

Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

Services on Zoom in May

Unless the situation changes dramatically, we plan to hold all of May's services on Zoom.

The service on May 1 will begin at 6 p.m. and run for approximately 45 minutes; the services on the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th will all begin at 8 p.m. and run for 60-75 minutes. The Zoom link for the service on May 1 is:



Also in this issue:

- Chanting Circle Zooms
- Trump's Order blasted
- Joel Ostro OBM

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Email
 RabbiDaniel@comcast.net
 to get the links. They are
 not posted on public Web
 sites.



Shavuot Plans Being Formulated

The festival of Shavuot, originally an agricultural holiday but transformed by the early rabbis into a commemoration of the revelation on Mount Sinai, begins on the evening of Thursday, May 28th.

Unlike the revolution, at least this time the revelation will be televised! If you count Zoom, that is.

We know we'll be holding a Zoom Torah study that evening. But we're still putting together the details of who will teach, at what time, and what the topics will be.

Stay tuned for more details in the weekly Temple Hesed email. Or call the office, 570 -344-7201 to say that you're interested, and we'll make sure to contact you as soon as details are confirmed.

Sheloshim

Donations to Temple Hesed



Donations will
appear next
month

Joel K. Ostro died March 30 after a long battle with cancer.

Ostro, 82, was a New York City Chief Building Inspector who moved to this area after retirement. He was known for actions against slumlords. He was active in the Lake Ariel American Legion and served on the Temple Hesed board.

He was buried in Beth Israel Cemetery, Honesdale.

Our sympathies go out to his wife, Charlene, and his family.

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.



CAROL ANN CAROL ANN & SHARRON ANN HUSBANDS STARRING IN:

STUCK LIKE GLUE

—A Temple Hesed Fundraiser—

Will be rescheduled at a date to be determined

It was originally scheduled for May 2, but COVID-19 regulations will not permit such gatherings.

When the PA Dept. of Health releases guidance on such gatherings, then we can reset the date.

Thank you for understanding.

Lessons Learned from Zoom

I've now conducted services, chanting circles, seder and classes on Zoom. As I announced when we started moving to Zoom, this is all an experiment — and what's important in an experiment is not that everything goes the way you want it to, but rather that you learn from the way it goes. The experiment is still in the early stages — but it has already yielded some results. So what have I learned so far?

First, it's much easier for people to attend. We have congregants — and even former congregants — joining us literally from coast to coast: New York, Florida, California, Maine, Wisconsin and Rhode Island are just a few of the places that people have been physically located while they have been virtually together with us during service. Some people who are rarely able to come to services, due to a long drive or not wanting to be out late, have been able to join us. Congregants have invited geographically distant family members to be on. All this has the side benefit of reducing our "carbon footprint" and making services greener which I'm all in favor of! And for some, being able to join from the comfort of one's home, dressed in the COVID-19 "uniform" of sweats or other informal clothing, has made it more appealing. So the question now is — what can we do once we can meet in person to keep "Zoom-only" at-

tendees coming? Can we have hybrid services, with both in-person and remote attendees? Or should we have a once-a-month Zoom service? What do you think?

Second, there has been something undeniably sweet about coming together under such trying circumstances, something that makes it feel more like we're in services together, rather than I'm leading a congregation. What exactly has it been that has enabled the "social distance" between the bima and congregation to be reduced, even if we're not in the same room? I don't know, nor do I have ideas about what I can do in person to recreate that closeness. Do you have any insights on this?

Third, there's definitely a learning curve about the whole enterprise. From screen shares to flip-books to audio, from muting others to figuring out how to have different readers without sonic chaos ensuing, each week service has seen new technical issues crop up even as I've started to figure out past ones. I'm still MUCH more nervous leading something on Zoom than in person — and that makes being present for the service much more challenging. There's just so much to coordinate! At the same time, while the technical challenges can be distracting, they also make the whole process new again — which is saying something for someone

who has been leading services for more than thirty years.

My biggest complaint so far is in regards to singing. Zoom (and every other video conferencing system I've tried) can't handle multiple simultaneous audio inputs. So the current choices are for me to sing while putting everyone on mute, or to have us all singing, yielding time delayed sounds, echoes, feedback and the like. Perhaps with increased demand, this will be addressed in some future version. What have you like or disliked? What changes do you suggest? Help out with the experiment — send your feedback to rabbidaniel@comcast.net. And if you haven't joined us yet, give it a try. It's so easy — and it definitely has unique aspects worth checking out!

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

Rabbinical Reflections

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



Putting Things in Perspective

I've been chairing the JCC's Yom HaShoah commemoration for at least 25 years. This year, due to the extraordinary situation in which we find ourselves, we held an abbreviated version via Zoom. While I was writing my opening remarks, I realized that there was a rather obscure correlation between our present situation and the plight of the victims of the Holocaust. In both cases, the circumstances were beyond the control of those affected; there was great fear and dread of the unknown future; there was no precedent to use as a guide.

The following is much of what I wrote:

I begin with words of neurologist and psychiatrist, Viktor Frankl, survivor of Auschwitz and three other camps:

"One evening when we were already resting on the floor of our hut, dead tired, soup bowls in hand, a fellow prisoner rushed in and asked us to run out to the assembly grounds to see the wonderful sunset. Standing outside, we saw the whole sky in the west alive with clouds of ever-changing shapes and colors, from steel blue to blood red. The desolate grey mud huts provided a sharp contrast, while the puddles on the muddy ground reflected the glowing sky. Then, after minutes of moving silence, one prisoner said to another, 'How beautiful the world could be.' "

...and words of Auschwitz survivor, Rabbi Hugo Gryn:

"It was the cold winter of 1944, and although we had nothing like calendars, my father who was my fellow prisoner there, took me and some of our friends to a corner in our barrack. He announced that it was the eve of Chanukah, produced a curious-shaped clay bowl, and began to light a wick immersed in his precious, but now melted, margarine ration. Before he could recite the first blessing, I protested at the waste of food. He looked at me — then at the lamp — finally said: 'You and I have seen that it is possible to live up to three weeks without food. We once lived almost three days without water, but you cannot live properly for three minutes without hope.'"

Today, all the people of the Earth are living through devastating times. We are unhappy because we cannot always access the food that we are accustomed to. We cannot be with our friends and families. We cannot go shopping, or to a concert, or to a baseball game, or even to work or to school. Our world as we know it has been turned upside down. What about the world of the victims of the Holocaust? We *have* warm beds. We *have* food in our bellies. We *have* our friends and families just a click away. We don't have to worry about being shot or beaten at someone's whim, or being denied a bowl of watery, maggoty soup, or sleeping crowded together on a wooden platform, or freezing in our filthy, lice-ridden, paper-thin clothing.

With hope and light — two small words — two powerful words, along with faith in God, they sustained their will to live. Now we must simply remember to do as much for ourselves.

We will survive these horrific times. God gave us the intellect to find solutions, the humanity to work together to attain success, and the lovingkindness (Hesed) to care for each other as we chart our path to a brighter future.

Be safe and do what is necessary to keep well.

Esther Adelman



Presidents' Page

Esther Adelman,
Co-President

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Services* 6pm	2 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
3	4	5	6	7	8 Services* 8pm	9 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
10	11 Lag B'Omer	12	13	14	15 Services* 8pm	16 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
17	18	19	20 Board Mtg* 6pm	21	22 Services * 8pm	23 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
24	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28 Shavuot eve	29 Services * 8pm Shavuot	30 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
31					* 	



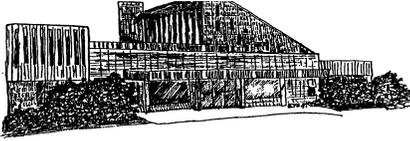
Torah Portions

Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Acherei-Kedoshim	May 2, 2020	8.Iyar.5780
Emor	May 9, 2020	15.Iyar.5780
Behar-Bechukotai	May 16, 2020	22.Iyar.5780
Bamidbar	May 23, 2020	29.Iyar.5780

More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

“If you stay at home, you won't wear out your boots.”
<http://www.yiddishwit.com>

Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Wells

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

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

Week Ending May 9 (Service May 8)

*Herman Gutman, *Sarah F. Kline, *Nathan Young, *Sigmund G. Roos, *John Speir, Gertie
Gross, *Roselle Fine, *Sarah Weinberg, *Gloria Magida Scheinholtz, *Nellie B. Stromberg,
*Martin D. Linder, *Samuel M. Friedman

Week Ending May 16 (Service May 15)

*Samuel L. Goldstein, Nat Fragin, Rella Mates, *Bess Linder, *Selma Sydansk, *Isaac Sobel,
*Barbara J. Graham, *Edward Bruce Adelman, *Anne Mitteldorf, *Rabbi Bernard Heller,
*Blanche Katz, *Rosemary Minkoff, *Estelle H. Cohen, *Louis Driesen, *Philip Joseph, Jack W.
Heilbrunn

Week Ending May 23 (Service May 22)

*Sadie Zwass Berger, *Max Pell, *George W. Schneider, *Dr. Henry Fish, *Charles Ball, Lillian
Bernstein, *Louis Meyer, *Sondra Schneider Kaar, *Harold Gold

Week Ending May 30 (Service May 29)

*Evalyn Lonstein, *Earle R. Parker, *Max Lerner, Anna Kurzweil, Ralph Blau, *Israel Davidow,
*Fern Smith Tepper, *Edna M. Siegel, *William Krotosky, *Cora F. Reinthal, *Nellie Kramer

Week Ending June 6 (Service June 5)

*Simon Smith, *Rochelle Goldman, *Louis Goldsmith, *Selma Blank Maring, *Rose Slavitz,
*Sophie Driesen, *Betty Goldsmith, *Leonard Cohen, *Lenore Forman, *Theodora Swartz

Mazel Tov

To **Harry and Mary Beth Adelman** on the birth of their new granddaughter, **Magdelyn Abigail**. She is the daughter of their son, **Jeremy** and his wife, **Briana**. Magdelyn was born April 4, weighing 9 pounds 1 oz.

Harry reports everyone is "doing fine."

Circle will Chant Weekly

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our Chanting Circle is meeting every week. Even when we can't gather together physically, we can join with each other every week for comfort and support in our multifaith chanting circle on Zoom.



Once a month, we'll have a more extended teaching and learn new chants; then we'll have several weeks returning to those chants for a half an hour.

On May 2nd, we'll chant for half hour, continuing April's theme of "Into the Wilderness," as we journey through this uncertain time. Then on May 9th, we'll gather for one hour to explore the theme of "Sacrifice."

What do we gain when we give something up? How can giving transform our lives? We'll continue on this theme for half hour sessions on May 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

To join any chanting circle, just click on <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/262786448?pwd=bEZnSnF2dys1RzF5Q2pmbVRVCVjBwZz09>

Or in the Zoom app, use meeting ID 262-786-448 with the password Gratitude.

Everyone is welcome to join us for this multifaith program.

Reform Leader Condemns Trump's Order

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In response to President Donald Trump's executive order suspending the issuance of green cards for 60 days, **Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner**, director of the **Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism**, released the following statement on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference on American Rabbis and the wider Reform Movement institutions:

"President Trump's attempt to further restrict foreign entry to the United States is an extension of the xenophobia that has tragically guided our nation's immigration policies during his time in office. This decision comes on the heels of the Trump administration's decimation of the U.S. asylum system and refugee resettlement program for no discernable reason other than hostility toward individuals seeking refuge in a country that has long served as a haven for those most in need.

"After years of tearing apart families and caging children, the president's latest executive order is now taking aim at one of the few, narrow legal paths that immigrants have left for permanently settling in the U.S. President Trump claims that this step is necessary to protect workers recovering from the COVID-19 economic collapse. But we know that, in reality, immigrants bring ingenuity, courage, and diversity that has long powered our country through challenging times.

"We are commanded 36 times in the Torah to welcome and love the stranger and immigrant – far more than any other dictate, due in no small part to its difficulty. As Reform Jews, we embrace the mandate to welcome those different than ourselves – particularly in moments of crisis. We condemn the president for once again betraying this nation's founding ideals by scapegoating immigrants."

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)

