



MESSENGER

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



How To Help Ukraine

Two special funds have been created to help support the Jewish community in Ukraine, which already faced a nearly 20% poverty rate even before the devastating Russian invasion.

The World Union for Progressive Judaism.

In the light of the recent conflict on the Ukrainian border, the World Union for Progressive Judaism launches the Ukraine Crisis Fund. We ask people from all over the world to make donations towards the support of the Jewish community in Ukraine.

Money will be spent on individuals and communities to ensure their safety and well-being. If the conflict escalates further, your money will become crucial and necessary help for many people. If the tension eases, the fund will be spent on the development of the progressive Jewish community in Ukraine. To find out more, to see a special video briefing on the crisis, or to donate, go to: <https://wupj.org/news/2022/02/51971/world-union-launches-ukraine-crisis-fund/>

Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

In response to the invasion of Ukraine, JDC has launched an emergency campaign to respond to spiking humanitarian needs among the nearly 40,000 poor Jews it supports in 1,000 locations around the country. JDC is already providing extra essentials like food and medicine to its clients and has activated its emergency hotlines, volunteer corps, and network of Hesed social service centers to address emerging needs as events unfold. The organization is also preparing to handle mass displacement, and deploy psychosocial support and increased aid to the most vulnerable. Donations to these efforts can be made at <https://jdc.org/ukraine>

In this issue:

- Jonathan Rosenstein, OBM
- Family Shabbat Photos
- Five Commandments left

Esther and the Beached Boys: A Climate Change Purimshpiel — March 19th

For years now, Temple Hesed's Purimshpiels have been special events not only in the Jewish community, but in our local community as a whole. While obviously a Jewish holiday, in some ways, it's our biggest "interfaith" event of the year, as we're joined by dozens of people from other faith communities, all adding to the joy and fun of the occasion.

This year, the joy will spread even further, as Rabbi Daniel has written the Purimshpiel to be part of a national interfaith effort called the "Exodus Alliance." (more on the Exodus Alliance in his Rabbinic Reflections column) So congregations and communities all across the U.S. will be utilizing his shpiel. But while there will be lots of "touring company" versions, ours will be the "original cast!" It will be the first-ever climate change-themed Purimshpiel, with lots of fun summer/beach music from the Beach Boys, the Beatles, the Eagles, and even Alice Cooper and the new Disney musical, Encanto!

The celebration will start at 4:30 p.m. on March 19 with a family program for children of all ages. We'll be learning some of the lesser-known Purim traditions while we have fun making noisemakers and

hamentashen. There is no charge, but RSVP to the Temple so we can plan for numbers.

Then, at 5:45 p.m., we'll have an "indoor picnic" dinner. While we seem to be through the worst of the pandemic, we still think that it might not yet be time for a potluck or pasta dinner, so, as we did at Hanukkah, we're asking families to bring their own food.

The temple will provide extra plates, napkins, silverware and drinks. We're asking families to make \$1/person or \$5/family contribution to help cover the costs of supplies and cleanup.

At 6:45 p.m., we'll gather in the sanctuary for the shpiel itself, with our fabulous "hamentaschen bakeoff" of many flavors and diverse hamentaschen recipes immediately following.

Please RSVP for the dinner, and also let the Temple office know if you'd be willing to bake hamentaschen. Call the office at 570-344-7201 or email to temple-hesed@comcast.net And make sure to invite your friends for fun and fabulous evening!



Donations to Temple Hesed

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

Donations will appear in the April edition

Adult Education Continues with Commandments Five—Ten

Even if you missed the first four commandments weeks, you are most welcome to join us in-person for the remaining six, from Sunday, March 6 through Sunday, April 10. All classes will be at noon, with March 6 meeting at Temple Hesed and online and the remaining sessions meeting at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church and online.

Mother Rebecca Barnes of St. Luke’s and our own Rabbi Daniel are using 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.

For those attending in-person, St. Luke’s address is 233 Wyoming Ave, in downtown Scranton near the Cathedral, and they have their own parking lot.

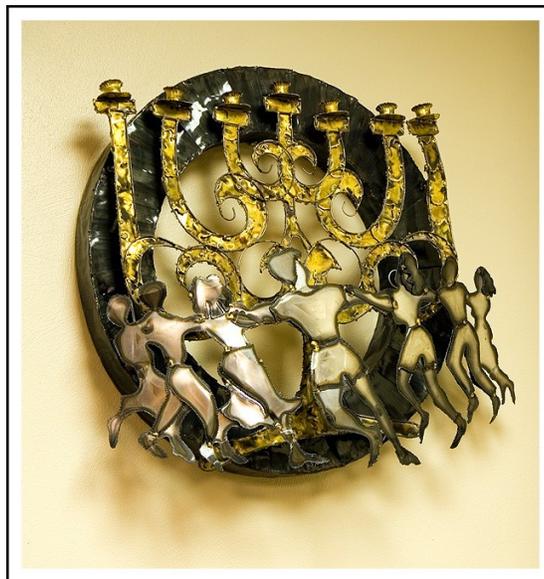
To attend by Zoom, click: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82264883040?pwd=ejVmeUE3SE9KMxI0RTVUKzhyNW5xUT09> Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 822 6488 3040 and Passcode: Sinai

This class is free and open to all.

Multifaith Chanting Circle: Chant “Smorgasbord”, Saturday, March 5, 12, and 26 at 11:30 a.m.

We’ll be doing something a little different during our March Multifaith Chanting Circles. Instead of using chants already written by Rabbi Shefa Gold and others, chanting circle participants will be sharing passages from the Bible, prayers, favorite sayings and so on, that we will be turning into a “smorgasbord” of chants! For example, one person has chosen a passage from a reading we use to conclude the Aleinu section of our Shabbat services, “may our deeds exceed our speech,” another person chose a Bahai prayer, and a third a passage from Psalms about broken hearts.

It’s a chance for us all to learn from each other — and you can join in and learn and find support with us as well!



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

Purim, Passover, and the Exodus Alliance

As was noted in the article about this year's Purimshpiel, I wrote this year's shpiel, "Esther and the Beached Boys: A Climate Change Purimshpiel," not only for our congregation but as part of a larger, interfaith effort called the Exodus Alliance. Which leads to an obvious question: just what is the Exodus Alliance?

The Exodus Alliance grew out of discussions I had with other faith/environmental activists as we noted that this April, there will be a remarkable convergence of holy days across a wide variety of faiths. In addition to the more common intersection of Passover and Easter, this year Ramadan overlaps both of them, which has not happened in over 60 years. And because all of these holy days intersect in the middle of April, they also coincide with the Bahá'í festival of Ridvan, Mahavir Jayanti and Vaisakhi (observed in Jain and Hindu and Sikh and Hindu traditions respectively) and the Buddhist Therevada New Year.

What all of these festivals have in common, besides the overlapping dates, is that they mark new beginnings and the casting off of shackles of oppression, defeat, and servitude. So we thought a very appropriate recognition of this unusual conjunction would be to bring faiths together for the sake of the future of our planet. Thus was born the Exodus Alliance, organized within the Jewish community and reaching outwards, and a parallel effort, Sacred Season, that is global and began in Christian communities. I've also led efforts to reconvene the faith leaders who met in the Vatican, whom I will be addressing beginning in early March.

Both the Exodus Alliance and Sacred Season decided to undertake a variety of efforts, so that people with different interests can find a way, rather than focus on one action only. Locally, we'll be including Exodus Alliance materials in our congregational seder in April, and I'm also working with Marywood University, the IHM Sisters, and Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light to pull together an interfaith event on the Marywood campus at the end of April.

If you'd like to join in any of the local events, please let me know and I'll make sure to include you in the planning process. Leave a message for me on the Temple phone or email me at rabbidaniel@comcast.net And if you'd like to connect with the Exodus Alliance, check out our webpage at www.exodusalliance.org

In Hesed,
Rabbi Daniel

Family Program A Success

Ten students and their families gathered at Temple Hessed in February to learn about deepening their Shabbat practices at home. We learned songs and blessings, and we made havdallah candles and baked challah. Our next family program will be on March 19 at 4:30, as part of our Purim celebration. Everyone is welcome.

Challah making is the Levine family; candles are the Davison and Rozman/Luma families.



Reform Jewish Leader Decries Antisemitic Incidents in North America

Washington, DC, February 1, 2022 – In response to a recent spate of antisemitic incidents in North America, 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:

In the last several weeks, several incidents of antisemitism nationwide have been perpetrated that are of deep concern to us as Jews and should be of equal concern to all people of good will.

The stately edifice of Union Station in Washington, DC, a main entry point to the nation's capital, was defaced with swastikas. Neo-Nazis gathered in Orlando, Florida and proudly displayed the symbols and gestures of the Third Reich. A Tennessee school board banned author Art Spiegelman's groundbreaking Holocaust allegory "Maus," which has powerfully taught several generations of students about the horrors of the Shoah and sensitized them to the dangers of dehumanization. A member of Congress tweeted a discredited quote from "Voltaire" that is well-known to be, in fact, the words of a white supremacist neo-Nazi. Flyers blaming Jews for COVID were widely circulated in multiple states. A COVID-related protest in Ottawa included open and painful displays of Nazi symbols. And of course, we continue to feel the pain of the hostage taking at our Colleyville, TX Congregation Beth Israel, motivated by pernicious antisemitic tropes about Jewish power.

Each of these incidents, and others sadly too numerous to name, make clear that antisemitism is being fomented across the United States. At this dangerous moment, it is not enough to be passively opposed to such views and actions. All people of good-will must speak forcefully and consistently

in opposition to antisemitism and those who spread it.

History has demonstrated repeatedly the horrors that can occur when good people remain silent. We at the RAC and across the Reform Jewish Movement advocate tirelessly in solidarity with all vulnerable groups who experience oppression and are targeted by hate. Antisemitism cannot be fought by Jews alone; the security of all people is in our solidarity and shared commitment to eradicating hatred wherever it is found.



Rabbi Pesner

JAHRZEITS

February 27 – March 5

26 Adar I – 2 Adar II

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

March 6 – 12

3 – 9 Adar II

Service March 11

*Esther Krotosky, *Jennie Pell, *Gordon H. Folk, *David Fragin, *Emanuel J. Goodman, *Pearl Hoffman, *Emanuel Oppenheim, *Samuel L. Cohen, *Lottie Schoenhof, *Carolyn Weiss, *Oscar Rosenblum, *Sylvia Hodes, *Ann F. Nogi, *Anna B. Breschel, Donald Dembert

March 13 – 19

10 – 16 Adar II

Service March 18

*Ophelia K. Hershfield, Edna Lauscher, *Isadore Harry Kramer, *Jack J. Levine, *Regina Oppenheim, *William Katz, *Adele Hollander, *Jacob R. Cohen, *Robert P. Silverstein, *Florence R. Spelman, Arthur Feinberg, *Isabelle G. Cohen, *Leo Mitteldorf, *Dorothy Leobl Pell, Sadye M. Smith, *David Landau, *Helen Fragin, *Ben Silverman, Madeline Needle

March 20 – 26

17 – 23 Adar II

Service March 25

*Minnie G. Rice, *Dr. Moses Fragin, *Marion L. Graham, *Sol Driesen, *Seymour Sieber, *Theodore A. Stein, *Jacob L. Druck, *Seymour Cader, *Jay Leiman

March 27 – April 2

24 Adar II – 1 Nissan

Service April 1

Max Ballot, *Joshua Marks, *Albert Rose, *Arthur Adelman, *William Stein, *Jack Benkaim, *Ruth Folk, *Lois Besen, Joel Ostro, *Ida Richman, Mark Davis, *Samuel N. Kramer, *Hattie O. Levi, *Elsie Schneider

Michael Cornfield

Lynne Fragin

Kenny Ganz

Larry Golden

Ellen Kline

Phil Knobel

Maggie LoRusso

Rich Mates

Chelsea Minkoff

Harriet Noble

Charlene Ostro

Ceil Rydzewski

Joel Vener

Get

Wells

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



CENTURY 21
 Jack Ruddy Real Estate

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Services, 6p *	5 Chanting Circle 11:30 a*
6 10 Commandments noon*at Hesed	7	8	9	10	11 Services,7p*	12 Chanting Circle 11:30 a**
13 DST BEGINS 10 Commandments noon*@St.Luke's	14	15	16 Board Mtg** 6p	17	18 Services,7p*	19 Purim Programs, 4:30p, dinner 5:45& Sphiel*6:45p
20 10 Commandments noon*@St.Luke's	21	22	23	24	25 Services,7p*	26 Chanting Circle 11:30 a**
27 10 Commandments noon*@St.Luke's	28	29	30	31	*in person, on Zoom & YouTube	**Only on 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

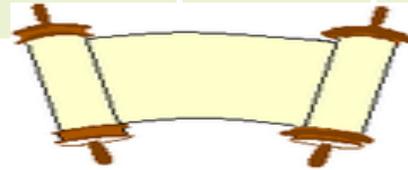
Passover — Apr.15-22

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
Pekudei	March 5, 2022	2.Adar II.5782
Vaykra	March 12, 2022	9.Adar II.5782
Tzav	March 19, 2022	16.Adar II.5782
Shemini	March 26, 2022	23.Adar II.5782

More information available from URJ.org

YIDDISH SAYING:

“Bad Habits are easier to abandon today than tomorrow.”



Jonathan Rosenstein, OBM



Jonathan W. Rosenstein, 9, of Dalton, died unexpectedly February 3, at home.

Born in Scranton, son of Jeffrey W. and Sarah R. O'Brien Rosenstein, he was a third grade student at Waverly Elementary School.

Jonathan was a member of the Abington soccer club travel team and the Abington baseball league. He was very active and some of his favorite activities included skiing, tennis, hiking,

swimming, fishing, playing video games, boating, kayaking, paddle boarding and tubing at Lake Winola, where he was the captain of his family's boat during its annual water carnival.

Jonathan was a wonderful young man who enjoyed spending time with his family, friends, his dog, Percy, and his cat, Olaf, and will be missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Also surviving are his sister and best friend, Samantha Rosenstein, at home; maternal grandparents, Tim and Debbie Scavo O'Brien, Dalton; paternal grandparents, Jay and Carole Arta-

bane Rosenstein, Dalton; aunt, Rebecca O'Brien; uncle, Jamy Rosenstein and aunt, Nisha Rosenstein; as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

TEMPLE HESED

1 Knox Road
Scranton, PA 18505

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

Temple Hessed

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

On the Web at: templehesed.org

SPIRITUAL LEADER

Rabbi Daniel J Swartz

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

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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 Hessed, 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 Hessed 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 Hessed 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.