



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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New Light News March 2020

From the Rabbit's Desk

Hey friends! It's Adar!

Time for this year's "Mock Oscars" -- the films the Academy forgot but the ones we would rather see win. Drum roll please for best picture. And the nominees are:

1. **Ice Cream Wars: The Rise of the Skyscraper (Episode VIII)**

Since when did we get such a paltry portion from places that still serve soft serve? A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away the adventure continues to find the perfect, towering soft serve cone and actually lick it quickly so it doesn't make a mess all over your shirt. Hint: you won't find it in Pittsburgh anymore.

2. **Parveh-site**

Not meat and not dairy, it's a movie about the creation of the first internet site dedicated to all things "parveh." With the rise of "gluten free" and "vegan," we "parveh" lovers need attention too – everything from fruits and vegetables to crackers and toast often overlooked as the lower strata of real foods. A real thriller with a surprise ending.

3. **Soda Jerker**

The last soda jerk in America laughs uncontrollably every time he pulls the lever to create another egg cream. There is no one around to pay for the egg cream. There is no one around to hear him laugh. Ultimately it ends in violence with the hero singing "Don't take my egg cream away." Holy impregnability Batman!

4. **The Irish-muhn**

There was a time when Irish and Jews worked side by side in the bakehouse during the holidays. Where can you have paczki and hamentashen with a leprechaun twist? Introducing "muhn" (poppyseed) hamantashen fried in oil and dyed green for St. Patrick's day. Eww... who would want to eat that? Maybe Robert DeNiro and all star Italian cast?

5. **It's A Beautiful Day in the Fun House**

A story about a beloved TV children's icon who creates friendships that never, ever end ... and maybe should end. His "friends" won't leave him alone and keep coming back for tedious talk about arranging your spice cabinet and the cost of beer.

6. **Rickshaw Man**

After conquering America in ridiculous costumes, Elton John makes it in Asia appearing on stage in Hong Kong in a hazmat suit singing "I'm still standing..."

7. **Once Upon a Time in ... Pittsburgh** A true story about a rabbi who returns to Pittsburgh after 30 years and finds everything missing. What happened to the Holiday House? What happened to the trolley tracks? What happened to Isalys? What happened to Liberty Avenue? What happened to a winning baseball team?

Yuk Yuk! It's Adar!

Chief Rabbit

February 2020 Presidents' Report

One door closes – another one opens.

The Federation's Independent Committee (IC) has concluded its work and issued its report with recommendations on the distribution of the donations to Tree of Life following 10.27. The Board and Congregation approved the distributions proposed by the IC at its January meeting. A copy of the report is posted on our website. There is also a report about the process in this newsletter. We welcome your questions. Tree of Life indicates that distributions should occur sometime in early March.

Now that the TOLOLS distributions have been finalized, we held a meeting with the affected individuals to discuss the report, as well as to begin a conversation about the distribution of the New Light 10-27 donations. Initial recommendations included using the money to support special New Light activities, scholarships, and Torah repair and/or replacement.

The weekend of February 21-23 was a whirlwind of activities with Magevet, the Yale University a capella choir. Activities during the weekend included a potluck dinner, singing by Magevet at both Friday night and Saturday morning services, a Workshop held with the Hillel JUC Choir Saturday afternoon and evening, and a public concert Sunday afternoon. Thank you to the host families for volunteering to host the students Friday and Saturday nights.

We are working with the 10.27 Healing Partnership to host a public informational meeting on the Frick Park Memorial of Trees sometime in March. We will announce the date to the congregation when known. **This is important: please come and voice your support for this memorial parklet.** Some of the neighbors have objected.

We will be holding *two* Purim celebrations. We will be joining Beth Shalom on Monday night, March 9th, the official start of Purim. We will be holding our own Purim celebration on Tuesday night, March 10th in the Ballroom. Besides the reading of the Megillah, we will be showing a comedy movie about Purim: *For Your Consideration*.

We have scheduled a special trip to **the Holocaust Center on Sunday, March 1st, at 1:30 P.M.** (following our Board Meeting) to view their exhibit: *For You Were Strangers-Jewish Immigration to Pittsburgh, 1880-1990*.

The memorial monument has been erected at the New Light Cemetery. We are planning a Congregational Dedication and Tree Planting on **Sunday, April 26th, 2020 at 1:00 PM**. As you will recall, the 9-11 Memorial and Museum Commission donated an ornamental pear tree to each of the three congregations. The tree will be planted that day.

Barbara & Stephen

Purim Festivities

Join us for this year's Purim fun. Wear your silliest hat or costume! Bring jokes and funny songs! Esther and Mordecai will rule the day!

Monday, March 9th, Joint Megillah reading with Beth Shalom:

Ma'ariv starts at 7:00 P.M., Megillah reading starts at 7:15 P.M.

Tuesday, March 10th - A New Light Evening of Food and Fun:

- Purim Seudah (Dinner) at 6:00 P.M. in the ballroom. \$15 per person, contact Barbara Caplan at 412-519-7141 to register for dinner, which will be cold cuts. Please reply by March 3rd.
- Megillah Reading at hyper speed after dinner
- The movie "For Your Consideration" will be shown after the Megillah reading. This movie is brought to you from the same comedy team that created "Best in Show" and "A Mighty Wind" and has a cast that includes Fred Willard, Ed Begley Jr., and Jane Lynch.

Meetings

Board Meeting: Sunday, March 1st, 10:30 A.M.

Sisterhood Meeting: Sunday, March 8th, 11:00 A.M. in the Eisner Commons.

Sacred Seasons: Passover and Easter in Ancient Texts

Taught by Reverend Taleeta Canady and Rabbi Jonathan Perlman
Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

Class 1: Mar. 5- Origin of Easter in the New Testament

Christianity is rooted in four great events: Christmas, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost. The first marks the personal entrance of God through His Son into human life. The second marks the work of revelation, reconciliation, and redemption realized in the self-giving of Jesus in obedience to His Father. The third marks the victory of God through Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. The fourth marks the empowering of human life in Christ with the same redeeming energy which was at work in Christ Jesus. This lesson will focus on the third event, Easter, and present biblical research in order to facilitate a discussion on the Origin of Easter in the New Testament.

Class 2: March 12 Origin of Passover in the Old Testament

The Exodus from Egypt is not only celebrated as a holiday, it is central to understanding the Jewish religion. All Jewish history flows from this seminal event. It is not only a story about slaves. It is a story about our own personal liberation from tyranny, about rejecting idolatry totally, and embracing God who demonstrates love towards his people. We will learn about Moses and Pharaoh and how the people participated in the most remembered migration in history.

Class 3: March 19 The Passover Haggadah

In this class, we will introduce the guidebook and sourcebook to the telling of the Exodus from Egypt. The Haggadah was written by the Rabbis of ancient Palestine in the second century CE for the first night of Passover. Why was it written? How does it differ from the Biblical narrative? What are its objectives? How do families today use the Haggadah at the Passover meal? Why are there so many versions of this sacred text?

Class 4: March 26 Lent and Holy Week

Many Christians participate in Lent and observe Holy Week out of religious compulsion and commitment to tradition with little knowledge of these sacred events. This lesson will help to frame our understanding of why we, as Christians, observe Lent and Holy Week?

Class 5: April 2 Liberation and Resurrection (A Comparison)

As we summarize this five week course, what can we learn as Jews and Christians about holidays that occur in the Spring? What are the similarities and differences? If Christianity is the daughter of Judaism, can we see a continuity of thought concerning religious values and teachings that can be understood on a human level and on not just on a sectarian level? Both are birthing stories of Jewish and Christian communities but there are also themes that head in different directions. Can we live together and appreciate the customs of our neighbors?

March Birthdays

Ronald Berkman
Roselle Solomon
Barry Werber

March Anniversaries

Eileen & Myron Snider
Barbara & Arnold Epstein

Upcoming Events

For You Were Strangers

New Light Members are invited to a special tour of the Holocaust Center's Exhibit: *For You Were Strangers: Jewish Immigration to Pittsburgh, 1880-1990* on **Sunday, March 1st, at 1:30 P.M.** Please see flyer on page six for information about this free exhibit.

Passover Rituals in the Illustrated Haggadah

Explore the way that some of the key rituals around the seder have been illustrated in haggadot from the Middle Ages to the present on **Sunday, March 8th at 11:30 A.M.** We will investigate these images to see what they reveal about the changing historical circumstances of the Jews and their different halachic and midrashic interpretations of Pesach activities. Suggestions will also be offered for how to incorporate visual material into your own seder.

This talk is presented by Professor Adam S. Cohen, Department of Art History, University of Toronto.

Refugee Shabbat

New Light will observe National Refugee Shabbat service during our Friday night Shabbat service on March 20th at 7:30 P.M.

Sisterhood Shabbat with TOLOLS

On **Saturday, March 21st** we will join TOLOLS for Sisterhood Shabbat, followed by a kiddush luncheon. Services start at 9:45 A.M. at their Rodef Shalom location, Levy Hall.

Joyce Fienberg Book Group

The March book group will discuss "The Only Woman in the Room: A Novel" by Marie Benedict on **Thursday, March 12th at 7:30 P.M.** at the home of Marlene Haus, 1680 Murray Avenue #29.

All of Us are Pittsburghers: Immigrants, Refugees, Transplants and Yinzers

The Center for Lovingkindness will present a Big Table Conversation about the state of our welcoming community, in partnership with Jewish Family and Community Services on **Wednesday, March 18th** from 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. at the JCC.

Viral: Anti-Semitism in Four Mutations - A Message from the 10.27 Healing Partnership

The new documentary about anti-Semitism, "Viral: Anti-Semitism in Four Mutations" may open at the Waterfront on March 6th. It contains references and images specific to 10/27/2018, as well as interviews with individuals directly involved. The 10.27 Healing Partnership notes: "In accordance with our own learning about the importance of anticipating, predicting and preparing, we remind each of you that there is no right or wrong decision to make regarding the viewing of this movie. Everyone has a personal path and timetable in moving toward healing and resolution. For some, that may mean choosing to see the movie, for others it will be to wait and view later or not at all. We encourage each of you to be kind and thoughtful with and to yourself as well as others as individual decisions are reached regarding this opportunity." A link to an article about the movie is included below.

The 10.27 Healing Partnership, located on the third floor of the JCC, Squirrel Hill, is available to assist you in sorting through this decision and any reactions/responses you may have. You can call them at 412-697-3534 (business hours) or 888-796-8226 (24 hours a day).

In community,
Cindy Snyder, LCSW and Maggie Feinstein, LPC

<https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/movies/2020/02/25/Viral-Antisemitism-in-Four-Mutations-documentary-Tree-of-Life-shooting-Pittsburgh/stories/202002240077>

Recent Events

Magevet Weekend - Sing a New Light

Yale University's a capella choir Magevet spent a wonderful weekend with New Light from February 21st through 23rd. They entertained us during Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch, enhanced Friday and Saturday Shabbat services with their beautiful voices and arrangements, and culminated the weekend with a public concert on Sunday. At Sunday's concert we also heard the Pittsburgh JUC a capella group Hillelujah.



Hillelujah



Magevet

Jewish Scholarship Service Deadline Extension

The deadline for the Jewish Scholarship Services has been extended to March 2, 2020. For more information please see jfcspgh.org/scholarships.

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

Rabbi	Jonathan Perlman	412-904-3601	Treasurer	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332
Co-President/Social VP/ & Yahrzeit	Barbara Caplan	412-521-4332	Cemetery	Myron Snider	412-235-7085
Co-President	Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999	Religious	Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999
Administrative Assistant	Marilyn Honigsberg	412-521-7174	Recording Secretary	Carl Solomon	412-421-2165
Membership	Debbi Salvin	724-444-6324	Corresponding Secretary	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985
Sisterhood	Sharyn Stein	412-521-5231	Calendar	Janet Cohen	412-512-0949
Men's Club	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332	Yahrzeits	Janet Cohen	412-512-0949
Onegs	Hugh Casper	412-421-7619	Website	Barbara Caplan	412-521-4332
Simcha Tree & Memorial Plaques	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985		Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999



FOR YOU WERE STRANGERS:

Jewish Immigration to Pittsburgh, 1880-1990

On display now at the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh

826 Hazelwood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Free and Open to the Public

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh is proud to present its new, original exhibit, *For You Were Strangers: Jewish Immigration to Pittsburgh 1880-1990*. *For You Were Strangers* explores a 100-year history of Jewish immigration into Pittsburgh, and notes historic world events that drove distinctive waves of Jewish immigration to the region. Through documents, images and stories, the exhibit examines changing United States policies during the 19th and 20th centuries, along with the formation of local attitudes and institutions as Jewish immigrants and refugees came to become integral to our society today. Visitors will learn about the origins and presence of Jews throughout the region and in Pittsburgh neighborhoods from the Northside, Hill District, the East End and, finally, to Squirrel Hill.



HOLOCAUST
CENTER OF
PITTSBURGH



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ
HISTORY CENTER
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Rauh Jewish Archive



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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH

AGREEMENT REACHED ON DISTRIBUTION OF OCTOBER 27th CONTRIBUTIONS

By Jon Pushinsky, Dor Hadash with edits and addendum by Stephen Cohen, New Light

Congregation Dor Hadash, New Light Congregation and Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha Congregation have reached an agreement regarding distribution of the money received by Tree of Life in response to the October 27th (2018) assault on the three congregations. This agreement was reached with the invaluable and caring assistance of the **Independent Committee** that was formed by the **Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh** in November 2018. The Independent Committee was originally charged with deciding how to distribute the money in Federation's ***Victims of Terror Fund***. A representative of each of the three congregations served on the Committee. The relationships and trust developed between Independent Committee members during the Committee's *Victims of Terror Fund* work, as well as the experience of reaching a consensus on how to distribute that Fund, enabled the Congregations to seek and accept the assistance of the Committee in making recommendations regarding distribution of the funds held by **Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha** (Tree of Life). One of the principles that guided the Committee's deliberations relative to the funds held by Tree of Life was "shalom b'bayit" - the need to arrive at recommendations that would foster healing in the congregations and harmony throughout the wider Jewish community.

The world was shocked by the October 27th tragedy. The synagogue attack was branded with the *Tree of Life* name. Not knowing how else to show their support or otherwise respond to the loss of life and injury to worshipers of the three congregations meeting at the Tree of Life building, thousands of people and organizations made financial contributions. These contributions came from every part of the United States and from countries around the world.

The great bulk of contributions sent to the three congregations was received by Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha (Tree of Life). Tree of Life received a total of \$5.45 million through April 30, 2019. At least in part due to the branding, questions arose as to whether donors actually intended the \$5.45 million for the exclusive benefit the Tree of Life.

It became clear early on that there were significant differences of opinion between the three congregations on how to distribute the funds held by Tree of Life. The congregations could not arrive at an agreement. One complicating factor was that the Tree of Life building, owned by Tree of Life, was damaged during the attack. Funds received by Tree of Life were intended by some donors to be used for building repair/reconstruction. The cost of repair of/rebuilding the Tree of Life synagogue will be significant. Until repair/rebuilding plans are finalized, the exact amount needed remains undetermined.

Ultimately, Tree of Life contacted **David Shapira**, Chairperson of the Independent Committee, to request his assistance in resolving the issue of fund distribution. David suggested convening the entire Independent Committee, an idea quickly endorsed by the Boards of all three congregations. The members of the Independent Committee agreed to help. The specific task undertaken by the Committee was to come up with recommendations regarding distribution of funds. These recommendations were not to be binding on the Congregations. Rather, the recommendations would have to be accepted by the boards of Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha in order to be implemented.

The Independent Committee met eight times between September 2019 and the end of January 2020. Differences of opinion were aired and positions were debated. All Committee members provided valuable and thoughtful input. As with the deliberations regarding Federation's Victims' of Terror Fund, discussions were respectful and open-minded. Positions often changed after listening to each other and in striving to maintain peace within the community - shalom b'bayit.

Consensus recommendations on how to distribute the \$5.45 million held by Tree of Life were reached. The congregational representatives on the Independent Committee presented these recommendations to their respective boards. All three congregational boards voted to approve the Committee's recommendations. According to these recommendations, a majority of the money will be distributed to those most affected by the tragedy: the families of those slain, those who were wounded and those in or outside of the Tree of Life building during the shooting. Funds have also been set aside to honor first responders and for memorialization. A summary of the recommendations follows on the next page.

The Independent Committee has issued its final report with respect to its recommendations. The report is posted on the New Light website.

The congregations send their heartfelt thanks to all members of the Independent Committee for their time, efforts and devotion to helping the three congregations resolve a very complex issue.

More information can be found online at :

<https://newlightcongregation.org/2020/02/06/agreement-reached-on-distribution-of-october-27th-contributions/>

New Light Calendar March 2020

5 Adar 5780 - 6 Nisan 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Services/Breakfast 9:15 AM Board Meeting, 10:30 AM Holocaust Center Exhibit, 1:30 PM	2 5 ADAR	3 6 ADAR	4 7 ADAR	5 8 ADAR Sacred Seasons at Rodman, 6:30 PM	6 9 ADAR 5:58 PM Services, 7:30 PM	7 10 ADAR 11 ADAR Tetzaveh Parshas Zachor Services, 9:45 AM
8 Services/Breakfast 9:15 AM Sisterhood Meeting, 11:00 AM Passover - Illustrated Haggadah, 11:30 AM	9 12 ADAR 13 ADAR Fast of Esther Megillah Reading with Beth Shalom, 7:15 PM	10 14 ADAR 15 ADAR Purim Dinner, Megillah Movie, 6:00 PM	11 16 ADAR 17 ADAR Shushan Purim	12 18 ADAR 19 ADAR Sacred Seasons at Rodman, 6:30 PM	13 20 ADAR 21 ADAR 7:05 PM Services, 7:30 PM	14 22 ADAR 23 ADAR Ki Sisa Parshas Parah Services, 9:45 AM
15 Services/Breakfast 9:15 AM	16 19 ADAR 20 ADAR	17 21 ADAR 22 ADAR	18 23 ADAR 24 ADAR	19 25 ADAR 26 ADAR Sacred Seasons at Rodman, 6:30 PM	20 27 ADAR 28 ADAR 7:13 PM Refugee Shabbat, 7:30 PM	21 29 ADAR 30 ADAR Vayakhel - Pekudei Parshas Hachodesh Sisterhood Shabbat at TOLOLS, 9:45 AM
22 Services/Breakfast 9:15 AM	23 26 ADAR 27 ADAR	24 28 ADAR 29 ADAR	25 30 ADAR 31 ADAR	26 1 NISAN 2 NISAN Rosh Chodesh Nisan Sacred Seasons at Rodman, 6:30 PM	27 3 NISAN 4 NISAN 7:20 PM Services, 7:30 PM	28 5 NISAN 6 NISAN Vayikra Services, 9:45 AM
29 Services/Breakfast 9:15 AM	30 4 NISAN 5 NISAN	31 6 NISAN				