JULY AT BEKI

Tisha Be’av Service

The reading of Megilat Eikha, the Book of Lamentations, and the recitation of Kinot at BEKI will begin after the Maariv Service on Saturday night, 16 July at 9:00 PM, and again on Sunday morning 17 July at 9:00 AM.

In addition, Beth El-Keser Israel is cosponsoring a community-wide Tisha Be’av observance to be held at Bnai Jacob the same evening.

Tisha Be’av marks the destruction of the First and Second Temple as well as numerous calamities that befell us over the centuries. It is the only day on the calendar besides Yom Kippur that is observed as a full-day fast from sunset to nightfall.

Picnic in the Park

The BEKI Picnic in the Park will be at Sleeping Giant Park from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Sunday 10 July. (Rain date is 24 July.)

Come one come all! Bring your own food — some dessert offerings will be available.

Shul Shabbat Dinner

Our shul shabbat dinners have been wonderful multi-generational evenings of friendship and sanctity.

Call 389-2108 to reserve places for yourself, friends or family on Friday 22 July. Vegetarian entrees are available by reservation.

Services begin at 6:00 PM and dinner begins at 6:30 PM.

Children’s Shabbat Havura Meets Year-Round

The Children’s Shabbat Havura meets every shabbat morning in the newly air-conditioned Goodwin Youth Room at BEKI at 10:45 until the conclusion of the main service at noon.

All young children are invited to participate in this spiritual and fun program with their parents’ supervision.

The Synagogue office will be closed on Monday, July 4th for Independence Day.

Tzedaga Opportunity

BEKI is currently looking for a donor to invest in energy-saving and security-enhancing improvements in the shul’s lighting system.

If you would like to brighten BEKI, substantially lower our utility bills, and help the environment with a gift of $1200 to fund this project, please call Steve Wizner at 432-4800 or Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2109.
## Dates and Times to Remember

### July

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The Rashi Study Group will resume in August after the July break.

### August

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<td>Bat Mitzvah: Lynn Zanger-Nadis Special Time</td>
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**TODA RABBA**

The Cohen-Fraade family for planting flowers near our main door.

Darryl Kuperstock for organizing the baalei qeria for 5754.

George Posener for flower decorations along Harrison Street and for supervising the paneling of the lower level social hall.

To Max Rosenkrantz for providing wine for qiddush.

---

**QIDDUSH SPONSORS**

The Baitch family marking Shachar's aufrua.

Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade celebrating Shoshana's becoming a bat mitzva.

Leon Cummings on Yom Sheni of Shavuot.

Boaz & Ephrat Huss in appreciation of the BEKI community upon their return to Israel.
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

It's Even Worse...

During a service some years ago a new father present for a baby naming almost (God forbid) dropped a Torah scroll. I had previously seen scrolls wobble, wiggle and writhe, but this one came within inches of hitting the carpet. After gasping, screaming and fainting, the congregation quickly regained its composure and proceeded as if nothing had happened.

Dropping a Torah scroll is no minor violation of shul etiquette. The Torah scroll represents the revelation on Sinai, the gift of God to humanity through the Jewish People. It is hand written on parchment with a quill pen, which takes nine months. A sefer Torah (Torah scroll) is not sold; it is not thrown away when it wears out, but rather is buried as a person would be. We rise in the presence of the Torah as a sign of respect. And so fumbles are viewed most severely.

The father felt terrible after the service. He knew something bad had happened. “Rabbi,” he asked in great distress, “is it true that if you drop a Torah the whole congregation has to fast for forty days? Tell me, just how bad is it?”

I explained that dropping a sefer Torah is bad, but not as bad as dropping a baby. Immediately his anxiety eased as he was able to put the incident in perspective.

Most of us were raised appropriately with a sense of awe and respect for Torah scrolls and all that pertains to tefilot (services in the shul). But when that respect causes a level of anxiety so great that one is afraid to participate in tefilot or have an aliya to the Torah, then it is time to ease that discomfort. A combination of embarrassment at not knowing what to do and anxiety about doing the wrong thing is for some a major impediment to meaningful and comfortable participation in shul.

At BEKI we address these concerns in several ways. The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Library, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the shaharit and Torah services in a supportive setting. Lead by Steve Fraade, who teaches Rabbinics at Yale, and Rabbi Alan Lovins, who works as a psychotherapist in private practice, the Learners’ Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice.

Workshops and courses on prayer and Torah reading, such as those taught recently by Rabbi Murray Levine and Amy Pincus, similarly offer interested individuals a way to learn more about our liturgy and davening. More such study opportunities will be offered in the coming months.

In our daily and shabbat services, we generally stress broad participation above proficiency or musical expertise. While it is nice for those leading tefilot to sound confident and melodious, we must remember that the tefilot are to a large extent (although not exclusively) directed toward God, and God (say our sages) values the prayers of those who are decent, kind and sincere above those who are only intellectually or musically talented. For the sake of our greater goal we can accept miscues, mispronunciations and missed melodies, and with this outlook we can keep such bumps in perspective. BEKI aims to be supportive toward those learning to lead the davening.

In educating our youth, we try to maintain a measure of awe while providing familiarity and expertise. Every child ought to see an open sefer Torah up close at least once a year. Our Kadima and USY youth groups ensure that our teenagers develop a confident, expert and respectful approach to shul services.

And so, while it is bad to drop a Torah scroll, it would be even worse to let the fear of dropping it keep one from holding fast to it in the first place.
Dear Rabbi,

Why do you spell words like “qiddush” with a Q?

Signed,

A Confused Congregant

Dear Congregant,

There are many systems used to transliterate Hebrew into English. The system I used is based on an international phonetic alphabet that is especially appropriate for readers who are familiar with Hebrew or other Semitic languages. In this system it is possible to retranslate the letters back into the original Hebrew with precision. The Hebrew letter quf is written as a Q to distinguish it from the kaf which is written with a K. Likewise, the het is written as an underdotted h to distinguish it from both the hei written as h and the khaf written as kh.

Since each Hebrew letter has a distinct representation in Latin or special characters, confusion between words that in other systems are transliterated identically is minimized. For example, kol yisrael means “all Israel” whereas qol yisrael means “Voice of Israel,” which happens to be the name of Israel Radio. Or, “yehallelu” means “praise” (as in “yehallelu et shem Hashem,” “praise the name of God,”) whereas “yehallelu” (with an underdotted h) means “desecrate.” That is a mistake you don’t want to make.

You may be happy to know that this system is used albeit inconsistently by the Israeli Highway Department in transliterating Israel’s road signs. So by learning this system you will not only be able to retranslate into Hebrew, but you’ll be able to find such Israeli sites as Ashqelon, Qumron and Qiryat Arba.

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.

Why We Should Remember the Holocaust

by Allison Borgueta
Granddaughter of Max Rosenkrantz

Grandmother lights the Holocaust memorial candles and solemnly says the proper prayers. Then she quietly walks over to her rocking chair and softly calls me over to her. I walk over to her chair. “Sit down. I want to tell you a story.” I sit down on the floor, rather confused, and she begins.

“When I was a little girl about your age,” Grandmother recalled, “the Nazis and a terrible man named Hitler had control of Germany. They hated all Jews. They tried to annihilate them!”

“I barely remember it. My family was brought to a Nazi concentration camp. See this tattoo? It was used as a form of identification for all of the Jews. We were tattooed and put to work, but my family could not keep up with the hard work. We were brought to be killed in a gas chamber since we were not useful to them anymore. My father said I should try to escape so that I could live to tell the story. I was so little that I escaped easily. The rest of my family was killed. That is why I feel that it is my duty to tell the story to my grandchildren.”

“Why is it so important?” I asked.

“Because we all need to remember the Holocaust. We cannot let it happen again. If it does, then it is our own fault. When we remember, we are preventing it from happening again. The story should be passed down from one generation to another. When you grow up, you should tell it to your children and your grandchildren.”

“I will, Grandmother. It is now my duty too.”

“To forget is not only a sin to the Jewish people, but to the entire human race,” Grandmother said seriously.

Then she sat back and pretended to be asleep. I saw a silent tear roll down her cheek.
MEN’S CLUB NEWS

The May breakfast on Sunday the 15th was one of the most interesting we have had in some time. Our guest was Rabbi Carla Theodore of Woodville, Virginia, who was visiting rabbi-in-residence for Shavuot. Rabbi Theodore received a B.A. in political science from the University of Michigan, an M.A. in economics from George Washington University and an M.A. in Jewish studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary. At her ordination in 1992 she was the oldest female rabbi ordained by the Seminary. Currently she is the spiritual leader of a growing congregation in rural Virginia.

Rabbi Theodore began very informally by asking each table to prepare separate definitions of “work” and “wealth”. After the spokespersons from each table presented their definitions, she led a discussion of the meaning and relation of these concepts to each other in the world today. After that she asked the audience what they would do and how they would occupy themselves if they no longer had to work again to live a happy and fulfilling life. Overwhelmingly the answers and the spirited discussion that followed indicated that volunteer work would be the most satisfying and fulfilling occupation one could choose. The clear consensus was that seniors today by their wide-ranging and almost universal volunteer work point the way toward making a better, saner world in the future.

This breakfast was the last until we resume again in early fall, except that on Sunday, June 5, we provided coffee and cakes at the drawing for the long-awaited Vacation Raffle. We worked with the Hesed Committee on plans for the Red Cross Blood Drive that took place at the synagogue on Monday, June 27th. I hope everyone who was able took this opportunity to make a truly life preserving contribution.

At this time I would like to thank the kitchen crew who make our breakfasts the success they always are: Martin Faymann, Sam Kantrowitz, Charlie Ludwig, Lenny Stein and Irving Weinstein; and a special thanks to Vi Ludwig who finds bargains, to Rose Feen who gets our notices in the Ledger, to Lenny Fish who keeps the books, and to Joe Soffer whose happy hens at Soffer’s Farm provide the eggs.

Shalom,
Saul Bell

MAZAL TOV
מזל טוב

Joe & Ravit Avni-Singer
on the birth of Lital

Heather Braffman
on her graduation from the United Hebrew School

Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
on Shoshana’s leading services as a Bat Mitzva

Louis Goodwin
on the birth of a granddaughter

Jeremy Matican
on his graduation from Makom

Harold Miller
on receiving the B’nai B’rith Distinguished Achievement Award

Eunice Rogoff
on receiving the “G’milut Hasadim” award from Connecticut Valley Region of the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism

Adina Rosenbaum
on her graduation from Makom and from the Hopkins School

Kendra Rosenblatt
on her graduation from Makom

Esther Serkin
on her graduation from Ezra Academy

Beth Weinstein
on her graduation from the United Hebrew School

Kashrut Advisory

FROM THE VALLEY OF THE JOLLY. Many Green Giant brand processed vegetables are now produced under Rabbinic supervision. Kashrut Advisory recommends well-washed fresh vegetables over canned, but when processed vegetables are used, supervised vegetables should be chosen if available.

Frozen peas from the bag are a great summer snack. Green Giant products are from Minnesota, as are so many good things.
Thank you for your generous donations to our Synagogue Funds

**YAHARZIEF FUND**

Donated By:
- Bernard Scherban
- Anna Goldberg
- Anna Goldberg
- Sheila Clugman
- Ida Rubin
- Beverly & Harry Hodes
- Viola Glaser
- Ida Bernstein
- Gertrude Slopak
- Bertha Fleischer
- Samuel Dickstein
- Jack Nuht
- Lillian Levine
- Bessie Brownstein
- Bernard Nitkin
- Richard & Suzanne Weinstein
- Molly Fried
- Lilyan Goodwin
- Pearl Weinick
- Doris Brill
- Saul Rips
- Ida Marder
- Rose & George Feen
- Lillian Brown

In Memory of:
- Rose Scherban
- Gisella Goldberg
- Shlomo Steuer
- Reuben Clugman
- Sadie Magid
- Morris Kuriloff
- Shia Pinkus
- Jack Schnitzer
- Eli Slopak
- Annie Waldman
- Barnett Dickstein
- Taube Nuht
- Robert Levine
- Minnie Singer
- Philip Nitkin
- Ida Weiss
- George Fried
- Rose Marcus
- Rose Salzberg
- Leonard Brill
- Helyn Katz
- George Sands
- Edith Feen Weisser
- Louis Levine

**YIZKOR FUND**

From Simon Konoff.
In Memory of Annie & Harry Waldman by Bertha Fleischer.

**REFUA SHELEMA**

We ask God’s mercy and care for those recently or currently ill:

- Mae Etkind
- Sidney Cushen

**SYNAGOGUE FUND**

In Memory of Samuel Goodwin by Henry Rothchild & Sheila Gardiner.
In Memory of Samuel Goodwin by Howard & Arlene Gold.
In Memory of Annie Goldberg & Esther Geisinger by Grace Geisinger.
In Memory of David Tyson by Dave & Jackie Greenberg.
In Honor of Moe & Helen Miller by Gladys Lipkin.
Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Mae Etkind by Bea & Milton Smirnoff.
Wishing a Speedy Recovery to Natalie Katzman by Claire & Bud Volain.
In Honor of Maurice & Helen Miller by Bea & Milt Smirnoff.
In Honor of Moe & Helen Miller by Gertrude Albrecht.

**RABBI’S TZEDAQA FUND**

In Honor of Maurice & Helen Miller by Morton & Clara Adams.

**TILLIE & EDWARD HORWITZ ENDOWMENT FUND**

In Memory of Edward Fappiano by Mrs. Edward Horwitz & family & Dworski Sisters.
In Memory of Mae Silver by Tillie Horwitz & family & Dworski Sisters.
In Honor of Tillie’s grandson Bill’s graduation by Grace Geisinger.
In Memory of Minnie Rudolph by Mrs. Edward Horwitz & family.
In Memory of Frances Weinstein by Mrs. Edward Horwitz & family & Dworski Sisters.

**MURRAY KAHN MEMORIAL FUND**

In Honor of Mimi Kahn, Woman of Valor, by Gloria & Bob Dulin.
In Honor of Mimi Kahn, Woman of Valor, by Joan & Alan Gelbert.
In Honor of Mimi Kahn, Woman of Valor, by Jack & Mollie Nuht.
In Honor of Mimi Kahn, Woman of Valor, by Frankie Miller.
HAROLD RATNER MEMORIAL FUND
In Honor of Mikki Ratner, Woman of Valor, by
Joan & Alan Gelbert.
In Honor of Mikki Ratner, Woman of Valor, by
Jack & Mollie Nuht.
In Honor of Mikki Ratner, Woman of Valor, by
Frankie Miller.

I. J. FRANKEL FUND
In Memory of Rebecca Miller by Edith Goldfarb.

TORAH FUND
Rose Feen, Chairman (387-8743)
5/5/94 thru 5/31/94
Torah Cards are Beautiful and Meaningful!

Mazal Tov
To Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nitkin by Ruth & Morris Olmer.
To Eunice Rogoff by Adele Tyson.
To Mimi Kahn by Grace Geisinger.
To Mikki Ratner by Grace Geisinger.
To Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade by Violet & Charlie Ludwig.

Rejoicing With You
To Irving Weinstein by Rose & George Feen.
To Jay Brown by Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein.
To Eunice Rogoff by Mikki Ratner.
To Mrs. Yetta Shankman by Ceel & Arnold Lerner.
To Mimi Kahn by Evelyn Cohen.
To Mikki Ratner by Evelyn Cohen.
To Linda Brownstein & Stan Swartz by Ruth & Sam Raflowitz.
To Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Rubenstein by Ruth & Sam Raflowitz.

On This Joyous Occasion
To Mimi Kahn by Sylvia Zeid, Eunice & Louis Rogoff.
To Mikki Ratner by Sylvia Zeid, Eunice & Louis Rogoff.
To Eunice Rogoff by Sylvia Zeid.

Especially For You
To Eunice Rogoff by Lois Feldman, Mimi Kahn.
To Mae Etkind by Rose & George Feen.

To Mimi Kahn by Adele Tyson.
To Mikki Ratner by Adele Tyson.

Get Well
To Alex Heisler by Rose & George Feen.

Sympathy
To Mrs. Edward Cohen & Family by Evelyn &
Ernie Fiedler, Rena & Sam Miller, Belle &
Jordan Goldberg.
To Goodwin Family by Rose & George Feen,
Marion & Abe Goldstein & Hyla Greenberg,
Barbara & Sidney Cushen, Lillian Levine,
Shirley & Ed Mattler, Grace Geisinger, Inge &
Lenny Fish.
To Betty Goodwin & Goodwin Family by Mimi Kahn,
Mikki Ratner, Adele Tyson.
To Myrna Katz by Shirley & Ed Mattler, Zelda Katz.
To Douglas Goodwin & Family by Lori, Natan,
Beth & Justin Weinstein.
To Seymour Zellman & Family by Lori, Natan,
Beth & Justin Weinstein.
To Mr. & Mrs. Fred Maretz by Bud & Claire Volain.
To Paul Goodwin by Zelda Katz.
To Mrs. Bernard Gollinger & Family by Ruth &
Morris Olmer.
To Mrs. Allan Hutensky & Family by Mollie &
Ted Satin.
To Greenberg Family by Ruth & Morris Olmer.
To Albert Webber by Ida Karas.
To Mrs. Morris Borrack by Zelda Katz.
To Roger Webber & Family by Estelle & Ted Bloom.
To Rose Goldman by Irving Weinstein, Eileen Lambe.
To Mrs. Myron Berkson & Family by Barbara &
Sidney Cushen.

HAMAQOM YINAHEM
המהקון ינאה ינאה
We note with sorrow
the passing of:
Diane Margolis
Mother of Lester
Grandmother of David

July 1994
**Beth El-Keser Israel *** July 1994 Tammuz/Av 5754**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Times:</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sunday 9:00 am.  &lt;br&gt;Monday - Friday 7:00 am.  &lt;br&gt;Saturday - Thursday 5:45 pm.</td>
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<td>24 Tammuz</td>
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<td>27 Tammuz</td>
<td>28 Tammuz</td>
<td>29 Tammuz</td>
<td>1 Av</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services 9:00 am. &amp; 5:45 pm.</td>
<td>Synagogue office closed.</td>
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<td>1 Av Maltot Masei</td>
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<td>3 Av</td>
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<td>6 Av</td>
<td>7 Av</td>
<td>8 Av</td>
<td>15 Av</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnic at Sleeping Giant 11:00 am. - 5:00 pm.</td>
<td>10:00 am. - 5:00 pm.</td>
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<td>8 Av Devarim</td>
<td>16 Av</td>
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<td>9 Av</td>
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<td><strong>Rashi Study Group Resumes Monday, August 1st.</strong></td>
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LeHitraot

We wish farewell to Boaz & Ephrat Huss and family who are returning to Jerusalem after a year on fellowship in New Haven. Their teaching and friendship will be missed.

For OUR Convenience

Contributions to the Rabbi’s Tzedaka Fund or the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund in the form of checks may be made payable to “Rabbi’s Tzedaka Fund” or “Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund” and directed to the attention of the Rabbi.