

# Messenger

שליח

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



**Special points of interest:**

- Sukkot Fireworks
- What do YOU want to learn?
- Annual Food Drive

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## High Holy Days Services Set

Here is the Holy Day schedule at Temple Hesed:

Installation of Officers and Board before 8 p.m. service Sunday, September 29.

Rosh Hashanah Morning: Monday, September 30 at 10 a.m.

Tashlich: 5 p.m. at South Abington Park

RH 2.2 Meditative Second Day Program—Tuesday, October 1 at 10 a.m.

Shabbat Shuvah: Friday, October 4 at 8 p.m. (Not at 6 p.m.)

Cemetery Memorial Service: Sunday, October 6 at 11 a.m. at Dunmore Cemetery

Kol Nidre: Tuesday, October 8 at 8 p.m.

Yom Kippur Morning: Wednesday, October 9 at 10 a.m.

Study with Rabbi Swartz: 1-3 p.m.- Looking at *Mishkan HaNefesh*

Yom Kippur Afternoon: Wednesday, October 9 at 3 p.m.:

Please remember that High Holy Day tickets are a *privilege of membership* at Temple Hesed. Tickets have been sent only to those members who are in good standing. This means that *any dues balances must be paid prior to the Holy Days*. You will be required to show your tickets at the door of the sanctuary and sign in.

Children's services (for ages 4-8) will be held downstairs during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning services.

All those who enter the Temple lobby will be asked to sign in. This was a suggestion made by the Scranton Police Department after they made a thorough evaluation of our building security. Added security

*See High Holidays: (Continued on page 7)*

## RH2.2 is a special second day service

Don't forget that, right after you receive this Messenger, we have our annual 2<sup>nd</sup> day Meditative Program at 10 a.m. on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

This year, the program/ service will focus, through chant and study, on the importance of imagination

and memory as we seek to transform ourselves for the new year.

Rabbi Swartz will also teach some of the meditative techniques he recently learned during his silent retreat with the Jewish Awakened Heart Project.

This small, informal program is open to all — no High Holy Day ticket is required.

# Donations to Temple Hesed



Donations will appear next issue.

**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.**

## Gift Shop Sale



As long as you're coming to Temple, please stop by the former Sisterhood Gift Shop in the lobby. You'll see plenty of Jewish merchandise.

We're trying to sell it, but we need buyers. That's why we want you to look it over. Pick out an item or two and call Marlene in the office. She'll set Your items aside until you can come in to pick up your selection.

And you can set your price. If it's a reasonably-priced offer, it's yours.

**We'd rather sell it, than let it collect dust.**

**Make us an offer so we can sell out to the bare walls.**

## Rabbinical Reflections: Why Fireworks on Sukkot?

I love Sukkot. I love the customs and rituals, the beauty of etrog and lulav, the simplicity and spiritual depth found in dwelling temporarily in a leafy hut, built by one's own hand. I love the way the calendar is *supposed* to work, even if most people no longer know it – that we atone on Yom Kippur not to feel bad about ourselves, nor even to try to be better in some generic way, but to try to be at peace with ourselves and each other so we can love each other more and celebrate more joyfully on Sukkot.

### Fireworks Bring Joy

And, for the past dozen years or so, I love the Sukkot fireworks! Which leads to the obvious question: Why fireworks on Sukkot? Obviously, there weren't Sukkot fireworks in biblical times – they hadn't yet been invented, and even after their invention, it

wouldn't be until the 12<sup>th</sup> century before they made it to the Middle East. But fiery displays of one sort or another were a big part of Sukkot celebrations in the days when the Temple in Jerusalem was still standing. For example, in Mishnah Sukkot 5:2-3, we read about a giant fire sculpture that was made: Four golden candelabras were there, and four golden basins at their heads, and four ladders to each one, and [upon them were] four of the rising youth of the priesthood, and in their hands were jars of olive oil holding one hundred and twenty *logim* [a liquid measure], which they would pour into each of the basins. From the worn out pants and belts of the priests they would tear pieces, and they would light with them. And there was not a courtyard in Jerusalem that was not illuminated by the light of the cere-

mony.”

### Juggling Fire

We also read about how people juggled flaming torches. In fact, Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel, the great-grandson of the famous Rabbi Hillel and the head of the rabbinical court and academy, “would take eight flaming torches and toss one and catch another, juggling them, and, though all were in the air at the same time, they would not touch each other.” I'll leave it to the Scranton Bonfire festival (which, I might note, always comes within a few weeks of Sukkot) to build a fire sculpture. And flaming torches or batons might have looked great in the movie “Miss Congeniality,” but I think any attempt I might make to emulate Shimon ben Gamliel is much more likely to end in disaster than in a crowd-pleasing spectacle. But, if one chooses carefully, fire-

## Rabbinical Reflections

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



works can appear to be both fire sculptures and flaming, juggling torches – and that I can do.

### Join Us

I hope you'll join us on October 18<sup>th</sup> for this year's Sukkot festivities – a potluck dinner followed by a fun, musical and participatory family service and then dessert in the Sukkah, with fireworks overhead. Since it overlaps with her spring break, I'll be joined by my trusty assistant, Alana, and we promise to put on a great show!

*Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz*

## Co-President's Page

By Esther  
Adelman,  
Co-  
President



Esther's column will resume next issue.

## A bang-up Sukkot

Sukkot Celebration – Potluck,  
Family Service, and Fireworks!!!  
October 18th

As Rabbi Daniel mentioned in  
his Rabbinical Reflections, one  
of the highlights of the Jewish

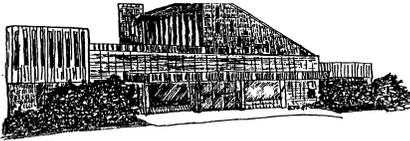
the office if you plan to come,  
so we can coordinate food.  
Then at 7 pm, Ed will get out his  
accordion for some of the liveli-  
est music this side of Purim, in-  
cluding the famous “Lulav



calendar is that most festive of  
festivals, Sukkot! Join us on Oc-  
tober 18<sup>th</sup> for a great celebra-  
tion for everyone. We start  
with a potluck dinner at 6 pm –  
please call (570-344-7201) or  
email  
(templehesed@comcast.net)

Shake.” At 8 pm, we head out  
to the Sukkah for dessert and a  
wonderful fireworks display.  
(Why fireworks? Check out the  
Rabbinical Reflections) Don't  
miss out on the fun – and invite  
your friends of any faith to join  
you! There is no cost to the cel-  
ebration.

# Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



## Get Wells (Mi Shebeirach)

Sandy Cooperman	Charlotte Milliken
Michael Cornfield	Harriet Noble
Larry Golden	Charlene Ostro
Mike Greenstein	Joel Ostro
Ellen Kline	Edward Snitko, Sr.
Phillip Knobel	Emily Trunzo
Rich Mates	

## Sheloshim

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Billie Joe Cornfield's mother, Betsey Siarkievicz.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Billie Joe, Michael, Meyer and Mendel on their loss.

### Week Ending October 5 (Service October 4)

\*Edward Miller, \*Harry Ferber, \*Seymour E. Stahler, \*Dorothy Mendel Jacobs, \*Samuel H. Frank, Karl Strohl, \*Harry Jacobs, Isidore Lerner, \*Hattie L. Marks, \*James Swartz, \*Minnie Rosen, \*Anna Benjamin, \*William Spelman, \*Bernhardt Lehman, \*Nathan Cohen, \*Manny Cohen

### Week Ending October 12 (Service October 11)

\*James H. Carlyon, \*Benjamin Endfield, \*Mark Hahn, Elaine Levy, \*Sheldon Pell, \*Emma Ackerman, \*Myer Davidow, Simon B. Elsberg, \*Miriam E. Friedman, George Goldenziel, \*Henry Friedmann, \*Family of Adolf Gabriel Winter, \*Kalman Livingston, \*Celia L. Goldsmith, \*Clothilda Landau, \*Charlotte Berger, \*Evelyn Ackerman, \*Morris Gutman, \*Jack Angert

### Week Ending October 19 (Service October 18)

Jerome Ganz, \*Katie Lauer Rose, \*Dr. Alexander Bernstein, \*Ida S. Weilheimer, \*Edith Wormser, \*Irving Vidro, \*Mary Broderick, \*Rose Gold, \*Carrie W. Goodman, \*Margaret Lange Davidow, Herman Olick, \*Marjorie Helene Lauer, \*Bruce Gilbert, \*Rose Kroll

### Week Ending October 26 (Service October 25)

\*Irene Goodman, \*Jerome M. Friedman, \*Oscar Kleeman, \*Esther Gutter, Arnold Cooperman, \*Manny Gelb, \*Lois Wilensky, \*Harry Benkaim, \*Atty. Joseph Needle, Alfred Rice, Jr., \*Samuel Ginsburg, \*Scott Jay Tepper, \*Harry Needle, \*Sonnie Sieber

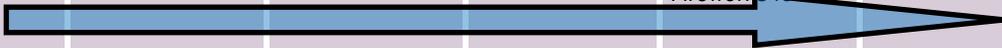
### Week Ending November 2 (Service November 1)

\*Sadie Dinner, \*Myer Alperin, \*Ray D. Goldstein, \*Caroline Roos Jacobs, Bonnie Pashkow, \*Samuel H. Lunitz, \*Ruth Cohn Schwartz, \*Richard S. Graham, \*Daniel Jacobs, Maxine Ostro, Robert Siragusa, \*Jeanne Weiss Antenson, \*Isadore Goodman, \*Irving Adelman, \*Ethyl Gelfand, \*Fannie Ehrlich, Hyman Mates, \*Phillip Salsburg, \*Hilda Landau

Note: Because it is Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, the service on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> will be at 8 p.m., not 6 p.m. Families who prefer the early service are encouraged to come to our Sukkot Celebration beginning at 6 p.m. on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 RH2.2 10 a.m.	2	3	4 SERVICES 8 p.m. Shabbat Shuva	5
6 Memorial service 11 a.m. Dunmore Cemetery	7	8 Kol Nidre 8 p.m.	9 Yom Kippur 10 a.m.	10	11 SERVICES 8 P.M.	12
13 Sukkot Eve	14 COLUMBUS DAY Sukkot	15	16	17	18 Potluck 6 p.m. SERVICES 7 P.M. Fireworks follow.	19
20 Deadline for Food Drive. Sort food	21	22 Simchat Torah	23	24	25 SERVICES 8 P.M.	26
27	28	29	30	31		



## Holidays 5780 (2019–2020)

Rosh HaShanah—  
Sept. 29–Oct. 1, 2019

Yom Kippur —  
Oct. 8–9, 2019

Sukkot—  
Oct. 13–20, 2019

Sh'mini Atzaret—Simchat  
Torah —Oct. 21-22,  
2019

Hanukkah —  
Dec. 22–30, 2019

Tu B'Shvat —Feb.9–10,  
2020

Purim—  
March 9-10, 2020

Passover—  
April. 8–15, 2020

Yom HaShoah—  
April 20–21, 2020

Yom HaZikaron  
April 27–28, 2020

Yom HaAtzmaut April 28–  
29, 2020

Lag B'Omer — May 11–12,  
2020

Shavuot—  
May 28-29, 2020

Tishah B'Av—  
July 29–30, 2020

Selichot —Sept. 12, 2020

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
Vayelech	Oct. 5, 2019	6.Tishrei.5779
Ha'azinu	Oct. 12, 2019	14.Tishrei.5779
Bereshit	Oct. 26, 2019	27.Tishrei.5779

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

“For a glass of milk you  
don't have to buy a whole  
cow.”

<http://www.yiddishhwit.com>

## Chanting Circle October 12: Soul-Food

At 11:30 a.m. on October 12<sup>th</sup>, our monthly Interfaith Chanting Circle will focus on the theme of "Soul-Food." Not the black-eye peas and sweet potato pie kind, though, in its own way, just as comforting and

nourishing. With Sukkot right around the corner, we're going to give thanks for all that feeds our souls – beauty, kindness, love, and spiritual connections. We'll bring in music from different traditions and feed our

souls with some very "tasty" chants. Everyone is welcome, and no prior experience is necessary.



## Prepare for our Annual Food Drive

Please remember to bring your food and/or checks in for our annual High Holy Day "Corners of the Field" food drive. Many of the local food pantries have bare shelves this time of year, and the families they serve deeply appreciate any help we are able to give in restocking them. Since our numbers aren't what they used to be, it's important for each of us to contribute more – so please do what you can (and feel free to ask

neighbors for contributions as well!) Our Sunday School will sort and deliver the food on October 20<sup>th</sup> – we can accept your food donations up until that morning. Let's make sure our collection this year helps as many families as possible – it's an important way we can make the New Year sweeter for people in need.



## High Holidays continued from Page 1

measures will be ongoing.

If you have out-of-town guests, they will be admitted to services as a courtesy if they have a letter from their congregation. Otherwise, you must call Marlene at the Temple office (570-344-7201) to make arrangements.

I wish you a 5780 full of *hesed* (loving-kindness), *simchah* (happiness), and *shalom* (peace).

*Esther Adelman*, Worship Chair

**PS: Your help is needed to coordinate the Sweet New Year (Rosh Hashanah Evening) and Break the Fast (Yom Kippur Afternoon) tables.**

## Vote for your Adult Ed choices now!



If you haven't already turned in the survey we put in the prayerbooks over Rosh HaShanah, you still have time to vote. What adult education classes would you want to see taught this year? Here are the choices – just let us know which ones you prefer:

Highlights of American Jewish History – we'll look at some of the amazing stories of Jewish life in America through key original documents, ranging from a letter by George Washington to an (in) famous menu.

What is the Talmud? The Talmud is one of the most important of all Jewish works – but it's really hard to navigate without a good guide. Rabbi Daniel will introduce us to some famous passages, how to understand them, and what the

Talmudic enterprise is all about.

Modern Jewish Identity – Who is a Jew, and how is that changing? Are we post-denominational? Post-ethnic? How is Judaism changing, and what does the future hold for Jews and Jewishness? Let's explore together!

The Jew in Popular culture – How were Jews seen in books, TV, movies in the past, and how are viewed today? How is that changing in the era of social media?

Your choice – What don't you see that you'd like to see – just ask! Rabbi Swartz is happy to accommodate.



Sylvan Sobel

## Federal Courts Expert will Give Oppenheim Talk

Our upcoming Oppenheim Institute features Scranton native Sylvan Sobel, a man who literally wrote the book used by all federal judges.

Sobel, who grew up in Temple Hesed and went on to a distinguished career at the Federal Judicial Center, will deliver the Oppenheim lecture on Friday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. Sobel will examine: "Can the Supreme Court Survive our Hyper-Partisan Times?"

Using his experience with the

Supreme Court and the Federal Judiciary as a whole, he'll help us understand the changing roles of the court, with a focus on how politics and law intersect. Moves by the White House and the GOP-controlled Senate to fill two Supreme Court vacancies, dozens of District and Appeals Court vacancies will impact everything from abortion to voting rights.

There is no cost and it is open to the public.

## Statement from Reform Jewish Movement



Statement from the Reform Jewish Movement: As we begin the month of Elul, we enter a time of introspection and reflection culminating in the Jewish High Holidays. Individually and communally, we consider our actions, their impacts on others, and our responsibility to do whatever we can to improve ourselves and our community in the year to come.

In this spirit, we reflect upon and are compelled to express our deep concern about the coarseness of public discourse, led in too many ways by the president of the United States.

Since taking office, President Trump's words and actions have sowed division, spread fear, and expressed hateful views that go far beyond the legitimate expressions of policy differences that characterize healthy political debate. In unprecedented ways, he has verbally attacked people and communities of color, immigrants, and people with disabilities, looking for political advantage in turning Americans against one another. He has also failed to consistently and unequivocally condemn words and acts of hate from others. We must all expect more from the president of the United States.

In recent days, President Trump even suggested that Jews who vote for Democrats are "disloyal." Regardless of whether he was referring to disloyalty to Israel or to the United States, this reprehensible statement evokes centuries-old anti-Semitic tropes about Jews having dual loyalties and/or being untrustworthy citizens of their nations. The implication that religion should dictate political affiliation is noxious to the American value of religious freedom that has strengthened this nation since its founding.

We also oppose the notion that President Trump's words should be excused because of his support for Israel and opposition to BDS. We are Zionists who also oppose the BDS movement, which would result in the end of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state – but we reject the president's use of Israel as a wedge issue and his inflammatory verbal and online attacks on those who hold other views.

Let us be clear: This is not about policy differences or partisanship. Moral Jews – moral Americans – can in good conscience differ on policies, candidates, and parties. We celebrate such diversity in the Reform Jewish Movement, knowing that political differences must never overshadow the respect due to every person, within whom lives a Divine spark. We also know that racism, xenophobia, white supremacy, misogyny, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and hate existed well before President Trump's election, and individuals on the left bear some responsibility for their spread, as well. At the same time, centuries of racism and white supremacy have left an indelible imprint and open wounds on the United States that President Trump has particularly ex-

ploited and exacerbated.

The words of the High Holiday prayer book are written in the collective, reminding us that responsibility for misdeeds and their correction lies with the community as much as the individual. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel also observed that while "Some are guilty; all are responsible." Indeed, decency knows no party. Whether we are Republicans, Democrats, or Independents, conservatives, moderates, or liberals, we all bear the responsibility to uphold the norms of ethical speech and moral conduct that have made our democracy great. That responsibility lies particularly with our national leadership, and especially with our president. Speech that demeans and demonizes creates an atmosphere of permission for further intolerance. Hate speech is hate speech, and hate speech leads all too easily to hate crimes. We all have roles to play in stemming the spread of hate, and elected officials tasked with pursuing the common good – chief among them the president – have a special obligation to uplift, rather than diminish, the public they serve.

The great sage Hillel, when asked if he could summarize the whole of Torah while standing on one foot, replied, "What is hateful to you do not do unto others. The rest is commentary." (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 31a) As we approach the Jewish High Holiday season, our tradition reminds us that there is no statute of limitations on *t'shuvah*, repentance. At any time, the "gates of repentance" are open to all by walking new paths that lift us up beyond old patterns, returning us to the rhetoric of responsibility.

We pray, therefore, that President Trump is inspired by this spirit of *t'shuvah* to turn from the path of hate speech he has walked.

We pray that all politicians commit to upholding the values of fairness and decency, joining together across lines of difference to say, "Enough is enough."

We pray that all Americans, regardless of political association, religious affiliation, or support for certain policies, will loudly and unambiguously call for an end to a politics infused with bullying, hateful diatribes, and personal character assaults.

We pray that each of us becomes a model to others, demonstrating how to reject hate and celebrate the dignity and worth of every human being. As the Talmud teaches, "Human dignity is so important that it overrides even a biblical prohibition." (Babylonian Talmud, Brachot 19b)

May the new year be a year of healing, wholeness, justice, and compassion for all.

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.

#### "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

**Cheryl Friedman** - 1st Vice President

**Larry Milliken** - 2nd Vice President

**Jeffrey Leventhal** - Treasurer

**Joan Davis** - Secretary

**Jennifer Novak** - Assistant Secretary

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**Honorary Life Board Member:** Jane Oppenheim

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