



A New Haven Tradition since 1892

bulletin

Nisan-Iyar 5780

Vol. 26 Issue 4

Rabbi's Message: Page 13

A NOTE ON THE SITUATION

This issue of the BEKI Bulletin is different from all other editions. All other issues contain information on numerous upcoming programs and events at the synagogue, with well-edited images of happy children and adults filling the building with activities. This issue of the BEKI Bulletin lists canceled, suspended and postponed activities and programs, with no date for resumption. The weekly email "BEKI Happenings" has become "Not Happenings."

But there is more than that. BEKI has always been a congregation, not a building, a community, not a charity, a "full-service" synagogue, not only a place for holiday ritual. Our members and staff quickly adapted to changing constraints and conditions, to insure the well-being of each member of our community and the continuation of our mission of Torah, Avoda, and Gemilut Hasadim – Torah-engagement, Service and Acts of Kindness.

BEKI Religious School and the Benei Mitzva Program are functioning on-line; USY and Kadima, too, are meeting, talking, planning, using advanced technology such as the telephone and even computers. Tefila and study groups are meeting almost daily. Every household has been called (check your voicemail, or ask your housemate who forgot to tell you), and your BEKI neighbors are ready to help with necessities, come what may. Staff is working remotely, officers are meeting on-line, and Facilities Manager Michael B is making sure the building is ready for the renewal of activity.

Rabbi Tilsen urges members to follow the dictates and advice of credentialed public health experts. The wide-

spread distrust of government officials and the media may be well-earned, with all due respect to those with integrity, professional standards and pure motives in those professions. Members are specifically urged to follow the advice of respected credentialed medical experts in matters of public health as well as the directives of one's own physicians and care providers. This message has also been enunciated repeatedly by our President Yaron Lew and staff and officers. This urging is based on the long-standing practice of the sages of Israel to consult with and rely upon experts in various fields of science instead of their own sagacity (see Rabbi Tilsen's essay "[The Chicken that had no Heart](#)" at [beki.org](#) under "Learning"). Ultimately, we have to trust someone (See Rabbi Tilsen's essay "[Who Can You Trust?](#)").

This is a moment of disruption, hardship and terror. Several BEKI members have reported they have lost jobs or had hours cut back; others have shuttered their offices and businesses. Asset values have plummeted. School graduations, weddings, along with public shiva, have been canceled or postponed, personal plans utterly washed away. Worse, our members have been sick, and many are in fear for their lives; we don't know how long this will last.

If you need help, or think you might, please, please ask; our ability to perform the several and central mitzvot of helping others depends on knowing where those mitzva opportunities and needs are. Some people have not had occasion or have avoided asking for help as adults, as a matter of pride or privacy; that practice must be temporarily suspended. One person is sitting alone despairing of having no matza

Continued on **Page 1**

What will your Jewish Legacy be?



CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY GREATER NEW HAVEN

Create your legacy for Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel



Jewish Foundation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN



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: jtilsen@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

BEKI Bulletin © 2020 Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel.

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen & Dear Rabbi

© 2020 Jon-Jay Tilsen. All rights reserved.

Editor

Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen

Associate Editor

Donna Levine

Associate Editor

Donna Kemper

Associate Editor

Herbert Winer

Photographer

Charles Ludwig

Layout & Design

Bruce Oren



ROBERT E. SHURE, INC. — FUNERAL HOME —

Dedicated to the Dignity and Respect of Tradition

543 George Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Robert E. Shure
Founder

203-562-8244
shurefuneralhome.com

James M. Shure
President

The Situation

Continued from **Page 3**

for Pesah, while another had already bought 20 pounds and is now realizing there will be no guests. We are forced to adopt roles that are unwelcome or that seem unsuitable; this is only for a while.

But we will get through it. We will help each other no matter what. We will continue with our study of Torah and our prayer, helping others, even with seder tables set for one.

This issue of the BEKI Bulletin includes information that might help us cope with our current predicament. We hope that in the coming weeks, more and better scientific data will be available to guide us. Perhaps that will ease some of the fear.

Those who are merely inconvenienced might follow the pattern of the snow day. True, the snow is deadly, the storm goes on for weeks, our jobs and assets melt as snow, but we can light a log in the fireplace, drink hot chocolate, play a game, call a friend or relative. Sing a happy song. Do a mitzva, learn a new Hebrew word, discover the Mishna. May as well enjoy whatever is available. That, while we understand and help our fellow BEKians and neighbors.

In a few weeks, life will resume as it was, or take on a new "normal," though some things will be forever changed. The doors to our building will open, the classrooms will fill with children, and the voices of people of all ages in prayer, song and study will overflow into the streets. Until then, let us keep it together.

JJTilsen

Email Only

One more thing about this issue of the Bulletin: It is

posted on the website and sent by email, but only a few households (identified non-email users) are receiving this in the mail.

Rabbi's In

Yet Another Message from Rabbi Tilsen

Thank you for affording me a 90 day mini-sabbatical, which was helpful and productive. As one congregant said to me upon my return, "Welcome back, rabbi. I hope you had a nice week off." Yeah, I missed you, too. It did seem like only a week, in that upon my return everything seemed to be running as good as ever. Our President Yaron Lew once commented that BEKI is like a qibbutz, which to me suggests a community that is run collectively and depends on the efforts and contribution of each interested person, that comprises people who live and work together, share commitments, and care for one another.

It seems I returned from sabbatical just in time. Things are not OK for so many of our members and neighbors right now. Most have seen or been part of the tremendous effort by our members to care for one another, a response that is fast, persistent and generous, and that will continue, come what may.

Although I am billed as BEKI's "Spiritual Leader," it seems that leading BEKI is much like luging, riding a toboggan – you can't really steer, but by leaning hard you can perhaps slightly alter the course.

I am here to support and help the organized efforts of our congregation, as well as to hear and support individuals and families in this and other times of need or crisis. I am here to listen, talk and help if I can. Consultations are strictly confidential. Contact me at 203.389.2108 x110 or jtilsen@beki.org.



THE TOWERS

Your #1 Choice in Senior Living!

For information or to schedule a tour call

Rebecca Goodman-Olshansky

(203) 772-1816, ext. 250 rebecca@towerone.org



**STAR
TIRES**

WHEELS

WEST HAVEN, CT

www.startireandwheels.com

Andy & Paige Weinstein

40 Boston Post Rd (RT 1)

West Haven CT 06516

203-933-2886

888 Wethersfield Ave

Hartford CT 06114

860-296-9799

WHAT'S HAPPENING – AND WHAT ISN'T HAPPENING

It's a Mitzva

Observing personal and public health protocols is necessary to comply with the mitzvah lo-ta'ase (prohibition) against endangering one's own life and well-being, and that of others.

Need Help?

If you need help acquiring essential food, medicine, utilities, communication services, or have gone or may be going stir-crazy, please contact office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x114 and we refer you with Hesed Committee, Tiqun Olam Cmte, rabbinic counsel jtilsen@beki.org, and other synagogue-based and community agencies and vendors that exist to respond to such needs. We are a community and we will help each other as much as we can.

Want to Help?

To assist in on-going and ad-hoc support for BEKI members and Greater New Haven residents with significant or urgent needs, volunteer to participate in Hesed Committee robolettick@aol.com, Tiqun Olam Committee kuperst@gmail.com, and other organized efforts; info office@beki.org.

Building Closed

The BEKI Building is closed until 23 April and until further notice. If you think you need access, make an arrangement with Peggy office@beki.org so that public health and building security protocols can be observed. The building has multiple alarmed zones which may be "armed" during the day. Do not enter without prior arrangement.

Activities Suspended

All in-building BEKI activities are suspended until 23 April and until further notice. This includes daily and Shabbat services, BRS, BMP, study groups, yoga, USY, Kadima, art programs. Everything.

Sell Hametz

Authorize Rabbi Tilsen to [sell your hametz](#) before Passover.

Home Kosher Food Delivery

[Abel Catering](#) is providing home delivery and store pickup for kosher meals compliant with public health protocols.

BRS Remote Learning: BRS is providing home tutorials for students. Info principal@beki.org .

Daily Tefila

Info bekitefilla@gmail.com for weekday on-line prayer

and study gatherings. See daily schedule below for this week's links – just click to join on-line. To phone in, ask for the day's meeting code and password from bekitefilla@gmail.com .

More Daily & Shabbat Services

The hiyyuv (requirement) of daily prayer applies first and foremost to the individual. The statutory prayers may be said in English or Hebrew or in any language. Priority prayers are (1) the Shema with its blessings, morning and night; and (2) the Amida, evening, morning, afternoon. Learning? Hear [selected recordings](#) at [beki.org](#). See online [prayerbooks](#) or buy a book on-line or request a free book from jtilsen@beki.org or bekitefilla@gmail.com .

Need Torah?

Learn Sing Pray with the Conservative Masorti [Online Beit Midrash](#) in Jerusalem <https://www.conservativeye-shiva.org/learn/> and [JTSA](#) in New York <http://www.jtsa.edu/jts-torah-online>. Texts available at [www.sefaria.org](#). Selected [audio prayers](#), [Member Divrei Torah](#) and [Rabbi's Writings](#) are available at [beki.org](#) under "Learning." Also see [Torah.org](#) and [Bnai Jacob](#) (Woodbridge).

Donate Medical Equipment

If you have any of the following, write donationspe@ynhh.org, include your phone number and describe items, quantity, manufacturer, name of product, whether unopened, how long stored, lot #, expiration date, if shown.

- Disposable head covers/caps
- Disposable gowns
- Disposable gloves
- N95 respirator face masks
- Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)
- Disposable face masks
- Face-shields/goggles
- Coveralls/scrubs
- Shoe-covers
- Disinfection wipes and liquids
- General purpose hand cleansers

JCARR News

To volunteer contact Madeleine Kleinman mak117@gmail.com. JCARR needs donations to continue this important work. Send contributions to The Jewish Federation, Attn: Amy Holt, 360 Amity Rd. Woodbridge, 06525 (JCARR in memo)

PESAH

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. The form is a power of attorney allowing Rabbi Tilsen to sell your hametz for you.

This year (2020), if you are facing potential disruptions in the regional food supply due to pandemic or panic, or some other plague or circumstance, Rabbi Tilsen recommends stowing and selling suspected hametz and actual hametz that you already possess. Such items need to be segregated, labeled and sealed so that no household member or visitor will mistakenly access such items during Pesah. For the same reason, those who observe a custom of not eating qitniyot or common foods such as beans during Pesah should feel comfortable eating such items if necessary this year; they are not hametz, and much of the Jewish world eats them during the festivals as a matter of course.

Corn (maize), rice, quinoa, beans, nuts are **not** hametz.

KINAHARA: Kosher for Pesah

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

Pesah Prep Workshop On-Line

Speak with Rabbi Tilsen on-line for a [Pre-Pesah Prep Workshop](#). Tips, FAQs, Q&A. Wednesday 1 April 6:30p–7:15p. More questions or issues? Contact jjtilsen@beki.org or 203.389.2108 x110.

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). As the building is closed in the days before Pesah, please write to Giftshop@beki.org for information.

For an on-line haggada, see <https://www.sefaria.org/texts/Liturgy/Haggadah>.

If you need a haggada and cannot order one on-line, please contact Rabbi Tilsen jjtilsen@beki.org for help.

Cleaning for Pesah

How much to clean for Pesah? Rabbi Tilsen recommends directing the greater of either two hours or twice one's usual weekly home cleaning time. The purpose is to insure no hametz is left behind and to enhance the enjoyment of the festival. The purpose of the festival is to celebrate our freedom, not to re-create our enslavement.

Bediqat Hametz & Biur Hametz

On the night of Tuesday 7 April 2020, 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, Wednesday 8 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 Wednesday 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 Wednesday 8 April 2020,

Continued on **Page 6**

Pesah

Continued from **Page 5**

the morning before the first seder. This year due to the quarantine, firstborn may be released from the fast by participating in an on-line siyyum and providing for their own small feast.

Matza Baking

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

BEKI members have baked *matzat mitzva* on the afternoon before Pesah in the 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.

BEKI 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.

Matza baking requires a very hot oven and kosher conditions. Because mishaps in matza production can produce *hametz*, which is prohibited on the afternoon before Pesah and during the festival itself, we recommend that only trained bakers with the proper equipment bake matza for Pesah; that said, anyone can learn.

Due to the closure of the BEKI building and its kitchen due to the pandemic, as of this publication date we do not plan to hold a public matza baking event this year. Next Year in the BEKI Kitchen.

Let All Who Are Hungry...

The Seder of Pesah is in most years 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. As hosting guests is not possible this year, we especially suggest donating funds to a local food distributor such as JFS Food Bank and our BEKI arms that provide to members and friends in need; and by communicating with your usual guests and others before the seder to express your wishes for a Good Pesah.

Seder Check List

Here is what you need for a seder. Preparation requires cleaning, removing, burning and selling *hametz*, and acquiring the necessary items for the seder.

- Hagada • Matza for the Seder • Wine Kosher for Passover or Grape Juice • Bitter Herbs • Haroset – any recipe

A PDF version of [Feast of Freedom](#) is available at rabbinicalassembly.org

Next Year in New Haven

Many of us are accustomed to hosting or being hosted on Pesah, especially for the seders. This year (2020) due to the pandemic, as of this writing, such gatherings may not take place, either due to rules of halakha that prohibit us from endangering our lives or bodily safety, or those of others, or due to public health decrees by civil officials.

Observing public health and private health rules, following official medical experts and one's personal physician, is required despite the disruption to Pesah observance.

Having your own small seder is possible, even for one person. All one needs is a hagada, matza, wine or grape juice, marror (bitter herb such as horseradish), haroset (any recipe), and a meal. Just follow the directions. And yes, you can read the "Four Questions" yourself, and you can even ask, "When am I eating?"

During the past few weeks, friends, families and co-workers have shared virtual meals and happy hours via on-line programs such as Skype and Zoom, or even just over open phone connections. Anyone can do this; just do not place the phone directly in the soup. If you would like technical help to set up a laptop, pad or phone for such sessions, please contact us now and we will try to help you get set up. You can call or email the office 203.389.2108 x114 or office@beki.org.

While using electricity is avoided in traditional households on the festivals, such use does not constitute a specific violation of a long-established or Biblical rule. Rather, such use falls under the well-established and vital category of "not in keeping with the spirit" of the festival. That "not in keeping" is why by tradition we don't watch sports on

Continued on **Page 6**

Pesah

Continued from **Page 6**

TV on the seder night, even if the TV was just “left on.” Those who avoid using electricity on festivals may feel comfortable relaxing that avoidance on either night of Pesah this year due to global extreme circumstances, and especially after dark on the second night of Pesah, and in any case during Hol HaMoed, in order to establish a virtual connection electronically for the purpose of holding a seder and festival observance.

It is also possible to establish an open link before the onset of the festival, though experience shows that any connection inevitably requires re-starting or adjustment, an issue described, in another context, in the Talmud (B. Shabbat) in the discussions of what types of lamps should be used for Shabbat. Tele-conference programs have session time limits, and users should understand how that works. Those participating in a tele-seder should recite the blessings along with their leader, in any language, if they can. In a technical sense, the use of electronics on Pesah (excluding Shabbat) is less of a concern than is driving or other forms of transportation.

Every Pesah, there are those whose presence is sorely missed – due to recent or long-ago death, relocation, and other causes. This year, those feelings will be more widespread no matter what we do. We are not alone in those feelings, and perhaps this knowledge will make us kinder and more patient or understanding. The hope of being together with family and friends, in a safe and peaceful world, with our homeland safe, independent and secure in every way, has been expressed annually at the end of the seder when we say, “Next Year in Jerusalem.”

The Rabbinical Assembly has published [Kashrut Recommendations for Passover 5780](#) and guidelines for a [Streaming Seder](#) at rabbinalassembly.org.

Service Times for Pesah

As of this date, we expect public worship will not take place at BEKI this year (2020) for public health reasons. Fortunately, Pesah is essentially a “Home Observance” at its core – by tradition, from ancient times to now, each household would hold its own seder, or if small, share with a neighbor (the latter not being available this year).

The obligations of prayer can be met almost anywhere. The festival services follow the same pattern as Shabbat observances, with the addition of the celebratory Psalms of Hallel. The recitation of the Shema with its blessings, and

the Amida, are the core of each service, and may be recited in any language.

Hol HaMoed: The Intermediate Days

While we observe the two initial and two final days of Pesah 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 Pesah 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. This year, it is likely that all of those institutions will be closed already and during all of Pesah in accordance with public health measures due to the pandemic.

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.

This year, many of us, perchance, are observing this preferred, work-free period of Hol HaMoed. While not ideal in so many ways, one may feel a sense of piety in this leisure time.

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. Some, including most BEKI members, omit tefillin altogether in this period. During Hol HaMoed, as in the entire month of Nisan, the Tahanun (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 Wednesday 8 April 2020; candle lighting in New Haven is at 7:07p. For the second night, candle lighting should be *after* 8:07p (twenty-five

Continued on **Page 8**

PesahContinued from **Page 7**

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, Tuesday night 14 April 2020, is at 7:14p or earlier, and on Wednesday night 15 April, candles should be lighted after 8:14p using an existing flame.

FROM PESAH TO SHAVUOT

Sefira – Counting the Omer

At the second Seder, we begin 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.

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



**Count every night
– don't forget!**

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

LaG BeOmer

Monday night 11 May 2020 is LaG BeOMer, the 33rd day of the Omer. Please see the [BEKI website](#) (or the Pandemic Edition of [BEKI Not-Happenings](#)) to see if a public event can be held this year.

There is no mitzva (obligation) to observe LaG BeOmer; it is a folk-custom. Anyone is welcome to observe it as a home observance, but only those expert at lighting a campfire may include that in one's observance, and only in compliance with municipal fire codes.

**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 ḥagg Sameah – הַגָּה שָׂמֵח – Happy Festival.

Tiqun Leil Shavuot

Our annual Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study is tentatively scheduled to take place on the first night of Shavuot, Thursday night 28 May 2020.

Please see "[This Week & Beyond at BEKI](#)" and the May Bulletin and May Mid-Month Mailing to see if the event will be held and for a complete list of presenters and schedule.



Contributions

Rabbi's Tzedaka Fund

(minimum \$25)

Note: We are not mailing acknowledgements for contributions for maot hittim and mekhirat hametz this year; donations will appear on your statements. Emailed forms will be acknowledged by email.

- Lou & Lisa Petrillo with condolences to Hyla Greenberg and Myra Goldfarb on the passing of their cousin Sophie Weichbreyd
- Rabbi Richard & Judy Eisenberg for Mekhirat Hametz
- Rachel Bashevkin for Mekhirat Hametz
- Jonathan Freeman & Rachel Light for Mekhirat Hametz
- Sherry Kent for Mekhirat Hametz
- Julia Klein for Mehirat Hametz
- Sascha van Creveld for Mekhirat Hametz
- Tamar Edelkind for Mekhirat Hametz

Qiddush Sponsors

(minimum \$320)

- Steve & Rachel Wizner
- Anonymous, Lauren Brown, Robin Goldberg, Janis Isenberg, Eva Shrags & Sascha van Creveld
- BEKI friends honoring Margaret Martin & Rich Karmen
- Shula Chernoff
- Chirnomas & Hurwitz family
- Karsif family
- Angela & Bruce Oren

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

- In memoriam of Herb & Hannah Winer by David Breitman
- To Sherry & Steve Rothman with sympathy on the passing of Natalie Ruth Knasin by Amy, Rob, Sophie, Jacob & Esther Marx/Schonberger
- To Dennis Rader with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Rader by Amy, Rob, Sophie, Jacob & Esther Marx/Schonberger
- To Gloria Cohen with sympathy on the passing of Stanley Wallace Weitzer by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Dennis Rader with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Rader by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To the Secchiaroli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by the Freiman-Light family
- To the Secchiaroli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by the Rastelli-Weiner family
- To the Secchiaroli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by Trish

Knecht by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunske

- To David Wright in honor of the 50th anniversary of his Bar Mitzva by his mom Barbara Cushen and sisters Karen & Janice
- To Robert & Janice Lettice in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary by Diana Firestone
- To Rachel Wiseman-Gerber with thanks for her dedication and kindness during the shiva for Barbara Rader by Michael & Daniela Rader
- To Ben & Erin Karsif on the birth of their son Logan Nathaniel by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
- To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their granddaughter by Cathie & Ron Miller
- To Ben & Erin Karsif in honor of the birth of their son Logan Nathaniel by Cathie & Ron Miller
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Jennifer Fleming
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by the Rastelli-Weiner family
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by the Freiman-Light family
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Beth & Dan Weintraub
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Nancy Salk
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Steve & Sherry Rothman
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Margie & Jay Hirshfield
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunske
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Linda & Ken Buckman
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the

Loving & Alan Lovins

- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Sherry Kent
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by the Alvarez family
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Herb & Yvonne Kolodny
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Ann & Don Green, Aaron & Rachel
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Elia, Kian & Ramin Ahmadi & Roya Hakakian
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by David & Mary Lesser
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Steve & Rachel Wizner
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Donna Kemper & Ron Zlotoff
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Jay Brown
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Ruth Silver
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Religious Studies & Judaic Studies at Yale
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Jesse, Joe, Marlo & Darren Palumbo
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Linda & Ken Buckman
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the

passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Barbara & Len Stern

- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Liora & Yaron Lew
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Judy Hoberman & Dominic Kinsley
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Cynthia Rubin
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Cynthia Rubin
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Marilyn Katz
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Marilyn Katz
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Dan, Sharon & Matt Prober
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Dan & Sharon Prober
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Julie Cohen
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Julie Cohen
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Rhoda Zahler Samuel & Al Samuel
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Zach Bell
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the

Continued on **Page 10**

Contributions

Continued from **Page 9**

- passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Mark & Cyd Oppenheimer
- To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Ilana Levine Seidmann
 - To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their daughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Janet Felton & Marty Gilens
 - To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by Julie Cohen
 - To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by Steve & Rachel Wizner
 - To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by the Freiman-Light family
 - To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by the Rastelli-Weiner family
 - To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
 - To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by Linda & Ken Buckman
 - To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
 - To the Breitman family with sympathy on the passing of Hannah Winer by Sydney Perry
 - To Dennis Rader with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Rader by Sydney Perry
 - To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Sydney Perry
 - To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Bobbie & Harold Miller
 - To Dennis Rader with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Rader by Bobbie & Harold Miller
 - To Helen Sackler Rosenberg & family with sympathy on the passing of Mildred Sackler by David & Rayna Belowsky
- Synagogue Fund** (minimum \$10) to support synagogue operations
- To Sherry & Steve Rothman with sympathy on the passing of Natalie Ruth Knasin by Janice & Robert Lettick

- To the Breitman family with sympathy on the passing of Hannah Winer by Janice & Robert Lettick
- To Dennis Rader with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Rader by Janice & Robert Lettick
- To Sherry & Steve Rothman with sympathy on the passing of Natalie Ruth Knasin by David & Fran Cohen
- To the Secchiaroli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by David & Darryl Kuperstock
- To Sherry & Steve Rothman with sympathy on the passing of Natalie Ruth Knasin by Mimi Glenn
- To Shoshana Lash with sympathy on the passing of Jane Manton Marshall by Mimi Glenn
- To Ivan Alvarez & family with sympathy on the passing of Joshua Alvarez by Mimi Glenn
- To Darryl & David Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their granddaughter by Mimi Glenn
- To Rabbi Rick & Judy Eisenberg in honor of the birth of their grandchild by Mimi Glenn
- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Mimi Glenn
- To Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Wamback by Mimi Glenn

BEKI Religious School

- To Dennis Rader with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Rader by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To Judy Hoberman & Dominic Kinsley with sympathy on the passing of Carl Hoberman by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow
- To the Secchiaroli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow

Ari Nathan Levine Children's Library

- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Sid & Donna Levine

Social Action/Tikkun Olam

- In memory of Ernest H. Garrick, Mollie Garick & Benjamin Cohen by Mr. & Mrs. W. Garrick
- In memory of Haie-Bertha Naiman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Annie Cohen by Ted Maltin

David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs

- Richard & Nancy Levine

BEKI Art Gallery

- Cynthia, Linda & Joanie Rubin
- Margaret Olin

Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

- To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by the Cheskis-Gold & Shults families
- To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund

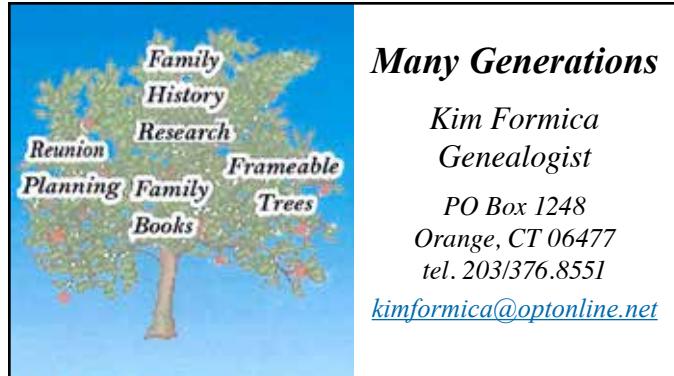
- In memory of Etta & Charles Miller by Julian & Susan Miller
- In memory of their aunt Evelyn Kahn by Richard, Zlatka & Michael Kahn

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

- In memory of Murray Arshell by Mike Moscowitz
- In memory of Rita Moscowitz by Mike Moscowitz
- In memory of Lawrence Moscowitz by Mike Moscowitz
- In memory of Sam Miller by Richard & Vicki Miller
- In memory of Abraham R Goldman by Judy & Martin Shore
- In memory of Ben Siegel by Lou & Debbie Siegel
- In memory of Marjorie Golden Weiss Simson by Marshall & Joan Weiss
- In memory of Jack Nankin by Sheldon & Sandra Nankin
- In memory of his father Sidney Yaffe by Cliff Yaffe
- In memory of Esther Heller by Rhoda & Edward Lemkin
- In memory of Nathan Chorney by Bud & Mickey Chorney
- In memory of Thelma Chernikoff by Janet Chernikoff
- In memory of Harriet Salowitz by Barbara Getzewich
- In memory of Anne Schnitman by Edward & Helene Schnitman Vanderhoef
- In memory of Francis Saltz by Rick & Lynn Saltz
- In memory of Zelda Rosenbluth by Lynn & Rick Saltz
- In memory of Esther Siegelbaum by Rissa Mendlestein
- In memory of Louis Rochlin by Kranie & Earl Baker
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Joyce & Michael Bohnen
- In memory of Haie-Bertha Naiman by Polina Naiman
- In memory of Annie Cohen by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Samuel Kantrowitz by Sherry Kent
- In memory of James Barnett by Caroline Barnett
- In memory of Harriet Kroop by Cliff & Donna Cohen
- In memory of Wilbur Witten by Marvin & Susan Witten
- In memory of Geoffrey Hartman by Renee Hartman
- In memory of Morris Altschuler by Roberta Atteson
- In memory of Ruth Brown by Phillip & Lauren Brown
- In memory of Ida Frankel by Shirley Mattler
- In memory of Morris Oppenheim by Anita & Michael Malina
- In memory of Sam Ganter by Martin Ganter
- In memory of Arthur Nabatoff by Carol Nabatoff
- In memory of Irving Nabatoff by Carol Nabatoff
- In memory of Benjamin Zipper by Carol Nabatoff
- In memory of Sally Zanrotsky by Stan Saxe
- In memory of Martin Faymann by Bea & Gordon Brodie
- In memory of Rubin Schwartz by David Schwartz
- In memory of Gertrude Slopak by David Schwartz
- In memory of Natalie Robbins by Teddy Deitch
- In memory of her husband Sidney Cushen by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of her father George Brunswick by Barbara Cushen
- In memory of Rueben Gralla by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Eleanor Hepler by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
- In memory of Sidney Yaffe by David Yaffe
- In memory of Edith Brody by Larry Shapiro
- In memory of Celia Russ by Doris & Stephen Brody
- In memory of Anita Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds
- In memory of Rebecca Rader by Dennis Rader
- In memory of Moses Ray by Dennis Rader
- In memory of William Morton Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller
- In memory of Sam Miller by Howard Miller
- In memory of his dear friend Harold Rogovin by Ted Maltin
- In memory of Morris Baer by Irving Baer
- In memory of her brother John Merkel by Karen Merkel & Roy Herbst
- In memory of Rae Krivonos by Mildred Kalison

NOLAN'S

HAMDEN MONUMENT COMPANY
LICHTENSTEIN COMPANY
323 Washington Ave. Hamden CT 06518
(203) 288-8486
(203) 287-1593
CT toll free only (800) 852-8865
Fax (203) 287-1593
John Nolan
Michael Nolan
nolansmonuments@att.net



RAVIT AVNI-SINGER, MSW LCSW
CHILD, ADOLESCENT AND ADULT PSYCHOTHERAPY
PARENT CONSULTATION

1 BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 906
WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525

Child and Adolescent Health Care, L.L.C.

A. Joseph Avni-Singer, M.D., FAAP

303 WHITNEY AVENUE
NEW HAVEN, CT 06511

Shari Storeygard, M.D., FAAP

(203) 776-1243
FAX (203) 785-1247

Shannon Martinello, M.D., FAAP

Answers Page 6 of 102

Miranda Bik-Yin Ip, M.D., FAAP

BRADLEY ROAD, SUITE 102
WOODBRIDGE, CT 06525

Namita Wiiesekera, M.D., FAAP

(203) 397-1243

Sascha's Care

Private Geriatric Care Management

Customized to each client's needs, including:

- Arrange and attend medical appointments
 - Facilitate contact with family and friends
 - Prepare meals, including dietary restrictions
 - Manage medications
 - Advocate on behalf of client
 - Arrange for home maintenance services
 - Recommend fun outings and activities
 - Transport clients in their own vehicle
 - Shop for personal care products and groceries

Sascha van Creveld

Licensed Occupational Therapist

with 30 years of experience

saschascare@gmail.com

203-376-9085

"Helping people function at their highest level"

GR Greenberg Rhein & Margolis Inc.

David B. Margolis, CIC

1768 Litchfield Turnpike (Rte. 69)
Woodbridge CT 06525-2309
Tel: (203) 389-4511 • Direct (203) 907-4829
Fax (203) 397-2266 • Cell: (203) 668-0344
Email: david@grminsurance.com
www.grminsurance.com

Hamden Hall Country Day School
Educating students in PreSchool through Grade 12.
We celebrated National Mix It Up Day in October to foster greater respect and understanding among our students.
www.hamdenhall.org 203.752.2610
1108 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517

Coachworks
of West Haven
Auto Body Shop

1058 Orange Avenue • West Haven, CT 06516
Tel: 203.932.1200 Fax: 203.932.1222
Scott Walstedter

**BEKI'S FAVORITE
DJ/MC ENTERTAINMENT**
CALL CHARLES!!!
203.795.4737

MICHAEL MARTONE
MANAGER

Arnold's Jewelers

DIAMONDS - WATCHES - GIFTS
CHINA - SILVER - CRYSTAL

NORTH HAVEN SHOPPING CENTER
NORTH HAVEN, CONN. 06473
203-239-4291

WATCH AND
CLOCK REPAIRING



NEW SYLVAN CLEANERS
All Work Done On Premises

Mon.-Fri. 7:00-6:00 | Sat 8:00-4:00 | Sun closed
363 Whalley Ave. New Haven, CT 06511 • 203.562.3460
663 Orange Center Rd. Orange, CT 06477 • 203.795.0087

Accepting Applications for
Grades K-8
Financial Assistance Available

A community fostering a love of learning, academic excellence, and a lifelong Jewish identity

Dr. Melanie Waynik, Head of School
75 Rimmon Road Woodbridge, CT 06525
info@ezraacademyct.org
www.ezraacademyct.org



THE LONG NIGHT

None of you shall go outside the door of your house until morning. For when the Lord goes through to smite the Egyptians, the Lord will see the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, and the Lord will pass over the door and not let the Destroyer enter and smite your home. — Exodus 12:22-23

Though enslaved to the ancient Egyptians, our ancestors were largely spared the direct impact of the first nine plagues that befell Egypt. They realized that of late their neighbors were having an even worse experience. That notwithstanding, the Hebrews felt direct pain from those plagues and retribution from Pharaoh.

Then came the night of terror. Moshe and Aharon, their unelected leaders supposedly working in their behalf at the command of the God of their ancestors, ordered the Hebrews to stay indoors under threat to their lives while the mashhit, the Destroyer, rampaged throughout the land, in a way beyond the experience of any living soul. Everything Moshe and Aharon predicted had come to pass, but the result had been even greater stress and suffering for the Hebrews in Egypt – a result Moshe and Aharon had foretold, too. While purportedly only the firstborn were the target of this new terror, everyone had to stay indoors. Some sat alone, some knew they were highly vulnerable. No one knew what would happen.

An unnamed sage long ago observed in the Mekhilta of Rabbi Ishmael that once the Destroyer is released, it does not distinguish between the righteous and the wicked. Nor does it announce when it is done. Violence, falsehood, exploitation, oppression, once released in a society, once used for a purpose no matter how worthy, tend to impact everyone. Overthrowing the Shah of Iran, Saddam Hussein, Qaddafi, King George, the Czar, Assad of Syria, seemed like good ideas at the time – and perhaps they were – but the violence deemed necessary to depose them expanded without control or proportion. Providing advanced weaponry to customers and allies might seem advantageous in the moment, but in the end often leads to more intense destruction. Utilizing ad hominem attacks, mendacity and con artistry in place of logical, fact-based, compassionate and respectful discourse in government and politics, makes those forms not merely means to attain power and control others, but makes them the standard.

In retrospect it could have been largely avoided. Surely if Joseph and his brothers had behaved differently long ago, had the Hebrews found a way to avoid or escape slavery before it became permanent, had Moshe and Aharon or perhaps other leaders among the people found a way to negotiate, or escape, or develop better relations, or just to plan for this great plague that everyone knew was coming – it could have been avoided.

But dayenu with what they should have done. They quickly found themselves at the point where all they could hope for was to endure the night of terror, and stay indoors, to survive as the Destroyer ravaged the land. They hoped merely to stay alive.

And so too with today's plague, not the locusts devastating Eastern Africa, not the malaria that will kill 400,000 this year, not the opioids that will kill another 60,000 Americans, not the war displacing another half million people in Syria, and not the looming threat of overwhelming flooding for hundreds of millions who dwell near sea level – not those old plagues, but the new one that keeps us hiding in our homes, the one that brings a nightmare death to thousands and possibly tens of millions, and economic ruin to as many or more – we probably could have done something. The options to improve our medical care system, at least specifically crisis and pandemic response provisions, have been fairly well-known to those in the field for a long time. And while some aspects of preparation were done well, others were dismal and deadly failures. There is no lack of dedication among our medical workers, but rather systemic deficiencies in our governance at some levels.

Some of us are beyond the wish to finger-point – and if I feel an urge to direct a finger, it is not my index finger. Rather, to invoke the medically contraindicated metaphor, we need to point our whole hands, to reach out, to one another, to help, hug, reassure, to make it through the long

Continued on **Page 14**

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

The Long Night

Continued from [Page 13](#)

night of fear, the night of waiting. The organized mass [flash clapping from the apartment balconies honoring and thanking medical workers](#) in Israel, the children who finally agreed to wash their hands once in a while, the members wearing gloves to deliver groceries to neighbors, all attest to how we occupy our hands, that along with the “digital” communication that has temporarily replaced in-person meetings. We are Jews. We have faced a lot. We adapt.

The response of local Jewish communal leaders, and certainly at BEKI, has been swift and substantial. Many of our members have felt at least a little support, and many have worked tirelessly to create new vehicles of support and communication. We are well-practiced in the mitzvot required to cope, though we know there are lacunae. We know how to love and forgive.

Unfortunately, we are in a marathon, not a race, and we can reasonably expect that the worst is yet to come. The night is early.

When the Destroyer finally retreated, perhaps in exhaust-

tion more than satisfaction, when the cry that went forth from Egypt dissipated, the terror was gone. It might have seemed like the nightmare was over, and things could return to normal. But the journey of the Hebrews had just begun. They had learned not to treat others as they were treated, not to develop a society based on exploitation and dehumanization. They were guided by a pillar of fire and a cloud of smoke; they had a new direction, of return and of new adventure, a goal, a more favorable place ahead of them. As their descendants would do generation after generation, they insisted on using their suffering and experiences to try to make things better.

*Tears may linger for the night;
Joy comes with the dawn.* — Psalm 30

More Pesah Messages from Rabbi Tilsen

See at [BEKI.org](#) under “Learning”

[Throw them in the Potomac](#)

[Expendable Youth](#)

[A New King Arose](#)

[Pesah FAQs: Dear Rabbi](#)



LifeCycle

המקום ינחים

HaMaqom Yinahem

With sorrow we note the passing of

Elma Guttenberg

Robert Bass, brother of Paul (& Carole) Bass

Mila Pizer

Daniel Jennes

Harriet Suslew, aunt of Ina Silverman
(& Jay Sokolow)

May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

to learn what you can do now contact Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@gmail.com [203-215-8555](tel:203-215-8555).

BEKI Art Committee

The BEKI Art Committee is recruiting volunteers. We arrange exhibitions with artists, curate selections, install the exhibition, and other creative details. Learn on the job, or contribute your deep knowledge of art, either way, we want you on the BEKI Art Committee. Contact Helen Rosenberg helr12@aol.com

Stop & Shop Gift Cards

The BEKI office sells Stop & Shop gift cards. These cards can be used at any Stop & Shop location, like a debit card, to buy groceries or gasoline. This is an ongoing fundraiser which costs you nothing but has provided over \$3000 in income. Contact Peggy office@beki.org to participate.

Donate

Fast and easy at www.beki.org/give

Welcome New Members

- Max Duboff

Columbus House Shelter Dinners

To volunteer to help at BEKI or serve dinners at the Columbus House shelter when this activity resumes or

April 2020

7 Nisan 5780 - 6 Iyar 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mark Your Calendar						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shabbat HaGadol 4 April 2020 • Siyyum Bekhorot On-Line 8 April 2020 • First Seder Night (Home Ritual) 8 April 2020 • Second Seder Night (Home Ritual) 9 April 2020 • Holocaust Memorial Program 18 April 2020 • Chapel On The Green 19 April 2020 • Rosh Hodesh Iyar 24-25 April 2020 • Elm City Kallah Postponed 24-26 April 2020 • LaG BeOmer Night 12 May 2020 • Rosh Hodesh Sivan 24 May 2020 • Tiquun Leil Shavuot 28 May 2020 • Shavuot Days 29-30 May 2020 						
			1 7:02pm Candle Lighting	2	3 7:02pm Candle Lighting	4
			7 Nisan	8 Nisan	9 Nisan	10 Nisan
5	6	7	8 Erev Passover Fast of Firstborn First Seder (Home Ritual) 7:07pm Candle Lighting	9 Passover I 8:16pm Candle Lighting	10 Passover II 7:09pm Candle Lighting	11 Hol Hamoed Passover I
11 Nisan	12 Nisan	13 Nisan	14 Nisan	15 Nisan	16 Nisan/1 L'Omer	17 Nisan/2 L'Omer
12 Hol Hamoed Passover II	13 Hol Hamoed Passover III	14 Hol Hamoed Passover IV 7:13pm Candle Lighting	15 Passover VII 8:22pm Candle Lighting	16 Passover VIII (Yizkor)	17 7:24pm Candle Lighting	18
18 Nisan/3 L'Omer	19 Nisan/4 L'Omer	20 Nisan/5 L'Omer	21 Nisan/6 L'Omer	22 Nisan/7 L'Omer	23 Nisan/8 L'Omer	24 Nisan/9 L'Omer
19	20	21 Yom Hashoah	22	23	24 Rosh Hodesh I	25 Rosh Hodesh II
25 Nisan/10 L'Omer	26 Nisan/11 L'Omer	27 Nisan/12 L'Omer	28 Nisan/13 L'Omer	29 Nisan/14 L'Omer	30 Nisan/15 L'Omer	1 Iyar/16 L'Omer
26	27	28 Yom Hazikaron	29 Yom Ha'Atzmaut	30		
2 Iyar/17 L'Omer	3 Iyar/18 L'Omer	4 Iyar/19 L'C		6 Iyar/21 L'Omer		

Service Times

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



DATED MATERIAL

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #131
New Haven, CT