

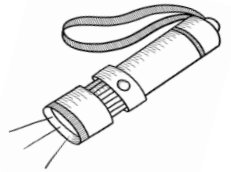


אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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

New Light News August 2025



The Flashlight

At the end of the Book of Numbers, we encounter the list of 42 encampments during the Israelites' 40 year journey through the desert. Scholars ask: "Why does the Torah devote so many lines to each of the encampments? After all, we would never visit them again, why are there so many details, like their names, included?"

Our Rabbis explain that the 42 encampments are actually 42 independent journeys. Each step enabled the next. Like the rungs on a ladder, without the lower rung, we could not climb higher or distance ourselves from the dangers of Egypt.

The Hebrew word for Egypt is "Mitzrayim." The root word is familiar to us. It is like the Yiddish word "tzoris" – problems. Leaving Mitzrayim can be understood literally as travelling away "from our worries."

This is a great lesson for the "Flashlight." Each person is encumbered by their own "mini-Egypt." Everyone has difficulties, their own "tzoris." Just as the ancient Israelites used incremental steps to distance themselves from Egypt... so too can we grasp the flashlight and see within ourselves the anxieties and conflicts that we can leave behind – like sites in our rearview mirror.

Each step distances us a bit more from our personal "little Egypt" and draws us closer to our very own promised land. Each stage represents an essential chapter in our life's documentary. Each stage on our journey we can glean invaluable insights and pointers that bring us one step closer to our ultimate destination and happiness.

When we break down a long and arduous task into ... let's say... 42 smaller challenges... we can overcome each one with the feeling of 42 grand accomplishments. Each is a necessity that enabled the ultimate success.

We merely need not give up. Stop, spot the problem and deal with it and then move on! Even 42 times!

Rabbi Perlman

(Rabbi Eliot Pearlson contributed to this essay.)

August 2025 Presidents' Report

What is a Congregation? For some, it is ability to coordinate social action. For others, it is the support of Israel and the Jewish State. But for New Light it has always been about family and the celebration of Jewish ritual observance. For almost 120 years we have offered a “middle road,” adapting Jewish ritual practice to our American society. It is hearing the constant week-to-week repetition of our laws and customs that links us together as a community.

Last month you received a survey with your dues invoice. The overwhelming majority of responses want New Light to continue as a vibrant, Conservative congregation led by Rabbi Jonathan Perlman. Members are not interested in merging with another congregation (though there was a clear preference as to a merger partner). To ensure our long term success a Strategic Planning Committee has been formed and held its first meeting in late July. A report of the Committee will be announced during our High Holiday services in late September.

Many factors impact our long term viability. In addition to finances, the most important are our ability to:

- Maintain our membership,
- Have a minyan in our weekly Shabbat service,
- Conduct meaningful High Holiday services, and
- Offer insightful adult religious education classes.

We are happy to note that we continue to gain new members (two this month), that we consistently have a minyan, and that our current adult education class has grown in attendance over the last several months. With the assistance of Rabbi Iscah Waldman we look forward to meaningful High Holiday service in Helfant Chapel this September.

On Sunday, September 7th we will be holding our Annual Picnic, starting 5:00PM. (rain or shine) This year the picnic is special as we are celebrating Rabbi Perlman's 15th year with New Light. Please join us as we honor our Rabbi and all he has done to support our Congregation through the harrowing days following the shooting and through COVID. It has been an eventful 15 years. If you have a particular story you would like to share, please email Stephen or Barbara.

If you have not already tendered your dues, please do so soon. You will be receiving our High Holiday appeal in the next week or so. It is due back by the end of August.

Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen
Co-presidents

August Board Meeting

The next board meeting is Monday, August 4th, 7:00 PM, in Helfant Chapel and on Zoom. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat.

Tisha B'av

This year's joining community program will be at Temple Sinai on August 2nd, starting at 7:15 PM. There will be a light meal at 7:45, a panel discussion at 8:15, Maariv at 9:00, the reading of the Megillat Eikhaha at 9:15, and singing Eli Tziyyon and the conclusion of Maariv at 10:00 PM.

Jewish Heritage Night at PNC Park

Celebrate the Pittsburgh Jewish Community and the Maccabi Games on August 5th at 6:40 PM, when the Pirates take on the San Francisco Giants. The offer includes a hat. There is an optional kosher meal available. For more information and tickets see:

<https://www.mlb.com/pirates/tickets/specials/heritage/jewish>

Save the Date - New Light Annual Picnic - September 7

Our picnic will be on September 7 at 5:00 PM in the ballroom. Please RSVP to Barbara at baracaplan@comcast.net by August 31. Cost is \$18 per person.

Join us this year when we celebrate Rabbi Perlman's 15th year with New Light.



August Birthdays

Jason Manne

August Anniversaries

Barbara & Harold Caplan
Janet & Stephen Cohen
Carol & Larry Kanterman
Ethel & Howard Kubitz
Debi & Don Salvin

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 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

2025 High Holiday Information and Schedule

The location of all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services is Helfant Chapel. Please enter on Beacon Street.

On Yom Kippur It is customary to wear white and to wear non-leather shoes.

No one will be admitted during the recitation of Kol Nidre.

Men must wear tallitot all day; this is optional for women.

Doors will open thirty minutes before the start of services.

During the recitation of the Kidusha please do not return to your seat.

Please show respect by leaving your cell phone at home.

Cemetery Visitation:

Sunday, September 21, 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

New Light Cemetery

Rosh Hashanah Services – 1-2 Tishrei

Candle lighting time Monday, September 22, 6:58 P.M.

Monday, September 22, 7:00 P.M.

Helfant Chapel

Tuesday, September 23, 8:45 A.M.

Torah Service followed by Shofar service, approximately 10:00 A.M.

Helfant Chapel

Tashlich, 5:30 P.M.

Temple Sinai Pond

Wednesday, September 24, 8:45 A.M.

Torah Service followed by Shofar service, approximately 10:00 A.M.

Helfant Chapel

Yom Kippur – 10 Tishrei

Wednesday, October 1, 6:45 P.M. Kol Nidre

Helfant Chapel

6:43 P.M. Candle Lighting

Thursday, October 2:

Helfant Chapel

9:15 A.M. Morning Service

10:30 A.M. (approximately) Torah Service and Yizkor. Please bring a picture of your loved one.

4:30 P.M. Torah Study

5:30 P.M. Mincha

6:40 P.M. Neilah

7:40 P.M. Shofar Blowing

Sukkot – 15-16 Tishrei

Tuesday, October 7, 9:45 A.M. Day 1 Service

Helfant Chapel

Wednesday, October 8, 9:45 A.M. Day 2 Service

Helfant Chapel

Saturday, October 11, Shabbat Chol ha-Moed, lunch in Sukkah after Shabbat services

Shemini Atzeret – 22 Tishrei

Tuesday, October 14, 9:45 A.M. Morning service, including Yizkor.

Helfant Chapel

Simchat Torah – 23 Tishrei

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 P.M. Evening service

TBA

Wednesday, October 15, 9:00 A.M. Morning service with Beth Shalom

Ballroom

New Light Congregation August 2025

Av – Elul 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 8:16p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	2 Shabbos Chazon Services, 9:45 AM 8:33p Fast begins Erev Tish'a B'Av Parshas Devarim 9:21p Havdalah (48 min)
3 Tish'a B'Av 9:09p Fast ends	4 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM	5	6 5 Megillot, 6:00 PM	7	8 8:07p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	9 Shabbos Nachamu Parshas Vaeschanan 9:13p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
10	11	12	13 5 Megillot, 6:00 PM	14	15 7:58p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	16 Parshas Eikev 9:03p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
17	18	19	20 5 Megillot, 6:00 PM	21	22 7:48p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	23 Parshas Re'eh 8:53p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
24	25	26	27 5 Megillot, 6:00 PM	28	29 7:37p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	30 Parshas Shoftim 8:42p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
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