BEKI Building Fund: An Urgent Appeal

At our recent congregational meeting held on Tuesday, January 3rd, it was voted and passed by the congregation that we would go ahead with repairs to our building’s roof and exterior masonry. These repairs are scheduled to begin in April. Since BEKI has no existing building fund, we must make this appeal directly. We urgently need your help to meet the cost of these repairs as soon as possible so that the work can begin as scheduled.

As we all know, extensive roof repairs have been needed for (at least) the past four years. The severity of the past winters has increased the damage. Unfortunately, we have had to “make do” with patches. While these attempts have temporarily staved off the inevitable, they have been very costly and have not resolved the underlying problems. In addition, every roof leak causes damage to the interior ceilings and walls. Repairing this damage is especially expensive in the main sanctuary because it involves the use of scaffolding and special equipment. The longer we put off repairing the roof and exterior masonry, the greater the interior damage will be.

The Building and Maintenance Committee has requested bids from a number of contractors to do the following: put on a new roof over all four sections of the building with a 25-year warantee, replace damaged bricks (glazed bricks that must be ordered specially), recaulk the window frames, power wash the entire building to remove all stains and mold, and completely waterproof all the brickwork in the building. The lowest bids combined to equal $110,000, if we begin the process now. Waiting would raise the bids by at least $5,000. We must be prepared to pay for the project by the end of January.

We are pleased to announce the following members have already graciously pledged the sum of $12,500:

- BEKI Sisterhood
- Ken and Elaine Braffman
- Diane Dumigan
- Steve Fraade & Ellen Cohen
- Irving & Elma Guttenberg
- Ellen Jawitz
- Marvin Missan
- George G. Posener
- Sybil Richards
- Aron & Tina Rose
- Adele Tyson
- Kal Watsky & Deborah Fried
- Natan & Lori Weinstein
- Steve and Rachel Wizner
- Betty Zelen

If you have given all you can afford, we are truly grateful. If you can give a little more, we are deeply appreciative. If you have not yet given a tax-deductible contribution, please do it now. Help make the necessary repairs to our beloved synagogue and prevent further damage. Any amount is acceptable.

We count on you to add your name to this growing list.

—George G. Posener
E-Mail Address
E-Mail users may reach Rabbi Tilsen at:
JJTilsen@AOL.COM.

Deadlines for Submitting Material for Publication:
For the BEKI Bulletin, submit your material by the 1st of the month for the following month.
For mid-month flyer mailings, submit your material to the office by the 15th of the month.
Gathering and producing the synagogue's publications takes time. We cannot include material submitted beyond these deadlines, and we cannot call to remind you.
Please submit your material ON TIME.

Office Hours:
Office hours for the synagogue are:
Monday – Thursday 9 AM–3 PM
Friday 9 AM–noon

Food Deliveries:
If food is being brought into the synagogue for the weekend (Friday night or Saturday morning), it must be delivered by 11:00 AM on Friday.

Donations for Rabbi’s Tzedaqa Fund:
If you are making a donation to the Rabbi’s Tzedaqa Fund, please be sure to make the check out to “Rabbi’s Tzedaqa Fund” and send it to the attention of the Rabbi.

New Security System:
The new security system of the BEKI Synagogue is now in force. To gain admittance to the building, on Harrison St. during office hours, ring the door bell at the front door next to the driveway.
A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

My First Cousin

I am the youngest of my paternal grandparents' twenty-two grandchildren and almost the youngest of my maternal grandparents' fifteen grandchildren. All of us grew up in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area in Minnesota. No seder table was too long, no home was too large, no park was too spacious for our family gatherings. A week did not go by without seeing my cousins.

My cousin Nicholas Chaim Tilsen was born in 1951. He was more than ten years older than me, and I did not know him as well as did my siblings who were his contemporaries and his classmates in high school.

Nick was a talented chef, and when he lived in the San Francisco Bay Area he had a catering business. Nick was fit and energetic and had developed an extensive network of friends who cared deeply about him and about each other. He was an essential part of his community and of his family.

Nick was my first cousin to die. He died of AIDS in 1990, among the first few thousand to succumb to this retrovirus. He died in the loving care of his family and friends. His death left us diminished and we are still grieving to this day.

As we approach his fifth yahrzeit I observe that the level of pain and death brought by the disease seems incomprehensible. Millions of people are infected with a virus with a 100% mortality rate and no cure in sight. The agonizing medical effects of the virus are compounded by the social and legal stigma of the HIV-positive label. The devastation touches us all.

My first cousin performed many deeds of kindness during his life and enriched the lives of his family and friends. May his memory be a blessing.

Rachel's Table Benefit Concert

Rachel's Table is presenting an afternoon family concert of woodwind quintet music on Sunday, January 19, at 1:30 PM at the JCC. For more information and the cost, please call 387-2424 ext. 325.

United Synagogue Convention

The United Synagogue is holding a convention November 2-6 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC. For cost and information, call 1-212-533-7800, ext. 2611.

BEKI Recycles

The office at BEKI wants to do its part in the recycling of paper. The city will not pick up our papers, so we need a volunteer to oversee and remove our office paper and junk mail. Recycling is a mitzvah. To volunteer, please call the synagogue at 389-2108.

February 1995
Dear Rabbi,

At weekday evening services you read two different lists of yahrzeit names. What’s going on? I don’t get it.

Dear Reader,

The first list is the names of those whose yahrzeit occurs on the day that is coming to an end (the date on the Hebrew Calendar changes at sundown). This first list goes along with the Minha afternoon service. The second list is the names of those whose yahrzeit occurs on the new day that is beginning at sunset. This second list goes along with the evening service.

Dear Rabbi,

I have noticed that the candle lighting times are different in the BEKI Bulletin, the Ledger, and on my Jewish calendar. Why are they different? Which one is right?

Signed,
Four Minutes Off

Dear Four Minutes,

The candle lighting times published in the BEKI Bulletin are calculated for the exact polar coordinates of Beth El-Keser Israel. Some other sources use a point in the region a few miles away, which accounts for a minute’s difference.

Some sources simply guess by splitting the difference between New York and Hartford sunset times. Some sources rely on the civil definition of sunset (i.e. when one-half of the solar sphere appears to be below the horizon) instead of the halakhic definition (i.e. when the entire sphere is below the horizon), accounting for the difference of another minute or two.

Your most accurate source for New Haven candle-lighting times is the BEKI Bulletin.

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.

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E-Mail Directory

To facilitate communications among shul members, we will be publishing an E-Mail directory (in print, no less) in the April Bulletin. If you would like to be included (at no cost) please send a message to Rabbi Tilsen at JJTilsen@AOL.COM.

Taste of Honey: Big Fed Ed Night

Join Miriam Benson, Rabbi Tilsen and the Greater New Haven Jewish Community for a night of adult education at the JCC on Saturday Night 4 February at 7:45 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to study with the great teachers in our community or with Rabbi Tilsen.

Amazing Facts

51% of BEKI members live in Westville
12% of BEKI members joined in the past 18 months
BEKI draws from a larger geographic area than any other Greater New Haven Area shul, boasting members from Bethany, Boca Raton, Branford, Derby, Gilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Miami, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, Northford, North Haven, North Miami, Orange, Seymour, Stratford, Trumbull, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge.

No other Conservative shul in Connecticut has either a hyphenated name or a Rabbi with a hyphenated name. BEKI has both. Amazing!
Men's Club News

Our monthly Men's Club sponsored congregation breakfast on December 18 was well attended and very informative. Alderman Philip P. Voigt (27th Ward) gave his views on the “State-of-the-City” and what we can look forward to from the new administrations in Hartford and Washington. His talk was factual and generally upbeat for the future and led to lively discussion in the question period that followed.

We would like to emphasize that the monthly Sunday morning breakfasts that we sponsor are congregation breakfasts. We welcome everyone to come and enjoy the socializing, food and guest speaker. If you come for Shaharit, stay for breakfast; if you bring the kinder to Sunday religious school, stay for breakfast. We start at about 9:30 am. No reservations are necessary and there is no charge. We do welcome contributions at the door and sponsors who would like to celebrate a simcha.

The February breakfast on the 19th will be sponsored jointly with Sisterhood. We have invited Dr. Alan Gelbert to present a new travel slide show that he is working on (if it is not ready in time he will put on one of his “ten best”). Watch for the flier.

Shalom,

Saul Bell,
Men’s Club President

Tree of Life

Inscribing a leaf on the magnificent bronze Tree of Life is a thoughtful and memorable way of observing a milestone birthday, anniversary, wedding, Bar and Bat Mitzvah or any special occasion. By doing this you are also contributing to the life and strength of Congregation Beth El – El Keser Israel.

Inscriptions cost $118 for a leaf and $500 for a rock. Call Mimi Kahn at 387-8105, and she will assist you with the wording.

We thank the following contributors:

In memory of Millie and Lenny Stein from the Wednesday Tennis Group
Donors–Jeanne Alterman, Sylvia Sweedler, Helen Rich, Joan Chetrick, Ellie Greenberg, Dottie Landman, Margaret Mack, Meryl Drabkin, Harriet Miller, and Irene Greenberg

Mildred and Leonard Stein will be remembered by the Synagogue and Arms for their devotion and dedication.
Donors–BEKI, Sisterhood, men’s Club, and Singles and Doubles

With love the children and grandchildren of Sara Oppenheim honor her on her 80th birthday, October 12, 1994
Donors–Judith, Gerald, Robert and Stephen; Joyce, Michael, Sharon, and Debbie; Anita, Michael, Rachel, Stuart and Joel

In memory of my dear friend Evelyn Cohen
Donor–Zelda Katz

In honor of my granddaughter Emily Lauren Salomon, Bat Mitzvah, September 24, 1994
Donor–Lois Feldman

In honor of the 80th birthday of Rose A Feen–December 3, 1994
Donors–Husband George, daughters Betty Sue and Hildy, and Grandson Todd

Support BEKI!
Buy & Use Food Certificates
Available at the BEKI office or call Mimi Kahn at 387-8105 or Mikki Ratner 387-7882

Kosher Club Coupon Books
Kosher Club coupon books are now available at 50% off their original price. Originally $20, they are now only $10, and expiration has been extended to August 1, 1995. They contain coupons for restaurants, wines, deli products and general household goods. Reserve your book by calling 389-2108 today.

February 1995

BEKI Bulletin 5
We note with sorrow the passing of:

Alice Bender
mother of David Bender

Freda Arotsky
sister-in-law of George G. Posener

Mazal Tov
מזל טוב

To Eunice & Louis Rogoff
on their 55th Wedding Anniversary

To Richard Schottenfeld & Tanina Rostain
on the birth of their daughter, Mila.

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## Yahrzeit Fund

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- Pearl Tischsky
- Richard & Suzanne Weinstein
- Edythe Tanenbaum
- Sylvia Wiess
- Ida Harrison
- Katherine Margolis
- Irwin Snyder
- Stacey & Jeffrey Podell
- Dorothy Shayevitz
- Ethel Epstein
- Ethel Epstein
- Gertrude Cheifetz
- Lillian Gross
- Howard Gralla
- Howard Gralla
- Herman Dinnerstein
- Jean Deitch
- Bernard Alderman
- Mae Katz
- Sara Salomon
- Irma Hamburger
- Irma Hamburger
- Irma Hamburger
- Howard Yasgar
- Elsie Franzman
- David & Gertrude Gollinger
- Sydney Weinstein
- Sydney Weinstein
- Irwin Snyder
- Richard & Suzanne Weinstein
- Joanne Rudof
- Albert Webber
- Kranie Baker
- Bernard Nitkin
- Morris Zudekoff
- Mr. & Mrs. Sol Kaufman
- Rose & George Feen
- Eli Kasimer
- Barbara Cushen
- Barbara Cushen

**In Memory of:**
- Anna & Ellis Cooper
- Eitel Rosner
- Jacob Bass
- Hyman Fleischner
- Evelyn Rosenstein
- Jacob Winess
- Meyer Harrison
- Shimon Snyder
- Sasha Snyder
- Robert Goodwin
- George Fineberg
- Abraham Goldberg
- Julius Brody
- Harry Ruff
- Benjamin Levine
- Reuben Gralla
- Eleanor Hepler
- Howard Dinnerstein
- Rachel Green
- Rose Alderman
- Nettie Proasco
- E. Lester Feldman
- Ida Hess
- Erna & Siegfried Haas
- Lothar Hess
- Jack Yasgar
- Frances Shapiro
- Benjamin Gollinger
- Hyman Weinstein
- Gertrude Rubin
- Seymour Snyder
- Michael Weiss
- Pearl Weiner
- Diane Lee Kaufman
- Isadore Zudekoff
- Rose Platcow Feen
- Fanny Kasimer
- George Brunswick
- Donna Wright
- Rose Brunswick
- Edward Lettack
- Nathan Goldstein
- Arlene Thrope
- Richard & Suzanne Weinstein
- Jack & Mollie Nuht
- Helen Kaplan
- Hope & Saul Bell
- Hope & Saul Bell
- Hope & Saul Bell
- Rose & George Feen

## Synagogue Fund

- In Memory of Ernest Pedoto by the BEKI Sisterhood.
- Wishing Continued Good Health to Bernice Margolis by Milt & Bea Smirnoff.
- Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Marilyn Gluck by Milt & Bea Smirnoff.
- Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Hope Bell by Muriel Kaltman.
- In Appreciation of BEKI & the Board of Directors by Louis & Eunice Rogoff.

## Rabbi's Tzedaqa Fund

- In Memory of Matthew Lettick by Edward Lettick.

## Posener Family Memorial Fund

- In Memory of Morris Posener by Virginia Posener.
- Sincere Congratulations to George Posener on his 84th Birthday by Betty Zelen.

## Tillie & Edward Horwitz Endowment Fund

- In Memory of Rose Litoff by Mrs. Edward Horwitz & family.
- In Memory of Rose Dubin Budnitz by Mrs. Edward Horwitz.
- In Memory of Jane Lieberman by Tillie Horwitz & family & Dworski Sisters.
- In Memory of Sarah by Tillie Horwitz & family & Dworski Sisters.
- In Memory of Ed Horwitz by Edward Lettick.
Murray Kahn Memorial Fund
In Honor of Mimi Kahn on her birthday by Evelyn Kahn.
In Memory of Murray E. Kahn by Evelyn Kahn.
In Memory of Mrs. Edward (Helen) Lettick by Edward Lettick.

I. J. Frankel Fund
In Memory of Ida & Isadore Frankel by Shirley & Ed Mattler.
In Memory of Esther Black by Shirley & Ed Mattler.
In Memory of Jacob Mattler by Shirley & Ed Mattler.

Yizkor Fund
In Memory of Dear Departed Family by Marian Stein.

Louis Friedman Scholarship Fund
In Memory of Louis F. Shore by Judi Weiss, Dominic Aprile, Robert Friedman, Patricia Scarpea.

Torah Fund
Rose Feen, chairman (387-8743) 12/1/94 thru 12/31/94
Supporting Torah Fund supports the Seminary!

Especially For You
To George Feen by Evelyn & Ernie Fiedler, Janet & Jay Brown, Violet & Charlie Ludwig.
To Rose Feen by Hyla Greenberg.
To Rose Pergament by Grace Geisinger.
To Edward Mattler by Violet & Charlie Ludwig.
To Richard Ticotsky by Ceel & Arnold Lerner.
To Mae Etkind by Marion & Abe Goldstein & Hyla Greenberg.
To Eunice & Louis Rogoff by Adele Tyson.

On This Joyous Occasion
To Eunice & Louis Rogoff by Rose & George Feen.

Thank You
To Mrs. Carol Shapiro by Mimi Kahn.

Get Well
To George Feen by Inge & Lenny Fish, Lillian & Alex Heisler, Mimi Kahn, Mikki Ratner.
To Edward Mattler by Inge & Lenny Fish, Mae & Herb Etkind.
To Sidney Steinbach by Inge & Lenny Fish.
To Harry Castroll by Ruth & Morris Olmer.
To Rose Pergament by Rose & George Feen, Violet & Charlie Ludwig.
To Rabbi & Mrs. Gerald Brieger by Eunice & Louis Rogoff.

Sympathy
To Betty Zelen by Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Rose & George Feen.
To Mr. & Mrs. Louis Brumberger by Ruth & Morris Olmer.
To Mr. & Mrs. Louis Merberg by Evelyn & Ernie Fiedler.
To Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Pearl by Ada & Abe Fish.
To Herman Platcow by Ada & Abe Fish.

Rejoicing With You
To Dr. & Mrs. Irving Kushner by Ceel & Arnold Lerner.
### Dates and Times to Remember

#### February

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<td>3 Friday</td>
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<td>Qabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Speaker: Leon Medvedow</td>
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<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
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<td>7 Tuesday</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Deadline for Shabbat Dinner RSVP</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Maariv &amp; Havdala</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Sunday</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>LaMaazel at Benson-Tilsen's</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Monday</td>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Friday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Qabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Late Evening Service</td>
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<td>Speaker: Richard Schottenfeld</td>
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<td>25 Shabbat</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>Morning Service</td>
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<td>Darshanit: Ilana Biton</td>
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<td>10:45 AM</td>
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<td>6:38 PM</td>
<td>Maariv &amp; Havdala</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Sunday</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Men's Club Breakfast</td>
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<td>27 Monday</td>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
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<td>31 Friday</td>
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<td>Men's Club Shabbat</td>
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<td>Speaker: Rabbi Murray</td>
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<td>Levine</td>
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### Shabbat

- **begins at candle lighting:** 4:52, 5:00, 5:09, 5:18
- **ends:** 5:42, 5:50, 5:58, 6:07

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**February 1995**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Times:</td>
<td>Service Times:</td>
<td>Take Time Out For God</td>
<td>1 Adar I</td>
<td>2 Adar I</td>
<td>3 Adar I</td>
<td>4 Adar I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 9:00 am.</td>
<td>Monday 7:00 am.</td>
<td>and For Yourself -</td>
<td>Rosh-Chodesh.</td>
<td>Services 6 &amp; 8 pm.</td>
<td>Services 9:15 am.</td>
<td>Terumah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. - Fri. 7:00 am.</td>
<td>Sun. - Thu. 5:45 pm.</td>
<td>Attend Weekday Minyan.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Leon</td>
<td>Children's Havura &amp;</td>
<td>Services 9:15 am.</td>
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<td>Maariv 5:42 pm.</td>
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<td>5 Adar I</td>
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<td>9 Adar I</td>
<td>10 Adar I</td>
<td>11 Adar I</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45 am. - Rashi Study</td>
<td>7:45 am. - Rashi</td>
<td>Deadline for Shabbat</td>
<td>6:00 pm. Qabbalat</td>
<td>6:00 pm. Qabbalat</td>
<td>6:00 pm. Qabbalat</td>
<td>Tetzaveh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>Study Group</td>
<td>dinner.</td>
<td>Shabbat only</td>
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<td>Services 9:15 am.</td>
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<td>6:30 pm. Shabbat Dinner</td>
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<td>12 Adar I</td>
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<td>7:45 am. - Rashi Study</td>
<td>7:45 am. - Rashi Study</td>
<td>7:45 am. - Rashi Study</td>
<td>6:00 pm. Shabbat Dinner</td>
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<td>Services - 6 &amp; 8 pm.</td>
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<td>9:30 am. - Joint Men's</td>
<td>7:45 am. - Rashi Study</td>
<td>7:45 am. - Rashi Study</td>
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<td>Services 6 &amp; 8 pm.</td>
<td>Va-Yakhel</td>
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<td>Club and Sisterhood</td>
<td>Group</td>
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<td>Guest Speaker: Martin</td>
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<td>Breakfast</td>
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<td>Gilens &quot;Race &amp; Poverty&quot;</td>
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<td>Services 9:15 am.</td>
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<td>Guest Speaker - Alan</td>
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<td>7:45 am. - Rashi Study</td>
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| Kosher Market. Call Mimi 9387-8105, Mikki 387-7882 or the BEKI office 389-2108 today.
Perform a Planned Act of Kindness

Call the Hesed Committee to find out how you can help your fellow congregants in times of need.

Make a commitment to attend minyan on a regular basis.

Buy and use gift certificates when you do your food shopping.

Join and work on a synagogue committee.

Pay your pledges before you are billed.

Superbowl Deli Boxes

January 29th is the night of the Superbowl Sunday. It is also the night to enjoy a delicious boxed meal prepared and delivered by the members of BEKI-USY.

Whether you’re planning to watch the game or just relax with your friends and family, take this opportunity to order your deli boxes from BEKI-USY. Each box contains a sandwich, a soda, coleslaw, potato chips, a pickle, and a brownie—all strictly kosher. Order forms are available at the BEKI office or at Westville Kosher Market.

The proceeds of this USY fundraising effort help to support the group’s activities which include charitable contributions for Tikkun Olam.

Call Ahud Sela (624-2035) or Esther Serkin (776-2919) if you have any questions.