What Do You Do After a Massacre at a Synagogue?

A Message from Rabbi Tilsen

What do you do after a mass shooting attack at a synagogue? Go ask a Black church leader. Go ask a Sikh clergy person, a JCC executive, a public school principal. Go ask any Israeli.

Conventional pastoral advice when facing tragedy and loss is to respect the “inner circle” of those affected -- the immediate family and close loved-ones. When your co-worker’s spouse dies, that person really does not want to hear about the loss of your aunt twenty years ago. As bad as you feel, it is about them, not you.

When it comes to an attack against members of a synagogue – a Masorti-Conservative congregation like our own – it turns out that many of us feel close to the inner circle of mourners and victims. Some of our members are past members of the Pittsburgh synagogue, and have celebrated and attended services at the targeted congregations, have old and dear friends there, including persons killed, and have relatives and friends in the neighborhood – literally Mr. Rogers’ neighborhood. They are us. Squirrel Hill or Beaver Hill. We were reciting the Shema in sync with them that morning. The eight hundred or more people who attended the vigil at the JCC on Sunday did not attend out of an abstract sense of duty. The Christian clergy, Muslim friends and others who sent messages of support to the BEKI community understand that our Jewish world is closely connected.

Regardless of what happens in the world, “the shul must go on.” Services at BEKI on the following Shabbat were “as usual” – though attendance was greater thanks to guest speakers and people’s response to the massacre. Our guest darshan had moving words to say about the attack, which related to his theme. During the Torah service, when we said a prayer for healing, we included those congregants and police officers injured in the attack. At the end of Musaf, when we recited mourners’ qaddish, we included eleven more names.

Beyond reaching out to those in Squirrel Hill, we help care for people in our local community most intensely affected, including those whose private trauma is reactivated by this incident. We take whatever prudent safety measures may be indicated, and we try to keep our lives going “new-normally” and productively.

From time to time I am asked to recognize an event liturgically in our services. Generally, I decline to do so. Our liturgy is fixed and lengthy, and we have Divrei Torah and occasional discussions in which we can talk about these matters. There are tragedies that befall the Jewish People, and America and humanity, daily.

That same week, a family of eight Israelis – mother, father, six children – died in a traffic collision on Highway 90 when a cannabis-high driver trying to pass crashed into them. For people who knew them – and for many Israelis in general – that was a lead tragedy in the global Jewish News. In April, ten Jewish students were killed in a flash flood. And there were the Gaza wars. Which of these events are show-stoppers? What you feel most strongly about is subjective, political, and subject to the influence of the media. Your

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feelings and judgment are valid, but they are yours. Some people feel that our Shabbat services should be a forum for the issue of the day, while others believe it should be a day of respite from the troubles of the world. Whatever you think about that, what we have on offer is a chance to be Jewish with people who know you and who care about you, who share your core values and aspirations; that may be what you need most on Shabbat. You are not alone. If you don’t need that, come anyway, because I need you to be with me.

Beyond the personal and pastoral response to loss, there are social and political implications. What do we do about the most deadly single attack on Jews in modern America? As disturbing as this mass shooting is, there are other dangers threatening us. I am concerned about the lives and well-being of Jewish youth and adults who among others are facing a renewal of persecution by government agencies in relation to their gender identity, or who are besieged on college campuses due to their Jewish identity or Zionist activism. I am concerned about our moral turpitude in tolerating our government’s atrocity of separating children from their families, failing to honor commitments to asylum seekers and refugees, the illegal detention and deportation of US citizens – which have been problems for a long time and have now gained national attention. The talk of revoking citizenship and continuing mass deportations resonates with the Jewish experience of revoked citizenship in Europe. In Europe, it seemed farfetched, until it happened. I am concerned that in America our Jewish community is insufficiently reactive as we have enjoyed the luxury of not being the most despised and vulnerable minority group. These dangers loom larger in my mind than the lone-wolf with a gun, though the roots issues are ultimately related.

The odd thing about anti-Semitism is that even though there are plenty of Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans, along with Queers and other minority groups, people still frequently attack Jews and Jewish institutions. There is something uniquely crazy and evil about anti-Semitism. Our children have had the unusual experience of growing up in a context where they can think of anti-Semitism as being abnormal, as if it were not part of European and Middle Eastern culture, baked into the cake of divination in the West and Middle East. Most of our Jewish agencies thoroughly embrace the understanding that all Americans and all humans share the same fate, and that words that incite violence and hatred against anyone are an attack on all of us. Although anti-Semitism is unique, much of the response is the same as for racism and related maladies.

Different for us in the US is that the local police and federal authorities are working to protect us. Without such protection, or with government-incited or directed violence -- well, we know where that leads. If you can imagine what our lives would be like if we did not believe the local police were here to protect us, you’d begin to get some insight into the predicament of Black people and certain others in much of this country. The prospect of the continuing erosion of federal protection is alarming.

There is a nexus of anti-Semitism, gun culture, class conflict, incitement from national figures, racism, cultural alienation, and xenophobia at play. We have to work on all of those issues, independently and together. These are deeply-rooted problems that float the White Supremacy boat.

I do not want to distract from the tragedy at hand, or exploit the event to promote “Save the Whales” or some specific cause, platform or party. This is not a fundraising letter. I am pointing out that what we must do in response to this atrocity is what we have been doing all along. We take care of our friends and family most directly affected. We model respectful public discourse, show solidarity and actually help those in need. We train our children to be good Jews and good humans, and we promote science and general education among our neighbors. We adopt prudent safety measures and try to live as freely and normally as we can. We build our Jewish institutions, to project strength, compassion, and progress, in order to carry out our mission in accordance with the Covenant. We build our Jewish commonwealth of Israel and do what we can to make it the best it can be, and we aim to be good citizens and neighbors in New Haven. We don’t let hatred or bigotry of any sort stop us. We keep living and loving.
“Questions in Jewish Music,” a program of five January sessions, will be held at Beth El – Keser Israel on Wednesday evenings from 7:30p to 9:00p.

Led by Dr. Rachel Adelstein, an ethnomusicologist who has produced podcasts about music in Jewish life around the world and has presented her research internationally to academic and public audiences, the sessions in the Rosenkrantz Family Library are free of charge and open to the community.

January 2  The Basics
January 9  Cantorial Music
January 16  Jewish Music and Modernity
January 23  Women’s Voices in Jewish Music
January 30  Music and the Politics of Memory

“Music runs all the way through the Jewish experience, in the prayers and songs we sing in the synagogue, the music we dance to at our weddings, and even the plays and movies where we tell our stories to the world,” Adelstein explains. The program will explore the history of Jewish music from Biblical times to the present, and how Jewish communities have used music to define their sense of who they are in a changing modern world.

Adelstein received her PhD in 2013 from the University of Chicago, where she completed her doctoral dissertation entitled “Braided Voices: Women Cantors in Non-Orthodox Judaism.” She currently is expanding this research into a monograph that examines the relationship between women cantors and an emerging American style of Jewish ritual practice. From 2014 to 2017, she was the Donnelley Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, where she conducted fieldwork for a project about the musical lives of British synagogues. She has recently begun to explore issues surrounding the identification and attribution of hymns and other liturgical compositions, as well as challenges to congregational participation in prayer, and the role of change and diversity in the sonic space of the synagogue.
In tribute to the great, late Stacy Phillips, his band, *The Bluegrass Characters*, will continue Stacy’s tradition of an annual 24 December show (a Monday), at BEKI this year. It is a fine time to honor Stacy and celebrate life on Earth with *The Bluegrass Characters*.

Last year Stacy was looking for a place for their 24 December show and reached out to BEKI member Isaiah Cooper to see if he knew of a place. BEKI agreed to host the concert last year on the condition that Isaiah and others at BEKI take responsibility for the use of our facility. With significant help from Helene Sapadin, Joe Avni-Singer, Mimi and Effi Glenn, Rachel & Yuval from the Westville Kosher Market, and our own Michael Barone, last year’s performance was attended by approximately 165 people. One couple celebrated their 45th Wedding anniversary with us on 24 December 2017.

Unfortunately, Stacy Phillips died in early June, though The Bluegrass Characters have continued to perform without Stacy. They reached out to Isaiah to see if they could perform a tribute to Stacy at BEKI this year and after getting commitments for assistance from the other volunteers, we put it on the BEKI calendar.

The doors will open at 7p on Monday 24 December 2018 and the music will begin at 7:30p. In light of the turn out last year, we are moving this year’s performance to the large social hall downstairs. As Stacy always said “The Bluegrass Characters start on time. The performance is free, but The Bluegrass Characters will pass the hat for tips.”

Suggested per person tip for the musicians: between $20 and $20,000.

And, to tickle the palette of the most discriminating gourmet, food will be available from the Westville Kosher Market (if ordered and paid for in advance). They have a fantastic array of sandwiches and other fine foods. *In order to be delivered to BEKI in time for the performance, food must be ordered and paid for by noon on Friday, 21 December 2018.* To place your food order, call Westville Kosher at (203) 389-1166.

BEKI will also offer an assortment of whiskey, bourbon, wine (Kosher), beer, soft drinks and cookies/desserts in exchange for separate cash donations. These donations will help cover the costs for these items. Suggested donations are as follows:

- cookies/desserts & non-alcoholic beverages, $2.00;
- wine or beer $3.00;
- whiskey or bourbon, $5.00.

*No other food will be allowed at this event (because of the rules of Kashrut).*

This performance of *The Bluegrass Characters* will include:

- **Betsy Rome** will sing her little heart out and strum her flat top guitar,
- **Phil Zimmerman** will have the responsibility of mandolinist,
- **Rick Brodsky** will provide the band with bass & severely needed professional counseling,
- **Jerry Oland** will return to make happy pinging on his banjo, and
- **Sofia Chiarandini**, one of Stacy’s favorite students, will be on fiddle.

If you plan to attend this shindig, please RSVP via e-mail to icooper@cooperlaw.net with the subject “*The Bluegrass Characters.*”
Shabbatot (Saturdays)

Darshanim

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

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

Rabbi Carl Astor, 1 December, parashat VaYeshev
Rebekah Oppenheimer, bat mitzva, 19 January, Shabbat Shira – parashat BeShelah
Steven Fraade, 26 January, parashat Yitro
Miles Katz, bar mitzva, 2 February, parashat Mishpatim

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

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

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

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

Mondays

Rashi Study Group: I Kings

Each Monday morning from 7:45a to 8:30a adults meet in the Library Chapel to read Rashi’s commentary on the TaNaKh (Hebrew Bible). The Rashi Study Group (RSG) is reading First Kings. It is possible to join the study group for a single meeting or to begin at any time. Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary. Rashi purported to explain the peshat of the text, i.e., the meaning in its historical, literary and linguistic context. Visitors and new participants are welcome. Hebrew and English texts are available. The RSG meets immediately following the 7:00a shaharit morning service. On 21 January 2019, MLK Day, and on 18 February 2019, Presidents Day, the morning service begins at 9a; RSG follows, until 10:30a. With Jon-Jay Tilsen.

Wednesdays

Hebrew Word of the Week

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

Rabbis’ Study Group

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

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Adult Studies
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New: Questions in Jewish Music
Five Wednesday evenings in January with Dr. Rachel Adelstein, 7:30p-9p, Library. Music runs all the way through the Jewish experience, in the prayers and songs we sing in the synagogue, the music we dance to at our weddings, and even the plays and movies where we tell our stories to the world. Come and learn more about the history of Jewish music, from Biblical times to the present day, and learn how Jewish communities have used music to define their own sense of who they are in a changing, modern world. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 January 2019.

Thursdays
Mini Morning Learning Service
The Thursday morning services are supplemented with commentary and teaching relating to the history, themes, choreography and language of the daily morning service. Shaharit service is from 8:15a to 9:15a on Thursdays; on other weekdays, the service begins at 7:00a.

Berakhot Talmud Study Group
A weekly study of the Talmud Bavli Berakhot meets in the Beit Midrash on Thursday mornings 10a–11a with Rabbi Tilsen.
The Talmud, based on an oral text, has no beginning or end. One can begin study at any point; now is the best time. No prior knowledge is required, but basic facility in English is helpful; students with all backgrounds are welcome, beginner to advanced. The Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets each Thursday in December and January (except 20 and 27 December).

LifeCycle

HaMaqom Yinahem
With sorrow we note the passing of Michael Manasevit, husband of Judith Manasevit
May the Almighty comfort those who mourn

Mazal Tov
• Jon Seidmann & Ilana Levine, brother Samuel, grandparents Sid and Donna, on the birth of Jacob Baruch, and his being entered into the covenant of brit mila on the eighth day, in October in MA

Welcome New Members
• Diana Firestone
• Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod and Emmanuelle
• Gerry & Magdalena Garcia

Benei Mitzva
• Rebekah Oppenheimer, daughter of Mark & Cyd Oppenheimer, 18-19 January 2019, Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song), parashat BeShalah
• Miles Katz, son of Julie & Samuel Katz, 1-2 February 2019, parashat Mishpatim

Amazon Commission
Buying items from Amazon? Use this link or the link on BEKI’s home page beki.org (bottom) so BEKI will receive a commission (about 4%) on the sale at no cost to you. Bookmark our link. (Other Amazon programs such as Smiles provide only 0.5% so use our link instead.) See instructions and explanation under “Resources.” The August 2018 commission was $108.88.

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  - To Mark & Cyd Oppenheimer in honor of the birth of their son David Walter by Joanne Foodim & Rob Forbes
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- **Synagogue Fund (minimum $10)** to support synagogue operations
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  - To Rabbi Carl & Sharon Astor with thanks by Deborah Craig & David Wright
  - To Murray & Barbara Akresh with thanks by Deborah Craig & David Wright

- **Ari Nathan Levine Children’s Library Fund**
  - To Guy Abbott on the yahrzeit of Bonnie Gilman Abbott by the Abbott Tootle family
  - To Donna & Sid Levine in honor of their new grandson by Rachel Bashevkin & Eric Dunsker

- **BEKI Religious School**
  - To Ina Silverman & Jay Sokolow in honor of the birth of their new grandchild from Mimi Glenn
  - In-Kind Donation
  - Five bottles of scotch & malt whiskey by Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner

- **Barzillai Cheskis BEKI Youth Israel Scholarship Fund**
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  - To John Weiser & Shoshanna Zax with sympathy on the passing of Maria Weiser by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold
  - To Gavriel & Livia Savit-Woods in honor of the birth of their daughter Lilja Meital by Rena Cheskis-Gold & Marty Gold

- **Harold & Arthur Ratner Memorial Fund**
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- In memory of his mother Shirley Cohen by James Cohen

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- In memory of Bernice Auerbach by Hillel & Sara-Ann Auerbach
- In memory of his mother Shirley Cohen by James Cohen
15 Shavat – Tu BeShevat

“For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths, springing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig-trees and pomegranates; a land of olive-trees and honey.”

In Jewish tradition, the fifteenth day of Shevat marks the “New year” for the trees, opening the season in which trees begin to bud in the Holy Land.

You know that guy you saw on the way to work shouting “Happy New Year!” to a tree? He wasn’t crazy. Well, he might have been, but not for being kind to an oak or maple. It might be just the 15th day of the month of Shevat.

While one may be familiar with the holiday of Rosh HaShana – the beginning of the Jewish New Year in Tishrei – that arrives in the fall each year, there are actually four Roshei HaShana in the Jewish calendar cycle. Tu BeShevat is one of them, marking the beginning of a new year for trees. The first of Nisan (the new year for counting the months) and the first of Elul (the new year for tithes) are the other two Roshei HaShana.

“And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall count the fruit thereof as forbidden; three years shall it be as forbidden unto you; it shall not be eaten. And in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy, for giving praise unto the Lord.

But in the fifth year may ye eat of the fruit thereof . . . ”

Tu BeShevat gradually gained religious significance, with the Qabbalistic fruit-eating ceremony (like the Passover seder) being introduced during the 1600s.

Jews eat many varieties of fruit particularly the kinds associated with Israel. The Torah praises seven ‘fruits’ in particular: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

A short blessing is recited before and after eating any fruit. A special, longer blessing is recited after eating the fruit mentioned in the Torah.

Some Jews plant trees on this day, or collect money towards planting trees in Israel. We have an opportunity to plant trees for Tu BeShevat by purchasing tree certificates through JNF and Hadassah.

Please contact Debbie Farber 203-795-0651, or email dftenace@aol.com

Trees are $18 each. Plant a Circle of Trees (10) for $144 or Three Trees for a special price of $36.

Membership

Thank you to Sisterhood members who renewed their membership for 2018-19. There is still time for those who wish to become members of Sisterhood. It is still only $25. Your dues help support Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. For more information contact Mimi Glenn 203-397-3851 or womensleague@wlcj.org
BEKI Bulletin – Pre-1993?
Back issues of the BEKI Bulletin from 1993 to today are available at https://www.beki.org/calendar-events/news-happenings-and-beki-bulletins/. If you have print copies of the BEKI Bulletin (AKA The Scroll: Bulletin of Beth El-Keser Israel; or the Beth El Notes or Keser Israel from before November 1993, please share with our office or Rabbi Tilsen.

Wifi Upgrade
A high-speed wifi upgrade has been implemented throughout the building at BEKI for the benefit of members and visitors. Thanks to the efforts of Tom Moycik, Ivan Alvarez, Eric Dunsker, David Wright, Roger Colten, and others, new cables, access points and controlling hardware and software have been installed to provide coverage over the entire location.

Beyond supporting members’ wifi access while at BEKI, the upgrades enable web-based appliances that monitor and control our solar arrays, HVAC equipment, energy efficiency devices, security devices and maintenance equipment.

Harrison Street Doors
Due to safety considerations, the Harrison Street doors (courtyard) will not be open for daily services (Sunday through Friday), but will generally continue to be open (or controlled by a greeter) for Shabbat and Festival mornings services. For comments or concerns, please contact Jay Sokolow or Rabbi Tilsen c/o office@beki.org.

Normally, doors are open 15 minutes before scheduled services. If doors are locked when you expect them to be open, please verify the service schedule, and kindly wait for a volunteer or a staff member.

During office hours, depress the red “doorbell button” at the covered entrance by the parking lot, and wait for staff to buzz you in.

Divrei Torah
Divrei Torah (Torah commentaries) by BEKI members, including Alan Lovin’s recent “Peace, Love & Survival” on parashat Noah, are available at beki.org under “Learning / Members’ Divrei Torah.” Rabbi Tilsen’s essays are grouped under “Learning / Rabbi’s Writings.”

Service Leaders
A rotation schedule for Shabbat and Festival Service Leaders, Greeters and Children’s Program Leaders covering the period January–June 2019 is being prepared. To join the service leaders’ team, learn the procedures, or request a specific date for the next period, contact Rabbi Tilsen jjtilsen@beki.org.

Leaders for Qabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat Maariv, Pesuqei deZimra, Shaharit, Haftara, Musaf, and Minha are scheduled in this manner. Torah readers are organized on a per-book basis by a team of coordinators; to volunteer to read in Bereishit (Genesis), contact Noam Benson-Tilsen at noam@tilsen.org.

To volunteer for daily services, which are organized ad hoc, contact Rabbi Tilsen or Ritual Committee Chairperson Rachel Gerber.

To lead children’s programs, contact Mark Oppenheimer or Steve Werlin kids@beki.org.

To volunteer to serve as a greeter on Friday Nights, or on Shabbat or Festival Mornings, contact Robin Goldberg c/o office@beki.org.

Greeters and all service leaders needed.

Common Scents
Some members and visitors are particularly sensitive to chemical smells, strong fragrances, and commercial body products. Please be considerate in using perfumes, colognes, body sprays, scented deodorant and tobacco.

Hanuka Blessings
Audio recordings at www.beki.org/resources/audio-files

Security Protocols: Our officers periodically review and update security protocols, training and equipment. There may be enhanced safety officer presence this weekend at BEKI. Additional information appears in the next issue of the Bulletin. To train for an active shooter scenario, see https://emergency.yale.edu/be-prepared/active-shooter-weapon. Info: Jay Sokolow c/o office@beki.org.

Shabbat Minha – Winter Schedule
The Shabbat Minha service begins at 1p. (Evening and Havdala Services for Motse’ei Shabbat are “on your own.”) Other weekday evening services remain at 5:45p (and 6p on Friday night).

Pirqe Avot
Classic text with new commentary and experienced guides. Sunday 2 December with R’ Richard Eisenberg (11a); Sunday 9 December with R’ Murray Levine (11a); Sunday 16 December with R’ J-J Tilsen (11a).
Cookbooks for Hanuka...and Beyond!

Is It Kiddush Yet? Ever wonder how to make that amazing soup or salad that you had recently at Shabbat Kiddush or Break Fast? Want to share the secrets of BEKI’s buffet bounty with others? The BEKI Kiddush Committee’s cookbook (easy-to-use format, clear and concise, delicious kosher recipes) is available at the Sisterhood Gift Shop or through the office for $18 each. Makes a great gift.

JCARR Jelly Donuts

Learn to bake sufganiyot before Hanuka, Sunday 2 December, 1p - 3p in the BEKI kitchen. $18 per batch; you will make at least 12 small donuts. Taught by Aminah, a Syrian cook resettled in New Haven by the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement. Reservation required. Contact Gilah JCARR.BEKI@gmail.com.

JCARR Volunteer Co-Liaison Wanted

Coordinate BEKI volunteers, help maintain a BEKI presence at Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) meetings, liaise with BEKI’s Tikun Olam Committee and IRIS, work with local refugees. Co-liaison should be above Bar/Bat Mitzva age, and be able to spend an average of half an hour each week volunteering. “I lift my lamp beside the golden door” (Emma Lazarus, Jewish refugee resettlement volunteer). Contact Gilah Benson-Tilsen JCARR.BEKI@gmail.com.

Bluegrass Concert


Tiqun Olam Opportunity

Sunday 6 Jan 2019. BEKI and Bnai Jacob are partnering to make and serve lunch for 150-200 people in need as hosts for Chapel on the Green, in downtown New Haven. This is a project of Trinity Church that provides late lunch every Sunday, regardless of weather. Food will be prepared at BEKI that Sunday morning. To sign up for food prep, schlepping or serving, contact Darryl Kuperstock kuperst@gmail.com 203-215-8555.

SATs?

Need a letter from the Rabbi so you can take an SAT / ACT / MCAT or other exam on Sunday (and not Shabbat)? Write to jjtilsen@beki.org.

Torah Torah Torah

Torah Reading coordinator for Sefer Bereishit (through 22 December) is Noam Benson-Tilsen. Volunteer to read – noam@tilsen.org.

Point of Grammar

Service leaders, Torah readers, individual readers, beginners through expert, can fine-tune your skills with Point of Grammar.

Eruv

See New Haven Eruv status at http://www.nheruv.net. Also info on boundaries, contributions to current capital campaign, and more. Accepts Paypal and credit cards.

News Feed


Donate

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

Got Announcements?

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

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study

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

RSG

The Rashi Study Group is now beginning the II Kings. RSG meets Mondays 7:50a–8:30a, Library, beginner to advanced welcome, join now.

Amazon Commission

Buying items from Amazon? Use this link or the link on BEKI’s home page beki.org (bottom) so BEKI will receive a commission (about 4%) on the sale at no cost to you. August Commission was $108.88.

Scholarships

Jewish Foundation offers BRS, college, Israel experience, and Jewish camping scholarships. Info and application at www.jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships.
As we have for the last 28 years, our community will be treated to festive, flavorful and fantastic boxed kosher deli lunches and dinners, thanks to the efforts of the BEKI Youth Commission. The event, Deli Boxes, is our only annual fundraiser for the BEKI’s youth program (Kadima and USY), and will take place Sunday 3 February 2019 – Superbowl Sunday (as usual).

Buy Deli Boxes. You don’t need to be watching the Superbowl game to enjoy a delicious deli meal prepared with love. Give yourself a break, have a party, fress – and support our wonderful youth programs.

Menu choices are abundant, including sandwiches: pastrami, corned beef, roast beef, portabella mushroom with roasted red peppers, turkey, tuna salad, egg salad and salami – and for those gluten-free or just passing on bread, a green salad (either plain or topped with turkey, egg or tuna). All choices are $14/box.

Funds raised through this program have been and continue to be used to provide subsidies to enable more of our youth to participate in a broad range of chapter, regional and international activities, Israel trips and to supplement the program activities of both USY and Kadima at BEKI.

Join the fun. The Youth Commission would like to encourage you to volunteer to help out at BEKI on Saturday evening 2 February from 7p on, or on Sunday 3 February from 9:30a – 1:30p as the great “Deli Boxes Machine” rolls into action. We need all the help we can get to make sure the program is a success. It’s always fun for adults and kids.

Order forms are available in this bulletin (Page 15), in your mid-month mailing (paper or email), on the BEKI website (beki.org/delibox), in the literature rack in the synagogue lobby, and by email request to eshragis@hotmail.com. Deadline for orders is Friday, 25 January. Please send orders with your advance payment to: Eva Shragis, 10 Vernon Ct, Woodbridge, CT 06525, or send your order by email to Eva at eshragis@hotmail.com. (Please note that all emailed orders are commitments for full payment at pick-up on 3 February).

If you are interested in providing additional support for our youth (with funding or volunteer participation), please contact the Youth Commission Coordinator, Rebecca Weiner. Thank you for your support.
28th Annual

Super Deli Boxes

Sunday, February 3, 2019!!!
PICK-UP at BEKI from 11:45 – 1:30pm
85 Harrison St., New Haven

On SuperBowl Sunday, don't worry about the food

LET US PREPARE THE MEAL FOR YOU!

Remember - You don’t have to be watching the big game – watch a movie, play bridge, have a party or just relax and enjoy the break! Invite some friends over!

All order forms MUST be received by FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

3 WAYS TO ORDER!

BY MAIL:
Payment by check
(to “BEKI YOUTH COMMISSION”) – use enclosed envelope
Send to: Eva Shragis, 10 Vernon Ct., Woodbridge, CT 06525

BY EMAIL OR PHONE
Pay at pick-up (check or cash only)
(or for more information): Darryl Kuperstock at kuperst@gmail.com 203-215-8555
or Eva at eshragis@hotmail.com 203-258-1243

Each Deli box contains:
1 delicious Deli Sandwich on freshly baked rye bread/roll
(see choices of sandwiches on order form below) OR Fresh Garden Salad (no bread), 1 container of freshly made coleslaw, 1 beverage, 1 bag of potato chips, 1 scrumptious pareve brownie, 1 large pickle spear, 1 piece of fresh fruit, condiments, napkin, flatware

all food certified KOSHER and prepared under supervision

$14 each!!!

Please do not send or drop-off any orders to THE BEKI OFFICE

DELI BOXES ORDER - 2019 (please fill in ALL information (incl. beverage) and return w/payment – PLEASE PRINT)

Name_________________________Cell Phone____________________Email__________________

Please indicate the NUMBER of boxes you would like of each type:

____ Corned Beef    ____ Pastrami    ____ Salami    ____ Turkey Breast    ____ Roast Beef
____ Tuna Salad     ____ Egg Salad (vegetarian)    ____ Portobello & Peppers (vegan/served on hard roll)
____ Garden Salad (no bread) - specify 1 only: ___ plain   __ w/turkey   __ w/sliced hard-boiled egg

Total # of Boxes_________ x $14 = $__________

Beverage (CHOOSE 1 PER BOX)    ____ Coke    ____ Diet Coke    ____ Sprite    ____ Apple Juice    ____ Spring Water

ADDITIONAL DONATION TO BEKI Youth Programs $__________

Total amount of payment payable to BEKI Youth Commission $__________
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
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**Service Times**

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### January 2019

#### 24 Tevet 5779 - 25 Shevat 5779

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<td>9:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour 7:30pm General Board Meeting</td>
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<td>8:00am Religious School</td>
<td>7:45am Rashi Study Group 10:00am Yoga Hour</td>
<td>7:15pm Israeli Dance</td>
<td>9:00am Rabbi's Study Group 4:00pm Religious School 5:00pm Benet Mitzva Program 7:30pm Questions in Jewish Music with Dr. Rachel Adelstein</td>
<td>10:00am Berakhot Talmud Study Group</td>
<td>9:45p.m. Maariv</td>
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<td>21 Shevat</td>
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### Service Times

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Fridays</th>
<th>Saturdays</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>
<td>7 a.m. Shaharit</td>
<td>9:15 a.m. Shaharit</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
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<td>5:45 p.m. Maariv</td>
<td>6 p.m. Qabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>1 p.m. Minha</td>
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