



אור חדש

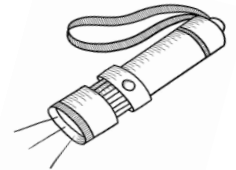
New Light Congregation

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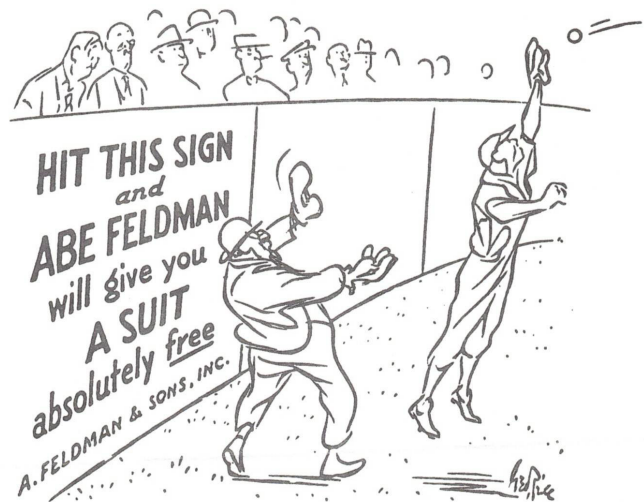
New Light News March 2026

The Flashlight

SOME JOKES FOR PURIM: "ONE WHO ENTERS ADAR INCREASES HIS JOY"



From *Running A Muck*, copyright © 1978 by John Caldwell. By permission of Writer's Digest Books.



Drawing by George Price; © 1938 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

The novelist, what's his name, Markfield, has written in a story somewhere that until he was fourteen he believed "aggravation" to be a Jewish word. Well, this was what I thought about "tumult" and "bedlam," two favorite nouns of my mother's. Also "spatula." I was already the darling of the first grade, and in every schoolroom competition expected to win hands down, when I was asked by the teacher one day to identify a picture of what I knew perfectly well my mother referred to as a "spatula." But for the life of me I could not think of the word in English.

Philip Roth, Portnoy's Complaint

Co-Presidents' Report March 2026

We have been lucky these last few years with relatively mild winters. Not so this year. Twelve inches of snow. Minus seven degree temperatures. Almost no sunny days since early December. It's a wonder we have had a minyan every Shabbat (with a little help from our friends at Beth Shalom)! And Barbara believes she finally got what she wished for, a good, old-fashioned winter.

In our Adult Education class, we are studying the first chapter of the Talmudic Tractate Ta'anit, about rain. When do we pray for rain to start? When do we stop praying for rain? When do we start worrying about drought when the rains do not come? There is a time when rain is a blessing; and a time when rain is a curse. There is a first rain and a second rain. The seasons in ancient Israel and Babylon (where these books were written) were so very different from the weather patterns of North America.

Not so long ago many people believed that G-d determined when it rained or snowed; and maybe He still does! (All we can do with our vast scientific knowledge is *predict* tomorrow's weather; not control it). We lived (and died) based on what the land and the sea produced. The agricultural calendar controlled everyday life; and rain controlled agricultural growth. The only way to ensure sufficient food was to pray that G-d would bring the rain in due season – and not too much to cause flooding.

But there is another, larger point to the discussion about rain that impressed me (Stephen). We know our daily and Shabbat service consists of Psalms (written over three thousand years ago), and passages from the Torah (written earlier than that). What the Rabbis who wrote the Talmud and Mishnah were building was not just rules to settle disputes, but how to live and, perhaps most importantly, when, where and how to pray. What words do we say to G-d to praise him and/or to ask his help so that we may eat and be fruitful.

Like all laws, our service has grown in length and complexity over the centuries. But it is humbling to think that the words we say may be the same words spoken by Rabbi Akiva or Judah the Prince.

Come join us as we continue a tradition that is older than any other monotheistic religion on earth.

Speaking of rituals, we celebrated our first Simchat Bat (Joy of a Daughter) in many decades, as Jamie and Gretchen Frame were called to the Torah with Phoebe (now six weeks old). A prayer was said for the Gretchen's health, followed by the announcement of the baby's Hebrew name and blessings for her future. Please send Mazel Tovs to the new family!

See you all at our Purim Dinner on Tuesday, March 3rd at 5 PM in the Eisner Commons.

Stephen and Barbara
Co-Presidents



March Board Meeting

The meeting is Sunday, March 8th, 10:30 AM, in Helfant Chapel and Zoom.

Purim

We will celebrate Purim on Tuesday, March 3rd at 5:00 PM in Eisner Commons, with a Megillah reading, followed by dinner and a Purim spiel. Come celebrate - in costume if you'd like!

Passover Information

Passover begins on the evening of Wednesday, April 1st. We will have services in Helfant and on Zoom on the following dates, all at 9:45 AM:

April 2, April 3, April 8, April 9 (with Yizkor)

A chametz sale form can be found on page 4. Please return it to Rabbi Perlman by March 27th.

Yom Hashoah

This year Yom Hashoah is April 14th. Candles will be sent soon.

March Birthdays

Carole Stone
Barry Werber

March Anniversaries

Barbara & Arnold Epstein



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
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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
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Sharyn Stein
Harold Caplan haroldcaplan@comcast.net
Carol Black, Eric Cohen, Bruce Hyde
Janet Cohen janet@newlightcongregation.org

Form for the Selling of Chametz

Note: Please contact Rabbi Perlman by 5:00 PM March 27 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 contact him no later than **March 27**.

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 1 and runs through April 8, 2026.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____



New Light Congregation March 2026

Adar – Nisan 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Erev Purim	3 Purim Purim Celebration, 5 PM, Eisner Commons	4 Talmud class, 6 PM	5	6 5:58p Candle lighting Services, 6 PM	7 Shabbos Parah Parshas Ki Sisa 7:06p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
8 Board Meeting, 10:30 AM	9	10	11 Talmud class, 6 PM	12	13 7:06p Candle lighting Services, 6 PM	14 Shabbos HaChodesh Parshas Vayakhel-Pekudei 8:13p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
15	16	17	18 Talmud class, 6 PM	19	20 7:13p Candle lighting Services, 6 PM	21 Parshas Vayikra 8:21p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
22	23	24	25 Talmud class, 6 PM	26	27 7:21p Candle lighting Services, 6 PM	28 Shabbos HaGadol Parshas Tzav 8:28p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
29	30	31				