



Congregation Beth Mordecai

A Jewish Home for the Soul

March 2015

Adar/Nissan 5775

Hamantaschen Bake-Off

Wednesday, March 4 at 7pm (will be followed by 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!

Bring 2 dozen of your tasty treats to Safran Hall where they will be arranged in an anonymous fashion. Everyone will have the chance to taste the submissions and vote on their favorites. Prizes will be awarded!

Following the bake-off, the Megillah will be read at services!

If you plan to enter your delectable delight, please contact Sharon (847.757.4227 or sharon.bender@outlook.com) by March 3rd so we can accommodate your entry.

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



CANTORIAL SHOWCASE

AT CONGREGATION
BETH MORDECAI

SATURDAY,
MARCH 28
10AM

Experience the awesome majesty of cantorial music in our beautiful sanctuary. Our annual Cantorial Showcase in honor of Cantor David Levine z"l features one of the brightest stars of the Conservative movement. You won't want to miss this highlight event of the year!

Deeper than Dialogue: How clergy can meet the needs of interfaith families

Panel Discussion Featuring Rabbi Saks

Thursday, March 26 at 7pm

With the growing number of interfaith relationships in America, it is essential for religious leaders, chaplains, and educators to consider how to engage with interfaith families. Using a Jewish-Christian lens, this groundbreaking panel will benefit persons working in religious sectors by offering practical advice from the field and inspiring fruitful discussion. All are invited to come explore how to welcome and guide interfaith families as they navigate spirituality at home and in community. We will consider issues of rites of passage, home rituals, religious education, membership, and complex spiritual identity. *Reception with light kosher refreshments will follow.*

**James Chapel at Columbia U.
3041 Broadway Ave., NYC 10027**

Free, but please RSVP here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/deeper-than-dialogue-how-clergy-can-meet-the-needs-of-interfaith-families-tickets-15460736479>





Congregation Beth Mordecai

Established 1897

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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

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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.**

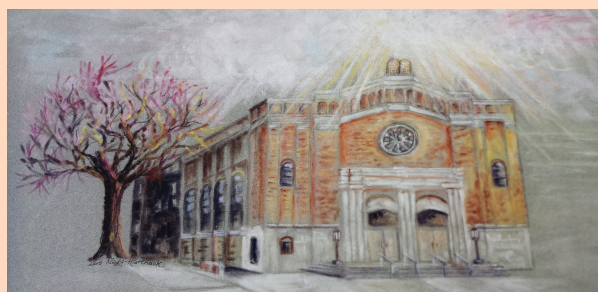
*Thank you for your generous and thoughtful support of our funds which keep the
synagogue running & help with worthy projects that enrich & invigorate our
community. Todah Rabbah - many thanks to you all!*

General Fund Donations

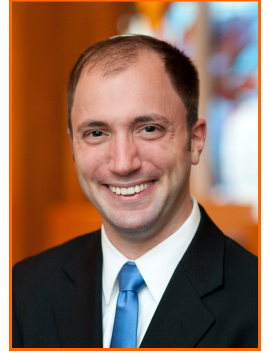
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Nate Zimmerman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund Donations

Ellen & Marvin Winston



The Dark Exuberance of Purim



Purim is here! So don your Queen Esther costume, eat many hamantaschen, drink all night and twirl your grogger in the air. It's time to celebrate this holiday of *marbim b'simḥah*, of increased joy. So please join us for our celebration of Purim which includes...

- A Purim carnival with an amazing magician (March 1 - 12pm - JCC in Edison);
- *Mishloah Manot* (Gift Basket) Delivery (March 1 - 3pm - NJ Veterans Home and Hospital);
- #AskTheRabbi Purim Edition on "Should You Get Drunk on Purim?" (March 4 - 12pm - Menlo Park Mall Food Court);
- A *Hamantaschen* Bake-off and *Megillah* Reading (March 4 - 7pm - Synagogue)!

All of these events are meant to fill us with the necessary joy ordained by the festival of Purim. Yet, hidden behind the veil of revelry is a darkness embedded in the story of Purim; a darkness that (ironically) leads us to respond with great exuberance.

As many of you know, the story of Purim centers around Haman's attempt to destroy the Jews of Persia. As he says to King Ahashverosh:

"There is a certain people, scattered and dispersed among the other peoples in all the provinces of your realm, whose laws are different from those of any other people & who do not obey the king's law; & it is not in Your Majesty's interest to tolerate them. If it please Your Majesty, let an edict be drawn for their destruction" (Esther 3:8-9).

This translation should ring familiar to anyone who has read the story of Purim. It is a translation of the Hebrew text, the one with which most of us are familiar. But according to the other "authoritative" text of the Bible – the Greek Septuagint – this passage from Esther is much...darker. According to David Nirenberg, the author of *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition*:

"The Greek version is chillingly different. Here, Haman accuses the Jews of being a 'hostile' people, whose laws are 'opposed' 'to any other people.' They are ready to attack 'always and against everyone,' committing evil deeds against the kingdom's affairs. 'They all – wives and children included – should be utterly destroyed...so that those who have been hostile and remain so in a single day go down in violence to Hades, and leave our government secure and untroubled hereafter'" (p. 32).

If the former (more familiar) translation is more Peter Stuyvesant – refusing to accept Jews because of our difference – then the latter translation is more Hitler – desiring to destroy Jews because we are evil. Why is the Greek version of our text so much more nefarious than the Hebrew version? It might be because the Greek version was crafted by Egyptian Jews (when Egypt was controlled by the Greeks). These Jews internalized a unique brand of "anti-Judaism" devised by Egyptian historians. As Nirenberg describes:

"The Jews who rendered Esther into Greek seem already to have been acutely aware of the Egyptian charges against them – that they were enemies of all mankind whose extermination would bring perpetual peace and security (p. 32)."

In other words, Purim is not simply a story of Jewish persecution, but an insight into the neurosis of the Jewish psyche. We are forever tainted by people's hatred of our existence.

So if the Greek Septuagint is right, if the story of Purim reflects the internalization of a profound feeling of hatred directed towards Jews, how are we supposed to respond? On one hand, the story of Purim responds in the only way it can. It shows how Jewish resourcefulness (as exemplified by our heroine Esther) can save Jews from near extinction. In other words the story of Purim fits very nicely with the old Jewish proverb on the meaning of Jewish holidays: "They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!"

But on the other hand, it is plausible that the Jewish response is more vengeful than simply plotting our survival:

"And in every province and in every city, when the king's command and decree arrived, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many of the people of the land professed to be Jews (mityahadim), for the fear of the Jews had fallen upon them" (Esther, 8:17).

In Shaye J.D. Cohen's book *The Beginnings of Jewishness: Boundaries, Varieties, Uncertainties*, the Hebrew term "mityahadim" reflects a particular violent expression of Jewish power:

"'Professed to be Jews' translates the Hebrew mityahadim. The simple meaning of the Hebrew...is not that many

Kick your weekend into high gear with these two events!

NETWORKING SHABBAT DINNER

MARCH 20, 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.



Saturday, March 21

8:30pm

World of Beer

335 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ

Join us after Shabbat at World of Beer when we meet up with other Jewish professionals from Central New Jersey and enjoy beers from around the world and tap into Judaism's views on a current topic.

For more information, 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 - 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 (March 6)

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).

Pardon the Interruption - 2nd Friday of Each Month (March 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 (March 7)

Engage with the Torah reading of the week on a deeper, more profound level by bringing the wisdom of Torah into conversation with other sources of wisdom, including that of our own lives.

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

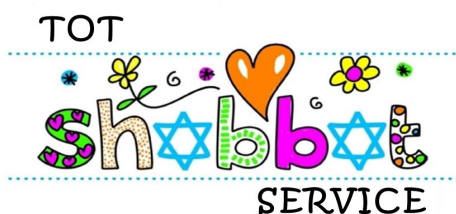
See description above.

Current Events Sermon - 3rd Saturday of Each Even # Month (April 18)

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



**KEEP
CALM
AND
SHABBAT
SHALOM**



**March 21
11am
Theme: "Passover"**

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	
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
Apr. 10	7:13pm	Apr. 11	8:14pm
Apr. 17	7:20pm	Apr. 18	8:22pm
Apr. 24	7:27pm	Apr. 25	8:30pm
May 1	7:35pm	May 2	8:38pm

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 - March 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 - March 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). March's letter will be ה ('hay').

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...Purim Edition!

Wednesdays - 12:00pm

Menlo Park Mall Food Court

Purim Edition! The holiday of Purim is a day of costumes, noisemaking and drinking. But just how much should you drink on Purim? Are you supposed to get VERY drunk? Come learn some interesting rabbinic sources on this topic.

Special "Ask the Rabbi" Topic on March 4:
SHOULD YOU GET DRUNK ON PURIM?

The holiday of Purim is a day of costumes, noisemaking, and drinking. But how much should you drink on Purim? Are you supposed to get VERY drunk? Come learn some interesting rabbinic sources on just how much you SHOULD drink on Purim.



Mendrick the Schmendrick ©

By Elliot Rubin

"Listen, boychick, come here and prop my pillow up behind me so I can sit up in bed. I have a story to tell you about Mendrik the Schmendrik" the grandfather said to his grandson. Obediently he did as asked, then jumped up and sat next to him, to listen to what his grandfather was going to tell him.

"A long time ago there was a very small state on the great plains of our great nation. It was named after the local Indians from the area. They called it The State of Mishigas; and all the transcontinental railroads ended their lines in their capital city, which was named Phartik.

"And in the middle of the city was a life size statue of Mendrik the Schmendrik on a three story tall pedestal. But I am starting to stray from my story. Here is why they put a statue of him up."

"You see nobody worked in the State of Mishigas. They were all politicians. There were no plumbers, electricians, or even truck drivers who lived there, nobody worked! If you lived there then you were a politician. Everyone was a politician. They only had one large assembly that governed the whole state. But they weren't called assemblymen; they were called by the native Indian name of Putz. So in order to be a politician there you had to become a Putz. And there were many Putzs because nobody worked."

"That's why they erected the statue of Mendrik the Schmendrik in the middle of the intersection where North and South Main Street met East and West Main street" the grandfather told him. "Mendrik worked!"

"Grandpa, why were there two main streets in Phartik" the grandson asked. "Oh that's an easy answer my beloved boychick" he told him. "You see

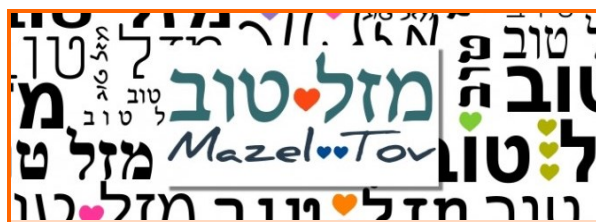
when you have politicians who are Putzes, things like that happen all the time."

"Grandpa, why were there two main streets in Phartik" the grandson asked. "Oh that's an easy answer my beloved boychick" he told him. "You see when you have politicians who are Putzes, things like that happen all the time."

"But why did they put such a large statue of Mendrik the Schmendrik up in the first place" the grandson asked. "Well you see he built parks for the children, libraries for the Putzs to go and read and maybe learn something, and a 500 bed hospital where medical services were free. He also built a very unique orphanage for children with no parents. He built it attached to an old age home so the children would have nanas and poppy's to teach them. And only Momma-lers were hired to work there because they were caring people" he told his grandson.

"But where did Mendrik the Schmendrik get his money grandpa" he asked of him. "You see there were no stores in Phartik because nobody ever worked. They all had money because they were all elected Putzes and they all went to the only store in Phartik. It was the world's largest Wal-Mart. But nobody **ever** bought anything there."

continued on Page 11



Birthdays

Janet Lipman	Phyllis Rosen
Daniel Goldman	Allen Weingarten
Ann Preminger	Bob Krentar
Louis Sher	Gloria Rubin

Anniversaries

Shirley & Harry Korbman
Phyllis & Norman Rosen



Flynn and son
FUNERAL HOMES

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:

Deborah & Barry Adler, in memory of David Adler
Dorothy August, in memory of Max August
Rhona & Fred Bernhardt, in memory of Irene Bernhardt
Paula & Martin Cutler, in memory of David Cutler
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MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING.

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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, 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.

**LAST CHANCE
TO ORDER!**

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

Locally 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
Mar. 6**



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 MARCH 6:

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 (# _____)

The Dark Exuberance of Purim

By Rabbi Ari Saks

(continued from Page 3)

non-Jews converted to Judaism but that they pretended to be Jews: they professed themselves to be something they were not. They did so because they feared for their lives; the Jews had just been given carte blanche by the king to kill their enemies, and therefore many gentiles pretended to be Jews in order to protect themselves" (31%, Location 2022 of 6465).

Herein is the reverse of the Spanish Inquisition which would not be precipitated for centuries later. The gentiles are the Maranos, pretending to profess an outward faith in order to protect their lives. Meanwhile the Jews are the Inquisitors, empowered to destroy any way of life not the same as their own.

But before we get carried away with the implications of Jewish power in this story, let us remind ourselves that this holiday is about joy and revelry. Indeed in the same verse that depicts gentiles professing themselves to be Jews, we also read that the Jews were full of "gladness" and "joy." Perhaps then we should not read this selection too closely, but rather think of it as a biblical expression of revenge fantasy, much like the Hollywood film *Inglourious Basterds* expressed the inner desire of Jews to avenge the deaths of six million Jews during the Holocaust. It may only exist in our imaginations, but for a moment, we take the vicious hatred directed at us for centuries and unleash it on our perpetrators as a cathartic expression of vengeance. In this vein, the joy and gladness of the holiday is less G rated and more R-rated. Think Halloween mischief as opposed a kids carnival. The latter might be fun, but the former riles you up, it makes us exuberant. So get ready to celebrate...get ready to rejoice...get ready for the dark exuberance of Purim!

Chag Sameach (Happy Holiday!),

Rabbi Ari Saks

Mendrick the Schmendrick ©

By Elliot Rubin

(continued from Page 8)

"It was so big that the average person had to walk two hours just to get from one side of the store to the other" the grandfather continued. "But I digress" he told his grandson. "There was one other store in the city and it was owned by Mendrik the Schmendrik."

"Really, Poppy? What kind of store was it" the grandson eagerly asked. "It was a very small store" he told his grandson. "And it was built right next to this enormously large Wal-Mart by traveling gypsies. The gypsy clan was named The Schtarkers and did all the building in Phartik. It was so small a store that there was only enough space in it for a small table, a chair and an internet connection. And the sign he put on the front of the store in big block letters said 'EVERYTHING'."

"Really grandpa" he asked, "really?" "Yes, it is true. The people of Phartik said only a Schmendrik would put a sign like that on a small store right next to the worlds largest Wal-Mart" he told him. "But Mendrik knew they were all Putzes and he made millions of dollars there so he could do all those good things that he built."

"Can you explain to me how, Poppy?" he asked. "Well there were lines of people standing block after block waiting to get in to see Mendrik the Schmendrik, holding cash in their hands. They'd go into the Wal-Mart by the thousands to browse, but not buy. They would write down what they wanted and then go to Mendrik the Schmendrik to make their purchases."

"Mendrik would then send an email to all the Wal-Mart employees in the store who would fill the orders with their employee discounts. Mendrik would give the employees a cut of the profits, a discount to the buyers waiting outside his "EVERYTHING" store and he would take a piece of the action himself. So everyone was happy."

"Even the big wigs at Wal-Mart headquarters were happy. The Phartik location was their bestselling store in the world. And it was all due to Mendrik the Schmendrik, who brought sanity to The State of Mishigas."

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) 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

Shabbat by the Sea



April 24 - 6:30pm

Gazebo at Bayview Park

Join us for our first Shabbat by the Sea of 2015. Services will be followed by a potluck dinner. Details to follow.

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, please contact Sharon at 847.757.4227 or sharon.bender@outlook.com

Happy Passover!

Let All Who are
Hungry Come & Eat
Passover Haggadah



First Annual Chametz Drive March 1 - 28

Cleaning for Pesach? Help the Perth Amboy community at the same time and give your chametz to those who need it!

Please bring unopened, non-perishable food to the shul and leave in the available bins.

Food will be donated to "Peter's Pantry" at St. Peter's Church in Perth Amboy.

Donations accepted until March 28.

Sponsored by YJPA.

For more information, please contact Stella at stella.morr@gmail.com.

Passover Services

Day 7 - April 10 - 10am
Day 8 - April 11 - 10am

Passover Seder

Shabbat Seder
April 4 at 4pm

Due to the timing of Passover this year, we are adjusting the schedule of our annual Second Seder to follow *halakhah* (Jewish law). Instead of hosting a normal second seder on Saturday night, we will have a special "Shabbat Seder" on Saturday April 4th, beginning with an afternoon service at 4 pm.

After the service, we will move directly into the Seder which will include most of the normal traditions except for a few that must be omitted because of Shabbat. It will be a unique Seder experience that you will not want to miss!

If you plan on hosting or attending a traditional second Seder, the Shabbat Seder will not interfere with your plans. The Shabbat Seder will end before Shabbat is over.

Price TBD. Space is limited. Please **RSVP by March 26** to Elliot Rubin by calling or emailing the office.

(If there is someone who needs a place for first seder, please contact Sharon Bender (847.757.4227 or sharon.bender@outlook.com). She will be hosting a traditional, kosher first night seder and has a few seats available.)

What is the World Zionist Organization?

The World Zionist Organization was founded at the initiative of Theodore Herzl at the First Zionist Congress which took place in August 1897 in Basle, Switzerland. When it was founded, the goals of the Zionist movement were stated in a resolution that came of that Congress and came to be known as the "**Basle Program**."

Zionism aims at establishing for the Jewish people a legally assured home in *Eretz Yisrael*. To achieve this purpose, the following means shall be employed:

- Promoting the settlement of Jewish farmers, artisans, and tradesmen in Palestine.
- Organizing and uniting the whole of Jewry through effective local and international means in accordance with the laws of each country.
- Strengthening of the Jewish national sentiment and national consciousness through Israel education with shlichim.
- Preparatory steps toward obtaining the consent of governments, where necessary, in order to achieve the goals of Zionism.

The WZO consists of the following bodies: The World Zionist Unions, Territorial Zionist Federations; and International Organizations that define themselves as Zionist, such as WIZO, Hadassah, Bnai-Brith, Maccabi, the World Sephardi Federation, the three major streams of world Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform), a delegation from the CIS – Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), and more.

The Mission of the World Zionist Organization

The World Zionist Organization is committed to promoting Zionism & the Zionist idea and the Zionist enterprise through Israel Education as vital and positive elements of contemporary Jewish life, in accordance with the principles articulated in the **Jerusalem Program**. This manifesto is dedicated to instilling the centrality of Israel and Jerusalem its capital deep within Jewish consciousness, encouraging the return to Zion, fashioning an exemplary society in the Jewish state, expanding Zionist education including Hebrew language instruction, settling the land, and combating Anti-Semitism.

The WZO strives to enhance the impact of Zionist ideology and activity in Jewish communities around the world, including Israel, both by working through shlichim of the **Zionist Federations** and their constituent bodies, and by influencing the agenda of the organized Jewish community, particularly through its involvement with the **Jewish Agency for Israel**.

About the World Zionist Congress

The World Zionist Congress (WZC) meets every five years to discuss issues of vital importance to the global Jewish community, i.e. Jewish identity, peace and security, anti-Semitism, civil society in Israel, and the future of the State of Israel. Voting in the upcoming 37th WZC offers a unique opportunity for you to cast your vote to send delegates to the WZC to represent your voice.

If you are at least 18 years of age, live in the US, and accept the Jerusalem Program (see below), you are most likely eligible to vote. In the United States, the election is managed by the American Zionist Movement, the umbrella organization of Zionist bodies and the representative of the World Zionist Organization in the United States.

Vote MERCAZ in the 2015 World Zionist Elections

There are 11 slates that are competing in this year's elections. One of them is MERCAZ, Slate #2. By voting for MERCAZ to represent you in the World Zionist Congress, you promote the values of the Conservative Movement and religious pluralism in Israel. More information can be found on votemercaz.org.

You can read more about MERCAZ, and all of the slates that are competing at: <https://myvoteourisrael.com/>. Cost to register is \$10. General registration and voting runs through April 30. Once you have submitted the registration form and paid by credit card, you will get an email with a link to the voting site. You will receive an email confirmation of registration after you have completed the voting process.

MARCH

- 04 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
- 04 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi - Special Topic: Purim
- 04 7:00pm - Hamantaschen Bake-Off & Purim Services
- 06 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
- 06 DEADLINE - CSA APPLICATION DUE
- 06 8:00pm - Shabbat Services - Celebration Shabbat
- 07 10:00am - Shabbat Services - Celebration Shabbat
- 11 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
- 11 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
- 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

MARCH & APRIL

- 20 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
- 20 6:30pm - YJPA BYOB Dinner
- 20 8:00pm - Shabbat Services - Current Events Sermon
- 21 10:00am - Shabbat Services
- 21 11:00am - TOT Shabbat Services
- 21 8:30pm - YJPA Torah on Tap
- 25 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
- 25 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
- 26 7:00pm - Deeper than Dialogue Panel Discussion
- 27 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
- 27 8:00pm - Shabbat Services
- 28 10:00am - Shabbat Services - Cantorial Showcase
- 04 10:00am - Shabbat Services & Seder Kiddush Lunch
- 10 10:00am - Passover Services (Day 7)
- 11 10:00am - Passover Services (Day 8)
- 24 6:30pm - Shabbat by the Sea



Parent Workshop: How to Teach the Holocaust to Your Children

Sunday, March 22 - 1pm-3pm
East Brunswick Public Library

The Jewish Federation will offer "How to teach the Holocaust to your children", a parent workshop designed to assist and support parents as they try to explain the Holocaust to their children.

Paul Winkler, Executive Director of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, will be the keynote speaker, followed by two break out sessions facilitated by seasoned Holocaust educators, tailored for parents of children 9-13 and 14-17. Parents will receive resources and be offered one-on-one guidance. Space is limited. RSVPs highly encouraged (732.588.1804).

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.

**Next Bulletin
Deadline
MARCH 16**

submit your
NEWS
or
EVENT

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!