

Messenger

The Temple of Loving - Kindness



שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



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- **Selichot with Lehigh Valley**
- **Home Schooling Hebrew**

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WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS?

By Esther Adelman

Being both co-president and worship chair of Temple Hesed, I can't tell you how many times I have been asked this question in the past months.

Because of the restrictions necessitated by the spread of COVID-19, Rabbi Swartz and I have been agonizing over how this decision would affect our congregants.

As I've been saying since this all started, "It's much harder to plan how not to do something". We knew from the onset that we would have to have two plans in place, depending on the circumstances at the time, one for inside the Temple and one for not.

Only being able to have 25 people inside was a huge factor.

Our main concern has to be the safety of all those involved. That being said, we had a very well-attended Zoom board meeting on August 19, where we posed

the question of what we should do. After one of the longest discussions we've ever had, with everyone there expressing their thoughts, the overwhelming vote was that we not have in-person High Holy Day services this year.

Rabbi Swartz has been experimenting at Shabbat services with various formats. The plan now is to conduct split-screen Zoom services. Rabbi and Ed Snitko would be on the bimah, with Marlene Ginazanti being the tech person on Zoom.

Since we had purchased the new Holy Day prayerbooks last year, the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) has given us access to a program for using the pages on-screen. This would enable the viewer to see the text on one side of the screen and Rabbi Swartz and Ed on the other. The services will be shortened as well.

You will all be receiving letters prior to Rosh Hashanah, explaining the entire pro-

(SEE HOLY DAYS on page 10)

Rosh Hashanah 2.0 — Chanting like a Shofar

For the past few years, Temple Hesed has been offering a new twist on the ancient custom of a second day of Rosh Hashanah — RH 2.0, a meditative chanting service.

This year, on Sunday, September 20th at 10 am, we will "meet" on Zoom to explore what it means, both spiritually and physically, to "raise your voice

like a shofar," as the reading from Isaiah 58 instructs us to do each Yom Kippur.

Utilizing chanting, meditation, and study, this supportive atmosphere helps all those who participate find deeper spiritual meaning in the High Holy Days. To join us, enter the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

[j/82057151284?pwd=Nm8yOGZyZldPYk1XemFyb2w4UTdvQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057151284?pwd=Nm8yOGZyZldPYk1XemFyb2w4UTdvQT09)

Or, on the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 820 5715 1284 and Password: RH2.0

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 Temple
 Hesed

*Call the Temple office
 at (570)344-7201
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 Information.
 The minimum
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Unprecedented

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, there have been a long series of unprecedented events — including the unprecedented use of the word unprecedented.

Now, we are about to enter a High Holy Day season unlike any other. The vast majority of Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative synagogues will not be meeting in person.

At Temple Hesed, we have considered a wide array of options — services under a tent, at a drive-in movie theatre, on public or cable television, and hybrid models, with a service both online and in-person to a small number of people.

In the end, most options proved unfeasible. The Temple board carefully weighed the hybrid option, but in the end they voted that risks of an in-person component outweighed any potential benefits. They felt that, no matter what precautions we took, there would still be a possibility that bringing people together in person would lead to new cases of COVID. It would certainly be the opposite of Hesed for us to put anyone in harm's way.

So we have several options for view and participate in High Holy Day services this year:

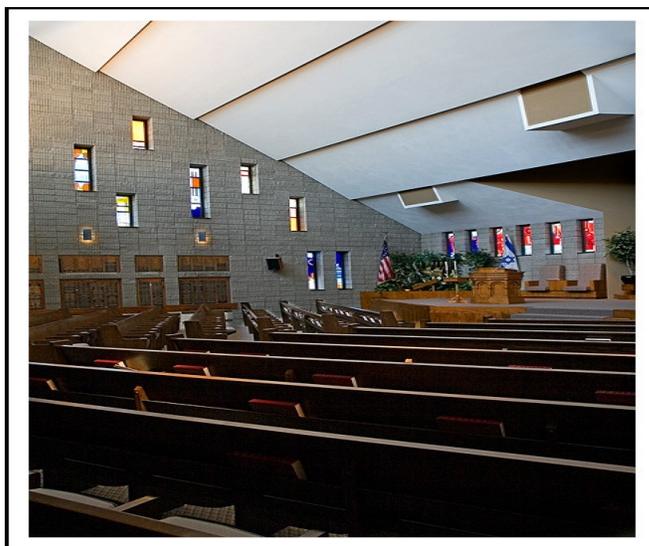
1) On Zoom —

As those of you who have joined us for any of our Zoom services know,

Zoom enables us to simultaneously show the words of the prayerbook, Ed Snitko, our musical director singing, myself leading the service, and all the people who are joining us for that service. Wherever you are in the world, as long as you have the correct link, you can join us, including from the comfort and safety of your own home.

You can even send “chat” messages to others who are attending!

While we usually post our Zoom links publicly and invite anyone to join, only members in good standing — the ones who would usually receive high holy day tickets — will receive the link. Think of it as your virtual ticket. What if you don't have computer capabilities, or have a computer but haven't been able to make Zoom work for you? In that case, please call us at the temple office, 570-344-7201.



We will work with you to try to figure out some way to accommodate you.

2) On YouTube

On Zoom, the sound and visuals are very clear, and you can interact with each other (though not all sing simultaneously — the technology still hasn't caught up with the ancient practice of group singing!). But some people still aren't comfortable using it, so, like many congregations across the country, we will be “simulcasting” our Zoom service onto YouTube.

YouTube is easy to access — you can even view it on most new TVs, which have built-in internet capabilities. The visuals and sound will definitely not be as good as on Zoom, and you won't be able to see who else is there or “chat” with them, but you will be able to watch and hear the services.

We'll send out information about how to connect, but

Rabbinical Reflections

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



it will be the same YouTube “channel” as our Shabbat services, so if you've watched those, you already know how to get on.

3) Catholic TV

The Diocese of Scranton has generously agreed to record Ed and me in a one-hour program of “High Holy Day Highlights.” This program will be shown on Catholic TV, which is Channel 12 on Comcast cable, and on the web.

When we have more details on when the program will run, we will send the information on how to connect to our congregation and the broader community.

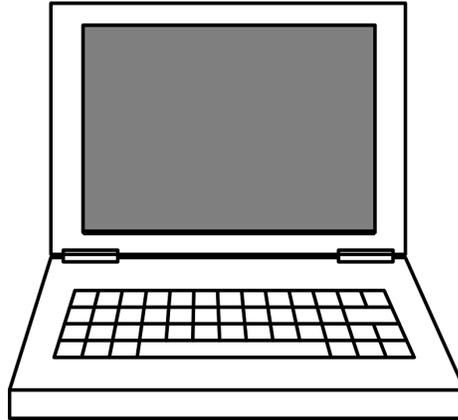
In summary, though it has become cliché to say so, these are indeed unprecedented times. But some things remain constant even so. No matter what, we will continue to find ways to pray and reflect and even celebrate together. And even this year, even if we have to do so over the phone or on a computer, we can still wish each other a sweet and good new year. *L'shanah tovah u'metukah!*

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

Hebrew Home Schooling

Due both to COVID-19 and the limited number of school-age students, we are running Hebrew School in a very different fashion this year. Instead of meeting in person as a group, Rabbi Daniel will connect with each student individually. At least for the beginning of the school year, this will be on Zoom.

Rabbi Daniel will be reaching out to all families who were enrolled last year — if you have children that weren't enrolled last year but would like to participate this year, please contact the Temple office at



570-344-7201 so that Rabbi Daniel can make arrangements with you to get your child(ren) started!

We will also be holding group events, again at least initially on Zoom, on a monthly basis.

Everyone will receive information on how to connect to these events as they are planned.

Special Family High Holiday Services on Zoom

Because we won't be meeting in person for the High Holy Days this year, we won't have an in-person children's service/program.

Instead, we are offering a free and open-to-the-public family program on Zoom, on the day of Rosh Hashanah, September 19th, and the day of Yom Kippur, September 28th.

Both programs will take place on Zoom at 1:30 pm. This half-hour interactive program will include magic tricks, discussion, a story, and the shofar. Everyone is welcome.

The Zoom link for both programs is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84522303726?pwd=OUxoTkFyQUJTMEd2K3RYaDdBK2kyQT09>

Cast out your Sins at Tashlich

We usually hold Tashlich — a New Year's ritual where we symbolically “cast out” (that's what the word Tashlich means) our sins by scattering bread crumbs on the water — at the covered bridge in Abington Park.

But space is a little tight on the bridge, and Temple Hesed — like many synagogues across the country — will be doing Tashlich as our only in-person event this High Holy Day season, and we will thus need to stay at least 6 feet apart. So instead, for this year only, we will meet at Lake Scranton, near the Lake Scranton stop light, where you usually turn to go to temple.



Please bring your own breadcrumbs, as we won't be sharing or passing them around this year. And feel free to bring your own shofar if you have one — it will also be the only chance to hear the shofar in person this year!

We will meet at **3 pm on Rosh Hashanah Day, September 19th**. Everyone is welcome — no ticket required, but please make sure to wear your mask and practice social distancing. Tashlich is a brief ceremony and is appropriate for all ages. Rabbi Daniel will also try to livestream this on the Temple Hesed Facebook page. Parking at the lake is limited to Handicapped. Others may have to use the lot down Route 307.

Jewish Mysticism Class

Rabbis Marjorie and Daniel have been studying this summer with Dr. Melila Hellner Eshed, a world-renowned scholar of the Zohar, the central book of Jewish mysticism.

From studies with Melila and other teachers of Jewish mysticism, they have developed a course, “Entering the Orchard: An Invitation to Jewish Mysticism.”

Mysticism concerns itself with the immanent experience of Holiness, an intimate consciousness of the Divine Presence. It then tries to give form, language, and understanding to this numinous experience through



Dr. Melila Hellner Eshed

symbolic and metaphorical systems.

Judaism, over the course of 3000 or so years, has developed rich, intricate and diverse systems of describing the metaphysical world. This course will provide a brief introduction to the history of Jewish mysticism’s major trends and symbolic systems, and look at some

of the mystical underpinnings of everyday Jewish practices.

Many elements of the Friday night service, like the song L’cha Dodi, are filled with kabbalistic references. Even the traditional way of holding the kiddish cup on Friday nights is based on turning our body into a conduit for the uniting the masculine and feminine elements of the Divine.

The world of Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah is complex and multi-layered and can be studied for a lifetime and still remain shrouded in mystery. We will hope to lift the veil, at

least for brief moments, and allow what is concealed to be revealed.

Rabbi Daniel will be exploring these dimensions of mysticism in a five-session adult ed class, for Temple members and the broader community, beginning in October.

If you are potentially interested in the class, please contact him directly, at rabbidaniel@comcast.net, or leave a message for the temple office, 570-344-7201, so he can coordinate the class schedule with all interested people.

The NE Extension Leads to Selichot

476, the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, may not seem like a holy place — though after a bad winter, it can be a place full of holes!

But this year for Selichot, we are joining — virtually — with congregations in Lehigh, Bethlehem, and Allentown for a joint service and program.

Our Zoom-based meditative, reflective service will run from 8 to 9 pm and will be co-led by a number of rabbis, including our own Rabbi Daniel and his wife, Rabbi Marjorie, as well as

Rabbi Steve Nathan, Hillel Director at Lehigh University.

At 9:00, there will be a presentation by Dr. Rachel Zohar Dulin, author of [Alive, Unabashed, and Passionate: Extraordinary Women of the Bible](#). Dr. Dulin will be speaking on “*Selichot* in time of Corona.” She will focus on the spiritual power of forgiveness and introspection in particular during the difficult times we are experiencing.

To join the either the service at 8, the program at 9, or both, just click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82013577360?pwd=SjBkUUhVMIJWNXZkOVhWOHBmOE1RUT09>

Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 820 1357 7360 and Passcode: 552652



September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Services @ 6 pm*	5 Chanting Circle 11:30-noon*
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Services @ 8 pm*	12 Chanting circle 11:30 am * Selichot class 8 p.m. *
13	14	15	16	17	18 Rosh Hashana Services @ 8 pm*	19 Rosh Hashana Services @ 10 am*family svc 1:30 pm*
20	21	22	23	24	25 Services @ 8 pm*	26 Chanting Circle 11:30 am*
27 Erev Yom Kippur 8 pm*	28 Yom Kippur 10 am*	29	30		* 	

5781 Holiday Calendar

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Rosh HaShanah
—Sept. 18-19 | Yom HaShoah
— Apr. 7-8 |
| Yom Kippur
— Sept. 27-28 | Yom HaZikaron
— Apr. 14-15 |
| Sukkot
— Oct. 2-9 | Yom HaAtzmaut
— Apr. 15-16 |
| Sh'mini Atzeret-Simchat Torah
— Oct. 9-10 | Lag BaOmer
—Apr. 29-30 |
| Hanukkah
— Dec. 10-18 | Shavuot
— May 16-17 |
| Tu Bishvat
— Jan. 27-28 | Tishah B'Av
— July 17-18 |
| Purim
— Feb. 25-26 | Selichot Service
—Aug. 28 |
| Passover
— Mar 27-Apr. 3 | |



Torah Portions

Name	Civil Date	Hebrew Date
Ki Tavo	Sept. 5, 2020	16.Elul.5780
Nitzavim-Vayelech	Sept.12,2020	23.Elul.5780
Ha'azinu	Sept.26, 2020	8.Tishrei.5781

More information is available from www.reformjudaism.org

“A dog is sometimes more faithful than a child.”

1001 Yiddish Proverbs by Fred Kogos

Condemning Antisemitism is Not Enough

The Reform Jewish Movement unequivocally condemns the recent antisemitic statements by some public figures, yet merely condemning antisemitism is insufficient, it must also be accompanied by education. Nor will antisemitic words from individual members of an oppressed minority diminish our support of Black lives or detract from our commitment to the dismantling of systemic and structural racism.

New York, NY; July 17, 2020 – The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) issued this statement condemning the recent wave of antisemitism:

In recent days, painful centuries-old antisemitic tropes and canards about Jewish influence voiced by some public figures have come to light. We unequivocally condemn these recent statements, just as we have always condemned any and all forms of antisemitism. History has shown that when such harmful views become common, they can too often lead to more virulent and violent acts of antisemitism.

We understand, though, that merely condemning antisemitism is insufficient; it must also be accompanied by education: about debunked sources of anti-Jewish conspiracy theories and their tragic consequences if left unchecked; about the ways in which antisemitism, xenophobia, and hate combine to fuel racism in all forms; and about the genuine difference between antisemitic statements rooted in lack of knowledge and antisemitic statements rooted in notions of white supremacy. We must engage all who are prepared to learn about the painful impact of their words, and never hesitate to silence all who are determined to sow hate and fear.

The Jewish community's diversity – racial, ideological, theological, and otherwise – is a source of our strength, and it also means that no one voice speaks for all Jews. So, too, with our allied communities of faith, race, and other marginalized groups. Consequently, when voices of hate and division are raised, regardless of their source, we understand those voices neither speak for us nor for the entirety of any other community. At this time, when Black Americans, including Black and Brown Jews continue to pay with their lives for centuries of systemic racism, we appreciate the outreach and expressions of support from all who reject antisemitism, and we pledge to remain stalwart allies, even when deeply hurtful sentiments regarding others are voiced within our community as well.

Some in our country are resistant to the overdue changes and glimmer of hope which are blossoming for Black Americans at this moment of national reckoning. However, their efforts to impede important coalitions of change and sow seeds of division belie the fact that when any of us are oppressed, we are all oppressed. We as Reform Jews will not allow antisemitic words from individual members of an oppressed minority to diminish our support of Black lives or detract from our commitment to the dismantling of systemic and structural racism in our country. Instead of questioning the commitment of others, we reaffirm our own.

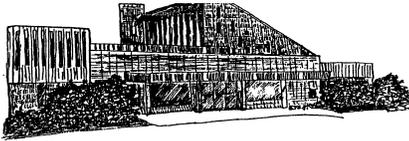
Eric K. Ward, "Somebody Must Be Blamed": Antisemitism, the Equal Opportunity Ideology

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President
Jennifer Brodkey Kaufman, Chair
Union for Reform Judaism

Rabbi Ronald Segal, President
Rabbi Hara Person, Chief Executive
Central Conference of American Rabbis



Yahrzeits and Personal Notes



Get Wells

Michael Cornfield	Chelsea Minkoff
Mark Davis	Harriet Noble
Larry Golden	Jane Oppenheim
Maggie LoRusso	Charlene Ostro
Rich Mates	Emily Trunzo
Charlotte Milliken	Joel Vener

Week Ending September 5 (Service September 4)

*Harry Weinberg, *Leo Swartz, *Minnie Brown, *Edward Loebenstein, *Henrietta A. Phillips, *Arnold Cembalest,
*Barbara A. Jacobson, *Lillie Peck, *Dr. Samuel Friedmann, *Carolyn B. Ferber, *Sylvia Gordon,
*Max Bernstein, *Edith Schmerin

Week Ending September 12 (Service September 11)

*Dorothy J. Freeman, *Louis Gold, *Nathan G. Goodman, *Blanche F. Halle, *Caroline Landau Cohn, *Bertha Jacobs, *Nathalie Joel, Helen Yudkin Lear, *Samuel H. Harris,
*Wolf Ackerman, *Isaiah C. Rosenthal

Week Ending September 19 (Service September 18)

Benjamin Weinberg, *Joseph Leventhal, Rose Seiber, Sarah Woll, Kenneth Brown, *Sadie Lerner, *Cal D. Malcom, *Haydee L. Oettinger, *Milton Adelman, *Miriam W. Ackerman, *Miriam W. Ackerman, *Eli Lipsins, *Manny Cohen, Delbert Wooden

Week Ending September 26 (Service September 25)

*Isidore Krotosky, *Sanford S. Mitteldorf, *Lily Seagaard, *Yetta Goldberg, *Solomon Goldsmith, *Rose K. Roos, *Gertrude Cembalest, *Sara G. Roos, *Dora Feldman, *Louis I. Alperin, *Irving M. Pincus, *Harry Kroll, *Samuel Behar, *Mendel Harris, *Abe Shapiro

Week Ending October 3 (Service October 2)

George Goldenziel, *Henry Friedmann, *Dorothy Goldsmith, *Rochelle Gardner Margolis, *Ludwig Berger, *Edward Miller, Karl Strohl, *Harry Ferber, *Seymour E. Stahler, *Dorothy Mendel Jacobs, *Samuel H. Frank, *Harry Jacobs, *Hattie L. Marks, *James Swartz



Cheryl Friedman

Meet Cheryl Friedman, the New Co-president of Temple Hesed

Many of you in our Temple community know me, but some of you do not. Let me tell you a little about myself...

I grew up in Kansas City. I met my husband of 33 years, Michael, at a Jewish singles volleyball game. I followed him to Boston where I received a master's in special education at Boston University. I taught for several years at the Perkins School for the Blind.

We moved to St. Cloud, Minnesota for a one-year position for Michael. I substitute taught every school day for the entire school year. We moved to Scranton in 1991 when Michael accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Scranton.

At that time, I entered Nursing School there. Rachael was born in 1994 the year I graduated. We became members of Temple Hesed when Rachael started first grade. Casey (named for our nod to our KC roots) followed in 1998.

I obtained my master's in nursing in 2015. Following board certification, I became both a Nurse Practitioner, a SANE-P and SANE-A (sexual assault nurse examiner for pediatrics, adolescents and adults).

I work full-time at the Children's Advocacy Center. An intervention center for children who have been sexually abused, physically abused or neglected. The Covid-19 virus did not stop the abuse we continue to see daily.

I have served Temple Hesed in many ways.

Initially I was involved in the Shabbat School education program. I was a teacher, and I was an administrator. I served on the education committee for many years. I feel passionate about Temple Hesed. I look forward to serve the Temple community for many years to come.

(Cheryl will serve until Aug. 31, 2021 as Co-president with Esther Adelman and Steve Seichik.)

Beloved Chanting Circle



The Hebrew month leading up to the High Holy Days is Elul. Our sages interpret that as an acronym for verse 6:3 in the Song of Songs: “Ani L’dodi V’dodi Li” — I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine.

In the case of Elul, the loving couple is the people of Israel, collectively, and God. But what does it mean to be in a loving relationship with the Divine? In this month’s chanting circles, we’ll be exploring that relationship through chant, reflection, and mutual support. No prior chanting experience is necessary, and all faiths and backgrounds are welcome to participate.

Our September chanting circles will be held at 11:30 a.m. on September 5 (full hour), 12 and 26 (both half hour sessions). To join, click on: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/262786448?pwd=bEZnSnF2dyslRzF5Q2pmbVRVCVjBwZz09>

Or from the Zoom app, go to Meeting ID: 262 786 448 and enter Passcode: Gratitude



Sukkot is Oct. 2; What Do You Want?

In some ways, Sukkot seems like the ideal holiday to observe during a pandemic. You are supposed to observe it outdoors, in a well-ventilated setting, a sukkah.

One is supposed to give thanks simply for being alive, as well as to pray for peace and well-being for the entire world in the year to come.

It can even be observed with social distancing — each family is supposed to have their own sukkah to eat in, after all.

At Temple Hesed, we’ve sometimes held our entire Sukkot service outdoors. Most years, we at least have had an outdoors oneg, accompanied by Sukkot fireworks. But, given COVID-19 precautions, we’ve cancelled all onegs. And the one outdoor service we held this summer



was not well attended, as most people still didn’t feel comfortable gathering, even outdoors and with seats set at recommended social distances.

So before we plan our Sukkot celebration this year, which will take place in one form or another on October 2nd, we want to hear from you!

We won’t have an indoor, in-person Sukkot service — but would you

come to an outdoor Sukkot service this year? Or would you prefer a Zoom service, with Rabbi Daniel leading from his backyard sukkah?

Given the abundance of backyard fireworks this year, would you be interested in a Sukkot fireworks show this year, or should we hold off on fireworks till another year? And would you be interested in instructions, or even a 1 session Zoom class, in how to build your own sukkah? Email us at temple-hesed@comcast.net or call the office at 570-344-7201 and leave a message with your preference.

Once people weigh in, we’ll let everyone know what we’ll end up doing this Sukkot.

Temple Hesed
1 Knox Road
Scranton, PA 18505

Phone: 570-344-7201
Fax: 570-344-4514
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

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and Cheryl Friedman** — *Co-Presidents*

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Jennifer Novak — *Secretary*

Joan Davis — *Assistant Secretary*

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Loren Selznick, Josh Levine

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Jeffrey Heilbrunn - Webmaster



HOLY DAYS continued from page 1

cess, including the information needed to log into the Zoom meetings (meeting ID and password) from your device. Keep this letter in a safe place, so that you'll have the information when you need it. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Swartz, Marlene, or me via phone or email.

This will be an interesting start to 5781. *Next year at Temple Hesed!*

I wish you and your loved ones a year of good health, much happiness, and peace of mind.