidut. So I stayed with full (and naive) faith that Oral Torah was somehow beautiful and wonderful when it tells me I cannot do so many things, and that it was just a matter of study to uncover this beauty. Sometimes the problem is not Talmud, but rather tradition. Rabbi Solovetchik said that since women have never danced with a Torah on Simchas Torah in the past, we know it is not proper for them to do so.

A rabbi said that since only men immerse in preparation for Shabbat, any woman who wants to do so is trying to grab for equality and men’s observances. The very tradition that I love prohibits me from embracing it to fullest extent of my person ability. If I were a man, everything would be wonderful for me. It is difficult for me to comprehend a limit placed on me because of my biology. My heart and mind are higher faculties than my reproductive organs, and yet somehow the higher faculties must submit to the lower.

When I mentioned a Conservative temple to my Rabbi, he became very upset and worried about me. He wonders if my conversion was a mistake, and if he will be forever held liable before God for my abandonment of traditional Torah. I’m told that I cannot even attend one service, because it would be a violation of rabbinic law.

Can you advise me?

Signed, Hiding Seeker

Dear Hiding Seeker

Your practical dilemma is between being an advocate for women’s advancement in the Chabad or Orthodox community, or being an advocate for traditional observance and outlook in a Conservative community. Either arena gives you the great challenge of tiqun olam and its attendant mitzva opportunities, with the knowledge that in either setting your own needs for religious community will not be completely satisfied.

The Mishna, Talmud and other rabbinic literature reflect the belief of our sages that it is valuable to present many viewpoints on issues of import. I am always suspicious of those who discourage open discourse and debate. It is important to respect your spiritual and intellectual integrity, and it is essential that you be as honest with yourself, and your teachers, as you can be. It sounds like you experience and value such trusting and honest relationships.

I would not underestimate the importance of Talmud To-rah (Torah Study) as a central mitzva, one in which you ought to be able to partake fully as a woman. As you continue to grow in your knowledge of the classical sources, particularly Talmud and midrash, you may not need to rely so much on the interpretation of your teachers, at least for some things.

I have an understanding of “traditional Judaism” with respect to the role of women (and other topics) that is significantly different from that typically presented by the Chabad movement. In part, this difference revolves around questions of history, or halakhic history. But I suppose that it is equally important to me to take into consideration a vision for the future, a vision of a just and affirming Jewish society, and I believe that social debilities imposed on women are inconsistent with that vision.

Would it make a difference for you if you could find within tradition — the writings of pre-modern rabbis — a convincing basis for your adoption of the “restricted” ritual performances?

My suggestion would be that if it is possible for you, explore the rest of the observant Jewish world, including other modern Orthodox congregations and observant Conservative shuls. Many Conservative shuls offer services designed for the less educated or less traditionally observant, and for that reason you might find them unsatisfying. But perhaps there is in your area a more traditionally oriented Conservative minyan. Even more, if you have the opportunity to study at Drisha Institute in New York, or in other observant settings, I think that might help you gain a broader perspective.

You should not have to choose between feeling loyal to your earlier teachers and your own integrity. If you are strong enough in your faith, you will be able to avert the dangers of associating with others who are not religiously committed, and will have the advantages of studying in a diverse and open setting. If this is not a practical option, perhaps there are local study groups in your area of women or men with similar concerns. I think that you are responsible for your own spiritual path, and it is unfortunate that your rabbi would feel threatened by your exploration or education. I would suppose that you are answerable to the Almighty for your own actions, and that your rabbi is not responsible for your actions. The Chabad practice of placing great importance on “loyalty” to the rabbi is, in my view, unfortunate. I think that Judaism teaches that we have other, and higher, loyalties.

Perhaps some of your teachers have tried to suggest that the mitzva areas off limits to you — public worship, tefillin — really represent only a small fraction of religious life, and in that way try to minimize your concern. I would say that these areas are indeed small, but the fact that you experience the restriction, and the ideology behind them, as degrading, is telling.

Although the conflict you experience is painful, it is based on your love of Torah, the People Israel and the Almighty, and I am confident that you will find paths that are productive and that will enable you to do what is pleasing to your Maker. Perhaps that is what you are here for.

Jon-Jay
**Uncle Shemuel Wants You!**

The Shabbat (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 9:00a for the Labor Day holiday.) Minha (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, Tzedaqa (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.

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**Food Certificates Fundraiser**

With the High Holidays approaching, you will probably be doing a large amount of food shopping. Your food purchases can produce significant income for BEKI if you use food certificates that are available for Stop & Shop, Shop-Rite, and Westville Kosher Meat Market.

Certificates can be ordered from Gloria Cohen, at 203-389-2070 or at morris.cohen@yale.edu. It doesn’t add anything to your food bills, but it can help BEKI pay its bills. GC

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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 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.

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**Cosmic Discussion Group Meeting**

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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**Saul’s Circle at Fellowship**

Saul’s Circle, BEKI’s qeruv (outreach) program for adult mental health services consumers, presents 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.


Adopt a Social Worker

Our synagogue has decided to become a part of an organization that attempts to meet the concrete needs of children in Connecticut served by the Department of Children and Families. “Covenant to Care” is a statewide, not for profit organization working with faith communities to meet the needs of abused, neglected and impoverished children. We are becoming a part of the adopt-a-social worker program which connects individual faith communities with their own “adopted” social worker. The synagogue has a volunteer liaison who will be in frequent contact with the social worker in order to exchange information on the needs of individual children and to arrange delivery and pick up of donations from the congregation.

Our synagogue will begin its involvement as a part of the adopt-a-social worker program this month. The liaison to the program is Joanne Goldblum, you can call or email her with any thoughts about the program and also if you are interested in assisting her with the program. Alan Rosner will be serving as Joanne’s back up with the program. Our Social Worker is Felicia Perry, who has twenty children in her caseload. We do need people in the community who will be willing to assist with moving larger objects should the need arise, if you have a truck and would be willing, please let Joanne know. You will receive updates on the items needed by the children through the Bulletin, BEKI Happenings, and on the community service bulletin board in the synagogue. If you feel you would like to be called on for specific types of donations please call or e-mail Joanne and let her know.

Most of the donations that will be requested of our community are tangible items such as cribs, bunk beds, diapers, food and infant formula, clothing, school supplies, linens, blankets, towels, furniture and household items that allow a mother or father or both to offer a clean, nourishing, and nurturing environment for their children. Sometimes more specific things are requested such as music lessons, soccer cleats, graduation cap and gown, art supplies and other things that would require cash assistance. As with all non-profit organizations any donation you make to Covenant to Care is tax deductible. Tangible donations can be used but must be clean and in good condition.

The donations will be requested on an as needed basis. We do not have the ability to store goods at the synagogue. When a request is made if you feel you can assist we would request that you contact Joanne Goldblum to arrange pick up or drop off the donation. We will get our requests directly from the social worker that our synagogue “adopts” based on the needs of her caseload. The requests come through the social worker in order to maintain the confidentiality of the children and families in need.

Covenant to Care Adopt a Social Worker has existed since 1987 and has helped hundreds of thousands of children since then. We look forward to a great collaboration them. You can contact Joanne at jsg38@email.med.yale.edu or 624-0536. JG
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**BEKI phone numbers:**
(203) 389-2108
(203) 389-5899 fax
Peggy Hackett/Office x14
Religious School x 13
Rabbi x 10
Dr. Lauren Kempton x 33
Cemetery Assoc. x 57

**Office Hours:**
Mon 9a-3p
Tue by appt. only
Wed 10a-6pm
Thur 9a-3p
Fri 9a-2p

**Email addresses:**
Office: office@beki.org
Rabbi: jjtiten@beki.org
Religious School/Ed: lkempton@beki.org
Beni Mitzva Teacher: aschultz@beki.org
BEKI/BJ Kadima: kadima@beki.org

Shaharit—Morning
Minha—Afternoon
Minha-Maariv—Evening
SSLM=Shabbat Shalom
Leamers' Minyan
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 Peggy Hackett at 389-2108 x14 (office@beki.org). After office hours, you may leave one copy of your submission, with your phone number, under Peggy’s door, or you may fax it to Peggy 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.

Benei Mitzva Class First Meeting

The Program was created in 1999 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 03 September 2003. For more information, contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x33 lkempton@beki.org or Andy Schultz at aschultz@beki.org.

Labor Day Service Times

Monday 01 September Shaharit 9:00a; Rashi Study Group 9:45a to 10:30a; Minha-Maariv 5:45p to 6:15p.

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!

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.
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. Kulanu is funded by the David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at BEKI and by the Congregation.
Music of the Days of Awe

Rabbi Alan Lovins and Isaiah Cooper will present an evening of singing, study and preparation for the Yamim Noraim – Days of Awe, on Sunday night 14 September, from 7:30p to 9:00p. The evening is intended to help participants gain a greater understanding, appreciation and mastery of the special melody of the High Holy Days.

Book of Jonah:
A Whale of a Tale, or Just Another Fish Story

A four-session text-intensive examination of the Book of Jonah led by Nadav Sela will meet on Thursdays 4, 11, 18 and 25 September from 6:00p to 7:20p in the Library. The Biblical Book of Jonah is read in its entirety on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. Chapters one, three and four are written in concise prose, while chapter two is a poem similar to those of the Book of Psalms. This class will delve into the literary, psychological, linguistic and religious themes of the book. A knowledge of basic Hebrew is helpful but not required. Texts are available in the Library.

Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A Berakhot Talmud Study Group begins weekly morning meetings on Wednesday 17 September 2003 from 7:30a to 8:00a. The Study Group will focus on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. A knowledge of basic Hebrew is very helpful but not required; the Group is open to all.

Put Ah in Shabbat:
Or, Should Massage Therapy be Declared a Mitzva?

In our crazy, fast-paced world, it takes a conscious effort to carve out a day of rest, study and renewal. How can we carry some of the peace of Shabbat with us during the hectic week?

Kosher Fitness
Or, What You are Looking for is not in the Refrigerator

Food is central to Jewish family life and celebrations. Our Western consumer culture reinforces the mitzva of ess, ess mine kind – eat, eat, dear children! But the super-sized fast-food portions have lead to an epidemic of obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and other ailments.

Kosher Fitness asks us to be conscious when we eat through attention to the five Ws: Why, where, when, what and with whom we eat. Sanctification, moderation, and celebration will nourish us as we bring attention and awareness to our meals and snacks.

Kosher Fitness will be lead by Jennifer Botwick on Monday evenings from 7:00p to 8:00p, beginning 13 October. Registration fee is $50.00 for six weeks. Preregistration is required; subject to minimum enrollment.

Reading Torah at BEKI

Paul Bass (through 06 September) and Willa Needler are coordinating the readings for Devarim (Deuteronomy). If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read Torah, call Rabbi Jon-Jay at (203) 389-2108 x10 (jjtilsen@beki.org) or Darryl Kuperstock at (203) 387-0304 (kuperst@aol.com).
**Rashi Study Group**

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Rosenkrantz Family Library to read Rashi’s commentary on the Torah. It is possible to participate for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the Biblical text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group has been meeting weekly since 1994.

**AA Meeting**

An AA meeting is held at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting call Jay at (203) 387-6019.

**Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan**

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the *Shaharit* (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Led by Steven Fraade and Rabbi Alan Lovins, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening multi-generational setting.

**Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group**

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For many participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. For information, contact Marc Schwartz.

**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](http://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.

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*High Holy Days ticket from the Rose Street Shul, 1953*