



Reflections from Rabbi Morais

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This week, as we prepare our hearts and minds for Shavuot—a festival celebrating the giving of the Torah and our covenant at Sinai—we are confronted by profound grief. The brutal murder of two Israeli embassy workers in Washington, D.C. is a chilling act of violence, and one that strikes painfully close to home. We mourn not only for these individuals, but for what their deaths signify: a continued rise in antisemitism, hatred, and terror against our people.

Shavuot reminds us of who we are: a people bound by sacred values, by moral courage, and by a commitment to justice and compassion. As we stand once again at Sinai in spirit, we must also stand together in solidarity—with the victims’ families, with Israel, and with Jews across the world who feel fear and uncertainty in this moment.

The Torah teaches, “Justice, justice shall you pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20). That pursuit must guide us now. We will not be intimidated. We will not be silent. We will speak out against hatred, educate our neighbors, and advocate for policies and protections that safeguard all communities from hate-fueled violence.

The murder of two Israeli embassy workers in Washington, D.C.—a horrific act that strikes at the very core of our Jewish community. Their loss is not only personal to those who knew and loved them, but also a chilling reminder of the rising tide of antisemitism that continues to threaten Jews across the world, including here in the United States.

We mourn with their families, with the Israeli people, and with all who seek peace and dignity. We also reaffirm that our response to hatred must be unity, resilience, and unwavering moral clarity. Antisemitism is not just a Jewish problem—it is a societal illness that must be named, confronted, and eradicated.

Let us not be silent. Speak out in your schools, workplaces, and online communities. Educate others about the dangers of antisemitism and the humanity of the Jewish people. Let us grieve but also act.
Let us remember but also rise.

May the memories of those lost be for a blessing—and may we be their voice for peace.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Morais

Temple Notes:

- Curious about Templegrams? Look inside for a brief history and how-to! E-Templegrams submissions go live this month!
- Don't forget to RSVP to upcoming events at TAHerie.org! Contact Bright in the office to RSVP by phone or email: office@TAHerie.org (814) 454-2426.

Events:

PRIDE MONTH

Movie Night

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 @ 6:45pm
Erie Movie House: 3424 Westlake Road

Cost: \$10 per person, includes refreshments
Movie starts promptly at 7:00pm
Discussion after the movie

Pride SHABBAT At the Beach

Temple Anshe Hesed
Questions? Contact the office:
office@TAHerie.org
(814) 454-2426

Enclosure #1 Pavilion
Presque Isle State Park
Friday, June 20 at 6:15pm

No cost; RSVP at TAHerie.org and let us know your potluck dish!
We'll bring the drinks, hot dogs, and buns!
Veggie option available

RSVP Here:

PRIDE Temple Anshe Hesed

Pride Events

Celebrating members of the LGBTQ+ community in Erie

Friday June 20	6:15pm	Pride Shabbat at the Beach #1 Enclosed Shelter, Loop Pavilion
Saturday June 28	12pm - 5pm	Pride on the Bay 2025 Liberty Park, Erie, PA
Sunday June 29	1pm	Pride Parade 11 th and State - north to Perry Square

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

RADIUM GIRLS

Thursday, July 24th | 6:45 PM Wine and Cheese
Show starts at 7:30pm - Tickets cost \$20
PACA Theatre
1505 State Street
Erie, PA 16501

PURCHASE TICKETS AT
TAHERIE.ORG

Donations

Bingo

A very special thank you to everyone who donated to make the Bingo Event Fundraiser a success. We raised \$7,000!

5401 Old Zuck Road / New Building Fund

Dennis & Amy Vidmar

Baum Family High Holy Day Music

In celebration of 150th Anniversary Reunion
Weekend
Gary Sender

Baum Youth Fund

In celebration of 150th Anniversary Reunion
Weekend
Hallie & Matt Yurick

Caring Committee

In memory of Barbara Singer
Jan Mandel

Cemetery Endowment

In memory of Barbara Singer
Michael & Marilyn Gallagher

Franklin and Myrtle Fox Program Fund

In memory of Frank, Myrtle and Heidi Fox
Laurie Penn

Gesher Education Fund

In celebration of 150th Anniversary Reunion
Weekend
Abigail Breakstone

Lechtner Cantorial Soloist Fund

In honor of the Friday Night Live Crew
Julie Cohen
In memory of Bill Cohen and Barbara Singer
Board Mitzvah Maker

Levinson Education Fund

Erie Community Foundation

Service Dedication

In memory of Anna Roberts
Bobbi Pollock

Rabbi Mitzvah Fund

In appreciation of Rabbi's teaching
Nicholas Emmanuele
In memory of Barbara Singer
Philip Friedman
With appreciation
Lybov Zelinskaya

Remembrance Fund / Perpetual Memorial Fund

In memory of Cantor Judah L. Smith
Deborah Smith Blackmer

Schuster Fund

Barb Keim

Temple Endowment

In honor of our 150th Anniversary
Deborah Smith Blackmer
Bob & Jackie Breakstone
In honor of all the volunteers who make a
difference
Bob and Jackie Breakstone
In honor of Deborah and Eric's wedding
Dom & Sue Comi
In memory of Barbara Singer
Ina & Edward Fisher
Louise Garrelts
In memory of Bill Cohen
Ina & Edward Fisher
In memory of our mother, Patricia D.
Seligson, a long-time member of the
congregation.
Tom and Fred Seligson

We have raised \$66,400 towards the Salata
Match Campaign so far!
Let's keep it going!

The Book of Ruth Club

In memory of one of its founding and most faithful members, Ruth Waidley.

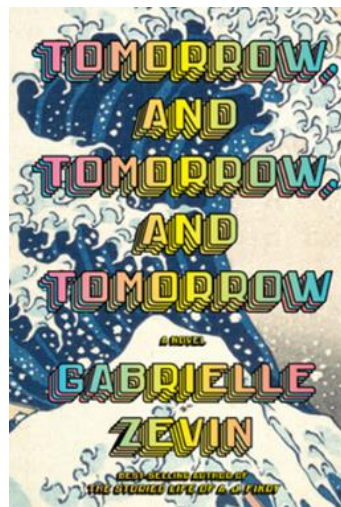
WE WILL BE MEETING IN PERSON AT THE TEMPLE AND ON ZOOM. JOIN US EITHER WAY!!!!

OUR MEETING IS:

**Monday, June 23, 2025
7:30 PM**

via Zoom Join URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169606965>

Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow
By Gabrielle Zevin



On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn't heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom. These friends, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, *Ichigo*. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.

Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond, Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* is a dazzling and intricately imagined novel that examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play, and above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.

For those who plan ahead, our July selection is The Matchmaker's Gift by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Thanks to the many who have given us some great recommendations. We are always ready to hear others. Please forward them as well as **any questions** to Janice Wittmershaus at JKWittmershaus@gmail.com



Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 11 at 7pm

RSVP at TAHerie.org

Budget and Governance slate available upon request.

Questions? Contact the office at office@TAHerie.org | (814) 454-2426

The Campaign to Sustain Temple Anshe Hesed and Reform Judaism in Northwestern Pennsylvania

L'Dor V'Dor: From Generation to Generation



Give a Meaningful Gift Today!

The impact of your gift to a qualifying Fund today will be **doubled** by the generous 1:1 match campaign by the Salata Family.

Please contact the office with any questions: office@taherie.org | (814) 454-2426

Gesher News - NYC trip

Seven of our Gesher students joined Rabbi Morais, Korlyn, and me on a trip to New York City to explore the Jewish immigrant experience in Manhattan. This included stops at the Museum at Eldridge Street, the Tenement Museum, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, Ellis Island, and the Statue of Liberty. We also visited some classic NYC spots like Times Square and Broadway for an evening show, Central Park, and Chinatown. Though our return to Erie was delayed, everything was incredible in the city. A huge thank you to Rabbi Morais and Korlyn for putting this together and chaperoning!



JOIN US FOR OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Reunion Weekend

JULY

FRIDAY

25

Shabbat Evening Services

6:15 PM

Led by Rabbi Morais, Cantorial Soloist Jessie Rhoades, and Artist in Residence Dan Nichols

SATURDAY

26

Shabbat Morning Service and Torah Study

10:00 AM

Join us Saturday morning for a fun musical Shabbat morning services with Artist in Residence Dan Nichols, led by Rabbi Morais, and Cantorial Soloist, Jessie Rhoades.

Family Reunion Picnic

3:00 - 8:00 PM

Activities for Youth and Adults - bouncy house, water slide, yard games, food and ice cream, family song session and concert by Dan Nichols. Evening concludes with Havdalah.

SUNDAY

27

Memorial Service @ Temple Anshe

Hesed Cemetery
10:00 AM

Memorial Service @

Laurel Hill Cemetery
11:00 AM

Questions? Contact the office at office@TAHerie.org | (814) 454-2426

Let's Talk with President Craig Reynolds

Some would say that Tikkun Olam is a responsibility of every Jew, and responsibility requires action. What form of action and how far does our responsibility to act go?

This has real significance and consequence in the confusing and contentious time we now live in. Even though modern social media and the comment sections of most online publications seem to make protest and criticism a given, with little to no effect. In-person demonstrations and protests can seem to become regular events, usually ignored by the focus of the protest.

One of the interesting things the Talmud discusses is that we as Jews have a responsibility to protest injustice. Of course, there are complexities and nuances in these ideas. We can look at some general areas where the sages may have summed up those complexities and nuances. Those areas are our obligation to protest injustice and the effect the protest has on us, the protesters.

Talmudic texts make it clear that we are obligated to protest injustice no matter where we see it. That refers to injustices created by our families and leaders in our communities. Even those created by our own teachers and rabbis, and injustices created by our leaders in and outside of government. The Rabbis of the Talmud state our obligation clearly: “All who can protest against something wrong that is being done in the whole world is accountable together with all citizens of the world.”

Rabbi Menahem HaMeiri, a great sage who lived in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, wrote, “The king is punished for the sin of the nation because he did not protest against them, and the nation as a whole is punished for the sin of the king because they did not protest against him.”

What sort of protest do we mean?

We understand verbal protest is less effective than in-person or organized political action. So, protesting cannot just mean speaking up about injustice, but when necessary, working to change the conditions that give rise to the injustice. Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel said, “The speaking of Torah is not what is essential, but the action.”

What if the perpetrators of the injustice do not listen to the protest? What if a verbal protest is all we can offer?

The Rabbis of the Talmud would advocate for us to do what we can do. The modern Talmudic scholar Aryeh Cohen explains why. “If we always allow ourselves to fall victim to the seeming futility of justice, injustice will inevitably prevail, and the image of G-d which we each carry in the form of doing justice will inevitably lose more and more of its luster.”

The modern Jewish educator Matthew Gindin sums it up, “Not protesting injustice does something to us—it dulls the very “image of G-d within,” the divine spark that discerns injustice and revolts against it. To protest injustice, then, even if it does not change things, is something which keeps our very souls alive.”

What do you think? Let's talk.

— Craig

All About Templegrams!

Our Templegram program developed from the Uniongrams of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (now the Women of Reform Judaism). When we at Temple Anshe Hessed decided to end our membership in Women of Reform Judaism, we opted to continue with our newly named Templegrams and dedicate the funds raised to our congregation directly.

So how does it work? A list of Temple members' birthdays, anniversaries, and events to celebrate is published quarterly in the Temple Topics. We include birthdays every five years, until the milestone of 90 years of age, after which they are included annually, and anniversaries, starting at 50 years of marriage, which are also included annually.

In order to participate, you need only to print out the quarterly form, check which names you would like to honor, add your name as you would like it to appear, and send the form to the name and address at the top of the sheet, along with a check to cover the costs of cards and postage. The order needs to arrive by the 15th of the month before the month the quarter begins. Cost is currently \$1 per signature, but any extra donations are happily accepted. Make checks payable to Temple Anshe Hessed.

Electronic Templegrams: [click here to submit your e-Templegrams](#). Place a check beside each name and event you would like to celebrate. Check the box under "Alternate name" to use a different name for that Templegram. After submitting your completed form, click on the payment link on the submission confirmation page. Enter the total number of Templegrams you want to send. Each e-Templegram costs \$1 to send. You can log in to your account to use a saved payment. Your e-Templegrams order will be released after payment is received.

Board Meeting Highlights - May Meeting

** The Board continues to meet remotely via Zoom with occasional in-person meetings. All congregants are welcome to attend as guests — contact Bright in the office for the Zoom link!

** The Board approved the Temple Financial Audit as approved and recommended to the Board for approval by the Temple Finance Committee. The Temple Financial Statement through April 2025 was reviewed.

**The Rabbi discussed many upcoming programs – please keep an eye on your weekly emails and Temple Topics.

** Plans for the 150th Family Reunion Picnic weekend are well underway. There is no charge – but please RSVP!

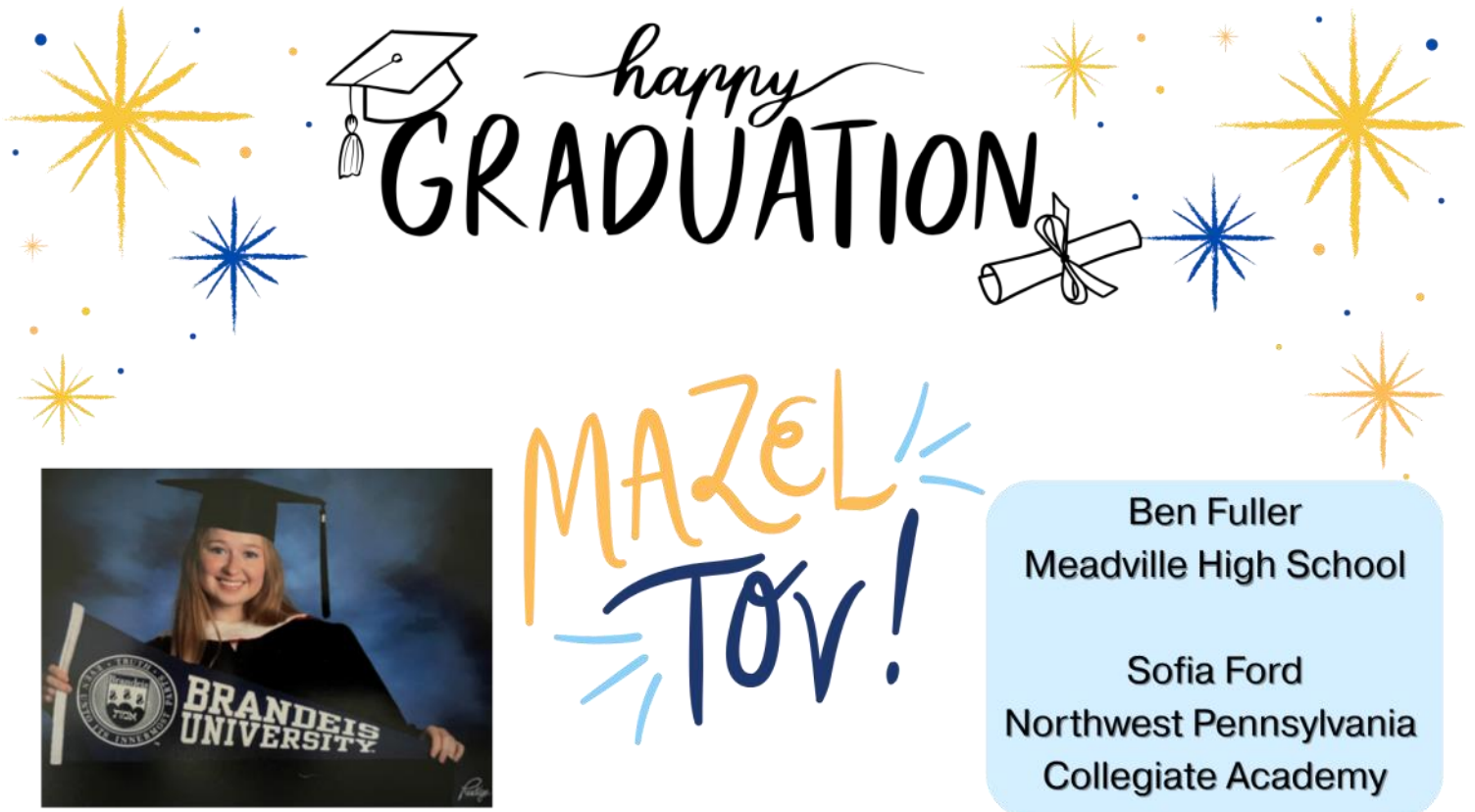
** A Mitzvah Maker is chosen at each Board Meeting for board members to make donations. This month, the board members were asked to donate to the Lechtner Family Cantorial Soloist Fund in memory of William Cohen and Barbara Singer.

Any questions? Ask a Board Member!

Our next meeting is the Temple Anshe Hessed Annual Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, June 11, at 7 PM.

– We hope to see you ALL there!

Submitted by Julie Cohen



Francesca Joy Zacks
Brandeis University
Class of 2025

Ben Fuller
Meadville High School

Sofia Ford
Northwest Pennsylvania
Collegiate Academy

J. Leonard Ostrow Award for High School Students and Adults

The J. Leonard Ostrow Fund was established in 1980 to emulate the life and legacy of Attorney J. Leonard Ostrow. The purpose of this fund is to perpetuate his memory and challenge another generation to emulate his contributions, encourage humanitarian efforts, and develop leadership capabilities, as exemplified by his life.

This newly revised award is now open to high school students and adults from both Temple Anshe Hessed and Brith Sholom. This unique award is a quarterly award, and may be used for a trip to Israel, other travel, or Jewish studies, which may include tuition, conferences, leadership development, or other Jewish experiences.

The application and additional information about the award are available using the following link. <https://www.taheir.org/j.-leonard-ostrow-award.html>.

The fourth award application period runs from **July 1 – August 15, 2025, with notification by September 15, 2025.**

Please contact Ina Fisher at inalfisher@gmail.com if you have any questions about the Ostrow Award.

wishing you a
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Birthdays

June 1	Sharon Warshaw, Harvey Insler
June 3	Moriah Maldet
June 4	Karen Fischler
June 5	Shanna Hodgson
June 8	Richard Levick
June 9	Willow Smith, Leon Bilewitz, Andona Zacks-Jordan
June 10	George Bernstein
June 11	Maxine Gold
June 13	Evan Skornick
June 14	Cynthia Leopold
June 16	Jessica Maldet, Michael Perez
June 17	Tara Krotzer
June 18	Cathy Zacks
June 23	Janet Woods, Kessa Zacks
June 24	Rufat Agayer
June 25	Adam Levin, Joseph May
June 26	Joel Shambaugh

Anniversaries

June 1	Mark & Ellie Tanenbaum
June 2	Rochelle & William Krowinski Menahem & Tania Thalkar
June 7	Fran & Don Shames
June 8	Renee & Patrick Hanna Bradley & Becky Fox
June 9	Dom & Sue Comi
June 11	Don & Helene Wilson
June 12	Rabbi Rob & Korlyn Morais
June 16	Dennis & Amy Vidmar Adam & Nancy Levin
June 21	Karen & Ted Kobierski
June 23	Keri & Eric Bernstein
June 28	Rachel & Jake Wynkoop

Thank you

Thank you for all your well wishes!
 -Melanie Wood

THANK YOU to all of the helpful, caring Temple members who have helped me in one way or another. You have been so thoughtful and kind to me in so many instances. Thank you also for the Holiday deliveries to this "SENIOR"!
 With never-ending thanks,
 Bernice S Fox

Thank you to everyone who sent a Templegram in honor of the birth of Hazel Findley Keim!
 -Barb Keim

Yahrzeits

June 6/7

S. Joe Levinson, Egon Pessin, Sol Sender, Max Wolff, Nathan Kline, Flora Williams, Isabel Baer, Rose Levy, Samuel Schwab, Bertha Mann Shulman, Sophia Baer, Solomon Jacobson, Tillie Strausburger, Priscilla Davis, Sol Kallor, Samuel J. Roberts, Carrie N. Cohen, Irma Cohen, Robert L. Loeb, Jacob H. Zacks, Madalyn Baker, Getel Goldberg, Delna Ruth Sawdy

June 13/14

Bertha Cohen, Jacob Levi, Walter Strauss, Felix Weil, Zelda Rittenberg Peyser, Sara Jacques Schuster, Henrietta Herskovitz, Aaron Simon, Leon B. Stein, Josef Grossman, Emanuel Cohen, Fred Gasche, Joseph Levy, Inga Sender Siegel, Jacob Berliner, Samuel Rabinowitz, Irene Rudolph, Harry W. Silver, Ruth Hanauer Zacks

June 20/21

Ethel Levick, Bertha Schuster, Benjamin Pollock, Henry Schaffner, Jacob Silverstein, Selina Cohen, Harry Gerson, Dora Moses, Jack Raskind, Sidney Rein, Nathan Spitzer, Bessie Blumberg, Leonard Brown, Rose Brown, Nathan Levy, Jeffrey Mortimer Sobel, Lena Levick, Abraham Waxelbaum, Florence Holtz, Joseph Levick, Emmanuel Lionel Rosin, Jennie M. Straus, Julius Weiss, Alice Weiss

June 27/28

M. Fred Mercury, Theresa Meyers, Isaac Oppenheimer, Herbert Rosenbaum, Esther Blum, Blanche H. Grad, Isaac Ostheimer, Camille Rittenberg Schuster, Sophia Tuteur, Edward A. Zacks, Ethel Hoffman, Julius Michel, Bennett Davis, Myer Shapiro, Henry M. Cohen, George Goldberg, Jacob Schaffner, Hattie Rothschild Schwab

Service Dedications



Did you know that you can dedicate a Service in memory of, honor of or celebration of a loved one or event? The cost is \$18 per occasion/person.

Please contact the Temple office for more information or to put in your dedication.



5401 Old Zuck Road
Erie, PA 16506

Phone: 814-454-2426
Fax: 814-454-2427
Email: office@taherie.org

TAHerie.org

People of Loving Kindness

Temple Anshe Hessed is a Reform Jewish congregation guided by Torah and dedicated to perpetuating Judaism and its traditions through education, worship, and social action in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Services

Friday, June 6

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, June 7

10:00 a.m. **Brith Sholom** Shabbat Morning Services

Friday, June 13

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, June 14

9:30 a.m. Torah Study—Zoom only

Friday, June 20

6:15 p.m. Pride Shabbat Evening Services
at **Presque Isle - Enclosure #1 Pavilion Loop**

Saturday, June 21

9:30 a.m. Torah Study—Zoom only

Friday, June 27

6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, June 28

9:30 a.m. Torah Study—Zoom only
11:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pride on the Bay

Sunday, June 29

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Pride Parade: 11th and State - north to Perry Square

Shabbat Evening Services on YouTube:

<http://bit.ly/TAHServices>

Shabbat Morning Services & Torah Study on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86496554700>

To view the Temple's full calendar, print the monthly calendar or register for classes and events please visit our website [Calendar at Monthly Calendar - Temple Anshe Hessed](http://MonthlyCalendar-TempleAnsheHessed.com) (taherie.org)