



THE MRT BULLETIN

December 2014

Volume LVI Issue Vi

Cheshvan-Kislev 5775

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

Schedule of Services December 2014

Friday, December 5th



5:30pm PreOneg sponsored
by 6th grade

6pm Shabbat Services with
Shir Chadash Band
Pot Luck Dinner follows

Please bring enough for 10-12 people
A-F Salad G-Z Pasta/Chicken

Saturday, December 6th

10am Bar Mitzvah of Mark Schmidt

Friday, December 12

INSTALLATION WEEKEND

7pm Shabbat Services
Rabbi Kline installation celebration
Visual T'filah & Special Oneg

Saturday, December 13th

INSTALLATION WEEKEND

9am Torah Study followed by luncheon
2pm Family Shabbaton
6pm Havdallah followed by Beth Schafer
concert

Friday, December 19th

6pm Shabbat Services—NOTE 6PM SERVICE
Followed by Sisterhood/Men's Club Chanukah
Party
Bring Your Own Menorah

Friday, December 26th

6pm Shabbat Services—NOTE 6PM SERVICE

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

Thank you....

When attending services and all other events at MRT
remember that people around you are sensitive to sound,
scent, and distraction.

Please always enjoy being here in ways that help others
enjoy being here, too.



**Monmouth Reform Temple invites you to join
us for the Installation of Rabbi Marc Kline,
as we recommit ourselves to the synergy
of God, Torah, and each other.**

The Celebration Begins
Friday, December 12

7:00pm - Visual T'filah Service

Rabbi Gene Levy and Rabbi Dan Freeland

9:00pm - Festive Oneg

The Celebration Continues
Saturday, December 13

9:00am - Special Torah Study Session

Join us in the library for discussion. Lunch to follow.

2:00pm - Shabbaton

Family Chanukah Activities

6:00pm - Havdallah Service

Followed immediately with an evening of Music
with Beth Schafer.

**We hope you will join us throughout the
weekend to experience this time of renewal
as a people and a congregation!**

Hip Hop | ARI LESSER comes to mrt



International **ARI LESSER** to perform

singer

rapper

songwriter

spoken word artist

FREE CONCERT

Sunday, 7 December - 7pm



MRT's COMMUNITY HANUKKAH PARTY

DECEMBER 19TH

**DINNER...ADULT SCHMOOZING...
ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH...
FUN FOR EVERYONE**

**SPECIAL HANUKKAH SHABBAT SERVICE AT 6PM!
DINNER AND PARTY AT 7PM!**

POT LUCK CHICKEN & LATKE SUPPER

**CHICKEN, LATKES AND DESSERT PROVIDED BY
SISTERHOOD AND THE MEN'S CLUB**

YOU BRING A FAVORITE POT-LUCK APPETIZER, SALAD, OR SIDE

**RSVP REQUESTED BY DECEMBER 15TH TO
SISTERHOOD@MONMOUTHREFORMTEMPLE.ORG
SO WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND TABLES FOR DINNER**



**FEEL FREE TO BRING A BOTTLE OF WINE
OR YOUR FAVORITE ADULT BEVERAGE**

From Rabbi Marc Kline



Wow! We have lived here for six months already, and parts of it already feel so familiar, even while every wrong turn is a new geographical adventure. In a short time, MRT has traveled a great distance. We have literally opened our doors to new people and new ideas, we have fostered some experimentation, we have had some huge successes, some good “starting trend investments,” and some challenges that require rethinking and tweaking. In all, the vibrancy and electricity I have experienced here is exciting. We have a lot of work to do, but we are preparing ourselves to “boldly go where no MRT has gone before!”

As it got cold the other day, I found myself watching some old Star Trek episodes. Of the three creators of Star Trek (Bob Justman, Herb Solow, Gene Roddenberry), two were Jewish ... as are William Shatner (Captain Kirk) and Leonard Nimoy (Spock). If one pays attention to the themes of the original Star Trek (and later versions, as well) episodes, they seem as though taken straight from the Talmud. Now, all of the above deny this being the case, but each episode was a social commentary on history and human psychology, and each carried with it a strong message of social morality. What I always find amusing in the argument that the Jewish background of the parties had no role in the scripts, is that that notion, itself, is just so Jewish!

Our tradition is one that demands that living Jewishly means “LIVING Jewishly.” The Talmud reminds us that the culture of the land in which we live is our culture (which is why Jews practice differently all over the world). Our tradition reminds us, even in our liturgy, that Torah is not something to study or teach. Rather, “La-asok b’divrae Torah.” We busy ourselves in Torah; it helps us in the marketplace to be ethical, in our relationships to be respectful, and in our actions to be prayerful and holy. To “Do Judaism” appropriately, is to pay attention to the world around us and be meaningful in making a difference for the good ... respecting everyone along the way.

That the Star Trek crowd cannot see the Jewish themes in the shows persona speaks volumes to the way in which they understood and lived Jewishly in the fiber of being.

This is our goal, to so appreciate and understand our traditional call to righteousness that our default answers make us the exemplars of ethical decision making and practical living. Being Jewish is not about the ritual we observe. The ritual helps remind us of what is at stake. Being Jewish is not a command to accept “this or that” about God. Knowing that we stand before judgment to our communities and to the world is “GOD ENOUGH” for me, and if each of us held this ideal sacred, there would be a lot less “me” in the “me”nbership” of humanity. That is what we do at MRT, everyone counts, and our goal is to help each other see this within the wall of our congregation in throughout the walls of our respective communities. Let us all “live long and prosper.”

A Talk: Advancing Interfaith Relations: A Jewish Perspective

With Rabbi Marc A. Kline
Wednesday, December 10th
7:30-9:30pm

Monmouth University, Wilson Hall

Organized by the Jewish Cultural Studies Program and the Office for Global Initiatives

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

In the month of December at MRT
There are opportunities galore to grow and sing!
On December the 4th come learn and grow
With the 92 Y teaching Israel's way forward!
On December 7th we present the Rapper from Cleveland
Who raps and sings and with a great deal of feeling!
On December 12th we bless our Rabbi with fervor!
And continue to sing with the amazing Beth Shafer!.
And don't forget to celebrate Chanukah too,
With friends to greet and latkes too!
Details now emailed and written with care,
Be sure you come here and celebrate with cheer!

**LIVE FROM NEW YORK!****4 December @ 8:15pm****America and Israel: The Way Forward**

Ambassador Dennis Ross and Dalia Rabin, former Israeli Deputy Minister of Defense and daughter of Yitzhak Rabin in an enlightening discussion on the future of Israel.

\$18.00 for a single program

LOCATION: MRT Social Hall

Note: NO tickets will be sent. Check in at desk night of each event.

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

92Y 140 years

NOTE: Programs are live and start promptly at the indicated time.

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



This is the season for many celebrations within our congregation —some of them traditional and one of them transitional.

First, the transitional: We are celebrating Rabbi Kline's installation on December 12-13. Rabbi Marc has been our rabbi since July 1 and he has led us already through almost half a year. He presided over our wonderful High Holy Day observances, which was his mass introduction to our MRT community. Since he has arrived, Rabbi Marc has been meeting us, building relationships with us, engaging with us in worship, social action, community building, education and more.

Rabbi Marc is the tenth rabbi for MRT and with his installation we begin a new chapter in our congregational history. Already, we have experienced his warmth and know the importance he places on personal relationships and partnerships with our internal and external communities. As we observe our transition, I want us to be aware of our necessary role as full members of the partnership. It is our role to step forward and engage, to participate, to be volunteers when there are initiatives, and to be the congregational family that we aspire to be. We have worship services (at least) weekly, educational opportunities for adults, children, and families, social action projects, including the revived Mitzvah Day in May, and community activities—Sisterhood and Men's Club, special events and celebrations. Be the partner by engaging in the life of your temple!

Now for the celebration. As Rabbi Marc points out, our installation celebration is about the transition and growth of MRT. You will see elsewhere in this Bulletin, and in the coming weekly email blasts, the schedule of events. We will have worship (Friday evening), study (Saturday morning), family activities (Saturday afternoon), and a special concert (Saturday evening). At our service of installation, we have special external guests: Rabbi Gene Levy is Rabbi Kline's mentor and a classmate of Rabbi Priesand at HUC. He is in part responsible for Rabbi Marc's decision to abandon law in favor of the rabbinate. Also, Rabbi Dan Freeland, a noted Jewish leader, musician, song-writer, vice-president at URJ, current President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and a long-time friend of Rabbi Marc will be our guest. On Saturday evening, after Havdalah, Jewish musician and song-writer Beth Schafer, who grew up in Marlboro, NJ, will present a concert for our temple family. I met Beth at the Scheidt seminar for incoming temple presidents, which I attended in April, 2013, and know this will be a wonderful concert. Come, celebrate, mark our transition!

Traditional celebration 1: When you are reading this, Thanksgiving will be past. But, I am writing this before Thanksgiving. I am looking forward to our Erev Thanksgiving service at the Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury. The Church was the first home of MRT, from our founding in 1959 until we moved into our building in 1967. We are true friends and renew our community together every year before Thanksgiving. The service is wonderful and we are grateful to have the friendship of our congregations.

Traditional celebration 2: The weekend after Rabbi Kline's installation will be our temple celebration of Chanukah. Sisterhood and Men's Club are jointly planning the celebration for the Erev Shabbat of Chanukah, as described elsewhere in this Bulletin. We are fortunate to have many temple celebrations each year—participate in our temple celebration of Chanukah.

As a family, we celebrate our traditions and our transitions. Join in!

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

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of November 18, 2014 and would like to acknowledge positive happenings within our congregation.

After the successful renovation project in our Social Hall this past summer, our Capital Improvement Task Force will begin to look at our facility and determine the best way to proceed with projects that will maintain and enhance our facility. Our Membership Committee reports that we have nine new families at MRT, many of which have joined us as a result of the outreach activities during the High Holy Days. The Men's Club wants to thank everyone who helped with the Sukkah last month. Please join the Men's Club for a Monday Night Football Television outing on December 1st. The Leadership Training program will be meeting again this month. The Youth Group 8th and 9th graders will be having their retreat later this month. Congratulations to our Ways and Means (aka fundraising)

Committee, their annual Rummage Sale raised over \$7600. The Arts and Deco Committee is meeting regularly to develop their plans and recommendations for the best use of our space.

A special note: Congratulations to Dean Ross who, along the staff at the Doc Shoppe Shoe Store in Red Bank, were honored by the Red Bank Council for generosity in providing hundreds of pairs of new shoes to children in need.

The board conducted a High Holy Day Appeal phonation to ask our members to help us reach the goal of 100% participation in the HHDA. To date we have collected 75% of our financial goal, but with 29% participation at the time of this writing, we are still below our participation goal. Please consider donating if you have not already done so.

The Adult Education Committee and Cantor Clissold will be showing the last of the 92nd St Y Simulcasts on December 4th with a broadcast of *America and Israel: The Way Forward*, featuring Dalia Rabin and Dennis Ross, with moderator Ethan Bronner. Adult Ed is also finalizing plans to host Rabbi Amy Scheinerman as a visiting scholar in the Spring.

The Religious Ed Committee wants to thank everyone for the great support they have been showing for our Religious School and our Community Outreach Program.

Mitzvah Day is being revived and will be Sunday May 17th. This is a great opportunity for members of our congregation to get involved by providing help and assistance to those in our community. Dean Ross will be the chair for Mitzvah Day.

Several Board appointed Task Forces reported. The Membership Role Policy Task Force is seeking to finalize those who will serve on this Task Force. If there are any additional MRT members who would like to be involved please contact the office. The Library Task force is looking into how we currently use the library and whether the internet has changed the way that we use the space and if so, make recommendations on the best way for our library to be configured. The Capital Improvement Task Force is prioritizing the best use of our capital funds to maintain our facility to meet our current and future needs. A Fund Raising Task Force is being assembled to help to coordinate all of the fund raising activities at MRT.

The Board reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending on October 31, 2014. While our expenses are in line with the budget, we are behind in our income for the period.

Rabbi Klein told the Board the Tuesday Morning Discussion Group is growing. Also, MRT has been invited to be the lead group for next year's URJ trip to Israel. The trip will be in the summer of 2015 if we can get enough members to go.

Cantor Clissold wanted to let the board know that we are having two amazing performers at MRT in December. Ari Lesser, a Jewish hip hop singer, writer and spoken word artist will be with us on December 7th. And Beth Schafer, a Jewish folk singer and music leader will present a concert as part of Rabbi Kline's installation weekend on December 13th, after our Havdalah service.

In his President's Report, Jay Wiesenfeld invited everyone to attend our annual Thanksgiving service with the the Presbyterian Church of Shrewsbury. This year, the service will be held at their facility in Shrewsbury. The Installation Service for Rabbi Kline will be held on Friday, December 12 followed by a very special Oneg. Rabbi Daniel Freeland, president World Union for Progressive Judaism, will be attending and will lead a Board Development Workshop that Friday afternoon. There is an opening on the Board of Trustees. Anyone interested in filling that seat should contact Jay Wiesenfeld. We are continuing our discussion with our youth group for the use of the youth lounge.

MRT Home Service for Chanukah

Place the chanukiyah (Chanukah Menorah) on your front porch or in a window facing the street so that its lights proclaim to all that you are proud to be Jewish and share the miracle of Chanukah with the world. Place the candles in the menorah from right to left and light them from left to right ("newest" candle is lit first).

Each night, start with this prayer:

The lights of Chanukah are sacred. They are a symbol of our joyful connection to the Jewish people. In time of darkness, our ancestors had the courage to struggle for freedom: freedom to be themselves, to worship and live as Jews. Theirs was a victory of the few over the many, the weak over the strong. It was a victory for all ages and all people. Let these lights shine forth for the world. May they illumine our lives and fill us with gratitude for all God's gifts.

Light the shamash and recite:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha-olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.

Blessed are You Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who sanctifies us with mitzvot and commands us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Use the shamash to light the chanukah candles as you recite:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha-olam she-asah nisim l'avoteinu ba-yamim ha-heim ba-z'man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who wrought miracles for our ancestors in ancient days at this season.

On the first night only add:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהִחְיָנוּ וְקִיַּמְנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Barukh atah Adonai Eloheinu melek ha-olam, she-hechyanu v'kee-y'manu v'hi-gi-anu la-z'man ha-zeh.

Blessed are You Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

With the candles fully aflame, offer the special reading for each night on the back of this page. Take turns each night with a different reader. Finish your Chanukah ceremony by singing "Ma-oz Tzur - Rock of Ages"

**Ma-oz tzur yishu-ati, l'cha na-eh l'shabe-ach,
Tikon beit t'filati, v'sham todah n'zabe-ach,
L'eit tak-in mat-be-ach,
mi-tzar ha-m'na-be-ach,
Az eg-more b'shir mizmor,
hanukat ha-mizbe-ach**

מְעוֹז צוּר יִשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נָאָה לְשָׁבַח,
תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי וְשָׁם תּוֹדָה נִזְבַּח,
לַעֲת תִּכְיִן מִטְּבַח מִצָּר הַמְּנַבֵּחַ,
אֲז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ.

English Translation:

Rock of Ages let our song praise Your saving power
You amid the raging foes, were our sheltering tower
Furious they assailed us but Your arm availed us
And Your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us

MRT Home Service for Chanukah**SPECIAL READINGS FOR THE EIGHT NIGHTS OF CHANUKAH**

(insert each day after lighting the Menorah)

First Night: Freedom We kindle these Chanukah lights in memory of the dedication and courage of the Maccabees. Believing that they should be free to worship God as their hearts and minds dictated, they willingly gave their lives for freedom. Now, with these candles, we rededicate ourselves to the task of creating a world where all may know the joy of freedom.

Second Night: Family Tonight, as we celebrate Chanukah together, we are conscious of our precious gift of family. So often we take one another for granted, forgetting to express our love and concern. Now, with these festive lights, let us rededicate ourselves to sharing our interests and time with one another. Like the Maccabees of old, let us always face the tribulations and the joys of life united by our family bonds. May our love for each other increase through deeds of kindness and thoughtfulness.

Third Night: Study of Torah On this third night of Chanukah, we rededicate ourselves to the study of Torah. As the Maccabees courageously fought to preserve our tradition, we too are duty-bound to sustain our heritage and deepen our understanding of it through study. By increasing our knowledge of Judaism, we become more sensitive to its abiding values and more aware of our responsibility to realize those values in our society. Study opens our minds and fortifies us against tyranny. Learning secures our freedom. Now, with these candles, let us rededicate ourselves to the study of our tradition.

Fourth Night: Hope Our ancestors taught us that in hope the future of humanity is illumined and made creative. Many people in the world live in fear and great despair. But like the Maccabees of old, we must learn to build our lives on hope: hope that ultimately truth will triumph over falsehood, and confidence that knowledge and understanding will finally depose superstition and tyranny. Now, with these Chanukah lights, may our lives be strengthened by the highest hopes and visions of our faith.

Fifth Night: Peace The candles of Chanukah remind us of our mission as Jews. Like the Maccabees, we seek to rededicate ourselves to the service of God. Today one of our foremost tasks is to secure peace in our troubled world. Whenever we end disagreements through mutual understanding, whenever we seek to mend hurt and wounded feelings, we are doing our part in making peace a living ideal. Now, with our Chanukah candles, let us rededicate ourselves with renewed strength to the task of securing peace.

Sixth Night: Tzedakah Our tradition tells us that during the Maccabean war for freedom, all Jews, both children and adults, contributed tzedakah toward the cause of defeating the oppressor. Many forms of oppression still exist in the world today: sickness, hunger, ignorance, prejudice. Tonight, we like our ancestors set aside gifts of tzedakah in order that we too may help bring an end to oppression. We pray that the gifts we offer will provide food for the hungry, medicine for the sick, knowledge for the ignorant, and equal opportunity for those afflicted by prejudice.

Seventh Night: Respect You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Respect for others is the basis for harmony among people and nations. With these candles, may we recognize the dignity of all people and remember the respect and honor we owe to others.

Eighth Night: Faith Tonight, all the candles in our Chanukah menorah are lit. Throughout the centuries, the menorah has been a symbol of our faith in God and our commitment to Judaism. Like the Maccabees of old, we rededicate ourselves to the task of living a more meaningful Jewish life. Not by might nor by power but by my spirit, says God.

From Vera Galleid, Religious School Principal



We are thankful that we have food and sustenance. We did the mitzvah of feeding the hungry by donating food to Jewish Family and Children's services for their

Thanksgiving food drive. Thanks to our MRT families for sending in lots of food and to our third graders and their parents for packaging and delivering the food.

Our third graders researched their Hebrew names and explored their family trees at our third grade PACT program. They made Hebrew name bracelets and Chanukiyot (Chanukah Menorahs) and wrote their names in Aleph-Bet cookies.

We are excited that our Mitzvah Academy students are participating in a Retreat at Camp Harlam with students from four other Reform Temples. They will celebrate Shabbat together and participate in many activities.

Our fourth graders will make siddur covers for their first siddurim at our PACT program. They will create a Jewish Heritage Museum with family heirlooms and will be docents when our students visit the museum.

We have many special events in December. Please join us for the Ari Lesser concert on Sunday December 7th at 7:00 pm. Ari is a hip hop singer, writer and spoken word artist. This concert is free and open to the public, so bring your friends.

We are looking forward to Rabbi Kline's Installation Weekend and we hope that you will attend all the events. Please come to the installation at 7:00 pm on Friday December 12th. On Saturday, December 13th there will be Torah study in the morning and a special family program in the afternoon. Havdallah will take place at 6:00 pm followed by an evening of music with Beth Schafer. This concert is also free and open to the public.

Then we will celebrate Chanukkah, our Festival of Lights with a special program to teach us how olive oil was made using the olive press. We will sing and light our Chanukiyot at the Family Chanukah Party on Sunday December 21st.

Please encourage your children to create a Chanukiya for our Chanukah Menorah Contest. Entries must be submitted by Sunday December 14th. Prizes will be given to all those who participate and winners will be chosen by our students.

Our Chanukah Tzedakkah Project is to collect Holiday Gifts to donate to needy children. We would like our students to give up one Chanukkah gift and donate it. Please do not wrap the gifts. Gift cards may also be donated. Gifts should be brought in by December 21st.

Chanukah sameach. Enjoy celebrating Chanukkah with your family and friends.
Vera Galleid.

Save the Date!

The MRT Shabbat Kallah

February 7, 2015

with Rabbi Amy Scheinerman

a little Talmud, a little Torah, and a Spiritual Shabbat
Shabbat Service and Torah Study; followed by

a luncheon; later topic discussions and closing Havdalah

Come spend the day . . . or some parts of it.



**From the Transition-In Committee
Karen Levinsky & Karen Seligman Co-chairs**

The Transition-in Committee is excited to announce the plans for the Installation of Rabbi Kline! You should be receiving an invitation in your mailbox soon, but below you'll find a sneak peak at the schedule:

Friday, December 12

7 pm Visual T'filah Installation Service. Special guests include Rabbi Gene Levy and Rabbi Dan Frelander.

9 pm Festive oneg

Saturday, December 13

9 am Study Group led by Rabbi Kline in the library, followed by lunch, catered by Dean Ross

2 pm Shabbaton Hanukkah family activities in the social hall. Spin our 5 foot dreidel, create a keepsake family menorah, and make your very own Havdallah candle. An afternoon of activities appropriate for all ages!

6 pm Musical concert featuring Beth Schafer immediately following Havdallah service.

Hanukkah is a season of renewal and rededication. With that in mind, we have planned a weekend of activities to celebrate our new rabbi and inspire our community. Whether you join us for one event or for all of them, we look forward to sharing this special time with you!

**From the Ways & Means Committee: Rummage Sale Report
David Levinsky, Chair**

Before anyone crows as to the success of our temple's recent rummage sale, I wish to remind the congregation that it was labor intensive. In fact, no fund raising event can take place without the full commitment of the sponsoring Ways & Means Fundraising Committee and the additional volunteers who worked to see the event through. Rummage Sales are especially volunteer driven: donations must be delivered to the temple and people must sort, display and price the merchandise. This year, the social hall and youth lounge were filled with sale worthy items. Our set-up volunteers were so ready and willing to work that we were able to cancel two late evenings anticipated for set-up.

I was fortunate to work with a fabulous, dedicated committee. Thanks to Cora Tuchband, our volunteer coordinator; the on site helpers during the sale kept the thousands of items on the tables organized, neat and ready for sale throughout. Karen Cole supervised financial matters and pricing, plus many details, while small, add up to quite an undertaking. Semmes Brightman took on publicity, ad placement and supervised the Boutique. Addie Bogdanoff worked on pricing, jewelry and providing sound advice.

Rabbi Priesand, Lynn Shapiro and Karen Karl were especially helpful with pricing responsibilities, as well as Boutique and jewelry sales. We are grateful to Stu Tuchband for working with Karen to safeguard the money taken in at check-out and for preparing the event's financials.

Of special note is a temple teenager, Jackie Stern, who worked alongside the core committee during all phases of the rummage sale: donation acceptance, set-up and sales. None of us knew Jackie before the sale--- her work ethic, personality and caring endeared her to the entire committee.

Many temple members contributed to the rummage sale's success and I apologize for not mentioning everyone's name. I hope that they will take pride in that \$7,600 was raised for the temple's general fund. Thanks to all.

Best Wishes,

David Levinsky , Chair, Ways & Means (Fundraising) Committee

From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Committee Chairperson

Conversion in Israel

“Any change in the status quo of the state of religion and state in Israel is a positive advancement toward religious pluralism”, as quoted by Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel.

In an article in The Pluralist, the newsletter of IRAC, it was reported that a government decision has been made allowing for more choice regarding Orthodox conversions. Prior to the recent decision, Orthodox conversion applicants were directed to a particular rabbi in the area, one not necessarily of their own choice. Now, for the first time, those seeking Orthodox conversion can choose among several Rabbinic-approved rabbis, and are not limited to their geographic location. According to Hoffman, though the new ruling has no effect on Reform or Conservative conversions, nevertheless she sees it as a positive move.

IRAC and its partners in North America worked together throughout the process along with a member of the Knesset who proposed the change. Although the bill does not affect non-Orthodox conversions, Hoffman, representing IRAC, believes it is a step in the right direction toward some freedom to choose.

“It is sad that conversion, which is a profound spiritual and emotional revolution that a person makes in his or her own life, has turned into a shallow argument over bureaucracy and technicalities”, stated Anat Hoffman.

Lobby Tzedakah Box December 2014
Little Dresses for Missions by Darrell Painter
Co-sponsors: Julia Sandra Rand and Jacqueline Schneider

In 2010 shortly before Christmas I was listening to NBC Nightly News, and Brian Williams had a small piece on the Little Dresses for Africa on his "Making a Difference" segment. They came up with a simple design and set to work to create simple dresses out of pillowcases. I googled her name after I saw the program, emailed her and received the information about the dresses. I mentioned this effort to my church and suggested we could make the dresses and send them with our Missionaries. And so a project was born!

To date, we have made over 2200 little dresses which have gone to Africa, Guatemala, Honduras, Cuba, Nicaragua and most recently to migrant worker's daughters in San Antonio, FL. Now we added "Little Pants" into our efforts, making and distributing over 1000 pairs of shorts. We rely entirely on donations for fabric. I do purchase elastic and labels for the dresses. The labels state that this garment was made for you by our church, Hyde Park United Methodist in Tampa, USA, and that God loves you. We have had 8 sewing machines donated to our group, and we meet twice a month - I conclude each email to the ladies in my group with “Making God's Love Real One Stitch at a Time.”—Darrell Painter

SAVE THE DATE! Mitzvah Day—Sunday, May 17th

A favorite tradition at Monmouth Reform Temple is back! Mitzvah Day has a long history at MRT involving ALL congregants in a day of giving back to the community as well as the needs of our own synagogue. Dean Ross is steering a committee of enthusiastic volunteers to make this happen but we need everyone's help.

Some ideas for Mitzvah Day include: a beach clean-up; helping with Sea Bright Rising; yardwork and house clean-ups for our elderly or infirm congregants; hospital caring work via MRT Caring Community; knitting circles for pediatric wards; blood wagon donations; Ronald McDonald House crafts by the kids; garden work; prayer book repair; "good neighbors" seeing if the church next door needs help; Boscovs Charity Days, etc. YOUR ideas are welcome and needed!

The day will begin with a brief service and music and culminate with an outdoor BBQ including live music. The last day of religious school is still May 17 but will incorporate Mitzvah Day.

Please know that if you are unable to attend Mitzvah Day on May 17, your help is appreciated and needed in the months before the day of programming. Among the needs are:

- Publicity
- BBQ and Refreshments
- Music
- Committee heads and committee members

The next planning Mitzvah Day meeting is: Sunday December 7 at 10:30 a.m. at MRT. Please come join us, have a bagel and a cup of coffee and let us share our ideas with you.

Contact either Dean Ross (dmschoppe@aol.com), 732-610-5795 or Margie Wold (woldiem@aol.com) 732-241-9941 for more information.

This Hanukkah GIVE THE GIFT OF ISRAEL BONDS



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Mazel Tov to our December B'nai Mitzvah

Mark Schmidt will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, December 6th at 10am. We wish his family and him Mazel Tov!

From the Arts & Deco Committee, Rita Sperling, Chair

Thank you to Ernie Guenzburger, who has again lent his talents to MRT, this time by sanding and painting the wood benches outside the front of the temple. This was a wonderful labor of love, the benches look like new and are comfortable to use. Many thanks Ernie!

Our newly redone Social Hall has been well used recently and has received many compliments on its general ambiance. We hope that members of MRT will frequently use the social hall, and prove it to be a lovely venue for personal and religious events.

Arts & Deco is reviewing, cataloging and re-hanging temple owned/donated art around the temple, and Judy Raybon is creating a beautiful Memory Book for our historical photos and certificates. Over time, A & D looks forward to being able to address areas of the temple that require attention: better lighting in the sanctuary and the social hall; new carpet for the lounge off the social hall; kitchen and bathroom renovation. To all members of MRT, your past and continued support via donations are greatly appreciated!



**The Monmouth Reform Temple Men's Club
will enjoy
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
Jets vs. Dolphins
December 1 at 8:30pm
Houlihan's
Route 35 in Eatontown
Just south of the Monmouth Mall
First beer or soft drink is on The Men's Club**

SISTERHOOD, Jill Austin & Cheryl Gaudette, Co-Presidents



We at Sisterhood hope that everyone in our MRT family had a wonderful and delicious Thanksgiving, full of thanks for all our blessings.

I know that we feel particularly fortunate to be part of a very caring, supportive community with such an incredible group of women!

And now we are all looking forward to the fun of Hanukkah!

We hope everyone will join us at our annual Fabulous MRT Community Hanukkah party on December 19th. Our special Hanukkah service will begin at 6:00 and our dinner and party will begin at 7:00. We will have, as always, lots of good food and good company. Chicken, yummy latkes and dessert will be provided by the Sisterhood and Men's Club. Our own MRTSY youth group will be running a variety of activities for the younger children in the youth lounge throughout the evening. Look for our fliers with more details and please come!

We would like to remind everyone to join or renew your Sisterhood membership as we approach 2015. And to let us know any ideas you may have for Sisterhood activities.

Your dues helps us provide a variety of different and exciting programs as well as scholarships for our graduating youth.

We hope you enjoy all the holidays that this time of year offers and that you have a Happy New Year!!

Peace, love and latkes,
Jill and Cheryl

MEN'S CLUB, Mitch Baum, President

Hi!

I am proposing a radical way of changing the way the Men's Club is organized. It's really not that radical. I think this is how most organizations are run. I recently found out from speaking to past Presidents of the Men's Club (Brotherhood) the way I am proposing was done in the past.

As opposed to sending out a blanket e-mail to invite people to come to a Men's meeting and hope to get a good response, I propose we have an executive committee. An e-mail blast will still go out to all male members prior to the executive meeting inviting them to come.

Now the hard part and this where you come in. I need volunteers to be on the executive committee. I haven't broken it down so far as how many we need to make up the committee. I think it should be broken down in chairmen roles. Example: Marketing chairman, Communication Chairman, Event Chairman (this may need two people), Membership/Social Action Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and President. A past Men's Club President would be nice to add to the list. This would mean we need 8-10 volunteers. The commitment would be for a year but you can easily re-commit.

An alternate way of having the Executive Meeting set up, is not to have Chairmen but a group of executives committed to coming to a meeting and dividing the responsibilities mentioned above as needed. In either case we need men to volunteer some of their time to help the Men's Club and meet its obligations to Monmouth Reform Temple.

Meetings could be done at the temple, a restaurant or someone's house. They don't have to be done on the first Monday of the month but a regular time of the month should be allocated. This should help out in recruiting executive members as it will be easier to communicate with 8-10 people as opposed to all male members of the congregation.

The purpose of the Executive Committee is simple. I try to make decisions based on feedback I get at a Men's Meeting. It is great when I have 8-12 men at a meeting and a subject is brought up. I get a general consensus of which way to go. It is when I have 3-4 men at a meeting I have problems. Men who were not at that meeting don't know a decision was made to after the fact. By having an Executive Committee, we could better organize events, recruit **active** Men's Club members, and market the organization.

I am asking for your feedback on this. If you think you could add to what is said in this bulletin, please let me know. Better yet if you would like to be an integral part of the Men's Club contact me at mrt.brothers1@gmail.com.

MRT Intergenerational Theater Trip to NYC
SOUL DOCTOR
Sunday, January 11th—afternoon performance
FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Hi everyone!

The hit musical is about the true story of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach (SoulDoctorBroadway.com) and his journey from Nazi persecution to becoming a 'Rock Star Rabbi' in America is here!

Soul Doctor is an exhilarating musical journey through the triumphs and tribulations of a cultural phenomenon -- Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. Soul Doctor tells the fascinating story of how Shlomo became the father of popular Jewish music, his unique friendship with Nina Simone, the legendary African American jazz singer and their impact on American music. A modern-day troubadour, Shlomo ignited the spirit of millions around the world with his soul-stirring melodies, transformative storytelling and boundless love.

BREAKING NEWS: Josh Nelson -- one of the most popular performers in modern Jewish music -- has been cast to play Shlomo!!

Tickets are \$50 per person. Rabbi Kline has arranged a meet and greet with Josh Nelson along with wine and cheese provided to us by the theater after the show.

Please email me if you are interested...or drop off a check into the office.
 (The theater is a historic building so it is not handicapped accessible and bathrooms are 2 floors up or 1 flight down.)

See you on Broadway!!!

Helene

helene@monmouthreformtemple.org

Holiday Judaica Bazaar
in our Gift Shop
Sunday, December 14th
9:30am – 12pm



Sisterhood Movie Night at Monica's
Monday, December 8th at 7pm

Share delectable delights and watch *The Chef*!



The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of:
Rabbi Kline and Lori's Anniversary
Sheila and Richard Sachs

Adult Ed Fund

In Memory Of:
Annita Suffian
Barbara and Barry Miller

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of
Annita Suffian
Lila Singer, Cheryl and Steve
Gaudette, Maddy and Michael Kalb, Susan and
Bob St. Lifer, Marcia Horn, Sheila and Rich
Sachs, Sharyn and Dean Ross, Helaine and Don
Rothman

Caring Network Fund

In Memory Of:
Annita Suffian
Sheila and Rich Sachs

Cantor's Fund

In Memory Of:
Edith Halpern
Jim Halpern
Annita Suffian
Ellie Goodman
Charlotte Rems
Brenda Tuller

Flower Fund

In Memory Of:
Robert Goodman
Ellie Goodman

Homeless Fund

In Memory Of:
Frank Welton
Joyce and John Christie
Jeff Horn
Marcia Horn
Annita Suffian
Steve Mahan and Jeff Willard

Oneg Fund

In Memory Of:
Maurice Meyer
Irma and Peter Meyer
Bernard Peskoe, Dr. Bertram Kaswiner
Al Peskoe
Charles P. Gelber, Gertrude T. Gelber
Susan and Roy Gelber

Social Action

In Memory Of:
Jeff Horn
Marcia Horn

Sisterhood Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of:
Frank Welton
Joel and Marilyn Morgovsky

Adam Greenfield Religious School Fund

In Honor Of:
Bonnie and Ron Klein on their new home
Arlene Meister

Purchase a Brick on the MRT Garden Walkway

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)

Return form with payment to the MRT, 332 Hance Ave., Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
Or contact the office at 732-747-9365

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- Sheila and Rich Sachs on the death of her mother Annita Suffian

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

- Dean and Sharyn Ross on the birth of a granddaughter Sariah



At MRT, loved ones are memorialized with Kaddish at the Shabbat service on or following their Yahrzeit. If you would like someone's name read on a different Shabbat please contact the office or see the Rabbi just prior to services.

*Indicates that a Memorial Plaque is hanging in the MRT sanctuary ensuring that their yahrzeit 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.

December Yahrzeits (date based on when they occur)

Names to be Read on Friday, December 5th (Services at 6pm)

*Mildred Abis, *Gussie Avrin, *Abba Mayer Beerman, *Morris Berg, Roger Kenneth Berman, *Betty Bermann, *Isidore Bermann, *Flora Braunstein, *Benjamin Bregmann, *Sheldon Hillel Brown, William Howard Chess, Leda Cohan, *Sol Cohen, Helen Danzig Scorben, Joseph Dow, *Mary Fleischman, Lawrence Friedman, Gertrude T. Gelber, Harry Haback, Bessie Kline, *Harry Kohn, *Bernard Levy, David Litwin, *Sol Mandel, Sylvia Mink, Brian Murray, Clara Reiss, *Hilda D. Salomon, *Jay Schulman, *Ruth Silverberg, Aaron Smitheimer, *Dr. Irma Steisel, *Steven Stone, *Miriam Leavitt Welner, Joel Wiesenfeld, Gertrude Wolf, Ruth Kahn Wolff

Names to be Read on Friday, December 12th (Services at 7pm)

Lewis A. Bernard Sr., Ted Choate, *Helen Davis, Florence Elias, *Abraham Glasser, Abraham Golden, Melissa Haback, *Martha Lehrer Herzal, *Louis E. Jacobson, Nancy Karl, Herbert Leifman, Joseph Levinsky, Martha Meurer, Lester Morris, Dr. Harvey Mozer, Ace A. Orange, Ruth Pearlman, Harry Resnick, Samuel Rivkin, Caryl Rubin, *Celia Spring, Patricia Ann Turner, Morris Weinstein

Names to be Read on Friday, December 19th (Services at 6pm)

Lena Attias, Raymond Becker, *Mortimer Brandwene, Dorothy Davis, Harry Field, *George Glasser, Robert Gordon, Molly Gurevitz, Harry Katz, *Hyman Klein, *Richard Klein, Edward Klein, *David Lane, Jeff Lipson, *Nettie Morse, Clara Newman, *Ida Reisner, *Bette Halpern Schmelzle, *Pearl Seitz, *Lois Baker Smith, *Beth Tanzman, *Herbert Tanzman, *Ann Weissman

Names to be Read on Friday, December 26th (Services at 6pm)

Aaron J. Abrams, Emanuel Barouch, Billie Bernstein, *Goldie Bialy, Selma Burdas, Evelyn Garfield, *Leonard Gettelson, *Edith R. Ginzburg, Irving Greenberg, Elizabeth Heidema, Collette Katz, Pearl Katz, *Esther Komar, *Joseph Lansky, Lillian Pintow, *Hyman Reisner, Jennie Rosenweig, Howard Semer, Gertrude Snyder, Jessie Weiss

Perry Weyser

Certified Public Accountant
 Certified Financial Planner
 * Advisory Representative



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Goode & Weyser, CPA, LLC
 1025 Highway 35
 Ocean, NJ 07712

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 Are You Happy With
 Your Current Plan?
 Are you losing Employer coverage?



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Phoebe Shagan
 RN, CCM
 Principle



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Julia Sandra Rand

Auxiliaries

Sisterhood Co-Presidents:

Jill Austin

Cheryl Gaudette

Men's Club President: Mitch Baum

MRTSY Co-Presidents

jilltennis@aol.com

cbgaudette@gmail.com

mrt.brothers1@gmail.com

Lauren Vicenzi, Sarah Klein

Anytime

Any Reason

Anywhere

Lloyd Fitzsimmons

Personal Driver
 in the cost-friendly comfort of your car

732-320-0396

References Aplenty

MRT Vision, Mission, Values (approved at August 20th Board Meeting)***Vision***

OPEN DOORS -- OPEN MINDS

Monmouth Reform Temple – Our Spiritual Community-Where We Nurture Meaning in Our Lives

Mission

- ***We are an inclusive community where creativity and openness to new ideas harmonize with the traditions of Reform Judaism.*** For all ages we provide multiple pathways to spiritual growth and lifelong learning.
- ***We seek to be inspired and to inspire each other in a spiritual journey.*** We engage in joyful, participatory, musical and meaningful experiences.
- ***We build communities of enduring relationships that nourish commitment to each other and to Judaism.*** We are a source of strength to one another as we share the joys and challenges of our lives.
- ***By speaking out and taking action, we seek to improve the quality of human existence and help heal our world.*** As we work together we create a Jewish presence in the community.
- ***We create opportunities for individuals and families to study and learn together.*** We enable members to learn about and connect with the evolving relevance of Judaism in our lives.
- ***We affirm our continuing support of Israel.*** We understand that to be a Jew is to be a part of the extended Jewish family.
- ***Each of us is a steward of MRT's financial, physical and human resources.*** This includes our temple's good name.

Values

In all aspects of temple life - spiritual, educational and social – these values are our common bond and support our common effort:

Spirituality

We are guided by Torah as we strive to live ethical lives. In search of spiritual and intellectual nourishment, we become aware of a sense of wonder, amazement and being in God's presence. Our deeds reflect our gratitude for the gift of life and its blessings.

Respect

In all our relationships we treat each other in a way that preserves individual dignity and welcomes new ideas. Courtesy, directness, and openness to others will guide our interactions and demonstrate our trustworthiness.

Inclusiveness

We welcome all who choose to embrace Judaism in their lives and homes, regardless of background. As builders of community, we care about each other in all our diversity.

Lifelong Learning

MRT is a center of life-long learning, where we search for meaning, we study, we question, and we seek the sacred. Learning enables us all to progress from knowledge to commitment to action.

Engagement

In partnership with clergy and staff, we count on our members to contribute their talents, resources and energy to ensure the vitality of MRT's community. We depend on our members to be informed and participate in decision-making.

December 2014

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| | 1 7:30pm Men's Club Meeting 8:30pm Men's Club MNF party at Houlihans | 2 9:45am Study Group 7pm Ritual | 3 4pm Religious School 7pm Adult Ed | 4 7pm Sr. Youth Meeting 8:15pm 92Y Live Israel Security | 5 3:30pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 6pm First Friday with Shir Chadash Followed by Pot Luck Dinner | 6 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study 10am Bar Mitzvah of Mark Schmidt |
| 7 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels & Blocks 10:30am Mitz Day meeting 7pm Ari Lesser Hip Hop Concert | 8 7pm Sisterhood Book Club movie <i>The Chef</i> offsite | 9 9:45am Study Group 7pm Orchid Society 7:15pm Exec Board | 10 4pm Religious School 7:30-9:30pm Rabbi @ Monmouth University | 11 | 12 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services w Visual T'filah Installation and Special Oneg | 13 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study followed by luncheon 2pm Family Shabbaton 6pm Havdallah and Beth Schafer concert |
| 14 9:30am 4th grade PACT 9:30am Gift Shop Open 9:30am Religious School 9:45am LDT 3 | 15 | 16 9:45am Study Group 7:15pm Board of Trustees 1st Chanukah Candle | 17 4pm Religious School 2nd Chanukah Candle | 18 4pm - 11pm Red Bank Y Holiday Party 3rd Chanukah Candle | 19 6pm Shabbat Services Sis/Men's Club Party follows Bring your Menorah 4th Chanukah Candle | 20 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study Sr. Youth Chanukah Party offsite 5th Chanukah Candle |
| 21 9:30am Rel School 11:30am Community Menorah Lighting 6th Chanukah Candle | 22 7th Chanukah Candle | 23 8th Chanukah Candle | 24 Office closing at 1pm | 25 Office Closed | 26 Office Closed 6pm Shabbat Services | 27 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study |
| 28 NO Religious School | 29 Office closing at 1pm | 30 Office Closing at 1pm | 31 Office Closing at 1pm | MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE 332 Hance Avenue Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 732-747-9365 | | |
| | | | |  Member of the Union for Reform Judaism | | |



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