



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven CT 06515

Welcome to BEKI for High Holy Days!

Please find below some general guidelines which will help acclimate you to our shul.

PARKING

The lot behind the building is prioritized for people with limited mobility. Please respect the needs of those in our community who need these specially designated spaces. The entrance to this lot will be from Whalley Avenue only. The exit will be by way of the Harrison Street driveway. Please note that there is a stop sign at the end of the driveway.

Consider walking to services or parking on the street where legally allowed. There will also be parking free of charge at the municipal lot at Whalley and Blake Streets, just beyond the Whalley Avenue driveway.

SECURITY

We are invested in balancing the warm welcome which is the BEKI tradition while taking security seriously. There will be security on site during all services. All bags are subject to inspection by either trained volunteers or professional security personnel.

ENTRY

Greeters' tables will be stationed both at Harrison Street and the parking lot lobby doors. They will have membership lists as well as notes of those who have made arrangements as guests or family members. Please arrange for your presence by paying dues or arranging guest admission ahead of time. Our office manager, Peggy, is available to do this via phone (203-389-2108) or sending the Guest Admission form linked to on the main High Holiday page, via email (office@beki.org) or to the above address. At busy service times, there might be a slight wait for admission; please plan accordingly.

Currently, masking is not required to attend services at BEKI, however it is encouraged. Masks will be available at the greeters' tables. The mask policy is subject to change based on CDC guidelines and BEKI Board recommendations. Please ask a greeter for the most recent guidelines.

SERVICES

If you are interested in having an honor during the service, please see Jennifer Myer in the lobby towards the beginning of that service. Honors will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. There will be one honor per person for the High Holy days so that we may include as many members of our community as possible.

We encourage people to participate in the holiday without the distraction of electronic devices in the building. If it is necessary to have them, please ensure that they are set on silent or vibrate mode. For those who need to call in an emergency, please find a discreet place outside of the service. A land line is available in the synagogue office.

A limited number of talitot (prayer shawls) will be in the lobby available to borrow. Kippot (head coverings) will be located on stands near each entrance. At BEKI, all people approaching the bima for participation in services, including honors, are required to wear a head covering.

Please enter and exit the Sanctuary through the social hall doors (those on the left when entering the sanctuary.) Please do so quickly and as quietly as possible. Please limit your movement when the congregation is standing or during the rabbi's d'var Torah. Ushers and greeters will be available to assist congregants and guests to ensure a smooth and secure progress of the service.

Mahzorim (prayer books) are located at your seats. A limited number of large print copies and magnifiers will be available as you enter the sanctuary. During Yom Kippur, Yizkor Memorial Books will be available on the same tables. Sound is best in the center of rows six to ten along the far (Whalley Avenue) side of the sanctuary. A Hearing Loop is available and can be accessed by switching your assistive device to T-coil.

Seats are available on a first come, first serve basis. We have fixed seating at the front of the sanctuary and movable chairs at the back. Please seat yourself in a way which feels comfortable for you and respects your neighbors. Please do not hesitate to ask your seat neighbors if they are comfortable with the distance.

Children are welcome in the both the main sanctuary and in their age-appropriate children's service. Please be aware of your child or children's location during services and, if not in services with them, please supervise their play in the synagogue or on the playground.

These guidelines are designed to provide a meaningful and secure environment for all attending High Holy days services at BEKI. Your cooperation is appreciated.