

# Messenger

שליח

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



**Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505**



## Special points of interest:

- Environmental hearing set for Scranton
- Temple History translated
- Who is Judaism For?
- Emergency Training class

## Shakespeare in Shushan on March 7th! Join our Shpiel and/or RSVP now!

Want to express your inner kosher ham? Join the cast of this year's Shpiel: "Shakespeare in Shushan."

In this time-traveling tale, a young Will Shakespeare is about to give up on playwriting before his career begins, due to a lack of inspiration.

Then Dr. Wherefore (a cousin of Dr. Who) arrives from the future to get Shakespeare's creative juices flowing with the Purim story!

With such famous Brits at its core, it's only natural that the music is also British, everything from Gilbert and Sullivan to Petula Clark to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones to Elton John and Adele!

No previous theatrical experience (or, for that matter, talent!) required — just a willingness to have fun being silly.

All you have to do is email Rabbi Daniel at

[rabbidaniel@comcast.net](mailto:rabbidaniel@comcast.net) or leave a message for him at the Temple office at 570-344-7201.

Not ready to join the Shpielers on stage but want to make sure you don't miss out on the show?

It's not too early to RSVP!

And let us know if you want to bake Hamantaschen or help with the Purim Pasta dinner.

Email your RSVP to [templehesed@comcast.net](mailto:templehesed@comcast.net) or leave a message with Marlene Gianzanti, the Temple office manager at 570-344-7201.



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## American Jewish History — Up close

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.

Having examined first how the U.S. simultaneously did and did not welcome Jews, and then the unique role of women in American Judaism, our two February sessions turn to 1) The Rise of American Reform and 2) The Diversity of American Jews.

On February 2nd at Mary Beth and Harry Adelman's house, we'll examine how

Reform Judaism came to America, how different it was than German Reform, the early attempts to unify all of American Judaism, and Isaac Mayer Wise's unique (some would say peculiar) vision that all of America could become Jewish.

Then on February 23rd, we'll look at how different Judaisms began competing in America, how even the Orthodox in this country had to come up with a "platform" modeled on political parties, and how diversity grew.

Each class will meet from 12 to 1:30; feel free to bring your lunch! Each session is basically self-contained, so feel free to come to one or both February sessions even if you've missed the previous ones.

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.

### BUILDING FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit  
of Ira Lauscher**  
*George and Helen  
Lauscher*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit  
of Ralph Meyer**  
*David and Marlene  
Meyer*

**Wishing Marianne  
Goldberg good health  
for the new year**  
*Steve and Ellen Seitchik*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit  
of Harvey Siegel**  
*Nancy Dressel*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit  
of Shirley Cornfield**  
*Martha and Phil Fea and  
family  
Bill and Barbara  
Cornfield and family  
Debbie and Joe Fedziuk  
Jon and Kelly Cornfield  
and family*

**In Memory of Joan  
Davis's father, Leonard  
Albert**  
*James Ellenbogen  
Natalie Gelb  
Audrey Harrell  
Esther Friedmann*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit  
of Frimi Gromer**  
*Lee Gromer*

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit  
of beloved mother, Olga  
Adelman**  
*Deborah Orgill*

**Wishing Mark Davis a  
complete and speedy  
recovery**  
*Esther Friedmann*

### LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND

**Wishing Esther Adelman  
a complete and speedy  
recovery**  
*Jeff and Carol Leventhal*

**In Memory of Joan  
Davis's Father, Leonard  
Albert**  
*Jeff and Carol Leventhal*

### TORAH RESTORATION FUND

**Wishing Esther Adelman  
a complete and speedy  
recovery**  
*Larry and Judie Golden*

**In Memory of  
Dr. Stanley Goldberg**  
*Esther Adelman*

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit  
of Olga Adelman**  
*Esther Adelman*

### MILTON AND MIRIAM FRIEDMAN SCHOLAR- SHIP FUND

**In Memory of Joan  
Davis's father, Leonard  
Albert**  
*Jim and Paula Kane*

### MARK HAHN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

**Get well wishes to  
Esther Friedmann**  
*Audrey Harrell*

**CLEARANCE  
SALE AT THE  
GIFT SHOP IN  
THE LOBBY**

**NAME YOUR  
PRICE.**

**NO REASONABLE  
OFFER REFUSED**

**OPEN DURING  
OFFICE HOURS**

**MAJOR CREDIT/  
DEBIT CARDS  
WELCOME**

# Who is Judaism For?

It seems that every several years or so, some of the ultra-Orthodox political parties in Israel push for laws commonly known as “Who is a Jew?” laws — laws that would forbid the recognition of non-Orthodox conversions, which would both bar such people from becoming Israeli citizens and which also disempower all non-Orthodox (and even some varieties of Orthodox) rabbis.

As important as it is to oppose such efforts, “Who is a Jew?” is not the only question we should be asking. Events ranging from the subject of our February 2 Adult Ed program to our chanting circle on February 8 and the Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light conference on February 9 remind me that we also need to ask, “Who is Judaism for?”

Of course, the most obvious answer is “Jews,” but that’s only part of the answer. For decades, Reform Judaism (and eventually, other non-Orthodox Judaisms such as the Reconstructionist and Conservative movements joined us,) has welcomed interfaith families, and somewhere along the way we realized that the non-Jewish partners in such families sometimes were more active in synagogues than their Jewish spouses!

Then non-Jewish grandparents began to celebrate with their grandchildren, and they found meaning and community in such celebrations. Reform Judaism also started Outreach, realizing that some non-Jews, without any familial connection to Judaism, were looking for a spiritual home that Judaism could

provide. We often think of this as a relatively recent development — but in fact, the founder of American Reform Judaism, Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, began writing about this in the 1850s! He even became convinced that in America, which he felt was the first country that could rise above the entrenched traditions of anti-Semitism existing in every European nation, vast numbers of people would yearn to join the Jewish community!

When, shortly after I came to Temple Hesed, I began noticing that significant numbers of non-Jews attended many of our events, not just the annual Oppenheim Social Justice Sabbath, but also Tu B'Shvat seders, Passover seders, LGBT events and even Purim, I wondered if Wise’s prediction was finally coming true.

I soon realized, however, that only a small percentage of such people actually wanted to convert to Judaism. Most of them wanted instead to enrich their lives by participating in a welcoming, open spiritual community, without the dislocation of identity that a full conversion would require. And since no one else was offering quite what we did — whether that was the unique quality of our chanting circle, the joy of Shabbat that they could experience in our interfaith Thanksgiving celebration, or our non-literal reading of sacred texts — we provided an important service to many, many people outside of the synagogue. Indeed, wherever I go in our area, I regularly get thanked not only for what I do in the broader community, but for the role of everyone at Temple Hesed. I really believe we make life better for lots of people in our area, and I am

very proud of that fact. I never would have expected to get crowds of 80-100 for Purim, for example, with half of those people not being Jewish — but I am gladdened by the joy they feel as they come back year after year. My colleagues in other towns are always surprised and pleased to hear of our unique situation here.

There is a practical question, however, to which I do not at least of yet have an answer: how do we make that work as a sustainable model? It’s not like there’s a direct cost to us when we are joined by others — indeed, in many ways it’s easy to hold a successful Hanukkah or Purim program when there are lots of people joining us than if we only had a few people, all of whom were Jewish. But we wouldn’t be able to offer any of this if it weren’t for our dues-paying members (just look at the minutes we are beginning to translate to see how the question of having sustained financial resources has been around since Temple Hesed started!). Without making anyone feel any less welcome, is there a way to help pay for the services we provide to the broader community?

What do you think?

*Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz*

## Rabbinical Reflections

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




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“I began noticing that significant numbers of non-Jews attended many of our events,”

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## Presidents' Page

Esther  
Adelman,  
Co-  
President



## MEMORIES

This will hopefully become a new feature of our Temple Messenger. I'm asking that you, the members of the Temple Hessed family, dig back into your memory banks to share fond memories that you may have of something that happened at Temple Hessed which you have never forgotten.

It could be a gesture of kindness by a Rabbi or another member, a personal interaction that took place here, a wonderful learning moment at Shabbat School, an adult education class that opened up your eyes, a fund-raiser or other social event that you enjoyed, a particular service that moved you. Perhaps your parents, children, or even guests that you've brought have a memory or two that they'd like to share. Reach out to them; you may be pleasantly surprised. We're open to stories from everyone who has ever had the experience of walking through our doors.

You may send your stories via email directly to me at [ebabunny@aol.com](mailto:ebabunny@aol.com) or to Rich Mates at [hessednews@gmail.com](mailto:hessednews@gmail.com).

Having been a member here since my early teens, I personally have a plethora of stories to tell, but I will use them only for fill-in's when we have a lull. That being said, let me choose one now "to get the ball rolling".

When I was barely 25 years old, I was the Program Vice-President of Temple Hessed Sisterhood (soon to become President). In those days, most women were stay-at-home (not a term used then) wives/mothers, who had the time to belong to "Sisterhood Circles", which consisted of the entire Sisterhood membership being divided into 12 groups assigned to a particular month of the year. These circles, under the guidance of their circle leader, took care of providing the food for the monthly luncheon or tea, baking for onegs after services, maintaining the kitchen, and helping out at any other event that came up in their

particular month. If you couldn't participate, you were expected to make a donation to Sisterhood. Things have certainly changed since then, but I digress.

As program chair, which I discovered was a lot harder than being President, I was responsible for coming up with a program for every month's meeting. Coping with a limited amount of resources and a limited budget, and also competing with Hadassah, other Sisterhoods, and other Jewish organizations in the area, this job was a daunting task. Fortunately for us, Rabbi Milton Richman was always ready to step in to help out. Once or twice a year, it gave him the opportunity to hold an audience captive for a talk that he'd been waiting to give.

It happened that he was talking about the City of Jerusalem that month. We always gave him a small donation, but I did have some extra funds left over, so I went "down town" to Reisman's on Spruce Street and bought a beautiful \$25 (a lot of money for a book then) coffee-table book on Jerusalem. As the women and their guests arrived for lunch, I gave everyone a free ticket for a drawing for the book. After Rabbi's interesting talk, I asked him to pick from the bowl holding all of the tickets. When no one came forward with the winning ticket, he suggested that I check my purse, since my Sisterhood friends had insisted that, in all fairness, I give one to myself. You can guess what happened next. I retrieved my ticket and had to sheepishly announce that, yes indeed, I was the winner. No one would consider the idea that we pick another ticket. We all had a good laugh, which, once I saw the humor in the whole thing, helped to ease my initial embarrassment. I still have the book; it is a prized possession, and I still think of this moment whenever I look through it.

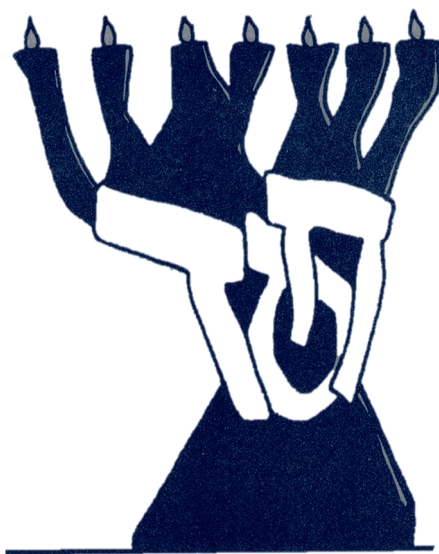
*Esther Adelman*



Esther's book

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Adult Learning Noon to 1:30 pm	3	4	5	6	7 Services 6 pm	8 Chanting Circle 11:30 am
9 Environmental Conference 1 - 5 Tu B'Shevat seder 5:30 pm	10 Tu B'Shevat New Year of the Trees	11	12	13	14 Services 8 pm	15
16	17	18 Emergency Preparedness 4 to 6 pm Board mtg 6 pm	19	20	21 Services 8 pm	22
23 Adult Learning Noon to 1:30 pm	24	25	26	27	28 Services 8 pm	29



## Torah Portions

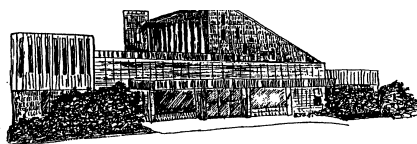
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Bo	Feb. 1, 2020	6.Shevat .5780
Beshalach	Feb. 8, 2020	13.Shevat.5780
Yitro	Feb. 15, 2020	20.Shevat.5780
Mishpatim	Feb. 22,2020	27,Shevat.5780
Terumah	Feb. 29, 2020	4.Adar.5780

“Don’t send a dog to the butcher shop.”

<http://www.yiddishwit.com>



## Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



### Get Wells

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	
Charlotte Milliken	

### Thank You

Dear Temple Hesed Family,

Mark and I want to express our deep gratitude for all the support, encouragement and love you have shared with us over these last few weeks. Mark is doing super now and we are enjoying being with family here in Philadelphia. We look forward to coming back home soon.

Thank you also for all for the kind words on the passing of my father Leonard Albert. He was a dear man, who I am sure would have charmed you all.

In Hesed and with love,

Joan A. Davis and Mark Davis

### 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

### Week Ending February 8 (Service February 7)

\*Simon J. Freeman, \*Maxwell M. Neumann, \*Lena Weinberger, \*Margaret L. Oettinger, \*Leona Falk, \*Tillie Ackerman, \*Clara Lauer, \*Harry M. Siegel, \*Leon Joseph, \*John Seagaard, Stanley Bernfeld, \*Bessie Alperin, \*Freda Carlson, \*Harry Schmerin, \*Lewis Sugar, \*Sara W. Wormser, \*Miriam Ruth Vogel, \*Dotty B. Selverstone, \*David Cornfield, \*Murray Jacobson, \*Sol Benjamin, \*Hanna Rymland, \*Jean Weinberg

### Week Ending February 15 (Service February 14)

\*Seymour Gutter, \*Levi H. Kramer, \*Sarah Fassler, Ralph Strohl, \*Alfred Brown, \*Simon Krotosky, \*Lewis Marks, \*Willard A. Phillips, \*Leo B. Roos, \*Joel Mitchell Alperin, \*Nannette Roos, \*Simon Ferber, Mindy Gromer, \*Arthur Besen, \*Janet B. Rubinger, \*Jefferson K. Freeman, \*Alfred Rice, Sr., Sara Mendlowitz

### Week Ending February 22 (Service February 21)

Mildred Lambert, Dolores Baron, \*Marcus Fragin, \*Minnie Levy, Tillie Fogel, \*Louis E. Maring, Sr., \*David Ackerman, \*Ike E. Oppenheim, \*Nathan H. Strauss, \*Miriam S. Newman, \*Lillian Zepel

### Week Ending February 29 (Service February 28)

\*Albert N. Kramer, \*Dr. Henri Deutsch, \*Oscar Leventhal, \*Michael Cembalest, \*Carl Fragin, \*Sallie Goodman, \*Rosa J. Roos, \*Renee Traub, \*Anne C. Kramer, \*Benjamin Friedman, \*David Goldsmith, \*William Weinstock, \*David Rymland, \*Elias G. Roos

## **Chanting Circle: Tree of Life! February 8th @ 11:30 a.m.**

In winter, trees become mysteries.

In one glance, they seem to be asleep or even dead, skeletal branches shaking in a bitter wind.

Or perhaps they glitter with snow, or glisten with ice in the moonlight. And a deeper look helps us understand that, hidden from view, the mystery of new growth is beginning, sap somehow rising, readying buds to burst when warmth arrives at last.

This secret fountain of life stirs all around us, and yet most of us remain unaware.

In this time of mystery, the very season of the New Year of the Tree (see the article on Tu B'Shvat Page 8), our February chanting circle will delve into the metaphor of the Tree of Life — not only an echo of paradise, but also, according to Jewish mysticism, a blueprint for God's presence in the world. Join our diverse, uniquely multifaith chanting circle on February

8th at 11:30 a.m. and explore the mystery with us.

In addition to chanting, we'll also be sampling exotic fruits for inspiration.

Through our chants, study, and sacred noshing, we will seek to connect with the wisdom, energy, and upward flow of life found in the surrounding forest.

Everyone is welcome to join us.



## **Vote in the World Zionist Congress Elections!**

Want to help Israel?

You can do so by voting in the 2020 World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections, which run until March 11, 2020. These elections are held only every five years, and your vote for the American Reform Zionist Association (ARA) slate will give the non-Orthodox Jewish Community in Israel (Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative) the opportunity to receive significant funds for their institutions and programs.

### **What is the World Zionist Congress (WZC) and why is it important?**

The WZC convenes every five years in order to elect the leadership of Israel's biggest national institutions: The World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, JNF, and Keren Hayesod. But, most importantly, the WZC meets to decide how to allocate nearly \$5 billion among Jewish organizations in Israel and around the world. This is a big deal: the allocation of funds from the WZC previously allowed for the establishment of the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel and ena-

bled them to provide their important services.

This monetary support influences government recognition and societal acceptance of the many diverse expressions of Jewish religious identity. It also promises that non-Orthodox streams of Judaism are provided with financial support and resources, ensuring that we remain strong, vibrant, and continue to grow, despite the pressure Orthodox political parties put on Israel to exclude all other Jewish denominations.

The US delegation to the WZC makes up 29% of the Congress overall. We are on a mission to have as many of the United States' 152 delegates to the Congress as possible supporting a pluralistic Israel. In order to achieve this goal, we call on you to VOTE FOR ARZA from now until March 11.

The Israeli government itself does not equally fund the Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative movements in Israel. This vote is a huge opportunity for American Jews to make a statement about their vision of a just and pluralistic

Israel that recognizes Judaism's diversity.

### **What is ARZA's platform? We believe in:**

- **Religious Equality:** We envision and work for an Israeli society in which all Jewish denominations are treated fairly and with respect – a society in which all of us are seen as Jews, regardless of our interpretation of texts and traditions. We also seek an Israel in which people of all genders can pray, work and live together as equals deserving of the same respect and honor.
- **Combatting Racism, Discrimination, and Hatred:** Religious and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, and all other members of Israeli society deserve to be treated with full equality under the law, civility, dignity, and respect. Security in the Region: The pursuit of peace, security and stability for Israel, the Palestinians and the surrounding

region remains our hope and our goal.

- **Two States for Two Peoples:** We know that although the road may seem long, we are committed to building the path to peace based on a Two-State Solution. We believe that Two States for Two Peoples is essential for the security and stability of both Israelis and Palestinians.

### **How do you vote?**

It's easy — just go to [www.zionistelection.org/election/2a3b7a80-ba00-42ec-957e-c0375167a065](http://www.zionistelection.org/election/2a3b7a80-ba00-42ec-957e-c0375167a065) — It takes only a \$7.50 administrative fee and less than five minutes to register and vote for the ARZA slate.

And it will make a big difference!

## NEW YAHRZEIT BOARD IN ZIEGLER LOUNGE

We are very excited about our new portable yahrzeit board located at the entrance to the Ziegler Lounge. We have two Larrys to thank for this loveliest new addition into our midst. Former member Larry Davidow generously funded it in loving memory of his family. Our own very talented Larry Milliken designed and built the beautiful table upon which it rests, matching perfectly the wooden background, even down to the slats. Larry was also here to set it up, along with our IT consultant, Harry Adelman, who made all the technical connections. Marlene was instrumental in the research and acquisition of the board, working many hours to send all the information to be input by the company. This was a cooperative effort that was only made possible by these dedicated people.

All of the names of those on the weekly yahrzeit lists have been included on the board's display. There's an even more exciting part. This board is interactive, meaning that when you touch a name on the screen, you can see pictures and sometimes a short biography of the person remembered.

Here's where you come in. Of course, if you want to share pictures and/or information on your loved one, that can only come from you!

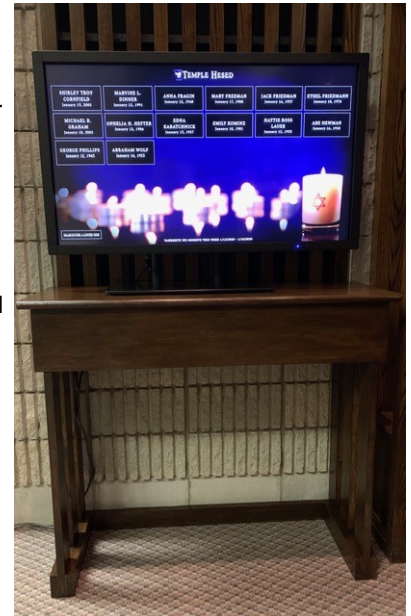
You can have up to six images posted. You may want one or two favorites or several that capture different stages of your loved one's life, i.e. childhood, marriage, family. Digital photos can be sent to [marelenecmg1@comcast.net](mailto:marelenecmg1@comcast.net). They will be cropped and edited as needed to make them look perfect on the screen. The higher the quality, the better they will look. If you don't have digital photos, you can bring them to the Temple, and Marlene will scan them and return them to you.

You may also create a short biography, using a maximum word count of 250-300. Sample information that may be helpful include: name, dates of birth and death, Hebrew name, nickname, place of birth, family background, parents and siblings, schooling, milestones and achievements, synagogue/community activities, strongest values, etc.---whatever was important to remember about that individual's life.

Please feel free to contact Marlene via email or at 570-344-7201 for additional information or if you have any questions.

In Hesed,

Esther B. Adelman



## Tu B'Shevat Seder with TI

On Sunday, February 9th at 5:30 pm, we will return this year to having a joint Tu B'Shvat Seder with Temple Israel.



What is a Tu B'Shvat Seder? Designed by Jewish mystics and celebrated on the rabbinically ordained New Year of the Tree, a Tu B'Shvat Seder is simultaneously a chance to eat unique and exotic fruits, to celebrate the diversity of trees,

and to connect to Jewish traditions about our connection to nature.

This seder, made for children and adults alike, will include fruits and light refreshments and will be led by Cantor Aronzohn and our own Rabbi Daniel.

RSVP to the Temple Hesed office by February 6th, so that we have enough time to

relay reservations to Temple Israel.





# 150+ year old minutes translated

Finally — A translation!

The earliest minutes (actually, it turns out the earliest minutes we know about, from March 1868 — more on that in a moment) of Temple Hesed (back when it was Anshe Chesed — the People of Lovingkindness) were taken in German. We have tried in a variety of ways to get the them translated. We even went to the chair of the German department at the University of Scranton, but she couldn't make out the old-style handwriting.

This past New Year's, Rabbi Daniel's stepbrother Derek, his wife Julia, and their two children Daria and Jared came to visit. Julia, who grew up in Germany, took pictures of the first few pages of the minutes and showed them to her father, Klaus Manzel. He decoded the handwriting, and then

Julia translated. Here's Part I of what they said:

*Protocol (Minutes) Book of the Anshe Chesed Community Scranton, March 29, 1868*

*Today's regular meeting was formally opened by the president. All administrators were present with the exception of Mr. M. Green. The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Mr. (J.?) Weil was instructed to communicate to Mr. Difkins (Jifkins?) that he is to pay, starting at the above date, 2 Dollars weekly into the community's budget for kosher slaughtering. Mr. A. Ackerman's motion was approved that all measures regarding the burial of the dead in the community should be executed by the existing burial committee according to Paragraph 12, Article III of the*

*bylaws. Additionally, all repairs of the auxiliary buildings and the synagogue should be dealt with by the Trustees. Mr. S. Friedman was nominated as a member of the community only after payment of the obligatory membership fee was he enrolled under the condition of subjecting himself to the community's regulations. Mr. Jonas Lauer, J. (?) Harris, J. (?) Brick, and J. Alexander were instructed to pay their delinquent dues by the next day, March 30th, 12 o'clock, to avoid being excluded from the community.*

*The Trustees were instructed to collect the monies from the aforementioned gentleman.*

*It was decided to continue the meeting on 5. April, and the meeting was postponed. The following payments have been received: \$192.12.0*

*Scranton, April 5, 1868*

*Today's meeting, a continuation of the previous one, was formerly called to order by the president. A committee report was received regarding delinquent contributions by various members: Mr. Ackerman has come to a settlement with Mr. Lauer;*

*Mr. Lauer will make payments of \$40 over 9 months, for the backlog of his contributions to the construction of the synagogue and all the papers (?) of the community. This was approved. The president thanked Mr. Ackerman in the name of the community for his efforts to solve this matter peacefully. Mr. J. Brick made an initial payment of \$10 and was informed of his*

*balance by the next meeting. Mr. J. Alexander noted he would make a new payment within a few days. It was approved that a committee would be sent to Mr. E. Morris to negotiate with him about his contribution to the construction of the synagogue, but nothing below \$50 shall be accepted. The committee consists of Misters J. Sutter and Dr. Ackerman.*

*It was further approved that a committee approach Mr. Golland to pay the promised \$50 of these funds. This committee consists of Misters N. Cramer and J. Rosenthal.*

*Furthermore it was passed that a new member will need to contribute a certain amount to the construction of the synagogue, according to their wealth, as decided by the current trustees, payable in four installments.*

*Mr. J. Weil reported that the Misters Jifkins will need to pay two dollars weekly into the community's budget, only from the time of the last announcement (dated March 30th).*

*Decided that the butcher will be given a list of the community members who will be authorized to receive kosher meat.*

*Mr. G. Brooks made the motion that services be following Minhag America [see note below] completely and that the Torah shall be read in a 3 year cycle, and a sermon be given every Saturday. This has been postponed until the next meeting.*

*The following requests have been made:*

*Dr. J. Cohen [Hesed's first rabbi?] \$83.33*

*Miss Cook 38.33*

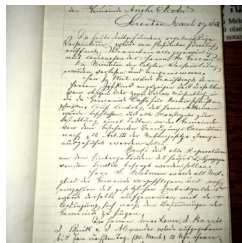
*C.H. + W. Davis 84.24*

*Frau Kreilich 224.70*

*for cleaning of the school room 430.60*

*Since there was no other business, the meeting was closed.*

*Minutes taken by Wolfson*



The original minutes

While we don't understand everything in this passage, there are a few interesting pieces of information we can glean: First, even then, dues were a matter of controversy. Second, the community had a mix of practices — on the one hand, there was some arrangement between the synagogue and a kosher butchers, but there is also a reference to Minhag America, the first Reform prayerbook in the U.S., written by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise, the founder of American Reform Judaism. We had thought these were the first congregational minutes, but there are references to some unknown earlier minutes, and there were apparently already by-laws.

Julia and her father will continue to work on translating other sections, and we'll share them as we receive updates.

**NOTICE: Emergency preparedness training will be given to all Temple members who are interested. The class is scheduled for Feb. 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Pell Auditorium. For more information or to reserve your place, contact the office at 570-344-7201.**

Temple Hesed Phone: 570-344-7201  
1 Knox Road Fax: 570-344-4514  
Scranton, PA 18505 Email: templehesed@comcast.net

#### 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

##### 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  
Jennifer Novak - Secretary  
Joan Davis - 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

Marlene Gianzanti - Administrator  
(MarleneCMG1@comcast.net)  
Edward Snitko - Director of Music  
Rich Mates - Messenger Editor  
(hesednews@gmail.com)  
Jennifer Rosen Novak  
Social Media Maven  
Jeffrey Heilbrunn  
Webmaster  
(Jeff.Heilbrunn@gmail.com)



#### Interfaith Environmental Conference on February 9th!

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, where Rabbi Daniel was board president from 2013-2018, is holding its first-ever conference in Scranton on February 9th, from 1-5 pm. The conference, entitled, "The Long Journey: From Extracting the Past to Cultivating the Future," will be held at the IHM Center at 2300 Adams Ave in Scranton, behind Marywood University. The conference will be an opportunity for people of faith and all who are concerned about climate change as a moral issue to come together to learn, organize, plan and celebrate. The keynote speaker (who will be simultaneously live-streamed to conferences in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, is Colette Pichon Battle of the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy. She will share wisdom and experience from impacted communities engaged in fossil fuel resistance and community-rooted, future-focused rebuilding. She will draw on the parallels between the extraction-entwined histories of Pennsylvania and Louisiana, exploring what we can learn from each as we build toward our sustainable future. Following the keynote will be three workshops that will:

**teach** participants about building renewed community as we care for areas facing ongoing toxic drainage from past extractions, such as old mines

**engage** participants in a contemplative way of reading and praying the book of Creation (Bio Divina). Through this experience, we will listen for and seek God's presence in nature using the four steps similar to lectio divina: read, meditate, pray, and contemplate.

**inspire** participants with a hopeful resource that details 100 of the most powerful ways to do what we need to do: stop emitting climate – changing pollution, and begin to "drawdown," returning to equilibrium with greater justice.

Register for the conference at [www.paipr.org](http://www.paipr.org)