



2024 Annual Meeting

June 20, 2024

Annual Meeting Agenda

Welcome from the President

Year in Review

Survey presentation by Sam Purdy

Remarks by Rabbi Woodward

Sisterhood presentation by Mimi Glenn

Report from Treasurer Steve Rudof

Thank you to outgoing officers & directors

Presentation of new officers & directors

Remarks by the new President



Year in Review



דף הבית
HOME

מי אנחנו
ABOUT

מה קורה
CALENDAR & EVENTS

תפילה
WORSHIP

נוער
YOUTH

לימוד
LEARNING

קהילה
OUR COMMUNITY

קישורים
RESOURCES

Find this slide deck at our website under
OUR COMMUNITY

Board Accomplishments

- Established personnel policies for hourly employees
- Secured the stability of a long-term contract with Rabbi Woodward (see the February 2024 bulletin)
- Updated the congregation's bylaws (see the Rabbi's column in the December 2023 bulletin)

Education



Rachel Doft,
Board Liaison

- Held a successful BINA Shabbat, with BINA students presenting different parts of the Kabbalat Shabbat service and families coming together for a Shabbat dinner at BEKI
- Hosted a Purim carnival with huge turnout
- Featured BINA students' tree art for Tu Bishvat
- Investigating curriculum options, such as Shalom Learning
- Continuing to identify additional BINA teachers

Art Committee

Gallery Exhibitions and Events

- Anna Bresnick, “Four Stops Along an Artistic Path,” sculptures, drawings, paintings - *July - early September, 2023*. Closing reception September 3.
- “Off Our Walls” High Holy Day Exhibit of Jewish themed artwork from nearly 20 BEKI member households - *early September - October, 2023*
- Poster exhibit upstairs and BEKI permanent collection items downstairs - *November 2023 - early January, 2024*
- Tree Drawing Workshop for Tu B’Shevat for BINA students and BEKI members plus exhibit *January - mid-February*
- Keith Richter Nature Photographs in upstairs gallery and “Jews at Prayer” exhibit from the BEKI permanent collection downstairs - *mid-February - May 26*. Conversation with the artist March 9.
- “Domestic Spaces: Paintings by Doron Wolf” June 1 - summer, 2024. Artist talk June 1.

Green Team

- Schmooze on Energy Audits
- Schmooze with Sami Grover
- Schmooze on ADUs
- Support for sanctuary re-design with re-use/recycling/ environmentally responsible disposal plans for carpeting, lumber, fabric backdrop & metal
- “Pe’ah” edible plantings (blueberries & spinach so far) in Harrison/Whalley planters
- Advice/information to support boiler replacement with 98% efficient dual-condensing model
- Financial support for related replacement of hot water heater with super-high-efficiency all-electric model
- Adult advising for new local JYCM youth affiliate, including:
 - successful lobbying for decals to make Mitchell Library (& other NHFPL branches) bird-safe
 - ongoing support for Crayon “color-cycle” marker recycling project at Ezra Academy



Rebecca Weiner,
co-coordinator



Sascha van Creveld, co-
coordinator

Hesed

- Provided welcome baskets to 28 new family units.
- Called families who have experienced the loss of a loved one to offer a meal in addition to providing rides, visits, etc.
- Members have graciously provided meals when needed.



Robert Lettick, chair

“If there is a need in the BEKI community for a ride, meal, visit, etc., I notify the Hesed committee (about 20 members) of the opportunity to help a fellow congregant. We need more. I can’t emphasize enough that the more Hesed members we have, the larger the ‘pool,’ and therefore a greater likelihood that we can help out.”

House

- Replaced main electrical panels (mandated by insurer)
- Replaced the building's boiler and water heater tank; Made accommodations to maintain services in the building
- Repaired leaks in roof (covered by warranty – Yay!) and abated mold in the USY room
- Completed upgrade of sanctuary air handlers (soooo quiet now)
- Removed 30+ years of stuff from closets throughout the building & the stage
- Buried 20+ years of geniza (*Thank you to Andy Weinstein*)
- Repaired the elevator... twice
- Replaced refrigerator in kitchenette
- Fixed damaged ceilings in numerous bathrooms
- Created sound system in downstairs social hall to accommodate services
- Managed change in custodial staff
- Providing on-going maintenance of classrooms



Eric Dunsker,
chair

Kiddush Teams

Coordinators:

Ellen Cohen, Abby Fraade

Team 1 Jennifer Myer

Team 2 Lana Gad

Team 3 Marjorie Wiener

Team 4 Helene Sapadin & Isaiah Cooper

- Number of Shabbat Kiddush Lunches prepared and served by the Kiddush Committee: **45**
- Number of Mini Kiddushes for holidays prepared by ad hoc teams: **12**
- Special Events prepared by Kiddush Committee Teams: **Yom Kippur Break-Fast, Elm City Kallah**
- Number of volunteers regularly participating on one of four kiddush teams, either via shopping or by prepping in the BEKI kitchen: **44**
- Number of individual family units participating in kiddush sponsorship: **80+**
- Weekly Kiddush Lunch attendance currently ranges from **80 to 150+ people**, with occasional instances close to the pre-pandemic high of 175.
- Despite continuing significant increases in food costs, and thanks to careful menu planning and smart shopping, the price for sponsoring a standard Kiddush Lunch (no 'extras') has remained unchanged since 2016: **\$320**. Kiddush and Mini Kiddush sponsorships continue to cover all food costs

Library Committee



Christina Crowder,
coordinator

- Used the Barbara A. Rader Memorial Library Fund to purchase a complete Noe Steinsaltz edition of the Talmud & collaborated with Rabbi Woodward to identify several additional high-priority Judaica acquisitions
- Developed an initial set of goals and priorities for library update process 2024-2025
- Identified and implementing low-cost digital system “Libib” to catalog and track books and resources
- Identified and implementing a modified Eleazar Judaica library catalog system
- Identified and planning to implement Halachically acceptable Shabbat checkout system
- Cataloging and sorting is ongoing

Programming

- Elm City Winds concert
- Elul activities including learning, nature walk, and meditation
- Prayer and Liturgy with Rabbi Carl Astor
- BEKI Apizza in the Sukkah
- Elm City Kallah
- Jay Michaelson Schmooze
- Schmooze - Judith and Hanukkah
- BEKI in the Yurt
- Movie nights at BEKI
- Chris George Schmooze
- Prof. Ilan Harpaz-Rotem Schmooze
- Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Life, love and legacy workshop
- Physicians for Human Rights Israel
- Zoom with Avital Silverman Sokolow
- Hilchot Pesach with Rabbi Eric
- Moth Story night “stories of liberation”
- Finance Schmooze
- Rabbi Dennis Ross discussing his book
- Yom Hashoah Schmooze - Rafi Prober
- Courtyard campfires
- Yale scholars discuss recent visit to Israel



Shoshana Zax,
chair

Publicity



Rachel Bashevkin, chair

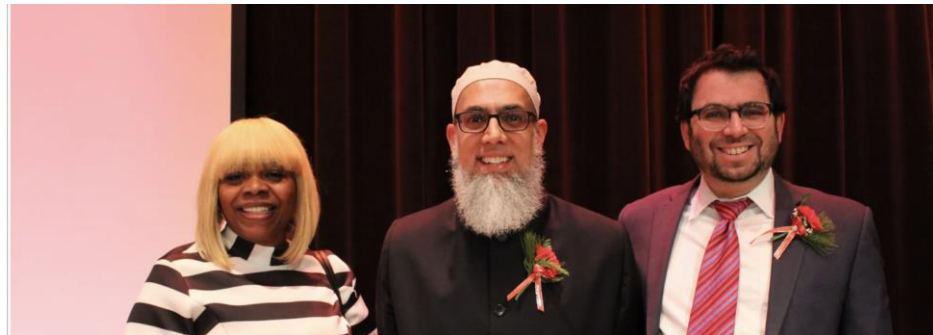
SHALOM NEW HAVEN

The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

Jewish Art for the High Holy Days
High Holy Day Messages from Our Spiritual Leaders

NEW HAVEN INDEPENDENT

At Inauguration, Imam & Rabbi Pray For Justice



arts council
GREATER NEW HAVEN

At BEKI, Anna Bresnick Traces Her Artistic Path

Ritual

- Howard Gralla, z"l led a significant redesign of our Yizkor books.
- Made liturgical changes to services following October 7 attack on Israel.
- Revised head covering policy after extensive discussion and debate.
- Improved Shabbat morning service structure and timing, enhancing the spiritual flow and continuity of the service.
- Met in person monthly to discuss various halachic and ritual matters with the Rabbi.
- Switched to ma'ariv-only evening services during winter months.
- Hosted a climate-themed Tisha B'Av service co-sponsored with Federation and area shuls.
- Bruce Spierer will be the new committee chair – thank you, Bruce!



Russell Epstein, chair



Bruce Spierer

Safety & Security

Join Jay this Saturday, June 22 at 12:45 pm,
for a conversation about security at BEKI.



Jay Sokolow, chair

- Despite heightened security concerns, we have had no serious incidents. We are very grateful to our volunteers and professional staff for keeping us safe.
- Our biggest need is for more volunteer greeters.
- We have had a suspicious vehicle drive by the building. We believe our preparedness is a deterrent to those who have checked out our facility.
- Grants were used to enhance perimeter security. Another grant application is in the works.
- Enhanced video system eases monitoring of doors and interior.
- Night locks have been installed in all locations of refuge. Ask Jay to show you how to use them.

Shalach Manot (Purim Bags)

- Prepared over 750 hamentaschen
- Stuffed 250 bags
- Raised \$16,862 for BEKI



Tikkun Olam (Social Action)

- Donated 460 lip balms for Interfaith Day of Service personal care bags
- Gathered back-to-school supplies for Lincoln Bassett School
- Collected winter clothes for Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen
- Collected food for several pantries, including JFS, Beth-El Center, and CCA
- Provided supermarket gift cards to JCARR refugee families
- Meals for Columbus House resuming, 4th Sundays, organized by Angela Oren
- Sunday's concert at 4:30 pm to benefit JCARR, organized by Jennifer Mellon

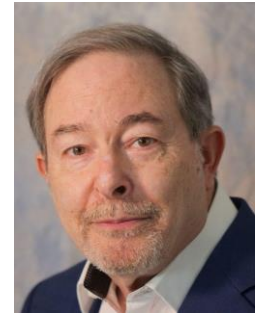


Website



Gary Hochman

- Continued thanks to Gary Hochman for posting the weekly BEKI Kids newsletter and Happenings
- Posting BEKI Schmooze videos as they become available
- Updated Sanctuary Redesign progress
- On-going maintenance, updates and corrections of content as needed



Eric Dunsker
webmaster



Sanctuary Redesign



Carole Bass, co-chair



John Weiser, co-chair

Lynn Brotman

Eric Dunsker

House Committee chair and board liaison

Howard Gralla, z"l

Marga Hirsch

Rick Saltz

- Redesigning our worship space in line with BEKI values
- Renegotiated construction contract to meet \$1.25 million budget
- Contract signed April 2024
- Expected start of construction: late 2024
- Completion by June 2025
- Coming soon: presentation of new Torah ark design

Join us for the congregational Zoom meeting
Wednesday, June 26 to see the final design

Sanctuary Fundraising

- Fundraising Committee:

Murray Akresh

John Weiser

Jessey Palumbo

John Wareck

Donna Levine (ex officio)



John Weiser



Murray Akresh

- Fundraising Goal -- \$1,250,000
- Total member pledges to date \$860,000 plus over \$18,000 interest earned on \$640,000 already paid
- Additional pledges will reduce borrowing costs

Finance and Income Development



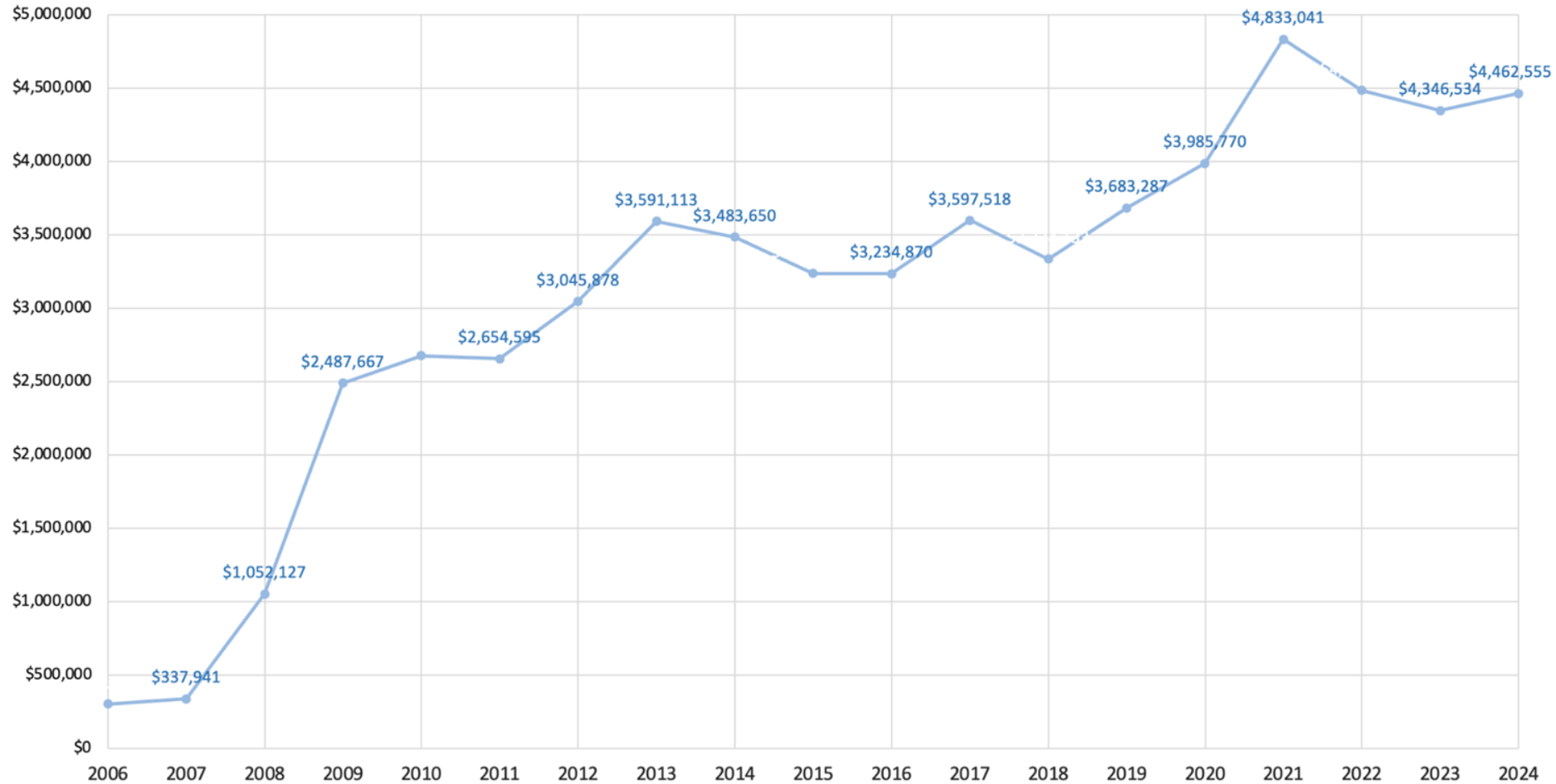
Donna Levine
chair Finance
Committee

- **Annual appeal** greatly exceeded budget and prior year -- **\$142,500** vs. \$105,000 in 2022 -- plus \$2,400 raised for youth programs
- **New heating system boiler and hot water heat pump system** donations/pledges: **\$35,286**
- Exploring **loan opportunities** for the sanctuary renovations.
- **Endowments** at the end of 2023 valued at \$4.46 million.



Murray Akresh
chair Income
Development

Endowment (at year end)



Legacy Giving

Grinspoon Life & Legacy: 2nd year of four year program to build endowments

- Income received in 2024 from endowments: \$180,314
- Legacy Shabbat service & kiddush on February 24



Saluting you!

BEKI will honor you
and all of our Legacy donors at our
LEGACY SHABBAT SERVICE
and Kiddush luncheon

Saturday, February 24, 2024

Parashat Tetzaveh

Service at 9:15 am

Kiddush luncheon at 12:00 noon

We hope you will attend this celebration



*Thanks for your commitment
to BEKI's future!*

The Saul and Hope Bell Memorial Fund
The Goodwin Brothers Endowment
The Oscar & Irma Hamburger Memorial Fund
The Ari Nathan Levine Memorial Fund for the Continuity of BEKI
The Ben & Ruth Marks Endowment
The Lester & Bernice Margolis Fund
The Morris & Sara Oppenheim Fund for Sacred Music
The George G. Posener Family Memorial Fund - Yom Kippur Break-Fast Fund - Kadima & United Synagogue Youth Fund - Endowment for the Jewish Education of BEKI Youth
The Leah E. Posener and Betty D. Zelen Memorial Fund for Sisterhood
The Tova Benson-Tilsen Fund for Animal Welfare at Congregation BEKI and in Israel
The Eric I.B. Beller Environmental Endowment Fund
The Gilah Benson-Tilsen Fund for Youth
The Borick Family Endowment for Special Education for Youth
The Gladys R. Lipkin Fund for the BEKI Hebrew School
The Tillie Dworski Horwitz & Edward Horwitz Fund
The David & Lillian Levine Endowment for People with Special Needs
The Bessie & Max Levine Children's Library Endowment
The Ben and Ruth Marks Endowment
The Diana Friedman Opton Fund for the Benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
The Louis & Mary Rosenkrantz Family Library Endowment
The Irving Simon Fund
The Batsheva Labowe-Stoll Fund for the Support of Jewish Life at Congregation BEKI
The Noam Benson-Tilsen Fund for BEKI kids at Camp Ramah
The Marvin Missan Fund
The Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen Endowment for the Benefit of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
The Liora Lew Endowment for the Advancement of Youth Education and Youth Activities
The Leatrice & Richard Brodner Fund for Advancement of Youth Education & Youth Activities at BEKI
[The Wizner Family Fund for Tikun Olam at Congregation Beth El Keser Israel](#)
[The Charles & Violet Ludwig Fund for Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel and in honor of Jay Sokolow](#)

Would all of our Legacy Donors please stand?

Murray & Barbara Akresh
Rachel Bashevkin
Paul & Carole Bass
Morris Bell & Raina Sotsky
Gilah Benson-Tilsen
Noam Benson-Tilsen
Tova Benson-Tilsen
Stephanie & Harold Birn
Corinne E. Blackmer & Pilar Stewart
Borick Family
Kenneth & Linda Buckman
Gloria Cohen
Julie Cohen
Deborah Craig & David Wright
Barbara Cushen
Eric Dunsker
Jennifer Fleming
Joanne Foodim & Robert Forbes
Harriet Friedman & Charles Bruce

Martin & Lana Gad
Miriam (Mimi) Glenn
Robin Goldberg
Carl Goldfield
Richard Goodwin
Howard Gralla* & Linda Schultz
Linden Grazier
Ruth Greenblatt
Margie & Jay Hirshfield
Susan Jacobson
Karen Kassap & Cary Caldwell
Karel Koenig & Robert Oakes*
Batsheva Labowe-Stoll
Fania Levine
Malka* and Rabbi Murray Levine
Sidney & Donna Levine
Liora* and Yaron Lew
Patricia Loving & Alan Lovins
Rebecca (Seashore) May

Harold Miller
Mark & Cyd Oppenheimer
Jessey & Joe Palumbo
Helen Rosenberg
Stephen & Joanne Rudof
Helene Sapadin
David Schwartz
Jay Sokolow
Lisa Stanger
Monica Starr & Andy Hirshfield
Jane Stern
Corey Stone & Susan McDonald
Eleanor E. Stutz
Susan Voigt
Rebecca Weiner
Beth & Dan Weintraub
Marjorie Wiener
Stephen and Rachel Wizner

*z"l (deceased)

And we remember these Legacy Donors, z”l

Saul and Hope Bell
Eric Beller
Ida & Abraham Bettigole
Leatrice & Richard Brodner
Barnett Dickstein
Regina Faymann
Diane Friedman-Opton
Ida Goldstein
Paul Goodwin
Robert Goodwin
Goodwin Brothers
Irma and Oscar Hamburger
Tillie Dworski Horwitz and Edward Horwitz
Bessie and Max Levine
Deanna and J. Paul Levine
Lillian and David Levine

Gladys Lipkin
Violet and Charles Ludwig
Bernice and Lester Margolis
Ruth and Ben Marks
Marvin Missan
Sara and Morris Oppenheim
Ruth Pollowitz
George Posener
Miriam (Mikki) Ratner
Mary and Louis Rosenkrantz
Margot Roten
Stanley Saxe
Irving Simon
Adele Tyson
Martha Winters

What will your Jewish Legacy be?



The Birn Family created a legacy for their synagogue, Congregation BEKI

"The synagogues of my youth do not exist anymore. I made a legacy commitment to BEKI to make sure that our family and future generations never have to say that. The BEKI community has supported us spiritually, intellectually, educationally and socially - it is our privilege to be able to support it back now and in the future,"—Harold Birn



Jewish Foundation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

newhavenjewishfoundation.org



jewishlegacynewhaven.org

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

What will your Jewish Legacy be?



Jewish Foundation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN



Harold Miller Created a Legacy for his Synagogue, BEKI

“Keser Israel, and now Beth-El Keser Israel (“BEKI), has been my synagogue for my entire life. My grandfather was actually the president of Keser Israel in 1948. I had my Bar Mitzvah at Keser Israel and I was married at BEKI. It is a pleasure for me to make a legacy commitment to this synagogue that has been and continues to be such an important part of my life.”

—Harold

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www.jewishfoundation.org | www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org



Jewish Foundation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN



What will your Jewish legacy be?

Susan Voigt Created a Legacy for Her Synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

"I am excited to leave a two-fold legacy. My greatest legacy is having 3 children and now 7 grandchildren. As the daughter of Holocaust survivors, I can say, 'We live on! We thrive!' My second legacy is to my shul, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel. I created a legacy for BEKI in my estate plans so that it can continue to be a place for families to learn and grow." —Susan

For more information, contact the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
Lisa Stanger, Executive Director | (203) 387-2424, ext. 382 | lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org
Tamara Schechter, Create a Jewish Legacy Manager | (203) 387-2424, ext. 325 | tschechter@jewishnewhaven.org



Jewish Foundation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN



What will your Jewish legacy be?

Mark and Cyd Oppenheimer Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue, BEKI

"We joined BEKI in time for the baby-naming of our eldest daughter over 16 years ago, and it has been our Jewish home—and, really, a home in so many more ways—ever since. We are proud to leave something in our will for BEKI (it was also much easier to do the paperwork than I had thought). When we're gone, the shul will be here for our children." —Mark

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What will your Jewish legacy be?

Carole and Paul Bass Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

“BEKI is where our family became Jewish: where our daughters and I converted, where we learned to read Torah, where our lives began to revolve around the rhythms and melodies of Jewish life. Although our kids have chosen to live elsewhere, we made a legacy commitment for all the BEKI families to come.” –Carole

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What will your Jewish legacy be?

**Corinne Blackmer and Pilar Stewart
Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue,
Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel**

“Pilar and I are deeply committed to Beth El-Keser Israel and love the Jewish community there, the sense of authentic community, and the diversity. As a lesbian couple, we are leaving a legacy in particular to nurture diversity at our shul.” —Corinne

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What will your Jewish legacy be?

**Stephen and Joanne Rudof Created
a Legacy for Their Synagogue,
Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel**

"We joined BEKI in 1992, after our children had left for or completed college. We have always loved and valued the BEKI community. Although our children did not have the benefit of being brought up at BEKI, we hope that those that come after them and us will, so we are leaving funds in our wills to help guarantee the continuity of this amazing community." —Joanne

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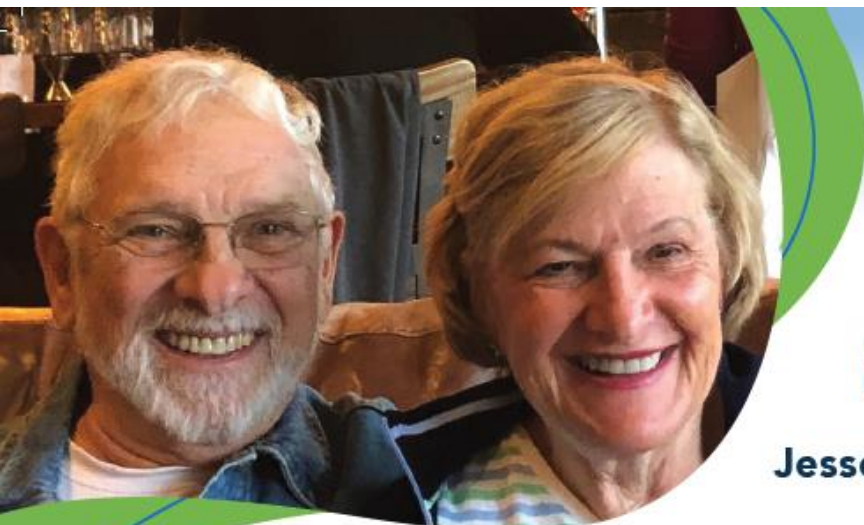
What will your Jewish legacy be?

Marjorie Wiener Created a Legacy for Her Synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

"I walked into BEKI in 1997 when my older son Matthew was going to start preparation for his Bar Mitzvah. I wanted to be a part of that process, and the Rabbi made sure we were all included. I immediately felt drawn in. BEKI is my community and my Jewish soul." –Margie

Create your Jewish legacy today by scanning the **QR Code** or visiting newhavenjewishfoundation.org/create-a-jewish-legacy





What will your Jewish legacy be?

Jessey and Joe Palumbo Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

*"We love that **BEKI** is a warm and inclusive egalitarian community. In 1997 our interfaith family joined **BEKI**, where we were welcomed and educated, and our sons celebrated their **B'nai Mitzvah**. I am honored to leave a legacy in my will for the following generations to also grow and learn with the **BEKI** community." –Jessey*

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What will your Jewish legacy be?

**Joanne Foodim and Robert Forbes
Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue,
Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel**

"BEKI has felt like home for us since we joined in 1994. We raised our children here and are so gladdened to see the congregation thrive and grow. We want to do our part to ensure the strength and spirit of this community for generations to come" –Rob and Joanne

Create your Jewish legacy today by scanning the **QR code** or visiting newhavenjewishfoundation.org/create-a-jewish-legacy





What will your Jewish legacy be?

**Eric Dunsker Created a Legacy for His Synagogue,
Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel**

"I've lived in a number of places and belonged to a number of synagogues. By far, BEKI has been the most welcoming, not only of my membership, but also of my active participation in its activities and operation. How could I not want to keep this going for those who come after me?" –Eric

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What will your Jewish legacy be?

Jay and Margie Hirshfield Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

"Over the past 50 years, we've celebrated B'nai Mitzvah for two of our sons and two of our grandsons at BEKI. We've designated our Legacy bequests in the hope that this sort of continuity will remain open to families in the Greater New Haven area, strengthening individual and community Jewish identity." –Jay and Margie

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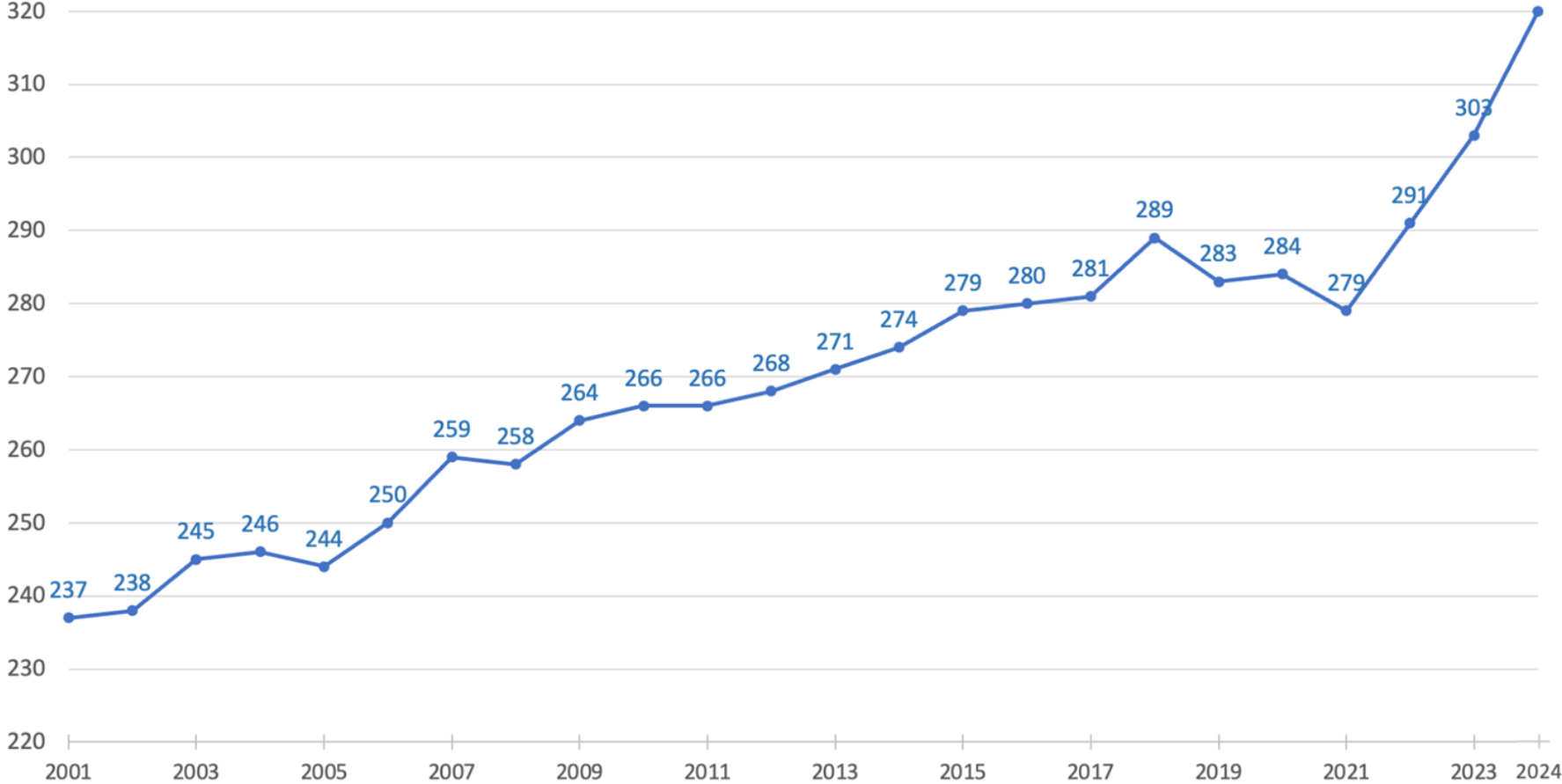
Membership

- 30 new & returning member units this year
- Now 320 member units
- [Member profiles posted near the Goodwin Youth Room](#)

Jason and Arielle Rubenstein
Matthew Ulman & Emilie Egger
Sylva Kroeber
Shirley & Jay Brodach
Laura Glesby
Eric & Emily Weinstein
Ben Cherry & Rachel Katz
Rachel Scheinerman
Mordechai Levy-Eichel
Saul Siller
Earl & Kranie Baker
Rina Bersohn
Christina Crowder
Elizabeth Frieden
David Golden
Jennifer Gottdiener

Miriam Ruth Kantorovitz
Arnie Margolis
Ora Nitkin-Kaner & Asa Watten
Melinda Papowitz
Eve Wattenberg
Joanna Romberg & Michael Blatchley
Ez Homonoff
Binny Zupnick
Nancy Levene & Kathryn Lofton
Laura Miller & Jesse Cohen
Diane Redleaf & Anatoly Libgober
Jennifer & William Ruth
Daniel Gordon & Lea Winter
Aviva Green
Steven & Eleanor Schiff

Family Units (Households)



Members We Lost

Richard Brodner*

*Legacy donors

Dan Goldstein, husband of Grace Jenq

Howard Gralla*, husband of Linda Schultz

Nancy Levine, wife of Richard Levine

Charles "Charlie" Ludwig*

Polina Naiman

Linda Saslow

Kathy Rosenbluh, wife of Michael Stern

Susanne Spitzer, wife of David Spitzer

HaMakom Yinachem

המקום ינחם

Family Members We Lost

Eric Baker, father of Katharine Baker (& Rabbi Eric Woodward)

Deborah Desenti, sister of Wendy (& David) Chorney

John DiNiccola, son-in-law of Yael Wertheimer

Pola Shulman de Grutzendler, mother of Jaime Grutzendler (& Nicole Korda)

Abe Harry Kaufman, father of Joy Kaufman (& Stewart Frankel)

Harold D. Levy, father of Betsy (& Robert) Sachs

Pesach Lew, brother of Yaron Lew

Rhoda Redleaf, mother of Diane Redleaf (& Anatoly Libgober)

Michael Schochat, father of Clifford Merin (& Anna Rothfus Merin)

Reena Levine Seltzer, daughter of Rabbi Murray Levine

Deborah Silverman, mother of Susan (& Alan) Dardik

Wilmoth Williams, mother of Angela (& Bruce) Oren

Paula Winter, mother of Michael Winter (& Ellen Mackler)

New Babies In Our Community



Mazal Tov to

Emilie Egger & Matt Ulman on the birth of Lev
Anna & Cliff Merin on the birth of William
Roxy Kohilakis & Matt Wiener on the birth of Benjamin
Rachel Katz & Ben Cherry on the birth of Lilah
Jhena Vigrass & Bruce Spierer on the birth of Shoshana
Rachel & Jason Greenberg on the birth of Emma
Tamara Schechter & Jessica Bod on the birth of Akiva
Abby Fraade & Tani Cohen-Fraade on the birth of Erez
Zoe Lubitz & David Kohn on the birth of Lilah
Lea Winter & Daniel Gordon on the birth of Reyna





Survey Results presented by Sam Purdy

Initial Results of BEKI Congregational Survey

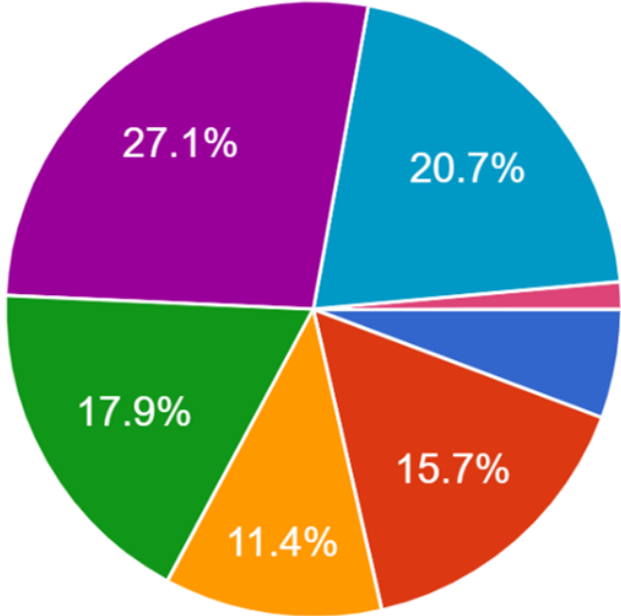
June 2024

Process Overview

- BEKI members were invited to respond to an online survey about the state of the shul; paper copies of the survey were mailed to members who receive print communication only
- During the three-and-a-half-week window, 140 members responded to the survey!
- This presentation will feature a high-level summary of the results
- This summer and fall, the BEKI board will deeply review all member responses to inform plans for the coming years

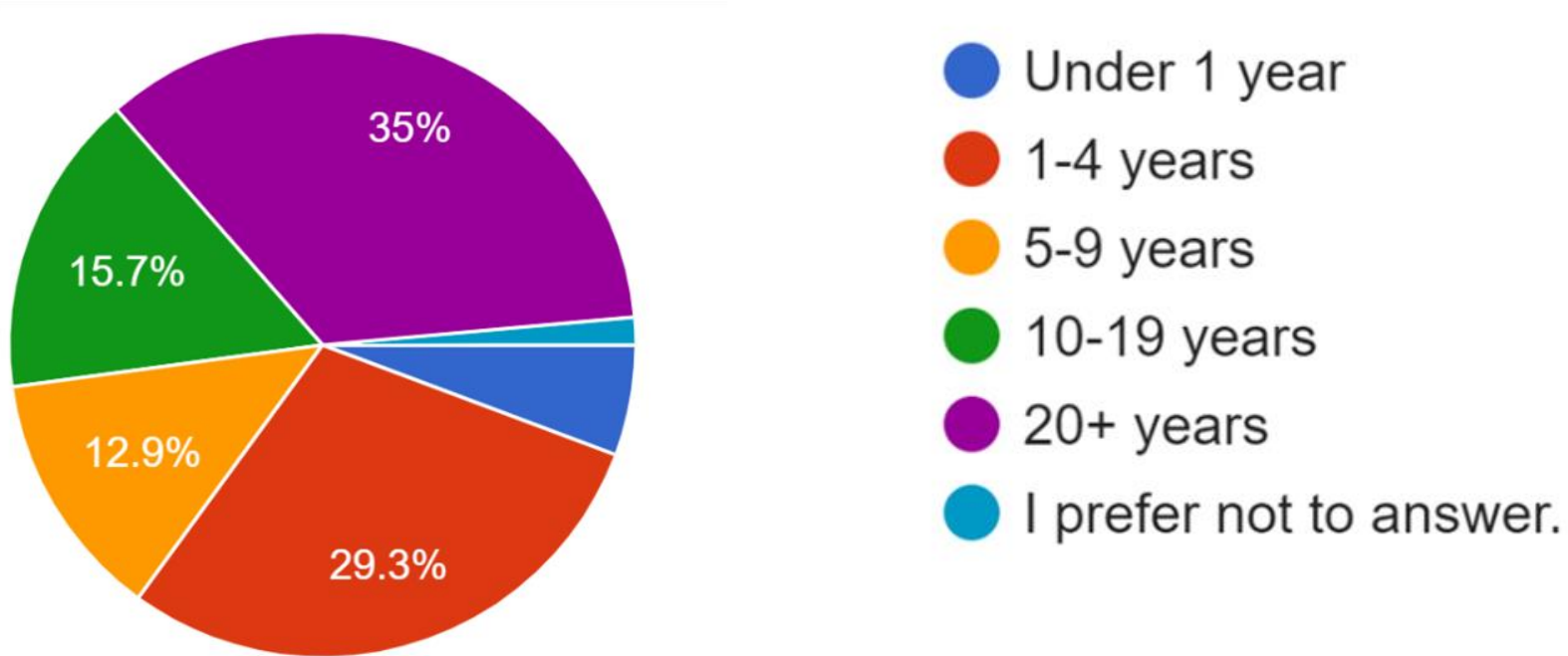
Who responded?

Respondents' Ages



- Under 30
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-64
- 65-74
- 75+
- I prefer not to answer.

Respondents' Tenure as BEKI Members



Respondents' Living Situations

- 41% of respondents live with their spouse/partner.
- 34% of respondents live with their spouse/partner and children.
- 18% of respondents live alone.
- 7% of respondents live with housemates, their children only, or have another living arrangement.

Framing the Responses

- Members were asked two questions:
 - What are the three aspects of life at BEKI that you are most pleased with?
 - What are the three aspects of life at BEKI that you most hope to see changed or improved?
- All respondents identified at least one aspect they are pleased with, and just under 90% provided the maximum of three aspects
- One half of respondents identified no more than one aspect they hope to see changed or improved (one quarter identified none)

Top Responses: Aspects Members are Most Pleased With

1. Inclusive and welcoming community
(selected by 71% of respondents)
2. Shabbat services
3. Kiddush lunches
4. Youth programming and education
5. Emotional/life cycle support

Top Responses: Aspects Members Most Hope to See Changed/Improved

1. Adult education and programming (selected by 24% of respondents - including the Programming Committee chair!)
2. Daily services
3. Shabbat services
4. Youth programming and education
5. Spiritual inspiration and meaning

What Else is “Under the Hood”

- There are over 200 open-ended responses to unpack!
- These include:
 - Elaborations on aspects that members are pleased with
 - Celebrations of the work of BEKI staff
 - Context around aspects members hope to see changed
 - Ideas for ways to improve, and offers to help that improvement

What is Still to Come

- Deeper analysis of open-ended responses and trends by member age, tenure, and family status
- Discussion among BEKI general board and executive board to use survey responses to inform priorities for the upcoming years
- Follow-up conversations with members who made that request

Thank you for taking the time to share your perspective!

The Annual Meeting continues...

Remarks by Rabbi Woodward

Sisterhood presentation by Mimi Glenn

Report from Treasurer Steve Rudof



Remarks by Rabbi Woodward

Sisterhood

Thanks to donations from BEKI Sisterhood members, Giftshop sales, Tree of Life leaves, and the Posner Memorial Fund's annual income, we:

- Donated \$2,000 for youth programs
- Provided refreshments at Erev Simchat Torah and Erev Purim
- Presented two author programs / gift and book sales:
 - Pre-Hanukkah, Joel Silverstein, author of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*
 - Pre-Pesach, Liel Leibovitz, author of *How the Talmud Can Change Your Life*

Board members:

Mimi Glenn, President

Lauren Brown, Membership

Jessey Palumbo, Treasurer

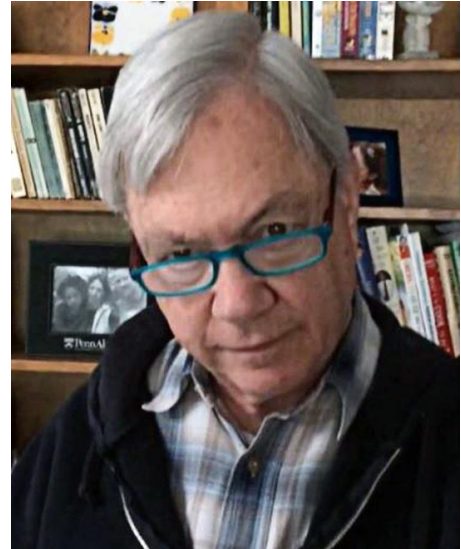
Marjorie Wiener, Tree of Life

Harriet Friedman and Karen Kassap, Giftshop



Report from Treasurer Steve Rudof

The Kiddush this Shabbat
Saturday, June 22
honors Steve Rudof for his
years of service





Thank you to the 2023-2024 Board

Thank you to the 2023-2024 Board and Officers

President - Rachel Bashevkin (EC)

VP - Jennifer Myer (EC)

VP - David Levy (EC)

Treasurer - Steve Rudof (EC)

Secretary - Donna Levine (EC)

Rabbi Eric Woodward (ex-officio/EC)

Immediate Past President - Yaron Lew (EC)

At-Large - Russell Epstein (EC appointee)

At-Large - Sam Purdy (EC appointee)

Finance Designee – Murray Akresh

At-Large - Harold Birn

At-Large - Rachel Doft (BINA liaison)

House Chair – Eric Dunsker

At-Large - Rob Schonberger

At-Large - Mimi Glenn (Sisterhood liaison)

At-Large - Michael Hurwitz

At-Large - Jonathan Rohner

At-Large - Tamara Schechter

At-Large - Jay Sokolow

At-Large - Evan Wyner

At-Large - Rebecca Weiner

Presenting the slate of 2024-2025 Board and Officers

President – Russell Epstein (EC)

VP 1 – Jennifer Myer (EC)

VP 2 – Jay Sokolow (EC)

Treasurer – David Levy (EC)

Secretary – Donna Levine (EC)

Rabbi Eric Woodward (ex-officio/EC)

Finance Designee – Murray Akresh

House Designee – Eric Dunsker

IPP – Rachel Bashevkin

At-Large – Sam Purdy (EC)

At-Large – Yaron Lew (EC)

At-Large – Mimi Glenn (Sisterhood representative)

At-Large – Rachel Doft (Religious school representative)

At-Large – Harold Birn

At-Large – Rebecca Weiner

At-Large – Michael Hurwitz

At-Large - Tamara Schechter

At-Large – Rob Schonberger

At-Large – Evan Wyner

At-Large – Elan Weinstock

At-Large – Ali Rosen

Thank you to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Harold Birn



Russell Epstein
President
president@beki.org



Jennifer Myer
Vice-President



Jay Sokolow
Vice-President



David Levy
Treasurer



Donna Levine
Secretary



Murray Akresh



Rachel Bashevkin



Harold Birn



Rachel Doft



Eric Dunsker



Mimi Glenn



Michael Hurwitz



Yaron Lew



Sam Purdy



Ali Rosen



Tamara Schechter



Rob Schonberger



Rebecca Weiner



Elan Weinstock



Evan Wyner



Remarks by the new President