

Please Join BEKI Sisterhood

This program is free to all BEKI Sisterhood members.

BEKI Members dues \$25

Non-members \$36

Name : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We accept cash, checks, or bill to your membership account through Peggy, Office Manager 203-389-2108

What would you like to see Sisterhood do next?

Please check boxes

- ☐ Do you need a break from home?
- ☐ Would you like to meet other women in our community at a "game night?"
- ☐ Would you like some moral support from other mothers about raising children?
- ☐ Would you like to participate in a Jewish women's book group?
- ☐ Do you want to learn more about home based rituals?
- ☐ Do you want to learn tefillah?

What would you like to do?

Welcome to BEKI Sisterhood

We are a vibrant arm of the BEKI Congregation and a partner with the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. We run the Gift Shop and sponsor Conversations with Authors program. We provide treats for children at Simchat Torah and Chanukah. Our fundraising efforts support BINA, the religious school at BEKI.

This is our third annual paid-up membership dinner and program, and the first event of the new year, 5787. We have many new programs in development for this year including:

- Visit to Congregation Shearith Israel, NYC America's first Jewish congregation,
- Women's Seder
- Planting projects for Tu b'Shevat
- Sunday poetry and visual arts program with Jim Berger.

We hope you will attend these events, and we invite you to participate in their development.

Please talk with us, and complete the form on this flyer.

Thank you,
Sisterhood Programming Committee:

Harriet Friedman	Jessey Palumbo
Karen Kassap	Marjorie Wiener
Julie Katz	Mimi Glenn, Emeritus
Tema Levitar	

SISTERHOOD

BETH EL KESER ISRAEL
85 Harrison Street New Haven CT 06515

JEWISH ETHICS, JEWISH WOMEN AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT



K.E. Kassap

Tuesday, October 20th

6:15 pm at BEKI

Dinner followed by Program

RSVP REQUIRED BY OCT. 15

giftshop@beki.org

This program is included with paid-up
BEKI Sisterhood membership
Non-members are requested to donate \$36

Labor - Past



Cathryn J. Prince

Author, Adjunct
Professor of Journalism,
Fordham and
Freelance Journalist

Cathryn J. Prince is the author of the newly published and widely acclaimed biography **FOR THE LOVE OF LABOR: THE LIFE OF PAULINE NEWMAN**. This biography tells the story of a Lithuanian girl who emigrates to the US in the early 1900's at 9-years-old. She immediately goes to work in unsafe factories with long harsh hours for very low pay. Having been raised in a religious home and educated by her father in the ideals of the Haskalah, Jewish Enlightenment, this courageous and determined girl cannot ignore injustice. Over many years, she becomes a political activist and helps shape the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) into a dominant force in industrial America. Pauline Newman also advised presidents, labor secretary Frances Perkins, advocated for health care and women's rights.

Using Newman's life story as the touchpoint, Cathryn J. Prince brings to life the work and life experiences of young women in the early industrial revolution. She will talk about the influence of Jewish values on the secular labor justice movement. She will provide us with an understanding of the political philosophies on which the labor movement was founded, and the personal idealism that motivated the labor leaders.

Prince has also authored several other biographies including **QUEEN OF THE MOUNTAINEERS: THE TRAILBLAZING LIFE OF FANNY BULLOCK WORKMAN**

Cathryn J. Prince is an adjunct lecturer of journalism at Fordham University, and contributes to several publications including The Christian Science Monitor, The Forward, Hadassah Magazine, and CT Explored.

Labor - Present



Rebecca Simonsen

Senior Director
of Public Services,
Bargaining for
the Common Good

Rebecca Simonsen worked for 12 years in the State Division at SEIU 1199 New England rising to a Vice President. 1199 SEIU New England is the largest healthcare workers union in Connecticut, with 30,000 healthcare workers across the public and private sectors in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Rebecca led the public division of 7,000 healthcare workers who work directly for state agencies providing social safety net services.

In September 2026, Rebecca assumed the position of Senior Director of Public Services Organizing at Bargaining for the Common Good (BCG) which is the organizing arm of the Action Center on Race and the Economy. The goal of the BCG network is to move beyond settling a union contract or winning a local election to demanding long-term, structural investments in communities. BCG collaborates with unions, community groups, racial justice organizations and student organizations towards this end.

Rebecca will discuss the overlapping needs of the work force and the communities in which they reside. She will explain how an organizing strategy that emphasizes these common interests, ultimately benefits both the workers and their neighbors.

Rebecca will also share her personal journey as a Jewish woman in the 21st century labor movement. She will share her own Jewish heroes and heroines, including Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Jewish pharmacists who expanded their original 1199 union to include hourly hospital workers.

Rebecca is a Connecticut native and lives in Fair Haven with her husband and one year old son.

Labor - Future



Jennifer Klein

Bradford Durfee
Professor of History,
Yale University,
Department of History

Jennifer Klein's research spans the fields of U.S. labor history, urban history, social movements and political economy. Her work explores the links between public welfare, health care, social movements and employment law.

Her most recent book, **CARING FOR AMERICA: HOME HEALTH WORKERS IN THE SHADOW OF THE WELFARE STATE**, shows how federal laws and social policies shaped home care into a low-wage, marginalized occupation. It chronicles how home health aides and domestic workers organized and transformed into a powerful force within modern service-sector labor union.

It is important to identify the parallels between the modern day issues facing this largely female work force and those faced in the early 1900's. Who better than an historian to help us imagine a better future? She will bring her knowledge of the past to give us insight into the values around which organizers can unify the labor force, and build support for a more just workplace and community.

Jennifer and her husband Jim Berger have been members of BEKI for 25 years, where they privilege raised their twin daughters Hannah and Taya to young adulthood.

Jennifer earned her B.A. at Barnard College, her Ph.D. at the University of Virginia and first came to Yale as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellow in Health Policy.