



MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE-BETH ELOHIM

MLRT *Matters*

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**SOMETHING UNDER THE
SUN FOR EVERYONE!**

MLRT - WHERE COMMUNITY SHINES

May-June 2026

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mlrt.org

FAITH, FREEDOM, AND THE AMERICAN PROMISE

Rabbi Geri Newburge gnewburge@mlrt.org

Haym Salomon (1740-1785), a Polish immigrant and New York City financial broker, was one of the greatest patriot financiers of the Revolutionary War. During the war, he was arrested as a spy by the British and forced to work as a German translator. Salomon did not waste this opportunity, and used his position to convince German mercenary soldiers to disband and release prisoners. Upon being discovered, he was sentenced to death, but escaped to Philadelphia. Here he served as a prominent member of Congregation Mikveh Israel, and became the paymaster for the French troops in America. Given that America was not financially stable, Salomon used his personal wealth to help fund the nascent army.

This Jewish founding father has been quoted as saying: "I am a Jew; it is my own nation; I do not despair that we shall obtain every other privilege that we aspire to enjoy along with our fellow-citizens."

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, these words are an important reminder. Jewish life in America has been a golden age of unprecedented freedom, opportunity and equality. While many tribulations must be resolved, there is no doubt the Jewish people have been partners in the nation's growth, defending their belonging while contributing to its culture, economy, and democratic ideals.

This national milestone feels particularly momentous given the fact we live in the birthplace of our country. The following prayer was composed by Congregation Beth Shalom in Richmond, Virginia in 1789 on the occasion of the swearing in of George Washington as President and seems as relevant today as it did then.

*When we call upon You, O righteous Lord, answer us,
Listen to the sound of our cries and have mercy upon us,
Comfort us and hearken to our prayers,
For You are the supreme Master, You have distanced
troubles from me.*

*G-d of the Heavenly Hosts, You have provided peace and
quiet for the heart of our government;
You have placed the President of the United States to act as
our leader;
Through prayer we humble ourselves before You,
To our supplications lend an ear and rescue us.*

*May those who govern over us do so with purity of heart
and with honor,
G-d, our Lord, listen to our voices and our calls,
As we lay out our prayers before our G-d and our
Redeemer,
May G-d protect and shield the Vice President, Senators
and Representatives of the United States.*

*May G-d provide wisdom and sense to all who lead our
court system,
May the hearts of our leaders be just and trustworthy,
May G-d provide success and bless all of our nation,
And from the hands of foreigners, may G-d protect us.*

*May our sons resemble young saplings that grow into
strong trees,
May our daughters develop like olive trees,
May our land produce an abundance of food,
By the thousands and by the tens of thousands, in our fields,
May our livestock work hard; may they encounter no
difficulties and may none be stolen from our streets.*

*All those who love our country and its leaders, may they
bless G-d,
May they extend honor to G-d, our G-d,
May Judea be saved and Israel dwell in safety, and may
the Redeemer come to Zion,
And let us say: "Amen".*



MEMBERSHIP FORMS FOR 2026-27 ARE LIVE!

Make sure to check your inbox for the email with all the information to renew your membership.

All High Holy Days 5787 and Book of Remembrance information will be arriving in your inbox in June/July.

»» You can log into your Member Portal at mlrt.org.

Please reach out to Renee Strausberg, Director of Member Engagement, at rstrausberg@mlrt.org or 610-649-7800 with any questions.

Last month, we had our first ever Ruach and Rhythm Shabbat, a service that was through composed music from beginning to end with little to no break. I had the privilege of delivering the sermon that night, a sermon in song to be accurate, and I began by sharing the famous quote by Ahad Ha'am, "More than the people have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the people." And then I made a bold statement, playing on Ha'am's words: "More than the people have held the music, the music has held the people." Our people has been singing and making music since the beginning of time. It is intrinsically a part of our religious life, rituals, and culture. When Moses and the people crossed the Sea, they sang a song of praise and delight. The Prophet Ezra taught that Torah should always be chanted, and by a melodious and skilled voice no less. Jews create music in good times as in bad, and have had an impact on religious and secular music for thousands of years.

There is a distinct Jewish sound, made up of musical modes that have mixed and mingled with the musical norms of their time, and that Jewish sound has connected us as a people from community to community, and from generation to generation. In his book, Jewish Music: Its Historical

Development, Abraham Z. Idelson says, "Jewish music is the song of Judaism through the lips of the Jew. It is the tonal expression of Jewish life and development over a period of more than two thousand years." Music links us to our collective past, tells our people's story, and propels us to the future. Music has always been a sacred vessel, a vessel that, as Abraham Joshua Heschel said, can hold anything, and as such, was present in all areas of Jewish life - in the Temples, at sacred occasions, and at social moments. Our vocal musical tradition, in particular, has been preserved in memory and practice, thus elevating ritual and unifying our people throughout the ages.

As the Jewish community continues to grow and change, so too will the music of our people, balancing our uniquely Jewish sound with innovation, linking us to our past as we create our future. Whether you are hearing a Jewish mode, like *freygish* mode, which you hear in the crowd pleaser *Hava Nagillah*, or are hearing a *MiSinai* tune, like *Kol Nidre*, listening to the Torah being chanted, or reliving your camp days when you hear any of Debbie Friedman's songs, Jewish music connects you to the people sitting next to you in our sanctuary and those sitting in other sanctuaries around the world.

MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE-BETH ELOHIM PRESENTS

OUT OF THE ASHES

CANTORIAL CONCERT FEATURING

Cantor Faryn Rudnick
Cantor Galit Dadoun Cohen

Cantor Juval Porat
Cantor Alicia Stillman

MAY 3
Sunday at MLRT

4:00 PM
Reception to follow

\$10/PERSON; CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE. REGISTER AT MLRT.ORG/ASHES

IN THESE PAGES	2-6 Senior Staff Messages	11 Teach Our Children	16 Mazal Tov
	6 President's Message	12 Sisterhood	17-18 Calendars
	7-9 Stay Connected	13 Brotherhood	19 In Memoriam
	10 Confirmation	14-15 Contributions	

LOOKING FOR CONFIRMATION IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Rabbi Eric Mollo emollo@mlrt.org

There is a moment each year when the Jewish calendar invites us to stand again at Sinai. Shavuot is a commemoration of the revelation of Torah and an invitation to experience it anew. We count our way there through seven weeks of anticipation, moving from the narrow place of the parted sea toward the expansive possibility of a new way forward. When we arrive, Jewish tradition teaches that we are to feel as though we, too, were there when the Israelites received the Torah. This year at MLRT, that sense of standing at Sinai feels especially relatable.

On May 2, we will celebrate the culmination of something truly extraordinary. Together with my fellow clergy, I had the privilege of building and implementing MLRT's first Adult Confirmation program. Over the course of seven months, this inaugural cohort immersed themselves in a rich and demanding journey of Jewish learning. They explored Jewish theology, examined the deeper meaning of Jewish holidays throughout the calendar year, they traced the arc of Jewish history from ancient Israel through rabbinic, medieval, and modern times, they engaged in complex questions about identity, Zionism, and the challenges of our present moment, and they turned inward as well, studying *Mussar* (Jewish ethics) and the cultivation of *middot* such as humility, compassion, gratitude, and responsibility, grounding their Jewish learning in personal transformation. In these final weeks, they have been preparing not only technically, but spiritually, refining personal reflections and readings that speak to their own journeys. Adult Confirmation is about choosing Judaism again, and reclaiming Torah as one's own. I could not be prouder of this cohort as they step forward to lead, to teach, and to share who they have become through this transformative process.

Later in May I will be introducing a new quarterly program entitled, Jewish History's Mysteries with Rabbi Eric Mollo, premiering on May 21 with a Shavuot dairy dinner and *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* study experience. We will explore how

an agricultural festival became the moment of revelation at Sinai, and what it means that this transformation was not in the Torah itself, but emerged through rabbinic imagination. We will also explore the tradition of *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* and the *midrash* that suggests the Israelites overslept on the morning of the revelation at Sinai. Along the way, we will uncover the older layers of Shavuot as a harvest festival shared with the ancient Near Eastern world, mystical interpretations of sacred time and spiritual refinement, and even alternative Jewish expressions such as the Ethiopian (Beta Israel) Jewish tradition, where harvest and revelation remain distinct moments rather than a single merged holiday.

Looking ahead to the summer and fall (and even NEXT spring), plans are already in motion for a robust lineup of Lifelong Learning and Tikkun Olam Network opportunities. From classes and lectures to hands-on and discussion-based learning, we are continuing to build a culture in which Jewish growth is lifelong and ever-evolving. Alongside our learning, we are expanding opportunities for social action and social justice. Through partnerships with the Mitzvah Circle Foundation, the Ardmore Food Pantry, and other organizations, our community will continue to meet immediate needs. Through RAC-PA, we are strengthening our engagement in state and local social justice efforts, leaning into our Jewish values as our guide towards lasting change for our state and our community.

If Shavuot teaches us anything, it is that Torah is not merely something we received that one time, a long time ago. Rather, we are always in the process of receiving Torah, which lives on in the clarity we seek, the commitments we make, in our desire to learn, and in our willingness to act. At this season, I am especially grateful for the many ways our community continues to affirm this vision.

Wishing you a joyous Shavuot and plenty of fun in the summer sun!

Thursday, May 21 • 5:00 pm

Shavuot: Counting, Bread & Revelation

Jewish History's Mysteries with Rabbi Mollo

What exactly are we counting toward on Shavuot? And how did a harvest festival become the moment of revelation at Sinai? Join Rabbi Mollo for a dairy dinner and *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* study experience exploring the deeper layers of the holiday, from ancient agricultural roots to the rabbinic imagination and associated mystical underpinnings.

Register at mlrt.org/shavuot26



LIVING OUR "WHY" TOGETHER

Lynne Balaban lbabalan@mlrt.org

Leadership thinker Simon Sinek often emphasizes the importance of starting with a simple question: Why? Why do organizations exist? Why do people show up? Why do communities endure?

For our congregation, that answer continues to guide everything we do. We exist to build a Jewish community where people feel connected, supported, inspired, and proud to belong—a place where Jewish life is fully expressed through learning, prayer, celebration, and caring for one another.

This year, that sense of purpose has been more important than ever. It is reflected not only in what we have achieved, but also in how we continue to grow and support each other.

Our congregation is nearing 900 families—an exciting milestone that highlights the strength and vitality of our community. This year, we welcomed 92 new families, each bringing fresh energy and new opportunities for connection.

With that growth comes a shared responsibility: to make sure every individual and family feels truly part of the community. Through new member events, welcome initiatives, and small but meaningful touches for people of all ages, we continue to build relationships and strengthen connections.

Because belonging is not automatic—it is something we intentionally create together.

This year, we made meaningful investments in both our physical spaces and our long-term vision.

Through our Life and Legacy Campaign, community members make commitments that will sustain and strengthen our congregation for generations to come. These gifts are not only financial—they are expressions of belief in the future of Jewish life within our community.

At the same time, we have continued to improve our building to meet the changing needs of our congregation. This year, updates included creating new Early Childhood Education classrooms, making progress on our chapel renovation, and enhancing our shared spaces.

A particularly meaningful addition is the installation of a new electronic memorial board in the sanctuary, providing a dynamic and accessible way to honor loved ones. We are working to return bronze memorial plaques to their original recipients, restoring an important and deeply valued tradition of remembrance.

Each of these efforts reflects our commitment to creating spaces that are welcoming, functional, and meaningful.

Our progress is made possible by the people who bring our mission to life each day.

This year, we were happy to welcome Sarah Hoffman to our

professional team and Kevin and Jamil to our maintenance staff. Each plays an important role in supporting the congregation's daily needs and helping our community run smoothly and effectively.

Additionally, we welcomed our new Music Director, Dr. Ari Sussman, who has quickly become a vital part of our community. His leadership has brought renewed energy to our music program and enhanced an already lively aspect of congregational life.

Music remains a key part of our community life, strengthening worship, uniting people, and fostering meaningful connections. Under Dr. Sussman's direction, our choirs have grown in both participation and quality. Our youth music program continues to thrive, with the Junior Jammers expanding in size and offering new leadership opportunities for older students to mentor younger participants.

We were also proud to present special musical programming this year, including a powerful performance of Rachel's Mandolin, which blended storytelling and music to create a deeply moving community experience.

Across all of these efforts, music remains a unifying force—connecting generations and enriching the life of our congregation.

Lifelong learning remains a cornerstone of our community, offering members opportunities to explore Jewish texts, traditions, and current issues in depth.

Our adult education offerings provide meaningful opportunities for study and discussion, from weekly Torah learning to ongoing classes and special programs. Longstanding groups have demonstrated a deep commitment to sustained learning, while new offerings continue to bring fresh perspectives and voices into our community.

Our Speaker Series has introduced engaging and thought-provoking presenters, sparking conversation and encouraging us to explore important topics together.

Beyond the classroom, our commitment to learning is closely connected to action. Through our Tikkun Olam initiatives, members have participated in a wide range of service opportunities—addressing food insecurity, supporting local communities, and advancing social justice efforts.

Our MLK Day of Service alone brought together hundreds of participants across multiple projects, resulting in thousands of acts of care. These efforts reflect our shared belief that learning and action go hand in hand.

This year, our congregation also strengthened its connections to the broader Jewish community. We were proud to host conferences and gatherings that brought educators, professionals, and teens from across the country

LIVING OUR "WHY" TOGETHER

into our building. These experiences not only highlighted the strength of our community but also allowed us to learn from others and bring new ideas back to our congregation.

We remain committed to supporting our staff's professional development, ensuring they continue to grow, innovate, and bring best practices into our work.

Ensuring the safety of our community remains a top priority. Following the events of October 7 and the rise in antisemitism around the world, Jewish institutions everywhere—including our own—have needed to increase attention to security. More recent global tensions have only reinforced the importance of this work.

In response, we have strengthened our security measures, deepened coordination with local partners, and made necessary investments to protect our members, staff, and guests.

While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it is guided by a core Jewish value: *Pikuach Nefesh*—the responsibility to protect human life above all else. Creating a safe and secure environment is not only a practical necessity, but a sacred obligation.

At the heart of everything we have accomplished this year are the people who make it possible. Our dedicated staff

brings professionalism, care, and commitment to their work each day. Our volunteers contribute their time, creativity, and passion. And our members continue to show up—for programs, for one another, and for the community as a whole.

As Simon Sinek reminds us, meaningful work happens when people come together around a shared purpose.

As we reflect on the past year, we also look toward the future. In the months ahead, we will continue to evaluate our programs, strengthen connections between staff and volunteers, and plan thoughtfully for the needs of our growing community.

At the same time, we will remain grounded in what matters most. When we are clear about our purpose—our why—and aligned in how we move forward, something powerful happens. We deepen relationships, strengthen community, and create a place where people truly feel they belong.

We don't just attend—we belong.

We don't just participate—we invest.

We don't just gather—we show up for one another.

Together, we are building not just a synagogue, but a community rooted in connection, purpose, and care—today and for generations to come.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Kamplain president@mlrt.org

You may not know this about me, but I spend a good portion of each summer hiding out on Long Beach Island. I am fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time with my family, produce a lot of Vitamin D, and photograph (too) many sunsets. Much like Shabbat does for us weekly, my summertime allows me to rest and rejuvenate myself so I can return to what I call "the real world" more energized, focused, and productive. It certainly feels like holy time to me.

I used to think this annual turning inward was something I specifically needed, but my year serving as President has shown me that turning inward is an appropriate response to the pressures in the world that we cannot control. Threatened by rising antisemitism, war in the Middle East, and political violence, we turn to our Jewish institutions for security, comfort, and solidarity. We double down on what we know has sustained our people for centuries: community, education, *mitzvot*. Like Voltaire, we cultivate our garden to find meaning, sustenance, and peace.

Throughout this year, MLRT has recognized the importance of turning inward and has asked you to plant with us. We

have raised funds to give our youngest members a beautiful, inclusive, accessible playground that will help ensure the vitality and continuity of our ECE. We have invited you to consider making MLRT a beneficiary of planned giving, creating a legacy that will nourish MLRT's future. You can see the fruits of our turning inward in our impressive Confirmands, our robust programs, and even in our healthy Religious School car-line. Your support makes us thrive.

Now I'd like to invite you to help us work the garden we create here at MLRT. We have so many ways to get involved in protecting and growing this community, whether you are interested in adult education, social action, welcoming new members, discussions or events about Israel, or music. We are also looking for friendly faces to serve as ushers. If getting involved in an MLRT committee sounds like something that will fortify, rejuvenate, and restore you, I hope you will email me at president@mlrt.org. I would love to help you find that connection that feels rewarding and meaningful. I wish you a wonderful, productive spring. And if you find yourself near my hiding spot this summer, I hope you will reach out to me to share a sunset and tell me what you'd like to see in our garden.



Celebrate our inaugural **ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS**

— Saturday, May 2 at 10:30 am —

After a year of study with our clergy, participants will lead the Shabbat Morning Service, chant from the Torah and Haftarah, and offer personal reflections.

MAZAL TOV!

Lauren Becton
Edward Bleeden
Sallie Bleshman
Jane Brown
Helene Ehrlich-Cohen
Lynn Furness

Ann Gelfond
Stacey Gerwitz
Janis Glusman
Bobbie Halpern

Judy Horowitz
Jeffrey Love
Julie Peterson
Avivah Pinski
Ilyse Shapiro
Jonathan Shapiro

LUNCH WITH THE RABBI

Fill your soul and stomach during our monthly lunch & learn with Rabbi Geri Newburge!

Monday, May 4 at 12:00 pm

ISRAEL AT THE CROSSROADS

Wednesday, May 6 at 12:00 pm

Discuss the dilemmas facing Israel in a post-10/7 reality and enjoy an Israeli lunch.

Register at mlrt.org/israelx



SHABBAT MORNING WALK

Enjoy the best nature has to offer during the May Shabbat Morning Walk with Rabbi Geri Newburge!

May 9 - 9:00 am 🐾 Cynwyd Trail

Join MLRT On The Move on Broadway for Operation Mincemeat, the award-winning musical comedy!

SUNDAY, MAY 17
2:00 PM · GOLDEN THEATRE, NYC



Visit mlrt.org/MOTM26 to register now because space is limited!

\$190/members and \$200/guests includes transportation from MLRT

PLEASE PASS THE GRITS AND GEFILTE FISH

JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

AS THEY CHASED "THE GOOD LIFE" IN THE EARLY 20TH-C, MANY AMERICANS SEARCHED FOR NEW WAYS TO SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME. HARLEM BECAME AN ARTS MECCA AND JAZZ WAS FOUND EVERYWHERE: SPEAKEASIES, DANCEHALLS, HOMES, EVEN IN RAILROAD CARS.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

10:00 AM

MUSIC LECTURER AND MLRT MEMBER KARL MIDDLEMAN WILL SURVEY KEY ADVANCES IN JAZZ, POETRY, ART, AND ENTERTAINMENT WITH A FOCUS ON CONTRIBUTIONS BY JEWS TO THE CAUSE OF IMPROVED RACE RELATIONS.



REGISTER FOR FREE AT MLRT.ORG/GRITS26

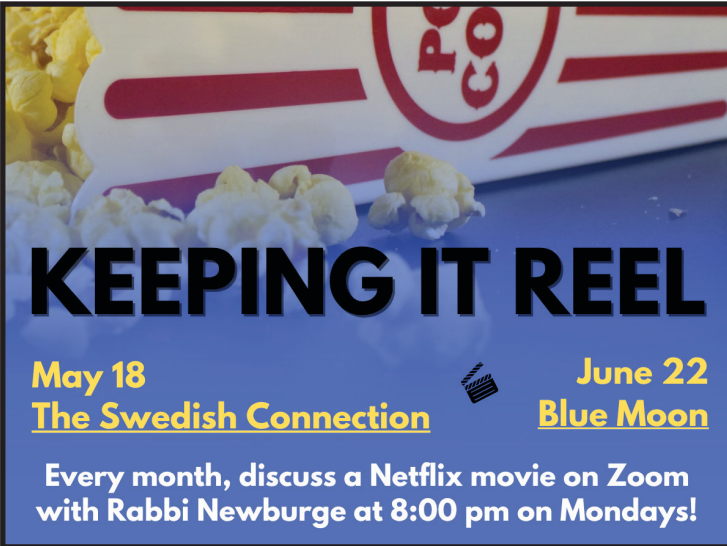
SPRING

SUPPORT BOX LUNCH & A BOOK!


FOOD DRIVE

LOOKING FOR tuna packs with crackers, protein shakes, cheese and peanut butter crackers, applesauce, trail mix, granola bars, pretzels, fruit cups, and breakfast bars.

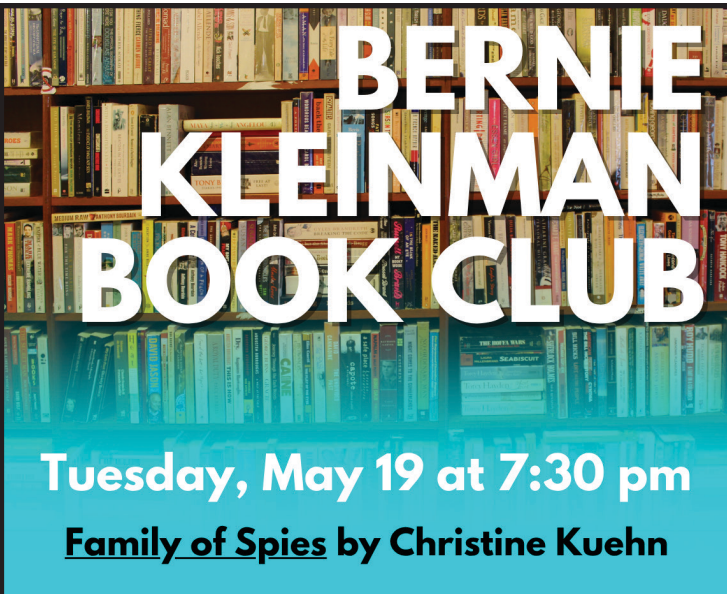
DROP OFF DONATIONS IN THE VESTIBULE THROUGH MAY 31. THANK YOU!



KEEPING IT REEL

May 18 **The Swedish Connection**  June 22 **Blue Moon**

Every month, discuss a Netflix movie on Zoom with Rabbi Newburge at 8:00 pm on Mondays!



BERNIE KLEINMAN BOOK CLUB


Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 pm

Family of Spies by Christine Kuehn



Beer & Wine Social Club May 31 at 7:00 pm


Please join us at the home of Mary & Trey Kamplain for the MLRT Beer & Wine Social Club. Mary is President of the Board, but we promise you won't be bored :)





Main Line Reform Temple-Beth Elohim

PRIDE SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JUNE 5 AT 6:30 PM
MLRT - 410 MONTGOMERY AVE., WYNNWOOD



Celebrate inclusion and community at our annual Pride Shabbat, featuring Dr. Ari Sussman!

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2026

MAZAL TOV CONFIRMANDS!

LET US COME TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AT
7:30 PM ON FRIDAY, MAY 29, TO CELEBRATE
AND SUPPORT OUR CONFIRMANDS,
RECOGNIZING THEIR DEDICATION TO JEWISH
LEARNING AND VALUES.

Theodore Adler

Son of Selly Adler and
Greg Nadolski

Isadore Kleinman

Son of Chana Rothman
& Rabbi Kevin Kleinman

Maya Addison
Avera-Breslin

Daughter of Alison Avera
& Tracy Breslin

Samantha Lily
Kopelman

Daughter of Amy &
Michael Kopelman

Belle Baldys

Daughter of Lauren &
Matt Baldys

Ethan Miller

Son of Ann & Lloyd Miller

Olivia Brooke
Benjamin

Daughter of Debbie &
Steve Benjamin

Phoebe Claire
Ruderman

Daughter of Dana &
Seth Ruderman

Aaron Cuba

Son of Randi Cuba and
Stone Newman

Zev Rymer

Son of Natasha &
Justin Rymer

Jacob Dankwerth

Son of Risa & Michael
Dankwerth

Ella Brooke Silk

Daughter of Lisa &
Jason Silk

Carter Frank

Son of Laura &
Bradford Frank

Dana Slipakoff

Daughter of Lori Robbins
& Brian Slipakoff

Winnie Rae Frezel

Daughter of Andrea Brothman
& Michael Frezel

Lillian Elana
Workman

Daughter of Brooke &
Eric Workman

CONFIRMATION GREETINGS!

Sisterhood is helping to spread some MLRT love by offering Confirmation Greetings to our wonderful 2026 Confirmands! For a minimum donation of \$18 (larger donations are always welcome), we will add your name and good wishes to these much needed and much appreciated greetings for our students.

This annual fundraiser offers an opportunity to support Women of Reform Judaism's YES Fund, which provides annual grants for Youth - Programs for high school and college students, Education - Rabbinic and Cantorial scholarships, and Special Projects - Local, national, and international Sisterhood programs. Your participation shows our MLRT family how much you care AND makes a gift to the future of our Reform movement.

Please pay online at mlrt.org/sisterhood or send your check (payable to MLRT Sisterhood) to the MLRT office with instructions about how you'd like your name to appear. Checks must be received by May 26.

Please contact Cheryl Harper at charperartist@gmail.com with any questions. *Thank you for your support!*

TheTribe: CURIOSITY, COMMUNITY, AND A LITTLE BIT OF CHAOS (THE GOOD KIND)

Ross M. Levy rlevy@mlrt.org

Tuesday nights at MLRT belong to our teens. When 7:00 pm rolls around, TheTribe shows up ready to learn, argue a little, laugh a lot, and explore what Jewish life actually means in the real world.

One of the things I love most about TheTribe is that no two weeks ever feel the same. This round of electives has been a perfect example of that. In one room, you'll find Jewish Cooking for Shavuot with Sarah and Rabbi Geri Newburge, where students are learning the traditions behind the holiday while preparing some very important dairy-based research. Down the hall, Rabbi Eric Mollo is leading History Mysteries, where teens dig into fascinating moments and unanswered questions from Jewish history. In the social hall, we have Krav Maga with FitMax, where students are learning Israeli self defense and building confidence along the way. And in another room, Marc Rubin is guiding thoughtful discussions about The Current Temperature in the Middle East, giving our teens a space to ask real questions and better understand a complicated part of the world.

Recently, we also welcomed our 7th graders for our annual Taste of Tribe night. This is our way of letting them peek behind the curtain and see what the next few years can look like. They joined our students for Iron Chef: Passover Edition, where teams raced to create dishes inspired by the story of the Exodus using ingredients like apples, dates,

and cinnamon. It turns out that if you combine teenagers, a timer, and a pile of Passover ingredients, you get creativity, teamwork, and just a little bit of kitchen chaos. In other words, a great night.

And then there is the big moment coming up this spring. At the end of May, our 10th grade students will stand before the congregation for Confirmation, marking years of learning, questioning, debating, and growing together as Jews. Confirmation is a powerful moment because it is not the end of Jewish learning, but a declaration that our teens are choosing to carry it forward in their lives.

It also marks a very important achievement. After years of attending services in the sanctuary, our Confirmation students will finally learn the answer to one of Judaism's great mysteries: exactly how many circles are on the ceiling. It turns out they've been counting all along.

All jokes aside, watching these students grow from curious middle schoolers into thoughtful young adults has been one of the great joys of this program. TheTribe is not just about classes. It is about friendship, identity, leadership, and discovering that Jewish life can be meaningful, thoughtful, and even a little fun.

And TheTribe at MLRT is proof of that.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Rabbi Kevin Kleinman kkleinman@Wmlrt.org

The 2025-2026 Religious School year concludes on May 17. This has been a wonderful year of learning inside and outside the classroom, community building, and family programming. I want to thank our amazing Religious School teachers, *madrichim*, faculty, and parent committee for supporting our students and families throughout the year.

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 Religious School opens on May 1. Families can receive an "Early Bird" discount by completing their membership renewal and Religious School enrollment forms by June 30. We are very excited for the upcoming school year and have many wonderful and amazing things in store for our students and families. So, enroll now and get ready for a great year ahead.

For two years, Lauren Alexander has been a tremendous support as the Religious School Program Coordinator. This school year will be Lauren's last in this role. During her tenure, Lauren has created a welcoming space in the Religious School office for students, teachers, and parents. She has worked hard to plan programs and develop lesson plans. We will miss Lauren's warm presence and her commitment to Jewish educational excellence. We wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors. Thank you, Lauren!

May & June Religious School Calendar

Friday, May 1 – Family Shabbat Service featuring Kindergarten

Sunday, May 10 – No Religious School
Tuesday, May 12 – Final Day 6th and 7th Grade
Sunday, May 17 – Final Day K-5th Grade

SISTERHOOD

Amy Silverman sisterhood@mlrt.org

As we look forward to warm weather and long sunlit days, Sisterhood will be having a very busy May. Before I tell you about that, I would like to thank our wonderful Bargain Boutique team of Ami Lonner, Liz Stoller, Meredith Steel, Lisa Greenblatt, Linda Brock, Linda Finkelstein, Mary Kamplain, Joanna Kowitz, and Gaby Millman.

It is a herculean effort to put on our Bargain Boutique Sale. Members of the Bargain Boutique team commit many hours over many months to the fundraiser and then many members of Sisterhood spend over a week going back and forth to the Temple sorting, displaying, selling, and cleaning up from the sale. Proceeds from the sale allow Sisterhood to support MLRT and other worthwhile organizations.

I would also like to thank Laura Yatvin for all of her efforts helping to plan our privately guided tour of the Weitzman Museum on April 10.

Our in-person General Board meeting has been rescheduled to May 14 at 10:00 am. We will also have another in-person General Board meeting on June 9 at 10:00 am. Our focus for the June meeting will be a brainstorming session for our 2026-2027 year with a potluck lunch. Cook for a Friend will take place at 9:30 am on May 4.


Join us for our Sisterhood Shabbat on Friday, May 8, at 6:30 pm. Special guest Shoshana Dweck, member of the WRJ's Executive Committee, URJ Executive Board, co-chair of ARZENU, and the National Commission of the ADL will take the podium for this annual event.

Our rescheduled delicious and thought provoking Book Review Brunch will take place on May 12 at 11:00 am. Pam Jenoff will be our guest author. She will be discussing her new book, *Last Twilight in Paris*. There should be two copies of the book available at the front office and one copy of the book in the library at MLRT for borrowing. Books will also be available for purchase at the Brunch.

Our Sisterhood closing event will take place on May 28 at 6:30 pm. We will be enjoying good food, good drink, and Israeli dancing with Rak-Dan. Put on your dancing shoes and come enjoy the party!

I am looking forward to the fall of 2026 and many joyful activities with Sisterhood. Again, Sisterhood members, please join us on June 9 to brainstorm and help us plan our 2026-2027 year.

To my fellow sisters and to the MLRT community at large, I wish you a safe, healthy and happy summer.




Shavuot

Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and encourages us to embrace the Torah's teachings and be inspired by the wisdom that Jewish tradition has to offer. Shavuot is Hebrew for "weeks," and the holiday occurs seven weeks after Passover.

Unlike Passover, with Seder, or Sukkot, with the building of the Sukkah or waving of the lulav and etrog, there are few rituals, either synagogue-based or home-centered associated with Shavuot. In ancient times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival during which Israelites brought crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, it is a celebration of Torah, education, and the choice to participate actively in Jewish life.

Festival Service, Yizkor, and Nosh 🕯 Friday, May 22, at 10:00 am




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It's hard to believe the year 5786 is soon coming to a close. As of this writing, we are approaching Pesach and welcoming a long-awaited spring. We endured one of the harshest winters on record and still managed to function. The War in Iran continues, along with so many domestic and global concerns. There is plenty to worry about. I find encouragement and hope, however through community and belonging, especially as the seasons change. The familiar biblical verse of Ecclesiastes, 3.1, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" reminds us of the certainty and hope of a new season. May all of us have a happy, healthy, and peaceful change of seasons.



I'd like to thank the following Brotherhood members for their outstanding help with refreshments at our March 1 Purim Carnival:

Gerry Robbins, Matt Stein, Hy Goldberg, Ed Bleeden, Nathaniel Slipakoff, Jeff Love, Mark Golboro, Glenn Brooks, and Steve Harper.



Upcoming Brotherhood events include: Gladwyne Jewish Cemetery Cleanup on Sunday, May 3 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm, Texas Hold Em Poker Night on Thursday, May 14 at MLRT at 6:30 pm and our annual BBQ at MLRT on Tuesday, June 2 at 6:30 pm. In addition, the Annual Brotherhood Charity Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 22 at Radnor Valley Country Club, beginning at 11:00 am. This year's format features lunch, golf, dinner, and drinks. Registration is now available on the MLRT website at mlrt.org/golf.

B'Achava (In Brotherhood),
David Krupnick, Brotherhood President

Main Line Reform Temple Brotherhood

CHARITY GOLF OUTING

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF GOLF, A DAY OF FUN,
AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OTHERS!

Monday, June 22 at Radnor Valley Country Club

The day's activities include: Registration gift, Closest to Pin prize, \$10,000 Hole in One prize, 50/50 Drawing, and Live and Silent Auctions. Please register by May 20 at mlrt.org/golf.



Gerri Newburge **Senior Rabbi**
gnewburge@mlrt.org

Eric Mollo **Rabbi**
emollo@mlrt.org

Faryn Rudnick **Cantor**
frudnick@mlrt.org

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

Lynne Balaban **Executive Director**
lbalaban@mlrt.org

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

Mihaela Schwartz **ECE Director**
mschwartz@mlrt.org

David E. Straus **Rabbi Emeritus**

Marshall A. Portnoy **Cantor Emeritus**

2026-27 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mary Kamplain **President**

Beth Allen, Amy Buckman, Hayley Ornstein
Vice Presidents

Gary Fink **Treasurer**

Victoria Aronstein **Recording Secretary**

Contributions

February 6 - March 30, 2026

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

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In honor of Gordon Gelfond

Ilene King
In honor of Luke O'Hara and Ed Coleman

Cynthia Rozenberg
In memory of Rabbi Robert L. Rozenberg

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In memory of Jay Aster

Mary Ehrenberg
In memory of Sophie Weinberg

Marsha & Richard Gash
In memory of Florence Perilstein

Martina & Joshua Hedetniemi

Sharon & Aaron Kanze
In honor of the birth of Sue & Mike Plick's grandson

Carrie & Stephen Latman
In honor of Gordon Gelfond

Fay & Ted Mushlin
In honor of the 108th birthday of Dottie Swartz

Susan & Alan Silverberg

Rabbi Richard & Diane Steinbrink

Celia R. Wasserman
In memory of Bessie W. Strickler

ART FUND

Barbara Speker Ghen
*In memory of Bernard Speker
In memory of Ruth Speker*

BROTHERHOOD FUND

Mary & Louis Bernstein
In honor of Victoria Blisard on her election to the Board of Trustees

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The D'Ettorre Family
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Charlotte & Marvin Garber
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Jennie & Sam Nemroff
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The Litchman Charitable Fund
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Lee Rosenbloom
In memory of Rich Rothwart's mother

L'DOR V'DOR FUND

Ann & Gordon Gelfond
In memory of Skip Seidelman

Susan Kleinman
In memory of Evelyn Slutzky, Sidney Slutzsky, and Esther Rudin

M. THORNER CAMP HARLAM SCHOLARSHIP

Mel & Les Schwartzberg
In honor of Gordon Gelfond's Birthday

Cheryl & Neil Shander
In memory of Myer Kravitz

MITZVAH FUND

Linda Broder
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In memory of John Hirsch

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Jennie & Sam Nemroff
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Rabbi Richard & Diane Steinbrink
In memory of Roz Schwartz



RABBI NEWBURGE DISCRETIONARY FUND

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In memory of Miriam Ginsberg

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In honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Max and Ryan D'Ettorre

The D'Ettorre Family
In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

Marjie & Steve Feinstein
In honor of the naming of Gal Harper Feinstein (Shoshana)

Marjorie & Steve Feinstein
In memory of Marilyn Kaufman

Edgar Freudenberg
In memory of Jenny Goetz

Charlotte & Marvin Garber
In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

Marie & Mark Golboro
In memory of Isaac "Izzy" Stenzler

Judith Grenen
In memory of Judge Albert A. Sann

Margot Horwitz
In memory of Ellis Horwitz

RABBI NEWBURGE DISCRETIONARY FUND CONT.

Debbie Klein & Family
In memory of Benjamin Abrams and Pauline Klein

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In memory of the father of Jamie Meltzer, Allan Meltzer

Meredith & John Marks

Jaime & Simcha Meltzer
In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

Jennie & Sam Nemroff
In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

The Opet Family
In memory of Philip Feig

Cantor Marshall Portnoy
In memory of Jane Portnoy

The Rand Family
In appreciation of the MLRT clergy for all of their help on Riley Rand's Bar Mitzvah

Sidney Rubin
*In memory of Frances R. Smith
In memory of Harriet Rose Rubin*

The Sklar Family
In honor of the naming of Brooke Sklar

Jane Tumpson
In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Sharon Snyder
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Yarden Kleinman

SISTERHOOD FUND

Marlene Faust
In memory of Marilyn Zion

Lisa Greenblatt
In appreciation of Mark Komen

Mary Kamplain
In honor of the birth of Carol Melman Brown's granddaughter, Elle Scarlett Melman

Amy & Bob Silverman
In memory of Arthur Silverman

SPEAKER SERIES FUND

Alicia Felton & Sherrill Neff
Thomas Wiener

QUESTION ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION OR CONCERN ABOUT YOUR LISTING?

Please contact Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing and Communication, at dchornock@mltt.org



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A SIMCHA SHARED IS A SIMCHA DOUBLED.

Rosie & Glenn Brooks on the engagement of their son, Brian Brooks, to Nicole Walsh

Carol Melman Brown on the birth of her granddaughter, Elle Scarlett Melman

Amy Buckman on being named PenSPRA Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association 2026 School Communicator of the Year

Stella & Gordon Fink on the engagement of their grandson, Jonathan Trattner, to Adrienne Hairston

Tracy & Marc Ginsburg on the birth of their granddaughter, Addison Calabretta-Ginsburg

Andy & Jane Heller on the birth of their grandson, Theodore Edward Heller

Patty & Michael Scheinfeld on the birth of their grandson, Jayce Finn Scheinfeld

We want to be a part of your life! Please email our Director of Marketing and Communications, Davida Chornock, at dchornock@mlrt.org so we can share your news, good and bad, with our MLRT Family.

MAZAL TOV

TO OUR MARCH-APRIL B'NAI MITZVAH

MAX

Son of Rebecca Oller & Bryan Rodner

MYLA

Daughter of Kimberly Neff

DYLAN

Son of Jodi & Jeffrey Scott

MAX

Son of Julie & Michael D'Ettorre

RYAN

Son of Julie & Michael D'Ettorre

NORA

Daughter of Diane & Joshua Schwartz

GRETA

Daughter of Julia & Jonathan Agnew

FRIDAY 1 **RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026-27!**

6:30 PM FAMILY SHABBAT

SATURDAY 2
10:30 AM ADULT CONFIRMATION SERVICE

SUNDAY 3
12:30 PM GLADWYNE CEMETERY CLEAN-UP
4:00 PM OUT OF THE ASHES CONCERT

MONDAY 4
9:30 AM COOK FOR A FRIEND
12:00 PM LUNCH WITH THE RABBI

TUESDAY 5
LAG B'OMER

WEDNESDAY 6
12:00 PM ISRAEL AT THE CROSSROADS

THURSDAY 7
9:30 AM TON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

FRIDAY 8
10:00 AM ECE ART SHOW
6:30 PM SISTERHOOD SHABBAT WITH SHOSHANA DWECK

SATURDAY 9
9:00 AM SHABBAT MORNING WALK

SUNDAY 10
MOTHER'S DAY
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

MONDAY 11
8:00 AM ECE PASTRIES WITH PARENTS

TUESDAY 12
11:00 AM SISTERHOOD BOOK REVIEW

THURSDAY 14
2:00 PM BLOOD DRIVE
6:30 PM BROTHERHOOD TEXAS HOLD'EM

SUNDAY 17
MLRT ON THE MOVE
LAST DAY OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

MONDAY 18
8:00 PM KEEPING IT REEL

TUESDAY 19
7:30 PM BERNIE KLEINMAN BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY 21
EREV SHAVUOT
5:00 PM TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT STUDY & DINNER

FRIDAY 22
OFFICE CLOSED
10:00 AM SHAVUOT SERVICE & YIZKOR

MONDAY 25
MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

THURSDAY 28
6:30 PM SISTERHOOD CLOSING EVENT

FRIDAY 29
7:30 PM CONFIRMATION SHABBAT SERVICE

SUNDAY 31
10:00 AM PASS THE GRITS & GEFILTE FISH
7:00 PM BEER & WINE SOCIAL CLUB

HAPPENING EVERY WEEK:

MONDAY MIXED CHOIR AT 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY SISTERHOOD CHOIR AT 9:30 AM
WOMEN'S DIVE INTO LITURGY CLASS AT 11:00 AM
FRIDAY FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE AT 6:30 PM
SATURDAY TORAH STUDY/MORNING SERVICE

Mazel Tov!

B'NAI MITZVAH

MAY 2 - REID SUPAKOFF (PM)
MAY 9 - EMERSON WEISSMAN (PM)
MAY 16 - AUSTIN WALDMAN
KALLIE GOLDMAN (PM)
MAY 30 - BENJAMIN ILLFELDER (PM)



THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT [MLRT.ORG/CALENDAR](https://mlrt.org/calendar). SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR ALL OF OUR EXCITING EVENTS!

June 2026

TUESDAY 2
6:30 PM BROTHERHOOD
CLOSING EVENT

THURSDAY 4
7:00 PM ECE NEW
FAMILIES OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY 5
6:30 PM PRIDE SHABBAT WITH
DR. ARI SUSSMAN

SUNDAY 7
10:00 AM PASS THE
GRITS & GEFILTE FISH

TUESDAY 9
9:30 AM SISTERHOOD
BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY 12
LAST DAY OF ECE/
EARLY DISMISSAL

FRIDAY 19
MLRT CLOSED
FOR JUNETEENTH

MONDAY 22
FIRST DAY OF MLRT CAMP ECE
11:00 AM BROTHERHOOD GOLF OUTING
8:00 PM KEEPING IT REEL

HAPPENING EVERY WEEK:

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S DIVE INTO LITURGY CLASS AT 11:00 AM

FRIDAY FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE AT 6:30 PM

SATURDAY TORAH STUDY/MORNING SERVICE

FOLLOWING JUNE 12, OUR CHOIRS WILL TAKE A
SUMMER BREAK AND RETURN IN THE FALL.



B'NAI MITZVAH

JUNE 6 - WILLIAM PRESS
JUNE 13 - LEO GOODMAN
EVA ROMANOFF (PM)



**THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT
MLRT.ORG/CALENDAR. SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR
ALL OF OUR EXCITING EVENTS!**

TISHA B'AV

Wednesday, July 22

Please join us for this sacred day in the Jewish calendar with traditional liturgy and study, noting that this is customarily a fast day. Further details coming later this summer.

WE EXTEND CONDOLENCES TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THE LOSS OF THEIR LOVED ONES

Dr. Albert N. Brest

Father of Dr. Norman (Carol) Brest and Sheryl (Ron) Kushner; Husband of Arlene S. Brest and the late Suzanne; Grandfather of Jamie (Michael) and Michael (Hannah); Great-grandfather of Madelyn Rose

Ortygia Mae Allen Carnette

Mother of Michael Carnette

Edward Heller

Father of Andy Heller

Allan Meltzer

Father of James (Jaime) Meltzer, David (Kim) Meltzer, Cary (Theresa) Meltzer, Carolyn (Scott) Simons, and Melissa (the late Paul) Warehall; Grandfather of Sydney, Lauren, Miles, Mason, Jordan, and Max Meltzer, and Isabella and Hudson Simons; Husband of Dorothea Meltzer; Brother of the late Dr. Martin Meltzer and the late Charlotte Okonow

Murray "Skip" Seidelman

Husband of the late Ruth "Ricky" Seidelman; Brother-in-law of Bonnie (the late Richard) Tuft; Brother of the late Michael, Phyllis, and Dennis; Father of Sherri Yaron, Karen Elimelech; and Penny (Mark) Sexton; Grandfather of Naama (Matthew), Yigal (Ruthie), Noa (Jon), David, Sarah (Daniel), Abigail, and Aharon; Great-grandfather of Yael, Dalia, Eliana, Regan, Asher, Orli, and Zayn

Please consider a contribution to MLRT in memory of _____ these lost loved ones. _____

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



Photos: Ashley Gerrity

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Main Line Speaker Series with Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel



MLRT celebrated the Phanatic's birthday at the Phillies game!



MLRT Basketball Championship Game - Congrats, Team #9!



MLRT at the Sixers Jewish Heritage Night