



THE MRT BULLETIN

February 2020 / Shevat-Adar 5780 / Volume LXII Issue I

SHABBAT SERVICES

February 7 at 6 PM
First Friday Family
Shabbat Service &
Dinner

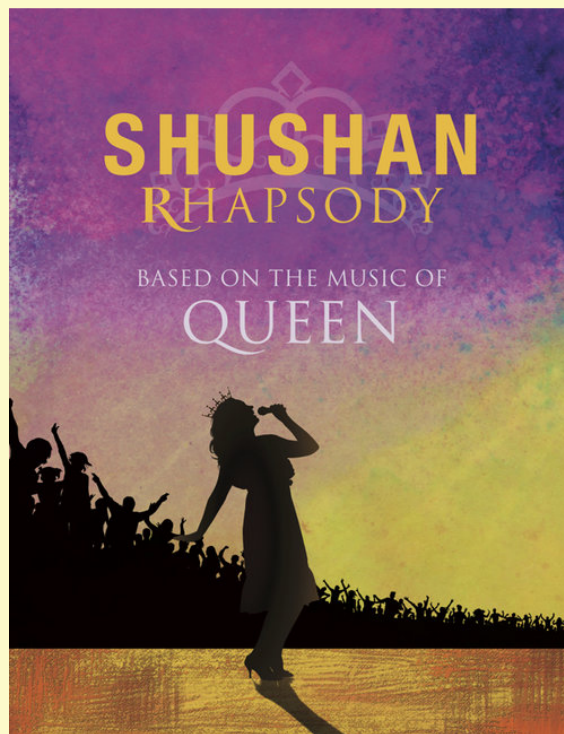
February 14 at 7 PM
Boy Scout Shabbat
Service

February 21 at 7 PM
Shabbat Service

February 28 at 7 PM
Shabbat Service

March 6 at 6 PM
First Friday Family
Shabbat Service &
Dinner

March 13 at 7 PM



MRT's ANNUAL PURIM PARTY

featuring our spiel,

Shushan Rhapsody

based on the music of QUEEN!

Saturday, March 7 at 7:00 PM

Visual Worship
Shabbat

March 20 at 7 PM
Sisterhood & Men's
Club Shabbat Service

March 27 at 7 PM
Shabbat Service

**Enjoy a catered Mexican dinner and let's
have some laughs as we celebrate Purim!**

Cost is \$10 per person

Please RSVP by March 2

Click here to email: shari@monmouthreformtemple.org

or call 732-747-9365

When attending all events at MRT, please do not wear perfumes or colognes. They can trigger allergies, migraines or other serious health-related illnesses. Please also silence your cell phones and be considerate not to distract other people sharing experiences in our sacred home.



FROM THE RABBI

Rabbi Marc Kline

Rabbi Akiva was one of the great sages of all Jewish history. Roughly 2000 years ago, he found his way from being at best a secular and surly shepherd to becoming a revered teacher of Torah. The Midrash teaches us that part of his epiphany came from watching water droplets impact a rock. He saw the water falling on a huge stone – drip, drop – and directly where the drops were falling there was a deep hole in the stone. The shepherd was fascinated. He gazed at the drops and at the stone. “What mighty power there is in a drop of water,” thought the Akiva. “Could my stony heart ever be softened up that way?” With that opening of his spirit, he left shepherding and went to study Torah and came back years later with thousands of his own students following him.

We walk sightless among miracles. Amazing things happen just under our noses, and yet, we will live our entire lives never noticing. We get so caught up in the rat-race of our calendars, political disputes, jobs, running family everywhere, and sometimes chasing our own insecurities. We try to fill time and space with external forms of affirmation, sometimes too afraid to affirm our self-worth. We are good and we are valuable but we do not take the time to affirm and celebrate the blessings in our lives and the ones that we get to share with others. Think about the power of the rock that changed Akiva's life. It is strong and resolute. The narrative of this rock can play out in one of two ways. One can argue that being vulnerable puts one at risk of being carved up. The best answer would be to shield one's self from the water or any other element.

Another way of seeing this story teaches us to be open to change - especially within ourselves. The rock is secure in its place and yet, it freely yields to the drop of water that gets to dance on its surface and creates a work of art carved into its very being. The rock is our often hardened heart. The water is the source of love and inspiration that sets us free.

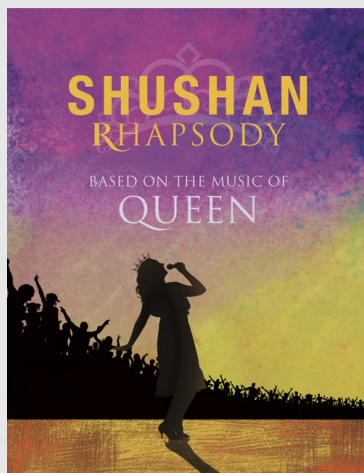
Each of us is that rock. Each of us has the capacity to move someone else's heaven and earth simply by being strong, visionary, and engaging. Each of us needs to find a place in spirit where we can stand whole and at the same find ways to evolve our ways of seeing ourselves in the world with each other. We need to find new ways to understand our respective value in the world and celebrate how it best plays out in ways that enhance everyone's world.

February is the shortest month of the year. "Rabbi Tarfon said: 'The day is short, and the work is plentiful. The reward is great, and the master of the house is insistent.'" (Pirke Avot) We cannot put self-appreciation off until tomorrow. We cannot wait until tomorrow to show appreciation for those around us. We cannot wait until tomorrow to do the work of bringing peace. As to each of these calls to action, we must remember that for many, there may not be a tomorrow. We are blessed every day. Let us live just that way.



A NOTE FROM THE CANTOR

Cantor Gabrielle Clissold



PURIM IS COMING!

Join the cast of this year's Purim Spiel

Shushan Rhapsody

based on the music of QUEEN!

To be cast, you **MUST** be present at the first rehearsal
on **Thursday, February 6 at 7 PM.**

Rehearsals continue on Thursdays at 7 PM:

*February 13, February 20,
February 27, and March 5*

DRESS REHEARSAL IS SATURDAY,
MARCH 7 AT 5 PM BEFORE THE PREFORMANCE AT 7 PM.

IMPORTANT:

Please RSVP to the office ASAP if you will
attend the first rehearsal, so that Cantor Clissold
knows who will be there for casting.

[Click on this link to RSVP](#) or call 732-747-9365



FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Magda Reyes

Here at MRT, First Fridays are Friday evening family friendly Shabbat services with a twist. Some First Friday services have a theme, such as the education Shabbat, when we engaged the congregation in learning and changed the typical Shabbat format into *chevruta* (study groups) style study groups. Once a year we celebrate our obsession with football and come to services wearing our favorite team's football jersey in support of the SuperBowl. A few times during the year we welcome our Religious School students on the bimah to lead the congregation with songs and worship. And sometimes we get shaken up by our students' words.

Last month's First Friday Shabbat was led by the members of our senior youth group, SMaRTY. As part of the service, the teens offered their commentary on the week's Torah portion. They chose a theme for the service - *Unity* and shared their thoughts on the topic. Hope Schneider touched us all when she read:

We teach our kids the difference between right and wrong from an early age, but don't practice what we preach. Why are we telling our kids stories about true love and then making them turn away when we see a gay couple in public? If anyone can shoot for their dreams then why are more than twice the amount of black people

unemployed compared to white on a national level? Why are wars being fought because one person sees God differently than another?

For as bleak as the world may be right now, for some reason it seems that we have never been more divided. The fact that people even have to protests for the rights of others is horribly sad. The fact that we are trying to convince world leaders that the state of our entire planet is more important than the economy of one species is even sadder. We all need unity to cooperate. And that's why we aren't cooperating. Because we lack unity. In the past, war has been what brought countries together. But aren't we supposed to be civil? There are better ways to bring each other together than killing one another. Education is the key to unity. But not biased education. Not education motivated by society's current laws and limitations. Because that is how education has been done for a while, and never has it benefited the minority. Education rooted in perspective is what we need more than ever. We all need to see with our own eyes instead of being told what to see by others. We aren't blind, just misguided.

(by Hope Schneider, 10th grade)

Our young people are our future. Judging from her comments I am confident teens like Hope and her peers from the MRT Youth group are part of the next generation that will work for a just and peaceful future.

Best,
Magda

Join us for Bagels 'n Blocks or Keshet Kids!

- **Bagels 'n Blocks** - for babies to about 3 years old and their parents
- **Keshet Kids** - for 4 and 5 year olds

Registration is required.



JEWISH PROGRAMMING
for all ages
contact Magda Herz at magda@monmouthreformtemple.org

Bagels 'n Blocks
A program for children under 4 & their parents. At each session, your little one will discover a new PJ Library book, or traditions. No RSVP is required.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR BAGELS & BLOCKS
+ open to anyone raising a Jewish child

JOIN US ON

9/22	2/23	11/2
10/20	3/29	12/6
11/24	4/26	3/8
12/15	5/17	4/18
1/26	SPECIAL DATES	

Both programs have a **9:30 AM** and **11:30 AM** meeting time

SPONSORED BY:
MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE
PJ Library
The Heart of New Jersey

KESHER KIDS
A transitional program for Pre-K children (4 years old) and their parents. The first 30 minutes of each session is combined with Bagels & Blocks. Then your child will head to their own classroom to spend an hour with a teacher following our play-based Jewish program. Registration is required.

\$100 registration fee for Keshet Kids

MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE
332 Hance Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ
www.monmouthreformtemple.org
732.747.9365



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marjorie Wold

Back in early December, I flew out to Chicago for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial conference. What is a Biennial, some of you might be wondering? Well, the Biennial is an amazing gathering of Reform Jews across the country in one large set of meeting rooms and halls ready to pray together, study together, and schmooze together. Guess what? You all can go too! (More on that later).

At Biennial you get to listen to various “experts” in fields of Judaism, ranging from immigrant rights to financial structures to leadership models to LGBTQ inclusion and so much more! I attended with Rabbi Kline, Rabbi Priesand and Judith Rivkin. Some of the fun facts I learned were:

Interfaith: About 72% of Jews are in an interfaith relationship, not necessarily marriage but a committed relationship. Judaism is for people who are doing Jewish things not just for those who are Jewish. Many non-Jews say, “I live Jewishly but I am not a Jew.” It is important to treat interfaith couples as equal to couples who are both Jewish. The rabbi of a congregation takes a strong role in creating Jewish ideas, trends, and leadership models. It is up to the Board of Trustees and other leaders to move forward with engaging practices of welcoming and acceptance. Even the word “interfaith” was challenged at this session.

In fact, the experts said, interfaith acceptance should be a core mission of a synagogue. “Be bold and inclusive. Engagement should be the focus.” Are we doing this at MRT? I know we are trying. I invite your comments. In reaching out and welcoming interfaith couples, do we let them know what are our ritual practices. Only 18% of Reform congregations publish these practices on their websites. Is this something we too want to do?

Enriching the Sacred work of Volunteers:

How do we best create leaders at the temple? You don’t walk in the door of MRT and say, hey can I run a committee? One person at my table said that they host a thank you luncheon at someone’s house each year. These “Hineni Awards” thank their volunteers for all that they do.

Another concept: If a program is not working, Don’t Do It! If there is burnout, perhaps a change in direction is what’s in order. Switch it up.

Engaging Millenials and Gen X:

A very engaging trio of young adults talked about how they feel about synagogue life. Two of the three are married with children but one of them said that he might never set foot again in a synagogue building except “if my parents make me”. His mom was sitting next to me!

Pop Up Shabbats are being created at bars and restaurants, where low key “services” offer light Jewish ritual, great food and drinks, and socialization. They cap off the size of the crowd at no more than 50 people for maximum engagement. Rabbis wear name tags with first names only. Schmoozing is casual. They said to keep in mind, Should I create something that I myself would want to attend?

COLLABORATION IS NOT COMPETITION was the overall theme. Try different programs at different places. Many young adults have little money and do not want to make a commitment to a synagogue.

So...where does this leave MRT? I have appointed a task force to re-examine how we welcome and engage our interfaith families by also looking at our by-laws. Do we need the same Board of Trustees structure that we have used for 60 years? Or, will leadership look different in the decade to come?

Our Board Retreat at the end of February will tackle some of these issues and others as we talk about what is our role in the leadership of our synagogue and how we can do our jobs better. In the spirit of transparency and continuing our growth and mission, we are soliciting comments from the congregation as a whole. Please call or email me, woldiem@aol.com, 732-241-9941, OR Stu Tuchband (HR Chair), stuchband@comcast.net, 732-539-3926, before February 18 with any thoughts you'd like to share.

Back to URJ Biennial...this fabulous conference will next be held December 8-11, 2021 at the Gaylord National Resort outside Washington D.C., a car or bus ride from our area. I want more than just a handful of us to represent MRT. There are so many amazing lectures, music, programs, exhibits and much more. Put it on your calendar and join me!

Margie Wold
MRT President



FROM THE SISTERHOOD

Happy Winter! Even though it does not truly feel like it. As a skier, I am looking for the snow. I will continue to keep my fingers crossed.

Sisterhood continues to be busy, busy, busy! Our weekly Mah Jongg game continues to attract attention. We seem to get new women coming to play all the time. We still meet on Tuesday afternoon in the room off the Social Hall from 12:30-2:30. Feel free to contact mrtsister@gmail.com if you are interested in playing.

Another ongoing activity is our monthly book club. In November, Nancy Zaslowe was kind enough to host. It is a great time to have some snacks and discuss the latest book that most of us have read. Many women come and are anxious to share their thoughts and insights about the different aspects of the novel. In December, the lovely hostess Margo Hassan had many of us at her home. It was a potluck dinner that was delicious! Instead of a particular book, we watched the movie *On the Basis of Sex*. This was a wonderful movie based on the life of Ruth Bader Ginsberg. I highly recommend seeing it if you have not had the chance. January's book club was hosted by Cheryl Gaudette. Boy, did she do her homework on this book! She had so much background and additional information to share. She also reached out to the author who responded to her! It was held at MRT since several of the members of the group had asked that we have some of the meetings at the temple. February's meeting will also be at the temple on the 24th. The book is titled *Less*. In March, we are returning to Margo Hassan's on the 30th for a book called *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. Any questions or if you are interested in joining us, please email mrtsister@gmail.com.

Several members of the Sisterhood have been working hard to put together and deliver Welcome Baskets for our new members. There were two opportunities in the Fall when we usually have this occur once every six months. Happily, we have had so many new members join that we had to double our efforts. The next round of baskets will be put together and delivered in the Spring. Again, if you are interested in being a part of this, please email us and let us know. We are always looking for wicker baskets that can be reused. If you have some you do not need, please bring them to the temple and put them in the coat closet for us to use. Thank you to the women who have helped put these baskets together and have delivered them as well.

About once a month, we try to organize a discount movie night at the AMC theater at Monmouth Mall. In December, we had 10 women see the movie *Knives Out*. The general consensus was that we all really enjoyed it. Our next movie night is February 11. We would be happy for you to come join us! Just email mrtsister@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

Many of you and your families may have attended our annual Chanukah party that we throw jointly with the Men's Club. It was a huge success as usual! We did not have an empty chair and not much leftover food either. The food was excellent, the service was terrific, and the energy in the room was over-the-top. The room was decorated beautifully and there were many Sisterhood members who came the day before to help set up. A great big thank you to them and again to Linda and Larry Burstein for being the overall chairpeople for the event. They are so dedicated, hard working, and reliable. You two are simply wonderful!

On January 11, we had a terrific time at the MRT family bowling party. It was held at Shore Lanes in Neptune at 7 PM. We filled 4 lanes, had pizza, soda, and snacks along with the bowling, and everyone completely enjoyed themselves. There were many comments requesting us to organize it again. What impressed me most was how helpful and encouraging everyone was with each other.

Coming up: MRT Tennis Social 2/22/20; envelope stuffing for Shalach Manot TBD; baking and preparing Shalach Manot on 3/4/20 and 3/5/20. Pick up for the Shalach Manot will be Friday-Sunday Mar 6-8. On 3/15/20 there will be a White Elephant Bingo; 3/20/20 is the Sisterhood/Men's club shabbat; 3/21/20 is Pickleball for all; and 3/29/20 is the Women's Sedar at MRT.

Mark your calendar with all the great activities and send us an email with any questions or to let us know you will be joining us. We are always looking forward to the activities we participate in with such wonderful women from Monmouth Reform Temple.

With warmth and strength,
Ellen Goldberg
Nancy Zaslowsky
Sisterhood co-presidents

Send **Shalach Manot** to Family, Friends, MRT staff or teachers!



One of the sweetest Purim traditions is sending gifts of food and drink. To quote Uncle Mordecai: "They were to observe Purim as days of feasting and merriment and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another..." [Esther 9:22].

New this year, Sisterhood will bake all the hamentashen!

Shalach Manot: Why we do it!

This is the primary fundraiser of the year for MRT Sisterhood. Joining in the Shalach Manot exchange helps subsidize many MRT and Religious School programs. These are gifts of good will and celebration for those you love, wish to thank, work with, or would like to get to know.

Shalach Manot: How to Do It!

Use the attached list to select those whom you wish to send a gift.

Check off the names and tally up the total.

Bring or send the tallied pages along with your check and tally to the MRT office

by **Wednesday, February 19th** ...No Lollygaggers allowed😊

Recipients will receive one package with a note listing the names of all who gifted them!

Pick up is at MRT at Services 3/6, Saturday 3/7 at the Purim Spiel, or Sunday 3/8 during Religious School or the Purim Carnival, or throughout the next weekin the temple office. They will no longer be available after March 13th.



Cost:

\$5 per recipient

\$36 for ten (10) recipients

\$108 for the entire MRT community

And Back by Popular demand

Take home boxes of **Homemade** Hamentashen (1 dozen) ...**\$10.00** each

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

Wednesday, February 19th

Please make check payable to MRT Sisterhood and include your tally form.

Drop or mail to MRT office, 332 Hance Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

[Click Here for Shalach Manot Order Form](#)

The Next Event is Sunday, February 9, 2020

Monmouth Reform Temple Series for Parents Presents...

BALANCING ACT

REDISCOVERING YOURSELF WITHIN THE CHAOS

If your idea of self-care involves taking a shower with the door closed, then we hope you'll join us for our series about finding balance and developing strategies to maintain your health and sanity!

SAVE THESE DATES!

ALL SESSIONS RUN FROM 9:30-11:30AM

JANUARY 12th – WORK/LIFE BALANCE

MRT's own Ellie Bates will offer real solutions to bringing back equilibrium when life gets out of whack!

FEBRUARY 9th – CONSCIOUS PARENTING

Join parenting expert Sarah Ahmed as we learn how to embrace love and connection with our kids, while still making space for ourselves.

MARCH 25th – THE SANDWICH GENERATION

Dr. Judy Kramer will help us navigate the tension created as we begin caring for aging parents while raising our kids.

Please RSVP to magda@monmouthreformtemple.org



Monmouth Reform Temple

332 Hance Avenue

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Marc. A. Kline, Rabbi

732-747-9365

www.monmouthreformtemple.org

PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 24, 2020

CONTACT: Shari Nightingale

732-747-9365; shari@monmouthreformtemple.org

*Celebrated Jewish
Author and
Professor Rabbi
David Ellenson will
speak at a special
all-day seminar at
Monmouth Reform
Temple on Saturday,
February 29. The
public is welcome.*



MRT Hosts Seminar by Celebrated Jewish Author and Professor

Tinton Falls: On Saturday, February 29, Monmouth Reform Temple (MRT) hosts Rabbi David Ellenson for a series of lectures from 10:30 to 4:30 pm. The Shabbat Kallah event is sponsored by the MRT Adult Education Committee and also features a Friday, February 28, Shabbat at 7 pm when Rabbi Ellenson will be introduced. The rabbi is the Chancellor-Emeritus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he served as president from 2001 to 2013. MRT is located at 322 Hance Avenue in Tinton Falls. Non MRT members are welcome but asked for a donation of \$15 for the Saturday program which includes a complimentary lunch. All donations are welcome and support the continuation of adult educational programs at MRT. Interested parties are asked to call or email their RSVP to the MRT office at info@monmouthreformtemple.org; 732-747-9365.

The seminar is divided into three segments. From 10:30 am to 12 noon, Rabbi Ellenson will focus on "Sources of Jewish Spirituality. Following lunch, from 1:15 to 2:45 pm, Rabbi Ellenson will address the subject of "Peoplehood" considering what it means to be a Jewish people. At 3:00 to 4:30 pm, the program concludes with the topic entitled "Jews, Israel, and Power: Conflicting American Jewish Positions." This session will explore differing opinions regarding Zionism as well as the historical concept of a Jewish state.

Rabbi Ellenson is also the director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies and is a visiting professor in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. A scholar of modern Jewish thought and history, Rabbi Ellenson is recognized for his writings and has authored or edited seven books and hundreds of article and reviews.

####



THANK YOU TO OUR HIGH HOLY DAY APPEAL DONORS

It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the following 88 Temple and 2 non-Temple households who collectively contributed over \$24,000 to the 2019 High Holy Day Appeal. In a year full of opportunities to show generosity for the programs and services MRT provides, we sincerely appreciate those who have supported the HHDA for the first time and those who have consistently contributed across the years. May we go from strength to strength!

Mark Gruensfelder and Joel Morgovsky HHD Appeal Co-Chairs

Aho, Amy
Avrin, Lawrence & Lois
Baker, Peggy
Baskin, Nancy
Batzar, Seth & Rory
Berman, Alice
Bleetstein, Gary
Brandwene, Martha & McWilliams, Rita
Brawer, Arthur & Carol
Brewer, James & Schneider-Brewer, Monica
Brichke, Jay & Carol
Burns, Linda & Crump, John
Burstein, Larry & Linda
Byck, Donald & Ellen
Chalnick, David & Kim
Christie, John & Joyce
Clissold, John & Cantor Gabrielle
Conway, Reid & Sukinik, Amy
Cook, Sanford & Harriet
Coyne, Kevin & Kaye, Jane
Feigus, Jay & Monica
Forman, Brian & Susan
Friedman, Ira & Linda
Gabel, Robert & Roosels, Marianne
Gaudette, Stephen & Cheryl
Gelber, Susan
Gilstein, Zach & Sheila
Glassberg, Phyllis
Goldberg, Jay & Ellen
Goodman, Eleanor

Goodman, Samuel & Anne
Gordon, Lawrence & Shelley
Greenberg, Roslyn
Gruensfelder, Mark & Beverly
Guenzburger, Ernest & Rubinstein, Ellen
Hallard, Wayne & Deborah
Halpern, Jim
Hampel, Daniel & Rose
Hayet, Bob & Mary Beth
Hecht, David & Lia
Heidema, John & Karl, Karen
Hersch, Gary & Vallerie
Hillson, Harry & Dori
Kahn, David
Kahn, Karen
Kaplan, Deanna
Kass, Gerald & Gail
Kezsbom Monahan, Deborah & Monahan, Patrick
Klein, Ronald & Bonnie
Kline, Rabbi Marc & Bernard, Lori
Kosberg, Edward & Sherry
Krachman, Evan & Kerry
Levinsky, David & Karen
Malchman, David
Martin, Susan
McGovern, John & Pam
Melnick, Andrew
Morgovsky, Joel & Marilyn
Pearlman, Marilyn
Pearlmutter, David & Caroline
Perlmutter, Mark & Tsai, Jersey

Rachlin, Marcia
Raybon, Greg & Judy
Reisner, Gerald & Rosalind
Rivkin, Judith
Ross, Dean & Sharyn
Rothman, Donald & Helaine
Rubin, Eleanor
Sachs, Richard & Sheila
Saybolt, Richard & Lori
Schlisserman, David & Michele
Schneider, Scott & Rebecca
Seckular, Corey & Anna
Shagan, Bernard & Phoebe
Spector, Anita
Sperling, David & Rita
St. Lifer, Robert & Susan
Sussman, Robert & Lisa
Topper, Gayle & Robert
Tuchband, Stuart & Cora
Tuller, David & Brenda
Weyser, Perry & Muster, Lynn
Whyman, Susan
Wiesenfeld, Jay & Kay
Wigdortz, Judith
Winkler, Jeffrey & Laura
Wold, Robert & Marjorie
Zaslowsky, Peter & Nancy

Non-Congregant Households

Berlin, Beverly & Bert
Pal, Martin & Mantore, Marlena



60th Anniversary Secure Our Future Campaign

In honor of MRT's 60th anniversary year, The MRT Board of Trustees initiated a drive to raise funds for the MRT Religious School Endowment. We are pleased to report that over 95 families contributed, and the endowment will increase by over \$100,000.

The MRT Religious School Endowment Fund was established in 2017 "to provide ongoing support to the MRT Religious School for the purpose of enabling a rich, engaging educational program focused on growing young adults who have a relevant relationship with their Jewish identity."

We offer our heartfelt thanks to those who honored our MRT community by making a contribution. Of course, additional contributions are greatly appreciated. If you would like more information, please call Margie Wold or Zach Gilstein or send a check made out to MRT with a note specifying it for the Religious School Endowment, or other fund, in honor of our 60th anniversary. We would like to recognize our many contributors. Contributors noted with (**) designated their gift to the RSJP Endowment for the Future.

Menahetet (Principal)

Cantor Gabrielle and John Clissold
Jay and Monica Feigus
Zach and Sheila Gilstein
Judith Rivkin
Eleanor Rubin
Susan Whyman
Marjorie and Rob Wold

Moreh (Teacher)

Rachel and Chris Placitella

Madrich (Teacher Assistant)

Anonymous (1)
Alice Berman
James and Monica Schneider Brewer
Linda Burns and John Crump
Stephen and Cheryl Gaudette
Mark and Bev Gruensfelder
Wayne Hallard
John Heidema and Karen Karl
Rabbi Marc Kline and Lori Bernard
Larry and Paula Metz
Joel and Marilyn Morgovsky
Rabbi Emerita Sally Priesand**
Ellen Rubenstein and Ernie Guenzburger
Lila Singer (**)
Robert and Susan St. Lifer
Jay and Kay Wiesenfeld
Peter and Nancy Zaslowe

Talmid (Student)

Anonymous (1)

Don and Gail Abrams
Brenda Atlast Dingfelder
Philip and Cynthia Auerbach
Peggy Baker
Susan Barr
Ellie Bates
Mitch Baum
Arlene and James Berg
Carol Brawer
Michael and Gabriela Brawer
Phillip and Sandi Bushinger
Donald and Ellen Byck
Liz and William Cohen
Leonard Cohen and Corey Lindner
Congregation B'Nai Israel
Joseph and Stacey Consiglio
Vincent and Brook Coppola
Judy DeVincenzo
Lloyd and Stephanie Fitzsimmons
Robert Gabel and Marianne Roosels
Martin and Bette Gale
Ellen and Jay Goldberg
Barbara Goldstein
Philip and Penny Goodman
Sam and Anne Goodman
Bob and Marybeth Hayet
Gary and Vallerie Hersch
Harry and Dori Hillson
Karen Kahn
Michael and Madelyn Kalb
Jane Kaye and Kevin Coyne
Stephen and Dari Kennedy
Alan and Maxine Klatsky
Leslie Klein
Marianne and Larry Kligman
Jerry Lansky
Doreen Laperdon-Addison
John and Beth Layton
David & Karen Levinsky (**)

Marjorie Levy
Alan and Nance Levy
David Makow
Pam and John McGovern
Brian and Marcy McMullen
James and Gail Newman
Talbot Pratt and Ellen Nash
Marcia Rachlin
Martin Raffel
Judy Raybon
Magda Reyes and Steven Wolfe
Dean and Sharyn Ross
Lois Rossin
Donald and Helaine Rothman
Rich and Sheila Sachs
Scott and Rebecca Schneider
Morton and June Seligman
Karen and Peter Seligman
Bernard and Phoebe Shagan
Lynn Shapiro
Van and Julie Shell
Charles and Caryl Sills
David and Rita Sperling
Jess and Matt Stepanski
Amy Sukinik and Reid Conway
Lisa and Rob Sussman
Bill and Lisa Swanhart
Eva and Fay Szakal
Miriam Tetelbom
Stu and Cora Tuchband
Brenda and David Tuller
Gene and Nadine Vincenzi
Brian and Sally Weisbrot
Menorah Winston
Randolph and Ann Wolf

What Will Your Legacy Be?

I am a strong believer in “paying things forward.” Monmouth Reform Temple, it’s spiritual leaders and fellow congregants have played a very big part in my life. I want to help in my small way to make sure that others who come after me will have that same opportunity. - Lynn Shapiro

The LIFE & LEGACY initiative continues to grow in strength with 49 current donors. The Grinspoon Foundation, which sponsored and supports our initiative, recently awarded MRT \$12,000 for our excellent work in increasing our number of commitments and stewarding our donors.

Now in the the 4th and final year of sponsorship by the Grinspoon Foundation, we are focused on developing a sustainability plan so that work will continue to further develop our growing list of donors. Our work will also continue to focus on stewardship of our donors who have made a loving commitment to sustaining our MRT mission.

We have now established 4 permanent endowments that will help sustain MRT into the future.

- **Rabbi Sally J Priesand (RSJP) Endowment for the Future**
- **Religious School Endowment Fund**
- **Scholar-In-Residence Endowment Fund**
- **Rivkin Summer Camp Endowment Fund**

Legacy commitments or immediate contributions may be designated for any one of these funds or you may discuss another use that would serve your passion for supporting our community into the future. Legacy contributions not designated for a particular fund will be placed in the RSJP Endowment. Please reach out to any one of our LIFE&LEGACY committee members to discuss how you can participate in this mitzvah.

MRT LIFE & LEGACY Committee members:

Zach Gilstein
Joel Morgovsky
Eleanor Rubin
Marjorie Wold
Bob St. Lifer
Rabbi Marc Kline

We gratefully acknowledge the growing list of donors who have made a legacy commitment or immediate significant contribution to one MRT’s permanent endowments.

Rabbi Marc Kline and Lori Bernard
Cantor Gabrielle and John Clissold
Rabbi Emerita Sally J. Priesand
Friends of MRT (5)
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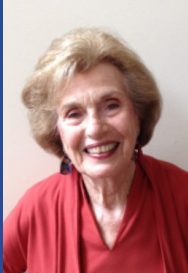
Eleanor Goodman
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Sharon and Dean Ross
Helaine and Don Rothman
Eleanor Rubin

Peter and Nancy Zaslowsky



SHALOM FROM ISRAEL AFFAIRS

Eleanor Rubin, Chair

ISRAEL/PALESTINE CONFLICT A NEW APPROACH

Ali Abu Awwad, the founder of a Palestinian volunteer organization, named Taghyeer, visited Monmouth Reform Temple on Sunday afternoon, January 12. Taghyeer, in Arabic, means Change and that is the mission of the organization. Ali Abu Awwad is in the States on a one month visa to spread the word and to fund raise for the organization.

Ali Abu Awwad is a Palestinian whose anger, as a young man, at the lack of progress in the search for peace and freedom led him to engage in violent encounters with Israeli soldiers and the Israeli establishment. This caused him to spend several years in prison. While in prison, he studied the works of Gandhi, Mandela and Martin Luther King. He spoke of his mother, an activist for the Palestinian cause, who was also arrested and imprisoned for many years by the Israeli government. The two were in different prisons at the same time. Their desire to see each other was continuously denied by the authorities and they finally decided to stage a hunger strike. The hunger strike, a non-violent political act, was the first such experience in the life of Awwad. It did succeed and the two were finally brought together. Awwad then realized that non-violence may bring greater success for peace with Israel than continuous hatred and violent acts which brings only further hatred on both sides.

Taghyeer is a Palestinian civil society movement that aims to create social and political change within local communities. It is not clear how widespread the activity is nor what the reaction, if any, is of the leadership of the country. The hope is that a changed populace working together will have the strength to forge a path committed to ending the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. According to the mission of the organization, messengers of Change work with small groups to promote community-led social action. The aim is to empower the leadership of women and youth to enhance basic human services in the community and improve the environment through cooperative action. Awwad stressed the need for change in attitude of the average Palestinian to give up the sense of victimhood and replace it with a sense of self respect and realization that they themselves can improve the quality of their lives. There is a strong emphasis on furthering education of the population. He spoke of occasions when groups of Israelis work with groups of Palestinians getting to know each other, recognizing each other as family units, parents with children. Both groups share their experience with pain and sorrow during times of conflict. Working together in the name and cause of peace is the hope of a better future. Awwad has been quoted as saying "Our role is not to dialog forever. What we need to do for peace, not only building a non-violent identity, but creating a mass movement on the ground where hundreds of thousands of people will come to the street to force the political leadership

to find a solution that we all benefit from.” Under the principles of a Palestinian Nonviolence Charter organizations come together to build partnerships that can lead to peace .

Similar activities are taking place within Israel where a new direction taken by communities brings Palestinians and Israelis together as ordinary people who wish to live in peace with the other. Awwad concluded his talk by expressing the fact that 70 years of conflict and hatred has not brought peace . Now is an opportunity to Change toward nonviolence and community building with understanding and respect for all. Perhaps a grassroots movement can accomplish what world leadership has not. Results remain to be seen.



THE CARING COMMITTEE IS BACK AT MRT

We are reactivating the Caring Committee, and are inviting Temple members to join us in this important endeavor. The goals of this committee it to identify and provide support for our members and their families in their time of need.

- **We will help provide transportation to Temple functions**
- **Visit Temple members who are hospitalized or homebound**
- **Coordinate babysitting and meal preparation.**
- **Provide telephone support when needed.**
- **Provide support for bereaved families when needed**
- **Send supportive notes to members when needed.**
- **Visit Jewish patients at Riverview Medical Center on Mondays (training will be provided.)**

We are hoping to expand our committee. Thank you to all our members who have continued to be available to support our endeavors.

Please contact Helaine Rothman by email Rothman@gmail.com or via phone (732)842-7639 for questions or information.



GAN MAZON / GARDEN OF PLENTY 2020 EARLY GARDEN SEASON UPDATE



Eric Nathanson, Director

All Harvests Donated to Local Food Pantries!!

The 2020 Gan Mazon gardening season is off to an excellent start! After a busy holiday season, we were unexpectedly blessed with some unseasonably warm weather and a most welcome donation from our friends in Tinton Falls. The Tinton Falls Department of Public Works once again came through with a much needed donation of rich leaf compost that has been moved into the garden in preparation for the early spring planting season.

This gives us a great kick-start in meeting the needs of our friends at Jewish Family Services in Asbury Park and Open Doors in Freehold. Many thanks to our volunteers that showed up recently to cart the compost into the garden and make ready for the Spring planting season. Gloria and Charlie Gross, Lloyd Fitzsimmons, David Kahn, David Levinsky, and Wayne Hallard are all recognized for their ongoing support of our collective mission at Gan Mazon. Now that the grounds have been made ready, seeds will be ordered so we can make ready for planting this spring. While the bar was set very high last year under the direction of David Levinsky and Gloria Gross, I hope to shatter those achievements and make an even greater charitable contribution to our communities in need.

Fingers crossed!!

As always, volunteers and donations of any kind are most welcome and needed. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss our mission with Gan Mazon...a Mitzvah Day opportunity to work in the garden is coming your way soon so stand by for future opportunities!



TENNIS & PICKLEBALL FUN

Get Some **LOVE** at the
6th Annual MRT Tennis Social
All Levels, Non-players and Non MRT Members WELCOME!

Saturday, February 22nd at 6:45-10:00 PM
at Colts Neck Racquet Club



You can learn to stay out of the Kitchen.

Play **Pickleball** instead.



Join MRT members as you learn about the
fastest growing sport in the United States.

We are having a
Pickleball Social
on March 21st at the Colts Neck Racquet Club.

Here are the details:

Time: 7-10 pm

Cost: \$50 pp for instruction, play and food
\$25 pp to hang out, socialize and eat.

Interested? Please RSVP to
Bev Gruensfelder, Bgruensfelder@aol.com
or 732-544-9138
so we can hold your spot!





**MRT SUPPORTS BRIDGE OF BOOKS FOUNDATION IN ITS EFFORTS
TO INCREASE LITERACY OPPORTUNITIES TO THE UNDERSERVED
THROUGH ONGOING COMMUNITY BOOKDRIVE**

This past Fall MRT's Social Action Committee voted to approve an ongoing book drive to support Bridge of Books Foundation (B.O.B). Through word of mouth, friends and family of MRT members, as well as an Oceanport Public Library representative, heard about our efforts and their additional book donations increased our totals. Spreading the word about B.O.B not only supports MRT's social action efforts but reinforces the fact that B.O.B. is a worthwhile organization- a community resource both locally and statewide.

Magda Reyes, religious school Principal and Karen Seligman, Chair of Religious Education, have led previous book drives connected with MRT's FlameFest. Our students and their families have donated over 3000 books so far! On December 15th, thanks to our religious school students and parents in addition to Rabbi's Tuesday morning study group participants and those that remain anonymous, 659 books were collected! Children's books were packed up and delivered the next day to B.O.B.'s holding facility in Holmdel. It is there that books will subsequently be sorted and delivered to needy students across our state.

It's inspiring to see what our "community of caring and kindness" can do together. The core belief of B.O.B. is to make sure that children have a book to call their own- a luxury that our own children and grandchildren experience daily! To own a book that can be held and read is to open minds.

Let's continue to recycle preschool through high school grade books for those who are lacking such luxuries! (No coloring books or books that are missing parts or that have non-operational batteries) They must be in good condition. Bring books to our temple library bin designated for "Bridge of Books". Can't deliver the books? - Please contact Maddy Kalb or Sheila Levin. Monetary donations are accepted and checks should be made payable to: "Bridge of Books Foundation". The money collected will be used to purchase books. Check out their website for additional background information: bridgeofbooksfoundation.org. B.O.B. flyers are on display in the Temple lobby to pass along to your neighbors, family and friends, work colleagues.

Thanks to everyone involved in this ongoing MRT activity.

THE CONGREGATION EXTENDS ITS CONDOLENCES TO:

Chris Devine, brother of Dori Hillson
Rita Goodman, mother of Rory Batzar

Yahrzeits (read date based on when they occur)

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

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 AT 6 PM

Louis J. Fox, Morris Kosberg, Roslyn Lissner, Susan Marx, Steven Weyser, John Fiorino, Jack Lipsky, *Max Mausner, *Harry Obstgarten, Sanford Rems, Sarah Laperdon, *Carole Littenberg, Natalie Friedman, *Rose Samo, Beatrice Herz, Abraham Josephson, David Allen Kline, Elsie Mazzarella, Solomon Rems, Ruth Stone, Matilda Tell, *Isadore Abramowitz, Benjamin Roffman, Samuel D. Shagan, Rose Tiplitz, *Sara Brightman, *Jill L. Butler

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2020 AT 7 PM

*Lynn Sternberg Donlan, Regina (Cookie) Gillian, Gladys Goldberg-Daly, Robert Misch, Felice Nifoussi, *Samuel Taksel, Marcia Burstein, *Eva Rotman Lite, Beverly Maurer, *Milton Morris Iain Thomlinson *Charles Wallerstein Shirley Weyser *Henrietta A. Feigus *Rose Littman Estelle Marimow
*Bob Rosin *Robert Salomon, Charles Feldman, Phyllis Gordon, Lester Reiss, *Henry Schwartzman, Dorothy Sikora, *Rebecca Wagner, Florence Snyder, Tom Dorf, Alfred Jampol, *Florence Kridel, *Philip Miller, Ellinor G. Newman, Jack Rosen, Morris Rosenberg, Florence Grieco, Theo Jennings, *Sharon Renee Offenhenden, Frances Sporn, Jean Stark, *Lillian Trubin, Sylvia Gordon, Sadie Kosberg, John Stern

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020 AT 7 PM

*Bernard Brandwene, Phyllis Brodsky, *Marvin L. Kahn, Joan Litwin, Joseph Friend, Lillian Kawalick, Joseph Michalowicz, *Rosalind Sadwith, Florence Ulanet, *Celia Karlman, *Samuel Prusoff, *Lillian Bernstein, Marjorie Fishman, *Maurice Meyer Jr., *Max Walsky, Casper Boyer,
*Jose Colmenares, Freida Kirschner, Rae Barshack, Alan Gottlieb, Rita Mercedes McWilliams, Jean Fiegelman, Andrea Malek, Jean Morse

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020 AT 7 PM

*Abraham Bialy, Anne Marriner, Louise Zarin, Edythe Albert, George Moss, Jr., Rose Schiller, Ida Schlisserman, *Beatrice Silverman, John Richardson Clissold, Seymour Grauer, Phillip Kalb, Raymond Misch, Louis Schneider, *Dave Andersen, Rita Bleetstein, *Neil Brandwene,
Dorothy Gary. Melvin Nathanson, Leonard Quitt, James Rickard, Joe Friend Jr., Jean Jochnowitz, Rose Levinsky, Reba Levin, Sylvia Carter, *Harry Scherman, Sophie Wald

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020 AT 6 PM

William B. Arend, Henry Ganz, Donald J. Hallard, *Bernard Mausner, Lawrence Parkinson, Frances F. Singman, Morris Bogdonoff, Donald S. Golden, *Ida Huber, David Kaplan, Leo A. Kauffman,
Edward Kawalick, Ruth Rekedal, Sylvia Sachs, Henry Weyser, Alex Colin, Samuel Deutsch, Malcolm Fidell, Rose Field, Gaetano Labombarda, *Bessie Schwartz, Abraham Bogdonoff, Martin Cole, Hannah Lowenstein, *Sadie Metz, Samuel Milchman, Irving Spumberg, *Lois Blonder Max Leo Brown, *Murray Kipnis, *Beatrice Ruby, *Martin A. Brousell, Joel Gruskin, Joseph Perlman, Sylvia Kroen

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020 AT 7 PM

Frank Abrams, *Jay T. Feigus, Phyllis Misch, Michael Ruby, Alice Schneider, *Greta Singer, Paul Topper, Annette Wrobel, Michele Cooper, Siegmund Rath, Paul B. Snyder, William Doolan Jr., Elaine Rennert, Benjamin Ross, Kim Ross, Etta Schatten, Mae Sperling, *Irving Cohen, Bertha Greenberg, Mildred Kantor, *Max Tanenbaum, Evelyn Fryman, Martin Metz, Walter Parkinson, Laurie Rosen, Marilyn Graboyes, Beverly Lerner, David Pintow, Mollie Waller, Solomon Attias, *Rose Blonder, John Stokes Phillips, *Harriet Weiss

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020 AT 7 PM

Carol Nash, Rose M. Friedman, Gerard Hauptman, Doris Hayet, Michael R. Simon, Blanche Civins, Adolf Klein, *Samuel Blonder, *Meyer Smolensky Collis, Loretta Stein, Alter Epstein, Murry L. Shektman, Steven Eugene Lande, Jane Medalie, *Jacob Talberth, Leah Haback, *Doreen Harran, Alexander Kaplan, Cindy Jennings Kline, Rita Levy, *Sharon Priesand, Jacob Rubinstein, Ronald Schor

NAMES TO BE READ ON FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020 AT 7 PM

Charles Baron, *Samuel Mausner, Ira Walker, Abner Gitlin, Edward Greenberg, *Michael Mintzer, Robert Teitelbaum, John Leverett, Rose Schechter, Jean Bosonac, Tina Karl, *Hyman Karlman, Gail Lazar, Laura Munter, Jacob Osofsky, Catherine R. Ricklin, *Isidore Grossman, Morris Grossman, *Claire Mausner, *Helen Nusbaum, Ralph Uhrmacher, Mark Vickers, C.K. Conklin, Fannie Copley, Herbert H. Gershan, Jack A. Leeds, Howard Schneider, Frank Haratz, *Theodore Tully Rubin, Eunice Stein, Beverly Wolf

*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. Cost per plaque is \$400.

DONATIONS

Adult Education Fund

In memory of Sylvia Davis - Judith Wigdortz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Michael Horn and Frances Horn - Susan Gelber
In memory of Henry Miller - Helene & David Miller
In memory of Robert Rechnitz - Don & Ellen Byck
In memory of Howard Strauss - Amy & Michael Unterman
In memory of Charles Gelber and Getrude Gelber - Susan Gelber

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Emanuel Marks - Ellie Goodman
In memory of Leroy Sachs - Mary Beth and Bob Hayet
In memory of Harold Grauer, Dorothy Grauer and Philip Kalb
In memory of Isabel Colmenares and Jose Colmenares - Linda Burns
In honor of Cantor Gabrielle Clissold - The Scurletis Family

Garden Walkway

In memory of Joan & Jay Manache - Karen & Steve Medlin

Rabbi Sally J Priesand (RSJP) Endowment for the Future

In memory of Irving Priesand and Earl Priesand - Rabbi Sally Priesand

In memory of Ben Frankel - Susan Frankel

Donation from Cantor Menorah Winston

Religious School Endowment Fund

In honor of the naming of Eloise Gilstein - The Wold Family

Sababa Summer Fund

In memory of Evan Sanford Goodman - Anne & Samuel Goodman

Baldwin Davidson Scholarship Fund

In honor of Andrew Davidson's 60th Birthday - Catherine Daniels

Sisterhood College Scholarships

In memory of Tillie Greenberg and Beverly Maurer - Ellen & Jay Goldbeg

Youth Group Fund**Library Fund**

In memory of Bernard Levy - Marjorie Levy

Oneg Fund

In memory of Florence Snyder and Tom Dorf - Margorie & Robert Wold

Homeless Fund:

In memory of Robert Rosenberg - Phyliss Rosenberg

In memory of Rose Bette Kosberg Brinkmann - Edward Kosberg

In memory of Hi Goldstein and Fred Straus - Bobbie Goldstein

In memory of Eleanor Peskoe - Al Peskoe

In memory of Theodore Choate - Robin & Herman Sklarin

In memory of Ruth Grandstrom - Kay & Jay Wiesenfeld

In memory of Dennis Malloy - Michelle Pearlman

In memory of Leroy Sachs - Anita Spector

General Fund:

In memory of David Kline and Cindy Kline - Lois Kline

In memory of Philip Schlisserman - David Schlisserman

In memory of Eleanor Peskoe - Al Peskoe

In memory of Leroy Sachs - The Brewer Family

In memory of Pearl Katz, Sal Katz, Rose Schiller, Phil Schiller

In memory of Richard Gaudette - Stephen & Cheryl Gaudette

In memory of Matthew Bauer - Paul & Margaret Bauer

In memory of Sol Mandel - Irwin & Ruth Mandel

In honor of the Birth of Eloise Gilstein - Zach & Sheila Gilstein

Donation from Idanna & James Appio

Scholar-in-Residence Fund:

In memory of Harriet Hetchkop - Margie & Robert Wold

In memory of Joel Wiesenfeld - Kay & Jay Wiesenfeld

Mazon Fund

In memory of Howard Bodner and Max Bodner - Sheila Bodner

In memory of Tillie Greenberg and Beverly Maurer - Ellen & Jay Goldberg

In memory of Marvin Granstrom - Kay & Jay Wiesenfeld

Arts & Decorations Fund

In memory of Howard Semer - Susan Martin

Prayer Book Fund

In memory of Arthur Harmon - Gail & Gerald Kass

Caring Network

In memory of Paula Wiesenfeld - Kay & Jay Wiesenfeld

In memory of Rita Goodman - The Nightingale Family

Sisterhood Helps

In memory of Linda Kosene - Alan Kosene

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732-747-9365

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