



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh PA 15217 • 412-421-1017 • info@newlightcongregation.org

New Light News February 2021

From the Desk of the Rabbi

Haman in the Hat

Bow to me!
Bow to me!
Bow to me now!
It is fun to have fun,
But you have to know how!
With my nose in the air
And my hat on my head,
I will sit on my horse
As I'm being led.
An idol I'll hang
Clasped round my neck;
They'll bow, bow to it, Haman said.

There's nothing, no nothing
That I cannot do!
The king's crown I'll swing
From my wee little toe,
And the people will cheer
Wherever I go!
With a pen in my hand
I will write a decree
That someday at last
From the Jews I'll be free.
And look!
With my hammer
I can build gallows so tall,
But that is not all!
Oh no! That is not all...

Look at me, look at me now
Said Haman in the Hat
The King would put him on his horse
With his royal robe and decked with his
royal crown
'Cept it wasn't true! Wasn't true at all!
It was a Jew he wanted to honor
'Stead of Haman in the Hat
Haman trudged home after this affair
Mrs.Haman dumped the chamber pot
from the window
And on Haman's head it went splat!

No, this is not a good game
Said Haman in the Hat
No, I do not like it
Not one little bit!
But, I will not go away
I do not wish to go!
And so I will embarrass the Queen
With a Lewinsky type show

He crept in her chambers
As Ahashverosh got word
That Haman was planning a plot
He jumped into her bed and gave her a
smooch
That Queen gave a scream
For fun this was not!

They seized him
They tied him
To the gallows so tall
He built them for the Jews
And that is not all
“no, no, no, no!”
There are other tricks I can do!
I can come back in one form or another!

That is what Haman said.
Then he fell on his head.
He came down with a crash

As he gave his last call,
And the people of Shushan said,
“Oh, what a fall!”

Haman’s sons fell in behind him
Conspirators all.

The people of Shushan said,
Will you please go now!
Go, go, go, go
Will you please go now!
I said go, and go I meant!

The time had come,
And so they all went!

Purim is celebrated Thursday, February 25th at 7:00 PM. “Haman in the Hat” with apologies to Dr. Seuss and Naomi Wolf. Parody expanded by Rabbi Perlman based on true midrashim on the Book of Esther.

Rabbi



Presidents' Report – February 2021

January was more than just the beginning of a new year – it was a harbinger of things to come. It started with the disturbing attack at our Capitol in Washington; it ended with the inauguration of a new administration.

Starting January 23rd, we re-started in-person attendance at Friday and Saturday services. Even though some members have been vaccinated, including our Rabbi, we are still following COVID-safe protocols: masks, distancing, *no food*, no socializing in the chapel or lobby after services. If you feel comfortable, please join us. We intend to continue offering Zoom participation indefinitely.

We are, as always, looking for Haftorah readers. Beth Perlman has offered to train anyone who wishes to learn.

On January 31st at 1PM, please join us as the Jewish Theological Seminary grants an honorary Doctor of Divinity to Rabbi Jonathan Perlman, celebrating his 25 years of membership in the rabbinate. Registration is at <https://inspired.jtsa.edu/event/jts-rabbinic-convocation/e313567>.

On February 6th, join Sing A New Light on ZOOM with composer Josh Ehrlich's dynamic and aptly-named all-sibling quartet, The Four Hermeneutics for a FREE, magic-school-bus-style ride through the Torah. Prepare to experience the five books like never before — in four parts! See more details and registration later in newsletter.

The 10.27 Healing Partnership's Memorialization Working Group is beginning to address the key questions concerning the creation of a memorial: its purpose, who should have input and who are the audiences for the memorial. More to follow.....

Stephen Cohen & Barbara Caplan

February Birthdays

Janet Cohen
Bruce Hyde
Carol Kanterman
Charlotte Cooper Waldbaum
Harry Waldbaum

February Anniversaries

Rochelle & Aryeh Sherman

Shabbat Services

Shabbat services are now in Helfant and via Zoom. Friday night services are Zoom only.

If you want to attend in person on Shabbat please email janet@newlightcongregation.org so that you can be on the list we provide to Beth Shalom each week for security purposes.

If you need the Zoom connection information please email janet@newlightcongregation.org.

February Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, February 7th 10:30 A.M. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

Israeli Bonds Program, Featuring Bari Weiss

The Women's Division of Israeli Bonds presents:

Anti-Semitism: Impact on the Next Generation and does the Media have any Responsibility?

Featuring Bari Weiss – an American prolific opinion writer, Pittsburgh native and editor and author of How to Fight Anti-Semitism.

Wednesday, February 10th at 8:30 P.M.

Investment required. For details go to: <https://bit.ly/3iQgE3m>

THE CHORAL TORAH COLLECTIVE
5 books of Moses in 4 parts under the direction of composer Josh Ehrlich

Join us on **ZOOM** with composer Josh Ehrlich's dynamic and aptly-named all-sibling quartet, The Four Hermeneutics for a **FREE, NO CHARGE** magic-school-bus-style ride through the Torah. Prepare to experience the five books like never before — in four parts!

FEBRUARY 6, 2021 @ 7PM
Come For Havdaleh, Stay For Ride

REGISTER : SINGANEWLIGHT.ORG

presented by
SING A NEW LIGHT
HEALING THRU MUSIC, COMMUNITY & REMEMBRANCE

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The advertisement features a group of diverse young adults smiling and holding up books. On the left, there is a graphic of a menorah with a musical note and a Star of David inside the flame. The background is a silhouette of a city skyline.

THE CHORAL TORAH: 5 BOOKS IN 4 PARTS

Featuring Composer, Pianist and Music Educator, Josh Ehrlich; Leilah Rosen; and The Four Hermeneutics, the brothers & sisters music quartet.

Havdalah Followed By A Lecture and Concert

February 6th 7:00 P.M.

Admission is free.

Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sing-a-new-light-presents-the-choral-torah-tickets-135771130105>.

ABOUT THE CHORAL TORAH: 5 BOOKS IN 4 PARTS

At heart, the Torah is a piece of music. Its words are notated in ornate calligraphy like an ancient score and transmitted by cantillation. What's more, we are commanded in the final chapters of Deuteronomy to "Write for yourselves this song; teach it to the children of Israel and place it in their mouths."

מהיפך המיש לארשי ינב תא הדמלו **תאזה הרישה** תא סכל ובות

In this session, we'll dig deep into our oldest text in search of new music. We'll play with words and dissect sounds, encountering singable consonants, Gregorian modes and the stories at the core of our heritage. Guided by Josh Ehrlich, composer of The Choral Torah: 5 Books in 4 Parts, we'll take a magic-school-bus-style ride through the Bible, complete with musical detours presented by the dynamic and aptly-named all-sibling quartet, The Four Hermeneutics. Prepare to experience the five books like never before — in four parts!

For more information about The Choral Torah see <https://youtu.be/MLyIDjP8xmk>

ABOUT JOSH EHRLICH

Hailed by Deke Sharon as "dynamic, bold, and audacious," Josh Ehrlich is a composer, lyricist, arranger, accompanist, music director and music educator in New York City. With a BA in linguistics from Yale (where he music directed the Society of Orpheus and Bacchus) and an MA in composition from Rutgers, Josh now music directs and orchestrates for the musical theater productions, bands, and choirs at Camp Ramah in the Berkshires and The Leffell High School. He also music directs Hallelu, assistant directs Kol Ram, sings regularly with Pella, Kol Zimra, Simcha Singers and Shalom Singers, accompanies services for Sha'ar Communities, and plays keyboards in the '90s rock band Uncle Jesse. Josh has written several hundred musical theater orchestrations and a cappella arrangements for ensembles all over the New York area including Voices of Gotham and the entire Imbible series (A Spirited History of Drinking, Christmas Carol Cocktails, and Rum and Pirates) and is thrilled to have made his off-broadway composing debut with The Imbible: Day Drinking. Between 2018-2019, he composed The Choral Torah: 5 Books in 4 Parts, a collection of fifty-four eclectic a cappella compositions — one for each week of the Jewish year — which reanimate our most ancient and venerated text through fresh four-part harmony. He since founded The Choral Torah Collective, an ensemble of gifted Judaeo-musical educators eager to share this music and the lessons built into it on biblical and musical literacy. Finally, starting in September 2020, Josh has been studying to become a cantor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Jewish Federation Scholarship Service

Applications for need-based college scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year are available from the Jewish Scholarship Service (JSS) 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 2021-2022 JSS online application is available at jfcspgh.org/scholarships.

All applications are due February 12, 2021.

First-time applicants must be interviewed. All applications should be submitted as early as possible to ensure processing.

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

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 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 |