



**Congregation Beth Mordecai**

*A Jewish Home for the Soul*

September 2015

Elul 5775/Tishrei 5776



# PREP RALLY

**Sunday, September 27**

**5:00pm - 8:00pm**

Bring your glue and together we will...

\*Prep and design our beautiful Sukkah \* Put the finishing touches on our events for the coming year \* Celebrate the fruits of our community with a Harvest Holiday Dinner Our Sukkah ~ Our Events ~ Our Beth Mordecai Home



## **Fall Holiday Celebration!**

**Sunday, October 4 - 5:30pm**

Join us for a special holiday celebration where we celebrate the holidays of Sukkot, Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah all in one event!

5:30 pm -- Dinner in the Sukkah

6:30 pm -- Kiddush and prayers for Sh'mini Atzeret

6:45 pm -- Dance with the Torahs for Simchat Torah

More details to follow.



## 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 Alan Roy  
Vice President Cheryl August  
Treasurer Marc Fertik  
Secretary Scott Gursky  
Past President Norman Silverstein  
Past President Michael Gast  
Past President Ron Miskoff  
Trustee David Bennett  
Trustee Ann Blog  
Trustee Larry Deutchman  
Trustee Sandy Katz  
Trustee Matt Richter  
Trustee Steve Safran  
Trustee 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
	Jeremy Strauss	732.331.4049
Social Media	Avi Duvdevani	917.301.1045
Strategic Planning	Marc Fertik	732.390.3348
YJPA	Stella Morrison	



## 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

Miriam & Jay Hamelburg  
Nicole & Barry Rosengarten, to repair the synagogue's pipe organ



## A Timeless Promise

*The following is an article that Rabbi Saks recently wrote for an upcoming issue of the New Jersey Jewish News.*

As a kid, I hated Yom Kippur. The ritual seemed tedious and uninteresting, so I chose to spend my time in shul counting down the number of pages left in the siddur. But as I matured, my taste for the ritual matured as well. The words no longer carried emptiness; they overflowed with a sense of promise, a promise of the possibility of a better tomorrow.

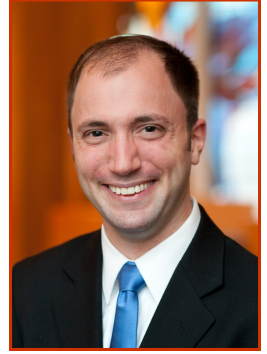
Rituals are tedious and uninteresting when the meaning is lost, and unfortunately Yom Kippur's meaning is often lost because we misread its purpose. As it says in the mahzor, *On Rosh Hashanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed*. Yom Kippur isn't a singular moment in time, it is the culmination of time.

In our calendar, Yom Kippur is the pinnacle of ten days from Rosh Hashanah and forty days from Rosh Hodesh Elul and seven weeks from Tisha B'av. What this teaches us is that the rituals of Yom Kippur make the most impact when we take the time to breathe into its promise. When we're younger, we may not think that creating a better tomorrow requires work. When we're older, we may be too jaded by the challenges of life. But we can make tomorrow better than today. It just takes time.

Every year we count down the days till Yom Kippur and hopefully it won't be like I counted down its pages as a kid. Hopefully we'll realize that embedded within the timeless ritual of our tradition is a promise that only matures better with age.

Shanah Tovah (Happy New Year) and G'mar Hatimah Tovah (May you be inscribed in the book of life).

*Rabbi Ari Saks*





# High Holy Days 5776/2015

## Erev Rosh Hashanah - Sunday, September 13 - 7:00pm - Open to All

Ring in the Jewish New Year at your Jewish Home for the Soul.

## 1st Day Rosh Hashanah - Monday, September 14 - 9:30am - Tickets Required

Join Rabbi Saks and Cantor Bronwin Mullin for a transformative, traditional Rosh Hashanah service with music. Break room available all day with snacks and drinks.

## Tashlikh - Monday, September 14 - Approx. 1:30pm - Open to All

The Tashlikh service will take place immediately following 1st Day Rosh Hashanah services on the pier next to the ferry dock, at the corner of Smith and Water Streets.

## 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah - Tuesday, September 15 - 10:00am - Open to All

Experience a unique High Holiday experience as Rabbi Saks, Cantor Mullin and other members of our synagogue family offer a creative service focused on four immortal Jewish principles that we are forming as the pillars of our community: Shabbat, Tradition, Faith, Belonging. Through these pillars we will make Beth Mordecai the Jewish Home for our Souls.

## Annual Cemetery Service - Sunday, September 20 - 11:00am - Open to All

Join current and past members of Beth Mordecai to visit loved ones who were laid to rest in Beth Mordecai's cemetery (690 Florida Grove Rd., Perth Amboy). Recite the mourner's Kaddish, say private prayers and partake in a special memorial prayer led by the rabbi.

## Kol Nidre - Tuesday, September 22 - 6:30pm - Tickets Required

Share in the majesty of the holidays with our highlight Kol Nidre service.

## Yom Kippur - Wednesday, September 23 - 9:30am - Open to All

Share in the rich tradition of the holiest day of the year. The Yizkor service will be at approximately 11:45am.

## Minchah & Neilah - Wednesday, September 23 - 5:30pm - Open to All

End the holiday in style! Break the fast with snacks at approximately 7:45pm.

## 1st Day Sukkot - Monday, September 28 - 10am - Open to All

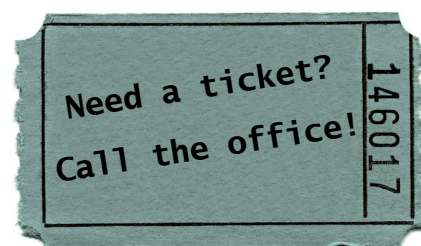
Share in the beauty of Sukkot as we come together for a morning service.

## Sukkot: Mission, Mizvah & Lulav - September 30 - October 1 - Open to All

Want to perform the mitzvah of lulav and etrog but can't make it to the synagogue? Rabbi Saks will come to you! Email Rabbi Saks to let him know if you'd like him to come to your house to celebrate the holiday of Sukkot by waving the lulav and etrog! Enjoy this wonderful mitzvah together!

## Sh'mini Atzeret & Simchat Torah - Monday, October 5 - 9:30am - Open to All

Come to this special holiday service as we mark the rainy season in Israel and celebrate the joy of Torah. Have an Aliyah, dance with the Torah (Hakafot) and remember your loved ones with a meaningful Yizkor service.



## Decorate the Sukkah!

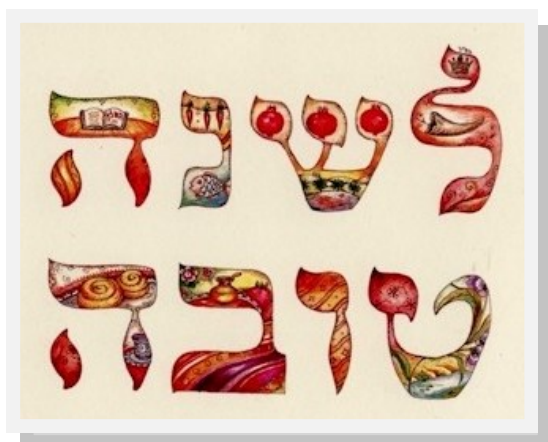
Sunday, September 27

5:00pm - 8:00pm

Join with us to decorate  
Beth Mordecai's Sukkah!



May you  
and yours  
be blessed  
with a year  
of health,  
joy, peace &  
prosperity.



Deborah & Barry Adler  
Bernice & Irwin Bernhardt  
Janet Cohen  
Paula & Marty Cutler  
Esther Eskin  
Abraham Eskin  
Sue Farber

Miriam Friedman, in honor of Cheryl August

Beatrice Gordon  
Eric Gordon  
Norma Eskin Greco  
Adele Greene  
Judith & Leo Kaufman  
Shirley B. Levinson  
Arlene & Seymour Miller  
Lori & Ron Miskoff  
Judith Rodney  
Phyllis & Norman Rosen  
Vardi & Alan Roy  
Dion, Aly & Hayley Roy  
Giani, Lindi & Levi  
Robin & Lyle Sandler  
Sandy & Louis Sher  
Louise & Alan Siegel  
Ronna & Richard Silberberg  
Barbara Siperstein  
Jana Siperstein-Szucs  
Norma Witkin & Family  
Judy & Les Wurtzel

**Shana Tovah U'Metuka**  
**A Sweet New Year to the Entire Community!**

Stella Morrison, Nessa Madison  
and Sharon Bender  
Co-Chairs, Young Jewish Perth Amboy (YJPA)

# got shabbat? now, shalom!



## 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 - September 4**

Commemorate your birthday or anniversary in the upcoming month with a special Friday night celebration, to be followed by a Blowout Oneg Shabbat. (To sponsor an oneg contact Jeremy Strauss.)

### **Pardon the Interruption - September 11**

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 - September 18**

Rabbi Saks will deliver a formal sermon on a Jewish interpretation of a relevant current events topic.

## 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 - September 5**

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 - September 12**

See description above.

### **Shabbos, Schnapps & a Schtick of Yiddishkeit - September 19 - 11am**

Learn about Jewish tradition, religion and history with an early morning sip of schnapps (optional!). The hour long experience runs in lieu of services when preceded by Tot Shabbat (beginning at 10am). We'll schmooze with families from Tot Shabbat as they have a kiddie Kiddush, then learn something interesting together according to Tot Shabbat's theme for the month, and we'll wrap up with a delicious Kiddush lunch. This program is intended for ALL members of Beth Mordecai, especially those who are more interested in learning and discussion than services.

# Tot Shabbat

CONNECTING YOUNG FAMILIES TO JEWISH LIFE.



**Monday, September 14**  
**(Rosh Hashanah 1st Day)**  
**10:30am - 12:00pm**  
**Theme: ROSH HASHANAH!**

**SPONSOR**  
 — AN —  
**ONEG**  
*Contact Jeremy*

**straussjer@gmail.com**  
**732.331.4049**

**bettymf@me.com**  
**732.407.0821**

**SPONSOR**  
 — A —  
**KIDDUSH**  
*Contact Betty*





## Bible Study with the Rabbi

**Wednesdays - 9:30am**

**Panera Bread in Woodbridge (by Wegman's)**

A non-sectarian, non-denominational, open-to-all learning experience 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 opportunity to introduce potential new members to the Rabbi and our Jewish Home for the Soul... so spread the word!!!

## Online Parashah Class

**Fridays - 12:00pm**

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. If you miss it, watch it online (Click [here](#).)



**Friday, September 11**

**7:00pm**

**Private Home in Perth Amboy**

Come celebrate Shabbat at a private home in Perth Amboy with other young adults and families. Contact Stella for more details and to RSVP (YJPerthAmboy@gmail.com).



**Saturday, October 3**

**7:00pm**

**Congregation Beth Mordecai**

Come celebrate Sukkot with an evening filled with music and friends. Contact Stella for more details and to RSVP (YJPerthAmboy@gmail.com).

LIGHT CANDLES		SHABBAT ENDS	
Sep. 4	7:07pm	Sep. 5	8:04pm
Sep. 11	6:55pm	Sep. 12	7:52pm
Sep. 18	6:43pm	Sep. 19	7:40pm
Sep. 25	6:32pm	Sep. 26	7:28pm
Oct. 2	6:20pm	Oct. 3	7:17pm
Oct. 9	6:09pm	Oct. 10	7:06pm
Oct. 16	5:58pm	Oct. 17	6:55pm
Oct. 23	5:48pm	Oct. 24	6:46pm
Oct. 30	5:38pm	Oct. 31	6:37pm

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



**YJPA Fall Foliage Hike**

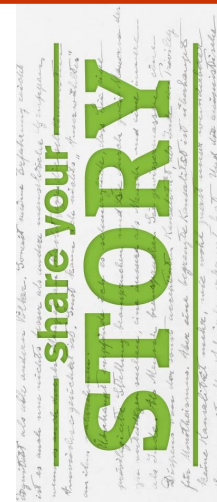
**Sunday, October 18**

**Details Forthcoming**



## Observations in Shul®

By Elliot Rubin



Next  
Bulletin  
Deadline

September 17

submit your  
**NEWS**  
or  
**EVENT**

I saw the elderly grandmother walk slowly step by step with a cane to the side of the bimah to see her grand-daughter read from the Torah to the congregation.

*I saw pride in her eyes.*

I saw a middle-aged man step in front of the Torah as it was walked around the congregation. He placed his hands on each side of it as if holding the face of a loved one. He then slowly placed his face against it and kissed the Torah.

*I saw a pure love of Torah.*

I saw the young girl sit next to her fiancé for the first time in Shul and hold his arm.

*I saw the continuation of the Jewish faith.*

I once saw my elderly 78 year old neighbor called for an Aliyah for the first time in her life. She was very nervous as she was brought up in an Orthodox Shul in Russia where women were not allowed an Aliyah.

*I saw the modernization of Judaism.*

I saw the 96 year old man read the prayers for his aliyah with his Ashkenazi accent.

*I heard the 6 million pray today.*

I saw the congregation say the Shema in unison and with feeling.

*I felt Hashem in our presence.*

If you open your heart you can observe a lot in Shul.

### 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!**



#### Birthdays

Lawrence Rudnick  
Sharon Bender  
Marc Fertik  
Debra Cohen  
Norman Silverstein

#### Anniversaries

Deborah & Barry Adler  
Rhona & Fred Bernhardt





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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

## A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SYNAGOGUE BY:

Hannah Adams, in memory of Evelyn Saverslak and Aaron Adams  
Carol & Michael Asman, in memory of Etta Rohen  
Dorothy August, in memory of Michael Silberstein  
Sue Bazer, in memory of Rose Feldman  
Sheldon Becker, in memory of Milton Burg  
Judy Gilbert, in memory of Jack Klein  
Marcia & William Goldberger, in memory of Nathan Goldberger  
Barbara Greenspan, in memory of LeRoy Greenspan  
Marjorie & Martin Grove, in memory of Ethel Bendet Grove  
Arnelle & Kenneth Hartenstein, in memory of Arnold Hartenstein  
Sheila Hollander, in memory of Louis Hollander  
Muriel Isaacson, in memory of Alexander Handelman  
Judy & Leo Kaufman, in memory of Lillian Kaufman  
Jean Kluff, in memory of Mayer Kluff and Sonia Rabiner  
Shelli & Lewis Mandel, in memory of Bella Mandel  
Lillian & Alvin Mattes, in memory of Joseph Mattes  
Selma Mitzman, in memory of Leslie Mitzman  
Roslyn & William Monsky, in memory of Milton Monsky  
Ronnie Hirschorn Polnerow, in memory of Beatrice Siegel  
Ann Preminger, in memory of Mark Preminger  
Bernice Ring, in memory of Seymour Ring  
Fredda Robinson, in memory of Rose Robinson and Irving Goldstein  
Lorraine Scheps, in memory of Irving Scheps  
Helen Wong Seidman, in memory of Baruch Seidman  
Louis Sher, in memory of Florence Sher  
Mike Shevell, in memory of Pincus Levine  
Ronna & Richard Silberberg, in memory of Jerilyn Kohn  
Dorothy & Jordan Solkowitz, in memory of Fannie Solkowitz  
Beth & Gerald Wallach, in memory of Tina Wallach and Paul Schonwald  
Libby & Allen Weingarten, in memory of Ray Gussaroff Franklin  
Judy & Les Wurtzel, in memory of Max Wurtzel and Samuel Wagner

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING.**

**We Remember**

## 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](mailto:ari.saks@gmail.com)

**SEPTEMBER**

- 02** 9:30am - Bible Study  
**02** 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi  
**04** 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class  
**04** 8:00pm - Shabbat Services - Celebration Shabbat  
**05** 10:00am - Shabbat Services - Torah Talk  
**09** 9:30am - Bible Study  
**09** 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi  
**11** 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class  
**11** 8:00pm - Shabbat Services - Pardon the Interruption  
**12** 10:00am - Shabbat Services - Pardon the Interruption  
**13** 7:00pm - Erev Rosh Hashanah Services  
**14** 9:30am - Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services  
**14** 10:00am - Tot Shabbat (Rosh Hashanah Edition!)  
**14** 1:30pm - Tashlikh  
**15** 10:00am - Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Creative Service  
**16** 9:30am - Bible Study

**SEPTEMBER**

- 16** 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi  
**18** 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class  
**18** 8:00pm - Shabbat Services - Current Events Sermon  
**19** 11:00am - Shabbat Services - Shtickle & Schnapps  
**20** 11:00am - Annual Cemetery Service  
**22** 6:30pm - Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre  
**23** 9:30am - Yom Kippur - Shacharit  
**23** 5:30pm - Yom Kippur - Micha & N'eilah  
**25** 12:00pm - Online Parashah Class  
**25** 8:00pm - Shabbat Services  
**26** 10:00am - Shabbat Services  
**27** 5:00pm - Sukkot Prep Rally!  
**28** 10:00am - Sukkot Day 1 Services  
**30** 9:30am - Bible Study  
**30** 12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi  
**30** Sukkot Mission, Mitzvah & Lulav! (9/30 - 10/1)

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