



On June 9

Islamic Expert to Give Oppenheim Presentation

Also In the Messenger:

- ✧ *Chanting Circle*
- ✧ *Protect the undocumented*
- ✧ *Chai Mitzvah*

Is terrorism a fact of life? Is every Muslim a potential terrorist? Is Islamophobia justified —ever?

Join us June 9 at 7 p.m. for the annual Oppenheim Institute Social Action service and lecture.

Alejandro Beutel, an expert on Islamophobia and Terrorism at the University of Maryland, will be interviewed by Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, professor at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and head of their Interfaith work.

A son of a Jewish father, and Hispanic Catholic mother, Beutel converted to Islam.

He is Researcher for Countering Violent Extremism at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). Prior to START, Beutel was the Policy and Research Engagement Fellow at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), an applied research think-tank specializing in the study and promotion of evi-

dence-based development strategies for positive civic, social, and political engagement outcomes for American Muslim communities.



Alejandro Beutel

At ISPU, he was Co-Principal Investigator and Project Manager of the "Islamophobia: A

(Continued on page 10)

Annual Meeting on June 28

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The Annual Congregational Meeting of Temple Hesed will be June 28 at 7 p.m.

The temple's board of directors will meet at 6 p.m.

Votes will be taken on a number of issues, including the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget. This year's budget was saved from a massive deficit by an anonymous donor who pledged to cover the projected red ink.

Congregation members will also hear the latest from the Temple's Long-Range Planning Committee,

which has been looking at the viability of our present building. Past president Mark Davis and other committee members have been looking at the value of the building and its passible sale. A full report will be given to the annual meeting.

Congregation members will also vote on new terms for some directors and officers.

The full agenda will be available before the meeting. It is open to all members in good standing.

The board will not meet in May.

Donations

ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOW- MENT FUND

**In Honor of the Yahr-
zeit of Joan Alperin**

*James and Patricia
Alperin*

BUILDING FUND

**In Honor of the Yahr-
zeit of Elsie Schneider**

Irwin Schneider

**In Memory of Marjorie
Sundheim**

Jim and Amy Fleming

**In Honor of the Yahr-
zeit of Harry Ackerson**

Frank A. Milani

ROSELLE B. AND LOUIS A. FINE MEMORIAL FUND FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

**In Memory of Lindsay
Doherty**

Richard and Carole Fine

**In Memory of Marjorie
Sundheim**

Richard and Carole Fine

RABBI'S DISCRE- TIONARY FUND

**In Honor of the Yahr-
zeit of Max Ballot**

Robert Ballot

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**In Honor of the Yahr-
zeit of Dr. Carl Strauss**

Cheryl Friedman

**In Memory of Ger-
trude Diener**

*John and Patti Diener
Lough*

**In Memory of Carl
Diener**

*John and Patti Diener
Lough*

**In Honor of the Yahr-
zeit of Nellie H. Wood-
en**

Sherman F. Wooden

TORAH RESTORA- TION FUND

**In Honor of the Yahr-
zeit of Grace Pawlan**

Esther B. Adelman

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



Rabbinical Reflections — Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

GIVING AND RECEIVING TORAH



Somewhere between the 2nd century BCE and the 2nd century CE, the early rabbis radically reinvented the holiday of Shavuot.

In the Torah, Shavuot is described only as an agricultural festival, giving thanks for the “first fruits” of the harvest. Seemingly out of nowhere, and backed only by complicated calendrical calculations, these sages declared that Shavuot marks the anniversary of the revelation on Mt. Sinai.

Over time, this aspect of the holiday became by far the most important, so much so that Shavuot came to be called the time *Mattan Torah*, the giving of the Torah. And for them, Torah meant not just the Five Books of Moses but every Jewish concept, including ones that hadn’t yet been formulated.

This was a pretty radical shift, not just for Judaism, but for the concept of religion anywhere in the world. Till then, God (or a whole pantheon of gods, depending on which religion you followed) became manifest primarily in the surrounding world, through the blessings of nature or extraordinary events. Now, added to that external presence came a much more internal world view — connecting to God through ide-

as, a set of principles, a text to be studied. God became the Teacher, and not just the Creator.

Focusing on the giving of the Torah enabled Judaism not only to survive cataclysmic exiles, but to develop ever richer, always evolving traditions.

I’ve always been so amazed at that large transformation that I’ve missed one very interesting detail, namely, why is it called the “giving of the Torah” and not the receiving of the Torah? The Kotzker rebbe, one of the noted Hasidic leaders, said it was for two reasons. First, the giving is universal, while each person’s receiving is just for him or herself. Furthermore, he taught, the giving happened once and so can be commemorated on one particular date, while the receiving is supposed to happen all the time.

From our viewpoint as modern, Reform Jews, however, the Kotzker rebbe’s teachings miss something important. We don’t view Torah as something that was given once and static ever since — rather we are reminded, as Gracie Allen taught (yes, of Burns and Allen fame) “never place a period where God has placed a comma.” We (and I would point out, in this regard we are closer to the sages who created the idea of Shavuot as the time

of the giving of Torah than the Kotzker rebbe is) think Torah is being created all the time, as each succeeding generation tries to understand what it is that God would have us do, what living a good life really means.

Equally important, the emphasis on the “giving” may lead us to falsely understand the receiving as something passive. If we think of ourselves as partners with God in both creating Torah and transmitting it, however, we come to understand how receiving demands active participation. This year, during our Shavuot study (see page 9). Rabbi Marjorie and I are going to try to have us all model that partnership and participation as we seek not just to learn from the mystics who started the tradition of Shavuot study, but to imitate them and transform their ideas. Join us, and help us create new Torah together!

Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Presidents' Page

By Esther Adelman, Co-President



Temple Programs Successful, Give Them a Try

Since my previous Messenger article, we've had many opportunities to get together at Temple Hesed. Besides our ongoing Shabbat services, other events have taken place in March and April. Many of you did take advantage of them.

We had some great programming these last two months. Some were driven by the Jewish calendar; others by our own needs.

Our celebration of Purim was awesome. There were games for the children, yummy food, and the annual Purimshpiel. Each year, Rabbi Swartz outdoes himself with his themed song parodies scripted into the story of Queen Esther. Harry Adelman beautifully adapts the music. Each year, we say that this one was the best ever, but each year, it gets even better. That's a lot of pressure on our creative Rabbi!

If you've never attended a chanting circle, you're missing out on a truly unique experience. Once a month, a very mixed group

of people, from both in and out of Temple, gathers on a Sunday morning to meditate to chants arranged by Rabbi Shefa Gold. Rabbi Swartz and Marjorie are students of Rabbi Gold, so we have the advantage of Rabbi Swartz being able to select those relating to a specific theme at each meeting. It is a peaceful hour, where you can shed your worries for a short time and share them with the group if you wish.

The annual Night of Comedy was appropriately held on April Fools' Day. We thank Jennifer Novak for again arranging a truly enjoyable evening. Funny performers, a variety of snacks and desserts, and many delicious types of wine abounded. We even netted a nice profit!

The second-night Passover Seder was a success, despite last-minute menu changes due to the water-boil advisory. It was warmly presented and well attended. Accommodations were made for those who showed up without reservations.

Rabbi Swartz has given our congregation

the opportunity to participate in an award-winning global study program, Chai Mitzvah. The first introductory class has been held, and it promises to be a very interesting and informative learning experience. It's not too late to sign up. Please contact Rabbi for more information.

You can see that worship, learning, and socialization all come together in everything that we do at Temple Hesed. Just showing up every now and then will enable you to feel at home here. We take our name seriously, but we are naturally a warm, welcoming community, so it's easy

We welcome your input. Let us know if we can serve you better. I hope to see you soon.

Esther Adelman

Chai Mitzvah Class: Gratitude May 7th 11 a.m.

In April, we launched the Chai Mitzvah program with a special introductory class on understanding the development and variety of Jewish texts. But don't fret if you missed it – you can still join in on our second class, which will focus on the theme of Gratitude. (and if you'd like a make-up session for the first class, Rabbi Daniel is glad to schedule one-on-one sessions.)

Using award winning material from the national Chai Mitzvah program, we'll look at a them important not only to Judaism, but to living a satisfying, full life, no matter what your faith is. The year-long Chai Mitzvah program is \$25 (to cover materials) and includes both the once-a-month group classes and individual projects, selected by each student with help from the rabbi.

Our session on the 7th will be at the house of Temple Hesed vice-president, Larry Milliken. To RSVP for the class and to get directions to Larry's house, please email to rabbidaniel@comcast.net or call the Temple office at 570-344-7201



May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Yom HaZikaron	2 Yom HaAtzamuit	3	4	5 SERVICES 8 p.m.	6
7 Chai Mitzvzh @ 11 am	8	9	10	11	12 SERVICES 6 p.m.	13 Chanting Circle 10:30 a.m.
14 Lag B'Omer	15	16	17	18	19 SERVICES 8 p.m.	20 family retreat
21 family retreat	22	23	24	25	26 SERVICES 8 p.m.	27
28	29	30 Study at TI from 9-11 p.m.	31 Shavuot			

Holidays 5777

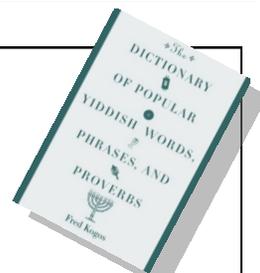
Rosh Hashanah— Apr. 11-17, 2017
 Oct. 3, 2016
 Yom HaShoah—
 Yom Kippur — April 24, 2017
 Oct. 12, 2016
 Yom HaZikaron
 & Yom
 HaAtzmaut —
 May. 1 & 2, 2017
 Sukkot—
 Oct. 17-22, 2016
 Simchat Torah —
 Oct. 25, 2015
 Hanukkah —
 Dec. 25, 2016-Jan
 1, 2017
 Tu B'Shvat —
 Feb. 11, 2017
 Purim—Mar. 12
 Passover—
 (Holidays begin at sundown the
 night before)

YIDDISH SAYING OF THE MONTH

“When the cat is
 asleep, the mice
 dance around.”



Yiddish Proverb from
 a book by Fred Kogos



Torah Portions

Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Acharei-Kedoshim	May 6, 2017	10.Iyar.5777
Emor	May 13, 2017	17.Iyar.5777
Behar-Bechukotai	May 20, 2017	24.Iyar.5777
Bamidbar	May. 27, .2017	2.Sivan.5777

Family Retreat with Temple Israel, May 19-21

For the first time ever, Temple Hesed and Temple Israel are jointly holding a family retreat. While aimed especially at families with children in the joint Hesed/Israel Hebrew School program, it is open to all families.



This exciting weekend will be held at Camp Ramah, less than an hour away! Join Rabbis Swartz and Saks, along with Cantor Aronzon and the Hebrew School staff, as we spend a weekend together, experiencing Shabbat and the beauty of springtime in the Poconos!

Ramah has beautiful, comfortable facilities, including air conditioned/heated motel-type rooms with private baths, sports facilities, and its very own lake!

This exciting weekend is a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy themselves within the two Temple community. We will explore Judaism and nature as one can only do in an outdoor setting.

The fees are:

Adults - \$220/person

Children - \$110/person

Age 3 and under – free!

This includes lodging and all meals, from Friday Shabbat Dinner through Sunday Breakfast.

Help with the cost is available for those in need!

Shabbat Celebrating Mothers! May 12 @ 6 pm

(Please note: Because this will be an early service, our First Friday service, normally held at 6 pm, will be at 8 pm) Jewish mothers are a powerful bunch! From the very first Jewish mother, Sarah, a strong women who stood up to everyone from foreign leaders to God, to present day Jewish mothers, who, in addition to taking care of their families, also manage to do everything from winning Nobel prizes to serving in the U.S. Senate, Jewish women have had a profound impact on the whole world.)

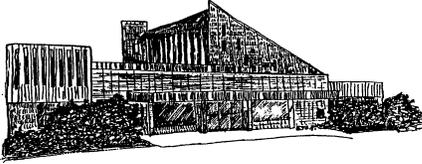
This year, on Mother's Day weekend, we are holding a special Shabbat service to honor not only all mothers, but also all those other strong women who have helped make our world a better place.

This special, shortened service will begin at 6 pm, and will feature lively, family-friendly music and stories. Everyone will get a chance to participate in the celebration! Services will be followed by a pot luck dinner.

There is no charge for this program, but please RSVP early, so we can assign you a dish for the potluck and make sure we have enough tables set up!

(For those of you missed it, our Passover Seder, which had 30 RSVPs, ended up with nearly 40 people in attendance. While we're glad to have people come, it makes the evening much more enjoyable for everyone if we don't constantly have to move tables and people.)

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Well Wishes

Jimmie Ellenbogen

Phil Friedman

James Mates

Rich Mates

Charlotte Milliken

Milton Moses

Charlene Ostro

Emily Trunzo

Edward Snitko, Sr.

Week Ending May 6 (Service May 5)

*Louis N. Kramer, Herbert Cummins, *Herman Gutman, *Sarah F. Kline, *Nathan Young, *Sigmund G. Roos, *John Speir, Gertie Gross, *Roselle Fine, *Samuel M. Friedman.

Week Ending May 13 (Service May 12)

*Sarah Weinberg, *Gloria Magida Scheinholtz, *Nellie B. Stromberg, Laura Her- man, *Samuel L. Goldstein, Nat Fragin, *Selma Sydansk, Rella Mates, *Bess Linder, *Isaac Sobel, Miriam Stern, *Barbara J. Graham, *Edward Bruce Adelman.

Week Ending May 20 (Service May 19)

Samuel Cooperman, *Anne Mitteldorf, Benjamin Levy, *Rosemary Minkoff, *Estelle H. Cohen, *Louis Driesen, *Philip Joseph, Jack W. Heilbrunn, *Sadie Zwass Berger, *Blanche Katz, *Max Pell, *George Schneider, *Dr. Henry Fish, Sara Marsha Levy, *Charles Ball.

Week Ending May 27 (Service May 26)

Lillian Bernstein, *Louis Meyer, *Sondra Schneider Kaar, *Harold Gold, *Evalyn Lonstein, *Earle R. Parker, *Max Lerner, Anna Kurzweil, Ralph Blau, *Israel Davidow, *Fern Smith Tepper, Milton Cooperman, *Edna M. Siegel.

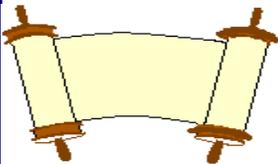
Week Ending June 3 (Service June 2)

*William Krotosky, *Simon Smith, *Cora F. Reinthal, *Rochelle Goldman, *Louis Goldsmith, *Selma Blank Maring, *Sophie Driesen, *Rose Slavitz, *Betty Goldsmith, *Leonard Cohen, *Lenore Forman.

Bat Mitzvah

**Sadie
Shapiro**

June 10, 2017

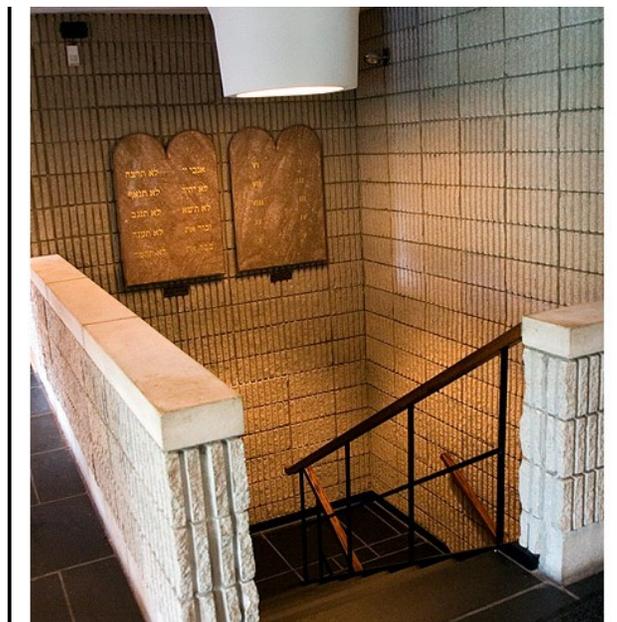


CHANTING CIRCLE: ON THE JOURNEY,
MAY 13 10:30 A.M.

Join us for this month's Chanting Circle on May 13th, as we explore the idea of journeys – sacred pilgrimages, our journeys through life, the value of wandering in the wilderness.

Together we'll learn a "walking meditation" chant, designed to accompany us as we go about our daily journeys. The Chanting Circle group is welcoming to people of all faiths and none, in a supportive, healing atmosphere.

Come see what you've been missing!



Shavuot Study: **Bedecking the Bride, May 30, 9-11 p.m.**

Rabbis Daniel and Marjorie recently traveled to Philadelphia to study with the noted scholar of Jewish mysticism, Dr. Melila Hellner-Eshed. Melila, the author of the award winning book on the Zohar (the most important work of Jewish mysticism), *A River Flows from Eden: The Language of Mystical Experience in the Zohar*, taught about how the authors of the Zohar came up with the idea of Tikkun Leil Shavuot, late-night study session on the eve of the Festival of Shavuot.

She highlighted the almost jazz-like, improvisational quality of their exploration of the Torah – and how much such an approach to Torah could mean to modern Jews.

On May 30th, Rabbis Marjorie and Daniel will once again join with Rabbi Saks at Temple Israel for a special Tikkun Leil Shavuot – but this year, instead of them each teaching an individual sessions, they will be working together to bring some of that "jazz" to all of you.

Through this process, we'll explore what the mystics called "bedecking the bride," revealing the Presence of the Divine through our linking together texts and life lessons.

Join us at Temple Israel at 9 p.m. May 30th for a session of study that you'll never forget!

Jews Must Protect Undocumented

WASHINGTON – Reform Jewish Congregations are being urged to protect undocumented immigrants facing deportation. The Union for Reform Judaism's North American Board of Trustees took this historic step in response to the growing concern about an increase in deportation activity by federal authorities and Congress's failure to comprehensively address immigration reform. This resolution responds to the urgent need of undocumented immigrants living in fear of deportation. The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) have historically stood with immigrants and refugees, and this resolution provides guidance and support for congregations doing this vital work today.

Following passage of the resolution, Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC), issued the following statement:

Today, we urge congregations to protect undocumented immigrants facing deportation by adopting a plan for providing resources, temporary shelter, legal assistance, or other forms of support to those in need. There are Reform synagogues in communities nationwide that are already supporting and protecting undocumented immigrants facing deportation within their communities, and with this resolution we hope growing numbers will join this holy work.

The Reform Movement has a history of providing support in the form of advocacy and sanctuary for undocumented immigrants and refugees fleeing persecution in their home countries, and now we will do so for those fearing deportation from our own. Current U.S. policy, long recognized as broken, keeps families apart and leaves millions of undocumented immigrants at risk of deportation, forcing them into the shadows. This pains us as Reform Jews, aware that the most repeated commandment in our religious teachings is to welcome the stranger.

As our congregations act in their communities, we will continue our longstanding pursuit of comprehensive immigration reform that offers a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, while continuing to keep our borders secure. The United States is stronger because of its history as a nation of immigrants. In the absence of legislative movement, we must take action.



**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.



Oppenheim

(Continued from page 1)

Threat to All" study, a research initiative that empirically analyzed anti-Muslim bigotry in the United States and provided actionable solutions to effectively combat it.

Beutel graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2013 with a Master of Public Policy. He also has a Bachelor of Science in International Relations and Diplomacy from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ.

Services will start at 7 p.m., and Mr. Beutel will start around 7:45; at 8:35 we will host an *Iftar* break-fast for the Muslim community.

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 36 miles per gallon or higher:

<http://www.fueleconomy.gov/>

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

