

A New Haven Tradition since 1892

BEKI bulletin

Congregation
Beth El-Keser Israel

Tishri-Heshvan 5781

Vol. 26 Issue 10

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen: Page 14

Help Us Reach Jerusalem by Simhat Torah

Since Sukkot and Simhat Torah festivities immediately follow our holy days, we are running out of time to complete our virtual mission to Israel! Our team has navigated the Atlantic but now must cross the Mediterranean. If you're on the BEKI team, please log in your exercise miles. For assistance, email jennifer.myer@yale.edu. This program is sponsored by Sisterhood and the High Holy Days Committee to help us establish healthful habits for the new year.

The week of Sukkot arrives with Shabbat on Friday, October 2. If you ordered a lulav & etrog set, please arrange to pick it up before the holiday.

Families with children should RSVP to anormanschiff@beki.org to attend the Family Sukkot Party in Woodbridge on Tuesday, October 6. The high school students will have their USY Sukkot event at BEKI on Wednesday, October 7. For more information about both celebrations, consult the Youth & Family page in this bulletin.

Starting with Erev Sukkot, our Friday night services will no longer be on Zoom. That 6 pm service will be exclusively in-person, in the courtyard. Thanks to Roger Colten (& Sarah Berry & family & other helpers) for assembling the sukka framework to serve as our tefila shelter

and then finishing the job before the holiday.

Morning services for the First Day of Sukkot will be on Saturday, October 3 in the parking lot and for the Second Day—with lulav & etrog—in the sukka, both days at 9:30 am.

Hoshana Rabba comes Friday, October 9. Shemini Atseret (Eighth Day of Assembly), which concludes Sukkot, arrives with Shabbat. It is customary to light a memorial candle immediately prior to the Shabbat/festival candles. Yizkor will be recited at the 9:30 morning service in the parking lot on Saturday, October 10.

Services for Simhat Torah will be outside in the parking lot at 9:30 am on Sunday morning, October 11. As we conclude the annual Torah reading cycle and begin the new one, we read the final chapters of Deuteronomy, followed by the opening passages of Genesis. L'shana tova. May the next year be a good one!



A stuffed toy Torah, which happens to be available at BEKI's Sisterhood Gift Shop. See Gift Shop story, Page 8.

What will your Jewish Legacy be?



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JEWISH LEGACY
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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.

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi
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KADIMA EXPLORES THE OUTDOORS

BY ANNIE NORMAN-SCHIFF, YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

BEKI Kadima is taking every opportunity to enjoy fresh air and good weather, through events that get kids active outdoors. On August 30, Kadimaniks took a hike through the leafy DeDominicis Preserve in Cheshire. The hikers were good sports about mask wearing and intrepid in finding the trail.

Our hikers were rewarded with ice cream bars and a refreshing dip in a backyard pool. Judging one another's dives into the deep end was a good socially distanced game!

On September 13, Kadima prepared for Rosh Hashana in the messiest way possible: an event called Reverse Tashlich. Normally, for Tashlich, we throw something into a river—bread-crumbs to represent sending our sins away. On this Sunday afternoon,

Kadima took things out of the river, to make it a safer and cleaner environment for the year to come. Kadimaniks put on their gloves and grabbed garbage tongs to clean up along the West River in West Rock Park. Their efforts made a visible difference. Afterwards, they gathered for sweet Rosh Hashana themed treats: apples, honey sticks, and Bit-O-Honey candies.

Stay tuned for more Kadima fun outdoors this fall!



Kadimaniks hike in DeDominicis Preserve in Cheshire. From left, Klara Oppenheimer, Eleanor Blessing, and Aviva Robbins, led by volunteer trail leader Owen Kemp.

Services Find a Home in the Courtyard

Children's Havura and K-2 Kehila have settled into holding outdoor Shabbat services in the BEKI courtyard. The BEKI sukka, covered with a tarp, offers shade for up to six families spread out on picnic blankets or lawn chairs. Children's Havura meets at 10:15 am, and K-2 Kehila at 11:15 am.

At a recent Shabbat, the participants in Children's Havura ranged from 3-month-old Aviv Wiznia, attending BEKI for the first time, to 3 ½-year-old Ezra Levy, proud to be the oldest. At K-2 Kehila, participants jockeyed to read their favorite blessings in *birkhot hashachar*, and shared wise words and big questions about the Torah portion.

Families of children up to age five are welcome to join Children's Havura, and families of children in kindergarten through second grade are welcome in the Kehila, every week.

Family Sukkot Party

Tuesday, October 6, 5:30-7 pm. Join BEKI families for a Sukkot party in a Woodbridge backyard! Games, room to run around, and individually packaged snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring your own picnic dinner as well. Families will get a chance to shake the lulav and say blessings in the sukka one at a time. Email anormanschiff@beki.org for the address.

USY "Sukka Hopscotch"

Wednesday, October 7, 4-6 pm. This year, we may not be able to do a "Sukka Hop" where everyone squeezes into small sukka spaces. But USY will be hosting "Sukka Hopscotch": alternative outdoor games, competitions, and activities at BEKI. There will be a chance for everyone to shake the lulav and say the blessings on their own in the BEKI sukka, no squeezing in necessary. All high schoolers welcome.

המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Julian Cohen,
father of Carol Cohen & Marc Weitzman

Dr. Robert Stern, husband of Jane Stern

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Benei Mitzva at BEKI

The bar mitzva of Ari Hurwitz, son of Deborah Chirnomas and BEKI Vice-President Michael Hurwitz, will be Monday October 12, *parashat Bereishit*. **Please note this new date.** Because of the public holiday, the morning service will start at 9:00 am. It will be on Zoom as usual and also in-person, outdoors.

Ari is an 8th grader at Ezra Academy. Aside from tae kwon do and occasional guitar playing, Ari’s true passions are drawing — either on paper or on his ipad — and video production.



Ari Hurwitz

The congregation is invited to attend the outdoor service. So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to jjtilsen@beki.org. Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them—in-person or on [BEKI Tefilla Zoom](#).

Welcome New Members

- Levi Brackman
- Sidney Cahn
- Miriam Gerber & Linus Lu
- Guy Levine
- Joshua Weinstein

A Message from BEKI President Yaron Lew

This is adapted from an email message sent on September 3.

When I became the Executive Officer (2nd in command) of my submarine, it was my job, amongst other things, to test the crew members and determine if they’d acquired all the knowledge that would warrant a recommendation for advancement.



Yaron Lew

The captain asked me one day, “How do you decide who passes the exam and who doesn’t?” I gave him what I thought was a perfectly reasonable answer: “You know the extent of the material that he needs to know. You ask him a certain number of questions covering all the subjects he needs to know, and if he answers most of them correctly, he passes.”

He looked at me and simply said, “Not on my boat!”

“So, what should I do?” I asked. His answer will remain with me forever: “On my boat, you first decide if the person SHOULD pass the exam and then the exam you give him needs to PROVE that your decision was correct.”

My captain never appreciated feedback (either receiving or giving it). It was always “his way or the highway.” Unlike my captain, we are very interested in your feedback, and we want you to tell us if you think things should be done differently.

If you have not already done so, please follow the link sent on September 9 by Peggy Hackett to reply to these 3 questions:

- *What do you most like about your BEKI experience?*
- *What could be better about your BEKI experience?*
- *Please provide examples of how BEKI could be improved so we may serve you better.*

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.*

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven

provides need-based assistance for parents of children attending synagogue schools. **Online applications are due by October 19.** <https://scholarships.jewishnewhaven.org/form/religious>

OCTOBER SCHMOOZE NEWS

Because of the Vice-Presidential debate, we will not have a Schmooze on October 7.

Wednesday, October 14

We encourage you to join the talk by Judith Rosenbaum (daughter of BEKI member Stanley Rosenbaum and the late Paula Hyman), historian and CEO of Jewish Women's Archive. She will speak at 7:30 pm on "Speaking in a Political Voice: Jews and the Fight for Women's Suffrage."

This is a free online event sponsored by the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies at Fairfield University. Register at this [link](#).



Judith Rosenbaum

Wednesday, October 21

BEKI President Yaron Lew will offer Stories of Growing Up on a Kibbutz at 8 pm Wednesday, Oct. 21 on BEKI Tefila

Zoom. Although Yaron has provided glimpses of his childhood in Israel, join us to hear more and to ask questions.

Wednesday, October 28

Gadiel Robbins will share his Jewish Journey at 8:00 pm on BEKI Tefila Zoom. Because of the personal nature of this story, it will not be recorded. So please join us on Zoom! Gadiel, a BEKI Board member, is an Associate Professor in the School of Business at Southern Connecticut State University, where his focus is Management and Sustainability.



Gadiel Robbins

Don't Miss Out

If you missed any of the BEKI Schmoozes, you can [watch them](#) at our website. They are filed under LEARNING.

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: II Kings

From 8 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.



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

(resumes Oct. 15) From 10 to 11 am, a weekly online study of Talmud B. Masekhet Berakhot with Rabbi Tilsen.



Jon-Jay Tilsen

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.

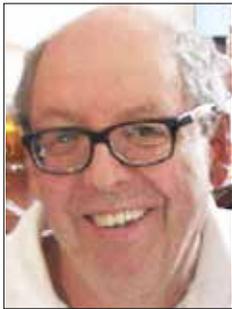
Wanted: Bulletin Editor

BEKI is looking for an editor for our monthly bulletin. (Rachel Bashevkin 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

Changing Rules for Inherited IRAs

BY MURRAY AKRESH, CHAIR OF BEKI INCOME DEVELOPMENT, AND ATTORNEY DONNA LEVINE, BEKI FINANCE CHAIR

Probably the most important change made in 2020 to the IRA rules relates to inherited IRAs (as well as other taxable retirement accounts). Last month we explained how if you are 70 ½ or older, you can reduce your taxes by making your charitable contributions directly from your IRA. This article tells you how you might rearrange your planning to minimize taxes to your beneficiaries while benefitting your favorite charitable organization (BEKI, we hope!).



Murray Akresh

Under the old law, beneficiaries of inherited IRAs and other retirement accounts could take distributions over their life expectancy, which for children of a decedent was generally a very long time. However, under the SECURE Act, for most retirement account owners who pass away in 2020 and in future years, most non-spouse beneficiaries will have to draw down (and pay tax on) the entire account **in ten years**. Annual distributions are not mandated; the law just requires that the entire account be distributed by December 31 of the tenth year after death. (Note that certain beneficiaries can continue using the old life expectancy rules, including spouses, disabled and chronically ill beneficiaries).



Donna Levine

Drawing out the taxable funds and paying the taxes within ten years can result in higher tax brackets and considerable tax liability for your beneficiaries. Better to leave that money to BEKI and leave other assets to your family or other beneficiaries. If you wish to make a legacy

gift to BEKI, your incentive to do so may have just increased! You may save 40 percent or more of your retirement distribution from income taxes, depending on the tax brackets of your beneficiaries in future years – and we are guessing that everyone's tax bracket will be higher in the future.

Please note that the new law is very complex, and there may be some ways to avoid the harshness of the ten-year distribution rule, possibly using specialized trust vehicles as beneficiary of your retirement accounts, such as a Charitable Remainder Trust. (Please consider BEKI as the remainder beneficiary after income is paid out to your chosen beneficiary for his or her lifetime.) Expert planning and legal advisors will be needed in these situations.

Please note that each individual's tax situation differs. If you have questions, please contact Donna at 203.985.9033 x5, Lisa Stanger at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven 203.387.2424 x 382, or your tax or legal advisor.

Thank you for your generosity and support of BEKI.

BEKI 2020 ANNUAL APPEAL

For BEKI to continue serving our members and the Jewish community, we need your generous donations. Just as BEKI has been there for you, we'd like to ensure that it will be there for future generations. Since our dues do not cover all of BEKI's expenses, the Annual Appeal serves as our request for the donations needed to fund BEKI's operating budget.

In the past, the Annual Appeal began before the High Holidays. However, the Board decided to begin this Appeal later this year, after the High Holidays. This plan will separate the time for dues payment from the time for payment of Annual Appeal pledges. Of course, we would welcome any donations made before the official start of the Annual Appeal. And for those making payments and donations from an IRA as discussed in last month's article, it may be beneficial to wait until January 2021 to make a contribution since RMDs are waived for 2020.

Thank you for your generosity and support of BEKI.

Food collection October 18

The next drive-by food collection will be Sunday, October 18 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 Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen. If you would like the list from D.E.S.K. of what they need most, email bulletin@beki.org.

Services



BEKI Service Schedule

Outdoor Services

- Sunday 9:00-9:30 am (also via Zoom)
- Monday 5:45-6:15 pm (also via Zoom)
- Friday 6:00-6:35 pm
- Saturday 9:30-11:00 am (longer on holidays)

In case of bad weather, services will move inside BEKI, abiding by current State policies on group size and room occupancy.

Please wear face masks and keep six-foot distancing. Out of town guests are welcome if they have adhered to State policies on quarantine. Washrooms inside the building are available if needed.

Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own.

If there’s a minyan on-site, Mourner’s Kaddish will be recited at all outdoor services.

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

Zoom Services Followed by Open Chat

- 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 note that our Friday evening service is no longer on Zoom.

BEKI Gift Shop Open Sundays and Mondays

This past year the Gift Shop underwent a revival and a reincarnation. We were so happy to become another place for meeting and community. We are very proud to have added a small bookshop within the Gift Shop, highlighting the works of BEKI authors and including a thoughtfully curated Jewish book selection, with books appropriate for very young children as well as adults. We also stock educational toys and items

meant to enhance and encourage a fuller celebration of holidays and to beautify religious practices.

Covid-19 has disrupted our rhythm, but it has not stopped us. **We are still here**, and we are again adapting and reviv-



Tallis clip

ing our active place in the BEKI community. Harriet and Karen are happy to roll out (on display carts) highlights from our inventory on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings, after courtyard minyan. Although our goal is to eventually accommodate shoppers in the shop, until then, please let us know what you are interested in, and we will bring it to you. We offer personal shopping, touch-less purchases and door-to-door delivery.

For Sukkot and Simhat Torah, we are offering a plush lulav and etrog set or a plush torah that opens to Hebrew text. Also check out our shofarot, tallit clips, cards, new jewelry, and plush round challah.

New Year Greetings from BEKI Sisterhood

BY MIMI GLENN, PRESIDENT

The month of Elul represents the call of the Jewish people to come closer to our Creator. The first letters of the verse *Ani Ledodi Vedodi Li*, “I am to my Beloved, and my Beloved is to me,” **אני לדודי ודודי לי** spell out the word Elul. This is a time of return to our beautiful relationship of the past, *Ani Ledodi*, and when G-d comes close to His people, *VeDodi Li*, to return to Him in repentance. Through *teshuvah*, prayer, and *tzedakah*, we can remove the evil of the decree and merit a happy and healthy New Year.

This is a unique New Year to become a Sisterhood member. We are looking for new energy and new ideas to make Sisterhood meaningful and relevant to all women in our congregation. As we return to G-d, so may we return to our BEKI community as we were before the pandemic.



Women's League

For many years BEKI Sisterhood has been a partner in promoting the goals of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. A portion (\$15) of the dues (\$25) collected is forwarded to Women's League, an affiliation that affords us non-governmental observers at the U.N.

Through the Torah Fund campaign, Women's League provides support for the students of the Jewish Theological Seminary (NY), Ziegler School

of Rabbinic Studies (LA), Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem) and Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires).

Women's League is as dedicated today as it was in 1918 to the creation of a vibrant North American Jewish community that nurtures the individual, family and community with the values of Jewish tradition.

BEKI Sisterhood hopes **you** join us this year (2020-2021) in supporting Women's League by becoming a member. Please contact Mimi Glenn 203.397.3851 for more information. To find out all the great programs Women's League offers, please go to their website www.wlcj.org.

The President and Board of BEKI Sisterhood wish all our congregants a happy and healthy New Year, *l'shana tova umetuka*. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life.

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund (minimum \$25)

- In honor of his stepson Qi Gong's 43rd birthday by Louis J. Petrillo
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Esther & Irwin Nash

Chai Fund (minimum \$18) to support synagogue operations

- To Larry Schleicher with sympathy on the passing of Paula Schleicher by Sherry & Steve Rothman
- To Nate Kempton in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Nate Kempton in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Gloria Cohen
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Sharon & Carl Astor
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Julie Cohen
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Yaron Lew
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Karel Koenig
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Linda Paul
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Cynthia Rubin
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Julie Cohen
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Melanie & Jimmy Wolf
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Naomi & Jennifer Taransky
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Karel Koenig
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Helene Sapadin & Isaiah Cooper
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Sherry & Steve Rothman
- To Roberta Litvinoff with sympathy on the passing of Buddy Litvinoff by Sherry & Steve Rothman

Synagogue Fund (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations

- To Leslie Scoler Walden with sympathy on the passing of Muriel Scoler by Diane & Dan Krevolin
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by Sharon & Dan Prober
- To Jane Stern with sympathy on the passing of Robert Stern by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Mimi Glenn
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Mimi Glenn
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Mimi Glenn
- To the Silverman & Sokolow family in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Mimi Glenn

BEKI Religious School

- To Nate Kempton in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Toby Manning in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund

- To Donna & Sid Levine in memory of Ari Nathan Levine by Norman & Bronna Romanoff

Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Sharon & Carl Astor
- To Carol & Marc Weitzman and family with sympathy on the passing of Julian Cohen by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
- To Susie Voigt in honor of the birth of her granddaughter by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Frankel-Mattler Memorial Fund

- In memory of Zelda Frankel Katz by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Dorothy Seigel Mattler by Shirley Mattler
- In honor of her mother Shirley Mattler's 101st birthday by Debra Mattler Levine

- In honor of her mother Shirley Mattler's 101st birthday by Judith Resnick

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

- In memory of Marcel Gutman by Mimi Glenn
- In memory of Lea Gutman by Mimi Glenn
- In memory of Ben Marks by Lynne Marks
- In memory of Eli Berman by Richard Neveloff
- In memory of David "Frank" Goldberg by Sue & Wayne Cole
- In memory of Shirley Goldberg by Eileen Schuman & Robert Snyder
- In memory of Howard P. Goldberg by Eileen Schuman & Robert Snyder
- In memory of Ruth Snyder by Robert Snyder & Eileen Schuman
- In memory of Joseph Swinkin by Betty Swinkin
- In memory of Ruth Rosner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- In memory of Louis Blatt by Howard Blatt
- In memory of Max Small by Bruce & Rhoda Small
- In memory of Fannie Siegel by Jonathan Eagan
- In memory of Joseph E. Baer by Irving Baer
- In memory of Irv Zerwitz by Ron Zlotoff
- In memory of Rose Cohen by Doris & Stephen Brody
- In memory of Martha Donner by Lillian Donner-Jacobson
- In memory of her mother Edith Ignal by Toby & Alan Ignal
- In memory of Hannah Zarnes by Robert Sagerman
- In memory of Louis Blatt by Marilyn Margolis
- In memory of Faye Schwartz by David Schwartz
- In memory of Rose Pergament by Deanna Tulin
- In memory of Norman Rosenberg by Lillian Rosenberg
- In memory of Natalie Levine by Hilda Trueheart
- In memory of Muriel Kaltman by Anonymous
- In memory of Helen Shelnitz by David & Barbara Shelnitz
- In memory of her grandmother Sarah Greenberg by Betty Swinkin
- In memory of Martha Miller Schwartz by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Joan Davenny by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- In memory of Edith Gershman Alper by the Alper family
- In memory of Mildred Brody by Joel Brody & Debra Canner

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.

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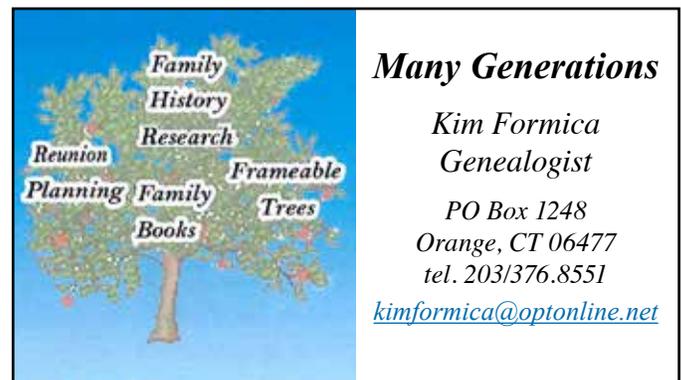
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- Transport clients in their own vehicle
- Shop for personal care products and groceries

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The Tree of Life

The next time that you enter BEKI from the parking lot, take a minute and look at the wall to your left. Sculpted by Ruth Lapidès, 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



GOD WILL GET YOU FOR THAT

BEKI members are above-average drivers and while we make mistakes, we are smart, careful and proficient behind the wheel. But daily we share the road with drivers whose skills appear to be below average. That's the driver waiting behind you at the red light who decides not to wait, pulls out into the opposing lane and goes through the red light. That's the driver whose estimation of a safe interval makes you reach for your facemask. That's the driver doing 45 in a 25 zone or in the left lane of a 65 zone. That's the driver who does not understand the concept of the double turning lane.

You might want to call those people "stupid drivers." Stupid driving does not appear to correlate with general intelligence, educational attainment, income, make or model.

The problem is that advising such drivers of their technical status as stupid is not productive. Those drivers are not smart enough to realize they are stupid, and even if they do recognize it, knowing they are stupid does not make them un stupid. If you tell them they are stupid, you end up with a driver who is now both stupid and mad. Your problem is now worse. No, you can't teach a screech.

While the stupid driver seems to be a fact of nature, a scientific reality, the term, it turns out, is so unusable that you may as well not bother saying it.

You've only seen a moment of that driver's time on the road. Having a bad day? Up all night? First time behind the wheel? A good driver having a Stupid Moment? Who knows.

In rare instances you can get relief by calling the Highway Patrol or local police. Most of the time, you just have to let nature take its course, hope for the best, and keep your distance. That bad driver is by definition more likely to be stopped by police or the laws of physics; God save us from

collateral damage.

Leaving the job of enforcement to the Almighty (or, to the laws of nature, or the local traffic cop) may help keep you from rage, which itself has been shown to be a leading cause of stupid driving.



What you can do is drive safely and politely, which helps make everyone safer, and helps model good driving. You can help set the pace. Yes, there is a blessing for the Stupid Driver.

The same might apply to those reckless with their masks and social distancing, or those so careful they expect you to wrap yourself in Saran Wrap. They are going the wrong speed, and you might feel like they need a good strangling. Maybe they just forgot, maybe they don't get it. But in the end, your anger and judgment won't help. It's usually just best to keep your distance.

Politics is a similar road. You might have an acquaintance, relative or Facebook friend whose politics is stupid, who believes stupid things, supports stupid

causes and votes for stupid candidates. Pointing out that person's stupidity usually does not make him un stupid; no matter how compelling or forceful, your attempts at correction might just make him stupider and madder.

Is that really what this person thinks and believes? Having a bad day? Just one thought out of many better ones? Can we fairly judge someone based on their Facebook posts? Who knows?

We should call out bad ideas and speak up against falsehood, injustice, racism and other evils. But the biggest positive impact we can have comes through our own thoughtfulness, knowledge, wisdom, logic and kindness—our own best action. That sets the pace and helps enforce the rules of the road. Over the course of time, you will be part of the solution.

"The concealed are Adonai our God's; the revealed are ours and of our descendants..." (Deut 29:28).



October 2020

13 Tishri 5781 - 13 Heshvan 5781

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Mark Your Calendar

- Last day to register online to vote October 27
- Turn clocks back November 1
- Election Day November 3
- Rosh Hodesh Kislev November 17
- Thanksgiving November 26
- Hanuka First Night December 10
- Hanuka Last Night December 17

				1 13 Tishri	2 Erev Sukkot 6:13pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Minha & Shabbat Festival Maariv (BEKI Sukka) 14 Tishri	3 Sukkot I After 7:19pm Candle Lighting 9:30am Shabbat Festival Shaharit (Parking Lot) 15 Tishri
4 Sukkot II No Religious School 9:30am Festival Shaharit (BEKI Sukka) 16 Tishri	5 Hol Hamoed Sukkot I 5:30pm Gift Shop Open 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 17 Tishri	6 Hol Hamoed Sukkot II 5:30pm Family Sukkot Party 8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackmer via Zoom 18 Tishri	7 Hol Hamoed Sukkot III 4:00pm USY "Sukkah Hopscotch" 19 Tishri	8 Hol Hamoed Sukkot IV 20 Tishri	9 Hoshanah Rabbah 6:01pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Hoshana Rabbah/Shemini Atseret Minha & Shabbat Festival Maariv (BEKI Sukka) 21 Tishri	10 Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor) 9:30am Shabbat Shemini Atseret (Parking Lot) 11:00am Yizkor Memorial Service (Parking Lot) After 7:08pm Candle Lighting 22 Tishri
11 Simchat Torah No Religious School 9:30am Simhat Torah Festival Shaharit (Parking Lot) 23 Tishri	12 9:00am Ari Hurwitz Bar Mitzva/Shaharit (Outdoor Service & Zoom) 9:00am Office Closed 5:30pm Gift Shop Open 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 7:00pm General Board Meeting 24 Tishri	13 8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackmer via Zoom 25 Tishri	14 7:30pm Judith Rosenbaum: "Speaking in a Political Voice: Jews & the Fight for Women's Suffrage" (pre-registration required) 26 Tishri	15 27 Tishri	16 5:50pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat 28 Tishri	17 9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service 29 Tishri
18 Rosh Hodesh I 9:00am Courtyard Shaharit & Zoom 9:30am Gift Shop Open 10:00am Drive-By Food Collection 30 Tishri	19 Rosh Hodesh II 5:30pm Gift Shop Open 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 1 Heshvan	20 8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackmer via Zoom 2 Heshvan	21 8:00pm Yaron Lew "Stories of Growing Up on a Kibbutz" via Zoom 3 Heshvan	22 4 Heshvan	23 5:40pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat 5 Heshvan	24 9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service 6 Heshvan
25 9:00am Courtyard Shaharit & Zoom 9:30am Gift Shop Open 7 Heshvan	26 5:30pm Gift Shop Open 5:45pm Courtyard Service & Zoom 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting 8 Heshvan	27 8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackmer via Zoom 9 Heshvan	28 8:00pm Gadiel Robbins "My Jewish Journey" via Zoom 10 Heshvan	29 11 Heshvan	30 5:30pm Candle Lighting 6:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat 12 Heshvan	31 9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service 13 Heshvan

Service Times

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



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