

New Light News February 2019

A Word from the Rabbi

As we embark on New Light's historic mission to Charleston, I am reminded of all the actions that held this country together during Colonial times, during the Civil War and during Reconstruction and the civil rights heyday of Martin Luther King. Soon we will be marching arm in arm with survivors and church comrades of the Charleston Nine, down the main street of historic Charlestown. With "No Place for Hate" emblazoned across our signs we walk side by side with those who believe and carry the hope of religion in a world gone mad.

What can you do? I am launching a "step up" campaign to help us rebuild our legacy as the most haimish and uncomplicated shul of Pittsburgh. Well, maybe a little bit more complicated. We have rabbis from around the country come through and thrown out life savers for comfort and presence and Torah readings on Shabbat mornings. Beth Shalom under the leadership of Lidush Goldschmidt has kindly put out a life raft so that Haftarah was read on Saturday mornings three months after the attack. People are onboard to bring the Hebrew language into their lives. Others are preparing their own haftarot or helping more with the davening when called upon. We have also striven to do things ourselves. Sunday mornings are back complete with breakfast resurrected by our renewed Men's Club.

Attendance at services doubled in November and December. Now some of you are walking away from that experience. Like Uncle Sam, "we need you." All hands on deck! I can appreciate that moving into new digs may have stripped you of volunteer work you used to do -- oneg setup, wiping down the tables, lighting Hanukkah Menorahs with your friends, helping with the yartzheit boards, wondering if we can coalesce as a family like the way we used to do instead of hanging out in a drafty hallway. Find what is personally meaningful to you and step up to breathe life into the shipwrecked that have washed ashore in their tattered boat.

Religion is about finding meaning in life and don't let anybody take that away from you. On MLK day, we celebrate a different kind of freedom --- freedom to hope, freedom to be creative, and express our Godly soul.

Shalom,

Rabbi

Moses in the Midrash: How the Rabbis Read the Torah

You can still be a member of this in-depth text class following the life of Moses through the Midrash. Understand how the rabbis read difficult problems in the story and ask your own questions. We meet on Tuesdays, February 5th and 19th at 7:00 P.M. in the Lehman Center Board Room at Beth Shalom.

Presidents' Report

January was always a slow month. After the parties and celebrating of December, January was catch-up time. Time to think and plan.

This January was different. We held our first joint Men's Club minyan and breakfast with TOLOLS. We heard from a survivor of the Charleston mass shooting. A group of members from the Rodman Street Baptist Church and New Light traveled to Charleston to participate in their MLK day parade wearing our Pittsburgh "Stronger Than Hate -Words Matter" T-shirts and banners.

We are selling our T-shirts online. Please encourage your friends to purchase them online for \$20 each. New Light Congregant's price is \$10.

We held our first congregational group session with the Center for Victims. A second one is planned following our Board meeting on February 3rd (noon-1:00 P.M.) If you need help in expressing or resolving your feelings re: October 27th, please come. There is strength in numbers; we are family.

January was also a month for planning. TOLOLS has identified a first step in planning for the reconstruction of the building, our home. They have retained Rothschild architects to hold a focus group with each of the affected parties. The purpose is to try to identify our wants, desires and goals; our feelings about the building. Once all interested groups have input, the architects will put together a plan addressing possible approaches to reconstruction. They are looking for twelve members. If you are interested in participating please email me at info@newlightcongregation.org. Separate sessions are planned with Dor Hadash and the Holocaust Center.

We continue to receive donations. We have not begun discussions on how to distribute them for two reasons: first, we are waiting for the Federation's Independent Committee and the TOLOLS Committee to finish their work. The IC should be releasing their plan by the end of February. There is no timetable for the TOLOLS funds. Second, we anticipate that there may be additional funds for New Light from both groups.

Barbara Caplan & Stephen Cohen, Co-Presidents

Men's Club Sunday Morning Minyan

We have restarted our joint Sunday minyan/breakfast, alternating locations weekly with TOLOLS. February 3rd will be with TOLOLS at Rodef Shalom at 9:15 A.M. Please remember to send in your Men's Club membership forms with your check for dues.

February Meeting

The monthly board meeting is Sunday, February 3rd at 10:30 A.M at Forward Shady Apartments.

Following the board meeting, Cindy Snyder from Center for Victims will meet with us again at noon. We encourage everyone to attend – this is not just for board members.

Notre Dame Club of Pittsburgh

On Saturday, February 2nd, the Notre Dame club of Pittsburgh will join us for Shabbat services to share their support for New Light. Please join us as we welcome them.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our joint service with Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 17th at 4:00 P.M. at Rodman Street.

Special Mention – Two Men and a Truck

We are in the process of moving our possessions out of the Tree of Life building. We had used the moving company Two Men and a Truck for a prior move and were very pleased with their services then. When we contacted them to do this move they unexpectedly and graciously offered to provide their services at no cost to New Light. We are extraordinarily grateful for their generosity and kindness.

Information about the company and their services can be found at <https://twomenandatruck.com/movers/pa/pittsburgh/southwest/team>. Please let others know of their kind support for New Light – and they are great movers!

Jewish Family and Community Services Offerings

JFCS has announced additional support sessions. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Sharp Dance Company Benefit Performance

The Sharp Dance Company of Philadelphia will offer a benefit performance for the families of victims on February 16th at 8:00 P.M. at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts. Please see the attached flyer for more details, including how to obtain tickets.

Mel Bochner at the Carnegie International

The Carnegie International, 57th Edition, 2018 presents works by 32 artists and collectives, and features the works of Mel Bochner, who grew up in Pittsburgh and whose parents, Minnie and Meyer Bochner, were members of New Light. Mel is a conceptual artist best known for his text based paintings. The exhibit runs through March 25th. More information can be found at <https://cmoa.org/exhibition/carnegie-international-2018/>.

AARP Meeting Invitation

All seniors are invited to come and sing-a-long with the JCC chorus, Wednesday, February 20th, at the regular monthly meeting of the Squirrel Hill AARP at Rodef Shalom Synagogue, Falk Library. The meeting will include information on legislative matters which concern seniors, current health report and information on the group's monthly luncheons, etc. In addition crochet chemo hat patterns will be available and if you have a knitted pattern, please bring one to share. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served.

The chapter would appreciate your donations of used eyeglasses, cell phones with chargers, and new travel size toiletries which they will be donated to various non-profit organizations. NOTE: If the Pittsburgh Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the AARP meeting is cancelled.

Please contact Marcia Kramer at 412-731-3338 for more information.

Wiesenthal Nazi Hunter

The play "Wiesenthal Nazi Hunter" will be presented on March 26th, 27th and 28th at the August Wilson Center as a benefit for Tree of Life. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Hebrew Reading Lessons

Do you need a refresher in reading Hebrew? Rabbi Perlman has identified someone to teach us on Sundays, starting January 13th at 10:30 A.M. Eight sessions will cost \$96 per person. Contact Rabbi Perlman for more information.

Joyce Fienberg Book Group

February's book is "Between Friends," winner of the National Jewish Book Award, by Amos Oz.

Eight interconnected stories, set in the fictitious Kibbutz Yekhat in the 1950s, draw masterly profiles of idealistic men and women enduring personal hardships in the shadow of one of the greatest collective dreams of the twentieth century.

The meeting is Monday, February 25th at 7:30 P.M. in the home of Patty Lemer, 150 Maple Heights Road. Please RSVP to sisterhood@tolols.org.

February Birthdays

Scott Caplan
Janet Cohen
Carol Kanterman
Charlotte Cooper Waldbaum
Harry Waldbaum

February Onegs

1 – Janet Cohen's birthday
8 – Scott Caplan's birthday

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 Hugh Casper at 412-421-7619
- 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 Stephen Cohen at 412-421-3999

NEW LIGHT CONGREGATION

5915 Beacon Street
412-421-1017

www.newlightcongregation.org

Rabbi	Jonathan Perlman	412-904-3601
Co-President/Social VP/ & Yizkor	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	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332
Onegs	Hugh Casper	412-421-7619
Simcha Tree & Memorial Plaques	Ileen Portnoy	412-683-7985
Treasurer	Harold Caplan	412-521-4332
Cemetery	Myron Snider	412-235-7085
	Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999
Religious	Carl Solomon	412-421-2165
Corresponding	Janet Cohen	412-512-0949
Calendar	Janet Cohen	412-512-0949
Yahrzeits	Barbara Caplan	412-521-4332
Website	Stephen Cohen	412-421-3999

