

Congregation Beth Mordecai

224 High Street, Perth Amboy NJ 08861

Office - 732-442-1373

Rabbi - 732-442-2431

OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com

April 2014

SERVICES

Please see
page 5 for
events and
service times,
& page 12 for
*Homecoming
Pictures.*

Officers of Beth Mordecai

President
-Norman Silverstein

Vice-President
-Alan Roy

Treasurer
-Matt Richter

Secretary
-Scott Gursky

Executive Director
-Elliot Rubin

Like Us
On
Facebook

Congregation Beth Mordecai & The Jewish Theological Seminary

Present **A Cantor Showcase**

*On April 12th Experience a Shabbat
service with the beauty, the awe, and
the majesty of cantorial
music in an awe
inspiring setting.*



*Featuring a bright,
rising star of the
Conservative movement
Hazzan Rachel Brook.*

All are welcome.

**There also will be a memorial service
for Cantor David Levine z'l.
Cantor Levine's family will be in atten-
dance.**



Review of Homecoming: Seeing *Their* Experiences as *Our* Stories

וְאִלּוּ ל' אֵל הוֹצִיא תְּקַדּוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא אֶת אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם, הֲרֵי אֲנוּ וּבְנֵינוּ וּבְנֵי בְנֵינוּ מִשְׁעֶבְדִּים הָיִינוּ לְפָרְעֹה הַבְּמִצְרַיִם (הַגְּדָה שֶׁל פֶּסַח)

And if the Holy One Blessed be He, had not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, then we, our children, and our grandchildren would still be enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt (Haggadah for Passover)

When you walk into Safran Hall now, you'll see a vestige of the Homecoming Weekend – a timeline from Beth Mordecai's origins until its present day. It's filled with fun facts (Beth Mordecai used to be an orthodox congregation!), amazing pictures (see if you can find a young Michael Gast!) and fascinating artifacts (Richard Silberberg's Bar Mitzvah certificate!). When Safran Hall was filled during Homecoming's Friday Night *Oneg* Shabbat you could see people pointing to and discussing the different items on the timeline. It was as if, for a brief moment, we were all transported back to the past, as if we all came home again.

Was that the point of Homecoming? Was the purpose of our glorious weekend this past March to reminisce about the past, share stories about the minister-tutored bar mitzvah speeches (thanks, Les!) and the plays and dances held in Safran Hall? Was the reason for our gathering to bring our thoughts back to the past and let them be washed with a cleansing *shpritz* of nostalgia?

Certainly part of our goal was to share memories about the past and to bring alumni back into the Beth Mordecai sphere through accessing those memories. But I think that's only a limited view of the purpose behind the weekend. While the memories of the past may have been the vehicle for getting us to our destination, it's how the weekend helped us see ourselves as part of the history and the future of Beth Mordecai that fueled the engine to take us forward.

In a short while we will celebrate the holiday of Passover which, in many ways, is also about recounting the memories of the past. In recounting how God freed us out of Egypt we recall the story of our origins as the people of Israel and, like the timeline wrapped around Safran Hall, we have a *haggadah* to tell that story at Jewish tables all over the world. Towards the beginning of the *maggid* section, in which we re-tell the story of our redemption through the eyes of the rabbis, the *haggadah* teaches us that...

"We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord our God took us out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. And if the Holy One, Blessed be He, had not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, then we, our children and our grandchildren would still be enslaved to Pharaoh in Egypt."

According to this passage, the practical purpose of reading the story of Passover seems to be to remind us that each of us would still be slaves in Egypt if it wasn't for God's miracles. In other words, the importance of reading this story in the present is to be grateful because if the miracles of the past didn't happen, our present would be one of slavery. Yet, doesn't this "practical" purpose seem a little far-fetched? How much do we really believe that our lives *now* would be like the lives of Israelites back *then* if it wasn't for the miracle of Passover? Aren't the rabbis using their *midrashic* license to embellish reality to make a pedagogical or polemical point that the Passover story is *really* important? Personally, I don't believe that the rabbis actually believed we'd continue to be slaves today, but I do think that by saying "*we* would be slaves in Egypt," they are trying to help us see our *people's* story as our *individual* story.

What makes Beth Mordecai so special isn't that there used to be a large Hebrew School, that memorable plays and dances occurred in Safran Hall, or that we have a unique cantorial showcase program (see below for details!), or that we dance and sing during Shabbat by the Sea. What makes Beth Mordecai special is that there are individual people who experienced those moments and found it so special for themselves. In other words, a memorable moment for our congregation is only as special and memorable as how each congregant experiences them. So it makes sense that if our experience of Beth Mordecai is *only* in the past, or *only* in the present, then we will only care about those particular moments of Beth Mordecai's history and not care about the entire scope of Beth Mordecai's history.

That's why the teaching from Passover mentioned above plays such an important role, to remind us to extend our vision beyond our personal experiences in order to see our entire people's history as if it is our personal one. If we do that, if we can see each other's individual story of Beth Mordecai as part of our own story, then we will make our extended Beth Mordecai community something really special. It will happen when we hear the stories of the fabulous Sisterhood spearheaded by Ellie Shelko and see our own experiences of bonding within them. It will happen when we see the pictures from our Rubber Duck Race fundraiser and see our experiences from the fun fundraisers of the past. It will happen when, like the Passover story, we see the entire history of the *people* of Beth Mordecai as our own *individual* story of our Jewish Home for the Soul. So as you browse this month's bulletin and see the wonderful pictures of our Homecoming Weekend (thanks Stella, Marvin, and Susan!) don't just look for yourselves in the weekend's pictures, look for your stories in our people's pictures, because together, from the past to the future, *We Are Beth Mordecai!*

“Lost” Polish Jew, 64, makes Bar Mitzvah at Western Wall

Please click on the link below to read the article



http://www.shavei.org/communities/hidden_jews_of_poland/articles-hidden_jews_of_poland/lost-polish-jew-64-marks-bar-mitzvah-at-western-wall/?lang=en

Beth Mordecai is pleased to announce that we have a new “Caring Committee” that will do outreach to those who cannot get out, are ill at home, or in the hospital and would like some help, or an ear to speak to.

Please call the committee chairperson if you would like to contact us. See page 7 for mission statement. Sherry Weber at 908-756-7854.

The Wisdom of the Hebrew Alphabet



Please click on the link below to read the article

<http://splicetoday.com/writing/the-wisdom-of-the-hebrew-alphabet>

SHEVCHENKO MONUMENTS

Granite – Cemetery Inscriptions – Bronze
**SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
since 1919**

A family owned and operated
Factory Showroom

Factory Direct

www.shevco.com

4th Generation Craftsmen

329 Florida Grove Road

Perth Amboy NJ 08861

732-442-1286 fax 732-697-0418

Flynn and Son

Memorial Home, Inc.

319 Amboy Ave. Metuchen

Brendan J. Flynn Jr. Mgr.

NJ Lic No. 4105

23 Ford Ave. Edison-Fords

420-424 East Ave. Perth Amboy

Brendan J. Flynn Mgr.

NJ Lic. No 2958

James J. Flynn Mgr NJ Lic No 4152

IMPORTANT

We should remember the hungry people here in New Jersey. Therefore, if you want to give away Humuts before Passover, or give away other food, *bring it to the synagogue* and we will forward it to St. Peter's food kitchen.

Happy Birthday

April



Felice Gruber

Nate Witkin

Ron Miskoff

Martin Pearlman

Sandy Katz



Henny Youngman

**“One night God sneezed...
I didn't know what to say”**

Need a Seder the First Night?

Do you need to attend a Seder on the first night?

Can you host someone who needs you? Please contact the office at 732-442-1373 or email us at

OfficeBethMordecai@Gmail.com

or call

[Harriet Pearlman \(908-930-3557\)](#) and she will match you up.

Thank you

Services and Events

April

Friday, April 4 -- Family Shabbat **6:30 pm**

Saturday, April 12 -- Cantorial Showcase

Tuesday night, April 15 -- BM Communal Seder

Monday, April 21 -- Yizkor

May

Saturday, May 3 -- Family Shabbat **11am**

Saturday, May 31 -- Cantorial Showcase + Scholar



What's on our Facebook page?

(www.facebook.com/CongregationBethMordecai)

KIDZ KORNER

(Sundays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays @ 2 pm)

JEWISH CURRENT

EVENTS UPDATE (Mondays & Wednesdays @ 2 pm)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

(Wednesdays and Thursdays @ 5 pm)

RABBI'S JOURNAL (Daily)

ONLINE PARASHAH

CLASS (Fridays @ 12:30 pm)

PLUS Israeli news, interesting articles, fun videos, communal conversations, advertisements and much, much more!

Our Facebook page: Your daily source to connect with your Jewish Home for the Soul!

Our Second Night Seder is Coming Tuesday April 15th. Call TODAY!!
The deadline is April 3rd. \$36@ adult (less for kids). Choice of Chicken, Brisket, or Vegetarian. Please don't wait to register.

Here are some opportunities to donate to Beth Mordecai:

Rabbi Discretionary Fund
Programming Fund
Temple Fund
Sisterhood Tribute Fund
Sponsor Shabbat evening Oneg 50.00
Sponsor Shabbat morning Kiddush 100.00
Memorial Tablet 300.00
Memorial Plaque 1200.00

Please use form to mail a donation.
Send to:

Address:

In Honor Of/In Memory Of/Other

Name & address of contributor:

Amount of Gift:

\$ _____

Please indicate to which fund you are donating:

☐ **Friday night Oneg \$50**
☐ **Shabbat morning Kiddush \$100**
☐ **Programming Fund**
☐ **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**
☐ **Sisterhood Tribute Fund**
☐ **Temple Fund**
☐ **Memorial Tablet \$300**
☐ **Memorial Plaque \$1200**

Please send this form with a check to:
Congregation Beth Mordecai
224 High Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

To donate on line with Paypal, click below.

<http://bethmordecai.org/donate/>

Friday Candle Lighting Times – April

Apr 7 5:37 pm

Apr 14 6:45 pm

Apr 21 6:52 pm

Apr 28 7:00 pm



Perth Amboy Time

For your zip code times please click link below.

Hebcal.com

[http://www.hebcal.com/hebcal/?](http://www.hebcal.com/hebcal/?v=1;geo=zip;zip=08861;m=72;vis=on;month=6;year=2013;nh=on;nx=on;s=on;c=on;mf=on;ss=on;tz=-5;dst=usa)

[v=1;geo=zip;zip=08861;m=72;vis=on;month=6;year=2013;nh=on;nx=on;s=on;c=on;mf=on;ss=on;tz=-5;dst=usa](http://www.hebcal.com/hebcal/?v=1;geo=zip;zip=08861;m=72;vis=on;month=6;year=2013;nh=on;nx=on;s=on;c=on;mf=on;ss=on;tz=-5;dst=usa)

If there is some Nuus that you would like us to know about please send an email to the office.

We want to hear from you.

OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com

Caring Committee Mission Statement

The purpose of Beth Mordecai's Caring Committee is to reach out to members of our community in times of need. We believe that this is what it means to be part of a caring Jewish congregation and community. We want to offer friendship, comfort and companionship especially at times when it is most needed. We want people to know we are a family in our Jewish Home for the Soul.

Ways in which we can help:

We will do our best to provide rides to the synagogue when needed.

We will help to organize a minyan when a family is sitting shiva.

We will pick up a few items at the grocery store, or pick up a prescription for people who are homebound.

We will make phone calls to people we are unable to visit.

We will try to arrange visits to people who are hospitalized, in a nursing home or a rehab facility especially during Jewish holidays.

We will try and make brief visits to people who are homebound so we can chat and possibly share a cup of tea or coffee. We are not professional healthcare aids or medical professionals and as such cannot provide care in a professional manner, but we do want to offer our friendship and compassion when it is most needed.

How you can help us accomplish our mission:

We welcome any members of our congregation who feel that they would like to join us and help us to reach out to others in our community when needed. Please don't hesitate to call us if you think we can be of assistance.

Contact: Sherry Weber 908-451-9708

Rabbi Ari Saks: 732-442-2431 ari.saks@gmail.com



Egg in Vinaigrette Toast



Serves 4

- 3tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1tablespoon red-wine vinegar
- 4(1 1/2-inch) thick slices sandwich bread
- 4large eggs
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2bunches arugula

Preheat broiler with rack in highest position. In a shallow dish, whisk together 2 tablespoons olive oil and vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. Dip sandwich bread in vinaigrette and arrange in a buttered baking dish. Use a glass or 2-inch round cutter to remove centers of bread. Broil toast until beginning to brown on one side, about 2 minutes. Flip toast slices, crack eggs into holes, and return dish to broiler. Broil toast with eggs 2 minutes, then cover dish with foil. Broil eggs until just set, 3 to 4 minutes more.

While toast and eggs cook, heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in a large skillet over medium-high. Add arugula and cook until just wilted, about 2 minutes. Divide arugula among plates and top with toast slices.

In Loving Memory We Remember...

IN MEMORY OR

BY

Bernard Saverslak

Adams, Hannah Rose

Sara Anecestein

Aneckstein, Arthur

Sophia Vivian Brown

Brown, Sandra & Richard

Dr. Nathaniel B. Cole

Cole, Martha

Helen Davis

Duvdevani, Avi & Marsha

Clara Kirschner

Eagle, Robert & Esther

Ruth Goldberger

Goldberger, William & Marcia

Abraham Eskin

Greco, Norma Eskin

Lottie Marks

Greenspan, Barbara

Lottie Marks

Grove, Martin & Marjorie

Adele Press Epstein

Lyons, Elyse

Sadye Monsky

Monsky, William & Roslyn

William I. Seidman

Seidman, Helen Wong

Jacob Sher

Sher, Louis & Sandra

Gordon Sandler

Shevell, Mike

Marilyn Eimer

Solkowitz, Jordan & Dorothy

Rose Spitzer

Spitzer, Jeanne

Helen Mulligan

Stern, Sidney



Synagogue Trip to Philadelphia to National Museum of Jewish American History

Temple Beth Mordecai is arranging a trip to the National Museum of Jewish American History on Sunday, May 18th. We will be leaving from the Temple at 9:30 AM and returning between 5:00 or 6:00. Transportation will be included.

There will be a guided tour of the museum from 12 to 1:30 after which we will meet for lunch. The museum is located in Central City.

The Liberty Bell and Independence Hall are within walking distance. The Museum also has a new exhibition Chasing Dreams which focuses on the history of Jews and other immigrant groups in Baseball.

Cost of trip: \$55. This includes transportation, entrance to museum and guided tour.

Snacks will be provided on bus. Lunch is not included in the cost. After tour we will meet for lunch details to follow

Reservations are needed by April 25th or sooner as we must make arrangements with museum.. Reservations and checks may be mailed to Temple Beth Mordecai, 224 High Street , Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861

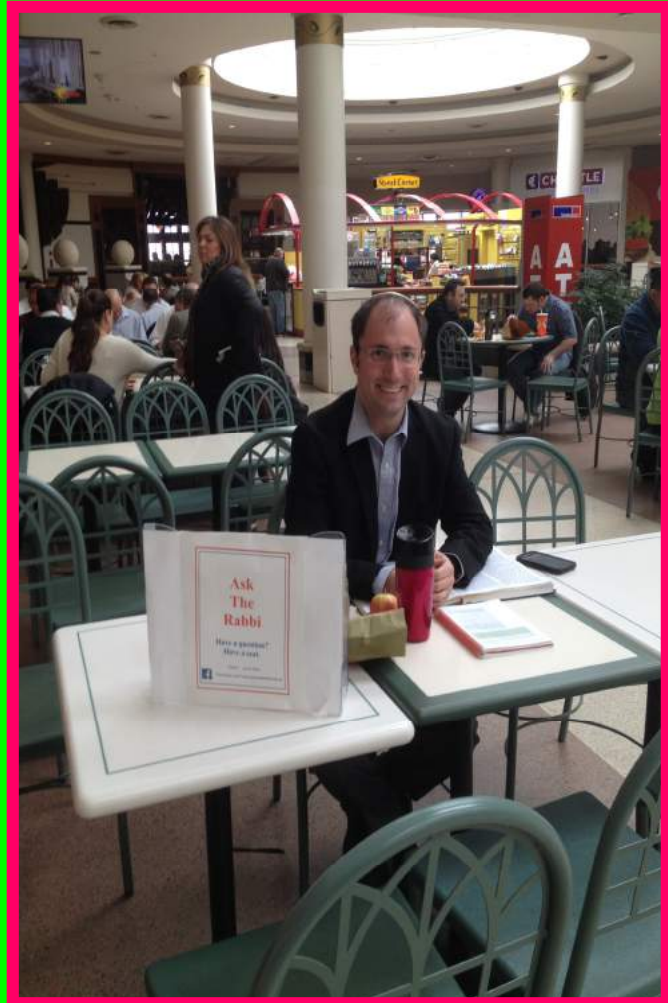
Looking forward to a great trip!!!

**Sherry Weber and Louise Siegal
Co-chairs**

April Happenings

Ask the Rabbi

On Thursdays, Rabbi Saks, at 12:10 pm in the food court at Menlo Park Mall in Edison will answer any and all questions from everyone.



Learning with the Rabbi
Every Thursday, Rabbi Saks, at 9:00 am will be in the Woodbridge Panera across from WEGMANS. Stop by and learn with him.

Get Mitzvah Points, we need Oneg and Kiddush Sponsors.
Please contact our office for further details.

Homecoming Weekend Pictures

Schmooze Cruise Party



Homecoming Weekend Pictures



Sunday Brunch



More Homecoming Weekend Pictures

