



אור חדש

**New Light Congregation**

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## **New Light News July 2021**

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

Dear friends,

We are coming to end of the Book of Numbers in our synagogue Torah reading. It is good to be alert to the transitions that are made along the road to the Promised Land. One of the most puzzling stories told is the tale of the Second Generation Israelites who are simply described as “short tempered” on the road to Land. Rashi explains that they have two years left in the forty year journey in the wilderness. The new generation has no knowledge of being in Egypt. They don’t complain about the watermelon and leeks and meat they used to eat in Egypt. They don’t even ask to return to Egypt. According to Rashi, they lose sight of their destination and become fed up with how difficult it is keep walking and walking and walking without sight of a land of milk and honey on the horizon. They have no more room in their hearts for pain to dwell. They have had enough.

What do they do? They speak against God and Moses (Numbers 21:5) and they say “Why do you bring us up from Egypt to die in the wilderness, for there is no food and no water, and we cannot stand the wretched bread!” Netivot Shalom, one of my favorite Hasidic commentators, says that this is the worst sin that the people have committed in all the rebellions in the desert. So much that God lets loose poisonous snakes to bite, injure and kill some of them.

Why was the punishment so cruel? Not only did the second generation turn their backs on Moses and God, they also started a big lie. They must have been suffering from heat stroke or delirium when they said that there was an absence of food and water. We are told that God miraculous let manna rain from the heavens and created pools of sweet water along the way. Why create a big lie and then add that “the bread we do have (isn’t bread a kind of food?) makes us want to retch” (Alter).

The story as I taught it on Saturday morning in shul is about the sin of ingratitude. Suddenly, God releases snakes (the midrash tells us that he had previously withheld them to protect the Children of Israel on the road) and tells Moses to create a copper serpent on a pole (much like the medical symbol of the Caduceus). Everyone who prays in penitence and gazes at the copper snake will be healed. The Netivot Shalom explains that the snake is a symbol of evil which represents the primordial snake who manipulated and drove Adam and Eve to disobey God. He becomes a pariah of the animal kingdom because his food (dirt) is always before him as he slithers along. He doesn’t have to work hard to get food as other animals who hunt and he behaves with great hutzpah when he lashes out and bites and harms for no benefit to himself. The Second generation behaved similarly in a gratuitous fashion when they created the Big Lie when food and water were always present. When gazing at the copper serpent held aloft, they look themselves in the mirror and see that they themselves have become snakes. They are not grateful for the food that is before them. They lash out from the short temperedness and become prickly in questioning how God directs their lives. They stop taking the broad view of the journey, says Rashi, and begin to deceive themselves with the narrow view.

When we lose the idea that God is the director of our lives, even when we sometimes do not understand, we allow the evil inclination get the best of us and we lose heart in a reality that others define for us. We believe the Big Lie. Let's return to the reality that God has entrusted to us. As one road sign I saw recently tells us, "Make America Grateful Again!"

Shalom,  
Rabbi

## **New Adult Education Class**

### **MAIMONIDES AND THE MARCH TO THE DAYS OF AWE**

A weekly examination of Maimonides' Laws of Repentance. We will examine the journey of the soul, sin, forgiveness, and the meaning of the High Holidays. The text for the class can be found at [https://www.chabad.org/library/article\\_cdo/aid/911888/jewish/Teshuvah-Chapter-One.htm](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/911888/jewish/Teshuvah-Chapter-One.htm)

Wednesdays, at 7:00 P.M., starting July 21, and weekly thereafter, in the Eisner Commons. The class will be in-person only.

## **Rabbi's Movie Club**

### **OF GODS AND MEN**

The next movie to be discussed is "Of Gods and Men," the story about a monastery in a village in Algeria in the 1990s. The peaceful life of the monks and community interaction is soon interrupted by the threat of the presence of an Islamic fundamentalist group seeking to exile all non-Muslims and all opponents. The monks divide amongst themselves on the question of whether to stay or flee Algeria. Before a decision is reached, a group of fundamentalists enters the village, setting up a conflictual relationship.

This movie is available on Amazon and YouTube. There are eight copies of the DVD at the Carnegie Library (you can order them online for pick up).

Tuesday, July 13 at 7:00 P.M. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

## **July Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is Tuesday, July 6, at 7:00 P.M. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

## **Shabbat Services**

Friday night and Saturday morning services continue to be in-person and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome. If you plan to attend in-person and have not already done so please send your vaccination status to [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org). To receive the Zoom information please email [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org).

## **Tisha B'Av**

This year New Light will host the annual joint service on July 17. For details please see page 6. Please note the Zoom connection is *not* the same as for Shabbat.

## **July Presidents' Report**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There were two items discussed at our June Congregational meeting:

First, the officers and Board members were elected for the 2022 Fiscal Year. The officers remain the same. The newly elected board members are: Judy Blumenfeld, Bruce Hyde, Marilyn Kaufman, Shari Kubitz, Rachelle Sands and Eileen Snider.

Second, the Congregation voted to keep dues at the same level as last year: \$475 per individual member with dues waived the first year of membership.

### **IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES**

The New Light Board adopted revised safety rules for all in-person attendees at Friday and Shabbat services. These rules follow CDC guidelines and have been reviewed by the Joint New Light-Beth Shalom COVID-19 Task Force.

- All may attend services: both those who have been vaccinated and those who have not been or cannot be vaccinated. A one-time registration concerning your vaccination status is required.
- Non-vaccinated individuals **must** wear masks and socially distance.
- Vaccinated individuals may wear masks and/or socially distance, if desired.
- Zoom will continue for the foreseeable future.
- Kiddush will be served in the Palkovitz Lobby after services.

### **MEMORIALIZATION WORKING GROUP**

The New Light Board discussed at length the issues being considered by the Working Group. The following recommendations were adopted by the Board that:

1. The creation, ownership and long term maintenance of the memorial should be under some type of public or semi-public non-profit entity; and that it should include representation of the families, the three congregations and the public.
2. The memorial should not be located on the Tree of Life campus, but rather on public or private property, hopefully in Squirrel Hill. This was consensus but not unanimous. One member acknowledged that some people already consider the site a memorial and will wish to visit it as such.
3. Just as New Light Congregation has constructed memorials to our martyred members, it is appropriate that Tree of Life\*Or L'Simcha develop a memorial for their members on the Tree of Life campus.

At the Working Group meeting in late June there was general consensus in favor of the first statement – that there be separate organization created to “own” the memorial. As many of the members would like that the memorial be built on the Tree of Life site, it was suggested that Tree of Life might “sell” part of its property to this organization. Alternatively, the Group is beginning to investigate if there are other real estate parcels that might be acquired for the memorial. Outreach to the City and other private entities are being considered.

In addition, the Working Group had an extended conversation with Daniel Libeskind and members of his studio. The previous week, Mr. Libeskind met with the family group. Tree of Life stated that Mr. Libeskind was hired only to re-build the Tree of Life building and to include a remembrance (memorial) to its congregants lost. Tree of Life is committed to abiding by the decision of the

Working Group regarding “the” memorial.

We encourage your comments and thoughts on the memorialization process. In particular, we welcome suggestions for locations that might be considered for the memorial.

**OTHER MEMORIALIZATION EFFORTS**

Two recommendations of the Federation Independent Committee have been implemented.

CMU and U. of Pittsburgh have agreed to create a research institute to study hate: **Collaboratory Against Hate-Research & Action Center.**

The mission of the Collaboratory Against Hate is to harness the research expertise of CMU and Pitt, in cooperation with community and corporate partners, to develop innovative, effective, legally-defensible, and sustainable interventions to curb the acceleration of extremist hate and reduce its violent consequences. It brings together faculty and clinicians across the Pitt and CMU campuses and beyond to work on complex and urgent aspects of extremist hate that require broad multidisciplinary expertise and significant partnerships with, for example, educators, mental health professionals, tech companies, and organizations representing communities that are targeted by such hate.

The Board agreed to provide \$10,000 to fund research efforts of the Collaboratory.

In addition, CMU & U. of Pittsburgh are planning the **2021 Eradicate Hate Global Summit**, scheduled for late October. The Conference will bring scholars from around the world to discuss hate speech and hate activities. More information to follow.

**CEMETERY**

The Board agreed to name the renovated building: *The New Light Memorial Chapel.*

Thanks to a grant, an internal and external security system with video has been installed in the Chapel. The Board authorized a contract to develop a historical display in the Chapel, to be developed in conjunction with Eric Lidji of the Heinz History Center. Finally, the Board authorized a competition for an artist to design, fabricate and install stained glass in the exterior door and window. Based on the recommendation of the families of the deceased, the image(s) are to be based on parsha Vayera, the Torah portion that would have been read the Shabbat morning of October 27, 2018. We are hoping to announce the winning design by the third year commemoration this October.

Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen  
Co-Presidents

**July Birthdays**

Barbara Kleyman	Michelle Reisz
Thomas Kleyman	Rachelle Sands
Ethel Kubitz	Aryeh Sherman
Howard Kubitz	Gerry Tessler
Jacob Notovitz	

## High Holiday Planning

Details are still in flux - watch for more information in a separate mailing in July and in the August newsletter. Cemetery visitation is August 29 and September 5. Rosh Hashanah (starting the evening of September 6 through September 8) and Yom Kippur (September 15-16) services will be in the ballroom and via Zoom.

## 10.27 Healing Partnership Updates

### WITH PITTSBURGH - PODCAST SERIES

What Does it Take to Heal? Robert Lino, conceirge at the 10.27 HP, has created a series of podcasts in which he interviews people about a challenge they faced: how they responded, what they learned, and how their recovery is ongoing.

The first episode is an introduction, as Robert talks about his own story with his friend and previous co-worker at 10.27 Healing Partnership, Niki Roumm. New episodes will be published throughout the summer.

For more info and to listen: <https://anchor.fm/withpittsburgh/episodes/Finding-a-way-to-get-up-e12huk4>

### WALKING THE HEALING PATH

The walking program in conjunction with Venture Outdoors has begun and will continue every other Wednesday through September 1. For more information and to register:

<https://www.ventureoutdoors.org/activity/walking-the-healing-path/2021-06-23/>

You can also email Ranisa Davidson at [rdavidson@jccpgh.org](mailto:rdavidson@jccpgh.org) directly to register.

### CANOPY CONVERSATIONS

Canopy conversations have also re-started - Tuesdays from 11AM-1PM and Thursdays from 1-3PM.

## 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)

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Membership	Debbi Salvin	724-444-6324	<a href="mailto:dgsalvin@pobox.com">dgsalvin@pobox.com</a>
Sisterhood	Sharyn Stein	412-521-5231	
Treasurer/Men's Club	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332	<a href="mailto:haroldcaplan@comcast.net">haroldcaplan@comcast.net</a>
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Recording Secretary/Simcha Tree/Plaques	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985	<a href="mailto:ileenportnoy@gmail.com">ileenportnoy@gmail.com</a>
Religious Committee	Carl Solomon	412-421-2165	
Corresponding Secretary/Calendar	Janet Cohen	412-512-0949	<a href="mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org">janet@newlightcongregation.org</a>

# Tisha B'Av

July 17-18, 2021

Community service with Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist synagogues.

This year under the direction of New Light Congregation.



Tisha B'av, the ninth day of the month of Av, is the major day of communal mourning in the Jewish calendar. Although a large number of disasters are said to have befallen the Jews on this day, the major commemoration is the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 B.C.E and 70 C.E.

**When:** Saturday, July 17

**Where:** Beth Shalom, 5915 Beacon Street.

All are welcome to attend in person.

If you are vaccinated no mask is required.

If you are not vaccinated a mask is required.

Or via Zoom: Meeting ID: 826 5371 6023

Passcode: tishabav

or Dial in: +1 646 876 9923

**Schedule:** Mincha - 8:30; Ma'ariv - 9:10

immediately followed by the Tisha B'av service, including reading the Book of Lamentations.

# New Light Congregation July 2021

21 Tammuz 5781 - 22 Av 5781

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 TAMMUZ	25 TAMMUZ	26 TAMMUZ	27 TAMMUZ	28 TAMMUZ	29 TAMMUZ	23 TAMMUZ
4 Independence Day	5	6 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM	7	8	9 8:32 Services, 7:00 PM	10 Rosh Chodesh Av Mittos - Masei Services, 9:45 AM
11	12	13 Movie Club, 7:00 PM	14	15	16 8:28 Services, 7:00 PM	17 Devarim Services, 9:45 AM Tisha B'Av, 8:30 PM
18 Tisha B'Av	19	20	21 Maimondes Class, 7:00 PM	22	23 8:23 Services, 7:00 PM	24 Tu B'Av Va'eschanan Services, 9:45 AM
25	26	27	28 Maimondes Class, 7:00 PM	29	30 8:16 Services, 7:00 PM	31 Ekev Services, 9:45 AM