



# Night of Comedy, April 1

### Also In the Messenger:

- ✧ Chanting Circle
- ✧ Second Seder
- ✧ Chai Mitzvah

This is no April Fools Day prank, but April 1 at 8 p.m. is really our annual Night of Comedy fundraiser at Temple Hesed.

Headlining the Night of Comedy is Brad Trackman, who's been seen on Comedy Central, the Late, Late Show and in New York comedy clubs. He is astute at capturing the humorous side of everyday life experiences and observations.



MICHAEL CAPOZZOLA



BRAD TRACKMAN



EVIE RAFALHO MCNULTY

Featured is Michael Capozzola, a San Francisco-based comedy writer, comedian, actor and cartoonist. Despite the Italian name, Michael is Jewish and proves with every joke

*(Continued on page 8)*

### BE THERE:

A Night of Comedy

April 1, 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Tickets \$30 at door.

# Second Night Seder at Temple

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Our seder this year features home-made brisket and turkey, soups from Abe's Deli, and fantastic salads and side-dishes from Caravia! But as wonderful as the food will be, it's not all about the food.

This year, as outlined in Rabbi Daniel's Rabbinical Reflections column, we will be exploring both inner and outer aspects of slavery and freedom. Join us as we seek to free ourselves from our inner pharaohs, even as we join in solidarity with those facing outer oppression around the world.

The seder is \$20/adult, \$10 for children 7-12 and free for children 6 and under. RSVP to [templehesed@comcast.net](mailto:templehesed@comcast.net) or 570-344-7201 – everyone is welcome.



# Donations

## BUILDING FUND

**In Memory of Henri Deutsch**

*Steve and Ellen Seitchik*

**In Memory of Ignatz Deutsch**

*Vincent and Marlene Grattolino*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Edna Lauscher**

*George and Helen Lauscher*

## CEMETERY ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Honor of my Father, Cal D. Malcom**

*Jodi Malcom*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Jake Slawitsky**

*Janet Slawitsky*



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

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



Rabbinical Reflections — Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

## Out From Narrowness



Long before Sigmund Freud, Jews have been fascinated by what is today called psychology. Indeed, while today we often associate the Hasidic movement with Tevye-esque shtetls and ultra-orthodox practices, one of the key reasons the movement swept through Eastern Europe was that its rebbes preached and taught profound psychological insights. They took Torah texts that had been taught in an academic, dry fashion and re-interpreted them as guides to the daily lives of ordinary Jews. These stories, they taught, weren't just about the ancient history of distant lands, but also were about our internal struggles.

Perhaps the most profound such reinterpretation had to do with the Exodus. While the story has served as an inspiration for freedom movements all around the world, it still can seem quite remote from our lives today. We're not slaves in Egypt, we don't, at least in a literal sense, serve Pharaoh, we don't have Moses as our leader, and we're not witnessing grand miracles on a daily basis.

But what if we understood Egypt, *Mitzrayim* in Hebrew, not as a place but as a state of mind? Tzar means both a problem (the Yiddish *tzuris*, troubles or woes, comes from this Hebrew word) and a narrow place. *Mi* means out from (as in the blessing over bread, when we thank God for bringing forth bread from out of the earth), and *ayim* is the ending for doubled words, such as eyes or arms or legs. So, to the Hasidic masters, going forth from *Mitzrayim* really means getting unstuck from the narrowness we find ourselves in when we face troubles in our life.

That narrowness, that sense of being stuck between a rock and hard place, is about as universal an experience as there is. Even the most cheerful and optimistic of us can find ourselves in this inner *Mitzrayim*. Thus, insights into how we get stuck – and even more so, how we might get unstuck and out of the narrow place – are ideas all of us can use frequently.

We'll explore the spiritual side

of this question during April's Chanting Circle, on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. And at our annual community Second Night Seder, at 6 p.m.; on April 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll look at both the physical and psychological aspects of liberation, through the lens of "the stranger," the Torah's term for immigrants.

But to give you an advance taste of what's to come in these programs, ponder this: have you ever thought you were trapped in a binary choice – either this or that – when suddenly, either on your own or with help, you realized, wait a minutes, there's a third way out that I hadn't even considered before?

Intrigued? Or perhaps just feeling stuck right now and in search of relief? Join us on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> – and let's go forth from our inner *Mitzrayim* together!

*Rabbi Daniel Swartz*

Presidents' Page

By Esther Adelman, Co-President



# Why Esther is Sad

I am really sad. I am sad because so few of our members take advantage of what goes on here at Temple Hesed.

It's not just about coming to services. I realize that there are many reasons that you don't come. You are tired after a long week, and just want to relax on a Friday night without rushing up to Temple. Once you get here, though, it is a way to let go of the rest of the hectic week, and to relax, with prayer and song, along with the others present. To quote Rabbi Richman, we are "alone together", which, taken out of context, seems to contradict itself, but if thought of in reference to sitting peacefully at a Shabbat service, takes on its intended meaning.

Ed Snitko's organ music on the second and fourth Fridays is soothing and inspiring. Rabbi Swartz's talks each week are informative and well-crafted, with opportunities for those attending to candidly voice their

thoughts and opinions.

Then again, there's that NEPA weather to contend with---too cold, too hot, rainy, snowy---and dealing with the awful potholes on the hill. Do you really want to make the effort? If it's really bad out there, services are cancelled. We're not about to put your lives in danger.

Then there are the kids. Get a sitter, or bring them along? Is it too late for them to be out? That's why we have a shortened service at 6 p.m. on each first Friday.

They (and you) would also enjoy the service on the third Shabbat of each month, when Harry Adelman plays his awesome music at the informal service, which runs shorter.

Services celebrating Sukkot, Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot are kid-friendly. There's even a special (shorter) prayerbook that includes many of them.

What about trying out the Tu B'Shevat seder, which is definitely a neat, different, and enjoyable experience? Or the Purim dinner followed by the Purim Shpiel, written by Rabbi, with music by Harry? This gets funnier every year. Both programs are participant-oriented, to whatever extent is in your comfort zone. On Simchat Torah, we march and dance with the Torahs, and also get to see one of them unrolled in its entirety. On Sukkot, we have our oneg outside in our sukkah. These are all ways in which we get doses of worship, study, and socialization in a meaningful, but enjoyable, venue.

I hope that you can already see that Temple Hesed is not only a place of worship, but it is also a house of study and a place for socializing. I will address these other facets of Temple life in my May article. Here's to a great spring!

*Esther Adelman*



# April 2017

| Sun   | Mon                                  | Tue   | Wed       | Thu       | Fri                             | Sat  |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|--|
|   |                                      |   |           |           |                                 | <b>1</b><br>Comedy Night<br>8pm              |
| <b>2</b>                                      | <b>3</b>                             | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>SERVICES<br>6 p.m.  | <b>8</b><br>Chanting<br>Circle<br>10:30 a.m. |
| <b>9</b><br>Chai Mitzvah<br>Program ta 11 am  | <b>10</b><br>Pesach Eve<br>1st Seder | <b>11</b><br>Pesach<br>2nd Seder 6pm<br>at Temple | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>SERVICES<br>8 p.m. | <b>15</b>                                    |
| <b>16</b>                                     | <b>17</b><br>7th Day of Pesach       | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b><br>SERVICES<br>8 p.m. | <b>22</b>                                    |
| <b>23</b>                                     | <b>24</b>                            | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>SERVICES<br>8 p.m. | <b>29</b>                                    |
| <b>30</b> Religious<br>School Program<br>9 am |                                      |   |           |           |                                 |  |

## Holidays 5777

*Rosh Hashanah*— Apr. 11-17, 2017  
*Oct. 3, 2016*

*Yom HaShoah*—  
*April 24, 2017*

*Yom Kippur* —  
*Oct. 12, 2016*

*Yom HaZikaron  
& Yom  
HaAtzmaut* —  
*May. 1 & 2, 2017*

*Sukkot*—  
*Oct. 17-22, 2016*

*Simchat Torah* —  
*Oct. 25, 2015*

*Lag BaOmer* —  
*May 14, 2017*

*Hanukkah* —  
*Dec. 25, 2016-Jan  
1, 2017*

*Shavuot*—  
*Mat 31, 2017*

*Tu B'Shvat* —  
*Feb. 11, 2017*

*Tisha B'Av*—  
*Aug. 1, 2017*

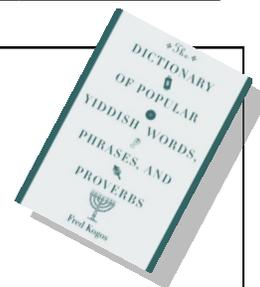
*Purim*—*Mar. 12*     *Selichot* —*Sept. 16*

*Passover*—

*(Holidays begin at sundown the  
night before)*

## YIDDISH SAYING OF THE MONTH

“A lie you must not  
tell; the truth you  
don’t have to tell.”



Yiddish Proverb from  
a book by Fred Kogos

## Torah Portions

| Name          | Civil Date       | Hebrew Date    |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| Vayikra       | April 1, 2017    | 5.Nissan.5777  |
| Tzav          | April. 8, 2017   | 12.Nissan.5777 |
| Shemini       | April 22, 2017   | 26.Nissan.5777 |
| Tazia-Merzora | April. 29, .2017 | 3.Iyar.5777    |

More Torah resources at [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org)

## Early 6 p.m. Services. Should We Keep Them?

Our 6 p.m. First Friday early services were designed to give individuals and families who didn't want to be out late a way to experience the beauty and joy of Shabbat together. And for many months, they have done just that. But lately, attendance at our early services has dropped off.

Should we keep First

Friday services at 6 p.m.? Change them to 7 p.m.? Alter the format or hold them in locations other than the Temple? Get rid of them entirely?

Let Rabbi Daniel know what you think – [rabbi-daniel@comcast.net](mailto:rabbidaniel@comcast.net) -- and if you want to keep them as they are, show up on April 7<sup>th</sup> before they are gone!

## Chai Mitzvah is starting on April 9th – sign up now!

Rabbi Daniel had hoped to start the monthly Chai Mitzvah classes immediately after the High Holy Days but for a variety of reasons had to put the starting date off.

Now the time has come to get the class rolling! This award-winning program has two main components: a monthly group class and individual “Jewish Bucket Lists.”



Each month, the class, taught by Rabbi Daniel, studies some key topic, the same topic Chai Mitzvah groups are studying all across the globe!

April's topic is “Israel and Jewish Life,” as we explore the complex relationship between modern American Jews and the Israel both of tradition and today. In between classes, each student works on their “Bucket List” of study, spiritual practice, and social action, supported by the other students and mentored by Rabbi Daniel. The class will generally meet in people's homes, but our first session will be at Temple Hesed, on April 9th at 11 a.m.

There is a \$25 fee to cover class materials (\$35 for non-members), and the course is open to all. Please email or call Rabbi Daniel to sign up – 570-344-7201 or [rabbidaniel@comcast.net](mailto:rabbidaniel@comcast.net). And for “snowbirds,” we will be working on streaming the class so that people can join in remotely – call or email Rabbi Daniel for details.

April 30— Date Change

## Who's Your Idol?

Our April Temple Hesed Religious School program will explore how, without a Golden Calf or statues to bow down to, we still manage to regularly violate the 2nd commandment and have idols in our lives.

What are they, where are they hiding, and what should we do about them? Our students and their families will explore this subject through multi-media learning, games, and projects (no, we're not building a modern golden calf!) on Sunday morning, April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us, including families not yet affiliated with Temple Hesed – but RSVP to the office if you'd like to come, as everyone will have some “idol” homework to do in advance of the session.

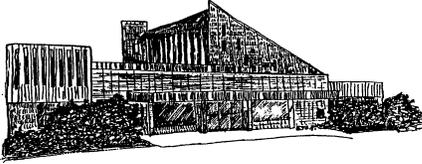
Please note: this is a date change from the original calendar, which had this session on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Escaping Narrowness! – April 8th Chanting Circle

Spring is a time of freedom. We see the world outdoors being liberated (at last!) from the oppression of winter. At our seder, we tell the ancient story of the Jewish people reaching freedom after generations of slavery. But what about ourselves? In what ways do we feel enslaved? Or perhaps, enslave ourselves? And how do we break out from the narrow places of our hearts and souls, get past crippling worries or fears or whatever is holding us back?

In this month's chanting circle, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., we will explore finding freedom from our inner “pharaohs,” through the wisdom of both Jewish and Sufi chants and teachings. No prior experience necessary – just a willingness to see things in a new light, support each other, and seek freedom!

# Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



## *Get Well Wishes*

*Phil Friedman*

*Rich Mates*

*Charlotte Milliken*

*Milton Moses*

*Charlene Ostro*

*Emily Trunzo*

*Edward Snitko,  
Sr.*

## **Week Ending April 1 (Service March 31)**

Max Ballot, \*Joshua Marks, \*Albert Rose, \*Arthur Adelman, \*William Stein, \*Jack Benkaim, \*Ruth Folk, \*Lois Besen, \*Ida Richman.

## **Week Ending April 8 (Service April 7)**

\*Samuel N. Kramer, \*Hattie Levi, \*Elsie Schneider, \*Abraham Cornfield, Fred A. Ellenbogen, \*Hannah Joseph, \*Meyer Slavitz, Sheldon A. Davis, \*Myer Kabatchnick, \*Israel Linder, \*Joan Alperin, Florence Brown, \*Arnold L. Apfelbaum, \*Paul William Weinstock.

## **Week Ending April 15 (Service April 14)**

\*Daniel H. Stone, \*Dr. Gladys Ball, \*Harlan Ackerman, \*Rose Swartz, Nellie Wooden, \*Edith Leventhal, Dr. Carl Strauss, \*Gertrude Diener, \*Al Dolinger, Jennie Newman, \*Jack M. Yanover, Aaron Pashkow.

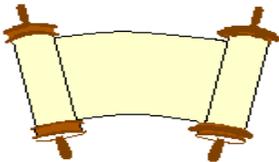
## **Week Ending April 22 (Service April 21)**

Edward Bernstein, \*Shirley Mitteldorf, \*Frances Ehrlich Joseph, \*Elsa Stein Ehrlich, \*Alice L. Goldsmith, \*Fred Mark Seagaard, \*Elizabeth R. Levi, \*Rae Epstein, \*Ralph L. Levy, \*Selman Stein, \*Aaron H. Vogel, Harold Kaplan, \*Rebecca Weinberg, Jerome I. Karnoff, \*Harry Ackerson.

## **Week Ending April 29 (Service April 28)**

\*Emma Kramer Freeman, Dr. Jacob S. Kominz, \*Lena Rosenberg, \*Joyce Kroll, \*Fred B. Levi, \*Grace Pawlan, Hannah Feinberg, \*Samuel Morris, \*Elias Strauss, Lena Cohen.

## **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.



# Comedy Night

(Continued from page 1)

that you don't have to be Jewish to enjoy a Jewish comedian. You may have seen him in commercials for clients like Target.

Evie Rafalko-McNulty will emcee our Night of Comedy fundraiser.

A long-time Democratic Party official, she may have a few things to say about the presidential election.

Tickets are \$30 at the door. Must be over 21 to attend. Beer, wine and soda available for purchase.

## Eco-Tip:

**Food:** Nearly 70% of commercial fishing grounds are depleted or recovering from overfishing (Source: UN Food and Agriculture Organization). Before ordering seafood, reach for your Seafood Watch pocket guide: [www.seafoodwatch.org](http://www.seafoodwatch.org) which will give you the 'red' light or 'green' when deciding what to choose.

Eco-tip provided by GreenFaith: [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)

