



אור חדש

**New Light Congregation**

5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh PA 15217 • 412-421-1017 • [info@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:info@newlightcongregation.org)

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## **New Light News September 2020**

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### **A Word from the Rabbi**

Henri J.M. Nouwen, a well-known Dutch Catholic priest, once said, “Pay attention to the people God puts in your path if you want to discern what God is up to in your life.” The people you meet in life present opportunities to learn and change. We need to constantly ask the question: why am I meeting this person now? What is this person trying to teach me by their presence?

I think every High Holidays we need to make a catalog in our mind of all the people we have met in the last year – the ones we can remember of course. Sometimes the people we have the shortest encounters are the people who affect us positively or negatively. As a health care chaplain, I am constantly coming into contact with people for brief visits. We talk about their illness, their spirituality, their family, and the path on which they are walking. Many times the visit can affect me as much as it might affect them. What did the young cancer victim teach me? What did the talkative man with fear on his face teach me? What did retired travelling pastor teach me when she told me she had a crisis of faith?

The Bible is always telling us about encounters between the protagonist and others that motivate self-growth in the lead character. A Christian friend of mine told me recently that she was writing a paper on Jacob as a “trickster.” I told her that Jews do not stereotype Jacob in that way. Although his mother gets him to disguise himself as Esau to get the blessing from his father, Jacob goes on to his father-in-law Lavan and learns how to navigate a manipulative bully. What is the lesson for the Jewish people? It is at the heart of the Passover Haggadah: “Lavan the Aramean tried to destroy my father Jacob, and then he and his sons went down to Egypt.” Some of the choices we make in life cross the path of one who is more powerful than us. Some of the choices we make in life cross the path of one who lifts us up and becomes a blessing to us.

Jewish mystics would go on to analyze the presence of the other. How do spouses complete us or not complete us? How do children bring back unfinished relationships? How gentle we need to be with those who ask for forgiveness? From the Tomer Devorah: “We do not allow positive actions, no matter how small, to be cancelled out by negative actions, no matter how large.” We constantly enlarge the circle of people who may have an impact on our life. They have been sent to you to teach you about being a more spiritual person.

Encounters with others are like tests of our souls. As one pastor said to me, “We cannot give the testimony (to God’s reality on earth), if you cannot pass the test.”

What a beautiful thought for the coming High Holidays! We are encountering an unprecedented Holiday season. My wish is that it will be a meaningful one for your family combined with safety and good health.

Shana Tova,

Rabbi

## September Presidents' Report

August was consumed by two issues:

- Planning for the High Holy Days; and
- Construction of our Cemetery Chapel

### High Holy Days

Planning for the High Holy Days is significantly more complex this year. We have retained a Hazzanit to assist Rabbi Perlman. You can choose to attend in person in the Ballroom or via Zoom. Entrance to the Ballroom is on Shady Avenue. Please do not use the Beacon Street entrance.

During the second week of September we will be distributing Machzors, calendars, member directories, and Yizkor booklets. If you haven't already done so please let Janet know if you will pick up your books from the Cohens' front porch or whether you need them delivered.

In early August we mailed 105 surveys to members and seat holders. We received 49 responses (approximately 70 individuals). If you have not mailed your response, please do so immediately!!

Approximately 25% of responders plan to attend in-person in the Ballroom. This is well within the State-mandated guidelines for indoor gatherings. The largest number will be attending Kol Nidre Services. We have included the In-Person and Zoom Guidelines in this newsletter as a reminder.

***If you change your mind about attending in-person or via Zoom, please call/email Janet at 412-512-0949 or [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org).*** We must ensure we are below 25 individuals in the Ballroom.

A number of individuals volunteered to participate in the service with English readings. Thank you. We may be reaching out to others.

We also received a number of responses to the survey about improving the Zoom experience. The primary ones were:

- Mute everyone;
- Unison singing for selected prayers (unmute everyone);
- Short breaks in the service;
- Display the Torah and Haftarah on screen;
- Abbreviate the service where possible;
- Text based discussion instead of sermon.

We have not made a final decision but it is likely we will not erect our Succah this year. Similar to Shabbat, services for Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah will be held in Helfant Chapel and via Zoom.

### Cemetery Construction

Construction of the Chapel at the cemetery has begun. Completion of the building is expected by late September/early October.

Shana Tova,  
Barbara & Stephen

## September Board Meeting

The September board meeting will be conducted via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. We will use the same connection info as for weekend Shabbat services.

## Shabbat Services

Shabbat services will continue in Helfant Chapel and with Zoom. Please contact Janet at [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org) or call 412.512.0949 each week you plan to attend in Helfant. Services are:

Friday Night Services: 7:00 PM and Saturday Morning Services, 9:45 AM

Contact Janet at 412.512.0949 or [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org) if you need the Zoom connection info.

## New Light High Holiday Schedule

### New Light Cemetery Visitation

Sundays September 6 & 13, 10:00 AM- 12:30 PM

### Rosh Hashanah

Erev/Shabbat Friday, September 18, 7:00 PM

Day 1: Saturday, September 19, 9:45 AM. Tashlich 5:00 PM, Mellon Pond

Day 2: Sunday, September 20, 9:45 AM; Shofar blowing at 11:00 AM

### Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre Sunday, September 27, 6:35 PM

Morning Service Monday, September 28, 9:45 AM; Yizkor approximately 11:30 AM

Mincha 5:30 PM

Break Fast 7:45 PM

### Sukkot Day 1/Shabbat

Saturday, October 3, 9:45 AM

### Shmini Atzeret/Shabbat/Yizkor

Saturday, October 10. 9:45 AM

### Simchat Torah

Sunday, October 11, 9:45 AM

## September Birthdays

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

### Reminders

- To purchase Memorial Plaques, Simcha Tree Leaves or Stones contact Ileen Portnoy 412-683-7985
- To purchase bricks for our “Garden of Freedom” 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](http://www.newlightcongregation.org)

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





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### ENCLOSURE #3

## GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING 2020 NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

### VIA ZOOM

(see reverse for in-person in ballroom attendance guidelines)

#### BEFOREHAND:

- **You must be registered to receive the Zoom connection info.** We will contact everyone who plans to attend as we get closer to Rosh Hashanah. If we have not contacted you or you have changed your mind since the last contact, please register via email: [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org) or call 412-512-0949.
- We will use the same connection for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.
- If you have not used Zoom before it's a good idea to test it beforehand. Contact Steve Cohen if you'd like to set up a testing time.
- Learn how to mute and unmute yourself. If you are connected on a computer, tablet or smartphone use the Audio controls on the screen. You can also hold down the spacebar if you want to just briefly mute or unmute yourself. If you are connected on a stupid phone, press \*6 to mute or unmute.

#### ZOOM ETIQUETTE:

- Don't be late. The service will be shorter than usual – about 2 ½ hours for mornings, 1 hour for Neilah.
- Sit still as much as possible. Everyone can be seen and movements are distracting. If you don't want to be seen, turn off your video.
- Do not eat on camera.
- Stay muted until appropriate times to unmute yourself. When you are not muted everyone can hear you – including ringing phones, doorbells, side conversations, toilets flushing, and other background noise.
- Don't multi-task. Observe the same decorum as if you were in a synagogue.

#### MORE ZOOM INFO:

Zoom support is <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.

If you have questions or comments, please call either Barbara (412-421-1017) or Steve (412- 421-3999).



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### ENCLOSURE #3

## GUIDELINES FOR ATTENDING 2020 NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

IN THE BALLROOM AT BETH SHALOM

(see reverse for Zoom attendance guidelines)

#### PRIOR TO ATTENDING:

- **You must be registered in order to enter the building.** We will contact everyone who plans to attend as we get closer to Rosh Hashanah. If we have not contacted you or you have changed your mind since the last contact, please register via email: [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org) or call 412-512-0949.
- You will not be admitted to the building if you have a temperature greater than 100.4<sup>o</sup>. Please also do not attend if you
  - are unwell, or
  - a member of your household is ill, or
  - you suspect you have been exposed to Covid.

#### WHEN YOU ARRIVE (Beth Shalom Entrance Rules):

- Enter at the Shady Ave entrance. There will be no valet parking this year; you can park in the lot or on the street.
- Upon entering the building, non-Jewish personnel will take your temperature with a thermal thermometer.

#### WHILE IN THE BUILDING:

- Drinking fountains in the building are turned off. Bring your own bottle of water to hydrate, if needed.
- Masks are required for everyone over eight years old. Please bring your own mask. It is recommended that each person bring two masks because singing can cause the mask to become wet. New Light will have some gloves and extra masks available.
- Maintain a distance of 6' or more between people, even with masks. (Families may sit together.)
- Use the rest rooms at the Shady Ave entrance or outside the main entrance to the Ballroom (up the steps).

#### While in the Ballroom:

- Bring your own tallit and machzor. We will loan books to keep at home and bring with you for each Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur service. If you did not receive a machzor you may get one in the ballroom. Take it home and bring it with you each day.
- There will be no food after services.

If you have questions or comments, please call either Barbara (412-421-1017) or Steve (412- 421-3999).

# New Light Congregation **September 2020** 12 Elul - 12 Tishrei 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 ELUL	18 ELUL	19 ELUL	20 ELUL	21 ELUL	22 ELUL	23 ELUL
6	7 Labor Day	8 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM	9	10	11 7:15 Services, 7:00 PM	12 Nitzavim - Vayelech Services, 9:45 AM
24 ELUL	25 ELUL	26 ELUL	27 ELUL	28 ELUL	29 ELUL	1 TISHREI
13 Selichos Begin	14	15	16	17	18 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:03 Services, 7:00 PM	19 Rosh Hashanah - Day 1 RH Services, 9:45 AM Tashlich, 5:00 PM
2 TISHREI	3 TISHREI	4 TISHREI	5 TISHREI	6 TISHREI	7 TISHREI	8 TISHREI
20 Rosh Hashanah - Day 2 RH Services, 9:45 AM	21 Fast of Gedalyah	22	23	24	25 6:51 Services, 7:00 PM	26 Haazinu Services, 9:45 AM
9 TISHREI	10 TISHREI	11 TISHREI	12 TISHREI			
27 Erev Yom Kippur 6:48 Kol Nidre Services, 6:35 PM	28 Yom Kippur YK Services, 9:45 AM Mincha/Neilah Services, 5:30 PM	29	30			