

## RABBI ELIE KAUNFER

### *Prayer, Pluralism, and Post-Denominationalism: Being a Jew at the Dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Following last year's successful shared scholar in residence weekend, we are doing it again! Please join us for a unique opportunity to learn with this inspirational teacher and leader.

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer is co-founder and executive director of Mechon Hadar, the extremely successful independent educational institute that excels in intense Torah study and engaging prayer services. Elie has previously worked as a journalist, banker, and corporate fraud investigator. He has been named multiple times to *Newsweek's* list of the top 50 rabbis in America and is the author of *Empowered Judaism: What Independent Minyanim Can Teach Us About Building Vibrant Jewish Communities* (Jewish Lights, 2010).



Co-sponsored by Congregation B'nai Jacob, Westville Synagogue, and Congregation Beth-El Keser Israel (BEKI).  
Special funding by the James M. Shure Educational Fund and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

**Please help us make this a true New Haven community weekend.  
Attend events at one another's synagogues,  
learn and celebrate with our community!**

#### FRIDAY AT CONGREGATION BETH-EL KESER ISRAEL (BEKI)

85 Harrison St, New Haven

6:00pm Shabbat Services

7:00pm Shabbat Dinner — *Reservations required for dinner, \$18 per person. Contact BEKI 203-389-2108. Free childcare provided.*

8:15pm *Beyond Identity and Pluralism: A 21st Century Vision of Jewish Life*  
With denominational identity in decline and a growing disaffection from religion, how might we consider a reframing of the core value of Jewish life? What are the potential benefits and pitfalls of a focus on Jewish identity and a culture of pluralism? How might Judaism be seen as a compelling counter-cultural critique? We will explore these themes together.

#### SATURDAY AT WESTVILLE SYNAGOGUE

74 West Prospect St, New Haven

9:00am Shabbat Morning Services, followed by kiddush lunch sponsored by Sydney A. Perry

12:30pm *Kaddish - A New Interpretation*

Join us as we explore the essence of the four kaddishes we say throughout the service, moving on an interpretive journey that has implications for all prayers we read. Along the way we will encounter the power of the kaddish, a poignant depiction of God's relationship with us, and what people can offer the Divine.

#### SUNDAY AT CONGREGATION B'NAI JACOB

75 Rimmon Rd, Woodbridge

10:00am *Can Doubters Pray?*

Does traditional Jewish prayer make room for people who have doubts about God and/or doubts about the efficacy of prayer? How might an approach to rethinking the meaning of the prayers open up new possibilities for the skeptics among us? Bagels and coffee will be served.