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
February 2014

Friday, February 7
First Friday and Shir Chadash
5:30pm
Pre-Oneg by Grades K/1

6pm Shabbat Services
Followed by Pot Luck Dinner
Bring enough for 10-12 people
A-M Pasta/Chicken N-Z Salad

Friday, February 14
7pm Shabbat Services
MRTSY Creative Service

Saturday, February 15
10am Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Romanick

Friday, February 21
7pm Shabbat Services
VISUAL T’FILAH

Saturday, February 22
10am 6th grade Service

Friday, February 28
7pm Shabbat Services
5th Grade Service

Minyan and Torah Study at 9am every Saturday morning in the MRT Library.
January, 2014 will certainly be a month that we will long remember. Coming from a region where abundant snow is anticipated each winter, the only years that rival this year are 1996 and the winter of 1967, the year in which I graduated from high school. It is at times like these that we truly realize and understand how little we do control our universe. Virtually the entire northeast corridor of the United States was brought to a standstill by the power of nature. And yet, there were moments when the winds abated and the snow stopped falling that were as picturesque and beautiful. Contrasts in human behavior were no less present. For some, frustration and anger were intense emotions. For others, a willingness to go the extra mile, to extend the helping hand was more the emotion and action that carried the day. There were those who felt imprisoned or trapped, and those who were set free to enjoy a moment that otherwise would have been lost.

Judaism teaches us to live each day as though it were our last. When we are not in control, do we possess the insight and the values that can help us make the best of difficult and challenging circumstances? When nature, or everyday experiences of life throw us a curve, can we cope? Can we meet the challenge with faith and hope? The answer to these questions is probably “sometimes.” That is not a bad answer. But our goal must be to increase the “sometimes” to “frequently” or “usually.” We cannot always “repair the world,” but we can usually modify our behavior to provide help or comfort. The better we understand ourselves, the more we are able to choose a response to circumstances or conditions that would often overwhelm us. As we are witnesses to the POWER of the universe, so may be gain strength from the VOICE within to challenge the winds that would drive us from our course.

Back by popular demand!!!

92Y and Harold’s Deli
Saturday night, February 22nd
Dinner at 6:30pm
Dinner: $18 per person
Followed by:
Eliot Spitzer, Alan Dershowitz, and Jeremy Ben-Ami
At 7:30pm
Program: $20 per person

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.

Elliot Spitzer interviews. (Archived Program)
From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

Over the summer I was asked to speak at the Unitarian Church in Lincroft on the History of the Cantor—from ancient times to the present day. Although it was a tremendous amount of effort—I am so grateful I did agree to do it because in the process I learned many things. Although I knew some of this information, I have not looked at it since graduate school. It was very rewarding to sit down and write out the history with the help of many sources now newly online, texts and from old note taking sessions with Professor Eliyahu Schliefer. I am sharing my talk with all of you who wish to learn more about this.

The Hebrew word for the title "Cantor" is "Hazzan" and is best translated as "Communal official". The word is borrowed from the Assyrian word "ḥazanu," which meant overseer or director. This ancient role of "Ḥazzanut" was first seen on the El-Amarna tablets was first written in 1350 BCE.

Our next written reference to the "hazzan" is not until about 800 years later in the the Talmud. It uses the term "ḥazzan" to mean the "overseer".

At that time the Hazzan did the following and in many ways the old adage that nothing changes is somewhat applicable:

- He executed judgment on the condemned (he did not decide—but he carried the judgement out—I don't do this!)
- He was in charge of the Temple utensils-called the treasure-keeper. (I still do this)
- He aided the priests in disrobing from their sacred vestments. (I don't do this—don't laugh—it is hard enough to get myself together)
- He brought out the rolls of the Torah, opened them at the appointed readings for the week, and put them away again (I still do this)
- With shofar blasts he announced the beginnings of Sabbaths and holy days from the roof of the synagogue (well now we use the website, blasts, the bulletin and Facebook)
- He attended to the lamps of the synagogue (I still do this—every Friday I am here first and I do so on Chanukah as well)
- He accompanied the pilgrims that brought the firstlings to the sanctuary of Jerusalem (I don't do this as we no longer have animal sacrifice)
- His place was in the middle of the synagogue, on the wooden "bimah" (I still do this but off to the side)
- He read aloud from the Torah (I still do this)
- He taught the children to read and assisted the schoolmaster in teaching the children in the synagogue. (I still do this)
- The Jerusalem Talmud indicates that the hazzan led the prayers in the synagogue. (I still do this)
- As needed especially in smaller congregations, even in early Talmudic times, the Hazzan performed the duties of preacher, judge, schoolmaster, and prayer leader. (I still do this)

Historically the Rabbi was and remains a teacher and interpreter of text and Jewish law—however it was the Hazzan who ran the synagogue and worship. Synagogues engaged a Hazzan not a Rabbi—which is completely different than today. The Rabbi worked in a yeshiva—a Jewish school, taught in public meeting places and taught from his home. In contrast, most synagogues today engage a Rabbi but only sometimes have a Cantor. However, it seems to have always been true that chanting prayers and music was always central to Jewish worship.

The office of Hazzan increased in importance. The reason being that public communal worship expanded but knowledge of Hebrew as a native language as fewer Jews resided in Israel after the destruction of the second temple and expulsion of Jews from Israel in 70 CE. Early sources say the chief qualifications demanded of the Hazzan were a deep knowledge of the Hebrew Bible—the Torah, mastery of all Hebrew prayers, a pleasant voice with artistic delivery. It made me laugh when I read, "for the sake of these talents many faults were willingly overlooked." The Hazzan was also required to possess a pleasing appearance, to be married and to wear a flowing beard. Sometimes, according to Isaac of Vienna (13th cent.), a young Hazzan having only a slight growth of beard was tolerated. I apologize because I have my beard and mustache removed once a month and now I realize I should have been growing it!

(Continued on page 4)
Medieval commentator Maimonides decided that the Hazzan who recited the prayers on an ordinary Sabbath and week-days did not have to have an appearance pleasing to everybody; he might even have a bad reputation, provided he was living at the time of his appointment a life, "morally free from reproach."

In the 13th century we know the Hazzan was the main representative of the congregation so it was mandatory that "perfect inner harmony should exist between him and the congregation, therefore a unanimous vote for his appointment was insisted upon in many places." If even just one person in the community refused to vote for a candidate and was able to give a reasonable explanation why not to hire him—then the Hazzan was not appointed. In the Rhinelands this rule was strictly followed in the early part of the Middle Ages. In the 17th century, however it happened that the Hazzan no longer solely represented the congregation in prayer, as in former times. Rabbis were emerging as synagogue leaders…and the Hazzan was no longer the only one who knew how to say the prayers. At this time every one in the congregation now prayed for themselves; and a unanimous vote in his favor had therefore become unnecessary.

In the 16th Century writings indicated that sometimes it wasn't a good fit and a congregation dismissed a Hazzan. In most cases it was based upon the those who paid the highest taxes in the community. A Hazzan could not be fired simply because another had a better voice; a second Hazzan, however, might also be hired. An old Hazzan who had lost his voice could be removed from his position however some arrangement had to be made with him in regard to his finances. The community could also discharge a Hazzan whose sons that had been converted to Christianity.

Starting in the 1800's the old rituals and styles were newly written down in musical notation and harmonized; the title Hazzan gave way to the Cantor. Our common origin of traditional chant is prayers but the style of singing traditional melodies differs among the Sephardim-Jews from the Middle East and Asia differ from Ashkenazim-Jews from Europe. At the start of the 1700s and until present day there are two schools of cantors—Sephardic and Ashkenazic. Amongst the Ashkenazim there are additional differences between German and Polish styles and the same differences exist amongst Sephardim-who are all different hailing from Turkey, Syria, Greece, Morocco, Iraq and Iran and each have their own styles as well. Today, if you went to a Syrian synagogue in Deal NJ, the service would sound very different from what you hear at my synagogue. The main difference being the styles of Ashkenazi and Sephardi music.

The strongest and earliest change agent was the composer Solomon Sulzer. He was first to officially harmonize some of the Jewish melodies and is called "father of the modern cantorate." Sulzer was chief cantor of Vienna from 1825 to 1890. His publications became the model adopted by cantors and composers of synagogue music. Following in his footsteps came Naumbourg, cantor in Paris in 1847 and Weintraub of Königsberg in 1860. Also important Louis Lewandowski, the royal musical director in Berlin and Adolf Grünzweig, musical director in Hungary, all have also done much for the development of the modern cantorate. These men, together with Abraham Baer of Gothenburg, Sweden were the pioneers in the field of modern synagogue music. Much of their music is used and sung today in all denominations of Judaism.

The "new" music became the basis of worship in Europe and the US. Upon immigrating, traditions and creative styles enlarged and-synagogues sprouted up all over the US. With immigration also came the newly formed denominations of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism. The Hebrew Union College-School of Sacred Music-where I was trained and invested (ordained)-was established in 1948. American synagogues in the mid-twentieth century were now increasingly filled with second generation American Jews-Jews who viewed themselves as fully American. These communities could not relate to European cantors. I was trained in the Reform movement. Reform means changing-because Reform Judaism believes in the power of change-we are never done with creative and new ways of understanding our faith.

In 1968, Sally Priesand became the first woman accepted for rabbinic training at Hebrew Union College. In 1972 she became the first female rabbi in America. Following her ordination, the Reform Movement of Judaism also began accrediting female music students for formal cantorial studies. Rabbi Priesand served Monmouth Reform Temple for 25 years and is now our beloved Rabbi Emerita. I am so proud of our congregation for their historical bravery and vision to engage a women rabbi. I have the privilege of calling Rabbi Priesand a friend as well as a colleague. Following Rabbi Priesand in 1975, Barbara Ostfeld became the first woman to be ordained as a female cantor. Ostfeld's investiture "marked an era of rapid demographic change" and today
From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

at least 3/4 of cantors are women. Reflecting on her profession, Ostfeld writes, “Women cantors have altered the way in which prayer is offered, heard, and received.” The emancipation of women in Jewish life was very important and historical change made by Reform Judaism.

Throughout history and today a Cantor or Hazzan is a clergy member who continues to fill a diverse role within the Jewish community. Until two years ago, Cantors were "invested" at the conclusion of study. "Investiture" conferred the status of clergy upon cantors, just as "Ordination" does for rabbis. As I said before, we are Reform Jews—always changing and last year, a landmark decision was made to "Ordain" rather than "Invest" cantors-equal to the status of a rabbi. So now I am now a newly ordained Cantor and if I send in $100.00 they will send me a new certificate—which I have not done yet.

As for me, I was invested in 1998, my first pulpit was in Miami, Florida where I spent four warm and sunny years and then came to be part of MRT 12 years ago. Since this winter I have never questioned the wisdom of leaving Miami although right now I realize I may have been crazy. I currently have a degree in European history, two degrees in music both sacred and secular and I have continued to study voice on a weekly basis since I was 13 years old. In my work similar to the Hazzan of the past I lead worship services, officiate at lifecycle events, teach adults and children, run synagogue music programs, run adult enrichment education and offer pastoral care. I serve along with our Rabbi in partnership to lead our synagogue. Of course, the role of the cantor although important is truly a small slice of the rich and diverse history of the Jewish people. My main concern is the continuity of the Jewish people. I truly believe that Judaism has something unique and special and do all I can do to ensure its future through my work. There is—as you all know—so much more to our history. I am grateful to this incredible congregation who has welcomed me in order to learn about my faith tradition on this day. Thank you again for having me, I end with a very special Jewish prayer-the Shecheyanu which thanks God for enabling us to reach this great day of joy together.

(Continued from page 4)

MRTSY

So, with some fun (and some falls) this month's MRTSY Ice Skating event was definitely a success! Some of us were really good at skating while some others were able to showcase their ... falling skills.

Either way we all got to see another side of one another. It was awesome to see everyone helping out each other on the ice and making stronger bonds. We even got to meet some new people and try new things.

Thanks to those of you who chose their first skating experience to be with MRTSY. This event was truly fantastic- if you missed it make sure to make some memories with us at our next event!

Coming up this month is MRTSY’s Creative Service on Friday, February 14th. MRT's teens are joining together to lead a service with the theme kehila kedosha, a holy community. We hope to see you all there!

VISUAL T’FILAH

FRIDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 21ST AT 7PM
MRT is moving into the future in many ways, which I will address in this article.

The Settled Rabbi Search Committee (SRSC) has indentified Rabbi Marc Kline as the next rabbi for MRT, as I wrote last month. The vision statement from the ATID Task Force encapsulated spirituality, community, and inclusiveness as key elements for MRT. Marc Kline is well-suited to engage these values with us. He is vibrant, engaging, friendly, and learned. He has been a community-builder in his previous congregations and has engaged in significant social action work. He is well-regarded and liked by his congregants, students, and community, and we will be well-served with Rabbi Kline as our partner in moving MRT to the future. The SRSC has written a separate article for this month’s bulletin, which elaborates on Rabbi Kline’s biography and his selection for MRT.

Since last month, we have completed contract negotiations and the Board has approved the contract offered to Rabbi Kline. The final step in hiring Rabbi Kline is approval by the congregation at a congregational meeting. Our Annual Meeting will be scheduled for May 4, and this is too long to wait to finish our approval. Accordingly, the Board has called for a **Special Congregational meeting** to approve selection of Rabbi Kline, to be held **on Wednesday, February 12, starting at 7:30**. Separately, I have sent email/mail to the congregation announcing the special meeting. Please attend.

I thank the dedicated, thoughtful, creative, and deliberative work of our Settled Rabbi Search Committee, co-chaired by Zach Gilstein and Bob St. Lifer. I am grateful to the hard work, sometimes with long hours, of all the committee members, who have engaged to support MRT’s successful move into the future.

As we move to the future, it is time to renew our leadership and participation at MRT. We are a committed community, and our volunteer leaders give their energy and creativity to make MRT happen. We have formed the Nominating Committee, chaired by Margie Wold and including Mitch Baum, Stephanie Fitzsimmons, Mark Gruensfelder, and Karen Seligman, to create the slate of Officers and Trustees to be presented and elected at the Annual Meeting. The charter of this committee extends beyond the elected Board members and includes identifying volunteers and leaders for all of our committee. This is an opportunity to ask all members to continue your commitment to MRT and consider further opportunities to engage in our community. I thank Margie and the committee in advance for their work.

Another activity to move us to the future is the creation of the Leadership Development Task Force, as suggested by a recommendation of the ATID Task Force. The Leadership Development Task Force is being chaired by Mark Gruensfelder, with the goal to create a Leadership Development Program for MRT. This follows from the recognition that the most precious assets of any congregation are good leaders and volunteers, who must be nurtured and mentored. The program will identify and develop individuals with leadership qualities who are active within as volunteers or who have indicated such interest. We will be using URJ resources as well as recent experiences from nearby temples that have developed such programs.

Finally, we have taken the first steps in modernizing our web site. We have transferred our content to a beautiful, fresh site, hosted by URJ with state-of-the-art technology. Mark Gruensfelder has taken the lead in our update, for which we owe him a great “hurrah and thank you.” Please look again at our web site. Our next step is to update the content. The Board and committee chairs are taking the steps to make that happen.
The Board of Trustees met on the evening of January 23, 2014. It was a very cold night!

The Board would like to acknowledge positive happenings within our congregation. There were many wonderful events at MRT this month. We recognize that our Youth Committee has been expanded. There were several class trips for the Religious School, grade 4/5, grade 6/7 and also an overnight trip for the Mitzvah Academy. Planning is ongoing for the upcoming Ways and Means Committee, “Night at the Races”, plan to be there on February 8th. It will be a great time. Our most recent 92nd St. Y program featuring Mandy Patinkin was a lot of fun. Our Brotherhood has been officially re-named the “Men’s Club”. Future Men’s Club event: April 5th – March Madness NCAA Basketball championship event. The Men’s Club will also be selling Passover wine and holding its annual event at Silverball Pinball in Asbury Park soon.

Last month the Board approved the recommendation of the Settled Rabbi Search Committee to hire Rabbi Marc Kline as our new Rabbi. The Contract Committee has drafted a contract with Rabbi Kline and this month, the Board approved the contract. Also, the Board has approved a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on February 12, 2014 at 7:30 pm to approve the hiring of Rabbi Kline.

MRT took its first step in modernizing its website by migrating the existing website content to the URJ’s new “RJ-Web 2.0” platform. If you take a look at the site (http://www.monmouthreformtemple.org/), the aesthetic differences will be striking.

The Membership Committee reports we have 328 family memberships at MRT.

The Board has approved Jay Feigus to become a Trustee of the RJSP Endowment Fund.

The Nominating Committee has been formed to nominate candidates for our Officers and Board of Trustees. Committee members include: Margie Wold (Chair), Mitch Baum, Stephanie Fitzsimmons, Karen Seligman, and Mark Gruensfelder. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees, please contact a member of the committee. The Committee must make its nominations by April 4th, in time for our Annual Meeting on May 4th.

The new Chair of our Art and Deco Committee is Rita Sperling.

The “Role of the Non-Jew at MRT” Task Force is currently being formed. This task force will be in place before Rabbi Owrach leaves at the end of June. Its work will continue after Rabbi Kline arrives.

There are many events scheduled for March, including Michael Freidman as Scholar-in-residence for the weekend of March 7 and Rabbi Stephen Pearce for Shabbat Kallah for the weekend of March 28. In addition to the programs scheduled on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Sunday morning, Rabbi Pearce will have a workshop for the Board on Saturday evening. Please mark these weekends on your calendars.

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**Summary of January 23rd Board of Trustees meeting: from Jim Halpern, MRT Recording Sec’y**

Ellen Goldberg and Elise Aptaker are co-chairing the newly re-formed Youth Committee. This committee is made up of adult and youth temple members. The long term goal of the Youth Committee is to have the responsibility for creating, sustaining and overseeing the quality, scope and curriculum of MRT’s youth programming.

It is both the adult advocate for the youth programming in the temple community and the agent of the congregation, ensuring that the philosophies, policies and standards of the synagogue are implemented in the youth program. The reorganization of this committee comes at a very exciting time for the Reform community as the URJ recently announced new initiatives for the youth movement.
FROM THE SETTLED RABBI SEARCH COMMITTEE

We are excited to introduce Rabbi Marc Kline to MRT. In December, we announced that we had made an offer to Rabbi Kline, of Lexington Kentucky, to be our next settled Rabbi and that he had accepted our offer. We have now completed our contract negotiations and will be seeking the approval of the congregation at a special congregational meeting on the evening of February 12.

Rabbi Kline presently serves as rabbi of Temple Adath Israel in Lexington, KY, where he has been the solo rabbi since 2003. He graduated from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, OH, in 1995 and served as rabbi of Beth Israel Congregation in Florence, SC from 1995 to 2003.

His rabbinate at the two congregations has consisted of significant community-building and social action, such as spearheading the creation of the only permanently standing Shoah memorial museum in Kentucky. Rabbi Kline created the W.I.S.E. (Wisdom, Influence, Service, & Experience) program for seniors, which includes monthly luncheons, special speakers and presentations, social gatherings, and opportunities for volunteerism. Prior to becoming a rabbi, Marc Kline was a practicing attorney. He is a native of Las Vegas.

Through 2 days of extensive interviews and a visit to Rabbi Kline’s current congregation, Adath Israel, we found a strong demonstration of depth of knowledge of Jewish history and thought, along with a strong understanding of the issues and needs of the Jewish community in the years to come. Rabbi Kline was well versed in the Pew Report and articulated clearly the challenges it highlighted and his ideas for dealing with them.

In Rabbi Kline’s view, the Ideal Congregation is built on relationships. Everyone must matter. We need to recognize that there are different groups within the Temple with differing needs and we can be a congregation of chaverot. We need to find new means of communication to attract the unaffiliated and engage all members.

Rabbi Kline is highly engaged in social action and community building. While he was the Rabbi of Beth Israel in South Carolina, he was a leader in the successful effort to remove the Confederate flag from the state office building. He has been a leader in Lexington-based social activities for over 10 years, which have earned his congregation a Fein Award for service to the community.

Rabbi Kline has done much to reach out to the unaffiliated, including starting a chavera for young adults 25-35, which has a regular monthly program with 30-40 attending. He successfully grew his South Carolina Temple from 70 to 100 families and the Lexington Temple from 288 to over 350.

We spoke with 8 references for Rabbi Kline, all of whom were glowing in their support for him and sincere in their feeling of loss that he would be moving on.

Asked to describe the applicant’s greatest accomplishment while working for the congregation, one current Adath Israel Board member remarked, “ He has changed the entire atmosphere of the temple. He created a much more warm and welcoming congregation. He has created many very innovative programs. There is much better participation by the congregation. He is very good in religious school and excellent with the B’Nai Mitzvah students.” Another Board member commented “ I am always amazed at the level of insight and depth of experience in his sermons.

Rabbi Kline’s comment on working with other clergy was, “the rabbi and the cantor need to work together to create awe in the sanctuary.” Cantor Clissold is strongly supportive of his candidacy and looks forward to working with him. We believe Rabbi Kline will be an excellent fit for our congregation and enable us to grow and flourish. We look forward to executing our Vision and Mission with Rabbi Marc Klein as our new spiritual leader and teacher.

FROM BIBLE TO BUDDHISM, THREE SCHOLARS COMING TO MRT THIS SPRING

The next month and beyond is filled with wonderful Adult Education programming spanning a wide variety of topics beginning with an interfaith sermon on Friday March 7, led by Michael Friedman. As the guest speaker that Shabbat, Mr. Friedman will talk on “Jews and Interfaith Dialogue: Recent Developments in Jewish Theology”. The sermon will tackle issues such as how we engage with our non-Jewish neighbors, friends and spouses. A Q&A will follow.

A Sunday morning bagel brunch starting at 10 a.m. will feature a talk by Mr. Friedman, “BuJews and JewBus: When Monks and Manischewitz Collide,” a text study continuing Friday’s conversation focusing on the intersection between Judaism and Buddhism. The discussion will seek to shed light on the particular appeal of Buddhism for many Jews by exploring Buddhism’s ethical teachings and looking to similarities and differences between the two religions.

Mr. Friedman graduated from Yale with a degree in Religious Studies and Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations before pursuing these interests at Harvard Divinity School, where he received a master’s degree in Buddhist Studies. He is currently studying for his doctorate at Georgetown University in Theological and Religious Studies as a Wexner Graduate Fellow.

Our annual Shabbat Kallah weekend of study begins on Friday March 28 with a sermon by Rabbi Stephen S. Pearce, “Shifting Landscapes: Redefining Jewish Groupings.” The talk focuses on examining the traditional categories of Judaism—Reform, Conservative and Orthodox—and looking at how the lines among those categories has blurred. The following day, following Shabbat morning services, Rabbi Pearce will talk on “Overlooking the Obvious: The Binding of Isaac Revealed in Literature and Poetry,” a look at the musings of scholars and poets who believe in the obvious meaning of the Binding of Isaac account, the iconic central narrative of Jews.

Rabbi Pearce is the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi, serving Congregation Emanu-El since 1993 and became Rabbi Emeritus in June. Ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, he earned his doctorate in counselor psychology at St. John’s University. He is a board member of Palo Alto University and an advisory board member of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture. Previously, he served on the board of the Graduate Theological Union and is a past president of the Northern California Board of Rabbis. He is the former editor of the Journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and author of Flash of Insight: Metaphor and Narrative in Therapy, and coauthor of Building Wisdom’s House: A Book of Values for our Time, in addition to numerous articles and poems.

In 2012, Rabbi Pearce was awarded The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association’s Silver Spur Award for interfaith community dialogue and engagement; the national Jefferson Award for inspiring worshippers to fight hunger; The San Francisco Food Bank Community Partner Award for inspiring members of Congregation Emanu-El to donate over 90,000 pounds of food in the last two decades; and the San Francisco Interfaith Council recognition for encouraging green sustainability at the temple. MRT Shabbat Kallah is made possible by a generous bequest Past President Bob Rosin.

The following week, MRT welcomes Celebrated Author and Rabbi Karyn Kedar, who will lead two workshops on Sunday April 6 for the entire community. Rabbi Kedar will speak from 10 to 12 p.m. on “The Sacred Partnership---Leadership is a Calling”, a discussion for religious leaders of all denominations based on her book, “The Bridge to Forgiveness”. Rabbi Kedar will help lay leaders examine the challenges faced when trying to lead organizations in a spiritual way in modern times.

In the afternoon, Rabbi Kedar will run a workshop, “God Whispers: Making Meaning Out of Transition”, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Social Hall. She will lead a discussion on dealing with times of transition: loss of a job or spouse, children leaving home, a parent who is ill. How do we find meaning and purpose in our lives when faced with these challenges? Rabbi Kedar teaches matters of the spirit to groups throughout the U.S. She is senior rabbi at Congregation B’nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in the Chicago area. She is the author of many books including “God Whispers” and “Lessons of the Heart,” teaching spiritual forgiveness.

The cost for the Rabbi Kedar full day program including a light luncheon is $36, payable to Monmouth Reform Temple, 332 Hance Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724. The program is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County.
This year is a Jewish leap year. A Jewish leap year, which occurs seven times in a 19 year cycle, has 13 months instead of the regular 12 months. The Jewish calendar is based on moon cycles instead of sun cycles. Leap months are added to sync up with sun cycles. The additional month is known as Adar I or Adar Alef and is inserted before the regular month of Adar which is then called Adar 11 or Adar Bet. Purim is celebrated in the “real” Adar which is Adar Bet. We have no Jewish Holidays this month which is Adar Alef.

Our students are working hard in their Judaic and Hebrew studies. Our Kindergarten and first grade students will be participating in Shabbat services on Friday, March 14. Our second and third grade students will participate in Shabbat services on Friday, April 4. Our 4th, 5th and 6th graders are working on their Hebrew reading and learning the prayers for the services that they will lead in February and March. Our 7th graders are preparing for their Bnei Mitzvah services.

We recently celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the new year of the trees. Our goal at MRT is to plant 100 trees in Israel through the JNF. Please help us do this important mitzvah by planting a tree in memory or in honor of someone. Tree planting forms have been sent home.

Upcoming events:

- Sunday February 2 – Parent / Teacher Conferences Grades K-5
- Wednesday February 5 – Parent / Teacher Conferences Grades 6 and 7
- Sunday February 9 – 4th Grade Siddur Ceremony
- Sunday February 9 – 7th Grade Scavenger Hunt with Rabbi Priesand from 10:30-12:00
- Sunday February 16 – No school.
- Saturday February 22 – 6th grade leads Shabbat services at 10:00 am
- Sunday February 23 – 6th grade PACT Program.
- Friday February 28 – 5th Grade lead Shabbat services at 7:00 pm.

Congratulations to our February Bat Mitzvah

On February 15th Rachel Romanick will be called to Torah.

Rachel is currently an eight grader at Lacey Middle school where her favorite subjects are Science and Foreign Language. Rachel is a member of the Naturalist Club and also enjoys weekly sessions in Karate(Brown Belt) and Voice.

Rachel has been attending MRT since birth and credits her Nana for suggesting that her Mom and Dad bring her to MRT. Although Rachel struggled to prepare for her Bat Mitzvah she remains grateful that Cantor Gabby who continued to believe in her. Rachel also wishes to thank Rabbi Ourach for his patience and guidance.

Congratulations to Rachel and her family!

Have you been keeping up with your New Year’s resolution to get in shape? Sisterhood can help!

Pilates with Nadine: Sunday, February 9th from 4-6 pm. Cost: $24

Join our own Nadine Vicenzi for a heart healthy, core building event in her private studio. Learn the techniques for a safe and challenging workout while you increased strength and understanding of your body. Post-workout refreshments will be served!

Please RSVP to nadinevicenzi@gmail.com or sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org. Cash or check only please, made out to MRT Sisterhood.

It's another Kitchen Caper!
While you are working toward greater health, you are also helping Sisterhood raise funds for our kitchen renovation. Kitchen Capers is our Fundraiser series to support the long dreamed-of Kitchen Renovation. Kitchen Capers are small group activities hosted by our own congregants whose event reflects their interests and passions. If you are interested in hosting an event, please contact Linda Murray @ lwmurray1@gmail.com.
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
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
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 rock icons singing funny Jewish versions of their best-loved songs. Eric Clapton as King Ahasuerus! David Bowie as Haman! Jerry Garcia as Mordecai! Heart’s Ann Wilson as Esther! With a little help from The Beatles and many more!

Produced And Directed By Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

Rehearsals will be at 7 pm on Thursdays February 13, 20, 27 and March 6 and 13.
A NIGHT AT THE RACES
Only a Few Days Away
order a Racing Kit, buy & name a horse, sponsor a race, participate in the 50/50 raffle
When: February 8, 2014, 6:00 PM
Where: Colts Neck Inn
6 County Road, Route 537 West, Colts Neck, NJ
Monica O’Donnell Feigus, Event Chair
732-223-7536 or monicaod615@aol.com

A NIGHT AT THE RACES is the MRT’s Ways & Means Committee’s featured fundraiser. The event was carefully designed to be an evening of fun at low cost for adult temple members, including their friends and extended family. The evening features 8 races, with 10 horses in each race. The maximum bet on any one horse is $2 (yes, two dollars.) The tape comes to us sealed, to be opened just before the first race.

A Racing Kit may be purchased in advance for $30 per person, $40 at the door. Contact Karen Cole (kmcole84@comcast.net) or the temple office to reserve your kit and save $10. Racing Kits include tickets for light buffet dinner (6:15-7:30), one beer or wine, 25 raffles (one sheet), door prizes, $5 funny money, and racing program.

Winners will receive one sheet of raffle tickets for each dollar won. Remember, even if a patron is winless, 25 raffle tickets are included in the racing kit. Prizes include: a flat screen television, iPad Air, and many more. Drop the numbered tickets into the prize box you are interested in winning. There is no limit to how many tickets you can drop in any one box.

We hope that temple members and guests will support our 50/50 raffle: 5 tickets for only $20. The winner will be announced at 9:30 PM at the event. He/she does not have to be present to win. Contact Karen Cole (kmcole84@comcast.net) with questions. Additional 50/50 raffle books are available from the temple office and at the night of the event.

Buy and name a horse for $25. The winning owner of each race goes into a separate drawing. The winner of this special raffle receives the Grand Prize – a Diamond Tennis Bracelet. Only a maximum of 8 names can be entered.

Splurge and sponsor a race for $200. Receive 2 racing kits, an ad in the Racing Program and mention during the evening. Donate $100 for an ad in the racing program.
To buy a horse and/or sponsor a race contact Jay Feigus at 732-890-5500 for specifics.

You have to be in it to win it,
David Levinsky, W&M Chair
Movies & Books: Sisterhood and the MRT Library Join Together!

Sisterhood and the MRT Library have been busy developing programs for your enjoyment. Our monthly book club continues to be an event that brings readers together to discuss books and exchange ideas. All sisterhood members are welcome to our gatherings that are warm, fun, social and enlightening. You can view the list of books and synopses of each on the sisterhood blog @ http://mrtsisterhood.wordpress.com/

Sisterhood and the MRT Library will be hosting a Jewish Film Festival this spring. All movies, purchased from the National Center for Jewish Film, are documentaries about extraordinary women. $24 for the series of 3. $10 for individual tickets.

Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg – Monday, April 7 @ 7:00 pm

Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg is the funny and surprising story of radio & television pioneer Gertrude Berg. Creator, star and writer (12,000 scripts!) of the hit sitcom The Goldbergs, Berg was a beloved trailblazer, the Oprah of her day. Berg’s blend of comedy and social commentary—with Jewish characters at the center—endeared audiences and made her an American cultural icon.

 Ahead of Time, The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber – Monday, May 5 @ 7:00 pm

With her love of adventure and fearlessness, Ruth Gruber defied tradition from the moment she became the world’s youngest PhD at the age of 20 in 1931. Ahead of Time tells the remarkable journey of 96 year-old Gruber. Gruber continued to make history throughout her trail-blazing career by becoming the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic in 1935 and escorting 1000 Holocaust refugees from Naples to New York in a secret war-time mission in 1944. She covered the heart wrenching ordeal of the refugees aboard the ship Exodus 1947 with photographs that helped change the world.

Mamadrama, The Jewish Mother in Cinema – Monday, June 2 @ 7:00 pm

Jewish mothers are the most easily maligned image of Jewish women found in movies and television today. You know who they are: the caricature of the overbearing, emasculating, long suffering mother ever-ready with mountains of food. Australian director Monique Schwarz takes a penetrating look at how the loving and affectionate portrayals in early Yiddish and Hollywood silent movies developed into the Jewish Mother of modern Hollywood and, conversely, the more flesh and blood characterizations in contemporary Israeli cinema.

All Proceeds to benefit the MRT Kitchen Fund

Women Unchained. Free. Date TBA.

Women Unchained, an important new film documenting the experiences of modern-day “agunot,” or women whose husbands refuse to grant them a Jewish divorce. According to traditional Jewish law, a woman who is an “aguna” (from the Hebrew word meaning “chained”) cannot re-marry. Among the women profiled are Susan Weiss, founder of the Center for Women’s Justice, who successfully sued in Israeli court a husband who refused for 16 years to grant his wife a "get." Narrated by actress Mayim Bialik (Blossom, The Big Bang Theory).
After an eight year battle, “Progressive houses of prayer are slowly becoming the synagogues of choice for non-Orthodox Israel” as reported in *The Times* of Israel. The salaries of Reform Rabbis in kibbutzim or other regional communities, as opposed to cities or towns, were paid for the first time, at the end of December, by the State of Israel. In the past, the Reform movement had been paying their salaries through organizational funds and donations. Now the salaries will be paid by the State of Israel budget via the Ministry of Culture and Sport. This is unlike the Orthodox Rabbis who have always been paid by the State. The Reform movement hopes to add salaries for another 8 or more regional Reform rabbis in the near future. The Conservative movement also aims to increase their numbers and recognition by the State by way of salary payment.

American born Reform Rabbi Miri Gold started her lawsuit against the government in 2005 and is thrilled at the successful conclusion. Gold was represented by IRAC (Israel Reform Action Center) during her 8 year battle. Rabbi Gold stated, “We have a longer term goal of separation of church and state. But as long as that doesn’t happen, the government should participate in paying non-Orthodox rabbis.” Gold has been widely acclaimed as a star of the Diaspora wide campaign for pluralism in Israel and her victory for religious equality holds great promise for the unity of Jewish people around the world. This is a sign of recognition, not that the political climate has changed, but that Israeli society has changed.

Last Fall the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County had a "call out" day to call new and old donors to pledge their support. Awards were given for various categories. MRT received an award of $180 for having four participants and making many calls. The participants were; Elise Aptaker, Faith Leifman, Rachel Rennert, and Nadine Vicenzi.

Congratulations to all involved!

**MEN’S CLUB**

Hello,

I would like to thank everyone who helped the Men’s Club by sending donations during the year end contribution drive. We are still below last year’s contributions, so if you haven’t sent a donation it would be appreciated if you can send a check to the temple with Men’s Club mentioned somewhere on the check. Your contribution goes a long way in providing not only Men’s Club events but also MRT events.

On the subject of events, the Men’s Club is planning a March Madness party in the temple social hall. If you are not aware of the event; it takes place on April 5th during the Final Four College basketball tournament. The tournament will be shown on the big screen. Prizes will be given out to the winner and loser of the basketball pool. Of course food will be provided. It is open to all, men, women and children. It should be a great time seeing friends and meeting new ones. More information will be coming.

A quick reminder, if you would like to get involved with the Men’s Club our meetings is on the first Monday of every month in the temple library at 7:30 pm. This is where we get the ideas of which events to have. New input is always appreciated.

All male congregants should be getting updates of what’s going on with the Men’s Club. I try not to keep them long or send out to many. If you are not receiving E-mails please send me a quick note on the e-mail address you want it sent to so I can add to our list.

I hope this letter find you and your family in great spirits and good health.

Sincerely, Mitch Baum, President of the Men’s Club
February Yahrtzeits (date based on when they occur)

Names to be Read on Friday, February 7th (Services at 6pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, February 14th (Services at 7pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, February 21st (Services at 7pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, February 28th (Services at 7pm)
THE BULLETIN

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

**Adult Ed Fund**
In Memory Of:
Abraham Wolf Honig
   Celia Honig
   Jeff Horn
   Peg and Jerry Baker
In Honor Of:
Peg and Jerry Baker on their granddaughter Alyssa Austin’s Bat Mitzvah
   Jack and Norma Kohn

**Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund**
In Memory Of:
James Abis
   Arlene and Jim Berg
   Richard Gaudette
   Monica Schneider-Brewer and James Brewer
In Honor Of:
Jill and Jim Austin on their daughter Alyssa’s Bat Mitzvah
   Arlene and Jim Berg
   Monica Schneider-Brewer and James Brewer
   Ellen and Donald Byck

**Oneg Fund**
In Memory Of:
Goldie Bialy
   Jack and Norma Kohn
   Gussie Weiss
   Susan Martin
   Frances Sporn
   Susan and Roy Gelber
   Jeff Horn
   Helaine and Donald Rothman, Marilyn and David Michaels
   Dorothy Eleanor Grauer, Harold Grauer
   Maddy and Michael Kalb
   Ruth Bernstein
   Barbara and Richard Gitlin

**Flower Fund**
In Memory Of:
Jennie Rosenweig
   Susan and James Harran
   Edythe Albert and Sophie Wald
   Joyce and John Christie
   Eleanor Peskoe
   Alfred Peskoe
   Vallie Marks
   Irma and Peter Meyer
   Leonore and Max Rosen
   Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

**General Fund**
In Memory Of:
Harold Rubin
   Susan and Joseph Frankel
In Honor Of:
Peg and Jerry Baker on their granddaughter Alyssa Austin’s Bat Mitzvah
   Irma and Peter Meyer

**Homeless Fund**
In Memory Of:
Jeff Horn
   Linda and Ira Friedman
   Arnold Levin
   Anita Spector
In Honor Of:
Peg and Jerry Baker on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Alyssa Austin
   Anita Spector and Sandy

**Shabbat Kallah Fund**
In Honor Of:
Karen Karl and John Heidema on the birth of their granddaughter
   Monica Schneider-Brewer and James Brewer

**Cantor’s Fund**
In Memory Of:
Jeff Horn
   Marcia Horn
In Honor Of:
Maxine, Alan and Brianon the Bar Mitzvah of Alex
   Trudy and Steve Goldsmith
   Cantor Cissold’s Birthday
   Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

**Gan Mazon**
Marc Levinsky and Melinda Levinsky

**Mazon Fund**
In Memory Of:
Morris Bernstein
   Barbara and Richard Gitlin
In Honor Of:
Frank Welton celebrating a special birthday
   Ellie Goodman

**Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund**
In Memory Of:
Murray Zatt
   Ellen Heffes

**Adam Greenfield Religious School Fund**
In Honor Of:
Jill and Jim Austin on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Alyssa’s Bat Mitzvah
   Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

**Sisterhood Scholarship Fund**
In Memory Of:
Jeff Horn
   Marcia Horn

**Youth Group Fund**
In Honor Of:
Jill and Jim Austin on their daughter Alyssa’s Bat Mitzvah
   Norma and Jack Kohn
   Emily Halpern’s graduation
   Monica Schneider Brewer and James Brewer
### MRT STAFF

- **Rabbi Robert Ourach**
  - Rabbi@monmouthreformtemple.org
- **Cantor Gabrielle Clissold**
  - cantorclissold@monmouthreformtemple.org
- **Rabbi Emerita Sally J. Priesand**
  - rsjp@optonline.net
- **Religious School Principal Vera Galleid**
  - rsprincipal@monmouthreformtemple.org
- **Office Administrator Mindy Gorowitz**
  - mindy@monmouthreformtemple.org
- **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**

### Auxiliaries

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

- **Jill (Baker) Austin**
  - Realtor Associate®, GRI, ABR
  - Serving the needs of MRT members since 2001, Lifelong Monmouth County Resident
  - 2009 Associate of the Year - Gloria Nilson Holmdel Office
  - 31 West Main Street, Holmdel, NJ 07733
  - Office: 732-946-3200 x150  Cell: 732-213-1063
  - jaustin@glorianilson.com
  - Search thousands of homes from my website JillAustin.myglorianilsonagent.com

### Lloyd Fitzsimmons

**Personal Driver**

in the cost-friendly comfort of your car

- **732-320-0396**
- References Aplenty

### LM Designs

**Invitations Gifts Promotional Items**

www.LMDesigns.biz  By appointment in Holmdel  732.335.4002
# February 2014

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

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>9:30am Rel School</td>
<td>7:30pm Men's Club Board</td>
<td>7:30pm Religious Ed</td>
<td>4pm Religious School</td>
<td>7:30pm Intro to Judaism</td>
<td>3:30pm Shabbat @ Chelsea</td>
<td>9am Shabbat Services &amp; Torah Study</td>
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<td>9:30am Bagels &amp; Blocks</td>
<td>9:30am 4th grade Siddur</td>
<td>6:30pm Susie Fishbein cooking class</td>
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<td>5:30pm K-1 Pre-oneg</td>
<td>6pm W&amp;M A Night at the Races Colts' Neck Inn</td>
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<td>12:30pm Stud Art</td>
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<td>9:30am Rel School</td>
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<td>7:30pm Special Congregational Meeting</td>
<td>7pm Purim Shpiel Rehearsal</td>
<td>10:30am Shabbat @ Kensington</td>
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<td>MRT OFFICE CLOSED Washington’s Birthday</td>
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# Jewish Scholars Month

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<tr>
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| 7-9 March     | **Michael Friedman**  | **Friday, March 7, 2014**: Shabbat Eve (7pm)  
                 |                       | “Jews and Interfaith Dialogue: Recent Developments in Jewish Theology” (Sermon followed by Q+A during service)  
                 |                       | **Sunday, March 9, 2014**: 10am  
                 |                       | Sunday Morning Study with a Schmear: Buddhism and Bagels  
                 |                       | “When Monks and Manischevitz Collide” |
| 28-29 March   | **Rabbi Stephen Pearce** | **Friday, March 28, 2014**: Shabbat Eve sermon (7pm)  
                 |                       | “Shifting Landscapes: Redefining Jewish Groupings”  
                 |                       | **Saturday, March 29, 2014**: 10am  
                 |                       | “Overlooking the Obvious: The Binding of Issac Revealed in Literature and Poetry”  
                 |                       | Made possible by a generous bequest from Bob Rosin, Past President |
| 6 April       | **Rabbi Karyn Kedar** | **Morning Session**: 10-12pm  
                 |                       | “The Sacred Partnership-Leadership is a Calling”  
                 |                       | **Lunch**: 12-1pm  
                 |                       | **Afternoon Session**: 1-3pm  
                 |                       | “God Whispers, Making Meaning Out of Transition” |

**Cost**: $36, includes morning session, light lunch, afternoon session  
**RSVP**: Temple Office  
helene@monmouthreformtemple.org

Rabbi Kedar will be available to sign copies of her books during the afternoon session.  
Made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County

Monmouth Reform Temple • 332 Hance Ave • Tinton Falls  
www.monmouthreformtemple.org