YAMIM NORAIM: DAYS OF AWE

We hope that you have returned your High Holy Day form, which was due Friday, August 21. This is the form for requesting seats at in-person services, break fast baskets, and *Mahzor Lev Shalem*. It also includes details about parking and asks for volunteers to assist with basket assembly and delivery. Those of us requesting seats will be notified about our reservations in early September.

Shofar-blowing events in the community will also be scheduled based on those responses. Tashlikh will be held at the usual three locations on Sunday, September 20, though this year with face masks and social distancing. Descriptions of nine High Holiday programs are on page 3.

Our High Holy Day services begin with Selichot (online) at 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 12. We’ll start with a family-oriented Havdalah ceremony, followed by a program about racial justice and teshuva, and then Selichot prayers.

Rosh Hashana will arrive (with Shabbat) on Friday evening, September 18. These three evening services will be live-streamed: Minha Erev Rosh Hashana, Kol Nidre, and the Havdala/Maariv services at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. Yizkor, which has been moved before yuntif to Sunday morning, September 27, will be in the parking lot (weather permitting) and live-streamed.

Some other elements of High Holy Day services will be pre-recorded and available through the BEKI website.

Annie Norman-Schiff, our Youth and Family Programming Director, is reaching out to parents regarding children’s High Holy Day programs.

When Harold Birn and Jennifer Myer agreed to take over as High Holy Day co-chairs, they were feeling confident after last year’s extraordinarily successful transition to entirely member-led High Holy Day services. Because of the pandemic, however, they have been forced to rethink everything. “This year will certainly be different, and we mourn the loss of our favorite and familiar traditions,” Jennifer says, “but it’s also an opportunity to respond to the needs of our community in a creative and inclusive way.”

If you need a kosher food delivery for Rosh Hashana, Abel Catering delivers prepared dinners. Edge of the Woods Market offers the same for prepared foods and groceries. Crown Market in West Hartford will deliver to the BEKI lot on Tuesday, September 15 (with orders due five days before). Claire’s Corner Copia has finished its renovations and re-opened.

To assist with preparing your own meals, the High Holy Day committee plans to post cooking demonstrations. For details about those videos, and well as news of whether any of our plans must change, please check email messages from BEKI.
What will your Jewish Legacy be?

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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

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TOGETHER, IN SPIRIT

**Wednesday Sept 2, 8:00-9:00pm.** Robin Goldberg will lead “Meditation and Teshuva.” A certified instructor of Heart Rhythm Meditation, Robin will present a program that is perfect for beginners too. All are welcome to meditate Jewishly, seated at home in whatever manner is comfortable for you, on BEKI Tefilla Zoom.

**Sunday Sept 6 (Labor Day Weekend), 9:30am-12pm.** “Transplanting at BEKI.” Join Jennifer Myer and others to bring perennials from our home gardens to beautify the BEKI gardens. Bring plants, or just come to help dig and water.

**Wednesday Sept 9, 8:00-9:00pm.** Robin Goldberg will lead a second session of “Meditation and Teshuva” on BEKI Tefilla Zoom.

**Thursday Sept 10, 8:00-9:00pm.** Rachel Adelstein will present “Majesty in Music for the High Holy Days,” an exploration of why holiday melodies became so elaborate, on BEKI Tefilla Zoom. The program will include listening to examples of High Holy Day music from many communities. An ethnomusicologist with a PhD from the University of Chicago, Rachel has a particular interest in contemporary Jewish liturgical music.

**Saturday, Sept 12.** Selichot, 8:00-9:30 pm, online. We’ll start with a family-oriented Havdalah ceremony, followed by a program about racial justice and teshuva, and then Selichot prayers led by Isaiah Cooper and others.

**Monday Sept 14, 8:00-9:00pm.** Jay Sokolow will lead text study on the topic of “Heshbon Nefesh - Taking a moral inventory in Judaism and in the 12 Steps” on BEKI Tefilla Zoom. Not only a local radiologist, Jay is also a committed student of Jewish texts.

**Sunday, Sept 20, 5:30-5:50 pm.** Tashlikh (“casting”) services will be held at three locations. The access to the Edgewood Bridge is via a stairway; check the park map for non-stair access at Edgewood Avenue and Pendleton Street. The Whitney Museum Covered Bridge is our traditional second site. The West River at West Rock Playground (105 Valley Street) location is handicap accessible. The Tashlikh service, a popular outdoor event for people of all ages, includes a brief prayer, poetry and singing. It is held beside a body of natural water, though it is not necessary to throw anything into the water. Masks and social distancing, please.

**Thursday, Sept 24, 8:00-9:00pm.** Jennifer Klein will speak on BEKI Tefilla Zoom about repentance and teshuva as they pertain to racial inequities in the care of our elderly and disabled, specifically, the women and men—often people of color—who provide that care. A Yale professor, Jennifer focuses on 20th Century U.S. History and has published articles and a book about home health care workers.

**Ongoing.** BEKI Walks to Jerusalem is a virtual mission, with the team currently situated in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean! Our goal is to reach Jerusalem by Simhat Torah. BEKI members can register and then log in regularly with our steps or miles. The 20 team members, who have logged over 1000 miles, would love to add you to the team. For more information, email jennifer.myer@yale.edu. This program is sponsored by BEKI Sisterhood and the High Holy Days Committee to help us establish healthy habits for the new year.

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**Lulav & Etrog for Sukkot**

Sukkot arrives Friday evening, October 2. To order a lulav and etrog set, email or call Peggy in the office **before September 1.** Just let her know how many sets you want, and she will bill you $40 for each set.
No, it’s NOT kiddush yet!
We can’t enjoy each other’s company at a Shabbat kiddush together yet, but don’t let that stop you from enjoying the food!

SPECIAL COVID-19/HOLIDAY SEASON SALE

is it kiddush yet?

A fabulous collection of recipes from the BEKI Kiddush Committee

Over 120 easy, but delicious recipes from the BEKI Shabbat and Festival kiddush feasts for you to enjoy at home, including these wonderful selections:

North African Red Lentil Apricot Soup
Tuscan Bean and Barley Salad
Vegetarian Cholent
Eggplant Caponata
Cold Tomato Soup with Avocado and Lime

Orzo Salad with Feta, Peppers and Olives
Moroccan Carrot Salad
Chocolate-Chip Banana Bread Pudding
Fruit Compote in Spiked Syrup
Potato Salad with Dijon Vinaigrette

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*can be billed to your BEKI account
Use Your IRA to Pay Your BEKI Dues and Gifts

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

In December 2019, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act was passed into law, making important changes relating to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act became law. These new laws contain numerous provisions affecting tax deductions for charitable contributions in 2020 and future years.

One thing hasn’t changed: for BEKI members older than age 70 ½ who have an IRA, consideration should be given to using your IRA to pay your dues, Annual Appeal pledge and other payments or donations to BEKI. Of course, you can always pay by check, credit card or with appreciated securities. However, using your IRA may provide you with federal and state income tax benefits beyond the income tax deduction generally associated with charitable contributions.

While the starting date for Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) was changed to age 72 and required distributions for 2020 were waived, the SECURE Act did not change the rules for Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from an IRA. These rules permit donors age 70 ½ and older on the date of transfer to make charitable contributions from their IRA (up to $100,000 per year in most cases) without incurring income tax liability. Donations must be made directly from the IRA: the donation will not qualify if you transfer the funds first to the donor’s account and then make the donation. However, if you have a checking account that draws funds directly from the IRA, you can write checks on this account, payable directly to the charitable organization.

For those individuals who must take RMDs in 2021 and beyond (those over 70 ½ in 2019 and prior years), you must pay both federal and state income tax on the RMD. If you don’t itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes, you cannot deduct charitable contributions in determining your taxable income (except for the new one-time $300 above-the-line deduction for 2020). Moreover, Connecticut does not allow an income tax deduction for charitable contributions. Therefore, paying BEKI from your IRA may help you reduce both federal and state taxes since the amount of the taxable RMD is reduced by the amount of the QCD.

To arrange a donation from your IRA, simply contact your IRA plan administrator and request a contribution made payable to BEKI (or write a check to BEKI from your IRA checking account if you have one). Also, please notify Peggy in the BEKI office as to how to use the funds – for payment of dues, Annual Appeal, or other payments such as Purim baskets, Yizkor book, etc.

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.

Stay tuned for an article in next month’s BEKI Bulletin on changing rules for inherited IRAs.
Social Action – Tikun Olam

Food Collection September 6
The next drive-by food collection will be Sunday, September 6 (the transplanting morning at BEKI) 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 FISH, which delivers free bags of nutritionally sound groceries to households in New Haven.

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.

Refugee Resettlement Update
JCARR has been very busy helping our refugee and asylum-seeking families to adapt during the pandemic. Of note: JCARR has helped one refugee family to successfully get their catering business online. A yard clean-up with JCARR volunteers was arranged for the asylum-seeking family so that their three daughters could play outside safely. Both of these endeavors have been a great success.
— Madeleine Kleinman madk117@gmail.com

Mask Creators Need Sewing Volunteers
Early in August, the Mask Creator Volunteers reached the milestone of sewing their 2,000th mask. This team of about 40 volunteers, a quarter of whom are BEKI members, is led by Linda Schultz and Trish Loving along with Josh Zelinsky’s mother, Doris Zelinsky, and Sarah Moskowitz, who is the volunteer coordinator at Tower One/Tower East.

Their masks have been donated to Jewish agencies, front line workers, and more. “Together, we have kept essential workers and at risk communities masked up and safe in 2020,” their stationery announces.

The Mask Creator Volunteers are particularly proud of their mask. It’s a pocket mask based on the Yale New Haven Hospital pattern, but they worked with a doctor to make improvements. Their prototype, sewn from quilt weight 100% cotton fabric, was perfected in March by Linda and Trish.

They make 100 to 125 masks per week. Volunteers cut, wash, and iron the fabric, but their ongoing need is experienced sewers. They have enough fabric and thread to reach 5,000 masks. “We would love help,” Doris says. “If you would like to help us by sewing in your home on your sewing machine, we will give you everything, including the thread. We will deliver and pick up. We just need your time and skill.” Please contact linda.schultz@snet.net 203.494.7664 or trloving@aya.yale.edu 203.641.0925.
LifeCycle

A Message from BEKI President Yaron Lew

This is an excerpt from an email message sent on August 11.

We are a thriving community of innovators, problem solvers and people who want to help people endure and persevere. Thanks to the efforts of countless volunteers, we are able to provide much needed connection and spiritual fulfillment to our members. Is it perfect? NO. But does it work? Absolutely. I strongly encourage everyone to take advantage of the many program offerings we provide both online and in person. I think you will find that they provide both spiritual and physical enrichment.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me via President@beki.org if you need anything or have any creative ideas we can implement to lift each other’s spirits.

Yaron Lew

Mazal Tov to

• Yedidya Benavie & Shoshannah Newman on their qiddushin (Jewish marriage) under a huppa; and to Yedidya’s parents, Sascha van Crevel and Michael Ben-Avie.

• Parents Clararose Voigt and John Schott on the birth of Simone Petra Schott; and to grandmother Susan Voigt; aunt and uncle Jane Coffee and Carlos Eyzaguirre.

Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Study

Sundays
Parashat HaShavua
From 10:00 to 10:35 am via Zoom, an opportunity to dive into the new week’s Torah reading, with Rabbi Tilsen & guest speakers.

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 to 9 pm via Zoom, the group explores the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Professor Corinne Blackmer.

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

Talmud Berakhot Study Group
On summer break until October 15

News

Conversation & Connection
This open discussion time is Tuesdays at 6:15 pm on BEKI Tefilla Zoom. Captain Karen Kassap invites everyone to join her after 5:45 services for Conversation & Connection. She hopes you’ll log in for minha/maariv, but you can also join just for the discussion time. There’s no set topic; people talk about what’s going on in their lives.

Visit us at www.beki.org
BEKI USY Does Good, Online and in Person

By Annie Norman-Schiff, Youth and Family Programming Director

BEKI teens made the most of this summer, both online and in person, as they sought to better the world and have fun together.

USY and Kadima members shared a Virtual Lounge Night on July 27. Those attending not only played online games and quizzes, but also learned about fair trade chocolate from Social Action/Tikkun Olam Chair Ella May.

Then, on August 18, USY teens got to work together in person as they spent the day helping restore living spaces for people facing homelessness, in partnership with the organization Christian Community Action (CCA).

CCA runs several homeless shelters in New Haven. The residents of these shelters were moved to hotels during the COVID-19 crisis so that they could maintain a safer distance. The restoration work in these living spaces will make them pleasant and safe homes when residents return under a less crowded plan.

Some members of BEKI USY had already been volunteering with CCA, including Ella May (pictured at the top of the stairs). She was excited to make this opportunity an official USY event, and to get more hands involved in this important work. Ella took to heart the advice of CCA Executive Director Rev. Bonita Grubbs, to “turn protests into projects” that will help Black residents of New Haven, and other residents of color, in the long term.

To get involved in USY or Kadima, reach out to me at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Need Help?
The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven provides need-based assistance for parents of children attending synagogue schools. The online application form is at: https://scholarships.jewishnewhaven.org/form/religious
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedaqa Fund (minimum $25)
- In memory of Henry Bowen Brainerd by Louis J Petrillo
- To Louis Parsitsky with sympathy on the passing of Rachel Parsitsky by Joyce & Daniel Arovas
- To Yaron, Daphne, Dana & Maya Lew with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Caroline Rosenstone
- In memory of her father Herbert Roberts by Caroline Rosenstone
- In memory of her brother Kenneth Roberts by Caroline Rosenstone

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Sydney Perry
- To Carl & Sharon Astor in honor of their 50th anniversary by Rick & Judy Eisenberg
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of their new grandchild by Julie Cohen
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of their new grandchild by Sara-Ann & Hillel Auerbach
- To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of their new grandchild by Julie Cohen
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Julie Cohen
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Bill Sadek
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by the Colodner & Stanger family
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Meryl & David Gordon
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Jennifer Kaylin & Randall Beach
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Carol & Howard Gutkin
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Heidi Vernick
- To Debbie Chernomas, Mike Hurwitz & family with sympathy on the passing of Vito Licari by the Marx & Schonberger family: Amy, Rob, Sophie, Jacob & Esther
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Liyora Lew by Cynthia Rubin
- To Yaron Lew & family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Cynthia Rubin

BEKI Religious School
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of their new grandchild by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of their new grandchild by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of their new grandchild by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- To Sidney & Donna Levine marking the yahrzeit of her beloved brother Ari Nathan Levine by Ilana Levine Seidmann

Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of their new grandchild by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of their new grandchild by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family
- To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of their new grandchild by Harriet Friedman, Charles Bruce & family

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations
- In memory of Leila Braunstein by Irwin Braunstein
- In memory of Herman Braunstein by Irwin Braunstein
- In memory of Mordechai Rosmarin by Ghislane Palumbo
- In memory of Ruth J. Alderman & Samuel B. Alderman by Gilbert & Barbara Alderman Stein and Richard Alderman
- In memory of her aunt Lillian BermanSenderoff by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Bernard Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Richard Weinstein by Suzanne Weinstein
- In memory of Shirley Chain by Carol Marcus
- In memory of Dov-Bear Naiman by Polna Naiman
- In memory of Samuel Garfinkel by Lawrence & Doralee Garfinkel
- In memory of her father Jacob Cohen by Betty Swinkin
- In memory of Raymond Snyder by Irwin & Zelda Snyder
- In memory of Albert Abelson by Gitty Cohen
- In memory of Rose A. Feen by Hildy Feen
- In memory of George J. Feen by Hildy Feen
- In memory of George Ralph Schnitman by Edward & Helen Schnitman Vanderhoeft
- In memory of Everett Rader by Dennis Rader
- In memory of Tuvya Goodman Alperowitz by the Alper family
- In memory of BeBe Greene by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Belle Bender by Bobbie & Harold Miller

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

*If you have questions or concerns, please speak with a Board member.*

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**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

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**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.

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

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News

New Schmooze Date for Psych Effects of Pandemic

Morris Bell and Raina Sotsky will speak on “The Psychological Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic” Thursday, September 3 at 8:00 pm. Raina is a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist and psychotherapist in New Haven and Woodbridge. She has been involved in Yale’s Department of Psychiatry Town Halls regarding the effects of Covid-19. Morris is a clinical psychologist and Emeritus Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale University. He is Senior Research Career Scientist for the VA with current research programs focused on the role of neurocognitive and social cognitive deficits in psychiatric illness and on interventions to address these deficits and promote recovery. He has a general private practice in New Haven and Woodbridge. The event was postponed because of Storm Isaias.

The BEKI Sisterhood Gift Shop Is Open for Business

If you didn’t make it to our outdoor sale, or even if you did, we still have a lot of beautiful Judaica to help you celebrate the High Holidays and Sukkot. Start the holidays off by lighting beautiful candles from Sefad. And celebrate Havdalah with new, colorful, large diameter Sefad candles with three wicks.

Honey jars and beautiful hand-made honey spoons help serve up a sweet new year. Shofars for adults and for children will awaken souls. We have realistic plush Torahs and plush Etrog and Lulav sets so that children can prepare for Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

Adults, young adults and children can find a wonderful selection of fiction and non-fiction to fill the quiet times of Shabbat. We have beautiful books with stories and learning about Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

Slice up your freshly baked challot on a new bread board. And collect the crumbs for Tashlikh with a crumb sweeper. As always, we have unique and affordable gifts for all occasions: tallit clips, kippot, mezuzah covers, kiddish cups, candlesticks, and lovely jewelry.

We have regular shipments of new merchandise. Tell us what you are looking for, and Harriet and Karen will help you find it. We provide personalized service with contactless purchasing and doorstep local delivery.

Visit us at www.beki.org
As a college student says farewell to her father as she leaves for an on-campus semester, she observes him intently studying a particular page of Talmud. She notices because she herself has been part of a “daf yomi,” daily folio study group that dedicates an “hour” every day to explore one folio (two pages) of Talmud -- part of a 7 ½ year project to cover all 2,711 folio pages.

Months weeks later, returning home on college break, after gaining knowledge and advancing several chapters in the Talmud, she discovers her father on the very same page he was on when she left.

“How come you’re still on the same page?” she says.

“Because,” he says, “I like this page.”

Sometimes it is good to know and stick with what you like. When it comes to the Talmud, there may be so much to it – so much depth, complexity, profundity – that it is worth exploring for an extended period.

The same might be said for the siddur, our traditional prayer book. Some of the poetry, rabbinic wisdom and scriptural passages are worthy of in-depth study. In fact, those who read “the same prayers” day-in and day-out may be doing exactly that – plumbing the depths, but instead of an hour all at once, an hour spread out over a year or decade.

Jewish prayer, as conceived and developed by our sages, is mostly a matter of individual obligation, and much of the benefit accrues in proportion to the “energy” one invests in recitation and contemplation. In communal prayer, most of the time, there is no particular reason for the individual to be “on the same page” as the group. For the required liturgy, one is wrapped around one’s leg? “It depends on what kind of snake.” For the same reason, we should be considerate of others in the room and not ask them to yield way to us while they are thus absorbed in statutory prayers such as the Shema and Amida.

Sometimes communal prayer represents intense musical beauty, or a focused key spiritual moment, or a time when our states of mind are altered. At that moment, a page announcement may be most disruptive. The “rules” of public and private prayer, as described in the 16th-century Shulhan Arukh, usually reflecting the rules from the time of the Mishna, say that there are certain segments of the service that most specifically should not be interrupted. In the Talmud’s classic exposition, the question is asked, with respect to the avoidance of interrupting prayer, “What if a snake is wrapped around one’s leg?” The answer is, “It depends on what kind of snake.” For the same reason, we should be considerate of others in the room and not ask them to yield way to us while they are absorbed in statutory prayers such as the Shema and Amida.

Some page announcements are made with regularity. For the Qabbalat Shabbat service on Friday nights, I usually announce specific pages before certain key passages.

I watch the congregation’s behavior on Shabbat and Festivals when I make page announcements. If I make announcements and no one turns a page, that means either they are already where they want to be, or else are just not listening. So often, folks just ask a person nearby for orientation. After four years of rabbinical school, this was my moment of glory. I had, after all, majored in “Page Announcing” at JTS.

Some thought does go into page announcements. I recognize that some people join a service in progress and want to know what is going on, and others in the service like to keep on track with the cantor or precentor (leader or reader). But in making page announcements, I want to avoid giving the impression that everyone must be on the same page. By the specific direction of the sages, one who arrives late should first be sure to recite the Shema and its blessings, if the congregation has already done so, and then the Amida. That is to say, if you walk in during the individual recitation of the Amida, then that is not the right page for you. Instead, you should go back to the Shema with its blessings. That, at latest, is the direction of the sages.

Sometimes communal prayer represents intense musical beauty, or a focused key spiritual moment, or a time when our states of mind are altered. At that moment, a page announcement may be most disruptive. The “rules” of public and private prayer, as described in the 16th-century Shulhan Arukh, usually reflecting the rules from the time of the Mishna, say that there are certain segments of the service that most specifically should not be interrupted. In the Talmud’s classic exposition, the question is asked, with respect to the avoidance of interrupting prayer, “What if a snake is wrapped around one’s leg?” The answer is, “It depends on what kind of snake.” For the same reason, we should be considerate of others in the room and not ask them to yield way to us while they are absorbed in statutory prayers such as the Shema and Amida.

Some page announcements are made with regularity. For the Qabbalat Shabbat service on Friday nights, I usually announce even-numbered pages, and the well-known hymn Lekha Dodi because it is a sing-along. That works because our books present each of the eight Psalms in that service on its own page. For Pesuqei deZimra, I announce specific pages before certain key passages.

I watch the congregation’s behavior on Shabbat and Festivals when I make page announcements. If I make announcements and no one turns a page, that means either they are already where they want to be, or else are just not listening. So often, folks just ask a person nearby for orientation. How many times have I announced a page, just to hear someone whisper to a pew neighbor, “What page are we on?” By the same token, sometimes a person walks in just after I have announced a page and feels upset that they don’t get the immediate orientation they expect.

If you are meditating or thinking deeply, or lost in your own musings or search for unity with the Eternal, then it is fine for you to be there. If following the precentor is your game, that’s okay, too. When it comes to the siddur, every page is the right page.
# September 2020

## 12 Elul 5780 - 12 Tishri 5781

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 6:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>2 8:00pm Meditation &amp; Teshuva with Robin Goldberg via Zoom</td>
<td>3 8:00pm Morris Bell &amp; Raina Sotsky, &quot;Psychological Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic&quot; via Zoom</td>
<td>4 6:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>5 9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12 Elul 9:00am Courtyard Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>8 12 Elul 6:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>9 12 Elul 8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackner via Zoom</td>
<td>10 12 Elul 8:00pm Majestiy in Music for the High Holy Days with Rachel Adelstein via Zoom</td>
<td>11 12 Elul 6:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13 Elul 9:00am Courtyard Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
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<td>16 13 Elul 8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackner via Zoom</td>
<td>17 13 Elul 8:00pm The Relations of Care: Reflecting on the Dignity of Work, Racial Justice &amp; Interdependence with Jennifer Klein via Zoom</td>
<td>18 13 Elul 6:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20 Elul Erev Rosh Hashanah Saturday: No Religious School</td>
<td>22 20 Elul 6:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>23 20 Elul 8:00pm The Relations of Care: Reflecting on the Dignity of Work, Racial Justice &amp; Interdependence with Jennifer Klein via Zoom</td>
<td>24 20 Elul Erev Rosh Hashanah Saturday: No Religious School</td>
<td>25 20 Elul 6:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27 Elul Erev Yom Kippur Friday: No Religious School</td>
<td>29 27 Elul 6:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>30 27 Elul 8:00pm The Relations of Care: Reflecting on the Dignity of Work, Racial Justice &amp; Interdependence with Jennifer Klein via Zoom</td>
<td>31 27 Elul Erev Yom Kippur Friday: No Religious School</td>
<td>1 Tishri 9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service</td>
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## Service Times

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<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
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<td>8:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Shaharit</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
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<td>6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
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### Mark Your Calendar

- Sukkot Night 2 October 2020
- Sukkot First Two Days 3-4 October 2020
- Hoshanah Rabbah 9 October 2020
- Shemini Aseret 9-10 October 2020
- Simhat Torah Evening 10 October 2020
- Simhat Torah Morning 11 October 2020
- Bar Mitzva: Ari Hurwitz 16-17 October 2020
**BEKI Service Schedule**

**Outdoor Services**
- Sunday 9:00-9:30 am (also via Zoom)
- Monday 5:45-6:15 pm (also via Zoom)
- Friday 6:00-7:00 pm (also via Zoom)
- Saturday 9:30-11:00 am

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, Mourners’ 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

**Followed by “Conversation & Connection” with captain Karen Kassap**