

THE MRT BULLETIN

September 2016

Volume LVIII Issue 11

Av/Elul 5776

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

Schedule of Shabbat Services September 2016

Friday, September 2nd

6pm Shabbat Services

Friday, September 9th

Welcome Back Shabbat 6pm Shabbat Dinner (RSVP to office) 7pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 10th

10am Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Knop

Friday, September 16th

7pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 17th

10am Bat Mitzvah of Erin Bernecker

Friday, September 23rd

7pm Seeds of Spirituality (Visual Service)

Saturday, September 24th

10am Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Arend 7pm Selichot Study 8pm Selichot Service

Friday, September 30th

7pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, October 1st

10am Bar Mitzvah of Henry Shell

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 9am Saturday (Shabbat morning) Torah Talk 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!



OPEN HOUSE SHABBAT Supper, Services, & Sweets! Friday, September 9th

Catered Dinner's On Us!

Then stay for Shabbat Services

Catered dinner at 6pm Family-friendly Services at 7pm

Ice Cream Social follows the service Games for the whole family!

Join your MRT family & get to know us better!
Call a friend and invite them to share in this special evening.

Please RSVP to the MRT office by Tuesday, September 6th 732.747.9365 or helene@monmouthreformtemple.org

The parking lot has been resurfaced. 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! Thanks!!!

From Rabbi Marc Kline



Prior to entering Rabbinical School (while practicing law in Little Rock), I served as the Bar/Bat Mitzvah instructor for Central Arkansas, the adult educator for the congregation, and on the board of our Jewish community pre-school. For 26 years, I have been serving the Jewish world as a Rabbinical Student and then ordained Rabbi. Over the course of this tenure, I have helped grow congregations in two communities and grow excitement for what we can offer our wider communities. I came to Monmouth Reform Temple to continue this growth trend and to help bring even greater vibrancy to an exciting community.

SO, I figure since I returned to active Jewish life (1984), I have been incredibly invested in growing Jewish capacity and ensuring our future. I do not believe Judaism needs to exist for the sake of existing. Rather, I have always approached religious faith as a call to make the whole world better. I do it, we all do it through a Jewish lens. What we do matters. In teaching about our legacy, history, culture and social justice calling, we not only protect the memories of our past but, also prepare our next generation's leaders to grow a more whole and spiritually engaged future. In creating closer ties within our community, we build a force that drives healing and hope. What we do matters. We need to make sure that what we do continues and flourishes. I do not mean to be dramatic in this statement, but it does not take much to see how deeply needed are reasonable progressive, hopeful, and healing voices in this world.

In order to ensure our future, our MRT leadership participates with our Federation and the Grinspoon Foundation in creating a "Life and Legacy" program. We are seeking commitments from our members that will help us make sure that in 30 years or more, we will still be here educating, gathering, celebrating and changing the world. Actually, the foundation selected us to participate based on the case statement we presented. We made clear our commitment to the Jewish future ... our Jewish future.

Some people will be able to make large legacy gifts through estate planning. Other people can give modestly ... even volunteering to help secure the future with time and energy. What I know is this: if we believe that MRT is important enough to sustain every day, then we have to work and prepare for the future. We are not asking for any checks now. What we do matters, and I hope we get to keep doing it for decades to come. When the call comes, please answer and engage in the conversation. If you wish, please inquire with our MRT President, Zach Gilstein.



Selichot Program and Service

Saturday, September 24th
7pm Short Video and Discussion
Repair (Theme: Apology) —
Jewish Food for Thought, The Animated Series, by Hanan Harchol
8pm Service with Choir

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



The ending of summer is near and with each ending always comes new beginnings. In a synagogue this means the High Holy Days are soon. I began preparation for the upcoming year in the late Spring. This is my fifteenth year serving MRT. When we came to MRT Asher was two and Simon wasn't born. Now we are looking at colleges with Asher and Simon is becoming Bar Mitzvah. Babies named on the bima fifteen years ago are looking at "what comes next". Children I taught are now deep into their careers, some are getting married and some are even having their own babies! With each ending always comes new exciting beginnings.

This temple has changed tremendously over the past 15 years which is very healthy. New music, new instrumentation, new prayer books for First Friday, visual worship-SOS, Live Streaming, 92 Y are all just a fraction of the innovation at MRT over the past 15 years. Fifteen represents the Gematria for the word Hod meaning glory, splendor, majesty, beauty, grandeur, magnificence and majestic splendor. May this year in the life of MRT for new beginnings!

I would like to encourage those of you who learned to read Torah when preparing to become b'nai mitzvah, and those of you who, in the past have learned to read here at MRT to participate in our Friday night services by reading a part of the Torah portion.

And of course we're always seeking new Torah and readers and so if you would like to join those who already fulfill this essential role in the life of our congregation. I am happy to train you personally!

Please contact me at 732-747-9365 x12 or cantorclissold@monmouthreformtemple.org





From Stephanie Fields, Religious School Principal



We look forward to providing our children with a fantastic year of learning and friendship including many fun, hands-on, educational activities preparing our children to meet life's challenges in a Jewish way. Our program is designed so children enjoy the feeling of community between themselves, teachers, and our greater congregation. MRT's investment in the religious education of our youth makes possible:

- *Brand new Hebrew curriculum
- *Revamped and expanded madrichim program for those in 8th-12th grades
- *Introduction and expansion of family education programs for grades Kindergarten -Mitzvah Academy
- *New format for our Wednesday sessions
- *Brand new curriculum, electives, and layout in Mitzvah Academy
- *Updated Judaics curriculum in every grade

If you have not already registered please do so ASAP and be in touch with the religious education office for registration information.

We look forward to seeing everyone for our first Sunday on September 11, 2016 and our first Wednesday, September 14, 2016.

The religious school calendar for the month of September includes:

September 11 - First Sunday (parents are encouraged to stay until 10:45am)

September 14 - First Wednesday

September 18 - Bagels and blocks (9:30am), Religious Education Committee Meeting (11am), Madrichim Meeting (12:15pm)

September 21 - Midweek

September 25 - K1 Family Education (9:30am), Faculty Meeting (12:15pm)

September 28 - Midweek

MRT 2016-2017 Executive Board

President, Zach Gilstein Exec VP, Jay Feigus 2nd VP, Margie Wold 3rd VP, Harry Hillson 4th VP, Monica Schneider-Brewer monicasbrewer@gmail.com Treasurer, Stu Tuchband Financial Secretary, Bob St. Lifer bobstl50@hotmail.com Mark Gruensfelder, Rec. Sec'y Imm. Past Pres., Jay Wiesenfeld

zachmate2@gmail.com feigus 1@aol.com woldiem@aol.com harryh95@aol.com stuchband@comcast.net mgruensfelder@aol.com jmwiesenfeld@yahoo.com

MRT 2016-2017 Board

Linda Burns, Membership Stephen Gaudette, House Sam Goodman, Ritual Kerry Krachman, Social Action Faith Leifman, Finance Eleanor Rubin, Adult Ed Karen Seligman, Religious Ed Lynn Shapiro, Ways & Means

lsburns@att.net scgaudette@verizon.net wannabecoder@gmail.com kerrykrachman1956@gmail.com faith.leifman@gmail.com Eleanor.rubin781@gmail.com kcf76@hotmail.com lsshapiro2@gmail.com

MRT 2016-2017 Auxiliaries

Karen Kahn Sisterhood Pres. Mark Kroen, Men's Club Pres kkahn1@verizon.net markkroen@hotmail.com

^{*}Expanded dates for Bagels and Blocks

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



While the summer is often a slow period, there is still much engagement at MRT. We have had two uplifting services on the beach. Much work is being done to examine our Religious School curriculum and upgrade our approach to improve the education of our children. Committee chairs, including several new ones, have been working with their committees to formulate objectives and plans for the coming year. We have already calendared many exciting opportunities for increasing our Jewish capacity and will be providing a save the date listing in the near future.

Our Life and Legacy campaign for developing our permanent endowments to sustain us into the future has been progressing, and I am pleased to announce that we have 10 charter

members of our Legacy Giving Circle. If you are interested in discussing Life and Legacy please feel free to reach out to any of our committee members – Zach Gilstein, Eleanor Rubin, Joel Morgovsky, Bob St. Lifer, or Rabbi Kline.

On Friday night, September 9th we will be hosting an Open House Shabbat—*Supper, Services, & Sweets*. A catered dinner will be provided at 6pm and all are invited! Following a family-friendly service at 7pm we will have more fun at an Ice Cream Social with games for the whole family. Please RSVP to the MRT Office and join us!

I am pleased to report that through the generosity of our Temple community and some strong focus on containing our costs, our expenses in 2015/16 were about \$25,000 less than our contributions. I offer much thanks to the 49 families that stepped up to contribute something extra when asked to do so and to all the families that contributed what they pledged. This truly enables us to further our mission. Ultimately, we collected the amount we budgeted for the year, while expenses were considerably lower than budgeted.

A year ago I wrote the following paragraph:

The Connected Community. That is probably the simplest way I can express my vision for MRT and our congregational family. Monmouth Reform Temple offers a myriad of opportunities to engage with our community to appreciate the spirit, history, ritual, and values of being Jewish in the 21st century. Adult education, religious school, social action, religious services, Saturday morning Torah study, Sisterhood and Men's Club social events, ... offer a broad spectrum of options to bring us together. But the thing I find most satisfying is the "bringing us" together. It is the opportunity to share with and learn from others that makes these activities most enjoyable. This remains my vision. May we become even better connected in 5777!

Feel free to call or email, if you have something to share.

Welcome New Members

Bergson, Rabbi Leslie & Walker Baron, Mary

445 Riverdale Avenue West Tinton Falls NJ 07724 Rabbi Leslie Bergson lpB655@earthlink.net Mary Walker Baron-Mary@MaryWalkerBaron.com Gutsin, Anna

2 Lisk Court
Lincroft NJ 07738
Home: 732 224-0820
agutsin@gmail.com
Michelle Gutsin (22
Jennifer Gutsin (25)
Jacob Gutsin (10)

Olshan, Samuel & Louise

70 Cookman Avenue
Ocean Grove NJ 07756
Home: 732 807-3211
Samuel Olshan
LSOLSHAN@optonline.net

Tufaro, Paul & Erica

5 Remington Court
Holmdel NJ 07733
Home: 646 408-5375
Paul Tufaro
pstufaro@gmail.com
Erica Tufaro
EFdesigninc@gmail.com
Jack Tufaro (11)
Isabella Tufaro (8)



Summary of July 19th Board of Trustees meeting: Mark Gruensfelder, Recording Secretary



I am pleased to return to the MRT Board, this time as Recording Secretary. As such, I have the privilege of summarizing the Board's meetings; hopefully you find this information pertinent. I would like to thank Jim Halpern for his many years of performing this role – his will be hard shoes to fill!

The July Board meeting – the first one of the new fiscal year – was attended by a mixture of incoming and continuing Board members. President Zach Gilstein communicated his vision regarding Board member focus areas: 1) Improved marketing of each member's function, both towards Congregants and our external community, 2) Increasing personal connections between

members and Congregants, and 3) Improving presence on MRT's website. Zach also reported on the progress of the "Legacy Giving Committee" which has been implementing a program asking people to make a "legacy" gift to the temple. Eight (8) people have graciously stepped forward as "charter" members of this program, with more to come!

Board Members reported on MRT's "accomplishments of the month". A small sampling of these includes the holding of June's beach Shabbat service, hosting Murray Greenberg in a well-attended Adult Learning event, the completion of landscaping at our new Interfaith Cemetery space, the Men's Club clean-up of the Henry Hudson trail, Sisterhood's clean-out of the Sisterhood closed (which may have been more difficult), and another two wins for our Hebrew Nationals softball team.

There were important building-related accomplishments. The parking lot was patched and re-striped – and the direction of flow was reversed (restored to the pre-2009 flow for those of you keeping track). Long-term sealant was applied to MRT"s flat roofs that hopefully will prevent leakage for many years. Many of the electrical systems impacted by the July 1st lightning strike have been repaired or replaced.

The Board learned about some of the excellent initiatives being undertaken under the direction of our now full-time educational professional, Principal Stephanie Fields. She, Rabbi Kline, and Cantor Clissold are revamping the entire Religious School curriculum. Refashioning how the Wednesday afternoon's session will look. Integrating the 7th Grade and Mitzvah Academy curriculums. Incorporating 12% of the school's time budget into Social Action activities. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Board members were excited to approve two new member households to join our community: The Membership Committee will be organizing an Open House on Friday evening, September 9th. Meanwhile, the Publicity and Marketing Committee will be spearheading (with hopefully LOTS of help) MRT's booth in the Sunday, September 11th Red Bank Street Fair.

MRT Board Meetings are open to all Congregants. I invite you to attend, or, if not, to ask me questions or provide feedback regarding this synopsis. Have a nice remainder of the summer!

Summary of August 23rd Board of Trustees meeting: Mark Gruensfelder, Recording Secretary



Well, it turns out that you have the privilege of reading the synopses of TWO board meetings in this issue of the Bulletin. This synopsis covers the Board Meeting of August 23rd, which was pushed back one week from its normally scheduled date.

The Board's meetings always begin with a D'Var Torah presented by one of the Board Members, followed by each board member stating an accomplishment of the MRT congregation. Among this month's accomplishments were a well-attended and relaxing Beach service — where the actual accomplishment might have been holding off the threatening weather. Continuing the beach theme, the Havdalah at the Beach event with PJ Library was also excellent, attracting many of families who

attend our Bagels and Blocks program! Sisterhood's monthly book club event was held at the Shrewsbury Yacht Club and was well-attended by both current and prospective congregants. While Rabbi Kline and Cantor Clissold were way during portions of the summer, the Ritual Committee led services and provided inspired musical accompanists.

Next, the Board turned to the subject of Committee Goals. During the next several months, MRT President Zach Gilstein's plan is for each committee to present their goals for the year. The Adult Education Committee, chaired by Trustee Eleanor Rubin, led off. Her committee has a comprehensive set of goals to provide opportunities for the varied segments of our congregation to gain a deeper knowledge of Jewish history, capture a greater sense of the Jewish community, and to better understand the Jew's place in today's world. Her committee has produced a fresh new brochure which will be distributed to all congregants. And you also can find details of the planned programs on Adult Jewish Learning pages of the MRT website.

The Publicity and Marketing Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President Jay Wiesenfeld, was next. Jay explained the external and internal communications mission of the committee, with the goal of an updated website, engaging presence on social media, good recognition of MRT by the external community, and attractiveness of MRT to prospective members. An example is this committee's leading MRT's presence at Red Bank's Sept. 11th Street Fair.

MRT Board Meetings, in following Roberts Rules of Order, typically have a number of motions which are introduced and discussed. Some are passed and some are not. I would like to call your attention to three motions that were passed at this meeting:

- 1. Approval of membership applications for two new member households: Anna Gusin and Sam & Louise Olshan. Please welcome them to our community!
- 2. MRT had been trialing a modification of our logo the same "MRT" letters, the same tag line below, but the outstretched hands no longer included (see the logo to this Bulletin). The Board approved a motion to adopt this modified version as MRT's official logo. The Board did feel that it was time to pursue the design of a brand new logo; the Marketing Committee was assigned the action item to research costs for an independent professional design.
- 3. Approval that the very generous bequest from the Estate of Frank Whyman (may he rest in peace) be placed into the RSJP Endowment for the Future.

Enjoy Labor Day and the suddenly busy month of September!

Why Can't Fundraising Be Fun? It Can! By Lynn Shapiro, Ways & Means Chair, Isshapiro2@gmail.com

Once you have stopped rolling your eyes, I hope you will read on....

They say that the definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and again and expect a different result. So let's stop the insanity. Let's shake it up a little bit and approach fund raising differently this year.

Fund raising, by its very nature is a territorial beast and no matter what the cause or where the venue it just is. BUT it doesn't **have** to be, at least not at MRT. This year the Ways and Means Committee and all of its events, will include representation from any and all of the various and diverse groups at MRT who choose to participate. Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Religious School, Youth Group, Arts and Deco. Rather than competing with one another let's try giving everyone an opportunity to raise money every time we plan an event.

The goals of the committee this year will be, first and foremost to fill the Ways and Means line item in the budget but we have a number of other equally important goals.

Another important goal this year is to dispel the notion that "there are too many fund raising activities going on." Moreover to dispel that everyone needs to give to every one of them. Give what you can to the events you want to and don't feel obligated to give to everything. If we limit the number of times and ways we ask, we will surely eliminate a large portion of our fund raising capabilities. And let's bring in the outside community to help lessen our burden.

We have two very exciting and new events planned this year that I am confident will fulfill these goals.

Here is the plan for 2016-2017

Vendor Event - Dec 4th

We will bring in vendors to sell when everyone is at the height of Holiday Shopping. If properly publicized, this should bring in a great deal of money from outside the temple that we would never have realized otherwise. It also brings people into our building, which is always a good idea. There will be revenue generating opportunities for any and all of our committees who choose to participate. We will do "virtual advertising" on a screen throughout the day which will bring in additional revenue. There are endless possibilities for additional fun and fun raising – a one day deli, 50/50 raffle, to name just a few.

Fashion Show—April 1st

MRT is going to highlight the models amongst us from our religious school on April 1st. We are already actively recruiting parents from the school to help with this exciting event. Who wouldn't come see their little one, pre-teen or teen walk down a red carpeted runway showing off the latest fashions? And who wouldn't bring Auntie and Grandma and Grandpa? Again, there are endless ways for everyone to participate and raise money. We will printing a program and solicit ads (we haven't done that for many years now) and it is a missed opportunity.

Stay tuned for details on both events.

And lastly, we will re revamping and promoting the scrip program, Amazon program and the brick walkway. These are all such simple ways for us all to help the Temple pretty effortlessly.

Anyone interested in serving on the Ways and Means Committee and/or helping with one or more of these initiatives, please feel free to contact me at lsshapiro2@gmail.com. Your participation will be most appreciated and I think we can have some fun and get a job done!!

Mazel Tov to our September/early October B'nai Mitzvahs!



Alyssa Rayne Knop will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Sept 10th at 10am. Alyssa is in the 8th grade at the Ocean Township Intermediate School. Alyssa loves going to the beach, hanging out with her friends and playing with her dogs.

For her mitzvah project, Alyssa made blankets and gave them out to children that were patients at

St. Peter's Hospital. She wanted to do this project because she wanted to give these kids a little bit of comfort while they were in the hospital.

Alyssa would like to thank Cantor Clissold and Rabbi Klein for all their help and encouragement as she prepared for this special day.



Erin Bernecker will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah on September 17th at 10am.

Erin lives in Middletown New Jersey. Erin loves animals especially dogs and nature. Her hobbies are lacrosse, reading and baking. She's in 7th grade and her favorite subjects are social studies and language arts.

For her mitzvah project Erin

is making coloring books and donating art supplies to Amanda's Easel a women's shelter—a place that helped her through a rough time.

Erin would like to thank Cantor Clissold and Rabbi Kline for helping her through this great experience.



Brooke Rennert Arend will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on September 24th at 10am.

Brooke was born in Manhattan and currently lives in Little Silver, NJ with her mother, father, brother and two cats. She is an 8th grader at Markham Place School. Brooke plays trumpet in the school band and is a member of the school's softball team. She was part of the Cyberpatriot

team that went to the National Finals and placed second in the country in the cybersecurity competition.

Brooke has a lot of interests outside of school. She is an avid reader and loves the outdoors. She is very excited to become a Bat Mitzvah and would like to thank the Rabbi and Cantor, as well as all of her teachers, for working with her to prepare for this day.

Henry Shell will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on October 1st.

Henry is a 7th grader at Cedar Drive Middle School in Colts Neck. Henry loves playing sports, juggling 2 or more teams a season for basketball, soccer and lacrosse. In his spare time, Henry loves going to the beach, watching "30 for 30s" and laughing as much as possible.



For his mitzvah project, Henry has and will continue to

volunteer with the Phoenix Program in Matawan as a sports buddy for children with special needs.

Henry would like to give a big thank you to Cantor Clissold, Rabbi Kline and all his religious school teachers for their guidance and support through the Bar Mitzvah process.

SISTERHOOD, Karen Kahn, President



Hello from Sisterhood!

It's hard to believe that September is here so quickly! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful, although fun-filled summer!

Our calendar is booked, and hopefully everyone will be receiving their Sisterhood brochure shortly with our list of upcoming events as well. We ask that you join us in whatever activities suit your fancy, and please don't hesitate to bring a friend. Please send in your dues at whatever membership level is comfortable to you!

We hope you will join us on Sept 18th at our morning meet and greet! We will be looking forward to welcoming you, noshing, and discussing upcoming events, as well as your suggestions for other events as well! Also, Sept 26 is book club at Ellen Nash's house. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* will be discussed.

Please feel free to check out the temple calendar and the sisterhood blog for our upcoming events!

Best wishes, Karen Kahn

A LAND · A LEGACY · A BOND 2016 · 5777







IT'S THE NEW YEAR INVEST IN ISRAEL BONDS



Development Corporation for Israel Linda Schmidt, Registered Representative linda.schmidt@israelbonds.com - 973.712.1408 Invest in Israel Bonds - Israelbonds.com

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MRT Men's Club Brewery Run

Jughandle Brewing Co., Dark City Brewing Co., Kane Brewing
Sunday, September 18th

Meet in MRT parking lot at noon and leave for first Brewery at approx. 12:15pm

All MRT members and their guests must be 21 years of age or older

Costs of Tastings are \$10-\$15.00 per brewery

The total combined distance from MRT to breweries and back is approximately 20 miles.

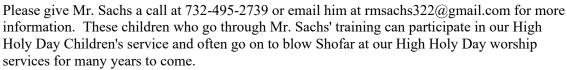
Please drink responsibly!

Sharing a cab / Uber or having a designated driver is strongly suggested



Sounding the Shofar

At MRT we have a tradition of training children who would enjoy learning the art of Shofar blowing. Our Master Blaster, Mr. Rich Sachs, is seeking new recruits. Right now children in RS 5th grades and up are welcome to come be part of this training. Younger children may also apply if a child has experience playing a wind instrument (especially trumpet) or already can produce a sound on the Shofar.





YOM KIPPUR HEALING SERVICE Yom Kippur Afternoon (Wednesday, October 12th) at 3pm

The Healing Service provides a quiet space and time for reflection, meditation, movement and prayer in a supportive, nurturing, and safe environment. This service is open to everyone, those personally going through physical, mental or emotional life challenges and health issues or who have loved ones, friends and family members facing health and other life situations who are in need of healing.

Lobby Tzedakah Box September/October 2016 IsraAID Co-sponsored by Eleanor Rubin

IsraAid is an Israeli humanitarian aid agency that responds to emergency crises and engages in international development around the world. Most recently rescuing boat people as they approached Lesbos, Greece after fleeing from Syria.



MRT will be at the Red Bank Street Fair Sunday, Sept 11, 11am-5pm

Engage with our wider community
Develop new contacts & members
MRT will be present in force
Visit the MRT booth

Help plan, set-up, or staff the booth

For info or to sign up: contact Jay Wiesenfeld (jmwiesenfeld@yahoo.com)

or the MRT office (info@monmouthreformtemple.org)

OR ON OUR HOMEPAGE www.monmouthreformtemple.org)

Brief training session for booth staffing—Thurs., Sept. 8, 7 pm at MRT

Sin, Guilt, Shame, and Emotional Healing: A Three Session Discussion Series Starting Yom Kippur Afternoon

During the Days of Awe, we spend a lot of time hearing about sin and repentance but these terms are problematic in these days where we make everything a pathology. This discussion group will explore these topics in a guided but relatively free form discussion group.

Session 1: The Problem of Sin—Yom Kippur Afternoon (Wednesday, October 12th) at 3pm

The Stanford University rape case illustrates part of the problem. The case that received notoriety because of the unusually light sentence that the defendant received was exacerbated by the failure of the defendant to take responsibility for his actions. Instead he blamed it on a campus atmosphere that tolerates binge drinking and sexual promiscuity. His implicit message? "My actions were excusable because of the environment I (unfortunately) found myself in." But where is his acceptance of personal responsibility in all this?

This case is not unique. It occurs in a culture where actions which used to be called sins are now excused as the products of mitigating circumstances, cultural norms or misguided childhood rearing practices (remember the teenager who received a light sentence for a drunk driving manslaughter conviction because of a childhood that was characterized as one in which the parents "never set limits for the boy and gave him everything he wanted" so called affluenza). Where the deadly sins of lust, greed, and gluttony, are now construed as psychological maladies, addictions to sex, money and food.

If everything is a product of our environment or the unfortunate outcome of a psychiatric problem, what exactly are we atoning for on Yom Kippur? How do we reconcile the more sophisticated conceptions of human behavior brought about by modern psychological science with our more traditional notions of sin? During session one of this series we we grapple with these issues.

Session 2: Guilt And Shame—Sunday, October 30th from 7-8pm

If personal responsibility still has a role in the way we think about ourselves, how does our response determine what happens to our lives next? We frequently talk about guilt and shame as if they are interchangeable concepts. They are not. One can lead to personal growth and allows us to move on with our lives. The other can easily lead to self doubt, anger, depression and inaction. One way to find out how we typically respond is to take a self evaluation test. In the second part of this discussion, we will have the opportunity to take a test specifically designed to uncover how we tend to respond when we do something wrong. We will discuss why guilt can be good (if not to excess) and shame is bad and discuss strategies for dealing with these feelings in an effective and growth promoting way.

Session 3: Emotional Healing—Sunday, November 13th from 7-8pm

Both Jewish tradition and psychological research point to the importance of forgiveness and repentance in the healing process. In this last session we will explore repentance and forgiveness as tools for promoting emotional healing. We will look at the kinds of responses you can have when someone does something to you and you don't forgive them. What happens to you when you live with lingering feelings for a long time. How does forgiveness (even if the perpetrator does not apologize and does not repent) help you to make your life better. We will look at effective and ineffective ways to forgive. We will then look at the flip side and look at apologies and repentance. There are effective apologies and ineffective apologies. Knowing the difference can mean the difference between a good outcome and one that is not. We will look at examples of each and look at the five components that are present in effective apologies. Finally, we will consider forgiveness and repentance in the context of spiritual and personal development.



\$54. entire series | **\$15**. at the door



Monmouth Reform Temple

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

Adult Learning Presents:

A History of Early Jewish Life in Monmouth County

In Town.... On the Farm.... At the Shore....

Speaker: Barbara Michaels, Chair Speakers Bureau Jewish Heritage Museum, Freehold, NJ Sunday afternoon, September 18th, 2-3:30pm

(light refreshments will be served)



Join us as we learn about the lives of Jewish families who came to rural Monmouth County for a better life, to start a business or to luxuriate at the beach through facts figures and photos.

This event is open to the community and there is no charge. NO RSVP necessary but we'd love to know you are coming. 732-747-9365 or info@monmouthreformtemple.org

Celebrate

The joy of Shabbat! as we crossover into a New Year | 5777



When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be.

LIMINAL

23 September at 7pm



Gan Mazon: MRT'S Garden of Plenty by David Levinsky, davidlevinsky@optonline.net

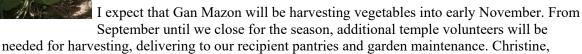


Gloria Gross and Sue Malmi join the Gan Mazon crew. Together with MRT member and codirector, Christine Gold, we have been able to introduce more varieties to our garden and expand our growing season to include early, mid-season and late fall harvesting. Hopefully, we will have lots of summer, and winter squash such as acorn and butternut. Thanks to Gloria, a rhubarb bed and a leek crop were planted in the Gan Mazon for the first time. Bell peppers, eggplant, four varieties of tomatoes, string beans, cucumbers and tomatillos complete this season's garden. Sue informed me that tomatillos are a distant relative of tomatoes; they are both in the solanaceous

family which also includes peppers, potatoes and eggplants.



With the addition of Gloria and Sue to our team, we have the ability to provide an experiential teaching opportunity for anyone who wants to learn about growing vegetables in their home organic garden. Soil testing, site selection, garden construction, vegetables and their growing habits, plus insect and disease control are all in the curriculum. We invite members new or experienced to home gardening to join us every Thursday morning to have their questions answered, learn new skills or just help out. If Thursday morning is inconvenient, contact me to arrange a more suitable time. We enjoy teaching.



Gloria, Sue and I are committed to providing healthy organic vegetables to the needy and the hard



work to achieve that goal, but now we need more personnel. A few volunteer hours a week or even bi-weekly would be most welcome. Let's extend the Mitzvah Day spirit from May a few more months.

As with most backyard gardens, Gloria and Sue grow more vegetables than they can use. Since the pantries that Gan Mazon supports are always in need of produce, the ladies combine their excess with harvests delivered by the temple. I invite temple members to do the same. Contact me for information on how your family can assist hard working, local families.

My March article featured the contributions of Howard Bodner, Ph.D., longtime active temple member, and very involved Master Gardener. Howard guided the construction of the original Gan Mazon Garden. At the June meeting of the Master Garden Association of Monmouth County, Howard was honored by renaming its scholarship program to the "Howard Bodner Master Gardener Scholarship Fund." The award annually grants two \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors planning on majoring in a horticulturally related collegiate program. No more fitting tribute could have been bestowed on a man that loved people, especially children, and horticulture as much as Howard. He was at his best whenever he had the opportunity to answer questions at our helpline desks, mentor youngsters at our junior youth program or offer advice at our association's meetings.

Best wishes, Christine, Gloria, Sue and David

From Eleanor Rubin, Israel Affairs Chair



ISRAELI SOCIETY — AN INTERNAL STRUGGLE

I recently read an article about the Shaharit Institute, a not for profit think tank located in Jerusalem, that advocates alliances between religious and secular Zionists, modern Orthodox citizens and Israeli Arabs who wish to live in a Jewish state. Secular Zionists are non-religious Jews who love the land of Israel and work to develop it as a beautiful, thriving, democratic state where Jews can live in freedom and peace. Modern Orthodox are men and women who are devoutly observant but recognize modern life of the 21st century with all of the technological, and cultural changes that progress brings. Israeli Arabs make up about 20% of the population

and have chosen to stay despite their position as a minority group.

IN 1948 when David Ben Gurion became Israel's first Prime Minister his dream was that Israel would be a "normal" nation like any other where the policeman, the sanitation worker and the banker would all be Jewish and live together in harmony. His beliefs were expressed in the Declaration of Independence which states, as a goal, "religious freedom and equality for all."

In the early days of the State, there were arguments between secular and religious communities. The secular side wanted to prevent government funding for religious schools, legally enforcing anything religious, and with a minimum of religious symbols in public spaces which they felt should remain neutral. The religious side wanted a religious-cultural uniqueness that would make Israel a "Jewish state", interpreted by the Ultra-Orthodox community, rather than a state for all of its citizens.

That argument was never resolved but today the combatants are different. Today, the arguments are taking place with secular and modern religious Jews and with the modern Orthodox community who argue with the Ultra-Orthodox Chief Rabbinate's monopoly, supported by the government, over conversion issues, over kashrut certification, over access to ritual baths for all denominations, over Shabbat commerce laws. There are controversies over the place of women in society, about treatment of the LGBT community, and about the role of secular education which is not widespread within the Ultra-Orthodox Yeshivot. The debates include the attitude toward secular Jews, the relationship with Israel's Arab minority, and the possible refusal to obey an order in the military when it contradicts halachah.

Jews are never at a loss for an argument or difference of opinion but what is taking place in Israel today is unique in that it pits the vast number of secular and religious Jews as well as modern Orthodox against Ultra Orthodox. The argument is between modernity and tradition. The ever present discussion asks the question "can Israel be a Jewish state and a democracy at the same time?" What about non-observant Jews? Shaharit asks the question, "do we have a responsibility to anyone who is part of the Jewish people and to what extent does this responsibility demand tolerance or pluralism on our part?"

For those of us who live in freedom as Jews of many varieties, the question asks do we care about Israel as a democracy and a Jewish state and do we have anything to say about it? Some Israelis in leadership positions urge American Jews to weigh in on these issues while others disagree. But the issues are of great importance to the kind of nation Israel is to become, open and free to choose for its people or authoritarian with regard to religious practice for all. It will affect the attitudes of American Jews about Israel. Will it be democracy or fundamentalism and fanaticism?

Within Israel there are leaders like Rabbi Uri Regev of HIDDUSH, our Shabbat Kallah guest last year, who works through the courts to bring equality to Israeli society. His argument, if you recall, is that Israel is not living up to its Declaration of Independence which requires "religious freedom and equality for all". Most recently, Regev won an argument before the Supreme Court over the Ultra-Orthodox in the city of Elad which issued a "writ of refusal", or

(Continued on page 19)

Federation Accepts Teen Applicants for a New J Team Class

The Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 J Team Teen Philanthropy program. A select group of 9th-12th grade students meet monthly throughout the school year to learn about philanthropy, meet representatives of nonprofit agencies, engage in community service and make charitable donations - all with a focus on core Jewish values of giving. The teamwork approach to philanthropic giving makes this program a win-win for our community's teens and nonprofit agencies and gives teens the tools to begin a life of giving.

J Teamers each make a donation of \$125 and use the knowledge they acquire to propose and select organizations to fund. At the end of the year, team members decide together which programs will receive funding, and how that money is allocated to those programs. The program is hosted by the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. Applications and information can be found at www.jewishheartnj.org/teens. Please direct all inquiries to Linda Benish, J Team Coordinator, at lindab@jewishheartnj.org or 732-588-1816. To learn how you can help support or sponsor this program, contact Laura Safran, Director, Community Impact at lauras@jewishheartnj.org.

Study Group is Back! Every Tuesday morning at 9:45am in the MRT Library Begins Tuesday, September 6th!

(Continued from page 18) ISRAELI SOCIETY — AN INTERNAL STRUGGLE

excommunication, against a complainant who took her case to a civil court rather than to the local rabbinic court. As a result of the case brought by Regev, the Attorney General issued guidelines that prohibit any further issuance of such writs.

In addition, there are organizations like the Shaharit Institute that bring together Israelis from across the religious, political and ethnic spectrum working to promote pluralism and greater tolerance for all. Tehila Nachalon , director of Kolot's Center for Jewish Leadership , a modern Orthodox movement promoting pluralism and democracy , writes frequently advocating policy and strategy built on open hearts , forward thinking and a politics of the common good.

Recently, the Jerusalem Post's new editor, Yaacov Katz, wrote a powerful editorial urging Israel's rabbinic and political leadership to stop alienating Diaspora Jewry asserting that religious freedom and equality transcends politics.

We who are visitors to Israel, first timers and many timers, and those of us who have family living there, are constantly amazed at the beauty of the country, the brilliance of what is called "the start-up nation", the development of technologies that we use every day, here at home, that aid in agriculture around the world, the number of Nobel prize winners. Our pride knows no bounds .

Israel, addressed as "the only democracy in the Middle East" and America's most significant ally, will sort out its problems and emerge, perhaps with our support, to be the land dreamed of by Ben Gurion where all Jews, from anywhere in the world, can live in peace and harmony.

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	TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ CHECKS PAYABLE TO MRT SISTERHOOD DETACH AND MAIL TO MRT ATTN: SISTERHOOD 332 HANCE AVENUE, TINTON FALLS NJ 07724

QUESTIONS? EMAIL JILL AUSTIN @ JILLTENNIS@AOL.COM OR MAXINE KLATSKY@ MKLATSKY1@VERIZON.NET

Spread the sweet cheer of a fabulous New Year

(ALL PROCEEDS DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY CHANUKAH PARTY!)

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The marriage of Samanatha and Nester Cordoba Neil, Lainie, Zoe, and Russell Davis

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Karen and David Levinsky

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Get Well Wishes:

Jerry Baker

Cheryl and Stephen Gaudette

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In Memory Of:

Esther Prince

Karen and David Levinsky

Helene Prince

Karen and David Levinsky

Evelyn Taksel

Karen and David Levinsky

In Honor Of:

Our son Craig's marriage to Trish Barbera Karen and David Levinsky

General Fund

Lois and Joseph Wilkes

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Harry Marks, Rose Marks

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Esther Prince

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Sharyn and Dean Ross

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Harold Meistrich

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In Honor Of: Our daughter Amelie's naming

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Etta Unterman Amy and Michael Unterman

Helene Prince Marilyn ad Joel Morgovsky

Scholar-in-Residence Fund

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In Honor Of: Barbara Miller on her son David's marriage to

Elaine Espey and Herbert Sorkin

Shabbat Kallah Fund

In Memory Of; Adelaide and Harold Gabel

Marianne and Bob Gabel

Youth Group Fund

In Honor Of:

Rachel Kline, Ilana Gaudette, Emily Heath, Asher Clissold, and Jonah Brewer's

Confirmation

Ellen and Jay Goldberg

Kenny and Lauren Vicenzi starting college

Nadine and Gene Vicenzi

Social Action Fund con't

In Honor Of:

Sheila Levin on the birth of her grandson Sharyn and Dean Ross

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- Marcy and Brian McMullen on the loss of her mother, Esther Rebecca Prince
- Pam and John McGovern on the loss of her father, Bernard Merlis
- Nicole and Carl Knop on the loss of her father, Martin Sheer
- Lynn and Jim Dietrich on the loss of her father, Martin Sheer
- Lenny Dingfelder and Brenda Atlast on the loss of his brother, Norman Dingfelder
- Susan and Bob St. Lifer on the loss of her mother, Evelyn Taksel
- Marcy and Brian McMullen on the loss of her sister, Helene Prince
- Faith Leifman on the loss of her mother, Lorraine Leifman
- Carl and Nicole Knop on the loss of his father, August Knop

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

- Sheila Levin on becoming a grandmother and parents Marissa and Alex Rybalov on the birth of Merrick Logan Rybalov on 7/15/16.
- Barbara Miller on the marriage of her son David to Julia
- Perry Weyser on his marriage to Lynn Muster
- Karen and David Levinsky on the marriage of their son Craig to Trish Barbera

September Yahrtzeits (read date based on when they occur)



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.

Names to be Read on Friday, September 2nd (Services at 6pm)

Theodore Atlas, Iyja Y. Bakelman, *Stacey Mira Bassin, Penrose Berman, *Isaac Blonder, Jean Chanenson, *Bernard Goldberg, Samuel Haratz, Anna Harran, Lynda Hoffman, *Frieda Jungm *Morris Kalkstein, Lillian Davis Kaswiner, Edward Keezer, *Karen Kleinman, *Leonard Kleinman, *Eve Leppel, Alan Lowenstein, Milton Mausner, William Palmer, Marianne Picus, Milton Stone, Anita Uhrmacher, *Michael Yagoda

Names to be Read on Friday, September 9th (Services at 7pm)

Grace Arnold, Doris Boxman, *Esther Brandwene, *Ann Bregman, Herman Burns, Edward Gold, *Bella Gruensfelder, Meyer Heyman, Elaine Hillson, Isadore Levin, Benjamin Lissner, Jr., *David Marks, *Stanley Elliot Mitchell, Ben Nussbaum, Todd Richman, Israel Ruby, Richard Salomon, Thelma Simon, Seth Tobias, *Bob Woolf, Mildred Zaslowe

Names to be Read on Friday, September 16th (Services at 7pm)

*Harriet Austin, *Ann Baron, Aaron Bolotin, Mae Danzig, Leah Epstein, *Cynthia G. Feigus, *Donald L. Fink, Eva Fryman, Florence Ganz, Fay Grand, Lester Gutterman, Cheryl Bergson Horowitz, Anna Jarvis, *Roberta Kirsch, Julius H. Klein, *Sid Komar, Alice Loebel, Sidney Melnick, Sam Mink, Gilda Moss, John Potter, *Rosalie Rosin, Florence Chatin Schlenoff, Michael Schneider, *Gladys Pfeffer Simms, Jeff Smith, Allan Sobelman, David Spector, *Gloria St. Lifer, Robert Steiner, *Irene Tuchband, Alice Walker

Names to be Read on Friday, September 23rd (Services at 7pm)

Roslyn Berkowitz, *Sonya Brecker, Sheldon Chaplowitz, Brandon Dowler, *Morris Dworkin, *Clayton Fishman, Esther Hauser, *Lillian Lane, Marshall Lobell, *Gertrude L. Marx, *Harold Mausner, Dorothy Merchasin, Elaine Miller, Walter Peskoe, Robert Rekedal, *Anne Rogovin, *Ruth Rothman, Susan Sachs, *Daniel B. Salomon, *Gilbert H. Salomon, Marion Spumberg, *George Welner

Names to be Read on Friday, September 30th (Services at 7pm)

Geri Bernard, *Stella Bernstein, Arnold Burns, Lynn DiMatteo, Babette Kaltenbacher Flaum, *Roslyn Falk Garin, *Herbert Ginzburg, Abraham Hirsh Goldenberg, Barbara Hollander, Murray Horowit, *Ludwig L. Jacobi, Solomon Kahn, Linh Katz, Renee Kaye, David Kornitzky, *Abram Kridel, *Oscar Kurry, Alex Messinger, *Blume R. Miller, Jessie Miller, Janet Ruston, *Herman Solomon, *Martha Weinberg, *Michael Weiss

September 2016

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

Sun	Mon	Тие	Wed	Thu 1 1pm Office Closing 7:15 Membership offsite 7:45pm Choir	Fri 2 12pm Office Closing 6pm Shabbat Services	Sat 3 9am Haftarah of the Week Study 10am Minyan Service in Library
4	5 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	6 9:45am Study Group	7 7pm SMaRTY meeting	8 7:30pm Men's Club Poker 7:45pm Choir	9 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 6pm We do Dinner 7pm Welcome Back Shabbat	9am Haftarah of the Week Study 10am Minyan Service in Library 10am Bat Mitzvah of Alyssa Knop 6pm Jr. Youth Event
11 RED BANK STREET FAIR FIRST DAY REL SCHOOL 9:30am Religious School 4pm Hazamir Auditions/Orient	7pm Orchid Society 7:30pm Men's Club Board	13 9:45am Study Group 7pm Exec Comm	14 12pm 92Y Lunch Program 4pm Rel School 6:30pm Ritual	15 7:45pm Choir	16 7pm Shabbat Services	9am Haftarah of the Week Study 10am Minyan Service in Library 10am Bat Mitzvah of Erin Bernecker 7pm MRT Social
9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels & Blocks 10am Sis Meet & Greet 11am Rel Ed Meeting 12:15pm Madrichim Meeting 2pm Hist of Jews in Mon County	19	20 9:45am Study Group 7pm Board of Trustees	21 CAKE/HONEY ORDERS DUE 4pm Rel School 5pm Hazamir Rehearsal 7pm SMaRTY Meeting	22 7pm Sis Out & About 7:45pm Choir	23 2:15pm Shabbat @ Brighton 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea 7pm Seeds of Spirituality	24 9am Haftarah of the Week Study 10am Minyan Service in Library 10am Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Arend 7pm Selichot Study 8pm Selichot Service
9:30am Rel School 9:30am K/1 PACT 9:30am Men's Club Social 12:15pm Teacher Meeting	26 7:15pm Sis Book Club offsite	27 9:45am Study Group	28 4pm Rel School 5pm Hazamir Rehearsal 7:45pm Choir	29 PACK CAKE/HONEY ORDERS	30 7pm Shabbat Services	9am Haftarah of the Week Study 10am Minyan Service in Library 10am Bar Mitzvah of Henry Shell



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