

שליח

MESSENGER



Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

Very Few Changes Result from Annual Meeting

It was a unconventional annual meeting, but maybe not as unusual as the year itself. In a pandemic-stricken world, the congregation chose a virtual meeting hall on Zoom over the Pell Auditorium as the venue for the session which drew a quorum of Temple members, making its actions official.

Co-president Esther Adelman presided over the meeting and had high praise for Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz and Temple administrator Marlene Gianzanti for their efforts to find workarounds to meeting in-person for worship and purposes. Rabbi Swartz, for example had to develop a new way of conducting services and pairing our prayerbook's words with the correct music—all this while leading the service and doing all the other things that a rabbi must do.

The rabbi's job would be impossible, if not for Marlene. She handles the money, answers the mail and even summons the plumber when an emergency strikes during a public event. Marlene got a round of applause for her toils during the pandemic.

Steve Seitchik, co-president, said that although the congregation is shrinking in size — possibly reaching under 100 families by the end of the fiscal year, it will remain solvent for years into the future.

Seitchik said investments and other financial planning have been performing well, despite the uncertainties in the national economy. According to Jeff Leventhal, chairman of the investment committee, "The encouraging news is that all of Temple Hesed's investments have done well enough to experience an increase in their values. This is in spite of the Covid 19 pandemic and constant fluctuations in their monthly values due to economic, market and political pressures and conditions."

There was a lot of discussion about the Messenger: whether we should go with a hard copy version or continue to publish electronically. The end result is that we may combine issues during slow periods. This will result in less than 11 issues in a year, which runs from September through August. This was chosen over publishing every other month.

There will be no changes in the board of directors because there was little to do during the pandemic year of 2020. Terms have been extended where necessary.



In this issue:

- Walking for the environment
- Chanting Hesed
- New service times

Jane Oppenheim OBM.

SHELOSHIM



Former Temple President and longtime honorary life board member, Jane Ellenbogen Oppenheim, died on June 10, 2021.

The daughter of Blanche and Daniel, a resident of Scranton, PA and New York, NY, she was born in New York City, graduated from Hunter College

(*OPPENHEIM Continued on page 10*)



Donations to Temple Hesed

Major credit or debit cards
accepted.

Minimum \$10 donation for
acknowledgement in the
Messenger.

To donate contact Marlene
Gianzanti, Temple Adminis-
trator at 570-344-7201

BUILDING FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Janet Rothenberg**
The Rothenberg Family

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Mother, Gertrude Freedman**
Paula Wasser

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Theodora Swartz**
Susan S. Brown

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Jennie B. Rosen**
Susan S. Brown

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Aaron Swartz**
Susan S. Brown

In Memory of Jane Oppenheim
Bob Ballot

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of
Janet Richman, Mother and
Grandmother**
*Joel, Ginger, Sarah and Tori
Richman*

ROSELLE B. AND LOUIS A. FINE MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Mildred Rothenberg
Richard and Carole Fine

In Memory of Jane Oppenheim
Richard and Carole Fine

EMMA K. FRANK FUND

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Carol Nelson Dembert

In Memory of Phil Rosenstein
Carol Nelson Dembert

In Memory of Jane Oppenheim
Carol Nelson Dembert

MILTON AND MIRIAM FRIED- MAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Jane Oppenheim
Paula and Jim Kane

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In Memory of Don Dembert
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In Memory of Ed Basan
Lindsay Leventhal

In Memory of Emily Trunzo
Lindsay Leventhal

In Memory of Jane Oppenheim
Lindsay Leventhal

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory of Jane Oppenheim
*James and Patty Alperin
Larry and Judie Golden
David and Ann Hawk
Carl and Joanne Kuehner
Jeff and Carol Leventhal
Lynn H. Nichols
Linda and Jim Wimmer
Norman and Susan Stanton
Marla and Brian Strahl*

TORAH RESORATION FUND

In Memory of Jane Oppenheim
Esther B. Adelman



*Rabbinical
Reflections*

Rabbi Daniel J.
Swartz

What's Next?

Having just completed a seminar on “Great Jewish Books” from the Yiddish Book Center, I decided to give my report to the Temple Hesed Annual meeting in Yiddish. The short form of my take on last year was: “Oy.” The long form? “Oy vey iz mir” (roughly, O woe is me!) But that’s the past, and, as every stock prospectus says, “Past performance is no guarantee of future results.” So, even as we reflect on the past year, the real question is, “What’s next?”

Writing now toward the end of June, I have additional data from our first month of in-person services. How has re-opening been so far? I’ve been learning some of the quirks of “hybrid” services, though I know we can and should do a better job of integrating those online with those coming in person. So far, the number of people deciding to remain on Zoom has been pretty steady at four or five. The number of those coming in person, on the other hand, has grown slowly but steadily. 2, then 6, then 10, then 16. If we keep going at

that rate, by next June we should have over 200 people at every service. If only!

I’ve heard lots of prediction about “what’s next” — everything from, in a couple of months, everything will be the same as before the pandemic to radical shifts in individual priorities and societal structures. The truth is, none of us know what will happen next — but we can and should think about what should happen next and act accordingly.

For example, I don’t know if the losses and difficulties will unite our country or sow more divisions — but I do know that we should unite, and that that won’t happen unless we make efforts to heal those divisions. Temple Hesed, over the course of our history, has brought people together, both within and outside of our community. Part of “what’s next” for us should be a renewed look at how we can play a useful role in that regard now. Similarly, has the pandemic reversed the trend to secularization and dis-affiliation from religion, or did it accelerate these trends? I don’t know — but I do know that we should make

renewed efforts at outreach, especially to young adults. And I’d love to hear what else you think Temple Hesed should be doing to reshape our future.

As I’ve mentioned on other occasions, the role of the Navi, the prophet is frequently misunderstood. People confuse prophets with Greek oracles, who were supposed to predict the future, often in nearly impenetrable language that is only understood after the fact. Prophets, on the other hand, were supposed to understand what is really going on in the present so that we can change the future. I frankly don’t trust any of today’s oracles to predict any more accurately than the ancient Greeks. But all of us can seek to be prophets, so that “what’s next” will be a future more filled with Hesed, with Tzedek (justice), and with Shalom.

Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz



Message to President Biden Starts at Temple Hesed

Temple Hesed was delighted to have hosted the start of the “Walk for our Grandchildren, Mother Earth, and Climate Justice,” which went from Scranton to Wilmington, Delaware, June 20th-28th.

We put together the opening multi-faith celebration/call to action,

helped publicize the walk (which was covered by the Scranton Times, WNEP, Fox 56, and WBRE), and hosted the walkers overnight at the Temple.

The walkers were deeply grateful for our hospitality, saying “We couldn’t have done this without

your hope and blessings.”

Here are a few pictures from their time with us.



Annual Report of the Worship Committee

By Esther Adelman, Co-President

The Worship Committee, under the expert guidance of Rabbi Daniel Swartz, oversees all worship services, formulates relevant policies, plans special events, and handles all matters relating to the worship practices at Temple Hesed. Because of COVID-19, this past year presented many unusual and certainly unforeseen challenges.

With no in-person gatherings permitted, Rabbi Swartz took on the daunting task of making regular Shabbat and special High Holy Day services available to our congregation. He went through much trial and error to get it right, and get-it-right he did. As many of us in leadership roles discovered, it is difficult to learn to do something familiar in a totally different way. Thank goodness that the techies out there invented Zoom, without which we would have been disconnected and alone.

Rabbi Swartz took up the reins and researched many sources to get us up and running. The URJ was very helpful with offering several computer programs for service leaders to utilize Mishkan T'filah. We had all the components that make our services what they are. We experienced all the music and prayers, albeit we were basically still alone in front of screens in our own homes, but "alone together", as Rabbi Milton Richman (OBM) was known to say.

Rabbi used some of Harry Adelman's music and some from other sources; he figured out how to get Ed Snitko on the screen as well. We could sing our hearts out, as long as we were muted.

We could unmute to participate in readings and in discussions of the week's Torah portion. Rabbi Swartz used, as he normally does, various formats for teaching the parashah of the week, always including thought-provoking interactive dialogue. Since the Torah doesn't lend itself to screen-sharing, we didn't get to participate in the familiar rituals that accompany the reading of the Torah.

We have continued with scheduling the 6 p.m. service on the first Friday of every month, and the 8 p.m. service on the remaining Friday evenings, except when a special service may begin at a different time. In order to accommodate those members who have requested changes in our regular service schedule, we will be experimenting over the summer with different start times. Please check the Messenger and also Rabbi's Friday e-mails for the time of the service(s) that you plan to attend.

We now are able invite all fully-vaccinated members and their families and friends to join us at weekly services, where we experience the beauty and uniqueness of Mishkan T'filah, the timely, often-brilliant Torah commentaries of Rabbi Swartz, the ever-evolving spiritual music, and the warm camaraderie of our Temple Hesed family. Social-distancing is still required; masks are optional, depending on your own comfort level.

We do encourage input from the Congregation, since it is crucial to the work of this committee. Our goal is to be a part of making Temple Hesed an integral part of the lives of the congregation---spiritually, socially, and educationally.

Esther Adelman, Chair

July and August Service Schedule

We are going to be doing some experimenting with the Friday evening service schedule during July and August this summer. The easy part is to measure who attends — but it's also helpful for us to know what you think and if, despite not coming to a particular service, you think a particular time is likely to

help you come more often. Specifically, **in July, we will alternate between 6 pm and 8 pm services** (6 pm on the 2nd, 16th, and 30th; 8 pm on the 9th and 23rd).

In August, all services will be held at 7 pm.

Let us know what you think — or better yet, come to a service during your preferred time. We'll also survey the congregation over the

High Holy Days in September, and then move ahead with a possibly-revised schedule starting in October.

Please note that at least for the time being, all services will be on Zoom and You Tube as well as in person. And please share whatever thoughts you have on the schedule directly with Rabbi Daniel,

The Temple Hesed Investment Committee continues to split the Temple's various endowment and building funds between Stifel Nicolaus and Merrill Lynch for investments and advice.

An interest payment schedule has been set up and timely payments have been made from these funds to insure that the Temple's expenses and financial obligations are met in prompt fashion. This schedule can be modified and adjusted going into this new fiscal year as per recommendations from the Treasurer, the acting President(s), and Marlene.

The encouraging news is that all of Temple Hesed's investments have done well enough to experience an increase in their values. This is in spite of the Covid 19 pandemic, constant fluctuations in their monthly values due to economic, market and political pressures and conditions.

In order to avoid any possibility of having to invade the corpus of any of the funds, the annual amounts of interest payments available will be closely monitored and adjusted as needed in order to help pay the Temple's daily and routine operating expenses and bills.

The Temple Hesed Investment committee will continue to meet with our funds' financial advisors and account managers, act on their recommendations, and continue to monitor the funds' status and progress on an ongoing basis. Our investment committee plans to meet with each of our two financial advisors this coming July.

My thanks to the following investment committee members who continue to offer their time, wisdom, advice, and support to insure that these Temple's assets are protected and invested wisely in accordance with direction from the Temple Hesed Board. Members of this committee are:

David Dickstein	Richard Fine
Jeffrey Jacobson	Jim Alperin

Sincerely, Jeff Leventhal, Chairman

Chanting Circle July & August

July Chanting Circle - Plumbing the Depths of Hesed - July 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 11:30 a.m.

We talk a lot about Hesed here, for obvious reasons — but just what is it? Even if we translate it as lovingkindness, what does that mean? How do we find Hesed in our lives, and what could it do for us if we found it? In July, we'll explore the various meanings of Hesed, and how they can add meaning and spirit to our lives. As always, everyone is welcome and no prior chanting experience is necessary, so why not give this diverse, multi-faith and supportive group a try? We'll meet in person (and on Zoom) on July 10 for 1 hour; on the 17th, 24th, and 31st, we'll meet for about a 1/2 hour only on Zoom. To join us on Zoom, just click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83cnRSQXFMY2lUdz09>

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

August Chanting Circle - Paths of Awe and of Love - August 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11:30 a.m.

As we approach the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe often called the High Holy Days, our Chanting Circle will reflect on what it means to meet God on the path of Awe. And because the time before these Holy Days are considered a time to lovingly repair our relationship with the divine, we'll also explore meeting God on the path of love. Come explore YOUR relationship with the Divine through chant, study, and mutual support.

We'll meet in person (and on Zoom) on August 7 for 1 hour; on the 14th, 21st, and 28th, we'll meet for about a 1/2 hour only on Zoom. To join us on Zoom, just click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83cnRSQXFMY2lUdz09>

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



JAHRZEITS

June 27 – July 3
17 – 23 Tammuz
Service July 2

*Sander Dembert, *Dr. Harry Goodfriend, *Martha L. Noe, *Berel Weisberg,
*Louis Jacobs, *Louis Kleeman, *Constance Oppenheim, *Edward Gordon,
*Harold M. Joseph, *Eleanore F. Bashkoff, *Maud Carlyon, Morris Mendlowitz,
*Bertha Goodman, *Rema R. Siegel, *Hoda Friedmann, *Maximillian S. Bresch,
*Walter Jacobson, *Dr. Eugene K. Weiss

July 4 – 10
24 Tammuz – 1 Av
Service July 9

*David Sugar, Maurice Friedman, *Amelia Gutman, *Charles Siegel, *Nannie
Ziegler, *Harold Phillips, *Leonard E. Newman, *Janet H. Rothenberg, *Joseph
Roos, *Jerome Edward Giles, *Charles Lerner, *Martin David Appleton

July 11 – 17
2 – 8 Av
Service July 16

*Mary Cohen, *Blanche W. Kleeman, *Leone Frank Loebel, *Rose Sugar,
*Robert D. Pell, Rose Pashkow, *Doris Weisberg, *Rose Sabot, *David A.
Cohen, *Morris Richman, *Maurice D. Breschel, Alfred Heilbrunn, Leonard
Frieder, *Levi Hershfield, *Celia Kleeman, *Eugenia C. Milliken

July 18 – 24
9 – 15 Av
Service July 23

*Ralph Goldsmith, *Bertha Gevanthor, *Abe Adelman, *Esther Basha Adelman,
F. Harry Anspacher, *Beatrice Goodfriend, *Ilse Michel, *Goldie Golden, Morris
Gross, *Howard A. Jacobson, Melvin Weinberg, *Florence Pell Angert, Max
Kravitz, *Albert A. Linder, *Alfred G. Rice

July 25 – 31
16 – 22 Av
Service July 30

*Florence Dembert, *B. J. Smith, *Sarah Friedman, Paul Krafchin, Nettie
Friedman, *Ethel R. Friedman, *Murray Smith, *Gustave Jackson, *B. Leo
Swartz, *Rose Smith, *Norman H. Hollander

Get

Wells

Michael Cornfield

Lynne Fragin

Larry Golden

Maggie LoRusso

Marieann Mates

Rich Mates

Chelsea Minkoff

Harriet Noble

Charlene Ostro

Joel Vener

JAHRZEITS

August 1 – 7

23 – 29 Av

Service August 6

*Ruth Whitman, *Helen Goldman, *Stanley Dickstein, *Simon Rice, *Philip Swartz, Gerald Minkoff, *Fred Michel, *Yetta K. Lauer, *John Orgill, *Sidney Wasser

August 8 – 14

30 Av – 6 Elul

Service August 13

*Sara "Simi" Deutsch, *Edith H. Roos, *Harry D. Ehrlich, *Myron H. Ball, M.D., *Samuel Diamond, *Emma K. Frank, *Rabbi Jacob J. Ackerman, *Ida Aerenson, *Mary Dolinger, *Rabbi Milton Richman, *Julia Ackerman, *Jacob Hefter, *Clara Kleeman, Esther Seitchik, *Shirley Alperin, *Anna Marks

August 15 – 21

7 – 13 Elul

Service August 20

*Beatrice B. Aronsohn, Rose Hersh, Mildred G. Silberman, *Ceil Cohen Dorsey, *Fred Salomon Kugelman, *Evelyn Gill, *Rosa Morris, *Charles F. Wormser, *Julian Brown, Milton Hersh, *Lucille Weinberg, Harry Cohen, *Golda P. Young, *Clifford Weinstock, *Bina Loebenstein, *Leon M. Levy

August 22 – 28

14 – 20 Elul

Service August 27

*Lillie Peck, *Fannie Spiegel, *Milton M. Friedman, *Harry Mauer, *Ben Fassler, *Erwin Schoenhof, *Gertrude Rice, *Sharon Pell-Lie, *Sylvia Gordon, *Roseann Smith Alperin, Samuel B. Samter, *Ralph Cohen, *Beatrice Davis, *Micky Cader, *Leon L. Kramer, *Rose Feinstein, *Elihu Friedmann, *Abraham Stromberg

August 29 – September 4

21 – 27 Elul

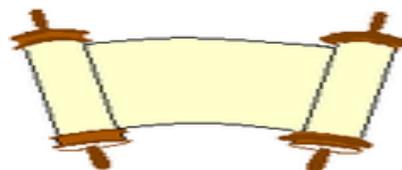
Service September 3

Paula Yudkin Albert, *Harry Weinberg, *Leo Swartz, *Minnie Brown, *Edward Loebenstein, *Henrietta A. Phillips, *Arnold Cembalest, *Barbara A. Jacobson, *Dr. Samuel Friedmann, *Carolyn B. Ferber

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Services 6 pm	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Services 8 pm	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Services 6 pm	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Services 8 pm	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Services 6 pm	31

You may attend Services or via Zoom or watch on Temple Hesed's YOU TUBE channel. A link to the services can be found in your weekly email. Call the Temple office for more information: 570-344-7201



5781

Holiday

Calendar

Tishah B'Av — July 17-18

Selichot Service — Aug. 28

Torah Portions

Name	Civil date	Hebrew date
Pinchas	3 Jul. 2021	23.Tammuz.5781
Mattot/		
Massei	10 Jul. 2021	1 Av 5781
Devarim	17 Jul. 2021	8 Av 5781
Vaetchanan	24 Jul. 2021	15 Av 5781
Ekev	31 Jul. 2021	22 Av 5781
Re'eh	7 Aug. 2021	29 Av 5781
Shoftim	14 Aug. 2021	6 Elul 5781
Ki Tetze	21 Aug. 2021	13 Elul 5781
Ki Tavo	28 Aug. 2021	20 Elul 5781

More information available from URJ.org

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Services 7pm	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Services 7pm	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Services 7pm	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Services 7pm	28 Selichot 8:15 pm
29	30	31				

From Shmittah to Selichot — Rhythms of Rest and Forgiveness — August 28 @ 8:15

Last year, we held our Selichot (prayers of forgiveness and preparation for the High Holy Days, held on the Saturday evening before Rosh HaShanah) service and program online, in conjunction with a variety of synagogues in NEPA and the Lehigh Valley. This year, our **service will be in person at Temple Hesed, starting at 8:15 on Saturday evening, August 28.** We will, however, once again be joining with other synagogues for a **program** coordinated by the Board of Rabbis of the Lehigh Valley, which **will start at 9 pm.** They have chosen as their speaker... our own Rabbi Daniel! They've asked him to speak about the Shmittah, the Sabbatical year. Rabbi Daniel will connect the tradition of Shmittah with our experiences during the pandemic, our quest for forgiveness and inner peace, and the need to build an environmentally sustainable future. Details about the Zoom link will be forthcoming, but you will be able to attend the service and/or the program

Confronting Modernity through Jewish Short Stories and Poems — end of July/beginning of August

Throughout June, Rabbi Daniel (along with Rabbi Marjorie) studied in a new program of the Yiddish Book Center: a special course on "Great Jewish Literature" for rabbis. Now that he has learned about some of the lesser-known treasures of Jewish literature, it's time for Rabbi Daniel to share them with us! Join us for a four-session adult education program, in person at Temple Hesed and online on Zoom, starting the week of July 18 and running through the week of August 8. Over the course of this program, we'll study modern Jewish fables, short stories and poetry, from Yiddish, Israeli and American authors, as explore what it means to be Jewish in years past and today. Come discover the tale of "the slaughtering knife and the saw," revel in sensuous nature poetry, and be shocked (well, more likely amused) by Yom Kippur scandals. The course will be on Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon, Wednesday afternoon, or Thursday evening, depending on the schedules of those interested. Please let Rabbi Daniel know if you'd like to participate by calling the Temple office at 570-344-7201, or emailing him at rabbidaniel@comcast.net Whatever the times, the Zoom link will be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89475695995?pwd=dzNSbmtuaitOb2Zyak8yUi9IdnAzZz09>

Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 894 7569 5995 and Passcode: YidLit

OPPENHEIM continued from Page One

High School, Hunter College, and earned a master's degree at Columbia University.

Jane married the late Richard Oppenheim Sr., Secretary-Treasurer of Oppenheim's - The Scranton Dry Goods Company, and moved to Scranton. It was there she began her lifelong career of leadership and giving back through philanthropy, advocacy, and education. Jane was involved with and passionate about numerous local, New York, and national organizations. She served on countless boards, including Keystone College, University of Scranton - Board of Regents, United Neighborhood Centers, Everhart Museum, Voluntary Action Center, Junior League, CMC/Geisinger, Scranton Area Foundation, Temple Hesed, Union for Reform Judaism, Women of Reform Judaism, World Union for Judaism, and Hunter College.

She was awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree by The University of Scranton, named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania, and was a recipient of Keystone College's Presidential Medallion and B'nai B'rith Americanism Award. In 2018, she was recognized by Jewish Family Services of Northeastern PA for her lifetime of service.

To those who knew her best, she will be remembered as having rarely lost a game of Scrabble, Bridge, or Boggle, being an avid fan of Broadway, and traveling the world, where she made friends wherever she went. But most of all, she said that family was the major blessing in her life. She leaves behind 3 children (Richard Jr., John, Ellen and their spouses), 8 grandchildren (2 spouses and 1 fiancé), and one great grandchild to carry on her legacy.

TEMPLE HESED Office: 570-344-7201
 1 Knox Road Fax: 570-344-4514
 Scranton, PA 18505
Website: <http://www.templehesed.org>

Temple Hesed

On the Web at: templehesed.org

SPIRITUAL LEADER

Rabbi Daniel J Swartz

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

OFFICERS

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(marlenecmg1@comcast.net)

Edward Snitko—*Director of Music*

Jennifer Rosen Novak— *Director of Social Media*

Rich Mates—*Editor, Messenger* (hesednews@gmail.com)

Jeff Heilbrunn — *Webmaster*

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.