



Temple Hesed
"The Temple of Loving Kindness"
 Scranton, Pennsylvania

שליח

Messenger

New Year
for Trees
Issue



טו בשבט

Volume 158, Issue 6

Shvat—Adar 5777/ February 2017

Tu B'Shvat is Coming – on Shabbat, February 10

Also In the Messenger:

- ✧ *Chanting Circle*
- ✧ *Elan Gardens Visit*
- ✧ *Jewish boomers recalled*

For most of the past decade, Temple Hesed and Temple Israel have held joint Tu B'Shvat seders, celebrating the New Year of the Tree with an elaborate seder meal. But with Tu B'Shvat falling on Shabbat this year, Temple Israel decided to opt out for 5777. So we're trying something different this year.

On Friday, February

10th at 7 p.m., we will be doing a mash-up of our regular Shabbat service and Tu B'Shvat rituals.

We'll gather not in rows but around a table. There, with Ed Snitko accompanying us on his accordion, we'll intersperse more typical Shabbat prayers with special songs for Tu B'Shvat.

And throughout the whole thing, we'll be eating a variety of exotic

fruits, nuts, and tree-derived products like chocolate.

There will be no charge for this fun evening, but we are asking people to RSVP – call 570-344-7201 or email temple-hesed@comcast.net so that we prepare the right amount of food for the evening.

We hope to see you there!

Calling all Superheroes (and Supervillians!)

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Do you have a secret identity – or at least daydream about having one? Are there superhero costumes lurking in the back of your closet? Or perhaps you still have boxes of superhero comic books somewhere in the attic, in case your collection is worth something some day?



your dream at our Purim celebration on March 11!

We're looking for Hulks, Wonder Women, Supermen and women, Black Widows – you could even be your favorite Pokémon.

And you can be sure that the music will be Super, Wonder-ful, and of course Batty.

To join in the fun, just contact Rabbi Daniel – call the temple office at 570-344-7201, or email him at rabbidaniel@comcast.net

Have we got an opportunity for you! Join our Purimshpiel cast, and live

Temple Information

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Donations

BUILDING FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Ralph Meyer

David and Marlene Meyer

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

In Loving Memory of Fri-mi Gromer

Lee Gromer

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Beloved Mother, Olga Adelman

Deborah and John Orgill

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Edward Denis

Len and Lainey Denis

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Grace E. Davis

The Davis Family

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Grandmother, Jennie Lehman

Paula Wasser

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Shirley Cornfield

Martha Cornfield Fea and Family

Bill Cornfield and Family

Jon Cornfield and Family

Debbie Cornfield Fedziuk and Joe

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Olga Adelman

Esther Adelman

To make a donation
Contact the Temple office
(570) 344-7201

Thank You

The Temple Board received a very nice thank you letter from the Children's Advocacy Center for our donation of backpacks and some funding for additional uniforms for their kids last fall.

I wanted to share this with all of you because it was addressed to our members.

In a personal note from the executive director of CAC, Mary Ann Porta, she said: "Your beautiful and abundant backpacks provided much excitement and happiness for our CAC kids, who have experienced abuse or neglect. Their eyes were filled with joyful appreciation!"

I want to add my thanks to all the members and non-members of Temple Hesed for your support of this very worthwhile social action project, and I hope that even more people will get involved this year when we once more will provide as many backpacks to those most in need in our community as we collectively contribute.

We will never meet all of the need, but it is our obligation to try.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

**Larry Milliken,
Backpack Program Coordinator.**

Temple Hesed
accepts these
credit/debit cards for
most payments or
donations



Rabbinical Reflections — Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

And Now for Something Completely Different...



Purim is more than a month away, but, as we always do on Purim, I'd like to reference something silly in order to make an important and fairly serious point.

Those of us who are at least of a certain age remember when Monty Python sketches were a regular on public televisions. Many of the sketches – and their first movie, which went by the same name – were introduced by John Cleese, dressed in a serious outfit and sitting at a news desk or the like, solemnly announcing, “And now for something completely different!” Which was and wasn't true.

Every sketch was different – but they were all silly and very British, with the same elements of society lampooned again and again.

Sometimes, I feel like Jewish life in modernity is very much like that – a series of unconnected sketches with repeated themes. One of those themes – one that is regularly proclaimed with great seriousness, but which I find to be, more often than not, ultimately silly, is “woe is me – everything is falling apart and the Jewish community is doomed!”

One can find this theme proclaimed over and over again throughout the past 3,500 years of Jewish history – and, quite obviously, while we have suffered tremendous tragedies over that time, we are still here.

We proclaim “woe is me” so often, in fact, that sometimes news of a change – a change that is not necessarily bad and might even in the end be for the best – is greeted with cries of doom.

A case in point: last month, the Messenger described how we are proceeding with plans to put the Temple building up for sale. Our building, while beautiful, is both too large for most occasions and too expensive to maintain. Our renter, the Nativity Miguel School, which has helped to cover those maintenance costs, will be leaving in June of 2018, a year and a half from now.

We want to try to have our transition to a new building planned and underway by that time.

Please re-read that last sentence. Temple Hesed is not vanishing. We are not folding. We are not planning to wander without a building for forty

years, like the generation of the Exodus. Most importantly of all, our identity does not come from our building, but from our people.

For me, that is the thread that connects all the aspects of our Jewish lives – our shared community. This community not only encompasses all of us today, but is nourished by the past generations that built it and shaped it through their vision.

And now it is our turn to shape what will be tomorrow – not in a panicked moment of crisis, but with faith in our future and thoughtful stewardship of our resources.

I'm not concerned about our physical home – our congregation has moved in the past and managed to flourish anew in new settings. What does worry me is the strength of our connection with each other. If that continues to weaken, then having the most amazing building in the world won't be enough. I'll write about these concerns, and some thoughts about answers, next month.

Until then, In Hesed,

Rabbi Daniel

President's Report — Esther Adelman, Co-President



Growing Up (Jewish) in Scranton

With all that's happening in today's world, I, along with my generation, seem to be focusing more and more on The Good Old Days. It seems that we somehow end up talking about how much simpler life was when we were growing up and even in the years beyond.

If you are of a certain age, you have definitely seen those e-mails that go around periodically, listing all of the things that weren't even invented when we were young, and how we all survived very nicely without them.

Don't get me wrong. I'd be kicking and screaming if anyone took my iPad away! I am also quite computer savvy; I can't imagine doing the work I do at my office without QuickBooks, or writing this article without Word.

But I digress. We did have telephones, although there was only one per household, which was a rotary dial and was usually on a party line. We got our first television set when I was 10 years old. It was black and white, with only a few channels, which went to a test pattern at 11 p.m., and came back on at 6 a.m., if my memory serves me correctly. Most families had one car, driven by the father when he went to work. Not too many women drove then; they took the bus to go "down town", shopping at the Dry (Oppenheim's) or the Globe, meeting for lunch, all dressed up like June Cleaver. We kids were sent to the corner store or drugstore with a list whenever our mothers needed something. The huckster came through the alley with his truck stocked with fresh fruit and vegetables; the milkman left your milk in a metal container by the back door.

We children walked everywhere—from up the hill to Nay Aug, to down the hill to town. In between, there was

the YMHA (later moving and becoming the JCC), Madison Avenue Temple (also moving and renamed Temple Hesed), Temple Israel, Madison and Audubon schools, and Central High School (now Lackawanna College).

Then there were Dorfman's, Mrs. Liva's for piano lessons, Sesso's, the Strand, Comerford, and Riviera Theaters, each showing a different movie for a week, plus a cartoon and Pathe News. There was still vaudeville at the Capitol Theater.

You may wonder what we did for fun. We mostly played outside with all the other kids on the block. It didn't matter how old you were or if you were a boy or girl—everyone was included. We played tag, hopscotch, how many steps before the queen, marbles, yoyos. We roller-skated up and down the uneven sidewalks, and had a lot of skinned knees.

When it snowed, we rode our Flexible Flyers down the hills, and we built snowmen, actually using coal for the eyes. We were out for hours, and nobody worried about us. Our mothers started yelling for us at dinnertime, after which we went out again until it got dark.

Again, nobody worried about us.

After we had our baths, we colored pictures in our coloring books, or played card games, Monopoly, or Parcheesi with our parents, all the while listening on the radio to The Green Hornet, Superman, The Shadow, Amos and Andy, and the Lone Ranger. We also did a lot of reading.

Our lives were pretty much the standard fare for smaller towns in those times. (The population of Scranton was over 100,000 then.) What was different was that, as Jewish children, we all lived in the Hill Section. We

either attended Madison or Audubon School, depending on whether you lived in the Lower or Upper Hill. You walked to school, came home for lunch, and then walked back. When you got out at 3:30, there was Hebrew School. At Madison School, where I went, 90% of the kids there were Jewish, and all of the teachers were Catholic, products of Marywood. We said the Pledge of Allegiance and the Our Father prayer every morning. We learned every Christmas carol imaginable, but not one Hanukkah song.

No one thought anything was wrong with that.

As Jewish children, we hung out at the YMHA/JCC, where we bowled, swam, participated in Sunday Clubs and Day Camp at Chapman's Lake. When we became teenagers, we were club leaders, camp counselors, and members of sororities and fraternities, all meeting at the JCC. A lot of our time was also spent at our Temples, at youth group meetings and services, which welcomed everyone, no matter what your affiliation.

All of this nostalgia is leading up to my telling you about a Jewish Reunion that will be held this Labor Day weekend.

The idea is to have Baby Boomers and those a bit older and younger get together to renew acquaintances and remember The Good Old Days. There will be a special service and oneg here on Friday night, a gathering at Temple Israel on Saturday, and a brunch at the JCC on Sunday morning. Right now, we're getting the word out, and many interested people are signing up on-line, even if they can't attend.

Please contact me at 570-348-9240 or at ebabunny@aol.com for more information.

Esther Adelman



FEBRUARY 2017

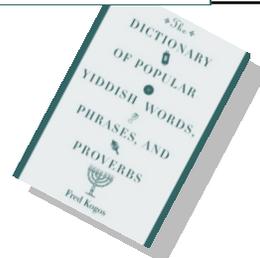
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 SERVICES 6 p.m.	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Tu B'Shvat SERVICES 7 p.m.	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 SERVICES 8 p.m.	18 Chanting Circle 10:30 a.m.
19	20 President's Day	21	22	23	24 SERVICES 8 p.m.	25
26	27	28				

Holidays 5777

<i>Rosh Hashanah</i> — Oct. 3, 2016	<i>Apr. 11-17, 2017</i>
<i>Yom Kippur</i> — Oct. 12, 2016	<i>Yom HaShoah</i> — April 24, 2017
<i>Sukkot</i> — Oct. 17-22, 2016	<i>Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzmaut</i> — May. 1 & 2, 2017
<i>Simchat Torah</i> — Oct. 25, 2015	<i>Lag BaOmer</i> — May 14, 2017
<i>Hanukkah</i> — Dec. 25, 2016-Jan 1, 2017	<i>Shavuot</i> — Mat 31, 2017
<i>Tu B'Shvat</i> — Feb. 11, 2017	<i>Tisha B'Av</i> — Aug. 1, 2017
<i>Purim</i> —Mar. 12	<i>Selichot</i> —Sept. 16
<i>Passover</i> —	(Holidays begin at sundown the night before)

YIDDISH SAYING OF THE MONTH

“Locks keep out only
the honest.”



Yiddish Proverb from
a book by Fred Kogos



Torah Portions

Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Bo	Feb. 4, 2017	8.Shvat.5777
Beshalach	Feb. 11, 2017	15.Shvat.5777
Vitro	Feb. 18, 2017	22.Shvat.5777
Mishpatim	Jan. 28, .2017	29.Shvat.5777

Show Deference to our Elders – Religious School to visit Elan Gardens

Our Religious School has spent the year focusing on some of the key mitzvot, commandments toward righteousness, found in the Torah portion Kedoshim, which we read twice a year, once during the normal cycle (usually in April or May) and once at Yom Kippur.

It reviews and adds to the 10 Commandments, as we are taught to leave the “corners of our fields” for the poor and hungry, to welcome the stranger, and to avoid gossip.



In February, we are focusing on a passage that reads, “Rise up before a hoary head, and show deference to your elders.”

On February 26, our religious school students will be visiting Elan Gardens and doing some fun projects with the seniors there.

If you would like to help with this event, please call the Temple office.

Connecting to the Tree of Life – February Chanting Circle



Since we began in September, our chanting circle has been growing steadily, sort of like a tree.

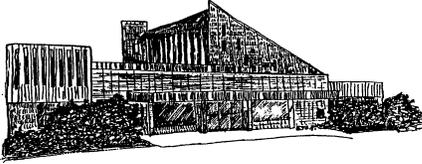
That makes it all the more appropriate that this month, as we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the New Year of the Tree, we focus on our connection to the Tree of Life in our February Chanting Circle, on Saturday the 18th at 10:30 a.m.

Outside, the sap begins to flow mysteriously upward as trees prepare for Spring (which is why maple syrup is produced this time of year).

Inside, we will seek to connect with wisdom and energy of the surrounding forest through our chants and our study.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxing, energizing morning.

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Well Wishes

Phil Friedman

Esther Friedmann

Meyer Levine

James Mates

Rich Mates

Milton Moses

Charlene Ostro

Emily Trunzo

Edward Snitko, Sr.

Week Ending February 4 (Service February 3)

*Frances Kaufman, *Dorothy Rosenberg, *Pamela Tigrett, Jacob Newman, Blanch Anspacher, *Aaron Cooperman, *Emma L. Sarlin, Fred Friedmann, *Stephen M. Simon, Rose Tevelin, *Maxwell M. Neumann, *Lena Weinberger, *Margaret Oettinger, *Leona Falk, *Tillie Ackerman, *Clara Lauer, *Harry M. Siegel.

Week Ending February 11 (Service February 10)

Stanley Bernfeld, *John Seagaard, *Bessie Alperin, *Freda Carlson, *Harry Schmerin, *Lewis Sugar, *Sara W. Wormser, *Miriam Ruth Vogel, *Dotty Selverstone, *David Cornfield, Frances Maislin, *Sol Benjamin, *Seymour Gutter, *Hanna Rymland, *Jean Weinberg, *Levi H. Kramer, *Sarah Fassler, *Alfred Brown, *Simon Krotosky, *Lewis Marks, *Willard A. Phillips, Ralph Strohl, *Simon Ferber, *Leo B. Roos.

Week Ending February 18 (Service February 17)

*Joel Mitchell Alperin, *Nannette Roos, *Arthur Besen, *Janet B. Rubinger, *Alfred Rice, Sr., Sara Mendlowitz, Mildred Lambert, *Marcus Fragin, *Minnie Levy, Tillie Fogel.

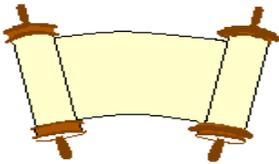
Week Ending February 25 (Service February 24)

*Louis E. Maring, Sr., *David Ackerman, *Ike E. Oppenheim, *Nathan H. Strauss, *Miriam S. Newman, Mindy Gromer, *Lillian Zepel, *Albert N. Kramer, *Dr. Henri Deutsch.

Week Ending March 4 (Service March 3)

*Oscar Leventhal, *Michael Cembalest, Max Slawitsky, *Carl Fragin, *Sallie Goodman, *Rosa J. Roos, *Rene Traub, *Anne C. Kramer, *Benjamin Friedman, *David Goldsmith, *William Weinstock, *David Rymland, *Elias G. Roos, *Isadore Gordon, *Samuel B. Silverstein, *Adele Hollander, Tillie Lebowitz, *Harrie Phillips Mittelman, *Monroe Brandwene, *Hilda Ziegler, *Toni Brodrick, *Rita L. Pincus.

Bat Mitzvah



**Sadie
Shapiro**

June 10, 2017

**TEMPLE HESED
"SCRANTON'S FIRST SYNAGOGUE"**

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ABOUT TEMPLE HESED:

Temple Hesed, a Reform Synagogue founded Aug. 20, 1860, is Scranton's first and oldest Jewish congregation. It is one of the earliest congregations to join the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union for Reform Judaism. It has been a member since Dec. 12, 1874.

The synagogue serves the needs of individuals and families in Lackawanna County and surrounding areas. Situated on Knox Road, off Lake Scranton Road in the East Mountain section of Scranton, the current building opened in 1973. Temple Hesed operates a cemetery on West Warren Street in Dunmore.

The office is open Tuesday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rabbi Swartz is happy to set appointments at any convenient time. Contact him to set a time. The rabbi also has "drop-in" hours every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Rabbi holds these times open for visits or calls for which an appointment was not or could not be made.

The Temple Hesed Cemetery is open for visitation six days a week. Visitation hours are: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. till dusk and it is closed for Shabbat on Saturday. For more information, call the office.



Eco-Tip:

Transportation: The U.S. is responsible for 45% of the world's total global warming pollution from vehicles (Environmental Defense). Purchasing a fuel efficient car is one of the most effective environmental choices you can make. When it comes time to purchase a vehicle, aim for one that is rated at 35 miles per gallon or higher: <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

Eco-tip provided by GreenFaith: www.greenfaith.org

