

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Iyar-Sivan 5775

Vol. 21 Issue 5

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen: Page 13



Brothers Pablo and Mateo bake matza with Sascha in the BEKI kitchen on the afternoon before Passover.

SEFIRA – COUNTING THE OMER

At the second Seder (April 4), we began 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

Continued on **Page 3**

Benefit Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Ask us about
establishing a fund, trust or annuity
to ensure BEKI's future.

Charitable giving strengthens our Community
and provides the donor with tax savings.

Stephen Glick
Chair,
Board of Trustees

Lisa A. Stanger, Esq.
Director
203 387-2424 x382
lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

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.

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

Annual subscription is \$36

BEKI Bulletin © 2015 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
© 2015 Jon-Jay Tilsen. All rights reserved.

Editor
Associate Editor
Associate Editor
Associate Editor
Photographer
Layout & Design

Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen
Donna Levine
Donna Kemper
Herbert Winer
Charles Ludwig
Bruce Oren



Tower One
Tower East

Tower One/Tower East

18 Tower Lane • New Haven, CT 06519

(203) 772-1816

www.towerone.org

An Active Senior Living Community.

Fostering Independence for Life!

Affordable Options Available



Amazon Commission

If you are buying items from Amazon and use the link on BEKI's [home page beki.org](http://home.page.beki.org) (bottom) then BEKI will receive a small commission on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link.



ROBERT E. SHURE, INC.

FUNERAL HOME

Dedicated to the Dignity and Respect of Tradition

543 George Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Robert E. Shure
Founder

203-562-8244
shurefuneralhome.com

James M. Shure
President

Omer

Continued from Page 1

LaG BeOmer

BEKI's Practically Annual LaG BeOmer Kumsitz Campfire Sing-along will be on Wednesday night May 6, at the residence of hosts Andy Hirshfield & Monica Starr, 145 Cleveland Road, New Haven. Gathering begins at 6:30 p.m.; counting the Omer will be after 8 p.m. Hebrew and other Jewish folk-songs will be sung, many bags of marshmallows will be consumed, and countless twigs will be burned in the fire. Free parking for BEKI members and their guests.

This Sing-along is made possible with the support of the Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music at Beth El-Keser Israel and by Andy & Monica.

Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish *Hajj*

The Festival of Shavuot ("Weeks"), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,327 years ago. The word *hag* (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, *hajj* (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, "Three times a year – on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths – all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you" (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance at BEKI this summer. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI's Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study takes place on the first night of Shavuot, Motse'ei Shabbat (Saturday night) May 23. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served. That means **cheesecake**.

The Shabbat minha afternoon service is at its usual hour,

5:45 to 6:15. Shavuot begins with the Festival Evening Service from 9 to 9:20 in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. A shiur (text study or lecture) will begin at 9:20.

Shiurim (sessions) will be presented late into the evening. Please see "[This Week at BEKI](#)" for a complete list of presenters and schedule.

Presentation: Jay Sokolow, "King David & The Census." There are three kinds of people: Those who can count, and those who can't. Why is Moses the Lawgiver *compelled* to conduct a census, while King David is *censured* for doing so? This shiur will try to make some sense of it, if not reach consensus.

Leil Shavuot Kadima Sleepover

Motse'ei Shabbat Saturday Night May 23 - Sunday May 24; at BEKI; details to be announced; volunteers needed; contact Stefan bekibjkadima@gmail.com.

Shavuot Mornings

Yizkor Memorial Service

Book of Ruth

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shaharit Morning Service begins at 9:15 on Sunday May 24. The service includes the full recitation of Hallel. The afternoon and evening services begin at 5:45. Candle lighting Sunday night is at 8:53 or later.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15 on Monday May 25 (U.S. Memorial Day). The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*. Following the *Haftara* (prophetic reading), the Yizkor Memorial Service is held. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Following Yizkor, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of *ta'amei hamiqra* ("trope") found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival *Musaf* additional service is recited.

Some Congregants may leave during qiddush for a hike to the top of West Rock. Weather permitting, bring appropriate shoes and leave with friends from the lobby.

The Festival Minha service is held in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel from 5:45 to 6:05 p.m.



המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Margot Roten

Jenna Bass,

niece of Paul & Carole Bass

*May the Almighty comfort those
who mourn*

Benei Mitzva

Matthew Silverman, son of Debbie & Abe Silverman, nephew of Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow, May 8-9, parashat *Emor*.

Ari Gad, son of Martin & Lana Gad, May 29-30, parashat *Naso*.

Isaac Callaghan, son of Rebecca Gratz & Steve Sitrin, and of Joseph Callaghan, June 5-6, parashat *BeHa'alotekha*.

Guido Secchiaroli, son of Dina & Michael Secchiaroli, June 19-20, parashat *Qorah*.

Adin Jennings and Fiona Jennings children of Jeff & Miriam Jennings, June 26-27, parashat *Huqat*.

For his Bar Mitzvah project Guido is hosting a book drive. His goal is to collect as many gently used books for children and adults as he can. While there are a number of worthy organizations, he has chosen to donate to New Haven Reads.

Sisterhood

Pesah Sheni (May 3)

One year after the exodus, God commanded the Jewish people to celebrate Pesach in the desert. Some people were unprepared and could not purify themselves in time to offer their Paschal sacrifice (Numbers 9).

Moses was told by God that they would get a second chance to offer their sacrifice on 14 Iyar. This “second chance” continued until the cessation of sacrifices with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. Now we commemorate the day by eating matzah. This teaches us that even if a person has failed to fulfill a certain aspect of her or his mission in life, there is always a Second Passover on which to make good. It’s never too late.

LaG BeOmer (May 7)

The 33rd day of this counting period is celebrated as a minor holiday. On this day in the early second century, according to legend, the students of Rabbi Aqiva stopped dying from an epidemic. Throughout the world, Lag BeOmer is celebrated by Jews as a happy day with festivities and bonfires, and serves as an occasion for weddings and *benei mitzva* celebrations.

Shavuot (May 24-25)

Shavuot marks the day upon which God gave the Torah

to the entire Jewish nation over 3,300 years ago. The Jewish people prepared themselves for seven weeks of the giving of the Torah. During this time they rid themselves of scars of bondage and became a holy nation ready to stand before God and accept the laws of the Torah. This is a huge responsibility and a unique relationship between themselves and God.

It is customary to decorate the house with white flowers to remind us of the flowers that blossomed on Mount Sinai when the Torah was given. We also have a tradition of eating dairy meals during this festival. Cheese cake and cheese-filled blintzes are traditional as well. We make it a special point of attending the Shavuot Torah reading with the family in the synagogue.

The story of Ruth is also read during this time. The lesson of Ruth – and of Shavuot – is that more than birth and family status, what is most important is how you live. A good person lives by a set of rules that divides good from evil. For Jews, this set of rules is the Torah.

Thus, Shavuot reminds us that that life should be a partnership between each person and God.

The board of Sisterhood wishes all our BEKI members a happy holiday.

BEKI to Host Torah Scholars

The BEKI programming committee is thrilled to be bringing two weekends of Torah study to BEKI this month.

On May 1-3 we are hosting Judy Klitsner, a senior faculty member at Pardes in Jerusalem, for a full weekend of study at BEKI. With support from a generous donor, most of the weekend will be free of charge for participants.

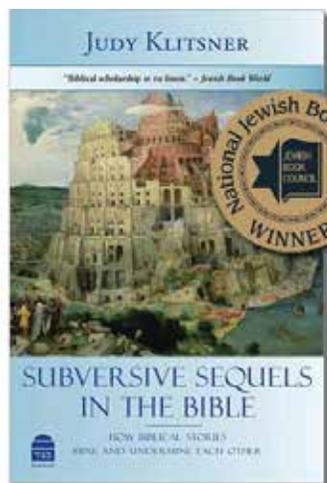
Judy Klitsner has taught Bible and biblical exegesis for two decades and is a popular international speaker whose lectures abound with original insights based on her close reading of text. She is the author of “Subversive Sequels in the



Judy Klitsner

Bible: How Biblical Stories Mine and Undermine Each Other.”

Ms. Klitsner will speak at BEKI on Friday May 1 following Qabbalat Shabbat services and a communal Shabbat dinner. She will join us on Saturday May 2 for more learning, following Shabbat services and a festive Kiddush lunch. In addition, our own Tani Cohen-Fraade



(son of BEKI members Steven Fraade and Ellen Cohen), a Jewish educator in Brooklyn and one of Judy’s former students at Pardes, will lead a special program for teens on Saturday afternoon. We will conclude the weekend with a Sunday brunch at which Judy will speak again and will be available to sign copies of her book, which will be available for purchase.

But wait, there’s more

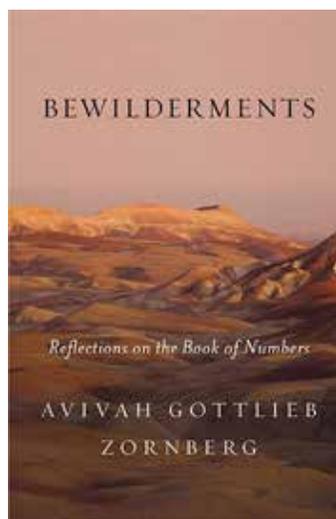
Two weeks later on May 15-17, along with Congregation B’Nai Jacob and Westville Synagogue, with support from the Jewish Federation of New Haven, the BEKI community will host internationally renowned Torah scholar, Dr. Avivah Zornberg.

Zornberg was born in London and grew up in Glasgow, Scotland, where her father was a Rabbi and the head of the Rabbinical Court. She studied with him from childhood. She holds a BA and PhD in English Literature from Cambridge University. After teaching English literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, she turned to teaching Torah.



Avivah Zornberg

For the past thirty years, she has taught Torah in Jerusalem at Matan, Yakar, Pardes and the Jerusalem College for Adults. She has written a number of books; the most recent one published this spring, is “Bewilderments: Reflections on the Book of Numbers.”



Dr. Zornberg will speak on Friday night May 15 at Westville Synagogue and on the morning of Sunday May 17 at Congregation B’nai Jacob.

On Saturday May 16, following Shabbat services and Kiddush lunch she will speak at BEKI. Her topic will be “Am I a stranger? Becoming Ruth,” in which she will explore the process by which Ruth finds her way into a foreign and unfamiliar culture and religious tradition. She will also explore the question, “How does destiny come about?”

For more information about Dr. Zornberg, see this article by Beth Kissileff in Tablet magazine’s March 9 on-line issue. <http://tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/189474/avivah-zornberg-numbers>

Please look for detailed information about both programs in the mail and on BEKI’s website. Many of the sessions will be free and all are open to the public, so spread the word to friends beyond our community who might be interested.



Solar 2015 Update

A project to purchase and install another grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) system on BEKI's rooftops is in progress. Installation and activation are planned for May and June. If you've noticed a sharp increase in your residential electric bill since January 2015, you may all the more appreciate the importance of this new array in containing our communal utility bill, which is about 12 times that of a typical homeowner.

The new array will mean BEKI is producing more than half of its electricity on-site without having to purchase it from the utility company. The array will substantially reduce BEKI's "carbon footprint" and will be most productive when power is most needed, which is on sunny summer days. The array will reduce our carbon release by 30 metric tons per year for 25 years.

The solar panels are being placed on the two sections of roof that were recently replaced, that is, on the school wing and social hall. The panels are tied to the utility grid, so that the electricity replaces what BEKI would otherwise have drawn from the electric company. When the rooftop system's output exceeds our usage, the electricity generated is used by our neighbors, and this is deducted from our bill.

The project's final budget was \$140,000 which includes the equipment, installation, regulatory compliance, roof inspection and other associated costs. The project is at this point projected to come in at or under budget. About \$100,000 has been raised in donations from BEKI members and supporters to cover the cost of the project, and additional major donors are welcome.

Some BEKI members who have wished to use solar on their own residence but could not due to technical reasons (shading, orientation, structural deficiencies, tenancy) have decided to fulfill this objective by providing the equivalent for BEKI. Residential systems retail in the range of \$5,000 to \$20,000 (depending on roof size and configuration). A donor may enjoy a tax deduction (for the charitable contribution) while the entire community enjoys the saving on our bill for the next 20 to 30 years and our neighbors enjoy a better grid and less pollution.

Want to help or know more? Contact Yaron yaronl@aol.com or Jon-Jay jjtilsen@beki.org or Andy president@beki.org.

For technical details, see www.beki.org under "Our Community / Ecology" (<http://www.beki.org/our-community/ecology/#solar2015>).

BEKI 4.0

The BEKI website has been updated, thanks to the efforts of Eric Dunsker, Yair Minsky and a team of BEKI volunteers and professionals. Please explore; your patience will be appreciated. Corrections, suggestions and comments welcome to Eric Dunsker (edanziger0@yahoo.com).

Elders of Zion

BEKI is the recipient of a grant from the Jewish Home for the Aged Building Fund to do sixteen programs for community seniors over the year, and the Elders of Zion series was born. We chose to invite speakers who are specialists in their fields to do presentations and lead discussions, followed by lunch and schmoozing in the BEKI Social Hall. Ina Silverman organized these events over 16 Monday mornings.

Attorney Donna Levine was the inaugural speaker and her topic was estate planning. She has agreed to join us again to close the program at the final meeting on May 4 to discuss estate planning – part 2.

Dr. Morris Bell also volunteered his time twice to talk about how the brain works as it gets older. A police sergeant discussed how to stay street safe and avoid identity theft. Professor Dan Prober talked about sources of energy and entertained folks with show and tell.

We are very lucky to have so many members of the synagogue who so generously volunteered their time and shared their expertise with the Elders of Zion. Some other topics were Urban Renewal, Tzedakah, Jewish Stories, Medical Ethics, Slavery, Ancient Synagogue Art, Sex in the Text, and Israel and the Media.

This grant allowed BEKI to serve a lovely lunch each week and provide free transportation from Tower One and Tower East downtown.

Through the planning process for the Elders of Zion, it became clear that there is a need for mid-day programming for seniors in our community, and especially a need for expanded inexpensive transportation options for seniors who no longer drive. We hope the greater Jewish community takes note.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דַּרְשָׁנִים

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:

Matthew Silverman, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Parashat *Emor* May 9.

Bob Oakes will serve as darshan on Shabbat Parashat *Bemidbar* May 23.

Ari Gad, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Parashat *Naso* May 30.

Isaac Callahan, bar mitzva, will serve as darshan on Shabbat Parashat *Beha'alotekha* June 6.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 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, or at least well-behaved, youth along with adults.



Matthew Silverman



Ari Gad



Bob Oakes



Isaac Callahan

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: Shemuel

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) has begun the Book of 2 Shemuel (Samuel). Characters in the narrative include the Prophet Samuel, King Saul and King David, Mikhal, Batsheva, and more. 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 o'clock *shaharit* morning service. 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, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion.

Rabbis' Study Group

Wednesdays with Murray is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, 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 study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.



Murray Levine

Continued on **Page 8**

Adult Studies

Continued from **Page 7**

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

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets on Thursdays from noon to 1. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The Group focuses on the issues raised in the

Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.



Isaiah Cooper

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

A [collection of Divrei Torah](#) (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's website under "Learning."



Free Israel Trip

For people ages 18-26 in July-August 2015, Ta-

glit-Birthright trip, info <http://www.birthrightisrael.com/visitingisrael/Pages/Israel-Experience.aspx>.

Youth

Kadima

The BEKI-BJ Kadimaniks warmed up after a long winter at the Hanefesh Kadima Kallah in Palmer, Mass. Kadima members celebrated Shabbat, participated in fun activities, and interacted with Jewish teens from across Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. In April, Kadima members celebrated Passover by playing Capture the Flag, Israelite and Egyptian style.

As the warm weather approaches, Kadima members should get ready for a bunch of fun upcoming events including: Hanefesh trip to Lake Compounce, Shavuot Sleepover, and the End-of-the-Year Pool Party. Event details will be advertised shortly! 4th graders are welcome to attend events this spring!

For more information about Kadima or if you'd like to be added to the Kadima e-mail list, please contact Stefan Kostolitz, BEKI-BJ Kadima advisor, at bekibjkadima@gmail.com.

Kadima is a youth group intended for Jewish middle schoolers, 5th-8th grade, regardless of synagogue affiliation.

USY

After a long winter, BEKI-BJ USYers welcomed in spring at the Hanefesh Spring Convention in Palmer, Mass.

The event invited Jewish teens from across Connecticut and Massachusetts for Shabbat, fun activities, and a meaningful weekend. Two of our own local USYers, Elie Azoff-Slifstein and Deanna Heine, were elected to Hanefesh regional board – mazal tov.

Speaking of elections, our USY Board will be holding them soon! Are you interested in developing as a leader, meeting new people, and creating and sharing Jewish experiences with other teens? If so, apply to the BEKI-BJ USY Board! Please contact Stefan Kostolitz, BEKI-BJ USY advisor, for more information at bekibjusy@gmail.com.

BEKI-BJ USY is looking forward to a trip to Lake Compounce with the Hanefesh Region this spring – details forthcoming.

Don't forget to attend USY lounge nights at B'nai Jacob synagogue from 6:30-8 p.m. Come for the snacks and activities, stay for the good company! Lounge nights will be held on the following Tuesdays: May 5, May 19, June 2, and June 9.

For more information about USY, upcoming events, or to join the e-mail list, please contact Stefan Kostolitz at bekibjusy@gmail.com. USY is a youth group intended for Jewish teens, 9th-12th grade, regardless of synagogue affiliation.



USY IRON CHEF

The BEKI-BJ USY Chapter held a successful Iron Chef event at the end of March. Teams of USY-ers cooked color themed dishes – red, blue, yellow, and green – for a panel of judges.



Darryl Kuperstock receives the “Feels Like Family” award during a ceremony where Abraham’s Tent guests presented awards to host site coordinators.

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Bill Hallo
- Ruth Silver for mekhirat hamets
- Jane & Robert Stern for mekhirat hamets
- Lauri Lowell for mekhirat hamets
- Julie Cohen for mekhirat hamets
- Elaine Weinstein in memory of Anita Weinstein
- Marsha Beller for mekhirat hamets
- Tina Rose and Seth Pauker for mekhirat hamets
- Harold & Bobbie Miller for mekhirat hamets
- Sarah Berry & Roger Colten for mekhirat hamets
- Stewart Frankel & Joy Kaufman for mekhirat hamets
- Kenneth & Linda Buckman for mekhirat hamets
- Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky for mekhirat hamets
- Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries for mekhirat hamets
- Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman for maot hittin
- Herb & Hannah Winer for mekhirat hamets
- Howard & Willa Needer & Kobi Zehavi for mekhirat hamets
- Albert Friedman marking the *yahrzeit* of Samuel Friedman
- Alan Lovins & Trish Loving in memory of Margot Roten and with condolences to Rabbi Reena & James Judd

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum \$280)

- Angela & Bruce Oren
- Dan & Sharon Prober
- Stan Saxe, Rabbi Murray Levine & Bill Hallo
- Miriam Feinstein & Andres Gottlieb
- The Abramovitz family

Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations

- To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Sanford Kuvin by the Avni-Singer family
- To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Sanford Kuvin by Carole & Paul Bass
- To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Sanford Kuvin by Beth, Dan, Joni & Talia Weintraub
- To the BEKI community with thanks by Joan Gelbert
- To Judy Hayward and family with sympathy on the passing of Elizabeth Mohr by Al Barnett
- To Bill Hallo in honor of his

birthday by Ruth Silver

- To Stan Saxe in honor of his birthday by David Wright
- To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Sanford Kuvin by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Alan Abramovitz and family with sympathy on the passing of Sally Abramovitz by the Zlotoff family
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Peg Olin
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Jonathan Freiman & Rachel Light
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by the Weiner-Rastelli family
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Charlie Ludwig
- To Ken Dubak with sympathy on the passing of Sheila Meryl Dubak by Charlie Ludwig
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Leon Cummings
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Seth Pauker & Tina Rose
- **Synagogue Fund** (minimum \$10) to support *synagogue operations*
- To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Sanford Kuvin by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Ed & Rhoda Lemkin with sympathy on the passing of Alan Lemkin by Charlotte Teitelman
- To Stan Saxe in honor of his birthday by Charlie Ludwig
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in honor of his birthday by Charlie Ludwig
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Charlie Ludwig
- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Dan & Sharon Prober

The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Bill Hallo by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of Charles & Etta

Miller by Julian & Susan Miller

The BEKI/BJ Youth Commission

- To Michele & Gary Kupfer with sympathy on the passing of Sanford Kuvin by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Jeanette Kuvin Oren & Dan Oren with sympathy on the passing of Sanford Kuvin by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

- In memory of Jack Greenberg by Belle K. Greenberg
- In memory of Mae Weinstein Goldberg by Dan Goldberg
- In memory of Morton Aikins Silver by Ruth Silver
- In memory of Harry & Rebecca Govrin Jacobson by Stuart Jacobson
- In memory of Marcie Goldberg by Robin Goldberg
- In memory of Ida Brody by Frances Goldberg-Cohen
- In memory of Mildred Marie Myers by Rebecca Weiner
- In memory of Tillie & Samuel Saxe by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Sally Zantrotsky by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Freda Kaufman by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of Bluma Soloway by Lewis Kaufman
- In memory of Abraham Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Shirley Rudof by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- In memory of his beloved mother Sara Gelbert by Alan & Joan Gelbert
- In memory of her beloved father Jack Nuht by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of her grandfather Adolph Weisberg by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of her aunt Mona Zitomer by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of her aunt Florence Lome by Joan & Alan Gelbert
- In memory of Bessie Kaufman by Florence Kaufman
- In memory of Else Gesund by Hans & Irmgard Gesund
- In memory of Samuel Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer
- In memory of Tema & Milton Hirshfield by Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield
- In memory of James Barnett by Al Barnett
- In memory of Albert Heydemann by Lynn & Jay Brotman
- In memory of William Berman by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Anna Berman by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Philip Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Violet Ludwig by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Irving Berman by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Dr. Samuel Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Sylvia Matloff by Harriet & Jack Kitavitz
- In memory of Arlene's father Harry Spiegel by Howard Gold
- In memory of Minnie Abramovitz by Joseph Alper & family
- In memory of Herman Louis Grenet by Alan & Shirley Silver
- In memory of Frances Ray by Barbara Rader
- In memory of Herbert Hersh bain by Debbie & Louis Siegel
- In memory of Bessie Flamer by Mickey & Bud Chorney
- In memory of Charles Byer by Barbara & Larry Tiven
- In memory of Charlotte Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Bennett Schultz by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Kate Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of her beloved mother Thelma Kugell by Harriet Pearlin
- In memory of Boris Levitan by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Max Jack Gad by Martin & Lana Gad
- In memory of Susan Schnitman by Helene Vanderhoef
- In memory of Morris "Moishe" Schnitman by Helen Vanderhoef
- In memory of Moses Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Philip J. Lipkin by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Sophie Hersh bain by Debbie & Louis Siegel
- In memory of Sam Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Toby Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Pinchas Stone by Dorothy Stone
- In memory of Walter Harvey Greenwald by Roberta Vine
- In memory of Albert Martin by William Martin
- In memory of Helene Kasha by Henry Kasha
- In memory of Pearl Yaffe by Cliff Yaffe
- In memory of Paul Klein by Elaine Klein



40 Orange Avenue
West Haven, CT 06516
203-933-AUTO (2886)

Andy Weinstein

LIVERPOOL PRODUCTIONS ENTERTAINMENT

Charles F. Rosehay!!!

203.795.4737 office
203.641.6505 mobile

www.LiverpoolProductions.com
www.ToursAndEvents.com

Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.

A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP 303 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511
(203) 776-1243

Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP FAX (203) 785-1247

Carol Dorfman, M.D., FAAP 1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 102
WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243

Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP FAX (203) 397-1241



1058 Orange Avenue • West Haven, CT 06516
Tel: 203.932.1200 Fax: 203.932.1222
Scott Walstedter

RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW
CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PSYCHOTHERAPY
PARENT CONSULTATION

1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 906
WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525

(203) 389-9174
BY APPOINTMENT

Wes Miller
Professional Certified Math Tutor

K - 10

(203) 804-3400

Wesley42377@aol.com

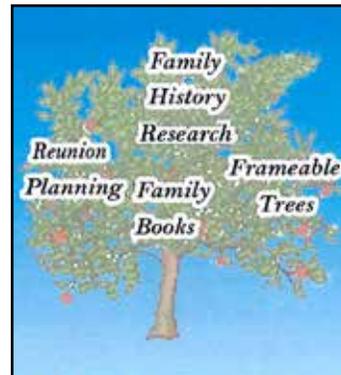
WESTVILLE *Kosher* MARKET

95 Amity Rd. (Next to Amity Wine)
New Haven (off exit 59 Meritt Pkwy)

Glatt 389-1166 *Kosher*

- New Dining Area
- Bakery Products
- Expanded Groceries
- Home-Made Deli Items
- Fresh-Meat &-Poultry
- All Meat & Poultry Kosher & Kasherod
- All Foods Freshly Made on Premises
- Under Strict Rabbinical Supervision
- Expanded Groceries

Sun. 8:30-4:00 • Mon.-Wed. 8:30-6:00
Thurs. 8:30-7:00 • Fri. 8:30-3:00 • Closed Sat.



Many Generations

Kim Formica
Genealogist

PO Box 1248
Orange, CT 06477
tel. 203/376.8551

kimformica@optonline.net

MICHAEL MARTONE
MANAGER



Arnold's Jewelers

DIAMONDS - WATCHES - GIFTS
CHINA - SILVER - CRYSTAL

WATCH AND
CLOCK REPAIRING

NORTH HAVEN SHOPPING CENTER
NORTH HAVEN, CONN. 06473
203-239-4291

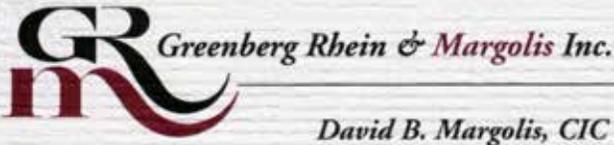


NEW SYLVAN CLEANERS

All Work Done On Premises

Mon.-Fri. 7:00-6:00 | Sat 8:00-4:00 | Sun closed

363 Whalley Ave. New Haven, CT 06511 • 203.562.3460
663 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477 • 203.795.0087



David B. Margolis, CIC

1768 Litchfield Turnpike (Rte. 69)
Woodbridge CT 06525-2309
Tel: (203) 389-4511 • Direct (203) 907-4829
Fax: (203) 397-2266 • Cell: (203) 668-0344
Email: david@grminsurance.com
www.grminsurance.com

Center for Speech & Learning, LLC

Speech, Occupational & Family Therapies

Alida Engel CCC-SLP
Board Recognized Specialist - Fluency Disorders
801 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06515
T: 203.397.3224 | F: 203.389.6660
E.mail: SpeechAndLearning@sbcglobal.net
www.CenterForSpeechAndLearning.com



GOODCOPY
Printing & Digital Graphics

🏠 110 Hamilton Street
New Haven CT 06511
☎ 203.624.0194
📠 203.624.3609
✉ goodcopy@goodcopy.com
🌐 www.goodcopy.com



Hamden Hall Country Day School

Educating students in
PreSchool through Grade 12.

We celebrated National Mix It Up Day
in October to foster greater respect
and understanding among our students.

www.hamdenhall.org 203.752.2610
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517

abel
CATERERS, INC.
The Catering Experts

70 Bradley Road • Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 389-2300 • Fax (203) 389-2668

JBL 
Jewish Business League

*The Jewish
Business League
meets on the
third Wednesday
of each month
at Tower One/
Tower East in
New Haven*

Visit us online at www.jblct.org
Reach out to us at info@jblct.org

KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN



When we purchased our home, we followed the recommendation to waterproof the basement, which has been mostly successful. It was also suggested that we child-proof the house, but despite my efforts, children were able to find their way in.

Children can be dangerous, apparently. Several consumer products we own, such as the box of kitchen matches, advise, “Keep Away from Children.” Children often carry viruses and are dirty, which could be the danger they have in mind. You might think that the warning could mean to keep the product away from children, but this can not be: ACT Kids, an anti-cavity product with an ocean berry flavor and an image of SpongeBob SquarePants on the label – which is obviously a product meant to be used by children – itself has on the label “Keep out of reach of children.”

I confess I am sometimes confused by product labels. The oatmeal cylinder has written on it, “Do not use if inner seal is broken.” But how do you get the oatmeal out without breaking the inner seal? And the orange juice that advertised it is “pure squeezed” – how *else* could they get the juice out?

And then there are the over 200 shampoos available at the local market. I bought the one that says, “For Shiny, Manageable Hair.” Who would buy the one that is “For Dry,

Damaged Hair?”

In his Dialogue with Phaedrus, Socrates points out the inadequacy inherent in the written word:

[Written words] seem to talk to you as though they were intelligent, but if you ask them anything about what they say, from a desire to be instructed, they go on telling you just the same thing forever.

The written word cannot respond or elaborate; it cannot convey a tone of sincerity or sarcasm; it cannot see the look on the reader’s face; it cannot convey a twinkle in the eye or a smile.

The set of books we call the Torah, one of our most important links to God, is itself a written document. How can it be that this communication from God could have been given to us in a form that has so many inherent limitations?

The limitations of the written Torah were recognized at the time of the Revelation at Sinai. For along with the written Torah came the Oral Torah, the *Torah she-be’al pe*, the lengthy explanation of the written Torah. Indeed, in a few places, the Torah mentions its companion oral document in using phrases like “as I have told you.”

Continued on **Page 14**

Keep Away

Continued from Page 13

As important as is the Written Torah, it is the Oral Torah that is the unique treasure of our people. Anyone can read the Torah and guess what it means, but someone who has heard the oral explanation from the source has a much fuller ability to understand its meaning. As Socrates put it, “One must be really ignorant if he imagines that written words can do anything more than remind one who knows that which the writing is concerned with.” For this reason, the accurate transmission of this Oral Torah has been a primary objective of our rabbis from generation to generation.

When the Torah says, “These words shall be as frontlets between your eyes,” it does not exactly mean to strap a Torah to your head or get a tattoo on your forehead; our tradition of commentary tells us this is metaphoric, and our hands-on tradition tell us that it also refers to *tefillin*. When the Torah says, “An eye for an eye,” our tradition tells us this is an abstract principle of equity, not a minimum sentence. When the Torah tells us that a rapist is obligated to marry his victim, our tradition tells us that it means he is obligated to pay life-long financial support as if he had taken on the obligation of marriage – but no victim is ever compelled to marry.

By the same token, there was long ago a debate over the meaning of a simple phrase in the League of Nations Charter’s Mandate for Palestine, which stated that Palestine was to be created “for putting into effect the declaration originally made on November 2nd, 1917, by the Government of His Britannic Majesty, and adopted by the said Powers, in favor of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people...” It was proposed – by some Zionist leaders – that the statement intended for only *part* of Palestine to become a “Jewish Home,” that is, a Jewish commonwealth or state would be established *in some subset* of the territory newly designated as Palestine.

A reading of the original documents, and the journals and letters of those involved in the issuance of the Balfour Declaration (the Nov. 2 document), as well as the discussions of the various post-war agreements and of the League of Nations Charter itself, produced a rather clear but not absolutely unequivocal understanding that the intent was indeed that the territory called Palestine would in its entirety be the Jewish commonwealth. If one were to parse the phrase “in Palestine” to mean “in a portion,

but not entirety of Palestine,” then the very same phrase in the *same sentence*, “it being clearly understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine,” could be taken to mean that the right of non-Jews needed to be protected only *in some small area*, such as the third block of Herzl Street in Arad, which would be a most unfortunate reading.

To say that, however, is not to say that it was *a good idea*

for the Balfour Declaration or the League of Nations Charter to declare this Jewish claim over “Greater Palestine” – that is an entirely different question. It was, after all, as mentioned, Zionist leaders who popularized the creative reading of the text that meant “in Palestine” was “part of” and not “all of” the territory; this was consistent with a doctrine of legal interpretation that does not require the adherence to the “original meaning” of a text but rather only to follow “what the words say” – both styles of interpretation being quite familiar to our sages and their heirs. Although moot – unless one wants to claim the eastern Jordanian desert bordering Syria and Iraq as the Jewish birthright – it is instructive.

It is only by knowing the context of words – including the other rules and stories in the same book or text, as well as other explanation of the real-life application – that we can understand. Otherwise, you will never be in the proximity of children, get the oatmeal out of the cylinder, or have shiny manageable hair.



1570 CE map labeled “Palestine, the whole of the Promised Land, a new description.”



Film Food Fun

Family Kosher Cuban food, an area film premiere, and a talk by Gary Markowski, Cuba expert and founder of Caribbean Conservation Trust. "Havana Curveball" (www.havanacurveball.info) is a coming-of-age story centered around a boy's bar mitzva project collecting baseball equipment for Cuba's Little Leagues in honor of his grandfather, who sheltered in Havana from the Holocaust. Everything goes smoothly until the U.S.-Cuban trade embargo throws the boy a curveball. Sunday May 17, 5:30 p.m. at JCC Vine Auditorium, sponsored by JCC and Ezra Academy. Advance tickets \$15/adult, \$8/youth 5-17 (\$18/\$10 at door: kids 4 and under are free), available at <http://ezraacademyct.org/givingonline/>.

Walk Against Hunger

Sunday May 17, supporting CT Food Bank. Join the BEKI Team. JCRC is coordinating teams from area synagogues who will walk together. Contact BEKI Team Captain **Ivan Alvarez** ivan.ta@yahoo.com or sign-up at http://ctfb.convio.net/site/TR/Events/General/1338434037?pg=team&fr_id=1123&team_id=6600. Walk or sponsor a walker.

Torah Reading

If you would like to read Torah at BEKI until May 16, contact coordinator jjtilsen@beki.org. For Torah reading from May 23 to July 18, contact Darryl kuperst@gmail.com.

Lichtenstein
Monument

FOR OVER 64 YEARS

**Accurate Hebrew Lettering
Bonded Memorials
Ask About Our Written Guarantee
Monuments Erected
In All Cemeteries**

 **287-1593** 

**323 Washington Avenue • Hamden
At Whitney (Opposite K of C Hall)**

