

BEKI BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, a Full-Service Synagogue for Greater New Haven Jewry
July 1996 Vol. 2 Issue 6 ק"ק בית אל-בתר ישראל Av/Elul 5756

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-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. 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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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



Rabbi Tilsen

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

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 HaIrusim, 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.



Rabbi Alan Lovins

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 eight 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 eight 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 Shoah 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.

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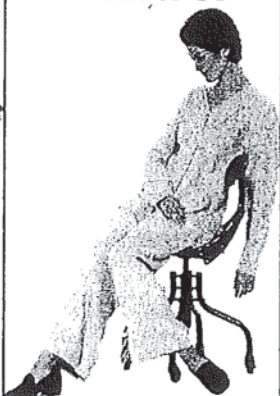
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Dates and Times to Remember

July Events

01 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
05 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	8:09p	Candle Lighting
06 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:45p	Minha
	9:03p	Motze'ei Shabbat
08 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
12 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	8:07p	Candle Lighting
13 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
		Darshan: Alan Lovins
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:45p	Minha
	8:59	Motze'ei Shabbat
19 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	8:02p	Candle Lighting
20 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
		Darshanit: Kathy Rosenbluh
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:45p	Minha
	8:54p	Motze'ei Shabbat
24 Wed	8:00p	Tisha Be'av Minha/Maariv Service
		Reading of Eikha-Lamentations
25 Thu	7:00a	Tisha Be'av Morning
	5:45p	Tisha Be'av Afternoon
26 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	7:57p	Candle Lighting
27 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:45p	Minha
	8:47p	Motze'ei Shabbat
28 Sun	9:45a	Torah Pathways
29 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group

August Events

02 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	7:49p	Candle Lighting
03 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:45p	Minha
	8:40p	Motze'ei Shabbat
05 Mon	7:15a	Rashi Study Group
09 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	7:41p	Candle Lighting
10 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
		Darshan: Eric Beller
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:45p	Minha
	8:31p	Motze'ei Shabbat
16 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	7:30p	Candle Lighting
17 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:45p	Minha
	8:20p	Motze'ei Shabbat
18 Sun	11:00a	New Members Brunch
19 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
23 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	7:21p	Candle Lighting
24 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	5:45p	Minha
	8:10p	Motze'ei Shabbat
26 Mon	7:45a	Rashi Study Group
30 Fri	6:00p	Early Shabbat Service
	7:10p	Candle Lighting
	8:00p	Late Friday Service
31 Sha	9:15a	Shabbat Morning Service
	10:45a	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45a	Junior Congregation
	10:45a	Learners' Minyan
	5:45p	Minha
	8:01p	Motze'ei Shabbat

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BEKI Events

July-Tammuz/Av

5756

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	14 Tammuz 1 7:45a Rashi Study Group	15 Tammuz 2	16 Tammuz 3	17 Tammuz 4	18 Tammuz 5 6:00p Early Shabbat Serv. Candles 8:09p	19 Tammuz 6 9:15a AM Serv. 10:45a Child's Havura 10:45a Jr. Cong. 10:45a Lrn's Minyan 5:45p Minha 9:03p Motze'ei Shabbat
20 Tammuz 7	21 Tammuz 8 7:45a Rashi Study Group	22 Tammuz 9	23 Tammuz 10	24 Tammuz 11	25 Tammuz 12 6:00p Early Shabbat Serv. Candles 8:07p	26 Tammuz 13 9:15a AM Serv. Darshan: Alan Lovins 10:45a Child's Havura 10:45a Jr. Cong. 5:45p Minha 8:59p Motze'ei Shabbat
27 Tammuz 14	28 Tammuz 15	29 Tammuz 16	1 Av 17	2 Av 18	3 Av 19 6:00p Early Shabbat Ser. Candles 8 :02p	4 Av 20 9:15a Shaharit Darshanit: Kathy Rosenbluh 10:45a Havura 10:45a Jr. Cong. 10:45a Lrn's Minyan 5:45p Minha 8:54p Motze'ei Shabbat
5 Av 21	6 Av 22	7 Av 23	8 Av 24 No 5:45p service 8:00p Tisha Be'av Minha-Maariv Services	9 Av 25 7:00a Tisha Be'av Morning 5:45p Tisha Be'av Afternoon	10 Av 26 6:00p Early Shabbat Service Candles 7:57p	11 Av 27 9:15a AM Serv. 10:45a Child's Havura 10:45a Jr. Cong. 5:45p Minha 8:47p Motze'ei Shabbat
12 Av 28 9:45a Torah Pathways	13 Av 29 7:45a Rashi Study Group	14 Av 30	15 Av 31			

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Contributions to endowment funds managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven may be sent to the BEKI office c/o Treasurer or Rabbi; checks may be payable to either "BEKI" or "Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven." These funds include the Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Jewish Music, the Robert Goodwin Memorial Endowment, the Lester & Bernice Margolis Endowment, and the BEKI Endowment for Adult Education. Minimum contributions for these funds that can be acknowledged in the Bulletin are \$100.

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 & Samantha always be a pride to their family, the Jewish People and all humanity.
- Miriam Benson and 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 Israel Bonds.
- Jordan & Belle Goldberg in memory of mother Goldie Goldstein.
- Rona 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.
- Ruth Rosner in appreciation for Hanuqat Matzeva-tombstone unveiling for Manny Rosner.
- Sara Labowe & Steven Stoll in blessed memory of Malka Levine.

Qiddush Sponsors (\$50 minimum)

- Carole & Paul Bass welcoming Carole into the Covenant.
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- United Hebrew School Parents on UHS Shabbat.
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- Ivan & Rita Sachs marking Robert's aufruf.
- Dominic Kinsley & Judith Hoberman marking Elisabeth's bat mitzva.

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- 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

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- In memory of a loved one from David & Gertrude Gollinger
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- In memory of Annie Waldman from Bertha Fleischer & Linda Bleich
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- In memory of Samuel Smith from Gladys Garson
- In memory of Rose Scherban from Anne Byer
- In memory of Ethel Byer from Anne Byer
- In memory of my mother, Katie Zeid from Sylvia Zeid
- In memory of my brother, Emanuel Zeid from Sylvia Zeid
- In memory of Mollie Mansfield from Harry & Renee Mansfield
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- In memory of Revesta Mansfield Glaser from Harry & Renee Mansfield
- In memory of Eli Slopak from Gertrude Slopak
- In memory of Anna Osrowitz from Claire Arrick
- In memory of my brother Jack Schnitzer from Ida & Harold Bernstein

- In memory of Louis from Norman & Edith Goldbloom
- In memory of Samuel A. Smith from Gladys S. Garson
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- In memory of V'Zipora from Joseph Larsh
- In memory of Mrs. William Maser from Joseph Larsh
- In memory of Herman 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 Platcow Weiner from George & Rose Feen

Synagogue Fund

- Mazel Tov to Sam Kantrowitz on his 80th Birthday from Bea & Milton Smirnoff
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- 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 Young Leadership Award from Steve & Rachel Wizner
- In honor of Charles & Violet Ludwig being honored by Israel Bonds from Steve & Rachel Wizner
- In honor of Charles & Violet Ludwig being honored by Israel Bonds from Grace Cohen Geisinger
- In memory of Simon Wallens from Anna Goldberg
- In memory of Ruth Nitkin's brother George Clark from Mildred Lidsky
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Tamar Edelkind & Stuart Serkin
- In memory of Emanuel Cohen from Steve & Rachel Wizner
- In honor of Carol Elkie's Leadership Award from Steve & Rachel Wizner
- 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 Lehrer
- 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
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- 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 Sail & Elise Lemon
- In honor of Betty Levy's award from the Connecticut Bar Association for her Pro bono work by Stephen & Rachel Wizner
- In memory of Malka Levine from Stephen & Rachel Wizner
- In memory of Malka Levine from Charlie & Violet Ludwig
- In memory of Malka Levine from Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz
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- In memory of Malka Levine from Belle Reese
- In memory of Goldie Goldstein, mother of Jordan Goldberg, from David & Doris Sagerman

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HaMaqom Yinahem

May God Comfort All Who Mourn

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