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**New Light Congregation**

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## **New Light News October 2021**

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

#### **NEW LIGHT NEWS – TISHRI EDITION 5781**

In this issue we review the highlights of the month of the Yamim Tovim that have passed in case you need a little reminder or in case you missed any of the inspirational moments at New Light.

#### **1. Kol Nidre Sermon covers the “Six Questions on the Final Exam”**

Did you deal honestly (emunah) in business?

Did you set times for learning Torah?

Did you engage in the process of raising children?

Did you seek wisdom?

Did you deduce one thing from another?

Did you wait expectantly for redemption?

These six questions are raised by the Talmudic Sage Rava in the Fifth century about how your life will be reviewed at the end of your life. Cut out and paste on your refrigerator.

#### **2. “Tashlikh” at Temple Sinai pond increases in participation and knowledge**

In its second year, New Lighters met at the goldfish pond Rosh Hashanah afternoon to cast their crumbs and sins and study the Torah reading for the day. Two miracles occurred: there were fish in the pond (in contrast to their mysterious disappearance last year) and a shofar was produced after the shul shofar was forgotten behind). We gathered on a lovely day to study the story of the Eviction of Hagar and Ishmael and why it is chosen for the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Rosh Hashanah is not only about the birth of the human being; it is also about the intuition of Teshuvah (repentance) which is available to everyone in the world (not just Jews). The Rabbis intentionally chose the story about the Egyptian born Hagar and her son with Abraham to show how Ishmael turned away from God when he mocked Sarah and Abraham and spread rumors that they in their old age could not possibly produce a child. They are still childless. He is banished and then on the brink of death, he discovers that God has meted out a “measure for measure” judgment for in his death, Ishmael would make his mother childless. This discovery and his regret put him on the path to teshuvah, a path available to Jews and non-Jews. Spread the word.

#### **3. Sukkah Returns to Parking Lot**

After a year where the brackets to our sukkah were missing, Scott Caplan and Steve Cohen came to the rescue to create our Sukkah in the parking lot. The brackets and hardware were identified and our engineers had to use their engineering smarts and return to the beginning when the Sukkah was first acquired (thanks Honigsbergs!) and lay out

the Sukkah puzzle. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Barbara, Harold, Janet, Don Salvin, and Sean, the Beth Shalom maintenance man. Barbara provided a delicious Shabbat luncheon for all with the help of Harold and Judah, the Beth Shalom caterer.

#### **4. Rabbi Ischah Waldman is Hazzanit and Assistant to the Rabbi**

Rabbi Waldman of Teaneck, New Jersey lent her voice and scholarship to enhance the spirituality of High Holiday services. Rabbi Waldman is the Director of Jewish Studies at the Golda Och Academy in South Orange, New Jersey and has a PhD in Midrash from NYU. She was definitely a plus to our membership's understanding and following the message of services this year.

#### **5. "Rabbi, Why are the etrogim green this year ... and so small?"**

For the past five years, New Light has acquired its lulavim and etrogim from the Altein Family Etrog Grove in Calabria, Italy. Relative and Pittsburgh supplier Rabbi Yisroel Altein explains that the green Italian is still an Etrog and, since it is still early in the year, they did not yet have their yellow color. They are still 100% kosher. Often when they grow bigger, they also lose their "pitom" (flower tip) but they are still kosher without the pitom.

#### **6. Lulav of the Year Award**

After reviewing many of the nominees for the Lulav of the Year, the rabbi chose Israeli politician Yair Lapid, who is second in the new government. In cobbling together an eclectic coalition of eight coalition partners, the like of which Israel has never seen, Lapid displayed leadership, nobility, inventiveness and generosity that offered our politically perplexed society some long overdue inspiration. The lulav of the year is awarded to those who showed incredible spine, courage, and honesty during the past year.

The nobility and leadership were in his volunteering to take fewer cabinet seats than the coalition's other partners, relative to his faction's size, and also to give away all senior ministries except foreign affairs. This magnanimity created the atmosphere of compromise and pragmatism without which the new government would never have been born.

Other nominees included: Simone Biles and Naomi Osaka for championing mental illness in sport, Leylah Fernandez and Carlos Alcaraz as the youngest ever U.S. Open winners, and 44 year old Tom Brady demonstrating his prowess as the greatest quarterback of all time in winning another superbowl with a new team! (There was some grumbling about this nominee).

#### **7. Haftarah Reader List Grows**

More New Lighters are inspired to learn and read a Haftarah with trope. Steve Cohen celebrated the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah on Parshat Nitzavim and wants to read more. The total of capable Haftarah readers is now 15 (a historic high for New Light) and more people have been contacting Beth and the Rabbi to start them on assigned readings.

I hope you enjoyed your holidays in Tishri and I am looking forward to see more of you in person in shul as we head in to the next month.

Shalom

Rabbi

## October 2021 Presidents' Report

This year, all the High Holy days fell in early September. Our services were assisted by Rabbi Iscah Waldman. As with all our services, we offered both in-person attendance and Zoom access. Your comments on the service are appreciated.

Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> found Harold, Barbara, Scott Caplan, Steve, Janet and Don Salvin building New Light's Sukkah, with help from Sean (Beth Shalom Maintenance Man - who had the height we didn't). Fun and laughs all around.

Your Co-Presidents, Stephen and Barbara wish everyone at New Light a Healthy, Happy, Safe and COVID-free year to all our families in the coming year.

## Memorial Chapel Update

We have received the proposal for the historical display at the New Light Memorial Chapel from Shibui Designs. The display seeks to capture our more than 100-year history from our foundation



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as the City's Roumanian shul to the present. If you would like to review and comment on the details of the display, please send an email to Stephen Cohen at [info@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:info@newlightcongregation.org). Comments must be submitted by Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Memorialization Work Group

The Work Group continues to make progress towards designing the parameters of the 10.27 Memorial. We have a working consensus around the following points:

- We have developed a purpose statement.
- We have determined that a separate 501c3 entity should be created to have legal ownership of the Memorial and make long-term decisions about it.
- We would like to have the Federation provide support (not yet defined) to this organization.
- While we have not made a decision about location of the Memorial, we did decide:
  - If the location is on the Tree of Life property, the new entity will have ownership of the actual land surrounding the Memorial;
  - We do not want the Memorial on City property;
  - We should explore other land options, including on the property of the Children's

Institute (across the street from TOL). A preliminary meeting was held with the Institute which determined that space might be available. They are seeking to lease the top floor of the brick building facing Wilkins. The entrance to this floor is via the main parking lot.

- We would like part of the Memorial to be outside, clearly separated from TOL, accessible to the public, with space for seating, that feels Jewish and elicits strong emotions.

The WG is currently discussing two related issues. First: the “story” that the Memorial should tell. What do we want to say to future generations about 10.27? What “take away” message should the Memorial evince? The second: How to display the “story.” Tree of Life has hired an architect for the building design – and by extension the Memorial. TOL has requested that the WG submit a list of requirements (the “ask”) for the Memorial that can be incorporated into their design efforts. One issue under discussion is the location of the donated art. We are hoping to decide on this list at our next meeting. The results will be reported to the Board for discussion.

### Third Commemoration

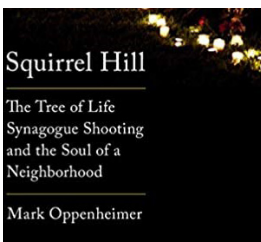
As always, the activities surrounding the commemoration are bifurcated. The English date is Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Hebrew date is the 18<sup>th</sup> of Heshvan, which this year falls on Saturday/Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>. Please check the 10.27 Healing Partnership website at [www.1027healingpartnership.org](http://www.1027healingpartnership.org) for details (which are still evolving) and registration links.

There will be a public, outdoor Commemoration ceremony at 4:30 P.M. on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at Prospect Park (inside Schenley Park) at the intersection of Hobart Street and Prospect Drive. It will take place near the grove of eleven trees planted this past April. If you need handicapped/accessible parking contact the 10.27 Healing Partnership at 412-697-3534 or [info@1027healingpartnership.org](mailto:info@1027healingpartnership.org). If you cannot attend in person the program will be streamed on the 10.27 Healing Partnership web site starting at 7:00 P.M., viewable for up to 12 hours.

In the days leading up to Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, as in previous years, we will also work with partners to organize Torah study meetings and community service opportunities. All activities, including the ceremony, will follow COVID safety protocols. We thank the Jewish Federation for their leadership on study, and Repair the World for theirs on service, and the group of community partners who are helping to plan the ceremony. Volunteer options will include a non-partisan voter registration in honor of Mel and a blood drive in honor of Dan.

Plans for the weekend of October 23/24 include:

- Regular Friday night (10/22) and Shabbat morning services (10/23). The Torah portion for the Shabbat service will be Vayera.
- Joint Havdalah Service Saturday night (Tentative, details will be announced upon confirmation).
- New Light only commemorative service Sunday morning (time and location TBA).



### Mark Oppenheimer Book on 10.27 Published

On October 5th, Mark Oppenheimer’s new book, “Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood” will be published. We have arranged to purchase it in bulk. The list price is \$28.95. Amazon’s price is \$24.50. Our discount depends on the number ordered. If we order 25 or more, our price is \$17.95. Please email [janet@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org) to reserve a copy. We cannot place the order until we have sold 25 copies.

## October Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Monday, October 4 at 7:00 P.M. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

## Maimonides Classes Resume

The classes have resumed, Wednesdays at 7:00 P.M. through October 27.

## Enjoy Books

Enjoy books will arrive soon. Contact Sharyn Stein if you would like to purchase one.

### October Birthdays

Carol Black  
Michael Neft  
Karen Shapiro  
Rabbi Perlman

## 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  
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|   |                  |              |  |
|---|------------------|--------------|--|
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| Co-President/Social VP/Yahrzeits        | Barbara Caplan   | 412-521-4332 | <a href="mailto:barbaracaplan@comcast.net">barbaracaplan@comcast.net</a>           |
| Co-President/Cemetery/Website           | Stephen Cohen    | 412-421-3999 | <a href="mailto:info@newlightcongregation.org">info@newlightcongregation.org</a>   |
| 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>             |
| Onegs                                   | Hugh Casper      | 412-421-7619 |  |
| 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> |



# New Light Congregation October 2021 25 Tishrei 5782 - 25 Cheshvan 5782

| Sunday      | Monday                         | Tuesday     | Wednesday   | Thursday                              | Friday                          | Saturday                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 27 TISHREI  | 28 TISHREI                     | 29 TISHREI  | 30 TISHREI  | 1 CHESHVAN                            | 25 TISHREI                      | 26 TISHREI                              |
| 3           | 4<br>Board Meeting,<br>7:00 PM | 5           | 6<br>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan -<br>Day 1<br>Maimonides Class,<br>7:00 PM | 7<br>Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan -<br>Day 2 | 8<br>6:30<br>Services, 7:00 PM  | 9<br>Noach<br>Services, 9:45 AM         |
| 4 CHESHVAN  | 5 CHESHVAN                     | 6 CHESHVAN  | 7 CHESHVAN  | 8 CHESHVAN                            | 9 CHESHVAN                      | 10 CHESHVAN                             |
| 10          | 11<br>Columbus Day             | 12          | 13<br>Maimonides Class,<br>7:00 PM                                    | 14                                    | 15<br>6:20<br>Services, 7:00 PM | 16<br>Lech Lecha<br>Services, 9:45 AM   |
| 11 CHESHVAN | 12 CHESHVAN                    | 13 CHESHVAN | 14 CHESHVAN   | 15 CHESHVAN                           | 16 CHESHVAN                     | 17 CHESHVAN                             |
| 17          | 18                             | 19          | 20<br>Maimonides Class,<br>7:00 PM                                    | 21                                    | 22<br>6:09<br>Services, 7:00 PM | 23<br>Vayeira<br>Services, 9:45 AM      |
| 18 CHESHVAN | 19 CHESHVAN                    | 20 CHESHVAN | 21 CHESHVAN   | 22 CHESHVAN                           | 23 CHESHVAN                     | 24 CHESHVAN                             |
| 24          | 25                             | 26          | 27<br>Commemoration,<br>4:30 PM<br>Maimonides Class,<br>7:00 PM       | 28                                    | 29<br>6:00<br>Services, 7:00 PM | 30<br>Chayei Sarah<br>Services, 9:45 AM |
| 25 CHESHVAN |                                |             |   |                                       |                                 |   |
| 31          |                                |             |   |                                       |                                 |   |