



*Yom
HaShoah*

Annual Communal Commemoration
of Holocaust Remembrance Day

Join Us on Zoom
Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00 pm

Elana Arian

Artist-in-Residence

Friday, April 16

6:30 pm

Join us

Details on page 5



As you read this issue of MLRTMatters, please keep in mind that we are always adjusting, evaluating, and adapting our programming to the rapidly changing times in order to keep you safe and healthy!

Thank you for being so understanding during this time. We urge you to 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.

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Jamie Mushlin
President

Hello MLRT Family!

As the newly nominated and elected President of our Temple, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. My family and I have been part of the Main Line Reform Temple community for the past eight years. We joined looking for deeper connections to the Main Line Jewish community and we all would agree that we found it the moment we walked in the doors at MLRT and were warmly welcomed. We have two girls who attend Conestoga High School; one is a senior who will be attending Syracuse in the fall and one is a freshman. Both girls attended MLRT Religious School and became Bat Mitzvah at MLRT, and both girls continue to attend TheTribe. Like their mother, both of the Mushlin girls have a strong desire to give back and are Board members of their local and regional chapters of BBYO.

My experience with volunteering goes back to my college days. However once I had children, my main volunteer focus transferred over to synagogue life. When my girls were young, I served as PTA president of their Jewish preschool. From there, we moved over to MLRT and I hit the ground running by helping run the annual Purim Carnival for many years. There was a time I was known as the Purim Lady. Fortunately, I was able to hand the reigns of that title to other parents and my focus shifted to the Religious School and Temple Board activities. I have found that my involvement and contributions have enriched my life and my family's lives in many ways, especially through the connections and friendships we have all been able to forge over these last years. And I'm sure this will continue as I move into this new role as President which is both an honor and a privilege.

Professionally, I work as a Cancer Genetic Counselor. This was actually not my chosen career path. Early on as a young girl, I always knew I wanted to give back and help others, so while in college and during my work years, I pursued the prerequisites needed to become either a psychologist or physician. Once I met Neil (my husband), who was himself in medical school and we fell in love, decided to get married, and have a family, my goals shifted ever so slightly. I literally stumbled upon Genetic Counseling as a career and found that it combined both the psychology background I had with the medical aspect I always wanted to be part of. For the past 20+ years, I have worked in this field which has allowed me to care and treat patients with various genetic conditions and gene mutations, be home for my girls and husband, and have the time to volunteer in Temple life. I often tell my girls that while sometimes your dream works out exactly as planned, it is important to stay open to the journey. The paths we choose might veer off in unexpected ways that could be equally rewarding.

In addition to all of this, I somehow manage to have some time for hobbies. I will list some of them in no particular order of favorites: I play piano and take lessons and participate in recitals. I do this with my girls who also take lessons from the same teacher for the last 12 years. It's been a ton of fun and my girls hopefully haven't been too embarrassed by their mom making mistakes and being super nervous before a recital. Another passion of mine is backyard birding. I will often say to my family, "look, we have a new bird at the feeder!!!" To which they often won't even look up and occasionally reply, "don't care." A few years ago, our girls started to campaign to get backyard chickens to keep as pets and to supply us with fresh eggs. It took a few years of perseverance and begging and promising to do all the work needed to care for them, but they finally succeeded in convincing Neil (I was all in!) What started with eight chickens has morphed into ten chickens and six ducks. These birds have enriched all our lives; not only with the amazing fresh eggs they provide to us daily, but with their diverse personalities (yes, chickens and ducks have personalities!!!), their voices (female ducks are quite noisy and obnoxious), and their antics. Of course, my girls hardly help with the cleaning of the coops which then falls on me. YOU are ALWAYS welcome to come and visit them and leave with some fresh eggs. Seriously.

So for now, enough about me...

I will leave you all with one of my goals for this year which is to learn more about all of you. Specifically, what can we (as a Temple) and I (as President) do to help engage and reach you all? I plan on reaching out and encourage each and every one of you to connect with me. Together, we can create a strong community to lift us up during the good times and we can build a supportive family to comfort and help us in the hard times. 'Be Inspired, Be Connected, Belong' is not just our tagline. It is the MLRT way of life. I look forward to elevating it with you. More about these plans next month.

Resiliency & Hope



Dear Friends,

Hopefully, you are reading these words as you prepare to gather with family and friends on Zoom for your Seder and celebration of Passover. Last year, at this time, we were at the beginning of what is now more than a year of living with this pandemic. I certainly never imagined that as we sat down for our first Zoom Seders, we would have to again celebrate Seder on Zoom, and not be able to be with our family and friends in person.

There does seem to be a light at the end of this long journey. Each day, more of us are able to be vaccinated, and hopefully, the availability of vaccines will soon increase dramatically. Even the existence of a vaccine in such a short period of time is reason to celebrate. Conceivably, especially with warmer weather, we will soon be able to be with one another, at least outdoors. In the meantime, it is critically important that we continue to be cautious and safe, and not let our guard down. We will likely need to continue to wear masks when we are together, and it may be a while before we can resume meeting in-person and completely reopen our synagogue.

We have learned a lot in this past year. Last month, I participated in a Zoom session on Lessons Learned From a Year Long Journey. I was particularly moved by Rabbi Amy Schwartzman's insights. Many of you know Rabbi Schwartzman, as she grew up at MLRT. She now serves a congregation in North Virginia. She shared the following:

Last year, as we prepared to celebrate Passover, we felt chaos, confusion, and despair. A year later, I hope that we have a greater sense of calm and focus. We have learned to tolerate, even embrace change, innovation, and disruption. We have learned a great deal about resiliency, and we have learned just how important community is in our lives. Relationships and friendships—our commitment to being responsible for one another—are essential components to enduring hard times such as these. We are more flexible than we realized, and more creative and innovative than we knew. Our core identity as Jews who hold dear the values and principles of Judaism, has proven its resilience, its merit. In this time of such uncertainty, many of our traditions remain central to who we are. Others are much less important than we thought, and we can let them go. And while there is no replacement for being together physically, who knew how much meaning and connection could be transmitted in the virtual realm. And lastly, we now better understand the experience of those among us for whom isolation and being home bound are a regular part of life. We now better understand the existential crises of loneliness and angst that so many of us experience each and every day. Through this understanding, our empathy has grown, and we better understand just how important building community, consciously creating community and connection is. As human beings, as Jews, we fundamentally need to be with each other. There is no substitute for the holy energy created in holding each other's hands, in hugging each other, in laughter and weeping shared in other's presence.

It will not be easy sharing Seder on Zoom for a second year, though hopefully we are better in knowing how to mute and unmute ourselves. But celebrate we will.

May your celebration and observance of Passover be meaningful and uplifting. And let us remember the words with which we end our Seder: Once we were slaves, now we are free. Next year in Jerusalem, metaphor for next year, may we help transform our world into a place of wholeness and peace, of shalom.

Community Grows: Food, Faith and Justice Building Raised Bed Gardens Together

Sunday, April 18 from 2:00-4:00 pm

In March, MLRT joined with our Interfaith Partners on the Main Line to learn about food insecurity and the growing urban and suburban community-supported gardening programs that help provide fresh produce for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Now, it's time to put our learning into action. Join us on April 18 (our planned rain date is April 25) as we unite with our Main Line Interfaith Partners and build some raised beds, or prepare those who already have raised beds for spring planting. We will be working especially with our neighbors who live in Ardmore, as well as on the grounds of some of our Main Line Congregations, including MLRT. (Did you know that we have had a community garden for several years, and donate our produce to our local food pantries?)

We will be in small work teams, masked and socially distanced. RSVP to Rabbi Straus, dstrauss@mlrt.org, or call the Temple Office, 610-649-7800, and we will be able to let you know where to meet.

Message from Amy Krulik



Dear Friends:

I am about to share something that may make you wonder how I could possibly be qualified to be in a leadership position at MLRT.

Until I was about 25, I didn't know that Jewish communal professional was something you could do as your job. As I shared in my welcome email, I grew up in Monroe, NY, birthplace of Velveeta. In 1969, the year my pioneering family moved to Monroe from Fair Lawn, NJ, I am pretty sure that Monroe's deer population far outnumbered the people. Monroe supported two small synagogues - the 300-family Temple Beth El Reform congregation and the 10(ish)-family Eitz Chaim Conservative congregation that met in my friend's living room. My parents happily set down roots at Beth El.

Beyond the synagogues, there was nothing in the way of Jewish community infrastructure in our area. No Federation, no JCC, no JFCS. The only people I knew who worked for and got paid by our Jewish community were our rabbi and the very nice person who worked in the Temple office. When I was in elementary school, my mom became the religious school principal and she was paid mostly in free tuition for me and my brother. You would think that my Hillel experience at Hamilton College might have clued me in, but our chapter advisor was also the Chair of the Religious Studies Department and I assumed that was her only paying gig.

There is no question that I was completely in the dark about what would become the core of my professional career.

My first post-college job was in the corporate public relations department at Scholastic Inc., then and now, the world's leading publisher of literature for children and teens. I then headed to graduate school at Penn, where I pursued a Master's in City and Regional Planning. Mostly, I took finance classes with the Wharton MBAs and policy classes at the Fels School of Government.

Because I moved to Philly, one of my best friends from Scholastic decided to play matchmaker with her brother who had just gotten his law degree at Penn. Nearly 29 years later, I can honestly recommend marrying your friend's brother. Jeff grew up in Cherry Hill, NJ, and he and his parents introduced me to the world of the JCC, Women's Division and Young Leadership Council at Federation, and the Young Professionals Board at Jewish Family Service. I met a ton of Jewish communal professionals, many of whom are among my closest colleagues today. A special shout out to my mother-in-law for including me in all of her volunteer work.

As I immersed myself in South Jersey Jewish life, I was working as the National Communications and Education Director at an environmental trust fund that dealt with hazards like asbestos, lead paint and radon. I even got certified as an asbestos abatement contractor. How did I get from the "glamorous" field of asbestos to working in the Jewish community? Well, I was on maternity leave after the birth of my first daughter (I have two fabulous children, Sarah and Emily), and the board of the trust fund decided to close the organization. I did some consulting work for a couple years and decided that I really didn't like working by myself. At the time, the Kaiserman JCC was looking for a Director of Communications and Cultural Arts and the rest, as they say, is history.

I have been in love with my work in our Jewish community since day one. From the JCC to JRA and back to the JCC, every position I have held has given me opportunities to put my marketing, finance, program development, community engagement and fundraising experience to work. And for anyone worried that I don't get to use my City Planning degree, I never cease to be amazed at how often I reach into my planning bag of tricks to interpret a population study or visualize alternative futures for our community.

My childhood temple was the center of everything I remember and love about being Jewish. Joining the staff at MLRT is a homecoming for me and I am beyond excited to put my Jewish communal professional experience to work for our Temple families. I am truly grateful for the beautiful and warm welcome you have extend to me.

Here's to exciting, fun, interesting, compelling, healthy, peaceful and connected times ahead.

Lehitraot (see you soon),

Amy

All of the programs in the following pages are virtual, unless otherwise specified, and the links can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

Special Programs

Passover is Over Pizza & Beer Party! Saturday, April 3 at 7:00 pm

End your Passover observance at 7:00 pm on Saturday, April 3 with your MLRT family. Join us & our friends at Congregation Shir Ami in Bucks County with Rabbi Chuck Briskin with pizza and beer on Zoom. Pick up your favorite pie and some tasty brews and explore the history and complexity of different beer varieties. Our very own congregant Mitchell Peedin, a veteran of the beer industry, will be on hand to teach us all a little something about IPAs, pale ales, and porters (and stouts too).

Annual Communal Service for Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day

Please join your MLRT family and members of Adath Israel, Beth Am Israel, Beth David Reform Congregation, Har Zion Temple, and Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El on Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 7 for our annual communal observance of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Our service will include liturgy led by clergy from MLRT and from the congregations joining us, musical performances by the combined choirs of our area congregations, the lighting of the Holocaust Candelabrum in memory of the six million, and a thoughtful and moving presentation by Michael Dobbs, author of The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz, and a Village Caught In Between, winner of 2019 National Jewish Book Club Award for Holocaust Studies. Prior to becoming an author, Michael Dobbs was a journalist and foreign correspondent. In addition to his historic work as a journalist and a historian, he taught courses at the universities of Princeton, Michigan, and Georgetown, as well as American University. Michael also spent seven years at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where he organized conferences on the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia, and researched and wrote The Unwanted.

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

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



ARTIST-IN- RESIDENCE: ELANA ARIAN Friday, April 16 at 6:30 pm

Elana Arian is one of the leading voices in contemporary Jewish music. A composer, multi-instrumentalist, and recording artist, Elana inspires communities across the country with her soulful songwriting and spirit. She recently released her third album of original music, *A Spark of Light*, a collaboration with Grammy-winning producer, Ben Wisch. Elana has served on the faculty of both Shirei Chagiga in London and the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, working as a teaching artist in the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. In addition to her work as a guest Artist in Residence for communities across the United States, Elana spent 12 years in residence in the Friday worship ensemble at Central Synagogue. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Tanglewood, and perhaps most memorably, five separate appearances at the (Obama) White House.

Elana studied conducting and violin, jazz guitar, and songwriting at Yale. Elana has appeared on NPR's Soundcheck, as well as on PBS' Finding Your Roots. A sought-after studio musician, Elana also maintains a busy recording schedule, working with such varied artists as Peter Dinklage, the Dirty Projectors, and Catie Curtis. She also held the guitar chair in the smash revival of *Sweet Charity* starring Tony award-winner, Sutton Foster.

When not performing, recording, or writing, Elana spends her time chasing her daughters, Maya and Acadia, around Brooklyn with her wife, Julia. Learn more about Elana at elanaarian.com.

We are thrilled to be able to welcome Elana to MLRT as our Artist-in-Residence on Friday, April 16. She will lead the congregation in a musically rich Shabbat Service at 6:30 pm. Her spiritually uplifting sound and profoundly moving lyrics will enhance our Shabbat in this can't-miss service open to all. Please join us!

Lifelong Learning



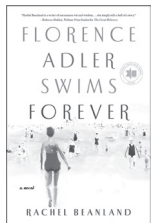
Sally Brown,
Librarian

"When you read a short story you come out a little more aware and a little more in love with the world around you." Sharing this quote gives me a chance to acknowledge the remarkable group of participants of our short story group! Our short story for Thursday, April 15 at noon will have a Holocaust theme: "Waltz on East 6th Street" by Tehilla Lieberman. Her collection, Venus in the Afternoon, won the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in short fiction. Her story engages with the Holocaust: its legacy and its power over contemporary lives.

I want to remind you of our Community Holocaust Remembrance Day which will take place on Wednesday evening, April 7 at 7:00 pm. Our keynote speaker, Michael Dobbs, wrote The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz, and a Village Caught in Between, which won the 2019 National Jewish Book Award for Holocaust Studies. The book meticulously explores American foreign policy during these times. Mr. Dobbs is a former journalist for the Washington Post and foreign correspondent. Join us for

the community-wide remembrance of this important time in our history. Further details can be found on page 5.

In May, we will begin to think of summer and carefree times at the Jersey shore. On Tuesday, May 4, I will facilitate a group discussion of the best-selling novel Florence Adler Swims Forever by Rachel Beanland. The novel won a National Jewish Book award for debut fiction and it takes place in Atlantic City during the summer of 1934. I am hoping our members who are shore-goers will read the book (if you haven't already) and participate in the discussion. I have learned that the Lower Merion Library Consortium owns twenty-five copies of the book; our library owns one. The reader will be transported to another time and place and be engrossed in the lives of a Jewish family confronting a tragedy. The Zoom discussion of this engrossing story will take place at 12:00 pm. For more information, visit mlrt.org/zoom.



Take note of our spring programming. Look for more details coming soon!



HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE: DIANE STEINBRINK AMY HERZOG — A NEW TALENT OF AMERICAN THEATRE

Sunday, April 18 at 10:00 am on Zoom

In this lecture, our congregant Diane will discuss the family background and work of Amy Herzog, a significant new and prolific playwright, and feature monologues of some of the significant characters from her plays *After The Revolution*, *The Great God Pan*, *Belleville*, and *4000 Miles*, which was nominated for a 2013 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Diane will also discuss Amy's moving new play, *Mary Jane*. Audience participation will follow.

Diane G. Steinbrink is a graduate of Adelphi University with a BA in Speech and Drama. She served as the Coordinator of Philadelphia Plays for Living for 17 years. She was the Producer of the Anne Frank Theater Project for Jewish Family and Children's Service of Philadelphia. She also served as a Facilitator for the program.

Ms. Steinbrink has acted and directed in local theater, in Plays for Living, and has appeared as an extra in movies and industrial films. She has presented her one-person programs to many groups in the Philadelphia area, Southern New Jersey, Florida, Harrisburg, and the Berkshires. She has also participated in theatre talkbacks in the Philadelphia area, Sarasota, FL, and Williamstown, MA.

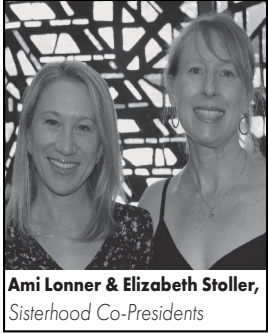
Discover the edible plants of our area!

Join Rabbi Newburge and the Wild Edibles Lady, Debbie Naha-Koretzky, for a springtime foraging walk at 10:30 am on Sunday, May 2 when we reconnect with nature during the Counting of the Omer, a period of time that takes us back to when our ancestors counted the days until the harvest.

Debbie is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, Rutgers Master Gardener, Pennsylvania Master Naturalist, certified science teacher, and author. She has conducted countless foraging programs and covers plant identification, safety, look-alike plants, sustainable harvesting, nature appreciation, cooking with wild plants, and of course, nutrition.

She received her master's degree in Clinical Nutrition from New York University. This specialized training allows for a unique approach to wild edible plants. Debbie is also the author of Foraging Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Sisterhood



By now, many of us may be experienced at hosting and celebrating some of our most special and sacred holidays alone or with only our immediate families. We hope that this was the last Passover marked by a pandemic, one that forced us to eat our festive meal without our family members beside us, instead watching each other eat on Zoom.

But have faith! Spring is coming! Vaccines are being administered! Let's be hopeful that just as we glimpse the heads of crocuses peeking up from the earth and begin to spot the buds on blooming trees, our world as we once knew it begins to return. Let's have hope and faith and yet still maintain a level of patience that will continue to keep us safe. We must not rush into socializing yet, but we can feel optimistic that life will slowly become more pleasant again.

Here is a prayer from Rabbi Karen Reiss Medwed that you may choose to recite about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine: *With gratitude and thanksgiving to The Healer of repairable hearts and restorer of brokenness, appreciation and thanks for inspiring the medical teams and scientists granting them the wisdom, knowledge and expertise to prepare this vaccine for all of us. May it be your will that with my vaccination I will be granted the ability to heal and keep safe humankind and be granted the privilege to fulfill the mitzvah of one who saves a life. Blessed are you Healer of all who are sick.*

Regrettably, Sisterhood Shabbat will be another Zoom affair this year. But please join us online and spend some quality time with us, strengthening our community of sisters over the internet as we observe the rituals of Shabbat. It promises to satisfy our collective Sisterhood souls! Sisterhood Shabbat takes place on Friday, April 30 at 6:30 pm. Link available at mlrt.org/zoom.

Brotherhood

Moribund, but not quite completely inactive during this period of the pandemic, Main Line Reform Temple's Brotherhood did offer two fine events of note during the merry month of March: Brotherhood men, all of whom should be roundly thanked for their participation in the Brotherhood Shabbat service on March 12; and Philip Roth's 32nd book, *Nemesis*, as the topic of the Bernie Kleinman Book Club discussion on March 16, a day before St. Patrick had his sway. Not considered by most to be among his finer works, the book centers on a fictitious outbreak of polio in Newark in 1944. The eponymous work, according to the fine critic Michiko Kakutani, "is a small-scale portrait of an era and of an earnest young man who finds the unstoppable engine of history steam-rolling over his life." Thankfully, and mercifully, the protagonist Bucky Cantor is restored to happiness.

Because we, too, shall be restored to happiness soon, here is an offering of spring, now that winter is in retreat.

*Now that the winter's gone, the earth hath lost
Her snow-white robes, and now no more the frost
Candles the grass, or casts an icy cream
Upon the silver lake or crystal stream;
But the warm sun thaws the benumbed earth,
And makes it tender, gives a sacred birth
To the dead swallow; wakes in hollow tree
The drowsy cuckoo and the humble bee.
Now do a choir of chirping minstrels bring
In triumph to the world the youthful spring.* (Thomas Carew, "The Spring," 1630)

Notice that it is the human ear that alerts us to the new season after hearing the "chirping choir," not the earth's rotation. While considered an amatory address to his mistress, it seems possible to simply say: it's a charming sentiment about the changing seasons." Allow the spring to bring you warmth and gladness.

Gary Brock, Vice President

We welcome anyone interested in reading to join The Bernie Kleinman Book Club for discussions throughout the year for friendship and review. We will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, April 27 for our next Zoom discussion focusing on Isabel Wilkerson's timely and important best-seller, *Caste*.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Norman Fienman at nfienman@gmail.com.

Teach Our Children: Early Childhood Education

"Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm" – John Muir

At MLRT ECE so too do our students work as joyfully as ever and with the enthusiasm only young learners possess. We are excited to have opened our 2021-2022 school year registration, to welcome back returning families and the fifteen new families joining our ECE and MLRT Community. We are happy to share that our enrollment already has very limited availability but welcome all interested families with open arms!

Our classrooms are buzzing with exploration, discovery, and endless inquiry. Our two amazing Kindergarten classes, the Super Stars & the Lucky Stars (collectively known as the All Stars!), have traveled the world, started a Book Club, investigated mathematics and geometry, and learned about famous artists. Our All Stars have become scientists exploring temperature and graphing comparisons between hot and cold weather. We have counted to 100 Days of school and celebrated the wacky world of Dr. Seuss. We have learned about so many different Jewish holidays like Tu B'shevat, with a little help from our friend Shel Silverstein and The Giving Tree. Once upon a time, our All Stars met characters like Cinderella and Jack with his beanstalk and wrote fairy-tales all their own. We explored America as Pilgrims and Native Americans, examining the history behind Thanksgiving and the importance of *Tikkun Olam*, the mitzvah of repairing the world. We have become great friends with Mo Williams, Bob, and climbed inside the Magic Tree House, to name a few of our favorite book series.

Even with all this fabulous learning, the most important thing we have done so far this year is make friends with each other. With so many obstacles in our way, our All Stars have overcome them all. When the ECE Leadership Team walks the Kindergarten hallways, we hear learning (of course), but we also hear laughter! We see eyes squinting with smiles behind funky colored masks and see relationships being formed that we know will last for years to come.

We could not be prouder of our Kindergarten teachers who have risen to an occasion unlike any other. We are beyond impressed with the curriculum and lessons they have created in our COVID-19 world. Every day they come into the school ready and willing to engage their students and make sure that when our All Stars graduate, they will not be missing a beat. We know our students will go to their new schools ready, eager, and excited to learn!

Looking ahead to the end of the 2020-2021 school year, we have begun to plan our annual Kindergarten Graduation ceremony, which has called for much out of the box thinking from our Kindergarten teachers and ECE Leadership Team. We are very excited to hold a safe and memorable ceremony that celebrates the achievement of our All Stars. Our ECE Kindergarten parents deserve the opportunity to celebrate their children succeeding through a COVID-19 year.

Every day that we have had in school with our students has been a blessing. We are looking forward to a spring trimester that is not only continuously joyful but filled with the endless possibilities that await when you serve a community of children as phenomenal as our ECEers.

Aviv Sameach (Happy Spring),
Your ECE Leadership Team

Israel Matters

Israel has already figured out ways to make the Negev desert habitable, and now scientists at Ben Gurion University are investigating methods that would make life in the desert more enjoyable. In an age of climate change, the wine industry worldwide is endangered. Israeli innovations may be a key to its survival.

On a mountain ridge near Mitzpe Ramon, an experimental vineyard is showing how grapes can grow under extreme conditions. The heat is often intense and the rainfall is sparse, but Israeli expertise in water conservation and irrigation has enabled the creation of a new wine center. Actually, vineyards are not new to the area. About 2,500 years ago, the Nabateans, a nomadic tribe living in the Negev, built terraces and small dams to divert precious water that fell during rare downpours to the growing of grapes. In the 21st century, the burgeoning population of Beersheba can look forward to the development of their own version of the Napa Valley. And as our American vineyards are threatened by fire, earthquakes and extreme temperatures, perhaps we too can grow grapes in the desert. L'chaim!!

We hope you enjoy these "good news" bulletins from Israel. Please email Sherrill Neff at sherrill.neff@gmail.com, Jackie Shulman at jzshul@gmail.com, or Renee Margulies at Milren4@yahoo.com if you have any questions or would like to contribute to future issues.

Teach Our Children: Religious School



Rabbi Kevin Kleinman

I love Jewish holidays. The food. The stories. The mitzvot. The prayers. The singing. The memories. The winter and spring time holidays engage all of our senses to envelope us the spirit and the feelings of Tu B'Shevat, Purim, and Passover. On Tu B'Shevat, we eat fruit that connects us to the Land of Israel and we are reminded to be Shomrei Adamah, care takers of our precious planet. We boo Haman and shake groggers on Purim to celebrate the victory of the Jewish people over hate and intolerance. We then dress up and joyfully make hamentashen to share with family and friends and commit to ensuring all in our community will have enough food for a holiday meal.

Passover, the time we are in now, is a week-long commitment to remembering the struggles of our ancestors and the subsequent miracles that brought them to freedom. The items on the Seder plate allow us to tell their story and, at the same time, invite our voice into the ancient conversation about fighting oppression. We are instructed to open our doors and invite all who are hungry to come and eat. Many people give tzedakah before Passover to local food relief organizations to fulfill this mitzvah.

Our Religious School students have not let the pandemic slow them down. They learned the Four Questions and are well prepared to help lead their family Zoom Seders. They sang Passover songs with Ross and understand that once we slaves, and now we are free to fight to end slavery for others. They ask important questions and bring their love of Judaism out of the classroom and into the world. They are true menshes and troopers and lighten the lives of our teachers and their families each and every day. Chag Sameach – Happy Passover!

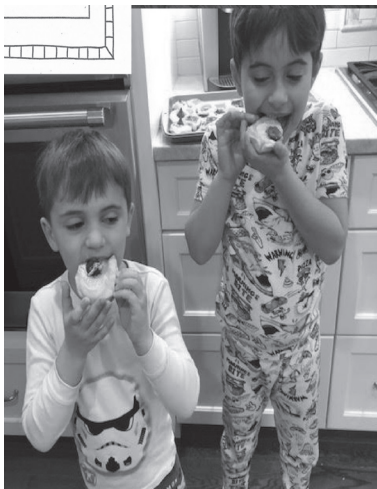
April 9 – Family Shabbat Service with 6th Grade Participation – 6:30 pm
No Religious School: March 28, 29, and 30, and April 1 and 4

Religious School Student Spotlight: Ryan Silverberg

1st Grade, aspiring chef

Q: What is the best cookie and why?

Ryan: I think hamentashen is the best cookie. I love the taste when I bite into the sweet dough. I love the gooey part in the middle. It melts in my mouth. I love the Hershey Kiss in the middle.



Ryan

OPINION:
 I think
hamantaschen
 is the best
 cookie!

BEST COOKIE
In my opinion

Reason #1
 I love the taste when
 I bite into the sweet dough.

Reason #2
 I Love the gooey part
 of the marshmallow in the
 middle.

Reason #3
 I love the hershey kiss
 In the middle it melts in my
 mouth.

Restate Opinion: I think hamentaschen
 are the best cookie.



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Cantor Faryn Rudnick's appearance in our February 6 concert

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Mazal Too!

Rabbi Joseph Domosh & Cindy Marshall on the birth of their grandson, David Chananya Domosh
Cindy & Jeff Ruben on the engagement of their daughter, Ilana, to Joshua Apple

In Memoriam

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

Solomon Cohen
Father of Michele Cohen

Carol London
Sister of Rona Cohen

Howard Silverman
Father of Doug Silverman
Grandfather of Janie and
Judd Silverman

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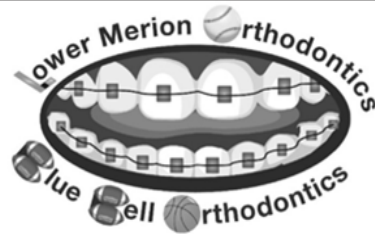
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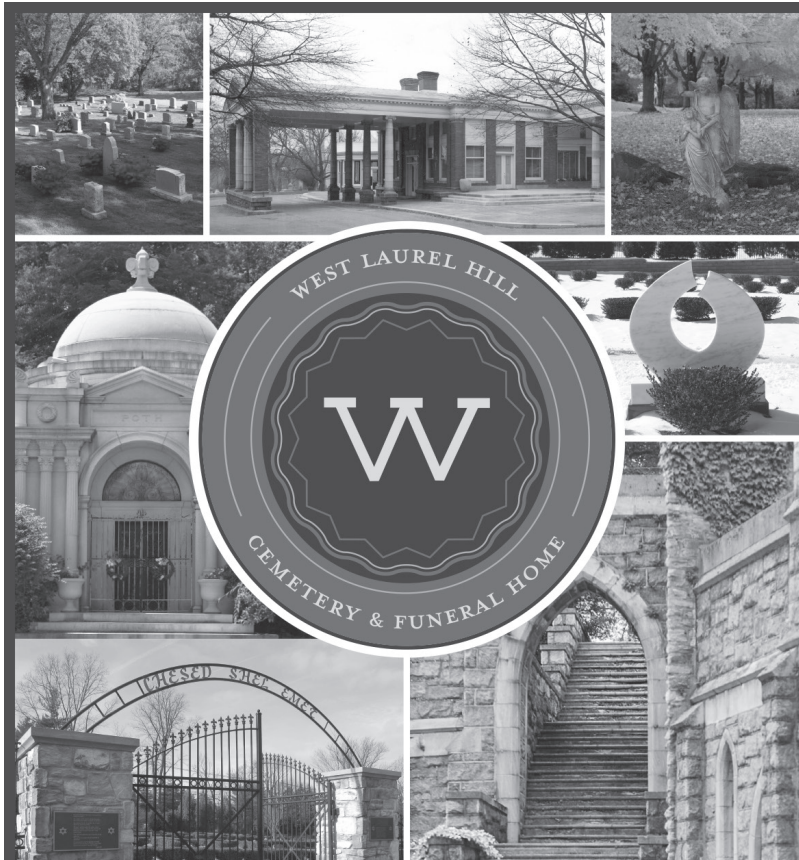
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The following Zoom programs and services can be found at mlrt.org/zoom.



PASSOVER IS OVER PIZZA AND BEER PARTY - SATURDAY, APRIL 3 AT 7:00 PM

Pick up your favorite pie and some tasty brews and explore the history and complexity of different beer varieties.



KEEPING IT REEL - MONDAYS, APRIL 5, 12, 19, AND 26; MAY 3 AT 8:00 PM

Get your popcorn ready to discuss these Netflix movies with Rabbi Geri Newburge!

5: Fisherman's Friends

12: The Dig

19: My Week with Marilyn

26: The Irishman

May 3: Loving



FORWARD THINKING - TUESDAY, APRIL 6 AT 12:15 PM

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



COMMUNAL YOM HASHOAH PROGRAM - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7:00 PM

Please join members of area congregations for Holocaust Remembrance Day with author Michael Dobbs.



SHORT STORY DISCUSSION - THURSDAY, APRIL 15 AT 12:00 PM

Enjoy a riveting discussion of "Waltz on East 6th Street" by Tehilla Lieberman.



NOSH & DRASH WITH RABBI NEWBURGE - FRIDAY, APRIL 16 AT 12:00 PM

Start your Shabbat by exploring ancient and modern texts for new perspectives in Jewish life and thought.



ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE SHABBAT WITH ELANA ARIAN - FRIDAY, APRIL 16 AT 6:30 PM

Elana's spiritually uplifting sound will enhance our Shabbat in this can't-miss service open to all.



HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE: DIANE STEINBRINK - SUNDAY, APRIL 18 AT 10:00 AM

In this lecture, our Diane will discuss Amy Herzog, a significant new and prolific playwright.



BERNIE KLEINMAN BOOK CLUB - TUESDAY, APRIL 27 AT 7:30 PM

All are welcome to take part in this fascinating and timely review of *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson.



LUNCH & LEARN - TUESDAY, APRIL 27 AT 12:00 PM

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

WE HAVE TOO MANY PROGRAMS TO LIST HERE AND ARE ALWAYS ADDING MORE. PLEASE READ THIS ISSUE, VISIT OUR WEBSITE, AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO LEARN ABOUT ALL THE WONDERFUL EVENTS, CLASSES, AND SERVICES MLRT HAS TO OFFER.

WEEKLY 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 as we say Shabbat Shalom to one another, light candles together and make Kiddush. At the end of services, we will un-mute all for our Oneg Shabbat, when we can talk to one another again.

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 - Havdalah with the Rudnicks

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

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Shabbat & Holiday Services

Friday, April 2

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service & Brief Yizkor

Saturday, April 3

Seventh Day of Pesach

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study

10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service & Yizkor

Friday, April 9

6:30 pm Zoom Family Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 10

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study

10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service

10:30 am *B'not Mitzvah of Emily and Sadie Rosen*
Daughters of Stacy & Howard Rosen

4:30 pm *Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Rounick*
Son of Brooke & David Rounick

6:30 pm Havdalah

Friday, April 16

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service with
Artist-in-Residence, Elana Arian

Saturday, April 17

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk

10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service

10:00 am *Bar Mitzvah of Noah Sicouri*
Son of Vanesa & Serge Sicouri

12:30 pm *Bar Mitzvah of Solomon Stern*
Son of Jennifer & Daniel Stern

5:00 pm *Bat Mitzvah of Gavriella Adleman*
Daughter of Michael Adelman and
Patricia Adelman

6:30 pm Havdalah

Friday, April 23

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service and Board of
Trustees Installation

Saturday, April 24

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study

10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service

10:30 am *Bat Mitzvah of Alexis Brady*
Daughter of Allison Weiss-Brady &
Chip Brady

5:00 pm *Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Silverman*
Son of Rachael & Michael Silverman

6:30 pm Havdalah

Friday, April 30

6:30 pm Zoom Sisterhood Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 1

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study

9:30 am *Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Silverman*
Son of Staci & Michael Silverman

10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service

11:30 am *Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Meltzer*
Daughter of Jaime & Simcha Meltzer

5:00 pm *Bat Mitzvah of Emerson Margolis*
Daughter of Shana & Ryan Margolis

6:30 pm Havdalah

Friday, May 7

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 8

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study

10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service

10:30 am *Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Rose*
Daughter of Regan & David Rose

5:00 pm *Bat Mitzvah of Tess Frezel*
Daughter of Andrea Brothman &
Michael Frezel

6:30 pm Havdalah

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

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

Shabbat Morning Walk with Rabbi Newburge

Saturday, April 17 at 9:00 am

Celebrate the beauty of nature and Shabbat with Rabbi Newburge and your MLRT community. We will meet at the Barmouth Trailhead at the Cynwyd Trail (at the end of Levering Mill Rd). Wear your mask and your walking shoes for a beautiful spring walk.

In the case of inclement weather, this walk will be canceled.

April 2021

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

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 11:00 am Bible Study	2 6:30 pm Shabbat & Pesach Service with brief Yizkor	3 7TH DAY OF PESACH 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat & Pesach Service with Yizkor 7:00 pm Pesach is Over Pizza & Beer Party!
4 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	5 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>Fisherman's Friends</i>	6 12:15 pm Forward Thinking	7 7:00 pm Communal Yom HaShoah Program with author Michael Dobbs	8 YOM HASHOAH 11:00 am Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Family Shabbat Service	10 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am B'not Mitzvah of Sadie and Emily Rosen 4:30 pm Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Rounick 6:30 pm Havdalah
11 11:15 am Tikkun Olam Network Meeting	12 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>The Dig</i>	13	14 YOM HA'ATZMAUT	15 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Short Story Discussion: <i>Waltz on East 6th Street</i>	16 12:00 pm Nosh & Drash with RGN 6:30 pm Shabbat Service with our Artist-in-Residence, Elana Arian	17 9:00 am Torah Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk* 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Noah Sicouri 12:30 pm Bar Mitzvah of Solomon Stern 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Gavriella Adelman 6:30 pm Havdalah
18 10:00 am Hassel Adult Education Lecture with Diane Steinbrink 2:00 pm Community Grows Interfaith Program	19 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>My Week with Marilyn</i>	20	21	22 11:00 am Bible Study	23 6:30 pm Shabbat Service and Board of Trustees Installation	24 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Alexis Brady 5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Silverman 6:30 pm Havdalah
25	26 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>The Irishman</i>	27 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn with RDS 7:30 pm Bernie Kleinman Book Club: <u>Caste</u>	28	29 11:00 am Bible Study	30 LAG B'OMER 6:30 pm Sisterhood Shabbat	May 1 9:00 am Torah Study 9:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Maxwell Silverman 10:00 am Shabbat Service 11:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Meltzer 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Eme Margolis 6:30 pm Havdalah
May 2 10:30 am Spring Foraging Walk*	May 3 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>Loving</i>	May 4 12:00 pm Book Discussion: <u>Florence Adler Swims Forever</u>	May 5	May 6 11:00 am Bible Study	May 7 6:30 pm Shabbat Service	May 8 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Sophia Rose 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Tess Frezel 6:30 pm Havdalah

*In-person Program
All Keeping It Reel movies are available on Netflix



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