



Congregation Beth Mordecai

A Jewish Home for the Soul

February 2015

Sh'vat/Adar 5775

Don't miss these two amazing events!

Murder Mystery Party

Saturday, February 28

7:30pm

224 High St., Perth Amboy

\$20 Admission

Light Refreshments Served

Register online at

www.bethmordecai.org and

send payment to Sherry Weber

(3 Sunflower Ct., Edison, NJ 08820)



MODERN ISRAELI COOKING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

12PM

\$15 PER PERSON

Join Congregation Beth Mordecai for a delicious and interesting afternoon with tABLE health nutritionists Rachel Saks, MS RD and Ora Warmflash.

While Israeli food in America was once limited to falafel and schwarma, local foodies are now discovering that Israeli cuisine is typified by fresh, Mediterranean ingredients using culinary techniques as diverse as the country itself. Recipes in this dynamic cooking presentation will include:

- Roasted Babaganush with Pomegranate and Yogurt
- Pickled Kohlrabi Salad with Grapes
- Shakshuka with Kale
- Bulgar and Lentil Mujaderra
- Tahini and Date Honey with Fresh and Dried Fruits.

Come hungry and bring your friends. RSVPs requested.

Contact Rachel at Rachel@tablehealth.com for more information.



Congregation Beth Mordecai

Established 1897

Address 224 High St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
Office Phone 732.442.1373
Rabbi's Phone 732.442.2431
Office E-mail OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com
Rabbi's E-mail Ari.Saks@gmail.com
Office Hours 10am - 2pm Monday - Thursday
Website http://BethMordecai.org

Synagogue Staff

Rabbi Ari Saks
Executive Director Elliot Rubin

Board of Trustees

President Norman Silverstein
Vice President Alan Roy
Treasurer Matt Richter
Budget Director Cheryl August
Secretary Scott Gursky
Past President Michael Gast
Past President Ron Miskoff
Past President Larry Deutchman
Other David Bennett
Other Ann Blog
Other Sandy Katz
Other Steve Safran
Other Louis Sher

Committee Contacts

Caring Sherry Weber 908.451.9708
Duck Race Alan Roy 908.403.4303
High Holidays Marc Fertik 732.390.3348
David Bennett 732.494.9029
Oneg/Kiddush Betty Fertik 732.407.0821
Mary Ann Strauss 732.572.4176
Social Media Avi Duvdevani 917.301.1045
Strategic Planning Marc Fertik 732.390.3348
YJPA Stella Morrison stella.morr@gmail.com



Acknowledge the Occasion through Beth Mordecai

"Tzedaka is equal in importance to all other commandments combined."
-Talmud

**I am pleased to make a contribution of \$ _____
to the following fund...**

- ☐ **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**
Allows the rabbi to support special programs and individuals in need.
- ☐ **General Fund**
Applied to the operating budget of the congregation.
- ☐ **Friday Night Oneg Fund**
Used for cookies and other noshes following Friday night services.
A contribution of \$75 supports one oneg.
- ☐ **Shabbat Morning Kiddush Fund**
Used for luncheons and noshes following Saturday morning services.
A contribution of \$125 supports one Kiddush.

...in honor, memory or appreciation of:

My Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

**Please send this contribution form and check directly to the synagogue office.
Checks should be made payable to "Congregation Beth Mordecai".**



**Contributions to the above listed funds may
also be made on the synagogue website
through our secure PayPal link.**

*Thank you for your generous and thoughtful support of our funds
which keep the synagogue running & help with a multitude of
worthy projects that enrich & invigorate our community.*

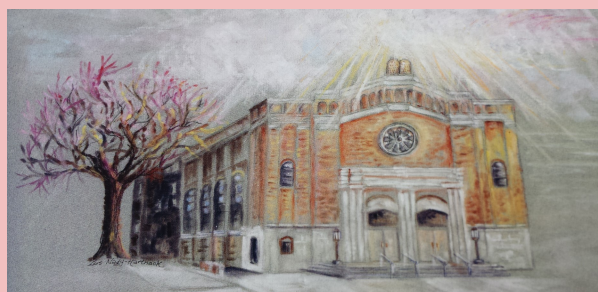
Todah Rabbah - many thanks to you all!

General Fund Donations

Sandra & Richard Brown

Philip & Ilene Rothman

Mike Shevell



WE MAKE OUR OWN LOOPHOLES



A conversation that has been percolating on one of my rabbinic listservs is how to incorporate the concept of the *sh'mittah*, the sabbatical, into our observance of the holiday of Tu B'Shvat (15th of Sh'vat) on February 4th to February 5th. The issue of *sh'mittah* is being raised this year because this year (5775) is a year of *sh'mittah*, a sabbatical year, for the land of Israel. A sabbatical year means that no foods are grown or planted in the fields. They shall lie "fallow" (i.e. resting) (Exodus 23:10-11, Leviticus 25:4-5). And not only should the land rest but so should people, slaves and cattle. One's debts should also "rest," meaning that if you are owe money by the time of the *sh'mittah* year those debts should be annulled (Deuteronomy 15:2).

In theory, the idea of the *sh'mittah* is a good one -- rest does a world of good. But if we cannot plant during the 7th year, what will we eat (and more pointedly what will we eat the next year when the seeds planted the previous year are supposed to bear fruit)? And if we annul our debts, what will that do to the practice of lending money during the previous 6th year? How will any lender loan money if their loan will be nullified the following year?

The Torah's answers to both of these questions are instructive: On not being able to plant during the seventh year... *"And should you ask, 'What are we to eat in the seventh year, if we may neither sow nor gather in our crops?'" I will ordain My blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it shall yield a crop sufficient for three years. When you sow in the eighth year, you will still be eating old grain of that crop; you will be eating the old until the ninth year, until its crops come in"* (Leviticus 25:20-22).

On the fear of having a loan annulled...

*If, however, there is a needy person among you, one of your kinsmen in any of your settlements in the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman. Rather, you must open your hand and lend him sufficient for whatever he needs. Beware lest you harbor the base thought, "the seventh year, the year of remission, is approaching," so that you are mean to your needy kinsman and give him nothing. He will cry out to the LORD against you, and you will incur guilt. **Give to him readily and have no regrets when you do so, for in return the LORD your God will bless you in all your efforts and all your undertakings.*** (Deuteronomy, 15:7-10).

In both instances, God's blessing isn't a "wish" or "hope" for things to turn out for the best. It is a reality that stems from obeying the commandment -- the land will be blessed by producing MORE grain IF you let the land lie fallow, and you will be blessed by having MORE wealth IF you lend money in the penultimate year leading to the *sh'mittah*.

Yet the Torah saying these blessings will turn into reality does not mean that Jewish communities trusted its teachings. In the times of Rabbi Hillel (110 BCE to 10 CE), people had the "base thought" that their loans wouldn't be paid back in the 7th year and as such didn't offer loans in the sixth. As a response, Rabbi Hillel did not rebuke his fellows for not abiding by the Torah. He might have understood their perspective -- banking on God's blessings may not have been a safe investment. Instead, he enacted the *prozbul* which allowed a Jewish person to transfer property (or loans) to a 3rd party who was not under the same restrictions (i.e. a non-Jew or a court who is not obligated to observe the *sh'mittah* year). When the year is over, the Jewish person who initiated the transfer would have his loan (or his land) returned to him *including* any profit the loan or land accrued during that time it was not his (*Tractate Gittin 34b-37b*).

This kind of loophole allowed Jewish business owners to stay in business during the *sh'mittah* year, and inspired others that allow us to do things that seem to be forbidden. This is especially the case with the *sh'mittah*'s "sister", *Shabbat* -- our weekly Day of Rest. Like the *sh'mittah*, *Shabbat* helps us break from our need to control the world around us so that we can simply witness its beauty. And because it is meant to give us rest, the traditional *Shabbat* observance is complete with rules for how to make that rest a reality. Yet, whether it's cooking, driving, using money or turning on lights, much of what is forbidden on *Shabbat* has seemingly been allowed, either by our Tradition or by our personal sensibilities. *For each of us who wants to observe Shabbat in some way, we make our own loopholes.*

That's not to say that loopholes are inherently bad -- they often allow us to celebrate *Shabbat* in a meaningful way while adjusting to our modern needs. The core of the issue though is what the Torah's verses above indicate -- that by resting, and not pursuing, working or hustling, we will be blessed with practical and tangible benefits. This is the test each of us must take, no matter how much or little of *Shabbat* (or of *sh'mittah*) we practice. Does it give us blessings? Could it provide MORE blessings if we make more loopholes or if we make fewer ones? How we observe *Shabbat* is up to each one of us, but no matter how we observe...may it lead us to receive many, many, MANY blessings.



Shalach Manot for the Jewish War Veterans

On February 22nd, the Caring Committee is planning to visit some of the Jewish War veterans at the New Jersey Veteran's Home, in Menlo Park, to help them celebrate the holiday of Purim. The committee plans to bring gift packages.

Gift packages will include Hamantaschen (to be provided by the Caring Committee), but the committee would greatly appreciate any donations that the New Jersey Veterans' Home could be put to good use, such as:



Diabetic
Socks



Body Spray
(no alcohol)



Tissues



Pencils & Pens



Postage Stamps



Gragers

Please bring your donations to the synagogue no later than Friday, February 20.

If you plan to bring your donations during the day, please reach out to Elliott, in the office, or the Rabbi to let them know and schedule a drop-off; otherwise, feel free to bring them when you come for services or other event.

Any questions, please contact Sherry Weber (908.451.9708 or sweber7854@aol.com).

Hamantaschen Bake-Off

Wednesday, March 4 at 8pm-ish (after Purim services / Megillah reading)

Roll up your oven mitts, find your grandma's old recipe (or your favorite modern recipe) and prepare to bake your best hamantaschen ever!

Before services, drop off 2 dozen of your tasty treats to Safran Hall where they will be arranged in an anonymous fashion.

After services, everyone will have the chance to taste the submissions and vote on their favorites. Prizes will be awarded!

If you plan to enter your delectable delight, please contact Sharon (847.757.4227 or sharon.bender@outlook.com) by March 1st so we can accommodate your entry.

Open to the entire Congregation Beth Mordecai community and sponsored by Young Jewish Professionals of Perth Amboy (YJPA).



JCC of Middlesex County, Congregation Neve Shalom & Congregation Beth Mordecai Present...

PURIM CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA

JCC of Middlesex County (1775 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison)

Sunday, March 1

12pm - 3pm

Food available for purchase...enjoy lunch while celebrating!

Live Show ° Inflatable Bounce ° Hamantaschen

Face Painting ° Photo Booth ° Swimming



For more information or TO VOLUNTEER, call Jennine (732.494.3232, ext. 3621)



BRANCH OUT A TU B'SHEVAT POTLUCK

Friday, February 6
5:45pm
Stella's Home

Come celebrate the birthday of the trees with other young adults.
Environmentally themed cocktails and drinks will be provided.

RSVP to Rachel (rdsaks@gmail.com) and let her know what
tree/dried fruit/nut themed dairy dish you can bring. If you
can't think of one, she'll be happy to suggest one!

Stella's address will be shared when RSVP is received.



Come out for our February & March Events!

NETWORKING SHABBAT DINNER

MARCH 13, 2015 6:30PM – 8:00PM FREE

B. Y. O. B.

BRING

YOUR

OWN

BUSINESS
CARD

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG JEWISH PROFESSIONALS OF PERTH AMBOY (YJPA)

Bring your business card and a friend, or come by yourself, and enjoy a delicious
Shabbat dinner with great people (20's – 40) at a local home in Perth Amboy!

For more information, including the address,
send an email to YJPerthAmboy@gmail.com.



Online Parashah Class - Fridays - 12pm - Open to All

Get in the mood for Shabbat... from the comfort of your computer! Join the Rabbi for interesting insights into the week's Torah portion during the lunch hour. To attend the LIVE class, email the Rabbi (ari.saks@gmail.com). If you miss it, watch it online (Go to <http://bethmordecai.org/category/parashah-class/>).

Friday Night Services - Fridays - 8pm (7:30pm on 2/6) - Open to All

Join us for spirited and lively participatory services. Each service includes elements of singing, storytelling and conversation with the community. Monthly themes:

Celebration Shabbat - 1st Friday of Each Month (February 6)

FAMILY EDITION! Note the earlier start time - 7:30pm!

Commemorate your birthday or anniversary in the upcoming month with a special Friday night celebration, to be followed by a Blowout Oneg Shabbat (sponsorship opportunities available). **This month, there will be a special focus on families with kids/grandkids ages 5-10.**

Pardon the Interruption - 2nd Friday of Each Month (February 13)

A series of 3 conversations that interrupt the Jewish ritual service in order to understand different prayers and sections of the service on a deeper level. The conversations, each 5-7 minutes long, are thematically tied and interspersed throughout the service.

Current Events Sermon - 3rd Friday of Each Odd # Month (March 20)

Once per month, Rabbi Saks will deliver a formal sermon on a Jewish interpretation of a relevant current events topic. The sermon will rotate between Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

Saturday Morning Services - Saturdays - 10am - Open to All

Traditional, egalitarian and informative. We connect participants to traditions while actively engaging them in the service. There is ample opportunity for in-depth learning of the prayers and the Torah Portion. Monthly themes:

Torah Talk - 1st Saturday of Each Month (Cancelled in February)

Instead of Torah Talk this month, we welcome the Yosevitz & Moreau families to our community to celebrate with us as Michael Yosevitz is called to the Torah to honor his upcoming marriage to Danielle Moreau!

Pardon the Interruption - 2nd Saturday of Each Month (February 14)

See description above.

Current Events Sermon - 3rd Saturday of Each Even # Month (February 21)

See description above. The sermon will rotate between Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

Come & Celebrate!

**Saturday, February 7
10am**

Services in the Sanctuary

Followed by a

Kiddush Luncheon

in Safran Hall

Please RSVP to the office (732.442.1373).



**February 21
11am
Theme: "Purim"**

Celebrate Shabbat through this fun and interactive service with songs, story time, an activity or craft and a kiddie Kiddush!

This is a FREE 1 hour program for children ages 2-5. Kiddush with the congregation to follow.

For info., or to register, please contact the office.



LIGHT CANDLES		SHABBAT ENDS	
Feb. 6	5:03pm	Feb. 7	6:04pm
Feb. 13	5:12pm	Feb. 14	6:12pm
Feb. 20	5:20pm	Feb. 21	6:20pm
Feb. 27	5:28pm	Feb. 28	6:28pm
Mar. 6	5:36pm	Mar. 7	6:35pm
Mar. 13	6:43pm	Mar. 14	7:43pm
Mar. 20	6:51pm	Mar. 21	7:50pm
Mar. 28	6:58pm	Mar. 29	7:58pm
Apr. 3	7:06pm	Apr. 4	8:06pm

Times are specific to Perth Amboy;
from Chabad.org.

LEARN & PRACTICE HEBREW

Individual Hebrew Practice - Date & Time TBD with Rabbi

In this independent study program, participants will meet with the rabbi 1-on-1 for 30 minutes to learn and practice their Hebrew. Designed for beginners but open to all, the course will utilize the book "Teach Yourself How to Read Hebrew" as well as online tutorials. During the 1-on-1 meetings, participants will have the opportunity to review the homework in the book or practice a prayer/reading they are learning on their own. If interested, please email Rabbi Saks (ari.saks@gmail.com).

Group Hebrew Practice - February 12 - 7:00pm - Free for Members

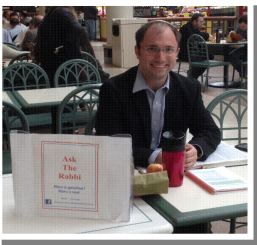
Practice your Hebrew skills for 30 minutes on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Participants will be partnered up to practice prayers from the service or pages from the "Teach Yourself How to Read Hebrew" book. This opportunity is open to all, but is specially designed to supplement those doing independent study with the rabbi.



The Secrets of Hebrew - February 12 - 7:30pm - Free for Members; \$10 per session for Non-Members

Come and learn the secrets of the Hebrew language in this special class designed to demystify each letter of the Hebrew alphabet from א to ת. Each month, we will unpack a letter in terms of how it sounds, how it is written, and how it is used both in the Torah and in rabbinic midrash. We will also learn some important words (vocabulary) associated with each letter, how they are formed and how they work together (grammar). December's letter will be ד ('dalet').

By developing an understanding of each letter (i.e. its "secrets") participants will develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of Hebrew in total. This 45-minute class takes place on the 2nd Thursday of each month. This opportunity is open to the community.



Learn with the Rabbi

Wednesdays - 9:30am

Panera Bread in Woodbridge (by Wegman's)

Learn some inspiring Torah with Rabbi Saks at "Yeshivat Panera"!

Ask the Rabbi

Wednesdays - 12:00pm

Menlo Park Mall Food Court

Have a question? Take a seat! Rabbi Saks will answer any question on any topic. This is also a great, low-barrier opportunity to introduce potential new members to the Rabbi and our Jewish Home for the Soul... so spread the word!!!



**Special "Ask the Rabbi" Topic on February 11:
Jewish Views on Abortion**

Come learn some interesting Jewish perspectives on abortion. This session is a direct result of a question asked during a previous "Ask the Rabbi".



God ©

By Elliot Rubin

The wind can blow and fell a tree
It swoops down and removes my hat
My face turns red from a gusty chill
I can't see it, but I know it's there

When I look into my grandson's face
My heart beats a little faster
Without touching him, my body feels
Love exists, yet I can't see it

There are some things we feel
There are some things we do not see
There are some things we don't understand
Yet we know they do exist

**Next Bulletin
Deadline
FEBRUARY 16**

submit your
**NEWS
or
EVENT**



Birthdays

Benjamin Block
Shirley Levinson
Deborah Adler
Claire Bennett
Susan Trager
Lori Miskoff
Dion Roy
Toby Marcus
Carol Einhorn
Betty Fertik



Joan Shkedi

I have been spending quite a few Wednesdays with Rabbi Saks at Menlo Park Mall in the food court, across from Panera Bread.

Each time I have had questions involving some connection to Judaism.

These questions have spanned the gamut, from Biblical times to the present, resulting in lively discussions. Since I have a particular interest in Israel, we have discussed the conflicts there. All questions are welcome and if the rabbi needs more information, he looks it up right there.

So don't be shy, come on by and "Ask the Rabbi".



What would you do if you had no one to say Kaddish for you?

Nathalie (Bunny) Abrams passed away on December 23, 2014. She was a long-time member of our synagogue and was active in the Sisterhood many years ago.

Unfortunately, she has no living relatives to say Kaddish on her behalf.

If you are able, please consider saying Kaddish for her when you are next at services, or with a minyan.



JAMES J. FLYNN, MANAGER
424 East Ave.
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
732.826.0358
NJ Lic. No. 4152

BRENDAN J. FLYNN, MANAGER
319 Amboy Ave. 23 Fords Ave.
Metuchen, NJ 08840 Fords, NJ 08863
732.548.2134 732.826.0358
NJ Lic. No. 4105 NJ Lic. No. 2158

Who Do I Call?

When a death occurs, the emotion of the moment can cause a bit of confusion. Some important phone calls need to be made.

- First, a medical authority must be contacted to sign a death certificate.
 - Second, the funeral home must be contacted to make arrangements to transfer the deceased to the funeral home.
 - Third, contact the synagogue.
- A death may occur at any time of night or day; it is important to leave messages in a few places to ensure the rabbi will get back to you. Please call/email

Rabbi Ari Saks

732.442.2431

732.442.1373

ari.saks@gmail.com

A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SYNAGOGUE BY:

Hannah Adams in memory of Wallace & Rachel Adams, and Beatrice, Max & Irving Saverslak
Dorothy August in memory of Phyllis Shulman
Roni & Ronald Berkowitz in memory of Augusta Kagan
Rhona & Fred Bernhardt in memory of Paul Sherman
Nancy Bezark in memory of Ruth Bruck
Dora Fass in memory of the Philip Fass Family
Randee & Glenn Fox in memory of Ruth & Edwin Fox
Sandra Gast in memory of Jerome Gast
Paula & Charles Isaacs in memory of Gertrude Krauser
Joan Kossowsky in memory of Mort Kossowsky
Shirley Levinson in memory of Vera Weiss & Dr. Reuben Levinson, MD
Arlene & Seymour Miller in memory of Abraham Grossman
Selma Mitzman in memory of Doris Collins
Gloria Rubin in memory of Lloyd Rubin & Cynthia Shapiro
Dorothy & Jordan Solkowitz in memory of Martha Spivak
Norma Witkin in memory of Ida Stein
Charlotte Zwicker in memory of Saul Kobran
Samuel Silverman, MD in memory of Harriet & Amy Lynn Silverman

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING.

We Remember



Shevchenko Monuments

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
since 1919

Family Owned & Operated
3rd Generation Craftsmen
Stone Memorial Designs
Granite - Cemetery Inscriptions - Bronze

Factory Showroom
329 Florida Grove Rd.
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
732.442.1268
www.shevco.com

Need a Ride?

The Wilf Jewish Community Center offers transportation to the synagogue primarily for seniors and those unable to drive.

Special needs accommodated (wheelchairs, walkers, etc.).

Transportation is offered on the 1st Friday and Saturday of the month. Services on Friday begin at 8pm and end between 9:00 - 9:30pm (after oneg). Services on Saturday begin at 10am and end between 12:30 - 1:00pm (after Kiddush).

If interested, contact Sherry Weber (908.451.9708 or sweber7854@aol.com).



VonThun Farms

20 Week Farm Fresh Produce CSA Program

CSA - Community Supported Agriculture...local, homegrown Jersey produce

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) allows individuals to have direct access to high quality, fresh produce grown by local farmers. When you become a member of VonThun Farms CSP Program, you're purchasing a "share" of vegetables from the farm. For 20 weeks during the growing season, VonThun's knowledgeable staff will package a share of produce just for you and your family. CSA members pay for an entire season of produce up-front, before the season starts and before the crops are ready to be picked. This early bulk payment allows the farm to plan for the season, purchase seed, make equipment repairs and more.

Buy Local...Eat Well...Be Healthy...

Jersey fresh & homegrown...it doesn't get fresher than that!

Connect with the food you eat by meeting your farmers and experiencing the farm.

Cut down on the number of miles your food travels from the farm to your plate.

Your food is picked that morning and delivered to you that day.

The CSA program duration is 20 weeks; it will start mid-May and end in October. The possible crops may include, but may not be limited to: sweet corn, cucumbers, pickles, lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, kale, zucchini (and assorted squashes), potatoes, beans, assorted varieties of peppers and tomatoes, onions, beets, blackberries, melons, strawberries, peas, apples, beets, kohlrabi, collards, herbs, raspberries and radishes.

Costs for the 2015 program are as follows:

- Full Shares - 6-8 types of vegetables weekly (enough for the average family) - \$675 (Full Bushel Basket)
- Half Shares - 5-6 types of vegetables weekly (enough for a small/young family) - \$475 (Half Bushel Basket)
- Personal Shares - 4-5 types of vegetables weekly (enough for 1-2 people) - \$375 (Quarter Bushel Basket)



Additional information about the VonThun CSA Program can be found at

732.329.8656 | Kasey@VonThunFarms.com
www.VonThunFarms.com

519 Ridge Rd. | Monmouth Jct. | NJ | 08852

Additional information about the VonThun CSA Program at Congregation Beth Mordecai can be found by contacting

Nessa Madison
NRosenstein@hotmail.com



**Application
on Next Page**

**Return by
Feb. 28**



VonThun Farms CSA Program Application

PERTH AMBOY - NESSA MADISON

Please Write Neatly

Print Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

Membership Type _____ Renewal _____ New Member (Referred by _____)

2015 CSA Options

(Check all that apply)

_____ FULL Share (Full Bushel Basket) **\$675**

_____ HALF Share (Half Bushel Basket) **\$475**

_____ PERSONAL Share (Quarter Bushel Basket) **\$375**

All options are for 20 weeks of homegrown produce

Payment Options

_____ Cash

_____ Check (# _____) ****Make checks payable to VonThun Farms****

_____ Credit Card (Visa/MC/Discover)

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ 3-Digit Code _____

CSA Member Signature

Date

RETURN THIS APPLICATION (WITH PAYMENT) TO NESSA MADISON BY FEBRUARY 28:

By Mail Nessa Madison
c/o Congregation Beth Mordecai
224 High Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

By Email NRosenstein@hotmail.com

FOR OFFICE USE:

Date Received _____ Cash _____ Credit _____ Check (# _____)

Klezmer Brunch at City Winery, NYC

Every Sunday morning, live music and food are combined in a fresh, cultural environment as City Winery's Klezmer brunch series pairs some of the greatest musicians in the world with delicious lox, bagels and other tasty fare on their brunch menu on Sunday mornings from 10am to 2pm.

There has been some interest to do this as a group on a Sunday in April, after Passover; either the 12th, 19th or 26th. This is sure to be a very fun and lively event!

Anticipated Costs:

\$10 (for admission/music) + \$TBD (for your food) + ~\$25 (passenger van & tolls)

If you are interested in attending, please contact Louise Siegel (carlesieg@aol.com)

ASAP with your preferred date(s) so plans can be finalized!!



The duck race has proven to be a meaningful fundraiser for our synagogue. One that warrants continuing the tradition... but how we go about it in 2015 will change.

The duck race team took a deep, critical look at the past two years and made conscious decisions to change many key elements - beginning with people & planning.

In December, an expanded core team began the planning process and crafted the following mission statement:

The Perth Amboy Rubber Duck Race is an event designed to raise money for and with the local Perth Amboy community while improving both the awareness and profile of the City of Perth Amboy.

Everything we do will speak to the elements of this mission (raise money, partner with the community, bring awareness to the city).

We are very excited and look forward to you joining us as we, the synagogue, embark on our 3rd race! Take a look at all the great opportunities and see where you can help out. →

Sincerely,

The 2015 Duck Race Steering Team

Sharon Bender, Marilyn Davidoff, Sandy Katz, Alan Roy & Ari Saks

CANTORIAL SHOWCASE

AT CONGREGATION
BETH MORDECAI

MARCH
28

Volunteer opportunities abound in these areas:

- Sponsorships
- Partnerships
- Location Scouting
- Race Logistics
- Ticket Sales
- Prizes
- Publicity/Advertising
- Duck Preparation
- Website Upgrades
- After Party

Volunteers will be matched to committees based on their interest, skill set & availability.

To be placed on a committee, or to learn more before saying "yes", please contact Sharon at 847.757.4227 or sharon.bender@outlook.com

FEBRUARY

- 04 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
 04 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
 06 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
 06 6:30pm - YJPA Tu B'Shevat Potluck Dinner
 06 7:30pm - Shabbat Services - Celebration Shabbat
 07 10:00am - Shabbat Services - Aufruf for M. Yosevitz
 08 12:00pm - Modern Israeli Cooking
 11 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
 11 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi - Special Topic: Abortion
 12 7:00pm - Group Hebrew Practice
 12 7:30pm - Secrets of Hebrew
 13 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
 13 8:00pm - Shabbat Services - Pardon the Interruption
 14 10:00am - Shabbat Services - Pardon the Interruption
 18 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
 18 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi

FEBRUARY & MARCH

- 20 DEADLINE - DONATIONS FOR VETERANS HOME DUE
 20 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
 20 8:00pm - Shabbat Services
 21 10:00am - Shabbat Services - Current Events Sermon
 21 11:00am - TOT Shabbat Services
 25 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
 25 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
 27 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
 28 10:00am - Shabbat Services
 28 7:30pm - Murder Mystery Party
 28 DEADLINE - CSA APPLICATION DUE
-
- 01 12:00pm - Purim Carnival Extravaganza
 04 8:00pm - Purim Services & Hamantaschen Bake-Off
 13 6:30pm - YJPA BYOB Shabbat Dinner
 14 Time TBD - YJPA Torah on Tap
 28 10:00am - Cantorial Showcase

IMPORTANT

This bulletin contains the most current information for the events/services within. **Changes will be communicated by e-mail.** If you are not on our e-mail list, or need to update your e-mail address, contact the synagogue office.



"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."



The Board of Trustees meets once per month at the synagogue. If there is a matter you would like to address, please contact the synagogue office for the time and date of the next meeting, and to be placed on the agenda.



Can you lend a hand?

Volunteers are needed for:

Office Assistance
 Writing for the Bulletin
 Caring Committee Visitors
 Opening Up for Services & Events
 Shabbat Morning Coffee Set-Up
 Organizing & Sponsoring Kiddush

To help, please contact the office!