

New Light News March, 2018

A Word from the Rabbi

The Women of Purim

Unlike the heroic women of the Exodus story --such as Shifra, Puah, Yochevet, and Miriam-- our women in the story of Purim are different. We are bold, tricky, maiden-in-distress like, with a touch of mischief-making in the delicate apparatus of government. There is even gender bending related stuff in the story. Here is thumbnail sketch of the usual suspects:

Vashti: Former queen of Ahashverosh, the King. Beautiful and curvaceous. Remembered for refusing the King's obnoxious demands to come one night with her curvaceous harem (and self) to "entertain" the court filled with his drunken and jeering friends. The eunuchs said "tut tut" and looked away (but later save the day, stay tuned). The boorish king yelled out, "I know what's in the grab bag! I know what's in the grab bag! I am coming through!" At which point Vashti escapes with her harem through the backway nearly knocking down young women standing on line for the Miss Persia beauty contest. Vashti starts the #GetYourHandsOffMe movement, a cousin to the #Metoo movement who take on particularly obnoxious buffoons like the King. Together with her sistas, she initiates a woman's military parade in Shushan

Esther: She happened to be on line for the Miss Persian Beauty Contest that day and wondered what all the fuss was about. A penniless orphan whose parents died before she was born, she was looking for ways to promote herself in the world away from her "old country" pious uncle who smelled liked pickled herring. Naïve to the downtown ways of Shushan, she enlists (some say she was forced by a eunuch named Shaagaz) as a candidate to wield royal power. The King holds up a "10" placard and extends to her his royal scepter (I am not making this up, I promise). All goes well. She is chosen to play the lead and then ... more lewd, obnoxious effrontery especially by the King's chief pal who gets in to her bed! Where is #GetYourHandsOff Me when you need them? Lucky Esther's got a secret weapon. She's Jewish. Stinky Macher Mordecai to the rescue!

Zeresh: I can only describe Zeresh as one of those battleax wives you've heard about on Television or in the Comics. Sort of a cross between Alice Cramden and Hagar the Horrible or Mrs. Hagar the Horrible, whoever that is. Real ballbusting type. She is always described as "Zeresh, His Wife" (the wife of Haman) and serves no other purpose but to constantly berate him and tell him what to do. We are told that Zeresh flings a bucket of excrement on top of him from a top floor window after Haman returns from parading Mordecai around on a horse! What humiliation! She mounts a movement: #Who do you think you are, Mr. Big Shot?

Caitlyn Jenner (AKA Harbona): Well known for transitioning from a fat man to a curvaceous and wise woman, Harbona gets credit for mentioning to the King at the end of chapter Seven (7:9): "Sire, the gallows which Haman has constructed for Mordecai stands in his courtyard" and gives the King a bright idea. Hang Haman! Boo! Hiss! Even though she (he) has transgendered, we now know where her real loyalties lie. She (he) defends Esther and is remembered each Purim for her brief stint in the song Shoshanat Yaakov. May she/(he) be remembered favorably!

In this age of women, there is no chilvary. No wonder God left himself out of this story. Women can take care of themselves. Women rule!

Purim Sameach,

Rabbi

March Meetings

- Board Meeting, Sunday, March 4th, 10:30 AM
- Sisterhood Meeting, Sunday, March 11, 11:00 AM
- Men's Club Meeting, Monday, March 12th, 7:00 PM

New Shabbat Morning Service Time

Just a reminder - Saturday morning services begin at 10:00 AM. Ending time is still 12:15 PM.

Elijah and Elisha

Our study of Elijah and Elisha continues on March 6 and 20, 7:00 PM. We have just been introduced to Elisha. What comes next in their quest to eradicate Baal worship?

Purim

Join us as we celebrate Purim with Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha on Wednesday, February 28 – spaghetti dinner at 6:00 PM followed by the Megillah reading (with TOLOLS) at 7:00 PM. To get information about the “schtick” and how you can be involved, contact Rabbi Perlman or Rabbi Myers. Remember to come in costume; hats and graggers will be available. On March 1 Rabbi Myers and Rabbi Perlman will conduct a joint morning Purim service at 7:30 AM.

New Light - TOLOLS Men's Club and Sisterhood Shabbat

A joint New Light and TOLOLS Men's Club and Sisterhood Shabbat, followed by a Kiddush, will be held on Saturday, March 17th at 9:45 AM in the Pervin Chapel. Note that our Saturday morning services will be combined with theirs – there will be no service in New Light that morning. Please reply to Sharyn Stein at 412-521-5231 if you plan to attend.

Magavet

Magavet, an acapella singing group from Yale University will perform at no cost on Sunday, March 18, at noon in the ballroom. For 25 years Magevet's innovative repertoire and engaging performances has captivated audiences around the world. The performance is free and jointly sponsored by New Light, Tree of Life, Dor Hadash, and Beth Shalom. For more information, contact Rabbi Perlman at 412-421-1017.

A second performance has been scheduled at Temple Sinai on Friday, March 16th – Shabbat Service starting at 7:00 PM followed by dinner at 8:00 PM. \$36 suggested donation, call 412-421-9715, ext 124 to register.

Movie Night

Our next movie - **Ray** - is on Sunday, March 18 at 7:00 PM. *We have been negligent in letting Dan/Sharyn know if we are coming, so **please RSVP to 412-521-5231** if you plan to attend.* See the attached flyer.

42nd Street

New Light Sisterhood invites you to attend the play 42nd Street on Sunday, March 25 at 2:00 PM at the Pittsburgh Playhouse in Oakland. See the attached flyer.

50 Years After

We are invited to join Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 4th at 7:00 PM, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Trip to Flight 93 National Memorial

The Men's Club is presenting a trip to the Flight 93 National Memorial, Shanksville, PA, on Sunday, April 29th. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Passover Dates

The first seder is March 30th. Services for the first two mornings are March 31 and April 1 at 10:00 AM.

Hold the Date!

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. Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.

Tree of Life * Or L'Simcha and Dor Hadash Events

New Light is invited to these events - see the enclosed flyer for more information.

- TOLOLS Book Club Meeting, Sunday, March 20, 7:30 PM at the home of Marleen Haus, 1680 Murray Ave, Apt. 29. Book – The Red Tent by Anita Diamant.
- Dor Hadash Program – Recent Trends in Crime and Punishment, Sunday, March 4 at 10:30 AM.

March Birthdays

Ronald Berkman
Bonnie Greenberg
Rita Kleinman
Emery Kubrin
Judy Rager
Roselle Solomon
Rose Stone
Barry Werber

March Anniversaries

Barbara and Arnold Epstein
Eileen and Myron Snider

Tu B'Shevat Seder

On Sunday January 28, New Light celebrated Tu B'Shevat at a seder, enjoying the festival and the fellowship.



Sunday Morning Minyan Breakfast

On Sunday, February 18, a combined New Light and TOLOLS morning minyan enjoyed a special breakfast prepared by Rabbi Myers and Rabbi Perlman.

Thanks to our rabbis for delicious fried eggs with onions and lox!



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 412-421-7619
- To sponsor a Sunday morning breakfast contact Dan Stein 412-521-5231
- 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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