Oppenheim Institute Nov. 8

Will abortion remain legal in the United States? Will voting rights expand or contract? How are church/state relations changing? At the center of these and other critical questions for our country stands the Supreme Court — and so the future of the court should be on the mind of everyone who cares about our country. That’s what makes this year’s Oppenheim Institute Social Justice Sabbath topic so exciting. On Friday, November 8 at 7:30, Sylvan (Syl) Sobel, who grew up in Temple Hesed, will speak on “Hyper-partisanship: Will it Kill the Supreme Court?” In our increasingly divided nation, will the Supreme Court just exacerbate divisions, or can it play a role in bringing us back together? Sobel, with decades of experience at the highest levels of the federal judiciary, will treat us to an insider’s view of the history of judicial independence, how it has stood up to past challenges, and what’s different about today’s attacks. As usual, the Oppenheim Institute will begin with a shortened, justice-themed Shabbat service and will be followed by light refreshments. As always, the evening is free, and everyone, regardless of faith background, is welcome to attend.

Syl Sobel, a Scranton native, is an author, attorney, journalist, and former senior government executive. For more than 30 years he was an official of the Federal Judicial Center, which is the research and education agency for the federal court system, and was responsible for the production of educational publications and reports for federal judges, court employees,

(See Oppenheim on page 7)

Shabbat Evening Service Times for November – make sure you have the right time!

The schedule for our services in November is a bit different, so we want to make sure everyone is paying attention and comes at the right time!

On November 1, we are meeting at our “First Friday” time of 6 p.m. for a family-friendly service with a story.

November 8 is the Oppenheim Institute Social Justice Sabbath, at 7:30 p.m. EST (see separate story on Page 1), while November 22 is the Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. and service at 7 p.m. (see separate story on Page 8.)

As has been our custom, there is NO synagogue service on November 29th, the Friday after Thanksgiving.

If you’d like home prayers for that night, just ask Rabbi Daniel, who is happy to send you whatever you need.
Donations to Temple Hesed

BUILDING FUND
In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Sidney Wasser
Paula Wasser

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Bernhardt Lehman
Paula Wasser

Larry Milliken to the rescue, thank you!
Audrey Harrell

Wishing Sharon and Saul Levy health and happiness today and always
Deborah and Peter Fass

Thank you to all who made my attending High Holy Day Services possible
James Ellenbogen

In Memory of Sandy Cooperman
James Ellenbogen
Larry and Judie Golden
Paula Wasser

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Manny Gelb
Natalie Gelb

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Delbert T. Wooden
Sherman F. Wooden

TORAH RESTORATION FUND
Sympathy to Billie Joe Cornfield on the loss of her mother
Esther B. Adelman

Mazel Tov to Rabbi Samuel Sandhaus on over 40 years of community service
Esther B. Adelman

In Memory of Sandy Cooperman
Esther B. Adelman

In Memory of Sandy Cooperman
Milton and Miriam Friedman Scholarship Fund
James Ellenbogen
Larry and Judie Golden
Paula Wasser

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Miriam Friedman
Paula and Jim Kane

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of brother, Jerome Friedman
Paula and Jim Kane

ROSEANNE SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND
In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Myer Alperin
Jim and Patty Alperin

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.
Fade to Black or the Darkness before the Dawn?

The air is turning colder, the days are getting shorter, and, after the full calendar of the High Holy Days and the festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah, we’ve just entered the one Hebrew month of the year with zero holidays. So it would be understandable in any case for our mood to slip a bit.

And, even if one ignores the more general spate of bad news around the world, there’s plenty of bad news about the future of religion, both in general and specifically here at Temple Hesed.

For example, some recent surveys have shown not only that religious participation (and civic participation more broadly, in everything from Scouts to the PTA) is declining at a more rapid pace, but also that previous patterns—where people temporarily withdrew during late teen, college years and post-college years but re-engaged when they married and had children—no longer hold true. People drop out and stay out.

Here at Temple Hesed, we are facing the intersecting challenges of the demographics of our area—aging populations, with children going off to college and not returning, a shrinking Jewish community, reduced volunteerism, and loss of income from the move of the NativityMiguel school.

While our long-range planning committee is looking at lots of options going forward, it’s pretty clear that there won’t be a “silver bullet” that will magically slay all our problems and create an easy path forward.

So does that mean we should give up? Is our community destined to “fade to black”? As a student of Jewish history in general and American Jewish history in particular, I have to admit that the answer might be “yes.”

Throughout all of Jewish history, once thriving communities have sometimes dwindled slowly away, and sometimes vanished in the blink of an eye.

Certainly, when we have a service where a minyan (the 10 people needed to hold a complete service) doesn’t show, when I can’t get volunteers for an important program, or when families no longer attend school or family services, I sometimes feel like the end is near.

But a look at history also reminds us that that isn’t always the case. For thousands of years, some Jews have predicted the death of Judaism—and so far, they’ve always been wrong.

What has happened instead is that some modes of being Jewish have vanished, but with every disappearance, new forms of Judaism and new paradigms of Jewish communities have arisen.

When we get over 50 people at our most recent Sukkot service, or 100 plus show up to a tribute to those Jews slain in Pittsburgh, even when it was organized at the last minute, I have hope.

When over 25 people signed up over the High Holy Days for our security workshop, I grow more hopeful. When I talk with colleagues in much larger communities who can’t match the attendance and devotion we have at our monthly interfaith chanting circles, I feel like I’ve gotten a glimpse of the start of the next new paradigm.

We might be looking at a fade to black—or at the darkness before a new dawn. I don’t know for sure which it will be. But I do know this: if we don’t try, and try in new ways, the dawn won’t come. And if we don’t engage together, with hope and courage, with curiosity and creativity, that next new paradigm might never be discovered.

So, the most important question isn’t what happens next, but this one: will you help?

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz
Thank you for your Help

I would like to express my deepest thanks to all who participated in the High Holy Day services. Past presidents, officers, board members, and new and old members of our congregation added their special touches to these solemn moments. It is your devotion that makes our Temple truly a place of Hesed.

Rabbi Swartz’s leadership was outstanding. He deserves our greatest praise. He continues to be an inspiration to our congregation, as we grow in our spirituality and in our thirst for learning.

Ed Snitko, despite recent throat surgery, added his own brand of spirituality with his lovely and heartfelt renditions of the melodies that we love.

We couldn’t do it without Marlene Gianzanti, who pulls it all together, from the tickets and the programs to the beautiful Rosh Hashanah sweet table and the break-the-fast spread after Yom Kippur (and everything in between).

We introduced the new machzor, Mishkan HaNefesh, for the Rosh Hashanah services, with many positive reviews and some good suggestions from our members and guests. We will have everything ready for using the new Yom Kippur machzor as well, for the 5781 services. We welcome your input about the new prayerbook or about the services in general.

Copies of the previous books, Gates of Repentance, are available for anyone to take home “for old time’s sake”. There are some lovely readings that give inspiration, comfort, and joy.

Finally, now that you’re all in worship mode, I hope to see you at Shabbat services.

Esther Adelman
Yahrzeits and Personal Notes

Get Wells (Mi Shebeirach)

Michael Cornfield
Larry Golden
Mike Greenstein
Ellen Kline
Phillip Knobel
Rich Mates
Charlotte Milliken

Harriet Noble
Jane Oppenheim
Charlene Ostro
Joel Ostro
Edward Snitko, Sr.
Emily Trunzo

Week Ending November 2 (Service November 1)


Week Ending November 9 (Service November 8)


Week Ending November 16 (Service November 15)


Week Ending November 23 (Service November 22)


Week Ending November 30 (Service December 6)


Get Wells (Mi Shebeirach)

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Larry Golden
Mike Greenstein
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Phillip Knobel
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Charlotte Milliken

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Jane Oppenheim
Charlene Ostro
Joel Ostro
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Emily Trunzo
### Holidays 5780 (2019–2020)

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<th>Rosh HaShanah—Sept. 29—Oct. 1, 2019</th>
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<td>Yom Kippur—Oct. 8—9, 2019</td>
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<td>Sukkot—Oct. 13–20, 2019</td>
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<td>Sh’mini Atzaret—Simchat Torah—Oct. 21–22, 2019</td>
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<td>Hanukkah—Dec. 22–30, 2019</td>
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<td>Purim—March 9–10, 2020</td>
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<td>Passover—April 8–15, 2020</td>
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| 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 of the Holiday.

### Torah Portions

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noach</td>
<td>Nov. 2, 2019</td>
<td>4.Cheshvan.5780</td>
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<td>Lech-Lecha</td>
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<td>Vayeira</td>
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<td>Chaye Sarah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toldot</td>
<td>Nov.30, 2019</td>
<td>2.Kislev.5780</td>
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More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

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**If you put a shtreimel* on a pig, would it make him a rabbi?**

*the fur-trimmed hat worn by Hasidic rabbis.

http://www.yiddishwit.com
Interfaith Chanting Circle: Practice for Imperfection

You’ve probably heard the phrase, practice makes perfect. Except that it doesn’t – a fundamental part of the human condition is that we’re all imperfect, no matter how much we practice or how hard we try.

And we’re even imperfect about “practicing” – each time we try to establish good habits, it’s a challenge, and we often take many steps backward for each step forward.

This month’s chanting circle on – Saturday, November 9 at 11:30 a.m. will focus on those difficulties and explore how we can simultaneously be gentler with our imperfections and yet find ways to reinforce our better selves and our strivings to better ourselves.

Through chant, meditation, and supportive sharing, we’ll look at practices that can help sustain and nurture ourselves, even when we do them imperfectly. No prior experience is necessary, and everyone from any faith background – or none at all – is most welcome to come.

Oppenheim: continued from Page 1

lawyers, academicians, and the public. He has represented the U.S. government in international judicial education programs for judges and government officials from foreign countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Ukraine, Israel, and Russia.

Since leaving the FJC he has contributed several op-eds on government and law to the Baltimore Sun. He has written several children’s books on U.S. government and history, including titles on the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and presidential elections, and has spoken at the National Archives, on C-SPAN and NPR, and at schools, book fairs, bookstores, and libraries.

He is also an award-winning high school sports reporter for The Town Courier in Gaithersburg, MD. He is a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Wisconsin Law School, and is active in alumni activities for both institutions.

We look forward to his joining us on Nov. 8, and we hope you will be there to welcome him back and to learn from him on this crucial topic.

Sandy Cooperman died October 15. Was active member.

Sondra "Sandy" Helen Cooperman, 83, of Clarks Summit, died October 15 at Allied Services Hospice Center in Scranton. She was the wife of the late Aaron Cooperman.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., daughter of the late Lillian Goldfarb, she was a member of Temple Hesed and was very active with its Social Action Committee and Sisterhood. Sondra was a volunteer for many years at the Jewish Community Center and its Children's Theatre, the Abington Senior Community Center, ORT and with the Lupus Foundation.

She had a great love of music and art, greatly enjoyed attending the Philharmonic, was an avid reader and animal lover, wonderful cook, but her greatest joy came from being a terrific grandmother.

Surviving are a daughter, Lisa Baker, Vienna, Va.; a son, Jeffrey Cooperman, Burien, Wash.; two grandsons, Ethan and Logan Baker, Vienna; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Goldfarb.

Burial was in Temple Hesed Cemetery.
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – November 22nd – potluck at 6, service at 7

For many years, the Sisters of the Poor and the Scranton Area Ministerium rotated where they held the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, the kick-off to the free Thanksgiving Dinner at the Scranton Cultural Center and the Family-to-Family program that provides thousands of free Thanksgiving home dinners.

But since they came to Temple Hesed a few years ago, they decided they’d rather hold it here every year! It’s a beautiful and moving service, with people from many different faiths joining us, with special music, readings and rituals.

Last year, we had many comments on Facebook thanking us for hosting and declaring that it was the most “beautiful service we ever attended.” And we start the evening off with a fabulous potluck dinner, with people bringing dishes celebrating their cultural and culinary heritage.

This is a great evening not only to come yourselves, but also to invite friends of different faiths to join you.

Please call (570-344-7201) or email the Temple office (templehesed@comcast.net) if you plan to come to the potluck dinner, so we can coordinate dishes and get a good idea of the number of people coming.

There is no charge, but we do hold a “collection” for the Sisters of the Poor and Family to Family, to help them in their good works of feeding so many hungry families.

Join us for Notorious RGB Exhibit at National Museum of American Jewish History

The joint Temple Hesed/Temple Israel Hebrew School is traveling to Philly on November 10—and you’re invited to join us!

In addition to its wonderful standing exhibits, the National Museum of American Jewish History is currently showing a fabulous exhibit— which will only be there for a couple of months—on Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg also known as “Notorious RGB.”

November 10 is a special “family day,” with special family-friendly activities, free tickets for those 12 and under, and even a 10% discount in the museum store for everyone dressing like RGB! We’ll be meeting at the museum at 11 am (if you’d like to carpool, please call the Temple office at 570-344-7201) – but make sure to purchase adult tickets and reserve tickets for children in advance—just go to https://www.nmajh.org/exhibitions/rbg/ to find out more about the exhibit and to get tickets. Once we meet at the museum, we’ll tour the exhibit together and check out some of the special activities. Please let Rabbi Daniel know if you plan to come down—email him at rabbidaniel@comcast.net

And mark your calendar now for our spring field trip, on Sunday March 29th, starting at the Tenement Museum, where we have reserved a special group tour in the morning, and finishing at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, which is hosting a profoundly moving exhibit on Auschwitz. Again, if you are interested, please let Rabbi Daniel know.

Everyone—children and adults, temple members and those who aren’t—are welcome to join us on these educational and fun tours.
Statement from Reform Jewish Movement on Bomb Threat

New York, NY; October 25, 2019 - Union for Reform Judaism President Rabbi Rick Jacobs issued the following statement in response to today’s bomb threat called in to Congregation B’nai Israel in Bridgeport, CT, a URJ member congregation.

“Shabbat is a time of peace and healing. This Shabbat, as we commemorate one year since the deadly attack on Tree of Life – Or L’Simcha Congregation in Pittsburgh, PA, we must again reckon with hate and intimidation against the Jewish community and our houses of worship.

The URJ has been in contact with Rabbi Evan Schultz and the congregation’s president, Shari Nerreau; their leadership has been inspiring. Thankfully, everyone at Congregation B’nai Israel is safe, and the congregation will be able to observe Shabbat tonight. The evacuation was done quickly, according to the congregation’s emergency procedures, and with thanks to the quick involvement of local and federal law enforcement.

However, it remains deeply troubling that Jewish communities around the world are still being targeted for hatred, bigotry, and violence. We must come together as one to confront the roots of antisemitism in order to bring these senseless acts to an end.

On this Shabbat and each one to come, we join with all people of good conscience who remain committed and steadfast in unity and solidarity.”

RAC On Removal of Troops in Syria

WASHINGTON – In response to President Trump’s sudden withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Turkish-Syrian border, 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 on American Rabbis and the wider Reform Movement institutions:

“The humanitarian crisis triggered by President Trump’s sudden withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Turkish-Syrian border is senseless, painful, and must end. For years, the Kurdish people in the region have worked closely with U.S. forces to oppose ISIS. Now, their suffering has captured the world’s attention as they are subjected to a Turkish military assault that violates basic human rights and dignity and threatens to further destabilize a region already ravaged by violence. The United States’ complicity in this loss of life and devastation is shameful.

“The Jewish people know the peril of being abandoned by the international community. And the ancient words of Leviticus demand that we not stand idly by as our neighbor bleeds. We will not be silent as the administration forsakes the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians.

“We call on President Trump to act immediately to end Turkey’s assault and ensure the safety of Kurdish civilians in northeastern Syria.”

Corners of the Fields Food Drive a Success

Our students have sorted the food and the results are in – we collected nearly 1,500 pounds of food over the High Holy Days. Thanks to everyone who brought food, and a special thanks to those who also collected from their neighbors, including Ellen Kline who set up a food drive in Amos Towers.

We also collected $1,011 in contributions. United Neighborhoods estimates that will provide over 4000 servings!

We will be collecting cash and food donations at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Friday, November 22nd at 7 pm, so if you missed this food drive, you still have a chance to contribute!
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;

Check out Temple Hesed on Fox 56 News!

Fox 56 has run two stories on Temple Hesed events in the past few weeks. First of all, they covered our Sukkot Celebration, including our trademark fireworks. You can see the story here: https://fox56.com/news/local/sukkot-celebrates-sukkot

Temple Hesed, with assistance from the JCC and the Jewish Federation, also pulled together a community-wide commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the shootings in the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. You can see the coverage of the commemoration here: https://fox56.com/news/local/jewish-community-comes-together-for-pause-with-pittsburgh