

A New Haven Tradition since 1892



Adar-Nisan 5781

Vol. 27 Issue 3

Message from Rabbi Tilsen: Page 14

SCHMOOZE NEWS

Wednesday, March 3 at 8 pm

President Yaron Lew, members of the Board, and other congregational leaders will lead a Town Hall style meeting to provide information about how the rabbi's duties will be covered in the months ahead as well as search committee plans and progress. Questions submitted in advance to bulletin@beki.org will be appreciated.

Wednesday, March 10 at 8 pm

BEKI member Roya Hakakian will speak about her new book, *A Beginner's Guide to America*, which gives us a portrait of what the new immigrant experience in America is really like. Born and raised in Tehran, Roya arrived in the U.S. in 1985. Her prior books are the memoir *Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran* and *Assassins of the Turquoise Palace*, about the shooting of Iranian and Kurdish opposition leaders in Berlin in 1992. You can buy Roya's newest book at the bargain price of \$20 at the BEKI Gift Shop.



Roya Hakakian

Wednesday, March 17 at 8 pm

Ethnomusicologist Rachel Adelstein will present "Singing Around the Seder



Rachel Adelstein

"Table: The Music and Memories of Passover." A BEKI member, Rachel received her PhD from the University of Chicago and has produced podcasts about music in Jewish life around the world. You can find a prior series of lectures by her, the Judaic Lecture Audio Collection, at our website.

Wednesday, March 24 at 8 pm

Annie Norman-Schiff, BEKI's Youth and Family Programming Director and a doctoral candidate in Religious Studies at Yale, will lead a conversation about how to make Passover meaningful and fun for kids and grandkids. Annie will also discuss ideas for virtual Pesach fun, whether you'll employ those for the Seder or just on Hol HaMoed days.



Annie Norman-Schiff

Wednesday, March 31 at 8 pm

The third film in our social justice film series is "At the River I Stand." Just days after we retell the Passover story of crossing of the Red Sea, we'll discuss this documentary, which takes its title from the spiritual "One More River to Cross." The film reconstructs the two eventful months in 1968 that led to the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please watch the 58-minute film prior to our discussion; it's available free on Kanopy, CCTV, or YouTube.

All events are at [Tinyurl.com/bekischmooze](https://tinyurl.com/bekischmooze)



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**Ezra
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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
- Visit our web page: 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

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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If you have questions or concerns, please speak with a Board member.

- | | | |
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Endowment Fund in honor of Rabbi Tilsen



BY DONNA LEVINE, BEKI FINANCE CHAIR

We are pleased to announce that in honor of Jon-Jay Tilsen's many years of service to BEKI, an endowed fund has been established in his honor. Thanks to the generosity of several congregants, the fund will be large enough to grow into a perpetual source of funding for BEKI.

To show our deep respect for Rabbi Tilsen, the fund will bear his name, as The Jon-Jay Tilsen Endowment for the benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

The fund will be held at and invested through the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

We invite you to make contributions to this fund as one way to honor him. Checks should be payable to BEKI and marked for "Jon-Jay Tilsen Endowment." You may also donate online at <https://www.beki.org/about/make-a-donation>. If you wish to remain anonymous, please note that as well.

A Message from President Yaron Lew

From his remarks at the open meeting on January 25

Beki is a wonderful opportunity for a rabbi. We are a growing congregation with young members and no financial troubles. We will be forced to pick from the better and the best of candidates. We will be deliberate about the process, with input from the membership. The next rabbi will be a phenomenal rabbi for the congregation, and I will

work as hard as I can to bring a new era at BEKI to rejuvenate the congregation.

BEKI 2020 Annual Appeal Successful

BY MURRAY AKRESH, CHAIR OF BEKI INCOME DEVELOPMENT

On behalf of the BEKI Board and the entire BEKI community, thank you very much to our BEKI 2020 Annual Appeal donors. We appreciate your support in these difficult times.

We knew that some members would be unable to make a donation this year due to the impact of the pandemic, so we were counting on others to make up for this through increased donations. We are very pleased to report to you that, thanks to all who gave this year, we significantly exceeded our budgeted goal and the amount donated in 2019. Your generous donations gave us the funds needed to cover BEKI's operating budget. Together our community remains in strong fiscal health. Thank you!

We wish you and your family good health, peace and happiness. Hopefully, we will all be back soon in person at BEKI. Stay safe and healthy!



Murray Akresh

FINDING OUR NEW RABBI

BY CAROLE BASS AND RACHEL LIGHT,
SEARCH COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Adapted from their message to the congregation on February 9

Dear BEKI friends,
We are honored to co-chair the search committee for our new rabbi.

It is a big charge, and we take it seriously. Just as Rabbi Jon-Jay and BEKI were a near-perfect match when he became our rabbi in 1993, we hope this search will yield the spiritual leader who can help us chart our course for the coming decades.

To that end, we are committed to *inclusivity*, to *transparency*, and to a *thorough, fair, and thoughtful* process.

Inclusivity means that the committee represents a cross-section of our community, all deeply committed to making BEKI the best it can be. Those who have graciously agreed to serve are: David Goldblum, Rachel Greenberg, Karel Koenig, Jennifer Myer, Mark Oppenheimer, Tamara Schechter, John Weiser

Committee members range in age from our 30s to our 70s. Some of us have belonged to BEKI for decades; others are newer members. We come from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds and bring a variety of perspectives and life experience.

Inclusivity also means setting up mechanisms for input and feedback from the entire congregation. The search committee's job is not to impose our views on the congregation. Before we start talking to candidates, we will ask



Carole Bass



Rachel Light

every single BEKI member to tell us what is important to you, and what you think we need in a rabbi.

Other structured opportunities for feedback will follow. In addition to those formal mechanisms, we will always be ready to hear informal suggestions and ideas.

Transparency means that we will provide regular updates to the Board of Directors and the congregation as a whole. We won't be able to talk about specific candidates until they reach the phase of meeting the congregation. But we will report on our work and ask for your feedback throughout the process.

A *thorough, fair, and thoughtful* process means that we have no preconceived notions about who our next rabbi should be or what "mold" they should fit — if any. We want the person who is best for BEKI, period.

And it means that we're not in a rush. Not that we will dawdle; we're already working hard. If we can find the right person in time for the High Holy Days — which this year begin on Labor Day evening! — that will be wonderful. If it takes longer, that's fine.

We have taken many initial steps, but the committee's real work is just beginning. We will have more to report at the online Town Hall on March 3. In the meantime, feel free to get in touch at rabbisearch@beki.org.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community we all love.

Carole Bass joined BEKI in 1996, after falling in love with the community and with Judaism. She and her husband, Paul, raised their daughters at the shul — literally, it often seemed, given how much time the family spent there. BEKI is where she learned to read Hebrew and to read Torah, to lead services and to help lead the congregation as a board member and eventually as president. In the past seven years, chronic health problems have forced Carole to step back. She is delighted to be healthy enough now to be able to reconnect with BEKI by co-chairing the search committee. A writer and editor, Carole has two grown daughters and a grandson who, alas, all live out of state.

Rachel Light has been a BEKI member since 2013 and loves the warm community and participatory culture. While attending BEKI, she took the huge leap of learning to read Torah and haftarah and lead services — things she had never done while growing up in non-egalitarian Orthodox day school and synagogue, and things she never knew she'd love doing so much. She has three children and three stepkids, ranging from age 22 to 5, and has enjoyed bringing kids to children's services, introducing them to the main sanctuary, going through b'nai mitzvah, and grappling with the questions of how to keep teens engaged. Professionally, Rachel is a strategy consultant to nonprofit organizations; in her communal life, Rachel has coached basketball at Ezra Academy, served on a previous Ezra Head of School search committee, served on the JCC Board, and helped with strategic planning efforts at BEKI and Ezra.

FIRST SEDER SATURDAY MARCH 27

Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible *hametz*. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been specially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive hametz such as liquor, you can sell your hametz for the period of Pesah.

You can sell your hametz online at <https://www.rabbinalasassembly.org>. Just type *hametz* in the search box to find the online form, which is easy to use and free of charge. If you prefer a paper form, you can find it at the BEKI website under RESOURCES > Forms.

Many Ashkenazi Jews observe the custom of not eating *qitniyot* (corn/maize, rice, quinoa, beans, and nuts) during Pesah. However, please note that *qitniyot* are NOT hametz, and much of the Jewish world eats them during the festivals as a matter of course.

Pesah Guidance and Haggadot

The Rabbinical Assembly's Pesah Guide is available at <http://rabbinalasassembly.org/pesah-guide>.

For an on-line haggada (do-it-yourself guide and service book) for Pesah, see www.sefaria.org/Pesach_Haggadah?lang=bi. If you need a haggada and cannot order one on-line, please contact bekitefilla@gmail.com or call Rachel at 203-887-1182.

Haggadot and Seder Plates at Gift Shop

The BEKI Gift Shop has a full selection of everything you might need for Passover: cookbooks, seder plates, toys for children, haggadot (of all types including illuminated and illustrated), activity books, matzah crumb sweepers, etc. Just reach out for no-contact shopping and free local delivery: Karen 203-430-2182 kekassap@gmail.com, Harriet 203-675-8607 hfriedman@gmail.com.

Cleaning for Pesah

How much to clean for Pesah? We suggest the greater of either two hours or twice one's usual weekly home cleaning time. The purpose is to ensure that no hametz is left behind and to enhance the enjoyment of the festival. The purpose of the festival is to celebrate our freedom, not to re-create our enslavement.



Some of the Pesah selection at BEKI's Gift Shop

Siyyum Bekhorot

The Fast of the First Born will be Thursday, March 25 (moved forward because Pesah begins on Saturday night). Firstborn may be released from the fast by participating in an in-person or online siyyum (associated with our 8:15am Thursday morning service).

Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

Because Pesach begins on a Saturday night this year, there are some changes in how the search for hametz and burning of hametz are performed. On the night of Thursday, March 25, it is customary to perform *Bediqat Hametz*, the final check for leaven before Passover, at home. All hametz is removed, leaving just enough for burning the following morning AND for eating early on Shabbat. The procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults.

On the next morning, Friday March 26, it is customary to perform *Biur Hametz*, a final "search and destroy" mission for leaven, to ensure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating hametz during the festival. Instructions for *Bediqat Hametz* and *Biur Hametz* can be found in most haggadot.

Hametz includes vinegar and grain-derived alcohol (unless made for Passover, such as apple vinegar and fruit-

Pesah

Continued from **Page 5**

derived alcohol). Warning: Matza-like crackers in matza-box-like packaging are sometimes mistakenly sold in the “Passover Section” of local stores, though they are labeled “not for Passover use” and are hametz.

Seders

Once again in 2021, it is likely that many of us will be unable to host large seders or be guests at seders. Observing public health rules and private health precautions, following official medical experts and our own personal physicians is required despite any disruption to Pesah observance. Having your own small seder is possible, even for one person. All one needs is a haggada, matza, wine or grape juice, maror (bitter herb such as horseradish), haroset (any recipe), and a meal.

While using electricity is avoided in traditional households during the festivals, such use does not constitute a specific violation of a long-established or Biblical rule. Rather, such use falls under the well-established and vital category of “not in keeping with the spirit” of the festival. That “not in keeping” is why by tradition we don’t watch sports on a TV on the seder night, even if the TV was just “left on.” Those who avoid using electricity on festivals may feel comfortable relaxing that avoidance on either night of Pesah again this year because of the pandemic, in order to establish a virtual connection for the purpose of holding a seder and festival observance. It is also possible to establish an open link before the onset of the festival, though experience shows that any connection inevitably requires re-starting or adjustment.

Those participating in a tele-seder should recite the blessings along with their leader, in any language, if they can. In a technical sense, the use of electronics on Pesah (excluding Shabbat) is less of a concern than is driving or other forms of transportation. The Rabbinical Assembly has published guidelines for a streaming seder at rabbincals-sembly.org .

Service Times for Pesah

Please see the calendar page of this bulletin, as well as the weekly BEKI Happenings, for up-to-date information about in-person and on-line services during Pesah.

Hol HaMoed: The Intermediate Days

While we observe the two initial and two final days of Pesah as major holidays, which include most of the restrictions on *melakha* (“work”) followed on Shabbat, the intermediate days are observed as semi-holidays. Ideally, one avoids or minimizes *melakha* during this period as well, but in our setting most observant Jews simply go to work or school as usual. Ezra Academy, like many other Jewish schools, observes the week of Pesah as a holiday (no school). One should seek to make the period celebratory.

On the festival days (*haggim*), tefillin are not worn, but on Hol HaMoed it is common to wear tefillin in the morning until after the Amida and to remove them before Hallel. Some, including most BEKI members, omit tefillin altogether during this period. During Hol HaMoed, as in the entire month of Nisan, the Tahanun (supplication) is omitted in the daily services. Hallel and musaf are recited daily, and the passage *Ya’ale veYavo* is included in the Amida and in Birkat haMazon (grace after meals).



Mary Edith Fussell, *Major Events in the Life of Moses, 1988-90; color sketch for stained glass window commissioned by Congregation Sinai, now installed at BEKI*



RADER MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

The Barbara A. Rader Memorial Library Fund is providing many new books for our library shelves, each with a bookplate designed by member Howard Gralla.



Barbara Rader

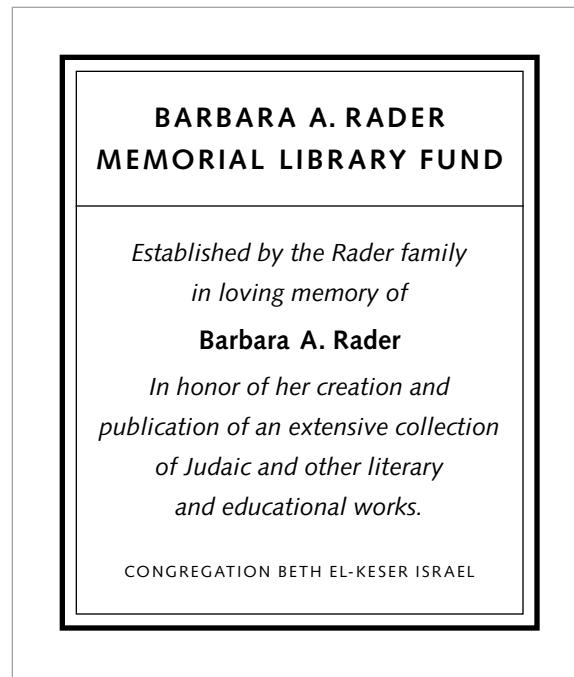
Barbara's career was devoted to books. She first worked as a copy editor at Doubleday, then as an editor at the Yale University Press. When she and her husband, Dennis, relocated to Houston, Barbara started a graduate program in English at Rice University. After they returned to Connecticut, she nonetheless completed the program, earning an M.A. and Ph.D.

Barbara served as an in-house scholar, consultant, grant writer and editor at the Southern Connecticut Library Council. In 1992 she joined Greenwood Publishing Group in Westport as Executive Editor for their School and Public Library Reference program.

In the remaining five years before retiring in 2007, Barbara was the executive editor for the Gale Group, a division of Thomson Corporation, which produced microfilm archives of historically important documents.

Throughout her career, Barbara remained a voracious reader and, while living in Woodbridge, was a devoted patron of the Woodbridge Town Library, frequently reading more than 150 books per year. At the same time she was an active working member of the Friends of the Woodbridge Library, a volunteer support group.

Barbara's enduring professional goal was to elevate the role of books and reading to prominence in people's



Bookplate designed by Howard Gralla

lives. In what may someday prove to be one of her most important contributions, she lovingly encouraged her four grandchildren to become avid readers. The broad objective of this Memorial Library Fund is to perpetuate her goal and to encourage others to do so in the same way.

If you would like to donate to the Fund, send a check to the office or donate online at <https://www.beki.org/about/make-a-donation>. At the website, you can also read a more complete biography of Barbara's professional career: go to LEARNING > Library.

LifeCycle

המקום ינהם HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of
Doris Cohen, mother of Carol Cohen (&
Marc) Weitzman

Bernice Margolis, mother of David
Margolis (and Jill Nathanson)

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal Tov to

Lou & Sharon Sachs on the naming of their daughter
Ivey Rose Sachs on her first birthday, *Ivriya Rut Moriya*

Easy Fundraiser

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

OUTDOOR FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICES

BY ANNIE NORMAN-SCHIFF,
YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

On February 6, six intrepid families met in the BEKI courtyard for a “pop up” style Shabbat service. That Saturday morning fell a few days after one large snowstorm and the day before another. Although snow remained on the ground, the weather was almost 40 degrees and mostly sunny—nice enough for families to get some fresh air and enjoy outdoor Shabbat fun.

Amy Schwartz and David Levy, together with their sons Ezra and Isaac, led a Children’s Havura service. Older kids like K-2 Kehila member Ramona Freiman-Light participated as well. It was a precious opportunity to see familiar faces, even under masks and winter hats, and to share the joy of Shabbat.

As we turn to milder spring weather, we will plan outdoor family Shabbat services every week. If the weather looks punishing, we will cancel, but we hope to see one another outdoors as often as possible. Check your Thursday BEKI Families Email Newsletter for the lat-

est information about weather and outdoor services. If you would like to be added to the email list for family news and programming, contact Annie at anormanschiff@beki.org.

In March, we plan to hold a Children’s Havura service 10:15 am-11:15 am in the courtyard. Then, a service for older kids will take place in the same location 11:15 am-12:15 pm; the style of this service will alternate between K-2 Kehila and Junior Congregation, although kids in the full range of ages are welcome to attend.

USY Celebrates the New Year of the Trees

The teens in BEKI USY have been making the best of regular gatherings on Zoom, but to celebrate Tu BeShevat, they wanted to see some actual trees. So, they organized a brief outdoor Tu BeShevat party on a weekday afternoon in a field near the West Rock Park Playground. They enjoyed the socially distanced, individually packaged version of a Tu BeShevat seder meal (trail mix with fruit and nuts!) and learned about the holiday with Rabbi Tilsen. Then, they kept their blood flowing by doing tree-inspired yoga stretches in the snow.



At the foot of West Rock, teens in the BEKI USY youth group make yoga-style tree poses for Tu BeShevat.



New Date: Food & Clothing Drive March 21

The next drive-by food collection will be Sunday, March 21 from 10 to 11 am in the BEKI parking lot. This new date will allow us to give away unopened, non-perishable *hametz* before Pesach! The food will go to Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK).

Also on March 21, the Hesed Committee will collect NEW warm clothing: large and extra-large sized sweatshirts and sweatpants, socks, hats, gloves, and scarves for New Reach in New Haven. Call 203.671.4705 to arrange for Rob Lettice to be in the parking lot to receive your donation. If you have any questions, please write to Rob at robolettice@aol.com.

Refugee Resettlement Update

We are happy to report that JCARR's refugee and

asylum-seeking families are doing well as they navigate their lives in New Haven and—with JCARR's continued



Jewish Community Alliance
For Refugee Resettlement

commitment—they strive towards independence! One of JCARR's refugee women is applying for a grant to the Women's Business Development Council, and JCARR is seeking a volunteer with business experience to assist her with a business plan and financial management.

JCARR has received requests for snow/garden equipment from one family and for a “winterized” stroller from another family. If you can assist with time and/or donations, please contact BEKI's JCARR representative, Madeleine Kleinman madk117@gmail.com

Facebook Digest Available

Everyone is encouraged to join the [BEKI Facebook group](#). You'll enjoy the humor, community information, and links to cultural opportunities.

For members who do not have a Facebook account but want to see the notices, links to articles recommended by congregants, conversations, and jokes posted there, just email bulletin@beki.org to request the weekly Facebook digest, sent each Friday.

Tree of Life Awaits Your Leaf

The Tree of Life at the entrance to BEKI is a collection of gold-colored leaves that honor people and moments in our lives. For \$118 you can add a leaf. Contact Marjorie Wiener at 203.387.6278 or marjoriewiener@yahoo.com

**BEKI's Tree of Life
graces the wall
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the display windows.**



Contributions

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

To Jessey Palumbo with sympathy on the passing of Chana Rosmarin by Carol Marcus & Robert Spear

Chai/Synagogue Fund to support synagogue operations

To Betsy Ratner with sympathy on the passing of Mikki Ratner by:

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- Ghislaine (Jessey) Palumbo
- Francie & Stephen Ketaineck
- Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel

To Gary & Barbara Ratner with sympathy on the passing of Mikki Ratner by:

- Abbi Holt, Laura Everett & Kate Everett
- Judith & Barry Swartz
- Judy Willingham Shimm

To Leah Ratner & Paul Sobel with sympathy on the passing of Mikki Ratner by:

- Karen & Alan Rubinstein and family
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To David & Susan Miller with sympathy on the passing of Mikki Ratner by:

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- Ted Miller & Terry Royed

To the Ratner family with sympathy on the passing of Mikki Ratner by:

- Susan & Julian Miller
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- Julie Cohen
- Steve & Rachel Wizner
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- Sandra & Ivan Kramer
- Rhoda & Edward Lemkin

- Harriet Friedman, Charlie Bruce and family

- Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter

- Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla

- Helen & Richard Ross

To Harold, Stephanie & Benjamin Birn with sympathy on the passing of Susan Birn by:

- Joanne & Steve Rudof
- David & Darryl Kuperstock
- The Avni-Singer family
- Steve & Rachel Wizner
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- Linda & Ken Buckman
- Yaron Lew
- Bobbie & Harold Miller
- The Freiman-Light family
- Ghislaine (Jessey) & Joe Palumbo
- Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunske
- The Weiner-Rastelli family
- Rachel Lovins & Andrew Hogan
- Carl Goldfield
- Barbara & Murray Akresh
- Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- Trish Loving & Alan Lovins

To Jessey & Joe Palumbo and family with sympathy on the passing of Chana Rosmarin by Harriet Friedman, Charlie Bruce & family

To Richard Bonazzoli with sympathy on the passing of Cynthia Boss Bonazzoli by David & Rayna Belowsky

To Martin Schwartzman with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Fellner Gredinger by David & Rayna Belowsky

David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs

- In memory of his parents David H. & Lillian Levine by Richard L. Levine

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library

- A donation to buy books for the children's library with a bookplate "In memory of Mikki Ratner" by Deena Schnitman
- To Harold & Stephanie Birn and family with sympathy on the passing of Susan Birn by Donna & Sid Levine

BEKI Religious School

- To Harold & Stephanie Birn and family with sympathy on the passing of Susan Birn by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

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

In Memory of:

- Mildred & Burton Kassap by Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell
- Jack Yasgar by Howard Yasgar
- Sam Miller by Richard & Vicki Miller
- Sam Miller by Howard Miller
- Louis Miller by Howard Miller
- Rubin Schwartz by David Schwartz
- Vera Ganter by Martin Ganter
- Sam Ganter by Martin Ganter
- Rose Koblitz Olmer by Zane Olmer
- Reuben Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- Eleanor Hepler by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
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- Anne Schnitman Irwin by Edward & Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
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- Edith & Maurice Levy by Paula Rudnick
- Harriet Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- Doris Sagerman by Robert Sagerman
- Rebecca Yankeloff by Shirley & Donald Halprin
- Benjamin Yankeloff by Shirley & Donald Halprin
- Her grandmother Rose Friedman by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- Rebecca Rader by Dennis Rader
- Her father Morris Altschuler by Roberta Ateson
- Annie Cohen by Ted Maltin
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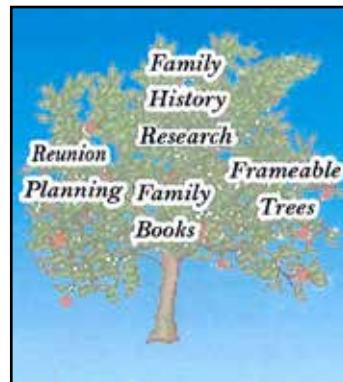
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What will your Jewish Legacy be?



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.
www.jewishfoundation.org | www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org



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AS I FINISH MY TERM OF SERVICE

The only long-serving rabbi in the history of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, or either of its predecessor congregations, spanning a combined 200 years, was Rabbi Andrew Klein, who after serving 16 years died in office in 1967.

As I finish my term of service at BEKI presently, I will have completed 28 years. At the outset, I viewed this as a temporary assignment. I never intended it to stretch to 28 years. I took the job so I could pay off my student loans, but found that I was able to align my own goals of serving the Almighty, the Jewish People and humanity in the position.

I had to work hard on the mitzva of Loving the Jews (see Lev. 19:18). Fortunately this town is filled with very lovable people. The degree of dedication in performing mitzvot and helping one another, the kindness, intelligence, generosity and decency is astounding. Finding the good and lovable in each person has made the job easier.

I knew the majority of the people on BEKI's yahrzeit list. That knowledge was part of a deep connection that seems somehow emotionally grounding. I have felt myself living in the moment and part of a community that spans the years. I hope some of my most valued friendships and relationships will persist in some form going forward, insofar as they can exist outside of our current setting.

Somewhere deep inside, I admit I would like to be like "Rabbi Marshak" in "The Rabbi is Busy" scene of the Coen

brothers' film *A Serious Man*. But my goal has been to invite members and guests to fulfill as many of the liturgical and community roles as they wish. The model of "rabbi as vicarious Jew" or "grand exemplar" is not sustainable;

instead I embrace a "Jew it Yourself" model. That is simply in keeping with mainstream historical tradition and values, and it gave me a sense of building individuals and community, instead of glory in my own performance. I sing a mean *Kol Nidre*—bringing new meaning to "mean"—yet to everyone's relief I yielded the stage to other voices. A community should not be dependent on the rabbi. Building a sustainable community is not the same as putting on a rabbi show.

I tried to accept, love and work with each person as-is from where they were. I tried to focus on the mitzvot, which is our shared language and infrastructure of responsibility. I tried to keep in mind to Whom I am ultimately answerable.

My greatest wish is for each of my friends at BEKI to continue with

success as individuals and as part of a collective engaged in Torah, fulfilling mitzvot, pursuing justice, and performing kindness. Stay well and safe during these challenging days. Do great things. When we meet again down the road, downtown, out in the woods, up north or in the streets of Jerusalem, I will be happy to see you.



Belle K. Greenberg, *Morning Prayer*, oil on masonite board, 1961, framed in wood with gold leaf, now on display at BEKI.

March 2021

17 Adar 5781 - 18 Nisan 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 17 Adar	2	3 8:00pm BEKI Town Hall with President Yaron Lew & members of the Board via Zoom 18 Adar	4	5 5:29pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (Sanctuary/Social Hall) 20 Adar	6 Shabbat Para (Sabbath of the Cow) 9:30am Shabbat Outdoor Service 10:15am Outdoor Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor K-2 Kehila 22 Adar
7 9:00am Courtyard Service & Zoom 23 Adar	8 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 7:00pm General Board Meeting 24 Adar	9	10 8:00pm "A Beginner Guide to America" with member/author Roya Hakakian via Zoom 25 Adar	11	12 5:37pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (Sanctuary/Social Hall) 26 Adar	13 Shabbat HaHodesh (Sabbath of the Moon) 9:30am Shabbat Outdoor Service 10:15am Outdoor Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor Junior Congregation 29 Adar
14 Rosh Hodesh 9:00am Courtyard Service & Zoom 1 Nisan	15 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 2 Nisan	16	17 8:00pm "Music of Pesach" with Rachel Adelstein via Zoom 3 Nisan	18	19 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (Sanctuary/Social Hall) 6:45pm Candle Lighting 4 Nisan	20 9:30am Shabbat Outdoor Service 10:15am Outdoor Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor K-2 Kehila 7 Nisan
21 9:00am Courtyard Service & Zoom 10:00am Drive-By Food Drive and New Clothing Collection 8 Nisan	22 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 7:00pm Executive Boarding Meeting 9 Nisan	23	24 8:00pm Making the Passover Seder Meaningful & Fun with Annie Norman-Schiff via Zoom 10 Nisan	25 Fast of the Firstborn 8:15am Shaharit & Siyyum Bekhorot via Zoom 11 Nisan	26 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (Sanctuary/Social Hall) 6:52pm Candle Lighting 12 Nisan	27 Erev Passover Shabbat HaGadol/First Seder 9:30am Shabbat Outdoor Service 10:15am Outdoor Children's Havura 11:15am Outdoor Junior Congregation 7:53pm Candle Lighting 14 Nisan
28 Passover I Second Seder No Religious School 9:30am Pesach Day I - Outdoor Service 7:54pm Candle Lighting 15 Nisan	29 Passover II Office Closed 9:30pm Pesach Day II - Outdoor Service 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 16 Nisan/1 L'omer	30 Hol Hamoed Passover I 17 Nisan/2 L'omer	31 Hol Hamoed Passover II 8:00pm Social Justice Film Discussion "At the River I Stand" via Zoom 18 Nisan/3 L'omer			<p>Mark Your Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shabbat Pesah April 3 • Pesah Eighth Day April 4 • Rosh Hodesh Iyar April 12-13 • LaG BeOmer Night April 29 • Erev Shavuot May 16

Service Times

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	8:15 am Shaharit 5:45 pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 6 pm Qabbalat Shabbat	9:30 am Shaharit



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BEKI Service Schedule & Leaders

• Sunday	9:00 to 9:30 am	(outdoors* & via Zoom)	CAPTAIN Sarah Berry; HOST Rachel Gerber
• Sunday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	HOST Marge Wiener, Rachel Gerber, or Becky May
• Monday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Sarah Berry
• Monday	5:45 to 6:00 pm	(outdoors* & via Zoom)	CAPTAIN Marge Wiener; HOST Rachel Gerber
• Tuesday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Isaiah Cooper
• Tuesday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	CAPTAIN & HOST Karen Kassap
• Wednesday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Isaiah Cooper
• Wednesday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	HOST Marge Wiener, Becky May, Sarah Berry, or Rachel Gerber
• Thursday	8:15 am	(via Zoom)	CAPTAIN Becky May
• Thursday	5:45 pm	(via Zoom)	HOST Sarah Berry or Becky May
• Friday	7:00 am	(via Zoom)	HOST Sarah Berry
• Friday	6:00 to 6:40 pm	(inside: sanctuary)	
• Saturday	9:30 to 11 am	(outdoors*)	

Potential in-person service opportunities are **boldface**

* Weather permitting (in sanctuary in inclement weather)

Please support our service leaders by joining them for services.

For all in person services, wear face masks and keep six feet distancing. Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own. Weekday outdoor services are in the

courtyard, Saturdays in the parking lot.

So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to bekitefilla@gmail.com or the minyan captain. For the latest

information on in-person services, check BEKI Facebook, Happenings or email us. **Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them.**