



**Congregation Beth Mordecai**  
*Your Jewish Home for the Soul*



**February 2019**

**Shevat/Adar I 5779**



**Open for information  
on Services and our  
exciting upcoming  
events**

**We look forward to  
seeing you soon.**



## From the Rabbi

I rarely follow sports, especially golf. I really only know that the Super Bowl is about to happen because I see signs about it in the grocery store. Many people find camaraderie, excitement, and exhilaration watching a sports team and cheering on with fans from around the world. Not me, especially football, I just do not feel that joy. I do appreciate the stories of the athletes' lives and how hard they work to get onto that professional or college team.

This is one of those stories. Last year, ESPN showed a great documentary called “A Mountain to Climb” about a golfer Pratima Sherpa. She is 18 and her dream is to become the first female golf pro from Nepal. Sherpa and her parents have lived in a dilapidated maintenance shed at Royal Nepal Golf Club since she was 5 years old. Sherpa calls it her “lucky house” because, “If I don’t live there, I cannot play golf.”

With no money for real clubs, her father went into the woods and carved a wooden club for her to use. Eventually, club members gave her a set of clubs, and she practiced constantly. Her father, Pasang Sherpa, wasn’t sure that was a good idea.

“I told her to stop playing,” he said. “I told her to study. This game is for the wealthy, well-to-do people. It wasn’t meant for us.” But as she piles up trophies, her talent can’t be denied. This is a story of someone who has not just defied the odds but has defied the social construct and order to succeed.

Let us be inspired by her fortitude and her story. Join us at Beth Mordecai and tell our story. Each one of us has continued to work at something even when others told us we wouldn’t succeed.

Sometimes we did succeed and sometimes we were unable, yet we tried! Email me at Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com and share your story with me.

*Rabbi Metz*

## From the President

Dear Friends,

How time flies! It’s hard to believe that it has been a year and a half since I became the President of Beth Mordecai and as President I have had the good fortune to be a part of and marvel at the opportunities at how much richness is available to you as a member. We are continuing to come up with programming ideas that are different, varied and engaging. Events that not only teach, but let us laugh, bond and support each other in the face of tragedy. But knowing that we will indeed have a minyan each week for Shabbat continually eludes us. Yes, I know that it has been cold or rainy, Yes, I know that it is dark early, Yes, I know that we all lead very busy lives. But the days are getting longer and winter will be something that we “see” in our rearview mirrors and to that end we are initiating the Minyan Club. It as a Club where the meetings are held monthly, your fellow club members are warm and friendly, the discussions very interesting. Please, for at least one Shabbat each month, make Beth Mordecai a priority and let us know that we can **Count on You** to make our ten.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

*Cheryl August*







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, February 1, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**Saturday, February 2, Breakfast Minyan**

**9 AM Bagels and nosh**

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

**Friday, February 8, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**Saturday, February 9, 10 AM Shabbat Services with discussion**

**Friday, February 15, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**Saturday, February 16, 10 AM Shabbat Services discussion**

**Friday, February 22, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**Saturday, February 23, 10 AM Shabbat Services with Torah Reading**

# Coffee Talk

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

**Wednesdays**  
**February 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**9:30am**

**New Location!**  
**Panera**  
**1551 Route 1, Edison**

From now through February we are studying  
the Tractate in the Talmud, Brachot.

Email Rabbi Metz  
[rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com](mailto:rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com) for more info





This Program Supported by  
**The Jewish Federation**  
 IN THE HEART OF NEW JERSEY



SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE מכון  
 OF NORTH AMERICA שלום הרטמן



**Congregation Beth Mordecai**

# iEngage

## Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings

The Legacy of the Past  
 and the Challenge of the Future

*A Shalom Hartman Institute Lecture and Study Series*  
 Led by Rabbi Sara Metz & Marc Fertik

*Through video lectures, text study, and lively group discussion, we are pleased to bring the world-renowned faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute to you this fall.*

*iEngage: Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings explores the pivotal events of 1917, 1947, and 1967. As we look to Israel's future, we need to engage anew with our past and explore its meanings and consequences. This iEngage series grapples with the different ideas and values that shape the meaning of modern Israel, and Zionism today. Together we will engage in a new values-based discourse about Israel, including topics such as: nationhood, land, Sovereignty, Jerusalem, Occupation and Moral Red Lines.*

Each session includes video presentations/lectures (featuring Rabbi Donniel Hartman) with historical context, relevant information and a vibrant group

**Tuesdays 7 PM**

**January 29      February 12 & 26**

**March 12 & 26      April 9 & 30**

**May 14**

discussion led by Rabbi Sara Metz & Marc Fertik.

**Union Lodge of F&AM - 60 Cedar Avenue**  
**North Brunswick, NJ 08902**

**\$10 per class and \$64 for the series**  
**RSVP to [Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com](mailto:Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com)**



# Beth Mordecai BOOK CLUB

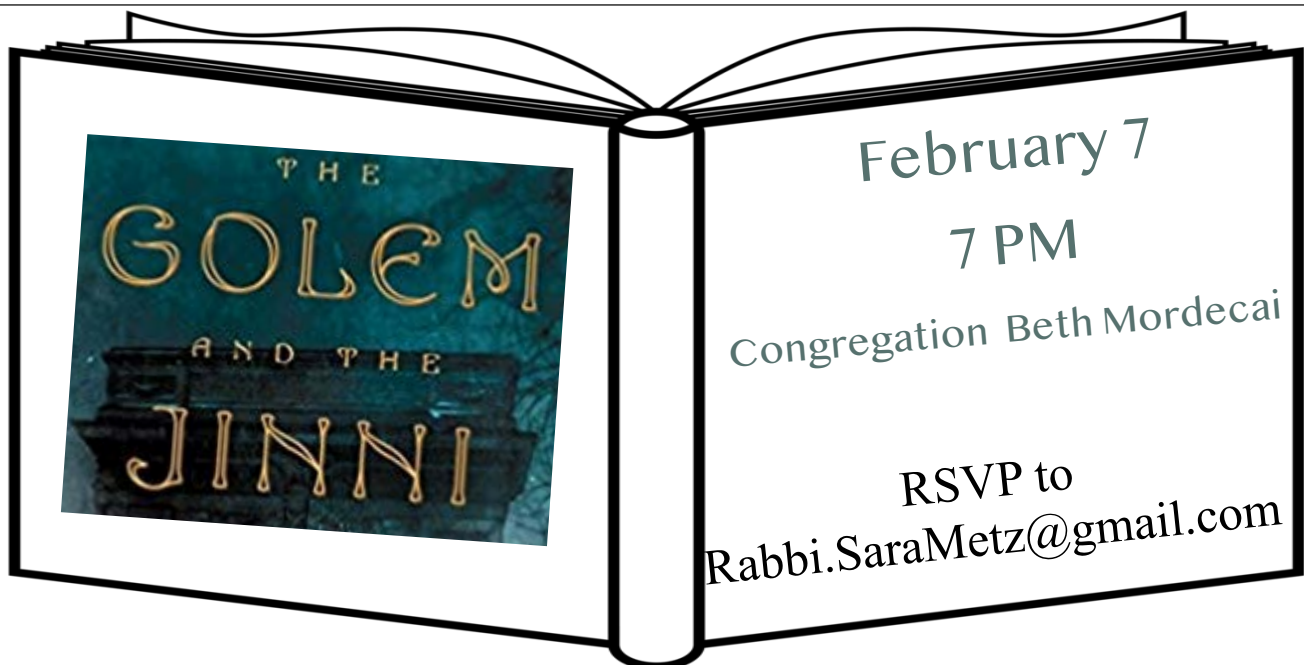


In *The Golem and the Jinni*, a chance meeting between mythical beings takes readers on a dazzling journey through cultures in turn-of-the-century New York.

Chava is a golem, a creature made of clay, brought to life by a disgraced rabbi who dabbles in dark Kabbalistic magic and dies at sea on the voyage from Poland. Chava is unmoored and adrift as the ship arrives in New York harbor in 1899.

Ahmad is a jinni, a being of fire born in the ancient Syrian desert, trapped in an old copper flask, and released in New York City, though still not entirely free.

Ahmad and Chava become unlikely friends and soul mates with a mystical connection. Marvelous and compulsively readable, Helene Wecker's debut novel *The Golem and the Jinni* weaves strands of Yiddish and Middle Eastern literature, historical fiction and magical fable, into a wondrously inventive and unforgettable tale.





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, February 17  
1:30 PM

Beginners welcome.  
Contribution \$5.

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

# Become a POWER PRAYER!

## **Next Session** **The Kaddish Prayer**

**Thursday, February 21**  
**7 PM**  
**at Congregation 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*)





**Feed your body, mind & soul!**

**Beth Mordecai member, Josè Lopez will  
teach us about the connection between  
the Jewish people and Chinese food!**

**Saturday March 2, 6:30**

**Congregation Beth Mordecai**

**224 High St.**

**Perth Amboy, NJ**

**\$18 includes**

**Kosher Chinese food dinner and program**

**RSVP to**

**[officebethmordecai@gmail.com](mailto:officebethmordecai@gmail.com)**

# A LEAP OF (INTER)FAITH

 at Congregation Sons of Israel

**Sunday, March 3 at 7 PM**

**33 Gordons Corner Rd.  
Manalapan, N.J. 07726**

Join Rabbi Sara Metz with Muslim and Christian religious leaders from Monmouth and Middlesex counties to celebrate the first anniversary of their shared Israel trip. We will discuss our similarities, our differences and how we learn from each other.

The event will include a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and will conclude with a reception in honor of the clergy and Tu B'Shevat.





Beth Mordecai Presents  
**TRIVIA  
NIGHT**

*Saturday*

**March 23, 2019**



**DOORS OPEN AT 7:30PM  
TRIVIA GAME STARTS AT 8PM**

**Come with a team or join one to test your knowledge!  
Come to eat, drink and show us how smart you are!**

**\$18 for Beth Mordecai members bringing a nonmember  
\$36 per person  
and**

**\$90 sponsors a question                      \$360 sponsors a round  
\$1,180 sponsors the game**

**Congregation Beth Mordecai  
224 High St  
Perth Amboy, NJ**

**Email OfficeBethMordecai@gmail.com to RSVP**





## February Birthdays

Deborah Adler  
Betty Fertik  
Shirley Levinson  
Lori Miskoff  
Dion Roy  
Norman Semel  
Susan Trager



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



"The soul of man is the candle of G-d."  
- King Solomon's Proverbs



- Hannah Rose Adams in memory of Rachel Adams, Irving, Hyman & Max Slaverslak, Bernard Saverslak
- Cheryl August in memory of Phylliss Shulman
- Sue & Ted Bazer in memory of Philip Feldman
- Marilyn Davidoff & Richard Schwartz in memory of Steven Davidoff
- Sue Winik Dunie in memory of Lynn and Morris Winik
- Jerome & Barbara Eisner in memory of Reuven Okner
- Sava & Yevgeniya Gitelman in memory of Iserlis Ada
- William & Marcia Goldberger in memory of Leo A. Goldberger & Goldberger Family
- Irene & Marty Goldstein in memory of Rose Kessler
- Barbara Greenspan in memory of Anna Greenspan & Benjamin Fink
- Jeff Hirshman in memory of Deborah Hirschman
- Charles Isaacs & Paula Krauser Isaacs in memory of Gertrude Krauser
- Alvin Kravet in memory of Ginette Kravet
- Janet Lipman in memory of Nathan Lipman
- Elyse Lyons in memory of Samuel Epstein
- Lewis & Rochelle Mandel in memory of Morris Holtzman
- Lillian Mattes in memory of Esther Mattes
- Norma Jacobson Messing in memory of Jean Jacobson
- Arlene Miller & Children in memory of Seymour Miller by
- Ronnie Hirschorn Polnerow in memory of Seymour Spector
- Barry & Nicole Rosengarten in memory of Nancy Metzendorf & Morris Goldfarb
- Diane, Jeff & Jon Salzberger in memory of Harriet Hershkowitz
- Lorraine Scheps in memory of Daniel Zelbo
- Shep Sewitch in memory of Marge Schlachter
- Mike Shevell in memory of Jon Shevell
- Karen Spector in memory of Seymour Spector
- Judith & Stanley Walker in memory of Isidor Gast
- Norma Witkin in memory of Ida Stein, Reuben Levinson & Vera Weiss
- Les & Judy Wurtzel in memory of Jeanette Klein



*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

### Board of Trustees

President Cheryl August  
Vice President Sharon Bender  
Treasurer Marc Fertik  
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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**

### Project Rebirth

Cheryl August

### General Fund Donations

Matin Silverman

Norman & Rosa Silverstein

Allen Weingarten



## Pre-winter By Elliot Rubin

the dew of summer is gone  
as ice crystals form a white,  
light glaze on the bending  
blades of grass,  
announcing the coming  
winter weather

deep in the hardening ground  
rabbits are digging  
their burrows,  
preparing  
for the December snows

stripped naked of their  
green leaves,  
tree limbs stretch out  
like fingers  
reaching into the clouds

while winds buffet the house,  
warmth is filling the rooms  
as the furnace starts up,  
knowing this year  
its job is just beginning

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Congregation Beth Mordecai  
when you shop on Amazon?

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You shop. Amazon gives.

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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!