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 or 203-234-9867.

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.”

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

- Rachel Bashevkin (president) president@beki.org
- Jennifer Myer (vice-president)
- David Levy (vice-president)
- Steve Rudof (treasurer)
- Donna Levine (secretary)
- Murray Akresh
- Harold Birn
- Rachel Doft
- Eric Dunsker
- Russell Epstein
- Jonathan Freiman
- Mimi Glenn
- Michael Hurwitz
- Yaron Lew
- Sam Purdy
- Jonathan Rohner
- Tamara Schechter
- Rob Schonberger
- Jay Sokolow
- Evan Wyner

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
- 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.

Annual subscription is $36

BEKI Bulletin © 2023 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

Editor Rachel Bashevkin
Associate Editors Donna Levine, Donna Kemper
Layout & Design Alice Kosowsky, Bruce Oren

BEKI STAINED GLASS WINDOW DESIGN BY CYNTHIA BETH RUBIN
A Vital Program on Zoom

BY TEMI LEVITER

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

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

The Bar Mitzvah of Michael “Mick” Lebowitz, son of Mira and Eli Lebowitz, will be celebrated on Shabbat Shirah, Saturday, February 4th, parashat Beshalach. The congregation is invited to attend. Kiddush lunch sponsored by the Lebowitz Family will follow. Mick, who is an 8th 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.
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 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 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; 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.

2022 Annual Appeal Shortfall

Murray Akresh

Rachel Greenberg
Donations Needed

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 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 15th 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.

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.

Thanks to everyone who helps make BEKI services strong.
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, Beka 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 Hanukkiah at home. Plus, they enjoyed latkes with sour cream and applesauce, and fair trade 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 Kassap, 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.

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, 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, Rubin 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. More information is on the BEKI website, 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 8th 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 makk17@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!”

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

Photo by Cynthia Beth Rubin

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 or text Karen 203.430.2182 or Harriet 203.675.8607. Follow us on Instagram @bekijudaicaigifts

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.
Contributions

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 (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Fund)
• Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
To Susie Voigt in honor of the birth of her grandsons Pablo & Julian by
• Rena Cheskis-Gold and Marty (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 (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 Bashkevin by Rachel Bashkevin
• 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 Fishler by Richard & Diane Fishler
• 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 Rosamarin by Jesse & 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 Joel 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 & Hillie 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 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.
NOLAN’S
HAMDEN MONUMENT COMPANY
LICHENSTEIN COMPANY
323 Washington Ave. Hamden CT 06518
(203) 288-8486
(203) 287-1593
CT toll free only (800) 852-8865
Fax (203) 287-1593
John Nolan
Michael Nolan
nolansmonuments@att.net

Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.
A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP
Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP
Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP
Miranda Bik-Yin Ip, M.D., FAAP
Namita Wijesekera, M.D., FAAP
303 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 776-1243
Fax (203) 785-1247

1 Bradley Road, Suite 102
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243
Fax (203) 397-1241

Many Generations
Kim Formica
Genealogist
PO Box 1248
Orange, CT 06477
tel. 203/376.8551
kimformica@optonline.net

NOLAN’S
HAMDEN MONUMENT COMPANY
LICHENSTEIN COMPANY
323 Washington Ave. Hamden CT 06518
(203) 288-8486
(203) 287-1593
CT toll free only (800) 852-8865
Fax (203) 287-1593
John Nolan
Michael Nolan
nolansmonuments@att.net

Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.
A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP
Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP
Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP
Miranda Bik-Yin Ip, M.D., FAAP
Namita Wijesekera, M.D., FAAP
303 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 776-1243
Fax (203) 785-1247

1 Bradley Road, Suite 102
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 397-1243
Fax (203) 397-1241

Many Generations
Kim Formica
Genealogist
PO Box 1248
Orange, CT 06477
tel. 203/376.8551
kimformica@optonline.net

Grow with us!
Ezra Academy is a preschool through 8th grade Jewish day school offering outstanding academics and a nurturing community, rooted in the Jewish tradition of critical thinking and ethical behavior.

Challenging Minds, Nurturing Hearts

Ezra Academy welcomes a wide spectrum of religious and cultural beliefs and affiliations.

LEARN MORE:
EZRAACADEMYCT.ORG
INFO@EZRAACADEMYCT.ORG
SCHEDULE A TOUR:
EZRAACADEMYCT.ORG/VIRTUAL-TOUR

My name is [Your Name]
I am interested in learning more about Ezra Academy.

[Your Contact Information]
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.

www.jewishfoundation.org | www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org
This 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 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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Shevat</td>
<td>2 Shevat</td>
<td>3 Shevat</td>
<td>4 Shevat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Shevat</td>
<td>6 Shevat</td>
<td>7 Shevat</td>
<td>8 Shevat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9 Shevat</td>
<td>10 Shevat</td>
<td>11 Shevat</td>
<td>12 Shevat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13 Shevat</td>
<td>14 Shevat</td>
<td>15 Shevat</td>
<td>16 Shevat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17 Shevat</td>
<td>18 Shevat</td>
<td>19 Shevat</td>
<td>20 Shevat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>21 Shevat</td>
<td>22 Shevat</td>
<td>23 Shevat</td>
<td>24 Shevat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25 Shevat</td>
<td>26 Shevat</td>
<td>27 Shevat</td>
<td>28 Shevat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29 Shevat</td>
<td>30 Shevat</td>
<td>1 Adar</td>
<td>2 Adar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 Adar</td>
<td>4 Adar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Adar</td>
<td>6 Adar</td>
<td>7 Adar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Service Times**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Fridays</th>
<th>Saturdays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am Shaharit</td>
<td>7am Shaharit</td>
<td>7am Shaharit</td>
<td>7am Shaharit</td>
<td>8:15am Shaharit</td>
<td>7am Shaharit</td>
<td>7am Shaharit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45pm Maariv</td>
<td>5:45pm Maariv</td>
<td>5:45pm Maariv</td>
<td>5:45pm Maariv</td>
<td>5:45pm Maariv</td>
<td>6 pm Kabbalat Shab-</td>
<td>9:15am Shaharit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mark Your Calendar**

- **Mar. 6**: Erev Purim
- **Mar. 7**: Purim Day
- **Mar. 11**: Eleanor Blessing b’mitzvah
- **Apr. 5**: First Seder
- **Apr. 22**: Jesse Mattison b’mitzvah
- **May 25**: Erev Shavuot
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).

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.

Donate Online
Fast and easy at www.beki.org/give

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

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