

Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



“Out, Out #%&! Haman, Out I Say”

The Bard Shpiels Purim March 7th

Harken ye to this year’s shpiel “Shakespeare in Shushan,” where we find a young Will Shakespeare, with a bad case of writer’s block, on the verge of giving up on playwriting due to a lack of inspiration.

RSVP to templehesed@comcast.net or leave a message with Marlene Gianzanti, the Temple Administrator at 570-344-7201.

Special points of interest:

- More Temple History translated
- Richard Levy Remembered
- Purim explained

Suddenly a TARDIS arrives from the future and 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!

Let us know if you want to bake Hamantaschen or help with the Purim Pasta dinner. The dinner is \$5 per-person or \$15 a family. A \$1 Discount if you’re in costume.



Religious School Field Trip to the Tenement Museum, March 29th

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The Temple Hesed/Temple Israel Religious School will be taking a special history field trip on Sunday, March 29th to the Tenement Museum at Orchard Street in New York City.

The tour will include interaction with an actress portraying a historical character. She will be dramatizing the life of Victoria Confino, a 14 year old Sephardic Jewish immigrant.

All those attending will get a first-hand look at the life

of a new immigrant family searching for their first place to live. Victoria will guide students as they attempt to navigate some of the challenges facing new arrivals.

While the trip is primarily for our Religious School Students, it is appropriate for children in K and above, and of course for adults. If you wish to go on the trip (transportation is separate or in carpools), please contact the office ASAP. The cost is \$15/



adult and \$13 for children. Printed to the right is a picture of Victoria. Two of other parts of the museum are pictured on the back page.

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 Memory of Joan Davis's Father, Leonard Albert

Larry and Judie Golden

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Mindy Gromer

Lee Gromer

Get Well Wishes to Esther Adelman

Mike and Gayle Greenstein

In Honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Jacobson's Granddaughter, Mia

Steve and Ellen Seitchik

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Anne C. Kramer, Beloved Mother and Grandmother

Carol and Paul Leiman and family

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Jennie Lehman, Grandmother

Paula Wasser

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Tillie Fogel

Ceil Rydzewski

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

Sending Best Well Wishes to Esther Adelman

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

Why Purim

Anyone who's been to any of the Purim Shpiel's we've held at Temple Hesed since my arrival — this year's will be my 14th! See the flyer in this Messenger, but most of all, come! — knows that I'm a Purim devotee.

But that doesn't stop me from asking, how did this peculiar set of traditions come to be? To wit, the public reading of a whole book of the Bible, and one that never mentions God to boot, the shouting, grogger twirling din every time Haman is mentioned, the costumes, the revelry, the poking fun at nearly every authority structure, the not terribly veiled sexual innuendo, and even the traditional drinking.

Odd by themselves and odder still together.

It's not that other religions don't have festivals of rejoicing. Indeed, some of them share lots of elements with Purim, which both adds to the strangeness and begins to shed light on it.

For example, the Hindu festival of Holi, which also happens around this time of year, includes rejoicing in the streets, with people coating each other in different colors. The raucous celebration known as Carnival is in theory a Christian holiday just before Lent — also falling at roughly the same time of year. In Persia, where the Purim story is set, there is the Spring festival of Nowruz, which claims to be Zoroastrian in

origin and which also lends itself to public rejoicing and revelry.

All of these festivals, near the start of Spring, feature rejoicing that by its nature is subversive — crossing the boundaries of ordinary behavior and serving as a release from social and religious norms.

This is because, at least metaphorically for those of us more follicularly challenged, we all need to let our hair down sometimes — and what better time to do it than as we're getting increasingly fed up with the gray and cold of winters!

But there is more involved than just a seasonal release. Idolatry of one form or another seems to be pretty deeply rooted in the human psyche. Even without literal idols, we still make idols of wealth, political leaders, celebrities and so on.

But, and this is where Purim comes in, we can also make idols of even the very best of intentions. Held too rigidly, and without the religiously sanctioned release of Purim and its relatives of other faiths, our faith itself tends to become idolatrous.

The observance of the ritual or rule becomes the end, not the means to a connection with God or with our ethical duties. I have a colleague who keeps kosher all year long — except for one day when he eats a

cheesburger. Alana decided that she didn't want to make an idol out of vegetarianism, so she now eats meat once a year or so.

Purim, before it became overly-focused on children, was the opportunity extraordinary for Jews to poke fun at authorities and community leaders, whether Jewish or not, but it was also time to poke fun at Judaism itself, as a much-needed idolatry antidote.

I think all these various festivals, which themselves are probably based on older pagan rituals of a similar nature and purpose, have continued — often despite attempts by authorities to ban them — precisely because of their power to help free us from slavish idolatry to people, things, or ideas. Plus, let's face it — it's fun! So come and rebel — come to Purim!

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

Rabbinical Reflections

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



Presidents' Page

Esther Adelman,
Co-President



TIRED OF BASKET RAFFLES?

You're not alone! So, for the Temple's Annual Fund-Raiser on *May 2, 2020**, we are adapting a new (for Temple Hesed, at least) concept to raise some additional dollars to keep us in the black for this year.

We'll come up with a catchy name for it, but for now I'll just explain the concept because, to be successful, we'll need your help.

We hope to collect lots of gift cards *worth \$25 or more*. At the event, it will cost \$25 to choose a number that will be linked to a particular gift card. Everyone is an automatic winner, since you will get your money back and maybe more. We expect that there will be many neat surprises in store.

Here's where you come in. We're asking you to either donate a gift card yourself or to ask a place of business that you frequent to donate one. Remember that the minimum amount must be \$25, but a larger amount would be acceptable as well. All donations will be recognized in the program.

We're giving you lots of time to come up with some great ideas. It will be a "fun-raiser" which will add to the enjoyment of the evening.

Please contact me at ebabunny@aol.com or 570-335-3408 to tell me that you're in.

***SAVE THE DATE!** Last year's very successful event starred drag queens, Carol Ann Carol Ann and Sharon Ann Husbands, who will make a return appearance with an all-new show, "Stuck Like Glue".

Esther Adelman

MEMORIES

I've received several responses from people who will be writing future articles, so until they come through, I'll share another Hesed moment from my own experience.

For those of you who remember our past President and avid Temple Hesed cheerleader, Barbara Graham, she was known for her quick wit. Unfortunately, she passed away in 2005, leaving a huge gap in the life of Temple Hesed.

She had a diversified collection of really good friends, and I felt honored to be counted among them. We loved the same things: books, movies, classical music, writing, art, and games, particularly Scrabble and Boggle.

When Elan Gardens came into being, we attended the open-house to see what it was all about. We were both really impressed.

Barbara was so excited that she immediately decided that, when we got old, we would live in rooms next to each other, so that we could lead reading groups and play Scrabble and Boggle all day long.

The next words out of her mouth were, "Then, when 'the time' comes, we will shoot each other." I was shocked, to say the least. Catching my breath, I responded, "But, Barbara, you're ten years younger than I."

Then came the kicker: "But I'll have better aim," she said, without missing a beat!

I'll never forget that moment. I used this story when I spoke at her funeral, in our sanctuary because of the huge crowd in attendance, paying tribute to this wonderful lady. If not for Temple Hesed, we would have never met.

Esther Adelman

More of the early Minutes of our congregation have been Translated from their original German

We have continued to receive translations of the early German minutes.

Children in 1. and 2. grade \$1 per month Children in 2. and 3. grade 75¢ per month

By 1881, we have records of the Religious School in session. There is also the mention of the "Excelsior Social Club," one of a number of similar clubs in Scranton in those days, and perhaps the only one that admitted Jews.

Mr. S. Freudenthal was unanimously voted in as acting administrator of the congregation for one year starting September 1, 1881, and the trustees were authorized to finalize a contract with Mr. Freudenthal. His salary was set as \$850 next to housing and schooling (?).

Interestingly, when Glen Oak Country Club first got started (at least in part as a response to other clubs being closed to Jews) the first name it took was the Excelsior Social Club! We will also research what exactly was going on in terms of the need for taking care of monies for the sick and dead outside of the congregation.

The Misters S. Sutto and B. Moses were named as the committee to speak with Mr. Freudenthal and report back his response. They reported that Mr. Freudenthal is content with the above. The secretary was instructed to collect the necessary votes and report to the trustees. The secretary was instructed to inform all absent members that there will be a meeting of the congregation's members on Sunday, June 5th at 10 in the morning, at the Excelsior Social Club, to take steps to handle funds for taking care of the sick and the dead and for shiva independently of the congregation. It was agreed to close the meeting.

May 31, 1881

VI. grade

Mrs. B. Frank

Ed Sutto

H.D. Moses

Mrs. S. Milhouser

50c per month Joseph Klein

H. (?) Bergman

M. G. Goodman

Joseph Levin

-

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Services 6p	7 Purim Carniv. 5p;Dinner,5:45;Sh[ie;6:30p.Hament ashen,7:30p
8 DST Begins	9	10 Purim	11	12	13 Services 8p	14
15	16	17	18 Board Mtg. 6pm	19 Spring Begins	20 Services 8p	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Services 8p	28 11:30 Chanting Circle
29	30	31				



Torah Portions

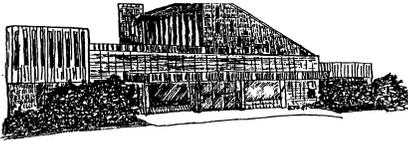
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Tetzave	March 7, 2020	11.Adar.5780
Ki Tisa	March 14, 2020	18 Adar.5780
Vayakhel-Pekudei	March 21, 2020	25.Adar,5780
Vayikra	March 29, 2020	3.Nisan.5780

More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

“When a worm sits in horseradish, it thinks there's nothing sweeter. ”

<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	Joel Vener
Charlotte Milliken	

Week Ending March 7 (Service March 6)

*Isadore Gordon, *Samuel B. Silverstein, *Harrie Phillips Mittelman, *Monroe Brandwene, *Hilda Ziegler, Shirley Cohen, *Toni Brodrick, *Rita L. Pincus, *Fannie Gelfand, *Robert D. Goodrich, *Frances Lonstein, *Esther Krotosky, *Jennie Pell, *Gordon H. Folk, *David Fragin

Week Ending March 14 (Service March 13)

*Emanuel J. Goodman, *Pearl Hoffman, *Emanuel Oppenheim, *Samuel L. Cohen, *Lottie Schoenhof, *Carolyn Weiss, *Oscar Rosenblum, *Sylvia Hodes, *Ann F. Nogi, *Anna B. Breschel, *Ophelia K. Hershfield, Edna Lauscher, *Isadore Harry Kramer, *Jack J. Levine, *Regina Oppenheim

Week Ending March 21 (Service March 20)

*Adele Hollander, *Jacob R. Cohen, *Robert P. Silverstein, *Florence R. Spelman, Arthur Feinberg, *Isabelle G. Cohen, *Leo Mitteldorf, *Dorothy Loebel Pell, Sadye M. Smith, *David Landau, *Helen Fragin, *Ben Silverman, Madeline Needle, *William Katz, *Minnie G. Rice, *Dr. Moses Fragin

Week Ending March 28 (Service March 27)

*Marion L. Graham, *Sol Driesen, Florence Brown, *Seymour Sieber, *Theodore A. Stein, *Jacob L. Druck, *Seymour Cader, *Jay Leiman, Max Ballot, *Joshua Marks, *Albert Rose

Week Ending April 4 (Service April 3)

*Arthur Adelman, *William Stein, *Jack Benkaim, *Ruth Folk, *Lois Besen, *Ida Richman, *Samuel N. Kramer, *Hattie O. Levi, *Elsie Schneider, *Abraham Cornfield, Fred A. Ellenbogen, *Hannah Joseph, *Meyer Slavitz

Richard D. Levy, 68, of Clarks Summit, died peacefully Feb. 25. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, the former Paula Ceccacci.

Born in Scranton on October 12, 1951, he was the son of the late Bernard and Elaine Bielefeld Levy. He was a proud 1969 graduate of Scranton Central High School and a proud 1973 graduate of Penn State University, where he was a member of the Beta Sigma Rho fraternity. He spent 34 years in the shoe industry with B. Levy & Sons, a four-generation footwear wholesaler and retailer, and later Pazzo Inc., a women's shoe importer.

Rick was proud of his Jewish faith and was a member of Temple Hesed. The local Jewish community was dear to his heart and he supported various causes and organizations to ensure its future prosperity. He and his wife, Paula, became members in perpetuity of the Jewish Community Center in Scranton in 2013. He also took tremendous pride in administering the Jacob and Mary Levy Philanthropic Fund.



Rick was sharp, intelligent, affable, loyal, and had a terrific sense of humor. His many passions included movies, World War II history, sports, and the smaller things in life such as reading the newspaper and watching the nightly news. He was an avid golfer and a longtime member of the Glen Oak Country Club where he served on leadership boards and enjoyed mentoring younger and newer members. This past October, on his 68th birthday and eighteen months post his cancer diagnosis, Rick captured his first ever hole-in-one. He was also a supporter of Penn State athletics and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

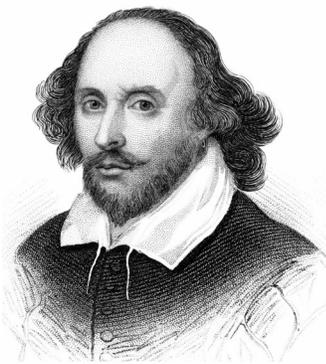
In addition to his wife, Richard is survived by their sons, Brian and Justin; his sister, Barbra Goldberg and husband Howard; nieces and nephews, Lindsay Steiner and husband Mike, Erica Horodniceanu and husband Eran, Michael O'Malley and wife Lauren, Nancy Fisch and husband Robert, and Shawna Marx and husband Danny; as well as numerous great-nieces and great-nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and sister-in-law Cheri O'Malley, and brother-in-law Shawn O'Malley.

He was preceded in death by his parents-in-law, Paul and Nancy Ceccacci. Burial in Temple Hesed Cemetery.

Chanting Circle: Holy Service on March 28th at 11:30 a.m.

Our March MultiFaith Chanting Circle (held on the last Saturday in March, not the 2nd as usual) will explore the theme of "Holy Service." We are supposed to be a "kingdom of priests," but what does that actually mean? How can we be of service to others? to the divine? How can we find holiness in the seemingly menial tasks of our everyday life? How do we take care of ourselves while being of service to others? Join us as, through

chant, discussion, and mutual support, we search out answers.



Shakespeare in Shushan



A Purim Musical



March 7th @ Temple Hessed

- 🎭 Medieval Faire (**Mini-Carnival**) – 5pm (free!)
- 🎭 Makerouns (**Pasta Dinner**) – 5:45pm
\$5/person or \$15/family; \$1 off if U R In Costume!
- 🎭 Sing-thee-along Purim **Shpiel** – 6:30pm (free!)
(Featuring the music of Sir Paul, Sir Elton, Sir Mick, Dame Adele etc.!!)
- 🎭 Mince Cookyes- **Hamentashen** – 7:30pm (free!)

Fun For All Ages – Everyone Welcome

RSVP to 570-344-7201 or templehessed@comcast.net
1 Knox Rd., off of Lake Scranton Rd.

A Message from the URJ

Dear Daniel:

Today, we are writing to share an urgent appeal concerning the World Zionist Congress election.

As we hope you know, the election for the 2020 World Zionist Congress is open for another two weeks, and a strong showing by the "Vote Reform" slate is critical. Voting closes on March 11th, just after Purim. (If you are unfamiliar with the World Zionist Congress, often known as the parliament of the Jewish people, you can learn everything you need to know on the ARZA website.)

The results of the election are nothing short of essential for the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), whose funding streams are determined by the results of the election.

So much of the dramatic growth of our Movement in Israel throughout the past five years can be traced directly to our success in the 2015 WZC election. This year, our Reform partners in Israel have asked over and over again, with deep concern, about our campaign work here in the United States – and they cannot stress enough the importance of a strong showing by our Movement. Get Out the Vote »

Perhaps surprisingly, political leaders and members of Knesset from across the political and religious spectrum are also focused on the WZC election. Many of them, recognizing our Movement's growing numeric strength and influence, have emphasized how much is at stake.

In addition to determining the flow of funding directly to the institutions of our Movement, the election will determine the policy of key Israeli institutions (such as the Jewish Agency and Keren Kayemeth L'Israel, or KKL – JNF Israel) on issues such as economic justice and the funding of settlements outside the generally accepted borders of Israel.

We have made it clear to both our IMPJ partners and Israeli political leadership that our Movement has made the World Zionist Congress election one of our highest priorities.

We've described to them the energy, passion, and dedication that our congregations have put into the campaign. We've assured that that, thanks to your efforts, our entire Movement is working together, and the 2020 election has unprecedented visibility in our congregations.

However, it is with both sadness and alarm that we have witnessed some truly ugly efforts to undermine us, carried out by those who recognize that our success will allow us to more effectively advance our Reform views and values. Some slates have gone so far as to explicitly claim that we are supporters of BDS and haters of "true Judaism."

They fear that our victory would be critical in advancing religious pluralism, peace, and economic justice in Israel. They are right to be afraid – because that is exactly what we intend to do!

Here is our challenge: Even as hard as we are working, we need to do more. We are grateful for all the work taking place across the county – but we are also concerned that we are not getting the number of votes we need. In the last election, there was little competition; this time, the battle for votes is far more intense.

We ask every leader of every one of our congregations: What more can you do to assure that the Reform/ARZA slate not only earns the most votes but does so with a wide enough margin to effectively advance our values in these critical Israeli institutions?

Consider:

Have you yourself voted? Have members of your family? Have you shared information about the election with your own network in person, by phone, and/or on social media? Is the election highlighted in your congregational communications? Have you set up "polling places" in your congregation? Can you use the March 3rd U.S. presidential primaries as an opportunity to share a "Vote twice on Super Tuesday" message? How can you leverage your Purim carnival as a time to bring people in and get out the vote? We have created a rich, helpful congregational toolkit that will give you everything you need to step up your efforts.

Friends, Israel is at a crossroads, and we have a real opportunity to make our voices heard on the most profound issues confronting the state. We have the strongest platform and the deepest record of results.

We are proudly PRO-ISRAEL, and we are steadfastly PRO-DEMOCRACY, PRO-PLURALISM and PRO-PEACE. No other slate is as committed to these three principles as is Vote Reform.

And ours is the only one that has demonstrated that our "boots on the ground" – a coalition of the Progressive Movement's communities around the world, working with allies in Israel who share our values – truly advance our agenda with financial resources and powerful leadership.

Please, let's not rest until the election is over. We are off to a great start, but as the finish lines comes into view, we need shift into higher gear. We need to finish strong – and with your leadership, that's exactly what we will do.

L'shalom,

Jennifer Brodkey Kaufman
Chair, URJ

Rabbi Rick Jacobs
President, URJ

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

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Larry Milliken - 2nd Vice President

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Joan Davis - Assistant Secretary

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(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)



More views of the tenement exhibition

