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# BEKI bulletin

Congregation  
Beth El-Keser Israel

September 2008

Elul 5768  
Vol. 14 Issue 8*Days of Awe – Page 4*

## NEW WORK OF ART AT ORIGINAL MAIN ENTRANCE



A magnificent one-of-a-kind stained glass window will be dedicated at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel on Sept. 7 at 10:15 a.m. The window, mounted above the Harrison Street doors, was donated by Esther and Irwin Nash and artist Cynthia Beth Rubin, who volunteered her time and talent.

“My husband and I wished to contribute to BEKI in a meaningful way,” says Esther. “I looked around the synagogue and noticed that the plain glass transom above the main entrance would be an excellent spot for an interesting piece of stained glass. My family and I feel privileged to be able to contribute to ‘hidur mitzva’ [enhancement or beautification of a mitzva] in a manner that will, hopefully, bring pleasure and meaning to our fellow congregants.”

To turn the idea into reality, a committee was formed that met periodically over the course of a year to discuss the motifs and colors that would appear on the window. Members included Esther, Cynthia, John Weiser, Marsha Beller, Darryl Kuperstock, Gila Reinstein, and Ellen Cohen. Although the concept of “design by committee” is conventionally frowned upon, in this instance, it worked surprisingly well.

“This was the best experience I’ve ever had, working with a committee!” said Cynthia, an award-winning digital artist. “The committee members took seriously the responsibility to critique the early designs and gave constructive suggestions. The design went through many iterations as we developed the concepts. People really were engaged in the creative process, and that translated into an engagement that made this whole experience a pleasure for me.”

“We worked well together as a group,” agrees Esther. “Everyone was respectful of others’ opinions and made important contributions to the final product, which incorporates Moorish elements from traditional European synagogues, the star from the stained glass window from the old Rose Street shul, and textures and colors drawn from nature.”

The goal was to bring “a sense of timelessness to the contemporary architecture of the synagogue,” Cynthia explains, “to complement the architecture, not disrupt it, as the simplicity of the original building offers a quiet, contemplative space. In its location over the front entrance, the window imbues the

*Continued on Page 3*

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## BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

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

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
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## Annual Report

Rabbi Tilsen's Annual Report is available at [www.beki.org/tilsen/annual08.pdf](http://www.beki.org/tilsen/annual08.pdf), by request from the office, and in the literature rack in the lobby.

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vestibule with the traditional function of entryways in synagogues throughout the world: a place to make the transition from the mundane to the sacred.”

Throughout the process the committee consulted with Jayne Crowley of J.C. Art Glass Designs in Branford. Jayne and Cynthia experimented with various methods of achieving the desired colors and textures, before agreeing that using one-of-a-kind existing glass was the best approach. Individual pieces of dazzlingly colorful, textured contemporary glass were selected, photographed, and carefully pieced together to evoke traditional Jewish symbols as well as universal nature motifs. The elements were initially composed on the computer, so that the artist could specify the exact sections of unique glass that would bring the vision of the group to fruition.

### **About the window**

“The central star in the window is derived directly from the central window of the original Rose Street shul, one of BEKI’s predecessors, and a similar window can be seen in the surviving New Haven Orchard Street shul,” Cynthia Beth Rubin explains. The row of arches is found in Jewish art ranging from menorot to scrolls of Esther, and common to both Sephardic and Ashkenazic traditions, she notes, adding, “The arches and posts delineate seven sections of the image, referring to the seven days of the week and the seven days of creation.”

According to the artist, “The BEKI window is built on a symmetrical structure, but also incorporates asymmetry, a kind of chaos of playful colors and forms. It is both tightly organized and loosely bound. While much of the design is visually symbolic, parts of the window are simply lively,

moving, and captivating. They serve to keep the imagery dancing, beckoning, and engaging. It is reflective of a progressive, egalitarian congregation with a strong tie to history, community, and our natural environment.”

The colors across the top of the window suggest the daily cycle of time, from the pale blue of early morning, to the richer blues of midday, ending in the red streaks of sunset. The arches and the tips of the stars are “the aqua blue of infinitely deep waters of lakes and oceans—just translucent enough to reveal bits of what lies on the other side; they invite us to sink into them,” Cynthia says.

“BEKI sits in view of New Haven’s dramatic West Rock, where layers of rocks push up against each other. In the BEKI window, this drama is found in the interspersed panels of cascading purples and whites. A wide variety of rich greens make up the posts and shadow arches in the window, reminding us of the greens of leaves, forests, and everything that grows. Touches of red and orange swirl through the greens, as flowers would swirl throughout gardens and fields.”

### **About the artist**

Cynthia Beth Rubin is an award-winning digital artist who works in still imagery, inter-activity, animated images, and 3D imaging. Trained as a painter, her work evokes cultural memories through complex layers of color and texture. She began experimenting with digital media in the early 1980s, and the subsequent transition from painting to the electronic arts provided the means and the impetus for a shift in the subject matter in her work. Rubin’s imagery recalls the cultural legacy of times and places beyond her own lifetime, referring to the subjective experience of memory.

Cynthia’s art has been exhibited in solo and group shows in such venues as the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Pandemonium Festival in London, the Lavall Gallery in Novosibirsk (Russia), the DeLeon White Gallery in Toronto, Slifka Center at Yale, and at numerous international conferences. Images of her works and interviews with the artist have been published in books and journals such as *Art in the Digital Age* by Bruce Wands, *The Computer in the Visual Arts*, by Anne Morgan Spalter, and *Painting the Digital River*, by James Faure Walker. Her work has been widely featured in the press, including in the *Forward*, *Hadassah Magazine*, *Autour de l’art juif* by Adrian M. Darmon, and many non-Jewish publications.

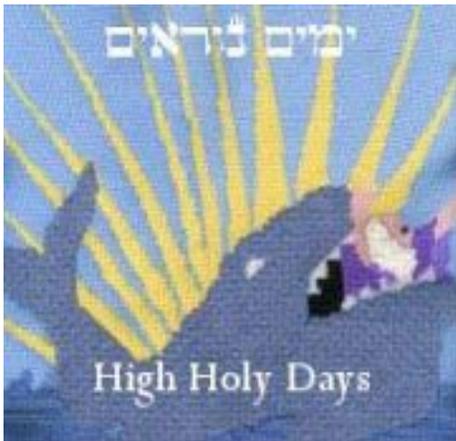
Her computer video “*Les Affinities Recouvrées*” was shown Opening night of the San Francisco and the Boston Jewish Film Festivals in 1995, and continues to be featured at film festivals throughout the world. The inter-active work *Layered Histories: The Wandering Bible of Marseilles*, was featured at the Jewish Museum in Prague for a two-month exhibit in 2005, as well as several other venues including the Slifka Center at Yale.

Winner of the first award in New Media from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, Cynthia recently won this grant for the third time. Other awards and artist residencies include the New England Foundation for the Arts, *Videochroniques in Marseilles*, *CYPRES at l’Ecole d’art d’Aix-en-Provence*, and the international Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, among others. Her studio is in New Haven and she teaches part-time at the Rhode Island School of Design and elsewhere in the region.

# Yamim Noraim: Days of Awe

## Schedules, Information, Order Forms

Information, schedules, registration and order forms for Yamim Noraim Days of Awe are available at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) by clicking the Yamim Noraim High Holy Days image at the upper left corner.



## Volunteers Needed

To volunteer to either help with planning or participate in our High Holy Day worship services, please return the form you received in the mid-month mailing, or to complete the form online, follow the link for “information, registration and ticketing” and then to [Yamim Noraim High Holy Days Participation and Volunteer Opportunities](#). Help is needed for mailings, Break Fast shopping and planning, greeters and ushers, minyan makers (early attenders), English readings, printing Yizkor Memorial Book, and more. If you have any questions, please speak with Darryl Kuperstock.

## Tiku Shofar High Holy Days Preparation Workshop

Anyone who want to deepen their understanding of and proficiency in the liturgy, and especially Junior

Congregation Leaders, Sunday, Sept. 7, immediately following 5:45 p.m. service until 7:30. See details in the *Torah for the Hungry Mind* section of this issue.

## Selihot at Or Shalom

Congregation Or Shalom will host the Conservative-Masorti Community Selihot Service on Saturday night, Sept. 20. The evening begins at 7:45 with Havdala and refreshments. The service begins at 8:30 and will conclude at 10 p.m.

The *selihot* (penitential) prayers are said during the middle of the night during the period 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 a.m. at the Hamden Cemetery, and at 11 a.m. at the West Haven Cemetery on Sunday, Sept. 28. 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. If you would like a ride to the service, please contact the office a few days in advance.

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](http://www.beki.org/findbeki.html). For information on cemetery purchases or upkeep, please call the BEKI Cemetery Association at 389-2108 x57.

## High Holy Days Participation

Please be sure to return your High Holy Days volunteer/participation forms. We will definitely need help with every aspect of our holiday celebrations. The form is also available on the BEKI website at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html).

## 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 sixteenth consecutive year, Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services.



Alan Lovins

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 recog-

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nize the ushers are urged to introduce themselves, as our ushers wish to meet as many members and visitors as they can.

For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in these services. For registration information, call 389-2108 x14.

If you are interested in babysitting service, please call 389-2108 x14. Walk-in babysitting is not available.

Rosh HaShana services begin Monday, Sept. 29, at 6:15 p.m. with the Mincha service, followed by Maariv at 6:30. Candle Lighting is at 6:18. The service concludes by 7 p.m. Morning services begin at 8:30 on Tuesday, Sept. 30; several services for children and youth, and a learners' service, are held as well.

*Tashlikh* ("casting") services will be held on the *first* day of Rosh HaShana, Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 5:15 p.m., at the Edgewood Bridge and at the Whitney



Museum

Covered Bridge.

For tashlikh at Beaver Pond Park, contact [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) 389-2108 x14. 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. Mincha and Maariv services on Thursday evening are also at 6:15 and 6:30.

On Wednesday, Oct. 1, morning services are also at 8:30. Youth services

are held

as well. On

Wednesday afternoon, the second day of Rosh HaShana, the mincha service begins at 5:45 and concludes by 6:05.

For a complete schedule, see [www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html](http://www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html), see your members' High Holy Days mailings, or request a copy of the information booklet from the office.

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**HaMaqom Yenahem**

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**Joyce Mann Stanger,**  
mother of Deborah (& Stephen) Joy

**Joseph Gutherz,**  
father of Dan Gutherz

**Simon Konoff**

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*



**Matthew Lettick**



**Hans Massaquoi**

**Benei Mitzva**

Matthew John Lettick, son of Robert & Janice Merz Lettick, will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva on Shabbat Sept. 12-13, parashat Ki Tetsei. Matt is a graduate of the BEKI Religious School and of the Benei Mitzva Program.

Hans Yehohanan Rutgers Massaquoi, son of Sybil Richards & Hans Massaquoi, will lead and participate in services as a bar mitzva on Shabbat Sept. 19-20, parashat Ki Tavo. Hans is a graduate of the BEKI Religious School and of the Benei Mitzva

Program and was a participant in the BEKI Israel Experience 2007.

**Welcome New Members**

Rabbi Richard & Judy Eisenberg  
Emily Bazelon & Paul Sabin, and  
Elijah and Simon

**Call to Social Action**

As the high holidays approach, BEKI is organizing members interested in social action. If you have a particular cause for which you would like to LEAD a one-time or ongoing social action/community service effort, please contact BEKI Social Action Chair, Jennifer Botwick, at [drjbotwicknd@aol.com](mailto:drjbotwicknd@aol.com), 387-8661. Some examples of activities are delivering food to food drives, soup kitchens, Habitat for Humanity, or literacy programs.



**Soup kitchen volunteers**

# Welcome NoriAnna Cohen USY Advisor



**NoriAnna Cohen**

*We have hired a wonderful new advisor to work with our USY youth group (9th-12th grades). Here are a few words from her. Please welcome NoriAnna Cohen to our community; she will be around to meet parents and teens at several times throughout the year. Rena Cheskis-Gold, Youth Commissioner, Congregation BEKI, and Susan Dardik, Chair, BJ Youth Committee.*

Hello, my name is NoriAnna Cohen and I will be the new USY advisor!

I am a junior majoring in psychology at Quinnipiac University this fall and I am from Cherry Hill, N.J. In

high school, I was active in Hagesher USY, so I am thrilled to continue my involvement with USY as an advisor. I served three years as an officer in my high school chapter; I was President, Religious Education VP, and Social Action-Tikun Olam VP. I attended a variety of USY kinnusim, as well as USY on Wheels during the summer of 2004, and have staffed Hanefesh regional events. I am so delighted to be a part of the Beth El-Keser Israel and B'nai Jacob community. I am looking forward to a great year.

B'Shalom,  
NoriAnna

## USY News for 2008-09

The year in BEKI-BJ USY is just about to start, and it's something to get excited about. In the past year our 9th to 12th grade chapter has come far. We have made huge improvements to our awesome chapter starting with our first ever free Ice Cream Social event in September, watching a college hockey game, raising large amounts of money for USY's Social Action/Tikun Olam (SATO) foundation with our Pie Fund-raiser, and ending with a large showing at our chapter elections.

We've had more events, better planned events, and really fun events!

We had two members on the Hanefesh Regional General Board, the highest attendance to a regional kinnus and summer Encampment in years, and overall large involvement at the regional and international level. Our success this past year was made possible thanks to our five-member

chapter board and our adviser, Shiri Friedman, whom we will miss very much in the coming year.

This year promises to be even better under the leadership of the incoming board: Yedidya Ben-Avie and Maya Sutin (Co-Presidents), Avital Sokolow Silverman (Israeli Affairs VP), Tsvi Benson-Tilsen (Religion Education VP), Myia Shoshan (Social Action/Tikun Olam VP), Esther Bogorov (Membership/Kadima VP), Carmi Cheskis-Gold and Daniel Ben-Chitrit (Co-Communications VPs).

We look forward to meeting and working with our new adviser, NoriAnna Cohen. In the next year we hope to bring in lots of new members from both BEKI and BJ, work on and improve the quality and quantity of our events, increase our regional activity and presence, become more connected with our community with events that are done with other Jewish youth

groups, and meet and get to know B'nai Jacob's Rabbi Levenson.

## Do You See Yourself as a Youth Group Advisor for Middle-Schoolers?

We are seeking to hire a part-time adult advisor for our award-winning



Kadima program (grades 6th-8th), which is run jointly with Congregation BJ. The

advisor spends about 5 to 7 hours a week organizing the twice-monthly events, administering the program, and liaising with parents.

If you are interested in learning more about the position or have a suggestion for someone we can contact, please contact BEKI Youth Commissioner, Rena Cheskis-Gold, [r.cheskis-gold@snet.net](mailto:r.cheskis-gold@snet.net), 397-1497.

# BEKI Names New Religious School Head

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is proud to announce that Ina L. Silverman has become the new principal of the BEKI Religious School. A lively two-day a week (Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon) program, the Religious School at BEKI is known for its creative programming and small classes, where every child gets individual attention.

“Jewish education and observance bring family and community together,” Ina says. “At the BEKI Religious School, we will provide opportunities for parents to learn and grow along with their children, and we will integrate the school more fully into the life of the congregation.”

“We are absolutely thrilled to have Ina at the helm of the school,” says former BEKI President Gila Reinstein, who chaired the search committee. “Her background, experience, knowledge of and love for Judaism are exactly what we were looking for. Her enthusiasm and energy, plus her familiarity with this congregation, are real assets.”

A long-time teacher in the synagogue’s school, Ina was appointed to succeed outgoing principal Dorothy Bowser earlier this summer. She immediately set to work to create a coherent curriculum that emphasizes synagogue skills, Hebrew reading, love of Torah, Jewish traditions, and ethical living.

“We will create a comfortable, creative environment for Jewish observance, combining serious study with fun. History, holidays, and the lifecycle celebrations will all be part of the mix,” she says. “Learning, especially learning about Judaism, is a lifelong, joyous endeavor, and at the BEKI Religious School, we will launch our students on this wonderful adventure.”

Ina has lived in New Haven virtually

her entire life, growing up on Fountain Street with her parents, Lillian Silverman and Robert Silverman, her brother Avi, and an assortment of dogs and fish. She began her own religious education at the Westville Synagogue. She



**Ina Silverman**

attended Davis Street School, New Haven Hebrew Day School and Richard C. Lee High School before graduating from Yale, where she studied anthropology, hosted a radio program, and wrote articles about scientific phenomena. Ina earned a master’s degree from the Yale School of Medicine with a thesis about the role of science and the courts in environmental health policy. Her research interests led her to the University of Connecticut School of Law where she earned her J.D. degree.

Ina practiced law with a litigation firm, then worked for the New Haven Board of Aldermen. She has contributed chapters to a National Cancer Institute book and co-authored a chapter in a book about racial and ethnic identity in which she argued for the rights of children to be adopted by the first available loving family without taking race into

consideration. Ina returned to school for teacher certification, and taught language arts in a Jewish day school for several years.

Ina is married to Dr. Jay Sokolow, who is current president of BEKI. They are the proud parents of Shai and Avital. (Because of their relationship, Jay recused himself from the search for a Religious School principal.)

Ina has served on the BEKI Board of Directors, and now sits on the Cemetery Committee, chairs the Purim Shalah Manot project, and has taught in the Religious School for many years. Fulfilling a lifelong dream, she spent a year in Jerusalem with her family in 2000. Last summer she was a Legacy Heritage Jewish Communal Fellowship recipient and studied at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem.

Ina is now serving her second term on the New Haven Board of Aldermen representing the 25th Ward, which she considers “a great privilege.” Her father was also an alderman representing Westville. Ina sits on the Board of Directors of the New Haven Legal Aid Association, the Tennis Foundation of Connecticut, and the Baseball Foundation of Connecticut. In past years she sat on the boards of the Jewish Federation, Women of Vision, and the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund.

Along with Alderman Carl Goldfield and political leader Susan Voigt, Ina was honored last year with a Tribute Dinner at BEKI for her public service and dedication to the community.

One of Ina’s favorite books is Pirquei Avot (Ethics of the Elders). “Learning from that text, I recognize the impossibility of completing all the tasks required to repair the world, but I take to heart the obligation to do my part in that effort,” she says.



Andy Weinstein

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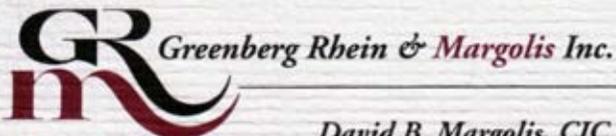
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*Shabbatot*

## Darshan in September

Michael Kligfeld will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning Sept. 6, *parashat* Shoftim.

Matthew Lettick, *bar mitzva*, will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning, Sept. 13, *parashat* Ki Teitsei.

Hans Massaquoi, *bar mitzva*, will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat morning, Sept. 20, *parashat* Ki Tavo.

## Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

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

Expertly led by **Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Isaiah Cooper, Nadav Sela** 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 for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

## Kulanu Discussion Group

Adults who take part in the Kulanu Friendship Circle and the Saul's Circle outreach programs are invited to participate in a Shabbat morning discussion group which meets on selected Shabbat mornings from 10:45a to 11:45a with Dr. Lauren Kempton. For information, contact Lauren at 389-2108 x33 or lkempton@beki.org

*Sundays*

## Talmud for Teens with Moshe Meiri

Serious high school students are invited to forage through the forest of Talmud on Sunday mornings with



**Moshe Meiri**

Moshe Meiri beginning Sunday morning, Sept. 7. In this semester, the class will explore chapter two of *Masekhet Ketubot*, "HaIsha She-Nitarmela." Students are

expected to have studied some Mishna and be familiar with the Hebrew alphabet. An acquaintance with Rashi's commentaries is helpful. Texts are vocalized for easy reading and are accompanied by an English commentary and translation. The classes meet Sunday mornings from 10 to noon. Instructor's permission required; students wishing to enroll should speak with Moshe and should register with the office ([office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org)). The classes are open only to students in grades 8-12. This class will be taught in an academic Jewish Studies style. Disciplined attendance is expected. Registration and materials fee is \$100 for the autumn semester. Moshe may be reached at [moshe@snet.net](mailto:moshe@snet.net).

## Tiku Shofar

High Holy Day Junior Congregation Leaders (and any others in the BEKI community who want to deepen their understanding of and proficiency in the liturgy), Sunday evening, Sept. 7, immediately following 5:45 until 7:30. With Isaiah Cooper, High Holiday Shaliah Tsibur (prayer leader). Service outlines will be distributed; digital recordings of the services sung "straight through" will be provided.



**Isaiah Cooper**

Recommended: purchase a copy of *Tiku Shofar*, by Shoshana Silberman, [www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org) for your own use and bring it to the session. You may bring a recording device to the session. RSVP to Rachel, 387-7072, by Sept. 1.

*Mondays*

## Rashi Study Group

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

The Rashi Study Group is about to complete the Book of Numbers. This is an especially good time for new participants to join. No reservations required; just come.

*Continued on Page 13*

Continued from Page 12

Wednesdays

### Rabbis' Study Group

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

### Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot

"Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot" is for adults wishing an overview of the principles of Jewish thought and life. It is ideal for people new to Judaism, considering conversion, or wishing to begin a systematic study and practice of Judaism. Topics include The Torah, Halakha (Jewish Law), The Mitzva System, 3,600 Years of Jewish History, The God of Israel, Fundamental Observances, Conservative & Other Judaisms, Messiah, Eternal Life, Talmud Torah, The Sabbath, and more. The series meets

on Thursday evenings Sept. 4 and 11, from 6 to 7:30 in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Library. The class immediately follows the 5:45 afternoon & evening service.

Thursdays

### Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) at the downtown New Haven professional office of attorney Isaiah Cooper for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. 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](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net).

The Sanhedrin Study Group is just beginning chapter eight of Sanhedrin, "The Rebellious and Obnoxious Boy." It is a perfect time for new participants to join.

## News

### Benei Mitzva Program Parents Meeting

An informational and orientation meeting will be held for parents of Benei Mitzva Program participants and parents of benei mitzva celebrants through March 2010, on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 11 to noon in classroom 4. For information contact Jon-Jay Tilsen [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org) 389.2108 x10.

### Free Trip To Israel!

Registration opens Sept. 10 at [www.KOACH.org](http://www.KOACH.org). Taglit-birthright Israel is an incredible program that will send thousands of 18- to 26-year-olds to Israel at virtually no cost. The program exists thanks to the philanthropy of many generous people and the government of the State of Israel. Koach, United Synagogue's program for college students, is proud to be part of this initiative.

We are providing a trip this winter

under the auspices of the Conservative movement for 18- to 26-year-old Jews who have not been on a peer group trip to Israel. Registration opens September 10th and closes shortly after. If you have any questions or would like to be added to our "interested list", please don't hesitate to contact us at [koachbirthright@uscj.org](mailto:koachbirthright@uscj.org). Please check out our website, [www.KOACH.org](http://www.KOACH.org), for FAQs, sample itineraries, parent and participant testimonials, past trip information and photos, and more information about our trip.

### Literacy Volunteers Needed

BEKI volunteers are promoting literacy through the Jewish Coalition For Literacy (JCL). JCL recruits, trains, places and supports volunteer reading partners in local schools to read one-to-one with children who benefit from the support of a caring adult sharing the joy of reading. You can help chil-

dren succeed by volunteering just one hour each week.

JCL will hold an Orientation Session for new and returning volunteer reading partners on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 9 a.m. at the JCC in Woodbridge.

Come hear JCL reading partners share their experiences and consider participating in this exciting way of helping the world, Tikkun Olum, one child at a time. Let's give kids the opportunity to succeed. Contact [bbrenner@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:bbrenner@jewishnewhaven.org) or 203 387-2424 x308

### Torah Readers Needed

If you would like to read from the Book of Deuteronomy or during Sukkot (ending Oct. 22), please contact Torah Reading Coordinator Yedidya Ben-Avie at [ifyouwereajew@gmail.com](mailto:ifyouwereajew@gmail.com).

Beginners are welcome. If you wish to read after that date, please contact Jon-Jay Tilsen at [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).

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## **Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund** (Minimum \$25 payable to "Cong. Beth El-Keser Israel")

Irwin & Mary Ellen Braunstein in memory of Herman Braunstein

Dr. Diana Olmer Bander in memory of mother Rose Olmer & father Samuel Olmer

Marian Karsif in memory of Bill Karsif

David & Doris Sagerman marking the yahrzeit of Ezra Sagerman

Hanna Salowitz Schwartz with condolences at the passing of Alvin Sapadin

Ruth Pollowitz in marking the yahrzeit of Dr. Barnett Joseph

Deborah & Stephen Joy in memory of Deborah's mother, Joyce Stanger

Lou & Lisa Petrilla in memory of Peter Meyers

Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in honor of Teresa Grazier-Zerbarini's birth and wishing mazal tov to Sarah, Rabbi Lina Zerbarini, and Linden Grazier

Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in memory of Edith Tepper Cooper, mother of Willa Needler

Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in memory of Marcia Goldblatt, mother of Mitchell Goldblatt

Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in honor of Rigel Janette, Bar Mitzva

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## **Qiddush Sponsors**

(Minimum \$250)

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Leon Cummings

Melissa Perkal & Jim Graham

BEKI friends of Mara Benjamin, Miryam Kabakov & Rayzie

Nathan & Judi Janette

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

To Dorothy Bowser with sympathy on the passing of Jim Bowser by her friends at BEKI

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

by Beverley & Arnold Linder

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Lawrence & Rosemary Sasso

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Jacky & Richard Cohen

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Jerome & Sondra Squire

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Roos-Mary Benowitz

To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel

To Shoshana Lovett-Graff in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Roger Colten & Sarah Berry

To Mara Rothman in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Roger Colten & Sarah Berry

To Harold & Bobbie Miller in honor of Harold's birthday and their anniversary by Marla & Michael Miller

To Nick & Susan Neeley with sympathy on the passing of Nicholas Thomas Neeley by David & Rayna Belowsky

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Mr. Martin & Mrs. Janice Buckman

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Ellen & Murray Bresky

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Susan, Marty, Hanna & Josh Squire

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Alan & Josefa Zimmerman

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Susanne & Peter Sasso

To Stan Saxe with wishes for a fast recovery by Ruth & Morton Silver

To Charlie & Violet Ludwig with thanks from Ruth & Morton Silver

To Debby & Stephen Joy with sympathy on the passing of Joyce Mann Stanger by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel

To Richard Sugarmann and family with sympathy on the passing of Howard B. Sugarmann by Bob & Linda Bykowski

To Rigel Janette in honor of his Bar Mitzva by David Wright

To Rigel Janette in honor of his Bar Mitzva from Pete Stein

To Gina Weinstein with wishes for a fast recovery by Jay Brown

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## **In-Kind Donations**

200 copies of Siddur Sim Shalom for Weekdays and a wooden book cart for their storage by Bill & Eva Shragis in honor of Kate's Bat Mitzva

50 copies of Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals for use in the Beit Midrash in memory of their parents Harry Cooper and Edith Tepper Cooper by Willa Cooper Needler & Howard Needler

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## **Hesed Fund**

To Lynn & Jay Brotman with sympathy on the passing of Ruth Heydemann by the Palumbo family

To Rigel Janette in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gila Reinstein

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## **Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund** to provide needs-based religious school scholarships

Rabbi Murray Levine

Anonymous

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## **Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library** for purchase of children's books

To Harold & Bobbie Miller in honor of Harold's milestone birthday and their milestone anniversary by Susan & Robert Nobleman

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## **BEKI Library Fund**

To thank everyone for many kindnesses during our recent bereavement by Willa & Howard Needler

To Willa & Howard Needler with sympathy on the passing of Edith Tepper Cooper by Sharon & Daniel Prober

To Willa & Howard Needler with sympathy on the passing of Edith Tepper Cooper and in celebration of the birth of their grand-daughter by Hannah & Herbert Winer

To Willa & Howard Needler with sympathy on the passing of Edith Tepper Cooper by Joanne Saccio

To Willa Needler and family with sympathy on the passing of Edith Tepper Cooper by Martin & Carole Goldberg

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## **Harold Ratner Memorial Fund**

In memory of her parents Etta & Charles Miller by Mikki Ratner

In memory of Max Bronfin by Mikki Ratner

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Mikki Ratner

**The George & Leah Posener  
Endowment for the Jewish  
Education of BEKI Youth**

In loving memory of her father Dudley S. Dinner and to thank the BEKI congregation for its support by Deborah Dinner

**The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment**

To Tillie D. Horwitz in honor of her birthday by Lillian Strauss

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

To Mrs. Norma LeVine with sympathy on the passing of Faye Durler by Marjorie Simson

To Mr. & Mrs. Howard Needler and family with sympathy on the passing of Edith Tepper Cooper by Violet & Charlie Ludwig

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Ira Lefkowitz

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Carol & Joel Lefkowitz

To Ivan Sachs in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Violet & Charlie Ludwig

To Debby & Stephen Joy with sympathy on the passing of Joyce Mann Stanger by Gila Reinstein

To Lynn Brotman and family with sympathy on the passing of Ruth Heydemann by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

To Willa Needler and family with sympathy on the passing of Edith Tepper Cooper by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

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

In loving memory of his grandfather Avrum Cooker by Robert Silverman

In loving memory of his brother Abraham Louis Silverman by Robert Silverman

In memory of George Ralph Schnitman by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef

In memory of Isadore Miller by Harry Miller

In memory of Eli Berman, Simon Berman & Pearl Dembowitz by Richard Neveloff

In memory of Herman Winer by Herbert & Hannah Winer

In memory of Joseph M. Engleman by

Caryl & Michael Kligfeld  
In memory of Rabbi Bernard Kligfeld by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld

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In loving memory of their father Louis Rogoff by Eileen & Phyllis Rogoff

In memory of Robert Zusman by Howard & Patricia Zusman

In memory of Rose Cohen by Doris & Stephen Brody

In memory of Raye F. Leavitt by Ann Rogoff

In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff

In memory of her beloved brother Jack Katz, beloved sister Freida Katz, beloved mother Toby Katz and beloved father Abraham Katz by Florence Katz

In memory of her father Abraham M. Golden by Marjorie Simson

In memory of Harold Chain by Susan & Alan Woodyard

In memory of Alan Hodes by Joyce & David Popowski

In memory of Louis Hodes by Joyce & David Popowski

In memory of her father Max Romanoff by Donna & Sid Levine

In blessed memory of Linda Evelyn Cohen Adkins, Rhoda Cohen and Betty Cohen Massey by their children Susan Marek & Donna Mignosa & grandchildren Faith, Robert & Lenny

In memory of Robert Colten by Roger Colten & Sarah Berry

In memory of her father David B. Zeid by Sylvia Zeid

In memory of her mother Katy Zeid by Sylvia Zeid

In memory of her sister Goldie Zeid by Sylvia Zeid

In memory of her brother Emanuel Zeid by Sylvia Zeid

In memory of her brother Louis Zeid by Sylvia Zeid

In memory of the Fisher family by Gloria Fisher Resnick

In memory of her father Arthur Supowitz by Barbara Greenberg

In memory of Isadore Miller by Harold & Bobbie Miller

In memory of her husband Morton Benson

by Evelyn Benson  
In memory of her mother Bessie Rose by Evelyn Benson  
In memory of her brother Alan Hodes by Lynne & Jeff Heisner  
In memory of her father Louis Hodes by Lynne & Jeff Heisner  
In memory of her sisters Eva Goldberg Rozycki and Frances Goldberg Smith by Shirley Chain  
In memory of her husband Harold Chain by Shirley Chain  
In memory of Rose & George Feen by Hildy Feen  
In memory of Max Pencherek by Yvonne & Herb Kolodny  
In memory of Sherman Suslew by Lillian Silverman  
In memory of Norman Smirnoff by Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff  
In memory of Frances Brill by Harriet Meisel  
In memory of Solomon Zelkowitz by Helen Z. Kaplan  
In memory of Jacob Cohen by Betty Swinkin  
In memory of Joseph Swinkin by Betty Swinkin  
In memory of Max Proscio by Gary Proscio  
In memory of Harry Katz by Gary Proscio  
In memory of Ziev Starr-Hirshfield by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield  
In memory of Ruth Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach  
In memory of Everett Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader  
In memory of her father Louis Blatt by Marilyn Margolis  
In memory of her mother Bessie Kaltman by Muriel R. Kaltman  
In memory of Natalie Edison by Muriel R. Kaltman  
In memory of Sondra L. Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer  
In memory of Louis Hoffman by Bea & Sy Sherman  
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As we approach our national elections, we are faced with the



perennial show of candidates “racing toward the center” and shifting and sliming their positions, pandering and double-talking.

Sadly, the conventional wisdom is that such tactics are necessary to get elected. The belief is that candidates much trade down their integrity to please the largest voting blocks.

Perhaps the conventional wisdom is not really so wise. Is there some way we can hold people to their word? In the end, the process leaves me with less respect for the individuals and less faith in democracy.

*Hillel said: Don't say something that is impossible to understand, for ultimately it will be understood. Avot 2:5*

### Dear Rabbi

An occasional feature of answers, advice and helpful hints

Dear Rabbi,

*We have to buy a new car. One of the most important factors for us is fuel economy and choosing a car that is better for the environment. We also need some extra space. We can't get a Toyota Prius because the waiting list is very long. Given all of our considerations, the best car for us would be a Volkswagen Diesel.*

*I never thought I would buy a German car from a company that was involved in the persecution of the Jews. Now I am thinking, we all have to live on this earth and take care of it and if a VW is best for the environment right now then maybe we should buy that car.*

*Can a good Jew drive a Volkswagen?*

*Signed, Fargo Nugen*

Dear More Head Room,

Your question really is one of symbolism and worldview. Henry Ford was reputedly quite a pro-Nazi anti-Semite,

and until recently Chrysler was Daimler-Chrysler, a German corporation. General Motors is based in Detroit, which has a large organized Arab community, which is not to say that “Arabs are bad” any more than to say that “Germans are bad.”

Most autos sold in the US today are assembled in US, Canadian or Mexican plants from parts imported from numerous countries. Some American auto makers essentially re-label cars made by other manufacturers and sell them as their own. If Germans in general benefit more from our Volkswagen purchases than from our Chevy purchases, it is only by a matter of degree. Along those lines, don't forget Pearl Harbor when you consider buying that Toyota. (That is without reference to the fact that the American occupation of Hawaii was illegal.) The economy is global, and the automotive industry was a major force in making it so.

Most auto manufacturers are “publicly owned” corporations, meaning they are owned through common stock by many institutions such as mutual funds and pension funds, along with some individuals, who share in the profits (or, more commonly in recent years, losses) of the corporations.

*Continued on Page 18*

Continued from Page 17

More than 90 percent of GM, for example, is owned by about 50 institutions, such as Barclays Global Investors and Vanguard Group. If you own mutual funds or have a pension fund, you probably have some ownership interest in an auto manufacturer.

You may have noticed that, at least until recently, most cabs in Israel were German-made cars. In that light, it

is hard to imagine folks wagging a finger at your Volkswagen. Some argue that involving nations in international trade is a good way to keep them from going to war with each other — the international corporations have too much to lose to allow their

governments to go to war with their trading partners. You have, at least in theory, a force of capitalism that has an interest in peace at least among some set of nations. To that extent, buying a German car could be seen as a way to “go forward” from the disastrous past.

One might also ask, is the current corporate leadership of that (or any particular) company hostile toward Israel, Jews or other important causes today? Have they done *teshuva*, or at least gotten better? Should the current generation of Germans (or Japanese) be boycotted because of the sins of their ancestors?

Nevertheless, there is still an emotional and symbolic issue with using such a visibly German product. It was expressed well by a man I stood next to selecting beer in a New York grocery store some years ago, who scowled at the selections of imports and said, to no one in particular, “I’m not buying any of that !@#+% Nazi beer.” I would not want to teach my children to be prejudiced against Ger-

mans, but that does not mean I have to buy their beer. But I wouldn’t want to hold a grudge, so I’ll drink it if it’s free. Every man has his price, and every principle has its limits.

I am not sure I can give you further guidance. I drove a 1973 Mercedes for a few years that my dad gave me to use (it was a great car but hard to get parts), so if it was a sell-out at least it was for a prestige label. At the same time, I do

avoid German beer, as well as English beer and other foreign beer, as well as Coors (which now owns Molson) because their main owners are big contributors to causes that I don’t support. So I buy mostly domestic beers, but who knows if in doing so I am supporting



white supremacists or anti-Semites or homophobes. Besides Hekhsher Tzedek, we need a Hekhsher PC, at least for essential products such as cars and beer. Once you go beyond the farmers’ market of local growers you know personally, there is no simple way to know who is profiting from your purchases.

As far as ecology goes, real miles per gallon (MPG) is more important than the “hybrid” label — it doesn’t matter much how the vehicle achieves good mileage, as long as it does so. If you decide not to go with Volkswagen, there are many other manufacturers with wide product lines, including numerous Asian companies, with models and quality very similar to VW. Honda also makes hybrid vehicles if you especially like that, or the Toyota Camry also has a hybrid version (looks just like other Camrys).

Whatever you decide, get all the airbags available and enjoy your new vehicle.

# September 2008

## 1 Elul 5768 - 1 Tishrei 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Rosh Hodesh II Office Closed - Labor Day 9:00am Shaharit 9:45am Rashi Study Group	2	3 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	4 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 6:05pm Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot	5 7:00pm Candle Lighting	6 Darshan: Michael Klifgfeld 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: BEKI Board thanks to Qiddush Committee	1 Elul	
7 9:00am Religious School 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe 10:15am Dedication of Stained Glass Window 11:00am Benei Mitzva Parents Meeting 5:45pm Minha-Maariv followed by Tiku Shofar Workshop	8 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	9	10 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	11 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site) 6:05pm Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot	12 6:00pm Matthew Lettick Bar Mitzva 6:48pm Candle Lighting	13 Matthew Lettick Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan 10:45am Kulanu Havura Qiddush: Lettick	
14 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Sisterhood Meeting 9:30am High Holidays Clean Up Day 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe	15 7:45am Rashi Study Group	16	17 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	18 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)	19 6:00pm Hans Massaquoi Bar Mitzva 6:36pm Candle Lighting	20 Selihot Hans Massaquoi Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Richards/Massaquoi 7:45pm Selihot at Congregation Or Shalom	
21 9:00am Religious School 9:30am Brunch featuring guest speakers Gabriel da Silva, Anne Lozon & Helen Rosenberg from the Westville Village Renaissance Alliance 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe	22 7:45am Rashi Study Group 7:30pm General Board Meeting	23	24 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	25 12:30pm Talmud Study Group (off-site)	26 6:24pm Candle Lighting	27 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Learner's Minyan Qiddush: TBA	
28 9:00am Religious School 10:00am Talmud for Teens with Moshe 10:00am Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Service at Beth El-Hamden 11:00am Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Service at Keser Israel-West Haven	29 Erev Rosh Hashana 7:45am Rashi Study Group 6:15pm Minha 6:18pm Candle Lighting	30 Rosh Hashana I Office Closed 8:30am Morning Service 9:00am Shaharit See High Holiday article for programs 5:15pm Tashlikh 6:15pm Minha Candle Lighting after 7:18pm					28 Elul
28 Elul	29 Elul	1 Tishrei					

### Service Times for Spring / Summer

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Minha-Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Minha-Maariv	9:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 Minha



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