

Coronavirus Updates

Our #1 priority is keeping our MLRT family safe.
The COVID-19 pandemic makes all planning at this
time extremely challenging.

We write these words in mid-March, hoping we will all be able to congregate and meet in person at MLRT soon, while at the same time planning to hold as many of our services/classes and programs virtually and online.

Please visit mlrt.org for the most up to date information on specific services, classes and programs.

While the Temple is closed, our office is able to take calls at 610-649-7800 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm Monday through Friday, and we will be able to offer you information on our schedule and how to access our programs online.

We thank you for your understanding, and hope you are all safe and well. Know our clergy are here for you and always available to talk either on the phone or online.

Celebrate Passover with MLRT

FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS



Exciting changes in store for MLRT Religious School!

Get the scoop on page 8!

Welcome Janet Lee, our new Executive Director!

David E. Straus
Senior Rabbi

Geri Newburge
Rabbi

Faryn Rudnick
Cantor

Rabbi Kevin Kleinman
**Director of Education,
Associate Rabbi**

Janet Lee
Executive Director

Ross M. Levy
Director, Youth Engagement

Shari Morelli
**Interim Director,
Early Childhood Education**

Marshall A. Portnoy
Cantor Emeritus

Joel H. Ginsparg
President

R. Victor Haas
David Heppen
Lori Robbins
Vice Presidents

Mitchell Spector
Treasurer

R. Victor Haas
Financial Secretary

Jamie Mushlin
Recording Secretary



Janet Lee,
Executive Director

Dear MLRT families,

I prepared and submitted an article for the April bulletin in early March expressing my excitement and anticipation of moving to a new community, meeting new families and beginning a new chapter in my life. How quickly the world has changed in such a short time.

As with all of you, I am learning how to navigate these waters and hope that we will soon be joining together at MLRT to pray, learn and connect. But for now, I will introduce myself to you through virtual technology and try to establish connection with the tools we have available.

My name is Janet Lee, and I have been the Executive Director at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington, MA for the past nine years. Prior to my synagogue career, I worked in the health and fitness industry and continue to teach yoga and Pilates classes in my spare time. I am married to Tim Lee, an educator, who is currently an elementary school principal in Great Barrington. We have two grown daughters, Alison and Ruthanne, both of whom reside in Manhattan. I also have an eight-year-old sheltie named Milo who I spoil. My brother, Mark Rosen, and his wife, Ilene, reside in Bala Cynwyd and it was one of the reasons I was attracted to this area and considered applying to this position.

My local connections aside, it was my visit to Main Line Reform Temple back in January that convinced me that MLRT was a congregation where I could both be at home and be of service to the community. I felt at home almost immediately and the myriad of conversations I had were thoughtful and complex. It was obvious the people at MLRT truly care about this community, are determined to see it thrive and are dedicated to doing the work to ensure its continued success.

My first official day as MLRT's Executive Director is Monday, March 23, but I have already begun connecting with the MLRT staff and joining virtual meetings. The team designated to facilitate my on-boarding process has been hard at work. The scope of my on-boarding will need to shift, but the end goal is still the same. I hope to have as much virtual interaction with the congregation as possible, both individually and in group settings. I am rethinking how to make this happen; virtual coffee meetings, Zoom video conferencing and Facebook Live can help facilitate this.

I look forward to getting to know MLRT and meeting everyone. In the meantime, stay healthy and safe and thank you for welcoming me into your community.



Kerry Heppen, Liz Stoller, and Betsy Zeitlin during a recent volunteer opportunity at The Mitzvah Circle Foundation.

Find out about more opportunities for Tikkun Olam at the virtual Tikkun Olam Network meeting on Sunday, April 19.



**Main Office 610.649.7800
School Office 610.642.0304
www.mlrt.org**

Be Connected & Stay Connected



Rabbi David Straus

Dear Friends,

This is the most difficult rabbi's column I think I have ever written. I am writing this on the very last day that I can for this month's bulletin, and am fearful that most of what I am writing will not be accurate by the time you read this. "Fluid" barely begins to describe what we are learning about the Coronavirus: the news about it, and how we need to prepare and respond is changing literally by the hour.

First, and most important, I hope you and your family and loved ones are all safe. I hope we are adjusting as well as we can to this new normal in our lives. I know we are each reminded now more than ever of the importance of good health, and how interconnected we are as human beings. And I have to be honest—like all of you, I too am worried. I worry about our children and our parents who live out of town. I worry about you who live alone. I worry about our older members: do you have access to food and medicine? Who is taking care of you? I feel for our B'nai Mitzvah families who are struggling with what to do about their scheduled *simchot*, as we try and navigate this new world together.

The week that just ended was one in which most of our congregations, ours included, have had to close our doors and invited you to join us in prayer via livestream or some other "virtual" platform. (And we have had to learn very quickly how both to adapt and learn to use these new ways of connecting with you and creating a new kind of community.) Our schools—both our Early Childhood Education Programs and Religious School—are trying to find new ways to both connect with you and learn together. Our ability to be a community of purpose and intentionality in fulfillment of God's mandate of justice and mercy is being sorely tested.

A number of years ago, our Temple president Chuck Forer summarized our mission statement as CCC: *Consciously Creating Community and Connection*. (In recent years, we modified this to *Be Inspired! Be Connected! Belong!*) Both, I think, reflect our fundamental purpose as working to create sacred community and connection. As human beings, I believe we innately crave connection and community. We want our lives to matter, and we want to be surrounded by people who not only notice us, but profoundly and deeply care for us and love us, and share our concerns and passions.

In the days and maybe weeks ahead, we may not be able to physically be with one another. But that does not mean we need to be alone. We will work to create opportunities for us to connect virtually and online. We will be using different platforms—Zoom, Facebook Live, Skype, Facetime and others—to be with one another. We will be offering Shabbat services and classes online; our students will be able to join with Cantor and Ross in song; our Religious School teachers will teach online and connect our students with their classmates; our ECE teachers will be offering bed-time stories and circle time online, and the list goes on.

Please check our website often for these and other opportunities. Know that while many activities usually offered at the Temple will not meet at the Temple, that does not mean they have been canceled—they may be offered virtually and online. Check your inbox for emails from us, that will be more frequent during this time. And if you need to talk with us, please call us at the Temple, and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

We miss being with each and all of you, and look forward to being together in person soon.

Commemoration of Yom HaShoah – A Day of Remembrance

Monday, April 20 | 7:00 pm

Join us for our annual communal observance of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Featuring our Holocaust survivors and their families lighting of the six-branched candelabrum in memory of the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust, our service will include liturgy led by clergy from MLRT and Kehillah of Lower Merion Synagogues and a thoughtful and moving presentation by Rebecca Erbelding, author of [Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe](#). In this remarkable work of historical reclamation, Holocaust historian Erbelding pieces together years of research and newly uncovered archival materials to tell the dramatic story of America's little-known efforts to save the Jews of Europe. Erbelding and her work have been profiled in The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The New Yorker, and featured on the History Channel, NPR, and other outlets.

We Remember! This is a sacred and sanctified observance. It is our one opportunity to bear witness to history, and to give testimony that we will never forget that Holocaust. Please be with us in solidarity and in community. The entire community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, is invited to join us and school-aged children are encouraged to attend.

We are grateful to Suzanne and Norman Cohn and their families for their annual support of this most important commemoration.

The Importance of Staying Connected



Joel Ginsparg
President

I am writing this article in mid-March as the Coronavirus is beginning to impact our country and MLRT in ways that none of us would have ever thought possible. The public health authorities have advised us to practice social distancing and have asked us to “shelter in place” in our homes. These measures will significantly disrupt our day-to-day lives, but they are absolutely necessary to protect ourselves, our families, our friends, and our community by slowing the spread of this virus.

The responsibility for maintaining good health falls on us as individuals. Taking care of our health is a mitzvah and the Rabbis found this mandate implied in the words of the parsha Va’etchanan, “take heed to thyself and take care of your lives” (Deuteronomy 4:9) and, again, “be extremely protective of your lives” (Deuteronomy 4:15). The *Shulchan Aruch*, the primary compilation of Jewish law, tells us that we should avoid all things that are a potential risk to our lives. So holy and valuable is our being alive in the eyes of God that we are directed to stay away from something that is even just potentially harmful.

The current situation reminds me of an essay I read while in college. In 1948, after the dawn of the atomic age, C. S. Lewis wrote his famous essay “On Living in an Atomic Age.” In this essay he wrote:

In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. “How are we to live in an atomic age?” I am tempted to reply: “Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.”

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: sic and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.”

For most of us, the nourishment of our minds is enhanced through physical contact. Humans are social beings and we all benefit from connecting to others. However, the guidance around preventing the spread of the Coronavirus makes normal social interactions practically impossible. We need to find new ways to communicate with and connect with others.

Schedule virtual hang time with your friends, family and coworkers. Thanks to technology, we have lots of ways to keep in touch with people. When possible, schedule meetings with coworkers through Zoom, talk with your family using FaceTime, and coordinate a virtual dinner party with friends via Facebook Messenger. Consider organizing group texts to check in on your loved ones and set up Slack or Instagram channels devoted to the lighter things, like sharing cute photos.

Check on your friends and neighbors. If you’re feeling healthy, offer to assist with tasks like dog-walking and pay special attention to the people in your life who live alone. Is there anything you can do, like giving them a call or sending along a care package, that might make them feel a little less lonely?

Go outside, safely. Getting some extra sunshine and exercise can reduce anxiety and make you feel better. Consider taking a walk around the block or spending some time in your backyard. You should keep a safe distance from other walkers, but you can always wave hello.

Find creative ways to help others. Offering toilet paper to neighbors and providing an empathetic ear to friends are just two of the ways we can make this crisis easier for others in need. In addition to thinking about how you can protect yourself, brainstorm ways you can make life easier or more joyful for other people.

Finally, re-frame your thinking. Instead of focusing on what you can’t do during this crisis, ask yourself what you can do. What if having extra time at home allows you to write letters to loved ones or have an extra-long phone call with a friend? This is a great time to enjoy things that you otherwise are too busy to do.

Taking care of ourselves is extremely important. However, we must also maintain the social connections that keep us happy and our community strong. We are all in this pandemic together and we will get through it by helping each other.

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

Creating Community



Rabbi Geri Newburge

REFLECTIONS FROM RABBI GERI NEWBURGE

Last November we hosted a program sponsored by Jewish Federation called *Freedom Song*. *Freedom Song* is a show set in two places, a family's Passover Seder and a 12-Step meeting. Through dialogue and song, we learn from the actors about their challenges with addiction and the people who love them. What makes the show extraordinary is that the actors, director, and musicians are actual individuals in recovery who have attended drug, alcohol, and gambling rehab at Beit T'Shuvah, a Jewish residential addiction treatment center, congregation, and an educational institute.

In addition to the show, there was an inspiring Q & A session afterwards and there were a number of other resources shared with the community. One of the resources offered was the Clergy Immersion program at Beit T'Shuvah in Los Angeles. Once I saw *Freedom Song* I realized this was something worth checking out, and after a few phone calls and email exchanges with the program coordinator, I was booking my airplane ticket and Airbnb.

"Immersion," as it is generally referred to, was more than I could have ever dreamt. I spent five life changing days with ten other participants from Atlanta, LA, Winnipeg and Houston. During these five days, we learned about the history and mission of Beit T'Shuvah and the incredible work they do with the residents to help them understand and overcome their addictions. We were also blessed to study with the residents, as well as hear their heartbreaking and moving stories and join them for 12-Step meetings.

What Beit T'Shuvah seeks to create is an intentional community where every individual knows and feels that he or she is valued. Through individual and group study, a variety of therapies, and medical support the body, mind, and spirit of each resident is treated holistically so they can build a healthy and meaningful life.

I did not realize when I signed up that "Immersion" did not end on the Friday of the program. I was also committed to subsequent Zoom conference calls and a project based on what I learned in LA. While surprised by this turn of events, I was thrilled; it was the only logical and significant way to carry on the inspiration of our experience. Each of us is paired with a mentor who is a sounding board for said project. In the coming months and years, I look forward to sharing much of what I learned with the congregation, growing my rabbinate in new and meaningful ways, but if you have any questions or wish to speak personally about the "Immersion" please don't hesitate to reach out.



Staff Spotlight

Sally Brown, Librarian

sbrown@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800 x.314

Sally has been a mainstay in the Main Line Reform Temple Odell-Diamond Library since 2007. She earned her Masters in Library Science from Drexel University before working as a Judaic Librarian at Tifereth Israel, a Conservative Synagogue in Columbus, Ohio for twenty years. Sally and her husband, Bob, moved back to the Main Line to be closer to their three children, who currently live in Brooklyn, Rhode Island, and Philadelphia, and their five grandchildren.

With over 30 years of library experience, Sally has a wealth of knowledge of all things books. Ask her for her favorite book and she will respond with what she is reading now, her most recent book, a fantastic author she heard about in a recent Jewish Book Council conference, or an obscure Jewish author she read years ago and firmly believes doesn't get enough credit for their works. It is impossible to get her to name a favorite because she loves them all!

Every conversation with her is more fascinating than the last and helps explain why her Short Story Discussion Groups and multiple author programs throughout the year are always filled. Sally has proven a knack for picking authors from the vast JBC network that appeal and entice our MLRT community.

Sally firmly believes that books are a better way for people to connect than job networking or talking about TV (which she rarely watches.) She recommends asking someone, "what book are you reading now?" over asking them about what they do or where they are from; Sally says what a person reads tells you more about their character and who they are as a person than anything else. And with her background and knowledge, who are we to argue?

Lifelong Learning



Sally Brown,
Librarian

Please join us in commemoration on Monday night, April 20 at 7:00 pm for our annual Yom HaShoah community observance of the Holocaust. Our visiting speaker will be Rebecca Erbelding, author of Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe, about the U.S. response to the Shoah. Rescue Board details the work of the War Refugee Board, a U.S. government agency-run by a group of Treasury Department lawyers, most of them in their 30's, which rescued Jews during the Holocaust and saved thousands of lives. Ms Erbelding is a scholar, curator, and archivist at the U.S. Holocaust Museum and has been touring for the Jewish Book Council.

Please remember when you clean your house for Passover to search for our library's books. Library materials can fall through the cracks—in your sofas or kitchen cabinets. Please return any library books that you find and bring them to our Temple.

Keep in mind the Hassel lecture will take place on Sunday, May 3. We will be joined by Dan Oren, an author who calls himself a genealogy detective. Dr. Oren is an associate professor of psychiatry who has worked at Yale University and the National Institutes of Mental Health. His book, The Wedding Photo, will offer pathways for anyone interested in doing their own genealogy research.

Chag Sameach Pesach!



The following classes may be held virtually.

Please visit mlrt.org/zoom for the Zoom conference links and call-in information.

LEARN & LUNCH WITH RABBI GERI NEWBURGE

Friday, April 3 | 11:30 am

It's a mitzvah! Learn about some of Judaism's important but lesser known commandments and the role they play in Jewish lives today.

FORWARD THINKING: LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesday, April 14 | 12:15 pm

Join Rabbi Straus for a thought-provoking lunchtime discussion of selected articles from The Jewish Daily Forward.

LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID STRAUS

Tuesday, April 21 | 12:00 pm

Take a break for lunch and Rabbi Straus will serve up interesting conversation!

THE BERNIE KLEINMAN BROTHERHOOD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, April 21 | 7:30 pm

All are invited to take part in the discussion of Wedding of Waters by Peter L Bernstein, the remarkable story of the Erie Canal and how it opened the area beyond the Appalachians for settlement.

JEWISH MUSIC WITH CANTOR FARYN RUDNICK

Wednesdays, April 22 & 29 ; May 6, 13 & 20 | 12:15 p

The first class will be an overview of Jewish music history and the remaining classes will explore the composers who inspire us and paved the path for the music we have today including Solomon Sulzer, Max Janowski, Debbie Friedman, and more. For more information, please contact Cantor Rudnick at frudnick@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800.

HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE

Sunday, April 26 | 10:00 am Lecture with Iris Drechsler

Israeli Judaism: this term defines the newly forming Jewish identity in Israel as its society continuously finds new balances between Religion and State (Jewish and Democratic.) We'll take a closer look at this evolving unique Jewish identity as reflected in recent Israeli opinion polls and movie clips, and discuss it from our American Jewish perspective.

Save the date for our May program with author Dan Oren on May 3. Dr. Oren is an associate professor of psychiatry who has worked at Yale University and the National Institutes of Mental Health.

Passover

What is Passover?

Passover is many things. It is a Festival of Freedom, when we recall how God released our ancestors from slavery in Egypt and assisted in bringing a free people into existence.

Passover is an Agricultural Festival, which in ancient times marked the beginning of the grain harvest. In those days, our ancestors were farmers tilling the soil for a livelihood. The story of Passover reminds us of the Land of Israel.

Passover is a Pilgrimage Festival. Three times during the year, Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot, the Israelites, according to the laws of the Torah, went in joyous procession to Jerusalem to celebrate.

Passover is all of these things, but it is especially a holiday for children—a tradition to pass on from generation to generation - L'dor V'dor... Our ancestors were instructed: "You shall tell it to your (son) child." Today, Jews around the world still follow the tradition of retelling the story of Passover. We recount the story of the Jews in the land of Egypt and the trials and tribulations that our ancestors endured. We teach our children to value freedom, never taking it for granted and fighting for those who are still not free.

The Seder Service, the reading of the Haggadah, the Four Questions, the "stealing of the afikomen" - all these are meant for boys and girls, to teach them the importance of this great holiday in the history of Jewish people.

Reflect on the Seder and sing together with Rabbi Newburge and Cantor Rudnick in a Passover Zoom Video Conference at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9. Visit mlrt.org/zoom for more information!

As the sun sets on Wednesday, April 8, Jews throughout the world will begin the celebration of Passover. They will gather at the Seder table and retell the story of Passover, the Jewish struggle for freedom from oppression. Passover is one of the most important opportunities we have for rededicating ourselves as Jews to the ageless tradition of freedom and for reaffirming to ourselves and our children the continuing vitality of our heritage.

Traditionally, Judaism views the Seder as both a meal and as teaching opportunity. While the Haggadah teaches us the story of Passover, we each have stories to share with each other. And, it is the most memorable of holidays for our children as we gather round the beautiful holiday table to retell the story of Exodus, enjoy these special foods, search for the afikomen, welcome Elijah and join together in the singing of ancient melodies.

The following symbolic foods should be placed near the leader of the Seder. During the course of the Seder, they are pointed out and explained. On the Seder plate (use either a special one for this purpose or a regular dinner plate), include:

- Shank bone-zaro'ah, symbolizes the lamb that was sacrificed in ancient days
- Roasted egg-beitzah, represents the Passover offering of ancient days as well as the wholeness and continuing cycle of life
- Bitter herbs-maror (horseradish or romaine lettuce), reminds us of the bitter lives of the Hebrew slaves
- Charoset (the mixture of apples, nuts, sweet wine, cinnamon and sugar in the Ashkenazic fashion or dates, nuts and sweet wine in the Sephardic tradition), reminds us of the bricks and mortar made by the Hebrew slaves
- Greens-karpas, symbolizes the springtime of the year when Passover takes place

Elijah's Cup – A special cup filled with wine. According to legend, Elijah visits every Seder in every home on Passover and drinks from his cup.

Miriam's Cup – A cup filled with water to honor the role of Miriam the Prophetess in the Exodus and to highlight the contributions of women to Jewish culture, past and present.

Haggadah – Book containing the order of the Seder Service.

Candles – Passover is one of the three Pilgrimage Festivals when candles are lit and blessed just as they are on Shabbat.

Matzah – The unleavened bread of affliction that our ancestors ate as they left Egypt.

Salt Water - Symbolic of the tears our ancestors shed in Egypt.

Take part in our virtual Passover services at mlrt.org/zoom!

First Day of Passover Service on Thursday, April 8 at 10:00 am

Passover Yizkor Service on Wednesday, April 15 at 10:30 am

For more information on Passover, visit www.urj.org/holidays/pesach, www.pjlibrary.org, and www.urj.org/life/family

Revitalizing Religious School: Announcing Exciting Changes for 2020/21

AND THE ICE CREAM PARTY GOES TO...EVERYONE!!!! Thanks to the overwhelming response of our Religious School parent survey, all grades are winners. Every Religious School student will be invited to our school-wide ice cream party to celebrate the bright future of our educational programs at MLRT.

First and foremost, thank you to all our Religious School parents for your voices, opinions and commitment to your children and their Religious School experience. Clearly, we have an engaged and interested community. We have had a team of amazing lay leaders and clergy working together on our Religious School Task Force both last year and this year to understand, listen and re-evaluate our children's Religious School experience. The parent feedback has been instrumental in formulating our vision for Religious School moving forward.

To start, I would like to recap some of the changes the Task Force developed and implemented for this current school year. We enhanced our education leadership team by identifying lead teachers and expanding the roles for our clergy and Ross in planning and implementing our programs. We established and maintained a culture of kavod (respect) throughout our Religious School program and synagogue community. Many families took advantage of our new mid-week flexibility, designed for our 3rd-6th grade students who have changing and challenging after school schedules. We added more experiential and immersive learning programs that took us off-site to the Elmwood Park Zoo and museums in Center City, challah baking for hunger, and more. By dividing our Sunday morning assembly into two groups and separating the younger children from the older ones, we created a more age appropriate service that is enjoyable for all students.

This year, our Task Force's priorities and goals focused on creating a parent survey to assess our successes and our shortcomings. Our main objectives were to identify areas that we were doing well, areas that needed improvement, and overall satisfaction/dissatisfaction. We examined areas that could be potential barriers to consistent attendance. In keeping with our Temple's commitment to active listening, we were interested in hearing your opinions and voices regarding your children's experience of Religious School.

We learned that many of our parents feel that learning Jewish values, holidays, customs, developing a strong Jewish identity and belonging to a vibrant Jewish community is very important. We further learned that flexibility in Religious School education is also very important. The survey results allowed us to look closer at our classroom size and to see the effect it can have both positively and negatively on our children's experience and learning. For the sake of space and time, I won't go into specific survey results but please contact myself or Rabbi Kleinman and we would be happy to share them with you.

Based on all of this as well as other research we conducted, we are making the following changes in Religious School for next year that we are super excited to share with all of you:

We will be separating Religious School enrollment from the general membership renewal that happens in the summer. Families will be able to enroll electronically beginning April 15 through our new system ShulCloud. For grades 3rd through 6th, we will continue to offer a Two Class curriculum. What will change will be the day/time of when your child enrolls/takes Class Two. Class One will occur for all children in 3rd - 6th grade on Sunday from 9:00 to 11:00 am. For your child's Class Two: Families will choose ONE of the following options:

1. Sunday 11:00 am-12:00 pm
2. Wednesday 4:00-5:30 pm
3. Thursday 4:00-5:30 pm
4. Online small group class through Zoom (for 5th and 6th grade only)

*** If none of the above Class Two options work, please speak to us so we can see what would best fit your needs

Additionally, we will be changing the current Hebrew curricula to be more engaging and relevant to our children's needs. A new one-time activity fee will be added as an additional line charge (\$50). This is a one-time fee that will fund Shabbat dinners, field trips and in-class activities. This means that all of our Religious School families are welcome as usual at all of our Shabbat dinners and no one needs to pay extra to attend.

Please feel free to reach out to Rabbi Kleinman or myself for additional information and please know that our commitment to hearing your voices and opinions does not stop here. The Task Force will continue to meet and work on our children's experience to encourage a connection to their Jewish past, present and lifelong learning journey and we will remain committed to creating a warm, welcoming and safe learning environment for our children. We thank you for participating in, and being part of, this journey with us.

Jamie Mushlin, Religious School Task Force Chair



Ami Lonner & Elizabeth Stoller,
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Sisterhood

By now you and your family have probably polished off the last crumb of hamentaschen and you have drunk the last drop off grape juice from your Shalach Manot bag. We want to thank all the women who helped us organize, pack, and deliver the bags: especially Jackie Bobrin, Mary Kamplain, Lori Levin, and Beth Ginsberg! This Purim tradition is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and its success would not be a reality without our whole Sisterhood family!

We also want to acknowledge the awesome-ness of the Women's Reproductive Health and Rights Program that took place at the beginning of March at Temple Shalom. The panel was so knowledgeable and engaging and those of us that attended now feel even more empowered to act! Stay tuned for more on this very important topic!

Sisterhood has several fun and important events to round out the rest of the year. Sisterhood Shabbat is coming up on Friday, April 24 at 8:00 pm. We are looking forward to welcoming Zachary Schaffer as our featured speaker. Zachary is a very dynamic and accomplished young man who has worked around the country to bridge people together, bringing them across ideological, religious, and political divides. In this time of great polarization, his words should bring us some great encouragement.

We have also begun planning our closing event, which we hope will take place on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 pm here at MLRT. We will enjoy dinner and the amazing talent of the magician and mentalist, Ari Paul, who blends comedy and improv into each show.

In the works is a Sisterhood/Brotherhood movie night featuring the documentary film, "The Sturgeon Queens." In this short but engaging film, well-known enthusiasts of the store are interviewed (with their favorite fish highlighted) including Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, actress Maggie Gyllenhaal, chef Mario Batali, New Yorker writer Calvin Trillin, and 60 Minutes correspondent Morley Safer. Come and enjoy some nosh while we celebrate this NY institution! Date and time TBA!

We would love to have your help with any of the above events. Come check us out!!

Brotherhood

"Poor, dear, silly Spring, preparing her annual surprise" (Wallace Stevens).

Our annual event, but no surprise, is our upcoming Fifth Annual Golf Outing. This year's event is planned for May 13, a Wednesday, at the Green Valley Country Club. Our congregation should know that this event has garnered over \$60,000 over the last four years, all given to various charities. The charities include: Doctors Without Borders, Camp Harlam, Ronald McDonald House, the Free Library Fund of Philadelphia, and the Alzheimer's Association, to name a few. This year's theme is homelessness and food insecurity. It should come as no surprise that food insecurity and homelessness exist in Lower Merion. What should surprise all of us is that, nationwide, these two phenomena devastate children and adults on a daily basis, their numbers staggering. We encourage you to support the Golf Outing even if you are unable to play so that we can help, in some small way, to eradicate these two scourges.

Brotherhood salutes its own members who will occupy positions on our Board of Trustees: Joel Ginsparg, Vic Haas, David Heppen, Mitchell Spector, David Edman, Scott Ginesin, and Andy Shamberg. Our Temple is well-served by these Brothers. A well-deserved and hearty "Mazel Tov." (A gentle reminder: if you happen to be a Temple Board member who has not renewed his or her affiliation with Brotherhood or Sisterhood, it is never too late to show your support.)

Let's not be surprised by Spring; let us all work together for a special season of doing and camaraderie. Join Brotherhood.

Gary Brock, Brotherhood VP

Teach Our Children



Early Childhood Education

As soon as Governor Wolf shut down schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the staff of MLRT went into planning mode keeping the following goals in mind:

- staying connected to our families
- remaining a strength to your children
- maintaining a level of familiarity and consistency daily
- continuing to deliver the high quality instruction you have come to expect from us.
- learning the technology that would help us with the above goals.

We are pleased to have been sharing emails, videos, zoom meetings, virtual circle times, FaceTime events, FaceTime one on one calls and more, all in an effort to stay present and connected, with our parents over the past month. Based on your feedback, we will continue to work to provide your children a rounded out virtual learning experience during this difficult time.

Please visit our web pages specifically designed with your child in mind. These web pages are being populated every day with content, so check back often! We will also put any recorded zoom class meetings on these pages so that children can visit and press play as many times as they would like to see their teachers' and friends' faces!

- www.mlrt.org/ece-2-year-old-resources
- www.mlrt.org/ece-3-year-old-resources
- www.mlrt.org/ece-pre-k-resources
- www.mlrt.org/ece-kindergarten-resources

Feel free to page hop! There is content for all.

Please check Facebook often. Facebook will contain events like Music with Ross, Music with Roark, Yoga with Colleen, Shabbat, and much more. However, any important information will always be communicated in an email home so that everyone is in the know.

If we are missing the mark, if you have questions or if you simply want to reach out to say hi, please don't hesitate to email Keshia and myself at eceoffice@mlrt.org and smorelli@mlrt.org. We are here. We are listening. We are working to teach your children well and to keep our community close.

APRIL 23 – PARENTING SEMINAR: RECOGNIZING AND TREATING ANXIETY ACROSS CHILDHOOD

7:00 pm Zoom Conference Meeting

Dr. Paul Kesselman, Psy.D, will explain what anxiety is and how it gets started, show what anxiety looks like physically and in our minds, discuss how it affects children in all arenas, provide resources and ideas to assist parents to decrease anxiety and answer any questions parents may have. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/mlrtparenting>.



Religious School

Thanks to all the efforts of the Religious School Task Force, I am very excited for the innovative changes we are making to our educational programs in the coming school year (see Jamie Mushlin's article on page 8.) Please join us on April 19 for a Parent Town Hall to learn first-hand about our new schedule and approach to Jewish learning and living at MLRT.

One significant change will be moving the period of Religious School enrollment to the Spring and transitioning this from paper forms to our new online member portal called ShulCloud. You will receive instructions via email indicating how to log in to your ShulCloud account and enroll your child(ren). This is an important step in our planning process for next year. Thank you in advance for taking the time to support our vision and enroll your children in a timely manner.

Special Religious School Programs

APRIL 19 – RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PARENT TOWN HALL

MAY 1 - SHIRU SHIR CHADASH FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE & TEACHER/MADRICHIM APPRECIATION

6:30 pm – Family Service featuring 6th grade students

NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL – April 7 and 8

Contributions

(As of March 16)

In Memory

Anne Simon Adult Education Fund

Nancy & Larry Abrams Bill Steerman

Annual Fund

Marla & Norman Fienman	Rabbi Max Hausen
Stacia Friedman	Samuel Jacob Gilmar
Marsha Gash	Yahrzeit of Florence Perilstein
Nina Kitnick & Family	Betty Zelouf
Carol & Roger Masch	Yahrzeit of Dorothy Masch
	Yahrzeit of Emma Ornauer
Diane & Richard Steinbrink	Yahrzeit of Irving B. Goodman
Celia Wasserman	Rabbi Max Hausen

Brotherhood Fund

Marla & Norman Fienman Joseph Cirin

L'Dor Va'Dor Endowment Fund

Ann & Gordon Gelfond	Louis Trachtman
Mona & Kenneth Harris	Louis Trachtman

Levin Playground Fund

Diane & Albert Schwab Yahrzeit of Rose Schwab

Mitzvah Fund

Linda & Robert Broder	Eric Shapiro
The Broder Family	George Liss
Susan & Larry Picker & Family	Matthew Wzorek

Rabbi Newburge Discretionary Fund

Amy & Bob Silverman Norman Sassler

Rabbi Straus Discretionary Fund

Debbie & Jeff Adler	Yahrzeit of Irvin D. Goldberg
Carole & Arnold Bailis	Rabbi Max Hausen
Howard & Cookie Cohen	Yahrzeit for Samuel David Weiner
	Yahrzeit for Jacob Raboff
Miriam & Stan Dubin	Yahrzeit for Jenny Goetz
Edgar Freudenberg	Yahrzeit for Lawrence Garber
Marvin Garber	Clara Haupt Sussman
Ellen & Donald Haupt	Louis Trachtman
Elaine & Don Krasnick	Yahrzeit for Hai & Evelyn Samuel
Amira Littman	Sander Gorberg
Tami Meyerson	Norman Sassler
Amy & Bob Silverman	Marty Adler
Alice & Michael Solomon	Yahrzeit for Kate Nemerofsky
Jean & Stanley Spitzer	Yahrzeit for Rita Schraff
Donna & Jay Warshaw	Yahrzeit for Bessie W. Strickler
Celia Wasserman	Betty Zelouf
Susan & David Zelouf	

Schnyder Floral Fund

Gail Simon Louis Trachtman

Weinberg Multimedia Library Fund

Charlotte Weinberg Rabbi Max Hausen

In Honor

Annual Fund

Lisa Cataldi Speedy Recovery for Joseph Cataldi

Cantor Rudnick Discretionary Fund

Paula & Brett Gilbert Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Gilbert

Community Action Fund

Hinda Bodinger Welcoming Janet Lee to MLRT

Hassel Adult Education Fund

Gloria & Martin Goldberg Birthday of Avivah Pinski
Gloria & Marvin Barsky's Great Grandson

Odell Diamond Library Fund

Norma & Sherman Hillelson Birth of Granddaughter
Gail & Bob Rudenstein Birth of Evelyn Helen Rudenstein

Rabbi Newburge Discretionary Fund

Hope & Howard Kessler	The Unveiling for Frieda Lefebber
Debbie & Howard Lucker	Matthew Gilbert's Bar Mitzvah
Cindy & Jeff Ruben	Birth of Zoe Siegal
Emma and Molly Shapiro	In appreciation of Rabbi Newburge

Social Action Fund

Norma & Stephen Bolden Birthday of Avivah Pinski

Weinberg Multimedia Library

Charlotte Weinberg Birth of George Asher Rudnick

Mazal Tov!

Linda & Robert Broder on the birth of their granddaughter, Sage Riley Jusko

Photographers and photos needed!



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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.

In Memoriam

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

Martin Adler

Father of Jeffrey Adler

Herbert Bell

Grandfather of Stacy Rosen
Great-Grandmother of Sadie and Emily Rosen

Barbara Berger

Mother of Lisa Baskin
Grandmother of Sophie Baskin

Robert Layman

Father of Anne Horn
Grandfather of Katie, Emily and Jeremy Horn

Norman Sassler

Father of Amy Sassler Silverman
Grandfather of Seth and Jessi Silverman and Daniel Cohen

Claire Haupt Sussman

Founding Member of MLRT

Helen Zuger

Mother of Jane Portnoy
Mother-in-law of Cantor Marshall Portnoy

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Participate 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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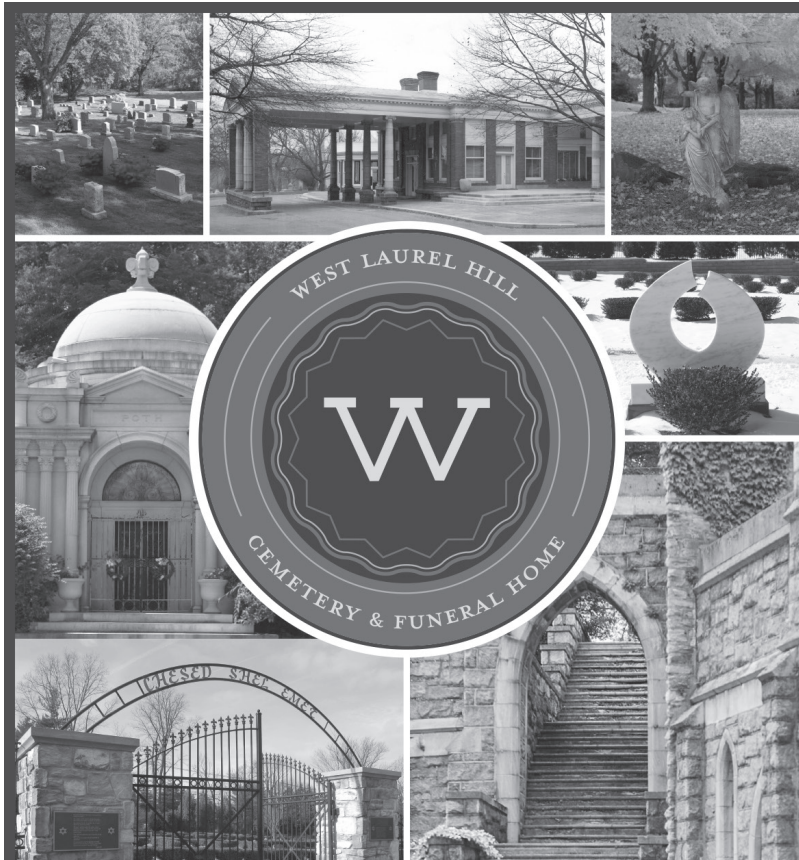
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Shabbat & Holiday Services

**All programs, including B'nai Mitzvah services, are subject to change.
Please visit mlrt.org for the most up-to-date information.
Virtual classes and services can be found at mlrt.org/zoom**

Friday, April 3

6:30 pm Virtual Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 4

9:00 am Virtual Torah Study
10:30 am Sanctuary Service
Bar Mitzvah of Noah Levit
Son of Janis & Braden Levit
5:00 pm Mincha Service
Bat Mitzvah of Layla Schultz
Daughter of Julie & Andrew Schultz

Wednesday, April 8

First Night of Passover & First Seder

Thursday, April 9

Second Night of Passover & Second Seder

10:00 am Virtual Passover Service

Friday, April 10

8:00 pm Virtual Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 11

9:00 am Virtual Torah Study

Wednesday, April 15

Seventh Day of Passover

10:30 am Virtual Yizkor Service

Friday, April 17

8:00 pm Virtual Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 18

8:30 am Shabbat Morning Hike
9:00 am Virtual Torah Study
5:00 pm Mincha Service
Bar Mitzvah of Parker Hoppy
Son of Deborah & Brian Hoppy

Friday, April 24

8:00 pm Virtual Sisterhood Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 25

9:00 am Virtual Torah Study
10:30 am Sanctuary Service
B'nai Mitzvah of Sophie & Josh Cooper
Daughter and Son of Jill Schreiber & Adam Cooper

Friday, May 1

5:30 pm Virtual ECE Simchat Shabbat Service
6:30 pm Virtual Family Service & Teacher/
Madrichim Appreciation

Saturday, May 2

9:00 am Virtual Torah Study
10:30 am Sanctuary Service
Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Swarbrick
Son of Marc & Amanda Swarbrick
5:00 pm Mincha Service
Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Shurman
Daughter of Julie & Daniel Shurman

Save the dates!

Community Israel Memorial Day Ceremony on Erev Yom Ha'Zikaron at Har Zion on Monday, April 27 at 7:30 pm. Israeli Knesset designated the day before Yom Ha'Atzmaut as Yom Ha'Zikaron, a day to memorialize soldiers who lost their lives fighting in the War of Independence and subsequent battles, as well as a day to remember civilian victims of terrorism.

Community Yom Ha'Atzmaut Program at Adath Israel on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30 pm. Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, a rising star on the Jewish music scene, and community leaders will lead a tekes ma'avar ceremony transitioning from the reflection of Yom Ha'Zikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) into the all-out celebration of Yom Ha'Atzmaut. Modeled on the Israeli singing phenomenon "Koolulam," which has spread throughout the world, this celebration will unite people of all ages in singing and creating a music and video scene that can then be shared and displayed proudly as a sign of our community's togetherness.

Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, May 11 from 2:00 - 7:00 pm. Appointments are recommended. Schedule online at redcrossblood.org/give or call 1-800-RED CROSS. Walk-ins welcome when possible.

AARP Driver Safety Course on June 2. Participants can register by submitting a check made payable to AARP to: MLRT office, 410 Montgomery Ave., Wynnewood, PA 19096; space is limited!

April 2020

**All programs are subject to change.
Please visit mlrt.org for the most up-to-date information.**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2 11:00 am Virtual Bible Study	3 11:30 am Virtual Learn & Lunch with RGN 6:30 pm Virtual Family Shabbat Service	4 9:00 am Virtual Torah Study 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Noah Levit 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Layla Schultz
5	6	7	8 1:00 pm MLRT Office closing PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNDOWN First Seder 5:00 pm Virtual Passover Celebration	9 MLRT OFFICE CLOSED FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER 10:00 am Virtual Passover Service 5:00 pm Virtual Passover Celebration Second Seder	10 8:00 pm Virtual Shabbat Service	11 9:00 am Virtual Torah Study
12	13	14 12:15 pm Virtual Forward Thinking with RDS	15 MLRT OFFICE CLOSED SEVENTH DAY OF PASSOVER 10:30 am Virtual Yizkor Service	16 11:00 am Virtual Bible Study 12:15 pm Virtual Short Story Discussion	17 8:00 pm Virtual Shabbat Service	18 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Hike 9:00 am Virtual Torah Study 5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Parker Hoppy
19 11:15 am Virtual Tikkun Olam Network Meeting	20 7:00 pm Virtual Community Yom HaShoah Program	21 YOM HASHOAH 12:00 pm Virtual Lunch & Learn with RDS 7:30 pm Virtual Brotherhood Book Club	22 9:15 am Virtual Adult Learning with RDS 12:15 pm Virtual Jewish Music Class with CFR	23 11:00 am Virtual Bible Study 7:00 pm Virtual Parenting Seminar	24 8:00 pm Virtual Sisterhood Shabbat Service	25 9:00 am Virtual Torah Study 10:30 am B'nai Mitzvah of Sophie & Josh Cooper
26 9:30 am Virtual Hassel Adult Ed. Lecture with Iris Dreschler	27 7:30 pm Yom Ha'Zikaron Program at Har Zion	28 YOM HA'ZIKARON 7:30 pm Yom Ha'Atzmaut Program at Adath Israel	29 YOM HA'ATZMAUT 9:15 am Virtual Adult Learning with RDS 12:15 pm Virtual Jewish Music Class with CFR 6:00 pm Holocaust Awareness Museum & Education Center Program	30 11:00 am Virtual Bible Study	May 1 11:00 am Virtual Learn & Lunch with RGN 5:30 pm Virtual ECE Simchat Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Virtual Shabbat Family Service	May 2 9:00 am Virtual Torah Study 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Swarbrick 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Shurman

Virtual classes and services can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

Please note:

- The Bimah to Broadway concert on April 25 has been canceled.
- Bret Stephens has been postponed until the 2020-21 Main Line Speaker Series.

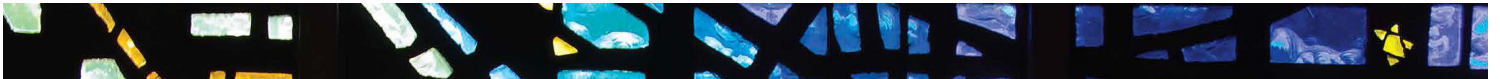


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We laughed, we cried, and we thoroughly enjoyed Terry Gross on February 23!

The Main Line Speaker Series is underwritten by a generous grant from Gail & Joel Morganroth.

Thank you to our presenting sponsors The Daniel B. and Florence E. Green Foundation and Firsttrust Bank, and contributing sponsors AMC Photography Studios, John Gallagher of Morgan Stanley, The Stan & Arlene Ginsburg Family Foundation, and Marcy & Tom Wiener.

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