SUKKOT IS COMING

If you feel a sense of loss at the end of the High Holy Days, do not despair: it is time for Sukkot, called the Festival by our ancestors. Lulav & Etrog are used each day of Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabbah. Information on the festival observances and schedules are published at www.beki.org/sukkot.html.

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Sunday Oct. 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come when you can. Add a personal touch by bringing some of your own sekhakh (evergreen branches are preferred) for the roof to enhance the beauty and aroma of our congregational sukka. Breakdown and storage are planned for Sunday Oct. 19, following Shaharit. Bring gloves; portable power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information and to let us know if you can help, contact David Kuperstock (203) 415-4026 or ndk1024@gmail.com.

Lulav & Etrog Orders

BEKI Religious School will offer lulav and etrog sets. To order, please contact Ina at principal@beki.org (203) 389-2108 x13.

Eruv Tavshilin

This year, Shabbat immediately follows the festivals. As cooking on the festivals is permitted only for enjoyment on the festivals, and cooking for Shabbat must be completed before the onset of Shabbat, special measures may be taken. For instructions on preparing meals for Shabbat in compliance with halakhic considerations in light of the three-day sequence, please see Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals p. 306 s.v. Eruv Tavshilin. Eruv Tavshilin should be made on Wednesday afternoon Oct. 8 and Wednesday afternoon Oct. 15 (Hoshana Raba).

Sukkot & Shabbat Hol HaMoed

Sukkot begins on Wednesday evening Oct. 8. Minha service begins at 5:45 p.m., followed immediately by the evening service, ending at 6:20. The services will be held in the Sukka,

Continued on Page 3
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.

Amazon Commission

If you are buying items from Amazon and use the link on BEKI’s home page beki.org (bottom) then BEKI will receive a small commission on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link.
Sukkot
Continued from Page 1

weather permitting. Wednesday candle lighting is at 6:05 p.m.

BEKI Religious School is hosting a Sukka Dinner on Wednesday night Oct. 8. For information or reservations, contact Ina at principal@beki.org.

The morning service on Thursday Oct. 9 begins at 9:15 and includes the recitation of Hallel, waving of Lulav and Etrog, and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. Services on Thursday night begin at 5:45, but candle lighting on Thursday is after 7:05 p.m. Services on Friday morning Oct. 10 are from 9:15 to 11:36 and again include the taking of Lulav and Etrog.

Candle lighting on Friday night Oct. 10 is at 6:04. Services begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, and at 9:15 a.m. on Shabbat morning. We do not use Lulav and Etrog on Shabbat.

Shabbat Hol HaMoed
Shabbat Hol HaMoed, Saturday Oct. 11, is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”). Qohelet, attributed by tradition to King Solomon in his old age, is a “wisdom” book that many see as being out of step with the rest of the Torah. While it includes such well-known passages as “To everything there is a season” and “There is nothing new under the sun,” it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody.

The Sisterhood’s Book of Life honoring Carole & Paul Bass will be dedicated on this Shabbat morning.

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

Hol HaMoed Sukkot
“Hol HaMoed,” also known as the “intermediate” days of the festival, are those days between the first two and last two days of Sukkot (and of Pesah). They have a “semi-holiday” status. The rules against melakha (“work”) that apply on Shabbat and Festivals are not fully in force during this period, although we are encouraged to take this time as a holiday and to avoid work as much as possible. Our weekday morning services are enhanced with a brief Torah reading, the recitation of the musical “Hallel” section of Psalms, and a brief Musaf (additional) service. Weekday morning services thus take 60 minutes, instead of our usual length. The lulav (branches) and etrog (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to eat is to live) in a sukka. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI sukka. Some people do not wear tefillin during Hol HaMoed; others (common Ashkenazic practice outside of Israel) wear them for shaharit but remove them before Hallel. Tefillin are never used on the full festival day.

Hosanna! Hosanna!
The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Wednesday Oct. 15 begins at 7 and ends by 8:50 a.m. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the sukka or shul with lulav and etrog (palm and citron) and the hoshana service in which willow twigs are beaten on the chairs. Special holiday melodies make this an unforgettable spiritual experience. Be sure to come to this “service for all ages.”

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

Must be at work or school before service ends? Come for shaharit, Hallel and Torah service, or as much as you can. Dropping off kids at Ezra Academy or another destination? Come for the later part of the service, and wave lulav and etrog following the directions in the red Siddur on p. 49 or ask for assistance from another member.

Shemini Atseret & Yizkor Memorial Service
The Festival of Shemini Atseret (“Eighth Day of Assembly”) serves as a conclusion to the autumn Festival of Sukkot (“Booths”). The festival begins Wednesday night Oct. 15. The minha service begins at 5:45 p.m.; the festival maariv service begins immediately after, about 5:55. It is customary to light a memorial candle on that night immedi-
Sukkot
Continued from Page 3

ately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 5:54 p.m. (or earlier).

During the morning service, which begins at 9:15 on Thursday Oct. 16, Hallel is chanted. The unique festival *musah* (musical mode) is used for this service. For Carole Bass’s comment on Hallel, go to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak2Wgg2Xyks](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak2Wgg2Xyks) (youtube cv “Carole Bass Hallel”).

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

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Minha services begin at 5:45 p.m. and evening services begin at 6 on Thursday Oct. 16. Evening services include seven *haqafot* (circumambulatory dances) with Torah scrolls and a brief Torah reading, the only time that we read Torah in public at night. Candle lighting on Thursday night is *after* 6:54.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15 on Friday Oct. 17. Three Torah scrolls are removed from the ark (around 10 a.m.) and seven brief *haqafot* are conducted. The final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, *parashat Ve-Zot Ha-Berakha*, are read, followed by the opening passages of the Book of Genesis, part of *parasha Bereishit*. This concludes the annual Torah reading cycle, and begins the new cycle. This is particularly joyful at BEKI because so many members are involved in Torah reading throughout the year, and these readers dedicate considerable effort to preparing accurate and melodious chanting. A *maftir* portion is read from Numbers, which describes the observance of Shemini Atseret in the ancient Temple. The *haftara* is recited from the opening passages of Joshua, which is the sequel to Deuteronomy, sometimes called the “sixth book” of the Five Books of Moses. Goodie Bags will be presented by the Sisterhood to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. Afternoon *minha* service begins at 6 as is usual for Friday nights at BEKI, and is followed by the Maariv service, ending about 6:40 p.m. (earlier than usual). Shabbat candle lighting is 5:51 p.m. A flame started before the onset of the festival on Wednesday afternoon should be used to light the Shabbat candles.

A complete schedule of services is available in table format at [www.beki.org/sukkot.html](http://www.beki.org/sukkot.html).

Join the Annual BEKI Family Sukka Hop

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukkah; RSVP to Miriam, (203) 389-6137, by Oct. 4 so hosts can plan. Each minor child must have an adult (parent); wear good walking shoes for the trek; bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks; and running strollers for your little ones.

**Oct. 9 Sukkah Hop departs BEKI at 12:45 p.m.**
Benson-Tilsen Sukkah, 281 West Elm St. 1:05 p.m.; depart 1:30 p.m.
Korda & Grutzendler Sukkah, 59 McKinley Ave. 1:50 p.m.; depart 2:15 p.m.
Starr-Hirshfield Sukkah, 145 Cleveland Ave. 2:35 p.m.; depart 3 p.m.
Robbins Sukkah, 845 Edgewood Ave. (entrance: driveway on Marvel Road) 3:20 p.m.; depart 3:45 p.m.
Oppenheimer Sukkah, 155 West Rock Ave. 4 p.m.; depart 4:25 p.m.
Abraham and Goldberg Sukkah, 259 Alden Ave. 4:45 p.m.; depart 5:10 p.m.
BEKI, 5:20 p.m.; Minha & Maariv, 5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. in the BEKI Sukkah

©
YOM KIPPUR

On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Friday Oct. 3, the Minha service begins at 6:15. Candle Lighting is 6:14 p.m. (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:35 and end by 8:30.

Shaharit services begin at 9 a.m.; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11 a.m. The Minha Afternoon service begins at 4:30 p.m., and is followed immediately by the Neila and Maariv services. The services end with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:18 p.m. Children are encouraged to ascend the bima for a Havdala surprise and for the final shofar blast. Younger children and those needing close supervision are welcome to bring an adult with them.

For security reasons, tickets are required for all Yom Kippur services, including the afternoon and Neila services. If you arrive without your tickets, please introduce yourself to a Greeter who will be able to find your name on the Members and Guest list.

George G. Posener Break Fast Concludes Yom Kippur

Following the concluding Yom Kippur services on Motse’ei Shabbat (Saturday night) Oct. 4, please join us as we gather for our amazing community Break Fast. For many years, George G. Posener sponsored the break fast in memory of his family. George G. Posener died on Yom Kippur 5772 (2011), so the break fast now honors his memory as well.

The George G. Posener Family Memorial Break Fast is prepared entirely by members of the BEKI community. Overseen by Darryl Kuperstock, most of the preparation and all of the cooking is done in advance, but the assembly and plating (and clean-up) of this banquet is done by the fantastic volunteers who join us in the kitchen during the afternoon break on Yom Kippur. It’s fun, intense, and extremely satisfying – so come help us out this year.

The George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break Fast Fund at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons was established by George G. Posener in 2001 to create a lasting memorial at the time of the yahrzeits of his family members. Proceeds from this endowment provide for a special and meaningful community gathering at the end of Yom Kippur. The Posener Fund is held and managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

AWESOME TIPS

In preparation for the full-day fast of Yom Kippur, it is suggested that caffeine users reduce their intake to reduce withdrawal symptoms on the Holy Day. Some people avoid wearing leather shoes on Yom Kippur, so do not be surprised to see canvas sneakers or other non-leather shoes in use. Some also follow the custom of wearing a kittel (white robe) or other white garments on Yom Kippur. People who need to eat or drink or take medication on Yom Kippur may speak with an usher, or contact the office in advance, for assistance if needed. Rabbi Tilsen notes that “People for whom fasting represents a significant medical threat are prohibited from fasting. Water, milk or a simple meal should be consumed as needed.”

Taking a Stand

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

HaMaqom Yenahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Ben Marks

Mendel Lazar, father of Liora (& Yaron) Lew
Fruma Ginsburgh, sister of Herbert (& Hannah) Winer
Mayer Riff, brother of Betty (& Arthur) Levy
Ronald Labowe, father of Sara Labowe

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Welcome New Members and Families

• Steven & Sharon Lettick
• Larisa Zubkova
• Bud & Mickey Chorney
• Susan Jacobson
• Rabbi Andrew & Rachel Hechtman
• Murray & Barbara Akresh
• Nancy Genn and Rachel and Sarah
• Lauren Beslow and Jonah
• Michael Krauthammer & Rona Richter and Alan and Mia
• Rabbi Joshua & Elana Ratner and Dimitri, Elijah and Gabriella

HaNolad BeMazal Tov

Gabriella Leah Abramovitz, daughter of Edward & Michelle, sister of Jacob, granddaughter of Alan & Sally, niece of Anna, in August 2014 in New Jersey
Noah Bennett Shure, grandson of James Shure

Benei Mitzva Celebrations Upcoming

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

Legacy L’chayim Donors

Thank you to all of our Legacy L’chayim Donors who have made provisions in their estate planning for a gift to BEKI.

Below are the names of those who have contributed or have indicated that they plan to do so. BEKI has no building fund pledge required for membership as many congregations do, but we would like you to make plans to continue to build our community for generations to come. If you are not already included, but would like to be, or we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact any of the following: Donna Levine, Carl Goldfield, Karen Kassap, or Alan Lovins. We would be happy to assist you in your planning.

Anonymous (2)
Carole & Paul Bass
Eric I.B. Beller*
Miriam Benson & Jon-Jay Tilsen
Gilah Benson-Tilsen
Tova Benson-Tilsen
Abraham Bettigole*
Ida Bettigole*
Borick Family
Gloria Cohen
Eric Dunsker
Regina Faymann*
Carl Goldfield
Ida Goldstein*
Paul Goodwin*
Robert Goodwin*
Linden Grazier
Ruth Greenblatt
Irina & Oscar Hamburger*
Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz*
Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell
Batsheva Labowe-Stoll
Bessie & Max Levine*
David & Lillian Levine*
Deanie & J. Paul Levine*
Donna & Sid Levine
Malka* & Murray Levine
Gladys R. Lipkin
Patricia Loving & Alan Lovins
Violet* and Charles Ludwig
Bernice & Lester Margolis
Ruth & Ben Marks*
Marvin Missan*

Sara & Morris Oppenheim*
Cyd & Mark Oppenheimer
Diana Friedman Opton*
Ghislaine Palumbo
Ruth Pollowitz*
George G. Posener*
Helen Rosenberg
Mary & Louis Rosenkrantz*
Margot Roten
Joanne & Steven Rudof
Stanley Saxe
Irving Simon*
Susan & Robert Spear
Martha Winters

*Deceased
Rabbis Tzedaqa Fund
- Sheila Dubak in appreciation
- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins with condolences to Liora & Yaron Lew on the passing of Liora’s father Mendel Lazar
- Donna Kemper in appreciation to Miriam Benson
- Ivan Alvarez & Cynthia Wooding-Alvarez
- Barbara Cusken & Family
- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins in memory of Mayer P. Riff, brother of Betty (& Arthur) Levy
- Albert Friedman and Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce and Family marking the yahrzeit of Sophie Walinsky
- Albert Harari with condolences to Herbert & Hannah Winer on the passing of Herb’s sister Fruma Ginsburgh
- Matthew Lieberman in memory of Ronald Labowe, father of Sara Labowe

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $280)
- Linden Grazier and Steve Werlin & Lesley Frame
- Joe & Ravit Avni-Singer
- Jesse Palumbo
- Lauren Kempton & Brooks Parmelee, Cathie & Ron Miller and Carol & Marc Weitzman

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 Judith & Mark Sklarz
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Allen Samuel
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Seth Pauker & Tina Rose
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by the Lettick family
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Sharon, David, Max & Nina Bender
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Judy & Martin Shore
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by the Rodman family
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by the Rothman family
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by the Friedman family
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by the Freiman-Light family
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Rick Goodwin, Rachel Lampert and family with sympathy on the passing of Paul “Pat” Goodwin by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by the Avni-Singer family
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Dennis & Barbara Rader for a Refu’ah Shlema by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Allan & Sally Abramovitz in honor of the birth of their granddaughter by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Miriam Benson in her honor and with thanks by Elaine Kreiger

BEKI Religious School
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund
- To Liora & Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Mendel Lazar by Sid & Donna Levine

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund
- In memory of her son Arthur Ratner by Mikki Ratner

The Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
- In memory of Zelda Katz by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Dorothy Mattler by Shirley Mattler

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Dave Berger by Saul Berger
- In memory of Joe Swinkin by Betty Swinkin
- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Betty Swinkin
- In memory of Norma Rosenberg by Lillian Rosenberg
- In memory of Sophie Granoff by Jeff Granoff
- In memory of Louis Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Rose Pergament by Deanna Tulin
- In memory of Joan Rosenthal Goldhamer by Amy Margolis
- In memory of Harry Fleischner by Robert & Dorothy Fleischner
- In memory of Sylvia Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Harry Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of Fannie Meadow by Arnold & Micheline Meadow
- In memory of Leah Wallach by Mickey & Bud Chorney
- In memory of Muriel Kaltman by Anonymous
- In memory of Abraham R. Goldman by Judy & Martin Shore
- In memory of Beverly Azoff by Caryn Azoff & Cory Slistein

Contributions

The Genesis Stories as Jewish Myth class holds its first meeting in September.
In a few days, our congregants will be celebrating the feast of Sukkot (tabernacles) in small “booths” that they have built in their yards or front lawns. Some will sleep in the small huts for seven days (or at least eat their meals there), in order to remember God’s care during the Jews’ 40-year wilderness trek to the Promised Land, because God commanded it in Leviticus 23:39-43.

There is a superb opportunity to observe how an Israeli couple observes this ancient tradition today. There is a movie that came out in 2004, called Ushpizin (OOSH-pee-ZEEN). The word means “visitors”, and refers to the tradition of showing hospitality to visitors in your sukka during the Feast of Sukkot.

The story revolves around the lives of Moshe and Malli Bellanga, an extremely poor couple who live in Jerusalem. Both of them are ba’alei teshuva, meaning that they became observant as adults, and they are still learning to live according to Jewish traditions.

Soon one learns that the husband has a pretty checkered past, because two escaped convicts impose upon their old friend Moshe to let them stay in their sukka and make their lives crazy. The movie shows how the couple grows beyond their beginnings. (It weaves in the story of Abraham and Sarah too, if you pay attention.)

This movie is the only one that is made by Jews living in their neighborhood in Jerusalem, thus one gets an authentic glimpse into their very private lives. The characters have humor, faith and gentleness.

One can watch the movie online or buy it from Amazon or rent it from the JCC. It is in Hebrew with English subtitles.

Special Qiddush

Please join Sisterhood for a special Shabbat qiddush honoring Carole and Paul Bass as our 2014-15 Book of Life recipients October 11.

Donations bear fruit

With some of the donation from Sisterhood the two bathrooms upstairs have been renovated.

Sisterhood has purchased new environmentally friendly tablecloths for use during our Shabbat Qiddushim. Thanks go to all those who have washed tablecloths.

Learning Living Sharing Linking

Sisterhood dues letters will be sent out this month. Dues are still only $25. Please help support Women’s League for Conservative Judaism by becoming a member. For more information contact www.wlcj.org or call (212) 870-1260 and ask for membership.
Meet Stefan Kostolitz, Youth Group Coordinator

Shalom everyone, my name is Stefan Kostolitz and I will be working as the BEKI-BJ Youth Group Coordinator this coming year. I’d like to introduce myself as I imagine I may be meeting many of you at services or a BEKI-BJ youth group event.

I am a graduate of Ezra Academy, Cheshire High School, and most recently, the University of Vermont (UVM). In college I was an active participant with UVM Hillel. I volunteered for four Alternative Spring Break trips to New Orleans & L.A. and worked as a Peer Network Engagement Intern, engaging Jewish students through events, dinners, and Jewish conversations. After graduating, I joined AmeriCorps, a national service organization, and moved to the West Coast to serve with City Year. As a City Year corps member, I mentored and tutored 6th graders from an inner city Seattle middle school both during school and afterschool. After my service year, I moved back to Connecticut and worked for Community Health Center in Middletown, educating and enrolling uninsured community members under the Affordable Care Act. I will return to school this year part-time to pursue a career in healthcare.

I am very excited to get to know and work alongside the members of our BEKI-BJ Chapter youth groups! I believe this year will bring about fun, innovative, and meaningful Jewish events for our youth group members. Our first Chapter event for Kadima & USY was on Sept. 14. Please come meet other youth-group members, explore events planned for the year, and most importantly, have fun. I can be contacted at (203) 213-1067, Bekibjusy@gmail.com, and Bekibjkadima@gmail.com and welcome any ideas, thoughts, or questions.

Stefan Kostolitz
Fall Back

Resume Eastern Standard Time on Sunday morning Nov. 2; turn your clocks back one hour.

Torah Reading

David Wright is coordinating Torah Readings through Simhat Torah. Rachel Light is coordinating the readings for Bereishit, Oct. 18 to Jan. 3. Thanks to Darryl Kuperstock for coordinating the Torah readings of BeMidbar.

War Relief

USCJ is a partner in the Stop the Sirens war relief campaign, as well as in Syrian war relief. For information see www.uscj.org or locally https://www.jewishnewhaven.org.

Jewish Family Service Food Pantry

Non-perishables needed. Food must not be expired and food packages must not be open. Collection area at JCC and Pantry. Contact Enid Groves (203) 387-2424 x267.

Amazon Commission

If you are buying items from Amazon and use the link on BEKI’s homepage beki.org (bottom) then BEKI will receive a small commission on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link.

New: Introduction to Heart Rhythm Meditation

Have you ever wanted to practice Meditation with a Jewish Flavor? Have you ever wanted to practice Meditation in a group? Have you ever wished it was easier for you to reach your inner place of experiencing God’s presence? If so, you are welcome to attend ‘Introduction to Heart Rhythm’ series of 30 minute drop-in Meditations on Monday nights, in the Library at 6:20 p.m., hosted by Robin Goldberg, a new BEKI member and a Heart Rhythm Meditation Instructor. We will sit in chairs, so no special equipment or clothing is needed. Open to people of any age who are able to sit quietly with their eyes closed in a group for 20 minutes. Heart Rhythm Meditation may have beneficial effects for our bodies, our minds, our hearts and our spirituality. Through Oct. 20. Info Robin Goldberg (203) 558-2214 Goldberg.Robin@gmail.com.

Images for Website

Eric Dunsker requests digital or high quality film photos for use in the update to the BEKI website. Any film-based photos will be scanned and returned. Email digital photos to edanziger0@yahoo.com, or make arrangements with me to transfer the photos via USB thumb drive.

Elders of Zion

Learn, lunch, and try something new. It’s free, thanks to the Jewish Home for the Aged Building Fund.

Monday, Oct. 6: 10 a.m. - Try Gentle Yoga for Seniors with Debbie Kahan; 11 a.m. - Learn with Attorney Donna Levine, Issues in Elder Law; 12:15 p.m. – Lunch is served, discussion with Attorney Levine.

Monday, Oct. 13: 10 a.m. – Try Gentle Yoga (again!) with Debbie Kahan; 11 a.m. – Learn with Hon. Elaine Braffman, Israel & the Media; 12:15 p.m. – Lunch is served, Ask the Rabbi with Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Monday, October 27: 10 a.m. – Gentle Yoga with Debbie Kahan; 11 a.m. – Learn with Dr. Steven Werlin, Shul Art and Archeology; 12:15 p.m. – Lunch is served, Ask the Rabbi with Jon-Jay Tilsen

Need transportation? We can arrange it for free. Call Ina Silverman at (203) 389-2108 x13 or principal@beki.org to RSVP

New Website Tests Plastic

With the launch of BEKI’s new website due this fall, the Executive Board once again wrestled with the question of whether to allow payment of various BEKI expenses by charge card. The dilemma? The cost to BEKI is significant, averaging about 2.5% of payments. If people who formerly paid by check begin to use charge cards for dues, pledges, contributions, etc., our income will decrease by as much as $12,000 annually, and we need that income. However, we also know that we might collect more of our payments if we add the convenience of charging them to our toolbox.

So, a compromise was reached. We will begin to allow folks to charge items on the website, but there will be a place to voluntarily add the charge costs to your transaction. After a year or so we will determine if it is cost-effective and affordable for us to continue to allow the use of charge cards. Because of the complexity and costs, we will only allow VISA and Master Card to be utilized. Stay tuned and watch for our new initiative.

Those of you who are able to pay BEKI obligations by donating appreciated securities or making a rollover payment from an IRA might want to consider making your payments in that manner—a better deal all around. If you would like to discuss these rules, feel free to contact me by phone or email: 203-985-9033, sdsij@aol.com.

Donna Levine
Chair, BEKI Finance Committee
BMKC: New Name, Same Great Kiddush

The BMKC, formerly known as the B’nai Mitzvah Kiddush Committee, is now called the B’nai Mitzvah Kiddush Collaborative. The name change is to more clearly reflect the intention of the group, which is a collaborative of BEKI members working together to prepare a qiddush for a bar- or bat-mitzva. Families who would like to have the BMKC prepare the qiddush for their child(ren)’s simha are required to provide two years of sweat equity for each simha, with at least one of those years occurring before their child’s simha. Some members of the Collaborative fulfilled this obligation years ago, but feel that the mission of the BMKC is one that they want to continue to support so have stayed involved.

So what is the mission of the BMKC? Simply stated, the goal of the BMKC is that any member family no matter what their financial situation is able celebrate a Shabbat bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI.

We all know that celebrating benei mitzva with the BEKI community is a joyous event. Unfortunately, the cost of providing a qiddush for guests and the entire congregation has created financial hardship for some families and has precluded others from celebrating their B’nai Mitzvah in the BEKI community. In 2010 in response to a demonstrated need for more affordable beni mitzva qiddush celebrations, a group of BEKI volunteers came together with the goal of creating a sustainable structure to enable all families, regardless of their financial resources, to celebrate benei mitzva on Shabbat at BEKI. With the B’nai Mitzvah Kiddush Collaborative in place, BEKI families have the option of hiring a caterer to prepare the food for their child’s Shabbat Bar or Bat Mitzvah or joining the BMKC and working with others to prepare food for BEKI simhot.

When should I join the BMKC? Any BEKI member can join the BMKC at any time even if they do not have a child who will be having a bar or bat mitzvah. It is a great group of people and we have a lot of fun. If you do have a child with an approaching bar- or bat-mitzva we ask that you join the committee at least a year prior to your simha so that half or more of your two-year commitment is completed before your event.

What if I cannot afford the cost of the BMKC? While the cost to use the BMKC is significantly less than the cost for a caterer it is still a hardship for some families in our community. In light of that we have established a BMKC Tzedaka Fund to help those families who need financial assistance to pay the BMKC fees. Details of how to access this Fund can be found in the BMKC contract. Contributing to the BMKC Tzedaka fund is a wonderful way to acknowledge a simha and a number of our bar- and bat-mitzva’s have asked for contributions to the BMKC in lieu of gifts insuring that their peers will also be able to celebrate their Shabbat morning bar- or bat-mitzva at BEKI.

For more details regarding the BMKC please contact the BEKI office. The BMKC contract which includes details about the Collaborative can be found on the BEKI website (www.beki.org) in the forms section.
Torah for the Hungry Mind – Adult Studies

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.
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 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 least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

Sundays

Origins: The Genesis Mythology

Time: 9:45 to 11:15 a.m., following Shaharit services.
Place: BEKI’s George Posener Daily Chapel.

Enrich your High Holiday experience by participating in this course on the book of Genesis (Bereishit). Rabbi Alan Lovins will examine the historical and literary context of the Torah, exploring the ways in which the book of Genesis represents a revolutionary break with the world from which it emerged. Over eight weeks participants will read the stories of the book of Genesis, discussing them in depth and gaining new understanding and insights regarding the basic message of the Jewish Scripture. The first session will be an historical and literary introduction to Genesis, contrasting it to the prevailing mythological world view of other contemporary cultures.

In ensuing sessions the class will read and discuss the following stories: Creation; Cain and Abel; the Flood; the Tower of Babel; and Sodom and Gomorrah. The class concludes with a session to review thoughts and insights gained.

The following text is required:
Nahum Sarna, Understanding Genesis (published in 1970), available in paperback from Amazon.com and not expensive.

Rabbi Lovins also recommends The Torah, a New Translation of the Holy Scriptures (Jewish Publication Society of America, 1962). This is not required but highly recommended and very readable.

By way of introduction to the course Rabbi Lovins explains that the Torah, the basic document of the Jewish religion, teaches values and promotes principles that help civilize humankind and enhance our quality of life. It is not history or science as we understand those today. The book of Genesis teaches many of Judaism’s revolutionary insights and truths via myth. Many of these circulated among the peoples in the Middle East thousands of years ago, and the Jews gave them their own unique direction and stamp, by which we deviated from paganism and more primitive morality. It is a lesson in how the Jews differed and developed ideology that has sustained us and kept us relevant for three thousand years. We will see how our myth was a version of the more universal myth of the region and the times. Our story enabled us to eliminate magic from the Jewish religion. We will attempt to see how we differed and went on to establish a world view that was radical and more adaptive to the times—a religious and ethical world view that became the basis of the other two Abrahamic faiths, Christianity and Islam, and the cornerstone of the Western

Continued on Page 13
World.

All sessions are free and open to the public and no registration is necessary. Attendance at all sessions is encouraged but not required. For further information call the BEKI office, (203) 389-2108.

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 Columbus Day, Oct. 13, morning services begin at 9 o’clock for Columbus Day and will extend to 10:25 due to the Sukkot liturgy; the RSG will not meet that morning. 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.

“Word for the Week” will be on holiday recess in October and will return on 5 November.

**Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group**

The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets on Thursdays during the lunch hour (noon to 1:00p). 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. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office icoooper@cooperlaw.net. The Sanhedrin Study Group is on recess until resuming Oct. 23.

**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](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.
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At Whitney (Opposite K of C Hall)
Jane Cooperman Exhibits at BEKI Art Gallery

Chicago textile artist Jane Cooperman, exhibiting in the BEKI Art Gallery from Oct. 29 through Nov. 30, will be on hand to discuss her work following qiddush on Shabbat, Nov. 29.

During the course of her career as an artist, Jane moved from traditional painting to working in silk as a medium which she found “speaks to me in the language of essence about moments in the past and moments of beginnings. It asks to be recorded upon with deep saturation living within the fiber, not floating on the surface, calling to be listened to and viewed, touched, wrapped and draped and in return bestows quiet and comfort and deepening understanding.”

Much of her work is finished as prayer shawls, free-hanging panels, and traditionally stretched paintings.

For the past 15 years her work has reflected the stories of the Torah and, more recently, meditations on the Zohar. She explains, “Genesis is the delta of our story’s river, from there that history mingles with all histories, in an ocean of civilizations. Creating visions that are pre-linguistic, going back to the primal emotions, to the color.”

Her current work is focused on combining paint and textiles to explore, reveal and re-envision the essence of ancient sacred texts, stories and symbols, while connecting their relevance to contemporary experience. She describes her approach as psycho-physical, integrating the potential inherent tactile properties of textiles with the visual resonances and reflections of personal themes.

The tallit displayed at BEKI were created with the help of her cousin, Karen Bieber, “whose knowledge of halakhon the subject and skills as a seamstress helped me to turn each of these pieces into a tallit imbued with spiritual meaning.”

Artist Miriam Stern, right, discusses her work on Sept. 7, the final day of her show at BEKI.
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

FIDDLING ON THE ROOF WHILE ROME BURNS
or
DON’T BLAME ME – I’M FROM MINNESOTA

[Clip and Save for the next crisis]

After Ronald Reagan took office in 1981, Minnesota drivers favored the bumper sticker, “Don’t Blame Me – I’m from Minnesota,” in light of the fact that Minnesota was one of six states won by Vice Presidential candidate Walter Mondale and his running mate and not by soon-to-be President Reagan. It turned out, though, that whatever we thought of Reagan’s presidency, the blame or credit by state didn’t matter much since we all live in the same country.

As Jews we are all in the same boat of responsibility, blame and credit, whether we want to be or not. It doesn’t matter whether you love or despise the current administration in Israel, or whether you are uninvolved or anti or firm in your commitments. It doesn’t matter which synagogue you go to or which one you wouldn’t step foot in. As our sages said long ago, “Kol-Yisrael arevin ze ba-ze – All members of the Jewish People are held responsible for one another.” This is both descriptive and prescriptive – it describes the reality, and suggests an attitude of thought and a guide to behavior.

The barrage of missiles and march of troops, the sirens and explosions, the body counts and scare videos from the Gaza War (most recent, prior or next, you choose) can be most disturbing to us, even at a distance, due to our deep connections with the People of Israel and the Land of Israel, even for those of us whose families are not directly affected. The virulent and vulgar anti-Semites around the globe who have climbed out of their tunnels like Zombies on Groundhog Day, and the well-dressed and gentile anti-Semites who don’t look crazy or menacing, bring back our worst nightmares and give us an insight into how things could have gone so wrong in the “most civilized” parts of Europe 75 years ago.

And then we are told that if only we jump on the anti-Israel bandwagon we can save ourselves from being the target of the demonstrations, hate speech, boycotts and physical violence. “Death to the Jews” – no, sorry, we meant “Death to Israel” – we always get those chants mixed up; just a mental block.

The politics and the political theatre are complex and can make our heads spin. Israeli politics on its own is highly charged and complicated; go try to understand Arab politics, which occur without a free press and under extreme duress. Experts who profess a desire for a similar outcome can not agree on what the effects of any action or policy might be in a system more complicated than the weather and impossible to model.

The grand schemes for the Jewish-Arab conflict at most can solve some problems while worsening or ignoring others. Short of grand schemes, what can we do?

Continued on Page 17
Whatever your path, here are a few rules of the road, tips on how do “do the right thing.”

Avoid exacerbating hatred and dehumanization. A cabinet member saying to an Arab-Israeli Knesset member, “When you were still climbing trees, we had a Jewish state here,” or chanting “Death to the Arabs” as some hooligans did in downtown Jerusalem, is wrong and intolerable. There are enough real things to hate; there is no need to generalize or misdirect our feelings of offense.

Avoid spreading atrocity stories. The reality is bad enough. The claim that “the Jews are slaughtering Christians in Gaza” (stated in an interview with a Gazan woman on an English TV station, which went unchallenged by the newscaster) is a bit of an exaggeration, as the exact number of Christians killed was zero. The power station that was reportedly “destroyed during the most relentless and widespread Israeli bombardment of the current conflict,” Gaza’s only power plant which reportedly was “finished” and which would take “at least one year to repair” – the one about which Amnesty International said its crippling amounted to “collective punishment of Palestinians” – is up and ready to operate already (mid-September, that is, within a month of the incident), according to Palestinian Arab news sources. It is unknown who bombed it in the first place. Making up atrocity stories sows needless hatred and fear, makes reactions disproportionate, undermines credibility and inures the public to real atrocities.

Call out your friends, colleagues and relatives who are promoting falsehood and hatred. Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but not entitled to make things up or promote racism and dehumanization. If the bandwagon is heading for a cliff, don’t join it; play a different tune. Be polite and truthful. Maybe learn a little history.

Be principled and consistent about your values and aims. Do you really care about international law, or the UN charter? Should all displaced persons and refugees have the same claims and rights? Is there a difference between a principled viewpoint and propaganda? Are you interested in the truth or in scoring points?

Know which side you are on. Are you a neutral observer offering mediation services? An advocate for the disenfranchised or underdog, whoever that is, or an advocate for Israel and Jewish interests or for Palestinian Arab interests or American interests? A critic of the Israeli government no matter what it does? A champion of human rights, or a propagandist? My country right or wrong? There is no one else to support the interests of the Jewish People – which includes the best behavior of our own institutions as well as sticking up for our rights (whether or not we choose to exercise them or compromise on them). It is easy to criticize, but hard to take responsibility. It is easy to tear down, but hard to build.

Build, don’t destroy. Build our local institutions, build our next generation right here in New Haven, build a better Jewish People and a better Israel. Learn with an open mind your own history and current events. Support the causes you care about. Be proud of your synagogue, your community and your people.

While none of this is sure to change the world, it may change you.
### October 2014

#### 7 Tishri 5775 - 7 Heshvan 5775

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<td>7:45am Rash Study Group</td>
<td>7:30pm Israeli Dance</td>
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<td>5:55pm Festival Ma’dor</td>
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<td>9:45am &quot;Genesis Stories as Jewish Myth&quot; class #5 w/Rabbi Alan Lovins</td>
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<td>11:00am &quot;Issues in Elder Law&quot; with Attorney Donna Levine</td>
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<td>7:00pm Rashi Study Group</td>
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<td>9:00am Religious School</td>
<td>9:45am &quot;Genesis Stories as Jewish Myth&quot; class #8 w/Rabbi Alan Lovins</td>
<td>10:30am &quot;Soul Art &amp; Archeology&quot; with Dr. Steven Werlin</td>
<td>4:00pm Religious School</td>
<td>12:00pm Talmud Study Group</td>
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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
- Before sunset: Minha

#### Saturdays
- 9:15 a.m. Shaharit
The Genesis Stories as Jewish Myth class holds its first meeting in September.