



**Congregation Beth Mordecai**

*Your Jewish Home for the Soul*



**March 2019**

**Adar I /Adar I | 5779**





## From the Rabbi

A few months ago on a Shabbat morning, one of our members, Norman Silverstein and I were talking. He asked if I have Netflix. With kids, it is practically a requirement! Norman asked if I had heard of this show that is new to Netflix called Shtisel. I had not. Currently, there are two seasons on Netflix, and it is phenomenal! The show tells the story of an Ultra-Orthodox family living in Jerusalem giving the viewer a deep into their life. The dialogue is in Hebrew and Yiddish, with subtitles.

There are many different things that I love about this show, and I urge you to watch it. When we look at another community, especially one very different from ours we make assumptions. This Ultra-Ultra-Orthodox community looks like homogenous group from the outside. Yet, when we look closer, we see the individuals. The relationships between the characters are as complicated as are our own.

Each one of the characters struggle with their own desires the requirements of the community and where those two clash. They both feel restricted and supported by the laws and norms of their society. This Israeli show gives an incredibly touching and exciting look into the many unique characters.

Shtisel is a scripted show, and as such, I could not know how accurate it is to any specific Ultra-Orthodox community. Still, the writing and the drama are excellent, the plot lines are fascinating and it is nice to the Hebrew and the Yiddish dialogue.

The next time you are looking for something to watch on Netflix, turn on Shtisel. Once you watch a few episodes, you too will be transported to a different world. You will see that even though people may look and dress the same, they each have their hopes, dreams, and difficulties. After you watch it, let me know which parts were striking to you.

I look forward to discussing their Judaism and yours.

Kol Tuv,

*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, March 1, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**Saturday, March 2, Breakfast Minyan**

**9 AM Bagels and nosh**

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

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

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

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

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


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

**Saturday, March 23, 10 AM**

Reading and discussion of the Book of Esther in lieu of Shabbat Services

**Friday, March 29, 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**Saturday, March 30, 10 AM Shabbat Services with Torah Reading**



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.



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, March 10  
1:30 PM

Beginners welcome.  
Contribution \$5.

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

# Coffee Talk

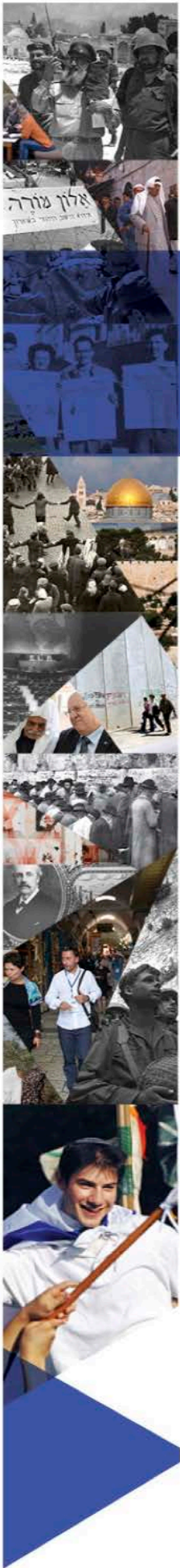
An informal weekly meet up with  
Rabbi Metz for coffee &  
meaningful conversations about  
the fundamentals of Judaism.

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

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

From now through March 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**

**NOTE: Videos from past sessions are available upon request. Contact Rabbi Sara Metz. Catch up is not required, each class is its own unit.**

**March 12 & 26**

**April 9 & 30**

**May 14**

discussion led by Rabbi Sara Metz & Marc Fertik.

**Congregation Beth Mordecai**  
**224 High St. Perth Amboy**

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



What is hiding in the  
Gantse Megillah?!



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!**

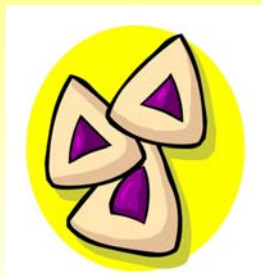
**\$18 for Beth Mordecai members bringing a nonmember**  
**\$36 per person**  
**and**

**\$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**

# Join the Fun at Our Community Wide PURIM CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA



**Sunday March 24, 2019**  
**11am - 2pm**

**@ The JCC of Middlesex County**  
**1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**FREE GAMES**

**LIVE REPTILE SHOW**



**\$4/ticket**



**Enjoy lunch while celebrating. Food Available for purchase.**

Come in costume to receive two free prize tickets!

For more information call:

Marge at Neve Shalom (732-548-2238 Ext. 11)

Esther at the Jewish Community Center (732-494-3232)



Sponsored by Neve Shalom, the JCC of Middlesex County,  
Congregation Beth Mordecai, The Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ





### March Birthdays

Daniel Goldman

Bob Krentar

Louis Sher

Allen Weingarten

### March Anniversaries

Sava & Yevgeniya  
Gitelman



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

- Hannah Rose Adams in memory of Bernard Saverslak
- Cheryl August in memory of Max August
- Ann & Gary Blog in memory of Maury Blog
- Sava & Yevgeniya Gitelman in memory of Iserlis Ada
- Irene & Marty Goldstein in memory of Rose Kessler
- Barbara Greenspan in memory of Anna Greenspan & Benjamin Fink
- Martin & Marjorie Grove in memory of Abraham Grove
- Debbie Heidecorn in memory of Charlotte Stern
- Charles Isaacs & Paula Krauser Isaacs in memory of Gertrude Krauser
- Jean Kluft in memory of Peppy Kluft
- Elyse Lyons in memory of Samuel Epstein
- Lillian Mattes in memory of Esther Mattes
- Norma Jacobson Messing in memory of Jean Jacobson
- Patrick Miller in memory of Joyce Ginsberg Yaffe
- Ron & Lori Miskoff in memory of A. Richard Miskoff
- William & Roslyn Monsky in memory of Leonard & Stanley Monsky
- Diane Salzberger in memory of Harriet Hershkowitz by Diane, Jeff & Jon Salzberger
- Mike Shevell in memory of Jon Shevell and Gordon Sandler
- Alan & Louise Siegel in memory of Minnie Sturm & Marjorie Siegel
- Judith & Stanley Walker in memory of Isidor Gast
- Sherry Weber in memory of Bella Reiser



"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
--	--



## 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".**



**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**

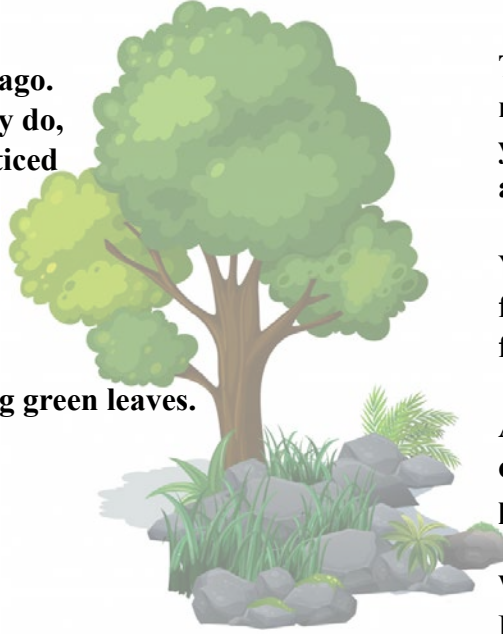
**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund  
Siperstein family in memory of Barbra Siperstein**

## The Tree in my Yard© Elliot Rubin

I planted the tree thirty-five years ago.  
Sitting in my kitchen which I rarely do,  
looking out the window I never noticed  
how tall and robust it had become.

The trunk is straight and thick  
With limbs reaching out,  
stretching,  
grabbing the air with its undulating green leaves.

Seeing the tall maple in my yard  
I notice moss growing on one side,  
like old age, it is not noticed  
until it starts to creep up on you.



Then you look down, and suddenly  
realize the seeds you dropped during  
your life is now taller than you,  
and stronger.

Your branches are starting to tire  
from all the hard lifting you did,  
for those so many years.

A strong wind, or disease,  
can devastate the once muscular  
physique.

Weary with age,  
I accept the moss.

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

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

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!