



THE MRT BULLETIN

September 2015

Volume LVII Issue III

Elul-Tishrei 5776

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

OPEN DOORS OPEN MINDS

Schedule of Shabbat and Holiday Events and Services—2015

Shabbat Services

Friday, September 4th at 6pm

Join us just before services we begin the journey of moving our
Shoah Torah into the Ark

SELICHOT

Saturday, September 5th

Selichot Study Session 7:00 pm
Selichot Service with Choir 8:00pm

See Page 4 for information.

Shabbat Services: SEEDS OF SPIRITUALITY: FREEDOM

(Visual Service)

Friday, September 11th at 7pm

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

(Evening before)

Sunday, September 13th at 7:45 pm

ROSH HASHANAH DAY

Monday, September 14th

Morning Service 10:00 am
Family (Children's) Service 3:00 pm
Followed by a walk to Tashlich* 4:00 pm

We recite prayers near a body of water while throwing pieces of bread
into it, symbolically casting away our sins. Engaging in this brief service
gives a tangible outlet for our repentance during the holy days .

*BYOB (bring your own breadcrumbs)

Shabbat Services: Shabbat Shuvah

Friday, September 18th at 7pm

KOL NIDREI (Yom Kippur Eve)

Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:45pm

YOM KIPPUR DAY

Wednesday, September 23rd

Morning Service 10:00 am
Family (Children's) Service 2:00 pm
Yom Kippur Afternoon Program 3:00 pm
Yizkor Service 4:45 pm
Closing Service/Neilah 5:30 pm

Shabbat Services
Friday, September 25th at 7pm

SUKKOT AND SIMCHAT TORAH

Pre-Sukkot Havdallah in the Sukkah

Sunday, September 27th

5pm-7pm

At the home of Rabbi Kline and Lori Bernard

Sukkot Sunrise Service

Monday, September 28th at 6:30am

Bagels and coffee will follow the service!

SMaRTY hosts Dinner in the Sukkah

Tuesday, September 29th at 6pm

Religious School Pizza in the Hut

Wednesday, September 30th at 6pm

Men's Club Dinner in the Sukkah

Wednesday, September 30th at 7pm

Sisterhood Dinner in the Sukkah

Thursday, October 1st at 6:30pm

Sukkot Intermediate: Shabbat Services

Friday, October 2nd at 6pm

New Member Welcome

Bring your own Dinner and Eat in the Sukkah following services

Shabbat Services

Saturday, October 3rd at 10am

Bar Mitzvah of Adam Gorstein

Sunday, October 4th

Religious School at 9:30am

Bagels and Blocks at 9:30am

Simchat Torah Celebration and Consecration at 11:30am

Festival Yizkor – Time to be announced

Minyan and Torah Study at 9am
Saturday mornings 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.

Come and be with community
To remember, to heal, to be whole

Friday, 11 September 7pm

Seeds of Spirituality™

A Visual Prayer Service

freedom



MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE

332 Hance Ave Tinton Falls

monmouthreformtemple.org



From Rabbi Marc Kline

As we approach the New Year, I cannot help but pray. Normally, I pray for a healthy new year. Normally, I pray for peace. Normally, I look forward to the gates closing on last year, so that we can be inscribed for blessings in the new year. This year, my prayers are filled with anxiety over the news in the world. More than my thoughts on any one policy or political maneuver, I

ache over the way in which we have let the difficulties of the world create nightmares between each other. Laws will come and go, treaties will bring peace, or they will fail. There are consequences for the successes and failures of politics. None of us is a prophet, and while we can believe that our insight is stronger than that of our neighbor, we have no way of knowing what the future will bring ... with one exception. I know this with perfect faith, if we let the politics of the world rip our communities apart, we all lose.

The only real strength that can save this world is the one rooted in our love for each other's life, dignity, and security. So, on behalf of Monmouth Reform Temple, my prayer for our community is for love, for compassion, and for the ability and desire to listen to each other with love and compassion. We cannot waste our lives posturing over decisions that we can only partly control. Pirke Avot teaches us that when we exist in a world where no one behaves as should a human, we are commanded to be human. Join us as we work to create the community ... the family that will be the source of strength that holds this world together.

Over the next month we will see the Shoah (Holocaust) Torah find a new home in our Sanctuary Ark. We will open religious school with an energetic and enriching Stephanie Fields as our new Principal. We will welcome Sukkot at sunrise. We will celebrate renewal and restoration over the course of a month of holiday season!

Our MRT family provides wonderful opportunities for personal and communal growth. It is truly a blessing to be here.

Shanah Tovah, and may this year bring us into each other's company for blessing.

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

"Forgive others, not because they deserve forgiveness, but because you deserve peace." (Jonathan Lockwood Huie)

Yom Kippur is a time when we reflect upon our lives and personal behavior. Reflection means questioning choices we made, things we said or did not say. Reflection means we scrutinize our choices realizing we need to do a better job in the year to come. From the process of self scrutiny we are asked to create a "cheshbon ha-nefesh", which means-an accounting of our soul.

Yom Kippur and all the observances leading up are not only about "asking" for forgiveness. Yom Kippur is also about "granting" forgiveness to those who have "sinned against us". Yom Kippur is about forgiving those whom we love for hurting us. Yom Kippur is about accepting the imperfections in ourselves as a way to understand the imperfections in every single one of us.

Every year I am grateful to have another chance to say I am sorry. These days of Awe-the Ya'amim Nora'im give us the opportunity to reflect and forgive. Relieving the score sheet and painful lists we create in our own heads will never give us a sense of peace. However, forgiving others can give us an enormous sense of peace and enables us to move forward.

Listening and singing the music of the prayers on Selichot, Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur is meant to turn you inwards. It is different from the Jewish music you hear throughout the year-by design. The music is meant to engender reflection. The words of the prayers and unique quality of High Holy Day music is to help us in the process of "T'shuvah". T'shuvah means turning around and starting again. Literally to "come full circle".

In the new year of 5776 may we gift ourselves a new start by doing the important work of Cheshbon Ha Nefesh. May we forgive those who need our forgiveness and then forgive ourselves with the intention to do better.

L'shana Tova Tikateivu!
Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



Pre-Sukkot Havdallah in the Sukkah
at the home of Rabbi Kline and Lori Bernard
Sunday, September 27th from 5pm -7pm

From the President, Zach Gilstein Email: zachmate2@gmail.com



I would like to wish everyone in the MRT Community a happy and health new year! We are truly blessed to have a vibrant Jewish community in which we can pray, play, and study together as well as join our efforts in building a better world. I look forward to connecting more deeply and more broadly with our community in 5776.

Last month I said that I would provide my perspectives on what I see as our potential. I see several major areas where we have tremendous potential to strengthen the Jewish foundation of our lives. I am excited to welcome our new Religious School Principal, Stephanie Fields. Stephanie brings a youthful enthusiasm and a wealth of experience from her previous position at The Temple, in Atlanta. I know that the Rabbi, Cantor and staff as well as the Religious Education Committee, and Stephanie are working vigorously together to assess all that we do in our Religious School and to broaden and strengthen the curriculum to ensure that our children have a sound foundation in Judaism to lead an enriched Jewish life.

Beyond education for our children, we are developing a broader array of programs for Adult Learning. I have always found that studying together is a great way to engage and learn from other people. I have personally been attending the Shabbat Torah Study sessions. As our Rabbi says, the Torah is all about the conversation that it engenders. Studying with others, I learn a lot, hear multiple perspectives, and am always impressed by what my colleagues have to offer. I believe through the Sunday night discussion group, Shabbat Kallah, 92nd St Y programs, and additional programming that is being planned, we have great potential to engage many more adults in nurturing meaning in our lives.

Social Action is being revitalized and expanded. Beginning with Mitzvah Day last May, we have created a groundswell of interest in furthering our work in Tikkun Olam. I believe the Social Action committee will bring a great focus to these endeavors and engage more people in this important work.

Our Ritual Committee has done much to seek new ways to pray together. I have enjoyed the spirit and spirituality brought to the community with the visual Seeds of Spirituality services. I know First Fridays have been an enthusiastic bringing together of many temple families in worship. I see us reaching even higher levels of engagement and creativity.

Finally, Sisterhood and Men's Club engender a real sense of social gathering, in which we can join together to just enjoy each other's companies doing whatever folks like to do, whether it's reading and discussing books, playing poker, baking hamentashen, or going sailing on the Navesink. I see both of these groups thinking creatively about how to connect more people together so that everyone knows they are welcome. And I see our Membership committee looking to take a more active role on engaging our members and ensuring that our new members find multiple points of connection.

L'Shanah Tovah!
Zach Gilstein

Selichot: Saturday evening, September 5th **Program at 7pm Service with MRT Choir and Torah Mantle Ceremony at 8pm**

Join us in welcoming Selichot and the High Holy Days! Prior to our service, we will experience an emotionally challenging reading of Merle Feld's play "The Gates are Closing."

A drama of great religious insight and nuance, Feld introduces us to a minyan of Jews on the eve of Yom Kippur. We will trace the stories of characters from the Rabbi and his wife, the Cantor, a teenager to an Israeli, and host of other members of a small congregation. The reading explores their traumas, dreams, and yearnings; their hopes for teshuvah. Our hope is to bring people past the readings of words on the prayer book pages into the exploration of heart and soul. The Holy day season should allow us to bring to light our deepest fears, our greatest challenges. As we wrestle with the places of darkness, we hope to experience the incredible light of healing and celebration of the many blessings that we do not otherwise acknowledge. It is so hard to feel blessed when we are holding baggage inside.

Sponsored by the Ritual Committee

Seeds
of Spirituality™
A Visual Approach to Prayer

2015 - 2016

FREEDOM

11 September 2015 @ 7PM



FAMILY

13 November 2015 @ 6PM



LETTERS

12 February 2016 @ 7PM



GRAFFITI

20 May 2016 @ 7PM



DREAMS

17 June 2016 @ 7PM



Seeds of Spirituality is a visual Shabbat service.

At MRT

**LIVE FROM NEW YORK!****30 September @ 8.15 pm****Living Well, Aging Well**

Inspiring and uplifting discussion, with Harold Kushner, Rachel Cowan and Rabbi Peter Rubenstein, about what it means to live a good life. Join these great thinkers as they discuss faith, life lessons, wise aging and other significant issues we should all be thinking about.

18 October @ 5 pm**Ralph Bultjens on World Politics Making Sense of the Middle East with Robin Wright**

Leading analyst of world affairs, Ralph Bultjens draws on his vast knowledge and understanding of how conflicts in one part of the world affect peace in another.

10 November @ 7.30 pm**Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks in Conversation with Rabbi Peter Rubenstein**

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, one of the most admired religious leaders of our time, provides an answer to those who claim that religion is intrinsically a cause of violence, in his new book, *Not in God's Name*. There are many conflicts around the world at present that claim to be in the name of God in Iraq, in Syria, in Gaza and elsewhere. However, Rabbi Sacks argues that a true understanding of religion will enable and inspire us to bring peace, not war—that far from leaving religion on the sidelines, we must put it at the heart of our peacemaking efforts.

TICKETING**\$18.00** for each program

Purchase tickets in advance or at the door.

Check in at desk for each event

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

Summary of August 18, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting: from Jim Halpern, MRT Recording Sec'y

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of August 18, 2015 and would like to acknowledge positive happenings within our congregation.

This month we convened the Publicity and Marketing Committee to help coordinate notices, published articles and general communications about MRT. Our Men's Club was busy helping to clean up the Henry Hudson Trail. They also helped to harvest vegetables from our garden, which is in full bloom and producing abundant produce. We held the second Shabbat Beach Service on a beautiful Friday evening at Seven Preident's Park. Our Marteff (lower level at MRT) has been cleaned, renovated and is ready for use this fall. A special thanks to Mustafa, our custodian, who works tirelessly keeping our facility in order. Our new Religious School Principal, Stephanie Fields has joined our staff. Our Library has been reconfigured. Sisterhood is preparing for the New Year and is taking orders for both Apple Cake and Babka. Proceeds of this sale go to fund our Chanukah party. Our second Havdalah event will be held at Rabbi Kline and Lori Bernard's home later this month. The Ritual Committee is finishing up details for modifications to the Arc in the sanctuary, which will soon house our Holocaust Torah. We will be having three live 92Y Broadcasts this fall, details are posted in our lobby. A very special "Seeds of Spirituality" service is scheduled on 9/11 in remembrance of this tragic event.

Rabbi Kline has just finished a 20 mile walk commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Selma March. This event is a walk of over 800 miles from Selma, Alabama to Washington DC. Rabbi Kline was one of more the 150 Reform Jewish Rabbis who participated to help promote social justice. The March will end on September 15th in Washington commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.

Committee Reports were presented to the Board. The Board has asked the chairs of these committees to prepare an update from their committees for this newsletter to help keep congregants up to date.

In honor of Rabbi Priesand's mother's 100 birthday, a commemorative brick was placed in our walkway and a tree was planted in Israel.

Our new Youth Advisors Rose Schreck and Amy Greenberg and our youth committee have been planning their year for our children and teens. They have a lot of great ideas and it is wonderful for our kids!

Preparations for the High Holy Days are underway. Our Choir is rehearsing and Rich Sachs is helping to prepare the Shofar blowers. The Men's Club is in need of ushers to assist during all services. Marc Gruensfelder and Joel Morgovsky will be leading the High Holy Day Appeal again this year. Please be generous when considering your donation this year, funds collected help support the activities at MRT.

The Board discussed the guidelines for the Financial Secretary to follow when reviewing pledges by our congregation. The Board passed a motion to modify our policy to ensure that pledges are current when a congregant asks for a life cycle event such as a B'nai Mitvah, baby naming, marriage, etc. to be performed at MRT, with the exception of funerals which are exempt. Statements will now indicate any past due balances. If there are circumstances that prevent payment of your pledge, please call the Financial Secretary to make alternative arrangements.

A reception is being planned for those congregants who are in our Honored Circles of Giving to acknowledge their generosity to MRT.

Board Members will soon be calling congregants to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Our goal is to reach everyone personally on the phone.

The Board passed a motion to adopt the Ritual Committee's recommendation for a food policy at our facility and asks that everyone be sensitive to Jewish dietary traditions by refraining from bring any pork, ham, shrimp or other shell fish into the temple and that during Passover refrain from bringing bread or other leavened products.

The Board has asked that a notice be placed on this year's temple directory indicating that the names of our members are not to be used for solicitations of any kind. If you wish to advertise your services, please see the office about placing an ad in our newsletter.

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE
DINE-OUT AT MJ's!
ENJOY LUNCH/DINNER AT
MJ'S TINTON FALLS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH
ALL DAY



1213 SYCAMORE AVENUE
TINTON FALLS

PLEASE GIVE THIS FLYER TO YOUR SERVER AND MRT WILL
RECEIVE A DONATION OF 15% OF YOUR FOOD CHECK
LET'S INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO PARTICIPATE!
FLYERS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE MRT OFFICE

Don't forget to get your orders in by September 1st for

Sisterhood Applecake/Babka and Honey

Pick up your orders:

Friday, September 11th from 12pm –2pm

Sunday, September 13th—During Religious School



Making Strides against Breast Cancer

The MRT "Sisters" will once again be walking in the **Making Strides against Breast Cancer** walk in Point Pleasant Beach. Our **DREAM TEAM** is not limited to just Sisters or temple members. ALL are invited to walk. Please join us as together we help to create more birthdays.



The event is **Sunday, October 18** at Point Pleasant Beach and is 3.2 miles (5k).

8:00 am	Registration begins – everyone must register at the tents
9:00 am	Opening Ceremony
9:40 am	Warm up
10:00 am	The Walk begins

For additional information please contact:

Linda Wien Murray (lwmurray610@gmail.com) or

Margie Wold (woldiem@aol.com)

Sign up through the blog :

<http://mrtsisterhood.wordpress.com/making-strides-against-breast-cancer>

or type in

<http://tinyurl.com/q6p9zu4> to reach the Sisterhood registration page.

Once you join the MRT Sisterhood team, you can have donations posted to the team or to your individual page. If you click on your name, the donation will post to your individual page.

Join us as we help to create a world with more birthdays!

Food Policy Updated June 2015 by the Ritual Committee

For the comfort of and out of respect for those of our members and visitors who may be sensitive Jewish dietary traditions, we respectfully ask that all members, guests and others who may from time to time rent space in our building likewise be accommodating in this regard.

Consequently, we ask that when planning receptions, providing food for covered dish events or bringing personal lunches to work or a meeting, no PORK/HAM, SHRIMP OR OTHER SHELLFISH be brought into the Temple (during Passover no bread or leavened products be brought into the Temple).



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"Our Torah is the Tree of Life."

Join us just before services on Friday, September 4, as we begin the journey of moving our Shoah (Holocaust) Torah into our Sanctuary Ark.

This first move will be reverent, but without ceremony. We will read from it on Yom Kippur Afternoon, so we are wrapping it in a tallit and placing it in a temporary stand pending its more permanent structure and mantle. At that time, we will have a formal ceremony to marry it to our Ark.

From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Affairs Chair

THINKING ABOUT ISRAEL

Rabbi Uri Regev, Esq., a Reform Rabbi, is one of Israel's most prominent advocates for religious freedom. As President and CEO of an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) called HIDDUSH "For Freedom of Religion and Equality", Regev often refers to Israel's Declaration of Independence which states as a goal religious freedom and equality for all. He fears that the promise of the Declaration of Independence is at stake as facts on the ground deny that freedom.

Regev focusses on life cycle events which, in Israel, are mostly controlled by the Ultra-Orthodox. According to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, 12% of Israelis identify as Conservative or Reform yet a wedding officiated by a Conservative or Reform Rabbi is not considered to be legal. There is no civil marriage or divorce in Israel therefore there is no choice for marriage to be performed except by the Orthodox Rabbinate. Conversions performed by Conservative or Reform Rabbis are not recognized as kosher. Jews by Choice may have their conversion retracted if the conversion took place in a Conservative or Reform setting. Though some financial support to non-Orthodox synagogues has recently been granted, that support is negligible compared to what Orthodox synagogues and their Rabbis receive. These facts, according to Regev, deny the mission statement in the Israel Declaration of Independence.

Regev notes that non-Orthodox streams are the majority in Israel and the Diaspora and while Judaism teaches respect for others, Israel is the only democracy in the world where religious freedom is violated. Painful as it is to be critical of Israel, if we don't recognize the problem and bring it out in the open, it can never be solved and can only become worse. Regev believes that respect for all streams of Judaism, as exists in the United States, makes for a stronger Jewish community.

As leader of Hiddush, Rabbi Regev, through education and advocacy seeks to strengthen Israel as a Jewish democracy dedicated to religious pluralism. He has stated, "Religious liberty is a fundamental freedom of the highest order."

At the other end of the spectrum, as reported in the NJN, August 6, Rabbi Avraham Kaminer, a Hasid Rabbi, member of the Haredi (fervently Orthodox) community, residing in Arad, New Jersey's sister city, is working to bring people together. He envisions a pluralistic society and has worked toward that end by engaging in the civic sphere and has helped to develop a secular educational system for Arad.

Perhaps these diverse approaches will succeed in bringing all segments of the multi streams of Judaism in Israel together with respect and understanding.

Personal confession: Our Rabbi Kline is a colleague and has worked with Rabbi Regev. I have had the pleasure of meeting and hearing both Rabbi Regev and Rabbi Kaminer recently and have been mightily impressed.

Lobby Tzedakah Box September 2015: Cardboard Box City—Family Promise

Our Youth Groups have participated in this event for the past several years:

Family of Monmouth County (<http://www.familypromisemc.org>) – the only non-profit organization specifically helping shelter homeless families – will host its Annual Cardboard Box City Friend- and Fund-raiser, Friday September 25th, 2015 on the grounds of Monmouth Church of Christ, 312 Hance Avenue, Tinton Falls, rain or shine.

A Box, Pledge & Sponsors Helps Kids in Monmouth County. Participants in Cardboard Box City raise a minimum of \$100 in pledges and contributions and sleep overnight in a cardboard box "home" as a resident of Cardboard Box City.

Family Promise of Monmouth County, an affiliate of national Family Promise, works with community agencies, faith-based services, churches and synagogues to provide shelter, food, transportation and supportive services including case management for homeless families. Their Network is made up of host congregations who have pledged the use of their facilities and the participation of volunteer members and support congregations who provide additional volunteers and support.

Spotlight on our Board

Over the next 6 months or so we will be featuring articles about our Board members, a few each month.

We hope you enjoy the articles. All of them are always interested in welcoming more people to their team.

Stu Tuchband, MRT Treasurer

If you have a question about financial funds at Monmouth Reform Temple, chances are Stu Tuchband, Treasurer, will have the answer. Since joining MRT in 1969, Stu and his wife of 56 years, Cora, have been involved in a variety of activities, but for Stu, the primary focus has been finance.

Temple involvement came naturally to Cora and Stu, as they met in the youth groups of their neighborhood synagogue in Brooklyn, NY. Stu graduated with an engineering degree from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (now part of NYU) and after getting married, moved to NJ, earning Master's Degrees in Electrical Engineering and System Science. While doing his undergraduate work, Stu became captain of the Brooklyn Poly Nighthawks rifle team. He was also in the Air Force Reserves where he achieved a Master ranking in both rifles and handguns.

Stu worked at Bell Telephone Laboratories until the early 1970's when he left and founded a telecommunications consulting firm with two other budding entrepreneurs. He was President and CEO of the consulting firm and retired in 2006.

Stu and Cora joined MRT in 1969 to meet other families with common interests, and to start their children in religious school. Stu says his greatest benefit from MRT was successfully raising his children in the Jewish tradition. Second to that was (and still is) making new temple friends and growing those relationships. His earliest interests at MRT were Ritual and Finance and he right away joined both committees. A former MRT President, Stu was involved with the Monmouth Festival of the Arts, and currently Arts & Deco Committee.

Stu enjoys singing in the MRT choir, blowing the shofar at services, skiing, tennis, reading and birdwatching. When not busy at MRT, he loves to adventure travel (he's been to every continent), visit his children and grandchildren and tend his garden.

An early recollection from the 1980's at MRT with Rabbi Priesand is especially poignant:

"In the 1980's the Temple participated in a social action project to resettle refugees from Viet Nam. Dozens of Temple members donated their time, effort and funds to help four Vietnamese adults establish themselves in our country. Over the course of about 5 months my family provided housing for all of them by sharing our home. It was quite a cross cultural learning experience for the whole family and each of us gained enormously from the experience. The first to arrive were a brother and sister. Each had left a spouse behind. Then, another sister and her husband arrived. She was pregnant. For political reasons it took us ten years to reunite the brother with his wife and child. Over the years we remain close to them and their growing families."

Stu's dedication to MRT goes back decades and continues to stay strong.

By Marjorie Wold

Spotlight on our Board

Lauren Vicenzi & Sarah Klein; Co-Presidents of Senior MRT Youth Group (SMaRTY)

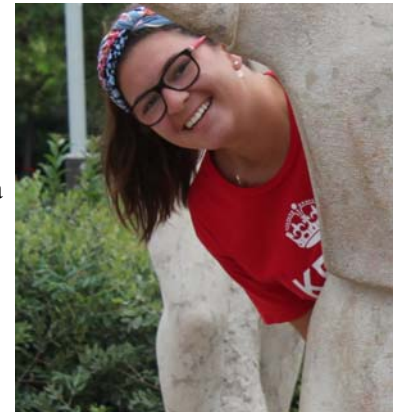


Lauren and Sarah are both seniors in high school. Lauren attends Wall High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society and plays flute in the school wind ensemble. Sarah attends The Ranney School, at which she swims breaststroke on the swim team and enjoys acting in the school shows.

Sarah is really passionate about working with children and intends to pursue a career that will enable her to continue doing so, perhaps child psychology. She works as an intern in the lower grades at Ranney, reading to fourth graders and helping them with their analytical skills. She's also in the Madrichim program in the MRT Religious School.

Lauren loves music and looks forward to playing flute in her college symphonic band, though she hasn't zeroed in on a particular school yet. She's studied flute since the 4th grade and also plays piano and dabbles in guitar and ukulele. Lauren had the honor of performing in Lincoln Center, Kimmel Center, and Temple University with her school's band. She is also very involved in her school's Relay for Life, and Music Honors Society.

Given a free Sunday, Lauren would go out to breakfast with friends and then head for the beach to read a good book. Sarah really didn't care what she was doing as long as it was with other people.



Both remarked that the thing they loved best about MRT was the feeling of being part of a big family and the great bonds and friendships they have formed. Lauren and Sarah also enjoy their involvement in the Temple Youth group which has enabled them to meet people from all over the Garden Empire Region (NY and NJ). They are both excited about the many SMaRTY activities planned for the upcoming year.

For more information about SMaRTY, feel free to reach out to Sarah or Lauren.

By Zach Gilstein

Jay Goldberg, House Chair

MRT is pleased and proud to have Jay Goldberg Trustee of the temple this year. Jay brings his warm personality, his commitment to the temple as well as his 30 year experience as a Financial Advisor to his position as Chairperson of the House committee. Jay is a Retirement Planning Specialist with Axa Advisors in their Woodbridge, New Jersey branch.

Jay and his charming wife, Ellen, have been members of MRT for many years. Their two sons, Joshua, who is 25 and in the solar power business, and Jeremy, who is 22 and a singer, musician and rock star, have grown up in our temple. Both Jay and Ellen enjoy numerous, close friendships with other temple members. Jay enjoys being a board member so that he can give his time, passion and efforts back to our MRT community.

When you see Jay at temple, please feel free to introduce yourself to him. He looks forward to chatting with you!

By Rachel Placitella



Spotlight on our Board**Rabbi Marc A. Kline**

I was very happy to have selected Rabbi Kline as the person I'm writing about because I realized it was a challenge. Not that he's difficult to write about – in fact, just the opposite. He's very open and that's what made him a great interviewee. The reason I thought it was a challenge, however, is because many people already know him – and I felt it challenging (in a good way!) to find interesting and different things to write about.

As many of you know, Rabbi Kline considers himself a “recovering lawyer”. I asked him to tell me something about that career change that maybe he hasn't talked about. He said that he left the practice of law to be with people and not over them. He very much respects and works to fulfill the definition of Rabbi as “teacher”. He said that he really wants to be approachable because he cannot serve meaningfully if he's irrelevant. And regarding relevancy, he defines that to be how he responds to us rather than how he preaches to us. His sermons and writings are personal and touch many of our common experiences. If he says hi to you, be assured that he wants to know how you really are. If things are going well, tell him. If things aren't, tell him that, too. None of this was a surprise to me personally, but it was nice to hear him articulate this out loud.

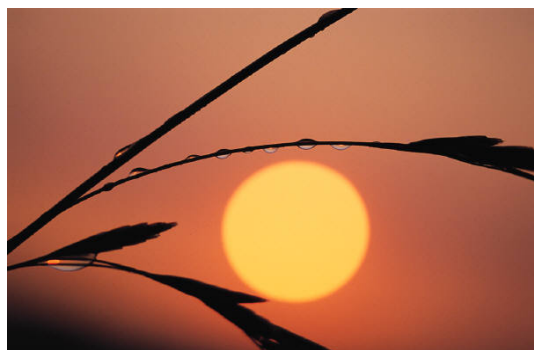
I wanted to know about how he's experienced his first year with us, in terms of what's been unexpected or surprising. He said that it's been amazing to live near water (both the rivers and ocean) as he's never been able to do that before. People are people, and even though he may have expected us to be different because of the perceived cultural differences in the northeast and near New York City, it's not about where you live – it's about who you are. He's met some great people, despite what he was told to expect stereotypically.

I asked him, other than Rabbi or lawyer, what work he would like to do. His answer was twofold. First, he said he loves teaching, especially ethics and philosophy. Second, he said he'd love to be an English- and Hebrew-speaking tour guide living in Israel, where he'd work with Christian, Muslim, and Jewish tourists. He credits his own great teachers who have helped him learn and be comfortable with these diverse groups.

In case you wanted to know what he does during his time off recently, he pulls weeds and does gardening at home. This will need a modification in the winter! He also goes to the gym in the mornings so he can get lost in concentration about the exercises he's doing – while simultaneously playing games on his phone.

Finally, I concluded our talk with my favorite question of all. I asked him what he hoped I would ask but didn't. He said he really didn't know what direction I was headed with the interview. In particular, he wasn't sure if I'd ask about his family. He made it very clear that without Lori and Rachel, he's not whole. It's not just all about him. He also mentioned that he really does remind himself each day that he is blessed. He has seen a lot and becomes more sure of it daily. I'd say we are as well.

By Faith Leifman



Rise and Shine!
Celebrate Sukkot with MRT
Sunrise Service
Monday, September 28th at 6:30am
 Followed by Bagels and Coffee in the Sukkah

Arts and Deco, Rita Sperling, Chairperson

This summer, Arts & Deco, through generous donations made by the Tobias, Hershey and Wold families, has helped to spruce up the library with a fresh coat of paint and new window treatments. We've also been gifted with two significant donations that will brighten the atmosphere of our building.

Former MRT member Randy Greenberg has offered to re-matt and frame the confirmation school photographs that are displayed in the first floor school hallway. For the many visitors who regularly view the photo display, a fresh arrangement will be particularly welcomed.

A donor who wishes to remain anonymous is preparing MRT's collection of Miniature Bronze Plaques and Watercolors by artist Chaim Gross to be hung in the lobby. This collection, originally donated by Laurie and Larry Lowenstein, will create an exhibit of value and distinction.

These forms of donation are extremely generous and greatly appreciated. A & D also needs your support for the numerous projects that remain. Our building reflects our congregation, so please consider a donation to Arts & Deco.

L'Shana Tova, Rita Sperling

From Stephanie Fields, MRT Religious School Principal



As the summer winds down we are in full prep mode for school to begin on September 13(!). We are excited to see all of the children's smiling faces and refreshed souls from the summer air. As we return from summer we are reminded why we are here - to enjoy, celebrate, and gain a deeper sense of where we came from, what Judaism is, and what Judaism has to offer our lives. In this upcoming year I hope that everyone delves into a deeper understanding of Judaism in their life. We welcome all parents and students to join us for our opening ceremonies the morning of September 13th!

Membership News: Linda Burns, Chairperson, Gena Lande, Co-Chairperson



Prospective Member Open Houses

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!!!

Thursday, September 10th at 6pm

Wine & Cheese in the Social Hall

Sunday, September 20th at 10am

Coffee & Bagels in the Social Hall

- Prospective members are invited.
- Please let your friends know!
- All MRT Congregants are encouraged to attend.

MEN'S CLUB, Mark Kroen, President

August was a busy month for both new members and activities. I would like to begin by recognizing the newest members to the MRT Men's Club: John Blumberger, Reid Conway, Peter Rossin, Peter Zaslowe

We look forward to meeting all of you at future Men's Club meeting and welcome you and your families to Monmouth Reform Temple.

The following is a list of Men's Club participated in the month of August:

- We participated in harvesting vegetables from the garden that went to various food banks
- We cleaned our adopted portion of the Henry Hudson Walkway – thanks to Jill Austin from Sisterhood, and Nancy and Peter Zaslowe for participating as well. It was a great showing and a great outing. The next clean-up is sometime late October, and we look forward to having mover people join us.
- We removed all the books from the library walls so the library could be painted, and returned all the books once the paint was dried. A great big thank you to Amy Greenberg and the Senior Youth Group for all their help, you surely made the task a great deal easier!
- We donated \$100 to the Baldwin Davidson Fund in honor of Rose Priesand celebrating her 100th birthday.

At the last Temple Board Meeting, each committee was asked to present their goals for the upcoming year. The following are the goals presented:

- More men attending and participating at future meetings
- Assigning a member to be the Men's Club representative at future B'Nai Mitzvahs
- Increasing our presence at various temple functions
- Support Sam Goodman with our presence at Shiva calls
- Increase our gifting / contributions
- More community involvement – there is an underlying them, at least one I have picked up from attending meetings that “charity starts at home”. Many may recall a very successful television campaign that used the same mantra. There are many within our own Temple family that need our help and support, and over the next few months, more and more will be discussed as to how the MRT Men's Club can participate.
- More creative social events to bring together and unit the entire MRT family!

The contribution from our members has decreased dramatically with only 15% of the Men's Club members contributing. I truly recognize that about 20% of our 250 members may not be able to contribute even though they would like to, and that's alright as some contributors have given more than their share to cover those who want to, but can't.

We are asking for a gift of \$36, the equivalent of one Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks cup of coffee, one Big Mac or Whopper, one lunch at Panera. Can I ask those who have not yet contributed to make that willing sacrifice, and to sit down and write out a check to the MRT Men's Club. The money will sever a great many causes throughout the year!

Our next meeting is September 10 and I look forward to seeing many new faces there!

The building of the Sukkah is Sunday, September 27, and we can use everyone's help!

The Men's Club potluck dinner is in the Sukkah, September 30.

In closing, I wish for all of you and your loved ones good health, prosperity and peace! Shalom!

Mark Kroen, President, MRT Men's Club



Men's Club Annual Sukkah Building

Sunday, September 27th starting at 8:30am

And when the holidays are over help us take it down- Sunday, October 11th at 8:30am

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- Stuart Weisbrot on the loss of his wife, Elaine



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.

The Congregation mourns the loss of

Elaine Weisbrot



May Her Memory be a Blessing

Cantor's Fund

In Memory Of:

Mina Kasdan

Renee and Daniel Dasaro

Morris Cowan

Ruth Cowan

In Honor Of:

Phoebe and Bernard Shagan on the marriage of their son Adam to Karolyn

The MRT Choir

Cantor Clissold

Dorothy and Leonard

Teitelbaum

September Yahrzeits (date based on when they occur)

Names to be Read on Friday, September 4th (Services at 6pm)

Grace Arnold, Theodore Atlas, Ilya Y. Bakelman, *Ann Bregman, Jean Chanenson, *Clayton Fishman, Samuel Haratz, Anna Harran, Lynda Hoffman, *Frieda Jung, *Morris Kalkstein, Lillian Davis Kaswiner, *Karen Kleinman, *Leonard Kleinman, *Eve Leppel, Isadore Levin, Benjamin Lissner, Jr., Alan Lowenstein, *Harold Mausner, Milton Mausner, William Palmer, Marianne Picus, Thelma Simon, Seth Tobias, *Michael Yagoda

Names to be Read on Friday, September 11th (Services at 7pm)

*Harriet Austin, *Stella Bernstein, Aaron Bolotin, Doris Boxman, Herman Burns, Eva Fryman, Edward Gold, *Bella Gruensfelder, Meyer Heyman, *Sid Komar, *Oscar Kurry, *David Marks, Sidney Melnick, *Blume R. Miller, Jessie Miller, *Stanley Elliot Mitchell, Ben Nussbaum, Todd Richman, Todd Richman, *Rosalie Rosin, Israel Ruby, Richard Salomon, Jeff Smith, Allan Sobelman, *Bob Woolf

Names to be Read on Friday, September 18th (Services at 7pm)

*Sonya Brecker, Sheldon Chaplowitz, Mae Danzig, Leah Epstein, *Philip Falk, *Donald L. Fink, Lester Gutterman, Anna Jarvis, *Roberta Kirsch, Julius H. Klein, *Lillian Lane, Alice Loebel, Sam Mink, Gilda Moss, John Potter, Robert Rekedal, *Anne Rogovin, Florence Chatin Schlenoff, Michael Schneider, *Gladys Pfeffer Simms, *Irene Tuchband, Kurt Wallenfels, Jean Weissman

Names to be Read on Friday, September 25th (Services at 7pm)

Roslyn Berkowitz, *Charles Cooper, Brandon Dowler, *Morris Dworkin, Florence Ganz, Heinz Guenzburger, Esther Hauser, Barbara Hollander, *Abram Kridel, Marshall Lobell, *Gertrude L. Marx, Dorothy Merchasin, Elaine Miller, Walter Peskoe, *Ruth Rothman, Susan Sachs, *Daniel B. Salomon, *Gilbert H. Salomon, *Herman Solomon, Marion Spumberg, *George Welner

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions: con't on page 19

Oneg Fund

Karen Karl and John Heidema

In Memory Of:

Rhea Rath

Jill and Harmon Butler

Phyllis Herbert

Kerry and Evan Krachman

Robert D. Gelber

Susan and Roy Gelber

Ethel Alpine Semer

Susan Martin

Max Ulanet, Lawrence Friedman

Linda and Ira Friedman

Jacob Gilstein

Sheila and Zach Gilstein

Social Action

In Honor Of:

Rose Priesand celebrating a special birthday

Sharyn and Dean Ross

Homeless Fund

In Honor Of

Susan and Bob St. Lifer's son Sam's marriage to Anne

Lila Singer

Phoebe and Bernard Shagan's son Adam's marriage to Karolyn

Lila Singer

Martha Brandwene and Rita McWilliam's marriage

Lila Singer

Bernard Brandwene on Martha and Rita's marriage

Lila Singer

Sharyn and Dean Ross on the birth of their granddaughter Toby Estelle

Lila Singer

Rose Priesand's special birthday

Lila Singer

MRT Vision, Mission, Values (approved at August 20, 2014 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.

September 2015 (and a tentative October)

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Applecake & Honey Orders Due	2	3 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	4 1pm Office Closing 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 6pm Shabbat Services	5 9am Minyan & Torah Study 7pm Selichot Program 8pm Selichot Service
6	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8 7pm Orchid Society 7:30pm Exec Board	9 6:30pm Ritual 7pm Youth Committee 7:45pm Choir	10 6pm Membership Open House 7:30pm Men's Club Board 8:30pm MC Poker	11 12pm Pick of Cake & Honey 2:15pm Shabbat@ Brighton 7pm Seeds of Spirituality: Freedom	12 9am Minyan & Torah Study
13 9:30am First Day: Rel School K-7 9:30am Pickup/Selling Cake & Honey 7:45pm Erev Rosh Hashanah	14-Rosh Hashanah 10am Morning Service 3pm Family/Children's Service 4pm Tashlich	15 7:15pm Board of Trustees	16 4pm Religious School 7pm Health Initiative Meeting Offsite 7pm SMarTY 7:45pm Choir	17 MJ's Fundraising Event!! Flyer needed!! 7:15pm Membership	18 7pm Shabbat Services Shabbat Shuvah	19 9am Minyan & Torah Study
20 9:30am Membership Open House 9:30am Religious School	21	22-Kol Nidre 12pm Office closing 7:45pm Kol Nidre	23-Yom Kippur NO REL SCHOOL 10am Morn. Service 2pm Fam/Children's 3pm Afternoon Prog 4:45pm Yizkor 5:30pm Neilah	24	25 CARDBOARD BOX CITY 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services	26 9am Minyan & Torah Study
27 8:30am MC Build Sukkah 9:30am Rel School 9:30am K/I PACT 12pm Jrs Lunch & Movie 5pm Pre Sukkah Event in Kline/Bernard Sukkah	28-Sukkot 6:30am Sunrise Festival Service OFFICE CLOSED	29 6pm SMarTY Dinner in the Sukkah 6:30pm Adult Ed	30 4pm Rel School 6pm RS Pizza in Hut 7pm MC Dinner 8:15pm 92Y Live- Kushner	October 1 6:30pm Sis Dinner in the Sukkah	2 NEW MEMBER WELCOME 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 6pm Shabbat Services BYO Dinner in Sukkah	3 9am Minyan & Torah Study 10am Bar Mitzvah of Adam Gorstein
4-Simchat Torah celebrated 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels & Blocks 11:30am Simchat Torah celebration & Consecration	5-Shemini Atzeret OFFICE CLOSED 7:15pm Sis Book Club offsite 7:30pm MC Board					

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions: con't from page 17

Adult Ed Fund

In Memory Of:

Gerritt Heidema

Karen Karl and John Heidema

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund

In Honor Of:

Rose Priesand's Special Birthday
The Men's Club

RSJP Endowment Fund

In Honor Of:

Rose Priesand celebrating her 100th
Birthday

Susan and Bob St. Lifer
Sheila and Rich Sachs



Member of the
Union for Reform Judaism

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Anytime

Any Reason

Anywhere

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References Aplenty

*Are you turning 65?
Are You Happy With
Your Current Plan?*

Are you losing Employer coverage?



Always an answer, Never a fee.

YOUR INDEPENDENT AGENT

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- Individualized Health Care Plans
- Senior Solution Planning
- Life Insurance
- Travel
- Dental

Phoebe Shagan
RN, CCM
Principle

