



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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

New Light News November 2022

A Word from the Rabbi

Dear friends,

On Yom Kippur, I spoke about rebuilding from the chaos of the previous year. At the end of the Kol Nidre sermon, I suggested an easy acronym to remember as we enter the new year. It is the word FACE. Medical professionals of all types will recall the many acronyms like PASS (for fire) and FICA (for spiritual care screening) that we use at work.

In Psalm 27, the psalm read every day during the month of Elul and through Hoshanah Rabba in Tishrei, the author beseeches the presence of God's face: "It is your face I seek says my heart; do not hide your face from me." I don't think the psalmist literally seeks the face of God. Not even Moses could get that far! And if his presence is hidden, how does he know what he is seeking and if God will turn up? Panim (face) also means P'nim or P'nima (Interior). Too often the Godly parts of ourselves are hidden.

F stands for Faith. That we strive for faith and remaking our world in spite of threatening chaos.

A stands for Attention. We are attentive to God's presence in the world He is creating. We are attentive to opportunities to be God's helper in this world.

C stands for community. We are not alone. We come together to form a community to share, to donate, to form a team, to be with one another.

E is for Express. The best way to get through trauma is to use our gift for communication.

Express your prayers. Express your words with others. Express your story. Don't be shy or be embarrassed or feel that you alone are going through this. Share your story with others and find our common humanity.

"You are my witnesses, says God. There is no king without a kingdom. No sovereign without subjects." And if we make that divine choice, let us find each other again, let us permit ourselves to hug each other again, hold hands again. Unite with brothers and sisters across the world.

Is it any wonder that we use our hands to construct a new sacred space each year with the building of the sukkah five days after Yom Kippur? Let us look upon the world that we can re-create as God is creating and say what God said when He completed the world at the end of the seventh day. "I created a world and indeed it is very good."

Hag Sameach and a much better Shanah Yoter Tova!

Rabbi

Schedule of Events for the Weekend of the 18th of Heshvan

The Hebrew date for the yearzeit of 10/27 is the 18th of Cheshvan, which falls on Shabbat, November 12, 2022.

Saturday

Morning Shabbat Service - 9:45 AM, Helfant Chapel

Light Luncheon - 12:15 PM

Torah Study - 2:30 PM - Jewish Community Center

In-person Torah study will be held at the JCC from 2:30-3:30 PM. Study will incorporate learning Daf Yomi and other topics. Please bring vaccination records if possible, and email info@1027healingpartnership.org or call 412-697-3534 if you have any questions.

Joint Three-Congregation Service: 4:30 PM – Beth Shalom

Members of the three congregations are invited to a private service to be held in the Main Sanctuary at Beth Shalom at 4:30 PM. The service will include Mincha, Ma'ariv and conclude with Havdalah.

Sunday

Dedication of New Light Memorial Chapel - 11:00 AM

Please join us as we dedicate the New Light Memorial Chapel at the New Light Cemetery, 750 Soose Road, Shaler Township, on Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 11 AM.

The Chapel honors the memory of the congregants martyred in the synagogue shooting on October 27, 2018. In addition, the Chapel includes a display of the history of the Congregation and a plaque honoring the Freedom Tree donated by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. An online display provides additional information about the congregation, our congregants and anti-semitism.

The Dedication will be private - open only to congregants and invited guests - in-person and on Zoom (there will be a special Zoom link for the dedication. All Zoom attendees will be muted.) There will be security at the Chapel.

We are renting a bus for those who do not wish to drive. The bus will leave from 5915 Beacon Street around 10:20 AM and return around 1 PM.

Registration is required, both for in-person attendance or to receive the Zoom link. Please send an email to janet@newlightcongregation.org or call Barbara Caplan at 412-421-1017. Please indicate your intention to (1) Attend in-person or on Zoom; and (2) If in-person, whether you would like a seat on the bus. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first-come basis. There is no charge. We would appreciate your response by Monday, November 7th.

The Chapel is located on the site of the New Light Cemetery in Shaler Township. The construction of the Chapel was made possible through the generous donations of the public and by local foundations.

Board Meeting

The next New Light board meeting is Monday, November 7 at 7:00 PM. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

2022 KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION PROGRAMS

Kristallnacht, or the “Night of Broken Glass”, was a pogrom that occurred November 9-10, 1938. It was the first organized, government-sanctioned act of violence against the Jews in Germany. It marks the start of the systematic violence against Jews during the Holocaust. Each year, the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh holds an event to commemorate this important turning point in history. This year, we are holding two public events on November 9.

Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh’s annual Kristallnacht program is generously supported by Edgar Snyder.

THE NAZIS AND THE LAW

Wednesday, November 9, 2022. 12 PM, Live on Zoom

On Wednesday, November 9 at 12 PM, we invite you to join us for a lunchtime Zoom lecture with Professor Richard Weisberg, visiting professor of Law at University of Pittsburgh. Professor Weisberg will discuss how Nazis worked within the framework of a legal system and the dangerous, incremental ways that they were able to carry out the unthinkable horrors of the Holocaust.

This program will be recorded and made publicly available on our YouTube channel.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW](#)

AN EVENING WITH ROGER GUENVEUR SMITH

Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 7 PM, Chatham University

On Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30pm, we are honored to host internationally acclaimed actor, writer, and director Roger Guenveur Smith at Chatham University. During this program, audiences will view a recorded screening of his one-man play, *Otto Frank*, followed by a live talkback with Smith. This program will not be available for online viewing.

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW](#)

Psalms Class

The psalms class continues on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in-person and on Zoom. Register by sending email to janet@newlightcongregation.org.

Haftarah Readers

Please contact Carol Black if you would like to chant a Haftarah.

Lecture Series, Jewish Pittsburgh

The New Light lectures series continues in November. All lectures are on Tuesdays in Helfant Chapel and on zoom. Register by sending email to janet@newlightcongregation.org.

NOVEMBER 8: "UNDER THE CLOCK: THE RISE OF PITTSBURGH'S KAUFMANN FAMILY"

Generous and powerful philanthropists, the Kaufmanns left an indelible mark on the city and Western Pennsylvania. Starting with the four brothers in the 1870s and the creation of a "business palace" in downtown Pittsburgh – to the famous residence called Fallingwater – to a foundation that built Pittsburgh cultural and community institutions, the Kaufmann family was one of the greatest royal families in Western Pennsylvania. Far less known are the personal tragedies and fateful ambitions that forever shaped the family, their business, and the place they called home. A new book pulls back the curtain to reveal the hardships, triumphs, and complicated legacy of the prominent family behind its success.

Presented by: Marilynne Pitz is an award-winning journalist covering art, architecture, books and history. She has won five Golden Quills, and Inland Press Association award for investigative reporting and a Matrix Award. She was a recipient of the Pulitzer Prize with a journalist team in 2018 for her coverage of Tree of Life shooting.

Laura Malt Schneiderman is a journalist and web developer in Pittsburgh. She has won seven Golden Quills and won the Scripps Howard Edward J. Meeman Award as part of a team of journalists in 2011.

NOVEMBER 15: "THE INVISIBLE SYNDICATE: PITTSBURGH'S JEWISH RACKETEERS, 1920-1980"

Like New York City, Cleveland, and Detroit, Pittsburgh has a significant Jewish organized crime history. Eastern European Jews living in the Hill District collaborated with other immigrants — Southern Blacks and Italians — to create informal economies in a city where racism, antisemitism, and generalized xenophobia erected barriers to good jobs, housing, and financial institutions. A small group of Hill District Jews went into bootlegging during Prohibition and then gambling. By 1930, a loosely organized Jewish syndicate occupied a top tier of Pittsburgh's vice underworld. This presentation explores the social history of Pittsburgh's less violent counterpart to Cleveland's "silent syndicate" and Detroit's "Purple Gang." These Jewish vice entrepreneurs helped to create some of Pittsburgh's most enduring brands, including the Pittsburgh Steelers, and were integral to the city's early entertainment sector as theater and nightclub owners. The program's arc begins in the Hill District and ends in Squirrel Hill where the invisible syndicate's leaders had their homes and gambling clubs.

Presented by: Dr. David Rotenstein is a historian and folklorist living in Fox Chapel. He has a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and he works as a public history consultant and writer.

NOVEMBER 29: "HASIDIC DYNASTY NATIVE TO PITTSBURGH: ITS RABBIS, HISTORY, AND MUSIC"

Few Pittsburgh Jews know about the dynasty of Hasidic rabbis who founded a community in Pittsburgh known as "the Pittsburghers." Rabbi Yosef Leifer, a scion of the Nadvorna dynasty, founded the community in Pittsburgh in 1924. He and his sons are remembered for conducting exuberant tishen on Friday nights and after the Shabbat morning meal, as well as the Seudah Shlishit which goes late into the night accompanied by the Rebbe's words of mussar. The sect is also famous for its heartfelt niggunim (melodies). In 1970, the grandson Rabbi Mordecai Yissachar Leifer moved to Ashdod in Israel after serving the Pittsburgh community for four decades. Rabbi Leifer presided over the "Pittsburgh" educational system in Israel which includes a cheder with over 300 students, two yeshivas with 90 students. He also established a Kollel institution within the city. By the time of his death in 2021, Rabbi Leifer had increased the number of Pittsburgher families in Ashdod to nearly 200. The Pittsburgher Hasidim attracted

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formerly non-observant Jews through Rabbi Leifer’s shiurim (classes), tishen and personal interaction. He also established charitable institutions in the city, which earned him a special commendation as “Worthy Citizen of Ashdod” from Mayor Yehiel Lasri.

Come join us as we celebrate the life of this group of native Hasidim with a shared testimony to their presence in Pittsburgh and the singing of beautiful niggunim.

Presented by: Morton Milch, a resident of Pittsburgh his entire life was close to the rabbis and was a member of their community. He attended their shul and visited them when he traveled to Israel.

November Birthdays
 Judy Blumenfeld
 Barbara Caplan
 Hugh Casper
 Marilyn Kramer
 Yetta Speiser
 Jenny 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 Karen Coburn at 412-521-5083
- For information on our cemetery contact Stephen Cohen at 412-421-3999

NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION

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Sisterhood	Sharyn Stein	412-521-5231	
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New Light Congregation **November 2022** 7 Cheshvan 5783 - 6 Kislev 5783

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 CHESHVAN	2 8 CHESHVAN ▶ Psalms Class	3 9 CHESHVAN	4 10 CHESHVAN 🕒 5:53 Services, 7:00 PM	5 11 CHESHVAN 🕒 Lecha Services, 9:45 AM
6 12 CHESHVAN	7 13 CHESHVAN	8 14 CHESHVAN ▶ Lecture Series, 7:00 PM	9 15 CHESHVAN ▶ Psalms Class	10 16 CHESHVAN	11 17 CHESHVAN 🕒 4:46 Services, 7:00 PM	12 18 CHESHVAN 🕒 Vayera Services, 9:45 AM 🕒 Joint Service, 4:30 PM
13 19 CHESHVAN ▶ Chapel Dedication, 11:00 AM	14 20 CHESHVAN	15 21 CHESHVAN ▶ Lecture Series, 7:00 PM	16 22 CHESHVAN ▶ Psalms Class	17 23 CHESHVAN	18 24 CHESHVAN 🕒 4:40 Services, 7:00 PM	19 25 CHESHVAN 🕒 Chayei Sarah Services, 9:45 AM
20 26 CHESHVAN	21 27 CHESHVAN	22 28 CHESHVAN	23 29 CHESHVAN	24 30 CHESHVAN 🕒 Rosh Chodesh Kislev - Day 1 🇺🇸 Thanksgiving Day	25 1 KISLEV 🕒 Rosh Chodesh Kislev - Day 2 🕒 4:36 Services, 7:00 PM	26 2 KISLEV 🕒 Toldos Services, 9:45 AM
27 3 KISLEV	28 4 KISLEV	29 5 KISLEV ▶ Lecture Series, 7:00 PM	30 6 KISLEV ▶ Psalms Class			