BUILDING DAMAGED IN CARJACKING CRASH

Monday morning 2 January at 1:35a, an SUV reported stolen and traveling westward (uphill) on Whalley Avenue at high speed while being followed by police vehicles became airborne and crashed into our building. The impact, which killed the driver and passenger, penetrated the wall of the social hall and broke windows in the downstairs social hall. The SUV owner, who reported the carjacking an hour earlier, was not physically harmed.

For details on the incident and community reaction, see numerous local, national and international press accounts including videos; see New Haven Independent or Times of Israel, for example.

Thanks to the response of our members and supporters, the structural damage was temporarily addressed and the building approved for use by Thursday evening that week – just in time for the Congregation to celebrate Shabbat and the bat mitzva observance of Serena Sachs. While several officers and Rabbi Tilsen were called by police around 3a, apparently only Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen answer their phone at that hour, and they met with police and fire officials on-site long before dawn. Rabbi Tilsen arrived after 7a and ascertained that services could be held that morning as scheduled (9a for the federal holiday). Whalley Avenue was opened for traffic at 8:30a. President Harold Birn and past-president Andy Hirshfield spent the better part of the day at BEKI dealing with the aftermath of the incident. Jay Sokolow and David Wright, among other members, helped manage the incident in the morning.

Our insurance agent and member, David Margolis, was on the scene twice on Monday, despite the holiday, and then again during the week, to guide us and expedite the insurance process. Bob Spear provided expert guidance to our mobilized officers in the structural and process issues for the urgent repair and the planning for restoration. Our staff, Peggy and Clarence, had an especially busy week dealing with a parade of people and a huge mess, while preparing for a major event on the weekend. Special thanks to Robert Sachs and Cherry Hill Construction for their help in getting the urgent repair and approval accomplished exceptionally well and quickly.

BEKI President Harold Birn pledged, “I will build a great wall. Someone else will pay for it.”

Plans for restoration are underway. Acquiring the custom bricks, blocks and glass will take several weeks, and the work cannot be scheduled during the cold of winter. Initial estimates put the cost of repair at between $75,000 and $150,000; we expect the entire cost to be covered by insurance, except for a deductible amount.

Continued on Page 3
Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Ask us about establishing a fund, trust or annuity to ensure BEKI’s future.

Charitable giving strengthens our Community and provides the donor with tax savings.

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If you are buying items from Amazon and use the link on BEKI’s home page beki.org (bottom) then BEKI will receive a small commission (about 4%) on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link. (Other Amazon programs provide only 0.5% so use our link.)

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Found Founder President

BEKI Bulletin

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

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

• Visit our web page: www.beki.org
For advertising information, call the synagogue office.
Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.
Annual subscription is $36

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News

Crash
Continued from Page 1

The outpouring of offers of support was perhaps a silver lining to the incident. Normally the JCC of Greater New Haven is a default back-up venue for local Jewish institutions, but the JCC has been dealing with relocation and restoration following a major fire in December. Nevertheless, the JCC and Federation offered us support, even if it meant sharing their temporary quarters or displaced staff resources. Area synagogue officers and rabbis offered space and financial support – including (listed alphabetically) Conservative, Orthodox and Reform congregations – as did the pastor of our local Catholic church. A number of individual members also offered their support in managing insurance, construction and other concerns. In the end, we did not need that help, and the building was made usable through the intense efforts of our leaders and supporters. But it is good to know that our community stands with us.

Crash
Continued from Page 1

The tragic car crash in which two men died.

BEKI Purim Seuda (Feast)
Sunday 12 March 2017, immediately following the 9a-10:45a shaharit morning service and Megila reading. The Feast will be 11a–1p in the BEKI Upstairs Social Hall; a light Dairy brunch will be served; $13 per adult, $11 per child (age 3–12); 2 and under, no charge. Preregistration with payment please, by 6 March 2017.

Featuring a Purim Spiel Created, Produced and Directed by Jonathan Gordon. Players needed; contact Jonathan for your part.

Also featuring crafts and face-painting, a sing-a-long, dances and games with MC/DJ Charles F. Rosenay!!! of Liverpool Productions.

Volunteer with Eva Shragis, Food Committee Chair, eshragis@hotmail.com; Ivan Alvarez, Membership Chair, 203-343-4451 -- Meet and Greet Committee; Shoshana Zax, Decorations Committee Chair, shoshanazax@gmail.com; Marisol Sanchez-Moycik & Diane Purvin, Crafts and Face Painting Committee; msmoycik0890@yahoo.com and dianeandseth@gmail.com; Jonathan Gordon, Purim Spiel Committee, gordonj82@gmail.com, Isaiah Cooper, Helene Sapadin & Alice Kosowsky, Sing-a-long Committee, 203-287-1390; Miriam Benson, 203-389-6137 for Set-Up, Registration Table, or Clean-Up.
Rabbi’s Tzedqqa Fund (minimum $25)
- Felton-Gilens Family in memory of Gladys Fishbon
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo marking the yahrzeit of Jacob Pepper
- Michael Stern & Kathy Rosenbluh in appreciation to the BEKI community
- Sandy & John Balayan in memory of Helen & Moe Miller
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo with prayers of beSha’a Tova for Cindy

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
- To Arthur Greenberg & family with sympathy on the passing of Lynda Greenberg by Barbara Cushen

Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Gold by Gloria Cohen
- To Marty Gold, Rena Cheskis-Gold and family with sympathy on the passing of Dorothy Gold by Susan & Alan Dardik

Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund
- In memory of their father Murray E. Kahn by Richard & Michael Kahn

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Nathan Resnik by Judith Resnik & Dennis Curtis
- In memory of Esther Bashevkin by Rachel Bashevkin
- In memory of Sydney Weinstein by Dan Goldberg
- In loving memory of her sister Phyllis C. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In loving memory of her dear grandparents Yetta & Morris Gray by Toby & Alan Ignaal
- In memory of Ruth & Hyman Matloff by Ken Matloff
- In memory of Julius Margolis by Helene Axelrod
- In memory of Bernice Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- In memory of her grandfather Louis Brunswick by Barbara Cusden
- In memory of Jacob Ripkin by Jeri Ripkin
- In memory of Mary Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Jordan Goldberg by Arlene & David Thrope
- In memory of Rabbi Samuel Simson by Marshall & Joan Weiss
- In memory of Isaac Press by Jeff & Lynne Heinsner & Dave & Joyce Popowski
- In memory of Aladar Lowi by Leatrice & Richard Broder
- In memory of Hyman Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Morris Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- In memory of Hyman Fleischner by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Ida Goldstein Fidler by Richard & Diane Fidler
- In memory of Sheri Lynn Ratoosh by Myra & Andrew Harris
- In memory of Deborah Mendelson by Myra & Andrew Harris
- In memory of Fred Shure by Gary Gross, Betsy Shure Gross, Liza Draper & Andrew Gross Gaitan
- In memory of Gabrielle Honig by Bea Smirnoff
- In memory of Sarah Schnitman by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
- In memory of Edith Fields by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Jacob J. Cohen by Lewis & Renee Cohen
- In memory of her mother Fannie Meyerson by Helen M. Elston
- In memory of Anna Chain by Max & Shirley Shepro
- In memory of her brother Max Brunswick by Barbara Cusden
- In memory of Donna Wright by Barbara Cusden
- In memory of Diane Lee Kaufman by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of her mother Helen Miller by Patricia Glazer
- In memory of loved ones by Sheila & Allen Mushin
- In memory of Marion Goldstein by Myra & Marc Goldfarb
- In memory of Ida Caminear Levine by Lester & Bernice Margolis
- In memory of George Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Michael & Sarah Franzman by Larry & Susan Franzman
- In memory of Helene & Jacob Pepper by Marilyn & Basil Friedman
- In memory of Shirley & Jess Charleston by Delci Lev
- In memory of Pearl Weiner by Joanne & Steve Rudof
- In memory of Elsie Hodes by Jeff & Lynne Heinsner and David & Joyce Popowski
- In memory of Ethel Siegel by Debbie & Louis Siegel
- In memory of Jacob Cohen by Carol Cohen
- In memory of Ida & Julius Brody by Fran Goldberg-Cohen & David Cohen
- In memory of Mollie Cohen Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Marilyn Stein by Eden Stein
- In memory of E. Lester Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- In memory of Kate Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer
- In memory of Freda Virshup by Richard & Georgi Virshup

Chai Fund (minimum $320)
- The Bruce & Friedman Family
- David Schwartz
- BEKI Membership Committee
- The Colten & Berry Family
- The Freiman-Light Family
- David Wright
- Julie Cohen
- Gene Fidell & Linda Greenhouse

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $320)
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of Aliza & Scott’s wedding by Gloria Cohen
- To Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter in honor of Eva’s wedding by Gloria Cohen
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Sophie Schonberger in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To the Bell family with sympathy on the passing of Saul Bell by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Reeva Lynes with sympathy on the passing of Jerry Cohen by Barbara Cusden & Stan Saxe
- To Rachel & Allan Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of J. Gordon Miles by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To Helen Gerber in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To Mia Goldstein in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner

Visit us at www.beki.org
BRS to Attend Concert

BRS will attend the Sixth Annual Debbie Friedman Memorial Concert, Sunday 12 February 2017, 10a–11:30a, at TOTE, 18 Tower Lane, New Haven. The concert is free and open to the public. BRS students should report to that address.

Youth News

Hanuka will seem long ago by the time you read this but, then again, the original Hanuka always seems (and really is) long ago whenever we celebrate it. Nevertheless, we celebrate. In this case, a dozen kids and several hardy parents came together to make designer latkes with options that included, cheese, onions, chocolate chips (yep, you read that correctly) and local potatoes, carrots, yams, beets (yellow and red), homemade sufganyiot with choice of filling and hand dipping Shabbat candles in a rainbow of colors. In the spirit of the holiday, we rededicated the youth lounge through decoration and the assembly of a donated foosball table and celebrated with more food – of course–and a movie, Over the Hedge, with an underdog theme.

January hopes to have seen us snow tubing, weather permitting, and February’s plan, as this went to print, is a home–hosted BEKI Youth Shabbat – or will it be Tu BeShevat? – meal.

Kadima & USY Tu BeShevat Dinner

Friday Night 10 February 2017, off-site, local, Info & RSVP http://evite.me/jdqDt6gQSa.
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:

• Shula Chernoff, 18 February 2017, parashat Yitro
• Rabbi Richard Eisenberg, 25 February 2017, Shabbat Sheqalim – parashat Mishpatim
• A guest darshan, 4 March 2017, parashat Teruma
• Sarah Rastelli, bat mitzva, 18 March 2017, Shabbat Para – parashat Ki Tisa

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 youths along with adults.

HEBREW WITH WILL

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 Auriemma.

MONDAYS

RASHI STUDY GROUP: I KINGS

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) is beginning 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 meets immediately following the 7:00a shaharit morning service; not meeting on Festivals. Will meet at 9:45a on 20 February 2017 (Holiday). With 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, 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

Continued on Page 7
Adult Studies
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Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own talmud torah (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at 203.397.2513.

Thursdays
Mini Morning Learning Service
The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service.

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

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group
The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets on Thursdays from 1p to 2p and has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

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. The Group will be on pre-Purim winter break 24 February, 2 and 9 March, resuming 16 March.

LifeCycle

Passing of Note
Word was received of the death of past BEKI member Dr. Sheri Lynn Ratoosh, in March 2015, in Texas. Sheri maintained friendships and support in the BEKI and New Haven community throughout her years. May her memory be for a blessing.

HaNolad BeMazal Tov
Mazal tov to Ilana & Jon Seidmann, and grandparents Sid & Donna Levine, and aunt and uncles Sarah Levine & Tim Gersch and Joshua Levine, on the birth of Samuel Ari Seidmann in January 2017.

Upcoming Benei Mitzva
Sarah Rastelli, daughter of Rebecca Weiner & Michael Rastelli, 17-18 March 2017, Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow), parashat Ki Tisa
Elijah Light, son of Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman, and of Eban Light, 12-13 May 2017, parashat Emor
Hannah Herbst, daughter of Roy & Karen Herbst, 9-10 June 2017, parashat BeHa’alotekha
Jalina Secchiaroli, daughter of Dina & Michael Secchiaroli, 10-11 November 2017, parashat Hayei Sara
Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.

A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP
Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP
Carol Dorfman, M.D., FAAP
Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP

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New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 776-1243
FAX (203) 785-1247

1 Bradley Road, Suite 102
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243
FAX (203) 397-1241

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

www.hamdenhall.org  203.752.2640
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517
A NEW KING AROSE

“There arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (Exodus 1:8). In one dramatic moment, everything changed. It was not unusual for Egypt to get a new king – just a few verses later the narrative informs us of yet another change on the throne – but the operative condition is that this king “did not know Joseph.”

The new ruler did not know, or did not care, about history or prior commitments. There was no loyalty, no trust, no commitment, no sense of ongoing relationship. It was as if the past had not happened.

Change in rulers or leaders is part of every system, whether the change be through revolution (goodbye Czar, hello Workers’ Soviet; goodbye Shah, hello Ayatollah), hereditary succession (from Hussein to Abdullah) or election (from Schroder to Merkel, from Peres to Netanyahu to Barak to Sharon to Olmert and back to Netanyahu). The quadrennial change in presidency in the United States is an essential element of the system, one that I am increasingly coming to appreciate and anticipate.

But there was something different about the transition described in Exodus, a discontinuity that proved disadvantageous to the Hebrews, who until then had enjoyed a position of privilege in suburban Goshen, thanks to the elevated status of Joseph in the Egyptian managerial class.

Disruptive succession could happen here, too. Consider our personal lives, where a change in management at work might mean that suddenly no one knows, or cares, how much you contributed to your company or organization, how loyal or valuable you were – even if you were a founder. Or a change in the synagogue – a new rabbi or board, who do not know how much you did for the community and who do not seem to care. Consider the veteran who realizes that a once grateful society now cannot honor its most basic commitments. This can occur in international politics, as the promises once made by the League of Nations to the Jewish People gyrate between UN Security Council resolution 242 and the recent contradictory resolution 2334. The new Pharaoh asks, “What have you done for me lately?”

Absent vibrant government institutions that serve as checks and balances, what is a Hebrew in Egypt to do? One answer appears following Pharaoh’s order to kill Hebrew newborn boys: “The midwives, fearing God (Elo-him), did not do as the king of Egypt had told them” (1:17). This “yir’a” – fear, respect, awe – impelled Shifra and Pu’ah and their corps, to risk their lives and act ethically in disobeying Pharaoh’s command. An essential part of their humanity, or their Hebrew culture – something – kept them from crossing a line.

Later, a sense of moral outrage impels Moshe to strike a taskmaster – an act of violence not necessarily endorsed by the narrative or sages. Later, among the Midianites, Moshe receives direction from God (Elo-him) to represent God and the Hebrews in Pharaoh’s court.

While the Hebrews had lost all of their property and privilege, and even “ownership” of their very labor, they had managed to retain their families, their language, their identity, and the fundamental values instilled by their ancestors’ God. The Hebrews asserted that they – and Pharaoh – answer to a Higher Authority. This call enabled them to survive the generations of slavery and Pharaoh’s genocidal intentions.

When faced with chaos and danger in a changing world, we too can draw on the strength of our families, our synagogue, camp and school communities, our civilian institutions, our autonomous homeland, the wisdom of our Torah and the fundamental moral demands of our God to strengthen and sustain us. When we are knocked off kilter, we can use our worthy and stable traditions as a support, so we can keep our balance and remain upright.
## February 2017
### 5 Shevat 5777 - 2 Adar 5777

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<td>7:00pm Israeli Dance</td>
<td>9:00am Rabbi’s Study Group</td>
<td>1:00pm Talmud Study Group</td>
<td>4:53pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td>10:45am Children’s Programs</td>
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<td>10:00am Yoga Hour</td>
<td>7:30pm General Board Meeting</td>
<td>4:00pm Religious School</td>
<td>5:00pm Benel Mitzva Program</td>
<td>6:00pm Family Shabbat Dinner following services (reservations required)</td>
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### In February, Shabbat Minha (Saturday afternoon) services are 1p–1:35p in the Posener Beit Midrash.

### Service Times

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<td>6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>Before sunset: Minha</td>
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More Shul in the News

Hear Paul Bass interview Rabbi Tilsen on his visit to Standing Rock. soundcloud.com/new-haven-independent/chai-haven-rabbi-at-standing-rock

Torah Reading Coordinator

Rachel Light (r_gutman@yahoo.com) is coordinating Torah readings for Shemot (Exodus) (21 January – 25 March). J-J Tilsen is coordinating VaYiqra (1 April – 17 June). Thanks to Noam Benson-Tilsen for coordinating Bereishit (Genesis).

Super Deli Boxes XXVI

Saturday night – Sunday morning 4-5 February. Fundraiser supporting BEKI Youth Program sponsored by the BEKI Youth Commission. A wide selection of delicious deli (meat and non-meat) sandwiches and salads packed as box lunches/dinners with extras whether you are watching the big game or not. Orders due by Friday 27 January. Snail mail orders to: Eva Shragis, 10 Vernon Ct., Woodbridge 06525; email/text orders to Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@gmail.com / 203-215-8555. Set up will be at BEKI on Saturday night 4 February; Westville Kosher Market early Sunday morning (5 February) then at BEKI from 9:30am (2/5). Volunteers absolutely needed for all phases.

JCARR Welcoming Family

BEKI partner Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement welcomed a family of five in January. Info Joel J jjacobson@snet.net 860-716-7728.

Down Home Hootenanny

Saturday night 11 February 7:30p–10:30p. Fundraising for Abraham's Tent at BEKI. (BEKI is hosting people experiencing homelessness for a week in March.) Music, food, spirits, games, and Tikun Olam. Featuring dancing to local legends Washboard Slim & the Blue Lights, Kentucky and Southern food specialties (and bourbon tasting, whiskey, beer, wine), games. RSVP preferred. Watch your mail for details or contact Darryl Kuperstock at kuperst@gmail.com 203-215-8555. Volunteers needed.

Free Books

In classroom 4 and in basket on table in Library. Some are fine books for which the library already has a copy or are outside of our focus. Take books on condition you don’t return them.

Israeli Dance

Meets Tuesdays 7:30p (beginners) and 8:30p–11p (everyone).