



אור חדש

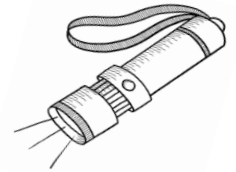
New Light Congregation

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

New Light News April 2025

The Flashlight

Pesach greetings to you and your family! Inside this month's newsletter, there are guidelines for having a kosher holiday. This year's Pesach begins on Saturday night, April 12. This happens approximately every nine years. This means that erev Pesach, the day before [Passover](#), coincides with Shabbat, bringing with it a number of unique laws and guidelines.



FAST OF THE FIRSTBORN

It is an ancient tradition for the firstborns to fast on the day before Passover. Since we (generally) do not fast on Shabbat, which is a day of feasting, or on Friday which may interfere with our Shabbat joy, this fast is observed on Thursday, 12 Nissan. The widespread custom is for firstborns to participate in a siyum or another celebratory event that overrides the fast and allows them to eat for the remainder of the day. This, too, is done on Thursday.

SEARCH FOR CHAMETZ

On the night before Passover we search for [chametz](#) (which we are forbidden to own or eat on Passover) by candlelight. Since this cannot be done on Friday night, which is Shabbat, we do it after nightfall on Thursday.

DESTROYING CHAMETZ

The last bits of chametz must be burned the day before Passover, at 10:00 AM. Since this cannot be done on Shabbat, the burning of the chametz takes place at the same time on Friday, even though we keep just enough chametz to eat at the Friday night and Shabbat morning meals.

THE SALE OF CHAMETZ

All chametz that we wish to save for use after Passover must be sold to a non-Jew and then repurchased after the holiday has passed. This sale typically takes place on the morning before Passover. Since buying and selling are forbidden on Shabbat, the sale is transacted (by the community rabbi on behalf of his community) on Friday.

EATING CHAMETZ ON SHABBAT

Since the house cannot be cleaned on Shabbat, all the cleaning must be finished on Friday. Yet it is a mitzvah to eat bread at the Friday night and Shabbat morning meals. What do we do?

It is also forbidden to eat matzah at this time, in order that we enjoy it on Passover eve with gusto. (It is possible to eat kosher-for-Passover egg [matzah](#), since one may not use this matzah for the seder. According to Ashkenazi custom, all healthy people must finish eating egg matzah before the latest time to eat chametz, like bread at 10:00 AM).

One custom is to prepare small rolls, one per meal for each participant, which can be distributed and eaten without the use of a knife. There is a custom to use Egg Matzah instead of bread for

these meals since Egg Matzah is not truly matzah.

Make sure that you eat all the chametz that has been left for Shabbat before the deadline, as chametz cannot be sold, burned, or taken out to the street on Shabbat. Any remaining challah pieces and crumbs should be flushed down the toilet. At this point, we say the second Kol Chamira declaration, disowning any leftover chametz.

A second approach follows Rabbi Moshe Feinstein who declared:

It is good for those who do not wish to leave hametz [in their house] on Shabbat out of concern for possible obstacles that may arise from this, to fulfill the mitzvah of the two Shabbat meals using egg matzah... (Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, p. 274).

He cites the words of the Beit Yosef and explains:

We have seen that it would be appropriate to enact and institute the practice of destroying all hametz before Shabbat... and to fulfill the mitzvah of the Shabbat meals using egg matzah... and therefore those who are able and want to take the trouble to bake egg matzah for the two Shabbat meals — that is preferable...

The Conservative movement follows the second custom as written by Rabbi David Golinkin. We may have to start our Passover preparations earlier this year and the Shabbat before Pesach, April 12th, becomes a virtual ninth day of the holiday.

I pray that your Passover is meaningful for you and your family this year!

Hag Kasher v'sameach,

Rabbi Perlman

Passover Preparation Guide

Please click the link below to download Rabbi Perlman's answers to some tough Passover questions:

<https://newlightcongregation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/How-to-prepare-for-Passover.pdf>

Complete Passover Guide

Please click the link below to download the Rabbinical Assembly's Complete Guide to Pesah:

https://newlightcongregation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/pesah-guide-5785_0.pdf

Passover Services Schedule

Services will be held at 9:45 AM in Helfant Chapel and on Zoom on days 1, 2, 7 and 8 (with Yizkor on the eighth day) - April 13, 14, 19 and 20.

Chumatz Sales Form

The form is on page 6. Please return it to Rabbi Perlman by April 6.



April Co-Presidents' Report

The days are getting longer; the sun is shining more; and spring is in the air....Yet some days are still in the 20's and 30's! Soon!

We had a lovely, entertaining and well attended Purim Celebration in mid-March. Dinner, served by Barbara and Harold Caplan, was in the Eisner Commons and the service right next door in the Homestead Chapel. Our thanks to Yitz Frankel for reading the Megillah – quickly and accurately! The Rabbi's costume took the prize for most creative. Even Bruce was impressed.



Barbara Caplan and Janet Cohen attended the Tree of Life, Inc. launch of a Traveling Exhibition **“Lessons from the Tree of Life: Lighting the Path Forward,”** of artwork and artifacts donated after October 27th. The items, now held by the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives at the Heinz History Center, will travel to Cleveland, New York and Miami after its Pittsburgh run through April 25. The new traveling exhibition opens at The University Club Library at the University of Pittsburgh on March 27.

The Exhibit has four sections:

- What happened on 10/27
- Community response
- Re-imagining Tree of Life
- Antisemitism in America

Speakers included Carole Zawatsky, Michael Bernstein, Maggie Feinstein, Eric Lidji and Rabbi Myers. Eric Lidji discussed the challenge of managing the items in the collection – the dichotomy of people wanting to share these acts of support widely, while also holding them close because they are so precious. He made a point about how these items ignore divisions of religion, race, ethnicity, regions, politics – they were from everywhere and everyone, acts of love and support.

Eric also mentioned the specific items in the exhibit will change as it moves from city to city – there are 10 items, displayed and possibly hundreds of thousands to choose from. Some members of the community might travel with the exhibit because they have a strong urge to share what the items mean to them. Barbara was especially moved by a picture of a multitude of people standing outside in the rain, under umbrellas, expressing their care and support.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Tree of Life will present **“Songs of Resilience: Music for Lighting the Path Forward,”** a concert of hope and remembrance featuring six cantors presenting traditional and contemporary Jewish music. The April 3 performance will take place at the Heinz History Center and feature Tree of Life Rabbi and Cantor Jeffrey Myers; Temple Sinai Cantor David Reinwald; Cantor Emerita at B’nai Abraham of Butler County Michal Gray-Schaffer; Parkway Jewish Center Cantor Laura Berman; Cantor Emeritus at United Hebrew Congregation

in St. Louis Ronald Eichaker; and Temple Emanuel Cantor Kalix Jacobson, who coordinated the concert, selecting both the performers and songs.

Links for these two programs can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

We wish each one of you and your families a safe and zissen Pesach. May our seders and storytelling go long into the night as we pray for a return to the everyday hustle and bustle of peaceful activity. As our ancestors' trauma and hasty departure led them eventually to freedom, so may all those seeking refuge from war find peace and security soon.

Barbara and Steve

April Board & Congregational Meeting

The next board meeting is Sunday, April 6, 10:30 AM, in Helfant Chapel and on Zoom, using the same connection as for Shabbat. The meeting will be preceded by the congregational meeting in which items to be presented at the annual June meeting will be decided. The officers and board members to be voted upon in June are:

- Co-presidents: Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen
- Treasurer: Harold Caplan
- Social VP: Barbara Caplan
- Financial VP: Carl Solomon
- Recording Secretary: open, nominations are needed
- Corresponding Secretary: Janet Cohen
- Membership VP: Debi Salvin

Board members are: Carol Black, Judy Blumenfeld, Bruce Hyde, Ethel Kubitz, Shari Kubitz, Marilyn Kaufman, Ann Notovitz, Jake Notovitz, Debbi Rosen, Karen Shapiro, Aryeh Sherman, Barry Werber, Arthur Weinrach,

April 25 Shabbat Location Change

On Friday, April 25, we will join Beth Shalom at 6:00 PM in the ballroom for their monthly musical Shabbat.

Two New Tree of Life, Inc. Programs

Lessons from the Tree of Life: Lighting the Path Forward, a traveling exhibit created in partnership with the Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives and the Heinz History Center, will be at the University Club Library at the University of Pittsburgh from March 27 through April 25. A detailed schedule, docent hours, and more information can be found at <https://www.thetreeoflife.org/lessons-from-the-tree-of-life>

Songs of Resilience: Music for Lighting the Path Forward, will be held at the Heinz History Center on Tuesday, April 3, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. More information and a registration link can be found at <https://www.thetreeoflife.org/events/songs-of-resilience>.

Yom Hashoah, Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut

Yom Hashoa candles will be distributed the week of April 14. Light them as sundown on April 23. A community commemoration, facilitated by the Holocaust Center, will take place at Rodef Shalom on Thursday, April 24, from 7:00 - 8:15 PM. For more information go to <https://jewishpgh.org/event/yom-hashoa-commemoration-2025/>

Yom HaZkikaron will be celebrated by the Pittsburgh Jewish community on Thursday, April 23, from 8:00 - 9:30 PM at the JCC. For more information and to register (for the free event) go to <https://jewishpgh.org/event/yom-25/>

A **Yom Ha'atzmaut** march from Beth Shalom to the JCC will take place on Thursday, May 1, at 6:15 PM, followed by a concert at the JCC. For more information and to register (for the free event) go to <https://jewishpgh.org/occasion/yom/>

April Birthdays

Arnold Epstein
Barbara Epstein
Karen Coburn
Ileen Portnoy
Honey Sapir
Jerry Sapir
Eileen Snider

April Anniversaries

Honey & Jerry Sapir

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

5915 Beacon Street
412-421-1017
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 rabbi@newlightcongregation.org
Barbara Caplan barbaracaplan@comcast.net
Stephen Cohen info@newlightcongregation.org
Debbi Salvin dgsalvin@pobox.com
Sharyn Stein
Harold Caplan haroldcaplan@comcast.net
Eric Cohen, Bruce Hyde
Janet Cohen janet@newlightcongregation.org

Form for the Selling of Chametz

Note: Please contact Rabbi Perlman by 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 6th if you wish to authorize the sale of your Chametz. You can mail this form to him at 6536 Darlington Rd, Pittsburgh, 15217.

If possible, all Chametz – food not acceptable during Pesach (Passover), or materials containing such unacceptable food –should be destroyed or given away before the holiday begins. Should this be impossible, the Chametz may be stored in such a way that we are sure not to use it during the holiday and its actual ownership is transferred to a non-Jew until the holiday ends.

Please complete the form below and return to Rabbi Perlman. Remember to call him no later than **Sunday, April 6th, by 5:00 PM.**

I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Perlman to act in my behalf to sell all Chametz possessed by me – knowingly or unknowingly – as defined by Torah and rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein Chametz owned may be found. This transaction will be in effect for the duration of Pesach, which this year begins with sundown of April 12 and runs through April 20, 2025.

And to this I hereby affix my signature on this _____ day of _____, in the year _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____



New Light Congregation Calendar April 2025

Nisan – Iyyar 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			6:00 PM, Megillot Class		7:29p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	Parshas Vayikra 8:37p Havdalah (48 min) 9:45 AM Services
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:30 AM, Board/ Congregational Meeting		6:00 PM, Megillot Class	6:00 PM, Megillot Class		7:36p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	Shabbos HaGadol Erev Pesach Parshas Tzav 8:44p Candle lighting 9:45 AM Services
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pesach I 8:45p Candle lighting 9:45 AM Services	Pesach II 8:46p Havdalah (48 min) 9:45 AM Services	Pesach III (CH" M) 6:00 PM, Megillot Class	Pesach IV (CH" M) 6:00 PM, Megillot Class	Pesach V (CH" M) 6:00 PM, Megillot Class	Pesach VI (CH" M) 7:44p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	Pesach VII 8:51p Candle lighting 9:45 AM Services
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Pesach VIII 8:52p Havdalah (48 min) 9:45 AM Services			6:00 PM, Megillot Class		7:51p Candle lighting 6:00 PM Services	Parshas Shmini 8:58p Havdalah (48 min) 9:45 AM Services
27	28	29	30			
		6:00 PM, Megillot Class	6:00 PM, Megillot Class			