

# Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

## June Shabbat Services



### Also in this issue:

- **Jimmie Ellenbogen OBM**
- **A month of chanting continues**
- **Planning for future worship**
- **Mail-in Annual Meeting**

If all goes well (see “Service under the stars — or on the screen?” below) we will hold our first in-person service in months before the end of June. But we will start the month meeting on Zoom, proceeding with caution and with health and safety as our top priorities.

Our June 5th service will be at the usual “First Friday” time of 6 pm. You can join us on Zoom by clicking:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/468408948?pwd=OFJRMVFZdWh5azUvTzNPWmhSXXkrUT09>

Or through the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 468 408 948 and Password: FFShabbat

And you do not need a computer or even a cell phone to connect at least to the audio portion of the service. All you have to do is call +1 646 558 8656 then when prompted enter 468 408 948 as the Meeting ID.

Our June 13th service will also definitely be on Zoom. You can join by clicking:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82741992495?pwd=UmhpdHpCWnZxWXZtdGxmd0pvL1hGUT09>

Or through the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 827 4199 2495 and Password: Shabbat06.

Again, you can call in by phone for the audio of the service. Call +1 646 558 8656 then enter the Meeting ID: 827 4199 2495 and the Password: 202540.

We are hoping that our June 19th service will be under the stars. We will try to livestream it on FaceBook live for those who don’t feel safe coming in person. And we have yet to decide if the service on the 26th will be outdoors, indoors, or back on Zoom.

We will continue to update you throughout the month — please watch for our Temple Hesed weekly emails.

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## Service under the stars — or on the screen?

As this issue of the Messenger goes to press, we are anticipating Lackawanna County transitioning to Yellow status. If everything goes as planned, then gatherings of limited size will again be permitted.

We are still considering how to make indoor services safe, given the prolonged exposures that can occur in a closed space — but we are hoping that outdoor services will be both possible and safe.

We plan to start with our annual “Service Under the Stars,” on June 19th at 8 p.m. Being the Friday night closest to the Summer Solstice, we should have plenty of light — and this early in the year, we shouldn’t have to deal with lots of insects. In other words, if you asked a Magic 8-ball if we’ll be able to actually meet in person, it would probably say, “Signs point to yes.” But since even Magic 8-balls can’t actually predict the future, please watch out for updates as we get closer to the 19th.

## 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 Ida Richman**

Joel, Ginger, Sarah and Tori Richman

#### **In Memory of Joel Ostro**

Audrey Harrell

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### **With Appreciation to Rabbi Swartz**

Jimmie Ellenbogen

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

#### **In Memory of Lucille Janet Oakey**

Cheryl and Mike Friedman

### TORAH RESTORATION FUND

#### **In Memory of Edward Snitko, Sr.**

Jimmie Ellenbogen

#### **In Memory of Joel Ostro**

Karen and Joel Vener

#### **In Memory of Lucille Janet Oakey**

Esther B. Adelman

### MARK HAHN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

#### **In Memory of Edward Snitko, Sr.**

Audrey Harrell

#### **In Memory of Lucille Janet Oakey**

Audrey Harrell

#### **In Honor of the Birth of Magdelyn Adelman**

Audrey Harrell

## Jimmie Ellenbogen dies May 23

Jimmie Ellenbogen was a fixture at Temple



Hesed. Jimmie held the position of usher, which meant he would greet every arriving worshipper—usually by name—as they came in the door, hand

them a prayer book, a rundown of the service and other materials. He died May 23.

Jimmie was the face of the congregation and he was one of the last living links to the founding of our congregation. He was one of two current members who could trace their lineage to those who joined together to form the congregation in 1860.

A decorated veteran of World War II, Jimmie, 95, served several years on the Temple board, he was also active with the board of Jewish Family Services and other Jewish organizations.

A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on July 26 (the day after Jimmie's birthday) at the Temple Hesed Cemetery, West Warren Street, Dunmore.

Jimmie retired after working in the insurance business for a number of years. Before that he worked for Samter's selling menswear.

Jimmie volunteered for many years at the Scranton Public Library. He loved to read. He was faithful reader of the New York Times.

He loved the opera and he would often go see performances with good friend Audrey Harrell, she recalled.

During a roundtable discussion following a LGBT-oriented service in the last decade, Jimmie held the large group spellbound as he "came out" as a gay man for the first time.

# What's Next?

People often misunderstand the roles of the biblical prophets. Unlike Greek seers and oracles, who uttered — typically in cryptic fashion — about what the fates had decreed about an unchangeable future, our prophets analyzed the present and spoke with relative clarity about what we needed to do to change the future. I am definitely NOT an oracle — the only time I can ever predict what is about to come is during a typical movie, in which case I usually can figure out the twists and turns way ahead of time. In real life, however, not so much. Heck, I didn't even think the Cubs were going to be able to come back in the 2016 World Series to win, and people had been predicting that for over 100 years!

But I do try to live up our calling to be a nation of prophets. And that means thinking about the future not in terms of predictions — what is going to happen next, which we can't know — but rather prescriptions — what is the future that we should be attempting, in our imperfect way, to build. At this time of great uncertainty, it is more important than ever to think creatively about how the future should look, even though we don't know how it will look.

That creative thinking includes both some practical planning and some out of the box speculation. First up, the practical plans. I have heard from colleagues

who have already cancelled in-person High Holy Day services, as well as others who are already beginning to hold services in person. Some are planning services in cars, drive-in theatre style, and others plan to meet in outdoor amphitheaters. At Temple Hesed, we've started to consider all our options without committing to any just yet. While I often feel that the size of our building and the size of our congregation are a mismatch, that might be a good thing this year. But any indoor space, with a significant number of people over an extended period of time, will be a challenge to keep safe. While I don't know what we'll eventually decide, please do know that we are making contingency plans already, staying abreast of the latest safety guidelines as well as learning from the experiences of congregations across the globe.

Any speculation should build on lessons learned during this pandemic — and there has been plenty for us to learn from. On a smaller scale, I've seen that changing the barriers to participation brings some people in and leaves others out. People who now are geographically distant or who don't like to drive at night have been able to "come" to services for the first time in years. Others who have been regular in-person attendees aren't computer savvy or just don't like the Zoom experience, and they've been left out. How can we think

creatively about how to remove barriers, especially those we've long since stopped noticing?

On a larger scale, as so many businesses and non-profits are not only struggling but are on or even past the brink of survival, what have we learned about combining and sharing resources? For example, most online events I've seen have been either entirely local — which makes them more personal but also means that limited resources are available to put into these events — or national, and therefore can have prominent speakers, excellent technology and the like, but without a personal connection. With some planning and forethought, it should be possible to create a better hybrid. For example, say the Reform Movement puts together a wonderful seminar, study program, or worship service. Why not do it in such a way that synagogues can "customize" the program with personal pre- or post-event programs, or even have a middle section for small discussion groups led by local synagogues?

The pandemic has been tragic in so many ways, creating so many different varieties of loss. Wouldn't it be even more tragic if we didn't learn from it and seek to turn those lessons into the building blocks of a better future?

*Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz*

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



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING-2020 STYLE

Our annual meeting had been scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Needless to say, due to the necessary restrictions put into place to keep us safe in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have cancelled it. After weighing the options, Steve and I have decided that the following plan would be the best one for our congregation:



A letter will be sent to the congregation outlining the three important items on the agenda, with a request for your very important votes on each, preferably via email. For those of you without access to email, you may call Marlene with your votes.

Presidents' Page

Esther Adelman,  
Co-President

As a heads-up, these important items for your approval will include:

The terms of renewal of Rabbi Swartz's contract

The *tentative* budget for 2020-2021 (*Tentative* because of the uncertainty of the conditions that we are now and will be facing in the foreseeable future)

The slate of officers and board members (Cheryl Friedman will move up to form a triumvirate with Steve and me. The three board members due to rotate off as of August 31, 2020 have agreed to stay on for another year. These unconventional measures will enable a smoother transition in these unconventional times.)

Please continue keeping yourselves and your loved ones safe. We hope that you have a pleasant summer, and that we will all be able to meet in person soon.

*Esther Adelman*

# June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 PA Primary Election Day <b>VOTE TODAY!!</b>	3	4	5 Services* 6 pm	6 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
7	8	9	10	11	12 Services*8 pm	13 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
14 Flag Day 	15	16	17	18	19 Services 8 pm Outdoor service, wx permitting	20 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am <b>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Summer</b>
21 Fathers' Day	22	23	24	25	26 Services 8 pm	27 Chanting Circle* 11:30 am
28	29	30			*Online via 	



## Torah Portions

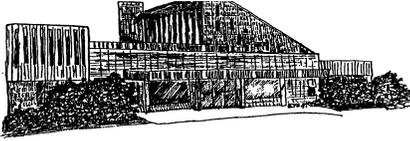
Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Naso	June 6, 2020	14.Sivan.5780
Beha'alotecha	June 13,2020	21.Sivan.5780
Selach	June 20, 2020	28.Sivan.5780
Koracch	June 27, 2020	5.Tammuz.5780

More information is available from [www.reformjudaism.org](http://www.reformjudaism.org)

“Envy makes your eyes  
crawl out of your head.”

From [www.yiddishwit.com](http://www.yiddishwit.com)

# Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



## Get Wells

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

### 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

### Week Ending June 13 (Service June 12)

\*Bela M. Davidow, \*Clare Rice, \*Jacob Rymland, \*Jennie B. Rosen, \*Dr. Bernard Shair, Joanne Monahan, \*Gertrude R. Sobel, \*Guillermo Jesselson, \*Harry Adelman, Claire Bayer Ballot, \*Morris Stein, Robert Baron, \*Sophie Bloch, \*Janet K. Richman, \*Bettie Landau, Bess Fragin, \*Viola Goldsmith

### Week Ending June 20 (Service June 19)

\*Edward Apfelbaum, \*Jerome A. Friedman, \*Ethel Pell, \*Hannah Aronsohn, \*Sara Jacobson, \*Irving Rosen, \*Esther Apfelbaum, \*Ruth A. Cohen, \*Sam Dinner, \*Margery Phillips Freedman, \*Dr. Maurice Marmelstein, \*Ralph Gardner, \*Muriel Stone Smith

### Week Ending June 27 (Service June 26)

Frank Seitchik, \*Bert Falk, \*Abraham Hillsberg, \*Doris Cohen, \*Lena Mitteldorf, \*Maude Perlin, Sara Greenstein Rosenstein, \*Irene B. Newman, \*Rose Levy, \*Irving Levy, \*Sander Dembert, \*Dr. Harry Goodfriend, \*Martha L. Noe

### Week Ending July 4 (Service July 3)

\*Berel Weisberg, \*Frank Peck, \*Gertrude L. Freedman, \*Louis Jacobs, \*Louis Kleeman, Marjorie Meyer, \*Constance Oppenheim, \*Edward Gordon, \*Harold M. Joseph, \*Eleanore F. Bashkoff, \*Maud Carlyon, Morris Mendlowitz, \*Bertha Goodman, \*Rema Siegel, \*Hoda Friedmann, \*Maximillian S. Bresch, \*Walter Jacobson, \*Dr. Eugene K. Weiss, \*David Sugar

## Sympathies

To Susan Shapiro on the recent loss of her mother, Lucille Janet Oakey . Our sympathies also go to her husband Joel and Susan's entire family.

May her memory be a blessing.

### Multifaith Chanting Circle: “It’s Too Much!” — Saturdays at 11:30 a.m.

“It’s too much!” We’ve all said it at some point in our lives, and COVID-19 has given us a whole range of new reasons to say it, ranging from loss to fear to the trials of quarantine. But it’s not a new phenomenon. Indeed, in one of this month’s Torah portions, Moses says it, in relation to a new set of whining complaints by the Israelites.

This month, our Multifaith Chanting Circle will focus on what can lead to overwhelm and how we can find the spiritual resources to keep our head above water. Our Multifaith Chanting Circle will meet each Saturday in June, with a one-hour circle on June 6th and half-hour circles on the other Saturdays. At least for June, our gatherings will all be on Zoom.

To join us (no prior experience needed, and everyone is welcome), just click on: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/262786448?pwd=bEZnSnF2dys1RzF5Q2pmbVRVCVjBwZz09>  
Or from the Zoom App enter Meeting ID: 262 786 448 and Password: Gratitude

You can also join us, at least for the audio portion, from any phone, including land lines, by dialing +1 646 558 8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 262 786 448



## Help Wanted

We are looking for someone who can learn to put together the Temple Hesed Messenger. The job doesn’t pay, and there is a lot of deadline work. But it is an interesting and fun monthly job.



If you have some journalism background and are interested to see if this is a project for you, contact Rich Mates at [Hesednews@gmail.com](mailto:Hesednews@gmail.com).

Each issue is put together using Microsoft Publisher, Knowledge of MS Publisher would be helpful, but any desktop publishing program can be used.

Contact us if you’re interested.

Next month's issue is the summer double edition . It will cover events in both July and August, 2020 . Deadline is June 15.

This will be the final Messenger of 5780 . —Rich Mates, editor

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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)

