



THE MRT BULLETIN

February 2015

Volume LVI Issue VIII

Sh'vat-Adar 5775

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

Schedule of Services February 2015



Friday, February 6th
5:30pm PreOneg
sponsored by K,1,2 grade
6pm Shabbat Services with
Shir Chadash Band
It's a CHILI
February First Friday
(see page 6)

Friday, February 13th
7pm Shabbat Services

Friday, February 20th
7pm Shabbat Services
Social Action Shabbat

Saturday, February 21st
10am 6th Grade Service

Friday, February 27th
7pm Shabbat Services
5th Grade Shabbat 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 Shabbat Kallah

Made possible by a generous bequest from Bob Rosin, Past President

with Rabbi Amy Scheinerman

Relationships, Power, & Sex: A Jewish Perspective Saturday, February 7th

9:30-10:15am Parashat Yitro Torah Study & Discussion

10:30am Shabbat Services and Session
Getting Relationships Right: Can Leaders Play Nicely in the Sandbox?

12:15pm Join us for Lunch

1:15pm *Jews and Power: Having it, Wanting it, and Using it*

2:15pm Coffee Break

2:45pm *Gender, Sex & Sexuality: The Good, The Bad, The Funny, and the Funnier*

4:00pm Havdalah

Rabbi Amy Scheinerman received her bachelor's degree from Brown University; has studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Princeton Theological Seminary; and was ordained in 1984 at HUC-JIR in New York, where she also received a Doctor of Divinity in 2009. Rabbi Scheinerman is the hospice rabbi in Howard County, Maryland, and teaches in a variety of venues. She is a member of the CCAR Board of Trustees, president of the Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis, and immediate past president of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis. She has served Conservative, Reform, and unaffiliated congregations. She is a member of the Responsa Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, serves as editor of the Torah Commentary column of the CCAR newsletter.

This program is no charge and open to the public. For planning purposes we would appreciate your RSVP. Our contact information is below.

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332 Hance Avenue
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From Rabbi Marc Kline



Is February - the month of love. This is the month when everyone goes down to the card shop and gift store (if a guy is smart, he will do both), to tell the special people in our lives that we love and appreciate them. Next to the winter holidays, this is a retailer's favorite time. Every year, though, I get stuck. It is not that I don't want to celebrate with the folks I love, it is just that we have just celebrated the birthday of a man who told us to love every day (Martin King). We practice faith traditions that teach us if we are sincere, then every day is a day to love and show appreciation. After all, the most basic tenet of all traditions is to "LOVE" your neighbor as yourself. Think about the central theme; about the loving statements that we make on Valentine's Day, and imagine what the world would be like if we said those things and shared those sentiments every day.

This may seem like a rant, or an overly simplistic offering of a solution to world strife, but it really goes much deeper. On Martin Luther King Day this year, I was honored to be asked to be part of the commemorative service at Pilgrim Baptist Church. Those there heard a fire brand preacher who shared a most important message. Society wants to tell us that what we think we are seeing is not what we are really seeing. Using the story of Moses killing the Egyptian, she pointed out how often our eyes see one thing, but society tries to make us believe we saw something else. Did Moses see an Egyptian who beat the Hebrew slave as diminishing the work force, was he staring at the greatest of injustices, or did the Egyptian say something to him that upset him enough that he lost his temper? Did he hide the body for fear of being caught? Did he still give the body a proper burial?

We live in a society when professional marketing firms teach us that it is ok to sell cars, sporting equipment, cologne, and news coverage by displaying sexy young ladies next to the product or microphone. Fast food makes us believe that the cost and expedience of their product overcomes the sometimes nutritional nightmare you ingest when "dining" with them. Look on the bottom of most chairs and one will find the liability waiver stating that the chair is not safe to stand on, and then watch TV to see how many times actors are standing on the chairs reaching for this or that. Then there is the pillow with the label, "Some materials may irritate sensitive skin. Please look at the materials if you believe this may be the case. Material 100% unknown. Stuffing 100% unknown." Or, "Do not use near fire, flame, or sparks" on an "Aim-n-Flame" fireplace lighter. If someone responds accusing the "emperor" of having no clothes and exposes the truth, the whistleblower gets into trouble.

Why do we put up with all of the things that we know need to be looked at, just because "everyone" else says it works. As our world continues to change, we have to move ourselves beyond the acceptance of someone else's status quo. In an organizational modern this means that "we have always done it this way" is toxic. At the same time change must be deliberate, so that we don't throw out potential. This is the struggle facing so many organizations today. Many want all change ... right now, or refuse to acknowledge any change ... at all ... "doing it this way is what is expected of us."

No differently, Valentine's Day is a day of expectation, and despite the fact that we should love each other every day, we are told to "really" love someone on that day. Despite the reality that fortunes were just spent on the winter holidays, we are supposed to pay for cards at inflated prices and buy chocolate that no one needs, and jewelry ... because on that day we love someone more than any other day. Do something radical ... make a card for folks you love and deliver it on February 16. Do something even more radical, as we talk about the future of this organization, be part of the conversation telling us what you want, not letting us to surmise what you expect. Join in these conversations and do not let people you do not know make important decisions in which you need to be involved.

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



Here are some fun facts about Purim (fun for a cantor):

Queen Esther's Hebrew name was Hadasaah. The name Esther is Persian. Esther is derived from Ishtar who was a Babylonian goddess-meaning star.

Mordechai was the first person in history to be called a "Jew". Before then, Jews were called "Hebrews" or "Israelites".

King Ahashverosh searched four years for a queen while he considered 1400 applicants before choosing Esther.

Traditional sources site Vashti as the great-granddaughter of Nebuchanezzar-the Babylonian emperor who destroyed the first Temple.

There is an opinion in the Talmud that Esther was not beautiful and had a greenish complexion. She also was possibly 14 or 40 years old at the time of her marriage, depending on the source.

God's name is not mentioned in the entire Book of Esther.

Right now we are actively preparing for Purim. Our adults are working on "Megillah on the Roof"! 6th and 7th Graders are working on "A Frozen Purim". Snowstorms have made some of our preparations challenging but we are having so much fun with our both of our plays. Look for the upcoming information about our performances and the purim carnival-run by our senior youth group MRTSY.

I am incredibly proud of our senior youth group MRTSY. They are working hard to lead a beautiful service and amazing Shul In. I plan to sleep over with our kids at the Shul in (wish me luck). We are blessed to have tremendous support from our Youth Committee and other volunteer chaperones. They are also working hard to have a joint ski trip with Shaarei Emeth in February. I am deeply grateful to our youth group advisor Wendy Roman for all she has done for our children this year. Even if your child has not yet been to a MRTSY or junior youth event-they are always welcome to come to any event which interests them.

MLK observance at MRT went really well and was well attended. I thank Rabbi Kline for building on our relationship with the Pilgrim Baptist Church and bringing us such a wonderful and meaningful guest.

This year numerous children have been more active in NFTY then ever before. Several of our children have attended NFTY Kallot and a Taste of NFTY in our region.

Now is the time to consider enrolling your child for Camp Harlam. If you are interested in having your child attend URJ Camp Harlam please be in touch with me. I can connect you with other children and their parents who have been attending Harlam for several years! Please check out the website for further information: <http://harlam.urjcamp.org>. Scholarship is available through onehappycamper.org, the Baldwin Davidson Fund and Camp Harlam. On behalf of our temple I work at Camp Harlam for the first two weeks of second session. This will be my 6th year. It is a tremendous honor to serve on the faculty of Camp Harlam. I always learn so much from working at camp. I am a very strong believer in the URJ Camps. I always work to make it possible for many children from MRT to attend. If you are considering Jewish sleep away camp-Camp Harlam is an amazing choice.

Stay warm and safe during these winter storms!

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



We are now well into 2015 and into the Rabbinate of Rabbi Kline at MRT. The Transition-In Committee has performed a marvelous task in introducing Rabbi Kline and his family into our community, with special services, many meet-and-greet-sessions, numerous sessions of advice, and a wonderful Installation weekend. On behalf of MRT, I want to thank them here: Karen Levinsky and Karen Seligman, co-chairs, and Gena Ansell-Lande, Peg Baker, James Brewer, Lloyd Fitzsimmons, Stephanie Fitzsimmons, Susan Gelber, Bobbie Goldstein, Faith Liefman, Linda Murry, and Margie Wold. Your work is greatly appreciated.

One of the initiatives resulting from the ATID report was the creation of a Leadership Development Program at MRT. Under the co-chairmanship of Mark Gruensfelder and Joel Morgovsky, and with support of a dedicated Leadership Development Task Force, who worked for almost a year to create the program, and Rabbi Kline, the Program has held four sessions since October, with four more scheduled. The most recent session, on Sunday morning, January 25, was dedicated to governance at MRT. Inspired by that session, and because our governance structure may not be fully understood by our members, I will devote the rest of this article to a discussion of how MRT is governed.

MRT is a non-profit tax-exempt organization, which is governed by its Constitution and Bylaws. Such organizations are required to be governed by a Board of Trustees, with the Trustees serving the organization as fiduciaries. These Boards are responsible for the decisions and operations of their organizations. Not surprisingly, MRT's Bylaws define the MRT Board's powers in a compliant fashion: "The Board of Trustees shall govern the affairs of the Congregation, control its revenue and property, and take such action as shall in its judgment best promote the welfare thereof." Furthermore, the Bylaws empower the Board to create committees with specific responsibilities in the governance of MRT, permitting the Board to "act as a committee of the whole, or ... delegate specific responsibilities to a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees, or any committee it chooses." (You can ask the office for a copy of the Bylaws if you are interested.)

The Board is therefore the fundamental point of authority for MRT, which makes decisions on behalf of the congregation. It is also fundamental to realize that the Board members are elected by the members of MRT, so we all have a stake in our congregation.

The Constitution and Bylaws define the positions of Officers (President, four Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Financial and Recording Secretaries, Immediate Past President) and Trustees. MRT has eight Trustees, each of whom also chairs one of eight committees – Adult Education, Finance, House, Membership, Religious Education, Ritual, Social Action, Ways & Means. The President presides over Board meetings, makes appointments to various non-Board positions, creates task forces and ad-hoc committees to deal with particular issues, and oversees the general agenda for the Board. Each Vice-President supports several committees, including Trustee-led committees and other standing committees. The Executive Committee, which comprises the President, the VP's, the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, and the Immediate Past President meets monthly to discuss issues that cross committee boundaries or do not yet have an obvious home in our existing structures, and to set up other discussions for the Board.

Our clergy, principal, and staff are hired by our Board. We obtain direct congregational approval also to hire our Rabbi and Cantor. They are our leaders in achieving the goals and vision of our congregation and perform the most significant operational roles in many aspects of temple life. They work in partnership with the Board in moving MRT forward.

Much of the work of the temple is done by committees and task forces. Committees are established for areas that involve continuing needs, such as Adult Education or Finance. Task forces are established to respond to particular issues. For example, the current Capital Projects Task Force was established to create and prioritize a list of needs for our facilities, both functional and artistic, within the next several years.

How do new ideas for programs or activities, or other concerns, enter into our system? There are many ways, but they eventually end up with either an appropriate committee or with the Board. The Board may assign this idea to a committee, or create one to assess it. If you have an idea that you would like to discuss: contact the appropriate committee chair, vice-president, or me. Our clergy will also guide you to the proper Board member as will our office staff. Our leadership names are posted on our web site. Once one of our leaders is informed, the information will be sent up or down as appropriate.

This is a very brief summary of how MRT is governed, with much interesting clarification omitted because of space. You should know that it is the Board that is responsible to the congregation for making decisions and taking actions on behalf of MRT. There are many ways to have ideas enter the system and the Board is central.

Summary of January 20th Board of Trustees meeting: from Jim Halpern, MRT Recording Sec'y

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of January 20, 2015 and would like to acknowledge positive happenings within our congregation.

This month, Cantor Clissold and the Shir Khaddish Band helped provide wonderful music at our First Friday Service. Our next First Friday will be on February 6th. Sisterhood sponsored our Hannukah party and over 180 people attended. The Men's club held a beer fest and raised over \$300 for the Baldwin Davidson Fund. We honored Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrated Social Action Shabbat with Pastor Terrance Porter and members of the Pilgrim Baptist Church, who visited us at MRT.

Rabbi Kline is away in Israel and we all wish him safe travel.

Cantor Clissold reported last week's MLK observance at MRT was well attended. She thanked Rabbi Kline for building on our relationship with the Pilgrim Baptist Church and bringing us such a wonderful and meaningful guest, the Reverend Terrence Porter. The Youth Group and Youth Committee have been working hard on their upcoming Youth Group Shabbat on January 30th, with the (sleep over) "Shul-In" to follow. We are currently seeking chaperones for the sleep over. Please come to Shabbat Service on January 30th and support our Senior Youth Group.

This year's Purim Shpiel will be "Megillah on the Roof" (for the adults) and will be performed on March 7th. The 6th and 7th Grade will perform a Shpiel based on the Disney movie "Frozen" before the Purim Carnival. They are preparing for this in religious school. If you are interested in being part of "Megillah on the Roof", please let Cantor Clissold know.

The Board is currently discussing the directions we would like to go as a congregation. This effort has resulted in several new Task Forces that are bringing information back to the Board from our congregants, so decisions can be made based upon the needs of our members. The current task forces are, Member Role Policy, Library, Capital Projects and Fundraising Task Forces. In addition to these on-going Task Forces, and as part of this information gathering, Jay Wiesenfeld has requested that our ATID committee reconvene to review how well we are doing in implementing and following the recommendations they presented.

As mentioned last month, the Board continued its discussion on best practices for staying in touch with members of our congregation. Board members will contact congregants on three occasions, to wish congregants a Happy New Year, to remind them about the importance of our High Holy Day Appeal and to wish everyone a joyous Passover. These calls are also an excellent time for Board Members to get feedback about the directions we are heading at MRT and if they are meaningful to congregants.

The Board voted to approve the membership of one new member family and to resign two families that have moved away from our area.

The Finance Committee has begun work on our 2015-2016 budget, which will be presented at our Annual Meeting in May, and has asked committee chairs to submit all required information by January 25th.

The final tally for our High Holy Day Appeal was \$32,646 and we had 123 families contribute this year.

Mitzvah Day will be on May 17th and is being chaired by Dean Ross. This is a day for social action projects, in which our members provide real assistance to those in need. We will be looking for volunteers.

The President, Jay Wiesenfeld, informed the Board that he is in the process of creating the Nominating Committee, which will recommend the new slate of officers and trustees at the annual meeting.

Our treasurer has reported that we are working within the budget that was approved last year and there should not be much variance.

In his President's report, Jay Wiesenfeld reminded the Board of some upcoming events. On January 31st is the URJ's Shabbaton, an opportunity to mingle with other congregations. On February 7th, at MRT's Shabbat Kallah, Rabbi Amy Scheinerman will join us and on February 26th, Family Promise is holding its annual fundraiser. We are trying to see if there is enough interest to have an MRT table at the dinner. Please check with our office if you have questions about these events.



It's a "Chili" February First Friday
Friday, February 6th
5:30pm Pre-Oneg sponsored by
K, I, 2

6pm Shabbat Services with the Shir Chadash Band
Followed by Pot Luck Dinner
This month:

Share your best chili and warm up Shabbat!
Otherwise...A-L Pasta/Chicken M-Z Salad



From Vera Galleid, Religious School Principal

February is a busy month at MRT Religious School. We will celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees,

with seders. Anna Richlin from the Jewish National Fund will be conducting Tu B'Shevat workshops with students in grades four through seven. The class that plants the most trees in Israel will earn a pizza party.

Our fourth graders have been working very hard on their Hebrew reading and on learning the prayers. They will receive their first Siddurim at their Siddur Ceremony on Sunday February 8th, 2015. We are very proud of their achievements.

Our sixth graders will lead Shabbat services on Saturday February 21st. Please join us and kvell with us. They will study their Bnei Mitzvah Torah Portions with their parents at

our PACT program on Sunday February 22. Each child will make a Yad, a Torah Pointer, with his/her Hebrew name on it, to use to read Torah.

Our Mitzvah Academy and Confirmation students will be visiting the Pilgrim Baptist Church on Sunday February 22. They will attend a service and join students there for religious school.

Our fifth graders are preparing to lead Shabbat services and to talk about what the prayers mean to them on Friday February 27, 2015. Come and join us for this creative service.

Welcome to our new member of staff, Sherry Freedman. Sherry has a master's degree in Special Education. She has taught in the Solomon Schechter School and in Public School. She is with us on Sunday mornings and is tutoring

students. If you would like to talk to Sherry, please contact the school office.

L'Hitraot,
Vera Galleid.

February Upcoming Events:

Sunday February 1st – Tu B'Shevat Seders - grades K-3 and Mitzvah Academy.

Wednesday February 4th – Tu B'Shevat Seder grades 4-7.

Sunday February 8th - 4th Grade Siddur Ceremony at 9:45 am.

Sunday February 15th – No school. President's weekend.

Saturday February 21st – 6th Grade lead Shabbat services at 10:00 am.

Sunday February 22nd – 6th Grade PACT 9:30 – 12:00.

Sunday February 22 – Mitzvah Academy and Confirmation students visit Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Friday February 27th – 5th Grade lead Shabbat services at 7:00 pm.

Welcome New Members!**Bloom, Michael & Robin**

15 Woodmere Avenue
Rumson NJ 07760
Home: 732 741-0440

Michael Bloom

michaelbloom@gmail.com

Robin Bloom

robinbloom@aol.com

Dylan Bloom (14)**Chloe Bloom (11)**

Do you love books? Do you like to decorate? We need your help in renovating the MRT Library. A brief task force will work to re-imagine how the room is used by all of us. Please contact the temple office or Margie Wold, woldiem@aol.com, 732-241-9941, to be a part of this new and exciting effort. **First meeting: Thursday, February 12th at 7pm**

From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Committee Chairperson

“Live for yourself and you will live in vain. Live for others and you will live again.” * Bob Marley

Last summer there were several funerals in Israel for Lone Soldiers. When Israel entered Gaza, in response to continuous firing of rockets, despite the agreed upon cease fire, there were many young American citizens who had joined the Israeli army, the IDF (Israel Defense Force) prior to the war and had completed their training .

One young man whose family lives in Texas was an avid fan of the Haifa soccer team but he was in Israel to fight with the army, not to watch a soccer game. During his mission, he was killed. Members of the soccer team heard of his fate and posted the loss on social media. The funeral would take place 24 hours later and this young man was in Israel without family, a Lone Soldier. 17,000 people attended his funeral.

A few days later, Max Steinberg, age 24, also a Lone Soldier , joining the forces as a sharp shooter, would be buried. His family lives in Los Angeles. As reported by my son Richard, living in Israel, an Israeli phenomenon then occurred . The day after news spread that Max, a Lone Soldier, had been killed, Richard boarded the local train heading for Mt. Herzl where the funeral would be held. At each train stop, more and more people boarded until, by the 4th stop, there was no room on the train. The riders were of all stripes, Jews representing the entire spectrum of religious observance, or the lack thereof, every color, any style, all ages. The streets were filled with folks going to the funeral wearing flip-flops, tank tops, all manner of ordinary clothing. Streams of people walked quietly toward the designated area. At the gates of the cemetery, soldiers handed out leaflets telling folks what to do in case an air raid siren were to sound.

A speaker system was set up so that all could hear words spoken by Chief Rabbi of the Army, Rafi Peretz, who spoke in Hebrew. Max's parents had been flown to Israel along with his younger brother and his sister by the Lone Soldier Association. The family was overwhelmed by the reception they received at the airport. Both parents spoke at the funeral and thanked the Army and all Israelis for their compassionate honoring of their son. Members of Knesset spoke, many in English, using a mixture of Biblical quotes and references to Bob Marley. Max loved Bob Marley. Michael Oren, former Israeli Ambassador to the United States spoke. There was not a sound from the crowd of 30,000 people, most of whom only knew Max as a Lone Soldier who had come to the defense of their country voluntarily. There was no messaging, no photos, just silence as they stood in the blazing hot sun. Volunteers from Magen David Adom distributed bottles of water . The Steinbergs are not a religious family. Max had gone on a Birthright trip and had fallen in love with Israel. Later the same day, two other Lone Soldiers were buried , Moshe Malko, an Ethiopian and Demetri Levitas, Russian.

The phenomenon is the sense of unity in Israeli society when these tragedies occur. So often we read of conflict between different groups in Israel but there is a deep and unwavering sense of togetherness, of oneness at certain moments in the life of all Israelis.

Lobby Tzedakah Box February 2015**Lone Soldier****Co-sponsor: Eleanor Rubin**

Every year, young men and women from around the world come to serve in the Israeli army - far away from their families and communities - as a demonstration of their connection with and commitment to Israel. Their stories, experiences, and reflections serve to inspire as an example of selfless giving in service of our one and only Jewish State. Their first-hand perspective contributes to our understanding of Israel, her army, and her ongoing battle for the security of her citizens and borders. The Lone Soldier Project aims to share their voice with the world, support those in active duty, and utilize their leadership skills to continue making a difference for Israel after their army service has ended.



This February 4th, we celebrate Tu BiShvat, which as many of you know is the “New Year” for trees. This is the time of year in which the earliest-blooming trees in Israel awaken from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. And as nature is “re-awakening” in Israel, Tu B’Shevat is also meant to reawaken the soul to the gift of nature around us. Some people see the Jewish people as a tree of sorts – with roots embedded in Torah and tradition and with branches and leaves that have spread far and wide, both in terms of our

expressions of Jewish life as well as across the earth. While we are diverse and spread out, all Jews share Israel as our common trunk. Right now, Israel is facing many challenges. Serious questions are facing Israelis, and by extension, the Jewish people throughout the world. Questions like: ☐ Will Israeli society treat all branches and denominations equally? ☐ Will men and women be offered the same freedom to pray as they wish? ☐ Will we see lasting peace and security for all of us, in our homes and in Israel? These questions not only affect our relationship with Israel, but our relationship to the tree of Judaism if they are not addressed. Monmouth Reform Temple is committed to not only supporting our brothers and sisters in Israel but to also help plant and shape its vision for the future. And together, we have an opportunity to advocate for an Israeli society that represents our values and clearly puts forth our vision for Israel – a vision in which the ideals of pluralism, equality and peace are accepted.

TO SUCCESSFULLY INFLUENCE ISRAEL’S FUTURE, WE NEED YOUR VOTE and YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!

We are in the midst of an election for the World Zionist Congress RIGHT NOW. From now until April 30, 2015, you have the opportunity to vote for the ARZA-Representing Reform Judaism slate, assuring that ARZA’s delegates represent our progressive values in the United States’ delegation to the World Zionist Congress. Voting is easy and can be completed online at www.ReformJews4Israel.org or by paper ballot. All Jews over the age of 18 (as of June 30, 2015) can vote. One need not be a member of any other organization or Jewish institution in order to vote. Your vote is important because in October, the World Zionist Congress will convene in Jerusalem. This “Parliament of the Jewish People” makes decisions about critical issues that shape Israel and by extension, Judaism worldwide. The composition of the WZC has both financial and policy implications in Israel, as resources are allocated based on the number of seats a party holds and the policy positions of those parties. These elections are the strongest way for US Reform Jews to promote and encourage the kind of Jewish state we all know is possible - a Jewish state that holds true to the ideals of religious pluralism, the growth of Reform Judaism in Israel, women’s equality in all areas of life, democracy, and a solution to the ongoing conflict. ARZA, representing Reform Judaism, is asking every American Jew who holds these values dear to stand with us. Here is what we hope you will do in the coming weeks:

☐ **Vote:** Vote for ARZA-Representing Reform Judaism at www.reformjews4israel.org now through April 30th. Voting is easy and quick. Because the election itself is self-financing, the cost for voting is \$10.00 for those over age 30 and \$5.00 for those 30 and under.

☐ **Spread the word:** Please encourage others to pledge to vote - family, friends and fellow congregants. If you are interested in helping our campaign activities, please contact XXX (Name of election team member). The tree of the Jewish people is ours to tend. Let us join with Reform and progressive Jews across the country and make sure that it continues to stand tall.

MEN'S CLUB, Mitch Baum, President

Hello, I hope life is treating you well.

The Men's Club held its second annual Beer Festival last month. I got a tremendous response from people on how much they enjoyed the festivities. Congregants and their friends mingled while sampling beer from local and distant breweries. Appetizers were available and we were also able to hook up the television in the side room for anyone interested in watching the playoff games. Everyone had a great time and the Men's Club was able to donate proceeds to the Baldwin Davidson Fund. This fund helps underwrite scholarships for Jewish camp and other Jewish educational opportunities.

F.Y.I....The Men's Club is dedicated to doing events like the Beer Festival on a break even basis. Any money we make either goes to a charity, fund an upcoming event or make up for lost money at a prior event. Even a portion of the money from our poker games goes to charity. It still means we need to get donations from our congregants as we do have other costs to cover other than social events.

Usually we would send out a letter asking for donations, but do certain circumstances; we won't be able to send it out for a little while. Please don't wait to get the letter to send a donation. You can make out a to; Men's Club and send it to Monmouth Reform Temple 332 Hance Ave. Tinton Falls, N.J. 07724 attention Men's Club.

The Men's Club is changing the date of the February meeting. I have been asked by congregants to switch the date from the first Monday of the month to a different date so they would be able to make the meeting. If you were never able to come to the Men's Club due to conflict of schedule here is a chance to get yourself involved. The new date is February 19th at 7:30 pm in the temple library. Mark your calendar.

On behalf of the Men's Club I would like to thank the following people for donating to the Men's Club this fiscal year (since July 2014). Jim Halpern, Mark Gruensfelder, Zack Gilstein, Jay Wiesenfeld, John Christie, Mark Kroen, Mitch Baum, Bob Gabel, Rob Sussman, Philip Ciorciari, Donald Byck, James Leavitt, David Levinsky, Scott Schneider and Adam Hershey. With donations we are able to promote camaraderie among our male congregants and continue to help the Temple.

All male congregants of Monmouth Reform Temple are members of the Men's Club. We do not ask for dues to be a member but donations are appreciated.



Social Action Shabbat

Friday night, February 20th

Guest Speaker from the Central Jersey Blood Bank

Information about the Caring Committee

Learn about MRT's big Social Action Project

Shine a Light

This project involves putting reflectors and lights on bikes from the Red Bank area. This will save lives in the community for people who ride to and from work.

SAVE THE DATE! Mitzvah Day—Plans already underway for 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. We have already met twice but we welcome anyone and everyone to join us at our next meeting **Sunday January 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the MRT Library.**

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.

A Social Action Shabbat service will be Friday, February 20, 2015. We need help in planning that service including those wanting to speak about Social Action and Mitzvah Day in particular.

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

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

**MRTSY Goes Skiing**

With Temple Shaari Emeth!!!

Sunday, February 15th

7:00am bus leaves Shari Emeth

****please arrive prior****

Skiing / Snowboarding lessons available

Adult skiing / snowboarding pass \$44

Youth skiing / snowboarding pass \$36

Rentals (all ages) \$25 Helmet rentals \$10

Snow tubing optional for those who do not want to try skiing or snowboarding!

RSVP wendyaroman@gmail.com by FEBRUARY 7th ****limited spots!!****



Jack Frost
Big Boulder



**Get Some *LOVE* at the MRT
1st Annual Tennis Social**



Saturday, February 21st, 7-11 PM at Colts Neck Racquet Club

Cost: \$20 per person/free for Socializers

The evening will be a Round Robin format with 35-40 minute timed matches and breaks for socializing. Depending on participants, there will be Mixed and same gender Doubles. Couples will not be playing together, and players will be matched according to ability.

All Levels and Non-players WELCOME!

Bring your favorite snack and beverage to share.



Don't Play Tennis? No Problem! We will have LCR, Board Games and lots of food & drink to keep you happy.

PLEASE RSVP By Feb 8th to sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org

Please include the following information:

- Number and Names of players & non-players**
- Ability Level (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced)**

Please send in your payment to the Temple or pay via paypal on the

[Temple Website - Sisterhood](#)

Click the link below to sign up with PayPal

http://monmouthreformtemple.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=475:sisterhood-dues-2&catid=43:sisterhood&Itemid=246



Hamentashen Baking Festival!!!

Help us create these beautiful Purim cookies for gifting to friends and loved ones.

Sunday, February 22@ 10:00 AM

Join us as we roll, fill and pinch our way to delicious hamentashen.

You don't have to know how to bake it to make it! We'll show you how.
Please bring a rolling pin, apron and cookie sheets if you have them.

Please sign up for one of these time slots:

10-12 noon, 12-2 pm, 2-4 pm

Please RSVP to Linda @ lwmurray610@gmail.com with your chosen time.



Shalach Manot Packing

Wednesday, February 25...4 pm during Religious School

We will be packing up the delicious hamentashen for gifting to friends and family.



Send **Shalach Manot**
to Family, Friends, MRT friends, staff or teachers!

One of the sweetest Purim traditions is sending gifts of food and drink to family and friends. To quote Uncle Mordecai: "They were to observe Purim as days of feasting and merriment and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another..."
[Esther 9:22].

Shalach Manot: Why we do it!

This is the primary fundraiser of the year for MRT Sisterhood. Joining in the Shalach Manot exchange helps to subsidize many programs at MRT and in the Religious School. The women of sisterhood bake the Hamentashen and bundle them up with other goodies to create Shalach Manot boxes. These are gifts of good will and celebration for those you love, wish to thank, work with, or would like to get to know. Just a whole lot of delicious fun....

Shalach Manot: How to Do It!

Use the attached list to select those whom you wish to send a gift.

Check off the names and then tally up the total.

Bring or send the final page along with your check and tally to the MRT office by **Monday, February 23rd** ...No Lollygaggers allowed☺

Recipients will receive one box with a note listing the names of all who gifted them:

They can be picked up at MRT on Sunday 3/1 during the Purim Carnival, or anytime throughout Purim Weekin the temple office.



Cost: \$5.00 per box

\$36 for ten (10) boxes

\$72 for thirty (30) boxes

\$108 for the entire MRT community

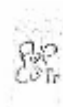
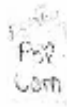
And Back by Popular demand

Boxes of homemade Hametashen (1 dozen)...\$10.00 each

To ensure your order is filled, it must be received with payment by Mon, Feb 23.

Please make check payable to MRT Sisterhood and include your tally form.

Drop or mail to MRT office, 332 Hance Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724



Join us for Family Movie Night at MRT

Featuring



Saturday February 7th

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Movie starts at 6:30 pm

*Created
by
Hope, Alexa
and Ava*

Pj's and sleeping bags are welcome

Movie and refreshments will be provided. This is a FREE event.

***This is NOT a drop off event. Parents are asked to stay
throughout the movie.***

The Monmouth Reform Temple Adult Education Committee presents:

Jewish Belief and the Meaning of Life

A Monthly Discussion Group

Sunday evening 7-8:30pm



Join us at Monmouth Reform Temple in a discussion group focused on some of the big, basic issues of being Jewish in the modern world. We will discuss questions like:

- How to believe in God in a modern, scientific age?
- Why be moral?
- Why am I Jewish?
- What is the meaning of life?
- How do I think about death?

The group will meet once a month and each month a new discussion topic will be introduced. Some fascinating information on the topic will be presented along with some engaging experiential exercises. With topics like these, lively discussion is sure to follow.

This discussion group is open to the public. For more information, please contact Elliott Familant at [908-510-5136](tel:908-510-5136) or efamilant@gmail.com

Sunday, February 22nd: The What and Whether of God

Our discussion will center on a central issue for people of faith, does God exist and if so, what if anything can be known about God. We will start with a set of exercises designed to help us identify within ourselves, how much faith (or how much doubt) we have about God and then try define what it is we personally believe is true about this God we believe (or don't believe) in. We will examine these views in light of philosophical arguments made to prove the existence of God and look at atheist arguments made against these proofs. We will look at recent fascinating studies from developmental psychology that demonstrate that young children exhibit what some researchers call a "natural religion", a set of basic universal beliefs about God that persist and undergird our religious outlooks even as adults. We will also consider brain imagining studies that suggest certain religious acts like praying and meditating correspond to activities in specific brain structures. We will consider if this research can or should have any bearing on our beliefs about God. Finally, we will consider how religious practice affects belief and whether benefit can be obtained from this practice even in the absence of belief.

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE
332 Hance Avenue
Tinton Fall, NJ 07724

Phone: 732-747-9365
Email: info@monmouthreformtemple.org
www.monmouthreformtemple.org

Baldwin Davidson Memorial Scholarship Fund

A Message from Sisterhood & Men's Club

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, 2015

BALDWIN DAVIDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: February 15, 2015 ■ Notification: March 10, 2015

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

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- Ted and Shelley Ibex on the death of her mother Vivian Meistrich
- Marcy and Brian McMullen on the death of her father Irving Prince

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

- Chris and Mary Leverett on the birth of a grandson
- Debbie and Robert Weissman on the birth of a granddaughter, Sophia Paige
- Richard and Lori Saybolt on the birth of twin granddaughters Parker Catherine and Lillian Claire



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

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

February Yahrtzeits (date based on when they occur)

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

*Isadore Abramowitz, Louis J. Fox, Al Goldstein, Abraham Josephson, Ida Klein, David Allen Kline, Morris Kosberg, Sarah Laperdon, Jack Lipsky, Roslyn Lissner, *Carole Littenberg, *Philip Miller, Sanford Rems, Solomon Rems, Benjamin Roffman, *Rose Samo, Samuel D. Shagan, Matilda Tell, Rose Werner, Steven Weyser

Names to be Read on Friday, February 13th (Services at 7pm)

*Sara Brightman, *Lynn Sternberg Donlan, Tom Dorf, Charles Feldman, Pauline Gershon, Phyllis Gordon, Sylvia Gordon, Florence Grieco, Alfred Jampol, Theo Jennings, *Celia Karlman, *Florence Kridel, *Eva Rotman Lite, *Rose Littman, Robert Misch, *Milton Morris, Ellinor G. Newman, Felice Nifoussi, *Sharon Renee Offenhenden, Lester Reiss, Jack Rosen, Morris Rosenberg, *Bob Rosin, *Robert Salomon, *Henry Schwartzman, Frances Sporn, Jean Stark, *Samuel Taksel, *Lillian Trubin, *Rebecca Wagner, *Charles Wallerstein, Ruth Weissman, Shirley Weyser

Names to be Read on Friday, February 20th (Services at 7pm)

Edythe Albert, Rae Barshack, *Lillian Bernstein, Casper Boyer, Phyllis Brodsky, Jose Colmenares, Jack Feinberg, Marjorie Fishman, Joseph Friend, *Marvin L. Kahn, Freida Kirschner, Sadie Kosberg, Joan Litwin, Zeev Manheim, Beverly Maurer, Rita Mercedes McWilliams, *Maurice Meyer Jr., Joseph Michalowicz, *Samuel Prusoff, Leonard Quitt, Sol Rubin, *Harry Rubinstein, *Rosalind Sadwith, Rose Schiller, Florence Snyder, Joseph Steisel, John Stern, Howard Tannenbaum, Florence Ulanet, *Max Walsky

Names to be Read on Friday, February 27th (Services at 7pm)

*Dave Andersen, *Abraham Bialy, *Neil Brandwene, Martin Cole, Bert M. Feinberg, Jean Fiegelman, Joe Friend Jr., Seymour Grauer, Jean Jochnowitz, Philip Kalb, Reba Levin, Rose Levinsky, Andrea Malek, *Bernard Mausner, Jean Morse, George Moss, Jr., Lillian Portman, James Rickard, *Harry Scherman, Ida Schlisserman, Louis Schneider, *Beatrice Silverman, Sophie Wald, Louise Zarin

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund****In Memory Of:**

Ruth Bernstein

Richard and Barbara Gitlin

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Kline

Addie and Morris Bogdonoff

Mark and Juanita Schemel

Adult Ed Fund**In Memory Of:**

Albert Goldstein

Audrey Goldstein

Louis Wigdortz, Hortense Wigdortz, Larry Wigdortz

Steven Anderson

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund**In Memory Of**

James Abis, Jim Gary

Arlene and Jim Berg

Mazon Fund**In Memory Of:**

Irving Prince

Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

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

Albert Shapiro

Elizabeth and Bill Moss

Morris Bernstein

Barbara and Richard Gitlin

Caring Network Fund**In Memory Of:**

Robert Davidson

Marcia Horn

RSJP Endowment Fund**In Memory Of:**

Albert Goldstein

Audrey Goldstein

Flower Fund**In Memory Of:**

Edyth Albert and Sophie Wald

Joyce and John Christie

General Fund**In Honor Of:**

Lori and Rich Saybolt on becoming grandparents to twin granddaughters

Steve and Dari Kennedy

Oneg Fund**In Memory Of:**

John J. Singer

Frank Singer

Michael Sporn, Frances Sporn

Susan and Roy Gelber

Max and Leonore Rosen

Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

Henry Miller

Helene and David Miller

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

Judy Rabinowitz and Rabbi Kline

The Leifman Family

Michael and Genna Weissman on the birth of their daughter Sophia Paige

Debbie and Robert Weissman

Sisterhood Scholarship Fund**In Memory Of:**

Irving Prince

Joel and Marilyn Morgovsky

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

Perry Weyser

Certified Public Accountant
 Certified Financial Planner
 * Advisory Representative



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

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 Are You Happy With
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 Are you losing Employer coverage?



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Phoebe Shagan
 RN, CCM
 Principle



MRT STAFF

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Youth

Wendy Roman

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MRT Executive Board

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wiesenfeld@icee.org

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 Second Vice Pres. Marjorie Wold
 Third Vice Pres. Monica Schneider-Brewer
 Fourth Vice Pres. Harry Hillson
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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

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References Aplenty

February 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels & Blocks 1:15pm Jr. Youth Ice Skating	2 7:15pm Sis Book Club	3 9:45am Study Group 6:30pm Ritual Meeting	4 4pm Religious School 6:30pm MRP Task Force 7pm Sr. Youth 7pm Shpiel Rehearsal	5 7pm Atid Committee	6 3:30pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 5:30pm K12 Preneg 6pm Shabbat Services followed by Pot Luck	7 SHABBAT KALLAH 9am-4pm with Lunch 6:30pm Family Movie Night
8 9:30am Rel School 10:30am 4th Grade Siddur program	9	10 9:45am Study Group 7pm Orchid Society 7:30pm Exec Comm	11 4pm Religious School 6pm Youth Com. 7pm Sr. Youth 7pm Shpiel Rehearsal 7pm Adult Ed	12 7pm Library Task Force	13 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services	14 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study
15 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 7am MRTSY Ski Trip	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 9:45am Study Group 7:15pm Board of Trustees	18 4pm Religious School 7pm Shpiel Rehearsal	19 7:30pm Men's Club Board 7pm Sis Out & About	20 7pm Social Action Shabbat Services with Guest Speaker	21 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study 10am 6th Grade Service
22 Sis Hamantaschen Baking 9:30am 6th grade PACT 9:30am Rel School 9:45am LDT 5 7pm Jewish Belief	23	24 9:45pm Study Group	25 4pm Religious School 7pm Shpiel Rehearsal 7pm Sr. Youth	26	27 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 3:30pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 7pm Shabbat Services	28 9am Shabbat Services & Torah Study

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Megillah on the Roof Purim Shpiel

Performance: Saturday, March 7th

