

BEKI BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, a Full-Service Synagogue for Greater New Haven Jewry
April 1996 Vol. 2 Issue 4 ק"ק בית אל-בתר ישראל Nisan-Iyar 5756

BEKI 2000 - Planning for Our Future

The BEKI Board of Directors has formed a committee -- the BEKI 2000 Committee -- which has taken on the

task of developing a strategic plan for the synagogue. The Committee, which has been meeting for six months, has already stimulated a lot of enthusiasm. According to one Committee member, "BEKI is a dynamic synagogue. We are attracting many new members. Now we need to plan for the next generation and the next century."

The Committee is working on the strategic plan, which has two key goals:

1. Create a comprehensive vision for the synagogue over the next ten years, including membership, programming, and finances.
2. Develop a plan for renovating the synagogue to support this vision, including detailed plans for the building and the fundraising campaign needed to accomplish the renovations.

The planning process was started because the building is in need of renovations. But in order to know what kind of renovations are needed, one has to answer the question, "How many people and what kinds of activities does the building need to accommodate?" In order to answer this question, BEKI needs to develop some kind of vision for itself for the next decade.

In developing this vision, the BEKI 2000 Committee would like to use a planning process that

1. involves as many congregants as possible;
2. integrates strategic planning and fundraising;



3. is completed as expeditiously as possible without sacrificing the first two goals.

Timeline for Planning Process: The timeline and method for the planning process are still being worked out. The current plan is to invite the whole congregation to participate in the process through approximately eight planning groups, each focused on a different aspect of the long-range plan. Planning groups might focus on topics such as Programming, Spiritual and Ritual, Budget and Finance, and Space Utilization. Some of the groups will work intensively for a short period of time, and others will continue at a steady pace for a longer period. By the end of the summer, the groups will prepare a first draft of the vision for the synagogue's programs and activities. By the beginning of December, the BEKI 2000 Committee will have developed a comprehensive strategic and financial plan for the synagogue. By the beginning of February 1997 the Committee will have developed a plan for renovations and for fundraising.

Call for Volunteers: The BEKI 2000 Committee will be reaching out to all congregants to ask for their participation. If you have any special skills or an area of interest that you feel would be helpful in the planning process, please let Tina Rose (387-9908) or Rabbi Tilsen (389-2108) know. The BEKI 2000 Committee welcomes all volunteers enthusiastically.

John Weiser

Synagogue Office Hours

Office hours are: Monday -Thursday: 9 am-3 pm and Friday: 9am-noon.

How to Contact the BEKI Bulletin

Responses to "A Message from Rabbi Tilsen," questions for "Dear Rabbi" and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Editor, BEKI Bulletin, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515 or by email to jjtilsen@aol.com.

Rabbi Tilsen's mail and e-mail are opened directly and exclusively by the Rabbi himself and are as secure and confidential as mail and e-mail can be.

Deadlines for Submitting Material for Publication

For the BEKI Bulletin, submit your material by the 1st of the month for the following month. Deadline for the May Bulletin is April 1st.

For mid-month flyer mailings, submit your material to the office by the 10th of the month. Deadline for the April mailing is March 10th. Please submit your material **ON TIME**.

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, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515.

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Free to Be....

In a previous message it was pointed out that the refrain "Let My people go" which rings in our ears from one Pesah to the next is not the complete Biblical phrase. The complete phrase is "shelah et ami veya`avduni -- Let My people go so that they may serve Me." God did not free us from servitude to Pharaoh so that we could be "free to be you and me"; rather, God freed us so that we could serve God.

But that is not to negate the value of personal autonomy and individual freedom in our tradition. While some have argued that personal freedom is overvalued in popular American culture, the ideal of freedom of personal expression and freedom of choice has become a sacrosanct principle of Jewish-American life. There are 365 injunctions or "negative" mitzvot, and if an act is not prohibited by one of them, then according to Jewish law you are free to do it. There are 248 obligations or "positive" mitzvot, and if an act is not required by one of them, then according to Jewish law you don't have to do it.

In fact, one of the 365 prohibitions is "bal tosif," which means "do not add any more mitzvot!" Six hundred thirteen mitzvot is enough already; ganug! The rabbis, of course, downplayed this mitzva by construing it narrowly because they found it necessary to expand the scope of the mitzvot. Even so they recognized the danger of overextending the laws. As the great sage Rabbi Hiyya said: "Do not make the fence taller than what is fenced in, lest it fall down and crush the saplings."

At the public high school I attended in Mendota Heights, Minnesota, I was blessed with an excellent English composition teacher, Mr. John J. Finnegan, who strictly and relentlessly imposed the rules of grammar and style on his students. God help the student who misused a colon or split an infinitive.

During our first semester a quiet controversy raged. Mr. Finnegan had banned the practice of writing the number seven with a small crossbar. To him it was an intolerable subversive orthographic deviation, a challenge to his authority and ultimately an assault on Western Civilization. To the students accustomed to writing the number seven with the crossbar, it was merely a matter of personal habit, often learned from their parents, and represented no threat to clarity or authority but rather a legitimate alternate form. While the teacher won the battle -- all sevens were properly formed in his classroom -- he lost the war as crossbarred sevens became suddenly popular everywhere else in the school.

Too many laws, rules and expectations can stifle the human spirit. Worse, they can lead to the wholesale rejection of law and social order. For that reason, our sages tried carefully not to impose more on the people than was required.

The Torah also enjoins us, as one of the 365 prohibitions, not to adopt foreign cultural practices. We are fortunate that in America we are, at least in principle, free to live according to our own culture. The ideal of "Diversity," now promoted by such mainstream forces such as the Anti-Defamation League, means that a Jew can wear a kippa if he wants, an Arab can wear a jalabiya, an African can wear a boubou, without being "Unamerican." Respecting diversity means a reversal of the process that imposed (for lack of a better label) English cultural norms in food, dress and manner on immigrant Jews and a myriad of other groups representing the wondrous diversity of human cultural creativity. The time when Jews made the adoption of English culture a mitzva has passed. Let us fully embrace the freedom to embrace the law and culture of our tradition and the freedom to create our own.

The spotlight is on

Harold's
**for discriminating
men's formal wear.**

19 Elm Street, New Haven, Tel. 562-7433



Dear Rabbi A column of answers, advice and helpful household hints

The following Passover question is repeated from a previous column.

Dear Rabbi:

Can green beans be eaten at the seder?
Signed, Sick of Matza Brei.

Dear Sick:

You can eat the beans, but only if you bring a note from your mother.

The Torah forbids Jews from eating or possessing hamets during Passover. Hamets is defined as any product made from or having as an ingredient wheat, rye, spelt, oats, and barley unless specially prepared as "kosher for Pesah." This means that corn, rice, garlic, peas and, yes, Green Beans, are absolutely not hamets.

But in most Ashkenazic communities it has been the custom to refrain from certain foods besides hamets during Pesah. These proscribed foods are referred to as "kitniyot," often translated as "legumes and other small things." Rabbinic discussions record some twenty-five different reasons for not eating kitniyot, and the list of proscribed items varies from place to place. Depending on where your family came from, green beans may or may not be considered "kitniyot."

While most *pispei halakha*--determinations of Jewish Law--are made by your rabbi, this one is made by Mom. If it is the custom of your family to not eat Green Beans on Passover, then don't eat them.

But if your family does eat green beans on Passover--if you are Sephardic, or if you are a Jew by Choice, or if your family eats green beans on Passover for any other reason--then by all means eat the beans.

While maintaining the proscription on eating kitniyot, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative) has ruled that green beans are permitted on Pesah.

Even if you don't eat green beans, it is permitted to eat on the dishes of someone who does eat them on Pesah. Beans and other kitniyot are not hamets. If someone hands you the beans, just pass them over to the next person.

Dear Rabbi,

Can I say mourners kaddish at a graveside without a minyan?

Signed, Private Mourner

Dear Private,

Certain prayers such as the qaddish, qedusha, barkhu and the Torah Reading are reserved for recitation when there is a minyan, i.e. a quorum of ten adult Jews. This is because their nature as public rites requires the special holiness that is present only in a

communal setting of at least ten. Our tradition values community to such an extent that it attributes added holiness to this minyan of souls.

Saying qaddish alone would be like standing up and singing the Star Spangled Banner alone; it may seem natural to do it in public at a ball game but you might feel silly doing it by yourself. Unlike some prayers that are addressed to God or to oneself, qaddish is addressed to the community.

It is said in the Talmud that when God looks in a shul and doesn't find a minyan during service time, God is disappointed. Nevertheless God gives credit to those who are present. Certainly God hears our prayers and values them whether said alone or with a minyan.

At the cemetery, it is appropriate to recite psalms, personal prayers and the memorial prayer "El Malei Rahamim," and, if there is a minyan, to add mourners' qaddish. To facilitate such worship we hold communal memorial services at the time of the Yamim Noraim High Holy Days. At other times for security reasons I recommend that when you visit the cemetery you go with a group.

Dear Rabbi,

Why can't Jews put flowers on coffins at a funeral?
Signed, Dying to know

Dear Dying,

There is no particular prohibition against throwing flowers on a casket at a funeral. However, it is not a Jewish custom to do so, and inasmuch as it is a custom in other religious traditions, our sages discourage it lest we be copying their ways. On the other hand, it may be that someone happens to like flowers, and if we are secure enough in our identity as Jews we do not need to be afraid of using a few flowers.

We generally do not bury useful items with the deceased because there is a general prohibition against wastefulness (*bal tashhit*); better to honor the memory of the deceased by spending the \$10 on education for a child in Hebrew School or in repairing a Torah Scroll than to throw flowers. In addition there is the concern that if flowers became standard at Jewish funerals some people might feel embarrassed if they could not afford them or harm themselves financially in order to "keep up with the Schwartzes." Therefore, in keeping with the views of our sages, I strongly discourage the practice but would not stand in anyone's way if that would somehow bring them comfort at their time of grief.

All letters to Dear Rabbi should be addressed to Rabbi J-J van Tilsen, care of this newsletter. Due to the volume of mail received, Dear Rabbi cannot answer all inquiries.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel thanks these members who have shown their level of commitment to the synagogue and its mission by voluntarily contributing beyond their regular dues through the "More than Dues" program in 1995-1996.

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Tina Rose

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Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim

Ellen Jawitz

Alexander & Lillian Heisler

Sid & Donna Levine

Stanley Saxe

Jaye Sela

Howard & Pearl Weinick

Natan & Lori Weinstein

Shoshana Zax

Anonymous

Anonymous

Sale of Hametz

Halakha (Jewish law) forbids owning, eating or benefiting from hametz during the period of Passover. Rabbi Tilsen will serve as an agent for interested congregants who are unable to physically dispose of all their hametz and wish to comply with halakha by selling their hametz to a third party not bound by these mitzvot. Congregants may grant Rabbi Tilsen limited power of attorney for this purpose by signing the "Power of Attorney for Selling Hametz 5756" available in the BEKI office and during 7:00 a.m. morning and 5:45 p.m. evening daily services or by signing and sending the following form to Rabbi Tilsen. Contributions collected for this service provide food for those in need; checks may be made to "Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund."

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Fast of First Born

The Fast of the First Born is Friday 14 April beginning at dawn. But firstborn who attend the morning service at 7:00 a.m. may conclude their fast by partaking of the seudat mitzva celebrating a siyyum, the conclusion of a study project. Services and siyyum will end by 8:15 a.m. All may attend. That time will also be the last available opportunity to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell you hametz.

Selling Hametz

We, the undersigned ("Sellers"), give power of attorney to Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen ("Rabbi") for the purpose of disposing to a buyer of the Rabbi's choice ("Buyer"), of all Hametz in our possession, which includes all foods and things fully or partially composed of leavening, or of the derivatives of leavening and all other foods and things associated by traditional Judaism with Hametz in our possession or in which we have a share of ownership (the "Subject Hametz") the sale of which is to be effective Wednesday 3 April 1996 at 10:00 AM.

Sellers authorize the Rabbi to repurchase said Hametz as the Sellers' agent after 20:00 Thursday 11 April 1996. Sellers reserve the right to cancel such repurchase within 30 days after 11 April 1996. All conditions of sale contained herein apply to such repurchase.

For each Seller, only his or her own signature is needed to effect this Power of Attorney, as each Seller acts as the sole representative in his or her household. Sellers agree to all terms and conditions of the full "Power of Attorney for Selling Hametz 5756" available in the BEKI office.

Name (print): _____

Address(es): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Mail or bring to Rabbi Tilsen, BEKI, 85
Harrison St., New Haven CT 06515-1724.

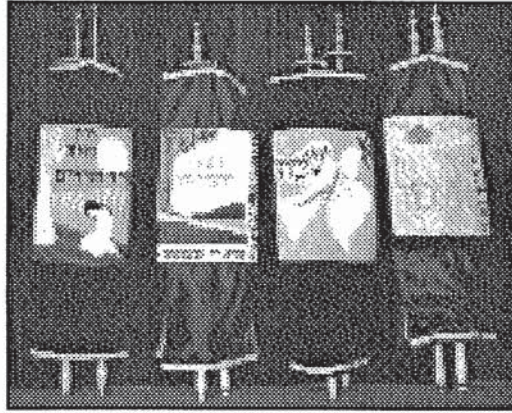
Scroll Cover Honoring Malka Levine

Friends of Malka Levine have joined together to dedicate a specially designed hand-made needlepoint Sacred Scroll Cover in her honor. The Isaiah Scroll Cover will be dedicated in her honor during Shabbat morning services on 13 April.

Malka Levine is an accomplished Jewish educator and community organizer who has served as a role model of a dedicated, committed and caring Jewish woman for thousands of children, youths and adults through her work in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and elsewhere. During the past 18 months Malka has personally directed the creation of an exquisite set of nine Sacred Scroll Covers, taking personal responsibility and working with others in all stages of the production.

With her husband, Rabbi Murray Levine, Malka has quickly become a highly respected and beloved member of our community since moving to New Haven three years ago.

The scrolls themselves were written over



100 years ago on fine parchment with a quill pen by a talented sofer (scribe) in just the same manner as a Torah scroll. During the winter the scrolls were painstakingly inspected, cleaned and repaired by an expert sofer and the wooden parts were repaired. Read on Shabbat

mornings as the haftara and on Festivals and Holy Days, these scrolls are second only to the Torah Scrolls in their sanctity. This fine collection represents an important part of the special heritage of our shul, and thanks to Malka Levine these scrolls are adorned by covers fitting their status.

Sponsors include Miriam Benson & Rabbi Tilsen, Trish Loving, Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade, Ruth Greenblatt, Rabbi Murray Levine, Amy & Stephen Pincus, Tina Rose, Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla and others.



Malka Levine

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Dates and Times to Remember

April Events

01 Mon	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group
03 Wed	7:00 am	Morning Service
	7:30 am	Siyyum Bekhorot-Firstborn Last chance to sell Hametz
	8:30 am	Men's Club Miqva
	5:45 pm	No evening service
04 Thu	9:15 am	Festival Morning Service
	6:00 pm	Festival Evening Service Second Seder by RSVP
05 Fri	9:15 am	Festival Morning Service
	6:00 pm	Shabbat Evening Service
06 Sat	9:15 am	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	10:45 am	Jr. Jr. Congregation
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
08 Mon	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group
10 Wed	9:15 am	Festival Morning Service
11 Thu	9:15 am	Festival Morning & Yizkor
12 Fri	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat Service
	8:00 pm	Late Evening Service
13 Sat	9:15 am	Shabbat Morning Service Dedication of Scroll Cover Honoring Malka Levine
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	10:45 am	Learners' Minyan
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
14 Sun	9:30 am	UHS
	9:40 am	Torah Pathways: Conversion Experience
	2:00 pm	Holocaust Memorial at BEKI
15 Mon	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group
17 Wed	4:15 pm	UHS
	7:30 pm	Making Shabbat 1

19 Fri	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat
	8:00 pm	Late Evening Service
20 Sat	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
21 Sun	9:30 am	Shul Breakfast by Men's Club
22 Mon	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group
24 Wed	7:30 pm	Making Shabbat 2
26 Fri	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat
	8:00 pm	Late Evening Service Sisterhood Service
27 Sat	9:15 am	Shabbat Morning Service Darshan: Eric I.B. Beller
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	10:45 am	Learners' Minyan
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
28 Sun	9:30 pm	UHS
	9:40 am	Torah Pathways
	4:00 pm	LaMaazel at Benson-Tilsens
29 Mon	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group
30 Tues	6:00 pm	Sisterhood Torah Supper

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Hours:	
M, T, W, F	8:00-5:30
Thurs.	8:00-8:00
Sat.	8:00-3:00

Dates and Times to Remember

May Events

01 Wed	4:15 pm	UHS
	7:30 pm	Making Shabbat 3
03 Fri	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat
	8:00 pm	Late Evening Service
04 Sha	9:15 am	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
05 Sun	9:30 am	UHS
06 Mon		No Rashi Study
08 Wed	4:15 pm	UHS
	7:30 pm	Making Shabbat 4
10 Fri	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat
	8:00 pm	Late Evening Service
11 Sha	9:15 am	Shabbat Morning Service
		Darshan: Stephen Wizner
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	10:45 am	Learners' Minyan
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
12 Sun	9:30 pm	UHS
13 Mon		No Rashi
15 Wed	4:15 pm	UHS
	7:30 pm	Making Shabbat 5
17 Fri	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat
	8:00 pm	Late Evening Service
18 Sha	9:15 am	Shabbat Morning Service
		Darshanit Anne Johnston
		Bat Mitzva: Karen Petrillo
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
19 Sun	9:30 am	Breakfast by Men's Club
	9:30 am	UHS Graduation & Promotion at Sinai
20 Mon	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group

21 Tue	12:05 pm	Book of Life Luncheon
22 Wed	7:30 pm	Making Shabbat 6
23 Thu	8:00 am	Men's Miqva
	8:00 pm	Festival Evening Service
	8:20 pm	Tiqun Leil Shavuot
		Sweeter than Honey
		Night of Adult Study
24 Fri	6:00 pm	Shabbat Festival Service
25 Sha	9:15 am	Shabbat Morning Service
		Book of Ruth
		Yizkor Memorial Service
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	10:45 am	Learners' Minyan
	5:45 pm	Minha Afternoon Service
26 Sun	9:40 am	Torah Pathways
27 Mon	9:00 am	Weekday Morning Service
	9:45 am	Rashi Study Group
29 Wed	7:30 pm	Making Shabbat 7
31 Fri	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat
	8:00 pm	Late Evening Service
		UHS Shabbat

Daily morning services Sunday 9:00 a.m., Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. and daily evening service Sunday through Thursday 5:45 p.m. except as noted on calendar.

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His/Her Reading
on the Bimah Will Be Wonderful...

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BEKI Events
April Nisan Iyar

1996

5756

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	12 Nisan 1 7:45a Rashi Study Group	13 Nisan 2 3:00p Deadline for May Bulletin	14 Nisan 3 7:00a Morning Service 7:30a Siyyum Bekhorot-First'n 8:30a Men's Club Miqva 5:45p No evening service Candles 6:00p First Seder	15 Nisan 4 9:15a Festival Morning Serv. 6:00p Festival Evening Serv. Second Seder by RSVP Candles after 6:50p	16 Nisan 5 9:15a Festival Morning Serv. Candles 6:02p 6:00p Shabbat-Festival Evening Serv	17 Nisan 6 9:15a Shabbat Shaharit 10:45a Children's Havura 10:45a Jr Cong 5:45 pm Minha Shabbat Ends 6:51p
18 Nisan 7 Move Clock Ahead—Daylight Savings Time Begins	19 Nisan 8 7:45a Rashi Study Group	20 Nisan 9 5:45p Afternoon & Evening Services Candles 7:06p	21 Nisan 10 9:15a Festival Morning Serv. 3:00p Deadline for May flyers Candles after 7:56p	22 Nisan 11 9:15a Festival Morning & Yizkor Pesah Ends 7:59p	23 Nisan 12 6:00p Qabbalat Shabbat Serv. Candles 7:10p 8:00p Late Evening Serv.	24 Nisan 13 9:15a Dedication of Scroll Cover Honoring Malka Levine 10:45a Child's Havura 10:45a Jr Cong 10:45a Lm's Minyan 5:45p Minha Sh Ends 8:00p
25 Nisan 14 9:30a UHS 9:40a Torah Pathways: Conversion Experience 2:00p Holocaust Memorial at BEKI (rain or shine)	26 Nisan 15 7:45a Rashi Study Group	27 Nisan 16	28 Nisan 17 4:15p UHS 7:30p Making Shabbat Workshop #1	29 Nisan 18	30 Nisan 19 Rosh Hodesh 6:00p Qabbalat Shabbat Candles 7:19p 8:00p Late Evening Service	1 Iyar 20 Rosh Hodesh 10:45a Children's Havura 10:45a Jr. Congregation 5:45p Minha Shabbat Ends 8:07p
2 Iyar 21 9:30a Shul Breakfast by Men's Club	3 Iyar 22 7:45a Rashi Study Group	4 Iyar 23	5 Iyar 24 7:30p Making Shabbat Workshop #2	6 Iyar 25	7 Iyar 26 6:00p Qabbalat Shabbat Candles 7:25p 8:00p Late Evening Service Sisterhood Shabbat	8 Iyar 27 9:15a Shaharit Darshan: Eric I.B. Beller 10:45a Child's Havura 10:45a Jr. Congregation 10:45a Lm's Minyan 5:45p Minha Sh. Ends 8:15p
9 Iyar 28 9:30a UHS 9:40a Torah Pathways 4:00p LaMaazel at Benson-Tilsen's	10 Iyar 29 7:45a Rashi Study Group	11 Iyar 30 6:00p Sisterhood Torah Fund Supper		Daily Morning Services Sun 9:00a Mon-Fri 7:00a Daily Afternoon & Evening Services Sun-Thu 5:45p except where noted		

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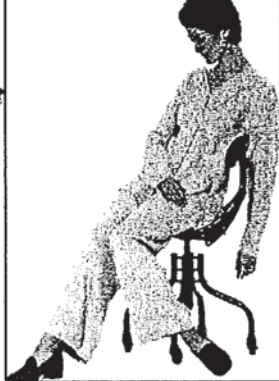
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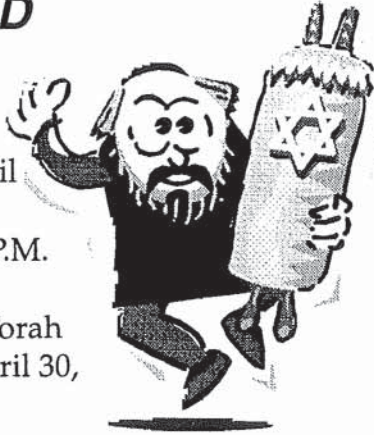
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TORAH FUND

REMINDERS:

- "Torah is Life Day" Thursday, April 18, 1996 at Beth El, Fairfield 10A.M. - 2 P.M.

- BEKI Sisterhood Torah Supper Tuesday, April 30, 1996, 6:00 P.M.



TORAH CARDS

MAZAL TOV

- To Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Schpero from Harriet & Noel Barstein
- To Rose Brunswick from Barbara Cushen
- To Seymour Sternstein from Vi & Charlie Ludwig
- To Sam Glazer from Rena & Sam Miller
- To Mrs. Sally Vishno from Ruth & Morris Olmer
- To Mrs. Harriet Gollinger from Ruth & Morris Olmer
- To Mrs. Phyllis Horton from Ruth & Morris Olmer
- To Robert Kasowitz from Ruth & Morris Olmer

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- To Mrs. Sally Sender from Grace Geisinger
- To Rose Brunswick from Rose & George Feen

ON THIS JOYOUS OCCASION

- To Rose Brunswick from Violet & Charlie Ludwig

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

- To Dr. Joshua Greene from Vi & Charlie Ludwig
- To Rose Brunswick from Adele Tyson & Helen & Richy Ross
- To Mrs. Doris Sagerman from Adele Tyson
- To Mrts. Anne Castroll from Ruth & Morris Olmer

GET WELL

- To Sam Gurian from Tess & Herb Galvin
- To Paula Hyman from Harriet & Sam Kantrowitz
- To Mrs. Lydia Levine from Ruth & Morris Olmer

SYMPATHY

- To Mrs. Joseph Horowitz from Adele Tyson, Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Rogoff
- To the Levine Family from Abe & Ruth Berman
- To Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Liner from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Mrs. Murray Tuckell & Family from Eunice & Louis Rogoff
- To Mrs. Bella Kasowitz from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein
- To Mrs. Caroline Sands & Family from Evelyn & Ernie Fielder
- To Mrs. David Greenblatt from Mr. & Mrs. Ted Satin
- To the Goldberg Family from Laura & Jack Yakerson & Family
- To Mrs. Norman Sands & Family from Rena & Sam Miller
- To Mrs. Roberta Zinn from Ada & Abe Fish
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Darshan in April

Eric I.B. Beller will present a Devar Torah-Discussion on 27 April during shabbat morning services which begin at 9:15 a.m. Eric is a New Haven attorney specializing in managed care health law, environmental law, business law and estate planning and probate. Beller is a BEKI member who lives with his family in Westville.

Directory

Attorney Judith Hoberman has formed an association under the firm name Shedd & Hoberman, LLC, for the practice of law with an emphasis on Elder Law. Her office is at 2508 Whitney Avenue, Suite B, Hamden CT 06518, 203-248-3191, fax 203-248-0180.

Conversion: The Process as a Family Experience

Join Lisa & Ken Marcus and Rabbi Tilsen for an experiential description of the conversion process. Understand what happens to the individual and their family, from several points of view. This edition of Torah Pathways meets Sunday morning 14 April at 9:40 a.m. All are welcomed.

Ari Nathan Levine Library Acquisitions

More books from Rabbi Murray and Malka Levine, donated in memory of their parents Sol and Frieda Eisenberg have arrived. The books, "God's Paintbrush" and "Northern Lights," are available on a non-lending basis in Ari Nathan Levine Library in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Todah Raba to Rabbi and Mrs. Levine for this contribution.

Bar Mitzva: Hillel Cogan

Join with the BEKI Community in the bar mitzva observance of Hillel Cogan on Shabbat morning 30 March. Hillel will lead the Torah service, read from the Torah and Haftara, lead musaf and present a Devar Torah/Torah discussion. Hillel is the son of Neil Cogan & Mannette Dodge.

For Expectant Parents

The next meeting of "LaMaazel--the Jewish Spiritual Way of Childbirth" will be on Sunday 28 April at 4:00 p.m. at the Benson-Tilsen residence in Westville. LaMaazel is a program for expectant parents and others to share their concerns and explore the Jewish approach to pregnancy and birth. If you would like to attend or know of someone who might like an invitation, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108.

BEKI Sisterhood News

Sisterhood president Adele Tyson reminds everyone that the Sisterhood Gift Shop is fully stocked with beautiful items for Passover and all occasions. Support the Gift Shop! For Info., call Adele at 389-9599.

Come to "Torah Is Life Day" at Beth El Synagogue, Fairfield, on Thursday, April 18, 1996, 10a.m.- 2 p.m., when our Sisterhood will be honored and receive an award. There will be a wonderful guest speaker; hostess synagogue will provide lunch at \$7.50 per person, payable at Beth el to conn. Valley Branch. Make reservations with Torah Fund chairman Rose Feen, 387-8743, by the first week in April.

Make a note that Sisterhood Sabbath is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 1996, 8 p.m. We want a good turnout! Bring your family and guests.

Sisterhood's annual Torah Fund Supper will take place on Tuesday, April 30, 1996, 6 p.m. Mark your calendar! Details on this always enjoyable event will be forthcoming soon.

Donations to Sisterhood have been received from: Hyla Greenberg, Sara Oppenheim, Malka Levine and Lisa Marcus.



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Second Seder

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel and the Conservative/Masorti Congregations of Greater New Haven invite the community to a traditional seder on the second night of Passover, 6:30 p.m. Thursday 4 April at BEKI. Sponsored by Congregations Beth El-Keser Israel, Beth Sholom, B'nai Jacob and Or Shalom, the seder will be lead by host Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.

The special Passover dinner, arranged by the Sisterhood and catered by Abel Caterers, will offer traditional foods with an optional vegetarian entree if requested at the time of reservation. The cost is \$25 each for adults and \$15 for children 10 and younger. Reservations were due by March 21. If the deadline has not passed and you would like to attend call Myra 389-2108 immediately.

Making Shabbat at Home

Learn how to bake halla, ritually wash hands, recite qiddush, sing songs and more during seven workshops on Making Shabbat at Home, presented by Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Studies at BEKI and the Sisterhood. Join teachers Steven Fraade, Rabbi Tilsen, Chyla Talesnick, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Liz Shanks, Drew Allison and others on

**Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
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DATED MATERIAL

Wednesday evenings at BEKI from 7:30 to 8:30 beginning 17 April. There is a fee of \$25 which includes a copy of Dr. Ron Wolfson's *The Art of Jewish Living: The Shabbat Seder*. To register for the series call Myra at 389-2108.

Weinstein Family Qiddush

Natan & Lori Weinstein are sponsoring the qiddush after shabbat morning services 27 April marking accomplishments of their children. Justin is receiving the Aleph pin from the Cub Scouts which is awarded after completing eight separate sections relating to Judaism. He worked over nine months in order to earn this pin. Beth will recite the Haftorah on the second anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah observance at BEKI.

Men's Club Miqva Experience

BEKI Jewish men are invited to gather at the New Haven Mikvah at 86 Hubinger Street in New Haven (just a few blocks from BEKI) at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday 3 April for individual private immersion in the purifying waters of the miqva. The cost is \$7; bring your own towel. For more information call Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108.

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