

Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



Special points of interest:

- **Psalms class continues**
- **Chanting Circle looks at light**
- **URJ on rocket attacks**

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Gov. Robert P. Casey Medal to be Awarded Dec. 11

Following last month's Nor'easter, the awarding of the Governor Robert P. Casey Medal for a Lifetime of Service to Rabbi Daniel Swartz has been rescheduled to this month.

The award will be presented on Tuesday, December 11, 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.

For information on tickets, go to <https://www.eventbee.com/v/nwnepa709/event?eid=131277104#/tickets> or call the Temple office for more

information.

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 and 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's other 2018 honorees are Jack Tighe and Reverend Herbert B. Keller, S.J.

Hanukkah Happenings.

Hanukkah is happening all over the place this year! First comes a morning of Hanukkah crafts for children 4-12, with Annie Monsky, 10 a.m. on Dec. 2. RSVP directly to Annie at (570) 586-2665 with name and age of the children attending.

Next is the JCC's Hanukkah Extravaganza, on Dec. 4 starting at 5:30. It features Keith Nelson of Biddlestiff Family Cirkus (starting at 6:30), a glatt kosher buffet, and a variety of children's

activities. Tickets are available at the JCC, \$10/adult, \$5 children 12 and under and \$5 for seniors.

Then comes the Temple Hesed Hanukkah Family Service and Potluck, on Dec 7. The potluck dinner and annual latke cook-off starts at 6 pm, with the family service at 7 pm. It's BYOM (bring your own menorah) and features the Shmooze Brothers playing Hanukkah Hot Hits! Rabbi Daniel, fresh off his win of the Scranton

Story Slam, will share a fabulous Hanukkah story. No charge, but RSVP to the Temple for the potluck, and let us know if you'd like to compete in the latke cook-off!

And Saturday, Dec.8, starting at 5 pm, Temple Israel will have a Hanukkah dinner, with music, games, latkes, sufganiyot (Hanukkah donuts) hot dogs, chicken nuggets and a variety of salads. Cost: \$15/person, \$45 for families and free to children under 5. Spread the light and joy!

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.

ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Myer Alperin
James and Patricia Alperin

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Richard Eckersley's Father
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

ROSELLE B. AND LOUIS A. FINE MEMORIAL FUND

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

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of Rabbi Swartz receiving the Governor Casey

Award

David and Gail Dickstein

Paula Wasser

Joel and Cookie Goldman

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Manny Gelb

Natalie Gelb

LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND

In Memory of Rochelle Spizer

Lindsay Leventhal

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Rose Bud Leventhal

Lindsay Leventhal

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Linda Lee Leventhal

Lindsay Leventhal



'Tis the season

Mequon Wisconsin, where I grew up, could have been the stunt double for Lake Wobegone. It was about 75 percent Lutheran, 15 percent Catholic, and another 10 percent various other flavors of Christian. If you do the math, you can see the Jewish population at that time wasn't even a fraction of a percent.

In this setting, Christmas-time was both impossible to avoid and, at least for me, a bit fraught. I never could exactly articulate why that was until just before winter break at my freshman year of college. My freshman dorm turned out to be a hotbed of activism. I re-started the campus environmental group, my friend Claire played an active role in the campus anti-racism group, and another friend, Paul (who passed away just last month), had taken the campus LGBT organizations to new levels of visibility and action.

So I was surprised and taken aback when Paul told me he would be leaving school to move to San Francisco. "You're making such a difference here, Paul," I said. "Why leave?" He said, "I want to live someplace where people's assumptions

don't erase who I am, where I don't have to explain being gay, work at being gay, where I can just BE gay." That was a Eureka moment for me – because that was just how I felt every Christmas.

Everyone and everything – the decorations strewn everywhere from the 3-block downtown to the halls of the high school; the music on the radio and in every store; everyone switching from "hello" to "Merry Christmas" – assumed that everyone there celebrated Christmas. People were perfectly polite when I, many times each day, said, "thanks, and Merry Christmas to you, but I don't celebrate Christmas." And teachers, grade-after-grade, had me explain Hanukkah – eventually, I figured out what people needed to hear more than anything else was the simple fact that Hanukkah really wasn't meant to be a big holiday and they really should learn about other holidays. Any time I spoke up, my Jewishness was accommodated – but only if I made the effort to speak up.

After talking with Paul, I realized that, even though there wasn't any active anti-Semitism involved, the common social as-

sumptions made no room for Jews, effectively erasing my identity unless I pushed back. So I had to explain being Jewish, work at being Jewish, instead of just being Jewish.

Looking back, I realize now how valuable that experience was for me, as uncomfortable as it was at that time. I got used to speaking up. I developed some empathy for those whose identities are often erased year-round. And now that I understand what it brought up for me all those years, I can approach the December holidays in a state of joy instead of anxiety. What does this time of year bring up for you? I'd love to hear from you via phone, email or on our Facebook page!

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

Rabbinical Reflections

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



"Anytime I spoke up, my Jewishness was accommodated – but only if I made the effort to speak up."

Co-President's Page

By Esther Adelman, Co-President



CATCH UP ON WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TEMPLE HESED

This is a busy time of year for all of us. We've already enjoyed Thanksgiving with family and friends, celebrating the all-American holiday, no matter what your beliefs, with feasting, football, parades, and just plain togetherness. Whether or not we remembered to actually give thanks for what's good in our lives seems not to matter.

. If you come to Temple during business hours, Marlene will be happy to sell you anything (in the gift shop) at one-half the ticketed price (our cost).

This holiday reminds us that from Black Friday throughout the month of December, one doesn't venture out to shop unless you're serious. In that vein, there are still many items of Judaica in our gift shop, operated for many decades by our former Sisterhood members. If you come to Temple during business hours, Marlene will be happy to sell you anything at one-half the ticketed price (our cost).

We are making room in that corner of the lobby to display more items of

Temple memorabilia. Also in that corner, we will be filling the new bookshelves with books selected from our former downstairs library, which is now part of Nativity Miguel's rental space.

Check in the calendar for the dates of the Sunday study of the Psalms with Rabbi Swartz. The first one was very interesting; Rabbi taught that, as with all Hebrew texts, it's the translation that determines what is being said, and that there are multiple ways to translate the same words. There is much more to be learned about the Psalms, so feel free to attend the other sessions.

Volunteers are needed on December 7 to help with the potluck, latke-making, and crafts and games preceding the Chanukah family service. Please contact Marlene or Rabbi Swartz.

When you see Kim Boland, give her a special Temple Hesed welcome. She's the newest "member of the tribe".

We're so happy that she's found a home here.

Finally, Steve and I are looking forward to another year of good things happening here at our beloved Temple Hesed. We wish all of our members and their families and friends a 2019 filled with much happiness, good health, great success, and peace in your hearts.

Esther Adelman

December 2018

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1

2 Hanukkah candle 1 Psalms 11 am Hanukkah crafts 10 am
 3 Hanukkah candle 2
 4 Hanukkah candle 3 JCC Hanukkah 5:30
 5 Hanukkah candle 4
 6 Hanukkah candle 5
 7 Hanukkah candle 6 Services follow potluck dinner at 6 pm
 8 Hanukkah candle 7 Chanting Circle 10:30 am

9 Hanukkah candle 8 Psalms 11 am
 10
 11 Rabbi's Award at 6 pm
 12
 13
 14 Services 8 pm
 15

16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21 Services 8 pm
 22

Services 8pm

23
 24
 25 office closed for Ntl. Holiday
 26
 27
 28 Services 8 pm
 29

30
 31 New Years Eve

Holidays 5779 (2018–2019)

Rosh Hashanah—
Sept. 9–10, 2018

Yom HaShoah—
May 1–2, 2019

Yom Kippur —
Sept. 18–19, 2018

Yom HaZikaron
May. 7–8, 2019

Sukkot—
Sept. 23–30, 2018

Yom HaAtzmaut May 8–9,
2019

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

Lag B'Omer — May 22–23,
2019

Hanukkah —
Dec. 2–10, 2018

Shavuot—
June 8-9, 2019

Tu B'Shvat —Jan.20–21,
2019

Tisha B'Av—
Aug. 10–11, 2019

Purim—
March.20-21, 2019

Selichot —Sept. 21, 2019

Passover—
Apr. 19–26, 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

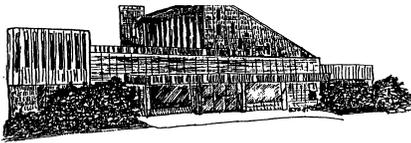
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Vayeshev	Dec. 1, 2018	23. Kislev.5779
Milketz	Dec. 8, 2018	30.Kislev.5779
Vayigash	Dec. 15, 2018	7.Tevet.5779
Vayiechi	Dec. 22, 2018	14.Tevet.5779
Shemot	Dec. 29, 2018	21.Tevet.5779

More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

“In a beautiful apple, you
sometimes find a worm.”

<http://www.yiddishwit.com>

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Wells

Larry Golden	Joel Ostro
Ellen Kline	Janet Slawitsky
Jane Knobel	Edward Snitko, Sr.
Rich Mates	Emily Trunzo
Charlotte Milliken	
Charlene Ostro	

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

Week Ending December 8 (Service December 7)

*Harry Lonstein, *Esther Oppenheim, *Jean Stein Sutton, Ruth D. Karnoff, Michael Mitchell, Dr. Newton Freund, *Rudolph M. Goldsmith, *Etta C. Levey, Marilyn Perfilio, *Ellis Oppenheim, *Irwin E. Alperin, Ira Lauscher, Rose Fine, *Erich Traub, *Maxine Wylen, *Esther Gordon, *Linda Lee Leventhal, *Fannie Roos

Week Ending December 15 (Service December 14)

*Jonas Lauer, William Lerner, Barbara Cooperman, *Sadie Freeman, *Yetta Linder, *Louis E. Newman, DDS, Bernardine Kaplan, *Frank Feldman, *Mary Leventhal, *Nancy Stahler, Irving Londy, *Morris Cohen, Doris Toledano Frieder, *Fannye M. Slavitz

Week Ending December 22 (Service December 21)

Judith Weinberger, *Toby Rodgick, *Rose Schudmack, *Gloria Dinner, *Sarah Greenberger, *George Joseph Weisberg, Barry Lebowitz, Bessie Kaplan, *Margaret Smith, *Judith Pell Weinberger, *Minnie Ginsburg, *Samuel Roos, *Rebecca Newman, *Carolina Schwartz

Week Ending December 29 (Service December 28)

*Goldie Neumann, *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

Week Ending January 5 (Service January 4)

*Jessica Parker Mannoff, *Isaac Ziegler, *Janet Phillips, Robert Lerner, *Jennie Bakaley, Grace E. Davis, *Louis Kleeman, *Olga Adelman, *Blanche Silverstein, *Isadore Levine, *Bernice Lenchner, *Alvin Ziegler, *Herman Schneider, *Freda Ball, *Henrietta Jacobs

The Pittsburgh 11, killed at Tree of Life Synagogue:

- 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 Wilksburg (married to Sylvan

Simon)

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

Psalms: Poems for Our Lives on December 2nd and 9th at 11:00 a.m.

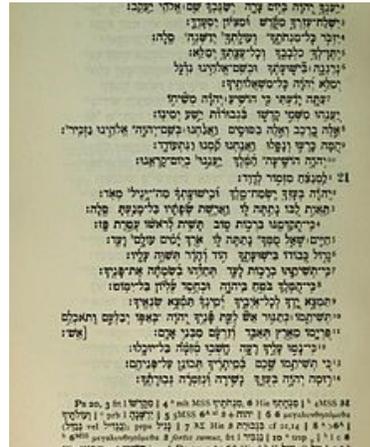
Even if you missed the first session of our Psalms class, you are invited to attend the final two sessions, on December 2nd and 9th at 11:00 a.m.

On the 2nd, we'll look especially at psalms that connect us to the wonders of the natural world and that can help us feel inspired.

On the 9th, our focus will be on psalms that ground us, that help us deal with treacherous times.

On both dates, we'll hear music inspired by the psalms and get a chance to express our own creativity.

There is no charge for these classes and they are open to the public, but if you can RSVP to rabbidaniel@comcast.net to let Rabbi Daniel know you are planning to come. That helps both with making the right number of copies are made and with letting people know if there are changes due to weather.



Chanting Circle – Light in Darkness: December 8th at 10:30 a.m.

Winter has already slammed NEPA, long before its official start – and it looks like it might be a hard and long one. And 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. So it's important to find light, even in dark times, whether we're

talking about physical or spiritual darkness.



This month's special Hanukkah edition of the chanting circle focuses on how we can find that light and let it

illuminate our path. Join us on the morning of December 8th, at 10:30 a.m., as our inter-faith group will reconnect to light and joy through song. Everyone is welcome at this unique non-denominational gathering of support, healing, contemplation and joy. Come find out what the diverse group that has come to previous Cir-

cles already knows: there is a special enchantment that we find together that brings joy, healing, and wisdom and warmth to each of us when we gather together.

Hanukkah Clearance

All goods in the former Sisterhood Gift Shop now

50% Off ticketed price.

Sold during office hours only

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.”



Rocket Attacks Condemned

New York, NY; November 13, 2018 - The statement below is issued on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism by Rabbi Josh Weinberg, URJ Vice President for Israel and Reform Zionism:

The Union for Reform Judaism strongly condemns the recent rocket attacks on Southern Israel and hopes that the vital cease-fire will be maintained. Over 400 rockets have fallen on Israel from Gaza over the last two days as

Hamas has continued to invest in the infrastructure of warfare. We stand with Israel during this time and pray for the safety and security of her citizens.

We welcomed Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement that he is not interested in an escalation of violence. The cabinet's decision to allow the IDF to respond as

deemed necessary is appropriate, and our hope is that Hamas will adhere to the cease-fire, a result of the efforts of Egypt and other negotiators.

We mourn the loss of life that has resulted from these recent attacks and hope that the cease-fire will transform into a longer era of quiet.

National and
International
News



RAC on Midterms

WASHINGTON, DC - In response to the outcomes of the 2018 midterm elections, **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:

“Over the past six months as part of the [Reform Jewish](#)

[Movement's Civic Engagement Campaign](#), Reform Jews from nearly 1,000 communities in 43 states, including thousands of high school and college students, came together to engage voters, host and attend candidate forums, and advocate for policy change through ballot initiatives. Today, we proudly celebrate the work of Reform Jews who contributed to ballot initiative victories in Florida, to restore voting rights to 1.4 million citizens; in Massachusetts, to protect transgender

rights; in Washington State, to establish new gun violence prevention measures; and in California, to secure affordable housing.

“This election saw historic numbers of women, minority, and Jewish candidates. We celebrate this robust engagement and the increased diversity of our newly elected Congress.

“We look forward to working togeth-

er with both incumbent and newly elected leaders at the local, state and federal levels to advance legislation on immigrant justice, criminal justice and sentencing reform, LGBTQ rights, gun violence prevention, reproductive rights, climate change, and more. “



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Scranton, PA 18505

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

SPIRITUAL LEADER

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz
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(rabbidaniel@comcast.net)

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Larry Milliken - 1st Vice President
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