

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Heshvan-Kislev 5775

Vol. 20 Issue 10

Page 13: A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

MORE SOLAR POWER FOR BEKI?

Our congregation has won an opportunity to produce our entire demand for electricity from our own rooftop. The local and regional utilities selected BEKI through a lottery of qualified applicants to serve as a site for an extended photovoltaic array, in order to satisfy the utilities' mandate under federal and local laws to supply a growing proportion of electricity from renewable sources.

Under consideration presently is a 66-kilowatt array placed on the roof of the social hall and on the remaining space on the classroom wing. The [current photovoltaic array at BEKI](#), installed in September 2006 on part of the classroom wing, is nominally a 10-kilowatt system. The decision to consider this now is driven in part by the new roof sections installed in 2013, which optimize the length of time the array might be in service, and by the likelihood that the new ZREC (renewable energy credit) subsidy agreements will be less generous or eliminated next year and in coming years. We do not expect the cost of new systems to decline substantially in the short term, nor do we expect the price of electricity

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BEKI Arrives in Force at People's Climate March



Jim Berger, left, and John Weiser lend support to Hannah and Teya Klein-Berger during the People's Climate March in Manhattan on Sept. 12.

Toward the end of his life, Pete Seeger said "If there is a world here in a hundred years, it will be because millions of people get involved in trying to save it."

On Sept. 12, members of BEKI joined in the largest climate change march to date, the People's Climate March in New York City. Timed to coincide with the UN Conference on Climate Change, the march was the culmination of 2,646 ral-

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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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Lisa A. Stanger, Esq.
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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

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.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Editor
Associate Editor
Associate Editor
Associate Editor
Photographer
Layout & Design

*Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen
Donna Levine
Donna Kemper
Herbert Winer
Charles Ludwig
Bruce Oren*

abel
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Solar

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supplied by the utility to decline in the long term.

The cost to purchase and install a 66-kilowatt array at BEKI is about \$180,000. Net of maintenance and other costs, the array would return at least \$18,000 a year to BEKI in saved electric costs and the utility subsidy to BEKI for the first 15 years, and about \$10,000 a year in years 16 to 25 or beyond, expressed in current dollars and assuming electric rates do not change substantially in the next 25 years.

Such a return would represent a significant continuing benefit to the synagogue. It would also be one way to implement and express our desire to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels, and could reduce the stress on the local electric grid.

Where do we get \$180,000? The Congregation recently completed a major fundraising program, BEKI-

120, and is presently completing a significant building renovation (see “Windows 2014 Update” this issue). There is reluctance to undertaking an elective fundraising campaign that would, at least in some unknown measure, compete with and detract from the necessary Annual Campaign or an appeal to provide for some possible imminent building repair such as roof replacement. (The roofs over the social hall and classroom wing are new, but the roofs over the sanctuary and lobby-office are about to sing *Adon Olam*.) For these reasons, there is a disinclination to launch a broad-based campaign.

However, it is possible that some members or supporters might be motivated or inspired to support a Solar program in a way that will on balance provide more funding for all of our needs. The significant savings would provide relief to our budget that might make it easier to proceed with other needed projects. While our fundraising has to depend on our members, it is

possible that additional support could be found elsewhere such as through a Connecticut corporate donor who can take advantage of available tax credits for solar projects, or other supporters who just want to help in this worthy effort.

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. The congregation aims to put the *conserve* into Conservative Judaism.

If you are interested in learning more about this proposal, or might like to participate in planning and execution of fundraising or installation, or would like to be asked to be a major donor should the plan be adopted, please contact Vice President Yaron Lew, Rabbi Tilsen or President Andy Hirshfield.



Climate March

Continued from **Page 1**

lies in 162 countries. Many Connecticutians traveled to the event by train, organized by the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network. Marchers were stratified by association and type: indigenous people; climate justice groups; organizations for families, labor, students, elders; renewable energy & food and water groups; environmental organizations; anti-corporate campaigns; peace & justice groups; scientists; faith groups; LGBTQ groups; and people representing communities, neighborhoods, cities, states and countries.

The BEKI Green Team got into it for the street theater.

Thanks to Shoshana Zax & John Weiser, Karel Koenig, and Steven Stoll for mentioning the March in his High Holiday shout-out. If you would like to be involved in environmental action at BEKI, contact the Green Team at akosowsky@snet.net.



Marchers raise their hands during a moment of silence for the estimated half-million-strong demonstration.

המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Daniel Michael

Chester Tomkins

Tillie Hausler, grandmother of Andy Hausler

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal Tov

• Mazal tov to Robert & Jane Stern on the birth of their granddaughter Dorey Lila Stern, born to Sarit & Adam Stern in Elul; and mazal tov on the birth of their granddaughter Aviva Simone in Sivan.

• Alice & Paul Kosowsky on the birth of a grandchild.

• Mark Abraham, executive director of [DataHaven](#), has received an “Impact Award” from the Community Indicators Consortium in Washington, DC

Benei Mitzva Celebrations Upcoming

Elijah Freiman, son of Jonathan Freiman & Rachel Light, and of the late Amy Aaland, Nov. 7-8, *parashat VaYera*



Alice & Paul Kosowsky's grandchild.

Shabbat Afternoon Singing Circle

The days are getting shorter, but there's still time to sing on Shabbat afternoons at BEKI

From November through March, join us on the first Shabbat of the month for the mincha (afternoon) service, followed by an informal singing circle, and then the maariv (evening) service and havdala.

Everyone is welcome. We'll provide the songbooks, with Hebrew and transliteration; if you have a new song to teach, please bring copies of the words.

Dates: Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Feb. 7 and March 7. Shabbat mincha service begins 20 minutes before sunset.

Questions? Contact Carole Bass (but not on Shabbat): bass.carole@gmail.com or (203) 397-3046

Rabbi's Tzedaga Fund (minimum \$25)

- Thomas & Marisol Moycik in memory of Rosa M. Sanchez
- Jeff Granoff in memory of Sherman Granoff
- Honoring the memory of Muriel Kaltman
- Robert & Jane Stern and Family marking the yahrzeit of Léon Stern, father of Robert Stern
- Helene & Edward Vanderhoef in memory of Morris Schnitman and family
- Bruce Tomkins in memory of Chester Tomkins

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
- Herb & Hannah Winer
- The Goodwin & Lampert families
- The family of Kinneret Levene Magid

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

- To Rick Goodwin & Rachel Lampert and family with sympathy on the passing of Paul "Pat" Goodwin by Maxibe Lampert
- To Jessie Claire Goodwin in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Maxine Lampert
- To Jessie Claire Goodwin in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Dan & Steph Jacoby
- To Alan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of the birth of their granddaughter by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Liora & Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Penny & Marc Alper
- To Rick Goodwin & Rachel Lampert and family by Jayne & David Stockton
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by the Avni-Singer family
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by the Freiman-Light family
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Rachel Lovins &

Andrew Hogan

- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Gloria Cohen
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Gloria Cohen
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Caryl & Michael Kligfeld
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by The Freiman-Light family
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Lynn & Jay Brotman
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of

Fruma Ginsburgh by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Rita & Nadav Sela
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Rita & Nadav Sela
- To Liora & Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- To Sara Labowe & family with sympathy on the passing of Ronald Labowe by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Sara Labowe & family with sympathy on the passing of Ronald Labowe by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Sara Labowe & family with sympathy on the passing of Ronald Labowe by Gloria Cohen
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce and family
- To Sara Labowe & family with sympathy on the passing of Ronald Labowe by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce and family
- To Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Violet Ludwig by Ed Silverstein
- To Jessie Claire Goodwin in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Gloria Cohen

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

- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Leon Cummings
- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of Mayer Riff by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Herb & Hannah Winer with sympathy on the passing of Fruma Ginsburgh by Leon Cummings

BEKI Religious School

- To Betty & Art Levy with sympathy on the passing of

Mayer Riff by Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman

- To Sara Labowe & family with sympathy on the passing of Ronald Labowe by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- To Ruth Blum in honor of her birthday by Betsy, Howie, Shilo, Indigo & Mikki Ratner
- To Madeline Wendy Rosenberg in honor of her upcoming Bat Mitzva by Betsy, Howie, Shilo, Indigo & Mikki Ratner
- To Indigo Ratner in honor of her 1st birthday by Grandma Betsy & Great-Grandma Mikki Ratner
- To Mikki Ratner in honor of her upcoming birthday by Betsy, Howie, Shilo & Indigo Ratner

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

- In loving memory of her husband Irving Kaufman by Florence Kaufman
- In memory of Al & Ruth Berman by Ruth Berman and Carol & James Levenson
- In memory of Carl Gesund by Hans & Irmgard Gesund
- In memory of Martha Miller Schwartz by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Marsha Smith by Diane Smith
- In memory of Louis Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Rena Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of Sarah Liner by Howard Miller
- In memory of Rena Miller by Richard & Vicki Miller
- In memory of Philip Auerbach by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Hannah Zarnes by Doris & David Sagerman
- In memory of Renéé Abend by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Joseph Sagerman by David & Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Sol Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- In memory of Henry & Evelyn Cohen by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- In memory of David & Harriet Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- In memory of Sarah Feldman by Lois K. Feldman

Thanksgiving connection to Sukkot

We cannot be certain about what motivated the Pilgrim settlers to initiate a feast of thanksgiving; it is likely that they drew on a model well-known to them from the Bible they cherished. Seeing themselves as new Israelites in a new “promised land,” they found inspiration from the Books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy, in which God commands the ancient Israelites to observe the Feast of Sukkot, “to rejoice before Adonai your God” at the time of the fall harvest (Lev. 23:40).

The sukka is a temporary structure. Its roof is thinly covered with branches, admitting sunlight, starlight, wind and rain, reminding us of the precariousness of our existence in the face of the forces of nature. But the sukka is also a reminder of the many reasons for which we feel grateful to God, for the fact that the other fifty-one weeks most of us are blessed to have solid roofs over our heads, clothes to wear, and food to eat.

Such was not always the case for the Pilgrims, who often contended with illness, meager rations, disappointed hopes, and death. During the very hard winter before the first “Thanksgiving,” it is recorded that food became so scarce in some settlements that the daily ration of food per person

per day was five kernels of corn.

Like the Israelites’ experience in the wilderness and that of the Pilgrims) harsh years they endured as they strove to sink roots in this new land they were both people of great faith in God’s great mercy and beneficence.

From the contemporaneous account of 1621, we know that there were three days of feasting, in the company of Native Americans. Thanksgiving and Sukkot come to remind us that there is far more to be grateful for in the world than a bounteous crop. Both of these holidays encourage us to stop and acknowledge the manifold blessings God bestows upon us each and every day.

Thanks, Darryl

Sisterhood would like to acknowledge Darryl Kuperstock for all her attention, efforts and work on the Book of Life project. As usual we could not have done this project without her help and advice at the level needed to complete it.

Hanukah Merchandise

Sisterhood Gift Store is offering new items for Hanuka. Please come in when we are open on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Wednesday 5 - 6:15 p.m., and by appointment. Peggy will be happy to help as well during office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Secure Valuables

Please do not leave valuables in the coatroom; put your name on your coat and other items.

BEKI-BJ USY Lounge Nights

Tuesdays 6:30 - 8 p.m. at BEKI. Pizza (from Edge of Woods), people, \$5. Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Dec. 2 & Dec. 16.

USY HaNefesh Regional Kinnus

Nov. 7-9, in Springfield, Mass.; USY membership required, to join contact Elie eas273@gmail.com; register for event at www.tinyurl.com/hanefeshfall14.

Motse’ei Shabbat Party

Nov. 22, 4:30 - 8 p.m. at BEKI, planned especially for families with young children and welcoming everyone. Come for mincha, maariv, and havdala, and stay for food, drink, and [Nu Haven Kapelye](#). RSVP preferred but not required. Contact Steve Werlin shwerlin@gmail.com.

Torah Reading

Rachel Light r_gutman@yahoo.com is coordinating To-

rah readings for Bereishit through Jan. 3. Thanks to David Wright for organizing the second half of the readings for Devarim.

USY Free Birthright Israel Trip

Info and registration at <http://www.freejourneytoisrael.org/conservativeshutfam>.

Pie Day

BEKI-BJ USY will be making frozen [Thanksgiving Pies](#) on Sunday Nov. 23 in the BEKI kitchen to raise money for tzedaqa. You can [purchase frozen pies](#) for your family or donate pies to Jewish Family Service of New Haven. Info Eva Gerber, VP of Social Action/Tikun Olam egerber@jhsct.org.

USY International Convention, Atlanta

Shabbat Dec. 21 to Thursday Dec. 25. Info Stefan Kostolitz at bekibjusy@gmail.com. Subsidies available. Event info <http://www.usy.org/ic/ic2014/>. Registration deadline this week.

Notes From Mora Ina

I find it hard to believe we are so close to the middle of another academic year. This year we welcomed Matthew Gad who joins Talia Colten as a madrikha (teacher's aide). Matthew will be writing occasional articles for the BEKI Bulletin and this is his first.

BRS has enjoyed some exciting "happenings" since school began in September.

Isaiah Cooper joined us for a few weeks and began teaching students tunes for the Qabbalat Shabbat service. Over Sukkot, BRS students and teachers were joined by Rabbi Jon-Jay in the sukka to shake the lulav and etrog, sing some songs, and enjoy a snack outdoors. The tables and chairs inside the sukka were still wet from a rainy night, reminding everyone of the precariousness of the harvest season.

Right after Simhat Torah we celebrated the reading of Bereishit with a special Shabbat program. Students learned with their teachers and the new Israeli Young Emissaries, Ofir and Raz. Meanwhile, parents were busy discussing the two differing creation stories in Bereishit with Pam Reis, a local Torah scholar. Afterward families shared the qiddish-Lunch in honor of David Kuperstock's bar mitzva anniversary with the BEKI community.

In the coming weeks we look forward to our annual Hanuka party with Sisterhood's latkes, an "Art Day" when one of our BEKI artists will help us complete a project, and celebrating Shabbat together again.

Grateful Poll

Matt Gad, our BRS roving reporter, asked students what they are grateful for. Here are their answers:

Students at the religious school in grades three through seven were thankful for a lot of different things. Mora Rena (Rita Sela's) third grade class told me what they were thankful for. Nate said he was thankful for his mom buying him clothes, and Elia was thankful for his mom and dad. His brother, Kian, was grateful to be living in a safe place, and Sara and Rebekah said they were thankful for their siblings. Sara has a brother, and her friend and classmate



Ina Silverman

Rebekah has three sisters. With Mora Shlomit and Mora Tikva, students in the upper grades identified adjectives that best described whatever they are thankful to have, and also had some personal reflections as well.

Success, having fun, having wealth, friendship, happiness, and peace were on the list that these kids were pleased to have in their daily lives. Additionally, they were thankful for being happy, having a healthy family and friends, and being able to do activities they like to do, like playing soccer. Talia was grateful to hangout with friends, being healthy and active, doing well in school, making new friends, and doing a lot of mitzvas. Other kids also talked about their enjoyment of playing games and watching movies, learning new languages, painting, drawing, being happy, playing sports and hanging out with friends and family." These kids should be very thankful to also have such wonderful teachers at BRS as well.

Youth News

Hello BEKI community.

USY and Kadima got off to a strong start in September with a dodgeball event at the Ezra Academy gym and tie-dye event at BEKI. In October, USY geared up for bi-weekly lounge nights at BEKI and a fall-themed chapter event. This month in November, USY plans their annual Thanksgiving Pies fundraiser to raise money for tzedaqa. Kadima moved into the fall season with social justice events, Shabbat dinners, and a Sukkot-themed event.



Stefan Kostolitz

Stay tuned to BEKI Happenings, BEKI's weekly e-newsletter, for event dates for USY and Kadima. If you're interested in joining USY or Kadima, please contact Stefan Kostolitz at bekibjusy@gmail.com, bekibjkadima@gmail.com, or (203) 213-1067.

– Stefan Kostolitz

Kadima USY Youth Group Coordinator

Sukka Hop Review

We had a total of 67 participants over the course of the hop. Thanks for your generous and kind and warm hosting.

– Miriam

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:

Robert Oakes, Shabbat morning Nov. 1, *parashat Lekh Lekha*.

Elijah Freiman, bar mitzva, Shabbat morning Nov. 8, *parashat Vayera*

Rabbi Eric Silver, Shabbat morning Nov. 15, *parashat Hayei Sara*.

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

Michael Kligfeld, Shabbat morning Dec. 13, *parashat VaYeshev*.

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.



Robert Oakes



Murray Levine



Michael Kligfeld



Steven Fraade



Jay Sokolow

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.

For meeting dates, see a weekly calendar. Next dates are 1, 15, 29 November and 13, 27 December 2014.



Eric Silver

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 7:00a *shaharit* morning service. 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

Continued on **Page 9**

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 8**

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 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 service on Nov. 27, Thanksgiving morning, is from 9 to 9:40.

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



Isaiah Cooper

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

The Sanhedrin Study Group will not meet on Nov. 27 and 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, 2014.

Want Hebrew?

Contact Will Auriemme perfectexodus@gmail.com. ✪



Participants attend an Elders of Zion session on “Training the Older Brain,” led by Dr. Morris Bell, on Oct. 20.



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Andy Weinstein



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WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243
Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP FAX (203) 397-1241



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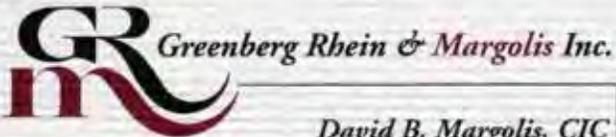


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THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD

In 1954, my grandfather [Ed Tilsen](#) and my father, Bob Tilsen, built 63 new homes in Minneapolis in what was the first new private housing development “available to Negro Americans on the ‘open’ market” (St. Paul *Recorder*, May 21, 1954, p. 1). In the post-war period, of the 9,568 single and two-family dwelling units built in Minneapolis, less than 20 were purchased by black families. Housing discrimination was considered the “number one problem” confronting the black population at that time, perhaps even more serious than employment discrimination.

In that era, housing discrimination was deeply entrenched. Most real estate boards had “in their code of ethics for members that it is not proper for them to sell or rent a home to a person who does not conform to the racial or religious pattern of the existing neighborhood.” The FHA and Veterans Administration did not challenge this reality in the private market. Banks would not make loans to non-segregated projects. Leavitt “systematically excluded Negroes from all its developments on the eastern seaboard” (*Recorder*). Archie Givens, a real estate salesman, and in retrospect an outstanding community leader – and a relative of cousins on my mother’s side – is credited with initiating the project and selling all of the units on an integrated basis.

Ed Tilsen had tried to build an integrated project in St. Paul in 1948 but the banks refused to finance it. He would not build according to the banks’ requirement of segregation. But by 1954 he had figured out how to make it work – a feat of “salesmanship” and persuasion. For the Tilsens, it was more than a business opportunity (and was not in

the end particularly profitable). It was an issue of justice and common good. Housing discrimination and enforced segregation were simply repugnant practices, defying notions of common decency. As Jews in Minnesota they had experienced and understood discrimination. The impact of discrimination against blacks was more severe and forceful.

Back then, the real estate brokers, banks and builders gave what they thought were good reasons to enforce segregation. It protected white property owners’ investments and the “quality” of the neighborhoods, and prevented blacks from buying properties that were sure to plummet in value (due to blacks moving in). It kept peace for blacks and whites alike by avoiding the inevitable conflict and violence of integration; who wants to provoke the Klan and other racist and violent agents? And indeed, some outspoken black people opposed integration out of fear of provoking violence and making matters worse.

It is with this American experience in mind that I view the current housing controversies in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem has its unique history and complex politics, and simple comparisons are not possible. Jerusalem faces a chronic shortage of affordable housing (for Jews, Arabs and everyone else), inequality in public services by neighborhood, the residency of a large number of non-citizens, and contention over numerous holy sites dear to the politically involved and perhaps also to the faithful.

The announcement of implementation of a plan (initi-

Continued on **Page 14**



Neighborhood

Continued from Page 13

ated in the 1990s) for construction of modern housing units in the southern Jerusalem area known as Givat HaMatos (just across the street from Ramat Rachel and next to Beit Safafa) set off a firestorm of condemnation by the Belgians and other Europeans, claiming that this will somehow make peace impossible and end the prospects for a Palestinian State. The *New York Times* drones that “most of the world” considers this “illegal” (but can never provide a basis for this unwarranted approbation). Givat HaMatos is an area two-and-a-half times the size of the New Haven Green. The developers have tried to ensure that at least a quarter to half of the new units would be especially available for current (Arab) residents of the adjacent Beit Safafa neighborhood. There is no real reason on the ground why this construction should be objectionable, no legal basis of complaint in local or international law, and no reason that this small space in Jerusalem would interfere with Palestinian Arab national aspirations or actual economic or other interests. They complain that there is insufficient housing for Arabs, and they complain when such housing is built.

Similarly, the Europeans, State Department, Palestinian Authority and King of Jordan are freaking out because seven Jewish families have moved into homes they purchased in the Silwan neighborhood – bringing the Jewish proportion of residents up to a whopping 1 percent in that neighborhood. Given that many thousands of Arab residents live in predominantly Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem, it is not apparent what worthy principle these parties are promoting in raising their howls of objection. Even if one believes that Jerusalem is “occupied territory” subject to the rules of international law for belligerent occupation (an unsupportable proposition), then it would likely be criminal for the State of Israel to enforce pre-existing laws or impose new rules that allow such discrimination. In the light of municipal politics, encouraging more Jewish Jerusalemites to move to Silwan might improve the neighborhood’s

chances of getting better pavement and trash collection.

Granted, some of the new Jewish residents might be there to make a point (like in Selma) or may be trouble-making “in-your-face” instigator-integrators or vandals (like in Hebron), but Jerusalem has been a multi-cultural Jewish-majority city for hundreds of years, with the exception of the nineteen years it was split under partial Jordanian occupation, when part of the city was off-limits to Jews (in violation of the armistice agreement). Jerusalem was never envisioned to be an “Arab City” or capital by the Allies after WWI, the League of Nations Mandate, or even the aborted United Nations partition plan of 1948. There is no particular legal or historical reason for people with democratic values to promote dividing Jerusalem to make a new Arab half-city, and even if one has that vision, there is no reason to insist the Arab areas be Jew-free, or that these particular areas should become “Arab territory.” Whether such a plan for ceding territory to a new or existing Arab government would somehow promote peace is beyond my ability to forecast, although peace is a supreme value.

The only objection to this integration is that it provokes the “international community” and some local residents and offends Arab sensibilities. What are the principles at stake? Do we really want our State Department to complain that it is offensive for seven more Jewish families to live in Silwan or for the Government of Israel to allow the construction of integrated housing at Givat HaMatos? If we want to criticize and complain about the government, there is abundant cause, but in this instance such criticism is misplaced. I can’t see how demanding that the Israeli government enforce segregation is a worthy cause. In the long run, peace will require people to accept the legitimacy of the Jewish commonwealth in Israel, which might even mean having a Jewish neighbor.

My emotional reaction and legal and political analysis is based on my family history, personal experiences, and cultural values. Others have different experiences, values and aspirations, and thus different perspectives. But this is my viewpoint, and I am sticking to it, until I change my mind.



November 2014

8 Heshvan 5775 - 8 Kislev 5775

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1 Lekh Lekha Darshan: Bob Oakes 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 5:30pm Minha-Maariv 8 Heshvan
2 9:00am Religious School 10:00am Habitat for Humanity BEKI Build Day (reservations required) 9 Heshvan	3 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 10 Heshvan	4 6:30pm USY Lounge Night 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 11 Heshvan	5 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 12 Heshvan	6 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 13 Heshvan	7 Elijah Freiman Bar Mitzva 4:21pm (EST) Candle Lighting 14 Heshvan	8 Vayera Elijah Freiman Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Freiman-Light 4:25pm (EST) Minha-Maariv 15 Heshvan
9 9:00am Religious School 16 Heshvan	10 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 17 Heshvan	11 Office Closed/Veterans' Day 6:30pm USY Lounge Night 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 18 Heshvan	12 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 7:00pm Social Action/Tikkun Olam meeting 19 Heshvan	13 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 20 Heshvan	14 4:14pm Candle Lighting 21 Heshvan	15 Haye Sarah 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Sela 4:15pm Minha-Maariv 22 Heshvan
16 9:00am Religious School 23 Heshvan	17 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 24 Heshvan	18 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 25 Heshvan	19 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 26 Heshvan	20 12:00pm Talmud Study Group 27 Heshvan	21 4:09pm Candle Lighting 28 Heshvan	22 Toledot Preceding Rosh Hodesh: I Samuel 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: TBA 4:10pm Minha-Maariv 4:30pm Motzei Shabbat Party (reservations preferred) 29 Heshvan
23 Rosh Hodesh Numbers 9:00am Religious School 1 Kislev	24 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 2 Kislev	25 5:30pm-7:00pm USY Pie Pick-up 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 3 Kislev	26 No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 4 Kislev	27 Office Closed/Thanksgiving 9:00am Shaharit No afternoon/evening services 5 Kislev	28 Office Closed 4:06pm Candle Lighting 6 Kislev	29 Vayetze 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Tova Benson-Tilsen Fund for Animal Welfare 4:10pm Minha-Maariv 7 Kislev
30 No Religious School 8 Kislev						

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