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.

Shabbat Services
February 2017

Friday, February 3rd
2/3 Shabbat Services
5:30pm Pre-neg sponsored by 2nd and 3rd grade
6pm Shabbat Services followed by Pot Luck Dinner
A-P Pasta Chicken  R-Z Salad
Please bring enough for 10-12

Saturday, February 4th
10am Isabella Tobias Bat Mitzvah

Friday, February 10th
7pm Shabbat Services
5th Grade Service

Saturday, February 11th
10am Aidan Mann Bar Mitzvah

Friday, February 17th
7pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, February 18th
10am Jacob Cohen Bar Mitzvah

Friday, February 24th
7pm Shabbat Services
Social Action Shabbat
Speaker: Rabbi Danny Siegel

Saturday, February 25th
10am 6th Grade Service
Speaker: Rabbi Danny Siegel
3pm Torah Study with Rabbi Danny Siegel

Every Saturday morning
in the Library:
9am-9:30am Shabbat Services
9:30am-10:30am Torah Talks Study Session

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

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE
Social Action Committee presents:
Rabbi Danny Siegel
The “Pied Piper of Tzedakah”

As part of Monmouth Reform Temple’s ongoing commitment to Social Action Rabbi Siegel will spend the weekend educating and inspiring us!

Friday night, Feb 24th at 7pm
Social Action Shabbat

SOCIAL ACTION
CALL TO SERVICE
Saturday morning, Feb. 25th at 10am
6th Grade Service (all are invited)

BAR/BAT MITZVAH
POWER
Saturday afternoon, February 25th at 3pm
Torah Study

SO YOU FELL ASLEEP DURING SERVICES
DO YOU STILL COUNT FOR A MINyan?

Sunday, February 26th at 10am
Speaking to our Confirmation Class
(all are invited)

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SMALL MITZVAH

Rabbi Danny Siegel is a well-known author, lecturer, and poet who has spoken in more than 300 Israeli and North American Jewish communities on Tzedakah and Jewish values, besides reading from his own poetry. He is the author of 28 1/2 books on such topics as Mitzvah heroes and practical and personalized Tzedakah, and has produced an anthology of 500 selections of Talmudic quotes about living the Jewish life well called “Heaven and Earth Touch.”

For more on Danny Siegel visit his website: http://dannysiegel.com/

MRT Purim planning is gearing up...watch your inboxes and the March Bulletin
Sisterhood Sh’lach Manot
Adult Shpiel and Party on March 11th
Purim Carnival sponsored by SMarTY on March 12th
Get Some LOVE at the
3rd Annual MRT Tennis Social
All Levels, Non-players and Non MRT Members WELCOME!

Saturday, February 25th, 7-11 PM
at Colts Neck Racquet Club

Cost: $25 per player (no charge for spectators)

The evening will be a Round Robin format with 35-40 minute timed matches and breaks for socializing. Couples will not always be playing together. Players will be matched according to ability.

Bring your favorite snack and beverage to share.

PLEASE RSVP by February 6th to sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org with the Names of Players and Ability Level (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) & non-players

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

Questions? Contact Jill Austin (jilltennis@aol.com) or Gena Lande (gregandgena@gmail.com)

Don’t Play Tennis? No Problem! We will have socializing, Games, great tennis to watch and lots of food & drink.
Greetings from the High Holy Days Appeal Committee!

We are glad to publish this report acknowledging gifts to the Appeal by 116 temple families who generously supported our synagogue with a total of $30,205 dollars. Those names of those who gave to the Appeal this year are presented below and to all of them we shout out our thanks and gratitude. Your support means so much to us and entire temple leadership. The High Holy Days Appeal is very important because it significantly improves MRT’s financial footing while also demonstrating the spirit of generosity that pervades our temple membership. We are encouraged by the consistent participation in the Appeal of so many of our members year after year and gladly welcome those who gave for the first time this year. We are optimistic about a future in which 50%, 60%, 80% or more of our families proudly join with those listed below to celebrate MRT through the High Holy Days Appeal.

—Joel Morgovsky and Mark Gruensfelder

HHDA Donors as of 1/14/17

Addison, Alonzo & Laperdon-Addison, Doreen
Aho, Amy
Appio, James & Idanna
Aptaker, Randy & Elise
Auerbach, Philip & Cynthia
Baker, Peggy
Baskin, Nancy
Bates, Elizabeth & Aubry, Madna
Berman, Alice
Bleitstein, Gary
Brandwene, Martha & McWilliams, Rita
Brawer, Arthur & Carol
Brewer, James & Schneider-Brewer, Monica
Brutman, Neil
Burns, Linda & Crump, John
Butler, Harmon & Jill
Byck, Donald & Ellen
Calderwood, David & Lisa
Chalnich, David & Kim
Clissold, John & Cantor Gabrielle
Cohen, Leonard & Lindner, Corey
Cohen, William & Elizabeth
Colicchio, Alan & Heather
Coyne, Kevin & Kaye, Jane
Familant, Elliott & Lynne
Feigus, Jay & Monica
Ferencz, Mark & Agnes
Forman, Brian & Susan
Fox, Howard & Barbara
Gabel, Robert & Roosels, Marianne
Gaudette, Stephen & Cheryl
Gelber, Roy & Susan
Gilstein, Zach & Sheila
Goldberg, Jay & Ellen
Goldsmith, Stephen & Trudy
Goldstein, Barbara
Goodman, Eleanor
Goodman, Samuel & Anne
Gordon, Lawrence & Shelley
Gorstein, Rosanne Farber & Kroen, Mark
Graver, Jane
Greenberg, Roslyn
Gruensfelder, Mark & Beverly
Guenzburger, Ernest & Rubinstein, Ellen
Hallard, Wayne & Deborah
Hampel, Daniel & Rose
Haratz, David & Rosalyn
Harran, James
Hayet, Bob & Mary Beth
Heidema, John & Karl, Karen
Hillson, Harry & Dori
Ibex, Ted & Shelley
Johnson, Marty & Nancy
Kahn, Karen
Kaplan, Deanna
Katz, David
Kennedy, Stephen & Dari
Klatsky, Alan & Maxine
Klein, Ronald & Bonnie
Kline, Rabbi Marc & Bernard, Lori
Kohn, Jack & Norma
Kosberg, Edward & Sherry
Krachman, Evan & Kerry
Leifman, Faith L.
Levin, Sheila
Levinsky, David & Karen
Levy, Alan R. & Nance
Levy, Paul & Cindy
Loebel, Arthur & Nancy
Lowenstein, Laurence & Laurie
Lubin, Marc & Mary Ellen
Martin, Susan
Melnick, Andrew
Meyer, Maurice & Irma
Miller, Barbara
Morgovsky, Joel & Marilyn
Neuhauser, Brett & Maxine
Newman, James & Gail
Nisenson, Emilie
Placitella, Christopher & Rachel
Raybon, Greg & Judy
Reisner, Gerald & Rosalind
Rivkin, David & Judith
Rosenberg, Robert & Phyllis
Ross, Dean & Sharyn
Rothman, Donald & Helaine
Rubin, Eleanor
Sachs, Richard & Sheila
Salomon, Elizabeth
Schaad, Joseph & Stacey
Schmidt, Alec & Frehman-Schmidt, Sofia
Seckular, Corey & Anna
Seligman, Peter & Karen
Shapiro, Lynn
Sills, Charles & Caryl
Singer, Frank
Spector, Anita
St. Lifer, Robert & Susan
Stein, Joseph & Karen
Sussman, Robert & Lisa
Teitelbaum, Leonard & Dorothy
Tuchband, Stuart & Cora
Tuller, Brenda
Vicenzi, Eugene & Nadine
Weysr, Perry
Whyma, Susan
Wiesenfeld, Jay & Kay
Wigdortz, Judith
Wold, Robert & Marjorie
Zaslowe, Peter & Nancy
Alducci, Cara
Atlas, Alla
Berlin, Beverly
Kaplan, Nancy
McIntyre, Gail
Rubinstein, Rachel
From the President, Zach Gilstein Email: zachmate2@gmail.com

I am pleased to report that at a special congregational meeting held on Sunday, January 29, the congregation overwhelmingly approved moving forward with a 5-year contract with Rabbi Kline that will commence this July after the end of his current contract. I reported in December that the Board of Trustees had strongly approved moving ahead with the contract, which was subject to approval by the whole congregation. We look forward to moving ahead with Rabbi Kline in strength.

At the January Board meeting, the Board voted to support the Stand Up for the Other Pledge, which Dr. Ali Chaudry had described at the Justice Weekend Shabbat service and was brought to the Board by Rabbi Kline.

The Pledge states:
"While interacting with members of my own faith, ethnic or gender community, or with others, if I hear hateful comments from anyone about members of any other community, I pledge to stand up for the Other and challenge bigotry in any form."

Acting in accordance with this Pledge is what each of us as Jews is commanded to do. I encourage every member of the Temple to take the Pledge and do your best to fulfill it. You can do so online at [http://www.standupfortheother.org/client/index.php?cidlp=5](http://www.standupfortheother.org/client/index.php?cidlp=5) or ask Rabbi Kline for a paper form. This pledge was recently brought to the NJ State Legislature where a resolution was passed to support it, and every member of the Assembly signed it.

The Member Role Policy Task Force brought a set of recommendations forward to the Board. These recommendations identify a significant number of policy changes to enable us to more fully execute and live our Mission and Value of Inclusion - “We are an inclusive community where creativity and openness to new ideas harmonize with the traditions of Reform Judaism.” and “We welcome all who choose to embrace Judaism in their lives and homes, regardless of background.”

We will be having some meetings in the coming months to socialize these recommendations and solicit feedback. We expect to formalize these changes with amendments to our Constitution and Bylaws at this year’s Annual Meeting. Huge thanks to Rabbi Kline and the Ritual Committee for creating a truly inspiring Justice Weekend Service where multiple faith groups worshiped with us. Kudos to the Arts and Deco committee and Rabbi Priesand for a great First Friday Service that introduced us to the many treasures all around us at MRT and to Rabbi Kline for honoring the scouts and gathering such a strong sense of support to our bima. Thanks to Eleanor Rubin and the Adult Education Committee for the illuminating program on Gustav Klimt.

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**MRT 2016-2017 Executive Board**

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3rd VP, Harry Hillson  
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4th VP, Monica Schneider-Brewer  
monicasbrewer@gmail.com

Treasurer, Stu Tuchband  
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Mark Gruensfelder, Rec. Sec’y  
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Imm. Past Pres., Jay Wiesenfeld  
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**MRT 2016-2017 Board**

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Lynn Shapiro, Ways & Means  
llshapiro2@gmail.com

**MRT 2016-2017 Auxiliaries**

Karen Kahn Sisterhood Pres.  
kkahn1@verizon.net
From Rabbi Marc Kline

The Kabbalists teach that the holiest holiday on our calendar is not Yom Kippur or even Shabbat. They teach us that Tu B'Shvat is holier than all because the others make us take a break from our own hectic lives and command us to regroup and restore. Tu B'Shvat (the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat) demands that we work for the world's respite. We plant trees, appreciate nature and its bounty and study ways in which we can better appreciate the blessings that our natural world provides to each of us. Yom Kippur and Shabbat call on us to become more insular, while this holiday screams for us to engage the world and acknowledge that without the blessings that nature provides, no moment of rest or act of atonement would matter.

Tu B'shvat is an often looked over holiday, but should not be. Go to our Temple Web page and look for our holiday book. Read about ways in which our tradition helps us thank God for the Earth and celebrate its blessings. Do something different this year ... add this amazing holiday into your celebration cycle!

From Sam Goodman, Ritual Chair

What would a ritually-engaged MRT look like? At the Ritual Committee’s January meeting, we wrestled with this question, which will inform changes to our ritual programming in the coming months and years. We believe that a ritually-engaged congregation:

• Helps members become familiar with Jewish rituals. Previous discussions on this front resulted in Brenda Tuller and Bevi Gruensfelder compiling the Holiday Handbook, which is available on MRT’s website. My hope is continue addressing the need for ritual-focused education with a Ritual Committee developed- and led- service, geared towards members unfamiliar with Hebrew and/or the structure of Shabbat evening services. Look for more information on this in the coming months.

• Encourages members to participate in and lead Jewish ritual activities. To choose one recent example, on Friday, January 20th, Cantor Clissold was on vacation. Julia Feigus and Lev Brewer, two members of our youth group SMARTY, helped lead services in her absence. It’s not uncommon for lay congregation members to rise to the occasion and help lead our services when our clergy members are traveling, a trait that is to our congregation’s credit, and that I hope to continue to foster.

• Provides a wide variety of opportunities for ritual engagement to its members. One aspect of this includes hosting a multitude of unique services (e.g. Seeds of Spirituality, or the service we had at dawn in the Sukkah in October). Another allows for expanded use of rituals and ritual items, like encouraging the wearing of kippot (skullcaps), and tallitot (fringed prayer shawls) during morning worship and Kol Nidrei services.

• Embraces its members during Jewish lifecycle events. It’s important that we show support for members of our community as they experience major events, from brit milah (circumcision) and baby naming, to b’nai mitzvah, all the way through mourning ceremonies. I’ve noticed much higher community participation at the recent shiva minyanim (prayer groups supporting a house of mourning) that I’ve recently attended, and would like to continue this trend to cover other lifecycle events as well.

• Seamlessly incorporates ritual activities at all events. This could be as simple as starting a meal hosted at the synagogue with the motzi.

• Experiences strong attendance at all ritual functions.

Reframing our work on the Ritual Committee has been very insightful, helping illumine perceived gaps in our existing programming, and highlighting opportunities for growth. If you want to help us continue on this path, our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 8th, at 6:30PM in the library.
MRT Fundraising can Be Fun!
By Lynn Shapiro, Ways & Means Chair, lsshapiro2@gmail.com

Mark your calendar for the next exciting Ways and Means Event “MRT ROCKS THE RUNWAY” on Saturday, April 1st. Watch for details but you can be sure that our Temple youth from toddlers to teens will provide a fashion show like no other!! You will be hearing from me soon to see if you would like to advertise your business in the program, have items to donate to the auction or help us sell 50/50 tickets for the fashion show.

Calling all Mah Jongg mavens – Ways and Means will be hosting a Mah Jongg tournament on Sunday, June 11th – watch for details.

Please remember that you can buy a brick for $100 to be inscribed and placed in our walkway to commemorate a bar/bat mitzvah, anniversary, any special occasion or to memorialize a loved one. We can provide you with a gift certificate you can use if you are purchasing it for a gift for someone.

If you are food shopping anyway, and who isn’t, why not buy scrip from the Temple and a portion of the purchase comes back to MRT. Pretty effortless, no?

Calling all Amazon users and I know there are many of you out there – if you to go AmazonSmiles.com when you make your Amazon purchases you can designate that a portion of your purchase comes back to MRT. Talk about effortless. While the percentage may seem small – if every member did this every time they used Amazon, it would certainly add up.

If you have any questions about any of the information above, or have suggestions for additional fund raising ideas, please feel free to contact me.

Lynn Shapiro
Lsshapiro2@gmail.com

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

Eleanor Rubin, Adult Ed Chair with Maurice Mahler, Art Historian and speaker at the MRT Adult Ed event on January 22nd, 2017
Summary of the January 25th Board of Trustees meeting:
Mark Gruensfelder, Recording Secretary

As usual, Board Members put themselves in a positive frame of mind by sharing good happenings of the past month. Among these were the great December Chanukah party where it seemed like the entire congregation filled the Social Hall, the outstanding January First Friday service where Rabbi Priesand raised our awareness and appreciations for all the “treasures” MRT has, and the wonderful Justice Weekend Shabbat Service which included participation from multiple diverse groups. We learned that we now have 16 families participating in the Life and Legacy program; if we reach our goal of 18 by the end of March, the program itself will donate $7,500 to our chosen endowment. During this period our new library furniture was put in place and formally dedicated in honor of the late Frank Whyman, may he rest in peace.

Much of the meeting was focused on Board members reviewing and providing feedback on the recently provided recommendations of the Member Role Policy Task Force. The purpose of this task force was to provide recommendations for improving member involvement and to clarify the role of the non-Jew in temple participation, while allowing our Mission to be our framework for the future. The recommendations were grouped into the categories of Ritual, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Services, Religious School Policies, Building Usage, and Membership and Governance.

In general, the Board was pleased with the task force’s recommendations, quite a feat given the diverse opinions this subject tends to attract. The Board thanked the Task Force for achieving its goal of arriving at a set of well-balanced recommendations.

Temple President Zach Gilstein indicated that he intends to hold congregation-wide focus group discussions of these recommendations in order to provide further feedback and as a mechanism to better communicate the recommendations to the Congregation. Some of the recommendations would require changes to MRT’s existing Bylaws; Zach’s goal is to have these changes proposed in time for adoption at this year’s Annual Meeting.

The Board Meeting concluded with the following reports and actions:

Religious School Principal Stephanie Fields presented a very positive “mid-year report” on the Religious School progress.
The MRT Board resolved that it pursue a full-time Religious School educator for next fiscal year (July, 2017 – June 2018) and that it renew Principal Stephanie Fields’ contract accordingly.
The MRT Board resolved that it adopt the Pledge to Stand Up for the Other, as presented by Rabbi Kline, and that the Board encourage all MRT congregants to sign the pledge.
Faith Leifman, Finance Committee Chair, reported that she has requested input for next fiscal year’s budget from each committee chair. The Finance Committee will soon begin its FY2018 budget deliberations.
Stu Tuchband, MRT Treasurer, reported that 25% of plots new Beth Miriam cemetery site have now been purchased.
Kerry Krachman, Social Action Chair, announced that the Mitzvah Day planning effort has been kicked off. Mitzvah Day 2017 is scheduled for Sunday, October 29th.
Spotlight on our Board

Sam Goodman, Ritual Chair by Cantor Gabrielle Clissold

Sam is from a suburb of Philadelphia called Hatboro, PA. His family moved there from Harleysville, PA when he was very young. Sam attended University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana and majored in Engineering and Physics with a focus in Computer Science and a minor in Math. Sam graduated college in 3.5 years. Sam works at West-Ward Pharmaceuticals in Eatontown, NJ which brought him to MRT. "My job is the marketing manager…I like it. We are a generic pharmaceutical manufacturer, all has to do with price. I build financial models to ensure we are making money."

My loves are my son and wife, Jack is almost one and Anne is my wife of 2 years but have been together 5 years. "When I have time I make beer, I am a brewer by hobby. My favorite beer depends on the season and what I am eating." As we were speaking he was enjoying an IPA from Tuscon, AZ. "I joined our temple to create for myself a sense of community, our temple is a great way to meet people, to study and learn. In our free moments, we go to breweries. Anne even works at Little Dog Brewery in Neptune City and volunteers for our temple sisterhood. She is an incredible mother to Jack. She is also a regular blog contributor on Interfaith Family.com."

Sam also loves to play poker, because he enjoys the statistics behind it. He enjoys learning poker theory and uses statistics to plan his moves. His choice in music may surprise some people, he does enjoy classic rock, and acoustic music but he really loves Metal. Sam likes to listen to 89.5 which is the Seton Hall Radio station. His current favorite bands are Clutch, Alice in Chains, Soundgarden and Sleep. He also loves the better known Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, Billy Joel, Elton John and Led Zeppelin. Sam just inherited his parents piano and also plays guitar, bass and ukelele. (In the 6 years I have known him he has never told me this for some reason) He went to Israel on Birthright 10 years ago. He had a transcendent experience at the Kotel, "When I went to pray at the wall-I felt a heat-like an energy-from the wall, even though it was January." It had a profound effect upon him.

Sam's favorite food is beer, but his favorite Jewish food is his grandmother's kasha and bow ties smothered in brisket gravy. His favorite Philadelphia food is big pretzel with mustard. He loves the Fliers (hockey) and the Eagles (football). Sam's Hebrew name is Shmuel Lev ben Pinchas and his favorite Jewish holiday is Shabbes, "I like that it comes once a week, it is always nice to have a chance to rest and be with family and friends-to be able to appreciate those types of blessings. I enjoy serving the temple and look forward to doing so in the future." Come see Sam, Annie and Jack in their usual corner of our temple sanctuary on most Friday nights. Notice how he is able to tie intricate neck ties, and mastered the Trinity, Eldrege and Merovingian.

February 2017 Lobby Tzedakah Box

Family Promise

Co-Sponsors Jay & Kay Wiesenfeld

Family Promise is a non-profit organization that assists local families who are homeless, assisting them during the transition period while seeking permanent housing. The Center provides support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers.
From Stephanie Fields, Religious School Principal

Please enjoy the Religious School Mid-Year Update 2016-2017.

5777 got off to a great start! 75% of students registered before the first day - such great enthusiasm has not been seen in recent years. Our faculty and staff spent many hours over the summer preparing for your children's arrival on Sunday, September 11th.

To increase student morale and community spirit we initiated a rotating schedule on Wednesdays from 4:00-4:20 for community building, team building, avodat lev (prayer service), and special holiday programs. During community building we are taking the time to get to know each other as we all come from many different schools and communities. During team building our B'reiut (spirit) Coach (Amy Greenberg) is on hand to help us develop our pride in our kehilah kedoshah - holy community. During avodat lev the Rabbi and Cantor lead us in prayer, and on special holiday programs we learn different ways of observing the holidays. There is overlap, in that many of the activities serve multiple purposes. Last week, we played a game requiring students to pair Hebrew prayer words and phrases as they also got to know new things about each other. We had a lot of fun, and your children did a great job!

Our Judaics curriculum is continuing to form a well-rounded education for your children. Different grade years focus on relevant topics such as, holidays, Bible stories, Israel (history and modern state), Jewish history, and life cycle events. We have also begun to invest in art projects that will travel through the years with your children.

The Hebrew curriculum has seen the most upgrades to ensure that our children are developing their reading skills and connecting with the themes of each prayer. Over recent years the demands of the secular school day and other activities have challenged us to keep pace with our children's expectation of a responsive learning environment. To that end, our new curriculum focuses on teaching our students Hebrew through a variety of means, not merely memorization. We are continuing to adapt this program through feedback and constant review from children, parents, faculty and staff. We already can see the retention and comprehension rates increasing in our younger grades.

Our Madrichim program is holding monthly meetings to prepare our teens to be a "dugma ishit - a person of example." We are focusing on accountability and professionalism that will bring them success in whatever direction their life journey takes them.

From bagels and blocks to our high school seniors, and engaging our college students on break, we are approaching each child with care and respect doing our part in ensuring the continued growth of Jewish capacity l'dor v'dor- from generation to generation.

May we continue to go from strength to strength.
Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek.

Rabbi Marc Kline
Stephanie C. Fields, Religious School Principal
Monica Schneider-Brewer, Vice President, Religious Education
Karen Seligman, Religious Education Chair
What’s going on in Jerusalem?

This June will mark the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War of 1967 in which Israel was victorious over the armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Until that time, since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, Israelis were not permitted to visit the eastern part of the city of Jerusalem which was ruled by Jordan. The Western Wall and the Old City were out of bounds to Jews until the 1967 victory. It was an impossible victory and a joyous time for Israelis and the larger Jewish world.

In the past 50 years, Jerusalem has undergone tremendous growth and development. Though disputed among the nations, Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. For some years, that city was losing young people to the more exciting and productive areas in the north due to lack of jobs, quality of life, quality of education and affordable housing. The modern Jewish population was shrinking and the Arab and Haredi (ultra-orthodox) were growing.

As a result of changes in the city administration, and economic growth there is now a more even mix of all constituencies. According to Mayor Nir Barkat, “By design, Jerusalem is built to host and include all tribes — Jews and non-Jews alike. That was the role of Jerusalem 3000 years ago. It was the only place that was not given to any specific tribe. It belonged to all.”

Improvements in the city have brought a more varied population which is attracted by the many business and cultural opportunities. High Tech firms have been established and a broader business district has increased economic activities. High speed railroad will connect to Tel Aviv bringing thousands of jobs and easy access to other cities. The school system has improved and finds more secular and national religious students enrolled which provides for a better balanced student population.

Housing is expanding, though often quite expensive. Nevertheless, young people are finding ways to live and work in the city within their budgets. The skyline is dotted with cranes, not the flying kind, but those used in building houses and office complexes in every direction. Improved quality of life has had a major impact on the city whose population is over 800,000 of which 62% is Jewish. Other groups are Muslim, Christian and some Druze.

Crowds enjoy the occasional light festival. Hundreds of small and large organizations engage in an annual marathon. There is a film festival and a music festival. The Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, a first class symphony orchestra, founded in 1936, performs often in Jerusalem when the group is not on international tours. Conductors have included Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, and Leonard Botstein.

The Art Scene has grown to include the newly renovated Israel Museum with an amazing collection of antiquities and modern art. Several years ago Anish Kapoor created a chrome-plated sculpture called “Turning the World Upside Down” which is placed at the entrance to the museum. It is reminiscent of the bean-shaped sculpture in a Chicago park by the same artist.

In Machane Yehuda murals have been painted by a consortium of French and Israeli artists that depict visions of life in the shuk. Anna Ticho’s house is now a museum filled with her glorious paintings of local flora and the Judean hills.

Street life in Jerusalem is full of diversity. There are many outdoor cafes where coffee is a specialty. This is the only location where Starbucks could not survive due to the indigenous competition. On Ben Yehuda Street, no cars, you may be serenaded by a cellist or violinist or guitarist hoping to pick up a few shekels. The new downtown Mall is a place for shopping and people watching. Young and old men and women, soldiers, male and female carrying their guns, ultra-orthodox men with black hats and women with long skirts, teen-agers in mini-skirts, Muslim women with heads covered. It is a colorful, ancient, modern city where diversity reigns.

That’s what’s going on in Jerusalem.
Mazel Tov to our February/early March B’nai Mitzvahs!

Isabella Tobias will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, February 4th at 10am. Mazel Tov to Isabella and her family!

Aidan Mann will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, February 11th at 10am. Mazel tov to Aidan and his family!

Jacob Cohen, born on January 21, 2004 will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 18th, 2017 at 10am. Mazel Tov!

Ty Feiler is a 7th grader at Rumson Country Day School. He lives on a farm in Colts Neck and enjoys working on the farm, especially tending to his flock of sheep that now totals 31.

Ty enjoys playing football, basketball and lacrosse. He loves to spend time in Montana with his family. In addition to his parents, Aaron and Kerri, Ty has an older sister, Morgan, and a younger brother, Cameron.

Ty will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 4th at 10am.

Mazel Tov to Ty and his family!

From Kerry Krachman, Social Action Chair

Please help our neighbors and members of our community by donating hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant and toilet paper for MRT's Hygiene Drive. These donations will benefit Family Promise and The Center in Asbury Park. Family Promise is a non-profit organization that assists local families who are homeless, assisting them during the transition period while seeking permanent housing. The Center provides support services for people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers.

The Hygiene Drive is in conjunction with our Social Action Shabbat on Friday, February 24th, where there will be a special presentation by Danny Siegel, fondly referred to as the Mitzvah Maniac. We will be collecting hygiene items through the month of February. Please deposit your donations in the box inside the coat room.

Thank you in advance for your support!
Please join us for our very first Women’s Rosh Chodesh service led by Cantor Clissold!

We will meet for schmoozing, snacking, some learning
and a service for the new month!

Please bring a snack or dessert to share

Date: February 26th

Time: 5 PM

Host: Kay Wiesenfeld


Please...

RSVP to sisterhood@monmouthreformtemple.org
Diapers generously donated from MRT members were delivered to the Jersey Shore Dream Center for families in need. Pictured: Jill Austin, Alana Gaudette and Cheryl Gaudette

SISTERHOOD, Karen Kahn, President

Sistahs,

We had a great game night at Anne's for our January "in and about" - We will try to schedule another one soon, a it was really fun!

The Tennis Social is Saturday, February 25th, 7-11 PM at Colts Neck Racquet Club. Please RSVP ASAP if you haven't done so already. Also, We will be having our first Women's Rosh Chodesh event at Kay's house, lead by Cantor Clissold. This should be a wonderful event of learning and socializing. Please join us at 5pm on Sunday February 26th!!

Looking forward into March, we are going to be sending out the Shl’ach Manot flyer soon for our annual Purim fundraiser, so keep an eye out for it, especially as we will need volunteers to prepare the goodie bags

Please remember to renew your sisterhood membership for the 16-17 year, if you haven't done so already. We are trying to keep our records current and correct. We start our accounting year in September, but realize that some of you prefer to wait until January, so please send in your dues. Thanks!!

Lastly, I'm so very proud of all the "sistahs" and their families and friends who participated, around the country and the world, in the Women's March on the 21st!

Shalom,
Karen Kahn
Baldwin Davidson Memorial Scholarship Fund
A Message from Sisterhood & Men’s Club

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

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

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

The application deadline is February 15, 2016

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Application Form
Deadline: February 16, 2016  Notification: March 10, 2016

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

Name: ___________________________ Total Cost of Activity: $ ___________________________
Age: _______ Email: ___________________________ Scholarship Request: $ ___________________________
Telephone Number: ___________________________ Deadline for requested funds (if any): ___________________________

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

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
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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
February Yahrtzeits (read date based on when they occur)

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

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

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

Names to be Read on Friday, February 24th (Services at 7pm)
Edythe Albert, Rae Barshack, Lillian Bernstein, Abraham Bialy, Casper Boyer, Jose Colmenares, Jean Fiegelman, Marjorie Fishman, Seymour Grauer, Philip Kalb, Celia Karlman, Freida Kirschner, Andrea Malek, Anne Marriner, Beverly Maurer, Rita Mercedes McWilliams, Maurice Meyer Jr., Jean Morse, George Moss, Jr., Lillian Portman, Harry Rubenstein, Rose Schiller, Ida Schlisserman, Louis Schneider, Beatrice Silverman, Max Walsky, Louise Zarin

The Congregation mourns the loss of Robert Rosenberg

May his memory be a blessing
### The Congregation Acknowledges with Thanks the Following Contributions:

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<th>Fund</th>
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<td>Anne Goodman for all her hard work for our Chanukah party</td>
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<td>Scholar-in-Residence Fund</td>
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<td>Have you purchased a Brick on our Walkway yet?</td>
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**In HONOR of:**
Graduations, Weddings, Anniversaries  Confirmations, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Special Birthdays, etc.

**In MEMORY OF:**
Those you love. Or other wording you desire.
Then you and others will enjoy seeing them while walking the path when at Temple.
Purchases by individuals or groups are welcome $100/brick, 5 bricks for $400.

*Please contact the MRT office for more information!*

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# February 2017

For the most up-to-date info

[www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar](http://www.monmouthreformtemple.org/calendar)

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<td>4pm 4th Grade Siddur Ceremony</td>
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<td>9am Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>7:30pm Shpiel</td>
<td>TU B’shevat Seders</td>
<td>4pm Religious School</td>
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<td>7pm Exec Comm</td>
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Let my market knowledge, online resources and personal service work for you.