

# Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness

שליח



**Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505**



**Special points of interest:**

- Annual Meeting set.
- Adult Education classes
- Fundraising Pictures

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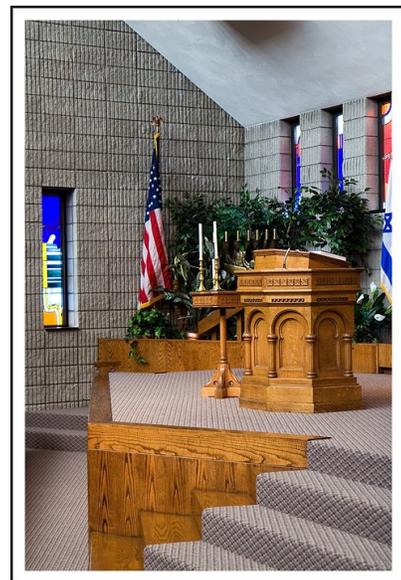
## Parent Celebration Shabbat Potluck and Family Service

We will NOT have an early service on the first Friday of May, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, because we'll be holding a special Parent Celebration Potluck and Family Service on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The potluck dinner (and we're hoping kids will be cooking for their parents!) will start at 6 p.m., followed by a fun, family-friendly service and story at 7 p.m.

Let's see how many different generations we can bring together in our celebration, on the week when the Torah instructs us to honor mothers and fathers!

Make sure to RSVP for the potluck – we're sure to have lots of great food that night!



## One Dead in California Synagogue Shooting

The Poway synagogue shooting occurred on April 27, when a gunman fired shots inside the Chabad of Poway synagogue in Poway, north of San Diego, California. One woman was killed and three other people were injured, including the synagogue's rabbi, Yisroel Goldstein,

The rabbi was delivering his sermon., when the gunman opened fire with an AR-15 style rifle, wounding Goldstein in the hand and killing 60-year-old Lori Gilbert-Kaye, who jumped in front of the rabbi to protect

him. Though injured, Goldstein continued with his sermon, telling people to stay strong. Another congregant and the congregant's 8-year-old niece were also wounded. All three were released following treatment.



SEE PAGE 6

# Donations to Temple Hased



## ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Joan Alperin

Jim and Patty Alperin

Aunt Grace Pawlan

Deborah Orgill

In Memory of Bernie, Gert and Carl Diener

Patti Diener Lough

## BUILDING FUND

In Memory of Laurence Davidow

Fred Steinberg

## TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In Memory of Marcia Friedman

Esther B. Adelman

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Harry Ackerson

Frank Milani

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Grace Pawlan

Esther B. Adelman



## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of Laurence Davidow

Natalie Gelb

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Elsie Schneider

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Schneider

## MARK HAHN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

All good wishes for a speedy recovery to Lenny Feinman

Audrey Harrell

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Nellie H. Wooden

Sherman F. Wooden

In Loving Memory of my beloved

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.

**Name Your Price!**  
**Make An Offer**  
**For Any Item in the Gift Shop!**  
**Don't Delay!**  
**Don't Be Shy!**  
**Dealers Welcome!**  
**Shop Tuesday thru Friday During Office Hours**

## Rabbinical reflections: What is Holiness?

**Q-D-Sh** – these are the root letters for the Hebrew concept “holy.” This Hebrew root appears in many related words – for example, the Kiddush, the Kadish, and Kedusha prayer, where the word Kadosh is repeated three times as we lift ourselves higher and higher on our toes. It also gives us the name for the Jewish wedding ceremony – Kedushin. And in all cases, the meaning centers around ideas of holiness. But just what IS holiness? It’s such an archaic sounding word – what can it mean for us today?

The term is originally derived from a spatial relation. Something that is Q-D-Sh, holy, is something that is elevated and set apart. Even as the term becomes more and more abstract through time, it still retains this core meaning. Thus, a successful marriage depends in part on each partner “elevating” the other and in part upon the relationship being set apart from all others. The Kiddush prayer sanctifies (makes holy, or perhaps more accurately, makes us aware of holiness) the Sabbath, a day that is set apart and elevated above “ordinary” days.

But the meaning becomes clearest when it is put into action, so to speak. At Yom Kippur, it’s become the custom in Reform synagogues to read parts of a Torah portion called Kedoshim, which, in the regular cycle of Torah readings, comes the weekend of May 10-11. It starts with the phrase, Kedoshim Ti’hyu Ki Kadosh Ani Adonai Eloheichem: You shall be holy because I, Adonai your God, am holy. Over the next three dozen verses, the Torah tries to illustrate what being holy is.

The actions encompass both what we today would call “ritual,” such as sacrifices of wellbeing, and what we would call “ethical,” including leaving the corners of the fields for the poor and the refugee.

But the Torah doesn’t divide holiness into such categories. Instead, it depicts holiness as an all-encompassing way of life, where not worshipping idols and respecting elders, not profaning God’s name and not defrauding your fellow human being, are all a part of the whole. With the right mindset, we can elevate every moment, hold up the value of each person, all while serving a God who re-

minds us that we are not to make our appetites our gods.

Getting into a mindset of holiness, however, is easier said than done. Our lives are filled with tasks that are hard to see in an elevated manner – everything from returning emails to doing the laundry. But with training in the proper perspective, even such seemingly mundane actions can take on deeper meanings.

This month, as we read Kedoshim, we’ll be exploring paths to holiness. We’ll do that most explicitly during our May chanting circle, at 11:30 on May 11<sup>th</sup>, where we will focus on “Searching for Holiness” as our theme. But we’ll also reflect on holiness, at least indirectly, during our Parent Celebration Shabbat on May 10<sup>th</sup>, our adult ed meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>, and yes, even at our annual Congregational Meeting.

As we move from Passover, our festival of freedom, to Shavuot, our festival of responsibility toward each other and to God, let’s journey to holiness together.

*Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz*

## Rabbinical Reflections

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



## Co-President's Page

By Esther  
Adelman,  
Co-  
President



Esther's column will not appear  
this month.

The Annual Meeting of Temple Hesed will be in June

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be conducted on Wednesday, June 19. The Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the Ziegler Lounge. The Congregation will meet at 7 p.m. also in the Ziegler Lounge.

Items of Importance to be discussed include:

- Renewal of Rabbi Swartz's contract
- Approval of 2019-2020 budget
- Election of officers & board
- Update on NativityMiguel School
- Cemetery report
- Davidow donation

Any Member of the congregation in good standing may attend the meeting and vote. You may check your status with the office during business hours.

All committees are asked to submit their yearly reports in early June so we may prepare handouts to the members of Temple Hesed attending the meeting.

Be sure to mark your calendar and attend.

# May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Services 8 p.m.	4
5 Adult Ed. Lesser-known women 11 a.m.	6	7	8	9	10 potluck dinner 6 p.m. Services 7 p.m.	11 Chanting Circle 11:30 am
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17 Services 8 p.m.	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Services 8 p.m.	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Services 8 p.m.	

## 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.  
That means they run from sundown  
until dusk on the last day if the  
Holiday.

## Torah Portions



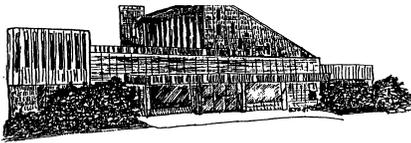
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Acharei	May 4, 2019	29.Nissan 5779
Kedoshim	May 11, 2019	6.Iyar.5779
Emor	May 18, 2019	12.Iyar.5779
Behar	May 25, 2019	20.Iyar.5779

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

“Words should be  
weighed, not counted.”

<http://www.yiddishwit.com>

# Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



## Week Ending May 4 (Service May 3)

Jerome I. Karnoff, \*Louis N. Kramer, Herbert Cummins, \*Herman Gutman, \*Sarah F. Kline, \*Nathan Young, \*Sigmund G. Roos, \*John Speir, Gertie Gross

## Week Ending May 11 (Service May 10)

\*Roselle Fine, \*Samuel M. Friedman, \*Sarah Weinberg, Lena Cohen, \*Gloria Magida Scheinholtz, \*Nellie B. Stromberg, \*Samuel L. Goldstein, Nat Fragin, \*Selma Sydansk, Rella Mates

## Week Ending May 18 (Service May 17)

\*Bess Linder, \*Isaac Sobel, Miriam Stern, \*Barbara J. Graham, \*Edward Bruce Adelman, Samuel Cooperman, \*Anne Mitteldorf, \*Rosemary Minkoff, \*Estelle H. Cohen, \*Louis Driesen, \*Philip Joseph, Jack W. Heilbrunn, \*Sadie Zwass Berger, \*Max Pell, \*George Schneider

## Week Ending May 25 (Service May 24)

\*Dr. Henry Fish, \*Charles Ball, Lillian Bernstein, \*Louis Meyer, \*Sondra Schneider Kaar, \*Harold Gold, Benjamin Levy, \*Evalyn Lonstein, \*Earle R. Parker, \*Max Lerner, Anna Kurzweil

## Week Ending June 1 (Service May 31)

\*Blanche Katz, Ralph Blau, \*Israel Davidow, \*Fern Smith Tepper, Milton Cooperman, \*Edna M. Siegel, \*William Krotosky, Sara Marsha Levy, \*Simon Smith, \*Cora F. Reinthal, \*Rochelle Goldman, \*Louis Goldsmith, \*Selma Blank Maring, \*Rose Slavitz

## Get Wells

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

## Sheloshim

Janet Leigh Lerner Slawitsky, formerly of Scranton, passed away April 21 in Wappingers Falls, NY at the age of 91. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 63 years Louis Slawitsky on November 19, 2010.

Born in the Bronx, NY, she was the daughter of Max and Sadie Goldberg Lerner. She was a graduate of James Madison School in the Bronx. She had lived in Scranton from 1946 till 2000.

She was a member and president of the ladies group of Temple Hesed, the president of Post Grands of Tikvah, and the Rebekah Lodge of the Odd Fellows. She was a leader for the Girl Scouts, past president of B'nai Brith, and a



member of Adults at the Jewish Community Center.

Janet was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, sister, aunt, friend, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Surviving is a son Allan and wife Joanne Slawitsky, and daughter Robin Slawitsky Commander, 5 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by daughter, Sharon Slawitsky Naughton, and son-in-law, Mosri Commander, six brothers and one sister.

A funeral service was held in the Carlucci-Golden-DeSantis Funeral Home, Inc., 318 E. Drinker St., Dunmore, by Rabbi Daniel Swartz. Interment in the Dalton Jewish Cemetery. Contributions in Janet's memory may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Pl., Memphis, TN, 38105.

## Chanting Circle: SEARCHING FOR HOLINESS, AT 11:30 a.m., May 11

In May, our monthly interfaith chanting circle will explore the theme, "Searching for Holiness."

Many different cultures and religions, including Judaism, have pilgrimage practices, journeys to supposedly holy destinations. And yet, sometimes it is the journey rather than the des-

tinuation that is actually what is holy, and often the journey itself is internal, a matter more of insight than stepping out.

Join us as we explore this inner journey together, at 11:30 on May 11<sup>th</sup>, through chant and study. No previous experience is necessary.




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**We have  
changed the  
time of our  
chanting circle  
from 10:30 a.m.  
to 11:30 a.m.**

## URJ on California Shooting

April 27, 2019 – Following the shooting at Chabad of Poway, Union for Reform Judaism President Rabbi Rick Jacobs issued the following statement::

'At the beginning of Passover during Seder Jewish communities all over the world opened their doors hoping to find Elijah announcing a time of redemption with an end to hate and injustice. How tragic to close our festival of freedom with yet another brutal attack reminding us that redemption is not near at hand.

The news of today's shooting at Chabad of Poway, targeting innocent people during a Passover celebration, breaks our hearts anew.

We remind ourselves of the outpouring of support from people of all faiths and those of no faith following the deadly attacks against Christians at prayer in Sri Lanka, against Muslims in New Zealand, and at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue. These helpful, hopeful responses

teach that love is stronger than hate.

Judaism must always be welcoming of all as we continue to work ceaselessly to ensure the safety and protection of all people.

As the terrible facts of this deadly attack come to light we join all people of conscience in prayers for the victims and their loved ones, and vow to provide strength, solidarity and support for the entire community."

# Adult Education

## Delilah – Unknown Women of the Bible, Midrash and Talmud – May 5

Whether or not you've joined us as we've explored a variety of lesser-known Jewish heroines, you may still join us for the last class in the series on May 5.

We learned about women from the fierce Judith to Serach, the holder of memory, to B'ruriah, sharp-witted, sharp-tongued and yet compassionate to the core.

You're welcome to join us as we explore, in our

final class on "Unknown Women," one of the Bible's most interesting anti-heroines, Delilah.

What was the story originally about, and how did it change in later generations?

How did Delilah help inspire Leonard Cohen's famous "Hallelujah"?

What can her story tell us about how strong women are still seen today?

We'll meet from 11 to 12:30 a.m. on May 5th – everyone is invited!



Samson & Delilah

...from the 1949 Cecil B. DeMille film: Victor Mature and Hedy Lamarr

## Callaway-We-Go was a hit



## URJ President on Israeli Elections

URJ president, Rabbi Rick Jacobs issued the following statement on the Israeli elections:

“Israelis voted and as always, we applaud Israeli democracy and hope that campaign rhetoric fades away as the new government is formed.

“The Israeli elections show that the country is divided on issues of critical importance to the future of the State.

“We congratulate Prime Minister Netanyahu and look forward to a productive dialogue with his new government, even as we continue to speak out for the enduring Jewish values of justice and equality.

“We have deep concern that the new government will deepen the discrimination against the non-orthodox streams of Judaism, continue to undermine the democratic values and institutions of Israel, and discriminate against Arab citizens of Israel.

“We join our Israeli partners in the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism in demanding that the government represent all of Israel’s citizens.

“We are especially concerned by the statements made by Prime Minister Netanyahu on the eve of the election calling for annexation of the West

Bank Jewish settlements, a unilateral move that would make a two-state solution impossible and render the Jewish democratic State untenable.”



Rabbi Rick Jacobs

## National and International News



## Bim Bam Gets New Home

APRIL 2, 2019 - ReformJudaism.org, the Union for Reform Judaism’s flagship educational website reaching more than three million visitors annually, will steward all digital storytelling content produced by award-winning digital studio BimBam beginning April 2.

Founded by Sarah Lefton in 2008, Bim-

Bam (founded as G-dcast) was inspired by her journey to become a self-educated Jew. Out of her frustration with her own low Jewish literacy, she started sharing her journey in animated videos that she posted online. Through the use of animation and live-action storytelling, BimBam and its groundbreaking content won numerous

awards. The team traveled the country to inspire the next generation of Jewish content creators.

BimBam’s archives of more than 450 animated videos and other digital content will continue to be hosted on their YouTube.com/BimBam channel.



A Bim Bam animated series

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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](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

**Larry Milliken** - 1st Vice President

**Cheryl Friedman** - 2nd Vice President

**Jeffrey Leventhal** - Treasurer

**Joan Davis** - Secretary

**Jennifer Novak** - Assistant Secretary

**Board Members: Kenneth Ganz, Dale Miller, Robert Hersh, Natalie Gelb, Paula Kane, Carol Leventhal, Judith Golden, Donna Kostiak, Loren Selznick,**  
**Honorary Life Board Member: Jane Oppenheim**

##### STAFF

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**Edward Snitko**-Director of Music

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