

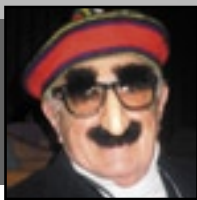
A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKIbulletin

March 2005

II Adar 5765
Vol. 11 Issue 3

In this issue:



Purim at BEKI
page 8



Bat Mitzva:
Rachel Green
page 6



Yom Iyun:
Rabbinic Seminar
page 12

Gala Auction

BEKI members, along with friends and neighbors, are invited to a gala "Bidding for BEKI" auction on Saturday night 12 March beginning at 7:30p. The evening promises to be a lot of fun, with live music by keyboard artist Gary Lynes, elegant hors d'oeuvres, wine and soft drinks, followed by coffee and desserts. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance or \$30 at the door. The price of admission entitles you to bid on a wide range of wonderful goods and services. Proceeds will be applied to the operating budget of the shul.

In addition to an extensive silent auction, master auctioneer Harold Lindy will conduct a live auction for some of the most exciting offerings. Among the donated auction items are:

Dinner for 10, catered by Neil Abel •
One-year family membership to the

JCC • Week at a vacation cottage in Nova Scotia • One-hour flight in a private airplane • Tickets to theater, concerts, sports events and other local attractions • Original works of art and hand-crafted jewelry • Overnight stay at the Omni at Yale Hotel • Art books • Sports memorabilia • Judaica • Hebrew tutoring and Torah reading lessons • Home-cooked



Artwork by Cynthia Reuben

Saturday Night
March 12 • 7:30p
\$25 per ticket in advance /
\$30 at the door

Kosher gourmet food by BEKI chefs •
Shabbat dinner for you and your family at the Benson-Tilsen home • Gift certificates to local stores and salons •
Gift baskets of goodies.

Hard-working volunteers have been soliciting donations and coordinating all aspects of the event for months. Chaired by Donna Levine and Robert Lettick, the group includes Jennifer Botwick, Jennifer Fleming, Joanne Foodim, Linden Grazier-Zerbarini, Judith Hoberman, Karel Koenig, Darryl Kuperstock, Bryna Pauker, Gila Reinstein, Sherry Rothman, Natan and Lori Weinstein, Marge Wiener, and David Wright. Cynthia Rubin provided the invitation art. Peggy Hackett, our multi-talented office manager, is the glue holding this complex project together, and, as usual, she does it with humor and grace.

Help will be needed in the days right before the auction and during the

(continued on page 2)

Mark Your Calendar

☒ **Gala Auction**

12 March 2005 7:00p

☒ **Trip to JTS** in NYC

20 March 2005 9:00a to 4:00p

☒ **Wine-Tasting**

9 April 2005

Cover Story (cont.)

event itself, to set up, decorate, greet people as they come in, and assist with the collection of money and disbursal of items. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Donna or Rob directly, or leave a message with Peggy in the BEKI office.

If you have an item or a service that you would like to donate, but have not been contacted about it yet, please call the BEKI office right away.

The event on 12 March will give us all a chance to get together to party, bid for -- and win -- great bargains, and raise much-needed money for the synagogue. We're counting on your participation. Come, enjoy the fun, and bid generously!

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 06515-1724

or email: jjtilsen@beki.org

or see our web page: www.beki.org

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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Sisterhood Torah Fund



Your dedication and generosity to the Torah Fund campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism supporting the Jewish Theological Seminary

continue to thrive.

Seven women purchased the 2005 "Torah Fund Pin" and became benefactors. By purchasing this beautiful pin they are making a statement: "I support the perpetuation of Judaism."

To become a Benefactor and receive the "TIKVAH" pin, you must pledge a minimum of \$180.00 and you have until May to complete payment. Please call me at 407-0314 to get more details.

Our benefactors this year are:

Violet Ludwig
Grace Geisinger
Barbara Cushen
Miriam Benson
Diana Friedman Opton
Ruth Greenblatt
Margot Roten

Thank you for your donations. Don't rush out to buy cards – call 407-0314 to have cards for all occasions sent for you. Only \$3.00 each (includes postage).

Barbara Cushen
Torah Fund Chairman

Thanks to the following for purchasing cards.

Get Well:

- Gary Kops from Jennifer Botwick
- Henry Rothchild from Grace Geisinger
- Mrs. Harold Goldberg from Grace Geisinger
- Rose Dworski from Grace Geisinger

Mazel Tov:

- Margot Roten on her milestone birthday from Jennifer Botwick & Michael Ries, Barbara Cushen, Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- Happy Birthday to Estelle Handelman from Grace Geisinger
- Jennifer Solomon Matisoff on the birth of twins from Louis Petrillo

In Memory Of:

- Father of Gene & Gail Blitzer from Jay Brown
- Juda Zahavi to the Zahavi Family from Anna Goldberg
- Sarah Lurie to Deborah Ederly & Family from Anna Goldberg
- Michael Franford to Mrs. Michael Franford from Anna Goldberg
- Dr. Alan Rozen to his daughter Marilyn Mazanek from Louis Petrillo
- Joseph Soffer to Mrs. Barbara Soffer & Family from Ruth & Sam Rafterowitz
- Ted Kaplan to Barbara Soffer from Ruth & Sam Rafterowitz
- Sister, Betty to Marion Schwartz from Ruth & Sam Rafterowitz
- Esther Langden to her niece Reeve Lynes from David Wright & Sandra McKenney

- Louis Belowsky to David & Rayna Belowsky & Family from Anna Goldberg, The BEKI Hessed Committee, Adele Tyson
- Janet Brown to Jay Brown from Ruth Greenblatt, Bea & Milton Smirnoff

Kosher Wines

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for reservations
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Dear Rabbi,

What is the sonic difference between the Hebrew letters *het* and a *khaf*? Is it only a spelling issue?

Signed,
Khraim in Spain

Dear Fair Gentleman,

In Modern Hebrew, there are two versions of *het*. One is that of the “Ashkenazim,” who pronounce it the same as the *khaf*. The other (and generally more historically “authentic”) is that of the “Sefardim” and others who pronounce the *het* as a softer unvoiced guttural. You can make a close approximation to this *het* by trying to say “*khaf*” without using your vocal cords, and by restricting your throat farther back, and not as fully, as when pronouncing *khaf*. It is this second version of *het*, which distinguishes it from *khaf*, which I try to teach my students.

In Biblical Hebrew, these two letters were clearly pronounced differently. The sounds preceded the letters, so



the existence of a letter is itself evidence that it represents a distinct phoneme. In ancient translation of Hebrew place and proper names, these two letters are usually transliterated differently, further evidence that they sounded different. In fact, there apparently were two variations of the pronunciation of *het*, but for us, one is enough.

Today, we often transliterate the *het* as an underdotted *h*, and the *khaf* as *kh*. Even if the letters are pronounced the same, the difference in spelling helps the reader identify the original root, which is essential to understanding Hebrew.

Weekday morning services at BEKI

Begin your day with spiritual renewal and fellowship. The Monday morning service (7:00a to 7:45a) includes a brief Torah service, and is followed by the Rashi Study Group (7:45a to 8:30a). Tuesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) are attended by a unique mix of

people. Wednesday mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) features a continuing group of friends, followed by a 30-minute period of Talmud Study (7:30a to 8:00a). Thursday mornings (8:15a to 9:00a) are ideal for people who may not wish to rise earlier or who bring children to school, and includes a brief Torah service. It is perfect for those who wish to avoid crowds. Friday

mornings (7:00a to 7:30a) present an ideal setting for someone wishing to help develop a cadre of dedicated daily daveners.

In addition to fulfilling the daily mitzvot of qeriat shema (recitation of the Shema), tefila (prayer), Talmud Torah (study) and Tzedaka (charity), attendance also affords those in mourning a Minyan so that they can recite qaddish. Audio recordings of some of the prayers are available at the BEKI website under “Audio Library.” Regular participants in these services are always glad to welcome additional worshippers. Call our office at 389-2108 x14 or see www.beki.org/schedule.html for a complete schedule.

Maariv Evening Service

The daily maariv evening service comprises the recitation of the Shema and its accompanying blessings, as well as the individual recitation of the Amida. The maariv service (also known as arvit) provides an opportunity to fulfill the Biblical commandment of reciting the Shema at night as well as fulfilling the rabbinically mandated recitation of the Amida. An audio recording of the Shema is available in BEKI’s web Audio Library.

Watch those Kids!

Parents of young children attending services at BEKI are asked to be sure their children are always under their supervision. Children are welcome to be in the sanctuary with their adults or in their age-appropriate youth service. Unsupervised children may be a safety concern to themselves or to others.

JTS Library Trip

BEKI is offering a trip to The Jewish Theological Seminary of America (www.jtsa.edu) in New York on Sunday 20 March, along with friends from Congregation B'nai Jacob. The Seminary is the scholarly home of Conservative Judaism. The highlight of the trip will be a tour of the Seminary's world-renowned library at which time Rabbi Murray Levine, a BEKI congregant and Seminary graduate, will present to the Library an out-of-print autographed edition of Eli Wiesel's book, *Ani Maamin* ("I Believe"). Following the presentation, the group will tour the Seminary. Lunch will be served on the bus. Reservations are limited and must be submitted by 1 March. We will leave from BEKI at 9:00a and will return at 4:00p. The cost of the trip, including lunch, will be \$35 per person. For reservations or information contact Sherry Rothman 397-2249 or Peggy at 389-2108 x14 office@beki.org. For more information on how you can support the Seminary, contact Barbara Cushen at 407-0314.

SUN SAT MAT ACT

Students who are Shabbat observers and who plan to take standardized tests such as the SAT, MAT and ACT may register for regularly scheduled Sunday test dates. The SAT will be administered on several Sundays throughout the year. For more information on Sunday testing, see www.collegeboard.com/sat/html/students/reg004.html. If you need a letter from a rabbi, contact Rabbi Tilsen at 389-2108 x10 or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Youth News

A USYer's fond recollections of International Convention:

This past December vacation, while many of my school friends were off tanning under the sun, I spent eight fun-filled days in the windy city of Chicago. The Hanefesh Region spent pre-convention together at Camp Henry Horner in Illinois. Together, we saw a dolphin show at Shedd Aquarium, shopped at Navy Pier and attended an improv performance at Second City Theatre. Following an amazing Shabbat shared with the Pinwheel Region, we partied at a pre-convention dance. Then we checked into the downtown Chicago Marriott, where International Convention '04 really began. Wearing our regional shirts, we danced into the main ballroom for opening session, while singing Jewish music at the top of our lungs. There were summer program reunions, limud (study sessions) about music in Jewish prayer, a carnival for the Chicago children, a Rich Recht concert, and a convention dance. We voted for the new International Board, and raised money for SATO (Social Action/Tikkun Olam). We had ruah sessions after almost every meal and an arts and music festival. We made new friends and shared memories with old. Even those who suffered from the METNY Plague (a passing virus) would agree that it was an amazing convention that will never be forgotten. I can't wait for International Convention '05 in Philly. I hope to see you there!

-Ariel Fein, member of BEKI-BJ USY

In addition to International Convention, other great ways to have fun with

USY are chapter and regional events. Upcoming BEKI-BJ chapter events include an Israeli progressive dinner for Purim on 26 March and a trip to New York City on 10 April. USY is also taking part in a Yom HaShoa relay on 5 May. Upcoming Hanefesh regional events include Senior Night on 31 March and the annual Spring Convention on 1-3 April. Come join us for these awesome events! For more information, please email our advisor, Ari, at ari.teplitz@yale.edu.

Your Ad Here

The **BEKI Bulletin** is sent to over 700 households and businesses and is repeatedly consulted as a reference document. Advertisers report positive results.

For rates and to place your ad, contact Peggy at office@beki.org (389-2108 x14).



Andy Weinstein

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LifeCycle

Bat Mitzva: Rachel Green



Rachel Green, daughter of Donald & Ann Green, will lead and participate in services as a bat mitzva on Shabbat 4-5 March, parashat VaYaqhel during the 6:00p service Friday and the 9:15a service Shabbat morning. Rachel is a student in the Benei Mitzva Program and the BEKI Religious School.

Mazal Tov to

- Rebecca Gratz & Joseph Callaghan on the birth of their daughter Danielle Stephanie Callaghan, on 8 February 2005; and to big brother Isaac
- Ruth Greenblatt on the birth of her grandson Andrew John D'Agostino on 12 January 2005
- Hyla Greenberg on the birth of her great-nephews Abraham Martin Matisoff and Daniel Israel Matisoff on 3 November 2005. Abraham and Daniel are great-grandsons of the late Abraham & Marion Goldstein

Births, Baby Event and Benei Mitzva Notices can be found on BEKI's website www.beki.org in the Lifecycle section.

Welcome New Members

Michelle Avenia and Rebecca and Arielle

Death Notices and Yahrzeit Observances listed by name and date can be found on BEKI's website www.beki.org in the Lifecycle section.

HaMaqom Yinahem

*With sorrow we note
the passing of*

Charles B. Stone
father of Susan Stone
(& Roger) Levine

Sean Bowler
fiancé of Adena Herskovitz


Rubin Schwartz
father of David Schwartz
and of Hannah Schwartz;
step-father of Harold
(& Barbara) Miller

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Be Happy it's Adar – Again

*Mishenikhnas
Adar marbim
besimha* – When
Adar begins, joy
increases.
Talmud Eruvin
29a

The current year on the Hebrew calendar, 5765, has 13 months. This extra month is commonly called “Adar Sheni,” or “Second Adar.” This additional month is added to seven of every 19 years to keep the 29- or 30-day lunar months in sync with the 365¹⁴ day solar year. Purim is celebrated in Second Adar in these 13-month years.

Purim Is *Still* Coming – Order Mishloah Manot Today

This year we will again help you celebrate the Purim mitzva of *mishloah manot* - the sending of gifts – and *matanot la-eyyonim* – presents to the poor – with our beautiful BEKI Purim Baskets. No worry! No fuss! No shopping!

Order forms are available at www.beki.org/forms.html, in the literature rack in the lobby, and from our office at 389-2108 x14. Start making your list. There is enough time to check it twice!

Baskets will be available for pick-up at BEKI. Volunteers are needed to deliver baskets! Recipients outside of the New Haven area may receive a card in lieu of a basket at the com-

mittee's discretion depending on the availability of volunteers. Call Ada Fenick to volunteer at (203) 397-3789.

The cost for each basket is \$5.00 for member recipients and \$6.00 for non-members. The cost for each reciprocal purchase is \$5.00, unless you choose only reciprocity in which case the cost is \$6.00 per basket, for which you will be billed. We offer a special rate of \$260 to those families interested in sending to the entire BEKI community. The order form and payment must be received by 7 March 2005.

Fast of Esther

The holiday of Purim commemorates the failure of a genocidal plot against the Jews in the Persian Kingdom over twenty centuries ago. The dramatic (and some would say comic) story is told in the Biblical Book of Esther, which is read on the night and morning of the holiday.

Taanit Esther (The Fast of Esther) is observed the day before Purim, Thursday 24 March. Taanit Esther marks the serious side of the holiday. While on Purim we joyously celebrate the failure of the plot and mock the racism of its hatches, on the Fast of Esther we fast and pray that we will bring the world to an era that does not know the threat of genocide. The Fast of Esther begins at dawn on Thursday 24 March 2005. Thursday *shaharit* morning services are from 8:15a to 9:00a and include “Avinu Malkenu -- Our Father, Our King,” as on Yom Kippur. No food or drink is consumed. The Fast of Esther is a minor observance, and therefore those with any significant medical contraindication should not

undertake the fast. The *minha* afternoon and *maariv* evening service are from 5:45p to 6:15p. The fast ends at 6:36p, or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

Megilla Readings

The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read during the evening service, which begins at 6:36p on Thursday 24 March 2005, and then again during the morning service, which begins at 7:00a on Friday 25 March 2005.

Hearing the reading of the Megilla (or reading it oneself) is a Biblical commandment (*mitzva*). Other Purim *mitzvot* (religious imperatives) include sending food gifts to a neighbor, alms for the poor and a feast on Purim day. Children are reminded to keep their adults from talking or making too much ruckus during the actual Megilla reading at BEKI. If the congregation makes too much noise during the reading, we will have to start over to insure that everyone hears each word.

Groggers (noisemakers) will be available so that no one will have to hear the name of the Purim story's villain reverberate though our sacred halls on our sacred cinderblocks. The use of internal combustion engines, explosives or blackboards as noisemakers is no longer permitted at BEKI. Please keep hands and feet within the sanctuary until the service comes to a complete stop.

Please do not bring firearms, explosive devices or weapons, or any toy that resembles any form of weapon (these will be confiscated at the door

(continued on page 14)

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A Message from the Education Director



Symbols

I have been thinking a great deal about symbols lately since I am teaching a new class at MERKAZ entitled: Who wears the kippot, the burka, the cross? I find myself very tuned into head coverings and I wonder if they are religious, a fashion statement, tradition or maybe a bit of each. My thinking was deepened by an incident that happened to me at the Department of Motor Vehicles in December.

With a birthday approaching, I dutifully stood in line for my photo ID. The clerk said, "Remove your hat." I replied, "I keep my head covered for religious reasons". She said, "You must sign an affidavit stating that or you cannot get your license."

The "sixties" part of me thought... "Wait, why do I have to sign this document? Is this another invasion of my privacy like the government knowing what books I take out of the library?" My decision to keep my head covered is private and personal and a deep part of my faith. The morning of

my appearance before a *beit din* (rabbinic court), six years ago, I decided to keep my head covered to separate my old life and faith from my entrance into the covenant, my new faith. Then I thought, "No, It's not me they want... It's Muslim women in *burkas*."

The entire ride home I pondered how I believe that in this post 9/11 world, we attach much more importance to the appearance of strangers...are they dark complected, why can't we see their eyes?

Recently in Israel I was very cognizant of symbols. As we *davened* on Shabbat, overlooking the Kotel, the crescent on the minaret next to the Dome of the Rock glistened golden and the imam's call to prayer wafted over our

Hebrew prayers, almost beautifully, not jarring, not blending. Many of our Israeli teen hosts wore large Magen David's, some wooden, some silver. I watched our teens emulate their new friends, their Israeli peers, and by trip's end, about a third of the group proudly wore their Magen Davids home. I have also watched this happen on the March of the Living.

So my message is... these symbols of our diverse faiths have different levels of meanings for the different wearers. The symbols may be by choice, by custom, or by law; but we must try to validate, understand and respect them all.

LK

BEKI Religious School

BEKI Religious students celebrated Tu BeShevat with the Israeli emissaries Beccy Adler and Eilam Oren. As is the custom in Israel we created fruit "creatures" from oranges, apples, dates, apricots, grapes and cherries. The students were very creative! Then Eilam read the beloved children's book, "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. The program concluded with Eilam and Beccy teaching the common trees of Israel in Hebrew: cedar, willow and date.

The students are preparing a time-line of 350 Years of Jews in America. Our studies started in September with the arrival of the Recife refugees in New Amsterdam, continued through the colonies, through the role of the Jews in the Revolutionary War, to restrictions on citizenship, to the dilemmas of Shabbat and keeping kosher to involvement in early American politics.

We will proceed in March and April to study the "Jewish West," the philanthropists, the role of Jewish women such as Rebecca Gratz, the first catechisms for Jewish children, the founding of Jewish societies and publications. We will conclude our studies by presenting our research to the congregation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEKI Religious School

6 March
Facing Anti-Semitism
Seventh graders and their
Parents
Off-site
10:00a to 12:30p

13 March
Museum of Jewish
Heritage
Grades 3-7
Off-site
9:00a to 3:00p

20 March
Purim Carnival
9:00a to noon

April
350 Years of Jews
In America Celebration
JCC
9:30-12:30

10 April
BRS Model Seder
10:00a to noon
Parents Invited

Social Action

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries & Fresh Start New Haven

Reed Smith, the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries (ICM) coordinator, visited Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen and Dr. Lauren Kempton to explore opportunities for congregants to continue to be involved in volunteer organizations that promote social justice. BEKI is a member of the ICM. A pressing need at this time is for help with a new program called Fresh Start - New Haven. This is a volunteer mentoring program of male, non-violent offenders who are transitioning to the community at state-approved community justice programs called Sierra Center and the Re-Interview Transitional Residential Center in New Haven.

Fifty-five male clients are accommodated at these programs for periods ranging from three to eighteen months. The goal of the mentoring project is to develop a positive association between clients and volunteer adult male mentors based on respect, honesty and open communication.

If you are male and willing to give one hour a week, please contact Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 lkempton@beki.org

Kulanu

Kulanu participants have embarked upon a study of Israel. Sessions have explored Israeli geography, the various waves of immigration (aliya) to Israel, the Halutzim (early pioneers), and present day Israel. Israeli Emissaries Eilam Oren and Beccy Adler will visit and participate in a lunch hosted by Chapel Haven.

Saul's Circle

Saul's Circle participants have been studying human rights in their Thursday sessions in the Learning Barn. February was devoted to workshops on Black History and Civil Rights with the showing of the award-winning film, "The Lunch Date." The focus for March is human rights. Participants explore the derivation and history of the word "genocide" and apply their lessons to the current conflict in the Sudan.

Special Needs Seder

Sisterhood under the leadership of Adele Tyson and Ruthie Greenblatt is pleased to announce the date for the Special Needs Seder, 11 April. The Special Needs Seder is for members of Kulanu, Saul's Circle, the Shalom Group from Jewish Family Services and Southbury Training School, and other local people with similar special needs. This year the students of BEKI Religious School will help lead the Seder. If you would like to help, contact Adele Tyson or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 lkempton@beki.org.

Maariv Evening Service

The daily maariv evening service comprises the recitation of the Shema and its accompanying blessings, as well as the individual recitation of the Amida. The maariv service (also known as arvit) provides an opportunity to fulfill the Biblical commandment of reciting the Shema at night as well as fulfilling the rabbinically mandated recitation of the Amida. An audio recording of the Shema is available in BEKI's web Audio Library.



Rabbi Jack Bloom to address Rabbis at BEKI



Rabbi Murray Levine, covener

Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in BEKI's Library Chapel, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the Shahrith (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, **Rabbi Alan Lovins** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan 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 for the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.

Yom Iyun: Rabbinic Conference

BEKI will host a Yom Iyun Rabbinic Seminar for Connecticut Valley rabbis on Wednesday 30 March. The *yom iyun* will feature the teaching of Steven Fraade, Rabbi Jack Bloom and Rabbi Ben Scolnic.

Cosponsored by the New Haven Board of Rabbis, the Connecticut Valley Rabbinical Assembly, and the New Haven Area Rabbinical Assembly (www.nahara.org), the seminar is organized by Rabbi Moshe Murray Levine. All Connecticut Valley rabbis are invited.

Shabbatot

Darshanim in March

Rachel Green, bat mitzva, will serve as darshanit (Torah commentator) on Shabbat morning 5 March, parashat VaYaqhel.

Gila Reinstein will serve as darshanit on Shabbat morning 12 March, parashat Pequdei, Shabbat Sheqalim, Rosh Hodesh Adar II.

Steven Fraade will serve as darshan on Shabbat morning 19 March, parashat VaYiqra, Shabbat Zakhor.



Steven Fraade



Gila Reinstein

Laws of Shabbat: Shabbat Afternoon Study

The laws of Shabbat will be studied between Shabbat *minha* afternoon service and *maariv* evening services this season. The sixteenth century law code *Shulhan Arukh* will be the basic text. The *Shulhan Arukh* was written by Rabbi Yosef Karo and serves as an essential guide to modern practice. Hebrew and English texts are available. The study period lasts about thirty-five minutes.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi's commentary on the Torah. 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. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service. On Monday 21 February 2005, Presidents' Day, morning services are from 9:00a to 9:45a and the Rashi Study Group meets from 9:45a to 10:30a.

New: Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot

"Principles of Judaism: Torah on One Foot" is for adults wishing an overview of the Principles of Jewish thought and life. It is ideal for people

new to Judaism, considering conversion, or wishing to begin a systematic study and practice of Judaism. Topics include The Torah, Halakha (Jewish Law), The Mitzva System, 3,600 Years of Jewish History, The God of Israel, Fundamental Observances, Conservative & Other Judaisms, Messiah, Eternal Life, Talmud Torah, The Sabbath, and more. The series will meet on Monday nights in March & April 2005, beginning 14 March, from 6:00p to 7:30p in BEKI's Rosenkrantz Library. The class immediately follows the 5:45p afternoon & evening service. To register, contact Peggy at 389-2108 x14 or office@beki.org. Material & registration fee: \$18.00 per person.

Wednesdays

Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 7:30a to 8:00a during the academic year. The Study Group focuses on the original text and the issues that arise from the Mishna and Gemara, with attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of basic Hebrew or Aramaic is very helpful but not required. The Group is open to all.

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. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

Thursdays

Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The "Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group" meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30p to 1:30p) at a downtown New Haven professional office for Talmud study. The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text. 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. For location or information, contact Isaiah Cooper at 233-4547 or icooper@cooperlaw.net.

Writing Group

The Writing Group meets each Thursday in the Chapel Library from 2:00p to 4:00p. Interested writers gather to share the short pieces that they have written: memoirs, poetry, children's stories and short stories. The goal of the group is to encourage writing, critique of written pieces, and publishing. Each week the participants bring a piece of their writing. The writer then has a "Read-Aloud" and the group provides feedback. This community aims to generate writing and provide support and feedback for published pieces. For more information please contact Ruth Silver at bergida@yahoo.com or Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org

AA Meeting

The *Here We Are* Group of AA meets at BEKI every Thursday night at 8:00p. The weekly Meeting has been held at BEKI since May 1997. Open to any person who can benefit from a recovery program, the meeting is held according to standard AA procedure. It is currently engaged in a 12 & 12 Study – Discussion. This is not a specifically Jewish recovery group, although a large proportion of participants are Jewish. For information on the weekly meeting contact Jay at (203) 387-6019 or sokolow@snet.net.

Every Day

Divrei Torah on the Web

A collection of Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) and essays by members and Rabbi Tilsen is posted on BEKI's website under "Adult Studies" and "Meet Rabbi Tilsen."

Required Reading & Reference Books on Web

A listing of basic Judaic reference and introductory works is posted on BEKI's website at www.beki.org/books.html with a brief annotation by Rabbi Tilsen.

Reading Torah at BEKI

If you would like to read Torah, or learn how to read, contact the Torah Reading Coordinator through the synagogue office at 389-2108 x14 or through Rabbi Tilsen at jjtilsen@beki.org. Marsha Beller is the Coordinator for Shemot (Exodus), which we read 1 January – 12 March 2005.

Purim at BEKI

(continued from page 8)

– we mean it). In accordance with FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service; this applies on Purim as well as year-round.

During the morning reading, when some participants may be *groggier* than usual due to late drinking or the early hour, groggers are limited to 4 decibels (equivalent to the sound of a marshmallow dropped on a pillow from 18 centimeters).

Purim Se'uda Celebration

Because Purim occurs on Erev Shabbat (Friday) this year, the Purim Se'uda (Feast) at BEKI will take place on Shabbat evening (Friday night) 25 March following the 6:00p service. Preregistration and payment are **required** by Friday 18 March. The cost is \$15 per adult, \$10 per child age 3-12, and free for children 2 and under, when registered and paid in advance. Sorry, no exceptions.

Registration forms are available in the lobby, from the BEKI office, and at www.beki.org/forms.html. Advance registration and payment is **required**.

Sundays:

9a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Mondays:

7a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Tuesdays:

7a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Wednesdays:

7a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Thursdays:

8:15a Shaharit
5:45p Maariv

Fridays:

7a Shaharit
6p Maariv

Saturdays:

9:15a Shaharit
See calendar for
Minha-Maariv

March 2005

20 Adar I 5765 - 20 Adar II 5765

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00p Garinim Montessori Open House 20 Adar I	2 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program 21 Adar I	3 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A. 22 Adar I	4 5:29p Candle Lighting 6:00p Rachel Green Bat Mitzva 23 Adar I	5 Rachel Green Bat Mitzva 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Don & Ann Green 5:30p Minha, Maariv, Havdala 24 Adar I
6 9:00a Religious School 12:00p BRS Faculty Meeting 25 Adar I	7 7:45a Rashi Study Group 26 Adar I	8 27 Adar I	9 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program 28 Adar I	10 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A. 29 Adar I	11 Rosh Hodesh I 5:37p Candle Lighting 30 Adar I	12 Rosh Hodesh II Darshanit: Gila Reinstein 10:45a Children's Programs Qiddush: Lovins/Loving 5:40p Minha, Maariv, Havdala 7:30p "Bidding for BEKI" Silent & Live Auction Extravaganza 1 Adar II
13 9:00a Religious School (grades 4-7 trip) 2 Adar II	14 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6:00p Principles of Judaism Class 7:30p Executive Board Meeting 3 Adar II	15 4 Adar II	16 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program 5 Adar II	17 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A. 6 Adar II	18 5:44p Candle Lighting 7 Adar II	19 Shabbat Zakhor Darshan: Steven Fraade 10:45a Children's Programs 10:45a Learner's Minyan Qiddush: Silverman-Sokolow 5:40p Minha, Maariv, Havdala 8 Adar II
20 9:00a Religious School Purim Carnivale 9:00a JTS Bus Trip 9 Adar II	21 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6:00p Principles of Judaism Class 10 Adar II	22 11 Adar II	23 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program 12 Adar II	24 Fast of Esther 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 6:30p Megilla Reading 8:00p A.A. 13 Adar II	25 Purim 7:00a Megilla Reading 5:53p Candle Lighting Shabbat Shushan Purim Dinner following 6:00p service 14 Adar II	26 Shushan Purim 10:45a Children's Programs Qiddush: Lowell/Cooper 5:45p Minha, Maariv, Havdala 15 Adar II
27 9:00a Religious School 16 Adar II	28 7:45a Rashi Study Group 6:00p Principles of Judaism Class 7:30p General Board Meeting 17 Adar II	29 18 Adar II	30 7:30a Talmud Berakhot Study Group 8:30a Rabbi's Study Group 10:00a Rabbinical Assembly Meeting 4:00p Religious School 4:00p Benei Mitzva Program 19 Adar II	31 12:30p Talmud Study Group (off-site) 2:00p Writing Group 8:00p A.A. 20 Adar II		

BEKI Events

Contributions

BEKI accepts VISA & MasterCard as well as checks

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- Donald & Ann Green honoring Liora Cohen-Fraade at her bat mitzva observance
- Sandy & John Balayan marking the yahrzeit of Moe Miller
- Louis & Lisa Petrillo in memory of Dr. Karl Hass

Qiddush Sponsors (Minimum \$150)

- Leon Cummings marking the yahrzeit of his uncle Yitzhak Isaac Ben Shlomo Tsvi
- Margot Roten marking her milestone birthday
- Jennifer Myer & James Kempton marking James's birthday
- Leon Cummings marking the yahrzeit of his uncle Natan ben Eliezer
- Roz & Coby Ben-Chitrit marking Coby's birthday
- Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell marking the birthday of Samuel, Myles & Naomi

Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations

- To Jay Brown with sympathy on the passing of Janet Brown by Robert & Janice Lettick
- To Neil Groberg with sympathy on the passing of Marcia Groberg by Alan Lovins & Trish Loving
- To Andy & Mindy Schultz in honor of the birth of their son by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To David & Rayna Belowsky with sympathy on the passing of Louis Belowsky by the Rothman Family
- To Larry Pinsky with sympathy on the passing of Jennie Pinsky by the Rothman Family
- To Susan Stone & Roger Levine with sympathy on the passing of Charles B. Stone by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Arnsten Family with sympathy on the passing of Louis Belowsky by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To the Belowsky Family with sympathy on the passing of Louis Belowsky by David & Darryl Kuperstock

- To Ruthie Greenblatt in honor of the birth of her grandson by David & Darryl Kuperstock

The George G. & Leah Posener Endowment for the Jewish Education of BEKI Youth

- In honor of George G. Posener's 94th birthday and in appreciation for Jochai Ben-Avie's aliyah by Samuel & Claire Faiman

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In memory of Ida & Isadore Frankel by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Esther Black & Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler

Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations

- To Jay Brown with sympathy on the passing of Janet Brown by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Mr. & Mrs. David Belowsky with sympathy on the passing of Louis Belowsky by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Mr. & Mrs. Earl Banquer with sympathy on the passing of Paul Banquer by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Henry Rothchild with wishes for a complete & speedy recovery by Violet & Charlie Ludwig
- To Jay Brown with sympathy on the passing of Janet Brown by Judith & Stephen Alderman
- To David Belowsky and Family with sympathy on the passing of Louis Belowsky by Jayne & Arthur Goldstein
- To Mr. & Mrs. Roger Levine with sympathy on the passing of Charles B. Stone by Violet & Charles Ludwig
- To Susan Stone & Roger Levine with sympathy on the passing of Charles B. Stone by Gila Reinstein

Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

- In memory of her grandmother Anna Goldberg by Barbara Greenberg
- In memory of Harry Miller by David & Dorothy Lipton
- In memory of Kevin Kirschner by Leonard Kirschner
- In memory of her mother Ida Zerkovitz by Helen Z. Kaplan

- In memory of Charles Kaplan by Helen Z. Kaplan

- In memory of Hattie Henken by Gladys Lipkin

- In memory of Diane Lee Kaufman by Lawrence & Edythe K. Weiss

- In memory of her mother Ida Meltzer by Harriet Barstein

- In memory of Sally Zanrotsky by Stanley Saxe

- In memory of Arthur Katz by Lillian R. Katz

- In memory of Max Haves by Hyman & Ethel Haves

- In memory of Harry Levine by Donna Levine Hoffman

- In memory of Evelyn Kahn by Richard & Michael Kahn

- In memory of Norma Gerken by Ann Gerken Green & Donald Green

- In memory of her mother Ida Hess by Irma Hamburger

- In memory of her sister and brother-in-law Erna & Siegfried Hass by Irma Hamburger

- In memory of Jack Yasgar by Howard Yasgar

- In memory of their beloved parents Lucie & Bernhard Moser by Inge & Leonard Fish

- In memory of Harry S. Gurian by Muriel & Earl Banquer

- In memory of her husband Nathaniel Kaplan by Helen Z. Kaplan

- In memory of Irma Kabel by Allan M. Kabel

- In memory of Sallee Kaufman & Marvin Epstein by Abraham & Norma Hodes

- In memory of her beloved father Harry Levine by Thelma Kugell

- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen

- In memory of Elizabeth Blackmer by Corinne Blackmer

- In memory of Samuel Saxe by Stanley Saxe

- In memory of Tillie Saxe by Stanley Saxe

- In memory of Edith Fields by Stanley Saxe

- In memory of Herman Silver by Marcia Silver

- In memory of Sarah Miller by Lillian Weinberg

Contributions

- In memory of Rose & Max Rogoff by Sam Rogoff & Ann Rogoff
- In memory of William Miller by Abraham & Ida Fish
- In memory of Sam Miller by Howard J. Miller
- In memory of Maurice "Moe" Miller by Helen Miller
- In memory of loved ones by Tama R. Nathan
- In memory of Sam Miller by Rena Miller

Children's Shabbat Havura

The Children's Shabbat Havura meets every Shabbat morning at 10:45a in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room. Designed to address the spiritual and social needs of preschool children, the Havura meets concurrently with K-2 Kehila, Junior Congregation, Cosmic Conversations, the Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan and the main Sabbath service. Following the half-hour of songs, stories, prayers and dance, the children have their own qiddush refreshments and then enjoy supervised play until they join the adult worship for the Concluding Service and qiddush.

The Havura enjoys strong support from parents and the Synagogue. Currently about 70 children and their parents actively participate in the Havura. Visitors have come from across New England to observe this program as a model for their own synagogues.

Meeting the spiritual and social needs of preschool children is an obligation of the Jewish community and an important part of the Synagogue's mission. The Havura (Friendship Circle) links the children to one another, to

other concerned Jewish parents, and to the Synagogue. The Havura enjoys the active participation of parents who themselves are enriched by the experience. For many adults, the Children's Shabbat Havura serves as their introduction to active participation in the Synagogue Community.

If you are interested in learning more about the BEKI Children's Shabbat Havura, come any Shabbat (Saturday) morning at 10:45a and see for yourself. Or contact Miriam Benson at 389-6137 or mirbenson@aol.com, who, along with Ellen Cohen, coordinates the program. You can also contact Education Director Dr. Lauren Kempton at 389-2108 x13 or lkempton@beki.org, the staff person who supports this parent cooperative.

Save the Dates

- **Wine Tasting** 9 April evening
- **Bat Mitzva: Hannah Rosner**, daughter of Alan Rosner & Deren Manasevit Rosner, 1-2 April 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Allan Visochek**, son of Larry Visochek & Julie Cohen, 29-30 April 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Jonathan Curtis-Resnik**, son of Judith Resnik & Dennis Curtis, 6-7 May 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Jesse Goldblum**, son of David & Joanne Goldblum, 13-14 May 2005
- **Bar Mitzva: Carmi Cheskis-Gold**, son of Martin Gold & Rena Cheskis-Gold, 27-28 May 2005

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