



**Congregation Beth Mordecai**

*Your Jewish Home for the Soul*



**December 2018**

**Kislev/Tevet 5779**



*Congregation Beth Mordecai  
wishes you and your family  
a warm, bright and  
Happy Hanukkah*



## From the Rabbi

Hanukkah is known as the Festival of Lights because its central ritual is the lighting of the *Chanukkiah* (Hanukkah menorah) for eight consecutive nights. We commemorate Chanukah to celebrate the inspirational story of the unlikely Maccabean victory over their Syrian-Greek oppressors who attempted to obliterate the Jewish faith and convert the Jews to Hellenism in 165 B.C.E.

The story is told of the miracle which occurred when Judah the Maccabee ordered the Temple to be cleansed and purified. The Talmud tells of a legend in which there was only enough oil found in the Temple to light the menorah for one day, yet it burned for eight days. The time needed there to create more pure oil. An eight-day festival was declared by the Jewish sages to commemorate this miracle. In actuality, Hanukkah is more likely an eight day festival because the Maccabees were unable to celebrate Sukkot and Simchat Torah, (an eight day celebration), earlier in the year. Hanukkah was made as an eight day festival to make up for the time they could not celebrate.

I choose to believe a bit of both stories. The Maccabees knew the land, giving them an advantage over the Syrian-Greeks. Perhaps, the oil did miraculously last eight days or perhaps this group of people spent the earlier fall holidays in battle and did not want to miss out on an opportunity to come together and to praise God. The miracle is that t we come together, we celebrate and bring more light into our world. We acknowledge our difference and rejoice in our similarities.

As we light the *chanukkiah*, notice that when one candle shares its light with another, neither is diminished, they both grow. So too is our joy. May our light and happiness grow ever brighter.

*Rabbi Sara Metz*





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



## Schedule of Shabbat Services

**Friday, November 30, 6:30** Musical Shabbat Services

with guest Cantor Robbie Wittner

Catered dinner to follow

**Saturday, December 1, Breakfast Minyan**

**9 AM** Bagels and nosh

**9:30 - 10:30 Abbreviated Shabbat service**

**Friday, December 7, 6:30 PM** Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**8:00 PM** Potluck Hanukkah celebration

**Saturday, December 8, 10 AM**

Shabbat morning services with Torah Service Bar Mitzvah

**Friday, December 14, 8 PM** Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Saturday, December 15, 10 AM** Shabbat Services with discussion

**Friday, December 21, 8 PM** Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Saturday, December 22, 10 AM** Shabbat Services with discussion

**Friday, December 28, 8 PM** Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Saturday, December 29, 10 AM** Shabbat Services with discussion

# Coffee Talk

An informal weekly meet up with  
Rabbi Metz for coffee &  
meaningful conversations about  
the fundamentals of Judaism.

**Wednesday December  
5, 12 & 19  
9:30am**

## **New Location!**

**The Coffee House  
931 Amboy Ave  
Edison, NJ 08837**



**From now through January, conversations  
will focus on Judaism's 10 best ideas.**

**Come find out what they are!!!**





**December 5, 12, 19**  
**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!**

## Lighting the Hanukkah Candles

**Candles are lit on each of the eight nights of Hanukkah.** One the first night, two the second, and an additional candle on each subsequent night. The candle for the first night is placed at the far right of the *hanukkiah*; on each subsequent night, another candle is added to the left. An extra candle, designated as the “*shamash*” is lit first, then used to light the others after the blessings are recited.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ  
לְהַדְלִיק נֵיר שֶׁל חֲנוּכָּה.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha-olam,  
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu  
l'hadlik neir shel Hanukkah.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot by commanding us to light the lights of Hanukkah.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ,  
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וּבְזִמָּן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha-olam,  
she-asah nisim la-avoteinu,  
ba-yamim ha-heim u-va-z'man ha-zeh.

Praised are you Adonai our God, who rules the universe,  
accomplishing miracles for our ancestors from ancient days until our time.

On the first night only:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם,  
שֶׁהֵחַיָּנוּ וְקִיַּמָּנוּ וְהַגַּעְנוּ לַזִּמָּן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha-olam,  
she-heheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higi'anu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Praised are You Adonai our God, who rules the universe,  
granting us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.

After the candles are lit:

### הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ

הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֲנוּ מַדְלִיקִים עַל הַנִּסִּים וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת  
וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת וְעַל הַמִּלְחָמוֹת, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ  
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמָּן הַזֶּה,  
עַל יְדֵי כֹהֵנֶיךָ הַקְּדוֹשִׁים.  
וְכָל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי חֲנוּכָּה  
הַנֵּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ קֹדֶשׁ הֵם,  
וְאֵין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶם,  
אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָם בְּלִבָּד, כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת וּלְהַלֵּל  
לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל,  
עַל נִסֶּיךָ וְעַל נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ וְעַל יְשׁוּעָתְךָ.

### Ha-neirot Ha-lalu

Ha-neirot ha-lalu anu madlikim al ha-nisim v'al ha-nifla'ot  
v'al ha-t'shu'ot v'al ha-milhamot, she-asita la-avoteinu  
ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh,  
al y'dei kohanekha ha-k'doshim.  
v'khol sh'monat y'mei Hanukkah  
ha-neirot ha-lalu kodesh heim,  
v'ein lanu r'shut l'hishtameish ba-heim,  
ela lirotam bilvad, k'dei l'hodot u-lhaleil  
l'shim'kha ha-gadol,  
al nisekha v'al nifl'otekha v'al y'shu'atekha.

These lights which we kindle recall the wondrous triumphs and the miraculous victories wrought through Your holy Kohanim for our ancestors from ancient days until our time. These lights are sacred through all the eight days of Hanukkah. We may not make use of their light, but are only to look upon them, and thus be reminded to thank and praise You for the wondrous miracle of our deliverance.

### מַעוֹז צוּר

מַעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי, לֵךְ נָאָה לְשַׁבָּח,  
תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תִּפְלָתִי, וְשֵׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח,  
לְעֵת תִּכְיִן מַטְבֵּחַ, מִצֵּר הַמִּנְבֵּחַ,  
אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר, חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

### Ma'oz Tzur

Ma'oz tzur y'shu'ati, l'kha na'eh l'shabei'ah,  
Tikon beit t'filati, v'sham todah n'zabei'ah,  
l'eit takhin matbei'ah, mi-tzor hamnabei'ah,  
az egmor b'shir mizmor, hanukkat ha-mizbei'ah.

Rock of Ages, let our song praise Your saving power. You amid the raging throng were our sheltering tower  
Furious they assailed us, but Your help availed us. And Your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us.

(Translation: G. Gottheil)



# **Two Hanukkah events one night!**

**Rabbi Metz will be speaking about  
Hanukkah at BOTH the Perth Amboy  
AND  
Edison Township Lighting of the  
Chanukkiah and Hanukkah celebration!**

**PERTH AMBOY  
CHANUKKIAH LIGHTING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3  
6:00 PM  
PERTH AMBOY  
TOWN HALL**

**EDISON TOWNSHIP CHANUKKIAH  
LIGHTING AND CELEBRATION  
MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 7:00PM  
AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
CENTER OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
1775 OAK TREE ROAD, EDISON**



**Together, let's  
Light the Chanukiah...  
...at the mall!!**



**Thursday, December 6**

**6:00pm**

**Menlo Park Mall**

**By Nordstrom, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**





# Hanukkah Shabbat Potluck



Friday  
December 7

6:30pm Services  
7:30pm Dinner



*Latkes &  
Hanukkah Fun  
Provided!*

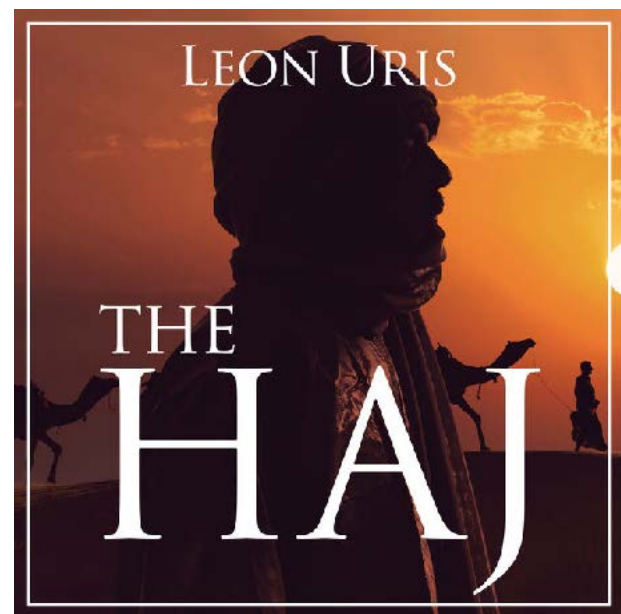
RSVP to Rabbi Metz with the dairy/vegetarian  
dish you will bring ([Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com](mailto:Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com))





# 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 wooden surface. The tiles feature different symbols including Chinese characters, numbers, and floral 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)



Become a



# OWER RAY-ER!

**Next Session:**  
**The Kaddish Prayer**

**Thursday, December 20**  
**7pm**  
**Beth Mordecai**

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

An anxiety-free way to learn the prayers commonly said during services. No Hebrew knowledge necessary!

Participants will learn:

- how to say/sing the prayer
- how to "do" the prayer *(perform the rituals associated with the prayer)*

Join us for our annual

# Chinese Food & A Movie Night



**Monday, December 24 at 6:30pm**

**Hosted by Rabbi Metz & her family at their home**

*(address provided upon RSVP)*

**\$15 per person**

What are you doing Christmas Eve?

Not much? (Didn't think so!)

So, come enjoy some tasty Chinese food & a stay for a movie!

**What do you need to do?**

1. **RSVP.** Call Elliott (732.442.1373) **by December 20** (Thursday).
2. **Pay.** Send a check to the office or use a credit card with [Paypal](#).
3. **Vote.** Go to our [Facebook](#) page and vote on a movie!



### November Birthdays

Jodi Blacker  
 Neil Hunter  
 Larisa Barskaya  
 Scott Gursky  
 Dr. Alvin Kravet  
 Bernard Magier

### November Anniversary

Ronald & Lisa Weiss





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

- Hannah Rose Adams in memory of Wallace Adams and Beatrice Saverslak
- Cheryl August in memory of Hannah August
- Sue & Ted Bazer in memory of Samuel Feldman & Esther Feldman
- Martin Clawans in memory of E. David Clawans
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- Lorraine Scheps in memory of Celia Zelbo
- Donna Cohen Scher in memory of Albert Cohen
- Helen Wong Seidman in memory of Esther Miriam Seidman
- Richard & Ronna Silberberg in memory of Amelia Kohn and Edward Silberberg



"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.	23 Fords Ave.
Metuchen, NJ 08840	Fords, NJ 08863
732.548.2134	732.826.0358
NJ Lic. No. 4105	NJ Lic. No. 2158



### 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  
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

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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

Glenn & Randee Fox in memory of Lois Fox Corrado  
Richard & Ronna Silberberg in memory of Anna Krentar

**Project Rebirth**  
Fredda Robinson



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