Selling of Hametz  
During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible hametz. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive hametz such as liquor, you can sell your hametz for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz to someone who is allowed to own it, please sign and return the form available at www.beki.org/hametz and in the literature rack. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you.

KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah  

Hagadot and Seder Plates at Giftshop  
Hagadot (do-it-yourself guide and service books) for Pesah, including the Rabbinical Assembly’s Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom, are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and wherever fine Judaica is sold. The Giftshop also offers a significant collection of decorative seder plates and other Pesah supplies (such as toy frogs).

Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz  
On the night of Thursday 21 April 2016, it is customary to perform Bediqat Hametz, the final check for leaven before Passover. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. On the next morning, Friday 22 April, it is customary to perform Biur Hametz, a final “search and destroy” mission for leaven, to insure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating hametz during the festival. Instructions for Bediqat Hametz and Biur Hametz can be found in most Hagadot, including the Rabbinical Assembly’s Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom. Hametz should not be eaten after 10:10a on Friday morning; hametz should be burned before 11:30a.

Siyyum Bekhorot: Feast or Famine  
The Fast of the First Born is Friday 22 April 2016, the morning before the first seder. Firstborn who attend the Friday
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Ask us about establishing a fund, trust or annuity to ensure BEKI’s future.

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lestanger@jewishnewhaven.org

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BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

• Call the Synagogue office: 203.389.2108
• Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
• Email: jitilsen@beki.org
• Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.

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Editor
Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen
Associate Editor
Donna Levine
Associate Editor
Donna Kemper
Associate Editor
Herbert Winer
Photographer
Charles Ludwig
Layout & Design
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morning service from 7:00a to 7:35a may conclude their fast by partaking of the *seudat mitzva* (obligatory feast) celebrating a *siyyum*, the conclusion of a study project. Services and *siyyum* will end by 8:05a. All may attend and participate in the siyyum and mini-seuda.

**Let All Who Are Hungry...**

The Seder of Pesah is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others into our homes. Our congregation comprises many people who may not have extended family locally, do not have Jewish relatives, are new to the area, or who otherwise would benefit greatly from a Seder invitation. If you are able to open your Seder to additional guests, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at your earliest opportunity at jjtilsen@beki.org. If you are able to host an adult who is a mental health services consumer or who has developmental disabilities, or would like to host another guest, please contact Special Outreach Coordinator Ina Silverman at 203.389.2108 x13 or principal@beki.org.

**Community 2nd Seder at TBS**

Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden is hosting the Masorti-Conservative Community Second Seder open to the public on the second night of Passover, Saturday night 23 April 2016.

For reservations (required) and information, contact Temple Beth Sholom 203.288.7748 bethsholomhamden@aol.com . People needing help with transportation are asked to call 203.288.7748.

**Special Service Times for Pesah**

Because the first night of Pesah coincides with Shabbat, we have a special schedule this year. Services Friday night 22 April are 6p to 6:40p.

Shabbat Festival morning service is 9:15a to noon on Shabbat 23 April. The minha afternoon service is 1:05p to 1:40p (five minutes past one o’clock to forty minutes past one o’clock) in the Beit Midrash. Evening services that night, the night of the second seder, will not be held at BEKI.

Festival morning services on Sunday 24 April 2016 are 9:15a to 11:30a, and afternoon and evening services are 5:45p to 6:15p.

**Hol HaMoed: The Intermediate Days**

While we observe the two initial and two final days of Pesah as major holidays, which include most of the restrictions on malakh (“work”) followed on Shabbat, the intermediate days are observed as semi-holidays. Ideally, one avoids or minimizes malakh during this period as well, but in our setting most observant Jews simply go to work or school as usual. *Melakha* is a technical rabbinic term used to define the set of actions that are prohibited on the Sabbath Day, based on the 39 categories of acts involved in creating the Temple, which is the Biblical context in which the term is used.

On the festival days (*hag*), tefillin are not worn, but on Hol HaMoed it is common to wear tefillin in the morning until after the amida and to remove them before Hallel. (Others omit tefillin altogether in this period.) During Hol HaMoed, as in the entire month of Nisan, the Tahanun (supplication) is omitted in the daily services. Hallel and musaf are recited daily, and the passage *Ya’ale veYavo* is included in the amida and in Birkat haMazon (grace after meals).

The prohibition against possessing and eating hametz remains in force. One should seek to make the period celebratory. In the idyllic future, the period should be a general public holiday when all can skip work without concern for income or security.

**Pesah Candle Lighting**

The first night of Passover is Friday night 23 April 2016; candle lighting in New Haven is at 7:22p. For the second night, candle lighting should be after 8:22p (an hour later). Because it is not permitted to strike matches on the Festival days, our practice is to light a flame before the festival begins that will burn at least 26 hours, and to use that flame to light the Pesah candles the second night.

Candle lighting for the seventh day, Thursday night 28 April 2016, is at 7:26p or earlier, and on Shabbat (Friday) night 29 April at 7:29p.
Pesah
Continued from Page 3

Shir HaShirim – Song of Songs
The Biblical love poetry of Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs will be read on the morning of Shabbat Pesah 30 April 2016 after the haftara reading. Tradition ascribes the work to King Solomon himself, writing 2,900 years ago. Celebrate the spring holiday of Pesah with this beautiful and moving reading.

Sefira – Counting the Omer
At the second Seder (Saturday night 23 April 2016), we begin daily sefirat ha-omer (counting of the omer), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai.

The simple home ceremony is printed in most siddurim (prayer books), including Sim Shalom, immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, sefirat ha-omer can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the sefira served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment, given the dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term omer refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day’s number.

Families with young children may use this opportunity to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom.
– Psalm 90:12

Yizkor Memorial Service
The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15a Shabbat Festival morning service on Shabbat 30 April 2016. The Festival service includes a Shaharit morning service, Hallel (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and Haftara, and the Musaf additional service, and concludes by 12:15p. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are often especially intense during the Pesah season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Day
Yom HaShoah, a memorial day for the hurban, the destruction of Jewish civilization in Europe, will be observed on Wednesday night 15 April and Thursday 16 April 2015. See the Sisterhood section in this issue for information on yellow Holocaust memorial candles.

Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut
Yom HaZikaron, Israeli Memorial Day, is observed Tuesday 21 May and Wednesday 22 May 2015; Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day, is observed on Wednesday night 22 May and Thursday 23 May 2015. These back-to-back holidays recognize the combination of suffering and joy, of sacrifice and achievement that often necessarily come together in our lives. All of these days are marked liturgically in public worship at BEKI.
Making Our Own Matza

Baking matzat mitzva, the matza to be used for the fulfillment of the requirement to eat unleavened bread at the Pesah seder, can be done only (or preferably) after the prohibition against eating or possessing hametz (leavened items) has begun, namely, the afternoon before the Pesah seder.

BEKI members have baked matzat mitzva on the afternoon before Pesah in the (then newly-renovated) BEKI kitchen since Passover 2011, when quality ovens suitable for matza baking were acquired.

Grain (wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt) is milled in a cool, dark, dry area of the building on the night before (i.e., about 24 hours before) the seder. The flour is secured (“shemura”) from moisture and heat, or any conditions that could promote leavening or other contamination. Water is drawn that evening as well to insure it is cool and clear for use on the afternoon of matza baking.

Chief Matza Bakers have studied the Shulhan Arukh and other codes to insure the rules for matza baking are strictly followed. During baking, the process is scrupulously monitored and each matza is continuously inspected.

Join Bill, David, Sascha, Noam, Jon-Jay and others on Friday morning 22 April 2016 from about 11:30a to 1:15p in the BEKI kitchen for matza baking. For info contact Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org.
Prepare for Pesah

Take a Break From Cleaning and Just Enjoy the Music

Passover is a time when we recall our exodus from Egypt. This remembrance of adversity and subsequent liberation is a chance to celebrate together and to remember others who have experienced oppression and slavery, as well as those who continue to struggle for freedom and equality. One powerful way we remember and share the experience of liberation at the seder table and in our lives is through music.

As part of your preparation for Passover please join us on Sunday 17 April at 4p for a presentation of songs celebrating freedom across ethnic and religious traditions. There is plenty of time to get rid of the hametz. But this spring you can only hear the Afro-Semitic experience at BEKI on 17 April.

The Afro-Semitic Experience is a New Haven based group, co-founded by African-American jazz pianist, Warren Byrd, and Jewish-American jazz bassist, David Chevan in 1998. Their music has been heard around the United States – the group has performed at festivals, in churches, synagogues, colleges, and wherever people come together to share their love and respect for community. Their performances are celebrations of community and culture that invariably get audiences up and dancing.

With their unique instrumentation, solid grooves, and their ability to get an audience on its feet, The Afro-Semitic Experience is redefining the jazz concert. This is a band beyond category – their music is an intricate tapestry of spiritual, world-beat, funk, jazz, cantorial, gospel, salsa, swing . . . soul-driven music. Their concerts are celebrations where they play great music, tell stories, and offer a positive and meaningful message: Unity in the Community.

At BEKI, 8 Sunday 17 April at 4p. $10 for adults; $5 for students; free for kids under 5 years. Send checks to BEKI or pay at the door.

If you are interested in helping to make a donation to underwrite this concert, please contact Shoshana Zax at shoshanazax@gmail.com
Passover: Risking It All for Rebirth

All of Passover is concealed with one phrase: betokh hayam bayabasha (and the People of Israel went) into the midst of the sea on dry ground. The whole thing is crammed into one literally impossible self-contradiction. You can either be “in the midst of the sea” or you can be “on dry ground.” But you cannot be both at the same time. After a quick reading of the text, does it mean once the People of Israel arrived at sea, then it became dry ground, or once they stepped into the midst of the sea, up to their nostrils, then it became dry ground? The Torah says they did both, and at the same time.

It seems to Rabbi Lawrence Kushner that the miracle was not that the waters parted for the Israelites but that they walked into the midst of sea, drowned, and were reborn free men and women on the other side. You want to be reborn, you want that a new and better you should emerge from the frozen hulk winter has made you, you want to be free again? Then you have to let go of the old you. You must be willing to walk into the sea on dry ground and risk it all.

There were probably many Jews who were afraid to step into the midst of the sea. They chose to bank on old, but sure slave lives. But the ones who chose to enter the water, hungry for a rebirth, were rewarded. Not with the Promised Land, but with the strange honor of being able to wander in the wilderness for forty years. Theirs was the ultimate act of faith and may have been rewarded with the ultimate gift: rebirth in the wilderness.

Patronize Your Sisterhood Gift Shop

Our Sisterhood Gift Shop has many Passover items for sale. We just received a new shipment of Seder plates and toys.

Sisterhood Gift Shop is open for your shopping convenience Sundays 11a – 12:15p, Wednesdays 5:15p – 6p, and by appointment. Please call the office or Mimi Glenn 203.397.3851.

Holocaust Remembered

Yom HaShoah is Thursday 5 May – 27 Nisan.

Sisterhood is once again selling Yellow Candles in commemoration of Yom HaShoah. Each candle is free and the suggested donation is $6, from the Sisterhood gift store. The donation will go towards the Marcel Gutman Scholarship Fund, to support our BEKI youth who wish to receive a stipend to use towards a Jewish program.

This is for students in Junior and Senior High School. The application is online or in the BEKI lobby.

Happy Pesah

The board of Sisterhood wishes all our congregants and their family a Happy and Kosher Passover.
Volunteers bake pizza for Abraham’s Tent guests.

BEKI Statements and Yahrzeits via Email
If you would like to start receiving your BEKI statements and yahrzeit notices via email, specify to Peggy which one email you wished to be used. Contact Peggy office@beki.org 203-389-2108 x 14.

Torah Sparks
Conservative Yeshiva devar Torah on the weekly parasha.

Mark Your Calendar
• BEKI-BJ USY Dinner: Collaborative Shabbat Meal 1 April 2016
• Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow): 2 April 2016
• Darshanit: Nanette Stahl 2 April 2016
• BEKI-BJ Kadima: Shabbat Dinner 8 April 2016
• Rosh Hodesh Nisan: 8-9 April 2016
• Shabbat HaHodesh (Sabbath of the Moon): 9 April 2016
• Shabbat HaGadol (The Great Sabbath): 16 April 2016
• Songs of Freedom Concert: 17 April 2016
• Hametz Sale Forms Due: 22 April 2016
• Ta’anit Bekhorot (Fast of First Born): 22 April 2016
• Matsa Baking at BEKI: 22 April 2016
• First Seder (Home Ritual): 22 April 2016
• Prayer for Dew: 23 April 2016
• Shir HaShirim: 30 April 2016
• Yizkor Memorial Service: 30 April 2016
Bernie Sanders to Visit BEKI

Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders will be at BEKI on Wednesday evening, 23 March, from 6:30p to 8p. Members and guests are welcome. “We’ve been trying to get Colonel Sanders to visit for weeks,” says BEKI vice-president Sander “Feel the Birns” Birns, “and now our time has come. I am sure it will be Finger-Licken’ Good. It will be Excellent. Excellent.” Thanks to campaign manager and former Ambassador Michelangelo Orens for making this happen. Orens comments, “Our efforts have paid off handsomely: We expect three or four Bernie Sanders to be at BEKI that evening.”

In a recent interview, Colonel Sanders spoke about his Jewish heritage.

"I’m very proud of my heritage. And what comes to mind so strongly is a kid growing up in Brooklyn, knowing that a good part of my family could have been killed by Haman. And the lesson that I learned as a very young person is that politics is serious business and when you have a lunatic like Haman gaining power, thousands of people died in the massacres. So I am very proud to be Jewish and I’m very proud of my heritage and of my chicken recipe."

On the “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” show, Sanders was asked if he believed in God.

"What my spirituality is about is that we’re all in this together and it’s not a good thing to believe that as human beings we can turn our backs on the suffering of other people. This is what Pope Francis is talking about, that we cannot worship just billionaires and the making of more money. Life is more than that – it has to include a good chicken recipe."

Official BEKI Song

Thanks to the generous support of BEKI-120 contributors, the Official BEKI Song has been commissioned and approved. Several artists were invited to submit proposals, explained Sisterhood President Estelle Typhoon. “We wanted a song that would appeal to young people – people under 60. Something energetic, gay, upbeat. We are not sure what the words mean, but they assured us that it was not anti-Semitic, or at least not more than necessary.”

The runner-up, “Da BEKI Song,” can be heard and seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGEUXB1aNVs. “We really liked ‘Da BEKI Song,’” said Vice-President Yannose Ministrone, “but it was a little hard to learn, and you can’t sing ‘Adon Olam’ to the melody.”

In the end, the song, “Call Me BEKI,” by Pakito Jones & Sir Rex Kantaterowich, was the unanimous choice. “We love it!” was the response of selection committee member Joanne Food-Emporium. “The melody seemed perfect for BEKI, and familiar, maybe."

The selections committee’s decision to invite developing-world artists to participate was carefully considered. “Their rates were less than 1/10th of American artists, and we had to stay within the $120,000 budgeted for the project,” said President-Elect Sanders “Feel the Birns” Birns. “People in other parts of the world have to support their families, too. Why pay $15 an hour when you can hire a Mexican or Filipino for 25 cents.”

The winning selection, “Call me BEKI,” can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HfwPQZeroKo. (To see the lyrics, view https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9Ph7jRr19s.)

Uber-Minyan: The BEKI Taxi

“I will stop at nothing – not even a red light – to make a minyan” – so says Minyan Commander Rachel Grabber. “We’ll drive you to minyan – we’ll carry you to the car if we have to.”

The importance of daily tefila (prayer) with the community is considered an individual mitzva (requirement) or piety, and as essential for building relationships and strengthening the bonds between members of the congregation. Learn Hebrew, meditate, seek a relationship with the...
Holy One, get out of bed to help others gather, honor loved ones, drink free coffee.

“Transportation has been a hurdle for potential participants – but no longer,” says Grabber. “We are so happy to introduce the Radio Taxi BEKI Service – free for a round-trip to daily services, and at regulated reasonable rates at other times.”

Thanks to financing from the Jewish Foundation for Greater Minyan Attendance, BEKI has acquired a small fleet of modern vehicles to provide complimentary and fare-based transportation in Greater New Haven and major global cities. Watch the ad at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IoTkrpkbYVI.

Drivers wanted.

Iran - Israel Mutual Admiration Day

International Iran-Israel Mutual Admiration Day will be observed on 23-24 March. The day celebrates the long history of support and friendship between the Persian People and the Jewish People, who represent two among the handful of ancient civilizations that have survived to modern times.

In 538 BCE Cyrus the Great, King of Persia, repatriated the Jewish exiles to Israel and authorized the construction of the Second Temple. This act in support of the right of the Jewish People to rebuild its homeland and gather its exiles is recognized in the Hebrew Bible as a turning point in Jewish history, for which the Persians were due unending gratitude. In that same era, Darius, King of Persia, authorized the completion of the Second Temple.

Also recorded in the Hebrew Bible is the story of the great King Ahashverosh, who rescued the Jews from the arch-villain Haman the Agagite. Ahashverosh married a Jewish woman (among others) and promoted a Jewish advisor to high office.

In contemporary times, Iranian diplomat Abdol Hossein Sardari rescued thousands of Jews from the Nazis, and is honored as a “Righteous Gentile.” Later, Iran became the second Muslim country to recognize Israel’s sovereignty.

Even after the Shah of Iran was deposed, the Jewish People continued to demonstrate their friendship and gratitude. In 1985, the State of Israel supplied the Government of Iran with advanced American weaponry, in what was known as the “Iran-Contra Affair.” In an act of unprecedented graciousness, the Iranian Republican Guard returned some of these weapons – or at least the ammunition – to Israel a few years later via their allied Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

Perhaps the greatest token of friendship between the Persian People and the Jewish People is that their respective governments have not yet bombed each other to smithereens. Celebrate IIIIMAD and build for a future of peace and prosperity.

USCJ : Out with the Old

The fruit of a $475,000 project to “re-brand” the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has been announced: Please welcome the United Synagogue of Awesome Judaism.

The name “United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism” was adopted in 1995 to emphasize the word “Conservative” as the name of the movement, replacing the original name “United Synagogue of America.” The original name did not reflect the global nature of the movement, which by 1995 had grown to include two abandoned prayer-books in a hotel in Europe, nor did it convey the distinct ideology behind the network of affiliated schools, camps, synagogues and other institutions. But it turned out that the word “Conservative” was either not meaningful or downright confusing to those outside the movement. The world “conservative” is commonly associated with political conservatism (at least in America), whereas Conservative Judaism is more often described as a “liberal movement.”

While Masorti Judaism is growing in Israel, Europe and Latin America, recent press articles have predicted the demise of Conservative Judaism in America. “We have to reverse the decline of the Conservative Movement in the United States,” said one USCJ official off-the-record. “While it might be nice to provide funding for the USY group or expand Camp Ramah, or fund scholarships at JTS
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Purim

Continued from Page 10

and AJU so that we can re-build our tradition of unsurpassed scholarship and leadership, or create must-have Judaic apps or hold events of national significance, our business strategy consultant convinced us that it would far less expensive to just re-brand, which means above all else changing our name. It only cost $475,000 to pick a new name, and with another $75,000 in self-adhesive labels we can complete the change-over.” USAJ-affiliated congregations will have a $360 dues surcharge in 2017 and 2018 to provide for sets of self-stick labels of various sizes.

The USCJ leadership undertook an extensive process of reviewing Survey Monkey results. Among the lead contenders for a new name was “The United Synagogue of Unreformed and Unorthodox Judaism,” which was considered highly descriptive as well as sufficiently assertive. Being “unreformed” and “unorthodox” are the most widely-embraced terms for self-description among American Jews, and it was thought that these terms would create a strong point of identification for a broad spectrum of liberal Jews.

Another contender was the name “United Synagogue of Contemporary Judaism,” which would allow the retention of the existing initials US CJ and makes clear that the movement is not a thing of the past. It was found, though, that most readers would not notice so subtle a change. The similar name “United Synagogue of Contemporary and Future Judaism” was also weighed as an alternative that would be more future-looking.

“I had advocated for the name ‘United Synagogue of Masorti Communities,’ which uses the international Hebrew word for ‘traditional,’ since it is widely used already around the world,” said Rabbi Tilsen. The “Masorti” moniker was rejected as being too foreign-sounding and unintelligible to Americans, who speak only English, and even that with some difficulty.

The new moniker “United Synagogue of Awesome Judaism” was favored by younger (under 80) survey participants. “When people asked me why our movement was called ‘Conservative Judaism,’” one survey participant wrote, “I didn’t really know what to say. But I know that I would love to explain why our movement is called ‘Awesome Judaism.’” Another participant wrote, “You can hear the crowds chanting, ‘U-S-A! J! … U-S-A! J!’

Contributions

Rabbi’s Hamantaschen Fund (minimum $25)

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- Microsoft, Inc. with sympathy on the end of Marco Rubio’s campaign
- Goldman Sachs with sympathy on the end of Marco Rubio’s campaign
- Wells Fargo with sympathy on the end of Marco Rubio’s campaign
- Hunt Companies with sympathy on the end of Jeb Bush’s campaign
- Sequoai Capital with sympathy on the end of Jeb Bush’s campaign
- Charles Schwab Corp with sympathy on the end of Jeb Bush’s campaign
- US-Canada Relocations, Inc., with congratulations to D. Trump on his Super Tuesday and other victories
- Nefesh B’Nefesh with congratulations to Donald Trump on his primary victories
- Trinity Yachts with best wishes to the Donald
- KFC, Inc. with thanks to B. Sanders
- Shushan Family Mortuary in appreciation to Mordekhai and Esther
- Hassan Rouhani marking the yahrzeits of Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai and Zaizatha
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- Shula Chernoff
- Robin Goldberg
- Dan & Beth Weintraub
- Stan Saxe
- Rabbi Murray Levine

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Herb & Hannah Winer
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- To Carl Goldfield & family with sympathy on the passing of Beverly Goldfield by Alan Lovins & Trish Loving
- To Leon Cummings in his honor by Pam Sandler
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- To Carl Goldfield & family with sympathy on the passing of Beverly Goldfield by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Brian Karsif, Elizabeth Karpf & family with sympathy on the passing of Marian Karsif by Karel Koenig
- To Brian Karsif, Elizabeth Karpf & family with sympathy on the passing of Marian Karsif by the Avni-Singer family
- To Brian Karsif, Elizabeth Karpf & family with sympathy on the passing of Marian Karsif by Julie Cohen & Larry Visocek
- To the Berger & Klein family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Berger by Julie Cohen & Larry Visocek
- To the Berger & Klein family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Berger by Jennifer Fleming
- To Brian Karsif, Elizabeth Karpf & family with sympathy on the passing of Marian Karsif by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Carl Goldfield & family with sympathy on the passing of Beverly Goldfield by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Carl Goldfield & family with sympathy on the passing of Beverly Goldfield by Len & Barbara Stern
- To Brian Karsif, Elizabeth Karpf & family with sympathy on the passing of Marian Karsif by Len & Barbara Stern
- To the Berger & Klein family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Berger by Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- To Brian Karsif, Elizabeth Karpf & family with sympathy on the passing of Marian Karsif by Sherry & Steve Rothman
- To Carl Goldfield & family with sympathy on the passing of Beverly Goldfield by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Carl Goldfield & family with sympathy on the passing of Beverly Goldfield by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Brian Karsif, Elizabeth Karpf & family with sympathy on the passing of Marian Karsif by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To the Berger & Klein family with sympathy on the passing of Arthur Berger by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Carl Goldfield & family with sympathy on the passing of Beverly Goldfield by the Silverman & Sokolow family

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Jack Greenberg by Belle K. Greenberg
- In memory of Mac Goldberg by Dan Goldberg
- In memory of his parents Harry A. Jacobson & Rebecca G. Jacobson by Stuart A. Jacobson
- In memory of Saul Rips by Ronald Rips
- In memory of James Barnett by Caroline Barnett
- In memory of Carol Jablow by Jay & Margie Hirshfield
- In memory of Elizabeth Blackmer by Conrinne Blackmer & Pilar Stewart
- In memory of Murray Arshell by Mike Moscowitz
- In memory of her mother Fanny Meyerson by Helen M. Elston
- In memory of their father William Handleman by Rhea Newmand & Joyce Handleman
- In memory of Mort Aikins Silver by Ruth Silver
- In memory of Esther Baer by Irving D. Baer
- In memory of Freda Kaufman by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of Abraham Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of her grandparents Anna & William Berman by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Albert Heydemann by Lynn & Jay Brotman
- In memory of Charlotte Isenberg by Janice Isenberg
- In loving memory of Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Sydney Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Samuel & Tillie Saxe by Stan Saxe
- In memory of our beloved parents Rebecca Govrin Jacobson & Harry Aaron Jacobson by Susan E. Jacobson & Stuart A. Jacobson
- In memory of Lillian Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
- In memory of Herman Grenet by Alan & Shirley Silver
- In memory of Lillian Stry by Barbara & Murray Akresh
Torah for the Hungry Mind – Adult Studies

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

Darshan – noun, plural dar·sha·n·im. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggada or Halakha in a synagogue.

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

Nanette Stahl, parashat Shemini – Shabbat Para, 2 April.
Caleb Freiman, bar mitzva, parashat Qedoshim, 14 May.

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 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. Through 23 April 2016.

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 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 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 mina & 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 Judaisms; 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.

**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 21 and 28 April 2016.

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. With Rabbi Tilsen.

**Every Day**

**Divrei Torah on the Web**


**BEKI Builds - Habitat for Humanity**

On 3 April 2016, 10a - 1p help build a house with the Sleeping Giant Build group. Ten to 12 volunteers required. Skilled and unskilled volunteers encouraged. Must be at least 16 yrs old to participate. Minimum number of volunteers required. Contact Darryl kuperst@gmail.com 203.215.8555.

**Torah Reading**

Thanks to Rachel Light for coordinating Torah Reading for Shemot. J-J Tilsen jtitlsen@beki.org is coordinating for VaYiqra (19 March – 4 June; includes Pesah); Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@gmail.com is coordinating for BeMidbar (11 June – 6 August 2016; includes Shavuot). Schedule your readings now. New readers welcome.
Mazal tov to
Rachel & Jason Greenberg on the birth of baby boy in March, and on his entry into the covenant of Abraham through the rite of brit mila on the eighth day.
Mazal tov to Goldie Taub and to Rabbi Murray Levine on the Simhat Bat of Goldie’s great-granddaughter in a New Jersey synagogue.

David Chorney to Exhibit
David Chorney, a Financial Advisor by day, will be sharing his inventive and eclectic art work at BEKI from 3 April through the end of June. He will hold an artists’ reception about the exhibit on Shabbat 7 May from 12:45p – 2p.

Chorney creates in a variety of media, including photography, oil and acrylic paintings, pencil on burned wood, and, most recently, paintings created through an approach which he calls Dropped Paint Methodology (DPM) Paintings. This method allows images to emerge through a process that cedes control as the paint is dropped, thrown, and dripped onto a flat canvas. No instrument actually touches the canvas while paint is being applied. This is a particularly intense process as no corrections can ever be made once the paint hits the canvas. Every drop is part of the finished piece of art.

Once a DPM painting is complete, it stands as a testimony to the beautiful marriage between chaos and beauty. The chaos, and lack of structure on a micro scale, alongside the structured beauty in its’ entirety, is a magnificent marriage of harmony and necessity. The “chaos vs. structure” must coexist in balance and harmony, or the personality and concept of the painting will cease to exist. You cannot have one without the other, and each element, the chaos and the structure, creates a harmonious whole.

In 2015, David’s work has been seen at the Buttonwood Tree Performing Arts & Cultural Center in Middletown, The Farmington Libraries Gallery, The Intelligent Gestalt Art Gallery in New Haven, The Arts Council Of Greater New Haven’s Sumner McKnight Crosby Jr. Gallery, City Wide Open Studio’s “Alternative Spaces” in New Haven, and at the Silk Road Art Gallery in New Haven.

A New Haven native, Chorney established Financial Concepts Unlimited, LLC, in 1998, which is currently located in Hamden, where he assists clients with estate and retirement planning, as well as portfolio management.

Chorney’s attitude toward the creative process is open and accepting. He writes: “There is no good or bad art. Just art itself. Each piece of art connects somewhere inside with its viewers. Some art connects with very few, and some connect with a larger amount of the viewing public. Popular, or monetarily successful art, lives in the slice that appeals to a larger population. But that, in no way, should diminish the art held dear by the lesser few. To them, the art connects, and holds a higher level. Art being art, they cannot be wrong.”

To see some of David’s art in advance of the exhibit, please visit, his website www.davidchorney.com and his Facebook art page www.facebook.com/botodo.
WESTVILLE Kosher MARKET
95 Amity Rd. (Next to Amity Wine)
New Haven (off exit 59 Meritt Pkwy)

389-1166

- New Dining Area
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- Home-Made Deli Items
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- All Meat & Poultry Kosher & Kashered

Sun. 8:30-4:00 • Mon.-Wed. 8:30-6:00
Thurs. 8:30-7:00 • Fri. 8:30-3:00 • Closed Sat.

Many Generations
Kim Formica
Genealogist
PO Box 1248
Orange, CT 06477
tel. 203/376.8551
kimformica@optonline.net
We celebrated National Mix It Up Day in October to foster greater respect and understanding among our students.

www.hamdenhall.org 203.752.2640
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517
### April 2016
#### 22 Adar II 5776 - 22 Nisan 5776

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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#### Service Times

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<td>6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>Before sunset: Minha</td>
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#### BEKI Events

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

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**BEKI Bulletin April 2016**

**Visit us at www.beki.org**

**April 2016**

22 Adar II 5776 - 22 Nisan 5776

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
USY Summer

USY Summer Experience offers teens in grades 7–12 the opportunity to travel across North America, Europe, and Israel. An amazing adventure is just a click away. BEKI’s Barzillai Cheskis Fund and the Marcel Gutman Memorial Fund support BEKI teens going on Israel trips.

Charge It

You can pay most BEKI fees and make donations using VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express cards. See https://www.beki.org/about/make-a-donation/ or ask Office Manager Peggy office@beki.org for help.