FROM PESAH TO SHAVUOT

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder, 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

BEKI’s Practically Annual LaG BeOmer* Kumsitz** Campfire Singalong

Wednesday 22 May 2019 (Late on the Day of 32 Omer) 6:15p-8:30p at Joshua & Anna’s residence (indoors in case of rain, sans campfire). Free Parking.

Bring Your Musical Instruments, Hebrew, Yiddish, Aramaic, Ladino, Hungarian or Other Jewish Songsheets, a Blanket or Chair to Sit on – or just come.

This Hebrew/Judaic Singalong is made possible by our hosts and supported by the Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music at Beth El-Keser Israel. Event is Free and All are Welcome. For more info contact office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x114 or visit us at www.beki.org.

*LaG BeOmer: The 33rd day of counting of sheaves; some obscure Jewish celebration; just come and have fun. ** People kum to zing und dey sitz down.

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 3,330 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
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: jtitlsen@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 © 2019 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi © 2019 Jon-Jay Tilsen. All rights reserved.

For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Lisa Stanger, (203) 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org. www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org | www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org

ROBERT E. SHURE, INC.
F U N E R A L   H O M E

Dedicated to the Dignity and Respect of Tradition

543 George Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Robert E. Shure  203-562-8244  shurefuneralhome.com  James M. Shure  Founder  President
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.

The traditional greeting is Ḥagg Sameah – חג שמח – Happy Festival.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study takes place on the first night of Shavuot, Motse’ei Shabbat (Saturday night) 8 June 2019. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served.

The Shabbat minha afternoon service is 1p to 1:35p. The Shavuot evening begins with the Festival Evening Service from 8:15p – 8:30p in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. A shiur (text study or lecture) will begin at 8:30p with Yale Chaplain Maytal Saltiel. Candle lighting (home ritual) is at 9:04p. At 9:45p, another shiur will begin, led by Nadav Berman Shifman, a Postdoctoral Associate at Yale University researching Jewish Thought, on “The Non-Triviality of Mishna Avot 5:16, or Why Disinterestedness is Interesting.” The evening continues with ethnomusicologist Rachel Adelstein, speaking on “Sounding Genocide & Resistance in the Holocaust” late into the night. Doors are locked at 11p so come early.

Please see “This Week & Beyond at BEKI” and the May Mid-Month Mailing for a complete list of presenters and schedule.

Shavuot Mornings

Yizkor Memorial Service

Book of Ruth

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shaharit Morning Service begins at 9:15a on Sunday 9 June 2019. The service includes the recitation of full Hallel. The afternoon and evening services begin at 5:45p. Candle lighting Sunday night is at 9:06p or later.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15a on Monday 10 June 2019. 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.

Continued on Page 4
Shavuot
Continued from Page 3

Following Yizkor, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of ta’amei hamigra (“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 5:45p to 6:05p.
Shabbatot (Saturdays)

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:

• Rabbi Richard Eisenberg 4 May 2019, parashat Aharei Mot
• Mark Oppenheimer 11 May 2019, parashat Qedoshim.

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 shulgoers 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.

Mondays

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 (not meeting 27 May Memorial Day). With 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

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 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 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.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with

Continued on Page 5
Adult Studies
Continued from Page 5

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, 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 23 & 30 May, and will meet on all four Thursdays in June.

LifeCycle

הمكان ינחם
HaMagom Yinahem
With sorrow we note the passing of
HaRav Moshe Meiri
May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal Tov to . . .
• Rabbi Murray Levine and Goldie on qiddushin (Jewish marriage under a huppa) of granddaughter Ora Seltzer
• Stephen & Rachel Wizner on the bat mitzva observance of granddaughter Cecily
• Marty Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold on birth of Louisa Paz in May to Danya & Andrew
• Fania Levine on the birth of great-grandson Kaden (Haim), entered into the covenant through brit mila in New York in May
• Noam Benson-Tilsen on his election as Minister of Religion and Education in the new HaNer USY Regional Government. Previous Rel-Ed office holders for Hanefesh Region include Yedidya Ben-Avie (2009-2010), Micah Fiedler (2011-2012), Tova Benson-Tilsen (2013-2015)

Benei Mitzva
• Elijah Ratner, son of Rabbi Joshua & Elena Ratner, 21-22 June 2019, parashat BeHa’alotekha
• Malachi Light, son of Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman, and of Eben Light, 19-20 July 2019, parashat Balaq
• Jacob Marx Schonberger, son of Amy Marx & Robert Schonberger, 25-26 October 2019, parashat Bereishit
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedaq Fund (minimum $25)
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo wishing be-sha’a tova to Leanna Ambersky
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo marking the yahrzeit of Abe Goldstein
- Natan & Lori Weinstein marking the yahrzeit of father Bernard Bober
- For Mekhirat Hametz & Maot Hittin (continued from April Bulletin)
- Sarah Berry & Roger Colten
- Harold & Stephanie Birn
- Sonya Alderman Household
- Lynn Alderman Household
- Evan & Stacey Wyner
- Rabbi Richard & Judy Eisenberg
- Rabbi Hesch Sommer
- Robert & Jane Stern
- Jack & Laura Yakerson
- Karen & Roy Herbst
- Isaiah Cooper & Helene Sapadin
- David Schwartz
- In memory of his beloved father Marvin Margolis by the Lettick family
- To David Margolis & family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by Paul & Carole Bass
- To the Margolis family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Bernice Margolis & family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- To David Margolis & family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Stephen & Cynthia Brenner
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Joyce Handleman & Rheba Newman
- To Edward Lemkin in honor of him being inducted into the Hillhouse High School Football Hall of Fame by Linda Greengas
- To Betsy Ratner in honor of her milestone birthday by Melanie & Jimmy Wolf
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Noel Barstein
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by SusanRubino
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Charlotte Teitelman
- To Stanley Saxe with sympathy on the passing of Perry Saxe by Barbara Cushen
- To Paul Fiedler with sympathy on the passing of Irma Fiedler by Seth Pauker
- To Stanley Saxe with sympathy on the passing of Perry Saxe by David Wright & Deborah Craig
- To Stanley Saxe with sympathy on the passing of Perry Saxe by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Stanley Saxe with sympathy on the passing of Perry Saxe by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $320)
- The Karsif & Karpf families
- Marty Gold & Rena Chesksis- Gold
- Gloria Cohen
- Nanette Stahl
- Rebecca Weiner, Stan Saxe & Murray Levine
- Generous members of our community
- Families of these April birthdays: Leah Abbott, Anonymous, Jeff Granoof, Andy Hirshfield, Fania Levine, Liora Lew, Angela Oren, Beth Weintraub, Stacey Wyner, Lisa Yelon and Rhoda Zahler-Samuel
- Murray & Barbara Akresh
- Jesse Palumbo
- Jonathan Freiman
- Rachel Bashevkin

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To David Margolis & family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by the Lettick family
- To the Margolis family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by the Lettick family
- To Bernice Margolis with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Bernice Margolis & family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by Bill Shragis
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Thelma Parker
- To Stanley Saxe with sympathy on the passing of Perry Saxe by Bill Shragis
- To Stanley Saxe with sympathy on the passing of Perry Saxe by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Lettick family with sympathy on the passing of Perry Saxe by David & Darryl Kuperstock

BEKI Religious School
- To David Margolis & family with sympathy on the passing of Lester Margolis by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Barzillai Chesks BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
- To The Chesksis-Gold family in honor of the marriage of Carmi Chesksis-Gold & Meg Kennedy by Jesse & Joe Palumbo
- To Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade for Hachnasat Orchim during Carmi & Meg’s weekend by Rena Chesksis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Shoshana Zax & John Weiser for Hachnasat Orchim during Carmi & Meg’s wedding weekend by Rena Chesksis-Gold & Marty Gold
- Thanks to all who helped make Carmi & Meg’s wedding weekend a wonderful celebration by Rena Chesksis-Gold & Marty Gold

Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund
- In memory of Etta & Charles Miller by Julian & Susan Miller
- To Bruce Klein in honor of his 70th birthday by Betsy Ratner

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
- To the Cyr family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Shirley Mattler

Yahrzeit Fund ($10 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Jack S. Greenberg by Belle K. Greenberg
- In memory of his beloved father Marvin Margolis by the Lettick family

Continued on Page 8
Spielman by James Spielman
• In memory of Mae Goldberg by Dan Goldberg
• In memory of Sydney Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
• In memory of Else Gesund by Irmgard & Hans Gesund
• In memory of Lillian Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
• In memory of Celia Russ by Doris & Stephen Brody
• In memory of Geoffrey Hartman by Renee Hartman
• In memory of their grandparents and great-grandparents Rose & Louis Katz by Sharon & Dan Prober and family
• In memory of Morris “Moishe” Schnitman by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
• In memory of Rae Krivonos by Mildred Kalison
• In memory of her mom Lilyan Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin Podell
• In memory of her dear mother Kitty Greenberg by Toby Ignal
• In memory of Rose Jason by Marcia Geier
• In memory of her grandfather Phillip Kantrowitz by Sherry Kant
• In memory of her aunt Violet Ludwig by Sherry Kant
• In memory of her uncle Irving Berman by Sherry Kant
• In memory of Sydney Kemper by Ron Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
• In memory of her beloved husband Louis Pearl by Harriet Pearl
• In memory of her beloved mother Thelma Kugell by Harriet Pearl
• In memory of Jonathan London by Ihrie Means
• In memory of Shira Ulmer by Betty & Art Levy
• In memory of Harriet Winer by Herbert Winer
• In memory of Sherwin Brotman by Jay & Lynn Brotman
• In memory of Herbert Hershbain by Debbie & Louis Siegel
• In memory of Ruth Heydemann by Lynn & Jay Brotman
• In memory of his parents Tema & Milton Hirshfield by Jay & Marjorie Hirshfield
• In memory of Murray Arshell by Mike Moscowitz
• In memory of Minnie Abramovitz by Joseph & Lynda Alper
• In memory of Kate Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
• In memory of Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
• In memory of Paul Klein by Elaine Klein
• In memory of Leon Krivonos by Mildred Kalison
• In memory of Bluma Soloway by Minna & Lewis Kaufman
• In memory of Kate Margolies by Carol Marcus
• In memory of Bessie Flamer by Mickey & Bud Chorney
• In memory of Esther Baer by Irving Baer
• In memory of Toby Blatt by Howard Blatt
• In memory of Max Jack Gad by Martin & Lana Gad
• In memory of her father Jack Siegelbaum by Rissa Mendlestein
• In memory of Anna Wishingrad by Sylvia Rifkin
• In memory of Elizabeth Jennings by Daniel Jennings
• In memory of Ethel Epstein by Fran Goldberg-Cohen
• In memory of Ethel Frey by Eileen Schuman
• In memory of Boris Levitan by Polina Naiman
• In memory of Susan Schnitman by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
• In memory of Charlotte Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• In memory of Bennett Schultz by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• In memory of Samuel Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer
• In memory of Irving & Kitty Greenberg by Kim Tefft
• In memory of Murray Newman by Rheba Newman
• In memory of his father Meyer Freiman by the Freiman-Light family
• In memory of Toby Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
• In memory of John Arovas by Raye & Louis Parsitsky
• In memory of his mother Pearl Yaffe by Cliff Yaffe
• In memory of Martin Shapiro by Marc, Tikva, Iris/Ursula & Danielle Shapiro
• In memory of Richard A. Cutter by Roxanne Cutter
• In memory of Philip J. Lipkin by Roxanne Cutter
• In memory of Samuel Maltin by Ted Maltin
• In memory of Howard Bailey Sugarmann by Richard & Marci Sugarmann and family
• In memory of David Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
• In memory of Walter Harvey Greenwald by Dorothy D. Greenwald
• In memory of Abraham Margolies by Carol Marcus
• In memory of Sidney Kalison by Mildred Kalison
• In memory of Albert Martin by William Martin
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
Sisterhood

Following are excerpts from a eulogy delivered by Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen at the funeral of Adele Tyson, who grew up in the Hill and for decades was a lay leader at Congregation Beth El Keser Israel (BEKI), including serving as president. Published in the Newhavenindependent.

Adele was born in 1924. She grew up in the loving home of her parents Joseph and Rose Shonberg, Jewish immigrants from Russia, along with her brother Herbert. Her father was a meter reader for the gas company, and her mother ran the home.

Adele lived with them or near them, on Arch Street, Vernon, Goffe Terrace, for most of their lives. Like Adele, her parents lit Shabbat candles and kept a kosher home, and were proud of their heritage.

She was at the World’s Fair in 1939. She put on lipstick when she went out to the movies with her brother Herbert, to his embarrassment; she must have been 16.

Herbert was drafted, and was in Co. L 23rd Infantry Regiment, when he was killed on 19 July 1944 after serving 2 ½ years. See “The Heroes of Hill 192” near Normandy.

In that same era, Adele met and was courted by David Tyson, son of the president of Keser Israel.

David was also serving in the infantry. After the war, they got married.

David was an easygoing guy, always there to help when he was called upon. Their personalities, their temperaments, were different, but their commitments were shared; like Adele, David was decent and hard-working; if you needed help he would go all in. They were alike in that way. Adele encouraged David to be active in the synagogue.

On Thursday night, 31 January 1963, David was walking home from shul at Keser Israel with their 6-year-old son Gerald. A drunk reckless driver ran over Gerald — literally holding his father’s hand — and David carried him to the nearby Hospital of St. Raphael, where Gerald died.

Adele’s story could have ended there, too, and certainly their marriage could have ended there. But she kept going.

Together with David, Adele tried to create a loving home for their surviving and subsequent children, Harold (of blessed memory), and Liann. Adele was a nurturing mother, though she was out at meetings, doing her good work, a lot. Adele tried to foster the qualities of respect, perseverance, service, kindness, honesty, duty, forgiveness. Apparently she was rather successful in that.

Those who know Adele know that she has been the most extraordinary leader and volunteer in this Jewish community, the Jewish Home for the Aged, and especially here at BEKI. I’ve worked here 25 years and I can’t say I’ve done more at BEKI than Adele. She was the most senior member of this congregation with respect to the number of years of membership, she was the longest serving Sisterhood President, and she was the first woman (female person) to serve as the President of Beth El-Keser Israel.

Those of you who have been synagogue presidents and officers—including women and men—know how demanding that position can be. But actually you may have no idea what Adele faced — as hard as it is today, back in that era — I’m talking 35 years ago. Not everyone was so mature, democratic, collaborative. Back then some of board meetings included yelling, screaming, even fisticuffs. Adele was dealing with a tougher group, and she managed. As one of those old men, since deceased, described Adele to me, he said… Well, I can’t say that, but it means she had the two-fold strength to deal with those difficult situations and personalities.

Adele was the first woman (female person) to stand on the Bima with a Torah scroll on Kol Nidre night. The fact that such a statement means little to younger people here proves the effective transformation that she pushed through.

Most of us now know Adele for all of the fine works she did through the Sisterhood—gift shop, tablecloths, cooking, serving, giving gifts to kids.

Even up until a month before her death, she was coming to shul, was surrounded by friends, and was contrib-
Adele Tyson
Continued from Page 11

uting her efforts to make this place work. I am fortunate to have worked with such an inspiring and productive person; I learned a lot from her. Adele had many friends, including a few very close friends even to the end, who were so important to her.

She was a hard worker—whether selling ladies’ garments, organizing a major event at the synagogue, caring for her family.


David died about 25 years ago. Her parents and brother having died, that left her as a mother of two surviving children, and a grandmother.

Her son Harold’s illness and death was a sad episode; he had good friends and had brought love and life into the world. Hal was not blessed with long years. And so as a mother Adele buried her adult son about 18 years ago.

She was delighted to be a grandmother, and found great joy in interacting with Alicia (and Richard), Michelle and Jessica, mainly being herself. Her family being with her and calling, while living their own busy lives, gave her meaning and hope. She was appreciative of their attention, and she always wanted more. The renewal in becoming a great-grandmother, thanks to Alorik’s arrival, somehow added to Adele’s drive and energy – another reason perhaps to get up and keep going.

Her life, her love, her work have been and continue to be a tremendous well of inspiration, benefit, and blessing.

Editor’s Note: Adele left a Legacy gift to BEKI, as she wanted her name remembered as one who gave a lasting gift to BEKI.

With the passing of my co-president Adele Tyson, Sisterhood will be revamping itself.

The board will have a general meeting with our Sisterhood members as well as general members of the Congregation. We hope to have a town meeting to discuss where we go from here. We need your ideas and new volunteers to keep Sisterhood at BEKI going.

We will send out an e-mail to all the members with a date and time in the next few weeks. We know that this is a busy time for all of us but it would be helpful if we can accomplish this before the High Holidays.

BeShalom
Mimi Glenn 203-397-3851
mimiglenn1@hotmail.com
Schedule Change
Shabbat Minha (afternoon) services move to a fixed time year-round, from 1p to 1:35p. The new schedule is preferred by those who regularly attend the Shabbat minha service, and is preferred by tradition in that it is toward the earlier part of the day in which the service is recited, earlier being “better” as it demonstrates enthusiasm for the mitzva and reduces the chances of missing the correct time period for the statutory prayer. The minha service includes a short Torah reading, which is usually the first section of the parashat (episode) that will be read in its entirety on the following Shabbat.

This schedule will be followed for most weeks, though please check when Shabbat coincides with festivals or special events.

The regular weekday services, Sundays through Thursdays, remain 5:45p year-round, and the Shabbat Friday Night service remains at 6p each week, all with only a few exceptions.

Solidarity with Mosque
BEKI stands in solidarity with the Diyanet New Haven Mosque which was recently damaged by arson. Contribute to the mosque’s rebuilding click here. -- HB

Kadima-USY Final Event
TBA Park, 1p-3p Sunday 26 May 2019, pizza icecream elections #trashtag. Grades 4-12. Carpool or RSVP usyb-eki@gmail.com .

JCARR
See NBC news report on the family being helped by BEKI’s partnership in JCARR.

Safety & Security
Safety and Security conditions and protocols are evolving. Join Jay Sokolow in BEKI Library on Wednesday 5 June at 7:30p–8:30p for an update and discussion. Members Only. Your feedback welcomed. Info Jay Sokolow c/o office@beki.org.

Shavuot Mini-Qiddush
A Mini-Qiddush of grape juice and wine, baked goods and fruit will be served following Shavuot morning services on Sunday 9 June and Monday 10 June. Modest financial sponsorships are needed, and assistance with simple same-day set-up. Contact Ellen Cohen ellen.cohen@snet.net 203-982-0941 to help.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Hesed
To be notified of opportunities to help your fellow congregants, please click/enter the link below to join the BEKI Hesed Committee via lotsahelpinghands. Signing up does not obligate you to do anything, it just gives you the opportunity to volunteer. https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/beki-hesed-committee/home

Tiqun Leil Shavuot
Darryl Kuperstock will coordinate readings for BeMidbar and Shavuot beginning 8 June.

Rabbinical Assembly Statement on Reproductive Freedom.

Donate
Fast and easy at www.beki.org/give .

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.

Scholarships
Jewish Foundation offers BRS, college, Israel experience, and Jewish camping scholarships. Info and application at www.jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships .

Mark Your Calendar
Kadima-USY Final Event 26 May 2019
Safety & Security Briefing (Members Only) 5 June 2019
Tiqun Leil Shavuot 8 June 2019
Shavuot First Day 9 June 2019
Shavuot 2nd Day with Ruth & Yizkor Memorial 10 June
Annual Meeting 17 June 2019
Ezra Academy Graduation 18 June 2019
Ezra Academy Final Day of Classes 19 June 2019
Bar Mitzva: Elijah Ratner 21-22 June 2019
Camp Ramah of New England Opening Day 25 June
Bar Mitzva: Malachi Light 19-20 July 2019
Fast of Tamuz 21 July 2019
Fast of Tisha BeAv 20-11 August 2019
Camp Ramah of New England Closing Day 18 August
Rosh Hodesh Elul 30 August – 1 September 2019
Selihot Night 21 September 2019
Rosh HaShana Evening 29 September 2019
Fast of Gedalia 2 October 2019
Kol Nidre & Yom Kippur Evening 8 October 2019
Upon the destruction of Jewish civilization in Europe, Jews in America and around the world lost their extended families, along with the records and all traces of what had been. Without that history, we lose an important part of our connection to Jews around the world and our own heritage. But the surviving records, modern tools and dedicated research allows us to reconstruct the history of our families. Their names will not be erased.

Jewish family names, a recent practice for most of us in any event, tended strongly to be patrilineal. While stories are told about the Tilsen family name, seldom do we hear about those other family names that are not included in our own. Women’s family history is even more likely to be lost, and harder to recover.

My Grandma Esther didn’t know the name of her own grandmother. But now we know her name, and more, as well as much about her extended family and our ancestors going back to the 1700s, fourteen generations of our family, thanks to the volunteers and good works of Jewishgen.org.

My grandmother, Esther Nesa Reuben (Esther Nesa Rabyn, b. 1894 Zahkarivka, Tiraspol, Kherson – d. 1984 St. Paul, MN USA), daughter of Louis Reuben (Yehuda Lev Rabyn HaLevi, b. 1868 Tiraspol, Kherson – d. 1953, Philadelphia, PA USA) and of Mirel Chaplik (b. 1870 Tiraspol, Kherson, d. 1913 Rochester, MN USA), came to America with her mother and siblings at age 12, joining her father who had come a few months in advance. After living in Philadelphia, PA, for half a year, they took up a homestead near Ashley, ND, among the 1200 Jewish farmers who farmed on 250 homesteads in North Dakota from the late 1870s. (This Louis Reuben is not to be confused with the wealthy merchant Louis Ruben who not only lived in the same small town, Ashley, ND, but in the end purchased my great-grandfather’s failed farm -- the deed stating the property was being sold by Louis Ruben #1 to Louis Ruben #2.)

Esther’s mother Mirel died after being injured in a runaway horse-and-buggy accident in 1913. In 1916, Esther married Ed Tilsen, a salesperson and merchant from Winograd, near Zvenigorodka, and lived in New Leipzig and other towns in North Dakota. A few years later, Esther’s father Louis returned to urban life in Philadelphia, leaving the rest of his family in the Midwest. By the mid-1930s, the Tilsens lived in St. Paul, MN, where Ed eventually developed a successful home construction business.

In 1980, Esther told me that she was named after her two grandmothers, Esther and Nessy, but she did not know which was her father’s mother and which was her mother’s mother, nor did she know their maiden names. They were all from “Tiraspol, near Odessa,” she said.

We were able to ascertain positively that Nessy was her mother’s mother – a story for another day. But what was the family name of Esther’s grandmother Esther, that is, her paternal grandmother? Esther was the second oldest of eight children, and if any of them had known the answer, it would have been Esther. By the time I asked, all seven of Esther’s siblings were long gone.

More recently, original Social Security application forms (Form SS-5) from the 1930s became available. The application (1939) of Karl Rubin (Kupel Rabyn, b 1885) Louis’s...
brother (and Grandma Esther’s uncle), states “mother’s maiden name” as “Esther Ostrofski” and provides Karl’s place of birth is Petroverifko. This city today is known as “Petrovirivka,” and was also known until recently as Zhovten; you can find it on a map north-east of Tiraspol on Highways P71 & M05 in Ukraine as you head to Kiev. It is about 15 miles east of Zakharivka, the town that Grandma Esther came from with her siblings and parents. Uncle Karl was a “favorite uncle” of Esther because he homesteaded in northern South Dakota just a few miles from Louis’s family in southern North Dakota. Uncle Karl later lived near Louis in Philadelphia when they gave up farming. Karl also was favored because he was a young uncle, just about seven years older than Esther’s older brother Sam Reuben (b 1892-1893). Karl was thus about 17 years younger than his brother Louis (b. abt 1868).

If Karl’s Social Security application form had been the only evidence we had, we would have “known” that our subject’s family name was “Ostrofski.” But the information on Louis’s Social Security application (1936) is just a little different. It shows in field 10 “Mother’s Full, Maiden Name” the data “Esther Nisterowsky.”

Is the correct name Ostrofski or Nisterowsky? We are discounting the possibility that these brothers had two different mothers with very similar names. Ostrofski is a more common name, but more so in Western lands like Austria-Hungary, and not so much in Moldova and Ukraine, apparently. One general but weak rule in document interpretation is that false-correction errors more often are made by making an unfamiliar word (or name) into one that is familiar, which argues slightly that Nisterowsky is the correct reading. Who is more likely to know their grandmother’s maiden name, the older or the younger brother -- we don’t know. Louis’s SS-5 form gives his place of birth as “Keselowke, Russia,” a place you will not find on a map or on the Jewishgen Town Finder.

Lacking further data, we had no way to resolve that discrepancy.

The Tiraspol Revision list of 1858, held by the Ukraine State Archive in Kherson, transcribed by volunteers and available from Jewishgen, does not have any family in Tiraspol (district) by the name Osterofsky or similar. It does, though happen to have a Nesterowskii family from a tiny town called Kisilevka, Tiraspol district. This town might be today’s Kyselivka, rather far east of Tiraspol and just 15 miles NW of Kherson city on Ukraine Hwy M14; we will investigate that further. The list notes the family has lived in this village since 30 April 1858. The Wiki page says the village Kyselivka was founded in 1856.

At the time of the 1858 census, according to the Jewishgen description, this town had only three Jewish families: Lerman (AKA Imerman), Pirkes (AKA Kogan), and Nesterowskii. We have a winner.

In fact, we have two winners. Of the 15 females listed on the census for this family, two are named Esther Nesterowskaya. Esther the daughter of Avrum is born in 1842, and Esther the daughter of Maiorka is born in 1852. Avrum and Maiorka are brothers, thus these two Esthers are first cousins, about 10 years apart, and both are young enough and old enough to be the mother of Louis and Karl. Any Esther born in the village after that would be too young to be their mother (taking 13 as a minimum age of motherhood). It is possible that another brother of Avrum and Maiorka had a daughter also named Esther who was already married.

Continued on Page 16
and so not shown in this family group, but there is no other Esther in the town in 1858 other than our two subjects, and the age and birth intervals of the children of the brothers of Avrum and Maiorka suggest that it is unlikely that there was a third Esther.

We had a similar problem in interpreting the data for the Chaplik family (Grandma Esther’s maternal side), where six of the thirty males were named some variant of “Moshe Chaplik,” but happily in that instance we had a unique and known name for Moshe’s wife, which allowed for a positive identification with a high degree of confidence. I do want to thank my parents and aunts and uncles for giving their children relatively unique names in their generations, which makes it easier for us to tell each other apart. See Seuss, Too Many Daves.

Maiorka (b. 1819) was married to Perlya (b. 1817); neither of these names appear later as descendants in the Reuben family. Avrum (b. 1821) is married to Malka (b. 1821), and that name “Malka” does get used by Louis, in naming Esther’s sister Mollie (Malka) Reuben. It is quite possible that Mollie Reuben is named after this woman Malka, who would be Mollie’s great-grandmother, but this suggestion does not weigh much, as Mollie could almost equally be named after this same Malka if this Malka is a great-great aunt instead of great-grandmother. Or, Mollie could be named after someone entirely different. Executive Summary: We don’t know.

The determination of which brother is the father of our ancestor Esther will have to remain an open question, until we have a better analysis or additional evidence.

We do know, though, who are the parents of these brothers Avrum and Maiorka, and so we know Esther Nesterovskaya’s grandparents: Kopel Nesterovskiy (b. 1788, d. 1854) and Hana (b. 1796), and we know Kopel’s father: David Nesterovskiy. Presumably this Kopel is the one who “Uncle Karl” is named for, that is, “Uncle Karl’s” great-grandfather.

In addition to “Esther Nesterovskaya,” we now have record of the 28 other relatives who appear on the same family census list. These are the five sons of Kopel (including Avrum and Maiorka), and these sons’ wives and children. Kopel & Hana’s daughters, if any, would appear on the census list of their husbands’ head-of-family, as would their married grand-daughters.

We do not know the history of the family name Nesterovskiy. All we can say is that this name was used in 1858 and later. There is a town Nesterove today on Ukraine’s western border just about 15 miles west of Zakharivka. There may be a story there waiting to be uncovered.
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Generations
Continued from Page 16

Thanks to the availability of the 1858 Tiraspol Census Revision List transcribed by volunteers and provided by Jewishgen.org, we have information on two lines of our ancestors going back to the mid to late 1700s, fourteen generations. It took 45 years to definitively learn the family name of Grandma Esther’s grandmother Esther Nesterovsky, and if we are patient and persistent, we may eventually determine which parents are hers, and possibly much more.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am Rabbi's Study Group</td>
<td>10:00am Berakhot Talmud Study Group</td>
<td>7:33pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td>4 Darshan: Rabbi Richard Eisenberg 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Hurwitz/Chinomos 1:00pm Minha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4:00pm Religious School</td>
<td>5:00pm Benel Mitzva Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00pm Benel Mitzva Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Nisan/11 L'Omer</td>
<td>27 Nisan/12 L'Omer</td>
<td>28 Nisan/13 L'Omer</td>
<td>29 Nisan/14 L'Omer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26 Nisan/11 L'Omer</td>
<td>27 Nisan/12 L'Omer</td>
<td>28 Nisan/13 L'Omer</td>
<td>29 Nisan/14 L'Omer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26 Nisan/11 L'Omer</td>
<td>27 Nisan/12 L'Omer</td>
<td>28 Nisan/13 L'Omer</td>
<td>29 Nisan/14 L'Omer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26 Nisan/11 L'Omer</td>
<td>27 Nisan/12 L'Omer</td>
<td>28 Nisan/13 L'Omer</td>
<td>29 Nisan/14 L'Omer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BEKI Events**

Sundays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9 a.m. Shaharit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mondays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 a.m. Shaharit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuesdays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 a.m. Shaharit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wednesdays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 a.m. Shaharit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thursdays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8:15 a.m. Shaharit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fridays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 a.m. Shaharit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Saturdays
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9:15 a.m. Shaharit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 p.m. Minha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Service Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Fridays</th>
<th>Saturdays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
<td>6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>1 p.m. Minha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>