

## ***New Light News May, 2017***

### **From the Rabbi**

**Dear Gentle Member,**

Did you attend the information meeting Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>? It was an historic meeting in the life of New Light. It was a meeting to extend the life of our shul and I applaud our presidents, especially Stephen Cohen, for being courageous enough and transparent enough to take the next step towards our future. As Steve said, "New Light has never been about the building. We are family." The mood in the room was absolutely positive. Never let anyone tell you that New Light is closing or New Light is having problems. Israel will continue to live!

Our Conservative movement for years has been forecasting a leaner but stronger movement. In the 1970s, surveys showed that 40% of Jewish households identified Conservative. Now we are ranked somewhere in the area of 15% of population or less. Few people and fewer young people identify with synagogue life and there are many options to express your Judaism today without paying institutional dues. Other generations were proud of the material cultural of Judaism - architecture and art - we seem to be heading towards a time when Jews seek to consolidate space to build a critical mass of people of shared interests. This means more spirituality, not less. This means more Torah learning and social celebration. As we speak, right now Jews are gathering in a movie theater, the JCC auditorium, a church, your neighbor's home, and in synagogues flexible enough to allow parallel davening opportunities. This month we will see Jews across the religious spectrum studying a vast cafeteria of subjects at the Shavuot Tikkun (May 30th). How cool is that?

I appreciated the questions at the meeting. It helped discern the options we have, our desire to live beyond the confines of 1700 Beechwood Boulevard, our purpose in sustaining a small family shul. If we do seek tenant status in the heart of Tree of Life, I see a greater potential for partnership, for renewed worship, and for a New Light presence to grow and continue. I have always been one to be suspicious of boundaries for boundaries sake. Religion is ruined when one group thinks they have a monopoly on the truth. I dislike the kind of predatory, triumphalist posturing that some synagogues take. That is not my style. I can learn with every rabbi. I can study and pray with every Jew. Moving to Tree of Life and embracing their other tenant Dor Hadash fits my personality. The more, the more. Let Israel live!

Rabbi Perlman



### **Tikkun Leil Shavuot**

Join the annual community-wide free study night at the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill on Tuesday, May 30, from 10:00 PM to 1:00 AM. There will be three 50-minute sessions, each with multiple classes, featuring local rabbis and leading thinkers, including our own Rabbi Perlman and Beth Kissileff. A complete schedule of classes will be distributed at the event and will be online at [jfedpgh.org/Shavout](http://jfedpgh.org/Shavout). Topics range from history, biblical stories, politics, faith, love and sex. Plus, cheesecake and coffee will be served! See the enclosed flyer for more information.

### **Shavuot Services**

Services are Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 9:45 AM and Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 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, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**, for a close reading of The Book of Proverbs and what they mean.

### **May Meetings**

Board Meeting, Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
Men's Club Meeting, Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 PM

### **May Brunch**

The New Light Congregation Sisterhood and Men's Club invites everyone to brunch on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 10:00 AM. Guest Speakers will be Pittsburgh's own Dr. Knowledge and Miss Information (Mr. Charles Reichblum and Mrs. Audrey Reichblum).

See the enclosed flyer for details. Please get your reservation to Ileen Snyder. This will be the Sisterhood's year end program.

### **Movie Night**

Our next movie is "Dough" on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM. See the enclosed flyer.

### **Summer Preview**

Watch for news about our next casino trip to Wheeling Downs, set for Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM. Contact Dan Stein at 412-521-5231 if you are attending.

The Sisterhood is interested in planning a summer excursion to World of Values and Wicker Outlet in Greensburg, PA on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Sharyn Stein at 412-521-5231 if you are interested.

### **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](mailto: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.

#### **May Birthdays**

Merle Blumenfeld	Sheldon Reck
Marvin Feldman	Reva Simon
Naomi Greenblott	Jo-Ann Tuckfelt
Rachelle Grobstein	
Harvey Issenberg	
Fay Neft	
David Paris	
Ronald Rager	
Nadine Reck	

#### **May Anniversaries**

Carol & Marvin Feldman  
Ronna & Harvey Rosenberg  
Gerry & Dr. George Tessler  
Brenda & Barry Werber

## Sunday Morning Services/Breakfast on Hiatus for the Summer

Note that Sunday morning services with breakfasts provided by the Men's Club have ended for the summer as of May 1. They will resume in the fall.

### 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](http://www.newlightcongregation.org)

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Men's Club	Dan Stein	412-521-5231
Simcha Tree & Memorial Plaques	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985
Treasurer	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332
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