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 Doft (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)
Prints by Raffi Kaiser
June - August

2022 Ancestors
Submissions
Due August 1

Bruce Oren
Entropy Warriors: 50 year Retrospective
January - March

Ancestors:
High Holidays Exhibition
Success in 2021 about 90 photographs

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

BEKI Art Committee
Helen Rosenberg
Cynthia Rubin
Margie Hirshfield
Diane Krevolin
Bruce Oren
Peg Olin
Dan Weintraub
Tamar Schechter
Board Liaison
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!”
● 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
BEKI finds the right new rabbi in Eric Woodward


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!
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

- 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

Jennifer Botwick has taken over from Steve Werlin
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
Membership

19 new member units

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

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

And just days ago, Belle Greenberg

Former members
- Stephen Alderman
- Shirley Mattler
- Bea Smirnoff

HaMakom Yinachem
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
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