Testimonial Dinner to Honor George Posener

Mr. George G. Posener will be honored at a testimonial dinner at 6:30 PM on Sunday 29 October at Beth El-Keser Israel.

George currently serves as the Chairperson of BEKI's House & Maintenance Committee and has overseen the major repairs of the building along with many major and minor areas of caring for our building. Known for his intelligence, frugality and warm personality, George is being honored for his lifetime volunteer contribution to BEKI.

Join the Officers, Directors and Rabbi of the congregation in honoring this extraordinary man.

Hosannah! Hosannah!

The Hoshanah Rabba (“Great Hosannah”) morning service this year fortuitously occurs on a Sunday morning, 15 October. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the shul with lulav and etrog and the hoshana service in which willow twigs are beaten on the chairs. Special holiday melodies make this an unforgettable spiritual experience. Be sure to come as this is a service for all ages. Hoshanah Rabba service begins Sunday 15 October at 9:00 a.m.

Calling all Torah Readers

Our shabbat and holiday Torah readings for Bereshit (Genesis) will be coordinated by Paula Hyman. If you would like to volunteer to read Torah, whether three or three-thousand verses, call Paula at 387-3100 <paula.hyman@yale.edu> until 11 p.m.

We congratulate and thank Darryl Kuperstock who has organized all of the readings for the past two years.

Torah Pathways Study Group

Torah Pathways, a Study & Discussion Group for adults seeking spiritual & intellectual pathways to God, Torah & Israel, meets on Sunday Mornings from 9:40 a.m. (following the 9:00 a.m. morning service) until 11:00 a.m. in the Rabbi’s Study. Refer to the Events listing in this Bulletin for meeting dates.

One of our meetings will focus on “Jewish Identities” and will be facilitated by Lisa Marcus. Mark these dates: 05 Nov 1995; 19 Nov 1995; 03 Dec 1995; 17 Dec 1995; 14 Jan 1996; 28 Jan 1996. Additional meeting dates will be scheduled after this series. For more information contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 or <jjtilsen@aol.com>.
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  Friday 9 AM–noon

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
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Myra Myers  Synagogue Administrator

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 December Bulletin is November 1st. For mid-month flyer mailings, submit your material to the office by the 15th of the month. Deadline for the November Mailing is October 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 St. during office hours, ring the doorbell at the front door, next to the driveway.

Where There’s a Will

Please remember Beth El-Keser Israel in your will. Through your bequest, the mission of our shul will continue for future generations. 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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Editor  Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen
Production Editor  Rita Sela
Advertisement Editor  Sheila Gardner
Photographer  Charles Ludwig
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October 1995
A Message From Rabbi Tilsen

Everyone is a Winner

My Grampa Ed, of blessed memory, worked hard for his family. As a young man he worked as a traveling sales agent. After he married Gramma Esther, of blessed memory, he tried several businesses. He had a General Store in New Leipzig, ND, an egg candling operation in nearby Ashley, ND, and a clothing store in Iron Mountain, MI, to mention a few. He tried many businesses and he went broke many times. It wasn’t until 1938 — as he approached age 50 — when he went into the home building business in St. Paul, that he first achieved economic success.

Grampa Ed and Gramma Esther were close to their siblings. During the 1930’s, they all lived in central Minnesota, from St. Paul to Red Wing. One of Ed’s brothers married one of Esther’s sisters, and one of Esther’s brothers married one of Ed’s sisters. Ed considered Esther’s brothers to be his brothers. And Esther considered Ed’s sisters to be her sisters. They all spent the holidays together. They worked together in businesses and at home. They were close in every way.

They all worked hard. When times were especially tough, during the Depression, Ed and Esther’s brothers and sisters would send their children to stay with them. And sometimes Ed and Esther would send their children to stay with their brothers and sisters.

During those years, Ed and his siblings all worked hard to support their families. During those years, they had their ups and downs. Sometimes they needed help. But they never had to ask because Esther and her sisters would quietly make sure that their husbands would find out when one family needed help.

When one brother needed help, the other brothers would invite him over to play cards on Saturday night. They played Gin and Poker, mostly. During the course of the evening, the brother who needed help would invariably come out ahead $50 or $100.

When that brother got back on his feet a few weeks later, he would invite the brothers over to his house to play cards. During the course of the evening, he would invariably lose back the $50 or $100. In this way, the family members were able to help each other while retaining their sense of dignity and pride.

This year, as always, each member of our shul community will be asked repeatedly to help support the shul. As Rabbi, I see every day how this community makes a real difference in the lives of many people. It is my hope that, in the words of our Torah, “every person shall give as they are able” (Deut. 16:17).

When Grampa Ed and his brothers left the card table with $50 or $100 less than they came with, they still felt like winners. They knew that even if they did not win the money back at the next round, they were helping their brother and sister in a very real way, and they knew that it was eminently worth it.

LeShana Tova Tahanenu — May we all be Sealed for a Good Year. —Jon-Jay Tilsen

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Dear Rabbi,

I heard someone talk about a “kosher” mezuzah. I know that a chicken can be kosher, but how can a mezuzah be kosher?

Can you eat a mezuzah with your fingers?

Signed,
Mezuzah in a Blanket

Dear Mezuzah,

The word “Kasher” means “fit” as in “fit to eat” when applied to food. Food that is not kosher is often called “treif,” meaning “torn,” referring to meat torn from a living animal, which is the epitome of being not kosher.

For items such as Torah Scrolls, Tefillin and Mezuzot, there are certain requirements of law and tradition that must be met before the item is deemed “kasher” or fit. For example, the scrolls must be of kosher parchment, the letters must be hand-written by a trained scribe, the text must be reproduced with no errors.

A proper scroll is called “kasher”; one that is disqualified (for example by having a word missing) is called “pasul” (“disqualified”); one that is photocopied on plain paper is called a “fake.”

Dear Rabbi,

Can more than one baby be named after the same ancestor?

Signed,
Fruitful and Multiplying

Dear Fruitful,

Among Ashkenazim it is customary to name a baby after a deceased relative. In some families it is considered inappropriate to name more than one child after the same person, whereas in other families it is perfectly acceptable. In our family, for example, we have a sister and two cousins named after the same great-grandmother. A compromise would be to give the children differing middle names. In contrast, it is common among Sephardim to name a baby after a living relative, most often a grandparent.

The choice of name is completely a matter of custom and one should therefore be guided by the sensibilities of one’s family and one’s own preference.

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.

Mazal Tov מזל טוב
To Michael & Marjorie Shanok on the bris milah of their grandson Rigel Isaiah Janette.

To Sharon & Bennett Lovett-Graff on the birth of Shoshana.

To Andrew & Paige Weinstein on the birth of Shayna Kate, and to grandparents Richard & Suzanne Weinstein.

to Alan Lovins & Trish Loving on the birth of a grandson, Benjamin Lovins Kazer son of Rachel Lovins and Dan Kazer

Thank you to all my friends at BEKI who have supported me during my illness and recovery with numerous cards and calls.

Milton Smirnoff

Qiddush Sponsors

October 1995
Siddur Workshop with Liz Shanks

What does the siddur mean to you? What kind of experience can it or does it evoke? Have you been frustrated by not being able to penetrate to the meaning behind archaic renderings or even well-intentioned modern translations? If you are interested in deepening your understanding of, relationship with or enjoyment of prayer, this workshop is for you.

We will combine a thorough investigation of the text and its structural process (using Hebrew and translations) with the question of how the text can speak to us. We will learn to draw on the range of meanings that the text offers to deepen our experience of prayer. We will also explore related issues: learn new melodies, talk about God language, discuss change and development in the liturgy, and more. This class is open to beginners, skeptics and deep believers alike.

Join Liz Shanks for an eight-week group exploration of the text and themes of the siddur. The workshop will meet on Wednesday nights at 8:00 p.m. beginning 18 October. Registration fee is $10 for BEKI members and $20 for non-members plus texts. Call 389-2108 to register.

Liz Shanks is currently completing her doctoral dissertation at Yale University on the oral study of the Mishna that produced the Talmud. This course is inspired by her own love of music in prayer, curiosity about prayer, and search for satisfying prayer experiences.

On Beyond Gimel: Intermediate Hebrew Language with Ellen Jawitz

Go beyond alef-bet with a basic intermediate Hebrew class taught by BEKI member Ellen Jawitz. This eight-week will cover the elements of basic Hebrew common to the modern, prayerbook and Biblical language.

Classes are at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday 18 October. Registration fee is $10 for BEKI members and $20 for non-members plus texts. Call 389-2108 to register.

Learners’ Minyan Continues

The “Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan,” which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Library, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and expert in the shaharit and Torah services in a supportive setting. Lead by Steve Fraade, who teaches Rabbinics at Yale, and Rabbi Alan Lovins, who works as a psychotherapist in private practice, the Shabbat Shalom Learners’ Minyan has helped many feel a deeper sense of awe born of greater understanding while increasing the level of comfort through nurturing step-by-step practice in a non-threatening cross-generational setting.

Rashi Study

The Rashi Study Group meets every Monday morning at 7:45 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. The Rashi Study Group is dedicated to reading each line of the Torah with the commentary of the great sage Rashi. Give it a try. Knowledge of English, Old French and Hebrew is helpful but not required.

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Joshua Prober Bar Mitzva

On Friday Night 6 October Joshua Prober participated in the Late Evening Service at 8:00 p.m. as a Bar Mitzva. On Shabbat Morning 7 October during the 9:15 a.m. service Joshua led parts of the service, read Torah and Haftara, and presented a Devar Torah.

Joshua is a student at Ezra Academy. He is the son of Daniel and Sharon Prober. Following the services there was an oneg shabbat and kiddush sponsored by Daniel & Sharon Prober.

Jerusalem 3000

This year, as the world marks 3000 years since King David pronounced Jerusalem the capital of his kingdom, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, in cooperation with area institutions and organizations, will be coordinating our local celebrations of Jerusalem 3000.

Under the chairmanship of H. William Shure, Jerusalem 3000 will present many events and activities including exhibits, plays, concerts, speakers, classes, educational resources, political forums, and interfaith programs.

The programs will be inaugurated with “A Walk Through Jerusalem,” a multi-media, hands-on, interactive exhibit opening on October 15th. The year of festivities will conclude with a concert by the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra on Israel Independence Day and a gala birthday party on Jerusalem Day.

Jerusalem 3000 provides us with a unique opportunity to strengthen our ties with Israel and to focus attention on Jerusalem, the capital of Israel and the spiritual, historical, and religious center of the Jewish people.

For more information about Jerusalem 3000 programs, please contact the Department of Jewish Education of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, 387-2424, ext. #316.

A Walk Through Jerusalem
October 15 through November 15
at the Jewish Community Center
of Greater New Haven
360 Amity Road
Woodbridge, CT
Hours of Exhibition:
Mondays through Fridays: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Thursday Evenings: 5:00 – 8:30 PM
Sundays: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
and 1:00 PM – to 5:00 PM

BEKI Welcomes
New Members and Their Families
Carol Ferency

Jeremy Golding & Michele Roberts
& Maya, Eliana & Yona

Morton & Ruth Silver

Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
& Shai & Avital

October 1995

BEKI Bulletin 7
Dues and Beyond

We at BEKI would like to thank the new haverim (friends), parnasim (supporters), and shomerim (guardians) who have helped our synagogue through their generous support with additional contributions to their dues.

Saul & Hope Bell—Haver
Ken & Linda Buckman—Parnas
Barbara Cushen—Haver
Lois Feldman—Haver
Robert Forbes & Joanne Foodim—Haver
Alan & Joan Gelbert—Parnas
Martin Gilens & Janet Felton—Parnas
Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz—Parnas
Brian Karsiff & Terri Stern—Parnas
Sid & Donna Levine—Haver
Gerald & Judith Oppenheim—Parnas
Stanley Rosenbaum & Paula Hyman—Parnas
David & Doris Sagerman—Parnas
Harold & Linda Saslow—Parnas
Stanley Saxe—Haver
Jaye Sela—Haver
Milton & Beatrice Smirnoff—Parnas
Edward & Judith Weingarten—Parnas
Natan & Lori Weinstein—Haver

"My first bank was perfect."

Whether your childhood bank was a cheery procelain piggy, an old cigar box or just a corner of your top drawer, it suited your needs. You filled it coin by coin to build your dreams. We see that same powerful optimism today when people come together in the community to do things that are worthwhile. It's a spirit we applaud and support, and to which we aspire.

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**Junior Congregation**

Junior Congregation is for children ages 7 to 13 and is intended to address their spiritual, educational and social needs on shabbat and festivals. Children enrolled in the United Hebrew School, the Talmud Torah Meyuhad, and Ezra Academy are encouraged to participate, as well as all other children. Junior Congregation meets on shabbat mornings at 10:45 and concludes at the same time as the other services.
Speakers & Darshanim in October

Josh Prober presented a Devar Torah on Shabbat morning, 7 October during the 9:15 a.m. service as a Bar Mitzva.

Steven Fraade teaches Rabbinics at Yale. He co-leads the Shabbat Shalom Learner’s Minyan and he is BEKI’s Vice President for Ritual and Education. Steven will speak during the morning of Shabbat Hol HaMoed Sukkot 14 October during the 9:15 a.m. service.

Eric I. B. Beller is a principal and head of the Law Offices of Eric I.B. Beller, P.C., of New Haven. Eric has served as staff counsel to the Environmental Cancer Prevention Project of the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the Quinnipiac College School of Law. Eric’s law office has a primary area of practice in health law. Eric is a BEKI member who lives in Westville with his wife, Marsha R.B. Beller, a private geriatric care manager, and their three children. Eric will speak on “Who Stole Health Care Reform” during the Late Evening Service on Friday 20 October at 8:00 p.m.

David Gelernter teaches Physics at Yale. He will present a Devar Torah on Shabbat Morning 21 October during the 9:15 a.m. service.

Tanina Rostain directs the Legal Clinic at Quinnipiac Law School. She is a BEKI member who lives in Hamden with her husband Richard Schottenfeld and their two children. She will present a Devar Torah on Shabbat Morning 28 October during the 9:15 a.m. service.

Dates and Times to Remember

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<td>Sukka Set Up</td>
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<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>UHS meets</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Children’s Sukka Craft Hour</td>
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<td>02 Monday</td>
<td>7:45 AM</td>
<td>Rashi Study Group</td>
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<td>03 Tuesday</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Men’s Tevila at Miqva</td>
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<td>Minha Afternoon Service</td>
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<td>6:12 PM</td>
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<td>Kol Nidre &amp; Yom Kippur Evening Service</td>
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<td>Babysitting Begins</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Children’s Havura Service</td>
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<td>Junior Congregation Service</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Final Shofar &amp; Maariv</td>
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<td>7:07 PM</td>
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<td>7:11 PM</td>
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<td>Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
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<td>Bar Mitzva: Joshua Prober</td>
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<td>6:49 PM</td>
<td>Hol HaMoed begins</td>
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<td>Book of Qohelet</td>
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<td>Children’s Shabbat Havura</td>
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<td>Shabbat Shalom Learner’s Minyan</td>
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Candle Lighting Times are now listed in the Events Section.

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<td>6:42 PM</td>
<td>Shabbat Ends (Motzei Shabbat)</td>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Hoshana Rabba</td>
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<td>Candle Lighting</td>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Shemini Atzeret Festival Service</td>
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**November Events**

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October 1995

BEKI Bulletin 11
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Mildred & Leonard Stein
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Sam Rose
Nat Rubin
Louis Magid

Wishing a speedy recovery to Milton Smirnoff from Lester & Bernice Margolis.
In honor of the 50th anniversary of Regina & Martin Faymann from Jack & Mollie Nuht.
From Stanley and Lesley Oransky.
For Melissa Elizabeth (Chanaleibs) Friedman-Lucas “in gratitude to God and prayers at be-sha’a tovah” from Louis J. Petritto.
Wishing Milton Smirnoff a speedy recovery from Samuel & Norma Rifkin.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from Henry Rothchild.
Congratulations on the birth of a daughter to Andrew & Paige Weinstein from Henry Rothchild.
Wishing a speedy recovery to Marvin Pizer from Henry Rothchild.
Wishing a speedy recovery to Milton Smirnoff from David & Doris Sagerman.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from Stuart Sorkin & Tamar Edelkind.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from Milton and Bea Smirnoff.
In memory of Albert Allinson from Milton and Bea Smirnoff.
Wishing a speedy recovery to Sylvia Evans from Milton & Bea Smirnoff.
In honor of Sam Rifkin’s special birthday from Milton & Bea Smirnoff.
Wishing a speedy recovery to Pearl Cohen from Milton & Bea Smirnoff.
In memory of Anita, sister of Mrs. Julius Podheiser, from Milton & Bea Smirnoff.
In memory of the brother of Mrs. Donald Cohen from Milton & Bea Smirnoff.
In honor of the birthday of Alan Lovins from Max & Ann Toder.
In honor of Sam Rifkin’s special birthday from Bud & Claire Volain.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from Paige & Andy Weinstein.

George G. Posener Fund

Wishing a speedy recovery to Milton Smirnoff from George Posener.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from George Posener.

Murray E. Kahn Memorial Fund

In memory of Hannah Surasky from Mimi Kahn.

Tillie & Edward Horwitz Endowment Fund

In memory of Hannah Surasky from Tillie Horwitz & Rose Dworski.
In memory of Sadie Roseman from Mrs. Edward Horwitz & Family.

Synagogue Fund

In memory of Alfred Beller, father of Eric Beller, from Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade.
Congratulations on the birth of a daughter to Bennett & Sharon Lovett-Graff from Diane Dunigan.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from Diane Dunigan.
Congratulations on the birth of a daughter to Bennett & Sharon Lovett-Graff from Carol, Gary & Megan Elkies.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from Bertha Fleischer.
In memory of Joel Aronow, father of Rita Sela, from Sheila Gardner.
Wishing a speedy recovery to Milton Smirnoff from Sheila Gardner.
Congratulations on the birth of a daughter to Andrew & Paige Weinstein from Sheila Gardner.
In memory of Mendel Alpert from Anna S. Goldberg.
In memory of Mrs. Brown, mother of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cohen, from Anna Goldberg.
In memory of Louis Friedman from Paul Goodwin.
In memory of Dr. Harry Zimmerman from Paul Goodwin.
In memory of Mendel Rosner from Paul Goodwin.
In memory of Abe Goldstein from Paul Goodwin.
In memory of Marshall Lesser from Paul Goodwin.
Wishing a speedy recovery to Milton Smirnoff from Robert & Felice Kasowitz.
Wishing a speedy recovery to Milton Smirnoff from Mrs. Mildred Lidsky.
In memory of Bernard Litwack from David & Florence Kaplan.
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In memory of Alfred Beller, father of Eric Beller, from Sid Levine.

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Rabbi’s Tzedaq Fund
From Edith Cooper in appreciation.
From Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen wishing a refua shelema to Edith Cooper.
From Jordan Goldberg marking the Hanukat Matzava-Unveiling for Mildred & Leonard Stein.
From Pearl & Howard Weinick in memory of Rose Salzberg.
From Richard Weinstein in appreciation for prayers for Refua Shelema.
From Jack & Laura Yakerson marking brit milah of grandson.
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Especially for You
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To Mrs. Arthur Shamson from Grace Geisinger.
To Gerald Oppenheim from Rose & George Feen.
To Lillian Silverman from Rose & George Feen.

Get Well
To Milton Smirnoff from Inge & Lenny Fish, Carol & Gary Elkies, Harriet & Noel Barstein, Charlotte & Max Teitelman, Gladly Lipkin, Mae & Herb Etkind, Rose & George Feen, Helen & Moe Miller.
To Gerald Oppenheim from Adele Tyson, Violet & Charlie Ludwig.

Sympathy
To Mr. & Mrs. Robert Susslew & Family from Inge, Lenny & Gary Fish.
To Tillie Horwitz from Irma Hamburger, Bertha Fleischer.
To Mrs. Trude Schreiber & Family from Inge, lenny & Gary Fish.
To David Surasky from Gladys Lipkin, Lillian Levine, Grace Geisinger.
To Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Frankel from Zelda Katz.
To Rita Sela from Violet & Charlie Ludwig, Rose & George Feen, Mikki Ratner, Mimi Kahn, Adele Tyson, Lois Feldman, Barbara Cushen, Janet & Jay Brown.
To Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Koppel from Harriet & Noel Barstein.
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October 1995

BEKI Bulletin 17
MatzaBallers Roll Again

BEKI is once again fielding a softball team for the Sunday morning JCC League. If you are interested in playing please call as soon as possible Robert Johnston, 389-9184.

BEKI's College Students

Our synagogue would like to communicate with our college youth. Please call the BEKI office at 389-2108 with your child’s college address for the school year 1995-96. We plan to send holiday greetings and goodies throughout the year. Shana Tova—Malka Levine

Can You Help?

A local family needs all kinds of household goods (furniture, bedding, kitchen utensils) as well as clothing for children ages 1, 3, and 6. If you have things you can donate, please call Alida Engel at 397-3224.

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel
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DATED MATERIAL