

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



BEKI bulletin
Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Nisan-Iyar 5778

Vol. 24 Issue 4

Dear Rabbi: Page 14

FROM PESAH TO SHAVUOT

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder, we began 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

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Fiber Artist Wendy Rabinowitz to Exhibit

Fiber artist Wendy Rabinowitz will usher in Spring at BEKI on 8 April and through early June, with her exhibit “YAH! OHR V’YAH! OHR - Let There Be Light and There Was Light,” a series of dynamic weavings inspired by Jewish prayer, story, and tradition. Rabinowitz describes her artwork as “... one-of-a-kind... weaving/mixed media assemblages that are deeply rooted in the power of Judaism, nature, and the sacred responses of the spirit.”

For over 30 years Rabinowitz has been developing her craft, focusing

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Shabbat Schmooze: Inmate Education



Zelda Roland

Zelda Roland, the Director of the [Yale Prison Education Initiative at Dwight Hall](#) will be at BEKI for a Shabbat Schmooze on 28 April to talk about her ongoing work to bring high quality liberal arts education to incarcerated students in Connecticut. Roland is working to develop and implement Yale's education programs in local correctional facilities. She also hopes to support and increase the impact of existing student- and faculty-led projects addressing issues of mass incarceration, education access, and criminal justice reform. On these

Continued on **Page 4**

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BEKI Bulletin

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

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Pesah to Shavuot

Continued from Page 1

and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

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

BEKI's Practically Annual LaG BeOmer* Kumsitz** Campfire Singalong

Wednesday 2 May 2018 (*Late on the Day of 32 Omer*) 6:15p-8:30p at location to be announced (indoors in case of rain, *sans* campfire). Free Parking.

Directions from BEKI: Go south about a mile and look for campfire. Bring Your Musical Instruments, Hebrew, Yiddish, Aramaic, Ladino, Hungarian or Other **Jewish** Song-sheets, a Blanket or Chair to Sit on – or just come.

This Hebrew/Judaic Singalong is made possible by our hosts and supported by the **Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music at Beth El-Keser Israel**. Event is Free and All are Welcome. For more info contact office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x14 or visit us at www.beki.org.

*LaG BeOmer: The 33rd day of counting of sheaves; some obscure Jewish celebration; just come and have fun.
** People kum to zing und dey sitz down.

Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish Hajj

The Festival of Shavuot (“Weeks”), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,330 years ago. The word *hag* (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, *hajj* (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, “Three times a year—on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you” (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance



**Count every night
– don't forget!**

at BEKI this summer. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI's Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

The traditional greeting is *Hagg Sameah* – חג שמח – Happy Festival.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study takes place on the first night of Shavuot, Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) 19 May 2018. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served.

The Shabbat minha afternoon service is 5:45p to 6:20. The Shavuot evening begins with the Festival Evening Service from 8:15p – 8:30p in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. A shiur (text study or lecture) will begin at 8:30p. Candle lighting (home ritual) is at 8:49p. At 9:45p, another shiur will begin, followed by an additional session presented late into the night. Doors are locked at 11p so come early.

Please see “[This Week at BEKI](#)” and the May Mid-Month Mailing for a complete list of presenters and schedule.

Shavuot Mornings

Yizkor Memorial Service *Book of Ruth*

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shaharit Morning Service begins at 9:15a on Sunday 20 May 2018. The service includes the recitation of full Hallel. The afternoon and evening services begin at 5:45p. Candle lighting Sunday night is at 8:51p or later.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15a on Monday 21 May 2018. The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*. Following the Haftara (prophetic reading), the Yizkor Memorial Service is held. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Following Yizkor, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of *ta'amei hamiqra* (“trope”) found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival *Musaf* additional service is recited.

Some Congregants may leave during qiddush for a hike to the top of West Rock. Weather permitting, bring appropriate shoes and leave with friends from the lobby.

The Festival Minha service is held in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel from 5:45p to 6:05p.



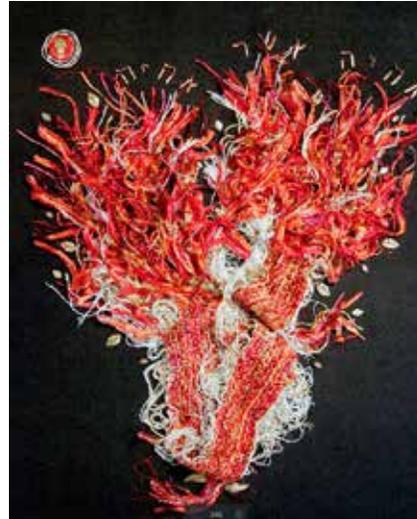
Art Exhibit

Continued from **Page 1**

on themes concerned with the earth, peace, healing and women's issues. Originally from Chicago, she currently lives in the Berkshires of Massachusetts where she works out of her Living Threads Judaica studio. In addition, she leads workshops on the power of Judaic art, rituals and the creative process.

Rabinowitz, whose ancestors include Sephardic Rabbis and women who were members of a large weaving community in Bielsk, Poland, combines the spiritual and the tangible through a Biblical "G-d wrestling" which is then transformed... "into *shalom*, peace, and *simcha*, joy." Educated as an artist at the Art Institute of Chicago and in Jewish thought by several rabbis as well as at the Kabbalah Centre in Boston, Rabinowitz is represented in galleries, museums, synagogues, and private collections in the United States and Israel, including the United Nations, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Spertus Jewish Museum.

Her series, 'V'I'MO-TEI-NU (And Our Mothers)' has traveled extensively throughout the U.S., and her seminal work, "Women at the Wall: A Call for Peace," (which will also be included in the BEKI exhibit) was featured in the United Nations exhibit, "Miracles of Peace" in 2003 and



The Burning Bush

sacredness and tradition."

Rabinowitz uses religious and visual techniques in the creative process. "As I seek to bring these images forth, they are connected to my commitment to the earth, peace, interfaith dialogue, women's experiences, ritual and healing. My intention "*kavannah*" is that these artworks will be a visual pathway of connection and spiritual renewal."

Rabinowitz will talk about the exhibit at BEKI on Shabbat 5 May, at 12:45p following Shabbat qiddush. 

2007.

"Women at the Wall," Rabinowitz explains, "is a symbolic container for all our cries, lamentations, pleas, exhalations, prayers and gratitude. We come to The Wall to find the place that holds our common humanity, that transcends and encompasses time and space, that connects us to our

Schmooze: Prison School

Continued from **Page 1**

issues, she works as a liaison between student groups, academic units on campus and with institutional and community partners to foster innovative collaborations at Yale and with our local and regional communities.

Roland was initially inspired to create the program by her work at Wesleyan's Center for Prison Education. She said Yale's program is modeled after Wesleyan's, which has offered over 60 classes in topics from biology to political theory at the Cheshire Correctional Institution and York Correctional Institution since 2009. Several Yale professors currently teach at prisons through Wesleyan's program and many have signed on to teach with Yale's program as well.

Successful university partnerships in prisons, such as those through Bard College as well as Wesleyan University have shown that liberal arts education can transform the lives of students, educators, and institutions of higher learning by providing rigorous, high-quality educational opportunity to underserved students of great potential.

A landmark study by the non-profit research group RAND found that if an individual participates in **any** type of correctional education program - whether it be adult basic ed, GED preparation, college education or vocational training - they had a 13 percentage-point reduction in their risk of being re-incarcerated. For those participating in college education programs, the reduction in risk of re-incarceration was an impressive 16

percentage-points. These reductions in recidivism make a difference not only in the lives of the incarcerated individuals, but also creates a positive ripple-effect for their families and communities as well as for society at large. These programs have proven to be cost-effective, saving nearly five dollars in re-incarceration costs for every dollar invested in educational programs.

Join us on 28 April to learn more. Ms. Roland and I are looking forward to having an informative and lively conversation about Yale's role in education in Connecticut prisons. The schmooze will be held in the library-chapel and will start at 12:45p, after morning Shabbat services and qiddush lunch.

Shoshana Zax, Chair, Programming Committee 

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דַּרְשָׁנִים

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:

Sara Walstedter, bat mitzva, 21 April 2018, *parashiyot Tazria - Metsora*

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 youths along with adults.



Sara Walstedter



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela



Isaiah Cooper

Hebrew with Will:

Back by popular demand, an hour of Hebrew with Will, alternating Shabbat mornings in April, 10:45a-11:45a, office. Free. Meeting on Shabbatot alternating with SSTS. Info perfectexodus@gmail.com.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: I Kings

Each Monday morning from 7:47a 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 First Kings. 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 will not meet on the Monday of Sukkot, 21 May 2018. On Memorial Day (USA), 28 May, the RSG will meet from 9:45a to 10:30a.



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 or current events.

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis and clergy, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with



Murray Levine

Continued on **Page 6**

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 5**

opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library during the school year. In 5778, the rabbis are reviewing selected *sugiyot* in B. Shabbat. 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.

Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A weekly study of the Talmud Bavli Berakhot meets in the Beit Midrash on Thursday mornings 10a–11a with Rabbi Tilsen.

The Talmud, a hypertext extended outline of discussion organized around the Mishna and based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. No prior knowledge is required, but basic facility in English is helpful; students with all backgrounds are welcome, beginner to advanced. The Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets Thursdays in April and May 2018, except for 5 April (during Pesah).



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- Stewart Frankel & Joy

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- Esther & Irwin Nash for mekhirat hametz
- Emily & Eric Weinstein for mekhirat hametz
- Harold & Bobbie Miller for mekhirat hametz
- Anne Schiff & David Norman for mekhirat hametz

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$320)

- Jay & Lynn Brotman
- The Rastelli-Weiner family
- Bobbie & Harold Miller
- Shula Chernoff
- Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman

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

- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Stan Moldawsky by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Stan Moldawsky by David Margolis
- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Stan Moldawsky by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Stan Moldawsky by David & Mary Lesser
- To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by the Freiman-Light family
- To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
- To Carl & Sharon Astor with sympathy on the passing of Mary Astor by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Janis Isenberg with wishes for a speedy recovery by Joan Gelbert
- To Harold Miller in honor of his 75th birthday by Howard & Helene Koenig

- To Murray Levine & Goldie Taub in honor of their birthdays by Caryl & Michael Kliffeld
- To Harold Miller in honor of his 75th birthday by Brenda Friedler
- To Angela & Bruce Oren with sympathy on the passing of James Michael Williams by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Lana & Martin Gad and family with sympathy on the passing of Cynthia Schneider by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Gadiel & Julie Robbins and family with sympathy on the passing of Bella Robbins by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To the Freiman-Light family with sympathy on the passing of Jonathan Gutman by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To the Freiman-Light family with sympathy on the passing of Jonathan Gutman by the Marx & Schonberger family
- To Michael Hurwitz, Debbie Chirnomas & family with sympathy on the passing of Nathaniel Hurwitz by the Marx & Schonberger family

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

- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Stan Moldawsky by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Stan Moldawsky by Bill Shargis
- To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by Bill Shragis

BEKI Religious School

- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Stan Moldawsky by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

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

- In memory of Etta & Charles Miller by Julian & Susan Miller
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- In memory of Irving Nabatoff by Carol Nabatoff
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- In loving memory of Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Louis Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of Morris Altschuler by Roberta Atteson
- In memory of Abraham Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Morton Silver by Ruth Silver
- In memory of Frances Ray by Barbara Rader
- In memory of Joseph Gimple by Sidney Gimple
- In memory of Jerome Rifkin by Sylvia Rifkin
- In memory of her sister Natalie Robbins by Teddy Deitch
- In memory of her brother Howard Robbins by Teddy Deitch
- In memory of Sally Zantrotsky by Stan Saxe
- In memory of William Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Pearl Rosenthal by Amy G. Margolis
- In memory of Sydney Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein

Abraham's Tent



Set-up and cooking for Abraham's Tent, a project to support people experiencing homelessness, a Columbus House effort, in which BEKI partners with the Church of the Holy Spirit (West Haven) and other local synagogues and churches. Ten men were housed at BEKI for a week in March.



המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Morris Olmer, father of Zachary (& Caitlin) Olmer**Jonathan London**, husband of Ihrie Means, brother of Sharon (& David) Bender, father of I. Forest**Gary Smirnoff**, son of Beatrice Smirnoff*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

Melanie Sachs, daughter of Robert & Betsy Sachs, granddaughter of Rita Sachs, 26 May 2018, *minha parashat BeHa`alotekha*

`Od Yishama

Mazal tov to Anna Abramovitz & Moses Fisher on their plan to enter qiddushim under a huppa in May. Anna is the daughter of the late Alan & Sally Abramovitz

Mazal tov to Tani Cohen-Fraade & Abby Weiss on their plan to enter qiddushin under a huppa in July 2018; and to parents Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen

Welcome New Members

Leah Dumigan • Leah Abbott & William Tootle and Simon • Rabbi Carl & Sharon Astor • Daniel Jennes

Benei Mitzva

Sara Walstedter, daughter of Scott & Lisa Walstedter, 20-21 April 2018, *parashiyot Tazria-Metsora*

News

Summer Shabbat Minha Schedule

Our Shabbat Afternoon service will be at 5:45p each week for the next few months. Daily (Sun-Thu) remains 5:45p–6:13p year-round. See [Daily Schedule](#).

Liturgical Note

Counting of the Omer began the second night of Pesah.

Stupid Rebate Cards

Got a rebate VISA or other payment card with an odd amount you can't use or will misplace or forget until it expires? [Donate it online to BEKI](#).

Sanctuary

A group of BEKI members are attending a program at Mishkan Israel exploring "Sanctuary Congregations" on Sunday 8 April 2p-3:30p. Info jcarr.beki@gmail.com

Torah Reading

Rabbi Tilsen is coordinating VaYiqra (through 12 May); contact jjtilsen@beki.org. [Darryl](#) is coordinating BeMidbar (19 May – 14 July).

News Feed

Check the website to see articles in the secular and Jewish press about BEKI, also photos by Allen Samuel taken at the retirement luncheon for Clarence Bromell. <https://www.beki.org/calendar-events/beki-in-the-news>. [Sinai Joins BEKI](#).

[Throw Them in the Potomac](#): A Pesah Message by Rabbi Tilsen

[Expendable Youth](#): Another Pesah Message by Rabbi Tilsen

JCARR

The father in a Syrian family sponsored by JCARR is recovering from emergency surgery. He is doing well but will be out of work for an indefinite period, with no paid sick leave. JCARR is seeking donations to help the family with rent, utility bills, medical expenses not covered by insurance, and other necessities until he returns to work.

Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000. Online at (<https://www.crowdrise.com/JCARR>); or by check, payable to "Temple Emanuel JCARR" mailed to Peter Stolzman at 20 Peddlers Drive, Branford CT 06405. Info Gilah Benson-Tilsen JCARR.BEKI@gmail.com

Got Announcements?

Ask President Harold Birn to include your BEKI event in live Shabbat morning announcements by writing to announcements@beki.org. "This Week at BEKI" listings may be up to 50 words.

The Facebook

BEKI has a [FB group](#). Members are welcome to post items that are respectful and of interest to our community.

Dance with Me

Israeli Dance on Tuesday evenings for Beginners, 7:15p–8:15p; for Everyone 8:15p–10p, Social Hall.

Yom HaShoah Memorial & Speaker

Arnie Pritchard, Storyteller & Historian, Shabbat 14 April 2018 at 12:45p, for people of all ages. Brought to you by Sisterhood.

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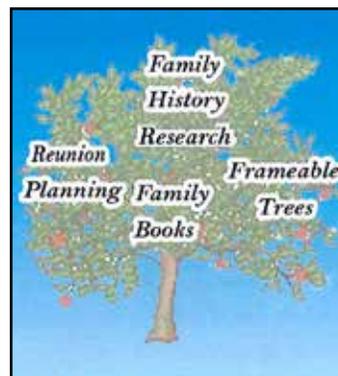
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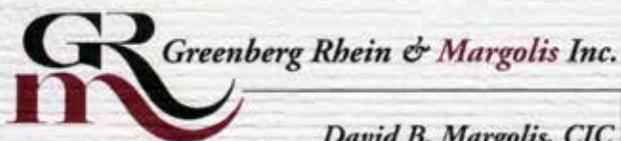
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Yom Ha Sho'ah

In April we celebrate and commemorate Passover (Pesah), Yom Ha Sho'ah, (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) and Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel Independence Day).

Yom Ha Shoah is a secular and solemn day. Jews collectively remember, mourn and honor the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. All over the world, in Israel and in the Diaspora, we feel compelled to hold services, to light memorial, candles, and recite Qaddish together. In Israel, at 10:00a a siren sounds, and every person, everywhere in the country – in stores or cars, at home or at work – is expected to stop and stand at attention to honor the dead to share in a moment of silent solidarity.

In 1981, members of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, a branch of the Conservative-Masorti movement, created a memorial project for Yom Ha Sho'ah. A dedicated *yahrzeit* candle was conceived, with yellow wax and barbed-wire Star of David logo reminiscent of the armbands Jews were forced to wear during the Holocaust. This object has come to be known as the Yellow candle™. Approximately 200,000 candles are distributed around the world each year, along with relevant prayers and meditations.

Sisterhood is offering these yellow candles to our congregation at no cost, to light on the eve of 11 April. Please come to the gift store and pick one up. Any donation would be appreciated. The donation will be sent to the Holocaust Memorial organization.

The local memorial is located on Whalley Avenue and West Park in New Haven.

This year Yom Ha Sho'ah is commemorated on Thursday 12 April. We light yellow candles on the eve of 11 April and recite poems and prayers.

Yom Hazikaron

Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day in Israel) is to be commemorated this year on 18 April. Yom Hazikaron is the national remembrance day observed in Israel for all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and those who have been killed subsequently while on active duty in Israel's armed forces. As of Yom HaZikaron in 2017 that number was 13,544.

Memorial candles are lit in homes, army camps, schools, synagogues, and public places. Flags are lowered to half mast. Throughout the day active duty and retired military personnel serve as honor guards at war memorials throughout the country. Families of the fallen participate in memorial ceremonies at military cemeteries. The day opens with a siren preceding evening at 8:00p. The siren is heard all

over the country and lasts for one minute, during which Israelis stop everything, including driving on highways, and stand in silence, showing respect. A two-minute siren is sounded at 11:00a the following morning, which marks the opening of the official memorial ceremonies and private remembrance gathering in each cemetery where soldiers are buried. The day officially draws to a close at sundown around 7p in a ceremony at the national military cemetery on Mt. Herzl, marking the start of Israel Independence Day when the flag of Israel is returned to full staff.

Yom HaAtzma'ut

Yom HaAtzma'ut – Israel Independence Day – is 5 Iyar, which is 19 April 19, marking 70 years since the [Declaration of Independence](#).

Scheduling Yom HaZikaron before Yom HaAtzma'ut is intended to remind people of the price paid for independence and what was achieved with the soldiers' sacrifice. This transition shows the importance of this day among Israelis, most of whom either have served in the armed forces themselves or have a connection with people who were killed during their military service.

On 5 Iyar 1948 the State of Israel was established. David Ben Gurion read the Declaration of Independence in the presence of the People's Provisional Council in Tel Aviv.

On the 25 Tishrei 5709 (1949), the People's Council resolved that the official flag of the State of Israel would be a blue-and-white flag with a Star of David in the center. The emblem of the State of Israel is a seven-branched Menorah flanked by two olive branches, evoking the ancient Kingdom of Israel, and symbolizes our yearning to live in freedom and peace.

Ivrit (Hebrew) is a "living water" for Jewish people all over the world. The books of our heritage --The Torah, Prophets, Writings and Mishna -- are all written In Hebrew, making it a significant part of our Jewish identity. When we returned to our historic homeland, Eliezer Ben Yehuda led a movement to restore the Hebrew language to life, so we could once again speak in our ancient tongue as we tilled the soil in our land.

Yom HaSho'ah Commemoration at BEKI

Please join BEKI Sisterhood in commemorating Yom HaSho'ah after Qiddush on Shabbat 14 April in the library. Our special guest, Arnie Pritchard, will be discussing the life of his mother Marion Pritchard, who distinguished herself as a savior of children in the Netherlands in the midst of the Holocaust. A special and unique Qiddush along with our regular Qiddush will be served commemorating the Holocaust.

Donated Mahzorim Arrive



From left, Henry, Moshe and Debbie display mahzorim donated by BEKI to a small congregation in Nigeria. Debbie is a first cousin (by marriage) of Rabbi Tilsen.

Making Matzo at BEKI



Dear Rabbi,

If I have a highly intelligent robot, does it have to observe Shabbat?

Signed, U Robot

Dear O, U Robot

It can decide for itself.

Dear Rabbi,

Can I ride in a self-driving car on Shabbat? I mean one that does not run over pedestrians.

Signed, Not Driving on Shabbat

Dear Driving Me Nuts on Shabbat,

This question was discussed long ago by our sages. It arises in the discussion of the permissibility of riding a streetcar or horse-carriage that is operating independent of the command or payment of the Jewish rider, riding an elevator, or of a person on a boat on Shabbat (hint: don't get off the boat in the middle of the ocean just because it is Shabbat).

Driving or riding is a complex action, which may involve several Biblical and Rabbinic prohibitions. Among those are using fire (combustion); carrying across or crossing Shabbat boundaries; engaging in an activity likely to require commerce or entail some other violation. You crash, you get towed or hospitalized, write your name, use your credit card, who knows. Or, you don't crash. Vehicles typically interact with other vehicles, necessarily causing others to activate or deactivate their combustion systems.

In general, we can say that there are "worse" and "better" options of Shabbat-compliant transit. Better is if you are not driving, the vehicle does not "burn" fuel (so electric beats gas), and the destination, route, and schedule are predetermined or determined by others. Better is a short distance, and better is no cargo. So if you ask your doctor, a likely answer is that walking is best, biking is good too, taking public transportation is OK, driving yourself is less desirable, and sitting on your *tuches* watching TV alone at home is the worst choice, all else being equal. If you ask your rabbi, you get the same answer.

The other question is what kind of world do we want to live in. What if everyone took a day off, turned off their phones and computers, left their vehicles parked, and tried something different for a change?

Dear Rabbi,

If I am in Israel but my hametz (leaven) is in New Haven, am I in trouble for owning hametz on Pesah if I sold my hametz at 11a in New Haven? It was already Pesah in Israel.

Signed, Zoned Out

Dear Rabbi,

I saw that your [form for selling hametz](#) covers people in space or on the moon. What time does Pesah start on the moon? If an Israeli cosmonaut meets an American astronaut on a space station, when do they hold a seder?

Signed, Starting the Seder in a Crater?

Dear Spaced Out Readers,

Those questions were discussed long ago by our sages. An underlying issue is whether the prohibition is determined by the location of the hametz, or the owner, or both. If I'm in New Haven and the hametz is in Israel when Pesah starts there, am I owning hametz on Pesah, even though it is not Pesah for me? The same question will need to be asked at the end of Pesah, complicated by the extra day of Pesah observed in the Diaspora.

At a theoretic level, this is a gonzo whopper of a halakhic quandary. The most widely accepted theory is that the prohibition depends on the location of the person, not the hametz. So Hawaiian Jews can own hametz in their apartment in Israel up until the deadline in Oahu. Now, what they might do with that hametz, 14,000 kilometers away, is another question. They can't have their cake and eat it, too.

At a practical level, it is what we call an upper middle-class problem. Almost all of the hametz for which I serve as a sales agent is local; those who have a special case should call that to my attention. The best solution is to get rid of all hametz. If that really is not possible, I am usually able to effect a sale that will comply with all theories, thanks to my cooperative bulk buyer of hametz, an upstanding pedigreed gentile.

Seder timing on the moon is an old question. The principle arose in the case of the traveler who does not know what day it is, so is not sure when to observe Shabbat or a Festival. It also occurs regularly for people who live near or beyond the arctic circle, where during part of the year the sun never rises or never sets. And it arose in the question of which mitzvot apply, at all, outside the land of Israel, such as the rules of agricultural tithes or – the festivals themselves. A practical answer may not emerge until the reality arises regularly enough to force a practical answer that has some theoretical justification.

As for Mars, seder timing may depend on whether or not the human Martians maintain their connection to the Earth calendar or not. The Martian day is about 24 hours 39 minutes (Earth Standard), which means you get to sleep late every day, but the year is 687 Earth days (or 669 Martian days), so if you adopt the Martian calendar, it will be easy to determine whether or not the holidays are "late" this year.

For a popular scholarly discussion, see Rabbi David Golinkin's essay, "[How Does One Sell Hametz which is in a Different Time Zone?](#)"

April 2018

16 Nisan 5778 - 15 Iyar 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Passover II No Religious School 9:15am Festival Service Mini-Qiddush: Gralla & Schultz 5:45pm Minha-Maariv 16 Nisan/1 L'Omer	2 Hol Hamoed Passover I 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 17 Nisan/2 L'Omer	3 Hol Hamoed Passover II 7:15pm Israeli Dance 18 Nisan/3 L'Omer	4 Hol Hamoed Passover III Office Closed 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 19 Nisan/4 L'Omer	5 Hol Hamoed Passover IV No Berakhot Study Group 7:03pm Candle Lighting 20 Nisan/5 L'Omer	6 Passover VII Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service Mini-Qiddush: Akresh 6:00pm Minha-Maariv 7:04pm Candle Lighting 21 Nisan/6 L'Omer	7 Passover VIII (Yizkor) 9:15am Festival Service 10:45am Children's Programs Mini-Qiddush: Gralla & Schultz 5:45pm Minha 22 Nisan/7 L'Omer
8 9:00am Religious School 23 Nisan/8 L'Omer	9 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 24 Nisan/9 L'Omer	10 7:15pm Israeli Dance 25 Nisan/10 L'Omer	11 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 26 Nisan/11 L'Omer	12 Yom Hashoah 10:00am Berakhot Study Group 27 Nisan/12 L'Omer	13 7:12pm Candle Lighting 28 Nisan/13 L'Omer	14 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: BEKI Sisterhood/Glenn/Rastelli-Weiner 12:45pm Yom Hashoah event with guest speaker Arnie Pritchard 5:45pm Minha 29 Nisan/14 L'Omer
15 Rosh Hodesh I 9:00am Religious School 30 Nisan/15 L'Omer	16 Rosh Hodesh II 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 1 Iyar/16 L'Omer	17 7:15pm Israeli Dance 2 Iyar/17 L'Omer	18 Yom Hazikaron 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 3 Iyar/18 L'Omer	19 Yom Ha'Atzmaut 10:00am Berakhot Study Group 4 Iyar/19 L'Omer	20 6:00pm Sara Walstedter Bat Mitzva 7:19pm Candle Lighting 5 Iyar/20 L'Omer	21 Sara Walstedter Bat Mitzva 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Walstedter 5:45pm Minha 6 Iyar/21 L'Omer
22 9:00am Religious School 7 Iyar/22 L'Omer	23 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 8 Iyar/23 L'Omer	24 7:15pm Israeli Dance 9 Iyar/24 L'Omer	25 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 10 Iyar/25 L'Omer	26 10:00am Berakhot Study Group 11 Iyar/26 L'Omer	27 7:27pm Candle Lighting 12 Iyar/27 L'Omer	28 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 12:45pm Shabbat Schmooze with Zelda Roland (Director of Yale's Prison Education Initiative) 5:45pm Minha 13 Iyar/28 L'Omer
29 Pesach Sheini 9:00am Religious School 14 Iyar/29 L'Omer	30 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting 15 Iyar/30 L'Omer	Mark Your Calendar Shabbat Pesah 8 – Shir HaShirim – Yizkor 7 April 2018 Yom HaShoah Memorial & Speaker 14 April 2018 Rosh Hodesh Iyar 15-16 April 2018 Bat Mitzva: Sara Walstedter 20-21 April 2018 Shabbat Schmooze: Zelda Roland 28 April 2018				

Service Times

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



Yale students visit the BEKI Library, where Darryl Kuperstock and Rabbi Tilsen give them a close look at a Torah scroll during Spring Break in March.

More – Youth Scholarships

(A) Jewish Foundation, for local synagogue schools, scholarships.jewishnewhaven.org/form/religious ; (B) Foundation Israel Program scholarships jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships (C) Barzillai Cheskis Youth Israel Scholarship at BEKI (office@beki.org) (D) [One Happy Camper](#) for overnight Jewish

Camps (E) Noam Benson-Tilsen Fund for Ramah Scamper-ships (office@beki.org); (F) Federation [College Scholarships](#) (Needs-Blind and Needs-Based).

Tefila Tips

[Seven pointers to improve our services](#), for leaders and followers, www.beki.org/tefila-tips .