



# Congregation Beth Mordecai

*Your Jewish Home for the Soul*

May 2018

Iyyar/Sivan 5778



In *THE BAND'S VISIT*, a mix-up sends a group of Egyptian musicians to a remote Israeli town. When the locals take them in for the night, their lives intertwine in the most unexpected ways.

Fate brought them to town. Their music brought it to life.

Winner of four BEST MUSICAL awards, and now honored on every major BEST OF THE YEAR list, *THE BAND'S VISIT* rejoices in the deeply human ways music, longing and laughter can bring us all together. *The New York Times* cheers, "It's time to fall in love with one of the most ravishing musicals ever. 'Feel Something Different'—that's the heart-clutching sensation that throbs throughout this miraculous show."

## Join Congregation Beth Mordecai to see The Band's Visit on Broadway!

### Look inside for more info!



## From the Rabbi

During the time in between Passover and Shavuot we count the Omer. This comes from the commandment in the Torah to count the 49 days to the 50th day Shavuot. We count 7 weeks of 7 days. In Biblical times, this was done by people bringing an omer, a measure of barley as an offering to the Temple. At the time of the Temple, Israel was largely agricultural. Many of our holidays are connected to the harvest. Sukkot is a harvest holiday. Passover is the beginning of the Barley festival. Agriculturally the appropriate time to reap the wheat harvest is 50 days after the barley is harvested. After counting 49 days from the 2nd night of Passover until Shavuot, which is the beginning of the wheat harvest.

In American culture we count down to events. We say things like only 2 days to go. In Judaism we count up. We say, "we are on the 31st day of the Omer." 31 days have gone by, 31 days we have brought an Omer of Barley every day. In our time we can say that 31 days we have blessed God for giving us the commandment to mark our time, to count the Omer.

Before completing many mitzvot, there is a meditation that says, "Here I am ready to complete this mitzvah." Before counting the Omer some say this meditation, **"Here I am ready to complete the mitzvah that was written in the Torah, count for yourself every week, from the day in which you will bring the Omer."**

We say this meditation to prepare for this mitzvah and it serves as a means for us to take a step back. We are not to recite the blessing and fulfill the mitzvah with intention. I believe one function of the Omer serves to create a few moments for us to contemplate the day that has just gone. What did we do? How did each of you make the world a better place on that day? In what ways can we do more?

The act of counting the Omer serves as a way in which we account for our time. This year as we count the days to Shavuot, we remember those who have passed, who graced our time while they were here, and we give thanks for the new life. For seven weeks during our year we have the opportunity to count each day and make each day count.

*Rabbi Sara Metz*



**Congregation Beth Mordecai**  
Established 1897

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Website http://BethMordecai.org  
Facebook (Public) Congregation Beth Mordecai  
Facebook (Closed) We Are Beth Mordecai

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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.**

**Your generous and thoughtful support of our funds  
are used to enrich & invigorate our community.  
Todah Rabbah - Thank you**

## General Fund Donations

Bob & Anita Krentar in memory of Marjorie Siegel  
Avi & Joan Shkedi in memory of Marjorie Siegel  
Jose Lopez and Maria Pinhal

**2018 Rebirth Project**  
Sharon Bender

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](mailto:OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com) or 732.442.1373).



**Services in during the months of May and June could be lead by community members while Rabbi Metz is on Maternity leave.**

Saturday, May 4 - 9 AM Bagel breakfast followed by an shortened service with discussion

Saturday, May 12 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with discussion

**Saturday, May 19 - No AM Shabbat Services**

**Saturday, May 26 - No AM Shabbat Services**

Saturday, June 2 - 9 AM Bagel breakfast followed by an shortened service with discussion

**Saturday, June 9 - Shabbat Services with discussion**

6:30 PM Candle lighting at Synagogue, 7 PM Kabbalat Shabbat service at the gazebo

**Saturday, June 16 - 10 AM Abbreviated Service with bagel and lox kiddush**

Saturday, June 23 - 10 AM Abbreviated Service with bagel and lox kiddush

**Saturday, June 30 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with discussion**





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**Join Congregation Beth Mordecai to see The Band's Visit on Broadway!**  
**June, 24 2018 3 PM Matinee**

Side Orchestra seats at the discounted group rate of \$139 per person  
 (regular rate is \$179 per person)

Rear Orchestra seats at the discounted group rate of \$119 per person  
 (regular rate is \$169 per person)

We must have 12 people confirmed and paid by May 13 to receive this rate

**If you are interested please reply**  
**to: [specialeventsbethmordecai@gmail.com](mailto:specialeventsbethmordecai@gmail.com)**

# Shabbat by the Sea !

celebrate

shabbat

by the sea

Can you believe our 1<sup>st</sup> SBTS is here!?

Friday June 15

Join us at 6:30pm at the shul for candle-lighting.  
Walk down to the gazebo for services at 7pm.

**Mahjong Madness!**  
**Beginners and experts all welcome!**  
**Sunday, May 20 1:30 PM**

**Beginners welcome. Contribution \$5.**

**RSVP to Anita Krentar**  
**at [neatsea.ak@gmail.com](mailto:neatsea.ak@gmail.com)**



### May Birthdays

George Brown

Yevgeniya Gitelman

Judy Wurtzel

Barry Adler

Doron Metz

Steve Rutland

### May Anniversaries

Ron & Lori Miskoff

### June Anniversaries

Felice & Larry Gruber

Bob & Anita Krentar

Rabbi Sara and Lev Metz

### June Birthdays

Jeff Hirshman

Alvin Kravet





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



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- Hannah Rose Adams in memory of Joseph Jacob Dienstein, Margaret Saverslak, & Lottie Saverslak
- Dr. Arthur Aneckstein in memory of Ada Aneckstein, Arthur Aneckstein & Israel Shangold
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- Donna Cohen Scher in memory of Pincus Schwartz
- Helen Wong Seidman in memory of Dr. Oliver G. Seidman
- Louis & Sandra Sher in memory of Jacob Sher, Jacob Goldstein, Philip Cohen, Betty Cohen, & Oscar Sher
- Mike Shevell in memory of Arlene Walters Shevell, & Lillian Shevell
- Jordan & Dorothy Solkowitz in memory of Marilyn Eimer, Simon Spivak, Manuel & Sofia Saverslak, & Simon Spivak
- Karen Spector in memory of Rubin Spector
- Kit & Tony Trope in memory of Stella Kopf
- Judith & Stanley Walker in memory of Fay Gast
- Allen & Libby Weingarten in memory of Morris Gussaroff
- Les & Judy Wurtzel in memory of Mary Wagner, Charles Wurtzel, & Ruth Wurtzel

**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](mailto:Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com)**





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