



THE MRT BULLETIN

February 2016

Volume LVII Issue VII

Sh'vat –Adar I 5776

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

Schedule of Shabbat Services February 2016

Friday, February 5th



First Friday
5:30pm Pre-neg by K and 1
6pm Shabbat Services with K/1
class

Followed by Potluck dinner

A-Q Pasta/ Chicken R-Z Salad

Please bring enough for 12-14

Saturday, February 6th

10am Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Heath

Friday, February 12th

7pm Shabbat Services

Seeds of Spirituality (Visual Service)

Saturday, February 13th

10am Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Appio

Friday, February 19th

7pm Shabbat Services

Rabbi Priesand's Sermon:

The Lights of Our People

Friday, February 26th

Services conducted by Cantor Clissold and

Principal Stephanie Fields

7pm Shabbat Services-5th Grade Shabbat

Service

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!

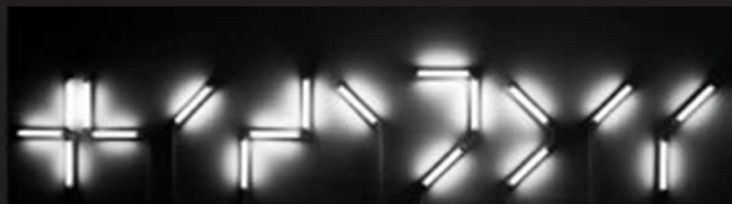
When attending services and all other events
at MRT please remember:

- 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!

SEEDS OF SPIRITUALITYTM LETTERS

Friday, 12 February 2016
at 7 pm



Come and Celebrate Shabbat!



Monmouth Reform Temple 332 Hance Avenue Tinton Falls, NJ

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

By speaking out and taking action, we seek to improve the quality of human existence and help heal our world.

So reads one of the tenets of our MRT Mission. Tikun Olam has always been a cornerstone of our mission. We have many initiatives that seek to help the homeless and hungry in our community. We are blessed to have a dedicated group of people who work tirelessly to support these initiatives.

As Tikun Olam is so central to living a Jewish life and is such a key part of our Mission at MRT, I have a vision that every family should be engaged in one of our many actions at least a few times a year.

We have several members who support Family Promise, which hosts families with children for up to three months, with supportive services to achieve self-sufficiency. Once a month, MRT provides resources to help such families who are housed at the church next door. We regularly provide food to Lunch Break, a food bank in Red Bank that provides meals to those who cannot afford them. Our Gan Mazon, garden of plenty, grows vegetables that are contributed to a Food Bank in Freehold. We serve dinner at The Center in Asbury Park on the 2nd Saturday of every month.

At Mitzvah Day last year, about 10 of us worked with Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild a house ravaged by Hurricane Sandy. If we could get commitment from 15 people who were willing to work on a Habitat house once every 2 or 3 months, we could make this another of our Social Action initiatives. Please contact me if you would be interested.

These are just a few of the projects we are participating in. Please reach out to Kerry Krachman, Chair of our Social Action Committee, to find out how you and your family can get involved.

I would like to thank Rabbi Kline, Cantor Clissold, Alice Berman, and the Adult Ed and Ritual Committees for great leadership and contributions to an exceptional Justice Weekend. All reports were that it was a truly inspirational series of events and a great move forward for community involvement.

As you may have noted in a recent email, Rabbi Alton Winters, who was Rabbi at MRT from 1971-81, passed away in early January. Rabbi Winters designed the stained glass windows in our sanctuary and Bar Mitzvahed and Confirmed a couple of members of our Board. On behalf of the temple, I have sent a note and formal letter of condolence to his wife, and we will be making a donation and dedicating a memorial brick in our path in his memory.

**Blood Drive**

Monmouth Reform Temple

Sunday, February 21st from 9am-2pm

Please contact Central Jersey Blood Center for your donation appointment at 732-842-5750 x264 or email Leigh at lwilkins@cjbcblood.org.

Please sign up for your appointment so we can provide the best customer service experience! Thank you for being a life saver!

Don't forget!

- Donors must present signature ID
- Please drink water and eat before donating
- Donors must be healthy, 16 years of age with parental consent (forms provided by CJBC) and weigh at least 120 pounds

Sponsor-A-Family participants help out during the holidays

Dear Sponsor a Family Helpers,

The holiday season is always a time to count our blessings.....our many gifts and our joys, and to experience the love the season inspires. And for all of you who do God's work in ways large and small, it is a time to look around, to see those less fortunate, and to reach out to DO something about it

There is so much sadness in this world and so much need. And while we can't right all wrongs, as a group we were able to bring joy where there was sadness, and hope where there was despair. Together, we helped 42 families have a better Christmas and to begin the New Year with hope. We were especially grateful for the assistance of our friends at the Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls. Because of their generosity and hard work, we were able to reach so many families this year!

We brought joy to 10 families connected with the Center in Asbury Park, 10 families from The Highpoint School, 4 families from the greater St. Mary's community, and 18 families from Family Resource Associates (FRA). All three agencies expressed gratitude at the generosity of the St Mary's community. Additionally, the St Mary's Community helped 24 other families and 8 additional children from Aslan Youth Ministries. I can share a few stories from the families at FRA.....

One mom was so overwhelmed with the gifts that were given, she couldn't stop crying. She said through her tears, "I never expected to be so blessed!"

Another mom was in awe. She said, "I had no idea that others would care about me and my little family."

Another family facing an especially bleak Christmas with a seriously ill child and many losses this year, had not even gotten a Christmas tree. With two small children, she could not even begin to face the holiday. When we brought not only gifts but a fully decorated tree as well, she could not stop thanking us. We turned her world around. We gave her the strength to take another step forward.

Our gifts gave families joy...but also warmth in winter jackets, hats and gloves, blankets and comforters. We provided food for the holiday and items to fill pantries. We served as the hands of God right here in the community.

I know that like me, you find our Sponsor a Family Program to an essential part of Christmas...as important as the lights, the tree, and the food. Please know that you filled our community with joy and love and peace. You made a difference in many lives this Christmas, and the families are so grateful. And I am so grateful for all you have done.

Many, many thanks! May your New Year be filled with love and peace, and may this holiday spirit remain with you all year long!

Blessings,

Susan

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



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

Order your **Shalach Manot Purim Bundles**

This is one of the primary fundraisers of the year for Sisterhood! Participation in the Shalach Manot exchange helps to subsidize many programs at MRT and in the Religious School. Sisterhood is purchasing the Hamantaschen this year and putting them into the Shalach Manot boxes along with Purim masks and other goodies. These are gifts of good will and celebration for those you love, wish to thank, work with, or would like to get to know.

Shalach Manot: How to Do It!

Use the attached congregant list to select those whom you wish to send a bundle

Check off the names and then tally up the total

Bring or send the final page along with your check and tally to the MRT office by **March 4th**

Recipients will receive one bundle with a note listing the names of all who gifted them 😊

They can be picked up at MRT on Sunday 3/20 during religious school, 3/23 during religious school or at the Purim Shpiel.



Cost:

\$5.00 per bundle

\$36 for ten (10) bundles

\$108 for the entire MRT community

And Back by Popular demand

Take home boxes of Hametashen...\$10.00 each

To ensure that your order is filled, it must be received with payment in full by Friday,

March 4th. Please make check payable to MRT Sisterhood and include your tally form.

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

Get Some

LOVE
at the

2nd Annual MRT Tennis Social

All Levels and Non-players WELCOME!

**Saturday, February 6th, 7-11 PM
at Colts Neck Racquet Club**

Cost: \$25 per player



The evening will be a Round Robin format with 35-40 minute timed matches and breaks for socializing.

Depending on participants, there will be Mixed and same gender Doubles.

Couples will not always be playing together,
and players will be matched according to ability.

Bring your favorite snack and beverage to share.

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

PLEASE RSVP by January 28th to sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org

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

Please send in your payment to the Temple or pay via paypal
on the Temple Website under "Commitees", "Sisterhood"



Men's Club once again is proud to host

He-Brew Fest

A quality tasting of fine crafted beers!

Saturday evening, February 27

8pm – 11pm in the MRT Social Hall

Music provided by a jazz trio.

Cost: \$25 per person payable at the door

Please feel free to bring your favorite beverage if not beer, and snacks as well!

Please RSVP to mrt.brothers1@gmail.com by Wednesday, February 24th

NOTE: The RSVP is important so we know how many will be attending!



MRT Men's Club will be hosting a breakfast with

Keith Glass

Sunday, February 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Breakfast will be provided by the MRT Men's Club

A former UCLA assistant basketball coach, and currently a NBA Agent, Mr. Glass is author of "Taking Shots", an autobiography.

Mr. Glass will be talking about his insightful, funny and mind numbing tales of life in the NBA.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend this great event. Please e-mail mrt.brothers@gmail.com by Tuesday, February 16th.

Thank you for your donation to the 2015 MRT High Holy Day Appeal!

For all temple members who made gifts to the 2015 High Holy Days Appeal, Mark Gruensfelder and I want to send our deep thanks and appreciation for your very real show of financial support for our fine synagogue. Borrowing from Tevya, on the one hand we came very close to reaching our budgeted goal of raising \$35000. The facing page shows the final figures and list of contributors. Mazel Tov all around!

On the other hand, in regards to our other goal of achieving 100% participation in the Appeal, there is still considerable room for improvement as we were far short of full participation. This means we will do our part to adjust our approach to the Appeal in the future. Meanwhile, the facts on the ground are that we have a wonderful synagogue with vibrant professional leaders and deeply committed lay leaders. We do so much to enrich the Jewish dimensions of all of our lives that it has been a pleasure reach out to all of you through the Appeal.

May we continue to grow from strength to strength.

Mark Gruensfelder and Joel Morgovsky, HHDA Co-Chairs.

HHDA 2015 Final Information

Total Collected: \$33,118

Number of Congregant Households Donating: 107

Number of Non-Congregant and Ex-Congregant Households Donating: 10

Household Donors Since the January Bulletin

Austin, Jill and Jim
Baker, Suzanne
Bleetstein, Gary
Brewer, James & Schneider-Brewer, Monica
Fitzsimmons, Stephanie and Lloyd

Guenzburger, Ernest & Rubinstein, Ellen
Holzman, Louis & Doris
Reisner, Gerald & Rosalind
Rosenberg, Robert & Phyllis
Spector, Anita

Thanks to all our donors...

Addison, Alonzo & Laperdon-Addison, Doreen
Aho, Amy
Aronson, Howard
Auerbach, Philip & Cynthia
Austin, James & Jill
Avrin, Lawrence & Lois
Baker, Gerald & Peggy
Baker, Suzanne
Bates, Elizabeth & Aubry, Madna
Baum, Mitch & Stephanie
Berger, Eileen
Berman, Alice
Bleetstein, Gary
Borges, Donald & Barbara
Brandwene, Bernard
Brandwene, Martha & McWilliams, Rita
Brawer, Arthur & Carol
Brewer, James & Monica-Schneider
Burns, Linda
Butler, Harmon & Jill
Byck, Donald and Ellen
Chalnick, David & Kim
Christie, John & Joyce
Cohen, William & Elizabeth
Colicchio, Alan & Heather
Cole, Karen
Conway, Reid & Sukinik, Amy
Cooper, Judi
Coyne, Kevin & Kaye, Jane
Familant, Elliott & Lynne
Feigus, Jay & Monica
Fishman, Enid
Fitzsimmons, Stephanie & Lloyd
Fox, Howard & Barbara
Gaudette, Stephen & Cheryl
Gabel, Robert & Roosels, Marianne
Gelber, Roy & Susan
Gilstein, Zach & Sheila

Goldberg, Jay & Ellen
Goldsmith, Stephen & Trudy
Goldstein, Barbara
Goodman, Eleanor
Goodman, Sam & Anne
Gordon, Lawrence & Shelley
Gorstein, Rosanne Farber & Kroen, Mark
Greenberg, Henry & Roslyn
Gruensfelder, Mark & Beverly
Guenzburger, Ernest & Rubinstein, Ellen
Halpern, Jim
Hampel, Daniel & Rose
Haratz, David & Rosalyn
Hayet, Bob & Mary Beth
Heidema, John & Karl, Karen
Hershey, Adam & Kari
Hillson, Harry & Dori
Holzman, Louis and Doris
Ibex, Ted & Shelley
Johnson, Marty & Nancy
Kahn, David
Kahn, Karen
Kaplan, Deanna
Katz, David
Klatsky, Alan & Maxine
Klein, Ronald & Bonnie
Kline, Rabbi Marc & Bernard, Lori
Kohn, Jack & Norma
Kosberg, Edward & Sherry
Krachman, Evan & Kerry
Kurry, William & JoAnn
Leavitt, James & Sheila
Leifman, Faith L.
Levinsky, David & Karen
Loebel, Arthur & Nancy
Martin, Susan
Melnick, Andrew
Meyer, Maurice & Irma

Miller, Barry (z'l) & Barbara
Morgovsky, Joel & Marilyn
Murray, David & Linda
Placitella, Christopher & Rachel
Raybon, Greg & Judy
Reisner, Gerald & Rosalind
Rivkin, David & Judith
Roffman, Jeffrey & Lorraine
Rosenberg, Robert & Phyllis
Ross, Dean & Sharyn
Ross, Howard & Stacy
Rothman, Donald & Helaine
Rubin, Eleanor
Rubinstein, Charles & Phyllis
Sabo, James & Brett
Sachs, Richard & Sheila
Schlisserman, David & Michele
Seckular, Corey & Anna
Sills, Charles & Caryl
Singer, Frank
Spector, Anita
St. Lifer, Robert & Susan
Stein, Joseph & Karin
Sussman, Robert & Lisa
Tuchband, Stuart & Cora
Tuller, Brenda
Vicenzi, Eugene & Nadine
Whyman, Susan
Wiesenfeld, Jay & Kay
Wold, Robert & Marjorie
Zwerin, Glenn & Lisa

From Rabbi Marc Kline



What an amazing beginning to the year! We dedicated ourselves to building new bridges and relationships by honoring Rabbis Abraham Heschel and Joachim Prinz and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Our Adult Education programming grows and flourishes! We are launching our congregational Health Initiative. We are growing in size and in spirit. Our Bagels and Blocks had 22 toddlers! There are even more "happenings" filling our calendar, but I don't want to make this just a "RAH! RAH!" narrative version of that document.

I am excited about what we are doing and the way we are thinking about how we are doing them. More people are learning about the programming we have to offer. More people are getting involved. People are forging relationships with each other, with our tradition, and with MRT; the building blocks to a meaningful spiritual engagement and the sustaining blocks that keep our MRT family vibrant.

This month, I want to offer a challenge. So many of us are too busy to stop and think about our faith; what it means to pursue the sacred or holy in our lives. Yet, Torah commands us to take time to step back and renew; to recharge our soul's battery for the week to come. We call that rest, Shabbat. SO, I need to you take a moment of Shabbat rest and leave the world of things in order to focus on the world of being. I want you to think about what the word "sacred" means in your life's context. How do the choices you make for living enhance or diminish the role of the sacred in your life? How does your life with us at MRT fit into your spiritual game plan? What is it that you hope to get from involvement in our spiritual home? What is it that you have to share to make that which has been vibrant for 57 years grow brighter?

Let us know. Call me. Meet with me. We want to help each other move from strength to strength and grow our tradition in even more vibrant ways. Thanks for being a member here. May we find ourselves together for years to come.

Rummage Sale

January SAVE February SAVE March DELIVER

The Forecast Calls For
CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS
March 9-12 DROP OFF + SORT Donations
March 13-15 Sale
Contact: Rachel Placitella 732-299-2933
MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE
 332 Hance Avenue, Tinton Falls 732.747.9365 www.monmouthreformtemple.org

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

EARLY DROP OFF DAYS FOR
RUMMAGE SALE

Thurs. Feb. 11TH from 4 pm to 6pm
 At Cohen, Placitella & Roth
 127 Maple Avenue, Red Bank, NJ

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: RACHEL PLACITELLA @ 732-299-2933.



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



From Stephanie Fields, Religious School Principal



In the beginning of January a seminar trip for my masters degree took me for ten days to Israel. It has been 10 and a half years since I have taken the 10-12 hour flight halfway across the globe to my favorite place in the world. When I was little, Israel was painted as a land of milk and honey - the Jewish people's triumph after the unspeakable atrocities committed during the Shoah (Holocaust). It was, and is, an incredibly remarkable country with a spirit unmatched anywhere in the world (no matter what religion individuals practice). The Israel, milk and honey, of my childhood was appropriate because "[c]hildhood [is] for fantasies, for nursery rhymes and toys," to quote the late Debbie Friedman z"l. So, in our school, our Israel education will appropriately have this mixed in, adding in complexities as our children get older and their brains develop. As adults we can engage in these complex discussions fully knowing that while it is not a land only of milk and honey, with policies that we might completely disagree with, it is a land that we love and have yearned for, for thousands of years. I leave you with the beginning of Psalm 137 and look forward to speaking in depth about this subject with you.

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, and we remembered Zion...If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you. If I do not set you above my highest joy.

Mazel Tov to our February B'nai Mitzvahs!



Rebecca Heath will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday February 6th, 2016. Rebecca is a 7th Grade High Honor Student at Memorial Middle School in Eatontown. She is an active member of the School Drama Club, School and Temple Choir, and Band. Rebecca recently received the Presidential Award For Educational Excellence. In Rebecca's spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, is an avid reader, and loves creative writing, the beach, and traveling. She also loves acting, singing and playing the flute.

For Rebecca's Mitzvah Project she volunteers at a local Assisted Living Center and participates in the weekly Friday Night Shabbat Services. Rebecca enjoys her involvement with the seniors and will continue on throughout the year.

Rebecca's family is very proud of her hard work, dedication and her amazing accomplishments in reaching this significant milestone in her life. They are truly inspired by her each and every day.

Rebecca would like to thank Cantor Clissold and Rabbi Kline for their support, guidance and encouragement during the year. They made the process an enjoyable and rewarding experience.



Zoe Appio will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on February 13. She lives in Little Silver with her parents Idanna (Dandi) and Jim, and little sister Lili, and her dog Louie. Zoe is a student at Markham school, where she loves language arts and Math and being with her friends. Zoe's favorite activity outside of school is swimming. She swims competitively for Central Jersey Aquatic Club (CJAC).

For Zoe's Mitzvah project, she arranged and participated in a "Swim for C.F." where friends from temple, school, swim team, and her family all received pledges and swam as many laps as possible in one hour. The effort raised roughly \$6000 for the Cystic Fibrosis

Foundation. Zoe would like to thank everyone that participated and would especially like to thank Seashore Day Camp and School for hosting the event.

Zoe's Torah portion is Terumah. The Torah portion is about building the tabernacle. Zoe would like to thank the Rabbi, the Cantor, and Ms. Leavitt for all of their lessons over the years, which has helped her prepare for the day and beyond. Zoe would also like to thank her family and her Grandma, Dee Kaplan, for helping her with her religious education.

Mark Your Calendars! Mitzvah Day is back...Sunday, May 22nd!

Next committee meeting: Thursday, February 11th at 7pm

Our Stories, Our Lives
Monmouth Reform Temple 2015 Sunday Discussion Group
Next Meeting: Sunday, February 28th, 2015
4-5:30pm in the Library

Starting on February 28th, Monmouth Reform Temple will resume its Sunday discussion group series focused on personal storytelling. This was originally scheduled to begin in January but winter storm Jonas had other ideas. 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 five story telling themes will be:

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

A sixth session on Death and Dying may also be scheduled depending on interest.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Bernstein, Richard & Rollins, Stacy

333 East 55th Street, #5J
 New York NY 10022
 Home: 732 822-3336

Richard Bernstein

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Stacy Rollins

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Gilligan, Thomas & Shabo, Hanna

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Wayne Hallard

Wayne.B.Hallard@verizon.net

Crimoli, Gene & Marissa

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Gene Crimoli

CrimoliFamily@comcast.net

Marissa Crimoli

marissacrimoli@gmail.com



From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Affairs Chair**Minority Populations in Israel: Bedouins Gain Status**

Rabaa Al-Hawashleh, age 24, takes two buses to work every day for a 90 minute drive to Sadel Tech, a high tech company located south of Beersheva, where she provides quality control for software programs. Rabaa lives with her mother who is illiterate and her father, a truck driver, in a cluster of shacks in the Negev Desert. She cannot drive to work because her community frowns on female drivers and she has no license. Rabaa was determined to get an education and is now gainfully employed in her field, a near miracle that has taken place within the Bedouin society.

For thousands of years, Bedouins have been Arabs of the desert, a nomadic people, divided into tribes, sharing a culture of herding camels and goats. Before 1948, 65-90,000 Bedouins lived in the Negev, the desert area of Israel representing 60% of the land mass of that nation.

Today there are approximately 200,000 Bedouins living in the Negev, more than half in established towns, some in unrecognized areas without infrastructure. Family tribes living in unrecognized areas have been encouraged to move to Bedouin towns but refuse based on their historical and cultural way of life. In 1954, Bedouins were granted Israeli citizenship and some have integrated into Israeli society. Close to 2000 Bedouins serve in the Israel Defense Forces, (IDF) especially in elite 'tracking units'.

According to a New York Times article, January 10, 2016, young Bedouin students have sought education in high tech industries, attending colleges majoring in software engineering and other technological studies only to end up as gas station attendants because of the inability to find jobs in their fields. Women have an additional disability relating to their culture which frowns upon females seeking further education where they are encouraged to marry within the tribe and have many children. In addition to basic prejudice with regard to employment, there are language barriers among many in the Arab community where English is a third language after Arabic and Hebrew.

A change has been taking place in Bedouin society during the past several years. In 2013, an all Bedouin company, Sadel Tech, was established with an Israeli technology investor. The company now employs a dozen people. The chief executive, Ibrahim Sana, is quoted as saying, "Israel is a leader in high tech, and we want a piece of that." It is a slow beginning but it is a beginning that will grow within the Bedouin community. Word of mouth networking will bring more students to the burgeoning high tech field with employment opportunities on the horizon. In this all-Bedouin company, respect is granted to the Muslim population and at lunchtime, employees as a matter of course, take out their mats and perform midday Muslim prayers.

Israel, a land of amazing variety, of many nationalities, many ethnicities, continuous immigration from all over the world faces unique challenges and enjoys many successes.

The Bedouin community, made up of courageous individuals is making its way into the main stream, slowly but surely.



MRT Trip Israel Led by Rabbi Marc Kline
More information forthcoming
July 3rd –14th, 2016
Please contact Rabbi Kline if you are interested.

Spotlight on our Board

Bob St. Lifer, Financial Secretary—by Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



Bob St Lifer was born and raised in Hillside NJ. His family was very active in their synagogue, but all the Jewish families in Hillside and Elizabeth worked together regardless of the temple or synagogue they were affiliated with. As a child Bob remembered that people would gather at people's homes a few times a year to do community fundraisers. Everyone would call out what they could give. Wealthy people could give much more than others, but every time someone made a pledge, it was greeted with thanks and enthusiasm. Every one's pledge was honored and appreciated, no matter how great or small. People used to bid to get a High Holy Day Aliyah, but whomever would win would say, "but please tell the Rabbi to give my aliyah to the person who deserves the honor, my bid serves as a donation."

As soon as they moved to Colts Neck they joined MRT and the Jewish Federation. He believes it is important to support the Jewish community.

All of Bob's friends were going to Rutgers and American University, but he wanted to do something different. He was advised to go to University of Pittsburgh. It was a great choice because it was there that he met Susan. After college Bob went onto Law School at Pepperdine in Malibu, California. He passed the NJ bar but chose to join his father in the men's clothing business. Bob worked at the store which moved to Toms River at the Ocean County Mall. Susan and Bob moved to Colts Neck to be closer to the store, but not so far from family. Susan works as a special ed teacher in Eatontown. They had Lily and then the twins, Sam and Emily. Lily is a Pre school teacher in New Brunswick, Sam is married to Annie and they live in San Diego; he is finishing up his MA and works for a military contractor. Emily works in LA at a synagogue called Temple Beth Am and she loves it there.

When they moved to Colts Neck, MRT became a very important part of their lives, all their children went to religious school, became B'nai Mitzvah, and went through Confirmation. Both Bob and Susan remain active in the synagogue. They attend Friday night services regularly. Bob attends Saturday AM study every week and goes all over to take Jewish studies courses at Rutgers and other synagogues in our vicinity. Bob also belongs to Freehold Jewish Center and attends the morning minyan every day since he retired.

Bob has been part of two Rabbinic search committees at MRT and financial secretary for the past 6 years. For fun he plays tennis and golf and cards a few times a week. Bob has a sister Lois and her daughter is our Religious School Principal-Stephanie Fields. Bob's first cousin Bill and his wife Joanne also belong to MRT. As if all that isn't enough Bob also volunteers for kosher meals on wheels and at Federation where he has held every Board position.

Quite simply, Bob loves MRT and says it is like his family. We are all connected and need one another, for Bob and Susan, it is all about "community".

Save the Date:

Purim Carnival

sponsored by SMaRTY (Senior Youth)

Sunday, March 20th at 11:30am

More info to come!



Spotlight on our Board

Cantor Gabrielle Clissold—by Jim Halpern



When you attend services at MRT, one of the first things you notice is the amazing voice of our Cantor, Gabrielle Clissold. From a simple Children's Shabbat service with our Shir Chadash Band, to hearing the soaring notes of the Kol Nidre on Yom Kippur, the aura of spirituality that blesses our temple because of Cantor Clissold is evident to anyone who hears her sing.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with "Gaby" and ask her about her journey to becoming our beloved Cantor. Below are some of the highlights from that interview.

When did you start your work at Monmouth Reform Temple?

"I was chosen to be Cantor of MRT in 2002 by the Cantorial search committee headed by Gerald Reisner. Some people who were involved throughout my audition and interview process were Bob Rosin, Rabbi Priesand, Stu Tuchband, Alice Berman, Rich Sachs, and

Stephanie Fitzsimmons. I fell in love with the people and opportunities that MRT was willing to support. However, I subbed here as a student cantor in 1993 and 1994. It was then I met Stu Tuchband, Sheila Leavitt, Rabbi Priesand, Ken Clayton and Baldwin Davidson."

Where were you before this?

"I served three congregations. I was a cantorial soloist in Greensboro NC at Temple Emanuel from 1988 to 1992, while in college at UNC-G. I served as student cantor at Beth El in Hillsborough NJ from 1993 to 1998. I served Temple Judea in Miami, FL from 1998 to 2002. I am fortunate to say that I have close connections with individuals and clergy from all of those opportunities."

As our Cantor, what is your role at MRT?

"That answer could be a small novel, but here are the current highlights... I prepare all B'nai Mitzvah students and oversee much of the process. I lead, organize and facilitate all of the music and people involved in the music of MRT, Shabbat, Festivals, Purim, High Holy Days, Thanksgiving, MLK Shabbat, volunteer choir, and Shir Chadash Band. I teach people to read Torah and schedule them throughout the year, including all of the readers at the High Holy days. I oversee and coordinate the 92nd Street Y Broadcasts. I supervise the two youth advisors. I work to get children to attend all types of URJ Camps. I serve Camp Harlam for two weeks every summer. I teach all ages, lead services in Religious School and supervise music education. I visit people in hospitals and perform pastoral care. I perform life cycle ceremonies. I attend many meetings and LOVE every single part of what I do!"

It is apparent you love to sing, why?

"It's fun and makes people happy. It is the most connecting and unifying part of Jewish prayer and human life. The voice is a living, organic and ever changing instrument. You can't push a button, you can't replace a string. The human voice is different in every single person. No one sounds exactly like anyone else, like a snowflake, no two are identical."

Do you take voice lessons?

"Every week since I was thirteen years old."

What projects are you working on now?

"I just finished nine months of work on the music and collaboration for MLK Shabbat. Finalized all the Torah readers for the rest of the school year. I am setting up a theatrical reading of the Megillah for Purim. I am working on all the music for the choir to sing in February. I am working on SOS, Seeds of Spirituality for February. I am thrilled to

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Spotlight on our Board**Cantor Clissold by Jim Halpern**

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launch Live Streaming at MRT, soon! This has been a five year project that I have worked hard to make happen at MRT and has been completely underwritten by the Cantor's Discretionary Fund.”

What about your family?

“We live in Manalapan. My amazing and supportive husband John is a beloved Earth Science, Biology and Environmental Science teacher in Freehold Township High School. My son Asher is a tenth grade student at Freehold Township High School. My son Simon is a 6th grader at Solomon Schechter in Marlboro. My parents are also members of MRT, Professor Jo and Carol Jochowitz. I have one sibling Nina and nephew Rami close by in Old Bridge. My other sister Abby lives in Northern NJ and her children Ben and Kim are in college. We have many furry friends who allow us to live with them.”

What do you do when you are not being Cantor Clissold?

“My family would tell you that I am like every other Jewish mother. I yell at my kids, nudge them to death and smother them with love. I cook and clean, fill and empty the dish washer, wash, fold, sort and hate to put away clothes. I don't understand why no one but me will ever refill the toilet paper roll, run errands, make MD appointments, go food shopping, cut coupons and drive the carpools. I love to visit my oldest friend Lea in Pasadena, talk and go out to dinner with my closest friends. I love to cook and bake bread. I love Facebook. I love to see my children growing and thriving. I see my parents a lot and talk to them every day. John and I always try and go out together once a week, just us. I love Korean Spas, sushi, brie, mozzarella, rice crackers, the beach and the mountains, Fall Leaves, going to museums with my father and reading books about Scotland and Holland.”

Cantor Clissold, on behalf of the Congregation at MRT, thank you for doing all you do. My grandmother used a Yiddish word to describe her grandkids. “Nachas – we made her proud with the pleasures we brought her –“.....well Cantor Clissold, you bring Nachas to MRT.

SISTERHOOD, Jill Austin & Cheryl Gaudette, Co-Presidents

Welcome to Winter! We hope that everyone weathered the recent storm without mishap!

So much happens at MRT and sisterhood is often involved. At the Hanukkah Party, 175 congregants enjoyed friendship, latkes, chicken and an array of sides donated by the families. Sisterhood cannot host these events without wonderful Sisterhood member volunteers. We encourage you to join sisterhood (membership starts at \$36) to support us in giving back to our temple and enjoy our events. We began January with a wonderful "Out and About" at MJ's with 30 women eating, schmoozing and laughing!

Our Co-ed Tennis Social will be held at the Colts Neck Racquet Club on Saturday, February 6th at 7pm. We welcome all temple members and guests. Email Sisterhood to register.

Men's Club, with Sisterhood, has begun weekly volleyball on Sundays from 7-9pm at St. Anthony's Church in Red Bank. Admission is a donation to the church's community food pantry. Come to this lively co-ed evening!

On February 29th, join our stimulating book club discussion of "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante at Kay Wiesenfeld's home.

It's time again to order your Shalach Manot goody greetings! Information is in this bulletin and on the website. Orders are due March 4th.

Mark your calendar for April 10th to enjoy our enriching Women's Seder!!! Details to come. Wishing you a comfortable February without the freeze!!

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

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- Alan and Maxine Klatsky on the passing of his mother, Ann Kobrin Klatsky
- Sue Barr on the passing of her father, Paul Barr
- Sheila Bodner on the loss of her husband and long-time MRT member, Howard
- Stephen Kardos on the loss of his wife, Felicia

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

- Harry and Dori Hillson the birth of their first granddaughter, Alma Ruth in Ithaca, NY
- Rich and Sheila Sachs on the birth of a granddaughter, Abigail Rose in Mesa, AZ.
- Dean Ross on being inducted into the Red Bank Regional High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame — Class of 2016
- Sam and Anne Goodman on the birth of their son Jack Richard Goodman
- Gene and Marissa Crimoli on the birth of their daughter



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. Space is available on both walls. Cost per plaque is \$400.

February Yahrzeits (read date based on when they occur)

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

Morris Bernstein, Stanley Brittman, John Fiorino, *Julius Fox, Louis J. Fox, Benjamin Frankel, Al Goldstein, Abraham Josephson, *Celia Karlman, David Allen Kline, Morris Kosberg, Sarah Laperdon, Dr. Paul B. Lerner, Jack Lipsky, Roslyn Lissner, *Carole Littenberg, Sylvia Moss, Sanford Rems, Solomon Rems, *Rose Samo, Marjorie Sternberg, Ruth Stone, Matilda Tell, Steven Weyser

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

*Isadore Abramowitz, Edythe Albert, *Sara Brightman, *Lynn Sternberg Donlan, Tom Dorf, Charles Feldman, Pauline Gershon, Phyllis Gordon, Alfred Jampol, *Florence Kridel, *Eva Rotman Lite, *Rose Littman, Zeev Manheim, Beverly Maurer, Robert Misch, *Milton Morris, Elinor G. Newman, Felice Nifoussi, Leonard Quitt, Lester Reiss, Benjamin Roffman, Jack Rosen, Morris Rosenberg, *Bob Rosin, *Robert Salomon, *Harry Scherman, Rose Schiller, *Henry Schwartzman, Samuel D. Shagan, Joseph Steisel, *Samuel Taksel, *Rebecca Wagner, Sophie Wald, *Charles Wallerstein, Rose Werner, Shirley Weyser

Names to be Read on Friday, February 19th (Services at 7pm)

*Lillian Bernstein, Casper Boyer, Phyllis Brodsky, Martin Cole, Jose Colmenares, Jack Feinberg, Marjorie Fishman, Joseph Friend, Henry Ganz, Florence Grieco, Theo Jennings, *Marvin L. Kahn, Freida Kirschner, Sadie Kosberg, Joan Litwin, *Bernard Mausner, *Maurice Meyer Jr., Joseph Michalowitz, *Sharon Renee Offenhenden, *Samuel Prusoff, Sol Rubin, *Harry Rubinstein, *Rosalind Sadwith, Florence Snyder, Frances Sporn, Jean Stark, John Stern, Howard Tannenbaum, *Lillian Trubin, Florence Ulanet, *Max Walsky

Names to be Read on Friday, February 26th (Services at 7pm)

*Dave Andersen, Rae Barshack, *Abraham Bialy, *Neil Brandwene, Bert M. Feinberg, Jean Fiegelman, Joe Friend Jr., Seymour Grauer, Jean Jochnowitz, Philip Kalb, Rose Levinsky, Andrea Malek, Rita Mercedes McWilliams, Jean Morse, George Moss, Jr., Lillian Portman, James Rickard, Ida Schlisserman, Louis Schneider, *Beatrice Silverman, *Harriet Weiss, Louise Zarin

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

Doreen Laperdon-Addison and Lonnie Addison

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Kline for our child's baby naming
The Arianas Family
Lula Grand's Bat Mitzvah
Linda Markowitz
My son Brett receiving an honorary doctorate
from Univ. of Warwick, UK
Judith Wigdortz

Adult Ed Fund**In Memory Of:**

Pearl Katz, Sal Katz, Philip Schiller, Rose Schiller

Barbara Miller

Rabbi Alton Winters

Barbara Miller

In Honor Of:

Sheila and Rich Sachs on the birth of their
granddaughter Abigail Rose
Barbara Miller

Arts and Decorations Fund**In Memory Of:**

Howard Semer and Gussie Weiss

Susan Martin

Nathan Franklin, Evelyn Anna Gilstein

Sheila and Zach Gilstein

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund**In Memory Of:**

Deborah Weitz Gold

Cathy Daniels

Ann Klatsky Kobrin

Cheryl and Steve Gaudette

Paul Barr

Cheryl and Steve Gaudette

Richard Gaudette

Cheryl and Steve Gaudette

In Honor Of:

Andrew Baldwin's Birthday

Cathy Daniels

Caring Network Fund**In Memory Of:**

Sam Auerbach, Charles Mindel

Cynthia and Phil Auerbach

Ann Klatsky Kobrin

Karen and David Levinsky

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

George Brandwene

Bernard Brandwene

Cantor's Fund

Doreen Laperdon-Addison and Lonnie Addison

In Memory Of:

Ann Klatsky Kobrin

Trudy and Steve Goldsmith, Dari
and Steve Kennedy, Maxine and
Alan Klatsky

Jordan Schuman

Dari and Steve Kennedy

Howard Bodner

Trudy and Stephen Goldsmith

In Honor Of:

Lula Grand's Bat Mitzvah

Linda Markowitz

Cantor Clissold With Appreciation

Eleanor Rubin

General Fund**In Memory Of:**

David Kline

Lois Kline

Norma Bernstein

Susan and Howard Levin

Barry Miller

Roz and Al Feldman

Louis, Hortense, Larry Wigdortz

Adrienne Anderson

Caryl Rubin

Susan and Joseph Frankel

Leonard Bleetstein

Gary Bleetstein

Harold Rubin

Susan and Joseph Frankel

Paul Barr

Rosalyn Cohen

Stella Seligman

June and Morton Seligman

Donald Bain

Gail and Sam Tobias

Manual Unterman

Amy and Michael Unterman

Homeless Fund**In Memory Of:**

Vivianne Meistrich

Shelley and Ted Ibex

Jennie Rosenweig

Susan and Jim Harran

Ann Klatsky Kobrin

Marilyn and Joel Morgovsky

Adelaide Meyer

Irma and Peter Meyer

Oneg Fund**In Memory Of:**

Michael Sporn, Frances Sporn

Susan and Roy Gelber

John Singer

Frank Singer

Henry Miller

Helene and David Miller

Emanuel Marks

Ellie Goodman

Ida Reisner, Hyman Reisner

Rosalind and Gerald Reisner

Leonore Rosen, Max Rosen

Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

Sisterhood Scholarship Fund**In Memory Of:**

Herbert Friend, Joe Friend Jr., Joseph
Friend

Sanford and Harriet Cook

RSJP Endowment Fund**In Memory Of:**

Shadow

The Kennedy Family, Sheila and

Richard Sachs, Marcia Horn

The Congregation mourns
the loss of Howard Bodner



May his memory be a blessing

The Congregation mourns
the loss of Felice Kardos



May her memory be a blessing

February 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30pm Men's Club Board	2 9:45am Study Group	3 4pm Rel School 7pm Youth Comm	4	5 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea First Friday 5:30pm Preneg K/I 6pm Shabbat Services followed by Pot Luck	6 9am Torah Talk 10am Service 10am Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Heath 7pm Tennis Social
7 8:45am 6th Grade Parent 9:30am Rel School 9:30am 4th grade Siddur 9:30am Knitting Group 9:30am Bagels and Blocks 11am Religious Ed 12:15pm Faculty meeting	8	9 9:45am Study Group 7pm Exec Board	10 4pm Rel School 6:30pm Ritual	11 7pm Mitzvah Day Comm 7:30pm Poker 7:45pm Choir	12 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services Seeds of Spirituality	13 9am Torah Talk 10am Service 10am Bat Mitzvah of Zoe Appio
14 NO Religious School	15 Office Closed President's Day	16 9:45am Study Group 7pm Orchid Society party 7pm Board Meeting	17 4pm Rel School 7pm SMarTY	18	19 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 7pm Shabbat Services Rabbi Priesand and Cantor Clissold	20 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
21 9am-2pm Blood Drive 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Men's Club Breakfast with Keith Glass	22	23 9:45am Movie during Study Group	24 4pm Rel School	25	26 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services with 5th Grade Cantor Clissold and Principal Fields	27 9am Torah Talk 10am Service 8pm Men's Club He-Brew event
28 9:30am Rel School 9:30am 2nd and 3rd grade PACT 4pm Adult Ed Study	29					



Member of the
Union for Reform Judaism

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