

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Cheshvan-Kislev 5783

Vol. 28 Issue 11

Message from Rabbi Woodward: Page 10

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Community Havdalah

BEKI, [Ezra Academy](#) and [PJ Library](#) are sponsoring a Havdalah gathering Saturday, Nov. 12 at 7 pm at Ezra Academy, 75 Rimmon Road in Woodbridge. Along with the Havdalah blessings, we'll have singing and a children's story. Although the program is suited to children, everyone is welcome. In case of rain, the event will move inside.

Staying Safe

Our Wednesday, Nov. 30 Zoom Schmooze will feature Michael Shanbrom, our Regional Security Advisor through the Secure Community Network, which is the safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America.

Michael, who is a retired FBI Special Agent and a former Woodbridge Police Commissioner, has served in this role since October 2021.



Michael Shanbrom

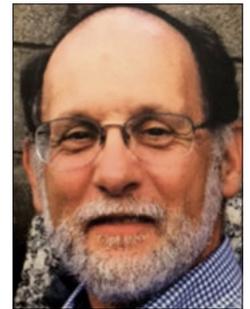
This workshop, called Countering Active Threat Training, shows how to prepare for an active threat event anywhere, whether in our neighborhoods, a parking lot, supermarket, workplace, or synagogue.

Drawing on his experience in law enforcement, Michael will show best steps to survive an active threat incident: Run, Hide, Fight. The workshop is educational, engaging, and not frightening. Appropriate for adults of all ages, the program will start at 7:30 pm at the usual Zoom [link](#).

This program is provided by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Prayer and Liturgy

On the third Wednesday of the month, which is Nov. 16, you are invited to Prayer and Liturgy at BEKI, an ongoing exploration with Rabbi Carl Astor. The focus of the group, which meets at 7:30 pm via a special Zoom [link](#), is to better understand the language, the historical context, and the spiritual meaning of our prayers and liturgy.



Carl Astor

Ancestors Exhibit

In case you have not yet found time to explore the second edition of BEKI's Ancestors exhibit in the upstairs and downstairs galleries, it will remain up through the fall.

This year's display was the work of many hands, from scanning and editing photographs to runs to IKEA for frames, to editing the extensive labels, framing the photographs, and finally the big installation. The team included Mimi Glenn, Margie Hirshfield, Diane Krevolin, Karen Merkel, Margaret Olin, Bruce Oren, Helen Rosenberg, Cynthia Beth Rubin, Eva Shragis, and Marjorie Wiener.

Staff members Michael Barone and Peggy Hackett gave essential support.



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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

• 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.

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BEKI STAINED GLASS WINDOW DESIGN BY CYNTHIA BETH RUBIN



Natalya Moycik Bat Mitzvah

The bat mitzvah of Natalya Moycik, child of Marisol Sanchez-Moycik & Thomas Moycik, will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 5, *parashat Lech-Lecha*. The congregation is invited to attend. Kiddush lunch sponsored by Tom and Marisol will follow. Natalya, who is an 8th grader at Ezra Academy, is interested in sketching, swimming and poetry. Natalya also loves to sail, lounge by the water, and play video games.



Natalya Moycik

Mazal Tov to

Grandparents Carole and Paul Bass, to parents Annie and Marissa Rose-Weiss, and to big brother Caleb, on the birth of Jonah Rafael.

Klara Oppenheimer Bat Mitzvah

The bat mitzvah of Klara Oppenheimer, daughter of Cyd and Mark Oppenheimer, will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 12, *parashat Vayeira*. The congregation is invited to attend. Kiddush lunch sponsored by the Oppenheimers will follow. Klara, who is a seventh-grader at Engineering and Science University Magnet School in West Haven, is interested in reading, writing, and music. Klara also loves musical theater, raspberries, and her friends and family. She recommends the author Eva Ibbotson, the play *Les Misérables*, and the baked potato.



Klara Oppenheimer

ANNUAL APPEAL REMINDER

By MURRAY AKRESH,
CHAIR OF INCOME DEVELOPMENT

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, even if you made a donation or pledge towards our sanctuary redesign.

Thanks to all of you who have already made Annual Appeal pledges or sent in donations. For those who haven't done so yet, please complete and return the 2022 Annual Appeal Pledge Card that was sent to you via email in late October. Remember, you will not receive Annual Appeal materials in the mail this year unless you specifically request them.

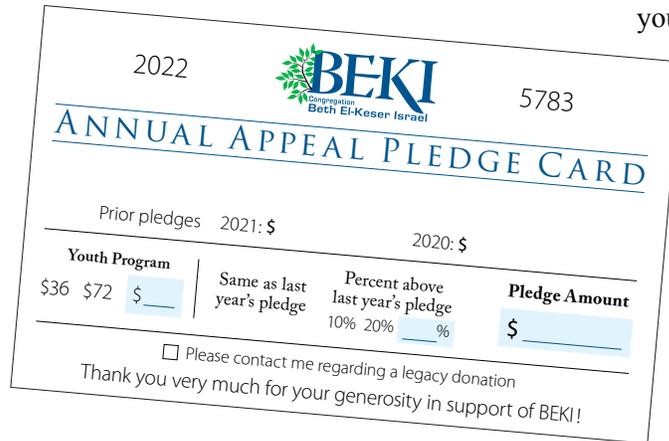
You may also make your pledge by

emailing Peggy at office@beki.org. Remember, you can make your contributions by credit card on the BEKI [website](http://www.beki.org) 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.

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.



המקום ינחם

HaMakom Yinachem

With sorrow we note the passing of
Peter Shetler, father of Dan Shetler
(and Maytal Saltiel)

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

GOT (GOOD) GELT?



Does this headline evoke images of the iconic ad campaign with the milky moustache? Or perhaps 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. We’re proud to say that this is the 4th year of this Tikkun Olam project.

This gelt is available in milk or dark, in individual mesh bags of 12 mixed size pieces at wholesale pricing of \$2.50/bag, if you order by Wednesday, Nov. 23. Late orders, due by Dec. 7, will cost \$3 per bag. 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 *brand* 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.



Welcome New Members

- Elana Bildner & Benjamin Goldman-Israelow, Noam and Archie
- Sharon Hasbani, Jude, Jacob, Aryeh Leo, and Miriam
- Shayna Schor & Jonathan Cohen, and Caleb
- Shai & Robyn Silverman, Maya, Sophie and Ellie



Shayna Schor & Jonathan Cohen, and Caleb

USY Thanksgiving Pies

Please note that the deadline to order Kosher pareve Thanksgiving pies is Friday, Nov. 4. Through this annual project, BEKI teens not only raise money for tzedakah, provide pies to the Connecticut Food Bank, but also supply all of us with tasty apple or pumpkin pies for Thanksgiving.

Pies can be picked up at BEKI either on Sunday, Nov. 20 or Tuesday, Nov. 22. For more information, consult the [order form](#).

BINA Year Begins

BEKI's religious school, BINA, opened Sept. 18 with 45 students in grades K to 6, more than half of them new to our school. While Rabbi Woodward was in charge for the opening weeks, Education Director Annie Norman-Schiff returns from family leave in November.

Thank you to parents Lesley Frame, Steve Werlin, Jane Coffee, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Shelli Farhadian, and Maytal Saltiel for their assistance to the children of BINA as they decorated the BEKI sukkah.

Teen Keshet, which meets on Thursday evenings, is our new program for students in grades 7 through 12. For more information, contact Rabbi Woodward at rabbi@beki.org. Check the BEKI website for the calendar of meeting [dates](#).



USYers preparing Thanksgiving pies in BEKI's kitchen last year.

Sisterhood

GIFT SHOP HAS BOOKS TOO

We are happy to announce that the Rosh Hashanah swag bags were a big hit. We can help you put a gift bag together for all occasions, at all price points.

Nov. 9-10 is Kristallnacht. We have books for all ages to help you learn about the Holocaust.

It's never too late to say thank you, and you can never say it too many times. We are very grateful to James Stacey and his family for the donation that allowed us to install the beautiful gift shop window display shelves in loving memory of Jane Gershaw.

We are open every day except Shabbat by appointment. Or drop in after most minyanim.

Karen Kassap (203) 430-2182.

Harriet Friedman (203) 675-8607. Giftshop@beki.org



Rabbi's Tzedakah Fund

- Jeremy Jacobson
- Alexandre (Sasha) Vaxman
- Alexandre Vaxman for the speedy recovery of Polina (Pnina) Naiman

Kiddush Fund

- Debbie Chirnomas & Michael Hurwitz
- Anna VanCleave and Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- The family of Eve Norman-Schiff
- BEKI Families honoring September birthdays

Chai/Synagogue Fund to support synagogue operations

- To Barbara Cushen with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Saxe by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Susan Jacobson with sympathy on the passing of Stuart Jacobson by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Eva Shragis & William Shragis in honor of Alex's marriage to Emily by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Julie Leviter & Dan Wiznia and big brother Aviv on the birth of their baby boy by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Marty Feldman & Sandy Laub on their wedding by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Shai Hurwitz & family in honor of his Bar Mitzvah by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade

To Ina Silverman with appreciation of years of leadership at BEKI Religious School by

- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Grandparents Lynn & Jay Brotman on the birth of Hugo Simon Brotman by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- To Annie & David Norman-Schiff in honor of the birth of their daughter Eve Shaina by**
- Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- Eva Shragis
- To Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold on the birth of their granddaughter by**
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade (to the Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund)
- Eva Shragis
- To Lisa Woodward with speedy healing wishes by**
- Rachel Bashevkin
- To Grandparents Carole & Paul Bass, parents Annie & Marissa Rose-Weiss, and big brother Caleb on the birth of Jonah Rafael by**
- Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
- Joanne & Steve Rudof
- Rachel Bashevkin
- To Steve Wizner with wishes for a speedy recovery by**
- Joanne & Steve Rudof
- To Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla wishing them a Happy New Year and a speedy recovery for Howard by**
- Sara Mag

Yahrzeit Fund to support synagogue operations

In Memory of:

- Patricia Zusman by Howard Zusman
- Chester Tomkins by Bruce Tomkins
- Fannie Siegel by Jonathan Eagan
- Ralph Bertazzo by Rhona Bertazzo
- Sarah Greenberg by Betty Swinkin
- Mordechai Rosmarin by Jessey & Joe Palumbo
- Evelyn and Henry Cohen by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- Harriet and David Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- Larry Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- Steven Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- Helen Shelnitz by David & Barbara Shelnitz
- Her father Benjamin Steinlight by Gila Reinstein
- Joseph Baer by Irving Baer
- Abraham Weiss by Suzanne Weinstein
- Al Hamoway by Ted Maltin
- Jacob Cohen by Ted Maltin
- Ruth Maltin by Ted Maltin
- Sylvia Feldman by Sara Salomon
- Lev Malamud by Fania Levine
- Regina Faymann by Beatrice & Gordon Brody
- Sylvia Feldman by Lois K Feldman
- His father Philip Cohen by James & Susan Cohen
- Eileen S Rogoff by Jonathan Eagan
- Beth Margolis by Marilyn Margolis
- Muriel Kaltman by Anonymous

THANKS TO OUR KIDDUSH TEAMS

Thank you to the volunteers who prepare our Shabbat lunch. Apologies to anyone whose name we omitted. Since each team has a different starting time, from 3 pm to 7 pm on Thursdays, perhaps one of these preparation times could fit into your schedule?

Coordinators

- Ellen Cohen
- Rebecca Weiner

- Andy Hirshfield
- Margie Hirshfield
- Joanne Rudof

- Ada Fenick
- Diana Firestone
- Jacob Botwick Reiss
- Helen Rosenberg
- Kai Yang

- Barbara Akresh
- Karel Koenig
- Diane Krevolin
- Trish Loving
- Jessey Palumbo
- Linda Schultz

- Sharon Astor
- Isaiah Cooper
- Susan Epstein
- Gary Hochman
- Sheri Hochman
- Alice Kosowsky
- Lynn Saltz
- Helene Sapidin
- Jim Stacey

Team 1

- Jennifer Myer, *leader*
- Ina Silverman, *shopper*
- Naftali Caplan
- Max DuBoff

Team 2

- Lana Gad, *leader*
- Joanne Rudof, *shopper*
- Stephanie Birn
- Miriam Feinstein

Team 3

- Marge Wiener, *leader*
- Robert Lettick, *shopper*

Team 4

- Eva Shragis, *leader/shopper*



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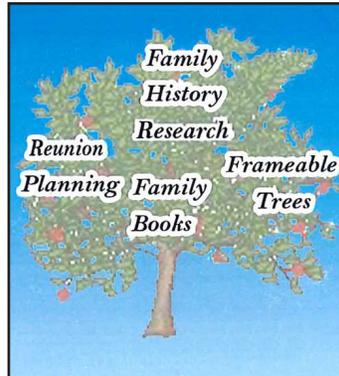
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The Birn Family created a legacy for their synagogue, Congregation BEKI

"The synagogues of my youth do not exist anymore. I made a legacy commitment to BEKI to make sure that our family and future generations never have to say that. The BEKI community has supported us spiritually, intellectually, educationally and socially - it is our privilege to be able to support it back now and in the future,"—Harold Birn



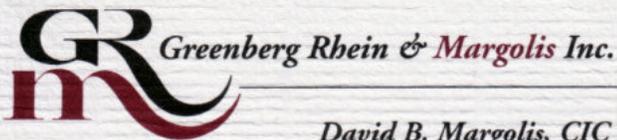
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For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Lisa Stanger,
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TO LOVE CHESHVAN



I've seen a T-shirt out there that reads "Rabbis Love Cheshvan."
Truly, the Jewish month of Cheshvan, without any holidays, is a nice break for rabbis, when there are far fewer logistics than in the month of Tishrei.

And although I am one of the rabbis who actually love Tishrei, I think there is also something nice about having normal, ordinary time to exist in.

I'm writing this during the space between Yom Kippur and Sukkot. My sukkah is half-built and decorated.

Two days ago, on Yom Kippur, I spent my energy thinking about spiritual projects for the new year. But with a sukkah to build, it's hard to imagine starting them — until we get some normal time.

Normal time — a time without many holidays, a time



Eric Woodward

with five-day work weeks, a time when we go back to reading the stories of the book of Bereshit — is actually a beautiful canvas for living our Jewish lives. The holidays are wonderful, but we need a plain base on which to build our religious lives.

There's a Danish concept called "hygge" (I can't pronounce it, either) that refers to the warm coziness of being in one's home in the winter. Cheshvan (and the months following it until Tu Bishvat or Purim) are our time for hygge. It's our time for taking comfort in regular Jewish life — for living day-to-day and seeking connection with God, with each other, and with Torah.

What can you do this Cheshvan to feel a sense of Jewish hygge? What can you do to find spiritual meaning in ordinary life?

May this month bring us a sense of peace and fulfillment, a spectrum of the ordinary that we can lift up as holy. Chodesh Tov.

Making a Minyan and Torah Reading

To make sure we have a minyan consistently, please, if you can, tell Rachel Wiseman Gerber wisemanagerber@gmail.com when you can make an ongoing commitment to a weekday service. Or just make a choice each week: Log in at <http://minyanmaker.org/app/9133/BethEl/>. Up top, you choose which weekday service you are planning to attend (morning or afternoon). Then find your name below and choose "I'll be there."

If you are able to read an aliyah of Torah, make your selection via our online [spreadsheet](#). Just scroll down to the proper date to see details about each aliyah. If you have questions, please consult Rachel Adelstein at ritualcoordinator@beki.org.

Thanks to everyone who helps make BEKI services strong.

Join BEKI on Facebook

Everyone is encouraged to join the [BEKI Facebook group](#). 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.

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November 2022

7 Heshvan 5783 - 6 Kislev 5783

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7 Heshvan	2 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 4:00pm BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 8 Heshvan	3 8:15am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:00pm Teen Keshet Grades 7-8 9 Heshvan	4 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service Deadline for USY Pie Orders 5:25pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat 10 Heshvan	5 Natalya Moycik Bat Mitzvah 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11:00am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 11 Heshvan
6 Daylight Savings Times Ends 9:00am BINA 9:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 12 Heshvan	7 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:00pm General Board Meeting (on-line) 13 Heshvan	8 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 14 Heshvan	9 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 4:00pm BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 15 Heshvan	10 8:15am In-person & Zoom Service 5:15pm Chapel Haven Gathering 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:00pm Teen Keshet Grades 7-8 16 Heshvan	11 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service Office Closed 4:17pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 17 Heshvan	12 Klara Oppenheimer Bat Mitzvah 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11:00am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 7:00pm Ezra/PJ Library Havdalah Event (off-site) 18 Heshvan
13 9:00am BINA 9:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 19 Heshvan	14 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 20 Heshvan	15 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 21 Heshvan	16 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 4:00pm BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:30pm Prayer & Liturgy at BEKI w/Rabbi Carl Astor (special Zoom link) 22 Heshvan	17 8:15am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:00pm Teen Keshet Grades 9-10 23 Heshvan	18 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 4:11pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat Healing Service 24 Heshvan	19 9:15am BINA Kabbalat Siddur Ceremony 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11:00am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 12:45pm Shabbat Schmooze w/Rob Forbes 25 Heshvan
20 No BINA 9:00am In-person & Zoom Service 12-1:30pm USY Pie Pickup 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 26 Heshvan	21 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (on-line) 27 Heshvan	22 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 6-7:30pm USY Pie pickup 28 Heshvan	23 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service Gelt Orders Deadline No BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 29 Heshvan	24 Rosh Hodesh I Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 9:00am In-person & Zoom Service (Federal Holiday) No Afternoon/Evening Service 30 Heshvan	25 Rosh Hodesh II 9:00am In-person & Zoom Service Office Closed 4:07pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat 1 Kislev	26 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11:00am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 2 Kislev
27 No BINA 9:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 3 Kislev	28 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 4 Kislev	29 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 5 Kislev	30 7:00am In-person & Zoom Service 4:00pm BINA 5:45pm In-person & Zoom Service 7:30pm "Countering Active Threats" w/Michael Shanbrom (Zoom) 6 Kislev	Mark Your Calendar Dec. 4 Violin & guitar concert Dec. 10 Corinne Blackmer book schmooze Dec. 14 BINA Hanukkah party Dec. 17 Shorashim Dec. 18 Hanukkah singalong		

Service Times

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

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
P A I D
 Permit #131
 New Haven, CT

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
	Saturday 9:15 am

For the latest information on services, check [Happenings](#) or email bekitefilla@gmail.com

Advertise Your Business 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.

Bulletin Bored?

Here's a unique opportunity to shape BEKI's primary line of communication with fellow congregants and the world beyond.



The Bulletin needs a layout designer to create each month's issue. Step up if you're familiar with any pagination program like Adobe InDesign, or would like to learn how to master InDesign to create publications digitally for the web, email or snail mail.

Contact bruce.oren@gmail.com

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.