



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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

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## **New Light News September 2021**

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### **A Word from our Rabbi**

Rosh Hashanah arrives the evening of Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup> this year, ushering in days that are filled with great drama, humble spirit, personal change, joy and somber moods, re-dedication to the Torah, indoor and outdoor rituals, and the central place of family in our lives. There is certainly a lot going on at shul and in our homes this month.

We are cursed with a second year of Coronavirus (with the subtitle of Delta Variant for 5782) that will divide the sheltering-at-home dwellers from the *masked* in-person shul dwellers at services. Like last year, I have shortened services considerably for safety reasons so that both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings will be the length of a Shabbat service. Again there will be social distancing. Again we will strip from the service rituals that will avoid closeness like parading with the Torah. But, the “people of Israel” live! *Am Yisrael Hai!* This is the biggest community building exercise of the whole year so let’s make it meaningful.

I want to especially highlight **Tashlikh** this year on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. We are holding it for a second year at the Temple Sinai outdoor pool on the corner of Forbes and Murdoch Avenues in Squirrel Hill. The entrance to space is on Murdoch and there is plenty of parking. There are three reasons for coming this year if you have not come in previous years. One, it is outdoors and given that we have been vaccinated twice, there is a lesser risk to getting sick. I have yet to meet anyone who has gotten sick in outdoor activity. Second, it gives us an opportunity not only to attend a brief service of collectively throwing our crusty sins away, but also like last year I will be sounding the shofar. Jewish law mandates that the shofar be heard in person without the interface of recorded sound, computer or TV screens, or anything that comes to the ear resembling an *echo* (they actually thought about this stuff in ancient times—see the Mishnah for Rosh Hashanah 3:7!!) For all of you at home zoomers, this would be a great time to turn out and see your friends. Third, this year for those of you who want to stay after Tashlikh, I will be giving a short text study on the meaning of the first day’s Torah reading. We puzzle each year

over why the story of the Banishment of Hagar and Ishmael is given priority as a story we read the start of the Jewish New Year. Hagar and Ishmael are Egyptians! What are they doing in a Jewish New Year story? If you are curious and want to add more meaning to our festive day, join me for some Torah learning at the Temple Sinai backyard pool.

I am looking forward to all the great celebrations of the month of Tishrei so please mark your calendars. We have a special guest Rabbi/Chazanit Iscah Waldman who will be joining me for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Join us in the sukkah and wave your Lulav and Etrog. Come to our Yizkor services on Yom Kippur and Shmini Atzeret. If your dearly departed are in a local cemetery, perform the mitzvah of *kever avot* and place a rock on their memorial stone. Celebrate the conclusion of the Torah on Simhat Torah night!

From my family to yours, I wish you a Shanah Tova Tikatavu and a Gemar Hatima Tova and Gut Yontiv! A much better year is in store for all of us!

Shalom,

Rabbi

## Presidents' Message:

We gather next week to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year of 5782. During the upcoming High Holy Days we will engage in prayer and reflect on the year that has passed. Without a doubt, our prayers will be influenced by the unprecedented global health crisis of the past nineteen months.

Covid-19 has affected all of us. Issues of health, loss of loved ones, a sense of isolation, financial difficulties, job loss, childcare and the impact on our children are just some of the issues we are struggling with during the pandemic. We all grieved the loss of our normal lives. We accommodated by turning to technology to help maintain our community. Now, having begun to re-emerge and return in-person (but still with a virtual option) to places of worship, work and school, we yearn for a sense of normalcy.

One of Judaism's basic tenets is "to choose life." When we look back on the year that's past, we won't forget the difficulties, but instead focus on and offer gratitude for the blessings that emerged during this difficult time.

We express our gratitude for the first responders in our community who have kept us safe and offer thanks for those on the front lines who allowed the most vulnerable among us to stay home, such as postal workers, home health care aides and delivery people. We will thank God for the vaccine that helps protect and mitigate this disease, as well as the kindnesses of friends and neighbors who helped us by going to grocery and drug stores in our stead. Holiness was evident in every act of kindness and every gesture of assistance.

As we gather in prayer, we will acknowledge both the "awesomeness" of our communal existence and of God's gifts of strength, resiliency and hope.

We wish you and your families a wonderful new year. May 5782 be a year of health and well-being for all of us.

Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen  
Co-presidents

## COVID-19 Update for High Holy Days

Over 90 people have indicated they plan to attend in-person for at least one High Holy Day service. Our current Board-adopted policy (to be discussed at our September 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting) is that unvaccinated individuals (including children under 12) may attend. We encourage any member with children under two to participate via Zoom. **NOTE: We have verified that every adult planning to attend in-person is vaccinated.**

The current situation is troubling. COVID-19 cases are rising in Allegheny County. The positivity rate (% of positive tests among tested individuals) is rising. Hospitalizations are rising. However, almost all these hospitalized individuals are unvaccinated. In addition, the numbers in Allegheny County are 1/10<sup>th</sup> as high as some southern States where large numbers of individuals are unvaccinated. Over 70% of adults are vaccinated in Allegheny County. In the 15217 zip code 79.2% of those over 12 are vaccinated. While a few vaccinated individuals have contracted COVID, their symptoms are mild and without any long term affects.

High Holy Day services will be held both in-person and via Zoom.

- If you intend to participate via Zoom and need a Mazhor, please contact Barbara Caplan at 412-421-1017
- If you plan to be in-person:
  - Everyone should wear a mask;
  - Where possible, attendees should socially distant (family pods can sit together).

As always, the decision to participate via Zoom or to attend in person is yours to make.

Please direct questions to [info@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:info@newlightcongregation.org).

**2021 New Light Congregation High Holiday  
General Information and Schedule  
as of September 1, 2021**

**General Information**

All Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services are in the **Ballroom. Please enter on Shady Avenue.**  
 Everyone must be masked.  
 Please maintain social distancing; family pods may sit together.  
 On Yom Kippur It is customary to wear white and to wear non-leather shoes.  
 No one will be admitted during the recitation of Kol Nidre.  
 Men must wear tallitot all day; this is optional for women.  
 Doors will open thirty minutes before the start of services.  
 During the recitation of the Kidusha please do not return to your seat.  
 Please show respect by leaving your cell phone at home.

**Schedule**

**Cemetery Visitation:**

Sunday, August 29 & September 5, 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. New Light Cemetery

**Rosh Hashanah Services – 1-2 Tishrei**

Monday, September 6, 7:00 P.M.	Ballroom
Tuesday, September 7, 9:45 A.M. Torah Service approximately 10:15 A.M.	Ballroom
Wednesday, September 8, 9:45 A.M. Torah Service approximately 10:15 A.M.	Ballroom

**Tashlikh and Torah Study – 1 Tishrei**

Tuesday, September 7, 5:30 P.M. Corner of Forbes and Murdoch; entrance on Murdoch	Temple Sinai pond
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**Yom Kippur – 10 Tishrei**

Wednesday, September 15, 6:40 P.M. Kol Nidre.	Ballroom
Thursday, September 16:	Ballroom
9:45 A.M. Morning Service	
10:15 A.M. (approximately) Torah Service and Yizkor.	
Please bring a picture of your loved one to Yizkor.	
5:30 P.M. Minchah/Neilah Service.	
8:07 P.M. Shofar Blowing.	

**Succot – 15-16 Tishrei**

Tuesday, September 21, 9:45 A.M. Day 1 Service.	Helfant Chapel
Wednesday, September 22, 9:45 A.M. Day 2 Service	Helfant Chapel
Saturday, September 25, pot luck meal in Sukkah after services	New light Sukkah

**Shemini Atzeret – 22 Tishrei**

Tuesday, September 28, 9:45 A.M. Morning service, including Yizkor.	Helfant Chapel
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**Simchat Torah – 23 Tishrei**

Tuesday, September 28, 6:30 P.M. Evening service	Helfant Chapel
Wednesday, September 29, 9:15 A.M. Morning service	with Beth Shalom

All locations subject to change

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

[barbaracaplan@comcast.net](mailto:barbaracaplan@comcast.net)  
[info@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:info@newlightcongregation.org)  
[dgsalvin@pobox.com](mailto:dgsalvin@pobox.com)

[haroldcaplan@comcast.net](mailto:haroldcaplan@comcast.net)

[ileenportnoy@gmail.com](mailto:ileenportnoy@gmail.com)

[janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org)

# New Light Congregation September 2021 24 Elul 5781 - 24 Tishrei 5782

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 28 ELUL	6 29 ELUL Erev Rosh Hashanah Labor Day 7:23 Services, 7:00 PM	7 1 TISHREI Rosh Hashanah - Day 1 Services, 9:45 AM Tashlikh, 5:30 PM	8 2 TISHREI Rosh Hashanah - Day 2 Services, 9:45 AM	9 3 TISHREI Fast of Gedalyah	10 4 TISHREI 7:17 Services, 7:00 PM	11 5 TISHREI Vayelech Services, 9:45 AM
12 6 TISHREI	13 7 TISHREI	14 8 TISHREI	15 9 TISHREI Erev Yom Kippur 7:08 Services, 6:40 PM	16 10 TISHREI Yom Kippur Services, 9:45 AM Minchah/Neilah, 5:30 PM Shofar Blowing, 8:07 PM	17 11 TISHREI 7:05 Services, 7:00 PM	18 12 TISHREI Haazinu Services, 9:45 AM
19 13 TISHREI	20 14 TISHREI 7:00	21 15 TISHREI Succos - Day 1 Services, 9:45 AM	22 16 TISHREI Succos - Day 2 Services, 9:45 AM	23 17 TISHREI Succos - First Intermediate Day	24 18 TISHREI Succos - Second Intermediate Day 6:53 Services, 7:00 PM	25 19 TISHREI Succos - Third Intermediate Day Services, 9:45 AM
26 20 TISHREI Succos - Fourth Intermediate Day	27 21 TISHREI Succos - Fifth Intermediate Day Hoshanah Rabbah 6:48	28 22 TISHREI Shemini Atzeres Services, 9:45 AM Services, 6:30 PM	29 23 TISHREI Simchas Torah Services, 9:15 AM	30 24 TISHREI		