



THE MRT BULLETIN

January 2016

Volume LVII Issue VI

Tevet-Sh'vat 5776

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

Schedule of Shabbat Services January 2016

Friday, January 1st

6pm Shabbat Services

Accompanist: Lori Bernard

Friday, January 8th

"First Friday" with Band and

Pot Luck

6pm Shabbat Services

Followed by Potluck dinner

A-H Salad G-Z Pasta/Chicken

Please bring enough for 12-14

Rabbi Priesand's sermon:

Giving God a Reason to Save the World

Friday, January 15th

Justice/MLK Weekend

7pm Shabbat Services

Guest Speaker: Dr. Everett McCorvey,

University of Kentucky

Sermon: His Eye is On the Sparrow

Joint Choirs:

Pilgrim Baptist Church & MRT

Friday, January 22nd

7pm Shabbat Services

Accompanists: Mark Gruensfelder, Ernie

Guenzberger, Elliott Familant, Bob Hayet

Friday, January 29th

7pm Shabbat Services

Accompanist: Julia Feigus

Every Saturday morning

Torah Talk and Services

in the Library

Saturday (Shabbat morning) Torah Talk

will take place at 9am

followed by Shabbat morning service

Our entire MRT community is invited to
celebrate with our B'nai Mitzvah and their
families at services. Please join us!

When attending services and all other events
at MRT please remember:

- People around you are sensitive to scent, sound, and distraction.
- Always enjoy being here in ways that help others enjoy being here, too.

Thank you!



Justice Weekend

Friday 1/15

7pm: MRT Shabbat service

Sermon: Dr. Everett McCorvey

Performance by MRT and Pilgrim Baptist Church choirs

Saturday 1/16

7pm - MRT Social Hall

Film: "I Shall Not Be Silent," Rabbi Joachim Prinz

Panel discussion will follow

Monday 1/18

12pm: MLK Commemorative Celebration

Pilgrim Baptist Church, Red Bank

172 Shrewsbury Ave, Red Bank

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bernadette Glover Williams

Performance by MRT and Pilgrim Baptist Church choirs

Participating: Rabbi Marc Kline and Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

Please donate unused coats + socks to Project Community Cares

ADULT JEWISH
LEARNING
be inspired

Open to the entire community

Questions: contact Monmouth Reform Temple office

About Dr. Everett McCorvey, Guest Speaker at Shabbat Services

Friday, January 18th at 7pm

Justice/MLK Shabbat

as interviewed by Julie Markoff



We are in for a treat on Friday night, January 15 when in honor of Martin Luther King weekend, our special Shabbat guest and speaker will be Dr. Everett McCorvey. Dr. McCorvey is the endowed chair and head of the Opera Department at the University of Kentucky. He is also founder and director of the American Spiritual Ensemble and Artistic Director of the National Chorale, a highly acclaimed classical music chorus at Lincoln Center. Dr. McCorvey has performed as a tenor soloist and conductor around the world.

Dr. McCorvey grew up in the 1960s and 70s in Montgomery, Alabama around the corner from Jackson Street where Dr. Martin Luther King and his family lived. Growing up in the segregated South, Dr. McCorvey learned the importance of love and patience from his parents who were involved with the Civil Rights movement. At school he felt that whether or not people liked him, he would earn their respect by always focusing and working harder, especially on his music, which he discovered a talent for early on.

A poignant childhood memory is when, because of problems with his foot, he went with his father to see an orthopedic doctor. The younger McCorvey couldn't understand why they had to walk outside through an unkempt yard to an entrance around the back. He sensed the unfairness and the degradation, his father told him, "It won't always be like this."

Dr. McCorvey approaches his music, conducting and teaching with a sense of ministry and mission, informed by his experiences growing up. He believes we must find and work toward our passions, "I tell my students, whether or not you entered at the front door, the hall looks the same once you are inside. It's what you do once you're there--the requirements are the same—work hard, be the best that you can be."

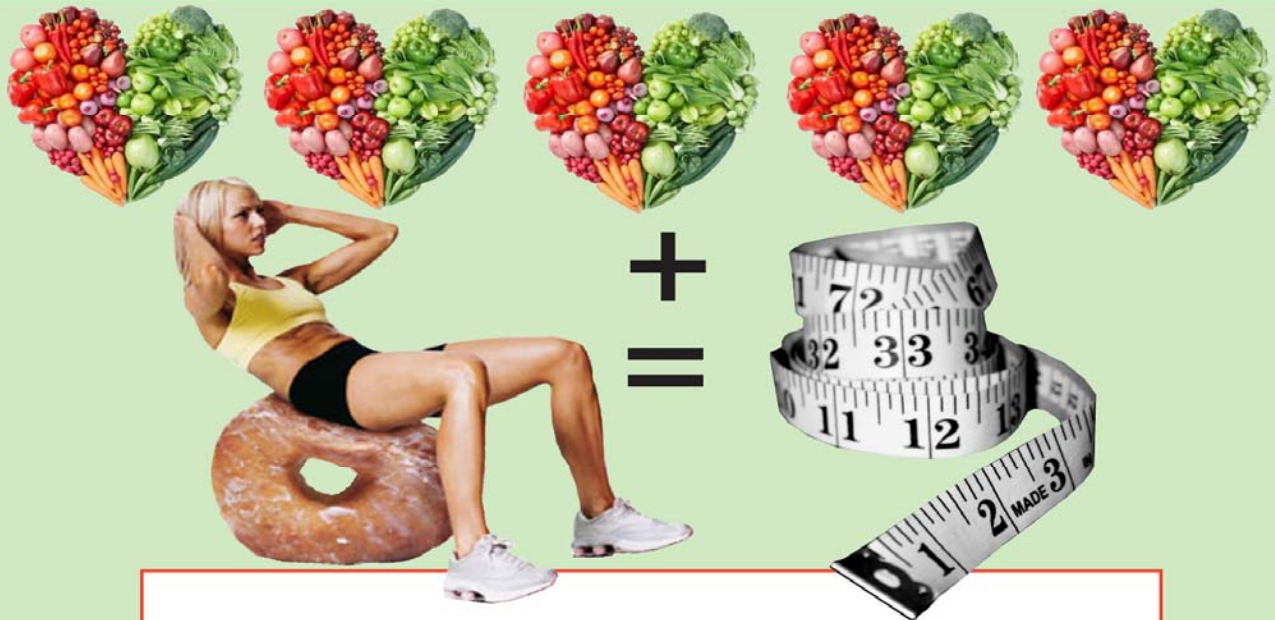
In addition to delivering a sermon, Dr. McCorvey will sing two duets with Cantor Clissold. He is familiar with the Jewish liturgy as he sung the High Holiday services for two years at Rabbi Kline's synagogue in Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. McCorvey observed, "There are similarities in our struggles and our joys -- I can identify with a people struggling for acceptance and survival – to be free to worship as you wish."



Monmouth REFORM Temple

Get Healthy Together!

Health Initiative Day of Inspiration
Sunday, January 31, 11.30am



11.30 am: Opening Remarks

The Jewish link to a healthy mind and body, Rabbi Kline
 followed by a light lunch

12.30 pm: "How Exercise and Nutrition Can Keep You Healthy,
 Wealthy and Wise", Personal Trainer Joe Stein
 Instructor introductions, Margie Wold

Online registration **25 minute classes and programs with breaks**

1.15 to 1.45 pm:

Posturing for Success, Doreen Laperdon-Addison
 Upgrade Your Stress Management Toolbox, Lisa Sussman

2 to 2.30 pm:

Yoga with Liz Moss
 Balance Training Class, Joe Stein

2.45 to 3.15 pm:

Pilates with Nadine Vicenzi
 Healthy Eating, Claudia Huegel

3.30 to 4 pm:

Get Better Sleep---Naturally!, Lisa Sussman
 Dance Your Way to Health, Doreen Laperdon-Addison

Program is free and open to the MRT Family & Friends

Check MRT website for the full program - www.monmouthreformtemple.org

QUESTIONS: Margie Wold - woldiem@aol.com **RSVP:** MRT office - 732.747.9365

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

The Membership Role Policy Task Force restarted its work that began last winter but had a hiatus. The purpose of this Task Force is to provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees about how Members of our congregation can participate in various roles, both religious and governing. In particular, the Task Force is seeking to provide a policy recommendation that can ensure a warm and welcoming community for all members whether they are Jewish or not, while maintaining our Judaic heritage and practices.

The last time a formal discussion of such a policy was done was in 1988. At that time, working toward the same objective, a set of guidelines was set forth that sought to enable all members to participate meaningfully in our spiritual community. Over the last 27 years, our Jewish community continues to change, and we believe it is critical to relook at these policies and practices to ensure that our practice aligns to our Mission and that we are doing the best for our congregation in 2016 and for the future.

Indeed, many practices at MRT have evolved over the years, and in some cases, our practice does not align to our policy. It is important that we address this in an intentional way by assessing what we believe the policy should be and then aligning our practices to it. The Task Force is examining our policy and practices by seeking input from our clergy, Rabbis and scholars outside our Temple, the Union for Reform Judaism, Central Conference of American Rabbis, other congregations, and the Torah.

I expect that before a policy is enacted there will be Temple wide discussion, and I believe it is likely that we will seek to make changes to the Temple by-laws at the annual meeting in late April or early May.

Huge thanks to the Sisterhood and Men's Club for a terrific Chanukah celebration and to our clergy, choir, and all who made our Thanksgiving service with the Presbyterian Church so meaningful and joyous! These spirited celebrations bring out the best in our community.

Mark your calendar for Justice Weekend January 15-18. Details are included elsewhere in the Bulletin for all the events to celebrate justice and inspire us to heightened levels of Social Action.

HHDA Update: We thank our additional donors as of 12/18/15

Berman, Alice
 Byck, Donald & Ellen
 Colicchio, Alan & Heather
 Conway, Reid & Sukinik, Amy
 Gabel, Robert & Roosels, Marianne
 Goodman, Samuel & Anne
 Halpern, Jim
 Kahn, David

Klein, Ronald & Bonnie
 Kline, Rabbi Marc & Bernard, Lori
 Melnick, Andrew
 Ross, Howard & Stacy
 Sabo, James & Brett
 Seckular, Corey & Anna
 Zwerin, Glenn & Lisa

Summary of December 15th Board of Trustees meeting: from Jim Halpern, MRT Recording Sec'y



The Board of Trustees met on the evening of December 15, 2015 and would like to acknowledge positive happenings within our congregation.

Hanukah, Hanukah, Hanukah....so many wonderful events. Thank you to our Sisterhood and Men's club for hosting our Hanukah party. Lots of effort by all, but so worth it, everyone had so much fun. This month, we also celebrated Thanksgiving with our friends from the Presbyterian Church in Shrewsbury. Our combined choirs provided beautiful music for the service. Adult Education brought us two films this month about the Holocaust and had over 80 people attend. Sisterhood held a book club event and reviewed "Women in Gold", which is based on the true story of the late Maria Altmann. Our Temple got a computer upgrade this month and we will soon be able to start live streaming our Shabbat Services on the internet. This project is made possible through the Cantor's discretionary fund. Two things to look for in January. First, Justice Weekend, January 16th-18th, we will be joining with the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Red Bank. Come celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and others who helped bring justice into the light. Then on January 31st, a Day of Inspiration: Get Healthy. Join us for a day of introduction to wellness in living.

In his president's report, Zach Gilstein told the Board to date, our High Holy Day Appeal Campaign has raised \$29,000 for 89 of our families. Our goal is to have 100% participation of members and raise \$35,000, so if you have not yet donated, please help us reach our goal...a \$5 donation will go a long way. To all those who have already generously given, thank you for your support. Our Membership Role Policy Committee has been restarted by Zach and will hold its next meeting on December 16th.

The Board voted to approve a proposal to allow for the purchase of additional cemetery plots at Beth El Cemetery on Route 9. 68 new plots will be available on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact our Temple office.

The Membership Committee and the Board approved membership for two new families and resign four families. In a correction of last month's membership report, we now have 314 family memberships at MRT.

The Board reviewed the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2015. While we are currently staying within our budget, it is important for everyone to get their pledge money in on time, so we can have the working capital for everyday operations.

Rabbi Kline wants everyone to keep an eye out for our Justice Weekend schedule and hopes to see everyone there. In other news, he is going to be taking our High School Students to Washington DC in February. He will also be attending the CCAR convention in Tel Aviv, Israel. Rabbi provided the Board with a commentary on the Ten Principles of Spiritual Judaism. If anyone is interested in learning more, this document is one of the core readings in his Tuesday morning Study Group. Also, our Shoah Torah has been placed in our Ark. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.

Cantor Clissold thanked the MRT choir for inspiring music on Thanksgiving, Chanukah and coming soon...MLK Weekend, January 15-18. She also commended our capable youth advisors, Amy Greenberg and Rosie Schreck for overseeing many successful youth events at MRT. Come join us on January 8th for our Band Shir Chadash and a Pot Luck First Friday "style" Shabbat at 6 pm. The 8/9 grade cooking class has learned to make Kugel, Blintz Casserole, Chicken Matzah Ball Soup, Cheese burekas and spinach and cheese burekas. And finally, planning for Purim has already begun.

From Rabbi Marc Kline



WOW! 2015 is gone and we start over! We watched involvement in all facets of congregational life grow this last year, and we ended the secular year with a bang. Our annual joint Thanksgiving service with the Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury was an amazing event. Both the Annual Shabbat Hanukkah Party and the Religious school “Flame Fest” were exciting! We hosted a great crowd for two Holocaust films of redemption. Religious school is exciting. Ok, I am biased, but when people call and tell me that they heard about the things we are doing, I am thrilled to say, “We have some great energy at MRT!”

We begin the year with same upbeat programming. We are kicking off our health initiative. Our teens are preparing for a trip to Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

Our most exciting endeavor for January is our celebration of 2 men who lived as close friends and led a cause that continues to change our nation. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marched arm in arm against violence, oppression, and bigotry in America. They brought two worlds together into a common campaign, bringing God’s message of righteousness for all people into vogue. We dedicate the Shabbat before Dr. King’s birthday (coincident often with Rabbi Heschel’s yahrzeit) to this commemoration. Last year, we welcomed Pastor Terrence Porter of Red Bank’s Pilgrim Baptist Church to preach for this Shabbat. I spoke at the Church at the community’s annual commemorative service. This year, we will welcome one of my dearest friends (and an amazing talent with a compelling story to tell) Dr. Everett McCorvey to speak.

The MRT Choir, under the direction of Alice Berman will be an important part of this event. The Pilgrim Baptist Church choir will join the MRT choir, and Pastor Porter will assist in leading our Sabbath worship.

Monday, Cantor an I will both be part of the commemorative program, and Doreen Addison will perform a dance she co-choreographed with her dance troupe. On Monday, the MRT choir, has been invited to join the church choir.

The Official King Commemorative Weekend now begins at MRT and ends with our sister church. What I can say as our relationships continue to grow is simply this, “God is good, all the time.”

Our Talmud teaches us that good citizenship is the mark of a committed Jew. We have to celebrate our MRT history: we have always found meaningful ways to involve itself in healing and nurturing work in the wider community.

By the way—please make sure to thank Helene and Mindy for all the work they do keeping up with this (and driving a lot of it). Thank Mustafa and his crew for the great job that they do taking care of us and our building.



It's not too early to think about this!
MRT Trip Israel Led by Rabbi Marc Kline
More information forthcoming
July 3rd –14th, 2016
Please contact Rabbi Kline if you are interested.

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



Happy New Year! We get two chances to celebrate the New Year! Warning, this article will not be in date order. I begin by thanking the MRT choir for inspiring music on Thanksgiving, Chanukah and coming soon...MLK Weekend, January 15-18. The choir has been working to sing more often this year. How does this happen? Our choir "is" because volunteers work with Alice Berman (an amazing volunteer) and me on Thursday nights at 7:45 pm to rehearse. Alice and I have been actively planning since last March. With a choir, everything is done in advance: schedules, music, etc...and this information chain is run by Sheila Leavitt. (Yet, another amazing volunteer) In addition, our choir will sing on the following Shabbatot at 7 pm: February 19, March 18, April 15 and May 13. Please come experience the beauty of our Shabbat worship in musical harmony.

I commend our capable youth advisors, Amy Greenberg and Rosie Schreck for overseeing many successful youth events at MRT. If anyone is interested in joining the youth committee please contact myself or Elise Aptaker (Yet, another amazing volunteer). SMarTy led our Shabbat worship on December 18th followed by an overnight Shul-In. They work hard and deserve much credit for their success! (Yet, more amazing volunteers) Even if your child has never attended a Youth Group event, they are welcome to attend!

Remember to join us on January 8th for our Band Shir Chadash and a Pot Luck First Friday "style" Shabbat at 6 pm.



WOWSA - coming soon!

The convenience of attending services from our sanctuary in the comfort of your home. We'll keep you posted for additional information!

IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM CANTOR!

I need your talent! This year we are going to do something different for Purim.

Purim is on Wednesday, March 23rd at MRT beginning at 5 pm in our sanctuary with our religious school present. We will have a reading of the Megillah.

Needed:

Individuals who can read dramatically and creatively.

Simultaneously, while the reading is happening..

Needed:

People to silently act out the actions being described by the speaker.

We will have three rehearsals on March 2, 9 and 16 at 7 pm at MRT.

Please let me know if you are interested in participating this year.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

This is going to be fun!
Cantor



Day of Inspiration Set for Sunday, January 31st at MRT Get Healthy Together!

Mark your calendars for a Sunday afternoon this winter that aims to recharge and revitalize your sense of health and wellness. The entire program on January 31 will be staffed and run by MRT congregants and is open to all members, family and friends. There is no charge.

Rabbi Marc Kline will kick off the program in the Sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. with a few words of Jewish connection with a healthy mind and body, after which, a light healthy luncheon will be served in the Social Hall.

Personal Trainer Joe Stein will speak at 12:30 p.m. "How Exercise and Nutrition Can Keep You Healthy, Wealthy and Wise". Margie Wold will then introduce the instructors for the day and point out the tables of information including representatives from St. Peter's Hospital on Genetic Testing.

Registration for workshops is online. Each class or program will be about 25 minutes with 10 minutes in between for restroom breaks and travel to other rooms. The workshops will be located in the Library, the Sanctuary, and the former youth lounge, "The Blue Room".

Sample workshops for the day are:

1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

Posturing for Success, Doreen Laperdon-Addison

Upgrade Your Stress Management Toolbox, Lisa Sussman

2 to 2:30 p.m.

Yoga with Liz Moss

Balance Training Class, Joe Stein

2:45 to 3:15 p.m.

Pilates with Nadine Vicenzi

Healthy Eating, Claudia Huegel

3:30 to 4 p.m.

Get Better Sleep---Naturally!, Lisa Sussman

Dance Your Way to Health, Doreen Laperdon-Addison

This program is being funded in part by a grant from the Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ.

Please spread the word through email, Facebook and good old fashioned word of mouth. Contact Margie Wold for more information, woldiem@aol.com, cell: 732-241-9941.



Mark Your Calendars: 2nd Annual Tennis Social
Saturday, February 6th at 7pm
Players and non-Players welcome

Co-ed volleyball begins Sunday, January 10th from 7pm-9pm at St. Anthony's Church gym. All are welcome to participate. Weekly fee is a canned good of any type for the church pantry.

Please contact Dean Ross if you will be playing.

Please bring a volleyball net, volleyball and sneakers.

Adult Jewish Learning, Eleanor Rubin, Chairperson

On Sunday morning, November 22, a program was presented at MRT which brought about 80 people from our community to view 2 uplifting Holocaust films. Strange to call a Holocaust film “uplifting” but the fact is that these films were about remarkable, successful rescue missions brought about by individual Americans with a passion to do something for as many people as they could, to relieve the pain and to launch a project which took time and bureaucratic maneuvering to bring about the goal, offering life to men, women and children in the days of Nazi Germany.

The film, “50 Children”, was offered for our use by members Rita and David Sperling who had a special connection to the making of the documentary. It is the story of a couple living in Philadelphia who were moved to do what they could to save the lives of as many children as possible. Through special channels, bureaucracy in both the United States and in Europe during the most difficult times, they were able to rescue 50 children and eventually bring them to the States. The documentary shows some of the survivors, who were children at the time, as they tell the story of their lives, saying farewell to parents who they may never see again, and parents saying goodbye to their children whose lives they hoped would be saved. Many were never reunited.

After a light lunch was served, the second film called “Rescue in the Philippines” was shown having been offered for our use by members Lorraine and Jeffrey Roffman. This is a story of several brothers, relatives of Roffman, who were in the tobacco/cigar-making business in the Philippines. These men were held in high esteem in Manila as successful businessmen, Americans, and good poker players. Their poker table included the president of the Philippines as well as others high in the government and included Col. Dwight Eisenhower. In addition to playing poker, these men began to develop an idea that they could move governments and rescue families from the heart of Nazi Germany. With courage and conviction, knowing the right people and the ability to work through channels of government, these men rescued 1300 men, women and children and brought them to the Philippines. A special guest, Mrs. Brigitte Wachs, a survivor who had been a child when she and her family were rescued and brought to the Philippines, spoke to our audience and shared some of her experiences during those frightening, terrible days.

Martin Luther King Weekend

Once again, Monmouth Reform Temple will join our friends and neighbors of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Red Bank for a celebration of the life of Martin Luther King. The weekend of January 15-18 will include joint ceremonies over several days. On Friday, January 15, 7 PM, Dr. Everett McCorvey will deliver a sermon at MRT and the Pilgrim Baptist Church choir will join our MRT choir in concert.

On Saturday, January 16, at MRT, 7 PM, a film “I Shall Not Be Silent” will be shown. The film tells of the experience of the internationally renowned Rabbi Joachim Prinz in the civil rights movement. A panel discussion will follow.

On Monday, January 18, 12 noon, Martin Luther King Day, Rabbi Kline and Cantor Clissold will be at Pilgrim Baptist Church, 172 Shrewsbury Avenue, Red Bank, for ceremonies and a concert by the choirs of MRT and PBC. The event will include a presentation by MRT member, Doreen Laperdon-Addison, collaborative choreographer, who will lead a group in “One Moving Body” - MLK Dance Project.

It is important for all of us to support these events and to attend them at both MRT and PBC.

As in the past, they are sure to be deeply moving and will serve to dedicate our better selves to open our hearts to our fellow citizens.

BROOKLYN JOURNEY

Semmes Brightman, Project Manager, Ritual Committee

30 November 2015:

Doreen, Len and I returned to Best Embroidery, Brooklyn, with the Holocaust Torah for a "final fitting" of the mantle. Again, it was an enlightening and educational experience.

Prior to this, Ernie Guenzburger created a modified Torah stand which was put into the ark on 19 November (see photos). His re-design maintains the elegance of the original piece. Assisted by a strong team - Talbott Pratt, Sam Guenzburger, Jay Goldberg and Stu Tuchband - the stand is now ready to hold our 4 Torahs.



L - R: Ernie Guenzburger (designer), Talbott Pratt, Sam Guenzburger, and Jay Goldberg (House chair)



The Holocaust Torah possible through a from Barbara Goldstein, founding MRT member, in loving memory of her husband Al Goldstein, founding member and MRT Past President.

The Torah stand was made possible through the generosity of the Teitelbaum Family in memory of cherished family members.



mantle was made generous donation

This project stretched over a long period of time because much care and thought went into it. There have been numerous steps in the process of relocating the Holocaust Torah from its original place in the display case in the lobby. The ritual committee would like to thank the following: the Roffman and Metz families for successfully making the Holocaust Torah a part of MRT in 1999 by underwriting all expenses in getting it here from the Westminster Trust, London; the Teitelbaum Family for donating the original Torah stand and underwriting its recent re-design; Barbara Goldstein for the mantle and to Doreen for its beautiful design; Talbot Pratt for installing and tweaking the new motor for the metal curtain in the ark; Ike and Myra Bernstein for donating the sterling yad and Addie Bogdonoff for facilitating this donation.

We are also grateful to Doreen Addison for her keen leadership as Ritual chairperson and her patience in nurturing this project for the last 3 years; our clergy, Rabbi Kline and Cantor Clissold, for letting us "run with it"; Rabbi Bob Ourach, our former interim rabbi, under whose leadership the conversation first began; Rabbi Sally Priesand, our *Rabbi Emerita*, who is always available to answer questions about MRT history.

And finally, thanks to Skylar Oliver (grand daughter of Cora and Stu Tuchband) - the idea of moving the Torah to the ark began at her Bat Mitzvah in February 2013 when several of us were witness to giving a Holocaust Torah new life as a teaching tool through the *hakafah*. Truly a team effort!

A dedication ceremony will be scheduled in the spring of 2016 .

From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Affairs Chair

We know that no news is good news and good news is no news so all we ever read is bad news. Believe it or not, there is a site called "Good News From Israel". Having come across it recently, I am happy to share some of it with you.

The Ethiopian festival of SIGD is celebrated 50 days after Yom Kippur and is now a national holiday in Israel. It is a day, for Ethiopian Israelis, of a Zionist dream come true. For centuries in Ethiopia, Jewish religious leaders called KESSIM would go to the tallest mountain top and pray, yearning to return to Jerusalem.

Today there are 135,000 Ethiopian Jews living in Israel as a result of the airlifts in the 1980's and 1990's. The Israeli Knesset has recently approved the immigration of 9000 Ethiopians, the last remnant who claim Jewish lineage and have been waiting in transit camps in Addis Abbaba and Gondar for many years. This policy is conditional on a successful Jewish conversion process in Israel and will take place over the next 5 years.

The festival of SIGD is celebrated as a gathering of hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians from all over Israel in towns where they live. Many travel to Jerusalem for the festivities where participants wear colorful garb and sit under bright umbrellas. The activities include prayer, socializing, entertainment and, of course, good food.

The presence of Ethiopians in Israel, though only a tiny percentage of the total population of over 8 million, is another sign of the remarkable diversity of that nation. Along with many successes among the Ethiopians as legislators, in the professions and as officers in the military, there are problems of discrimination, racism and poverty. The Ethiopian ingathering remains a work in progress with hopes for a bright future.

Our Stories, Our Lives Monmouth Reform Temple 2015 Sunday Discussion Group First Meeting: Sunday, January 24th, 2015 4-5:30pm in the Library

Starting in January 2016, Monmouth Reform Temple will resume its Sunday discussion group series. The focus of this year's group will be personal storytelling. Participants will have an opportunity to share stories around a theme that will vary each month. You can share a personal story, or a story about someone you know, or even a story you have read about that has special significance to you. Our six story telling themes will be:

- Origins - January 24th
- Love and Marriage - February 28th
- Interfaith - March 20th
- Children - April 17th
- Miracles - May 15th
- Death and Dying - June 26th

The first group's theme will be Origins. Origin stories are perhaps the easiest stories to tell. Their beginning is your beginning and the end is where you are now. What was your earliest memory and your favorite one? What was your childhood like, your parents, your siblings and childhood friends? Who has been the biggest influence on your life? What lessons did that person teach you? Where did you grow up and how did the place where you lived influence you? What were your earliest experiences with religion? Did you have a moment where you found God or one when you felt the whole thing was a sham?

Come to share or come to listen. Either way, an interesting time is in for all.
For more information, please contact Elliott Familant at 908-510-5136 or efamilant@gmail.com.

MEN'S CLUB, Mark Kroen, President

Next Men's Club meeting – Monday, January 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Accomplishments:

Thanksgiving Service – was great, and the Men's Club ushers did an excellent job passing the basket – thanks to all for participating

Hanukkah Party – the Men's Club help was extensive in helping make the event quite a success with approximately 180 attendees. Men's Club acknowledges the hard work of the Sisterhood for an outstanding job!

Upcoming Events January / February

An invite will be out for another Men's Club Monday Night Football Social – Monday, December 28th at Otto's Bar 7 Grill (Steve Gaudette recommended), located at 1610 Hwy 35 S, Ocean Township – Broncos versus Bengals

MRT Co-ed Weekly Volleyball League starts Sunday, January 10th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Anthony's Church in Red Bank – participation fee is a canned good or goods for Church pantry – contact Dean Ross if you intend on playing

Health Initiative Day is Sunday, January 31st, and the Men's Club will be providing manpower to support this great program put together by Margie Wold and her committee.

Men's Club will be sponsoring a **“Winning Big”** Super Bowl Pool open to all congregants and friends – please contact Mark Kroen via e-mail or telephone for more details – final acceptance for participation is the Thursday prior to Super Bowl Sunday

Brew Fest is scheduled for February 27th with music. Sam Goodman is the lead - all those wishing to help on this event contact Sam

There will be plans to attend a Friday midnight showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show in Aberdeen at the Strathmore Movies – Mitch Baum is the lead and will be selecting an appropriate Friday night venue – an e-vite will be sent – Men's Club considering a monetary gift for best character dress.

For more information about Men's Club and their activities, please visit us on the MRT Website.



**SISTERHOOD,
Jill Austin &
Cheryl Gaudette
Co-Presidents**

Annual MRT Sisterhood Movie Night in Monmouth Beach. The group lit the menorah and shared a potluck dinner before watching "Woman in Gold".

From Stephanie Fields, Religious School Principal



As we finish the end of the fall semester and look back from August, it is amazing to see what we have accomplished. We had a jam packed fall: from our kick-off day where we tie-dyed t-shirts and began learning about Israel, to welcoming 18 new students to our school, to seeing the amazing work that was done to create the amazing space we have come to call the "marteff", to welcoming Stephen Schwartz and creating a model of Jerusalem out of legos, to family programming and finishing with lighting our Chanukiyot together. It has been an absolute pleasure to share this experience with you and I am looking forward to everything that we will be able to create in the spring. Wishing you and your families a happy and a healthy New Year!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BOOK DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS!



Abigail Molineux Daly

December 17 at 9:28pm

Gena Ansell-Lande & everyone who organized to collect books & who donated to Bridge of Books - Thank you! Thank you! The books that you collected were ALL fabulous and many have already gone out in donation to kids right here in New Jersey who so desperately need books! You should be proud of the impact that your efforts have already had and will continue to have on the lives of children. On behalf of the children we serve, thank you again! ~Abigail Molineux Daly, Executive Director



Spotlight on our Board**Jay Wiesenfeld, Immediate Past President—by Kerry Krachman**

“It is an honor and a privilege to serve Monmouth Reform Temple.” This was Jay Wiesenfeld’s closing sentence during our interview but it truly sums up his passion and commitment to MRT. He is proud to be part of MRT which he believes has a strong sense of community.

Recently retired from the telecom industry, Jay spent his first year of retirement completing his term as the President of MRT’s Board of Trustees. He and his wife Kay joined the Temple in 1992 when his eldest son David was in fourth grade. Jay quickly volunteered to assist with Temple programs, serving as the Chair of the Youth Committee.

Jay was asked to join MRT’s board—twice. During Jay’s first tenure on the board, he served as Chair of Youth and Religious Education. When returning for a second term, Jay served as the Chair of Adult Religious Education as well as a

Vice President and was elected as President serving in this capacity for two years.

I asked Jay for his thoughts about what it takes to serve on the board and his impression of fellow trustees. Jay remarked that once he rolled up his shirt sleeves, ready to dig in he was surprised at the level of work involved and moreover, impressed by the dedication of the other trustees. He observed that the MRT board is a “good working board with people who respect and support one another”. Jay’s proudest accomplishment as Board President was guiding the Temple through changes, recently assisting with the search and hiring of Rabbi Kline.

Jay has long had the spirit of volunteering, becoming a soccer coach for his sons’ teams although he confesses he had never played the game before becoming a coach. But he quickly learned the rules and strategies with help from the assistant coach who hailed from Scotland, and to this day is an ardent fan of soccer matches. Jay has also lent his volunteer spirit to the Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts and with the Optical Society.

A Harvard grad with a degree in chemistry and physics, Jay is a constant learner, completing his Ph.D. in chemistry at Berkeley and doing post-doctoral work at Bell Labs. Now with more time available, he is contemplating studying economics—a subject he did not delve into in undergraduate or graduate school. He is also passionate about history—usually the topic of choice for recreational reading materials. Jay recently finished reading “In the Heart of the Sea” and has had a fascination with Cape Horn from childhood and recent books. He is combining his love of history with an interest in travel and is looking forward to an upcoming cruise around Cape Horn visiting Chile and ending in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

As our interview was drawing to a close, I asked Jay if he could have dinner with anyone who would be his dinner companion. After a few moments of contemplation, Jay responded that he would like to have dinner with his father who passed away 20 years ago—he would “love to compare notes”.

Jay and his wife Kay live in Lincroft and enjoy spending time with their adult sons--Eric who currently lives in Northern California, and David who is residing in London with his wife and 16 month old son.

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, 2016

BALDWIN DAVIDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: February 16, 2016 ■ Notification: March 10, 2016

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



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.

January Yahrzeits (date based on when they occur)

Names to be Read on Friday, January 1st (Services at 6pm)

Sam Auerbach, *Samuel Avrin, Eva Bernstein, *Goldie Bialy, Fanny Bogdonoff, *Baldwin Davidson, Sylvia Davis, Herbert Friend, Evelyn Anna Roe Gilstein, Dorothy Eleanor Grauer, Irving Greenberg, Fred Kardos, Jordan Matthew Levinsky, Alice McDermott-Pitchell, *Abraham W. Miller, *Lora G. Miller, Marshall Neuhauser, Lillian Rifkin, Rose Rosen, Harold Rubin, Joseph Weisfogel, Herman Wilk, Morris Zaslowe

Names to be Read on Friday, January 8th (Services at 6pm)

Donald Bain, Aaron Bernstein, Ruth Bernstein, Leonard Bleetstein, Rose Bette Kosberg Brinkmann, Irving Llyon Chanenson, Josiah Eugene Chess, Henry Civins, Robert Davidson, Robert M. Davidson, Saul Dersh, Nathan Lewis Franklin, Richard Gaudette, Betty Goodstein, Harold Grauer, Else Graupe, Arthur Hayet, Harriet Phyllis Herman, Edith Joseph, Abe Kipnis, Leon Kornbluth, Ruth Lubell, *Delores Phillips, Earl H. Priesand, Martin Ross, *David Sandman, Philip Schiller, *Bernice Schneider, *John J. Singer, Louis M. Smith, *Dora Solomon, Maurice Solomon, Irving Weiner, *Dorothy Woolf, *Jean Yagoda, *Murray Zatt

Names to be Read on Friday, January 15th (Services at 7pm)

*Esther Bregman, *Philip Finebloom, *Joan Goodman, *Harry Greenfield, *Louis Hershey, Louis Horn, *Jules R. Huber, *Herman Kahn, Helen Kahn, *Jacob Lehrer, *Ben Lite, Angela Malek, *Adelaide Meyer, Henry Miller, Charles Mindel, David Moss, Lena Mozer, Janet Nussbaum, Irving Prince, *Aaron Risick, Stella Seligman, *George Silver, *Ruth Stark, *Sadie Strominger, Howard Teitelbaum, Manuel Unterman

Names to be Read on Friday, January 22nd (Services at 7pm)

Lillian Atlas, Irving Bogdonoff, Beatrice Cohen, Ziskin Flaum, *Simon Goldsmith, Mae Kaplan, *Raymond Klein, Ida Levin, Emanuel Marks, *Nathan Marx, *Max Mausner, Delia McDermott, *Samuel Morse, Joseph Moskowitz, *Harry Obstgarten, Charles Ostroff, *Eleanor Peskoe, Lori Pudles, Allan Shechet, *Carl Singer, Michael Sporn, Josephine Tesoriero

Names to be Read on Friday, January 29th (Services at 7pm)

*James Abis, Marcia Bain, Irving Burdas, William Calderwood, *Florence Cohen, Frances Cole, Hilda G. Conklin, Malvina Elenbogen, Nina Etkin Ross, *Shirley Zeitlin Gardy, Sylvia Gordon, Tillie Greenberg, *Minnie Greenfield, *Herbert Halpern, Bernice Horowitz, Raymond Johnson, Inez Kargon, *Michael Katz, *Esther Kesselman, Ida Klein, Clara Lipsky, Ronald Lipsky, *Vallie Marks, *Philip Miller, Lillian Morrison, *Simie Nusbaum, *Clara Offenhenden, Inez Rickard, Leonore Rosen, Max Rosen, Max Rosenweig, Ruth Safran, *D. Gloria Salomon, *Philip Samo, *Tillie Schneider, Freda Shechet, Norma Shechet, Jesse Sklarin, *Fred Straus, Beatrice Tobin, *Martin L. Wachtel

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Claire Boren
Katherine Green

Cantor's Fund

In Honor Of:
Adam Lester Gabel
Marianne Roosels and Bob Gabel

Adult Ed Fund

Karen and David Levinsky
In Memory Of:
Barry Miller
Joan and Peter Spring, Jeff Willard
and Steve Mahan, Harriet and Robert
Rosenman
Norma Bernstein
Jeff Willard and Steve Mahan,
Susan and Bob St. Lifer, Peg and Jerry
Baker, Barbara Miller
Bill Feinberg
Jeff Willard and Steve Mahan
Morris and Estelle Gabel
Marianne Roosels and Bob Gabel

Caring Network Fund

In Memory Of:
Bob Feinberg
Kay and Jay Wiesenfeld

RSJP Endowment Fund

Cantor Menorah Winston

General Fund

In Memory Of:
Norma Bernstein
Bev Klein, Judy and Lou
Premselear, Carol and Manuel
Kaplan, Sondra Myers

Homeless Fund

Sandra and Adam Blackman
In Memory Of:
Norma Bernstein
Marilyn and Joel Morgovsky

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of:
Barry Miller
Kay and Jay Wiesenfeld, Marilyn
and Joel Morgovsky, Marianne
Roosels and Bob Gabel
Norma Bernstein
Cheryl and Steve Gaudette
Charlotte Graver
Cheryl and Steve Gaudette

Oneg Fund

In Memory Of:
Paula Wiesenfeld, Joel Wiesenfeld, Marvin
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Susan Martin
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Arts and Decorations Fund

Eleanor Rubin

**Lobby Tzedakah Box:
January 2016
Interfaith Neighbors
co-sponsored by
Leonard & Dorothy Teitelbaum**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

With the help of over 45 religious congregations and hundreds of donors, the dedicated staff at Interfaith Neighbors works to meet basic needs, build community, and increase the self-sufficiency of residents of Monmouth County. MRT is a founding congregation!



Our URJ Community



[Website](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Donate](#)

New Jersey & Friends Shabbaton:
A Shabbat Together with food for the body, mind & Spirit

Shabbat Yitro: January 30th, 2016

Temple B'nai Or, 60 Overlook Road, Morristown, New Jersey

[Registration Here!](#)



We are delighted to welcome Dr. Eric Goldman, our Shabbat afternoon scholar. He is a Jewish film specialist and adjunct professor of cinema at Yeshiva University. His focus for the afternoon will be "The American Jewish Experience as Reflected in Film."

Time Schedule for the day:

8:30 am	Registration + Light Breakfast
9:15 am	Study Session Aleph
11:00 am	Shabbat Worship
12:30 pm	Kiddush & Lunch (Buffet style)
1:30 pm	Study Session Bet
3:00 pm	S'neh Shlissheet
3:15 pm	Scholar - Dr. Eric Goldman
5:15 pm	Havdalah

Ronni Pressman-URJ North Central NJ Community, Vice Chair/Shabbaton
Chair, rpressman7@me.com
Don Leibowitz- URJ North Central NJ Community, Chair, donald.leibowitz@gmail.com
Stuart Rayvid- URJ North Central NJ Community, Vice Chair, srayvid@aol.com
Maria Goldberg-URJ Communities Manager, Staff Partner, msgoldberg@urj.org

MRT Vision, Mission, Values***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.

January 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 6pm Shabbat Services	2 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
3 NO Religious School 9:30am Knitting Group	4 7:30pm Men's Club Board	5 NO Study Group 7pm Mitzvah Day 7:30pm MRP	6 4pm Rel School 7pm Day of Health 7pm SMaRTY	7 7:45pm Choir	8 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton "First Friday" 5:30pm 6pm Shabbat Services followed by Pot Luck	9 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
10 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels & Blox	11 Sisterhood Out & About	12 9:45am Study Group 7pm Orchid Society 7pm Exec Comm	13 4pm Rel School 6:30pm Ritual	14 7:30pm Men's Club Poker 7:45pm Possible Choir Rehearsal	15 7pm Shabbat Services with MLK Speaker	16 9am Torah Talk 10am Service 7pm Havdallah with Documentary
17 NO Religious School	18 Office Closed	19 9:45pm Study Group 7pm Board of Trustees	20 4pm Rel School 7pm SMaRTY	21	22 2pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services	23 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
24 9:30am Rel School 9:30am 5th PACT 12pm Faculty 12:30pm Jr. Youth 4pm Adult Ed	25	26 9:45am Study Group	27 4pm Rel School	28 7pm Membership 7:45pm Choir	29 7pm Shabbat Services	30 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
31 9:30am Rel School 11:30am A Day of Inspiration 12:30pm Jr. Youth						



Member of the
Union for Reform Judaism

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