

New Light News September, 2017

A Word from the Rabbi

The month of Elul (the month before Rosh Hashanah) gives us the opportunity to think about the possibilities of thinking and behaving differently. The word in Judaism is “Teshuva” (Return). Teshuva is not understood as “repent” as to cast aspersions on a completely sinful self. No “teshuva” means returning to something that was lost when we turned away from whatever positive character trait that God instilled in us.

When a computer device of some kind isn’t operating correctly, the first question any technician will ask is, “have you tried rebooting?” The option may be called “Restart,” but it means the same thing: clean out apps that are running, wipe the memory clean, and start up again.

Judaism teaches that people are basically good. In essence, we want to do the right thing. But we succumb to temptation. We do bad things. We let ourselves learn bad habits until we find ourselves in a rut, unable to get back onto level ground.

It’s as if we need our own “reboot” system. And we have one.

This is the concept of Teshuvah. As of this writing, the Wikipedia entry on “Repentance” insists that “The doctrine of repentance as taught in the Bible is a call to persons to make a radical turn from one way of life to another.” Despite that claim, this idea is found nowhere in Judaism — and we did have the Bible first (sorry Wikipedia!). It doesn’t have to be “radical!”

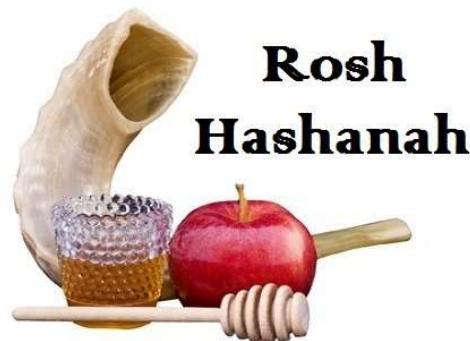
The word Teshuvah comes from the Hebrew root “to return.” It is about getting back to where we were always supposed to be, following the path we were always supposed to follow.

Today, many people will colloquially refer to a person who adopted traditional Jewish observance in adulthood as a “Ba’al Teshuvah,” but that is not the classical meaning of the term. It means “Master of Return,” and this is something everyone should be — especially on Yom Kippur.

From Rosh Hodesh Elul to Yom Kippur is forty days, the same number of days it took for Moses to ascend and descend Mount Sinai. There he created a whole Torah. During our forty days, we have an opportunity to re-write parts of our own book so that we truly living when we come to Yom Kippur!

Ketivah Tova v’Hatimah (May you be written and sealed for a good year),

Rabbi



Presidents' Report

August has been a very productive month.

A Board & Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11th at 7:00 PM to:

- **Approve the sale of our building to the Yeshiva Schools; and**
- **Approve the lease with Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha (TOLOLS). Please come.**

Sale of Building

We expect to have a signed Sales Agreement with the Yeshiva Schools by the end of August to purchase our home at 1700 Beechwood Blvd. The Yeshiva Schools will be conducting a "due diligence" inspection (an on-site inspection of structural, electrical, HVAC and plumbing to determine if major issues exist) through Friday, September 8th. A final price will then be negotiated.

In settling on a price, we have taken into account a number of factors, including:

- The plot is very small (14,000 sq ft.)
- It is zoned "conditional R1" – meaning a building on the plot may only be a residential (R) single family home (1=single) with conditional use as a synagogue and educational center.
- The purchaser is a Jewish religious school in Squirrel Hill that will maintain the building as a Jewish institution.
- The appraisal completed in May, 2016.
- The condition of the building.
- We receive the full sale price as this is a private sale with no commissions being paid.

*Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Lease*

We are in the final stages of negotiating a lease with TOLOLS. We expect to have it signed soon We are working to ensure that the lease provisions adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in the spring and approved by the Congregation.

September Meetings

- Board and Congregational meeting, Monday, September 11th, 7:00 PM. *Note that the Board meeting originally scheduled for September 3rd has been rescheduled to the 11th.*
- Men's Club meeting, Wednesday, September 13th, 7:15 PM
- Sisterhood meeting, Sunday, September 17th 11:00 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 September 27th at 7:00 PM**, for a close reading of The Book of Proverbs and what they mean. ***Note that because of the high holidays there is only one class in September. Classes will be at the Rodman Street location for the rest of the year.***

Let's Celebrate

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

Save the Date

Sisterhood bus trip to World of Values in Greensburg on October 22nd. Watch for next month's flyer
Our next casino trip will be October 29th. See the attached flyer.

September Birthdays

Harold Caplan
Stephen Cohen
Beverly Manne
Ann Notovitz
Jean Rosenthal
Naomi Swerdlow
Steven Swerdlow

September Anniversaries

No members married in September ?!

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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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
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