

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

September 2005

Elul 5765
Vol. 11 Issue 9*In this issue:*New Simha Chairs
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Danny Siegel—author, advocate for social justice, and founder of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund—will be featured at a Shabbaton at BEKI from Friday night 9 September through Sunday 11 September. The Shabbaton will show how everyone—including you—has the ability to help repair the world.

This exciting weekend of learning is open to all BEKI members, as well as to the Greater New Haven community.

Registration for BEKI members is \$72 for adults, \$36 for teenagers, 12–16; non-members, \$90/\$36. Children under 12 and anyone who joins BEKI between August 1 and September 9 may attend for free. Pre-registration is required.

Registration covers Friday night Shabbat dinner and a talk by Siegel; Shabbat lunch qiddush and program; late afternoon session for teenagers only, Saturday night recording session with “Songs of Love” (see recent coverage of this project on 60 Minutes with Dan Rather at www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/06/27/6_0II/main704569.shtml) as well as other activities that blend entertainment and mitzvot, plus Sunday brunch and workshops.

Danny Siegel has been called “The World’s Greatest Expert on Microphilanthropy.” Our tradition teaches

that anyone on a mitzva mission will be saved from harm, and so, before each trip to Israel, beginning in 1981, Siegel followed an age-old custom and asked friends and relatives for a dollar or two to give away to worthy causes in the Holy Land. Once in Israel, he sought out people who were making the world a better place through small, but effective projects.

He learned of Hadassah Levi, who rescued abandoned Down’s Syndrome babies from hospitals; Myriam Mendilow, who found Jerusalem’s poor, elderly residents on the streets of the city and gave them respect and purpose through Yad L’Kashish (Lifeline for the Old) handicraft workshops; and Uri Lupolianski, who started a medical equipment lending program, Yad Sarah, in his living room. Lupolianski is the current mayor of Jerusalem.

continued on page 5

Saturday night 12 November 2005

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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.

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BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Introducing BEKI's New President



Donna Levine

Donna Levine was elected President of BEKI at the Annual Meeting on June 26, along with a slate of officers and trustees. A long-time BEKI member, she has served on the Executive Board for nearly a decade, filling the position of secretary for the past six years.

“This is a way to give something back to the Jewish community in return for all that’s been given to me throughout my lifetime,” she says.

“Donna will be a wonderful leader for the congregation,” says outgoing President Gila Reinstein. “She knows BEKI inside and out, and has the smarts, energy, dedication, and sensitivity to take us from strength to strength.”

Born in Bridgeport, Donna was the second of Max and Estelle Romanoff’s three children. The family belonged to Congregation Rodeph Sholom, where Donna became active as a teenager, rising to the position of President of

the LTF (Leaders Training Fellowship) youth group. She was also involved in USY. The summer she was 16 years old, Donna received a full scholarship from Rodeph Sholom to attend a seminar program at Camp Ramah in Nyack, and a few years later she worked as the English secretary at Ramah in Palmer. More recently, Donna renewed her Ramah connections, attending Family Camp with her husband Sid and their children for five summers in a row.

After graduating from NYU with a degree in economics, Donna moved to Colorado for several years before returning to Connecticut, where her first child, Sarah, was born. After completing a master’s degree in Taxation, Donna entered law school at the University of Connecticut. Ari—after whom our children’s library is named—was born a year later and, sadly, lived for only two years. It was while attending services to say kaddish for Ari that Donna and Sid began to connect more strongly with BEKI. Ilana and Josh were among the early participants in BEKI’s children’s programs, and all three of the Levine children attended BEKI Religious School and Makom High School.

In addition to her BEKI responsibilities, Donna is an attorney in private practice, specializing in probate, estate planning and elder law. She is on the Board of HART (Housing Alternatives for the Retarded Today) and has served as HART’s President for the past few years. She was a founder of PATH (Parents Available to Help), an organization that provides support to

families of children with disabilities. Donna is on the Executive Committee of the Elder Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

There’s an adage that says, “If you want something done, ask a busy person.” BEKI asked Donna to take charge of this lively, wonderful synagogue, and we are delighted—and fortunate—that she agreed.

Rabbis Honored by JFS

On 18 September, Jewish Family Service of New Haven Inc. will honor Rabbi Gerald Brieger of Temple Emanuel (Orange); Rabbi Richard Eisenberg of Congregation B’nai Jacob (Woodbridge); Rabbi Herbert Brockman of Congregation Mishkan Israel (Hamden); and Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen of Congregation Beth-El Keser Israel (Westville) for their time-honored support of JFS.

A special tribute evening is scheduled from 6-9 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center in Woodbridge. The evening will include a buffet, wine bar, dessert and will be catered by Ridgefield Regency Kosher Caterers.

“Just as the rabbi is the heart of the synagogue, we are blessed to have these rabbis as the collective soul of the New Haven Jewish community. Their support of JFS has been unwavering, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to honor their selfless generosity,” commented JFS President Ros Sperling. For information contact JFS at (203) 389-5599 x 100.



*An Occasional Feature of Answers,
Advice and Helpful Household Hints*

Dear Rabbi,
When the Scriptures say “You shall not boil a kid in its mother’s milk,” can this be taken literally as a practice done by others that the Hebrews thought was insensitive to animals? I would understand if the prohibition by the sages became “Don’t mix cow and dairy,” seeing that this is calf and mother’s milk. However, I do not understand how chicken and a cow’s milk seem to be insensitive, or a cheese omelet. This prohibition between all types of meat and dairy is not at all what the Scripture is saying, even if we could relate it to just “cow and dairy.” Why has this become so important when Scripture is not saying that? What is the reason behind the meat and dairy prohibition?

*Signed,
Chews by Choice*

Dear Chews,
It is indeed the case that most of the rules of kashrut are rabbinic (deRabbanan) and not specifically Toraitic (deOraita). The Torah specifies certain

animals that must not be eaten; that permitted animals must be slaughtered in a certain way; that specific parts (such as blood and some fats) may not be eaten; and that “you shall not boil a kid in its mother’s milk.” The latter Torah passage, stated three times, is taken to apply to all kosher domesticated mammals (the milk and the meat part), and not just a “kid” in its own mother’s milk. It is also taken as a prohibition against the act of cooking meat and milk together, eating milk and meat together, and benefiting from such cooking. The text literally does not say you can’t eat such a mixture, it just says you can’t cook it, so one might think that if you have the chef cook it, or eat it raw, then it is ok. But under the ancient reading of the law, the Torah prohibits all of those acts.

The rest of the laws of kashrut are rabbinic. Well, we’re rabbinic Jews, after all. If we were Sadducees or Karaites, we would observe Levirate marriage, stone homosexuals (along with people who gather sticks on Saturday), hold slaves and slaughter the residents, including cattle, of belligerent enemy cities. But we are rabbinic Jews, who have built a civilization on the gradual development of Torah law.

The Torah itself states just three reasons for kashrut. (1) I am God and I say so. For some, that is all the reason they need. (2) You shall be holy. It does not explain just why avoiding certain items is associated with holiness, though. (3) Eating forbidden animals is called “disgusting.” On the latter point, see my essay, “Chews by Choice,” at <http://www.beki.org/bullet98.html#message>. Beyond that, many have given additional spiritual,

sociological, scientific, mystical and other reasons for observing the kashrut regime. One fine statement of these reasons is Rabbi James Lebeau’s *The Jewish Dietary Laws: Sanctify Life*; another is Rabbi Samuel H. Dresner’s *The Jewish Dietary Laws: Their Meaning for Our Time*. In addition, there is an interactive CD created by Rabbi Steve Morgan that presents many of the rabbinic sources for the development of kashrut laws.

Most societies have rules of etiquette and diet that are in some ways as detailed or complex as kashrut. Even at International House of Pancakes, a waitress could lose her job for putting the fork on the right instead of the left. Kashrut, though, when done properly, is truly edifying and a force for the advancement of Jewish and human civilization.

Part of “You shall be holy” is to convey the message, contrary to the consumerist culture we live in, that everything in the world is not there for us to consume; that we are not valued by how much we can consume. It is a communal discipline. Kashrut also forces us to consider where our food comes from: Did it involve animal cruelty, exploitation of labor, or environmental assault? Kashrut takes an “animal” bodily function and attempts to elevate it.

There are also “mystical” explanations given, although I personally do not teach them. These involve the symbols of milk as a source of life, as the attribute of compassion; and it is “offensive” in this rubric to eat it with flesh, a symbol of death.

Danny Siegel

continued from page 1

Returning from each trip, Danny sent a report to his donors describing how he had distributed their tsedaqa money. That first year's fund totaled \$955. In the 30 years since, Ziv has given out more than \$8,600,000.

Ziv supports individuals and programs that offer direct, significant, and immediate services with a minimum of overhead and bureaucracy. Ziv is also involved in bringing the educational message of tsedaqa to communities and Jewish schools throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel, and empowers ordinary people to become "Mitzva heroes" — a term Danny coined to describe people like Hadassah Levi.

Explaining this work, he says, "There

is nothing magical or mystical about it — nothing requiring two PhD's or expertise in software configuration management. Find some Mitzva heroes, find some money, work with them, give to them, and be happy."

He also comments, "Ziv was built on (what some people call) 'small' contributions... we continue doing our Tiquin Olam work based to a very great extent on the smaller donations (\$18, 25, 36, 50, 54, 72, 100). It is a constant reminder to us to be sure that every dollar makes a difference. And, besides, in our thinking, there is no such thing as a small donation, a small Mitzvah, or a small piece of Tiquin Olam."

In addition to his philanthropic and educational work, Danny is the author of 29 books, including an anthology of Talmudic quotes and original poetry.

Born in Virginia, Danny was active at the Arlington-Fairfax Jewish Center (now Etz Chaim), where he served as USY chapter treasurer and president, regional treasurer and president, and finally national president. He calls his USY Pilgrimage to Israel in 1961 one of the "transformative" experiences of his teen-age years. Danny earned a B.S. in Comparative Literature from Columbia University's School of General Studies, and Bachelor's and Master's of Hebrew Literature degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Reservation forms for the weekend are available at the BEKI office. For more information, please contact Dr. Jennifer Botwick (387-8661 or drjbotwicknd@aol.com).

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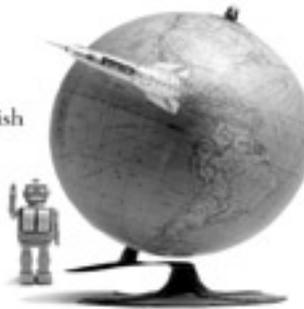
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A Message from the Education Director



Dr. Lauren Kempton

What does a principal do during the summer months when there are no students? What a good question. The first week seems very strange... no laughter in the halls, no parents waiting for their children... no trips to Costco for snack... a forgotten book bag and Hebrew book discovered. Then the realization ... it's June, time to get the registration packages out for Fall, publicize the new Jewish Scholarship Initiative, hire teachers, hire and set up training for new madrikhim for both Religious School and the Benei Mitzva class.

June also brought an important Parent Meeting for Religious School at the home of Sharon and Bennet Lovett-

Graff. In response to parent request we have hired a Hebrew teacher for parents for a class to begin in the Fall entitled "How Can I Support My Child In Hebrew in Religious School?"

We have also established a Lending Library in the volunteer office with books and activity packets for the parasha of the week and Holiday topics and Hebrew. A Parent Committee was established to revisit the *siddur* for the K-2 Kehila on Shabbat.

July was devoted to working on recruitment. We hosted two Open Houses and have five new students for Kindergarten and two for the upper grades. Once parents registered they received their 2005-2006 calendar. I also met with Natan Weinstein to review the scholarship applications. Anat Weiner is the new Coordinator of the Emissary program so we met to plan the welcome and the teaching dates for the new emissaries.

As Education Director, I authored and taught two sessions for Midrasha, summer learning sponsored by the Department of Jewish Education at the JCC. The first class was "Jewish Response to the Genocide in the Sudan." And the second, "Photos From

Auschwitz". I also met with Sarah Serkin, our new Benei Mitzva Director, and Rabbi Tilsen to plan for the upcoming year. A favorite part of my job is helping Benei Mitzva

students prepare their Divrei Torah as I did with Seth Miller, Adam Golberg and Netanya Lerner. I continue to do programming at both Chapel Haven and Fellowship Place.

The summer is also a good time to catch up on professional reading and advancements in curriculum. As a new member of the Jewish Educator's Assembly, I frequently use their list serve to learn what is happening in the religious schools of my colleagues across the country.

Lastly, summer is a good time to review the year and dream of the future. With the national designation by United Synagogue as a Framework of Excellence School, I will focus more energy on publicity for our school and synagogue.

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Garinim Montessori Preschool

Garinim Montessori Preschool for children ages 2 to 6 at BEKI is in session and accepting registration for the current season. The school combines the methods of Montessori with the traditions and culture of Masorti-Conservative Judaism. For information, contact Lana Gad at 389.7445 or lane@garinim.org.

Food Certificates Fundraiser

With the High Holidays and Sukkot 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 389-2070 or at [moris.cohen@yale.edu](mailto:morris.cohen@yale.edu). It doesn't add anything to your food bills, but it can help BEKI pay its bills. GC

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 Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur or Sukkot, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Religious School Beginning

Religious School classes opening is Sunday 11 September 2005. 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 Dr. 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 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 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 Cos-

mic Conversations. There is no additional charge for these programs that reinforce and supplement the School's curriculum. These programs are also ideal for children attending Ezra Academy and other Jewish Day Schools. We 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).

Saul's Circle

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 the 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.

The Saul's Circle group at Fellowship Place is still deeply involved in the reporting process that accompanies the honor of being chosen as a Center of Excellence by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Saul's Circle will celebrate the High Holidays with a teaching session led by Dr. Lauren Kempton. For more information contact Lauren at 389-2018 x13 LKempton@beki.org.

Kulanu Program

Kulanu, BEKI's outreach program for adults with developmental disabilities, will begin its sixth year this autumn. Kulanu participants have had a very busy summer. We had many programs preparing for the High Holidays. Parents of new community members at Chapel Haven now visit BEKI when they bring their family members to join Chapel Haven. Attendance on Shabbat morning has increased. We are exploring Service Learning projects for the autumn such as grounds clean-up.

For information on Kulanu, please contact BEKI's Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 Lkempton@beki.org. Kulanu is funded by the David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs at BEKI and by the Congregation.

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. Pre-payment reserves a space and a plaque.

Calling all College Students

We would like to correspond with college, university and yeshiva students and other post-high school youth. In addition to sharing holiday greetings, we seek to inform them of United Synagogue programs that might be of interest. Please send your or your youth's email address and other contact information to Lori Weinstein care of office@beki.org.

Remember our Students & Youth

We are happy to send a holiday package with sweets and good wishes to students and youth away from home. Help us let them know that we care. Please provide contact information (name, address, email and phone, and parents' phone) to the attention of Lori Weinstein care of office@beki.org.

Benei Mitzva Program Begins in September

Sarah Serkin will serve as the director of our Benei Mitzva Program beginning this autumn. Sarah teaches in a public school system and is a veteran benei mitzva tutor and expert *gabbait*.

We will also have a number of new tutors, as some of our tutors are off to college or yeshiva.

Our previous director, Andy Schultz, will be turning his attention to his studies and to other projects. Edward Abramovitz, who served as the proctor and a tutor, will be leaving this September for yeshiva studies in Israel.

We project that the BMP will meet on Wednesdays from 4:45p to 6:15p most weeks during the year. Individual tutoring will be scheduled at the convenience of the tutor and student. BMP students who are also students at BEKI Religious School can expect their schedules, and curriculum, to be coordinated.

We are very excited about the upcoming year. We believe that we are developing the Program in response to the direction offered by parents and participants, as well as our professional judgment.

During the coming weeks, our Education Director, Dr. Lauren Kempton, as well as Sarah Serkin and I, will communicate further details of the Program and schedule. If you have any questions or concerns at this point, please do contact Lauren (lkempton@beki.org) or me (jjtilsen@beki.org) 389-2108.

HaMaqom Yenahem

We mourn the passing of

Ruth Hallo Landman, sister of William Hallo (& Nanette Stahl)
Murray Goldblum, father of David (& Joanne) Goldblum

Welcome New Members

Dennis & Barbara Rader
Esther & Irwin Nash

LeHitraot

We offer our wishes of success and blessing to BEKI families who have relocated this summer.

- Adena Herskovitz has moved to Philadelphia.
- Mark Paltrowitz & Joanna Sheinfeld & Family have moved to New York

Mazal Tov to

- Raphael Prober & Bonnie Schreiber on their nisuin (Jewish marriage) under a huppa in Washington, DC, on 4 September. Rafi is a son of Daniel & Sharon Prober

Benei Mitzva in September

Sarah Bass, daughter of Paul & Carole Bass, will lead and participate in services on Monday morning 5 September, Rosh Hodesh Elul. The service begins at 9:15a.

Adam Goldberg, son of Etta Goldberg, will lead and participate in services on Friday night 16 September and Shabbat morning 17 September.

David Friedman, son of Lloyd & Kai Yang Friedman, will lead and participate in services on Friday night 23 September and Shabbat morning 24 September.

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Sarah Bass



Adam Goldberg



David Friedman



Corrine Blackmer

Shabbatot **Darshanim in September**

Corinne Blackmer will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning 3 September, *parashat* Re'e. Corinne is an associate professor in the Department of English at Southern Connecticut State University.

Danny Siegel will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning 10 September, *parashat* Shoftim. See "Shabbaton" article in this issue.

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shahrith (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Rabbi Murray**

Levine and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Sundays

New: MAKOM Talmud for Youth with Moshe Meiri

Serious youth are invited to dive into the "sea of Talmud" on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The course will cover the first mishna of Tractate Berakhot with its Gemara. Students are expected to have studied some Mishna and be able to read Hebrew. An acquaintance with Rashi's commentaries is helpful. The text, the *El-Am* edition of Tractate Berakhot, will be supplied. This text is vocalized for easy reading and is accompanied by an English commentary and translation. The class meets Sunday mornings at 10:00a in the BEKI Library. Students wishing to enroll should speak with Arnold Carmel at MAKOM. This is an AP class and will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Moshe may be reached at moshe@snet.net.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. The Rashi Study Group has met weekly since 1994 and is currently reading the book of Numbers. Visitors and new participants are welcome. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shahrith* morning service.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

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

Writing Group

The Writing Group meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Interested writers gather to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage writing, critiques of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the participants bring a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. This community aims to generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org.

AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets 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 contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or sokolow@snet.net.

Every Day

New: Liturgical Audio Recordings

Recordings, for educational purposes, of liturgical selections are available for sound-enabled



Louis Friedman

computers or downloading to audio players at www.beki.org/audio.html. Selections include the blessings for Torah aliya and haftara, for candle lighting and qiddush. Recently added: Vintage recordings of Rev. Louis Friedman, with thanks to the Al Barnett family for sharing the recording made for David Barnett.



Andy Weinstein

40 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
203-933-AUTO (2886)

New: Divrei Torah

Divrei Torah (commentaries) by BEKI members are published on the web at www.beki.org/hungry.html. Recent additions include Gila Reinstein's acceptance speech as the Sisterhood Woman of Valor awardee.

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Selihot at Congregation Beth Sholom

Temple Beth Sholom will host the Conservative-Masorti Community Selihot Service on Saturday Night 24 September 2005. Please check "BEKI Happenings" for the schedule.

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 2 October 2005. 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.

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 thirteenth consecutive year, Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services.

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.

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.

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 x14.

Babysitting is available by prior arrangement for infants during most of the Holy Day services, and for older children during hours when the Children's Programs are not meeting. Walk-in service is not available.

To reserve babysitting service, please call 389-2108 x14.

Rosh HaShana services begin Monday 3 October 2005 6:15p with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 6:30p. Candle Lighting is at 6:13p. The service concludes by 7:00p. Morning services begin at 8:30a on Tuesday 4 October and on Wednesday 5 October. Youth services are held each morning.

Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held on the first day of Rosh HaShana, Tuesday 4 October, at 4:15p, 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 6:15p to 6:30p, followed by the Maariv evening service, which concludes by 6:50p. Candle lighting time for Wednesday evening is after 7:10p.

On Wednesday afternoon, the Minha service will be from 5:45p to 6:00p.

In preparation for the full-day fast of Yom Kippur, it is suggested that caffeine users reduce their intake to avoid withdrawal symptoms on the Holy Day. Some people avoid wearing leather shoes on Yom

Kippur, so do not be surprised to see canvas sneakers or other non-leather shoes in use. Some also follow the custom of wearing a kittel (white robe) or other white garments on Yom Kippur.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Wednesday 12 October 2005, the Minha afternoon service begins at 5:45p. Candle Lighting is 5:58p (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:00p and end by 8:15p. Shahrarit Morning services begin at 9:00a; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11:00a. The Minha Afternoon services begin at 4:30p. The service ends with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 6:59p.

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.

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 in 2001 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.

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 are also available in the lobby literature rack, 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 or office@beki.org.



Sukkot is Coming

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 sets may be ordered from the BEKI Religious School at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org. Sets are \$36 each. They are used each day of

continued on page 23

September 2005

27 Av 5765 - 26 Elul 5765

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 27 Av	2 7:05pm Candle lighting 28 Av	3 Darshanit: Corinne Blackmer 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA 29 Av
4 Rosh Hodesh I 30 Av	5 Rosh Hodesh II Office Closed/Labor Day 9:15am Sarah Bass Bat Mitzva 1 Elul	6 2 Elul	7 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting 3 Elul	8 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 7:30pm Renovation Committee Meeting 8:00pm A.A. 4 Elul	9 Shabbaton featuring Danny Siegel: Scholar in Residence 6:54pm Candle lighting 5 Elul	10 Danny Siegel Shabbaton continues 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: BEKI and Gratz/Callaghan baby naming 6 Elul
11 9:00am Religious School Begins Danny Siegel Shabbaton Continues 7 Elul	12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting 8 Elul	13 9 Elul	14 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program Begins 10 Elul	15 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 11 Elul	16 Adam Goldberg Bar Mitzva 6:43pm Candle lighting 12 Elul	17 Adam Goldberg Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Goldberg 13 Elul
18 9:00am Religious School 14 Elul	19 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm First Sisterhood Meeting featuring Rabbi Amanda Brodie 15 Elul	20 16 Elul	21 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program 17 Elul	22 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 18 Elul	23 David Friedman Bar Mitzva 6:31pm Candle lighting 19 Elul	24 Selihot David Friedman Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Friedman 11:00pm Selihot at Congregation Beth Sholom 20 Elul
25 9:00am Religious School 21 Elul	26 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting 22 Elul	27 23 Elul	28 8:30am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:45pm Benei Mitzva Program 24 Elul	29 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00pm Writing Group 8:00pm A.A. 25 Elul	30 6:19pm Candle lighting 26 Elul	

BEKI Events

Telephone (203) 776-1243
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Tiqun Olam – Social Action

Habitat For Humanity - Amity Cares

Be a part of this great project!

Our first scheduled work date as part of the Amity Cares Build took place on Sunday 31 July. A fantastic team of 15 showed up to give of their time, their energy and their skills. Although the actual build site was not ready due to delays in preparing the foundation, there was plenty of work to do at the Habitat warehouse building cabinets, preparing and painting exterior porch columns, painting interior trim, and reorganizing building materials. We had a glorious sunny day spent working hard with great company and some unexpected treats.

Thanks to all the great volunteers who made it a wonderful day:

BEKI - Habitat Team For 31 JULY 2005: Carole Bass; Roz Ben-Chitrit; Coby Ben-Chitrit; Miriam Feinstein; Hugh Fryer; Marty Gold; Darryl Kuperstock; David Kuperstock; Aliza Kuperstock; Eva Landau; Lynn Miller; Melissa Perkal; Helen Rosenberg; Shai Sokolow Silverman; Pete Stein.

Our second work date will have taken place as this *Bulletin* is at press (28 August). Thanks to all who showed up to help!

If you'd like to be a part of this great project, our next scheduled work date is Sunday 25 September from 10a-3p.

Please contact Darryl Kuperstock at 387-0304 or kuperst@aol.com.

Youth News

New USY Officers

Newly elected officers of United Synagogue Youth – USY for 5766:

President - **Sam Weiser**
Co Vice Presidents - Jon Branden & **Yaakov Stern**
Israeli Affairs Vice President - Rachel Klein
Religious Education Vice President - **Shai Silverman**
SATO Vice President - Jessica Bell
Membership/Kadima Vice President - Rebecca Ravski
Co Communications Vice Presidents - Karen Sutin & **Daphne Lew**

New Kadima Advisor Appointed

We are proud to announce our new Kadima advisor for the 05-06 year, BEKI member Ruth Greenblatt. Ruth is a physical therapist for children, and has done a great deal of cantorial work throughout synagogues in the New Haven area. She grew up in this area and was herself a member of 'Junior USY,' as it was called then, and USY, and now lives in Westville. She is co-President of the sisterhood

at BEKI and has a great rapport with youth. *RC-G*

Kadima Korner

I am Ruthie Greenblatt, your new BEKI/BJ Kadima advisor. I'm working hard trying to make this a "rockin" year full of exciting programs and events. But I can't do it alone. Kadima needs you, your ideas for programs and your participation. Parents, I'd also love your input as well to make this the best year ever.

Highlights of coming events

11 September 2005:

Chapter kick off event; details to follow

18 September 2005:

Regional kick off event; great way to meet kids from all over the region...any parents interested in driving?

23 October 2005 Sunday Hol Hamoed Sukkot:

Sukka Hop. I'm looking for families to volunteer their Sukkot and parents to volunteer to drive between Sukkot. (This is like a progressive dinner but in the Sukkot.)

I can be reached at 203-389-4349 or kadima@beki.org.
BeShalom, Ruthie

Mark Your Calendar

- o **Bat Mitzva: Sarah Bass** Monday 5 September 2005 9:15a
- o **Tiqun Olam Shabbaton featuring Danny Siegel** 9-10 September 2005
- o **Bar Mitzva: Adam Goldberg** 16-17 September 2005
- o **Sisterhood Opening Meeting** Monday 19 September 7:30p
- o **Bar Mitzva: David Friedman** 23-24 September 2005
- o **Bat Mitzva: Ariel Weiser** 28-29 October 2005
- o **Rosh HaShana** Evening Monday 3 October 2005
- o **Rosh HaShana** Tuesday 4 October & Wednesday 5 October 2005
- o **Kol Nidre & Yom Kippur Evening** Wednesday 12 October 2005
- o **Yom Kippur** Thursday 13 October 2005
- o **Tribute Dinner honoring Paul Goodwin & Saul Bell** 12 November 2005
- o **Bat Mitzva: Hannah Stone** 25-26 November 2005
- o **Bat Mitzva: Netanya Lerner** 30-31 December 2005

Two New Simha Chairs for BEKI

What are Simha Chairs? Local Judaica artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren describes them as ‘brightly decorated sturdy wood chairs to support the bride and groom, or the bar- or bat- mitzva as they’re lifted high at the simh_a of their lives!’ Here is the story of how BEKI acquired two new beautiful simha chairs for use at YOUR next simha!



In spring of 2005, eight BEKI families whose children attend or have attended the Ezra Academy were at an auction sponsored by Ezra. Two simha chairs were featured objects of the live auction part of the evening. The eight families decided that we wanted to purchase these for BEKI and each family committed to spending a certain amount of money. Right after we finished our private negotiations, the live auction began at last, and the chairs were the first item on the auction! Unfortunately, another group sitting directly behind the BEKI group also decided to bid on the chairs. The bidding went fast and furious, but, sadly, the BEKI group reached their maximum while the other group kept upping their bids. However, artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren, whose children also attended the Ezra Academy, was sitting on the far side of the room and had mistakenly thought that the BEKI group had won the bid. She came over to congratulate us, only to find us sitting glumly at our table. Jeanette immediately thought of another way for the BEKI group to buy the chairs for the synagogue, handshakes took place all around, and the two chairs were commissioned.

If you are interested in using the chairs for your next simh_a, please tell Peggy in the BEKI office. More information can be found about artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren at www.kuvinoren.com. -- RCG

Sukkot is Coming

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Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabba. Information on the festival observances appears in the October *Bulletin*.

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Sunday 16 October, following the 9:00a *shaharit* morning service. Add a personal touch by bringing some of you own *sekhakh* (evergreen branches are preferred) for the roof to enhance the beauty and aroma of our congregational *sukka*. Breakdown and storage are planned for Sunday 30 October, again following *shaharit*. Additional power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information, contact Saul Bell (389-1647) or David Kuperstock (387-0304).