



**Congregation Beth Mordecai**

*Your Jewish Home for the Soul*



**January 2019**

**Tevet/Shevat 5779**

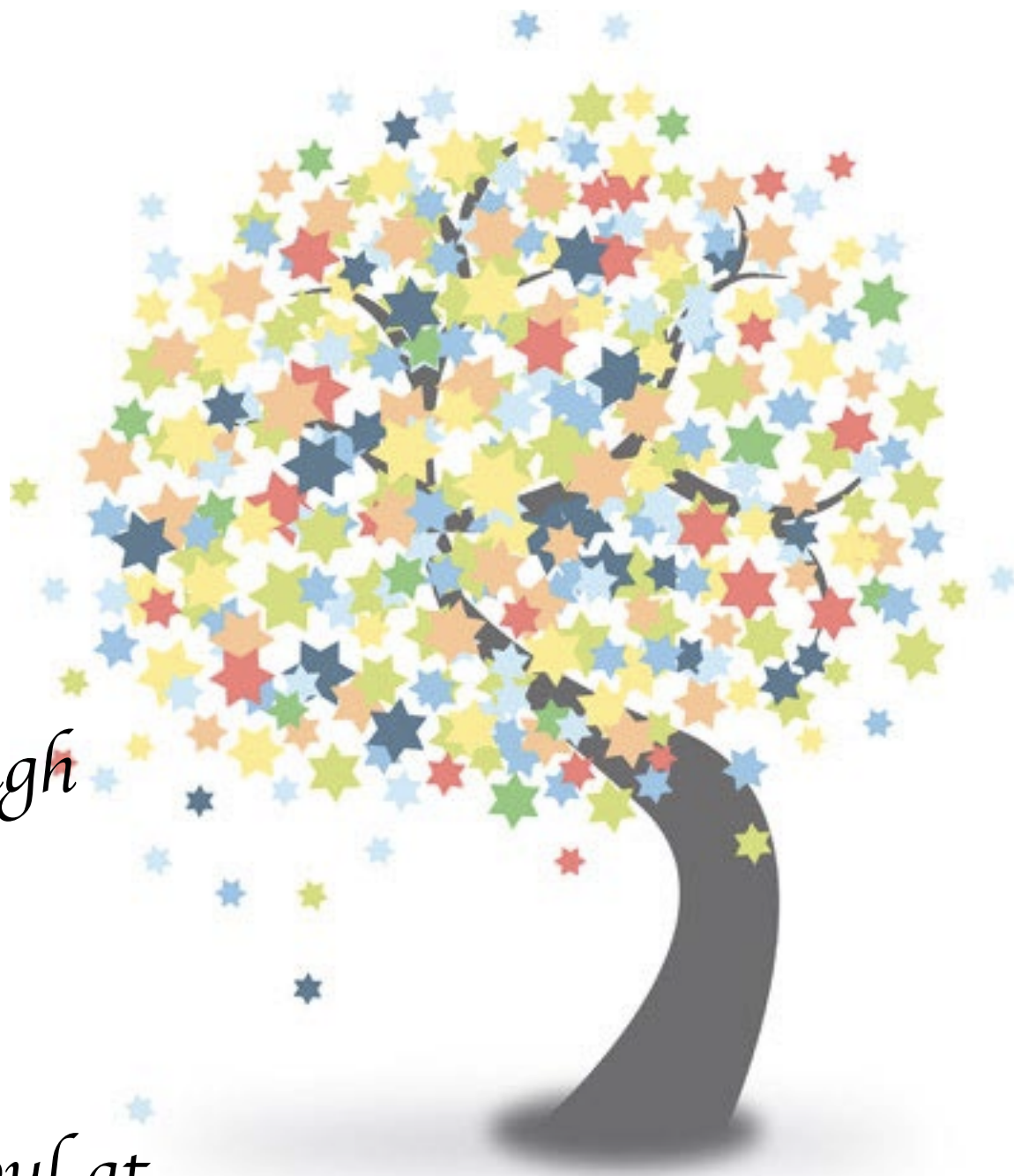
*Join friends*

*learn*

*schmooze*

*nosh*

*laugh*



*Feed your soul at*

*Congregation Beth Mordecai*



## From the Rabbi

When I first began as rabbi of this amazing community, I explored our building. I found pictures, announcements, Bar and Bat Mitzvah invitations, decorations for Sukkot, Hanukkah, Purim and Passover and so much more! There is so much incredible history inside these walls. Since that day, I have been fortunate to learn family stories and the legacies behind the faces and names I saw in pictures, booklets and invitations dating back decades.

I also found a carefully made Jewish star structure that is about 3 feet tall and wide. The structure has a shiny silver coating and is wrapped lovingly with flowers and ribbons. I knew there was a story behind this beautiful, handmade Star of David. I asked around, and no one seemed to know.

Days, weeks and months went by as I was busy visiting, calling and reaching those in our community and beyond. I recently visited with one of our long time congregants, Norma Witkin. She shared many stories with me about life in Perth Amboy through the years. She also showed me a newspaper article about her family from the 1960's. The article described how her family celebrated Hanukkah that year. Wouldn't you know, that there in that article was a picture of just that Star of David! She told me that her children made and decorated it for many years for each of the holidays! They lovingly covered it with shiny paper, ribbons and flowers as part of their family Hanukkah celebration every year. I was thrilled to finally know the story behind the Jewish star decoration!

I look forward to continuing to learn your family stories. I am continuing to reaching out to all our members, although some of the phone numbers I have are no longer working. If you have not heard from me, please call at (732) 442-1373 or email me at [Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com](mailto:Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com).

*Rabbi Sara Metz*



## Schedule of Shabbat Services

## Friday, January 4, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

## Saturday, January 5, Breakfast Minyan

## 9 AM Bagels and nosh

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

## Friday, January 11, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

## Saturday, January 12, 10 AM Shabbat Services with Torah Service

## Friday, January 18, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Saturday, January 19, 10 AM Shabbat Services with**

Tu B'Shvat Seder to follow

## Friday, January 25, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

**Saturday, January 26, 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.

**Wednesdays**  
**January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30**  
**9:30am**

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



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

Come find out what they are!!!





**January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
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!**



## Adult Coloring Party!

Join Congregation Beth Mordecai  
for a relaxing evening of  
coloring and creativity!

Jewish themed adult coloring pages,  
pencils and wine provided.

**January 10, 7 PM**

**\$10 per person**

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!

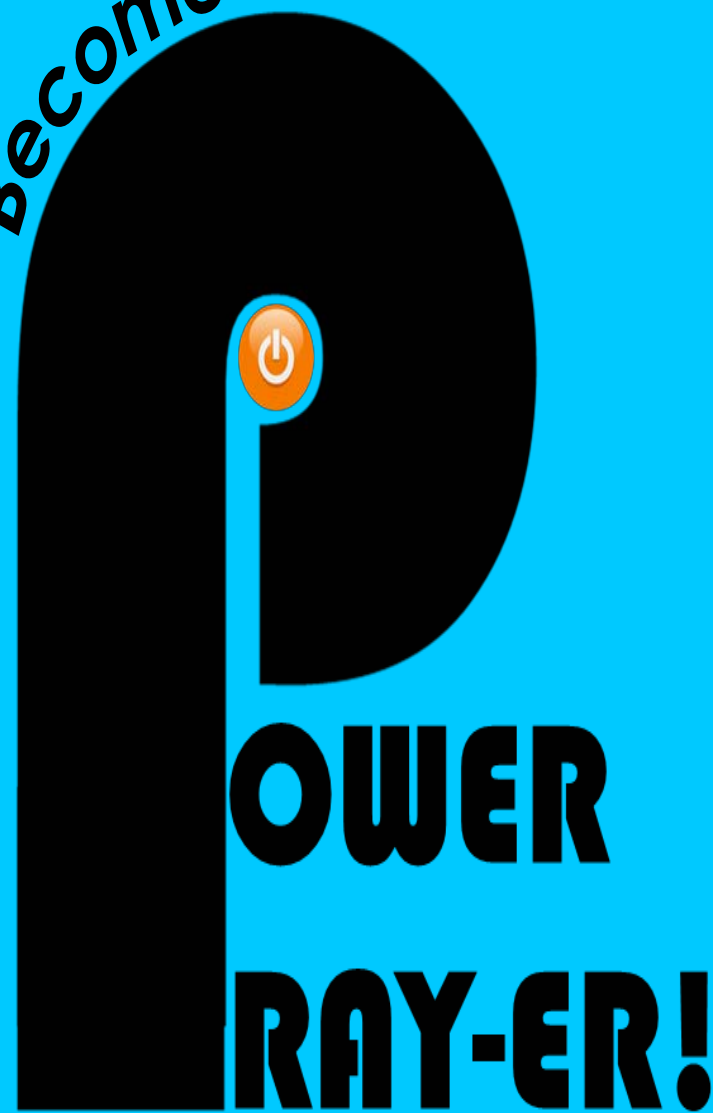
## Beginners and experts all welcome!

Sunday, January 13  
1:30 PM

Beginners welcome.  
Contribution \$5.

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

Become a



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

**Thursday, January 17**  
**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*)





**CELEBRATE!**  
**LEARN,**  
**BE INSPIRED,**  
**TASTE,**  
**ENJOY!**

**Celebrate the birthday  
of the trees at a  
Tu B'Shvat Seder  
following Shabbat services**

**January 19, 10 AM**

# A LEAP OF (INTER)FAITH

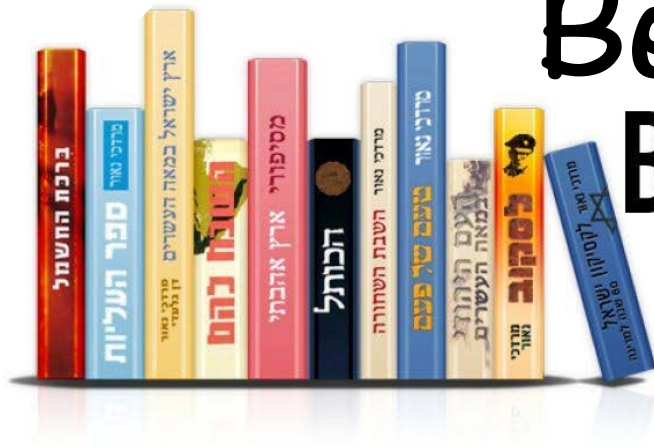
 at Congregation Sons of Israel  
Sunday, January 20 at 7pm

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 BOOK CLUB

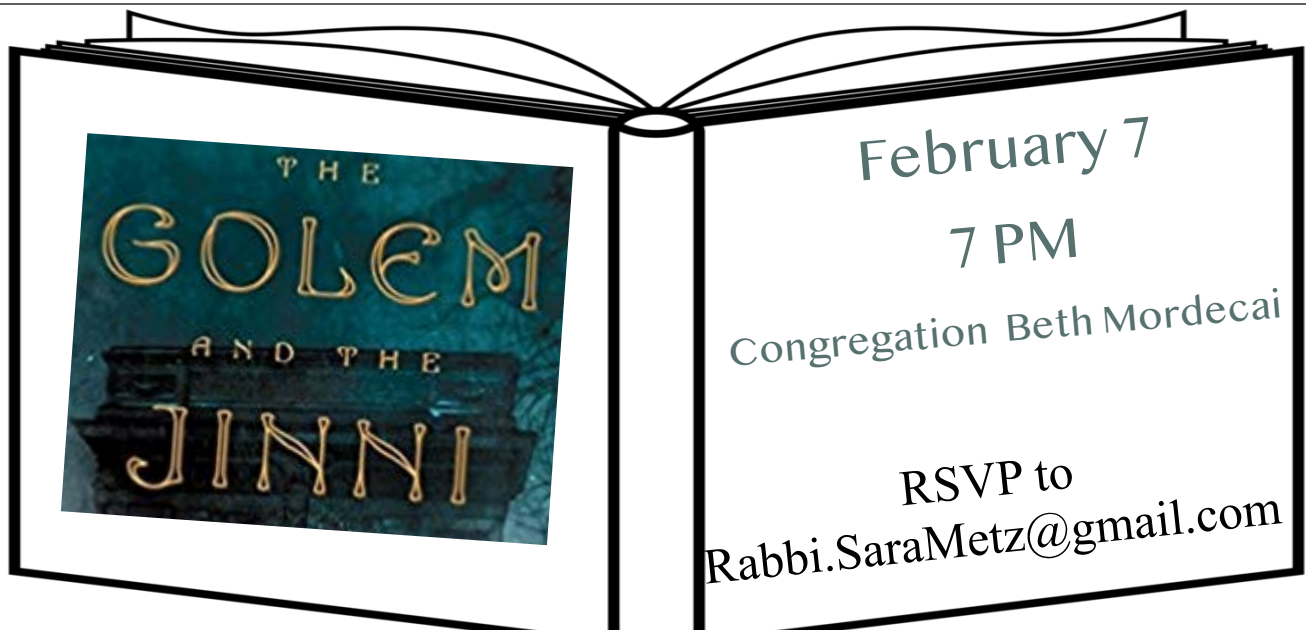


In *The Golem and the Jinni*, a chance meeting between mythical beings takes readers on a dazzling journey through cultures in turn-of-the-century New York.

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.







## January Birthdays

Miriam Hamelburg

Harry Korbman



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

- Barry & Deborah Adler in memory of David Adler
- Dr. Ronald Arky in memory of Bertha Arky
- Cheryl August in memory of Jane Efroymsen
- Lois Berkowitz in memory of Anna Berkowitz & Edward Berkowitz
- Sheila & George Brown in memory of Abraham Welkis
- Michael Denes in memory of David J. Buchsbaum
- Sue Winik Dunie in memory of Lloyd S. Winik
- Phil Eichen in memory of Roslyn Eichen
- Penny Gampel & Steve Jaffe in memory of Dotty Gampel Shapiro
- Karen Klein in memory of Renee Klein
- Arlene Miller in memory of Louis O. Wedeen
- Ron & Lori Miskoff in memory of Mollie Epstein & Rose Nisenman
- Arleen Price in memory of Harold Boerer
- Gordon & Elaine Reibman in memory of Gussie Gold and Emil Landau
- Barry & Nicole Rosengarten in memory of Isadore D. Jacobson
- Alan & Louise Siegel in memory of Anna Krentar
- Richard & Ronna Silberberg in memory of Edward Silberberg
- Allen & Libby Weingarten in memory of Pauline and Samuel Weingarten



"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

### 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 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".**

**DONATE NOW**

Secure Donations  
by **PayPal**



**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

Irwin & Bernice Bernhardt  
Dorothy Lemelson  
Norman & Rosa Silverstein



Did you know it is so easy to support Congregation Beth Mordecai when you shop on Amazon?



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](https://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!