



PURIM AT BEKI: BE HAPPY IT'S ADAR

Be Happy It's Adar

משנכנס אדר מרבים בשמחה

Mishenikhnas Adar marbim besimha – When Adar begins, joy accumulates. – Talmud Eruvin 29a

Mishloah Manot – Purim Baskets

Contact the office at 203-389-2108 x 14 or office@beki.org if you need a form to order Purim Baskets. Please distribute mishloah manot on Purim evening and day.

Shabbat Zakhor

The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, Shabbat 19 March 2016. This Sabbath is marked by reading 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 twenty 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

SHABBAT QIDDUSH UPDATE

What’s the price of community?

The question is uncomfortable. Community means friendship, shared interests and support. But as we re-learn every annual appeal and dues statement, community also requires space – and in our case, food. Is it qiddush yet?

Feeding our community takes member support, financial and in-kind, given generously over years by qiddush sponsors and “Kiddush Committee” (KC) volunteers - plus the “BMQC Team” that makes qiddush for benei mitzva. Sponsors celebrate weddings and anniversaries, birthdays and graduations, new jobs and retirements, remember loved ones, and honor many other events. And as sponsors share life-cycle milestones, we all share the ups and downs of daily life over the qiddush meal. For many of us, qiddush lunch conversation is a highlight of our week.

Our KC teams serve on average 150 people each Shabbat year-round, plus some 10-12 “hagg qiddushim” on the holidays, and have done so for nearly 15 years. The program seems unique in our area, maybe part of why BEKI membership is growing even as many shuls struggle. This record is remarkable, especially given our commitment to generous abatement policies; we turn away no one for lack of funds. In the ongoing debate on “the high cost of Jewish life,”

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BEKI Bulletin

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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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Purim

Continued from Page 1

an era that does not know the threat of genocide. This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn (5:26a Eastern Daylight Time) on Wednesday 23 March 2016. The Wednesday *shaharit* morning service is from 7a to 7:45a 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 *minha* afternoon service is at 5:45p. The fast ends at 7:38p EDT, or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

See Rabbi Tilsen’s essay, [The Problem of Purim](#).

Megilla Readings 23 & 24 March 2016

Most of the Jewish world will observe Purim on Wednesday night 23 March and the following day, Thursday 24 March 2016.

The Wednesday afternoon service is from 5:45p to 6:20p. The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read during the evening services (6:30p to 8p) on Wednesday Night 23 March, and then again during the Thursday morning service, which begins at 8:15a (ending 10:05a) on 24 March. The reading is from the scroll produced according to ancient custom, which, like a Torah scroll, is hand-written on parchment by a trained *sofer*. 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* (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 insure 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

Purim Seuda (Feast & Party)

Thursday 24 March 2016, 5:30p-7:30p

Downstairs Social Hall

Light Dairy dinner will be served

\$15 per adult, \$13 per child (age 3-12); free age 0-2

Preregistration by noon 21 March 2016

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.

Persons associated with Occupy Shushan, Occupy BEKI, or other Occupy groups must remain behind police barriers, *or else*. Since our police are unarmed (see above), Occupy participants are asked to be especially gentle in any confrontation.

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 18 centimeters).

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 24 March from 5:30p to 7:30p; payment and reservation are required. The registration form is at 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 24 March and Friday 25 March 2016. 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 evening from 5:45p–6:10p, and then again on Friday morning from 7a–7:30a, for this joyous non-recital marking Shushan Purim.



Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דַּרְשָׁנִים

Darshanim

Darshan – *noun, plural dar·sha·nim.* Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggadah or Halakha in a synagogue.

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

Bruce Oren, *parashat Pequdei*, 12 March

Jaden Labowe-Stoll, *bar mitzva, parashat Tsav*, 26 March

Nanette Stahl, *parashat Shemini – Shabbat Para*, 2 April

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shulgoers alike to explore the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, with Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela, Isaiah Cooper 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



Nanette Stahl



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela

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

Beginning Hebrew with Will

Beginning Hebrew with Will meets every other Saturday morning from 10:45a – 11:45a in the office (on the weeks that Shabbat Shalom Torah Study does not meet). Practice Hebrew listening, speaking, and Alef-Bet recognition. Modern Hebrew; suitable for those interested in Biblical and Prayer Book study as well. Free; all welcome. With Will Auriemme. Now through 23 April 2016.

Sundays

Alef-Bet Workshop

Three Sunday Evenings beginning 24 January 2016.

For people who wish to learn to read the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, or who wish a refresher course in sounding (“decoding”) written Hebrew. (*If you’re ready for the next step, see “Prayer Book Hebrew” below.*) Registration and book fee \$3 per person. Register at office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x14 so that a textbook can be ordered for you. Everyone welcome.

Prayer Book Hebrew 101

Six Sunday Evenings Beginning 6 March 2016.

Learn the elements of *siddur* (prayerbook) Hebrew. Also appropriate for beginners in Biblical and Modern Hebrew. For people who already know how to “read” (sound-out or “decode”) the Hebrew Alef-bet. (*If you’re not quite ready for this course, see “Alef-Bet Workshop” above.*)

Registration and book fee is \$36. Please register at office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x14 so that a textbook can be ordered for you. Everyone welcome.

Class meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library from 6:15p (following 5:45p afternoon & evening services in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel) to 7:15p on each Sunday beginning 6 March 2016. Class meets regardless of weather conditions.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study

Continued on Page 5

Adult Studies

Continued from Page 4

Group (RSG) is reading Shemuel Bet (Second Samuel), called “second” as it is the second volume of a single continuous narrative split in two for convenience. 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



Jon-Jay Tilsen

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.

Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot

With Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen. Six Monday Nights, 14 March to 18 April 2016, 6:10p to 7:15p (Immediately following 5:45p mincha & maariv services).

For adults wishing an overview of the Principles of Jewish thought and life. Ideal for people new to Judaism, considering conversion, or wishing to undertake a systematic study and practice of Judaism. Free of charge. Topics include The Torah; Halakha (Jewish Law); The Mitzva System; 3,600 Years of Jewish History; God of Israel; Fundamental Observances; Conservative & Other Judaism; Messiah; Eternal Life; Talmud Torah; The Sabbath; Homeland.

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, 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.



Murray Levine

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 8:15a to 9:15a on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7:00a.

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets on Thursdays from 1p to 2p and 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. Class will not meet on Purim, 24 March 2016.



Isaiah Cooper

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. With Rabbi Tilsen.

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

A [collection of Divrei Torah](#) (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen are posted on BEKI’s website under “Learning.”



Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Julie Cohen with sympathy to Clarence & Helen Bromell at the passing of son Spencer Bromell
- **Qiddush Sponsors** (minimum \$280)
- Alan Rosner
- The Korda-Grutzendler family
- Gloria Cohen
- Friends & Supporters of BEKI in honor of Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen
- Helen Rosenberg
- Jennifer Botwick
- Bobbie & Harold Miller

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

- In honor of the Aliyah of Galen Frederick Lowell by Eleanor Stutz
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Rita & Nadav Sela
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Karen, Roy & Hannah Herbst
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by the Rastelli-Weiner family
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by the Avni-Singer family
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by the Freiman-Light family
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by the Rastelli-Weiner family
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by Jennifer Fleming
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by David Wright
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Seth Pauker & Tina Rose
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Seth Pauker & Tina Rose
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing or Robert Oakes by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins

- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To the Friedman & Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Julie Cohen & Larry Visochek
- To the Zlotoff & Kemper family with sympathy on the passing of Robert Zlotoff by Cathie & Ron Miller
- To BEKI in loving memory of her beloved husband David Aaron Sagerman by his wife Amy Doris Israel Sagerman
- To BEKI in loving memory of our father, our hero David Aaron Sagerman, by his sons Robert & Jeffrey Sagerman
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Margie & Jay Hirshfield
- To the Freiman-Light family in honor of the birth of Ramona by Margie & Jay Hirshfield
- To the Freiman-Light family in honor of the birth of Ramona by Gloria Cohen
- To the Freiman-Light family in honor of the birth of Ramona by the Birn family
- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of Ilana & Jonathan's wedding by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of the wedding of Ilana & Jonathan by Julie Cohen & Larry Visochek
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Birn family
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Julie Cohen & Larry Visochek
- To Guido Secchiaroli in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- To Owen Kempton in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- To the Freiman-Light family in honor of the birth of Ramona by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- To the Friedman & Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- To Benjamin & Aaron Bruce in honor of their B'nei Mitzva by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- To the Freiman-Light family in honor of the birth of Ramona by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by Sherry Kent
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Sherry Kent
- To the Freiman-Light family in honor of the birth of Ramona by Sherry Kent
- To the Friedman & Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Marius Sanger

- To the Friedman & Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Mark Yecies
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Edwin & Fern Beschler
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow with sympathy on the passing of Sidney Silverman by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade

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

- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by Leon Cummings
- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Harold Miller in honor of the 60th anniversary of his Bar Mitzva by Debbie & David Kaye
- To Carol Katz in honor of her 70th birthday by Toby & Alan Ignal

BEKI Religious School

- To Bill Shragis with sympathy on the passing of Anne Pearly Korman Shragis by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund

- To the Freiman-Light family in honor of the birth of Ramona by Sid & Donna Levine
- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of the wedding of Ilana & Jonathan by Helene Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Raina Sotsky & Morris Bell
- The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
- To Tracy Michael Wolfe & Jonathan Wolfe with sympathy on the passing of Jay Michael by Rena Cheskis-Gold, Marty Gold & family
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold & family with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold & family with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold & family with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Raina Sotsky & Morris Bell
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold & family with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Sydney Perry

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of her sister Cindy Gimbel Bayback by Betsy, Howie, Shilo, Indigo & Mikki Ratner
- To Clarence Bromell and family with sympathy on the passing of Spencer Bromell by Betsy Ratner

Rabbi Andrew Klein Scholarship Fund

- Rabbi Mindy A. Portnoy

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

- In memory of Louis, Rose, Max & Sam Rogoff and Raye Leavitt, Ida Rogoff Byer and Ann Burstein by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Jack Yasgar by Howard Yasgar
- In loving memory of her mother Eunice S. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Mildred Israel by Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Louis Israel by Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Mary Sagerman by Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Nat Dial by Doris Sagerman
- In memory of Haie-Bertha Naiman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Anne Irwin by Helene & Edward Vanderhoef
- In memory of Wilbur Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- In memory of Sam Miller by Richard & Vicki Miller
- In memory of Gertrude Slopak by David Schwartz
- In memory of Louis Rachlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Dr. Nathan Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
- In memory of Sidney Yaffe by Clifford Yaffe
- In memory of Kate Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein & family
- In memory of her father George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Max Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Ida Akresh by Murray & Barbara Akresh
- In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- In memory of Ruth Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
- In memory of Annie Cohen by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Philip Abramowitz by Marcia & John Gell
- In memory of Sidney Cushen by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Louis & Anna Ginzberg by Barbara & Alvin Greenberg
- In memory of Rita Moscovitz by Michael Moscovitz
- In memory of Sherman Granoff by Jeff Granoff
- In memory of her father Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Karel Citroen by Sascha van Creveld
- In memory of Ronda Bromberg by Debbie & Louis Siegel
- In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- In memory of Rose Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- In memory of her parents Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick
- In memory of Irving Nabatoff by Carol Nabatoff
- In memory of Rubin Schwartz by David Schwartz
- In memory of Eleanor Helper by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

Qiddush

Continued from Page 1

BEKI always seeks to be an option for all Jews, regardless of finances; that commitment remains as bedrock as our commitment to community itself.

We achieve this via the volunteers who support all of BEKI's communal life, including qiddush. Each week an all-volunteer KC team finds sponsors, plans menus, shops, then meets at BEKI to chop, stir and whip up a Sabbath feast. Qiddush teams are fun, there's nothing like the camaraderie of cooking pots. But they also take time. In recent years we have lost many dedicated KC members who moved away or had to quit for various other reasons. Some KC teams are down to four or five "regulars", no joke when prepping a meal for 150. And listed "alternates" are not always available when needed to sub.

Sadly, we also lost the separate "Hagg Qiddush Team" headed for years by a member who is away for professional development. Regular Shabbat teams have filled in ad hoc, but that has stretched thin resources even thinner. Many hagg qiddush meals got to table only by using outside caterers, which added cost; meantime, without a dedicated team, no one committed to finding sponsors for every hagg qiddush.

As costs kept rising, our sponsorship fee has stayed steady at \$280/qiddush for 6+ years. That means we've served full, healthy meals to 150 for \$1.86/person. Try that at home and you'll see how much creativity and dedication that requires. With California droughts spiking food prices, despite juggling by our Finance Committee wizards, Shabbat and especially hagg qiddush sponsorships no longer cover costs. While qiddush meals are community-builders, not fund-raisers, we hope to keep them "revenue-neutral." Right now, we have deficits.

In sum, the BEKI community has reached a crossroads in our ability to keep providing the qiddush services we have become used to. Some changes are needed:

First, we must face hard facts about financing. Despite seeking to keep qiddush sponsorships as affordable as possible, fees will have to go up for the first time since 2009. **Effective immediately, the new fee for a standard qiddush lunch at BEKI is \$320 (co-sponsorships \$160).** This still represents a bargain \$2.13 per meal. And, we have an increasing focus on group sponsorships, so members who may not feel ready for a full or half sponsorships can share in this community fun.

Second, more crucially than money, **we URGENTLY need new regular, committed Shabbat Kiddush Committee team members.** You can shop, chop, even food-label (requested by several people not currently volunteering with the KC: no gluten added, dairy-free, etc.). If you can help with qiddush, even once a month or less, please talk

with Ellen Cohen (KC scheduling coordinator), Rebecca Weiner (sponsor coordinator), or any KC team captain: Shoshana Zax-Weiser, Elizabeth Karpf, Darryl Kuperstock or Angela Oren.

Third, money and volunteer shortages have come to a head around holidays. It just isn't working financially or in volunteer burnout to make 10-12 Hagg Qiddushim/year ad hoc. Sadly, **until and unless new volunteers take over, there will be no more regular Hagg Qiddush meals at BEKI**, except when holidays coincide with Shabbat. If a new team wants to form to manage Hagg Qiddushim, from finding sponsors to prepping and cleaning up after, that will be joyfully welcomed. Shabbat KC team leaders will happily share sample menus and recipes, give kitchen tours, teach BEKI [kashrut standards](#), and otherwise support a new team. But for regular Hagg Qiddushim to happen going forward, someone new must step up to the plate.

If no one steps forward, we will know that the human and financial "prices" of frequent Hagg Qiddushim right now feel too high. That may not be a bad thing. We will keep meeting in shul to celebrate Yom Tov, say "*Hagg Sameah*," and invite each other home for meals. We will keep celebrating Hagg Qiddushim at BEKI that have dedicated sponsors and teams, like the Posener Memorial Break-fast (sponsored in perpetuity by the late George G. Posener). We hope to keep special events like Pizza in the Sukka, BEKI-Ezra Supper and Heat Wave. KC teams may also organize *some* ad hoc Yom Tov meals, especially if new volunteers help. But unless a new Hagg Qiddush team forms, Yom Tov with meals served at BEKI will now be the exception, not the rule.

Finally, **we are planning minimal beverages-and-cookies-only qiddushim on some regular Saturdays** when scheduling around Jewish and/or secular holidays makes prepping a full qiddush meal extra challenging. We encourage all members who can to invite friends old and new for a Sabbath lunch at home on those days. In 2016, there will be beverages-and-cookies-only served for qiddush in shul on the first shabbat of Pesach (please consider taking friends home for Seder leftovers!), and the shabbat right after Thanksgiving (please consider taking friends home for turkey pot pie!). Other beverages-and-cookies-only days may be announced as the year goes on.

We hope with these changes, *and at least a few more volunteers*, the existing KC teams will be able to keep for the foreseeable future providing delicious, nutritious qiddush lunches *almost* every shabbat, and some Yom Tov, providing us all with a shared meal and a chance to keep building community in our shared spiritual home, at a cost that feels reasonable to us all.



Every Shabbat we choose a congregant to read out loud a prayer for our Country, Israel and Peace.

We would like to offer a prayer of thanks for our congregation.

May our entire congregation be blessed as our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. Lord, give thanks to those who give funds for heat and light, wine for *qiddush* and *havdala*, bread to the wayfarer and charity to the poor, and all who devotedly involve themselves with the needs of this community and the Land of Israel. Bless them by prospering all their worthy endeavors.

Toda Raba, MGG

This month gives Sisterhood a chance to thank all the women who became new members and those who renewed their membership for the 2016 year.

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Once again we are featuring a nice selection of Passover items for your Passover table.

Please come in to the gift store Sunday 11a-12:15p or Wednesday 5:30-6:15p and by appointment.

Peggy, our office manager, will be happy to help you as well during office hours

Sunday with Sandman

Sisterhood and the Jewish Historical Society will be presenting Joshua Sandman, Ph.D., Professor at College of Arts & Science at the University of New Haven who will be presenting a talk on The Obama Administration, Israel and the Middle East: A New Policy Direction.

Sunday March 27, 2016 at 9:30a in the social hall, coffee and pastries will be served prior to Dr. Sandman's presentation.

LifeCycle

Benei Mitzva

Jaden Labowe-Stoll, son of Sara J. Labowe and of Steven Stoll & Leslie Powell, 25-26 March 2016, *parashat Tsav*.

Reserve Your Date

Bar- and bat-mitzva celebrants for 2016 to 2020 who do not have a written confirmation of a date reservation may wish to reserve a date by contacting Peggy at office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x14. Dates are available on a first-come basis to members. Your early reservation maximizes your chance to reserve your choice of dates.

It's Almost Purim!

BEKI will be handling orders for your Purim bags in-house again this year instead of using an outside company as we have the past two years.

In February's mid-month mailing, you will be receiving a paper or email form.

You can either print out or fill in and mail back a paper order form or download the fillable form, clicking your options and emailing it back to office@beki.org

Mail a check to the BEKI Office with your paper order form (or after emailing your fillable form back) or pay by credit card on BEKI's website.

May this be a joyous Purim for everyone!

Mazal tov to

Steve & Sherry Rothman on the birth of grandson Moshe Chaim Carr, and to parents Danielle & Aryeh, and to sisters Ita Leah and Esti; born in December.



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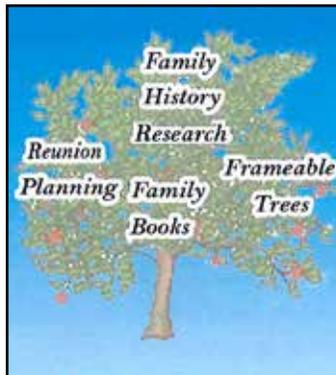
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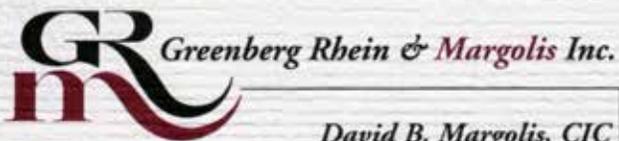
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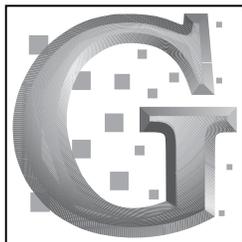


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BEKI Participates In Refugee Resettlement

In December 2015, BEKI helped to form the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR), a collaboration of five synagogues working together to co-sponsor refugee families arriving in our area. JCARR co-sponsors refugees who come through IRIS, the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services. Refugees may come from Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, Eritrea, Sudan, even Syria. As with all co-sponsors, we have no say in which country our family will come from. Jean Silk, a member of Temple Emanuel, serves as the Coordinator of JCARR, which is supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Rachel Doft and Rabbi Megan Doherty are the leaders of BEKI's refugee resettlement team. Our team works with teams from Congregation Mishkan Israel, Temple Emanuel, Congregation B'nai Jacob and Congregation Or Shalom in task forces that deal with Housing, Welcome, Transportation, Education, Cultural Orientation, Healthcare, Employment, Legal Services, Fund Raising and Finances.

For each refugee family we sponsor, we need to raise at least \$5,000 to help subsidize rent and other necessities for half a year, after which families are expected to be independent. Volunteers start working before a new family arrives. They find affordable housing, furnish and supply the home, and collect clothing. JCARR volunteers meet the new families at the airport, offer them a warm welcome, and provide a culturally appropriate meal upon their arrival. They help them enroll in English classes, register children for school, learn to use public transportation, navigate the American health care system, and find jobs. In some cases, sponsors obtain a donated car for refugees who know how to drive and are able to get a license. Our congregations help refugees adjust to day-to-day life in our culture by providing cultural orientation and organizing social events that help us get to know each other. As we work through challenges in cross-cultural communication, as we resolve problems that arise, as we share social experiences together, we come to understand and appreciate our differences and to recognize our commonalities, and long-lasting friendships are often the result.



To volunteer, contact Rachel Doft (rdoft@yahoo.com) and Rabbi Megan Doherty (rabbi.doherty@gmail.com) (BEKI's "Team Captains"); to contribute financially, send a check made out to "Temple Emanuel JCARR" to Peter Stolzman, 20 Peddlers Drive, Branford, CT 06405.

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 Donna Levine atsdsii@aol.com or 203-234-9867. She would be happy to assist you in your planning.

Barbara & Murray Akresh

Anonymous

Judi E. F. & Dominic Aprile

Rachel Bashevkin

Carol & Paul Bass

Eric I.B. Beller*

Miriam Benson & Jon-Jay Tilsen

Gilah Benson-Tilsen

Tova Benson-Tilsen

Abraham Bettigole*

Ida Bettigole*

Harold Birn

Borick Family

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Jay Sokolow

Susan & Robert Spear

Lisa Stanger

Marjorie Wiener

Martha Winters

David Wright

*deceased

Letters

To Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen & Congregation:

How can I begin to say thank you for all of the love and support you have shown our family during the sudden passing of our son Spencer Bromell. The love and support that has been shown and continues to be shown has uplifted and given us strength to continue on this journey we call life. For every prayer, phone call, card and flower we say thank you. Your support in attending the memorial service did not go unnoticed and for that beautiful support we say Thank you!

May God continue to bless each and every one of you.
Yours in Christ, Clarence & Helen Bromell & Family (20 January 2016)

Spring Forward

Adopt Daylight Saving Time on Sunday morning 13 March 2016. Turn your clock "ahead" one hour.

As of Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon 19 March 2016, our Minḥa service will be 5:45p–6:15p each week until after Sukkot. Maariv and Havdala will be listed as "Home Rituals," meaning that we will not have organized Saturday night services at BEKI except on special occasions in this period. Weekday services will include both Minḥa and Maariv, at the usual time, 5:45p–6:15p.

ABRAHAM'S TENT

is a community-based program with Columbus House (columbushouse.org) which, through the generosity of local religious congregations and organizations, provides shelter and case management for 12-15 weeks for a group of adult men and women experiencing homelessness 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.

Last year, 2015, was the first year that a group of men only was hosted at BEKI. In years previous to that, we had participated as supporting partners during the week a group was hosted at the Church of the Holy Spirit in West Haven. The partnership was a wonderful experience and although we switched roles last year, we once again enjoyed working with our friends from COHS and look forward to doing so again this year.

BEKI will host Abraham's Tent from March 14th to March 21st, 2016.

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 6pm 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 organizations 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 6 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 Tikun Olam committee remains in touch with several of our guests from last year and we're happy to continue to support their efforts and their moves to permanent housing.

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:

- **Attend the Heat Wave Caribbean Party, have a great time and support our efforts!**
- **DONATE funds to help defray additional costs**
- **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.)**

For more information, please contact Darryl Kuperstock, Steve Werlin, Ivan Alvarez or Rob Lettick – Coordinators of Abraham's Tent at BEKI

MAKING STUPID PEOPLE FAMOUS

The American right of free speech does not imply an obligation to listen to inanity, hate or deception.

Multiple choice: (A) I just spent ten hours listening to the idiotic words of a celebrity/candidate, which were entertaining. (B) I just spent ten hours reading the biography of an admirable historical personage. (C) I just spent ten hours sleeping.

Best answers: (B) or (C).

While it is a mistake to ignore problems and evil deeds, it is also an error to promote bad actors by unnecessarily awarding them our attention. Some people seek fame through violence or demagoguery, and others are inspired to be copycats. We should resist granting them fame. As the character McCoy says in *Friday's Child*, "What the Klingon has said is unimportant and we do not hear his words."

In training students in many fields, it turns out that it is often more valuable to reinforce correct performance than to point out errors, especially if the errors are ones that might simply be developmental stages or random misses. I have found that in helping students acquire the unusual skill of fluently decoding Hebrew, they benefit most from reading without interruption. It is like learning to ride a

bike – the rider has to focus on what works and ignore the rest. Sometimes pointing out mistakes only serves to reinforce the memory of the mistake instead of the correct action.

Who most deserves to be remembered, the victim, or the perpetrator?

At the public reading of Megilat Esther on Purim, by ancient tradition we "blot out the name" of the main villain, by swinging groggers, sounding vuvuzelas, or activating our washing machines with unbalanced loads. A bit of scorn and contempt exhibited toward the villain, however fictional, serves as a disincentive to those who might otherwise aspire to villainhood.

The Biblical passage read on Shabbat Zachor, the Sabbath immediately preceding Purim, demands that we "blot out" anything pertaining to the villain, any reference or memorial, and most especially any comparable behavior or moral fault.

סִמְשָׁה תַחַתְּךָ קִלְמֵץ רַב־תָּא הָחִמְתָּם

You shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. – Deut 25:19



March 2016

21 Adar I 5776 - 21 Adar II 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30pm Israeli Dance 21 Adar I	2 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 22 Adar I	3 1:00pm Talmud Study Group 23 Adar I	4 5:29pm Candle Lighting 24 Adar I	5 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: In honor of Grinspoon Legacy Donors 5:30pm Minha-Maariv 25 Adar I
6 9:00am Religious School 6:15pm Prayerbook Hebrew 101 with Rabbi Tilsen 26 Adar I	7 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 27 Adar I	8 7:30pm Israeli Dance 28 Adar I	9 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 29 Adar I	10 Rosh Hodesh I 1:00pm Talmud Study Group 30 Adar I	11 Rosh Hodesh II 5:37pm Candle Lighting 1 Adar II	12 Darshan: Bruce Oren 10:45am Children's Programs 11:00pm Beginning Hebrew with Will Auriemme Qiddush: TBA 5:40pm Minha-Maariv 2 Adar II
13 9:00am Religious School 6:15pm Prayerbook Hebrew 101 with Rabbi Tilsen 3 Adar II	14 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 6:10pm Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot with Rabbi Tilsen 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 4 Adar II	15 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 7:30pm Israeli Dance 5 Adar II	16 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 6 Adar II	17 1:00pm Talmud Study Group 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 7 Adar II	18 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 6:44pm (DST) Candle Lighting 8 Adar II	19 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 5:45pm Minha 9 Adar II
20 9:00am Religious School 2:00pm 20's/30's Havura Walk at Silver Sands Park, Milford (reservations requested) 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 6:15pm Prayerbook Hebrew 101 with Rabbi Tilsen 10 Adar II	21 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 6:10pm Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot with Rabbi Tilsen 11 Adar II	22 7:30pm Israeli Dance 12 Adar II	23 Fast of Esther 9:00 Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 5:45pm Fast of Esther Minha 6:30pm Maariv with Megila Reading 13 Adar II	24 Purim 8:15am Megila Reading No Talmud Study Group 5:30pm Purim Seuda (reservations required) 14 Adar II	25 Shushan Purim 6:00pm Jaden Labowe-Stoll Bar Mitzva 6:52pm Candle Lighting 15 Adar II	26 Jaden Labowe-Stoll Bar Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs 11:00am Beginning Hebrew with Will Auriemme Qiddush: Labowe & Stoll 5:45pm Minha 16 Adar II
27 9:00am Religious School 10:00am? "The Obama Administration: Israel & the Middle East" with Dr. Josh Sandman 6:15pm Prayerbook Hebrew 101 with Rabbi Tilsen 17 Adar II	28 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 6:10pm Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot with Rabbi Tilsen 7:30pm General Board Meeting 18 Adar II	29 7:30pm Israeli Dancing 19 Adar II	30 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 20 Adar II	31 1:00pm Talmud Study Group 21 Adar II		

Service Times

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

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