



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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## **New Light News September 2023**

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

Dear friends,

What's the big idea?

We gathered last Shabbat at our chapel to celebrate Howard and Ethel Kubitz's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are the sweetest couple. The bedrock of New Light Congregation. What haven't they done to create our community? They are the model of *hesed* and every summer I can count on them for my favorite food – Deli!

In honor of the Kubitz's anniversary, I spoke about the very important mitzvah of *hashevat aveidah*, the returning of a lost object. "You shall not see the ox or your brother or his sheep or goat as lost, and hide yourself from them, you shall absolutely return them to your brother" (Deuteronomy 22:1). The mitzvah isn't just a matter of lost and found, important in its own right; there is a bigger idea at work here. The Deuteronomy verse says three things:

1. You should not deliberately ignore an opportunity to help.
2. You should not remain indifferent and allow another or yourself to despair of ever making a find.
3. You shall return what is lost, again and again, until the thousandth time.

Deeper still, the Torah's language is intentional when it says that you cannot allow yourself to view the ox or sheep as lost. What begins as an obligation to return a missing animal is transformed into an entire worldview. Do not see the world as lost. Do not see a world that is only dark – with no light. Do not look upon the world and give up. You are not allowed to despair.

You cannot ignore what is wrong and broken in the world and you cannot give up on it either. This worldview is the one that the Kubitzes believe in. You are alert to other people who could use your help. You can extend yourself to your family when they are having a hard time. You can recommend a doctor. You can recommend a therapist. You can help a small person to reach a higher shelf in the supermarket. You can help bring in someone's garbage cans to save them the trip. I knew a guy who shoveled the walks of everybody on his block. Yes, all of this is under the category of *hesed* but it is also part of the bigger idea of viewing things in the world as never being lost. No object is lost (especially if it is identified). No person is lost (especially if he or she carries a burden, physical or emotional).

God gave us this mind, this heart and these limbs. We do not feign ignorance or "I don't want to get involved." We are continually involved in a world we call home and "others" are the members of our household.

A big idea for the new year. Think about it.

L'shana Tova

Rabbi

## Co-Presidents' Report

August began with -- satisfaction. After three long months, the trial of the synagogue shooter ended with a sentence of death. Every day, the families of the deceased and the survivors and the congregations gathered together to bear witness to the evil perpetrated in the name of hate.

The verdict is not a cause for celebration; just relief that justice has been done. We do not know if the sentence will ever be carried out. And, in a way, it does not matter. The shooter is confined to a small cell with no access to the outside world.

One of the survivors asked when the trial ended: "What do we do now that we no longer need to travel downtown every day?" In France, the whole country takes a vacation in August. Always wondered about that – if everyone is on vacation who does the work of supporting the vacationers? Do the waiters, baggage handlers and hotel clerks up and leave, too? Or do we trust our lives to teenagers and college students for one month of the year? This past August was a good time to take a vacation and be served by teenagers and college students.

As we enter the month of Elul our tradition asks us to look back at the last year and reflect on our lives. It recognizes that we carry with us the mistakes, failings, and scars from the choices we have made. Our faith challenges us to step forward into life, to take an accounting of the past but with an eye to the future. The journey of teshuvah is not an easy one, nor does life leave us unscarred, but we are blessed too with the power of love, and the opportunity to grow and change no matter our age.

### IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT ROSH HASHANAH:

- If you have not returned your High Holy Day Appeal Letter and Memorial Book ad, please do so IMMEDIATELY. We need time to create and print the Memorial Book.
- The Religious Committee has recommended that services be held in HELFANT CHAPEL rather than the Ballroom. Helfant Chapel has approximately 140 seats. Last year, we had between 80 and 90 attendees (less on the second day of Rosh Hashanah) and so should fit comfortably in the Chapel. Services will, as usual, also be available on Zoom.

If the board approves this change:

PLEASE ENTER ON BEACON STREET. There will be a table to "check in" before entering the Chapel. Beth Shalom also requires its members to use that entrance They require physical tickets – we do not. *It is therefore doubly important to return the Appeal Letter to ensure you are on our attendance list.*

We encourage your comments after Rosh Hashanah (and before Yom Kippur) as to your experiences in the Chapel.

May the month of Elul and the blasts of the shofar each day inspire each of us on our life's adventure toward teshuvah and change and towards forgiveness, when deserved, peace, and love.

Barbara and Stephen

## September Board Meeting

The meeting is Tuesday, September 5, 7:00 PM. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

## 2023 New Light Congregation High Holy Days General Information and Schedule

### General Information

**Please note we have changed, subject to board approval, the location of all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services to Helfant Chapel. Please enter on Beacon Street, where there will be a check in table. \*\***

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.

### Preliminary Schedule

#### **Cemetery Visitation:**

Sunday, September 10, 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. New Light Cemetery

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

Friday, September 15, 7:00 P.M. Helfant Chapel

Saturday, September 16, 8:45 A.M.

Torah Service approximately 10:30 A.M. Helfant Chapel

Sunday, September 17, 8:45 A.M.

Torah Service followed by Shofar service, approximately 10:30 A.M. Helfant Chapel

Tashlich, 5:30 P.M. Temple Sinai Pond

#### **Yom Kippur – 10 Tishrei**

Sunday, September 24, 6:40 P.M. Kol Nidre Helfant Chapel

6:56 P.M. Candle Lighting

Monday, September 25: Helfant Chapel

8:45 A.M. Morning Service

10:15 A.M. (approximately) Torah Service and Yizkor. Please bring a picture of your loved one.

4:30 P.M. Torah Study

5:15 P.M. Mincha

6:40 P.M. Neilah

7:40 P.M. Shofar Blowing

#### **Sukkot – 15-16 Tishrei**

Saturday, September 30, 9:45 A.M. Day 1 Service Helfant Chapel

Lunch in Sukkah after services

Sunday, October 1, 9:45 A.M. Day 2 Service Helfant Chapel

#### **Shemini Atzeret – 22 Tishrei**

Saturday, October 7, 9:45 A.M. Morning service, including Yizkor. Helfant Chapel

#### **Simchat Torah – 23 Tishrei**

Saturday, October 7, 7:00 P.M. Evening service Helfant Chapel

Sunday, October 8, 9:00 A.M. Morning service with Beth Shalom Social Hall

**\*\* All locations subject to change**

## Sisterhood and Men's Club New Year Wishes

The Sisterhood and Men's Club wish everyone a healthy and happy new year.

## Sisterhood News

Please join New Light Sisterhood for an afternoon of comraderie, kibbitzing and noshing on Sunday, October 15, 2023, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, in the Beth Shalom ballroom.

RSVP by October 4 to Barbara Caplan (412-521-4332) or Sharyn Stein (412-521-5231).

### 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.
- To purchase bricks for our "Garden of Freedom" contact Barbara Caplan.
- To purchase Giant Eagle gift cards contact Karen Coburn.
- For information on our cemetery contact Stephen Cohen.

## NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION

5915 Beacon Street

412-421-1017

[www.newlightcongregation.org](http://www.newlightcongregation.org)

Rabbi

Co-President/Social VP/Yahrzeits

Co-President/Cemetery/Website

Membership

Sisterhood

Treasurer/Men's Club

Simcha Tree/Plaques

Religious Committee

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary/Calendar

Jonathan Perlman

Barbara Caplan

Stephen Cohen

Debbi Salvin

Sharyn Stein

Harold Caplan

Ileen Portnoy

Eric Cohen, Bruce Hyde

Karen Coburn

Janet Cohen

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# New Light Congregation September 2023 15 Elul 5783 - 15 Tishrei 5784

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
3	17 ELUL	4	18 ELUL	5	19 ELUL	6	20 ELUL	7	21 ELUL	8	22 ELUL	9	23 ELUL
		Labor Day	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM			7:21 Services, 7:00 PM	7:21 Services, 7:00 PM	Nizavim - Vayelech Services, 9:45 AM	Nizavim - Vayelech Services, 9:45 AM
10	24 ELUL	11	25 ELUL	12	26 ELUL	13	27 ELUL	14	28 ELUL	15	29 ELUL	16	1 TISHREI
Selichos Begin Cemetery Visitation, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM						Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM		Erev Rosh Hashanah  7:09 Services, 7:00 PM	Erev Rosh Hashanah  7:09 Services, 7:00 PM	Rosh Hashanah - Day 1 Services, 8:45 AM	Rosh Hashanah - Day 1 Services, 8:45 AM
17	2 TISHREI	18	3 TISHREI	19	4 TISHREI	20	5 TISHREI	21	6 TISHREI	22	7 TISHREI	23	8 TISHREI
Rosh Hashanah - Day 2 Services, 8:45 AM Tashich, 5:30 PM, Temple Sinai Pond	Fast of Gedalyah					Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM			6:57 Services, 7:00 PM	6:57 Services, 7:00 PM	Haazinu Services, 9:45 AM	Haazinu Services, 9:45 AM
24	9 TISHREI	25	10 TISHREI	26	11 TISHREI	27	12 TISHREI	28	13 TISHREI	29	14 TISHREI	30	15 TISHREI
Erev Yom Kippur  6:54 Kol Nidre, 6:40 PM	Yom Kippur Services, 8:45 AM					Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM	Pirke Avot Class, 6:00 PM			6:46 Services, 7:00 PM	6:46 Services, 7:00 PM	Succos - Day 1 Services, 9:45 AM Lunch in Sukkah	Succos - Day 1 Services, 9:45 AM Lunch in Sukkah