



# MESSENGER

Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



## Hesed Community Seder a Success!

After COVID-19 forced us to resort to virtual seders, on April 15th Temple Hesed members came back for our first in-person seder since 2019. Ranging in age from 3 to 80, we gathered for an evening of shared traditions, new teachings, good food, and the simple joy of being together again.

Congregation members helped out with set up, clean up, and activities for the children, including both a scavenger hunt (led by Jessica Levine) and an elaborate search for the afikomen, complete with rhyming clues. Rabbi Daniel prepared both Ashkenazic and Sephardic style haroset — and Suzy Kalman artistically sculpted the latter into small pyramids as a visual reminder of the enslavement of the Israelites in Egypt.

Maddie Davison, who will become bat mitzvah next year, chanted the four questions, and everyone took turns reading from the haggadah and joining in the songs.

Sue Meyer, Carol Van Wie, Billie Jo Cornfield, Josh Levine and Hunter Gillow also helped with set up and cleanup — thanks so much!

The seder utilized “The Promise of the Land,” the beautiful new haggadah by Rabbi Ellen Bernstein, with lovely artwork by Gaila Goodman — which we’ve been waiting for two years to use in person! Rabbi Daniel served as an editorial consultant and advisor for the haggadah, and everyone at the seder enjoyed its unique take on the connection between the Passover story and Jewish teachings about caring for the environment.

The music ranged from the traditional to more contemporary tunes from Debbie Friedman, Rabbi Max Chain, and Joey Weisenberg. People took up timbrels to join in “Miriam’s Song,” and they went around the room (gently) hitting each other with scallions during Dayenu, enacting a custom of Iranian Jews.

Though the Toffee Matzah served as dessert was sweet, the truly sweetest part of the seder was being able at last to celebrate Passover together.

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## Donations to Temple Hessed

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

### ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Joan Alperin**  
*Jim and Patty Alperin*

### BUILDING FUND

**In Memory of Michael Luger**  
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**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Nellie H. Wooden**  
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**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Lillian Bernstein**  
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**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Edward Bernstein**  
*Arlene Michaels*

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### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Dr. Carl Strauss**  
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**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of beloved Aunt, Grace Pawlan**  
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### TORAH RESTORATION FUND

**In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Grace Pawlan**  
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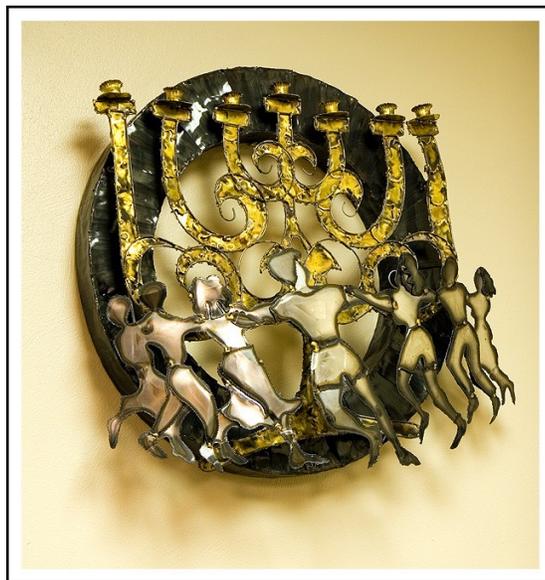
## Multifaith Chanting Circle: Arise! 11:30 on May 7, 14, and 21

Our multifaith chanting circle will explore a new theme, "Arise!," over three gatherings in May, on the 7, 14, and 21.

You can participate on May 7 either in person or online, while May 14 and 21 will be online only.

We'll be looking at a variety of dimensions of "arise" — everything from noticing what arises within when we quiet our mind, to arising against oppression, to arising to new or renewed life.

Our diverse and welcoming circle comes together not only to chant, but to study, re-



flect, meditate, and support each other. So why not come and see what you've been missing.

Note: There will not be a chanting circle on May 28, due to Sascha Novak becoming Bat Mitzvah.



*Rabbinical  
Reflections*

Rabbi Daniel J.  
Swartz

# Gaps in Life Cycle Rituals

**A**s I write this, I am in a hotel room in Queens, waiting to bring Alana to JFK airport early tomorrow morning for a flight to Hiroshima, where, after two years of COVID-related delays, she will study for the next four months.

Even before COVID, the “standard trajectory” of growing up — graduating from high school, leaving home to go to college or get a job, and never moving back — had become less and less “standard,” as families moved apart and then back together.

Adult children sometimes needed to move back home to figure out next steps and relaunch, or perhaps re-re-launch. Sometimes, aging or unexpectedly ill parents needed to move in with adult children. And sometimes, new combinations and permutations just seemed to work better than any simple “grow up and out” model did.

Then, as with so many disruptive changes, COVID accelerated this process. For our part, having our daughter live with us full time for months on end was a true delight, even as it raised any number of unexpected challenges.

Which got me to thinking: there seem to be a growing number of life-stages, or at least Major Life Events, which are currently unrecognized by Jewish traditions. For that matter, as far as I can tell, the same holds true in other religious traditions.

Currently, we have the bar or bat mitzvah, perhaps confirmation, and then perhaps wedding or births, divorce and eventually death. But not everyone heads toward marriage nowadays, and even if they do, there are many important steps between 13 years old and wedded bliss. Not to mention that in modernity, far more people live long past child-rearing years, and there are major transitions in those years as well.

Most life cycle rituals, whether in Judaism, other faith traditions, or even secular practices, recognize and try to bring comfort and stability to what anthropologists call liminal moments, the moment in the gateway between two places or life stages. These rituals try to guide us from one side to the other — but increasingly, we are recognizing that these aren’t one-way doors, but rather true gateways that one can go back and forth through.

In the past, Reform Judaism did a lot of its “reforming” through elimination of what was thought to be outmoded or no longer meaningful. But if Judaism is to remain relevant amidst the rapid changes of today, we must invent as well as discard. And in our profoundly unsettled lives, I think the collective wisdom of Jewish thought through the millennia could bring deep spiritual guidance to these new liminal times.

What do you think? Would you like a ritual for a major change in your life? A launch or re-launch? An empty nest — whether on the first go-round or after several times “back in the nest”?

A transition out of work, or at least from full-time work? I’d love to think this through with you and see what we can come up — we might well be able to pass on new traditions that will become an integral part of Jewish life in the future.

After all, we now think of b’nai mitzvah ceremonies as a key Jewish experience. But the bat mitzvah ceremony just turned 100 in March, and even the bar mitzvah of sort celebrated today is only a few hundred years old. So let’s fashion something for these important gaps!

*Rabbi Daniel*

## Ahead at Temple Hesed

We have lots of exciting programs coming up in June.

After COVID disrupted the past two celebrations of Shavuot, we will gather together with Temple Israel on the evening of June 4 for an in-person Tikkun Leil Shavuot, studying with Rabbis Daniel, Marjorie and Miriam into the night.

On June 5, we'll be hosting a special Yizkor service, for all who lost someone in the past few years, whether to COVID or anything else.

And we are still deciding on what Adult Education class will start this summer — so it's not too late to weigh in and make your suggestion to Rabbi Daniel.

Plus our annual Pride service, Shabbat under the Stars and more. Stay tuned!

### May Family Program — a Jewish Journey into Nature! May 14th at 10 a.m.

We've got a very special family program coming up in May, one near and dear to Rabbi Daniel: a Jewish Journey into Nature!

We'll gather at Temple Hesed at 10 am May 14 and then hike into our own "backcountry," learning what our tradition can teach us about everything from lichen to tadpoles!

Along the way, we'll learn the inner meaning of the Sh'ma through a blindfold walk and trust exercises.

Make sure to wear shoes or boots that can get muddy! Everyone is welcome (especially, but not only families with young children) — just RSVP to the Temple office so we know how many to prepare for — [templehesed@comcast.net](mailto:templehesed@comcast.net) or call 570-344-7201.

## HUC to End its Residential Rabbinical Program in Cincinnati, Ohio by 2026

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's leadership made a difficult and painful, yet necessary decision in April to sunset its Cincinnati residential rabbinical program by 2026. HUC's campuses in New York, Los Angeles and Jerusalem will remain open.

In the meantime, HUC-JIR will be designing an innovative, academically rigorous, low-residency rabbinical and cantorial program.

The deliberations by the Board of Governors were conducted with great sensitivity to the inspiring history of HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, Ohio, which remains the birthplace of the Reform Movement in North America.

"What we do today will help secure our movement for future generations, who will surely wrestle with how to meet the challenges of their day, as they go from strength to strength," said the official statement from the school.

# RAC Leader Lauds Biden Plan to End Title 42 Restrictions

**March 31, 2022, WASHINGTON** – In response to reports that the Biden administration will end Title 42 asylum restrictions by the end of May 2022, **Barbara Weinstein, director of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism and associate director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism**, released the following statement:



Barbara Weinstein

We welcome the Biden administration’s plans to end the inhumane, illegal Title 42 asylum policy by May 23, 2022.

Since the start of the pandemic, the United States has summarily expelled over 1.6 million asylum seekers under Title 42, a policy that used the guise of public health to prevent people from legally seeking refuge in the U.S. Title 42 is only the latest of more than a century of policies to traffic in tropes about immigrants and disease. It deprives asylum seekers of their legal right to pursue asylum protections, allows border officials to expel them with no due process, and disproportionately harms Black and Brown migrants and families.

This unjust, unlawful, and unwise policy has been a stain on American immigration policy for far too long. We learn from the Torah and our experiences through the generations of the importance of protecting those fleeing dangerous conditions. We urge the Biden administration to uphold U.S. and international law and to swiftly welcome all those seeking refuge without discrimination.



# Help Ukraine

<https://jdc.org/Ukraine> and/or <https://wupj.org/news/2022/02/51971/world-union-launches-ukraine-crisis-fund/>

# JAHRZEITS

May 1 – 7  
30 Nissan – 6 Iyar

Service May 6

\*Louis N. Kramer, Herbert Cummins, \*Herman Gutman, \*Sarah F. Kline, \*Nathan Young, \*Sigmund G. Roos, \*John Speir, Gertie Gross, \*Roselle Fine, \*Sarah Weinberg

May 8 – 14  
7 – 13 Iyar

Service May 13

\*Gloria Scheinholtz, \*Nellie B. Stromberg, \*Martin D. Linder, \*Samuel M. Friedman, \*Samuel L. Goldstein, Nat Fragin, Rella Mates, \*Bess Linder, \*Selma Sydansk, \*Isaac Sobel, \*Barbara J. Graham, \*Edward Bruce Adelman, \*Anne Mitteldorf, Jack W. Heilbrunn

May 15 – 21  
14 – 20 Iyar

Service May 20

\*Rabbi Bernard Heller, \*Rosemary Minkoff, \*Estelle H. Cohen, \*Louis Driesen, \*Philip Joseph, Melvin Sapsowitz, \*Sadie Berger, \*Max Pell, \*George W. Schneider, \*Dr. Henry Fish, \*Charles Ball

May 22 – 28  
21 – 27 Iyar

Service May 27

Lillian Bernstein, \*Blanche Katz, \*Louis Meyer, \*Sondra Schneider Kaar, \*Harold Gold, James Ellenbogen, \*Evalyn Lonstein, \*Earle R. Parker, \*Max Lerner, Anna Kurzweil, Ralph Blau, \*Israel Davidow, Fern Smith Tepper, \*Edna M. Siegel, \*William Krotosky

May 29 – June 4  
28 Iyar – 5 Sivan

Service June 3

\*Cora F. Reinthal, \*Nellie Kramer, \*Simon Smith, \*Rochelle Goldman, \*Louis Goldsmith, \*Selma Blank Maring, \*Rose Slavitz, \*Sophie Driesen, \*Betty Goldsmith, \*Leonard Cohen, \*Lenore Forman

Teresa Butler  
Michael Cornfield  
Lynne Fragin  
Kenny Ganz  
Larry Golden  
Ellen Kline  
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*Get Wells*

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# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Service 6 pm*	7 Chanting 11:30 am.*
8	9	10	11	12	13 Service 7pm*	14 Family prog. 10am Chanting 11:30 am**
15	16	17	18 Board Mtg. 6 pm	19	20 Service 7 pm*	21 Chanting 11:30 am**
22	23	24	25	26	27 Service 7 pm*	28 Sascha Novak Bat Mitzvah 10am
29	30	31		*available on Zoom & YouTube	**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

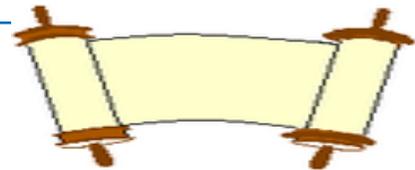
Yom HaAtzmaut —  
May 4-5

Lag BaOmer — May 18-19

Shavuot — June 4-5

Tishah B'Av — Aug. 6-7

Selichot Service — Sep. 17



### Torah Portions

Name	Civil date	Hebrew date
K'doshim	May 7, 2022	6.Iyar.5782
Emor	May 14, 2022	13.Iyar.5782
Behar	May 21, 2022	20.Iyar.5782
Bechukotai	May 28, 2022	27.Iyar.5782

More information available from [URJ.org](http://URJ.org)

### YIDDISH SAYING :

“A fool goes to the baths and forgets to wash his face.”

From 1001 Yiddish Proverbs-By Fred Kogos

# Sascha Novak, Bat Mitzvah, May 28

SASCHA LILY NOVAK, daughter of Ross and Jennifer Novak, will become a Bat Mitzvah on May 28, 2022. Along with her parents, her sister, Mia (15) is extremely proud and happy to share in Sascha's Simcha.

Sascha's Torah portion, Bechukotai, discusses how God promises blessings and curses to the people of Israel – depending on whether they keep God's commandments.

Sascha is in 7th grade at Dunmore Middle School. She is an animal lover and is devoted to her dog, Hamish, and cats, Birdie and Giselle. Additionally, Sascha loves to discover and listen to music, read books, and hang out with friends and family.



Sascha Novak

## TEMPLE HESED

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### Temple Hesed

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### SPIRITUAL LEADER

#### Rabbi Daniel J Swartz

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

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

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