YAMIM NORAIM: DAYS OF AWE

Schedules, Information, Order Forms

Information, schedules, registration and order forms for Yamim Noraim -- Days of Awe – are available at www.beki.org under the “Worship” tab. A schedule of Sukkot and Shemini Atseret services is available there as well.

Volunteers Needed

To volunteer either to help with planning or to participate in our High Holy Day worship services, please contact Darryl Kuperstock at kuperst@gmail.com. Help is needed for mailings, Break Fast shopping and planning, greeters and ushers, minyan makers (early attendees), English readings, printing Yizkor Memorial Book, and more. If you have any questions, please speak with Darryl.

Need a Letter for Employer or School?

Shul members occasionally need letters to employers or principals explaining the nature of the Jewish holiday observance. Despite the high level of understanding in our community, there is still a need for education and information. It is important that our children be in shul for all of Yontif.

It is also important to defend your right – by tradition a God-given right – not to have to work on these days. So often, we find that if we can work, we must work. Nuanced reservations and distinctions are often lost in practice, and so clear-cut and undifferentiated rules are needed.

If you would like such a letter for Rosh HaShana, Yom Kippur or Sukkot, contact Rabbi Tilsen at jtilsen@beki.org.

Shofar So Good

The sound of the shofar calls us to teshuva each morning from Rosh Hodesh Elul through Rosh HaShana. Psalm 27 is also included in each morning and evening service until the festival of Hoshana Rabba.

Selihot at BEKI

The first Selihot Penitential Prayers for this High Holydays season will be at BEKI on Motse’ei Shabbat (Saturday Night) 1 September, with a Program and Service 9p–10:30p. New and familiar melodies, poetry, meditation, reflection, and learning, in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. The slihot (penitential) prayers are said during the middle of the night (or pre-dawn) during the period immediately before Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. It is believed that a heightened sense of spiritual awareness can be achieved during those hours.

Days of Awe

Michael Stern will serve as our Hazzan Rishon (lead cantor) for the High Holy Days, as he has done each year since

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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.

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BEKI Bulletin September 2018

BEKI Bulletin
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• Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
• Email: jtitlen@beki.org
• Visit our web page: www.beki.org
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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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Founder shurefuneralhome.com President

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Dedicated to the Dignity and Respect of Tradition

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Robert E. Shure 203-562-8244 James M. Shure
Founder shurefuneralhome.com President
5773. Michael, a resident of Skokie, IL, is a BEKI alumnus and a student of Rabbi Alan Lovins, who served as Hazzan Rishon for seventeen years. In addition to Michael, the services will again be led by BEKI members serving as volunteer hazzanim. Rabbi Tilsen will conduct the services, as he has each year since 1993.

We are using Mahzor Lev Shalem, an annotated version of the common Ashkenazic liturgy for Yamim Noraim, which we adopted in 2016. The edition features extensive commentary and a wider selection of popular piyutim (medieval poems), as well as many transliterations of passages sung in unison and occasional choreographic directions. The commentary incorporates literary, historical, linguistic and inspirational material on the service structure, liturgical selections and specific words and phrases. MLS also includes the full Hebrew and English texts of the ancillary services such as the Maariv Evening Service following Neila, which was represented only in Hebrew in our prior mahzor. Large-print copies are available on request from our ushers upon entering the sanctuary.

Members and supporters are welcome to dedicate a volume in honor or memory of a person or event, which will be recognized in the bookplate and listed in the Bulletin; contact office@beki.org for information.

Services are organized and led entirely by our members. Generally, Michael will lead the morning Torah service and musaf on all three days, as well as Kol Nidre, Maariv and Neila on Yom Kippur. Birkhot ha-Shahar (morning blessings) and Pesuqei de-Zimra (Verses of Song) represent a poetry reading that creates or reinforces a spiritually sensitive atmosphere, which is an experience unto itself as well as prelude to the recitation of Shema and Amida. Shaharit morning services, essentially the recitation of Shema and Amida, include popular “sing along” Hebrew piyutim (poems). Musaf services, the particular additional Amida for the holy day, include several interpretative or contemporary English readings as well as cantorial (and sometimes choral) elaborations. The shofar is sounded after the haftara reading and again during musaf on both days of Rosh Ha-Shana. The recitation of Shema and hearing the shofar are both considered Biblical precepts not to be missed.

Tickets

Tickets are required for adult entrance to most services. Among other reasons, this is to ensure the safety and security of the Congregation. Full-time students and military personnel on active duty may enter upon presentation of proper identification. Every person in the building must be identified before entry and is subject to search.

Some of the ushers serving during the Holy Days may be new members. Veteran members who do not recognize the ushers are urged to introduce themselves, as our ushers wish to meet as many members and visitors as they can. If you forget your tickets, our ushers will be able to find your name on the members or guests list.

For safety and planning reasons, pre-registration for children’s services is helpful. For registration information, contact office@beki.org or 203.389.2108 x14.

If you are interested in babysitting service, please contact office@beki.org or 203.389.2108 x14. Walk-in babysitting is not available and will not be available at all unless a prior arrangement is made. Children and infants are welcome in the sanctuary; quiet non-electric toys are permitted. Children and adults who prefer to crawl or sit on the floor are especially welcome in the carpeted open area in the front of the sanctuary.

Rosh HaShana

See our website under “Worship / High Holy Days” for a complete schedule and additional information.

Rosh HaShana services begin Sunday night 9 September 2018 at 6:45p with the Minha service, followed by Maariv at 7p. Candle Lighting is at 6:52p. The service concludes by 7:45p. Morning services begin at 8:30a on Monday 10 September; several services for children and youth, and a learners’ service, are held as well. Shofar is sounded at about 10:30a in the sanctuary; please come to the sanctuary at that hour, or as directed by the ushers, if you are elsewhere in the building.

Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held on the first day of Rosh HaShana, Monday 10 September, from 5:45p to 6p, at three locations. Two locations, the Edgewood Bridge and the Whitney Museum Covered Bridge, have been the...
site for several years. New this year is a third location, the West River at West Rock Playground (105 Valley Street, New Haven), which is handicapped-accessible and closer to BEKI, and will be held rain-or-shine even in stormy weather. The Tashlikh service is a popular outdoor event for people of all ages, and includes a brief prayer, poetry and singing. It is held beside a body of natural water. Please encourage friends and neighbors to join you. It is not necessary nor recommended to throw anything into the water. The access to the Edgewood Bridge is via a stairway; see park map for non-stair and handicap access at Edgewood Ave. and Pendleton Street.

On Monday afternoon of Rosh HaShana, mincha service begins at 6:45p, followed by the evening service at 7p. Candle lighting is after 7:52p. Candle lighting on the second night is about an hour later than on the first night because on the second night we wait until the first day of the holiday is complete before beginning the second day, whereas on the first night we light candles before sunset, thereby slightly extending the festival day beyond 48 hours.

On Tuesday 11 Sept., morning services are also at 8:30a. Youth services are held as well. Shofar is sounded on Tuesday morning, also around 10:25a or 10:30a. Afternoon service (minha) begins at 5:45p on Tuesday. Havdala (Home Ritual) is at 7:51p or later.

Tsom Gedalia Minor Fast Day

The day after Rosh HaShana, Wednesday 12 Sept. is observed as a minor fast day in commemoration of the assassination of Gedalia ben Akhikam, a puppet governor appointed over Judea by Babylonian King Nebukhadnezzar, around the year 582 BCE. The story is recounted in Jeremiah 41 as well as in Josephus’ Antiquities. The fast is referenced in Zechariah 8:19. Because the assassination appeared to result in an intensification of the foreign-backed civil war and the complete collapse of any semblance of Jewish autonomy at that point, it is observed to remind us of the danger of political violence even when wielded against compromised officials.

Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services

The annual Qever Avot Cemetery Memorial Services will be held at 10a at the Hamden Cemetery (Beth El), and at 11a at the West Haven Cemeteries (Keser Israel, Congregation Sinai, and others) on Sunday 16 September, which is the Sunday between Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. Rabbi Tilsen will lead a brief communal memorial service and will be available for individual prayers. Those who wish to visit the graves of their ancestors or loved ones but are unable to do so because of distance are invited to attend along with those whose loved ones are buried in the BEKI cemetery.

In preparation for the full-day fast of Yom Kippur, it is suggested that caffeine users reduce their intake to reduce withdrawal symptoms on the Holy Day. Some people avoid wearing leather shoes on Yom Kippur, so do not be surprised to see canvas sneakers or other non-leather shoes in use. Some also follow the custom of wearing a kittel (white robe) or other white garments on Yom Kippur. People who need to eat or drink or take medication on Yom Kippur may speak with an usher, or contact the office in advance, for assistance if needed. Rabbi Tilsen notes that “People for whom fasting represents a significant medical threat are prohibited from fasting. Water, milk or a simple meal should be consumed as needed.”

Taking a Stand

While it is customary to stand for some parts of the service, those for whom standing is difficult, impossible or dangerous should feel comfortable sitting. Rabbi Tilsen comments that “You get five points for answering ‘Amen!’ but only one point for standing, so keep it in perspective. This applies to people of all ages.”
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Days of Awe
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ies. If you would like a ride to the service, please contact the office a few days in advance.

In addition, a representative of the Cemetery Association will be present to answer questions and concerns of those owning or considering the purchase of plots at the BEKI cemeteries. Now is a good time to purchase your choice of prime locations for traditional Jewish burial in these historic cemeteries. Members enjoy a substantial discount; only traditionally honored remains of legally Jewish persons may be interred in these cemeteries.

Directions to the cemeteries and more information can be found at http://www.beki.org/about/directions-to-the-cemeteries/. For information on cemetery purchases or upkeep, please contact the BEKI Cemetery Association at cemetery@beki.org or 203.389.2108 x57.

Yom Kippur
On the afternoon before Yom Kippur, Tuesday 18 September, the Minha service begins at 6:30p. Candle Lighting is 6:37p (or earlier). The Kol Nidre and Maariv Evening services begin promptly at 6:45p and end by 8:45p.

On Wednesday 19 September, the Shaharit Morning services begin at 9:00a; the Yizkor Memorial service begins after 11:00a. The Minha Afternoon service begins at 5p, and is followed immediately by the Neila and Maariv services. The services end with Havdala and the sounding of the Shofar at 7:38p.

For security reasons, tickets are required for all Yom Kippur services, including the afternoon and Neila services. If you arrive without your tickets, please introduce yourself to a Greeter who will be able to find your name on the Members and Guest list.

George G. Posener Break Fast
Following the concluding Yom Kippur services on Wednesday 19 September 2018, members and ticket holders are invited to gather for our amazing Break Fast. For many years, George G. Posener sponsored the break fast in memory of his family. George G. Posener died on Yom Kippur 5772 (2011), so the break fast now honors his memory as well.

The George G. Posener Family Memorial Break Fast is prepared entirely by members of the BEKI community. Overseen by Darryl Kuperstock, most of the preparation and all of the cooking is done in advance, but the assembly and plating (and clean-up) of this banquet is done by the fantastic volunteers who join us in the kitchen during the afternoon break on Yom Kippur. It’s fun, intense, and extremely satisfying – so come help us out this year. Help is also appreciated in the days before Yom Kippur.

The George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break Fast Fund at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in blessed memory of his wife, parents, sisters, brother and two precious sons was established by George G. Posener in 2001 to create a lasting memorial at the time of the yahrzeits of his family members. Proceeds from this endowment provide for a special and meaningful community gathering at the end of Yom Kippur. The Posener Fund is held and managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

Visit us at www.beki.org

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Sukkot is Coming

A complete schedule of services is available in table format at http://www.beki.org/worship/sukkot-thru-simhat-torah/

If you feel a sense of loss at the end of the High Holy Days, do not despair: it is time for Sukkot, called the Festival by our ancestors. Lulav & Etrog are used each day of Sukkot except Shabbat, until and including Hoshana Rabba. Information on the festival observances and schedules are published at http://www.beki.org/worship/sukkot-thru-simhat-torah/.

Set up of the Morris “Moishe” Schnitman Memorial Sukka is planned for Thursday 20 September 2018 from 3p to 6p. Come when you can. Add a personal touch by bringing some of your own sekhakh (evergreen branches are preferred) for the roof to enhance the beauty and aroma of our congregational sukkah. Breakdown and storage are planned for Sunday 7 October, at 9:45a, following Shaharit. Bring gloves; portable power drivers and ladders are welcome. Please come and help. For information and to let us know if you can help, contact office@beki.org.

Lulav & Etrog Orders
BEKI Religious School will offer lulav and etrog orders. To order, please contact Ina at principal@beki.org 203.389.2108 x13.

Sukkot & Shabbat Ḥol HaMoed
Sukkot begins on Sunday evening 23 September 2018. Minhā afternoon service begins at 5:45p, followed immediately by the evening service, ending at 6:20p. The services will be held in the Sukka, weather permitting. Candle lighting on Sunday night is at 6:28p.

The morning service on Monday 24 September begins at 9:15a and includes the recitation of Hallel, waving of Lulav and Etrog, and the recitation of a Hoshana for that day. A BEKI Family Sukka Hop will run (or hop) on Monday from 12:45p to 2:45p, beginning at a local residence; reservations and location of first stop at office@beki.org.

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Hol HaMoed Sukkot Dinner
Wednesday 26 September 2018 at 6:30p (after Minha-Maariv services and after BRS), a Sukkot Dinner – Pizza in the Hut -- will be held in the Sukka. For payment and RSVP contact office@beki.org.

Shabbat Ḥol HaMoed
Shabbat Hol HaMoed, Saturday 29 September 2018, is marked by reading selections from the Biblical Book of Qohelet (“Ecclesiastes”). Qohelet, attributed by tradition to King Solomon in his old age, is a “wisdom” book that many see as being out of step with the rest of the Torah. While it includes such well-known passages as “To everything there is a season” and “There is nothing new under the sun,” it also contains statements that seem cynical or nihilistic. The Book will be chanted according to its beautiful and ancient melody.

Shabbat (Saturday) afternoon service begins at 5:45p and ends about 6:20p.

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Hol HaMoed Sukkot

“Hol HaMoed,” also known as the “intermediate” days of the festival, are those days between the first two and last two days of Sukkot (and of Pesah). They have a “semi-holiday” status. The rules against melakha (“work”) that apply on Festivals are not fully in force during this period, although we are encouraged to take this time as a holiday and to avoid work as much as possible. Our weekday morning services are enhanced with a brief Torah reading, the recitation of the musical “Hallel” section of Psalms, and a brief Musaf (additional) service. Weekday morning services thus take 60 minutes, instead of our usual 30 to 45 minutes. Afternoon and evening services are the usual length. The lulav (branches) and etrog (citron) are waved each morning of Hol HaMoed Sukkot (except Shabbat), and one is obliged to dwell (to eat is to live) in a sukka. Some morning and evening services will be held in the BEKI sukka. Some people do not wear tefillin during Hol HaMoed; others (common Ashkenazic practice outside of Israel) wear them forarahat but remove them before Hallel. Tefillin are never used on the full festival day.

Hosanna! Hosanna!

The Hoshana Rabba (“Great Hosanna”) morning service on Sunday 30 Sept. 2018 begins at 9a and ends by 11:10a. This is one of the most colorful, fun and tactile services of the year, featuring seven circuits around the sukka or shul with lulav and etrog (palm and citron) 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 to this “service for all ages.”

Hoshana Rabba is a semi-festival on which work is not strictly prohibited as it is on the major festivals. It serves as a “closing ceremony” for the weeklong Sukkot observance in preparation for the concluding festival of Shemini Atseret. If the sukka is dry and rain or snow is not imminent, the Hoshanot and Haqafot will be in the sukka.

Shemini Atseret & Yizkor Memorial Service

The Festival of Shemini Atseret (“Eighth Day of Assembly”) serves as a conclusion to the autumn Festival of Sukkot (“Booths”). The festival begins Sunday night 30 September 2018. The minha service begins at 5:45p; the festival maariv service begins immediately after, about 5:55p. It is customary to light a memorial candle on that night immediately before lighting the Festival candles. Candle lighting is 6:16p (or earlier).

During the morning service, which begins at 9:15a on Monday 1 October, Hallel is chanted. The unique festival nusah (musical mode) is used for this service. For Past-President Carole Bass’s comment on Hallel, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak2Wqg2Xvks (youtube cv “Carole Bass Hallel”).

The Yizkor Memorial Service is also incorporated into the Shemini Atseret liturgy. In the Yizkor service we call upon the memories of our ancestors and loved ones who, while not physically present, are part of our “Assembly.” During that memorial service, individual and communal prayers and remembrances will be offered for all of our departed loved ones.

Simhat Torah Celebration

Congregation Beth Eil-Keser Israel is the place to be for the evening and morning of Simhat Torah. Minha services begin at 5:45p and evening services begin at 6:00p on Monday 1 Oct. 2018. Evening services include seven haqafot (circumambulatory dances) with Torah scrolls and a brief Torah reading, the only time that we read Torah in public at night. Candle lighting on Monday night is after 7:15p.

Festival Morning services begin at 9:15a on Tuesday 1 October. Three Torah scrolls are removed from the ark (around 10:00a) and seven brief haqafot are conducted. The final chapters of the Book of Deuteronomy, parashat Ve-Zot Ha-Berakhah, are read, followed by the opening passages of the Book of Genesis, part of parasha Bereishit. This concludes the annual Torah reading cycle, and begins the new cycle. This is particularly joyful at BEKI because so many members are involved in Torah reading throughout the year, and these readers dedicate considerable effort to preparing accurate and melodious chanting. A maftir portion is read from Numbers, which describes the observance of Shemini Atseret in the ancient Temple. The hadafis is recited from the opening passages of Joshua, which is the sequel to Deuteronomy, sometimes called the “sixth book” of the Five Books of Moses. Goodie Bags will be presented by the Sisterhood to all the deserving children at services evening and morning. Festival minha service is 5:45p; Havdala (Home Ritual) at 7:13p or later.

Sukka Hop

Thursday 5 October 2017, 12:45p-2:45p.

A light progressive meal and Sukkot activity will take place at each sukka; RSVP to office@beki.org by 4 October so hosts can plan. Minor children must be accompanied by their adult. Wear good walking shoes for the trek. Bring your favorite songs to sing for the walks, and running strollers for your little ones.
**BMP**

Registration & Payment form for Benei Mitzva Program and more info at beki.org under “Youth” tab. Class begins 12 September, 5p-6:20p; register now before price increase. BMP meets same Wednesdays as BRS.

**BRS**

BEKI Religious School classes begin Wednesday 12 September, 4p–6:15p. Register or info principal@beki.org.

**High Holy Days Preparation**

Shabbat Schmoozes in Elul for Heart, Mind and Soul. Structure of High Holy Days Liturgy with Rabbi Carl Astor, 1 September; Teshuva & Recovery with Rabbi Rick Eisenberg, 8 September. After Qiddush Lunch, about 12:45p in BEKI’s Library.

**Bee Right Back**

Rosh HaShana Honey & Bee Program, Sunday 2 September, 10a. CT State Beekeeper with live-hive demonstration. See active honey-making, make beeswax havdala candles, learn about colony collapse disorder.

**Poetry Café with Shula Chernoff**

Poetry writing with our in-house Poet and Teacher. Work on poems on themes of life, tradition and change. Coffee; may publish your work. Sundays 11:30a on 30 September, 7 October, 14 October.

**Shabbat Schmooze**


**Shofar So Good**

Anyone wishing to participate in the Shofar blowing on Rosh Hashana, either in the sanctuary or for the children’s programs, please contact Isaiah Cooper icoooper@cooper-law.net 203.233-4547.

**Benei Mitzva Program Registration**


**Eruv**

See New Haven Eruv status at http://www.nheruv.net. Also info on boundaries, contributions to current capital campaign, and more. Accepts Paypal and credit cards.

**News Feed**


**Donate**

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

**Jewish Montessori Preschool**

BEKI-affiliate Ezra Academy’s school for children ages 2-5, info Montessori@ezraacademy.org. Spaces are available.

**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.

**The Facebook**

BEKI has a FB group. Members are welcome to post items that are respectful and of interest to our community.
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:

Steven Fraade, 22 September, parashat HaAzinu

Eli Ahmadi and Kian Ahmadi, 6 October, benei mitzva, parashat Bereishit

Rabbi Alan Lovins, 13 October, parashat Noah

Daniel Manning, bar mitzva, 27 October, parashat VaYera

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 shul-goers alike to explore the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, with Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Nadav Sela, Isaiah Cooper and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature 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, but will meet at 9:45a on the Monday of Labor Day (3 September) following the 9a service. 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. Word of the Week will be on holiday break for the Holy Day season and will resume 17 October 2018.

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 during the school year. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at 203.397.2513.

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with
Adult Studies
Continued from Page 9

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 meets each Thursday but is on holiday break and will resume 2 October 2018.

Mazal tov to –
Edward & Michelle Abramovitz on the birth of baby boy Abramovitz in July, and to siblings Jake and Gabby
Alice & Paul Kosowski on the birth of grandson Nisan Ber
Jay Sokolow & Ina Silverman on the birth of their grandchild Sophie Maytal Silverman, and to parents Shai and Robyn, and sibling Maya
Corey Stone & Susan McDonald on the qiddushin under a Huppa of son Daniel Stone & Aliza Zelinman
Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen on the qiddushin under a Huppa of son Tani Cohen-Fraade & Abby Weiss
Alan Lovins & Trish Loving on the birth of great-grandson Yeshaya Meir Marchette
Alan Lovins & Trish Loving on the bar mitzva observance of grandson Jacob Briones Lovins

Upcoming Benei Mitzva
Elia Ahmadi and Kian Ahmadi, children of Ramin Ahmadi & Roya Hakakian, 5-6 October 2018, parashat Bereishit

Noah Logue, son of Michael & Elona Logue, 6 October 2018, parashat Bereishit, off-site (Vermont)
Daniel Manning, son of Chaya & Edward Manning, 26-27 October 2018, parashat VaYera

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.” The June 2018 income was $126 ($129 in March) from Amazon Link (and just $16 from Smile January through March 2018).
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• Amy Margolis in memory of Joan Goldhamer
• Amy Margolis in memory of Joan Davenny
• Louis & Lisa Petillo in memory of loved ones

Qiddush Sponsors (minimum $320)
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Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
• To BEKI from the Cummings family in memory of Leon Cummings
• To BEKI from the Cummings family in memory of Ruth Gittelmann
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• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by the Oppenheimer family
• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by Jessey Palumbo
• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by the Weiner-Rastelli family
• To Libby & Mark Abraham with sympathy on the passing of Jane Gershaw by Amy Marx, Rob Schönberger, Sophie, Jacob & Esther
• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• To Howard Gralla with wishes for a speedy recovery by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• To Paul & Carole Bass in honor of the birth of their grandson Caleb Heschel by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
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• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by the Freiman-Light family
• To Paul & Carole Bass in honor of the birth of their grandson Caleb Heschel by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
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• To Carl & Sharon Astor with best wishes in their new home by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
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• To Marcia & Reuben Colten in honor of their Benei Mitzva by Gloria Cohen

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
• To Isaac & Danielle Callaghan with sympathy on the passing of Joseph Callaghan by Bill Shragis
• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by Dan & Sharon Prober
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• To Diane Cummings & family with sympathy on the passing of Leon Cummings by Bill Shragis
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Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund
• To Paul & Carole Bass in honor of the birth of their grandson Caleb Heschel by Sid & Donna Levine

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• To Isaac & Danielle Callaghan with sympathy on the passing of Joseph Callaghan by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
• To Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen in honor of his 25th anniversary at BEKI by Mr. & Mrs. Roger A. Levine
• To Roxanne Cutter with sympathy on the passing of Gladys Lipkin by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
• In memory of her sister Zelda Frankel Katz by Shirley Mattler
• In memory of her sister-in-law Dorothy Seigle Mattler by Shirley Mattler

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
• In memory of Ben Marks by Lynne Marks
• In memory of Raye F. Leavitt by Paulette Byer
• In memory of Ann L. Burstein by Paulette Byer
• In memory of Ann Rogoff by Paulette Byer
• In memory of Louis Rogoff by Paulette Byer
• In memory of her father-in-law Ezra Sagerman by Doris Sagerman
• In memory of Arnold Levine by Fania Levine
• In memory of Dov-Bear Naiman by Polina Naiman
• In memory of Louis Hodes by Jeff & Lynne Heisner and David & Joyce Popowski
• In memory of Grace Goldberg Cohen Geisinger by Lewis & Renee Cohen
• In memory of her mother Tillie Leah Friedman by Harriet Friedman & family
• In memory of Francis Mann by Lynne Marks
• In memory of Molly Cohen by Carolyn Chavkin
• In memory of Molly Cohen by Alan Cohen
• In memory of Alan Jay Hodes by Lynne & Jeff Heisner & David & Joyce Popowski
• In memory of Robert Pintell by Janet Chernikoff
• In memory of George Schnitman by Larry Schnitman
• In memory of Isadore Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
• In memory of Mordechai Rosmarin by Jessey Palumbo
• In memory of Bernard Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
• In memory of Richard Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
• In memory of Shirley Chain by Carol Marcus
• In memory of Raymond Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
• In memory of Rose & George Feen by Hildy Feen
• In memory of Louis Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
• In memory of Milton Pintell by Janet Chernikoff
• In memory of Dorothy Kagan by Janet Chernikoff
• In memory of his sister Sue Eisenberg by Rick & Judy Eisenberg
• In memory of Ruth Rosner by Sara-Anne & Hillel Auerbach
• In memory of Shirley Goldberg by Eileen Schuman
• In memory of Jacob Cohen by Betty Swinkin
• In memory of Samuel Garfinkel by Lawrence & Doralee Garfinkel
• In memory of Everett Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
• In memory of George Ralph Schnitman by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
• In memory of Anita Saxe by Stanley Saxe
• In memory of Sondra Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer
• In memory of David Herschderfer by Sherman Herschderfer
• In memory of her aunt Lillian Berman by Sherry Kent
• In memory of Ruth Snyder by Robert Snyder & Eileen Schuman
• In memory of Joseph Swinkin by Betty Swinkin
• In memory of his mother Edith Ignal by Alan & Toby Ignal
• In memory of his dear mother Faye Schwartz by David Schwartz
• In memory of Martha Donner by Lillian Donner-Jacobson
• In memory of Nathan Kiner by Robert & Annette Kiner
• In memory of Rose Freedman by Annette & Robert Kiner
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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Arbiter of Justice

During a heated debate in the British House of Commons, in response to a member who insulted him based on his Jewish heritage, Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli famously said, “Yes, I am a Jew, and when the ancestors of the right honorable gentleman were brutal savages in an unknown island, mine were priests in the Temple of Solomon.” Yeah, but what have you done for me lately? One can bask in the glow of ancient accomplishments for only so long.

Students of Talmud at BEKI may come to the conclusion, correctly, that Jewish law was ahead of its time. It remains so in most areas. Not the courts, necessarily, but the book of rules and procedures compare quite favorably, but of course we are biased toward our own values which are embedded in the law. For those who think Jewish law, in general, is archaic, medieval or just outmoded, please complete the following worksheet. Half the answers are provided, so it should be easy.

Hebrew vs Connecticut Law & History Quiz

Hebrew Law Founded c. 1300 BCE. Connecticut Colony Organized March 1636 CE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Hebrew Law</th>
<th>Connecticut Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminalized Marital Rape</td>
<td>Before 0 CE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminalized Striking Spouse</td>
<td>Before 1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Witch Burning*</td>
<td>About 70 BCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Formal Judicial Execution*</td>
<td>Around 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Ownership by Single Women</td>
<td>Before 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Ownership by Married Women</td>
<td>Before 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obligation to Educate Child</td>
<td>Before 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Full Termination of Marriage</td>
<td>About 70 BCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed Inter-Racial Marriages*</td>
<td>Never Banned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established “No-Fault” Divorce</td>
<td>About 50 BCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ended Long-Term or Life-time Alimony</td>
<td>About 50 BCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strictly Limited State Intrusion in Marriage</td>
<td>Around 1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Minor Woman’s Consent to Marry</td>
<td>Before 70 BCE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforced Women’s Control Over</td>
<td>Before 1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Availability in Marriage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Women’s Right of</td>
<td>Before 800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Satisfaction in Marriage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provided Publicly-Funded Social</td>
<td>Before 1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers to Resolve Marital Discord</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Indenture of Citizen to Six Years</td>
<td>Biblical</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ended Amputation as Punishment</td>
<td>Never Allowed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Notes: Levirate Marriage provided a right-of-refusal to both parties. Levirate Marriage and Polygamy were banned in most of the Jewish world around the year 1,000 although the ritual of refusal for Levirate Marriage was retained in some places, and Polygamy was permitted in Muslim lands where the practice was normative among non-Jews. Occasional extra-judicial executions by Jewish local governments are recorded. Marriage to non-citizens was prohibited but occurred and was recognized, and marriage to citizens of hostile states was banned in ancient times, though all without respect to race. Date for Witch Burning includes other forms of execution such as hanging.
Dance Me to the End of Tuesday
Israeli Dance on Tuesday evenings for Beginners, 7:15p–8:15p; for Everyone 8:15p–10p, Social Hall.

Pirqe Avot Opening Event
Meet the new Pirqe Avot Lev Shalem by Rabbi Editor Martin Cohen, Rabbinic Panel Discussion with Rabbi Fred Hyman, Rabbi Rona Shapiro and Rabbi J-J Tilsen, Sunday 4 Nov. 10a.

Adele Tyson and Mimi Glenn of BEKI Sisterhood show off this year’s Special Recognition Award from Marrakech.