

New Light News August, 2017

From the Rabbi

Dear friends,

With the arrival of the month of Elul this month, our thoughts turn to one another. A family is far from perfect. We seek forgiveness from one another. There has been a lot of unrest over our anticipated move. We are confused. Questions and rumors keep flying. Dor Hadash is considering a move from Tree of Life to Beth Shalom. One lady from Weight Watchers (who will also be renting space at Tree) asked me “Am I sad that we will be leaving the building?” I did not know how to answer her because after seven years as rabbi I am not so invested in the building to feel sadness. Not yet anyway. I do appreciate the stir the “move” has caused in our membership and, knowing that these High Holidays will be our last in the building, I know that there are people out there who feel sad and nostalgic. We have accomplished a lot in our home.

I mentioned the other Friday night that Jewish education is not just listening to a great orator or having somebody drill you with dogma or hammering home something important to know. Judaism is about engaging the learner. It is about creating a culture of conversations, dialogue, varying interpretations of a text, and getting the learner to be an independent learner with real critical thinking skills. Dr. Isidore Rabi, the Nobel Prize winning physicist, was once asked “what made him such a good student of science?” He replied that when he returned from school every day, his mother would not say: “Izzy, what did you learn today?” She would ask him: “Izzy, did you ask any good questions today?” Our culture of engagement will continue in our new home. We will still be New Light because life is with people not buildings.

Our president Barbara Caplan said it best when she recalled the song “Anatevka” in the much beloved musical “Fiddler on the Roof.”

A little bit of this

A little bit of that.

A pot, A pan, A broom, A hat.

Someone should have set a match to this place years ago.

A bench, a tree.

So, what's a stove? Or a house?

A stick of wood. A piece of cloth.

What do we leave? Nothing much.

Only Anatevka.

Physical remnants grow smaller in our minds as we leave them behind in the distance. Our memories will have attachment to things and places but physicality surrenders to the spirit that is carried by the people. We are New Light. As the shofar summons us this month of Elul, we turn to one another. We will bring our strong culture of engagement into our new space, another step on our already century old journey of Judaism!

L'shana Tova,

Rabbi

Presidents' Report

We have begun our transition from our current home to our new home. At its July meeting the Board approved a two year extension to Rabbi Perlman's contract; authorized obtaining a Line of Credit to help with moving and other expenses; and approved retaining a commercial real estate firm to market our building.

We expect to bring a private offer for the sale of the building to the Board meeting on Sunday, August 6th. Final details are in negotiation.

On July 16th, we had our first Open House at Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha (TOLOLS). Nineteen members were taken on a tour of the building by Michael Eisenberg, President of TOLOLS, and Joel Goldstein, Executive Director. There are four levels to the shul, each accessible by an elevator. Our sanctuary is on the lower level and our business office is on the second level.

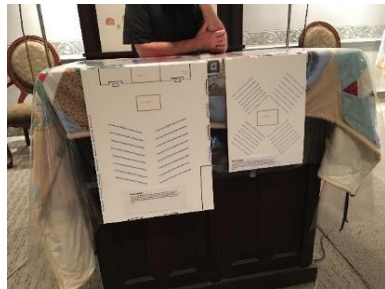


Touring Our New Sanctuary



Touring Our New kitchen

A second tour is scheduled for Sunday, July 30th at 1PM. We encourage you to come!!!



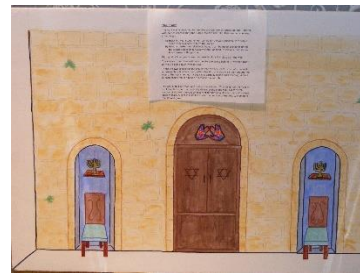
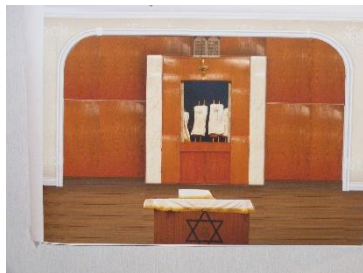
: Possible Bimah Arrangements

At the Open House we offered for review ideas for renovation of the space. We retained Sharon Serbin, an art designer, to suggest some interesting ideas.

Currently, the ark and bima face east. Our thought, instead, is that the sanctuary face south.

Sharon suggested two optional seating arrangements based on the placement of the bimah: in front of the ark vs centered.

The south side of the room has a false wall with five feet of unused space behind it. We could create an arch and recess the ark in the recessed space so that the room can easily be used for social events.



Possible Arch & Ark Designs

The west wall is also a false wall with four feet behind it. Sharon proposes that we remove the false wall and install stained glass windows. Our plaques would be installed on the east wall.

TOLOLS has agreed to consider other modifications, such as improved lighting, as their responsibility.



The most important question is the cost of renovation. We are establishing a Capital Campaign to raise the money if – and when – we decide to proceed.

If you missed the two Open Houses, please contact us for a personal tour. We want your input and suggestions for how – and whether – the room should be renovated.

Proposed Glass Windows

Stephen Cohen, Co-President 412-421-3999 stephenr.cohen@gmail.com
Barbara Caplan, Co-President 412-519-7141 barbaracaplan@gmail.com
Marilyn Honigsberg, Administrative Assistant 412-521-7174 msh1223@hotmail.com

August Meetings

Board Meeting: Sunday, August 6th at 10:30 AM.

High Holiday Seating

Note that there will be open seating for this year's High Holiday services – no assigned seats for Rosh Hashonah or Yom Kippur. If your (non-member) family or friends plan to attend please contact Dan Stein at 412-512-5231 to purchase a seat for \$150 each.

The Book of Proverbs

Join our friends from the Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church **at Rodman Street on Wednesdays, August 16th and August 23rd at 7:00 PM**, for a close reading of The Book of Proverbs and what they mean. ***Classes will be at the Rodman Street location for the rest of the year.***

Movie Night

Our movie this month is the comedy ***Florence Foster Jenkins***, starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant, on Sunday, August 27th at 7:00 PM. See attached flyer for more information.

Save the Date

The annual congregation picnic will be September 10th at 5:00 PM. See the attached flyer for more information.

Our next casino trip will be October 29th. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

From Boy Scout Troop 109

To the Congregation of New Light,

This note is a sincere heartfelt thank you to all of the members of New Light for being the Chartered Organization for Boy Scout Troop 109 these last 10 years. We moved in on September 2007 to open arms and many scouts will have fond memories of this space. Because of your help many boys have grown up to become men who are now good citizens of the nation. We unfortunately will not be able to move with you to Tree of Life and have secured a new Chartered Organization with Second United Presbyterian Church. It's a homecoming of sorts as our roots originated with a church before we moved into your space. While we are sad that we are parting ways, we are optimistic that our new space will bring new adventures and growth.

Thank ye done.

Sincerely,

Boy Scout Troop 109

Special August Oneg

On August 4th Rachele and Steve Grobstein will sponsor an oneg in honor of the marriage of their daughter Judith Grobstein to Brent Edwards on August 3rd 2017 in San Francisco, CA, and their moving to live and work in Sydney, Australia.

August Birthdays

Anne Caplan
Jan Daniels
Stephen Grobstein
Jason Manne
Marla Perlman
Shirley Schneider
Sylvan Schneider
Steven J. Tuckfelt
Trudy Wachs

August Anniversaries

Barbara & Harold Caplan
Nadia & Scott Caplan
Janet & Stephen Cohen
Jan & Paul Daniels
Ethel & Howard Kubitz
Carol & Larry Kanterman

August Onegs

4th – Rachele & Steve Grobstein
18th – Barbara & Harold Caplan anniversary; Annie Caplan birthday; Nadia & Scott Caplan anniversary;
25th – Janet & Stephen Cohen anniversary

Studying the Book of Daniel

On July 19th members of New Light joined in fellowship and study at Rodman Street Baptist Church. Following dinner the group studied the Book of Daniel with Rabbi Perlman, the Reverend Doctor Darryl Canady and Reverend James Brown.



Giant Eagle Gift Cards

Please contact Dan Stein at 412-521-5231 to purchase Giant Eagle Gift Cards.

Contact Information Reminder

If you have not yet done so, please send your current contact information to Janet Cohen, 412-512-0949 or janet.cohen@gmail.com. Please remember to include whether you want all your contact information in the member directory and whether you want to receive the monthly bulletin via email or print. Even if your information is correct, please let Janet know.

Reminders

- To purchase Memorial Plaques, Book Plates, Simcha Tree Leaves or Stones contact Ileen Portnoy 412-683-7985.
- To sponsor an Oneg sponsoring that special person/event or for no reason at all call Hugh Casper 412-421-7619.
- To sponsor a Sunday morning breakfast contact Dan Stein 412-521-5231
- To purchase bricks for our "Garden of Freedom" contact Barbara Caplan 412-521-4332.
- For the best soup in the City of Pittsburgh contact Harold Caplan 412-521-4332
- For information on our cemetery contact Myron Snider 412-235-7085

NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION

1700 Beechwood Boulevard

412-421-1017

www.newlightcongregation.org

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| Rabbi | Jonathan Perlman | 412-904-3601 |
| Co-President/Social VP | Barbara Caplan | 412-521-4332 |
| Co-President | Stephen Cohen | 412-421-3999 |
| Administrative Assistant | Marilyn Honigsberg | 412-521-7174 |
| Membership | Debbi Salvin | 724-444-6324 |
| Sisterhood | Sharyn Stein | 412-521-5231 |
| Men's Club | Dan Stein | 412-521-5231 |
| Simcha Tree & Memorial Plaques | Ileen Portnoy | 412-683-7985 |
| Treasurer | Harold Caplan | 412-521-4332 |
| Onegs | Hugh Casper | 412-421-7619 |
| Cemetery | Myron Snider | 412-235-7085 |
| | Gerald Sapir | 412-782-1882 |
| | David Paris | 412-980-4862 |
| Religious | Richard Gottfried | 412-367-7384 |
| House Comm. | Scott Caplan | 412-422-2614 |
| Corresponding | Janet Cohen | 412-512-0949 |
| Calendar | Janet Cohen | 412-512-0949 |
| Yahrzeits | Barbara Caplan | 412-521-4332 |
| Website | Stephen Cohen | 412-421-3999 |