



# Carnegie Shul Chatter

## August 3, 2017



## New York Adventures

Last week, we travelled to New York City to do some site seeing. We saw the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, the World Trade Center Memorial, Rockefeller Center, and all of the usual tourist attractions.

St. Patrick's Cathedral is located across the street from Rockefeller Center. It is a magnificent building and I recently read a novel by Nelson DeMille called *Cathedral* that was set in St. Patrick's, so we decided to take a look inside.

St. Patrick's Cathedral is huge. It must seat in the thousands. They even give guided tours. But it was so odd was that as we, and countless other tourists, walked through the building, perhaps a hundred other people were sitting or kneeling in the pews, praying.

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## The Nine Days

I never knew about the observance of the Nine Days until this year.

What are the Nine Days? The first nine days of the month of Av, and also the morning of the tenth, are days of mourning for the destruction of the first and second Holy Temples which are commemorated on Tisha B'Av (the ninth of Av).

During the Nine Days, many Jews do not eat meat (including poultry) or drink wine, launder clothing (except for a baby's)—even if they will not be worn during the Nine Days—or wear freshly laundered outer clothing, swim or bathe for pleasure, remodel or expand a home, plant trees to be used for shade or fragrance (as opposed to fruit trees), buy, sew, weave or knit new clothing—even if they will be worn only after the Nine Days, or cut nails during the actual week of the fast of Tisha B'Av—i.e., starting from the Saturday night before the fast until the conclusion of the Nine Days.

One exception that Chabad.org lists to the rule on buying new clothing is if you will miss a major sale, or if the garment will be unavailable later. This one is rather strange to me. Ellen says that the reason is to prevent undue hardship, but is that more important than mourning the loss of the Temples? (Further explanation on the next page.)

Hope to see you at the **Hank Greenberg** movie. If you haven't already sent your RSVP, please do so. It is a truly great movie.

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I asked a docent at the information desk whether the parishioners ever got upset with tourists since this was, after all, a church where they come to pray, and he answered that some do, but the majority just accept it as part of their reality.

It was also interesting that Ellen was allowed to keep her hat on inside the building, but I was asked to remove mine. When I asked why, I was told that men are required to remove their hats as a sign of respect to God. I said that I found that interesting because I am Jewish and we wear our hats as a sign of respect to God. He told me that if a man is wearing a yarmulke he does not ask that the yarmulke be removed. I wonder what he would have said if I had told him that I was wearing the hat for religious reasons.

While in New York we had lunch one day at *Kosher Deluxe*, a Kosher restaurant in the diamond district. The food was great and the price was very reasonable. Interestingly, they were serving their entire menu, including meat, during the Nine Days. They also had a special parve menu because of the Nine days. Another Kosher restaurant, located next door to *Kosher Deluxe* was closed because of the observance of the Nine Days.

## The Sale vs. The Nine Days

*(a note from Ellen)*

A further explanation on that loophole regarding the prohibition on buying new clothing during the Nine Days: While it seems somewhat absurd to say *No shopping — unless it's a really, REALLY good sale*, the leniency may not be quite a ridiculous as it sounds.



In Jewish belief and practice, there is a running theme that one should undertake observances wholeheartedly, with a clear mind and a pure heart. This thinking, as it applies to the prohibition on shopping during the Nine Days, supposes that a person may be so consumed by a financial loss or so worried about whether the item/s of choice will still be available after Tisha B'av that he/she will not focus on truly commemorating the loss of the Temple.

Still, one might wonder... If God wants to ensure that you don't suffer undue hardship by missing the "year's biggest clearance," why doesn't he just orchestrate things so that the big sale is held a week later? But that's a question for another day...

## Yahrzeit Plaques

Commemorate a loved one by dedicating a yahrzeit plaque in his or her memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, mounted on the sanctuary walls, are lit on the loved one's yahrzeit, Yom Kippur, and days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).





Each Shabbat, after services, we join together to make Kiddush and Hamotzi and to share a delicious repast. Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush as an honorarium or a memorial, for only \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, please email Mike Roteman at [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).



# The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg



**Wednesday, August 30**  
**7 pm**

Doors open 6:30

**The Hollywood Theater**

1449 Potomac Avenue, Dormont  
Free on-street parking after 6 pm

**Free and open to the public**

Free popcorn and soda

**For tickets:**

Visit [www.southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org](http://www.southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org)

It's not just a baseball movie!

As Hitler invaded Europe, a young Jewish baseball player, Hammerin' Hank Greenberg, challenged Babe Ruth's homerun record and became an American hero.

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg is a sometimes humorous and often nostalgic documentary about how this Detroit Tiger (and later Pittsburgh Pirate) became a beacon of hope to American Jews, who faced bigotry during the Depression and World War II, and how he became a genuine American hero.

**"You don't have to be Jewish to find it thoroughly engrossing and rewarding. You don't even have to know baseball"**

— Jay Carr, Boston Globe