



MESSENGER

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505

Adult Ed beginning February 6!

Inscribed: Encounters with the 10 Commandments

After a brief COVID delay, our special interfaith adult ed class, in conjunction with St. Luke's, will begin on Sunday, February 6 at noon, running for 10 consecutive weeks.

The class will be taught both in-person and online, with the first 5 weeks of class being held at Temple Hesed and the final 5 weeks at St. Luke's, 232 Wyoming Ave, Scranton.

To attend by Zoom, click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82264883040?pwd=ejVmeUE3SE9KMXIORTVUKzhyNW5xUT09>

Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 822 6488 3040 and Passcode: Sinai

Mother Rebecca Barnes and our own Rabbi Daniel will be utilizing two texts: *Inscribed: Encounters with the Ten Commandments*, Rabbi Oren J. Hayon, editor; and *The Ten Commandments for Jews, Christians, and Others*, Roger E. Van Harn, editor. Both are available on Amazon (*Inscribed* is also available as a Kindle book), the Van Harn book is also available at betterworldbooks.com, and the Hayon book is also available directly from the CCAR press.

While having these texts will enrich your experience, they are not required to take part in the class. The class will cover the history, meaning, and present-day significance of each of the commandments and the 10 commandments as a whole, and it will look at the role of the 10 Commandments in art and culture as well as religion. Please register for the class by calling the Temple Hesed office at 570-344-7201 or by sending an email to templehesed@comcast.net — registration will ensure you are alerted if there is a change in plans due to inclement weather, etc., as well as receiving class materials and relevant links. The class is free and open to all.

In this issue:

- David Dickstein
OBM
- Family Shabbat
- Land of Ahhs

February Service Schedule

For February and the foreseeable future, our new simplified service schedule is: 6 p.m. for the first Friday of each month, and 7 p.m. for all other Fridays, including special Shabbat services on Fridays for holidays.

We are continuing to hold services in person, asking everyone to remain masked during the Omicron surge.

All services are also held online on Zoom and the Temple Hesed YouTube channel.

We continue to hold Chanting Circles every Saturday at 11:30 am.

If there is inclement weather, we will announce if services or other programs will be held only online, but our policy is not to cancel services altogether.





Donations to Temple Hased

Major credit or debit cards accepted.

Minimum \$10 donation for acknowledgement in the Messenger.

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

BUILDING FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Ralph Meyer
David and Marlene Meyer

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Mindy Gromer
Lee Gromer

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Grandmother, Jennie Lehman
Paula Wasser

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Beloved Mother, Olga Adelman
Deborah Orgill

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Harvey Siegel
Nancy Dressel

Wishing Rabbi Swartz, a Healthy and Happy Birthday and many more
Paula Wasser

MARK HAHN MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

Rabbi has proven the saying, "It's only a number." Look at all he has done and is doing. Happy Birthday and many more.
Audrey Harrell

ROSELLE B. AND LOUIS A. FINE MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Joan Newman
Attorney and Mrs. Richard Fine

LINDA LEE LEVENTHAL TOY FUND

In Memory of David Dickstein
Lindsay Leventhal

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Oscar Leventhal
Lindsay Leventhal

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

In Memory of Anne C. Kramer, beloved mother and grandmother
Carol and Paul Leiman and family

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Olga Adelman
Esther B. Adelman

In Memory of David Dickstein
Esther B. Adelman

February Chanting Circle — Ahhh and Aha!:

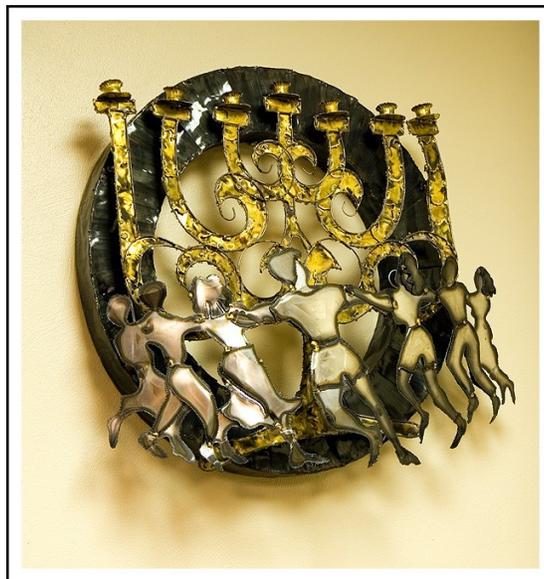
The theme for our February Chanting Circles will explore how we deal with problems, significant changes, and ongoing challenges in our lives.

—Can we learn when to let go (Ahhh...)?
—Can we reframe a situation and see it in a new light (Aha!)?
—And how do we figure out what the best response might be?

Through chant, study and mutual support, we will travel to the "Land of Ahhhs and Ahas," spending some soul-refreshing time "over the rainbow."

On Saturday, February 5, we will meet for 1 hour, both in-person and online. The other Saturdays we will meet for approximately 30 minutes, online only.

All Chanting Circles are held at 11:30 a.m, and all are open to everyone, no matter their



background or experience. So come try out this unique experience! To join us online, click:

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

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



*Rabbinical
Reflections*

Rabbi Daniel J.
Swartz

External and Internal Security

On Saturday, January 15th, I — as I'm sure many of you were — was glued to the news of the unfolding hostage situation in Colleyville, Texas. While I breathed a huge sigh of relief when the hostages escaped unharmed, that sense of relief was far from complete. There were too many parallels between the community there and here for me not to wonder, could it happen here? Congregation Beth Israel has roughly the same size membership as Temple Hesed. Like us, they are holding hybrid services, and both here and there, it is not uncommon for more people to be online than in person. Their rabbi is known for his work in the community and for having built strong partnerships with other faiths in the area, and we both came to our present jobs at roughly the same time.

I imagine we're all feeling at least somewhat insecure about the external situation facing Jews in our country and around the world right now. Temple Hesed has taken a number of steps to increase our security and level of preparedness since the murderous attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018, but there is always more that we can do. We are currently reviewing our plans and procedures, and we are in the process of utilizing a number of new security resources that have been produced by the Department of Homeland Security and others. We also will be coordinating our efforts both with the rest of the Jewish community and with the Scranton police and other local governmental agencies. We will keep you updated as we proceed, and we may well have additional trainings that we will invite all members to.

But no security plan is foolproof. Nor is there any foolproof way to rid the world of antisemitism. We know that education, actual interactions with Jews, economic expansion, and social diversity tend to reduce antisemitism — but they don't eliminate it. We know some of the factors that lead to increased levels of antisemitism — economic downturns, inequality, corrupt and autocratic governments who use the Jews as convenient scapegoats, hoping to distract the populace from their brutality. And we know what doesn't work: Jews trying to "just be quiet," to hide their Judaism or Jewishness. That's been tried over and over again, with the same dismal results.

So we'll do the best we can, taking reasonable security precautions and remaining alert. And we'll defy the antisemites by being proud of our Judaism and by continuing to engage in acts of *Tikkun Olam*, healing and repairing the world. We won't live without anxiety, but we also won't let it control us.

But we should also be grateful that there is a kind of security we have here at Temple Hesed that is rarer than it should be in the Jewish world. In the reporting after the hostages had freed themselves, it came out that the same Colleyville rabbi who had acted so heroically had actually resigned from the synagogue in the fall, after the board of Congregation Beth Israel voted for the second time not to renew his contract. The procedure for the board decision was far from transparent, and no public reasons were given. That exact scenario is all too common. I have witnessed or heard about it taking place in congregations large and small, with rabbis freshly ordained and with established rabbis who have sparkling reputations.

I am deeply, deeply grateful that that is not the case at Temple Hesed. All of the board's interactions with me have been ethical, respectful, conducted with transparency and *menschlichkeit*. I certainly hope the board, and the entire congregation, feels that I have reciprocated. I can't tell you how many colleagues of mine are jealous — or downright disbelieving — of my situation here. Whatever happens in the external world, I am both thankful and proud that, inside our synagogue, we have created a true sanctuary. I hope you feel the same way.

In Hesed,
Rabbi Daniel



Esther Adelman,
Co-president Temple
Hesed

Esther Looks Back & Looks at Now

HESED MEMORIES: THE DEBBIE FRIEDMAN CONCERT

When Barbara Graham became President of Temple Hesed, one of her goals was to bring Debbie Friedman here for a concert. Several years prior, we had organized a bus trip to see Debbie in concert at Carnegie Hall. Ever since then, Barbara was determined to get her to come to Temple Hesed. I remember a \$25,000 price tag, which presented for us a huge leap of faith. Her persistence paid off, and through many advanced patron ticket sales augmented by some generous donations, it finally happened. I can't remember the date, or even the year, but there was a full house in our sanctuary that Saturday night.

I'll never forget how proud and happy Barbara was that night. What prompted my memories was the Torah portion of a few weeks ago. In "B'Shalach", Exodus 15:20-21, Moses's sister, Miriam, leads the women in song and dance after the safe crossing of the Sea of Reeds by the Israelites. Debbie Friedman turned that joyful celebration into the lively "Miriam's Song". We, of course, put that high on our request list.

Well, here's what happened when Barbara recognized Debbie's intro: Barbara immediately jumped up from her seat in one of the front pews, grabbing my hand in the process. She then lead me into the center aisle, where she danced as if no one were watching. I followed her lead, grabbing women's hands as we passed their seats. Soon most of the women had joined hands and were snaking around the aisles, with many men jumping in as well. Debbie got caught up in this spontaneous demonstration, and kept repeating the song until we all fell exhausted back into our seats.

Since then, both Barbara and Debbie sadly have passed away, but their memories still live on in our hearts and minds.

Esther Adelman

OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY LEADERS

Did you know that the current leaders of many of our Jewish community organizations are members of our Temple Hesed family?

Here's the impressive list of Presidents:

Jewish Federation of NEPA: Eric Weinberg (Succeeding Esther Adelman)
Jewish Community Center: Jennifer Novak (Succeeding Jerry Fragin)
Jewish Home of Eastern PA: Jim Alperin (Succeeding Doug Fink, former member)
Elan Gardens: Carol Leventhal (Succeeding Bob Hersh)
Webster Towers: Mike Greenstein (Last 8 years)
Jewish Family Services of NEPA: Deirdre Spelman (Former member)

I find this quite amazing. Though I have always admired the depth of our membership, I never stopped to think just how great it actually was. This proves to me that the members of Temple Hesed are indeed special and worthy of praise.

Our sincere congratulations go to these leaders and to other Temple members who serve on these community Boards as well. We are so proud of their continued leadership and dedication, acting constructively to make *Tikkun Olam* a reality.

Esther Adelman

Mainstream Jewish Orgs decry extreme Jewish Terrorism and Violence on the West Bank

NEW YORK, NY, January 25, 2022 - Seven prominent, pro-Israel American Jewish organizations representing more than three-quarters of Jewish congregations and other constituencies in the U.S. sent a letter late yesterday to Israeli Prime Minister Bennett, Foreign Minister Lapid and Defense Minister Gantz, condemning "the ongoing terrorism and political violence committed by Jewish Israeli extremists in the West Bank against Palestinians, Israeli civilians, and IDF soldiers."

The letter points to Friday's attacks by extremists on Palestinians and Israeli activists outside the West Bank village of Burin near Nablus as being "particularly egregious," though not "isolated." Another attack in the northern West Bank Palestinian town of Hawara was filmed yesterday. "This disturbing trend," the organizations' write, must be "addressed through unequivocal action by the Israeli government and security apparatus."

While recognizing that "these acts are perpetrated by a small group of radicals" and that Israelis are also "victims" of "increasing attacks by Palestinians," the letter declares that these attacks by Israelis are "an affront to Israel's rule of law, to Israeli democracy, and to Jewish values, while undermining Israel's image and relations with the United States government, American people, and American Jewry."

A copy of the letter is below. It was signed by: ADL, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Israel Policy Forum, National Council of Jewish Women, Rabbinical Assembly, Union for Reform Judaism, and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

January 24, 2022

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett
Foreign Minister Yair Lapid
Defense Minister Benny Gantz
State of Israel

We write to condemn in the strongest possible terms the ongoing terrorism and political violence committed by Jewish Israeli extremists in the West Bank against Palestinians, Israeli civilians, and IDF soldiers. While the latest example of extremists filmed torching a car and violently attacking Palestinians and Israeli activists with clubs outside the village of Burin is particularly egregious, it is sadly not an isolated incident. This disturbing trend must not only be condemned in words but addressed through unequivocal action by the Israeli government and security apparatus.

We recognize that these acts are perpetrated by a small group of radicals. We also recognize that this is not a one-sided problem and that Israelis are also victims of ongoing and increasing attacks



by Palestinians. But attacks by Israelis have been steadily increasing and intensifying over the past year, and as pro-Israel Jewish organizations, we are deeply concerned by these trends and request that you address them. These attacks serve as an affront to Israel's rule of law, to Israeli democracy, and to Jewish values, while undermining Israel's image and relations with the United States government, American people, and American Jewry. They make it more difficult to appreciate Israel's legitimate and ongoing security needs and efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We urge the entire Israeli government to unite in strong condemnation against these acts, to work decisively to hold those responsible accountable, and to confront the growing threats posed by these extremists with the determination and seriousness that this grave situation requires.

From URJ.ORG



**Family Program:
Shabbat is for
You and Me! Sat-
urday February
12 from 10 to
11:30 am**

Our January Family Program on Tu B'Shvat was such a success that we can't wait for our February pro-

gram. In January, we learned about the Jewish New Year of the Tree, making Seven Species Bars (in the picture, Rabbi Daniel is adding the final touch before baking — pomegranate juice!) and special bird feeders from bagels and pinecones! In February, we'll explore how to make Shabbat fun for "you and me!" We'll learn fun Shabbat music and special Shabbat family customs, make braided havdallah candles and eat some delicious challah! All families are welcome to attend — all we ask is that you please register with Rabbi Daniel beforehand so he has enough materials prepared. Email him at rabbidaniel@comcast.net or send him a text at 570-877-3454.

JAHRZEITS

January 30 – February 5
28 Shevat – 4 Adar 1
Service February 4

*Dorothy Rosenberg, *Pamela Tigrett, *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

February 6 – 12
5 – 10 Adar 1
Service February 11

Stanley Bernfeld, *Bessie Alperin, *Freda Carlson, *Harry Schmerin, *Lewis Sugar, *Sara W. Wormser, *Miriam Ruth Vogel, *Dotty B. Selverstone, *David Cornfield, *Murray Jacobson, *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

February 13 – 19
12 – 18 Adar 1
Service February 18

*Nelson J. Goodman, *Arthur Besen, *Janet B. Rubinger, *Jefferson K. Freeman, *Alfred Rice, Sr., Sara Mendlowitz, Mildred Lambert, Dolores Baron, *Marcus Fragin, *Minnie Levy, Tillie Fogel, *Louis E. Maring, Sr.

February 20 – 26
19 – 25 Adar 1
Service February 25

*David Ackerman, *Ike E. Oppenheim, *Nathan H. Strauss, Gloria D. Ganz, *Miriam S. Newman, *Lillian Zepel, *Albert N. Kramer, *Dr. Henri Deutsch, Richard Levy, *Oscar Leventhal, *Michael Cembalest

February 27 – March 5
26 Adar 1 – 2 Adar 11
Service March 4

*Carl Fragin, *Sallie Goodman, *Rosa J. Roos, *Renee Traub, *Anne C. Kramer, *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

Michael Cornfield	<i>Get</i>
Lynne Fragin	
Kenny Ganz	<i>Wells</i>
Larry Golden	
Ellen Kline	
Phil Knobel	
Maggie LoRusso	
Rich Mates	
Chelsea Minkoff	
Harriet Noble	
Charlene Ostro	
Ceil Rydzewski	
Joel Vener	

Adv.

Marieann Duffy-Mates
 REALTOR®

C: 570-468-0232
O: 570-344-6724 xt 238
 PA License # RS361754

E: Marie@JRuddy.com
W: MarieMates.com

111 W. Drinker Street
 Dunmore, PA 18512

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated




February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Services 6p*	5 Chanting circle 11:30a ***.
6 10 Commandments, noon***	7	8	9	10	11 Services 7p*	12 Family shabbat 10a Chanting Circle. 11:30a**
13 10 Commandments, noon***	14	15	16	17	18 Services 7p*	19 Chanting Circle. 11:30a**
20 10 Commandments, noon***	21	22	23	24	25 Services 7p*	26 Chanting Circle. 11:30a**
27 10 Commandments, noon***	28				*In person also on Zoom & YouTube	**Only on Zoom ***In person and Zoom

5782 Holiday Calendar

Rosh HaShanah —
Sept. 6-8

Yom Kippur — Sept. 15-16

Sukkot — Sept. 20-27

Sh'mini Atzeret-Simchat Torah — Sept. 27-28

Hanukkah — Nov. 28
Dec. 6

Tu B'Shevat — Jan. 16-17

Purim — Mar. 16-17

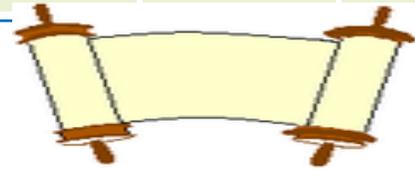
Passover — Apr. 15-22

Yom HaShoah — Apr. 27-28

Yom HaZikaron —
May 3-4

Yom HaAtzmaut —
May 4-5

Lag BaOmer — May 18-19



Torah Portions

Name	Civil date	Hebrew date
Terumah	Feb. 5, 2022	4. Adar 1. 5782
Tetzave	Feb. 12, 2022	11. Adar 1. 5782
Ki Tisa	Feb. 19, 2022	18. Adar 1. 5782
Vayakhel	Feb. 26, 2022	25. Adar 1. 5782

More information available from URJ.org

YIDDISH SAYING:

“If you want your dreams to come true, don't sleep.”



David H. Dickstein, O.B.M.

David Harris Dickstein of Clarks Summit, passed away in his home on Jan. 15, surrounded by his loved ones. He and his wife, the former Gail Jacobson, would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 28.

Born in Scranton, he was the son of Doris (Dorrie) Ball Dickstein, Scranton, and the late Stanley N. Dickstein.

He is also survived by his sons, Eric (Lauren) and Marc (Mark); sisters, Susan Pollan (Stuart) and Karen Weinman (Robert); granddaughter, Lola; mother-in-law, Claire Jacobson; and brother-in-law, Jeffrey Jacobson (Robin). Also surviving are beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

David and Gail were high school sweethearts and were married for 49 years. Their love and devotion to one another was obvious to anyone who knew them. David was an extraordinarily proud and supportive father to Eric and Marc. He

allowed nothing to get in the way of his presence in their lives. He coached their soccer teams, attended their piano recitals, and spent quality time with them fishing and boating at Lake Winola. Stories of new experiences, learnings and successes shared over countless delicious meals always brought a smile to his face. David loved, supported and encouraged his sons as they carved their own paths as children and now as adults, husbands and fathers.

David was delighted to become a grandfather to Lola in March 2020. David attended Central High School, where he was an honor student. During his high school years, David was involved with the JCY and JCC, and enjoyed playing guitar in a band. He attended Lehigh University where he studied industrial engineering and was president of the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity. After graduating from Lehigh, he joined the sales team at Jacobson Hat Company, a business started by Gail's grandfather and great-uncle, Walter and

Harry Jacobson, in lower Manhattan in the 1930s.

David worked at Jacobson Hat Company for 50 years (1971-2021). In addition to his work at JHats, David served on the board of directors of the Tuscan Holdings Corporation. He was a savvy investor and enjoyed following global markets.

David served on the board of directors of numerous local organizations, including the Jewish Community Center, Temple Hesed, Elan Gardens, the Jewish Home of Scranton, the Jewish Foundation of the Elderly, the Red Cross of Scranton, Glen Oak Country Club, Wave Oak, the JCC and Elan Gardens. He was honored by the JCC as "Man of the Year" in 2005 in recognition of his service to the community.

Burial was in Temple Hesed Cemetery.

TEMPLE HESED

1 Knox Road
Scranton, PA 18505

Office: 570-344-7201

Fax: 570-344-4514

Temple Hesed

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

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

SPIRITUAL LEADER

Rabbi Daniel J Swartz

570-877-3454 (cell)

570-344-7201 (office)

rabbidaniel@comcast.net (email)

OFFICERS

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

Board Members: Kenneth Ganz, Robert Hersh, Natalie Gelb, Paula Kane, Carol Leventhal, Judith Golden, Donna Kostiak, Loren Selznick, Josh Levine

STAFF

Marlene Gianzanti—*Temple Administrator*

(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. Bring a face mask.

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.