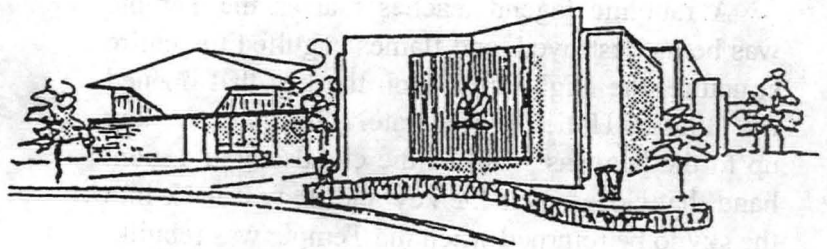


# Monmouth Reform Temple bulletin

The more Torah, the more life.  
מִרְבֵּה תּוֹרָה מִרְבֵּה חַיִּים



IYAR - SIVAN 5760

JUNE 2000

## FRIDAY EVENING SERVICES

- Fri. 2** Tot Shabbat – 6:30 PM  
Sabbath Eve – 8:15 PM  
Sermon: **COUNTING**  
Torah Portion: Bemidbar  
Num.1:1-4:20
- Fri. 9** Sabbath Eve – 8:15 PM  
Consecration of Confirmands  
Sermon: **WHY PRAY FOR HEALING?**  
Torah Portion: Naso  
Num.4:21-5:31
- Fri. 16** Sabbath Eve – 8:15 PM  
Sermon: **ON OUR SHOULDERS**  
Torah Portion: Naso  
Num. 6:1-7:89
- Fri. 23** Sabbath Eve - 8:15 PM  
Sermon: **KVETCHING**  
Torah Portion: Beha'alotecha  
Num. 8:1-12:16
- Fri. 30** Sabbath Eve – 8:15 PM  
Sermon: **A RAG INTO A FLAG**  
Guest Cantor: Menorah Winston  
Torah Portion: Shelach-Lecha  
Num.13:1-15:41

## OTHER SERVICES

- Sat. 3** Sabbath Morning – 10:30 AM  
Sermon: **OUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE DESERT**  
Bat Mitzvah of  
Sarah Doehler  
daughter of William and Renee Doehler
- Thurs. 8** Tikkun Leil Shavuot – 7:30 PM  
Video & Discussion: **L'DOR VADOR: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE**
- Sat. 10** Sabbath Morning – 10:30 AM  
Sermon: **THE MANY FACETS OF SHALOM**  
Bat Mitzvah of  
Jaclyn Cohen  
daughter of Michael and Eileen Cohen
- Sun. 11** Confirmation Service – 10:30 AM  
**WHAT DOES JUDAISM SAY ABOUT...?**
- Sat. 17** Sabbath Morning – 10:30 AM  
Sermon: **BETWEEN THE TWO CHERUBIM**  
Bar Mitzvah of  
Justin Plean  
son of  
Douglas and Rashel Plean
- Sat. 24** Sabbath Morning - 10:30 AM  
Sermon: **DOING JEWISH**  
Bar Mitzvah of  
Charlie Goodall  
son of Lisa and Colin Goodall

**CONFIRMATION**  
Sunday, June 11 at 10:30 AM

## REFLECTIONS

A rabbinic legend teaches that as the Temple was being destroyed, and flames engulfed the entire structure, the High Priest took the key that opened the Holy of Holies. Desperately, he flung the key up to the heavens. Out of the clouds came a giant hand that closed over the key and drew it back into the sky to be returned when the Temple was rebuilt.

Recently in discussing that midrash with a colleague, I recalled first hearing about it from my father. He explained that what was significant was not what the High Priest threw into the heavens but what he did not throw – the Torah. No matter how great the catastrophe, the Torah was not being destroyed. Moreover, unlike the keys to the Temple, the Torah was given to human beings forever. It would always remain ours.

As Jews we struggle over the Torah in many ways: where it came from, what it means, how it should be enacted in our lives. But the midrash holds true in both ways: the Torah remains a Torat Chayim – it is alive and gives life, and it remains on earth, with the people who revere it.

Rabbi David Wolpe



### **Welcome New Members**

*Please welcome to our congregation:*

S. Alan and Gabrielle Weinstein  
and their children  
Jeanne and David  
174 Ocean Avenue/38 Lands End  
Sea Bright 07760  
530-1717  
[synergy38@home.com](mailto:synergy38@home.com)

Linda and Martin Jack Woolf  
and their son Terence  
11 Helene Court  
Tinton Falls 07724  
530-5702  
[woolfmilt@worldnet.att.net](mailto:woolfmilt@worldnet.att.net)

2000

## **Confirmands**

5760

*"What Does Judaism Say About....?" is the theme that our 12 students have chosen to discuss on Sunday, June 11, at 10:30 A.M. We rejoice with them and with their families on this momentous achievement.*

*Matthew Lawrence Amtzis  
son of Barbara Sheridan and Michael Amtzis*

*Melissa Beth Boskey  
daughter of David and Leni Boskey*

*Sarah M. Fass  
daughter of Scott and Patricia Fass*

*Drew W. Fitzsimmons  
son of Stephanie and Lloyd Fitzsimmons*

*Randi S. Goldberg  
daughter of Bert and Lorri Goldberg*

*Sandra Kate Goldberg  
daughter of Richard and Linda Goldberg*

*Susan Elisabeth Hersch  
daughter of Gary and Vallerie Hersch*

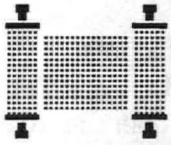
*Gregory Meyer Katz  
son of Charles Katz and Andrea Bakst*

*Brianne Perlman  
daughter of Kathy and Mike Perlman*

*Jason Howard Ryterband  
son of Madelyne and Ed Ryterband*

*David Weinstein  
son of Martin and Joy Weinstein*

*Brian Seth Wylie  
son of Richard and Pamela Wylie*



## FROM RABBI PRIESAND

Elsewhere in the bulletin, Bob Blank has written a report on the Million Mom March. Those of us who went to Washington all agreed that it was an awesome experience. We were particularly proud that Rabbi Eric Yoffie, President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, was chosen to represent the religious community. He spoke eloquently and forcefully, reminding everyone that gun control is a "solemn religious obligation," that we are "partners with God in shaping a better and more hopeful future for all of God's children," and that we intend to hold our elected officials "accountable" if they persist in doing nothing "while the carnage continues in our streets and our homes." The mothers of America gave birth to a movement on May 14th - we pray that it will continue to grow and bear fruit in days to come.

In recent weeks, I have been fulfilling some of my responsibilities as a member of the Board of Governors of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. At graduation ceremonies, I had the honor of serving as sponsor for my friend, Ruth Gruber, author, lecturer and photojournalist, who received an honorary doctorate. You may remember her visit to our congregation in 1983 when she had just finished writing her book HAVEN, the true story of how she, acting on behalf of our government, was able to rescue one thousand refugees during World War II and bring them to America. The story of her incredible mission is being made into a television miniseries which we will all have the pleasure of seeing next year.

Among the other honorees was Dr. Ruth Westheimer, who gave the graduation address. A longtime friend and supporter of the Reform Movement and an active participant in her own synagogue, she spoke with wisdom and humor. Much of what she said was good advice for everyone, not just rabbis and cantors. She suggested, for example, that when you come home at night you shouldn't bring with you any problems you are dealing with at work, so as not to allow them to distract your attention from your family. The best

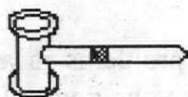
thing to do, she said, is to tie these problems in a little package and leave them outside your door. I guarantee, she continued, that no one will steal them during the night!

She also told us about what she calls her "rainy day drawer." Knowing that all of us have days when we are down in the dumps, she has a drawer filled with pictures and articles that never fail to bring a smile to her face. Whenever she feels depressed or despondent, she goes to that drawer, confident that the opportunity to relive the memories she finds there will help to lift her spirits. What a wonderful idea! I think we all should have a "rainy day drawer."

Three days after graduation, I attended, together with Myra Ostroff, the ordination and investiture ceremony in which we welcomed twenty-eight new rabbis and ten new cantors. Congratulations to Joel and Marilyn Morgovsky whose nephew, Seth, was ordained a rabbi! For me, the most meaningful and touching part of the nearly four hour service was the ordination of a woman named Helga Newmark. As a child, just prior to World War II, she fled Germany and lived in Amsterdam, a friend of Margot and Anne Frank. Later, she would survive the concentration camps of Bergen-Belsen and Terezin. Her father was murdered by the Nazis, but after the war, she and her mother came to America. She married, had children and grandchildren, and then decided to study for the rabbinate. As she came to the bima to be ordained, the entire congregation, some two thousand strong, stood and applauded her accomplishment and dedication. For me, it was not only another first - the first woman who had survived the Shoah to become a rabbi - but also an important reminder that despite the many attempts to destroy us we are an eternal people committed to living by the values of Torah and spreading God's message to all the world. May Helga's example inspire us to do our part in keeping the Jewish people strong and vibrant.

Join us  
Friday, June 2 at 6:30 PM  
for  
Tot Shabbat





## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently sent a joint notice, with Rabbi Priesand, to the entire congregation asking for volunteers for the Arts Festival. In addition to Festival, the Temple is in need of new volunteers for many committees. There are several committees also in need of chairs, including Fellowship and Jewish Philanthropies. Please call me or the Temple office to volunteer, or to get more information. It's a great way to meet other interesting people, and to use your skills to contribute to the congregation's well being.

Congratulations to all the confirmands and their families. I wish everyone a wonderful summer season!

*Gerald Reisner*

### Museum Volunteer Opportunity

New Museum Docent Program is being launched at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Docents are being sought to enhance the visitors' experience and understanding of the exhibitions.

Training in July and August for  
upcoming exhibition

September 25, 2000 through June 29, 2001

*Living in the Moment:*

*Contemporary Artists Celebrate Jewish Time*

An exhibition marking the  
125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HUC-JIR.

This year's Festival set-up was accomplished in record time. Many thanks to those handy guys who put up flats and stayed all day: To custodians Alex and Peter for their patience and pleasant manner, to Al Goldstein for his able hands, to JoAnn Kurry upholsterer extraordinaire, and to everyone else who pitched in. Special thanks to my friend and partner Jackie for her boundless energy and good humor.

Also thank you ladies for my birthday flowers and Claire Kipnis for your great snapshots. This thirtieth year of the Monmouth Festival of the Arts was a huge success due to all our efforts and will be long remembered (at least until next year).

*Maureen Welton*  
Show Designer

## SARAH DOEHLER

Sarah and her parents Renee and William Doehler and her brother Erik are looking forward to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day that Sarah will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Sarah says this was a lot of hard work but she is pleased with her accomplishment. Sarah is a seventh grader at the Ranney School in Tinton Falls. Math and history are her favorite subjects. She is on the swim team, plays the piano and competes in equestrian sports. Her horse, "Snowcap" demands a lot of her time but riding has always been a passion. Mazel tov to Sarah and her family.

## JACLYN DYER COHEN

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, Jaclyn will become a Bat Mitzvah. She and her parents Eileen and Michael Cohen and brothers Brendan and Brian are very excited about celebrating this wonderful occasion with her. Jaclyn is in the seventh grade at the Ranney School in Tinton Falls, where English and Spanish are her favorite subjects. Jaclyn plays soccer and softball and is on the swim team. She also belongs to the Forensics Club. Hobbies include acting, singing and snowboarding. Jaclyn looks forward to becoming a Jewish adult. Mazel tov to Jaclyn and her family.

## JUSTIN DANIEL PLEAN

On June 17, 2000 Justin will become a Bar Mitzvah. His parents, Douglas and Rashel, and sister Jenna Nicole look forward to this milestone. Justin is a seventh grader at Cedar Drive School in Colts Neck. His favorite subjects are math and social studies. He plays on the traveling soccer and basketball teams. Hobbies are riding dirt bikes and playing tennis. Justin comments that preparing for his Bar Mitzvah has been a good experience and helped him learn more about his heritage. Mazel tov to Justin and his family.

## CHARLIE GOODALL

Charlie Goodall will become a Bar Mitzvah on June 24<sup>th</sup>. His parents, Lisa and Colin, and brother Jesse look forward with great anticipation to sharing this important milestone in Charlie's life. Charlie attends Forrestdale School in Rumson and is in the seventh grade. Hobbies include karate, Warhammer, video games, and football. His favorite subject is math. Mazel tov to Charlie and his family.





### A Note from Cantor Daniel M. Rosenfeld

Last night, I finally had a chance to see the film, "Prince of Egypt." It was a meaningful experience for two reasons: first of all, I was watching it at the home of my Israeli friends, and secondly, it was showing during the period between Pesach and Shavuot, the period of the Omer. I thought the stunning animation captured the drama of the Exodus from Egypt.

One of the things which caught my attention was the presentation of *Shirat Hayam* or the Song of the Sea which the Israelites sang after crossing the Red Sea. Though I was unable to hear any real connection to the traditional trope and nusach by which this passage of the Torah is chanted, I was impressed by the joyful, uplifting nature of the tunes composed for the movie.

I then started reflecting on some of the issues with which Cantors often grapple, specifically authenticity and appropriateness. These issues usually give rise to questions like how true to the nusach is a given composition, or how effectively does a given tune express the text, and is it fitting for this setting. And it is these questions which strike at the core of an even more fundamental question, *what is Jewish music?*

The question of what is Jewish music first has to relate to what makes the music Jewish. Jews the world over have invariably been influenced by the conventions and aesthetics of their neighbors. What we know as *traditional* Ashkenazic nusach is based on musical scales which are practically identical to those heard in the music of the Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Germany and other parts of Europe formerly populated with Jews. The comments of Abraham Idelsohn, the first real pioneer in the study of Jewish music and a noted musicologist, support this claim. He states, "It is generally known that a composer creates his music on the established premises of the music prevalent in his immediate environment. His tonal elements he instinctively chooses from the folk- and art-music with which he is filled from folk-song, . . ." Such examples in our own time are the music sung in the youth camps as well as that of Debbie Friedman, Craig Taubmann and other songwriters composing in the folk idiom.

Then what makes it Jewish? The composer's own ethnicity and religion, the text, the musical scales? I believe that much of what in fact makes a piece of music Jewish is its function and the intent of the

composer. There are also the questions of language and aesthetics. Does a piece adequately express the text? Does it capture the rhythm of the Hebrew? And is the style of the composition appropriate? In many ways, this last issue provides me with a good part of the answer to the original question, what is Jewish music. The way in which I sing *Eili, Eili* will differ from the way I sing *Rocky Mountain High*, even though both have similar themes of nature and its splendor.

Another issue raised by the question of what makes music Jewish is tradition. And this becomes subjective and often contentious. I have often heard, "Oh you use different tunes than we do," from visitors to this and other congregations I've served. Congregants often ask for "the traditional" version of a prayer or song. The reality is that every community has developed a body of tunes and styles which bear their stamp. The frequency with which they are sung over a period of time is what ultimately determines their status as "traditional." From a cantorial point of view, the traditions of a given community or group of communities combines with the needs of service leaders and congregants to offer renditions of the liturgy conducive to worship. This, in turn, creates a discipline of study which Cantors transmit from one generation to the next.

It is fascinating to witness how all of these issues play into one another in our time. The age of high tech media and the internet have offered us access to a variety of influences more diverse and eclectic than ever before. Thus we are presented with the challenge of sifting through all of these myriad styles and conventions to seek out that which best suits our needs. Musical scores like that in "Prince of Egypt" address this challenge by combining tradition with modern aesthetics; the Israelites sing the text of *Shirat Hayam* to a contemporary melody accompanied by a modern orchestra. It may not sound like a typical reading of this Torah passage, but I believe it eloquently expresses the joy and awe experienced by the Israelites after the tumultuous events in Egypt and the Sinai. And I'd say that makes it Jewish. In the end, I wonder if God is looking upon us with awe and fascination at the new way in which we sing our praises. I'd like to think so.

B'shalom v'ahavah,

*Cantor Rosenfeld*

## *Social Action* *from Bob Blank*

A filled bus departed Monmouth Reform Temple very early on Mother's Day morning and headed for the Million Mom March in Washington, D.C. Most of those riding on the bus were MRT members including several members of the Confirmation Class and several members of the Social Action Committee. Other MRT members traveled on their own and caught up with the group.

The event was awesome! The sight of a sea of an estimated 750,000 people sprawled out across the national mall was inspiring. The sheer numbers made a statement of which we were a part. We were involved in *tikkun olam* just by showing up!

Many nationally known people spoke. Rosie O'Donnell served as the mistress of ceremonies. Her voice was a powerful one, speaking of "kicking butt" in Congress, and sending the message to Congress that we have had enough of gun violence. She said that we demand sensible gun control legislation, including registration, licensing and child-proofing of hand guns. By far, the most moving moments of the afternoon occurred when people came to the rostrum who would never have imagined themselves addressing a national rally until a sudden and unexpected act of gun violence changed their lives forever. Some were shooting victims who spoke from wheelchairs. Others, very much victims in their own right, had lost a child or other loved one. Their lives would never be the same again. What a moving moment it was when James Brady, after whom the "Brady Bill" is named, was rolled onstage to add a few brief remarks to those of his wife.

On the stage was a 400-pound bell, in the shape of the Liberty Bell, made of melted handguns. It was inscribed with the words of the prophet Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares . . ." Twelve boys and girls were called forward to ring the bell - symbolic of the twelve children who are shot and killed, on average, each day of the year in this country. One was a survivor of Paducha, Kentucky; another was a survivor of Columbine and so forth. One young man was so weak that it took all of his strength to pull the string. He could not make the bell ring.

The emotion was intense throughout the afternoon. So many horrible episodes brought to light once again. Three mothers who had lost children in the nursery school shooting in Scotland in 1993, appeared and spoke. A nineteen year old woman, who had been a camp counselor at the day camp in Granada Hills, California, told of how, after being hit by bullets herself, she yelled to the five year olds in her care to run from the bad man with the gun. The list of incidents seemed endless.

For those old enough to remember the turbulent 1960's, the voices of Kerry Kennedy Cuomo and Maryland Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, each daughters of the late Robert F. Kennedy, brought back painful memories of his death by an assassin's bullet. Memories of the deaths of President John F. Kennedy and of Dr. Martin Luther King were triggered as well. One had to wonder what progress we have made in reducing gun violence in the years which have elapsed since those tragic deaths. Clearly, the time has come for our voices to be heard and our votes counted.

Permit me to express my deep gratitude to Rabbi Priesand for her support of a bus from MRT to the Million Mom March. Rabbi is a spiritual leader who always finds a way to inspire others to make things happen. Special thanks are also extended to Social Action Committee member Pam Burke for organizing the bus trip so efficiently. Mary Sullivan, of Temple Rodeph Torah, is to be thanked as well for all of her efforts. Sisterhood is to be commended for kicking off the Million Mom March weekend by inviting Bryan Miller, Executive Director of Ceasefire New Jersey, to speak at Sisterhood Sabbath.

*Would you like to become a member of the Social Action Committee? For more information or to volunteer for any Social Action projects or events, you may reach me during the day at (732) 462-7170 or during the evening at (732) 625-0776. My e-mail address is bobblank98@aol.com. You may also call the Temple office.*

*Please join us for*  
***Tikkun Leil Shavuot***

A Study program for the Night of Shavuot  
Thursday, June 8th at 7:30 PM



## YAHREZEITS

**June 2:** *Pauline Lang, Ruth W. Meerapfel,  
\*Bessie Goldberg, Esther Haratz, Anna Rogak,  
Mildred Shapiro, Dorothy Herman Ruby,  
\*Minnie Lewis Feinman, \*Mildred Scheuer,  
Helen Cohen-Gardstein, Sylvia Tepperman,  
Bessie L. Bodner, Jack Zager, Philip Zager,  
\*Bertha Grossman, Harold Miller,  
Shirley Schulman, Henriette Rosenfeld*

**June 9:** *\*Andrei B. Yagoda, Dorothy Rosenberg,  
\*Gerhard J. Graupe, Kim Baker, Warren Gross,  
Emanuel Kaye, Morris Sushansky, Dorothy  
Dunn, Louis J. Popper, \*Ida Potozky Friedman,  
Max Tuller, Rose Zwillinger, Seymour Gardstein,  
Daisy Lowenstein, Maurice S. Byck,  
Casper Sober, Hyman Holzman, Morris Rose,  
Norman Zeitlin, Fay Smith*

**June 16:** *Carolyn Einhorn, Ruth Aronow,  
Henry "Budd" Coyne, Harry Zager, Franklyn  
Scheininger, \*Frances Herman, \*Meyer  
Rothman, \*Irwin Wachtel, Leo Zeisel,  
Sidney Fineberg, Samuel Semer, Samuel Danzig,  
Abram Yellenberg, Arthur A. Gilbert*

**June 23:** *Joseph Mayzel, \*Samuel Brenner,  
\*Charles Klein, Rose H. Dick Snedcof,  
Fay Smith, Adam Greenfield, Helen Strahl,  
Jack Finkelstein, Theodore Rosenfeld,  
Emanuel Goldberger, Norma Snedcof Sims,  
Rose Wolinsky, \*Morris Kogos, William Kravitz,  
Joseph Popok, \*Adele Luftman, Leon  
Meiselman, Rose Caplan, Esther Morgovsky,  
Herman Albert, Joseph Krauss*

**June 30:** *Milton Lang, Rose Marks, Mollie Golden,  
Celia Whyman, \*Ryan Sadwith, Bess Isaacs,  
\*Harry Marks, Adolf Rauch, Freda Esther  
Becker, Benjamin Becker, \*Irene Barnett,  
Sophie Ohl, Pearl Shagan, Leah Alexander*

*\*Indicates perpetual Kaddish*

*At our temple, loved ones are memorialized with  
kaddish at the Shabbat service on or following their  
yahrzeit. If you would like someone's name read  
instead on the Sabbath before the yahrzeit, please  
feel free to contact the temple office or see the  
Rabbi just prior to the service.*

### **The Congregation extends warm condolences to:**

Steven and Elaine Weisbrot  
on the death of Steven's mother  
**IRENE WEISBROT**



Richard and Lori Saybolt  
on the death of Richard's mother  
**CATHERINE A. SAYBOLT**



Karen and Larry Kantor  
on the death of Larry's mother  
**FRANCES KANTOR**



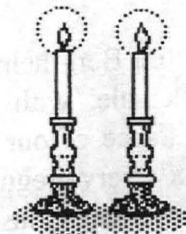
Stephen and Felice Kardos  
on the death of Stephen's mother  
**RUTH KARDOS**



*May God send peace to  
all the bereaved among us.*

### **TRADITIONAL SABBATH EVE CANDLE LIGHTING**

June	2	8:04 PM
June	9	8:08 PM
June	16	8:11 PM
June	23	8:13 PM
June	30	8:13 PM





## Brotherhood Report

The school year is passing too quickly. Graduations and confirmations are upon us. Congratulations to all the Confirmands and their parents. You did it! Best wishes from brotherhood as you continue your education. The Brotherhood Mothers' Day Pancake Breakfast was a success - 15 dozen scrambled eggs were happily consumed. Bernie Brandwene pulled it off - organizing chefs, waiters, doormen, and cleanup crew without a hitch. Also on Sunday, the booksale offered a tremendous selection of books of all categories from classics to romances to kids books. There were hundreds of records (you know those old plastic grooved disks) that brought out collectors from the whole county. All this was put together by the indomitable Don Leeds. By this work alone, he merits entry into the Brotherhood Legion of Honor. Thank you members who worked so hard, especially Mark and Lee Gruensfelder. To those who missed the pancakes but went to the Million Mom March in Washington, we, who are fathers, grandfathers and uncles, thank you!

The executive board of Brotherhood will be planning activities for the year 2000-2001 and perhaps sneaking in some summertime events with Sisterhood. Any suggestions - drop a note to other members or me. We will keep you informed.

*Bob Gabel, President*

*from Don Leeds.....*

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> was an exciting day for MRT, both in Washington, DC (Million Mom March) and at home (Brotherhood's Annual Mother's Day Breakfast and Book/Record/Tape Sale. Thanks to Bernie Brandwene who, along with Larry Avrin, Jim Berg, Jerry Baker and Bob St. Lifer, organized and executed a tasty breakfast, while Art Harris and Bob Rosenberg served as greeters and cashiers.

Jim Berg helped me to organize and prepare the book sale, with the able and extremely valuable assistance of our custodians, Peter and Alex. Even Alex's very pregnant wife got involved in helping. I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to Brian

Charnick, Hy Klein, Bob Gabel and Mark Gruensfelder and his son Lee for all their physical and moral support and for ensuring the smooth operation of the sale.

Thanks to everyone who contributed books, tapes, and records which helped assure a successful sale, especially Ira of Groovy Productions in East Brunswick, the owner of Book Trader in Rahway, my son-in-law, Glen, and Ike Blonder who donated many records from Lois' (z"l) collection. Thanks, too, to Florence Diller for providing us with storage space for our merchandise.

On the administrative side, thanks go to Bobbie Goldstein for helping with the signs for the sale, and to Elinor and Mary Jane for all their assistance. Special thanks to my wife, Joan, for her patience (most of the time) and support. This was our most successful book sale.

*Please answer the plea for help when we run the sale again next year.*

*Message from your Sisterhood Co-Presidents ...  
.. Beverly Gruensfelder and Sheri George*

Sisterhood is alive and well. We ran a successful Passover sale, had fun learning ceramics at *A Time to Kiln*, and even managed a successful Sisterhood Shabbat service. A special **thank you to Pam Burke** for arranging the guest speaker, Bryan Miller from Cease Fire New Jersey. Million Mom March tied in beautifully with our Shabbat service and Mothers' Day weekend.

As we conclude our first term of office, we want to thank everyone who helped Sisterhood this year. During the summer, we will hold strategic planning sessions (at the pool club, of course) and we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail us (Bev at [Mgruensfel@aol.com](mailto:Mgruensfel@aol.com) or Sheri at [HeyItsMe@aol.com](mailto:HeyItsMe@aol.com)). Our phones are also waiting; just leave a message after the beep ☺.

*We wish everyone a restful summer and we will keep you posted of our developments as they materialize.*

## MONMOUTH REFORM TEMPLE JUNE, 2000 EVENTS

Friday, June 2	6:30 PM	Tot Shabbat Service
	8:15 PM	Shabbat Eve Service
Saturday, June 3	10:30 AM	Sabbath Service (Sarah Doehler B/M)
Monday, June 5	7:15 PM	Arts & Decoration Meeting
Tuesday, June 6	9:30 AM	Study Group
	8:00 PM	Religious Education Meeting
Wednesday, June 7	8:00 PM	Ritual Meeting
Thursday, June 8	7:30 PM	Tikkun Leil Shavuot Service
Friday, June 9	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Services (Consecration)
		Office Closed – Shavuot
Saturday, June 10	10:30 AM	Sabbath Service (Jaclyn Cohen B/M)
Sunday, June 11	10:30 AM	Confirmation
Tuesday, June 13	9:30 AM	Study Group
	8:00 PM	Membership Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 14	7:30 PM	Youth Committee Meeting
	8:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, June 16	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Services
Saturday, June 17	10:30 AM	Sabbath Service (Justin Plean B/M)
Tuesday, June 20	9:30 AM	Study Group
	8:00 PM	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, June 22	7:45 PM	Ways & Means Meeting
Friday, June 23	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Services
Saturday, June 24	10:30 AM	Sabbath Service (Charlie Goodall B/M)
Tuesday, June 27	9:30 AM	Study Group
	8:00 PM	Social Action Committee Meeting
Friday, June 30	8:15 PM	Sabbath Eve Service

*Torah Study every Saturday morning at 9:30 am in the Temple Library*

**FATHER'S DAY JUNE 18  
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER ☺ - JUNE 21**



## **SHARING SIMCHAS**

### **THE TEMPLE FAMILY EXTENDS MAZEL TOV TO:**

Marcy and Brian McMullen on their son  
David receiving the SAT Talent Search 2000 Award  
and a special academic award being presented by  
their Board of Education  
and  
their son Steven receiving  
the Academic Achievement Award

Barbara and Richard Gitlin on the engagement of  
their daughter and our  
Senior Youth Leader Rachel Gitlin to Josh Herman

Bob Blank on his son Joshua finishing second with a  
teammate in the Williston Contracts Competition and  
earning a plaque at Harvard Law School

Emilie and Leroy Nisenson  
on the marriage of their  
daughter Laura to Kelly Londry

Robyn Ellenbogen on her showing at the  
Oakland Street Gallery June 2 through July 14

*Please keep us informed so we can  
share your simchas with your Temple family.*

### **INREACH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The Inreach Committee is putting together an album  
of Temple life and happenings during 1998 and 1999.  
We need photos of the 1999 Confirmation. If anyone has  
extra pictures or negatives from the 1999 Confirmation,  
please call us or drop them off in the Inreach box at  
Temple.

**THANKS!!**

*Florence Diller (747-9489) & Joan Leeds (833-0912)*

### **Update from Kathy Perlman, Youth Committee Chair**

**Senior Youth Group.....**For the last six years our  
Senior Youth Group has thrived under the direction of our  
advisor Rachel Gitlin. Rachel, who grew up at MRT, has  
brought wonderful recognition to our temple through  
awards, social outreach and other activities achieved by  
our youth under her leadership. Rachel has served as a  
wonderful mentor and model for our children.

Regretfully, Rachel has resigned her position as she  
pursues her dreams on the West Coast. We will miss her  
and wish her Mazel tov.!

**Junior Youth Group.....**On behalf of the Youth  
Committee, I would like to apologize to the children and  
parents who were affected by the cancellation of meetings  
scheduled during the year. We know how disappointing  
this is for those who have signed up; however, events  
held with only one or two children signed up can be  
disappointing for those who attend as well. Junior Youth  
Group events require advance sign up so that we can  
order food, ensure appropriate supervision, and provide  
transportation when necessary.

Our committee will be meeting during the next few  
months to plan next year's events. We hope to publicize  
a schedule in the fall with all dates and events planned.  
In September, we will survey the children to get their ideas  
and input with the hope of developing a program that will  
excite them. Please share any ideas you may have by  
either joining the committee (we'd love to have you!), or  
by leaving notes in my box or our advisor, Jay Medlin's  
box in the office.

### **Save the Date!! – Bi-Regional Biennial November 3-5 in Rye Brook, New York**

Renewing Our Covenant; Renewing Ourselves is the theme! In  
addition to workshops, exhibits, and entertainment, new  
initiatives, both educational and programmatic, are being  
developed. Please contact Biennial Chairperson Edward  
Malberg from Temple Beth El in Somerville at (908) 722-0674.



## from the Office Manager.....

### A Loss for MRT

I regret to inform you that our able office assistant, Mary Jane Leland, has resigned her position here at MRT, effective June 8<sup>th</sup>, to embark on a new career. Mary Jane was already here when I arrived at MRT almost four years ago and I cannot forget how welcome she made me feel as I assumed the role of Office Manager. From our first day together, we bonded as a team. As time went on, we were more than co-workers; we were friends. She has definitely been a valuable asset to our office, befriending our members, and helping out in every area, many times, above and beyond the call of duty. She will be sorely missed (who will I be able to talk Yiddish to now??), but I, along with the entire MRT staff and congregation, wish her the best of luck in her new career.

*Elinor*

### Notice from the Lost and Found Department:

Please check your wardrobe before you put away your winter clothes. We have some jackets that have been in our coat closet for a few months. Any items still here after June 30<sup>th</sup> will be donated or discarded. Thanks.

Please be aware of our deadlines in getting your flyers in by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and bulletin articles by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month...Of course, special considerations will be made for those bearing ~~chocolates~~. Try carrot sticks!



### TINTON FALLS CO-OP NURSERY SCHOOL Summer's almost here!

Our annual commencement ceremony will be held June 6<sup>th</sup>. The children will entertain their families, performing delightful songs they have learned throughout the year.

The following day we will hold our End-of-the-Year Bash! With pony rides, plenty of food and lots of games, there will be fun for everyone. With the expected heat wave, your child can "Keep Cool At Our School" in our summer program. Summer School begins June 20<sup>th</sup>. Call Bobbie for details at 747-3990.

A special thanks to my staff and the temple members for their support for another great year.

*Bobbie LaPlaca, Director*

## Happy Reflections.....

Dear Temple family,

I didn't want to leave without saying an official goodbye so I've written this short paragraph to tell you how much I've enjoyed working for MRT for the past 4 years. My departure is motivated by a desire to work for the Juvenile Justice Commission of the State of New Jersey in hopes of helping young people with troubles get back on the right track, not because I have any complaints working at MRT. I have only the highest respect for the Temple family, for the principles of Reform Judaism, and for your fearless leader, Rabbi Priesand. It has been a privilege to work for Rabbi; she has such energy, is always on her toes, and always on the lookout for some giant mitzvah in which she can get us involved. One of Rabbi's pet projects while I was working here was the Kosovo/Turkey Concert. It was amazing to watch her orchestrate and motivate and do a lot of the *scut* work herself. I was grateful to have had the opportunity to participate with the Heart of New Jersey Chorus and be part of that mitzvah and also honored when Rabbi asked me to accompany the Cantor for Debbie Friedman's *Save a Life* on Mitzvah Day 1999. I watched the Million Mom March go from having 3 or 4 people going on a bus leaving from somewhere remote to having our own bus and filling it. That was Rabbi's goal and it was achieved. I'm glad I was here for the 25th anniversary of Rabbi's ordination; it was a wonderful service and a moment in time that I will never forget. All these experiences have been very meaningful to me.

No one has ever walked into the Temple office with a cross word. The people I've met here have always showed me the utmost courtesy and consideration. I will especially miss the good-hearted members of the Tuesday morning study group – and the treats ☺. I'll miss terribly our loyal volunteer Claire Mausner.

It's been wonderful working with Elinor Goldberg who goes above and beyond to be fair and understanding as well as getting the job done. She's incredible, as you know! Thanks, Elinor, for everything.

I am truly grateful to have had the experience of working here. *Shoyne Genoog!*

*In harmony,  
Mary Jane Leland*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NOTES

*where parents set the example*

Final report cards will be mailed the week of June 5. The envelope will include summer assignments for students in grades 4-9 who have exceeded the allowable number of absences. A form will also be included for children in grades 4-6 who did not satisfy our Temple's service requirement.

Although classes are no longer in session, one major ceremony remains. No family can plead ignorant of our Temple's Confirmation ceremony on June 11, at 10:30 am. Invitations have been sent out to every family and the graduation exercise was described in my April column. As I always write, the Confirmation service is the warmest ceremony of the year and every student must attend at least one before experiencing his/her bar/bat mitzvah.

The observations and feelings of one especially perceptive student prompted me to conclude this year's Bulletin article with the following thoughts.

A few weeks ago, I visited our 8th grade class as the students were discussing the depiction of family life in Genesis, the first book of the Torah. This student politely informed his teacher, Jane Sandlar, that the topic was too depressing for him to maintain his interest in the discussion.

The youngster had difficulty understanding the reverence for Abraham, who after hearing voices from God, proceeded to take his son for an outing to a mountain with the intention of killing him. This irrationality was preceded by his wife's jealousy prompting Abraham to force his first born-son and the boy's mother from his house to wander in the desert and presumably die of thirst.

The dysfunctional biblical family is in evidence throughout Genesis. Abraham's son Isaac was fooled by his wife, Rachel, and younger son, Jacob, to deny his first-born's natural right to a full inheritance. Abraham's great grandchildren, Jacob's children, sold one of their brothers into slavery as a jealous reaction to their father's affection for this child.

We use the term dysfunctional in a modern sense. I explained to the class that the only way to understand the apparent inhumanity described in our bible is to look at the people, places and events in a historical reference. Thankfully, rabbis have a way of transforming these seemingly ugly biblical scenes into worthwhile and practical lessons for us to internalize into our own value system.

The bible is full of other sad stories. Passover is about slavery, infant death and plagues. The entire

generation that escaped Pharaoh's tyranny had to die out before God permitted entrance into Canaan. Chanukah and Purim end happily but the integral part of the story is about the destruction of Jewish tradition.

The student is partially correct if he feels that our school's curriculum highlights the negative in Jewish history. American, world and Israeli history classes raise issues of anti-Semitism, the Holocaust and escape from persecution. It is easy to understand why students must be thick skinned to study a heritage and tradition whose adherents have so often been the victims. I agree with the 8th grader's observation that events in our tradition when taken literally create a disheartening image of our experiences as a people.

Lessons on the Holocaust invariably raises the question, "If God exists, why did so many innocent people perish?" A class on Israel is equally disturbing to teach. Students continuously raise the question as to why Israeli leaders haven't made peace with the Palestinians. Students are generally sympathetic to the Palestinians and feel, as the dominant people in the country, Israelis have treated Palestinians unfairly. Our school's role is to balance the negativity and help the 8th grade boy feel good about his Jewish identity.

The whole idea of mitzvot revolutionized western faith by making it obligatory on Jews to improve the world. When students ask, "What did we do wrong to cause so much hatred aimed at us?" I ask, "What did we do right to have survived?" Pride in our faith comes from our contributions to the world in so many fields in spite of persecution. Ethical monotheism replaced blind loyalty to a deity. We view God as just and a force for good, not revenge.

Reform Judaism does not mandate rules of belief; rather we analyze, discuss and use reason to make what happened in the past relevant for today. Students who only see the negative have missed the point.

I do not know what good a teacher can cull from the 6 million lost in the Holocaust except to show the resiliency of our people and as an impetus to the founding of a modern Israel.

No, the bad should not be swept under the proverbial rug. I invite parents to discuss the unpleasantness of our history with their children and try to find the lessons that will help us grow individually and as a people. Our Religious School pledges to do its best to help each child achieve a positive Jewish self-image. Have a safe and healthy summer,

*Shalom, David Levinsky*



## THE CONGREGATION ACKNOWLEDGES WITH THANKS THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS

### THE RABBI'S FUND

#### In Memory of:

Morris Cohen

*Renee and Ronald Cohen*

Frances Kantor

*Glenda and Arnold Strahl*

Ruth Singer and Michael Ruggera, Jr.

*Greta and Frank Singer*

Irene Weisbrot

*Helaine and Don Rothman*

#### In Honor of:

Our daughter Sarah's Bat Mitzvah

*William and Renee Doehler*

Our son Alex's Bar Mitzvah

*Shari and Eric Kates*

Rosalie and Bob Rosin on the  
birth of their granddaughter

*Julia Beryl Kenneally*

*Ayse Dilber*

#### Get Well Wishes:

To Rosalie Rosin

*Ruth and Len Schlosberg*

#### Thank you:

To Rabbi Priesand

*Roz and Dave Haratz*

#### Passover Wishes:

*Mildred Snedcof*

### FLOWER FUND

#### In Memory of:

Meyer Rothman

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Herman Albert

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Frances Peskoe

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Bessie Goldberg

*Connie and Milton Klein*

*Charles Klein*

*Connie and Milton Klein*

Rose Straus

*Bobbie and Al Goldstein*

Simon Hauser

*Bobbie and Al Goldstein*

### ARTS AND DECORATION

#### In Memory of:

Irving Halio

*Francine and Barry Litofsky*

Jackie Malaska's father

*Dolores and Ken Phillips*

#### In Honor of:

Myra and Stanley Ostroff on the birth of  
their granddaughter Tess Alexandra

*Ellie and Bob Goodman*



## **ARTS AND DECORATION Cont'd.**

### **Get Well Wishes:**

To Rosalie Rosin

*Barry and Francine Litofsky*

*Dolores and Ken Phillips*

To Murray Kipnis

*Dolores and Ken Phillips*

Ellie Goodman

*Claire and Murray Kipnis*

## **CANTOR 'S MUSIC FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Our son Charlie on becoming

a Bar Mitzvah

*the Goodall family*

## **FUND FOR THE RIGHTEOUS**

### **In Honor of:**

Honorable E. Benn and Lucinda

Micheletti on the marriage of their

son Eddie to Melissa

*Rich and Sheila Sachs*

## **HOMELESS FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Osborne Patten

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Howard T. Peaceman

*Gale and Art Lackner*

Max Eagle

*Bear Atwood*

*James M. Wood*

Sol Welt

*Barbara Alessandro*

### **In Honor of:**

Howard Fox on being honored by

Ronald McDonald House

*Phil and Cynthia Auerbach*

Charles Sills on receiving the Monmouth

Medical Center Pinnacle Award

*Phil and Cynthia Auerbach*

Lorraine and Jeff Roffman on the birth

of their twin grandchildren Jessica Kate

and Jared Seth

*Trudy and Steve Goldsmith*

Our son Justin becoming a Bar Mitzvah

*Rashel and Douglas Plean*

## **HOMELESS FUND Cont'd.**

### **Get Well Wishes:**

To Rosalie Rosin

*Florence and Irving Cohen*

*Trudy and Steve Goldsmith*

### **Thank you:**

To Steve Mahan and Jeff Willard

*John Hirsch*

*Herb Leiman*

## **LIBRARY FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Bob and Rosalie Rosin on the birth

of their granddaughter

Julia Beryl Kenneally

*Phyllis Kinsler*

## **MAZON FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Andrea and Mitchell Hershey in honor

of their son Adam's marriage to

Kari Schwartz

*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Linda and Richard Goldberg on their

new home

*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Karen Karl and John Heidema on their

daughter Sarah's college graduation

*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Our daughter Sarah on becoming

a Bat Mitzvah

*William and Renee Doehler*

## **PRAYER BOOK FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Frances Kantor

*Trudy and Steve Goldsmith*

Philip Weissman

*Martin and Dara Perfit*

Ella Bretton

*Glenda and Arnold Strahl*

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

### **In Memory of:**

Ruth Singer and Mike Ruggera Jr.

*Barbara and Donald Borges*

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND Cont'd.**

### **In Honor of:**

David and Karen Levinsky on the  
college graduation of Rachel  
*Susan and Bob St. Lifer*

Susan and Bob St. Lifer on the  
B'nai Mitzvah of their children  
Sam and Emily  
*Joel and Marilyn Morgovsky*

## **SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE FUND**

### **Get Well Wishes:**

To Rosalie Rosin  
*Sandy and Bernie Brandwene*  
*Phyllis Kinsler*  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

JoAnn Kurry on being named realtor of  
the month at Gloria Nilson Realtors  
*Susan and Bob St. Lifer*

Madelyne and Ed Ryterband on their son  
Jason's confirmation  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Kathy and Mike Perlman on their  
daughter Brianne's Confirmation  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Vallerie and Gary Hersch on their  
daughter Susan's Confirmation  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Lloyd and Stephanie Fitzsimmons on  
their son Drew's Confirmation  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Linda and Richard Goldberg on their  
daughter Sandra's Confirmation  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Sarah and Michael Kaye on their son  
Jonathan's Bar Mitzvah  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Sheri and Arthur George on the  
B'not Mitzvah of their daughters  
Ashley and Meagan  
*Barbara and Al Goldstein*

Susan and Bob St. Lifer on the B'nai  
Mitzvah of their children  
Sam and Emily  
*Peg and Jerry Baker*

## **SCHOLARSHIP FUND Cont'd.**

### **Get Well Wishes:**

To Rosalie Rosin  
*Phyllis and Bob Rosenberg*

## **YOUTH GROUP FUND**

### **In Honor of:**

Leni and David Boskey on their  
daughter Melissa's Confirmation  
*Cora and Stu Tuchband*

Madelyne and Ed Ryterband on their  
son Jason's Confirmation  
*Cora and Stu Tuchband*

Vallerie and Gary Hersch on their  
daughter Susan's Confirmation  
*Cora and Stu Tuchband*

Richard and Linda Goldberg on their  
daughter Sandra's Confirmation  
*Cora and Stu Tuchband*

Stephanie and Lloyd Fitzsimmons on  
their son Drew's Confirmation  
*Cora and Stu Tuchband*

Fern Burton on her son Ben's  
Bar Mitzvah  
*Dean, Sharyn and Dee Ross*

Richard and Barbara Gitlin on the  
engagement of their daughter Rachel  
to Josh Herman  
*the St. Lifer family*





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See the Temple calendar on our website!!

Sally J. Priesand - 542-8431 ..... Rabbi

Rabbi's E-mail: [spriesand@monmouth.com](mailto:spriesand@monmouth.com)

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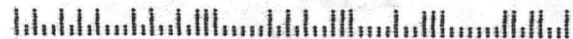
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**Monmouth Reform Temple Calendar for****JUNE 2000****WORSHIP SERVICES**

<b>June</b>	2 Fri	Tot Shabbat	6:30 PM
		Sabbath Eve	8:15 PM
	3 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
	8 Thurs	Tikkun Leil Shavuot	7:30 PM
	9 Fri	Sabbath Eve	8:15 PM
	10 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
	11 Sun	Confirmation	10:30 AM
	16 Fri	Sabbath Eve	8:15 PM
	17 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
	23 Fri	Sabbath Eve	8:15 PM
	24 Sat	Sabbath Morning	10:30 AM
	30 Fri	Sabbath Eve	8:15 PM

Torah Study every Saturday morning at 9:30 AM

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

<b>June</b>	4 Sun	Sr. Youth Trip	
	8 Thurs	Tikkun Leil	
		Shavuot Service	7:30 PM
	9 Fri	Consecration of	
		Confirmands	8:15 PM
	11 Sun	Confirmation	10:30 AM

**MEETINGS**

<b>June</b>	5 Mon	Arts and Decoration	7:15 PM
	6 Tues	Study Group	9:30 AM
		Religious Education	8:00 PM
	7 Wed	Ritual Committee	8:00 PM
	13 Tues	Study Group	9:30 AM
		Membership Committee	8:00 PM
	14 Wed	Youth Committee	7:30 PM
		Executive Committee	8:00 PM
	20 Tues	Study Group	9:30 AM
		Temple Board	8:00 PM
	22 Thurs	Ways and Means	7:45 PM
	27 Tues	Study Group	9:30 AM
		Social Action	8:00 PM

Office Closed for Shavuot, Friday, June 9