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Rabbi Max Hausen

MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING



MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE PRESENTS

MAIN SPEAKER SERIES 2019-



AN AFTERNOON WITH

TERRY GROSS

Sunday, February 23 • 3:00 PM

Host of Fresh Air since 1975, and unafraid to ask tough questions, Terry Gross has received a number of awards, including the prestigious Peabody Award in 1994 for her "probing questions, revelatory interviews and unusual insight."

Tickets on sale NOW! mlrt.org/speakerseries20

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In This Issue:

Rabbi's Message...3 President's Message...4 Creating Community...5 Lifelong Learning...6 Brotherhood...7 Sisterhood...8 Teach Our Children...9-10 MLK Weekend...12 Contributions...13-15 Shabbat Services...22 Calendar...23

Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

David E. Straus
Senior Rabbi

Geri Newburge **Rabbi**

Faryn Rudnick **Cantor**

Rabbi Kevin Kleinman

Director of Education,

Assoc. Rabbi

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Interim Eexcutive Director

Ross M. Levy **Director, Youth Engagement**

Shari Morelli
Interim Director,
Early Childhood Education

Marshall A. Portnoy

Cantor Emeritus

Joel H. Ginsparg **President**

David Heppen Rachel Lester David Rawdin Vice Presidents

R. Victor Haas

Brett Cohen
Financial Secretary

Beth Allen

Recording Secretary



Main Office 610.649.7800 School Office 610.642.0304 www.mlrt.org February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month.

While we celebrate all of our community members each day of each month, February and JDAIM is a time to remind ourselves of the need to widen the proverbial net, to make sure that no one stands on the periphery of the community, and to refresh ourselves and our efforts to be a community of belonging for all people. This JDAIM we encourage you to read a book by an author with a disability, watch a movie with actors with disabilities, get involved with our inclusion team, and visit inclusioninnovations.com/idaim.

Celebrate with us at our Inclusion Shabbat on Friday, February 23 at 8:00 pm. It will be a Shabbat of learning, a Shabbat of belonging, and a Shabbat of togetherness. Members of our Inclusion Committee will help lead our worship and share some of the work (and successes) in inclusion we have had over the past year, while highlighting the work and challenges still ahead of us. Please join us as we welcome Shabbat with readings, music, and an inspirational presentation from author, advocate, and MLRT member, Nadine Silber.



Nadine Silber is an autistic Jewish woman and considers both to be important parts of her identity. She holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and practiced as a child advocate and as a public defender. She retired from law and is now a full-time writer and educator. Nadine speaks about inclusion from her perspective as an autistic adult and as a mom raising two autistic kids in a neurotypical world.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND BAGEL BRUNCH

Sunday, March 15 | 11:15 am

In accordance with the MLRT Bylaws, please join us for MLRT's Annual Congregational Meeting and Bagel Brunch. Our President, Joel H. Ginsparg, and our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi David Straus, will update us on the general welfare and future plans for MLRT. Our Treasurer, Vic Haas, will present a report on MLRT's financial standing. Nominating Committee Chairs, Lori Ehrich and Josh Bobrin, will present the report of the Nominating Committee, including the nominations of Officers and Trustees who will serve in the coming year. Attendees may nominate additional candidates by petition. The election of Officers and Trustees will be conducted.

NOMINEES

President: Treasurer:
Joel H. Ginsparg Mitchell Spector

Vice Presidents: Financial Secretary:

David Heppen Vic Haas

Lori Robbins

Recording Secretary:

Jamie Mushlin

Nomination to the Board of Trustees (Three Year Terms):

Brett Cohen Mignon Groch David Rawdin
Dave Edman Amy Koppelman Andy Shamberg

Scott Ginesin Rachel Lester

Nomination to the Board of Trustees (One Year Term):

Fonda Hartman Ben Labovitz

Make Your Voice Heard



Rabbi David Straus

Dear Friends,

This is an election year - three times at least - for Jews living in America. Some of us will vote in the primaries, and I hope all who are eligible to vote will vote in the general elections in the fall. If your children or grandchildren are not registered to vote—please urge them to do so.

But there is also a special election that will began in January. And you (and your children and grandchildren) are eligible to participate in this election. You can help shape the future of Israel, and with just a few minutes of your time, and \$7.50, vote in the 2020 World Zionist Congress elections and help to continue to make and create an Israel which is proudly a democratic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, tolerant and pluralistic society.

The histories of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and World Zionist Congress (WZC) are complicated, and I suspect for many of us, not all that interesting. Here is the bottom line: if you feel a special connection to Israel as a Jewish homeland, and a Jewish state (however you understand these terms), this is your chance to have your voice heard, and even more importantly, help direct where funds go - both funds donated by Jews around the world and allocated by the Jewish Agency, as well as some of the Israeli government budget—even if you do not live in Israel or are not a citizen of Israel. Remember, in all politics, money talks.

Full details of the history of the WZO can be found on the ARZA website, tinyurl.com/ARZAwzc, but here is a short synopsis. The World Zionist Congress is a representative body of the world's Jewish people. Established by Theodor Herzl in 1897, the Zionist Congress (as it was originally known) was the legislative body of the World Zionist Organization, a non-governmental entity that promotes Zionism, and worked to create the state of Israel.

The WZC, also known as the Parliament of the Jewish People, is comprised of 500 delegates and meets in Jerusalem every five years. It enables delegates to exert ideological influence on both Israeli society and the global Jewish agenda, as well as allocate financial and other resources to various organizations – including the Reform Movement – in Israel.

The 38th World Zionist Congress is scheduled to meet in Jerusalem from October 20-23, 2020; the elections will determine the size of the various delegations to the Congress. The election period is now open and will be held from January 21 to March 11, 2020 (MLK Day to Purim).

Currently, the United States has 145 delegates in the WZC, the largest single delegation outside Israel. Thanks to a robust turnout in the 2015 elections, 56 of the 145 delegates (39 percent) represent the Reform Movement and, as a result, have been able to ensure that more than \$4 million a year (\$20 million over five years) is being directed to the Israeli Reform Movement. By comparison, the Israeli government annually provides nearly 4 billion NIS (\$1.1 billion) to Orthodox and Haredi institutions in Israel.

A strong election turnout among North America's Reform Jews and our supporters and allies will ensure that financial resources will continue to flow to our Israeli movement, including Reform congregations and institutions. It also will allow us to fill leadership positions in some of Israel's national institutions, including the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael – Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF).

So...how do you vote and participate? All voting will be completed online and will be accessible from mobile devices. It is a simple process and will take only a few minutes.

Voting is open now until March 11. Your vote in this election is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society. Visit **zionistelection.org** to Vote Reform: ARZA Representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism. The \$7.50 fee is to help underwrite the costs associated with the election.

Thank you for voting for the ARZA slate.

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.

On Jewish Survival



Joel Ginsparg
President

This past December, I attended the Biennial of the Union for Reform Judaism in Chicago. I attended several sessions where I had the opportunity to discuss and explore ideas for enhancing various aspects of MLRT, attended meetings with other congregational presidents, and discussed with other Jewish leaders the current challenges of Jewish survival including disaffiliation and assimilation. I also had the pleasure of participating in various worship services and musical events, praying and singing with 5,000 other Reform Jews. Through the various activities over the four days, I came to appreciate the many different religious practices, types of music, programs, and opinions that exist within the Reform Jewish movement.

Jewish faith encourages an acceptance of diversity within the Jewish community. Historically, our diversity gave us strength and the ability to adapt to a changing world. From the beginning, options were intricately woven into the fabric of Jewish life. Diversity is the foundation of the Talmud, in which

dissenting opinions were honored and recorded. Diversity has been the key to our survival.

Reform Judaism is a two hundred-year-old branch growing on a Jewish tree that has had many branches before and will most likely have others in the future. Reform Jews are as valid and authentic and as religious as any Jew. Our prayers are valid. Our practices are valid. Our distinctiveness is that we have chosen a different approach to Jewish law and ritual deriving from our view of God's revelation.

There is not a single mention of rabbis, synagogues, or prayer as the way of serving God in the Bible. What we know as Judaism today evolved after the Torah. There is no mention of the traditional blessing over Sabbath candles until the 9th century, nor of the traditional Kabbalat Shabbat, Welcoming the Sabbath, until the end of the 16th century. Yom Ha-Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, now part of tradition, had its tragic beginnings in the 20th century. Every one of our traditions had a beginning.

In the Mishnah, Shimon Ha-Tzadik said that the world exists through three things: al ha-Torah (Torah), al ha-avodah (prayer), and v'al gemilut chasadim (acts of loving-kindness). First, Jews are commanded to study, to learn, to continuously unravel the meaning of Torah and the lessons gathered from it. We are all on the road of Jewish learning. The measure is not how much we know but how much our knowledge has grown. Second, Jews are commanded to give avodah or service to God. We have been taught that the commandment to serve God refers to prayer. Traditional prayer can be at the synagogue or at home. Prayer need not be precise. It is not a matter of all or nothing. It can take place anywhere. Prayer in a synagogue provides a connection to past and future and to the Jewish people throughout space and time. It provides an opportunity for expressing a relationship with God. Finally, Jews are commanded to do g'milut chasadim or acts of loving-kindness. We repay God for life and what we have by doing good deeds. We repay God by helping God's children. For many years, these three commandments formed the core of Jewish identity.

However, people simply do not express their Judaism in the same way that they did in the past. There is an old joke that Sarah goes to synagogue to talk to God and Sharon goes to synagogue to talk to Sarah. One of the biggest changes that is happening in Jewish life is that we all have our own way of connecting to Judaism. While traditional communal experiences are an important and incredibly powerful part of our Jewish practice, we each also have our own personal Jewish experience.

We Reform Jews must play a pivotal role in Jewish survival as have others before us. Despite the alarms about collective Jewish survival, the more significant battle now is for the individual Jew's survival, for each of us and our children and our grandchildren. Verbal expressions of Jewish affinity are paltry weapons against assimilation. The lack or loss of meaningful connections enables disaffiliation. Unless warm Jewish feelings are embodied in bold Jewish behavior, Jewish survival is in danger.

For Judaism to survive, to be exciting, let alone relevant, it needs to provide real and helpful insights for how to live a meaningful existence. Judaism needs to connect with people whoever and wherever they are on their life's journey and offer traditions, values, and community that can help enrich the lives they live. Thank you for being part of our MLRT family. I hope that we can continue to connect with you and your families and enrich your lives. Together, we can foster inspiration, community and spirituality. Together, we can pray and play, learn and teach, mourn and celebrate. Together, we can appreciate and improve the world around us.

Please send any feedback or suggestions for MLRT to me at president@mlrt.org.

Creating Community

SHISHI ISRAELI TU B'SHEVAT SHABBAT

Friday, February 7 | 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Service | 7:15 pm Dinner The same delicious food and community spirit with a whole new fresh program featuring Tu B'Shevat activities for kids and a sing-along concert after dinner! Register and pay for dinner at tinyurl.com/shishiSHEVAT.

SHABBAT MORNING HIKE

Saturday, February 8
8:30 am MLRT parking lot to carpool
9:00 am Barmouth Trailhead at Cynwyd 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.

BEER CLUB

Sunday, February 16 | 7:00 pm L'chaim! Join your MLRT family for a beer or two at Tired Hands Brew-Cafe, Ardmore. It's 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.

INCLUSION SHABBAT

Friday, February 21 | 8:00 pm
February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month. Members of our Inclusion Committee will help lead our worship and share some of their work over the past year and highlight the challenges still ahead of us. Please join us as we welcome Shabbat with readings, music, and an inspirational presentation from author, advocate, and MLRT member, Nadine Silber.

MAIN LINE SPEAKER SERIES: TERRY GROSS

Sunday, February 23 | 3:00 pm
Terry Gross has been host of Fresh Air since 1975. Fresh
Air with Terry Gross has received a number of awards,
including the prestigious Peabody Award in 1994 for its
"probing questions, revelatory interviews and unusual
insight." Buy your tickets at mlrt.org/speakerseries20.

SHABBAT WITH YOUSEF BASHIR

Friday, February 28 | 8:00 pm Yousef Bashir, a Palestinian-American author from the Gaza Strip, will introduce his book, <u>The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine</u>. Yousef is an accomplished author, vigorous advocate of Israeli-Palestinian peace, and a sought-after speaker.

VOICES OF GRIEF: HONORING THE SACRED JOURNEY SCREENING

Sunday, March 1 | 2:00 pm
Peter's Place and Main Line Reform Temple invite you to attend a screening of Voices of Grief: Honoring the Sacred Journey followed by a panel discussion. This documentary shares a fresh perspective on the ways we navigate successfully through grief or companion others along their journey. This event is open to all, free of charge.

THE BERNIE KLEINMAN BROTHERHOOD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 3 | 7:00 pm All are invited to attend the discussion of Edward Kritzler's <u>Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean</u>. This lively debut work of history tells the tale of an unlikely group of swashbuckling Jews who ransacked the high seas in the aftermath of the Spanish Inquisition.

☐ Experience the Sounds of Music with MLRT ☐ ANNELIESE ORATORIO

SING HALLELUJAH AT THE KIMMEL CENTER

Tuesday, March 17 | 8:00 pm Cantor Rudnick is a featured soloist at this annual program at the Kimmel Center, featuring the music of Yiddish Theater, Gershwin and 20th century Jewish composers of the stage. Purchase your tickets at kimmelcenter.org. Saturday, March 21 | 7:00 pm at Church of the Redeemer 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust and the death of Anne Frank. Anneliese is a large-scale musical adaptation of Anne Frank's diary.

SAVE THE DATE: BROADWAY TO BIMAH ON APRIL 25

A can't-miss night of music celebrating Jewish composers and Broadway classics featuring Cantor Faryn Rudnick and Andy Heller, MLRT; Cantor Lauren Goodlev, Beth David Congregation; Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz, Am Shalom; Cantor Jamie Marx, Temple Shalom.

Get excited! Cantor Rudnick will be teaching a five-part class on Jewish Music on Wednesdays, starting April 22.

More information coming soon!

Family Retreat!

Friday, February 21-Sunday, February 23, 2020 in Lancaster, PA!

Join us for an incredible opportunity to share a meaningful weekend with your family, friends, Rabbi Newburge, Rabbi Kleinman and Ross M. Levy. From engaging Shabbat services, volunteer opportunities, and fun with your family around town and the indoor pool. You don't want to miss this special weekend. Register online at mlrt.org/familyretreat

Lifelong Learning



Sally Brown, Librarian

I am hoping you will beat the winter blues by joining us at three important events in February. Esteemed author Ron Balson will be visiting MLRT for the annual Sisterhood brunch on February 18 at 11:00 am. This is always an enjoyable event with delicious food and great discussion. Ron comes to us from Chicago where he belonged to the same congregation where Cantor Rudnick served as a cantor. His recent novel, The Girl from Berlin, won a National Book Award. He is a well-sought out speaker at the Jewish Book Council known for his novels, Carolina's Twins and Once We Were Brothers. Stay out of the cold and come to brunch with the author. There is no cost to attend, but we ask that you RSVP for brunch by February 13 to Ruth Niesen at **ruthcn@comcast.net** or 610-513-8715.

A provocative speaker will join us at Shabbat services on Friday, February 28 at 8:00 pm. We will be privileged to meet Yousef Bashir who will introduce his book, The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine. You will learn much about the ongoing Middle East conflict from Bashir who is a Palestinian-

American from the Gaza Strip. While an Israeli soldier shot him, it was Israeli doctors who saved Yousef and helped him walk again. He is an accomplished author, vigorous advocate of Israeli-Palestinian peace, and a sought-after speaker. Yousef lives in Washington, DC where he has worked on Capitol Hill and served as a member of the Palestinian Diplomatic delegation to the United States.

Our Short Story conversation for February will take place on Thursday, February 13 at 12:15 pm. We will read "Stations of the Cross" by Julie Orringer, from her collection, How to Breathe Underwater. All are welcome to join!

February gives us three opportunities to enrich our mind with a wide range of ideas and opinions. I hope to see you as we learn about different backgrounds and perspectives and join in worthwhile discussion.



HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE Addiction on the Main Line

Sunday, February 2 | 9:30 am Bagels & Coffee 10:00 am Lecture with Gary Hendler Gary Hendler, a Philadelphia native, has been in successful recovery from drug and alcohol addiction for over 37 years. He is the host of Clean and Sober Radio Show and a board member of the Pennsylvania Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

Save the date: March 1: From Showboat to Sondheim-A Brief History of American Musical Theater with Karl Middleman



LEARN & LUNCH WITH RABBI GERI NEWBURGE

Friday, February 7 | 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 Allison

& Steven Weinkranz, 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.

FORWARD THINKING: LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesday, February 11 | 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.

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID STRAUS

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

Center City

Tuesday, February 18 | 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.

NEW LOCATION! Suburban Thursday, February 20 | 12:15 pm Hosted by Marilee Wolf at Berkshire Hathaway, 763 W. Lancaster Ave, Suite 200 (2nd floor), Bryn Mawr. Office located between Super Cuts and ATT RSVP to Marilee at marilee.wolf@foxroach.com.

PARENTING BOOK CLUB

Monday, February 24 | 7:00 pm Teach Your Children Well by Madeline Levine, with Rabbi Geri Newburge & Lisa David, Director of Camp Harlam. Gather with other parents to discuss the ups and downs of parenthood with a focus on learning to parent based on our core values. For more information, please contact Rabbi Newburge at **gnewburge@mlrt.org** or 610-649-7800. RSVP to Beth Lloyd at **blloyd@mlrt.org**.

Save the dates: Paradigms of Parting: The Lives and Deaths of the Heroes and Sages with Rabbi Richard Hirsch Thursdays, March 12, 19, and 26 | 10:00 am at MLRT Using stories from biblical, rabbinic, and chasidic texts, we will explore how biblical heroes, talmudic sages, and chasidic

masters face the inevitability of impermanence.

Brotherhood

There are but two scheduled events for our Brotherhood for the month of February. Our monthly Men's Night Out takes place on February 10, beginning at 7:00 pm. The place to be is Founding Farmers in King of Prussia. And on February 27, we will host a Texas Hold'em tournament, beginning at 6:30 pm with abundant snacks and substantial delicatessen food. As is usual, this event is open to all congregants and their guests.

Gratitude and appreciation should not be overlooked. So we recognize, with gratitude, the following Brothers who selflessly give of their time to chair the committees which provide for service and camaraderie throughout the year to our Temple, and the world beyond. Michael Scheinfield and Mark Komen who oversee the annual Sukkah building; BJ Slipakoff and Gerry Robbins who head up the annual Steaks in the Sukkah extravaganza; Ed Blumenthal and Glenn Brooks who are the Purim Carnival maestros; Rich Kupersmith who gets us great speakers for brunches and the annual Sports Dinner; Steven Handleman who hopes always to get Sisterhood and Brotherhood together for an event; Chuck Forer and Rich Kupersmith who head up the Sports Dinner for members of the basketball teams and Brotherhood members and all others who wish to attend; the Bernie Kleinman Brotherhood Book Club is spearheaded by Norman Fienman; Andy Shamberg and yours truly take charge of our annual Brotherhood Shabbat Service; the fabulously fine Annual Golf Outing for Charity is overseen by its four amigos: Gerry Robbins, Mark Komen, Andy Shamberg, and me; the monthly Men's Night Out restaurant choices are arranged by Ed Bleeden; the Texas Hold'em events are arranged by Ed Bleeden and Andy Shamberg; and surely appreciated is Michael Scheinfield who heads up the stalwarts at the Fourth of July pizza sale benefitting the Borough of Narberth. And, while they are not a committee chair, our indefatigable Tom Wiener continues as our Treasurer, and Ed Bleeden charges on as our President.

It's not too early to begin thinking of May 13, the date for this year's Fifth Annual Golf Outing for Charity. Brotherhood continues to be inspired in our giving to charities by the values of our Jewish heritage: practicing charity and justice, repairing the world, and performing acts of kindness. All proceeds from this year's outing will be earmarked for organizations that provide relief from homelessness and food insecurity. Seventeen out of ten thousand people in the United States are considered homeless; one in eight people suffer from food insecurity, including twelve million children. Your participation in this year's outing will provide the means for such organizations to continue their vital work. Please join us for a day of golf, a day of fun, and an opportunity to help others. In fact, why not join Brotherhood in the many events enumerated, above. Be or become a member of a group that takes seriously its part in our Temple life.

Kindly, Gary Brock, VP MLRT Brotherhood

Save the Date: April 6 - Brotherhood March Madness!

Join us for basketball, brackets, and fun with your Brothers. More information coming soon!



Sisterhood



Ami Lonner & Elizabeth Stoller,Sisterhood Co-Presidents

"The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we have just wrapped up another successful MLK Jr. Day of Service, these words are especially timely. Of course, we all face challenges at different times: some of our challenges are personal, as when we lose a beloved person in our lives. Some of our challenges are more global and reflect the differing viewpoints we may have in relation to our friends and neighbors. No matter what the challenges are that we face and no matter the controversy we witness, the Torah implores us to pursue justice, "Tzedek, tzedek tirdof."

Recently, our Sisterhood organized a trip to see the Ruth Bader Ginsburg exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish History. Her words echo those of Dr. King's and give us some practical reminders about how to live our lives and instruct our children. She

said, "Cherish your daughters as much as your sons and teach them both to stand up for what is right, and to be brave, and not be put down. If at first you don't succeed, then you try and try again." (RBG also said, "In every good marriage, it helps sometimes to be a little deaf," – who can argue with that?)

These two courageous and sagacious members of American society should inspire us all in our daily pursuit of being the best "us" that we can be. Let's do this by embracing our differences, listening with more than just our ears, and using our Jewish teachings to do more good in the world.

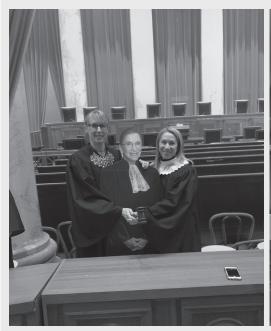
Upcoming Sisterhood Events:

February 11 – 10:00 am General Sisterhood Meeting

February 18 - 11:00 am Sisterhood Book Brunch with Ronald Balson, <u>The Girl From Berlin</u> RSVP for brunch by February 13 to Ruth Niesen at **ruthcn@comcast.net** or 610-513-8715

March 1 - 4:00 pm Reproductive Health & Rights: What You Need to Know Now and Why joint Sisterhood program at Temple Sholom in Broomall. RSVP to Leza at **leza@comsolutionsgroup.com** or 215-808-3513.

March 4 - 10:00 am Shalach Manot packing and delivery – come help us with our awesome annual Purim fundraiser! Contact Jackie Bobrin at **jackiebobrin@gmail.com**.





Sisterhood members and friends enjoyed a day at the Notorious RBG exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish History on January 6.

Teach Our Children: ECE



Interim Director

It is hard to believe we are already two months into the futuristic year of 2020. So many magical things have happened that have helped us to create a community of teachers and learners, both inside our classrooms and within our ECE community at large.

February captured our imaginations and the likenesses of our little ones during picture day, where they posed for the firsts of many iconic school day pictures. I do hope these pictures are celebrated in their captured moment in time and that they serve as a mile marker for this stage of their development as well. Here at the ECE we celebrate each child and try to instill a love of learning based on their interests and strengths using developmentally appropriate practices. We often learn so much about teaching from investigating how children learn best based on their strengths and needs. We are all teachers and learners here at the ECE. What an exciting place to be!

Of course, our biggest event is yet to come: our annual fundraiser, Mitzvah Madness, is set for March 28. Our fundraising committee has been hard at work and we are sure this will be the best event ever! This is an adults-only event themed to March Madness with raffles, live music, online silent auctions, beer pong tournament, flip cup tournament, and more! Our fundraiser is catered by Mission BBQ which donates a portion of all their proceeds to veterans, a cause near and dear to the ECE's heart! All money raised at our fundraiser goes directly back into the school and has helped purchase countless learning materials and classroom upgrades for our amazing student body. So come out and support your ECE and lets have a great time!

Staff Spotlight: Robert "Buggsy" Buggs Maintenance

In a congregation as large as ours, it is difficult to find someone who is universally loved... unless of course, that person is Buggsy. In less than four years here, Buggsy has become known as everybody's best buddy. Little kids run up to him to show off their shoes, practice a special and complicated handshakes, or just hug his knees. Parents love him because they know he will get any request done with a smile.

Buggsy is never too busy to have a conversation with a congregant and his giant smile is never off his face. Calling himself an "old soul," Buggsy prefers to spends his time outside of work taking care of his large family; he is the proud father of eight with seven grandchildren. Luckily for all of us here at MLRT, Buggsy considers us his second family and takes care of us too!

Dr. Joanna Brown, daughter of our Librarian, Sally Brown, wrote <u>Cruelty and Heartbreak at the Border</u>, an article about her visit to the border. It is excerpted below. To read the full article, please visit tinyurl.com/tnmpnc8

In May 2018, the news came out: our immigration system was separating parents from their children. As of June, the number was more than 2,300.

Like countless people, I was horrified and furious that my government was committing this crime against humanity. I read online that parents whose children were being taken away from them were required to wear a yellow bracelet. Of course, as a Jew, this gave me chills, as did anecdotal reports that when some children were led away, they were told they were going to take a shower.

Ever since the news of child separation broke, I have worn a yellow bracelet so that I would not forget. First it was crude, made out of duct tape from my basement. This quickly fell apart. So I bought one from a local gift shop, made of large, flat seeds and that has lasted.

A few weeks ago, I went to the border to volunteer, bear witness and protest the atrocities committed on immigrants by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Patrol, and the Department of Homeland Security. I was able to link up with other volunteers going to Texas through a wonderful project called Citizen Presence (CP), which was organized by Georgetown Law Prof. Heidi Li Feldman to provide a "constant, visible presence at a known epicenter" of "moral disaster." We protested together, several of us lived in a house together, we volunteered together, and, over the course of several days, we became friends.

Teach Our Children: Religious School



Rabbi Kevir Kleinman

This month we celebrate the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat. This ancient holiday that celebrated the annual "birthday" of trees has become the Jewish Earth Day. Tu B'Shevat is an opportunity to for us to think about our obligation to care for and protect the earth and to re-commit ourselves and our communities to being stewards of our sacred planet. This year in honor of Tu B'Shevat, our 3rd-6th graders will be holding the first annual MLRT Youth Climate Summit on February 9 during Religious School. I am excited to see what our students will suggest for things that we, as individuals and as a community, can do to help heal our fragile ecosystem.

We are also busy planning our Purim Carnival. Our Carnival is our annual Religious School fundraiser. Please see the information below for ways that you can contribute as a sponsor. And hold the date – March 8 – for the best MLRT Purim Carnival ever!

Please note there is no Religious School on the following dates: February 13 and 16

Special Religious School Programs

FEBRUARY 2 - 3RD GRADE PACT (PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER) PROGRAM

Early Session: 9:00 - 11:00 am Late Session: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

A Day (or even a moment!) of Rest – Shabbat Celebrations

FEBRUARY 7 - SHISHI ISRAELI TU B'SHEVAT SHABBAT SERVICE & DINNER

6:00 pm: Snack & Schmooze

6:30 pm: Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Service 7:15 pm: Shabbat Dinner and Concert

Register and pay for dinner at tinyurl.com/shishiSHEVAT

FEBRUARY 23 - 4TH GRADE COMMUNITY MITZVAH PROJECT

9:00 am - 12:30 pm – All 4th graders meet at MLRT Bus transportation will be provided by MLRT to and from Beth Am Israel

A joint program with synagogues in the Kehillah of Lower Merion where 4th graders will collect and sort clothing for Jewish Federation's Our Closet clothing drive.

FEBRUARY 23 - 7TH GRADE TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Depart: 9:00 am from Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El Parking Lot (1001 Remington Rd.) Return: 9:00 pm (same location) \$36 includes coach bus, lunch, dinner, and museum A joint program with synagogues in the Kehillah of Lower Merion. Parents are invited to attend.

MARCH 1 - 5TH GRADE CHALLAH FOR HUNGER - SOCIAL CHANGE CHALLAH BAKERY

Early Session: 9:00 - 11:00 am Late Session: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Parents will join us for the morning as we bake challah to sell at the end of Religious School. The profits will go to fight hunger at the Ardmore Food Pantry.

MARCH 6 - SHIRU SHIR CHADASH FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE

6:00 pm - Snack and Schmooze

6:30 pm – Family Service featuring 3rd & 4th grade students

7:30 pm – Shabbat Dinner and Gaga Tournament

Register for dinner at mlrt.org/reservations

PURIM CARNIVAL RAFFLE BASKETS

Please donate a new unwrapped item or funds toward our themed raffle baskets. Families will have an opportunity to win the baskets at our Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 8. See page 11 for more information about our Purim Carnival.

Please bring all donations to the Religious School office no later than Sunday, March 1.

Do you want to donate an item or experience not on the list below? Please email Josh Weisberg at iweisberg@mlrt.org.

Arts & Crafts Basket (KG & 1st Grade) Paints, crayons, sketch books, brushes, canvases, etc.

Family Games Basket (2nd Grade) Board games, puzzles, iTunes gift cards, etc.

Legos/Building Basket (3rd Grade) Legos, engineering toys, science kits, building blocks, etc.

Summer & Camp Basket (4th Grade) Camp items, towels, beach toys, pool items, etc.

Sports Basket (5th Grade) Balls, equipment, team gear, sportswear, etc.

Gardening Basket (5th Grade) Tools, sitting pads, pots, seeds, books, etc.

Cooking & Wine Basket (6th Grade) Cookbooks, wine, stemware, cooking utensils, etc.

A Night Out Basket (7th Grade) Gift cards for dining and movies; mixers, poker, wine bags, etc.

Purim & Pesach

SHALACH MANOT!

The Book of Esther says it's a mitzvah to send Shalach Manot to friends and family at Purim. And, what a FUN & EASY mitzvah it is when MLRT Sisterhood volunteers assemble and deliver* the packages for you! Each recipient will get one package which will include traditional Purim goodies and a letter with the names of everyone who sent them Purim greetings. It is \$6 per family you select to send Shalach Manot. Special BUNDLE pricing this year so you can send to ALL MLRT Clergy/Senior Staff, plus Administrative/Custodial Staff & All Teachers for one low price!

Two easy ways to order:

1. Go to happypurim.com and use your personal login*

2. Send/bring in your paper form (available at mlrt.org/sisterhood) to MLRT with a check payable to MLRT Sisterhood
*Emails with personal logins were sent to all MLRT members and ECE families. Never received an email or can't find it?
Contact Beth Greenblatt Ginsberg at bethgreenblatt@aim.com or Jackie Bobrin at jackiebobrin@gmail.com.

All orders are due by February 26

The funds raised from Shalach Manot will be donated directly to MLRT for special projects or programs and to those in need in our local Main Line community.

If you are looking for ways to make Purim more meaningful, please consider joining Sisterhood on March 4 at 10:00 am at MLRT to assemble over 650 Shalach Manot packages. Volunteers are also needed as messengers or drivers to deliver packages starting March 4. Please email Beth or Jackie if you can help us with packing and/or delivery.



MLRT Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 8 🖁 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Early Admission for ECE Families - 9:30 am

Carnival Games | Face Painting | Costume Contest | Gaga Raffle Baskets | Moon Bounces | and so much more!

All are welcome!

All Day Play Wristband \$18 pre-order, \$20 at the door Food & raffle tickets available for purchase; cash only

Pre-order your tickets at mlrt.org/purim

SAVE THE DATE - 2nd Night Seder

Thursday, April 8 | 5:00 pm

Join Rabbi Newburge, Cantor Rudnick, and your MLRT family for an inviting, participatory, family-friendly seder on the second night of Pesach. More details coming soon!

We would love your help; please contact Rabbi Newburge at **gnewburge@mlrt org** or 610-649-7800 if you would like to be a part of our preparations.

MLRT's Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend

Thank you to our amazing congregants of all ages who showed up to serve others on Martin Luther King Jr. Day! Over 300 people came in to take part in one of our nine in-house activities and we also had a talented group of 15 young performers who entertained the residents at Saunders House.

Here's how we did by the numbers:

- ♥ We packed 250 mini toiletry bags for Women of Change, a safe haven residence in Philadelphia.
- We made 100 salads for the food insecure families in our neighborhood.
- We made 16 blankets for the Mitzvah Circle Foundation.
- We raised \$214 for the Ardmore Food Pantry through the bake sale.
- We stuffed 50 cat toys for ACCT Philly.
- We sorted 1250 plastic bags for 10 skeins of "plarn" to make sleeping mats for the homeless.
- We cataloged 375 books for the new library at Lamberton Elementary School.
- We collected and sorted 22 bags of clothing for children served by Cradles to Crayons.
- We made 112 full size toiletry bags for local families in financial crisis.
- We made 40 challah covers for local families in need.
- We wrote 150 letters to representatives in support of gun violence prevention in Pennsylvania.

WAY TO GO MLRT!!!

Your Tikkun Olam Network chairs, Liz Stoller and Beth Allen

Join us for our next meeting at 11:15 am on Sunday, February 9!











A very special thank you to our amazing Tikkun Olam Network chairs, Beth Allen and Liz Stoller, for all their hard work in organizing this inspirational day.

A heartful thank you to all of our project leaders: Laura Banchero, Barbie Berkowitz, Lynne Breslau, Debbie Buchwald, Vanessa Coke Cohen, Kerry Heppen, Michele Hunn, Rabbi Kevin Kleinman, Shari Morelli, Liz Stoller, and Betsy Zeitlin.

Contributions

The following contributions were made in loving memory of Rabbi Max Hausen

Beloved husband of Shirley Hausen and the late Ida; Loving father of Judith (David Stall), Ruth (Michal Hafner), Lee Hausen and the late Gail Catalina; Step-father of Brenda (Robert) Cooper and Jeffrey Kimball

Annual Fund

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Sisterhood Fund

Terri Meadow Susan & Alan Rhode

As of January 14

Thank you to all those who donated to the Annual Fund!

As of January 14

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To contribute to the Annual Fund, please visit mlrt.org/annual-fund

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The following contributions were made in memory of John Holtz:

Joan Blum Helen & Glenn Fischer Ann & Gordon Gelfond Barbara & Dennis Hoffman

Jill Kleeman Terri Meadow

Contributions in Honor

Annual Fund

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Sandra McKenna Bernard Speckter's 100th Birthday

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Suzanne & Seth Oltman Bar Mitzvah of Danny Oltman

Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Wool Wool Family

The following contributions were made in honor of the birth of George Asher Rudnick:

Nancy & Larry Bailine

Margot & Ellis Horwitz

Amy & Terry Buckman Linda Katz

Wendy Oldstein & Mark Komen Laurie Fine

Gloria & Martin Goldberg

Ellie & Mort Keiser Tzedakah Fund

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Religious School Fund

Sharon Snyder Birth of George Asher Rudnick

Sisterhood Fund

Joan Blum Barbara & Dennis Hoffman Speedy Recovery for Jill Kleeman Speedy Recovery for Jill Kleeman

In Memoriam

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

Maxine Halpern

John Holtz Son of Carol Frank **Donald Middleman**

Father of Karl Middleman

Betty Zelouf

Mother of David Zelouf

Morris Weider

Father of Susan Millman

Mazal Tau!

Gloria & Marvin Barsky on the birth of their great-grandson, Teddy (Theodore) Richard Hanak Susan & Bruce Golboro on the birth of their grandson, Teddy (Theodore) Richard Hanak

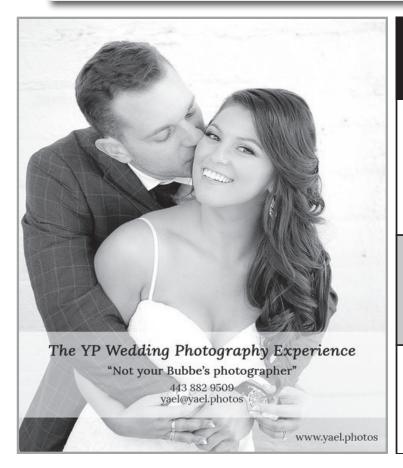
Bobbie Halpern on the marriage of her granddaughter, Emily Halpern, to Brandon Fox and the engagement of her granddaughter, Jessica Halpern, to Justin Meltzer

> Lauren & Brian Hirsch on the birth of their niece, Allison Elisabeth Slawe Suzanne & Louis Slawe on the birth of their granddaughter, Allison Elisabeth Slawe

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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Farticipate in the Listening Campaign!

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.

To participate in an upcoming session, as a host, facilitator, participant, or note taker, visit mlrt.org/listening.

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



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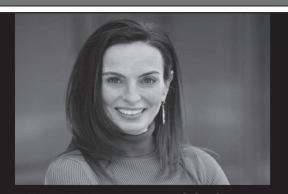


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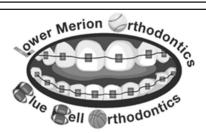
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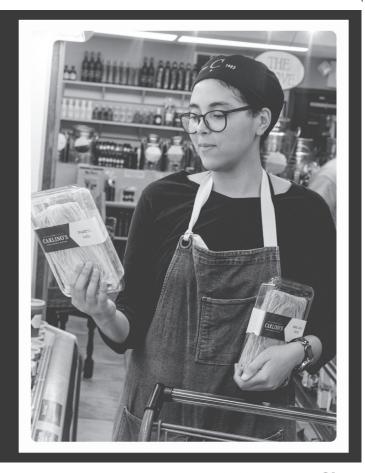
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MLRTMatters 21 MLRTMatters 21

Shabbat Services

Friday, January 31

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

Saturday, February 1

8:30 am Early Prayers & Songs of Praise

9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Sanctuary Service

Bar Mitzvah of Elliot Sandor Douglass

Son of Petra & Richard Douglass

5:00 pm Mincha Service

Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Hebert Son of Heather & John Hebert

Friday, February 7

6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze

6:30 pm Shishi Israeli Tu B'Shevat Shabbat Service

7:15 pm Shishi Israeli Shabbat Dinner

8:00 pm Tu B'Shevat Concert

Saturday, February 8

8:30 am Shabbat Morning Hike

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 Jenna Pasternack Daughter of Bonnie & Eric Pasternack

Friday, February 14

6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Chapel Service Saturday, February 15

8:30 am Early Prayers & Songs of Praise

9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service

Friday, February 21

8:00 pm Jewish Disabilities Awareness & Inclusion

Shabbat Service

9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, February 22

8:30 am Early Prayers & Songs of Praise

9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service

10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Gilbert

Son of Paula & Brett Gilbert

Friday, February 28

8:00 pm Shabbat Service with author Yousef Bashir

9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat

Saturday, February 29

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 Eliza Liebo

Daughter of Jennifer & Tony Liebo

There is still time to purchase tickets for TERRY GROSS, the next speaker in our Main Line Speaker Series, on Sunday, February 23!

Buy yours at mlrt.org/speakseries20

Terry Gross has been host of Fresh Air since 1975. Fresh Air with Terry Gross has received a number of awards, including the prestigious Peabody Award in 1994 for its "probing questions, revelatory interviews and unusual insight."





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February 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Elliot Douglass 5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Hebert
3	4	5 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	6 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	7 11:00 am Learn & Lunch with RGN 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Shabbat & Tu B'Shevat Family Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner	8 8:30 am Morning Prayers 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Hike 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Pasternack
TU B'SHEVAT 7:00 pm Brotherhood MNO at Founding Farmers	11 10:00 am Sisterhood General Board Meeting 12:15 pm Forward Thinking	12 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 11:00 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Short Story Discussion 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	14 ECE CLOSED 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Chapel Service	8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service
17 PRESIDENTS' DAY ECE AND MLRT OFFICE CLOSED	18 11:00 am Sisterhood Book Review & Brunch with Ronald Balson 12:00 pm Center City Lunch & Learn with RDS	19 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	20 11:00 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Suburban Lunch & Learn with RDS 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	21 Family Retreat in Lancaster, PA through Feb. 23 8:00 pm Inclusion Shabbat Service 9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat	22 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Gilbert
7:00 pm Parenting Book Club with RGN & Lisa David	25	26 SHALACH MANOT ORDERS DUE 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	27 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:00 pm Brotherhood Texas Hold'em 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA)	28 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with author Yousef Bashir 9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat	29 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Eliza Liebo
March 2	March 3 7:00 pm Brotherhood Book Club	March 4 10:00 am Shalach Manot Packing	March 5	March 6 5:30 pm ECE Simchat Shabbat Service & Dinner 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Shabbat Family Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner	March 7 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Penelope Cohen 5:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah of Alexander Krey & Dylan Zweibel
	10 TU B'SHEVAT 7:00 pm Brotherhood MNO at Founding Farmers 17 PRESIDENTS' DAY ECE AND MLRT OFFICE CLOSED 24 7:00 pm Parenting Book Club with RGN & Lisa David	10 TU B'SHEVAT 7:00 pm Brotherhood MNO at Founding Farmers 17 PRESIDENTS' DAY ECE AND MLRT OFFICE CLOSED 18 11:00 am Sisterhood Book Review & Brunch with Ronald Balson 12:00 pm Center City Lunch & Learn with RDS 24 7:00 pm Parenting Book Club with RGN & Lisa David March 2 March 3 7:00 pm Brotherhood Book	3 4 5 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 11 10:00 am Sisterhood General Board Meeting 12:15 pm Forward Thinking 12:15 pm Forward Thinking 13:00 pm Bridge 17 PRESIDENTS' DAY ECE AND MLRT OFFICE CLOSED 18 11:00 am Sisterhood Book Review & Brunch with Ronald Balson 12:00 pm Center City Lunch & Learn with RDS 19 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 24 7:00 pm Parenting Book Club with RGN & Lisa David 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 25 36 SHALACH MANOT ORDERS DUE 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge March 2 7:00 pm Bridge March 3 7:00 pm Bridge March 4 10:00 am Shalach Manot Packing	3 4 59:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 11 10 TU B'SHEVAT 7:00 pm Bridge 11 10:00 am Sisterhood General Brotherhood MNO at Founding Farmers are Founding Farmers 12:15 pm Forward Thinking 12:15 pm Forward Thinking 13 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Brotherhood MNO at Founding Farmers 12:00 pm Bridge 13 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL Brotherhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 12:15 pm Short Story Discussion 12:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 17 PRESIDENTS' DAY ECE AND MLRT OFFICE CLOSED 18 11:00 am Sisterhood Book Review & Brunch of Still W (AA) 19 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 12:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 20 pm Parenting 10:30 pm Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 10:30 pm Bridge 11:00 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Suburban Lunch & Learn with RDS 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 24 25 SHALACH MANOT ORDERS DUE 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 11:00 am Bible Study 12:13 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 25 SHALACH MANOT ORDERS DUE 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 10:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) March 2 March 3 7:00 pm Bridge March 4 10:00 am Shalach Manot Packing Norter All 10:00 am Shalach Manot Packing	3 4 59:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 11:00 am Bible Sudy Incomasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 11:00 am Sible Sudy Incomasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 11:00 am Sible Sudy Incomasta 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner 11:00 am Sible Sudy Incomasta 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner 11:00 am Sible Sudy Incomasta 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner 11:00 am Sible Sudy Incomasta 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner 12:15 pm Forward Thinking 11:00 am Sible Sudy Incomasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W (AA) 11:00 a

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