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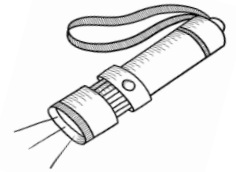
New Light Congregation

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New Light News May 2024

The Flashlight

Arturo Toscanini, born in Parma, Italy in 1867, was an Italian conductor. With an intense and brilliant mind, his renown earned him the deserved recognition and consideration as one of the greatest virtuoso conductors of the early part of the 20th century.



As an important aside, Toscanini has become a man who will be honorably remembered by the Jewish people. With Hitler's rise to power, he soon fired just about every musician from Berlin, and it was Toscanini who arranged what was called the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra. He went on to hire most of the Jewish musicians from Germany and enable their families to make aliyah, which saved them from death and provided them with a place of dignity in the new land. Toscanini himself passed away in 1957 in Riverdale, New York.

Toscanini had a biographer whose job, as expected, was to document the life of Toscanini. One night, he phoned Toscanini, and asked if he would be able to visit him. "I'm busy," replied Toscanini. "Before I moved to America, I used to have a symphony overseas, of which I was the conductor. I handed over the symphony to someone else, and tonight, he is conducting, and I want to hear what it sounds like. I arranged to listen to it through short wave radio." To the biographer, this was a golden opportunity. Even to see Toscanini listen to a symphony was to see him in action. "Can I come and watch you listen to the symphony?" requested the biographer. "Yes," confirmed Toscanini, "on one condition: you don't say a word."

Sure enough, the biographer arrived, and carefully observed Toscanini listen to his own symphony via the short-wave radio. As the symphony came to a close, the biographer spoke up. "Maestro, that was beautiful, no?" Toscanini looked back at him. "No, not really." The biographer was puzzled. "What was the problem?" "There were supposed to be 15 violins, and there were only 14 violins." The biographer didn't know what to respond. To the layman's ear, picking up such nuances was like finding a needle in a pitch-dark room.

The next day, the biographer phoned the conductor overseas. "I must ask you a question," said the biographer. "How many violinists played last night's symphony?" "We were supposed to have 15 violinists," replied the conductor, "and only 14 showed up."

Shocked, the biographer returned to Toscanini, confirmed the news. "How in the world," he asked Toscanini, "Sitting on a couch, thousands of miles away, listening on a radio, were you able to detect that one violin is missing?" Toscanini looked at him. "That's the difference between you and me. You are part of the audience; I am the conductor. I know each note. I created these notes. For you, a note here, a note there, doesn't make a difference. For me, I knew that this symphony needed 15 violins, and as soon as I heard that some notes were missing, I knew that they were short one violinist."

Rabbi YY Jacobson notes that from our perspective, a note that is lost or not played, is barely noticed, if not at all. But from God's perspective, every Jew is an indispensable note in the symphony. If his or her violin is not being played, something significant and noticeable is missing. The world is a different place without his or her presence.

We must keep in mind that God is the composer and conductor. Each of us have a role to play and a task to fulfil and Hashem has designed the perfect symphony for each us filled with beautiful notes.

As we enter these days of Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron, we remember individuals that God placed here on earth with a purpose. That their very being was erased from human life should give us pause. Imagine how different life might be if they had lived and continued to contribute their gift to our world. What a loss!

Coming on the heels of Passover, we appreciate our purpose in playing in the *liberated* orchestra of the Jewish people. Life is so very precious and the music we play is so rich and fulfilling. May we continue to play on despite the noise and rancor that confronts in the not-so-good news that confronts us in these terrible days. May we all acknowledge the beauty of our collective work!

Rabbi

May 2024 Co-Presidents' Report

"WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED."

(By Stephen Cohen)

Many of us grew up in the 50's and 60's. We - or at least some of us – participated in protest marches and vigils. We shouted “Make Love, Not War” and “Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today” It was a lively time of ferment and turmoil – to us. And “Free Love” was not so bad!

But I wonder what our parents – who were World War II veterans or had lost someone in the wars of the 40's and 50's - thought when we protested the Vietnam War. Were we cowards or clear headed idealists working for a better world? Did we *understand* the issues? Was Russia *really* a menace to World Peace? In my family, my father thought I was stupid, with no sense of history – even though that was my major in college. Having a peaceful conversation, you might say, was difficult. Maybe, deep down, he agreed with our aim not to be drafted as he, too, was able to stay out of World War II. But that was not the tenor of our talks.

Recently I attended the last concert conducted by Andreas Cardenas, prior to his retirement from CMU, at the newly refurbished Carnegie Music Hall. Outside on Schenley Plaza and in front of the Pitt Student Union was a “demonstration” of about 100 or so students.

Tents filled Schenley Plaza. At the Student Union, students (and “outside agitators”) stood around a grassy oval – careful to not step on the grass for fear of being arrested! About 15 police officers (once we called them “pigs”) were standing around watching.



Guy with a bullhorn (not visible in the pictures) is trying to get the crowd to yell with him: “We Shall Not Be Moved.” No one was moving. He alternated with other one-liners: “Free Gaza!” “Leave Rafah Alone!”, “No Genocide!”. The crowd mumbled back.

There's a guy with a Palestinian flag — and one with an Israeli flag. Both looked bored.
As Shakespeare opined in Macbeth: "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."
I think history repeats itself – young people rightfully afraid that they maybe asked to give up their life (or their honor) for a cause not of their own making:
In the 1930's young people became socialists and communists- to stop war and make a better world.
In the 60's we of a certain age dropped out and dropped acid -to stop war and make the world a better place.
Now they protest Israel - to stop war and make one small area of the world a better place.
Next year it will be something else.
Kids.
And the world does not change.
This too shall pass.

“WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO”

The inaugural class will be held this Sunday (May 5) at approximately 11:30 AM following the Board Meeting. The Class will be held in the Palkovitz Lobby and on Zoom (regular Shabbat logon). It will include a light breakfast of bagels and lox. The purpose of the class is to allow the Rabbi to address your questions about ritual, custom and halacha. Please send your questions to janet@newlightcongregation.org. Let Barbara know (barbaracaplan@comcast.net) if you will attend in person.

Very best wishes for a restful, enjoyable Mother's Day to all our New Light families. May this month bring sunshine and warmth to all.

Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen
Co-Presidents

May Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, May 5, 10:30 AM in Helfant Chapel and Zoom. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

May Birthdays Marvin Feldman Rachelle Grobstein Aryeh Sherman	May Anniversaries Carol and Marvin Feldman Jenny and Steve Swerdlow Gerry and Dr. George Tessler Brenda and Barry Werber
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May Events

Yom Hashoah begins on Sunday evening, May 5, and continues through Monday, May 6.

Yom HaZikaron begins on Sunday evening, May 12, and continues through Monday, May 13.

Yom Haatzmuat begins on Monday evening, May 13, and continues through Tuesday, May 14.

The Pittsburgh observances include:

YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION, Monday, May 6, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Join the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh for their annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration program honoring the victims of the Shoah, as well as survivors and their families, with readings, music, and candle lightings. 7 p.m. Campbell Memorial Chapel, Chapel Hill Road, 15232. For more information see hcofpg.org/event/2024-yom-hashoah-commemoration.

YOM HASHOAH CEREMONY, Sunday, May 12, 8:00 - 9:30 PM, JCC Squirrel Hill

Join the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh for our Yom HaZikaron ceremony where we will honor fallen soldiers and victims of terror, spotlighting those we have lost since October 7. There will be live and pre-recorded music played during the program with live male and female dancers.

This event is free but you must register. For more information and to register see

<https://jewishpgh.org/event/yom-hazikaron-2/>.

YOM HAATZMAUT CELEBRATION, Sunday, May 19, 12:45 - 3:30 PM, Congregation Beth Shalom,

March starts at 1:00 PM

Celebrate Israel with a march, activities and live music from the band HaShayara from Kibbutz Eshbal in Misgav. The march will start at Congregation Beth Shalom and end at JCC Squirrel Hill. Attendees are encouraged to wear blue and white to show support!

There will be a live concert in the JCC at the end of the march with male and female singers.

Light Refreshments (Dietary Laws Observed) • Free Parking

The march will begin at Beth Shalom, walk down Beacon to Murray, and end at the JCC on Darlington. Be aware that there will be road blocks along the route for those coming from outside of Squirrel Hill and there will be security present. After the march, join us in family-friendly activities hosted by our own Shinshinim and local organizations. Each activity will relate to a different region in Israel and passports will be available to receive stamps at each booth.

This event is free and there is no registration. For more information see

<https://jewishpgh.org/occasion/yom-haatzmaut/>

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

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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 Calendar May 2024 23 Nisan 5784 - 23 Iyar 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Board Meeting, 10:30 AM Why We Do What We Do	6 Yom Hashoah Commemoration, 7:00 PM, Holocaust Center	7	1	2	3 7:58 Services, 6:00 PM	4 Acharai Services, 9:45 AM
12 Yom Hazikaron Ceremony, 8:00 PM, JCC	13 Yom Hazikaron	14 Yom Haatzmaut	8 Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 1	9 Rosh Chodesh Iyar - Day 2	10 8:05 Services, 6:00 PM	11 Kedoshim Services, 9:45 AM
19 Yom Haatzmaut Celebration, 12:45 - 3:30 PM, Beth Shalom to JCC	20	21	15	16	17 8:12 Services, 6:00 PM	18 Emor Services, 9:45 AM
26 Lag BaOmer	27 Memorial Day	28	22 Pesach Sheini	23	24 8:18 Services, 6:00 PM	25 Behar Services, 9:45 AM
					31 8:24 Services, 6:00 PM	