

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

September 2009

Elul 5769-Tishrei 5770

Vol. 15 Issue 8

Sukkot - Page 5

Torah for the Hungry Mind - Page 15

Message from Rabbi Tilsen - Page 22

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 by clicking the Yamim Noraim High Holy Days image at the upper left corner.

Volunteers Needed

To volunteer either to help with planning or to 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.

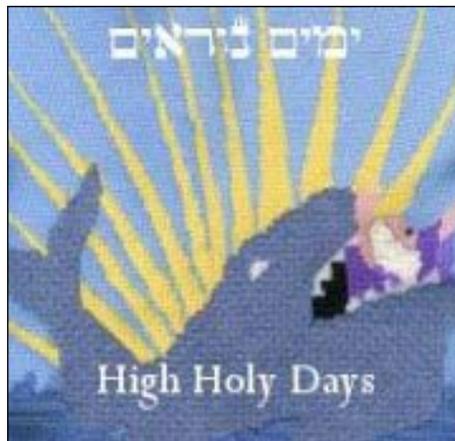
Preparing for the Holy Days

Workshops and classes in preparation for the Holy Days are listed in this issue under "Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies." In addition, sessions will be held on Yom Kippur.

Selihot at Temple Beth Sholom

Temple Beth Sholom (1809 Whitney Ave., Hamden) will host the Conservative-Masorti Community Selihot Service on

Saturday night Sept. 12. The evening begins at 9 p.m. with Havdala. At 9:30, Doron Ben-Atar will speak on "The relationship between American Jews and Israel." At 10:30, all are welcome to the Presidents' Reception. The service begins at 11 and ends at midnight.



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. The Conservative Communal service is sponsored by Congregations B'nai Jacob, Beth Sholom, Or Shalom and BEKI.

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. 27, which is the Sunday *between* Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Tilsen will lead a brief communal memorial service 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.

BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36

BEKI Bulletin © 2009 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
© 2009 Jon-Jay Tilsen. All rights reserved.

Editor	<i>Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen</i>
Associate Editor	<i>Donna Levine</i>
Associate Editor	<i>Donna Kemper</i>
Associate Editor	<i>Herbert Winer</i>
Circulation Manager	<i>Saul Bell</i>
Photographer	<i>Charles Ludwig</i>

Web Buys

If you purchase from Amazon.com via this link www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/congregabethelke) or at www.beki.org through the "Amazon" box at the bottom of the page, BEKI receives a small commission on your purchase at no cost to you. You must use these links each time you access the merchant's website in order for BEKI to receive a commission.

info@computerdocs.biz
http://www.computerdocs.biz
Hamden, CT 06514-4465



Computer-Docs LLC
203-848-6950

Health Care Services for PCs and Networks

Tune-ups • Repairs • Installations • Networks • Security

RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW
CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PSYCHOTHERAPY
PARENT CONSULTATION

1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 906
WOODBIDGE, CT 06525

(203) 389-9174
BY APPOINTMENT

THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER
OF THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE
OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



WE'VE DEDICATED
OURSELVES
TO THIS DREAM

NOW WE URGE
YOU TO DEDICATE
YOURSELF

The Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is a home within the homeland for Conservative Jews from North America.

It's your center of Conservative life and learning, prayer and play, culture and creativity in the heart of Jerusalem.

At the Fuchsberg Jerusalem Center, you can enjoy concerts in our auditorium, feast in our elegant dining rooms, attend discussions in lecture halls, pray in our synagogue, study in the Conservative Yeshiva, and there is so much more.

Now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is embarking on a major campaign to support this bastion of Conservative life. We urgently need your participation to help us complete this dream.

**SUPPORT THE FUCHSBERG JERUSALEM CENTER
YOUR HOME WITHIN THE HOMELAND**

Call Miriam Benson, Executive Director of United Synagogue's Connecticut Valley Region at (860) 563-5531 or e-mail her at benson@uscj.org



**Benefit Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel**

Ask us about
establishing a fund, trust or annuity
to ensure BEKI's future.

Charitable giving strengthens our Community
and provides the donor with tax savings.

Betsy S. Hoos
Chair,
Board of Trustees

Lisa A. Stanger, Esq.
Director
203 387-2424 x382
lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

Days of Awe

Continued from **Page 1**

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. 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.

Rosh HaShana and 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*. Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services, as he has each year since 1993.

Services are organized and led entirely by our members. Generally, Alan leads the morning Torah service and musaf on all three days, as well as Kol Nidre, Maariv and Neila on Yom Kippur. Birkhot ha-Shahar (morning blessings) and Pesuqei de-Zimra (Verses of Song) represent a poetry reading that creates or reinforces a spiritually sensitive atmosphere, which is an experience unto itself as well as prelude to the recitation of Shema and Amida. Shahrarit morning services, essentially the recitation of Shema and Amida, include popular "sing along" Hebrew *piyyutim* (poems). Musaf services, the particular additional Amida for the holy day, include several interpretative or contemporary English readings as well as cantorial (and sometimes



Alan Lovins



choral) elaborations.

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.

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 Friday Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m. with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 6:45. Candle Lighting is at 6:39. The service concludes by 7:15 p.m. Morning services begin at 8:30 a.m. on Shabbat Sept. 19; several services for children and youth, and a learners' service, are held as well. Shofar is not sounded on Shabbat.

On Shabbat Rosh HaShana afternoon, minha service begins at 6:20 p.m. The evening service is from 7:20 to 7:45.

On Sunday Sept. 20, morning services are also at 8:30 a.m. Youth services are held as well. Shofar is sounded

Continued on **Page 4**

Days of Awe

Continued from **Page 3**

on Sunday morning.

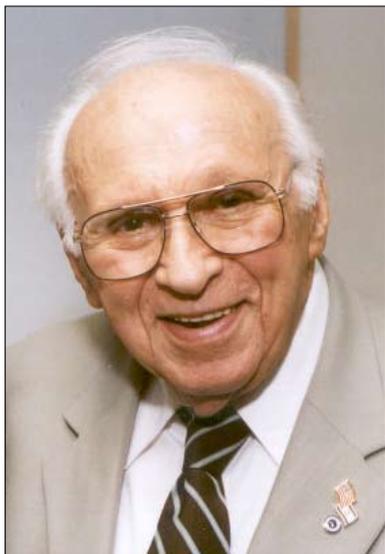
Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held on the *second* day of Rosh HaShana, Sunday Sept. 20, at 5 p.m., at the Edgewood Bridge and at the Whitney Museum Covered Bridge. For tashlikh at Beaver Pond Park, contact office@beki.org 389-2108 x14. The *Tashlikh* service is a popular outdoor event for people of all ages, and includes a brief prayer, poetry and singing. It is held beside a body of natural water. Minha service on Sunday afternoon is from 5:45 p.m. to 6:05 p.m.

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Sunday Sept. 27, the Minha service begins at 6 p.m. Candle Lighting is 6:24 (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:15 and end by 8:15. Shharit services begin at 9 a.m.; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11 a.m. The Minha Afternoon service begins at 4:30, and is followed immediately by the Neila and Maariv services. The services end with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:29 p.m.

For a complete schedule, see www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html, see your members’ High Holy Days mailings, or request a copy of the information booklet from the office.

George G. Posener Break Fast Concludes Yom Kippur

Following the concluding Yom Kippur services on Monday Sept. 28, please join us as we gather for our amazing community Break



George G. Posener

Fast. This year we are again pleased that, to honor the memory of his beloved family, George Posener’s generosity is enabling us to provide you with a lovely meal and great company.

Each year, the George G. Posener Family Memorial Break Fast is prepared entirely by members of the BEKI community. Overseen by Darryl Kuperstock and Linden Grazier, some of the prep work is done in advance, but the bulk of the assembly and plating (and clean-up) of this banquet is done by *you*, the fantastic volunteers who join us in the kitchen

during the afternoon break on Yom Kippur. It’s fun, intense, and extremely satisfying – so come help us out this year.

Continued on **Page 5**

Saykhel



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.

People who need to eat or drink or take medication on Yom Kippur may speak with an usher, or contact the office in advance, for assistance. Rabbi Tilsen notes that “People for whom fasting represents a significant medical threat are prohibited from fasting. Water, milk or a simple meal should be consumed as needed.”

While it is customary to stand for some parts of the service, those for whom standing is difficult, impossible or dangerous should feel comfortable sitting. Rabbi Tilsen comments that “You get five points for answering ‘Amen!’ but only one point for standing, so keep it in perspective. This applies to people of all ages.”

Days of Awe

Continued from Page 4

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. The Posener Fund is held and managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

For a complete schedule of services please call the office at 389-2108 x14 or see the schedule at www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.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 x14 or office@beki.org.

On-Line Holy Day Info

A complete schedule of High Holy Days services, along with additional information and forms, is available at www.beki.org/yamimnoraim.html. A schedule of Sukkot and Shemini Atseret services is available at www.beki.org/sukkot.html.

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.

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 are used each day of Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabba. Information on the festival observances and schedules are published at www.beki.org/sukkot.html.

Set up of the Morris "Moishe" Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Tuesday Sept. 29 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Add a personal touch by bringing some of your 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 Oct. 18, 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).

Lulav & Etrog Orders

Once again BEKI Religious School will offer lulav and etrog sets for Sukkot. To order, please leave a note for Peggy or Ina with your name and address and check for \$42 per set in the BEKI office, or mail to BEKI, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515. For more info contact principal@beki.org, 389-2108 x13.

Shabbat Sukkot

Sukkot begins on Shabbat evening Oct. 2. Candle lighting on Friday night is at 6:15. For reservations for a Shabbat Sukkot dinner, contact the office at office@beki.org 389-2108 x14. Services begin at 6 o'clock on Friday night, and at 9:15 on Shabbat morning. We do not use Lulav and Etrog on

Shabbat. The morning service begins at 9:15 and includes the recitation of Hallel and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Shabbat afternoon service begins at 5:45 and ends about 6:20. Candle lighting for the second day is after 7:15 p.m.

Sunday Sukkot

The Sunday Sukkot festival service begins at 9:15 a.m., and includes the recitation of Hallel, the use of Lulav and Etrog, and a Hoshana accompanied by a *haqafa* (circumambulation). The afternoon service begins at 5:45.

Sukka Hop

Reservations Required

Join the annual BEKI Family Sukka Hop, Shabbat Oct. 3, departing 12:45 p.m. from BEKI's Moishe Schnitman

Continued on Page 6

Sukkot

Continued from **Page 5**

Sukka.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; RSVP to Miriam, 203.389.6137, by 27 September 2009 so hosts can plan. Wear good walking shoes for the trek “up the hill.” Bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks, and running strollers for your little ones.

Hol HaMoed Sukkot

“Hol HaMoed,” also known as the “intermediate” days of the festival, are those days between the first two and last two days of Sukkot (and of Pesah). They have a “semi-holiday” status. The rules against *melakha* (“work”) that apply on Shabbat and Festivals are not fully in force during this period, although we are encouraged to take this time as a holiday and to avoid work as much as possible.

Our weekday morning services are enhanced with a brief Torah reading, the recitation of the musical “Hallel” section of Psalms, and a brief Musaf (additional) service. Weekday morning services thus take 60 minutes, instead of our usual 30 to 45 minutes. Afternoon and evening services are the usual length. The *lulav* (branches) and *etrog* (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to eat is to live) in a *sukka*. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI *sukka*. Some people do not wear tefillin during Hol HaMoed.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Friday Oct. 9 begins at 9:15 and ends by 11. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featur-

ing seven circuits around the sukka or shul with *lulav* and *etrog* (palm and citron) and the *hoshana* service in which willow twigs are beaten on the chairs. Special holiday melodies make this an unforgettable spiritual experience. Be sure to come to this “service for all ages.”

Hoshana Rabba is a semi-festival on which work is *not* strictly prohibited as it is on the major festivals. It serves as a “closing ceremony” for the weeklong Sukkot observance in preparation for the concluding festival of Shemini Atseret. Weather permitting, the Hoshana Rabba service will be in the sukka.

Shabbat Shemini Atseret & Yizkor Memorial Service

The Festival of Shemini Atseret (“Eighth Day of Assembly”) serves as a conclusion to the

autumn Festival of Sukkot (“Booths”). The festival begins Friday night Oct. 9. It is appropriate to light a memorial candle on Friday night immediately before lighting the Shabbat Festival candles. Candle lighting is 6:04 p.m. (or earlier).

During the morning service, which begins at 9:15, Hallel is chanted. While the dominant musical motif is the Shabbat mode, specific passages are recited to the unique festival *nusah*.

The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini

Atseret liturgy. In the Yizkor service we call upon the memories of our ancestors and loved ones who, while not physically present, are part of our “Assembly.” During that memorial service, individual and communal prayers and remembrances will be offered for all of our departed loved ones.

Shabbat Shemini Atseret is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”) during the 9:15 a.m. service on Oct. 10.

Qohelet, attributed by tradition to King Solomon in his old age, is a “wisdom” book that many see as being out of step with the rest of the Torah. While it includes such well-known passages as “To everything there is a season,” and “There is nothing new under the sun,” it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Minha services begin at 6 p.m. and evening services begin at 7 o’clock on Saturday night Oct. 10. Candle lighting on Saturday night is *after* 7:04. Evening services include seven *haqafot* (circumambulatory dances) with Torah scrolls and a brief Torah reading, the only time that we read Torah in public at night.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15 on Sunday Oct. 11. Three Torah scrolls are removed from the ark (around 10 a.m.) and seven *haqafot* are conducted. The final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, *parashat Ve-Zot Ha-Berakha*, are read, followed



Continued on **Page 7**

Sukkot

Continued from **Page 6**

by the opening passages of the Book of Genesis, part of *parasha Bereishit*. This concludes the annual Torah reading cycle, and begins the new cycle.

This is particularly joyful at BEKI because so many members are involved in Torah reading throughout the year, and these readers dedicate considerable effort in preparing accurate and melodious chantings. A *maftir* portion is read from Numbers, which

describes the observance of Shemini Atseret in the ancient Temple. The *haftara* is recited from the opening passages of Joshua, which is the sequel to Deuteronomy, sometimes called the “sixth book” of the Five Books of Moses.

Goodie Bags will be presented by the [Sisterhood](#) to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. Afternoon *mincha* services begin at 5:45 as is usual for weekdays. Havdala is recited at home after 7:04 p.m.

Sukka Storage

The deconstruction of the Sukka will take place on Sunday Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m., immediately following the morning minyan service (join us at 9 o'clock). Bring your ladders, tools and gloves if you have them; if not, come anyway. Your help is greatly appreciated. For more information about the BEKI Sukka construction, contact David Kuperstock (387-0304, ndk1024@aol.com) or Saul Bell (389-1647, sbell1470@aol.com)

Sisterhood News

Annual dues notices have gone out and we hope all women in our BEKI community will consider being members. We support the synagogue in many ways and you can be a part of this.

This past year Sisterhood sponsored and dedicated the new Ark in the chapel; granted four scholarships to students to continue their Judaic education and sponsored the Passover Seder for adults with special needs. These three events are among many others and with everyone's help we can do more. Please join and become a sharing and contributing member.

Our first meeting will be Oct. 18, details to follow.

Wishing everyone a healthy, prosperous New Year.

Adele Tyson & Mimi Glenn,
Co-Presidents

Torah Fund

As we enter a new year I want to thank everyone who made a commitment to Torah Fund by purchasing cards, and contributing.

Please continue to purchase cards for all occasions to support The Jewish

Theological Seminary (JTS).

As in past years Benefactors will receive our 5770 pin in recognition of their support. The theme is “To Plant and Preserve.”

A donation of \$180 to become a Benefactor ensures the solid & healthy future for Conservative Judaism.

Please call Barbara Cushen at 407-0314 to send a card (\$4 each includes postage) or for more information on becoming a Benefactor.

Thanks to the following who purchased cards, and best wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy New Year.

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chair, BEKI Sisterhood

Get Well to:

- Paula Hyman from the Hesed Committee, Adele Tyson
- Don Hackett from the Hesed Committee
- Katie Hereld from the Hesed Committee
- Mazel Tov to:
- Rachael & Jonathan Dranoff on the birth of twins from the Hesed Committee



- Maria Sinnamon & Matthew Wightman on a new baby from the Hesed Committee
- Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman on being honored by the Yeshiva of New Haven from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Adele Tyson on her milestone birthday from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Shirley Mattler on her 90th birthday from Adele Tyson
- Mr. & Mrs. David Mangs on birth of a granddaughter from Adele Tyson
- Edie Goodmaster on receiving The Lester Hosto Distinguished Service Award from Shirley Stephson
- Marsha Beller in honor of her daughter's upcoming marriage by Violet & Charlie Ludwig

In Memory of:

- Milton Smirnoff to Mrs. Bea Smirnoff from Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe, Inge & Lenny Fish, the Hesed Committee, Gladys Lipkin, Ruth Rafflowitz, Mikki Ratner, Adele Tyson, Mildred Lidsky
- Elsie Botwick to Jennifer Botwick & family from Barbara Cushen, Stanley Saxe, Adele Tyson, Ruth & Mort Silver, Bea Smirnoff, the Hesed Committee
- Fred Loewenbaum to Mrs. Fred Loewenbaum from Anna Goldberg
- Rabbi Jay Jacobs to Mrs. Eva Jacobs from Hyla Greenberg, Louis Petrillo
- Peter Meyers to Paul Goldenberg from

Continued on **Page 8**

Sisterhood

Continued from Page 7

Lori Petrillo

- Richard Weinstein to the Weinstein family from the Hesed Committee
- Sidney Stern to Leonard Stern & family from the Hesed Committee
- Harry Cheifetz to Roz Ben-Chitrit & family from the Hesed Committee
- Dorothy Falk to Alan Falk & family from the Hesed Committee
- Hadassah Ziskin to Deborah Ziskin from the Hesed Committee
- Richard Weinstein to Andy Weinstein & family from Mikki Ratner, Adele Tyson
- Lawrence Franken to the Franken family from Stanley Saxe
- Clarice Alderman to Al Podheiser from Stanley Saxe & Barbara Cushen
- Clarice Alderman to Julie Podheiser from Bea Smirnoff, Claire & Bud Volain
- Richard Weinstein to Carolyn Schneer from Bea Smirnoff

Torah Fund

A campaign to ensure our legacy to future generations of Conservative Jews by providing: rabbis, cantors, educators and administrators for day schools and synagogue schools, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, lay leaders and researchers.

2010 Torah Fund Pin

Le'avdah ul-shamrah: In Genesis 2:15, after God completed the creation and placed humans in the garden, the first commandment given was to “plant and preserve” their bountiful



home. This divine directive to protect the environment is as appropriate today as it was at the beginning of recorded time. As the recipients of God's command, *le'avdah ul-shamrah*, we became and continue to be partners in the ongoing process of Creation.

Your support of The Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, and Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano ensures the solid and healthy future of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

You are Torah Fund – at any level:
\$180 – Benefactor; **\$300** - Guardian Level; **\$600** - Associate Patron; **\$1,200** – Patron; **\$2,500** - Scholarship (Annual)

News

Library News

The following books have been purchased with generous donations to the Ari Nathan Levine Fund. They are available in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room.

- *A Sack Full of Feathers*, Debby Waldman and Cindy Revell
- *Sukkot Treasure Hunt*, Allison Ofanansky
- *New Year at the Pier: A Rosh Hashanah Story*, April Halprin Wayland

Got Jobs?

If you are hiring part-time or full-time, please let us know so that we can share this opportunity with our members. Currently, several BEKI members are looking for work in fields as diverse as truck driving, investment banking, ditch digging, computer programming, law, medicine, education and more. Please contact office@beki.org or jjtilsen@beki.org fax 203.389.5899 with your help wanted ad or professional listing.



David Oestreicher at the Kotel, summer 2009



June 2009, USYers at beach home of BEKI members, Andy and Paige Weinstein

BEKI-BJ Youth Programs

A Message from Rena Cheskis-Gold, Chair, BEKI-BJ Joint Youth Commission:

It has been my pleasure, this past year, to work with two very dedicated Kadima and USY advisors, Nitzan Steinkokin, and NoriAnna Cohen. Both are stepping down for different reasons. Despite our sadness in seeing them leave, their departure also creates opportunities. At the time of this writing, the Youth Commission is looking for a new Kadima advisor, and hope we will have one by the time this issue is published. We are happy to announce that we do have a new, energetic, and enthusiastic USY advisor -- Matt Wiener, son of BEKI member Marjorie Wiener. We wish a fond *lehitra'ot* to Nitzan and NoriAnna. Here are some parting notes from NoriAnna (although there is a "twist" to our good-bye to NoriAnna - read on!), and an introductory note from Matt.

New BEKI-BJ USY Advisor Hired

Please welcome Matthew Wiener, who took over as advisor to our BEKI-BJ USY youth group (9th to 12th grades) in August. He will be around to meet parents and teens at several times throughout the year.

Rena Cheskis-Gold, Youth Commissioner, and Susan Dardik, Chair, BJ Youth Committee.

Greetings from USY Advisor Matt

Hello, my name is Matthew Wiener and I am the new USY advisor. I am 23 and currently attend the University of

New Haven as I complete my Master's Degree in Secondary Education. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of Connecticut in 2008. I am a product of the New Haven public school system, as I was raised in New Haven. My family and I have been members of the BEKI community for several years; I celebrated bar mitzva at BEKI in 1999. I am looking forward to this opportunity to reintroduce myself to the BEKI and B'nai Jacob congregations.

Next fall I will also be fulfilling my student teaching requirement at Hillhouse High School. I also play a role as advisor for a non-denominational youth group on Sundays, called Forum, with students from the New Haven area.

I have staffed a couple of USY events already this year and enjoyed getting to know some of the students I will be working with this year. I am thoroughly looking forward to a fun and productive year as advisor. If you have any questions for me, please feel free to contact me at usy5770@beki.org. I will see you all in late summer/early fall.

Sunday Testing for SATs and ACTs

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

Continued on **Page 10**

Testing

Continued from **Page 9**

How to?

SAT <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg/circum/sunday.html>

ACT <http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/nonsat.html>

Upcoming Sunday dates for the SAT are Oct. 18, Nov. 8, and Dec. 6. (You must provide letter from Rabbi while registering.)

Upcoming Sunday date for the ACT is Oct. 25 (in West Hartford). (Bring letter from Rabbi on test day.)

A Message from Principal Ina Silverman

Shalom, I am thrilled to welcome students and their families to a new year at the BEKI Religious School. Our calendar is a bit erratic in September and October due to the weekend holidays, but we are very excited to begin another year, and we wish everyone *shana tova* – a coming year of health, peace, and *nachas*.

Much of the summer was spent fine-tuning the curriculum, ordering materials, and going through boxes and boxes of accumulated stuff in storage areas. I actually did find some treasures.

We will continue using Shabbat prayers as the basis for learning to read Hebrew fluently, the Israel curriculum will be supplemented again by visits from our Israeli Young Emissaries and by the experiences of our two *sabra* (native Israeli) teachers, and our holiday programming will be enhanced by attendance at regular BEKI services. We hope to have our first BRS Shabbat dinner of the year on the first night of Sukkot in the Moishe Schnitman Memorial Sukka. We encourage attendance at the Shabbat children's programs and emphasize *parshat ha-shavua*, the weekly reading from the Chumash, allowing BRS students to participate with confidence.



Ina Silverman

We start BRS group *tefila* with “Learners’ Circle” in which we talk about finding meaning in prayer. I look forward this year to an occasional Parents’ Learning Circle when grown-ups will have the opportunity to discuss Jewish texts and be role models for learning as a lifelong activity done for the pure joy of it. Details to come/

If you know of a family that would benefit from our program, please let me know at 203.389.2108x13 or principal@beki.org.

Kol tuv and shana tova,
Morah Ina Silverman

Welcome Kadimaniks and Friends to a New Season ... and Farewell to Nitzan

Even though it has been a while since our last few chapter events, I still wanted to share a few of the highlights of our late spring Kadima activities. April and May were the busiest Kadima months ever. On April 26, we enjoyed another great Shabbat dinner. After Qabalat Shabbat services at BEKI, 12 Kadimaniks made their way over to the Benson-Tilsen’s house where we had a tasty dinner, heard an engaging Devar Torah and last, but not least, moved over to the couches in the living room to enjoy each other’s company, schmooze and play a few circle games. Again, like in the winter, the parents showed up far too early.

May brought some more outdoor activities. On May 3, a small group of daring and courageous Kadimaniks and their parents persisted against continuing rain and met with Nitzan at East Rock Park in New Haven to join the “Walk Against Hunger,” a fundraiser for the CT food bank. Thanks to the generous support of parents and friends who sponsored the walkers, we raised \$125 for the needy in our New Haven community. Kol HaKavod to Talia Colten, Matt Gad and Maya Lew and their parents for finishing the whole walk despite the bad weather! We walked together with recent Bat Mitzvah Aliyah Oestreicher who participated in the “Walk Against Hunger” as her Bat Mitzvah project.

About a week later, on Lag BaOmer, we were much luckier with the weather. That night we joined BEKI families for a “Kumsitz” around the traditional Lag BaOmer bonfire on May 11. It was a beautiful evening: we roasted marshmallows, made “S’mores” and sang many popular songs accompanied by guitar. But the Kadima highlight



Continued on **Page 11**

Farewell

Continued from **Page 10**

of May was definitely Rock climbing at CT Rock Gym in New Haven. Seven climbers hit the walls of the indoor gym trying out their courage and strength. We all encouraged one another, and all of us made it up to the top, if not several times, then at least once! By the time our pizza arrived, we were really hungry from all the climbing we had done.

The final look back to the past year, this article is also my last as BEKI/BJ Kadima advisor. As many of you know, my family and I moved to Eugene, Ore., at the end of August.

Again, I want to say: I had a lot of fun with Kadima this last year and I hope you guys will keep having fun events and grow together as a group that everyone would just love to join!!!! You guys can make it happen! Keep coming to our events, volunteer to decorate the bulletin board or write a few lines for the BEKI News, invite and bring your Jewish friends along and, in a very short time, you'll have an exciting year with Jewish teens ahead of you.

Last but not least: Like last year the USY board will host a kick-off pizza dinner for Kadimaniks and new kids who are interested to get to know our chapter. You'll have yummy Pizza, schmooze, meet old friends after this long summer break and get to know some new faces. Date and location will be announced soon, so stay tuned.

Kol Tuv,

Nitzan Stein-Kokin

BEKI-BJ USY Opening Event of the Year!

9th to 12th graders are invited to a free Ice Cream Social on Sept. 13, at BJ, time TBD, followed by regional Boat Cruise. Questions? Contact advisor Matt Wiener at USY5770@beki.org

From NoriAnna Cohen, 2008-09 USY Advisor

I remember sitting down to introduce myself to all of you, and now a year later due to school commitments I have to step down as the BEKI-BJ USY advisor. I want to start off by thanking all of you for welcoming me into the BEKI-BJ community and allowing me to be a part of your lives. The USYers of BEKI-BJ have made a huge impact on my life and I have loved every minute of the year I have spent with them.

To the parents of the USYers, without you USY would not be possible. Your support and love for your children to continue their Jewish learning and friendships is what

keeps it going.

To Rabbi Jon-Jay, Rabbi Levenson, Peggy and Janette, thank you so much for your help and assistance in allowing our programs to continue.

To Rena Cheskis-Gold, Darryl Kuperstock, Susan Dardik, and the rest of the Youth Commission, you are what makes USY happen. Without your guidance and support this year would not have been possible.



NoriAnna Cohen

To the 2008-09 Chapter board, from meetings to sleepovers to planning events it was all fabulous. I am so proud of all of you for all the hard work you put into this year. And to all the other USYers of BEKI-BJ it was a pleasure working with you all and getting to know each and every one of you.

BEKI-BJ USY I leave you with a goal, to continue the enthusiasm that

has grown in the chapter over the year and to continue your determination to become a stronger chapter and gain more members. This year we won many awards, including Best Bulletin Board, Best Original Tikun Olam Event (for our Pies fundraiser), The Mitzvah Mayhem Award (a special Social Action/Tikun Olam competition), Best Kadima Integration Program (for Big Brother-Big Sister program), Best Original Israeli Affairs Program (for the Emissary mock elections), Ahavat Zion Award (Love of Israel, a special year-long competition), Most Improved Chapter, and most importantly, Chapter of Excellence. So a huge *yishar kohakhem* to all of you for a great year.

Although I am not going to be the advisor, I would like to announce that I was offered a student membership to BEKI and, subsequently, a spot on the BEKI Youth Commission, and have happily accepted. You will continue to see me around shul! Also, I would like to introduce Matthew Wiener, our new BEKI-BJ USY Advisor. I look forward to all the exciting things he has planned to do with the kids and I cannot wait to continue to be a part of the youth activities and congregations of BEKI and BJ.

B'Shalom,

NoriAnna Cohen

The Zen of Dance

About 50 people danced to the rhythm of East Coast Swing on a hot summer night at BEKI. Members of the Yale Swing and Blues organization led a free workshop (sponsored by BEKI Sisterhood and the Membership Committee) that was open to the community. Neither partners nor experience were required, but by the end of the night, people were twirling up a storm. Of course, there was a sumptuous spread of food prepared by BEKI volunteers to

facilitate conversation and mingling.

More BEKI dance events are planned – an Israeli dance event, and a West Coast Swing workshop. If you are interested in helping coordinate social dance events, or simply interested in attending, contact program chair Rena Cheskis-Gold at r.cheskis-gold@snet.net. If you can't wait for the BEKI events, note that a regular Israeli dance event takes place weekly at the JCC from 8 p.m. on – beginners welcomed.



Getting in the swing of things on Aug. 5



Social Action – Tiqun Olam

Soon the High Holy Days will be with us and this means Operation Isaiah. We hope to surpass our food collection efforts of years past. Bags will be available in the lobby during Rosh Hoshana. We ask that you fill your bags with nonperishable food and return during Yom Kippur.

Social Action Tiqun Olam asks you

to consider helping us with the following projects:

- We are collecting toiletries and gently used professional women's clothing for a new women's shelter opening in New Haven in September.
- Please continue to donate diapers to the diaper bank.
- Volunteers are needed for Literacy

Volunteer Project as well as drivers for elders and others in need.

Please contact Jennifer Botwick or Laina Pauker. We need you. We need each other. Todah Rabah. drjbotwick-nd@aol.com or all4laina@sbcglobal.net.



Aliyah Oesterreicher and Matthew Gad "walk the walk," in Walk Against Hunger



Eli Azoff-Slifstein reaching the ceiling



Maya Lew on her way to the top

MICHAEL MARTONE
MANAGER



Arnold's Jewelers

DIAMONDS - WATCHES - GIFTS
CHINA - SILVER - CRYSTAL

WATCH AND
CLOCK REPAIRING

NORTH HAVEN SHOPPING CENTER
NORTH HAVEN, CONN. 06473
203-239-4291

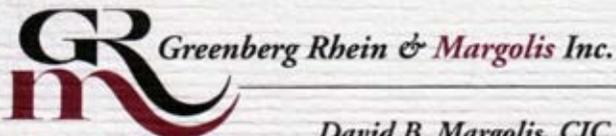


NEW SYLVAN CLEANERS

All Work Done On Premises

Mon.-Fri. 7:00-6:00 | Sat 8:00-4:00 | Sun closed

363 Whalley Ave. New Haven, CT 06511 • 203.562.3460
663 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477 • 203.795.0087



David B. Margolis, CIC

1768 Litchfield Turnpike (Rte. 69)
Woodbridge CT 06525-2309

Tel: (203) 389-4511 • Direct (203) 907-4829

Fax (203) 397-2266 • Cell: (203) 668-0344

Email: david@grminsurace.com

www.grminsurace.com

**SERVING ALL OF NEW ENGLAND!
OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE!**

FREE LIGHTING
WITH THIS AD!
(NEW BOOKINGS
ONLY)

BOPPERS
Entertainment

BOPPERS LEADS. THE INDUSTRY FOLLOWS.

866.865.DJDI • BOPPERSDJS.COM



Isaiah D. Cooper

Practical Solutions for Complex Business Transactions

Company Formation • Mergers & Acquisitions
Equity & Debt Finance • Consulting Agreements
Shareholder Disputes • Distribution Contracts
Employment Contracts • Leases • Software Licenses

205 Church St., Suite 307
New Haven, CT 06510

Tel: 203-497-9969
icooper@cooperlaw.net

www.cooperlaw.net



GOOD COPY
Printing & Digital Graphics

🏠 110 Hamilton Street
New Haven CT 06511

☎ 203.624.0194

📄 203.624.3609

✉ goodcopy@goodcopy.com

🌐 www.goodcopy.com



287-1593



**323 Washington Avenue • Hamden
At Whitney (Opposite K of C Hall)**



Darshan in September

Rabbi Moshe Murray Levine will serve as darshan on Shabbat Shuva (“The Sabbath of Return”), parashat Ha’Azinu, Sept. 26.

Shabbatot

Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday at 10:45 a.m. in the office, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shulgoers 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** 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.



Murray Levine



Steven Fraade

Shabbat Schmooze with Sydney Perry

Sydney Perry will present a schmooze on Shabbat afternoon Sept. 12, following qiddush, in the Beit Midrash. Sydney Perry is Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Shabbat Schmooze with Tony Perry

Tony Perry will present a schmooze on Shabbat afternoon Sept. 26, following qiddush, in the Beit Midrash. Tony Perry is Professor Emeritus of Modern and Classical Languages at the University of Connecticut Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life. He will teach on “The Honeymoon is Over: Jonah’s Argument with God.”

Sundays

New! Sunday Talmud with Moshe Meiri

Adults and advanced youth are invited to bask in the light of Talmud on Sunday mornings with Moshe Meiri. The first chapter of *masekhet Berakhot* (“Blessings”), from the order of *Zera`im* (“Seeds”) will serve as the base text. This autumn series will meet on consecutive Sundays from

9:45 (right after morning services) until 11:45, according to the Religious School schedule. For more information, contact Moshe at moshe@snet.net.



Moshe Meiri

Shofar Workshop for Adults

A shofar workshop for adults will be conducted by Isaiah Cooper on Sunday Sept. 13 at 12:15 p.m. Adults and their households are welcome.

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! Writers’ Corner

BEKI’s writing group began meeting in August. It meets weekly on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. in the Bet Midrash. The writers’ corner is being led by Ms. Marilyn Braginsky. Marilyn is the former director of West River All Purpose Senior Center where she guided all of the center’s activities: health services, art, music, dance and writing workshops for almost three decades. If you always wanted to write but never could find the time, well, the time is now. Please join us. If you want more encouragement, write to rthsilver4@gmail.com or call 497-9179.

Wednesdays

Word for the Day

The Wednesday morning service (*shaharit*) now includes a 60-second “Hebrew word for the day” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly-structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something not normally possible in English.

Rabbis’ Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclu-

Continued on **Page 16**

Rabbi's Study Group

Continued from **Page 15**

sively 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. The study group is recessed for the summer and will resume in the autumn. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at 397-2513.

Mini Maariv Learning Service

The Wednesday evening services during the school year are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily evening service. The learning service will resume on Sept. 16. Minha and Maariv services are from 5:45 to 6:15 each weeknight, and at 6 p.m. on Fridays, and 20 minutes before sundown on Shabbat (Saturday) afternoons in September.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with

commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shahrith service is from 8:15 to 9 on Fridays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

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.

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI’s website under “Adult Studies” and “Meet Rabbi Tilsen.”

Rabbi's Annual Report

Rabbi Tilsen’s Annual Report for 2009 is available at www.beki.org/tilsen/annual09.pdf. Copies are available in the literature rack in the lobby and by request from the office (office@beki.org 389-2108 x14).

Building Update

During July, social hall ceiling tiles were re-mounted. A new Chapel Haven Green Team began maintaining and cleaning grounds and the building under the direction of Bob Spear. Blinds were hung in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel and Rosenkrantz Family Library.

Conservation

During the fiscal year ended June 30, the congregation used 78,640 kilowatt hours of electricity. That compares to 112,960 kWh used in the year ending June 2006. This saved \$7,500 to \$10,000 in electric costs. (The dollar figure is imprecise because electric rates vary by time of day and season.) However, due to rate hikes, we paid about the same, around \$17,000, for electricity in each of those years.

Membership Update

This past year the Congregation continued its major

demographic transition. **Fifteen** new families joined. We also lost several families, seven through death, and two relocated out of state. **More than 300 families have joined BEKI over the past twelve years.** This has had a dramatic effect on our synagogue culture.

In September 1995, there were 213 formal members (family or single members) on the books. As of June 30, 2009, **264** family or single members belong to BEKI. Although we welcome more new members each year than almost any other synagogue in New England, we have a high attrition rate, mostly due to people moving away or dying. Our net growth, though modest, is impressive in the context of the demographics of our area.

That said, it would be better if we could add 25 to 50 more families *net* in the next few years. Please encourage all adult Jews to join a synagogue community of their choice, such as Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, as an expression of their Jewish identity and belonging to the Jewish People, and as a vehicle for social service, spiritual quest, intellectual and moral growth, socializing, and survival of the Jewish People. We don’t just want their money; we want their *souls*.

Barukh Dayan HaEmet

With sorrow we note the passing of

Richard Weinstein,

husband of Suzanne Weinstein, father of Andy (& Paige) Weinstein

Sidney Stern,

father of Leonard (& Barbara) Stern

Dorothy Falk,

mother of Alan (& Rabbi Eliana) Falk

Harry Chaifetz,

grandfather of Roz (& Coby) Ben-Chitrit

Arthur Ratner,

son of Mikki Ratner

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn



Miryam, Rayzie, Baby & Mara

HaNoladim beMazal Tov

Mazal tov to Maria Sinnamon & Matthew Wightman on the birth of their son Raziell Wightman in June. Raziell was entered into the covenant on the eighth day through brit mila at BEKI.

Mazal tov to alumni Mara Benjamin & Miryam Kabakov and Rayzie on the birth of their daughter and sister in July. A *simhat bat* was celebrated in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.

Mazal tov to Arthur & Betty Levy on the birth of their grandson Jonah Marcellino Charles Levy in July.

Letters

Jennifer Botwick and family wish to express heartfelt thanks to the BEKI community for their outpouring of physical and spiritual nourishment during recent months of crisis with regard to the ill health and passing of Jennifer's mother, Elsie Botwick.

We thank you for your support and care.

Welcome New Members

Marc Blander & Jennifer Goldberg and Mara

Reserve Your Date

Bar- and bat-mitzva celebrants for 2010 to 2013 who do not have written confirmation of a date reservation may wish to reserve a date by contacting Peggy at office@beki.org 389-2108 x14. Dates are available on a first-come basis to members. Your early reservation maximizes your chance to reserve your choice of dates.



Dranoff babies

Please make all checks payable to "Cong. Beth El-Keser Israel"

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Lou & Lisa Petrillo in appreciation
- Rachel & Larry Schonberger in appreciation of the Congregation
- Alan & Rachel Gerber Family in appreciation to Rabbi Tilsen and in Miriam and Eva celebrating Benot Mitzva
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in sympathy to the family of Richard Weinstein at his passing
- Deborah Ziskin & William Berson in appreciation

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Yair Minsky & Ada Fenick
- Alan & Rachel Gerber
- David & Edina Oestreicher
- BEKI Sisterhood
- Davis & Rayna Belowsky
- Marsha Beller
- Stephen & Joanne Rudof

Alan Lovins & Trish Loving Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations

- To Steven & Deborah Spangler with sympathy on the passing of Joan Katz Spangler by Ruth & Morton Silver
- To Bea Smirnoff with sympathy on the passing of Milton Smirnoff by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Bea Smirnoff with sympathy on the passing of Milton Smirnoff by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Janice Wolf & Barry Etra with sympathy on the passing of Conrad Wolf by Barz Cheskis
- To Lana Gad in honor of ending an era and beginning a new one by Monica Starr & family
- To Andy Hirshfield in honor

of being their Aba by Yoni & Eitan Hirshfield

- To Eyal Minsky in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Starr/Hirshfield family
- To Miriam & Eva Gerber in honor of their Benot Mitzva by the Starr/Hirshfield family
- To Don Hackett with wishes for a speedy recovery by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Richard Weinstein by Paula Hyman & Stanley Rosenbaum
- To Deborah Ziskin & William Berson with sympathy on the passing of Hadassah Ziskin by Sara Labowe-Stoll, Steven Stoll & family
- To Beatrice Smirnoff with sympathy on the passing of Milton Smirnoff by the Rothman family
- To Emily Belowsky & David in honor of their aufrauf by the Rothman family
- To Leonard & Barbara Stern with sympathy on the passing of Sidney Stern by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Leonard & Barbara Stern with sympathy on the passing of Sidney Stern by Stephen & Rachel Wizner
- To Leonard & Barbara Stern with sympathy on the passing of Sidney Stern by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Richard Weinstein by the Rothman family
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Richard Weinstein by Jay Brown
- To Bubbe (Tillie L. Friedman) with wishes for a speedy recovery by Aaron, Sophia & Benjamin Bruce

Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund

- To Tali Silverman Sokolow in honor of her graduation from MAKOM by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld
- To Ina Silverman & Jay

Sokolow for being honored by Gan School by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld

The BEKI Religious School Meyuchad Program

- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Annette Greene
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Marcia Landesman & Oren Sauberman
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by the Rothman family
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Jennifer Fleming
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by the Avni-Singer family
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Clare DeCrosta
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Barbara Kroll
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Mitchell Goldblatt
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Gordon & Marge Cohen
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Jonathan Bell & Debbie Fernbach
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Francis McCarthy

- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Joel & Sharon Lynn Zamkoff
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Alex & Julie Elkin
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Dianne & Robert Golub
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To the Botwick-Ries family with sympathy on the passing of Elsie Botwick by Stephen & Rachel Wizner

The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment

- To Tillie Dworski in honor of her birthday by Lillian Strauss

The Gilah Benson-Tilsen Fund for Youth

- To Gilah Benson-Tilsen in honor of her graduation from Hopkins by her Bubbe Evelyn Rose Benson

The Eric I.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund

- To Marsha Beller in honor of Sarah's wedding by Gila Reinstein
- To Marsha Beller in honor of Sarah Beller & Scott Rechler's forthcoming marriage by Laura & Howard Bloom
- To Marsha Beller in honor of Sarah Beller & Scott Rechler by Julie Cohen & Larry Visochek
- To Marsha Beller in honor of Sarah & Scott's aufrauf by Travon Zomback
- To Marsha Beller in honor of the aufrauf of Sarah Beller & Scott Rechler by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Marsha Beller in honor of the aufrauf of Sarah & Scott by Marilyn Katz

Contributions (continued)

- To Marsha Beller in honor of the aufruf of Sarah & Scott by Ethan Merlin

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund

- To Donna & Sid Levine in memory of Ari Levine by Norman Romanoff

BEKI-BJ Youth Commission

- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Gilah Benson-Tilsen in honor of her graduation by Dianne & Robert Golub
- To Shoshana Hereld in honor of her graduation by Dianne & Robert Golub
- To Ben Weitzman in honor of his graduation by Dianne & Robert Golub
- To Merav Stern in honor of her graduation by Dianne & Robert Golub
- To Avital Sokolow Silverman in honor of her graduation by Dianne & Robert Golub

In-Kind Donations

- Donation of a 1993 Mercury Villager passenger van by Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In memory of Zelda Katz & Dorothy Mattler by Shirley Mattler

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

- To Janice Wolf & Barry Etra with sympathy on the passing of Conrad Wolf by Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To Michael Livingston & Anne Weiss with sympathy on the passing of Bob Livingston by Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To Daniel Livingston in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold

- To Stephanie & Michael Smerling with sympathy on the passing of Mollie Millman by Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To Miranda Smerling in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To Elaine Grossman with sympathy on the passing of Esther Marcus by Toby & Alan Ignal
- To Bea Smirnoff with sympathy on the passing of Milton Smirnoff by Marjorie Simson
- To Irwin Moore & family with sympathy on the passing of Anne Virshup Moore by Marjorie Simson
- To Bea Smirnoff with sympathy on the passing of Milton Smirnoff by Leon Cummings
- To Deborah Ziskin & William Berson with sympathy on the passing of Hadassah Ziskin by Leon Cummings
- To Beatrice Smirnoff with sympathy on the passing of Milton Smirnoff by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Andy & Paige Weinstein with sympathy on the passing of Richard Weinstein by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Richard Weinstein by Marjorie Simson
- To the Weinstein family with sympathy on the passing of Richard Weinstein by Paul Goodwin
- To Janice Wolf & Barry Etra with sympathy on the passing of Conrad Wolf by Sharon & Dan Prober

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

- In memory of Eli Slopak by Gertrude Slopak
- In memory of Harry Kabakoff by Marvin Kabakoff
- In memory of Hyman Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
- In memory of Leonard Brill

- by Doris Brill
- In memory of her father Arthur Supwitz by Barbara Supowitz Greenberg
- In memory of his parents Herman Leo Winer & Hajnalka Winer by Herbert & Hannah Winer
- In memory of Norman Katz by Hy Katz
- In memory of Sam Katz by Hy Katz
- In memory of Rose Appell Caplan by Hy Katz
- In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In loving memory of her father Louis Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Evelyn & Nathan Spear by Bob & Susan Spear
- In memory of Bella Avrin by Susan & Bob Spear
- In memory of Louis & Diane Margolis by Les & Bernice Margolis
- In memory of Alan Hodes by Jeffrey & Lynne Heisner
- In memory of Louis Hodes by Jeffrey & Lynne Heisner
- In memory of Linda Evelyn Cohen Adkins by Susan Marek, Donna Mignosa & loving grandchildren
- In memory of Miriam Zerwitz by Ronald Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In memory of Sophie Rosell by Elayne & Morton Dimenstein
- In memory of Freda Dimenstein by Morton & Elayne Dimenstein
- In memory of Joseph Greenberg by Eileen Schuffman
- In memory of her father Abraham Golden by Marjorie Simson
- In memory of Adele Levy by Paula Rudnick
- In memory of Alan Hodes by David & Joyce Popowski
- In memory of Louis Hodes by David & Joyce Popowski
- In memory of Sophie Granoff by Michael Granoff
- In memory of Samuel Kitavitz by Jack & Harriet Kitavitz

- In memory of Samuel Matloff by Harriet & Jack Kitavitz
- In memory of Raye Leavitt by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Philip Cohen by Evelyn Friedman
- In memory of Raymond Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of Harold Chain by Susan & Alan Woodyard
- In memory of Joseph M. Engleman by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld
- In memory of Rose Feen by Hildy Feen
- In memory of George Feen by Hildy Feen
- In memory of her father Harry Spiegel by Arlene & Howard Gold
- In memory of Eli & Sy Berman by Richard Neveloff
- In memory of Jeanette Spivak & Anne Mushin Venitianer by Allen & Sheila Mushin
- In memory of Samuel Garfinkel by Lawrence & Doralee Garfinkel
- In memory of Rhoda Cohen by the Marek & Mignosa family
- In memory of Morton Benson by Evelyn Benson
- In memory of Everett Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- In memory of Lew Lehrer by Alex & Amy Lehrer
- In memory of her husband Harold Chain by Shirley Chain
- In memory of Isadore Miller by Harold & Bobbie Miller
- In memory of Gertrude Cheifetz by Robert Shaye
- In memory of Sondra Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer
- In memory of Bernard Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Leonard, Mildred & Oscar Stein by Marian Stein
- In memory of Dave Berger by Saul Berger
- In memory of her father Louis Blatt by Marilyn Margolis

Please
help keep
BEKI
peanut free



For the safety
of children
who have life-
threatening
peanut
allergies,
please do not
bring peanuts
or peanut
products into
the building.
Thanks!



Abel Caterers • Elegant Events
Brian Averna Catering
The Belvedere

70 Bradley Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525
(203) 389-2300 Fax (203) 389-2668
www.thebelvedere-ct.com

Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.

J. Deborah Ferholt, M.D., FAAP

303 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511
(203) 776-1243
FAX (203) 785-1247

A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP

Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP

1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 102
WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243
FAX (203) 397-1241

Carol Dorfman, M.D., FAAP

A higher standard within reach



Tower One/Tower East 18 Tower Lane New Haven, CT 06519

tel (203) 772 1816 fax (203) 785 8280 www.towerone.org



A unique, not for profit, apartment and assisted living community for older adults.
Fostering Independence and Community - It's All Right Here



32 Cherry Street
Milford, CT 06460
(203) 874-6755

Podiatric Medicine and Foot Surgery

DAVID C. NOVICKI, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S.
MARTIN M. PRESSMAN, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S.
JAMES G. KRANTZ, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S.
ROBERT P. NOVICKI, D.P.M., F.A.C.F.A.S.
JESSE P. PARKS, D.P.M.



Free Estimates
Fully Insured

EAGLE PAINTING COMPANY

Interior • Exterior

Powerwashing • Handyman • "No job too small"

Sergio

phone/fax (203) 397-0233

**LETTICK &
LETTICK, P.C.**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



STEVEN M. LETTICK, ESQ.
SHARON P. LETTICK, ESQ.

www.lettickandlettick.com
2494 Whitney Avenue • P.O. Box 5616
Hamden, Connecticut 06518
Tel: 203.281.7376 • Fax: 203.281.7020

WESTVILLE *Kosher* MARKET

95 Amity Rd. (Next to Amity Wine)
New Haven (off exit 59 Meritt Pkwy)

Glatt **389-1166** *Kosher*

- New Dining Area
- Bakery Products
- Expanded Groceries
- Home-Made Deli Items
- Fresh-Meat &-Poultry
- All Meat & Poultry Kosher & Kasherred
- All Foods Freshly Made on Premises
- Under Strict Rabbinical Supervision
- Expanded Groceries

Sun. 8:30-4:00 • Mon.-Wed. 8:30-6:00
Thurs. 8:30-7:00 • Fri. 8:30-3:00 • Closed Sat.

**STEPHANIE P. LISTOKIN, LLC
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES

JD: UNIV. OF PENN LAW SCHOOL ♦ BA: HARVARD UNIVERSITY
WWW.STEPHANIELISTOKIN.COM ♦ TEL (203) 605-7215
STEPHANIELISTOKIN@YAHOO.COM ♦ ADMITTED IN CT & NY
270 MCKINLEY AVENUE ♦ NEW HAVEN, CT 06515



1058 Orange Avenue • West Haven, CT 06516
Tel: 203.932.1200 Fax: 203.932.1222
Scott Walstedter

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE



It's about our unique approach to building educational excellence on a foundation of Jewish tradition and values, an appreciation of modern culture and a firm belief in the importance of weaving learning into living.

To learn more about the Ezra Academy difference, visit www.ezraacademy.net



75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, CT
(203) 389-5500 www.ezraacademy.net

**ROBERT E. SHURE, INC.
Funeral Home**

**Dedicated to the Dignity
and Respect of Tradition**

**543 George Street
New Haven**

562-8244

Robert E. Shure **James M. Shure**
Founder **President**

Cash for Clunkers or You Are What You Drive

I deride government give-aways, except those for which I am eligible. When Washington announced the “Cash for Clunkers” program this summer, I immediately investigated.

“Cash for Clunkers,” you may know, is a program that offers a federal payment of up to \$4,500 for trading in a used vehicle for a new one with better mileage. The old vehicles are crushed, allowing, in theory, the newer more efficient vehicles to take their place and reduce gasoline demand. The newer vehicles need to be only 10% more efficient – so if you could go from 16 mpg to 18 mpg or 20 mpg to 22 mpg, you qualify.

I drive a clunker. My 2000 model year minivan is so beat up that once while stopped at a red light, a tow truck tried to haul it away. 1-800-CAR-4-KIDS calls me more often than do my creditors. Given that my minivan is a clunker – an older inefficient beat-up vehicle worth less than \$4,500 -- I figured that this is my big chance to replace it with a shiny new efficient minivan. With so many Chrysler and GM dealerships closing, bargains abound. It seemed a perfect time to invade the kids’ college funds to do my patriotic duty and promote national economic recovery.

An official government web site lists the mileage figures for all old and new vehicles and serves as the basis for qualifying for “Cash for Clunkers.” To my great surprise, none of the new minivans – Chrysler, GM, Ford, Toyota, Honda, Nissan – had 2009 or 2010 models with mileage any better than my 2000 Dodge. In the ten years since my vehicle rolled off the assembly line, nothing was done to improve the fuel efficiency of these vehicles. This is

especially surprising, since even ten years ago auto makers knew of many simple and inexpensive ways to improve mileage. They never bothered to do any of them.

I remember being irritated at the salesperson who was dismissive of my interest in good mileage. From the boardroom to the salesroom, the industry promoted large engines and deprecated efficiency. Instead of gradually improving American efficiency, they produced a whole new fleet of clunkers.

At this point, condemning the auto industry is beating a dead horsepower. We could complain instead about state tax policy, which encourages us to keep our old clunkers by imposing a vastly higher motor vehicle assessment on those new efficient vehicles.

During this season of repentance, I must ask: Have I become like the auto makers? Last year, like the year before, I took account, but did I really mend my ways? I knew what is wrong and I knew what to do, but did another year pass without anything being done? Have I become a clunker?

We say in the Yom Kippur amida, “אשמותינו בכל-שנה ושנה” – *ma`avir ashmoteinu bekhhol-shana ve-shana.*” Our mahzor has it, “Year after year, You absolve our guilt.” Alternatively it could be rendered, “You defer charges against us from year to year.” Just as governments deferred acting on the energy crisis since it was first declared a generation ago, and just as auto makers put off addressing fuel efficiency, so we as individuals put off reforming our own ways. This cannot go on forever. Sooner or later, reality will overtake us, and we will have to face the charges.



Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Junk

Our congregation can now accept the donation of automobiles and trucks. For information on donating a vehicle, contact Peggy at 389-2108 x14 office@beki.org.



DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #131
New Haven, CT

Monthly Bulletin-by-Email

Members and supporters who wish to receive the monthly BEKI *Bulletin* (the newsletter of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel) by email as a PDF file may subscribe by sending an email message to bulletin-subscribe@beki.org from the email account to which the file is to be sent.

To subscribe: Send a blank message to bulletin-subscribe@

beki.org from the email account you want to receive the monthly *Bulletin*. A request for confirmation will be sent to that computer within a moment, and then you must reply to that request for confirmation by hitting “reply” and then “send.” To cancel a subscription, send a message to bulletin-unsubscribe@beki.org from the email account you wish to unsubscribe.

STAR
Tire & Wheels

Andy Weinstein

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

Your Ad Here

The BEKI *Bulletin* is sent to 750 households and is repeatedly consulted as a reference document. Advertisers report positive results.

A high proportion of *Bulletin* readers are new to the area and consult the *Bulletin* when looking for professional and retail services.

For rates and to place your ad, contact Peggy at office@beki.org (389-2108 x14). Call today to reserve a space in the next issue!

Dial “M” for Monotonous

On Nov. 14, Connecticut is implementing a mandatory 10-digit dialing plan. BEKI publications will begin listing area codes for all telephone numbers. New Haven County and Fairfield will use both area codes 203 and 475; other areas will use both 860 and 959. Those wishing to call the BEKI office, even from nearby, will need to dial (203) 389-2108.