

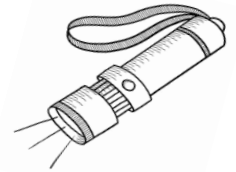


# אור חדש

## New Light Congregation

5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh PA 15217 • 412-421-1017 • [info@newlightcongregation.org](mailto:info@newlightcongregation.org)

### **New Light News October 2024**



#### **The Flashlight**

The month of Tishrei contains the charge “Return to you, Lord, and we shall return” (Lam. 5:21). The early 20th century Hasid Sfat Emet says that this verse refers to two kinds of teshuva (return): that of fear and that of love. When a person is defiled by sin, it is impossible to return from love. Only the return due to fear is possible, and this requires the help of heaven. Thus, the ancient rabbis teach that God helps the one who returns. This is the meaning of “return us.”

But those who return from love do so on their own, because of the love of God that burns within. This requires no help. The midrash recounts that Noah needed help to “walk with God,” while Abraham needed no help to “walk before me.” One acted from fear, the other from love.

The Sefat Emet continues: “The two sorts of teshuvah also divide according to the verse “Turn from evil and do good” (Ps. 34:15). Returning from fear is turning from evil; the penitent seeks to be cleansed of the defilement of sins. But teshuva from love is “doing good”; this penitent realizes that sins keep one from attachment to God. Therefore, this one seeks teshuva, in order to return to doing good.”

Ever since the days of the Baal Shem Tov, the first master of Hasidism, it has believed that a life of doing good with a loving heart is far greater than one of dreading sin or fear of punishment. But the above text from the Sefat Emet shows that there is room for “return from fear.” Rabbi Arthur Green writes: “For those immersed deeply in the blinding or deadening routines of daily life, shock therapy is sometimes needed to awaken us to the glory both within us and around us. There is nothing like a confrontation with mortality to bring us to our senses.” This is a necessary first step as we enter Rosh Hashana and continue into the ten days of penitence. We concentrate the mind and prepare for the dual activities of teshuva which are highlighted during the symphony of life on Yom Kippur.

Lshana tova Tikatavu,

Rabbi P.

## Co-Presidents' Report October 2024

In just a few days, on Rosh Hashanah, the blast of the shofar will be heard. The High Holidays are a time that we Jews gather in prayer and concentrate on introspection. They are a time in which we give thanks for the ways we have been blessed and seize the chance to improve our relationships by making amends. During these Days of Awe, Jews acknowledge the Almighty as the creator and ruler of the universe, renew and strengthen their commitment to a spiritual way of life, and pray for a sweet, healthy and peaceful new year.

Barbara, Steve and the entire New Light Board wish you and your family a happy, sweet, healthy and fulfilling New Year.

Please join us in our new Sukkah on Sukkot on October 19 (see page 3).

In the past several issues, we have reflected on campus-related events. Elsewhere in this newsletter (page 5) we reprint an article by Daniel Caplan, Student Body President, List College, published by the Jewish Theological Seminary this month - GLIMMERS OF LIGHT: REFLECTIONS ON HOPE FOR THE DAYS OF AWE 5785 – which summarizes the turmoil of the events he faced last year. May this year be less challenging.

The underlying issue, though, is one over which we, as Americans (and as American Jews) have little control – the events in Israel itself. In order to better understand what is happening in Israel, under the auspices of Classrooms Without Borders (CWB), we have agreed to sponsor along with Congregation Beth Israel two evening lectures (in-person and online) by Avi Ben-Hur in November:

- **Tuesday, November 12, 2024**  
Topic: **Current Arab alliances in the Middle East & links to Palestinian terror organizations.**
- **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**  
Topic: **The reasons behind the current Israeli government's intransigence in reaching a deal with Hamas and Hezbollah despite mass protests in and outside of Israel.**

Avi Ben-Hur was our guide when we visited Israel in 2014. He is a native of Brooklyn who made Aliyah to Israel in 1983, is an esteemed scholar-in-residence with CWB. Avi's career in education and tourism is extensive—he has served as Director of the Archaeological Seminars School for Israeli Tour Guides, contributed to rewriting the curriculum for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism, and developed unique Israel-centered curricula for MELITZ America. Currently, Avi is on the faculty of the University of Haifa Tourism School and is an examiner for the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. His work with CWB brings his deep knowledge of Israel studies, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the history of Jerusalem, and Holocaust studies to communities across the United States, including Pittsburgh.

Please mark your calendar. Details to be announced soon.

Barbara & Stephen

Co-Presidents

## October Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, October 6 at 10:30 AM in Helfant Chapel and on Zoom. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

## High Holiday Services Schedule

All services are in Helfant Chapel *unless noted otherwise.*

### Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 PM

Thursday, October 3, 8:45 AM

Friday, October 4, 8:45 AM

Torah Services approximately 10:30 AM

Tashlich, Thursday, October 3, 5:30 PM  
*Temple Sinai Pond*

### Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre, Friday, October 11, 6:30 PM

Saturday, October 12, 8:45 AM

Torah Service, approximately 10:45 AM

Yizkor following Torah service

Torah Study, 4:20 PM

Mincha, 5:20 PM

Neila, 6:20 PM

Shofar Blowing, 7:30 PM

## Sermon Titles

Rosh Hashanah Day 1: “You don’t have to be a perfectionist”

Rosh Hashanah Day 2: “Where was Sarah when Isaac accompanied his father to Mt. Moriah?”  
(A text based discussion with Rabbis Waldman and Perlman)

Kol Nidre: “How you can save the world by the Three Covenantal Methods”

Yom Kippur Yizkor: “The Angst of Jewry after October 7<sup>th</sup> and the Challenge to Belief”

## Sukkot Schedule

### Days 1 and 2

Thursday, October 17, 9:45 AM

Friday, October 18, 9:45 AM

**Shabbat Chol ha-Moed,**  
*lunch in Sukkah after Shabbat services*

### Shemini Atzeret (with Yizkor)

Thursday, October 24, 9:45 AM

### Simchat Torah

Thursday, October 24, 7:00 PM

Friday, October 25, 9:00 AM  
*with Beth Shalom in the Social Hall*

## Dine in Our New Sukkah

Enjoy lunch in our new Sukkah after Shabbat services on October 19.

RSVP to Barbara by October 11. ([barbaracaplan@comcast.net](mailto:barbaracaplan@comcast.net) or 412-421-1017)



## 10.27 Commemoration Activities

The 2024 commemoration will include a ceremony on October 27 at the JCC, service opportunities on October 27 and Torah study on November 18 and 19. There is also a private minyan on November 18 for the members of Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life.

For more information please see the flyer on page 6 and <https://1027healingpartnership.org/commemoration-2024/>

## Eradicate Hate Global Summit

The 2024 Eradicate Hate Global Summit will be held at the David Lawrence Convention Center (and on Zoom) from October 21-23. For more information and to register go to <https://ehgs.configio.com/>

Members of New Light may use the code COMP24 to register.

## Musical Shabbat with Beth Shalom

The next musical Shabbat is Friday, October 25.

### October Birthdays

Carol Black  
Michael Neft  
Karen Shapiro  
Rabbi Perlman

## 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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# Renewing Your Judaism

REPRINTED FROM: GLIMMERS OF LIGHT: REFLECTIONS ON HOPE FOR THE DAYS OF AWE 5785  
September, 2024

**DANIEL CAPLAN**, Student Body President, List College, JTS

The High Holidays focus on *teshuvah* and starting anew; however, as I reflect on the explosive past year that the Jewish people have faced, neither of these traditional Rosh Hashanah values offer me much comfort or guidance on how to move forward. When I return to Columbia University's campus this semester, am I supposed to forgive my peers for making me feel unwelcome at my own college? Sure, Judaism teaches us to forgive others—but only after an apology has been given. Yet it also doesn't feel very "Jewish" to hold onto these feelings of resentment.



This tension between forgiving and holding onto feelings of frustration and hurt is something I imagine many Jews are grappling with this new year, regardless of their perspectives on the state of Israel. This past year has been stained by the perpetual rise in antisemitism at both the community level and on a global scale. I lost friendships because of my connection to Israel; I was held to different academic standards by professors than my non-Zionist peers, and I felt I had to be quiet about my identity. Other college students faced greater challenges—being spit on, facing violence, or abandoning their campuses before the semester was over. And yet, it would be extremely unproductive and harmful for any of us to hold onto these experiences and allow them to feed feelings of fear or anger.

As we enter this next year, we shouldn't see it as a blank slate, but rather look at Rosh Hashanah as our chance to renew our covenant with God and Judaism. Taking the experiences, conversations, and knowledge of the past year gives us the background to recommit to our Judaism with a more holistic perspective. While you reflect on your actions in 5784, I urge you all to consider what it means to renew yourself to the covenant in 5785. In doing so, you are committing yourself to an ethno-religion that impels you to strive to repair the world, lead with kindness, and encourage deep questioning. I learned this past year that the connection between our religion and Israel is not easily understood or easily explained. However, to successfully combat the implicit, subconscious antisemitism that has been spreading through America, we must have the strength and patience to have difficult conversations, to help others understand. And while this is no easy task, it can be remedied by returning to our core Jewish values, working to goals of mutual respect and understanding. As we face what may be another difficult year for the Jewish people, it is important to hold these values in mind as we work towards a more caring, understanding society.

Reprinted with permission of [Daniel Caplan](#), Joint Program with The Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University (Class of 2025), Student Body President of List College.

# 2024 Commemorative Events

## Oct. 27th, 2018 Synagogue Shooting

### Public Events

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#### Commemorative Ceremony

Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh  
October 27th, 5:30pm-6:30pm

#### Commemorative Service Opportunities

Multiple volunteering sites across the Pittsburgh region  
October 27th, 9am-1pm

#### In-Person Yahrzeit Torah Study

Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh  
November 18th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

#### Virtual Yahrzeit Torah Study

Zoom  
November 19th, 12pm-1pm

### Private Events

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#### Yahrzeit Joint Minyan

Dor Hadash, New Light, and Tree of Life  
Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh  
November 18th, 5:30pm-6:30pm



[info@1027healingpartnership.org](mailto:info@1027healingpartnership.org)

412-697-3534

[1027healingpartnership.org](http://1027healingpartnership.org)



# New Light Congregation **October 2024** 28 Elul 5784 - 29 Tishrei 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 28 ELUL	<b>2</b> 29 ELUL 🌙🌙 Erev Rosh Hashanah 🕒 6:40 Services, 7:00 PM	<b>3</b> 1 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Rosh Hashanah - Day 1 Services, 8:45 AM Tashlich, 5:30 PM	<b>4</b> 2 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Rosh Hashanah - Day 2 🕒 6:36 Services, 8:45 AM Services, 6:00 PM	<b>5</b> 3 TISHREI Services, 9:45 AM
<b>6</b> 4 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Fast of Gedalyah Board Meeting, 10:30 AM	<b>7</b> 5 TISHREI	<b>8</b> 6 TISHREI	<b>9</b> 7 TISHREI	<b>10</b> 8 TISHREI	<b>11</b> 9 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Erev Yom Kippur 🕒 6:25 Kol Nidre, 6:30 PM	<b>12</b> 10 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Yom Kippur Services, 8:45 AM Yizkor Neilah, 6:20 PM Shofar blowing, 7:30 PM
<b>13</b> 11 TISHREI	<b>14</b> 12 TISHREI 🇺🇸 Columbus Day	<b>15</b> 13 TISHREI	<b>16</b> 14 TISHREI 🕒 6:18	<b>17</b> 15 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Succos - Day 1 Services, 9:45 AM	<b>18</b> 16 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Succos - Day 2 🕒 6:15 Services, 9:45 AM Services, 6:00 PM	<b>19</b> 17 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Succos - First Intermediate Day Services, 9:45 AM Lunch in Sukkah
<b>20</b> 18 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Succos - Second Intermediate Day	<b>21</b> 19 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Succos - Third Intermediate Day	<b>22</b> 20 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Succos - Fourth Intermediate Day	<b>23</b> 21 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Succos - Fifth Intermediate Day 🕒 6:08 Hoshanah Rabbah	<b>24</b> 22 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Shemini Atzeres Services, 9:45 AM Services, 7:00 PM	<b>25</b> 23 TISHREI 🌙🌙 Simchas Torah 🕒 6:05 Services, 9:00 AM, Beth Shalom Social Hall Services, 6:00 PM	<b>26</b> 24 TISHREI Services, 9:45 AM
<b>27</b> 25 TISHREI 🗓️ 10.27 Commemorative Ceremony, 5:30, JCC	<b>28</b> 26 TISHREI	<b>29</b> 27 TISHREI	<b>30</b> 28 TISHREI	<b>31</b> 29 TISHREI		