

November, 2020
Cheshvan-Kislev 5781

MESSENGER

שליח

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



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Annual Multifaith Thanksgiving Service — On Zoom, Friday, November 20th @ 7 p.m.

Once again, the Scranton Area Ministerium has asked Temple Hesed to host the Multifaith Thanksgiving Service for our area, in conjunction with diverse clergy and the Friends of the Poor. Of course, this being 2020, our Thanksgiving Service this year will be like no others before it — on Zoom. So join us on November 20th at 7 pm for this festive, joyful, and musical occasion, as we are joined in prayer by people from many different faiths. This year, in addition to local clergy and lay leaders, Rabbi Daniel made sure that we will be joined remotely by a representative from the indigenous people of Lackawanna County, whose contribution to Thanksgiving and so much else has been ignored far too often. To attend the service, just click this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83716478184?pwd=NjV4SjUrRmVsTFdKVjRBUW84TVpaUT09&fbclid=IwAR3qNlthep_7LbzxubVbLaLQ4gHcAUcV2gRp1lkgcP2Ns5x-68cRaI-eHpE or from the Zoom App, enter Meeting ID: 837 1647 8184 and Passcode: 163817 And if you'd like to do a reading or otherwise take part in the service, please email Rabbi Daniel to let him know: And don't forget — because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no service on November 27th, the day after Thanksgiving.

In the event clicking on a link does not work, just copy the link and paste it onto your browser address line.





Donations to Temple Hesed

Major credit or debit
cards accepted.

Minimum \$10 dona-
tion for acknowl-
edgement in the
Messenger.

To donate contact
Marlene Gianzanti,
Temple Administra-
tor at 570-344-7201

BUILDING FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Delbert T. Wooden**

Sherman Wooden

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Grandfather Bernhardt Leh-
man**

Paula Wasser

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Paula Yudkin Albert**

The Davis Family

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Manny Gelb**

Natalie Gelb

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Miriam Friedman**

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Paula and Jim Kane

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Miriam Friedman**

Paula and Jim Kane

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Jerome M. Friedman**

Paula and Jim Kane

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In Memory of Jules Wolf

Esther B. Adelman



Rabbinical

Reflections

Rabbi Daniel J.
Swartz

Coming Together, Staying Apart

In these stressful and confusing times, two competing needs stand before us: the need to stay apart and the need to come together. On the surface, these two needs seem to be completely contradictory. But with some forethought and deeper consideration, we can actually find a way to shape them into a complementary balance.

By now, the reasons behind the need to stay apart should be obvious. But somehow, an ironic dynamic has been created that is tearing people apart over the reasons to stay apart. So let me sum it up the way that Rabbi Hillel did more than 2000 years ago: Do not do to another that which is hateful to you. We mask and social distance because we do not want to do hateful things to anyone else. Our actions can protect — or endanger — others. The moral course of action is clear — obey precautions and save the lives of those around you.

Clear — but not always so easy to do. For we so long to come together in diverse ways and for a variety of reasons. On the most personal, so many people have felt isolated for so many months — isolation that may have predated COVID-19 but surely has been exacerbated by it. As times for family rejoicing approach, such as Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, it is natural to want to see and to hug family members that we have stayed

apart from for so long. But, as the COVID-19 cases and deaths start to rise again, mounting evidence demonstrates that even small family gatherings can, if done by enough people, spread the disease as surely as large “super-spreader” events.

This has been a challenge for us at Temple Hesed, as in so many places. Especially over the High Holy Days, I so missed being able to see you all in person, to chat about children in college and grandchildren on the way. One of the highlights of my year is to wait at the back of the sanctuary after services and give hugs of welcome and togetherness. But our decision to hold only Zoom services (besides Tashlich) has unfortunately been validated by far too many cases of in-person services leading to new infections, even in NEPA’s Jewish community. So our physical coming together has to wait.

We are, nonetheless, in dire need of another kind of coming together. Shortly after you receive this issue of the Messenger, our country will hold the most divisive election of my lifetime. And we are seeing such elections play out across the globe, even at the most recent World Zionist Congress, which came dangerously close to splitting the Jewish people apart. No matter what the outcomes of the US elections are, and even if the results are clear on Election Night itself, which

very well may not be the case, the deep divisions exposed by this election won’t vanish overnight.

I spoke throughout the High Holy Days about the need to listen to each other, to honor each other, even when — or rather, ESPECIALLY when our opinions differ. So I’d like you to consider — and for us to discuss together, whether via email or phone call, in Zoom or, eventually, in person — what role Temple Hesed can play in bringing people together. What do we need to do to model internally a loving, respectful dialogue? And what should we do to bring that model out beyond the walls of our synagogue? I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

—*Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz*

RBG Remembered by Reform Movement

New York, NY; September 19, 2020 - Following the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, leaders from the Union for Reform Judaism, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Women of Reform Judaism released this statement:



Few people have had as long or as profound an impact upon the course of a nation as did Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. As an attorney, Justice Ginsburg committed herself to advancing women's rights at a time when women were denied equal access to educational, employment, economic and other opportunities. Such injustice offended Justice Ginsburg as a woman, but also as a Jew. Indeed, she spoke often of the many ways in which her Jewish upbringing and faith shaped her sense of justice, including the discrimination against Jews that was part of life even in her native New York City during her formative years. Justice Ginsburg spoke often of the inspiration she found in the words of Deuteronomy: "Justice, Justice shall you pursue."

As a Supreme Court Justice, only the second woman and first Jewish woman appointed to that august position, Justice Ginsburg left an indelible legacy, not only shaping majority opinions but putting forward trenchant, powerful dissents with her trademark intelligence and eloquence. Her dissent in *Ledbetter v Goodyear*, a case in which the Court circumscribed workers' ability to fight persistent pay discrimination, was so persuasive that within two years of the Court's

decision, many of her ideas were embodied in the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, strengthening the ability of workers subjected to pay discrimination to assert their rights.

Justice Ginsburg cogently captured the threat to the nation's first principles when she noted in her 2014 dissent in *Burwell v Hobby Lobby* that the majority was not protecting religious freedom but undermining the Constitution's Establishment Clause when it extended to private companies the religious rights of individuals. Time has proved her words painfully prescient.

In *Shelby v Holder*, the 2013 case in which the Court invalidated the "preclearance" provisions of the Voting Rights Act that were central to the law's effectiveness in preventing discrimination against minority voters, Justice Ginsburg memorably wrote in her dissent: "Throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet."

Today, voting rights are even more at risk than when Justice Ginsburg wrote those words. On the precipice of an election in which core values and, indeed, the health of our democracy are at stake, we can best honor Justice Ginsburg's legacy by making sure every vote counts.

We pray for comfort for Justice Ginsburg's children, grandchildren, and loved ones. May her memory always be for a blessing.

See related story
on back page.

November's Multifaith Chanting Circle: Carry on! **— 11:30 a.m. on November 7, 14, and 21**

The Jewish tradition doesn't expect, or even want, us to be calm at all times, but it does have many great lessons and rituals to help us carry on. They can sustain us spiritually even during our own dark and confused times.

We'll explore some of these techniques to try to help us get through what promises to be a tumultuous November, through chant, study, sharing and support.

Everyone is welcome — no prior chanting experience is necessary. We will meet the first three Saturdays in November, at 11:30 each time. To join, just click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83cnRSQXFMY2lUdz09>

Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 835 7003 0002 and Passcode: Gratitude

Entering the Orchard: *An Invitation to Jewish Mysticism, November 1, 8, 15, and 22 @ 4 pm*

Though we've already held our first class, you are welcome to join us for the final four sessions of an exciting venture into the realm of Jewish mysticism. And since the first class was recorded on Zoom, you can even review what's already been taught!

So what are we discussing? Judaism, over the course of 3000 or so years, has developed rich, intricate and diverse systems of describing the metaphysical world and our mystical connections to the Divine.

Our class on November 1st focuses on "mystical intimacy," with the remaining classes covering subjects such as "Addressing God's Needs," "Drawing Down Divine Grace," and "Prophetic Kabbalah."

So join us and learn the mystical origins of many of our rituals, ranging from the Friday night service to the way we hold the Kiddush Cup and the design of the Seder Plate! 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. Please contact Rabbi Daniel at rabbidaniel@comcast.net if you are interested in participating. (Note: if the Sunday afternoon class time doesn't work for you but you are still interested, please let Rabbi Daniel know as soon as possible and he will try to figure out how to accommodate you.)

The class on November 1 will be solely on Zoom and, depending on conditions, we will either continue solely on Zoom or may have a hybrid of zoom and in-person. To join us at 4 p.m. on the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd, Sunday, just click

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83700031974?pwd=elk0WEIgek5QT3JYQlBDc1ltbkE5UT09>

Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 837 0003 1974 and Passcode: Zohar

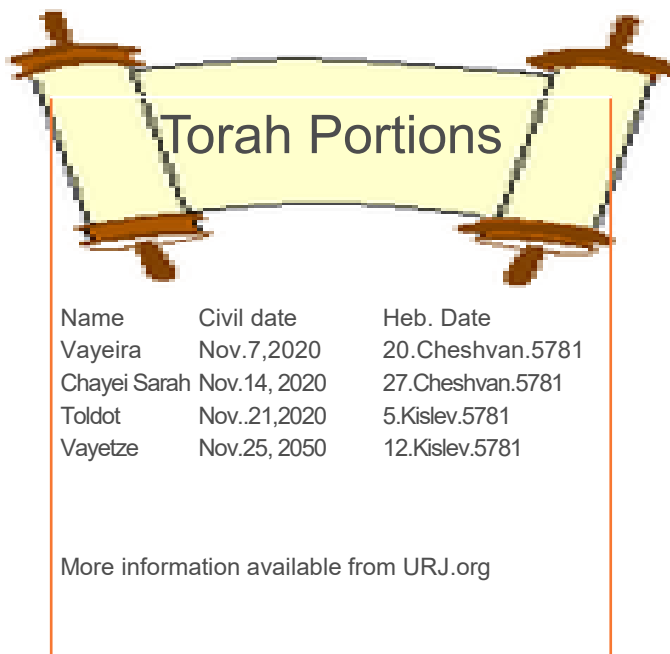
November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 DST ENDS Mysticism 4pm*	2	3	4	5	6 Services* 6 pm	7 Chanting Circle 11:30 am*
8 Mysticism 4pm*	9	VOTE today 10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 Services* 8 pm	14 Chanting Circle 11:30 am*
15 Mysticism 4pm*	16	17	18	19	20 Multi-Faith Services 7 pm*	21 Chanting Circle 11:30am*
22 Mysticism 4pm*	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27 No Services	28
29	30				*via Zoom	

5781 Holiday Calendar

- ~~Rosh HaShanah~~ —
Sept. 18-19
- ~~Yom Kippur~~ — Sept. 27-
28
- ~~Sukkot~~ — Oct. 2-9
- ~~Sh'mini Atzeret~~ —
- ~~Simchat Torah~~ — Oct.
9-10
- Hanukkah — Dec. 10-18

- Tu Bishvat — Jan. 27-28
- Purim — Feb. 25-26
- Passover — Mar 27-Apr. 3
- Yom HaShoah — Apr.
7-8
- Yom HaZikaron —
Apr. 14-15
- Yom HaAtzmaut —
Apr. 15-16
- Lag BaOmer —Apr. 29-
30
- Shavuot — May 16-17
- Tishah B'Av — July 17-
18
- Selichot Service —
Aug. 28



Torah Portions

Name	Civil date	Heb. Date
Vayeira	Nov. 7, 2020	20. Cheshvan. 5781
Chayei Sarah	Nov. 14, 2020	27. Cheshvan. 5781
Toldot	Nov. 21, 2020	5. Kislev. 5781
Vayetze	Nov. 25, 2020	12. Kislev. 5781

More information available from URJ.org

“A fault-finder
complains that
even the bride is
too pretty.”

JAHRZEITS

Week Ending November 7 (Service November 6)

*Fannie Ehrlich, Hyman Mates, *Phillip Salsburg, *Hilda Landau, *Sadie Cohen, *Max A. Folk, *Raymond H. Simon, *Nathan Weinberg, *Hannah Driesen, *Aaron Gelfand, *Irving Sarlin, *Regina R. Rosenthal, *Mary B. Sadow, *Rena Yanover

Week Ending November 14 (Service November 13)

*Nathan B. Epstein, *Helen Friedman Giles, *Harry Ecker, *Albert Lenchner, *Stella Rose Mayfield, *Ralph Needle, *Ann Brandwene, Simon Levine, *Ruth B. Marmelstein, *Beulah Davidow Block, *Emilie Midas, *Betty Wand, *Herbert Adelman, *Katherine Swartz, Hilde Gardner, *Lena R. Endfield, *Louis Oettinger, Edith Gardner, *Alton Golden

Week Ending November 21 (Service November 20)

*Helen W. Vogel, *Atty. Louis A. Fine, *Murray A. Cohen, *Ralph Mendel, *Rose Wormser Strauss, Jack Newman, *Leopold Brodrick, *Mollie Benkaim, *Herbert M. Ball, *Rose Bud Leventhal, *Louis Slawitsky, *Joseph Bloch, *Abraham S. Anspacher, *Ida Needle, *Ida Gutman, *Lillian Ziman, *Isador Gevanthor

Week Ending November 28 (Service December 4)

*Lena Kurlancheek Silverstein, *Hyman Weiss, *Brian David Schneider, *Steven Rex Tepper, *Hannah Klein Smith, *Albert Pace, *Frank Bernard Cohan, *Richard Oppenheim, Leo Moskovitz, *Sophie Stone, *Philip Ungar, *Jack Goldman, *Selma Berger, *Susan Lonstein, *Anne J. Lipsins, *Jacob Ackerman

Week Ending December 5 (Service December 4)

*John Ross Lauer, *Dr. Jonas Selverstone, *David Rothenberg, *Albert Jacobs, *Miriam Parker Gelb, *John J. Gaffney, Arthur Selznick, *Harry Lonstein, *Esther C. Oppenheim, *Jean Stein Sutton, *Linda Lee Leventhal, Dr. Newton Freund, *Rudolph M. Goldsmith, *Etta C. Levey, Marilyn Perfilio, *Herman Ziman

Get

Wells

Michael Cornfield

Mark Davis

Don Dembert

Larry Golden

Maggie LoRusso

Rich Mates

Charlotte Milliken

Chelsea Minkoff

Harriet Noble

Jane Oppenheim

Charlene Ostro

Emily Trunzo

Joel Vener

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The Temple of Loving-Kindness
On the Web at: templehased.org

SPIRITUAL LEADER

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ABOUT TEMPLE HESED:

Temple Hased, 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 Hased 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.

Reform Movement Denounces Senate's Confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON - In response to the Senate's confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the wider Reform Movement institutions:

The Senate's confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court is a blow to the health of our democracy and a threat to the rights we have fought for over generations, including universal health care, reproductive rights, LGBTQ equality, and beyond. By rushing through this confirmation in the closing days of the election when millions of Americans have already voted, Senators and the White House have shamefully disregarded the voices and views of their own constituents.

Justice Barrett's many accomplishments as an academic and on the federal bench do not mean that she should be seated for life on the nation's highest court. Just days after taking her Supreme Court seat, Justice Barrett will hear oral arguments in *Texas v U.S.*, challenging the legality of the Affordable Care Act. Having criticized Justice Roberts's 2012 vote to uphold the ACA, Justice Barrett may well now get to cast the decisive vote to end it, with up to 20 million Americans losing their health insurance during a pandemic as a result. We pray for and with all those Americans worrying about how they will choose between food and health care and wondering whether their pre-existing conditions, which may include COVID-19, will lead insurance companies to deny them care, absent the ACA prohibiting such denials.

Our Reform Movement 2020 nonpartisan civic engagement campaign, Every Voice, Every Vote, is premised on the notion that our democracy is strongest when everyone participates. In this last week of voting, we urge all Americans to make their views and values known at the ballot box, and in so doing send a clear message to the presidential candidates who will nominate the next Supreme Court justices and the Senators who will vote on confirming them.