

# BEKI BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, visit us at <http://www.uscj.org/ctvllly/newhavcb>

February 1997 Vol. 3 Issue 2

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Shevat/Adar I 5757



## **Hebrew Language Study at BEKI**

Go Beyond Alef-  
Bet with an eight-  
week beginner

prayerbook Hebrew class taught by **Rabbi Murray Levine**. Classes begin on Wednesday 12 February at 8:00 p.m. and continue on the following Wednesdays at the same hour: 19 & 26 February; 5, 12, 19 & 26 March; and 2 April. Beyond Alef-Bet will be held at Rabbi Levine's home.

Go **On Beyond Gimel** with an eight-week advanced beginner prayerbook Hebrew class taught by **Ellen Jawitz**. All are welcome to join, regardless of participation in the last class. Classes begin on Wednesday 12 February at 8:00 p.m. and continue on the following Wednesdays at the same hour: 19 & 26 February; 5, 12, 19 & 26 March; and 2 April. **On Beyond Gimel** will be held at Ellen's home.

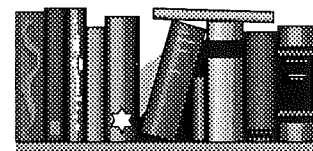
The fee either course is \$10 for BEKI members and \$25 for non-members, plus text fee. Please register in advance for either course by calling Ellen Jawitz at 389-4569. Call Ellen for directions and additional information about either course.

Not ready for prime time? If you'd like to begin studying Hebrew language by learning to sound out the letters, call Ellen who can help you get started.

## **KOACH Reaches BEKI College Students**

Numerous thank-yous have been arrived from BEKI college students who received Hanuka packages from BEKI's KOACH (college outreach) volunteer Mimi Glenn. If you'd like to help with coming mailings or other social action projects, please contact Mimi Glenn at 397-3851.

## **Levine Children's Library New Books**



The following books have been added to the BEKI

Library, thanks to a generous donation to the Ari Nathan Levine Library by Ina Silverman and Jay Sokolow. These books will serve as a resource to parents who volunteer to lead the Children's Shabbat Havura, and will be available on a lending basis for two days at a time.

If you would like more information about joining the Children's Shabbat Havura, a weekly program for preschoolers on Shabbat morning (10:45 - 11:15 AM followed by snack) in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room, please call Miriam (389-6137) or Ellen (397-9430).

### **New Titles:**

- ▶ *"The Coat of Many Colors"* by Behn Boruch
- ▶ *"Zot Ha-Torah"* by Jane Ellen Golub
- ▶ *"Torah: The Growing Gift"* by Steven E. Steinbock
- ▶ *"The New Jewish Teachers Handbook"* by Audrey Friedman Marcus
- ▶ *"Teaching Mitzvot"* by Barbara Binder Kadden
- ▶ *"The Jewish Preschool Teachers Handbook"* by Sandy Furfine Wolf
- ▶ *"My Jewish Year"* by Adam Fisher
- ▶ *"The Second How To Handbook For Jewish Living"* by Kerry M. Olitzky
- ▶ *"It's a Mitzvah"* by Bradley Shavit Artson
- ▶ *"My Weekly Sidrah"* by Joel Lurie Grishaver

### **Synagogue Office Hours**

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

### **How to Contact the BEKI Bulletin**

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

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

### **Deadlines for Submitting Material for Publication**

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

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

### **BEKI Bulletin**

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

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515

or email: [jjtilsen@aol.com](mailto:jjtilsen@aol.com)

or see our web page created by Phil Simon:

<http://www.uscj.org/ctvilly/newhavcb>

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

Annual subscription is \$36.00.

### **BEKI Bulletin**

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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## A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

### Close Encounters of the God Kind

Recent science fiction films such as *Star Trek: First Encounter* and *Independence Day* have revived and revised the theme of humanity's first meeting with extraterrestrial intelligence. Most of these films address a metaquestion that becomes more difficult to answer with each iteration, a question which now must become a basis for the plot: Why on earth (forgive the idiom) would technologically advanced intelligent creatures want to make contact with humans?

It's a big universe out there, and Earth's total mineral wealth is probably not worth the freight charges. We can already see that regenerating living tissue will be done in the laboratory, so earth would not be a necessary source of spare body parts (which would probably be incompatible anyway). And earthlings probably don't taste good (too salty).

For the locust-like creatures of *Independence Day* and the Borg in *Star Trek* there is a need to colonize and consume planet after planet (and let's not even mention *Mars Attacks!*). Like in previous *War of the Worlds* - type films, the invasion of hostile aliens serves to unite humanity in ways heretofore unseen. At the polar opposite, the first encounter with the peaceful Vulcans in *Star Trek* -- who notice that earthlings are beginning to develop advanced technology and so stop by to wish us "Hayyim tovim ve-arukim (Live long and prosper)" -- jolts humanity into transcending

our petty conflicts and realizing our small place in a large universe.

The fantasy of space aliens and their effect on human civilization is a permutation (or perversion) of the God-idea. Either humanity unites in fear intimidated by the virgin-eating storming earthquaking erupting God, or peoples come together in the realization that we are all children of a benevolent God-of-love who values each and every soul. This very same bipolarity is found in messianic movements, even within Jewish messianism: the Messiah will appear from the ashes of Armageddon or when all observe the Shabbat peacefully together.

Ultimately we look forward to a transformation of human civilization, when Tiqun Olam (improving the world) is the driving force behind our activity and humanity is united by the recognition of Godhood; that is our "Independence Day." When our "First Encounter" is an encounter with God, our perspective on our lives and our world is radically changed. Our species has evolved tremendously in the past few thousand years. Just imagine what our future could be.

*When I behold Your heavens,  
the work of Your fingers,  
the moon and stars that You set in place --  
What is man that You have been mindful of him,  
mortal woman that You have taken note of her?*

(Psalm 8)



Rabbi Tilsen

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## Dear Rabbi

Dear Rabbi,

What are those little Hebrew letters at the top of some letters I get from the synagogue and fundraisers from Jewish organizations? Is it some kind of secret code or what?

Signed, daeD sI nonneL.

Dear nonneL,

The superscriptions B"H (bet hei), B`"H (bet eyin hei) and BS"D (bet samekh dalet) at the top of some letters are part of epistolary convention for classical Hebrew and Jewish letters. These opening formulae have been part of Hebrew style for many centuries. B"H and B`"H are the initial letters of the Hebrew "Be-`ezrat Hashem" "with the



help of God," and BS"D are the initials of the equivalent Aramaic expression "Be-Sidra De-shemaiya" "with Heaven's help." For some, these openings serve as a constant reminder of God's presence.

Arabic writers use an equivalent convention. "Bi-smi Allah" (be-shem Eloah) "In the name of God" or similar superscriptions are appear on letters and correspondence. This same formula has been used by Jews writing in Arabic, as the word "Allah" is simply understood as Arabic for "God."

*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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## Men's Club

BEKI Members! The issue of minyans (quorums at daily services) has required our attention as of late. When the time comes for a *yahrzeit*, each of us expects there will be a minyan so we can say *qaddish* for our departed. But is it realistic to stroll into shul on the day of the *yahrzeit* and expect there to be a minyan, if we haven't shown up for daily minyan since the last *yahrzeit*? Obviously, unless it were the case that every single day there were ten people saying *qaddish*, the existence of a reliable minyan depends on the presense of some who aren't saying *qaddish*. And who would these people be? Unfortunately, the ranks of our regular minyan-makers have been thinned in the last couple of years, due to deaths and illnesses. The torch much be passed on to a new generation. An effort has been underway to address the situation; please try to find a time -- one time a week or more -- when you can commit (yes, commit) to attending a morning or evening service. Let's make it happen -- it's the Jewish way.

Again this year the BEKI Men's Club will be selling the Yellow Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial candles. Since Yom HaShoah is a day without any kind of required formal observance connected with it, the candles are helpful in providing a symbolic act that can be done in the home, something which our tradition usually supplies us with. People are creating their own traditions and the yellow candles are a natural focal point for such an effort.

Instead of selling them on site as we did last year, we are going to be sending out individual order forms. Please look for yours in the mail and reply promptly as we have a deadline of 31 March to get our order in. The candle sales will be a fundraiser for our Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund, to help the light of Judaism shine more brightly for a worthy youngster or two.

Please join us for a Congregational Breakfast on Sunday 16 February following the 9:00 a.m. morning service. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome.

Drew Allison

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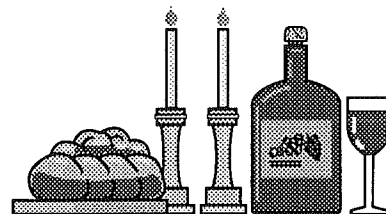
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## You Can Do It!

Yes, you can sponsor a *qiddish* or *oneg shabbat* in honor of a birthday, anniversary, accomplishment, or in marking a *yahrzeit*. Dates are available on a first-come, first-served basis, so call Myra at 389-2108 right away to reserve your date.



## HaMaqom Yinahem

We note with sorrow the passing of

- **Louis Goodwin**  
brother of Paul Goodwin

- **Anna Cohen**  
mother of Morris Cohen



Louis Goodwin, Past President

## Mazal Tov

to Elsie & Philip Morris on the birth of a grandson Zachary Maxwell Turner on 13 December 1996 to Amy & Ken Turner.

## Where there's a Will...

How much should I give? Tradition recommends that one bequeath at least 10% of their estate to Tzedaka (charity) such as to Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, although in many cases financial advisors and estate lawyers have shown how such gifts can be increased through careful planning that takes tax policies into account. Willing a proportion of one's estate to the Congregation is a concrete unequivocal way of teaching one's children the importance of Judaism and

establishing a moral example for them to follow.

If you would like more information on how to make a bequest, contact your own attorney or financial consultant, or call estate planning attorney Donna Levine at 787-1633. Attorney Levine will donate her time to help you establish a will or trust for the benefit of the Congregation. You may also contact BEKI Secretary Todd Strauss at 777-7643 or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 for more information on bequests and endowment opportunities.

## Speakers in February

Robert Forbes will be the Darshan on Shabbat 1 February during the 9:15 a.m. morning service. Robert is a BEKI member and lives in the Beaver Hills neighborhood with his family.

Kathy Rosenbluh will be the Darshanit on Shabbat 8 February during the 9:15 a.m. morning service. Kathy is a BEKI member and lives in Westville with her family.

## Torah Pathways in February

Torah Pathways, a study and discussion for adults, will meet with Rabbi Murray Levine on Sunday 9 February at 9:40 a.m. The topic will be "A Place to Call Home: The Land of Israel." On Sunday 23 February at 9:40 a.m., Rabbi Tilsen will present "Learn Hebrew in One Easy Lesson." All are welcomed.

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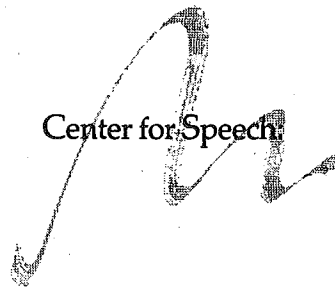
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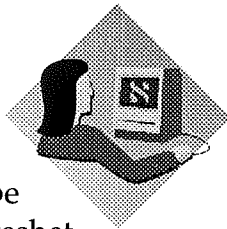
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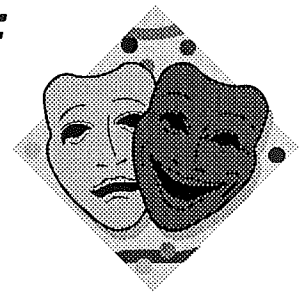
### Internet Singles

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has begun an internet discussion group for singles. To subscribe send the message "subscribe reshet firstname lastname" to listproc@uscj.org.

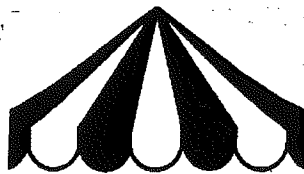


### Looking Ahead:

- March: Purim Masquerade Ball
- April: Concert sponsored by our United Hebrew School
- May: BEKI 2000 Report
- 8 June: Dinner honoring Distinguished Service Award recipient for 1997



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# BEKI EVENTS

FEBRUARY-I ADAR

1997

5757

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Daily Morning Shaharit Service: Sun 9:00a Mon-Fri 7:00a Shabbat 9:15a unless otherwise noted	Daily Evening Ma`ariv Services: Sun-Thu 5:45p; unless otherwise noted	Buy your grocery certificates from Mimi Mikki & Myra and help your shull It's easy and it's free.  Call for home delivery				<i>Yitro</i> 9:15a Shaharit- Darshan: Robert Forbes 10:45a Havura, Jr. Cong & Learners Min 4:50p Minha 5:20p Pirqe Avot 5:40p Maariv & Havdala
25 Shevat 2	26 Shevat 3  7:45a Rashi Study Group	27 Shevat 4	28 Shevat 5	29 Shevat 6	30 Shevat 7 Rosh Hodesh I  4:57p Candle Lighting  6:00p Early Service Only	Rosh Hodesh II 8 9:15a Shaharit Darshanit: Kathy Rosenbluh 10:45a Havura & Jr. Cong 5:00p Minha 5:30p Pirqe Avot 5:50p Maariv & Havdala
2 Adar I 9  9:40a Torah Pathways "A Place to Call Home" with Rabbi Murray Levine	3 Adar I 10  No Rashi Study Group	4 Adar I 11	5 Adar I 12  8:00p Siddur Hebrew for Beginners at Rabbi Levine's  8:00p Siddur Hebrew for Advanced Beginners at Ellen's	6 Adar I 13	7 Adar I 14  5:05p Candle Lighting  6:00p Early Service Only	<i>Teruma</i> 15 9:15a Shaharit 10:45a Havura, Jr. Cong & Learner's Minyan 5:10p Minha 5:30p Pirqe Avot 5:55p Maariv & Havdala
9 Adar I 16  9:30a Congrega- tional Breakfast by Men's Club with Mayor John DeStefano	10 Adar I 17  7:45a Rashi Study Group	11 Adar I 18	12 Adar I 19  8:00p Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's  8:00p Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's	13 Adar I 20	14 Adar I 21  5:14p Candle Lighting  6:00p Early Service Only	Tetsave 22 9:15a Shaharit  10:45a Havura, Jr. Cong 5:15p Minha 5:45p Pirqe Avot 6:05p Maariv & Havdala
16 Adar I 23  9:40a Torah Pathways: "Learn Hebrew in One Lesson"	17 Adar I 24  7:45a Rashi Study Group	18 Adar I 25	19 Adar I 26  8:00p Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's  8:00p Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's	20 Adar I 27	21 Adar I 28  5:22 Candle Lighting  6:00p Early Shabbat Service	Get Ready for BEKI's Purim Party in March



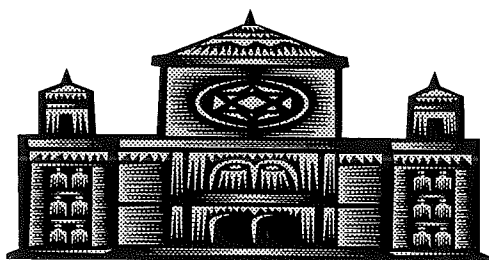
## Dates and Times to Remember

### February Events

01 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service Darshan: Robert Forbes
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	4:50p	Minha Afternoon Service
	5:20p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	5:40p	Maariv & Havdala
03 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
07 Fri	4:57p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Service Only
08 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service Darshanit: Kathy Rosenbluh
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:00p	Minha Afternoon Service
	5:30p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	5:50p	Maariv & Havdala
09 Sun	9:40a	Torah Pathways: "A Place to Call Home"
10 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
12 Wed	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's
14 Fri	5:05p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Service Only
15 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:10p	Minha Afternoon Service
	5:30p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	5:55p	Maariv & Havdala
16 Sun	9:30a	Congregational Breakfast by Men's Club
17 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
19 Wed	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's
21 Fri	5:14p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Service Only
22 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:15p	Minha Afternoon Service
	5:45p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	6:05p	Maariv & Havdala
23 Sun	9:40a	Torah Pathways: "Learn Hebrew in One Lesson"
24 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
26 Wed	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's
28 Fri	5:22p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service

### March Events

01 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:20p	Minha Afternoon Service
	5:50p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	6:11p	Maariv & Havdala
02 Sun	9:40a	Torah Pathways
03 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
05 Wed	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's
07 Fri	5:30p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	8:00p	Late Shabbat Service
08 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
		Shabbat Sheqalim
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:30p	Minha Afternoon Service
	5:55p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	6:20p	Maariv & Havdala
10 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
12 Wed	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's
14 Fri	5:38p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	8:00p	Late Shabbat Service
15 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:40p	Minha Afternoon Service
	6:00p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	6:28p	Maariv & Havdala
17 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
19 Wed	2:00p	Dinner RSVP due
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's
21 Fri	5:46p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	8:00p	Late Shabbat Service
22 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:45p	Minha Afternoon Service
	6:15p	Pirqe Avot Study Period
	6:35p	Purim Megilla Reading & Maariv
23 Sun	9:00a	Purim Megilla Reading
24 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
26 Wed	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Beg. at Rabbi Levine's
	8:00p	Siddur Hebrew Adv. at Ellen's
28 Fri	5:54p	Candle Lighting
	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	8:00p	Late Shabbat Service
		Guest Speaker: ADL
29 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:45p	Minha Afternoon Service
30 Sun	9:40a	Torah Pathways
31 Mon	6:00p?	Torah Fund Dinner



## Thank You For Your Generous Donations

### **Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)**

- Anonymous.
- Judah Levine & Adina Kling in memory of mother Malka Levine.
- Ruth Rosner in honor of her new great-granddaughter Emanuella Grody.

### **Qiddush Fund (minimum \$50)**

- Cohen-Fraade & Edelkind-Serkin families marking their simhot.
- Todd Strauss & Tracey Thomas in honor of their newborn daughter Carolyn (Gavriela) Thomas Strauss.
- Samuel & Harriet Kantrowitz marking the yahrzeit of Mother Ida Kantrowitz.
- Leon Cummings marking the yahrzeit of Uncle Yitshaq ben Shelomo Tsvi.

### **Synagogue Fund**

- In memory of Louis Goodwin:  
Violet & Charlie Ludwig  
Stanley Botwinik  
Morton & Clara Adams  
Ethel Epstein  
Anonymous  
Sara Oppenheim  
Claire & Bud Volain  
Paul Goldstein  
Doris & David Sagerman  
Marvin Weinberg  
Doris Zudekoff  
Armand & Eleanor Zimmermann  
Belle Reese & Wilbur Witten  
Harriet & Samuel Kantrowitz  
Evellyn & George Dermer  
Judith & Gerald Oppenheim  
Regina & Martin Faymann  
Beatrice & Milton Smirnoff
- In memory of Dorothy Shure from Samuel & Harriet Kantrowitz
- In memory of Michael Rudof by Stephen & Amy Pincus
- In honor of birth of daughter to Stephen & Amy Pincus by Diane & George Dumigan
- In honor of birth of daughter to Tracey Thomas & Todd Strauss by Beatrice & Milton Smirnoff
- In honor of birth of daughter to Tracey Thomas & Todd Strauss by Diane & George Dumigan
- In honor of birth of son to Jeff & Ellen Katz by Diane & George Dumigan
- In honor of birth of Baby Yaela Hannah by Harriet Samuel Kantrowitz
- In honor of Vi & Charlie Ludwig by Rose & George Feen
- In honor of Rose Feen's birthday by Bertha Fleischer
- In honor of George Posener's 85th birthday by Violet

& Charles Ludwig

- In honor of Grace Geisinger by her sister Mrs. Walter Handelman

### **Edward & Tillie Horwitz Fund**

- In honor Dorothy Greenwald's milestone birthday by Tillie Horwitz
- In honor of Louise Dworski's 45th Birthday by Tillie Horwitz
- In honor of Lisa & Andy Schwartz's 15th Wedding Anniversary by Tillie Horwitz
- In honor of George Posener's 85th birthday by Tillie Horwitz
- In honor of Edna Voloshin's milestone birthday by Tillie Horwitz
- In honor of the Schene's 45th Wedding Anniversary by Tillie Horwitz
- In memory of Louis Goodwin by Tillie Horwitz

### **Harold Ratner Fund**

- In memory of Louis Goodwin by Mikki Ratner

### **Murray E. Kahn Fund**

- In memory of Louis Goodwin by Mimi Kahn
- In honor of Mimi Kahn's Birthday by Evelyn Wechsler

### **Posener Fund**

- In honor of George Posener's Birthday by Betty Zelen

### **Prayer Book Inscriptions**

- A prayer book has been inscribed in honor of Bernice Margolis's birthday
- Two prayer books have been inscribed in memory of Sadie Berner by Kenneth & Linda Buckman & family

### **Building Fund**

- Margot S. Roten in appreciation

### **I. J. Frankel Fund**

- In memory of Ida Frankel by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Isadore Frankel by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Esther Mattler Black by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Rebecca Miller by Jack & Sylvia Botwinik
- In memory of Harry Shultz by Jack & Sylvia Botwinik
- In memory of brother by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Goldfarb
- In memory of Edward Mattler by Celia Kaplowitz

### **Yahrzeit Fund**

- In memory of S. Garbriel Lubov by Mimi, Richard & Michael Kahn
- In memory of Harry Vernoff by Bette Merriam
- In memory of Jacob Levine by Paul & Irma Zirlen

## Thank You For Your Generous Donations

- In memory of loved one by Barbara Rieder
- In memory of Harold Singer by Bessie Brownstein
- In memory of Anna Mitnick by Lawrence & Carol Mitnick
- In memory of Hyman Salzberg by Howard & Pearl Weinick
- In memory of loved one Herman & Marcia Silver
- In memory of Goldie Zeid by Sylvia Zeid
- In memory of Jacob Winess by Sylvia Winess
- In memory of Gittel Caplan by Marcia Witten
- In memory of Murray E. Kahn by Evelyn Kahn
- In memory of father by Wilbur Witten
- In memory of Frederick R. Alpert by Esther Kone
- In memory of George Fineberg by Dorothy Shayevitz
- In memory of Rebecca Wousaniker by Diana Klatzkin
- In memory of Lester Feldman by Lois Feldman
- In memory of Faye Rosenkrantz by Louis Rosenkrantz
- In memory of Louis Kessler by Rae Lipson
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- In memory of Anna Cooper by Rose Hodes
- In memory of loved one by Bernard & Sonya Alderman
- In memory of David Brown by Lois Brownstein
- In memory of Sasha Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of George Weiss by Richard & Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Lester Feldman by Stephen & Sara Salomon
- In memory of Rachel Green by Jean Deitch & Esther Rose
- In memory of Jacob Bass by Fred & Pearl Ticotsky
- In memory of Bessie Alper by Rose & George Feen
- In memory of Rose P. Feen by Rose & George Feen
- In memory of Fanny Kasimer by Eli & Goldie Kasimer

### TORAH FUND

Rose Feen, Chairman (387-8743)  
12/1/96 thru 12/31/96

May this New Year 1997 prove to be a very, very good one for everybody and everything, including Toral Fund and the Jewish Theological Seminary.



### TORAH CARDS

#### Mazel Tov

- To Mimi Kahn from Bertha Fleischer
- To Carol Gordon from Hyla Greenberg
- To George Posener from Ceel & Arnold Lerner, Mae & Herb Etkind, Janet & Jay Brown
- To Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Myers from Adele Tyson

#### Rejoicing with you

- To George Posener from Rose & George Feen, Martin & Regina Fayman
- To Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Myers from Rose & George Feen
- To Joy Cohen from Adele Tyson

### Thank you

- To Betsy & Arthur Ratner from Mimi Kahn

### Get Well

- To Tillie Horwitz from Irama Hamburger
- To R. D. Moses from Harriet Barstein
- To Ira Wolfe from Shirley Mattler, Rose & George Feen

### Sympathy

- To Fast Family from Irma Hamburger
- To Mrs. Bernice Zolot from Ruth & Morris Olmer
- To Philip Voigt from Hyla Greenberg
- To Zolot Family from Shirley Mattler
- To Mrs. Bernice Zolot & Family from Sylvia Zeid
- To Goodwin Family from Rose & George Feen, Shirley Mattler
- To Mr. & Mrs. Archie Magid & Family from Rena & Sam Miller
- To Paul Goodwin & Family from Adele Tyson
- To Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Bushman from Janet & Jay Brown
- To Paul Goodwin from Anne, Robert, Sandy & Isaac Johnston
- To Morris & Gloria Cohen from Anne, Robert, Sandy & Isaac Johnston



## **BEKI 2000 Update**

The BEKI 2000 Programming Sub-Committee (one of eight sub-committees) has completed the first phase of their work, and prepared a draft proposal for programming for the synagogue over the next several years. The proposal is provided below. Please let us know what you think. We welcome your thoughts and comments. Please address comments to Jeff Katz, Rabbi Levine or John Weiser.

### **1. Specific BEKI 2000 Goals That Plan Addresses:**

- a. Create a shul that addresses the personal and social needs of its members at all stages of their lives.
- b. Create a shul that fosters a sense of community among its members.
- c. Create a synagogue that serves as a center for its members' Jewish educational, cultural and social life.
- d. Develop a committed and involved membership which is a continuous source of new, informed and involved leadership.
- e. Develop a marketing plan for promoting the synagogue and its programs and for increasing the synagogue membership.
- f. Create and implement a comprehensive program for annual and long term synagogue financing.

### **2. Objective:**

To create a list of potential BEKI programs and provide a guide for the creation and budgeting of a standing programming committee to meet the programming needs of the synagogue.

### **3. Recommendation of BEKI 2000 programming sub-committee:**

First, it is essential that a program committee be appointed immediately to implement programming suggestions. Initially, BEKI programming should strive to be all-inclusive -- with an emphasis on programs suitable for entire families, singles, couples, seniors, etc. (rather than focus on events built around exclusive populations, i.e. singles, women, men, couples). The types of programs should be diverse. In addition, some programs should be ecumenical

and intersynagogue. In the aggregate, a year's programming should include programs which appeal to all members of the synagogue, non-members and the community at large.

### **4. Summary of Overall Plan:**

BEKI 2000. The name casts our thoughts to the future, inviting us to think about the type of synagogue community we hope to create at the start of the next millennium. For quality synagogue programming, however, the foundation must be built now -- in 1997.

Accordingly, the BEKI 2000 Programming Sub-committee (ProCom) has divided 29 program ideas into three priority groups. An ambitious programming committee might wish to implement all 29 in the first two years. The priority groupings, however, suggest which program ideas the ProCom believes are best tackled first. This is intended to be a guide to help a standing programming committee get started.

The plan calls for the immediate creation of a programming committee with a chairperson and two to four members. These people would make a commitment for one year and recruit additional volunteers to work on individual events as needed. The programming committee should also provide assistance to programs "owned" and initiated by specific arms of the synagogue (i.e. Sisterhood, Men's Club, etc.).

All files and notes should become the property of the synagogue and be neatly organized and stored. This practice will help create an institutional database of vendors, best practices, important contacts, etc. Rather than reinvent the wheel every time the chair changes, program committees in the future should benefit from a working relationship and repeat-customer savings from vendors such as bus companies; printers; points-of-contact at educational institutions and other synagogues; etc.

In our vision, the main focus of synagogue programming will be on social and educational programming. There is no intention to overlap with BEKI's current programming of Torah Pathways and other Judaism classes, endeavors which we applaud and hope become stronger. Of course the programming committee will coordinate with the individual who keeps the calendar for all synagogue events.

---

continued on next page

**5. Timetable for design and implementation of plan:**

- a. complete planning document (March '97)
- b. recruit volunteer with one year commitment as committee chair (Spring '97)
- c. help chair recruit committee members with one year commitment (Spring '97)
- d. plan year's events (Spring '97 and ongoing)
- e. create budget with expectation that events will be plan to be financed on a cost recovery basis at worst and profit basis at best (Spring '97 and ongoing)
- f. go to work (Spring '97 and ongoing)

Of the 29 programs discussed at the ProCom's meetings, the following consensus was agreed upon with regard to priority:

*It was unanimous that the following programs should be planned for the immediate future:*

1. Trips (Holocaust Museum; New York; Ravens Game with kosher hot dogs; etc.)
2. Jewish New Haven Tour
3. Purim Ball
4. Annual Shem Tov award-recognition dinner for outstanding member
5. Religious services led by various arms of the synagogue

*Nearly unanimous*

1. Thanksgiving joint service with a church
2. Holiday celebrations -- Hanukkah, Sukkot, 2nd Seder
3. Theater by and for children
4. Music by and for children
5. Explore BEKI membership musical and dramatic talent
6. Talent show

*Split decisions or unanimous that they represent a lower priority than programs above -- to be done at some future date*

1. Klezmer performance
2. Family suppers
3. Sukah competition
4. Ethnic cooking/kosher cook-off
5. Contact with Yale University for speakers/program ideas
6. Contact with local hospitals for speakers/program ideas
7. Contact with members of local community for speakers
8. Non-partisan politics
9. Book reviews
10. Film festivals
11. Fashion shows (maternity)

12. Brotherhood (interfaith) service
13. Coffee-house to informally showcase talent
14. Bingo
15. Community Seder

*Program suggestions grouped by type:*

- Education
- Non-partisan politics
- Book Club
- Scholar-in-Residence
- Seminars (health, estate planning, etc.
- drawing free speakers from local community)
- Social
- Klezmer
- Film travelogues
- Film festivals
- Family suppers
- Ethnic cooking
- Fashion shows
- Musical/dramatic talent
- Talent shows
- Coffee house
- Shem-Tov award
- Theater/music by children

*Festival/Holidays*

- Hanukkah party
- Sukkot party
- 2nd Seder
- Sukah competition
- Purim ball
- Services led by arms of synagogue (i.e. Sisterhood, Jr. Cong, Men's Club, etc.)

*Trips*

- Yale University
- Hospitals
- Jewish New Haven
- Holocaust Museum
- Ravens game w/ kosher hot dogs

*Outreach*

- Thanksgiving joint service
- Interfaith service
- Community Seder

**6. Description of Space Needs (size, frequency):**

Current space is sufficient to start, but nicer looking function rooms would be better. Space could be decorated on an as-needed basis for each event. Ideally, there would be a smaller room for small events and a larger room for larger events -- both equipped with a quality audio system. It would also be nice if the synagogue had a large screen television and VCR.

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## B-BUSY

We would like to thank all who helped and supported the Super Bowl Deli Boxes in anyway. They were a great success. International Convention, held on 22-29 December in Florida was a lot of fun. Although not many people went from the chapter, the ones who went had a great time. If you have any questions about USY, or know someone who is interested in joining, please feel free to contact Esther Serkin, president of the chapter at 776-2919.

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## ***Purim is Coming but Slowly***

5757 is a leap year, so we will have to wait until Adar Bet for Purim on 23 March. (For 1996 we added an extra day. For 5757 we add an extra month.)

This year we will again help you celebrate the PURIM mitzvah of mishloach manot - sending of gifts - and matanot la evyonim - presents to the poor - with our beautiful BEKI PURIM BASKETS.

**No worry! No fuss! No shopping!**

Use the extra time to think of all the people you would like to remember this year and fill out your forms promptly when they arrive in the mail in the middle of the month.  
Gloria Cohen

## ***Laminator Wanted***

The BEKI office and Hebrew School could use a laminator. If you have a new or used laminator you can donate please call the shul office at 389-2108.

**Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel  
85 Harrison Street  
New Haven, CT 06515**

**DATED MATERIAL**

## ***Sisterhood News***

BEKI Sisterhood president Adele Tyson hopes that New Year 1997 has started off well in all ways for everybody. Sisterhood's plans for the coming months are now being discussed. A date has already been set for the Torah Fund supper which benefits the Jewish Theological Seminary -- 14 April 1997 at 6 p.m. Keep it open!!! Details will be forthcoming. This is always a great event.

Please join Sisterhood if you are not already a member. You won't be sorry!



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