



A New Haven Tradition since 1892

bulletin

Adar-Nisan 5778

Vol. 24 Issue 3

Rabbi's Message: Page 14

PESAH AT BEKI

Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible *hametz*. *Hametz* is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all *hametz* by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive *hametz* such as liquor, you can sell your *hametz* for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your *hametz* to someone who is allowed to own it (a pedigreed righteous gentile), please sign and return the form available at www.beki.org/hametz and in the literature rack. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your *hametz* for you.



KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah

The Rabbinical Assembly's Pesah Guide is available at <http://rabbinalassembly.org/pesah-guide>



Hagadot and Seder Plates at Giftshop

Hagadot (do-it-yourself guide and service books) for Pesah, including the Rabbinical Assembly's [Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom](#).

[Feast of Freedom](#), are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and wherever fine Judaica is sold. The Giftshop also offers a significant collection of decorative seder plates and other Pesah supplies (such as toy frogs).

Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

On the night of Thursday 29 March 2018, it is customary to perform *Bediqat Hametz*, the final check for leaven before Passover. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. On the next morning, Friday 30 March, it is customary to perform *Biur Hametz*, a final "search and destroy" mission for leaven, to

insure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating *hametz* during the festival. Instructions for *Bediqat Hametz* and *Biur Hametz* can be found in most *Hagadot*, including the Rabbinical Assembly's [Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom](#). *Hametz* should not be eaten after 10:20a on Friday morning; *hametz* should be burned before 11:30a.

Siyyum Bekhorot: Feast or Famine

The Fast of the First Born is Friday 30 March 2018, the morning before the first seder. Firstborn who attend the Friday

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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:

- Call the Synagogue office: 203.389.2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: jtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.

Annual subscription is \$36

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Pesah

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morning service from 7:00a to 7:35a may conclude their fast by partaking of the *seudat mitzva* (obligatory feast) celebrating a *siyyum*, the conclusion of a study project. Services and *siyyum* will end by 8:15a. We will celebrate with our college student Jonathan MH, who is completing the reading of masekhet Megila. All may attend and participate in the *siyyum* and mini-seuda.

Matza Baking

Baking *matzat mitzva*, the matza to be used for the fulfillment of the requirement to eat unleavened bread at the Pesah seder, can be done only (or preferably) after the prohibition against eating or possessing *hametz* (leavened items) has begun, namely, the afternoon before the Pesah seder.

BEKI members have baked *matzat mitzva* on the afternoon before Pesah in the (then newly-renovated) BEKI kitchen since Passover 2011, when quality ovens suitable for matza baking were acquired.

Grain (wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt) is milled in a cool, dark, dry area of the building on the night before (i.e., about 24 hours before) the seder. The flour is secured (“*shemura*”) from moisture and heat, or any conditions that could promote leavening or other contamination. Water is drawn that evening as well to insure it is cool and clear for use on the afternoon of matza baking.

Chief Matza Bakers have studied the *Shulhan Arukh* and other codes to insure the rules for matza baking are strictly followed. During baking, the process is scrupulously monitored and each matza is continuously inspected.

Join Bill, David, Sascha, Noam, Pablo, Mateo, Sarah, Jon-Jay and others on Friday morning 30 March from 11:30a to 1:15p in the BEKI kitchen for matza baking. For info contact Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org.

Let All Who Are Hungry...

The Seder of Pesah is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others into our homes. Our congregation comprises many people who may not have extended family locally, do not have Jewish relatives, are new to the area, or who otherwise would benefit greatly from a Seder invitation. If you are able to open your Seder to additional guests, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at your earliest opportunity at jjtilsen@beki.org. If you are able to host an

adult who is a mental health services consumer or who has developmental disabilities, or would like to host another guest, please contact Special Outreach Coordinator Ina Silverman (389-2108 x13 or principal@beki.org).

Service Times for Pesah

Shabbat Pesah Minha and Maariv services are Friday night 30 March 6p to 6:45p. The Shabbat Festival morning service is 9:15a to 12m on 31 March, followed by the minha afternoon service from 1p to 1:35p. Evening services that night, the night of the second seder, will not be held at BEKI.

Festival morning services on Sunday 1 April 2018 are 9:15a to 11:35a, and afternoon service is 5:45p to 6:05p. Havdala is 7:59p or later.

Hol HaMoed: The Intermediate Days

While we observe the two initial and two final days of Pesah as major holidays, which include most of the restrictions on *melakha* (“work”) followed on Shabbat, the intermediate days are observed as semi-holidays. Ideally, one avoids or minimizes *melakha* during this period as well, but in our setting most observant Jews simply go to work or school as usual. Ezra Academy, like many other Jewish schools, have the week of Pesah as holiday (no school), and many public institutions in Israel such as museums and national monuments and parks are either closed or observe truncated hours. *Melakha* is a technical rabbinic term used to define the set of actions that are prohibited on the Sabbath Day, based on the 39 categories of acts involved in creating the Temple, which is the Biblical context in which the term is used.

On the festival days (*haggim*), tefillin are not worn, but on Hol HaMoed it is common to wear tefillin in the morning until after the amida and to remove them before Hallel. (Others omit tefillin altogether in this period.) During Hol HaMoed, as in the entire month of Nisan, the Tahianun (supplication) is omitted in the daily services. Hallel and musaf are recited daily, and the passage *Ya'ale veYavo* is included in the amida and in Birkat haMazon (grace after meals). For people who do not have a pre-existing family tradition, Rabbi Tilsen suggests not wearing tefillin during Hol HaMoed.

The prohibition against possessing and eating *hametz* remains in force. One should seek to make the period

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Pesah

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celebratory. In the idyllic future, the period should be a general public holiday when all can skip work without concern for income or security.

Pesah Candle Lighting

The first night of Passover is Friday 30 March 2018; candle lighting in New Haven is at 6:57p. For the second night, candle lighting should be *after* 7:58p (twenty-five hours later). Because it is not permitted to strike matches on the Festival days, our practice is to light a flame before the festival begins that will burn at least 26 hours, and to use that flame to light the Pesah candles the second night.

Candle lighting for the seventh day, Thursday night 6 April 2018, is at 7:03p or earlier, and on Friday night 6 April (Shabbat and Festival lights for the final day which is Shabbat), candles should be lighted at 7:04p using an existing flame..

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder (Saturday night 31 March 2018), we begin daily *sefirat ha-omer* (counting of the *omer*), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai.

The simple home ceremony is printed in most *siddurim* (prayer books), including *Sim Shalom*, immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, *sefirat ha-omer* can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the *sefira* served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment, given the dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term *omer* refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day's number.

Families with young children may use this opportunity

to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom — Psalm 90:12

Shir HaShirim – Song of Songs

The Biblical love poetry of *Shir HaShirim - Song of Songs* will be read on the morning of Shabbat Pesah 7 April 2018 after the haftara reading. Tradition ascribes the work to King Solomon himself, writing 2,900 years ago. Celebrate the spring holiday of Pesah with this beautiful and moving reading.

Yizkor Memorial Service

The Yizkor Memorial Service will be held during the 9:15a Festival morning service on Shabbat 7 April 2018, the final day of Pesah. The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*, and the *Musaf* additional service, and concludes by 12:15p. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are often especially intense during the Pesah season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Day

Yom HaShoah, a memorial day for the *hurban*, the destruction of Jewish civilization in Europe, will be observed on Wednesday night 11 April and Thursday 12 April 2018. See the Sisterhood section in the April issue for information on yellow Holocaust memorial candles, which are available without cost, as well as a Yom HaShoah memorial program at BEKI on a Shabbat in April.

Yom HaZikaron, Yom HaAtzmaut

Yom HaZikaron, Israeli Memorial Day, is observed Tuesday night 17 April and Wednesday 18 April 2018; Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day, is observed on Wednesday night 18 April and Thursday 19 April 2018. These back-to-back holidays recognize the combination of suffering and joy, of sacrifice and achievement that often necessarily come together in our lives. All of these days are marked liturgically in public worship at BEKI. BEKI members generally will participate in Greater New Haven community events marking these civil observances.



In memory of my beloved father, Jonathan Gutman, and with thanks to the BEKI community for all their support at this difficult time.

— Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman

An occasional column of answers, advice, and helpful household hints

Open Bottle Law

Dear Rabbi,

Can I use a bottle of kosher grape juice that was opened before Passover on Passover?

Signed, *No Wine Before Its Time*

Dear No Whine,

The basic answer is “Yes.” But why? There are some products that are kosher for Passover – consider a tub of butter or margarine – that are typically heavily contaminated with hametz in daily use. For such products, you might want to open a new package for Passover use. There are other products, such as fine kosher for Passover wines, whose quality degrades after opening, and for such products you would not want to serve them at the seder if they were opened before, as a matter of etiquette or food quality, but using this item during Pesah is no violation of kashrut rules. For people with busy kitchens shared by other household members, it can be impossible to know the history of an item, and for that reason some follow a simple rule of not using open packages. With grape juice, contamination with hametz is unlikely, and any such contamination (a kid drinks from the bottle directly while eating a sandwich) has no legal significance, as any incidental hametz is rendered *batel* (legally non-existent) at the outset of the festival.

Self-Kashering Machine

Dear Rabbi,

Can I use my dishwasher and its racks during Passover?

Signed, *Put ‘em on the Rack*

Dear Rack ‘em up,

The basic short answer is “Yes.” The dishwasher is the ultimate self-kashering utensil.

Since you do not cook food in a dishwasher, it is not really a cooking utensil subject to the usual laws of kashrut, but rather is just what it looks like – a washing machine that tends to act as a storehouse for food particles – including hametz. Residual food particles are neutralized when the dishwasher is thoroughly cleaned

(the seals, gaskets and filters) and then washed on high setting without dishes (use small amount of detergent). The remnant gunk, and the dishwasher surfaces, are no longer hametz – they have been rendered utterly inedible by the detergent and heat. Even junk adhering to the wall of the dishwasher, and the spaghetti noodle hanging out of hole somewhere, are no longer hametz (but the pious among us remove their noodles). Any secondary property of hametz that “entered” the walls and surfaces of the appliance, including the rack, which is not a real kashrut concern to begin with, are “expelled” through the same process, that is, by running the dishwasher on full cycle.

Looking for a new dishwasher? I’ve used a Bosch 800-series dishwasher for over two years. It is the best-designed and built home appliance I have ever used. But you can’t have mine – get your own.

Ninety-nine and Ninety-six One-hundredths Percent Pure

Dear Rabbi,

Can I use Morton Salt on Passover or do I need kosher for Passover salt?

Signed, *Assault and Battery*

Dear Ban Assault Rifles,

Morton Salt (like other major brands, if there are any) adds iodine to most of its consumer salt products as a dietary supplement. Dextrose is added as an anti-caking or preserving ingredient. Dextrose is “starch” or “sugar” and can be made from corn, dairy, or wheat – and from there the hametz concern. Morton Salt Company says the dextrose content is 0.04%; who knows where it comes from? This is in the category of “buy before Passover and use on Passover” if you want. But that 0.04% of maybe wheat-derived, and maybe not utterly de-naturized, is enough to make the pious among us say we will not buy it on Pesah just in case.

If the thought bothers you, get the certified for Passover product.

See more “Dear Rabbi” answers concerning Passover and other topics at <http://www.beki.org/dvartorah/food-kosher-kashrut-kosher-for-passover/>

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דָרְשָׁנִים

Darshanim

Darshan – noun, plural

dar·sha·nim. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggada or Halakha in a synagogue.

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim in the coming weeks:

Sara Walstedter, bat mitzva, 21 April 2018, parashiyot Tazria - Metzora.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, with Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela, Isaiah Cooper and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature youths along with adults.



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



Nadav Sela



Isaiah Cooper

Hebrew with Will

Back by popular demand, an hour of Hebrew with Will, alternating Shabbat mornings in March, 10:45a-11:45a, office. Free. Meeting on Shabbatot alternating with SSTS. Info perfectexodus@gmail.com.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: I Kings

Each Monday morning from 7:47a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read

Rashi's commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) is reading First Kings. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. Hebrew and English texts are available. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (shaharit) features a 180-second "Hebrew word of the Week" to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings or current events.

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis and clergy, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a "safe" setting and with opportunities to learn from each other's experience and insight. The



Murray Levine

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Adult Studies

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study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library during the school year. In 5778, the rabbis are reviewing selected *sugiyot* in B. Shabbat. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at 203.397.2513.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service.

Shaharit service is from 8:15a to 9:15a on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7:00a.

Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A weekly study of the Talmud Bavli Berakhot meets in the Beit Midrash on Thursday mornings 10a–11a with Rabbi Tilsen.

The Talmud, a hypertext extended outline of discussion organized around the Mishna and based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. No prior knowledge is required, but basic facility in English is helpful; students with all backgrounds are welcome, beginner to advanced. The Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets each Thursday but not on 1 March 2018 (Purim) nor 29 March 2018 (day before Passover).



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- Sherry Kent for mekhirat hametz
- Sherry Kent in memory of and marking the yahrzeits of William & Anna Berman, Phillip Kantrowitz, Violet Ludwig and Irving Berman
- Robert & Susan Nobleman honoring Harold Miller at his milestone birthday
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Jonathan Gutman by the Avni-Singer family

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- To Lana & Martin Gad and family with sympathy on the passing of Cynthia Schneider by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
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Pauker & Tina Rose

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- To Michael Hurwitz & Debbie Chirnomas and family with sympathy on the passing of Nathaniel Hurwitz by the Herbst family
- To Harold Miller in honor of his 75th birthday by Debbie & David Kaye
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• To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman and family with sympathy on the passing of Jonathan Gutman by Mimi Glenn

• To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman and family with sympathy on the passing of Jonathan Gutman by Roya Hakakian, Ramin Ahmadi, Elia & Kian

• To Michael Hurwitz & Debbie Chirnomas and family with sympathy on the passing of Nathaniel Hurwitz by David & Darryl Kuperstock

• To Michael Hurwitz & Debbie Chirnomas and family with sympathy on the passing of Nathaniel Hurwitz by Bill Shragis

• To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman and family with sympathy on the passing of Jonathan Gutman by Betsy & Glenn Schulman

BEKI Religious School

- To Sascha van Creveld and family with sympathy on the passing of Aby van Creveld by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Michael Hurwitz & Debbie Chirnomas and family with sympathy on the passing of Nathaniel Hurwitz by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman and family with sympathy on the passing of Jonathan Gutman by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Sascha van Creveld and family with sympathy on the passing of Aby van Creveld by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Matthew & Joanna Schwartz in honor of the birth of Talia Bluma by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

• To Lynn & Jay Brotman in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

• To Eva & Frank Schultz in honor of the birth of their daughter by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

• To Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman and family with sympathy on the passing of Jonathan Gutman by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Ruth Silver

• In memory of Joseph Rosen by Rochelle Adani

• In memory of Dr. Nathan Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney

• In memory of her mother Esther Heller by Rhoda Lemkin

• In memory of her father Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent

• In memory of Anne Schnitman Irwin by Helen Schnitman Vanderhoef

• In memory of Harriett Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen

• In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader

• In memory of Gertrude Slopak by David Schwartz

• In memory of Marjorie Golden Weiss Simson by Marshall & Joan Weiss

• In memory of her beloved father Martin Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie

• In memory of Haie-Bertha Naiman by Polina Naiman

• In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Anita & Michael Malina

• In memory of Annie Cohen by Ted Maltin

• In memory of Benjamin Yankeloff by Shirley & Donald Halprin

• In memory of her grandmother Rose Friedman by Harriet Friedman & family

• In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara Rader

• In memory of Ida Akresh by Murray & Barbara Akresh

• In memory of Lillie Stern by Barbara & Murray Akresh

• In memory of Lillian Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney

• In memory of Sally & Alan Abramovitz by Edward Abramovitz & Michelle Rosen

• In memory of Rose Shindell Jason by Marcia Geier

• In memory of Joseph Winer by Herb Winer

• In memory of Anita Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds

• In memory of Sidney Yaffe by David Yaffe

• In memory of Rubin Schwartz by David Schwartz

• In memory of Rae Krivonos by Mildred Kalison

• In memory of Wilbur Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten

• In memory of her parents Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick



המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Stanley Moldawsky, father of Barbara (& Leonard) Stern

Jane Gershaw, mother of Libby (& Mark) Abraham

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

News

Abraham's Tent

Monday evening 12 March – Monday morning 19 March. Part of a program in Greater New Haven, for one week BEKI will host a group of men experiencing homelessness. Please sign up *now*. Volunteers needed for set-up and cooking on Sunday 11 March, and each day during the program to dine with our guests (breakfast and dinner), spend time in the evenings; desperate for overnight volunteers (an easy job). Online volunteer sign-up [here](#). More info: Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@gmail.com 203-215-8555, or Steve Werlin shwerlin@gmail.com 617-721-8213. We will be available to answer questions during qiddush.

Spring-Summer Schedule

Our daily service now include back-to-back minha and Maariv 5:45p–6:13p Sunday through Thursday nights. See [Daily Schedule](#).

Stupid Rebate Cards

Got a rebate VISA or other payment card with an odd amount you can't use or will misplace or forget until it expires? [Donate it online to BEKI](#).

Torah Reading

Rabbi Tilsen is coordinating VaYiqra (17 March – 12 May) including Pesah; contact jjtilsen@beki.org. Thanks to Noam B-T for coordinating Shemot. [Darryl](#) is coordinating BeMidbar (19 May – 14 July).

News Feed

Check the website to see articles in the secular and Jewish press about BEKI, also photos by Allen Samuel taken at the retirement luncheon for Clarence Bromell. <https://www.beki.org/calendar-events/beki-in-the-news>. [Sinai Joins BEKI](#).

[Bedtime Stories: For Very, Very Young Children](#), As Retold, now on the website.

JCARR

Help refugee families adjust to New Haven. Contact Gilah Benson-Tilsen JCARR.BEKI@gmail.com

Got Announcements?

Ask President Harold Birn to include your BEKI event in live Shabbat morning announcements by writing to announcements@beki.org. “This Week at BEKI” listings may be up to 50 words.

Dance with Me

Israeli Dance on Tuesday evenings for Beginners, 7:15p–8:15p; for Everyone 8:15p–10p, Social Hall.

Improved – Youth Scholarships

(A) Jewish Foundation, for local synagogue schools, scholarships.jewishnewhaven.org/form/religious; (B) Foundation Israel Program scholarships jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships (C) Barzillai Cheskis Youth Israel Scholarship at BEKI (office@beki.org) (D) [One Happy Camper](#) for overnight Jewish Camps (E) Noam Benson-Tilsen Fund for Ramah Scamperships (office@beki.org).

Amazon Commission

Buying items from [Amazon](#)? Use [this link](#) or the link on BEKI's home page beki.org (bottom) so BEKI will receive a commission (about 4%) on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark [our link](#). (Other Amazon programs such as Smiles provide only 0.5% so use our link instead.) See [instructions and explanation under “Resources.”](#) February 2018 take was \$112 from Amazon Link (and just \$12 from Smile).

Tefila Tips

[Seven pointers to improve our services](#), for leaders and followers, www.beki.org/tefila-tips.

Welcome New Member

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Purim

Like Hanuka, Purim is a lesser festival, and comes on the fourteenth day of the Jewish month Adar. The fifteenth day of Adar is called Shushan Purim, and the thirteenth day of Adar is the Fast of Esther.

Like Hanuka, Purim is also a day of deliverance. On Hanuka, the deliverance of the Jewish religion is observed, whereas on Purim the deliverance of the Jewish People is celebrated.

The Book of Esther is read by some as an allegory depicting the Jewish life and Jewish lot among the nations. It is a book in which not just one period is depicted, but all periods; it is a book that remains forever new because enemies of the people will not allow it to grow old.

The festival of Purim is connected with a book that tells of the indestructibility of the Jewish People and thus it appealed to all Jews in all times. Purim became the symbolic name for Jewish deliverance. Whenever a Jew was saved from a terrible fate such as from pogroms or exile imposed by a Haman-like ruler, the community would celebrate the day of rescue annually as a special, local Purim, in much the same manner as the universal Jewish Purim.

The book of Esther has no explicitly theological content and can arouse no pious thoughts. In addition, the reading of the book is accompanied by noise and tumult, which does not comport with a religious ceremony. It only orders the observance of the fourteenth and fifteenth days of Adar with revelry, with exchange of gifts, and with giving charity.

It is customary to eat kreplech (a form of ravioli), as well as Hamantaschen, called mohn-taschen, *mohn* meaning “poppy seed,” and *taschen* meaning “pockets,” and also signifies dough that is filled with other foodstuffs.

Pesah

Passover is just around the corner. Friday Eve is the First Seder.

The Sisterhood Giftshop is filled with Passover items, including seder plates, qiddush cups, Cups of Miriam, Matza plates, children toys pertaining to Passover, and more. Come and support our gift store. Our profit is gifted right back to BEKI.

The board of BEKI Sisterhood wishes all our congregants a Happy and Healthy Purim and Passover.



USY Kadima Brownie Baking for Deli Box 2018

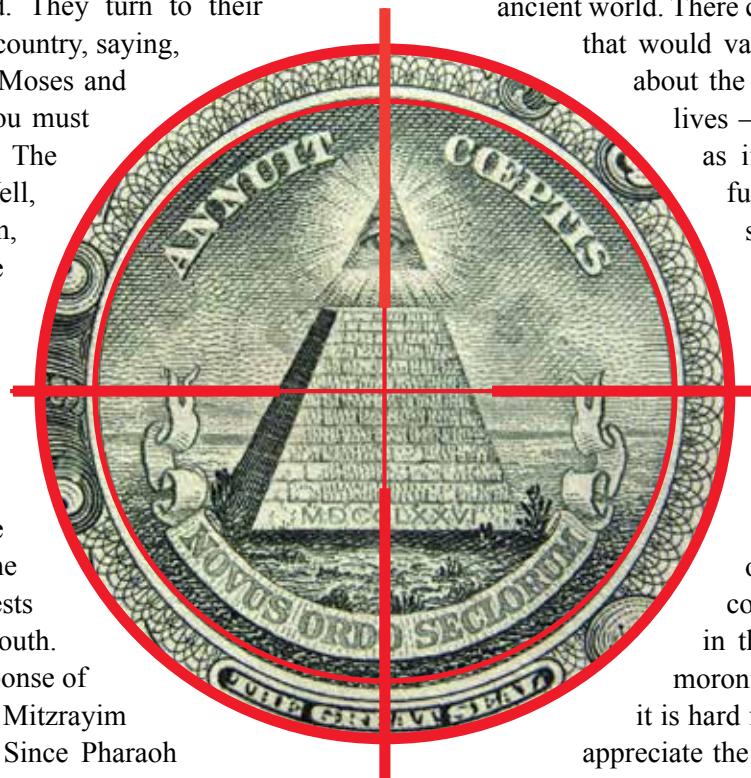
EXPENDABLE YOUTH

The story is told in the ancient midrash *Pesiqta de-Rav Kahana*, which dates back to the fifth or sixth century of the common era, of the tenth plague, the Killing of the Firstborn. Moses and Aaron warn Pharaoh of this disaster about to befall Mitzrayim, but Pharaoh, as he did in the prior nine instances, stands firm. “I’m running the most powerful empire in the world, not a waffle stand,” he says to Moses. “Take a hike.”

The firstborn of Egypt hear of this looming threat and are understandably alarmed. They turn to their “fathers,” the leaders of the country, saying, “Every prediction made by Moses and Aaron has come to pass! You must do something to save us.” The elders of Egypt respond, “Well, each of us has many children, and if this is the price we have to pay, then so be it.” There were greater principles under assault. It was a test of their resolve, a challenge to the rule of law, an attack on the foundations of the economic system. There was too much at stake for the elders to buckle to the protests of these radical and foolish youth.

Not satisfied with the response of the elders, the firstborn of Mitzrayim turned directly to Pharaoh. Since Pharaoh was himself a firstborn, they expected he would identify with them. “Every prediction made by Moses and Aaron has come to pass! You must do something to save us,” they entreated. But Pharaoh responded, “Dolts! I have stood up to Moses, Aaron and Miriam nine times already. I’m all in. I’m not compromising the right to have slaves – this is a fundamental freedom of the Egyptian people that cannot be infringed. Our way of life depends on it. Egyptian slave-holders don’t kill children – Hebrew gods do. Be gone.” And on the way out, Pharaoh gave each youth delegate a clonk on the head.

This was a moment of clarity for the youth of Mitzrayim.



Riots broke out. Tens of thousands of elders were killed by the youth, who believed they were acting justly to save their own lives and the future of their society, and to oust the corrupt and selfish ruling class of the empire. It was a youth revolution. And so the freedom of the Hebrew slaves and the beginning of the end of the empire came only after the tenth and most terrible plague -- the Killing of the Firstborn.

The story of the Exodus as told in our Torah in the language of an epic myth is of course a fantasy from the ancient world. There could not possibly be a society that would value the rights of the wealthy about the interests – let alone the very lives – of their own youth. It is not as if children are transported in fume-choked busses without seatbelts while money is transported in armored cars, instead of the other way around. We cannot imagine a society so morally bankrupt that the young people – even the children without the right of voting – have to break the rules, organize themselves, and take control of their own destiny in the face of corrupt, impotent, moronic or malicious elders. And so it is hard for us enlightened moderns to appreciate the perspectives of these ancient teachings, but we are commanded to stay up all night, if we have to, trying. As Rabban Gamliel taught: “In each generation, one should view [or show] oneself as having personally exited Egypt, as Scripture says, ‘You shall tell your progeny on that day, ‘for this purpose God took action for me when I left Egypt.’’” If you don’t get it, your progeny will have to figure it out for themselves.

לְמַפְתָּח מִצְרָיִם בְּכֹרֶיהָמּ כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲקָדוֹ:

Praise Adonai: Who struck Egypt through their first-born, for Adonai’s steadfast love is beyond the bounds of time and space. (Psalm 136)



March 2018

14 Adar 5778 - 15 Nisan 5778

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Purim 8:15am Megila Reading No Berakhot Study Group 5:00pm Purim Seuda	2 Shushan Purim 5:26pm Candle Lighting	3 Darshan: Rabbi Murray Levine 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Levine/Taub & Brotman 12:30pm Conversations with the Artist: Caryn Azoff 1:00pm Minha
				14 Adar	15 Adar	16 Adar
4 9:00am Religious School	5 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting	6 7:15pm Israeli Dance	7 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	8 10:00am Berakhot Study Group	9 5:34pm Candle Lighting	10 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Hebrew with Will Qiddush: TBA 1:00pm Minha
17 Adar	18 Adar	19 Adar	20 Adar	21 Adar	22 Adar	23 Adar
11 9:00am Religious School	12 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 5:30pm Abraham's Tent	13 7:15pm Israeli Dance 5:30pm Abraham's Tent	14 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 5:30pm Abraham's Tent	15 10:00am Berakhot Study Group 5:30pm Abraham's Tent	16 6:41pm Candle Lighting 5:30pm Abraham's Tent	17 Rosh Hodesh Schultz Baby Naming 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: Rosenberg 1:00pm Minha 5:30pm Abraham's Tent
24 Adar	25 Adar	26 Adar	27 Adar	28 Adar	29 Adar	1 Nisan
18 9:00am Religious School 5:30pm Abraham's Tent	19 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 5:30pm Abraham's Tent 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site)	20 7:15pm Israeli Dance	21 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program	22 10:00am Berakhot Study Group	23 6:49pm Candle Lighting	24 Religious School on Shabbat 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Hebrew with Will Qiddush: N. Stahl 1:00pm Minha
2 Nisan	3 Nisan	4 Nisan	5 Nisan	6 Nisan	7 Nisan	8 Nisan
25 No Religious School	26 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour	27 7:15pm Israeli Dance	28 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program	29 No Berakhot Study Group	30 Erev Passover 7:00am Siyyum Bekhorot 11:30am Matsa Baking 6:00pm Minha & Shabbat Festival Service 6:49pm Candle Lighting	31 Passover I 9:15am Festival Service 10:45m Children's Programs 1:00pm Minha No evening services 8:06pm Candle Lighting
9 Nisan	10 Nisan	11 Nisan	12 Nisan	13 Nisan	14 Nisan	15 Nisan

Service Times

Sundays
9 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Maariv

Mondays
7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Maariv

Tuesdays
7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Maariv

Wednesdays
7 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Maariv

Thursdays
8:15 a.m. Shaharit
5:45 p.m. Maariv

Fridays
7 a.m. Shaharit
6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat

Saturdays
9:15 a.m. Shaharit
Before sunset: Minha



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