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 widespread 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?

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For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Lisa Stanger, (203) 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org. www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org | www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org

BEKI Bulletin

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• Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
• Email: jjtilden@beki.org
• Visit our web page: www.beki.org
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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 lugging, riding a toboggan – you can’t really stear, 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 jitlsen@beki.org.

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Visit us at www.beki.org
It’s a Mitzva
Observing personal and public health protocols is necessary to comply with the mitzvah of 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 jitilsen@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 robolettack@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 pick-up 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 hyyuv (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 jitilsen@beki.org or bekitefilla@gmail.com.

Need Torah?
Learn Sing Pray with the Conservative Masorti Online Beit Midrash in Jerusalem https://www.conservativeyeshiva.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 donationsppe@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 madk117@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).
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

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 jtilsen@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 jtilsen@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,
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
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 rabbincalassembly.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 melakhah (“work”) followed on Shabbat, the intermediate days are observed as semi-holidays. Ideally, one avoids or minimizes melakhah 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.

Melakhah 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, perforce, 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
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 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 Sameaḥ – חג שמח – 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.
Rabbi’s Tzedaka Fund  
(minimum $25) 

• To the Secchiaroli family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Barbara Rader & 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 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 granddaughter 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 Rob, Susan & Al Samuel
• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter 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 Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Zach Bell

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 Weitzler by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• To Dennis Rader with sympathy on the passing of Barbara Rader by Linda Schultz & Howard Gralla
• To the Secchiarioli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by the Freiman-Light family
• To the Secchiarioli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by the Rastelli-Weiner family
• To the Secchiarioli family with sympathy on the passing of Gale Knecht by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunker
• To David Wright in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Diana Firestone
• To Michael Waxman in honor of his Bar Mitzva by his mom Barbara Cusden and sisters Karen & Janice
• To Robert & Janice Lettick in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary by Diana Firestone
• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with thanks for their dedication and kindness during the shiva for Barbara Rader by Michael & Daniela Rader
• To Ben & Erin Karsif in honor of the birth of their granddaughter 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 Margie & Jay Hirshfield
• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunker
• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Trish 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 Kolody
• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Tamar Schechter & Jessica Bowditch
• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Ann & Don Green, Aaron & Rachael
• 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 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 Dona 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 & Judeo Studies at Yale
• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen and family with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Jessey, 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 Rader & 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 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
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• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Zach Bell
• To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Rachael Zalesker Samuel & Al Samuel
• To Tani Cohen- Fraade & Abby Fraade with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by Rachael Zalesker Samuel & Al Samuel

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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 Janet Felton & Marty Gilens
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• 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 Wambach by Mimi Glenn
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• To Steven Fraade & Ellen Cohen with sympathy on the passing of their granddaughter Yakira Bella Fraade by the Cheski-Gold & Shults families
• To Richard Kantrowitz & Sherry Kent with sympathy on the passing of Harriet Kantrowitz by Rena Cheski-Gold & Marty Gold

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

Social Action/Tikkun Olam
• In memory of Ernest H. Garrick, Mollie Garrick & Benjamin Cohen by Mr. & Mrs. W. Garrick
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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

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
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 exhaustion 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

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 to learn what you can do now contact Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@gmail.com 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

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

The Long Night
Continued from Page 13

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
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**Mark Your Calendar**
- Shabbat HaGadol 4 April 2020
- Siyum 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 24-30 April 2020
- LaG BeOmer Night 12 May 2020
- Rosh Hodesh Sivan 24 May 2020
- Tiqun Leil Shavuot 28 May 2020
- Shavuot Days 29-30 May 2020

**Service Times**
- Sundays: 9 a.m. Shaharit, 11 a.m. Shaharit, 5:45 p.m. Maariv
- Mondays: 7 a.m. Shaharit, 5:45 p.m. Maariv
- Tuesdays: 7 a.m. Shaharit, 5:45 p.m. Maariv
- Wednesdays: 7 a.m. Shaharit, 5:45 p.m. Maariv
- Thursdays: 8:15 a.m. Shaharit, 5:45 p.m. Maariv
- Fridays: 7 a.m. Shaharit, 6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat
- Saturdays: 9:15 a.m. Shaharit, 6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat, 1 p.m. Minha