

New Light News June, 2017

From the Rabbi

Last month, we celebrated Yom Yerushalayim, commemorating that miraculous day fifty years ago, when Jerusalem was heroically re-unified. It is on this day that we particularly celebrate the voice of Jerusalem and its uncanny ability to reach all of us wherever we are, geographically and ideologically. I first visited and lived in Jerusalem in 1981 and have had times since then that I was its resident from three months to a year. Jerusalem has this power that overwhelms you. The domed sky overhead is a deeper color of blue as if God Himself had cupped the city in the palm of His hand. Jerusalem has grown into a bigger city since I first visited but it still retains a special sanctity in all its quarters.

Jerusalem is an eternal city. Not once, but at least three times on every weekday, the observant Jew remembers Jerusalem in his or her prayers. After every meal, weekday or holiday or Sabbath, Jerusalem is similarly remembered. Jerusalem reaches out to us all.

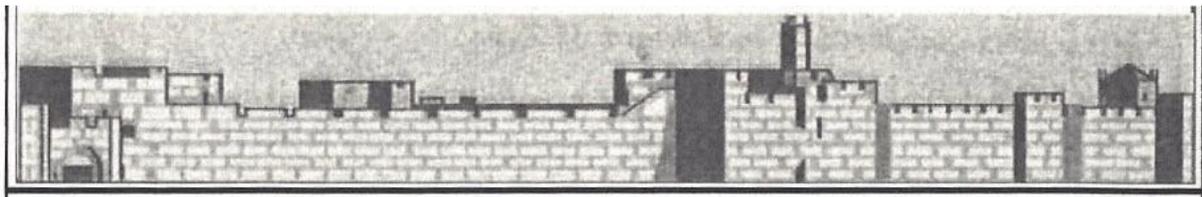
Israel's first chief rabbi Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook interpreted the two terms "Zion" and "Jerusalem," which most people believe are synonymous. For him, "Zion" and "Jerusalem" are terms for the two different aspects of the eternal city, two different qualities of the same sacred spot. The term "Zion" is reserved for the inner quality of the city, for its imposing majesty, for its fortress-like qualities. The term "Jerusalem" refers to the city's capacity to radiate outward as a beacon of light to all humanity; indeed, to attract all of humanity to visit her and to worship in her Holy Temple.

The great early 20th century sage, known as the Chofetz Chaim, Rabbi Yisrael Mayer HaKohen, counseled Jewish soldiers who were in the army of the Czar of Russia as to how they could maintain their Jewish identity under the difficult circumstances of their military service. They reported to him that they could not possibly take the time to pray, or even to utter privately the several words of the Shema. Doing so would mean severe punishment, perhaps even death. He instructed them to pronounce no prayers, to say no words, but to simply find one moment each day when they could face the direction of Jerusalem. That seemingly insignificant gesture, he assured them, would suffice to keep them connected to the Almighty and to the Jewish people. The power of Jerusalem!

Fifty years is more than a generation since paratroopers took the Eastern half of the city and the Old City containing the Western Wall. Jordanian soldiers fled at the sight of the Jewish people conquering its historic land. Jerusalem was once again, after 2000 years, proclaimed the capital of Israel and the capital of the Jewish world. The fiftieth anniversary motivates us all to heed the voice of Jerusalem, to feel drawn to it, and revel in our unification as a people!

Shalom,

Jonathan Perlman



Presidents' Report

We urge your attendance at the Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 4, 2017, starting at 10:30 AM. A short Board meeting will precede the Congregation meeting.

The agenda items are:

1. Election of Officers
2. Dues for 2017-18
3. Consideration of Selling Our Building and Renting Space in the Tree Of Life/Or L'Simcha (TOLOLS) building

We are pleased to report that we have successfully negotiated with TOLOLS to rent space in their building. They have committed to:

- Designating their "Sisterhood" Room as the New Light Congregation sanctuary;
- Allowing us to install a sign ("New Light Sanctuary") on the wall on the outside of the door of the sanctuary;
- Allowing us to install a sign ("New Light Congregation") outside the building;
- Allowing us to make changes in the room as befitting a sanctuary;
- Installing our Memorial Plaques in the sanctuary.;
- Providing a dedicated office for the Rabbi;
- Providing a dedicated business office;
- The use of the Pervin Chapel for High Holy Days;
- Providing access to their dairy and meat kitchens.

Because there will be three congregations in the TOLOLS building, the one caveat requested is that we coordinate space usage with Dor Hadash and TOLOLS on those occasions when each shul is having a major event (i.e., Purim). We understand and appreciate that other congregations will need to use the New Light Sanctuary room for simchas or other celebrations and we will use other areas of TOLOLS to accommodate these requests.

We are asking you to approve our recommendation to preserve our congregation by selling our building and renting space in TOLOLS. If approved and with the successful sale of our building, we anticipate moving in the late fall/early winter. Our 2017 High Holy Day services will be held at our present location.

We will have two Open House events at TOLOLS in July to tour our new space.

Please call us with your question – or suggestions – and come to the Sunday, June 4th Congregational Meeting to finalize our efforts. We need your help.

Stephen Cohen, Co-President	412-421-3999	stephenr.cohen@gmail.com
Barbara Caplan, Co-President	412-521-4332	barbaracaplan@gmail.com
Marilyn Honigsberg, Administrative Assistant	412-521-7174	msh1223@hotmail.com

Shavuot Services

Services are Wednesday, May 31st at 9:45 AM and Thursday, June 1st at 9:45 AM at New Light. Yizkor is on Thursday.

The Book of Proverbs

Join our friends from the Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church at **New Light on Wednesdays, June 21st and 28th at 7:00 PM**, for a close reading of The Book of Proverbs and what they mean. ***Note that these two June classes mark the switch to the Rodman Street location: 6111 Rodman Street, Pittsburgh, 15206. Classes will be at the Rodman Street location for the rest of the year.***

Movie Night

Join us on Sunday, June 25th at 7:00 PM to see Hyde Park on Hudson. See the attached flyer for more information.

Casino Trip

The next casino trip to Wheeling Downs is for Sunday, July 9th, 10:00 AM. See the attached flyer for more information. Contact Sharyn Stein at 412-521-5231 by June 30th if you are attending.

ZOA Memorial Lecture and Election Meeting

The Zionist Organization of America: Pittsburgh invites you to the 2017 Kandy Reidbord Ehrenwerth Memorial Lecture and ZOA Election Meeting on Monday, June 19th, 2017, 7:15 PM at New Light Congregation, 1700 Beechwood Boulevard. Rabbi Mark Staitman will present the lecture entitled: The Rapidly Evolving Jewish Community: Big Challenges and Creative Solutions. There is no charge, but RSVPs are requested, 412-665-4630.

Jewish Heritage Night at the Pirates

The sixth annual Jewish Heritage Night at the Pirates is Tuesday, August 8th at 7:05 PM. Each ticket includes a Hebrew "Let's GO Bucs" Hat. To order tickets please contact Josh Avart at 412-325-4903 or joshua.avart@pirates.com. Ticket prices are

Outfield Grandstand:	\$18
Outfield Box:	\$30
Home Plate Box:	\$35

All seating will be filled on a first come, first serviced basis. Deadline to purchase is July 19th.

World of Values Trip

The excursion to World of Values and Wicker Outlet in Greensburg, PA has been postponed until the fall. Watch for more information in the newsletters.

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.

June Birthdays

Gertrude Adams
Faye Bleiberg
Robert Daniels
Philip Fehl
Ethel Mandel
Joel Reisz
Sharyn Stein
Marion Zlotnick

June Anniversaries

Gila & Harvey Issenberg
Beverly & Jason Manne
Ann & Jacob Notovitz
Nadine & Sheldon Reck
Roselle & Carl Solomon
Sharyn & Daniel Stein

May Brunch

A packed room enjoyed great food by Barbara and Harold Caplan and an interesting program by Dr. Knowledge and Miss Information (Mr. Charles Reichblum and Mrs. Audrey Reichblum) on Sunday, May 21st.



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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Simcha Tree & Memorial Plaques	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985
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