



THE MRT BULLETIN

March 2016

Volume LVII Issue VIII

Adar I–Adar II 5776

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

Schedule of Shabbat Services March 2016

Friday, March 4th



First Friday
5:30pm Pre-neg by Grades 2/3
6pm Shabbat Services with 2/3
class

Followed by Potluck dinner

A-F Salad/ G-Z Pasta/Chicken
Please bring enough for 12-14

Saturday, March 5th

10am 6th Grade Shabbat Service

Friday, March 11th

7pm Shabbat Services
Guest Speaker: Keshia Thomas
The Power of One

Saturday, March 12th

10am Bar Mitzvah of Jake Barr

Friday, March 18th

7pm Shabbat Services with Choir
Sisterhood/Men's Club Service

Saturday, March 19th

10am Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Bendik

Friday, March 25th

7pm Shabbat Services

Our live streaming link can be found on our
home page at www.monmouthreformtemple.org

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!



GET RID OF YOUR STUFF

Drop off times

Tues. 3/8 9am-6pm

Wed. 3/9 12pm-9pm

Thurs. 3/10 9am-6pm

Friday, 3/11 12pm-3pm

Please..no books, no furniture that cannot be carried by one person, no large appliances, or things that don't work.

New this year:

- Offering board for larger items that cannot be carried. (Post your offering in the lobby for all to see!!!) Contact Margie Wold at woldiem@aol.com for more information
- Eye glasses will be collected and donated to the Lions Club
- Blank and Get Well greeting cards will be used at Mitzvah Day.

MRT Members Only

Pre-Sale

Sat. evening, 3/12
6pm-8pm

Open to the Public

Sun. 3/13 9am-4pm

Mon. 3/14 9am-4pm

Tues. 3/15 9am-1pm

We need your help. Please contact Lynn Shapiro at ls Shapiro2@gmail.com to volunteer. For more information contact Ways & Means Chair Rachel Placitella at 732-299-2933.

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

As we look to set goals and objectives for the coming year, the Executive Committee and Board have been discussing how the Jewish world around us is changing, the circumstances in which we live and how we would like our temple to be as we look out 3 to 5 years.

The Jewish world is changing:

- 72% of non-Orthodox Jews marry outside the faith leading to a large percentage of families, which if they do join a Temple, have non-Jewish spouses.
- Fewer Jews, even those who self-identify as Jewish, are joining organized synagogues. Serving the Jewish community requires reaching outside the temple. Alternatives, such as Chabad, JCCs, or other Jewish community programming, may suffice for many.
- There is an increasing distance between a connection to Israel and non-Orthodox and younger Jews.
- Affiliated Jews are less willing or unable to pay or contribute what it takes to sustain an organized temple.
- Technology is changing the way people relate and interact, offering opportunities and challenges to sustaining a classic synagogue concept.



Nonetheless:

- People remain in pursuit of spirituality and a connection to a larger life giving force.
- Many Jews want to feel a close connection to a Jewish community and ensure the education of their children.

As we look out 3 to 5 years, we would like MRT to:

- Engage our congregants so that each is fulfilled in her/his spiritual journey through whatever portal he/she chooses. Motivate each family to be actively engaged in some task force, committee, program, social action or whatever expands their Jewish identity.
- Be the go-to place for Judaic connection, experiences, and lifelong Jewish learning for our member community as well as the broader community to meet the needs of the unaffiliated and the searching.
- Have an accredited Religious School that effectively prepares our young people to lead meaningful, engaged, Jewish lives.
- Actively broaden our commitment to and demonstration of Tikun Olam and strengthen our connections with the interfaith community
- Develop and nurture a meaningful relationship with Israel as a congregation.
- Successfully integrate our non-Jewish spouses so that all find an enriching experience at MRT.
- Have a wonderfully engaging website and fully leverage social media and technology to connect our community.
- Achieve financial contributions that fully cover the cost of executing and growing our mission.

As we lay out our plans to move us toward these goals, I hope that you will strengthen our community by actively participating in whatever parts of these challenges will help you achieve a more enriched Jewish life.

I want to express my huge thanks to Margie Wold and the whole committee that created the Get Healthy day at MRT. From Rabbi Kline's opening remarks to Doreen Laperdon-Addison's group dancing at the end, it was a thoroughly positive experience. I would also like to thank Semmes Brightman, our clergy, and the Ritual Committee for the beautiful Seeds of Spirituality service and the Men's Club for the fun morning with Keith Glass, professional sports agent, and what I am sure will be a fun social evening at the He-Brew beer-tasting event.

From the President to the Congregation

Dear Friends,

I am writing to solicit your help.

Thank you for your contributions that enable us to sustain the holy community we enjoy.

- **Our clergy inspires us toward righteousness with spiritual services, learning, and support for life-cycle events.**
- **As our recent Justice Weekend demonstrated, we are active in the struggle for justice for all.**
- **Our Mitzvah Day plans are well underway and will give all of us an opportunity to fulfill our mission of Tikun Olam.**
- **Our Religious School is actively working toward an enhanced curriculum to educate our youth to lead meaningful, engaged Jewish lives.**
- **We continue to enjoy many lifelong Jewish learning programs with weekly study sessions throughout the year and a Shabbat Kallah experience planned with world renowned Rabbi Uri Regev this May.**
-

In examining our MRT finances, we find that we have a significant shortfall. The 2015/16 budget called for a total of \$565,000 to be collected to support operating expenses, building fund, and Union of Reform Judaism dues*.

At this point, the total pledges, for the entire year, only total about \$510,000, or about a 10% shortfall of what we need to sustain our mission. While we have controlled expenses, which are essentially flat with previous years, our pledges are just not sufficient to meet our needs.

We have decided to reach out to our community to work together to address this shortfall.

I am asking every congregant to do two things. First, find it in your heart to increase your pledge for this year by at least 10%. Those who have the means, please consider making a larger increase. Second, please pay the balance of this year's pledge (plus any increase) promptly and in full so that we can avoid a cash flow deficit.

To further address our financial health, we are in the process of developing an endowment and legacy giving campaign so that we can jointly invest in ensuring the future of our Jewish community at MRT.

All of the blessings of our Temple are made possible through your generous contributions. Please make a gift from your heart to enable us to execute and grow our mission without further borrowing from our future.

Sincerely,



Zach Gilstein
President

*Please call or email me if you would like more detailed information about the Temple's finances, or come to a Board Meeting (third Tuesday of the month) where a financial report is provided.

From Rabbi Marc Kline



I dreamt that I spoke with Maimonides, one of our greatest sages. I asked him for his thoughts on what living a relevant communal Jewish life would resemble. He laughed and told me that the answer was easy. A congregation must see itself as a Kehila K'dosha - a holy community.

How would we accomplish this? Worship and ritual need to engage and spiritually impact membership and all who participate with us; education needs to be clear about what it means to be Jewish; and both how we pray and what we learn need to empower us to do the work of changing the world that is, into one of Shalom for which we pray.

In my dream, our sage described my vision for our Monmouth Reform Temple community. Education and worship have to be welcoming, engaging, accessible and fulfilling; profound and spiritually transforming for a diverse population of member families. We must concern ourselves with our liturgy, language, music, and modes of facilitating congregational participation. Every conversation we have across the gamut from board meetings to Torah studies needs to focus us on a common mission – growing Torah's capacity to undermine poverty ... in every sense in which it manifests in the world. As we understand Torah in our evolving world, we must also appreciate that our goal, as taught by Rav Avraham Kook, "The old must be made new, and the new must be made holy."

Our prayer and our education must lead and empower us ... give us the skills to change the world. If we pray and learn in a vacuum, we have transgressed our tradition. We have to grow ourselves to help grow the world. To that end, we partner with a broader cross-section of worship houses, building relationships that expand our own experiences. We are changing the way in which we look to sustain our mission, demonstrating through our innovation reasons for our members and wider community to invest themselves in our future. We are rethinking life cycle and ritual experiences to help families see the ways in which our tradition enhances life and grows our spiritual capacity.

We cannot tie this process to a preconceived timeline but we already see that changes in scheduling and messaging have increased involvement and investiture in our ongoing celebrations. I hope it sees our membership commit itself to greater involvement in each other's lives and life cycles as well.

How are we getting this done? Most importantly, our leadership commits itself to listening. We cannot be meaningful to you by telling you what we choose to do without first learning from you ... that which is relevant to you. Our Religious School curriculum is changing wholesale over these next few years. We need our students to appreciate the "Mitzvah" in Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and to see their time here as so inspiring that they want to stay and the want to engage a future community when they leave home. We are growing a Shiva team to ensure that no member mourns alone.

Our leaders are calling, they are seeking your calls, and we are seeking to learn of ways that would give your commitment to this MRT family a greater sense of value, joy, and spiritual enlightenment ... at whatever level you believe makes sense in your world.

Mark Your Calendars! Mitzvah Day is back...Sunday, May 22nd!
Next committee meeting: Thursday, March 10th at 7pm

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



If you enjoy singing a great way to connect with others is through joining our Monmouth Reform Temple Volunteer Choir. We meet regularly to rehearse and sing on the High Holy Days, Thanksgiving, Chanukah, MLK Shabbat and at services once a month. The choir helped lead the music of Shabbat on February 19 and will sing again on March 18, April 15, and May 13. The choir is open to all, there's no audition, no previous experience needed and it is a lot of fun! We are always recruiting and seeking new members. You don't have to commit to a whole year, just try it for one cycle. Please be in touch if you are interested in joining us! Right now we especially need soprano voices! We meet on Thursdays at 7:45 PM in the sanctuary.

Live Streaming is another great way to connect with MRT when you can't physically get to the building for Shabbat services. Since our debut on February 5th we have streamed five services. We have received very positive feedback to date. It is VERY easy to participate, simply go to monmouthreformtemple.org and click on the top right corner that says LIVE STREAM. That will take you to our recordings and tell you when our next service will be. You can easily sign up for email reminders in that same place. Please let us know how you like it and any suggestions are welcome!

We will have a very animated and fun Purim Megillah reading on March 23rd at 5 pm. Costumes will be provided and there is a light dinner to follow. Please bring a box of pasta for a grogger to be donated to Lunch Break.

Composer Steven Sondheim said, "If I cannot fly, let me sing"! Connect with us at MRT in our choir, sanctuary or on Live Stream!

Now is the time to plan summer for kids, please consider sending your children to 3 1/2 weeks at Jewish camp.

There are so many really amazing Jewish summer camps for our kids. There are many more listed in <http://www.jewishcamp.org/>. The first year a child attends they are eligible for a scholarship of \$1000.00 from onehappy camper.org and scholarship from MRT.

URJ-Camp Harlam is our regional summer camp in PA. Over the past 6 years I have worked at Camp Harlam, if your child attends during second session-I will be there! Check out <http://harlam.urjcamps.org/> for more info.



Sh'lach Manot Update!

Sh'lach Manot order deadline:
is now
Wednesday, March 16th!

Sh'lach Manot packing is:
Saturday, March 19th at 4pm
Pack the boxes and enjoy
Happy Hour & Havdallah





Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County celebrates its 10th Anniversary and honors four MRT members

For the past 10 years, the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County has been educating, enlightening and preserving local Jewish history through workshops, exhibits, lectures and performances. The Museum will commemorate its 10th anniversary with a Gala Brunch at 11:00AM on Sunday, April 10 at the Battleground Country Club in Manalapan.

Whenever an institution is founded, the steadfastness and perseverance of its early members and contributors are essential and vital. The Museum will pay tribute to 17 people who have been instrumental in the early growth of the Museum, including 4 members of the MRT family: Linda Friedman, Rabbi Sally Priesand, Caryl Sills and Charles Sills. Three MRT members currently serve on the Museum Board, continuing our temple's community involvement: Alice Berman, Cindy Quitt and Dean Ross.

For more information, to purchase tickets to the event, or place an ad in the journal, call the Museum at 732-252-6990, or visit jhmomc.org.

IF YOU HAVE A HEART FOR JUSTICE, YOU CAN'T MISS THIS!

Keshia Thomas will be the guest speaker at Friday Shabbat services on March 11th at 7pm



Keshia Thomas, social activist and motivational speaker, will join us for the Shabbat evening service at on Friday, March 11 at 7 pm.

Ms. Thomas' topic will be "The Power of One." She gained national prominence as a teenager in Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 1996, Keshia Thomas threw herself on a white man to protect him from the beatings of an angry mob who believed he was a supporter of the Ku Klux Klan. A high school student at the time, she chose to become a human shield for a man she did not know. That moment propelled her on a path of social justice that reverberates through her to this day. Last summer, she participated in America's March for Justice, walking the entire 1000 mile path from Selma, AL, to Washington, DC.

Rabbi Kline explains: "Meeting Keshia brought new light into my justice work. She is a tremendous young lady with a passion bent on changing the world." Ms. Thomas adds that "The biggest thing you can do is just be kind to another human being. It can come down to eye contact, or a smile. It doesn't have to be a huge monumental act." * Rabbi Kline added, "Every time we act intentionally kind is monumental. Keshia nodded in affirmation. "Yes, but it should never take moving a mountain to show our genuine concern for each other's well being."

*From Huffington Post, 10/29/13

2016 Mitzvah Day

As part of our Mitzvah Day activities we are collecting old eyeglasses to give to a local Lions Club for people in need. Please bring your old glasses with your donations for the Rummage Sale in March or on Mitzvah Day, May 22nd.

Anyone interested in assisting with the preparations for the upcoming Mitzvah Day are welcome to join us at the next planning meeting at 7 PM on Thursday, March 10, in the MRT library.

Summary of January 21st Board of Trustees meeting: from Zach Gilstein, President

We recounted many accomplishments. Principal among them, Justice Weekend was fantastic! The service was wonderful. Dr. McCorvey was terrific. The service was well attended. There was a good turnout from the Pilgrim Baptist Church. The Saturday night program on Joachim Prinz drew about 40 people in an engaging discussion.

The cemetery contract was signed. The Sisterhood Out-And-About had about 35 sisters attend for an engaging time at MJ's. Mitzvah Day plans are progressing—Applebees may help underwrite the picnic meal. The Rummage Sale is progressing with multiple drop off days.

The majority of the meeting was spent working in small groups to review the MRT web site and identify a list of recommendations to make the site even better. Subsequently each group's scribe took an Action Point to type up the list of recommendations and distribute them to the Board and to Mark Gruensfelder, our web master. It is the ongoing responsibility of the appropriate committees to work to execute on the list of recommendations formulated.

Zach Gilstein reported that the High Holy Day Campaign raised \$33,100, short of the budgeted goal of \$35,000. We were well short of 100% participation, with only 108 member families contributing. Zach, Bob St. Lifer, and Rabbi Kline attended the kickoff training session of the Federation Life and Legacy program. The training was excellent in outlining a strong approach for achieving a successful Legacy giving campaign.

The Membership Committee and the Board approved the resignation of two families and one family has rejoined.

The Rabbi reported that the community turnout for the MLK weekend was wonderful. The program Saturday morning at Red Bank Library featured 3 High School Students who had some profound thoughts to offer. The Monday YMCA breakfast and church service were inspiring as well. We need to build on this relationship throughout the year.

Rabbi and Principal Fields will be leading the L'Taken trip to Washington with 7 MRT high school students. Rabbi will be leaving from Washington for a trip to Israel where he will be co-leading a group of 35 interfaith clergy and attending the CCAR conference.

Several Committees reported progress. Ways and Means will be sponsoring a Day at the Races at Monmouth Park on June 5. Day of Health is set to go on January 31. Margie Wold encourages the Board to sign up. The 2016/17 budget process is underway. Adult Ed Sunday discussion groups will reconvene January 24 (later postponed to 2/28 due to the snow storm). The theme is Our Lives Our Stories and is organized by Elliott Familant. Religious Education is working on its budget and will recommend a significant increase and an increase in school tuition to enable us to deliver a higher standard of education.

Summary of February 23rd Board of Trustees meeting: Jim Halpern, Recording Secretary



Live Streaming on the Internet of our services is here. Thank you to the Ritual Committee, Cantor, Rabbi, Jim Halpern, and Board for seeing this project through, MRT is now live on the internet. To watch, go to our temple website and “click on Live Streaming”. On January 31, MRT sponsored “Get Healthy at MRT: A day of Inspiration”, a daylong event that included programs in: Yoga, Pilates, Better Sleep, Healthy Eating, Balance Training, Dancing for Health and Stress Management, all taught by our own MRT members, Liz Moss, Nadine Vicenzi, Lisa Sussman, Doreen Laperdon-Addison, Claudia Huegel and Joseph Stein. Planning continues for Mitzvah Day 2016. This year we will be planning additional family projects so that families can work together. In January we held joint

services with the Pilgrim Baptist Church in Red Bank, to celebrate Martin Luther King weekend. Our religious school has posted lessons on line for students and parents. In addition, we are beginning a drive to seek donated used computers to help bring more on-line education to our students. Our Tuesday morning adult education group is now attended by 15 people regularly and is studying the “Ten Principles of Judaism”.

In his president’s report, Zach Gilstein discussed with the Board a letter to be sent out to members to inform them we are continuing to see a shortfall in our revenues due to pledges not at the projected amount. The 2015/16 budget called for a total of \$565,000 to be collected to support operating expenses, building fund and Union of Reform Judaism dues. To date, we have only pledges for \$510,000 of that amount, which leaves us with a significant shortfall. To address the issue, the Board has decided to ask members to find it in their hearts to increase their current year pledge by 10% so that we can complete our mission as a Jewish Institution. In addition, we are in the process of developing an endowment and legacy giving campaign, so that we can jointly invest in ensuring the future of our Jewish Community at MRT.

The Membership Committee and the Board approved the resignation of one family.

The Board reviewed the financial report for the month ending November 30, 2015. While we are currently staying within our expense budget, we are falling short in our pledge and donations. It is important for everyone to get their pledge money in on time, so we can have the working capital for everyday operations. The Finance Committee is preparing our 2016/2017 budget for distribution prior to our Annual Meeting in May.

The Religious Education Committee reported to the Board. They are recommending we need to continue to upgrade our technology to keep our students interested. In addition, they have made recommendations for personnel and other changes to the school that the Board has taken under advisement.

Rabbi Kline and our Principal Stephanie Fields took seven teenagers to Washington DC for a weekend of in-depth, but fun, justice work. At the Religious Action Center, with 400 other teens, our students learned how to access and influence the political and judicial process. At the conclusion of the trip, he flew to Israel co-leading attending the CCAR convention and co-leading a Federation trip for Interfaith Clergy.

Cantor Clissold reports our Volunteer Choir meets regularly to rehearse and sing on the High Holy Days, Thanksgiving, Chanukah, MLK Shabbat and at services once a month. The choir helped lead the music of Shabbat on February 19 and will sing again on March 18, April 15, and May 13. We will have a very animated and fun Purim Megillah reading on March 23rd at 5 pm. Costumes will be provided and there is a light dinner to follow. Please bring a box of pasta for a grogger to be donated to Lunch Break. The Kindergarten and 1st Graders helped lead services on February 5th. We had a truly inspiring service of Seeds of Spirituality on February 12th. This past week Rabbi Priesand helped lead services along with our volunteer choir. Next week Stephanie Fields will help her lead services. Rabbi Kline will be returning on March 4th and plans to be at services at that Shabbat.

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 and at the Megillah Reading.



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 Hamantaschen...\$10.00 each

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

Wednesday, March 16th. 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

PURIM is COMING!



Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 20th
sponsored by SMaRTY
11:30am-1pm

in the Social Hall

Tickets sold at the door
Carnival Games, Basketball shootout
and of course...a MOON BOUNCE and COTTON
CANDY

And when you need some dinner the Food Stand will
be selling pizza, hot dogs, knishes, hamantaschen &
drinks.



Fun filled

Megillah Reading

Wednesday, March 23rd

5pm-6pm followed by a light dinner

Bring a box of pasta to use as a grogger

The "costume" will be provided

"A Night at the Museum!"



Thursday Evening, April 14

7:00PM - 8:30 PM

Private Guided Tour of "NJ Emerging Artist Series"
Photographer Danielle Austen

Adult Only **\$7 Per Person** (Pay at the Door)

RSVP to artsdecomrt@gmail.com

MONMOUTH MUSEUM

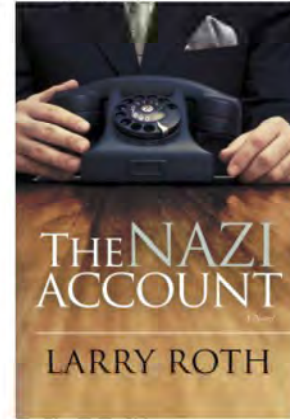
765 Newman Springs Rd. Lincroft, NJ 07738

Organized by the MRT Arts and Deco Committee

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE

Author/Book Talk

Sunday, April 3rd from 2-3:30pm



Join us for a fascinating trip through this hard to believe story based on a true event which occurred in 1930's depression era New York City. The moral conflict nearly destroys Logan hunt, protagonist.

Open to the Entire Community

No charge for Admission. Donations are welcome and appreciated.

www.monmouthreformtemple.org

732-747-9365

Spotlight on our Board

Rachel Placitella, Chair Ways & Means by Rabbi Marc Kline



For being one of the top 100 trial lawyers in America, Rachel Placitella is really quite modest and shy. Rachel loves being married to Chris. She loves being mom and now friend to/with her children Justin, Jared, and Jennarose.

The successes that she and Chris each had in the practice of law allowed them to change course several years back, so that they could practice together. It truly has become a family affair as one son practices with them in their Philadelphia office and another son is an Assistant Prosecutor in Passaic County. Their pup, Sandy, is a fixture in their Red Bank office. Their daughter chose to forge a different path and works in Washington, DC.

I asked Rachel what she did for fun, and she stared at me. I do remember being a trial lawyer. A good lawyer gets so caught up in taking good care of clients that fun is an often rarely existent word in the daily vocabulary. Running and tennis are her pastimes.

Rachel is honored to get back into service at MRT and looks forward to our growth; to our future. As I tried to ask her the next questions, she changed the subject so we could start planning the rummage sale.



MRT'S GAN MAZON 2016 (GARDEN OF PLENTY)

By David Levinsky,
Gan Mazon Chair



Planning has already begun for the 2016 garden season. The winter tableau on

the left will be planted with lettuce and broccoli toward the end of March, ready for harvest on Mitzvah Day, May 22. These rows will be replaced by varieties of tomatoes, eggplant, cucumber, yellow and green squash. Volunteers are needed if we are to exceed the 1,060 lbs. that were delivered to local food pantries last season. For information, contact Christina Gold at Christinagold@yahoo.com.

Howard Bodner — A Remembrance

Howard Bodner passed away on January 26, 2016. Howard and his wife, Sheila, first became members of Monmouth Reform Temple in 1973. Although Howard, an electrical engineer with an earned Ph.D., served on the Board for many years, chaired the Youth Committee, and assisted at many temple events, the project he will be most closely associated with is the synagogue's Gan Mazon.

Howard was instrumental in the creation of the first of two 1,000 sq. ft. vegetable gardens, which combined are called Gan Mazon, translated from the Hebrew as Garden of Plenty. He served as the advisor to Josh Gilstein, a temple member, looking for an eagle scout project. Once the garden was constructed, Howard became its director and guiding hand for three years at which point I took over his duties in 2012, first becoming involved with the project the summer before. Howard was a born mentor and the reason why I became so involved when he was looking for a someone to take over for him, even though I knew little about directing a large space having only managed a backyard garden of 15 x 10 sq. ft.

When I assumed directorship of the garden, he was exceptionally encouraging. When asked, he answered every question and provided much needed support, never offering advice or suggestions unless asked. While visiting the garden, he would walk around telling me how wonderful everything looked—never correcting. Successful gardening is the result of lessons learned, he would say. To this day, five years later, I view my efforts in the garden the same way as Howard taught me; appreciate and take pride in successful harvests and when the inevitable failure occurs each and every season, just say to yourself that next year will be better.

Howard would be proud that Gan Mazon delivers hundreds of pounds of produce to Monmouth County food pantries each season. He deeply cared about families dependent on gardens like ours for their fresh vegetables. His legacy at the garden also lives on every time our religious school children visit or volunteer. Howard Bodner's life was indeed a blessing.

Support the Homeless—Volunteers needed FAMILY PROMISE TRAINING

MRT is a support congregation for Family Promise of Monmouth County (<https://familypromisemc.org>), which provides food, shelter and comprehensive services to homeless families. Our members have been working in partnership with other congregations to provide food and fellowship to families in the program.

PLEASE BECOME INVOLVED. We are a support congregation and we need more volunteers.

Come to the Family Promise Orientation on

SUNDAY—MARCH 6—Monmouth Church of Christ (our neighbor) at 12:30. Lunch will be served, so please RSVP to Kay Wiesenfeld (k.wiesenfeld@gmail.com) or the MRT office.

From Stephanie Fields, Religious School Principal

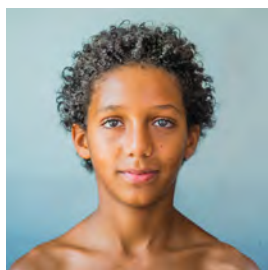
I am writing to you all from Washington, DC where Rabbi Kline and I have the privilege to join seven of our teens on a three day program that goes further than just teaching about the political system in the United States, it brings it alive and makes it relevant to them. Here we are joined by 420 other Jewish teens and colleagues learning about political issues in the United States where each student determines their stance, learns Reform Judaism's position on these issues, and culminates in blanketing Capitol Hill in a massive lobbying effort. By the time we return each student will have written their speech to the congressmen, visited both of our NJ Senators and their Representative, and had the opportunity to speak to a staff member or congressman themselves. A trip like this gives our teens the opportunity to develop independence in a safe space surrounded by positive role models AND be positive change makers standing up for issues that are important to them. This weekend seminar is the epitome of experiential education

- students learn and students do.

Allow me to introduce you to experiential education if you are not already familiar. Experiential education is a philosophy of education where students are actively involved in the learning process. While experiential education is a buzzword in the educational world of 2016, we should not dismiss its famous roots published in a 1938 book written by educational reformer John Dewey entitled "Experience and Education". As we move forward in reimagining our school it is my vision that many more experiential educational experiences will be available to your children so they, too, can feel empowered in their Jewish education and pride in their Jewish identity.

This weekend our children have been charged with not standing idly by, but by taking a stance and DOING. We hope that they take these lessons and bring them back to our congregation where they will help us as leaders in our initiative to bring experiential education to the rest of our congregation.

"Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof - justice, justice shall you pursue." Deut. 16:18

Mazel Tov to our March B'nai Mitzvahs!

Jake Barr will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 12th. Jake Barr is the light of his mom's life. His passions include music, building and his two crazy cats Chaos and Mayhem (Kay & May). Entertaining and charming all that he encounters with his smile and compassion. Great things are in the future for this amazing kid.

Mazel Tov to Jake and his family!

Sydney Bendik will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on March 19th. Mazel Tov to her and her family!

Mazel Tov

Our Stories, Our Lives
Monmouth Reform Temple 2015 Sunday Discussion Group
Next Meeting: Sunday, March 20th, 2015
4-5:30pm in the Library

Monmouth Reform Temple will be continuing its story swap sessions in March with tales from our lives of love and marriage. Do you have stories about how you met the love(s) of your life. Or stories from your marriage about events that helped shape your relationship to this day. Do you have funny stories about dating and courtship or sad stories about love lost? Come to share or come to listen with a warm and supportive group of attentive listeners. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact Elliott Familant at 908-510-5136 or efamilant@gmail.com.

From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Affairs Chair

Victory at the Wall

Is the southern end of the Western Wall, the Kotel, just as 'holy' as the northern end where one usually prays? Is the new section being offered, the area above Robinson's Arch and the Herodian Road, as 'holy' as the area just north of it? These are questions being pondered after the January 31, 2016 historic cabinet vote to significantly expand the egalitarian prayer space on the southern end of the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

According to Michael Oren, Member of Knesset, former Ambassador to the U.S., the issue which had become front page news in America, galvanized Conservative and Reform Jews who were critical of the lack of women's rights and freedom of worship and expression in Israel. At the same time, the average Israeli cared little and knew little about the issue. As reported in *The Jerusalem Post*, February 12, Oren worked to build understanding and consensus within the Conservative and Reform movements in the U.S. to calm concerns over the dispute which, he felt, was "enormously damaging" to Israel's image in the United States.

The Western Wall is the remainder of the wall that surrounded the Second Temple which was destroyed in 71 BCE. Of the 10 million visitors who have visited the Wall, most do so in accordance with the local Orthodox Authority.

Avichai Mendelblit, Cabinet Secretary, is author of the Mendelblit Plan which aims to expand options for all who wish to pray according to his or her custom. It is based on a Supreme Court decision after legal challenges by the struggle of Women of the Wall and provides for expression of Jewish pluralism in the name of religious freedom and equality. The Kotel is a holy place because it is a place of prayer. It is said that it is prayer that sanctifies the Kotel.

According to Rav Kook, renowned Torah scholar, and first Chief Rabbi of British Mandatory Palestine, 1921, "What is old will be renewed and what is new will be sanctified."

This being Israel, the Jordanian Islamic Trust which controls the Temple Mount objects to the changes and the Palestinian Authority opposes the plan. The Israeli government will have to deal with these naysayers.

March Lobby Tzedakah Box
Adam Greenfield Religious School Fund

This fund enables the purchase of new educational materials for Religious School to enhance the education of our children.

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- Emilie Nisenson on the loss of her husband, Leroy
- Brett and Maxine Neuhauser on the loss of his sister, Meryl Broad
- Robert and Murray Elinson on the loss of wife and mother, Dorothy Sikora



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

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

March Yahrtzeits (read date based on when they occur)Names to be Read on Friday, March 4th (Services at 6pm)

William B. Arend, *Lois Blonder, Abraham Bogdonoff, Max Leo Brown, Sylvia Carter, Alex Colin, Samuel Deutsch, Malcolm Fidell, Rose Field, Donald J. Hallard, *Ida Huber, David Kaplan, Leo A. Kauffman, *Murray Kipnis, Gaetano Labombarda, Reba Levin, *Sadie Metz, Samuel Milchman, Lawrence Parkinson, Nathaniel Portman, Ruth Rekedal, *Beatrice Ruby, Sylvia Sachs, *Bessie Schwartz, Frances F. Singman, Irving Spumberg, Henry Weyser

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

Frank Abrams, *Martin A. Brousell, *Irving Cohen, Evelyn Fryman, Bertha Greenberg, Edward Greenberg, Mildred Kantor, Tina Karl, *Hyman Karlman, *Esther Kossovskaya, Walter Parkinson, Edith Pick, Siegmund Rath, Kim Ross, Michael Ruby, Etta Schatten, Alice Schneider, *Greta Singer, Paul B. Snyder, *Max Tanenbaum, Isadore Tannenbaum, Annette Wrobel

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

Solomon Attias, *Rose Blonder, *Samuel Blonder, Blanche Civins, *Meyer Smolensky Collis, Rose M. Friedman, Doris Hayet, Adolf Klein, George Marx, Monroe Marx, Carol Nash, David Pintow, Michael R. Simon, Loretta Stein, William Weissman

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

Alter Epstein, Abner Gitlin, *Isidore Grossman, Leah Haback, *Doreen Harran, Alexander Kaplan, Cindy Jennings Kline, *Gail Lazar, John Leverett, Rita Levy, *Samuel Mausner, Jane Medalie, *Michael Mintzer, Laura Munter, *Helen Nusbaum, Jacob Osofsky, Sharon Priesand, Catherine R. Ricklin, Ronald Schor, Murry L. Shektman, *Jacob Talberth, Robert Teitelbaum, Ralph Uhrmacher, Mark Vickers

The Congregation mourns
the loss of Leroy Nisenson



May his memory be a blessing

The Congregation mourns
the loss of Dorothy Sikora



May her memory be a blessing

The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of:

Howard Bodner
Nancy and Arthur Loebel, Larry
and Lois Avrin
Florence Ulanet
Linda and Ira Friedman
Henry Schwartzman
Paula and Larry Metz
Lena Mozer
Cindy and Paul Levy

In Honor Of:

Rabbi Kline
Amy Barnes
My granddaughter Zoe Appio's Bat Mitzvah
Dee Kaplan and Piet DeCamp
Idanna and James Appio, Lani and Chris
Stangler, Marsha and John Reynolds, Julie
and Ben Appio on the Bat Mitzvah of Zoe
Appio
Dee Kaplan

Adult Ed Fund

In Memory Of:

Howard Bodner
Susan and Bob St. Lifer, Peg and
Jerry Baker, Barbara Miller
Florence Snyder, Paul Snyder
Margie and Robert Wold
Leroy Nisenson
Peg and Jerry Baker

In Honor Of:

Anne and Sam Goodman on the birth of
their son Jack
Susan and Bob St. Lifer

Arts and Decorations Fund

Well wishes to David Levinsky
Norma and Ron Poretz

General Fund

In Memory Of:

Eleanor Peskoe
Al Peskoe
Howard Bodner
Joyce Silverman
Raymond Klein
Nancy and Marty Johnson
Roslyn Lissner
Jill and Harmon Butler
Felice Kardos
Barbara and Howard Fox
Philip Samo, Rose Samo, Julius Fox
Barbara and Howard Fox
Sam Taksel
Susan and Bob St. Lifer

Cantor's Fund

In Memory Of:

Lori Pudles
Eileen Berger
Howard Bodner
Sheila and Jim Leavitt, Joyce and
John Christie, Alice Berman, Ellen
and Donald Byck
Dorothy Sikora
Cheryl and Steve Gaudette

In Honor Of:

Anne and Sam Goodman on the birth of
their son Jack
Sheila and Jim Leavitt

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of:

Leroy Nisenson
Marilyn and Joel Morgovsky
Howard Bodner
Cheryl and Steve Gaudette

In Honor Of:

Alison and Christopher Heath on their
daughter Rebecca's Bat Mitzvah
Cheryl and Steve Gaudette
Dean Ross on celebrating a special birthday
Cheryl and Steve Gaudette
Anne and Sam Goodman on the birth of their
son Jack
Cheryl and Steve Gaudette

Caring Network Fund

In Memory Of:

Howard Bodner
Sheila and Zach Gilstein
Max Rosenweig
Susan and Jim Harran
Sanford Rems, Solomon Rems
Brenda Tuller

Homeless Fund

In Memory Of:

Vallie Marks
Irma and Peter Meyer
Howard Bodner
Irma and Peter Meyer
Morris Rosenberg
Phyllis and Bob Rosenberg
Harry Rubinstein, Sadie Stromoninger
Phyllis and Charles Rubinstein
Maurice Meyer, Jr.
Irma and Peter Meyer

Oneg Fund

In Memory Of:

Clara Offendenden
Elliott and Lynne Familant
Sylvia Gordon
Shelley and Lawrence Gordon
Edythe Albert, Sophie Wald
Joyce and John Christie
Carl Singer
Frank Singer

Youth Group Fund

In Honor Of:

Anne and Sam Goodman in honor of the
birth of their son Jack
Dari and Steve Kennedy



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.

March 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:45am Movie: Frisco Kid 7pm Orchid Society	2 4pm Rel School 7pm Youth Comm 7pm Purim Rehearsal	3 7:45pm Choir Rehearsal	4 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea First Friday 5:30pm Preneg 2/3 6pm Shabbat Services followed by Pot Luck	5 9am Torah Talk 10am Service 10am 6th Grade Service offsite
6 9:30am Rel School 9:30am 6th grade PACT 9:30am Knitting Group 12pm Faculty Meeting	7 7:30pm Men's Club Board	8 9am-6pm Rummage Drop Off 9:45am Study Group 7pm Exec Board	9 12pm-9pm Rummage Drop off 4pm Rel School 6:30pm Ritual 7pm Purim Rehearsal	10 9am-6pm Rummage Sale Drop Off 7pm Mitzvah Day meeting 7:30pm Poker 7:45pm Choir	11 12pm-3pm Rummage Drop off 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services With Keshia Thomas	12 9am Torah Talk 10am Service 10am Bar Mitzvah of Jake Barr 6pm-9pm Rummage Pre-sale
13 9am-4pm Rummage Sale 9:30am Religious School	14 9am-4pm Rummage Sale	15 9am-1pm Rummage Sale NO Study Group 7pm Board Meeting	16 Sh'lach Manot Orders Due 4pm Rel School 7pm SMarTY 7pm Purim	17	18 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 7pm Shabbat Services With Choir	19 9am Torah Talk 10am Service 10am Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Bendik 4pm Sh'lach Manot Packing & Havdallah & Happy Hour
20 9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels and Blocks 11:30 Purim Carnival 4pm Adult Study	21	22 9:45am Study Group	23 4pm Rel School 5pm Megillah Reading followed by light dinner	24 PURIM	25 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 7pm Shabbat Services	26 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
27 NO Religious School	28	29 9:45am Study Group	30 NO Religious School	31 7pm Membership 7:45pm Choir		



Member of the
Union for Reform Judaism

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE
332 Hance Avenue
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
732-747-9365
www.monmouthreformtemple.org

MRT STAFF

Rabbi Marc A. Kline

rabbimarc@monmouthreformtemple.org

Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

cantorclissold@monmouthreformtemple.org

Rabbi Emerita Sally J. Priesand

rsjp@optonline.net

Religious School Principal

Stephanie Fields

principalfields@monmouthreformtemple.org

Office Administrator

Mindy Gorowitz

mindy@monmouthreformtemple.org

Synagogue Operations

Helene Messer

helene@monmouthreformtemple.org

Religious School Administrator

Sara Langberg

sara@monmouthreformtemple.org

Bookkeeper

Lenny Gross

bookkeeper@monmouthreformtemple.org

Anytime

Any Reason

Anywhere

Lloyd Fitzsimmons

Personal Driver

in the cost-friendly comfort of your car

732-320-0396

References Aplenty

Rita Tiplitz-Sperling

Sales Associate

Gloria Nilson & Co. Real Estate

Shrewsbury Office
600 State Highway 35
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702

Office: 732-842-6009 ext. 3758

Cell: 732-829-7706

E-Mail: rtiplitz-sperling@glorianilson.com

Web: www.ritasperling.com



Gloria
NILSON & co
REAL ESTATE



"Let my market knowledge, online resources and personal service work for you."

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

Are you losing Employer coverage?



Always an answer, Never a fee.

YOUR INDEPENDENT AGENT

732-784-7017

phoebe@reliablehealth.net

www.rhsinsurance.com

Phoebe Shagan
RN, CCM
Principle



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