



Congregation Beth Mordecai

Your Jewish Home for the Soul

March/April 2018

Adar/Nissan/Iyyar 5778



**Join Congregation Beth Mordecai
for the
Second Night Community Passover Seder**

March 31, 6:30 PM

\$42 for Adults

\$20 Age 18 and under

FREE for 12 and under

**Contact Elliot Rubin at
officebethmordecai@gmail.com OR
732-442-1373 for more details and to sign up**



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 Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com
Office Hours 10am - 2pm Monday - Thursday
Website http://BethMordecai.org
Facebook (Public) Congregation Beth Mordecai
Facebook (Closed) We Are Beth Mordecai

Synagogue Staff

Rabbi Sara Metz
Executive Director Elliot Rubin

Board of Trustees

President Cheryl August
Vice President Sharon Bender
Treasurer Marc Fertik
Secretary Larissa Sufaru
Past President Alan Roy
Past President Norman Silverstein
Past President Michael Gast
Past President Ron Miskoff
Past President Larry Deutchman
Trustee David Bennett
Trustee Ann Blog
Trustee Nessa Madison
Trustee Steve Rutland
Trustee Stephen Safran
Trustee Louis Sher
Trustee Jeremy Strauss



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.**

**Your generous and thoughtful support of our funds
are used to enrich & invigorate our community.**

Todah Rabbah - Thank you

General Fund Donations

Regina Lowenstein Broten
Ron & Lori Miskoff
Gale Spitalnik

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Glen & Randee Fox
Ron & Lori Miskoff
Richard & Ronna Silberberg



Did you just say food?

Our traditional Friday night and Saturday morning services are typically followed by a light oneg or Kiddush. We are always looking for sponsors/hosts! If you are interested, please reach out to the office (OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com or 732.442.1373).



Schedule of Shabbat and Holiday Services

Friday, March 9 - 8PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, March 10 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with Discussion

Friday, March 16 - 8PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, March 17 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with Discussion

Friday, March 23 - 8PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, March 24 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with Torah Reading

Friday, March 30 - First Passover Seder - No Services

Saturday, March 31 - 10 AM Shabbat & Passover Services with Discussion

Friday, April 6 - 8PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 7 - 10 AM Shabbat, Passover & Yizkor Services

Friday, April 13 - 8PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 14 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with Discussion

Friday, April 20 - 8PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 21 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with Discussion

Friday, April 27 - 8PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Saturday, April 28 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with Torah Reading



March 14
March 28

April 11
April 25

12 PM

Menlo Park Mall Food Court

Join Rabbi Metz at Menlo Park Mall. Each session will have a topic associated with it - to be announced on the synagogue Facebook page. In addition, ask the rabbi ANY question you wish!

The Science of Tasting



In this 3-part series you will learn the science behind tasting wine, chocolate & cheese. Each month, we will break open the flavor and texture of one of these product categories into individual perceivable attributes, such as showing that “cola flavor” is a blend of spices, citrus, caramelized, sweet, sour, and bitter notes. We will practice using a large number of foods. With developed tasting skills, you will be better able to articulate your likes, dislikes & preferences and communicate with others who have a similar passion for food. The series will be taught by Sharon Bender, a Sensory Scientist with 20 years of professional experience in the food industry.

Series

Wine

Chocolate

Cheese

Series Dates

Saturday, February 17 at 7pm

Saturday, March 10 at 7pm

Saturday, March 24 at 7:30pm

RSVP with Payment by:

Monday, February 12

Monday, March 5

Monday, March 19

Cost

\$60 – series

\$25 – individual class

RSVP to:

OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com

Pay Online [HERE](#) (note this event under “add special instructions”)



Passover Food and Food Preparation Guidelines

The following is a summary of the decision of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism

A. Food

1. Prohibited Foods

- a. Leavened breads, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereals, coffee substances derived from cereals, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, rice, dry peas, beans, and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. Baking soda may not be used.

2. Permitted Foods

- a. Requiring no Kosher for Passover כשר לפסח label: The following are permitted in unopened packages: coffee with NO added flavors (No Decaffeinated), sugar, salt, pepper, fresh fruits and vegetables except for legumes (such as beans and peas). String beans are permitted.
- b. If bought BEFORE Passover starts: milk may be purchased WITHOUT a Kosher for Passover label.
- c. If certified Kosher for Passover by a Rabbinical Authority: Matzot, matzah flour, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, jams, cheese, jelly, relishes, dried fruits, dried spices, nuts, salad oils, gelatin, shortening, vinegar and liquors.

B. Utensils

1. China - Fine translucent chinaware, which has not been used for Passover, may be used if thoroughly scoured and cleaned in hot water.
2. Dishwasher - may be kashered for Passover by running a full wash cycle with soap after not using the machine for twenty-four hours.
3. Earthenware - Cannot be Kashered
4. Glassware - May be kashered for Passover by means of washing thoroughly in hot water.
5. Gas Stove - The stove as well as the burners should be thoroughly scrubbed, cleansed and the turned on until red-hot.
6. Metal Dishes and Utensils - Utensils used in a fire (i.e. spit or broiler) should be thoroughly scrubbed, cleaned and heated until red-hot. Silverware should be thoroughly scrubbed, cleansed and then dipped in boiling water. In both cases, the utensil should not be used for a period or of twenty-four hours between the cleansing and the kashering. The above procedures apply only to utensils made wholly of metal, with no cracks, that are used for cooking but NOT baking.



In advance of the Passover Festival, every Jewish person is commanded to dispose of all owned leavened products (*chametz*) for the duration of the holiday. Most cannot wholly dispose of all *chametz*, except by selling it to a Non-Jewish person. Jewish law allows an agent to be authorized to sell *chametz* on one's behalf. We ask for a minimum of a \$10 donation to accompany this request. That donation will be used to towards helping all who are hungry, to come and eat.

For Sale of Chametz

I, _____, do hereby Authorize Rabbi Metz to sell all Chametz of whatever kind and nature, of which I am in possession, in my home, place of business or in any other place at _____, without reservation or limitation.

I understand that my *chametz* will be sold to a Non-Jewish person. That person will own my chametz during Passover. My *chametz* will be sold back to me after Passover ends.

I am permitted to eat said chametz AFTER 8:30 PM on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Name _____ (Please Print)



March Birthdays

Louis Sher
Phyllis Rosen
Allen Weingarten
Bob Krentar

March Anniversaries

Norman & Phyllis Rosen

April Birthdays

Felice Gruber
Carol Semel
Jeff Hirshman
Susan Neshin
Bernice Lamey
Ron Miskoff

April Anniversaries

Susan Neshin & Steve Rutland



A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SYNAGOGUE BY:

We Remember

- Hannah Rose Adams in memory of Rachel Adams, Barbara Saverslak, Hyman Saverslak, Irving Saverslak, & Max Saverslak
- Barry & Deborah Adler in memory of David Adler
- Robert Arky in memory of Bertha Arky
- Cheryl August in memory of Max August & Phyllis Shulman
- Sue & Ted Bazer in memory of Philip Feldman
- Lois Berkowitz in memory of Anna Berkowitz & Edward Berkowitz
- Fred Bernhardt in memory of Irene Bernhardt & Paul Sherman
- Sheila & George Brown in memory of Abraham Welkis
- Martin Clawans in memory of E. David Clawans
- Fred Bernhardt in memory of Irene Bernhardt & Paul Sherman
- Sheila & George Brown in memory of Abraham Welkis
- Martin Clawans in memory of E. David Clawans
- Martha Cole in memory of Dr. Nathan Cole
- Martin and Paula Cutler in memory of David Cutler
- Marilyn Davidoff & Richard Schwartz in memory of Steven Davidoff
- Phil Eichen in memory of Anna Eichen and Roslyn Eichen
- Sue Faber in memory of Fay Schussler
- Sandra Gast in memory of Jerome Gast
- Sava & Yevgeniya Gitelman in memory of Ada Iserlis
- William, Marcia Goldberger & family in memory of Max Goldberger
- Irene & Marty Goldstein in memory of Rose Kessler
- Barbara Greenspan in memory of Lottie Marks
- Sheila Hollander in memory of Robert Hollander
- Muriel Isaacson in memory of Lucy Handelman
- Mary Kaufman in memory of Aaron Kaufman
- Martin & Marjorie Grove in memory of Abraham Grove
- Dori Klang in memory of Morey Shulman & Phyllis Shulman
- Marvin & Susan Klein in memory of Dr. Albert Klein
- Robert & Elaine Klein in memory of Dr. Albert Klein
- Jean Kluft in memory of Peppy Kluft
- Bob & Anita Krentar in memory of Marjorie Siegel
- Joan Kossowsky in memory of Lucy Handleman, Mortimer Kossowsky, & Philip Kossowsky
- Alvin Kravet in memory of Ginette Kravet
- Bernice Lamey in memory of Bernard Schulhaus
- Allan Lesslauer in memory of Dorothy Lesslauer
- Shirley Levinson in memory of Dora Kelsey
- Janet Lipman in memory of Nathan Lipman
- Elyse Lyons in memory of Adele Press Epstein & Samuel Epstein & Dr. Bob Epstein
- Lewis & Rochelle Mandel in memory of Morris Holtzman
- Lillian Mattes in memory of Esther Mattes & Irving Mattes
- Seymour & Arlene Miller in memory of Abraham Grossman & Louis O. Wedeen
- Ila & Patrick Miller in memory of Joyce Ginsberg Yaffee
- Ron & Lori Miskoff in memory of A. Richard Miskoff
- William & Roslyn Monsky in memory of Leonard Monsky, Sadye Monsky & Stanley Monsky
- Dr. Susan Neshin & Steve Rutland in memory of William Rutland
- Ronnie Hirschorn Polnerow in memory of Bertha Hirschorn & Kevin Marc Polnerow & Rubin Spector
- Arleen Price in memory of Harold
- Gordon & Elaine Reibman in memory of Estelle Landau, Emil Landau, Gussie Gold, & Helen Gold Reibman

A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SYNAGOGUE BY:

We Remember



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

- Fredda Robinson in memory of Gershon Robinson, Jimmy & Victoria Goldstein
- Judy Rodman & Elyse McGuire in memory of Doris Collins
- Barry & Nicole Rosengarten in memory of Morris Goldfarb, Nancy Metzendorf, Isadore Jacobson
- Stephen & Patricia Safran in memory of Lisa Buncher
- Diane Salzberger in memory of Harriet Hershkowitz
- Lorraine Scheps in memory of Celia Zelbo, Daniel Zelbo, & Max Zelbo
- Suzanne Schwartz in memory of Dr. Albert Schwartz
- Helen Wong Seidman in memory of William Seidman
- Louis and Sandra Sher in memory of Jacob Sher
- Mike Shevell in memory of Janice Fishman, Joseph Levine, Gordon Sandler, & Jon Shevell
- Avi & Joan Shkedi in memory of Marjorie Siegel
- Dr. Samuel Silverman in memory of Amy Lynn Silverman
- Jordan & Dorothy Solkowitz in memory of Martha Spivak
- Karen Spector in memory of Rubin Spector
- Terry Spector in memory of Seymour Spector
- Judith & Stanley Walker in memory of Isador Gast & Jennie Gast
- Sherry Weber in memory of Bella Reiser
- Allen & Libby Weingarten in memory of Pauline Weingarten & Samuel Weingarten
- Les & Judy Wurtzel in memory of Jeanette Klein
- Nate Zimmerman in memory of Alice Zimmerman & Florence Zimmerman

**Whom do I call?**

In the case of a death, call a medical authority,
the funeral home and then Beth Mordecai.

Rabbi Sara Metz

732.442.2431 or 732.442.1373 or Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com



Ever Wonder Who is God?

Join Rabbi Metz to
explore what Jewish
tradition teaches and
what you think about
God.

Thursdays, April 12 & 19
7 PM

Congregation Beth Mordecai
224 High St. Perth Amboy
RSVP by April 5 to
Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Everyone loves shopping on Amazon! Now, if you shop with Amazon Smile, 0.5% of all your eligible purchases will be donated to Congregation Beth Mordecai! Start today!

Visit smile.amazon.com

Under "Choose Your Charity", type in "Congregation Beth Mordecai" and click "search".

On the next page, will be a list of possible matches; select "Congregation Beth Mordecai".

A confirmation email will be sent.

Begin shopping!

Join Us for Passover!

Our Second Night Community Passover Seder and Dinner is March 31, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

We invite you and your family to come enjoy our full Seder Service and dinner with Rabbi Metz leading services. Then have a delicious dinner with us.

Dinner is \$42 for adults, under 18 years of age \$20, Under 12 FREE.

Please choose which main meal, and how many, you would like to have:

Brisket _____

Salmon _____

Vegetarian _____

Please enclose a check, or fill out the PayPal credit card form on this page, with this reservation.

Adults @ \$42 \$ _____

Under 18 @ \$20 \$ _____

Under 12 free

Total \$ _____

Name on Card _____

Address _____ city _____ zip _____

Card # _____ Expiration date ____/____/____

Security Code on back for Visa & Master Card # _____ Amex 4 digit # on front _____

Email address _____ Phone # _____

I authorize Congregation Beth Mordecai to charge my credit card the above total.

Signature

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY MARCH 26
WITH YOUR PAYMENT TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!
THANK YOU!**



From the Rabbi

I am often asked if the Exodus really happened. Many rabbis and scholars have written and spoken extensively on this topic looking to the Bible, history books and archeology to best answer this question.

The first answer I usually give is that on some days I believe that yes, the Exodus really happened. It happened with the burning bush, the plagues and the miracle of God splitting the Sea of Reeds for us to travel from slavery to freedom. Sometimes, if I close my eyes, I feel as though I am transported back to that time by the memories of my soul, of my people.

Other times, I feel more critical of the literal words of the Bible and look to the moral imperatives our story of slavery and redemption tells. I believe both perspectives are important, valid and relevant. Whether we literally toiled in the hot Egyptian sun, wept bitter tears and cried out to God or whether this story is a myth, we come to the same place. No fewer than 36 times, God tells us in the Torah to care for the foreigner or stranger for we were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

Our story of suffering should push us to dedicate ourselves to caring for the other. How can we do this, where to start? Ask yourself, "Do I know anyone who is struggling? How can I help them?" God heard our cries in Egypt and it is our responsibility to hear the cries of others who are in need and to give.

On Passover, we exclaim, "Let all who are hungry, come and eat." We can remember our humble beginnings as slaves by lifting others up. Mahatma Gandhi said, "A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." God places on us the obligation to be great by caring for others. How do we help our society's weakest members? Do we look the other way with blame and derision or do we open our hands and our hearts?

There are opportunities everywhere to help others. Please think about sponsoring another to join at our Passover Seder or by donating to Mazon, a Jewish organization fighting hunger. Their website is found at: <https://mazon.org>.

May we all have an uplifting Passover!

Rabbi Metz

MAZON

A Jewish Response
To Hunger

הָא לַחֲמַא עָנִיָּא דִּי אָכְלוּ אַבְרָהָמָא בְּאַרְעָא דְּמִצְרַיִם.
כָּל דְּכַפִּין יִיתִי וְיִיכֹל, כָּל דְּצָרִיךְ יִיתִי וְיִפְסַח. הַשְׁתָּא
הָכָא, לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בְּאַרְעָא דִּישְׂרָאֵל. הַשְׁתָּא עַבְדִּי,
לְשָׁנָה הַבָּאָה בְּנֵי חֹרִין.

This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All those who are hungry, let them enter and eat. All who are in need, let them come celebrate the Passover. Now we are here. Next year in the land of Israel. This year we are enslaved. Next year we will be free.