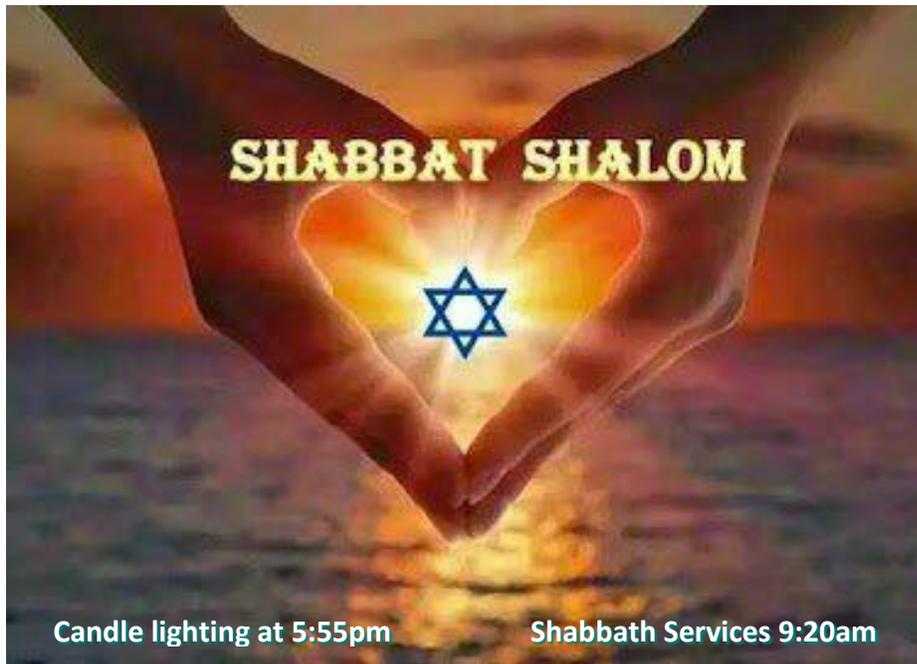




# Carnegie Shul Chatter

## November 2, 2017



In this week's parsha, *Vayeira*, we read the story of God's destruction of the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. As part of that story, we learn that Abraham's nephew, Lot, is spared from the destruction of Sodom when he extends hospitality to two archangels and protects them from a Sodomite mob. Lot and his wife are permitted to leave the doomed city, but are warned not to look back at the city as they depart. But Lot's wife ignores the warning, looks back, and is turned into a pillar of salt.

Aish.com has a short, interesting article about this story that I think you will enjoy, and the concluding paragraph includes some very sage advice.

## Don't Look Back

*(Based on the teachings of Rav Avigdor Miller)*

*We've all made mistakes and bad decisions in life and unfortunately we sometimes have a problem getting those mistakes out of our system. This week, the Torah warns us that looking back and focusing too much on the past can result in spiritual and physical stagnation.*

*Lot's family was warned not to look back when they leave the city of Sodom, a city that was being destroyed for its total lack of morality (Gen 19:17). Instead of focusing on the past, they needed to focus primarily on the future.*

## Is This Any Kind of Job for a Nice Jewish Boy? You Betcha'!

If you know anything at all about baseball, you know that Jewish players Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax were not only two of the greatest players ever to play the game, but were also famous for their decisions not to play in the World Series when it coincided with Yom Kippur.

Well, with the extended playoff system in baseball these days, the World Series is now held at the end of October instead of the beginning, so it is unlikely any Jewish player will ever have to make that decision again.

In this year's World Series we were treated to exceptional performances by two Jewish players, and while neither of them will probably ever reach the same level of stardom as Hall of Famers Greenberg and Koufax, they are two young stars who should have exceptional careers ahead of them.

Alex Bregman of the World Series Champion Houston Astros is a 23-year-old third baseman from Albuquerque, New Mexico.



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*Lot's wife ignored the warning and looked back. As a consequence she was turned into a "pillar of salt." Salt is the ultimate preservative; she is essentially mummified -- frozen into the same position for all of eternity, never able to grow or change.*



*A person needs to be able to admit to his failings, make amends, roll his sleeves up, and start over. To focus any more than necessary on the past will inhibit the opportunities presented to us to maximize our potential and move forward into the future. King Solomon says it all when he teaches, "A bad person will fall once and never again get up, whereas a righteous person will fall seven times and get up again each and every time."*

## South Hills Jewish Pittsburgh

Prior to the creation of South Hills Jewish Pittsburgh (SHJP) by the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh three years ago, there was minimal cooperation between Jewish organizations in the South Hills. Each shul pretty much did its own thing for its own members when it came to programming, and the Jewish Community Center was also, for the most part, a members-only center.

But with the advent of SHJP and a large infusion of grant money from several generous benefactors, Jewish life in the South Hills changed drastically. Jewish organizations in the South Hills were encouraged to provide programming not only for their own members, but for the community as a whole, and grant money was made available to allow that to happen. Even our own small Carnegie Shul got involved, sponsoring highly successful programs like our Evening With Leon Zionts, our Klezmer Magic concert, and our showing of the award-winning film *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* before a crowd of more than 200 at the Hollywood Theater in Dormont.

Yesterday, however, we learned that South Hills Jewish Pittsburgh will transition from the Jewish Federation to the JCC. We have been assured that with this transition, SHJP professional leadership of Rob Goodman and Dave Rullo will be retained, there will be a continuation of the grant program that has fostered increased attendance and audience growth, and there will be increased programming that leverages both JCC facilities and continued partnerships with all South Hills Jewish institutions.

We have also been assured that JCC membership will not be a requirement for attendance at SHJP events.

The Jewish Federation and the JCC will work together to determine the dates and key milestones for this transition, starting immediately.

SHJP has vastly improved Jewish life in the South Hills. We will be vigilant to assure that this transition is, in fact, an improvement, as promised.

Bregman was a first round draft choice in 2015 after an exceptional career at LSU. After less than two full seasons in the minor leagues, Bregman made his big league debut on July 26, 2016. In 49 games in 2016, Bregman hit .264 with 8 homers and 34 RBI. This year, in his first full big league season, Bregman played in 155 games, hit .284, and slugged 19 homers with 71 RBI.

In this year's World Series, Bregman has been exceptional. He had the game winning RBI in the tenth inning of Game Two, he homered in both Game One and Game Four, and he drove in runs in each of the first five games of the Series. And he had a terrific series defensively as well.

Joc Pederson of the Los Angeles Dodgers is a 25-year-old whose father, Stu Pederson, played for the Dodgers in 1985. Joc Pederson was drafted out of high school by the Dodgers in 2010. In his first full big league season, 2015, Pederson hit 26 home runs and was selected to the National League All Star team. With 26 more home runs in 2016, he had a subpar season this year, hitting only 11 homers in 102 games, and he was actually sent back to the minor leagues for a brief stint this summer. But Pedersen had a great World Series, hitting .33 with three home runs and five RBI.

So if anyone tries to tell you that old story that Jews and sports don't mix, here are two more young, talented baseball stars who

you will be able to brag about for a long time.



## 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).



Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush in honor or in memory of a loved one, for only \$36. Your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, email [mrmike7777@yahoo.com](mailto:mrmike7777@yahoo.com).