Be Happy It’s Adar

Mishenikhnas Adar marbim besimha – When Adar inaugurates, joy accumulates. — Talmud Eruvin 29a

Mishloaḥ Manot – Purim Baskets

See the online form (beki.org under “Resources”) or contact the office at 203-389-2108 x 114 or office@beki.org if you need a form to order Purim Baskets. Please distribute mishloaḥ manot on Purim evening and day.

Shabbat Zakhor

The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, Shabbat 16 March 2019. This Sabbath is marked by reading the Biblical passage reminding us to remember and never forget the cruelty of Amalek. The reading of this passage is in fulfillment of the mitzva which it references, and hearing this reading is considered a mitzva unto itself. For that reason, children’s programs may be timed to let adults and children hear this required reading. Like Taanit Esther, Shabbat Zakhor expresses the serious side of Purim.

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over twenty centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is observed on Wednesday 20 March 2019, the day immediately before Purim, which begins that night. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatchers, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide. This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn (5:45a Eastern Daylight Time) on Wednesday 20 March 2019. The Wednesday shaharit morning service is from 7a – 7:50a and includes “Avinu Malkenu -- Our Father, Our King,” as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any significant medical contraindication should not undertake the fast. This year, we will hold a minha afternoon service at 5:45p. The fast ends at 7:34p EDT, or when the person observing the fast eats or drinks, whichever comes first.

See Rabbi Tilsen’s essay, The Problem of Purim.

Megilla Readings

Most of the Jewish world will observe Purim on Wednesday night 20 March and the following day, Thursday 21 March 2019.

The Wednesday afternoon service is from 5:45p to 6:25p (a special schedule this year). The Megilla (Scroll of Esther)
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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:
- Call the Synagogue office: 203.389.2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: jjtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.
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Purim
Continued from Page 1

is read during the evening services (6:30p to 8:15p) on Wednesday night 20 March, and then again during the Thursday morning service, which begins at 8:15a (ending 10:05a) on 21 March. The reading is from the Megilla scroll produced according to ancient custom, which, like a Torah scroll, is hand-written on parchment by a trained sofer. Children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed, asleep in sleeping bags, napping in knapsacks, or rocking in rucksacks.

Hearing the reading of the me-gilla (or reading it oneself) in the evening and morning is a Biblical commandment (mitzva). Other Purim mitzvot (religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor (mishloah manot), alms for the poor (matanot le-evyonim) and a feast on Purim day (mishte or seuda). Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will have to start over to insure that everyone hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story’s villain. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Please do not bring assault rifles, firearms, explosive devices or weapons of any sort, or any toy that realistically resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door – we mean it). Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary or lobby during the service.

Persons dressed as Lady Gaga wearing meat suits should sit in the designated fleishig area and are advised to keep a distance from people wearing M&M and other dairy costumes. This year, there will be a refrigerated section for those dressed as fresh vegetables.

Persons associated with Occupy Shushan, Occupy BEKI, or other Occupy groups, as well as people impeding pipelines, must remain behind police barriers. Since our police are unarmed (see above), Occupy participants are asked to be especially gentle in any confrontation. If you are coming with a group of 10,000 or more women, please notify the office in advance to allow coordination of logistics.

Continued on Page 4

Visit us at www.beki.org
During the morning reading, when some participants may be *groggier* than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18 centimeters).

Following the evening and morning services, help is requested in collecting and delivering the *mishloah manot* (Purim Baskets) to neighboring households. Delivering just one can be a big help and a great joy.

**BEKI Purim Seuda (Festive Meal)**
A Purim Seuda (Feast) will be held at BEKI Thursday 21 March from 5p–7p; payment and reservation are required. The registration form is at on the BEKI calendar at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) or contact Peggy office@beki.org.

**Shushan Purim**
Persons who live in ancient cities that were walled in the 13th century BCE (such as Jerusalem and Mundigak, Afghanistan) will celebrate Purim a day later and one dollar shorter than the rest of the Jewish world. The observance of Shushan Purim is Thursday night 21 March and Friday 22 March 2019. At BEKI this day will be marked liturgically by the omission of the recitation of the *tahanun* prayer. Also on this date, we will not recite the Star Spangled Banner, Yellow Submarine, The Gettysburg Address, and

**The Whole Megilla**
The ruler of the most powerful country on the globe has trouble with the women in his life – and with every woman in the country. His chief advisor has a problem with Jews – especially a refugee journalist. What could go wrong? Hear this implausible fantasy story from long ago retold in its original form by skilled performers (with signing for the musically impaired), see the all-new executive summary projected on two screens. Come in costume or pajamas, bring a grogger or use ours, enjoy light fare before and Sisterhood-provided refreshments after the service. How far does this go? ‘Ad de-lo Yoda – until you can’t tell the difference between the heroes and the villains, at which point you are qualified to vote. Wednesday night 20 March 6:30p–8:15p in the sanctuary.

**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.” December Commission was $125; January’s was $83.
The spirit of Purim arrives early at BEKI with the display of a variety of masks by Beckie Kravetz, a Massachusetts-based sculptor and mask-maker, whose work is featured in the BEKI gallery through 31 March 2019. Kravetz will kick off the days before Purim with a Shabbat Shmooze after kiddush on March 16 and a mask-making workshop for BEKI children Sunday morning, 10:30a 17 March.

Please call the BEKI Office to reserve a place for the mask-making workshop, if your child is not a BEKI Religious School student. There will be a small fee for the hour-long workshop.
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:

Shula Chernoff, 23 March 2019, parashat Tsav

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, 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.

Rashi Study Group: I Kings

Each Monday morning from 7:45a 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. The RSG meets immediately following the 7:00a shaharit morning service. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

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

The Rabbis’ Study Group is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, initiated and taught by Rabbi Murray Levine from 2004 to 2018. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their talmud torah (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library during the school year. The Rabbis’ Group continues under the direction of Rabbi Eric Silver, and is studying Sota. For more information, contact J-J Tilsen jjtilsen@beki.org.

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.
Torah for the Hungry Mind – Adult Studies

Adult Studies
Continued from Page 6

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, 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 will not meet on Purim (21 March), nor the day before Pesah and the week of Pesah (18 April, 25 April).

LifeCycle

המקום ינחם
HaMaqom Yinahem
With sorrow we note the passing of

Doris Sagerman
Mary Jane McDonald, mother of Susan McDonald (& Corey Stone)
Adele Tyson, Past President
Lester Margolis, husband of Bernice Margolis, mother of David (& Jill) Margolis

Mazal Tov to . . .
Carmi Cheskis-Gold & Meg Kennedy, and parents Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold, on their qiddushin (Jewish marriage) under a Huppa

Welcome New Members
• Adam & Gail Miller and Rachel
• Gerry & Magdelena Garcia
• Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod and Emmanuelle

Benei Mitzva
• Miranda Hurwitz, daughter of Michael Hurwitz & Deborah Chimonomas, Sunday 5 May 2019, Rosh Hodesh Iyyar

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• Mimi Glenn
• January Birthdays: Carole Bass; Yonatan, Elisheva & Rafael Brodgie; Robin Goldberg; Margie Hirshfeld; Janis Isenberg; Zoe Katz; James Kempton; Diane Krevolin; Karen Merkel-Herbst; Lily Purvin-Rosenthal; Rachel Wiseman-Gerber; Steve Wizner
• The Oppenheimer family
• Tina Rose & Seth Pauker

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
• To Syd Aronson and Jory, Richard & Carol in memory of Trudy Aronson by Joanie, Cynthia & Linda Rubin
• To Lynn & Rick Saltz with sympathy on the passing of Zelda Rosenbluth by Ruth Silver
• To Rabbi Carl & Sharon Astor in honor of the birth of their grandson by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
• To BEKI with thanks by The Bluegrass Characters
• To the BEKI community by Sarah Magidson
• To the BEKI community by Ellen Jawitz & Rob Leikind
• To Cyd & Mark Oppenheimer in honor of the birth of their son David Walter by Bobbie & Harold Miller
• To Sue McDonald & Corey Stone with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsky
• To Sue McDonald & Corey Stone with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
• To Sue McDonald & Corey Stone with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by the Avni-Singer family
• To Sue McDonald & Corey Stone with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
• To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Gabrielle Kuvin by the Oppenheimer family
• To Rebekah Oppenheimer in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
• To Rebekah Oppenheimer in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Bobbie & Harold Miller
• To Lynn & Rick Saltz with sympathy on the passing of Zelda Rosenbluth by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Gabrielle Kuvin by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• To Rebekah Oppenheimer in honor of her Bat Mitzva by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
• To Rachel & Andy Hechtman with sympathy on the passing of Sol Laufer by Dan & Sharon Prober
• To Lynn & Rick Saltz with sympathy on the passing of Zelda Rosenbluth by Bill Shragis
• To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Gabrielle Kuvin by David & Darryl Kuperstock
• To Sue McDonald & Corey Stone with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by Bill Shragis
• To Stan Saxe with wishes for a speedy recovery by Bea Smirnoff

Social Action/Tikkun Olam Committee
• In memory of Trudy Aronson by Cynthia, Linda & Joanie Rubin
• Judith Prober
• BEKI Religious School
• To Lynn & Rick Saltz with sympathy on the passing of Zelda Rosenbluth by the Silverman & Sokolow family
• To Sue McDonald & Corey Stone with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
• To Lynn & Rick Saltz with sympathy on the passing of Zelda Rosenbluth by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
• To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Gabrielle Kuvin by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
• To Jeannette Kuvin Oren & Dan Oren with sympathy on the passing of Gabrielle Kuvin by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
• To Sue McDonald & Corey Stone with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
• In memory of Elliott Glassman by Gary Glassman & Doris Glassman
• In memory of Ruth Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
• In memory of Anne Schnitman Irwin by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
• In memory of Harriet Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
• In memory of Ida Akresh by Murray & Barbara Akresh
• In memory of Ben Siegel by Lou & Debbie Siegel
• In memory of Sally Zanrotsky by Stan Saxe
• In memory of Diane Lee Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
• In memory of her father Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
• In memory of Nathan Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
• In memory of Sam Ganter by Martin Ganter
• In memory of Reuben Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• In memory of Eleanor Helper by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
• In memory of Gertrude Slopak by David Schwartz
• In memory of Rose Rogoff by Paulette Byer
• In memory of Marjorie Golden Weiss Simson by Marshall & Joan Weiss
• In memory of Ronald Goldberg by Sandy Goldberg
• In memory of William Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
• In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara Rader
• In memory of Sophie Abelson by Gitty Cohen
• In memory of his father Aaron Ignal by Alan & Toby Ignal
• In memory of Harriet Salowitz by Barbara Getzewich, Sam Salowitz & family
• In memory of her husband Sidney Cusenby by Barbara Cusenby
• In memory of her parents Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick
• In memory of Martin Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie
• In memory of Max Rogoff by Paulette Byer
• In memory of Ida Rogoff Byer by Paulette Byer
• In memory of Sam Rogoff by Paulette Byer

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## Service Times

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
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Artist Talk with Beckie Kravetz
Shabbat 16 March 2019 about 12:45p.

Mask Workshop with Beckie Kravetz
Sunday 17 March 2019 12:30-2:30p - Upstairs social hall, $18 per mask (includes supplies), $54 max per family – workshop is for adults and teens; younger people welcome with a responsible adult. To register contact the BEKI office 203-389-2108 x114 or office@beki.org.

Shabbat Schmooze

Casting Call
Actors and Backstage Helpers Needed for Purim Shpiel 2019; contact Jonathan Gordon gordonnj82@gmail.com

Purim Baskets – Mishloah Manot
Send a Purim Basket to a fellow BEKIan for Purim; order form is in the February Mid-Month Mailing.

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Send a Purim Basket to a fellow BEKIan for Purim; order form is in the February Mid-Month Mailing.

The Whole Megilla
Hear the Book of Esther in its entirety and fulfill the mitzvot of Purim at the Megilla Reading on Wednesday 20 March 6:30p and Thursday 21 March 8:15a.

BEKI USY-Kadima at JCC Mitzvah Day
Sunday 7 April. Grades 4-12 invited to join their Hanefesh/NERUSY youth groups peers volunteering at the JCC.

New in the Social Hall
The Sinai Windows.

SATs?
Need a letter from the Rabbi so you can take an SAT / ACT / MCAT or other exam on Sunday (and not Shabbat)? Write to jjtilsen@beki.org.

Torah Torah Torah
Torah Reading coordinator for Sefer VaYiqra (15 March through 1 June, including Pesah) is JJTilsen jjtilsen@beki.org Thanks to Noam B-T for coordinating Shemot.

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