

New Light News January 2019

A Word from the Rabbi

We have observed “shloshim” in the burials of the three good men who were taken from us along the other excellent eight souls that died as martyrs from Tree of Life and Dor Hadash. Now we go on, some in the “valley of the shadow of darkness” and others freed from the shackles of that horrible day. There are no easy answers. We go on rebuilding our community in its third physical home in two years. I am so proud of your presence at services both on Friday and Saturday. Tree of Life and Dor Hadash have combined with Beth Shalom for weekday services that begin at 7:30 AM. There is much to pray about. We also pray for them. Shabbat is also a time of our celebration as witnesses. We survive. We shall not be broken.

We still need to tend to our spirituality. We need to tend to the sick. We need to tend to our Torah study. I am continuing the “Moses and the Midrash” class this month on Tuesdays, January 8th and 22nd. We are offering a Brush up Hebrew class. Beth is teaching a Haftarah class.

I look at our Tree of Life building and it is surrounded by chain linked fencing covered by tarps like some kind of tomb. Now I know what it means when the psalmist yearns and cries over the destroyed beit hamikdash. We were not even one year in that building. I have been in and out of the building my whole life.

Hope is something that dwells in the heart. It is not rationale. It is not tangible. Hope tells you “this is not the end.” We are in an episode where everyone is searching in the dark looking for answers. The puzzle pieces begin to appear and we find many friends that help us move forward.

Tell me what you want more of. Connection to Judaism, connection to people, connection to God? We are tending to those who grieve. Some of us cannot believe but others will hear my sincere promise that one day and one day soon, the synagogue will again be our source of joy.

Shalom,

Rabbi

Moses in the Midrash: How the Rabbis Read the Torah

You can still be a member of this in-depth text class following the life of Moses through the Midrash. Understand how the rabbis read difficult problems in the story and ask your own questions. We meet on Tuesdays, January 8 and 22 at 7:00 P.M. in the Lehman Center Board Room at Beth Shalom.

Presidents' Report

After the turmoil of October and November, it would be wonderful to report that December was calm and easy.

We officially signed a MOU with Beth Shalom, our new home. We have an office on the second floor and a closet outside the Helfant Chapel. The closet is very large – large enough for shelving, a full sized refrigerator (arriving the end of December) and a large toaster oven for reheating breads and pastries. Because Beth Shalom has rented out its kitchen, we have no access to that. Result: all large affairs, onegs, and Shabbat luncheons will be catered from here on out.

We have ordered (at our expense) a large number of “Stronger Than Hate” T-shirts. Many of you sent emails to me requesting shirts - please resend your request. We will be selling them online for \$20 each. Members will get a 50% discount. (The shirts handed out earlier were free because they were donated by a third party).

Much of December has been spent working with the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh's Independent Committee, which is considering how to distribute funds collected by the Federation's Victims of Terror Fund. New Light, Tree of Life and Dor Hadash are observers on the committee. In mid-December the Committee met with the next of kin and families of those injured to obtain their input. The meeting was very emotional, yet very positive. The Committee expects to issue a report sometime in late January.

In addition, TOLOLS also started the process for determining the distribution of funds collected. As promised, New Light and Dor Hadash are full members of this committee.

New Light has not begun to consider the distribution of funds donated directly to it. Why? We decided to let those who have collected the lion's share of the funds - the Federation and TOLOLS - make their determinations first.

Finally, we are trying to identify those congregants who were on or approaching the premises on October 27th. If you were outside the building, please send an email to me with your location. Were you “on the property,” “close to the property” or “pretty far”? Please give as much detail as possible.

Happy New Year!

Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen, Co-Presidents

Sunday Morning Minyan

In September for the High Holidays, we asked for PLEDGES to help the finances of our Shul.

Now, to begin 2019, The Men's Club is asking for a different PLEDGE: A pledge to give God a few hours on Sunday morning.

Please join the New Light Men's Club in the Helfant Chapel @ 9:15 A.M. for morning services beginning Sunday January 13th. Breakfast to follow in the Palkovitz lobby for the incredible bargain of \$3 per person.

We are attempting to reconstitute the joint New Light -Tree of Life Men's Club Breakfast. Stay tuned for more information.

January Meetings

The monthly board meeting is Sunday, January 6th, 10:30 A.M at the Forward Shady Apartments, 5841 Forward Ave. A representative for Center for Victims will present information on services they provide. Even if you are not a board member, we encourage you to come to hear the Center for Victims representative. We, the congregation - each one of us - is considered a victim and can take advantage of the services they offer.

The next Men's Club meeting is Monday, January 14th at 7:00 P.M. at the Forward Shady Apartments.

The next Sisterhood meeting is Sunday, January 13th at 11:00 A.M. at the Forward Shady Apartments.

Late December Events:

Kiddush Luncheon

There will be a donor-sponsored Kiddush luncheon following Saturday services on December 29th.

An Afternoon with New Light Family and Friends

New Light family and friends are invited to gather on December 30th, from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. in the Beth Shalom ballroom for appetizers and dessert. This will be a very informal time for us all to sit and talk with each other, and cherish our time together.

How to Regain Your Faith after Terror

Meet Polly Sheppard on Monday, January 7th, 7:00 P.M. at Beth Shalom, Eisner Commons (second floor, next to Homestead Chapel).

She is one of three survivors from a shooter attack on the Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina which resulted in the deaths of nine parishioners on June 17, 2015. This is a story about how hate and violence endanger the life of faith and religion, how to survive the trauma and how to tell the story. Have a conversation with Polly and learn how religious institutions can sustain the souls of its members in the aftermath of the unthinkable. Polly has spoken all over the country and at the Democratic National Convention in 2016.

SoulStir

On Thursday, January 10th at 7:30 P.M., Chabad of Squirrel Hill presents SoulStir, an Uplifting Dance Experience for Women, at 1700 Beechwood Boulevard. Registration is required by January 7th at chabadpgh.com/dance. See the attached flyer for more information.

Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence

A message from Carolyn Ban, Professor Emerita, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh and Chair, Dor Hadash Social Action Committee

Squirrel Hill Stands Against Gun Violence is a group that has just formed to change laws in order to reduce gun violence. We are working to have this group be led by congregants from Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life - though we see membership open to anyone in the community who wants to join us. This will be a major effort, and we are still very much in the planning stages. We are planning to partner with organizations already working on gun violence issues like CeasefirePA. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Carolyn Ban, cban@pitt.edu, who is leading this effort.

Tips from Jewish Family and Community Services

JFCS has created a blog post of information to help prepare for adult children (and others) returning home from winter break: <https://www.jfcspgh.org/talking-to-your-young-adult-children-on-winter-break/>

Urban Zen Integrative Therapy

A message from Jason Kunzman, Chief Program Officer,
Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh:

As our community continues to recover and rebuild following the tragic events of October 27, I wanted to make you aware of the JCC's new partnership with Donna Karan and her Urban Zen Foundation. The Foundation will be coming to the JCC on January 3 and 4 to share with the community an informed mix of Eastern healing techniques, including yoga therapy, meditation, Reiki and essential oils, to help inspire a change in health and well-being while also relieving symptoms of trauma, pain, anxiety, depression and exhaustion.

There will be multiple sessions available for the community to attend:

Thursday, January 3rd from 8:15-9:15 P.M. (along with our community's first responders)

Friday, January 4th from 7:00-8:00 A.M. (along with victims and their families)

Friday, January 4th, from 9:00-10:00 A.M. (along with general community members)

Friday, January 4th, from 12:00-1:00 P.M. (along with general community members)

Contact Jason Stowell (jstowell@jccpgh.org, 412-697-3521) for more information or to register.

See the attached flyer for more information.

Pittsburgh's Healing Trip to Charleston Church

For the last few years, New Light Congregation and Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church have held Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day services together and studied bible together, including most recently, the book of Proverbs, our shared wisdom tradition.

This year we are jointly planning a trip to A.M.E. Baptist Church in Charleston, SC, the site of a mass shooting similar to ours. We will leave on Friday, January 18th and return Monday, January 21st (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday Holiday). We will spend Shabbat in the historic synagogues there and Sunday at the Church, doing joint Bible study and volunteer work.

The trip is the inspiration of Dr. Peg Durachko, the widow of Dr. Richard Gottfried, one of the eleven victims of the hate crime committed on October 27th at the Tree of Life Building in Pittsburgh.

As you may know, the A.M.E. Baptist Church underwent a very similar massacre on Wednesday, June 17th, 2015. Their new Senior Pastor, Pastor Eric Manning, graciously flew into Pittsburgh, PA and spoke at one of the funerals.

If you are interested in going, please contact Beth Kissilef (Rabbi Perlman's wife) at bkissileff@gmail.com. If you cannot go but would like to help underwrite transportation costs, please help fund this trip and affirm the values of Martin Luther King Jr and both our communities by contributing to our GoFundMe campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/trip-to-mother-emmanuel-church-in-charleston>.

Hebrew Reading Lessons

Do you need a refresher in reading Hebrew? Rabbi Perlman has identified someone to teach us on Sundays, starting January 13th at 10:30 A.M. Eight sessions will cost \$400 per person.

Contact Rabbi Perlman for more information.

First Night of Hanukkah

Hundreds attend a special Menorah lighting service outside the TOLOLS building on the first night of Hanukkah.

The candle for the first night was lit by a group including police officers, paramedics, the head of the local FBI office and survivors.

“As in ancient times, [when] Jewish people strove for independence, strove for religious freedom, so, too, today we strive to be able to freely worship in our sacred places,” said Rabbi Jonathan Perlman.

Rabbi Myers and Rabbi Perlman led the crowd in singing.



Jewish Scholarship Service

Applications for need-based college scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year are available from the Jewish Scholarship Service of Greater Pittsburgh (JSS), formerly Central Scholarship & Loan Referral Service, of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. This program is administered by Jewish Family and Community Services. The funds are made available through the generosity of families who have established endowments through the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Jewish Community Center, National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Women International of Pittsburgh (formerly B'nai B'rith Women), The Pittsburgh Foundation, and Rodef Shalom Congregation.

All scholarships are distributed on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Depending on the scholarship fund, other factors such as academic achievement, field of study, school attending, and Jewish and general community involvement will also be considered. In addition, the applicant must be Jewish, reside in Allegheny, Westmoreland, Beaver, Butler or Washington County for at least two years, and need financial assistance to attend an accredited institution of higher education as either an undergraduate or graduate student.

The 2019-2020 JSS online application is available at jfcspgh.org/scholarships. All applications are due **February 12, 2019**.

First-time applicants must be interviewed. All of the limited number of after school, evening, spring break and Sunday appointments will be assigned on a “first come, first served” basis to those whose applications are submitted by **January 15, 2019**. If students have scheduling needs (such as work, or attending school out of town) it is important to submit as early as possible, by 1/15/2019. All applications should be submitted as early as possible to ensure processing.



January Birthdays

Larry Kanterman
Ida Kubrick
Beth Perlman
Debbie Salvin
Carl Solomon

January Anniversaries

Rachelle & Stephen Grobstein
Judith and Ronald Rager
Michelle & Joel Reisz

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 Hugh Casper at 412-421-7619
- 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 Stephen Cohen at 412-421-3999

NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION

5915 Beacon Street

412-421-1017

www.newlightcongregation.org

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Co-President/Social VP/ & Yizkor	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	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332
Onegs	Hugh Casper	412-421-7619
Simcha Tree & Memorial Plaques	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985
Treasurer	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332
Cemetery	Myron Snider	412-235-7085
	Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999
Religious	Carl Solomon	412-421-2165
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