



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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

New Light News May 2025

Presidents' Report

A Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, April 6th. As in past years, there were few non-board attendees. Also, as in the past, there were really only two agenda items: board slate and dues.

Board Slate: Two years ago we did away with the one-two-three year terms because it had become difficult to find candidates for our twenty-five-member board. We only have 70 members and the same individuals are re-elected every year. There are five to eight board members who never or rarely attend making it difficult to reach our quorum of fifteen members. Aryeh Sherman proposed that we form a committee to examine our board structure. How many individuals should be on the board, given our membership size? How often should we meet? A committee consisting of Aryeh, Arthur Weinrach, Bruce Hyde, Barbara Caplan, Harold Caplan and Stephen Cohen will meet to consider changes to the board and recommend changes to the by-laws. The proposal will be distributed to the membership at least one week before our Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 8th.

Dues: As we are sure you are aware; New Light Congregation has been operating at a deficit for years. Due to charitable contributions received after October 27, 2018, we amassed a significant (for us) amount of assets. Some of that went for the construction of the Memorial Chapel at the Cemetery. The rest was used to sustain operations.

Our major source of revenue is dues. We have, for years, sought to keep our dues low. At the Congregational Meeting this year three options were discussed:

1. Keep Dues the same (\$500 per individual or \$1,000 per couple with the first year membership free)
2. Raise dues by \$50 per individual (\$550 for individual membership; \$1,100 for a couple); or
3. Make a special appeal to members to contribute more each year above their dues to help cover the deficit.

Implicit in these options is the fact that our membership is declining. Yet, since COVID, even with a declining membership, we consistently get a minyan every Saturday morning and our holiday celebrations are usually well attended. Even our Zoom attendees are consistent from week to week. We are an elderly congregation – and time waits for no man or woman.

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Presidents' Report - continued

Cemetery: A third question was posed at the Congregational meeting: what about the cemetery? The cemetery is the Congregation's one asset that cannot be valued because it can never be sold. When the Congregation considered selling the Beechwood Blvd building in 2016, the by-laws were amended to state that any monies left at the time of the dissolution of the Congregation would be given to the Cemetery for its perpetual support.

The Cemetery consistently breaks even each year between donations, the sale of plots and burial income versus the costs of maintenance. A Cemetery Profit & Loss statement will be presented at the June Congregational Meeting.

We urge your attendance on **June 8th** (10:30 AM) at the New Light Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on these issues. *(The meeting date has been changed in order to provide more time to prepare for these issues).*

Barbara & Stephen

Board Meeting

The May board meeting is Sunday, May 4th at 10:30 AM in Helfant and on Zoom; use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

Kiddush Luncheon

Barbara and Arhtur Weinrach invite everyone to a kiddush luncheon on May 3rd to celebrate Barbara's birthday.

Yom Ha'atzmaut

A Yom Ha'atzmaut march from Beth Shalom to the JCC will take place on Thursday, May 1st, 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/>

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

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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Rabbi	Jonathan Perlman	rabbi@newlightcongregation.org
Co-President/Social VP/Yahrzeits	Barbara Caplan	barbaracaplan@comcast.net
Co-President/Cemetery/Website	Stephen Cohen	info@newlightcongregation.org
Membership	Debbi Salvin	dgsalvin@pobox.com
Sisterhood	Sharyn Stein	
Treasurer/Men's Club	Harold Caplan	haroldcaplan@comcast.net
Religious Committee	Eric Cohen, Bruce Hyde	
Corresponding Secretary/Calendar	Janet Cohen	janet@newlightcongregation.org

May 2025

Iyyar – Sivan 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	1	2 7:58p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	3 Parshas Tazria-Metzora 9:06p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
4 Board Meeting, 10:30 AM	5	6 Megillot Class, 6:00 PM	7	8	9 8:05p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	10 Parshas Achrei Mos-Kedoshim 9:13p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
11	12	13 Megillot Class, 6:00 PM	14	15	16 8:12p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	17 Parshas Emor 9:20p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
18	19	20 Megillot Class, 6:00 PM	21	22	23 8:18p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	24 Parshas Behar-Bechukosai 9:26p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
25	26	27 Megillot Class, 6:00 PM	28	29	30 8:24p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	31 Parshas Bamidbar 9:31p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM

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