



אור חדש

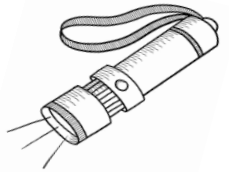
New Light Congregation

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New Light News July 2025

The Flashlight

We are living in historic times. June 13 will go down in history as a date that changed the Middle East forever. For 10 days, starting with missile strikes on Iran by Israel, there was a volley of missiles over Israel and Iran, destructive in nature, hitting cities in both countries, slamming into proto-nuclear sites in Israel, taking human lives, and forever changing the map of the Middle East. Who would believe that it would be possible for the U.S. would end the war on June 22 by using “bunker buster” missiles on significant nuclear facilities Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan? Working together Israel and the US changed the face of the Middle East and severely weakened Iran, the head of the Octopus, to exert its power for a very long time. The Israel-Gaza war has in effect cut off the tentacles of Iran by weakening and devastating Hamas, Hizballah, Syria, and the Houthis of Yemen. The enemies of Israel have been neutralized, opening up a brighter future for the Middle East in general. Israelis for the time being will not have to live in fear of nation-sponsored terrorism. When we look back at this period, I believe, we will see that these past few years climaxing with the Iran war have created a sea change in Israel’s neighborhood. The Abraham Accords with the inclusion of Saudi Arabia point to a more positive future for Israel. Of course, there is a lot more to be done. Israel must eventually withdraw from Gaza and this devastated territory must be rebuilt by peace loving people.



I write this “Flashlight” column at a time where my two daughters, Yael, her husband Matt, and college student Ada are living in Jerusalem. Thank God Jerusalem did not take a direct hit, possibly because it has a diverse population of Arabs and Jews. It is a 3,000 year old holy city. Still, I was very anxious for their safety. Each night, they anticipated the ghostly air raid siren which alerted them to oncoming missiles headed towards Israel. No matter what the target was, Yael, Matt, and Ada had to scramble down to the bomb shelter in their building. I don’t need to tell you that there was a lot of lost sleep and fear. The Central Command in Israel put the kibosh on gatherings of more than 20 persons during the daylight hours. This meant that offices were closed, synagogues were closed and other public buildings were shuttered. Ada compared it to being quarantined during Covid times. It was boring and aggravating. Still my children remained cheerful throughout trying to do work from home and going to cafes during the few times the restrictions were lifted. They told me not to worry. The airports were closed so leaving the country was not an option. Many incoming flights had to be rerouted and Israelis and tourists were stranded in other countries. It was maddening and I did not think that the war would turn out the way it did. I thought the war would continue all summer long. I have to thank God for favoring the right side of this battle and neutralizing the aggressors against Israel with its chief headquarters in Iran. History will show that this period will outmatch the Six Day War in changing the nature of the game. This gambit was truly a miracle.

We have plans to visit Israel during Hanukkah this year and hope to celebrate the new peace. Perhaps next year we can look forward to sponsoring a New Light trip to Israel in the spring. Thanks for your prayers and optimism that Israel will emerge victorious in this battle. There is still more to be done but the head of the Octopus has been done in without allies to turn to for help.

Am Yisrael Hai!

Rabbi P.

Co-presidents' Report

New Light Congregation held its Annual Meeting in the beginning of June. We adopted changes to the By Laws, reducing the size of the Board to 12 and quorum requirements to 11 (from 15). We held the dues at \$500. You should have already received your dues statement by now. There was considerable discussion about the future of New Light in light of our significant budget deficits. One option discussed is to ask for an additional contribution *now* (rather than as part of our High Holiday Appeal) to help support our operating expenses. Please be generous. The longer we can avoid dipping into our endowment, the longer we can remain a vibrant, hamish Conservative congregation.

A second option is to form a committee to develop a Strategic Plan for our future. A number of options were offered that will be considered by the Committee, including:

- Move to a less expensive location
- Merge with another congregation
- Request significant donations from members (create an “Honor Roll”) above and beyond their yearly dues.
- Continue as we are until we “run out” of money. (The by-laws specify that any money remaining when the congregation closes goes to the Cemetery Fund to support the Cemetery.

If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Barbara or Stephen.

The group responsible for developing the 10.27 Memorial recently held two listening sessions in June, open to all members of the three congregations. Approximately 30 individuals from all three Congregations attended. Many of the families also attended.

The purpose of the sessions was to solicit input on the message that visitors should take away when leaving the Memorial, using Torah texts to guide the discussion. The Memorial will be where the Zittrain Garden is now. It will be a “crooked” path with a “Book of Life” for each of the eleven victims. The first session (in-person) focused on the physical area at the end of the Memorial where there will be a walkway leading out of the Memorial proper. Led by Eric Lidji, the group considered various Torah texts concerning “stones” – as the thought is to use the many, many stones which were donated after the shooting. The second session (on Zoom) solely focused on the concept of “stones” as appropriate for the Memorial. A variety of opinions were offered – pro and con- on the concept.

As you know, New Light has not participated in the most recent discussions about the Memorial and the TOL building. So when a meeting is held, we attempt to get the current status of both the Memorial and the TOL building. The following are some of the updates we heard:

- Construction of the TOL building and Memorial should begin in the fall, subject to getting permit approvals.
- Construction should take about two years (completion: Fall, 2027). It is thought that the Memorial might be completed before the TOL building is finished.
- TOL, Inc. has reduced costs by reducing the overall size of the building. For example, the building will not go up to the property line on the Solway street side. This makes room for a revised Zittrain Garden.

While there was discussion of a separate “Congregational” panel to be developed with input from the three congregations, at the moment, according to Eric Lidji, the “congregational panel has no set form and no set placement within the complex.”

- The Memorial is designed to honor the memories of the victims. It appears that it will shy away from political advocacy. As such, the memorial will not address the issues or background of the shooting, nor even use the words “anti-semitism” or “immigration” as the proximate cause of the shooting anywhere in the texts of the Memorial. The Memorial will solely be about the victims. These issues *may* be addressed within the TOL building.
- There *may* be an accompanying website to address other issues.

Last December, Eric Lidji reached out to identify any New Light congregants who wished to talk about their memories of Dan, Rich and Mel. Eric is now in the process of reaching out to the several congregants who responded. If you would like to share your thoughts and memories, please send Stephen or Barbara an email and we will pass your name along to Eric. His interviews will be recorded for notetaking purposes and may, with your permission, be included in the Rauh Center archives.

We report with sadness, that Arthur and Barbara Weinrach, members for three years and regular Shabbat attendees, are moving to Detroit to be closer to family. A farewell Kiddush luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, July 19th following services. All are invited.

Barbara & Stephen

July Board Meeting

The meeting will be held on Monday, July 7, 7:00 PM in Helfant Chapel and Zoom. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

Weinrach Luncheon

Please join us for lunch after services on July 19 to say farewell to Barbara and Arhtur Weinrach and wish them well as they begin the next chapter of their lives. Please RSVP to Barbara Caplan (barbaracaplan@comcast.net or 412-421-1017) by July 14.

Annual Picnic

The annual New Light picnic will be held in August, date TBA. Watch your email for details.

July Birthdays

Barbara Kleyman
 Thomas Kleyman
 Ethel Kubitz
 Howard Kubitz
 Jacob Notovitz
 Michelle Reisz
 Aryeh Sherman
 Gerry Tessler



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

Secretary/Calendar

Jonathan Perlman

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Debbi Salvin

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Harold Caplan

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New Light Congregation Calendar July 2025

Tamuz – Av 5785

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---|--|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 8:35p Candle lighting Services 6:00 PM | 5 Parshas Chukas 9:41p Havdalah (48 min) Services 9:45 AM |
| 6 | 7 Board Meeting 7:00 PM | 8 | 9 Five Megillot 6:00 PM | 10 | 11 8:32p Candle lighting Services 6:00 PM | 12 Parshas Balak 9:38p Havdalah (48 min) Services 9:45 AM |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Five Megillot 6:00 PM | 17 | 18 8:28p Candle lighting Services 6:00 PM | 19 Parshas Pinchas 9:34p Havdalah (48 min) Services 9:45 AM |
| 20 | 21 | 22 Five Megillot 6:00 PM | 23 Five Megillot 6:00 PM | 24 | 25 8:23p Candle lighting Services 6:00 PM | 26 Parshas Matos-Masei 9:28p Havdalah (48 min) Services 9:45 AM |
| 27 | 28 | 29 Five Megillot 6:00 PM | 30 Five Megillot 6:00 PM | 31 | | |