

Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



Special points of interest:

- Pittsburgh Tragedy
- Chanting Circle
- RAC Condemns Trump Transgender Proposal

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Gov. Robert P. Casey Medal to be Awarded to Rabbi, Two Others

The entire Temple Hesed community is cordially invited to attend the annual awarding of the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service to our own Rabbi Daniel Swartz.

The award will be presented on Thursday Evening November 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center. In addition to the medal presentations, there will be a Cocktail Reception with hors d'oeuvres and complimentary bar.

The price for the event is \$50.00 per person. Those who are interested in attending should make your reservations and payment at

nwnepa.org/casey as soon as possible.

The Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service is presented annually by NeighborWorks® Northeastern Pennsylvania (NWNEPA).

For over 35 years, NWNEPA has faithfully served the greater northeastern Pennsylvania community by empowering individuals and families through homeownership education & promotion, property rehabilitation and neighborhood revitalization.

This work has resulted in thousands of educated

homebuyers, hundreds of improved properties and over \$120 million worth of investment into local neighborhoods. There are individuals in our community who, like NWNEPA, have faithfully invested their time and talents in the betterment of the quality of life in northeastern Pennsylvania. This honor ~ named in tribute to the late governor ~ is intended to acknowledge their efforts, and most importantly, to allow the rest of us to learn from their service.

NWNEPA is pleased to present the 2018 honorees: Jack Tighe, Reverend Herbert B. Keller, S.J. and Rabbi Daniel Swartz.

Gender Affirming Clothing Fair, November 10th and 11th from noon till 4 p.m.

You can now drop off your gently used clothing at Temple Hesed for NEPA's first Gender Affirming Clothing Fair. The clothing fair is a chance for people who are transitioning, have recently transitioned, aren't binary, etc. to try out different types of clothing in a safe, supportive environment,

get good deals, and raise some money in the process for the NEPA Youth Shelter. We do need a few volunteers on both the 10th and the 11th – let the Temple office know if you're able to help out, and please pass on this info to anyone you think might be interested.



Donations to Temple Hesed



Call the Temple office at (570) 344-7201 to donate or for more information. The minimum donation that can be acknowledged by mail and in the Messenger is \$10. Major credit or debit cards accepted.

BUILDING FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Beloved Mother, Sadie Lerner
Janet Slawitsky

Mazel Tov to Sue Meyer on Achieving her Bat Mitzvah
Sandy Cooperman

ROSELLE B. AND LOUIS A. FINE MEMORIAL FUND

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

MILTON M. AND MIRIAM E. FRIEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Jerome M. Friedman

Paula and Jim Kane

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Miriam E. Friedman

Paula and Jim Kane

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Congratulations to Rabbi Swartz for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award

Sandy Cooperman

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Miriam E. Friedman

The Davis Family

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Paula Yudkin Albert

The Davis Family

Wishing Larry Golden continued good health

Sandy Cooperman

Why Interfaith, Why not?

When you get this, Rabbi Marjorie and I will have just finished celebrating our 7th wedding anniversary (how can we still be newlyweds if we've been married 7 years already?!?) and will be arriving in Toronto for the Parliament of the World's Religions, the world's oldest and largest interfaith gathering/movement/organization. I'll report on the Parliament itself when I get back, obviously, but in the meantime I wanted to reflect on the whole idea of interfaith work, particularly why I do it at all and how it is changing, even in the four years since I was at the last Parliament, held in 2014 at Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Jewish community in America has been involved in interfaith efforts long before the word "interfaith" was coined. But for much of the early history of this work, the chief motivation was at least partly self-serving. One way to put it would be: "if Christians get to know us better here than in the old country, there won't be pogroms." Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder of American Reform Judaism, had a much more optimistic vision. He believed that people in America didn't have long-entrenched religious prejudices. And so, if they came to learn about Judaism, they, unlike their close-minded forebears, would come to recognize its beauty and soon, the majority religion of our country would be Judaism!

By the time we get to the 20th century, things had shifted somewhat. As American Jews became more and more involved in a variety of social justice causes, from public education to workers rights to health and safety campaigns, interfaith cooperation was seen as a key tactic. Jewish leaders saw

how small their numbers were and realized that they could be more effective if they partnered with larger religious groups.

It also increasingly became an ideal, something that Jews could be proud of. American Jews spoke of the "Jewish mission" to be "a light unto the nations." Our long history of exile, global wanderings, and frequent misfortunes was cast in a new light – it was all part of God's plan to bring Jews to all corners of the world to share the teachings of the prophets, not to convert others to Judaism as much as to spread the key values of our tradition – for example, that all people are created in God's image and so equally deserving of dignity and rights. For many Jews, this idea of "mission" became THE most important part of their Jewish identity.

In the 21st century, particularly in the past 10 years, interfaith work has continued to evolve. First of all, a majority of new "Jewish" families are now interfaith – so the lines between "interfaith" and "Jewish community" efforts are blurred. And as fears of pogroms continue to fade, as Jews feel more and more secure in our joint identities as Jewish Americans, we have less and less need to justify our Jewishness through some mission. It's just who we are, like some of our neighbors might be Catholic or Protestant or Muslim or Hindu or None of the Above. So now interfaith work becomes a way to really get to know not only others, but to see ourselves anew through other's eyes.

And then there's the special nature of interfaith work here in Northeastern PA. While the Jewish community has old roots here, there is still much of our area with little to no knowledge of Judaism – so here, interfaith work sometimes has to start with the basics. I feel like I'm

an "ambassador for Judaism" everywhere from the Abington Community Garden to the Friends of the Poor Thanksgiving dinner (which in part is why they've asked us, for the second year in a row, to host the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service that kicks off the whole week of Thanksgiving festivities, on Friday, November 16th – see the article about it elsewhere in this Messenger) And our community has, by being welcoming to communities that have felt marginalized in NEPA, such as immigrants and the LGBT community, also become a haven for those who aren't Jewish and aren't likely to become Jewish, but are incredibly grateful that they can find any religious community that opens its doors to them. I've had so many people come up to me after a chanting circle who have said, thank you so much for hosting something like this! And the reason Queer NEPA approached us to host the Gender Affirming Clothing Fair on November 10th and 11th (which you can read about elsewhere in this Messenger) is because they know they are not just tolerated but rather celebrated here.

Of course, Temple Hesed's first duty is to our own families. But we play a unique role here in NEPA, and we need to recognize how valuable that role is to the entire community. I hope you'll come to one or more of our interfaith events this month and see what I mean – whether it is our Chanting Circle on the 10th, the Clothing Fair, or the Interfaith Service.

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

Rabbinical Reflections

By Rabbi
Daniel J.
Swartz,
Spiritual
Leader,
Temple
Hesed,



“(W)e play a unique role here in NEPA, and we need to recognize how valuable that role is to the entire community.”

Dear Temple Hesed Family,

The tragic news we've witnessed in Pittsburgh touches us all and breaks our hearts. As we go forward, I wanted to make sure that you knew of several actions that we at Temple Hesed and our broader community are taking, and also to let you know that I welcome your ideas about how we should respond — please feel free to respond to this letter, to call me, or to set up an appointment for us to talk in person.

Our Federation executive director, Mark Silverberg, has already reached out to the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. I've told Mark that I personally as well as everyone at Temple Hesed stand ready to help in whatever way we can. In the next few days, Temple leadership will meet together with the other Jewish congregations, agencies, and organizations in our area to consult with the Scranton police and other appropriate people about what security measures we may need to take in the short term. And, as a symbol of our solidarity, we will add the names of those killed in Pittsburgh to our Kaddish list for the traditional Sheloshim period.

We have another connection with Tree of Life: Temple member Rich Mates and his twin, Robert, marked their Bar Mitzvah at Tree of Life in 1963.

I also hope that Temple Hesed will continue to serve as a safe and welcoming place for us to have the longer-term conversations about what we can do to better address the violence and divisions in our society. For this reason, Temple Hesed was featured in a very thoughtful piece on WNEP, which is worth checking out: <https://wnep.com/2018/10/27/scranton-rabbi-laments-mass-shooting-at-pittsburgh-synagogue/>

As a reminder, we already have scheduled for our November 9th service a social action roundtable featuring Shari Jacobson, the volunteer leader of "Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense" and an active member of her synagogue. We will have a slightly shortened service starting at the regular time of 8 pm. Instead of a Torah discussion during the service, at the conclusion of the service, we'll gather round some tables, and as we partake of the Oneg Shabbat, Shari will lead a discussion on why she founded "Moms Demand Action," as well as what actions we can take. This is how she describes her work: Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a nonpartisan, all volunteer organization committed to preventing the roughly 36,000 gun deaths Americans experience every year. We support the Second Amendment and common-sense legislation that promotes gun safety. Moms Demand Action envisions a country where all children and families are safe from gun violence. We educate, motivate, and mobilize supporters to take action that will result in stronger laws and policies to save lives. I hope this can be an occasion for us to have an honest and open discussion about what we can do and what directions we think our society should take.

Lastly, I wanted to share with you the statement put out by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of the Union for Reform Judaism, which really expresses the feelings we all share:

The slaughter of our brothers and sisters praying in their holy synagogue this Shabbat in Pittsburgh breaks our collective heart. □ The murders took place during a prayer service in the Tree of Life congregation where, like synagogues all around the world, they were reading from Genesis recounting how Abraham welcomed perfect strangers into his tent. How painful and ironic that we live in a time when we have to temper our loving welcome of strangers as we protect our communities from violence and hate. □ There is much that is unknown about today's horrific killings. We will learn more over the next hours and days. We will continue to work with our nation's synagogues and other houses of worship and law enforcement to enhance security and provide effective protections for our communities – and our nation. □ This time the Jewish community was targeted, in what may be the worst anti-Semitic attack in American history. Other times it has been African-Americans. Or Sikhs. Or Muslims. Or members of the LGBTQ community. Or too many others. What we know is this: the fabric holding our nation together is fraying. It is our task to ensure that it does not come apart. □ We mourn as one people along with all people of conscience.

May we help spread Hesed in our world,

Rabbi Daniel

Tree of Life,
Pittsburgh. In
better days



November 2018

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Services 8 pm	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Services 8pm Roundtable Moms/guns	10 Chanting Circle 10:30am/ Gender Affirming Clothing Fair Noon—4 pm**
11 Clothing Fair continues noon to 4 p.m.	12	13	14	15 Gov. Casey Medal Award 6 pm @ Hilton	16 Potluck Din- ner 6 pm & Inter- faith service 7pm	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23 No Services	24 Services 8pm
25	26	27	28 Board Mtg 6 p.m.	29	30 Services 8 p	

Holidays 5779 (2018–2019)

Rosh Hashanah—
Sept. 9–10, 2018

Yom Kippur —
Sept. 18–19, 2018

Sukkot—
Sept. 23–30, 2018

Sh'mini Atzaret—Simchat
Torah —Sept. 30—Oct. 1,
2018

Hanukkah —
Dec. 2–10, 2018

Tu B'Shvat —Jan.20–21,
2019

Purim—
March.20-21, 2019

Passover—
Apr. 19–26, 2019

Yom HaShoah—
May 1–2, 2019

Yom HaZikaron
May. 7–8, 2019

Yom HaAtzmaut May 8–9,
2019

Lag B'Omer — May 22–23,
2019

Shavuot—
June 8-9, 2019

Tisha B'Av—
Aug. 10–11, 2019

Selichot —Sept. 21, 2019

Jewish Holidays begin at sunset.
Dates specified are for evenings.
Yhat means they run from sundown
until dusk on the last day if the
Holiday.

Torah Portions

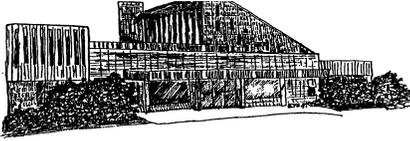
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Chayei Sarah	Nov 3, 2018	25 Cheshvan 5779
Toldot	Nov 10, 2018	2 Kislev 5779
Vayetze	Nov 17, 2018	9 Kislev 5779
Vayishlach	Nov 24, 2018	16 Kislev 5779

More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

“No one knows whose shoe
pinches except the person
who walks in it.”

<http://www.yiddishwit.com>

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Wells

Week Ending November 3 (Service November 2)

*Myer Alperin, *Ray D. Goldstein, *Caroline Roos Jacobs, Bonnie Pashkow,
*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 10 (Service November 9)

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

Week Ending November 17 (Service November 16)

—Larry Golden —Janet Slawitsky

—Jane Knobel —Edward Snitko, Sr.

—Rich Mates

—Charlotte
Milliken

—Charlene Ostro

—Joel Ostro

—Emily Trunzo

*Ann Brandwene, Simon Levine, *Ruth B. Marmelstein, *Beulah Davidow Block,
*Emilie Midas, *Betty Wand, Harry Lebowitz, *Katherine Swartz, Hilde Gardner,
*Lena Endfield, Edith Gardner, *Alton Golden, *Helen W. Vogel, *Atty. Louis A. Fine,
*Murray A. Cohen

Week Ending November 24 (Service November 30)

*Ralph Mendel, *Rose Wormser Strauss, Jack Newman, *Leopold Brodrick, *Herbert M. Ball,
*Rose Bud Leventhal, *Louis Slawitsky, *Ida Needle, *Ida Gutman, Nettie Slawitsky, *Lillian
Ziman, *Lena Kurlancheek Silverstein, *Hyman Weiss, *Brian David Schneider, *Steven Rex
Tepper, *Hannah Klein Smith, *Albert Pace, *Frank Cohan, *Richard Oppenheim, Leo Moskovitz

Week Ending December 1 (Service November 30)

*Sophie Stone, *Philip Ungar, *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

The Pittsburgh 11:

- Joyce Fienberg, 75, of Oakland
- Richard Gottfried, 65, of Ross Township
- Rose Mallinger, 97, of Squirrel Hill
- Jerry Rabinowitz, 66, of Edgewood
- Cecil Rosenthal, 59, of Squirrel Hill (brother of David Rosenthal)
- David Rosenthal, 54, of Squirrel Hill (brother of Cecil Rosenthal)
- Bernice Simon, 84, of Wilkinsburg (married to Sylvan Simon)

- Sylvan Simon, 87, of Wilkinsburg (married to Bernice Simon)
- Daniel Stein, 71, of Squirrel Hill
- Melvin Wax, 88, of Squirrel Hill
- Irving Younger, 69, of Mt. Washington

Pre Hanukkah Crafts, Dinner and Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Each year on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, the Friends of Poor serves a fabulous Thanksgiving dinner to thousands of people at the Scranton Cultural Center. The following day, the Family to Family program donates several thousand additional Thanksgiving baskets for families in need to take home so they can have a happy holiday together. And for the second year in a row, these interfaith Thanksgiving activities will be kicked off by an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Hesed, on Friday, November 16th at 7 p.m.

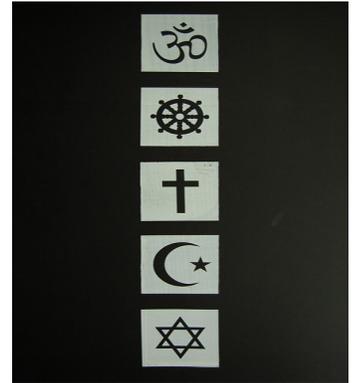
This year, for the first time, we are having a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., before the service. Everyone in our community, both

within and outside of Temple Hesed, are welcome to join us for the dinner. Because this is just a few weeks before Hanukkah and less than a week before Thanksgiving, we will have some crafts for kids (and adults who wish!) to make to decorate their homes for both Hanukkah and Thanksgiving. Please RSVP to the office if you wish to attend the dinner, so that we can plan for the correct numbers.

There is no charge for the dinner, the craft activities, or the service. However, the service, which is cosponsored by the Friends of the Poor, Family to Family, and the Scranton Ministerium, traditionally has a "collection plate" to raise needed funds for the Thanksgiving

dinners. While, obviously, it is not traditional to collect money on Shabbat, we make an exception at this service to honor our interfaith colleagues and the important work they do to combat poverty in our community.

We hope you will come to this joyous interfaith celebration, which, like last year, will feature music, readings, and even dance from a variety of faith traditions. We do need some volunteers to help greet all our guests for the evening – please let Rabbi Daniel know if you'd like to help out.



Interfaith Chanting Circle: Digging Deep

In our November Chanting Circle, held on the 10th at 10:30 a.m., we will explore the theme of "digging deep."

What hidden wells can we reach when we don't stop at the surface, but instead reach deep within ourselves? What is blocking us from searching deeply, and how can we dig around our blocks? As we consider the

story of Isaac re-digging the wells of Abraham and look at the stories of Miriam and the well, we will explore through chant, study, and sharing how we can find more meaning in our lives by digging more deeply.

Everyone is welcome – no prior chanting experience is necessary. Come experience what this warm, sup-

portive and diverse group is all about!



No Service on the 23rd

In keeping with our custom, there will be no services on the Day after Thanksgiving.

Kaddish will be said for Yahrzeits for the week ending Nov. 24 on Nov. 30.

Temple offices will be closed Nov. 22 and 23.



Psalms: Poetry for Your Life this Autumn; Women of the Bible and Talmud in the Spring

Rabbi Daniel will be teaching three separate adult education classes this year.

First up, on three Sundays, November 18th, December 2nd, and December 9th, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is a class exploring the most quoted section of the Bible: the Psalms.

The biblical psalms cover the gamut of human emotion, from despair and abandonment to joy and exaltation. This course will look at how we can use these ancient words to help us navigate through our modern lives.

We'll explore how we can turn to various psalms for comfort or inspiration, or even to challenge our complacency. Through study, reflection, meditation, music and writing, we will learn together how to make the psalms companions in our lives, enriching and strengthening us through our journeys. No Hebrew knowledge or previous Biblical studies are required; the class is free and open to everyone. Please let Rabbi Daniel or the office know if you are interested in at-

tending.

In the Spring, Rabbi Daniel will teach a four-session course on women of the Bible and Talmud. We've all heard of some of them, like Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron – but even she has a “secret identity” and hidden stories such as her miraculous well. But there are also others that you may have no idea about, but who have played fascinating roles in the imagination of Jews and women around the world. Heroic characters like Bruriah, Judith, and Serach bat Asher and complicated tales like those associated with Lilith, Dinah and Tamar. Find out more about them and what their stories can mean to all of us. The course will be on four consecutive Sundays, March 24th, March 31st, April 7th and April 14th, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Again, everyone is welcome to attend. There will also be a class on Yiddish culture and expressions in the summer, with more details to follow.

Annual “Corners of the Fields” Food Drive a Success

While our totals were a little short of last year in pounds collected, we more than made up for it monetary donations. Altogether, we collected 1,300 lbs. of food for the United Neighborhood Centers and Jewish Family Services, and we also raised \$1,300. Together, our donations of food and money should keep the food pantries stocked till their Thanksgiving drives. Our combined Temple Hesed/Temple Israel Hebrew school students sorted and delivered the food.

“We collected 1,300 pounds of food for the United Neighborhood Centers and Jewish Family Services, and we also raised \$1,300.”



Rabbi Pesner Condemns New Immigration Proposal

New York, NY; October 10, 2018 - The statement below is issued on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism by Rabbi Joshua Weinberg, URJ Vice President for Israel and Reform Zionism:

The URJ calls for the immediate release of American student Lara Alqasem, who has been detained by the Israeli government for over a week.

We are deeply troubled by Ms. Alqasem's detention and ordeal after landing at Ben-Gurion airport last week to begin graduate studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She has been detained

and questioned based on allegations of supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel concerning which brand of hummus was served at her campus. She was detained notwithstanding her intent to matriculate at an Israeli university.

The Reform Movement categorically opposes BDS. But at the same time, we believe this type of blunt and shortsighted approach toward activists who pose no securi-

ty threat is inconsistent with Israel's commitment to an open and free democracy. As Dr. Barak Medina, the Provost of Hebrew University, [said on Monday](#), "We think it is better to maintain an open discourse and to respond to claims that we should be boycotted in a pointed manner rather than through force."

RAC Condemns Trump Transgender Proposal

WASHINGTON, DC – In response to the Trump administration's new attempt to discriminate against transgender individuals, **Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner**, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, released the following statement on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the wider Reform Movement institutions: "The Trump administration's attack on the status and recognition of transgender Americans under the law is yet another betrayal of a vulnerable segment of the LGBT community. By considering a narrow

legal definition of gender based on biological characteristics at birth, the administration is choosing a path that will not stand the test of civil rights, human rights, or history. "Every person created in God's image is entitled to live in dignity without fear of persecution. Unfortunately, this administration has repeatedly attempted to degrade the dignity of transgender Americans, causing many to live in fear. Whether it is the attempt to bar transgender service members from the military, leave transgender school children without needed protections, or this new effort to narrowly define gen-

der under the law, Americans are being caused irreparable harm by a government whose first responsibility must always be to protect its people. "We will continue to celebrate the diversity of the Reform Jewish Movement that proudly includes transgender clergy, congregants, and students. We will also push back against any efforts to legalize discrimination and defend all individuals from discrimination arising from ignorance, fear, insensitivity or hatred."

National and International News



Rabbi Pesner



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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.

Our Partners Include;

"The Temple of Loving Kindness" On the Web at: templehesed.org

Temple personnel and officers

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570-344-7201 (office)
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Larry Milliken - 1st Vice President
Cheryl Friedmann - 2nd Vice President
Jeffrey Leventhal - Treasurer
Joan Davis - Secretary
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