

# Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness

שליח



Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



## Join us for a TV Rerun Purim! March 16<sup>th</sup>

You'll be *Bewitched!* So make sure to bring your *Friends* – we don't want this one to just stay *All in the Family*. Everyone will find something to enjoy in our Purim *M.A.S.H.*-up, as Mr. Roger's himself leads us through Shushan neighborhoods as we meld the Purim story with some of our favorite TV shows.

Come sing along with the *Flintstones* and the *Addams Family* and join in our fabulous Purim Celebration.

It kicks off at 5 pm with our Re-run Relay Mini-Carnival, free and open to all children.

Then comes our Purim Re-Past Pasta Dinner at 5:45 pm -- \$5/person, \$15/family, with \$1 off if your whole group comes in costume.

Next, at 6:30 pm is the highlight of the evening, our Purim Shpiel, complete with your favorite TV Theme Songs.

And of course no Temple Hesed Purim celebration would be complete without our annual Hamentashen Bake-off at 7:30 pm.

Make sure to RSVP for the dinner and to let us know if you can bring Hamentashen.

And make sure to bring friends – it's a great evening for people of all ages!

### Special points of interest:

- Service time change
- St. Patricks Day Parade forces Chanting Circle change
- Clearance sale at gift shop

## Calling Matzah Ball Mavens and Brisket Masters: Your're needed for the Hesed Community Seder April 20<sup>th</sup>

We now have a chair, and so we're ready to go ahead with our community Seder, which will be Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm.

So mark your calendar – and please let us know if you're

willing to help with either of two special tasks – helping make the Matzah Ball Soup or preparing the Brisket.

Call Rabbi Daniel at the Temple office if you want to help with these or

other parts of the seder.



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# 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 Henri Deutsch, beloved husband, father and grandfather**  
The Deutsch Family

**In Memory of Sandy Steinberg**  
Ann Densevich  
Mary Densevich-Sheils

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Aaron Cooperman, loving husband and grandfather**  
Sandy Cooperman

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Henri Deutsch**  
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Brother, Max Slawitsky**  
Janet Slawitsky

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Tillie Fogel**  
Ceil G. Rydzewski

**In Memory of Laurence Davidow**  
Susan and Frank Chuff

[MILTON AND MIRIAM FRIEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND](#)

**In Memory of Linda Weinstock**  
Jim and Paula Kane

[LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND](#)

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Oscar D. Leventhal**  
Lindsay Leventhal

**In Memory of Laurence Davidow**  
Lindsay Leventhal

[RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND](#)

**In Appreciation of Rabbi Swartz**  
Paula Wasser

[RELIGIOUS SCHOOL](#)

**In Memory of Sandy Steinberg**  
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

**In Memory of Anne C. Kramer, beloved mother and grandmother**

Carol and Paul Leiman and family

[TORAH RESTORATION FUND](#)

**In Memory of Sandy Steinberg**  
Esther Adelman

**Shop the Clearance Sale at the Temple Hesed Gift Shop. No reasonable offer refused. Open Tue. thru Fri. during office hours.**

## Rabbinical Reflections

**Onions, Ogres, Cakes and Canyons**

What do onions, ogres (at least according to Shrek), cakes and canyons all have in common? They all have many layers – like most of the Jewish tradition. And while a cake slice or a canyon may reveal many layers at once, we more often experience things like onions, where the inner, sweeter layers are only revealed after time and effort that can bring tears to the eyes.

But while that process of peeling back outer layers to see what can be revealed inside is a long and difficult one, it is also extremely worthwhile. Indeed, when people ask me why we read the Torah over and over again, or tell the Purim story each and every year, part of the answer I give is that the repetition gives us an annual chance to reach yet another layer of meaning.

It's not only those stories, however, that have layer upon layer of meaning. Each of us has different layers too – and we get new ones all the time. So another reason for the re-reading of text and the re-telling of stories is that we're not really the same people we were the last time we read or heard them. Especially after major events in our lives – starting a new job or losing an old one, the birth of a child or grandchild, the loss of a friend, the discovery of a new love – our stories speak differently to us because we have changed and grown.

Last but far from least, there is a special sweetness to revisiting a story that we know well. We can relax into the story, knowing what twists and turns are ahead. That relaxing is precious in and of itself, but it also gives us the safety to explore new ways of seeing and hearing and relating even to the oldest of stories.

This month, we have two very

different opportunities to peel back the layers. First, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m., our monthly Chanting Circle will explore the theme of standing "In the Presence," and how at different times of our lives, as we were in the midst of different "layers," we may have felt closer or more distant to that Presence.

Then, on a MUCH lighter note, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, our Purim Shpiel, our annual re-telling of the Purim story through song and humor, looks at the world of TV reruns for inspiration about the nature of revisiting a story again and again and again.

I hope you'll join as, through chant and reflection on the one hand, or silly songs and jokes on the other, we delve into the different layers of our stories and in the process encounter the different layers of our own selves.

*Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz*

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

**PURIM CELEBRATION!**

**@TEMPLE HESED, 1 KNOX RD.**

**RE-RUN RELAY CARNIVAL – 5PM (FREE!)**

**PURIM RE-PAST DINNER – 5:45PM – \$5**

**(OR \$15/FAMILY: \$1 OFF IF U R IN COSTUME!)**

**MUSICAL PURIM SHPIEL – 6:30PM (FREE!)**

**EVERYONE WELCOME – RSVP TO 570-344-7201 OR**

**[TEMPLEHESED@COMCAST.NET](mailto:TEMPLEHESED@COMCAST.NET)**

## Co-President's Page

By Esther Adelman, Co-President



### THOUGHTS: RAMBLING ON

I've been asked why I haven't written my column in the Messenger for the past several months. The answer is simple: It's been pretty quiet around here. I don't know about you, but I personally like it when things in my life remain at status quo.

We humans basically do not react well to change, especially as we grow older.

We like to have our lives in order; we like to know what to expect; we like to feel comfortable. Fortunately, there are also those of us who live for the thrill of a new adventure or the implementation of a revolutionary idea. Without them, we might still be living in caves, walking everywhere, and hunting and gathering our food on a daily basis. There would be nothing that we take for granted today, let alone the hope for a better future. Each generation sees the world in a new light, trying to make it a better place for themselves and their progeny, which is a good thing. Each former generation is forced to take on the changes of the present generation. It's sink or swim.

"We humans basically do not react well to change, especially as we grow older."

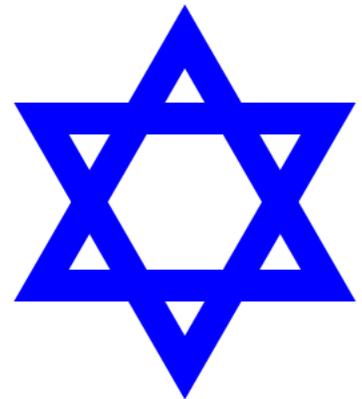
Getting back to life at Temple Hesed, there are still Friday night services, education for children and adults, Holiday celebrations, social action projects, fundraising and social events. We expect that these things will happen, but most of us just wait for them without giving a thought to *how* they happen. Who plans and carries them out never crosses their minds. We like the idea of what goes on here. We feel comfortable knowing what to expect.

What if these things didn't happen? Would we miss any of it? Sadly, there are those who wouldn't even notice. Fortunately, there are people who do care enough and do step up to the plate, but there are not enough of them.

Our numbers are waning, as is the case everywhere. The older generation is dying off or moving to Florida. It is generally known by leaders of all faiths that not only do large numbers of the younger generation say that they are not interested in "organized" religion, but that they do not even identify with any religion. It doesn't have a place in their high-tech world.

There is always the hope that, as younger people settle into their lives, they will feel the need to pass on to their children what their parents have taught them and will realize that it is religion that has shown them the way to be ethical, moral people who contribute to society. Hopefully, they will embrace this change *back!*

*Esther Adelman*



# March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Services 8 p	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Services 6 p	9 Chanting Circle 9:30 a
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12	13	14	15 Services 8 p	16 Purim Carnival, Dinner, Sphei, Bake-off startts 5 p
17	18	19	20 Purim	21	22 Services 8 p	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Services 8 p	30
31						

## Holidays 5779 (2018–2019)

<i>Rosh Hashanah</i> Sept. 9–10, 2018	<i>Yom HaShoah</i> — May 1–2, 2019
<i>Yom Kippur</i> — Sept. 18–19, 2018	<i>Yom HaZikaron</i> May. 7–8, 2019
<i>Sukkot</i> — Sept. 23–30, 2018	<i>Yom HaAtzmaut</i> May 8–9, 2019
<i>Sh’mini Atzaret—Simchat Torah</i> —Sept. 30–Oct. 1, 2018	<i>Lag B’Omer</i> — May 22–23, 2019
<i>Hanukkah</i> — Dec. 2–10, 2018	<i>Shavuot</i> — June 8-9, 2019
<i>Tu B’Shvat</i> —Jan.20–21, 2019	<i>Tisha B’Av</i> — Aug. 10–11, 2019
<i>Purim</i> — March.20-21, 2019	<i>Selichot</i> —Sept. 21, 2019
<i>Passover</i> — Apr. 19–26, 2019	<i>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.</i>

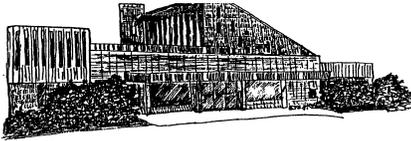
## Torah Portions

Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Vayakhel	March 2, 2019	25..Adar I.5779
Pedudei	March 9, 2019	2..Adar I I.5779
Vayikra	March 16, 2019	9..Adar II.5779
Tzav	March 23, 2019	16..Adar II.5779
Shemini	March 30, 2019	23..Adar II.5779

More information is available from [www.reformjudaism.org](http://www.reformjudaism.org)

“Why did Adam and Eve cover their business with a leaf if there was nobody to see them?” from <http://www.yiddishwit.com>

## Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



### Get Wells

Larry Golden	Charlene Ostro
Ellen Kline	Joel Ostro
Phillip Knobel	Janet Slawitsky
Kenneth Levine	Edward Snitko, Sr.
Rich Mates	Emily Trunzo
Charlotte Milliken	Eric Weinberg

#### Week Ending March 2 (Service March 1)

\*Oscar Leventhal, \*Michael Cembalest, Max Slawitsky, \*Adele Hollander, \*Carl Fragin, \*Sallie Goodman, \*Rosa J. Roos, \*Rene Traub, \*Anne C. Kramer, \*Benjamin Friedman, \*David Goldsmith, \*William Weinstock, \*David Rymland, \*Elias G. Roos, \*Isadore Gordon, \*Samuel B. Silverstein, \*Harrie Phillips Mittelman

#### Week Ending March 9 (Service March 8)

\*Monroe Brandwene, \*Hilda Ziegler, \*Toni Brodrick, \*Rita L. Pincus, Jerome Goldfarb, \*Fannie Gelfand, \*Robert D. Goodrich, \*Frances Lonstein, \*Esther Krotosky, \*Jennie Pell, \*Gordon Folk, \*David Fragin, \*Emanuel J. Goodman, \*Pearl Hoffman, \*Emanuel Oppenheim, \*Samuel L. Cohen, \*Lottie Schoenhof

#### Week Ending March 16 (Service March 15)

\*Carolyn Weiss, \*Oscar Rosenblum, \*Sylvia Hodes, \*Ann F. Nogi, \*Anna B. Breschel, \*Ophelia K. Hershfield, Edna Lauscher, \*Isadore Harry Kramer, \*Jack J. Levine, \*Regine Oppenheim, Jake Slawitsky

#### Week Ending March 23 (Service March 22)

\*Jacob R. Cohen, \*Robert P. Silverstein, \*Florence R. Spelman, Arthur Feinberg, \*Isabelle G. Cohen, \*Leo Mitteldorf, \*Dorothy Loebel Pell, Sadye M. Smith, \*Helen Fragin, \*Ben Silverman, Madeline Needle, \*William Katz, \*Minnie G. Rice, \*Dr. Moses Fragin, \*Marion L. Graham, \*Sol Driesen, Florence Brown, \*Seymour Seiber, \*Theodore A. Stein

#### Week Ending March 30 (Service March 29)

\*Jacob L. Druck, \*Seymour Cader, \*Jay Leiman, Max Ballot, \*Joshua Marks, \*Albert Rose, \*Arthur Adelman, \*William Stein, \*Jack Benkaim, \*Ruth Folk, \*Lois Besen

### *Sheloshim*

- ◇ To Fran and Lee Samuels on the loss of Fran's son Michael Mark Carpenter
- ◇ To the Steinberg Family on the loss of Sandy Steinberg

### March Early Service on March 8<sup>th</sup>, NOT the First Friday!

Most months, our early 6 pm service is on the First Friday of the month.

But since Rabbi Daniel will be speaking at a Climate Change conference in Houston on March 1<sup>st</sup>, that service will be at 8 pm.

When he returns, he will lead a 6 pm service on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

We'll return to our usual schedule in April.

### Chanting Circle: In the Presence, March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 a.m.

Because of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which starts at 11:45 a.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup>, our March Interfaith Chanting Circle will begin at 9:30 instead of the usual 10:30.

Drawing on the stories of the giving of the 10 commandments and the building of the Mishkan, the holy dwelling place, this month's chanting circle will explore when we feel close to the

Divine Presence – and when we feel distant from it.

We'll learn chants that can help us in our quest for connection, as we support each other's journeys. Everyone is welcome, and no prior chanting experience is necessary



### GIFT SHOP ITEMS ON SALE



**We can get it for you  
wholesale... Or Less!**

**Everything in the  
Temple Gift Shop is  
on sale for  $\frac{1}{2}$  off the  
ticketed price.**

**Or make us an offer  
we can't refuse.**

**BOOKS, JEWELRY, CARDS  
AND LOTS MORE!**

**Everything gotta go!**

**Open Tuesday—Friday  
during office hours**



## Reform Judaism Opposes Wall Emergency

WASHINGTON – In response to President Trump’s decision to declare a national emergency at the southern border of the U.S., **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 institutions:

“We believe that the President’s decision to declare a national emergency to build a border wall is ill-advised and should be revoked. We have consistently stated that the wall is a misguided response to the very real problems in our immigration system, including the real challenges of border security, which warrant comprehensive reform. Whether implemented through congressional or executive action, regular order or emergency declaration, the wall remains an irresponsible plan.

“We respect the President’s unique authority, but the declaration of a national emergency when one does not exist circumvents congressional authority and threatens the delicate system of checks and balances that is inherent to a working democracy. The bipartisan compromise legislation passed by the House and Senate, while not perfect, is the path forward. Not only does this declaration undermine the role of Congress, it also sets a dangerous precedent for use of presidential power.

“The real crisis at hand is a moral one. The rates of illegal border crossings have been on the decline for decades, there is a lack of evidence linking immigrants and crime rates, and illicit drugs enter the U.S. most often through legal ports of entry. Meanwhile, children remain separated from their families, asylum seekers are denied due process, and DREAMers and holders of “temporary protected status”

face uncertainty about their futures. Every day that the administration focuses on a wall instead of comprehensive immigration reform, we fail to address the real challenges in our immigration system.

“Throughout the Bible, prophetic voices warn about the abuse of power. The biblical lessons of leadership remain as vital today as they were in ancient times: responsible leadership and the pursuit of justice must go hand in hand. We call on the President to revoke his declaration of emergency powers and instead work together with Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform, helping build a world of wholeness, justice, and compassion.”

## Wholly Jewish

**February 19, 2019, New York, NY** – [ReformJudaism.org](http://ReformJudaism.org), the flagship website of the [Union for Reform Judaism \(URJ\)](http://UnionforReformJudaism.org), reaching more than three million visitors annually, has launched a new podcast titled *Wholly Jewish*. Reform Judaism is the largest, most diverse movement in Jewish life.

*Wholly Jew-*

*ish* explores what we all have in common as we live and balance complex and nuanced identities. It’s these varied identities that, when braided together, make us wholly ourselves – and “Wholly Jewish.”

For the [podcast’s first season](#), April Baskin, the URJ’s former Vice President of Audacious Hospitality,

speaks with fellows from the [JewV’Nation Fellowship’s Jews of Color Leadership Cohort](#) who share their experiences, insights, frustrations, and triumphs, as well as how their multi-faceted identities enrich and create a more vibrant Jewish community.

The Podcast is available now at [ReformJudaism.org](http://ReformJudaism.org),

## National and International News



“*Wholly Jewish* explores what we all have in common as we live and balance complex and nuanced identities.”

Temple Hesed  
1 Knox Road  
Scranton, PA 18505

Phone: 570-344-7201

Fax: 570-344-4514

#### 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](http://templehesed.org)

#### Temple personnel and officers

##### SPIRITUAL LEADER

**Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz**  
570-877-3454 (cell)  
570-344-7201 (office)  
(rabbidaniel@comcast.net)

##### OFFICERS

**Esther Adelman and Steven Seitchik** - Co-Presidents

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**Cheryl Friedman** - 2nd Vice President

**Jeffrey Leventhal** - Treasurer

**Joan Davis** - Secretary

**Jennifer Novak** - Assistant Secretary

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**Honorary Life Board Member: Jane Oppenheim**

##### STAFF

**Marlene Gianzanti**—Office Manager  
(MarleneCMG1@comcast.net)

**Edward Snitko**-Director of Music

**Rich Mates**-Messenger Editor  
(hesednews@gmail.com)

**Jennifer Rosen Novak**

Social Media Maven

**Jeffrey Heilbrunn** Webmaster  
(Jeff.Heilbrunn@gmail.com)

