



# Congregation Beth Mordecai

*Your Jewish Home for the Soul*



November 2018

Cheshvan/Kislev 5779



**Look inside for all the  
great events we have  
coming up at  
Congregation Beth  
Mordecai**



## From the Rabbi

In this season of giving thanks, let me share with you a beautiful story.

A baby was born at the Rambaum Medical Center in Haifa. Unfortunately, soon after the baby's birth, he suffered severe seizures and was transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit immediately.

Dr. Hanna Mandel, a metabolic disease specialist was the head of the unit who first assessed the baby. Many different tests were performed and they all came back negative. When the baby was sent for brain scans the images showed a lack of myelin, which is a coating around nerves, that acts like plastic insulation around an electrical wire. Without that insulation, the wires, the neurons, cannot carry a signal as far or as fast. So as the child grew older, his development lagged; he could not move on his own.

At 4 years old, Dr. Orly Elpeleg, a specialist in rare genetic diseases at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem, led a team that analyzed the boy's genome. They were looking for mutations that might have caused this. They found a mutation that had never been found in any person, up until that point. Dr. Elpeleg contacted an expert on the specific gene at a Brain Science Institute in Japan. The Israeli team sent a sample of the child's tissue to the Japanese team and together they solved the genetic piece of the child's sickness. With better understanding of the problem and a diagnosis, the child receives greater medical support, and his parents have received genetic counseling about future pregnancies.

Despite many difficulties, Dr. Mandel speaks of the positive pieces of this child's life. She says, "He lives in a beautiful Arab village in Northern Israel in a beautiful house with his parents and sister. During the day, he attends a rehabilitation center near his home village, where he receives all the paramedical support one could think of."

An Arab family, Israeli, Japanese and British doctors have come together to start to solve a genetic mystery and to help a child. The ingenuity of the doctors, their collaboration and desire to make our world better are just some of the reasons among many to be thankful.

B'Shalom,

*Rabbi Sara Metz*

## Schedule of Shabbat Services

**Saturday, November 10, 10 AM** Shabbat morning services with Torah reading

**Saturday, October 18, 10 AM Shabbat Services with discussion**

**Saturday, November 25, 10 AM** Shabbat morning services with discussion

with guest Cantor Robbie Wittner

## Catered dinner to follow

**Saturday, December 1, 10 AM** Shabbat morning services with discussion





**November 7, 14, 21  
12 PM**

**Menlo Park Mall Food Court by Panera**

Join Rabbi Metz to discuss and study Pirke Avot,  
an ancient and modern text relevant  
to everyday life.

**Come to study or come with  
your own questions!**



**Starting Wednesday, November 7!**

**Join Rabbi Metz for "Coffee Talk" 9:30-10:30**

**Studying Judaism's 10 Best Ideas**

**Brewed Awakening**

**417 Main St, Metuchen, NJ**



## Join us to see this classic Yiddish film as part of the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival

A rich, ethnographic tapestry of Jewish legend, *The Dybbuk* is a Yiddish-language drama based on S. Ansky's seminal play about a bride possessed by a dybbuk, or disconnected soul. The film weaves a mystical tale from the Hasidic shtetls of the late nineteenth century with the story of two close friends, Sender and Nisn, who vow that their first-born children will marry one another. The *Dybbuk* presented here is a new restoration of the 1937 classic, which was originally filmed just before the outbreak of World War II.

**Dr. Agnieszka Legutko** of Columbia University will speak after the film.

Thursday, November 8, 12 PM

AMC Lowes New Brunswick

More information at <https://bildnercenter.rutgers.edu/events/film>

**Tickets are \$13 - RSVP to Elliot at [officebethmordecai@gmail.com](mailto:officebethmordecai@gmail.com)**

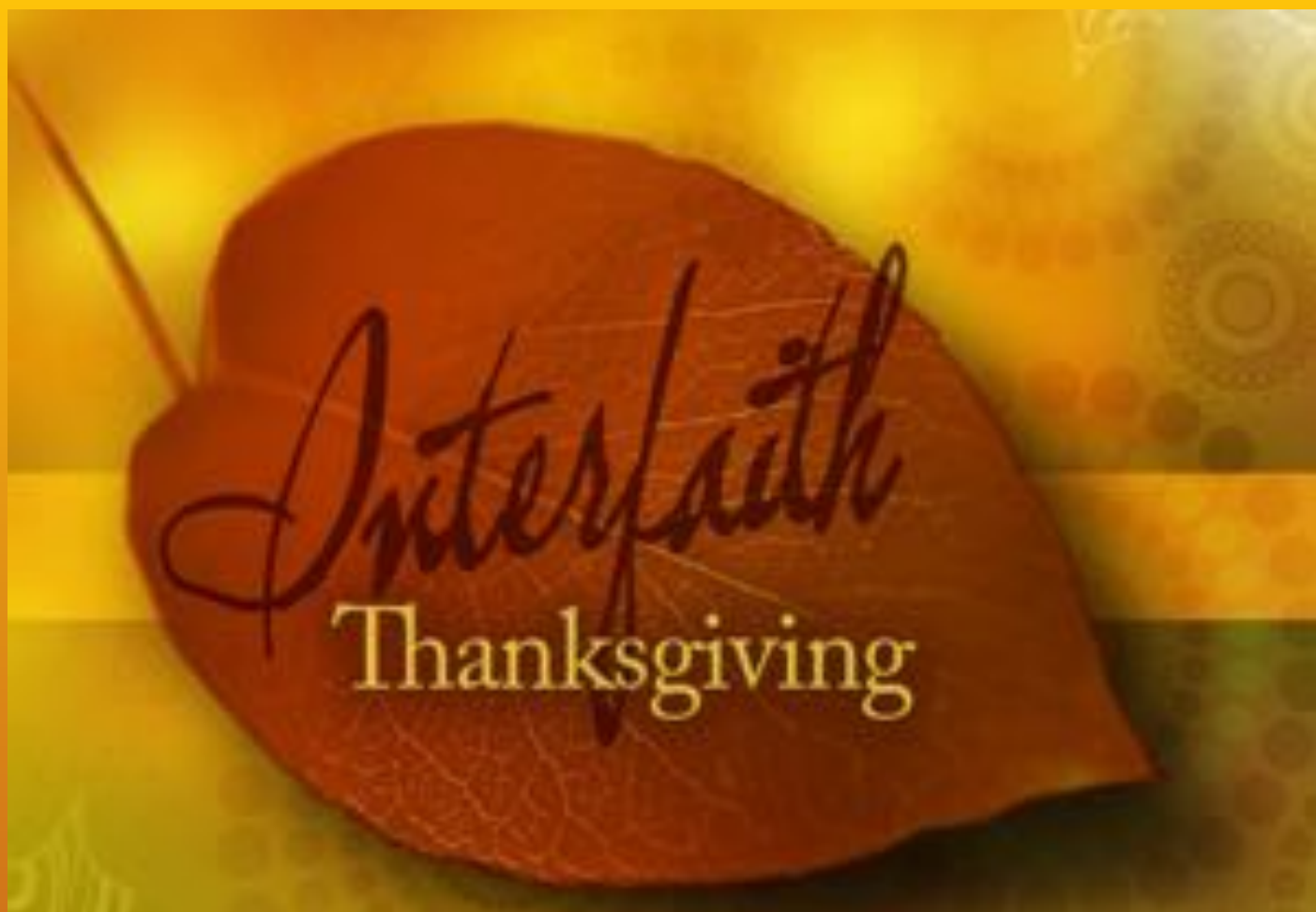
# Become a Power Pray-er!

Join us for the second session of  
our prayer learning series.

This will be an uplifting class to learn how and  
when to say the kaddish prayer.

Thursday, November 15 - 7 PM

RSVP to [Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com](mailto:Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com)



**Join Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
and**

**Congregation Beth Mordecai**  
for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
Tuesday, November 20  
7 PM

Please bring a vegetarian dessert  
traditional for your family to share



# CANTORIAL SHOWCASE

AT CONGREGATION BETH MORDECAI

Friday, November 30 at 6:30pm

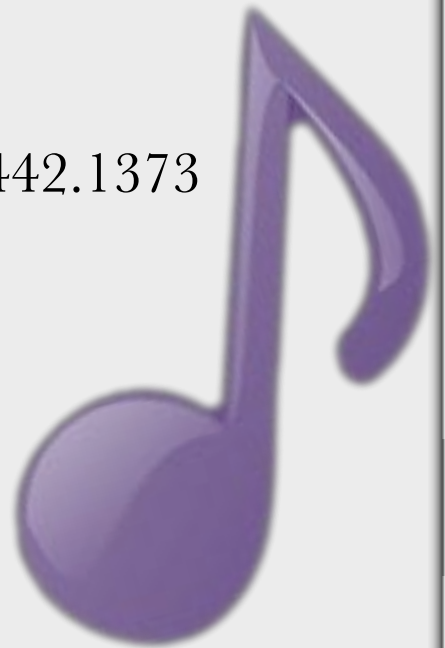
Catered dinner to follow (\$30/person)

Join us for a musical Shabbat experience that features Robby Wittner, a 4<sup>th</sup> year cantorial student at Hebrew Union College in New York City.

RSVP to Elliot:

OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com or 732.442.1373

Robby Wittner began singing formally in elementary school and continued to sing in choirs for many years. He graduated from Hamilton College with a major in microbiology and minors in music and religious studies. During his time in college, he studied with the opera great Jon Fredric West and continued his voice studies in Israel with Jay Shir, a student of Hans Hotter.





# Beth Mordecai BOOK CLUB



Join us to read and discuss The Haj, by Leon Uris. The Haj is an epic story of hate and love, vengeance and forgiveness. It is about a Palestinian Arab family caught up in the area's historic events of the 1920s – 1950s as witnessed by Ishmael, the youngest son of the village leader's family. The book discusses the interactions and clashes between Ishmael's village and the Jewish pioneers building up Palestine, and making it into Israel.



Tuesday,  
December 11  
7 PM  
Location TBD



RSVP to  
[Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com](mailto:Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com)

A background image of various Mahjong tiles scattered on a surface. The tiles feature different symbols including Chinese characters, flowers, and geometric patterns in various colors.

# Mahjong Madness!

## Beginners and experts all welcome!

Sunday, December 16  
1:30 PM

Beginners welcome.  
Contribution \$5.

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



### November Birthdays

Anita Krentar  
Barbra Siperstein  
Sheila Brown  
Cheryl August

### November Anniversary

Larisa Barskaya &  
Gennadiy Barskiy







## For your generous donation to Supporting Congregation Beth Mordecai

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- Norma Witkin

### Rebirth Project

Fredda Robinson

### Sanctuary Beautification Project

Cheryl August

### Memorial Plaque

in memory of Gerald Walach by Beth Wallach



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- Karen Spector in memory of Helen Gordon
- Les & Judy Wurtzel in memory of Rose Wurtzel
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"The soul of man is the candle of G-d."  
- King Solomon's Proverbs



*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. Metuchen, NJ 08840 732.548.2134 NJ Lic. No. 4105	23 Fords Ave. Fords, NJ 08863 732.826.0358 NJ Lic. No. 2158
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## 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)**





**Congregation Beth Mordecai**  
Established 1897

Address 224 High St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
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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

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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**



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