



PESAH AT BEKI

Selling of Hametz

During the eight days of Pesah (Passover), it is forbidden for Jews to eat or own edible *hametz*. Hametz is any product containing wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye that has not been especially prepared kosher for Pesah. Ideally, one physically disposes of all hametz by the morning before Pesah. In order to be sure that this has taken place, or to avoid the loss of expensive hametz such as liquor, you can sell your hametz for the period of Pesah. If you would like to authorize Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz to someone who is allowed to own it (a pedigreed righteous gentile), please sign and return the form available at www.beki.org/hametz and in the literature rack. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you.

KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah

The Rabbinical Assembly's Pesah Guide is available at <http://rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide>.



Hagadot and Seder Plates at Giftshop

Hagadot (do-it-yourself guide and service books) for Pesah, including the Rabbinical Assembly's *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*, are available at the Sisterhood Giftshop and wherever fine Judaica is sold. The Giftshop also offers a significant collection of decorative seder plates and other Pesah supplies (such as toy frogs).

Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

On the night of Thursday 18 April 2019, it is customary to perform *Bediqat Hametz*, the final check for leaven before

Passover, at home. All hametz is removed, except for what is set aside for consumption on the next morning. This procedure can be done as a spiritual or fun ritual with children or adults. On the next morning, Friday 19 April, it is customary to perform *Biur Hametz*, a final "search and destroy" mission for leaven, to insure compliance with the rule against possessing or eating hametz during the festival. Instructions for *Bediqat Hametz* and *Biur Hametz* can be found in most *Hagadot*, including the Rabbinical Assembly's *Passover Haggadah: The Feast of Freedom*. Hametz should not be eaten after 10:20a on Friday morning; hametz should be burned before 11:30a.

Hametz is any food that contains wheat, barley, oats, spelt or rye, unless specifically made "Kosher for Pesah" such as matza. Hametz includes vinegar and grain-derived alcohol (unless made for Passover, such as apple vinegar and fruit-derived alcohol).

Warning: Matza-like crackers in matza-box-like packaging are sold, sometimes mistakenly in the "Passover Section" of local stores, that are labeled "not for Passover use." They are hametz. Read the labels.

Siyyum Bekhorot: Feast or Famine

The Fast of the First Born is Friday 19 April 2019, the morning before the first seder. Firstborn who attend the Friday morning service from 7:00a to 7:35a may conclude their fast by partaking of the *seudat mitzva* (obligatory feast) celebrating a *siyyum*, the conclusion of a study project. Services and *siyyum* will end by 8a. All may attend and participate in the *siyyum* and mini-seuda.

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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: jjtilsen@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

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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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

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Pesach

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Matza Baking

Baking *matzat mitzva*, the matza to be used for the fulfillment of the requirement to eat unleavened bread at the Pesach seder, can be done only (or preferably) after the prohibition against eating or possessing *hametz* (leavened items) has begun, namely, the afternoon before the Pesach seder.

BEKI members have baked *matzat mitzva* on the afternoon before Pesach in the (then newly-renovated) BEKI kitchen since Passover 2011, when quality ovens suitable for matza baking were acquired.

Grain (wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt) is milled in a cool, dark, dry area of the building on the night before (i.e., about 24 hours before) the seder. The flour is secured (“*shemura*”) from moisture and heat, or any conditions that could promote leavening or other contamination. Water is drawn that evening as well to insure it is cool and clear for use on the afternoon of matza baking.

Chief Matza Bakers have studied the *Shulhan Arukh* and other codes to insure the rules for matza baking are strictly followed. During baking, the process is scrupulously monitored and each matza is continuously inspected.

Join Bill, David, Sascha, Noam, Jon-Jay and others on Friday morning 19 April from 11:30a to 1:15p in the BEKI kitchen for matza baking. For info contact Jon-Jay at jjtilsen@beki.org.

Let All Who Are Hungry...

The Seder of Pesach is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others into our homes. Our congregation comprises many people who may not have extended family locally, do not have Jewish relatives, are new to the area, or who otherwise would benefit greatly from a Seder invitation. If you are able to open your Seder to additional guests, please contact Rabbi Tilsen at your earliest opportunity at jjtilsen@beki.org. If you are able to host an adult who is a mental health services consumer or who has developmental

disabilities, or would like to host another guest, please contact Special Outreach Coordinator Ina Silverman (389-2108 x113 or principal@beki.org).

Service Times for Pesach

BEKI will not hold Shabbat Pesach Evening services on the first seder night of Passover, 19 April, nor the next evening, Saturday night 20 April. The first two nights of Pesach, along with the civil observance of Thanksgiving Night, are the three days that afternoon or evening services are not held at BEKI.

The Shabbat Festival morning service is 9:15a to 12m on 20 April, followed by a mini-qiddush, and then the mincha afternoon service from 1p to 1:35p. Evening services that night, the night of the second seder, will not be held at BEKI.

Festival morning services on Sunday 21 April 2019 are 9:15a to 11:40a, followed by a mini-qiddush. The afternoon service Sunday is at the usual time, 5:45p to 6p. Havdala is 8:20p or later.



Hol HaMoed: The Intermediate Days

While we observe the two initial and two final days of Pesach as major holidays, which include most of the restrictions on *melakha* (“work”) followed on Shabbat, the intermediate days are observed as semi-holidays. Ideally, one avoids or minimizes *melakha* during this period as well, but in our setting most observant Jews simply go to work or school as usual. Ezra Academy, like many other Jewish schools, have the week of Pesach as holiday (no school), and many public institutions in Israel such as museums and national monuments and parks are either closed or observe truncated hours. *Melakha* is a technical rabbinic term used to define the set of actions that are prohibited on the Sabbath Day, based on the 39 categories of acts involved in creating the Temple, which is the Biblical context in which the term is used.

On the festival days (*haggim*), tefillin are not worn, but on Hol HaMoed it is common to wear tefillin in the morning until after the amida and to remove them before Hallel. (Others omit tefillin altogether in this period.) During Hol HaMoed, as in the entire month of Nisan, the Tahanun

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Pesah

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(supplication) is omitted in the daily services. Hallel and musaf are recited daily, and the passage *Ya'ale veYavo* is included in the amida and in Birkat haMazon (grace after meals). For people who do not have a pre-existing family tradition, Rabbi Tilsen suggests not wearing tefillin during Hol HaMoed.

The prohibition against possessing and eating hametz remains in force. One should seek to make the period celebratory. In the idyllic future, the period should be a general public holiday when all can skip work without concern for income or security.

Pesah Candle Lighting

The first night of Passover is Friday 19 April 2019; candle lighting in New Haven is at 7:18p. For the second night, candle lighting should be *after* 8:18p (twenty-five hours later). Because it is not permitted to strike matches on the Festival days, our practice is to light a flame before the festival begins that will burn at least 26 hours, and to use that flame to light the Pesah candles the second night.

Candle lighting for the seventh day, Thursday night 25 April 2019, is at 7:25p or earlier, and on Friday night 26 April (Shabbat and Festival lights for the final day which is Shabbat), candles should be lighted at 7:26p using an existing flame.



FROM PESAH TO SHAVUOT

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder, we began daily *sefirat ha-omer* (counting of the *omer*), a counting of days to Shavuot, the next major festival. The counting, preferably done each night for 49 nights, is an expression of eager anticipation, commemorating the period of expectation and preparation we experienced in the Exodus from Egypt until the revelation at Sinai.



**Count every night
– don't forget!**

The simple home ceremony is printed in most *siddurim* (prayer books), including *Sim Shalom*, immediately after the weekday evening service. While it is a mitzva prescribed for adults, *sefirat ha-omer* can also be a fun, artistic and joyous ritual for families with children.

In the days before printed calendars, calendar watches and daily newspapers, the *sefira* served to keep the liturgical calendar of the Jewish People synchronized, no simple accomplishment, given the dispersion and isolation of much of the community. The term *omer* refers to the measure (one handful) of grain that was used to create a physical relic of the counting. With a physical reminder, even illiterate people could do a recount in case they forgot the day's number.

Families with young children may use this opportunity

to help their children understand and experience anticipation, planning, counting and hope.

Teach us to number our days, that we may attain a heart of wisdom.
– Psalm 90:12

BEKI's Practically Annual LaG BeOmer* Kumsitz** Campfire Singalong

Wednesday 22 May 2019 (*Late on the Day of 32 Omer*) 6:15p-8:30p at Joshua & Anna's residence (indoors in case of rain, *sans* campfire). Free Parking.

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*LaG BeOmer: The 33rd day of counting of sheaves; some obscure Jewish celebration; just come and have fun.

** People kum to zing und dey sitz down.



SHAVUOT TWO-DAY FESTIVAL: THE JEWISH HAJJ

The Festival of Shavuot (“Weeks”), one of the three major pilgrimage festivals, celebrates the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah at Sinai some 3,330 years ago. The word *hag* (pilgrimage festival) is known widely by its Arabic cognate, *hajj* (which, for Muslims, means pilgrimage to Mecca). The Torah commands, “Three times a year—on the Feast of Unleavened Bread, on the Feast of Weeks, and on the Feast of Booths—all your males shall appear before the Lord your God in the place that He will choose. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each with his own gift, according to the blessing that the Lord your God has bestowed upon you” (Deut. 16:16-17).

Shavuot comes at the culmination of the counting of seven weeks from Pesah, and will be a major observance at BEKI this summer. Just as we look forward to important events in our personal lives, so too our ancestors enthusiastically and devoutly anticipated the event at Sinai. By participating in BEKI’s Shavuot observance, we re-enact the extraordinary experience of our ancestors and show our own enthusiasm for receiving Torah.

The traditional greeting is *Hagg Sameah* – הַגַּ שְׂמֵחָה – Happy Festival.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study takes place on the first night of Shavuot, Motse’ei Shabbat (Saturday night) 8 June 2019. Dairy and pareve refreshments will be served.

The Shabbat minha afternoon service is 1p to 1:35p. The Shavuot evening begins with the Festival Evening Service from 8:15p – 8:30p in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel. A shiur (text study or lecture) will begin at 8:30p. Candle

lighting (home ritual) is at 9:04p. At 9:45p, another shiur will begin, followed by an additional session presented late into the night. Doors are locked at 11p so come early.

Please see “[This Week & Beyond at BEKI](#)” and the May Mid-Month Mailing for a complete list of presenters and schedule.

Shavuot Mornings

Yizkor Memorial Service

Book of Ruth

The Shavuot First Day Festival Shaharit Morning Service begins at 9:15a on Sunday 9 June 2019. The service includes the recitation of full Hallel. The afternoon and evening services begin at 5:45p. Candle lighting Sunday night is at 9:06p or later.

The Shavuot Second Day Morning service begins at 9:15a on Monday 10 June 2019. The Festival service includes a *Shaharit* morning service, *Hallel* (Psalms of praise), a Torah reading and *Haftara*. Following the Haftara (prophetic reading), the Yizkor Memorial Service is held. The Yizkor memorial service is one of four such services during the year that help us recognize our feelings of loss, which are sometimes especially intense during the Festival season, and to honor the memories of our loved ones.

Following Yizkor, the Book of Ruth is read to a uniquely beautiful and ancient melody based on the same system of *ta’amei hamiqra* (“trope”) found in most of the Hebrew Bible. Then the Festival *Musaf* additional service is recited.

Some Congregants may leave during qiddush for a hike to the top of West Rock. Weather permitting, bring appropriate shoes and leave with friends from the lobby.

The Festival Minha service is held in the George G. Posener Daily Chapel from 5:45p to 6:05p.

Amazon Commission

Buying items from [Amazon](#)? Use [this link](#) or the link on BEKI’s home page [beki.org](#) (bottom) so BEKI will receive a commission (about 4%) on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark [our link](#). (Other Amazon programs such as Smiles provide only 0.5% so use our link instead.) See [instructions and explanation under “Resources.”](#) December Commission was \$125; January’s was \$83.

Shabbatot (Saturdays)

דַּרְשָׁנִים

Darshanim

Darshan – *noun, plural* dar·sha·nim. Judaism. a preacher or teacher of Aggada or Halakha in a synagogue.

Rabbi Tilsen has invited the following speakers to serve as guest Darshanim in the coming weeks:

- Rabbi Richard Eisenberg 4 May 2019, parashat Aharei Mot
- Mark Oppenheimer 11 May 2019, parashat Qedoshim

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

The *Shabbat Shalom Torah Study* meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45a in the office and is an ideal setting for veteran and novice shul-goers alike to explore the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day in a supportive setting. Expertly led by **Steven Fraade**, with **Rabbi Alan Lovins**, **Nadav Sela**, **Isaiah Cooper** and others, the Shabbat Shalom Torah Study is a nurturing exploration of practice and theory presented in a participatory, non-threatening and multi-generational setting. Many members who take advantage of this unique offering feel a deeper sense of awe born of increased understanding and appreciation of the Torah reading, Haftara (Prophetic reading) and liturgy.

The program often focuses on the scriptural readings, but also addresses the prayer liturgy and other topics related to the liturgical calendar, scriptural readings or current issues of concern.

Everyone is welcome to participate regardless of religious status or background. It is suitable for mature youths along with adults.



Richard Eisenberg



Mark Oppenheimer



Steven Fraade



Alan Lovins



Isaiah Cooper

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: I Kings

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) is reading First Kings. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the *peshat* of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. Hebrew and English texts are available. The RSG meets immediately following the 7:00a *shaharit* morning service. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

The Wednesday morning service (*shaharit*) features a 180-second “Hebrew word of the Week” to promote the learning of Hebrew. The Hebrew language is highly structured. Most words are based on three-letter roots, and are made with a limited set of verb or noun forms. By learning a few dozen roots and a small set of word-forms, it is possible to roughly translate Hebrew words isolated from any context, something less often possible in English. The Word of the Week often relates to the weekly scriptural readings or current events.

Rabbis’ Study Group

The Rabbis’ Study Group is a weekly study group exclusively for rabbis, initiated and taught by Rabbi Murray Levine from 2004 to 2018. The Wednesday study group affords local rabbis an opportunity to pursue their own *talmud torah* (Torah study) in a “safe” setting and with opportunities to learn from each other’s experience and insight. The study group meets Wednesday mornings in the Rosenkrantz Family Library during the school year. The Rabbis’ Group continues under the direction of Rabbi Eric Silver, and is studying *Sota*. For more information, contact J-J Tilsen jjtilsen@beki.org.



Murray Levine

Thursdays

Mini Morning Learning Service

The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes,

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Adult Studies

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choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shharit service is from 8:15a to 9:15a on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7:00a.

Berakhot Talmud Study Group

A weekly study of the Talmud Bavli Berakhot meets in the Beit Midrash on Thursday mornings 10a–11a with Rabbi Tilsen.

The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. No prior knowledge is required, but basic facility in English is helpful; students with all backgrounds are welcome, beginner to advanced.

The Berakhot Talmud Study Group will not meet on the day before Pesah and the week of Pesah (18 April, 25 April). 



Jon-Jay Tilsen

LifeCycle

המקום ינחם

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Irma Fiedler,
mother of Paul (& Susan Birke) Fiedler

Daniel Hackett,
brother of Don (& Peggy) Hackett

Perry Saxe, brother of Stanley Saxe

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal Tov to . . .

Deborah and Paul Di Capua on the birth of Rafaella Billy

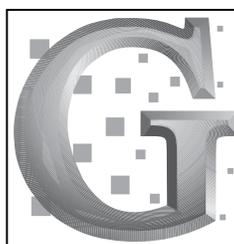
Benei Mitzva

- Miranda Hurwitz, daughter of Michael Hurwitz & Deborah Chirnomas, Sunday 5 May 2019, Rosh Hodesh Iyyar
- Elijah Ratner, son of Rabbi Joshua & Elena Ratner, 21-22 June 2019, *parashat BeHa'alotekha*
- Malachi Light, son of Rachel Light & Jonathan Freiman, and of Eben Light, 19-20 July 2019, *parashat Balaq*
- Jacob Marx Schonberger, son of Amy Marx & Robert Schonberger, 25-26 October 2019, *parashat Bereishit*

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- Paul & Deborah Di Capua celebrating the birth of Rafaella Billy
- The Saltz Family in memory of beloved mother and grandmother Zelda Rosenbluth
- Joshua Weinstein in appreciation of Elm City Kallah
- Lou & Lisa Petrillo with prayers for healing for a dear friend

For Mekhirat Hametz and Maot Hittin

- Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
- Gloria Cohen
- Rabbi Murray Levine
- Sharon & Dan Prober
- Jay & Margie Hirshfield
- Eva Shragis
- Julia Klein
- Howard Gralla & Linda Schultz
- Ruth Silver
- Mimi & Efraim Glenn
- Julie Cohen
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- Tina Rose & Seth Pauker
- Sacha van Creveld & William Shragis
- Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod

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- Benjamin & Stephanie Birn
- Shula Chernoff

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- To David Godfrey with sympathy on the passing of Robert Godfrey by Rayne & David Belowsky
- To Sue McDonald & family with sympathy on the passing of Mary Jane McDonald by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Miles Katz in honor of his Bar Mitzva by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To Moshe Meiri with wishes for a wellness and blessing by Eric Dunsker & Rachel Bashevkin

- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Janis Isenberg
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Harriet Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Jeff & Lynne Heisner
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- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Rhoda & Edward Lemkin
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- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Ruth Silver
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by the Lettick family

- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Joan Gelbert
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Eric Dunsker & Rachel Bashevkin
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Steve & Rachel Wizner

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

- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Barbara Cushen
- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Bill Shragis

Social Action/Tikkun Olam

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- To Darryl Kuperstock by Art & Betty Levy
- Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- Helene Sapadin
- Herb & Yvonne Kolodny
- Murray & Barbara Akresh

BEKI Religious School

- To Liann & Paul Cyr and family with sympathy on the passing of Adele Tyson by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

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

- In memory of her beloved mother Eunice S. Rogoff by Eileen S. Rogoff
- In memory of Charlotte & Lester Isenberg by Janis Isenberg
- In memory of Morris Baer by Irving Baer
- In memory of Robin Schwartz by David Schwartz
- In memory of James Barnett by Caroline Barnett
- In memory of Ronda Bromberg by Debbie & Lou Siegel
- In memory of her beloved father Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Natalie Robbins by Teddy Deitch
- In memory of Howard Robbins by Teddy Deitch
- In memory of William Silverman by Marc Silverman
- In memory of Kevin Kirschner by Mark Kirschner
- In memory of Leonard Kirschner by Mark Kirschner
- In memory of their father William Handleman by Joyce Handleman & Rheba Newman
- In memory of Joseph Winer by Herb Winer
- In memory of Siegfried Gesund by Hans Gesund
- In memory of Jerome Rifkin by Sylvia Rifkin
- In memory of Rose Witten by Marvin Witten
- In memory of Mildred Marie Myers Weiner by the Weiner-Rastelli family
- In memory of Louis Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of Sam Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of Evelyn Spear by Bob Spear
- In memory of Freda Kaufman by Lewis & Minna Kaufman
- In memory of his parents Samuel & Tillie Saxe by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Abraham Epstein by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Frances Ray by Barbara Rader
- In memory of Philip Abramowitz by Marcia & John Gell
- In memory of Harry Thal by Phyllis Boyer
- In memory of Bessie Kaufman by Ann Cassarino
- In memory of Anita Weinstein by Elaine Weinstein
- In memory of her grandparents William & Anna Berman by Sherry Kent
- In memory of Irving Golden by Diane & George Dumigan
- In memory of Anita Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds
- In memory of her brother Robert A. Levine by Bernice Margolis

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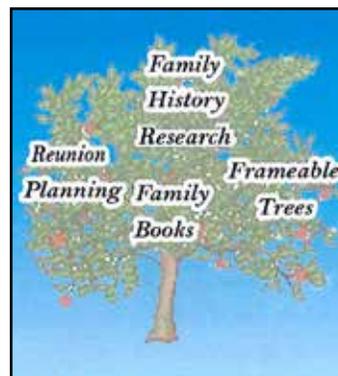
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Passover (Pesah in Hebrew) is celebrated 14-22 Nisan (19-27 April). It is among the oldest and most widely celebrated of all Jewish festivals; it is observed for seven days in Israel, and for seven or eight days in the Diaspora. In ancient times, nomadic Jewish shepherds in the wilderness celebrated a spring festival at the time of the full moon by hastily eating a sacrificial goat or sheep in the middle of the night. The Festival of Unleavened Bread was observed by the entire community in a holy place on the occasion of the spring grain harvest. The story of Passover assumed a historical focus, namely, the deliverance from hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt. The event was so important that, according to the Torah, Nisan (not Rosh Hashana) begins the new calendar year. That is why the name of the Hebrew month Nisan, in which Pesah falls, was taken from its Babylonian counterpart, Nisanu, which means "to start."

Jews of the Caucasus Mountains traditionally embroidered a Seder plate into the Passover tablecloth so that the table was instantly ready for the Seder. The custom may have arisen because it was often difficult to get fresh foods for the Seder plate.

Yom HaShoah–Holocaust Remembrance Day

"You shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget"

The aura of this secular day is holy and solemn, as Jews collectively mourn, remember and honor the millions who were killed in the Holocaust.

We at BEKI commemorate Yom HaShoah by lighting a yellow candle for which this year's theme is "Children of the Holocaust." During the Holocaust the Nazis and their collaborators murdered over 1.5 million Jewish children under the age of 16. We light these candles for the children who have no surviving relatives to light a candle in his or her memory.

These yellow candles may be purchased for \$6 each. They will be available in the Sisterhood Giftshop or in the office.

The artist Stan Z. Greenspan used images of children in the ghettos and the camps, all of whom were forced to wear a yellow star with the word "Jude (Jew)." Each star has been highlighted, matched by a yellow star which is molded in the yellow wax of the candle. While working on the label Mr. Greenspan was struck by how many of those in the photos looked like members of his family. His grandmother would remind him that she was one of 11 children, only three of whom escaped the Shoah. "These photos are from the family album of the Jewish people, and they must not be forgotten."

Please light the Yom HaShoah Yellow candle or candles

on Wednesday evening 1 May 2019 - 26 Nisan 5779.

Meditation sheets will be available to be recited as you light the candles.

Sisterhood annual commemoration for Yom Hashoah will be observed on Saturday 11 **May 2019** after qiddush in the George Posner Daily Chapel, with guest speaker, David Pettigrew, professor of philosophy at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. His topic will be the children of the ghetto - a walled, guarded, overcrowded prison town to hold children and adults who had been forced to leave their homes. They would be sent to the Czech town of Terezin. Over the course of WWII, more than 15,000 children lived there and from there they were sent to Auschwitz.

Yom Hazikaron – Israel Memorial Day

This year Yom HaZikaron will be commemorated on 8 May (3 Iyar).

This commemoration is the national remembrance day observed in Israel for all Israeli military personnel who lost their lives in the struggle that led to the establishment of the State of Israel and those who have been killed subsequently while on active duty in Israel's armed forces. As of Yom HaZikaron in 2017 that number was 13,544.

Yom HaAtzmaut – Israel Independence Day

This Iyar marks the 71st year of Israel's Independence Day on 9 May (4 Iyar).

On 5 Iyar 1948 the State of Israel was established. David Ben Gurion read the Declaration of Independence in the presence of the People's Provisional Council. The Council decided that the flag of the State of Israel would be one blue stripe on top and one on the bottom with a blue Star of David in the center. The emblem of the State of Israel is the seven-branch Menorah flanked by two olive branches, evoking the ancient Kingdom of Israel, and symbolizes our yearning to live in freedom and peace. Ivrit (Hebrew) will be spoken when we return to our homeland. Eliezer Ben Yehuda led a movement to restore the Hebrew language to life, so we could once again speak in our ancient language as we till the soil in our land.

Sisterhood Gift Store

Please support our Sisterhood Gift Store by purchasing many of our special gifts for children, your home and hostess gifts.

Open Sundays 11a-12:15p, Wednesdays 5p-6p. Please contact Mimi Glenn 203-397-3851 or Peggy in the office 203-389-2108 x114 when the store is closed. Your purchase makes it possible for Sisterhood to supply refreshments for some of the holidays celebrated by our congregation.

PJ Library at BEKI

Sunday 14 April 10:30a–11:30a, Pesah stories, snacks for people age 0 to 8 years with their adults, sign up for free monthly books, all welcome.

Pesah Guide

See www.rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide.

Pesah Mini-Qiddush

A Mini-Qiddush of grape juice, wine, cookies and fruit will be served on the 1st, 2nd, 7th and 8th days of Pesah. Modest financial sponsorships are needed for 1st and 2nd days, and assistance with simple same-day set-up. Contact Ellen Cohen (ellen.cohen@snet.net 203-982-0941) to help.

Holocaust Memorial Program

With David Pettigrew, Prof. of Philosophy, SCSU, Shabbat 11 May 2019, 1p.

Clothes Collection

BEKI is collecting men's and women's professional to business casual clothing for Ken's Closet/JFS. This provides outfits for interviews and those starting a new job upon reentering the workforce. Clothes rack and bin for donations are located in the nursing room (next to the handicap bathroom).

JCARR

See [NBC news report](#) on the family being helped by BEKI's partnership in JCARR.

Liturgical Note

Tahanun is not recited in daily services during the month of Nisan.

Security Protocols

Security enhancements are ongoing. Your feedback welcomed. Info Jay Sokolow c/o office@beki.org.

Hesed

To be notified of opportunities to help your fellow congregants, please click/enter the link below to join the BEKI Hesed Committee. We are now using the [lotsahelpinghands](http://lotsahelpinghands.com) website to communicate. Signing up does not obligate you to do anything, it just gives you the opportunity to volunteer. <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/community/beki-hesed-committee/home>

Is it a Cookbook Yet?

Ever wonder how to make that amazing soup or salad that you had recently at Shabbat Kiddush or Break Fast? Want to share the secrets of BEKI's buffet bounty with

others? Get *Is It Kiddush Yet* for yourself or as a gift. The BEKI Kiddush Committee's cookbook (easy-to-use format, clear and concise, delicious kosher recipes) is available at the Sisterhood Gift Shop or through the office for \$18 each.

New in the Social Hall

The Sinai Windows.

Torah Torah Torah

Torah Reading coordinator for Sefer VaYiqra (through 1 June, including Pesah) is J-J Tilsen jtilsen@beki.org. Darryl Kuperstock will coordinate readings for BeMidbar and Shavuot beginning 8 June.

Donate

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

Got Announcements?

Ask President Harold Birn to include your BEKI event in live Shabbat morning announcements by writing to announcements@beki.org. "This Week at BEKI" listings may be up to 50 words.

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

Study of Torah is considered equal or superior to prayers as a form of "worship." Join Steven Fraade and other scholars for an hour of study (weekly portion, liturgy, Q&A) every other Shabbat morning 10:45a–11:45a in the office.

Scholarships

Jewish Foundation offers BRS, college, Israel experience, and Jewish camping scholarships. Info and application at www.jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships.

Mark Your Calendar

Fast/Siyyum of Firstborn 19 April 2019

Matsa Baking 19 April 2019

First Seder (Home Ritual) 19 April 2019

Shabbat Pesah & Second Seder 20 April 2019

Prayer for Dew (Tal) 20 April 2019

Begin Counting Omer 20 April 2019

Seventh Day of Pesah 25-26 April 2019

Eighth Day of Pesah 26-27 April 2019

Song of Songs & Yizkor Memorial Service 27 April

Darshan: Rabbi Richard Eisenberg 4 May 2019

Rosh Hodesh Iyar 5-6 May 2019

Bat Mitzva: Miranda Hurwitz 5 May 2019

Darshan: Mark Oppenheimer 11 May 2019

Holocaust Memorial Program 11 May 2019

BRS Graduation & Promotion 12 May 2019

[LaG BeOmer Kumsitz](#) 22 May 2019

YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THIS

Some people are tired of hearing about the Holocaust. They are thinking: Jews should get over the Holocaust already. The Holocaust is ancient history – 80 years ago might as well be 800 or 8000 years ago. None of us had anything to do with it. A hundred million people

died in wars in the twentieth century, and more in other disasters; Jews are not the only or greatest victims in all of human history. Jews should stop trying to guilt people who personally had nothing to do with the Shoah, and should stop trying to extract reparations for crimes of the prior generations. Why should the estates of wealthy European Jews be among the few that ever recover lost property? Does contemporary Jewish identity have nothing to offer beyond wallowing in victimhood and historic trauma? Jews are prospering like nobody's business. Israel should not get a free pass due to European history. Isn't it time to move on and focus on newer, more pressing, problems and opportunities?

Those are the “nicer” thoughts people are expressing.

In short, “the world,” if it registers the issue at all, is tired of hearing about it. You might have noticed the increasing tendency in ritualized civic “Holocaust Remembrance Days” to fail to mention anything about the Jewish People. There are a million – or maybe six million – reasons to not want to hear about the Holocaust.

They are also tired of hearing about the American Enslavement of Africans – which ended 160 years ago – not to equate or compare these historic enormities. Almost no one alive today actually met an American slave. Family trauma lasts

at most four generations – this one has expired. Most Americans did not own slaves in 1860, and the majority of today's Americans had no ancestors in the United States in that era. Most Americans live in states that opposed slavery. Meanwhile, former slaves and their descendants have received

billions of dollars of welfare and other government benefits. Millions of Americans are descendants of both slaves and slave-owners.

There is really nothing to be done to undo the crimes of the past, and today the world is filled with opportunities for those with initiative and willing to work. Discrimination in housing has been illegal

for decades, and the non-felonious descendants of slaves are guaranteed the right to vote. There has hardly been a lynching in the last forty years. Slave descendants are fortunate they get to live in America instead of, say Sudan or Congo or other impoverished war-torn African countries, like those left behind. Why is 1863 even an issue? Crisis of Blacks in America – someone else's problem. Race is just made up anyway – let's just forget about it. There are 12 million reasons why we don't want to hear about the legacy of African Slavery in America – and 48 million reasons why we don't want to hear about what transpired *after* 1865.

These are the “nicer” thoughts being expressed. Slavery? Tired of hearing about it.

About 3,300 years ago, my ancestors were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. After leaving Egypt, they experienced a



Continued on **Page 14**

Message

Continued from Page 13

40-year ordeal of wandering, massacres, leadership battles, backsliding, idolatry and despair. They tried to expurgate



their culture of Egyptian influence – the Egyptian denigration of human life and labor, the economic system which concentrated power in the ruling class, even Egypt’s language and clothing fashion. Upon entering the Land of Israel, they continued to fight with their neighbors and among themselves for centuries.

Anyone who attends a public Torah reading is likely to hear the line, “*You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, ... as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt,*” or another lesson from the national trauma that constitutes our national genesis.

Anyone who reads the conventional Jewish daily prayers – morning noon or nighttime – or recites the Birkat HaMazon (Grace After Meals) recites numerous references to our enslavement, emancipation and the lessons we are to derive from it. The Sabbath Day – the weekly central Jewish observance – is, in the words of the Qiddush, “*zekher leytsiat Mitsrayim*” –

a “*memorial to the Exodus from Egypt.*” If that were not enough, an entire seven-day festival is observed annually, including the seder that includes a retelling and examination

of enslavement and exodus.

A Jew living with even the most tenuous connection to our culture and tradition cannot go more than a few hours without remembering this ancient historical-mythological episode. So has it been generation after generation.

After 3,300 years, we are still trying to deal with our original national trauma, not to mention other assaults, incidents, conflicts, and catastrophes experienced since, including some that were self-inflicted. We are still asking, “how did we ever get into that situation?” We are still asking, “What must we do in light of our experience?” We are still processing the Exodus, even as it is still not clear whether we will survive as a people.



So to anyone who wants the consequences of African Slavery in America, the Shoah, the American Native Genocide, or other recent

or current atrocities grand or local, to “just go away,” I say: You haven’t even begun to hear about them yet.

בכל דור ודור חייב אדם
לראות את עצמו כאלו הוא
יצא ממצרים

שנאמר וְהִגַּדְתָּ לְבִנְךָ בַּיּוֹם
הַהוּא לֵאמֹר בְּעִבּוּר זֶה עָשִׂה
ה' לִי בְּצֵאתִי מִמִּצְרָיִם.

Rabban Gamliel taught: In each generation, one should view [or show] oneself as having personally exited Egypt, as Scripture says, “You shall tell



your progeny on that day, ‘for this purpose God took action for me when I left Egypt.’”



April 2019

25 Adar II 5779 - 25 Nisan 5779

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 25 Adar II	2 7:00pm Israeli Dance 26 Adar II	3 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 27 Adar II	4 10:00am Berakhot Talmud Study Group 28 Adar II	5 7:03 Candle Lighting 7:20pm Elm City Kallah Scholar-in Residence Shabbaton pt. I - Shabbat Dinner with speaker Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum (Westville Synagogue, reservations required for dinner) 29 Adar II	6 Rosh Hodesh 10:45am Children's Programs Qiddush: Members of our Community 1:00pm Elm City Kallah Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton pt. II with speaker Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum (BEKI) 5:45pm Minha 1 Nisan
7 9:00am Elm City Kallah Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton pt. III with speaker Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum (B'nai Jacob, services, breakfast, speaker) 2 Nisan	8 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting 3 Nisan	9 7:00pm Israeli Dance 4 Nisan	10 9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benei Mitzva Program 5 Nisan	11 10:00am Berakhot Talmud Study Group 6:00pm Meet the Artist with Sandra Valabregue 6 Nisan	12 7:10pm Candle Lighting 7 Nisan	13 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45am Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha 8 Nisan
14 9:00am Religious School 9 Nisan	15 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 10 Nisan	16 7:00pm Israeli Dance 11 Nisan	17 No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 12 Nisan	18 13 Nisan	19 Erev Passover 7:30am Siyyum Bekhorot 11:30am Matza Baking in BEKI Kitchen No Evening Shabbat Service 7:18pm Candle Lighting 14 Nisan	20 Passover I 9:15am Festival Service 10:45am Children's Programs Mini-Qiddush: TBA 1:00pm Minha 15 Nisan
21 Passover II No Religious School 9:15am Festival Service Mini-Qiddush: TBA 5:45pm Minha 16 Nisan/1 L'Omer	22 Hol Hamoed Passover I 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 17 Nisan/2 L'Omer	23 Hol Hamoed Passover II 7:00pm Israeli Dance 18 Nisan/3 L'Omer	24 Hol Hamoed Passover III No Religious School No Benei Mitzva Program 19 Nisan/4 L'Omer	25 Hol Hamoed Passover IV 7:24pm Candle Lighting 20 Nisan/5 L'Omer	26 Passover VII Office Closed 9:15am Festival Service Mini-Qiddush: TBA 21 Nisan/6 L'Omer	27 Passover VIII (Yitzkor) 9:15am Festival Service 10:45am Children's Programs 10:45pm Shabbat Shalom Torah Study Mini-Qiddush: TBA 1:00pm Minha 22 Nisan/7 L'Omer
28 9:00am Religious School 23 Nisan/8 L'Omer	29 7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting (off-site) 24 Nisan/9 L'Omer	30 7:00pm Israeli Dance 25 Nisan/10 L'Omer				

Service Times

Sundays	Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays	Fridays	Saturdays
9 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	8:15 a.m. Shaharit 5:45 p.m. Maariv	7 a.m. Shaharit 6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat	9:15 a.m. Shaharit 1 p.m. Minha

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Schedule Change

Shabbat Mincha (afternoon) services move to a fixed time year-round, from 1p to 1:35p. The new schedule is preferred by those who regularly attend the Shabbat mincha service, and is preferred by tradition in that it is toward the earlier part of the day in which the service is recited, earlier being “better” as it demonstrates enthusiasm for the mitzva and reduces the chances of missing the correct time period for the statutory prayer. The mincha service includes a short Torah reading, which is usually the first section of the parashat (episode) that will be read in its entirety on the following Shabbat.

This schedule will be followed for most weeks, though please check when Shabbat coincides with festivals or special events.

The regular week-day services, Sundays through Thursdays, remain 5:45p year-round, and the Shabbat Friday Night service remains at 6p each week, all with only a few exceptions.

Mask-Making Workshop




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*“I sell
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 but people
 are my business”*



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