**November Programs**

**Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7:30 pm**
Professor Corinne Blackmer, a professor of English and Judaic Studies at Southern Connecticut State University, will discuss her new book, *Poisoning the Wells: Antisemitism in Contemporary America*. This collection of essays opens with the statement “In twenty-first century America, antisemitism is on the rise, especially on the extreme left, the radical right, and within political Islamism.” Join us for this conversation with Corinne at tinyurl.com/bekischmooze.

**Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 pm**
Max DuBoff, co-chair of BEKI’s Ritual Committee and a PhD student in Classics and Philosophy at Yale, will speak about Christian Kabbalists of 17th Century Europe. Some European Christians, he explains, became interested in Kabbalah to address puzzles about the nature of God and creation. In his presentation, Max will teach us about Kabbalistic metaphysics and will explore some of the ways it has influenced Jews and non-Jews through the ages, at tinyurl.com/bekischmooze.

**Wednesday, Nov. 17 at 7:30 pm**
On the third Wednesday of each month, explore prayer and liturgy with Rabbi Carl Astor. Hebrew proficiency is not required. This is not a class, but rather an open forum to learn together and share ideas. For more information, consult Karel Koenig, Karelmk59@gmail.com. Please note the Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83810021641?pwd=ejVqK3pta0e0UHIH RytVbDuyWG1WQT09

**Sunday, Nov. 21 at 11 am**
Mark Oppenheimer will speak about his latest book, *Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood*, at the BEKI Sisterhood Book and Gift Fair. A BEKI Board member, Mark is the author of five books, the director of the Yale Journalism Initiative, and a host of the podcast Unorthodox. Rather than focusing on the shooting itself, his book instead explores the struggles and triumphs of the Squirrel Hill neighborhood.

**Thanksgivukkah**
The first night of Hanukkah is Sunday, Nov. 28! We will light the Hanukkah menorah in the BEKI lobby every evening (except Shabbat) at 5:30. Join us in person or at tinyurl.com/BEKIschmooze. News about other BEKI Hanukkah festivities will be in the December 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

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BEKI Bulletin November 2021

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News

BY MURRAY AKRESH, CHAIR OF INCOME DEVELOPMENT

Since the start of the pandemic, our lives have changed, but BEKI has continued serving our members and the Jewish community. Since our dues do not cover all of BEKI’s expenses, the Annual Appeal is the request for the donations needed to fund BEKI’s operating budget. Simply put, BEKI needs your generous donations more than ever.

Thanks to all of you who have already made pledges or sent in donations. For those who haven’t done so yet, please complete and return the 2021 Annual Appeal Pledge Card that was mailed to you in early October.

You may also make your pledge by emailing Peggy at office@beki.org. Remember, you can make your contributions by credit card on the BEKI website (www.beki.org/about/make-a-payment) and in increments over time, if desired.

For BEKI members over age 70½, there may be significant tax advantages to making your donations from your Individual Retirement Account, especially if you are subject to Required Minimum Distributions.

For some, making a donation will be difficult this year. So if you have the financial means, please consider increasing the amount you donated last year. If you could not donate last year but now have the funds, please consider making a donation this year. We strive to have all BEKI members contribute toward our vibrant community.

Thank you for your generosity and support of BEKI.

BEKI ANNUAL APPEAL

Message from President Yaron Lew

Adapted from his Sept. 2 email to the congregation

We’ve all been dealing with gloom, dejection, and despair at some point. And yet, here we are. We have gone through the worst of it, and this year we will be able to celebrate together with family and friends. Yes, we will be wearing masks, but we can be together. Pray together, laugh together and feel the joy of the holidays together.

May all of us enjoy a much better year than the one we just went through! May we all be inscribed in the book of life, and may we all enjoy wonderful family gatherings with great food, great spirits and very meaningful spiritual times.

Yaron Lew
Social Action — Tikun Olam

GOT (GOOD) GELT?

Does this headline evoke images of the iconic ad campaign with the milky moustache? Or perhaps this month, a milk chocolatey moustache as we think about the signature candy of Hanukkah?

What makes gelt “good”? Not only the positive associations with childhood celebration—the shiny foil, the games of dreidel—but also the ethical underpinnings of the product itself. Chocolate, or the cocoa industry to be more specific, has a “dark” side beyond just that type of chocolate.

Much of conventional, commercial cocoa is produced under conditions that use child labor and/or slavery. It feels like nothing short of a miracle that with Maccabean efforts over many years, the world is finally waking up to the dark side of chocolate.

Good gelt — meaning fair trade gelt — is available by order through BEKI, thanks to the efforts of Becky May. This gelt is available in milk or dark, in individual mesh bags of 13 mixed size pieces at wholesale pricing of $2.50/bag, if you order by Sunday, Nov. 7. Pick up at BEKI is preferred, though delivery is available if needed. Place your order with Becky May at bseashoremay@aol.com.

Should you wish to stock up on other fair trade products, cocoa powder, chocolate chips, brown or white sugar and Hershey fair trade Chocolate Minis can also be ordered through Becky. Just as the miracle of the Hanukkah oil was that it lasted far longer than expected, you can extend your dedication to social justice through the purchase of fair trade chocolate year-round.

Since the chocolate industry is beginning to take steps to address its dark side, we now can find many brands of chocolate that have been independently screened for fair trade practices. Stop and Shop chocolate chips and cocoa powder are both kosher (OU) and screened for child slavery — and Stop and Shop gift cards, which are available for purchase in the BEKI office, help support BEKI.

Look for these 3 symbols on products that have been screened against child slavery by third party certifiers: Fair Trade, UTZ, or Rainforest Alliance.

JCARR Update

We all know the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child.” Well, not surprisingly, it takes a community of dedicated volunteers to resettle a refugee family!

JCARR volunteers have been working steadily to assist Family 6 with acclimation and adjustment to their new lives in New Haven. Top priority was having them vaccinated against COVID, and that has been accomplished. ESL instruction has started with Ahmed enrolled at New Haven Adult Education 4 days a week. He is in the process of learning to take the bus to and from school. ESL tutoring at home for his mother and sister has begun as well. Registration for social services, medical appointments, and learning to navigate their neighborhood are underway.

Contact Madeleine Kleinman madk117@gmail.com to volunteer in this important work.
Youth Activities

A Bonfire, A Corn Maze, and More

By Annie Norman-Schiff, Youth and Family Programming Director

USY Bonfire Night
BEKI USY’s Bonfire Night was a great success, a happy crowd of 13 teens catching up over pizza and s’mores. They shared hopes for the new Jewish year and prepared for Sukkot with a very competitive candy sukkah building contest. Special thanks to the Wyner family for hosting the event at their backyard fire circle.

Kadima Corn Maze
The middle schoolers of BEKI’s Kadima Youth Group love outdoor adventures. This September, we took on one of the hardest corn mazes out there, at Treat Farm in Orange. Although only one team successfully found the exit, everyone had a good time exploring the tricky maze on a gorgeous fall day.

Thanksgiving Pies
USY teens are excited to return to many traditions that were not possible last year, including their community-favorite Thanksgiving Pie Sale to raise money for the JFS food kitchen.

The teens are back in the kitchen this month, preparing Kosher Pareve apple and pumpkin pies. Everyone preparing pies, regardless of vaccination status, will wear masks and gloves while cooking.

You can buy these frozen pies to bake at home, or donate. The deadline to order pies is Friday, Nov. 5. Pie pickup times are Sunday, Nov. 21, noon-1:30 pm and Tuesday, Nov. 23, 6-7:30 pm. For more information, see the Thanksgiving Pie order form in the mid-month mailing or find it at https://www.beki.org/wp-content/uploads/BEKI-Pie-Flyer-2021.pdf.

Kadima and USY Hanukkah Party
Don’t forget that Hanukkah begins this month, on Sunday night, Nov. 28. The Kadima and USY youth groups will be celebrating with a shared Hanukkah party on Sunday, Dec. 5, from 4-6 pm. Join us at BEKI for latke making, a dreidel tournament, and more. All tweens and teens, 4th-12 grade, are welcome at this celebration.

Joel Grutzendler, Klara Oppenheimer, Eleanor Blessing, and Itamar Lebowitz play around in the corn maze at Treat Farm.
Ancestors Exhibit Closes Nov. 28

The BEKI Ancestors Exhibit has been hailed as a great success by those who have seen it and by the publicity in local newspapers. This terrific response has led the Art Committee to extend viewing until Nov. 28.

Don’t miss the portion of the exhibit on display in the lower lobby, where the diversity and the similarities of our backgrounds are enhanced by professional lighting and expert installation. All accompanying texts draw the viewer into historical times and places and contribute to a full range of emotional responses.

Exhibition participants who loaned framed works can pick up their pictures on Monday or Tuesday, November 29 and 30, from 4-6 pm. (Editor’s note: Come at 5:30 pm to join in the menorah lighting in the lobby) Pickups prior to Nov. 28 or after the pickup dates can be arranged as needed.

For those who would like to keep the photos that have been digitally enhanced, framed, and printed, the Art Committee suggests a donation of $18 for large framed prints and $12 for small framed prints. For unframed prints, a donation of $9 is recommended for large prints, $8 for smaller prints. Links to print-ready scans will be provided upon request. All funds will be used to offset the costs of future exhibitions. Additional donations are welcome. Write to beki.photos@gmail.com with questions and special requests.

Instructions for participation next year, Ancestors Chapter 2, with soon be available.
By Jennifer Myer & Harold Birn, High Holy Days Co-Chairs

Thank You! Thank You! Thank you! There’s just no other way to begin an article about High Holy Days at BEKI. From Back to Shul Day and our Elul events until the last break-fast basket was handed out, it’s our volunteers who really make BEKI work. We would like to mention the following people who were all part of making the High Holy Days successful, so that you can thank them yourselves the next time you see them in-person.

High Holiday Steering Committee

Shoshana Zax, Programming; Eric Dunsker, Livestream and Audio; Sherry Rothman, Sponsorships; Eva Shragis and Robert Lettick, Greeters; Evan Wyner and Jay Sokolow, Safety/Security.

Back to Shul Day leaders and contributors


Ancestors Exhibit Committee

Cynthia Rubin, Helen Rosenberg and their amazing team

Continued on Page 8
Ritual Matters

High Holy Day Volunteers

Continued from Page 7

of dedicated committee members as well as all who contributed their family’s pictures and stories.

George G. Posener Family Memorial Break Fast Leaders

Joanne Rudof, Susan Epstein, Eva Shragis, Margie Wiener, Linden Grazier, Lana Gad, Ellen Cohen, Rebecca Weiner and all who came to help package food during the break on Yom Kippur.

Service Leaders, Torah / Haftarah Readers, and Shofar Blowers


Greeters


Ushers

Jennifer Botwick, Becky May, Jay Sokolow, Max DuBoff, Miles Katz, Stewart Frankel

Flower Arrangement Sponsors

Jimmy Shure, Donna Kemper and Ron Zlotoff, Kai Yang and Lloyd Friedman

Children’s Services and Programming

Adam and Gail Miller, Maytal Saltiel and Dan Shetler, Josh Perry, Rachel Doff, Amy Marx and Rob Schönberger, Steve Werlin and Leslie Frame, Ben Rodwin and Rozzie Levine, Mark Oppenheimer, Jonathan Freiman and Rachel Light, Gadiel Robbins, Ellen Cohen, Rachel and Jason Greenberg, David Goldblum, Mike Hurwitz and Debbie Chirnomsas, Eli and Mira Lebowitz and Shai Silverman.

As Always, the BEKI Staff

Rabbi Eric Woodward, Annie Norman-Schiff, Eva Shragis, Peggy Hackett, Michael Barone and Chris Lancio.

Thanks to all who attended services, participated in any way, watched a livestream, or even just sent good ideas or holiday greetings when you couldn’t be with us in person.

One Last Thing

If we have forgotten to thank you, we apologize and will seek forgiveness from you next year at Yom Kippur. If you have thoughts or ideas about what we can do differently (or better!) next year or if you’re interested in being part of the planning process, please let us know.

Wishing you a healthy and happy 5782!

Making a Minyan & Torah Reading

To make sure we have a minyan consistently, please, if you can, make a weekly commitment to one or more service times. Let Max DuBoff duboff.max@gmail.com, Rachel Wiseman Gerber wisemangerber@gmail.com, or one of the minyan captains know about your availability.

We’re also looking to expand BEKI’s pool of Torah readers, both for Shabbat and weekdays. Please let Eva Shragis (ritualcoordinator@beki.org) know if you want to read a segment of any length, including if you want to but don’t yet know how. Help is available.

Thanks to everyone who helps make BEKI services strong.

Taped Shabbat Services Online

For anyone not able to attend our in-person Shabbat morning services, a selection of Psukei d’Zimrah, Shacharit, Torah, and Musaf services — led by volunteers and filmed by Jennifer Myer in the BEKI sanctuary — is posted at www.beki.org/shabbat-service-videos. Click on the names below to watch:

- Psukei d’Zimrah led by Jennifer Botwick
- Psukei d’Zimrah led by Rabbi Carl Astor
- Shacharit led by Rabbi Carl Astor
- Shacharit led by Max DuBoff
- Torah Service led by Rachel Adelstein
- Musaf led by Isaiah Cooper

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- Shacharit led by Max DuBoff
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- Musaf led by Isaiah Cooper
Sisterhood Store

Just when you thought you were over the holidays, here comes Hanukkah on Nov. 28, happening just after Thanksgiving on Nov. 25. We have everything you need to beautify your holiday, grace your table, spark your neurons, and fend off ennui. In other words, we have menorahs, gorgeous cups, colorful candles, mature and not-so puzzles, fiction for you and your favorite 8-year-old, nonfiction too, hand-crafted bread boards, and ceramic bowls.

Be sure to get your bag of Hanukkah swag to give to your traveling student to take back after the Tofurky digests. So skip Black Friday and go to Shacharit and the Sisterhood Store instead.

Shop Sunday morning around minyan and Religious School time, and anytime you let Karen or Harriet know you want to shop: giftshop@beki.org. You know where to find us.

Watch for our new hours.

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.
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedakah Fund
• Sasha (Alexandre) Vaxman
• Cynthia Epstein
  In honor of our High Holiday leadership team who did an incredible job ensuring the chagim were safe, smooth and joyous by
• Carol & Marc Weitzman

Kiddush Fund
• Jennifer Myer & James Kempton
• Sarah Berry & Roger Colten
• The Hirshfield family
• The Rothman family
• Helene Sapadin
• Diane & Dan Krevolin
• Karen Merkel-Herbst & Roy Herbst
• Hakakian & Ahmadi family
• Eva Shragis
• Helen Rosenberg & Liona Landau
• Fania Levine
• Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• Sherry Kent & Richard Kantrowitz
• Sharon & Rabbi Carl Astor

Chai/Synagogue Fund to support synagogue operations
To BEKI in appreciation by
• Isaiah Cooper
• Max Franklin
  In honor of Linda Schultz & Trish Loving by
• Jeanette & Dan Oren
To Diane & Dan Krevolin in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary by
• Bobbie & Harold Miller
To Shoshana Lash with sympathy on the passing of David Marshall by
• The Lettick family
• Mimi Glenn
To Joanne Foodim & Robert Forbes and family with sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Foodim by
• David & Darryl Kuperstock
• Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow (to BEKI Religious School)
• Yaron Lew
• The Freiman-Light family
• Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
• Judith Hoberman & Dominic Kinsley
• Dan & Sharon Prober
• Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
• The Avni-Singer family
• Steve & Rachel Wizner
• Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• Carol & Marc Weitzman
• Donna & Sid Levine (to the Hesed Committee)
• Ken & Linda Buckman
• Rachel Bashevkin
To Judy Ellant & family with sympathy on the passing of Howard Reiter by
• Ken & Linda Buckman
• Seth Pauker
To Fania Levine in honor of the birth of her great-granddaughter by
• Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow and family with sympathy on the passing of Lillian Suslew Silverman by
• Mimi Glenn
• To Becky May in her honor by
• Mimi Glenn
To the Gross family with sympathy on the passing of Fred Gross by
• Seth Pauker
With thanks for the beautiful Yom Kippur Break Fast take home meal by
• Lauren & Phil Brown
In honor of the High Holy Day chairs, Jennifer Myer & Harold Birn by
• Rachel Bashevkin
In honor of all the High Holy Day volunteers by
• Rachel Bashevkin

Jon-Jay Tilsen Endowment for the Benefit of BEKI
• Edward & Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
• Marsha Beller
• Robert Hoffnung

Yahrzeit Fund to support synagogue operations
In memory of:
• Rena Miller by Howard Miller
• Sylvia Feldman by Sara Salmon
• Her aunt Martha Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
• Stella Zusman by Howard Zusman
• Murray Leiman by Howard Zusman
• His grandmother Esther Berner Landau by Ken & Linda Buckman
• Elaine Henrietta Lettick by Steven & Sharon Lettick
• Patricia Levy Zusman by Howard Zusman
• Jacob Sokoloff by Shirley Goldstein Frumento
• Her mother Rose Goldring Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
• Esther Kabakoff by Marvin Kabakoff
• Michael Harold Rudof by Joanne & Steve Rudof

With sorrow we note the passing of
Marilyn Foodim, mother of BEKI members Joanne Foodim & Robert Forbes
Heinz Martin Seligman, father of BEKI members Sharon Seligman Sachs & Louis Sachs
May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Welcome New Members
Ali Rosen, Herbert Rosen, and Lily
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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.

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 posts, just email bulletin@beki.org to request the weekly Facebook digest, sent as one email each Friday.

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

Hamden Hall Country Day School

Educating students in PreSchool through Grade 12.

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

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

Visit us at www.beki.org Follow us on social media BEKI Bulletin November 2021 13
I’m excited to announce that our synagogue has been selected as one of the participants in the Synagogue Vegan Challenge through Shamayim: Jewish Animal Advocacy!

I’m not a vegan. Nor am I a vegetarian. But I believe it is a Jewish and moral value to eat in a way that is ethical and spiritually grounded—by keeping kosher and paying attention to the moral and environmental impact of what we are eating.

The Synagogue Vegan Challenge grants our synagogue $2,000 to engage in programming around its goals and to hold nine vegan events over the course of the year. Obviously the money facilitates this. But that’s not the only reason I’m excited.

One of the reasons I’m excited for this synagogue to participate in the Shamayim Vegan Challenge is that it’s a lived experiment about eating. Can we have kiddushes and events that are delicious, meaningful, and vegan? I believe we can. Most of the food we have at BEKI is already almost-vegan, and the quality of the food here is extremely high! We might learn more about potential eating practices.

The moral cost of factory farming is clear; so is the environmental cost of meat consumption. One person’s behavior might not seem to affect these matters, but what about the behavior of a synagogue? What if our synagogue was able—for example—to hold a vegan kiddush once a month? One kiddush is about the equivalent of 150 meals—that’s akin to the individual impact of going vegan for three months.

As I said, I’m not a vegan or vegetarian, but keeping kosher has given me a great appreciation for eating vegan and vegetarian. There are decadent and delicious vegan restaurants in our world—and there are great vegan choices we can make.

I hope you’ll join me and the committee—Shoshana Zax, Becky May, Josh Weinstein, Jennifer Myer, Ellen Cohen—in celebrating and engaging in these events throughout the year.

* * *

And now, for the next time you are traveling, My Top Five Vegan Restaurants:

- Buddha Bodai, kosher vegan Chinese dim sum in Chinatown, Lower Manhattan
- Vinh Loi Tofu, vegan Vietnamese restaurant in Los Angeles
- HanGawi, fancy Korean vegan restaurant in Midtown Manhattan
- Vedge, high-concept fancy vegan restaurant in Philadelphia
- Goldie, kosher vegan falafel restaurant by Michael Solomonov in Philadelphia

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**Message from Rabbi Woodward**

In each bulletin (for the near future) I’m trying to share a little about myself: I’ll tell you about literature or a movie that has meant something to me (explicitly Jewish books are excluded); sometimes share a recipe with you; and to teach a little Torah.
### November 2021
26 Heshvan 5782 - 26 Kislev 5782

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<td>7</td>
<td>9:00am Courtyard or Chapel &amp; Zoom Service</td>
<td>10:00am BJEK Vegan Challah Bake-Off</td>
<td>12:00pm Fair Trade Chocolate Order Deadline</td>
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<td>9:00am Courtyard or Chapel &amp; Zoom Service</td>
<td>2:00pm USY Pie Baking</td>
<td>5:45pm Chapel &amp; Zoom Service</td>
<td>7:00am Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>10:00am BJEK Vegan Challah Bake-Off</td>
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<td>9:00am Courtyard or Chapel &amp; Zoom Service</td>
<td>10:00am BJEK Sisterhood Gift Fair &amp; Book Talk with Mark Oppenheimer</td>
<td>12:13:00pm USY Pie Pick-Up</td>
<td>5:45pm Chapel &amp; Zoom Service</td>
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**Service Times**

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Mark Your Calendar

**Dec. 1:** BJEK / PJ Library Hanukkah party

**Dec. 5:** BJEK USY/Kadima Hanukkah party

**Dec. 11:** Violin concert by Ilana Zaks

**Dec. 15:** Prayer & Liturgy with Rabbi Carl Astor

**Jan. 16:** Erev Tu Bishvat
**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.

**Save a Tree and Save a Stamp**

Contact the BEKI office if you would like to receive your monthly yahrzeit notices and/or monthly statements via email rather than snail mail; office@beki.org or 203-389-2108 x114

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**BEKI Services for November**

All services are also available on Zoom except Friday night and Saturday morning.

- Sunday 9 am (outdoors, weather permitting)
- Sunday 5:45 pm
- Monday 7 am
- Monday 5:45 pm
- Tuesday 7 am
- Tuesday 5:45 pm
- Wednesday 7 am
- Wednesday 5:45 pm
- Thursday 8:15 am
- Thursday 5:45 pm
- Friday 7 am
- Friday 6 pm
- Saturday 9:15 am

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