



Spend Pesach with MLRT!

Join us for classes, services,
programs, and more!

Details on page 5



There is a lot to celebrate within the pages of this issue of MLRTMatters, from holidays, Shabbat, B'nai Mitzvah Services, innovative programming, and MORE! We are excited to share it with you but please keep in mind that we are constantly evaluating, adjusting, and adapting our programming to the rapidly changing times in order to keep you safe and healthy!

We ask for your understanding during this time and 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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Find the Meaning of Pesach, Even Now

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Rabbi David Straus

I want to thank all of you who have reached out to me in these past weeks with your emails, texts, notes and phone calls. I know many of you were surprised by the news of my pending sabbatical and transition from Senior Rabbi to Rabbi Emeritus. As I have shared with all of you, serving as your rabbi for these many, many years has been the opportunity of a lifetime for me. We have been blessed to share life's joys and simchas together; we have journeyed together through the valley of shadows that comes to every life; we have shared the most significant moments of your and my life together. Together we have explored and learned the tremendous spiritual insights of our tradition which can help us fashion, nurture, and live lives with greater purpose, meaning and intentionality. And I hope some of my passion and enthusiasm for social justice and interfaith

work, for helping to repair our all too often broken world has helped transform our community and you. I hope I have helped you to see our world through Jewish eyes, dreams, hopes, values and sensibilities.

Lynne and I are planning to stay involved in the life of MLRT, though in new and different ways. I also plan to continue to be involved both locally and nationally in areas I am most passionate about. I will do all I can to support Rabbi Newburge, Cantor Rudnick, and Rabbi Kleinman as they will now lead our community.

It is hard for me, and I am sure for you as well, to contemplate a second year of Pesach and Seder still needing to be physically distanced from family and friends, and to another year of a Zoom Seder. Pesach is the one holiday where Lynne and I, with your support, have always been able to celebrate with our family - one year going to DC to be with Lynne's family, and the following year to Poughkeepsie to be with my family. It will be difficult for us, as I know it is for you, to be away from family yet again. But we are a resilient, imaginative, and creative people. Join Rabbi Kleinman and me on March 10 as we share together creative ways and ideas to re-imagine your Zoom Seder.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks notes that of all the holidays in the Jewish year, the most observed are Pesach and Yom Kippur. This is somewhat counter intuitive, he writes, because in many ways these two holidays are the most difficult to observe - Pesach with all its cooking and preparing and cleaning; Yom Kippur as a day of fasting, with long hours in the synagogue - something most of us

are not accustomed to throughout most of the year. It's paradoxical, he notes, because so much of the emphasis in our times is to make things easier. We have grown accustomed to and appreciate the one-click buy, the one-stop shop (now contact-less), the instant communication, and the Google search that takes microseconds.

But this applies when we are seeking convenience, Rabbi Sacks notes, not when we are seeking meaning. If what we are looking for in a religion is convenience, no one is his or her right mind would recommend Judaism. But if we are looking for meaning, perhaps no religion has ever been more profound. And no holiday of the year has more meaning for me than Pesach and the Seder.

You can't have a Seder without....asks as a teaching from CLAL, the National Center for Jewish Learning and Leadership. How would you answer that question? Without "the famous four?" Without matza? Bitter herbs? Gefilta Fish?

CLAL suggests this answer: we also cannot have a Seder without genuinely different types of people at the table. That's what the tradition of the four children is all about. We welcome people as they are, not as we wish them to be, and that strengthens us as individuals, as a people and as a nation. Because welcoming the four moves us from bemoaning polarization to doing something about it. Let me suggest this discussion as we read of the four this year:

- Invite those at your table, even your Zoom table, to name someone wise and to explain why they made that choice.
- Ask people to consider something positive we can learn from those we label as wicked, or at least from ideas we deem hostile to our own. Ask someone you disagree with, "what do you see that I don't see that leads you to...?"
- Consider where you wish you could simplify things, and how appreciating complexity adds to your understanding.
- Imagine really needing each other - even when they are really the other - and that knowing this is the beginning of being truly free.

Happy Pesach to all!

It Has Been An Honor!



Joel Ginsparg
President

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of MLRT for the past three years. During my term, I was periodically asked, "Why should I be a member of MLRT?" My answer was and is that MLRT enables us to embrace our Jewish culture and traditions, engage in Jewish practices, and explore our religious beliefs. At MLRT, we participate in religious services and other programs, educate our children, engage in Tikkun Olam, and experience life cycle events with our family and friends. The mission of our congregation is to transmit the values, ideas and dreams of our traditions to enable responsible religious and ethical choices. MLRT helps us fulfill our responsibility to live our lives as Jews and teach our children and our children's children the love of being Jewish.

There have been and continue to be significant challenges at MLRT. It has been my pleasure to work on these challenges with an outstanding team of clergy, staff, officers, Board of Trustees, and other lay leaders. During the past three years, we worked together on initiatives in member engagement, philanthropy, transforming religious education, and governance. A few examples of our accomplishments include the launch of the new Main Line Speaker Series, changes to implement a Culture of Philanthropy, which has helped us reduce our deficit this fiscal year, significant changes to our Religious Education programs to better serve our children and their families, and some restructuring of how the Board of Trustees and MLRT committees operate.

I want to thank Rabbi Straus, Rabbi Newburge, Cantor Rudnick, Rabbi Kleinman, Ross Levy, Missy Johnson, Janet Lee, Roy Feinberg, and all of the staff and teachers for their extraordinary hard work all year round and especially for their commitment during the COVID-19 pandemic. I especially want to thank Rabbi Straus, Rabbi Newburge, and Cantor Rudnick for their guidance and support for me and for the ideas and initiatives that I championed during my term. It has been much appreciated!

I also want to thank the officers with whom I have worked during the past three years. I want to especially thank Vic Haas, Dave Heppen, Rachel Lester, Jamie Mushlin, and Lori Robbins for the countless hours they worked during the past year to lead MLRT through the COVID-19 pandemic. I know the sacrifices that you and thus your families made so that you could guide us through this difficult year. Words alone cannot express how much I have appreciated your leadership, hard work, and support.

I want to thank all of the members of the Board of Trustees and the many other dedicated lay leaders of our congregation including chairpersons and members of various committees, leaders and members of Brotherhood and Sisterhood, and volunteers for our many programs, projects, and events. There is not enough space here for me to list everyone. However, I want to thank all of you for your service to MLRT. It is because of all that you do that MLRT is a very special community.

As I communicated to you in several electronic announcements, MLRT will be experiencing a major transition over the next eighteen months. Rabbi Straus has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2022, Rabbi Newburge will at that time become the Rabbi of the congregation, and Amy Krulik is joining us in March as our Executive Director. Please join us at the Annual Congregational Meeting at 11:00 am on Sunday, March 14 to honor Rabbi Straus, wish Mazel Tov to Rabbi Newburge, and welcome Amy Krulik. It will truly be a celebration of our community!

I want to end these thoughts with some words that were spoken by Theodore Roosevelt in a speech to students at the Sorbonne in Paris on the 23rd of April 1910. This quote sums up both the challenge and the consolation of leadership:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs; who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

During the past three years, I continued the programs begun by my predecessors and started several new initiatives to address additional challenges. There have been many successes and a few failures. Overall, I believe that we made significant progress. I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead this amazing community. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of MLRT!

Please see page 5 for further information about our Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 14 at 11:00 am.

Pesach: The Festival of Freedom

What is Pesach (Passover)?

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

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

Pesach is a Pilgrimage Festival. Three times during the year, the Israelites, according to the laws of the Torah, went in joyous procession to Jerusalem. There they celebrated the three festivals that occur during the year: Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot.

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

As the sun sets on Saturday, March 27, Jews throughout the world will begin the celebration of Pesach. They will gather at the Seder table and retell the story of Passover, the Jewish struggle for freedom from oppression. Pesach is one of the most important opportunities we have for rededicating ourselves as Jews to the ageless tradition of freedom and for reaffirming to ourselves and our children the continuing vitality of our heritage.

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

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

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

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

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

Haggadah – The book containing the order of the Seder.

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

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

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

For more information, visit reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover and pjlibrary.org/passover

Interfaith Text Study

Join with members of Taylor Tabernacle Church, Temple Bethel, and MLRT as we share some of our sacred texts in preparation for Pesach and Easter on Thursday night, March 18 at 7:30 pm. Our learning will be facilitated by Rabbi Earl Bowen of Temple Bethel, and Rev. Jonathan Ford of Taylor Tabernacle Church and Rabbi Straus.

We are working to develop relationships between our three congregations, to both learn and engage together in social justice projects. All are welcome to join us!

Celebrate Pesach with MLRT!

Wednesday, March 10 at 7:30 pm - Hosting a Zoom Seder with Rabbi Straus and Rabbi Kleinman

Why is this year different than all other years? This year, we will gather safely in our homes on the first and second night of Pesach and join friends and family from all over the world on Zoom for Seder. In this session, we will walk you through the steps of how to plan and lead a Zoom Seder. There are many resources available for you to make your Seder meaningful, fun, and interactive.

Wednesday, March 17 at 7:30 pm - Cooking Class

Give your Seder this year a whole new flavor! Join us for a live cooking demonstration by Chef Lee Wallach, a talented professional chef who also happens to be one of our beloved ECE parents. Chef Lee will be live from his gourmet kitchen to show us to spice up our Seder and Pesach with new twists on old favorites. Stay tuned for more details!

Saturday, March 27 at 6:00 pm - First Night Seder

It is hard to believe we will not be able to be together for Seder again this year, yet we have learned much in the last year about how we can still come together in meaningful, and virtual, ways. Please mark your calendars and join us for our First Night Seder as we share a pre-recorded Seder via streaming, filled with the highlights from the Haggadah, led by our clergy and Ross M. Levy. We look forward to celebrating our festival of freedom with you in this special way.

Sunday, March 28 at 5:30 pm - Second Night Seder with Rabbi Newburge and Cantor Rudnick

We know how much you loved the second Seder at MLRT two years ago. And even though we can't be together in the Hausen or eat a catered meal together, we can still be together to share in a Seder, to celebrate the holiday together in the safest way possible. Please join Rabbi Newburge and Cantor Rudnick for a Zoom Seder on Sunday, March 28 beginning at 5:30 pm. We will retell the story of our ancestors' journey from slavery to freedom, sing the beloved songs of our tradition, and share the holiday with one another over Zoom.

Tuesday, March 30 at 7:30 pm - Pesach Fun Night!

Do you consider yourself a trivia maven? Do you know a lot of random facts about Pesach? If yes, then Family Trivia Night: The Pesach Edition, with Cantor Rudnick and Rabbi Kleinman, is the game night for you. For a contribution of \$18, you will help support the Mitzvah Food Pantry at Jewish Family and Child Services, fulfilling the Pesach mitzvah of, "let all who are hungry come and eat." Please register for Pesach Fun Night online at mlrt.org/zoom for a festive night with your MLRT family.

Pesach Zoom Services:

Sunday, March 28 - 10:00 am

Friday, April 2 - 6:30 pm Shabbat & brief Yizkor Service

Saturday, April 3 - 10:00 am Shabbat Morning & Seventh

Day of Pesach Service with Yizkor

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 14 | 11:00 am

Please join us for MLRT's Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 14 at 11:00 am. Our lay leaders and clergy will provide a review of MLRT's services, programs, and operations during the pandemic and plans for the post-pandemic future. There will be an opportunity to honor Rabbi Straus, congratulate Rabbi Newburge, and meet and greet our new Executive Director, Amy Krulik! There will also be an opportunity to meet and elect the slate of Officers and Trustees nominated to serve in the coming year. The Zoom link can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

2021-22 Slate of Officers

President:

Jamie Mushlin

Vice Presidents:

David Heppen
Mary Kamplain
Lori Robbins

Treasurer:

R. Victor Haas

Financial Secretary:

Mitchell Spector

Recording Secretary:

Lori Ehrich

Nominations for the Board of Trustees

Three Year Term:

Josh Bobrin
Hugh Ehrenberg

One Year Term:

Jennifer Hoffman
David Krupnick
Maddy Shusterman

One Year Term:

Denis Cohen

Lifelong Learning



Sally Brown,
Librarian

"Reading gives us a place to go when we have to stay where we are." What an apt quote for our lives today! My personal reading has taken me to Atlantic City with Florence Adler Swims Forever, Tel Aviv, Israel via The Tunnel, and Venice, Italy in the pages of Our Darkest Night. What interesting places have you visited during the pandemic?

Our short story for Thursday, March 11 will be "Remittances" by Joan Leegant. Ms. Leegant was one of our first visiting authors to come to Main Line Reform Temple. At the time, she had written a short story collection and a novel. She lives in the Boston area and has spent many years in Israel, teaching at Bar-Ilan University. In the story "Remittances", the American protagonist goes to Israel for healing from a brutal crime committed against her. I found the story in a collection titled Promised Lands: New Jewish Fiction on Longing and Belonging. I am eager to see how the discussion will evolve after reading this compelling story.

A year ago when the pandemic began, the Brotherhood had engaged Dr. Paul Zeitz to visit as their speaker for Brotherhood Shabbat. The in-person talk had to be canceled, but I am happy to say he will speak virtually on Friday, March 12 during Friday night services. Dr. Zeitz is a physician who graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. His book, Waging Justice: a Doctor's Journey to Speak Truth and Be Bold, is a must read for activists and professionals. This past year in our country will make Dr. Zeitz's talk more relevant than ever! Join us by Zoom for services beginning at 6:30 pm.

Looking ahead, a reminder that on Wednesday evening, April 7, we will host the community Holocaust Remembrance Day. Our speaker that night will be Michael Dobbs, who has written a book titled The Unwanted: America, Auschwitz, and a Village Caught In Between, and is a former journalist for The Washington Post. His book won the 2019 National Jewish Book Award for Holocaust Studies. The book meticulously explores American foreign policy during these times.

Take note of our spring programming; my desire is to engage you in the many literary offerings at our Temple! Look for more details coming soon!



www.jewishbookcouncil.org

Israel Matters Around the World

This month, we will be highlighting how Israel selflessly shares its water technology and other "miracles" to improve the quality of life for many millions of people around the world. A frightening combination of a growing global population and dwindling natural resources requires smart solutions for more efficient farming, hardier crops, alternative source of nutrition and safer food packaging. No other country, certainly not one as young and tiny as Israel, has contributed more breakthroughs to attack these problems than Israel. Here are only two examples:

Drip Irrigation: We explored this process in last month's issue of Israel Matters. One example of its impact is *Tipa* (means "drop"), a kit that enables gravity to irrigate in rural pressure where there often is no pressure. The Israeli Foreign Ministry has provided Tipa kits to hundreds of farmers in Senegal, Kenya, South Africa, Benin, and Niger.

Getting Grain to Market: Sadly, one third of all food produced for human consumption globally is lost or wasted each year, primarily because the majority of newly harvested grains are ruined by pests and molds before reaching the market. Today, Israeli-designed GrainPro Cocoons provide a simple and inexpensive way for African and Asian farmers to keep their grain market fresh. The huge bags invented by international food technology consultant, Professor Schlomo Navarro, keep both water and air out. They are now used in about 100 countries throughout Africa, Latin America and the Middle and Far East. In future months, we will discuss other Israeli innovations in dairy farming, the fishing industry and more, being broadly shared with the rest of the world.

We hope you will enjoy these "good news" bulletins from Israel. Please email Sherrill at sherrill.neff@gmail.com or Jackie at jjshul@gmail.com if you have any questions, or want to contribute to future issues.

DU SIACH - JOIN THE CONVERSATION on March 4 and 18 at noon!

If you would like to join this emerging partnership with a Reform congregation in Israel located in Ma'alot Tivon, please be in touch with Rabbi Straus at dstraus@mlrt.org. All that is "required" is a commitment to regularly participate, and a desire to learn together, talk about current events, and work to develop relationships and friendships with one another.

Sisterhood



Ami Lonner & Elizabeth Stoller,
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

As we begin another month in semi-lockdown mode, it is hard to believe that this month marks a year that we have been in the COVID pandemic. Many of us struggled with Zoom for Pesach last year, as it was the first holiday in our new-normal way of life. A year later, we have all “mastered” Zoom for Thanksgiving, Chanukah, birthdays, B’nai Mitzvah, the High Holy Days, and Sisterhood programs as well. As we embark on another Pesach, many things have changed, while many others have stayed the same. As we celebrate our freedom from slavery in Egypt, we are so hopeful that soon we can enjoy a long-desired freedom from the pandemic. With the vaccines in the pipeline, there is hope on the horizon for an eventual return to our normal way of life.

As much as this past year has kept us at home, your Sisterhood has embraced our new reliance on technology and has been able to offer diverse programming to our members and the Temple community at large in ways we never thought possible. But one thing we would not let technology take over was our Shalach Manot fundraiser. Hopefully you participated in this year’s program, which helps fund many MLRT programs throughout the year. Our baking theme was perfect for all of the “at home” time we now have to fill, and we want to thank our program chairs, Lisa Greenblatt and Jackie Bobrin, for a wonderful job in making this happen under very unusual circumstances. We wish everyone a safe and special Pesach. We are planning another spring event, so watch your inboxes for information for upcoming programs.

Brotherhood

By the time these words are read it may be that Winter 2021 has left us and that we will greet spring like Chaucer did to usher in the English literary Renaissance with his Canterbury Tales. His work gave rise to the likes of Spenser, Herbert, Donne, and Marvel, all inheritors of his genius. Currently, we have a dozen or so intrepid readers who frequently gather for the Bernie Kleinman Book Club to seek out the genius of current books. This enterprise is among the few activities of the Brotherhood; it’s a testament to stamina and desire. Recently, The Last Kings of Shanghai (Jonathan Kaufman) received high praise and lively discussion. It’s the story of the Jewish Sasoons and Kadooris who benefited from circumstance and their own ingenuity. On March 16, under Norman Fienman’s fine guidance, Philip Roth’s Nemesis will tantalize the readers. Why “if the guy’s so anti-everything, does he keep bothering to write?” asks one astonished critic of Roth; in this short book an antidote to the question is revealed: Nemesis stands out for its warmth. Pick up a copy and join the Club.

The Golf Committee did meet on Mark Komen’s back porch to kibitz and strategize about any possibility for a golf outing this year. Tentatively, we will consider a fun-filled outing in October just to get together to hit a few balls to watch them disappear in the muck. Also canonized was the fact that Brotherhood now has co-Presidents: Edward Bleeden and Gerry Robbins. Their enthusiasm for Brotherhood is matched only by my own and the other 123 current Brotherhood members. Speaking of enthusiasm, as part of MLK Day 2021, Big Brothers and Big Sisters presented their program for mentorship. If you have interest in learning more about this vital opportunity to serve, please contact them at independencebigs.org.

Let’s complete this month’s edition on a high note: A Jewish Call to Climate Action. Rabbi Jennie Rosenn imagined in the current edition of “Hadassah Magazine” the possibility of a billion climate refugees fleeing floods, fires, and other natural catastrophes, as several environmental groups have predicted could happen by 2050. Rabbi Rosenn insists at its most essential, “the climate crisis is about the future of humanity; whether we will have clean air, water, food, shelter, and who will have it.” Perhaps it will be time for us, this spring, to reflect on the need for our own renaissance of conscience and transform our knowledge about the need for climate change into action as there truly is, in Martin Luther King’s words, a “fierce urgency of now” to rescue our planet from further harm.

Kindly,
Gary Brock, Vice President

We welcome anyone interested in reading to join The Bernie Kleinman Book Club on select Tuesday evenings throughout the year for friendship, discussion and review. Those attending will have the opportunity to pick a book and be the discussion leader. We will meet virtually at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, March 16 for our next Zoom discussion featuring Nemesis by Philip Roth. Nemesis explores the effect of a 1944 polio epidemic on a closely knit, family-oriented Newark Jewish community of Weequahic neighborhood.

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

Teach Our Children: Early Childhood Education

This month will be all about Pesach (Passover). Pesach is one of the three pilgrimage festivals (the others are Sukkot and Shavuot) celebrated by our ancestors who traveled to Jerusalem to bring sacrifices and offerings to commemorate the Jewish people's liberation from slavery. The Pesach Seder (meaning "order") is the ritual meal we eat to tell the story of our ancestors' journey to freedom. Because Pesach is largely observed in the home with lots of amazing musical and food traditions, there are many wonderful ways to learn and celebrate this holiday: find your favorite version of the Four Questions and Dayenu online, bake matza, and try a new recipe for charoset, the delicious fruit mixture that symbolizes the brick and mortar the Israelites made when they were enslaved.



Ms. Amy & Ms. Tanya, Jumping Joeys

Passover is a festive meal where you have a Seder and ask the four questions. During the Seder, the Matza is broken into two parts and it is referred to as the Afikoman. During the Seder, the Afikoman is wrapped up in a napkin and hidden for the children to find. The children then search for the Afikoman and whoever finds it gets a prize. The children always enjoy this and get so excited when they find where the Afikoman was hidden.



Ms. Katie & Ms. Nicole, Laughing Ladybugs

Passover is one of the holiest holidays of the Jewish year. We enjoy teaching children about the traditions such as the Seder. We found a fun Seder plate craft we're looking forward to making with the children. Each child in class will make a Seder plate as they learn about why each of the foods is important and meaningful.



Looking for ways to celebrate Pesach at home?

Make a Ten Plagues bags to be used at the Seder. This is a great time for you to be creative! Some examples of items to incorporate include:

- Fake grasshoppers (rubber/plastic) for Locust
- Bubble wrap for Boils
- Dark sunglasses for Darkness
- Tiny plastic skeletons for Death of the First Born
- Animal masks for Wild Animals
- And, certainly the most popular, Ping-Pong balls for hail

Use a kid-friendly Haggadah or work with your children to help make your own!

- PJLibrary has a list of five different types of kid-friendly Haggadahs, including print at home, tactile, and an abbreviated ten-minute version
- Visit pjlibrary.org to learn more!

Make your own matza!

All it takes is flour, water, and 18 minutes to create your own delicious matza

Mazal Too!

Janis & David Glusman on the birth of their grandson, Simon Murdock Glusman

Ross M. Levy, whose song was selected from among a record number of submissions to be included in The Complete Jewish Songbook for Children Volume III (Manginot), due to be released in late Spring 2021

We want to share in your simchas! Please call the office at 610-649-7800 so we can share your good news with the congregation!

Teach Our Children: Religious School



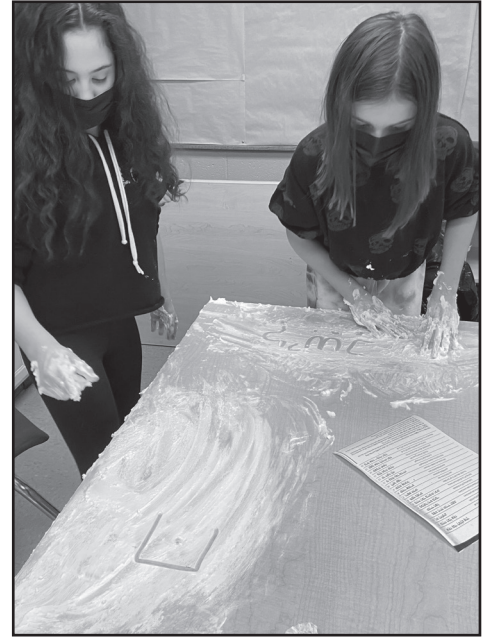
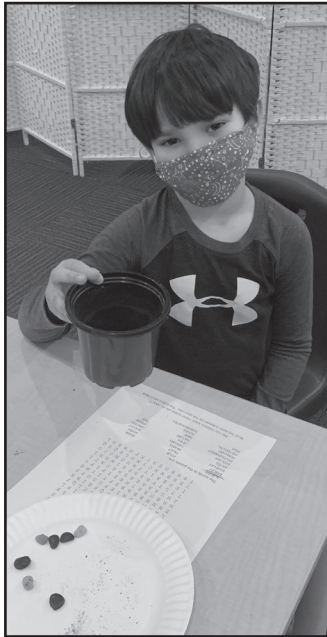
Rabbi Kevin Kleinman

The symbols of Pesach help us tell the story of the Exodus. We hold up matza and declare, "This is the bread of affliction." We dip parsley in salt water and taste the tears of the Israelite slaves. We eat a round egg and remember the rebirth of our people. The Seder is a tactile experience that implicitly asks us to put our feet in the sandals of ancestors not only for the sake of remembering the great miracles that freed them from bondage, but to remind us that it is our responsibility to feed those who are still hungry and to lend our voices to speak up for those who are suffering injustices.

As we enter Pesach for the second time during a global pandemic, the plagues may feel a little too real, the charoset may not be as sweet, and the seats at our tables may feel empty. And, at the same time, we are not alone. In the next few weeks, our Religious School students will practice the Four Questions together. They will make Seder plates and we'll bake matza at home. We will draw upon the most important story in Jewish tradition and create new memories of Zoom Seders and dinners that will surely be passed down through the generations.

Passover takes place in the month of Nissan – the beginning of spring in the Hebrew calendar. May this Pesach bring the renewal of spirit and the comfort of matza ball soup!

March 5 – Family Shabbat Service with 4th Grade Participation – 6:30 pm
No Religious School: March 28, 29, and 30, and April 1 and 2



In Memoriam

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

David Bunin

Judi Fisher

Mother of Keri Fisher
Grandmother of Declan, Ronan,
and Molly Murphy

Gerry Gold

Sister-in-law of Jill Caine

Edith Golden

Mother of Jeff Brodtkin
Grandmother of Hope Brodtkin
and Hailey Luehers
Great-grandmother of Sadie
and Lucy Luehers

Jerry Harvitz

Husband of Patty Harvitz
Father of Betsy Dubin
Uncle of Jill Caine
Grandfather of Jessica and Sari Dubin

Jerry Hillelson

Brother of Sherman Hillelson

Elaine Ruth Rodman

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(As of February 3)

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Donna Miller's speedy recovery

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Continued on page 12

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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.

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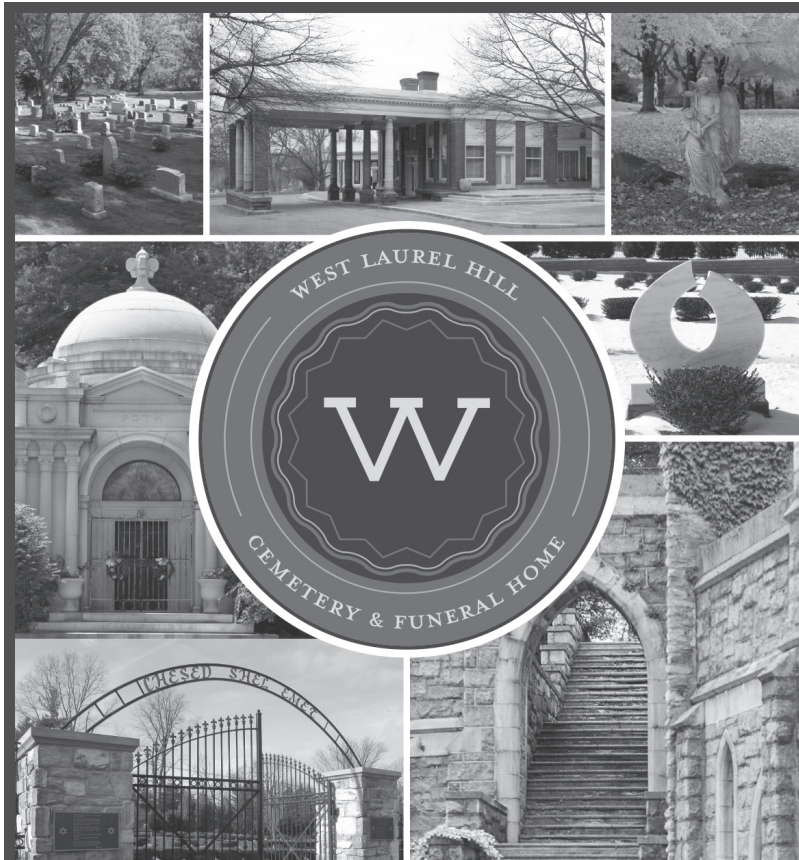
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**The following Zoom programs and services can be found at mlrt.org/zoom.
We are constantly adding new programs. Check our website often for the most up-to-date information**

- ★ **KEEPING IT REEL - MONDAYS, MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, AND 29 AT 8:00 PM**
Get your popcorn ready to discuss these Netflix movies with Rabbi Geri Newburge!
1: Mank 8: Enola Holmes 15: Dick Johnson is Dead 22: 20th Century Women 29: The Founder
- ★ **FORWARD THINKING - TUESDAY, MARCH 9 AT 12:15 PM**
Join Rabbi Straus for a thought-provoking lunchtime discussion of selected articles from The Jewish Daily Forward.
- ★ **SHORT STORY DISCUSSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 11 AT 12:00 PM**
Enjoy a riveting discussion of "Remittances" by Joan Leegant.
- ★ **SHABBAT WITH AUTHOR DR. PAUL ZEITZ - FRIDAY, MARCH 12 AT 6:30 PM**
Hear from Dr. Paul Zeitz, author of Waging Justice: a Doctor's Journey to Speak Truth and Be Bold.
- ★ **ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY, MARCH 14 AT 11:00 AM**
Our lay leaders and clergy will provide a review of MLRT's services, programs, and operations during the pandemic and plans for the post-pandemic future.
- ★ **BERNIE KLEINMAN BOOK CLUB - TUESDAY, MARCH 16 AT 7:30 PM**
All are welcome to take part in this fascinating review of Nemesis by Philip Roth.
- ★ **NOSH & DRASH - FRIDAY, MARCH 19 AT 12:00 PM**
Start your Shabbat with some learning with Rabbi Newburge. Explore ancient and modern texts for new perspectives in Jewish life and thought.
- ★ **LUNCH & LEARN - TUESDAY, MARCH 23 AT 12:00 PM**
Take a break for lunch while Rabbi Straus serves up interesting conversation during our monthly joint Lunch & Learn.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PESACH PROGRAMMING, SERVICES, AND CLASSES



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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 - Havdallah 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.

Shabbat & Holiday Services

Friday, March 5

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 6

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
6:30 pm Zoom Havdallah with the Rudnicks

Friday, March 12

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service with Dr. Paul Zeitz

Saturday, March 13

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
10:30 am B'nai Mitzvah of Abby & Jacob Feinberg
Children of Rebecca & Jonathan Feinberg
5:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah of Jack & Chase Fisher
Sons of Julie & William Fisher
6:45 pm Zoom Havdallah & Healing Service

Friday, March 19

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 20

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
11:00 am Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel Slipakoff
Son of Lori Robbins & BJ Slipakoff
5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Chase Ryan Pearlman
Son of Stacey & Jason Pearlman
6:30 pm Zoom Havdallah with the Rudnicks

Friday, March 26

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service

Saturday, March 27

Erev Pesach
9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
6:00 pm First Night Seder

Sunday, March 28

First Day of Pesach
10:00 am Zoom Pesach Service
5:30 pm Second Night Seder

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

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

More information about all of our exciting Pesach programming, classes, and services can be found on page 5 and our website.

We can't wait to celebrate this holiday with you!

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

Service of Healing & Havdallah

Saturday, March 13 at 6:45 pm*

Join Rabbi Straus and Cantor Rudnick for a virtual Havdallah, prayers and songs of healing, and to share what this year of the pandemic has been like. We are all in the same storm, but not in the same boat, and we can pray together for better days ahead.

**Please note the special time for this Havdallah & Healing Service*

Shabbat Morning Walk with Rabbi Newborge

Saturday, March 27 at 9:00 am

Celebrate the beauty of nature and Shabbat with Rabbi Newborge 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 winter walk.

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

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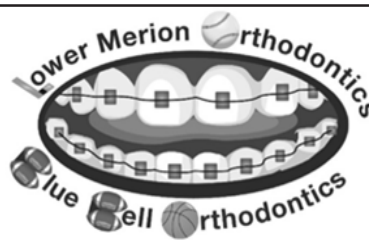
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>Mank</i>	2	3	4 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Du Siach	5 6:30 pm Family Shabbat Service	6 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Havdallah
7	8 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>Enola Holmes</i>	9 12:15 pm Forward Thinking	10 7:30 pm Zoom Seder Class with RDS & RKK	11 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Short Story Discussion: <i>Remittances</i>	12 6:30 pm Shabbat Service with Dr. Paul Zeitz	13 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am B'nai Mitzvah of Abby & Jacob Feinberg 5:00 pm B'nai Mitzvah of Jack & Chase Fisher 6:45 pm Havdallah & Healing Service
14 Daylight Savings Time Begins 11:00 am Annual Meeting	15 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>Dick Johnson is Dead</i>	16 7:30 pm Bernie Kleinman Book Club: Nemesis	17 7:30 pm Passover Cooking Class with Chef Lee Wallach	18 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Du Siach 7:30 pm Interfaith Text Study	19 12:00 pm Nosh & Drash with RGN 6:30 pm Shabbat Service	20 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 11:00 am Off-site Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel Slipakoff 5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Chase Pearlman 6:30 pm Havdallah
21	22 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>20th Century Women</i>	23 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn with RDS	24	25 11:00 am Bible Study	26 6:30 pm Shabbat Service	27 EREV PESACH 9:00 am Torah Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk* 10:00 am Shabbat Service 6:00 pm First Night Seder
28 ECE & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED FOR SPRING BREAK THROUGH APRIL 4 10:00 am Pesach Service 5:30 pm Second Night Seder	29 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>The Founder</i>	30 7:30 pm Pesach Fun Night	31	April 1 11:00 am Bible Study	April 2 6:30 pm Shabbat & Pesach Service with brief Yizkor	April 3 7TH DAY OF PESACH 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat & Pesach Service with Yizkor

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