

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

# BEKI bulletin

Congregation  
Beth El-Keser Israel

Adar I-Adar II 5771

Vol. 17 Issue 3

Message from Rabbi Tilsen - Page 14

## PURIM AT BEKI

### Be Happy It's Adar

משנכנס אדר מרבין בשמחה

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

### 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 normally observed the day before Purim. 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 hatchers, 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. This year, the Fast of Esther begins at dawn



(5:38) on Thursday March 17, advanced two days to avoid impinging on the Sabbath. The Thursday *shaharit* morning service is from 8:15 to 9:15 and includes “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 service is at 5:45. The fast ends at 7:34 p.m., or when the person observing the fast eats, whichever comes first.

### Shabbat Zachor

The “Sabbath of Remember!” occurs immediately before Purim, March 19. This Sabbath is marked by the reading of the Biblical passage reminding us to remember and never forget the cruelty of Amalek. The reading of this passage is in fulfillment of the mitzva that it references, and hearing this reading is considered a mitzva unto itself. For that reason, children’s programs may be timed to let adults and children hear this required reading. Like Taanit Esther, Shabbat Zachor expresses the serious side of Purim.





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## BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: (203) 389-2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org)
- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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

Annual subscription is \$36

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
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|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Editor           | Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen |
| Associate Editor | Donna Levine         |
| Associate Editor | Donna Kemper         |
| Associate Editor | Herbert Winer        |
| Photographer     | Charles Ludwig       |

## Web Buys

If you purchase from Amazon.com via this link [www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/congregabethelke](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/congregabethelke)) or at [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org) through the "Amazon" box at the bottom of the page, BEKI receives a small commission on your purchase at no cost to you. You must use these links each time you access the merchant's website in order for BEKI to receive a commission.

## 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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Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven



All of us. One Foundation.

## Purim

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## Day of Rage Demonstration

A *Day of Rage Demonstration* against the despotic King Ahashverosh and his wicked deputy has been called for March 19 and 20. Schools and stores throughout New Haven will be closed and riotous masses will gather at BEKI to chant and listen to public protests against the repressive Ahashverosh regime.

Expectations are for a riotous and outrageous gathering.



## Megilla Reading

The Megilla (Scroll of Esther) is read following the afternoon (6:45) and during the evening services (7:30) on Saturday March 19, and then again during the March 20 Sunday morning service, which begins at 9 o'clock and ends at 10:45. Due to the earlier start of Daylight Saving Time, our Megilla reading is later this year. Children are welcome to dress as children in pajamas ready for bed or asleep in sleeping bags or napping in nap sacks.

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

## Purim Baskets Mishloah Manot

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!  
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Just send in the order forms you will receive in the mail. (Order forms are available at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html) and will be on their way via *schleppost*.) Start making your list. There's enough time to check it twice!

## BEKI Purim Seuda (Feast) with Boppers

**WHEN:** Sunday March 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** In the BEKI Upstairs Social Hall

**NOSH:** A light dairy lunch will be served

**TICKETS:** \$13 per adult, \$11 per child (age 3-12); Age 2 and under, no charge. Preregistration with payment by Monday March 14

Purim Spiel created and directed  
by Bruce Altman & Darcy McGraw

Ruth Greenblatt as Cutesie the Clown

Face-painting with Rachel Sutin

Special Purim Birkat Hamazon

Purim Songs Sing-a-long w/Ada Fenick & Yair Minsky

Dance and games with Boppers Entertainment

### Volunteers!

Call Eva Shragis, Food (203) 258-1243

Jessey Palumbo, Membership Chair, (203) 387-8359  
Meet & Greet

Liora Lew, Decorations (203) 389-1048

Ada Fenick & Yair Minsky, Songs, (203) 393-1394

Darcy & Bruce, Purim Spiel,  
[darcymcgraw@comcast.net](mailto:darcymcgraw@comcast.net), [baltman2@comcast.net](mailto:baltman2@comcast.net)

Miriam Benson, Set-Up, Registration Table,  
or Clean-Up Committees  
(203) 389-6137 or [mirbenson@aol.com](mailto:mirbenson@aol.com)

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 cinder-blocks. 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 – we mean it). In accordance

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**Purim**

Continued from **Page 3**

with revised FAA regulations, box cutters, toenail clippers, tweezers, eyeglass repair screwdrivers, can openers and plastic knives are again permitted. However, shampoo, eye drops and more than 3.2 oz of any liquid are prohibited. Absolutely no weapons of mass destruction are permitted in the sanctuary during the service.

Persons dressed as Lady Gaga wearing meat suits should sit in the designated fleishig area and are advised to keep a distance from people wearing M&M and other dairy costumes.

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).

**Weather or Not**

Please exercise caution and allow extra travel time to and from BEKI and your other destinations. Daily and Shabbat services are held regardless of weather conditions. Office hours may be curtailed or canceled in inclement weather; please contact the office to confirm availability when in doubt.

**Snow What?**

Services are held regardless of weather conditions. Please use your best judgment to determine if and how it is safe for you to travel to BEKI or other destinations.

**Lots of Parking**

Thanks to the Ivan & Rita Sachs Families (Cherry Hill Const.) for excavating Mount BEKI from our parking lot in February to reveal dozens of parking spaces, a second lane in our driveway, and a loading dock, all of which had been unusable due to snow and ice; and thanks to Building Cmte member Bob Spear for overseeing this project. Thanks as well to Moshe Meiri for overseeing the removal of snow from 16,000 square feet of roof.

**Hesed Shel Emet**

Thanks to a minyan of BEKI members who attended the burial service for Sheila Clugman, who died in February without local family or contemporaries. She was buried next to her grandmother in the Beth El Memorial Park. It is a kindness which can never be reciprocated.

**Tired of being snowed in this winter?**

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### Gutman Youth Scholarship

In memory of Marcel Gutman, father of Mimi Glenn, a Youth Scholarship was established through the Sisterhood. Teens in grades 8 to 12 who are going to Israel with a youth group or school program or engaging in a Jewish youth program during the summer or next academic year are eligible to apply. Parent or guardian must be a BEKI and Sisterhood member. Applications are available in the office and at [www.beki.org/forms.html](http://www.beki.org/forms.html).

### Hadassah Meeting

We are having a joint meeting with Hadassah on Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m. at BEKI. Claire Criscuolo, proprietor of Clair's Corner Copia, will be our featured speaker on "Healthy Eating – Healthy Living," everyone is invited and refreshments will be served.

As always, Sisterhood will be supplying groggers and refreshments on Purim and sponsoring The Annual Seder for People with Special Needs on April 11.

There are many new items in the gift shop for Passover and all other gift occasions. Please support BEKI Sisterhood.

Mimi Glenn Adele Tyson  
Co-Presidents Torah Fund

### Keep Those Cards Coming

By purchasing cards for all happy occasions and to memorialize a loved one, through BEKI Sisterhood Torah Fund, you support the Jewish Theological Seminary. The Seminary depends on small donations as well as major gifts.

Purchase of cards is very easy – call Barbara Cushen at (203) 407-0314 and your card will be right out. Just \$4 each (includes postage).

Thank you to everyone who purchased cards last month.

Barbara Cushen  
Torah Fund Chair

### In Memory of:

- Samuel Kantrowitz to Harriet Kantrowitz & family from Sheila Caplan, the BEKI Hased Committee
- Samuel Kantrowitz to Violet Ludwig from the BEKI Hased Committee, Barbara Cushen & Stanley Saxe, Peggy & Don Hackett, Reeva & Gary Lynes
- Gertrude Slopak to David Schwartz from the BEKI Hased Committee, Louis Petrillo
- Amy Aaland to Jonathan Freiman from the BEKI Hased Committee, Ruth & Morton Silver
- Karel Citroen to Sascha van Creveld from the BEKI Hased Committee
- Jerome Miller to his family from Sheila Caplan
- Gabriel Zimmerman to his family from Louis Petrillo

### Get Well to:

- Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords from Louis Petrillo

### Thank You to:

- Dr. Samuel Bobrow from Louis Petrillo

## News

### Torah Readers Wanted

If you would like to read from VaYiqra, contact Jon-Jay Tilsen at [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org). If you would like to learn to read Torah, contact Darryl Kuperstock at [kuperst@aol.com](mailto:kuperst@aol.com).

### ANL Library

*Let My People Go*, by Tilda Balsley, was purchased for the Ari Nathan Levine Fund Library, available in the Claire Goodwin Youth Room.

### Walk-a-thon Report

Excitement filled the air as over 80 adults and children assembled in BEKI's auditorium on a Sunday in November to participate in a walk-a-thon to raise money to help those in need in our community as the result of the recession. Contribuitons would be distributed by our local Jewish Family Service. One Temple member volunteered to match any funds pledged. It was a happy group that marched to the sound of blaring music and the blowing of the Shofar. Rabbi Murray Levine and Rabbi Jon-Jay led the parade

to help "tiqun olam," to make our community initiate the making of a better world. Thanks to our 84 sponsors, we raised \$8,500 for JFS.

### Buying Groceries

Use gift cards for Stop & Shop, Westville Kosher Market and other local outlets, available at face value – no additional cost to you – and BEKI receives a significant commission. Available from Gloria Cohen and from Office.

### Bidding for BEKI is back

A Country Auction will be held June 5. Gila Reinstein ([gila.reinstein@yale.edu](mailto:gila.reinstein@yale.edu)), Betsy Ratner ([b.ratner@sbcglobeal.net](mailto:b.ratner@sbcglobeal.net)) and Donna Levine ([sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com)) will co-chair the event and are looking for volunteers for all aspects of making this a fun and profitable fundraiser. Please contact one of the co-chairs or call Peggy in the office (203) 389-2108 x14 if you wish to work on decorations, food, collecting items, selling tickets, or any other aspect of this sure-to-be fun event. And....save the date.

**Marc Blander, Mara, and Jen Goldberg explore the wonders of newborn Jacob.**



## **Births and Arrivals**

Mazal tov to parents Jen Goldberg & Marc Blander and sister Mara on the arrival of Jacob, born in February.

## **Welcome New Member Families**

Matthew & Hannah Feldman and Rachel

## **Letters**

Dear BEKI Friends,

This is, at once, an apology and a thank you.

Ideally, I would thank each & every one of you for your expressions of caring – visiting Morris before his death, visiting my family during shiva, bringing mountains of food, sending cards and letters, offering words of condolence, contributing to BEKI and other charities in his memory. Acknowledging this wonderful outpouring of community support en masse would not be approved by Miss Manners. But as I remember these past months and as I look at the pile of mail I have received, I am overwhelmed, and I fear that I may never get to respond individually to the many acts of thoughtfulness. So please accept this “Thank you” and know that I appreciate it all and am very aware of my good fortune in being part of this extraordinary BEKI community.

Gloria Cohen

## **Benei Mitzva**

**Alyssa Sachs**, daughter of Robert & Betsy Sachs, Shabbat afternoon March 12, *parashat Tsav*. Service begins at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by Maariv and Havdala. Alyssa is also a granddaughter of BEKI members Ivan & Rita Sachs and niece of members Ken & Linda Buckman and of Mark & Ilene Sachs.

**Elie Azoff-Slifstein**, son of Caryn Azoff & Cory Slifstein, March 25-26, *Shabbat Para* (Sabbath of the Cow), *parashat Shemini*.

**Joni Weintraub**, daughter of Daniel & Beth Weintraub, April 1-2, *parashat Tazria – Shabbat HaHodesh*.

## **HaMaqom Yinahem**

*With sorrow we note the passing of*

**Harold “Pat” Goldberg,**  
brother of Grace Geisinger

*May the Almighty comfort  
those who mourn*



**Baruch Levine**



**Lauren Kempton**

### Darshanim

Baruch Levine will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat Sheqalim, *parashat* Pequdei, March 5.

Dr. Lauren Kempton will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat *parashat* VaYiqra, March 12.

Elie Azoff-Slifstein, *bar mitzva*, will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat Parah, *parashat* Shemini, March 26.

Joni Weintraub, *bat mitzva*, will serve as *darshanit* on Shabbat Ha-Hodesh, *parashat* Tazria, April 2.

Mark Oppenheimer will serve as *darshan* on Shabbat *parashat* Metsora, April 9.

### Shabbatot

#### Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan

The "Shabbat Shalom Learners' Minyan," which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 in the office, is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to become more comfortable and proficient in the

Shaharit (morning) and Torah services in a supportive setting. Expertly led by Steven Fraade, Rabbi Alan Lovins, Rabbi Murray Levine, Rabbi Eric Silver 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 of the services. Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background.



**Alan Lovins**

#### Shabbat Schmooze

A Shabbat afternoon conversation with educator and poet Shulamith Chernoff is slated for April 30 following the morning service and *qiddush* (about 12:45 p.m.) in the Rosenkrantz Family Library.



**Shulamith Chernoff**

### Sundays

#### New: The Evolution of Judaism in the Second Temple Period

Explore topics in the emergence of Rabbinic Judaism and its evolution in the Second Temple period with Steven Fraade on three consecutive Sunday nights in March (6, 13, 20) following the 5:45 afternoon and evening services. Steven Fraade is the Mark Taper Professor of the History of Judaism at

Yale University; he teaches courses on rabbinic literature, the history of the Second Temple and rabbinic Judaism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. English and Hebrew texts (and occasionally texts in other languages) are provided. From 6:07 p.m. to 7 p.m. Suitable for adults and mature youth. Costume optional at March 20 March. Coffee, tea and hot cocoa available.



**Steven Fraade**

### Mondays

#### Rashi Study Group

Each Monday morning from 7:45 to 8:30 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 RSG began in January 1994 with the first verse of Genesis and is currently reading the final chapters of Deuteronomy. The Rashi Study Group meets immediately following the 7 a.m. *shaharit* service. Most participants attend the service before the Study Group. With Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen.



**Jon-Jay Tilsen**

### Wednesdays

#### Word for the Day

The Wednesday morning service

Continued on Page 8

## Adult Studies

Continued from Page 7

(shaharit) features a 90-second “Hebrew word for the day” 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 not normally possible in English. The Word for the Day often relates to the weekly scriptural readings, enhancing personal study and public Torah discussion. The Wednesday morning service normally begins at 7 o’clock and ends at 7:31. (The service ends later on Hol HaMoed Sukkot and Pesah, Hanuka and Rosh Hodesh; Word for the Day is not presented on those occasions.)

### Rabbis’ Study Group

*Wednesdays with Murray* is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, facilitated by Rabbi Murray Levine. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with

opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library. For more information, call Rabbi Murray Levine at (203) 397-2513.

*Thursdays*

### Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are dedicated to encouraging those learning to serve as *ba`alei tefila* (precentors or prayer leaders), *ba`alei qeri’a* (Torah readers), *gabbaim* and other leaders, and are sometimes supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shaharit service is from 8:15 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7 a.m.

### Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group

The *Sanhedrin Talmud Study Group*



Murray Levine

meets weekly on Thursdays during the lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30). The Group has met weekly since 1999. For some participants, this is their first direct experience with Talmud text; for others, it is a continuation of a long journey. The



Isaiah Cooper

Group focuses on the issues raised in the Talmud, with less attention to the technical aspects of the text. Knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is helpful but not required.

The Sanhedrin Study Group meets in BEKI’s Rosenkrantz Family Library. For information, contact Isaiah Cooper at his law office [icooper@cooperlaw.net](mailto:icooper@cooperlaw.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.” For a complete list, see <http://beki.org/hungry.html>.

Advertisement for Boppers Entertainment. The background is red with a sunburst pattern. At the top, it says "SERVING ALL OF NEW ENGLAND! OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE!". Below that, it says "FREE LIGHTING WITH THIS AD! (NEW BOOKINGS ONLY)". In the center, there is a circular logo with "BOPPERS Entertainment" and "www.BoppersDJ.com" around it. At the bottom, it says "BOPPERS LEADS. THE INDUSTRY FOLLOWS." and "866.865.DJ.DJ • BOPPERSDJS.COM". There are silhouettes of people dancing at the bottom.



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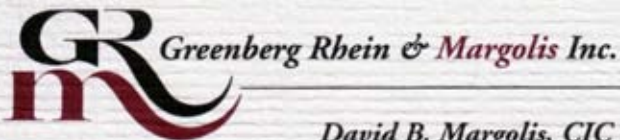


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- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Amy Marx & Rob Schonberger
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- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by the Avni-Singer family
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- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Andy Hirshfield, Monica Starr, Yoni & Eitan

- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Andy Hirshfield & Monica Starr
- To Eitan Minsky-Fenick in honor of his birthday by Yoni & Eitan Hirshfield
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Sydney Perry
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by her book club; Trish Loving, Karen Baar, Nancy Yedlin, Sally Connolly, Lisa Omark & Jean Larson
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Guido & Anne Calabresi
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Dan & Beth Weintraub
- To Jonathan, Gabriel, Elijah & Caleb Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Betsy & Glenn Schulman
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Carole & Paul Bass
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- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Harold & Stephanie Birn
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by the Gad family
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by the Gad family
- To Jonathan, Gabriel, Elijah & Caleb Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Joan, Stuart, Aaron & Micha Margolis
- To the BEKI Community with thanks for the hospitality by Robin Goldberg & Steve Spear
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To David Schwartz with sympathy on the passing of Gertrude Koletsky Slopak by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Michael P. O'Connell
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by the New England Law Library Consortium
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Molly Silver
- To Gail & Larry Criscuolo with sympathy on the passing of Adolfe Vincent Criscuolo by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Heather & Lewis Markowitz
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- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne
- To Harriet Kantrowitz & family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by the Lettick family

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

- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Sara Labowe-Stoll & Steven Stoll
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Leon Cummings
- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Leon Cummings
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Heni & Mark Schwartz
- To Gloria Cohen in loving memory of Morris Cohen by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Sascha van Creveld with sympathy on the passing of Karel Citroen by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Willa & Howard Needler
- To Harriet Kantrowitz & family with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Ruth Shiffrin
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- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Paul Goodwin
- To Harriet Kantrowitz with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Edie Wolkovitz
- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Rissa Mendlestein

## **The Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund**

- To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce, Aaron, Ben & Sophia
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy

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Continued from **Page 12**

- on the passing of Amy Aaland by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce, Aaron, Ben & Sophia
- To Caleb Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To Elijah Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To Gabriel Freiman with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland from Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Karen Kaplan in memory of Judy Gordon by Rena Cheskis-Gold
- To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by the Winter-Mackler family
- To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by the Lew family
- To the Cheskis-Gold family with sympathy on the passing of Barzillai Cheskis by Barbara & Jeffrey Orell
- To Joanne Foodim for extraordinary help in a time of need by Rena Cheskis-Gold, Marty Gold and extended family
- To Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Rena Cheskis-Gold & family

## Hesed Fund

- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Marjorie & Jay Hirshfield
- To Jonathan Freiman & family with sympathy on the passing of Amy Aaland by Gila Reinstein
- To Violet & Charlie Ludwig with sympathy on the passing of Samuel Kantrowitz by Muriel Banquer

## BEKI Library Fund

- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Gila Reinstein

## Qiddush Fund

- To Bill Hallo & Nanette Stahl with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Elisabeth Kalem by Marjorie & Jay Hirshfield

## The Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

- In memory of her sister Louise Egalka by Mikki Ratner
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Morris Cohen by Mikki & Betsy Ratner
- In memory of Nancy Gimbel by Betsy Ratner
- The Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund
- In memory of Isadore & Ida Frankel by Shirley Mattler

- In memory of Esther Black & Jacob Mattler by Shirley Mattler
- To Shirley Mattler in memory of Harry Schultz and Rebecca Miller (Schultz) by Sylvia Botwinick

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

- In memory of Reuben Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Eleanor Hepler by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of her daughter Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of her father George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Harry Miller by Dorothy & David Lipton
- In memory of Hattie Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Milton Cohen by Stephen & Doris Brody
- In memory of her dear mother Basha-Chaya bath Peretz by Polina Naiman
- In memory of her mother Esther Heller by Rhoda Lemkin
- In memory of Jack Nankin by David Nankin
- In memory of Martin Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie
- In memory of Louis Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Ruth Matloff by Kenneth Matloff
- In memory of Annie Cohen by Ted Maltin
- In memory of their aunt Evelyn Kahn by Richard & Michael Kahn
- In memory of Sam Miller by Richard & Vicki Miller
- In memory of Samuel Miller by Richard Miller & family
- In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis & Barbara Rader
- In memory of Abraham R. Goldman by Judy & Martin Shore
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Michael & Anita Malina
- In memory of Jack Nankin by Sheldon Nankin
- In memory of Julie Cohen by Michelle Avenia
- In memory of Maurice Savin by Ronald Savin
- In memory of Saul Ripps by Ronald Ripps
- In memory of Max Haves by Maeera Haves Mouglin
- In memory of Seymour Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of Sasha Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of Harry Levine by Donna Levine Hoffman
- In memory of Saul Hennes by Sophie Hennes
- In loving memory of her father Saul Hennes by Sheila Dubak
- In memory of William Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Wilbur Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten

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- In memory of Louis Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
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- In memory of Max Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Sam Rogoff by Ann Rogoff
- In memory of Rae Leavitt by Ann Rogoff
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- In memory of Dr. Samuel B. Henken by Gladys Lipkin
- In memory of Moses Ray by Barbara & Dennis Rader
- In memory of Rose Alderman by Bernard & Sonya Alderman
- In memory of Leon Rosoff by Patti Pitt
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# Holy Manure! It's a Revolution!



**“W**estern intelligence in general and Israeli intelligence in particular did not foresee the scope of change in Egypt.... Likewise, almost all of the media analysis and academic experts got it wrong. ... In his first appearance at a meeting last Wednesday of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee the new head of military intelligence Major General Aviv Kochavi said to members of Knesset, ‘There are currently no doubts about the stability of the regime in Egypt’” (Amos Harel, *Haaretz*, January 29).

The recognition that “no one” saw it coming is itself not remarkable. We heard such a claim after Hurricane Katrina, when President Bush said, “I don’t think anyone could have anticipated the breach of the levees,” even though the Army Corps of Engineers and other leaders sounded the alarm bells about that precise eventuality months and years before New Orleans was wiped out. And that was just a simple “weather” prediction.

What is remarkable about the statement by columnist Harel is that after observing that “no one” (himself) knew what was going on, he then predicts with great confidence and precision what will happen next and into the distant future. In other words, we can’t understand what is happening right now, but we can clearly predict the future. The claim lacks credibility at the outset.

I am reminded of the story of an Israeli who was out hiking and came upon a Bedouin scout lying flat on the ground with his ear pressed against the sandy earth. Without looking up the Bedouin said: “Jeep... 6-cylinder jeep... man driving jeep... long beard... wearing green shirt... woman in passenger seat... dressed in jeans....” The Israeli was duly

impressed. “You can tell all of that just by pressing your ear to the ground?” he asked.

“No,” replied the Bedouin, “The Jeep ran me over twenty minutes ago.”

There is a lot of trepidation about the collapse or potential collapse of several allied and moderately repressive regimes, due to the uncertainty about what could happen next. I worry that things could well get worse for our North African and other Arab neighbors. But I’m always for a good overthrow. As Thomas Jefferson said, “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.”

We can’t agree on what is taking place around us in America today, and we certainly don’t understand the complexities of politics and revolution in other societies. It is possible that replacement Arab regimes could be even more anti-Jewish or hostile than their predecessors. As an advocate of democracy, though, I believe that the power of people around the globe to develop progressive and democratic societies respecting human rights and sharing opportunities will in the long run succeed, and that it behooves us to support such efforts. Maybe it is a one step backward and two steps forward kind of process. Without a consistent application, our “American ideals” are just self-serving hypocrisy.

In general, we can never really know all of the consequences of our actions. The life you save might be that of a future mass murderer. Instead, we are guided by a system of mitzvot, of rules, and of principles or guiding ideals. *Ki hem hayenu* – They are the source of our life and length of days.



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