HIGH HOLY DAY PLANS

High holy days at BEKI will include a combination of in-person services, live streaming, and pre-recorded elements. In-person abbreviated services will be outdoors in the parking lot, or indoors in case of inclement weather, for those who are pre-registered.

Slichot, Mincha services, Kol Nidre (up until Ma’ariv), and Havdala upon the conclusion of Yom Kippur will be indoors with a socially distanced floor plan and will be live streamed. Yizkor is tentatively scheduled for Sunday morning Sept. 27 to allow for live streaming in addition to in-person participation.

Other parts of the service will be pre-recorded and available online for viewing.

Annie Norman-Schiff is creating a children’s program for the high holy days. Elements will include pre-recorded segments, a home packet of activities, and in-person activities, including services, both on- and off-site.

The high holy day committee plans to provide a traveling shofar show at various outdoor, predetermined locations. Tashlich will be similar to the past at two or three sites in the New Haven area.

Bags with break fast food will be available for pick up before Yom Kippur or after havdala. Programming to enhance the spirit of the holy days will include:

- Family havdala and Slichot (on Sept. 12) with a theme of racial justice
- Text and religious study programs
- Cooking demonstrations of Rosh Hashana favorites for adults and families
- Meditation program
- Mission to Jerusalem, sponsored by BEKI Sisterhood, to tally our walking, swimming, biking, or running miles with the goal of reaching 5,625 miles by Oct. 10 (the start of Simchat Torah).

- Transplant to BEKI mature plants (ideally perennials) from our gardens to beautify the BEKI grounds.

If you are interested in creating a program, please contact Shoshana Zax. If you have questions about high holy day plans, the co-chairs are Harold Birn and Jennifer Myer. They sent an email on July 10 explaining all of these arrangements in far greater detail and will provide more information in the days ahead.

Maintaining Community

Schmoozes on Zoom

If you didn’t join the July Schmoozes, you missed some excellent conversations! Please log on (via your computer or cell phone) for the August programs, Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:00 pm on BEKI Tefilla Zoom. Each Schmooze includes both a presentation and time for questions, followed by open discussion time after 9:00 pm.

**August 5:** Morris Bell and Raina Sotsky will share their insights on the psychological effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Raina is a psychiatrist who works with both adults and children. Morris is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry at Yale School
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.
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BEKI Bulletin

The newsletter is published monthly by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel for the benefit of its members.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

To contribute articles or for inquiries regarding membership:

- Call the Synagogue office: 203.389.2108
- Write: 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1724
- Email: bulletin@beki.org
- Visit our web page: www.beki.org

For advertising information, call the synagogue office.

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www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org  |  www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org
Community
Continued from Page 1

of Medicine and Senior Research Career Scientist for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**August 12:** Kalfani Turé, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Quinnipiac, will discuss issues relating to policing, racism and community. In recent weeks, you might have seen him quoted in local media or heard him on the Colin McEnroe radio show. His tenure as a police officer has provided him with invaluable insights into police practices.

**August 19:** Robert Forbes will discuss “Do Black Lives Matter in the Declaration of Independence?” Rob has been a faculty member at Yale, Wesleyan, UConn, and Southern. His expertise is U.S. history from the Revolution to the Civil War, focusing on the impact of slavery on the development of American institutions.

**August 26:** Occupational therapist Sascha van Creveld will explain how the choices we make decades earlier will create the reality of how we live in our 90’s. Based on her years of experience in this field, Sascha will address common problems and provide tips for keeping both body and mind strong.

**Conversation & Connection**

This open discussion time is Tuesdays at 6:15 pm on BEKI Tefilla Zoom. Captain Karen Kassap invites everyone to join her after 5:45 services for Conversation & Connection. She hopes you’ll log in for mincha/maariv, but you can also join just for the discussion time. There’s no set topic; people just talk about what’s going on in their lives. Recently, we’ve shared tips on using Zoom, grocery shopping during this pandemic, and keeping deer out of our gardens.

**Services at BEKI**

We gather in person for services on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings, Sunday mornings, and Monday evenings. We now have the sukkah set up in the Harrison Street Courtyard with a rain cover. Saturday morning services are in the parking lot. In case of bad weather, services move inside BEKI, abiding by current State policies on group size and room occupancy.

We observe public health guidelines: face masks, six feet distancing, only the leader sings loudly. Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own. Washrooms inside the building are available if needed.

So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to jjtilsen@beki.org, bekitefilla@gmail.com, or the minyan captain. Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them.

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**Yizkor Memorial Book**

As of this writing, we are still looking for a sponsor for this year’s Yizkor Memorial Book, which will be used for the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur and at other times during the year. The sponsor page, which appears in the front of the book, is your opportunity to tell the BEKI community what was special about your loved one(s). For more information, please contact Shoshana Lash at CantorSL@yahoo.com or (203) 732-0275.

And be on the lookout for your Yizkor Memorial Book mailing, arriving soon, and return it as quickly as possible. Because of the pandemic, deadlines will be earlier than usual.

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**Stop & Shop Gift Cards**

The BEKI office sells Stop & Shop gift cards, which are debit cards for groceries or gasoline. This is an ongoing fundraiser which costs you nothing. Contact Peggy office@beki.org to arrange safe pickup.

**Donate**

Fast and easy at www.beki.org/give
A Message from BEKI President Yaron Lew

It gives me great pleasure to see our community persevere and constantly reinvent itself to support and serve our congregants. It is all due to the work of many dedicated individuals who are constantly looking for ways to help keep us connected. I am very proud of our community and everything that we do for each other. I can certainly attest to it on a personal level. It seems that everyone is always aching to do something and to help out in some way. It is incredibly rewarding to be a part of this, on both the giving and receiving ends.

Thank you all for everything that you do.

Yaron Lew

Benei Mitzva at BEKI

The bar mitzvah of Nate Kempton, son of Jennifer Myer & James Kempton, which was delayed by the pandemic, is now scheduled for August 7 & 8. A rising 8th grader at Hamden Hall, Nate loves playing hockey and is a great goalie. He also loves his new dog, Bailey, but his favorite pastime during the pandemic has been playing video games. The congregation is invited to attend the outdoor services in person: Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 pm on Friday, or Shabbat morning at 9:30 am. So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to jtilsen@beki.org. Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them. You might instead choose to join the Kabbalat Shabbat service via the BEKI Tefilla Zoom link.

We anticipate the bar mitzvah of Toby Manning, son of Chaya Moskowitz Manning and Edward Manning, during the Shabbat of August 28-29.

Now posted at the BEKI website under Learning > Members’ Divrei Torah:
- [Devar Torah for Shabbat Para 2020 by Teya Klein Berger](#)
- [Devar Torah for Shabbat Para 2020 by Hannah Klein Berger](#)

Mazal Tov to

- Parents Dina Kuperstock & Aaron Downes and grandparents David & Darryl Kuperstock on the birth of Emmet Hayim Downes
- Parents Meg & Carmi Gold and grandparents Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold on the birth of Gideon Zalli Gold

Torah for the Hungry Mind: Adult Study

Sundays

**Parashat HaShavua**

From 10:00 to 10:36 am via Zoom, an opportunity to dive into the new week’s Torah reading, with Rabbi Tilsen & guests.

**Mondays**

**Rashi Study Group: II Kings**

From 8 to 8:30 am adults meet online with Rabbi Tilsen to read Rashi’s commentary.

**Tuesdays**

**Tehilim in Times of Trouble**

From 8 to 9 pm via Zoom, the group explores the ancient poetry of the Biblical Psalms with Professor Corinne Blackmer.

**Thursdays**

**Mini Morning Learning Service**

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

**Talmud Berakhot Study Group**

On summer break until October 15
Food collection August 2

The next BEKI drive-by food collection will be Sunday, August 2 from 10 am to 11 am in the BEKI parking lot. Please provide non-perishable food (cans and boxes), especially dry pasta, canned fruits (low-sugar), canned fish, soup, beans and vegetables. Call 203.671.4705 to arrange for Rob Lettick to be in the parking lot to receive your “contact-free” bagged or boxed donations. Donations in June were delivered to F.I.S.H., in July to the JFS Food Pantry. This month’s food will go to Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen.

Do you need help?

If you need help acquiring food, medicine, or a face mask, please contact office@beki.org 203.389.2108 x114; we will connect you with the Hesed Committee or a community agency.

Funds are available to help with financial burdens; please call the rabbi, 203.389.2108 x110 jjtilsen@beki.org; all requests will be held in the strictest confidence.

Are you feeling lonely?

If you would like a friendly phone call or a socially distanced visit, please contact Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@gmail.com 203-215-8555 or Rob Lettick robolettick@aol.com 203.671.4705. We are all stronger when each member of our community thrives.

Kosher meal home delivery

Abel Catering provides home delivery and store pickup for kosher dinners. The menu changes weekly; orders are due by 2 pm the day before.

Edge of the Woods Market offers the same for prepared foods and groceries.

Crown Market in West Hartford delivers one Tuesday morning each month to the BEKI parking lot. Next deliveries: August 4 & September 15, with orders due five days before.

Claire’s Corner Copia is still closed for remodeling and expansion work.

What project have you found meaningful?

I volunteered to make calls to BEKI members at the beginning of our quarantine. Darryl gave me a list and I called folks a couple of times. It was a chance to reconnect with friends and to get to know members I did not know previously. It was helpful to me to hear how they were coping, and to try to provide help and information when it was requested. I look forward to being together again!!

— Rhoda Zahler Samuel

I have taken care of some dogs for people who are working long hours in hospitals. — Nancy Salk

I have continued my job as Minyan Captain for BEKI on Mondays and helping with calls to members who cannot get out. We are blessed with this community involvement.

— Marjorie Wiener

I participated in and led several of the minyan services at the Lew home during Shiva for Liora Lew. This felt particularly meaningful as a way to support our President, Yaron Lew! — Isaiah Cooper

I have been volunteering actively with the Friends of Edgewood Park “Green Team” on Tuesday mornings, doing socially distanced outdoor work in the park: trail maintenance, removing invasive plants, adding bird & butterfly-friendly native plants, cleaning & clearing & trail talks. Good exercise, a good cause, nice people, and a cheerful way to stay in touch with the world!

— Rebecca Weiner

The most meaningful project I’ve participated in during these difficult months has been participating in Black Lives Matter protests (in as socially distanced a manner as possible.) The June 14th interfaith “Prayer, Protest, and Peace” rally was powerful and galvanizing.

— Annie Norman-Schiff

On March 13, I worked my last day as a nurse. What a shock! After a few weeks confined to home, an opportunity arose and I had heard of a group making face masks. My talent was washing and ironing fabric. This amazing group, the masked crusader volunteer project, has made hundreds of personal facemasks. I am so proud to have been a part of that group.

— Marjorie Wiener

I have participated in and led men’s meetings. I invite any BEKI man who is interested to contact me about men’s work or men’s meetings.

— Isaiah Cooper

Would you like to be included in the September bulletin? Just send a quick note to bulletin@beki.org about a project you’ve found meaningful during this pandemic.
Outdoor Children’s Shabbat Services Begin

By Annie Norman-Schiff

After a long gap when it was not possible to gather together, BEKI has begun holding socially distanced, outdoor services for a few families at a time. At these services, each family brings their own picnic blanket and lays it out six feet apart from others. Adults wear masks.

The first outdoor Children’s Havura was hosted by Sam Purdy and Emma Sokoloff-Rubin in their backyard in Westville. Miriam Purdy prepared to host by listening to Shabbat songs on her computer and singing them with her ukelele.

Any group gathering has inherent risks; families need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them. But for those who are comfortable with these socially-distanced outdoor gatherings, it has been a joy to sing and pray together while waving at friends across our picnic blankets.

To host or attend a backyard meeting of the Children’s Havura, K-2 Kehila, or Junior Congregation, contact anormanschiff@beki.org.

BEKI 4th-Graders Plant Apple Tree

Have you noticed the little tree planted on the front lawn of BEKI? This Macoun apple tree will be joined in the fall by a Golden Delicious tree, part of a project launched by Becky May. The credit for the tree planting goes to some BEKI 4th graders and their families, with assistance from facilities manager Michael Barone and with guidance from a UConn Extension master gardener.

This first tree honors all past BEKI youth and the adults involved with their Jewish education. “The second tree will be dedicated to this group of BEKI 4th graders and will mature in step with them, becoming symbolically eligible for consumption of its fruits, according to Torah, at the same time as the kids become b’nei mitzvah,” Becky explains.

She hopes that other fruiting plants, attached to future 4th grade classes, will follow in future years.
Blood Drive at BEKI
85 Harrison Street, New Haven
Thursday, August 13
8:30am – 6:00pm

Contact information:
Darryl Kuperstock
kuperst@gmail.com 203-215-8555

Strict health protocols in place/masks required/temperature taken on entry
FREE COVID-19 anti-body tests included for all donors

Sign up for appointment to donate at:
https://tinyurl.com/BEKIblooddrive

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS
Contributions

Rabbi’s Tzedaga Fund (minimum $25)

• In memory of their beloved mother and bubbe Tillie Leah Friedman by Harriet Friedman & family
• To Paul & Cindy Goldenberg in memory of Peter Meyers by Louis Petrillo
• Louis Petrillo

Chai Fund (minimum $18) to support synagogue operations

• To Rich Kramer with sympathy on the passing of Jack Kramer by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• To Stacey Wyner and family with sympathy on the passing of Mirium Spaner by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Julie & Sam Katz
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Carl Goldfield & Gaylord Bourne
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Linda & Ken Buckman
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Sherry Kent
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Eva & Frank Schultz
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Helen Rosenberg & Keith Richter
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Bobbie & Harold Miller
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Jay & Lynn Brotman
• In honor of the birth of their 2nd granddaughter Daphne and Mazel Tov to Aaron, Bethany and big sister Hannah by Jay & Lynn Brotman
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Joanne & Steve Rudof
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Brian Karsif & Elizabeth Karpf
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Joy Kaufman & Stewart Frankel
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Steve & Rachel Wizner
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Nancy Genn
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
• To Jessica Bod, Tamara Schecter & Emmanuelle on the birth of Matthias Solomon
• To Darryl Kuperstock in appreciation by Sybil Richards
• To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their grandson by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker
• To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their grandson by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Jay & Margie Hirshfield
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Barbara Cusen
• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Madeleine Kleinman

Continued on Page 9
Contributions

Continued from Page 8

• To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their grandson by Steve & Rachel Wizner

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Sybil Richards

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by the Rastelli-Weiner family

• In honor of Yaron Lew by the Rastell-Weiner family

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Dan & Beth Weintraub

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Dan & Sharon Prober

Synagogue Fund (minimum $10) to support synagogue operations

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Bill Shragis

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by Bill Shragis

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by David & Darryl Kuperstock

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Hadar Lew by David & Darryl Kuperstock

• To David & Darryl Kuperstock in honor of the birth of their grandson by Dan & Sharon Prober

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Diane & Dan Krevolin

Hesed Committee

• In honor of Rob Lettick by Diane & Dan Krevolin

Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Donna & Sid Levine

• In memory of Harry J. Levine by Hilda Truehart

• In memory of Ida Levine by Hilda Truehart

• In memory of Harry Kabakoff by Marvin Kabakoff

• In memory of Eli Slopak by David Schwartz

• In memory of Louis Rogoff by Jonathan Eagan

• In memory of Grace Goldberg Cohen Geisinger by Lewis Cohen

• In memory of Robert Zusman by Howard Zusman

• In memory of Frances Mann by Lynne Marks

• In memory of Leonora Tomkins by Bruce Tomkins

• In memory of William Palmer by Marsha & John Reynolds

• In memory of Arnold Levine by Fania Levine

• In memory of Eli Berman by Richard Neveloff

• In memory of Simon Berman by Richard Neveloff

• In memory of Molka Blank by Fania Levine

• In memory of her father Louis Melnick by Jay & Margie Hirshfield

• In memory of Alan Hodes by Jeff & Lynne Heisner

• In memory of Louis Hodes by Jeff & Lynne Heisner

• In memory of Sofie Granoff by Jeff Granoff

• In memory of Isadore Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller

• In memory of Katherine Robbins by Teddy Deitch

• In memory of her beloved zayda Isaac Walinsky by Harriet Friedman & family

• In memory of her father Jack Lipschitz by Beth & Dan Weintraub

Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund

• To Yaron Lew and family with sympathy on the passing of Liora Lew by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

• To Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold in honor of the birth of their grandson by David & Darryl Kuperstock

• To Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold in honor of the birth of their grandson by Dan & Sharon Prober

• To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of the birth of Carmi & Meg’s son by Ellen Cohen & Steven Fraade

• To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of the birth of their grandson by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker

• To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of the birth of their grandson by Trish Loving & Alan Lovins

• To the Cheskis-Gold family in honor of the birth of their grandson by Steve & Rachel Wizner

Yahrzeit Fund ($5 minimum) to support synagogue operations

• In memory of her father Irving Bashevkin by Rachel Bashevkin

• In memory of Louis & Ann Rogoff, Raye Leavitt and Ann Burstine by Paulette Byer

• In memory of Abraham Malkin by Mark & Linda Malkin

• In memory of Esther Ben Shalom by Tikva Shapiro

• In memory of Ethel Prete by Alan Segan

• In memory of Samuel Segan by Alan Segan

• In memory of Diane Margolis by Bernice Margolis

• In memory of Louis Margolis by Bernice Margolis

• In memory of Sam Kitavitz by Betty Swinkin

• In memory of Isadore Miller by Bobbie & Harold Miller

• In memory of Katherine Robbins by Teddy Deitch

• In memory of her beloved zayda Isaac Walinsky by Harriet Friedman & family

• In memory of her father Jack Lipschitz by Beth & Dan Weintraub

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Facebook digest available
Everyone is encouraged to join the BEKI Facebook group. This is the BEKI page with the stained glass image. You’ll enjoy the humor, community information, and links to cultural opportunities. (If you are receiving the daily joke, then you are already subscribed.)

This BEKI Facebook group is now the only active one, receiving both office notices and informal posts. Another BEKI Facebook page, which was established exclusively for office postings, is no longer being used.

For those members who do not have a Facebook account but want to see the information, conversations, and humor posted there, just email bulletin@beki.org to request the weekly Facebook digest, sent each Friday.

Wanted: Bulletin Editor
BEKI is looking for an editor for our monthly bulletin. (Rachel Bashevkin is serving only as Interim Editor.) Would you be willing to step into this volunteer position? The job includes gathering, editing, and writing content for BEKI’s monthly newsletter. Please reply to president@beki.org

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A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

The autumn after I arrived in New Haven, the Board of Aldermen (now Board of Alders) invited me to provide a clerical invocation that traditionally introduced their meetings. Their style of “interfaith prayer” allowed authentic faith expressions, meaning the clergy could speak in their own religious idiom, which for some has to do with salvation, blood, and other notions foreign to our flock. Not a fan of religion in the government sphere, and noting that our several Jewish alders respected but did not truly enjoy the invocations, I explained that I would consider it, but had to point out that the authentic Jewish style includes prayers that are five and half hours long. Having just finished the High Holy Days sequence at BEKI, that was no exaggeration. They never did call me back.

Jewish public prayer has evolved from ancient times and continues to evolve. No one in their right mind would design a three-hour Shabbat morning service or a five-hour Rosh HaShana service. Rather, these accretions began with spontaneous expression that morphed into obligatory formula, and grew as historical episodes required memorialization or demanded theological response, expanded with the meaningful insights of each generation, were secured with redundancy in case anyone missed anything — all in a process that abhors deletion. The president of a breakaway synagogue in the 1980s told me that the rabbi’s decision to skip one iteration of Ki Anu Amekha on Yom Kippur was the final straw that forced them to start a new congregation, the only way they could ensure they received the full dosage of prayer on that sacred day. All I can say on behalf of the rabbis is, Ashamnu, we have sinned.

BEKI High Holy Day services like those elsewhere are not necessarily what any one person would ever want, but instead have a “something for everyone” model. Well, not everyone — there is no orchestra, no audio-visual displays, no organized dancing (though no one is stopping you). But there are English readings, sing-alongs, cantorial presentations, rabbinic commentaries, mini-choral pieces. And if you missed something, just wait, it likely will be repeated. The services might seem like an endurance test.

There is the old story from the post-World War Two decade of a child who sees a large bronze plaque in the synagogue lobby with a dozen names embossed on it and asks its purpose. “Those are the names of members of our congregation who died in the service,” explains an elder. “Then I will just stay in the lobby,” says the child.

The secret Jewish knowledge that enables us to survive marathon services, unimaginable to neighbors of other

Continued on Page 14
communities, is that few actually attend the entire service. Our Shabbat morning services are only 45 minutes long if you come at 10:15a and leave at 11a. The same holds for High Holy Days — we have 40 hours of services, but Tashlikh is only 20 minutes long and you don’t even have to get off your bicycle to attend.

Now, for Rosh HaShana, some people want to finish the musaf service in time for lunch. But on Yom Kippur, the formula is different — nobody has anything better to do. How about another reprise of Ki Anu Amekha.

This year, High Holy Days at BEKI as elsewhere are going to be different. The many constraints imposed by the pandemic mean that much of what we most like about the season will not happen. A great deal of consultation, thought, and planning have been invested into creating a new experience that we hope will help our members reach a positive spiritual experience. Some of the most important parts of the traditional observances will take place in some form. Outdoor services will be highly abbreviated and lacking some of what members most enjoy in public gatherings, but will still provide a core mitzva-based experience that individuals cannot do on their own. That means most of the group singing and the seasonal piyyutim (poems) will be absent from the in-person experience, in favor of the basic prayers and the Torah readings, complying with the need for brevity and the avoidance of group singing (which is known to spread contagion). Those who find inspiration in the music of the season, independent of liturgical recitations, will find some of that music live on-line, some recorded, and even a few segments available in-person. Those who never heard the rabbi’s devar Torah on Rosh Hashana (as they were in children’s programs) will now have easy access.

Our design this year will enable those who attend outdoor services to recite the bare-bones liturgy that requires an in-person community. For those not at scheduled in-person services, presumably most of our members, as well as those who do attend, our design will enable those who wish to hear the prayers, music and scriptural readings at a place and time of their convenience to do so. It will allow “all” of us to be together in some form for a few key services such as Yizkor and Kol Nidre, as well as for some less-highly attended services such as Rosh HaShana evening. And it will force much more do-it-yourself reading, study, prayer, singing, contemplation and meditation. Those who do not (or cannot) use computers and cannot come in person — a larger set — have gotten little in prior years and we hope will have more ways to be part of the community experience this year.

High Holy Days this year will be more of an independent or small-group activity. Making the best of it means committing to opening the prayer book at the hour of scheduled services; taking time out of work for contemplation, prayer and communication; celebrating the Birthday of the World by taking a walk in the park or eating a globe-shaped birthday cake sans candle. (We don’t light fires on Rosh HaShana when it falls on Shabbat, and we can’t blow on cakes during the pandemic unless we have the cake all to ourselves.)

We began contemplating High Holy Days this year with the realization that much of what we are accustomed to will be impossible. But as plans evolve, we can hope that some part of what we do in this period of crisis will be better than what we’ve done before. We say in the festival musaf, “Because of our sins we are exiled from our land and cannot make the proper Temple offerings.” This year, we will have to say, “Because of our sins we were banished from our synagogues and houses of study,” and express the hope that our service will be worthy nonetheless. And if nothing else, no one should be able to complain this year that services or the lines at the break-fast are too long.

There was an incident in which a student led services in the presence of Rabbi Eliezer, and he was excessively concise. The other students complained to Rabbi Eliezer, saying, “He shortened it too much.” He said, “Did he shorten more than Moses our Master, as Scripture states [in recounting verbatim Moshe’s prayer for his sister], ‘Please God please heal her.’” (Talmud Berakhot 34a)
### August 2020

**11 Av 5780 - 11 Elul 5780**

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am Courtyard Shaharit &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>10:00am Rashi Study Group: Zoom with Rabbi Tilsen</td>
<td>11:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>6:00pm Zom</td>
<td>8:00pm Zoom</td>
<td>6:00pm Nate Kempton Bar Mitzva</td>
<td>9:30am Nate Kempton Bar Mitzva</td>
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<td>12 Av</td>
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<td>10:00am Parkings Lot Food Drive</td>
<td>5:45pm Courtyard Service &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackmer via Zoom</td>
<td>7:45pm Courtyard Service &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>6:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>8:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive</td>
<td>9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>19 Av</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Tilsen &amp; Guests (Zoom)</td>
<td>7:00pm Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>8:00pm Tehilim in Times of Trouble with Corinne Blackmer via Zoom</td>
<td>6:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>8:00pm Zoom Schmooze: A Discussion Relating to Policing, Racism and Community with Kalfani Turé</td>
<td>8:00pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Av</td>
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<td>28 Av</td>
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<td>9:00am Courtyard Shaharit &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>10:00am Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Tilsen &amp; Guests (Zoom)</td>
<td>11:15pm Conversation &amp; Connection with Karen Kassap</td>
<td>6:00pm Zoom Schmooze: “Do Black Lives Matter in the Declaration of Independence?” with Robert Forbes</td>
<td>6:00pm Toby Manning Bar Mitzva</td>
<td>9:30am Toby Manning Bar Mitzva</td>
<td>9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am Parashat HaShavua with Rabbi Tilsen &amp; Guests (Zoom)</td>
<td>5:45pm Courtyard Service &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>8:00pm Zoom Schmooze: with Sascha van Creveld, occupational therapist</td>
<td>7:45pm Courtyard Qabbalat Shabbat &amp; Zoom</td>
<td>7:11pm Candle Lighting</td>
<td>6:00pm Toby Manning Bar Mitzva</td>
<td>9:30am Outdoor Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>10 Elul</td>
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### Service Times

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<th>Sundays</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>8:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
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<td>6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
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BEKI Service Schedule

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

All services except Shabbat morning are in the courtyard under a covering. In case of bad weather, services will move inside BEKI, abiding by current State policies on group size and room occupancy.

Please observe public health guidelines: face masks, six feet distancing, only the leader sings loudly. Out of town guests are welcome if they have adhered to State policies on quarantine. Washrooms inside the building are available if needed.

Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own. If there’s a minyan on-site, Mourners’ Kaddish will be recited at all outdoor services.

So that we can anticipate the size of the group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to jjtilsen@beki.org, bekitefilla@gmail.com, or the minyan captain.

Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them.

Zoom Services Followed by Open Chat
• Sunday 5:45 pm
• Monday 7:00 am
• Tuesday 7:00 am & 5:45 pm**
• Wednesday 7:00 am & 5:45 pm
• Thursday 8:15 am & 5:45 pm
• Friday 7:00 am

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