

New Light News July, 2018

A Word from the Rabbi

The Bible is a mysterious book. One of the things we can deduce is heavy editing in some of its stories. For instance, in the course I am offering now, “Moses in the Midrash,” I want to demonstrate that the Bible has stripped away some of its more peripheral and contradictory sources so as to present a more consistent Moses narrative. Moses shows erratic behavior from time to time, such as in the story of refusing to circumcise his son (Zipporah does it for him). Commentaries try to show how these actions are consistent with Moses’ behavior. Another famous story is the one about Moses getting angry and hitting the rock twice, calling the Jewish people “rebels.”

Yair Zakovitch and Avigdor Shinan, two Hebrew University professors, have shown that sometimes the simplest reason is favorable. The Torah is repressing a contradiction or does not want to admit that part of Moses’ behavior is controversial. For example, one midrash holds that Moses did not escape to Midian from Egypt but to Ethiopia (Cush) where he fights the Ethiopians on behalf on the Egyptians. After ten years of fighting, they surrender to him and circumcise their children. Moses also marries Tharbis, the daughter of the King of the Ethiopians (although he did not sleep with her). Could this be the very same Ethiopian or Cushite woman that Aaron and Miriam mention in their criticism against Moses in Numbers 12:1? Could this be a Torah clue that there was piece of Moses’ life that was left out? Is the Numbers story the return of this African princess from his youth?

Zakovitch and Shinan say that the Torah is suppressing a story that is inconsistent with the “true” narrative. A story about Moses collaborating with the Egyptian enemy and agreeing to a marriage to one who comes from the cursed people of Ham is an inconsistent departure from the heroic and pure Moses. Instead, the midrash passes on this information orally until it rises to the surface with other writers, notably those living in Hellenistic Egypt, who are unafraid to share parts of Moses’ counterlife.

Please join us for the class on Tuesdays (first and third of every month), to discover more secrets of the Midrash.

Enjoy your day,

Rabbi

NEW CLASS! MOSES IN THE MIDRASH

Explore the classic text of Midrash Rabbah with the rabbi every first and third Tuesday at 7:00 PM. Next meetings: July 3rd & 17th.



Presidents' Report

June has been a busy month. The Board approved forming a committee, under Dan Stein's leadership, to develop a plan to attract unaffiliated members of the Jewish community to join our Congregation.

The Cemetery Committee did a detailed walk-through of the Cemetery towards creating a plan to improve its appearance. Some of the actions they are considering include: adopting new rules and regulations; adding better signage so that visitors can find the plot of their loved ones; making the database of burials searchable online; and biggest of all, cleaning up the cemetery itself. While on a cursory inspection it looks okay, there are fallen monuments, sunken graves, animal burrows and moss on gravestones and paths that need attention.

We have started the process of fixing another of our Torahs (right now, only one Torah is "kosher").

Our June movie night was very successful, with an attendance of almost 20 people.

We have begun the process of installing new signage. The outside sign must go before the City of Pittsburgh Zoning Board to request a variance. Our sign "guys" do not expect any problems getting approval. A sign has been installed on the stairwell pointing to our sanctuary; as well as a sign above the door to our sanctuary. Not yet installed is a sign on our office door on the 3rd floor and a sign in the parking lot for the rabbi. TOLOLS intends to install the names of the three congregations residing in the building above the entrance glass doors. We are still working on designing a building directory sign in the main lobby.

Due to anticipated rain (that never materialized), the Hill District Bus/Walking Tour scheduled for June 10th was postponed. The new date is Sunday, July 1st – rain or shine!!!

Finally, there have been some changes in TOLOLS personnel. Joel Goldstein, the long-time Executive Director, has resigned. Dave Kurbin on the maintenance staff has also left. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

TOLOLS has a new President: Dr. Samuel Schachner, a practicing psychologist. Leadership had a very pleasant meeting with him. We do not anticipate major changes in our relationship with TOLOLS. Some of the new initiatives they are pursuing include: seeking a grant to improve fire safety and security in the building; seeking a second grant to acquire a consultant to help implement the metropolitan model between the three congregations; and, lastly, Sam invited us to participate in their Board Meetings. Sam also agreed that we can hang a bulletin board on one of the walls of the room outside the sanctuary. We are in the process of determining the best location.

July Meetings

- Board Meeting, Monday, July 2nd, 7:00 PM
- Men's Club Meeting, Monday, July 9th, 7:15 PM

Casino Trip

The next casino trip is Sunday, July 8th. See the attached flyer for details.

Movie Night

Our next movie night is July 29th, stay tuned for which movie will be shown.

Tisha B'Av Services

We will join TOLOLS for Tisha B'Av services on Saturday evening, July 21st at 9:45 P.M. and Sunday, July 22nd at 9:00 A.M.

Holocaust Museum Trip

We are planning a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. on August 26th. See the attached flyer for details.

Save the Dates

Our annual picnic will be on August 19th.

Sisterhood will host a special speaker, Chana Gittle Deray, author of "Kugel, Chaos and Unconditional Love," on September 5th at 7:00 P.M. Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.

Celebrate Ethel and Howard Kubitz Anniversary

Please join us to celebrate the Kubitz's anniversary at a Kiddush Luncheon on July 14th.

Farewell to the Gila and Harvey Issenberg

We send a fond farewell to the Issenbergs and best wishes for their move to sunny Florida.

Simcha Tree Special

Contact Ileen Portnoy for special pricing for our Simcha Tree leaves. Regular pricing is \$150 per leaf; the special reduced pricing is now \$75 per leaf.

July Birthdays

Barbara Kleyman
Thomas Kleyman
Ethel Kubitz
Howard Kubitz
Jacob Notovitz
Michelle Reisz
Rochelle Sands
Myron Snider
Gerry Tessler



Reminders

- To purchase Memorial Plaques, Simcha Tree Leaves or Stones contact Ileen Portnoy 412-683-7985
- To sponsor an Oneg in honor of that special person/event or for no reason at all call Barbara Caplan 412-521-4332
- To purchase bricks for our "Garden of Freedom" or sponsor a Kiddush luncheon contact Barbara Caplan 412-521-4332
- To purchase Giant Eagle gift cards contact Marilyn Honigsberg at 412-521-7174
- For information on our cemetery contact Myron Snider at 412-235-7085

NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION

5898 Wilkins Avenue

412-421-1017

www.newlightcongregation.org

Rabbi	Jonathan Perlman	412-904-3601
Co-President/Social VP/ & Onegs	Barbara Caplan	412-521-4332
Co-President	Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999
Administrative Assistant	Marilyn Honigsberg	412-521-7174
Membership	Debbi Salvin	724-444-6324
Sisterhood	Sharyn Stein	412-521-5231
Men's Club	Dan Stein	412-521-5231
Simcha Tree & Memorial Plaques	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985
Treasurer	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332
Cemetery	Myron Snider	412-235-7085
	Gerald Sapir	412-782-1882
Religious	Richard Gottfried	412-367-7384
Corresponding	Janet Cohen	412-512-0949
Calendar	Janet Cohen	412-512-0949
Yahrzeits	Barbara Caplan	412-521-4332
Website	Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999



Wheeling Downs Trip

Sunday, July 8, 2018

Load the Bus at 10:00AM from New Light
Return 5:00 PM from Wheeling Downs

Cost \$26 per person; includes \$25 in Free Play.
(with government issued photo ID or a Wheeling Players Card)
Gambling Will Be Open When We Arrive
Greyhound Racing Begins At 12:30 PM

Call Sharyn Stein at 412-521-5231 to Reserve Your Space
Your Check Is Your Reservation - Deadline June 29
No Refunds for Cancellations without a Replacement

Make your check payable to New Light Sisterhood
And mail it to Sharyn Stein, 6391 Douglas Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217



The New Light Men's Club
Invites You to Visit
The National Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC



- Date: Sunday, August 26, 2018
- Transportation: Bus leaves from New Light at 6:00 AM
Returns approximately 11:00 PM-Midnight
- Cost: \$70.00 Per Person
- Included: Transportation, Museum Admission
and a city tour
- Not Included: Meals.
The bus will stop for breakfast and dinner.

If you are interested in participating please contact Dan Stein at 412-521-5231 no later than June 8, 2018.

