2016 MRT Confirmation

Sunday, June 12th at 10am

Rabbi Marc Kline

Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, Emerita

Stephanie Fields, Principal

The Class:

Jonah Brewer

Asher Clissold

Ilana Gaudette

Emily Heath

Rachel Kline

MRT Shabbat on the Beach at Seven President’s Oceanfront Park

221 Ocean Avenue North, Long Branch

Friday, June 24th

6pm: Bring your own Picnic Dinner at the Shelter
7pm Service (Bring a beach chair!)

Invite a friend to join us! (Rain call at 2:30pm via email)
From Rabbi Marc Kline

What a year it has been! We culminated an exciting year with another amazing Mitzvah Day (thank you Dean Ross, Kerry Krachman, Margie Wold, and the whole group who made it happen). When we come together to serve, magic happens. This is not new to MRT or to our tradition. For thousands of years, we continue to thrive because of the way in which our joint efforts make magic happen. Candidly, for me, the greatest highlight this year came at the end of Pesach as we married our Shoah Torah to the ark. Jeff and Lorraine Roffman, Larry and Paula Metz procured the scroll for us and with the help of Stu and Cora Tuchband, they facilitated bringing this special Torah scroll that was saved from the destruction of its Czechoslovakian congregational home.

Addie and Morris Bogdonoff facilitated helping Ike and Myra Burnstein donate a yad saved from Europe to go with this scroll. Semmes Brightman, Doreen Addison, and Len Teitelbaum spent a lot of time planning, designing and traveling to Brooklyn, all in the effort to create the perfect mantle for the scroll. Their efforts brought Ernie Guenzburger to manufacture the new structure to hold it, and with the support of Dorothy Teitelbaum, Bobbie Goldstein, the Ritual Committee, and our lay leadership, Cantor and I got to share in an amazingly inspirational event. We lived the words spoken by the sage Rav Avram Kook, as we made the old (Torah) new and the new (the mantle and ark structure) holy. It was an event. It was an hour. It was a moment that will last a lifetime, and an event that put into practice everything for which Judaism stands. We bring forward a vibrant tradition. We continue to mold it and shape it as we move it into the future. We are blessed to have these types of experiences … and to have each other with whom to share each. Have a great summer! Let’s keep coming together and work to build from strength to strength for the year and years to come.

Our Stories, Our Lives: Love, Marriage and Children
Monmouth Reform Temple 2016 Sunday Discussion Group
Next Meeting: Sunday, June 26th
4-5:30pm in the Library

The last discussion group in this series will be focused on miracles, death, and dying. Why link events in our lives which can be over-the-top euphoric (miracles) with events that can be leaden and depressing? Because in both cases they remind us that life may be more than the torrent of immediate here and now that rushes by us on a daily basis.

A miracle need not be of biblical proportions but may simply be an improbable coincidence or an alignment of all the right factors that suddenly catapults your mind to consider a range of possibilities you never considered.

And as far as death and dying are concerned, I’ve certainly have heard my share of stories that suggest that people frequently experience something profoundly spiritual when going through this experience. This session will explore our experiences in these two areas of life through our personal stories.

This event is free and open to the public.
For more information, please contact Elliott Familant at 908-510-5136 or efamilant@gmail.com.

Shabbat Service Times throughout the Summer
6pm followed by a light Oneg
Every year around this time I ask “Do you know what Shavuot is?” after several answers one student usually remembers, “Oh, that’s when we celebrate Confirmation.” After all these years a person might give up...however I am a woman of great faith! Once again I write about Shavuot with hope.

Shavu'ot, means “the Festival of Weeks”, it is the second of the three Biblical festivals (the other two are Passover and Sukkot). Everyone remembers Sukkot and being in a Sukkah, Passover because of the Seder, but what do we do on Shavuot? It is a harvest holiday which commemorates the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the ancient Temple and is also known as Hag ha-Bikkurim (the Festival of the First Fruits). Later it came to be a celebration of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai which is also called Chag Matan Torah.

The weeks from Passover to Shavu'ot is counted. We call this the counting of the Omer. We begin the count from the second day of Passover to the day before Shavu'ot, which is 49 days or 7 full weeks. Shavu'ot is sometimes called Pentecost, because it falls on the 50th day. The counting reminds us of the important connection between Passover and Shavu'ot. Passover freed us physically from slavery, but the giving of the Torah on Shavu'ot redeemed us from the idols of ancient Egypt. Realizing since Shavuot has four names, this may be why everyone gets confused.

It is important to remember that Shavuot is called the time of the *giving* of the Torah, rather than the time of the *receiving* of the Torah. The sages point out that we are constantly in the process of receiving the Torah—we receive it every day, but it was first given at this time.

It is customary to stay up the entire first night of Shavu'ot to study Torah. Some eat a dairy meal at least once during Shavu'ot; cheese blintzes and cheesecake are traditional Shavuot dishes. Some say it is a reminder of the promise of Israel leading us to a land flowing with "milk and honey." The Book of Ruth is read during Shavuot. Shavuot is a meaningful Jewish festival, but often the least remembered. At MRT Shavuot is a very worthwhile time to attend Confirmation on June 12th at 10 am and learn from our 10th graders who will become our confirmands. Families with children in Religious School should make every effort to attend our Confirmation service together as a family.

On June 3rd we celebrate our final First Friday of the school year followed by a pot luck dinner. We will call you to the Bima if you are celebrating a June birthday or anniversary and for a special blessing over children attending URJ summer programs and those graduating High School. Please come to our visual prayer service Seeds of Spirituality, SOS on June 17th and meet us at the beach on June 24th for our last Shabbat in June!

### From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

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We are making some changes to our Parking Lot....

The parking lot will be repaved in late June. *Entrance and Exit driveways and traffic flow will be reversed (you will enter on through the north entrance and exit through the south entrance) and circle in front of the front of the temple to access the driveway.* Please be careful and pay attention! Thanks!!!
Seeds of Spirituality™
A Visual Approach to Prayer

dreams
17 June 2016
7p

Monmouth Reform Temple 332 Hance Avenue Tinton Falls, NJ
One of my regrets as a teenager is that I was not able to attend Confirmation at my temple when I was in 10th grade. At the end of 1968, my family moved to the Washington, DC area. It was the middle of my sophomore year in high school, and as a result, I did not finish my Confirmation studies. As a freshman and then a sophomore in High School, religious school studies took on a level of rigor and expectation unlike the many previous years. Whether we were learning about the Bible, modern Jewish history from 1800 to the present, modern Jewish thought and philosophy, the birth of Israel, or Israel’s difficulties with her Arab neighbors, there was much to learn and discuss and we were expected to commit ourselves to it in the same way we did to our secular studies.

While I know the curriculum has changed since I was a Religious School student, I personally believe that the post B’Nai Mitzvah years are the most valuable and formative in enabling our children to live meaningful, engaged, Jewish lives.

I am proud that at MRT we have a Confirmation Class and that this year we will be Confirming five students. This is a significant achievement for these young adults—Jonah Brewer, Asher Clissold, Ilana Gaudette, Emily Heath, and Rachel Kline.

You have all received an invitation to the Confirmation ceremony that will take place on June 12 at 10am in the morning. I hope that you will join me in honoring these young leaders of our community and listening to them express the meaning they find in their Jewish lives.

I want to express my huge thanks to Dean Ross, Margie Wold, Kerry Krachman and the whole Mitzvah Day team for an outstanding job in organizing a meaningful day of Tikun Olam. Speaking personally for the project I participated in, working with other MRT members at a home for single mothers in need was an enriching experience. I know that nearly 100 families participated in a day of great energy and achievement. I also want to thank Applebees for their contribution to the picnic as well as all who contributed side dishes and drinks, and to Men’s Club for offering the Bubble Soccer experience.
MRT participating in the Red Bank Street Fair on April 10th. Thanks to everyone who helped represent us there and get the word out about MRT. (The chocolate covered matzah went fast.) This past month everyone had a great time at our Purim Carnival and we are now busy preparing for Passover. Our Second Night Seder will be held on April 23rd. Adult Ed sponsored an Author Book Talk with Larry Roth, for “The Nazi Account”. Adult Ed reports that plans are underway for the Shabbat Kallah event on Saturday, May 7 with Rabbi Uri Regev. Men’s Club raised over $200 for our school at their “HeBREW Fest”. They are also getting things organized for the upcoming Mother’s Day Brunch on May 8th. Sisterhood held our “Women’s Seder” on April 10th.

The Board voted to approve the resignation of one family from out Congregation who will be moving to Florida. Our Congregation now has 311 family memberships.

The Finance Committee made their presentation to the Board for our 2016/2017 Budget. This budget focuses on goals the Board would like to achieve. First, to present the budget in a simple direct manner so members can understand the relationship between our mission as a Temple and our budget. Second, to direct more funds to our Religious School, because the Board feels that the education of our children is one of our most important missions. The Board voted to approve this budget for publication. The Budget will be presented for approval at our annual meeting in May.

In his president’s report, Zach Gilstein asked the Board to prepare their presentations for the report that will be presented at the annual meeting. Zach discussed with the Board his recent experiences attending a program sponsored by the Federation for creating a program for Life and Legacy Giving. While our annual pledges help fund the operations on a year to year basis, Zach would like to start a program where members work to fund endowments to the Temple so that we can develop longer term programs that will fulfill our mission statement. Zach reported to the Board the recent request for helping in our shortfall of funds raised over $38,000 which will help balance our current budget.

The Board voted to allow our youth group “SMARTY” to paint and decorate the Youth Lounge in the Marteff using their own ideas and designs.

The Nominating Committee presented the final slate of candidates for open offices at MRT that will be voted on at our annual meeting.

Rabbi Kline was happy to report to the Board that we had many B’nai Mitzvot this month. We will have a short Shabbat Service before the first Seder this year. We will also be having a special service on May 5th in remembrance of Yom Ha Shoah. One May 1st we will have a special presentation from the scribe who is repairing our Holocaust Torah. Congregants who attend, will get the honor of the opportunity to write a letter in the scroll under the scribe’s supervision. Our teachers’ Shabbat service will be on May 13th.

Cantor Clissold commended our choir who has been singing during more Shabbat services this year. On May 20th will be our next Seed of Spirituality Shabbat Service. If you have not attended, you should come and see the beautiful multimedia presentation that raises our worship to a new level. Our Youth Advisers have both agreed to stay on for another year, Rose Schreck and Amy Greenberg. Our Youth Committee has meet with them several times this year. We have had a great year and are working on the next year! This summer will be the Cantor’s 7th year of working for our temple youth at our URJ regional camp-Camp Harlam.

May 22nd is Mitzvah Day at MRT. Please join us for Tikkun Olam as our Temple community works together to help others.
Our Annual Meeting took place this month. The presentations outlined the many events and accomplishments of the past year, as well as our goals and challenges we will face in the coming year. New members were elected to the Board of Trustees and our budget passed. Both of these events are subject to a ratification by all members of our congregation which will be sent to congregants soon. Information about the meeting can be found on our Temple website and in our temple office.

We honored the teachers of our religious school at a Shabbat service. Sisterhood had an “out and about” dinner at the new Huddy’s in Colts Neck. Sisterhood, along with the Men’s Club, hosted our Community Seder on the Second night of Passover. A service was held to commemorate Yom Hashoah. Our Shoah Torah had a dedication ceremony and was added to a place of honor in our Ark. The Arts and Deco Committee reframed all of the confirmation pictures in the hallway with special frames. Live streaming of Shabbat Services and our B’nai Mitzvot are being well received.

Mitzvah Day is Sunday, May 22nd. Please plan on coming and helping out on projects that make the world a little better, a little more beautiful and more peaceful. Eighty families have signed up so far and your efforts can help those that really need a hand. Tikkun Olam.

In his president’s report, Zach Gilstein discussed with the Board recent actions in creating a program for Life and Legacy Giving. A committee has been formed to help coordinate this effort and to meet with those interested in creating an endowment for the future of our temple. Zach reported his plans for orienting newly elected Board members to begin their work on the Board of Trustees. Zach also thanked those Board members who will be retiring from the Board in June, Bonnie Klein, Rachel Placitella, Jay Goldberg, Doreen Laperdon-Addison, Jill Austin and myself, for their service and hard work.

Rabbi Kline reported that as the Religious School Year is winding down, he has noticed the improved atmosphere of the children who are enjoying the experience. He thanked Bonnie Klein, Monica Schneider-Brewer and Karen Seligman for their hard work in providing guidance to the school. He offered special thanks to Stephanie Fields, our principal for her work and is looking forward to planning the next school year with her. Confirmation is on June 12th and Rabbi Kline is asking everyone to attend this service and help celebrate this important event with our young adults.

Cantor Clissold reported next year’s planning is underway for our youth groups. Our choir sang this past Shabbat for Teacher Appreciation Shabbat and is now beginning to prepare for the High Holy Days. There has been much positive feedback having the choir sing all year. The Cantor attended the Camp Harlam faculty meeting in Westfield, NJ. We now have 8 children attending URJ Summer programs: Harlam, Eisner, OSRUI, Sci Tech and Kutz. Next year Stephanie Fields will be helping organize a “Camp Day” in religious school to boost awareness of parents and children about the incredible opportunity of attending a URJ Camp. Our Seeds of Spirituality Shabbat service is this Friday and is based on the incredible and provoking images of international graffiti. Services begin at 7 pm.

The Board voted to approve requesting a $50,000 loan from the Trustees of our Endowment Funds to make some much needed building repairs. These funds will go toward replacing part of our roof, replacing a broken furnace in the Sanctuary and to repair our parking lot.

As per contract, the Board and Rabbi are obligated to inform each other of their intent to renew the Rabbi’s contract one year prior to the end of the contract which will end in June 2017. In executive session, the Board voted unanimously to notify Rabbi Kline that we intend to renew his contract for a term of at least three years.
I would like to thank you all for a successful first year here at MRT. I would like to share with you just a snippet of some of the thank you's that our students wrote to their teachers this past year:

Mrs. Millman (KG/1st) - I love you every time I see you. It was very fun in your class. She hugs us when we come in! Thank you for all the stuff that we made together this year! I love Mrs. Millman, she is full of love.

Mrs. Addison (2nd/5th Judaics/6th Judaics) - I like that we do fun things like limbo. Thank you for being a lifelong teacher, a teacher like you makes this experience a blast! We had so much fun doing the Jewish roots project!

Mrs. Matorin (3rd) - Thank you for being my teacher, I had fun playing games with you. Thank you for teaching me Hebrew, I will miss you in fourth grade. You taught me so much and you are so nice!

Mrs. Leavitt (4th) - You are so fun and are the best teacher ever, you are my favorite teacher of all time. You have taught me so much and make learning fun! Thank you for being the best 4th grade teacher in the WORLD!

Mrs. Rabinowitz (5th Hebrew and Judaics/6th Hebrew and Judaics) - You do such fun lessons with us! Thanks for an amazing year filled with laughs and smiles - it was a blast! Thank you for being a wonderful teacher, you really helped me understand Judaism.

Ms. Schreck (6th Hebrew) - Thanks for being a funny person who can make boring things seem like the best thing we could ever do! I love having you around.

Ms. Greene (6th Hebrew/7th Hebrew and Judaics/MA Elective) - You say you are not our friend. We don't believe you! Thank you for being a great teacher. You made Hebrew school fun and interesting! I always look forward to coming.

Mr. Kaplan (MA Core/MA Elective) - Mr. Kaplan, I just really want to congratuate you, for you have achieved the impossible. You made Hebrew school something to look forward to and the highlight of my week. I can't wait for next year.

Mr. Nessenson (MA Elective)- Some teachers are sweet, some teachers are a delight, some teachers are funny, some teachers are always right, some teachers are cute, some teachers are annoying, some teachers are boring, some teacher are irritating, but you are hard to label, because in every possible way, you motivate us and inspire us, day after day.

Cantor Clissold (5th Hebrew/6th Hebrew) - You always teach us valuable and interesting lessons! You know so much and I am happy to learn them from you! You are a great Cantor and no one can top you!

Rabbi Kline (6th Judaics/7th Judaics/Confirmation) - Thank you for being my mentor, friends come and go, but Rabbis are forever. Now in Confirmation I have the luck of having the rabbi as my teacher, I can think of no one better to be my teacher for my Confirmation because he taught us to think deeper into concepts that were introduced, and allowed us to share our insights.

Sara Langberg (Religious School Assistant) - Sara helps our days go smoothly and makes sure we have fun while learning. She brings smiles to all of our faces, she brightens my days and takes good care of me.
I hope to build upon this year's successes in the upcoming year as I transition into full-time. I look forward to seeing those of you who will be at URJ camps over the summer! Spending your summer at a URJ/Jewish camp is one of the best gifts that you can give your child(ren). I am happy to speak with you about the educational benefits of Jewish camp/overnight camp if you wish.

If you are still waiting to register please keep your eyes on your inbox for a registration packet coming to you. I hope to see you on June 3rd for our 6th grade sponsored First Friday and on June 12th for Confirmation!

Wishing everyone a happy and a safe summer. See you next year!

Mazel Tov to our June B’nai Mitzvahs!

Jacob Cohen will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on June 18th. Mazel tov to Jake and his family!

Jonah Sussman will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 25th at 10am.

He was born in Santa Cruz, CA, is a 7th grader at Maple Place Middle School in Oceanport. Jonah loves technology, science, math, and music. He is a part of his school’s Charger Band, Jazz Band, chorus, and musical theater groups. He also enjoys tap dance. You can find Jonah soaking up tech and science YouTube videos or memorizing the Hamilton soundtrack. For his bar mitzvah service project, Jonah is building a 3D printer, which he will donate to MRT. He will help the staff and religious school students learn how to use it. Jonah is excited to become a bar mitzvah on June 25th, and he would like to thank the Rabbi, Cantor, and all of his religious school teachers for helping him reach this milestone.

Adult Learning Event:
Murray Greenfield
Thursday, June 16th at 7pm in the MRT Library

We are very honored to present Murray Greenfield, age 90, who is a marvelous story-teller and superb salesman. But his modesty and humor hide a life-long devotion to the State of Israel in a myriad of ways, including the rescue by sea of Jews who survived the Holocaust, helping immigrants from North America as a founding member of AACI, and playing a leading role in the aliyah of Ethiopian Jewry.

As head of AACI (Association of Americans and Canadians), he is credited with establishing the first loan funds, a mortgage fund, and a variety of housing projects in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and on kibbutzim.

Don’t miss this program!
Jerusalem Day Concert

June 5, 2016 • 2:00pm
Temple Beth Or • 200 Van Zile Road • Brick, NJ

Tickets should be purchased by May 25 from any of the participating partners:

Beth Am Shalom, Lakewood • 732-363-2800
Congregation Ahavat Olam, Howell • 732-719-3500
Congregation B’nai Israel, Toms River • 732-349-1244
Jewish Community Center of Long Beach Island, Spray Beach 609-492-4090
Jewish Federation of Ocean County, Lakewood • 732-363-0530
Monmouth Reform Temple, Tinton Falls • 732-747-9365
Temple Beth Or, Brick • 732-458-4700

Directions to Temple Beth Or:
Garden State Parkway, North or South, Exit 89-A.
Take Route 70 East for about 3 miles to Van Zile Road.
Go through the intersection and take the jug handle on the right to cross over Route 70.
Go one block and turn right onto Hendrickson Avenue in order to come to the entrance of the synagogue parking lot.
June 20, 7:00 PM in the MRT temple library

"Sisterhood and the Men's Club would like to invite you to a talk by Libuse Pavova. Ms. Pavova will share her experiences of living under the Nazi occupation and life under communism.

Ms. Pavova will talk about the establishment of Czechoslovakia, the First Republic, occupation and life under Nazism and deportations of Jewish citizens, and life under communism. She will discuss modern day Czechoslovakia, the Prague Spring, and Vaclav Havel and the Czech Republic.

Born in Ceske Budejovice in the Czech Republic, Ms. Pavova attended the Commercial Academy and French Institute of Ernest Denis. She is an Economist, interpreter, guide and former owner of a Travel agency.

We would like to thank Nancy Baskin for hosting Ms. Pavova.
Spotlight on our Board

Monica Schneider-Brewer by Bonnie Klein

Monica Schneider Brewer is a Jewish Free Spirit, who along with her wonderful family, alit at Monmouth Reform Temple in 2008. Her husband James Brewer is an active volunteer at MRT. Their two sons, Jonah, in 10th grade, and Lev, in 8th grade, have shown that volunteerism is hereditary in their family and are active in the Youth Group and other projects around MRT.

Monica was born in New York City and grew up in New Jersey. She went to Clark University in Massachusetts and F.I.T. In NYC. Monica brings a great combination of suburban cool and urban heat to all she does. At one point, earlier in her adulthood, Monica owned a bagel restaurant with her family in Key West, Florida. She found magic while delivering hot bagels at 5am to guest houses and restaurants because she could enjoy the beautiful gardens and the tropical island in the quiet, early morning hours.

When Monica joined MRT, she was challenged by the then Membership Chair, Lisa Calderwood, “to participate fully and not just come on the High Holy Days.” She has taken this to heart and has served MRT as Sisterhood President, Religious Education Committee member and now Executive Board Vice President overseeing Youth Activities and Religious Education. Monica's experiences allow her to bring added value to all her positions.

In closing, when asked for a quote, Monica said, “MRT has been an amazing gift to me and my family. The experience of being members here has enriched our lives in countless ways and will impact my sons lives forever (of this I am certain). I never have had a community such as this one elsewhere in my life.”

Monica and her family are true assets to MRT. And as she would also say, “peace out.”

2016 Mitzvah Day Mulching the MRT Lawn
The next best ingredient to the gardening basics of sun, water and warm temperatures is volunteers. This year’s Mitzvah Day did not disappoint. The organizers put together an array of social action projects and our temple members embraced the opportunity to serve the community. MRT’S Gan Mazon/Garden of Plenty was the beneficiary of temple members ranging in age from a few months shy of eighty to a recent bar mitzvah celebrant. The fifteen Mitzvah Day helpers definitely boosted the spirits of our five regular volunteers, three of whom are not temple members. My lofty goals for the day were all accomplished. Due to the tilling the week preceding Mitzvah Day by Brett Tuller, the volunteers were able to work as soon as they arrived.

Plenty was accomplished with help from volunteers who brought their shovels, trowels, gloves and positive attitudes. Twenty pounds of lettuce and broccoli were harvested (and delivered the following morning to Open Door of Freehold). Forty tomato plants were planted and staked. The planting beds were covered with several layers of newspaper and salt hay was spread over the newspaper to retard weed growth and virus imbedded in the soil from spreading. A brave soul removed poison ivy actively growing along the fencing. Another was in charge of weed disposal.

In my April Bulletin article, I wrote the following: “Luckily for MRT and the many Monmouth County residents who depend on our produce for their fresh vegetables, several colleagues from the Master Gardener Association of Monmouth County have agreed to bring their expertise to Gan Mazon for the upcoming season. Although not members of our temple, they endorse our community garden model and appreciate the dedication our temple volunteers have shown for Gan Mazon and the non-sectarian pantries it supports. I expect to learn much from my friends and I know that temple members will too regardless of current skill levels.”

The Master Gardeners did not stand on ceremony. They did not just supervise and direct. Sue Malmi brought her expertise to teach the proper method for the harvesting of lettuce and broccoli, and then turned to tomato planting. Another MG colleague, Gloria Gross brought her considerable horticultural knowledge to our garden; on Sunday she directed volunteers to tend to the rhubarb and leeks that she planted several weeks ago. Sue and Gloria planted the lettuce and broccoli. (The brave soul removing the poison ivy was temple member Elizabeth “Elmo” Cohen, also a MGA member.) Look out for the trellises that will be built by Gloria and her husband, Charlie, for our two cucumber rows.

In addition to those already mentioned, I wish to thank the following for their enthusiasm, diligence and labor on Mitzvah Day: Elise and Melanie Aptaker, William Cohen, Harriet Cook, Lenny Dingfelder, Lloyd Fitzsimmons, Christine and Nicholas Gold, David and Daniel Katz, Faith Leifman, Don Rothman, Ellen Rubinstein, and Rich Sachs. Picture credit—Sheila Gilstein. (Any names inadvertently left out will be included in my next article.)

Best Wishes,
David Levinsky, Co-Director
Christine Gold, Co-Director

From the Marketing Committee—It doesn’t hurt to ask….

Are you a good photographer? Are you artistic? Do you have a background in writing, art, marketing? Come help us publicize the great things we do at MRT!
Contact Marketing Chair Jay Wiesenfeld, jwiesenfeld@yahoo.com or Margie Wold, woldiem@aol.com.
HOLIDAY IN ISRAEL

I arrived on Yom Ha’atzmaut, May 12, Independence Day, a day of celebration, Barbecue Day. Israelis compare it to our Fourth of July. The national holiday brings thousands of people to local parks where families make their own barbecued meals in company with neighbors or strangers wishing to join in the communal sense of the special day. Lots of smoke is in the air.

I enjoyed a private barbecue with my family in their garden in a suburb of Jerusalem while the neighborhood resounded with blasts of music accompanied by singing and dancing in the streets marking the holiday until late in the evening. The next day, our Shabbat services were occasionally accompanied by sounds of chanting of the muezzin’s call from a distant mosque, several kilometers away in the Arab town of Azaria. This occurs 5 times a day. The mix of cultures, languages, religions and various streams of Judaism often marked by dress codes, makes for a colorful, vibrant, energetic atmosphere, full of creativity, angst and joy.

68 years after the founding of the State of Israel by virtue of a United Nations declaration, the country has much to be proud of. Various newspapers list their 68 reasons to respect if not love Israel. We all know about Israel’s superiority in technology that has brought advances in medicine, agriculture, communication and more throughout the world. Here are a few other specialities found in Israel named in honor of the 68th anniversary:

* Israel’s Save a Heart organization performs life-saving heart operations for children from around the globe (including many Palestinians) free of charge.

* Israel has more museums per capita than any other country.

* Two professors at Hebrew University created the first cherry tomatoes.

* An Israeli company developed the first ingestible video camera that helps doctors diagnose cancer and digestive disorders.

* Israeli bank notes have braille on them for the sight impaired.

* Israel has more orchestras per capita than any other country.

* Israel’s dairy cows are unrivaled in their annual production of milk.

* Israel has won more Nobel Prizes than all other Middle East countries combined.

* Coffee and cafes in Israel are so good that it is the only country where Starbucks failed to break in to the market.

* Despite the tough neighborhood they live in, numerous studies rank Israelis among the happiest people among western nations. Go figure!

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**Summer Office Hours at MRT**

**Monday, Friday 9am-12pm**

**Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm**

**Tuesday, 9am-4pm**
The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

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<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
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<td>Howard Bodner</td>
<td>Stacy Rollins and Richard Bernstein</td>
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<td>Jacqueline K. Aronson</td>
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<td>In Honor Of:</td>
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<td><strong>Adult Ed Fund</strong></td>
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<td>Our Adult Ed Committee for an excellent Shabbat Kallah program</td>
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<td>Ellie Goodman</td>
<td>Sheila and Zach Gilstein</td>
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<td><strong>Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fund for the Righteous</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cantor’s Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mazon Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Oneg Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>General Fund</strong></td>
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<td>Ruth Singer, Michael Ruggera</td>
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<td>Barbara and Don Borges, Frank Singer</td>
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<td>In Memory Of:</td>
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2016 Mitzvah Day

Mitzvah Cards for Congregants
THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- Doris Holzman on the loss of her husband and long-time member, Louis
- Rebecca and Scott Schneider on the loss of her father, Ira Schatten
- James Harran on the loss of his wife and long-time member, Susan
- Chris and Mary Leverett on the loss of his mother, Irene Engle Leverett
- Jim and Jill Austin on the loss of his mother, Annemarie Anderson
- Dean Ross on the loss of his cousin, Everett Rogove

June Yahrtzeits (read date based on when they occur)

Names to be Read on Friday, June 3rd (Services at 6pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, June 10th (Services at 7pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, June 17th (Services at 7pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, June 24th (Services at 7pm at the beach)

*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.

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.

The Congregation mourns the loss of Louis Holzman
May his memory be a blessing

The Congregation mourns the loss of Susan Harran
May her memory be a blessing
### June 2016

**For the most up-to-date information:** [www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar](http://www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar)

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea First Friday 5:30pm Preneeg 6th grade 6pm Shabbat Services followed by Pot Luck</td>
<td>9am Torah Talk 10am Service</td>
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<td>9:30am Knitting Group 2pm Safam Concert offsite</td>
<td>7:30pm Men’s Club Board</td>
<td>9:45am Study Group 6:30pm Ritual</td>
<td>7:30pm Men’s Club Poker</td>
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<td>9am Torah Talk 10am Service</td>
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<td>8:30am Torah Talk 10am Service</td>
<td>9am Torah Talk 10am Service</td>
<td>9:45am Study Group</td>
<td>7:15pm Sis Book Club offsite</td>
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### Event Details:

- **SHAVUOT**
  - 10am Confirmation
  - 10am Festival Yizkor Service

### Notes:

- 9:30am Knitting Group
- 2pm Safam Concert
- 7:30pm Men’s Club Board
- 9:45am Study Group
- 6:30pm Ritual
- 7:30pm Men’s Club Poker
- 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton
- 7pm Shabbat Services
- 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea
- 7pm Shabbat Services
- 7pm Exec Board
- 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
- 10am Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Cohen
- 9am Torah Talk 10am Service
- 10am Bar Mitzvah of Jonah Sussman

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

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

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

Member of the
Union for Reform Judaism

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sara@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.rtsperling.com

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