

# Messenger

שליח

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



## Hanukkah Celebration December 27 — Dinner and Latkes @ 6 pm, Service @ 7 pm

**Look inside for:**

- **Photos of recent Temple Events**
- **Wrestle with God chanting**

Hanukkah comes later this year, running almost into 2020. Thus, our one Shabbat during Hanukkah doesn't come until the dark of winter on December 27!

But we promise you that if you venture forth to Temple on that day, you'll encounter delicious latkes, tasty pot luck food, tasty sufganiot (Hanukkah donuts),

and lots of light and warmth. So join us for a fabulous evening of food and fun — dinner and a latke cookout at 6 p.m., and a family service at 7 p.m..

Everyone is welcome, but please RSVP for the dinner, and let Rabbi Daniel know if you want to take part in the latke cook-off!

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## Highlights of American Jewish History: Adult Ed December 8, 15 and January 5, 12

Join us for this lively adult education class as we look at some of the amazing stories of Jewish life in America through key original documents.

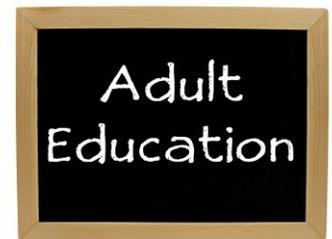
By examining primary sources ranging from a letter by George Washington to an (in) famous menu, we'll come face to face with the true life experiences of Jews in America.

Along the way, we'll gain understanding about how America has shaped Judaism and how Judaism has altered America.

We'll meet over four sessions, on December 8th and 15th and January 5th and 12th (of course, given the weather in NEPA, we may have to reschedule a class or two based on weather).

Each class will meet from 12 to 1:30 p.m.; feel free to bring your lunch! We'll meet at Temple on the 8th and then discuss if we will continue classes at people's homes or at the synagogue.

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge, but please email Rabbi Daniel at [rabbidaniel@comcast.net](mailto:rabbidaniel@comcast.net), so that



he knows to expect you, can prepare the right amount of material, and can contact you in case of bad weather.

# 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.**

## ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Myer Alperin**

*Jim and Patty Alperin*

## BUILDING FUND

**All the best to Jane Oppenheim**

*James Ellenbogen*

**Get well quick, Esther Friedmann**

*James Ellenbogen*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Brian David Schneider**

*Irwin and Sandra Schneider*

## LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Rose Bud Leventhal**

*Lindsay Leventhal*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Linda Lee Leventhal**

*Lindsay Leventhal*

**In Memory of Sandy Cooperman**

*Jeff and Carol Leventhal*

**Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery, Mark Davis**

*Carol and Jeff Leventhal*

**Best Wishes for a Speedy Re-**

**covery, Jane Oppenheim**

*Carol and Jeff Leventhal*

**Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery, Esther Friedmann**

*Carol and Jeff Leventhal*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

**In Memory of Sandy Cooperman**

*Harryette, Ronnie, Marcie and Amy Cooperman*

## TORAH RESTORATION FUND

**Get Well Wishes to Esther Friedmann**

*Esther B. Adelman*

**Thinking of you, Jane Oppenheim**

*Esther B. Adelman*

**Get Well Wishes to Mark Davis**

*Esther B. Adelman*

## MILTON AND MIRIAM FRIEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**In Memory of Sandy Cooperman**

*Paula and Jim Kane*

## MARK HAHN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

**A delicious and exciting event from start to finish! What a**

**lucky pot luck, thank you everyone!**

*Audrey Harrell*

**Good health, best wishes and thank you for an interesting Oppenheim event**

*Audrey Harrell*

**Remembering Sandy Cooperman**

*Audrey Harrell*

## Holiday Blues

In efforts to compete with ever-longer Christmas displays, an increasing variety of “Hanukkah decorations” have sprung up. Well, varied in some senses — you can get everything from Star Wars-themed Hanukkah decor to Disney-themed Hanukkah decor — but not in color. Basically, in a take-off from the Israeli flag, which itself is a take-off from the tallit, the prayer shawl, Hanukkah decorations are almost entirely in blue and white. You can even find “Hanukkah bushes” in blue and white!

Blue and white were not always “Jewish” colors, and perhaps I’ll write more about that in a future Rabbinical Reflections. But, by coincidence — should one say “unhappy coincidence?” — blue has become the most apt description of holiday moods for an ever-increasing population, both within and outside of the Jewish community. “Holiday blues” even get their own listing on WebMD and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) websites. In fact, a re-

cent survey from the American Psychological Association found: while most people report feeling happy over the holidays, they simultaneously report feeling fatigued, stressed, sad, bloated and/or irritable. 38 percent reported increased levels of psychological stress, due to such factors as feeling rushed, increased commercialism, the pressures of family gatherings, and loneliness; 53 percent reported increased financial stress.

First, a quick comment on this last point: giving presents on Hanukkah has become “traditional” only in the last 100 years, in direct response to increasing commercialism around Christmas. So you shouldn’t feel any Jewish obligation to buy lots of stuff!! It’s bad for your pocketbook, bad for the planet, and ultimately doesn’t bring lasting happiness.

Lasting happiness, countless studies have shown, comes from non-material sources, including: having a sense of purpose, being connected to other individ-

uals, helping others, belonging to a group, and practicing gratitude. Now for the good news — I’ve got a one-stop shop where you can find all of these: Temple Hesed! Join us for an adult ed class, take part in our monthly chanting circle, come to one of our wide variety of services or volunteer to help with one of our many programs — all of these are pathways away from holiday blues and toward greater meaning and happiness in your lives.

So, if you’re feeling blue, come check out one or more of the above — you can find more details on each in the rest of this edition of the Messenger. And if you’re one of the lucky ones, able to approach each holiday filled simply with joy, without any side dishes of anxiety or stress, come celebrate with us, and help us spread the joy!

*Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz*

### Rabbinical Reflections

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



## Co-President's Page

By Esther  
Adelman,  
Co-  
President



## The Heat is On, So Make Us Part of Your Year

Now that the High Holy Days are well behind us, we are now experiencing the end-of-the-year craziness. Temple Hesed is in good shape for the coming months; the heat is on, and we're hoping that it doesn't snow too much to hinder you from getting here for our educational, social, and worship events. Life will go on as usual. The Board will still meet; Friday night services will continue; classes will still be held; holidays will be celebrated.

We hope that the joy of being with family and friends made your Thanksgiving meaningful. We all look forward to also celebrating Chanukah with family and friends. May the brightness of the flames illumine our lives.

Steve and I wish you and all those that you hold dear a 2020 full of only good things: peace of mind, success at whatever you do, much happiness, and most of all good health.

*Esther*

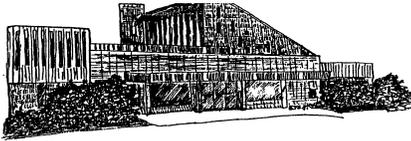


A trip to the National Museum of American Jewish History's Ruth Bader Ginsburg exhibit was conducted for religious school students and their families. Jen Novak from Temple Hesed is in the center of the pic. It was part of our study of American Jewish History, which will also be the first Adult Ed topic this year

At the Interfaith Thanksgiving service Nov.22, everyone came forward to express thanks, enter the "gate of righteousness" and spread light to the world.



# Yahrzeits and Personal Notes




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## Get Wells (Mi Shebeirach)

Rebecca Birkkrant	Rich Mates
Michael Cornfield	Charlotte Milliken
Mark Davis	Harriet Noble
Esther Friedmann	Jane Oppenheim
Larry Golden	Charlene Ostro
Mike Greenstein	Joel Ostro
Ellen Kline	Edward Snitko, Sr.
Phillip Knobel	Emily Trunzo

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### Week Ending November 30 (Service December 6)

\*Richard Oppenheim, Leo Moskovitz, \*Sophie Stone, \*Philip Ungar, \*Jack Goldman, \*Selma Berger, \*Susan Lonstein, \*Anne J. Lipsins, \*Jacob Ackerman, Kate Cooperman, \*John Ross Lauer, \*Dr. Jonas Selverstone, \*David Rothenberg, \*Albert Jacobs

### Week Ending December 7 (Service December 6)

\*Miriam Parker Gelb, \*John J. Gaffney, Arthur Selznick, \*Harry Lonstein, \*Esther C. Oppenheim, \*Jean Stein Sutton, \*Linda Lee Leventhal, Dr. Newton Freund, \*Rudolph M. Goldsmith, \*Etta C. Levey, Marilyn Perfilio, \*Herman Ziman, \*Anna L. Brownstein, \*Ellis M. Oppenheim, \*Irwin E. Alperin, Ira Lauscher, Rose Fine, \*Erich Traub

### Week Ending December 14 (Service December 13)

\*Esther Gordon, \*Fannie Roos, \*Jonas Lauer, \*Sadie Freeman, \*Yetta Linder, \*Abraham D. Goldberg, \*Louis E. Newman, Bernardine Kaplan, \*Harriet D. Morris, \*Dr. Leon Braunstein, \*Frank Feldman, \*Mary Leventhal, \*Nancy Stahler, Irving Londy

### Week Ending December 21 (Service December 20)

\*Morris Cohen, \*Anna Swartz, \*Fannye M. Slavitz, \*Lea S. Mauer, Doris Toledano Frieder, Judith Weinberger, \*Toby Rodgick, \*Rose Schudmack, \*Gloria Dinner, \*Samuel Roos, \*Sarah Greenberger, \*George Joseph Weisberg, \*Margaret Smith, \*Minnie Ginsburg

### Week Ending December 28 (Service December 27)

\*Rebecca Newman, \*Carolina Schwartz, \*Goldie Neumann, Ruth D. Karnoff, Michael Mitchell, \*Morris Goldsmith, \*Israel Greenberger, \*Elliott Weisberger, \*David Zukowski, \*Edward Berger, \*Chester Levy, \*Bernard Rymland, \*Isadore Adelman, \*Harvey Sanford Siegel, \*Gus Weinberger, \*Meyer Davis, \*Maxine Wylene, Ralph Meyer, \*David Rosenberg, \*Martin Weilheimer, Jerry Kline, \*Bernard Wormser, \*Herbert Smith

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# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Service 6 pm	7
8 Adult Ed 12 n	9	10	11	12	13 Service 8 pm	14 Chanting Circle 11:30 am
15 Adult Ed 12n	16	17	18 Board Mtg. 6 p.m.	19	20 Service 8 pm	21 Winter Starts
22 Hanukkah 1	23 Hanukkah 2	24 Hanukkah 3	25 Hanukkah 4 Office Closed	26 Hanukkah 5	27 Hanukkah 6 6pm—dinner; 7pm Service	28 Hanukkah 7
29 Hanukkah 8	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

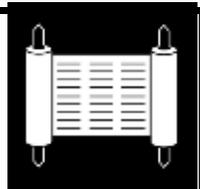
Shavuot—  
May 28-29, 2020

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 of the  
Holiday.

## Torah Portions



Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Vayetze	Dec. 7, 2019	9.Kislev.5780
Vayishlach	Dec. 14, 2019	16.Kislev.5780
Vayeshev	Dec. 21, 2019	23.Kislev.5780
Mikeitz	Dec. 28, 2019	30.Kislev.5780

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

He can make the  
dream larger than the  
night.

<http://www.yiddishhwit.com>

## Godwrestling: Interfaith Chanting Circle December 14 @ 11:30

One of the most famous and mysterious encounters in all of Torah is when Jacob meets a being — human or divine, it isn't clear — one night at the banks of the Yabbok river, where he spends the whole night wrestling.

This experience of wrestling, even with God, became built into the name Jacob took, the name that we still have as a people, Yisrael, the ones who wrestle with the Divine.

Our December Interfaith Chanting Circle will explore the theme of Godwrestling, as we struggle with belief and disbelief, with doubt and self-doubt, with finding meaning in a chaotic and broken world.

No prior experience in chanting or meditation is needed to join us for this supportive, unique experience.



## Reform Movement: Fire Miller

WASHINGTON – In response to the revelation that White House senior advisor Stephen Miller circulated bigoted emails in 2015 and 2016, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism joined the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly, Reconstructing Judaism, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and the Union of Reform Judaism to release the following statement:



As entities who represent a broad diversity of American Jewish life, we share a deep concern about White House advisor Stephen Miller's support for white supremacist ideology and the disturbing ways in which his dangerous views have influenced U.S. immigration policy. Such views have no place in the White House or as a basis of American policy.

On November 12, the Southern Poverty Law Center released a report detailing emails that White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller had sent during 2015 and 2016 in which he shared "white nationalist literature, pushed racist immigration stories and obsessed over the loss of Confederate symbols after Dylann Roof's murderous rampage." Such views are reprehensible on their own, but they are entirely unacceptable for someone tasked with shaping the laws, interests, and values of the United States. We reject claims that criticism of Mr. Miller's views is antisemitic. His personal faith should not be called into question but also should not be used to shield him from legitimate criticism.

This nation was founded and has been strengthened by immigrants seeking religious freedom and opportunity. Indeed, some of our country's lowest moments have been when we have excluded or discriminated against groups based on their nationality or heritage, including our brutally oppressive treatment of Native Americans, the Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the immigration quotas imposed in 1924 that disproportionately restricted Jews, Italians, Greeks and Poles, with devastating consequences for those later fleeing Nazi brutality.

Throughout history, Jews have been forced by persecution and discrimination to leave their homes in search of safety and security. We have also been the targets of vicious libels and dangerous stereotyping that have fomented mistrust and, alarmingly, as has been occurring again in our own country, acts of tragic and deadly violence. Both history and contemporary experience make us especially sensitive to any efforts that classify fellow human beings as "other." We are all made in the image of God and worthy of dignity and respect.

We call on President Trump to dismiss Stephen Miller immediately and to make clear that white supremacy has no place in the White House or the United States of America.

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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.

**"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

**Board Members: Kenneth Ganz, Robert Hersh, Natalie Gelb, Paula Kane, Carol Leventhal, Judith Golden, Donna Kostiak, Loren Selznick, Josh Levine**

**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 Heilbrun** Webmaster

(Jeff.Heilbrunn@gmail.com)

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/scranton-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.



A diverse crowd of over 100 people came together to hear prayers and reflections, including from Bishop Bambera, Mother Rebecca Barnes, the president of the Scranton Area Ministerium, David Fallk, chair of the local Jewish Community Relations Council, Temple Hesed students and our own Rabbi Dan-

iel. You can see the coverage of the commemoration here: <https://fox56.com/news/local/local-jewish-community-comes-together-for-pause-with-pittsburgh>