**November Schmooze News**

**Wednesday, November 4**
An hour of chess playing, commentary, and learning from 8 to 9 pm, as BEKI’s Noam Benson-Tilsen and Aaron Bruce take on chess master Jim Eade, best known for his books *Chess for Dummies* and *The Chess Player’s Bible*. Jim is Chairman & CEO of the Eade Foundation to enhance chess literacy and chess excellence. We’ll be able to see the chess board as well as everyone on Zoom. Whether or not you’re a chess player, take a break from election counts to cheer on Noam and Aaron.

**Wednesday, November 11**
Launching BEKI’s film and discussion series about racial justice, we’ll discuss the film “I Am Not Your Negro,” a 2016 award-winning documentary, narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, about James Baldwin’s observations on American race relations. You can watch this 93-minute film prior to the 8 pm Zoom discussion via Kanopy (free with library card), Hulu (free trial), or other streaming services.

**Wednesday, November 18**
New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker will be our Schmooze guest for a BEKI Town Hall at 8 pm. Elected last November as the 51st mayor of our city, he previously worked as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department, as executive director of the New Haven Land Trust, and as New Haven Alder for East Rock. Please bring your questions to our Zoom conversation.

**Friday, November 27**
Join us for “Thanksgiving Together” from 1 to 2 pm. Probably we will be separated from our extended families this year, but our BEKI family is here! Please also share the BEKI Tefila Zoom login with BEKI kids who are away from home. We have no Kiddush Team salads or USY pies to offer, but whatever each of us is eating for lunch will taste better with good company. We’ll gather as a group, then break us into “tables” for lunch conversation.

**Don’t Miss Out!**
If you missed past BEKI Schmoozes, you can watch them at our website. They are filed under LEARNING.
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. www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org  |  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
• 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.
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Youth & Family Activities

Celebrating the Festival with Creativity & Resilience

BY ANNIE NORMAN-SCHIFF,
YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

BEKI kids and teens celebrated Sukkot a little differently this year. There was no Sukka Hop from house to house, and no eating together in a small space. Nevertheless, kids of all ages shared the joy of the holiday through outdoor parties and games.

On October 6, Rachel and Jason Greenberg hosted a Sukkot party for families in their Woodbridge backyard. Kids from four months to ten years old enjoyed one another’s company on a lovely fall evening. There was plenty of space to run around! Families had the chance to enter the Sukka one at a time and enjoyed socially distanced, picnic-style snacks. Later in the evening, Rachel read a favorite Sukkot storybook. This party was such a success that we are planning more backyard picnic-style gatherings for families in the future.

BEKI USY decided that even if you can’t “Sukka Hop,” you can still “Sukka Hopscotch”! Teens planned an afternoon of old school, throwback games outside at BEKI for October 7. They used chalk to design long hopscotch courts in the BEKI parking lot, as well as drawing a parking-spot-sized sukkah and a massive lulav and etrog. They held a giant, winner-takes-all rock-paper-scissors tournament. And they proved to be gifted guessers at Sukkot-themed charades. (Do you think you could act out “Guests” or “Schach”?) The winners of each game contributed points to a year-long BEKI USY Color War. All teens are welcome to join the fun at events throughout this year.

Family Shabbat Services Continue

As long as the weather allows, BEKI families will gather for outdoor Shabbat services in the BEKI courtyard. Children’s Havura will continue meeting at 10:15 am, and K-2 Kehila at 11:15 am, on November 7, 14, 21, and 28, weather permitting.

Packing Thanksgiving Food Baskets

On Sunday, November 22 from 12 pm to 2 pm, join USYers in packing Thanksgiving baskets for food insecure families. This event is held in partnership with CCA Inc., a New Haven organization for which USY teens helped restore apartment-style homeless shelters in August. We will pack the baskets indoors at 555 Columbus Ave, in a large, well-ventilated room, with only our group present. For more information, contact Annie at anormanschiff@beki.org.
Religious School Both In-Person & Online

BY MORAH INA SILVERMAN, BRS PRINCIPAL

BEKI Religious School (BRS) is off and running. About half our students are online and half come into the building on Sundays. Prior to our first meeting I asked families for suggestions and thoughts about how to make school as comfortable as possible for everyone and incorporated their ideas in the opening plan. I then had a couple of lovely afternoons driving around delivering school bags with texts, materials, and honey to each family choosing online-only BRS so everyone would be prepared for our first day.

Morah Helen and Morah Tikva are thrilled to see their kids again, and we welcomed our new morot, Cantor Shoshana in Meyuchad and Max in fourth grade. We had one class at BEKI before the holidays began and then continued with weekday classes online until after Simchat Torah.

This year our fourth graders meet in an upstairs classroom that has a new, beautiful mural of Moshe crossing the Red Sea created with love by BEKI member Susan (Shoshana Sarah) Atkins Marek. Thank you, Shoshana!

At the end of September, all our older students were invited to a special event when Morah Eileen conducted an online Sukkot drama program. Other special events are being planned through the year.

As of this writing I expect that this will be the model for most of the year. We are trying to meet every student’s needs by offering both (masked and socially distanced) in-person classes on Sundays to families comfortable with coming into the building, and a full online program. We certainly look forward to being back altogether at BEKI as soon as we can be!

Sundays
Parashat HaShavua
From 10:00 to 11:00 am via Zoom, an opportunity to dive into the new week’s Torah reading, with Rabbi Tilsen & guest speakers.
• With Rabbi Eric Silver Nov. 1
• With Steven Fraade Nov. 15
• With Nanette Stahl Nov. 22

Mondays
Rashi Study Group: II Kings
From 8:00 to 8:30 am adults meet via Zoom to read Rashi’s commentary.

Tuesdays
Tehilim in Times of Trouble
From 8:00 to 9:00 pm via Zoom, the group explores the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Professor Corinne Blackmer.

Thursdays
Mini Morning Learning Service
From 8:15 to 9:15 am, this later morning service via Zoom usually includes a d’var Torah by Captain Becky May or another volunteer.

Talmud Berakhot Study Group
From 10:00 to 11:00 am, a weekly online study of Talmud B. Masekhet Berakhot with Rabbi Tilsen.
Supporting BEKI

ANNUAL APPEAL

Last week, you should have received your Annual Appeal packet from Murray Akresh, Chair of Income Development.

Since our dues do not cover all of BEKI’s expenses, we depend on the Annual Appeal to fund our operating budget. Please reply by mail or email Peggy at office@beki.org. You are welcome to pay your pledge in increments. Another option is to charge your donation to your credit card via the BEKI website.

“We know that for some of you making a donation will be difficult this year,” Murray wrote, “So if you have the financial means, please consider increasing the amount you donated last year.”

BEKI Gift Shop Stocked for Hanuka

It’s not too early to start thinking about Hanuka! Light up the festival of lights with Sefad Hanuka candles. We have a lovely selection of Hanukiyot and wonderful gifts for adults and children. We also have new kippot, mezzuzot, books and activities to brighten the holiday celebration.

As long as the weather allows, we will be “open” and outdoors on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings during the minyanim. As always, a personalized shopping experience is made possible by Karen or Harriet. Just reach out, and we will provide no-contact shopping and free local delivery. (Karen 203-430-2182 kekassap@gmail.com, Harriet 203-675-8607 hrfriedman@gmail.com) Also look for posts on the BEKI Facebook page.

The gift shop has a new stock of Ruth Bader Ginsburg coasters, made by artist Karla Gudeon.

The gift shop has bracelets, necklaces, and earrings by Newbead.
A Message from President Yaron Lew

AN ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS

This is adapted from his remarks at the Kol Nidre service

I am sure that just like my mother, every one of you is very good at something. At BEKI we are constantly looking for volunteers who can help. Some of you might like to teach or lecture and we are always looking for volunteers to lecture, do Divrei Torah or teach a class. Some of you might love to build things... Some of you might love to cook and could bring your talents to a Kiddush Team once we are safely back in the building and can have kiddush again. Whatever you do best, or love to do, we can use the help at BEKI…. I’m standing before you alone, but behind me there’s an army of volunteers who work tirelessly at BEKI and deserve our gratitude for making BEKI the wonderful community that it is.

Yaron Lew

BEKI Service Schedule

Outdoor Services
- Saturday 9:30-11:00 am
- Sunday 9:00-9:30 am (also via Zoom)
- Monday 5:45-6:15 pm (also via Zoom)

Indoor Services
- Friday 6:00-6:35 pm

Zoom Services
- 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

Please wear face masks and keep six feet distancing. Out of town guests are welcome if they have adhered to State policies on quarantine. Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own.

So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to jtiilsen@beki.org, 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.

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 those members who do not have a Facebook account but want to see the information, conversations, and humor posted there, just email bulletin@beki.org to request the weekly Facebook digest, sent each Friday.

Wanted: Bulletin Editor

BEKI is looking for an editor for our monthly bulletin. (Rachel Bashevin 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
Food collection November 1

The next drive-by food collection will be Sunday, November 1 from 10 to 11 am in the BEKI parking lot. Please provide non-perishable food (cans and boxes). Call 203.671.4705 to arrange for Rob Lettick to be in the parking lot to receive your “contact-free” bagged or boxed donations. This month’s food will go to Community Soup Kitchen, which has provided meals to our neighbors in New Haven for over 40 years. Their most urgent needs are vegetables in #10 cans, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, oatmeal and grits in large containers, granola bars, laundry detergent, bleach, Simple Green All-Purpose Cleaner, HP 61 printer ink cartridges, bottled water, and disposable & cloth masks.

Refugee Resettlement Update

JCARR has successfully resettled four refugee families and is assisting with support for an asylum-seeking family from Angola, as a co-sponsor with Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), the main refugee agency in Connecticut.

JCARR recently received a Kraus Immigration Justice Mini-Grant of $5,000 to support vulnerable children during the Covid-19 pandemic. The funds will be used to bolster the families’ access to high-speed internet while school is conducted partly or wholly online, buy ESL materials, hire tutors, and meet emergency needs at a time of reduced income due to the pandemic. While JCARR’s goal is to help our families become self-sufficient, we consider it our responsibility to provide an educational and financial safety net for them during the crisis.

To donate or volunteer, please contact Madeleine Kleinman madk117@gmail.com. We greatly appreciate your support!

Do you need help?

Funds are available to help with financial burdens; please call the rabbi, 203.389.2108 x110 jjtilsen@beki.org. All requests will be held in the strictest confidence.

Meral, child of the third refugee family resettled by JCARR, celebrates her second birthday.
News

Noam Benson-Tilsen leads services on BEKI livestream.

Photo by Cynthia Rubin
Rabbi’s Tzedqa Fund
(minimum $25)
• In memory of Elma T. Guttenberg by Lisa G. Weiss
• In memory of Leonid Vaksman by Alexandre Vaxman

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
• To BEKI in memory of William Hallo by Nanette Stahl
• To the BEKI community by Edward & Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
• To Rabbi Carl Astor with thanks for helping with his conversion by George Dumigan
• To Rabbi Richard Eisenberg with thanks for helping with his conversion by George Dumigan
• To BEKI with thanks by Marcie Dimenstein
• To Robert Lettick with thanks for shopping for her and always helping BEKI seniors by Barbara Cushen
• To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
• To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Beth & Dan Weintraub
• To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Janet Felton & Marty Gilens
• To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Linda Milositz, Debbie Bronson, Jane Hartigan, Kira Lent & Sara Feudo
• To Harold Birn & Jennifer Myer thanking them for finding ways for us to celebrate the High Holy Days during the pandemic by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker

Chai Fund (minimum $25)
• In memory of Leonid Vaksman
• To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Delia Friedman by Julie Cohen

Contributions

Synagogue Fund
(minimum $10) to support synagogue operations
• To Lloyd Friedman, Kai Yang & family with sympathy on the passing of Delia Friedman by David & Darryl Kuperstock

BEKI Religious School
• To Lloyd Friedman, Kai Yang & family with sympathy on the passing of Delia Friedman by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Barzillai Cheskis
BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund
• To Sharon & Carl Astor in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Yahrzeit Fund
($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
• In memory of Chester Tomkins by Bruce Tomkins

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.

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

Visit us at www.beki.org
The Tree of Life

Sculpted by Ruth Lapides, the “Tree of Life” is a collection of gold colored leaves that honor people and moments in our lives. For $118 you can remember those moments for all to see. Contact Marjorie Wiener at 203.387.6278 or marjoriewiener@yahoo.com

HaMaqom Yinahem
With sorrow we note the passing of
Delia Friedman, mother of Lloyd (& Kai Yang) Friedman
Cheryl T. Moulthrop, mother of Erin (& Ben) Karsif
Lawrence Hoffman, father of Shari Hoffman

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

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"Helping people function at their highest level"
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
The Jewish Family Service Food Bank needs our help now more than ever.

OPERATION
ISAIAH Food Drive
To benefit the Jewish Family Service of New Haven

What is Operation Isaiah?  Each year, Jews across the country participate in the Operation Isaiah Food Drive during the High Holy Days. With Operation Isaiah, we can kick off the New Year with an act of compassion by donating to our local food pantry.

This year at BEKI, due to the pandemic, we are forgoing the actual food collection and asking for your sponsorship of grocery gift cards for distribution via JFS. BEKI will accept whatever dollar amount you feel comfortable directing to this project. Once the funds are gathered, BEKI will purchase gift cards for local grocery stores, per request by the JFS, in the specific denominations they need. That way local families can purchase the foods they need and all volunteers and donors can remain as safe as possible in these unusual times.

Donation options: send check to office tagged for Operation Isaiah; bill to your BEKI account; or make a directed online donation at beki.org/about/make-a-donation. Donations will be totaled, gift cards purchased, and then delivered to the Food Bank during Sukkot.

Where does the Donation for Gift Cards go? Jewish Family Service of New Haven food pantry at 1440 Whalley Ave. Their pantry is open to all members of the community — Jewish and non-Jewish alike — who are experiencing “food insecurity,” that is, they are without regular access to a sufficient amount of nutritious food and often do not know where they’ll get their next meal.

So this year, we ask you to please send a donation to BEKI tagged for Operation Isaiah. Or you can donate by contacting Sandy Hagan at (203) 389-5599, ext. 121 (shagan@jfsnh.org). (And tell them you’re from BEKI!) Your contribution will make a big difference.

Want to make an EVEN BIGGER difference? Still not satisfied? For more on how you can get involved in helping your community, whether in food insecurity, homelessness, or some other area, contact the BEKI Tikun Olam (Social Action) Committee Chairs: Darryl Kuperstock (kuperst@gmail.com) and Steve Werlin (shwerlin@gmail.com).
The world press reported recently that Russian President Putin offered the United States a non-interference pact. Under the proposal, the countries would guarantee not to interfere in each other’s elections and politics. The Russians have a lot of nerve: first they meddle in our elections, and now they want to dictate our foreign policy.

Some lawmakers made the nonsensical argument a few years ago that a Supreme Court seat should be filled by the winner of a future election, not by the current office holder. They were so adamant back then that they managed to impose this grotesquely anti-democratic theory. Now, just a few years later, after having come to their senses, these same lawmakers are so remorseful that they are trying to rush through a nomination in record time just days before they are voted out of office, in an effort to make amends for doing just the opposite four years ago. It is like someone who slams on the brakes a full block before the intersection, anticipating a red light, now making up for this crazy driving by speeding up (and honking) to make it through the intersection after the light turns yellow. Most shocking of all, the other lawmakers oppose their efforts to make amends. This is not going to end well, if it ever does end.

And in Washington and Hartford they are inevitably planning to raise my taxes again. Fairness would dictate that they raise taxes on wealthy people who can afford it and whose investments are protected by the nation’s spending on global military reach and on corporate welfare. They should also raise taxes on those who are not earning as much as I do, to give those folks a real incentive to work and to pay for all of the services they use – and if they don’t like it, they can move to Texas or Florida, instead of dragging down the Northeast. Anyone with common sense can see that it would be more fair and promote growth to lower taxes on people like me and raise others.

And then there are my neighbors. I put in a lot of effort to mow, trim, and clear my lawn, creating a beautiful urban garden. But I can never enjoy it in peace. There is always someone on the block mowing or blowing, creating a whine and din so intolerable that I can’t enjoy the fruits of my effort. They have no consideration.

Even worse, the grocery delivery service still lacks or limits sales of toilet paper and paper towels. Instead of just getting what they need, people are hoarding them, artificially creating a shortage. Due to their selfishness, my stock is down to barely 200 rolls.

Even worse than that, a shortage of ammunition has afflicted the nation for six months, all calibers. Without a few thousand more rounds in my locker, how can I exercise my Second Amendment right to protect my 200 rolls of toilet paper when the riots break out?

“Don’t pay attention to everything that is said, so that you may not hear your servant reviling you; for well you remember the many times that you yourself have reviled others.” (Qohelet 7:21-22)

Author’s Note: The rabbi seems to be in a cranky mood. He’ll probably be better after the elections. Let’s hope so.

From now until Pesah, we add the line “mashiv ha-ruah… you bring the winds and rains” to the second paragraph of each recitation of the amida, as noted in the prayerbook. The line is called a “reference” to the season rain, not a “request.” It is simply a recognition of the great force behind the climate patterns.

It turns out that We the People have the power to “bring the winds and rains” through the collective result of our own activities. While that exercise of collective power was arguably inadvertent and clearly not intended, we are now aware of the dynamic and eventual consequences. Now that we know we have the power to change the climate, we have to ask whether we have the power not to change it.

Take care not to be lured away to serve other gods and bow to them. For Adonai’s anger will flare up against you, and Adonai will shut up the skies so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its produce; and you will soon perish from the good land that Adonai is assigning to you. (Deut. 11:16-17)
November 2020
14 Heshvan 5781 - 14 Kislev 5781

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<td>No Religious School</td>
<td>8:00am Rashi Study Group: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen</td>
<td>6:00pm Tefilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackmer via Zoom</td>
<td>Office Closed/Thanksgiving 9:00am Shaharit via Zoom (Federal Holiday Service Time) No Afternoon/Evening Service</td>
<td>Office Closed/Thanksgiving Together&quot; (Zoom) 4:06pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Qabbalat Shabbat (Sanctuary/Social Hall)</td>
<td>9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service 10:15am Children's Havura Courtyard Service 11:15am K-2 Courtyard Kehila</td>
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<td>13 Kislev</td>
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<td>14 Kislev</td>
<td>8 Kislev</td>
<td>9 Kislev</td>
<td>10 Kislev</td>
<td>11 Kislev</td>
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Mark Your Calendar
- Turn clocks back November 1
- Election Day November 3
- Book Talk by Daphne Geismar “Invisible Years” December 6
- Hanuka First Night December 10
- Shabbat Hanuka December 11-12
- Rosh Hodesh Tevet December 16
- Hanuka Last Night December 17

Service Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Fridays</th>
<th>Saturdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 am Shaharit</td>
<td>7 am Shaharit</td>
<td>7 am Shaharit</td>
<td>7 am Shaharit</td>
<td>8:15 am Shaharit</td>
<td>7 am Shaharit</td>
<td>9:30 am Shaharit</td>
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<td>5:45 pm Maariv</td>
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<td>6 pm Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
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