



# אור חדש

## New Light Congregation

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

### **New Light News March 2025**



#### **The Flashlight**

You got to laugh at President Trump's new idea that the U.S. occupy Gaza to remake the Strip in the image of America. It is a joke, isn't it? What was not reported in the Press was the notes from the brainstorming meeting that Trump held before declaring that Gazans can make Gaza great again. The participants drew on the best of American culture. Here are the notes:

- Build a Disney World in Gaza replete with Mickey carrying around a prayer blanket, Goofy in a kaffiya, and Cinderella in a Burka.
- Create strip malls in the American fashion with choices of American cuisine such as "Have it your way at BK," "Millions and Millions of Burgers sold," and "Wendy's Burgers galore plus delicious *frosties*." In the corner of each of the new malls, we will build the ubiquitous Starbucks and other American cafes to give the malls a contemplative aspect.
- Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! Don't you think that the Gazans deserve a Walmart or two? Not only will Gazan staff get to wear the Walmart outfit, we will create a Walmart delivery service featuring one day delivery in the Walmart van that will make every happy (play ice cream truck music)! Gazans will never think about war again when they experience the thrill of the next package arriving at their doorstep.
- Build an American style football stadium and whip up interest in this crude yet noble sport.
- Have MGM build a casino in the heart of Gaza City. This gem not only creates jobs, it introduces the American fetish for gambling that will make all Gazans winners (I am told that a casino in Jericho is doing quite well).
- The Hollywood Hills come to the hills of Gaza. Let's create movie studios that parallel the American ones and create epic and dumb films that cater to the masses: "Captain Gaza," "A Complete Unknown" (with lyrics in Arabic), and "Despicable You."
- A Gaza Riviera. Behind all the rubble and debris, there is a beautiful beach out there! You just have to squint and imagine boardwalks complete with clean beaches with umbrellas and lounge chairs and surf.
- Golf. Everybody likes golf. It is so peaceful and non-violent.
- Let's talk to the NASCAR folks about setting up a Daytona 500 race track as an entertainment destination. Yet another distraction from the hateful violence of this generation. As NASCAR fans will attest: watching racing cars is the greatest diversion of the humdrum life.

It is a big project but it can be done. According to the Trump files, “we need to dream big” and put cheerful American engineers and construction workers on the ground to build a little America in the Middle East. It can happen! Just as Mordecai and Esther plotted to reverse the antisemitism in ancient Persia, so too can the Trump team put happy faces on Gazans who love to drink Coca-cola. Stop standing around. We got an empire to build.

Happy Purim!

### **Purim Celebration**

Celebrate Purim on Thursday, March 13, 6:30 PM in Eisner Commons. We'll start with a deli dinner, followed by the reading of the Megillah, and finishing up with a Purim Spiel. Costumes welcome! There is no fee for dinner but you must make a reservation with Barbara by March 10. ([barbaracaplan@comcast.net](mailto:barbaracaplan@comcast.net) or 412-421-1017)



### **March Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is Sunday, March 2, 10:30 AM in Helfant Chapel and on Zoom. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

#### **March Birthdays**

Roselle Solomon  
Barry Werber

#### **March Anniversaries**

Barbara & Arnold Epstein

## Presidents' Report March 2025

We say that the Torah is our Book of Laws. We strive each day to live a good life by adhering to the 613 commandments/laws laid out in the Torah and the legal opinions of the Rabbis who wrote the Mishnah and Talmud. Of course, many are irrelevant given the technology of today's world. But the legal and ethical principle remains: G-d gave us the Law and, therefore, no man or woman is above the law.

So what do we do when our elected leaders choose to ignore the law; when our Courts redefine the law to suit the whims of the Executive; when Congress lays supine allowing free rein to the other branches; and the media – whether print, video or streaming – is controlled by those seeking favor from the Executive? What could the good Jewish German citizens do after Hitler in 1932 disbanded the Reichstag and declared himself Fuhrer; when he declared himself to BE the law? What can we, as good Jewish American citizens, do when the Executive makes up the law and the Courts, Congress and the media stand by silently? Voting has been the bulwark by which we control our political future. But voting is two years away. Can we survive two years? As a small Conservative congregation, our voices alone are insufficient to have an impact. But speak we must. We must remain vigilant and use our rights and voices as Americans to stand up to tyranny.

On the other hand, February has been a good month at New Light. Some of the living hostages held by Hamas were returned - alive. Some of the deceased hostages received a proper burial. On the weekend of February 22<sup>nd</sup> several good happenings converged. First, our missing Torah mantle arrived. On the same day, our new Bima covers, paid for by contributions from many members, also arrived.



And on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held a Congregation luncheon attended by over 20 members.

It was wonderful to get together and chat and trade stories of family and friends. We will try to make this a quarterly event!

Stephen Cohen & Barbara Caplan  
Co-Presidents



## Passover2Go Kits

Are you in need of Passover items to help make your seder? Passover2Go kits are available to those in need. They contain grape juice and matzah, a complete seder plate with traditional items, a Haggadah, a fully cooked holiday meal and special holiday gifts. If you or someone you know needs one please contact Barbara at 412-519-7141.

## Food Pantry Passover Packages

The Squirrel Hill food pantry also has Passover packages available to those in need. Contact Barbara at 412-519-7141.

## Ada Perlman in A Capella Competition

Ada is a member of Magevet, a premier Jewish a capella singing group. On Saturday, March 1, at 8:30 PM she will be competing with Magevet at the North Hillels A Capella Competition. Watch live and vote at <https://www.youtube.com/live/QH9DFVq96Wk> or <https://www.facebook.com/HillelFJCL/>

## Reminders

- To purchase Memorial Plaques, Simcha Tree Leaves or Stones contact Barbara Caplan.
- 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](http://www.newlightcongregation.org)

Rabbi  
Co-President/Social VP/Yahrzeits  
Co-President/Cemetery/Website  
Membership  
Sisterhood  
Treasurer/Men’s Club  
Religious Committee  
Corresponding Secretary/Calendar

Jonathan Perlman	<a href="mailto:rabbi@newlightcongregation.org">rabbi@newlightcongregation.org</a>
Barbara Caplan	<a href="mailto:barbaracaplan@comcast.net">barbaracaplan@comcast.net</a>
Stephen Cohen	<a href="mailto:info@newlightcongregation.org">info@newlightcongregation.org</a>
Debbi Salvin	<a href="mailto:dgsalvin@pobox.com">dgsalvin@pobox.com</a>
Sharyn Stein	
Harold Caplan	<a href="mailto:haroldcaplan@comcast.net">haroldcaplan@comcast.net</a>
Eric Cohen, Bruce Hyde	
Janet Cohen	<a href="mailto:janet@newlightcongregation.org">janet@newlightcongregation.org</a>

# New Light Congregation Calendar March 2025

Adar – Nisan 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Shabbos Shekalim Parshas Terumah 9:45 AM Services
<b>2</b> 10:30 AM Board Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:00p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	<b>8</b> Shabbos Zachor Parshas Tetzaveh 9:45 AM Services
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Erev Purim 6:30 PM Purim Celebration	<b>14</b> Purim 7:07p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	<b>15</b> Parshas Ki Sisa 9:45 AM Services
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:15p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	<b>22</b> Shabbos Parah Parshas Vayakhei 9:45 AM Services
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:22p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	<b>29</b> Shabbos HaChodesh Parshas Pekudei 9:45 AM Services
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					