

Messenger

Scranton celebrates Thanksgiving at Temple Hesed on November 17th at 7 pm!

Also In the Messenger:

- ✧ **Are You Deep listening?**
- ✧ **Community Thanksgiving Service**
- ✧ **Food Drive Successful**

Since 1986, Friends of the Poor, in conjunction with the Scranton Area Ministerium and religious and civic leaders throughout our area, has hosted Thanksgiving dinners, opening their doors to all in need.

For most of that time, the Scranton Cathedral or another Scranton congregation have hosted an interfaith Thanksgiving service to start off a



week of Thanksgiving celebrations on the Monday of Thanksgiving week. This year, we're doing something different.

On November 17th at 7 p.m., our regular Shabbat service will be transformed into a community celebration, led by Rabbi Daniel in conjunction with leaders from the Muslim, Bahá'í, Protestant and Catholic communities.

Join us as we honor diversity and come together in gratitude with our neighbors from all different faiths!

Dig out your Recipes for our Cookbook

Inside this issue:

Rabbi's Page	3
Presidents' Page	4
Calendar, Holidays and Torah Portions	5
Yahrzeits & Personal Notes	7

Temple Information Back Page

Lettuce celebrate Temple Hesed with a community cookbook!!!

It's been done before, but we are ready to bring our old recipes up to date.

Is there a greater way to honor our past and present heritage than with food? No, there is not.

Gather your recipes from your family and friends for a Temple Hesed's Cookbook and Fundraiser.



We would love to include family favorites, recipes for all the holidays, healthy revision of old recipes.

This might sound cheesy, but you are all really grate to participate!!

Start gathering your recipes. They can be written or typed. Soon we will provide a link to e-mail them to us.

Our goal is to have a cookbook published by February or March!

Donations

ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Roseann Smith Alperin**

Patricia Jennings

In Memory of Sylvia Kaskey

Patricia Jennings

BUILDING FUND

**In Memory of Ceil Rydzewski's
mother**

Jeffrey and Robin Jacobson

In Memory of Ron Finkelstein

Leonard and Roberta Feinman

**Thank you to everyone who
made my attending High Holy
Day services possible**

James Ellenbogen

**In Memory of Beloved Mother,
Sadie Lerner**

Janet Slawitsky

**In Memory of Beloved Brother,
Isidore Lerner**

Janet Slawitsky

In Memory of Meyer Levine

James Ellenbogen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Manny Gelb**

Natalie Gelb

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

**In Honor of Yahrzeit of Samuel
Diamond**

Leonard and Roberta Feinman

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Le-
on L. Kramer, beloved father
and grandfather**

Paul and Carol Leiman

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Del-
bert Wooden**

Sherman F. Wooden

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Grandfather, Bernhardt Leh-
man**

Paula Wasser

MILTON AND MIRIAM FRIED- MAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Mir-
iam E. Friedman**

Paula and Jim Kane

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Je-
rome M. Friedman**

Paula and Jim Kane

**Wishing Paula Kane a complete
and healthy recovery**

Paula Wasser

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

**In Memory of Emily Trunzo's
sister, Mindy**

Esther Adelman

**In appreciation for Esther
Adelman and Marlene
Gianzanti
helping to make the High Holi-
days so beautiful**

Fran Olick and Michael Krakow

Wishing Larry Golden a Speedy Recov-
ery

Esther Adelman

Wishing Paula Kane a Speedy Recovery

Esther Adelman

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

NOTICE

The minimum donation for
acknowledgment by mail
and in *The Messenger* is now
\$10.

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



Rabbinical Reflections — Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

MEMORIES BY CANDLELIGHT



I write this as I am watching the candle for my mother's Yahrzeit burn down, seven years after she died. In that time, what have I learned about the customs of Yahrzeit? What are the traditions, and what could they mean to us today?

Let's start with the basics. A Yahrzeit is a death anniversary, from the Yiddish: *yahr/yohr*, year, and *zeit/sayt*, which means time. Typical of Yiddish tendencies to euphemize, it doesn't actually mention death, but that is how it has come to be understood through the years. The Yahrzeit is traditionally marked on the anniversary of the death on the Jewish calendar, but many people nowadays use the Gregorian calendar anniversary instead.

What are the customs one might observe on a Yahrzeit? There are two main customs: at home, lighting a Yahrzeit candle, which will burn for 25 hours, and at synagogue, saying Kaddish either on the Yahrzeit itself or on the Shabbat before or after. More recently, it has become a custom to have a Yahrzeit list at synagogue, which can consist of lights by permanent plaques, or printed lists, or, most recently, LED displays with the names for a given week.

Which brings me to what I've learned — one ritual to do and one practice to avoid. Before my mom died, when I'd light a Yahrzeit candle for someone, such as a grandparent, that was pretty much it. I'd simply light it (there are no blessings for lighting a Yahrzeit candle) and at some point notice when it went out. I didn't find a lot of meaning in it, I must admit. As my mom's first Yahrzeit approached, I wanted something more, so I asked Rabbi Marjorie what her custom was, did some reading, and researched it on the Internet.

Here's what my Yahrzeit practice has evolved to: While I observe the Gregorian date (in part because

that's what the rest of my family and my stepfather do), I light the candle in the evening. I place it in a prominent place where I'll be able to see it throughout the next 24 hours, and I set around it a number of items that remind me of my mom, ranging from photos to small gifts she gave me to flowers from some of her favorite plants. I share memories of my mom with whoever is there and sometimes read an appropriate poem. Then I sing one of the many campfire songs my mom taught me. Toward the end of the 24 hours, I make sure to be nearby the candle as it starts to go out, and just sit with my memories. Now, the Yahrzeit candle has become a meaningful, moving experience with each person that I remember

In synagogue life, on the other hand, there is an increasingly common practice that I hope I can convince you NOT to do. Yes, we turn on a light by a plaque or list a name in the weekly program to give honor to people and to our memories of them. But the light and the name aren't magic — they do nothing if there is no one there to witness the honor and to share the memory. Far too often, people make sure that a name is listed for Yahrzeit — but they don't actually come to Temple Hesed services to hear the name read. The name and the light aren't magical — the "magic," so to speak, only happens when you show up, honoring someone with your presence and the effort you took to be present, being comforted by a communal recitation of names and the Kaddish, and sharing memories when people ask you about the loved one you are remembering. So next time you have a Yahrzeit coming up, don't just light the candle and have someone else recite a list of names — put your heart into remembering and join us for services.

Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Presidents' Page

By Esther Adelman, Co-President



Is The Grass Always Greener?

These are the musings of a woman who just spent eleven carefree days in California, but who loved coming back to the familiar place where she was born and raised and where she has chosen to live her life.

As expected, it was sunny and pleasant there, but I checked on the weather here every day to find that it was pretty much the same: cool in the morning and evening, but warm in the afternoon. But there you couldn't go outside or open your windows for much of the time because of the smoke from the wildfires hundreds of miles away, which also took away the clarity of the sky.

True, they have Apple Stores in every mall, plus Trader Joe's, Bed Bath & Beyond, and See's Candies. (We have Gertrude Hawk!)

The traffic is much more than we are used to, especially on the freeways, where everyone is jockeying for position while going way too fast in six lanes of traffic.

I love that they are so aware of the environment that they have special parking places for electric cars, but they are few and far between, and there are no parking spots to be found anyway.

I love that they are so health-conscious, but sometimes you just need to have a Diet Coke and some Cheetos and not feel guilty about skipping the gym.

Now, you may ask, where is she going with all of this? Being away from home always makes me more appreciative of what we have here in NEPA.

Sure, there's putting up with the cold weather for a

good part of the year, but it's tolerable, except (to me) when the snow flies. But weather isn't everything. At least it isn't boring, and we don't have to endure the disastrous extremes that other parts of the country are subject to on a regular basis. It also gives everyone a common subject of discussion!

We have a nice lifestyle that can be as laid-back or as busy as you want it to be. Kids especially have a great time here. It's too bad that most of them choose to live elsewhere when they grow up. They always have fond memories of their hometown, though.

The people are what make this area a "nice place to live". Temple Hesed is full of good people, some of whom were born here, some of whom have returned to their roots, and some who actually chose to live here for one reason or another.

I know that I'm starting to sound like a broken record, and for that I apologize, but the more we participate in Temple life, the more we get to know each other, then the more we feel as though we *really* are a family. As in any family, we don't always agree, but our very diversity makes life here more interesting. As always, I invite you to join the family as we pray together, learn together, and enjoy a good time together.

In Hesed,

Esther Adelman

Chanting Circle - Deep Listening, November 11th

How many times have you been somewhere where people "heard" what you said but never really listened? Have you ever tried to listen to silence? And what would it mean to try to listen to the Divine? We'll explore all of these situations and more at 10:30

a.m. on Saturday, November 11th, as our monthly chanting circle focuses on "deep listening." Rabbi Daniel will share a chant that he has composed and the practices that go with it, and we'll also listen to and chant passages from Isaiah, the Psalms and more.

November 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 SERVICES 6 p.m.	4
5 Standard Time Starts. Hospice memorial 2 p.m.	6	7	8	9	10 SERVICES 8 p.m.	11 Veterans Day Chanting Circle 10:30 a.m.
12	13	14	15 Board Mtg 6pm at Le-venthal's home	16	17 Thanksgvg SERVICES 7 p.m.	18
19 Chai Mitzvah @ 11 am	20	21 Community T'giving at Masonic Temple	22	23 T'giving Day	24 NO Services	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Holidays 5778

Rosh Hashanah — *Yom HaShoah* —
Sept. 21, 2017 Apr. 12, 2018

Yom Kippur — *Yom HaZikaron*
Sept. 30, 2017 Apr. 18, 2018

Sukkot — *Yom HaAtzmaut*
Oct. 5-11, 2017 Apr. 19, 2018

Simchat Torah — *Lag B'Omer* —
Oct. 13, 2017 May 3, 2018

Hanukkah — *Shavuot* —
Dec. 13-20, 2017 May 20-21, 2018

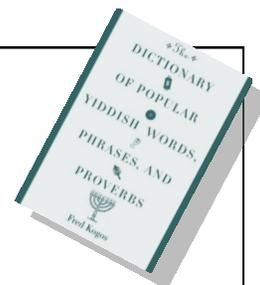
Tu B'Shvat — *Tisha B'Av* —
Jan. 31, 2018 July 22, 2018

Purim — *Selichot* — Sept. 1
Mar. 1, 2018

Passover —
Mar. 31-Apr. 7, 2018
(Holidays begin at sundown the night before)

YIDDISH SAYING OF THE MONTH

“No one believes a liar even when he tells the truth.”



Yiddish Proverb from a book by Fred Kogos



Torah Portions

Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Vayera	Nov. 4, 2017	15.Cheshvan.5778
Chayei Sarah	Nov. 11, 2017	22.Cheshvan.5778
Todot	Nov. 18, 2017	29.Cheshvan.5778
Vayetze	Nov. 25, 2017	7.Kislev.5778

Food Drive a Major Success

For the second year in a row, our food donation from our High Holy Day “Corners of the Field” program increased, even as our community itself has gotten smaller.

In fact, for the first time in a number of years, we collected over a ton of food, and our cash donations were also up significantly.

On October 24th, at our joint Hebrew School program, Temple Hesed’s students, who have done this for years, ably instructed Temple Israel students about sorting and transporting the food.

Then, with help from Jennifer Novak and Angela Weinberg, all the students together delivered the food to Angel’s Attic at the United Neighborhoods Center and the Kosher Food Pantry at Jewish Family Service.

When we arrived, the shelves at Angel’s Attic were completely bare – and when we left, there was almost no room left for any additional food donations.

Dozens of local families who had been turned away will now have nutritious food – all because of your

generosity.

Thank you!



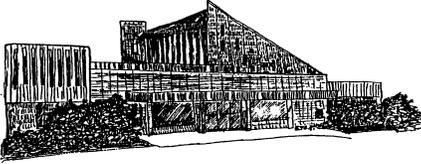
Temple Hesed to host Hospice Memorial Service on November 5

At 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 5th, Temple Hesed will host the semi-annual memorial service of the Sacred Heart Hospice.

Rabbi Daniel will lead the opening and closing prayers, and Rabbi Marjorie will deliver the reflection. This service, while especially for families whose loved ones have died while cared for by the hospice, is open to everyone and is designed to provide comfort to all who have suffered losses.

Temple Hesed is proud to be able to help these families in their time of need and to be a house of prayer for all people, as directed by the prophet Isaiah.

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Well Wishes

Paula Kane

Charlene Ostro

Emily Trunzo

Janet Slawitsky

Edward Snitko, Sr.

Week Ending November 4 (Service November 3)

*Richard S. Graham, *Daniel Jacobs, Maxine Ostro, Robert Siragusa, *Jeanne Weiss Antenson, *Isadore Goodman, *Irving Adelman, *Ethyl Gelfand, Hyman Mates, *Phillip Salsburg, *Hilda Landau, *Sadie Cohen, *Max A. Folk

Week Ending November 11 (Service November 10)

*Hannah Driesen, *Aaron Gelfand, *Irving Sarlin, *Regina R. Rosenthal, *Mary B. Sadow, *Rena Yanover, *Nathan B. Epstein, *Helen Friedman Giles, *Harry Ecker, *Albert Lenchner, *Stella Rose Mayfield, *Ralph Needle, *Ann Brandwene, Simon Levine

Week Ending November 18 (Service November 17)

*Ruth B. Marmelstein, *Beulah Davidow Block, *Emilie Midas, *Betty Wand, *Katherine Swartz, Hilde Gardner, *Alton Golden, *Helen W. Vogel, *Atty. Louise A. Fine, *Murray A. Cohen, *Isador Gevanthor, *Ralph Mendel, *Rose Wormser Strauss, Jack Newman, *Leopold Brodrick

Week Ending November 25 (Service November 17)

*Herbert M. Ball, *Rose Bud Leventhal, *Louis Slawitsky, *Ida Needle, *Ida Gutman, Nettie Slawitsky, *Lillian Ziman, *Lena Kurlancheek Silverstein, *Hyman Weiss, *Brian David Silverstein, *Steven Rex Tepper, *Hannah Klein Smith, *Albert Pace, Harry Lebowitz, *Frank Cohan, *Richard Oppenheim, Leo Moskovitz, *Sophie Stone, *Philip Ungar

Week Ending December 2 (Service December 1)

*Jack Goldman, *Selma Berger, *Susan Lonstein, *Anne J. Lipsins, *Jacob Ackerman, Kate Cooperman, *John Ross Lauer, *Dr. Jonas Selverstone, *Albert Jacobs, *Miriam Parker Gelb, *John J. Gaffney, Arthur Selznick, *Harry Lonstein, *Esther Oppenheim

HESED HALLAH & HONEY

October, 2017

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your support. It was much appreciated.

Our gratitude goes out to the wonderful members who helped pack and sort the bags: Elen Seitchik, Sharon Levy, Sandy Cooperman and Abby Smith.

Our terrific drivers were: Carole Fine, Esther Friedmann, Mike & Gail Greenstein, Larry Milliken, Ellen Seitchik, Gail Dickstein, Lynne Fragin, Sharon Levy and Carol and Jeff Leventhal. Those huge mums were heavy!

Many special thanks to the following people: Jay Rosenstein from Rosenstein & Sons, and Corky's for their wonderful generosity and support. We also appreciate all of Marlene's secretarial skills, support and constant assistance.

Deep appreciation goes to the following people who supported this fundraiser:

James Ellenbogen
Paula and Jim Kane

Dale and Bob Hersh
Loren Selznick

Esther Friedmann
Beth Kaplan

Jim and Patty Alperin
Len and Roberta Fineman

Audrey Harrell
Jen and Ross Novack

Carol and Jeff Leventhal
Carole and Richard Fine
Rick Levy

Lee Gromer
Denise and Ira Krafchin

Jamy Rosenstein
Andrew Weinberger

Lynne and Jerry Fragin

Lindsay Leventhal
Robin and Jeff Jacobson

Sandy Cooperman
Ken and Dale Miller

Nancy and Chris Dressel
Robert Rosenberg

Don and Carol Dembert
Sharon and Saul Levy

Harris and Janice Cutler
Judie and Larry Golden

Cheryl and Michael Friedman
Marlene Giazanti

Lainey and Len Denis
Claire Jacobson

Mark and Joan Davis
Jay Rosenstein

Gail and David Dickstein
Paula Wasser

Norm and Arlene Gevanthor
Larry and Charlotte Milliken

Deede and Howard Rothenberg
Ellen and Steve Seitchik

Healthy and Happy New Year,

Carol and Jeff Leventhal

Shabbat at Home – November 24th

As has been our custom at Temple Hesed, there will be no services at the synagogue on the 24th, the Friday after Thanksgiving. At this time of year when we celebrate families, we encourage our Temple Hesed families to celebrate Shabbat at home. We are happy to provide "how-to" packets with Shabbat blessings and melodies for home celebrations – just email Rabbi Daniel or call the office. Any names that would have been on the Yahrzeit list on November 24th will be read the following week, unless you request the office to list the names on the 17th instead.

RAC Reacts to Trump Not Certifying Iran Nuke Pact

WASHINGTON – In response to President Trump’s announcement that he will not certify Iran’s compliance with the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement, Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the wider Reform Movement.

“President Trump’s decision not to certify Iran’s compliance with the JCPOA is a poor and destabilizing choice that makes our world less, rather than more, secure. There is no question that when the Iran deal was initially presented, our Movement had serious concerns about the agreement’s ability to positively impact deterrence, Iran’s support of terror, inspections, human rights and religious freedom, and the United States’ standing in the world. However, at this point in the deal’s implementation, our shared global task is to ensure the JCPOA’s success. Unfortunately, President Trump’s decision undermines that effort.

“As an array of U.S. and Israeli national security experts, from former Prime Minister Ehud Barak to Defense Secretary James N. Mattis, have attested, to unravel or destabilize the deal and the verification that accompanies it is to make the world less safe. Such a step is confusing – something no nuclear agreement should ever be. At the same time, real concerns about Iran’s activities, from human rights violations to conventional weapons proliferation and beyond, should be addressed through other means, rather than opening up the delicate JCPOA.

“We urge Congress to act to promote the strength of the JCPOA and ensure the United States’, Israel’s, and the world’s safety from Iran’s nuclear program.”



The Las Vegas Shooting Was NOT...

October 2, 2017; New York, NY -- Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, issued the following statement in response to the deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas:

“This latest mass shooting cannot be termed a random act of violence. Even before all the facts are known we know this: rather than revere gun rights our country must finally revere human life.

We mourn those callously slaughtered in Las Vegas and pray for the wounded. But our prayers must be followed by action, long overdue limits to the easy access to firearms. Common sense measures, like restricting the use of silencers that



A Proud Member of the URJ

make a shooter harder to locate and stop, must prevail. Yet we know that instead, Congress is planning to vote on the SHARE Act, which, among other misguided provisions, allows purchasers of silencers on the internet or at gun shows to forgo a background check. This bill must not be allowed to become law. Human lives, like those taken overnight in a horrific burst of violence,

depend on it.

We cannot say this mass shooting was “unbelievable.” It is all too believable. We cannot say that there are “no words” to express our grief and our outrage. We must find the words, and we must not stop saying them and acting on them until we stop this plague of gun violence that



Rabbi Rick Jacobs

**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.



Jewish Federation
Of Northeastern Pennsylvania



Eco-Tip:

Waste Reduction: Individual households receive thousands of pieces of junk mail each year, most of which is printed on virgin paper and is not recycled. Reduce your junk mail by 90% in one easy step: www.41pounds.org.

For a small fee, this organization will remove you from junk mailing lists and make a donation to a charity of your choice.

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

