



אור חדש

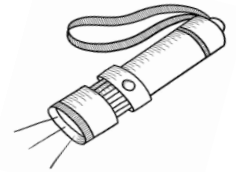
New Light Congregation

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

New Light News April 2026

The Flashlight

There are various types of matza available, which can be confusing. Matza is simply flour and water that has not risen with a leavening agent like yeast. If this is true, why are there so many varieties of matza on the market? Below are summaries of matza products currently available on the market.



1. Shmura matza – There is an objection to not only of the process of making matza but also the preparation of the flour itself. Currently, when we refer to matza as shmura, we generally mean from the time of the harvesting of the grain. The grain should be harvested with an extra pair of eyes so that it doesn't come in contact with water. This is a higher level of supervision. One is only obligated to use shmura matza during the seder. We follow the eating of shmura as a level of strictness.
2. Eighteen minute matza – The equipment that processes the matza dough is stopped every 15 minutes and cleaned thoroughly. The rabbis dictated an 18 minute limit from the time of the mixing of flour and water until it is baked. You can leave flour mixed with water all day before baking. But the moment the dough sits untouched, the 18 minute clock starts ticking.
3. Hand made matza – Some people feel that eating machine made matza is too risky. One should have a special intention in making the matza for use on Passover. The baker has to make a special declaration that the matza is being made for the mitzvah of eating matza at the Seder. While the same declaration could be made by workers on a production line, there are some who say that you can't make the declaration in reference to a machine. Consequently, some refrain from eating machine-made matza and prefer only matza that is made by an individual.
4. Egg Matza – If you use liquids other than water in making matza, could the combination of eggs and flour render the admixture hametz? Egg matzas' fermentation is a slower process compared to the water-flour mixture. It should not interfere with the 18 minute limit. Egg matza must be made from flour and juice or egg alone and be free of water or other additional ingredients. This process requires a different level of supervision. Ashkenazi Jews do not use egg matza with the exception of children and the ill.

Machine made matza – As long as a box of machine made matza has a heksher on it, you can rest assured that the matza is kosher. It should be noted that the process involves multiple supervisors who are constantly cleaning the production lines with vacuums and air guns, ensuring that even 18 minute matza are free of dough build up.

I drew the information for this Flashlight article from "The OU Guide to Pesach" which is rewarding reading if you are puzzled by the rules and customs regarding Pesach eating. Please email me if you have additional questions.

Hag Kashar v'sameach!

Rabbi

Co-Presidents' Report

For almost seventy years Israel and the United States have been political allies. Recently the two militaries joined together to attack Iran in tandem. Different war aims; different political agendas. But one thing is certain: we are less safe.

Recognizing this, the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh has brought to our community the Community Security Service (CSS), a nonprofit that trains volunteer synagogue guards throughout the US. CSS offers a professional standard of training, support and ongoing guidance to volunteer security personnel who wish to be knowledgeable in how to protect Jewish organizations, institutions and communities. The guards train in surveillance, questioning, intelligence, decision-making, security planning, and Krav Maga, both at their offices in Brooklyn, NY and at synagogues in the community that lend space to CSS. Training consists of study-at-home and classroom training. New Light Congregation has elected to join this program and six members have volunteered to be part of the training. Because Beth Shalom is not participating at this time, we will be joining with Rodef Shalom (now Beit Kulanu) at their current location on Fifth and Morewood. If you are interested in participating, please contact Stephen Cohen (412-421-3999). (The contract will be discussed at the April Board meeting.) To read more about the program please click on this <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-first-us-jewish-security-outfit-opens-boot-camp-for-volunteer-synagogue-guards/>.

Please welcome three new members to the congregation: Jeffrey Brodsky, Jonathan Heiman and Victoria Gruning.

Please join us for Pesach services on Thursday and Friday, April 2nd and 3rd and Wednesday and Thursday, April 8th and 9th (Yizkor will be observed.) The Tree of Life Congregation will be joining us for the first, second and seventh days.

The Congregational Meeting, followed by the April Board meeting, is scheduled for Sunday, April 5th at 10:30 AM ON ZOOM ONLY. Use the same Zoom connection as for Shabbat. The meeting is open to all members. It will include the nomination of directors and officers and the setting of new business for the June Annual Meeting (generally the first or second Sunday in June). Any member may propose motions on any matter to be acted upon at the June Annual meeting (new motions are not permitted at the Annual Meeting). In past years, motions included setting dues, changing by-laws, etc. Please see list of current officers and Board members elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally, in February the 10.27 Healing Partnership, offered to start a monthly(ish) meeting of the leadership of Tree of Life, Dor Hadash, and New Light to try and keep the congregations in closer touch with what is going on with 10/27 related comings and goings. While they have been holding meetings for the families and survivors for years where there have been updates on things like the building, 10.27 Healing Partnership, commemoration, legal proceedings, and such, there has been no such communication with the Boards of the Congregations. For example, we are aware, though never told formally, that construction is to start on the new Tree of Life building this spring. The New Light Board agreed to participate in this endeavor at its March meeting.

Chag Pesach Sameach

Wishing you have a Happy and Peaceful Pesach.

Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen

Passover Services Schedule

- Thursday, April 2, day 1, 9:45 AM
- Friday, April 3, day 2, 9:45 AM
- Friday April 3, Erev Shabbat, 6:00 PM
- Saturday, April 4, Shabbat Chol ha-Moed, 9:45 AM
- Wednesday, April 8, day 7, 9:45 PM
- Thursday, April 9, day 8, with Yizkor, 9:45 AM

All services will be in Helfant Chapel and on Zoom; use the same Zoom connection as for weekly Shabbat.

Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 5, 10:30 AM, on **Zoom Only**.

The current officers are:

Co-presidents: Barbara Caplan, Stephen Cohen

Social Chairman: Barbara Caplan

Financial Chairman: Carl Solomon

Membership Secretary: Debi Salvin

Corresponding & Recording Secretary: Janet Cohen

Treasurer: Harold Caplan

The current board members are:

Carol Black, Karen Coburn, Bruce Hyde, Shari Kubitz, Deborah Rosen,

Karen Shapiro, Aryeh Sherman, Sharyn Stein, Arthur Weinrach, Barry Werber

April Birthdays

Arnold Epstein

Barbara Epstein

Karen Coburn

Honey Sapir

Jerry Sapir

Eileen Snider

April Anniversaries

Honey & Jerry Sapir

Purim 2026

On Tuesday, March 2, we gathered together for a Megillah reading by Yitz Francus, a wonderful dinner (courtesy of Barbara and Harold) and a fun spiel by Rabbi Perlman.



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

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



New Light Congregation Calendar April 2026

Nisan – Iyyar 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Erev Pesach 7:26p Candle lighting Services, 9:45 AM	2 Pesach I 8:33p Candle lighting Services, 9:45 AM	3 Pesach II 7:28p Candle lighting Services, 9:45 AM Services, 6:00 PM	4 Pesach III (CH"M) 8:35p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
5 Pesach IV (CH"M) Congregational Meeting, 10:30 AM	6 Pesach V (CH"M)	7 Pesach VI (CH"M) 7:32p Candle lighting	8 Pesach VII 8:40p Candle lighting Services, 9:45 AM	9 Pesach VIII 8:41p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM	10 7:35p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	11 Parshas Shmini 8:43p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
12	13	14 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	15 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	16	17 7:42p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	18 Parshas Tazria-Metzora 8:50p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
19	20	21 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	22 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	23	24 7:50p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	25 Parshas Achrei Mos-Kedoshim 8:57p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
26	27	28 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	29 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	30		