



Congregation Beth Mordecai

Your Jewish Home for the Soul

November 2019

Cheshvan/Kislev 5780



Show your thanks and join us!





From the Rabbi

What is so Jewish about Thanksgiving?

At the end of this month we will celebrate Thanksgiving. In many of the Interfaith groups, events classes I attend and teach, I am often asked of Jewish people celebrate Thanksgiving. A family member of mine, who is a Rabbi in Canada has told me that in Canada, their Thanksgiving is earlier in mid October and is not widely celebrated by the Jewish community.

The progressive Jewish communities in the US do widely celebrate Thanksgiving as an American holiday. There are strong historical connections between Judaism and Thanksgiving. Most of the Pilgrims who celebrated the first Thanksgiving were Puritans, a branch of the Protestant faith. The Puritans strongly identified with the historical traditions and customs of the Israelites in the Bible.

In their quest for religious freedom, the Puritans viewed their journey to America as exactly analogous to the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. England was Egypt, the king was Pharaoh, the Atlantic Ocean their Red Sea, and the Puritans were the Israelites, entering into a new covenant with God in a new Promised Land. In fact, most of the Puritans had Hebrew names and there was even a proposal to make Hebrew the language of the colonies!

Many people believe that the Pilgrims modeled Thanksgiving after the holiday of Sukkot, as they are both harvest festivals that take place in the fall. In Jewish tradition, Sukkot has a dual significance: historical and agricultural. We dwell in booths to remember how our ancestors lived in sukkot for 40 years in the desert. However, the Torah also refers to Sukkot as chag ha'asif, the Festival of the Ingathering. At this time of year in Israel, the harvest was ending and the final fruits and crops were gathered and stored. Sukkot is also known as z'man simchateinu, the time of our rejoicing, as our ancestors gave thanks for the conclusion of the harvest and the bounty of the land.

Of course the main theme of the holiday of Thanksgiving comes from the name itself, reminding us of the importance of giving thanks. Saying "thank you" is a primary Jewish value. When a Jew sits down to eat bread, they say: "Blessed are you God, for bringing bread from the earth." To say a blessing over bread affirms that God played a role in creating the universe where the sun rises each day and the rain falls and the growth of food is possible.

The rabbis taught that we are to say 100 blessings a day. This teaching reminds us that no matter how difficult life can be, we all have many blessings such as simply being alive, our health, our loved ones, and friends.

As Jews we can celebrate Thanksgiving with pride. From the historical connections of the Puritans to Sukkot and the Torah, to the primary importance in Judaism of saying thank you to God for all our blessings, Thanksgiving is a holiday steeped in Jewish values.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Sara Metz

Schedule of Services

Saturday, Nov. 2 - Breakfast Minyan

9:30 AM Abbreviated Shabbat Service

Saturday, Nov. 9 - 10 AM Blessing of the Pets Service in Bayview Park

Saturday, Nov. 16 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with discussion

Saturday, Nov. 23 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with discussion

Saturday, Nov. 30 - 10 AM TBA

JOIN CONGREGATION BETH MORDECAI
TO LEARN HOW TO

Bake Challah

with your stand mixer

**Tuesday, Nov. 5,
6:30 PM**

Come see how to make
challah dough using a stand
mixer and then braid and fill
your own pre-made dough
provided by Rabbi Metz



\$10 per person ~ RSVP to Rabbi Metz at Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com by Oct. 30

*BRING YOUR CREATURES,
GREAT AND SMALL, TO THE*
BLESSING OF THE PETS
SATURDAY, NOV. 9 AT 10AM



Enjoy a fun worship service with Congregation Beth Mordecai at the Gazebo in Bayview Park where we will ask God's blessing for the animals that have been a blessing to us.

All animals & humans, members & friends may participate.
All pets must be leashed, or contained

What happens next?

Join Congregation Beth
Mordecai & Rabbi Metz to
learn about Jewish beliefs
of death, the afterlife, past
lives & communicating
with those who have
passed on

Two Wednesday Sessions:
November 13 & 20

7 PM

\$10 for both classes

Please RSVP with payment to
RABBI.SARAMETZ@GMAIL.COM

BRING OUT THE POPCORN!

MOVIES WITH MORDIE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

2 PM TO 4 PM

BETH MORDECAI

224 HIGH ST PERTH AMBOY

\$10 per person

Join us to watch the 2010 Academy Award winner for Best
Picture: A Serious Man

Popcorn and light refreshments provided

RSVP's must be received by Thursday, November 17.

RSVP to Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

JOIN
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
&
CONGREGATION BETH MORDECAI

TO GIVE THANKS
AND PRAISE OUR GOD

Monday November 25
7 PM

183 rector street ~ Perth Amboy

More info and to RSVP:

AJeffery@StPetersEpiscopal.com

Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com



Congregation
Beth Mordecai

Ceramic Painting Fundraiser!
Thursday
December 5 *6:30 pm*

Discounted prices & a
portion of the proceeds
supports Beth Mordecai

Color Me Mine
Menlo Park Mall
RSVP by Nov. 25

Rabbi.Sara Metz@gmail.com





November Birthdays

Cheryl August
Ann Blog
Sheila Brown
Anita Krentar

November Anniversaries

Gennadiy Barskiy
& Larisa Barskaya



Congregation Beth Mordecai

Established 1897

Address 224 High St., Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

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Rabbi's Phone 732.442.2431

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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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Rabbi Sara Metz
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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.

DONATE NOW

Secure Donations
by **PayPal**



Your generous and thoughtful support of our funds are used to enrich & invigorate our community.

Today Rabbah Thank you

Sharon Bender in honor of Louise & Alan Siegel & Rabbi Sara & Lev Metz

Mayor Mayor Wilda Diaz in honor of the Congregation Beth Mordecai community

A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SYNAGOGUE BY:



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- Hannah Rose Adams in memory of Arlene Joan Adams
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- Karen June Spector in memory of Helen Gordon
- Les & Judy Wurtzel in memory of Arnold Klein and Rose Wurtzel



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

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