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.

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

Shabbat Shalom!

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

Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center
“Friendraiser”
Wednesday, January15, 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!
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 online 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
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.
The Bulletin

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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-Shultz 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 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.)

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

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
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. Pedhatzur is a senior military affairs analyst with Haaretz newspaper and senior lecturer in political science at Tel Aviv University. Pedhatzur 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](http://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.
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.

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**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 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 with 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
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’s 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 Confirmands.

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

January Yahrtzeits (date based on when they occur)

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

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

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

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

Names to be Read on Friday, January 31st (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.
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Perry Weyser  
Certified Public Accountant  
Certified Financial Planner  
* Advisory Representative

Tel: 732-531-1400  
Fax: 732-531-1572  
perry@wayserfinancial.com  
www.wayserfinancial.com

Goode & Weyser, CPA, LLC  
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From traditional to unique invitations, LM Designs provides a personalized solution that fits your needs, style and budget.

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Mindy Gorowitz  
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Synagogue Operations  
Helene Messer  
helene@monmouthreformtemple.org

MRT Executive Board  
President  
Jay Wiesenfeld  
wiesenfeld@ieee.org

Senior Vice Pres.  
Zach Gilstein

Second Vice Pres.  
Marjorie Wold

Third Vice Pres.  
Monica Schneider-Brewer

Fourth Vice Pres.  
Stu Tuchband

Treasurer  
Jay Feigus

Financial Sec’y  
Alan Levy

Immed. Past Pres.  
Mark Gruensfelder

MRT Board of Trustees  
Doreen Laperdon-Addison

Jay Goldberg

Jim Halpern

Faith Leifman

David Levinsky

Sisterhood Co-Presidents:  
Jill Austin  
Cheryl Gaudette  
Men’s Club President: Mitch Baum

MRTSY President: Sara Hayet

Auxiliaries  
jilltennis@aol.com  
cbgaudette@gmail.com  
mrt.brothers1@gmail.com  
srhayet@gmail.com

Lloyd Fitzsimmons  
Personal Driver  
in the cost-friendly comfort of your car

732-320-0396  
References Aplenty
## January 2014

For the most up-to-date information: [www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar](http://www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar)

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<thead>
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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>MRT OFFICE Closed</td>
<td>NO Religious School</td>
<td>3:30pm Shabbat @ Chelsea</td>
<td>5:30pm 7th grade pre-oneg</td>
<td>6pm Shabbat Services w/Shir Chadash</td>
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<td>4am Shabbat Services &amp; Torah Study</td>
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<td>9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels &amp; Blocks</td>
<td>7:30pm Men's Club Board</td>
<td>9:45am Study Group 7:30pm 92y Mandy Patinkin 7:30pm Religious Ed</td>
<td>4pm Religious School</td>
<td>7pm Out and About with Sistahs 7:30pm Intro to Judaism</td>
<td>10:30am Shabbat @ Kensington 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services</td>
<td>9am Shabbat Services &amp; Torah Study of Murray Elinson</td>
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<td>9:30am Rel School 9:30am 5th Grade PACT</td>
<td>12pm Jr. Youth</td>
<td>9:45am Adult Tu B’shevat Seder 7pm Orchid 7:30pm Exec Board</td>
<td>4pm Religious School 7pm Friendraiser for the MC Child Advocacy Center</td>
<td>7:30pm Intro to Judaism</td>
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<td>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</td>
<td>MRT OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King</td>
<td>9:45am Study Group 7:15pm Board of Trustees</td>
<td>4pm Religious School</td>
<td>7:30pm Intro to Judaism</td>
<td>2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services</td>
<td>9am Shabbat Services &amp; Torah Study 10am Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Austin</td>
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<td>9:30am Rel School 12pm Jr. Youth 3pm Sis As You Like It</td>
<td>7:15pm Sisterhood Book Club</td>
<td>7pm 92Y Chinese Dinner 7:30pm 92Y Lost Jews of Kaifeng</td>
<td>4pm Religious School</td>
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<td>7pm Shabbat Services</td>
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Calling All MRT Performers

Rock’nshpiel!

Celebrate Purim with the right amount of ROCK!

15 March 2014
Purim Shpiel 7-8pm
Adult Purim Party afterwards

It’s the story of Esther with each song slightly tune Jewish variances at their lush loved sights. Erin Chapin as King Ahasuerus, Dan of Samson as Memnon, Elizabeth for Esther & Queen of Persia

With a little help from The Beatles and many others!

Produced and Directed by Carole Sheidlin Frederick

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.