



ENJOY SUMMER WITH MLRT!



BOOK DISCUSSION WITH LISA SCOTTOLINE!



MULTI-ACCESS SERVICES!



PRIDE SHABBAT! SHABBAT AT THE SHORE!



IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING!



LIFELONG LEARNING!

...AND SO MUCH MORE INSIDE!



High Holy Days 5782

See inside for more information!



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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Life is a Movie

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Jamie Mushlin
President

As we move into the summer months, things tend to slow down a bit in MLRT and that's totally okay. While some of you may be getting kids ready to go off to camp, planning a great family trip, or planning for weekends at the shore...rest assured that we will be planning for the fall and our High Holy Days with the hopes that many of us will be together soon.

My thoughts as we approach summertime turn to movies. I think most of us can agree that at some point and time, a certain movie has spoken to or touched us in different ways. Many of you (especially those who attend Rabbi Newburge's weekly Keeping It Reels) are quite the movie aficionados. Researching the movies you watch, examining the cinematography, the acting, and the script are just a few examples of how one may analyze a movie for its quality. As a huge movie fan, I often try to do those things when watching a new movie. When I was in college and faced with choosing a minor, the option of "Film Studies" struck my fancy. Thus, I fostered my love for movies, was able to get actual college credit, and became quite a movie snob. This made for some interesting conversations between Neil and I when we started dating as his criteria for a good movie was leaving the theater dumber than when he entered. I would often remark, "well, it wasn't Citizen Kane", after we left the theater seeing one of "Neil's movies". He had no idea what I meant.

So we would go back and forth between our movie preferences...mine at the Ritz downtown and his revolving around Adam Sandler and other goofballs. We would often finish a movie at the Ritz and I would be sobbing, my heart broken in pieces for what just transpired on the screen, and Neil would be frustrated and confounded as he couldn't understand why anyone would put themselves through such torture on purpose.

As I got older, I will admit I lost my desire to watch these heart-wrenching dramas. While I could appreciate the directing, editing, musical score, acting and such - I just didn't really feel as drawn to them as I was when I was younger. Maybe life got complicated, or my taste was simply changing over time. Where I landed and where we came together as a family was in the world of superhero movies. The likes of Marvel's *Iron Man*, *Captain America*, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, and *Thor* became staples in our house. While the true movie snobs would consider these movies below their standard, as a former movie snob myself, I would ask that you reconsider. These movies connect generations; grandparents can relate to WWII references in *Captain America*, kids can relate to the amazing special effects and fast-paced banter between the characters - and everyone can relate to the struggle of good vs evil which is the pervading theme of all these movies.

My wish is for you all is to enjoy a happy and healthy summer filled with sunshine and wonderful memories made with family and friends. Hopefully this will include some movie time with a child, grandchild, friend or neighbor. Talk about what drew you in, who are you rooting for and why...Talk about the struggle of good vs evil and how that relates to current events in many ways. Hopefully the conversation will turn into how can we make the world a little better. For those up to the challenge, I propose that you start with *Iron Man*. A classic for sure, which definitely won't disappoint, and I would venture to guess you will be left wanting more. Don't skip the end of the credits and the extra scene - it's a real treat and a teaser to the next movie. So watch *Iron Man* and then let's chat...

As promised, I can't sign off without a random bird fact: according to Dr. Seuss answering the age old question of why did the chicken cross the road? "Did the chicken cross the road? Did he cross it with a toad? Yes! The chicken crossed the road, but why it crossed, I've not been told!" Have a wonderful summer everyone.

Mazal Too!

Ross & Cantor Amy Levy on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Aria Levy

Shellie Leshner on the birth of her granddaughter, Stevie Rae Santana

Gary Brock who was recently nominated to serve as a Vice President for Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ)

The Future is Bright



Rabbi David Straus

I write these words to you at the very beginning of May, knowing you will not be reading them until early June. I write with some trepidation and anxiety, as I know that "when man plans, God laughs," or as the rabbis teach, "with the destruction of the Second Temple, prophecy was turned over to children and fools." Yet, spring is very much in the air; the long, dark days of winter (and these last 14 months) are, (hopefully and God willing), slowly fading and behind us. The bulbs we planted in our yard last fall (at least those the squirrels did not get to) are truly beautiful and now in full bloom. I've read that this was the perfect spring in many years; we got just the right amount of rain; it did not get too warm too quickly, or too cold, and as a result, the flowers and trees and colors are more intense and magnificent than they have been in many years. While this may all be true, I think it is also true that we are all so ready for a new beginning, so anxious to be outdoors and be with one another, that we now see our world in new ways and in new perspectives. We have a renewed appreciation for what we used to take for granted, or perhaps not even notice. Maybe this is some of what we have learned these last months of COVID-19.

As more and more of us are now vaccinated, each day the CDC and other authorities are changing what we are now allowed to do; how many of us can be together; how and where we can safely gather and be together. Our COVID Task Force is beginning the exciting work of helping us return to our building. I deliberately use the word return and not re-open, because, in truth, we have never been closed. We have continued through this pandemic to do the sacred work we are called to do as a Jewish community. Each week we have come together to pray and celebrate Shabbat and our holidays; we have kvelled as our children are called to the Torah as Bat and Bar Mitzvah; we have learned together in hundreds of classes and other Zoom or virtual gatherings; we have mourned together and journeyed through the valley of shadows in Zoom shivas; our Religious School and ECE have continued to meet both in small classes and online, and we have continued to work to mend our all too often broken world with our commitment to social justice and social action, helping bring our world, we pray, one moment closer to redemption. And, in spite of COVID-19, we have begun new programs and initiatives: renewed work in racial justice; creating RAC-PA; building a new relationship with a Reform Congregation in Ma'alot Tivon, Israel.

No one knows what the future will bring. I imagine we will continue with some kind of hybrid model of both in-person and virtual gatherings. Our plan is to return to our building for in-person Shabbat Services on Friday, June 11. At first, we need to limit the numbers of people who can safely come together in the Sanctuary, and yes, we likely will all need to continue to wear masks, even in small groups when we are inside. If we err, we want to err on the side of being cautious and safe and healthy. More details of our plans to return can be found on page 4 or on our website.

How fitting that we celebrate Pride Shabbat for our first Friday Night Shabbat back in our Sanctuary on June 11. At 6:30 pm on Pride Shabbat, we reaffirm and celebrate the kind of community we seek to create: welcoming to all who wish to join us, celebrating diversity, nurturing and caring. On Pride Shabbat we honor the movement for LGBTQIA+ equality and inclusion, celebrate recent victories against discrimination, and commit together to the work ahead. We celebrate with all the mommies who love mommies, all the daddies who love daddies, all of our gay and lesbian siblings who yearn so much to be seen and heard...who deserve like anyone else in this world that chance to sustain a healthy and loving relationship which is accepted by our community with pride. We know we can never be fully labeled or defined. We are many identities and loves, many genders and none.

This is the last regular column I write, as I will begin my sabbatical in July. Many have asked what will I be doing next year and beyond? I will continue to be involved in activities that I am most passionate about, and hope to do many of these with you at MLRT: helping to build RAC-PA; working on social justice projects and programs; learning more about race, racism and what the work of racial justice is all about. I will continue my involvement in the multi-faith community, and my leadership with the National Council of Synagogues and my involvement with IJCIC. I will continue to learn and to read.

I look forward to long lunches or breakfasts or walks with you. I will continue to come to Shabbat services, but now sit with you in the pews. I hope to continue to teach and learn with you- though likely not on a schedule that requires me to do something every week. And time will tell what this new chapter of life looks like for all of us.

Stay safe; stay well, and I look forward to seeing you in June in person as we return to our building.

Travel with Lynne and Rabbi to Spain in the spring of 2022

Travelling together to Jewish communities around the world has been one of the highlights of our time with you at MLRT. We have been blessed to travel together to Israel, Cuba, Morocco, Berlin and Prague over the years, touring, and learning about the history of these Jewish communities, and meeting with members of each community.

Lynne and I are hoping that it will soon be possible to safely and easily travel again. We are beginning to plan a congregational trip to Spain in the spring of 2022. If you're interested in learning more, please email me at dstraus@mlrt.org or call the Temple office at 610-649-7800 to add your name to our list for more details and information.

Embrace Uncertainty



According to researchers at UCSF, the stress of uncertainty, especially when prolonged, is among the most insidious stressors we experience as human beings. This is not at all surprising as we enter month 16 of the pandemic.

We know that you have lots of questions about services, the return of in-person programs, and the 5782 High Holy Days at MLRT. In an effort to help reduce your stress and bring a little more certainty into your day, I am delighted to share **MLRT's TOP 10 POINTS OF CERTAINTY**:

1. High Holy Day services are going multi-access this year – There will be opportunities to attend services in-person at MLRT and virtually from the comfort of your couch or beach chair (see #2).
2. Rosh Hashanah begins on Labor Day – No, this is not a typo. It may feel like the High Holy Days are extra early this year, but remember, Rosh Hashanah always starts on the 1st of Tishrei on the Jewish calendar.
3. Virtual services will be LIVE – We are exploring a host of cool technology that will allow us to offer a meaningful service experience whether you are in the Sanctuary or in your living room.
4. COVID-19 protocols will be in place – The COVID Task Force, Religious Practices Committee, Building & Grounds Committee, Security Committee, Board of Trustees, clergy and staff are hard at work creating multiple plans for services, programs, and events that cover everything from attendance numbers to technology to check-in procedures. We will be sharing more info over the summer.
5. High Holy Day tickets will be a little different this year – To follow MLRT COVID-19 protocols, advance reservations will need to be made to attend services in-person. You will be able to make reservations online and over the phone.
6. In-Person Friday Night Services Return to MLRT – Beginning June 11, you will have the opportunity to attend Friday Night Services in our Morganroth Sanctuary. We are limiting attendance to 50 people and advance sign-up will be required. Look for complete details in the weekly eNews and at mlrt.org.
7. Lisa Scottoline is coming to the MLRT Zoom Room – MLRT Librarian Sally Brown will lead a fabulous program with this best-selling (and local) author on June 8 at 7:00 pm. Check mlrt.org or page 6 for more information.
8. New MLRT website is LIVE! – Same URL (mlrt.org), brand-new look plus some cool new functions. Our website is home to the most up-to-date service, COVID-19 updates, program and membership information.
9. Membership renewal is coming – Be sure to check your inbox and mailbox for MLRT membership renewal info. Our goal is to have at least 50% of all renewals be made through our super easy-to-use MLRT Member Portal.
10. Now is the BEST time to Be Inspired, Be Connected and Belong at MLRT. Of this, we are 100% certain.

"When nothing is certain, everything is possible." – Margaret Drabble, novelist

Beer Club

Sunday, June 13 at 7:00 pm

L'chaim! Join your MLRT family in-person for a beer or two downstairs at the Wynnewood Whole Foods. Beer Club is open to all MLRT members who enjoy trying and sharing beer.

Racial Justice

Mark your calendars! The Interfaith Racial Justice Vigils, which first took place last Fall at houses of worship across Lower Merion, will be resuming for an upcoming 5-week period during which we'll honor the first anniversary of George Floyd's death, the anniversary of the Mother Emmanuel massacre in Charleston, and Juneteeth. All Vigils will run from 5:30-6:30 pm on Tuesdays. COVID-19 safety protocols will be enforced.

- June 1 at Old Haverford Friends Meeting, 235 East Eagle Road, Havertown
- June 8 at St. Luke United Methodist, 568 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr
- June 15 at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 163 Sheldon Lane, Ardmore (Honoring the Mother Emmanuel 9 and Juneteeth)
- June 22 at Main Line Reform Temple

Cantor's Corner



Cantor Faryn Rudnick

It has been a long 15 months. But in these 15 months, many of us have found community and have found ways to celebrate and connect. One of these ways has been through music. Whether a class, services, or a virtual concert, music has been a tool for helping to create and maintain connections within the community. Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller writes about the 3 M's of music and prayer. She theorizes at any point during worship, the musical nuances found within our sacred musical tradition may create a transformative experience for the worshipper, a shifting in their mood. The first M she labels majestic, a moment where we have a sense of awe or splendor. The second M, meditative, she states, creates a reflective, introspective, contemplative moment. And the third M, possibly the most important M, she calls meeting, the moment when we meet other people and the larger community, when the connection to those around us is most profoundly felt. Take

for example, being surrounded by your community when you say Kaddish, or when everyone around you is singing Shema together. At these moments, you are experiencing the moment of meeting.

Music has always been a tool for connection; it is literally a universal language that has the power to bridge divides and bring people together. We all need to feel included, need to feel our community, need to have moments of meeting. In the Second Book of Samuel we read, "sweet are the songs of Israel." These words have never rung truer than now, as we begin to make music together again in person. While not everyone may be ready to come together in person, and every virtual option will remain available to make all our programming and worship opportunities multi-accessible, sweet shall our music be as we begin to reconnect and have moments of meeting in meaningful and profound ways.

Upcoming Holidays

TISHA B'AV

Saturday, July 17 | 7:30 pm

Tisha B'Av is a day of mourning, commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples, as well as many calamities that have befallen the Jewish community through the centuries. Please join Rabbi Newburge, Cantor Goodlev, and Cantor Rudnick for the annual Tisha B'Av commemoration. This year's service will take place in Beth David's accessible outdoor space (or inside Beth David in case of rain) and will also be digitally streamed for those who wish to participate from home. Please contact Cantor Rudnick at frudnick@mlrt.org with any questions.

High Holy Days 5782

Saturday, August 28: Selichot

Wednesday, September 15: Erev Yom Kippur

Monday, September 6: Erev Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, September 16: Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 7: Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 20: Sukkot Begins

Monday, September 8: Services at the Shore

Tuesday, September 28: Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

Our High Holy Day services will include a variety of in-person and virtual offerings to ensure the comfort and safety of everyone in our MLRT family. In-person tickets will need to be reserved; more details about how to make a reservation and all of the options available to your family will be mailed out in the next few weeks, sent to your inbox, and posted on our website.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE will be distributed on Yom Kippur, September 16 when we recite Yizkor. We are products of those who came before us and it is fitting at the High Holy Day season to acknowledge our debt to them and remember them with fondness.

Please fill out the Book of Remembrance form when you submit your Membership Renewal, either online at mlrt.org or at the MLRT office, no later than **Friday, August 5**. If you need assistance, please email BOR@mlrt.org prior to the deadline to ensure your entry in the 2021/5782 Book of Remembrance. Thank you.

Lifelong Learning

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



Sally Brown,
Librarian

Happy summer to all! I am thrilled to share the news that author Lisa Scottoline will visit MLRT via Zoom on Tuesday evening, June 8 at 7:00 pm. We are so excited that this renowned local author of over thirty books, mostly legal thrillers, has written an historical novel about Jews in Rome before and during World War II. Of interest to me is that Ms. Scottoline took a course while at University of Pennsylvania taught by Philip Roth called "The Literature of the Holocaust." Lisa grew up in Narberth and attended Lower Merion High School. She told me that she attended B'nai Mitzvah at Main Line Reform Temple.

Her much-anticipated book is available at Main Point Books; store owner Cathy Fiebach, a congregant, will deliver signed copies of the book to the Temple. Please visit mlrt.org to register for this exciting discussion and purchase your signed copy of Eternal. All books must be picked up at the MLRT office and pre-purchased. I am excited to host a well-known author who congregants of all ages will appreciate. Please join us!

Our short story group will meet throughout the summer. The story for June 10, "The Lady and the Peddler", is included in your spiral book. The author is one of our foremost Jewish writers, S.Y. Agnon, whose story "The Kerchief" we enjoyed in the past. This Nobel Laureate Hebrew writer tells an enigmatic story of a traveling salesman who comes upon a woman who lives alone in the forest.

For July and August I have chosen two stories that you will find on the new MLRT website. Starting in September, we will go back to meeting on the second Thursday of the month with new spiral books. All of our summer short stories will be posted on our website at mlrt.org/lifelong-learning.

July's story is titled "Kafka in Bronteland", the first story in the collection of the same name. It is written by Tamar Yellin, a writer new to our group. In this strange, haunting story, a woman lives in the same English moors that inspired Emily Bronte, author of Wuthering Heights. Our meeting will take place on Thursday, July 22 at noon.

In August, we will meet on Thursday, August 19 at noon to read "Minyan" by David Bezmozgis. The author was born in Riga, Latvia, and emigrated to Canada with his family at the age of six. His writing focuses on the immigrant experience. The story can be found in his stellar collection titled *Natasha*.

Join us as we all look forward to welcoming Lisa Scottoline to our congregation!
Have a relaxing summer full of good reading.



BERNIE KLEINMAN BOOK CLUB: THE PLOT AGAINST AMERICA

Tuesday, June 15 at 7:30 pm on Zoom

The Plot Against America, by Philip Roth, follows the fortunes of the Roth family during the Lindbergh presidency, as antisemitism becomes more accepted in American life and Jewish-American families are persecuted on various levels.

We welcome anyone interested in reading to join us for friendship, discussion, and review. For more information, please contact Norman Fienman at nfienman@gmail.com.



HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE: RABBI RICHARD STEINBRINK - JEWISH HUMOR

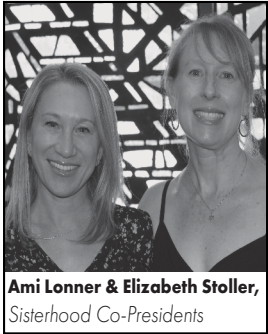
Sunday, June 13 at 10:00 am on Zoom

Jewish Humor can be serious. It mocks everything, yet at the same time it affirms tradition and helps us understand the difference between the holy and the profane.

Tell a Jew a joke and before you can finish it, he's heard it before, you're not telling it right, and he delivers the punch line before you can say it! Come have a laugh!

Rabbi Richard Steinbrink is a native of Brooklyn and has held pulpits in NJ, St. Louis, Newburgh, NY, and at Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia. He has been President of the Delaware Valley Association of Reform Rabbis, President of the National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis, and served for 21 years as part-time Chaplain at Jefferson Hospital. He and Diane reside in Center City, have three children, and five grandchildren.

Sisterhood



Happy Spring! The flowers are in full bloom and the allergy season is too! In the spirit of spring, we held a wonderful online flower arranging class right before Mother's Day. We hope those who joined us enjoyed this fun and unique event.

On a more serious note, we also held an anti-gun violence event with our local community partners —Beth David Synagogue, Taylor Tabernacle Church, and a local organization called The Klutch Kings, to discuss what we can do to help stem this epidemic. We were joined by Rabbis Straus and Newburge, as well as State Representative Jordan Harris, and we had a hard-hitting discussion about the issues and what we can do in the future to help this cause.

We want to wish everyone a nice summer as we slowly return to normal life. You will receive your membership renewal packets from MLRT over the summer and we want to remind you to please check off the box to join us in sisterhood again next year. We also are pleased to announce our new slate of officers for the 2021-22 year. Please help us welcome our new officers!!

Presidents: Ami Lonner & Liz Stoller

VPs of Programming: Sue Plick & Betsy Zeitlin

VPs of Social Action: Jill Altshuler & Hallie Lightdale

VPs of Advancement of Judaism: Margie Bildersee & Kerry Heppen

VPs of Fundraising: Jackie Bobrin & Lisa Greenblatt

VPs of Membership: Sue Rhode & Jill Kleeman

Recording Secretary: Amy Silverman

Treasurer/Counselor: Mary Kamplain

We also want to give a special thank you to our outgoing board members, Donna Miller (Recording Secretary) and Janet Handleman (Treasurer). Thank you for all of your hard work over the past two years.

Finally, please join us for our last general sisterhood meeting of the year on June 8 at 10:00 am. If you would like to attend, please email Ami Lonner at alonner@comcast.net for the Zoom link.

Brotherhood

If you discovered in the middle of this May that, yes, you were a member of Brotherhood, that, yes you had received both of your vaccinations, and you wanted to attend the first ever Brotherhood BBQ you showed up and had a grand time with your friends who you probably had not seen in person for a very long time. Over forty Brothers gathered for that outing, and, from comments heard, "we should do this every year." Good ideas should never be discarded.

Moving on. As they, the austere Anglo-Saxons, used to exclaim: "We are astonished"; astonished that Brotherhood is not able to give you news of any kind for the months of June, July, or August. So, in the spirit of the current times, Brotherhood wishes for you only health and the fulfillment, even if only partial, of your fondest wishes. We'll meet up in the fall of the year.

Kindly,
Gary Brock, Vice-President

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class

Did you not have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?
Do you want to meet people, make new connections with fellow congregants, and learn about liturgy, Torah, holidays, and history?

If you answered yes then an adult B'nai Mitzvah is just what you've been looking for. Cantor Rudnick will be offering an adult B'nai Mitzvah class next year. All are welcome, but we need at least five participants to run the class.

If you have any questions or are interested in signing up for this class, please contact Cantor Rudnick at frudnick@mlrt.org.

Junior Jammers

MLRT's Youth Choir for Grades 1-6

Junior Jammers meets to bring music to our MLRT community, the larger Lower Merion community, and, most importantly, to have fun while learning new music and musical skills.

After a year away, we will celebrate being home and singing music that is familiar, inviting, and reminds us of the spirit of being at MLRT. The Jammers first performance will be at the Family Shabbat Service on Friday, October 1. Other dates include a Chanukah performance, Songs for Social Justice on MLK Day, and more!

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Cantor Faryn Rudnick at frudnick@mlrt.org.

Teach Our Children: Early Childhood Education



Mihaela Schwartz,
ECE Director

I am so excited to introduce myself as the new ECE Director. I am deeply honored to be selected to join the MLRT leadership team and the ECE's community, which are known far and wide for their dedication to excellence, families, but more importantly, to children.

Over the past thirty years, I have worked as a teacher and administrator, but I consider child advocate my most important job. At MLRT, I will spend a lot of time with your children, getting to know their personalities, learning styles, and interests. I will celebrate their successes, small and large. I will encourage them every day and let them know they are valued and have a special place in our school community.

Not only am I excited to begin working with your children, but I look forward to the work we will do together. As an old proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child." I am excited to see your children through your eyes. I cannot wait to share with you the great things they do throughout their days here at MLRT ECE. And of course, I will be here to work with you should they need any help navigating any aspect of the school day.

My goal is to ensure that all children are healthy, happy, and safe to learn as much as possible. This has been my philosophy since I began my career teaching at Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan as a kindergarten teacher in the Havurah Program. At JCC Manhattan, I learned that Jewish education should spark meaning and purpose for young children grappling with their values and help cultivate positive personal and communal well-being. While guiding children throughout that process, I have learned that a positive Jewish learning experience enables young minds to find new meaning in longstanding Jewish values while providing tools to develop and nurture well-being from a Jewish perspective.

I continued my career as an educator in all NYC boroughs where I taught Pre-k, kindergarten, first, and fourth grade. I also facilitated professional development and parent workshops for early childhood and elementary educators. Additionally, I served as an administrator and head of the schools in New York City and Bala Cynwyd for over seven years. In each school, I had the honor and privilege to support hundreds of diverse learners each day and work with other educators to create memorable teaching moments for young children.

People often say I treat all children in school as if they were my own. Please know I will work tirelessly to ensure your children have the best possible experiences while at MLRT. Once again, I am so thankful to have the opportunity to bring all that I have experienced and learned with me to your wonderful ECE community and I look forward to getting to know you and your children.

Israel Matters

Last month, modern Israel celebrated its 73rd birthday, so it's another great opportunity to learn some more fun facts about this young nation.

1. Israel is the only country in the world with more trees today than it had 55 years ago.
2. Israel has more museums per capita than any other country in the world, including the only underwater museum.
3. Jaffa is the home of the world's only theater company comprised totally of deaf and blind actors. Prior to the performance, visitors can also experience eating entirely in the dark at Nalaga'at while being served by blind waiters.
4. Coffee and cafes are so good in Israel that it is the only country where Starbucks failed to break into the local market.
5. In 2011, Israel was the first country to launch mini-libraries offering books free of charge at bus-stops. This effort inspired similar initiatives in other countries.
6. Beersheba has the largest number of chess grandmasters per capita than any other city in the world.
7. In 2012, Israel became the first country to prohibit the use of underweight models in fashion shows.
8. The Mount of Olives in Jerusalem is the world's oldest continuously used cemetery.
9. The Dead Sea is the lowest point on earth (1,315 feet below sea level).
10. Two professors at Jerusalem's Hebrew University created the first cherry tomatoes.
11. Israel is the only country in the world that uses Kosher glue on its postage stamps.

We hope you enjoy these "good news" bulletins from Israel. If you would like to contribute to future issues, please email Sherrill Neff at sherrill.neff@gmail.com, Jackie Shulman at jjshul@gmail.com, or Renee Margulies at Milren4@yahoo.com.

Teach Our Children: Religious School



Rabbi Kevin Kleinman

Religious School registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open! Please visit our website or call the Religious School office at 610-642-0304 for more information about enrollment.

MLRT's Religious School is an innovative and progressive, hands-on program designed to develop positive Jewish identities and build core Jewish competencies for our students and families.

Our Religious School program begins in kindergarten and runs through high school, and includes many opportunities for parents and children to learn and do mitzvah projects together. Our curriculum teaches students the skills to participate in the Reform worship service and find meaning in prayer, become familiar with the Jewish holidays and major sources of Jewish beliefs, traditions and practices, and find their relevance in everyday life. Our goal is to help children and their families live meaningful Jewish lives at home, at MLRT, and in the community.

Highlights of our Program:

- Integrated social action projects for students and families
- Flexible scheduling options to meet family needs (choice of in-person, hybrid or remote, days of week)
- Energizing assemblies, holiday celebrations, and singing with Ross
- Small Hebrew Learning classes for optimal learning
- Hands-on learning focused on Jewish values
- Tailored curriculum led by learning specialists for students who learn differently

Our Religious School classes will meet both online and in-person, following all COVID-19 safety precautions.

Schedule for 2021-2022 School Year:

- K-2nd grades meet weekly on Sunday mornings
- 3rd-6th grades meet twice a week:
 - Sunday mornings for Judaic Studies
 - Choice of Wednesday (in-person), Thursday (online), or Sunday (after Judaic Studies) for Hebrew Learning
 - * Families wishing to keep their students remote due to COVID-19 can participate entirely online for Judaic Studies and Hebrew Learning on Thursday afternoons.
- 7th-12th grades meet weekly on Tuesday evenings

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia has provided scholarship support for our Religious School through the Keren Chinuch Scholarship Program.

In Memoriam

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

Barbara Barr

Mother of Fred Barr (Betsy Goldmuntz), Alan (Peg) Barr,
and Rick (Sue) Barr
Sister of Robert Weiner
Grandmother of Julia, Laura, Nathan (Julia), Amy,
Erin (Albert), Jennie (Kevin), and Amy (Owen)
Great-grandmother of Zoey, Maggie, Avery, Grace,
Madelyn, and Max

Charles H. Greenbaum

Father of Steven (Bettsie) Greenbaum, Lynne (Ira)
Rubinfeld and Robert (Sharona) Greenbaum
Grandfather of Gillian, Jeremy (Nikko) and Joshua (Julie)
Companion of Connie Gottlieb
Brother of Janet Grossman
Uncle to many nieces, nephews and their families

Nancy Lovitch-Bleeden

Wife of Ed Bleeden
Mother of Laura (Ryan) Maleknia
Grandmother of Ava Maleknia

Richard "Dick" Winston

Husband of Helen Winston
Father of John (Lisa) Winston and Steven (Judy) Winston
Grandfather of Michael (Amy), Scott, Casey (Trevor)
and Robbie
Great-grandfather of Harper

*Please call the office at 610-649-7800 or email
Davida Chornock at dchornock@mlrt.org to share
your news, good and bad, with your MLRT family.*

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(As of May 12)

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In honor of the marriage of Jessica Cooper and Darren Brady

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In honor of Jamie Mushlin's election to MLRT President

The following contributions were made in memory of Donna Bronstein:

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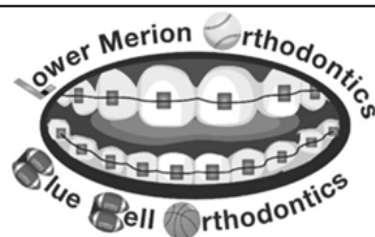
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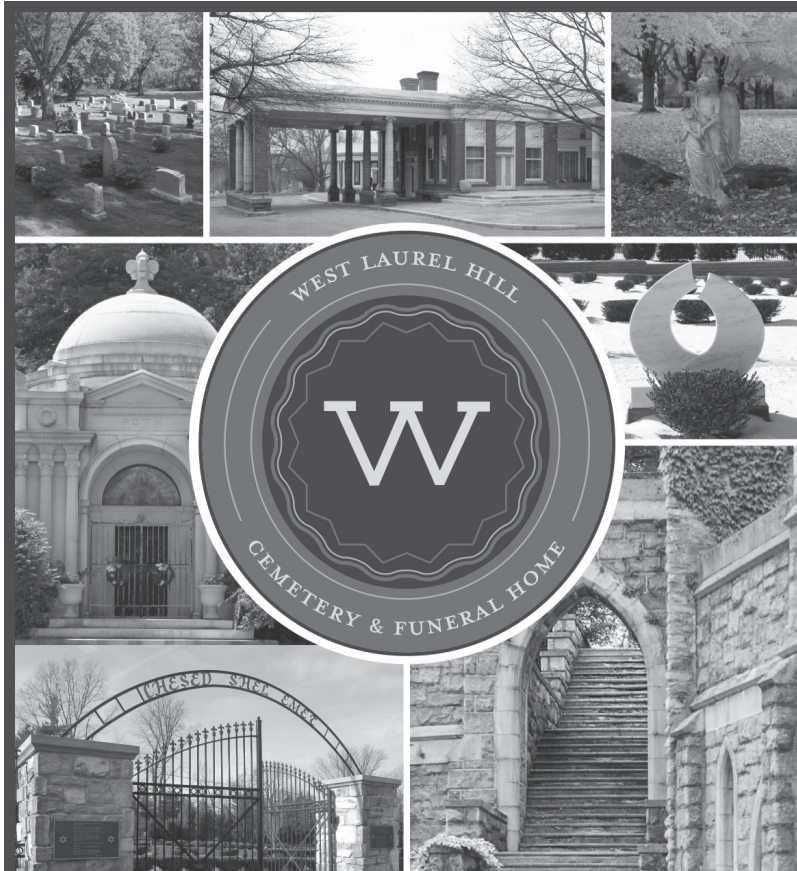
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Virtual Programs, Classes & Services

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

KEEPING IT REEL - MONDAYS, JUNE 7 & 14, JULY 12, AND AUGUST 9 & 23 AT 8:00 PM

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

June 7: *The Disciple*

June 14: *Mystic River*

July 12: *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*

August titles TBD

Special Keeping It Reel Luncheon - Let's get the gang together in-person after more than a year of getting to know each other on Zoom. Monday, June 7 outside Kay Sude's home at noon. Please bring a dish to share and RSVP to Eileen in the office at 610-649-7800.

BOOK DISCUSSION - TUESDAY, JUNE 8 AT 12:00 PM

Hear local best-selling author, Lisa Scottoline, discuss her newest novel, *Eternal*.

SHORT STORY DISCUSSION - THURSDAYS, JUNE 10, JULY 22, AND AUGUST 19 AT 12:00 PM

Enjoy a riveting discussion of three diverse short stories. Details on the stories for each month are on page 6.

HASSEL ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE: JEWISH HUMOR - SUNDAY, JUNE 13 AT 10:00 AM

Jewish Humor can be serious. It mocks everything, yet at the same time it affirms tradition and helps us understand the difference between the holy and the profane. Come have a laugh with Rabbi Richard Steinbrink!

LUNCH & LEARN - TUESDAY, JUNE 15 AT 12:00 PM

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

BERNIE KLEINMAN BOOK CLUB - TUESDAY, JUNE 15 AT 7:30 PM

The Plot Against America, by Philip Roth, follows the fortunes of the Roth family during the Lindbergh presidency, as antisemitism becomes more accepted in American life and Jewish-American families are persecuted on various levels.

FORWARD THINKING - TUESDAY, JUNE 22 AT 12:00 PM

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

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

Starting June 11, our Friday Night Service will be both in-person and virtual. In-person attendance is limited and must be reserved in advance. More details available on our website at mlrt.org.

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

* In-person

** Multi-access service. In-person attendance is limited and all attendees must be pre-registered and masked. Virtual service can be found at mlrt.org/zoom

^ Off-site B'nai Mitzvah

Friday, June 4

6:30 pm Zoom Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 5

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Piper Wurman
Daughter of Jill & Scott Wurman
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Sabrina Cohen
Daughter of Nicole & Michael Cohen
6:30 pm Zoom Havdalah

Sunday, June 6

4:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Tapper
Daughter of Danielle & Jay Tapper

Friday, June 11

5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Lola Ender
Daughter of Jessica & Farrell Ender
6:30 pm Pride Shabbat Service**

Saturday, June 12

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk*
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Ellis Michael Kamplain
Son of Mary & Trey Kamplain
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Addison Berens
Daughter of Caroline & Steven Berens
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Reece Rubin^
Daughter of Elisa & Ross Rubin
6:30 pm Zoom Havdalah

Friday, June 18

6:30 pm Shabbat Service**

Saturday, June 19

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Asher Brent Waldman
Son of Amy & David Waldman
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Laila Chaudhry Kravitz
Daughter of Amara & John Kravitz
6:30 pm Zoom Havdalah

Friday, June 25

6:30 pm Shabbat Service**

Saturday, June 26

9:00 am Zoom Torah Study
10:00 am Saturday Morning Zoom Service
6:30 pm Zoom Havdalah

Saturday, July 17

7:30 pm Tisha B'Av Service & Havdalah at Beth David**

Friday, July 30

6:00 pm Shabbat at the Shore*
6:30 pm Shabbat Service at MLRT**

Saturday, August 28

6:30 pm Zoom Havdalah & Selichot Service

July & August Services:

Friday: 6:30 pm Friday Night Service**

Saturday: 9:00 am Zoom Torah Study

Saturday: 10:00 am Zoom Morning Service

Saturday: 6:30 pm Zoom Havdalah

No Havdalah: July 3, August 14, September 4

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

Pride Shabbat

Friday, June 11 at 6:30 pm

Please join our first multi-access service as we celebrate Pride Shabbat. We are proud allies of the LGBTQIA+ community, and are proud to celebrate and advocate for the community through worship and song. We will welcome Shabbat with readings and music written by LGBTQIA+ authors and composers. If you would like to participate, please contact Cantor Rudnick at frudnick@mlrt.org.

* Registration for in-person services is limited and registration is required. Please visit mlrt.org to sign up.

Shabbat Morning Walk with Rabbi Newburge

Saturday, June 12 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 summertime walk.

Shabbat at the Shore

Friday, July 30 at 6:00 pm

Joint Shabbat in Ventnor City with Shirat HaYam of Ventnor and Temple Sholom of Broomall. Details to come.

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

June 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 5:30 pm Interfaith Racial Justice Vigil*	2	3 11:00 am Bible Study	4 6:30 pm Shabbat Service	5 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bat Mitzvah of Piper Wurman 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Sabrina Cohen 6:30 pm Havdalah
6 4:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Alexandra Tapper	7 12:00 pm Keeping It Reel Luncheon** 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>The Disciple</i>	8 10:00 am Sisterhood Board Meeting 5:30 pm Interfaith Racial Justice Vigil* 7:00 pm Book Discussion with Lisa Scottoline: <i>Eternal</i>	9	10 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Short Story Discussion: <i>The Lady and the Peddler</i>	11 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Lola Ender 6:30 pm Pride Shabbat Service**	12 9:00 am Torah Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk* 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Ellis Kamplain 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Addison Berens 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Sadie Rubin^ 6:30 pm Havdalah
13 10:00 am Hassel Adult Education Lecture with Rabbi Richard Steinbrink 7:00 pm Beer Club at Whole Foods*	14 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>Mystic River</i>	15 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn 5:30 pm Interfaith Racial Justice Vigil* 7:30 pm Bernie Kleinman Book Club: <i>The Plot Against America</i>	16	17 11:00 am Bible Study	18 6:30 pm Shabbat Service**	19 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Asher Waldman 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Laila Kravitz 6:30 pm Havdalah
20	21	22 12:00 pm Forward Thinking 5:30 pm Interfaith Racial Justice Vigil*	23	24 11:00 am Bible Study	25 6:30 pm Shabbat Service**	26 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Havdalah
27	28	29	30	July 1 11:00 am Bible Study	July 2 6:30 pm Shabbat Service**	July 3 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service

July & August Dates to Remember

MLRT Office Closed for Independence Day
Monday, July 5

Keeping It Reel: Hunt for the Wilderpeople
Monday, July 12 at 8:00 pm

Tisha B'Av Service & Havdalah at Beth David
Saturday, July 17 at 7:30 pm

Short Story Discussion: "Kafka in Bronteland"
Thursday, July 22 at 12:00 pm

Shabbat at the Shore
Friday, July 30 at 6:00 pm

Book of Remembrance due
Friday, August 5

Keeping It Reel: Titles TBD
Mondays, August 9 & 23 at 8:00 pm

Short Story Discussion: "Minyan"
Thursday, August 19 at 12:00 pm

Havdalah with Ross M. Levy
Saturday, August 21 at 6:30 pm

Selichot Service & Havdalah
Saturday, August 28 at 6:30 pm

Check your inbox and mailbox for Religious School registration and Membership Renewal



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