

New Light News June, 2018

A Word from the Rabbi

Thanks to everybody for making a beautiful Shavuot this year. I especially want to thank Barbara Caplan for coming through on three dairy cheesecakes this year. She was delighted to be in a dairy kitchen at Tree of Life after years in the dairy desert at the Old New Light!

Eating cheesecake is caught up in the sweetness of Revelation which we celebrate at this time of year. Our ancestors were waiting for the commandments to be given the morning of the 6th of Sivan. They wanted to put on the full spread. They did not have the rules for slaughtering a delicious animal for the festive day yet they wanted something festive. Dairy foods would have to do and if you add a little honey, a little sweetness, who knows what you can produce? So was born the cheesecake for Shavuot.

Our holiday celebrates God's revelation which consists of a dual character. First is the idea that God was present to the Jewish people at Mt. Sinai. The content would have no significance had it not been for the fact that God Himself spoke: "Moses spoke and God answered Him with a sound" (Exodus 19:19). A revelation devoid of literary content would still have been of incredible religious significance, in and in itself, as a rendezvous between man and God but there was more. Second, the Giving of the Torah read from Chapter Nineteen of Exodus on the first day of Shavuot tells us that Revelation had a message: the Torah. Beginning with the Ten Commandments, the people assent to these heavenly words by saying "All the words that God has spoken we will do" (Exodus 24:3).

This dual character of revelation formed the central readings for the holiday beginning with the Torah reading from Exodus 19 and then the mysterious vision of Ezekial 1 which expresses that God was present to the Prophet in a vision even without discreet words and letters. The nature of revelation is something debated in Jewish belief to this very day. Is God's presence in our lives enough for us to lead lives of goodness or do we need the testimony of the Torah that tells us that God's presence expects something specific from us, namely loyalty to the commandments? You can see this dual character of Jewish belief threaded through our prayers. May we continue to hold on to ancestral beliefs and discover our own relationship to God through them.

Shalom,

Rabbi

NEW CLASS! MOSES IN THE MIDRASH

Explore the Classic text of Midrash Rabbah with the rabbi every first and third Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Next meetings: June 5th and 19th



June Meetings

- Annual Congregational & Board Meeting, Sunday, June 3rd, 10:30 AM
- Sisterhood Meeting, Wednesday, June 13th, 1:00 PM at Panera's, 3401 Boulevard of the Allies in Oakland. This meeting will wrap up the year and discuss plans to invite a speaker/author to New Light on September 5th.

Hill District Tour

On Sunday, June 10, New Light Congregation will join Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church for an in-depth tour of the Hill District in Pittsburgh. See the attached flyer.

Movie Night

Come see **The Showman** on Sunday, June 24th at 7:00 PM. See the attached flyer for details.

Casino Trip

The next casino trip is Sunday, July 8th. See the attached flyer for details.

Holocaust Museum Trip

We are planning a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. on August 26th. See the attached flyer for details.

Potential Trip to World of Values

Sisterhood is working on another trip to World of Values, possibly in June or July, with the bus leaving New Light at 10:00 AM. Contact Sharyn Stein for more information.

TOLOLS Sisterhood Book Club Invitation

Book: "The Fortune Teller's Kiss" by Brenda Serotte - a book club favorite and finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, this acclaimed memoir of growing up a Turkish Jew in a fortune-telling, belly-dancing family illustrates Sephardic life, the foods, fear of the Evil Eye, and the author's struggle to walk again after polio. Booklist calls it "A joy to read...a profoundly moving memoir."

Date: Tues. June 26, 2018

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: At the home of Marlene Haus

1680 Murray Ave., Apt. 29

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Kindly RSVP to Joyce Fienberg (joyce.fienberg@gmail.com)

June Birthdays

Gertrude Adams

Faye Bleiberg

Robert Daniels

Philip Fehl

Ethel Mandel

Joel Reisz

Sharyn Stein

June Anniversaries

Gila & Harvey Issenberg

Barbara & Thomas Kleyman

Beverly & Jason Manne

Ann & Jacob Notovitz

Beth & Rabbi Perlman

Nadine & Sheldon Reck

Roselle & Carl Solomon

Sharyn & Daniel Stein

June Onegs

June 1:

Bonnie & David Greenberg, in honor of mothers Jane Glass & Bessie Greenberg

June 15:

Ann & Jacob Notovitz anniversary

Reminders

- To purchase Memorial Plaques, Simcha Tree Leaves or Stones contact Ileen Portnoy 412-683-7985
- To sponsor an Oneg in honor of that special person/event or for no reason at all call Barbara Caplan 412-521-4332
- To purchase bricks for our "Garden of Freedom" or sponsor a Kiddush luncheon contact Barbara Caplan 412-521-4332
- To purchase Giant Eagle gift cards contact Marilyn Honigsberg at 412-521-7174
- For information on our cemetery contact Myron Snider at 412-235-7085

NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION

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www.newlightcongregation.org

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