

Messenger

Volume 159, Issue 4

Kislev-Tevet 5778 / December 2017

Long-range Planning Committee opts to Wait on Temple's Future

Also In the Messenger:

- ✧ *Rabbi's New Job*
- ✧ *Hanukkah Fun*
- ✧ *What Left RAC Devastated?*

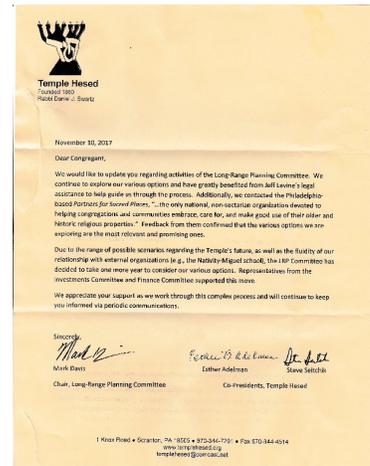
It will be a year before the Temple's Long-range Planning Committee moves on the future of our Knox Road property.

In a Nov. 10 letter to the congregation, LRP Chair Mark Davis wrote, "Due to the range of possible scenarios regarding the Temple's future, as well as the fluidity of our relationship with external organizations (e.g., the Nativity-Miguel school), the LRP Committee has

decided to take one more year to consider our various options."

Davis said experts consulted agreed with the committee's initial findings. The letter did not elaborate on what the committee had been considering.

Investments and finance committees also concur. The letter was also signed by Board Co-Presidents Esther Adelman and Steve Seitchik.



Thank You For Your Donations

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Contributions to United Neighborhood Centers from the High Holy Days food drive totaled more than \$1,300, according to Michael Hanley, UNC Chief Executive Officer. The money was in addition of more than a ton of food to stock the Angels' Attic Food Bank Pantry at UNC.



Temple Hesed's Donations fill Angels' Attic's Shelves

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.

Donations were also made to Jewish Family services and Mazon, an international charity that fights hunger.

Donations

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Frank Gottlieb
Richard and Marieann Mates

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Hyman Mates
Richard and Marieann Mates

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Mother in law, Nettie Slawitsky
Janet Slawitsky

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Beloved Husband, Louis Slawitsky
Janet Slawitsky

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Brian Schneider
Irwin and Sandy Schneider

LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Rosebud Leventhal
Lindsay Leventhal

MILTON AND MIRIAM FRIEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of the Brother of Lee Samuels
James and Paula Kane

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In Memory of the Sister of Seth Gross
Esther B. Adelman

MARK HAHN MEMORIAL FUND

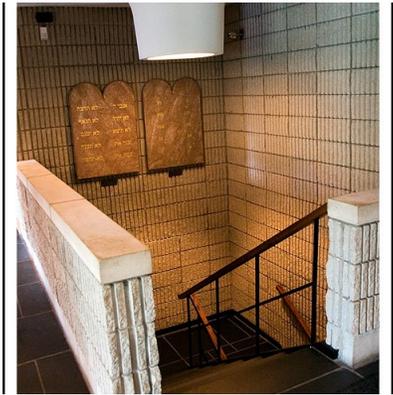
My sympathy to the entire Shapiro family on the loss of the much beloved Oakey
Audrey Harrell

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

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Louis A. Fine
Toni Cerra

To donate to Temple Hesed, just contact Marlene Gianzanti, Temple office manager, at (570) 344-7201

For your Hanukkah Shopping, be sure to check out the gift shop in the Temple's lobby. It is open for business during office hours.



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



Rabbinical Reflections — Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

BUSY RABBI FINDS MORE WORK



So the big news is that I've taken a new job. Before you react too strongly, however, let me reassure you that I'm also staying on as Temple Hesed's rabbi. Let me explain.

To understand, we have to travel back in time a bit. In 1993, as I was starting my position as Congregational Relations Director at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, religious leaders from a wide variety of faith traditions came together to form the National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE). NRPE sought to bring the wisdom of ancient traditions to bear on modern-day environmental problems. The Jewish "partner" was the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, a new organization that worked with Jews of every stripe and movement to raise environmental concerns. Part of my duties at the RAC were to help launch COEJL, including editing and writing a publication on Judaism and the Environment that was sent to practically every synagogue in the country. In 1996, when I became the Associate Director of NRPE, I continued to play a role in COEJL's growth. But ever since 1999, when I left NRPE, I've had relatively little direct involvement with COEJL.

During those intervening years, COEJL had many ups and downs – and for the past few years, the downs were more frequent than the ups. So when a friend and colleague, Rabbi Steve Gutow, NRPE's board chair, said he wanted to get my advice about COEJL, I was glad to offer to help but not too optimistic that I'd have anything to offer.

However, as Steve began to describe COEJL's current situation – just a bit of money in the bank that they wanted to try to use to get things going, and a string of recent just-out-of-college hires that had not panned out – an idea sprang into my head. Instead of trying to hire full-time some new grad who didn't know what they were doing, and who, even if they succeeded, would soon leave, why not hire part of an "old fogey"? Surely there must be some part-time rabbi who would have the right combination of know-how and availability.

And then, as I described the kind of person I was thinking of, I began to think, hmm, maybe that person could be me, and this could turn into a win-win situation for the Temple.

I had been worrying for some time that my salary would become increasingly burdensome as the Jewish population in the area continues to decline. I could cut my salary, cut back a few commensurate Temple activities, and take on an exciting project that could, among other things, bring some interesting programs to our temple and community. I'd also have some time freed up as my term as President of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light came to an end on October 31. This might just work, I thought.

So I approached our presidents, Steve Seitchik and Esther Adelman, and asked what they thought. They both agreed that it could be a great thing all around. So I called Steve Gutow to offer my services – and that offer was accepted with great enthusiasm. As you read this, I'm getting COEJL out of hibernation and into action and I've already started returning a portion of my salary, enough to bring our current year's budget back into balance.

What will this mean for Temple Hesed members? I will still make sure to see anyone who requests a hospital visit or a visit at home while they are recovering. I will schedule around Hebrew School and other child and adult educational and social programs as much as possible. I will be traveling more, however, and I will undoubtedly be away for some services, which is why I am hoping to train more people how to give a brief d'var Torah (Torah lesson) and/or lead services (see page 4). I will also be doing Temple work from home or on the road more often, but I promise it will never be difficult to make an appointment with me!

As for COEJL, I will start bringing some COEJL programming to Hesed by January, and I hope you will find it interesting and inspiring. Don't hesitate to ask me for more information or how to get involved if you want to know more about COEJL. I am grateful to all of you for this opportunity to once again rally the Jewish community to *Tikkun Olam* in the most literal sense – healing our world.

Rabbi Daniel Swartz

Presidents' Page

By Esther Adelman, Co-President



*May the warmth and brightness
of the Chanukah candles
fill your days with joy and peace
to cherish and to share
throughout the year.*

*Our best wishes to you and your
loved ones,
Esther & Steve*



Can you talk Torah?

As Rabbi Swartz's new work with COEJL progresses, he will occasionally be away on Friday nights. We already have Temple Hesed volunteers who have led many services, most notably Esther and Harry Adelman. But we can ensure that they don't burn out and give you the most interesting learning experience at the same time.

Rabbi Daniel wants to tutor any and all interested Temple members how to put together a *d'var Torah* – literally a “word of Torah.”

It doesn't have to take lots of time or tons of research. Most importantly, it can be fun and rewarding – and it gives you a platform to share your thoughts and ideas with others!

If you are interested in joining our “Torah Corps,” please email Rabbi Daniel at rabbidaniel@comcast.net or call him at the Temple office. You'll be glad you did – and our Temple will be better for it.



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 SERVICES 6 p.m.	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 SERVICES 8 p.m.	9
10	11	12 Hanukkah 1st Night 4pm crafts	13 2nd night	14 3rd night	15 4th night Hanukkah family program 5; pot- luck dinner,6; services,7pm	16 5th night
17 6th Night Chanting Circle 10:30 a.m.	18 7th night	19 8th night 4pm, Hanukkah party	20 Board Meeting 6 pm	21 Winter starts	22 SERVICES 8 p.m.	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 SERVICES 8 p.m.	30
31						

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

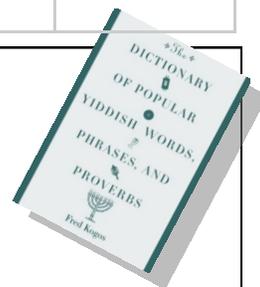
Passover—
Mar. 31-Apr. 7, 2018
(Holidays begin at sundown the night before)

YIDDISH SAYING OF THE MONTH

“You can’t make
cheesecakes out of
snow.”



Yiddish Proverb from
a book by Fred Kogos



Torah Portions

Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Yavishlach	Dec. 2, 2017	14.Kislev.5778
Vaveshev	Dec. 9, 2017	21.Kislev.5778
Mikez	Dec. 16, 2017	28.Kislev.5778
Vayigash	Dec. 23, 2017	5.Tevet.5778
Vayechi	Dec. 30, 2017	12.Tevet.5778

Hesed Hanukkah Happenings for young and old: December 12, 15, and 19th

Hanukkah starts and ends on Tuesday evenings this year – and Tuesday is when our students gather for Hebrew school. So this year we have not one, not two, but three Hanukkah celebrations at Temple Hesed! All are open to the public, and all are appropriate (during the times noted below) for even the youngest of children.

Things get started at 4 p.m. on the 12th, the first night of Hanukkah, with two fun Hanukkah crafts. We're opening up this Hebrew School session to any and all children who want to make a fabulous menorah and a dreidel snow globe. Crafts, treats, and Hanukkah songs will continue till 5 pm. There is no cost, but to ensure we have enough materials, please RSVP to the Temple office.

Then comes the main event on December 15th. We start

at 5 with the first of what will be monthly children's programs. We'll make sufganiyot -- Hanukkah donuts – and incredible edible donuts. We'll have a grand dreidel tournament, and play a game that will teach the meaning of Hanukkah. At 6 pm is our annual Hanukkah potluck feast – including a latke cook-off, so every-



one has a variety of tasty latkes to eat. RSVP to the Temple Office for the dinner, and make sure to tell Rabbi Daniel if you want to participate in the cook off. Last but far from least, our special Hanukkah service, with the Shmooze Brothers performing and a fabulous Hanukkah story, is at 7 pm. Free and open to all – just make sure to RSVP for the dinner, so we can arrange the potluck!

Haven't had enough Hanukkah yet? Then join us on the 19th, as we are once again opening up Hebrew school to any and all comers.

We'll start with Maccabiah games, including a menorah relay and vertical donut dunking. We'll then make some Hanukkah treats and sing songs as we eat them! Again, there is no cost, but please RSVP so we know how many to prepare for.



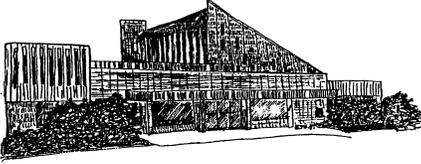
Chanting Circle, December 17th @ 10:30 – Light in Darkness

Even for those who love the beauty of winter or enjoy winter activities, the ever-shortening day and the ever-growing darkness can be hard to bear. Even in the midst of great darkness, whether we're talking about physical or spiritual darkness, there is still light, if you know how to seek it out.

And seeking light is just what we will be doing in our December 17th chanting circle at 10:30 a.m. Our chants will focus on overcoming darkness and reconnecting to light and joy.

Join us on for a unique non-denominational gathering of support, healing, contemplation and joy. Everyone is welcome – come find out what the diverse group that has come to previous Circles already knows: there is a special enchantment that we find together that brings joy, healing, and wisdom to each of us when we gather together.

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Well Wishes

Larry Golden
 Paula Kane
 Ashley Milliken
 Charlene Ostro
 Emily Trunzo
 Janet Slawitsky
 Edward Snitko,
 Sr.

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

Week Ending December 9 (Service December 8)

*Jean Stein Sutton, Dr. Newton Freund, *Rudolph M. Goldsmith, *Etta C. Levey, Marilyn Perfilio, *Ellis Oppenheim, *Irwin E. Alperin, Ira Lauscher, Rose Fine, *Erich Traub, *Esther Gordon, *Linda Lee Leventhal, *Fannie Roos, *Jonas Lauer, William Lerner, Barbara Cooperman.

Week Ending December 16 (Service December 15)

*Sadie Freeman, *Yetta Linder, *Louis E. Newman, Bernardine Kaplan, *Frank Feldman, *Mary Leventhal, *Nancy Stahler, Ruth D. Karnoff, Michael Mitchell, Irving Londy, *Morris Cohen, Doris Toledano Frieder, *Fannye M. Slavitz, Judith Weinberger

Week Ending December 23 (Service December 22)

*Toby Rodgick, *Rose Schudmack, *Maxine Wylen, *Gloria Dinner, *Sarah Greenberger, *George Joseph Weisberg, *Margaret Smith, *Judith Pell Weinberger, *Minnie Ginsburg, *Samuel Roos, *Rebecca Newman, *Carolina Schwartz, *Goldie Neumann

Week Ending December 30 (Service December 29)

*Morris Goldsmith, *Israel Greenberger, *Elliott Weisberger, *David Zukowski, *Edward Berger, *Chester Levy, *Isadore Adelman, *Meyer Davis, *Harvey Sanford Siegel, *Gus Weinberger, Ralph Meyer, *David Rosenberg, *Martin Weilheimer, Jerry Kline, *Bernard Wormser, *Herbert Smith, *Jessica Parker Mannoff

Sheloshim

To the Shapiro Family
 on the loss of beloved
 father and grandfa-
 ther, Jack Oakey

To the Levine Family
 on the loss of father,
 grandfather and great-
 grandfather, Meyer
 Levine

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING



Rabbi Swartz joins leaders from Baha'I, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and Jewish faiths are joined by the leadership of the Friends of the Poor and students from Nativity Miguel at the the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Temple Hesed hosted last month.

Jacobs Calls for Firing of Israeli Official

New York, NY; November 23, 2017 - Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism, issued the following statement in response to denigrating comments about North American Jews by Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister:

The Deputy Foreign Minister has a right to her ill-informed and insulting views. But such views disqualify her holding such an important role in Israel's diplomatic corps. Her comments serve to underscore how the Israeli government disdains the majority of North American Jews.

We note with appreciation the Prime Minister's statement criticizing Hotovelev's words. As always, the Prime Minister finds the right words. This moment, how-

ever, demands action and not simply words. He needs to dismiss Hotovelev immediately.

Further, even as we acknowledge the Prime Minister's statement, we respectfully suggest that what he says to us and the English-speaking media is far less important than what he says to his *haredi* partners. For too long he has allowed them to hijack Israeli interests. That can and should end today.



RAC Reacts to Church Shooting

WASHINGTON – In response to today's (11/6/2017) mass shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas, which left at least 26 people dead and many more injured, **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, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and wider Reform Movement:

"We are devastated by the tragic news from Sutherland Springs. While details are still unfolding, what we do know is clear: a heinous act transformed a sacred worship service into a violent, bloody massacre. Our hearts ache for the victims, their loved ones, and the entire First Baptist Church community.

"Today's tragedy is only the latest in a series of all too frequent preventable disasters. It is particularly horrifying that innocents were slaughtered in a house of worship, a terrifying reality for all people of faith who believe that their congregations are sanctuaries of peace, safety, and love. Two of the five deadliest shootings in modern American history have taken place in the last 35 days. We cannot tolerate this pattern or continue to react to these routine catastrophes with thoughts and prayers alone.

"The slaughter in Sutherland Springs is devastating but not shocking. Until our lawmakers gather the necessary courage to stand up to the gun industry and the NRA and pass com-

mon sense gun safety laws, it is only a matter of time before the next mass shooting takes place.

"Americans deserve to be safe while enjoying concerts, attending school, and praying in houses of worship. Congress must act to prevent the next Sutherland Springs, or the next Las Vegas, or the next Orlando, or the next Sandy Hook. Or, God forbid, another Emanuel AME of Charleston, SC. As long as elected officials continue to abdicate their basic responsibility to protect the American people, we are doomed to wait until tragedy strikes again."

**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:

Grounds Maintenance: One of the biggest threats to local wildlife is development—as homes go up, habitat is destroyed, and wildlife is unable to find places to feed, live, and raise young. Make your property as wildlife-friendly as possible by certifying your backyard as a wildlife habitat. See National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program:

<http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/>

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

