

Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

Virus Keeps Us Apart but We Will Zoom Together



Special points of interest:

- **Successful Purim**
- **Passover Meets Earth Day at our Seder**
- **How Reformed leaders feel about March's elections in Israel**

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Each week, at its regular time — 6 pm for April 3rd, 8 pm for the 17th and 24th (the 10th will be our Seder, explained elsewhere in this issue), we will be having services — but they won't be regular services! Instead, we will ZOOM together, using the ZOOM videoconferencing system.

Zoom can be fully accessed by any computer, tablet, iPhone or Android. Other phones can access the audio but not the video.

What exactly will happen at a ZOOM Shabbat? That's an experiment that will play out over the next weeks or possibly months. Since you can attend from the comfort of your home, wearing whatever you want, there's no excuse not to give it a try — and you can invite friends and relatives from across the country to join in!

How do you join in? If you have ZOOM app, you can sign in and then just enter the meeting number (see below). Or you can click on the link for that Shabbat. Rabbi Daniel will resend out the link before each service, but below are the links, meeting numbers, phone access numbers and passwords for all April Shabbat services.

For the **April 3rd, 6 pm First Friday Shabbat**, click this link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/468408948?pwd=OFJRMVFZdWh5azUvTzNPWmhSXXkrUT09>

Or on the ZOOM app, enter this meeting ID: 468 408 948

The password is : FFSabbat
 If you want to dial in for the audio, call 1 646 558 8656 and then enter the Meeting ID.

For the **April 17th and 24th services** (April 10th will be the Congregational Seder — more information elsewhere in this Messenger) **at 8:00 PM**, click this link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/703413341?>

Or on the ZOOM app, enter Meeting ID: 703 413 341

Password: AprilShab

The dial in information is the same except for the meeting ID.

Join us, connect with others, get some support, and help shape the future of Judaism!



Donations to Temple Hesed



ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Rick Levy
Jim and Patty Alperin

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Jay Leiman, Beloved Father and Grandfather
Carol and Paul Leiman and family

BUILDING FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Henri Deutsch
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Rita Pincus
The Davis Family

Good Health Wishes to Grace Stampien
Steve and Ellen Seitchik

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Gert Diener
Patti Diener Lough

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of William Katz - Father
Sharon Katz Levy and Saul Levy

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Carl Diener
Patti Diener Lough

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Mildred Lambert
Natalie Gelb

In Memory of Edward Snitko, Sr.
Esther Adelman

LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Oscar D. Leventhal
Lindsay Leventhal

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.

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At the Border of Light

In his campaign stump speeches, then-candidate John F. Kennedy often said, "In the Chinese language, the word "crisis" is composed of two characters, one representing danger and the other, opportunity. In the sixty years since, countless people have taken up this theme, implying that every crisis is automatically an opportunity. The problem is, however, that this is an inaccurate translation. The second character doesn't actually mean opportunity. It means border or crossroads. The difference is subtle but important. Every crisis brings with it unknowns, choices of different paths that can take us in wildly different directions. No opportunity is guaranteed — but if we pay attention to the choices we make, we might find opportunities along the way.

COVID-19 has dramatically brought us to such a crisis crossroads. As I mentioned in a recent Temple Hesed email, there has been an extraordinarily broad spectrum of reactions to this crisis, from incredibly heartwarming tales of people coming to the aid of strangers to acts of bigotry against those with Asian ancestry, from neighbors serenading each other to booming gun sales. As is the nature of crossroads, at this moment, all paths are equally open to us — but with each choice we make, it gets harder and harder to turn to a different path.

It reminds me of a poem by the great modern Israeli poet, Lea Goldberg, which appears, in slightly different forms, in both our prayerbook and the Women's Torah Commentary. Here is the key part:

This is the hour of transition wherein we stand mute at light's border — where shall our hearts turn?

Will we return, my brother, my sister, or will we cross over?

My brother, my sister, how can we stand mute at light's border — what path is before us?

Will we return, my brother, my sister, will we cross over?

The crisis ahead is clear, with danger and, unfortunately, death guaranteed. And so our choices as a society loom large — and so our faith requires us to speak out, guided by our prophetic traditions. All people are created equally in God's image, and so all should be protected. God demands justice for the poor, the orphan, the widow and the immigrant at our gates — will we lift up our voices like a shofar on their behalf, as we read each Yom Kippur? Will we make choices that open up opportunities or close off paths forward?

Our choices as a congregation are not as weighty, of course, but they carry their own kind of significance. Because we have already been at a crossroads, whether or not we realized it. Step back in time just over 2000 years ago, and you would have seen many, many different religions traditions that shared one thing in common — a key part of their religion was the offering of sacrifices, typically burnt offerings of animals, grain, wine, or oil. Skip forward just a few hundred years, and the panoply of religions would be just as varied, yet have just as much in common. For almost none of them made burnt offerings. Instead, their worship consisted of gathering in one place to share words, and songs, texts and lessons. And that's pretty much how it has continued until now.

But just as sacrifices had their heyday and then faded away — presumably because they had once satisfied needs but no longer did — the standard forms of worship are meeting with more and more indifference. Of course, there are exceptions, but by and large, attendance is down across all major religions. Now, we have a chance to strike out for the border of a new light, a new way of connecting to each other and the Divine. COVID-19 may have pushed us this way, but it is a path that we should have been exploring already. So let's experiment, remembering that in an experiment, no result is "wrong" as long as you learn from it.

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

Rabbinical Reflections

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



ZOOM Chanting Circle: Into the Wilderness, April 18th, 11:30 a.m.

Ask anyone who has attended past Chanting Circles, and you'll hear how comforting they can be, how people feel a sense of peace, calm, and connection afterward.

In times like these, that support and comfort is even more important than usual. So why not give the chanting circle a try from the comfort of your own home (or, if Spring actually comes and your wi-fi is strong enough, on a sunny porch!).

Our theme in April plays off of both the experience of the Exodus and the current COVID-19 crisis. What do we do when we find ourselves "in the wilderness," with no sense of where we are going? Is that terrifying? exciting? a little of both?

Come with us as we explore the creative potential of wilderness — and how to come out the other side.

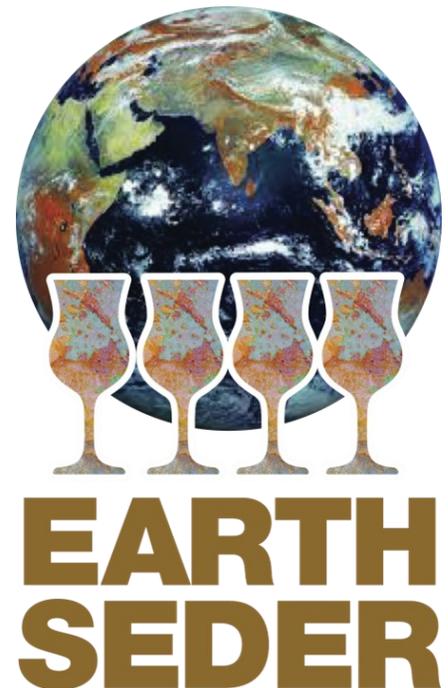


Zoom Earth Seder, April 10th at 6 pm

This year, Passover comes just before the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. It also comes as a new and unique Passover Haggadah has just been published by a colleague of Rabbi Daniel, Rabbi Ellen Bernstein, the founder of the first Jewish environmental group, Shomrei Adamah.

Before COVID-19 threw a wrench into the plans, Temple Hesed was going to host one of 10 inaugural "Earth Seders." Now, our seder has to go online, which, while it has its downsides, also means that we can be connected to presentations by Rabbi Bernstein and others from across the country. So we will have a Zoom Earth Seder on April 10th at 6 pm — which you can join from wherever you are!

What is an Earth Seder? **EARTH SEDERS** understand that the freedom we celebrate on Passover depends on the earth's well-being. If the earth and its systems are compromised, our freedom is compromised. Life itself is compromised. **EARTH SEDERS** are rooted in Rabbi Bernstein's new Passover Haggadah, *The Promise of the Land*, which blends traditional text with a modern ecological sensibility. **EARTH SEDERS** offer an opportunity to deepen our connection to the natural world, and, to raise awareness, commitments and funds for an environmental/conservation project.



Everyone who signs up — and all are welcome, from within the Temple Hesed community and well beyond, even for those living far away — will have the option of buying *The Promise of the Land* at more than half off, at just \$5. (We have the Haggadot at the Temple, and we will work out a safe way for people to pick them up.) This will be the entire cost of the seder for Hesed members (non-members will pay an additional \$5 registration fee). People can also return the Haggadah after the seder and receive \$4 back.

All who register will also be given guides for what to do in their own homes as they join the seder, as well as the link to join the Zoom Earth Seder on April 10th. RSVP now to temple-hesed@comcast.net or 570-344-7201.

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Services 6 p.m.*	4
5	6	7	8 First Seder	9 second seder Passover Day 1	10 Earth Seder 6 p.m.*	11
12	13	14	15 Board Mtg. 6 pm* 7th day of Passover	16	17 Services 8 p.m.*	18 Chanting Circle 11:30 a.m.*
19	20	21 Holocaust Remembrance Day-Yom Hazkron Lashoah	22	23	24 Services 8 p.m.*	25
26	27	28 ISRAEL Memo- rial Day –Yom Hazikaron	29	30	*Via 	



Torah Portions

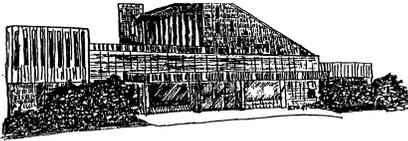
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Tzav	April 4, 2020	10.Nissan5780
Shemini	April 18, 2020	24.Nissan,5780
Tazria-Metzora	April 25, 2020	25.Nissan.5780

More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

“A Jew is twenty-eight percent
fear, two percent sugar, and sev-
enty percent chutzpah”

<http://www.yiddishwit.com>

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



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

Week Ending April 11 (Service April 10)

*Myer Kabatchnick, *Stephen Mannaberg Loebel, *Israel Linder, *Dr. Neal E. Soifer, *Joan
Alperin, Florence Brown, *Arnold L. Apfelbaum, *Paul William Weinstock, Sheldon A. Davis,
*Daniel H. Stone, *Dr. Gladys Ball, *Harlan Ackerman, *Rose Swartz, Nellie Wooden, *Edith
Leventhal, Dr. Carl Strauss, *Gertrude Diener

Get Wells Week Ending April 18 (Service April 17)

Rebecca Harriet Noble
Birnkrant Jane Oppenheim
Michael Cornfield Charlene Ostro
Mark Davis Joel Ostro
Larry Golden Emily Trunzo
Mike Greenstein Joel Vener
Phillip Knobel
Rich Mates
Charlotte Milliken

Roslyn Mitchell, *Al J. Dolinger, Jennie Newman, *Jack M. Yanover, Aaron Pashkow, Edward
Bernstein, *Shirley Mitteldorf, *Frances Ehrlich Joseph, *Elsa Stein Ehrlich, *Alice L. Goldsmith,
*Fred Mark Seagaard

Week Ending April 25 (Service April 24)

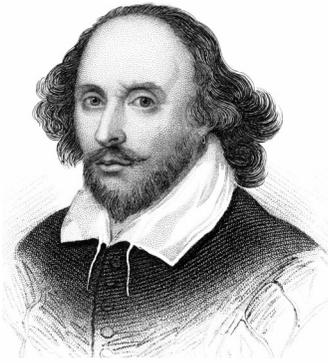
*Elizabeth R. Levi, Jerome I. Karnoff, *Ralph L. Levy, *Selma Stein, *Aaron H. Vogel, Harold
Kaplan, *Rebecca Weinberg, *Janet Slawitsky, *Rae Epstein, *Harry Ackerson, *Emma Kramer
Freeman, Dr. Jacob S. Kominz, *Lena Rosenberg

Week Ending May 2 (Service May 1)

*Joyce Kroll, *Fred B. Levi, *Grace Pawlan, Hannah Feinberg, *Samuel Morris, *Elias Strauss,
*Louis N. Kramer, Herbert Cummins

We send our sympathies to Ed
Snitko, music director, on the loss of
his father, Ed Snitko Sr.

May his memory be a blessing.



Shakespeare in Shushan a Hit!

Purim at Temple Hesed's is always fabulous — but this year was even better than usual! Prefaced by a radio interview on WVIA about the meaning of Purim and evolution of the shpiel (you can still listen to it here: <https://soundcloud.com/wvia-public-media/rabbi-daniel-swartz-march-03-2020?in=wvia-public-media/sets/artscene-1>), we managed, just before we all needed to practice social distancing, our largest crowds ever. With many hamentashen bakers (who produced many new varieties, including oreo hamentashen and even hamentashen that tasted just like the Samoas from Girl Scout cookies), dozens of hands in the kitchen and for cleanup, music and sound effects ably produced by Harry Adelman, and a stellar cast headlined by the “young Will Shakespeare” himself, Dr. Michael Friedman, everyone had a blast. As the bard might have put it if he ever attended a shpiel, “if Purim be the food of joy, grog on!”

Reform Leaders React To Israeli Election

March 5, 2020 – Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) President Rabbi Rick Jacobs and Chair Jennifer Brodkey Kaufman issued this statement following Israel's general election this week:

We congratulate the Israeli people on a massive voter turnout, reflecting the strength and vitality of Israeli democracy. The Reform Movement in North America cultivates strong relations and an open dialogue with all Israeli governments and we will continue to do so with the next government. We hope the next Israeli government will work to heal the rift with North American Jewry, and advance the equality of all the Jewish streams as part of the vision of a Jewish and democratic state.

And, we remain concerned about actions and legislative initiatives that could hinder future negotiations for peace, as well as steps threatening the central democratic institutions of Israel, especially the Supreme Court.

We are also concerned about efforts to delegitimize and marginalize the voices, votes, and citizenship of Arab citizens of Israel. We believe that the results of the election demonstrate that the majority of Israeli citizens oppose these steps.

Together with our Israeli partners in the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, we will continue to promote our Reform Jewish values – including democracy, equality, religious freedom, and a shared society for Jews and Arabs – and strive for peace based on our deep commitment to Israel's security.

We hope that the next Israeli government will promote these values as well.

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)

