



MORE  
EVENTS

ON PAGE 2

# ELM CITY KALLAH OCT. 27-28-29

This year's Elm City Kallah speaker is Maharat Rori Picker Neiss, one of the first graduates of Yeshivat Maarat, a pioneering institution that trains Orthodox Jewish women to be spiritual leaders and halakhic authorities.

Currently, Maharat Picker Neiss serves as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis, Missouri and is chair of the cabinet of Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis.

She is a David Hartman Center fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, a CLAL Rabbis Without Borders fellow, and co-editor of *InterActive Faith: The Essential Interreligious Community-Building Handbook*.

Maharat Picker Neiss will speak at BEKI on Saturday, Oct. 28 on the topic "But My Ineffable Name I Did Not Make Known." When God appears to Moshe, God tells Moshe that he is the only one to know God by the ineffable name. But is Moshe the first to know God by this name? Through a text study of these verses and a striking Midrash, we will attempt to understand what this name is, what it signifies, and what, perhaps, we might be called upon by God to do in order to truly "know" God.

Maharat Picker Neiss will speak Friday evening, Oct. 27 at Westville Synagogue, will come to BEKI on Satur-

day, and will finish the weekend of study on Sunday morning at Congregation B'nai Jacob.

At Westville Synagogue, she will speak at 8 pm, between dinner and dessert, on "Losing Yourself to Find Yourself: A Study in Sacrifice." Reservations are required by Oct. 16 to [westvilleshul.org/ElmCityKallah2023](https://westvilleshul.org/ElmCityKallah2023). Call

203-389-9513 or 203-589-1100 for more information. The charge for dinner is \$27 per person.

On Saturday, she will speak at BEKI at 1 pm, after services and kiddush lunch. At 10 am Sunday, after services and breakfast at Congregation B'nai Jacob, her topic will be "Every Common Bush Afire With God," focusing on stories of Avraham and Moshe to uncover how their journeys to leadership began when they chose to stop and appreciate the unexpected.

A collaboration of the three congregations to bring exceptional Jewish programming to New Haven, Elm City Kallah is in its 7th

year. Past Kallah speakers were Rabbi Tamar Elad Appelbaum, Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, Rabbi Ethan Tucker, Rabbi Noam Zion, Rachel Korazim, and Aviva Zornberg.

Elm City Kallah is made possible by generous grants from the James M. Shure Educational Fund and the Greater New Haven Jewish Federation.

BEKI members are encouraged to attend all three sessions in order to make this a real community event.





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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](mailto:bulletin@beki.org)

• Visit our web page: [www.beki.org](http://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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Editor

Rachel Bashevkin

Associate Editors

Donna Levine, Donna Kemper

David Spitzer

# MORE OCTOBER EVENTS

## BEKI Apizza on Oct. 4

Our annual pizza party in the sukkah will be Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 6:15 pm, after evening minyan and religious school. Join us in the BEKI courtyard sukkah for vegetarian pizza prepared by BEKI chefs. Reservations are due to the office by Sept. 29: \$10/adults, \$5/child under 12, \$30/household. If you request them, non-dairy and gluten free pies will be available. Email [shoshanazax@gmail.com](mailto:shoshanazax@gmail.com) if you can help. In case of rain, the event will move inside.

## Shmini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Shmini Atzeret services on Saturday morning, Oct. 7 will include Yizkor memorial prayers. Simchat Torah services will be Saturday, Oct. 7 at 7 pm and Sunday, Oct. 8 at 9:15 pm, with Torah processions, singing and dancing. Children's programming on Sunday morning will involve unrolling the entire Torah, celebrating, and learning.

## Sukkah Hop on Oct. 1

The congregation is invited to hop till you drop at our annual Sukkah Hop. This progressive party will be on the second day of Sukkot, Sunday, Oct. 1.

The first sukkah visit will be at 12:30 pm, right after festival services at BEKI, with the last ending around 3 pm. Details on page 8.

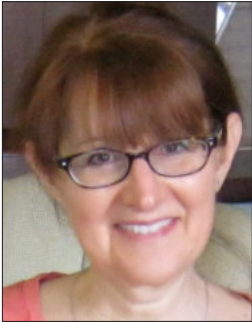
## Learn to Save a Life Oct. 11

BEKI is offering a hands-only CPR and AED Training, free of charge, on Wednesday, Oct. 11 from 7 to 9 pm. It's open to anyone in the BEKI community age 13 and up. Preregistration is recommended at [office@beki.org](mailto:office@beki.org) or 203-389-2108 x 114.

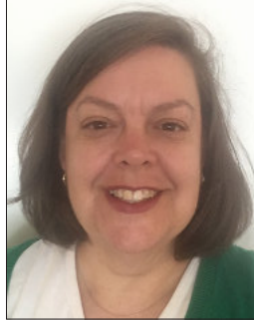
The class will be conducted by Yale Emergency Medicine staff. Thank you to Rhoda Zahler for making the arrangements.



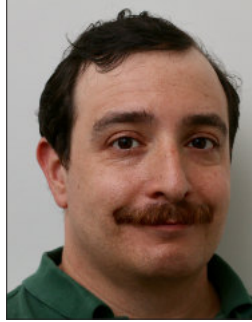
# THIS YEAR'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Rachel Bashevkin**  
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president@beki.org



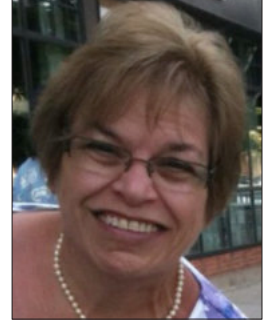
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**Rob Schonberger**



**Jay Sokolow**



**Rebecca Weiner**



**Evan Wyner**

# Introducing Our Newest Members

Now that BEKI has grown to over 300 member units, we want to introduce you to the people who have joined in the last year. Here is the next installment of introductions, written by our members themselves.

## David Golden

I'm a returning member after many years in the wilderness, now feathering my almost-empty nest in Milford. A couple of years ago, I received an unmistakable call to return to Yiddishkeit. What's not my favorite part of being Jewish? The blessings are legion—the feeling of tefillin, welcoming Shabbat, the smell of besamim, the rhythm of services and of the year, and the way that any parsha that seems irrelevant to 21<sup>st</sup> century America has something that inspires a dvar. My passion is music and community radio. The most remarkable moment in my Jewish life is when I leyned Torah for the first time and felt like I'd always been doing it. I'm happy to be back at BEKI, which has felt like home for over 25 years, even with the long absence during my secular suburban sojourn.



especially value the welcoming BEKI community. I've already met many members for the first time and also been re-acquainted with people I've met previously. This is the third CT synagogue I've belonged to and have been a member of various congregations in Southern California and Buffalo, while raising my family.

I've visited and had extended stays in Israel half a dozen times since the early 1980's, including the bar mitzvah of both sons—at the Southern Wall and on Kibbutz Galon. I love experiencing the global Jewish community in Israel. I'm a Life Member of Hadassah and am greatly disillusioned by the current Israeli government.

My interests include social and climate action, hiking, attending free jazz performance, making and viewing art and design, cooking/eating, gardening and staying healthy! I look forward to finding new friends and being involved in the BEKI community.

## Saul Siller

I live in New Haven and am very excited to join BEKI. Originally from Houston, TX, I grew up in a large Conservative synagogue. Since moving away from Houston, my education has brought me to



both Nashville and Long Island, where I have been part of both Conservative and Modern Orthodox communities. Residency originally brought me to New Haven, and I am continuing on here during fellowship. I value multiple aspects of being Jewish, including the tradition, the connection, the knowledge, and the community, and am looking forward to becoming an active part of the BEKI community!

## Jennifer Gottdiener

I live in Woodbridge, having moved from Buffalo, NY in 2017 to live closer to my sons, but I still feel like a newcomer to the area! This may explain why I



Continued on **Page 5**



## New Members

### New Members

Continued from Page 4



#### Rachel Scheinerman & Mordechai Levy-Eichel; Shlomit, Gershom, and Lev

We recently moved to Westville after living in East Rock for the last decade. Having met as graduate students way back when, we now have three young kiddos, and one little doggie. Rachel is the editor of [myjewishlearning.com](https://myjewishlearning.com) and the founder and editor of the Daily Dose of Talmud. Mordechai, who usually goes by Mordu (the Sephardic nickname) teaches political science, humanities, and history at Yale. In our free time we...oh, wait, we don't have any, but we like hanging out with other folks and look forward to settling more into the wonderfully warm Westville and BEKI community!

#### Matthew Ulman & Emilie Egger; Miri and Lev

Matt, Emilie, and Miri have lived in Westville for several years and welcomed baby Lev this summer. Their favorite part of being Jewish is celebrating Shabbat together. They are looking forward to getting to know more people at BEKI.



Above: Emilie, Miri, and Matt

Below: Miri and baby Lev



## Gallery News

### High Holy Day Exhibit

"Off Our Walls," an exhibition of art from BEKI homes, is on display through October 28. This year over 18 households are participating, loaning pieces in various media that broadly reflect Jewish history and culture, including scenes of Jerusalem, Jewish holidays, Biblical themes, and personal experiences.

**Moroccan Hanukkah Oil Lamp**  
from the collection of Cynthia Beth Rubin, Cast Brass, c. 1900 - 1950



### Wall Art During Construction

Do you have posters that might fill the walls of BEKI during our renovation? We are in search of posters, preferably framed, that you might love or find inspirational, but which have no commercial value.

Framed posters behind glass or plexiglass are preferred, though we also have a few frames we can use to protect posters from construction dust. The BEKI Art Committee will make selections from whatever you have. Send questions to [art@beki.org](mailto:art@beki.org).

## Miriam Perry Bat Mitzvah

The bat mitzvah of Miriam Rose Perry, daughter of Anna VanCleave and Josh Perry, will be celebrated on Saturday, Oct. 14, *parashat Bereisheet*. The congregation is invited to attend. Kiddush lunch sponsored by the family will follow.

Miriam, who is in 7th grade at Ezra Academy, is interested in reading, writing, and drawing. Miriam also enjoys music, riding, magic, climbing things she's not supposed to climb, jumping from frighteningly high places, and anything fantasy-related.



Miriam Perry

## Esther Schonberger Bat Mitzvah

The Bat Mitzvah of Esther Schonberger, child of Amy Marx and Rob Schonberger, will be celebrated on Saturday, Oct. 21, *parashat Noach*. The congregation is invited to attend and to join us for Kiddush lunch sponsored by the Schonberger Family in honor of the simcha.

## Mazal Tov to

Eden Gerson and Chanan Zupnick on the birth of Amos.

Grandparents Shirley and Jay Brodach on the birth of Mia Rose, child of Andrea & Dan; and Dylan Sloane, child of Nichole and Keith.

## Can You Provide a Meal?

BEKI has a long tradition of providing meals to families who have welcomed a child. You can prepare and deliver the dinner or arrange delivery from a restaurant. Anything you need to know about preferences or address is provided at the platform called Lotsa Helping Hands. Just [log in](#) and choose your password. When the calendar is set up for meals, you'll receive an email with a link. If you have questions, consult [rachel.d.greenberg@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.d.greenberg@gmail.com). Currently, we are providing meals to the Gerson/Zupnick family.

## Prize this month is a mug

Within an article in this bulletin, there's a Prize Code. If you are one of the first five people to find it and email it to [bulletin@beki.org](mailto:bulletin@beki.org), you will win a BEKI coffee mug. Coleman Leviter, Jay Sokolow, and Sam Purdy were the September winners.

## Annual Appeal

This year, you will receive Annual Appeal information by email. There will be no Annual Appeal materials sent by letter, except to those members who have asked to receive materials by mail. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions.

## BEKI Thanksgiving Pies

BEKI teens will be back in the kitchen this fall. Their annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale raises money for tzedakah, provides pies to the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, and supplies all of us with tasty pies for Thanksgiving. Order your Kosher Pareve apple or pumpkin pies, which are made in the BEKI kitchen, then frozen for us to bake at home.

The deadline to order pies is Friday, Oct. 27, and pies can be picked up at BEKI on Sunday, Nov. 19 or Tuesday, Nov. 21. For more information, see the Thanksgiving Pie order form in the September mid-month mailing or find it at the [website](#). Questions? Consult Chaya Manning.

## Welcome New & Returning Members

Earl & Kranie Baker  
Rina Bersohn; Elona and Rebecca Spiewak  
Christina Crowder  
Elizabeth Frieden  
David Golden  
Jennifer Gottdiener  
Miriam Ruth Kantorovitz; Benjamin and Ariel Lerman  
Arnie Margolis  
Ora Nitkin-Kaner & Asa Watten  
Melinda Papowitz; Ronan Markowski  
Eve Wattenberg

## Let's Do Something About Anti-Semitism

BY RICHARD L. LEVINE

Let's diminish Anti-Semitism. If we all do a small part, it will make a large difference. Let us be strong and let us strengthen each other!

Please come to a meeting at BEKI on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 4:30 pm to learn what we can do together. Your input will be valued. The approach is novel, and no funds will be solicited. We will find hateful online postings and counter them. We can also watch for Anti-Semitism in the media and counter it. Questions? Email [richard.levine18@gmail.com](mailto:richard.levine18@gmail.com)

# Charles & Violet Ludwig Fund for BEKI

In his final weeks, BEKI member Charlie Ludwig established an endowment fund for BEKI in honor of Jay Sokolow. Charlie wanted to support BEKI and also honor Jay, who had been a huge help through years of medical challenges faced by him and his wife, who died in 2014. This endowment, to be managed by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, puts their names into New Haven's perpetual memory.

Charlie, who died at age 97, grew up in New Haven and was a



devoted volunteer for Jewish organizations, including BEKI and the Jewish Historical Society.

"One of the best things about BEKI is making friends with people of a different generation," Jay said. "Charlie and Vi were some of the most wonderful people I have ever met, and it is fitting that BEKI be recognized as the place where our friendship began."

For more information on how you can make arrangements for a legacy gift to BEKI, contact our Finance Chair, Attorney Donna Levine at [sdsij@aol.com](mailto:sdsij@aol.com) or 203-668-6473.

## Sanctuary Redesign

# SANCTUARY REDESIGN UPDATE

We were warned...

When BEKI's Sanctuary Redesign Committee began work, we spoke with leaders of congregations that had successfully completed similar projects.

They all told us tales of their multi-year processes, often involving stops and starts related to finances.

That was two years ago. Which is to say: BEKI has joined the ranks of the multi-year projects.

In a nutshell, we are still working with the architect and the construction team to come up with a scope that fits within our \$1.25 million budget. We are making progress but still need to reduce the construction costs. This will likely require some additional cuts to our scope.

Once we reach agreement on a workable scope and budget — soon, we hope! — the architect will create construction drawings and the construction firm will prepare its final guaranteed maximum price proposal. That will take about two months.

Therefore, at this writing in early September, the most optimistic date for closing the sanctuary and moving Shabbat morning services to the lower-level social hall would

be late October. That is after two upcoming b'nai mitzvah celebrations, which will take place in the sanctuary.

Once the sanctuary is closed, we will need to remove the pews and do other prep work before demolition begins, perhaps in early November. We expect construction to last six to nine months.

In the meantime, we are working on an agreement with the artist who will design the visual focal point of our worship space: the ark and surrounding areas.

Also in the meantime, repairs to the sanctuary heating and cooling system are taking place. The main source of HVAC noise has been remedied by replacing worn-out mechanical parts. The one remaining distraction is a thump that occurs when the system starts blowing warm or cool air. That will be addressed by replacing the control system that turns the blowers on and off. You might still hear noise from the two air handlers in the social hall behind the sanctuary. They have not had similar maintenance and are outside the scope of the sanctuary project.

We thank you for your patience as we work to align this project with our budget in a way that preserves the congregation's top priorities for the BEKI sanctuary.



# BEKI Teens Start the Year Strong

By ANNIE NORMAN-SCHIFF, EDUCATION DIRECTOR

BEKI USY, our teen youth group, has started the year strong, under the leadership of three co-presidents: Miranda Hurwitz, Miles Katz, and Daniel Manning, all seniors at Amity High School.

Miranda, Miles, and Daniel are excited to mentor younger teens in planning fun events and serving our community.

In September, USY gathered for a kickoff event that explored all the ways teens can be involved at BEKI. We had a record turnout for a teen event--23 teenagers, from

seventh through twelfth grade! Over pizza and sushi, we discussed joining the USY board, learning with Teen Keshet, and fulfilling their high school's required volunteer hours in ways that live out Jewish values. Later, on Yom Kippur, our teens got the chance to lead the entire congregation in Havdalah to close out the holiday.

Our next USY event is Apple Picking on Sunday, October 15, from 2-3:30 PM. Join us at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield. All 7th-12th graders are welcome! Contact Annie at [anormanschiff@beki.org](mailto:anormanschiff@beki.org) for more information.



Twenty-three BEKI teens gathered for the September Kickoff Event

## Spotlight on a BINA Teacher: Zane Carey

The school year at BINA, BEKI's religious school, has started. Here's a spotlight on one of our warm and talented BINA teachers. (We will profile a new teacher in the bulletin every month.)

Zane Carey (Kindergarten) is starting his second year teaching our youngest class at BINA. His students love his patient personality and the fun crafts and activities he plans for them, like making all the ritual items needed for a "Shabbat Box"--candlesticks, kiddush cup, challah cover, and more! A favorite part of the day in Moreh Zane's class is starting the morning with Havdalah.

Zane has a background in early childhood education, and has taught as an Assistant Kindergarten Teacher at Ezra Academy. He is currently pursuing a degree to become a speech and language pathologist. An active member and volunteer at BEKI, Zane lives in Stratford with his husband, Zachary Dillon.



Zane Carey

## Sukkah Hop

Hop till you drop at our annual Sukkah Hop. This progressive party will be on the second day of Sukkot, Sunday, Oct. 1.

The first sukkah visit will be at 12:30 pm, right after festival services at BEKI, with the last ending around 3 pm.

We'll depart from the BEKI courtyard and proceed from sukkah to sukkah

through the lower Westville neighborhood, with each host family sharing their sukkah and some refreshments with our community.

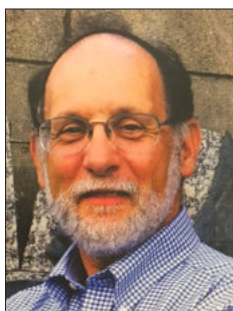
Pick up the detailed Sukkah Hop schedule and map that day at BEKI.



## Prayer and Liturgy Resumes

On the third Wednesday of the month, Oct. 18, explore prayer and liturgy on BEKI [Zoom](#) 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](mailto:karelmk59@gmail.com).



**Rabbi Carl Astor**

## Supporting Daily Services

To make sure we have a minyan consistently, please use [Minyan Maker](#). Up top, you choose which weekday service you are planning to attend (morning or afternoon). Then find your name below and choose "I'll be there." If your name does not appear on the list, just use "Guest Member." 1203547802

## Sign up for Torah Reading

If you are able to read an aliyah of Torah or a Haftorah, make your selection via our online [spreadsheet](#). Just scroll down to the proper date to see details about each aliyah. Questions? Consult Rachel Adelstein at [ritualcoordinator@beki.org](mailto:ritualcoordinator@beki.org).

## Weekly Classes

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

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

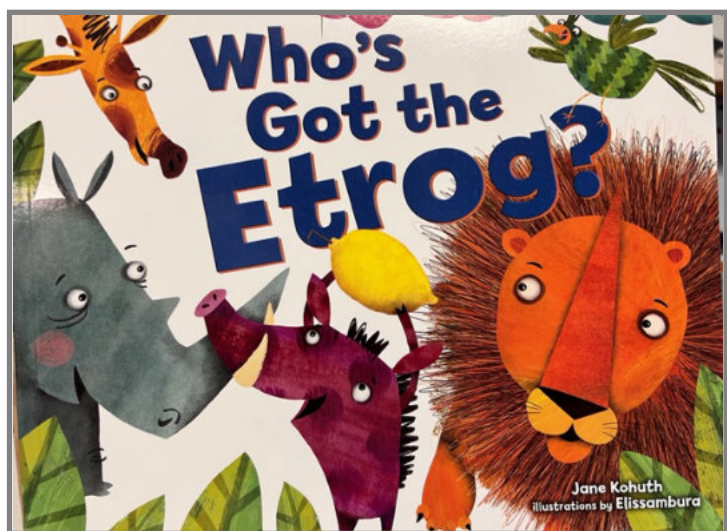
## Help Take Down the Sukkah

We need assistance to disassemble the BEKI sukkah on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 9:30 am, following services. Please email Roger Colten at [r\\_colten@yahoo.com](mailto:r_colten@yahoo.com) to let him know if you can help. Carpentry skills are *not* required!

# Sisterhood

## Welcome 5784 at the Giftshop

At the BEKI Sisterhood Giftshop, you will find new ways to celebrate and decorate for the new year. Come in and tell us about your interests. We can help you shop for gifts for



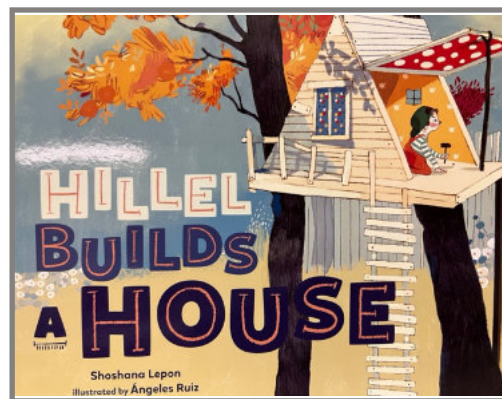
others or for yourself. We have beautiful tallisim, new kippot and head coverings for adults and children. We have gifts to mark ALL mitzvah occasions: new bracelets and silver earrings by Emily Rosenfeld, tallit clips, candles, mezuzahs and baby gifts. We have toys to help your children embrace the

Jewish holidays and learn.

We are the people of the Book—and there is a wonderful selection of books in the giftshop:

books for children on all matters Jewish, young adult fiction, and adult books for quiet Shabbat reading.

We are open every day by appointment, except Shabbat. You can usually drop in around minchah and maariv, but it's best to text or call first: Karen 203.430.2182 or Harriet 203.675.8607.



## Joining BEKI Sisterhood

BY MIMI GLENN, PRESIDENT OF SISTERHOOD

For many years BEKI Sisterhood has been a partner in promoting the goals of Women's League for Conservative Judaism. Your membership in Sisterhood entitles you to log in to their [website](#) for many interesting articles and study opportunities.

### Rabbi's Tzedakah Fund

**To Katharine Baker, Rabbi Eric Woodward & family with sympathy on the passing of Eric H. Baker by**

- David Wright & Deborah Craig
- The Parmenter Family

**To Leonid Glazman with sympathy on the passing of Polina Naiman by**

- Alexandre (Sasha) Vaxman

### Kiddush Fund

- Tema & Coleman Leviter
- Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- Shirley & Jay Brodach
- Jhena Vigrass & Bruce Spierer
- Cathie & Ron Miller

**Chai/Synagogue Fund to support synagogue operations**

**To Katharine Baker, Rabbi Eric Woodward & family with sympathy on the passing of Eric H. Baker by**

- Susan E. Jacobson
- Amy Marx, Rob Schonberger, Sophie, Jacob & Esther

**To Shoshana Zax, John Weiser & family with**

**sympathy on the passing of Marilyn Zax by**

- Alice Kosowsky
- Cathie & Ron Miller

**To Laura Yakerson & family with sympathy on the passing of Jack Yakerson by**

- Alice Kosowsky
- Marcie & Artie Storch and Family (with thanks to Peggy Hackett, Rachel Bashevkin & the BEKI evening minyan)

**To Joanne & Steve Rudof in honor of their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by**

- Steve & Rachel Wizner

**To Rachel Gerber for her years of service as the Minyan Mavin by**

- Dan & Beth Weintraub

**To Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter in honor of their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by**

- Steve & Rachel Wizner

**To Gadi & Kelley Rouache in honor of the birth of Ariel by**

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

**To Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla in honor of their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by**

- Sara Mag

**To Debbie Chirnomas, Mike**

**Hurwitz & family with sympathy on the passing of Rabbi Gerald Chirnomas by**

- Amy Marx, Rob Schonberger, Sophie, Jacob & Esther

**To Michael Winter, Ellen Mackler & family with sympathy on the passing of Paula Winter by**

- Amy Marx & Rob Schonberger

**To Donna & Sidney Levine in memory of Ari Nathan Levine by**

- His loving sister Ilana Levine Seidmann & family (to the Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund)
- Norman & Bronna Romanoff (to the Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library Fund)

**Yahrzeit Fund to support synagogue operations**

**In Memory of:**

- Abraham Goldman by Martin & Judy Shore
- Joseph Baer by Irving Baer
- Norman Rosenberg by Lilian Rosenberg
- Nathan Kisner by Annette Kisner
- Rose Freedman by Annette Kisner

- Rose Pergament by Deanna Tulin
- Martha Hershman Donner by the Alper Family
- Edith Hershman Alper by the Alper Family
- Muriel Kaltman by Anonymous
- Louis Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- Sarah Feldman by Lois K. Feldman
- Helen Shelnitz by David & Barbara Shelnitz
- Dr. Stuart Jacobson by Robert & Judith Jacobson
- Sylvia Brodach by Shirley & Jay Brodach
- Stella Zusman by Howard Zusman
- Benjamin Steinlight by Gila Reinstein
- Sol Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- Norma Ruth Lovins by the children of Norma & Alan Lovins
- Her mother Dorothy Rutkin by Cindy V. Smernoff
- Philip Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- Sylvia Fleischner by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach

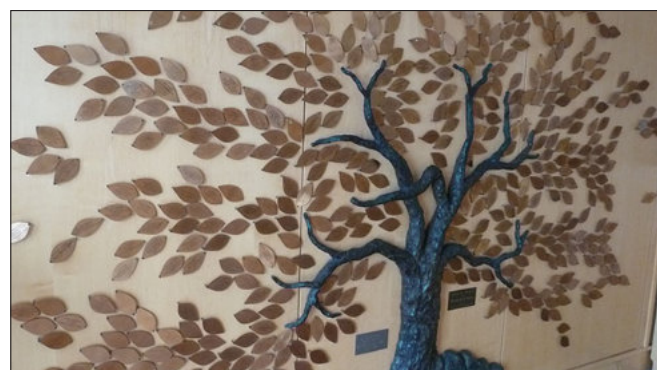
## Tikkun Olam

### Thank You for School Supplies

We received this message from Eva Schultz, Assistant Principal: "Lincoln Bassett students and families are extremely grateful for the generosity of the BEKI community's donations of backpacks and essential school supplies. The students who were in need now have the materials to learn, study and succeed in the new school year. Thank you to all of those that donated!"

### JCARR Update

The Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement [JCARR] expects its next family to arrive this fall. Please email our BEKI liaison to JCARR, Jennifer Mellon, at [jnmellon@hotmail.com](mailto:jnmellon@hotmail.com) if you would like to be a JCARR volunteer.



### Tree of Life Awaits Your Leaf

The Tree of Life at the entrance to BEKI is a collection of golden leaves that honor people and moments in our lives. For \$118 you can add a leaf. Contact Marjorie Wiener at 203.387.6278 or [marjoriowiener@yahoo.com](mailto:marjoriowiener@yahoo.com)



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**It's not too late** to make a pledge or donation  
to the **Sanctuary Redesign**, or to increase the  
amount that you have already given.

Contact Peggy in our office, or speak to a  
member of the Fundraising Committee:  
John Weiser, Murray Akresh, Yaron Lew,  
Jessey Palumbo, or John Wareck



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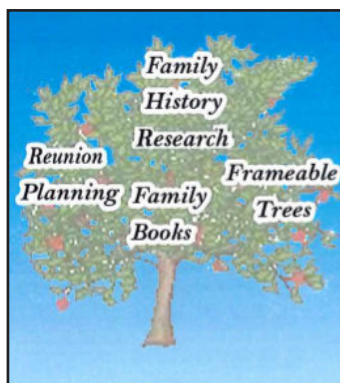
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# NEW HEAD-COVERING POLICY

I want to announce a new head-covering policy at BEKI, and to explain briefly the reason for it.

First, the new policy: At BEKI, we greatly encourage everyone to cover their heads during tefilah and Torah study, but we will not coerce this behavior by restricting prayer leadership and teaching opportunities to people covering their head.

Head-covering during prayer is a long-standing minhag, or custom, with deep spiritual value. At the same time, it does not outweigh the halachic prohibition on embarrassing a person or potentially shaming them in public, which could occur if forcing them to cover their head. Likewise, though it is an important custom, it does not override the value of kavod habriyot, which causes us to honor the individual experiences of every person without interrogation.

Therefore, though it is our hope that most will choose to cover their heads at BEKI, we will consider head-covering to be a matter of individual preference.

Congregants will not coerce anyone, regardless of gender, to wear a head-covering, even if they are coming up to the bima. A person's choice not to wear a head-covering should not be the focus of gossip. We must follow the core Jewish value of respect for the convictions of others with whom one disagrees.

We will provide a basket of high-quality head coverings at the entrance to the sanctuary, there to inspire anyone to wear one, designed for different hair types and looks.

Now, some of the background: The Talmud understands head covering as a "middat hasidut," that is, a way of expressing piety that goes above and beyond what is demanded by law. Over the years, this minhag crystallized among men — although not among women, so its crystallization was interrupted in the full community.

As a more egalitarian approach to gender appeared in Judaism in recent years, the issue of head-covering became not only a question of piety, but also a question of how one identifies oneself around questions of gender and Judaism. The answers, though, have played out in a variety of ways, and there are feminists who are committed head-coverers, and feminists who are committed non-head-coverers.



Eric Woodward

I am proud that BEKI can be a home for people of varying intellectual and religious commitments. I am proud that BEKI is a place that allows for creative non-conformity. I am also proud that BEKI is a place where the sanctuary is warm, rather than judgmental; diverse, rather than stale; and open-minded, rather than petty.

Coercing any behavior in the sanctuary runs very close to public shaming. We're told in Judaism that we are supposed to violate any law in order to avoid publicly shaming another — because shaming is akin to murder. This new policy is a step in the direction of increased support and kindness, and away from shame.

Sometimes we worry that, without a coercive mechanism, people will not follow laws. We have a lot of fear around this topic. We Jews — and we at BEKI — stand for something different. We stand for the idea that people engage with our practices because of their meaning and relationship and sense of obligation, not because some Leviathan forces them to do so. The Talmud famously mocks the idea of coercion when it suggests that, if the Israelites only accepted the Torah because they were threatened with death, then it was not a real acceptance of the Torah.

I'd like you to be proud of this new BEKI policy, which allows us to more fully be ourselves. I'd like you to appreciate the diversity of our community and the many gifts we all bring — gifts that don't have much to do with our head-gear.

But most of all, I'd like you to find a way to connect deeply with other people in your own life who might differ from you in some way, and to try to find a connection with them.

המקום ינחם

*HaMakom Yinachem*

*With sorrow we note the passing of*

Charles "Charlie" Ludwig

Wilmoth Williams

mother of Angela (& Bruce) Oren

*May the Almighty comfort those who mourn*



# October 2023

## 16 Tishri 5784 - 16 Heshvan 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sukkot II No BINA 9:15am Sukkot Service Day II (Sanctuary, in-person) 12:30pm Sukkah Hop 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  16 Tishri	<b>2</b> Hol Hamoed Sukkot I 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service 7pm General Board Meeting (on-line)  17 Tishri	<b>3</b> Hol Hamoed Sukkot II 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  18 Tishri	<b>4</b> Hol Hamoed Sukkot III 7am In-person/Zoom service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service 6:15pm BEKI Apizza (in the Sukkah) reservations required  19 Tishri	<b>5</b> Hol Hamoed Sukkot IV 8:15am In-person/Zoom service 9am Torah Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  20 Tishri	<b>6</b> Hoshanah Rabbah 7am Hoshana Rabbah Shacharit, in-person/Zoom 6pm Minchah & Erev Shemini Atzeret 6:07pm Candle Lighting  21 Tishri	<b>7</b> Shemini Atzeret (Yizkor) 9:15am Shemini Atzeret Service with Yizkor (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 7pm Erev Simchat Torah 7:07pm Candle Lighting  22 Tishri
<b>8</b> Simchat Torah No BINA 9:15am Simchat Torah Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  23 Tishri	<b>9</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  24 Tishri	<b>10</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 4:30pm Richard Levine's Anti-Semitism Meeting 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  25 Tishri	<b>11</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service 7-9pm CPR & AED Training (reservations requested)  26 Tishri	<b>12</b> 8:15am In-person/Zoom service 9am Torah Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  27 Tishri	<b>13</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:56pm Candle Lighting 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat  28 Tishri	<b>14</b> Miriam Perry Bat Mitzvah 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation  29 Tishri
<b>15</b> Rosh Hodesh I 9am BINA 9am In-person/Zoom service 9:30am Sukkah Disassembly 2pm USY Apple Picking (off-site) 4pm Operation Isaiah Food Drive Ends 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  30 Tishri	<b>16</b> Rosh Hodesh II 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (on-line)  1 Heshvan	<b>17</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  2 Heshvan	<b>18</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service 7:30pm Prayer & Liturgy w/Rabbi Carl Astor (Zoom)  3 Heshvan	<b>19</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 9am Torah Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  4 Heshvan	<b>20</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm Candle Lighting 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat  5 Heshvan	<b>21</b> Esther Schonberger Bat Mitzvah 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation  6 Heshvan
<b>22</b> 9am BINA 9am In-person/Zoom service 10am Talmud Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  7 Heshvan	<b>23</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  8 Heshvan	<b>24</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  9 Heshvan	<b>25</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 4pm BINA 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  10 Heshvan	<b>26</b> 8:15am In-person/Zoom service 9am Torah Study 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  11 Heshvan	<b>27</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 12pm Deadline for Pie Orders 5:35pm Candle Lighting 6pm Kabbalat Shabbat 8pm Elm City Kallah (Westville Synagogue)  12 Heshvan	<b>28</b> 9:15am Shabbat Service (Sanctuary, in-person) 11am Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, Jr. Congregation 1pm Elm City Kallah (BEKI)  13 Heshvan
<b>29</b> 9am BINA 9am In-person/Zoom service 9:30am Elm City Kallah (B'nai Jacob) 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  14 Heshvan	<b>30</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  15 Heshvan	<b>31</b> 7am In-person/Zoom service 5:45pm In-person/Zoom service  16 Heshvan	<div style="text-align: center;"> <b>Mark Your Calendar</b>  Nov 12 Kadima Ropes Course  Nov 15 Schmooze with Rabbi Dr. Jay Michaelson  Dec 7 First Night Hanukkah  Dec 9 Kadima Hanukkah Party </div>			

### 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 am Shaharit 5:45pm Maariv	8:15am Shaharit 5:45pm Maariv	7 am Shaharit 6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	9:15am Shaharit

### Advertise in the Bulletin

Would you like your ad here in the coming year? Each month, the BEKI bulletin reaches over 700 households, most of them in the New Haven area. Check with Peggy in the BEKI office about our variety of ad rates.

### 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](mailto:office@beki.org) to arrange pickup.

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto:bekitefilla@gmail.com)