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BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Kislev-Tevet 5775

Vol. 20 Issue 11

MINDY SEIDLIN EXHIBIT

New Jersey collage-artist Mindy Seidlin is exhibiting her work in the BEKI gallery through the end of February, with a "Meet the Artist" closing event scheduled for Sunday, March 1, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Mindy, as a second-career artist, doesn't have the standard artist's biography. She received an AB in Biochemistry and Biology from Barnard College, Columbia University, and an MD degree from Harvard Medical School. After completing residency training in Internal Medicine at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York and a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, she spent the next 23 years in academic medicine and the development of novel drugs in the pharmaceutical industry.

Her love of art during those years evolved into a passion to create art and, in 2007, she left her full-time career in drug development to begin making collages and mixed media pieces. Although she currently consults to small pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as a rare disease founda-



Women of Valor, by Mindy Seidlin

tion, on drug development issues, her main focus is on creating artwork.

Mindy states: "Collage and assemblage are ideal for reflecting the many layers of my personal and professional experience. My experiences as a physician, scientist, mother and member of a participatory Jewish community are the sources of the materials and imagery that I use and are also the scrim through which I view the world. That scrim sometimes illuminates and sometimes obscures the source materials. The work is always experimental, testing and exploring the materials that surround me. Lacking

formal art training is a great stimulus to experimentation and simple playful manipulation of the objects and images that appear in my work."

Mindy has studied with Maggie Ens at the 92nd Street Y and has had solo exhibitions at the Synagogue for the Arts and the Aish Center in New York, the Ridgefield, Conn., Library and the Jerusalem House of Quality and has participated in many group shows.

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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.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Miriam Mermelstein,

mother of Rene (& Mark) Kohn

Harriet Meisel

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal Tov to

Shira Janette on her *nisuin* under a huppa to Reuven Fischer, and to Shira's parents Nathan and Judi.

Esther & Andrew Serkin-Morgan on the birth of Talia Rivka, and to grandmother Tamar Edelkind and aunt Sarah Serkin.

Rabbi Murray Levine on the *nisuin* under a huppa of his grandchildren Michael & Lauren Sims Seltzer.



Operation Isaiah Food Drive Results

The total was 950 pounds providing approximately 650 meals. In addition, the BEKI community is to be commended on having stuck to the guidelines of bringing healthy, un-opened, non-expired foods. While JFS must discard over half of contributions from some food drives, only a small fraction of the food donated through our Operation Isaiah drive was deemed unusable.

— Steve Werlin

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce
- BEKI Sisterhood
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- The Gad Family
- The Gerber Family

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

- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Sherry Kent
- To Sara Labowe and family with sympathy on the passing of Ronald Labowe by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Sara Labowe and family with sympathy on the passing of Ronald Labowe by Tina Rose & Seth Pauker
- To Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold in honor of Danya's engagement by the Stanger & Colodner family
- To Marge Wiener with thanks by Carl Goldfield

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of Harold Ratner by Betsy Ratner
- In memory of Nora Gimbel by Betsy Ratner

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In memory of her husband Edward Mattler by Shirley Mattler

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

- In memory of Irving Rosner by Suzanne Rosner
- In memory of her sister Myra Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Michael Harold Rudof by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- In memory of Abraham Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Sylvia Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- In memory of Samuel Singer by Joe & Ravit Avni-Singer
- In memory of Jacob Sokoloff by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of her mother Mary Edelkind by Tamar Edelkind
- In memory of Rubie Vine by Roberta Vine
- In memory of Dr. Nathan Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
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- In memory of her mother Rose Goldring Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of her parents Lea & Marcel Gutman by Mimi Glenn
- In memory of Robert Suslew by Harriet Suslew
- In memory of Regina Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie
- In memory of Ann Ratoosh by Sheri Ratoosh & Alan Glombicki
- In memory of Gertude Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Ruth Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Ted Maltin
- In memory of his mother Norma Granoff by Jeff Granoff
- In memory of Joseph Abramovitz by Joseph Alper
- In memory of Esther Kabakoff by Marvin Kabakoff
- In memory of Sylvia Feldman by Sara Salomon
- In memory of Benjamin Zipper by A. David Nabatoff
- In memory of Irving Nabatoff by A. David Nabatoff
- In memory of Rose Nabatoff by A. David Nabatoff
- In memory of Irving Rudof by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- In memory of Morris Chain by Marty & Shirley Shepro
- In memory of Edith Sokoloff Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Herman Goldstein by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
- In memory of Professor Zevi Scharfstein by Shula Chernoff
- In memory of Betty Katten by Henry Katten
- In memory of her aunt Martha Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Samuel F. Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of her beloved father Ben Kugell by Harriet Pearlin
- In memory of Susan Gell by John & Marcia Gell
- In memory of Ellen Slopak Schwartz by David Schwartz

Taxpayer Information

Taxpayers are reminded that synagogue dues, paid pledges and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. BEKI has been determined to be a 501(c)3 organization by the US Treasury. (The letter is posted at <http://beki.org/forms/letterofdetermination.pdf>.) For many people it is advantageous to pay dues, pledges and contributions before the end of the tax year (for most people Dec. 31). It is also helpful to BEKI to receive your payment at an early date.

For those over age 70-1/2 by Dec. 31, special beneficial rules may apply for a direct rollover from your retirement account. This can avoid taxation or a mandatory distribution for federal and state purposes. Additional benefits may be realized by contributing appreciated securities. Contributing appreciated assets can obviate the need for complex and costly calculating capital gains. Please consult your tax advisor for more information, especially as rules may change in December or retroactively at the beginning of the year.

Historical Note on the Origin of the Dreidel

In medieval Germany, gamblers used dice that were inscribed with four letters: N, G, H and S, the initials of *nicht* (nothing), *ganz* (all), *halb* (half) and *shtell ein* (put one in). Jews adapted the game for the long nights of Hanuka. Although some rabbis frowned on the dreidel game, the custom became so well-established that serious opposition never became widespread. The four Hebrew letters that paralleled the German letters took on a sanctified message. These Hebrew letters also have the same numerical value as the Hebrew word for messiah, *mashiah*-mem, nun, gimel shin = 358 (In Jewish mysticism, each Hebrew letter is assigned a number, and the numerical value of words is significant.) Another view of the dreidel: like the spinning top, condition of the Jewish people has varied. Sometimes we are successful in maintaining Jewish values, sometimes we are not. But we are resolved to never give in and to always land on top of our problems and failures.

— *Life and Times Jewish Holiday Cycle*,
by Ellen Singer and Sharon Wechter

Sisterhood Gift Store News

Hosting Hanuka this year? Check out our selection of beautiful ceramic menorot, decorated dreidels, Hanuka candles made in Israel, pewter qiddush cups, decorations, chocolate gelt, toys, serving dishes and much more. Please come in, browse and shop. Store hours are Sunday 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Wed. 5:30-6:15 p.m., and by appointment. Peggy, our Office Manager, will be happy to help you as well during office hours. Please call Mimi Glenn for more information (203) 397-3851.

Please **Join Sisterhood in celebrating Hanuka** with our Religious School. Refreshments of latkes, apple sauce, juice and donuts will be served.



Hello BEKI-BJ Kadima & USY parents,

I hope you all enjoyed Simhat Torah and Sukkot and that your new year is off to a positive start. BEKI-BJ USY & Kadima have had a fun and eventful month. The Kadimaniks climbed Sleeping Giant mountain in October. We summited the mountain on a beautiful fall day and could spot New Haven from the lookout point. Later in November, Kadimaniks volunteered at a local non-profit and shared a Shabbat meal together. This month, Kadimaniks will celebrate Hanuka together.

The USYers have been meeting new members and socializing at their bi-weekly Lounge Nights at BEKI on Tuesday nights. BEKI-BJ USY organized a Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser in November to raise money for Social



Stefan Kostolitz

Action/Tikkun Olam causes and the Jewish Family Services of New Haven food pantry. Coming up, the USYers will plan an Iron Chef Cook Off at which USY teens will practice their culinary skills in a fun competition. All participants will get to eat the finished food, of course.

Kadima is for all Jewish middle schoolers 5th - 8th grade and USY for all Jewish teens 9th - 12th grade. Please contact Stefan Kostolitz, BEKI-BJ Youth Group Coordinator, for information regarding membership at bekibjusy@gmail.com or bekibjkadima@gmail.com. (203) 213-1067



Reuben & Marcia polish the silver in preparation for the High Holy Days.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דרשנים

Darshanim

Darshan – noun, plural

dar·sha·nim. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggada or Halakha in a synagogue.

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim in the coming weeks:

Rabbi Murray Levine, Shabbat morning Dec. 6, parashat VaYishlah.

Michael Kligfeld, Shabbat morning Dec. 13, parashat VaYeshev

A Special Guest, Shabbat morning Jan. 3, parashat VaYehi.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 to 11:45 in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Led by renowned scholar and popular teacher Steven Fraade, with Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela, Isaiah Cooper, Rabbi Eric Silver, Jay Sokolow 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



Murray Levine



Michael Kligfeld



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



Jay Sokolow

least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

For meeting dates, see a weekly calendar. Upcoming dates are Dec. 13 and 27, and Jan. 10 and 24.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

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 Rashi Study Group (RSG) has begun the Book of Shemuel (Samuel). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David, Mikhal, Batsheva, and more. 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 RSG meets immediately following the 7 a.m. shaharit service. On Monday Jan. 19 (MLK Day), morning services are from 9 to 9:45, followed by RSG until 10:30. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 180-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.

"Word for the Week" will be on holiday recess from Hanuka through Jan. 7.

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis and other clergy, 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

Continued on **Page 8**

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 7**

from each others' experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. 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. Shahrarit service is from 8:15 to 9:15 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

The services on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 are 9 to 9:45 a.m.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets on Thursdays during the lunch hour (noon to 1). 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 tech-



Isaiah Cooper

icooper@cooperlaw.net

The Sanhedrin Study Group will not meet on Dec. 25 nor on Jan. 1.

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

Commentaries on various weekly Torah portions and related topics by BEKI members and guests are available at <http://beki.org/hungry.html>. Recently added is [Parashat BeMidbar Devar Torah](#) by David Kuperstock, May 24.

Want Hebrew? Contact Will Auriemme perfectexodus@gmail.com.



Great Time to Invest in Real Estate

The time to take care of your cemetery need is before there is a need. Now is the perfect time to select your sites...while there is a good selection. BEKI cemeteries are located in Hamden and West Haven, within minutes of the synagogue and with easy access to main thoroughfares. Member discounts are available.

We can help you select a site and discuss payment terms. Contact the BEKI Cemetery Association office today at (203) 389-2108 x57 or cemetery@beki.org and arrange a meeting with a Cemetery Association officer. For directions to the cemeteries see our website at www.beki.org under "Directions."

Reserve Your Date

Bar- and bat-mitzva celebrants for 2015 to 2019 who do not have a written confirmation of a date reservation may wish to reserve a date by contacting Peggy at (203) 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.

Memorial Plaques Available

The Memorial plaques displayed at BEKI serve as a reminder and memorial to departed loved ones. Plaques are still only \$360; for info or to order, contact Peggy at office@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x14. Prepayment reserves a space and a plaque.

Tree Of Life Leaves

We have a beautiful Tree of Life

nical 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. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office

in our synagogue. The fruit from our Tree of Life can serve as a great way to contribute to the life and strength of our synagogue. Inscribing a leaf on our magnificent tree is a thoughtful and meaningful way to commemorate a joyous event. Inscribe a leaf to celebrate an event like a bar- or bat-mitzva and you will have a lasting memory of the great day. Inscribe a leaf to celebrate a milestone birthday. Inscribe a leaf because someone is near and dear to you. Inscribe a leaf to honor your mother, father, sister or brother. Inscribe a leaf for an anniversary. Inscribe a leaf for your good health. Do it now and enjoy looking at your special leaf. Still just \$120. Barbara Cushen can assist you with the wording and take an order at (203) 407-0314.



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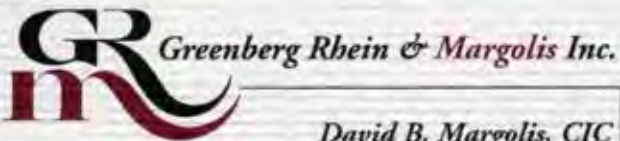


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December 2014

9 Kislev 5775 - 9 Tevet 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting 9 Kislev	2 6:30pm USY Lounge Night 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 10 Kislev	3 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7:00pm Social Action/Tikkun Olam meeting 11 Kislev	4 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 1:00pm Tai Chi for Seniors 12 Kislev	5 4:04pm Candle Lighting 13 Kislev	6 <i>Vayishlah</i> 14 Kislev	
7 9:00am Religious School 10:00am BEKI Builds with Habitat for Humanity 2:30pm Kadima Planetarium Show at Yale (reservations required) 15 Kislev	8 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 16 Kislev	9 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 17 Kislev	10 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 18 Kislev	11 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 1:00pm Tai Chi for Seniors 19 Kislev	12 4:04pm Candle Lighting 20 Kislev	13 <i>Vayeshev</i> Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Kliffeld 12:30pm Kadima Shabbat Chavura (reservation required) 4:05pm Minha-Maariv 21 Kislev
14 9:00am Religious School 22 Kislev	15 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 23 Kislev	16 <i>Erev Hanuka</i> 6:30pm USY Lounge Night 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 24 Kislev	17 <i>Hanuka I Numbers</i> 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 25 Kislev	18 <i>Hanuka II Numbers</i> 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 1:00pm Tai Chi for Seniors 26 Kislev	19 <i>Hanuka III Numbers</i> 4:06pm Candle Lighting 27 Kislev	20 <i>Hanuka IV Miketz Zechariah</i> 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Qiddush Team #2 4:05pm Minha-Maariv 28 Kislev
21 <i>Hanuka V Numbers</i> 9:00am Religious School/Hanuka Party 29 Kislev	22 <i>Rosh Hodesh - Hanuka VI Numbers</i> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 30 Kislev	23 <i>Rosh Hodesh - Hanuka VII Numbers</i> Office Closed 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 1 Tevet	24 <i>Hanuka VIII Numbers</i> Office Closed No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 2 Tevet	25 Office Closed 9:00am Shaharit 3 Tevet	26 Office Closed 4:10pm Candle Lighting 4 Tevet	27 <i>Vayigash</i> 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Wright 4:10pm Minha-Maariv 5 Tevet
28 No Religious School 6 Tevet	29 Office Closed 7:45am Rashi Group No Yoga 7 Tevet	30 Office Closed 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 8 Tevet	31 Office Closed No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 9 Tevet	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Federal & Staff Holiday Schedule</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">On Thursday Dec. 25 and Thursday Jan. 1, morning services are at 9. Evening services are at their usual time, 5:45.</p> <p style="margin: 0;">The office will be closed from Tuesday Dec. 23 until reopening Monday Jan. 5. The closure is for federal and staff holidays. Services will be held at their scheduled hours during that period. Rabbi Tilsen will be away beginning Monday Dec. 29 and will return on Wednesday Jan. 7.</p>		

Service Times

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



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Hanuka

The first night of Hanuka is Tuesday Dec. 16. The blessings for candle lighting are available as audio files at www.beki.org/audio.html and are printed in our prayerbook *Siddur Sim Shalom* on p. 192 (weekday edition), p. 242 (classic edition) or p. 307 (Shabbat edition). The *hanukiya* (Hanuka *menora*) can be lit around 4 p.m. or later except Friday (best at 4 p.m. but must be before 4:22 p.m.) and Saturday (after 5:06 p.m.).

The *Hanukiya* (Hanuka Menora) will be lighted each evening (except Friday and Saturday) at BEKI at 5:45 p.m., immediately before the Maariv evening service. It is also lighted during the morning for “decorative” purposes, although not in fulfillment of a specific *mitzva*. On Friday night, light the Hanuka lights at 4 p.m. and the Shabbat candles immediately after (4:06 p.m. and not later than 4:23 p.m.).

Tefillin are worn each day of Hanuka (except, of course, on Shabbat). The passage “Al ha-Nisim – For the Miracles” is added to each *amida*, and Hallel, a collection of celebratory Psalms, is recited each morning. The Torah is read

each day of Hanuka. Tahanun, the penitential prayer, is not recited.

Want to Lead Services, Read Haftara, Greet Members & Guests?

The calendar is now open to request specific dates to lead Shabbat and Festival services, recite haftara, and serve as Friday night or Shabbat morning greeter from January to June 2015. Please send email to Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org or call (203) 389-2108 x10 with your requested dates, or to be added or dropped from the rotation schedule. For participation and leadership of Children’s Programs, contact Miriam Benson at mirbenson@aol.com (203) 389-6137. If you would like to learn to lead services or to read Torah, contact Jon-Jay.

Friday night ushering (from 5:45 to 7) includes greeting members, helping guests find the correct book and otherwise guiding visitors, and serving wine or grape juice. If you would like to serve in this way at least one time in the next six months, contact Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org or (203) 389-2108 x10.