



MLRT Matters

MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE

March 2020

Be Inspired. Be Connected. Belong.

JOIN US!

Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 | 11:15 IN THE MORNING

Be the first to meet our new Executive Director, Janet Lee!



CELEBRATE PURIM WITH MLRT!

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 8

Adult Purim Party

Monday, March 9

SEE PAGES 7 & 8 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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David E. Straus
Senior Rabbi

Geri Newburge
Rabbi

Faryn Rudnick
Cantor

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

Roy Feinberg
Interim Executive 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
Treasurer

Brett Cohen
Financial Secretary

Beth Allen
Recording Secretary



BE THE FIRST TO MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JANET LEE!

Welcome Janet and her husband Tim to our wonderful Main Line Reform Temple family during our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 15 at 11:15 am. We are excited to recognize all of the new members who have enhanced our community over the past year, enjoy a delicious bagel brunch, and take a look back at the fascinating events and programs of 2019-20 with a musical photo montage.

We will also hear from our President, Joel H. Ginsparg, and our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi David Straus, who 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. The election of Officers and Trustees will be conducted.

NOMINEES

President:
Joel H. Ginsparg

Vice Presidents:
David Heppen
Vic Haas
Lori Robbins

Treasurer:
Mitchell Spector

Financial Secretary:
Vic Haas

Recording Secretary:
Jamie Mushlin

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

Brett Cohen
Dave Edman
Scott Ginesin

Mignon Groch
Amy Kopelman
Rachel Lester

David Rawdin
Andy Shamberg

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

Fonda Hartman

Ben Labovitz

Mazal Tov!

Andy Shamberg & Ronnie Neff-Shamberg on the birth of
their granddaughter, Vivienne Rose Shamberg

SAVE THE DATE - 2nd Night Seder

Thursday, April 9 | 5:00 pm

Join your MLRT family for a meaningful, fun, and participatory 2nd Night Seder. This Seder is for people of all ages. We provide grape juice and matza; please bring a Pesach dessert to share. Catered by Bryce's Catering, our Seder costs \$40/adult and \$20/child. RSVP BY March 25 at mlrt.org/passover.

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



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

The Power of Music



Rabbi David Straus

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. For us as Jews, this year also marks the 75th “anniversary” of the *Shoah*, or Holocaust, when 6 million of our brothers and sisters, including 1 million children were brutally and savagely murdered by the Nazis. Last month in Jerusalem, many of the world’s leaders gathered at Yad Vashem to observe the UN’s Holocaust Memorial Day. The Jewish community has its own day for remembering the *Shoah*, *Yom Hashoah u’Gvurah*, which we will observe on Monday, April 20. (The reasons for two separate days of commemoration is another sermon.)

We have been invited to join the Church of the Redeemer (Bryn Mawr) on Saturday evening March 21, when their choirs will perform a work entitled *Annelies*, by James Whitbourn. This composition is the first adaptation of the Diary of Anne Frank in a large-scale choral work. The chamber version of this oratorio is scored for chorus, soprano solo, clarinet, violin, cello and piano. I think it is incredibly powerful and moving that the Church of the Redeemer should both be performing this work in memory of Anne Frank, and turn to us, MLRT, to be their partner in bringing this important work to our community. I hope you and your family and friends will join me at the Church of the Redeemer as our two communities share this experience together. I also hope this will be the beginning of more collaboration, learning, and partnering together as two leading communities of faith on the Main Line.

Critically acclaimed soprano Arianna Zukerman will be accompanied by the famed Lincoln Trio, all of whom are Grammy nominated musicians. Michael Diorio, the church’s Music Director, will lead the choirs of Church of the Redeemer and conduct the performance on Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 pm at Church of the Redeemer, 230 Pennswood Road, Bryn Mawr. This incredible evening of music and partnership is \$25 for adults, \$15 for students, and free for children 12 and under.

Michael has written for his community: *The Holocaust was a devastatingly haunting part of history linked not only to the Jewish community but all of humanity. By performing this particular work we hope to connect faith communities and foster a sense of ecumenical resolve and unity. This work stirs an awareness of that which has been endured in the hope that tolerance and understanding will rise from the ashes of hate.*

The performance of this work is timely on multiple levels, particularly given our world’s current events that seem to smolder with intolerance, as the brutal attacks on places of worship in the past few months have alarmingly shown. The words and music transcend the boundaries of religious difference, they speak beyond dogma, and form an expression of the divine.

The text is unadorned. The words are simple, originating in a young girl with a most unique optic of her place in the world: what it could be, and the reality of what it was for her. With her own words, set to song, we hope to bridge generations by the relevance of that narrative.

Please come out on March 21 and support this important initiative by our neighbors. When others reach out to us in love and care, we need to respond.

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

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.

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.

Celebrating Community!



Joel Ginsparg
President

A *Kehillah* or community is made up of members who are different from each other and yet their being together is valued for its own sake. A *Kehillah* comes to life because of its individual members. A *Kehillah* is the community that forms when each individual's gifts are treasured. A *Kehillah* cherishes the unique features of each of its members and seeks to honor all who are present. On Sunday, March 15, we will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will be celebrating our community by welcoming our new Executive Director, Janet Rosen Lee, and all of the families who have joined our congregation in the past year as well as honoring the lay leaders who have served our community this past year and electing officers and trustees to the Board of Trustees to lead our congregation in the upcoming year.

I am pleased to welcome Janet Rosen Lee to our congregation as our permanent Executive Director. Janet comes to us from Hevreh of Southern Berkshires, a Reform congregation in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, where she has been the Executive Director for the past nine years. Prior to Hevreh, she

held leadership positions in operations and finance at several companies. Janet has a hands-on collaborative management style with strong financial skills. Most importantly, she has a warm, friendly, and empathetic personality. Janet's first day in the office at MLRT will be March 30 but she and her husband Tim will be at the Annual Meeting. Please join us to meet and welcome them into our congregational family. I also want to thank the co-chairs of the search committee, Stacey Gerwitz and Brad Frank, and the other members of the search committee for their dedication and hard work on the search.

We are also excited to welcome and embrace all of the families who have joined our congregation in the past year. Many of these families have children attending our Early Childhood Education and Religious School programs. Many of them have also participated in various MLRT programs such as Tikkun Olam and MLRT Connects! Please join us at the Annual Meeting to meet and greet our new members!

During the past year, the leadership has been working on a number of major initiatives to enhance and transform MLRT. We have been working on enhancing member engagement. One key project is our Listening Campaign. We hope to meet with everyone in the congregation during the next year or two to get your feedback and suggestions. We have also started work to implement a Culture of Philanthropy. We want to transform everyone's relationship with MLRT from being transactional to being a sacred partnership. There is also a project to enhance worship experiences in our sanctuary. We are planning to change the furniture on the bimah to enable greater participation by members of our congregation including the disabled and to install permanent screens for the visual *T'filah* that has become increasingly popular at many of our worship services including the High Holy Day services at Lower Merion High School.

Our Main Line Speaker Series continues to bring outstanding speakers to MLRT. This year's speakers are Jon Meacham, Terry Gross, and Bret Stephens. The Religious Education task force, a large group of passionate and dedicated members of our congregation, has been working to understand the religious educational needs of our children and investigating new alternative education models. The task force has recommended changes to transform our religious education programs to better serve our children. Finally, our Tikkun Olam Network supports many social action projects including programs to address food insecurity, illiteracy, women's shelters, aid to immigrants, and programs against gun violence. There will be an opportunity to learn more about all of these initiatives at the Annual Meeting.

It has been my pleasure and honor to work for the past year with an outstanding team of officers. They are Vice Presidents Dave Heppen, Rachel Lester, and David Rawdin, Treasurer Vic Haas, Financial Secretary Brett Cohen, and Recording Secretary Beth Allen. In addition to these officers, there are many other dedicated lay leaders of our congregation including members of the Board of Trustees, chairpersons and members of various committees, leaders and members of Brotherhood and Sisterhood, and volunteers for our many programs, projects, and events. There is not enough space here for me to list everyone. However, I want to thank all of them for their service to MLRT. It is because of all that they do and the sacrifices they make that MLRT is a very special community.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of MLRT for the past year. I have enjoyed seeing and speaking with many of you at worship services and many other events. On behalf of the officers and the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve this congregation.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting to welcome Janet and all of our new families and to thank all of our lay leaders. It will truly be a celebration of our community!

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

Creating Community

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. RSVP at PetersPlaceOnline.org.

THE BERNIE KLEINMAN BROTHERHOOD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 3 | 7:30 pm

All are invited to attend the discussion of Edward Kritzer's *Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean*. 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.

SHALACH MANOT PACKING

Wednesday, March 4 | 10:00 am

Make Purim more meaningful and help Sisterhood assemble over 650 Shalach Manot packages for our members! Delivery volunteers are also needed starting March 4. Contact Jackie Bobrin at jackiebobrin@gmail.com or Beth Greenblatt Ginsberg at bethgreenblatt@aim.com if you can help with packing and/or delivery.

SHABBAT NATURE HIKE

Saturday, March 14

8:30 am MLRT parking lot to carpool

9:00 am Bells Mill Trail (turn right onto Bells Mill Rd from Ridge Avenue, park in the lot on the right side of Bells Mill) Explore the Wissahickon on Shabbat morning. We will join in prayer and fellowship surrounded by nature; no previous experience needed. For more information, contact Rabbi Newburge at gnewburge@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800.

BEER CLUB

Sunday, March 15 | 7:00 pm

L'chaim! Join your MLRT family for a beer or two downstairs at Whole Foods Wynnewood. 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.

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.

RESET & RENEW: NATIONAL REFUGEE SHABBAT

Friday, March 20 | 6:00 pm Snack & Schmoose

6:30 pm Reset & Renew Service | 7:30 pm Catered Dinner Celebrate a truly meaningful Shabbat with Ross M. Levy and the Levites as we commemorate National Refugee Shabbat in collaboration with HIAS-PA. This will bring a new meaning to "reset and renew." We will hear inspirational words from Cathryn Miller-Wilson, Executive Director of HIAS-PA, and have the opportunity to view some of Jeannette Flamm Brockman's incredible photographs of HIAS-PA's clients. RSVP and pay for dinner by March 12 at mlrt.org/national-refugee-shabbat.

ANNELIES

Saturday, March 21 | 7:30 pm at Church of the Redeemer

A story of hope, faith, and perseverance in one exceptional musical presentation. In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and featuring the choirs from Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, with Grammy nominated musicians Arianna Zukerman, soprano, and The Lincoln Trio, we present James Whitbourn's large-scale musical adaptation of Anne Frank's diary, *Annelies*. \$25 general admission; \$15 student admission; children 12 & under free.

There is still time to register!

MLRT & ZBC CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY

May 31- June 2, 2020

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

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

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

Lifelong Learning



Sally Brown,
Librarian

The Short Story Discussion Group will meet on March 5 (instead of March 12) when we will read and discuss "Face from Atlantis" by Nadine Gordimer. Nadine Gordimer was born in South Africa in 1923 and is a well-known activist. Her many accolades include a Booker Prize and a Nobel Prize for literature. Join us!

Friday, March 13 is Brotherhood Shabbat and we are thrilled to host Dr. Paul Zeitz, author of Waging Justice: a Doctor's Journey to Speak Truth and Be Bold. Dr. Zeitz received his medical degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a preventive medicine degree at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He is an activist who has built a coalition to bring health and justice to all people. Join Brotherhood and welcome Dr. Paul Zeitz to MLRT during Shabbat services at 8:00 pm. The proceeds from the sale of his book will be donated to sustainable development.

Our Ella C. Wolf Endowed Lecture program is one that our congregation looks forward to each year. Through the generosity of Bill Wolf who endowed this lecture in memory of his wife Ella, a lover of books and learning, we bring you an exciting author who will speak at Friday night services on March 27. Mikhel Dekel, a professor of English at City College of New York, has written Tehran Children: a Holocaust Refugee Odyssey, the extraordinary true story of Polish-Jewish children refugees who escaped the Nazis and found refuge in Iran. Dekel fuses memoir with historical investigation in this account of the all-but unknown Jewish refuge in Muslim lands.

While winter is still with us, warm up with these three provocative author programs at our Temple. They will teach us something new and invigorate our minds!



HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE From Showboat to Sondheim-A Brief History of American Musical Theater

Sunday, March 1 | 9:30 am Bagels & Coffee
10:00 am Lecture with Karl Middleman
Karl teaches at Temple University and Cabrini
College, has lectured for the Philadelphia

Orchestra over 50 times, and has presented public lectures on over 300 different topics.

Save the date for our April program: *Israeli Judaism with Iris Drechsler on April 26.*

FORWARD THINKING: LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesday, March 10 | 12:15 pm

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

PARADIGMS OF PARTING: THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF THE HEROES AND SAGES WITH RABBI RICHARD HIRSH

Thursdays, March 12, 19, and 26 | 10:00 am

Using stories from biblical, rabbinic, and chasidic texts, we will explore how biblical heroes, talmudic sages, and chasidic masters face the inevitability of impermanence. Rabbi Hirsh has served in many different academic, editorial, and congregational positions in his long career, including MLRT!



LUNCH & LEARN WITH RABBI DAVID STRAUS

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

Suburban

Thursday, March 12 | 12:15 pm

Hosted by Steven Handleman at One Town Place, Suite 200, Bryn Mawr, PA Take the elevator to the 2nd floor and the conference room is straight ahead.

RSVP to Steven at shandleman@comcast.net.

Center City

Tuesday, March 24 | 12:00 pm

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

LEARN & LUNCH WITH RABBI GERI NEWBURGE

Friday, March 13 | 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 MLRT, we will provide the main entrée, please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. RSVP to Gabrielle Hill at 610-649-7800 or ghill@mlrt.org.



celebrate Purim



ABOUT PURIM

Purim is a joyous holiday that affirms and celebrates Jewish survival and continuity throughout history. The main communal celebration involves a public reading—usually in the synagogue—of the Book of Esther, *Megillat Esther*, which tells the story of the holiday: under the rule of King Ahashverosh, Haman, the king's adviser, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of Persia from destruction. The reading of the *Megillah* typically is a rowdy affair, punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman's name is read.

In the Book of Esther, we read that Purim is a time for "feasting and merrymaking," as well as for "sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor" (Esther 9:22). In addition to reading *Megillat Esther*, celebrants dress in costumes, have festive parties, perform "Purim-shpiels," silly theatrical adaptations of the story of the *Megillah*, send baskets of food (*mishloach manot*) to friends, and give gifts to the poor (*matanot l'evyonim*). reformjudaism.org/purim

For more information about Purim, including customs, recipes, history, and songs, visit reformjudaism.org/purim

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If you are looking for ways to make Purim more meaningful, please consider joining Sisterhood at MLRT on Wednesday, March 4 at 10:00 am to assemble over 650 Shalach Manot packages. Volunteers are also needed to deliver packages starting March 4. Contact Beth Greenblatt Ginsberg at bethgreenblatt@aim.com or Jackie Bobrin at jackiebobrin@gmail.com if you can help us with packing and/or delivery.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PURIM SHPIEL

Sunday, March 1 - K-2nd

Wednesday, March 4 and Thursday, March 5 - 3rd-5th

ECE PURIM SHPIEL

Friday, March 13 during morning Shabbat Services

ADULT PURIM CELEBRATION

Monday, March 9 | 7:00 pm

Come hear the Megillah and see your fellow MLRT players as they sing and dance in our Purim Shpiel. Enjoy heavy appetizers, drinks, and dessert as we gather (costumes encouraged) to celebrate the wonderful holiday of Purim. You are welcome to BYOB in addition to the beverages provided.

There is no cost to attend this entertaining evening; RSVP requested to Gabrielle Hill at ghill@mlrt.org by March 2.

PURIM CARNIVAL SPONSORSHIP

Our annual Purim Carnival is also our only Religious School fundraiser. The Purim Carnival Sponsorship Program is a way to celebrate and honor our families, and simultaneously raise additional funds towards our goal. Your attendance and contributions allow our school to purchase materials used to enhance our school programs, bring more special guests for programs, and plan more field trips.

Become a sponsor of this great community-wide event on March 8 and help support your MLRT community! All sponsorship levels include swag in addition to the items listed below.

Visit mlrt.org/purim to select a sponsorship level or pre-purchase your all day play wristbands (and save \$2!)

Queen Esther

\$400

Admission for five children and 40 raffle tickets

Bulletin listing

Two Carnival games named after your family or business

Mordechai

\$200

Admission for four children

20 raffle tickets

One Carnival game named after your family or business

King Ahasuerus

\$150

Admission for three children

20 raffle tickets

Haman

\$100

Admission for two children

10 raffle tickets

Queen Vashti

\$60

Admission for one child

10 raffle tickets

Brotherhood

The groundhog gave us a prognosis: early spring. Brotherhood gives us this prognosis: March will be a splendid month for service and camaraderie. The month begins with the Bernie Kleinman Memorial Brotherhood Book Club meeting on March 3, which is held at MLRT in the Odell Diamond Library, beginning at 7:30 pm. All are invited to attend the discussion of Edward Kritzer's *Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean*. 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.

If you like your hot dog boiled and your pizza baked; if you like that Brotherhood volunteers at the Purim Carnival each year and donates the cost of all the food, then you will want to join your fellow congregants and their children at this year's Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 8. The Carnival runs from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm; early admission for ECE families starts at 9:30 am.

Dr. Paul Zeitz, noted author of *Waging Justice: a Doctor's Journey to Speak Truth and Be Bold*, will be the speaker at this year's Brotherhood Shabbat service on Friday, March 13. Dr. Zeitz's career is fascinating, including advocacy for social justice and human rights. He is currently working on the "Build A Movement 2020," for waging justice in the United States and globally. Come join us for our service and Dr. Zeitz's timely concerns.

Our monthly Men's Night Out will take place at the Ripplewood Whiskey and Craft restaurant in Ardmore on Wednesday, March 18. *Note the change in time to 6:15 pm from 7:00.* If you enjoy being able to choose from among a very large stock of whiskeys (our youngest son's best friend offers Sonoma Rye from California's north coast), you will enjoy this new Ardmore hangout.

Finally, it's not too early to mention that Brotherhood will host a "March Madness" evening that will feature streaming of the NCAA basketball final, various opportunities to wager, libations, and catered food galore on Monday, April 6. There will be a nominal charge.

Keep your eyes out for further announcements. Let's hope the groundhog knows what he's doing.

Gary Brock, Brotherhood VP



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

Sisterhood



Ami Lonner & Elizabeth Stoller,
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

The year seems to be flying by and we have been as busy as ever with Sisterhood events and projects. Your Shalach Manot package from friends/family at MLRT should be arriving any day now. It's a mitzvah to send Shalach Manot at Purim and we have kept this time-honored tradition alive at MLRT through the dedication and hard work of many people. We would not be able to provide this lovely service to our members without the invaluable help of Mark Komen, the MLRT staff and our volunteers, and without the generous donation from Just Born Quality Confections. Many thanks to all who participated and helped make it such a success!

Our Shalach Manot fundraiser brings together many of our members for packing and distributing over 650 bags. Proceeds of this important fundraiser (which last year exceeded \$15,000) are used for improvements to our Temple and charitable pursuits. In the past, we have purchased lobby furniture, cushions for the sanctuary benches, recording equipment for our music department, a gaga pit for Religious School, and

partial funding for the lighting of the stained glass panels in the sanctuary.

We also want to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Social Action VPs, Lisa Greenblatt and Jill Altshuler, for working with area sisterhoods from Beth David and Temple Sholom in Broomall, as well as WRJ's Ally Karpel and Becky Markowitz, to put together an engaging and informative panel discussion with esteemed leaders in the area of women's reproductive rights. This critical and timely issue is a nationwide priority for the WRJ-RAC who are collaborating on the development of a Reproductive Health & Rights Campaign.

Our next general Sisterhood Board meeting will be on March 10 at 10:00 am. Please join us!

Sisterhood Shabbat will be held on April 24, so mark your calendars and come celebrate with us. Services begin at 8:00 pm, and there will be a potluck Shabbat dinner held before services. Look for more information about this shortly.

SAVE THE DATE for Sisterhood's closing program on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 pm at MLRT. You won't want to miss Ari Paul, Comic/Mentalist/Magician (aripaulentertainment.com), as he entertains us with his highly acclaimed performance. Dinner will be served. Sign-up information will be available soon.

What will 2020 hold for a woman's access to reproductive health and her right to choose? Gain an insider's perspective on the issues, challenges, and the steps you can take to make a positive difference during the Reproductive Health & Rights: What You Need to Know and Why program on Sunday, March 1 at 4:00 pm at Temple Sholom in Broomall.

Presented by: Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), Beth David Reform Congregation, Main Line Reform Temple, and Temple Sholom in Broomall.

Featured Panelists:

State Representative **Mary Jo Daley**, Montgomery County,
148th Legislative District

Melissa Weiler Gerber, AccessMatters

Ally Karpel, WRJ-RAC

Lula Defersha, New Voices for Reproductive Justice

Moderated by Becky Markowitz, WRJ Atlantic District, plus reflections from area Rabbis.

In lieu of admissions fee, please consider donating feminine hygiene products for distribution to local charities.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Sisterhood of Temple Sholom. RSVP to leza@comsolutionsgroup.com

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Annual Fund!

Shelley & Don Greenbaum

Mignon & Jame Groch

Barbara Miller

To make a contribution to the Annual Fund, please visit mlrt.org/annual-fund

Teach Our Children: ECE



Shari Morelli,
Interim Director

Where is this year going? It seems like so many of the things we looked forward to at the beginning of the year have already happened and those we are still looking forward to are so close at hand. We had a visit from Poly the Clown, and marveled at his magic. On Tu B'Shevat, many of our students planted parsley which can be harvested just in time for Passover. Picture Day indelibly captured this moment of their childhood in time. Ahead, March brings our big annual fundraiser, Mitzvah Madness, and as always our learners are growing physically, emotionally, and intellectually through play.

We had author Rosanne L. Kurstedt visit recently to share her newest children's book, Karate Kid. The kids learned what authors do, how books are illustrated, and how they plan. They even tried some karate moves from the story. They were super excited about seeing a real live author! Children are natural storytellers even before they develop the skills to write letters and words and they too have been writing their own stories, just like the authors they read every day.

One of the things I most love about going around to the classrooms is witnessing the relationships that have developed between children. There is an empathy and an awareness that is fostered daily, and which I am always so inspired to witness, even among our littlest learners.

This week, I listened in awe as a teacher facilitated a conversation around kindness when something went awry in the classroom. She gave each child a chance to speak while every other child listened with their ears and their eyes while passing around a "breathing ball." In turn, each child felt empowered and heard.

In another classroom, a crying child asked another child to acknowledge her tears and to help her. That child asked her why she was crying and hugged her. Other children spontaneously hugged her and her tears stopped. So simple, this idea of asking for help, giving help that is needed, noticing when another is not ok. This is the kind of empathy I wish I could bottle. It is the kind of empathy we often race around and overlook, and it is here and it is inspiring and it is mindful.

Teach Our Children: TheTribe and tribe jr.



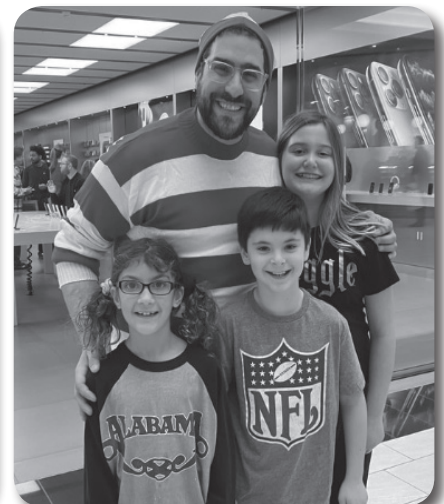
Ross M. Levy,
Youth Engagement, Dir.

TheTribe is ready for the "can't miss" event of the year! Are you?

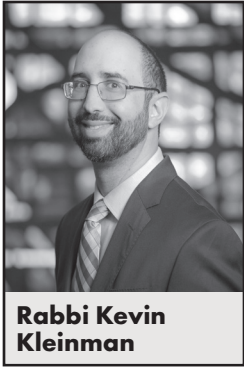
Join us on Sunday, March 15 at 11:00 am as we take on the Escape Rooms of KoP. Our bus will depart from MLRT and we only return if you GET OUT! Just kidding, we will be back by 2:30 pm!

Sign up is open and space is limited! Visit mlrt.org/TheTribe to sign up. If you think you can handle it!

Our tribe jr. students spent Sunday, February 2 searching the halls of King of Prussia mall in a massive game of Where's Waldo with Rabbi Geri Newburge and Waldo himself, Ross M. Levy. Enjoy some pictures from the outrageously fun event below and save the date for the Gaga Tournament Finals on Sunday, April 12.



Teach Our Children: Religious School



**Rabbi Kevin
Kleinman**

Purim is here! The Hebrew month of Adar is a time of great joy.

This year our Purim Carnival is bigger and better than ever. There will be new games, new prizes, a costume parade, balloon art, magic shows, and joy all around. The Carnival is also our annual Religious School fundraiser. See page 7 for opportunities to become an event sponsor and below for items you can donate for our raffle baskets.

Our Purim Shpiels will take place on March 1 for K-2nd grade and March 4-5 for 3rd-5th grade.

March will also feature interactive Passover programs including a trip for K-2nd grade families to the Penn Archeology Museum and a trip for the 3rd-5th grade students to the Liberty Museum.

Special Religious School Programs

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 1 - 2ND GRADE PACT (PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER) PROGRAM

Early Session: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Late Session: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Parents required!

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - MLRT PURIM CARNIVAL ***Students attend in costume!***

9:30 am – ECE/Preschool Entrance

10:00 am - 1:00 pm – Carnival (all ages)

\$20/all you can play wristbands

*To become an event sponsor, donate items to the raffle, and pre-purchase tickets (save \$2!) visit mlrt.org/purim

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 - FAMILY HAVDALLAH AND GAGA TOURNAMENT

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Join the Religious School community for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and friendly competition. We will end Shabbat together with a moving Havdallah ritual. RSVP to Maddy Shusterman at meshusterman@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 - 6TH GRADE CHALLAH FOR HUNGER (parents invited)

Early Session: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Late Session: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 - KINDERGARTEN PARENT AND CHILD TOGETHER (PACT) PROGRAM

Early Session: 9:00 - 11:00 am

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 - K-2ND GRADE FAMILY TRIP TO THE PENN ARCHEOLOGY MUSEUM

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 - 3RD-5TH GRADE STUDENT TRIP TO THE LIBERTY MUSEUM

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 - 6TH GRADE REFUGEE SPEAKERS @ MLRT

Early Session: 9:00 - 11:00 am

Late Session: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

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. Please bring all donations to the Religious School office no later than Monday, March 2.

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

- **Arts & Crafts Basket (K & 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.



Save the date for our final Main Line Speaker Series 2019-20 program!

Join us on Monday, May 4 at 7:30 pm for

An Evening with Bret Stephens

Bret Stephens became an op-ed columnist and associate editor for the New York Times in 2017. Before that, he spent 11 years as the author of "Global View," the foreign-affairs column of the Wall Street Journal, for which he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary in 2013. He also served eight years as the Journal's deputy editorial-page editor, responsible for the newspaper's global opinion section, as well as a member of the editorial board.

Mr. Stephens began his career at the Wall Street Journal in 1998 as an editor in New York, and later wrote editorials and articles for the newspaper from Brussels. In January 2002 he was named editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Post, a position he assumed at age 28. At the Post, he was responsible for the newspaper's news, editorial, digital and international editions, and also wrote a weekly column. Mr. Stephens returned to the Journal in late 2004. He has reported stories from around the world, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Gaza, and interviewed dozens of world leaders. In June 2017 he became a regular political analyst for MSNBC.

In 2014 Penguin published his book *America in Retreat: The New Isolationism and the Coming Global Disorder*. Former Secretary of State George Shultz hailed the book as "wise counsel for a constructive, tough-minded, and sensible foreign policy."

Buy your tickets now for Bret Stephens, the fascinating conclusion to our 2019-2020 Main Line Speaker Series at mlrt.org/speakerseries20.

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

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



Staff Spotlight: Daiquan Benson **Maintenance**

If Daiquan's smiling face looks familiar, it is probably because you remember this hard worker from the last time he worked at MLRT in 2016. Daiquan has been back with us for a few months, injecting every day with a cheerful competence. He loves making people laugh and can entertain you for hours with stories about his beloved daughter, Kylie, basketball, video games, cars, food, and whatever else pops into his head.

Daiquan seems to be everywhere in the building at once, as his need for speed and work-first mentality ensure he is always moving. He is invaluable to the maintenance department and the entire MLRT community thanks to his easy-going personality and efficient work ethic.

Photographers and photos needed!



Do you have a passion for photography?



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



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.

Bimah to BROADWAY

Saturday, April 25 | 7:30 pm

**Join us for a can't-miss night of music from Cantor Faryn Rudnick and friends:
Cantors Lauren Goodlev, Jamie Marx, and Andrea Rae Markowicz,
and our own Andy Heller, celebrating Jewish composers of the stage.**



Cantor Faryn Rudnick is honored to be serving as Cantor at Main Line Reform Temple. Prior to joining the MLRT family, she served as cantor at Temple Beth-El in Northbrook, IL, where she began her cantorial career after her ordination from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in NYC in 2013. Cantor Rudnick holds a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education from Miami University (OH), and received her first master's degree in Music Education from Montclair State University.

Cantor Lauren Goodlev has been serving as the cantor at Beth David Reform Congregation since 2016. She grew up nearby in Voorhees, NJ and graduated Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with a Bachelors of Arts, in Psychology, Music, and Italian Studies, from the University of Pennsylvania. She also completed her Masters of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Miami and performed in operas in Europe and New York City. Cantor Goodlev was ordained from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 2016 where she was both a Wexner Graduate Fellow and a Tisch-Star Fellow.



Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz is the Senior Cantor of Am Shalom in Glencoe, IL. Ordained in 2013 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in NYC, she holds a Master of Sacred Music from HUC- JIR, Master of Music from Cleveland Institute of Music, and Bachelor of Music from University of Michigan. Prior to becoming a Cantor, she toured Israel as Abigail Adams in 1776, the United States in *Camelot*, starring Robert Goulet, and as Miep Gies in the musical *Anne Frank: A Voice Heard*.

Cantor Jamie Marx is honored to serve as the cantor of Temple Sholom in Broomall, PA. A composer and songwriter, he has written, recorded, or published numerous pieces, including two albums of Jewish rock, three singles, and various settings of Jewish liturgical texts. His setting of "Yih'yu L'ratzon" was chosen from among more than 400 entries for inclusion in Shabbat Anthology Vol. 8, published by Transcontinental Music Publications. Cantor Marx also writes Purim shpiels that have been performed in more than 130 synagogues across North America and the United Kingdom.



**Dessert Reception immediately following concert.
\$18 per person. Purchase tickets at mlrt.org/broadway**

Contributions in Honor

(As of February 10)

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Speedy Recovery of Caren & Jerry Dubnoff

Cantor Rudnick Discretionary Fund

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Birth & Bris of George Asher Rudnick

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Shari & John Morelli & Family
B'nai Mitzvah of Evan Berger and Keri Berger

L'Dor Va'Dor Endowment Fund

Susan Kleinman
Birth & Bris of George Asher Rudnick

Prime Time Seniors Fund

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Kari & Ken Kurtz
MLRT Religious School

Rabbi Newburge Discretionary Fund

Judie Grenen
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Rabbi Geri Newburge
Bat Mitzvah of Sasha Groch

Rabbi Straus Discretionary Fund

Mignon & James Groch
Bonnie & Warren Kauffman
St. Margaret's School
Bat Mitzvah of Sasha Groch
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Hebert
In Appreciation of Rabbi Straus

Religious Practices Fund

Cindy & Jeff Ruben
Bat Mitzvah of Sasha Groch

Sisterhood Fund

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Cindy & Jeff Ruben
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Birth of Sage Riley Jusko
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Sue Kupersmith for making partner

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Social Action Fund

Patsy & Alan Gruenberg Meta Joy Jacoby

Torah Fund

Gail & Bob Rudenstein Yahrzeit of Reuben Whitman

In Memoriam

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

Ruth Felderstein

Mother of Lynn Sher
Grandmother of David and Sarah Sher

Sander Robert Gorberg

Husband of Toby Gorberg
Father of Janet Dickman
Grandfather of Aaron and Robert Dickman

Janessa-Michelle Isaacs

Daughter of Bob & Valerie-Lynn Isaacs

Meta Joy Jacoby

Mother of Jane Siegal

Norman Sassler

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

Vote Reform!

The World Zionist Congress elections are open until March 11. Your vote in this election is the only democratic opportunity you have to influence Israeli society.

Visit zionistelection.org or follow the directions below to Vote Reform: ARZA Representing the Reform Movement and Reconstructing Judaism. Thank you for voting for the ARZA slate.

The \$7.50 fee is to help underwrite the costs associated with the election.

 **#VoteReformWZC**
World Zionist Congress Election
January 21 – March 11, 2020

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- 1 Open up the camera on your cell phone
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- 3 A notification will pop up on your phone. Click the notification, and you will be directed to the election website!



For step-by-step instructions on how to vote, visit ARZA.org/Election



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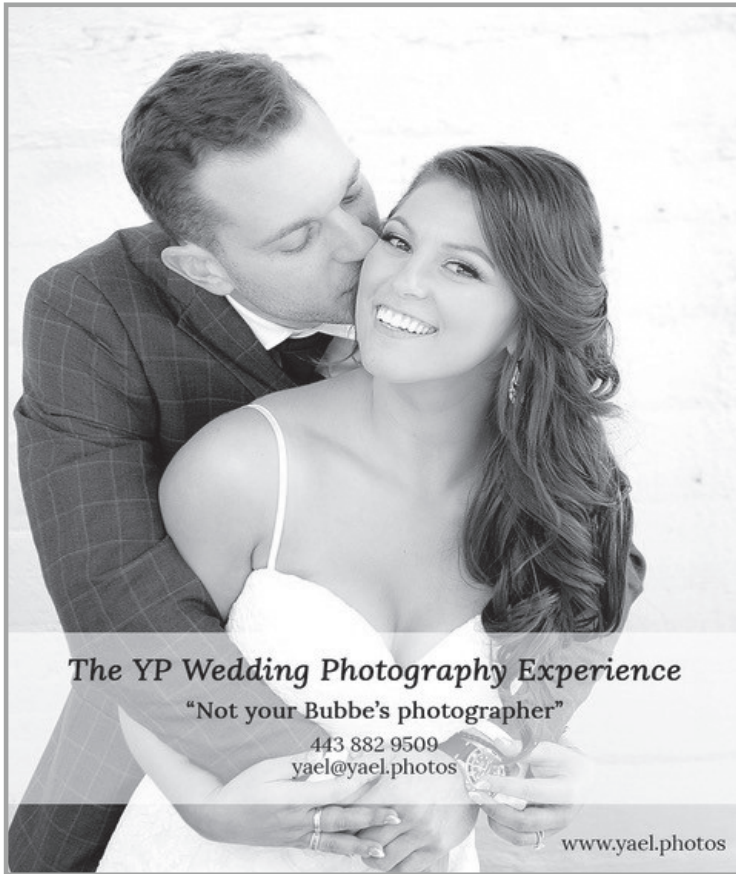
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Participate in the Listening Campaign!

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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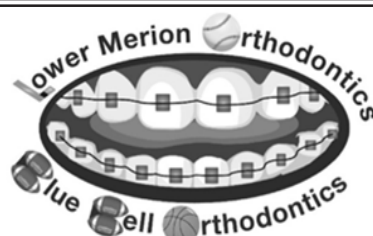
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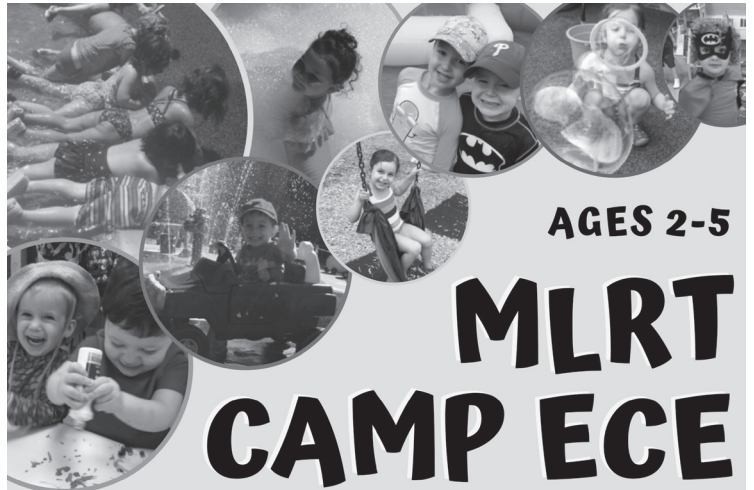
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Shabbat & Holiday Services

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

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 Penelope Rose Cohen
Daughter of Vanessa & Adam Cohen
5:00 pm Mincha Service
Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Krey
Son of Jill & Ryan Krey
Bar Mitzvah of Dylan Zwiebel
Son of Nikki & Jason Zwiebel

Monday, March 9

7:00 pm Adult Megillah Reading & Purim Shpiel

Friday, March 13

8:00 pm Brotherhood Shabbat Service with Author
Dr. Paul Zeitz
9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat & Book Signing

Saturday, March 14

8:30 am Shabbat Nature Hike
8:30 am Early Prayers & Songs of Praise
9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Chapel Service
4:00 pm Religious School Havdallah, Dinner & Gaga Tournament

Friday, March 20

6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze
6:30 pm Reset & Renew Shabbat Service
7:30 pm National Refugee Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, March 21

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 Jordan Levinson
Daughter of Ilene & Jeffrey Levinson
5:00 pm Mincha Service
Bat Mitzvah of Ashley Albert
Daughter of Andrea & Jason Albert

Friday, March 27

8:00 pm Ella C. Wolf Shabbat Service with Author
Mikhal Dekel
9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat & Book Signing

Saturday, March 28

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 Sara Dawn Richter
Daughter of Karen & Jon Richter

Friday, April 3

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

Saturday, April 4

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 Noah Levit
Son of Janis & Braden Levit
5:00 pm Mincha Service
Bat Mitzvah of Layla Schultz
Daughter of Julie & Andrew Schultz

JEFFREY T BARG, LCSW

Bereavement Counselor

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March 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 9:30 am Hassel Adult Ed. Lecture Karl Middleman 2:00 pm Voices of Grief Screening 4:00 pm Reproductive Health Program at Temple Shalom PURIM RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS DUE	2	3 7:30 pm Brotherhood Book Club	4 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:00 am Shalach Manot Packing 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	5 11:00 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Short Story Discussion 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W	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	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
8 9:30 am ECE Early Admission to Purim Carnival 10:00 am Purim Carnival!	9 7:00 pm Adult Purim Party & Megillah Reading	10 PURIM 10:00 am Sisterhood General Board Meeting 12:15 pm Forward Thinking	11 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	12 10:00 am Paradigms of Parting with Rabbi Hirsh 11:00 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Suburban Lunch & Learn with RDS 12:30 pm Canasta 7:00 pm FTD Caregivers 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W	13 11:30 am Learn & Lunch with RGN 8:00 pm Brotherhood Shabbat Service with Dr. Zeitz 9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat & Book Signing	14 8:30 am Morning Prayers 8:30 am Shabbat Morning Hike 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 4:00 pm Religious School Havdallah, Dinner, and Gaga Tournament
15 11:00 am TheTribe Escape the Room 11:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting 7:00 pm Beer Club at Whole Foods	16	17 8:00 pm Sing Hallelujah at the Kimmel Center	18 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge 6:15 pm Brotherhood MNO at Ripplewood Whiskey & Craft	19 10:00 am Paradigms of Parting with Rabbi Hirsh 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W	20 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Reset & Renew Refugee Shabbat 7:30 pm Refugee Shabbat Dinner	21 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Jordan Levinson 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Ashley Albert 7:30 pm Annelies Oratorio at Church of the Redeemer
22	23	24 12:00 pm Center City Lunch & Learn with RDS	25 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	26 11:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Paradigms of Parting with Rabbi Hirsh 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W	27 8:00 pm Ella C. Wolf Shabbat Service with Mikhal Dekel 9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat & Book Signing	28 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Sara Richter 6:00 pm ECE Mitzvah Madness Fundraiser
29 11:15 am Tikkun Olam Network Meeting	30	31	APRIL 1 9:15 am Adult Learning 10:30 am Sisterhood Choir 12:00 pm Bridge	APRIL 2 11:00 am Bible Study 12:30 pm Canasta 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W	APRIL 3 11:00 am Learn & Lunch with RGN 6:00 pm Snack & Schmooze 6:30 pm Shabbat Family Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Dinner	APRIL 4 8:30 am Morning Prayers 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Chapel Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Noah Levit 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Layla Schultz

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