



Congregation Beth Mordecai

Your Jewish Home for the Soul

December 2019

Kislev/Tevet 5780



== festival of lights ==

*Congregation Beth
Mordecai wishes you and
your family a warm and
bright 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 the 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 enough oil found in the Temple to light the menorah for only one day, yet it burned for eight days. Those eight days were needed to create the 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 we come together, we celebrate and bring more light into our world. We acknowledge our differences 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



Schedule of Services

Friday, Dec. 6 - 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services with Discussion
Saturday, Dec. 7 - Breakfast Minyan
9 AM Bagels and Nosh
9:30 AM Abbreviated Shabbat Service

Friday, Dec. 13 - 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services
Community dinner to follow
Email **Rabbi.SaraMetz@gmail.com** to RSVP

Saturday, Dec. 14 - 10 AM Shabbat Services with Torah Reading

Friday, Dec. 20 - 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services
lead by Sharon Bender
Saturday, Dec. 21 - 10 AM TBA

Friday, Dec. 27 - 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services
lead by Sharon Bender
Saturday, Dec. 28 - 10 AM TBA

Friday, Dec. 6 - 8 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services with Discussion

Saturday, Dec. 7 - Breakfast Minyan

9 AM Bagels and Nosh

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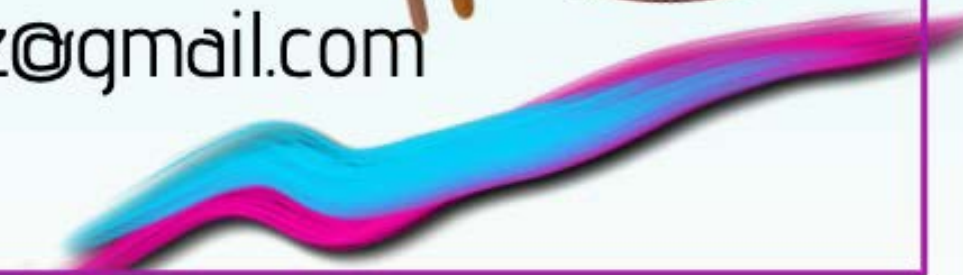
Congregation
Beth Mordecai

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 to

Rabbi.Sara Metz@gmail.com



*With gratitude to God and
the Beth Mordecai community,*

*the Metz family invites you to celebrate
Eitan's healing with us.*

Friday, December 13, 2019

6:30 PM

Dairy dinner to follow
Shabbat Services

Please bring a dairy
dessert to share.

RSVP by December 6
to help Rabbi Metz know
how much food to make

Thank You תודה רבה



LATKES & VODKA



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LIVE MUSIC BY DAVE “ACE” CASE!

A bit about Dave “Ace” Case:

An Americana Folk Rock, guitar-playing singer, formerly
of the Gully Hubbards (check them out on YouTube),
based in Jersey City...

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
7:30PM

All are
invited...
bring
friends!

\$18 PER PERSON IN ADVANCE
(\$20 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR)

RSVP TO 732.442.1373 OR OFFICEBETHMORDECAI@GMAIL.COM

*Hanukkah begins on the evening of Sunday, December 22
& ends on the evening on Monday December 30.*



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.

ברוך אתה ה', אלהינו מלך העולם,
אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו
להדליק נר של חנוכה.
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.

ברוך אתה ה', אלהינו מלך העולם,
שעשה נסים לאבותינו,
בימים ההם ובזמן הזה.
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:

ברוך אתה ה', אלהינו מלך העולם,
שהחיינו וקיימנו והגענו לזמן הזה.
Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha-olam,
she-heheyenu 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:

הנרות הללו
הנרות הללו אנו מדליקים על הנסים ועל הנפלאות
ועל התשועות ועל המלחמות, שעשית לאבותינו
בימים ההם בזמן הזה,
על ידי כהןך הקדושים.
וכל שמונת ימי חנוכה
הנרות הללו קדש הים,
ואין לנו רשות להשתמש בהם,
אלא לראותם בלבד, כדי להודות ולהלל
לשםך הגדול,
על נסידך ועל נפלאותיך ועל ישועתך.
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.

מעוז צור
מעוז צור ישועתי, לך נאה לשבח,
תכון בית תפילתי, ושם תודה נזבח,
לעת תכין מטבח, מצר המנבח,
אז אגמר בשיר מזמור, חנכת המזבח.
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)



December Birthdays

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



Festival Of (Laser) Light

A breathtaking extravaganza of lasers, lights, Hanukkah, and science

This year, celebrate Hanukkah with a dazzling Festival of Laser Light, while bringing the Hanukkah story and philosophy to life for all ages.

It all starts with a single beam of laser light. Just one dot. Move it fast enough, and it becomes a marvelous show to delight . You've never seen a Laser show like this! With fog, the Hanukkah story becomes a duel of light beams, replete with fantastic laser beam and lighting effects. The show culminates with a giant menorah lighting you'll never forget – each flame glowing with a different color, creating shadows in the fog over the room. More like a rock concert with an exciting educational introduction, this Festival of (Laser) Light will dazzle adults, teens and kids of all ages.

Saturday evening, December 14th 6:00. Program begins at 6:15 p.m.

Held at East Brunswick Jewish Center, 511 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick, NJ

Register at www.ebjc.org under the "EVENTS" drop down or Call 732-257-7070 or email ebotwin@ebjc.org. No charge, but donations greatly appreciated.



A Community Event sponsored by:



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- Hannah Rose Adams in memory of Wallace Adams
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- Mark Roshanski in memory of Zicca Roshanski
- Dr. Carl & Debbie Rubenstein in memory of Nathan Rubenstein, and Ana Golds Rudolph
- Jordan and Dorothy Solkowitz in memory of Louis Spivak
- Karen June Spector in memory of Pauline Spector
- Nate Zimmerman in memory of William Zimmerman



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

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

We Remember



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
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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

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by **PayPal**



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

Todah Rabbah Thank you

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