



Congregation Beth Mordecai

A Jewish Home for the Soul

June 2015

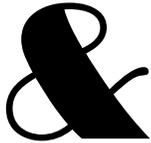
Sivan/Tammuz 5775

Sunday, June 7 will be BIG!



ANNUAL MEETING

12:30PM
SAFRAN HALL
INCLUDES LUNCH



Safran Hall Rededication and Silent Auction

At Beth Moredcai | 224 High St., Perth Amboy

June 7, 2015 | 2 p.m.– 5 p.m.

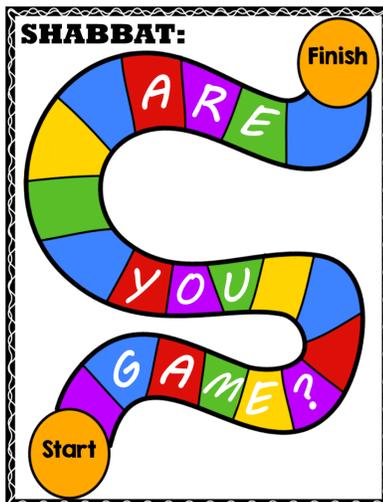
\$18/advance, \$20/door

5 FREE raffle entries with each ticket purchase

Shabbat by the Sea



The Gazebo at Bayview Park



Check out these other June events, too!

The Pampered Chef[®]
FUNDRAISER



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
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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
 Jeremy Strauss 732.331.4049
 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

Alvin Kravit, in memory of Ethel Klein
 Mike Shevell

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Betty & Marc Fertik
 Toby Marcus

The Importance of Shabbat

The following is the first part in a four part series on the importance of Shabbat, Faith, Belonging, and Tradition in our community.



A few weeks ago, one of our Board of Trustees members brushed off her old blue bat mitzvah booklet to commemorate the anniversary of her bat mitzvah by reading some of her haftarah in public. The previous night, an overflow table of 20 and 30 something year olds stayed late after dinner in Safran Hall to sing, learn, schmooze, and celebrate together. A month and a half before that, we listened to the exquisite voice of an up-and-coming cantorial student fill our beautiful sanctuary with music. A month or so before that, we came together -- many of us wearing white -- to sing and dance together in our newly renovated Safran Hall because the chapel could not hold us. And just this past weekend, nearly 30 people gathered for three delicious and enjoyable meals in members' homes. What do all of these activities have in common?

#1 -- they all happened **as a community**

#2 -- they all happened **on Shabbat**

These facts aren't coincidental, they are intentional. The purpose of a synagogue is to come together to form a community, and the time we most often come together is on Shabbat. Why is that?

Shabbat is not just another day of the week. As Ahad Ha'am, the great Zionist thinker, once said, "more than the Jewish people have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jewish people." There is something uniquely significant to this 25 hour period lasting from Friday evening to Saturday night that has united the Jewish people for centuries. Much of that significance, I believe, is poetically outlined in Abraham Joshua Heschel's brilliant (and short) book *The Sabbath*. As such, I'd like to share with you (briefly) four of the points in Heschel's book that I believe will not only help us understand why Shabbat is so important to the Jewish people, but why we should be committed to upholding Shabbat as a key value of our community:

#1 -- **Time.** We often hear the phrase "time is money" in which the value of time is the extent to which we can use it to make as much money as possible. Time is thus only of utilitarian value -- we use it for some practical benefit in our lives, and if we're not doing anything practical with it, then we are simply "wasting time." Yet, Heschel believes that there is a different and more spiritual way to look at the value of time. Time isn't a commodity to use, it's a place in which to live. As Heschel says, "The Sabbath is a palace in time." We may spend six days of the week using time as a commodity to "get more done" and "make more money," but Shabbat is the opportunity to experience life without the distractions of work, money, or any other currency of time. Shabbat is truly an opportunity to **live in the moment, and when we come together as a community -- in the synagogue or in each other's homes -- on Shabbat, we can sense the beauty of that palace in time.**

#2 -- **Eliminating Distractions.** There are many beautiful things to do on Shabbat to appreciate time as the essence of life; lighting candles, singing prayers, and eating delicious meals. But for each *action* of Shabbat, there is an *inaction*, those things that we do during the six days of the week but refrain from doing on Shabbat. These inactions aren't meant to punish our selves, but rather to eliminate the distractions of, what Heschel calls, *technical civilization*. As he says, "On the Sabbath we live, as it were, *independent of technical civilization*: we abstain from any activity that aims at remaking or reshaping the things of space." After all, can we really live in the moment if we can't stop checking our phones? In order to truly appreciate time as the essence of life, we remove all things that make us see time as a currency. **Each of us will choose for ourselves the distractions we must eliminate, and as a community we can help each other see the value of eliminating distractions while enjoying the beautiful aspects of Shabbat.**

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 (June 5)

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; contact Friday Oneg chair, Jeremy Strauss, at straussjer@gmail.com.)

Pardon the Interruption - 2nd Friday of Each Month (June 12)

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 (July 17)

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 (June 6)

Delve into the rich teachings of the week's Torah reading. In lieu of a formal sermon, we will pause the service after the Torah reading for a lively 10-15 minute discussion on how we can apply the wisdom of the Torah to the needs of our every day lives.

Pardon the Interruption - 2nd Saturday of Each Month (June 13)

See description above.

Current Events Sermon - 3rd Saturday of Each Even # Month (June 20)

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



June 20
11am
Theme: "Tzedakah, Giving to Others"

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	
Jun. 5	8:06pm	Jun. 6	9:14pm
Jun. 12	8:10pm	Jun. 13	9:19pm
Jun. 19	8:13pm	Jun. 20	9:21pm
Jun. 26	8:14pm	Jun. 27	9:22pm
Jul. 3	8:13pm	Jul. 4	9:21pm

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

LEARN & PRACTICE HEBREW

Individual Hebrew Practice

Group Hebrew Practice

The Secrets of Hebrew

These great programs are taking a break from the summer.

Be sure to join us again in the fall as we continue our learning!



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 opportunity to introduce potential new members to the Rabbi and our Jewish Home for the Soul... so spread the word!!!

"Ask the Rabbi / Ask the Pastor" on June 24:

TOPIC TO BE SHARED IN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP, "WE ARE BETH MORDECAI",

BY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Learn with the Rabbi

Wednesdays - 9:30am

Panera Bread in Woodbridge (by Wegman's)

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

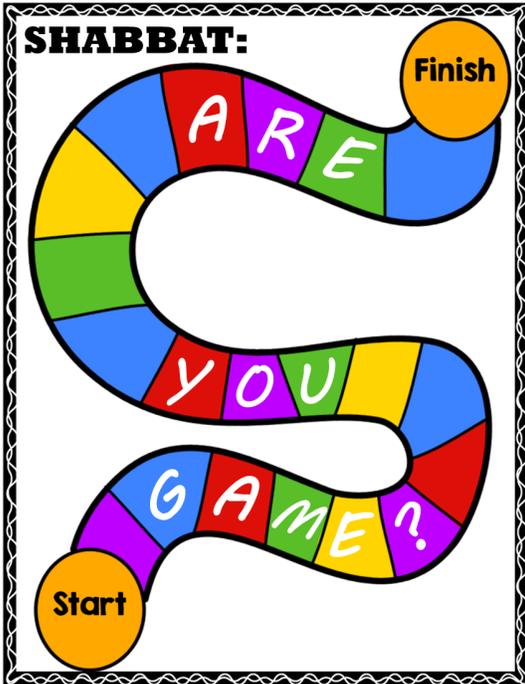
Once per month, Rabbi Saks will be joined by Pastor Nicholas Johnson of Raritan Valley Baptist Church in Edison for a joint "Ask the Rabbi/Ask the Pastor".

Continued from page 3.

#3 -- Rest. It was unheard of in the ancient world for anyone to have a "day off," unless they were born into a role that afforded them that privilege. Yet, the Torah inaugurated a revolutionary approach to institutionalize a "day off" for an Israelite and his entire clan (including slaves and animals) because that's what God did for God's self. As Heschel teaches, "After the six days of creation -- what did the universe still lack? *Menuhah* (rest). Came the Sabbath, came *menuhah*, and the universe was complete." But the seventh day is not a break from the previous six days; it is the culmination. The amount of work needing to be accomplished during the week to afford the luxury of a day off (especially in ancient times) felt monumental. So too is the feat of a day off from the utility of time monumental for us. If we're off from one job, there's another job waiting for us both in and out of the home. Is it possible to truly rest? **Our job as a community is to help each other find the strength to get done what needs to get done in six days, so we can spend the seventh together in a true experience of rest.**

#4 -- Love and Unity. Shabbat is the weekly wedding day between God and Israel. It's the moment we realize that our life on earth means something in heaven. According to legend, the great mystical rabbi Shimon bar Yochai left his monastic cave to rejoin the world when he saw an old man carrying myrtles (a symbol of love) to greet the Sabbath "as if the Sabbath was a bride." Love is the substance of connection, bringing people into relationship with the world around them. On Shabbat, that love is extended to the spiritual realm. When God rests and when we rest -- by recognizing the true value of time and the need to eliminate distractions -- we will encounter a deep and profound feeling of love for each other and for all of creation. **When we truly spend Shabbat together as a community, we can discover a deep and profound connection with life that we can only describe as love.**

Continued on page 7.



June 13
4:00pm - 9:00pm
Congregation Beth Mordecai

Join board gamer and member, Lori Miskoff (and a friend), who will lead us to discover the fun and camaraderie of the tradition of playing board games on Shabbat. In addition to lots of games to choose from, there will also be opportunities to...

- Read & relax in our decked out "Chill Chapel"
- Walk to the park for some outdoor fun with the kids
- Eat lots of tasty snacks!
- Learn about Shabbat: The Day to Relax
- Enjoy the end of Shabbat in community with a meaningful Havdalah Ritual

RSVP to our Facebook events page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1728648857362644/>

Shabbat by the Sea



The Gazebo at Bayview Park

June 19
6:30pm
Catered Dinner - \$18 per person; \$12 per child under 12
Congregation Beth Mordecai

Following our successful first Shabbat by the Sea of the season, we are kicking it up a notch for the next celebration as we welcome back Cantor Rav Bronwen Mullin and her unique brand of music and Torah to our community.

- 6:30pm - Candlelighting at Congregation Beth Mordecai
- 7:00pm - Walk to the Gazebo at Bayview Park for a special service
- 8:15pm - Dinner at Beth Mordecai

RSVP to our Facebook events page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/381971298671555/>



June 22 - 7:00pm
Stella's Home (576 Great Beds Ct., Perth Amboy)

YJPA member, Michelle Preefer, will teach us how to make our own "Edible Arrangements" with a summer desserts theme!

Bring a friend who is new to YJPA or the Beth Mordecai community & get a FREE goodie bag of Pampered Chef tools!

This event is hosted by YJPA and open to the entire Beth Mordecai community! Contact Stella for more information (908.720.4586 or yjperthamboy@gmail.com)

A portion of the proceeds from the bakeware purchased at the Pampered Chef demonstration will be donated to



Lifetime
By Elliot Rubin

When I was young I had a full head of hair and a lot of curls,
My legs were strong and I could chase all the girls,
The muscles were tight and taught and I was in fashion,
The Chevy was new and bright and my future was flashing.

I am able to realize the end is not far from now,
My legs don't bend and my joints do ache,
The strong hands and feet that once were, now they shake,
The straight back that stood so straight, now it does bow.

At night, when I shut my eyes I can see
A full head of hair with curls on me
Strong legs and back and my red fifty eight Chevy
And the young girl that's been with me these many years
Still radiant and beautiful, but I shed no tears

I had a good life, and a great wife
Loving kids, and grandkids too
Life is not about money, or making strife
But trying to do as much good for me and for you

Try sharing love and smiles with those that you meet
Even strangers that you walk past on every street
Our time here is so short and limited, so finite
We never know about tomorrow, or even tonight.



**Next Bulletin
Deadline
June 17**

submit your
**NEWS
or
EVENT**



Birthdays

- Larry Deutchman
- Alyson Roy
- Sandra Sher
- Avi Duvdevani
- Norma Witkin

Anniversaries

- Barbara & Benjamin Block
- Felice & Larry Gruber
- Paulette & Sandy Katz
- Anita & Bob Krentar
- Kari & Scott Gursky

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!

Continued from page 5.

These four elements of Shabbat are not easy to appreciate, understand, and internalize and at the end of the day we may not connect with all of them. But, the truth is we've seen some tiny element of it in our community. From the bat mitzvah books to the singing tables, from the beautiful music to the raucous dancing, we've experienced part of the beauty of Shabbat as a community. But we can do more. If each of us puts forth an honest effort **to try to make Shabbat matter in our lives**, I believe two things will happen. First, we will want to come together as a community more often to celebrate this beautiful day. And second, we will see improvement in our own lives -- a greater sense of peace, of fulfillment, of meaning. We can do this, especially if we do it in community. So how about it -- let's keep Shabbat in a meaningful way & make it a palace in the time of our lives.

Ari Saks



Sweeten Someone's Rosh Hashanah

Wish your family and friends L'Shana Tova *and* help Congregation Beth Mordecai's YJPA group raise money towards new and innovative programming!

Katelyn's Honey, of Burlington, KY, will mail 8oz. jars of natural honey to your family and friends in the US. The honey is harvested fresh, is FDA inspected, and kosher (OU certified).

Each bottle will have a New Year's greeting on it and will be sent with a personalized card that reads "To" and "From".

Orders can be made by filling out the form below and sending in a check.

Each jar of honey is only \$10 (this includes the honey, the shipping and a card addressed to the recipient as you choose).

Orders Due by JULY 27th

1. **Fill out the form on the next page** with the names and addresses of people you want the jars to be sent to. Please write neatly. If you have more than 6 recipients, use the back of the order form or attach a 2nd page.
2. **Write a check**, made payable to Congregation Beth Mordecai (Total Cost = Number of Jars x \$10 per jar).
3. **Mail the form and check to:**

Sharon Bender
10 Siedler Ln.
Sayreville, NJ 08872

Orders received after July 27th will be returned.
4. **Share this form with others** so they may give their loved ones a memorable Rosh Hashanah!

Any questions, please contact Sharon Bender (847.757.4227 or HoneyBethMordecai@gmail.com)

2015 Rosh Hashanah Honey Order Form

ORDERS DUE BY JULY 27th

Ordered By _____ Date: _____
Phone # _____ Email Address: _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____
Street Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Total Cost = Total Number of Honey Jars (_____) x \$10 per jar = \$ _____

Check # _____



A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SYNAGOGUE BY:

- Hannah Adams, in memory of Lottie Saverslak
- Arthur Aneckstein, in memory of Raymond Aneckstein
- Cheryl August, in memory of Kalman August
- Dorothy August, in memory of Kalman August
- Sheila & George Brown, in memory of Dora Welkis
- Gail Buchbinder, in memory of Albert Beckman
- Barbara & Jerome Eisner, in memory of Fred Spector
- Dora Fass, in memory of the Fass family
- Irene & Marty Goldstein, in memory of Alexander Fenyves
- Eric Gordon, in memory of Herbert Gordon
- Anita & Franklin Hannoeh, in memory of Barbara Schneiderman
- Shelley & Kenneth Isaacson, in memory of Frank Isaacson
- Penny & Steve Jaffe, in memory of Max Gampel
- Judith Kaleko, in memory of Esther Klein
- Nicole & Barry Rosengarten, in memory of Philip Rosengarten
- Robin & Lyle Sandler, in memory of Edward Sandler
- Donna Scher, in memory of Miriam Cohen & Pincus Schwartz
- Judy & Les Wurtzel, in memory of Mary Wagner & David Klein

We Remember

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING.

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 or 732.442.1373

ari.saks@gmail.com



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

Need a Ride?

The Wilf JCC offers transportation to the synagogue primarily for seniors and those unable to drive.

Special needs accommodated.

Transportation is offered on the 1st Friday & Saturday of the month. Friday services begin at 8pm and end by 9:30pm.

Saturday services begin at 10am and end by 1:00pm.

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

Shevchenko Monuments

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Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

732.442.1268

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JUNE

- 03** 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
03 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
05 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
05 8:00pm - Shabbat Services
06 10:00am - Shabbat Services
07 12:30pm - Annual Synagogue Meeting
07 2:00pm - Safran Hall Rededication & Silent Auction
10 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
10 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
12 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
12 8:00pm - Shabbat Services
13 10:00am - Shabbat Services
13 4:00pm - Shabbat: You Got Game?
17 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
17 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
19 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class

JUNE & JULY

- 19** 6:30pm - Shabbat by the Sea
20 10:00am - Shabbat Services
20 11:00am - TOT Shabbat Services
22 7:00pm - Pampered Chef Fundraiser
24 9:30am - Learn with the Rabbi
24 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
26 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class
26 8:00pm - Shabbat Services
27 10:00am - Shabbat Services
-
- 17** 6:30pm - Shabbat by the Sea
27 DEADLINE FOR ROSH HASHANAH HONEY ORDERS

**Congregation Beth Mordecai***A Jewish Home for the Soul***224 High Street****Perth Amboy, NJ 08861**