

BEKI BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, a Full-Service Synagogue for Greater New Haven Jewry

November 1995

ק"ק בית אל-כתר ישראל

Heshvan 5756

Tzedeq & Hesed ROAR at Fair Haven Community Health Center

The Pediatrics Department at the Fair Haven Community Health Center has initiated a Reach Out And Read program incorporating literacy promotion into the well-child visits of children up to the age of five. It has been well documented that early emphasis on literacy skills has a significant impact on later successes in school and work. If you are able to contribute \$6 (to sponsor one child) or more or have gently used children's books to donate, please call Dr. Laurel B. Shader or Dr. Ruth J. Magraw at 777-7411 or write to them at 374 Grand Ave., New Haven CT 06513. Be sure to mention you heard about the project at BEKI.

Meet UHS Principal Judith Weingarden

Judith Weingarden assumed the position of Principal of the United Hebrew School at the start of this academic year. Mrs. Weingarden is a graduate of the Ramaz School in New York and Queens College. During the past two years, Judi had been a member of the school's Board and had served on its faculty with distinction. She is a BEKI member who lives in New Haven with her husband Edward and two children. If you would like more information about the school, call Mrs. Weingarden at 468-9994 or <crjt60b@prodigy.com>.



Judi Weingarden

Department of Radio and Television Airs Programming on Religion and Social Issues

The Department of Radio and Television at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America has announced its 1995 Eternal Light programming on network television. In mid-November, NBC will air a Seminary production entitled "The Earth is the Lord's." In this one-hour documentary, ecologists David Ehrenfeld of Rutgers University and Wes Jackson of the Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, discuss the philosophies of both religious and scientific leaders and respond to ethical questions about our responsibilities to the environment. In addition, Chancellor Ismar Schorsch presents Judaism as a religion of boundaries, designed to preserve creation, not abuse it. The Seminary will present a new one-hour documentary on ABC entitled "Eugene," scheduled to air the week of 17 December. "Eugene" documents the personal challenge of a young Jew with cerebral palsy, born in the former Soviet Union, whose dedication to becoming a Bar Mitzva and celebrating his coming of age is shared by an entire community. For broadcast times, call the local NBC and ABC stations.

Administrative Announcements

How to Contact the BEKI Bulletin

Responses to "A Message from Rabbi Tilsen," questions for "Dear Rabbi" and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Editor, BEKI Bulletin, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515 or by email to jjtilsen@aol.com.

Rabbi Tilsen's mail and e-mail are opened directly and exclusively by the Rabbi himself and are as secure and confidential as mail and e-mail can be.

Office Hours

Office hours for the synagogue are:
Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 3 pm and
Friday: 9am - noon

BEKI offices will close for the Thanksgiving holiday on Wednesday November 22 at noon and will reopen Monday November 27 at 9:00 am.

Food Deliveries

If food is being brought into the synagogue for the weekend (Friday night or Saturday morning), it must be delivered by 11:00 am on Friday. Be sure to notify the office in advance when you wish to make the delivery.

Beth El-Keser Israel Board of Directors

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Deadlines for Submitting Material for Publication

For the BEKI Bulletin, submit your material by the 1st of the month for the following month. Deadline for the January Bulletin is December 1st. For mid-month flyer mailings, submit your material to the office by the 15th of the month. Deadline for the December mailing is November 15th. Please submit your material ON TIME.

Security System

The new security system of the BEKI Synagogue is now in force. To gain admittance to the building on Harrison Street during office hours, ring the door bell at the front door next to the driveway.

Where There's a Will

Please remember Beth El-Keser in your will. Through your bequest, the mission of our shul will continue for future generation. For more information, please contact BEKI Treasurer Stephen Wizner at 432-4800.

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, donations, or special activities, call the Synagogue office (203) 389-2108, or write to 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515.

For information about advertising, call the synagogue office. Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the 1st of the month preceding publication. Annual subscription is \$36.00.

BEKI Bulletin

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Editor	Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen
Production Editor	Mindi Englart
Advertisement Editor	Sheila Gardner
Photographer	Charles Ludwig
Printer	Goodcopy

BEKI's \$22,000,025 Benefactor

I am pleased to announce that BEKI has a benefactor who has contributed over \$22 million. The Conservative Movement has received two mega-gifts this year, one of \$15 million to the Jewish Theological Seminary to fund its education training program, and a second of \$22 million to the Seminary's sister school, the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, to expand its Rabbinical School.

The \$22 million gift was anonymous. It turns out that apparently BEKI has the same benefactor, but instead of giving BEKI \$22 million, BEKI received only \$25 from "Anonymous." The old story tells of the Kol Nidre appeal where members of the synagogue stand to announce their pledge. When his turn comes one man stands and says, "I, Bernie Schwartz, of Schwartz & Sons Clothiers, 325 Main Street, pledge \$25 anonymously." I just hope he didn't sign his check that way.

Anonymous giving does have its place in our tradition. In Maimonides' classic description of the levels of giving, anonymous giving--and receiving--is preferred, at least when giving to aid a needy individual. Yet a thousand years before Maimonides, shuls and schools publicly recognized their financial supporters. Ancient synagogues uncovered by archaeologists have inscriptions recognizing major benefactors, and the Torah portion read on Hanuka describes the offerings brought to the Temple, listing each donor's name along with their gift.

For Beth El-Keser Israel, with a genuinely

lean annual budget of about \$250,000, we might think that a gift of \$25 is not a major gift. But the Torah-principle for giving to the Temple is stated in Deuteronomy 16:17: "Every person shall give according to their ability, according to the blessing Adonai your God has given you." So with respect to the donor, a gift of \$25 -- or \$25 million -- may be a large gift or a small gift; it depends on their income and wealth.

In recent months three endowment funds have been established at the Jewish Foundation of New Haven for the benefit of Beth El-Keser Israel: The **Robert Goodwin Memorial Fund**, the **Morris & Sara Oppenheim Endowment for Sacred Music**, and the **Lester & Bernice Margolis Fund**. The minimum initial sum required to establish endowments at the Foundation is \$10,000. If BEKI is going to continue to thrive and provide for the religious needs of this community into the next century, we are going to need more of these kinds of gifts as well as major gifts exceeding \$100,000 each.

The creation of these endowments by the Goodwin, Oppenheim and Margolis families is a compelling vote of confidence for a Temple that is looking forward to the next century. It is also an important statement of values, responsibility and generosity by the benefactors. "Anonymous" isn't going to give us \$22 million, but these families have shown us the way to achieve financial strength. With the continuing commitment and generosity of BEKI members and God's help our needs will be met.

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Dear Rabbi,

I thought all the candles on a Hanuka Menora have to be the same height. But in the BEKI giftshop there is an animal Menora and the candles are not all at the same height. What gives?

Signed, Level Headed.

Dear Flat Head,

Candles burn at different rates, so they will never be at exactly the same height. There are two rules for a Hanukia. The lights need to be in a straight line, in at least one vertical plane, so that they can be distinguished from each other. This precludes a round Hanukia, but you don't have to use a micron ruler to make sure your candles line up. The point is that the flames should be distinguishable from each other at the normal viewing angle. The shamash must also be separate and distinguishable, and preferably higher than the others, because that is the one we use for seeing in the dark.

Dear Rabbi,

My partner is dying of a lengthy illness at the age of 38 (not AIDS). When the time comes can I sit shiva for him? We have been together about 15 years.

Signed, Was Gay Now Blue

Dear Blue,

May God show him compassion. Strictly speaking, the obligation to observe shiva falls

only on the children, parents, siblings and spouse, and the corresponding obligation of the community to attend a house of shiva and give comfort to mourners narrowly construed applies only for those mourning these same relations. For this purpose, "spouse" includes only a partner married in accordance with Jewish law, that is, a marriage between an unmarried Jewish man and Jewish woman both of whom are of age. The rules are construed narrowly so as to avoid unnecessarily placing obligations on those who may not fulfill them; that is to say, the Sages did not want to create rules that would be broken. However, the mourning practices of sitting shiva, saying mourner's qaddish, cutting qeria and the like are optional but not obligatory for relations other than those listed above, and indeed are most appropriate for those mourning a parent-in-law, revered Torah-mentor, or in a case such as yours where someone would be mourning a beloved life-partner. The community is not technically required to attend your house of shiva under the laws pertaining to mourning but a case can be made that offering such comfort is mandatory under other more general rules governing human relations. It certainly would seem the decent thing to do.

All letters to Dear Rabbi should be addressed to Rabbi J-J van Tilsen, care of this newsletter. Due to the volume of mail received, Dear Rabbi cannot answer all inquiries.

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For Expectant Parents

The next meeting of "LaMaazel--the Jewish Spiritual Way of Childbirth" will be on Sunday 19 November at 4:00 p.m. at the Benson-Tilsen residence in Westville.



LaMaazel is a program for expectant parents and others to share their concerns and explore the Jewish approach to pregnancy and birth. If you would like to attend or know of someone who might like an invitation, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108.

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Robert Leikind to Speak

Connecticut Region Anti-Defamation League Director Robert Leikind will speak on "The Million Man March" on Friday Night 10 November during the 8:00 p.m. service. Leikind attended the march in Washington and has spoken and written extensively on the march and Farrakhan's "Nation of Islam." Leikind serves on BEKI's Board of Directors and lives in Westville.

Paul Bass to Speak

New Haven Advocate Associate Editor and radio talk-show personality Paul Bass will speak on "The Future of Black-Jewish Relations" on Friday Night 17 November during the 8:00 p.m. service. Bass, a BEKI member, lives with his family in Westville.

David Kuperstock to Lead Torah Discussion

David Kuperstock, vice-president of American Skandia Life Assurance Corporation, will lead a Torah Discussion on parshat va-Yera on Shabbat morning 11 November during the 9:15 a.m. service. Kuperstock, a BEKI member, lives in Woodbridge with his family.

Thank You for Your Service

We would like to thank Rita Sela for her service in producing the BEKI Bulletin. She has done a wonderful job with the Bulletin and her work is greatly appreciated.

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Dates and Times to Remember

November Events

01 Wed	4:15 pm 7:00 pm	UHS On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew with Ellen Jawitz		10:45 am 10:45 am	Kuperstock Children's Shabbat Havura Junior Congregation
	8:00 pm	Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks		10:45 am	Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan
03 Friday	4:26 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Candle Lighting Qabbalat Shabbat Late Evening Service		4:20 pm 4:50 pm 5:07 pm	Minha Pirqe Avot Study Maariv & Havdala
04 Shabbat	9:15 am 10:45 am	Morning Service Children's Shabbat Havura	12 Sunday 13 Monday	9:30 am 7:30 pm	UHS Sisterhood Paid- Up Supper
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation	15 Wed	4:15 pm 7:00 pm	UHS On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew with Ellen Jawitz
	4:30 pm 4:50 pm 5:15 pm	Minha Pirqe Avot Study Maariv & Havdala		8:00 pm	Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks
05 Sunday	9:30 am 9:30 am 9:40 am	UHS: Gimel Class Learn-In Sisterhood Rummage Sale Torah Pathways Study Group	17 Friday	4:12 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Candle Lighting Qabbalat Shabbat Late Evening Service Speaker: Paul Bass
06 Monday	7:45 am 9:00 am	Rashi Study Group Sisterhood Rummage Sale until 1:00 p.m.	18 Shabbat	9:15 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 4:15 pm 4:35 pm 5:01 pm	Morning Service Children's Shabbat Havura Jr. Congregation Minha Pirqe Avot Study Maariv & Havdala
08 Wed	4:15 pm 7:00 pm	UHS On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew with Ellen Jawitz	19 Sunday	9:30 am 9:30 am	UHS Shul Breakfast by Men's Club Guest: Mustafa Abdul-Salaam
	8:00 pm	Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks		4:30 pm	LaMaazel at Benson-Tilsens
10 Friday	4:19 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Candle Lighting Qabbalat Shabbat Late Evening Service Speaker: Robert Leikind	20 Monday	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group
11 Shabbat	9:15 am	Morning Service Darshan: David	23 Thurs	9:00 am	Weekday Morning Service

Dates and Times to Remember

23 Thurs	9:00 am	Weekday Morning Service NO evening service at shul
24 Friday	4:08 pm	Candle Lighting
25 Shabbat	6:00 pm	Qabbalat Shabbat
	9:15 am	Morning Service
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura
	10:45 am	Junior Congregation
	10:45 am	Shabbat Shalom
	4:10 pm	Learners' Minyan
	4:30 pm	Minha
	4:57 pm	Pirqe Avot Study
26 Sunday	4:15 pm	Maariv & Havdala
27 Monday	7:45 am	UHS
29 Wed	4:15 pm	Rashi Study Group
	7:00 pm	UHS
	8:00 pm	On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew with Ellen Jawitz
		Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks



**Sisterhood
Paid Up Supper**
13 November 1995
7:30 p.m.

**Congregational Breakfast
by Men's Club**
9:30 a.m. Sunday
19 November 1995
Guest Speaker
Mustafa Abdul Salaam

December Events	
01 Friday	4:05 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm
02 Shabbat	9:15 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 4:10 pm 4:30 pm 4:56 pm 7:30 pm
03 Sunday	9:30 am 9:40 am
04 Monday	7:45 am
06 Wed	4:15 pm 7:00 pm
08 Friday	4:04 pm 6:00 pm
09 Shabbat	9:15 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 10:45 am 4:10 pm 4:30 pm 4:56 pm
10 Sunday	9:30 am 9:30 am

Candle Lighting
Qabbalat Shabbat
Late Evening Service
Morning Service
Children's Shabbat Havura
Junior Congregation
Minha
Pirqe Avot Study
Maariv & Havdala
Erev Shira at Benson-Tilsens UHS
Torah Pathways
Rashi Study Group
UHS
On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew with Ellen Jawitz
Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks
Candle Lighting
Qabbalat Shabbat
Morning Service
Children's Shabbat Havura
Junior Congregation
Shabbat Shalom
Learners' Minyan
Minha
Pirqe Avot Study
Maariv & Havdala
UHS
Robert Goodwin Memorial
Breakfast by Men's Club
Speaker: Chief
Nicholas Pastore

Dates and Times to Remember

11 Monday	7:45 am	Rashi Study Group	20 Wed	4:15 pm	Group UHS
13 Wed	2:00 pm	Friday Dinner	22 Friday	4:07 pm	Candle Lighting
	4:15 pm	RSVP due			Light Hanuka first then shabbat
	7:00 pm	UHS			Qabbalat Shabbat
		On Beyond	23 Shabbat	6:00 pm	Morning Service
	8:00 pm	Gimel: Hebrew with Ellen Jawitz		9:15 am	Children's Shabbat
15 Friday	4:05 pm	Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks		10:45 am	Havura
	6:00 pm	Candle Lighting		10:45 am	Junior
		Qabbalat Shabbat Service		10:45 am	Congregation
	6:40 pm	Dinner by RSVP		4:10 pm	Shabbat Shalom
16 Shabbat	9:15 am	Morning Service		4:30 pm	Learners' Minyan
	10:45 am	Children's Shabbat Havura		5:00 pm	Minha
	10:45 am	Junior	25 Monday	7:45 am	Pirqe Avot Study
	4:10 pm	Congregation			Maariv & Havdala
	4:30 pm	Minha	29 Friday	4:12 pm	Rashi Study
	4:57 pm	Pirqe Avot Study		6:00 pm	Group
		Maariv & Havdala	30 Shabbat	9:15 am	Candle Lighting
17 Sunday	9:30 am	UHS		10:45 am	Qabbalat Shabbat
	9:40 am	Torah Pathways			Morning Service
	evening	First Hanuka		10:45 am	Children's Shabbat
		Light			Havura
18 Monday	7:45 am	Rashi Study		4:15 pm	Junior
				4:35 pm	Congregation
				5:05 pm	Minha
					Pirqe Avot Study
					Maariv & Havdala

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



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November 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			8 Cheshvan 5756 4:15 pm UHS 7:00 pm On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew w/Ellen Jawitz 8:00 pm Siddur Workshop w/Liz Shanks	9 Cheshvan 5756	10 Cheshvan 5756 4:26 pm Candle Lighting 6:00 pm Qabbalat Shabbat 8:00 pm Late Evening Service	11 Cheshvan 5756 Lech lecha 9:15 am Morning Service 10:45 am Children's Shabbat Havura 10:45 am Junior Congregation 4:30 pm Minha 4:50 pm Pirqe Avot Study 5:15 pm Maariv & Havdala
			1	2	 3	4
12 Cheshvan 5756 9:30 am UHS: Gimel Class Learn-in 9:30 am Sisterhood Rummage Sale 9:40 am Torah Pathways Study Group	13 Cheshvan 5756 7:45 am Rashi Study Group 9:00 am Sisterhood Rummage Sale until 1:00 pm	14 Cheshvan 5756	15 Cheshvan 5756 4:15 pm UHS 7:00 pm On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew with Ellen Jawitz 8:00 pm Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks	16 Cheshvan 5756	17 Cheshvan 5756 4:19 pm Candle Lighting 6:00 pm Qabbalat Shabbat 8:00 pm Late Evening Service Speaker: Robert Leikind	18 Cheshvan 5756 Va-Yera 9:15 am Morning Darshan David Kuperstock 10:45 am Children's Shabbat Havura 10:45 am Jr. Cong. 10:45 am Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan 4:20 pm Minha 4:50 pm Pirqe Avot Study 5:07 pm Maariv & Havdala
5	6	7	8	9	 10	1 1
19 Cheshvan 5756 9:30 am UHS	20 Cheshvan 5756 7:30 pm Sisterhood Paid-Up Supper	21 Cheshvan 5756	22 Cheshvan 5756 4:15 pm UHS 7:00 pm On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew w/Ellen Jawitz 8:00 pm Siddur Workshop w/Liz Shanks	23 Cheshvan 5756	24 Cheshvan 5756 4:12 pm Candle Lighting 6:00 pm Qabbalat Shabbat 8:00 pm Late Evening Service/Speaker Paul Bass	25 Cheshvan 5756 Chayei Sarah 9:15 am Morning Service 10:45 am Children's Shabbat Havura 10:45 am Junior Congregation 4:15 pm Minha 4:35 pm Pirqe Avot Study 5:01 pm Maariv & Havdala
1 2	1 3	1 4	1 5	1 6	 1 7	1 8
26 Cheshvan 5756 9:30 am UHS 9:30 am Shul Breakfast by Men's Club/Guest: Mustafa Abdul-Salaam 4:30 pm LaMaazel at Benson-Tilsens	27 Cheshvan 5756 7:45 am Rashi Study Group	28 Cheshvan 5756	29 Cheshvan 5756	30 Cheshvan 5756 Rosh-Chodesh. 9:00 am Weekday Morning Service/NO evening service at shul	1 Kislev 5756 Rosh-Chodesh. 4:08 pm Candle Lighting 6:00 pm Qabbalat Shabbat	2 Kislev 5756 Toledot 9:15 am Morning Service 10:45 am Children's Shabbat Havura 10:45 am Jr. Cong. 10:45 am Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan 4:10 pm Minha 4:30 pm Pirqe Avot Study 4:57 pm Maariv & Havdala
1 9	2 0	2 1	2 2	2 3	 2 4	2 5
3 Kislev 5756 4:15 pm UHS	4 Kislev 5756 7:45 am Rashi Study Group	5 Kislev 5756	6 Kislev 5756 4:15 pm UHS 7:00 pm On Beyond Gimel: Hebrew w/Ellen Jawitz 8:00 pm Siddur Workshop w/Liz Shanks	7 Kislev 5756		
2 6	2 7	2 8	2 9	3 0		

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A special contribution has been made by **Dr. Steven & Susan Wolfson** in appreciation of the support and kindness of the BEKI community.

HAMAQOM YINAHM

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**Pirqa Avot Study begins in
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DATED MATERIAL

**National "Have an Evening Minyan
at Home" Day**

In order to permit friends and families to take advantage of the Thanksgiving Day holiday, we are encouraging people to have a minyan in their own home or neighbor's home the afternoon and evening of 23 November. Afternoon and Evening services will not be held at BEKI on that day.

Our sages must have had prophetic knowledge of the observance of American Thanksgiving. Our festive liturgy of thanksgiving (Hallel) includes the Hebrew phrase "hodu la-Shem--Give thanks to God." The word "hodu" has a homophonic homograph (sound-alike, spelled-alike word) that means "turkey," thus the refrain "hodu la-Shem" can be translated as either "give thanks to God" or "turkey for God," representing in two concise words the theory and practice of Thanksgiving.

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