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 www.beki.org/forms/ynparticipate.pdf

Help is needed for mailings, Break Fast shopping and planning, greeters and ushers, minyan makers (early attendees), English readings, printing Yizkor Memorial Book, and more.

If you have any questions, please speak with Darryl Kupersuck.

Selihot at Temple Or Shalom
Our affiliated Temple Or Shalom will host the Conservative-Masorti Community First Selihot Service on Saturday night Sept. 9. Havdala will be held at 8 p.m.; at 8:15, the film “Nora’s Will” will be screened; 9:45p to 10:15 p.m., discussion and refreshements; 10:30 Selihot service (ending before 11:30 p.m.). The selihot (penitential) prayers are said during the middle of the night during the period immediately before Rosh Ha-Shana 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.

XTreme Tshuva: Gender Transition and Returning to Our True Selves, a pre-High Holiday program with Joy Ladin, author of “Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders.” Tuesday evening Sept. 11 – Dr. Joy Ladin, the David and Ruth Gottesman Professor of English at Yeshiva University, is the first openly transgender employee of an Orthodox Jewish institution. Her return to teaching as a woman after receiving tenure as a man made headlines and sparked discussion around the Jewish world.

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. 23, 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. Those who wish to visit the graves of their ancestors or loved ones but are unable to do

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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
• 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

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Hamden Hall
Country Day School
Educating students in PreSchool through Grade 12.

Three of our students participated this year in the March of the Living in Poland and Israel.

www.hamdenhall.org 203.752.2610
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517

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.

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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
All of us. One Foundation.
Days of Awe
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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 and more information can be found at www.beki.org/cemetery.html. For information on cemetery purchases or upkeep, please contact the BEKI Cemetery Association at cemetery@beiki.org or (203) 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 & Yom Kippur
Michael Stern will serve as our Hazzan Rishon (lead cantor) for the High Holy Days. Michael is a BEKI alumnus and a student of Rabbi Alan Lovins, who served as Hazzan Rishon for seventeen years. In addition to Michael, 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, Michael will lead 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. Shaharit 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 choral) elaborations. The shofar is sounded after the haftara reading and again during musaf on both days of Rosh HaShana. The recitation of Shema and hearing the shofar are both considered Biblical precepts not to be missed.

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 and is subject to search.

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. If you forget your tickets, our ushers will be able to find your name on the members or guests list.

For safety and planning reasons, children must be pre-registered to participate in children’s services. For registration information, call (203) 389-2108 x14.

If you are interested in babysitting service, please call (203) 389-2108 x14. Walk-in babysitting is not available and will not be available at all at most services unless a prior arrangement is made.

Rosh HaShana services begin Sunday night Sept. 16 at 6:45 p.m. with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 7 o’clock. Candle Lighting is at 6:42. The service concludes by 7:36 p.m. Morning services begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday Sept. 17; several services for children and youth, and a learners’ service, are held as well. Shofar is sounded at about 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary; please come to the sanctuary at that hour if you are elsewhere in the building, or as directed by the ushers.

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**Days of Awe**

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Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held on the first day of Rosh HaShana, Monday Sept. 17, at 5:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Bridge and at the Whitney Museum Covered Bridge. For tashlikh at Beaver Pond Park, contact office@beki.org (203) 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.

On Monday afternoon of Rosh HaShana, minha service begins at 6:45 p.m., followed by the evening service at 7:05. Candle lighting is after 7:41.

On Tuesday Sept. 18, morning services are also at 8:30. Youth services are held as well. Shofar is sounded on Tuesday morning as well. Afternoon service (minha only) begins at 5:45 on Tuesday afternoon.

For instructions on preparing meals for Shabbat in compliance with halakhic considerations in light of the three-day sequence, please see Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals p. 306 s.v. Eruv Tavshilin.

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.

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**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 (203) 389-2108 x10 or jtilsen@beki.org.

**Yom Kippur**

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Tuesday Sept. 25, the Minha service begins at 6:15. Candle Lighting is 6:26 (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:35 and end by 8:45. Shaharit services begin at 9 a.m.; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11 a.m. The Minha Afternoon service begins at 4:45, and is followed immediately by the Neila and Maariv services. The services end with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:28 p.m.

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George G. Posener Break Fast Concludes Yom Kippur

Following the concluding Yom Kippur services on Wednesday Sept. 26, please join us as we gather for our amazing community Break Fast. For many years, George G. Posener sponsored the break fast in memory of his family. George G. Posener died on Yom Kippur 5772 (2011), so this year the break fast honors his memory as well.

The George G. Posener Family Memorial Break Fast is prepared entirely by members of the BEKI community. Overseen by Darryl Kuperstock and Linden Grazier, most of the preparation and all of the cooking is done in advance, but the assembly and plating (and clean-up) of this banquet is done by 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.

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.

Schedule of Services

For a complete schedule of services please call the office at (203) 389-2108 x14 or see the schedule at [www.beki.org/yamim-noraim.html](http://www.beki.org/yamim-noraim.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 (203) 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org.

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.”

Keeping Score

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.”
A Message from Michael Stern

It is an honor and a delight to be returning to BEKI as the High Holy Days Ba’al Musaf (shalah tzibur/cantor for the Musaf services). Although we moved to Central Florida in 2007, we still feel that BEKI is our shul, and Rabbi Tilsen is our Rabbi, as well as our friend.

It is also awe-inspiring to be inheriting the position of being the Ba’al Musaf for the High Holy Days from Rabbi and Cantor Alan Lovins. Alan taught me, and my daughter Merav, the High Holy Day cantorial repertoire, and I owe much of the growth in my davening knowledge and appreciation of tefila (prayer) from his tutelage.

The High Holy Days and the High Holy Day services are laden with meaning. Whether that meaning is associated with positive or negative feelings, or, as I would suspect, a mixture of both for many, that meaning gets conjured up each year through the focus on reflection, repentance, and renewal, the intensity of the prayer (and the length of the services), the special rituals, and the unique tunes that are used. The gravity of that focus on reflection, repentance, and renewal lends special import to the “shlichei tzibur,” the leaders of the congregation, during the High Holy Days. All the more so, thus, am I particularly honored by being entrusted with serving as BEKI’s High Holy Day Ba’al Musaf.

A portion of the meaning of the High Holy Day period is carried over from year to year through distinctive tunes and nusahim (chanting tunes). The special music of the High Holy Days imbues in the unique tefilot a visceral link from year to year. While a large number of those tunes and nusahim are standardly used in many congregations, the constellation of tunes and nusahim used in each shul is slightly different, and the BEKI High Holy Day experience is linked to its particular array of tunes and nusahim. Since so much of the High Holy Day musical repertoire that I use I learned directly from Alan, this should help retain the familiarity of the service and facilitate a smooth transition.

Although the Yamim Nora’im, the “Days of Awe,” are much filled with introspective and penitential prayers, there is also much joy and happiness at the renewal of a new year and the granting of a fresh start and clean slate. The tunes and nusahim from the High Holy Day services mirror this, as they toggle between minor and major keys, and mournful and upbeat tunes. I look forward to helping guide the BEKI congregation along this mixed panoply of seriousness and joy.

The High Holy Day liturgy has inspired much musical invention, and there is an extensive repertoire of tunes and melodies from all over the world. Over the years, I have accumulated tunes from the various synagogues I have attended as well as other sources, and I look forward to sharing some of these with the congregation during the High Holy Day services.

Both Kathy and I look forward to being back with our BEKI congregation and many friends for the High Holy Days.

Shana tova u’m’tuka.
Michael Stern

How I learned to be a High Holy Days Ba’al Musaf

Shortly after my daughter Merav’s bat mitzva in 2003, Alan Lovins approached me to compliment Merav on her voice and davening and to see if she might be interested in learning the High Holy Days davening from him, in much the same way that he had taught each of his children. This magnificent offer was too marvelous to turn down. “Absolutely,” I replied. Luckily, Merav was amenable as well.

Merav and I met with Alan for an hour each Sunday morning for the better part of a year to review the section that he had assigned to Merav to learn. For Merav, all of twelve years of age, tackling notebooks full of music for the High Holy Days davening was not the highest priority. I, however, was very interested. Over the course of each week, I would sit at the piano working out the portion of the High Holy Days music that Alan had so kindly shared with us.

Merav would sit down with me the evening before we met with Alan, and learn the assignment in one sitting. Ah, the vigor of young minds! At a certain point, Alan realized that I was learning the davening as well, and suggested that I audition for the High Holy Days cantor position that was available at Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, CT. The rest is history.

– Michael Stern
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](http://www.beki.org/sukkot.html).

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Thursday Sept. 27 from 3:15 to 5:30 p.m. Come when you can. 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. 14, following Shaharit. Bring gloves, portable power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information and to let us know if you can help, contact David Kuperstock (203) 415-4026 or ndk1024@gmail.com.

Lulav & Etrog Orders
BEKI Religious School will offer lulav and etrog sets at $36 each for Sukkot. To order, please leave a note for Peggy or Ina with your name and address in the BEKI office, or mail to BEKI, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, CT 06515. For more info: principal@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x13.

Sukka Hop
Join the Annual BEKI Family Sukka Hop on Monday Oct. 1. The group departs at 12:45 p.m. from the Moishe Schnitman Sukka at BEKI. A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; please RSVP to Miriam, (203) 389-6137, by Sept. 25 so hosts can plan. Wear good walking shoes for the trek; bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks; and running strollers for your little ones.

**Hop schedule:**
1) Freiman Sukka, 56 McKinley Ave., 1:10 - 1:30
2) Avni-Singer Sukka, 125 Westwood Rd., 1:45 - 2:05
3) Doherty-Ruderman Sukka, 836 Edgewood Ave., 2:15 – 2:35
4) Robbins Sukka, 845 Edgewood Ave. (entrance: driveway on Marvel Road), 2:40-3
5) Abraham Sukka, 259 Alden Ave., 3:15 – 3:35
6) Light Sukka, 256 McKinley, 3:45 – 4:05
7) Benson & Tilsen Sukka, 281 West Elm St., 4:20 - 4:40
8) Weiner-Rastelli Sukka, 187 Willard St.; 4:55 – 5:15
9) BEKI. Stay for Minha and Maariv services, 5:45 to 6:15 in the BEKI Sukka.
Sukkot & Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Sukkot begins on Sunday evening, Sept. 30. Minha afternoon service begins at 5:45 p.m., followed immediately by the evening service, ending at 6:20. The services will be held in the Sukka, weather permitting. Candle lighting on Sunday night is at 6:17.

The morning service on Monday Oct. 1 begins at 9:15 and includes the recitation of Hallel, waving of lulav and etrog, and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Services on Monday night also begin at 5:45, but candle lighting on Monday night is after 7:16. Services on Tuesday morning Oct. 2 are from 9:15 to 11:36 and again include the taking of lulav and etrog.

Candle lighting on Friday night Oct. 5 is at 6:09. 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. Although the Shabbat nusah (musical mode) predominates, certain passages are recited according to the unique Festival nusah.

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.

Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Shabbat Hol HaMoed, Saturday Oct. 6, is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”). 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.

Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon service begins at 5:45 and ends about 6:20 p.m.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hoshana”) morning service on Sunday Oct. 7 begins at 9 and ends by 10:50. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring 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.

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 Sunday night Oct. 7. The minha service begins at 5:45 p.m.; the festival maariv service begins immediately after, about 6 o’clock. It is customary to light a memorial candle on that night immediately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 6:05 (or earlier).

During the morning service, which begins at 9:15 on Monday Oct. 8, Hallel is chanted. The unique festival nusah (musical mode) is used for this service. For Carole Bass’s comment on Hallel, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak2Wqg2Xyks.

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.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. More about Simhat Torah in October’s Bulletin.
Barukh Dayan HaEmet

With sorrow we note the passing of
William Kaplowitz,
father of Sally (& Alan) Abramovitz
Crosby Forbes,
father of Robert Forbes (& Joanne Foodim)
Raymond F. Smith,
father of Carole (& Paul) Bass

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Members & Alumni on the Move

You can contact Saul Bell at sbell470@aol.com, 3701 International Dr #719, Silver Spring, MD 20906, (301) 598-2915.

Welcome to New Members

• Janis Isenberg
• Albert Friedman

Mazal tov to

Diane & George Dumigan on the birth of a granddaughter Hue, born to Leah & Jeff in June
Saul Bell on the birth of a great-granddaughter Gillian Hope Bell in June
Alan & Sally Abramovitz on the birth of Jacob (Shabtai Yaqov) Abramovitz, to Ed and Michelle, in July

Sunday Testing for SAT and ACTs

The Youth Commission encouraged all BEKI-BJ teens to utilize 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. How to? SAT http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/special-circumstances ACT http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/nonsat.html
Encore! David Chevan, Warren Byrd And The Afro-Semitic Experience

BEKI is once again thrilled to present an evening of fascinating, engaging and evocative music for the entire community on Wednesday evening, Sept. 5, featuring David Chevan, Warren Byrd and the Afro-Semitic Experience (Will Bartlett, Alvin Carter, Jr., Abu Alvin Carter Sr., Saskia Laroo, and Stacy Phillips). Joining them will be noted cantor Erik Contzius. The program will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will conclude by 9.

As an intriguing prelude to the High Holy Days and a dynamic preparation to the season, the concert will feature the band’s music for Selichot, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – some of which we enjoyed in their concert at BEKI two years ago. In addition, we will also be treated to the premiere of a new project for the Afro-Semitic Experience, “Jazz Souls on Fire.” The band has developed a dynamic program of original interpretations of spiritually inspired work by some of the giants of jazz.

An active bassist and composer, band co-founder David Chevan is involved in some of the most dynamic and musically exciting jazz and Jewish music projects around the United States as well as in the greater New Haven area. In addition to his busy performance schedule, Chevan also holds a Ph.D. in jazz history and is a full-time professor of music at Southern Connecticut State University.

Pianist, vocalist, and co-founder of the Afro-Semitic Experience, Warren Byrd is a Hartford native who maintains an international touring schedule along with playing Jazz throughout Connecticut, Southern New England, and New York. In the last twenty years, he has lent his musicianship to many groups and performers in Jazz, R&B, World, Latin, Pop, etc., as well as Dance and Theatre. A short list of performers would include Archie Shepp, Eddie Henderson, Frank Lacy, Saskia Laroo, Steve Davis, David Chevan, Mixashawn, Kenny Hamber, Alvin Carter, Nita Zarif, and many more. He touts composition as the cornerstone of his development as an artist and the springboard of his career direction.

“With The Afro-Semitic Experience New Haven gets to claim the harbingers of one of the freshest, most distinctive, culturally explicit and ultra-PC sounds in jazz. For [they evoke] the sound of cultural shift, of a melting pot, of spirituality and devotion and ceremony, of partying and praying and jamming. . . Underneath all the oomph you feel the warmth, wealth, fury and pain of whole nations, repressed cultures, challenged beliefs. This band is the sound of the past, the present and the great beyond all at once”, wrote Christopher Arnott of The New Haven Advocate. The repertoire of this band includes a blending of musical themes from traditional klezmer melodies, bebop, gospel, cantorial songs and African rhythms and melodic lines.

Chevan describes the concert this way, “I have this vision of a concert that might best be described as a spiritual tribal jam. The cantorial music for Selihot includes some pretty incredible pieces that lend themselves to the grooves and drones at which the Afro-Semitic Experience excel and we want to explore that wonderful slippery quality of moving from in-time grooving to the out-of-time vestigial out-of-the-past drone that accompanies the cries of an old-school hazzan. Joining us is our friend, Cantor Erik Contzius. In addition to being a great cantor, Erik is also a noted composer of Jewish sacred music. Although he wasn’t able to participate in the concert at BEKI back in 2010, we expect that that will be more than made up for at this concert. The combination of our group with Cantor Contzius is a spiritual fire waiting to be ignited and our performance at BEKI will be the spark.”

This promises to be a moving evening of music and community, and a wonderful way to move into the High Holy Day season. Groove, dance, trance, daven, engage past memories, ignite new musical passions. This will be a more groove, dance, and trance centered evening of music—you can dance, you can stand and daven, or you can just sit back and listen to, but whatever you do the sounds will be compelling. Join in!

Light supper/dessert refreshments will be served. Tickets at the door are $18 for adults and $12 for seniors (65 and over) and students. This year’s concert is generously co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, and is supported, in part, by the Oppenheimer Fund for Sacred Music at BEKI.

For more information, please contact Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@aol.com / (203) 387-0304; Isaiah Cooper icoper@cooperlaw.net / (203) 233-4547, or the BEKI office office@beki.org / (203) 389-2108.
**BRS Update**

After a busy summer of planning and conferences, BRS looks forward to 5773.

This year, along with Helene Sapadin, Shlomit Daniel, Iris Back, Susan Jacobson, and Moshe Meiri, we welcome Mora Rita Sela back to school to teach Judaics in the upper grades. In the coming months we will introduce our beloved faculty in this Bulletin. We start with Mora Helene, our K-1 teacher, who recently retired from teaching kindergarten in New Haven public schools. She lives in town with her daughter, Molly, and the newest member of the household, a Black Lab named Captain who is a retired guide dog. Students know one of her passions has been raising German Shepherds to be seeing-eye dogs for the blind.

Mora Helene writes:

“I began teaching religious school when I was in college at SCSU studying to be an elementary school teacher. I taught on Sunday mornings at Keser Israel. On Saturdays I often went to services at Beth El. How wonderful it is that now my Jewish community is in one place at BEKI! Community is my favorite thing about teaching at BEKI. I love working with the children and celebrating Shabbat and holidays with students and their families. I have been looking forward to starting another school year all summer.”

I would love to expand BRS’s traditional role in the congregation if there is sufficient interest. Would your family participate in Sunday morning pre-school for four year olds emphasizing Hebrew language through play? Any interest among post b’nai mitzvah folks in creative text study and getting out into the community as both tourists and mitzvah mavens? What about a similar program for BEKI Elders? Let me know.

Kol tuv,
Mora Ina

**8th-grader Fundraising**

Please support our Ezra Academy 8th grade students as they raise money toward their trip to Israel.

Ezra 8th graders at BEKI include: Daniel Cooper, Dustin Gad, Matthew Fiedler, Ari Kaufman-Frankel, Katya Labowe-Stoll, and Ben Surman.

Each year, Ezra Academy 8th graders are each required to work for a minimum of 30 hours to support their trip to Israel.

Please think ahead to all those tasks for which you need some extra hands and hire one of our wonderful Ezra 8th graders to do the job. A samling of chores includes: babysitting; sukka building & decorating; face painting at parties; yard work; car cleaning; soccer/basketball lessons; mother’s helper at the beach or pool/tennis club; garage/basement cleaning; tutoring in Hebrew, math, reading; help on snowy days; dog walking and pet sitting for vacations; Pesah “switchovers” & “switchbacks;” supervision for your children during parent-teacher conferences; and lots of others are possibilities!

Feel free to contact an 8th grader directly or if you have a job to offer and would like help in finding an Ezra 8th grader, please contact Joy Kaufman at (203) 387-7262. Thank you!

**Children and Safety at BEKI**

A note from the BEKI Board of Directors (your volunteer leaders and fellow parents)

At BEKI, we care about the safety of all our members and visitors. Adults are kindly reminded that children should be either in one of our many wonderful children’s programs or with their parents or caregivers in the main sanctuary. Children are always welcome in the main sanctuary and encouraged to enjoy as much of the service as is appropriate for that child. Should, for whatever reason, your child not be part of either group, please ensure that they are being properly supervised.

While this letter is not a list of safety do’s and don’ts, a few major points stand out. Running in the halls and stairways is dangerous, both for children and for other members who may not be nimble at avoiding a fast-moving child. Rough play is likewise hazardous. And no one should use the doors next to the chapel/library, which exit directly into the driveway, except in an emergency.

Parents are asked to consistently remind their children inside the synagogue to walk and be respectful of the safety of other members around them at all times.

On a related note, the two playgrounds adjacent to the parking lot have been modified. A section of the fence between the two play areas has been removed and the gate next to the driveway is closed off. In this way children will not be stepping out directly into the driveway.

Children should continue to be supervised in the playground area and in the courtyard outside the main entrance.

The safety of all members is our foremost concern, and we thank you for your ongoing cooperation.
It seems like we just celebrated the 4th of July. Here we are looking forward to the High Holy Days in September and October 2012 - 5773. One of our favorite of holidays is Sukkot.

A qabbalistic practice that has gained in popularity today is to invite seven ushpizin (Aramaic for guests) into the Sukka. The original seven are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron and David, who are invited, one per night, into the sukka to join in the week-long holiday celebration. Recently, Jewish women have expanded the custom to include women as well, calling them in the feminized form, ushpizot. The recommended selection of ushpizot is based on the seven female prophets named in the Talmud: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail, Hulda, and Esther. In the talmudic passage each woman is associated with prophetic acts, but later they were invested with mystical symbolism by the medieval qabbalists.

If we were to create our own list of ushpizot, who might we want to invite into our sukka?

The oil painting of David Ben Gurion in the downstairs social hall lobby was painted in 1961 by BEKI Sisterhood member Belle K. Greenberg and donated to BEKI in memory of her mother Leah Baron Kogan.

Adele Tyson and Mimi Glenn and the board wish all the BEKI members a Happy and Healthy New Year, and Gemar Hatima Tova.

Sisterhood invites all of our BEKI members to renew their membership once again in October. Membership is still only $25 for the year.

Torah Fund

As we enter a new year I want to thank everyone who has made a commitment to the Torah Fund Campaign last year.

Please continue to purchase all occasions cards to support The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS).

You can also become a Benefactor at $180 and receive our 5773 pin as a gift.

The imagery of dawn invokes an awareness of the challenges before us as well as our need to be alert to address them. What challenges will we face in 5773 as Jewish women? Will we rise to meet them, and will the glory of God be present in our response? Uri, uri – Awake – shir dabeiri – sing a song – of activity, or victory, and of thanks to the Holy One whose light illuminates all of our waking moments.

Please call Barbara Cushen (203) 407-0314 to purchase cards or to become a benefactor for 2012-13.

Thank you,
Barbara Cushen
BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund Chair

Daily Services

Additional participants are needed for the morning service in September and October. Can you come one morning a week? Sunday, 9 to 9:36 a.m.; Monday 7 to 7:47 a.m.; Tuesday 7 to 7:32 a.m.; Wednesday 7 to 7:33 a.m.; Thursday 8:15 to 9:11 a.m.; Friday 7 to 7:32 a.m. Let us know at jjtilsen@beki.org or just come.

WiFi & AC

BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library (Beit Midrash) is comfortably air-conditioned. Come on those hot days, read a book or magazine, attend a morning or evening service, cool down. An open internet connection awaits you; no purchase of coffee or donuts necessary.

Buying Groceries?

Use gift cards for Peapod, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Westville Kosher Market, available at face value – no additional cost to you – and BEKI receives a significant commission. Available from Gloria Cohen and from Office.
Shabbat (Saturdays)

**Darshanim**


Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim in September and October.

Mark Oppenheimer will serve as darshan on Sept. 1, parashat Ki Tetsei.

Rabbi Eric A. Silver will serve as darshan on Sept. 8, parashat Ki Tavo.

**Shabbat Shalom Torah Study**

The Shabbat Shalom Torah Study meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scripture readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, with Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela, David Kuperstock, Isaiah Cooper, Rabbi Eric Silver and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study 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 Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

**Mondays**

**Rashi Study Group: Shoftim**

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). The RSG is studying the Book of Shoftim (Judges). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Devora, Baraq, Yiftah, Mrs. Manoah, and Samson and Delila. 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. Hebrew and English texts are available. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 o’clock shaharit morning service.

RSG will meet at 9:45 to 10:30 on Monday Sept. 3, following the 9 o’clock morning service, as it is Labor Day. There will be no meeting on Monday Sept. 17, the first day of Rosh HaShana. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

**Tuesdays**

**Hebrew Bet: Modern and Prayerbook Hebrew**

New sections may open this season. To register for the next session, contact Peggy at office@beki.org.

Duration: Approximately 20 classes, 10 weeks. Location: BEKI classroom 4. Price: None. Prerequisites: Proficiency in the alefbet. Audience: Adults, member or non-member. Materials: Will be provided. Course Description: This course is designed for students either interested in Modern Hebrew and/or Prayerbook Hebrew. Time will be devoted to both topics. Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in the alefbet already, for all material is presented in Hebrew print only. Students will be expected to speak, read and write printed Hebrew. Important communicative and conversational Hebrew language structures will be employed and encouraged as various vocabularies and topics are explored. Register with Peggy office@
Adult Studies
Continued from Page 13

beki.org; inquiries to William Auri-eme perfectexodus@gmail.com

Wednesdays
Hebrew Word of the Week
The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 120-second “Hebrew word of the Week” 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 less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

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. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. The group is in recess until after the Shemini Atseret festival. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

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. Shaharit service is from 8:15 to 9:11 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 o’clock.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group
The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. 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. The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time.

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group will be on recess until after the Shemini Atseret festival, resuming on Thursday Oct. 11.

For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icoooper@cooperlaw.net.

Hebrew: Modern and Prayerbook Hebrew
See description, above, under “Tuesdays”

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.”

Save the Grid
To slightly reduce environmental damage and contain societal costs, operate electric appliances such as dishwashers and clothes dryers at night or early morning during the summer.

Rabbi’s Report
Rabbi Tilsen’s Annual report for the 2012 fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 is available at www.beki.org/tilsen/annual11.pdf and by request from the office.

The Shul in the News
Shimon [the son of Rabban Gamliel] says:
It is not what one says, but rather what one does,
that makes all the difference in the world.
Pirqe Avot 1:17

On Rosh Hashana about five years ago, BEKI introduced an additional new and innovative twist to the time-honored High Holy Days tradition: a pledge card with fold-over tabs – a pledge card that indicated not amounts of money to be donated, but commitments to specific Tikkun Olam volunteer activities in the community. Although the cards haven’t been used in the several years since, their value was never questioned. Quite the opposite. As a result of the original initiative, we were able to provide the opportunity to many to participate in the community in a new and meaningful way.

We are happy to announce that TIKKUN OLAM PLEDGE CARDS will be available and distributed again this year, beginning at Rosh Hashana, and will be pre-labeled with members’ names to make it easy to identify the pledges. This will also made it easy for coordinators of the various projects to contact volunteers after the holidays to help people act on their pledges.

BEKI members have the opportunity to volunteer for a diversity of projects which will include, among other choices, to assist once a month at a local soup kitchen, participate in a Habitat for Humanity home-build, and volunteer weekly with a public school literacy project.

Projects are either based at BEKI (organized through BEKI’s Tikkun Olam Committee or Hesed Committee), while others are coordinated by community organizations with which BEKI is a partner. The goal is to offer members of the BEKI community even more opportunities to become involved in making the world a better place. In addition to hands-on volunteering, we hope to also provide opportunities for working on issues of social justice and advocacy initiatives.

For more information, contact Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@aol.com (203) 387-0304 or Nathan Bixby nathan.bixby@gmail.com (203) 887-2598.

Almost 13: An Update on the BEKI B’nai Mitzvah Qiddush Committee

Celebrating a bar- or bat-mitzva with the BEKI community is a joyous event. Unfortunately, the cost of providing a catered kosher qiddush for guests and the entire congregation had created financial hardship for some families and had precluded others from celebrating their bar- or bat-mitzva in the BEKI community. A group of BEKI volunteers came together with the goal of creating a sustainable committee to enable all families, regardless of their financial resources, to celebrate Shabbat morning bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI. The board of directors supported this initiative and formally approved the plan in December 2010.

In March 2011, the Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee (BMQC) had its inaugural event. To date the committee has prepared the food for 12 benei mitzva, with four events scheduled in the coming months. Feedback has been quite positive, acknowledging both the wonderful food and the increased sense of community that this initiative has brought to BEKI.

As always, BEKI families are still welcome to hire a caterer to prepare the food for their child’s Shabbat bar- or bat-mitzva. The BMQC creates an additional option, in which volunteers buy and prepare the food. Families using the BMQC are required to become part of the committee for two years. This commitment helps to sustain the committee into the future so that all families have the option of using the committee.

The ultimate goal is that any member family, no matter what its financial situation, is able to celebrate a Shabbat bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI. In light of this we have established a BMQC Tzedaka Fund to help those families who cannot afford the costs associated with using the BMQC for their event. The BMQC encourages all BEKI members to consider donating. A contribution to the BMQC Tzedaka fund is a wonderful way to acknowledge a simha, and a number of our recent benei mitzva celebrants have asked for contributions to the BMQC in lieu of gifts, insuring that their peers will also be able to celebrate their Shabbat morning bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI.

For more details regarding the BMQC, please contact the BEKI office. If you are interested in volunteering to become part of the BMQC, please contact Joy Kaufman (203) 387-7262.

– Joy Kaufman, co-coordinator
The BEKI Art Gallery

How did a synagogue lobby and corridor get transformed into an art gallery? The BEKI Art Gallery was launched in April 2010 with that year’s Jewish Federation’s Women of Vision funded program at BEKI, “Jewish American Women Artists.” The program included an exhibit at BEKI of the artwork of four, noted New Haven area artists: BEKI member Cynthia Beth Rubin who helped coordinate the program, BEKI member Mary Lesser, Jeanette Kuvin Oren and Judy Sirota Rosenthal.

The eclectic exhibit, which featured a variety of media by each artist, including Cynthia’s video art, Mary’s immigrant-theme paintings, Judy’s photographs and Jeanette’s inspirational prints, demonstrated the capabilities of the synagogue space. A decision by the BEKI board to install a hanging system in the lobby and hallway established it as an ongoing gallery space.

Working with Kehler Liddell Gallery in Westville Village, BEKI exhibited the mandala-like drawings of Edith Borax-Morrison beginning in November 2010. Her work in acrylics, collage and pen and ink have been described as unique, on the edge of consciousness and enigmatic.

Yale visiting professor and BEKI member Sandra Valabregue Perry displayed her dreamlike, natural and mystical images at BEKI in the spring of 2011. Her artwork reflects her French and Israeli background and her sensibility as a philosopher.

In the summer of 2011 Kehler Liddell connected the synagogue with Westville Village resident Frank Bruckmann, whose oil paintings of New Haven scenes, Westville Village businesses, Maine seascapes and landscapes have been exhibited frequently there. He shared several of his paintings with BEKI, including images of West Rock, Edgewood Park, downtown New Haven, and landscapes from Maine and Florida.

BEKI member Robert Jacoby brought both exquisitely painted abstracts as well as portraits and landscapes in a variety of media to the gallery in the fall of 2011. After a career as an academic veterinarian, he has focused on his artistic development, which continues to evolve.

Kehler Liddell facilitated the winter 2012 exhibit of Andrew Hogan’s (spouse of BEKI member Rachel Lovins) striking, black and white photographs of Haiti. Although taken shortly after the catastrophic volcano there, his portraits reflect the spirit of daily life.

DaSilva Gallery provided the spring 2012 exhibit with the mezzotints of French artist Laurent Schkolnyk. He is known as one of the few masters of Mezzotint living in the world today and his prints, mostly still life, feature rich, Mediterranean colors.

Over the summer the gallery featured the abstract acrylic paintings of Bethany resident Rita Brieger. She combines color and texture to create a non-representational, experiential sense of place.

Adding to BEKI’s permanent art collection, BEKI member Belle Goldberg (a graduate of the Yale School of Art) donated her 1961 portrait of Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, which has been installed in the downstairs lobby, in April. She created the portrait, after having seen Ben Gurion while on a trip to Israel, as a gift for her mother in whose home it hung for 50 years.

Here are the websites of the above artists:
http://www.marylesser.com/
http://www.kuvianoren.com/
http://www.cbruin.net/
http://www.sirotarosenthal.com/
http://www.kehlerliddell.com/edith-borax-morrison/
http://www.abperi.com/sandravalabregue/
http://www.fbruckmann.com/
http://www.jacobyart.com/
http://www.ahoganphotography.com/
http://www.schkolnykfineart.com/
http://www.ritabrieger.com/
Buying Groceries?
Use gift cards for Peapod, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite and Westville Kosher Market, available at face value – no additional cost to you – and BEKI receives a significant commission. Available from Gloria Cohen and from Office.
Rabbi's Tzedqqa Fund (minimum $25)
- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce wishing mazal tov to Brian Karsif on the nissuin of Ben & Erin
- Albert Friedman marking the yahrzeit of Tillie Leah Friedman
- Lou & Lisa Petritto in memory of Peter Meyers
- Morton Dimenstein in memory of Elayne Dimenstein and in appreciation
- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in memory of Crosby Forbes, father of Robert Forbes
- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in memory of Raymond Smith, father of Carole Bass

Chai Fund (minimum $18)
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Jonathan Freeman & family
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Gloria Cohen
- To Nadav & Rita Sela with sympathy on the passing of their dear friend Norman Rose by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Steven Rudof in honor of his “Big Birthday” by Nancy Brand & family
- To Bob Spear in honor of his birthday by Noreen & Dave Pokras
- To Bob Spear in honor of his special birthday by Marilyn & Stan Halpert
- To Judith Hoberman & Dominic Kinsley in honor of Liz & David’s wedding by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Diane & George Dumigan in honor of the birth of their new granddaughter Hue by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Saul Bell in honor of the birth of his great-granddaughter Gillian Hope Bell by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Alan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of the birth of their first grandson by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Sally & Alan Abramovitz with sympathy on the passing of Bill Klapowiz by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Sally & Alan Abramovitz with sympathy on the passing of Bill Klapowiz by David & Marlee Chorney
- To Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter with sympathy on the passing of Ruth Rosenberg by Leon Cummings
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Lea Lynn Friederich & family
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Alan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of the birth of their grandson by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Mimi Glenn by Jonathan Freeman
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Phyllis Spiegel
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Karen & Jim Berger
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Arlene Spiegel Gold & family
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Cynthia Beth Rubin & family
- To the Carloni family with sympathy on the passing of Ralph Carloni by David & Rayna Belowsky

Chai Fund (minimum $25)
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Lloyd Friedman, Kai Yang & family
- To Ben Surman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rachel & Alan Gerber and family
- To Noam Benson-Tilsen in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rachel & Alan Gerber and family

Qiddush Sponsors
- Friends of Helene Sapadin
- BEKI Congregation in honor of Alan Lovins
- The Avni-Singer, Botwicz-Ries, Lew & Wetzman families
- Steve & Joanne Rudof
- The BEKI Membership Committee
- Rebecca Weiner, Mike Rastelli and Sarah
- Eleanor Stutz
- The Jacoby Family
- Roya Hakakian & Ramin Ahmadi
- Nanette Stahl & William Hallo

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Howard Gold with sympathy on the passing of Arlene Spiegel Gold by Phyllis Spiegel
- To Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter with sympathy on the passing of Ruth Rosenberg by Leon Cummings
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Lea Lynn Friederich & family
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Alan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of the birth of their grandson by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To BEKI Sisterhood in honor of Mimi Glenn by Jonathan Freeman
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Phyllis Spiegel
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Karen & Jim Berger
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Arlene Spiegel Gold & family
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Cynthia Beth Rubin & family
- To the Carloni family with sympathy on the passing of Ralph Carloni by David & Rayna Belowsky

The Eric L.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund
- In memory of Bess Bloom, Lester Bloom and Alfred Beller by Marsha Beller & family
- In memory of Helen Beller and in honor of all those who served as shomrim before burial by Marsha Beller & family
- In memory of Eric Beller by Harriet & Robert Zimbach

The Benei Mitzva Qiddush Committee Tzedqqa Fund
- To Jacques Ben-Avie in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rachel & Alan Gerber and family
- To Daniel Cooper in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rachel & Alan Gerber and family
- To Ben Surman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rachel & Alan Gerber and family
- To Noam Benson-Tilsen in honor of his birthday by Rachel Light
- To Noam Benson-Tilsen in honor of his birthday by the Friedmann-Price family

The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs
- In memory of their mother Lillian Levine and his brother Robert Levine by Richard & Nancy Levine

BEKI Religious School
- To Sarah Berry, Roger Colten and family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Nelson by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Sally & Alan Abramovitz with sympathy on the passing of Bill Klapowiz by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Alan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of the birth of their grandson by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Harold & Bobbie Miller in honor of the birth of their granddaughter by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

The Barzillai Chesiks BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
- To Dr. Burton Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Robert Chesik by Rena Chesiks-Gold, Marty Gold & family
- To Rob Forbes, Joanne Foodim and family with sympathy on the passing of H.A. Crosby Forbes by Rena Chesiks-Gold & Marty Gold

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund
- In loving memory of Marilyn & Harold Gimbel by Betsy, Howie & Shilo Ratner
- To Elana Rubenstein in honor of her high school graduation & upcoming
What Americans Should Know – and Do – about Iran

Please join us for a brunch with poet and rights activist Roya Hakakian. Iran has emerged as one of the most complex and dangerous problems of our time. Roya Hakakian sorts out fact from fiction and reason from rhetoric.

Born in Tehran, Iran, Roya Hakakian lived through the Iranian revolution of 1979, later emigrating to America in 1985 on political asylum. A lauded Farsi poet turned television producer with programs like “60 Minutes,” she became well known for her memoir, Journey From The Land Of No in 2004 and frequent essays on Iranian issues during the 2000s. Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2008, Roya published Assassins of the Turquoise Palace in 2011, a nonfiction account of the Mykonos restaurant assassinations of Iranian opposition leaders in Berlin. She is a founding member of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, and serves on the board of Refugees International.

BRUNCH AT BEKI WITH ROYA HAKAKIAN

Sunday Sept. 9 after services at 9:45 a.m.

Contributions
Continued from Page 19

• Seven books with fifty cassette tapes (Intermediate & Advanced Level Israeli Hebrew Refresher Course) by Don Lapidus

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

• In memory of Ruth Weiner by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
• In memory of Robert Zisman by Howard Zisman
• In memory of her husband Frank Goldberg by Anna Goldberg
• In memory of Hyman Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
• In memory of Gissella Weinerberger by Anna Goldberg
• In memory of Lillian V. Henken by Gladys Lipkin
• In memory of Samuel Kitavitz by Betty Swinkin
• In loving memory of her father Louis Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
• In loving memory of her grandfather Samuel Siegel by Eileen S. Rogoff
• In memory of Grace Goldberg Cohen Geisinger by Carol Cohen & Sandra Blair
• In memory of Simon Berman by Richard Neveloff
• In memory of Paula Hyman by Herbert & Hannah Winer
• In memory of Herman L. Winer & Hajnal I. Winer by Herbert Winer
• In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
• In memory of Rebecca Bloom by Shirley Bober
• In memory of her beloved father Arthur Supowitz by Barbara & Alvin Greenberg
• In memory of Isadore Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
• In memory of Louis Hodes by Lynne & Jeffrey Heisner
• In memory of Alan Jay Hodes by Lynne & Jeffery Heisner
• In memory of Samuel Matloff by Harriet & Jack Kitavitz
• In memory of Samuel Kitavitz by Jack & Harriet Auerbach
• In memory of Louis Hodes by Joyce & David Popowski
• In memory of Richard Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
• In memory of Maurice Henowitz by Anita Henowitz
• In memory of Ruth Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hilbert Auerbach
• In memory of Alan Hodes by Joyce & David Popowski
• In memory of Raye Leavitt by Ann Rogoff
• In memory of Sondra Herscherdifer by Sherman Herscherdifer
• In memory of Louis Hoffman by Bea Sherman
• In memory of Sophie Granoff by Jeff Granoff
• In memory of Miriam Zerwitz by Ronald Zlotoff
• In memory of Bernard Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
• In memory of her aunt Lillian Senderoff by Sherry Kent
• In memory of Raymond Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
• In memory of Morton Benson by Evelyn Benson
• In memory of Samuel Garfinke by Lawrence & Doralee Garfinke
• In memory of Everett Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
• In memory of Rose Kresel by Mrs. Bernard Levine
• In memory of Philip Schnee by Charles & Carolyn Schnee
• In memory of Julia Schnee by Charles & Carolyn Schnee
• In memory of Bernard Weinstein by Carolyn & Charles Schnee
• In memory of Harry Fleischner by Robert Fleischner
• In memory of Irv Zerwitz by Ronald Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
• In memory of Harold Chain by Shirley Goldberg Chain
• In memory of Frances Goldberg Smith by Shirley Goldberg Chain
• In memory of Eva Goldberg Rozycki by Shirley Goldberg Chain
• In memory of Kate Goldberg Margolis by Shirley Goldberg Chain
• In memory of Eli Rozycki by Shirley Goldberg Chain
• In memory of Louis Chain by Shirley Goldberg Chain
• In memory of Louis Hoffman by Bea Sherman
• In memory of Moshe Ben-Chitrit by Coby Ben-Chitrit
• In memory of Faye Schwartz by David Schwartz
• In memory of Louis Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
• In memory of Nathan Tevelitz by Elma Guttenberg
• In memory of Irving Guttenberg by Elma Guttenberg
• In memory of Fannie Siegel by Eileen Rogoff
• In memory of Rose Pergament by Deanna Tulin
• In memory of Herbert Weiner by Rebecca Weiner & Mike Rastelli
• In memory of her father Dov-Bear Naiman by Polina Naiman
• In memory of Rose & George Feen by Hilda Feen
• In memory of Dave Berger by Saul Berger
The Talmud tells the story of an old man planting a carob tree. Why bother, he is asked, since he won’t live to eat its fruit? He replies: those who came before me planted trees for me to enjoy. I am planting for my children and grandchildren.

We are a fortunate generation here at BEKI. Thanks to the hard work of those who came before us, our congregation this year has fulfilled the Jewish proverb, “May you live to be 120.” All year, we are celebrating BEKI’s 120th birthday: with parties and a picnic, with new clothes for our Torah scrolls, and with deep gratitude for our vibrant and soulful community. We are enjoying the fruits of the labor of those who came before us. And we are planting for our children and grandchildren.

This year we launched the BEKI 120 Fund, a five-year campaign that will help our spiritual home continue to thrive during the next 120 years. Our goal is to raise $500,000 over five years, and we’re pleased to report that at this writing – about two months after the launch – pledges have already topped 25 percent of that goal. The seeds have been planted.

Let me explain a little more about the purpose of this campaign, and – since the High Holy Days are nearly upon us – how it differs from the annual (Kol Nidre) appeal and other BEKI fundraising events. The annual appeal is an important element in balancing our budget each year. Dues cover only about one-third of our costs, partly reflecting our diverse membership; we turn no one away because they can’t pay. Our endowments, for which we are grateful, provide about 15 percent of BEKI’s annual income. The rest comes mainly from donations from you, our generous members. That’s the money that allows us to light and heat and air-condition the shul, to pay the hard-working staff, to educate our children, to offer the best Shabbat qiddush around.

The BEKI 120 Fund sets its sights beyond the horizon of the annual budget, looking to the future. To prepare BEKI for the next 120 years, we must strengthen ourselves financially. We must reduce or retire our mortgages; create a building fund reserve for “predictable surprises” like roof leaks and needed mechanical upgrades; increase building and community sustainability to reduce operating costs and raise revenues; and add to endowments to keep our community vibrant, while continuing to welcome new members regardless of ability to pay.

Thanks to those who have already made pledges to the BEKI 120 Fund, the seeds are planted. With a lot of water and sunshine – in the form of additional pledges – we will see them bear fruit in far less than 120 years.

— Carole Bass, president, on behalf of the volunteer BEKI 120 Fund committee: John Weiser, Rebecca Weiner, Brian Karsif, Susan Voigt, and advisers Dan Weintraub and Lisa Stanger
Wishing Ourselves Away

My grandparents Ed & Esther Tilsen lived in Venturia, McIntosh County, North Dakota (2010 pop. 10), and later in nearby New Leipzig in the 1920s and 1930s. One evening when Ed was returning from a journey he came across a family in a truck that had broken down. He crammed the man and woman and their many children into his car and took them home for dinner and to stay the night. The next morning, Ed took the man to fix the truck and eventually they went their way.

After they left, Esther – a generous and nurturing woman – complained to Ed, “how can you feed that man’s family when we can hardly feed our own?” Ed’s approach was to feed the guests first, and ask Esther later. Esther’s approach was to feed the guests first, and question Ed’s judgment later. Either way, the mitzvot of hakhnasat orkhim – welcoming guests – and of “raising the fallen donkey” of one’s neighbor were fulfilled, and the theoretical basis and practical costs were addressed later if ever. Happily, Ed and one’s neighbor were fulfilled, and the theoretical basis and practical costs were addressed later if ever. Happily, Ed and Esther were able to raise their own five children well, sup

The “undiminished devotion to the ideal of klal yisrael, the unfractured totality of Jewish existence and the ultimate significance of every single Jew,” was identified as one of the seven core values of Conservative Judaism by Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, former Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, in his essay “Sacred Cluster (1995) www.jtsa.edu/x497.xml#3. Rabbi Schorsch explained:

“In the consciousness of Conservative Jews, there yet resonates the affirmation of haverim kol yisrael (all Israel is still joined in fellowship)—despite all the dispersion, dichotomies and politicization that history has visited upon us, Jews remain united in a tenacious pilgrimage of universal import. It is that residue of Jewish solidarity that makes Conservative Jews the least sectarian or parochial members of the community, that renders them the ideal donor of Federation campaigns and brings them to support unstintingly every worthy cause in Jewish life. Often communal needs will prompt them to compromise the needs of the Movement.”

There is a certain dialectic, or tension, inherent in the philosophy of classical Conservative Judaism, which on the one hand seeks to disseminate and popularize a particular vision and set of ideals, and on the other seeks to bridge communities and transcend ideology. Our Conservative institutions have sought both to promote our own particular set of values, priorities and standards, while also being a broadly inclusive or “big tent” movement.

Other Jewish groups and other religious and political ideologies have claimed to be “universalist” or “trans-denominational.” But to use Albert Einstein’s image, they are but the child who loves to eat cookies.

Our own four walls at BEKI embrace a community that is guided by the core values and explicit standards of Masorti-Conservative Judaism, even while many of our members do not personally embrace the identity or affirm all of the principles of the movement. These core values, though, provide us with stability and direction, even when we might choose to emphasize one above the other. Certain questions of practice are predetermined, or are resolvable in a process that enables resolution and focus on greater goals. That is, we don’t have to argue about which angle to hang the mezuzah. Our boundaries may be loose, but we do have them; our image may be fuzzy, but there is a recognizable picture; our vision for the Jewish People might go down a variety of paths, but they are all pointed in roughly the same direction. We are strengthened by a proud past of scholarship and a successful network of allied institutions in our area such as Ezra Academy and Camp Ramah, as well as around the globe. We are broad-based, but not universalist.

This same form of tension exists in modern Zionism, which is based on a tribal historical romanticism that at one extreme places the narrow nationalism of the Jewish People above other values, and at the other envisions the day when people transcend nationalism and realize our common humanity, making nation and state at most administrative conveniences. These notions are expressed in the crude racism of anti-Arab expulsionists, as well as by those who would extirpate all elements of Jewish identity in the State of Israel in order to realize their highest ideal of a pure society that recognizes no race or creed.

When we give up too much of our own identity or compromise our institutions, we preclude self-replication. Like societies that vote in authoritarian regimes, we destroy ourselves when we place certain ideals above our own survival. Only by sticking to our core values can we be strong enough to successfully build bridges to others. Only in this way can we be true to ourselves and ultimately share our most valuable gifts with others.

Hillel taught: If I am not for me, who will be? If I am for myself alone, what am I? If not know, when? (Avot 1:14)
### Service Times

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<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
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<td>9:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Minha</td>
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### September 2012

**14 Elul 5772 - 14 Tishri 5773**

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<tr>
<td>2 9:00am Shaharit</td>
<td>3 Office Closed/Labor Day</td>
<td>4 6:30pm Daze of Awe Concert w/David Chevan, Warren Byrd and The Afro-Semitic Experience</td>
<td>5 Minha-Maariv</td>
<td>6 6:56pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td>7 6:56pm Candle Lighting</td>
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<td>9:00am First day of religious school</td>
<td>9:45am Brunch with Roya Hakakian &quot;What American Should Know - and Do - about Iran&quot;</td>
<td>10 7:45am Rashi Study Group</td>
<td>11 7:00pm Joy Ladin reading &amp; talk: &quot;XTreme Teshuva: Gender Transition &amp; Returning to Our True Selves&quot;</td>
<td>12 4:00 Religious School</td>
<td>13 8:44 Candlelighting</td>
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<td>22 Elul</td>
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<td>17 No Religious School</td>
<td>18 Fast of Gedaliah I Exodus Iosia</td>
<td>19 4:00pm Religious School</td>
<td>20 5:00pm Benet Mitzva Program</td>
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<td>23 9:00am Religious School</td>
<td>24 Erev Yom Kippur</td>
<td>25 Erev Yom Kippur (Yizkor)</td>
<td>26 Erev Yom Kippur (Yizkor)</td>
<td>27 12:30pm Talmud Study Group</td>
<td>28 10:45am Children's Programs</td>
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<td>10:00am Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Service in Hamden</td>
<td>10:00am Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Service in West Haven</td>
<td>7:30pm General Board Meeting</td>
<td>6:15pm Minha</td>
<td>2:15pm Building of the Sukka</td>
<td>11 Tishri</td>
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<td>18 Tishri</td>
<td>30 Erev Sukkot</td>
<td>9:00am Religious School</td>
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