

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



BEKI bulletin
 Congregation
 Beth El-Keser Israel

APRIL PROGRAMS

Wednesday, April 7 at 8 pm

Jack Weiser, the father of BEKI member John Weiser, will speak at our Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) program about his book, *A Thousand Kisses: A Family's Escape from the Nazis to a New Life*. It's based on the letters his parents wrote when they were in Vienna and Hungary, trying to escape from Europe. Although his Hungarian Jewish father had been converted to Catholicism as a child and had married a Viennese Catholic woman, they had to flee, first to Brazil and later to the U.S. On Zoom at [Tinyurl.com/bekischmooze](https://tinyurl.com/bekischmooze).



Jack Weiser

Wednesday, April 14 at 8 pm

BEKI will join congregations across the U.S. for a celebration of Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day). The on-line program will include Israeli music and dancing, interviews with Israelis, and stories about Israeli innovation. American singer songwriter Craig Taubman, whose extensive musical catalog consists of over 50 recordings, will also perform. Check Happenings for the link.



Craig Taubman

Wednesday, April 21 at 8 pm

On "erev" Earth Day, Rabbi Ellen Bernstein will speak on Judaism and Ecology. Known as "the birth mother of the Jewish environmental movement," Rabbi Bernstein in 1988 founded Shomrei Adamah, Keepers of the Earth, the first national Jewish environmental organization. The author of several books, she most recently published an ecologically oriented Passover haggadah called *The Promise of the Land*, which you can buy for \$7 from the BEKI Gift Shop. Ecologically speaking, she explains, the promise of the land is everything the earth promises, and we are dependent on all its gifts.



Ellen Bernstein

Thursday, April 29 at 7 pm

The program this week is our Lag BaOmer "kumsitz," live and in-person in the BEKI courtyard! We'll sing niggunim — which have no words — as well as traditional American songs and Jewish songs. Thanks to BEKI member Max DuBoff, the song sheets and recordings of the songs are at the BEKI website. Details on page 5.



Max DuBoff





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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: bulletin@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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BEKI's Board of Directors

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with a Board member.

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Update from the Search Committee

Dear BEKI friends,

A great deal has happened since we wrote to you in last month's Bulletin about the search for BEKI's new rabbi.

If you follow our weekly email updates, you already know more than we can include in this article, which we're writing in early March. But for those who are less attuned to the 24-hour BEKI news cycle, here is some important information.

A new rabbi? So soon?!

First, a few words about our timing. While some BEKI members are eager to have a new rabbi in place for the High Holy Days this year, others have expressed concern that we may be rushing. We are—and we're not.

The search committee *is* rushing to participate in this year's hiring cycle for Conservative rabbis, which typically begins in the fall and often concludes by this time of year. We got a late start, and we've worked very quickly to catch up, for several reasons:

Many searches fail. If we don't begin a search until next year's cycle, and find no good candidate, we would end up going 2.5 years without a permanent rabbi.

We will spend six months without a permanent rabbi before the earliest date a new rabbi could start. Because of COVID, many congregants feel that it's been a year already since they have had regular contact with their rabbi. As a result, many congregants are eager for a new rabbi to start relatively soon.

The search process has benefits even if it fails to yield an appropriate candidate. It's an exciting way to see the strengths that other rabbis have to offer, and to help us think about what gifts we treasure most as a congregation.

We are *not* rushing to hire someone just for the sake of having a new rabbi. With our own Rabbi Carl Astor graciously serving as BEKI's interim spiritual leader, the shul is in a great position to make sure we find the right person for the longer term. We hope to find that person this year; but if not, we will do another search next year. The committee will recommend a hire only if we—and the congregation—are excited about the candidate.



Carole Bass



Rachel Light

Our progress report

We conducted an online members' survey and multiple focus-group interviews to hear what is important to you about our new rabbi. More on the survey results below.

We received applications from eight viable candidates and did first-round screening interviews with all of them.

Of those, several advanced to in-depth second-round interviews with the full committee. Those interviews, incorporating members' feedback from the survey and focus groups, are expected to conclude before Passover.

Soon after Passover, we hope to bring one to three finalists to "meet" the congregation (remotely, as required by the Rabbinical Assembly because of Covid). The finalist engagements will be multi-day and multi-faceted, including events such as: schmoozing in small groups with the candidate; prayer services; divrei Torah (sermons); adult education classes; teen conversations; meeting with young families; town hall-style moderated interviews. Community participants will have opportunities to share their feedback on the candidates in a quantitative and qualitative way.

The community survey

BEKI member Joy Kaufman worked with the search committee to design the survey and analyze the results. There were 186 responses to the survey; with 283 member units (aka households), this is a response rate of 65.7 percent—phenomenally high participation. *BEKI members care!*

The answers were clear: BEKI members care most about the rabbi as **pastor, teacher, worship leader** (including respect for lay leaders), and **community builder**.

Responses to open-ended questions about what is needed in the new rabbi fell into three groupings:

Values: Someone who will retain and support the values of our community (inclusive and participatory; tolerant and supportive of individuals across all levels of observance; welcoming and embracing current and potential members).

Continued on **Page 4**

Search

Continued from **Page 3**

Personal qualities: Someone who is empathic, humble, flexible, approachable, has good social skills, is a good communicator, listens, enjoys people; a leader who inspires, is intelligent, and has a strong social conscience.

Ritual: A rabbi who gives stimulating and meaningful sermons; a skilled worship leader who is supportive of members' playing an active role in services. Someone who continues traditional, egalitarian services and retains the current level of ritual observance and opportunities for communal prayer. A rabbi who will bring more music into services; focus on engaging our youth; a scholar who is engaged in teaching and who is a knowledgeable decisor of Jewish law.

Thank you to everyone who has taken time to share your thoughts and opinions, which are helping to guide the search committee. Please continue to let us know what you think: rabbisearch@beki.org.

Sincerely,
 The rabbinical search committee
Carole Bass, co-chair
Rachel Light, co-chair
Mark Oppenheimer, Board liaison
David Goldblum
Rachel Greenberg
Karel Koenig
Jennifer Myer
Tamara Schechter
John Weiser



If you weren't one of the over 100 BEKI members who attended the March 3 Town Hall style meeting on Zoom, we encourage you to watch the recording, which is posted at the BEKI website. You'll be able to see more analysis of the community survey. Click on LEARNING, then choose "Online Schmooze Recordings."

A Message from President Yaron Lew *Adapted from his message on February 18*

There's a proverb in Hebrew that says:

מה עושה אדם שביתו נסחף השיטפון?
 אוסף את מה שנשאר ובונה בית במקום גבוה יותר.

What does a man whose house was leveled by flood do?
 Picks up the pieces left behind and builds a house on higher ground.

When I look at our beloved BEKI these days, I have a sense of a house that was damaged by flood—the pandemic flood. And added to that is the departure of our long-time beloved rabbi. But I am so encouraged by the signs I see

of blooming hope and recovery. The Rabbi Search, I believe, will help us rebuild on higher ground. More and more of our congregants are getting vaccinated. With that, more people are feeling comfortable coming into the sanctuary for services. The numbers of participants in Shabbat services keeps growing, and I can assure you that even with that, our sanctuary is so big that there's plenty of space for social distancing.



Yaron Lew

המקום ינחם
HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Clarence Bromell,
longtime BEKI custodian

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

COUNTING FROM PESAH TO SHAVUOT



Yizkor Friday, April 2 & Sunday, April 4

Our Yizkor service will be held as usual on the eighth day of Pesah, and also during Hol haMoed Pesah, on Friday, April 2 (which is Good Friday for Christians). The Friday morning service will start at 8:45 am both In-Person (sanctuary) and with livestream via Zoom; Yizkor will start at 9:30 am, followed by the singing of Shir haShirim (Song of Songs) and Musaf.

Concluding Days of Pesah

Services for the final two days of Pesah, which are Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4, will start at 9:30 am In-Person (parking lot if weather permits, or else sanctuary).

Sefira — Counting the Omer

In our daily sefirat ha-omer [counting of the omer], we are counting towards Shavuot, our next major festival. The count, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai. The simple home ceremony is printed in most *siddurim* (prayer books); in Sim Shalom it's immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, sefirat ha-omer can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

Lag BaOmer Kumsitz

Thursday evening April 29 is Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day

of the Omer. The folk-custom is to sing around a campfire at a “kumsitz,” meaning “come” and “sit.” We will gather at 7 pm in the BEKI courtyard. Please wear a mask, bring your own folding chair, and keep a safe distance. We'll sing niggunim—which have no words—as well as traditional American songs and Jewish songs. Max DuBoff has recorded all of our kumsitz songs! We'll have paper song sheets or can use our cell phones to read the lyrics. The songs and song sheet are at the BEKI website under RESOURCES. The lobby will be unlocked so that we can walk through and use the restroom. If it's raining, the kumsitz will be canceled.

Shavuot Two-Day Festival: The Jewish Hajj

The Festival of Shavuot (Weeks), one of our three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the giving of the Torah at Sinai. The traditional greeting is Hagg Sameah (Happy Festival). The word hagg [pilgrimage festival] is known widely by its Arabic cognate, hajj (meaning the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca).

Shavuot, coming at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, arrives on Sunday evening May 16. The May bulletin will provide details about Shavuot festivities, including BEKI's annual Tikun Leil Shavuot and the Shavuot Zoom Schmooze on Wednesday, May 19 (after the holiday). If you would like to teach at the Tikun Leil Shavuot, please tell Rabbi Carl Astor, rabbi@beki.org.

At press time in mid-March, with vaccination rates rising and COVID rates declining, Rabbi Astor, the Ritual Committee, and the Board are considering some changes, including more in-person tefilla opportunities as well as more services in the main sanctuary rather than outside. All of the service times indicated here will still be in effect, and you will still be able to attend the designated Zoom and in-person services. For the most updated information, please check the BEKI website or the weekly Happenings email, or email bekitefilla@gmail.com.

Spring Activities for Middle Schoolers

BY ANNIE NORMAN-SCHIFF,
YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

Activities for BEKI middle schoolers are picking up speed this spring, including both Junior Congregation family services and the Kadima youth group.

On March 13, Junior Congregation met for the first time since the pandemic, led by the Oppenheimer family. Junior Congregation, our service for third through sixth graders, now meets every other Shabbat morning at 11:15 am, outdoors in the BEKI courtyard. The service alternates weeks with K-2 Kehila.

Family service schedule for April

April 3	10:15 am Children's Havura	11:15 am K-2 Kehila
April 10	10:15 am Children's Havura	11:15 am K-2 Junior Congregation
April 17	10:15 am Children's Havura	11:15 am K-2 Kehila
April 24	10:15 am Children's Havura	11:15 am K-2 Junior Congregation

In addition, Kadima, the youth group for 4th through 8th graders, has two exciting events coming up in April:

On Sunday, April 11 from 3 to 6 pm, BEKI Kadima is going climbing at the Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport! Explore the park's aerial trails on rope bridges and zip lines. This is an outdoor activity where all staff and patrons will be wearing masks (more information available at <http://myadventurepark.com/health-and-safety-information/>). Subsidized tickets are \$10 per child. RSVP to Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Get excited for the Kadima Book Club! All Kadima members should have received by mail their own copy of *The Way Back* by Gavriel Savit. This is a fantastical story of demons and adventure, inspired by Jewish folklore. We will meet online for discussion and Jewish-demon-themed activities on Sunday, April 25 at 7 pm. In the meantime, Kadimaniks, get reading!

Purim Costume Parade and Car-Nival

On Erev Purim, BEKI families took advantage of a sunny afternoon to share their happy faces and costumes outdoors. Kids paraded in the parking lot, either on foot or in their cars. Everyone received Mishloach Manot and a personalized costume contest certificate signed by Esther and Mordechai. This gathering attracted both BEKI member families and prospective members.



Charlie Rodwin, dressed as a squirrel, enjoys the Purim Costume Parade with parents Ben Rodwin and Rozzie Levine.



Ben Greenberg as Iron Man and Anna Greenberg dressed up as her mother, Rachel, in the Purim Costume Parade.

FOOD DRIVE APRIL 11



The next drive-by food collection will be Sunday, April 11 from 10 to 11 am in the BEKI parking lot. The

food will go to two New Haven agencies: Loaves and Fishes, which has a grocery program; and Martha's Place, a shelter for women and children. Call 203.671.4705 to arrange for Rob Let-

tick to be in the parking lot to receive your donation. If you have any questions, please write to Rob at robolettick@aol.com.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT UPDATE



JCARR's asylum-seeking family, left, is welcomed at a family dinner on the night they arrived in February 2020.

The Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) continues to advocate for our five families to help them move towards independence, though this work has been increasingly difficult during the pandemic. However, we have two highlights to report: the recent move of JCARR's "senior" couple to an apartment in the Towers (They are delighted and grateful!), and the acceptance of the youngest daughter of our fifth family (an asylum-seeking family) to a Head Start program.

JCARR coordinator Jean Silk and several JCARR

volunteers attended the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) 2021 Kickoff. Chris George, IRIS's director, noted that in anticipation of more refugees arriving, community sponsorship groups like JCARR will play a big part in IRIS's plans.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact BEKI's JCARR representative, Madeleine Kleinman madvk117@gmail.com, or go to <https://irisct.org> and click on "get involved."

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE IN APRIL

BY MIMI GLENN, PRESIDENT

We encourage you to light a yellow candle for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), on the evening of Wednesday, April 7. You can do that together with the BEKI community on Zoom at the Yom HaShoah book talk by John W. Weiser at 8 pm, or on your own. Special yellow candles will be available, free of charge, in the BEKI Lobby from April 1 to 7. Meditation sheets will be available with the candles. The aura of this secular day is holy and solemn, as Jews collectively mourn, remember, and honor the millions who were killed in the Holocaust.

A week later, Wednesday, April 14, is Yom Hazikaron, Memorial Day in Israel. This is a day of remembrance both for all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and for those who have been killed subsequently while on active duty in Israel's armed forces.

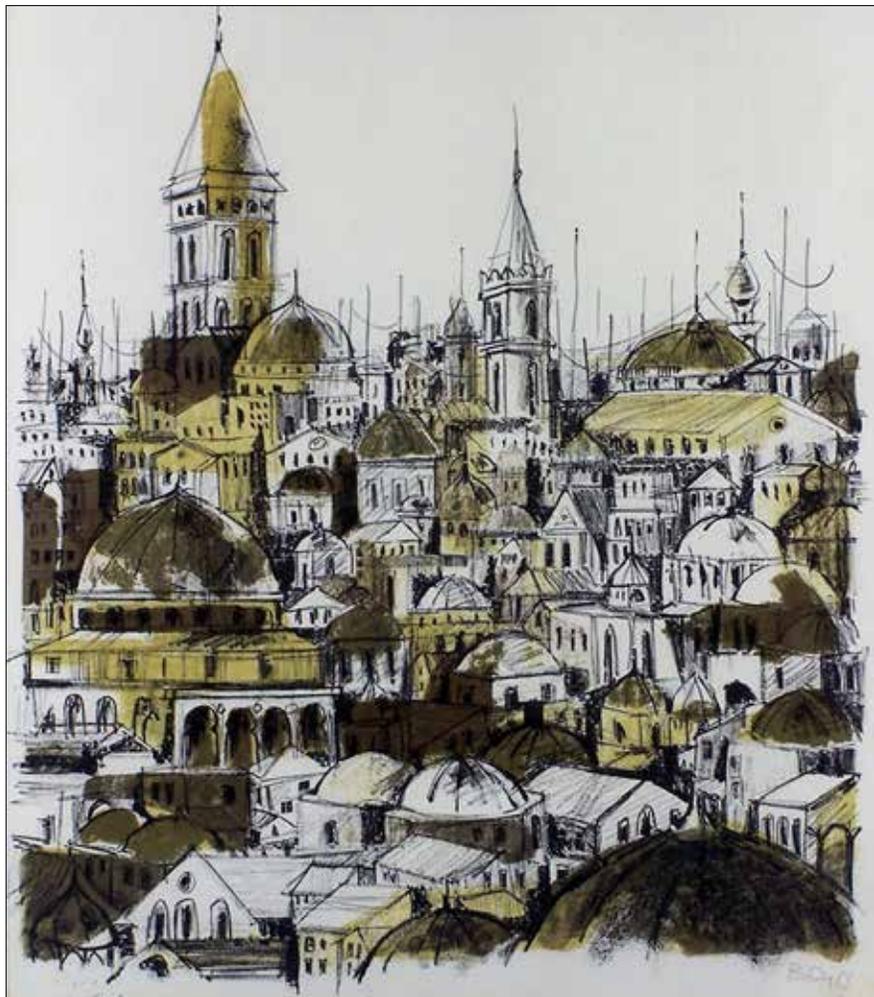
That evening, we will shift from that sad day of remembrance to Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day), which is celebrated on April 15. This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel. Please see details on page 1 about the online Yom HaAtzmaut celebration with congregations across the U.S.

Gift Shop Anticipates Reopening

The BEKI Gift Shop has ordered new merchandise in anticipation of the building's reopening! New items include mezuzot, wash cups, books and challah boards.

Meanwhile, we are "open" and outdoors on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings during those minyanim.

Personalized shopping is provided by Karen or Harriet. No contact shopping and free local delivery: Karen 203-430-2182 kekasap@gmail.com; Harriet 203-675-8607 hfriedman@gmail.com.



Sami Briss, Jerusalem, lithograph, 20" x 17.5", 1968; signed and numbered (51/200), currently on display at BEKI



Tree of Life Awaits Your Leaf

The Tree of Life at the entrance to BEKI is a collection of gold-colored leaves that honor people and moments in our lives. For \$118 you can add a leaf. Contact Marjorie Wiener at 203.387.6278 or marjoriewiener@yahoo.com

Our Friends Remembered in Endowments

BY DONNA R. LEVINE, FINANCE CHAIR

BEKI currently has two types of endowment funds: (1) those which hold funds owned by BEKI and managed by the Jewish Foundation or the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, and (2) those which are owned by the Jewish Foundation or the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven and from which BEKI receives annual distributions.

We are very pleased that as of December 31, 2021, the total held in all of these funds exceeded \$4 million, of which BEKI “owns” over \$700,000.

Despite owning the funds, the BEKI Board has made a current commitment to take only annual income in accordance with the Foundations’ spending policy and to keep the principal intact in perpetuity. Moreover, it is the policy of BEKI that at least 50% of any legacy gifts are added to our endowments, and if not sufficient to create a named fund (minimum \$10,000), such funds are added to the Legacy L’chayim Fund. (More about Legacy L’chayim next month!) Together our endowments now provide over 20% of the revenue which allows BEKI to function.

New Endowed Funds

This year two new endowed funds were created for BEKI’s benefit—the Liora Lew Endowment for the Advancement of Youth Education and Youth Activities and the Jon-Jay Tilsen Endowment for the Benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel. Both are held at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. Most of you



Liora Lew



Jon-Jay Tilsen

knew Liora, of blessed memory, and I imagine all of you know Jon-Jay. A gift in either of their honor would be welcome at any time and can be made directly through the BEKI office.

BEKI’s Named Funds

Our other named funds for the benefit of BEKI are:

- The Ari Nathan Levine Memorial Fund for the Continuity of BEKI
- The Batsheva Labowe-Stoll Fund for the Support of Jewish Life at Congregation BEKI
- The Ben & Ruth Marks Endowment
- The Bessie & Max Levine Children’s Library Endowment
- The Beth El-Keser Israel Religious School Fund
- The Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth
- The Barnett Dickstein Memorial Trust
- The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs
- The Diana Friedman Opton Fund for the Benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
- The Eric I. B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund
- The George G. Posener Family Memorial Yom Kippur Break-Fast Fund
- The George G. Posener Kadima & United Synagogue Youth Fund
- The George & Leah Posener Endowment for the Jewish Education of BEKI Youth
- The Gilah Benson-Tilsen Fund for Youth
- The Gladys R. Lipkin Fund for the BEKI

Hebrew School/Jewish Education

- The Goodwin Brothers Endowment for the benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
- The Irving Simon Fund
- The Leah Posener and Betty D. Zelen Memorial Fund for Sisterhood
- The Lester & Bernice Margolis Fund for BEKI
- The Louis & Mary Rosenkrantz Family Library Endowment
- The Marvin Missan Fund
- The Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Sacred Music
- The Noam Benson-Tilsen Fund for BEKI Kids at Camp Ramah
- The Oscar & Irma Hamburger Fund for BEKI (2 funds)
- The Posener Family Memorial Fund (Building)
- The Rosenkrantz Family Library Fund for BEKI
- The Saul & Hope Bell Memorial Fund for Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
- The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Endowment
- The Tova Benson-Tilsen Fund for Animal Welfare at Congregation BEKI and in Israel

The BEKI website provides the stories of many of these treasured friends who were thoughtful and generous in providing for the future of BEKI: <https://www.beki.org/about/donate>

To Establish a Fund

BEKI is fortunate to have several as yet unfunded endowments which have been established and will be funded at the death of the donor, as well as several which are still in contemplation by donors. If you have any interest in establishing or funding an endowment—or making a Legacy gift—please contact our Finance Chair, Donna R. Levine, at sdsij@aol.com or 203-668-6473.

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

To Harold, Stephanie & Benjamin Birn with sympathy on the passing of Susan Birn by Carl & Sharon Astor

Chai/Synagogue Funds to support synagogue operations

To David Margolis and Jill Nathanson with sympathy on the passing of Bernice Margolis by:

- David & Darryl Kuperstock
- The Avni-Singer family
- Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- Yaron Lew
- Steve & Rachel Wizner
- Seth Pauker & Tina Rose
- Charlie Ludwig, Sherry Kent & Richard Kantrowitz

To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Doris Cohen by:

- Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- Julie Cohen
- Yaron Lew
- The Freiman-Light family
- Mimi Glenn
- Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold (to Barzillai Cheskis Youth Israel Fund)
- Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow (to BEKI Religious School)
- Jesse & Joe Palumbo (to Barzillai Cheskis Youth Israel Fund)
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- Beth & Dan Weintraub
- Steve & Rachel Wizner

To Harold, Stephanie & Benjamin Birn with sympathy on the passing of Susan Birn by:

- The Lettick family
- Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold (to Barzillai Cheskis Youth Israel Fund)
- Beth & Dan Weintraub

- Mimi Glenn

To Jesse & Joe Palumbo with sympathy on the passing of Chana Rosmarin by the Lettick family

To the Ratner family with sympathy on the passing of Mikki Ratner by

- Beth & Dan Weintraub
- Louis Chesler

To BEKI with thanks for the incredible programming by Cynthia Campos

Liora Lew Endowment for the Advancement of Youth Education and Youth Activities

- Julie, Daniel & Aviv Wiznia
- Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod
- Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
- Isabel Etkind & Sarah Rachel Pizer

Jon-Jay Tilsen Endowment for the Benefit of BEKI

- Jane Stern in memory of her husband Robert Stern
- Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library

To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Doris Cohen by Sid & Donna Levine

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

In Memory of:

- Jane Gershaw by Jim Stacey
- Jack Greenberg by Belle K Greenberg
- Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- Murray Arshell by Mike Moscovitz
- Edith Brody by Lawrence Shapiro
- Anita Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds
- Geoffrey Hartman by Renee Hartman
- Irving Golden by George & Diane Dumigan
- Her beloved father Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen

- Her husband Sidney Cushen by Barbara Cushen
- Celia Russ by Doris & Stephen Brody
- Rubin Schwartz by David Schwartz
- James Barnett by Caroline Barnett
- Her beloved sister Carol Jablow by Jay & Margie Hirshfield
- Kevin Kirschner & Leonard Kirschner by Mark Kirschner
- His parents Sam & Tillie Saxe by Stanley Saxe
- Joseph Gimple by Sidney Gimple
- Sydney Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- Jerry Rifkin by Sylvia Rifkin
- Morris & Esther Baer by Irving Baer
- Pearl Cohen Rosenthal by Amy G. Margolis
- Her mother Charlotte Isenberg by Janice Isenberg
- Adele Tyson by Janice Isenberg
- Philip Abramowitz by Marcia & John Gell
- Her mother Rae Krivonos by Mildred Kalison
- Rose Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- Shirley Rudof by Steve & Joanne Rudof
- Kitty Greenberg by Kim Ignal-Tefft
- Eunice Rogoff by Jonathan Eagan
- His father Harold Brown by Phillip & Lauren Brown
- Moe Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- Abraham Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- Kate Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- Siegfried Gesund by Hans Gesund
- Else Gesund by Hans Gesund
- The members of her family by Janet Chernikoff
- Freda Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- Bluma Soloway by Minna & Lewis Kaufman

Easy Fundraiser

The BEKI office sells Stop & Shop gift cards, which are debit cards for groceries or gasoline. This is an ongoing fundraiser that costs you nothing. Contact Peggy office@beki.org to arrange safe pickup.

Amazon Smile

Sign up on Amazon to donate 0.5% of each of your Amazon orders to BEKI. It costs you nothing and happens automatically with each order

Donate Online

Fast and easy at www.beki.org/give

Facebook Digest Available

Everyone is encouraged to join the [BEKI Facebook group](#). You'll enjoy the humor, community information, and links to cultural opportunities.

For members who do not have a Facebook account but want to see the posts, just email bulletin@beki.org to request the weekly Facebook digest, sent as one email each Friday.

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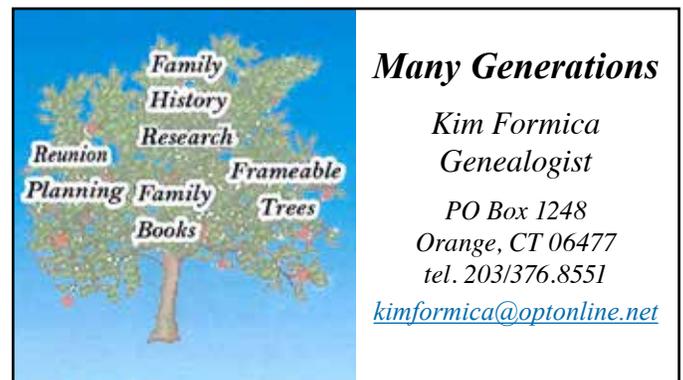
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"The synagogues of my youth do not exist anymore. I made a legacy commitment to BEKI to make sure that our family and future generations never have to say that. The BEKI community has supported us spiritually, intellectually, educationally and socially - it is our privilege to be able to support it back now and in the future,"—Harold Birn



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OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

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BEFORE THE FACE OF - לפני

I want to tell you about a wonderful Hebrew word: לפני — “lifnei.” It comes from the root פנים — “panim” which means “face”. The face is an amazing entity — there is so much that can be learned from a person’s face. Perhaps that is the reason that so many phrases use the word ‘face’ to express a complex idea, such as “two faced,” “bald-faced” (lie), “written all over one’s face,” “in one’s face,” “face value,” “face up to,” “egg on one’s face,” etc.

There is an exceptional photographer, Todd Gipstein, who lives in Mystic. He used to work for National Geographic, so you can imagine the quality of his work. (He’s the one who took the picture of me that’s in this issue of the Bulletin.) I once saw an hour-long slide show he presented of faces that he had photographed while working for the magazine, and it was an incredible expression of the wide range of human emotions. If one observes carefully, seeing someone’s face is like reading a book.

So the word לפני literally means “before the face of” and is used in Hebrew in many different ways: “before”, “in front of”, “ahead of”, “in the face of”. Over many synagogue arks are the words: דע לפני אתה עומד - “Know before whom you stand”. The reason that this particular word לפני strikes me as especially relevant at this time is that many of us have been separated from others for such a long time. I

think back to when a typical BEKI Shabbat meant coming face to face with over a hundred members at the Shabbat service and then the Qiddush. I can remember being able to spend time with my grandchildren, play with them and hug them. That hasn’t happened for a long time, and we really miss it terribly. We yearn, all of us, for the time when we will again be able to be together with all of those whom we miss and cherish.

I can’t believe I’d ever say it, but I am profoundly grateful for Facebook and FaceTime and the ability they and the other streaming services such as Zoom and WhatsApp have provided us to connect visually with others, if only digitally. Still, it’s a far cry from being really present.

It is my hope and prayer that before too long, we will be able once again to connect and stand before — לפני — each other. And perhaps, at least for some time, we will appreciate as never before the gift of being present, facing the future together, and emerging from this plague of darkness.

כן יהי רצון — May it be so!
With love,
Rabbi Carl Astor



Carl Astor



Mary Edith Fussell, *Major Events in the Life of Moses, 1988-90*; drawing for stained glass windows commissioned by Congregation Sinai, currently installed at BEKI

April 2021

19 Nisan 5781 - 18 Iyar 5781

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Mark Your Calendar

- Ellie Oppenheimer Bat Mitzva May 7-8, parashat Behar-Bechukotai
- Erev Shavuot May 16
- Shavuot May 17-18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Hol Hamoed Passover III 4:00pm Outdoor Pesah Children's Program 19 Nisan/4 L'Omer	2 Hol Hamoed Passover IV 8:45am Shaharit, Yizkor, Shir HaShirim & Musaf (in-person & Zoom) 9:30am Yizkor 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (in-person & Zoom) 7:00pm Candle Lighting 20 Nisan/5 L'Omer	3 Passover VII 9:30am Pesach Day VII (in person) 10:15am Outdoor Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor K-2 Kehila 8:01pm Candle Lighting 21 Nisan/6 L'Omer
4 Passover VIII (Yizkor) No Religious School 9:30am Pesach Day VIII & Yizkor - Outdoor Service 22 Nisan/7 L'Omer	5 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 23 Nisan/8 L'Omer	6 24 Nisan/9 L'Omer	7 8:00 PM Author talk: "A Thousand Kisses: A Family's Escape from the Nazis to a New Life" with Jack Weiser We will light yellow candles for Yom HaShoah at the beginning of the program. 25 Nisan/10 L'Omer	8 Yom Hashoah 26 Nisan/11 L'Omer	9 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (in-person & Zoom) 7:07pm Candle Lighting 27 Nisan/12 L'Omer	10 9:30am Shabbat Outdoor Service (in-person only) 10:15am Outdoors Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor Junior Congregation 28 Nisan/13 L'Omer
11 9:00am Courtyard Service & Zoom 10:00am Drive-by Food Collection 3:00pm Kadima at Adventure Park 29 Nisan/14 L'Omer	12 Rosh Hodesh I 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 7:00pm General Board Meeting 30 Nisan/15 L'Omer	13 Rosh Hodesh II 1 Iyar/16 L'Omer	14 Yom Hazikaron 8:00 PM Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration with congregations across the U.S. featuring Singer/Songwriter Craig Taubman 2 Iyar/17 L'Omer	15 Yom Ha'Atzmaut 3 Iyar/18 L'Omer	16 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (in-person & Zoom) 7:15pm Candle Lighting 4 Iyar/19 L'Omer	17 9:30am Shabbat Outdoor Service 10:15am Outdoor Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor K-2 Kehila 5 Iyar/20 L'Omer
18 9:00am Courtyard Service & Zoom 6 Iyar/21 L'Omer	19 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 7 Iyar/22 L'Omer	20 8 Iyar/23 L'Omer	21 8:00 PM Earth Day Schmooze with Rabbi Ellen Bernstein 9 Iyar/24 L'Omer	22 10 Iyar/25 L'Omer	23 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (in-person & Zoom) 7:23pm Candle Lighting 11 Iyar/26 L'Omer	24 9:30am Shabbat Outdoor Service 10:15am Outdoor Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor Junior Congregation 12 Iyar/27 L'Omer
25 9:00am Courtyard Service & Zoom 7:00pm Kadima Book Club: "The Way Back" by Gavriel Savit 13 Iyar/28 L'Omer	26 Pesach Sheini 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting 14 Iyar/29 L'Omer	27 15 Iyar/30 L'Omer	28 16 Iyar/31 L'Omer	29 7:00 PM Lag BaOmer "kumsitz" (live and in-person in the BEKI courtyard!) 17 Iyar/32 L'Omer	30 Lag B'Omer 7:30pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (in-person & Zoom) 18 Iyar/33 L'Omer	

Service Times

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	8:15 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 6 pm Qabbalat Shabbat	9:30 am Shaharit



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BEKI Service Schedule & Leaders

• Sunday	9:00 to 9:30 am	(outdoors* & via Zoom)	CAPTAIN Sarah Berry; HOST Rachel Gerber
• Sunday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	HOST Marge Wiener, Rachel Gerber, or Becky May
• Monday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Sarah Berry
• Monday	5:45 to 6:00 pm	(outdoors* & via Zoom)	CAPTAIN Marge Wiener; HOST Rachel Gerber
• Tuesday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Isaiah Cooper
• Tuesday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	CAPTAIN & HOST Karen Kassap
• Wednesday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Isaiah Cooper
• Wednesday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	HOST Marge Wiener, Becky May, Sarah Berry, or Rachel Gerber
• Thursday	8:15 am	(via Zoom)	CAPTAIN Becky May
• Thursday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	HOST Sarah Berry or Becky May
• Friday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Sarah Berry
• Friday	6:00 to 6:40 pm	(inside: sanctuary & via Zoom)	
• Saturday	9:30 to 11 am	(outdoors*)	

Potential in-person service opportunities are **boldface**

* Weather permitting (in sanctuary in inclement weather)

Please support our service leaders by joining them for services.

For all in person services, wear face masks and keep six feet distancing. Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own. Weekday outdoor services are in the

courtyard, Saturdays in the parking lot.

So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to bekitefilla@gmail.com or the minyan captain. For the latest

information on in-person services, check BEKI Facebook, Happenings or email us. **Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them.**