Thank you...When attending services and all other events at MRT remember that people around you are sensitive to sound, fragrance, and distraction. Please always enjoy being here in ways that help others enjoy being here, too.

Martin Luther King Weekend
Shabbat Services at MRT
Friday, January 13th at 7pm
Featuring the MRT Choir

Guest Speaker: Diem Jones,
Executive Director, Voices of Our Nations Foundation

Diem Jones is an artist, a mentor, and an empowering force across the artistic world, including writing, poetry, music, and visual imagery. His life passion parallels the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, which begins in the freedom and capacity to express our innermost soul's desire to be heard and in the appreciation of that which is divine in each of us. Our souls express themselves most purely through the arts. Music, poetry, visual imagery, and prayer stand as the finest expression of our soul’s attachment to that which is divine. Mr. Jones’ life work has enabled artistic expression, so that each and every citizen cannot only secure the rights and dignities of all humanity, but can love and appreciate how each unique celebration of living makes for a better world for us all.

In addition to his role as director of Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation, Mr. Jones is Chief Strategist at All One Consulting Group and was recently Director of Grants at the Houston Arts Alliance. He was Deputy Director for Arts Council Silicon, and served as Administrative Director of East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at Saint Mary’s College, National Director of Writers Corps, Grants Administrator at the DC Commission on the Arts, Associate Director of Associated Writing Programs and Art Director for George Clinton and the Parliament-Funkadelic.

Please join with Pilgrim Baptist Church in continuation of
MLK Justice Weekend with their service on Monday,
January 16, time to be announced.
Hidden in Plain Sight and Pot Luck Heritage Night
At Our January First Friday
Friday, January 6th
6pm Service followed by Potluck Dinner (see below) and Program

IN HONOR OF THE WHYMAN FAMILY
The Whyman Family graciously donated much of the new furniture for the MRT Library in memory of Frank Whyman. We will recognize the family the night of the event.

MRT TREASURES: HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT
Arts and Deco will be hosting a trivia night to learn about Art and Judaica within the MRT walls. Have you ever noticed two menorahs in the Sanctuary and do you know why they differ? Rabbi Priesand will enlighten us and answer trivia questions about the history of our MRT culture.

POT LUCK HERITAGE NIGHT
Please bring a dish from your own heritage.

Please follow these guidelines when deciding what to bring to the Potluck Dinner. Members bring something according to the decade they joined MRT. No pork or shellfish.

- 1959-1969 Appetizer or Side Dish
- 1969-1979 Dessert or Fruit Salad
- 1979-1989 Meat, Chicken or Turkey Entree
- 1989-1999 Wine, Alcohol, Beer Juice or Soda
- 1999-2009 Side Dish or Vegetable
- 2009-Present Pasta, Bread or Rice Entree

If you would like to help organize the event, please contact Kari Hershey at karihershey@gmail.com or call 917-539-8522.

There is no charge for the dinner, but reservations are necessary so we know who is bringing. Please let the temple office know if you are coming (732-747-9365).

Thank you!!!! Kari Hershey

Join us at services at January 6th as we honor our Boy Scouts
We are really excited about our Arts & Deco-sponsored #Hiddeninplainight event on January 6th
Here’s a question to get you going…can you answer this one?

MRT TREASURES:
HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

First Friday, January 6, 2017
Service at 6:00 - Dinner & Program at 7:00
This item can be found in the lobby display case.
Do you know what it is?

If so, send an email to rabbisally1@optonline.net.
Those submitting the correct answer will be eligible
to receive a special prize
at our Shabbat service on January 6.
From Rabbi Marc Kline

Our world has become so politicized and polarized. Having a substantive conversation these days is nearly impossible, as we suspect each other of nefarious subtexts so each time we engage.

It is time to re-engineering. It’s a new year, and time to rethink how we think about each other. We need to take a few steps back and learn to hear each other. Over the next few months, we will share in several opportunities to listen and share. Between our annual Heschel/ King service and Social Action Shabbat, our MRT family will share in new and renewed conversations.

Rav Avram Kook taught us, "The old must be made new and the new must be holy." Our tradition demands that we continually renew our relationships and our commitments. Think about spending intentional time with people outside of your normal circle. If we want to heal the world, it begins with healing the breach between any two of us.

From Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

I want to thank the Men’s Club and Sisterhood for all their efforts making our Chanukah party a huge success, it was a great celebration for our temple! Thank you to Amy Sukinik for reading Torah so beautifully!

January is a time to celebrate at MRT!

The Arts and Deco committee has spent the past several months preparing a special night so we can learn and enjoy the beauty and heritage of MRT. On January 6th, First Friday, please join us in a scavenger hunt, take a peek at our renovated library and honor the family of Frank Wyman who helped underwrite the renovation. In addition our Boy Scouts will be honored with a special blessing! After services everyone is welcome to stay for our potluck Shabbat dinner—please bring something wonderful to share!

On January 13th at 7 pm, we welcome the entire community to our MLK Shabbat Service. With the help of Alice Berman our choir is working diligently on some beautiful music to make the evening even more special. We look forward to learning from our guest presenter Diem Jones who is part of the band Parliament-Funkadelic.

Please continue to honor the fight for civil rights by coming to services on Sunday and Monday at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Red Bank. Please go to their website for more details http://www.pilgrim-baptist.org.

On January 20th at 7 pm, our Shabbat services will be led by our Rabbi Emerita Priesand. Music will be led by Julia Feigus and Lev Brewer with the accompaniment of Dr. Barbara Thomson. On January 27th at 7 pm, our Shabbat services will be led by Rabbi Leslie Bergson. Music will be led by our religious school music teacher Linda Ourach. I appreciate the time away and hope many of you will come to these services to support and encourage their efforts!

Please consider sending your child to our URJ Camp Harlam this summer or another one of our URJ Summer programs. There are grants and scholarships available. To promote this we are having a fair to learn about these opportunities on Sunday morning, January 22nd, in our social hall. Sending your child to a Jewish camp has been studied and shown to have a deeply positive impact on their connectivity to Judaism. I cannot stress the importance of doing this for your child. I believe Jewish summer camp is so important that I personally work at our URJ Camp Harlam for two weeks every year. This will be my eighth summer at Camp Harlam!

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you in the new secular year!
Welcome back, everyone! A successful December rounded out our year and culminated with our congregational Chanukiah Lighting. Twenty Religious School families supported a family at The Center in Asbury, we donated over 730 books to the Bridge of Books Foundation, and fifteen presents were given to the Ronald McDonald House by our Bagels and Blocks families. We are learning and living the value of needvut, generosity, from our Bagels and Blocks all the way up.

The school is ready for a fulfilling spring semester with the following activities:

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, January 8 @ 9:30am/12:15pm - Religious School, 5th Grade Family Education/Madrichim Meeting
Wednesday, January 11 @ 4:00pm - Midweek Religious School
Sunday, January 15 - NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, January 18 @ 4:00pm - Midweek Religious School
Sunday, January 22 @ 9:30am/11:00am - Religious School, Bagels and Blocks, Jewish Summer Opportunities Fair/Religious Education Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 25 @ 4:00pm - Midweek Religious School
Friday, January 27-Monday, January 30 - L'Taken (Confirmation Class Trip)
Sunday, January 29 @ 9:30am - Religious School

Seeking actors/singers, etc….MRT’s Purim Shpiel

Shmaltz

Audition-read through February 7 at 7:30 pm (Tuesday)

Rehearsals
2/15 at 7 pm (Wednesday),
2/22 at 7 pm (Wednesday),
3/1 at 7 pm (Wednesday),
3/7 7:30 pm (Tuesday)
Performance 3/11 at 7 pm
Professor Maurice Mahler, Art Historian

Sunday, January 22nd at 2pm

“The Story of Gustav Klimt & The Lady in Gold”

Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) is one of the most important artists of fin-de-siècle Vienna. Trained at Vienna’s Kunstgewerbeschule, Klimt began his career in a traditional and historicist style, but quickly emerged as one of Vienna’s preeminent modern artists, creating ebullient landscapes, striking portraits, and erotic drawings of women. Klimt was a key figure in Vienna’s art scene, and is one whose artistic achievements and mentorship paved the way for painters Oskar Kokoschka and Egon Schiele. Klimt had a close relationship with one of his key subjects and patron, Adele Bloch-Bauer whom he painted twice.

Five Klimt paintings seized by the Nazis from the Bloch-Bauer family townhouse during World War II were the subject of the 2015 movie Woman in Gold. Her niece and her attorney successfully sued the Austrian government for the return of the paintings.

About Our Guest Speaker

Professor Maurice Mahler is a graduate of The High School for Music and Art which was founded by Mayor La Guardia with young people with talent. He travelled from Brooklyn to the edge of the Bronx to attend school. Among his classmates were Billy Dee Williams (of Star Wars fame), David Zinman, Conductor, and Diahann Carroll (actress and singer). He attended New York City Community College and then became a member of the Art Students League. He then attended Brooklyn College and Pratt Institute evening school. He studied Print making under Ed Cassarella at the Brooklyn Museum Art School. He received his BFA and professorship from the Art Students League. He taught at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

An original “Mad Man” he was an award-winning Art Director and Creative Director with many famous campaigns like Plop Plop Fizz Fizz (Alka Seltzer) and Flick Your Bic (Bic lighters and pens), The Citi Never Sleeps (Citibank).

His true love remained teaching. He lectures all over New Jersey and Beyond. He is currently Commissioner of Cultural Arts in Monroe Township and also teaches at Rutgers University and Brookdale Community College Continuing Education programs. He is a member of the staff for Adult Education at Monroe High School.
ISRAEL  2016-17   What’s going on in the Negev?
It is common knowledge that the Negev, the huge triangle forming the southern part of Israel is 60% of the land mass of the country and is home to barely 20% of the population. The Negev is an arid desert where, for thousands of years, it was inhabited by nomadic tribes of Bedouins, and others who made their living on sheep and goats. Because of the hot, dry, sand swept topography, with little water source, nomadic tribes had to keep moving to find new grazing grounds for their flocks. Little vegetation could be grown for lack of water and compatible soil.

Today, 68 years after the establishment of the State, water sources have been developed so that vegetable farms and fish farms are big business. Young men and women are moving out of the crowded and more expensive north and central cities to raise their families in the burgeoning new communities in the Negev where they can enjoy the beauty and peaceful landscape of the desert and bring their children up in small towns with good schools, fresh air and centers of culture.

In order to encourage movement to the south, public transportation has been growing so that folks who work in the central or north can reasonably travel to and from work. For those who wish to establish new business in the Negev, loan funds have been set up to encourage entrepreneurship even for those whose credit is not yet worthy of regular bank loans. A recent report of one of the loan funds, supported, by the way, by Jewish Federations in the United States, is an example of what is going on in the Negev. Business men and women present their plans and strategies for establishing a new business or increasing a standing business as they request loans of a certain amount. These are loans, not gifts and they are usually granted without interest fees, but with required payback schedules.

Here are some of the types of businesses that those living in the Negev, generally from Beer Sheva to Eilat, are engaged in. A young man wants to open another “Wine in the City” store where he will sell kosher wines in Eilat. A Bedouin woman wants to open a bridal shop where gowns will be purchased as part of the inventory and they will be rented, not purchased, for use again. Someone wants to open a pasta restaurant in a small town. A unique request came recently for a loan to increase a hot air balloon business. The young business owner has balloons that accommodate 5 people but wants to purchase larger balloons so as to accommodate a larger party.

There was a request for a loan to open a gourmet restaurant that was denied for a variety of reasons. Dress designers, interior designers, farmers who need to purchase new equipment, a young couple who want to open a toy shop, an experienced carpenter who wants to develop his own construction company.

While the brilliant scientists create miracles in this “Start up Nation” the pioneers, the dreamers and visionaries are enriching lives in the south. This is what’s going on in the Negev.

SISTERHOOD, Karen Kahn, President

Happy new year, Sistahs!!

December was busy... A very successful vendor fair, that Sisterhood was able to partner with, thanks to Lynn Shapiro. Thank you to all who helped out, and those who donated soups and chili! We could not have done it without you. We also had a great book club movie night at Maxine Klatsky's house, ooh la la! We have wonderful French chefs at MRT, and we didn't even know it!

A big shout out to Anne Goodman for chairing this year's Chanukah Party. It was a great success!

January is looking quiet, but we do have an "in & about" scheduled for January 18th. We are planning a game night at Anne's house. Please feel free to bring a snack or a dessert to share, or if you have a fun game to play, feel free to bring that as well! Also, January 30th will be book club at Monica's. We will be discussing, "Love That Boy."

Be well, stay warm, and wishing you a happy and healthy 2017!
I recently attended a Ritual Committee Meeting. After covering the review of upcoming ritual events and services, Sam Goodman, chair of the committee, initiated a discussion of ideas that could make our MRT Jewish rituals more engaging for a broader spectrum of our community. The Ritual Committee has taken as one of its key objectives for 2016/17, introducing innovative ideas that can increase engagement in Jewish ritual.

No conclusions were drawn, but the brief initial discussion surfaced several ideas including, introducing more English in the service, potentially doing some prayers in English and Hebrew on alternating services, inviting members to lead parts of the service, sharing Shabbat at member’s homes. In fact, our services have evolved much over the last several years. We have more people stepping forward to read Torah. We’ve introduced Seeds of Spirituality. First Friday Family Service has become a joyful community gathering.

But more ideas can lead to even stronger community involvement with the richness and spirit of Jewish ritual. I ask all to think about what would make things more engaging for you and your family and to share your ideas with Sam. Let’s Open our Doors and Open our Minds to strengthening our community through joyful expression of our traditions and rituals.

January is an exciting month at MRT. On January 6, First Friday will feature a trivia night to learn about Art and Judaica within the MRT walls. On January 13-15, Justice Weekend will feature multiple events focusing on insuring justice for all. Friday night services will feature Diem Jones, Executive Director, Voices of Our Nations Foundation and Dr. Ali Chaudhary, founder of the NJ Interfaith Coalition.

Huge thanks to Rabbi Kline, Eleanor Rubin and the Adult Education Committee for the Scholar in Residence weekend with Rabbi Stephen Fuchs. Kudos to the leadership of Lynne Shapiro and the Ways and Means Committee which raised over $6000 in the Vendor Fair. Big thanks to Sisterhood and Men’s Club for sponsoring the Chanukah party last Friday which drew over 150 people together to sing several Chanukah songs and enjoy a great dinner together.
Summary of the December 20th Board of Trustees meeting:

Mark Gruensfelder, Recording Secretary

The Board started the meeting, as usual, by recounting good things that have happened with MRT in the past month. And this was a particularly good month! Here are some of the accomplishments:

- The Vendor Fair raised $6,000 for MRT! This was higher than expected – and in addition to MRT’s needs, the funds also helped Sisterhood, the Men’s Club, and the MRT Garden. The fair also brought in people from the larger community. Thanks to Lynn Shapiro and her Ways & Means committee, who are now planning their next event – a Kids Fashion Show – April 1st, 2017 (no kidding!).
- During the same weekend (Dec 2nd – 4th), MRT’s Adult Ed Committee hosted the Annual Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Stephen Fuchs. Rabbi Fuchs’ sessions were both entertaining and enlightening.
- Here’s one that is perhaps less glamorous but certainly necessary: a new furnace has been installed … and is working! Just in the nick of time …
- The Bridge of Books Foundation drive, sponsored by MRT’s Religious School, collected 730 books from our families – more than 200 than last year! This helps the foundation provide an unending source of books to underserved children throughout New Jersey in order to support the development of literacy skills and encourage a love of reading.
- MRT’s Membership Committee hosted Wine and Cheese event for our new members. It was well attended by our new members as well as by our “longer-term” members.
- Hundreds of needy people in our community received Christmas presents – such as toys, winter gloves and scarves - from members of Monmouth Reform Temple for its annual Gift Collection. Several volunteers, including program coordinator Cheryl Gaudette, delivered the gifts to The Center in Asbury Park and the Family Resource Center in Shrewsbury, among others. What a wonderful way to brighten people’s lives!

Zach Gilstein led discussion on the following as part of his President’s Report:

- Life and Legacy Update: Currently 14 committed donors. Goal is 18 by end of March.
- Zach has assigned Board Members to be posted in the lobby during Sunday morning Religious school. The main purpose is to provide welcoming presence to Religious School participants and their parents.

During the Rabbi’s report, Rabbi Kline discussed his involvement in the Pledge to Stand Up for the Other interfaith initiative (standupfortheother.org). He reported that all New Jersey State Senators took the Pledge on Monday, December 19, 2016 at the State House in Trenton. Zach Gilstein suggested that the MRT Board discuss MRT adopting the pledge at its January meeting.

The Board discussed and approved the following motions:

- Resolved that MRT hold a Special Congregation Meeting to approve Rabbi Kline’s new contract on Sunday morning, January 29th at 10:00 AM.
- Resolved to renew those RSJP Endowment trustees whose terms had expired for another term.

Here’s to a Happy and HEALTHY 2017!

Mark Gruensfelder, MRT Recording Secretary
Baldwin Davidson Memorial Scholarship Fund
A Message from Sisterhood & Men’s Club

This fund supports the Jewish education and experiences of our children through trips to Israel, summer camp, youth group events, leadership training to promote a passionate love of Jewish learning.

We invite all interested families to apply to this scholarship fund and help to make multi-faceted and life-long Jewish learning a reality in your home.

There is a committee of five who makes the awards determination and who will collectively consider every applicant who wishes to avail themselves of the Jewish learning opportunities that exist outside of our temple community.

The application deadline is February 15, 2017

BALDWIN DAVIDSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM
Deadline: February 15, 2017 ■ Notification: March 10, 2017

Supporting the Jewish education and experiences of our children through trips to Israel, summer camp, youth group events, and leadership training to promote a passionate love of Jewish learning.

Name:__________________________ Total Cost of Activity: $__________________________

Age: _______ Email:__________________________ Scholarship Request: $__________________________

Telephone Number:__________________________ Deadline for requested funds (if any): ________________

Describe your involvement at MRT: (e.g., religious school, youth group, volunteer roles, etc.)

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Describe what the scholarship funds will be used for and how you will benefit: (NFTY, summer camp, Israel, etc.)

____________________________________________________________________________________

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Feel free to attach additional information.

Please send application to:
Baldwin Davidson Scholarship  Monmouth Reform Temple  332 Hance Avenue  Tinton Falls, NJ 07724
January Yahrtzeits (read date based on when they occur)

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

Names to be Read on Friday, January 13th (Services at 7pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, January 20th (Services at 7pm)

Names to be Read on Friday, January 27th (Services at 7pm)

The Congregation mourns the loss of Delores Abramowitz

May her memory be a blessing

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:

- Jay and Kay Wiesenfeld on the birth of a grandson, Lionel

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO:

- John Grant on the loss of his mother, Nancy Louise Egan Grant
- Evan and Kerry Krachman on the loss of his mother, Eleanor Krachman
- Lori and Edward Gaines on the loss of her mother, Marilyn Lappen
- Kim and David Chalnick on the loss of her father, Frank Boujou
- Rachel and Chris Placitella on the loss of her mother, Delores Abramowitz
The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

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<th>Fund</th>
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<td><strong>Rabbi's Discretionary Fund</strong></td>
<td>Caryl Rubin&lt;br/&gt;Susan and Joseph Frankel&lt;br/&gt;Vivianne Meistrich&lt;br/&gt;Shelley and Ted Ibex&lt;br/&gt;Brandon Klatsky’s Bar Mitzvah&lt;br/&gt;The Klatsky Family</td>
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<td><strong>Cantor’s Fund</strong></td>
<td>Anita Stix&lt;br/&gt;Brandon Klatsky’s Bar Mitzvah&lt;br/&gt;The Klatsky Family</td>
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<td><strong>Caring Network Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Gan Mazon</strong></td>
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<td><strong>General Fund</strong></td>
<td>Delores Abramowitz&lt;br/&gt;The McCann Family&lt;br/&gt;Howard Strauss&lt;br/&gt;Amy and Michael Unterman&lt;br/&gt;Frank Singer&lt;br/&gt;The Atrium at Navesink Harbor, David Stull, Joan and Brad Holloway</td>
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<td><strong>Social Action Fund</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Youth Group Fund</strong></td>
<td>Nathan Louis Franklin&lt;br/&gt;Sheila and Zach Gilstein&lt;br/&gt;The birth of our grandson Lionel&lt;br/&gt;Kay and Jay Wiesenfeld</td>
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2016 MRT Chanukah Party
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<td>1pm Office closed 3:45pm Shabbat @ Chelsea #HiddenInPlainSight Honoring Whyman Family for donation in Memory of Frank Whyman Honoring Boy Scouts 5:30pm Proneg 6pm First Friday Shabbat Services—Pot Luck see page 1</td>
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<td>9:30am Rel School 9:30am 5th Grade Family Ed 12:15pm Madrichim meeting</td>
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<td>7:30pm Men’s Club Poker</td>
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<td>9:30am Rel School 9:30am Bagels &amp; Blocks 9:30am Camp Fair 11am Rel Ed 12:15pm Teacher 2pm Adult Ed: Jewish Art Historian</td>
<td>1pm Office Closing 7:15pm Membership 7:15pm Sis Book Club offsite</td>
<td>9:45am Study Group 7:30pm Mitzvah Day kickoff</td>
<td>4pm Rel School 5pm Hazamir Rehearsal</td>
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For the most up-to-date info www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar

Special Congregational meeting to approve Rabbi Kline’s new contract, Sunday, January 29th at 10am. Please attend!