

January, 2021  
Shevat —Adar 5781

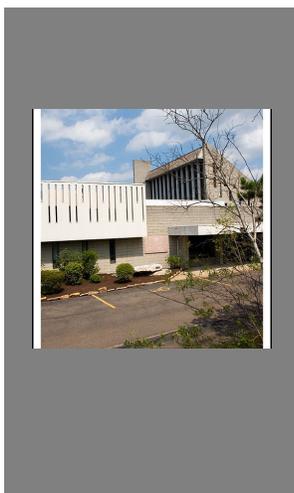
# MESSENGER

שליח



Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

## Tu B'Shevat Seder January 27th at 7 pm: Zoom plus Home Kits



### In this issue:

- Charlotte Milliken Remembered
- The life of MLK Jr. on Jan 22
- Rabbi writes about trees

Occasionally, we've had to cancel our Tu B'Shevat (the Jewish New Year of the Tree) Seders due to inclement weather. One silver lining of doing everything on Zoom is that this year, we at least know that no matter what's going on outside, our Seder will be happening! This year, we're teaming up with **BOTH** Temple Israel and the Scranton JCC, so that we can have not only a Zoom Tu B'Shevat Seder, but also to make sure that everyone can get a home "kit" so you can fully participate from your home! Each kit will contain exotic fruits to eat during the Seder, readings, instructions, and parsley seeds for you to plant, so you can have your own little "parsley trees" to harvest by Passover. The Seder will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, January 27th, and will include eating special fruits, songs, prayers, stories and teachings. We hope you and your whole family will join us! To participate, first RSVP to the Temple by emailing to [temple-hesed@comcast.net](mailto:temple-hesed@comcast.net) or leaving a message on the Temple voicemail, 570-344-7201. **Make sure to RSVP by Friday, January 22nd, so that enough kits can be assembled.** Everyone who RSVPs can then pick up their Seder Kit from the JCC on the 27th from 2 to 4. (We are also in the process of getting volunteers to deliver kits to the homebound.) Then, just before 7 pm, join the Seder on Zoom by clicking <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84984108907?pwd=YVFRTjUvMGNEcFBTY3BUTldpV3ZHQT09> Or, from the Zoom App, entering Meeting ID: 849 8410 8907 and Passcode: Seder

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3



## Donations to Temple Hesed

Major credit or debit  
cards accepted.

Minimum \$10 dona-  
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Messenger.

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

### ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Memory of Myer Alperin**

*Jim and Patty Alperin*

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Linda Lee Leventhal**

*Lindsay Leventhal*

### TORAH RESTORATION FUND

**Get well wishes to Lynne Fragin**

*Esther B. Adelman*

**Happy Birthday Wishes to Esther Adelman**

*Paula Wasser*

# All Services, Chanting Circles, and Programs remain virtual during January

We hope that the rollout of vaccines against COVID-19 will go smoothly and quickly. We will continue to monitor vaccination and infection rates, and we hope that at some point in the spring or early summer, we will be able to go back to meeting in person. At this point, however, it seems unwise to have any in-person gatherings.

Friday night services will continue to be available both on Zoom and via YouTube. There is no Shabbat service on January 1, and services on the January 8, 15 (which will focus on the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.), 22, and 29 will all be at 8 pm. You can join all our Friday night services on Zoom by clicking:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89442525110?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89442525110?pwd=T1U0a0x1RjhoSnNPYXp4S2R4UG9tQT09)

[pwd=T1U0a0x1RjhoSnNPYXp4S2R4UG9tQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89442525110?pwd=T1U0a0x1RjhoSnNPYXp4S2R4UG9tQT09)

Or from the Zoom app enter Meeting ID: 894 4252 5110 and Passcode: Hesed



You can also watch (but not participate in readings and so on) on YouTube on the Temple Hesed channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwWXduQKzeDWe6lfbDSNLTw?  
view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwWXduQKzeDWe6lfbDSNLTw?view_as=subscriber)





*Rabbinical*

*Reflections*

Rabbi Daniel J.  
Swartz

# A Tree's Viewpoint

The custom of celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish New Year of the Tree, through a special Seder (which we will co-host with Temple Israel and the Scranton JCC on January 27th — see Page 1 article for more information) began in late medieval times as a practice among Jewish mystics. For them, eating different categories of fruits was a ritual pathway to considering the many ways the Divine presence intersects with our world, sometimes in hidden and mysterious ways. They drank four cups of wine, not only mirroring the more-familiar Passover Seder but also echoing the mystical doctrine of four levels of creation: physical creation, artistic creation, divine creation, and divine emanation. While of course they were also celebrating trees along the way, their focus really was on a realm beyond the physical.

When, several hundred years later, the early Zionist pioneers adapted Tu B'Shevat for their own purposes, actual, physical trees still played a secondary role, even though the Zionists were busy planting forests. For them, the planting of trees demonstrated their connection not just with the land, but specifically with the Land of Israel. Yes, especially in a hot, dry, desert region, they celebrated not only the fruit of the trees, but their cooling shade. But even that was from the standpoint of their own needs, and not those of the trees themselves.

More recently, Tu B'Shevat was revived as a sort of Jewish Earth Day. Nowadays, people pay more attention to the ecological importance of trees: how they trap carbon and help cool the climate, how they provide habitats, how they provide buffers against flooding. And yet, even so, people tend to focus on trees as they relate to human needs, rather than trying to understand how trees might see the world in terms of their own needs.

This year, I'm trying to correct that. Not only during our community Tu B'Shevat seder, when I will be teaching as much about trees as about Judaism, but also at other national events around that time, including a Jewish Climate Fest and a national Tu B'Shevat Zoom webinar/seder. (We'll send details about how to sign up for this in our weekly Temple Hesed emails, as they get confirmed.) At this program, where I will be joined by national Jewish leaders, as well as tree scientists and others, instead of looking at the four levels of creation, we'll focus on four needs of trees: sunlight, with a look at how we can make solar energy more affordable), soil (check out this great article from the New York Times about all the ways trees communicate underground through the soil: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/12/02/magazine/tree-communication-mycorrhiza.html?searchResultPosition=1>), where I'll talk about the 30 by 30 movement, setting aside 30% of land for conservation purposes to prevent global ecosystem collapse, air, including the importance of reducing air pollution, and water, including some of the modern challenges to clean water for all.

Actually, we'll also address a fifth need: love, for in the end, if we do not show greater love for forests and trees, we will not protect them. And if we do not protect them, not only are we failing to live up to the possibilities of Tu B'Shevat, but we will be letting down future generations, who will all need trees not only for survival, but for their inspiration.

—Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz

## What's in a Name: Multifaith Chanting Circles January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

In January, we close out the book of Genesis and turn to Exodus, called Shemot, Names, in Hebrew, because it starts with a list of names of those who went down to Egypt with Joseph. Indeed, names are central to a number of Torah stories, including when Jacob is given the name Israel, so that his descendants — including all of us! — are called the Children of Israel. Why are names so important? Why does God have so many names in the Jewish tradition? Do each of us have a “true” name, even if it isn’t announced by angels or demons? We’ll explore the spiritual meaning behind names and naming in our January Chanting Circles, in addition to finding comfort, support, and community. Everyone is

welcome to join — we often have representatives from a half dozen different faith communities during a given Chanting Circle. All of our January Chanting Circles will be held on zoom at 11:30 a.m., on the following Saturdays: January 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. To join (everyone is welcome, and no prior experience is needed) just click:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83cnRSQXFMY2IUdz09)



`pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83cnRSQXFMY2IUdz09`

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

## MLK Day Community Event: The Unarmed Truth featuring John Amaechi, OBE

In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize on December 10, 1964, Dr. King spoke of his resolve to end racial and social injustice to bring peace not only to our nation, but to all nations. He said, “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right temporarily defeated is stronger than evil triumphant.”

The Greater Scranton Martin Luther King Commission will host The Unarmed Truth: A Conversation with Dr. John Amaechi, OBE, delving into unarmed truth in an effort to inspire and move our community towards equitable justice, and unconditional love. This live webinar, featuring psychologist, international speaker and bestselling author Dr. John Amaechi, OBE, will take place on Monday, January 18, 2021 at 12:00pm. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <https://safdn.org/mlk-event/>.



Dr. John Amaechi

“Be prepared to be inspired and transformed as Dr. Amaechi challenges the beliefs and behaviors that prevent us from being our best selves and community, and offers personal insights and tools to create hope and individual growth,” says GSMLKC publicist, Jennifer Pennington, who brought Dr. Amaechi to The University of Scranton as an organizational speaker in 2012.

Amaechi graduated from Penn State University and was the first Briton to become a professional player in the NBA. In 2019, John was recognized as one of HR’s most influential thinkers by HR Magazine. Amaechi leads a team of psychologists, behavioral scientists and experienced business strategists that design and deliver evidence-based advisory interventions to service clients with people challenges that impact organizational performance. As a highly sought after trainer and executive coach, Amaechi is contracted to “understand and unpick complex people challenges through advisory services driven by analytics, motivational presentations, workshops and masterclasses, executive coaching and digital learning.” The entire community is encouraged to learn from him as a celebration of Dr. King’s life and legacy.

## Statement from Rabbi Jonah Pesner on the Need for Equitably Distributed COVID-19 Vaccines

**WASHINGTON** – 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, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and wider Reform movement:

As vaccines and treatments continue to become available, we are also mindful of the Jewish imperative for justice in the ongoing face of the pandemic. We urge the public safety professionals and health care providers responsible for the distribution of the vaccine to make decisions and act with empathy to ensure affordable and accessible vaccines and treatments – because development is not enough if they are not equitably distributed.

Systemic racism in our health care system and disparities in access to care have caused marginalized communities to suffer most during this pandemic. Public health and elected officials must also work to build trust within communities through public education and community mobilization. We call on our leaders to develop a comprehensive plan that protects the most vulnerable people and communities who are more susceptible to our current health and economic crisis.



Rabbi Pesner



## News From URJ

New York, NY; November 12, 2020 – Yolanda Savage-Narva, MEd. (she/her) will join the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) as Director for Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, a new leadership position. The leadership of the URJ is excited to announce Savage-Narva’s appointment to this pivotal new role.

The URJ’s Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) work, partly supported by a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan, largely focuses on addressing racial justice



and equity in all its forms, and also addresses homophobia, transphobia, ableism, classism, sexism, and other forms of oppression.

In this role, Savage-Narva will lead, develop, and expand organizational and movement-wide inclusion efforts for the URJ, which leads the largest, most diverse movement in Jewish life.

Savage-Narva, who serves currently as a lay leader of the Reform Movement’s Commission on Social Action, will join the leadership of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) in Washington, D.C., and oversee the URJ’s daily work of Audacious Hospitality, the focused effort to incorporate REDI principles and practices throughout congregations, camps, youth programs, and internally within the URJ.

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 No Services New Years Day	2 Chanting circle 11:30 am
3	4	5	6	7	8 Services 8pm	9 Chanting circle 11:30 am
10	11	12	13	14	15 Services (MLK) 8pm	16 Chanting circle 11:30 am
17	18 MLK Day Noon event (Pg.5)	19	20	21	22 Services 8pm	23 Chanting circle 11:30 am
24	25	26	27 Tu B'Shevat Seder 7pm (Pg.1)	28	29 Services 8pm	30 Chanting circle 11:30 am
31					All services on You Tube or Zoom	Chanting Circle on 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 B'Shevat — 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	Hebrew	Date
Vayechi	Jan. 2, 2021	18.Tivet.5781	
Shemot	Jan. 9, 2021	25.Tivet.5781	
Va'eira	Jan. 16, 2021	3.Shevat.5781	
Bo	Jan. 23, 2021	10.Shevat.5781	

More information available from URJ.org

“A guest is like rain:  
when he lingers on,  
he becomes a nui-  
sance.”

From 1001 Yiddish Proverbs—By Fred Kogos

# JAHRZEITS

## Week Ending December 26 (Service January 8)

\*Margaret Smith, \*Minnie Ginsburg, \*Rebecca Newman, \*Carolina Schwartz, \*Goldie Neumann, \*Morris Goldsmith, \*Israel Greenberger, \*Elliott Weisberger, \*David Zukowski, \*Edward Berger, \*Chester Levy, \*Bernard Rymland, \*Isadore Adelman, \*Harvey Sanford Siegel, \*Gus Weinberger

## Week Ending January 2 (Service January 8)

\*Meyer Davis, Ralph Meyer, \*David Rosenberg, \*Martin Weilheimer, Jerry Kline, \*Bernard Wormser, \*Herbert Smith, \*Carole S. Goodman, Bessie Kaplan, \*Jessica Parker Mannoff, \*Judith Pell Weinberger, \*Isaac Ziegler, \*Janet Phillips, \*Jennie Bakaley, Grace E. Davis, \*Louis Kleeman, \*Olga Adelman, \*Blanche Silverstein

## Week Ending January 9 (Service January 8)

\*Isadore Levine, \*Berniece Lenchner, \*Alvin Ziegler, \*Herman Schneider, \*Dorothy Tapper, \*Freda Ball, \*Henrietta Jacobs, \*Frederick L. Wormser, \*Ruth Livingston, Jessie Samter Ellenbogen, \*Samuel Feldman, \*George Bauer, \*Mabelle Druck, \*Minnie Harris, \*Tillie Lauer Marks, \*Gertrude Ziegler, \*George Joel, \*Faye Bernstein

## Week Ending January 16 (Service January 15)

\*Eric S. Gardner, \*Edward Denis, Nancy Jackman, \*George Phillips, \*Marvine L. Dinner, \*Ophelia H. Hefter, \*Hattie Ross Lauer, \*Anna Fragin, \*Shirley Troy Cornfield, \*Edna Kabatchnick, \*Abraham Wolf, \*Jack Friedman, \*Abe Newman

## Week Ending January 23 (Service January 22)

\*Mary Freeman, \*Ethel Friedmann, Emily Kominz, \*Michael R. Graham, \*Lena Berg, \*Simon Lauer, \*Herman Goodman, \*Leonard A. Saltzman, \*Harry Tapper, Anne Marie Heilbrunn, \*Sadie R. Lichtman, \*Morris Whitman, \*Sarah Bloch, \*Arthur L. Goldsmith, \*Abraham Leventhal, \*Dr. Morton Hodes, \*Solomon Schudmack

## Week Ending January 30 (Service January 29)

Sandy Steinberg, \*Professor Anita Appleton, \*Carl Goldman, \*Alice Goldsmith, Barbara Ballot, Saul Kaplan, Theodore Kaplan, Robert Sundheim, Frimi Gromer, \*Rebecca Levy, \*Barbara Sapsowitz, \*Monroe R. Smith, \*Milton Aronsohn, \*Carl Davis, \*Lillian Goldfarb, \*Madeline Goldsmith, \*Jacob Sydansk, \*Charles Noe, \*Jennie Lehman, \*Sadie W. Young, \*Sol Davidow, \*Frances Kaufman, \*Dorothy Rosenberg

Get

Wells

- Michael Cornfield
- Mark Davis
- Don Dembert
- Lynne Fragin
- Larry Golden
- Maggie LoRusso
- Rich Mates
- Chelsea Minkoff
- Harriet Noble
- Jane Oppenheim
- Charlene Ostro
- Emily Trunzo
- Joel Vener

## Sheloshim

# Charlotte Milliken

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of devoted Temple member, Charlotte Milliken, who passed away peacefully in her home on Monday, Dec. 28, 2020. We extend deepest sympathy to her husband Larry, her daughters Ashley and Chelsea, her grandchildren and all her family and friends. Funeral and shiva arrangements are private. Donations in her honor can be made to the Weinberg Food Pantry.



Charlotte was on the board of the Temple sisterhood, back when we had a sisterhood, and for a number of years she ran the Temple giftshop. She was also a member of our adult b'nai mitzvah class, and of course she was active in a number of other adult ed classes as well as regularly attending services when she wasn't ill.

**TEMPLE HESED**

1 Knox Road  
Scranton, PA 18505

Office: 570-344-7201  
Fax: 570-344-4514

**Website:** <http://www.templehesed.org>

**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.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, appointments should be made for all meetings with the rabbi.

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.

**Temple Hesed**

**The Temple of Loving-Kindness**

**On the Web at: [templehesed.org](http://templehesed.org)**

SPIRITUAL LEADER

**Rabbi Daniel J Swartz**

570-877-3454 (cell)  
570-344-7201 (office)  
[rabbidaniel@comcast.net](mailto:rabbidaniel@comcast.net) (email)

**OFFICERS**

Esther Adelman, Steven Seitchik and Cheryl Friedman — **Co-Presidents**; Jeffrey Leventhal — **Treasurer**; Jennifer Novak — **Secretary**; Joan Davis — **Assistant Secretary**

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**Honorary Life Board Member:** Jane Oppenheim

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**Marlene Gianzanti**—*Temple Administrator*  
([marlenecmg1@comcast.net](mailto:marlenecmg1@comcast.net))

**Edward Snitko**—*Director of Music*

**Jennifer Rosen Novak**— *Director of Social Media*

**Rich Mates**—*Editor, Messenger* ([hesednews@gmail.com](mailto:hesednews@gmail.com))

**From Cairo to the Cloud - The World of the Cairo Geniza** tells the story of an astonishing collection of ancient manuscripts hidden for centuries in a Cairo synagogue, and their remarkable odyssey to the modern world. The Cairo Geniza revolutionized our understanding of Jewish history and illuminated a thousand years of vibrant Jewish life in the heart of the Islamic world. An accidental archive of more than half a million documents, the Cairo Geniza reveals the richness of Judeo-Arabic culture and reflects periods of relative religious coexistence nearly unimaginable today

