



2022 Annual Meeting

June 20, 2022

Annual Meeting Agenda

- President's Remarks
 - a. Welcome from the President
 - b. Thank you to outgoing officers & board
 - c. Presentation of new officers & board
- Acceptance remarks from the next President
- Sisterhood presentation
- Remarks by Rabbi Woodward
- Remarks from the Treasurer
- Tribute
- State of the Congregation report

2022-23 Board and Officers

President - Rachel Bashevkin (EC)

VP - Jennifer Myer (EC)

VP - David Levy (EC)

Treasurer - Steve Rudof (EC)

Secretary - Donna Levine (EC)

Immediate Past President - Yaron Lew (EC)

At-Large - Sam Purdy (EC appointee)

At-Large - Rob Schonberger (EC appointee)

Finance Chair Designee – Murray Akresh

At-Large - Harold Birn

At-Large - Rachel Doff (BRS liaison)

House Chair – Eric Dunsker

At-Large - Russell Epstein

At-Large - Jonathan Freiman

At-Large - Mimi Glenn (Sisterhood liaison)

At-Large - Michael Hurwitz

At-Large - Jonathan Rohner

At-Large - Tamara Schechter

At-Large - Jay Sokolow

At-Large - Evan Wyner

Rabbi Eric Woodward (ex-officio/EC)



Year in Review

Prints by
Raffi Kaiser
June - August



Ancestors: High Holidays Exhibition

Success in 2021 about 90 photographs



2022 Ancestors

**Submissions
Due August 1**

Bruce Oren

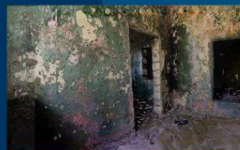
*Entropy Warriors: 50 year
Retrospective*

January - March



Suzanne Neusner

April - June



Naomi Safran-Hon

April - June

New This Year

Formalized contract for artists exhibiting at BEKI

Art Gallery Section of BEKI Website

<https://www.beki.org/our-community/gallery-art>

Programs

Bruce Oren Artist Talk - Shabbat Schmooze

Naomi Safran-Hon Artist Talk - Shabbat Schmooze

Suzanne Neusner - Zoom Talk

Jennifer Anne Moses - with Program Committee

In the Press

BEKI Reconnects With Ancestors

New Haven Independent

Bruce Oren Review: Thou Shalt Go With The Flow

New Haven Independent

Bruce Oren Review: A Beaver Hills Sculptor Carves Through The Chaos

New Haven Arts

Naomi Safran-Hon and Suzanne Neusner:

At BEKI, Two Artists Channel Visions Of Home

New Haven Arts

Naomi Safran-Hon and Suzanne Neusner:

The Art of Two women on display at BEKI

Shalom New Haven

Thanks to:

*Sisterhood
Donna Levine
Isaiah Cooper
Michael Barone
Peggy Hackett*



Helen Rosenberg



Cynthia Rubin



Margie Hirshfield



Diane Krevolin



Bruce Oren



Peg Olin



Dan Weintraub

Board
Liaison

Tamara
Schechter

**BEKI
Art
Committee**



Education Visioning

Following Ina Silverman's retirement, this committee...



- Convened for a series of conversations about the vision for education at BEKI from birth to the end of high school, and crafted a vision that prioritizes:
 - Jewish character development
 - A knowledge base that equips children to meaningfully engage in Jewish life
 - Meaningful post-b'nei mitzvah experiences and connection
 - Joy and relationships
- Brainstormed pieces of programming matched to the vision, including both new and continued elements
- Supported the creation of the job description for the new Education Director, designed and oversaw a comprehensive hiring process that resulted in the selection of Annie Norman-Schiff to take on the position

Green Team

- Initial exploratory meetings with the desire to promote sustainability and environmentalism at BEKI
- Gained acceptance to Hazon's Seal of Sustainability program, joining over 200 synagogues, organizations, and other institutions that have been "Seal sites," marking their commitment to progressing on projects connected to greening or sustainability
- Subcommittee led by Rebecca Weiner facilitated a UI-sponsored commercial-scale energy audit, which yielded some practical, low-cost recommendations to improve lighting, window seals, insulation in specific areas, etc., which will likely be heavily reimbursed; also arranged for likely 10-20% reimbursements for HVAC work already being undertaken by Sanctuary Redesign Committee



Hesed

- Delivered meals to families observing shiva
- Provided “welcome” baskets to new member families
- Shopped for and delivered groceries to congregants who needed our help
- Ran a clothing drive during Hanukkah
- Collected food for various organizations, including Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK), Jewish Family Service (JFS) and Beth-El Shelter



Rob says, “We are always looking for congregants to join our group. We frequently are asked to provide rides for congregants and visits to the ill.”

House

- Updated the lighting in classrooms 12 & 13 (downstairs)
- Bought air purifiers for classrooms
- Completed repairs and upgrades to the projector system in the downstairs social hall
- Installed a new timer clock in the office for spotlights around the building
- Continued to upgrade doors and locks for building security



Safety & Security

“Safety and Security is a group effort. We are all safer when we all do our part. Keep your eyes open and your children under control.”



- Replaced emergency exit doors from sanctuary and built exit ramps
- Replaced entrance doors with steel doors that can be locked/unlocked remotely
- Ballistic film applied to doors
- Locking/unlocking control station added to Chapel so doors can be operated remotely
- PA system linked to radios added for notification of occupants in case of emergency
- Upgraded internet security
- Added exterior lighting

“Thanks to our many volunteer greeters who keep the doors open for us but closed to trouble!”

Kiddush Teams



- **44:** number of Shabbat Mini or Lunch Kiddushim prepared and served 7/1/21 – 6/25/22
- **11:** number of mini Kiddushim prepared by ad hoc teams for holidays
- Special events: Take-Home Break-Fast; Elm City Kallah Lunch; Rabbi's Installation Brunch
- Range of menus and venues: Including packaged snacks and beverages in the parking lot... lunches under a tent... lunches back indoors
- Range of weather conditions for outdoor Kiddushim: sun, clouds, humidity, wind, freezing cold, sweltering heat, snow, drizzle, rain, torrential rain
- Despite increasing cost of food, sponsorship of Kiddush Lunch currently remains unchanged at \$320, which covers expenses
- If you're interested in joining the Kiddush Committee, contact Ellen Cohen

Programming

- 40 programs since last summer, some of them collaborations with other committees
- Zoom schmoozes
- Outdoor musical evenings
- Movie screening on the giant screen in the downstairs social hall
- BEKI Elul Beit Midrash, “Back to Shul” day, Sukkah hop, Pizza in the Hut
- Elm City Kallah with Rabbi Ethan Tucker
- Pride Shabbat
- Rachel Adelstein’s 6 week course about the origins of our liturgical music
- Cantor Shoshana Lash now teaching second 6 week Torah Leyning class
- Rabbi Carl Astor and Karel Koenig’s monthly discussion group on deepening understanding of the prayer/liturgy that we use at BEKI
- Sub-committee worked on the Synagogue Vegan Challenge, a program sponsored by Shamayim:
 - ❑ more vegan food in our kiddushim
 - ❑ labeling food so people know what’s vegan
 - ❑ vegan challah baking workshop
 - ❑ vegan Tu Bishvat Seder on Zoom
 - ❑ “Vegan Kiddush at Home” kit



Publicity



BEKI finds the right new rabbi in Eric Woodward

A New Haven synagogue. A Nigerian Jewish community. A long distance love story.

A New Haven shul preps for a return to High Holy Day services
— but first, some 'emotional processing'

Purim is a family affair at BEKI!



Valley Independent Sentinel La Voz Hispana WNHH FM

Rabbi Successfully Installed

Rabbi's Installation

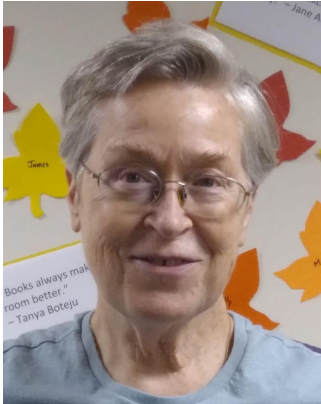
- Speech by Rabbi Ravid Tilles
- Inaugural concert of the BEKI Children's Choir, led by Rachel Light and Josh Perry
- Proclamations by Mayor Elicker and State Representative Pat Dillon
- Gifts presented to Rabbi Woodward included a yad that was inscribed and ceremonially presented to him by a group of congregants
- Brunch sponsored by Jimmy Shure



Ritual



- Navigating daily minyan through COVID
- Introducing MinyanMaker web app to coordinate minyan attendance
- Helping with numerous ritual aspects of rabbi transition
- Discussing the values that drive our services, and their practical upshots (including length, music, which prayers)
- Working to promote egalitarianism in our ritual practices
- Guiding Rabbi Woodward on review and elaboration of kashrut policy



Thank you to Rachel Wiseman Gerber for her service as chair (and continuing as Minyan Coordinator)

Sanctuary Redesign



Carole Bass, co-chair

John Weiser, co-chair

Lynn Brotman

Eric Dunsker

House Committee chair and board liaison

Howard Gralla

Marga Hirsch

Rick Saltz



- Redesigning our worship space to match BEKI values: inclusivity, warmth, true egalitarianism
- Survey to determine members' priorities: **November 2021**
- Hired Michael Goldblum, Building Studio Architects: **November 2021**
- Congregational meeting: **December 2021**
- Preliminary conceptual design sketches: **March 2022**
- Congregational meeting: **April 2022**
- Schematic design and preliminary cost estimates: **June 2022** (target)

Sanctuary Fundraising

- Fundraising Committee:

Murray Akresh

John Weiser

Mark Oppenheimer

Jessey Palumbo

John Wareck

Yaron Lew and Donna Levine (ex officio)



- **Fundraising Goal: \$1 - \$1.25 million**
- Total member pledges to date \$500,000, of which \$70,000 already received
- Most pledges to be paid by 12/31/22, remainder to be paid over next 4 years
- Other possible funding sources: Remainder of BEKI 120, government grants, bank loan, appreciation of certain endowments. We will consider these alternatives after finalizing member solicitation

Tikkun Olam



*Jennifer
Botwick
has taken
over from
Steve Werlin*

- Contributed to the 350 pounds of medical supplies for Ukrainian refugees brought to the Polish border this spring by our local Jewish Federation.
- Continued work with JCARR (Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement)
- Delivered bulk food monthly and sponsored a holiday dinner for Columbus House
- Launched BEKI Fair Trade Chocolate initiative

Website



Thanks to Gary Hochman for taking on weekly updates of service times and BEKI Kids



- Added and maintained homepage banner and pages to communicate activities of Sanctuary Redesign project.
- Added live streaming of Shabbat services in support of our COVID policy. Discontinued on 3/5/2022



Finance and Income Development

- **Very successful 2021 Annual Appeal:**

Total donations \$128,000 (up from \$114,000 in 2020)

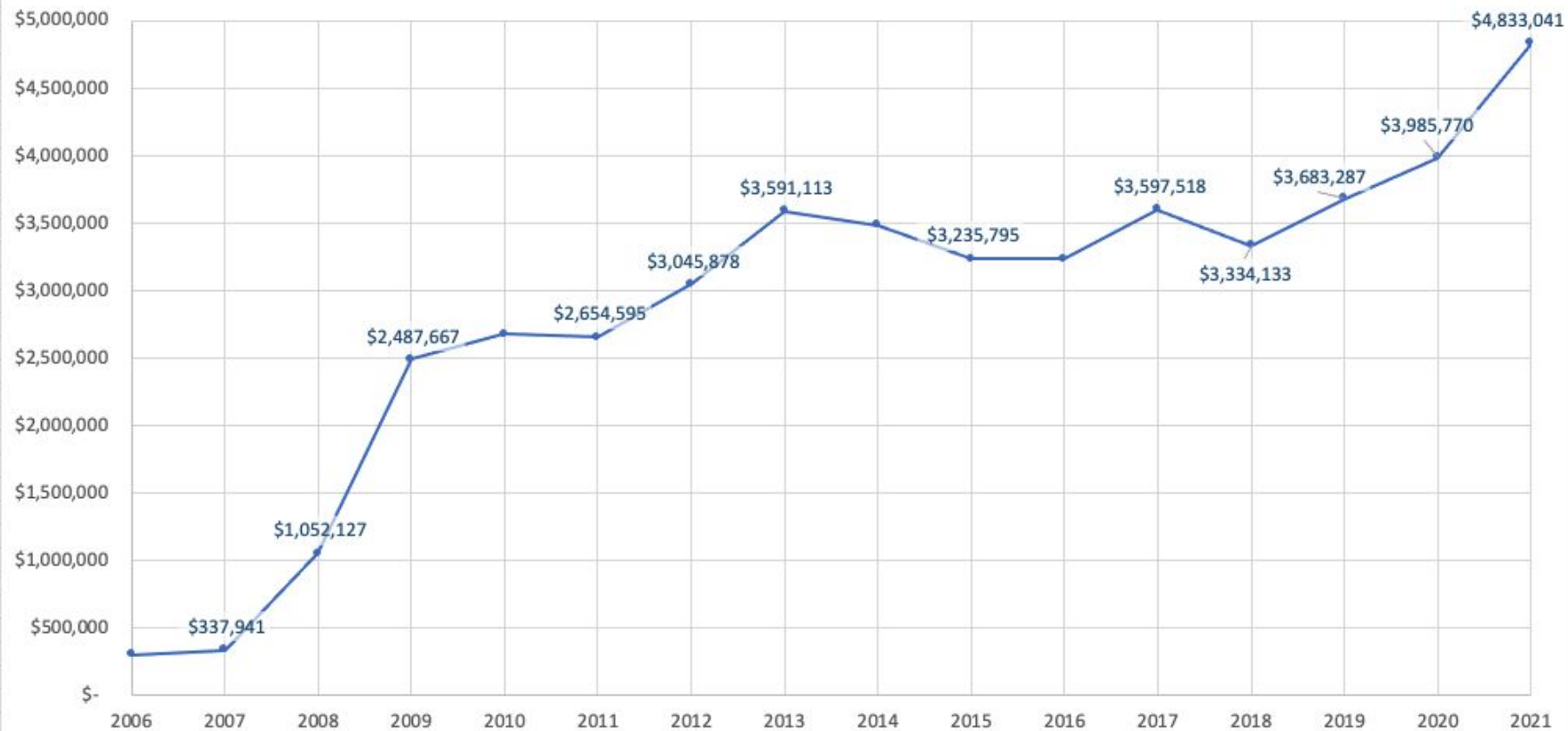
In addition, \$1,600 raised for youth programs



- **Endowments at the end of 2021 reached \$4.8 million**

Market downturn in 2022 may impact 2023 distribution somewhat, although anticipated distributions are based on 4% of a 3-year moving average

Endowment Amount (at year end)



Membership



19 new member units

Photos and profiles of many of our
new members are at the BEKI
website under the heading
OUR COMMUNITY

Robert Feder

Bonnie Pepper, Aaron Barkon, and Sammi

Richard and Nancy Levine

Michael Schaffer, Tricia Napor, Zachary and Miles

Tani Cohen-Fraade, Abby Fraade and Razi

David and Annie Norman-Schiff

Gary & Sheri Hochman

Allan Rubenstein

Ali Rosen, Herbert Rosen, and Lily

Laura Van Metre Baum, Aaron Baum, Mira and Yael

Konstanze and Alexander Kunst

Marcelle, Jonathan, Eleanor and Cora Blessing

Andrew Auerbach

Shelli Farhadian, Michael Chiorazzi, Eva and Lila

Tema and Coleman Leviter

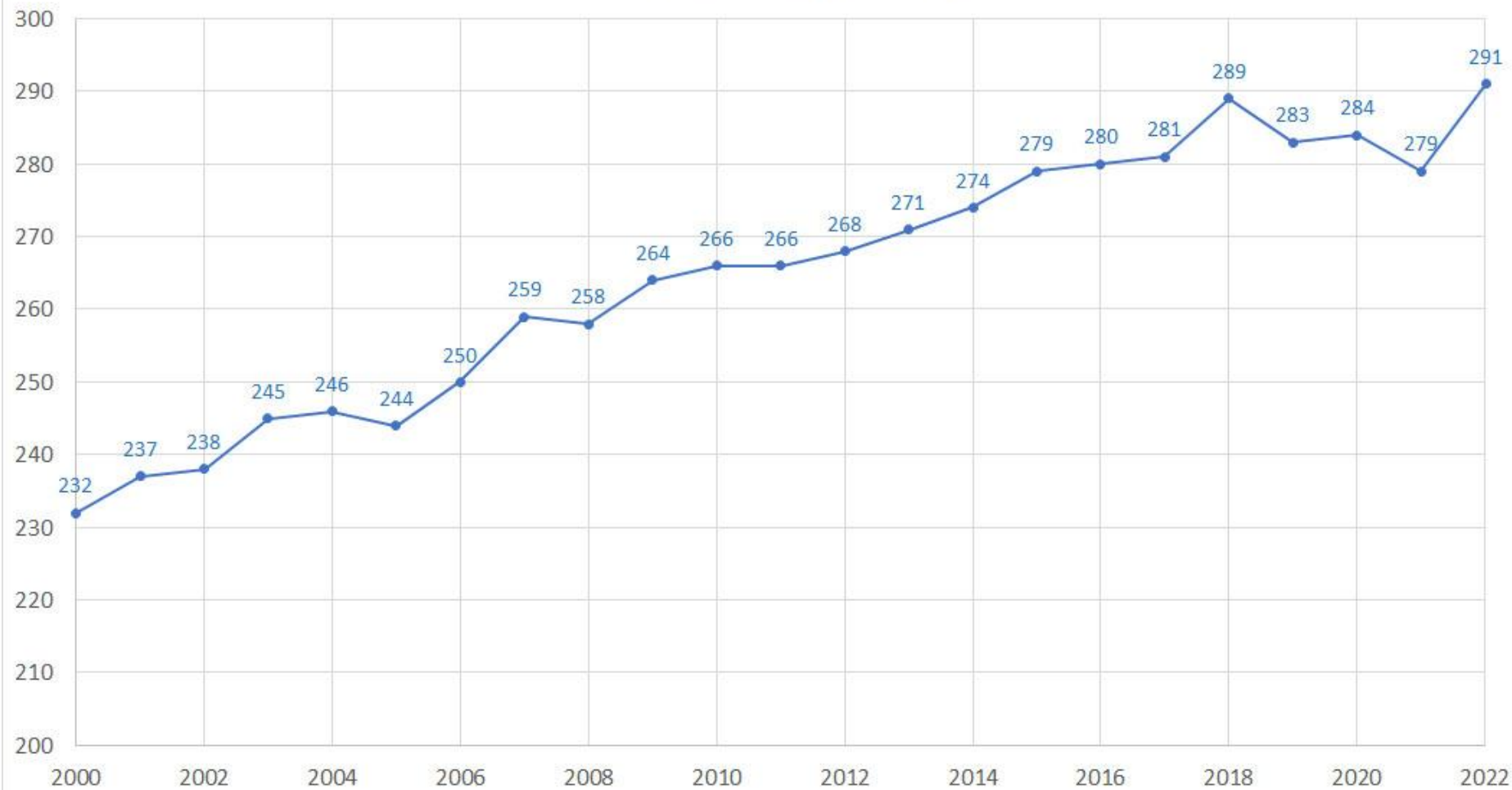
Bryna Pauker

Jhena Vigrass and Bruce Spierer

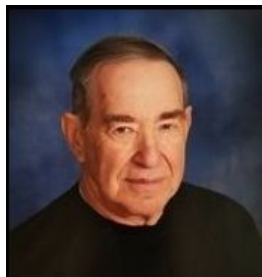
Alisa and Glenn Levine

Debbie Margolis

Family Units (Households)



Members We Lost



Al Barnett



Anita Henowitz



Dan Krevolin



Baruch Levine

And just days ago,
Belle Greenberg

Former members

- Stephen Alderman
- Shirley Mattler
- Bea Smirnoff

Family Members We Lost

Toby Bessie Bell, mother of Morris Bell

Susan Berger, sister of James Berger

William Lyford Bixby, father of Nate Bixby

Alice Cohen, mother of Julie Cohen

Pablo Eyzaguirre, father of Carlos Eyzaguirre

Marilyn Foodim, mother of Joanne Foodim

Regina Greenwald, mother of Meryl Gordon

Pearl Kasowitz, mother of Bryna Pauker

Isobel Kemper, mother of Donna Kemper

Arlyse Levick, mother of Jeff Levick

Vivian Abrams Lowell, mother of Lauri Lowell

David Marshall, brother of Shoshana Lash

Heinz Martin Seligman, father of Sharon Sachs

Lillian Silverman, mother of Ina Silverman

Ida Sklaver, mother of Diana Firestone

Dale Sokolow, stepmother of Jay Sokolow

Joshua Sokolow, father of Jay Sokolow

Mike Teitelbaum, partner of Susan Jacobson

Paul Weintraub, father of Dan Weintraub

Births



Mazal Tov to

Rozzie and Ben Rodwin, and
Charlie, on the birth of Shayna

Sarah Silverman and Elan
Weinstock on the birth of Geffen

Grandparents Paulette Lehrer
Bobrow & Sam Bobrow on the birth
of Leora



B'nei Mitzvah



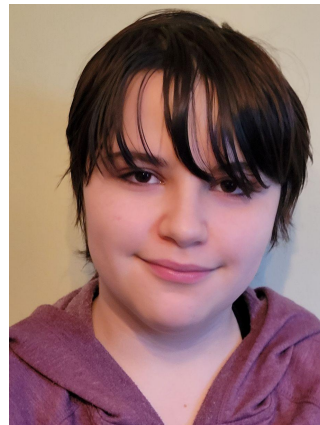
Itamar Lebowitz

Aviva Robbins

Zoe Katz

L Rosenthal

Joel Grutzendler



Weddings

Rochel Chana Buckman & Hillel Rosenzweig

Michael Rothman & Suzie St. Pierre

Matthew Wiener & Roxy Kohilakas

Alexander Shragis & Emily Cohen

Jhena Vigrass & Bruce Spierer

