



Congregation Beth Mordecai

A Jewish Home for the Soul

July/August 2016

Sivan/Tamuz/Av 5776

Fireworks Shabbat!

Friday, July 1

6:30pm – Potluck Dinner for YJPA Members at Beth Mordecai

7:15pm – Services by the Bay (for all)

Meet at the shul at 7:15pm SHARP.

Park on High St. or in the parking lot of St. Peter's Church.

We will walk to Bayview Park for a quick service & special picnic oneg.

9:00pm – Perth Amboy Fireworks Display (for all)

Bring chairs & blankets – fireworks to start between 9-9:30pm



Tot Shabbat

CONNECTING YOUNG FAMILIES TO JEWISH LIFE.

by the Sea!



Saturday, July 16

10:00am

Gazebo at
Bayside Park

Honey for Rosh Hashanah

Send honey to your
friends & family!

ORDERS DUE BY
AUGUST 27

Details Inside



celebrate
shabbat
by the sea



Friday, July 22

6:30pm

6:30pm - Meet at the Shul

7:00pm - Services at the Gazebo at Bayside Park

8:00pm - Dairy Potluck Dinner at the Shul

RSVP to Rabbi Saks or the office.

To be a Season Supporter to offset the cost of Shabbat by the Sea events, please contact Rabbi Saks.



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

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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
Kiddush	Betty Fertik	732.407.0821
Oneg	Jeremy Strauss	732.331.4049
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".**

DONATE NOW

Secure Donations
by **PayPal**



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



Harvesting the Season of Summer

Dear Hevreh,

Summer is here which makes me think of camp, long getaways and vacations; an extended break from the rest of the year. Going to school it seemed that though there were four seasons, there really was only two – the work of school and the rest of summer. Though I'm out of school, it still seems like summer *should* be a time for rest, play, and reflection, much like having a Shabbat of rest after a week of work.



Well, it's not. Though summer is in full swing with the July 4th weekend, to a certain degree it feels like the seasons haven't changed. There are great programs to plan (like our Fireworks Shabbat or Shabbat by the Sea), holidays to prepare for (Rosh Hashanah is only 94 days away!), and important conversations to be had about the growth and purpose of our community. For instance, during our Annual Meeting we announced a 3-year fundraising program called "Rebirth" to put our congregation on solid financial footing while expanding and serving the needs of our community (more information on this program to come!). Along those lines, we just enjoyed a beautiful Shabbat by the Sea together where one of our members, Fred Bernhardt, shared his experience as a caregiver to his wife, Rhona, who suffers from Alzheimer's and Dementia. We followed that up with a conversation during Ask the Rabbi at the mall to share more of our stories as caregivers and talk about how we can do more to provide for our caregivers. Nine people were present at Ask the Rabbi and hopefully these programs will inspire more opportunities in the near future to learn from one another and to work together, especially on this important topic. In other words, it's going to be a very *busy summer*, not like the kind many of us had growing up, but the kind that many of us have now.

Yet in the midst of this working-summer-that-feels-like-the-rest-of-the-year season, is there anything that we can learn about the essence of summer that shows how it's a *different* time of year?

The Hebrew word for summer is **kayitz**, the root of which is kof (= ק), yod(= י) and tzadi (= צ). The word first appears in the Torah in the book of Genesis after God promises Noah that he will not destroy the world again:

"So long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer (kayitz) and winter, day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 9:22).

Much like my school-age division of time between "school & summer," the Torah indicates that the seasons (along with other cycles) are divided into two. This fits with the tendency of the Torah to see the world as divided into dualities - Shabbat & the week; Israel & the nations; the holy & the mundane. It's as if to say that everything in our world has an opposite and that there is a time for both things to exist. You can't have Shabbat without the week, you can't have Israel without the nations, you can't have winter without the summer. Thus there is something inherent in the summer season that is *essentially* different and opposing to winter.

When I was in school, that difference was clear. But as a working adult, I'm not sure. So I turn to another passage using the Hebrew root for "summer" (k-y-tz) from Isaiah to provide a little more insight:

"Ended are the shouts over your fig (**keytzekh**) and grain harvests" (16:9)

The fig harvest uses the root for summer (k-y-tz) because figs, with other major fruits, were harvested during summer in the ancient near east. Grains, however, were harvested during spring around the holiday, *Shavuot*. Note that some translate "grain" as "grapes," which, depending on the year, may or may not have overlapped with the fig harvest.

From this, we learn that there are different harvest times. Sometimes we harvest grains and sometimes we harvest figs - sometimes we should focus on one activity, and sometimes we should focus on another. So when it comes to the "essence of summer," I think it's important to keep in mind the "school-age" vision of summer - a period of relaxation, rest, and reflection. That is the essence of summer and we should work to find *more* moments to do so (than perhaps at other times). At the same time, harvests can overlap - we can't just put seasons of "work" & "relaxation" into a box. We must find ways to make them *work* together, especially when that harvesting needs to be *done* together.

So whether you're harvesting one fruit or more than one at the same time, may your summer be one of great insight and wonderful memories that will make it a summer to remember.

Happy summer...! שמח!
Rabbi Ari Saks

got shabbat? now, shalom!



732.331.4049
straussjer@gmail.com



732.407.0821
bettymf@me.com

Friday Night Services - 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 - August 5 - 8pm

If you have a simcha (e.g. birthday, anniversary) in the upcoming month please join us for a special blessing. (To sponsor an oneg contact Jeremy Strauss.)

Pardon the Interruption - July 9 - 8pm

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 - July 15 - 8pm

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

Traditional Service - July 29, August 19 & 26 - 8pm

Join us for a traditional, egalitarian service with Rabbi Saks.

Shabbat by the Sea - July 22 - 6:30pm

See description on front page.

Saturday Morning Services - Open to All

Connect to traditions while actively engaging in the service. There is opportunity for in-depth learning of the prayers and the Torah portion. Monthly themes:

Torah Talk - July 2 & August 6 - 10am

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 - July 9 & August 13 - 10am

See description to the left.

Traditional Service - July 30 & August 27 - 10am

See description to the left.

A Schtickale of Yiddishkeit - July 16 & August 20 - 9am

Learn about Jewish tradition, religion and history with an early morning sip of schnapps (optional!). In lieu of services. 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 Kiddush. This program is for ALL members of Beth Mordecai, especially those who are more interested in learning & discussion than services.

LIGHT CANDLES		SHABBAT ENDS	
Jul. 1	8:13pm	Jul. 2	9:21pm
Jul. 8	8:12pm	Jul. 9	9:18pm
Jul. 15	8:08pm	Jul. 16	9:14pm
Jul. 22	8:03pm	Jul. 23	9:07pm
Jul. 29	7:57pm	Jul. 30	9:00pm
Aug. 5	7:49pm	Aug. 6	8:51pm
Aug. 12	7:40pm	Aug. 13	8:41pm
Aug. 19	7:30pm	Aug. 20	8:30pm
Aug. 26	7:20pm	Aug. 27	8:18pm

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



August 20 - 10:00am

(See "Tot Shabbat By the Sea" on Front Page)



Ask the Rabbi

12:00pm on Wednesdays

July 6, 13, 20 & 27 and August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Menlo Park Mall Food Court

Have a question? Have a seat! Bring your lunch and ask the rabbi ANY question you like...seriously! First person there will get a free drink from the rabbi!



Veterans Home Visit

Tuesdays - July 5 & 19 and August 2, 16 & 30

3:30pm

Join Rabbi Saks, the Caring Committee and other members from the Jewish Home for Your Soul to help care for Jewish veterans on Tuesday afternoons. Contact Sherry for details (sweber7854@aol.com).

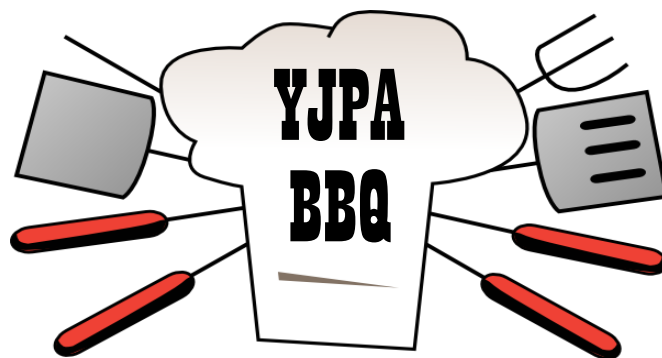


Wednesdays - July 13 & 27 and August 10 & 24

9:30am at Panera Bread in Woodbridge

Join us as we continue our reading of Abraham Joshua Heschel's, "The Sabbath."

No prior participation needed.



Sunday, July 10

2pm - 5pm

Join us at Rabbi Ari & Rachel Saks's house for a delicious BBQ with YJPA! Come for the food and stay for the company!

Bring your friends and your kids!

Swimming is available in their development's pool (\$6 per person guest fee).

RSVP to YJPerthAmboy@gmail.com

325 Rector St., Perth Amboy

This event is open to those in their 20s- ~40



Saturday & Sunday - August 13 & 14

Time - TBD

Keep your eyes glued to the weekly announcements for more information about special Tisha B'Av programming.

For more information, contact Rabbi Saks.



Birthdays

Lauren Hunter
Sherry Weber
Elyse Lyons
Les Wurtzel
Dorothy August
Jacqui Kay Klein
Lisa Weiss
Larry Gruber
Gennadiy Barskiy
Rena Yosevitz
Fred Bernhardt
Eric Gordon
Sava Gitelman

Anniversaries

Debra & Howard Cohen
Bernice & Bernard Magier
Sheila & George Brown
Judy & Les Wurtzel
Alyson & Dion Roy
Evonne & Dan Goldman
Sandra & Louis Sher
Betty & Marc Fertik



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!

**Next Bulletin
Deadline
August 15**

submit your
NEWS
or
EVENT

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

Arthur Aneckstein, in memory of Raymond and Morris Aneckstein
 Cheryl August, in memory of Kalman August
 Dorothy August, in memory of Kalman August
 Sheldon Becker, in memory of Bessie Levine
 Barbara & Jerome Eisner, in memory of Fred Spector
 Sue Farber, in memory of Marian Blum
 Marcia & William Goldberger and family, in memory of Ruth & Nathan Goldberger
 Irene & Marty Goldstein, in memory of Alexander Fenves
 Eric Gordon, in memory of Herbert Gordon
 Anita Hannotch, in memory of Franklin Hannotch, Jr.
 Muriel Isaacson, in memory of Frank Isaacson
 Jean Kluff, in memory of Sylvia Kluff and Rose & Boris Rabiner
 Susan Kopald, in memory of Bertha Pliskin
 Maria Pinhal & Jose Lopez, in memory of William Shapiro
 Bernice & Bernard Magier, in memory of Eva Rosovsky
 Roslyn & William Monsky, in memory of Minnie Miller
 Bobby Pivnick, in memory of Sara Lewkowitz
 Ronnie Hirschorn-Polnerow, in memory of Frank Hirschorn
 Nicole & Barry Rosengarten, in memory of Lydia Goldfarb and Philip
 Debbie & Carl Rubenstein, in memory of Harry Rubenstein
 Donna Cohen Scher, in memory of Miriam Cohen
 Sandra & Louis Sher, in memory of Lillian Cohen, Florence Sher & Fanny
 Mike Shevell, in memory of Paula Mack
 Ronna & Richard Silberberg, in memory of Sidney Kohn
 Samuel Silverman, in memory of Fanny & David Silverman
 Kit & Tony Trope, in memory of Jacob Kopf
 Libby & Allen Weingarten, in memory of Anna Gussaroff
 Judy & Les Wurtzel, in memory of Mary Wagner and David Klein

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING.**Who Do I Call?**

In the case of a death, call a medical authority, the funeral home and then the synagogue: **Rabbi Ari Saks | 732.442.2431 or 732.442.1373 | ari.saks@gmail.com** 7

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**Please remember
 Beth Mordecai
 in your will or as a
 dedicated beneficiary on
 an insurance policy.**


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



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 on the next page and sending it in with a check for the total cost. Alternatively, feel free to email your order directly to Sharon Bender (HoneyBethMordecai@gmail.com) and send your check separately.

Each jar of honey costs \$12 (this includes the honey, the shipping and a card addressed to the recipient as you choose). Orders of 4 or more will have a discounted cost of \$10 per jar.

Orders Due by AUGUST 27th

1. **Fill out the form on the next page (or email HoneyBethMordecai@gmail.com)** with the names and addresses of people you want the jars to be sent to. If you have more than 3 recipients, use the back of the order form or attach a 2nd page.
2. **Write a check**, made payable to Congregation Beth Mordecai for the Total Cost.
3. **Mail the form and check to:** Sharon Bender
10 Siedler Ln.
Sayreville, NJ 08872
Orders received after August 27th will be returned.
4. **Share this form** so others may give their loved ones a memorable Rosh Hashanah!

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

2016 Rosh Hashanah Honey Order Form

ORDERS DUE BY AUGUST 27th

Ordered By _____ Date: _____

Phone # _____ Email Address: _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

On the enclosed card, please use the following names:

To _____

From _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

On the enclosed card, please use the following names:

To _____

From _____

Send To _____ # of Jars _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

On the enclosed card, please use the following names:

To _____

From _____

For **1-3 jars** of honey,

Total Cost = Total Number of Honey Jars (_____) x **\$12 per jar** = \$ _____

For **4 or more jars** of honey,

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

JULY

01	06:30pm - YJPA Potluck Dinner
01	07:15pm - Fireworks Shabbat
02	10:00am - Shabbat Services - Torah Talk
05	03:30pm - Veteran's Home Visit
06	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
08	8:00pm - Shabbat Services
09	10:00am - Shabbat Services - Pardon the Interruption
10	2:00pm - YJPA BBQ
13	9:30am - Book Group
13	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
15	8:00pm - Shabbat Services - Current Events Sermon
16	9:00am - Shabbat Services - Shtickale of Yiddshkeit
16	10:00am - Tot Shabbat Services (by the Sea)
19	3:30pm - Veteran's Home Visit
20	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
22	03:30pm - Shabbat by the Sea
27	09:30am - Book Group
27	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi

AUGUST

02	03:30pm - Veteran's Home Visit
03	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
05	08:00pm - Shabbat Services - Celebration Shabbat
06	10:00am - Shabbat Services - Torah Talk
10	09:30am - Book Group
10	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
13	10:00am - Shabbat Services - Pardon the Interruption
16	03:30pm - Veteran's Home Visit
17	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
19	8:00pm - Shabbat Services
20	09:00am - Shabbat Services - Shtickale of Yiddshkeit
20	10:00am - Tot Shabbat Services
24	09:30am - Book Group
24	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi
30	03:30pm - Veteran's Home Visit
31	12:00pm - Ask the Rabbi

