

-- MLRT in Morocco

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Entire group in the Slat Al Fassiyine Synagogue in Fez. King Muhammad VI decreed that all the country's synagogues be refurbished and serve as centers for cultural dialogue.



Whirlwind trip took our group through Fez, Marrakech, Rabat, Sahara, and more!



Visiting "Hollywood in the Desert", where Ben Hur, Game of Thrones, and more were filmed



A Jew is not Allowed to be Tired



Rabbi David Straus

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, last month Lynne and I were blessed to lead a congregational journey to Morocco. Morocco was once home to the largest Jewish community in the Arab world. Today, there are fewer than 5,000 Jews left in Morocco, and some estimate the number to be as small as 2,500. Many of the Jewish sites we visited were long abandoned cemeteries, synagogues and schools. The present government of Morocco is heavily investing in restoring and reclaiming Jewish sites. We were told that some 80,000 Israelis visit Morocco each year (more than one million Israelis are from Morocco), and if the rumors about direct flights from Tel Aviv to Casablanca are realized, there is no doubt that number will quickly double or triple. We were also told that nearly half of the Americans who visit Morocco each year,

some 150,000 people, are Jewish. But more than creating tourist sites, the government of Morocco and the King are creating a narrative in which Jews are seen as vital and integral to Morocco's history. As with all narratives, the truth is more complicated, but Morocco does tell a story in which the Jewish community was at the very center of Moroccan culture and society and critical to the development of the economy.

One of the most moving experiences for me was meeting with Jackie Kadosh, the *nasi* or leader of the community in Marrakesh. Today, there are probably fewer than 200 Jews in Marrakesh. When asked where he finds the energy and enthusiasm to do his work, he shared with us these words: "A Jew is not allowed to be tired."

Which brings me to Chanukah. The back story of Chanukah is far more complicated than the narrative we often share with our children, a story of the Macabees defeating the Syrian Greek army, the first fight for religious liberty, and a small cruet of oil lasting miraculously for 8 days instead of one day. But here is the question: Why is Chanukah 8 days long? All agreed the oil would last for one day. What was the miracle of the first day?

I would like to build on what Mr. Kadosh shared with us: "A Jew is not allowed to be tired." The miracle was to act in the face of certain failure; to have the courage and conviction to light the candle in the first place, rather than wait for a new shipment of oil to arrive. I am certain that most people were extremely skeptical: there is no way this oil will last; why bother; let's wait. But the miracle of the first day is the miracle of the courage to stand by our convictions, to take a risk; to bring light and hope and compassion to an all too often dark world.

We live in challenging times. Let us find the courage to be lamp lighters—to bring a little light into our world. Let us live by Mr. Kadosh's words: "A Jew is not allowed to be tired."

For more information about our Chanukah celebrations, please see page 5.

Have you logged in to our exciting new online member portal? Launched at the end of October, this secure system makes it convenient and easy for you to access and update your profile, find others in our member directory, discover information about what's happening in our community, enroll your children in religious school and early childhood education programs and ensure that we are able to serve your interests and needs. Please contact Gil Marder at gmarder@mlrt.org for assistance logging in or using the portal.

In Memoriam

We extend condolences to members of our community on the loss of their loved one

Shelly Cutler Mother of Beth Cutler Lloyd Grandmother of Peri and Jackson Lloyd

Mazal Tov!

Linda Finkelstein and Jeff Bergelson on the marriage of their daughter, Sophie Bergelson, to Jeff Fogleman

Melissa Johnson on her nomination to the URJ Board of Trustees

Michael and Nina Rosenthal on the engagement of their daughter, Nathalie Rosenthal, to Andrew Berman

Tom Weiner on his nomination to the URJ Board of Trustees

The Tzedakah Box



When I attended religious school as a child, I walked into the synagogue every Sunday with coins in my pocket to put into the little blue tzedakah box that my teacher passed around. There was usually a theme or project for which we collected the coins in hopes of making a large charitable contribution at the end of the year. When my children attended religious school, they reminded me each week to give them tzedakah and I happily gave them my loose coins and dollars, knowing that they were learning a valuable lesson about giving to those less fortunate.

How do we as adults remember to give tzedakah? How do we, as a Main Line Reform Temple family, care for the larger community through our own acts of tzedakah? When we as Jews give tzedakah, we not only support people in need, but we view ourselves as distributing our funds as a means of bringing more good into this world.

Moses Maimonides, the great 12th century Spanish rabbi and physician, was an avid follower of Aristotle. Aristotle, in his writings, prompts us to act based on our passions and our inclinations and to think about our "telos", a Greek word meaning purpose. In other words, each of us was put on this earth and we each have some kind of greater purpose. We should figure out what our purpose is and give based on that realization. If you love music, you should give to a musical charity. If you love art, then donate to an art museum. Maimonides internalized this Aristotelian view. In his commentary on the Mishnah, Maimonides wrote, "The saintly man is guided in his actions by that to which his inclination and disposition prompt him." Maimonides also wrote that our charitable giving is a symbol of our Jewish identity. Our giving is deeply personal and it should have meaning. Where we give our money should reflect our personal beliefs and values. It should speak to our telos, our purpose on this earth.

Judaism presents us with a multiplicity of dichotomies, of tensions that we struggle to understand. When it comes to our obligation to give tzedakah, our sacred texts highlight the complex tension between the giver and the recipient. We want to give to organizations that have meaning to us and that are in line with our own values and passions. But we must also reach out and understand the recipient. The poor and needy must not be anonymous figures to us but rather real people with specific needs. We must understand those needs and how to most effectively meet those needs.

While we are fortunate to live in a fairly well to-do community, we have friends and neighbors who need our help. Many are hungry or need clothing or shelter. We pass them as we walk or drive our neighborhood streets. They are not faces without names. To address their needs, Main Line Reform Temple has programs to address food insecurity including sourcing food for food banks, packing and supplying box lunches to families who cannot afford to put three meals on the table each day, providing support for a lunch program during the summer for school age children who receive meals during the school year, and growing and supplying food to the hungry from our summer garden. We also support programs to address illiteracy such as providing volunteer librarians in the public schools in West Philadelphia. We support women's shelters and provide aid to immigrants.

These efforts do not come without significant and meaningful costs. Each year, your membership contributions provide the more than \$2.5 million we spend in support of our core religious mission – that is the equivalent of over \$2,500 per member. And that is before the costs of our Religious School or Early Childhood Education programs, which are partially funded by enrollment fees. I want to again thank you for your membership contributions. However, our efforts to address the social needs of our community, such as hunger and illiteracy, and to provide intellectual and cultural programs require additional funds.

In early December, you will receive this year's MLRT Annual Report and a request to give to our Annual Fund. Tuesday, December 3rd is National Giving Day. I ask you to consider supporting our philanthropic efforts by contributing to our Annual Fund when you make charitable contributions.

If you haven't had a conversation with your family about tzedakah, take this opportunity to do so. Think about your telos, your purpose. I hope that Main Line Reform Temple can help you further your unique mission in this world. We can and should think more seriously and intentionally about our giving. We can have real and meaningful conversations with others about donating to charity and we can bring more tzedek, more justice, more good into this world.

Israel trip December 2020- Looking to visit and experience the beauty of our homeland? Rabbi Geri Newburge is planning a trip to Israel for December 2020 that is open to first timers and return visitors. For more information, please contact Rabbi Newburge at **gnewburge@mlrt.org** or 610-649-7800.



Chanukah, meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, refers to the joyous eight-day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. The modern home celebration of Chanukah centers around the lighting of the chanukiah, a special menorah for Chanukah; unique foods, latkes and jelly doughnuts; and special songs and games.

Lighting the Chanukiah

We begin with one candle on the first night, and add one candle each night for eight nights. In addition, we light the shamash each night which we use to light the other candles. The candles should be added to the menorah from the right to the left, but they are lit from left to right so the kindling begins with the newest light. The blessings are recited each night with the lit shamash in hand, after which the candles are lit immediately. The first two blessings are sung every night, the third only on the first night.

Blessing 1: בָרוּדְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קַדְשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצוָנוּ לְהַדְלִיק גֵר שֶׁל חֵנָבָּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Blessing 2: בָרוּך אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶך הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִים לאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיַּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְמָן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wonderous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

For first night only: בָּרוּך אַתָּה יי אֱלהֵינוּ מֶלֶך הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהֶחֶיָנוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְמַן הַזֶּה

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

Find recipes, videos, songs, and more at reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah

Celebrate Chanukah with MLRT!

Pre-Chanukah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 13 | 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze | 6:30 pm Shabbat Service followed by Potluck Dinner Kick off Chanukah 2019 early with your MLRT family! \$10.30/family, please sign up to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. Registration required at mlrt.org/chanukah. 3% of food costs will be donated to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

Chanukah Party

Sunday, December 22 | 4:00 pm

Join us for a festive Community Chanukah Party before lighting the first candle. We'll have donut decorating, bounce house, latkes, crafts, and more. RSVP to Rabbi Kleinman at **kkleinman@mlrt.org**.

For information on how you can give back this Chanukah, please see the Mitzvah Menorah Collection box on page 12

Photographers and photos needed!

Do you have a passion for photography?

S Are people constantly complimenting your pictures or asking you to take theirs?

IOD Do you want to go to MLRT events and programs for FREE?

We need your help! If you are able to donate some time and would like to be added to our list of in-house photographers, or you have great photos of your family and friends at past events, please email Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing & Communications, at **dchornock@mlrt.org**.

Creating Community

SHABBAT MORNING HIKE

Saturday, December 7 8:30 am MLRT parking lot to carpool 9:00 am Radnor Walking Trail

Enjoy your Shabbat morning surrounded by nature. We will join in prayer and fellowship; no previous experience needed. For more information, contact Rabbi Newburge at gnewburge@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800.



BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, December 9 | 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm Be the lifeline patients need; give blood! Sign up at redcrossblood.org and search by Sponsor Code: MainLineReform, or call 1-800-RedCross. Save time and pre-register at redcrossblood.org/rapidpass.

WARM UP TO WINTER CONCERT

Sunday, December 15 | 10:00 am

Get ready for Chanukah and the long winter season with a rocking concert from Ross M. Levy and Chana Rothman! Bring the whole family for great music with good friends. Free to attend; all are welcome!



BEER CLUB

Sunday, December 15 | 7:00 pm L'chaim! Join your MLRT family for a beer or two at Tired Hands Brew-Cafe in Ardmore. The evening will be a relaxed gathering to explore your love of beer and try something new. Beer Club is open to all MLRT members who enjoy trying and sharing beer.

Questions? Contact Lauren and Matt Baldys at laurenmbaldys@gmail.com.

BERNIE KLEINMAN BROTHERHOOD **BOOK CLUB**

Tuesday, December 17 | 7:30 pm

This month's meeting features David McCullough's The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West. This best-selling novel tells of the Northwest Territory settling by pioneers who overcame incredible hardships to build a community based on ideals that would come to define our country.

MLRT & ZBC CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY May 31- June 2, 2020

Become empowered and inspired to make a difference! Join Rabbi Straus and Reverend Pollard in Atlanta, Birmingham and Selma, and visit the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum, Rosa Parks Museum, Memorial to Justice and Peace, the King Center, Birmingham Civil Rights Museum, and more in this once in a lifetime trip.

Participants will meet with ministers who worked with Dr. King and people who participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery; discuss Jewish involvement in the Civil Rights Movement; and realize that civil rights issues aren't a matter of history but an ongoing issue right now, being fought for by a variety of groups without a voice.

\$915/pp* includes hotel, admissions, food, and busing; airfare is not included. \$250 deposit due by January 15. Questions? Contact Rabbi Straus at dstraus@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800. *double occupancy



Tikkun Olam Network - TON

Our Gun Violence Awareness program was both well attended and well received and we thank Debbie Buchwald and Michelle Hunn for all of their time and effort in planning the night.

Join us at our next meeting on December 15 at 11:15 am as we get down to business in planning our annual Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service. The activities we plan on running are the following:

- 1) Toiletry Package Assembly
- 3) Salad Making

- 5) Plastic Sleeping Mat Making
- 2) Cradles to Crayons Mobile Sorting 4) No Sew Fleece Blankets
- 6) An Animal Activity TBD

If you have any additional ideas for activities or would like to take a leadership during the day, please email us and let us know at listoller@gmail.com or ballenlevy@yahoo.com.

Your TON Chairs, Liz Stoller and Beth Allen

Lifelong Learning



Join us for a very exciting Hassel Lectureat 10:00 am, Sunday, December 8 about the television show *Friends*. Why has it endured for such a long time? Author Saul Austerlitz's new book, <u>Generation</u> Friends: An Inside Look at the Show that Defined a Television Era is a nostalgic look at the blockbuster success of *Friends* including brand new interviews with the series creators. Austerlitz is an adjunct professor of writing and comedy history at NYU. His book has been published for the 25th anniversary of *Friends*. He will speak be available to sign his book following the presentation. What a thoughtful gift his signed book will be for Chanukah!

Sally Brown, *Librarian* Our next Short Story Discussion Group is Thursday, December 12 at 12:15 pm. One of our premiere authors, Nathan Englander, has written an award-winning story, "How We Avenged the Blums". We will read the tale about how a group of young boys stand up to a neighborhood bully who seems to be targeting one Jewish family in particular, the Blums. The story was published in The Best American

Short Stories of 2006 and can be found in your short story compilation. Additional copies can be found at the front desk.

Jewish Book Month gives us an added impetus to check out a Jewish-themed book and appreciate the amazing collection of fiction and non-fiction books in the Odell-Diamond library at MLRT.



LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID STRAUS

You bring the lunch and Rabbi Straus will serve up interesting conversation!

Suburban

Tuesday, December 5 | *12:15 PM* Hosted by Steven Handleman at One Town Place, Suite 200, Bryn Mawr. RSVP to Steven at **shandleman@comcast.net**.

Center City

Tuesday, December 10 | 12:00 pm

Hosted by Sid Steinberg at Post & Schell, P.C., Four Penn Center, 1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Phila. RSVP to Sid at ssteinberg@postschell.com.



LEARN & LUNCH WITH RABBI GERI NEWBURGE

Friday, December 6 | 11:30 am It's a mitzvah! Come learn about some of Judaism's important but lesser known commandments and the role they play in Jewish

lives today. Hosted at the home of Gail Simon, who will provide the main entrée, please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. RSVP to Cynthia Marshall at 610-649-7800 or cmarshall@mlrt.org.

TORAH STUDY

Saturdays | 9:00- 10:00 am

Each week our Rabbis lead us in lively discussion as we read from the *Parsha*, or weekly portion, and learn about its context and history. Anyone is welcome to join us.

BIBLE STUDY

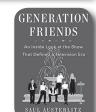
Thursdays | 11:00 am -12:00 pm

Our rabbis lead an ongoing discussion of the *Tanakh* over the year. Join anytime, whether you are an avid Torah student or have never looked at the Torah before.



HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE - Friends: The Show That Defined an Era

Sunday, December 8 | 9:30 am Bagels & Coffee 10:00 am Lecture with Author Saul Austerlitz Friends defined the 1990s and remains wildly popular today with a legacy that has endured beyond wildest expectations. Noted pop



culture historian Saul Austerlitz will help us understand why. You'll get juicy behind-the-scenes tidbits and smart analysis of why *Friends* was the right show at the right time and continues to be the right show at an entirely different time. This program is free and open to all!

CONVERSATIONS...ON CURRENT EVENTS

Monday, December 9 | 7:30 PM

JOIN THE DISCUSSION, an honest dialogue on the critical issues of the day. We ask participants to come prepared for an open and honest exchange of views—political correctness is not required, but respectful dialogue is. Please email Gordon Fink at **gbf@comcast.net** or David Edman at **davideedman@gmail.com** so that background materials may be sent to you in advance.

FORWARD THINKING: LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesday, December 10 | 12:15 pm

Join Rabbi Straus for a thought-provoking lunchtime discussion of selected articles from The Jewish Daily Forward. Bring your lunch; beverages will be provided.

Save the Date for the Hassel Adult Education Lecture with Rabbi Kevin Kleinman on January 5, 2020 *Curb Your Consumerism: Cultivating a Bal Taschit (do not waste) Ethic for Today* Rabbi Kleinman is a leader in the Jewish environmental movement. His teaching on Jewish responses and actions to the climate crises is inspired by using Judaism's ancient environmental wisdom to guide our modern thinking.

L'dor Va'dor - From Generation to Generation

Several years ago, we started our *L'dor Va'dor* Legacy Society program for simple reasons: to ensure that Main Line Reform Temple will be there for our children and grandchildren and that we will be able to continue to support the services and programs that make us an extraordinary community. Membership contributions and tuition for ECE and Religious School do not fully fund all MLRT's mission, so we initiated our Annual Fund and our *L'dor Va'dor* Legacy Society endowment effort.

Many of you have already participated in our Legacy Society with generous gifts. As December 31 approaches, we want to remind you that the revised tax laws support our *L'dor Va'dor* program in many ways, including through the Charitable IRA Rollover, which allows individuals to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs to MLRT without counting the transfers as income for federal tax purposes.

To qualify:

• The donor must be age $70\frac{1}{2}$ or older.

• An IRA plan administrator must make the distribution, of no more than \$100,000 per year, directly to a qualified charity. (Retirement assets in 401(k), 403(b), SEP, or SIMPLE plans do not qualify. But you can roll these assets into a new or existing IRA, and then take advantage of a Charitable IRA Rollover.)

• Distributions can be made only to a tax exempt organization such as MLRT.

Charitable IRA Rollovers provide lots of tax benefits:

• Withdrawals from traditional IRAs (and certain Roth IRAs) customarily are taxed as income, even if the recipient immediately directs the withdrawal to a charity. The donor receives a tax deduction for the donation to the charity, but other tax rules can prevent the deduction from fully offsetting this taxable income. The Charitable IRA Rollover gets rid of this problem.

• You can exclude up to \$100,000 per IRA account owner from gross income. Reason: the Charitable IRA Rollovers donation counts toward your IRA minimum distribution.

• Charitable IRA Rollovers are not subject to percentage-of-adjusted-gross income limitations for charitable contributions.

• Charitable IRA Rollovers are not reportable as income for federal income tax or Social Security income purposes. And the amounts withdrawn are not subject to state income taxes in most states.

• Because the entire amount of the Charitable IRA Rollover is excluded from gross income, donors who do not itemize deductions enjoy a tax benefit similar to itemizing a charitable deduction.

• Amounts withdrawn from an IRA account are removed from the donor's taxable estate.

The Charitable IRA Rollover is a simple and highly tax efficient way to support our *L'dor Va'dor* Legacy Society program. But nothing is simple when it comes to taxes. Other charitable gifts may give you even more tax benefits. Consult your tax advisor for specific advice. For more information, please contact us at **elsettle@settlestrategies.com** or **cforer@foreradr.com**.

Thank you to all who have supported our L'dor Va'dor Legacy Society program.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy Chanukah, Eric L. Settle and Charles F. Forer, L'dor Va'Dor Legacy Committee Co-chairs

End of Year Charitable Giving Can Reduce Your Taxes

Any of the following actions before December 31 could help reduce the taxes you'll pay for 2019:

- 1. Pay any remaining portion of your MLRT pledge for 2019-2020.
- 2. Make a donation to MLRT or any MLRT fund.
- 3. Use appreciated securities to make the above payments and pay no capital gains tax.

4. Open a Donor Advised Fund (Vanguard, Jewish Federation etc.) to allow you to bundle your charitable donations for 2019 and spread your gifts to MLRT over multiple years.

If you have questions or want to know how to make these charitable donations to MLRT, please contact our Executive Director at 610-649-7800. As always, consult your tax professional with respect to your financial and tax decisions.

Thank you for considering MLRT for your charitable giving!

Brotherhood

As many of you avid readers of the Main Line Reform Temple Bulletin know, the information that is funneled to Davida Chornock, our incomparable Bulletin editor, is always one month in advance of our submission and one month in advance of you receiving it. These facts make it difficult to return to the previous month's activities without seeming overbearing. So, bear with me as I do regress to that festive festival month of October when, as you see below, our stalwart mechanical engineers came out, once again, to put up our 24' by 48' sukkah. The sukkah served its intended purpose: a temporary structure described in Leviticus as a symbolic shelter, commemorating the time G-d provided for us in the wilderness we inhabited after we were freed from bondage. I much prefer the explanation of Rabbi Irving Greenberg: Sukkot began as a farm worker's bash, long before the years of wandering in the desert.

Brotherhood offers an annual "bash" in the form of our Steaks and Shots in the Sukkah. This year, more than fifty men, Rabbi Geri Newburge, and members of our basketball teams joined in festive gladness to eat, kibitz, and generally have a swell time together. Our chefs, Andy Niesen and Andy Shamberg, together with BJ Slipakoff and Gerry Robbins combined their efforts to provide everyone a fine evening. Unhappily, the fierce October winds smacked part of our sukkah, damaging many uprights and roof members. The damaged pieces are easily replaced. What is more lasting is the realization that so much in our lives is beyond our control, regardless of our intentions. Next year you and your friends should plan to join us.

By now, many of you may have chosen a means to fulfill your hopes for a better world as was proposed in the October Bulletin's invocation of Martin Luther King's dictum that there remains a "fierce urgency of now" to all our efforts to achieve Tikkun Olam. I am still searching.

December's Brotherhood activities include:

• December 12: Men's Night Out at the Town Tap in Havertown. Frivolities commence at 7:00 pm. Brotherhood invites members and non-members to attend these monthly gatherings,

• December 17: Our Brother, Bernie Kleinman, of blessed memory, created the Brotherhood Book Club. This month's meeting in the Temple Library at 7:30 pm, features a discussion of David McCullough's <u>The Pioneers</u>. I have not read this book, but I will attend to become educated.

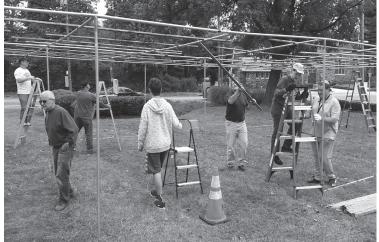
And, Brotherhood wants you to know that, resulting from the success of our Fourth Annual Golf Tournament, donations will be made to the following organizations which provide literacy programs to both children and adults: Team Up Philadelphia, Philadelphia Futures, We PAC, and the Free Library Fund of Philadelphia.

Brotherhood wishes for you and your family a bright and satisfying Chanukah season which begins on December 22 and ends December 30.

Kindly,

Gary Brock, VP MLRT Brotherhood





Sisterhood



Ami Lonner & Elizabeth Stoller, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Now that Thanksgiving is over, most of us will likely turn our thoughts to the next big thing: Chanukah! For we Sisters of MLRT, we are still thinking about the latest success of our biggest thing – the Rummage Sale!! A huge thank you to all who came out to sort, schlep, setup and sell! It is only thanks to our family of Sisters and MLRT staff that we are able to raise as much money as we did – so THANK YOU!!

We have a number of awesome upcoming events coming up that we hope you will attend. On December 12 at 7:00 pm we have our yearly Paid Up Membership Event, which is a festive gathering to celebrate each other. This year it is called "Dreidels & Drinks" and it is free for all Sisterhood members. It is sure to be a fun night to catch up with each other. Please be sure to bring a gift card for Target, Walmart, or an area drugstore for clients at Families Forward, a family shelter in Philadelphia. The cards will be used for families while staying in the shelter or to help them get basic supplies as they move to transitional or permanent housing. If you are not already a member, you can sign up for Sisterhood

membership and for Dreidels & Drinks at mlrt.org/sisterhood.

On Friday, December 13 at 9:30 am, we will have our annual toy wrapping event where together with ECE parents, we wrap presents to bring to the Christmas Lunch at Calvary Baptist Church the next day. We are thankful for the continued generosity of the ECE parents who send in loads of toys for us to wrap together! And we would love to have you join us the next day on December 14 at 11:30 am to help prepare a festive meal for our friends in West Philly. It is a wonderful holiday mitzvah that MLRT Sisterhood has been participating in for the past 8 years! Please email Lisa Greenblatt at **greenblatt5@comcast.net** if you're interested in helping out. This is an activity that kids over 8 can participate in as well.

Looking ahead to another mitzvah opportunity; it is time to start thinking about the Sisterhood Bake Sale at our annual MLK Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 20. Please email Jill Altshuler at **jillandmarc2@gmail.com** if you are interested in bringing a baked good for this event.

More dates to keep in mind: Sisterhood Book Brunch - February 18 at 10:00 am. Author Ronald Balson will discuss his book, <u>The Girl From Berlin</u>. And, keep an eye out for a timely and informative reproductive rights program March 1. The time is TBD – we are combining forces with several area sisterhoods to put together a panel to speak on the current state of affairs concerning reproductive rights and women's health in our country.

Want to get involved or just find out what we are about? Come to our next General Meeting on December 10 at 10:00 am.



Teach Our Children: ECE



Shari Morelli, Interim Director

November was such a great month of activities and events. We held our second Simchat Shabbat which was hosted by the 3's! Families had an opportunity to be together during the dinner afterwards. It was such a special evening. Later in November, we had the Dinosaurs Rock exhibit come to the Hausen where students were able to participate in a dinosaur dig and uncover bones, shark teeth, petrified wood and more. Parents joined us for our Kindergarten Open House and found out about all the magic that happens in our oldest age group. We ended the month with our annual Family Fun Night, planned for and by members of our ECE parent community.

One of the best parts of my job is watching the teachers bring their lesson plans to life day after day. I have seen our little scientists' eyes widen with wonder at the bubbles pouring out of their pumpkin volcanoes. I have sat in awe watching as our artists created a still life from their perspective like the artist they were studying. I have listened during read alouds as our learners have shared their ideas and listened to others. I have read the stories our authors have written. I have

smelled the pumpkin bread our bakers have made from scratch (and eaten it too!) The classrooms are filled with energy and I am so thrilled that the weather has cooperated so that that energy can spill over to the outside playground where they can run and play and take turns and pretend.

Our learners have sure settled in and made MLRT their home. It is a joy to be a part of this nurturing environment in which kindness, mitzvot, community, creativity, and playing to learn are modeled, encouraged and observed all around our school.



Teach Our Children: Religious School



Rabbi Kevin Kleinman December is another wonderful month in our Religious School. Our students are busy preparing for Chanukah. This year we will have a special pre-Chanukah "Warm up to Winter" concert featuring Chana Rothman and Ross M. Levy on Sunday, December 15. Please join us from 10:00-11:00 am to get into the holiday spirit.

Speaking of the Chanukah spirit, this year we will once again be building our Mitzvah Menorah and collecting the items below to support our Tikkun Olam Network. Plus, there's a 6th grade PACT program and a 4th grade Challah Making program in December as well. Join us throughout the month to learn about and celebrate the Festival of Lights!

Make sure to come on Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 pm for a Community Chanukah Party before lighting the first candle. We'll have donut decorating, bounce house, latkes, crafts, and more. RSVP to Rabbi Kleinman at **kkleinman@mlrt.org**.

Mitzvah Menorah - Not just a Religious School collection!

Between December 8 and 15, we will collect the following items to build a "Mitzvah Menorah." Please bring the items into the lobby and place them into the appropriate bin:

- New and unwrapped toys
- Gift cards to Bed, Bath, and Beyond and Five Below
- Shampoo, toothpaste, body wash, mouthwash, and washcloths
- Children's books
- Kosher canned tuna, canned chicken, sardines, beans, peanut butter, jelly, apple sauce, pasta, rice, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, and soup



Special Religious School Programs

December 7 & 8 – 5th Grade Sleepover at the JCC

Join 5th graders from area congregations for a sleepover at the Kaiserman JCC. This event is sponsored by the Kehillah of Lower Merion. Contact Rabbi Kleinman for more information.

No 5th grade Religious School on December 8

December 8 – 6th Grade PACT Program Becoming B'nai Mitzvah

Early Session – 9:00 am-11:00 am Late Session – 10:30 am-12:30 pm Following up on the success of our 6th grade retreat, this PACT program will delve into both the existential and practical components of our B'nai Mitzvah process. Plus, we will do a hands-on mitzvah project assembling patient care carts for Lankenau Medical Center.

December 6 – Shiru Shir Chadash Family Service

Hosted by 3rd and 4th grade 6:00 pm – Snack and Schmooze 6:30 pm – Family Service featuring 3rd & 4th grade students 7:30 pm – Shabbat Dinner and Gaga Tournament

December 8 – 4th Grade Challah for Hunger (parents

encouraged to attend) Early Session – 9:00 am-11:00 am Late Session – 10:30 am-12:30 pm Join us for a morning of making and selling challah. Proceeds support the Ardmore Food Pantry.

December 15 – Warm Up to Winter Concert featuring Ross M. Levy and Chana Rothman

10:00 am-11:00 am Kick off the Chanukah season with a rocking concert full of great music and great fun!

<u>No Religious School:</u> December 22, 24, 25, 26, 29, 31 January 1, 2

January 3, 2020 – Shiru Shir Chadash Family Service Hosted by 5th grade

- 6:00 pm Snack and Schmooze
- 6:30 pm Family Service featuring 5th grade students
- 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner and Gaga Tournament

Reservations for dinner can be made at mlrt.org/reservations

Teach Our Children: The Tribe and Tribe jr.

Join us for our two fantastic December events on December 8, 2019!



TheTribe will head down to RiverRink for an afternoon of ice skating, hot chocolate, Franklin Fountain, and more! Don't miss this incredible event. Sign up at Mlrt.org/thetribe.



Tribe jr will take to the air at GET AIR, KOP's best trampoline park. Lunch is included. Chaperones needed! Sign up today at Mlrt.org/tribejr.

Our kids had a blast at bowling and our Gamechangerz truck in November!



Contributions in Memory

(As of November 7)

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MLRT Contemporary Service

Staff Spotlight: **Claudio Bacille**

Claudio has helped keep Main Line Reform Temple safe for five years but he has spent his life taking care of others. Claudio is a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and has worked as a bouncer and personal bodyguard to the stars.

Working with celebrities is nothing new for Claudio, who is a model/actor/entertainer and has acted in numerous independent films, national commercials, Shakespeare in the Park, off Broadway productions, and blockbuster movies such as Rocky V and Jersey Girl. He is currently filming with Kate Winslet in the Mare of Easttown (coming to your screen soon.) For Claudio, acting is another platform by which he spreads joy and brings a little happiness into people's lives.

Born right here in Wynnewood at Lankenau Hospital, Claudio has a unique background. He built bridges for PennDot, had his marble & granite work featured on the cover of Stoneworks Magazine, and was the head instructor at a Tae Kwon Do studio.

He loves working at MLRT because of the friendliness of staff and congregants which was particularly highlighted earlier this year when his mother passed away. Claudio has his choice of assignments and he chooses to be here!

College Student Outreach

MLRT works to maintain contact between the Temple and college students by sending letters and gifts at holiday and exam times. To have your child(ren) added to our mailing list, please forward their college address, along with your name and home address, to Beth Lloyd at blloyd@mlrt.org.

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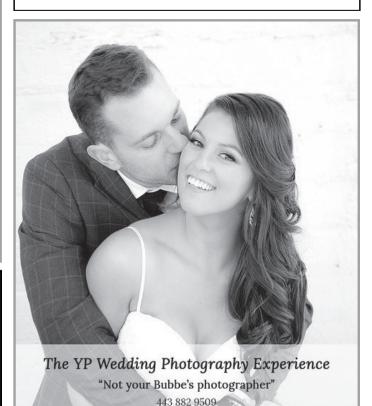


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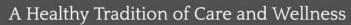






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Shabbat & Holiday Services

Friday, December 6

6:00 pm	Snack & Schmooze
6:30 pm	Shabbat Family Service
7:30 pm	Shabbat Dinner & Gaga Tournament

Saturday, December 7

8:30 am	Early Prayers & Songs of Praise
8:30 am	Shabbat Morning Hike with Rabbi
	Newburge
9:00 am	Torah Study
10:00 am	Chapel Service
10:30 am	Sanctuary Service
	Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Foss Myers
	Son of Štephanie Pearson & Ryan Myers

Friday, December 13

6:00 pm	Snack & Schmooze
6:30 pm	Shabbat Outside the Box Chanukah Service
7:30 pm	Shabbat Chanukah Dinner

Saturday, December 14

8:30 am	Early Prayers & Songs of Praise
9:00 am	Torah Study
10:00 am	Chapel Service
10:30 am	Sanctuary Service
	Bat Mitzvah of Erin Jessica Fox
	Daughter of Kelly & Brian Fox

Friday, December 20

8:00 pm Shabbat Service 9:15 pm Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, December 21

8:30 am Early Prayers & Songs of Praise9:00 am Torah Study10:00 am Chapel Service

Sunday, December 22

First Night of Chanukah

Friday, December 27

Chanukah	
6:00 pm	Snack & Schmooze
6:30 pm	Chapel Service

Saturday, December 28

Chanukah Off-site Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Kaplan Son of Amy & Jeremiah Kaplan 8:30 am Early Prayers & Songs of Praise 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service

Friday, January 3, 2020

5:30 pm	Simchat Shabbat Service & Dinner
6:00 pm	Snack & Schmooze
6:30 pm	Shabbat Family Service
7:30 pm	Shabbat Dinner & Gaga Tournament

Saturday, January 4, 2020

Off-site Bar Mitzvah of Evan BergerSon of Keri & Scott Berger8:30 am9:00 amTorah Study10:00 amChapel Service

YOU can directly help the Reform Movement to have a stronger presence in Israel by getting involved in the upcoming World Zionist Congress election! Your vote and support are critical to growing the Reform Movement's presence in Israel. Vote to influence Israeli society, as we continue our efforts toward equality, pluralism and tolerance.

Join our team! Contact our MLRT Congregational Captains for #VoteReformWZC: Sherrill Neff at sherrill.neff@gmail.com or Ken Brier at ken.brier1@gmail.com.

Tarticipate in the Listening Campaign

Main Line Reform Temple has an exciting plan to deepen our connections with each other and continue to meaningfully serve all our shared interests. This Listening Campaign – a series of small facilitator led groups – provides a safe setting to share what MLRT's community means to you.

Your participation will be a fun, easy way to discover shared interests and make friends in an informal setting, discuss what matters to you, our community, Jewish traditions and values, and ways MLRT can make a difference.

Get involved with the Listening Campaign: host or facilitate a session, participate in a session, or even take notes!



To participate, scan the QR code or visit mlrt.org/listening.

Questions? Contact Gil Marder, Member Engagement & Program Manager, at gmarder@mlrt.org.

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	2	3	4 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	5 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 7:30 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	6 11:30 am Learn & Lunch with RGN 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Shabbat Family Service 7:30 pm Family Shabbat Dinner	7 8:30 am Morning Prayers 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Hike with RGN 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Myers 6:00 pm 5 th grade Sleepover at JCC
8 9:30 am Hassel Adult Ed. Lecture Saul Auesterlitz 12:30 pm Tribe jr. GET AIR	9 2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	10 10:00 am Sisterhood Board Meeting 12:15 pm Forward Thinking	11 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	12 ECE CLOSED 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 12:15 pm Short Story Discussion Group 6:00 pm Sisterhood Dreidels & Drinks 7:00 pm Brotherhood MNO at Town Tap 7:00 pm FTD Caregivers Meeting 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	13 6:30 pm Shabbat Outside the Box Chanukah Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Chanukah Dinner	14 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Erin Fox
15 10:00 am Warm Up to Winter Concert 11:15 am TON Meeting 1:00 pm Jewish Geneology Society 7:00 pm Beer Club at Tired Hands Brew-Cafe	16	17 7:30 pm Brotherhood Book Club	18 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	19 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	20 8:00 pm Shabbat Service 9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat	21 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service
22 FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 4:00 pm Community Chanukah Party RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WINTER BREAK: CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 2	23 ECE WINTER BREAK: CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 1	24 MLRT OFFICE CLOSING AT 1:00 PM	25 MLRT OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 pm Dinner & a Movie	26 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	27 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Chapel Service	28 Off-site Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Kaplan 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service
29 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	30	31 MLRT OFFICE CLOSING AT 1:00 PM	January 1 MLRT CLOSED Happy New Year	January 2 ECE Pajama Day 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	January 3 5:30 pm ECE Simchat Shabbat Service & Dinner 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Shabbat Family Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner	January 4 Off-site Bar Mitzvah of Evan Berger 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service

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