

Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



Special points of interest:

- **Multifaith Prayers with IHM Nuns**
- **Planning for Purim**
-

They're (Coming) Ba-a-ck! Save May 2 for our Fundraiser

Those two over-the-top queens of song and comedy will be back for one performance on Saturday, May 2, 2020.

The show featuring Carol Ann Carol Ann and Sharron Ann Husbands (same drag queens as last year) is called Stuck Like Glue.

Ticket prices will be announced soon, but save the date,



Inside this issue:

Donations	2
Rabbinical Reflections	3
Co-President's column	0
Calendar	4
Yahrzeits	5
URJ/RAC News	7
Congregation Information	Back Page

History Class

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.

Even if you missed the first session in December, you're

still welcome to join us for the final three. We'll meet on January 5th (of course, given weather in NEPA, we may have to reschedule a class or two based on weather), with the last two class to be scheduled. Each class will meet from 12 to 1:30; feel free to bring your lunch!

We'll meet at the Adelman's on the 5th, 307 Maple Ave. in Clarks Summit — call the office if you need directions. This class will focus on the unique role of women in

American Jewish History — how America helped shaped what women can do in Judaism and how women shaped what American Judaism looks like.

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge, but please email Rabbi Daniel at 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



Clearance Sale
at the Gift Shop in
the lobby. Make an
offer.

Don't pay retail!

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.

Interfaith, Multifaith, All-faiths, or?

You may have noticed that 2018's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service became 2019's All-faiths Thanksgiving Service.

We also have an Interfaith Chanting Circle on January 11th, and this month, we're working with the IHM sisters on a Multifaith Evening of Prayer and Reflection. Why the changes, and what do all these words mean?

Ours is an age of re-definition. Words have taken on new meanings — who would have thought that “they” could refer to a single individual (which got it chosen as Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2019)? Everyone who is old enough to read this can think of words that have become unacceptable to use during their lifetime. Less extreme, but particularly confusing to me, is when a word is in transition — still used by some people with an old meaning, while at the same time being given new meanings by others and deemed unacceptable by still others.

And it's especially confusing when no one can agree on a proper substitute. One such word is “interfaith.” It used to

refer to everything from a couple to a religious service, where more than one religion was included.

But now some people see it as describing when someone is trying to blend religions (think “Hanukkah bush”). Since everything else is customizable, why not come up with your own custom religion — a little bit of this, a little bit of that, and voila, you've come up with exactly what you want.

The problem is, not only does this ignore history and integrated world views that have developed over generations, but some things simply don't mix well together. I love sriracha sauce, pizza, and chocolate — but a dish with all three combined would be awful.

But if interfaith now designates attempts to actually mix religions together, at least in some people's understanding, how to refer to gatherings where people of different faiths come together without giving up their own identities and histories? And what to do with events and organizations that have used “interfaith” for years, such as our Interfaith

Chanting Circle or Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, that I have worked with for many years?

Sometimes, the status quo remains. And sometimes, people look for alternatives.

Two more recent terms are “multifaith” and “all-faiths.” (By the way, “ecumenical” doesn't mean the same thing as any of these — it refers to different varieties of Christianity working together, but excludes any non-Christian religions). Each has pluses and minuses.

Multifaith sounds a lot like multicultural, which, sad to say, has become a politically weighted term. On the other hand, “all-faiths” seems a bit presumptuous — can any gathering, even a large one, really include all faiths? And who gets to determine what is and isn't a “faith?” At least for the time being, I don't think there is a perfect answer, and so we'll try a variety of names out to see what people think. What's your take — I'd love to hear it!

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

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



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 No Services	4
5 History class noon	6	7	8 Prayer w/IHM @ Marywood 6:30 pm	9	10 Services 8pm	11 Chanting Circle 11:30 am
12	13	14	15 Board mtg. 6p	16	17 Services 8 pm	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Services 8pm	25 es 8pm
26	27	28	29	30	31 Services 8pm	



Torah Portions

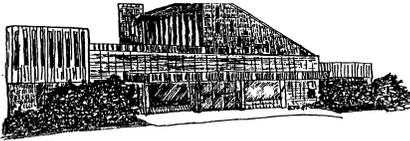
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Vayigash	Jan. 4, 2020	7.Tivet .5780
Vayechi	Jan. 11, 2020	14 Tivet 5780
Shemot	Jan. 18, 2020	21 Tivet 5780
Va'eria	Jan. 21, 2020	28. Tivet 5780

More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

“A thief works faster than a tailor.”

<http://www.yiddishwit.com>

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Wells

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

Mazel Tov

To Thomas Mates and Stefanie Szymanski on their marriage in Orlando, Fla. Both are residents of Orlando.

Week Ending January 4 (Service January 10)

Bessie Kaplan *Jessica Parker Mannoff, *Judith Pell Weinberger, *Isaac Ziegler, *Janet Phillips, *Jennie Bakaley, Grace E. Davis, *Louis Kleeman, *Olga Adelman, *Blanche Silverstein, *Isadore Levine, *Berniece Lenchner, *Alvin Ziegler, *Herman Schneider, *Dorothy Tapper, *Freda Ball

Week Ending January 11 (Service January 10)

*Henrietta Jacobs, *Frederick L. Wormser, *Ruth Livingston, Jessie Samter Ellenbogen, *Samuel Feldman, George Bauer, *Mabelle Druck, *Minnie Harris, *Tillie Lauer Marks, *Gertrude Ziegler, *George Joel, *Faye Bernstein, *Eric S. Gardner, *Edward Denis, Nancy Jackman

Week Ending January 18 (Service January 17)

*George Phillips, *Marvine L. Dinner, *Ophelia H. Hefter, *Hattie Ross Lauer, *Anna Fragin, *Shirley Troy Cornfield, *Edna Kabatchnick, *Abraham Wolf, *Jack Friedman, *Abe Newman, *Mary Freeman, *Ethel Friedmann, Emily Kominz, *Michael R. Graham

Week Ending January 25 (Service January 24)

*Lena Berg, *Simon Lauer, *Herman Goodman, *Leonard A. Saltzman, *Harry Tapper, Anne Marie Heilbrunn, *Sadie R. Lichtman, *Morris Whitman, *Sarah Bloch, *Arthur L. Goldsmith *Abraham Leventhal, *Dr. Morton Hodes, *Solomon Schudmack, Sandy Steinberg, *Professor Anita Appleton, *Carl Goldman, *Alice Goldsmith, Barbara Ballot, Saul Kaplan, Theodore Kaplan, Robert Sundheim, Frimi Gromer, *Rebecca Levy, Barbara Sapsowitz, *Monroe R. Smith

Week Ending February 1 (Service January 31)

*Milton Aronsohn, *Carl Davis, *Lillian Goldfarb, *Madeline Goldsmith, *Jacob Sydansk, *Charles Noe, *Jennie Lehman, *Sadie W. Young, *Sol Davidow, *Frances Kaufman, *Dorothy Rosenberg, *Pamela Tigrett, Jacob Newman, Blanche Anspacher, *Aaron Cooperman, *Emma L. Sarlin, *Stephen M. Simon

Windows and Dreams — Interfaith Chanting Circle January 11

Dreams are sometimes referred to as “windows into the soul,” while staring out of windows often leads to dreaming, or at least day-dreaming.

In Hebrew, the words are almost the same — Chalom is a dream, while Chalon is a window.

On January 11 at 11:30, as we are the midst of Torah stories about Joseph, Jacob,

and their dreams, our monthly Interfaith Chanting Circle will explore these connections.

We'll open ourselves up to these internal and external windows — out into the universe, inward to our souls, and always lit by the Divine.

Come journey with us — no prior metaphysical experiences necessary!



No services on January 3rd

Given people's vacations, as well as vicissitudes of climate here in NEPA, we usually cancel the service just before or after the secular New Year. This year, we won't be having a service on January 3rd. As always when there isn't a service, if you'd like how-to sheets on Shabbat blessings, Rabbi Daniel is happy to help out. The remaining Friday

evening services in January will all be at 8 pm.



Purim's Just Around the Corner — Shakespeare in Shushan on March 7th!

Rabbi Daniel is busily writing his latest wild and crazy Purim Shpiel, and this one will reveal the previously hidden (and entirely fictional!) history of Shakespeare getting also his inspiration from the Purim story! With characters such as the young Will Shakespeare meeting the

time-traveler Dr. Wherefore, it's only natural that the music is also British, from such British Invasion classics like “Satisfaction,” “You Really Got Me,” and “The House of the Rising Sun,” to Beatle's hits, “Downtown,” and even some Elton John, Spice Girls, and Adele! Mark

your calendars now for this fabulous and fun evening, on March 7th — and if you want to participate in this year's shpiel, make sure to email Rabbi Daniel at rabbidaniel@comcast.net or call the Temple office at 570-344-7201.

Multifaith Evening of Prayer and Reflection with IHM Sisters January 8th 6:30 pm

Each month, the IHM Sisters (located behind Marywood at 2300 Adams Ave), host an evening of prayer and reflection.

In January, they are teaming with Rabbi Daniel and other local faith leaders to have a multifaith experience.

Everyone is welcome to join the sisters on January 8th, from 6:30 pm to 7:30pm, as a variety of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith leaders (including Rabbi Daniel) share practices that nourish and nurture them.

We hope that we will have a good representation from our community at this unique event, and that it can mark the start of deeper cooperation across faiths in our area.

It should be a very meaningful and moving service, with Sufi chants, sacred dance, beautiful poetry and more.

Everyone is welcome to attend — contact Rabbi Daniel for more information.

(Note: while their monthly gatherings are usually held in the IHM chapel, to make more people comfortable with the space, this event will be held in their social hall).

Kaufman Elected URJ Chair



December 16, 2019, New York, NY – Jennifer Brodkey Kaufman, of Sacramento, CA, has been elected to serve as the next chair of the North American Board of Trustees of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). The role is the top lay leadership position in the URJ, which represents North America’s largest and most diverse movement in Jewish life.

Kaufman was nominated by the board’s special nominating committee, and her nomination was formally presented to the full Board of Trustees at its meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, just prior to the start of the URJ Biennial 2019, taking place from December 11-15, 2019, in Chicago, IL. She will succeed Daryl Messinger of Palo Alto, CA, who will have served the maximum allowable four years as chair.

First elected to the URJ’s Board of Trustees in 2003, Kaufman has provided leadership to the URJ and the broader Reform Movement in a wide array of capacities. Most notably, she has been a vice chair of the URJ North American Board since 2015 and was chair of the Commission on Social Action (CSA) of Reform Judaism (from 2012-2015). As CSA chair, Kaufman worked with the team at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism to both set and implement the movement’s positions on matters of public policy.

Kaufman has often been called on by the URJ to handle especially challenging tasks, such as chairing of the task force charged with addressing a variety of issues that arose following the massive fire that destroyed URJ Camp Newman. In 2015, she played a key role in advancing the first revision of the URJ’s

financial relationship with its member congregation in many years.

Kaufman is an active member and a past president of Congregation B’nai Israel in Sacramento, CA, where she held other leadership positions, including co-chair of the religious practices committee and chair of the rabbinic search committee, among others. She is also an active member of the leadership team of California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA).

Said URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs, “I am excited to partner with Jen in leading the URJ forward. Her sharp thinking, her moral clarity, and her deep commitment to Reform Judaism will enrich all facets of Jewish life within our congregations and far beyond their walls, ensuring the Reform Movement goes forth with deep intention, direction, and substance.”

“I am honored to serve as chair of the Union for Reform Judaism’s North American Board of Trustees and look forward to working with the organization’s lay and professional leaders to sustain Jewish life that is thriving, ever-evolving, inclusive, and propels institutions and individuals to be and do their best,” said Kaufman. “This work is a labor of love,” she continued, “and I cannot imagine a more fulfilling or meaningful endeavor.”

An attorney, Kaufman retired after nearly 30 years with the California Third District Court of Appeal. She is a former president of the Women Lawyers of Sacramento. She and her husband Todd have two grown sons, Daniel and Jonathan.

Temple Hesed
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Scranton, PA 18505

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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

Temple personnel and officers

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Esther Adelman and Steven Seitchik - Co-Presidents

Cheryl Friedman 1st Vice President

Larry Milliken -- 2nd Vice President

Jeffrey Leventhal - Treasurer

Jennifer Novak - Secretary

Joan Davis - Assistant Secretary

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