



MLRT Matters

MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE

Be Inspired. Be Connected. Belong.



THANKS FOR
MAKING OUR
2021
MEMORABLE!



This issue was printed in the beginning of November and we are always adjusting, evaluating, and adapting our programming to the rapidly-changing times and new COVID-19 guidelines to keep you safe.

Please visit mlrt.org or call the Temple office at 610-649-7800 for the most up-to-date information.

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Spread the Light

David E. Straus
Senior Rabbi
dstrauss@mlrt.org

Geri Newburge
Rabbi
gnewburge@mlrt.org

Faryn Rudnick
Cantor
frudnick@mlrt.org

Rabbi Kevin Kleinman
**Director of Education,
Associate Rabbi**
kkleinman@mlrt.org

Amy Krulik
Executive Director
akrulik@mlrt.org

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

Mihaela Schwartz
**Director, Early Childhood
Education**
mschwartz@mlrt.org

Marshall A. Portnoy
Cantor Emeritus

Jamie Mushlin
President

David Heppen
Mary Kamplain
Lori Robbins
Vice Presidents

R. Victor Haas
Treasurer

Mitchell Spector
Financial Secretary

Lori Ehrlich
Recording Secretary

Main Office 610.649.7800
School Office 610.642.0304
www.mlrt.org



Jamie Mushlin
President

Hello MLRT Family! Happy Chanukah to all of you! For some of you, Chanukah is one of those holidays that isn't such a big deal in comparison to our other holidays. For others, especially the children, the candles, the chocolate gelt, and the varied presents makes it a very big deal. I can tell you in our family and given that the neighborhood we live in is mainly non-Jewish, all our holidays, with a special oomph on Chanukah, are a big deal. I remember one year when our girls were young, they got Nintendo DS as a gift (they would get one big gift along with seven smaller ones) and the other children they went to school with went home and told their parents that they want to be Jewish. All the gifts aside, it is a lovely holiday that brings us together and brings light into our lives during the start of winter when the light is becoming scarce. It also brings latkes and dreidel-shaped sugar cookies to be made and shared together.

As the days become shorter, and the light of the sun is not always there because it's been replaced by the winter season, and we find ourselves wanting to hibernate along with the bears, comes our holiday of light. I find that during the colder and shorter days of winter, light really means so much and helps us in so many ways. The lighting of the menorah reminds us not only of the Maccabees and the length of time the light lasted, it reminds me of how important light is for all of us. Light means life in its simplest way. The light helps ground us when we are feeling lost or unsettled. The light warms us on the coldest of days. It provides nutrients and allows for the chemical reactions needed for plants to grow. On the sunny and cold days, we feel better than on gray gloomy days. Additionally, it's often during these winter months that many of us suffer from the loss of light called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

This makes our little holiday all the more important and significant for us. The lights provide us with warmth, beauty, and a much needed reminder that good times and warm days are not terribly far away. One only needs to light a candle, kindle a fire, or sit in the sunshine on the days we have it to be reminded. Please share your pictures of lighting your menorahs with us so we can post them on our Facebook page. This way, we can all come together even while we are apart, and share the light of Chanukah with one another.

Back to the presents: I will also share that as my kids are now older and get things they need as the year goes by, their Chanukah gifts have become something more like a package of wipes, a travel package of Q-tips, or Chapstick. My kids were slightly amused and more annoyed at the same time with my choice of gifts last year. This year, it will likely be more of the same...with maybe a pair of warm socks. As far as food goes...we will be eating latkes until our bellies are full!!! We are also very divided on what to dip said latkes into...I am a strict sour cream person, while Neil and Dayna are strictly apple sauce and Brynne is an equal opportunity dipper.

May you all have light and warmth in your holiday and your lives.

RACIAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS AT MLRT IN DECEMBER

Our Racial Justice work at MLRT continues. Join us on Wednesday, December 1 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm on Google Meets, <https://meet.google.com/kzr-ysbo-oah> as we join with Rabbi David Straus and Reverend Jonathan Ford of Taylor Tabernacle Church in West Philadelphia for their regular Wednesday night Bible Study. (Many of you joined Rabbi Straus and Reverend Ford during Sukkot at MLRT for a text study on Tabernacles in the Jewish and Black Church traditions). In December, we will learn together about Chanukah; the role of bringing light into our world in both of our traditions, and what it means to be called to be lamp lighters.

On Sunday, December 12, from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Taylor Tabernacle Church has invited us to join in their Sunday worship service and fellowship time. You may attend either in person, or virtually, youtube.com/taylortabernacle. If you want to car-pool together, please call the Temple office, 610-649-7800 and we will try and arrange this.

Other questions about this committee and our mission, please email Rabbi Straus at dstrauss@mlrt.org.



Ner Shel Tzedakah



Rabbi Geri Newburge

Last month our 8th and 9th graders spent time debating the meaning and relevancy of the Rabbi Hillel quote "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?" You would be impressed with their interpretations and application!

It also seems to be the perfect text for the holiday season. With the joy, fattening foods, and gift giving at Chanukah it is easy to lose sight of what is happening outside our immediate realm. Intellectually, we know there are others in great need, and many years ago, the Religious Action Center (Reform Judaism's social action organization) wisely created a night of Chanukah dedicated to tzedakah, to pave the way for helping others at this season.

Main Line Reform Temple-Beth Elohim has always placed a high value on supporting those in need. The world is changing rapidly, but many of the hardships remain the same - people are going hungry, homeless, lack the necessities to endure the winter, or succeed in school. We will observe this night of tzedakah on Tuesday, November 30 at MLRT, but you and your loved ones can choose any night to make a difference.

The Religious Action Center even crafted a special blessing for this unique night of Chanukah.

"Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Haolam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav, v'limdeinu l'hadlik ner shel tzedakah. Blessed are You, Eternal, our God, who makes us holy through the performance of mitzvot, and inspires us to light the Candle of Righteousness.

When we light this "Ner Shel Tzedakah," we pray its light will shine into the dark corners of our world, bringing relief to those suffering from the indignity and pain that accompany poverty. May our act of giving inspire others to join with us in the fight against the scourge of hunger, homelessness, need and want. Together, let us raise our voices to cry out for justice, and may that clarion call burst through the night's silence and declare that change must come."

I hope this blessing proves both inspirational and actionable. We have plenty of work to do to make this world safer and healthier for one another, and the next generations. Our Tikkun Olam Network (TON), led by the dynamic duo Beth Allen and Liz Stoller, is already busy planning our Martin Luther King, Jr Day of Service on Monday, January 17, 2022, and the committee is looking for people to join its ranks and make a difference in our community. We partner with many wonderful organizations and are equally open to learning about new opportunities for *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. Please consider this your formal invitation and join TON for some of our meetings and endeavors in 2022. We look forward to building a better tomorrow with you.

Israel Matters

In last month's "Israel Matters," we heard the heartwarming story of Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) working together to rescue and resettle 41 Afghan women and their families. The good news is this is just one example of the ongoing cooperation between Israel and UAE following the signing of the Abraham Accords in September 2020.

In fact, the two nations are cooperating in many other areas including business, education, travel, science, water, the environment, sports, culture, film and security. For example, on the one year anniversary of the Accords, Israel opened its first Pavilion at the 2020 Expo Dubai World Fair, highlighting its advanced technologies. The Expo is the third largest event in the world, following the Olympic Games and the World Cup, with 191 countries participating and over 25 million visitors expected. This was also the first time Israel had a national pavilion at an event of this magnitude in an Arab State. Moreover, Dubai selected Airobotics, an Israeli drone company, to provide security at the Expo to assist the local police, shorten emergency response time and the need for traditional security personnel. Finally, the announcement in October that Israelis and Emiratis now enjoy visa-free travel to each other's country for tourism and business, created a nice opportunity for many more Israelis to be among the 15 million travelers expected to visit the Israeli Pavilion in Dubai.

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 jzshul@gmail.com, or Renee Margulies at Milren4@yahoo.com.

Season of Giving



Whoever practices charity and justice fills the world with loving kindness. – Talmud

Ask Google about the benefits of giving and, in less than half a second, you will be treated to links to over one billion articles, books and specialized research. There is a steady stream of studies that attest to the benefits of giving—not just for the recipients, but for the health and happiness of givers and the strength of entire communities.

Here are some of the ways that giving is good for you and your community.

1. Giving makes us feel happy. A study by the National Institutes of Health found that when people give to charities, it activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection and trust. Researchers believe that altruistic behavior releases endorphins in the brain, producing the positive feeling known as the “helper’s high.”

2. Giving is good for our health. A wide range of research has linked different forms of generosity to better health. Studies from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Tennessee, suggest that one reason giving may improve physical health and longevity is that it helps decrease stress.

3. Giving promotes cooperation and social connection. When we give to others, we don’t only make them feel closer to us; we also feel closer to them. What’s more, being kind and generous leads you to perceive others more positively and more charitably and this kind of positive social interaction is central to good mental and physical health.

4. Giving evokes gratitude. Whether you’re on the giving or receiving end of a gift, cultivating gratitude is integral to increasing personal happiness and health. A study by Florida State University found that expressing gratitude helps people to be more optimistic, to exercise more and feel better about their lives overall.

5. Giving is contagious. Researchers from Harvard University and the University of California, San Diego, found that altruism could spread by three degrees—from person to person to person to person. Each person in a network has the potential to influence dozens or even hundreds of people.

As 2021 comes to a close, we ask that you consider making a charitable contribution to MLRT. Be sure to check out page 11 for information on many of the ways you can donate and ensure a bright future for our congregation.

Your generosity will help you build stronger social connections and may even jump-start a cascade of generosity throughout our community. And don’t be surprised if you find yourself benefiting from a big dose of happiness in the process. Your mental and physical healthy will thank you...and so will everyone at MLRT.

May the lights of Chanukah bring joy, health and peace to you and your family.

I am delighted to report that I have made challah twice this month. For my first effort, I used the original recipe from Challah for Hunger that uses instant yeast. The results were delicious.

Here’s the recipe for 2 family-sized loaves – happy baking:

6-8 cups flour
2 1/2 cups water

3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup oil

1 tablespoon INSTANT yeast
1/2 tablespoon salt

Step 1: Mix the sugar, oil, salt and water in a large bowl until everything’s dissolved.

Step 2: Add 3 cups flour and mix. You might not be able to get rid of all the clumps of flour yet; that’s okay; just keep going.

Step 3: In a separate, small bowl, combine 1 tablespoon INSTANT yeast with one cup of flour. After the yeast has been thoroughly mixed into the cup of flour, add the mixture to the dough.

Step 4: Continue adding flour, between 2 and 4 more cups. As your mixture becomes more solid, add the flour more and more slowly. Add flour until you reach the point when, if you press the dough gently with clean fingers, no dough sticks to your hands.

Step 5: Let the dough rest for 10 minutes. Take a break! Then knead, using the heel of your hand, not your fingers) for 6 minutes. (You may have to add some flour while kneading, but be conservative.)

Step 6: Put the dough back in the bowl, cover with oil and then drape a towel over the bowl, and let it rise for at least one hour (but monitor it to make sure it doesn’t overflow the bowl). You can let the dough rise overnight in the fridge (the rising process slows down in cooler temperatures).

Step 7: Braid and, if desired, egg wash and add salt and sesame/poppy seeds. If you have time, let the loaf rise before you bake it. Bake at 350 until golden-brown (30-45 minutes).

Cantor's Corner



Cantor Faryn Rudnick

One of the ways that Amy Krulik and I bonded immediately was over our shared love of the oh so cheesy "holiday" (Christmas) movies on the Hallmark channel. The acting is always terrible, and the plot is always the same; nevertheless, much to my husband's chagrin, I love them. Maybe it's because I grew up being allowed to participate in and honor the Christmas traditions of my best friend's family, or maybe I simply find the season beautiful. Or maybe, it's simply a part of our Jewish DNA.

We are an adaptable people; we've had to adapt over and over again in order to survive. And we are also a people who love the arts. When you combine a love of the arts and a need to adapt, the result is some of the most memorable and beloved holiday music of all time. It's an interesting phenomenon - so many Jewish composers who wrote so many cherished Christmas melodies. At the turn of the 20th century, a great time of growth in the music industry, Jews found the music industry appealing not only because of their talent but because of the relative lack of antisemitism in the industry. The prominence of Jewish composers in this particular field also allowed for Jews to assimilate, to embrace Christian culture as patriotic culture therefore helping those Jews to find a more satisfying place in American society.

Who were these composers, and what songs did they compose that solidified their legacy in American music history? Of course we all know the classic "White Christmas," by Irving Berlin, who was born Israel Baline in Russia. Berlin wrote this piece as a patriotic anthem to express his gratitude for the life and safety he found in America. Many of us also start to sing when we hear, "Walking in a Winter Wonderland," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "It's the Most Wonderful Time of The Year," "Santa Baby," or "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," all written by Jewish composers. These compositions, and many more, are not exclusively a piece of American history; they are a part of our Jewish history and legacy in America. And, they bring many people joy throughout the holiday season. While I do wish you all a holiday season that is filled with joy, love, light, and good health, I also wish you a holiday season filled with good music that makes you smile and feel a little more connected to your Jewish roots.

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS!

Connect with your MLRT family to light the *chanukiah* and have some Chanukah fun together every night!

Chanukah begins on Sunday, November 28, as does our Chanukah daily programming.

More details on all eight nights and all applicable links can be found at mlrt.org/chanukah.

Wednesday, December 1

Winning Wednesday at 7:00 pm on Zoom! Don't miss this epic dreidel contest with brackets, prizes & lots of fun.

Wednesday Bible Study with Taylor Tabernacle Church at 7:00 pm on Google Meets! We will learn from Rabbi Straus and Reverend Ford together about Chanukah: the role of bringing light into our world in both of our traditions and what it means to be called to be lamp lighters on Google Meets at <https://meet.google.com/kzr-ysbo-oah>

Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 pm via Livestream and in person at MLRT - Thursday Tunes!

Sing some old family favorites and maybe learn a new Chanukah song to celebrate with Cantor Rudnick, Ross M. Levy, and Andy Heller!

Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm- Shabbat Chanukah, Family Service, Consecration

Each year we honor our first-grade students and their families through a special ceremony called Consecration. Please join us for a Shabbat Chanukah Service that will include Consecration and a new student blessing.

Saturday, December 4 at 5:00 pm on Zoom - Story time & Havdalah!

Join our ECE Director, Mihaela Schwartz, for a heartwarming Chanukah story, a few songs, and a whole lot of smiles! Havdalah with Cantor Faryn Rudnick will follow this program using the same Zoom link.

Sunday, December 5 at 5:00 pm outside MLRT - S'mores Sunday!

Gather outside to make your own s'mores and celebrate the last night of Chanukah. It's a sweet way to end Chanukah.

Masks are required for all programs at MLRT.

Chanukah candle lighting and brachot can be found on page 18. Shehechyanu should be added on the first night.

Lifelong Learning



During the past year, we strove to have pertinent and enjoyable literary programs here at MLRT. Our short story group was successful in reaching our members by Zoom. We read stories by S.Y. Agnon, Julie Orringer, S.J. Rozan, and more. Our visiting authors were varied, including Susie Orman Schnall, Dr. Paul Zeitz, Michael Dobbs, Lisa Scottoline, Lucy Adlington, and Jodi Eichler-Levine.

I look forward to learning alongside you from authors Pam Jenoff, Suzanne Nossel, and Ethan Michaeli in the coming year. Reading and other literary pursuits have kept many of us engaged in vital Jewish learning in the past year. Jewish literature inspires, enriches, and educates the community. The Odell-Diamond library continues to provide books for further learning. Please reach out to me at sbrown@mlrt.org so I can leave books for you and your family at the front desk.

I would like to suggest a few non-fiction books for more serious reading:

Into the Forest: A Holocaust Story of Survival, Triumph, and Love by Rebecca Frankel. This book was reviewed on NPR and is a story of Jewish resistance in Nazi-occupied territory and one family's miraculous escape from liquidation of the Zhetel Ghetto in 1942. Frankel follows a trail out of the ghetto using extensive interviews with members of the Rabinowitz family. You will want to read the rarest of Holocaust stories with a happy ending and a powerful testament to the human spirit.

D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II by Sarah Rose. Here is the dramatic untold story of extraordinary women recruited by Britain's elite spy agency to pave the way for Allied victory. The book deftly uncovers the story of women who were recruited by Winston Churchill in the Special Operations Executive Agency.

Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life in Judaism by Sarah Hurwitz. The author served as a White House speechwriter for President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. She rediscovers Judaism, finding timely insights and spiritual connection in its ancient practices and ethical traditions.

Our short story class will be held on December 9, 2021. "The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land" by Omer Friedlander introduces us to a new author. Among other awards, he has won Moment Magazine's Karma Foundation short fiction contest, 2020. Omer Friedlander was born in Jerusalem in 1994 and grew up in Tel Aviv. Educated at the University of Cambridge and Boston University, he currently lives in New York.

Join us as we inspire, educate and enrich ourselves and our community.



LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RABBI GERI NEWBURGE

Monday, December 13 at noon on Zoom

Lunch with the Rabbi is back! Take a break for lunch while Rabbi Newburge leads a thoughtful conversation during our monthly Lunch & Learn on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 12:00 pm. We look forward "seeing" you on Zoom then.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR JANUARY HASSEL LECTURE!

Collard Greens and Gefilte Fish: Jews Participating in the Harlem Renaissance

Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 10:00 am at MLRT

Historians usually focus on the antagonisms between Blacks and Jews during the period of the Harlem Renaissance. Yet significant strides toward racial equity were made by Sophie Tucker, Benny Goodman and other great Jewish entertainers. Aided by a wide range of rare and pleasurable music videos, Karl Middleman of Temple University tells the story of the glorious music of the Harlem Renaissance with a focus on contributions by Jews to the cause of improving race relations. Please join us for this fascinating lecture at MLRT! (masks required)

All programs, classes, and services are subject to change.

Visit mlrt.org/zoom for the most up-to-date information, more details, and virtual program links.

Creating Connections

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, December 6 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Give something that means something this holiday season. Just one donation can help save three lives! The American Red Cross is currently experiencing an emergency blood shortage and your blood can help save lives. Please make an appointment to donate at MLRT on December 6 with the sponsor code **MainLineReform** via the Red Cross website at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

Questions? Contact Gil Marder at gmarder@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800.

 **Keeping It Reel:** Get your popcorn ready to discuss this Netflix movie on Zoom with Rabbi Newburge!

 **Monday, December 13 at 8:00 pm - Begin Again**

A chance encounter between a down-and-out music-business executive and a young singer-songwriter, new to Manhattan, turns into a promising collaboration between the two talents.

 **Shabbat Morning Walk** - Saturday, December 18 at 9:00 am

Cynwyd Trail, Barmouth Trailhead

Celebrate Shabbat in nature with your MLRT community. Meet Rabbi Geri Newburge (with your masks!) at the Cynwyd Trail for a beautiful and invigorating winter walk.

 **Beer Club** - Sunday, December 19 at 7:00 pm

Home of Mary & Trey Kamplain

Join your MLRT family in-person for a beer or two at the Kamplain home. Beer Club is open to all MLRT members who enjoy trying and sharing beer.

DU SIACH/LET'S TALK: MLRT AND MA'ALOT TIVON

Thursdays, December 2 and 16 at noon

Over the last year, MLRT and Kehillat Ma'alot Tivon, a Reform Congregation in Ma'alot Tivon, a community just outside of Haifa, have been meeting every two weeks on Zoom to get to know each other and learn together. These conversations will continue and we hope to have you join us!

If you would like to join this group, please email Rabbi Straus at dstrauss@mlrt.org.

Tikkun Olam Network (TON)

Our Annual MLK Day of Service is rapidly approaching!

Be a part of the planning by attending our next meeting on Thursday, December 16 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome and encouraged to help shape our MLK Day activities!

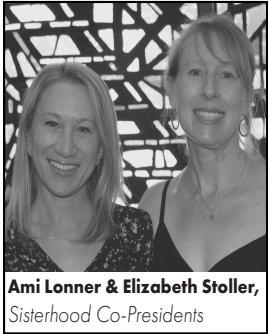
We hope you will join us on Monday, January 17 to participate in our service activities for all ages.

In order to make this day a success, we are collecting the following items which will support some of our projects:

- Unopened trial sized toiletries
- Gently used children's clothing sizes baby - 18
- New kids pajamas
- New kids underwear
- New kids socks
- New or used books in excellent condition for K-8

Look for the bins in the MLRT vestibule.

Sisterhood



Happy Chanukah!

With the holiday starting right after Thanksgiving this year, we hope you can enjoy some extended family time this year now that many of us are getting together in person with friends and family again. We hope that the warmth of the Chanukah candles and some delicious latkes and jelly doughnuts fill your hearts and stomachs with joy.

Sisterhood had planned to hold several in-person events this year, but with the lingering concerns about gathering indoors, we will continue to hold programs via Zoom for the near future. The one thing that is still happening in person is our Cook For A Friend program in the Hausen kitchen. The next one is on December 7 at 9:30 am. Please contact Mary Kamplain at marykamplain@yahoo.com or Betsy Zeitlin at betsyz@remax.net if you would like to volunteer. All ages and skillsets welcome!

Sip margaritas and mingle with our Sisterhood members during our Members Margarita Monday Mingle on December 13. This special cocktail hour is only open to current paid-up Sisterhood members and is limited to 50 people. RSVP to mlrtsisterhood@gmail.com to reconnect with old and new friends!

We are also planning to hold our annual Shalach Manot packing and delivery in person, so watch your inbox for information on this in the February bulletin. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we will need all (vaccinated) hands on deck to help out. We will be packing on March 10 in the Hausen Auditorium.

Brotherhood

"Objects in mirror are closer than they appear." The convex nature of this curious message is a charming metaphor for us looking back on this year: the farther away objects or perceptions during this year of an unforeseen scourge the closer they appear to us currently; and yet, their appearance seems always out of focus. Two pervasive themes do emerge as we of Brotherhood glance back over the months just past: stasis and ennui. You know the definition of both these words, so we won't rehearse the implications they both present. Beginning in January, our Bulletin echoed the winter's grip on our lives and the pandemic's virtual hold on our coming and going. Mention of Thomas Mann's The Magic Mountain reminded us that even while being snowbound, we could choose to think of springtime. The post-election hopefulness in February gave way to a sense of increasing calm and normalcy that had been ushered in by personnel changes in Washington, D.C. But March reminded us that issues such as climate change had not disappeared, since they had really never been seriously addressed, even in the face of fact-based evidence. We were content to shrug our shoulders instead of remembering M. L. King's admonition of "the fierce urgency of now" to work toward solutions as if our planet's survival depended on our actions.

Men took part in March for the Brotherhood Shabbat; that it was offered virtually did not dampen the enthusiasm of our participants. There was this overarching sense of all things are moribund in April, even as we longed for spring. Certainly, there was activity during this period, but not teeming with the robustness of years still in our collective memories. The April Bulletin contained Thomas Carew's "The Spring," which, more than anything yearns not for warmer days but for virtuous hearts' coalescing in civic duty. A loud shout ("genug shoyne," enough already) to end all form of oppression became a center piece in May as the refugee miasma came into sharp focus in our country.

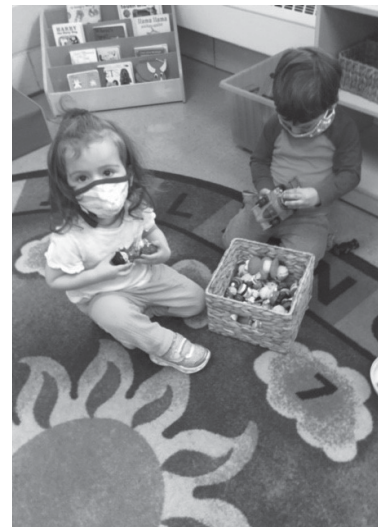
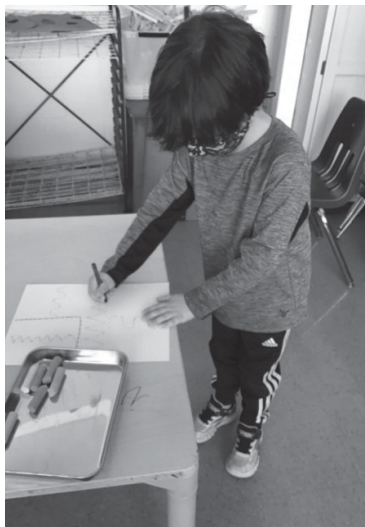
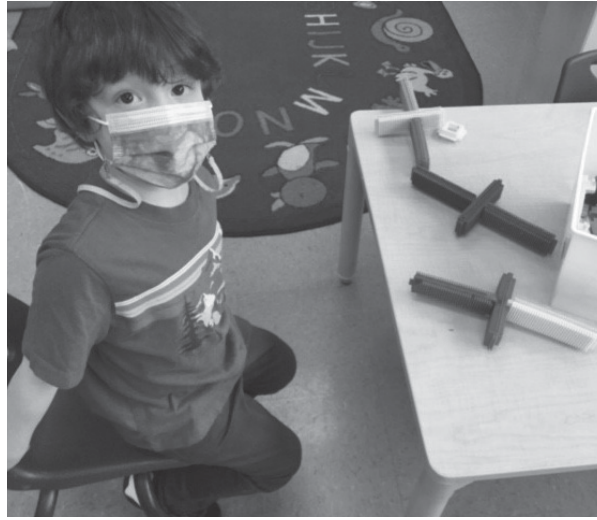
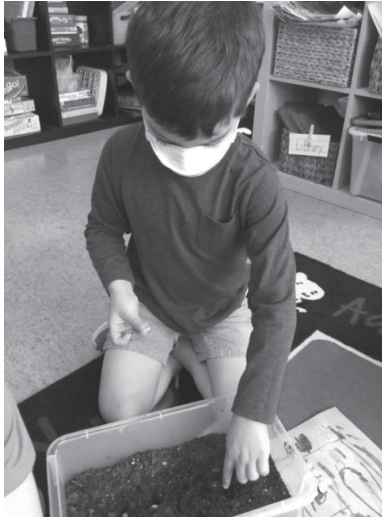
MLRT continued as a clearing house for refugee resettlement household items, which continues to this day. Countless hours of effort on the part of many dedicated volunteers proved and continue to prove that repairing the world is a worthy goal. Oh boy, we threw a party and people came in June for a BBQ. This was noteworthy as it was the first gathering of men and women in so, so long that it was as if the objects in the mirror had actually come closer together in order for us to celebrate an in-person event. Because of the pandemic's omnipresence we had to cancel our annual golf for charity outing; we have planned for a 2023 event of golf, camaraderie, and charity giving. Brotherhood did put up the sukkah, did offer Steaks in the Sukkah dinner, and had its first Men's Night Out dinner in the month of September. Is it even possible to think that next year's Sukkot events will be without masks? It is possible to think so.

"El amor en los tiempos del colera." Gabriel Garcia Marquez reminds us that "love is not to be disappointed with" even in the time of cholera or Covid-19. Life is full of choices, and we shall always choose life.

Kindly, Gary Brock, Vice-president

Teach Our Children: Early Childhood Education

*Here in the ECE, we love learning individually and with friends!
From the nature outdoors, to art projects and problem solving activities, the fun never ends!*



Teach Our Children: Religious School



The letters on the dreidel, nun, gimme, dalet, and shin – are the first letters for the Hebrew verse, “Nes gadol haya sham.” This means, “a great miracle happened there.” It is a reference to the Chanukah story in which one day’s worth of oil lasted for eight – buying enough time for the Maccabees to press enough new olive oil to light the lamps in the Temple and rededicate it as a Jewish space.

The word Chanukah is translated as “dedication” in English. On Friday night, December 3, we will honor the dedication of our new Religious School families. Our First Grade students will participate in a ceremony called Consecration. Consecration marks the beginning of students’ formal Jewish learning. We will also give a special blessing to all our students who enrolled in Religious School for the first time this year. This will be a special Chanukah Shabbat service, made joyful by the participation of Kindergarten and First Graders, as well as the Jewish Jammers.

We will continue to celebrate Chanukah in Religious School on Sunday, December 5 with a live game show run by the amazing team from MainStages. Each year during Chanukah, we collect items that will be donated to families experiencing homelessness and living temporarily at Families Forward Philadelphia. This year, we ask that students bring gift cards of any value for Target, Walmart, Old Navy, Gap, H&M, Amex, or Visa.

December 2021 Religious School Programs

**Chanukah Family Shabbat with Consecration
Kindergarten and First Grade Participating**
Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm

Family Shabbat Service led by Third Grade
Friday, January 7 at 6:30 pm

Sixth Grade Challah for Hunger Program
Sunday, December 19

***No Religious School: December 22 - January 2**

Calling all 4th-6th graders!

Join us for the next fabulous TribeJr event on Sunday, December 5 at 12:30 pm when the Mud Room comes to MLRT! Everyone will have a chance to ‘paint your own’ ceramic, making a unique work of art that reflects your imagination and personality. Cost is \$20/person.

For questions, please contact Ross M. Levy at rlevy@mlrt.org

JOIN RABBI AND LYNNE FOR AN MLRT TRIP TO SPAIN MARCH 30 - APRIL 11, 2022

Lynne and I have been blessed to travel with you, our MLRT family to Israel, Cuba, Prague, Berlin and to Morocco. We have made lifelong friendships together; had the experiences of a lifetime; learned and made connections with Jewish communities in each of these places.

A trip to Spain will take us back in time to one of the greatest periods of Jewish history, the Spain of the Golden Age, which produced an abundance of Jewish poets, philosophers, kabbalists, and intellectual giants, such as Maimonides and Judah HaLevi. The Golden Age came to a brutal and horrific end in 1478 with the Spanish Inquisition, which forced hundreds of thousands of Jews to either convert to Christianity or die. Our journey will follow the story of the Jews of Spain, those who were expelled, those who stayed behind in secret, hiding (conversos) as well as meet those who live in Spain today.

You can sign up (fully refundable deposit through 12/20/21) at bit.ly/2YggX0W, or email me at dstrauss@mlrt.org.

RAC-PA PRESENTATION: WORKING FOR FAIR AND JUST ELECTION DISTRICTS

Wednesday, December 15 at 7:30 pm on Zoom

MLRT is proud to be a founding member of RAC-PA. Working with other Reform Congregations across the state, we are currently advocating for fair and just election districts. The Legislative Redistricting Commission will release new election districts for statewide elections which will have enormous implications for the future of democracy in our state, as it will help determine if elections are truly balanced and fair. We will be joined by George Cheung, the person who wrote the maps for PA Voice, one of the key organizations working for a fair, honest and just redistricting process.

To register for this call, please email Rabbi David Straus at dstrauss@mlrt.org.

Year End Donations

The COVID Relief Act (the “Act”) passed by Congress and signed by the President on December 27, 2020 extended the unlimited charitable contribution for cash gifts to most public charities through the end of 2021. This creates an important once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to move substantial amounts from retirement plans to charity beyond the \$100,000 qualified charitable rollover already allowed to IRA owners without adverse income tax consequences.

Because of the unlimited charitable deduction allowed for cash gifts to most public charities this year, a taxpayer who has reached age 59½ can in effect make a tax-free “quasi-rollover” of any amount to charity in 2021 by making a taxable withdrawal from an IRA or other retirement plan that will be included in income, giving the cash to a public charity, and offsetting the income completely by the unlimited charitable deduction, regardless of amount.

For detailed information regarding IRA Tax Rules, please contact our L’Dor V’Dor Chairs, Chuck Forer and Eric Settle.

Annual Fund

Yearly membership contributions only meet about 50% of our Temple budget. Tuition for ECE and Religious School only covers a portion of the true costs of providing the high-quality education and care that our children deserve.

Your contributions to the MLRT Annual Fund will ensure that we have the financial resources to invest in our core missions of study, worship, and instilling a cooperative and collaborative spirit in our Temple community.

Donate to the Annual Fund at mlrt.org/annual-fund

L’Dor V’Dor

L’Dor V’Dor, from generation to generation: Your ongoing commitment to our MLRT community is a blessing to our vibrant Jewish community and our future generations. There are many ways in which to contribute to MLRT to provide ongoing support to our congregation and its future including:

- a gift to support a specific program, or to honor or memorialize a loved one
- an endowment gift to support MLRT’s future generations
- a planned gift

Your generosity, through gifts of any amount, will help to make certain that our vibrant Jewish community will sustain for generations to come. **For information about any of MLRT’s ways of giving, please contact Amy Krulik, Executive Director, at akrulik@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800.**

Amazon Smile

Earn money for MLRT just by shopping on Amazon!

For every eligible purchase you make, Amazon donates 0.5% back to Main Line Reform Temple at no extra cost to you!

Bookmark <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1494772> for all your future purchases.

Questions? Contact Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing & Communication, at dchornock@mlrt.org.

Advertise in the MLRTMatters Bulletin

Boost your business and support MLRT at the same time! Our monthly Bulletin is mailed out to 1,200 homes, emailed to over 2,000 unique addresses, and posted on our website.

We are thrilled to offer a *NEW* digital advertising option for unprecedented access to our members. Purchase a weekly spot in our eNews or add it on at no additional cost with a yearly full-page ad.

For pricing and more information, please contact Director of Marketing & Communications, Davida Chornock, at dchornock@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800.

Stock Options

Donating stock is a great way to support MLRT. If you have been thinking about selling some of your highly appreciated securities, the net cost of the contribution may be lower than you think. Not only will you receive a charitable deduction for the market value of the stock, but you also avoid taxation of the gain.

For more information or to arrange a donation of stock, contact Gil Marder at gmarder@mlrt.org.

Contributions

(As of November 3)

Annual Fund

Anonymous
In memory of Yetta Pomerantz

Elgart Aster
In memory of Betty Elgart Aster

Sydelle Levine
In memory of Patricia Sukonik

Major D. Marks
In memory of Gerald Green

Cantor Faryn & Jack Rudnick
In memory of Joseph Y. Kates

Mindi & Phil Schwartz

Art Fund

Helene & Marc Cohen
In memory of Patricia Sukonik

Cantor Portnoy Music Fund

Margie & John Bildersee
In memory of Caren Dubnoff

Avivah & Gabriel Pinski
In memory of Caren Dubnoff

Bette & Shel Steinberg
In memory of Caryn Dubnoff

Cantor Rudnick Discretionary Fund

Gloria Barsky
In memory of Phyllis Heller

The Fein Family
In honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of
Blake and Zachary Fein

Linda & Larry Kates
In honor of Cantor Rudnick

Ashley & Ross Summer
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ella Summer

Community Action Fund

Joanie & Larry Bergen
In memory of Philip Zuckman

Covid-19 Emergency Fund

Marla & Norman Fienman

Hassel Adult Education Fund

Gloria Barsky
In memory of Philip Zuchman

Helene & Marc Cohen
In memory of Caryn Dubnoff

Stella & Gordon Fink
In memory of Patricia Sukonik
In memory of Philip Zuchman

Gloria & Martin Goldberg
In memory of Philip Zuchman
In memory of Selma Margulies
In memory of Caren Dubnoff
In memory of Patricia Sukonik

Hausen Education & Cultural Fund

Stella & Gordon Fink
In memory of Caren Dubnoff

L'dor V'dor Fund

Bonnie Bloom
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Isaac Polsky

Gail Gutman & Family
In memory of Michael Price

Jennie & Sam Nemroff & Family
In memory of Sanford Ruben

Music Fund

Nicole & Royal Bunin
In memory of Albert Bunin

Gloria & Martin Goldberg
In memory of Phyllis Heller

Sherrill Neff & Alicia Felton
In memory of Caren Dubnoff

Sherrie & Glenn Rosenblum
In memory of Patricia Sukonik

Odell-Diamond Library Fund

Gloria Barsky
In honor of the birth of a grandson to
The Brock Family

Robert Brown
In honor of Sally Brown's 14 years at MLRT

Elaine & Don Krasnick
In memory of Robert Parkin

Rabbi Newburge Discretionary Fund

Sarah & Michael Bloch
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Eli Bloch

Vanessa & Adam Cohen
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Camille Cohen

The Fein Family
In honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of
Blake and Zachary Fein

Lynn & Jim Furness
In honor of Rabbi Geri Newburge

Cynthia & Jordan Katz Family Fund
In honor of Maggie Mirsky

Gwen & David Keiser
In memory of Shirley Conston

Hope Lefebber
In memory of Frieda Lefebber

Hannah Ruben
In memory of Sanford Ruben

Tonya & Dennis Ruben
In memory of Sandy Ruben

Shana Schwartz
In honor of the marriage of Evan & Jamie Steinberg

Roslyn Squire
In memory of Eric Franklin Squire

Jana & Matthew Spiegler
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Peyton Spiegler

Bette & Shel Steinberg

Rabbi Richard Steinbrink
In memory of Stuart Steinbrink

Ashley & Ross Summer
In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Ella Summer

Rabbi Straus Discretionary Fund

Sandra Bomze
In memory of Robert Lipstet

Kenneth & Leslie Brier
In honor of the engagement of Julia Straus
to Briton Claridge

Ellen Milgrim & Andrew Keiser
In memory of Ezra Hale Keiser

Merle Zucker
In memory of Marvin A. Zucker

Rick J. Carocci Torah Study Fund

Avivah & Gabriel Pinski
In memory of Patricia Sukonik

Sisterhood Fund

Susan & Michael Plick
In memory of Sanford Ruben

Cindy & Jeff Ruben & Family
In honor of the engagement of Danielle Levin

Social Action Fund

Norma & Stephen Bolden
In memory of Philip Zuchman

**If you have any questions about your listing,
please contact Gil Marder at gmarder@mlrt.org.**

Sharing Our Lives

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

Gloria Clareman

Mother of Elizabeth (Brad) Robinson and
Richard (Beatrice) Clareman
Grandmother of Larry, Jordan, Jared & Matthew Robinson
and Justin and Samuel Clareman

Caren Dubnoff

Wife of Jerry Dubnoff
Mother of Mark (Valerie) Dubnoff
Grandmother of Anna, Julia and Micah

Barbara Federman

Sister-in-law of David (Jill) Federman
Aunt of Eli and Katie Federman
Wife of Richard Federman

Gerald Green

Husband of Roberta Green
Father of Nancy Green and Bonnie Schwartz
Brother of Marilyn (Lewis) Allison and
Kenneth (Donna) Green
Grandfather of Andrew (Michelle) Kay, Scott Schwartz,
and Allie Schwartz (fiancé, Matthew Major)
Great-grandfather of Marley Kay

Sanford Ruben

Uncle of Jeff (Cindy) Ruben
Granduncle of Ilana Ruben and Ross Ruben
Brother-in-law of Hannah Ruben

Patricia Sukonik

Friend of Neil Stein
Sister of Holly Wallack
Aunt of Jessica Wallack and Josh Wallack

Please consider a contribution to Main Line Reform Temple Beth Elohim in memory of these beloved people.

Visit mlrt.org to make a donation in their names.

Mazal Tov to

Bobbie Halpern on the

birth of her great-grandchild, Aron James Fox
marriage of her granddaughter, Jessica Halpern, to Justin Meltzer
marriage of her granddaughter, Taylor Halpern, to Brandon Dale
engagement of her granddaughter, Jordan Pincus, to James Parisi

Harriet & Joel Samitz on the

engagement of their son, Andrew Samitz, to Jessica Goldstein

Jill Kleenman on the

marriage of her daughter, Jodie Kleeman, to Robert Hickling

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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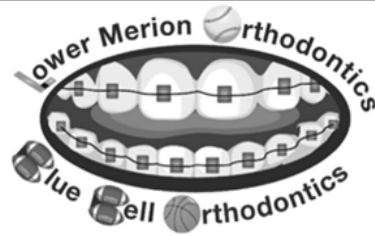
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Join Us all Week!

MULTI-ACCESS WEEKLY OFFERINGS

THURSDAYS

11:00 am - Bible Study (no class on December 23 and 30)

Our rabbis lead an ongoing discussion of the Mishnah over the year. Join the discussion on Zoom or in person at MLRT anytime, whether you are an avid Mishnah student or have never looked at the Mishnah before.

FRIDAYS

6:30 pm - Friday Shabbat Service (please refer to the calendar for special service times)

We invite you to join us on Livestream, Facebook Live, or in the Morganroth Sanctuary for a Shabbat service with songs and prayers, followed by a virtual Oneg Shabbat.

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 via Zoom, from wherever you are, or in person at MLRT.

10:00 am - Shabbat Morning Service

Immediately following Torah Study, join us on Zoom or in person at MLRT for a lovely Shabbat Service featuring our clergy.

ZOOM-ONLY WEEKLY SERVICE

6:30 pm - Havdalah with the Rudnicks

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

All services at MLRT are multi-access.

Please join us in person at MLRT or via Livestream or Facebook Live on Friday nights or in person at MLRT or on Zoom on Saturdays. B'nai Mitzvah Services will be on Livestream. Havdalah is Zoom only.

Masks are required for all in-person programming. Links for our virtual services and study sessions are available via mlrt.org/zoom.

CONSECRATION

Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm

In the Ve'ahava prayer, we are told to "Teach these words to your children." This is a reference to a parent's obligation to raise their children versed in Torah and Jewish tradition. Each year we honor our First Grade students and their families through a special ceremony called Consecration. Please join us on Friday, December 3 at 6:30 pm for Shabbat Services that will include Consecration and a new student blessing.

PLOTS AVAILABLE IN THE MLRT SECTION AT WEST LAUREL HILL CEMETERY

A limited number of cemetery plots are still available in the MLRT section of West Laurel Hill Cemetery. The cost of a single grave is \$6,500, which is less than what the cemetery charges the public if bought directly, and includes perpetual care.

If you or your family members are interested in purchasing plots, please contact Amy Krulik, Executive Director, at (610) 649-7800 or akrulik@mlrt.org for more information or to arrange for selection and purchase of plots.

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Shabbat & Holiday Services

Friday, December 3

6th Candle

6:30 pm Family Shabbat Chanukah Service and Consecration

Saturday, December 4

7th Candle

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Saturday Morning Service
10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Henry Eliot Hirsch~
Son of Lauren & Brian Hirsch
5:00 pm ECE Chanukah Story Time and Havdalah**

Sunday, December 5

8th Candle

5:00 pm S'mores Sunday*

Friday, December 10

6:30 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 11

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Rose Israeli~
Daughter of Lori & David Israeli
6:30 pm Havdalah**

Friday, December 17

8:00 pm Shabbat Service with the choir

Saturday, December 18

9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk*^
9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
6:30 pm Havdalah**

Friday, December 24

5:00 pm Shabbat Service
Please note this special service time!

Saturday, December 25

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service
6:30 pm Havdalah**

Friday, December 31

5:00 pm Shabbat Service with a toast to the new year!
Please note this special service time!

Saturday, January 1, 2022

9:00 am Torah Study
10:00 am Shabbat Morning Service

All times, including B'nai Mitzvah services, are subject to change. The most up-to-date information can be found on our website at mlrt.org

* In person only **Zoom only ^ Off-site ~ Livestream

All services at MLRT are multi-access.

Please join us in person at MLRT or via Livestream or Facebook Live on Friday nights or in person at MLRT or on Zoom on Saturdays. B'nai Mitzvah Services will be on Livestream. Havdalah is Zoom only.

Masks are required for all in-person programming. Links for our virtual services and study sessions are available via mlrt.org/zoom.

Visit mlrt.org/chanukah for details on all of our nightly Chanukah programs!

Lighting the Chanukiah

We begin with one candle on the first night, and add one candle each night for eight nights. In addition, we light the *shamash* each night which we use to light the other candles. The candles should be added to the menorah from the right to the left, but they are lit from left to right so the kindling begins with the newest light. The blessings are recited each night with the lit *shamash* in hand, after which the candles are lit immediately.

Blessing 1: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה.









Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Chanukah lights.

Blessing 2: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh. Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wonderful deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

December 2021

All programs, classes, and services are subject to change. The most up-to-date information can be found at mlrt.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 28  FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 3:00 pm Sunday Sufganiyot!*	NOVEMBER 29  SECOND NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 7:00 pm Music Monday!**	NOVEMBER 30  THIRD NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 7:00 pm Tzedakah Tuesday!	1  FOURTH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 12:00 pm Bridge** 7:00 pm Winning Wednesday!** 7:00 pm Wednesday Bible Study with Taylor Tabernacle Church	2  FIFTH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 11:00 am Bible Study 7:00 pm Thursday Tunes! 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W.*	3  SIXTH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 6:30 pm Shabbat Chanukah Family Service and Consecration	4  SEVENTH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:30 am Bar Mitzvah of Henry Hirsch 5:00 pm Story Time! and Havdalah
5  EIGHTH NIGHT OF CHANUKAH 12:30 pm Tribe Jr. Social: Mudroom Studio* 5:00 pm Smores Sunday!*	6 2:00 pm American Red Cross Blood Drive*	7 9:30 am Cook For a Friend*	8 12:00 pm Bridge**	9 11:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Short Story Discussion: <i>The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land</i> 7:00 pm FTD Caregivers 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W.*	10 6:30 pm Shabbat Service	11 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 5:00 pm Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Rose Israeli 6:30 pm Havdalah
12	13 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Newburge 7:00 pm Sisterhood Paid-Up Event* 7:00 pm Brotherhood Texas Hold'Em * 8:00 pm Keeping It Reel: <i>Begin Again</i> **	14	15 12:00 pm Bridge** 7:30 pm RAC-PA Progrm with George Cheung**	16 11:00 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W.*	17 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with the choir	18 9:00 am Torah Study 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Walk*^ 10:00 am Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Havdalah
19 7:00 pm Beer Club at the Kamplains*	20	21 6:30 pm Brotherhood Men's Night Out	22 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2022 12:00 pm Bridge**	23 7:30 pm Friends of Bill W.*	24 CHRISTMAS EVE ECE CLOSED THROUGH DECEMBER 31 MLRT OFFICE CLOSED @ 1:00 PM 5:00 pm Shabbat Service	25 CHRISTMAS 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Havdalah
26 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2022	27	28	29 12:00 pm Bridge**	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE MLRT OFFICE CLOSED @ 1:00 PM 5:00 pm Shabbat Service with special New Years Toast	January 1 NEW YEARS DAY 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service



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