



אור חדש

New Light Congregation

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New Light News June 2026

ANNUAL MEETING

10:30 AM - June 7, 2026
Helfant Chapel & Zoom

Please attend (in-person or via Zoom) the New Light Congregation Annual Meeting at 10:30 AM, Sunday, June 7, 2026 to hear an update on the Memorial and TOLi building status. Also on the agenda are the election of board members and dues for 2026.

BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATED FOR 2026:

- **Officers:** Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen, *Co-presidents*. Barbara Caplan, *Social Chairman*. Carl Solomon, *Financial Chairman*. Debi Salvin, *Membership Secretary*. Janet Cohen, *Corresponding/Recording Secretary*. Harold Caplan, *Treasurer*.
- **Board Members:** Carol Black, Karen Coburn, Bruce Hyde, Shari Kubitz, Deborah Rosen, Karen Shapiro, Aryeh Sherman, Sharyn Stein, Arthur Weinrach, Barry Werber

DUES PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL MEETING: \$500 per unit (husband & wife - \$1,000).

MEMORIAL UPDATE:

Subsequent to the Congregational Meeting in April, several meetings have been held regarding the status of the Memorial and the Three-Congregation Memorial Fund created by the Independent Committee of the Pittsburgh Jewish Federation following 10.27. There is presently \$277,000 in the Fund.

- In late April, TOLi announced that construction is to begin this summer. Completion date is spring, 2028. Slides of the building can be seen at: https://shuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/TOL.Community-Update.4_22_26.FINAL_.with-correction.pdf
- In early May, the Presidents of the three congregation met to discuss the status of the Memorial. Consensus was that there was a lack of information and that a meeting of the Boards should be held. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3rd and is open only to Board members. We expect to hear presentations from TOLi, the Memorialization Working Group and Eric Lidiji (hired to develop language for the Memorial) about the current status of the *outside* Memorial. The outside Memorial is expected to be completed by spring, 2028.
- In mid-May, the 10.27 Healing Partnership, on behalf of TOLi, requested that New Light agree to release the funds held in the Three-Congregation Memorial Fund. This fund was created by the Independent Committee of the Pittsburgh Federation from monies donated following 10.27. Its purpose is to support construction of the Memorial. Both Tree of Life Congregation and Dor Hadash have already agreed.

- **Presentations at the Annual Meeting**

- ◇ New Light Board members will present a summary of the June 3rd meeting.
- ◇ Families of our three martyrs have also been invited to participate in this discussion.

- The Board will consider, immediately after the Annual Meeting, whether to release these funds to TOLi.

- **Additional Information**

- ◇ Other than the slides presented to the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition in April, New Light Congregation has no information on the details of the outside Memorial.

- ◇ In addition to the outside Memorial, there will be an inside Memorial designed to tell the story of 10.27 and its aftermath. This is being developed by TOLi. At present, there are no details, other than a museum-developer has been hired to design this Memorial. TOLi has indicated there will be limited, if any, opportunity for input from New Light Congregation in this process. [For an idea of what this might look like, please visit the Flight 93 memorial in Shanksville.]T

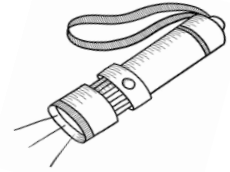
- ◇ The monies, once released, will go into the general construction budget.

The Memorial – both inside and outside - is designed to help heal the still raw feelings from the shooting. This is an opportunity, the first in five years, for us to learn the details of this effort. Once built, it becomes our public Memorial. Please join us on Sunday, June 7th at 10:30 AM in person or by Zoom (regular Shabbat connection).



The Flashlight

Ahhh...Summertime! It is time to complete that novel you've always wanted to read. I have a special fondness for modern Jewish books. Whether it's fiction or non-fiction, the Jewish book has to have Jewish characters, Jewish content, and raise issues that are important to Jews. I will list some of my recommendations and then I am going to ask Beth, who is the author of our family, to weigh in on some of her favorites.



The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay is a novel by Pittsburgh-reared Michael Chabon about two Jewish cousins, who create the popular comic book superhero "The Escapist" in 1939 New York City, blending their artistic ambitions with the backdrop of World War II, Jewish identity, and the golden age of comics. The epic story follows their creative partnership and personal lives as Joe tries to rescue his family from Nazi-occupied Prague, while Sammy navigates his own identity and secret relationship. Set from 1939 to the 1950s, it chronicles the rise of the comic book industry through the eyes of Joe, an escape artist, and Sammy, a writer, as they create a fascist-fighting hero. The comic book Superman by Joe Schuster and Jerry Siegel and its backstory contains similar elements to this Pulitzer award winning novel.

Call it Sleep was Henry Roth's first novel and was greeted with critical acclaim in 1934. He was 28 years old. The novel follows the magnificent story of David Schearl, the "dangerously imaginative" child coming of age in the slums of New York. I especially enjoyed the switching back-and-forth of the impeccably "translated" Yiddish with the broken English of the boy David. Call It Sleep was the first paperback ever to be reviewed on the front page of The New York Times Book Review, and it proceeded to sell millions of copies both in the United States and around the world.

The Counterlife is the most outstanding of all of Phillip Roth's creative and spectacular novels. We were assigned to read it in rabbinical school. Told by Roth's alter ego Nathan Zuckerman, the novel explores alternative lives and the nature of fiction through five interconnected, non-linear stories. The plot centers on Nathan's brother, Henry, a dentist who faces impotence from heart medication and seeks a risky operation, leading to a series of transformations and explorations of identity, Jewishness, and the relationship between reality and storytelling across locations like New Jersey, London, and Israel. I think it is Roth's finest work, known for its experimental structure, playing with metafiction and challenging the reader's perception of events. It won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Here is Beth's praise of three newer books:

When We See You Again by Rachel Goldberg-Polin (April, 2026). This account of life after her son Hersh Goldberg-Polin was taken captive from the Nova Festival on October 7, 2023 and killed in August 2024 is as much about faith and coping as about the circumstances of Goldberg-Polin's own life. Read to see how hope is possible even when circumstances are bleak. Also in the same genre, Eli Sharabi's *Hostage*, his account of his time in the tunnels of Gaza where he learned that gratitude could become a mechanism to survive.

Returning: A Search for Home Across Three Centuries by Nicholas Lemann (March, 2026). This account of German Jews who emigrated to New Orleans in the mid- 1800's is a fascinating and well-researched account of one family's life of assimilation and return spanning the American Jewish experience. Read to gain a different lens on American Jewish history and Jews in the unique setting of New Orleans. Also on American Jewish history Pamela Nadell's *Antisemitism: An American Tradition* a careful and detailed account of how Jews have been received here from Governor Peter Stuyvesant who only allowed Jews to stay because of economic pressure, to the present day.

Going Home by Tom Lamont (Jan 2025; paperback July, 2026). A novel with a toddler as a main

character, along with rabbi, Sybil Challis, a man who had a crush on the toddler's mother as a teen and all the other characters inhabiting a London suburb? It works! Wonderful account of the struggles undergone by many, even the rabbi, in a contemporary British idiom. Also *Partly Strong, Partly Broken* by Nathaniel Popkin. I just received a review copy of this book but based on this review in the Forward (<https://forward.com/culture/books/819715/partly-strong-partly-broken-nathaniel-popkin-review-october-7>) I think it will be worth reading about a synagogue struggling after October 7.

Happy reading!

Rabbi

June Birthdays

Robert Daniels
Joel Reisz
Sharyn Stein

June Anniversaries

Beverly & Jason Manne
Beth & Rabbi Perlman
Roselle & Carl Solomon

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

Financial Chair

Sisterhood

Treasurer/Men's Club

Religious Committee

Secretary/Calendar

Jonathan Perlman

Barbara Caplan

Stephen Cohen

Debbi Salvin

Carl Solomon

Sharyn Stein

Harold Caplan

Carol Black, Eric Cohen, Bruce Hyde

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New Light Congregation Calendar June 2026

Sivan – Tamuz 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					8:28p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	Parshas Beha'aloscha 9:35p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
7 Annual/Board Meeting, 10:30 AM	8	9	10 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	11	12 8:32p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	13 Parshas Sh'lach 9:39p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
14	15	16	17 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	18	19 8:35p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	20 Parshas Korach 9:41p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
21	22	23	24 Talmud Class, 6:00 PM	25	26 8:36p Candle lighting Services, 6:00 PM	27 Parshas Chukas-Balak 9:42p Havdalah (48 min) Services, 9:45 AM
28	29	30				