



# MAINTAINING COMMUNITY

It's hard to re-create the loving warmth of BEKI while we stay apart. Slowly, though, we are restoring something closer to the congregational life that we cherish.

The Shabbat Schmooze has resumed! Our July 1 speaker is Professor Dan Weinberger from the Yale School of Public Health, whose lab focuses on microbiology and infectious disease epidemiology. Dan, who is quoted regularly in *The Washington Post*, will speak about COVID-19 and will answer our questions.

Please note, however, that the Shabbat Schmooze has moved to Wednesdays at 8:00 pm via Zoom. The link is in the



**Dan Weinberger**

weekly BEKI Happenings email. Please check the July calendar in the back of this bulletin for the other July Schmoozes.

In-person services have begun, including on Shabbat! These outdoor gatherings follow public health guidelines: face masks, six feet distancing, only the leader sings loudly. Don't forget your sun hat and water bottle! Please bring your own siddur, if possible.

We realize, however, that any group gathering has inherent risks. Members need to make their

Continued on **Page 3**

## Transitions: High Holy Days Committee

*"Everything has an appointed season, and there is a time for every matter under the heaven: A time to plant, and a time to uproot... A time to break down and a time to build up.... A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance... A time to keep and a time to cast away... A time to be silent, and a time to speak... A time of peace"*

— Selected passages, Kohelet, Chapter 3

BY HAROLD BIRN & JENNIFER MYER

Like so many things in our lives right now, the BEKI High Holy Days Committee is undergoing a transition.

Our longtime High Holy Days chairperson, Darryl Kuperstock, is retiring after over twenty years of leading the committee.

As incoming co-chairs, we would like to thank Darryl on behalf of the extended BEKI community for all her years of hard work, dedication, and leadership. If not for Darryl guiding the way, setting the example, and getting the job done, there likely would not be as viable and vibrant a committee with whom we can continue to work.

Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen added, "Darryl has been wonderfully successful in involving many talented and dedicated volunteers to contribute to the extensive High Holy Days programs and services. Her detailed and thoughtful planning has provided us with an exceptional High

Continued on **Page 3**

What will your Jewish Legacy be?



Create your legacy for Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel



For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Lisa Stanger, (203) 387-2424 x382, [lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org), [www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org](http://www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org) | [www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org](http://www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org)

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)

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 © 2020 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi  
© 2020 Jon-Jay Tilsen. All rights reserved.

Interim Editor  
Associate Editor  
Associate Editor  
Layout & Design

*Rachel Bashevkin*  
*Donna Levine*  
*Donna Kemper*  
*Bruce Oren*



ROBERT E. SHURE, INC.  
FUNERAL HOME

Dedicated to the Dignity and Respect of Tradition

543 George Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Robert E. Shure  
Founder

203-562-8244  
[shurefuneralhome.com](http://shurefuneralhome.com)

James M. Shure  
President

**Community**

Continued from **Page 1**

own informed choices as to what is best for them. Please know that every weekday service that is held outdoors is also offered on Zoom.

Parashat HaShavua with Professor Steven Fraade and other teachers has also returned, on Sundays at 10 am via Zoom. Now all of our normal weekly text study, plus Te-

hillim in Times of Trouble with Professor Corinne Blackmer, is available online.

If you need information about in-person tefilla, a Zoom link, or a siddur, email [bekitefilla@gmail.com](mailto:bekitefilla@gmail.com) or [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org).

Even if you have objections to Facebook, please check the BEKI Facebook page. It's our best system for posting daily humor, information about local resources, online learning, concerts, and more.



**Transitions**

Continued from **Page 1**

Holy Days experience year after year, far beyond what is typical of small congregations like ours.”

After last year's extraordinarily successful transition to an entirely member-led High Holy day service, our planning began earlier this year



**Darryl Kuperstock**

under the same format. Then the world came to a stop and our lives changed, at least for now, with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Planning continues, but we are now taking our new circumstances into account. At the time we are writing this article, many of the specifics of what we will be able to do and how we will do them are not known. Issues such as limitations on gatherings from state and local government, what will be recommended best practices by CDC and other medical authorities, and what will our membership want and

be willing to participate in are all still being addressed.

Rabbi Tilsen has noted that planning “will be more complicated this year. We are forced to fundamentally re-think how we can create access and meaningful experiences for our members and supporters. We have to look again at the essential mitzvot and elements of these days and ensure they are preserved and enhanced.”

The first stage of this planning involved feedback from you, our friends and neighbors, whom we miss so much. An online questionnaire was emailed to our members (and mailed to our members who do not use email) so as to get a sense of what we are collectively comfortable with right now, and some of our expectations for the near future.

As we noted in that questionnaire, we are considering a variety of options including in-person services or pre-recorded speeches and services with the same BEKI leaders you know and enjoy that would be available on our website before the holiday, along with live streamed online services (where halakhically permissible). Different forms of online and in-person holiday-

related programming are also being considered.

Like so many things these days, none of our planning is set in stone. As the world continues to change and adapt, so do we. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to provide meaningful and spiritually fulfilling services, no matter the circumstances that are presented.

Stay tuned as our planning and programming become more concrete in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, if you have thought of something you would like to contribute, please let us know.

We look forward to being able to see everyone in person again.



**Harold Birn**



**Jennifer Myer**



Did you reply to your High Holy Days 5781 Questionnaire, which was sent June 9? If not, please reply now!

# Introducing Our New Youth and Family Page

BY ANNIE NORMAN-SCHIFF

I am excited to have officially joined BEKI as Youth and Family Programming Director! I can't wait to find new ways for BEKI families to connect with one another that are joyful, welcoming, and safe. I invite you to reach out to me at [anormanschiff@beki.org](mailto:anormanschiff@beki.org).

In the meantime, here's a way to bring Hebrew blessings to your family's nature hike, and some updates from our teens in BEKI USY.



Annie Norman-Schiff

• Communications Vice President: Aaron Bruce

Congratulations to the new board! Also, a deep thank you to outgoing USY Advisor Seth Zabin. We celebrated with a night of online games like Fibbage and [Skribbl.io](https://www.skribbl.io).

USY members also joined a nationwide "Heschel from Home" learning event on Balancing Tradition and Change in Prayer and gave to a USY fundraising drive on the phone app Venmo

that raised over twenty thousand dollars. The money will be donated to the racial justice nonprofits Equal Justice Initiative and Fair Fight.

Unlike other years when teens go off to camp, Israel trips, and other summer adventures, USY will not be taking a break this summer. So look out for more Virtual Lounge Nights and other events coming up soon.

## USY Update

BEKI USY has been rising to the occasion of distance learning, distance socializing, and making the world a better place (from a distance).

At our May 31 Virtual Lounge Night, BEKI USY elected and installed a new board for 2020-21:

- President: Noam Benson-Tilsen
- Israel Affairs Vice President: Aviva Wyner
- Religion/Education Vice President: Caleb Freiman
- Social Action/Tikkun Olam Vice President: Ella May
- Membership/Kadima Vice President: Helen Gerber



USY Virtual Lounge Night

## Family Activity: Blessings Hike

There are many blessings (b'rachot) to say over things we find in nature. Take this page with you on a hike or nature walk and see how many blessings you can say!

For things that smell good, like flowers and other plants:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם בורא עשבי בשמים

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, borei is'vei b'samim.

Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the Universe, who creates fragrant plants.

For a beautiful thing, like a tree or animal:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שפכה לו בעולם

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she kacha lo b'olamo.

Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the Universe, who has such things in your world.

For a really big beautiful thing, like West Rock or the sky:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם עשה מעשה בראשית

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, oseh ma'asei v'reishit.

Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the Universe, who made the works of creation.

For the ocean or the Sound:

ברוך אתה יהוה אלהינו מלך העולם שפעשה את הים הגדול

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she'asa et ha'yam ha'gadol.

Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the Universe, who made the great sea.

# TISHA BEAV OBSERVED JULY 29-30

## משנכנס אב ממעטין בשמחה

*When Av Starts, Joy Departs* — Taanit 26b

Tisha BeAv (“ninth day of the month of Av”) commemorates the destruction of the first two Temples and other tragedies that have taken place in our long history. The destruction of the Temples represents the downfall of the independent Jewish government, the devastation of Jewish society and tragic loss of life.

The downfall of the Bar Kokhba government and the Roman massacre and destruction of Betar occurred in 135 C.E. and is associated with the execution of 100,000 to over a million Jews in Israel and the exile of many others. On Tisha BeAv in 1290, King Edward I signed an edict expelling the Jews from England. Likewise, the expulsion of Jews from Spain occurred on that date in 1492.

The Talmudic discussion associates the destruction of the Temple, and the collapse of the Commonwealth, with unfounded contempt or excessive contention among the Jewish People in Israel, which made Israel vulnerable to foreign hegemony. The problem of unfounded contention continues in our day among the Jewish People. Likewise, as Americans, we experience unfounded hatred among ethnic and political groups, which is associated with violence and oppression.

While public health concerns limit our physical gatherings at this juncture, it may be all the more important to “get together” at these moments on-line, if that is the best we can do under the circumstances. Don’t be alone on Tisha BeAv. Join your community for the reading of Lamentations.

The fast day of Tisha BeAv will be observed Wednesday

night 29 July and Thursday 30 July. The Mincha afternoon service on Wednesday afternoon will be at the usual hour, 5:45 pm, on-line only. The fast begins at 8:11 pm. The Tisha BeAv evening service on-line (and possibly at BEKI), which will include singing of qinot (dirges) and modern songs fitting the theme and mood, will be from 8:15 to 9:30 pm.

The Shaharit (morning) service on Thursday is from 8:15 to 9:30 am. Both the Wednesday night and Thursday morning services include the reading of the Biblical Book of Eikha (Lamentations). On Thursday morning, according to the Ashkenazic custom generally followed in our community, tallit and tefillin are not worn (although tallit qatan is worn).

At the Thursday afternoon Mincha service, from 5:45 to 6:40 pm on-line, tallit and tefillin are worn, with the recitation of their usual berakhot. The standard liturgy of that afternoon includes a brief Torah reading along with a haftara. The fast is observed until 8:45 pm on Thursday.

As a sign of mourning, many refrain from wearing leather shoes and ostentatious clothing, and do not enjoy music, intimate physical relations or entertain-

ment until after the fast. These mourning practices are extended to the next day, Friday, at least until mid-day when we transition to pre-Shabbat observances.

Those with medical conditions that require oral medications or eating are urged to consult their medical and rabbinic authorities. On Tisha BeAv, we commemorate the death of our forebears, but we do not seek to re-enact it; it is prohibited to endanger one’s life by fasting. In keeping with tradition, those who cannot fast should drink or eat modestly, minimally and privately.





## Food collection July 12

The next BEKI drive-by food collection will be Sunday, July 12 from 10 am to 11 am in the BEKI parking lot. Organizations like FISH and the JFS Food Pantry have an immediate need for non-perishable food (cans and boxes). Donations will be accepted by prior arrangement only. Call 203.671.4705 to arrange for Robert Lettick to be in the parking lot to receive your “contact-free” bagged or boxed donations. Food drives will continue on the second Sunday of each month.

## Do you need help?

If you need help acquiring food, medicine, utilities, communication services, or a face mask, please contact [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) 203.389.2108 x114; we will connect you with the Hesed Committee, Tikun Olam Committee, rabbinic counsel [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org) 203.389.2108 x110, or community agencies. Funds are available to help with needs at this difficult time. All requests are confidential. We are a community, and we will help each other as much as we can.

## Kosher meal home delivery

Abel Catering provides home delivery and store pickup for kosher dinners. The menu changes weekly; orders are due by 2 pm the day before.

Edge of the Woods Market offers the same for prepared foods and groceries.

Crown Market in West Hartford delivers one Tuesday morning each month to the BEKI parking lot. Next delivery: July 7, with orders due five days before.

Claire’s Corner Copia is closed for remodeling and expansion work.

## Want to help?

If you have a home sewing machine, join the Mask Creator Volunteers who are sewing cotton face masks for

local first responders and others. Pre-cut pressed fabric is provided. Please contact BEKI members Linda Schultz 203.494.7664 [linda.schultz@snet.net](mailto:linda.schultz@snet.net) or Trish Loving 203.641.0925 [tloving@aya.yale.edu](mailto:tloving@aya.yale.edu).

If you could call isolated BEKI folks or those who do not use internet, deliver food & medicines for the home-bound, or help with BEKI food drives, please sign up with Hesed Committee chair Rob Lettick [robolettick@aol.com](mailto:robolettick@aol.com) 203.671.4705.

To sponsor food deliveries for the Columbus House shelter, to assist the men who participated in Abraham’s Tent, to assemble supplies or sponsor non-food care packages for the July 12 Chapel on the Green, or in regard to other Tikun Olam projects, check with Darryl Kuperstock [kuperst@gmail.com](mailto:kuperst@gmail.com) 203-215-8555.

To help with JCARR refugee resettlement work, our liaison is Madeleine Kleinman [madk117@gmail.com](mailto:madk117@gmail.com).



Linda Schultz prepares to sew face masks

## What project have you found meaningful?

You can see from above what some exceptional volunteers are accomplishing during the pandemic, but that’s just a piece of what BEKI folks have been doing in recent months. For the August bulletin, we’d love a quick note from YOU about a project you have found meaningful during this pandemic (whether or not it was under the auspices of BEKI). Please email [Bulletin@BEKI.org](mailto:Bulletin@BEKI.org) before July 10.

# KLEIN EXHIBIT TO BE EXTENDED

The BEKI community will have an extended opportunity to enjoy Leslie Klein's exhibit "T'chiah: Spirit and Fire," which was installed just a week before the building shut down in March.

Klein is a mixed media and fiber artist who creates images from a Jewish and feminist perspective. She constructs garments and objects of hand-dyed, airbrushed, silk-screened, and embellished fabrics to address her perspective in Jewish themes. Objects, wire, beads, machine embroidery, photo-transfer and other complex cloth techniques conceptually allude to ideas, messages and symbols. She is the mother of BEKI member Jennifer Klein.

Klein has agreed to keep the exhibit up through the high

holy days as the Covid crisis has caused us to delay the planned "Ancestors" high holy day show until next year.

Although the "Ancestors" exhibit will not be shown until the 2021 high holy day season, the BEKI Art Committee has already initiated planning for it. The committee is seeking photographs and other types of images dating before 1950 of family members and family friends to reflect the diverse ancestry of the BEKI membership. Each participating BEKI member can submit up to two photographs of groups or individuals for inclusion in the show. Pictures of unidentified ancestors will be accepted, especially if the photographs are older. Photographs (and re-photographs) should be sent to [beki.photos@gmail.com](mailto:beki.photos@gmail.com).



Some of Leslie Klein's mixed media and fiber art is exhibited in BEKI's lower level gallery.

**המקום ינחם**

*HaMaqom Yinahem*

With sorrow we note the passing of

**Liora (Lazar) Lew,**  
wife of BEKI President Yaron Lew  
mother of Daphne, Maya, and Dana Lew

**Regina Arntsen,**  
mother of Charles (& Robin) Arntsen

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*



**Liora Lew**

**Mazal Tov to the Class of 2020**

**PHD**

Daphne Lew

Miriam Gerber

Elie Azoff-Slifstein

**COLLEGE**

Joni Weintraub

Kevin Dardik

Jonathan Mohr

Maya Lew

Leora Weitzman

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Ari Gad

Guido Secchiaroli

Eran Avni-Singer

Jerome DelMoro

Sam Epstein

If your graduate's name is missing, please accept our apology and send it to [bulletin@BEKI.org](mailto:bulletin@BEKI.org). We will include it in the August Bulletin.

Mazal Tov to BEKI Ezra Academy graduates • Miranda Hurwitz • Miles Katz • Malachi Light • Eli Ratner

- Mazal Tov to Alex Wyner, son of Evan & Stacey, on completing his IDF service

- Mazal Tov to Jessica Bod & Tamara Schechter, and to Emmenuelle, on their baby born June 19.

**A Message from BEKI President Yaron Lew**

*This is an excerpt from an email message sent on May 20. If you are not receiving these messages, please ask Peggy to add you to the email list: [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org).*

I wish I had a two-way speaker with which to communicate with every one of you these days... I would tell you that I miss each of you, and I miss seeing you in shul on Shabbat. I would tell you that there is a ray of sunshine at the end of this dark period. I would tell you that the Board and I are racking our brains trying to determine how and when to resume services... I would tell you that the BEKI community is the most amazing community I've ever been a part of...and I'd tell you that all of us can and should find

a reason to smile every day.

I wish times were different, but these are the times we have and these are the cards we are dealt, so let's find a way to do something nice every day to brighten another person's life. Maybe an act of charity or maybe bringing flowers to your loved one. Maybe sing a song to someone. Whatever you do, find a way to bring beauty and hope to someone else, to our community and to the world.

**Torah for the Hungry Mind – Adult Study**

*Sundays*

**(New!) Parashat HaShavua**

From 10:00 to 10:36 am via Zoom, an opportunity to dive into the new week's Torah reading, with Rabbi Tilsen & guests.

**Tehilim in Times of Trouble**

From 3:30 to 4:30 pm via Zoom, the group explores the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Professor Corinne Blackmer.

*Mondays*

**Rashi Study Group: II Kings**

From 8 to 8:30 am adults meet online with Rabbi Tilsen to read Rashi's commentary.

*Thursdays*

**Mini Morning Learning Service**

From 8:15 to 9:15 am, this online morning service is supplemented with

commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service.

**Berakhot Talmud Study Group**

From 10 to 11 am, a weekly online study of the Talmud Bavli Berakhot with Rabbi Tilsen.

## Contributions

---

### **Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)**

- In honor of Barbara Cushen by Karen & Kurt Overthrow
- In memory of his father, and in memory of his friend Rene Charles Benoit, by Lou & Lisa Petrillo
- In memory of Malka Levine by Rabbi Murray Levine
- In memory of Richard L. Bayer by Lou & Lisa Petrillo

---

### **Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations**

- In memory of Herbert Dardik by Susan & Alan Dardik
- To Alan & Susan Dardik with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Dardik by Julie Cohen
- To Debbie Chirmomas & Michael Hurwitz with sympathy on the passing of Vito Licari by Yaron & Liora Lew
- To Liora Lew with wishes for a speedy recovery by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
- To Alan & Susan Dardik with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Dardik by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Alan & Susan Dardik with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Dardik by the Freiman-Light family
- To Alan & Susan Dardik with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Dardik by Raina Sotsky & Morris Bell
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Yaron & Liora Lew
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Linda & Ken Buckman
- To Julie Leviter & Dan Wiznia with thanks for including us all in the brit milah by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
- To Julie Leviter & Dan Wiznia in honor of the birth of their baby boy by Barbara Pakula
- To Harry & Helen Rosenberg with sympathy on the passing of Helene Rosenberg by David & Rayna Belowsky
- To Liora Lew with love to your family and best wishes for a Refuah Shlemah by Amy, Rob, Sophie, Jacob & Esther (Marx/Schonberger family)
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Jay & Margie Hirshfield
- To Rabbi Murray Levine in memory of Malka Levine by Judah Levine

---

### **Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations**

- To Alan & Susan Dardik with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Dardik by Bill Shragis
- To Rich Kramer with sympathy on the passing of Jack Kramer by Jeff & Lynne Heisner

---

### **BEKI Religious School**

- To Alan & Susan Dardik with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Dardik by the Silverman & Sokolow family
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by the Silverman & Sokolow family
- To the Silverman & Sokolow families in honor of the birth of Ellie Claudette Silverman by Sherry Kent

- To Rich Kramer with sympathy on the passing of Jack Kramer by the Silverman & Sokolow family

---

### **Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund**

- To Alan & Susan Dardik with sympathy on the passing of Herbert Dardik by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Stacey & Evan Wyner with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

---

### **Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund**

- To Harry, Helen, Maddy & Evan Rosenberg with sympathy on the passing of Helene Rosenberg by Betsy Ratner

---

### **Yahrzeit Fund (\$5 minimum) to support synagogue operations**

- In memory of Ida Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Philip Greenberg by Sonny, Bernie & Lynn Alderman
- In memory of Ida Katz by Sonny, Bernie & Lynn Alderman
- In memory of Israel Alderman by Sonny, Bernie & Lynn Alderman
- In memory of Israel Glazman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Alan H. Gelbert by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Mollie Schwartz Nuht by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Jack Nuht by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Sara Gelbert by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Mona Zitomer by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Adolf Weisberg by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Joseph Schwartz by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Florence Lome by Joan Gelbert
- In memory of Henry Cohen by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- In memory of their mother Pearl Small Teplitsky by Rhoda & Bruce Small
- In memory of Bertha Levine by Rabbi Murray Levine
- In memory of her niece Zoe Lawston by Diana Firestone
- In memory of Morris Maltin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of her aunt Mildred Kantrowitz Rieser by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Mendel Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Estelle Gottfried by Edward & Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
- In memory of Jack Mendlestein by Rissa Mendlestein
- In memory of loved ones by Robert Sagerman
- In memory of Milton Smirnoff by Beatrice Smirnoff
- In memory of Mark Brown by Phil & Lauren Brown
- In memory of Norman Katz by Karol Katz
- In memory of Sam Katz by Karol Katz
- In memory of Rose Appell Caplan by Karol Katz

### Wanted: Bulletin Editor

BEKI is looking for an editor for our monthly bulletin. (Rachel Bashevkin is serving only as Interim Editor.) Would you be willing to step into this volunteer position? The job includes gathering, editing, and writing content for BEKI's monthly newsletter. Please reply to [president@beki.org](mailto:president@beki.org)

### Announcing the Board of Directors for 2020-21

- Yaron Lew (President/EC) [president@beki.org](mailto:president@beki.org)
- Michael Hurwitz (Vice-President/EC)
- Murray Akresh (Vice-President/EC)
- Steve Rudof (Treasurer/EC)
- Rachel Bashevkin (Secretary/EC)
- Harold Birn (IPP/EC)

- Donna Levine (Finance Chair/EC appointee)
- Jonathan Gordon (EC appointee)
- Eric Dunsker (House Chair)
- Mimi Glenn
- Darryl Kuperstock
- Mark Oppenheimer
- Gadiel Robbins (BRS liaison)
- Rob Schoenberger
- Jay Sokolow
- Rachel Wiseman Gerber
- Evan Wyner
- David Levy
- Sam Purdy
- Tamara Schechter
- Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen (ex-officio/EC)

### Stop & Shop Gift Cards

The BEKI office sells Stop & Shop gift cards, which are debit cards for groceries or gasoline. This is an ongoing fundraiser which costs you nothing. Contact Peggy [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) to arrange safe pickup.

### Donate

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

## THE TOWERS

*Your #1 Choice in Senior Living!*

For information or to schedule a tour call  
Rebecca Goodman-Olshansky  
(203) 772-1816, ext. 250 [rebecca@towerone.org](mailto:rebecca@towerone.org)



40 Boston Post Rd (RT 1)  
West Haven CT 06516  
203-933-2886

888 Wethersfield Ave  
Hartford CT 06114  
860-296-9799

[www.startireandwheels.com](http://www.startireandwheels.com)  
Andy & Paige Weinstein

# NOLAN'S

HAMDEN MONUMENT COMPANY

LICHTENSTEIN COMPANY

323 Washington Ave. Hamden CT 06518

(203) 288-8486

(203) 287-1593

CT toll free only (800) 852-8865

Fax (203) 287-1593

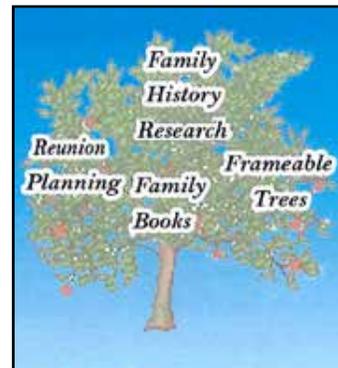
John Nolan

Michael Nolan

[nolansmonuments@att.net](mailto:nolansmonuments@att.net)



Wes Miller  
Professional Certified Math Tutor  
K - 10  
(203) 804-3400  
[Wesley42377@aol.com](mailto:Wesley42377@aol.com)



**Many Generations**  
Kim Formica  
Genealogist  
PO Box 1248  
Orange, CT 06477  
tel. 203/376.8551  
[kimformica@optonline.net](mailto:kimformica@optonline.net)

**RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW**  
CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PSYCHOTHERAPY  
PARENT CONSULTATION

1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 906  
WOODBIDGE, CT 06525

(203) 389-9174  
BY APPOINTMENT

**Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.**

A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP 303 WHITNEY AVENUE  
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511  
(203) 776-1243  
FAX (203) 785-1247

Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP

Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP

Miranda Bik-Yin Ip, M.D., FAAP 1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 102  
WOODBIDGE, CT 06525  
(203) 397-1243  
FAX (203) 397-1241

Namita Wijesekera, M.D., FAAP

## Sascha's Care

**Private Geriatric Care Management**

Customized to each client's needs, including:

- Arrange and attend medical appointments
- Facilitate contact with family and friends
- Prepare meals, including dietary restrictions
- Manage medications
- Advocate on behalf of client
- Arrange for home maintenance services
- Recommend fun outings and activities
- Transport clients in their own vehicle
- Shop for personal care products and groceries

**Sascha van Creveld**  
Licensed Occupational Therapist  
with 30 years of experience  
[saschascare@gmail.com](mailto:saschascare@gmail.com)  
203-376-9085

"Helping people function at their highest level"



**Greenberg Rhein & Margolis Inc.**

**David B. Margolis, CIC**

1768 Litchfield Turnpike (Rte. 69)  
Woodbridge CT 06525-2309  
Tel: (203) 389-4511 • Direct (203) 907-4829  
Fax: (203) 397-2266 • Cell: (203) 668-0344  
Email: david@grminsurace.com  
www.grminsurace.com



**Hamden Hall  
Country Day School**

Educating students in  
PreSchool through Grade 12.

We celebrated National Mix It Up Day  
in October to foster greater respect  
and understanding among our students.

www.hamdenhall.org 203.752.2610  
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517



**Coachworks**  
of West Haven  
Auto Body Shop

1058 Orange Avenue • West Haven, CT 06516  
Tel: 203.932.1200 Fax: 203.932.1222  
Scott Walstedter



**BEKI'S FAVORITE  
DJ/MC ENTERTAINMENT**

CALL CHARLES!!!  
203.795.4737

MICHAEL MARTONE  
MANAGER



**Arnold's Jewelers**

DIAMONDS - WATCHES - GIFTS  
CHINA - SILVER - CRYSTAL

WATCH AND  
CLOCK REPAIRING

NORTH HAVEN SHOPPING CENTER  
NORTH HAVEN, CONN. 06473  
203-239-4291






**Accepting Applications for  
Grades K-8  
Financial Assistance  
Available**

Dr. Melanie Waynik, Head of School  
75 Rimmon Road Woodbridge, CT 06525  
info@ezraacademyct.org  
www.ezraacademyct.org

**Ezra  
ACADEMY**

*A community fostering a love of learning,  
academic excellence, and a lifelong Jewish  
identity*



**NEW SYLVAN CLEANERS**  
*All Work Done On Premises*

Mon.-Fri. 7:00-6:00 | Sat 8:00-4:00 | Sun closed  
363 Whalley Ave. New Haven, CT 06511 • 203.562.3460  
663 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477 • 203.795.0087

# PENCILS OF COLOR



“Nice set of colored pencils you have there,” I said to a young BEKI girl. “Pencils *of color*,” she corrected me. Apparently she had heard her mother correct an elder who said “colored people,” in a way that made it seem so important that this young girl felt impelled and empowered to correct her own wise and learned rabbi. Although her concept was not quite right, she embraced the fundamental but dangerous mitzva of tokheha, admonition, so essential for personal and social progress.

My pencil is white. My ancestors, all Ashkenazic Jews, were classified racially as “Hebrews” by the federal and state governments in the 19th and 20th centuries. But as our past member [Martin Gilens](#), professor of public policy, explained, not in these words, somewhere around the 1960s Jews began to get a free upgrade to “white.” More of the opportunities, or “privileges” that were reserved for the then-majority population became available to Jews. My father’s generation had to work twice as hard to get half as far, but my cohorts could work twice as hard and get twice as far.

My pencil box was white, too. Growing up in a semi-rural suburban neighborhood developed by my grandfather and father in Dakota County, Minnesota, my neighbors were Jews and white Christians. When Tilsenbilt first built in Mendota, the banks were reluctant to provide financing,

on the grounds that no one would want to live way out there. But plenty of Jews and others were quick to do so and the neighborhood grew fast.

My high school class of 499 was zero percent Black (with apologies to my Black classmates, you’ve been rounded down) and 1 percent identifiable Hispanic. There were no Jews among the faculty, except for Mrs. Murphy -- not sure how she sneaked through — although one wonderful chemistry teacher, Mr. Cannon, who belonged to a local Catholic parish, claimed to be a “card-carrying” Jew by virtue of his JCC membership. My synagogue and Talmud Torah friends from across the river in St. Paul, though, attended high schools that were ethnically diverse. My parents’ work and social lives, in St. Paul (father) and Minneapolis (mother), and relatives were always part of the diversity of the Twin Cities in that era, even while my childhood was not.

It seems odd to my friends from New York to hear that as Jewish children in that setting we were mostly identifiable by our dark coloring and slight speech idiosyncrasies, relics of our grandparents’ native Yiddish. Other than playground fights and “insensitivity,” we did not suffer terribly for our identity, though we were growing up

Continued on **Page 14**

### Pencils

Continued from Page 13

while the dust from Auschwitz was still settling.

My box is white, but my carton is the 64-color set. Extended family — nieces, nephews and cousins — includes people from or with recent ancestors from nations around the globe, including Vietnam, Iceland, Israel, Lakota, Ojibway, Cheyanne, Korea, Finland, Cuba, Puerto Rico, India, Syria, Kenya, and various other Black African nations no longer easily identified. My namesake apparently is an uncle who was a drug dealer in Harbin, Heilongjiang, China.

This diversity does not make me expert nor particularly well-informed in their concerns and experiences in America, but it does remind me of the rabbinic observation (Mishna [Sanhedrin 4:5](#)) that all human beings share common ancestors and therefore none can claim superiority based on ancestry. This diversity gives me some small sense of having a global and Jewish identity, and of caring about them as family, more than just neighbors. It also makes identity politics seem effortful to fathom. Whether my sentiment is rational or useful, I cannot say.

I've been on temporary assignment in New Haven since 1993 and still have minimal conceptual grasp of the local ethnic politics and society. If I seem open, accepting and supportive, it is possibly because I am naive to expected behaviors, or my variant culture of origin makes my prejudices less apparent. Or perhaps it reflects my good upbringing or education.

My life in New Haven is among Jews, mostly, especially the BEKI community, and that means at least 80 percent Ashkenazim. The good news is that almost all of our Jews of dominantly Ashkenazic background want our congregation to be fully harmonious with the larger diverse Jewish world; the hard part is not enough thought has actually gone into knowing how to do that beyond stating an intention. Some would like to believe that our community is beyond racism, but many of our own Jews of diverse ethnic backgrounds, Jews with roots in Africa and Asia, members of our own families, tell us otherwise.

I have not had much new to say about the intersection of

racism, police brutality and police training and protocols since Malik Jones was killed in New Haven in 1997 (see my essay "[Malik](#)"). The trauma of George Floyd's killing in police custody in Minneapolis was accompanied by nationwide expressions of anger and grief. We are fortunate that in New Haven subsequent injury, violence and property damage have been minimal, with all due respect to those injured, but we may be living on borrowed time.



Does it take fear of riots to propel straightforward changes in public policy? Our Jewish ethics tells us what drives social change, and it should not be fear. Hebrew terms: Hesed, Love; or Tzedaq, Justice. Are these ideas stronger than fear and hate?

The killing of Black men by police is just one of a number of serious problems that face Black people in this country. It has

weight beyond the statistical body count due to the troubled history of this country and because police are an instrument of state, that is, acting as our agents. There are only 18,000 actual voters in New Haven, out of an eligible 60,000. We have real political power at this level.

The issue is not new. Local leaders must feel the greatest urgency to show visible progress. State and local laws on police power, protocol and accountability, defining the role of police, training and supporting whatever force we think we want for the benefit of all — these are not abstract theories; those working on these issues have specific proposals ready to be approved and implemented. What has been lacking heretofore is “political will.”

Unpopular as it may be to say, I rather like the idea of local police being available to help people in emergencies, and from this side of the tracks that happens pretty well. Local officers have my respect. If it proves to be that a police force really can't exist without a heavy toll on my neighbors, then explain to me the options.

I have quoted my father, Bob Tilsen, may he live and be well, as saying regarding the police killing of Mr. Floyd, “The country is going to have to make some radical changes” to prevent more of the same. He has also said, “There is going to be a revolution in this country” due to wealth and income disparity. It's not that I'm against a good revolution, but I prefer the most efficient and non-violent path to justice. There may still be time.



# July 2020

9 Tammuz 5780 - 10 Av 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<b>Mark Your Calendar</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tu Be'Av 5 August 2020</li> <li>Bar Mitzva: Nate Kempton (revised) 7-8 August 2020</li> <li>Rosh Hodesh Elul 20-21 August 2020</li> <li>Bar Mitzva: Toby Manning 28-29 August 2020</li> <li>Rosh HaShana Night 18 September 2020</li> <li>Rosh HaShana First &amp; Second Day 19-20 September 2020</li> <li>Kol Nidre Yom Kippur Night 27 September 2020</li> <li>Yom Kippur 28 September 2020</li> <li>Sukkot Night 2 October 2020</li> <li>Sukkot First Two Days 3-4 October 2020</li> <li>Hoshana Rabba 9 October 2020</li> <li>Shemini Atseret 9-10 October 2020</li> </ul>			1 8:00pm Zoom Schmooze: with epidemiologist Dan Weinberger discussing the current COVID-19 pandemic	2	3 8:10pm Candle Lighting	4		
			9 Tammuz	10 Tammuz	11 Tammuz	12 Tammuz		
5 10:00am Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Tilsen & Guests via Zoom 3:30pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble: Explore the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Corinne Blackmer - via Zoom	6 8:00am Rashi Study Group: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen	7 6:15pm Conversation & Connection with Karen Kassap: a time for open discussion among friends	8 8:00pm Zoom Schmooze: a presentation about legal issues around health care and end of life with Donna Levine & Michael Hurwitz	9 Fast of Tammuz 17 10:00am Talmud Berakhot: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen	10 8:07pm Candle Lighting	11		
13 Tammuz	14 Tammuz	15 Tammuz	16 Tammuz	17 Tammuz	18 Tammuz	19 Tammuz		
12 10:00am Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Tilsen & Guests via Zoom 3:30pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble: Explore the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Corinne Blackmer - via Zoom	13 8:00am Rashi Study Group: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen	14 6:15pm Conversation & Connection with Karen Kassap: a time for open discussion among friends	15 Zoom Schmooze: TBA	16 10:00am Talmud Berakhot: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen	17 8:03pm Candle Lighting	18		
20 Tammuz	21 Tammuz	22 Tammuz	23 Tammuz	24 Tammuz	25 Tammuz	26 Tammuz		
19 10:00am Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Tilsen & Guests via Zoom 3:30pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble: Explore the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Corinne Blackmer - via Zoom	20 8:00am Rashi Study Group: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen	21 6:15pm Conversation & Connection with Karen Kassap: a time for open discussion among friends	22 Rosh Hodesh 8:00pm Zoom Schmooze: Book discussion "From Left to Right: Lucy Dwidowicz, the New York Intellectuals and the Politics of Jewish History" by author Nancy Sinkoff	23 10:00am Berakhot Study Group: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen	24 7:57pm Candle Lighting	25		
27 Tammuz	28 Tammuz	29 Tammuz	1 Av	2 Av	3 Av	4 Av		
26 10:00am Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Tilsen & Guests via Zoom 3:30pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble: Explore the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Corinne Blackmer - via Zoom	27 8:00am Rashi Study Group: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen	28 6:15pm Conversation & Connection with Karen Kassap: a time for open discussion among friends	29 5:45pm Minha: Zoom 8:15pm Maariv & Eikha: Zoom & On-Site	30 Fast of Tisha B'Av 8:15am Shaharit & Eikha: Zoom & On-Site 5:45pm Minha: Zoom	31 7:50pm Candle Lighting			
5 Av	6 Av	7 Av		9 Av	10 Av8			

## Service Times

<b>Sundays</b> 9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	<b>Mondays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	<b>Tuesdays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	<b>Wednesdays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	<b>Thursdays</b> 8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	<b>Fridays</b> 7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat	<b>Saturdays</b> 9:30 a.m. Shaharit
---	---	--	--	--	--	--



DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #131  
New Haven, CT

### **Outdoor Services at BEKI, Weather Permitting**

- Sunday 9:00-9:30 am (also via Zoom)
- Monday 5:45-6:15 pm (also via Zoom)
- **(New!)** Friday 6:00-7:00 pm (also via Zoom)
- Saturday 9:30-11:00 am

Please observe public health guidelines: face masks, six feet distancing, only the leader sings loudly. Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own. Washrooms inside the building are available if needed. If there's a minyan on-site, Mourner's Kaddish will be recited at all outdoor services. So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to [jjtilsen@beki.org](mailto:jjtilsen@beki.org), [bekitefilla@gmail.com](mailto:bekitefilla@gmail.com), or the minyan captain.

*Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them.*

### **Zoom services followed by open chat**

- Sunday 5:45 pm
- Monday 7:00 am
- Tuesday 7:00 am & 5:45 pm
- Wednesday 7:00 am & 5:45 pm
- Thursday 8:15 am & 5:45 pm
- Friday 7:00 am