If you attend only one Temple event this year, make it to the Annual Meeting on June 19, at 7 p.m. The future of the temple depends on it.

At the end of June, our tenant for the basement classrooms will leave and we will lose their rent. If we cannot get a tenant we will be in a serious deficit this coming year. The Long Range Planning Committee will have a report for the congregation to hear.

The congregation:
- Will also vote on a new contract for Rabbi Swartz.
- Vote on new officers and directors.
- Vote on a new budget for the upcoming year.

Any member in good standing may attend and vote.

The Temple Board will meet at 6 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Ziegler Lounge.

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It's Time to Get Ready for Back to School

There will be an organizational meeting for all members who are interested in participating in the Social Action Committee's Back to School Backpack program for 2019. The meeting will be on Sunday, June 23, at 3 p.m. at the Temple.

Please join us if you're an old hand or new to the program as there is always something for everyone to do.

Larry Milliken
Backpack Program Coordinator
Donations to Temple Hesed

**BUILDING FUND**

In Memory of Frank Bonom  
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Dr. Carl Strauss  
Cheryl and Michael Friedman

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of George Schneider  
Ceil Rydzewski

What a totally unexpected, wonderful surprise! Thank you so much, Donna Kostiak.  
Audrey Harrell

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Barbara J. Graham  
Esther B. Adelman

In Loving Memory of Gena Taylor’s niece, Bianca  
Esther B. Adelman

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Sheldon A. Davis  
The Davis Family

Wishing Nancy Silverberg a speedy recovery  
Esther B. Adelman

**TORAH RESTORATION FUND**

Sympathy to the entire Friedman family on the loss of Michael’s mother  
Audrey Harrell

Seder was extra special and delicious, thank you!  
Audrey Harrell

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Rella Mates  
The Mates Family

**MARK HAHN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND**

Kudos to everyone for a spectacular fundraiser show from start to finish!  
Audrey Harrell

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.

Make An Offer For Any Item in the Gift Shop!  
We’re selling out to the bare walls.  
Shop Tuesday thru Friday during Office Hours.  
Major credit cards accepted.
S

ometimes, we make decisions with our heads, and sometimes, we make them with our kishkes, our guts (BTW, if you're interested in learning more about Yiddish words like kishkes, check out our new adult education class described below.) And sometimes, what the head thinks makes sense doesn't feel right to the kishkes, and other times what the kishkes want, the head thinks doesn't make sense. These head/kishkes conflicts are pretty common when we decide about religious beliefs and practices— a subject I'll talk about more generally on the High Holy Days this fall.

But for now, I want to raise one particular kind of ritual, whose first notable example comes in Beha’alotecha, the Torah portion we read starting on June 14th: prayers of healing. It recounts the story of Moses' siblings, Miriam and Aaron, gossiping about their brother, with God then striking Miriam with some sort of skin plague. Moses then prays one of the shortest prayers on record, only five words in Hebrew: El na r’fah na lah. Please God, please heal her.

My head has a lot of problems with this story, including the problematic nature of Miriam alone being cursed when Aaron seems at least equally to blame. But the larger problem is three-fold: I don't believe God curses us with illness, nor do I believe that illness is a sign that you've done something wrong, nor do I believe that the right prayer will magically bring healing.

I've watched too many good people die from horrible diseases that weren't their fault, even when they were surrounded by people praying for them. That includes watching Parkinson's steal away my mother, bit-by-bit, till it killed her. And it also includes my friend and colleague, Rabbi Larry Troster, one of the first people to write about Judaism and the environment, who died at the end of May, just before he was to retire, from a prostate cancer that everyone thought was under control. If worthiness would have prevented illness or prayer cure it, my mom and Rabbi Troster would both be in fine health.

And yet... Despite our ever-increasing knowledge about health and disease, despite the “miracles of modern medicine,” when Debbie Friedman wrote her mi shebeirach prayer, a healing prayer that could trace its ancestry back to Moses’ five-word prayer, it swept through the Reform movement and out into the broader Jewish community. Thousands of Jews at hundreds of synagogues sing this prayer each week, usually after a list of names of those in need of healing. Do we really think that these words, combined with a beautiful melody, will cure anyone?

I certainly don't. But I do think that there is a difference between cure and healing. It is possible to be cured of a disease and still have a lot of healing to do, for the body to have become whole but the heart to still be in pieces. And it is also possible – for indeed, I saw this with my mother, for someone to have an incurable illness and yet still find some heart and soul healing. This is the truth that our kishkes know, that made Debbie Friedman's prayer-song so popular.

When we list names and sing, we are not trying to ritually coerce God to zap a cure (or unzap a curse). Rather, we are recognizing that, through some splendid combination of our love and God's Hesed, we need to reach out to those whose illness has resulted in isolation and heartbreak. While love will not cure disease, it can break down walls and heal hearts. From Moses’ time down to ours, this pastoral care has brought light into lives, even when medicine has failed to bring a cure. May our prayers and love continue to join with those of Moses and Debbie Friedman, and may the light of our blessing shine into even the darkest corners of illness.
Double Issue Coming

Do you know what’s happening next month?
It’s DOUBLE Issue month.

We will have a combined July-August issue of The Messenger that will be out July first. It will cover all planned events during the summer. It will, as well, have a wrap-up of the June annual congregational meeting.

Needless to say, this involves a lot of work. I could use some help by getting all the articles in as early as possible.

Those committees sending in annual reports for the June 19 meeting should get them in to Marlene Giananti, our office manager. She will forward me a copy.

If there are any other happenings planned for the Temple, send them in to me. This would include the Back-to-School Backpack program, the annual cookout, Shabbat Under the Stars, etc.

I Know most of you know this already, but I don’t think it hurts to remind everybody and we never know when some new person may be in charge of publicity for a committee.

The Messenger email address is HesedNews@gmail.com.

Rich Mates

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: “Can I still have a Bar Mitzvah if my mother is a toaster oven?”

For the past several years on the evening of Shavuot, Rabbi Daniel and Rabbi Marjorie have taught alongside Rabbi Moshe Saks as part of Tikkun Leyl Shavuot, the tradition of late-night Torah study on this holiday traditionally commemorating the giving of Torah on Mount Sinai. This year, they will be away, as Rabbi Daniel takes part in his 40th High School Reunion.

Temple Israel will still be hosting a Tikkun, with Barbara Dershowitz serving as a guest teacher. The title of her presentation is “Can I still have a Bar Mitzvah if my mother is a toaster oven?”

In it, she will look at Jewish thought about the nature of humanity and intelligence, using sources ranging from the Golem tales to modern Artificial Intelligence. The program will start at 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 8th at Temple Israel, 918 E. Gibson Street.

Dairy desserts will accompany the program.
Yahrzeits and Personal Notes

Week Ending June 8 (Service June 7)


Week Ending June 15 (Service June 14)


Week Ending June 22 (Service June 21)


Week Ending June 29 (Service June 28)


Week Ending July 6 (Service July 5)


Get Wells

Sandy Cooperman
Michael Cornfield.
Larry Golden
Ellen Kiene
Phillip Knobel
Rich Mates
Charlotte Milliken
Charlene Ostro
Joel Ostro
Edward Snitko, Sr.
Emily Trunzo

Mia Novak Becomes Bat Mitzvah June 1

MIA LAUREN NOVAK, daughter of Ross and Jennifer Novak, will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 1, 2019. Along with her parents, her sister, Sascha (10) is extremely proud and happy to share in Mia’s Simcha. Mia’s Torah portion, Bechukotai, discusses how God promises blessings and curses to the people of Israel – depending on whether they keep His commandments. Mia is in 7th grade at Dunmore Middle School. She is an avid photographer, loves to swim, listen to music, read books, and hang out with friends and family.
### June 2019

#### Holidays 5779 (2018–2019)

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#### Torah Portions

- **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

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

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**“Troubles are to man what rust is to iron.”**

[http://www.yiddishwit.com](http://www.yiddishwit.com)
Everyone knows “chutzpah,” and you’ve probably dealt with a few “schlemiels” in your life or put a “schmear” on your bagel.

But just what do those words actually mean in Yiddish? For that matter, just what is Yiddish?

This series of four light-hearted adult education classes will explore Yiddish culture, cuisine, and, of course, language.

We’ll see clips from Yiddish theatre (with subtitles). We’ll also hear some Yiddish tales and “bintel briefs,” a sort of Yiddish “Dear Abby.”

We’ll even cook a bit together.

And through it all, we’ll learn at least a “schmear” of Yiddish.

So join us in summer for the classes, You’ll have to wait for the July-August issue of the Messenger for the announcement of the dates and place for the classes.

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Temple Hesed

Annual Congregational Meeting

Is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19 at 7 p.m. in the Ziegler Lounge of Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA.

All members in good standing are asked to come and vote on: the budget for the upcoming year, new officers and directors, plans for the lower level, a new contract for Rabbi Swartz and other important matters.

Please be there and vote.
Chanting Circle: Eternal Light

On one of the longest days of the year, our Chanting Circle will explore the idea of Ner Tamid, Eternal Light.

We all know how we feel on a beautiful, sunny day — can we somehow bring that feeling into a stormy, dark and cloudy time?

What about when the darkness is inside us — how can we shine our own Eternal Light in those difficult and dark moments?

Together, we'll learn and practice several chants that can help us keep the light blazing!

The date is June 22nd, 11:30 a.m. As always, everyone is welcome, no matter your faith tradition or lack thereof. No prior experience is necessary, and there is no cost to attend.

Interfaith Pride Shabbat – Friday, June 28th at 7 p.m.

On June 28th at 7p.m., Temple Hesed and Queer NEPA will host an interfaith Pride Service, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Stonewall and calling for inclusion, understanding, and equality.

Leaders from a variety of faith groups and from Queer NEPA will share prayers, songs, and brief remarks as we celebrate the Sabbath together, united by Divine Love and a love of the Divine.

Put on your best rainbow outfits and join us for this joyous, uplifting celebration. Everyone is wel-
URJ and CCAR issue joint statement

New York, NY; May 6, 2019 - We hope and pray that the cease fire holds, and at the same time, the Union for Reform Judaism and Central Conference of American Rabbis deplore the massive rocket attack unleashed upon Israel and its citizens by Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the terrorist clients of the Iranian regime, which controls the Gaza Strip.

We mourn the innocents who have lost their lives in this new round of violence. We pray for the healing of the injured and for the safety of the Israel Defense Forces as they strive to combat this murderous assault on Israeli sovereignty and security. As we send strength and blessings to our congregations in the south of Israel, we are grateful that peril to life and limb in Israel has been greatly limited by the effectiveness of the Iron Dome, emblematic of longstanding U.S.-Israeli security cooperation.

As this week, together with Jews across the globe, we prepare to celebrate Yom HaZikaron and Yom HaAtzmaut, we stand in solidarity with the State of Israel and all Israelis even as we pray for Israel’s safety and security, for an end to this tragic violence, and for a future of real, lasting, and sustainable peace for Israel and for the Palestinian people.

Immigrant and Refugee Justice Initiative Set

New York City, April 30, 2019 – The Union for Reform Judaism (the URJ) and The Kraus Family Foundation today announced the formation of the Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus Initiative for Immigrant and Refugee Justice. Eighty years ago, in 1939, the Krauses followed their consciences to Austria and Germany to rescue the largest group of unaccompanied minors brought to the United States in the lead up to World War II. Their story serves as inspiration to generations of the Kraus family and, through this new initiative being launched on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah), will now also provide a framework to activate and galvanize greater action across the Reform Jewish Movement amidst the current immigration and refugee crisis.

The Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus Initiative for Immigrant and Refugee Justice, funded by a multi-year gift of more than one million dollars from The Kraus Family Foundation, will:

- Organize Union for Reform Judaism congregations and youth programs to act and advocate for young immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and their families.
- Provide micro grants to congregations and youth programs to act and advocate for young immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and their families.
- Educate the public and communicate about current issues related to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.
- Activate and train Reform Jews to impact public policy on the federal, state, provincial, and local levels via a coordinated network.

This will further expand the work of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC), which has long led the Movement’s immigrant and refugee justice efforts.
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. Visitaton 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;

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Temple personnel and officers

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

OFFicers
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Larry Milliken - 1st Vice President
Cheryl Friedman - 2nd Vice President
Jeffrey Leventhal - Treasurer
Joan Davis - Secretary
Jennifer Novak - Assistant Secretary

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Rich Mates—Messenger Editor
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Jennifer Rosen Novak
Social Media Maven
Jeffrey Heilbrunn Webmaster
(Jeff.Heilbrunn@gmail.com)

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