



Temple Rodeph Torah

Enjoy discovering yourself through Judaism.

15 Mohawk Drive • PO Box 125 • Marlboro, NJ 07746
(P) 732.308.0055 • (F) 732.294.0232



www.trt.org



Welcome!

Enclosed in this membership packet please find all of the information you need to get started:

- Introduction
- Clergy
- Music
- Membership
- Organizations
- Dues & Fees Schedule
- Adult Education
- Worship & Religious School
- Youth Organizations
- Applications for:
 - » Membership
 - » Religious School
 - » Religious School Preschool

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to call the temple office at **732.308.0055**.

Temple Rodeph Torah

Temple Rodeph Torah is a Reform Jewish Congregation, that combines a love of tradition with relevance to our world and our community. Our small size gives us many attractive qualities: warmth, personal attention, and a desire to make people feel welcome. You won't get "lost in the crowd" at Temple Rodeph Torah!

We offer special events including:

- Hanukkah celebration and party
- Purim Shpiel and carnival
- Selichot Barbecue
- Exchange service and meal with Wicker Baptist Church
- Speakers and presentations
- Annual Mitzvah Day functions
- Annual Family Fun Day



Interfaith Families

Temple Rodeph Torah has many interfaith families in our congregation. They are made to feel welcome and encouraged to participate in the full range of temple activities. There are many opportunities for the non-Jewish spouse to get involved at TRT. We would be happy to have someone contact you.

Contact Information

TRT of Western Monmouth

P.O. Box 125
15 Mohawk Drive
Marlboro, NJ 07746
P: 732.308.0055 F: 732.294.0232
www.trt.org

Religious School

P: 732.308.3836
rel.school@trt.org

Music

Music is a pure expression of spirituality in the synagogue experience. With Cantor Joanna Alexander at the helm, many of our prayers are expressed musically as a congregation and we encourage all present to sing along.

The music of Temple Rodeph Torah strives to balance the familiar tunes that remind us of services with our grandparents and binds us to the rest of the Jewish world. This music will stretch our comfort and teach us new things about our prayers, ourselves and our community. This balance permits us a diverse musical culture using compositions that have been passed down orally for generations, and the most modern compositions straight out of our camp and youth movements with everything in between.

We have choirs for adults and children and a Ruach! band to help enhance and diversify our musical experience. Music can be heard throughout the halls of our religious school helping to enhance our lessons, as students learn songs to connect them to the rest of the Jewish people, other Reform Jews, Bible stories, Hebrew vocabulary, and all the Holidays and prayers.

This music-infused life cannot help but connect you with one another as you sing familiar melodies and learn new ones together.

Rock Shabbat

Rock Shabbat is like no “traditional” worship service! Rock Shabbat is an all musical service using a variety of rock styles including, rap, doo-wop, and of



course electric guitar solos to transform your idea of what worship looks and feels like. You should clap and sing along, and expect to feel moved as you pray to God in this new way. Our services feature a special guest artist and their music. Recent guests include Eric Komar, Sheldon Low, Todd Herzog, and Scott Leader. Check out some of our music on rockshabbatnj.com along with the upcoming service schedule. Join us and rock out to new heights!

Adult Education

Temple Rodeph Torah provides a nationally recognized adult education program. Open to the entire community, courses include both beginner and intermediate levels of study.

Courses meet twice each month, and we are proud that over 100 people participate in each year's program. Many of our members have been recognized by the Reform movement for their continuing adult education study.

Recent Classes Included:

- Jewish Ethics
- Everything you always wanted to know about Judaism but were afraid to ask
- Prayer: Why we pray, how we pray, and what prayer means
- Beginning Hebrew
- Continuing Hebrew
- Jewish History in America
- People of the Bible

(Note: Most classes require no prior background)

For more information and current class schedules, please call the temple at **732.308.0055** or visit **ae.trt.org**.

Organizations

Men's Club & Sisterhood

The TRT Men's Club and Sisterhood organizations provide a social environment for our adult members. These organizations help to strengthen the Jewish ties that bind and are also involved with planning various social, cultural and educational events. Both groups aid the temple in fund-raising activities.

Recent programs sponsored by Men's Club or Sisterhood include:

- Hanukkah Fair
- Membership breakfast/dinners
- Speakers program
- Annual Bunko/Game Night
- Purim Carnival
- Various fund-raising activities
- White water rafting trip

Women's Spirituality

The Women's Spirituality group works together to explore our Jewish identity. Some of our recent activities include:

- Book discussions
- Shabbatons (all day spiritual retreat)
- Candle making
- Women's Passover Seder
- Hosted speakers
- Potluck dinners and discussion sessions

Caring Committee

The Caring Community is a group of volunteers who offer their time when called upon by our clergy to provide confidential support to our temple members. We offer assistance during times of loss or illness to those members who request and/or need it. We can provide a meal, do an errand, pick up medications, or offer support.

Social Action

The Social Action committee at TRT works toward Tikkun Olam to repair the world. We seek volunteers from the temple to help in our mission. Our projects include:

- Mitzvah Day-Blood Drive and Entertainment at local assisted living facility
- Clothing Drives
- Holiday Toy Drive
- Food Drives
- Care packages for our troops
- Weekly Volunteer at soup kitchen
- Partnership with local Baptist church
- Special programs throughout the year addressing social action education

Monthly Young People's Shabbat Service and Mishpacha and Me Program

The service and program are held on the second Saturday of each month beginning at 9AM in our youth lounge. Both the Young People's Shabbat and Mishpacha and Me are open to the entire community and are free of charge.

The Mishpacha and Me Program follows the Young People's Shabbat Service. It lasts approximately 30 minutes. We enjoy some yummy treats and create wonderful craft projects. The topic for each month focuses on current Jewish holidays or seasons. It is a great opportunity to spend some special time with your young children. Your child may attend with a mother, father, grandparents or other special adults and create many warm memories.

The program is geared towards pre-readers, but older siblings are welcome to join in the fun as well! Please wear comfortable clothes as we sit on the floor. New members are always welcome.

Clergy

Rabbi Donald A. Weber Rabbi Donald Weber was ordained in 1981 at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and has been our rabbi since 1984. He teaches the importance of lifelong Jewish study, is a committed worker for civil and personal rights, and is active in community affairs and communal service.

Rabbi Weber is a founding member of the Marlboro Township Ethics Board, and is a Chaplain for the Marlboro Township Police Department. He has served as the Chairman of the Conversion Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and as Chairman of the CCAR's Committee on Computer Technology in the Rabbinate during the 1980's, he helped introduce computers to Jewish life. He has served on the Boards of the New Jersey Association of Reform Rabbis, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, and the Marlboro Improvement and Cultural Fund, and was a founding contributor to the Reform Movement's "Taste of Judaism" program. He is a Life Member of the Morganville First Aid and Rescue Squad, where he served as Emergency Medical Technician, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. Rabbi Weber has been honored by Marlboro Township and Monmouth County for his work in Social Justice, specifically as creator of TRT Cares, our program of outreach to those affected by the economic crisis. His creation of the JDate Synagogue Gift Certificate Program received national recognition in USA Today, Newsweek and many Jewish publications around the world.

His wife, Rabbi Shira Stern, is the Director of the Center for Pastoral Care and Counseling in Marlboro, NJ, and the Primary School Educator at Temple Rodeph Torah. A guiding principle of his life is the quotation from the Mishna: "It is not our responsibility to finish the task, but we may not refrain from starting it."

Clergy

Cantor Joanna Alexander completed her cantorial education at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music. She is a graduate of New York University, where she graduated with honors in the Religious Studies Department. Before coming to Temple Rodeph Torah, Cantor Alexander served congregations in New York and Pennsylvania. She serves on the Executive Board of the Hebrew Union College School of Sacred Music Alumni Association, and co-chairs the Outreach to Students Working Group. She sings with the New Jersey Cantors' Concert Ensemble, which raises money for scholarships for future cantors. Cantor Alexander strives to create balance between old traditions and new innovations, and to inspire people to connect with each other, with the Jewish people and with God.

Worship & Religious School

Our religious services are warm, friendly and open to the entire community. We celebrate all Jewish holidays, making young and old feel comfortable and part of the community. All services have a mixture of English and Hebrew and are filled with song.

Services, which are open to the entire community, include:

- Pre-reader service (Very Young People's Shabbat)
- Family services (1st Friday of every month)
- Minyan services (informal, Saturday morning services with Torah study)
- Friday night services, including Rock Shabbat
- Saturday morning Bar/Bat Mitzvah services
- Special services for all major Jewish holidays
- Children's High Holiday services

TRT Religious School: A Unique Place to Be and Learn

Rabbi Shira Stern, D Min, our Primary School Educator, has served as a pulpit rabbi for 13 years and as an educator for over 25 years. Her focus is to create a parent-teacher-educator collaborative effort to enhance Judaism for the students of Temple Rodeph Torah. Jewish history, prayer, customs, and creative arts are part of the overall curriculum.

Prior to joining the TRT team, Rabbi Stern was formerly the Rabbi and Educator at Monroe Township Jewish Center. She has also been involved with hospital and hospice chaplaincy, worked for MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, and taught at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. In addition, she is the Director for the Center for Pastoral Care and Counseling in Marlboro, NJ.

Teaching Torah by Doing Torah

translating lessons to actions: tzedakah, social justice and acts of loving-kindness...

Reaching Out to Others

creating community identity through common history, language, music, and art...

Teamwork

between Rabbis/Cantor, parents and teachers, nurturing another generation of Jews...

Worship & Religious School

Our religious school offers a full curriculum from Preschool through 12th grade.

We have created a substantive program for each grade, Preschool through 7th, building Hebrew and prayer proficiency, familiarity with Jewish customs, as well as knowledge of Israeli history, geography and culture. To reinforce these critical subjects, we offer a second day of religious school weekly for grades 5–7, above and beyond the Bar/Bat Mitzvah training beginning six months before their ceremony. Our commitment to excellence shows in the quality of the students we graduate and their life-long commitment to Jewish values and tradition. With so much to teach and to learn, two days a week, 30 weeks a year is barely enough.

Barbara Klein, our high school administrator, has more than 40 years of experience as an educator at Reform congregations in New York and New Jersey. A founding member of Temple Rodeph Torah, Barbara has been teaching students from 3rd through 12th grade since our school was formed. After teaching for nearly 15 years in the program which she helped create, Barbara assumed the position of educator of the Monmouth Regional Reform Hebrew High School (MOREHSHa) program in 2011. Her commitment to education is strongly evident through her innovative curriculum development and her lasting relationships with her students. Barbara earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education from NYU.

We offer an innovative High School program for grades 8-12, engaging older students in issues including ethical responsibilities, peer pressure, and what they might expect as they pack and prepare for their college years. Students from Temple Shalom in Aberdeen join us for a five year program leading to Confirmation at the end of 10th Grade and Graduation at the end of 12th grade.

Please see the temple website www.trt.org for the religious school schedule.

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Training

Our commitment to quality Jewish education for all children is reflected in our observance of Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

Preparation for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah includes the following:

- Individual weekly lessons with B'nai Mitzvah tutor and Cantor
- Personalized planning with clergy
- Informal B'nai Mitzvah support program
- Optional Mitzvah project

Youth Groups

Engaging our youth and ensuring that they feel at home in the TRT community are inherent values in our congregation. To ensure that end, Temple Rodeph Torah offers a range of age-specific youth programming. In addition to the activities for each of our youth groups, TRT offers youth-only onegs following family Shabbat services or other Fridays during the year (see TRT monthly calendar for schedule of youth onegs).

Our youngest youth group members, Chaverim (the Hebrew word for “friends”), are 3rd through 5th graders. Activities for this age group are held monthly, and most often take place at TRT Sunday afternoons immediately following religious school. Chaverim events are social activities that reinforce Jewish holidays and themes to children. Your child may spend the afternoon making candy and caramel apples to celebrate the sweet new year at Rosh Hashanah, participating in the ever-popular chocolate seder during Passover, or socializing with friends while building roller coasters.

Our 6th and 7th grade Junior Youth Group programming offers exactly what pre-teens asked for – socialization! The kids love Saturday evening game and movie nights, and relish the opportunity to spend time in a comfortable environment with friends. Saturday night events always begin with havdalah, the service which signifies the end of Shabbat. Our youth show a special connection to this service and have created traditions at TRT which they hope to pass on to future Junior Youth Group members.

Eighth through 12th graders are invited to join RTSY, or Rodeph Torah Senior Youth. RTSY members form lifelong bonds through social events, community service, shul-ins (overnights at the temple), leading a Shabbat service each spring, planning and operating the annual TRT Purim Carnival, and activities with national Reform youth movement, NFTY (National Federation of Temple Youth).

Regardless of your children’s ages and interests, there is a place for them in the TRT youth community!

Membership Application

MEMBER #1

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Maiden Name (if Different) _____

I prefer to be called (e.g. "Bob", "Robert") _____

Date of Birth _____ Blood Type (optional) _____

Religious Background _____

Hebrew Name _____

Wedding Anniversary _____

WORK INFORMATION

Occupation _____ Company Name _____

Business Address _____

Business # _____ Email _____

HOME CONTACT INFORMATION

Address _____

Home # _____

Cell # _____

Email _____

MEMBER #2

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Maiden Name (if Different) _____

I prefer to be called (e.g. "Bob", "Robert") _____

Date of Birth _____ Blood Type _____

Religious Background _____

Hebrew Name _____

WORK INFORMATION

Occupation _____ Company Name _____

Business Address _____

Business # _____ E-mail: _____

We understand that we will remain temple members, responsible for all financial obligations, until written notice of resignation is received.

Signature _____ Signature _____

Date _____ Date _____

Membership Application

CHILD #1 Hebrew Name _____

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Birthdate _____ Public School Grade _____

CHILD #2 Hebrew Name _____

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Birthdate _____ Public School Grade _____

CHILD #3 Hebrew Name _____

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Birthdate _____ Public School Grade _____

CHILD #4 Hebrew Name _____

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Birthdate _____ Public School Grade _____

OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

Name & Relationship _____

PREVIOUS TEMPLE AFFILIATION:

Temple _____

City _____ State _____

Denomination _____ # Years Attended _____

Final Year _____ Good Standing? _____

Yahrzeits: *I wish to observe these by the English/Hebrew (CIRCLE ONE) calendar. (If you wish to observe by the Hebrew calendar, please indicate whether the death occurred before or after sunset on the date given.)*

Name	Relationship	Date of Death
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SPECIAL INTERESTS: Please check all you are interested in.

MEMBER

#1 #2

- Adult Education
- Education Committee
- Fund-raising
- Library
- Membership Committee
- Men's Club/Sisterhood
- Women's Spirituality

MEMBER

#1 #2

- Newsletter
- Parent-Teacher Organization
- Social Action Committee
- Worship/Ritual Committee
- Youth Committee
- Other:

For additional applications, please visit www.trt.org

Religious School Application

CHILD #1 Hebrew Name _____
First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____
Birthdate _____ Child's Email _____
Religious School Grade _____
Public School Grade _____
*Describe previous Religious School training _____

SIBLINGS

Name	Religious School Grade	Public School Grade

PARENT #1 Hebrew Name _____ Religion _____
First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Home # _____ Cell # _____
Business # _____ E-mail _____

PARENT #2 Hebrew Name _____ Religion _____
First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____
(if different from above)
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Home # _____ Cell # _____
Business # _____ E-mail _____

Child lives with: Both Parents Parent #1 Only Parent #2 Only

Child has non-Jewish grandparents: Yes No

Does your child have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) from secular school? Yes No
If yes, please send a copy of his/her plan for our files. *(The plan will only be shared with your child's teacher and with your permission.)*

What special information should we have concerning your child's development?

Learning Disabilities Hyperactivity
 Speech and Hearing Problems Allergies
 Emotional Disturbances Other _____

Comments: _____

Religious School Application

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Please provide us with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two people to contact in case of an emergency, whom you authorize to pick up your child if he/she is sick. Please inform the people whom you choose that you have placed them on your child's emergency list.

EMERGENCY CONTACT #1

Full Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Relationship to child _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT #2

Full Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Relationship to child _____

CHILD'S MEDICAL INFORMATION

Primary Physician _____ Phone # _____

Dentist _____ Phone # _____

For parents of students in grades K-2 only: Are you currently a member of TRT? Yes No

*Note: For any child beginning after 3rd grade, this application must be accompanied by records from previous Religious School(s). Registration will NOT be complete without approval of these transcripts and a signed Letter of Agreement.

For additional applications, please visit www.trt.org

Please read carefully and sign the following statement:

I hereby give my consent to Temple Rodeph Torah to make available to my child(ren), professional emergency medical care and necessary related transportation. In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I give permission for my child to receive proper medical care by any doctor, nurse, paramedic, or member of a medical staff of a hospital available to provide treatment.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Your special interest which may be helpful to our school:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Experience | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Horaiynu (PTO) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Religious School Preschool

Preschool children 3 and 4 years old may participate in our exciting and creative program. Children meet for 9 sessions, which are held on Sundays between 8:50 – 9:50am. Parent participation is not required.

Music, art, games, and stories are used to introduce the preschooler to the various holidays.

Join the fun. Just fill out the form below and mail to:

Temple Rodeph Torah
P.O. Box 125
Mohawk Drive
Marlboro, NJ 07746

Please note: Enrollment for the entire series is required. We look forward to being part of your child's first Religious School experience.

For additional applications, please visit www.trt.org

CHILD INFORMATION

Full Name _____ M F

Birthdate _____

PARENT #1

Full Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____

PARENT #2

Full Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Full Name _____ E-mail _____

Home # _____ Cell # _____

Are you currently a member of TRT? Yes No

