



# USY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

BY JON HAYWARD AND ELIE AZOFF-SLIFSTEIN

*Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.*

– Rob Siltanen, Creative Director of TBWA\Chiat\Day

Ethan Feuer, United Synagogue Youth 2016 International President and good friend, stood on the stage before hundreds of USYers on Wednesday, 30 December and quoted Rob Siltanen. He stood in front of high schoolers from across North America during those elections, and the energy with which he said that line was incredible. This year, we had the privilege of attending the 65<sup>th</sup> annual USY International Convention (IC), which took place in Baltimore. The four days prior to the convention we spent with our Connecticut and western Massachusetts region, Hanefesh, and New England Region USY at pre-convention. We've never sung more or laughed harder than we did over those ten days.

Early every morning of pre-convention, we walked nearly a mile to the Hillel at the University of Maryland. After davening as a group, we made lunch and set off on a different adventure each day. Whether traveling through the tourist sites of D.C. to movie nights (seeing Star Wars, of course), fun was always guaranteed. We also spent Shabbat together, marking a peaceful end to pre-convention.

At International Convention, we had the opportunity to explore Baltimore's Inner Harbor, journey through the National Aquarium, listen to various speakers, form lasting friendships, and attend intellectually stimulating programs. As Herzl once said "If you will it, it is no dream." In the same sense, the slogan of IC was "Think More, Do more, Be More." The Jewish intellectual tradition is predicated on a few basic questions.

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## Shabbat Schmooze With Charlie Pillsbury

**Repairing the World One Conflict at a Time:  
Building a More Peace "Able" World**

Saturday, 27 February at 12:45p at BEKI immediately following services and Kiddush lunch

Charlie Pillsbury is a lawyer and a long time New Haven resident who has devoted much of his professional life to practicing and teaching the art of conflict resolution through mediation. He is currently Co-Director, Center on Dispute Resolution, Distinguished Practitioner in Residence, and part-time professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law.

From 2009 to 2014, he also served as the Executive Director of Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBB), an international nonprofit organization. He currently is MBB's treasurer and leader of its Columbia Project team. Before his work with MBB, Charlie was the Executive Director of Community Mediation, Inc. in New Haven and was a founding Board member of the National Associate for Community Mediation.

As a long-time mediator and a Board Member of Mediators Beyond Borders, Charlie believes in the importance of "keeping people affected by conflict at the center of peacebuilding." Join us to hear how his work and the work of others like him, are helping people around the world to create peace.

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## BEKI Bulletin

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To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

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President



## Convention

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As Jews what is our place in this world? What can we do to help those around us? How must we continue to reach out to our community? Whether in the form of organized branch-out track-style discussions with groups like AIPAC or JStreet, or debates at 1a over the similarities in doctrine between Rebbe Schneerson, Buddha, and Gandhi, IC stimulated an environment of constant learning. Other programs included track-style discussions on saving the future of our planet, combating anti-Semitism on campus, and how to effectively lobby for change.

Each morning featured a different Shahrarit program. On Thursday morning, the last day of IC, the IC Shahrarit Live Band played their hearts out to the entire convention. Throughout the service, they led us in the prayers and played amazing songs in between. We stood on our chairs and sang until we couldn't.

While Post-convention was only one day, we got to spend an unforgettable New Year's with some of our closest friends. Throughout the night we danced, played games, and sang lots of ruach. Fifteen minutes before midnight we ran outside to watch fireworks. The two of us, and one other friend, began singing. We spent the last few minutes of 2015 dancing and singing USY classics like Adama, Kol

Ha-olam Kulo and Ana BeKho'ah, with fifty-five of our closest friends. People walking past began smiling and occasionally dancing because the excitement was infectious. As the fireworks began, we all ran together to get a better view, and counted down the new year. That was by far one of the best ways to spend New Year's, surrounded by our friends.

We're happy to come back to New Haven with a new sense of our identities as Jews, and as Americans. As Jews attending large, secular schools, we're constantly spoken to about Judaism and asked questions about it. While this kind of curiosity is good, it can often feel isolating to be one of only a handful of Jewish teens in a majority of Christians. It becomes easy to lose your identity in such an environment. At IC, and other USY events, being surrounded by other Jewish teens brings you back to your roots as a Jewish American.

The end of IC was bittersweet, especially because it was our first and last IC as we are both high school Seniors. It was ten full days of excitement, especially since it was our first IC. The only sad part was that it was also our last IC, and the last for many of the people we met. That sad idea doesn't diminish the incredible experience of International Convention.



*Shabbatot (Saturdays)*

דַּרְשָׁנִים

### Darshanim

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

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

Shula Chernoff, *parashat Teruma*,  
13 February

Rabbi M Levine, *parashat Tetsave*,  
29 February

Bruce Oren, *parashat Pequdei*, 12  
March

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

### 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 shul-goers 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



**Shula Chernoff**



**Steven Fraade**



**Alan Lovins**



**Nadav Sela**

at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.

### Beginning Hebrew with Will

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

### Mishna Ta'anit

On most Shabbat afternoons between Mincha and Maariv through February 2016, survey Mishna Tractate Ta'anit, which centers on public fasts, especially those declared by the leaders, such as in response to drought. Mincha begins about 20 minutes before sunset. With Rabbi Tilsen.

*Sundays*

### Alef-Bet Workshop

Three Sunday Evenings beginning 24 January 2016.

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

### Prayer Book Hebrew 101

*Six Sunday Evenings Beginning 6 March 2016.*

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

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

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

*Mondays*

### Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the

## Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 4**

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. On Presidents’ Day, 15 February 2016, *shaharit* begins at 9a and RSG meets from 9:50a – 10:30a. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

### Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot

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

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

*Wednesdays*

### Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (*shaharit*) features a 180-second “Hebrew word of the Week” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

### Rabbis’ Study Group

*Wednesdays with Murray* is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at 203.397.2513.



**Murray Levine**

*Thursdays*

### Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. *Shaharit* service is from 8:15a to 9:15a on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7:00a.

### Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group – New Time

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 18 and 25 February 2016.



**Isaiah Cooper**

The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office [icooper@cooperlaw.net](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.net). With Rabbi Tilsen.

*Every Day*

### Divrei Torah on the Web

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



## Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

- Elaine Weinstein in memory of Anita Weinstein
- Amy Margolis marking the yahrzeit of Samuel Adam Margolis
- Joan Gelbert in appreciation for visits with Alan
- Richard & Lynn Saltz
- Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce & Family in memory of Bob Oakes
- Linda Saslow Family in memory of Harold
- Linda Saslow Family in appreciation of Rabbi Tilsen
- Evelyn Benson with condolences to Bill Shragis & Family and in memory of Anne Shragis

## Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
- Families recognizing their pets - Berger & Klein: Kinwa the cat; Birn: Tessio, Clemenza & Sprite the cats; Chirnomas & Hurwitz: Emmet the dog; Cohen: in memory of Naphtali the dog; Colten & Berry: Rorschach & Lilly White Shoes the cats; Gerbers: in memory of Theodosia & Danielle the gerbils; Herbst: Lilly the dog; Kaminsky: Pita & Damien the cats; Lesser: Harry the dog; Lovins & Loving: Ricky the dog; Marx & Schonberger: Scout the dog plus the chickens & frogs; May: Guinness & Matza the dogs; Myer & Kempton: Charlie the dog; Oppenheimer: JJ Diggles von Poochstein & Archibald Ferguson Oppenheimer the dogs; Oren: Shadow the dog; Palumbo: Mugsy & Cheffie the cats; Silverman & Sokolow: Rashi the dog; Stahl & Anderson; Weiner & Rastelli: Sylvie, Disco & Snowflake the birds plus the fish & chickens; Weitzman: Patty the dog; Wizner: Twilight the grandchildrens' lizard; Zahler & Samule: Schnitzel the dog
- Donna & Sid Levine
- David Wright
- The Freiman-Light family

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

- To Steven Fraade in his honor by Arthur Levy
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes

by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker

- To Benjamin Birn in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To the Friedman and Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Jessy & Joe Palumbo
- To the Friedman and Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Margie & Jay Hirshfield
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- To The Friedman and Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman
- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Patricia Corcoran Moldawsky by Gloria Cohen
- To Sid & Donna Levine with sympathy on the passing of Ann Levine by Gloria Cohen
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of the marriage of Ilana & Jonathan by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Lois K. Feldman
- To the Friedman and Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Martin & Lana Gad
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Jennifer Myer & James Kempton and family with sympathy on the passing of Edwin Myer
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Andy & Paige Weinstein
- To David Chorney with sympathy on the passing of his cousin by Andy & Paige Weinstein
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by the BEKI Cemetery Association
- To Lauren Kempton with sympathy on the passing of Daisy Kempton by the Rothman family
- To Ina Gross with sympathy on the passing of Michael Wallach by the Rothman family
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman and family in honor of the birth of a baby girl by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Donna & Sid Levine and family in honor of the auftrauf & wedding of Ilana & Jonathan by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Corey Stone & Sue McDonald
- To John Weiser & Shoshana Zax in their honor by Corey Stone & Sue McDonald
- To Benjamin Birn in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of the marriage of Ilana & Jonathan
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To the Friedman and Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by the Marx and Schonberger family
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
- To Benjamin Birn in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman in honor of the birth of their daughter by Rachel & Andy Hechtman
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman in honor of the birth of their daughter by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Betty & Art Levy
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman in honor of the birth of their daughter by Betty & Art Levy
- To the Friedman and Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Betty & Art Levy
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Betty & Art Levy
- To Barbara & Lenny Stern with sympathy on the passing of Patricia Corcoran Moldawsky by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Sharon & Dan Prober
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman in honor of the birth of their daughter by the Weitzman family
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Morton Dimenstein
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Jennifer Fleming
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by the Weitzman family
- To Eran Avni-Singer in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Weitzman family
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by the Weitzman family
- To Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold in honor of Danya & Andrew's wedding by the Weitzman family
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman in honor of the birth of their daughter by Ellen Cohen & Steve Fraade
- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of Ilana & Jonathan's wedding by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes

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by Al Barnett

- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by the Rothman family

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

- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Adele Tyson
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Joan Gelbert
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Friedman and Bruce family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman in honor of the birth of their daughter by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by David & Darryl Kuperstock

### **The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund**

- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by the Freiman-Light family
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Carol Shuchman & Kendall Christiansen
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Alice Kosowsky
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Sherry Kent
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Leon Cummings
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Mimi & Effi Glenn
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Gloria Cohen
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Andy & Paige Weinstein
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Sharon & Dan Prober
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Stephanie & Michael Smerling
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Corey Stone and Sue McDonald
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Rachel & Andy Hechtman
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Philip Troy
- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the

passing of Tina Brooks by Betty & Art Levy

- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by the Weitzman family
- To Eitan Hirshfield in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Sid & Donna Levine in honor of Ilana & Jonathan's wedding by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

### **BEKI Religious School**

- To Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold with sympathy on the passing of Tina Brooks by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Karel Koenig with sympathy on the passing of Robert Oakes by the Silverman & Sokolow family

### **The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund**

- In memory of their father Murray E. Kahn by Richard & Michael Kahn
- To Doris Sagerman with sympathy on the passing of David Sagerman by Mikki Ratner

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

- In memory of Paul, Louis, Samuel & Robert Goodwin by the Goodwin and Levine Family Foundation
- In memory of Esther Bashevkin by Rachel Bashevkin
- In loving memory of her sister Phyllis C. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Ethel Siegel by Lou & Debbie Siegel
- In memory of Jack Nankin by Sheldon & Sandra Nankin
- In memory of Kate Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer
- In memory of Elsie Hodes by Jeff & Lynne Heisner
- In memory of George Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of her grandmother Sara Schnitman by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
- In memory of Deborah Mendelson by Myra Harris
- In memory of Lester E. Feldman by Sara L. Salomon
- In memory of Abraham Goldberg by Fran Goldberg-Cohen
- In memory of Benjamin & Shirley Brodner by Richard & Leatrice Brodner
- In memory of Irving Weinstein by Elaine Weinstein
- In memory of Michael & Sarah Franzman by Larry & Susan Franzman
- In memory of his parents Judith & Louis Friedman by Ralph Friedman
- In memory of Benjamin Levine by Diane Hoberman
- In memory of Ida Barnett by Al Barnett
- In memory of Lawrence Moscovitz by Mike Moscovitz
- In memory of Pearl Weiner by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- In memory of Marjorie Golden Weiss Simson by Marshall & Joan Weiss
- In memory of her mother Esther Heller by Rhoda & Ed Lemkin
- In memory of Martin Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie
- In memory of Anne Mushin Venetianer & William Victor Mushin by Allen & Sheila Mushin
- In memory of Benjamin & Jeanette Spivak by Sheila & Allen Mushin
- In memory of Sam Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of Louis Liner by Howard Miller
- In memory of Milton Cohen by Doris & Stephen Brody
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Anita & Michael Malina
- In memory of Diane Lee Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Carol Cohen & Sandra Blair
- In memory of Lester & Rosalyn Olin by Peggy Olin
- In memory of Ned Porter by Peggy Olin
- In memory of Sidney Yaffe by David Yaffe
- In memory of Sally Zanrotsky by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Seymour Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of Sasha Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder



## Rimmonim Chapter Keeps Members In Stitches

The Pomegranate Guild of Jewish Needlework is an organization that has 25 chapters in the U.S. and Canada, including the Rimmonim Chapter that meets monthly in New Haven, usually in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Family Library, on a Sunday afternoon.

The Rimmonim Chapter was started by Reena Seltzer of Woodbridge. Rita Sela, a Sisterhood BEKI member, secured a regular meeting place for the guild to meet and enjoy sharing interests in learning different Jewish fiber arts. About a dozen members from local and not-so-local synagogues who have different levels of skill and proficiency enjoy sitting around the table in the Rosenkrantz Library schmoozing and enjoying learning a new craft.

The new Torah table cover in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel (the Beit Midrash) was created by the Rimmonim Guild to thank BEKI for the use of the room. Please notice it when you stop by the chapel. We are



always looking for new members who enjoy crafting to join our group. For further information please contact Susan Honeyman at 203-397-9233.

Thank you to our new and renewed members of Sisterhood for the coming year.

## LifeCycle

המקום ינחם

*HaMaqom Yinahem*

With sorrow we note the passing of

**Anne Shragis**, mother of William Shragis

**Dorothy Friedman**, grandmother of Robin Goldberg

**Ronald Goldberg**, father of Sandy Goldberg

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*

### Benei Mitzva

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

### Reserve Your Date

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

### It's Almost Purim!

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

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

You can either print out or fill in and mailing back a paper order form or download the fillable form, clicking your options and emailing it back to [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org)

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May this be a joyous Purim for everyone!



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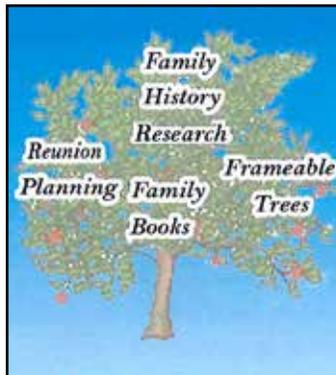
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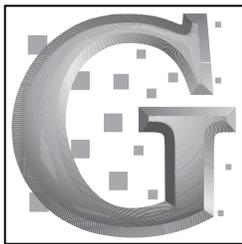
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## Super Deli Boxes



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### 25th Annual Deli Boxes

Once again, as we have for the last 25 years, our community will be treated to festive, flavorful and fantastic boxed kosher deli lunches and dinners, thanks to the efforts of the BEKI-BJ Joint Youth Commission. The event, DELI

BOXES, is our only annual fundraiser for the joint youth programs of the two synagogues, and will take place this year on Sunday 7 Feb. – Superbowl Sunday (as usual).

The Youth Commission would like to encourage you to volunteer to help out at BEKI on Saturday evening 6 Feb. from 7:30p on, or on Sunday 7 Feb. from 9:30a – 1:30p, or both, as the great “Deli Boxes Machine” rolls into action. We need all the help we can get to make sure the program is a success.

If you are interested in providing additional support for our youth (with funding or volunteer participation), please contact the Youth Commission Chairpeople: BEKI – Liora Lew, and at BJ – Susan Dardik. Thanks for your support.

## Youth

### Religious School News

Shalom BEKI members and supporters. We are about halfway through the Religious School year and have had some changes along the way. Mora Shlomit Daniel, who started with BRS several years ago as a special education teacher in Meyuhad and then joined the BRS faculty, unexpectedly moved out of town mid-year. A small but heartfelt gathering of faculty, students and teachers met to send her with our thanks for her years of teaching and friendship and with our very best wishes in her new adventures. A farewell event was held for her at Ezra Academy, where she taught as well.

We were lucky to find Boaz Bar, currently our new moreh, who has taken over for Shlomit. Boaz is also from Israel and he is in New Haven with his wife, who is a graduate student at Yale. Boaz did his service in the Israel Defense Forces and is a geologist.

We also are very happy to welcome Nissen Weisman who joins us on occasional Sunday mornings with his guitar to teach popular camp and simha songs. We've learned Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's version of *Dovid Melech Yisrael*, and *Od Yishama* which are often sung at weddings, *Od Yavo Shalom Alenu* which is a popular Israeli song of peace, and *Gesher Tsar Me'od* by Rebbi Nahman of Breslev. Sometimes when we feel especially energetic we've been known to dance through the synagogue building too.

Once each month, Ron, our Young Emissary, joins us for a class. Sometimes he sings Hebrew songs with us and sometimes he prepares special activities about Israel for students. We won't see him this month, when he goes home for vacation.

We enjoyed a lovely Hanuka party with latkes and other treats. Each student went home with a small gift, a dreidel, and chocolate gelt. We had a Tu BeShevat seder with fruits from Israel at the end of January, and in the coming weeks we especially look forward to celebrating Purim and Pesah.

If you know of a family that might be interested in the BEKI Religious School please talk to the principal, Ina Silverman [principal@beki.org](mailto:principal@beki.org). Recruitment for the coming school year begins soon.

### USY

Make sure to join us for the winter. It's going to be tons of fun you won't want to miss. This January we had a lounge night on the 25<sup>th</sup> with snowball-capture-the-flag. At the end of the month we went to a wild Yale hockey game. Our first February lounge night will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> and we'll be learning about Tu BeShevat (eating Israeli candies) and its significance in Israel. We'll have another lounge night on 22 February as well. Bring your oven mitts because we'll be baking Purim pastries. Please know that all lounge nights will be at B'nai Jacob (75 Rimmon Rd, Woodbridge) and will be from 6:30p – 7:45p.

### Kadima

Happy New Year everyone. This winter's packed with fun that you definitely won't want to miss. In February, lounge nights for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and high school students are on the 8<sup>th</sup> and on the 22, at B'nai Jacob, 6:30p–7:45p, 75 Rimmon Rd. The theme is Tu BeShevat and Purim respectively. All of Kadima is invited to laser tag on the 27<sup>th</sup> at the Connecticut Sports Center (784 River Rd, Shelton). [Can't wait to see you all.](#)

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including a brief introduction to Abraham's Tent

# ABRAHAM'S TENT

is a community-based program with Columbus House ([columbushouse.org](http://columbushouse.org)) which, through the generosity of local religious congregations and organizations, provides shelter and case management for 12-15 weeks for a group of adult men and women experiencing homelessness from December through March in Greater New Haven. On a rotating basis, volunteers from each host site provide shelter, meals, and fellowship from early evening through breakfast each day for one week.

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

## **BEKI will host Abraham's Tent from % 'March to '&'March '2016**

The Abraham's Tent participants must apply before the winter to participate. Once chosen and the program begins, the men arrive in the late afternoon daily to Columbus House, are interviewed to make sure they are in suitable condition to participate that day, shower, collect or store their belongings and bedding, and travel together by van to that week's host location, arriving by about 6pm with several members of the Columbus House staff. After settling in, participants and volunteers dine and spend the evening together. The men will spend a comfortable, warm and safe overnight at BEKI, with several BEKI or COHS volunteers on-site. In the early morning, breakfast is served for all, and the van will transport the participants to Columbus House to continue their daily activities. They will return each night of that week to BEKI. All case management is done by professionals from Columbus House.

Most host organizations prepare meals through pot-luck participation of their members. ***Because of BEKI's kashrut standards, all meals will either be prepared in the BEKI kitchen or through an approved kosher caterer.***

Over the last 6 years, many of the men who participated in this program have moved to transitional or permanent housing. Each works with a case manager to figure out their best next step. The Tikun Olam committee remains in touch with several of our guests from last year and we're happy to continue to support their efforts and their moves to permanent housing.

The BEKI Tikun Olam Committee is proud to be able to coordinate BEKI's effort in this worthwhile project.

## **Your help is needed in all of the following ways:**

- **Attend the Heat Wave Caribbean Party, have a great time and support our efforts!**
- **DONATE funds to help defray additional costs**
- **Volunteer to help shop before and during the week**
- **Volunteer to help cook dinners and/or breakfasts before or during the week**
- **Volunteer to help serve dinners and/or breakfasts**
- **Sponsor dinner or breakfast for one or more nights**
- **Sign up as an overnight volunteer for one or more nights**
- **Help with logistics and equipment (moving around furniture, TVs, provide power strips, etc.)**

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

# MALIK: MARTYR OR MENACE?

*Reprinted from the BEKI Bulletin December 1997*

**T**he shooting of New Haven resident Malik Jones by an East Haven Police Officer has incited intense emotion as well as thoughtful advocacy. Jones has been described as an innocent unarmed motorist gunned down at point-blank range for the crime of “driving while Black” or at most for a minor traffic violation, by a brutal and racist or panicked patrolman. He has also been described as an alcohol- and Angel-dust intoxicated menace who fled and threatened the life of a dedicated public servant.

But the challenge that this tragic episode presents is not about who Malik Jones was. After all, the East Haven Police officer did not know whom he was shooting; it could have been Bill Cosby\* for all he knew. However we view Jones – as martyr or menace – this tragic episode has brought three important and, unfortunately, interrelated issues to the top of our civic agenda. The first is the public policy issue of the appropriate use of deadly force, that is, under what circumstances a police officer may or must kill a person. More broadly, this is the question of proper police procedure regarding automobile chases and arrest. This question had already captured the public’s attention in recent months following several cases of innocent bystanders being killed or injured in the course of high-speed police chases.

Two thousand years ago, the Mishna recorded in law that deadly force may be used only when necessary to prevent murder or physical violation of another person (Sanh 73a). In 1985, the United States Supreme Court reached essentially the same conclusion in ruling that deadly force may be used only when there is probable cause to believe that the fleeing suspect is an immediate danger. “It is not better that all felony suspects die than that they escape,” said Justice Byron R. White for the court. But applying these principles in a way that protects the rights of citizens and gives police sufficient power to physically protect innocent bystanders and themselves is no easy matter. When the Mishna was written no one had to worry about concealed weapons or attempt to calculate the risk of a chase at 30, 50 or 100 mph. This is an opportunity for criminal justice professionals and the broader public to develop guidelines through a democratic process. It has been observed that the New Haven Police Department, in contrast to that of East Haven, teaches and requires

procedure that in this case would not (it seems) have possibly led to a fatality.

The second issue raised is that of police brutality. What many have known all along has now been recorded on numerous home videos. There are too many cases of police officers beating up on people. In fairness we can point out that there are physicians, attorneys, clergy and elected officials who abuse their positions of authority or their professional expertise. When brutality (or corruption) occurs among those who are armed and have state power it is particularly threatening to public values and order. The question becomes, who polices the police? As Governor Rowland has pointed out, it is not sufficient for the police and those in the criminal justice system to police themselves; we need others who can bring a “greater objectivity” to that process. This too is no mean feat but is essential for a “free society.”

The third issue raised, closely linked with the question of brutality, is that of racism in the police force. While it may be that the East Haven Police are no more racist than general society (at least in East Haven), we must face the fact that racism is pervasive, intense and destructive. It is a sorry state when reasonable and responsible parents are telling their children to run from the police -- and the death of Malik Jones reinforces their perception. While the East Haven Police softball team depicts a caricature of “Boyz on the Hood,” the symbol associated with the New York City Police Department has become the toilet plunger.

The East Haven Police Department, if it is to regain credibility and respect, must first admit it has a problem. Then it must undertake ongoing efforts such as hiring officers from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds and avail themselves of the Anti-Defamation League’s “A World of Difference” program to begin to recognize and overcome their own racism.

In addition to treating the specific case of Malik Jones in a way that will satisfy the public’s demands of justice, accountability and objectivity, these issues of police procedure, brutality, and racism must be addressed on their own merits. The mitzva (commandment) to maintain a system of criminal justice is one that applies to all humanity, and as Jews in the Greater New Haven region we recognize that our own sense of decency and safety depend on it.

*\*Editor’s note: Amazing how the world has changed in 20 years.*

# February 2016

## 22 Shevat 5776 - 20 Adar I 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	22 Shevat	23 Shevat	24 Shevat	25 Shevat	26 Shevat	27 Shevat
28 Shevat	29 Shevat	30 Shevat	1 Adar I	2 Adar I	3 Adar I	4 Adar I
5 Adar I	6 Adar I	7 Adar I	8 Adar I	9 Adar I	10 Adar I	11 Adar I
12 Adar I	13 Adar I	14 Adar I	15 Adar I	16 Adar I	17 Adar I	18 Adar I
19 Adar I	20 Adar I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shabbat Schmooze: Abraham's Tent 6 February 2016</li> <li>• Deli Box Assembly Night: 6 February 2016</li> <li>• Deli Box Assembly Morning: 7 February 2016</li> <li>• Deli Box Pickup: 7 February 2016</li> <li>• Rosh Hodesh Adar I: 9-10 February 2016</li> <li>• Darshanit: Shula Chernoff 13 February 2016</li> <li>• 20s-30s Havura Dinner: 26 February 2016</li> <li>• Shabbat Schmooze with Charlie Pillsbury: 27 February 2016</li> <li>• Kadima Laser Tag: 27 February 2016</li> </ul>				

### 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. Qabbalat Shabbat	9:15 a.m. Shaharit Before sunset: Minha

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