

LIVING YOUR BEST THIRD ACT

SEE PAGE 3

Adar I - Adar II 5784 Vol. 30 Issue 3 Rabbi's Column on Page 14

PURIM FESTIVITIES THIS MONTH

Order Your Purim Bags

Be sure to reply about Shalach Manot by Wednesday, March 13. The order form is <u>here</u> at the website. You can pay by check or by <u>credit card</u> to send greetings to a few friends or to the entire congregation.

Every member family may pick up a bag, but even if you don't pick one up, you'll receive your Purim e-card with your donor list. Bags can be picked up after the Megillah readings Saturday, March 23 and Sunday, March 24 or by arrangement with the office later that week.

This year, by popular demand, we will include bigger hamantaschen and more goodies. Every item in the bag has

proper hechsher, but we also will post those specifics on the BEKI website.

Silly Hat Day March 2

We'll begin our Adar celebration on Saturday, March 2. Adults and children are encouraged to wear silly hats as a warmup to Purim.

New Purim Books

Thanks to a generous congregant, we have pur-



Bruce Spierer's Hat in 2023

chased engaging new Megillat Esther books, called *The New Venice Esther*. The Hebrew and English type is clearer than in our *Five Megilloth* books, and original art by Tilla Crowne, Sophie Herxheimer, Mirta Kupferminc, and Jacqueline Nicholls illustrates the text. The artists were inspired by the city of Venice and its venerable gambling culture.

Purim Festivities March 23 & 24

We will read the Book of Esther Saturday evening March 23 and Sunday morning March 24. Adults as well as children are encouraged to come in costume!



Aviva, Gadiel, and Aaron Robbins at BEKI Purim festivities 2023

Purim bags will be distributed after both services. Please bring your donation to our 9-item food drive; details on

page 5.

On Saturday evening, we'll start Maariv and Megillah reading at 8:30 pm (after Shabbat ends).

On Sunday morning, Purim Day, Shaharit and Megillah reading will start at 9 am. Parents are encouraged to arrive around 9:30 am to sit with children for the Megillah reading. The children's Purim Carnival will start at 10:30 am.

Everyone is invited to the Purim Seudah lunch on Sunday from 11 am to 12 noon.

On Sunday evening, the service will be at the usual 5:45 pm.



CJ May at BEKI Purim festivities 2023



Treat Yourself or Someone Else.

THREE 60-MINUTE MASSAGES FOR \$271

The Gift Every Pregnant Person Wants, Needs and Appreciates.



info@thewellforwomenct.com (203) 390-5542 www.thewellforwomenct.com 495 Blake St. Suite D. New Haven, CT 06515

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 **David Spitzer**

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
- Mimi Glenn
- Michael Hurwitz
- Yaron Lew
- Sam Purdy

- Jonathan Rohner
- · Tamara Schechter
- Rob Schonberger
- Jay Sokolow
- Rebecca Weiner
- Evan Wyner



BEKI STAINED GLASS WINDOW DESIGN BY CYNTHIA BETH RUBIN

Living Your Best Third Act

"Life Love and Legacy: Conversations About Living



Nathalie Bonafé

Your Best Third Act" is an opportunity for BEKI members to discuss what some people call the "third act" of life.

With the help of Nathalie Bonafé, PhD, a certified end of life counselor, we will explore living well until the end of our days, and how to talk about this among ourselves and with our loved ones.

Natalie will help partici-

pants create a safe space to discuss these difficult topics surrounding the end of life. We will go beyond the topics of wills and advanced directives to help one another, in community, to explore our fears, hopes, and desires for living well as we age.

This is a 2-part program, Thursdays March 28 and April 4 from 7 to 8:30 pm, in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. The cost is \$10 per person for both sessions. RSVP to Peggy at office@BEKI.org. For more information, consult shoshanazax@gmail.com.



Baby Lilah

Mazal to

Abby Fraade & Tani Cohen-Fraade and big sibling Raziel on the birth of Erez Shalom.

Zoe Lubitz & David Kohn on the birth of Lilah.

Yaron Lew on the engagement of his daughter Dana to Gabe Heering.



Baby Erez with Raziel

Can You Provide a Meal?

BEKI has a long tradition of providing meals to families who have welcomed a child. You can prepare and deliver the dinner or arrange delivery from a restaurant.

Anything you need to know about preferences or address is provided at the platform called Lotsa Helping Hands.

Just log in and choose your password. When the calendar is set up for meals, you'll receive an email with a link. Please register so you can assist with this project.

המקום ינחם HaMakom Yinachem

with sorrow we note the passing of

Richard Brodner

Howard Gralla, husband of Linda Schultz Nancy Levine, wife of Richard Levine Rhoda Redleaf,

mother of Diane Redleaf (& Anatoly Libgober)

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Welcome New Members

Diane Redleaf & Anatoly Libgober Jennifer & William Ruth, Eleanor and Cordelia

BEKI Membership Directory

All members should have received an email on Feb. 14 with a link to our latest BEKI Membership Directory: https://www.beki.org/our-community/beki-directory. In that email you also received a passcode to access it. The Directory is "word searchable" so that you can quickly find a phone number or email address.

Be a BEKI Promoter

In 2023 The New York Times listed New Haven as one of the top 52 places to visit. It's also a great place to live. New Haven was described as a "historic, mostly walkable and bikeable seaside town with distinctive neighborhoods, an encyclopedic collection of great American architecture, a thriving cultural life and one of the best food scenes in the country for a city of its size."

Cosmopolitan recently described New Haven as a "cultural hotspot." The subhead of the article is "The food and cocktails? Top tier. The museums? Immaculate. The people? Gorge and diverse."

Do you know someone who might want to move here? Let's all be BEKI membership advocates.



3 drawings from the Tu Bishvat tree exhibition. Thanks to BEKI's in-house artists who guided the drawing: Cynthia Rubin, Mary Lesser, Helen Rosenberg, Bruce Oren, Mark Abraham, with additional logistical support from Diana Firestone and Diane Krevolin.



New members Anatoly Libgober and Diane Redleaf

Calling All BEKI Musicians!

We're organizing a concert with BEKI musicians—vocal or instrumental—on Sunday June 23, probably starting at 4:30 pm. We'll have free admission, open to family and friends too. After all of the performances, we'll pass the hat for donations to JCARR, our local Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement. Are you interested in participating? If so, email us at president@beki.org.

Another Security Grant Awarded

BEKI has received another \$10 000 security grant from the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven in memory of Arthur and Yvette Eder. This grant will help pay for our increased hours of security guards.

Last year's Foundation grant allowed us to improve the lighting outside our parking lot door and install hideaway lockdown window shades for our inside doors. All of these upgrades were recommended by our security consultants.

According to Michael Masters, National Director & CEO of the Secure Community Network, there was a dramatic increase in threat incidents and suspicious activity reports by Jewish institutions in 2023 — more than doubling 2022's total. Between October 7 and the end of the year, there were more threat incident and suspicious activity reports than in all of 2022.

In the months ahead, BEKI will continue to make upgrades to our security technology, using federal grant money.

If you have questions about BEKI's security projects, please consult Safety & Security Chair Jay Sokolow.

JCARR Update

We are elated that our Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement [JCARR]'s Family 3 has been granted U.S. Citizenship.

Our volunteers continue to be amazed how quickly Family 9 is settling into life in New Haven. JCARR's employment task force is working with the father, who has full and legal work authorization in the United States. He has training as a mechanic and experience as a professional driver and well-driller. He is responsible, hardworking, detail-oriented, and a quick learner. Please email Daphne Geismar at daphne.geismar@gmail.com if you have contacts for employment that might be a good fit.

Please go to this <u>site</u>, which is updated regularly, to see what additional needs have been posted for Family 9.

If you are willing to drive the new family, or volunteer in other ways, please email BEKI's liaison to JCARR Jennifer Mellon at jnmellon@hotmail.com.

CCA

9 Items Food Drive

From March 1 through Purim Day, March 24, we are collecting these 9 items that are particularly needed in the CCA food pantry:

Rice (1 to 2 pound bag)

Cereal

Peanut butter

Jelly

Pasta

Pasta sauce

Shelf-stable milk

Shelf-stable juice

Canned fruit

Please note that this is *not* a general "clear the cupboards" drive. That one will be a week before Passover, on Sunday, April 14. 578432024

Fair Trade Passover Chocolate

Fair trade chocolate chips and bars that are Kosher for Passover will again be offered at wholesale pricing through BEKI. We provide these products from Equal Exchange since fair trade chocolate never is available in local Passover supermarket displays. Stay tuned for the early April "order by" date and pricing. For more information contact Becky May at bseashoremay@aol.com.



JCARR Family 9 went to the Ives Main Library in January to obtain library cards.

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 through his Tzedakah Fund.







Keith Richter: Nature Photography Exhibition

The nature photographs of BEKI member Keith Richter are featured in our upstairs gallery through May 26.

Keith's photography is a blend of his two passions: abstract art and nature. Living in New Haven, Keith has the opportunity to explore the surrounding woods, lakes, and rivers, and he often takes his trusty digital camera with him on these excursions.

His process incorporates a deep appreciation for the natural world, using his camera lens as the means to a stronger connection with what he sees in nature. He seeks to capture the ways in which abstract art mimics nature through shapes, colors, and patterns.

Keith has found a supportive community at the Creative Arts Workshop, where he studies with photographer Phyllis Crowley. He credits his classmates with encouraging him to explore new directions in his work.

Over the past 8 years, he has actively participated in various group shows with his classmates, showcasing his work in a variety of venues, including the Mitchell Library, the Lawn Club, Fairhaven Furniture, and the CAW gallery.

Keith will be available to discuss his photographs after services and Kiddush lunch on Saturday, March 9.

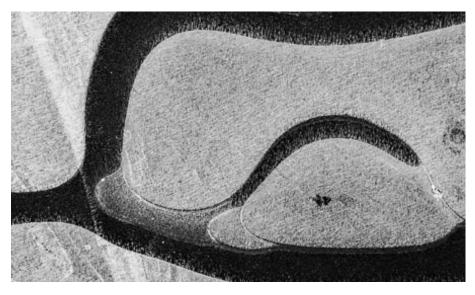
Top: Keith Richter untitled photograph, 2023; 13x19"

Middle: Keith Richter untitled photograph, 2018; 13x19"

Bottom: Keith Richter untitled photograph, 2019; 13x19"









BEKI Funds for Summer Programs

We have various BEKI funds that can provide some help for Camp Ramah or Israel trips for BEKI children. Please consult Rabbi Eric for details.

Day Camp **Scholarship**

This summer BEKI is again hosting the Elm Shakespeare Players Camp in our downstairs space.

BEKI families may sign up here. As a benefit of our partnership with the Camp, two full scholarships will be provided for BEKI youth ages 7 to 12 in

The program runs weekdays July 8-19



College Scholarships

Three college scholarship programs—one of them needs-

blind—are available through the Jewish Foundation of

Elm Shakespeare Camp photos, each ten-day session. including a 2023 performance on the BEKI stage.

and July 22-August 2, 9 am-3pm, with aftercare (if there's sufficient interest, but not included in the scholarship). If you would like a BEKI scholarship, just call or email Peggy at the BEKI office; you will pay only the small registration fee.

Jewish Camp Scholarships

The website "One Happy Camper" helps families explore a variety of traditional and specialty Jewish day and overnight camps. Some camps offer need-based financial assistance, and parents are encouraged to inquire about the level of assistance available. In addition, the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven offers needsblind incentive grants of up to \$1,000 for first time campers as well as needs-based scholarships for all campers; applications are due by June 10.

Lilly Reiser College Scholarship

The Lilly Reiser Scholarship, which will provide \$10,000 college scholarships per year for nine Jewish students from Connecticut and New York, is managed by the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien. Awards will be based on a combination of both need and merit. Applications will be accepted until March 15.



Scholarships for Israel Trips

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven provides Israel Experience scholarships for Teens and Young Adults. Applications for summer trips are due by April 5.

USY is offering a variety of EPIC Israel trips this summer. All participants are eligible for a RootOne Voucher subsidy in the amount of \$3,000, a gift of the Marcus Foundation.

7th Graders Volunteer at the Food Pantry

By Annie Norman-Schiff Education Director

Calling all 7th graders for a special opportunity to volunteer at the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry on Whalley Avenue in New Haven on Sunday, April 7 at 9 am. Teens will help stock and organize the food pantry so that it

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

is a clean and dignified place for clients to choose their groceries.

between teens who are preparing to become b'mitzvah at

BEKI in the coming year. All BEKI

BEKI in the coming year. All BEKI 7th graders, including but not limited to BINA religious school graduates and Ezra Academy students, are invited to join us.

Contact Libby Abraham at libby.p.abraham@gmail.com to

RSVP and for more information.



This volunteering event is a chance to build relationships

At BINA, our students learn not just from their teachers but also from madrichim: teen aides who assist in the classroom and serve as role models.

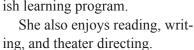
Klara Oppenheimer does this and more as the madricha in Morah Sharon's 3rd and 4th grade class. She has worked with the same group of students for two years.

A valued helper during music and Judaics lessons, Klara

also teaches Hebrew in small groups to students who need individualized attention.

Klara is an 8th grade student at Engineering and Science University Magnet School (ES-UMS) in West Haven.

She is involved at BEKI in many ways including leading children's services and participating in the Teen Kesher Jewish learning program.





Klara Oppenheimer

If you know a teen who enjoys younger children and being Jewish, there are still opportunities to get involved at BINA this spring. Teen madrichim help in classrooms on Sunday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, or both, and can choose either to be paid or to earn volunteer hours. Contact Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Jennifer Mellon and her son, Van Smith, with his Tu Bishvat tree drawing.



Leave a Legacy to BEKI



Donna Levine

"What will your Jewish legacy be?" is the question we ask each month in a bulletin ad.

In February, we enjoyed a special Shabbat celebration in honor of our legacy donors. Our honorees have added to our endowment funds during their lifetimes or arranged to leave \$1,000 or more to BEKI in their estates (through a will or trust, or as a beneficiary designation

through a retirement account or life insurance policy).

If you would like your name on the poster in the lobby, please contact our Finance Chair, Attorney Donna Levine, at sdsij@aol.com or 203.668.6473. She would be happy to assist you, free of charge, and very simply.

Those who have pledged a gift of \$10,000 or more can create a named fund, and those who give a legacy gift of less have their contribution added to our Legacy L'Chayim Fund at the Jewish Foundation.

BEKI is about to receive an annual distribution of almost \$175,000 from our endowment funds at the Jewish Foundation, representing a 4% annual payout from our endowments and approximately 20% of BEKI's annual bud-

get. We also receive \$5,000 annually from endowments held by the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.

With the help of these funds, we're able to balance our budget. Even though we are prudent with respect to our expenditures, and operate to a great extent with the assistance of many, many volunteers, we still need to look to our members and donors to meet our obligations annually.



Within an article in this bulletin, there's a 9 digit Prize Code. If you are one of the first five people to find it and email it to bulletin@beki.org, you will win a BEKI coffee mug. Our February winner was Shoshana Lash.

Tu Bishvat Tree drawing by Eva Chiorazzi, grade 4



Rabbi's Tzedakah Fund

In honor of Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz

Anonymous

To the family of Dr. Harold Levy with sympathy by Jimmy Shure

Kiddush Fund

Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter

Janis Isenberg and Shayna Schor & Jonathan Cohen

Debbie Chirnomas & Michael Hurwitz and Carol & Marc Weitzman

Jennifer Klein & Jim Berger

Chai/Synagogue Fund to support synagogue operations

To Howard Gralla with wishes for healing by The Rader family

To David Spitzer and family with sympathy on the passing of Susanne Spitzer by

Esther Bogdanoff Wendy & Todd Manvitz and family

To Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod and family in honor of the birth of Akiva Isidore by

Diane Krevolin Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes

To Rachel & Jason Greenberg and family in

honor of the birth of Emma Shayna by

Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade Fran & Steve Shapiro

To Josh Perry, Anna VanCleave & Sydney Perry with sympathy on the passing of Lucille Alderman by

Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes Dan & Sharon Prober

Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund)

Linda & Ken Buckman Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade The Rothman family

To Betsy & Robert Sachs and family with sympathy on the passing of Dr. Harold Levy by

The Rothman family

To Bruce & Hene Jacobs with sympathy on the passing of Marjorie Jacobs by

The Rothman family

To Randi & Wendy Saslow with sympathy on the passing of Linda Saslow by Alice Kosowsky

To Josh Perry with thanks for all the help with shiva by Susan Buxbaum

To Rachel Adelstein in appreciation of and with thanks for Greeter encouragement by Jessey Palumbo

Charles & Violet Ludwig Fund for BEKI

In memory of her parents Harriet & Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent

Liora Lew Endowment for the Advancement of Youth Education and Youth Activities at BEKI

To Yaron Lew with sympathy on the passing of Pesach Lew by

Joanne & Steve Rudof The Avni-Singer family Steve & Rachel Wizner Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter

Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow Jim Stacey & Julie Cohen Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Yahrzeit Fund to support synagogue operations

In Memory of:

Mildred & Burton Kassap by Karen Kassap

Her dear husband Sidney Cushen by Barbara Cushen

Mary Belle Rogan Arthur by Marilyn Katz

Pearl Brown by Steven Brown Her brother Max Brunswick by Barbara Cushen

Her daughter Donna Wright by Barbara Cushen Her father George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen

Geraldine Linda Lappie by Steven Hershman

Martin Faymann by Beatrice & Gordon Brodie

Rebecca & Benjamin Yankeloff by Shirley & Donald Halprin

Anne Schnitman Irwin by Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef & Edward Vanderhoef

Abraham Goldman by Martin & Judy Shore

Deborah Mendelson by Andrew & Myra Harris

Morris Buckman by Ken & Linda Buckman

Adele Tyson by Janis Isenberg Harriett Kroop by Donna & Cliff Cohen

Rose Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten

Eunice Rogoff by Jonathan Eagan

Morris Baer by Irving Baer Marjorie Weiss Simson by Marshall & Joan Weiss

Morris Altschuler by Roberta Atteson

Philip Abramowitz by Marcia & John Gell

James Barnett by Caroline Barnett

2023 Annual Campaign additional contributions

Debbie Chirnomas & Michael Hurwitz

Ritual

Supporting Daily Services

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 evening). Then find your name below and choose "I'll be there."

Sign up for Torah Reading

If you are able to read an aliyah of Torah or a Haftorah, make your selection via our online spreadsheet.

Just scroll down to the proper date to see details about each aliyah.

Minchah Returns

We will daven Minchah as well as Maariv starting March 8.

Weekly Classes

Join Rabbi Woodward for a discussion of the week's Torah portion on Thursdays 9-9:45 am in the library, following 8:15 am Shacharit.

On select Sundays from 10 to 11 am (after 9 am Shacharit), Rabbi Woodward leads in-person study of Talmud, Chapter 2 Tractate Shabbat.

MICHAEL MARTONE MANAGER





DIAMONDS - WATCHES - GIFTS CHINA - SILVER - CRYSTAL

WATCH AND CLOCK REPAIRING NORTH HAVEN SHOPPING CENTER NORTH HAVEN, CONN. 06473 203-239-4291 It's not too late to make a pledge or donation to the Sanctuary Redesign, or to increase the amount that you have already given.

Contact Peggy in our office, or speak to a member of the Fundraising Committee:

John Weiser, Murray Akresh
Jessey Palumbo, or John Wareck.



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

James M. Shure President

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

1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 906 WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525 (203) 389-9174 BY APPOINTMENT



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

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



Challenging Minds, Nurturing Hearts

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.



LEARN MORE: EZRAACADEMYCT.ORG INFO@EZRAACADEMYCT.ORG

SCHEDULE A TOUR: EZRAACADEMYCT.ORG/VIRTUAL-TOUR



EZRA ACADEMY
WELCOMES A WIDE
SPECTRUM OF
RELIGIOUS AND
CULUTRAL BELIEFS AND
AFFILIATIONS.









What will your Jewish legacy be?

Jay and Margie Hirshfield Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

"Over the past 50 years, we've celebrated B'nai Mitzvah for two of our sons and two of our grandsons at BEKI. We've designated our Legacy bequests in the hope that this sort of continuity will remain open to families in the Greater New Haven area, strengthening individual and community Jewish identity." –Jay and Margie

Create Your Jewish Legacy Today by Scanning the QR Code or Visiting newhavenjewishfoundation.org/create-a-jewish-legacy



For more information, contact the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
Lisa Stanger, Executive Director I (203) 387-2424, ext. 382 | Istanger@jewishnewhaven.org
Tamara Schechter, Create a Jewish Legacy Manager I (203) 387-2424, ext. 325 | tschechter@jewishnewhaven.org





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 1108Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517



1058 Orange Avenue • West Haven, CT 06516

Tel: 203.932.1200 Fax: 203.932.1222

Scott Walstedter



FINDING JOY IN ADAR

oes anyone feel that it might be nice to double up on joy this spring?

This year, it is a Jewish calendrical "leap year." Called a

"shanah me-uberet" (literally a pregnant year), this year has an additional month added in the winter — right now, to be exact — in order to ensure that Passover does not occur too early.

The Torah tells us that Passover happens in the spring (it is called "Chag HeAviv," the festival of spring), so the lunar calendar is ad-



Eric Woodward

justed to ensure that Passover does not stray from its ap-



Tu Bishvat tree drawing by Bruce Oren



Tu Bishvat tree drawing by Anna Greenberg, grade 5

pointed season. This is why the Jewish calendar is described as lunisolar, rather than lunar.

The extra month is called Adar Rishon — First Adar. Normally, Adar holds the month of Purim. Purim has to occur four weeks before Passover. So the extra Adar month — the "leap month" — is added in before Adar, and is called Adar Rishon, first Adar. I find it interesting that the "real" Adar is the second, and not the first, one.

In any case, this creates some funny things in the calendar.

First, the 15th day of Adar Rishon — which would ordinarily be Purim — is celebrated as Purim Katan, mini-Purim. There isn't anything special about that day, but have a hamantasch or wear a goofy hat.

More than this, we are told in the Talmud that "when Adar begins, we increase joy." This year, we are supposed to have two months of "increasing joy" — two months of celebration.

I think we need this, to be honest. Things haven't been easy since Oct. 7 (and they were no picnic before then), and there is something to be said about forcing ourselves to feel more joy and celebration. To set aside energy for these purposes.

This year, as you prepare for Purim, pay special attention to how you can find joy this Adar I and Adar II. Try to feel a sense of celebration, and go into Purim, March 23, full of zest and energy.

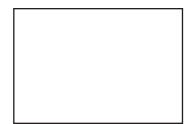
March 2024

21 Adar I 5784 - 21 Adar II 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mark Your Calendar April 13 Hilchot Pesach schmooze April 14 Pre-Pesach food drive April 22 First Seder April 28 Moth Night at BEKI May 22 Stop the Bleed training June 8 Pride Shabbat June 11 Erev Shavuot June 15 Graduates' Shabbat					1 March Food Drive Begins 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:25pm Candle Lighting 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat	2 Silly Hat Day 9:15am Shabbat Service (in-person only) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation
May 6 Yom HaShoah						
3 9am BINA 9am In-person/Zoom Service 10am Talmud Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	4 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service 7pm General Board Meeting (online)	5 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	6 7am In-person/Zoom Service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	7 8:15am In-person/Zoom Service 9am Torah Study 55pm In-person/Zoom Service	21 Adar I 8 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:33pm Candle Lightnig 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat	9 9:15am Shabbat Service (in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 12:45pm Meet the Artist w/Keith Richter
23 Adar I	24 Adar I	25 Adar I	26 Adar I	27 Adar I	28 Adar I	29 Adar I
10 Rosh Hodesh I 9am BINA 9am In-person/Zoom Service 10am Talmud Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	11 Rosh Hodesh II 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	12 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	13 Deadline to order Purim Bags 7am In-person/Zoom Service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service 6:30pm Teen Kesher	14 8:15am In-person/Zoom Service 9am Torah Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	15 7am In-person/Zoom Service 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:41pm Candle Lighting	16 9:15am Shabbat Service (in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation
30 Adar I	1 Adar II	2 Adar II	3 Adar II	4 Adar II	5 Adar II	6 Adar II
17 9am BINA 9am In-person/Zoom Service 10am Talmud Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	18 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (online)	19 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	20 7am In-person/Zoom Service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	21 Fast of Esther 8:15am In-person/Zoom Service 9am Torah Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	22 7am In-person/Zoom Service 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:48pm Candle Lighting	23 9:15am Shabbat Service (in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 8:30pm Maariv & Megillah reading
7 Adar II	8 Adar II	9 Adar II	10 Adar II	11 Adar II	12 Adar II	13 Adar II
24 Purim Food Drive Ends No BINA 9am In-person/Zoom Service/Megillah reading 10:30am Children's Carnival 11am Seudah Lunch 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	25 Shushan Purim 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	26 7am In-person/Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service	27 7am In-person/Zoom Service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service 6:30pm Teen Kesher	28 8:15am In-person/Zoom Service 9am Torah Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service 7-8:30pm Life, Love & Legacy with Nathalie Bonafè Session I In- person, rsvp required)	29 7am In-person/Zoom Service 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:56pm Candle Lighting	30 9:15am Shabbat Service (in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation
14 Adar II	15 Adar II	16 Adar II	17 Adar II	18 Adar II	19 Adar II	20 Adar II
31 9am BINA 9am In-person/Zoom Service 10am Talmud Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom Service						

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





Advertise 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.

Join BEKI on Facebook

Everyone is encouraged to join the <u>BEKI Facebook group</u>. 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.

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.

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		
, 1	Saturday 9:15 am		

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