Falk to Exhibit at BEKI

Connecticut-based artist Alan Falk, whose paintings focus on characters and themes inherent in Jewish practice and culture, will be exhibiting a selection of his work in the BEKI art gallery from 16 November 2016 through 17 January 2017. An artist’s talk will accompany the exhibit on 3 December, following qiddush, at about 12:45p.

Falk’s primary influences are diverse Judaic sources including biblical passages, prophetic writings, rabbinical teachings and modern Judaic philosophy that shape Jewish conscience. The jumping off points for his paintings are universal metaphors and messages of good and evil, questions and commentaries on integrity and moral/ethical choice, parables on mortality and the quest for spiritual connection. He employs a pictorial vocabulary that expresses no interests and concerns in a wide-ranging exploration of the contemporary human condition, inevitably shaped by his Jewish heritage.

Born in England, Falk studied painting at Manchester College of Art & Design and, following postgraduate studies, was awarded the prestigious Granada Fellowship in Fine Art at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Manchester Polytechnic. He taught painting and drawing at several colleges of art in England including Portsmouth, Liverpool, Sheffield and Manchester Polytechnics before emigrating to the United States in 1974, and taught at Sheridan College, Oakville, Canada, SUNY at Buffalo, New York and New York University.

Falk’s artwork has been included in many international exhibitions in the U.K., Europe, and the U.S., as well as in numerous solo exhibitions at private galleries in London, New York City, Denver, as well as Montclair State University in New Jersey and Williams College in Massachusetts, and other public institutions and museums, including the Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo, Baltimore Museum of Art and the American Academy of Arts & Letters. He has work in numerous public and private collections, including Sacred Heart University, CT and the Academy for Jewish Religion, New York.

Sukka Hop
We thank the hosts of the Sukka Hop, namely the Rastelli-Weiner family, Robbins family, Korda & Grutzendler family, Werlin-Frame family, and Abraham and Goldberg families, for their kind and generous hospitality to the 65 participants in the 2016 BEKI Sukka Hop.

Library Annex Update
A new bookcase has been installed in room four to serve as a library annex, book give-away center, and BRS resources.

Thanks to David Wright and Roger Colten and helpers for assembling and installing this valuable resource.

For information on the Library collections and resources, contact Rachel Wizner or Hannah Winer, and see http://www.beki.org/resources/library/.

Israel Forum
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
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Board of Trustees

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

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Amazon Commission

If you are buying items from Amazon and use the link on BEKI’s home page beki.org (bottom) then BEKI will receive a small commission (about 4%) on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link. (Other Amazon programs provide only 0.5% so use our link.)
This month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. We will be gathering around the table eating lunch or dinner. We will be feasting on turkey and many side dishes. Some of us will be partaking in a vegan dinner but with the same feeling for Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is a celebration of many things, but historically, stems back to 1621, when European settlers (“Pilgrims”) marked the harvest by having a similar feast.

**How Turkey Got Its Name?**

Turkeys are indigenous to the U.S. and Mexico. Europeans only came into contact with turkeys roughly 500 years ago, upon arrival in the New World. So how did the bird end up being named so similarly to Turkey, the country?

The first European explorers to discover and eat turkey were those in Cortez’s expedition in Mexico in 1519. This new delicacy was brought back to Europe by Spanish Conquistadors, and by 1524, had reached England. The bird was domesticated in England within a decade, and by the turn of the century, its name “turkey” had entered the English language. But the birds did not come directly from the New World to England; rather, they came via merchant ships from the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Those merchants were called “Turkey merchant” as much as the area was part of the Turkish Empire at the time.

The word Turkey, *Turkiye* in Turkish, can be broken up into two parts. “Turk” is a reference to the people, although the origin and meaning is uncertain. The “-iye” suffix indicates an adjectival form, as does the Hebrew suffix “iy” (m.) or “-iyt” (f.).

Hebrew origin for the name of the bird goes the other direction. The Hebrew term for turkey, *tarnagol hodu*, means “chicken of India.”

**Have it your way:** If Ben Franklin did, the turkey would be our national bird. An eagle, he wrote in a letter to his daughter, had “bad moral character.” A turkey, on the other hand, was a much more “respected bird.”

**Sisterhood Gift Shop News**

It is not too early to think of gift giving for Hanuka. The Sisterhood gift store is selling Hanuka candles, hanukiot (candelabra), children’s toys, house gifts and so much more. Please shop in our store and thus support BEKI. Your purchases help us serve the BEKI community with serving refreshments for some of the holidays, and so much more.

We have two beautiful paintings by the Artist Nota Koslowsky for sale. They were donated by one of our members. Please stop by the gift store and view them. They are only $100 each.

The board and members of Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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Who wouldn’t love a delicious lunch after a few hours of deep meditation and prayer, a rousing devar Torah and singing wonderful Psalms. Thanks to the amazing qiddush prep-pers, shoppers, organizers and team leaders, Ellen Cohen, Rebecca Weiner, Elizabeth Karpf, Darryl Kuperstock, Angela Oren and Shoshana Zax, we are able to enjoy amazing and diverse foods in our social hall.

It takes a community to do this. Rebecca gets the generous sponsors, who are needed weekly to sponsor the luncheon, Ellen makes out the schedule, the team leaders work on the menu, shoppers get the detailed shopping list gathering and deliver to shul on time for the amazing team members on Thursday to chop, assemble and cook. Why do we do this? The reward is the smiling faces when the food is served and happier faces that dig into that hot kugel or incredible soup, and healthy salads. It is a labor of love to have the community together to share lunch on Shabbat.

We have four teams who meet for a few hours to prepare the Shabbat feast. There are positions open for shoppers, preppers and any alternate positions. Please feel free to join in. Learn cooking techniques and creative and inventive recipes.

**Current Regular Prep Team Members**

Ina Silverman, Helene Sapadin, Rena Cheskis-Gold, Alice Kosowsky, Ivan Alvarez, John Weiser, Jonathan Gordon, Harriet Friedman, Linda
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedqqa Fund
• Rastelli – Weiner Family welcoming Rafael David Levick

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $280)
• Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
• The Rastelli-Weiner Family
• Steve & Rachel Wizner
• Anonymous
• The Korda & Grutzendler Family
• The Sobel & Lewin Family

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
• To Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce and family with sympathy on the passing of Albert Friedman by the Herbst family
• To Rachel & Alan Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of J. Gordon Miles by the Herbst family
• To Barbara Cushen with wishes for a speedy recovery by Susan Jacobson
• To Rachel & Alan Gerber and family with sympathy on the passing of J. Gordon Miles by Lana & Martin Gad
• To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of the wedding of Aliza Kuperstock & Scott Beck
• To Miriam Benson & Jon-Jay Tilsen in their honor by Rebecca Benson & Art Kreiger
• To Evelyn Benson in her honor by Rebecca Benson & Art Kreiger

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
• To Linda & Arthur Greenberg with sympathy on the passing of TeriAnn Gibson by Barbara Cushen

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
• In memory of Harriet Winer by Herb Winer
• In memory of her mother and father Lea & Marcel Gutman by Mimi Glenn
• In memory of Benjamin Steinlight by Gila Reinstein
• In memory of Madeline Bear by Syma Solovitch & Bruce Haynes
• In memory of Alan Haynes by Bruce Haynes & Syma Solovitch
• In memory of Avraham Epstein by Syma Solovitch & Bruce Haynes
• In memory of Bessie Epstein by Syma Solovitch & Bruce Haynes
• In memory of Abraham Goldman by Judy & Martin Shore
• In memory of Rena Miller by Rich & Vicky Miller
• In memory of Samuel Akresh by Murray & Barbara Akresh
• In memory of Norman Rosenberg by Lillian Rosenberg
• In memory of Carl Gesund by Hans & Irmgard Gesund
• In memory of Martha Miller Schwartz by Bobbie & Harold Miller
• In memory of Rose Pergament by Deanna Tulin
• In memory of Dr. Hyman Chernoff by Shula Chernoff
• In memory of Hannah Zarnes by Doris Sagerman
• In memory of Bessie Handelman by Rheba Newman & Joyce Handleman
• In memory of Jordan Goldberg by Richard & Robin Goldberg
• In memory of Rose Nabatoff by Carol Nabatoff
• In memory of Evelyn & Henry Cohen by Clifford & Donna Cohen
• In memory of Harriet & David Kroop by Donna & Clifford Cohen
• In memory of Elayne Dimenstein by Mort Dimenstein
• In memory of Louis Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
• In memory of Sol Kaufman by Lewis Kaufman
• In memory of Jay Moscowitz by Mike Moscowitz
• In memory of Cindy Arshell by Mike Moscowitz
• In memory of Philip Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
• In memory of Ruby Vine by Roberta Vine
• In memory of Rena Miller by Howard Miller
• In memory of Sarah Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
• In memory of Sylvia Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
• In memory of Jacob Cohen by Ted Maltin
• In memory of Ruth Maltin by Ted Maltin
• In memory of Ruth Magid Jacobs by Jane E. Bassett
• In memory of Lev Malamud by Fania Levine

News

National “Have a Minyan at Home” Day
Beth El-Keser Israel will join with other shuls in observing “National Have a Minyan at Home” day on Thursday evening 24 November 2016. In marking this occasion, no afternoon and evening service will be held at the shul so that participants may have services in their own homes. For this purpose, plenty of kippot are available in your suit pockets or auto glove compartments where you have been stuffing them. Years ago, when this program was initiated, skeptics predicted it would be a real turkey and would be axed, but the response has been positive, for which we offer thanksgiving.

Minha service can be recited after noon, the evening service after 4:25p.
This is an ideal occasion to enjoy USY pumpkin and apple pies (see notice this issue).
Weekday morning services on Thursday 24 November are on the Federal Holiday schedule, from 9:00a to 9:45a. Friday 25 November services 7:00a to 7:32a and 6:00p to 6:50p.
The synagogue office closes at 1:00p on Wednesday 23 November and is closed on Thursday and Friday 24-25 November. BRS and BMP do not meet on Wednesday 23 November or Sunday 27 November.
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:

- Mia Goldstein, bat mitzva, 5 November, parashat Noah
- Baruch A. Levine, 12 November, parashat Lekh leka
- Sophie Marx Schonberger, bat mitzva, 19 November, parashat VaYera
- Rabbi Andy Hechtman, 3 December, parashat Toldot

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, 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.

Hebrew with Will

Hebrew with Will meets every other Saturday morning from 10:45a – 11:45a in the office (on the weeks that Shabbat Shalom Torah Study does not meet). Practice Hebrew listening, speaking, and Alef-Bet recognition. Modern Hebrew; suitable for those interested in Biblical and Prayer Book study as well. Free; all welcome. With Will Auriemme.

Sundays

New – Mishna Berakhot for Teens

A four-week reading of the initial chapters of Mishna Masekhet Berakhot, especially for teens, 30 October – 20 November, Sundays 9:45a–11a, with Rabbi Tilsen. The Mishna is the law compendium compiled by Tsipori resident Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi in the second century of the common era. The Mishna is the basis for the Talmud and is a fundamental text for the study of the development of Jewish law and practice. Tractate Berakhot deals in large part with common rituals including the recitation of the Shema and the Amida. Free. Everyone welcome. Attend any or all sessions.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: 1 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 beginning 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 on Festivals. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.
**Adult Studies**

**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.

**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.

**Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group**

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group* meets on Thursdays from 1p to 2p and 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.

The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. The Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. The group, led by Rabbi Tilsen, will not meet on Thursday 24 November (Thanksgiving).

**LifeCycle**

**New Members**

- Marc Silverman & Laurel Goodman
- Joshua Perry & Ana Vancleave, and Miriam, Alexandra, and Eliana
- Eugene Fidel & Linda Greenhouse
- Robert & Carolann Wiznia
- Allan Viscoshek
- Emily Snitow
- Samuel & Julie Katz, and Miles and Zoe

**HaNolad beMazal Tov**

Mazal tov to Daryn David & Jeffrey Levick, and to Simonne, on the birth of their son, and brother, Rafael David Levick on Rosh HaShana and on his entrance into the covenant through *brit mila*

**Upcoming Benei Mitzva**

-Mia Goldstein, daughter of Daniel Goldstein & Grace Jenq, 4-5 November 2016, *parashat Noah*

-Sophie Marx Schonberger, daughter of Amy Marx & Robert Schonberger, 18-19 November 2016, *parashat VaYera*

-Serena Sachs, daughter of Robert & Betsy Sachs, granddaughter of Rita Sachs, 10 December 2016, *(minha)* *parashat VaYishlah*
We celebrated National Mix It Up Day in October to foster greater respect and understanding among our students.

www.hamdenhall.org  203.752.2640
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

TREATY RIGHTS & WrONGS

To: Dave Archambault II, Chairman, Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council  
Re: Treaty Rights

Mr. Archambault:

I am writing to express appreciation and support for the Tribal Council’s efforts to enforce and protect your treaty rights, salient due to the Dakota Access Pipeline project. The concerns for protecting the water and environment, and historical and religious sites, may be paramount. From where I sit in New Haven, it is hard to see how anyone thought running an oil pipeline under a reservoir along the boundary of the reservation would be a good idea. The militarized police response to peaceful protesters, made legal by federal legislation in 1981 in response to the Wounded Knee uprising, brings attention to the national issue of militarized police back to its genesis. It is also hard to see how anyone thought using military equipment against peaceful teenagers, the elderly and other concerned tribal members and friends would be a good idea, either.

But I am writing in particular to encourage your efforts to enforce your treaty rights, because the respect for prior agreement, the concession and compromise reflected in the treaties, while less urgently perceived, is essential for all of us.

If past treaties and agreements are not honored, there is little hope that present agreements will be honored in the future, leaving us only with unending conflict and the exercise of brute force. Given the history of broken treaties and treaty violations, there may be only small hope that treaty claims will be honored by the state and federal government in the present instance, but the effort to enforce those claims is worthy, the cause is just, and the campaign is a service to humanity. Someday, Federal courts may fully enforce the treaties, and someday Congress might support that. Someday, international bodies might exert moral or other force upon the U.S. Government to effect adherence to its international agreements. Perhaps your tribes will discover that you have powers greater than those of the state or federal governments.

For me, it is an element of faith, a fundamental teaching handed down through the generations, that treaties, covenants and laws have the potential of being a positive tool for the well-being and advancement of humanity.

My ancestors and relatives came as refugees to North and South Dakota in the years 1900-30. They lived in towns such as Cannon Ball, New Leipzig, Eureka, Ashley, Wishek, Venturia, and Bismarck. By the 1930s, most had moved to Minneapolis, St. Paul or Milwaukee, where much of my family lives today. A few of my Tilsen cousins live as tribal members on Pine Ridge and elsewhere in the area. One-hundred years ago, while some of my family came to the Dakotas, others moved to Haifa, Israel. Most of my father’s relatives who remained in Europe and who survived the pogroms and World War I died in the massacre at Babi Yar, which holds the remains of 33,771 Jews who were executed there 29-30 September 1941.

As an American citizen, I believe I hold some share of responsibility for ensuring that the United States government acts lawfully, as well as wisely. The fact that family members are on both sides of those treaties just adds salience and sentimental connection.

Just as I support my cousins’ treaty rights in the Dakotas, I support the claim of treaty rights of my cousins in Haifa, Jerusalem and elsewhere in Israel. Those include the Faisal-Weizmann Agreement (1919), between Emir Faisal (son of the King of Hejaz, king of the Arab Kingdom of Greater Syria), and Chaim Weitzman, representing what became the Jewish Agency and later the Government of Israel, which was an Arab-Jewish agreement for cooperation on the re-development of a Jewish homeland in Israel and an Arab nation in a large part of the Middle East liberated from the Ottoman Empire; the Treaty of Sevres (1920) and Treaty of Lausanne (1923), which provided for temporary British administration while the Jewish People rebuilt our homeland in the Land of Israel; the League of Nations Covenant (1922) which provided (Article 22) for Jewish sovereignty in the newly-created political entity “Palestine” in conjunction with the San Remo Resolution of 25 April 1920; and the United Nations Charter (1945), which reaffirmed the international legal recognition of the rights of the Jewish
A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

People to reestablish our homeland in the Land of Israel (Article 80).

The partition of Palestine (1921) into an Arab-only and a mixed Jewish and Arab zones, and the proposed re-partition of the mixed Jewish and Arab part (1948), and subsequent demands for further territorial concessions by the State of Israel took place as if those prior agreements and treaties did not exist. The British violation of these agreements, along with their initiating and supporting the Arab League’s warfare against Israel, has had disastrous effect. This, despite the fact that the British were once among the most vocal supporters of what they called a “Jewish reservation” in the Middle East.

On the other hand, the honoring of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty (1979), and of the Treaty of Peace Between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1994), has been a tremendous source of safety and prosperity for people in the region.

None of that is to say that other people do not have rights and claims, whether off the reservation or in Greater Syria. Nor is it to say that the rights and claims of your tribes are based on or limited to what is stated in the treaties. And I am not judging the wisdom of ancestors and present leaders in making treaties and compromises.

The ideals of my parents’ generation were well-stated in Israel’s declaration of Independence (1948).

Eretz-Yisrael (the Land of Israel) was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma’pilim and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country’s inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

I don’t know if the support I am trying to offer to your efforts is of any value or will make any difference. Perhaps the basis of my support does not matter to you, and I don’t expect you to be involved or interested in my people’s treaty issues. But the purpose of this letter is to encourage you to keep pursuing and demanding treaty compliance, because doing so, whether or not immediately successful, can be beneficial to the global community. I wish you every success in your worthy endeavors.

Qiddush Committee


Current Alternates

Marsha Beller, Yael Wertheimer, Janis Isenberg, Bill Shragis, Carol Weitzman, Rhoda Zahler, Joanne Foodim, Sharon Prober, Libby Abraham, Caryl Kligerfeld, Rachel Bashevkin, Lynn Saltz, Nancy Salk, Roger Colten and Margaret Martin.

Thank you to Bryna Pauker and Michael Reis who over thirteen years ago came up with creative ideas for a meal after Shabbat Services. They worked very hard with amazing congregation members to make what we have today possible. There are so many more members who were involved and continue to be active in this endeavor. Please feel free to add to this history by joining us.

— Marjorie Wiener September 2016
### November 2016

#### 30 Tishri 5777 - 29 Heshvan 5777

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**Fall Back**

Resume Eastern Standard Time on Sunday morning 6 November; turn your clocks back one hour.

Beginning 12 November, our Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon service will begin at about the same time as candle lighting and will be followed by a period of study and maariv and havdala (about 85 minutes total).