**AUGUST PROGRAMS**

**Interfaith Day of Service**  
Join fellow BEKI members and our Greater New Haven community on Sunday, Aug. 4 for the interfaith day of service. BEKI folks can choose the work project of interest, including preparing and serving sandwiches for the hungry, stuffing personal care bags, restoring a Jewish cemetery, cleaning up a shoreline, or painting the annual billboard mural. Some of the projects are great for kids too.

If you arrive before 9 am on the New Haven Green, school buses will take you to your selected location. If you come after morning services at BEKI, you’ll be able to participate in projects on and near the Green.

Lunch (with kosher options) will be served on the Green, and everyone is encouraged to linger through 3:30 pm to enjoy the music and fun.

There is no cost to participate. Click here to register or use the QR code in this article. You can also just show up that day, but pre-registration would be tremendously helpful to the organizers.

**Tisha Be-Av**  
At 8 pm Monday night Aug. 12, we’ll read Eichah, sing some sad songs, and also have a chance to reflect on hopelessness. The next morning, we’ll gather at 7 am for shacharit and Eichah again, then minchah at 5:45 pm. Details on page 14.

**Woodwind Concert**  
Elm City Winds, a woodwind quintet that performs both classical and popular music, will return to BEKI for an indoor concert on Sunday, August 25 at 4:30 pm.

Jennifer Silva, flute; Caesar Storlazzi, oboe; Laura Caruthers, clarinet; Adrienne Gallagher, bassoon; and Emily Fine, French horn, will present pieces by women composers, including introductions to the pieces to provide historical and musical context.

Admission is free.

Donations will be accepted to support the National Women's Law Center which advocates for women's rights through litigation, policy, and culture change initiatives.

Elm City Winds will perform on August 25.
Learn how you can live forever

Be remembered forever by BEKI with a legacy gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

For more information on how you can make these arrangements, contact our Finance Chair, Attorney Donna Levine at sdsij@aol.com or 203.668.6473.

If you've included BEKI in your estate plans, please let us know.
News

Mazal Tov to
Grandparents Donna and Sid Levine, parents Ilana and Jonathan Seidmann of Newton, MA and big siblings Samuel and Jacob on the birth of Amalia Edna Seidmann

Welcome New & Returning Members
Maya Kintzer
Yana Kozukhin
Alan Rosner

Did You Miss the Annual Meeting?
Members who missed the meeting can find the slide presentation at our website. You’ll see the results of the recent congregational survey, graphs of membership and endowment growth, and committee news.

Welcome New Members
Printouts of all new member photos and bios are posted near the Goodwin Youth Room.

Yana Kozukhin
Hi, my name is Yana, and I'm so excited to be moving to New Haven this summer to be with my partner, current BEKI member Aviva Green! I will also be teaching some younger members of the Kahal as the 3rd and 4th grade General Studies teacher at Ezra Academy.

My favorite season is spring, my favorite tea is English Breakfast, and my favorite Jewish holiday is Shabbos.
At the Zoom meeting on June 26, BEKI’s Sanctuary Redesign Committee and designer Amy Reichert presented images of the new sanctuary, including details of the new Torah ark. Congregants made suggestions for the Committee to consider. Above is a sketch by Architect Michael Goldblum. Below are details of the ark door material from designer Amy Reichert.
Finance Tips from BEKI Experts

If you missed the May 8 Zoom Schmooze with Estate Attorneys Donna Levine and Lisa Stanger and Financial Advisor Glenn Levine, you can find the video recording on the BEKI website. Here are some topics covered:

Q: What are ideas for helping me pay my BEKI bills?
A: You can arrange to spread dues payments through June 2025, and you can donate to the annual appeal through the end of December 2024.

Q: Is it true that I can pay my membership dues with appreciated stock?
A: Yes! Perhaps you have some stock that has increased in value. If you sell it, you’ll need to pay taxes on the profit. Instead, you can transfer stock for the benefit of BEKI, free of charge, thanks to the Jewish Foundation. If, for example, you have a stock that you paid $500 for, and it’s now worth $2,000, you can transfer it for the benefit of BEKI. You’ll be able to claim an income tax deduction for the full $2,000 (if you itemize deductions), and the capital gains (the appreciation) will disappear.

Q: What if I want the stock transfer to pay for other things at BEKI?
A: That’s fine too. You can make a list of what you want to do with that money: for example, not just dues but also sponsor a kiddush, donate to the annual appeal, or send Purim bags.

Q: But what if I have sentimental attachment to that stock?
A: Perhaps because your parents or grandparents gave you that stock, you have a sentimental attachment. Here’s an idea: donate the stock to BEKI, then buy new shares so that you still can own it. For these new shares, the cost basis will be what you what you paid for it, not what your grandparents paid for it.

Q: What are some useful strategies for older members to pay BEKI bills?
A: If you’re obliged because of your age to withdraw RMDs (required minimum distributions) from your IRA, it’s advantageous to send money to BEKI from that account. RMDs are taxable income, but you can lower that income by sending some—or all—of the RMD to charitable organizations. These are called QCDs (qualified charitable distributions), and you can pay your dues or make other BEKI donations this way. Some financial institutions send the QCD checks; others provide a checkbook for you to use. Using QCDs to lower your income might also help you avoid higher Medicare premiums or Social Security taxes.

Q: What are the tax benefits of bunching my dues payments?
A: Bunching means you pay two years of dues every two years; BEKI will make that bookkeeping arrangement for you. Most people are not itemizing their charitable deductions anymore when they pay their federal income taxes; they just take the standard deduction. But perhaps an advantageous arrangement would be to take the standard deduction one year and then bunch as many deductions as possible into the next year. These could include paying property taxes twice in that year (July and December) plus two years of BEKI dues.

Q: What are the benefits of a Donor-Advised Fund?
A: Rather than doing the bunching, you could set up a charitable fund with at least $10,000 from some source, which could be stocks or mutual fund assets, giving you a big income tax deduction for that year. Then you can use those funds over the next few years for charitable contributions. This is a particularly helpful plan in a year that you face a lot of taxes since you sold a business or had to take a large distribution. Lisa Stanger at the Jewish Foundation can set up a Donor-Advised Fund for you, which you can use to support non-Jewish organizations as well.

Continued on Page 6
**Finance Tips**
Continued from Page 5

**Q: How do I arrange to be a Legacy donor?**

**A:** Free of charge, Donna Levine will write a codicil (an amendment) for your current will, noting an amount or percentage of your estate that you will leave to BEKI. Another option is that she or Lisa Stanger will help you make BEKI a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, again with no charge.

**Q: But what if I mostly want to leave my money to my kids?**

**A:** The most advantageous strategy for leaving money to BEKI probably is through a percentage of your IRA (individual retirement account) or 401(k) account. Since your children will be obliged to take that money during a limited period—and pay state and federal taxes on it—allocating a percentage of that IRA money to BEKI will reduce your heirs’ tax burden. Donna or Lisa will help you, free of charge, with the process for making BEKI a beneficiary of your IRA. These assets will do more good for BEKI than for your kids. In other words, if you make BEKI the beneficiary of a $10,000 life insurance policy, that’s $10,000 that your heir would have received. However, if you leave $10,000 from your IRA to BEKI, your heir would have received $10,000 minus state and federal taxes on that money. If you do not own an IRA or are below the age of qualifying for a Qualified Charitable Distribution (70 1/2), but would like a complimentary consult on alternatives that may be advantageous for tax purposes for a charitable gift or bequest, e.g., savings bonds or annuities, Glenn Levine would be happy to help you.

**Q: Why is having BEKI designated on an account better than just a codicil to my will?**

**A:** Unless BEKI is designated on the account as a beneficiary, your estate is going to be distributed to your heirs, and taxes will be charged. The tax-advantaged strategies mentioned above are possible only if BEKI is noted as a beneficiary on an account.

**Q: Should I consider a Charitable Gift Annuity?**

**A:** Figuring out how to invest retirement money can be overwhelming, and you might want to consider a charitable gift annuity. If you are over age 70 1/2, you can make a donation to the Jewish Foundation; then you get a fixed income each year in return for that donation. You can make up to $50,000 of this donation from your IRA, and you can also donate appreciated stock. If, for example, you give $10,000 and the rate based on your age is 5%, then you could get $500 guaranteed income annually, and BEKI would receive the remainder at the end of your life. It’s probably going to be the same rate of return you would earn long term from stocks or mutual funds, and it’s a better rate than what you can get from a CD (certificate of deposit). The annuity offers a tax deduction when you donate the money and the knowledge that eventually you are making a charitable gift.

*Our speakers were excellent, and we are grateful for their participation in this event. For more information, watch the recording or contact one of the speakers.*

---

Doron Wolf, *The Letter*, 120x90 cm, oil on canvas
The chapel was packed for a concert on June 23 featuring BEKI performers Christina Crowder, accordion and tsimbl; Rachel Adelstein, a cappella; Marty Ganter, doo-wop; David Levy & Tom Goldenberg, Beatles favorites. Organized by BEKI liaison Jennifer Mellon, the concert raised over $1,000 to support the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR).

“The concert at BEKI to raise funds for JCARR was a smashing success! Every one of the musicians was talented and a delight to listen to,” Jean Silk, JCARR Coordinator, wrote in appreciation. “I congratulate you for your creativity, for organizing a fundraising event that was truly FUN, and for your hard work and loyal support for JCARR.”

We’re making plans for the next concert in May 2025. If you have musical talents, please let Jennifer, jmellon@hotmail.com, know that you are willing to perform.

JCARR is a partnership of six New Haven-area synagogues and the Jewish Federation. As a co-sponsor for Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), which is the principal refugee resettlement agency in Connecticut, JCARR helps new refugee and immigrant families resettle in our community. The synagogues—BEKI, Congregation B’nai Jacob, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Congregation Or Shalom, Temple Beth David, and Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven—all had a history of individually sponsoring refugee families, dating back to the 1980s.

Since December 2015, JCARR’s Coordinator and numerous volunteers have welcomed nine asylum-seeking or refugee families who fled their home countries to escape persecution and violence.
Programs This Year for Tweens and Teens

BY ANNIE NORMAN-SCHIFF, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Upcoming Events for Tweens and Teens

BEKI’s youth programs offer opportunities for young people to have fun; to make and deepen friendships; and to grow as Jews and as leaders.

Our tween group, Kadima, offers a positive and supportive peer group for 4th-8th graders, and our teen group, USY, engages 7th-12th graders in increasing leadership. 7th and 8th graders can attend either group.

Jewish tweens and teens are invited to join us for the first events of the season:

**USY Leadership Mini-Retreat: Sunday, August 25th, 2-4 pm**

Do you want to join a close group of teens who help plan and lead our youth group? Do you have ideas for fun events, or ways to volunteer in our community? Come to this mini-retreat at BEKI to help plan the year in USY. USY’s board leadership is inclusive, and you do not need to have prior experience to join the team.

**USY Kickoff Party: Sunday, September 15, 1-2:30 pm**

All 7th-12th graders are invited to a pizza party at BEKI to kick off the year and celebrate the fall.

**Kadima Apple Picking: Sunday, September 22, 2-3:30 pm**

4th-8th graders are invited to join us at Bishop’s Orchards in Guilford. Pick your own apples for Rosh Hashanah with Annie, Rabbi Eric, and friends old and new.

Other Ways for Teens to Get Involved

Here are some other ways that teens can get involved in learning, volunteering and making change at BEKI:

**Teen Kesher** is BEKI's teen learning program. The group meets every other Wednesday for conversation, Jewish learning, and really good snacks. Teens choose topics that interest them, and Education Director Annie Norman-Schiff brings Jewish texts that speak to those arguments and dilemmas. Open to 7th graders and up; contact Peggy, office@beki.org to enroll.

Teens help in classrooms at BINA, which is BEKI's religious school, as Madrichim/Madrichot (Classroom Aides). Do you want to share your love of music, crafts, Hebrew, and being Jewish with younger kids at BEKI? Teen Madrichim can choose to be paid or to earn volunteer hours. Contact Annie at anormanschiff@beki.org for more information.

Are you inspired to take action on climate change and protecting our environment? Join BEKI's teen chapter of the Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM). JYCM is a youth-led movement of climate change activists centered in Jewish communities and institutions all across the country. Contact teen leader Esther Marx Schonberger at esther.m.schonberger@gmail.com.
Thank You to our Kiddush Teams

We’re grateful for every Thursday that a team prepares our Shabbat lunch.

Apologies to anyone whose name we omitted.

**Team 1**
Jennifer Myer, leader
Ina Silverman, shopper
Naftali Caplan
Max DuBoff
Andy Hirshfield
Margie Hirshfield
Karel Koenig
Joanne Rudof
Lynn Saltz
Rebecca Weiner

**Team 2**
Lana Gad, leader
Joanne Rudof, shopper
Miriam Feinstein
Ada Fenick
Diana Firestone
Tema Leviter
Jacob Botwick Ries
Helen Rosenberg
David Spitzer

**Team 3**
Margie Wiener, leader
Robert Lettick, shopper
Barbara Akresh
Holly Chepow
Diane Krevolin
Trish Loving
Carol Marcus
Jessey Palumbo
Jim Stacey
Linda Schultz
Michael Woodward
Lisa Woodward

**Team 4**
Helene Sapadin, leader
Isaiah Cooper, leader
Angela Oren, shopper
Sharon Astor
Susan Epstein
Patsy Foisie
Kelin Gersick
Gary Hochman
Sheri Hochman
Alice Kosowsky
Eva Shragis

**Coordinators**
Ellen Cohen
Abby Fraade

Doron Wolf, Fall, 35x35cm, etching
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedakah Fund
- In memory of Miriam Zerwitz by Ronald Zlotoff & Donna Kemper
- In honor of Rabbi Woodward & Rabbi Astor for generously serving as a Bet Din for him by Charles Bruce & family
- In honor of Steve Rudof’s recent retirement as treasurer of BEKI by Nancy Brand & family
- To Hyla Greenberg on the yahrzeit of Peter Meyers by Louis Petrillo

Chai/Synagogue Fund to support synagogue operations
- To Marsha Beller & Rob Hoffnung in honor of the birth of their granddaughter by Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff
- To Ina Silverman in honor of her birthday by Sid & Donna Levine (to the Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund)
- To Donna & Sid Levine (to the Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund) in honor of the birth of their granddaughter Amalia Edna Seidmann by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Linda Schultz with sympathy on the passing of Howard Grailla by Cynthia Rubin (to the Sanctuary Renovation Fund)

Kiddush Fund
- Eve & Josh Zelinsky and Cynthia Rubin
- The Schechter-Bod Family
- Mimi Glenn and Seth Pauker
- Barbara & Murray Akresh
- Oppenheim family, Chirnomas & Hurwitz family and Manning family
- The BEKI Board
- Leslie Brisman & Toni Davis
- Thanks to Sherry Kent for providing Special Kosher Shavuot baked goods

Sanctuary Renovation Fund
- Simon Berman by Richard Neveloff
- Harry J. & Ida S. Levine by Hilda Trueheart
- Rose Cohen by Doris Brody
- Ely Slopak by David Schwartz
- Charlie Puchalsky by Alice Kosowsky
- Grace Cohen Geisinger by Carol Cohen & Sandra Blair
- Rose & George Feen by Hilda Feen
- Beloved mother and Bubbie Tillie L. Friedman by Harriet Friedman & family, Aaron, Ben & Charlie Bruce (to BINA)
- Zayda Isaac Walinsky from Harriet Friedman & family (to BINA)
- Her father Louis Melnick by Marjorie & Jay Hirshfield
- Stanley Saxe by Barbara Cushen
- Michael Edelkind by Tamar Edelkind
- Leonora Bloom Tomkins by Bruce A. Tomkins

Yahrzeit Fund to support synagogue operations
- In Memory of: Simon Berman by Richard Neveloff
- Harry J. & Ida S. Levine by Hilda Trueheart
- Rose Cohen by Doris Brody
- Ely Slopak by David Schwartz
- Charlie Puchalsky by Alice Kosowsky
- Grace Cohen Geisinger by Carol Cohen & Sandra Blair
- Rose & George Feen by Hilda Feen
- Beloved mother and Bubbie Tillie L. Friedman by Harriet Friedman & family, Aaron, Ben & Charlie Bruce (to BINA)
- Zayda Isaac Walinsky from Harriet Friedman & family (to BINA)
- Her father Louis Melnick by Marjorie & Jay Hirshfield
- Stanley Saxe by Barbara Cushen
- Michael Edelkind by Tamar Edelkind
- Leonora Bloom Tomkins by Bruce A. Tomkins

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Sale to Promote Hiddur Mitzvah
To promote the mitzvah of Netilat Yadayim, the ritual of washing our hands, the Gift Shop is offering 18% off all wash cups.

“Jewish thought understands both the earthly usage of water and its renewing effects on the soul,” MyJewishLearning.com explains. “Each morning, we are commanded to wash our hands and recite the blessing. The simple reason for this is that sleep is akin to death and being awake is akin to life. Water stimulates the synapses in our brains to break between these realms. Washing our hands is the precise moment where we express our gratitude for our earthly physical existence, for the return of our soul to our body, and prepare ourselves to take responsibility for the gifts bestowed upon us.”

The Sisterhood Gift Shop is open every day by appointment, except Shabbat. You can usually drop in around mincha, but it's best to text or call first: Karen 203.430.2182 or Harriet 203.675.8607.

These items, including the washing cup, are available at the Gift Shop.
It's not too late to make a pledge or donation to the Sanctuary Redesign, or to increase the amount that you have already given. Contact Peggy in our office, or speak to a member of the Fundraising Committee: John Weiser, Murray Akresh, Jessey Palumbo, or John Wareck.
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Stephen and Joanne Rudof Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue, Congregation Beth El–Keser Israel

“We joined BEKI in 1992, after our children had left for or completed college. We have always loved and valued the BEKI community. Although our children did not have the benefit of being brought up at BEKI, we hope that those that come after them and us will, so we are leaving funds in our wills to help guarantee the continuity of this amazing community.” —Joanne

For more information, contact the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
Lisa Stanger, Executive Director | (203) 387-2424, ext. 382 | lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org
Tamara Schechter, Create a Jewish Legacy Manager | (203) 387-2424, ext. 325 | tschechter@jewishnewhaven.org

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ENCOUNTERING SADNESS AND VULNERABILITY

Tisha Be-Av, the saddest day of the Jewish year, is right in the middle of August — the evening of Aug. 12 and the day of Aug. 13.

Often, to get people in the mood for this holiday is a lot of work — you have to take people out of their summer vacation mindset. This year, however, I don’t think it will take as much energy. So here, in this space, I want to share two things: about the value in encountering sadness and vulnerability, and also the way that Tisha Be-Av directs us toward hope at the end of the day — but only after going to the sad places.

Tisha Be-Av (which means, 9 of Av, the ninth day of the month of Av) commemorates the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE and the Second Temple in 70 CE, along with the expulsions to Babylonia and from Judea that took place in their wake. We read the book of Eichah (“Lamentations”) in the evening and the morning, and we fast a full 25-hour fast from sunset to sunset. We also don’t sing happy songs; we don’t wear clean clothes; we sit on the floor; we don’t say prayers that are uplifting; we don’t wear tallit and tefillin in the morning (they are too celebratory); we don’t even greet each other.

Basically, we have a bunch of rituals that are there to allow us to—force us to—feel bad. Sometimes it feels as though we are “forced” to feel bad, but I think there is real wisdom in being “allowed” to feel bad. Often, we have to “keep calm and carry on,” and in the face of horror, to keep walking forward. Tisha Be-Av forces a pause in which we allow ourselves to actually engage in our feelings of hopelessness. Yes, there is an official Jewish holiday of hopelessness.

But in the afternoon of Tisha Be-Av, we begin to change, just a little. We put on tallit and tefillin; we greet each other; and we sit in chairs. These might seem like small things — after all, we are still fasting — but they represent a small amount of hope. They represent that we can find some hope — as long as we have first gone to those dark places. Hope has to be emotionally earned in order to be authentic.

This year, we’ll observe Tisha Be-Av by gathering at BEKI at 8 pm Monday night Aug. 12 with members and clergy of Bnai Jacob and Or Shalom also in attendance. (The fast begins at 7:54 pm that night, but our service will be at 8 pm.) We’ll read Eichah, sing some sad songs, and also have a chance to reflect on hopelessness. The next morning, we’ll gather at 7 am for shacharit and Eichah again, and then minchah (with tallit, tefillin, and Torah reading) at 5:45 pm. The fast ends at 8:29 pm Tuesday night.

Weekly Classes

Join Rabbi Woodward for a discussion of the week’s Torah portion on Thursdays 9-9:45 am in the library, following 8:15 am Shacharit. Sunday Talmud class resumes in the fall.

Sign up for Torah Reading

If you are able to read an aliyah of Torah or a Haftorah, make your selection via our online spreadsheet.

Just scroll down to the proper date to see details about each aliyah.
### Mark Your Calendar

- **Sept. 6**: BEKI Shabbat Dinner
- **Sept. 7**: B’mitzvah Pablo Cruz
- **Sept. 8**: BINA first day of school
- **Sept. 19**: Talk by Roya Hakakian
- **Sept. 21**: B’mitzvah Sammi Barkon
- **Sept. 28**: B’mitzvah Jacob Kleinstein

### Service Times

**Sundays**
- 9am Shaharit
- 5:45pm Maariv

**Mondays**
- 7am Shaharit
- 5:45pm Maariv

**Tuesdays**
- 7am Shaharit
- 5:45pm Maariv

**Wednesdays**
- 7am Shaharit
- 5:45pm Maariv

**Thursdays**
- 8:15am Shaharit
- 5:45pm Maariv

**Fridays**
- 7am Shaharit

**Saturdays**
- 9:15am Shaharit
- 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat

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**BEKI Events**

- **Aug. 26 - 27**
  - **26 Tammuz**: 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service
  - **27 Tammuz**: 9:15am Shabbat Service

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### BEKI Bulletin August 2024

Visit us at www.beki.org
Follow us on social media
Advertise in the Bulletin
Would you like your ad here in the coming year? Each month, the BEKI bulletin reaches over 700 households, most of them in the New Haven area. Check with Peggy in the BEKI office about our variety of ad rates.

Join BEKI on Facebook
Everyone is encouraged to join the BEKI Facebook group. You’ll enjoy the humor, community information, and links to cultural opportunities. You’ll want to choose the private group with the stained-glass window image. Just ask to join. (The BEKI page with the hamsa is the public-facing page, which has few postings).

Easy Fundraiser
The Stop & Shop gift cards sold by the BEKI office are debit cards for groceries or gasoline. This is an ongoing fundraiser that costs you nothing. Contact Peggy office@beki.org to arrange pickup.

E-Statements
Due to rising costs and BEKI’s efforts to be more Earth-friendly, we have transitioned to e-statements and e-yahrzeits. If you prefer to receive them by paper, please contact the BEKI office at office@beki.org or 203-389-2108 x114. The BEKI Green Team supports BEKI’s movement toward paperless communications and hopes the community will also.

Services
All services are also available on Zoom except Friday night and Saturday morning.

Sunday 9 am       Wednesday 7 am
Sunday 5:45 pm    Wednesday 5:45 pm
Monday 7 am       Thursday 8:15 am
Monday 5:45 pm    Thursday 5:45 pm
Tuesday 7 am      Friday 7 am
Tuesday 5:45 pm   Friday 6 pm
Saturday 9:15 am  

For the latest information on services, check Happenings or email bekitefilla@gmail.com