PURIM AT BEKI

Be Happy It’s Adar

משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה – When Adar begins, joy increases. — Talmud Eruvin 29a

Mishloah Manot – Purim Baskets

Contact the office at (203) 389-2108 x 14 or office@beki.org if you have misplaced your log-on code; you do not have internet access; you would prefer a paper order form; you would like the office to enter your order for you; you are a non-member who would like to participate. Please help distribute mishloah manot on Purim evening and day.

Shabbat Zakhor

The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, Shabbat Feb. 28. This Sabbath is marked by the reading of the Biblical passage reminding us to remember and never forget the cruelty of Amalek. The reading of this passage is in fulfillment of the mitzva which it references, and hearing this reading is considered a mitzva unto itself. For that reason, children’s programs may be timed to let adults and children hear this required reading. Like Taanit Esther, Shabbat Zakhor expresses the serious side of Purim.

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over 20 centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is observed the day immediately before Purim, marking the serious side of the Megila’s story. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatchers, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide. This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn (5:10 a.m.) on Wednesday March 4. The Wednesday shaharit morning service is from 7 to 7:45 and includes “Avinu Malkenu – Our Father, Our King,” as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any significant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. The mincha afternoon service is at 5:45. The fast ends at 6:27 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Megilla Readings

Most of the Jewish world will observe Purim on Wednesday night March 4 and the following day, Thursday March 5. The Wednesday afternoon service is from 5:45 to 6:20. The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read during the evening services (6:30 to 8) on Wednesday Night March 4, and then again during the Thursday morning service, which begins at 8:15 (ending at 10 a.m.) on March 5. Children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed, asleep in sleeping bags, napping in nap sacks, or rocking in rucksacks.

Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it oneself) is a Biblical commandment (mitzva). Other Purim mitzvot (rela-
Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

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

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religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor, alms for the poor and a feast on Purim day. Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will have to start over to ensure that everyone hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story’s villain. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Please do not bring assault rifles, firearms, explosive devices or weapons of any sort, or any toy that resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door – we mean it). Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service.

Persons dressed as Lady Gaga wearing meat suits should sit in the designated fleishig area and are advised to keep a distance from people wearing M&M and other dairy costumes.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be groggier than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18cm).

Following the evening and morning services, help is requested in collecting and delivering the mishloah manot (Purim Baskets) to neighboring households. Delivering just one can be a big help and a great joy.

**BEKI Purim Seuda (Festive Meal)**

A Purim Seuda (Feast) will be held at BEKI Thursday afternoon March 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; payment and reservation are required. The registration form is at [www.beki.org/forms/seuda.pdf](http://www.beki.org/forms/seuda.pdf) or contact Peggy office@beki.org.

**Shushan Purim**

Persons who live in ancient cities that were walled in the 13th century BCE (such as Jerusalem and Mundigak, Afghanistan) will celebrate Purim a day later, and one dollar shorter, than the rest of the Jewish world. The observance of Shushan Purim is Thursday night March 5 and Friday March 6. At BEKI this day will be marked liturgically by the omission of the recitation of the tahanun prayer. Also on this date, we will not recite the Star Spangled Banner, Yellow Submarine, The Gettysburg Address, and Miranda Rights. Please join us on Thursday at 5:45 p.m., and then again on Friday at 7 a.m., for this joyous non-recital marking Shushan Purim.
Upcoming Benei Mitzva Observances

- **Benjamin Goldstein**, son of Daniel Goldstein & Grace Jenq, April 24-25, parashiyot Tazria - Metsora.
- **Matthew Silverman**, son of Debbie & Abe Silverman, nephew of Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow, May 8-9, parashat Emor.

Passover and memories

Perhaps the best example of the significance of memory in Jewish life is the Passover seder. On this most widely celebrated of Jewish holidays, families gather together not to memorialize the exodus from Egypt but to relive it. “In every generation, each Jew should regard herself or himself as though she or he personally went forth from Egypt.” This reliving would be pointless, or simply a matter of momentary experience, were it not meant to shape our wider sense of identity and obligation. Indeed, the experience and memory of slavery and redemption are the very foundation of Jewish religious obligation. In the modern era, the memory of slavery in Egypt has also taken on more specifically political meaning. It has fostered among some Jews an identification with the oppressed that has led to involvement in a host of movements for social change, and has fueled the feminist demand for justice for women within Judaism.

Women’s League

Women’s League has a long history of strong emotional and financial commitments to the growth of the Masorti movement in Israel. We have an annual campaign to support the Masorti congregations in Israel; BEKI Sisterhood makes a contribution to support those congregations. The number of congregations (qehilot) continues to grow and many services that they provide also have increased. This year’s portion of the funds will go toward an innovative program promoting bat mitzva in Israel. If you wish to contribute to this program please contact Mimi Glenn (203) 397-3851 for details.

Membership

Sisterhood would like to thank all those who renewed their membership to Sisterhood as well as welcoming new members to our Sisterhood.

Gift Shop

Sisterhood Gift Shop will be selling many of your Passover needs.

Please come in and shop for matza plates, qiddush cups, seder plates and much more.

We will be open Sundays 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Wednesdays 5:30-6:15 p.m., and by appointment. Peggy will also be able to help you during scheduled office hours.

Your support by purchasing from the store helps Sisterhood donate a generous check to the Congregation at the end of the year.

Yom Ha Shoah

We will be observing Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Ha Shoah) on April 15-16. We are again selling Yellow Candles to commemorate in 2015 the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. The memory, lessons, and magnitude of the Holocaust inconceivably continues to slowly fade away. The goal nationwide is to Light 1,000,000 candles on Yom HaShoah. Each candle is $6 and may be purchase in the Sisterhood Gift Shop.
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedaqah Fund
- Albert Friedman marking the yahrzeit of Rose Friedman
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Cindy Baybick, sister of Betsy Ratner
- Corinne Blackmer & Pilar Stewart marking the yahrzeit of Elizabeth Blackmer
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Jean Berger, mother of Jim Berger (and Jennifer Klein)

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $280)
- Gloria Cohen
- Nicole Korda & Jaime Grutzendler
- Carl Goldfield
- Lloyd Friedman & Kai Yang
- Robert & Janice Lettick
- Tina Rose
- Willa & Howard Needler
- Debbie Chirnomas & Michael Hurwitz

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To BEKI by Janet Felton & Martin Glines
- To the BEKI Youth Commission in memory of Joop van Creveld by Sascha van Creveld
- To Sarah Berry in her honor by Sally Zanger
- To David Wright in honor of the anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah and for a speedy recovery from his surgery by Rheta Newman
- To Marsha Beller in honor of the birth of her grandchild by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth “Betsy” Mohr by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth “Betsy” Mohr by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth “Betsy” Mohr by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth “Betsy” Mohr by Jonathan Freiman & Rachel Light
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth “Betsy” Mohr by David Wright
- To Ramin Ahmadi & Roya Hakakian with sympathy on the passing of Mahmoud Ahmadi by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Ivan & Rita Sachs with sympathy on the passing of Marvin Sachs by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Nancy Genn with sympathy on the passing of Rebecca Genn by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Nancy Genn with sympathy on the passing of Rebecca Genn by David, Darryl, Aliza & Dina Kuperstock

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Joe & Jessy Palumbo with sympathy on the passing of Dominic Palumbo by the Lettick family
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth “Betsy” Mohr by Susan Jacobson
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth “Betsy” Mohr by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Judy Hayward with sympathy on the passing of Blanche Sapadin by Albert & Marilyn Zax
- To Ina Silverman with sympathy on the passing of Eunice Silverman by Marisol Sanchez-Moyck & Thomas Moyck
- To Helene Sapadin with sympathy on the passing of Blanche Sapadin by Marisol Sanchez-Moyck & Thomas Moyck
- To Helene Sapadin with sympathy on the passing of Blanche Sapadin by Jesse & Joe Palumbo
- To Ina Silverman with sympathy on the passing of Eunice Silverman by Jesse & Joe Palumbo
- To Ina Silverman with sympathy on the passing of Blanche Sapadin by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Ina Silverman with sympathy on the passing of Eunice Silverman by Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- To Ina Silverman with sympathy on the passing of Eunice Silverman by Dennis & Barbara Rader

The Rabbi Andrew Klein Scholarship Fund
- Mindy A. Portnoy

The Franklin-Mattler Memorial Fund
- To James Wolfson & family with sympathy on the passing of Diane Hodes Rosenblum by Shirley Mattler

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
- To Helene Sapadin with sympathy on the passing of Blanche Sapadin by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of their dear aunt Ida Spivack Goldstein by Richard & Susan Jameson
- In memory of Lawrence & Rita Moscowitz by Mike Moscowitz
- In memory of Jay Moscowitz by Mike Moscowitz
- In memory of Stanley Watsky by Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried
- In memory of Rose Olmer by Diana Olmer Bander & Zane Olmer
- In loving memory of her sister Phyllis C. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Jack Yasgar by Howard Yasgar
- In memory of Sam Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of Mollie Olenik by Howard Miller
- In memory of Anna Chaim by Marty & Shirley Shepro
- In memory of Karel Citroen by Sascha van Creveld
- In memory of Jack Yasgar by Howard Yasgar
- In memory of Haie-Bertha Naiman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Tzvi & Batja Bajec by Izchak & Adina Baitch
- In memory of her brother Max Brunswick by Barbara Cushing
- In memory of her daughter Donna Wright by Barbara Cushing
- In memory of her father George Brunswick by Barbara Cushing
- In memory of Lester Feldman by Sara & Steven Salomon
- In memory of Diane Lee Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- In memory of Irving Weinstein by Anita Weinstein
- In memory of George Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Kate Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Mildred Israel by Doris & David Sagerman
- In memory of Louis Israel by Doris & David Sagerman
- In memory of Mary Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Reuben Gralla by Linda Sultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Eleanor Helper by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Anne Schnitman Irwin by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoe
- In memory of Dr. Nathan Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
- In memory of Irving Nabatoff by Carol Nabatoff
- In memory of Ruth Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
- In memory of her parents Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick
- In memory of Sidney Yaffe by David & Enrica Yaffe
- In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- In memory of Sidney Yaffe by Chet Yaffe
- In memory of Gertrude Slopak by David Schwartz
- In memory of Marjorie Golden Weiss Simson by Marshall & Joan Weiss
- In memory of Carol Jablow by Margie & Jay Hirshfield

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Laurie Wahl’s “On Wings of Prayer” Exhibit

Laurie Wahl, an internationally-known fiber artist, will be exhibiting her “On Wings of Prayer” series from March 2 through May 17 in the BEKI art gallery. Wahl, who lives and works in New York City, has been showing her work for over 25 years. She will be speaking about her work at a Shabbat Schmooze on Saturday, April 18 from 1:30-2 p.m.

Wahl’s work has been featured in numerous solo exhibitions, including at the Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art, Union Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College Museum, Atelier International in New York City, the South Bend Regional Museum of Art, and the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, among others. Her “Unweavings” fiber art pieces are held in the collections of the Museum of Arts and Design and the American Bible Society, both in New York City, the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and many other public and private collections. Her works have been on long-term loan to the United States embassies in Beirut, Vienna, Tunis, Cape Town and Pretoria.

She has curated a number of interfaith and multi-cultural exhibitions, including “With Many Voices” (Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago) and “Art from Soweto” (ARC Gallery and Catholic Theological Union). Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, she has given a series of lectures and workshops in Soweto, Johannesburg, and Pretoria, South Africa. Among her special projects have been interactive set designs for full-length dance pieces by Callince Dance in New York and Jan Erkert and Dancers in Chicago.

Commissions for several religious institutions have included The Psalms Project for the Fourth Presbyterian Church, the Talbot Bible Stoles Project for the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York, as well as those for the Monmouth, NJ, Reform Temple, the Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, and the First Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC. She has received several awards for her work.

Wahl states: “My ‘Unweavings’ fiber art pieces convey spiritual narratives through form, color, texture and calligraphy. The words within each piece and the unwoven form suggesting these words serve as a visual Midrash, evoking the poetry of various Biblical, spiritual and poetic texts. The unwoven spaces form symbolic shapes - wings, ladders, prayer shawls, veils, trees, falling waters, rivers, and the sacred architecture of windows, domes, and gates. The narrative is enhanced by my own distinctive iconography, indicating guardians, messengers, journeying and praying figures, processional figures, and more.”

“By unweaving the fabric I make manifest what is hidden within the material - liberating the threads to create shape, then ‘reweaving’ through color, texture and text. The narrative emerges from the juxtaposition of images within the surface, from the texts I choose, and from the combination of color, texture and pattern which convey a sense of time and place. My work alludes to the oldest traditions of narrative textiles, but in a completely contemporary idiom. And the pieces become carriers of my individual and our collective memories through the spiritual narratives they transmit.”

Come Meet the Artist

Mindy Seidlin will be at the synagogue on Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. to answer questions and talk about her art exhibit, which is coming to an end. Please come and meet her.
ABRAHAM’S TENT

If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he was a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. — Leviticus 25:35

Abraham’s Tent is a community-based program with Columbus House which, through the generosity of local religious congregations and organizations, provides shelter and case management for 12 adult men for 17 weeks from December through March in Greater New Haven. On a rotating basis, volunteers from each host site provide shelter, meals, and fellowship from early evening through breakfast each day for one week.

BEKI has participated as a “supporting partner” since the winter of 2011-12, working closely with the Church of the Holy Spirit (COHS) in West Haven. The partnership has been really wonderful, and now, as our roles reverse and BEKI becomes a primary host site, we look forward to continuing to work together in this wonderful program.

BEKI Hosts Abraham’s Tent March 9-15

The Abraham’s Tent participants must apply before the winter to participate. Once chosen and the program begins, the men arrive in the late afternoon daily to Columbus House, are interviewed to make sure they are in suitable condition to participate that day, shower, collect or store their belongings and bedding, and travel together by van to that week’s host location, arriving by about 6 p.m. with several members of the Columbus House staff. After settling in, participants and volunteers dine and spend the evening together. The men will spend a comfortable, warm and safe overnight at BEKI, with several BEKI or COHS volunteers on-site. In the early morning, breakfast is served for all, and the van will transport the participants to Columbus House to continue their daily activities. They will return each night of that week to BEKI. All case management is done by professionals from Columbus House.

Most host organization prepare meals through pot-luck participation of their members. Because of BEKI’s kashrut standards, all meals will either be prepared in the BEKI kitchen or through an approved kosher caterer.

Over the last five years, many of the men who participated in this program have moved to transitional or permanent housing. Each works with a case manager to figure out their best next step.

The BEKI Tikun Olam Committee is proud to be able to coordinate BEKI’s effort in this worthwhile project.

Your help is needed in all of the following ways:

• Volunteer to help shop before and during the week
• Volunteer to help cook dinners and/or breakfasts before or during the week
• Volunteer to help serve dinners and/or breakfasts
• Sponsor dinner or breakfast for one or more nights
• Sign up as an overnight volunteer for one or more nights
• Help with logistics and equipment (moving around furniture, TVs, provide power strips, etc.)
• DONATE funds to help defray additional costs
Youth Food Collection

My Bar Mitzvah service project is to collect non-perishable foods for the food pantries in New Haven. I volunteer at a soup kitchen in New Haven. I see all these people who have to eat from this soup kitchen because they don’t have enough money to feed themselves a meal. They go to a soup kitchen every night so they won’t get hungry, which made me realize how many hungry people there are. I want to help these people even more than I do when I serve them the meal. You can help these people too. All you need to give are non-perishable foods so I can bring them to Connecticut’s food banks. Thank you for helping hungry people. This food drive will be going on from now until March 15. — Rafi Gottlieb

Youth News

USY & Kadima had a very successful Super Deli Boxes fundraiser, planned and run by the BEKI-BJ Youth Commission, volunteers, and BEKI & BJ middle schoolers and teens. All profits from the fundraiser will support youth programming at BEKI and B’nai Jacob. The Kadimaniks helped bake brownies for the fundraiser and were very helpful in assembling the Deli Boxes. The USYers helped assemble boxes and expertly persuaded synagogue members to purchase boxes to support programming.

In March, USY will run an “Iron Chef/Chopped” cook-off on Sunday March 1 at BEKI from 3-6 p.m. USYers have “lounge nights” bi-weekly on Tuesdays at B’nai Jacob from 6 - 8:30 p.m. Please contact Elie Azoff-Slifstein, USY Membership chair, at eas273@gmail.com for information.

The Kadimaniks can be on the look-out for Purim activities in March and a collaborative event with Temple Beth Shalom Kadima. Please contact Stefan Kostolitz at bekib-jkadima@gmail.com for more information about Kadima membership.

College Scholarships For High School Seniors

Emma Kohn Podoloff Scholarship Fund of The National Council Of Jewish Women, Greater New Haven at The Jewish Foundation

The Emma Kohn Podoloff Scholarship Fund of the National Council of Jewish Women’s Greater New Haven Chapter at the Jewish Foundation, sponsors scholarships to advance the scholastic and vocational education of Jewish high school seniors. An academic average of “B” or better plus verified financial need qualifies a student to be considered. The applicant must have resided in the Greater New Haven area for at least a year prior to the application date.

The awards will average $1,500, depending on the number of qualified applicants and funds available. The awards are given directly to the students. For more information contact Jennifer Bayer, (203) 387-2424 jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org

Free Israel Trip

For people ages 18-26 in July-August 2015, Taglit-Birthright trip, info www.birthrightisrael.com/visitingisrael/Pages/Israel-Experience.aspx
**Shabbatot (Saturdays)**

**Darshanim**

Darshan – noun, plural dar·shan·im. 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:*

- **David Kuperstock**, March 7, parashat Ki Tisa.
- **Bill Hallo**, March 14, Shabbat Para

**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**, **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.

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. The next dates are March 7 and 21.

**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, Mikhalk, 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. With 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.

**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 from each other’s 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.

Visit us at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)
Adult Studies
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**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 9:15 on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 o’clock.

**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 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 STSG will not meet on Purim Day, March 5, 19, 26, nor on April 2. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icooper@cooperlaw.net.

**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, 2014.

**Want Hebrew?**

Contact Will Auriemme perfectexodus@gmail.com.

**Purim Seuda (Feast & Party)**

Thursday March 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Downstairs Social Hall
Light Dairy dinner will be served; $15 per adult, $13 per child (age 3-12); free age 0-2
Preregistration by March 1

**Purim Spiel**

**BEKI Bulletin: Special Edition** by Rebecca Weiner

**Face-painting** with Nicole Korda

**Purim Sing-a-long** with Isaiah Cooper, Alice Kosowsky & Helene Sapadin

**• Dance and Games** with MC/DJ Charles Rosenay Entertainment

Volunteers. Help. Call: Jennifer Myer, Food Committee Chair, jennifermyermd@hotmail.com; Mark Oppenheimer, Membership Chair, (203) 387-1317 – Meet and Greet Committee; Liora Lew, Decorations Committee Chair, (203) 389-1048; Nicole Korda, Face Painting Committee; kordapt@gmail.com; Rabbi Tilsen, Purim Spiel Committee, jjtilsen@beki.org; Isaiah Cooper, Helene Sapadin & Alice Kosowsky, Sing-a-long Committee, (203) 287-1390; Miriam Benson, (203) 389-6137 for Set-Up, Registration Table, or Clean-Up

Registration Form & Check Due In BEKI Office by March 1
Rays of Light: Latest Solar Status Report

The planning phase for the “Solar 2015” project to place a large solar photovoltaic array on the social hall and classroom wing roofs is nearing completion, with installation targeted to begin after Passover. The project is subject to final Board approval, as well as additional structural (roof) analysis, electrical engineering approval and other approvals from the utility company and regulatory agencies, which are in-process.

Our congregation has won the rights to a 15-year ZREC (renewable energy credit) contract that makes the economics of the project advantageous. The Solar 2015 project proposes we produce somewhat more than half of our total use. The balance of our use could be addressed in the future through conservation and through utilizing the remaining roof space after the sanctuary roof is replaced.

The optimal plan, as it has evolved, is to purchase and install a 40-kilowatt array at BEKI at a cost of about $140,000. The array will return at least $15,000 a year to BEKI in saved electric costs and the utility subsidy to BEKI for the first 14 years, and at least $11,000 a year in years 15 to 25 or beyond, expressed in current dollars and assuming electric rates do not change substantially in the next 25 years. The scope of the project is only about half of what the utility would subsidize (up to 100% of our use), because of the limits of available roof space. A larger implementation would require the immediate funding and replacement of the sanctuary roof (instead of the anticipated replacement “in a couple of years”) as well as funding for additional solar equipment – together another $150,000.

Of the $140,000 goal, $70,000 has been offered by eight donors as of mid-February, and a provision has been made for construction financing, so that we are able to accept payments of pledges for the project through 2020. The fundraising phase for this project will be completed by the end of March 2015. We still need an additional $70,000 in donations to fully fund this plan.

Some members and supporters have installed solar arrays on their residential or business rooftops. But many houses are not suitable for PV arrays, due to heavy shading, orientation, structural considerations, or age of roof. The project at BEKI is one opportunity to “make your house solar,” that is, to accomplish a similar end, as a contribution of $5,000 to $15,000 is equivalent to a residential installation. Although the savings on the electric bill will accrue to the BEKI community, the moral credit goes to the donor.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel seeks to be a model urban institution and to promote good citizenship among its members. The community seeks to comply with the Biblical law of bal tashhit, which prohibits destruction of the natural environment and wasting of resources. This law is based on Deuteronomy 20:19-20, and is specifically applied to wasting fuel (see Shabbat 67b). The congregation aims to put the conserve into Conservative Judaism. Implementing the Solar 2015 project is one way the Congregation can realize and promote these ideals.

If you are interested in learning more about this proposal, or might like to be a major donor, please contact Vice President Yaron Lew yaronl@aol.com, Rabbi Tilsen jjtilsen@beki.org or President Andy Hirshfield president@beki.org.

那些谁信靠主的，必改变他们的力量...

— Isaiah 40:31

Spring Forward
Adopt Daylight
Saving Time on
Sunday morning
March 8. Turn your
clock ahead one hour.
Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.

A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP
Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP
Carol Dorfman, M.D., FAAP
Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP

303 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 776-1243
Fax (203) 785-1247

1 Bradley Road, Suite 102
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243
Fax (203) 397-1241

We celebrated National Mix It Up Day in October to foster greater respect and understanding among our students.

www.hamdenhall.org 203.752.2640
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517

Hamden Hall
Country Day School

Educati
ng students in
PreSchool through Grade 12.

Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.
12

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Kim Formica
Genealogist

PO Box 1248
Orange, CT 06477
tel. 203/376.8551
kimformica@optonline.net
A scientific paper to published on March 5 in the respected journal *Naysure* purports to prove the effectiveness of petitionary prayer. Using multivariable statistical analysis and meteorological records going back to 1965, researchers at the University of Northern New Haven claim to have found a significant correlation between prayer and weather in some circumstances.

The researchers sought to explain an anomaly in weather forecasts. The accuracy of weather prediction is complex but well-understood by scientists, but unexplainable is the fact that weather predictions of six or more inches of snow on school days (Monday through Friday) prove accurate less often than any other forecasts. This observed failure of the model, known as the “School Day Anomaly” among meteorologists, has defied explanation.

According to lead UNNH researcher Dr. Daniel Roper, “We found that on certain evenings millions of children are praying for snow. When meteorological conditions develop such that the model predicts severe weather, and a storm forecast is released through the media, school cancelations are issued. Our study showed that within about 90 minutes, the prayers cease, and at that point the storm conditions begin to dissipate.”

Dr. Yair Minestrone, a mathematician at North West Haven University, who was not involved in the study, commented that “This sort of analysis is tricky. The researchers had to control for the children’s prayers for new bicycles, world peace, and other extraneous subjects, and match the data to the exact time sequence. If proven true, the study could be a major advance in statistical methodology.”

“IT is no surprise,” says Rabbi Elliot Gerbil of Temple Beth Makherim in Chicago. “Many faith traditions have taught that the sincere prayers of the innocent are the most effective. The study finding just proves what has been believed for centuries. As is written in the Torah, ‘The Lord answered the prayers of the children of Israel.’”

Former Anti-Defamation League regional director Robert Leikeskids believes that the public policy implications are uncertain. “Prayer is permitted in public schools on the same basis as any form of free speech -- what is prohibited is public, required or organized school prayer. But disruptive prayer, like disruptive speech, is subject to regulation by school officials. This study could be the ammunition school boards need to ban private student prayer once and for all. It is one thing for a kid to pray for an “A” on the test, but another thing to effectively pray for the school to shut down.”

But according to management consultant Todd Strudel, now at the University of Bezerkly, “The problem at the school level is that teachers, far from trying to stop children’s prayer, will actively encourage it. If the study findings are true, or even just believed to be true, school prayer could become a major contract issue for teachers.”

The study found regional variations in the effect, which was strongest in the Northeast. There was no correlation in the deep South, despite the prevalence of religious households, because of the rarity of severe winter storms. In the Midwest, the correlation was also weaker. “The weaker effect in the Midwest could be because school cancelation is just unlikely except in the most extreme cases, and children might not bother praying when they consider it pointless. The variation is measurable, but our study does show why the children are praying with less effect in that region,” says Roper.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td><strong>Sundays</strong></td>
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<td>1 9:00am Religious School 11:00am Meet the Artist with Mindy Seidlin 3:00pm USY Iron Chef (reservations required)</td>
<td>8:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:30pm Israeli Dancing</td>
<td>9:00am Fast of Esther 10:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 4:55pm Fast of Esther Mincha 6:30pm Maariv with Megila Reading</td>
<td>5:45pm Purim 5:15pm Megila Reading 5:30pm Purim Seuda (reservations required)</td>
<td>6:15pm Shushan Purim 5:30pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td>9:00am Kaddish Tisch Darshen: David Kuperstock 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Prober &amp; TBA 5:30pm Minha-Maamr</td>
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<td><strong>11</strong> 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitvza Program 5:30pm Abraham's Tent</td>
<td><strong>12</strong> 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 5:30pm Abraham's Tent</td>
<td><strong>13</strong> 5:30pm Abraham's Tent (DST) Candle Lighting</td>
<td><strong>15</strong> 9:00am Religious School 5:30pm Abraham's Tent</td>
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<td><strong>19</strong> No Talmud Study Group</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Rali Gottlieb Bar Mitvza 6:45pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td><strong>21</strong> Rali Gottlieb Bar Mitvza 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Hallo/Levine/Saxe 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 5:45pm Minha 6:30pm Havdalah Yoga</td>
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<td><strong>22</strong> 9:00am Religious School 11:00am Partner Massage Fundraiser (reservations required)</td>
<td><strong>23</strong> 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 10:30am Elders of Zion (Topic TBA)</td>
<td><strong>24</strong> 7:30pm Israeli Dancing</td>
<td><strong>25</strong> 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitvza Program</td>
<td><strong>26</strong> No Talmud Study Group</td>
<td><strong>27</strong> 5:30pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td><strong>28</strong> Tzav Shabbat Hagedol Malachi 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Weiner/Rastelli 12:45pm Shabbat Shmooze &quot;Haggadah Through the Years&quot; 5:45pm Minha</td>
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<td><strong>30</strong> 9:00am Religious School</td>
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<td><strong>32</strong> 9:00am Religious School</td>
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<td><strong>34</strong> 6:46pm (DST) Candle Lighting</td>
<td><strong>35</strong> 9:00am Religious School 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 10:30am Elders of Zion (Topic TBA)</td>
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<td><strong>March 1</strong>: Artist Talk Mindy Seidlin</td>
<td><strong>March 9-15</strong>: Abraham's Tent at BEKI</td>
<td><strong>March 14</strong>: Darshen Bill Hallo</td>
<td><strong>March 21</strong>: Bar Mitzva: Rali Gottlieb</td>
<td><strong>March 22</strong>: BRS Partner Massage</td>
<td><strong>March 28</strong>: Shabbat Schmooze Julie Cohen</td>
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The Snow Must Go On

Scheduled services will be held regardless of weather conditions. Other programs may be subject to postponement or cancelation due to severe weather. Please use your best judgment in determining whether and how you can safely travel. If you have registered for a program or event, you will be notified directly of a schedule change.

Vote

Vote now online in the World Zionist Elections for the party of your choice. Our affiliated party is MERCAZ. For Jewish adults 18 or older; $10 ($5 under age 31); pay online with credit card or paypal; votemercaz.org. See video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNEb5WotHjk.

Torah Reading

If you would like to read Torah at BEKI in the coming weeks, contact interim coordinator jjtlsen@beki.org.

Greetings

If you would like to serve as a greeter on Shabbat mornings or Friday nights, please contact Jon-Jay at jjtlsen@beki.org.

Community Havdala Yoga

Shabbat afternoons Feb. 28 and March 28, 6:30-8 p.m., Shabbat compliant, ending with havdala.

Partner Massage

BRS Fundraiser, with Julie Robbins, Sunday March 22, 11-noon, $20/person, RSVP principal@beki.org.

Shabbat Schmooze

“In every generation: Haggadot at BEKI and Beyond.” A talk by Julie Cohen at the opening of the Haggadot Exhibit in the BEKI Library, March 28, following qiddush (about 12:45 p.m.).

Selling of Hametz

Form at www.beki.org/forms/hametz.pdf.