



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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

New Light News September 2024



Where is September's Flashlight?

Rabbi Perlman is taking a break from his monthly Flashlight because he is preparing for one of the most important and joyous moments of his life - father of the bride. We wish Yael, Matt and their families much joy.



September Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, September 8, 10:30 AM, in Helfant and on Zoom. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

Why We Do What We Do

The class will be held immediately after the board meeting. Send your questions to Rabbi Perlman. Please let Barbara know if you plan to attend in person.

Presidents' Report

The month of Elul begins the evening of September 3rd. Elul is the last month of the Jewish year and the month before Rosh Hashanah, which begins on the evening of October 2nd. It is a time of reflection, introspection, and preparation for the High Holy Days. It is a time to look back on the previous year and look forward to the next. A time for personal and community stock-taking - evaluating one's actions and behaviors, and spiritual state. It is a time for to ask for and grant forgiveness. And it is a time to visit the graves of our loved ones.

How do we forgive the antisemitic pro-Hamas demonstrators on our college campuses and in our streets? How do we forgive those who spray painted graffiti on our old home on Beechwood Blvd.? How do we forgive the signers of a petition, including members of our Mayor's staff, to have the citizens of our City vote on a proposal to ban the City from doing business with any corporation that does business with Israel? How do you fight hatred?

The vehemence of the spring demonstrations caught many of us unaware. But throughout the summer there has been a drumbeat of positive events that *may* counteract the worst of these antisemitic efforts. Colleges throughout the country appear more prepared to deal with the overt antisemitism against our Jewish students. Many have banned encampments and head scarves. Many have adopted codes identifying using Judaism and Zionism as one and the same: to be against Zionism is to be antisemitic.

And thanks to State laws banning divestiture initiatives and the herculean efforts of the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh to review and assess the validity of the those who signed the petition for the ballot initiative, the petition was withdrawn.

But there is one additional theme that appears in many of the campus proposals for the coming year that speaks directly to a path for forgiveness. It was one of the first ideas adopted soon after the October 27th shooting. It produced the desire to build for the soon-to-be Tree of Life Museum of Antisemitism and the Eradicate Hate Conference. That path is Education.

There is a long 150-year history to the conflict in the Middle East. Too few young people have studied or reflected on that history. They deal in jargon like the term "settler colonialism" and ignore actions that might have brought peace years ago. Many colleges and universities are offering extra classes to consider these events. It may not change every mind. But hopefully it will open up a path to dialogue, civility and acceptance. And with acceptance and understanding comes forgiveness.

Barbara & Stephen

10.27 Healing Partnership Announces New Speakers Bureau, REACH

Following in the footsteps of Holocaust survivors, October 27th families and survivors have now created REACH, a new outlet for reclaiming agency and sharing their stories with the world. The Speakers Bureau that seeks to **Remember, Educate, and Combat Hate** (REACH) through connecting families and survivors to schools and organizations where they can speak about their personal experiences of antisemitism, community care, and justice. REACH is centered in trauma-informed practices to uplift and empower speakers, and REACH speakers themselves utilize the support of both educators and therapists in order to educate and share in an emotionally impactful way without increasing feelings of vicarious trauma. The goal is to allow audiences to connect intimately with October 27th and to understand the real-life consequences of antisemitism and white supremacy. REACH engagements allow students to ask questions and connect with the speakers in a personal way.

If you would like to request a REACH speaker for your school or organization, please visit <https://1027healingpartnership.org/reach/> to learn more about our speakers and request a REACH engagement.

Rosh Chodesh Elul Program

The 10.27 Healing Partnership and the JCC invite Jewish Pittsburgh to a program of meditative wellness activities and Jewish learning designed to increase thoughtfulness, care, and introspection. The program will end with a communal shofar blowing to kick off this year's Season of Hope! This year the High Holidays will take place in close proximity with both the commemoration of October 27th and the first year commemoration of October 7th. The Partnership hopes this program will help us all to embrace all the different facets of this season, from sorrow to joy. For more information and to register go to <https://1027healingpartnership.org/rosh-chodesh-elul/>

High Holidays 5785

Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of Wednesday, October 2. Kol Nidre is Friday, October 11, followed by Yom Kippur on October 12. By now you should have received a packet of information with the schedule and some forms to return. Please review the packet and return any pertinent forms by September 16.

Cemetery visitation is Sunday, September 29, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Holiday Food Baskets

The JFCS Squirrel Hill Food Pantry is reaching out with an offer to provide traditional holiday food items to families in need. As the only kosher-serving pantry in Southwestern Pennsylvania, we provide traditional holiday food items to help struggling families celebrate during special times of the year. Please contact Barbara Caplan (barbaracaplan@comcast.net or 412-512-1017) before Thursday, September 5th if you would like to participate.

Friday Night Shabbat Services

Starting September 27th New Light will join Beth Shalom's monthly Hod veHadar Instrumental Kabbalat Shabbat in the ballroom at 6:00 PM or on Zoom using the following connection:

Zoom code 943 2466 5900

Password minyan

Joint New Light and Beth Shalom Friday night services on other weeks continue as usual in Helfant or Zoom: Meeting ID: 351 087 897, password 5915

Na'amat Shabbat Service

On Saturday, September 21st, New Light will join Beth Shalom services honoring Na'amat. A luncheon will follow. Services start at 9:30 AM and are held in the ballroom or on Zoom:

Zoom code 943 2466 5900

Password minyan

September Birthdays

Harold Caplan
Stephen Cohen
Beverly Manne
Ann Notovitz
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

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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	rabbi@newlightcongregation.org
Barbara Caplan	barbaracaplan@comcast.net
Stephen Cohen	info@newlightcongregation.org
Debi Salvin	dgsalvin@pobox.com
Sharyn Stein	
Harold Caplan	haroldcaplan@comcast.net
Ileen Portnoy	ileenportnoy@gmail.com
Eric Cohen, Bruce Hyde	
Karen Coburn	
Janet Cohen	janet@newlightcongregation.org



New Light Congregation September 2024 28 Av 5784 - 27 Elul 5784

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 28 AV	2 29 AV 🇺🇸 Labor Day	3 30 AV ⚡ Rosh Chodesh Elul - Day 1	4 1 ELUL ⚡ Rosh Chodesh Elul - Day 2	5 2 ELUL	6 3 ELUL 🕒 7:23 Services, 6:00 PM	7 4 ELUL Services, 9:45 AM
8 5 ELUL ▶ Board Meeting, 10:30 AM 📖 Why We Do What We Do	9 6 ELUL	10 7 ELUL	11 8 ELUL	12 9 ELUL	13 10 ELUL 🕒 7:11 Services, 6:00 PM	14 11 ELUL Services, 9:45 AM
15 12 ELUL	16 13 ELUL	17 14 ELUL	18 15 ELUL	19 16 ELUL	20 17 ELUL 🕒 7:00 Services, 6:00 PM	21 18 ELUL Services, 9:30 AM Na'amat Shabbat, joint with Beth Shalom
22 19 ELUL	23 20 ELUL	24 21 ELUL	25 22 ELUL	26 23 ELUL	27 24 ELUL 🕒 6:48 Services, 6:00 PM	28 25 ELUL Services, 9:45 AM
29 26 ELUL ⚡ Seichos Begin	30 27 ELUL					