

שליח

# MESSENGER



Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

## Purim: Connecting Joyously — and Safely



### In this issue:

- Chanting Circle
- Rabbi to head for Vaitcan to save Earth
- Zoom Codes inside.

All religious rituals and gatherings have had their share of difficulties in this time of pandemic — but somehow, Purim still manages to present unique challenges. Can we really be joyous, even silly, in times such as these? How can we experience the joy of a sing-a-long if we're all separate? What about the camaraderie of people coming together for an amateur production, each person finding their own inner "kosher ham"? Well, we have a plan! While there won't be any Purim carnival or Hamantashen Bake-off contest this year, we will have two unique, fun, and yes, even silly programs for you to safely enjoy and connect through.

- \* The first is our **Annual Purim Shpiel**. Everyone -whether or not you've participated in past Shpiels — is welcome to join the preparation for this one. Just leave a message at the office at 570-344-7201, send an email to [rabbidaniel@comcast.net](mailto:rabbidaniel@comcast.net) or a text to 570-8773454. Rabbi Daniel will then contact you and arrange for you to choose a favorite part from one of our past shpiels, and instruct you on how to film yourself (or with others in your home). He'll then edit these clips together into a unique celebration. Then, on **Saturday, February 27th from 7 to 8 pm**, we'll join together on Zoom for a one-of-a-kind Shpiel. Put on a silly costume, gather some noisemakers, and be prepared to have fun (feel free to nosh or dine as we gather!). To join in on the 27th, just click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89567838908?pwd=UXYrc0ZERWY2UUpkc0JVVNBk5xdz09>

Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 895 6783 8908 and Passcode: Shpiel. You'll also be able to view the Shpiel 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)

While our Shpiel will be the most fun you've ever had during a pandemic, we'd like to add a special personal touch this year. One Purim tradition is the sending of *Shalach Manot*, little plates of treats, to family and friends. Since we are one big Temple Hesed Family, this year, we want to arrange for every Hesed family to receive *shalach*



## 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 Memory of Charlotte Milliken**

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*Rabbinical*

*Reflections*

Rabbi Daniel J.  
Swartz

## 2021 High Holy Days — Next Year in Rome?

This past year, as synagogues around the country were struggling with how to reach people during the midst of the pandemic, we at Temple Hesed managed to come up with a unique method. We worked with the Diocese of Scranton to put together a “High Holy Day Highlights” program that was shown repeatedly (and is still available online) on Catholic TV. Indeed, the warm relationship between our congregation and the Bishop’s office goes back many decades, something both I and Bishop Bambera are deeply grateful for.

So I suppose it should have come as a complete surprise that this fall, I’ll be preparing simultaneously for an early Rosh Hashanah (September 6-7) and a trip to the Vatican (at the beginning of October). I was recently invited to be one of a very select group of faith leaders and scientists from around the planet to come to the Vatican for a discussion of climate change, in connection with a major United Nations conference that will be held in England, Italy, and the Vatican. Over the next eight months, I’ll be meeting regularly (and virtually, of course) with interfaith colleagues to prepare for the gathering at the Vatican.

Our goal will be to develop broad moral frameworks for involving communities of faith across the globe in addressing one of the most profound moral, political, scientific and technical challenges humanity has ever faced: global climate change. I’ll update you as those discussions proceed, and I’m sure that I’ll be wanting your input on some of the topics we will cover.

We enter into these discussions at a very peculiar junction of human history. On the one hand, in numerous countries around the world, we’ve seen the rise of authoritarian, nativist leaders, leaders who portray cooperation with other countries (and even

with “different” people in their own country) as a betrayal. Hate crimes, xenophobia, and ethnic conflicts have rapidly escalated in many parts of the world.

And yet, the same pandemic that has brought so much destruction and such deep challenges to society has also been an opportunity to demonstrate the power of global cooperation. Only through such cooperation have vaccines been developed at a record pace. And at the same time that we’ve been shown such a clear example of the power of cooperative investment in moving technology ahead, we’ve also seen that, with proper motivation, global patterns of behavior can also change rapidly. If we apply these lessons to the fight for a stable climate and a transition to sustainable energy, we will be able to halt the climate crisis before it makes the lives of future generations unlivable.

I am especially encourage that it is this Vatican, under the leadership of Pope Francis, that is taking the lead in these discussions and gatherings. For Pope Francis understands — more than most activists, politicians, or scientists — the human dimensions of climate change. He has written extensively about how our treatment of the poor and of the planet are inextricably linked. He speaks in terms of justice and morality and not merely in terms of political programs or scientific studies. I feel very honored to be able to join with him in this effort, and I look forward to sharing our efforts with all of you.

In Hesed,

*Rabbi Daniel*



Vatican City

## Multifaith Chanting Circle: Flavors of Hope — February 6, 13, 20, and 27 @ 11:30

As a nation and a planet, we may be turning a few corners — but there are still many dangers present, and better outcomes are far from guaranteed.

After so many challenges over such a long time, how do we prevent ourselves from falling into despair?

In this month's multifaith chanting circles, we'll be "tasting" a variety of "flavors of hope," as we seek to find paths to keep moving forward into light, health, safety, and even joy.

Each week, we'll sample a different "flavor" — hope from changing seasons, from love, from our stories and from faith.

No previous chanting experience is necessary — come give a "taste test" to this unique, supportive program, as we learn from Jewish, Bahai, Muslim and other religious

traditions and as we share our own insights and experiences.

To join (everyone is welcome, no matter their faith background or lack of it, so feel free to invite others) just click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83cnRSQXFMY2lUdz09>

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



*(PURIM: Continued from page 1)*

*manot* this year!

This is how it will work: some volunteers, including bat mitzvah student Sascha Novak, will bake hamentashen and other goodies, which will be dropped off at the Temple. Additional volunteers will help assemble the plates.

Then, on the Sunday before Purim, **February 21st, from 10 am to 1 pm**, we will invite Temple Hesed members to come pick up their plate from a table we will have set up outside. Rabbi Daniel, who will be vaccinated by then, will be there to supervise and to greet everyone, masked and from at least 6 feet away. We'll keep track of who has picked up the plates, and Rabbi Daniel along with other volunteers will attempt to drop the remaining plates off, again making sure to observe proper masking and social distancing. Our hope is that Rabbi Daniel and other volunteers will be able to personally greet all of the families that make up our Temple family.

If you'd like to volunteer to help out, please leave a message at the Temple office, 570-344-7201, or email us at [templehesed@comcast.net](mailto:templehesed@comcast.net)

We will also be sending out reminders of this program in the weeks prior, so that as many people can participate as possible.

# Immigration Plans Praised

January 20, 2021

**WASHINGTON** - In response to the Biden-Harris administration's executive orders and proposed legislative package to restore and reform the immigration system and refugee resettlement program, 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, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and wider Reform Movement:

The Biden administration's prioritization of immigration reform is an urgently needed redress for the damage done to human lives and America's moral standing by years of harsh enforcement-only immigration policies. We welcome in particular the administration's plan to stabilize the status of DACA recipients, hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth who have been at risk of deportation.

As the Reform Movement, we have been proud to stand with the most vulnerable people living among us: undocumented immigrants, immigrant youth, asylum seekers, refugees, unaccompanied children and separated families, low-income immigrants, Black immigrants, and more. Today, we celebrate the action taken by the Biden administration to provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people, including DACA recipients; to increase refugee admissions; to support family reunification; and to strengthen and humanize border security. We also celebrate what this legislative proposal symbolizes: a renewed appreciation for the ways in which the United States is strengthened by the contributions of immigrants.

For much of the last half-century, immigration reform efforts were bipartisan, and we were proud to work with elected officials on both sides of the aisle, most recently during the 2013 reform effort. We hope that tradition resumes with the 117th Congress. It is essential that immigration policies protect the nation's security, meet the needs of employers, and ensure just and humane treatment of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. What the new administration has done today is set a standard that we will work to hold them and the new Congress accountable to.

No less than 36 times, the Torah instructs us on how to treat the stranger, the foreigner among us. God commands, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love them as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Leviticus 19:34). Guided by this repeated injunction to love the stranger, the Reform Jewish Movement has long been committed to fixing our broken immigration system and ensuring just and compassionate immigration policies. Today was a good first step in doing so.

## Service Schedule for February

All Temple Hesed programs in February (with the exception of the Shalach Manot distribution, as noted in the Purim article) will be held online. Our Friday Night Shabbat services will be held at 6 pm on February 5th and 8 pm on the other Fridays. All Friday Night services can be joined on Zoom by clicking:

<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) via YouTube on the Temple Hesed channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwWXduOKzeDWe6lfbDSNLTw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwWXduOKzeDWe6lfbDSNLTw?view_as=subscriber)

Links for the Purim Shpiel and Chanting Circles can be found in other Messenger articles.

# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Services-6p	6 Chanting Circle-11:30 a
7	8	9	10	11	12 Services-8p	13 Chanting Circle-11:30 a
14	15	16	17 Board Mtg.-6p	18	19 Services-8p	20 Chanting Circle-11:30 a
21 Pick up Purim <i>shalach manot</i> 10a-1p	22	23	24	25 Purim	26 Services-8p	27 Chanting Circle-11:30 a Purim Shpiel 7-8p
28						

Name	Civil date	Hebrew date
Yitro	Feb. 6, 2021	24.Shevat..5781
Mishpatim	Feb. 13, 2021	1.Adar..5781
Terumah	Feb. 20, 2021	8.Adar.5781
Tetzaveh	Feb. 27, 2021	15.Adar.5781

More information available from URJ.org

## 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

“A little charm  
and you are  
not ordinary.”

From 1001 Yiddish Proverbs—By Fred Kogos

## JAHRZEITS

### **Week Ending February 6 (Service February 5)**

\*Pamela Tigrett, Blanche Anspacher, \*Aaron Cooperman, \*Emma L. Sarlin, \*Stephen M. Simon, \*Simon J. Freeman, \*Maxwell M. Neumann, \*Lena Weinberger, \*Margaret L. Oettinger, \*Leona Falk, \*Tillie Ackerman, \*Clara Lauer, \*Harry M. Siegel, \*Leon Joseph, \*John Seagaard, Stanley Bernfeld, \*Bessie Alperin, \*Freda Carlson, \*Harry Schmerin, \*Lewis Sugar, \*Sara W. Wormser

### **Week Ending February 13 (Service February 12)**

\*Miriam Ruth Vogel, \*Dotty B. Selverstone, \*David Cornfield, \*Murray Jacobson, Frances Maislin, \*Sol Benjamin, \*Hanna Rymland, \*Jean Weinberg, \*Seymour Gutter, \*Levi H. Kramer, \*Sarah Fassler, Ralph Strohl, \*Alfred Brown, \*Simon Krotosky, \*Lewis Marks, \*Willard A. Phillips, Phyllis Evanina, \*Leo B. Roos, \*Joel Mitchell Alperin, \*Nannette Roos, \*Simon Ferber, Mindy Gromer, \*Nelson J. Goodman, \*Arthur Besen, \*Janet B. Rubinger

### **Week Ending February 20 (Service February 19)**

\*Jefferson K. Freeman, \*Alfred Rice, Sr., Sara Mendlowitz, Mildred Lambert, Dolores Baron, \*Marcus Fragin, \*Minnie Levy, Tillie Fogel, \*Louis E. Maring, Sr., \*David Ackerman, \*Ike E. Oppenheim, \*Nathan H. Strauss, Gloria D. Ganz, \*Miriam S. Newman

### **Week Ending February 27 (Service February 26)**

\*Lillian Zepel, \*Albert N. Kramer, \*Dr. Henri Deutsch, Richard Levy, \*William Katz, \*Oscar Leventhal, \*Michael Cembalest, \*Carl Fragin, \*Sallie Goodman, \*Rosa J. Roos, \*Renee Traub, \*Anna C. Kramer

### **Week Ending March 6 (Service March 5)**

\*Benjamin Friedman, \*David Goldsmith, \*William Weinstock, \*David Rymland, \*Elias G. Roos, \*Isadore Gordon, \*Samuel B. Silverstein, \*Harrie Phillips Mittelman, \*Monroe Brandwene, \*Hilda Ziegler, Shirley Cohen, \*Toni Brodrick, \*Rita L. Pincus, \*Fannie Gelfand, \*Robert D. Goodrich, \*Frances Lonstein, \*Esther Krotosky, \*Jennie Pell

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



# Congratulations!

January 20, 2021

**WASHINGTON** - On the occasion of the inauguration of Joe Biden as President and Kamala Harris as Vice President of the United States, 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:



We congratulate President Biden and Vice President Harris on their inauguration today. They have assumed the mantle of leadership in a time of unprecedented challenge. We pray that they will lead the nation with wisdom and fortitude.

It is especially inspiring to witness Vice President Harris, the first woman of Color, take the oath of office. Another barrier has been broken, long overdue, on the way to making the nation more racially equitable. That she is also part of a Jewish family adds even more poignancy. Coming just two days after the country celebrated the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are one step closer to realizing his dream of making justice a reality for all of God's children.

**TEMPLE HESED** Office: 570-344-7201  
1 Knox Road Fax: 570-344-4514  
Scranton, PA 18505  
**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**

**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*  
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**Edward Snitko**—*Director of Music*  
**Jennifer Rosen Novak**—*Director of Social Media*  
**Rich Mates**—*Editor, Messenger* ([hesednews@gmail.com](mailto:hesednews@gmail.com))