



THE MRT BULLETIN

January 2014


Volume LV Issue Vli

Tevet-Shvat 5774

Monmouth Reform Temple
The More Torah, The More Life
מרבח תורה, מרבח חיים

Schedule of Services January 2014

Friday, January 3

 First Friday and Shir Chadash
5:30pm Pre-Oneg by 7th grade
6pm Shabbat Services
Followed by Pot Luck Dinner
Bring enough for 10-12 people
A-F Salad, G-Z Pasta/Chicken

Friday, January 10

7pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, January 11

10am Bar Mitzvah of Murray Ellinson

Friday, January 17

7pm Shabbat Services

Friday, January 24

7pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, January 25

10am Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Austin

Friday, January 31

7pm Shabbat Services

שבת שלום
Shabbat Shalom!

Minyan and Torah Study at 9am every
Saturday morning in the MRT Library.



There are members of our Congregation who are very sensitive to scents. MRT strives to provide a "Scent Free" environment in our building.

The MRT community asks that you avoid wearing scents of any kind when coming to our facility and we ask you to tell your guests who visit with us. Thank you for being our partner in creating a "Scent-Free" environment.

Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center "Friendraiser"

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 7pm
Co-Sponsored by the League of Women Voters

Presenters for the Evening:

- Lynn Reich, Secretary of the Board
- Assistant Prosecutor Peter Boser
- Retired Police Detective Eric S. Rice
- Child Advocacy Center Social Worker and MRT member, Sue Rekedal

The Friends of the Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center (MCCAC) is a volunteer driven 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. Our mission is to raise funds to complete construction of the child friendly facility by continuing to develop community awareness and to support a coordinated response to child abuse.

Formed in 2003 by a group of individuals in the Monmouth County community, The Friends sought to raise the funds needed to build a full service Child Advocacy Center in Monmouth County. The County donated land on Kozloski Road in Freehold, NJ and the project was begun. A Child Advocacy Center offers an integrated, multidisciplinary, child-friendly approach to the investigation and treatment of sexual and physical abuse of children.

Phase One of the Capital Campaign was completed in June 2009 and since then the MCCAC has served more than 400 cases of child abuse each year. The Friends is now embarking on a final effort to complete the project. \$2.3 million is needed to expand the facility to include a full medical suite, therapy rooms and additional office space.

A Night of Chance!

MRT's Night at the Races



8 February 2014

Colts Neck Inn at 6.00pm



\$4,000

Worth of Prizes !



Eat, drink, bet, + have a GREAT time!

From Rabbi Bob Ourach



As you receive this newsletter, we are at the turn of a new secular year, 2014.

In 2014, I will complete with God's help, 37 years in the rabbinate. Much has changed in Jewish communal life since Linda and I set out for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in June of 1977. The five congregations I have served in my career are all very different. Yet, there are important threads of continuity. One of these most important threads is the need for a true sense of community. People join congregations for many reasons. But if they remain members for many years,

it is usually because they feel truly connected, not only to the institution, but to the people.

In our community, building strong connections among our membership is sometimes a significant challenge. But I also know that it is possible, and that you, the membership of MRT make it happen. Expressions of concern for each other; a timely phone call to a friend or an acquaintance—these are the building blocks of a community whose parameters continue to grow and expand.

Let us remember in 2014 to continue this reaching out. Let us comfort and

support each other. Let us bring to the MRT family new hands and hearts that will strengthen our bonds and expand our hopes.

As we look at the years ahead, let us understand that our success cannot simply be measured by the number of our members.

Our successes must be quantified in no small way by what we can give to each other. We have created a foundation for caring. Let us increase our efforts to be inclusive and to enrich each other's lives by sharing our hopes and our dreams.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming Adult Ed Programs

Attention Foodies!

Celebrated cookbook author Susie Fishbein is coming to Monmouth Reform Temple on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. Fishbein is the author of the *Kosher by Design* and she will conduct a cooking demonstration. A light dinner will be served during the program, which begins at 6:30 p.m. in the temple Social Hall. For more information, contact Linda Davies at MsLindaDavies@aol.com for more information. Reservations and RSVP details to come soon!

Scholar-in Residence:

Michael D. Friedman

Friday night, March 7th
Services at 7pm

Sunday morning, March 9th
Brunch and speaker at 10am

Shabbat Kallah:

Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce

Friday night, March 28th
Services at 7pm

Saturday, March 29th
Torah Study—Parashat Shemini

Sunday, March 30th
Teen Workshop at 9:30am

Made possible through The Shabbat Kallah Fund — a generous bequest of Bob Rosin, MRT past president

Rabbi Karen D. Kedar

Sunday, April 6, 2014

Rabbi Karen D. Kedar comes to Monmouth Reform Temple on Sunday, April 6, 2014 for a two-part program based on her books "The Bridge to Forgiveness" and "God Whispers". In the afternoon, following a luncheon, there will be another workshop led by Rabbi Kedar.

Rabbi Kedar is widely recognized as an inspiring spiritual leader who guides people in their spiritual and personal growth.

The program is partially funded through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County.

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



Synagogues send out a lot of email. It can be joyful, an invitation to a fabulous event and sometimes it is sad. At the request of a family when someone loses someone in our temple-we notify the community. So then what? What should we do to support our temple family when they have had a loss. Recently, I saw this article on line and I adapted for our temple. I have no idea who wrote it, but I do think it has wonderful advice-thank you to the smart person who wrote this!

Always remember there is nothing you can say that will make a person feel better. Just be with them. Hold hands. Tell them you love them. Say the name of the person who died in a natural way.

If you ask, "Is there anything I can do?" "Is there anything you need?" The bereaved may answer, "No." And sometimes they will even think, "Unless you can bring the dead back to life or build a time machine". That is why these open-ended questions (although well intentioned questions) are not always helpful.

Offer to do something. Guess at what they might need and offer to do it. Don't say, "Can I _____?" Or "When would be a good time for me to _____?" A better approach would be to say, "I would like to _____ (insert helpful thing here). Is.._____ (insert day/time here) a good time?"

Here's a list of things every family might need at one time or another, depending on where they live or the time of year:

- Laundry
- Shovel snow
- Mow lawn
- Clean bathroom
- Feed and care for pets
- Drive kids to activities
- Buy groceries
- Vacuum
- Take out trash
- Return library books

You might say, "_____, I would like to come over and do your laundry. Is tomorrow at 10 am a good time?" Now they might say, "No thanks," because maybe a friend is there and handling that aspect of running the house. At this point I would suggest that you either offer to do something else right away or that you let her/him know that you'll check in with her in a few days to make the same offer.

Here's another way to approach helping-When _____ was on hospice (almost 5 months), a few friends with regularity would text me when they were out shopping. "Hi! I'm at Costco (Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, Wegman's). Do you need anything?" This is a great way to offer help. Many would be reluctant to hand someone a whole list, but if out of toilet paper or bread or eggs, one can accept this small gesture.

Offer to visit when visitors might be thinning, like after Shiva. Don't say, "Call me when you're ready for a visit." You call or text and offer. And if they say no, call in about a week or two. If you call and they don't answer, leave a message. People often say they could not talk to people in the early days, but did listen to messages. Texting is easier for some as well!

If you are far away and can't be there to help, donate to their loved one's charity of choice. Send a card, especially after a few weeks when cards stop coming. Use the name, "_____ had the best laugh." It will be appreciated. I promise.

Sometimes bereaved people also want space and privacy, so be careful to not overdo if they just seem to want to be alone. Follow your instincts. You can never go wrong by writing a card and being nice.

Adapted by Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

From the President, Jay Wiesenfeld Email: wiesenfeld@ieee.org

At this time of year, when the secular calendar changes years, it is natural to think about change. During my speech to the congregation at the Kol Nidre service, I noted the many recent changes at MRT and how, during the course of this year, MRT would proactively address them. In so doing, we hired Rabbi Ourach as our wonderful interim rabbi. We are applying the results from the ATID task force, applying our new vision, mission, and values statements and considering its full set of recommendations. And we have also established a Settled Rabbi Search Committee to select the next settled rabbi for MRT.

Rabbi Ourach is now guiding our congregation with his warm and active presence. We are benefitting greatly from the experience and wisdom of his distinguished career and he is truly leading our MRT community. Our Shabbat services are warm, spiritual, and welcoming and we have come to enjoy the presence of our younger members in the Torah service. We have had several wonderful guest programs at MRT, including Julie Silver and Debbie Wasserman-Schulz in recent weeks, both of whom came to MRT as a result of connections with Rabbi Ourach. Rabbi's wife Linda has become a valued presence at MRT and in our religious school, and I speak for us all when I wish her a speedy and full recovery from her recent hip surgery.

I have noted in the December bulletin how our mission statement, elucidated by the ATID task force, has been alive in our congregation. Just the community participation and response to our Julie Silver Hanukkah concert, for example, is a good illustration of how we have been living our values.

The search committee has also been working diligently and looking forward and has successfully identified a candidate. The search committee reported to the Board at the December meeting and recommended that Rabbi Marc Kline be the next settled rabbi for MRT. The search committee has a separate report elsewhere in this Bulletin. Rabbi Kline currently leads Temple Adath Israel in Lexington, KY. He has 18 years experience as congregational rabbi and was unanimously endorsed by the search committee, which determined that Rabbi Kline has the experience, capabilities, and vision to lead MRT. The Board unanimously approved the selection and directed the negotiation of a contract with Rabbi Kline. After the contract is negotiated and approved by the Board, we will call a special congregational meeting for the final approval of Rabbi Kline's selection and contract. We will be communicating more fully with you all as this proceeds in the next month.

I want to take this opportunity to thank wholeheartedly the co-chairs of the Settled Rabbi Search Committee, Bob St. Lifer and Zach Gilstein, for their enthusiastic, diligent, and dedicated work in leading the committee. I also thank the very dedicated members of the committee, who have given their time and energy to considering the best needs and goals for the future of MRT in making their choice. As we go forward, Rabbi Ourach continues to lead us as our interim congregational rabbi through June 30, guiding with distinction and preparing us for the transition to our settled rabbi, Rabbi Kline.

May we go from strength to strength.

Summary of December 17th Board of Trustees meeting: from Jim Halpern, MRT Recording Sec'y

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

There were many wonderful events at MRT this month. Julie Silver came to MRT with her inspiring music. Our Sisterhood and Brotherhood sponsored a wonderful Hanukah get together where over 200 people celebrated together with a delicious dinner. Cantor Clissold's Shir Kadish Band played at First Friday Shabbat Services. During this service, we had a guest speaker, Alex Gelman, from Camp Harlam, discuss the great time our kids have at summer camp. Children who were recipients of last year's Baldwin Davidson Scholarships presented essays on their experience at camp. On December 8th, Congresswomen Debbie Wasserman-Shultz was a guest lecturer, discussing what it is like to be Jewish woman on the national political scene. Rabbi Preisand was honored at the Chhange award dinner. We celebrated an Interfaith Thanksgiving with our friends from the Presbyterian Church in Shrewsbury.

After conducting many interviews and narrowing down the field, the Pulpit Search committee has recommended to the Board that Rabbi Marc Kline be hired as the next Permanent Rabbi at Monmouth Reform Temple. The Board has voted to approve our Executive Committee to conduct negotiations with Rabbi Kline for a contract to serve as Rabbi. At the conclusion of these negotiations, the Board will be asked to approve that contract, which will be subject to the approval of the entire congregation. A Special Meeting will be held for this purpose.

The Monmouth Festival of the Arts Task Force has recommended to the Board that a future MFA, perhaps in 2015, should be held in the summer, the week after July 4th. This will allow for use of our facility, including the use of our outdoor areas for events. The recommendation includes keeping the format as a juried art show, but also to include newer technology related art events, such as "a mobile phone camera photo contest", with the hope of creating additional interest for younger participants. The MFA still needs leadership volunteers to head up the event. Without leadership this is just an idea. If you wish to volunteer to lead the MFA, please contact the office.

Rabbi Ourach thanked the Board for its support in having Congresswoman Wasserman-Schultz visit MRT. He is excited and looking forward to many new events that are scheduled this winter and spring.

Cantor Clissold is also excited by the many exciting events at MRT. In addition to others mentioned in this report, we had our final 92Y Broadcast for the fall 2013 season. The winter season presentations are being scheduled now and one will include the ever popular, "Dinner from Harold's" on Saturday, February 22nd. Save the date.

The Ways and Means Committee is getting ready for a great event on February 8th, "A Night at the Races", to be held at the Colts Neck Inn. Come out and cheer for your favorite horse to win. Make your reservations by contacting the office.

Thank you to all who have participated in our High Holy Day Appeal. We have raised over \$28,000 of our goal of \$34,000. If you have on yet pledged, please consider making this the year that we can say "100% of our congregation contributed to the Appeal".

The MRT Investment Committee has recommended and the Board has approved, moving our Temple endowments toward a more balanced equity and fixed fund portfolio.

The Board, upon the recommendation of the ad-hoc Arts and Deco committee, has voted to accept a generous donation from a former member, Barbara Rosenzweig of a watercolor painting by Max Miller, entitled "Birkur Cholin B'nai Israel". The ad-hoc committee was asked to make recommendations of where to display the painting.

The Membership Committee has reported that our current membership is 329 families.

The Board would like to express its condolences to the families on the passing of Jeff Horn and Joan Feigus. They will be missed.

The Board began to discuss "Technology at MRT" and how to coordinate upgrades to technology at MRT.

Jay Wiesenfeld, has reminded the Board that we are still looking to fill some key positions on Board (Finance, Membership and Social Action Chairs) as well as several new Committee Chairs. Anyone who is interested should contact Jay.

From Vera Galleid, Religious School Principal



In January we will celebrate Tu B'Shevat , the new year of the trees.

Although it is considered a minor Jewish holiday ,

it is very important in the preservation of our planet. Customs include planting trees in Israel, eating from the 7 species : wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates ,and having a Tu B'Shevat Seder.

In Israel, the flowering of the almond tree coincides with Tu B'Shevat and symbolizes the beginning of spring.

This is a great time to teach children about conservation,

preservation, precycling, free-cycling and recycling.

Precycling is the practice of reducing waste by attempting to avoid bringing items that will generate more trash into the house. Let us bring eco-awareness into our lives .

It is also a great time to teach about our connection to the Land of Israel. Trees are crucial to the ecology of Israel. Jews all over the world celebrate Tu B'Shevat by planting trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund.

You can plant trees in the name of

someone you wish to honor or in memory of someone you wish to remember . Please participate in doing this important mitzvah.

Upcoming Events:

Winter Break – December 22 through January 1.

Classes resume on January 5.

January 12 – 5th Grade PACT.

January 19 – No Religious School . Martin Luther King weekend.

Have a happy, healthy winter break .

L'Hitraot in 2014.

Vera Galleid.

UPDATE FROM THE PULPIT COMMITTEE

The Search Committee is pleased to announce that after an extensive search, including review of 17 resumes, skype interviews with 7 candidates and on site interviews with 3, we have recommended to the Board that MRT hire Rabbi Marc Aaron Kline as our next rabbi. Rabbi Kline is currently sole rabbi at Temple Adath Israel in Lexington Kentucky, where he has served for 10 years. Prior to this, Rabbi Kline served as the sole rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in Florence, South Carolina for 8 years. The committee was strongly impressed with Rabbi Kline's rabbinical experience, depth of thought, commitment to social action, and vision for building a holy community.

The Board has unanimously approved moving ahead to contract with Rabbi Kline. We expect that contracting will be completed within the next few weeks. Following that, the Board will approve the contract and a special congregational meeting will be set so that the congregation can formally approve the contract. More information about Rabbi Kline will be made available to all congregants, prior to the congregational meeting. This process should be completed by mid-February.

We would like to thank the committee members for their hard and excellent work. Committee members included Pam Mancuso, Jay Feigus, Karen Levinsky, Stu Tuchband, Karen Seligman, James Brewer, Dari Kennedy, Semmes Brightman, Harry Hillson, Sheila Leavitt, Rachel Rennert, Jay Wiesenfeld, Ellie Goodman, Bonnie Klein, Gena Ansell-Lande, Sara Hayet, Michael Howard, and Michael Brawer.

Zach Gilstein and Bob St. Lifer, Co-Chairs MRT Settled Rabbi Search Committee

Congratulations to our January B'nai Mitzvahs!



Alyssa Austin will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on January 25th. Alyssa lives in Colts Neck and is very active in both sports and extracurricular activities. She plays travel soccer, rec basketball, swims competitively on the Freehold Y swim team and is a brown belt in karate. Through her school, Alyssa plays the flute in both the concert and advanced Colt Band, sings in the advanced choir, is currently in the ensemble for the musical "Alice in Wonderland", and loves Art Club. Alyssa is also involved in Girl Scouts. She is able to do all this, while making High Honor Roll in her school academics. Alyssa is a third generation MRT congregant. She has worked hard to prepare for

her Bat Mitzvah and looks forward to sharing the culmination of her efforts with you. Alyssa wants to thank Cantor Clissold who tirelessly works with her to perfect her Hebrew and Rabbi Ourach for his support and guidance.

Mazel to Alyssa and her family!

From Alyssa:

"For my Bat Mitzvah project, because I have a passion for swimming and started learning to swim when I was 6 months old, I wanted to ensure that children know about water safety and learn how to swim to prevent drowning. For this reason, I am joining forces with Stew Leonard III Children Charities to raise money. Because of my affiliation with the YMCA of Western Monmouth County, I have asked that all money be provided to our local Y, and plan to run a water safety awareness and/or swim program using this money.

I am asking that you kindly go to stewietheduck.com to donate for water safety. Please indicate that your donation is in honor of Alyssa Austin, so the money is slated for my cause and will go to the Y where I swim."

Murray Elinson will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah of Saturday morning, January 11th. We wish Mazel Tov to Murray and his family!

Rabbi Priesand to speak at the Pilgrim Baptist Church Monday, January 20th at 12noon

Rabbi Priesand will be the guest speaker at the Martin Luther King Service at the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Red Bank on January 20th at 12 noon. The title of her address is "Keep Moving."

Lobby Tzedakah Box January 2014: Stewie the Duck for Water Safety Co-sponsored by Alyssa Austin and the Austin Family

On January 1, 1989, a 21-month old toddler lost his life in a drowning accident. This sparked his parents to pledge that they would do everything in their power to prevent this tragedy from striking other families, since drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children under five. In 1990, Kim and Stew Leonard founded the Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation (now Children's Charities) in memory of their son. Since then, the Foundation has raised more than 1 million dollars to go towards water safety awareness and education, including providing swim scholarships and lifeguard training. The Leonards wrote and published two children's books on water safety: *Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim*, a child's first guide to water safety, and *Swimming Lessons with Stewie the Duck*, addressing the skills and fears children face when they first start taking swimming lessons. All proceeds benefit the Stew Leonard III Children's Charities.

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, 2014

BALDWIN DAVIDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: February 15, 2014 ■ Notification: March 15, 2014

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.)

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

Feel free to attach additional information.

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



An Open Door To Extraordinary Worlds™

92nd Street Y is where inspiration lives and exploration begins...

7 January @ 7.30 pm**Mandy Patinkin-What Career Choices do you Make Based on Money?**

We've heard studies and warnings about violence and misogyny on television. Here's how an actor from a hit show sees it. Mandy Patinkin tells us that he made a mistake when he starred in "Criminal Minds" and the content of the show "destroyed his heart and soul." Have you regretted any career choices?

28 January @ 7.30 pm**The Lost Jews of Kaifeng - Shi Lei**

Hear the fascinating history of Jewish life in Kaifeng, China. Beginning during the Northern Sung Dynasty (960-1127), when the Jews of Persia and India traveled the Silk Road to Kaifeng, the community thrived for many years, eventually dying out in 1860. Shi Lei is a descendant of one of the original Jewish families in Kaifeng, China. Shi Lei is a graduate of Henan University in China.

Optional Chinese Dinner \$10 per person at 7pm***22 February @ 6.30pm****Eliot Spitzer, Alan Dershowitz and Jeremy Ben-Ami**

Debate over American policy in the Middle East is broadening. Should military solutions or diplomatic ones be favored? What is the role of pro-Israel advocacy at a time of changing relationships between the U.S. and Israel? Has J Street helped or hurt the prospects for peace? Does the traditional lobby speak for all, or even most American Jews? Join Alan Dershowitz, who has been called "Israel's top defender in the court of public opinion," and Jeremy Ben-Ami, the founder and director of J Street, as they wrestle with these and other issues.

Eliot Spitzer interviews.

Optional Dinner from Harold's \$18 per person at 7:30pm***6 May @ 6.30pm****Chuck Freilich, Reuven Pedhatzur and Dan Raviv
Inside Israel's National Security**

Chuck Freilich, former Israeli deputy national security advisor, discusses the challenges and strengths of Israel's national security policy. He shares his unique insights into the history of Israeli national security policy-making, sharing insights into the history and chronic inadequacies of this policy, attributing them to the volatile regional environment, its political electoral system and the structural peculiarities of the Israeli government. Pedatzur is a senior military affairs analyst with Haaretz newspaper and senior lecturer in political science at Tel Aviv University. Pedatzur is a regular analyst for Israeli TV, and hosts a radio show on security and strategic issues. Raviv is a Washington-based national correspondent for "CBS News."

Optional Israeli dinner \$10 per person at 7pm***TICKETING****\$40.00** for all 4 programs**\$20.00** for a single program

* Dinner programs require payment in advance

LOCATION: MRT Social Hall

Note: NO tickets will be sent. Check in at desk night of each event.ORDER TICKETS ONLINE: ON THE MRT HOMEPAGE: www.monmouthreformtemple.org



Join Sisterhood for an outstanding experience at the Two River Theatre on **Sunday, January 26th @ 3pm.**

As You Like It

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Michael Sexton

Rechnitz Theater

Journey with us to the Forest of Arden, as cross-dressing heroines and triumphant heroes learn how to embrace their imaginations, let go of their fears—and surrender to romance. Filled with laughter and music, Shakespeare's *As You Like It* is romantic comedy at its most delightful.

As You Like It features one of Shakespeare's best-known speeches, "All the world's a stage."

Following last season's electric production of *Henry V*, director **Michael Sexton** and actor **Jacob Fishel** return to Two River for another fresh, modern take on Shakespeare.

So grab a friend or come and make one....
RSVP: m.s.brewer@verizon.net by January 10th
Tickets: \$ 45 each. Checks made out to MRT Sisterhood

A Pre-Show "meet-up" will be likely...details to follow.



From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Committee Chairperson

The recently published book by Israeli journalist, Ari Shavit, "My Promised Land", has me spellbound. The book's subtitle, "The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel", opens its pages to an amazing tale told through the eyes and experiences of Zionist dreamers starting in the late 19th century. Through interviews, letters, diaries and family stories, Shavit weaves a tapestry of the triumphs and disasters, of hopes and fears, of high moral ethics and of actions that take the Zionist enterprise from the zenith of glorious accomplishments to the nadir of violent destruction and massacre.

We mostly read books that describe the miracle of Israel, the heroism of her young idealists, the superior military achievements in face of multiple enemies and we, in the diaspora, are rightly proud. Those who denounce Israel as colonial invaders, as occupiers cause many of us to cry 'foul' and feel that the world does not understand the dangerous neighborhood that Israel lives in. But Shavit relays the history, through the words and memories of those who have lived it, with all of its flaws and all of its extremism. He does so in such a way that the reader can feel his pain over some of the historical facts that are related. But it is important to understand that Israel's history has emerged in the real world, not in an ideal world. Some horrendous actions that make us feel anything but proud are seen to be necessary or there would be no Israel. And Jewish history tells us that there must be an Israel.

The book is beautifully written and carries one along as we are introduced to yet another individual who lived through the development of that tiny state and participated in its amazing economic growth as it absorbed hundreds of thousands of Jews fleeing inhospitable homelands. The casualties on both sides, to the Israelis and to their Arab neighbors are openly aired and are regretted. And today, there are visionaries still who may be clashing with the more pragmatic thinkers.

"My Promised Land" is a great book that will get you thinking about the Israel that we love and support with perhaps a deeper understanding of how this miracle actually happened. I hope many of you will read it and then maybe we can talk about it together.

MRT GARDEN WALKWAY: INSCRIBE A BRICK FOR ANY OCCASION!**In HONOR of:**

Graduations, Weddings, Anniversaries Confirmations, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Special Birthdays, etc.

In MEMORY of:

Those you love. Or other wording you desire.

Then you and others will enjoy seeing them while walking the path when at Temple.

Purchases by individuals or groups are welcome \$100/brick, 5 bricks for \$400.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Inscription of your choice: Maximum of 3 lines, 18 characters/line incl. spaces: (Please print – use capitals or lower case as you wish inscribed)

SISTERHOOD



Sisterhood has had A WONDERFUL MONTH! Our joint Sisterhood/Men's Club Community Chanukah party was a great success!

The temple was filled with over 175 people, the food was fantastic, the children had a great time with all the activities, the "energy" was terrific and the family feeling was beautiful! There were many new families, some multi-generational, and lots of new children's faces which was delightful to see.

Our First Annual Unique Latke Topping Contest brought out top cooks and top judges! And the winner was our very own Judy Rifkin with a delicious cranberry chutney-type topping. Runner up was Monica Schneider-Brewer's smoked trout delicacy – yum! Start thinking of delish and unusual ideas for next year!

During the preceding service our Shir Chadash band was joyful and inspiring as always. It was a real pleasure to honor the generosity of the Baldwin Davidson Scholarship fund and the recipients who had such meaningful experiences in camp and in Israel. The speaker from Camp Harlam was a welcome addition to the service as well. As you can see, the whole evening was warm, welcoming and fun as well as delicious!

Many hands made this great evening possible and to all who helped, it would not have happened without you! A special thank-you is sent to our wonderful teens who helped with set-up, clean up and the children's activities. When a community comes together all things are possible!

Moving on to 2014 – On January 9, we will be having an **Out and About** at CJ Mcloone's on Shrewsbury Avenue, Tinton Falls at 7 P.M. Come out for dinner or a drink or dessert or just to chat with friends and relax. Please RSVP to sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org.

January 27 will be the first 2014 meeting of our successful and always-interesting book club. The book this month is "We are Water" by Wally Lamb and it will be at Margie Wold's house at 7 P.M. Please RSVP to Margie at woldeim@aol.com or to Linda Murray at lwmurray1@gmail.com with any questions about our book club. For those who haven't come to a Sisterhood book club, all are welcome. We have a diverse multi-generational and very open group of women and relish different perspectives.

On February 2, we will be having our second **Shalom Sistahs** – our mid-year meeting. It will be held in the social hall on Sunday morning at 9:45 A.M. We will be sending out more information in the coming weeks. Please put it on your calendar as we plan a delightful morning with, as always, good food!

February 9th will be a Kitchen Caper – **Pilates with Nadine** Sunday at 4 P.M. – details to follow. We at Sisterhood wish everyone a Happy Healthy and Peaceful 2014 and hope to see you soon!!

Jill and Cheryl

MEN'S CLUB

Hi,

On behalf of The MRT Men's Club I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As you may have noticed, I wrote MRT Men's Club. We changed the name from MRT Brotherhood to MRT Men's Club. It may take a while to see the switch on publications, newsletters, bulletins, etc. but in time we hope coordinated in all publications and web sites. You can still reach us at mrt.brothers1@gmail.com.

The Men's Club recently sent out a letter for donations. We waited to do this for a reason. We didn't feel it was right to ask someone for their hard earned money until they saw some of things that money provides. Since the beginning of the fiscal year the Men's club has sponsored

The Beerfest, where approximately 70 people drank great beer, ate some food and had a lot of fun. All of this was provided by the Men's Club. It was open to all congregants and we didn't charge anyone for it. It was absolutely FREE.

The Tailgate Party, where family and friends enjoyed food, drinks and gifts for the children while watching the Giant-Eagles game on a big screen. All of this was provide by the Men's Club. It was open to all congregants and we didn't charge anyone for it. It was absolutely FREE.

The Chanukah Party, along with co-sponsorship of The Sisterhood, approximately 170 people enjoyed great food and drinks. Half of the cost of this was provided by The Men' club. It was open to all congregants and we didn't charge anyone for it. It was absolutely FREE.

The Men's Club enjoys putting on these events. It's a good way of growing support for the temple and adds comradeship among fellow congregants but it cost money to provide these events. Along with these events, The Men's Club makes charitable donations and provides gifts for Bnai Mitzvahs and Confirmants.

We are not trying to make money or put money away for a rainy day. As I stated in prior Men's Club meetings, my goal when became President, was to try to grow the club by providing events that reach a broad range of congregants and to do that at a break even cost. To reach that goal we need your financial support. I hope you appreciate the hard work and the costs it takes to put these events and hope to see you at future events.

I want to thank everyone who has donated this year. If you would like to donate, you can send a check to the temple and put somewhere on the check, Brotherhood or Men's Club.

Again, I wish everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Mitch Baum

President of The Brotherhood Men's Club

PS: I really hope this works as I hate asking for money.

THE CONGREGATION WISHES MAZEL TOV TO:

- Lloyd and Stephanie Fitzsimmons on the birth of a granddaughter Hailey Demitra Fitzsimmons
- Chris and Mary Leverett on the birth of grandchildren, Leah, Samuel, and Virginia



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.

*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.

January Yahrtzeits (date based on when they occur)

Names to be Read on Friday, January 3rd (Services at 6pm)

Sam Auerbach, Eva Bernstein, Fanny Bogdonoff, *Baldwin Davidson, Sylvia Davis, Richard Gaudette, Evelyn Anna Roe Gilstein, Betty Goodstein, Dorothy Eleanor Grauer, Arthur Hayet, Harriet Phyllis Herman, *Louis Hershey, Fred Kardos, *Jacob Lehrer, Jordan Matthew Levinsky, Alice McDermott-Pitchell, Rose Rosen, Harold Rubin, Philip Schiller, Ellen Spivak, Joseph Weisfogel

Names to be Read on Friday, January 10th (Services at 7pm)

Ruth Bernstein, Leonard Bleetstein, Rose Bette Kosberg Brinkmann, Irving Lyon Chanenson, Josiah Eugene Chess, Henry Civins, Robert Davidson, Robert M. Davidson, Saul Dersh, Nathan Lewis Franklin, Harold Grauer, Else Graupe, Nanon Harris, Abraham Wolf Honig, Leon Kornbluth, *Max Mausner, Henry Miller, Charles Mindel, Lena Mozer, *Harry Obstgarten, *Delores Phillips, *Aaron Risick, Martin Ross, *David Sandman, *Bernice Schneider, *John J. Singer, Louis M. Smith, *Dora Solomon, Maurice Solomon, Freya Stern, *Dorothy Woolf, *Jean Yagoda, *Murray Zatt

Names to be Read on Friday, January 17th (Services at 7pm)

Irving Bogdonoff, *Esther Bregman, *Philip Finebloom, Jim Gary, *Joan Goodman, *Harry Greenfield, Louis Horn, *Jules R. Huber, *Herman Kahn, Helen Kahn, Mae Kaplan, Ida Klein, *Ben Lite, Angela Malek, *Adelaide Meyer, *Samuel Morse, David Moss, Janet Nussbaum, Charles Ostroff, Stella Seligman, *George Silver, Michael Sporn, *Ruth Stark, *Sadie Strominger, Howard Teitelbaum, Manuel Unterman

Names to be Read on Friday, January 24th (Services at 7pm)

Lillian Atlas, Philip Ciorciari Sr., Beatrice Cohen, Beatrice Cohen. Malvina Elenbogen, Ziskin Flaum, *Simon Goldsmith, Sylvia Gordon, *Herbert Halpern, *Celia Karlman, *Michael Katz, Ida Levin, Jeanne Liese, Emanuel Marks, *Nathan Marx, Delia McDermott, *Philip Miller, Joseph Moskowitz, *Eleanor Peskoe, Lori Pudles, Max Rosenweig, *Tillie Schneider, Allan Shechet, *Carl Singer, Jesse Sklarin, *Fred Straus, Josephine Tesoriero

Names to be Read on Friday, January 31st (Services at 7pm)

*James Abis, Binnarie Adams, Edythe Albert, Morris Bernstein, Stanley Brittman, Irving Burdas, William Calderwood, *Florence Cohen, Frances Cole, Hilda G. Conklin, Nina Etkin Ross, *Julius Fox, Benjamin Frankel, *Shirley Zeitlin Gardy, Tillie Greenberg, *Minnie Greenfield, Bernice Horowitz, *Esther Kesselman, Dr. Paul B. Lerner, Clara Lipsky, Ronald Lipsky, *Vallie Marks, Beverly Maurer, Sylvia Moss, *Simie Nusbaum, *Clara Offenhenden, Leonard Quitt, Inez Rickard, Leonore Rosen, Max Rosen, Ruth Safran, *D. Gloria Salomon, *Philip Samo, Rose Schiller, Freda Schneider, Norma Shechet, Anne Sillen, Joseph Steisel, Marjorie Sternberg, Helen Taylor, Beatrice Tobin, *Martin L. Wachtel

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:**Adult Ed Fund****In Memory Of:**

Jeff Horn

Margie and Robert Wold

Susan and Bob St. Lifer

Joan Feigus

Susan and Bob St. Lifer

Rose and Phil Schiller

Pearl and Sal Katz

Barbara and Barry Miller

In Honor Of:

Leonard Teitelbaum's recognition as

URJ Honorary Life Board Member

Susan and Bob St. Lifer

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund**In Memory Of:**

Lloyd Shapiro

Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

Anna Murray

Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

Joan Feigus

Cheryl and Stephen Gaudette

Arlene and Jim Berg

Jeff Horn

Arlene and Jim Berg

In Honor Of:

Maxine and Alan Klatsky on the Bar

Mitzvah of their grandson Alex

Cheryl and Stephen Gaudette

Leonard Teitelbaum's recognition as

URJ Honorary Life Board Member

Arlene and Jim Berg

Cora and Stu Tuchband on the Bar

Mitzvah of their granddaughter Skylar

Arlene and Jim Berg

Monica Schneider-Brewer and James

Brewer on their son Jonah's Bar

Mitzvah

Linda and David Murray

Library Fund**In Memory Of:**

Bernard Levy

Marjorie Levy

Anna Murray

Linda and David Murray

Marilyn and Joel Morgovsky

Karen and David Levinsky

Brian Murray

Linda and David Murray

Social Action**In Memory Of:**

Jeff Horn

Karen and David Levinsky

Flower Fund**In Memory Of:**

Dorothy Siegler

Marilyn and Seymour Siegler

Joel Wiesenfeld, Paul Wiesenfeld, Marvin
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Kay and Jay Wiesenfeld

Dr. Irma Steisel

Frank Singer

George Brandwene

Bernard Brandwene

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Joan Feigus

Karen and David Levinsky

Kay and Jay Wiesenfeld

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Anita and Henry Gewurz

Joan Feigus

Sharon and Stanley Siebenberg

Homeless Fund**In Memory Of:**

Jeff Horn

Marilyn and Joel Morgovsky

Bernard Brandwene

Joan Feigus

Bernard Brandwene

Mazon Fund**In Memory Of:**

Flora Braunstein

Lila Singer

Jeff Horn

Kay and Jay Wiesenfeld

Adam Greenfield Religious School Fund**In Memory Of:**

Joan Feigus

Vera Galleid and Sara Langberg

Monica Schneider-Brewer and

James Brewer

Jeff Horn

Monica Schneider-Brewer and

James Brewer

Anna Murray

Monica Schneider-Brewer and

James Brewer

Cantor's Fund**In Memory Of:**

Joan Feigus

Sheila and Jim Leavitt

Phyllis Herbert

Kerry and Evan Krachman

In Honor Of:

Cora and Stu Tuchband on the Bat Mitzvah

of their granddaughter Skylar and the Bar

Mitzvah of their grandson Ezra

Phyllis and Charles Rubinstein

Ellen Tuchband on her daughter Syklar's

Bat Mitzvah

Phyllis and Charles Rubinstein

Steven and Ingrid Tuchband on their son

Ezra's Bar Mitzvah

Phyllis and Charles Rubinstein

My son Alex's Bar Mitzvah

Brian Klatsky

Our grandson Alex's Bar Mitzvah

Maxine and Alan Klatsky

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**In Memory Of:**

Joan Feigus

Marilyn and Joel Morgovsky

In Honor of:

My son Alex's Bar Mitzvah

Brian Klatsky

Our grandson Alex's Bar Mitzvah

Maxine and Alan Klatsky

Oneg Fund**In Memory Of:**

Joan Feigus

Margie and Robert Wold

Philip Alter

Phyllis and Charles Rubinstein

Howard Semer

Harry Katz

Susan Martin

Scholar-in-Residence Fund**In Honor Of:**

Leonard Teitelbaum's recognition as URJ

Honorary Life Board Member

Kay and Jay Wiesenfeld

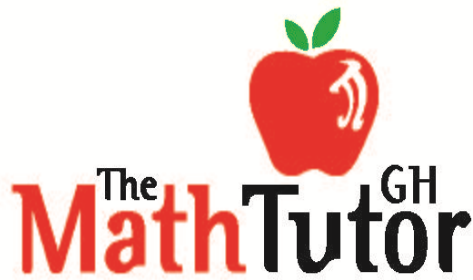
Sisterhood Scholarship Fund**In Memory Of:**

Anna Murray

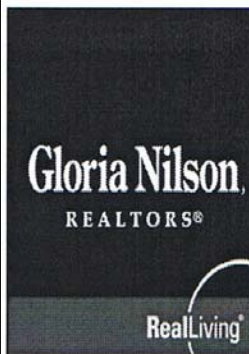
Cheryl and Stephen Gaudette

In Honor Of:Maxine and Alan Klatsky on the Bar Mit-
vah of their grandson Alex

Linda and David Murray



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MRTSY President: Sara Hayet

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January 2014

For the most up-to-date information: www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 MRT OFFICE Closed NO Religious School	2	3 3:30pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 5:30pm 7th grade pre-oneg 6pm Shabbat Services w/Shir Chadash	4 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study
5 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels & Blocks 12:15pm Jr. Youth	6 7:30pm Men's Club Board	7 9:45am Study Group 7:30pm 92y Mandy Patinkin 7:30pm Religious Ed	8 4pm Religious School	9 7pm Out and About with Sistahs 7:30pm Intro to Judaism	10 10:30am Shabbat @ Kensington 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services	11 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study 10am Bar Mitzvah of Murray Elinson
12 9:30am Rel School 9:30am 5th Grade PACT 12pm Jr. Youth	13	14 9:45am Adult Tu B'shevat Seder 7pm Orchid 7:30pm Exec Board	15 4pm Religious School 7pm Friendraiser for the MC Child Advocacy Center	16 7:30pm Intro to Judaism	17 7pm Shabbat Services	18 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study
19 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	20 MRT OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King	21 9:45am Study Group 7:15pm Board of Trustees	22 4pm Religious School	23 7:30pm Intro to Judaism	24 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services	25 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Austin
26 9:30am Rel School 12pm Jr. Youth 3pm Sis As You Like It	27 7:15pm Sisterhood Book Club	28 7pm 92Y Chinese Dinner 7:30pm 92Y Lost Jews of Kaifeng	29 4pm Religious School	30	31 7pm Shabbat Services	



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Adult Purim Party
afterwards

It's the *Story of Esther* with rock
icons singing funny Jewish versions
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Heart's Ann Wilson as Esther!
With a little help from The Beatles
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Produced And Directed By Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

Rehearsals will be at 7 pm on Thursdays
February 13, 20, 27 and March 6 and 13.

Another URJ Summer Camp: 6 POINTS SCI-TECH Academy

www.urj6points.org

At 6 Points Sci-Tech Academy, learning is designed to be fun. Our staff use professionally-developed curriculum and lesson plans to guide campers in bringing to life the dreams that capture their imaginations. Using a hands-on, project-based approach, campers are encouraged to pursue their specific interests, with individualized instruction provided at their level. Campers choose from one of four primary tracks, or “workshops”, where they spend 2½ hours each day working on projects they design:

Robotics and engineering Video game design Environmental science Digital media production

Campers also choose a 1½ hour daily elective each week, providing the opportunity to explore new areas of interest. Electives may include:

- App creation
- Sport science
- Game theory
- Food science
- Magic and illusion
- Flight science
- Archaeology
- Medicine

An hour of recreational activities, keeping both campers’ minds and bodies active, completes a balanced, well-rounded camp experience.