92Y An Open Door To Extraordinary Worlds™

Entertainment

Saturday, 26 January 2013
Comedian Andy Borowitz presents The Funniest American Writers. Harvard grad, he started his career with Norman Lear's Tandem Productions before creating The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. His humorous fake news stories to friends led to the weekday site The Borowitz Report which gave life to Borowitz the political satirist. In 2012 The New Yorker Magazine acquired the site. His book, The 50 Funniest American Writers, became a best seller on the day of its publication; In a review of the book, The Washington Post called Borowitz America’s “sharpest political satirist.”

Dinner by Harold’s of Edison

Pre-program dinner catered by Harold’s of Edison, NJ
Reservations a MUST by January 20 to the MRT office
Dinner: $20/person
at 6:00pm in the social hall.

Menu: corned beef, pastrami, etc with all the fixings...
BYOB
RSVP to the MRT Office

Schedule of Services: January 2013

Friday, January 4th
First Friday
5:30pm Pre-oneg by 6th grade parents
Shir Chadash and Service at 6pm
Pot Luck Dinner follows services

Saturday, January 5th
10am Bar Mitzvah of Ricky Coyne

Friday, January 11th
7pm Shabbat Services
Gerald Reisner, Guest Speaker

Friday, January 18th
7pm Shabbat Services
Ron Wallenfels, Guest Speaker

Friday, January 25th
7pm Shabbat Services
Heritage Shabbat Service
Rabbi Priesand’s Sermon:
The Greatest Jewish Thinker of Our Time

Shabbat Kallah

Saturday, March 9th
made possible through
The Shabbat Kallah Fund given in loving memory of Bob Rosin

SAVE THE DATE

Rescheduled
Anita Diamant Program
Friday, May 3
Author Anita Diamant’s visit to MRT on November 2 was postponed due to Hurricane Sandy.
The program is rescheduled with a different format:
May 3: Monmouth Reform Temple
May 5: St. Georges by-the-River Episcopal Church.
More details to come but mark your calendars for this very special program!

When attending services and all other events at MRT remember that there are members who are highly sensitive to odors. Please refrain from wearing scents of ANY KIND such as colognes, perfumes, after shave, scented lotions. Thank you.

Shabbat Morning Minyan Services followed by Torah Study every Saturday morning at 9am in the MRT Library.
This month’s D’Var Torah…Why do we mourn when someone passes? Mourning is a way to help make sense of the loss of a loved one. It provides a bridge between life and death, to assist the path for the departed and to help the living transcend their grief and to move on with their lives, while remembering the departed.

In Judaism we have different phases of mourning to assist us. Aninut and Avelut are the intense first stages of grief and mourning in the immediate days after death. Shiva is the seven day period of grief where one is comforted by family and friends. Shloshim is the thirty days following burial as we re-enter our lives. Shneim asar chodesh are the eleven months following where mourners continue to recite the mourner’s kaddish.

The Board would like to acknowledge positive happenings within the congregation.

The Hanukkah party and Latke Throwdown & Applesauce Contest were a lot of fun and well attended. The Saving the Shore One Town at a Time has exceeded our expectations for donations. We collected over $24,000 in gift cards. Money is being distributed to Sea Bright Residents. Next month we will begin to focus on Union Beach. Shabbat services for the past two weeks had excellent attendance. Our 92Y Broadcast was a success.

The Membership committee reports we now have 342 member families.

The Pulpit Committee reviewed 7 applications for Interim Rabbi and conducted interviews with 3 applicants. While the committee is still open to applications, based on the interviews to date, they will be able to make a recommendation to the Board shortly.

This past month MRT retained Dr. Michael Freidman to guide us through the formation of a Task Force to define an updated mission statement for our temple and to help to heal the divisions that exist in our congregation. To date, 15 congregants have signed up to help with this Task Force. Dr. Friedman will begin working with the Task Force on December 19th.

Pledges for the High Holy Days campaign have been up this month and we thank you. We ask you to consider making additional pledges to keep MRT strong.

Rabbi Pearlman and the Adult Education Committee were able to reschedule the visit by Anita Diamant for May 2013. Details will be forthcoming.

There are still many volunteer positions needing to be filled. The Board asks you consider trying something new this year. Step up, help out.

Summary of December 18th Board of Trustees meeting: from Jim Halpern, MRT Recording Sec'y

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The Bulletin

(From Rabbi Pearlman: Continued from page 2)

Now that we are committing ourselves to distribute additional cards in Union Beach we will be entering the next phase of our drive. Please be on the lookout for an announcement about an upcoming event that we are planning that will allow us all to gather and enjoy an evening of music in support of this important outreach effort. If there are members of the congregation who would benefit from this support who we have not yet contacted, please let us know.

Deep thanks are due to all of our leaders on this drive: Lynn Shapiro, Drew Miller, Judy Raybon, Lila Singer, David Michaels, Marilyn Michaels, David Sillen, Marcia and Jeff Horn, Sheila Sachs and Cheryl Gaudette for their help in Union Beach. It is amazing how together we can make such a profound difference—Warmly, Michelle Pearlman

MRTSY

Have you ever dreamed of climbing the renowned Mt. Everest? While MRTSY may not be able to fulfill that goal, they can get you close. On January 19th from 4:45 to 6:30, MRTSY will be attending Garden State Rocks, an indoor rock climbing facility located at 705 Ginesi Drive in Morganville. It costs $20 per person, and MRTSY will be going with other youth groups, as well. The meeting spot is at Garden State Rocks. Make sure to attend—it’s sure to be a blast!

Registration for the summer season of FREE Taglit-Birthright Israel trips with URJ Kesher opens on February 13th. The program is open to Jewish young adults, ages 18-26 and who have never been to Israel on a peer program. The URJ Kesher experience embraces the values of Reform Judaism. Learn more at www.gokesher.org.

Contact Rabbi Pearlman or Cantor Clissold if you would like VIP status. We will be happy to include your name on the priority list.

From the Caring Network: MRT Transportation Fund

MRT is offering transportation to and from home to the temple, for seniors who are unable to drive, to attend our Heritage Service on Friday night, January 26th at 7pm. Rabbi Priesand will be officiating at services with Cantor Clissold.

A reservation MUST be made with the temple office by Tuesday, January 15th. No reservations will be taken after this date.

Passengers will be contacted with a time that they will be picked up several days in advance.

This program is available thanks to the generosity of MRT members. Your continued support of the Transportation fund will enable us to continue to provide this service.

To make reservations: helene@monmouthreformtemple.org OR 732-747-9365 x214. Deadline: Tuesday, January 15th.
Welcome to the new Secular year of 2013! This year promises to bring excitement to our temple – the excitement of wonderful activities and the excitement of changes. Just take a look at our calendar on the MRT website – it seems like there is something going on every day!

Regarding changes, there is plenty of that going on and it is all good. I would like to announce two changes to the MRT Board of Trustees: First, David Levinsky has joined the Board as a Trustee, Chairing the Ways & Means committee. He replaces Gary Bleetstein who resigned from that position a few months ago. Second, Margie Wold has become MRT’s 2nd Vice President! She has replaced the irreplaceable Jim Berg who – along with Arlene Berg – has recently moved to the southern part of New Jersey. Margie’s position as Chair of the Adult Education committee is now vacant, but she will still lead the committee until a replacement is found. Please join me in congratulating both David and Margie!

Speaking of Board positions, the annual Nominating Committee is now being formed. There are seven positions starting July 1st for which nominees will be sought, including three Trustee positions and the Financial Secretary position. If you have an interest in having strong input into how MRT is run, I encourage you to contact me or the office. Your name will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee Chair once the committee is in place. And as I casually mentioned in the previous paragraph, there is an immediate opening for the Adult Education Committee Chair – please contact Margie Wold, the office, or me if you’re interested in leading this important committee.

In addition to the excitement of MRT’s programming, social activities, and very strong presence in the community (witness the hugely successful “Card Work Pays Off” campaign), there are two other important projects that are progressing well: the search for an Interim Rabbi, and our work with our recently-engaged consultant. Regarding the interim Rabbi, the Pulpit Committee – Co-Chaired by Bob St. Lifer and Zach Gilstein – has fielded a number of resumes and brought in two candidates for face-to-face interviews in December. As I write this, the committee is in its final decision-making phase. Both candidates are “professional” Interims and have a history of helping synagogues prepare themselves for hiring their next permanent Rabbi.

Finally, two Town Meetings were held during December. Despite a number of simultaneous activities, a total of 40 different people attended. Both meetings focused on the Interim Rabbi search, the Consulting engagement, ways to encourage more volunteering, and general discussion. Thanks to Jay Wiesenfeld for arranging these meetings. What both meetings had in common was that people passionately spoke about what was on their minds, and when they weren’t speaking, they were listening attentively to others. The very definition of two-way communication, which is exactly what such town meetings should be.

Wishing you and your families a joyous and healthy 2013!
From Margie Wold: ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

I just got back from the gym fulfilling my goal of continuing physical good health as we approach the New Year. Most of us are trying to exercise and eat right despite the temptations of the “holiday season”.

But what about our spiritual health? Sometimes we are so busy with the outside that we forget about the inside. As Chair of the Adult Education Committee at MRT, I am always trying to find ways to engage more of our congregants, and their friends and family, towards the goal of spiritual well being.

Early last month I initiated a pilot program, “Milestones and Transitions”, a discussion group led by my friend Nancy Locascio. During the evening about 20 of us explored the forks in the road that we encounter in life and suggested goals for us to achieve along the way. It was such a success that I plan to offer another session sometime in the late winter or early spring.

Cantor Clissold has brought the 92nd St Y programming from New York City right into our Social Hall. The Y program is getting rave reviews following the first live broadcast of Chief Lord Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in November. Upcoming shows are: Andy Borowitz Presents the Funniest American Writers, January 26; An Evening with Shirley MacLaine, February 21; Lewis Black and Connie Chung, March 14. Cost is $10 for one show for MRT members, $36 for the package. Plans are for a deli dinner from Harold’s before the January 26 presentation.

When it comes to religious studies, we are very busy at MRT. The CONTEXT program sponsored by Jewish Federation of Monmouth County comes to MRT in February for four Wednesday night sessions under the title, “For You Were Strangers in the Land of Egypt”. Four different scholars will speak on a variety of topics. Registration is $45 for all four sessions, which run 7:30 to 9 p.m. To register go to www.jtsa.edu/StrangerMonmouth.

Mark your calendars for Saturday March 9, when MRT welcomes Dr. Gary Rendsburg of Rutgers University who will talk about the Dead Sea Scrolls as part of our annual Shabbat Kallah day of study program. Dr. Rendsburg will also be at MRT on February 6 speaking on “Israel as the Other, the Other as Israel in Biblical Literature” as the first CONTEXT lecturer.

So there is a little something for everyone at MRT and I encourage you to come to any one of these fine programs. It is your synagogue and your spiritual health is very important. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or comments about Adult Education. I am trying to engage more of our congregants and you are one of them!

Happy New Year!
Margie Wold

Report from MRT Task Force

The task force had its first meeting Wednesday night, December 19th. It was an orientation session highlighted by learning about Dr. Michael Freidman and describing the process for congregational change he plans to employ here at MRT. There will be five stages: 1) an introspective phase for defining who we are, where we are and how we got here; 2) a data collection/ analysis phase aimed at identifying our values, mission and goals; 3) a planning and development phase during which we lay out goals for the next 3-5 years, clarify roles and responsibilities for key leaders, produce a fresh mission statement; 4) an implementation phase in which we finalize recommendations for presentation and adoption by the temple board from the task force; and 5) an evaluation phase about our work and celebration for what was accomplished.

Members of the task force, now numbering 18 feeling that they have much greater clarity about the scope of the project and confidence that the process will accomplish the goals we all desire. Members also appreciated the positive mindset established in the group and Dr. Freidman’s strong emphasis on staying focused on the future of our congregation as we do our work.

The next meeting of the task force will be on Thursday, January 10, 2013. Any questions you may have about the consulting project can me emailed to jmorgovsky@comcast.net or the soon to be established MRTCTF@gmail.com.

From Vera Galleid, Religious School Principal

What a wonderful time we had celebrating Chanukah at MRT. Grades 3, 4, and 5 saw a Chanukah play. We baked cookies, sang songs, played dreidel, danced, did art projects and played Chanukah Jeopardy and Bingo. Our activities culminated with the community lighting of family Chanukiot and everyone singing and chanting the blessings together.

Thank you to all the students who participated in our Chanukah Menorah contest. We enjoyed your creativity. Thanks to the Sisterhood for providing Chanukah goodie bags to all our students.

Upcoming Events
Classes resume on Wednesday January 2nd, 2013.
First Friday-Friday January 4th, 2013.
5th Grade PACT Program – Sunday January 13th, 2013.
No school on Sunday January 20th – Martin Luther King’s weekend.

Have a happy, healthy and restful winter break. May 2013 be a good year for everyone.
B’ Shalom, Vera Galleid

TINTON FALLS COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL

As we approach the final days of our coat drive to benefit Lunch Break and those in need in our community, we would like to thank the MRT community for its support and generosity. There is still time to drop off coats, scarves, hats, & gloves into one of our donation boxes in the TFCNS hallway. Drop off is until January 21, 2013. We want to extend our thanks to Vera Galleid and the religious school for supporting our efforts. If you or someone you know could use one of our donated items please stop by TFCNS between January 21 & 29, 2013 and take a look through what is available. We hope to be able to help those in need close to home.

The four and five year old class will deliver the rest of the winter ware to Lunch Break at the end of the month.

TFCNS is looking forward to some new students and families joining us as we begin the New Year. Offering year round enrollment gives families throughout our community an opportunity to join our school when it is most beneficial for them and their children, even in the middle of a “school year”. Our teachers are always excited to welcome a new student and to provide all of our children with an environment that encourages learning through exploration and hands on activities.

Our enrollment for next year will begin in March. We welcome you to stop by and see the rich experience that TFCNS offers to our children. Please recommend our program to friends and neighbors as they are looking for a good quality, traditional Nursery School. If you or someone you know needs more information please give us a call at 732-747-3990. We look forward to another successful year!

All our Best, Becky Martin & the TFCNS Staff

Farewell MRT! From Bobbie LaPlaca

I don’t like goodbyes, because if we are friends, I hope that our paths continue to cross in the future. So as I retire as director of the Tinton Falls Cooperative Nursery School after 18 years, I want to thank everyone who has been involved in my life in any capacity at MRT for helping make these past years so pleasant and rewarding. Even though it was almost 2 decades in my life, and close to 50% of the schools existence, I can honestly say the time flew by. What can possibly be more rewarding than working with young children for a living, if that is your passion, as it was mine. As Gandhi once said “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Hopefully the compassion and love I have put into the many years of running the preschool at MRT have made a difference in not one, but many young lives. I know everyone I have had the pleasure to meet have definitely made a difference in my life. I truly considered my chosen career “a labor of love.”

Once again I would like to thank Rabbi Pearlman, Cantor Clissold, Rabbi Priesand, Mark, Jim, Mindy, Helene and all those who contributed to making the service in my honor on Friday, December 7th so beautiful. I was overwhelmed with everyone’s kind words and pouring of love and respect. In addition the wonderful dinner in my honor held at Illiano’s on December 13th was equally amazing and I would like to thank Jim Berg and Becky Martin for all their efforts as well as all who attended. It was truly a blessing to see so many dear friends.

I thank MRT for the opportunity to have been the Director of the school I have always held dear to my heart. I have been truly committed to making TFCNS “THE BEST!” I thank my entire staff, past and present, the MRT staff, and the families that have entrusted their children to our care, for making my journey such a beautiful one. May God Bless and guide Becky Martin as she takes over as Director of the school that I will always love.
Hello. My name is Ricky Coyne, and I am an 8th grader at Freehold Intermediate School in Freehold Borough. I love to play baseball and I love going to the beach.

My Bar Mitzvah is on January 5th, and my Torah portion is Shemot, the first portion in the book of Exodus. It is about Moses growing up in the house of the pharaoh and eventually fleeing to the land of Midian. As the story goes, Moses was herding his flock of sheep when he saw a glow from a nearby cave. When he went to investigate, he saw a burning bush, but the flames did not consume it. Finally, the presence of God in the bush spoke to Moses, telling him to “Let my people go.” This story is a very important one in the Torah, and it is a great portion for me.

I am very excited for my Bar Mitzvah, and it will be a very special day for me and my family!

INTERIM PULPIT COMMITTEE

We received 7 applications in the mail and narrowed those down to three. We had had phone interviews (skyped) with all three on December 2nd. We picked two who are coming to visit us in the next 10 days. That's where we are now. Both seem very competent. Our committee is excited about moving forward with a new Rabbi! Bob/Zach

Members are: Bob St Lifler, Zach Gilstein, Mark Gruensfelder, Rob Sussman, David Levinsky, Pam Mancuso, Cheryl Gaudette, Stacy Ross, Karen Seligman, Peg Baker, Cantor Clissold.
Baldwin Davidson Memorial Scholarship Fund
A Message from Sisterhood & Brotherhood

This fund supports the Jewish education and experiences of our children through trips to Israel, summer camp, youth group events, leadership training to promote a passionate love of Jewish learning.

We invite all interested families to apply to this scholarship fund and help to make multi-faceted and life-long Jewish learning a reality in your home.

There is a committee of five who makes the awards determination and who will collectively consider every applicant who wishes to avail themselves of the Jewish learning opportunities that exist outside of our temple community.

The application deadline is February 15, 2013

BALDWIN DAVIDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Supporting the Jewish education and experiences of our children through trips to Israel, summer camp, youth group events, and leadership training to promote a passionate love of Jewish learning.

Name:__________________________________________  Total Cost of Activity:  $__________________________

Age:_______  Email:____________________________   Scholarship Request:  $__________________________

Telephone Number:_____________________________  Deadline for requested funds (if any): ________________

Describe your involvement at MRT: (e.g., religious school, youth group, volunteer roles, etc.)

__________________________________________________________________________________________

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Describe what the scholarship funds will be used for and how you will benefit: (NFTY, summer camp, Israel, etc.)

__________________________________________________________________________________________

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Feel free to attach additional information.

Please send application to:
Baldwin Davidson Scholarship  Monmouth Reform Temple  332 Hance Avenue  Tinton Falls, NJ  07724
THE BULLETIN

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mgruensfelder@aol.com

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January Yahrtzeits

Names to be Read on Friday, January 11th (Services at 7pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, January 25th (Services at 7pm)

*Indicates that a Memorial Plaque is hanging in the MRT sanctuary ensuring that their yahrtzeit will be observed in perpetuity. Plaques can be purchased by contacting the MRT office. They are hung on the side walls of the sanctuary. Spaces are available on both walls. Cost per plaque is $400.

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

- **Cantor’s Fund**
  - In Memory Of: Jess Cohen
  - The Beaty Family
  - Karen Karl and John Heidema
  - Karen and David Levinsky
  - Joan and Peter Spring
  - Addie and Morris Bogdonoff

- **Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund**
  - Sheila and Rich Sachs

- **Adult Ed Fund**
  - Margie and Robert Wold

- **Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**
  - Phyllis Kinsler
  - Christine Thomas

- **Flower Fund**
  - In Memory Of:
    - Martha Lehrer Herzl
    - Frank Singer
    - Gertrude, Charles P. Gelber
    - Susan and Roy Gelber
    - Karen Lynn Ciorciari, Roslyn Burns, Isabelle Seidman
    - Judith and Phil Ciorciari
    - Dorothy Siegler
    - Marilyn and Seymour Siegler
    - Flora Braunstein
    - Lila Singer

- **Arts and Decorations Fund**
  - In Honor Of:
    - Guenzburger/Rubinstein Family
    - Sheldon Hillel Brown
    - Norma and Charles Bernstein
    - Joseph Dow
    - Nancy and Arthur Loebel
    - Harry Kohn, Goldie Bialy
    - Norma and Jack Kohn
    - Abraham Golden, Louis Boxman
    - Beverly and Mark Gruensfelder

**THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:**

- Faith Leifman on the death of her father Herbert Leifman
- Barbara and Richard Gitlin on the death of her mother, Ann Weissman

At MRT, loved ones are memorialized with Kaddish at the Shabbat service on or following their Yahrtzeit. If you would like someone’s name read on a different Shabbat please contact the office or see the Rabbi just prior to services.
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<td>4pm Religious School</td>
<td>7pm Shabbat Services</td>
<td>9am Shabbat Services &amp; Torah Study</td>
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<td>7:30pm Brotherhood Board &amp; Poker</td>
<td>7:15pm Board of Trustees</td>
<td>7pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Ron Wallenfels</td>
<td>4:45pm MRTSY Rock Climbing</td>
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<td>9:30am Study Group with Jane Graver</td>
<td>4pm Religious School</td>
<td>6pm Retirement party for Bobbie LaPlaca</td>
<td>2pm Shabbat @ Brighton</td>
<td>9am Shabbat Services &amp; Torah Study</td>
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<td>7pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal</td>
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<td>7pm Heritage Shabbat Services</td>
<td>10am Bar Mitzvah of Ricky Coyne</td>
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<td>Sally J. Priesand, Rabbi Emerita</td>
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<td>8pm 92Y Borowitz</td>
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<td>9:30am Religious School</td>
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<td>7:15pm Sisterhood Book Club</td>
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FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE?
MRT needs all members with FUNDRAISING experience. Knowledge gained from PTA involvement and other non-profits would immensely benefit MRT.
Please contact David Levinsky, 732-536-1813 or davidlevinsky@optonline.net to share your ideas. All suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Apologies for this month’s Bulletin format. The copier is being repaired!

TIME VALUE

Adult Ed Program coming in February:
“For You Were Strangers in the Land of Egypt”
Encounters with the “Other” in Jewish Text and History
Wednesdays 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27 7:30pm-9pm
At Monmouth Reform Temple
A community learning series in conjunction with the Context Adult Jewish Learning Program of JTS.
Cost: $45
Sign up online ONLY: www.jtsa.edu/StrangerMonmouth

Explore Jewish encounters with the “other” through the study of sacred texts and documents. Session will address how Jews have defined other groups and, in turn, themselves at different moments in history. Participants encounter the richness and diversity of Jewish civilization through the close reading of core texts, and discover the meaning of these tests in their original settings, how they have been received and interpreted, and their continuing importance today.

Sponsored by:
Context, The Adult Jewish Learning Program of JTS, The Jewish Theological Seminary, Jewish Federation of Monmouth County

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 2/6</td>
<td>Israel as the Other, the Other as Israel in Biblical Literature</td>
<td>Dr. Gary Rendsburg, Rutgers</td>
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<td>Wed. 2/13</td>
<td>“The Sages and ‘The Gentile Problem’” Defining the Jewish place in the Ancient World</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Goldenberg, JTS</td>
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<td>Wed. 2/20</td>
<td>Redefining Edom and Ishmael: Medieval Jewish Perspectives on Christians and Muslims</td>
<td>Dr Paola Tartakoff, Rutgers</td>
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<td>Wed. 2/27</td>
<td>Spinoza and Jewish Heresy in the Modern World</td>
<td>Dr. Yaacob Dwek, Princeton</td>
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