



MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE-BETH ELOHIM

MLRT *Matters*

Be Inspired. Be Connected. Belong.



END THE YEAR WITH MLRT!

November-December 2025

Main Office 610.649.7800
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mlrt.org

LIGHTING THE DARKNESS WITH GRATITUDE AND GIVING

Lynne Balaban lbabalan@mlrt.org

Rabbi Geri Newburge gnewburge@mlrt.org

As the year draws to a close, our tradition reminds us that even the smallest light can push back great darkness. At this time of year, when the nights grow long and the air grows cold, we know that we will soon gather with our families around our *menorahs*, bringing warmth, resilience, and faith into our homes and into our community.

This is the message of Chanukah—the miracle of light shining brightly against all odds, of hope persisting even when the world feels dim. And sadly, the world has felt quite dim these days, so any opportunity to offer light is welcome.

This season also calls us to gratitude. We are deeply thankful for the people who make Main Line Reform Temple the vibrant, caring place it is. Our dedicated staff work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that everything runs smoothly—from maintaining and securing our facilities to preparing for services, programs, and holidays. Their efforts often go unseen, but their impact is felt every single day and through everything we do.

We are equally grateful for our volunteers who embody the heart of our congregation. Some are here weekly, others daily, each giving of their time and talent to ensure that every event, service, and gathering reflects the warmth and excellence of our community. Truly, many hands make light work, and MLRT shines because of you.

Our Building and Grounds Committee has taken the idea of lighting the darkness quite literally this year. Thanks to their commitment, we have upgraded the lighting in ALC1, the Hausen, the Alcove, and the office hallway with new energy-efficient LED fixtures that will last for years without needing replacement. Combined with a coat of fresh paint, these spaces now feel brighter, more modern, and more welcoming—a reflection of the energy and renewal happening throughout our congregation.

With Thanksgiving approaching, we have the opportunity to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives. Gratitude is more than a feeling—it is an action. It reminds us to recognize the good in our lives and to respond with generosity and kindness.

We are continually grateful for the spirit of our members, who ensure that MLRT not only endures but thrives as a place of worship, learning, and connection.

Chanukah reminds us that the miracle of light is not only something we remember—it is something we create. Each of us has the power to add our own light to the menorah, to brighten our homes, and to strengthen the light of community. When we give of ourselves—through time, talent, or treasure—we ensure that the flame of Jewish life continues to burn brightly for generations to come.

With gratitude for all we have and for all we can do together, we thank you for your continued generosity, dedication, and support and for considering a year-end and/or legacy gift to MLRT.

May this season bring you warmth, gratitude, and light—and may our shared light continue to shine brightly into the year ahead.

Wishing you a season of peace and illumination!



CONSULTATION ON CONSCIENCE

DECEMBER 12-15 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Join MLRT and RAC to strengthen our power as a Movement through learning, leadership, and advocacy, culminating in a Capitol Hill Lobby Day.

 Scholarships are available - scan to apply!

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ELEVENTH HOUR OF THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH

Cantor Faryn Rudnick frudnick@mlrt.org

A few weeks before Rosh Hashanah, I received a call from a dear friend and colleague, who happens to be a military chaplain. He is back after serving another tour of duty in a location I cannot share, and he is posted to a base, which I also cannot share, where there are approximately 30 Jewish service people. As you might imagine, there are not a lot of active Jewish chaplains in the military, so Jews serving in the military don't always have access to what they need religiously, but my friend is committed to providing Jewish experiences to those Jewish service members through prayer and ritual.

Jews have served in the American Army for generations.



Before the founding of the country, Jewish immigrants fought in the French and Indian War. Many of us know about Haym Salomon, who was instrumental in the lead-up to the Revolutionary War, helping to secure finances from France to support the Continental Army.

Jewish soldiers served on both sides of the Civil War, fought in WWI, and some 550,000 Jewish men and women, approximately 4.2% of the total military forces, fought in WWII.

It was President Lincoln who appointed the first Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Jacob Frankel in 1862. There are now more than 80 Jewish chaplains across all branches of the US military.



Rabbi Alexander Goode, an Army chaplain, helped to save the lives of soldiers and sailors after their ship sank. Goode and the other chaplains on the ship did not survive and were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart. Later, Congress would create a special medal commemorating them, called the Four Chaplains' Medal.

When my friend called, he needed a favor. He is working to provide Shabbat dinner for the Jewish service members on his base. Many of the members at this base come from low-income families, so rather than ask them to help or ask the service members to pay from their small income, he is asking his friends to help. I was honored to donate to provide Shabbat meals for the Jews on his base.

With Veteran's Day upon us, if you are interested in learning more about ways to support our troops, please reach out to me.

And to our MLRT members who are veterans or the parent or family member of someone serving, please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your (their) service.

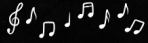
Freedom is never free, and we could not live in this country without your service. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE
SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE

CABARET CABARET CABARET

Sunday, February 22 4:30 pm

YOUR MUSICAL THEATRE FAVORITES PERFORMED BY
THE MLRT KEHILLAH ACCOMPANIED BY DR. ARI SUSSMAN

\$10/PERSON  MLRT.ORG/CAB26

LSR Wellness – Primary Care Concierge Medicine Serving the Main Line

The board-certified physicians Lauren Rosen, MD, Andrew Rosner, MD, and Michele Hirsch, MD are please to introduce you to LSR Wellness in Haverford, PA.

Patients of LSR Wellness receive:

- Personalized medical care
- Comprehensive physicals and lifestyle medicine assessment
- Overall wellness and disease prevention
- Healing through fitness, nutrition, sleep, and emotional health

**551 West Lancaster Avenue, Suite 205
Haverford, PA 19041**

info@lsrwellness.com 610.726.0098 LSRWellness.com

ANSWERING THE CALL: LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Rabbi Eric Mollo emollo@mlrt.org

The first month or two into the New Year of 5786 is the best time to build up our spiritual credit - renewing our capacity for compassion, generosity, and righteous action. This year, that idea takes on even greater meaning. The needs around us are more dire than they have been in many years.

The food shelves in our region are nearly bare. SNAP benefits (commonly known as food stamps) have been slashed, and WIC, the federal program that provides essential nutrition for infants, pregnant women, and young children, is on the brink of disappearing. These programs are literal lifelines for our neighbors and the food insecurity crisis is only getting worse.

Organizations like Philabundance, Narberth Community Food Bank, Ardmore Food Pantry, and others are doing extraordinary work to bridge the gaps, but they can't perform miracles. Directors report that lines grow longer each week—and some guests arrive so hungry they eat whatever food is available before they can even shop.

Where Social Action Meets Social Justice

Our Tikkun Olam Network (TON), the umbrella for all of MLRT's social action and social justice efforts, is working at both ends of the spectrum: meeting urgent needs in the moment and addressing the root legislative causes.

On the social action side, TON volunteers have been collecting warm coats for Mitzvah Circle and Lower Merion Cares, cooking and serving meals for guests at the Ardmore Food Pantry, and organizing food drives.

On the social justice side, our partnership with RAC-PA continues to grow. We are holding house meetings across Montgomery County – alongside our friends at Beth David and Keneseth Israel – to build relationships, share stories, and organize for policy change in our area.



As the sages taught, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah; if there is no Torah, there is no flour." Spiritual life and material sustenance are bound together. It is not enough to learn about justice -- we must pursue it!

How You Can Help: The Power of Directed Giving

Every mitzvah requires both heart and hands, and often, it requires resources as well. This is where our synagogue's discretionary funds become essential tools for good. When you contribute to a clergy member's Discretionary Fund, you enable us to be immediately responsive to requests from community members and organizations who are shouldering the difficult burden of helping those less fortunate. These funds allow us to respond immediately to the calls and emails that come across our desks from local organizations asking for partnership on short notice when needs surge. Because of these funds, we have been able to say yes when other institutions must wait for budget approvals or grant cycles.

The Crisis Before Us and the Hope Within Us

We cannot look away from the urgency of this moment. The safety net is unraveling. The cost of food continues to rise while assistance programs are vanishing. And yet, there is hope. There is always hope, because there is always the Jewish community and because we are making a difference. When we come together, as we did for our recent High Holy Day Food Drive and SukCoat Drive, when we stand shoulder to shoulder at Mitzvah Circle, when we open our homes for house meetings, we remind one another that the world is still worth saving.

Emerging into a New Year of Sacred Obligation

In the months ahead, I encourage you to join these crucial efforts by volunteering, attending a TON meeting, or showing up for a house gathering. And if you wish to strengthen our social action and justice efforts most efficiently, consider a donation to the Rabbi Mollo Discretionary Fund. It is through this fund that I can direct your contributions most swiftly, directly, and effectively.

May this be a season of light, strength, and compassion, and may our collective giving of the heart and the hand shine like the glowing light from our Chanukah candles, rekindling hope for those who need it most.

JOIN US AT THE MITZVAH CIRCLE FOUNDATION AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Volunteer at 9:30 am on Thursdays, November 6 and December 4. Contact Liz Stoller at ljstoller@gmail.com with questions and to RSVP.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Kamplain president@mlrt.org

On Yom Kippur, I made an appeal to the congregation to think about wearing our belonging. I showed you the physical symbols I wear that make me feel connected to Judaism, and I loved seeing some of the jewelry and items that give you that same feeling. I identified MLRT as something I figuratively wear that makes me feel brave, strong, and hopeful. In today's world, being Jewish together is not just a matter of convenience and preference. We need each other for safety, community, and continuity. Our definition of belonging is not just making an annual contribution; we want you to feel like MLRT is exactly where you are supposed to be. Like your favorite cardigan, belonging at MLRT should feel comforting, warm, and protective.

One of the ways we can wear our belonging is by leaning in to all MLRT offers. This bulletin is full of opportunities for spiritual growth, social action, community building, and education. At this time of year, when our secular and religious holidays have us focused on gratitude, resilience, and spreading light, engaging with our MLRT family at our programs and events will make us feel inspired and connected and grounded.

We can also wear our belonging by considering what impact or legacy we can offer to MLRT. I talked about the need to grow our Endowment Fund to preserve and perpetuate our congregation, our traditions, and our spaces for future generations of MLRT families. I invited everyone to imagine how connected and fortified and empowered they would feel by creating a legacy plan that supports and sustains this community that we care about so deeply. Wearing your belonging this way is not just an exercise in fulfilling your own philanthropic goals; it is a signal and example to others of the responsibility we feel to each other and to our future.

Our Life and Legacy committee will be reaching out to you to talk about the ways you can transform belonging into legacy using planned giving techniques. Please reach out to me, Rabbi Newburge, or Lynne Balaban if you would rather not wait to have a conversation. During this time of giving, and as you put on your favorite cardigan, I hope you will consider giving yourself the gift of nourishing and improving this Jewish community. Your support, partnership, and investment in MLRT are invaluable and something we all can and should wear with pride.

MLRT L'Dor V'Dor Society: Life and Legacy

Chances are you already support Jewish charitable organizations in Greater Philadelphia, but have you included local organizations and MLRT in your will or estate plan? By leaving a legacy, you can assure that the traditions and institutions that mean so much to you today will exist for future generations.

Life & Legacy® is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia that promotes after-lifetime giving to benefit local Jewish day schools, synagogues, social service organizations and other Jewish entities.



By Making a Legacy Commitment You Can:

Preserve the programs and organizations that support Jewish life in Greater Philadelphia.

Perpetuate the Jewish traditions you cherish.

Express values instilled in you from previous generations.

Give MLRT has the opportunity to secure up to a \$7,500 incentive grant.

For more information, please contact Mary Kamplain, our Temple President at president@mlrt.org, our Executive Director, Lynne Balaban, at lbaban@mlrt.org, or our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Geri Newburge, at gnewburge@mlrt.org

NOVEMBER IS JEWISH BOOK MONTH

The newly streamlined and relocated library is almost ready and waiting for you to stop by, take a look and sign out a book. Located in the space formerly known as ALC1 or Drucker Lounge, congregants and their families will find a visit to the library worthwhile, whatever their interests. There will be sections for fiction, cookbooks, biographies, memoirs, and nonfiction. In addition, the Jewish Book Council books for 2025-2026 are already on display in their own designated area.

Other options are to consider the offerings at our two book carts. One is outside the sanctuary and those books are available for check out, and the other in the lobby, which are available for the taking-no need to return- enjoy and pass along!

See below and mlrt.org/LLL for details about special events by authors selected from the Jewish Book Council books and a celebration of the 100th anniversary of National Jewish Book Month in November.



Shown above are some members of the library committee who look forward to hearing that you enjoy the library in its new configuration. From left to right:
Front row: Ann Gelfond, Judy Horowitz, Lynn Furness, Laura Yatvin & Sue Borden
Back row: Gail Simon, Joan Frost, and Renee Margulies

GERTRUDE BELL

A THREE PART SERIES WITH RABBI NEWBURGE

Discover the extraordinary life of Gertrude Bell, scholar, explorer, and diplomat, through Desert Queen by Janet Wallach.

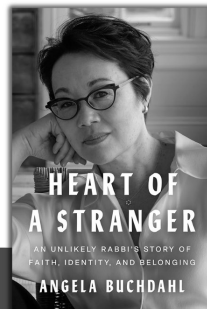
Rabbi Newburge will explore Bell's adventures across Arabia, her influence on the shaping of the Middle East, and the enduring questions her story raises about power, purpose, and identity.

12:00 pm Mondays,
Dec. 1, 15, and 22



Jewish Book Month 100
One Community

Rabbi Angela Buchdahl
in Conversation with Abigail Pogrebin



November 18
1:00 PM ET
Zoom

Register at jewishbookcouncil.org/events

In Partnership with Jewish Book Council Network Member Sites



**CELEBRATE THE FIRST JBC AUTHOR
EVENT OF THE YEAR AT A GROUP WATCH
PARTY AND RECEPTION IN OUR NEWLY
REMODELED LIBRARY LEARNING SPACE**



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED
AND LUNCH PROVIDED!**



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
@ 12:30PM IN ALC 1**

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with your MLRT family on Friday, December 19!

Come for food and fun - Israeli olive oil tasting, Israeli wine tasting, sufganiyot, and a delicious potluck with family heirloom recipes! We'll gather in the Hausen for an interactive Shabbat service and dinner at 6:00 pm.



\$5/child over age 5. \$5/Adult if you bring a dish to share OR \$10/Adult without a dish to share.



LIGHTING THE CHANUKIAH

We begin with one candle on the first night, and add a candle each night for eight nights. In addition, we light the *shamash* each night which we use to light the other candles. Since these lights are holy, we aren't supposed to make practical use of them (e.g., using them to see or read by, or lighting other candles with them); therefore, we use the *shamash* to light the ones that mark each night of the holiday.

The candles should be added to the *chanukiah* 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. The first two blessings are sung every night, the third only on the first night.

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.

For first night only: בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזֶּמַן הַזֶּה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

ECE FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mihaela Schwartz mschwartz@mlrt.org

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur invite us to reflect and set the tone for how the school year may look for children, families, teachers, and ourselves. While it is a time I use to focus on planning for our ECE community, I like to challenge myself to go deeper and find the thread that connects the professional and personal. Here are my personal reflections that I would like to share with you for 5786. I hope these reflections will resonate with you and inspire your own personal journey this year.

1. Fresh Start & Letting Go

Rosh Hashanah, a time for new beginnings, invites us to release what no longer serves us. What is one worry, habit, or stress from last year you'd like to set down as you enter this new year? This act of letting go is a powerful way to start fresh and embrace the opportunities of the coming year.

2. Small Joys Count Too

When the days feel overwhelming, what is one small moment of joy you've noticed recently in your school — a child's laughter during a game, a teacher's kindness in helping a struggling student, a family's gratitude for the support they've received? These small moments remind us of the beauty and joy that can be found in our work.

3. Sweetness for Us- Encourages self-compassion, not just caring for others.

We share apples and honey with children to wish for a sweet year. What sweetness can you intentionally offer yourself in this season? Remember, self-compassion is just as important as care for others. Take a moment to think about how you can be kind to yourself this year.

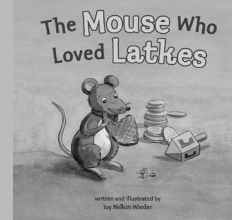
4. The Shofar's Call - The shofar is a wake-up call.

What is one area of your leadership where you'd like to 'wake up' to pay closer attention, or to renew with fresh energy?

5. Circles of Support-round challah represents wholeness and community.

Who is in your circle of support, and how can you lean on them more this year? Remember, we are all part of a larger community, and together, we can provide the support and strength needed to navigate the challenges of the coming year.

May this year bring you strength when the work feels heavy, clarity when decisions are complex, joy in the children's learning, and sweetness in your own life. May you remember you are not alone in this sacred work.



Save the date for a very special Jewish Book Council story time with Joy Nelkin Wieder, author of The Mouse Who Loved Latkes.

Sunday, December 21 and Monday, December 22 - more details coming soon!

MLRT ECE HSA invites you to

shop
amazing
local
vendors!

sip
n
shop

open
to all!

NOVEMBER 20TH FROM 7-9PM AT MAIN LINE REFORM TEMPLE

tickets

\$20 BEFORE NOV 1ST & \$25 AFTER • \$35 AT DOOR

All tickets include wine, light bites, & one raffle ticket



Have a business and want to get involved?

Contact Co-Fundraising Chairs at marajelliot@gmail.com, vshails14@gmail.com, & alexisruderman@gmail.com

The Tribe has launched into the new year with incredible momentum and purpose. Tuesday nights are alive with energy as our 8th–12th graders dive into our brand-new Life Skills curriculum, a year-long journey that blends practical learning with Jewish values. We kicked off the season with an epic QR-code scavenger hunt and puzzle challenge, setting the tone for teamwork, laughter, and connection.



Just one week later, our teens took on a serious and meaningful challenge with CPR and AED training, where we certified more than 40 students in lifesaving skills in a single night. As we teach leadership and responsibility, we root each lesson in the Jewish idea that “one who saves a single life saves an entire world.”

The following week, we turned to reflection and resilience by watching the moving documentary “October 8” on the second anniversary of October 7. Guided by our clergy, we created space for thoughtful conversation and emotional processing, ensuring our teens are not only informed but also empowered to be voices of empathy and positivity in their communities.

Our Madrichim have also returned to the Religious School on Sundays, serving as classroom leaders, mentors, and role models for our youngest learners. Their enthusiasm and sense of purpose are setting the tone for a wonderful year ahead.

Take a swing with Tribe Social and join us on November 9 at Top Golf. Whether you're a pro or novice, there is something for everyone. Contact me to learn more.

The Tribe is also using Instagram and YouTube to share our story and highlight our students' creativity, community, and learning. From event recaps to student-made videos, we are connecting with more families and teens than ever before. Follow us

on Instagram at @mlrtribe and subscribe to MLRTribe on YouTube to stay connected and see what's next.

Finally, we are thrilled to officially welcome Sarah Hoffman, our new Tribe Coordinator. Her warmth, creativity, and organization have already made a huge impact, and our teens absolutely adore her. We could not be more grateful to have her on our team.

This year, The Tribe is more than a program. It is a movement that is helping our teens learn, grow, and build a community rooted in skill, kindness, and Jewish heart.

Religious School Ruach

Rabbi Kevin Kleinman kkleinman@mlrt.org

November and December are busy months for MLRT's families in Religious School. We have Shabbat Services, Retreats, Family Programs, and our annual Consecration ceremony. We end the year celebrating Chanukah together as an MLRT community. RSVP and registration links will be sent out via email.

In November, we will focus on the Jewish value of having gratitude. Our morning prayers begin with reciting “Modeh Ani” – which means, “I am grateful.” We are grateful for your family's involvement at MLRT and look forward to seeing you at these meaningful and fun programs and services.

November and December Religious School Family Calendar

11/7 – 2nd Grade Family Shabbat
11/8 – 5th Grade Family Retreat
11/16 – 1st Grade Mishpacha (Family) Program

11/23-11/30 – No Religious School
12/5 – Family Shabbat with 1st Grade Consecration
12/14 – 6th Grade Family Retreat
12/19 – Chanukah Shabbat
12/23-12/30 – No Religious School

Beer & Wine Social Club

11/2/25 - Don't forget to move your clock back so you'll be on time for our November meeting at the home of Rabbi Geri Newburge!

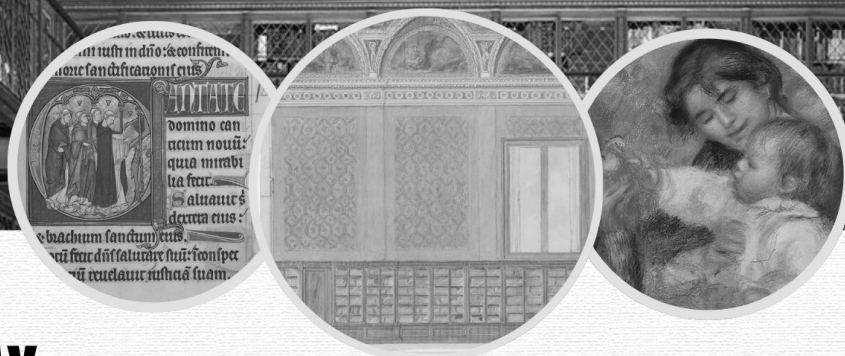
12/7/25 - Just in time for Chanukah, join us at the home of Lori & David Israeli with your favorite holiday drink or snack to share. Polish up your dreidels for some serious competition.

1/11/26 - Come celebrate 2026 with us at PJ Whelihan's in the Wynnewood Shopping Center. With dozens of interesting beverages to choose from and a diverse menu, there's something for everyone.

Raise a toast with the most spirited group at MLRT at 7:00 pm!

Explore

THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM WITH MLRT ON THE MOVE



**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 13**

- Docent-led tour of The Library
- Docent-led tour of Sing a New Song: Psalms in Medieval Art and Life
- Docent-led tour of Renoir Drawings

- Leave MLRT via bus at 8:00 am; return to MLRT at 6:00 pm
- \$100/MLRT members and \$110/non-members (does not include lunch)

- Free time to explore The Library after the completion of our tours
- Contact Ann Gelfond at ann.gelfond@comcast.net with questions.



Space is limited - register now for this great adventure at mlrt.org/MOTM25



LUNCH WITH THE RABBI

Fill your soul and stomach during the monthly lunch & learn with Rabbi Newbuge

12:00 pm Monday, November 10



BERNIE KLEINMAN BOOK CLUB

The Secret of Secrets by Dan Brown

Tuesday, November 18
7:00 pm snacks & 7:30 pm discussion



S A P I R

IDEAS FOR A THRIVING JEWISH FUTURE

The SAPIR Salon initiative was created to revive and strengthen the art of thoughtful discourse. With these salons, we hope to bring together those interested in Israel and issues impacting the Jewish community for a spirited AND respectful conversation around one or two of the essays from the journal Sapir. Join the first salon on November 17!

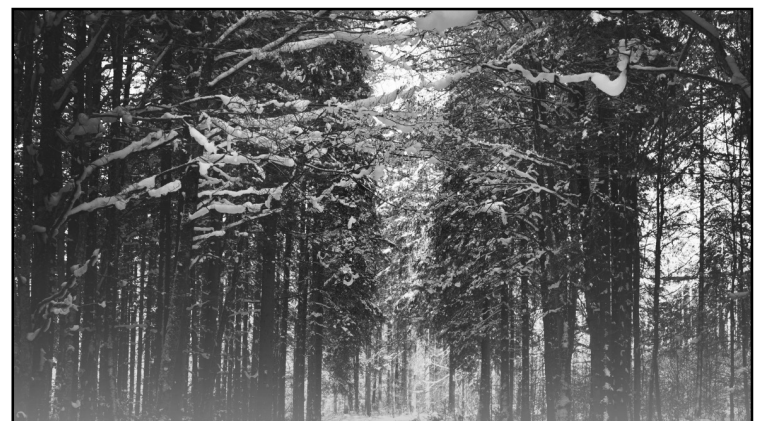
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 7:00 PM



KEEPING IT REEL

Discuss a Netflix movie with Rabbi Newbuge at 8:00 pm on Mondays every month on Zoom!

November 24 <u>Penguin Lessons</u>	December 15 <u>Shirkers</u>
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SHABBAT MORNING WALK

Embrace the season's beauty and warmth of community during this 9:00 am monthly winter walk with Rabbi Newbuge!

November 15 Cynwyd Heritage Trail	December 20 Haverford Reserve
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SISTERHOOD

Amy Silverman sisterhood@mlrt.org

As I sit and write this, Rosh Hashanah has passed and Yom Kippur is a week away. I must get used to pretending it is two months from now when I write these articles. The time I spent during the High Holy Days, at Main Line Reform Temple and with my family, provided me with a much needed sense of community, of solace, of contemplation and of joy.

I want to thank Cheryl Harper, Sue Rubin Plick, and Janet Treiman for their help with the Break-Fast at the Temple. I would also like to thank our wonderful programming committee of Jackie Bobrin, Sue Rubin Plick, Maddy Shusterman, and Meredith Steele for all the time, creativity, care, and hard work that went into our opening event, "Back to Your Bat Mitzvah."

Here are some of the upcoming events for Sisterhood in the next two months: Our in-person general board meeting is

at 10:00 am on November 11. Our Zoom general board meeting is at 7:00 pm on December 9. Our Cook for a Friend will be on November 17 and December 9. There are two shifts on Cook for a Friend mornings. 9:30 to 10:30 for preparing the meals and 11:15 to 12:00 for packaging the meals. Our always fun Membership Appreciation Event will be on December 11 (details to follow). Sisterhood will sponsor, prepare, and assist with the Temple Staff Lunch on December 16. On December 12-15, the RAC Consultation on Conscience will take place in Washington, DC. The deadline to register is November 28. WRJ may still have scholarships for those who would like to attend. Please contact Rabbi Mollo if you are interested.

To my fellow sisters and to the Main Line Reform Temple community at large, a Happy Thanksgiving, a Happy Chanukah, and a Happy and Healthy secular New Year.

BROTHERHOOD

David Krupnick brotherhood@mlrt.org

As I write this, our Philadelphia Phillies were just eliminated from the MLB Playoffs, following a 2-1 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 11 innings on October 9. Despite an overall great season, our hopes of making it to another World Series were ultimately dashed. With two outs and bases loaded, Phillies pitcher Orion Kerkering made a wild throw past home plate instead of tossing to first base. The runner on third base ran home, scoring the winning run. The 50,000+ fans at Dodger Stadium erupted with joy, as the Phillies walked off the field in stunned disbelief. While as shocked as anyone, I was deeply moved by Phillies players J.T. Realmuto and Nick Castellanos immediately consoling Kerkering, followed by Manager Rob Thomson. Even in the seconds following the loss, they were able to put aside the shocking defeat and help a fellow player on what was likely the most crushing moment in Kerkering's life.

Judaism teaches us the importance of kindness and forgiving in many passages. One of the more familiar biblical verses is found in Leviticus, 19:18, which states "Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." I also find relevance in Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." In addition, Zechariah 7:9 indicates, "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.'" Whatever passage appeals to you, the message of forgiveness still holds relevance today. Yes, even for Philadelphia sports fans. I hope you can find your own interpretation and expression of forgiveness in the coming year.

I hope you and your friends and family had a happy and fulfilling High Holy Day season as we usher in 5786. MLRT Brotherhood once again constructed and deconstructed our Sukkah with great precision. Thanks to Ed Bleeden, Gary Brock, Mark Komen, Mark Golboro, Gerry Robbins, BJ Slipakoff, Steven Weinkrantz, Mike Blissard, Tom Harari, Steven Harper, Mike Scheinfeld, and Peter Ballin for helping to make our Sukkah such a special place.

Our annual Steaks in the Sukkah event on October 8 was a well-attended, delicious success. Upcoming events include a Men's Night Out (Dinner and Meeting) on November 13 at Gullifty's in Rosemont at 6:00 pm and a Texas Hold Em card night on December 8 at MLRT at 6:30 pm. We are always open to hear suggestions of possible programs and events. Brotherhood membership is now up to 105 members, though we would love to welcome many more. If you're not already a member, please consider joining our group and attending an event.

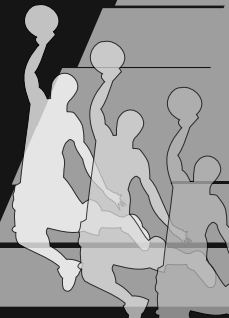
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BASKETBALL

Pre-Season Shoot-Around: November 17 | 6:45 – 9:00 PM
Kaiserman JCC (45 Haverford Rd, Wynnewood)

Shoot your shot and join the team!
\$195 for MLRT Members & ECE Parents; \$225 for others

 IF YOU KNOW HOW TO BALL, SCAN
HERE TO REGISTER BEFORE 11/7.



GIVING AND GROWING WITH MLRT

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is December 2 — and your gift can make all the difference.

As we look back on a year filled with meaning, connection, and growth at Main Line Reform Temple, we're deeply grateful for all that you've made possible. Your generosity keeps our community strong and our light shining bright.

Your Giving Tuesday gift—of any amount—helps:

- Keep our doors open and our sacred spaces welcoming to all who seek comfort and connection.
- Bring life to our programs and celebrations that spark joy, learning, and belonging.
- Empower us to respond with compassion when our community faces new challenges or needs.

Now, more than ever, your support matters.

Make your annual gift today to sustain MLRT in the present, and consider a legacy gift to help ensure our future. Together, we can keep MLRT a beacon of hope, warmth, and Jewish life for generations to come. Learn more or make your gift at mlrt.org/support.

Geri 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
lbabalan@mlrt.org

Ross M. Levy
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Director, Early Childhood Education
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Together, they will reveal how antisemitism hides in plain sight, how law and data can disrupt it, and how a new generation can help chart a legal path forward in the fight against hate.

SCAN HERE



TO REGISTER

**APPROVED FOR CLE CREDIT
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 7:00 PM**

Contributions

August 13-October 6, 2025

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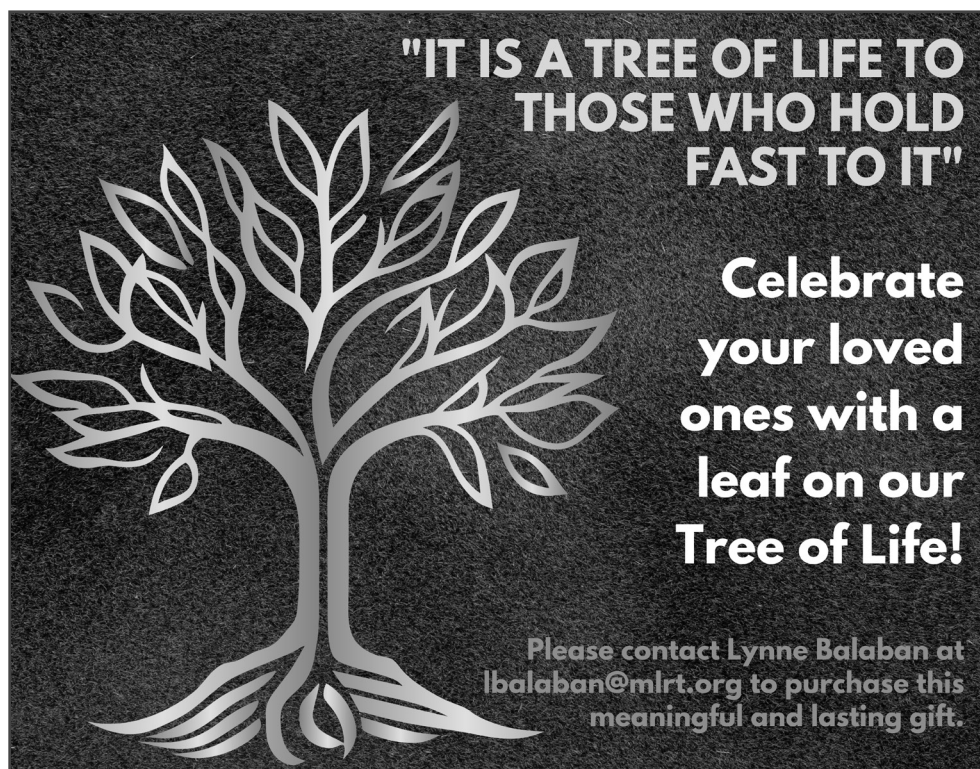
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In memory of Claude de Botton*



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In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

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Nancy Gabel

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In honor of Penelope Peedin's Bat Mitzvah

Rachelle Leshner

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In memory of Ken Hurwitz

Sherrill Neff & Alicia Felton

In memory of Edith White

In memory of Aron Wahrman

In memory of Mark Howard Rawdin

In memory of William Frankl

In memory of Claude de Botton

David Rawdin

In appreciation of Rabbi Geri Newburge

Paula & Stanton Remer

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Carter Gelfond

Eileen & Bill Rosner

In honor of Mitchell Barg's Bar Mitzvah

Cindy & Jeffrey Ruben

In honor of the Ross/Ruben Wedding

In memory of Kenneth Hurwitz

Mindi & Phil Schwartz

Shana Schwartz

In honor of the naming of my granddaughter, Andi Elle Muchnick

The Shapiro Family

In memory of Phyllis Hartman

Laura & Richard Shur

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Carter Gelfond

Susan & Alan Silverberg

Roslyn Squire

In memory of Janet Silman

Marc, Ann, and Jonny Sonnenfeld

In memory of Rochelle Sonnenfeld

David Steinbrink

SECURITY FUND

Bette & Shel Steinberg

In memory of Jack Tartock

Susan & Alan Silverberg

SISTERHOOD FUND

Amy Silverman

In honor of Effie Wilson Daniels, granddaughter of Michelle and Rick Wilson

Allison & Steven Weinkranz

In memory of Kenneth Hurwitz

WELCOME THE NEWEST MLRT MEMBERS!

Sharon Altman
Meg Averill
Brittany & Alex Berman and Family
Lindsey Blumenthal & Scott Spencer and Family
Emily Krulik & Robert Bloom
Erica Borman & Steven Moonblatt and Family
David Cherkas & Lauren Ferst and Family
Jenna Chodos & Colton Growney
Amy Weiser Chucker & Michael Chucker and Family
Rebecca Citrin & Eric Maxon and Family
Jenna Mersky & Matthew Cohen and Family
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Dayna & Matthew Doroshov and Family
Mark Edelstein & Sneha Medappa Maruvanda
Beverly Emanuel
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Leah Greenstein & Carl-Oscar Gustafson
Howard Grossman and Family
Dayna & Joshua Hafetz and Family
Perri & Adam Haft and Family
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Kathy & Ady Hershcovitch
Deborah & Max Hirsh and Family
Phyllis Levin Ingber & Frederick Ingber
Jessica & Phillip Isen and Family
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Olivia & Sam Jaffe
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Rachel & Paul Kesselman and Family
Ariel & David Kivitz and Family
Jenna & Sam Korff and Family
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Sandra & Ethen Ostroff and Family
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Daniel Ward & Corrine Chernich
Bari & Alex Weiner and Family
Sandra Weingarten
Julia & Jonathan Wilt and Family
Barbara & Philip Zoltick

MAZALTOV

TO OUR SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER B'NAI MITZVAH

PENELOPE

Daughter of
Alexis & Mitchell
Peedin

NATALIE

Daughter of
Allison & Paul
Gittens

NATHANIEL

Son of
Simone & Michael
Lamm

MIKAYLA

Daughter of
Tracy Breslin &
Alison Avera

REUBEN

Son of Emily Bobrow
& Harsha
Thirumurthy

ZACHARY

Son of Amanda
& Eric Simon

HEATH

Son of Jennifer &
Seth Sirover

LILA

Daughter of Karen
& Jon Richter

JAMIE

Daughter of
Michele & Ryan
Pesin

LEAH

Daughter of
Madeleine & Matthew
Shusterman

ZACHARY

Son of
Amy & Joel Wertman

MORGAN

Daughter of
Jennifer & Seth Sirover

MITCHELL

Son of Holly & Jason Barg

ERIC JACOBS

Grandfather of Mitchell Barg

UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH... CELEBRATE WITH US!

11/1 Gracie Green
11/8 Spencer Ginesin
11/15 Adin Sylvester & Jacob DeRosa
Myles Marcus (pm)

11/22 Dean Kelman
Levi Shechtman (pm)
12/6 Sarah Nevas
12/13 Charles Murphy-Jones

IN MEMORIAM

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

Phyllis Garber Beresin

Sister of Marvin (Charlotte) Garber; Aunt of Lisa Linder and Richard Grossman; Great-aunt of Julian and Bailey Grossman

Jill Cagen

Sister of Nina (Bernard) Garber

Kenneth Hurwitz

Husband of Simmi Hurwitz; Father of Jamie (Jim) Perrello, Jon (Debbie Bing) Hurwitz, and Bill (Lisa Nager) Hurwitz; Grandfather of Max, Nathan, Maggie, Jacob, Lucy, Hannah, and Henry; Uncle of Richard (Sue) Kupersmith

Merle McAllister

Wife of John McAllister; Mother of David Potts, Marni O'Riordan, Joseph (Ashley) Potts, Andrew (Jennifer) Potts, Sarah (David) Rosenberg, the late Thomas Potts, Karen (Andrew) Verderame, and Andrew McAllister; Sister of Anne (John) Sonne, Jon (Nancy) Levin, the late Martin Levin, and the late Kay St. Jean; Grandmother of 15; Great-grandmother of 2

Jillian Moskowitz

Daughter of Robert Moskowitz; Sister of Meir Moskowitz and Tamara Moskowitz; Stepsister of Davida Chornock and Hannah Farkas

Jocelyn Miller Shulman

Daughter-in-law Jackie & Richard Shulman; Wife of David Shulman; Mother of Penelope Shulman; Sister-in-law of Jill & Ross Shulman; Aunt of Drew and Brett Shulman

Please consider a contribution to MLRT in memory of these lost loved ones. **Visit mlrt.org to make a donation in their names.**

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MAZAL TOV!

A SIMCHA SHARED IS
A SIMCHA DOUBLED.

Jenna Chodos & Colton Growney on their wedding

Mark Edelstein & Sneha Medappa
Maruvanda on the birth of their daughter,
Meera Edelstein

Charles Forer on the marriage of his daughter,
Sarah, to Cem Atillasoy

Ann & Gordon Gelfond on the Bar Mitzvah of
their grandson, Carter

Stuart Gelfond on the Bar Mitzvah of his
nephew, Carter

Eric Jacobs on his Bar Mitzvah and the Bar
Mitzvah of his grandson, Mitchell Barg

Shelly Leschner on the birth of her grandson,
Lou Stills Santana

Meredith & John Marks on the engagement of
their son, Will Marks, to Regina De Nigris

Jennie & Sam Nemroff on the marriage of their
son, Andrew Nemroff, to Mara Reese

Cynthia Rozenberg on the birth of her
granddaughter, Gia

Richard & Diane Steinbrink on the marriage of
their grandson, Sam Coonin, to Joni

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

UPCOMING NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

November 2 & December 7 - Beer & Wine Social Club

November 6 & December 4 - TON at Mitzvah Circle Foundation

November 7 - Family Shabbat Service



November 10 - Lunch with the Rabbi

November 13 - MLRT On The Move Trip

November 15 & December 20 - Shabbat Morning Walk

November 17 - SAPIR Salon

November 17 & December 9 - Cook for a Friend

November 18 - Bernie Kleinman Book Club 

November 18 - Jewish Book Council program with Rabbi Buchdahl

November 20 - ECE Sip 'n Shop

November 24 - MLRT Adult Basketball League Season Starts



November 24 & December 15 - Keeping It Reel

November 27 & 28 - Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December 1 - Blood Drive 

December 1, 15 & 22 - Desert Queen Class

December 2 - CLE Antisemitism Course

December 2 - Giving Tuesday

December 12 - First Grade Consecration Shabbat Service



December 14-22 - Chanukah

December 19 - Shabbat Chanukah Potluck Party

December 21-22 - JBC Event with Joy Nelkin Wieder

December 25 - Office Closed



All programs are subject to change. Please visit
mlrt.org/calendar for the most up to date information.

Sundays - Junior Jammers

Mondays - Mixed Choir

Wednesdays - Sisterhood Choir & Women's Commentary Class

Thursdays - Adult Confirmation Class

Fridays - Friday Night Service

Saturdays - Torah Study/Service

Main Line Reform Temple-Beth Elohim
410 Montgomery Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096-1399

*For information regarding advertising in MLRT Matters, please contact
Davida Chornock, Director of Marketing and Communications, at dchornock@mlrt.org*

