

שליח

MESSENGER



Temple Hesed, 1 Knox Road, Scranton, PA 18505



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Coming up for Air; Digging for a new surface

A good deal of time at the June 22 annual meeting was discussion of two major capital projects: The heating, ventilation, air conditioning system and the lower parking lot and the driveway lower gate area from Knox Road.

The aging HVAC system at the Temple will soon be spewing cool, conditioned air in summer and warm air in winter. All without the need for constant repairs. As co-president Esther Adelman noted, the old system, which is in operation, has been patched together to keep it running and it also fails to meet current federal energy-usage guidelines. Even with the rise in electricity tariffs, the Temple will see a savings in heating and cooling costs once the new and modern system is operational.

The other major project is repaving the lower parking lot and driveway in front of the temple building. The upper lot will be repaired and resealed. The driveway and the lower parking lot will be dug up and a new blacktop surface will be applied. Judith Golden will be seeking out grants to help defray the costs. If you know the source of grant money that may be available, contact Dr. Golden or Marlene Gianzanti, Temple Administrator. Meanwhile donations for both capital projects have been coming in from present and past Temple members. See page 2.

Rabbi said that following a rocky learning curve attendance associated with hybrid (on-line and in-person) services, attendance has improved at services and other Temple functions. On-line participation has also been rising. About 25 members logged into the Zoom-only meeting, a number higher than the attendance at some in-person meetings in previous years, Adelman said.

Membership has grown by eight family units in the last year and now stands at more than 110 families.

The budget was approved and balanced slightly in the black. Every eligible Temple Hesed member has received a copy of the budget.

The congregation allowed a re-upping of the slate of officers. Co-presidents Steve Seitchik, Esther Adelman and Cheryl Friedman will serve another term.

Some changes were made to the board. New board members Susan Kalman, Randy Levine, and Jay Shechter will begin their three-year terms in September.



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

UPDATE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

We thank all of our Temple Hesed families who have responded so generously to date to our request for help with the funding of the necessary replacement of our old HVAC system and the sorely-needed repaving of our parking lot.

We are so proud and grateful that we have such wonderful members who have pitched in to ease the burden on our Building Fund, which our previous members so wisely established for such purposes. Now it is our turn to continue their legacy to provide for the future of our beloved Temple.

Below, you will see the total raised to date, plus the growing list of names that we are thanking at this time. We truly appreciate you all!

In Hesed,

Total donations as of June 23, 2022 is \$44,620!

Esther Adelman,

Co-President

Thank you:

Esther Adelman
Michael and Cheryl Friedman
Esther Friedmann
Kenny and Nicole Ganz
Dov and Suzan Giloni
Larry and Judie Golden
Mike and Gayle Greenstein
Lee Gromer
Jim and Paula Kane
Beth Kaplan
Harold and Nancy Kaplan Foundation
Phil and Jane Knobel
Donna Kostiak
Jeff and Carol Leventhal
Ken and Rose Levine
Randy and Lisa Levine
Saul and Sharon Levy
Vivian Needle
Steve and Ellen Seitchik
Loren Selznick
Joel and Karen Vener
Paula Wasser

ROSEANN SMITH ALPERIN ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Marc Sieber
Jim and Patty Alperin

BUILDING FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Blanche Katz, Mother
Sharon (Katz) and Saul Levy

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Gertrude Gross, Grandmother
Loren Selznick

In Memory of Marc Sieber
Faye and Richard Bishop
Faye and Robert Rosenberg

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Claire Bayer Ballot
Robert Ballot

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

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Ralph Blau
Jeffrey and Jane Blau

TORAH RESTORATION FUND

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of Barbara J. Graham
Esther B. Adelman

*Rabbinical**Reflections*Rabbi Daniel J.
Swartz

Rabbi's Annual Report

It seems like so long ago, but it was just before June of last year that we started meeting together in person again, after more than a year of only meeting remotely. Or rather, I should say, we started meeting both in person and online, giving a whole new meaning to the word *Hybrid*, which I had previously associated with vigorous plants and driving a Prius.

I've learned more than I ever cared to about hybrid meetings over the past year, including a long list of how they can go wrong, including a thunderstorm before Purim and locking my computer along with my keys in the car for the service under the stars! Yes, it would be simpler if we were all in person, and there is something about gathering together in person that no virtual setting can quite equal — but having multiple ways for people to connect seems to me very much to be in keeping with the overall ethos of Reform Judaism. Instead of saying “my way or the highway — there is only one “right” way to be Jewish, we are saying, come as you are, however you can come, whether in person or on Zoom or YouTube. I think it's safe to say at this point that we will continue with hybrid options for as long as people want them — and, especially for those farther away or facing time or physical challenges, there is a strong case to be made that people will want them from this point forward.

Despite all the additional logistical challenges posed by COVID-19, we've managed to move forward in a number of important ways this year. We had sizable crowds here in person, as well as online, for the High Holy Days, finally getting our new prayerbooks into people's hands. We had an in-person Purimshpiel that drew nearly as many people as ever, and with a shpiel that other synagogues across the country also used. We had our first bat mitzvah in a number of years. And we started up educational programs for children again, with a series of monthly family programs. These proved to be so successful that we will be conducting them again next year, with the addition of twice a month gatherings for younger students to learn holidays, Hebrew, and Jewish values. We'll also have a trio of middle school students and a quartet of high school students who will be meeting for field trips and to take on social justice projects. With the aid of funds from the Oppenheim family, our high school students will also be returning to DC in January for the L'taken Teen Social Justice Seminar.

This past year saw a wide variety of adult education programs, ranging from Yiddish stories and poems to a class on the 10 Commandments, co-taught with Mother Rebecca Barnes from St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Even though we did not receive a grant for science and faith adult education program for the coming year, we are going to be able to go ahead with it. I'll share more details this summer and at the High Holy Days, but it will look at “the Path of Wisdom: Integrating Science and Faith in Decision Making,” and it features two world-recognized scientists — who also happen to be my father and step-mother!

Temple Hesed has also been very involved in community affairs this year, especially in connection with my visit to the Vatican in October, as well as supporting racial and economic justice and the LGBTQ+ community.

In partnership with the Scranton Area Ministerium — which maybe needs a name change? — we will be organizing a series of opportunities for people in our area to experience different worship services, culminating with the annual interfaith Thanksgiving service, which once again Temple Hesed will be hosting.

As we head into summer, I will as always be preparing for the High Holy Days — and as I have for the past few years, I am once again welcoming suggestions both for topics for sermons and thoughts about the services themselves. Let me know what you think — and may the coming year be at least a bit simpler and less stressful than the past few!

Rabbi Daniel

July and August Chanting Circles: “Lessons of the River” and “Deepening”

Rabbi Daniel (along with Rabbi Marjorie) first learned about chanting while on retreat with Rabbi Shefa Gold on the banks of the mighty Amazon. Rabbi Shefa taught seven “lessons of the river” on that retreat, and Rabbi Daniel will share those lessons during the July chanting circles, in honor of that experience and because he and Rabbi Marjorie will be joining their family at the end of July to celebrate his father’s 87th birthday by rafting down the Grand Canyon! The interfaith Chanting Circle will meet in person and online on July 2nd and continue with the “lessons of the river” online only on July 9, 16, and 23 (no chanting circle on July 30, when Rabbi Daniel will be in the Grand Canyon.) All chanting circle gatherings are at 11:30am.

In August, drawing on his just-completed journey through the Grand Canyon, Rabbi Daniel will lead a series of chanting circles on the theme of “Deepening,” an especially appropriate theme as we begin to prepare for

the High Holy Days in September. We’ll explore how spiritual practices can deepen our connection to the Divine, to each other, and to the precious world we live on. The chanting circle will

gather in person and online on August 6, and online only on August 13, 20 and 27, with all gatherings at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome to come experience this diverse and supportive group — no prior experience necessary!

To join any of the July or August chanting circles online, just click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83570030002?pwd=TE8xQ2NDTi8xSk83cnRSQXFMY2lUdz09>

Or from the Zoom app, enter Meeting ID: 835 7003 0002 and Passcode: Gratitude (make sure to capitalize the G)



URJ Reacts to SCOTUS Abortion Decision

WASHINGTON – In response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* overturning a half century of judicial precedent established by *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, Rabbi Marla Feldman, Executive Director of Women of Reform Judaism;

Yolanda Savage-Narva, Assistant Vice President of Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion of the Union for Reform Judaism; and Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of the Action Center of Reform Judaism, released the following statement on behalf of the Religious Union for Reform Judaism, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Women of Reform Judaism:



UNION for REFORM JUDAISM

Rabbi Marla Feldman: “We are outraged that the Supreme Court today has stripped women and others who can become pregnant of the fundamental right to make essential health care decisions free of governmental interference. Abortion access is a critical component of reproductive health care. Pregnant individuals are capable of making ethical decisions based on their own beliefs and medical best interest without government officials imposing their personal religious views on others. As we navigate the catastrophic results of the Court’s decision, we will work to ensure that Congress and state legislatures do everything in their power to protect and improve access to abortion and our fundamental rights. We will not be silent as the Court tries to turn back the clock fifty years.”

Yolanda Savage-Narva: “This decision, which is rooted in anti-Black racism, white supremacy, and other systems of oppression, will have disastrous consequences. It disproportionately impacts those already facing discriminatory obstacles to health care and other human rights including Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color, people with disabilities, people in rural areas, undocumented people, and low-income people—people in our Reform Jewish community and outside the Movement. For many, this reality is not new, and many have been navigating abysmal abortion access in states that have eroded this right for decades, even with *Roe*. We must come together to take sustained action to support those whose human dignity and fundamental rights are and will be violated and stripped away. As Jews, we are commanded to do so.”

Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner: “We vehemently condemn the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs*, which overturns *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. This decision is wrong, full stop. It gives the green light to abortion bans that will eliminate or severely restrict access in nearly half of U.S. states and threatens other fundamental rights, including access to contraception and the LGBTQ+ rights affirmed by *Lawrence v. Texas* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Efforts to restrict abortion access also undermine the religious freedom of people who, as in the Jewish tradition, uphold abortion care as a medically necessary and righteous procedure. We are a Movement that includes people who have received abortion care, abortion providers, people who love someone who has had an abortion, and people who will one day need an abortion-- all of whom are deeply impacted by this decision. I take to heart the words of our Movement’s clergy and lay leaders in communities nationwide who have shared how devastating this decision will be including congregant and abortion provider Dr. Sara Imershein, MD, MPH, who said: ‘As a healer and an abortion provider I am deeply disappointed in the Supreme Court’s decision – but not at all surprised. Sadly, the poor and marginalized will suffer most from abortion restrictions – with greater poverty, forced childbirth and higher maternal mortality.’

Pirke Avot – Ethical Guidance through sayings, stories and song

How does one lead a good and moral life?

While almost all Jewish writing addresses this subject at least indirectly, there is one section of the Mishnah that Jews have turned to for ethical guidance for more than 2000 years — Pirke Avot, which can be translated as either “Sayings of the Ancestors” or “Teachings on Principles.”

It’s a collection of short and pithy quotes from the greatest of all of our sages, including Rabbis Hillel and Aviva. Indeed, its teachings are so

important that many have been turned into songs and stories, and hundreds of commentaries have been written about it.

For our summer Adult Ed course, we’ll spend three evenings studying sections of Pirke Avot, through the original sayings as well as through stories, songs, and variety of commentaries, including a new social-justice themed commen-



Rabbi Yanklowitz

tary by noted Orthodox rabbi, Shmuly Yanklowitz.

We’ll meet on three Thursdays, August 4, 11, and 18, from 7 to 8:30. This class will be free and open to all, so bring a friend! Join us in person at Temple Hesed or via Zoom by clicking <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85994053270?pwd=oGNEG0c1AfGjZRIJuk-gXb5UTN59ei.1>, or from the Zoom app, entering Meeting ID: 859 9405 3270 and Passcode: Avot

To BBQ or not to BBQ, that is the question

Due to COVID-19 and other factors, we have not had a Temple Hesed BBQ for several years.

Assuming no new COVID waves, what do you think about our getting together in August for a BBQ, as part of our second Shabbat Under the Stars of the summer?

To go ahead with a BBQ, we’d need two things: enough people interested in coming, and at least a couple of volunteers to help with the grilling, set up and clean up.

Let us know if you’re interested, particularly if you’d be up for helping cook and/or clean — give a call to the Temple office, 570-344-7201, or send an email to Templehesed@comcast.net



Summer Service Schedule

As we have been doing for the past few months, our services in July and August will follow the schedule of meeting at 6 p.m. for the First Friday and 7 p.m. for all other Shabbat evening services. We will continue to hold “hybrid” services, so that you can choose between coming in person, participating on Zoom, or watching on YouTube.

The only changes during the summer are that our July “informal” service, with music led by Harry Adelman, will be on the 5th Friday instead of the typical 3rd Friday. And, for the first time ever, we’ll have a second Shabbat Under the Stars at 7 p.m. on August 19 (possibly fol-

lowing a BBQ — make sure to weigh in on whether or not we should have the BBQ this summer!). We continue to use the same Zoom link and YouTube channel. Join us on Zoom by clicking:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89442525110?pwd=T1U0a0x1RjhoSnNPYXp4S2R4UG9tOT09>
Or from the Zoom app enter Meeting ID: 894 4252 5110 and Passcode: Hesed

To view the service on YouTube from the Temple Hesed channel, just go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwWXduQKzeDWe6lfbDSNLT>

JAHRZEITS

June 26 – July 2
27 Sivan – 3 Tammuz
Service July 1

*Irene B. Newman, *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. Breisch

July 3 – 9
4 – 10 Tammuz
Service July 8

*Walter Jacobson, *Dr. Eugene K. Weiss, *Rose Levy, *Irving Levy, *David Sugar, *Frank Peck, *Gertrude L. Freedman, Maurice Friedman, *Amelia Gutman, *Charles Siegel, *Nannie Ziegler, *Harold Phillips, *Leonard E. Newman, *Joseph Roos, *Jerome Edward Giles, *Charles Lerner, *Martin David Appleton

July 10 – 16
11 – 17 Tammuz
Service July 15

*Mary Cohen, *Blanche W. Kleeman, *Leone Frank Loebel, *Rose Sugar, *Robert D. Pell, Rose Pashkow, *Doris Weisberg, *Rose Sabot, *David A. Cohen, *Maurice D. Breschel, Alfred Heilbrunn

July 17 – 23
18 – 24 Tammuz
Service July 22

Leonard Frieder, *Levi Hershfield, *Celia Kleeman, *Eugenia C. Milliken, *Ralph Goldsmith, *Bertha Gevanthor, *Abe Adelman, *Esther Basha Adelman, *Beatrice Goodfriend, *Ilse Michel, *Goldie Golden, Morris Gross, *Howard A. Jacobson, Melvin Weinberg

July 24 – 30
25 Tammuz – 2 Av
Service July 29

*Florence Pell Angert, Max Kravitz, *Albert A. Linder, *Alfred G. Rice, *Florence Dembert, *Janet H. Rothenberg, *B. J. Smith, *Sarah Freidman, Paul Krafchin, Nettie Friedman, *Ethel R. Friedman, *Murray Smith, *Gustave Jackson, *B. Leo Swartz

July 31 – August 6
3 – 9 Av
Service August 5

*Rose Smith, *Norman H. Hollander, *Ruth Whitman, *Morris Richman, *Helen Goldman, *Stanley Dickstein, *Simon Rice, *Philip Swartz, Gerald Minkoff, *Fred Michel, *Yetta K. Lauer, *John Orgill

August 7 – 13
10 – 16 Av
Service August 12

*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 14 – 20
17 – 23 Av
Service August 19

*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, *Golda P. Young, *Clifford Weinstock, *Bina Loebenstein

August 21 – 27
24 – 30 Av
Service August 26

*Leon M. Levy, *Fannie Spiegel, *Milton M. Friedman, *Harry Mauer, *Ben Fassler, *Erwin Schoenhof, *Gertrude Rice, *Sharon Pell-Lie, *Roseann Smith Alperin, Samuel B. Samter, *Sidney Wasser, *Ralph Cohen, *Beatrice Davis, *Micky Cader

August 28 – September 3
1 – 7 Elul
Service September 2

*Leon L. Kramer, *Rose Feinstein, *Elihu Friedmann, *Abraham Stromberg, Paula Yudkin Albert, *Harry Weinberg, *Leo Swartz, *Minnie Brown, *Edward Loebenstein, *Henrietta A. Phillips, *Arnold Cembalest, *Barbara A. Jacobson

Get Wells

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

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 Dunmore, PA 18512
 Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

July 2022

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

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Services, 6pm**	6 Chanting Circle, 11:30am***
7	8	9	10	11	12 Services, 7pm**	13 Chanting Circle, 11:30am***
14	15	16	17	18	19 Services, 7pm Under the Stars** BBQ 6pm?	20 Chanting Circle, 11:30am***
21	22	23	24	25	26 Services, 7pm**	27 Chanting Circle, 11:30am*** Ben Kessler 10a
28	29	30	31	** in person and Zoom	*** Zoom only	



Torah Portions	B'Av
July 2 — Korach	August 12 — Tu
July 9 — Chukat	B'Av
July 16 — Balak	August 13 Va-
July 23 — Pinchas	etchanan
July 30 — Matot	August 20 — Eikev
Masei	August 27 — R'eih
August 6 — D'varim	(and Ben Kessler
August 7 — Tisha	Bar Mitzvah

Benjamin Kessler, Bar Mitzvah, August 27

Ben Kessler, son of David and Jane Kessler, will become a Bar Mitzvah at 10 a.m. on August 27, 2022. He will be an 8th grade student at Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School in the fall. Ben is a sports enthusiast with swimming, skiing and basketball being his favorites at the moment. He swims competitively year round and enjoys ski trips with his Dad in the winter and attending JCC camp Daleville in the summer. In his spare time he enjoys reading, music and binge watching just about anything on Netflix.



Ben's Torah portion, *R'eih*, includes the laws concerning *shmittah*, the sabbatical year. It instructs the Israelites about releasing debts and opening their hands to the needy. Ben has chosen a community service project that connects to his Torah portion by helping those in need through volunteering at the food pantry at United Neighborhood Center. He has also organized a food drive for donations to the pantry. If you'd like to contribute to this cause, a collection box for donations of canned and dry goods will be available at Temple Hesed.

Along with his parents, his sister Emily and dog Violet are very proud of the hard work and commitment Ben has devoted in preparation of being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

TEMPLE HESED

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Temple Hesed

On the Web at: templehesed.org

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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

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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.