BEKI 2000 Completes First Retreat

BEKI 2000 Committee members and members of the BEKI Board of Directors completed a lively and interesting half-day retreat on Sunday 5 May at the shul. This retreat marked the end of the first phase of BEKI 2000’s work, in which the Committee developed a mission statement and a vision statement for BEKI, and a set of goals and a planning process for achieving the mission and vision. All of these were presented and discussed actively and in depth at the retreat. The group agreed that the mission statement was well-crafted and on the mark, while the vision statement could use some additional work. We present the two statements for your review and comment. Please direct your comments to any member of the BEKI 2000 committee.

Mission Statement: BEKI is a Jewish community, affiliated with the Conservative movement, which nurtures a variety of forms of Jewish expression within a traditional but egalitarian environment.

Vision Statement: BEKI will become a friendly and caring home for the mind and soul, which welcomes Jews of varied backgrounds and interests for study, worship and good deeds and for Jewish social and cultural life.

Planning Process

The timeline and process for completing our strategic plan was presented and discussed at the retreat. Our plan is to invite the whole congregation to participate in the process through eight planning groups, each focused on a different aspect of the long-range plan. Planning groups include topics such as Programming, Spiritual and Ritual, Budget and Finance, and Space Utilization. Some of the groups will work intensively for a short period of time, and others will continue at a steady pace for a longer period. During the summer, BEKI 2000 Committee members will recruit leadership for all planning groups, and then work with the leadership of the planning groups to recruit membership for each group. The planning groups should be ready to start work by the High Holy Days.

By the end of 1996, the groups will prepare a first draft of the vision for the synagogue’s programs and activities. By May of 1997, the groups and the BEKI 2000 Committee will have developed a comprehensive strategic and financial plan for the synagogue, which will include a plan for renovations and for fundraising.

Call for Volunteers

The BEKI 2000 Committee will be reaching out to all congregants to ask for their participation. If you have any special skills or an area of interest that you feel would be helpful in the planning process, please let Tina Rose or Rabbi Tilsen know. The BEKI 2000 Committee welcomes all volunteers enthusiastically.

Thursday Night Minyan

Drew Allison is now coordinating the Thursday evening minyan (5:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.). If you wish to be a regular participant in this service or if you have questions please call Drew at work 234-0414 ext. 256 or home 389-9503. It is a mitzva to pray the afternoon and evening prayers each day, and the ideal way to do so is with the congregation in shul.

Keep BEKI Beautiful

Building Chairperson George G. Posener is seeking benefactors to underwrite the care of our grounds. Your donation earmarked for this purpose is appreciated. Volunteers are needed to help with painting, raking, weeding and sweeping. Leave your name for George at the BEKI office at 389-2108.
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.
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 the August Bulletin is July 1st.
For mid-month flyer mailings, submit your material to the office by the 10th of the month. Deadline for the July mailing is June 10th. Please submit your material ON TIME.

BEKI Bulletin
The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Kesser Israel for the benefit of its members. Congregation Beth El-Kesser 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. 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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BEKI Bulletin 2
July 1996
Saying & Doing

An old story has a teacher telling her class about George Washington. "Does anyone remember the greatest obstacle that President Washington faced?" A little boy raised his hand. "Yes, ma'am," he replied, "he could not tell a lie."

After following the recent election campaign in Israel and the ongoing election campaigns in the United States, I can only wonder how any sensible person would believe what some candidates say. The double-talk and two-facedness seems so blatant. When I hear this talk from our candidates I become cynical.

When I hear President Arafat talk of peace with Israel to a Western reporter and jihad "holy war" to liberate Jerusalem before a domestic forum I become skeptical.

The sages of Israel encourage Imitatio Dei, i.e., following God’s example of deed and "character," as it were. One name for God is "Omer ve-Oseh," the one who "says and does." In human terms, that means speaking sincerely, keeping one's word and honoring one's commitments. This value of personal integrity is not "old fashioned," it is timeless. It is so important in Judaism that it is the central theme of the Kol Nidre service on Yom Kippur evening. We strive to be Godlike by doing what we say.

So often it is easier to see faults in others than in ourselves. When we see character flaws in others it is our task to make sure that we ourselves do not exhibit those same flaws. In that sense, these elections have done me good. May God protect us, may we protect ourselves from sin.

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Dear Rabbi,

I still have half of the 7-day memorial candle left from the week of shiva. May I use the remainder as a yahrzeit memorial candle?

Signed, "Home Economist"

Dear Economist,

Candles and lamps used for shabbat and memorial lights in the past were often oil lamps which sometimes burned until the light was manually extinguished after shabbat or the festival. The wick, oil and lamp could be reused for another similar purpose. Based on that precedent it is permitted to reuse a partially burned memorial candle when the reuse is for a similar purpose. Indeed, throwing out a half candle that is still usable might violate the rule of "bal tashhit," which prohibits waste. The used glass container may be recycled.

All letters to Dear Rabbi should be addressed to Rabbi J-J Tilsen, care of this newsletter. Due to the volume of mail received, Dear Rabbi cannot answer all inquiries.

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**Letters**

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the many cards and contributions which members of BEKI sent me on the loss of my wife Malka. It is a source of great satisfaction to know the many lives she touched in the short time we are in New Haven. I am deeply appreciative of all the condolences sent to me and my family. I pray that her memory will live on as a blessing.

Rabbi Murray Levine

**BEKI Sisterhood News**

We wish everyone a healthy, happy and enjoyable summer! Sisterhood received a Citation at the Spring Conference of Connecticut Valley Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism in honor of the 50th anniversary of our membership in the league.

Having completed a successful 1995-96 year, we are looking forward to more successes in the year 1996-97. We welcome and encourage all members to participate in our efforts to benefit our beloved synagogue. If you're not yet a Sisterhood member, please become a member. You'll enjoy the friendship, camaraderie and activities. JOIN US!

**Member Directory**

New Address: Jaye & Ami Sela, 96/3 Rehov HaRusim, Givat HaMoreh, Afula 18000, Israel.

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**Speakers in July**

**Rabbi Alan Lovins**

Rabbi Alan Lovins, a Connecticut native and graduate of Yale University, was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary and holds degrees in Sacred Theology and Clinical Psychology. He has served in pulpits in Connecticut and as a chaplain in Germany. Rabbi Lovins is a Docent for the Yale Department of Psychology and works as a clinical psychologist in private practices. He is the husband of Trish Loving and serves as BEKI's High Holy Days Cantor. Join us on Shabbat Morning 13 July when Rabbi Lovins will lead the Torah Discussion.

**Kathy Rosenbluh**

Kathy Rosenbluh is a Computer Professional and an active participant in the BEKI community. She lives with her husband Michael Stern and children in Westville. She will lead the Torah Discussion during Shabbat Morning service on 20 July.

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Fast Service at BEKI

The fast of Tisha Be’Av ("ninth of the month of Av") begins with minha-maariv services at BEKI at 8:00p Wednesday 24 July. Following the brief evening service we will read the Biblical Book of Eikha (Lamentations) in Hebrew according to the ancient mournful melody and chant kinot "dirges" marking the Destruction of the Temples and the Commonwealth along with other tragedies that befell our people.

This year, the "Ninth of Av" happens to be observed on the eighth of Av. The ninth of Av is actually Friday, and to fully observe the fast we would have to fast until sundown. But sundown is already Shabbat, and it is forbidden to fast on Shabbat. To prevent this conflict the day is observed on the eighth of the Hebrew month.

Among those who have rejected the designation of a separate Yom HaShoah ("Holocaust Day") by the Knesset, Tisha Be’Av also incorporates the memorial for the Holocaust. For the majority, including the Conservative/Masorti Movement, who observe the Knesset-designated Yom HaShoah, it is nonetheless only natural to think of the Shoa when we mourn the disasters that befell our people.

The fast of Tisha Be’Av is the only fast besides Yom Kippur that is a full 25-hour fast. However, in our day some observant Jews have adopted a lenient position regarding Tisha Be’Av and fast only until minha ("afternoon") service has been said. This is in recognition of the reestablishment of a Jewish Commonwealth in Israel. After nearly 2000 years we must remember that destruction and loss but in part "our mourning has turned to dancing" (Psalm 30). Indeed, our early sages foresaw the day when Israel would be rebuilt and the minor fast days such as the 17th of Tammuz (Thursday 4 July from dawn to dusk this year) would be canceled. Perhaps the day has come when those minor fasts can rightly be annulled. Yet it would be arrogant to believe that the physical, economic and spiritual safety of Israel is so assured that we can completely forget about the destruction of the past.

Those who would like to chant a portion of Eikha or lead kinot are asked to contact Rabbi Tilsen.
### July Events

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**July 1996**
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Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund ($25 minimum)
- Donald Award & Sebastian Award.
- Miriam Benson & Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen wishing Mazal Tov to Myra & Leonard Myers on becoming grandparents. May their grandchildren Jonathan & Samanatha always be a pride to their family, the Jewish People and all humanity.
- Miriam Benson & Jon-Jay Tilsen wishing Mazal Tov to BEKI MAKOM graduates Sarah Levine, Rafi Prober and Ariel Serkin; to BEKI Ezra Academy graduate Leah Margolis; to BEKI United Hebrew School Graduates Elisabeth Hoberman Kinsely, Sasha Lehrer and Jessica Stern.
- Morton & Evelyn Benson in honor of Charlie & Violet Ludwig for their special award from Israeli Bonds.
- Jordan & Belle Goldberg in memory of mother Goldie Goldberg.
- Roni Harris to support BEKI's School of Judaism in memory of Malka Levine.
- National Center to Encourage Judaism to support conversion program at BEKI's School of Judaism.
- Sara Labowie & Steven Stoll in blessed memory of Malka Levine.

Qiddush Sponsors ($50 minimum)
- Carole & Paul Bass welcoming Carole into the Covenant.
- Ezra Parents on Ezra Shabbat.
- United Hebrew School Parents on UHS Shabbat.
- Leonard & Barbara Stern marking Jessica's bat mitzva.
- Ivan & Rita Sachs marking Robert's aufruf.
- Dominic Kinsley & Judith Hoberman marking Elisabeth's bat mitzva.

Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music ($100 minimum)
- Murray Lender in honor of the Oppenheim Family.

Robert Goodwin Memorial Fund ($100 minimum)
- Lilyan Goodwin marking the yahrzeit of her mother Rose Marcus.

Yahrzeit Fund
- In memory of Esther Fineberg from Dorothy Shayefizit.
- In memory of Jacob Fineberg from Dorothy Shayefit.
- In memory of Edith Weinick from Howard & Pearl Weinick.
- In memory of my mother, Eva Smerneof from Ida & Gerald Marder.
- In memory of Ida Yasgur from Esther Rose & Marshall Litsky.
- In memory of Dr. Bernet S. Hodes from Ruth Pollowitz.
- In memory of a loved one from Jody & Jeffrey Dietch.
- In memory of a loved one from David & Gertrude Gollinger.
- In memory of Ann Silverstein from Ida & Harold Bernstein.
- In memory of my husband, Bernard R. Mattler from Dorothy Mattler.
- In memory of my mother, Bessie Seigel from Dorothy Mattler.
- In memory of my father, Paul Seigel from Dorothy Mattler.
- In memory of my uncle, Joseph Kroogman from Dorothy Mattler.
- In memory of my aunt, Rebecca Kroogman from Dorothy Mattler.
- In memory of my cousin, Charles Kroogman from Dorothy Mattler.
- In memory of my cousin, Harry Kroogman from Dorothy Mattler.
- In memory of Annie Waldman from Bertha Fleischer & Linda Betch.
- In memory of my mother Annie Goldberg from Grace Cohen Geisinger.
- In memory of Louis Goldberg from Norman & Edith Goldberg.
- In memory of Samuel Smith from Gladys Carson.
- In memory of Rose Scherban from Anne Byer.
- In memory of Ethel Byer from Anne Byer.
- In memory of my mother, Katie Zied from Sylvia Zied.
- In memory of my brother, Emanuel Zied from Sylvia Zied.
- In memory of Mollie Mansfield from Harry & Renee Mansfield.
- In memory of Esther Shlink from Harry & Renee Mansfield.
- In memory of Revesta Mansfield Glaser from Harry & Renee Mansfield.
- In memory of Eli Slopak from Gertrude Slopak.
- In memory of Anna Osterwitz from Claire Arrick.
- In memory of my brother Jack Shuchter from Ida & Harold Bernstein.
- In memory of Louis from Norman & Edith Goldberg.
- In memory of Samuel A. Smith from Gladys S. Garson.
- In memory of Divora Bas from Joseph Larsh.
- In memory of VZipora from Joseph Larsh.
- In memory of Mrs. William Maser from Joseph Larsh.
- In memory of Mabel S. Hodes from Rose Hodes.
- In memory of my parents from Regina Faymann.
- In memory of my mother, Bella Lipkin from Helen Suslew.
- In memory of George Fried from Molly r. Fried.
- In memory of Belle Platcov Weiner from George & Rose Feen.

Synagogue Fund
- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Bea & Milton Smirnoff.
- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Arnold & Celia Lerner.
- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Lenny, Inge & Gary Fish.
- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Ruth Shifrin.
- In honor of Amy & David Margolis receiving Yeung Leadership Award from Steve & Rachel Winzer.
- In honor of Charles & Violet Ludwig being honored by Israeli Bonds from Steve & Rachel Winzer.
- In honor of Charles & Violet Ludwig being honored by Israeli Bonds from Grace Cohen Geisinger.
- In memory of Simon Waller from Anna Goldberg.
- In memory of Ruth Nitein's brother George Clark from Mildred Lisicky.
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Tamar Edelkind & Stuart Serkin.
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Steve & Rachel Winzer.
- In memory of Carol Elites Leadership Award from Steve & Rachel Winzer.
- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Herbert Lipshez.
- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Mr. & Mrs. David Berman.
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Paulette Lehner.
- Mazel Tov to Malka & Murray Levine on your simchas from Dan & Sharon Prober.
- Best wishes to Regina & Martin Faymann on their new home from Muriel Kaltman.
- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his milestone birthday from Rhea Aronovitz.
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Richard Schottenfeld & Tanuja Rostain.
- In memory of son & brother Paul from Sam & Harriet Kantrowitz.
- In honor of David & Amy Margolis' recent honor from Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff.
- In honor of Charles & Violet Ludwig.
- In honor of Grace Geisinger-Sisterhood's Woman of Valor from Sylvia Zied.
- In honor of Sam Kantrowitz's 80th Birthday from Sylvia Zied.
- Congratulations to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Stuart Serkin & Tamar Edelkind.
- In memory of Sylvia Botwick's mother from Edith Goldfarb.
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Jonathan & Ilssa Webb.
- To Florence Kaplan: "Get well Soon" from Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Robert & Ruth Simeone & Adam & Simon Schwartz.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Martin & Regina Faymann.
- In memory of Goldie Goldberg from Martin & Regina Faymann.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Sara Oppenheim.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Louis Goodwin.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Betty Goodwin.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Samuel & Harriet Kantrowitz.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Kenneth, Linda & Lauren Buckman.
- In honor of Robert Sachs & Betsy Levy on your upcoming wedding from Ken, Linda & Lauren Buckman.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Sall & Elise Lerman.
- In honor of Betty Levy's award from the Connecticut Bar Association for her Pro bono work by Stephen & Rachel Winzer.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Stephen & Rachel Winzer.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Charlie & Violet Ludwig.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz.
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz.
- In memory of Malka Levine from Belle Reese.
- In memory of Goldie Goldberg, mother of Jordan Goldberg, from David & Doris Sagerman.

BEKI Bulletin 10

July 1996
TORAH FUND
4/30/96 THRU 5/30/96
Rose Fein, Chairman, (387-8743)
WE MADE OUR 1995-1996 GOAL
LET'S GET STARTED ON 1996-1997!!

DONATION
• Charlie & Violet Ludwig

TORAH CARDS
MAZAL TOV
• To Sam Kantrowitz from Martin & Regina Faymann, Zelda Katz
• To Eunice Gorlick & Jack Katz from Adele Tyson
• To Micah Bleich from Bertha Fleischer
• To Grace Geisinger from Bertha Fleischer, Martin & Regina Faymann, Inge & Lenny Fish
• To Tilly Horwitz from Bertha Fleischer
• To El & Dan Rubenstein from Ruth & Sam Rablowitz
• To Violet & Charlie Ludwig from Mae & Herb Etkind

REJOICING WITH YOU
• To Sam Kantrowitz from Rose & George Feen, Adele Tyson
• To Grace Geisinger from Rose & George Feen, Mae & Herb Etkind
• To Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ehrlich from Adele Tyson
• To Diane & Daniel Krefeld from Rose & George Feen

ON THIS JOYOUS OCCASION
• To Sam Kantrowitz from Mae & Herb Etkind, Grace Geisinger
• To Tilly Horwitz from Rose & George Feen
• To Carole Bass from Rose & George Feen

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU
• To Mrs. J. Paul Levine from Lillian Levine
• To Mrs. Sally Kanin from Lillian Levine
• To Barbara Cushen from Rose & George Feen
• To Carole Bass from Violet & Charlie Ludwig

THANK YOU
• To Violet & Charlie Ludwig from Bertha Fleischer
• To Mae & Herb Etkind from Hyla Greenberg

GET WELL
• To Barbara Cushen from Adel Tyson, Harriet & Noel Barstein
• To Alex Heisler from Rose & George Feen
• To Arthur Greenberg from Barbara Cushen
• To Estelle Bloom from Mae & Herb Etkind

SYMPATHY
• To Florence Kern from Irving Weinstein, Eileen Lamine
• To Mr. & Mrs. Morris Cohen from Violet & Charlie Ludwig
• To Sherman Zudekoff from Harriet & Noel Barstein
• To Jordan Goldberg from Janet & Jay Brown, Rose & George Feen, Adele Tyson, Rena & Sam Miller, Inge & Lenny Fish, Harrie & Sam Kantrowitz, Grace Geisinger, Zelda Katz, Lillian Levine
• To Tilly Mawry Levine & Family from Rose & George Feen
• To Goldberg Family from Mimi Kahn, Mikki Ratner
• To Pauline Goodman & Family from Lori, Natan, Beth & Justin Weinstein
• Card for own use from Annette Greene

HaMaqom Yinahem
May God Comfort All Who Mourn

Gertrude "Goldie" Goldberg Goldstein
mother of Jordan Goldberg

Malka Levine
wife of Rabbi Murray Levine

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In memory of Malka Levine from Frankie & Marty Miller
In honor of Amatit Sela's graduation from Mom & Dad
In honor of Ahud Sela's safe return home from Mom & Dad
In memory of Malka Levine from Rita & Nadav Sela
In memory of Malka Levine from Todd & Tracey Strauss

Murray Kahn Fund
• In memory of Michael Plet from Mimi Kahn
• Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 50th Birthday from Mimi Kahn
• In honor of Mrs. Nalini Rand from Miriam Kahn
• In honor of Charles & Violet Ludwig receiving the Jerusalem 3000 Award from Miriam Kahn
• In memory of Malka Levine from Miriam, Richard & Michael Kahn
• In honor of Richard Horwitz receiving the Shem Tov Award with love, Mimi Kahn

Harold Ratner Fund
• In honor of Charles & Violet Ludwig receiving the Jerusalem 3000 Award from Miriam Ratner
• Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Miriam Ratner
• In memory of Malka Levine from Miriam Ratner

Prayer Book Fund
• In honor of Violet & Charles Ludwig being honored by Israel Bonds from Bertha Fleischer
• In honor of Samuel Kantrowitz's milestone birthday from Fern & Barry Wolp & Barbara Moss

Ari Levine Library Fund
• In memory of Malka Levine from Herb, Yvonne, Daniel, & Nicole Kolodny

The Edward & Tillie Horwitz Fund
• In memory of Gertrude "Goldie" Goldberg Goldstein from Mrs. Edward Horwitz & Family
• In honor of Grace Geisinger being selected as B.E.K.I.S. Sisterhood 1996 Woman of Valor from Mrs. Edward Horwitz & Family
• In honor of Tillie Horwitz's 90th birthday from Joseph & Helen Gold

The Posener Fund
• Congratulations to Betty Zelen on her Granddaughter's graduation from UCLA Law School from George Posener
• Congratulations to Charles & Vi Ludwig on being honored at the Israel Bond ceremony from George Posener
• Congratulations to Grace Geisinger for the high honor bestowed upon her by B.K.I.S. Sisterhood from George Posener
• Sincere Condolences to Rabbi Murray Levine over the loss of his beloved wife from George Posener

The BEKI Building Fund
• In memory of Malka Levine from Judith & Gerald Oppenheim

Sacred Scroll Project
• In memory of Malka Levine from David & Doris Sagerman

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