



We are delighted to share our November Bulletin with you, which highlights and details the many opportunities for worship, study, connecting and creating community at MLRT this month. This issue went to print in the middle of October and programs may have changed due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 and its accompanying restrictions and precautions. Our main priority is keeping you safe.

Please visit our website at mlrt.org or call the Temple office at 610-649-7800 for the most up-to-date information on all our services and programs. We thank you for your understanding.

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David E. Straus Senior Rabbi

dstraus@mlrt.org

Geri Newburge **Rabbi**

gnewburge@mlrt.org

Faryn Rudnick

Cantor
frudnick@mlrt.org

Rabbi Kevin Kleinman
Director of Education,
Associate Rabbi

kkleinman@mlrt.org

Janet R. Lee **Executive Director**Jlee@mlrt.org

Ross M. Levy **Director, Youth Engagement**rlevy@mlrt.org

Marshall A. Portnoy

Cantor Emeritus

Joel H. Ginsparg **President**

R. Victor Haas David Heppen Lori Robbins

Vice Presidents

Mitchell Spector

R. Victor Haas
Financial Secretary

Jamie Mushlin

Recording Secretary

Main Office 610.649.7800 School Office 610.642.0304 www.mlrt.org



Janet Lee,
Executive Director

Dear MLRT families,

There's a saying, "life doesn't always work out the way we planned." Sadly, for me, this is one of those moments. It wasn't that long ago that I spent an exhausting but exciting 24 hours meeting with the Executive Director Search Committee, talking with MLRT senior and support staff, touring the synagogue and discovering the wonderful MLRT community. I was ready for a big life change and my family supported my decision to accept the Executive Director position and move to the Main Line. At that time, my husband's plan was to join me over the summer after retiring from his position as the principal of Muddy Brook Elementary School in Berkshires Hills and facilitating the sale of our home in Great Barrington. When COVID hit in early March, things shifted

dramatically. I started my new job virtually, my husband no longer felt he could leave his position during a crisis, and my on-boarding at MLRT took a necessary back seat to the imminent needs of the community. It was not the start I was expecting, but I persevered and worked hard to make connections.

As the COVID crisis continued, MLRT formed a reopening task force to slowly bring staff back into the building. We sent out membership renewal forms, initiated an online religious school enrollment and simultaneously facilitated the production of nine pre-recorded virtual High Holy Day videos. I became an integral part of the ECE Leadership Team and assisted in reopening our preschool in late August. I am proud of the work I have accomplished and honored by the people I have met and worked with, both virtually and in person. However, the stress of being apart from my family, the strain of continuing to manage the COVID crisis, and the unexpected demands of this job have taken their toll on my ability to continue as the Executive Director at Main Line Reform Temple.

I have therefore made the difficult decision to resign and move back to the Berkshires at the end of November. I am grateful for the time I have spent at your synagogue, the warm welcome I received and the tremendous level of support I was given by the staff, lay leaders, and the entire MLRT community. Martin Buber once said, "All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware." This was definitely not the journey I was anticipating, however, in the short time here, I learned a tremendous amount about the strength of community and people's ability to adapt and pivot during adversity. I also learned that, at times, we must make difficult decisions and prioritize what matters most in life. For me, this means returning to my home in the Berkshires and reuniting with my husband.

With sadness and respect, Janet R. Lee

At the very end of this month is a special day earmarked for celebration and gratitude. As we said on the cover, we are so thankful for our incredible MLRT on Thanksgiving and every day. You are the reason we do what we do. Immediately following Thanksgiving and the craziness of Black Friday and Cyber Monday is Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated this year on December 1, on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

We ask that you make us part of this charitable season by giving a gift to the MLRT Annual Fund in support of the Jewish community in our community. This has been an incredibly difficult year, filled with rapid changes, devastating news, and many restrictions. Through it all, MLRT has remained open and available to you, our members, even when the building was closed.

We appreciate your gift of any amount because it means that we can sustain programs and activities that inspire and connect us as Jewish people. Please visit mlrt.org/giving to make a contribution.

Reflections on Mar Cheshvan



Rabbi David Straus

We are now in the Hebrew calendar month of Cheshvan. Cheshvan has the distinction of being the only month in the Hebrew calendar without a holiday. Tishrei, the month preceding Cheshvan, is loaded with Holidays—Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah to name a few. And Kislev, the month that follows, has Chanukah to look forward to. But Cheshvan has no holidays.

The rabbis imagine Cheshvan being a bit down about this. And so, to make Cheshvan feel better, the changed the name of the month from simply Cheshvan to Mar Cheshvan, Mr. Cheshvan or Master Cheshvan, to give the month a feeling of importance. And in some rabbinic traditions, it is in Cheshvan that the Messiah will come.

So why do I share this? Rabbi Berl Wein writes:

"It is as though the Jewish destiny has seen fit to give us a month off, a time to return to ourselves and our daily lives, to place into daily practice the great lessons afforded us by the challenges of the two previous months. It is as though God says to us, so to speak, "My children, let Me see how you put into your daily lives the holiness and commitments that you accumulated during the months of holidays and the preparation for them.

The tenets of Judaism teach us that the quality and achievements of life are measured in the small things, in the mundane acts that are performed on a daily basis within our daily routines.

The month of Mar Cheshvan is therefore the laboratory where this test of daily living is measured and analyzed. It is, so to speak, a sterile environment as befits a laboratory testing area and there are no special days that appear within its framework to influence our daily behavior. "

The Hebrew word "mar" also means bitter or disappointing. We describe foods with a bitter taste as being "mar" or "marir" or on the night of the Pesach Seder as being "maror." Though this is certainly not the main intent of the word as it appears in conjunction with the month of Cheshvan, since we never wish or even express descriptions of a bitter month, nevertheless there is a tinge of sadness and letdown associated with the advent of this month.

These are difficult and often stress filled times for all of us. While we hope for a COVID-19 vaccine soon, this pandemic seems to have no end, and it affects all of us. We long to return to our building, to be together. (Though our building may have limited hours, MLRT has never been closed: we continue to pray, to learn, to gather and to repair our world in new and virtual ways).

And we know this pandemic is financially affecting many of our neighbors, and maybe some of us well. People are out of work or underemployed; businesses are closing; food insecurity is a fast growing challenge for many. Please, if you need help, turn to us, your clergy. We are here for you, and do have some financial and other resources (thanks to the extraordinary generosity of other congregants), through our discretionary and other funds to help. Know all conversations are strictly confidential. We never want anyone to feel that they cannot belong to MLRT because of financial need. Our doors and community will always to open to all who seek to enter.

Our TON (Tikkun Olam Network/Social Action Committee) continues to do extraordinary work in these challenging times. We are now working to support our local food pantries, and to prepare vacation food boxes for food insecure Lower Merion Students. Our local food banks are asking for gift cards for their guests. (Details can be found on page 8 of this bulletin.) The easiest way for you to support these efforts is to make a donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund with a note to use your donation for this purpose, and we will do the rest.

May this month bring us all a little sweetness, as we look forward to Thanksgiving and Chanukah, and God willing, soon to being together again.

Do you love books? The Bernie Kleinman Book Club is looking for new members!

We welcome anyone interested in reading to join us Tuesday evenings about every six weeks for friendship, discussion and review. Those attending will have the opportunity to pick a book and be the discussion leader. If you are interested, please contact Norman Fienman at nfienman@gmail.com.

Many Thanks



Joel Ginsparg
President

The past eight months have been challenging for all of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on our personal lives. It has impacted how we work, how our children attend school, and how we experience the routine aspects of our daily lives such as grocery shopping, getting our hair cut or styled, going out to eat, and getting together with family and friends. It has also impacted how we worship. While I have enjoyed praying with many of you in our weekly Zoomed religious services, I had a little trepidation as the High Holy Days approached. While I was very aware of what was planned, I was still very anxious about what the experience would be.

I watched and prayed in all of our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. I hope that all of you participated in these services as well. They were extraordinary! Even though we were not physically together, I felt as though the services brought us together as a community. On behalf of our congregation, I want to offer my profound thanks to Rabbi Straus, Rabbi Newburge, Cantor Rudnick,

Janet Lee, Ross M. Levy, Rabbi Kleinman, Cynthia Marshall, Andy Heller, and Helene Ehrlich-Cohen for your hard work planning, filming, and editing the videos for the High Holy Day services. I know the many hours that were spent working on these services and the results reflected those efforts. I also want to take the opportunity to thank all of the lay leaders and others in our congregation who participated in the services, the congregants who financially underwrote the videos, and the congregants who provided video production services. In a year in which norms have been turned upside down and we could not be together to worship, these services were deeply moving and reflected the best of why MLRT is a very special community. Again, my profound thanks!

As she discussed in her article elsewhere in this Bulletin, Janet Lee, our Executive Director, has resigned her position and will be moving back to the Berkshires at the end of November to reunite with her husband. We are all very sad to see her leave. We are not just losing our Executive Director. We are losing a friend! I want to take this opportunity to thank Janet for her tireless work on behalf of MLRT. She joined us just when everything closed due to the pandemic and has succeeded in spite of the many obstacles she had to overcome. There are many different areas of the synagogue in which Janet's leadership has improved operations. In particular, I want to recognize her work to implement new COVID-19 policies and procedures to enable us to re-open our building for our staff, our Early Childhood Education program, our Religious School, and for families to celebrate life cycle events. She has made a profound impact on our congregation in a very short time and for that we are extremely grateful.

We have already begun the process to search for a new permanent Executive Director. While the search is conducted, we will ensure that leadership is in place to oversee smooth operations. Open communication is a hallmark of strong organizations especially in times of transition. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at president@mlrt.org.

As winter approaches, please wear masks and social distance so that we can limit the number of people who get infected and prevent the expected second wave of the COVID-19 virus. If you or your loved ones become exposed to someone who is diagnosed with the virus, please get tested and, if necessary, quarantine so that the virus is not spread further. I hope that the Phase III trials for vaccines show positive results and that the vaccines are proven safe so that all of us can be vaccinated. If we all act responsibly, then this crisis will pass. My final hope is that you and your families stay safe and well!

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have reaffirmed your membership and I want to especially thank you for your financial support! We can only keep our doors open if all of us continue to support our synagogue community. We are grateful and thank you for your generosity and support!

Todah rabah!

The following attribution was accidentally deleted from my October Bulletin article during the final rewrite in order to achieve the word limit:

Some of the thoughts in this article are based on an article written by an associate, Gary Burnison, CEO of Korn Ferry, titled "The Courage to Find Meaning."

Lifelong Learning



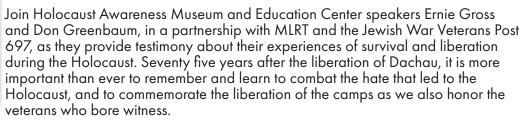
Sally Brown, Librarian

Our short story for noon on Thursday, November 12 (corrected from your spiral book date) is by Bernard Malamud (1914-1986) one of our esteemed Jewish authors of both novels and short stories. He won two National Book award and a Pulitzer Prize for his work.

We are reading "Angel Levine" from the collection titled "Bernard Malamud: The Complete Stories". This volume brings together fifty-four stories written over four decades. The story centers around Manischevitz, an elderly poor tailor who is unable to work due to health problems. When he prays to G-d for health for his wife, a Black man who strives to be an angel appears at his tenement flat. The angel, named Alexander Levine, states that he must be able to produce a miracle so that he can achieve full status as an angel. Join us at noon as we discuss a story revealing the humanity of a master of the short story.

FROM KRISTALLNACHT/POGROMNACHT TO LIBERATION: AN EVENING WITH ERNIE GROSS AND DON GREENBAUM









HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE WITH YOCHI RAPPEPORT

Women "Off" the Wall - Liberating the Western Wall. Again

For 32 years, Women of the Wall have been fighting towards equal rights for women at the holiest site for the Jewish people. Who are we liberating it from? And why?

Sunday, November 15 at 10:00 am at mlrt.org/zoom

Yochi Rappeport, Executive Director of Women of the Wall, was born in Safed and raised in the Orthodox environment. Upon turning 18, Yochi was drafted to the Israel Defense Forces where she served as a commander in the Nativ Military Course - teaching Judaism and Zionism to new

immigrants and non-Jewish soldiers. Following her military service, Yochi studied Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at Bar Ilan University. After graduating, she served as an executive assistant at an Israeli news agency. Yochi joined Women of the Wall in 2016 as Director of Education and Community Outreach and in 2019, was appointed Executive Director of the organization.

Yochi's identity as an Orthodox woman and feminist shows that a woman may indeed possess both attributes. Married and the mother of a toddler girl, Yochi strives to make Jerusalem and Israel more tolerant places for her daughter's generation and beyond.

DU SIACH - JOIN THE CONVERSATION! Thursday, November 12 and Thursday, December 3 at 12:00 pm

MLRT is developing a partnership and relationship with a Reform congregation in Israel located in Ma'alot Tivon, just outside of Haifa. Every 2-3 weeks we meet on Zoom (currently Thursday at 12:00 pm), and learn together, talk about current events, and work to develop relationships and friendships with one another.

If you would like to join this emerging partnership, please be in touch with Rabbi Straus at 610-649-7800 or dstraus@mlrt.org. All that is "required" is a commitment to regularly participate, as it is difficult to develop connections without regularly being on the call.

All programs are virtual and can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

Every Voice, Every Vote!



MLRT has joined with other Reform congregations to participate in Every Voice, Every Vote, the Reform Jewish Movement's 2020 nonpartisan civic engagement campaign, to make sure that everyone who can is registered to vote, does vote and our votes are counted. Voting strengthens our democracy and when you vote, you ensure that Reform Jewish values are represented in our society. Voting in PA is especially important - the 2016 election in PA was decided by less than 1% of votes cast.

Your vote can decide this year's election.

Want to vote in person? Know where your polling place is. The pandemic has changed many polling places. Here's where to check:

Log onto votespa.com. Click on the header "Voting in PA." Then click on the link "Voting at a Polling Place."
 Scroll down on the page and click the link "Look up your polling place location," and then enter your address.
 If you need help voting because of a disability, the "Voting at a Polling Place" page provides information about accessible voting options.

Polling places will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm on November 3.

Mail-in ballots MUST be postmarked by November 3 and <u>received</u> by on November 6 to be considered valid.

Racial Justice at MLRT

Our Tikkun Olam Network (Social Justice Committee) has recently begun a racial justice task force. Programs thus far include:

- Partners for Reconciliation: A multi-faith group of congregations on the Main Line are meeting regularly to learn more
 about race, racism and racial inequality. We joined in three webinars over the summer, and are currently reading
 together selections from How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi. Our next virtual sessions will take place on
 Monday, November 9 and Monday, December 14. Visit mlrt.org/nohate for details and to register.
- Following the vandalizing of the Black Lives Matter Banner in front of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Ardmore, we
 have joined with a number of other congregations on the Main Line and now have a banner in front of our building,
 We Stand with our Black Neighbors: Lower Merion Faith Communities Stand Against Racism. Each Wednesday
 afternoon, we have also joined in a silent vigil with congregations who have similar banners.
- Two members of our task force are leading our learning in a series of programs entitled Creating a Common Vocabulary. Learning has included what is race and racism, and what is white privilege.
- We are now in regular dialogue with members of Zion Baptist Church, strengthening our personal relationships as we hear their stories, and learn what it means to be an ally.

The Racial Justice at MLRT subcommittee actively seeks justice by:

- Welcoming a racially diverse membership and providing opportunities to our congregation and neighbors to learn more about race and systemic racism.
- Bringing people of different races and religious backgrounds together to develop deeper relationships through meaningful conversation and engagement.
- Creating safe and welcoming spaces for people of color.
- Standing up for people of color when their voices are not being heard.
- Advocating for anti-racist policies and programs throughout our community.

To join the subcommittee, please contact Rabbi Straus at dstraus@mlrt.org.

Community Read and Conversation on Race and Racial Justice at MLRT on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 pm We will gather to discuss a relevant article or chapter - to be added to the mailing list to receive the excerpt and discussion link, please email Rabbi Straus at dstraus@mlrt.org.

Tikkun Olam Network

The Mitzvah Circle Foundation's 4th Annual Run fundraiser took place virtually during the first half of October. On October 4, Rabbi Geri Newburge and a group of congregants ran a physically distanced 5K together as part of our MLRT team. The following Sunday, another group did the 5K as a physically distanced walk (photo on back cover). Main Line Reform Temple was once again proud to sponsor this virtual event and all of the amazing work that Mitzvah Circle Foundation does to support families in crisis. For more information about this wonderful organization, please visit their website at mitzvahcircle.org.



Our local food banks are busier than ever this year due to the pandemic and higher than usual unemployment. Like many things in 2020, Thanksgiving at those food banks is going to look a little different, and they have asked for our help. If you are able, please purchase a \$25 gift card or cards for any local grocery store (e.g. Acme, Giant, Trader Joe's) and bring them into the Temple where we will distribute them among the local food banks for them to share with their shoppers in time for Thanksgiving. They are asking for the cards in advance so please drop off your cards to MLRT no later than Tuesday, November 10. If you are unable to get to the store to purchase a card, you can write a check to MLRT by November 10 and designate "Thanksgiving Food" in the subject line and we will get the cards for you. Please remember that the food banks have asked for cards in denominations of \$25. If you have questions, please reach out to Liz or Beth at ljstoller@gmail.com or ballenlevy@yahoo.com.

Many thanks,

Beth Allen and Elizabeth Stoller, TON Co-Chairs



Given the current predicament in which we find ourselves, thanks in no small part to the Covid-19 pandemic, this may very well be the last Bulletin article we submit, there being little to alert you about, kind reader, nor any newsworthiness to report for the months ahead. We can, however, glance back a month to the period of Sukkot when we helped to fulfill the commandment demanded of Israel.

You shall dwell in Sukkot seven days, every citizen of Israel shall dwell in Sukkot, So that your descendants shall know that in Sukkot I caused the Children of Israel to dwell when I brought them out of the land of Egypt. (Leviticus 23: 42-43)



So, to fulfill the commandment, a few of us followed the CDC's advice: masked and socially distanced, we erected five of our smaller sukkahs on the Temple grounds two days after Yom Kippur, since "it is praiseworthy to build a sukkah immediately at the end of Yom Kippur so that one goes from fulfilling one commandment to fulfilling another." We missed praiseworthiness by a day. And, thank goodness, we are Reform Jews who can use metal pipes for building the sukkah, which is frowned on by other believers. Brotherhood salutes Glenn Brooks, Mark Komen, Gerry Robbins, and me for assisting Rabbi Kleinman in that worthy project.

We trust all have been inscribed in the Book of Life for yet another year of health, contentment, and kindness toward one another.

Kindly,

Gary Brock, Vice President

Sisterhood



Ami Lonner & Elizabeth Stoller,Sisterhood Co-Presidents

L'Shana Tova. As we begin 5781, let's hope that this year brings more joy and happiness than the one that just passed. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and a meaningful and easy fast on Yom Kippur. Our hearts were particularly heavy over the High Holy Days for a number of reasons.

As a sisterhood, women's rights are important to us, and the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg dealt a heavy blow to those working and fighting for women's causes. Justice Ginsburg z"l once said, "fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."





We are glad so many have joined us again this year to be a part of Sisterhood, and for those who have not yet joined his year, there is still time. Please visit our website for our membership renewal form.

We are excited to offer our members some great online programming throughout the year. Following is a partial list of some things we have planned so far:

- Sunday, November 15 at 10:00 am Lecture with Yochi Rappeport, Executive Director of Women of the Wall Women of the Wall is a group of Jewish women from Israel and around the world who strive to achieve the right to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The Western Wall is Judaism's most sacred holy site and the principal symbol of Jewish people-hood and sovereignty, and Women of the Wall works to make it a holy site where women can pray freely. Yochi's identity as an Orthodox woman and feminist shows that a woman may indeed possess both attributes. Married and the mother of a toddler girl, Yochi strives to make Jerusalem and Israel more tolerant places for her daughter's generation and beyond.
- Early December Reflecting our Chanukah Lights. Tikkun Olam is an important aspect of our Sisterhood, so we thought we would shine a light on the various organizations our Sisterhood supports -- both through funding and volunteer hours. We will host a panel of leaders from these community partners to discuss how they have responded or adjusted their assistance during the pandemic. We will learn where our sisterhood dollars have helped them and how we can work with them going forward. Date and time TBD.
- Tuesday, January 12 at 10:00 am Please join us for our Sisterhood General meeting for an update from our very own Leslie Brier on her work at the United Nations. She will bring us up to speed on many important world issues affecting the Jewish community.
- Tuesday, February 23 at 11:00 am Sisterhood Book Brunch. If you missed our cookbook discussion on October 13, don't worry because we will have another book discussion in February. We are pleased to bring back Susie Schnall, who was well received a few years ago with her novel, The Subway Girls. This year, she will be speaking with us about her new book, They Came Here to Shine.

Mazal Too!

Gerri Fish on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Samuel

Barbara & Jeremy Mishkin on the birth of their grandson, James Leo Mishkin

We want to share in your simchas! Please email Davida Chornock at dchornock@mlrt.org so we can share your good news with the congregation

In Memoriam

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

Neil Grahame

Father of Jen Seltzer Grandfather of Max and Nate Seltzer

Phyllis Nemroff

Mother of Sam Nemroff Grandmother of Stephen, Andrew, and Daniel Nemroff **Morton Opall** Father of Ed Opall

Craig SaftBrother of Stephen Saft

Did you know that you can make donations, pay your dues, register for school, and update your membership information online?

Honor the memory of your loved ones and celebrate your simchas by submitting your MLRT contributions online at mlrt.org/giving.

Log on to the ShulCloud portal via the "Member Portal" button on our website to update your membership information, pay your dues, add yahrzeits, and so much more! If you have any questions, contact Gil Marder at gmarder@mlrt.org.

Save a stamp and time by paying online!



Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing & Communications

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Every month, I collate the wise words and exciting events from our stupendous staff and legendary lay leadership into the MLRTMatters Bulletin. It is a job that is sometimes made difficult by the wide range of programming, services, and classes MLRT hosts on a regular basis. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the issues every month and to our wonderfully generous advertisers.

The global COVID-19 crisis has enabled us to take a hard look at what is working, where costs can be cut, and what we need to improve as we continue to bring you the quality programs and classes you have come to expect from us, albeit in a very different format! Even now, more than six months later, we are still making changes and striving to inspire and connect with our members.

Communication is always key but particularly now. We want to ensure the best possible delivery of information for our members and are requesting your help to discover what that is as we plan MLRT's future. Please help guide us by responding to the options below, either electronically at mlrt.org/bulletin or by email to

dchornock@mlrt.org.

We want to know which best describes your communication preference:

- \Diamond It is extremely important for me to receive a printed copy of MLRTMatters every month
- ♦ I would prefer to NOT receive a printed copy of MLRTMatters every month as I receive my information about MLRT events, classes, and services electronically (digital MLRTMatters, MLRT website, weekly emails, and social media)
- \Diamond I utilize both digital resources and the printed copy of MLRTMatters every month

We thank you for your assistance in helping make our Temple communications the very best that they can be!

Teach Our Children: Early Childhood Education

At MLRT School for Early Childhood Education, our 2020-2021 Kindergarten Classes are filled with exploring, discovery, and fun!

Our Kindergarten teachers pride themselves on creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that nurtures their student's creativity and natural delight in learning. Class "work" is planned to emphasize the learning process rather than the product, fostering a sense of accomplishment and pride for all. Our Jewish cultures and traditions are integrated throughout the year's curriculum, as our Kindergarten students along with their teachers observe holidays and celebrate everything from Rosh Hashanah to Tu B'Av!

We asked some local experts, aka currently enrolled ECE-ers, to weigh in on what is happening in Kindergarten so far this year!



"We are going to be learning about measuring and I like that. We write numbers and letters and read level 1 books. I like playing outside with my friends and I like going back to school."

Parker Levin, Lucky Star



"I'm glad to be back with my friends at school. I like how we learn to write letters. I like learning to spell words. I like science experiments and reading."

Misha Kleinman, Super Star



"I like to read books. I love playing in the Mud Kitchen with my friends. We think we found a treasure chest! Mrs. Dawn makes learning easy! I like that I am back at school!"

Sadie Onish, Lucky Star



"I'm glad I'm back in school. I love school now. I like to draw and write books and read them. I learn to start my letters at the top. I like to talk about leaves and collect them!"

Harrison Goodwin, Super Star

If you want to learn more about our program, please join us for our virtual Kindergarten Open House, Thursday November 19. To request more information or RSVP, please email eceoffice@mlrt.org.

Teach Our Children: Religious School



Rabbi Kevin Kleinman

Modeh Ani – I am Grateful for our Religious School Community

Expressing gratitude is one of the most important Jewish value. And, like most Jewish values, expressing gratitude is not unique to our tradition. We are after all, in the month of Thanksgiving, our national day of taking time to show appreciation for food and family. Our ancestors understood that the gifts we have in this world should not be taken advantage of, and proscribed showing our appreciation for food, health, and community to the eternal source for blessings through daily and holiday prayers.

For example, by pausing to say a blessing before and after meals, we are able to acknowledge the miracle that a seed grows into a plant and appreciate all the hands that went into getting our food from the farm to our table. Another example are the rituals included in our Fall Harvest holiday,

Sukkot, create a week long space for us to simply be together in nature in a joyous way after the seriousness of Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. Embedded in the Sukkot liturgy are prayers asking God to bring the proper rain for the fall growing season so that we can continue to be nourished from the fruits of the earth. Our prayers of gratitude highlight the sacred partnerships in our lives, between us and God, and between one individual and another.

With that, I'd like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for our Religious School community – to our students, our parents, our teachers, our board members, and the senior staff at MLRT for supporting my efforts to create a robust and inclusive K-7th grade program during this pandemic year and for your flexibility as we continue to navigate this uncharted territory.

I am very pleased to share that the first two months of our Religious School year have been a complete success. We decided in August that all students would have the choice to enroll either online or in person after a virtual start. This allows our families to participate in our programs in the way that they are most comfortable and our students to learn Hebrew in small groups. Our Religious School teachers have adapted their teaching to quickly learn how to integrate new technology to meet our overall goal of building and maintaining class communities in both learning settings. The students are engaged and smiling, they are reading Hebrew beautifully and integrating Jewish values and holiday teachings into their daily lives. This is a true partnership, and for that, I feel blessed.

Religious School Schedule:

For up to date Religious School information, please check the Religious School website

No Religious School: November 3, 22, 24, 25, 26, and 29

Family Shabbat Service led by 3rd Grade: Friday, November 6 at 6:30 pm





SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF MUSIC AT MLRT

NEFESH MOUNTAIN -

DECEMBER 4 & 6

Spend the weekend with Nefesh Mountain, where Bluegrass, Old-Time, and American Roots music meet with Jewish heritage and tradition.

MUSIC CLASS

FEBRUARY 18

Part 2 of our in-depth look at the Mendelssohns. This month, explore the life and music of Fannie Mendelssohn.

PURIM TALENT SHOW

FEBRUARY 26

Love to sing? Are you secretly really good at juggling? Show off your hidden talents at our Purim talent show, where we will celebrate the skills of our friends and fellow congregants.

EVENING OF MUSIC

MAY 13

Featuring Gordon Fink, cello and Andy Heller, piano

SHABBAT SERVICE

NOVEMBER 13

Featuring the music of Ross M. Levy

MUSIC CLASS

JANUARY 21

Part 1 of an in-depth look at the Mendelssohns, focusing on the life and music of Felix Mendelssohn. This class will be taught by professor of music, Karl Middleman, and feature Andy Heller and Jessica Lennick.

SHABBAT SHIRAH

JANUARY 29

The music of the Israeli Reform Movement

SHABBAT WITH ELANA ARIAN

APRIL 16

Elana Arian is a busy multi-instrumentalist, composer, and recording artist who inspires communities across the country with her soulful music

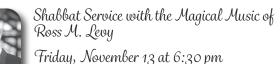
MUSIC CLASS

JUNE 10

An in-depth look at LGBTQ+ Jewish composers and their music

PRIDE SHABBAT AT MLRT

JUNE 11



Join us as we celebrate Shabbat by celebrating

the music of Ross M. Levy, composer and incredible music talent. Join us at 6:30 as we are led in prayer and song by Ross, as he shares his liturgical settings for Shabbat.

Weekend with Nefesh Mountain

Friday & Sunday, December 4 & 6

Nefesh Mountain is the place where Bluegrass, Old-Time, and American Roots music meet with Jewish heritage and tradition. Creators, band leaders and husband and wife team Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg are the heart of this eclectic offering, pioneering a new world of American culture which seamlessly blends their deep love for American and Western musical forms with their own cultural backgrounds as Jewish Americans.

Sukkot & Simchat Torah Celebrations

















Annual Fund

Andrea & Jason Albert

In appreciation of High Holy Day Contemporary Service

Robin & Craig Anforth L'shana Tova to Cindy & Rabbi Joe Domosh

Gloria & Martin Goldberg In honor of the anniversary of Sandy & Frank Norman

Karen & Larry Heppen

In appreciation of MLRT Clergy and the High Holy Day Services

Simmie Levine

In honor of MLRT Yom Kippur Service

Judy Lyons Yahrzeit of Charles Lyons

Mindy Mazer

In appreciation of Main Line Reform Temple

Shari Nathanson Rosenbloom

In appreciation of MLRT Clergy and Staff and the High Holy Day Services

Jeffrey Orleans

In memory of Daniel Green

Michele Cohen & Marc Prizer & Family

In honor of the marriage of Morgan Gerwitz & Zachary Levin

In honor of the marriage of David Schulman & Adrienne Webb

Cantor Faryn & Jack Rudnick L'shana Tova, Happy New Year!

Karen & Bob Schwartz

In memory of Nat & Miriam Schwartz In memory of Theresa Bergh In memory of Jeanette Leaf

Diane & Richard Steinbrink In memory of Ethel S. Levantin

Jody Tzirlin

In appreciation of Main Line Reform Temple

Marcy & Tom Wiener

In memory of Daniel B. Green

Brotherhood Fund

The Brotherhood of MLRT In memory of Daniel B. Green

Karen & Andy Rosenfeld

In memory of Claire Allen

Cantor Marshall Portnoy Music Fund

Susan Giesecke Bloom

In memory of Charlotte R. Bennett

Cantor Faryn Rudnick Discretionary Fund

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In appreciation of Cantor Faryn Rudnick

Adele & Charles Kates

In appreciation of MLRT Clergy and the High Holy Day Services

Ashley & Ross Summer

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Summer

If you have any questions or concerns about your donation listing, please contact Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing & Communications, at dchornock@mlrt.org.

Community Action Fund

Howard Grossman

Yahrzeit of Anne Grossman

Ellie & Mort Keiser Tzedakah Fund

Linda & Jeff Needleman

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Summer

Gordon Israel Trip Scholarship Fund

Amy & Bob Silverman

Yahrzeit of Lisa Sassler Cohen

Mitzvah Fund

Sue & Larry Picker & Family In memory of Charles Deringer

Music Fund

Gloria & Martin Goldberg In appreciation of MLRT High Holy Day Services

Odell Diamond Library Fund

Renee Margulies Yahrzeit of David Meyer

Gail Rudenstein

In memory of Marvin Barsky In memory of Elayne Stamm In memory of Milton Margulies

Pandemic Relief Fund

Rachel & Alan Whitman

In appreciation of Main Line Reform Temple

Rabbi Newburge Discretionary Fund

Marsha & David Bolden

In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge Speedy Recovery of Len Packel

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Adam Ketch

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Jeanne S. Levy Yahrzeit of Henry Schimel

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In memory of Mary Balefsky

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In honor of MLRT High Holy Day Services

Adrienne & David Schulman In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

Bonnie & Elliott Schulman

In honor of the marriage of David & Adrienne

Schulman

Jennifer & Gregory Seltzer

In memory of Neil Grahame

Rabbi Newburge Discretionary Fund cont. Laura & Richard Shur

Speedy Recovery of Len Packel

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Rabbi Straus Discretionary Fund

Elgart Aster

Yahrzeit of Betty Elgart Aster

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In honor of Lynne Breslau & Rabbi David Straus

Ed Freudenberg Yahrzeit of Albert Freudenberg Yahrzeit of Jacob Ehrenfriend

Charlotte & Marvin Garber

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Ann & Gordon Gelfond

Speedy Recovery of Judy Horowitz In honor of the new home of Janis & David Glusman In appreciation of Rabbi David Straus

Susan Hamberg In memory of Marsha Teitel

Marcia & Ned Kaplin In memory of Daniel Green

Debbie Klein & Family

Yahrzeit of Celia Abrams

Elaine & Don Krasnick Yahrzeit of Howard Stock

Yahrzeit of Martin Krasnick

Sue Ellen & Alan Laken

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Renee Margulies In support of Taylor Tabernacle Church

Cindy Straub Yahrzeit of Leon J. Perelman

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Barbara Carocci

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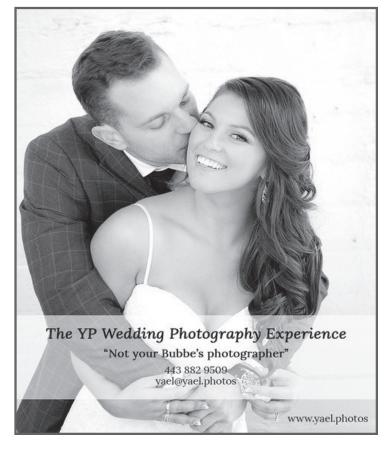
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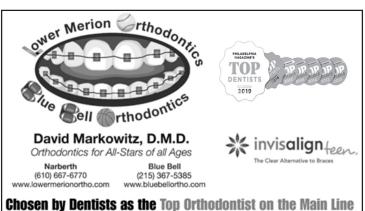
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For pricing and more information, contact Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing & Communication, at dchornock mlrt.org.

You Belong Here.

MLRT strives to uphold the value of welcoming all people into our spiritual home that is so near and dear to our heart as a Jewish people. And we truly do welcome all people, regardless of age, gender, ability, race, sexual orientation, and political leanings.

Be Inspired. Be Connected. Belong. Believing in those words means we want everyone who joins or visits MLRT to feel at ease and comfortable participating in all aspects of temple life: spiritual, ritual, social, educational, and musical. Our Inclusion Committee's mission is to proactively combat and remove barriers to participation and engagement of all kinds so that our collective mission of a warm and thoughtful community is widely realized and maintained from generation to generation.

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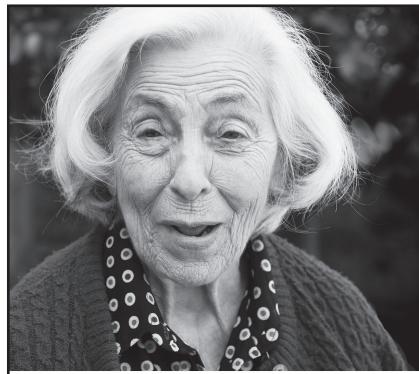
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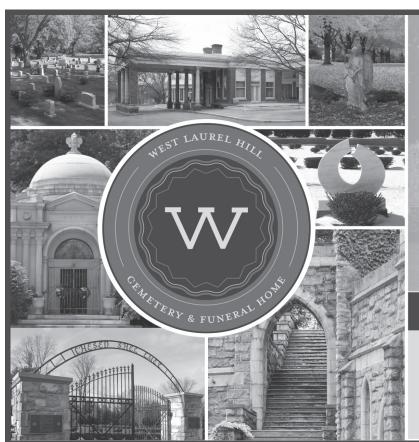
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The following Zoom programs and services can be found at mlrt.org/zoom.

We are constantly adding new programs. Check our website often for the most up-to-date information



MONDAYS, NOVEMBER, 2, 9, 16, 23 AND 30 AT 8:00 PM

Get your popcorn ready for Keeping it Reel, a weekly movie discussion with Rabbi Geri Newburge!

11/2: Knives Out

11/9: Carol

11/16: Free State of

11/23: The 40 Year Old Version

11/30: The Trial of The Chicago 7



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AT 12:15 PM

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

Jones



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 12:00 PM

Meet with members of Ma'alot Tivon, a reform congregation in Israel, to discuss important topics affecting us all.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12 AT 12:00 PM

Enjoy a riveting discussion of "Angel Levine" from the collection "Bernard Malamud: The Complete Stories" with our Short Story Discussion Group.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 10:00 AM

For 32 years, Women of the Wall have been fighting towards equal rights for women at the holiest site for the Jewish people. Who are we liberating it from? And why? Learn these answers and more during our Hassel Lecture with Yochi Rappeport.



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 12:00 PM

Take a break for lunch while Rabbi Straus serves up interesting conversation during our monthly joint Lunch & Learn.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 12:00 PM

Start Shabbat off right with a little learning with Rabbi Newburge. We will explore various texts and traditions from throughout Jewish history.

REGULAR OFFERINGS

THURSDAYS

11:00 am - Bible Study

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

FRIDAYS

6: 30 pm - Friday Shabbat Service

We invite you to join us at 6:25 pm on Zoom as we say Shabbat Shalom to one another, light candles together and make Kiddush. At the end of services, we will unmute all for our Virtual Oneg Shabbat, when again we can talk to one another.

SATURDAYS

9:00 am - Torah Study

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

10:00 am - Shabbat Morning Service

Immediately following Torah Study, join us for a lovely Shabbat Service featuring our clergy.

6: 30 pm - Haydallah with Cantor Rudnick

Join with Cantor Rudnick and her family for songs and Havdallah, as we look with hope towards a new week of peace and of good health.

All programs are subject to change. The most up-to-date information can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

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Shabbat & Holiday Services

Friday, Nov		Saturday, November 21				
6:30 pm	Zoom Shabbat Family Service	9:00 am	Zoom Torah Study			
-		10:00 am	Saturday Morning Zoom Service			
Saturday, November 7		10:30 am	Bar Mitzvah of Eli Lester			
9:00 am *	Zoom Torah Study		Son of Rachel & Richard Lester			
9:30 am	Bar Mitzvah of Spencer Labovitz Son of Jennifer Hitelman &	6:30 pm	Zoom Havdallah with the Rudnicks			
	Benjamin Labovitz	Friday, November 27				
10:00 am	Saturday Morning Zoom Service		Temple Offices Closed			
11:30 am	Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Bella Bobrin	6:30 pm	Zoom Shabbat Service			
	Daughter of Jacqueline & Josh Bobrin	[
5:00 pm	Bar Mitzvah of Dean Spencer Schatz	Saturday, November 28				
0.00 p	Son of Lauren Schatz and Steven	9:00 am	Zoom Torah Study			
	Schatz	10:00 am				
6:30 pm	Zoom Havdallah with the Rudnicks	10:30 am	Bat Mitzvah of Dylan Sara Steinberg			
0.00 pm	Zoom Havadhan will the Roamers	10.00 am	Daughter of Rochelle & Michael			
Friday, November 13			Steinberg			
III		5:00 pm	Bat Mitzvah of Ashley Albert			
6:30 pm		3.00 pm				
	music of Ross M. Levy	4.20	Daughter of Andrea & Jason Albert Zoom Havdallah with the Rudnicks			
Carturalana N	November 14	6:30 pm	Zoom Havadilan will the Ruanicks			
9:00 am		Eriday, Doa	ombor 4			
III	Zoom Torah Study	Friday, Dec				
10:00 am	Saturday Morning Zoom Service	6:30 pm	Zoom Shabbat Service featuring			
3:00 pm	Bat Mitzvah of Sari Ryan Dubin		Nefesh Mountain			
5.00	Daughter of Betsy & Michael Dubin	C				
5:00 pm	Off-Site Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel E.		December 5			
	Deringer	9:00 am	,			
	Son of Ellen & Joshua Deringer	10:00 am				
6:30 pm	Zoom Havdallah with the Rudnicks	10:30 am	Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Albert			
			Son of Amy & Joel Albert			
Friday, November 20			Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Bohnenkamp			
6:30 pm	Zoom Shabbat Service		Son of Katherine Bar & Martin			
			Bohnenkamp			
		5:00 pm	Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Krimsky			
			Son of Amy & Jordan Krimsky			
		6:30 pm	Zoom Havdallah with the Rudnicks			

All programs and services, including B'nai Mitzvah services, are subject to change.

The most up-to-date information on our virtual Shabbat and Holiday services can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

Virtual programming is great, but we miss seeing your (masked) faces! Join us!

Shabbat Morning Walk with Rabbi Newburge

Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 am Meet at the Cynwyd Trail

Take a break from your screens and connect with Shabbat in nature and your MLRT friends in a physically distanced walk. We will meet at the trail-head at the Cynwyd Trail (at the end of Levering Mill Rd). Wear your mask and your walking shoes for a beautiful fall walk.



All programs, classes, and services are virtual unless otherwise noted and can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: Knives Out	3 ELECTION DAY MLRT OFFICE CLOSED NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	4	5 11:00 am Bible Study	6 6:30 pm Family Shabbat Service	7 9:00 am Torah Study 9:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Spencer Labovitz 10:00 am Shabbat Service 11:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Bobrin 5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Dean Schatz 6:30 pm Havdallah
8	7:00 pm Partners In Reconciliation Book Discussion 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: Carol	10 TON GIFT CARD DEADLINE 12:15 pm Forward Thinking 7:00 pm Kristallnacht Program	11	12:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Du Siach Meeting 12:00 pm Short Story Discussion: Angel Levine	6:30 pm Shabbat Service featuring the music of Ross M. Levy	9:00 am Torah Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk at Cynwyd Trail* 3:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Sari Dubin 5:00 pm Off-site Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Deringer 6:30 pm Havdallah
15:00 am Hassel Adult Education Lecture: Yochi Rappeport - Women of the Wall	16 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: Free State of Jones	17 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn with RDS	18 7:30 pm Racial Justice Community Read	19 11:00 am Bible Study	20 12:00 pm Nosh & Drash with RGN 6:30 pm Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Eli Lester 6:30 pm Havdallah
22 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	23 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: The Forty Year Old Version	24	25	26 MLRT OFFICE CLOSED	27 MLRT OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Shabbat Service	28 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Dylan Steinberg 5:00 pm Bat Mitzah of Ashley Albert 6:30 pm Havdallah
29	30 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: The Trial of the Chicago 7	December 1	December 2	December 3 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Du Siach Meeting	December 4 6:30 pm Shabbat Service featuring Nefesh Mountain, Artists in Residence	December 5 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am B'nai Mitzvah of Andrew Albert and Samuel Bohnenkamp 5:00 pm Bar Mitzah of Zachary Krimsky 6:30 pm Havdallah

^{*}In-person Program

College Student Outreach

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

[^]Registration Required for Participation



For information regarding submission and advertising in MLRT Matters, please contact Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing and Communications, at dchornock@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800

