



BEKI Gallery: Page 8

# FEBRUARY EVENTS

## Honoring Legacy Donors

On Saturday, Feb. 11, we will celebrate all of our members who have arranged legacy gifts to BEKI, including Harold Miller, who is celebrating a special birthday. Our Legacy L'Chayim honorees have added to our endowment funds during their lifetimes or arranged to leave \$1,000 or more to BEKI in their estates. While we already have almost one hundred members and friends who have made this commitment, we will be working in the year ahead—through a partnership with the Create a Legacy Greater New Haven project—to encourage others to do so. For more information on how you can make these arrangements (free of charge, and very simply), contact our Finance Chair, Attorney Donna Levine at [sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com) or 203-234-9867.



Donna Levine

## Schmooze with Roya Hakakian

Also on Feb. 11, at 1 pm, author Roya Hakakian will speak about Women, Life and Liberty: Current Protests in Iran. Born and raised in Tehran, Roya arrived in the U.S. in 1985, eventually moved to this area, and joined BEKI. Her writing includes the memoir *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran*; *Assassins of the Turquoise Palace*, about the shooting of Iranian and Kurdish opposition

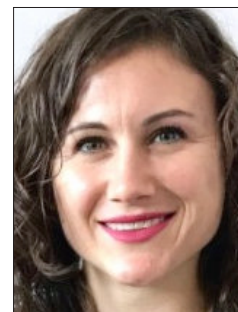
leaders in Berlin in 1992; and her latest book, *A Beginner's Guide to America*. An active thinker of foreign relations, Roya is a founding member of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center and currently serves as an editorial board member of World Affairs. In the book *Political Awakenings* by University of California at Berkeley's Professor Harry Kreisler, she was highlighted "among the most important activists, academics, and journalists of her generation."



Roya Hakakian

## Keeping Our Kids Safe

BE SMART for Kids will be the topic for a conversation on BEKI [Zoom](#) Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 pm with Joanna Taczanowsky. The presentation, part of a campaign to raise awareness about secure gun storage—in our homes and in the homes our children and grandchildren visit—has been organized by Tema Leviter, a new BEKI member and grandmother of young BEKI kids Aviv and Ori. BE SMART for Kids, for which Joanna is the state lead, is an offshoot of the better known Everytown for Gun Safety. Our conversation will address gun accidents and the risk of guns in suicide. *More information on page 3.*



Joanna Taczanowsky



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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](mailto:bulletin@beki.org)

- Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://www.beki.org)

• Follow us on social media:  

- For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

Deadline for submission of ads or articles is the first of the month preceding publication.

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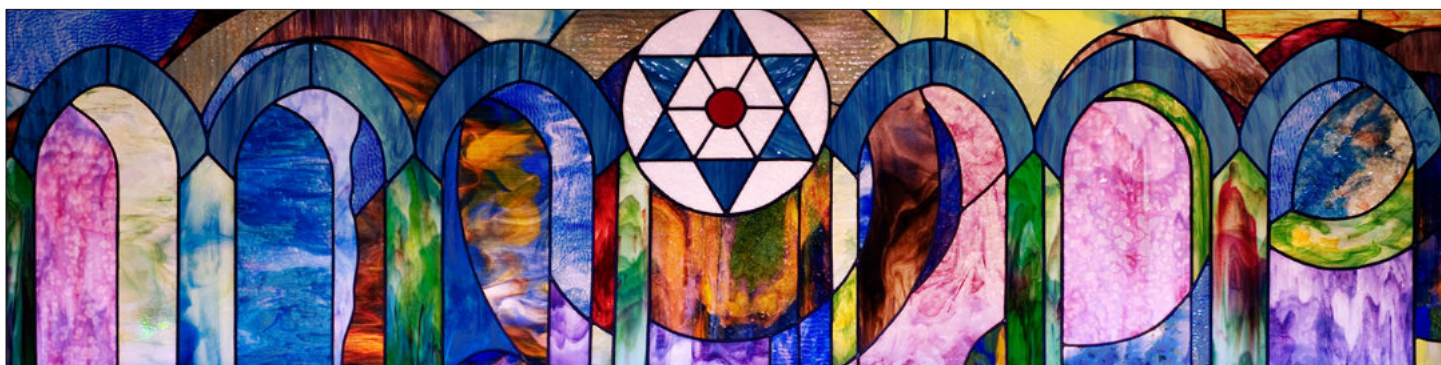
Alice Kosowsky, Bruce Oren

## Board of Directors

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

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- David Levy (vice-president)
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BEKI STAINED GLASS WINDOW DESIGN BY CYNTHIA BETH RUBIN



# A VITAL PROGRAM ON ZOOM

By TEMA LEVITER

BEKI will be sponsoring an online presentation by BE SMART for Kids on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 pm.



**Tema Leviter**

Why is this a vital program that I hope you will mark as a priority to attend?

While you may not own firearms in your home, it's important to know that, since the beginning of the pandemic, firearm ownership has multiplied astronomically. Your child or grandchild will likely visit the home of a friend whose parent owns a firearm. Is it secured?

Here are the facts:

- 4.6 million children live in homes with unsecured firearms.
- Every year, nearly 700 children 17 and under die by suicide with a gun.
- Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens.

Years ago, my child's middle school classmate committed suicide by shooting himself after locking himself in the bathroom. Sometime later, by coincidence, his mother started working in the same firm as me. We had a difficult conversation about her son's passing. This was a death that may have been averted with a properly stored firearm.

My five-year-old grandchild recently had his very first playdate at the home of a friend (who happens to be



Jewish). The friend's parents were asked by my daughter-in-law about the presence of firearms in the home. Imagine her shock when the homeowners said, "Yes, we have arms, and yes, they are secured." She was glad that she asked and relieved that the parents were responsible firearm owners.

Although we may not be able to prevent every tragedy, we have the tools to prevent at least a few. This program will provide conversation starters and practical information. Please join us on BEKI [Zoom](#).

## Mick Lebowitz Bar Mitzvah



**Mick Lebowitz**

The Bar Mitzvah of Michael "Mick" Lebowitz, son of Mira and Eli Lebowitz, will be celebrated on Shabbat Shirah, Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, *parashat Beshalach*. The congregation is invited to attend. Kiddush lunch sponsored by the Lebowitz Family will follow. Mick, who is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Ezra Academy, is interested in fencing, Star Wars, and football (Go Bills!). Mick also enjoys snowboarding in the winter months.

## Carol Anderson Film

A new documentary called "[I, Too](#)" will be shown on BEKI [Zoom](#) Wednesday, March 1 at 7:30 pm, followed by a conversation with the producer at 8:30 pm. Narrated and conceived by Carol Anderson, the film makes a compelling argument that the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol is part of a pattern of white supremacy, similar to prior historical events that most of us have never learned about. Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of African American Studies at Emory University and author of the *New York Times* bestseller *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*.



**Carol Anderson**

# 2022 ANNUAL APPEAL SHORTFALL

By MURRAY AKRESH, CHAIR OF BEKI INCOME DEVELOPMENT

On behalf of the BEKI Board and the entire BEKI community, thank you very much to everyone who made generous donations for the BEKI 2022 Annual Appeal. We appreciate your support.

We have not reached our budgeted goal for the Appeal (or the amount donated in 2021). We knew that some members would be unable to make a donation this year due to the impact of



**Murray Akresh**

the pandemic and the drop in the stock market. In addition, some members have given generously to the sanctuary redesign but not to the Annual Appeal. So we were counting on others to make up for this through increased donations. However, this didn't happen.

Your donations to the Annual Appeal provide the funds needed to cover BEKI's operating budget, including salaries for the rabbi and staff, heat and power and other day-to-day expenses of running BEKI.

Since our fiscal year ends June 30, there is still time to make up this shortfall. Please contact Peggy at [office@BEKI.org](mailto:office@BEKI.org) or call her at 203-389-2108 x114 to make a pledge or donation.

## Crazy Hat Shabbat

We'll begin the celebration on Friday, Feb. 24 & Saturday, Feb. 25, which is the first Shabbat in the month of Adar, with Crazy Hat Shabbat at BEKI. Adults and children are encouraged to wear crazy hats as a warmup to Purim.

At Purim festivities Monday evening March 6 and Tuesday, March 7, adults and children are encouraged to come in full costume!

## Order Your Purim Bags

Be sure to reply about Shalach Manot by Wednesday, March 1. The order form is [here](#) at the website. You can pay by check or by [credit card](#) to send bags to a few friends or to the entire congregation. Whether or not you pick up a bag, you'll receive your Purim card with your donor list. Bags can be picked up after the Megillah readings March 6 & 7 or by arrangement with the office later that week.

## Can You Provide a Meal?

BEKI uses the platform Lotsa Helping Hands to support families with new babies. You can prepare and deliver the dinner or arrange delivery from a restaurant.

Anything you need to know—how many people to feed;



PHOTO BY GARY HOCHMAN

**Erev Purim comes March 6. The Saltiel-Shetler and Cohen-Fraade families enjoy last year's children's Purim program.**

vegetarian, kashrut or allergy specifications; address and time for delivery—is provided. Just [log in](#) and choose your password. When a new baby arrives in our community, you'll receive an email with a link to Lotsa Helping Hands.

If you have questions, consult [rachel.d.greenberg@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.d.greenberg@gmail.com).



**Rachel Greenberg**



# DONATIONS NEEDED



ALLEN SAMUEL PHOTOGRAPHY

**The Connecticut Z'mirah Chorale assemble on the BEKI bimah Dec. 20. From left, Rhoda Zahler Samuel, Laura Austin, Zane Carey, Ben Judd, Aaron Tessler, Marga Hirsch, and Rachel Adelstein, with Director Dr. Kevin Mack facing them.**

Our fundraising goal is to raise the \$1,250,000 needed to successfully complete the major renewal of our sanctuary. Phase One of our fundraising was completed in 2022. Donations and pledges slightly exceeded \$600,000 of which about \$400,000 has already been paid. These funds have been segregated in an interest-bearing account and will not be used for any other purpose. Thank you to all who made pledges or donations.

At its January meeting, the BEKI Board approved borrowing up to \$500,000 to help finance this project. Monthly payments on the borrowed amount will not exceed BEKI's interest and principal payments in prior years. In a second vote, the Board unanimously approved paying off the \$44,000 remaining balance of BEKI's existing mortgage, thereby giving us greater flexibility to shop for a new loan to help finance the redesign.

The Board and Fundraising Committee understand that current member pledges plus borrowing the maximum approved amount are not sufficient to reach our \$1,250,000 fundraising goal. Therefore, we must raise additional funds from members. In addition, the future cost of borrowing \$500,000 would be steep, and additional member contributions would lessen the ongoing burden.

Accordingly, the Sanctuary Fundraising Committee will soon begin Phase Two fundraising. As part of this, Fundraising Committee members will be calling every BEKI member. We are asking every member to give something, and those who already made donations or pledges to consider giving more. We prefer that pledge payments be made this year; however, if it will allow you to increase the amount of your pledge, we are accepting payment over a period not to exceed four years.

If you are over age 70½ or have appreciated securities, you may be able to take advantage of existing tax laws. We would be happy to provide additional information.

Please contact Peggy in the BEKI office to make your pledge and indicate your payment period. Email her at [office@BEKI.org](mailto:office@BEKI.org) or call 203-389-2108 ext. 114. If you want to talk to someone about the redesign or your pledge, please contact anyone on the Sanctuary Fundraising Committee.

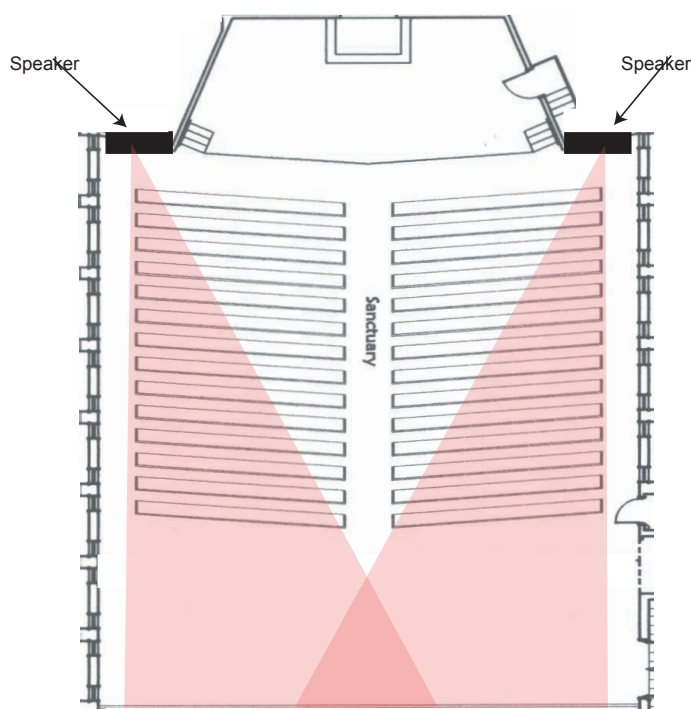
Thank you very much for your generosity!

Murray Akresh, Yaron Lew, Mark Oppenheimer, Jessey Palumbo, John Wareck, John Weiser; Ex Officio: Rachel Bashevkin, Donna Levine — BEKI Sanctuary Fundraising Committee

## Trouble Hearing the Service?

If you are not hearing well in the sanctuary, you might be sitting in a location that does not receive the benefit of the wall speakers. A large area in the center of the sanctuary (the white triangle in the diagram) was kept free from enhanced sound per request of members who did not want amplification on Shabbat. If you want the benefit of the wall speakers, you should sit in the shaded area of the sketch. Or you might choose to sit very close to the reader's table, though that will help only when the shaliach tzibur is facing the congregation.

For people who use hearing aids with a T-coil setting, that system works anywhere in the pews. The sound from every microphone will come directly to your hearing aids.



## Tu Bishvat for Trees

The New Year for Trees arrives Sunday evening, Feb. 5, and the children of BINA will have a program that morning to celebrate. But Tu Bishvat is not just for kids!

Plan to eat some fruits or nuts from trees – such as almonds, walnuts, cashews, pistachios, oranges, apples, pears, dates, avocados, or olives--and say the blessing: “Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech ha’olam, borei pri ha’etz.”

Tu Bishvat just means the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Shevat. Arriving with the full moon, the holiday reminds us of the majesty of trees. To help appreciate the magnificence of trees, here's a one minute time lapse [video](#) of an acorn in its first 8 months of growth.

## Prayer and Liturgy

On the third Wednesday of the month, which is Feb. 15, you are invited to Prayer and Liturgy at BEKI with Rabbi Carl Astor. The focus of the group, which meets at 7:30 pm via a special Zoom [link](#), is to better understand the language, the historical context, and the spiritual meaning of our prayers and liturgy. We'll be joined again this month by members of Kehilat Kol HaNeshama in Sarasota, FL.

## Making a Minyan and Torah Reading

To make sure we have a minyan consistently, please, use [Minyan Maker](#). Up top, you choose which weekday service you are planning to attend (morning or afternoon). Then find your name below and choose "I'll be there." If your name does not appear on the list, just email [ritualcoordinator@beki.org](mailto:ritualcoordinator@beki.org).

If you are able to read an aliyah of Torah, make your selection via our online [spreadsheet](#). Just scroll down to the proper date to see details about each aliyah. If you have questions, please consult Rachel Adelstein at [ritualcoordinator@beki.org](mailto:ritualcoordinator@beki.org).

Thanks to everyone who helps make BEKI services strong.



## Tree of Life Awaits Your Leaf

The Tree of Life at the entrance to BEKI is a collection of golden leaves that honor people and moments in our lives. For \$118 you can add a leaf. Contact Marjorie Wiener at 203.387.6278 or [marjoriowiener@yahoo.com](mailto:marjoriowiener@yahoo.com)

## המקום ינחם

*HaMakom Yinachem*

*With sorrow we note the passing of*

Member **Jack Yakerson**, husband of Laura Yakerson  
**Helen Bokhour**, mother of member Roya Hakakian (and Ramin Ahmadi)

**Maxine Goldblum**, mother of member David Goldblum (and Joanne Goldblum)

**David Raz**, father of Mira Lebowitz (and Eli Lebowitz)

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*



# Hanukkah Party Brings Light

BINA students, and other kids from BEKI and the larger community, shared the joy of Hanukkah at a party on Wednesday, Dec. 14. Although we celebrated early because the holiday itself fell over winter break, BEKI kids learned, created, and prepared to celebrate at home—and had fun doing it!

Younger kids enjoyed story time with Kayla Bisbee, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's PJ Library professional. Older kids had riotous fun doing Hanukkah puzzles and games with Rabbi Eric.

Kids of every age gathered in the social hall to make candles two ways: by rolling wicks in sheets of beeswax, and by dipping wicks in hot wax. Both kinds of candles turned out beautifully, and every child went home with candles to light up their Hanukkah at home. Plus, they enjoyed latkes with sour cream and applesauce, and fair trade



**BINA students Ayelet Woodward and Naomi Rivers dip candle wicks in wax at the BINA Hanukkah party.**

chocolate gelt for playing dreidel.

A special thank you to the volunteers who made the party a success: BEKI Sisterhood members Harriet Friedman and Karen Kasap, who organized a tremendous Book and Gift Fair, and Marjorie Wiener who made our latkes; Becky May, who orders us fair trade chocolate gelt every year; and BINA mom Les-

ley Frame and her family, who led the candle dipping craft.

Our holiday celebrations at BEKI benefit tremendously from the work of volunteers. Would you like to volunteer at our Tu Bishvat or Purim parties?

Or do you know a family with young children who would like to try BEKI children's programming when we're at our festive best? Contact Education Director Annie Norman-Schiff [anormanschiff@beki.org](mailto:anormanschiff@beki.org).

## Tu Bishvat Party

All children are welcome at BINA's Tu Bishvat Party on Sunday morning, Feb. 5. We will be learning new songs about trees and the earth, tasting new fruits, planting our own seedlings to take home, and more. Contact Annie with questions or if you would like to volunteer.

## BINA Shabbat Feb. 25

Saturday morning services on Feb. 25 will be a BINA Shabbat. Annie will give the d'var Torah, and Morah Rachel Scheinerman's second and third grade class will show what they've learned by helping to lead the Musaf service.

## Weekly Zoom Havdalah

Online Havdalah continue in February. Every Saturday night on [Zoom](https://www.zoom.us), we'll sing the blessings along with Rabbi Eric, reflect on our week, and read a story with Annie. Adults can stay on to chat afterwards. Check the calendar for the time each week.

# SENSING CONNECTIONS

A retrospective exhibition by Cynthia Beth Rubin entitled *Sensing Connections* is on display through March.

In works spanning decades of explorations, Rubin depicts imagined sensations of the unseeable yet essential aspects of our world. In collaboration with the Menden-Deuer Oceanography lab at the University of Rhode Island, recent work explores the question of how we bring empathy, awareness, and curiosity to the unseen or rarely seen microscopic life of the ocean.

This work often intertwines plankton with medieval Hebrew manuscripts, drawing on research she undertook in the late 1980s exploring motifs of cultural distinction in a tradition of ongoing commentary, reinterpretation, and embellishment. Rubin considers how the unknown meanings implied in the layered text interrelate with the unknown in science, while exploring the similarities in pattern and form between microscopic life and decorative patterns developed centuries ago.

Earlier works by Rubin, including paintings on canvas and a pioneering digital image from 1984, provide context to the more recent works. The exhibition also includes selections from the ongoing artist's collaborative project with Yona Verwer and Kris Tonski, *Zodiacs on the Lower East Side*, as well as still images from *Layered Histories*, her collaborative interactive work with Bob Gluck.

Rubin's work has been recognized internationally through exhibitions and film festivals, including Creative

Tech Week in New York City, the Jerusalem Biennial, the Siberia State Art Museum, the Kyrgyzstan State Museum, and in cities such as Paris, New York, Toronto, Montréal

and elsewhere around the world.

Rubin's videos and interactive works have been shown on the ICC tower facade in Hong Kong, the Jewish Museum in Prague, the Cotton Club screen in Harlem, the ICA in London, and numerous international festivals featuring digital art. Her video *les affinités recouvrées* (Recovered Affinities) was featured opening night of multiple Jewish Film Festivals (San Francisco, Boston) and other venues around the world.

A three-time recipient of grants from the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, Ru-

bin has been awarded international artist residencies and grants from sources as diverse as VidéoChroniques (Marseille) and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

For this exhibition, the artist, who is also a BEKI member, will donate 100 percent of the sales to BEKI for many of the works in the exhibition. Non-members may designate the donations from their sales to BEKI Tikkun Olam projects that are non-denominational in nature, such as providing meals for Columbus House. Sales to BEKI members will contribute to promoting art at BEKI.

An artist talk is scheduled for Sunday, March 5 at noon in the downstairs social hall. Lunch will be served; RSVP to [art@beki.org](mailto:art@beki.org). More information is on the BEKI [website](http://www.beki.org), with a link to a price list of works in the show.



**Dinophysis with Diatoms and Circles from Cairo ©2022 Cynthia Beth Rubin. Plankton source images provided by Susanne Menden-Deuer lab, University of RI; Book source from the Leningrad Codex, produced in Old Cairo in 1008.**



## Matanot L'Evyonim

Please note that on the Shalach Manot (Purim Bag) [form](#), you can also arrange matanot l'evyonim, donations to those in need, which will be distributed by Rabbi Woodward at his discretion.

## JCARR Update

JCARR, the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement, is settling our 8<sup>th</sup> family, from Ukraine. They've had a challenging year and look forward to being together and living in a stable environment. A lease was signed and furniture moved in. Dad is already living here and awaiting his wife and daughters. Contact Madeleine Kleinman at [madk117@gmail.com](mailto:madk117@gmail.com) to find out how you can participate in this effort.

## Clothing Drives

Thanks to everyone who donated to our winter clothing drives. Rob Lettick delivered many bags to Downtown

Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK). Jennifer Botwick delivered multiple loads to St. Michael's Ukrainian Church. Paul Zalonski reports that the first container packed with winter clothing and medical supplies has arrived in

Ukraine.

## Chapel on the Green

Lisa Levy, Outreach Coordinator for Trinity Church on the Green, wrote: "I just wanted to say thank you so much to the wonderful people at Congregation B'nai Jacob and BEKI for bringing your help, your joyful spirits, and your delicious chili to Chapel on the Green on Christmas Day. We are completely dependent on the generosity of people like you to build community and feed people in body,

mind, and spirit, and we are so, so grateful for your presence and your support!"



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA BETH RUBIN

**Jennifer Klein, Jim Berger, and Gadiel Robbins were part of the BEKI volunteer team for Chapel on the Green on Dec. 25.**

## Giftshop

The Giftshop is open by appointment every day except Shabbat, usually at the time of minyanim and religious school. Email us at [giftshop@beki.org](mailto:giftshop@beki.org) or text Karen 203.430.2182 or Harriet 203.675.8607. Follow us on Instagram @bekijudaicagifts

## Tu Bishvat at the Giftshop

For Tu Bishvat, the New Year of Trees, which begins at sunset on February 5, we have a wide selection of books for children.

We are the only Judaica store in Connecticut with a curated inventory of books of interest to Jewish children and adults. We have books for every holiday, adult and children's fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks and art. See our new selection of children's alef bet learning books and several autographed copies of Liana Finck's *Let There Be Light*. Come in and browse. If we don't have what you are looking for, then we will find it for you.

The Sisterhood Giftshop Author Event with Liana Finck was a great success. Thanks to all who attended, and all who helped make it happen.



## Rabbi's Tzedakah Fund

- In memory of Jacob Pepper by Louis J. Petrillo
- To Hyla Greenberg on the yahrzeit of Marion Goldstein by Louis J. Petrillo

## Kiddush Fund

- Joanne & Steve Rudof
- Max DuBoff
- Friends of Bryna Pauker
- Sarah Levine, Ilana Seidmann and Joshua Levine

## Chai/Synagogue Fund to support synagogue operations

- **To Max DuBoff in honor of becoming a Ph.D. candidate by**
- Marsha Goodman
- Bruce, Sherry & Drew DuBoff
- **To Jane Coffee & Carlos Eyzaguirre in honor of the birth of their son Pablo by**
- Rena Cheskis-Gold and Marty Gold (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Fund)
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- Sam Purdy & Emma Sokoloff-Rubin (to the BEKI Sanctuary Redesign Fund)
- **To Susie Voigt in honor of the birth of her grandsons Pablo & Julian by**
- Rena Cheskis-Gold and Marty Gold (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Fund)
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- **To Michael Winter, Ellen Mackler & family with sympathy on the passing of Joseph Winter by**
- Linda & Ken Buckman
- Yaron Lew
- Rena Cheskis-Gold and Marty

- Gold (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Fund)
- Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- Seth Pauker & Tina Rose
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- **To Natalya Moycik in honor of her B'Mitzvah by**
- Ruth Silver
- **To Klara Oppenheimer in honor of her B'Mitzvah by**
- Ruth Silver
- **To Annie & David Norman-Schiff in honor of the birth of Eve by**
- Ruth Silver
- **To Donna & Sid Levine in honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by**
- Joanne & Steve Rudof
- Marsha Levinson Mason
- **To Roya Hakakian, Ramin Ahmadi & family with sympathy on the passing of Helen Bokhour by**
- Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- Yaron Lew
- Dan & Sharon Prober
- Rena Cheskis-Gold and Marty Gold (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Fund)
- **To Eva Shragis in honor of Alex Shragis' wedding by**
- Rena Cheskis-Gold and Marty Gold (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Fund)

## Yahrzeit Fund to support synagogue operations

- **In Memory of:**
- Ida & Samuel Levine by David Margolis
- Her parents Mildred & Burton Kassap by Karen Kassap and Cary Caldwell
- Jonathan Gutman by Rachel

- Light & Jonathan Freiman
- Amy Aaland by Jonathan Freiman & Rachel Light
- Esther Bashevkin by Rachel Bashevkin
- Samuel M. Alper by the Alper family
- Sydney Weinstein by Dan A. Goldberg
- Rabbi Andrew Klein by Mindy Portnoy
- Gloria Goldberg by Arlene Thrope
- Pauline Altschuler by Roberta Atteson
- Ethel Daly by Rae Shnayer
- Rose Cohen by Dorothy & Steven Spellman
- Deborah Mendelson by Myra & Andrew Harris
- Barbara Rader by Dennis Rader
- Ida Goldstein Fidler by Richard & Diane Fidler
- Ida Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- Sarah Schnitman by Edward & Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
- Robert Goodwin by Stacey Goodwin-Podell
- Shirley Cohen by James & Susan Cohen
- Her grandfather Louis Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- Geraldine Linda Lappie by Steven Hershman
- Freda Virshup by Richard & Georgi Virshup
- Al Barnett by Caroline Barnett
- Chana Rosmarin by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- Lillian Cantor by Susan & Lowell Cantor
- Daniel Cantor by Susan & Lowell Cantor
- Her beloved father Jack Nuht by Joan Gelbert
- Her grandmother Sarah Schwartz by Joan Gelbert
- Her grandfather Adolf Weisberg by Joan Gelbert
- Her aunt Mona Zitomer by Joan Gelbert
- Stanley Watsky by Kalman L. Watsky
- Her daughter Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen
- Her brother Max Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- Her father George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- Lester E. Feldman by Sara Salomon
- Molly Cohen Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- Jacob Pepper by Marilyn & Basil Friedman
- Lester Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- Jack Nankin by Sheldon & Sandra Nankin
- Samuel Shelnitz by David & Barbara Shelnitz
- Michael & Sarah Franzman by Larry & Susan Franzman
- Benjamin Spivak by Sheila Mushin
- Diane Lee Kaufman by Minna & Lewis Kaufman
- Vera Ganter by Martin Ganter
- Esther Siegelbaum by Rissa Mendlestein
- Ida Barnett by Caroline Barnett
- Jordan Goldberg by Arlene Thrope
- Elsie Hodes by Joyce Popowski
- Jacob J. Cohen by Lewis & Renee Cohen
- Irving Weinstein by Elaine Weinstein
- Abraham Goldberg by Rhoda Goldberg
- Benjamin Levine by Lillian Gross

## 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](mailto:office@beki.org) to arrange pickup.

## Advertise Your Business 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.



MICHAEL MARTONE  
MANAGER



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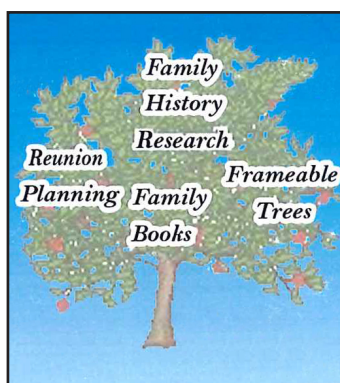
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# What will your Jewish Legacy be?



## Harold Miller Created a Legacy for his Synagogue, BEKI

*"Keser Israel, and now Beth-El Keser Israel ("BEKI), has been my synagogue for my entire life. My grandfather was actually the president of Keser Israel in 1948. I had my Bar Mitzvah at Keser Israel and I was married at BEKI. It is a pleasure for me to make a legacy commitment to this synagogue that has been and continues to be such an important part of my life."*

—Harold

For more info about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Lisa Stanger, (203) 387-2424 x382, [lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org).  
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# NEW CLASSES START THIS MONTH

**T**his month, I'm devoting my column to publicity for some classes we are beginning at BEKI. I hope you will join them!

## **Torah Study - Weekly Parashah**

- Thursdays, 9-9:45 am, in the library

Join me as we look at the weekly parashah — reading together, learning, sharing thoughts and questions. This is a great chance if you're interested in the text — no Hebrew required, although you will likely end up learning some Hebrew!

## **Talmud Study - Babylonian Talmud Shabbat Chapter 2**

- Select Sundays, 10 am - 11 am
- Feb. 5, 12, March 5, 12, April 2, 16, 23, May 7

Have you ever been interested in learning Talmud, but unsure where to start? Or have you been interested in learning more about Judaism and feel like getting into Jewish text? Or have you studied Talmud before, and you'd like to do more? Chapter 2 of Tractate Shabbat is a classic of Talmudic literature, with important halakhic questions and theological matters, funny and profound stories, and questions about life. Join me for what should be an ongoing class.

We are scheduling this semester to meet alongside religious school, as a special invitation for BINA parents to stay and feed their minds and Jewish souls.

## **Philosophy and History of Conservative Judaism**

- Select Thursdays on Zoom, 7 pm
- Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Join me as we examine some of the philosophy, theology, and history of Conservative Judaism. Note: readings will be distributed in advance, with hope that participants will read



**Eric Woodward**

them. This is a great chance to think about questions of what motivates this denomination of Judaism, to take on big questions on the relationship between law, history, and philosophy, and much more.

## **Theology of Purim**

- Sat. March 4, 12:45 pm BEKI Schmooze

What does this goofy holiday mean? We'll look at some of the core texts around the holiday's messianism and messiness.

## **Theology of Passover**

- Sat. March 25, 12:45 pm BEKI Schmooze

Beyond the frenzied kitchen work, what is the theological dimension of this holiday? What is the Haggadah about?

## **Hilchot Pesach — Laws of Pesach**

- Sat. April 1, 12:45pm BEKI Schmooze

Interested in the core texts around Passover laws? Practical questions will be addressed, but we'll also study the core halakhic texts around the food observances.

## **Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut: A New Omer?**

- Wed. April 26, 7:30pm BEKI Zoom Schmooze

The mourning practices of the Omer commemorate a plague in the second century CE. But what if a new, reinvigorated Omer commemorated the contemporary Jewish observance of the time between Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut? What would be involved in making this move theologically and halakhically?

## **Welcome New Members**

- Eden Gerson & Chanan Zupnick
- Thomas Goldenberg, Jessica Holzer and Ainsley Goldenberg
- Connie Goldman Gersick & Kelin Gersick
- Jennifer Mellon and her son Van Smith

## **Mazal Tov to**

- Diana Firestone on the birth of a grandchild Jan. 10.
- Ron Zlotoff and Donna Kemper on the Jan. 4 & 5 births of Noah Zlotoff Peteraf to Sarah Peteraf and Benjamin Zlotoff of Charlestown, MA and Jonah Robert Zlotoff to Daniel and Sarah Zlotoff of West Newton, MA.



# February 2023

## 10 Shevat 5783 - 7 Adar 5783

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  10 Shevat	<b>2</b> 8:15am In-person & Zoom Service 9am Weekly Torah Study 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7pm Philosophy & History of Conservative Judaism w/Rabbi Woodward (Zoom)  11 Shevat	<b>3</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 4:52pm Candle Lighting 6pm First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat  12 Shevat	<b>4</b> Mick Lebowitz B'Mitzvah 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr Cong 6pm Havdala Online  13 Shevat
<b>5</b> 9am BINA Tu Bishvat Program 9am In-person & Zoom Service 10am Talmud Study w/Rabbi Woodward 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  14 Shevat	<b>6</b> <b>Tu B'Shevat</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  15 Shevat	<b>7</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:30pm Sanctuary Redesign Congregation Zoom Meeting  16 Shevat	<b>8</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  17 Shevat	<b>9</b> 8:15am In-person & Zoom Service 9am Weekly Torah Study 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7pm Philosophy & History of Conservative Judaism w/Rabbi Woodward (Zoom)  18 Shevat	<b>10</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:01pm Candle Lighting 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat  19 Shevat	<b>11</b> Legacy Shabbat 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr Cong 1pm Shabbat Schmooze w/Roya Hakakian 6:15pm Havdala Online  20 Shevat
<b>12</b> 9am BINA 9am In-person & Zoom Service 10am Talmud Study w/Rabbi Woodward 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  21 Shevat	<b>13</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7pm General Board Meeting (Online)  22 Shevat	<b>14</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  23 Shevat	<b>15</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:30pm Prayer & Liturgy at BEKI w/Rabbi Astor (special zoom link)  24 Shevat	<b>16</b> 8:15am In-person & Zoom Service 9am Weekly Torah Study 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7pm Philosophy & History of Conservative Judaism w/Rabbi Woodward (Zoom)  25 Shevat	<b>17</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:09 Candle Lighting 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat  26 Shevat	<b>18</b> 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr Cong 6:15pm Havdala Online  27 Shevat
<b>19</b> No BINA 9am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  28 Shevat	<b>20</b> Office Closed 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  29 Shevat	<b>21</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh I</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  30 Shevat	<b>22</b> <b>Rosh Hodesh II</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service No BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:30pm Zoom Schmooze w/Joanna Taczanowsky from Moms Demand Action  1 Adar	<b>23</b> 8:15am In-person & Zoom Service 9am Weekly Torah Study 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7pm Philosophy & History of Conservative Judaism w/Rabbi Woodward (Zoom)  2 Adar	<b>24</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service Crazy Hat Day at BEKI 5:18pm Candle Lighting 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat  3 Adar	<b>25</b> BINA Shabbat Crazy Hat Day at BEKI 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr Cong 6:30pm Havdala Online  4 Adar
<b>26</b> No BINA 9am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  5 Adar	<b>27</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (Online)  6 Adar	<b>28</b> 7am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service  7 Adar	<b>Mark Your Calendar</b> <b>Mar. 6</b> Erev Purim <b>Mar. 7</b> Purim Day <b>Mar. 11</b> Eleanor Blessing b'mitzvah <b>Apr. 5</b> First Seder <b>Apr. 22</b> Jesse Mattison b'mitzvah <b>May 25</b> Erev Shavuot			

### Service Times

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9am Shaharit 5:45pm Maariv	7am Shaharit 5:45pm Maariv	7am Shaharit 5:45pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 5:45pm Maariv	8:15am Shaharit 5:45pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 6 pm Kabbalat Shab-	bat 9:15am Shaharit

### 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).

### Donate Online

Fast and easy at  
[www.beki.org/give](http://www.beki.org/give)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:bekitefilla@gmail.com)