



# Carnegie Shul Chatter

## November 29, 2017



**Candle lighting at 4:36pm    Shabbath Services 9:20am**

## A Season for Giving

'Tis the season for retailers to be jolly. Black Friday, which used to be the day after Thanksgiving, now gets underway on Thanksgiving and is often extended for several days after Friday. Cyber Monday is the Monday after Thanksgiving and, it too, often gets extended by several days. And now, in recent years, we have Giving Tuesday, a day when we are encouraged to give to charities, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

I bring this up now because of an interesting Facebook post that I read today, posted by Rabbi Mendy Bukiet, the Chabad rabbi near our Florida home in Lakewood Ranch.

## It Never Ends

It continues to amaze me how much there is to learn about Judaism.

I used to think that the Jewish religion was really pretty simple – we believe in one God, we don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah and our Messiah has not yet come; we are supposed to keep kosher and we aren't supposed to work or drive on Saturday; and that God delivered us from slavery in Egypt then gave us, through Moses, the Torah and Ten Commandments.

There were a few more things like Chanukkah, and Purim, and Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but there certainly was not enough for men to spend their entire lives doing nothing but learning. Boy was I wrong.

Over the past few years, while writing these Chatters, I have learned more about the Jewish religion than I had learned in all the previous year of my life. And I have just barely scratched the surface. Tanya, kabbalah? I know nothing about them. And I constantly am finding new sources of information to cite in the Chatter, sources like [unitedwithisrael.org](http://unitedwithisrael.org) and [hebrewversity.com](http://hebrewversity.com).

Yes, there is so much to learn about Judaism, and I realize that not everyone has the time or inclination to take classes like the wonderful JLI classes available through Chabad, or to study on line, but if you can spare just a couple of hours a week, why not come to the Carnegie Shul for services on Saturday mornings. I assure you that listening to Dr. Block's talks will be most enlightening and may even leave you yearning for more.

Rabbi Bukiet posted, "Is Giving Tuesday a Jewish Thing? It sure is! Well — sort of... In the Torah, when G-d is creating the world, it says "and G-d saw that it was good" at the end of almost every day of the week. On the third day, however (Tuesday, by the weekly calendar), that phrase "and G-d saw that it was good" is repeated twice!

Based on this anomaly in the text, Jewish tradition has always ascribed a special importance and preference to Tuesdays. So it's no surprise that the world has now named the TUESDAY following Thanksgiving as the day designated for good and giving."

Very interesting.

And so I looked for a little more on the subject, and here are two articles that I found on line. The first is from unitedwithisrael.org and was written by Rabbi Ari Enkin, rabbinic director, United with Israel. It was first published on October 8, 2015. The second is from hebrewversity.com and was published on November 23, 2016.

## Living Torah: 'And God Saw that it was Good'

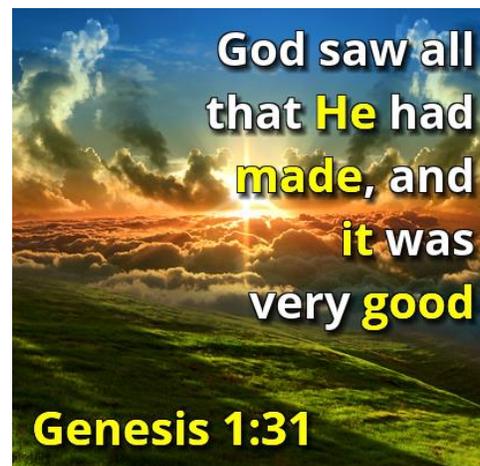
*At the end of every day of creation, the Torah tells us "...and God saw that it was good (Ki Tov)." There are two exceptions to this: at the end of the second day of creation it does not say "...and God saw that it was good" and on the third day of creation it says "...and God saw that it was good" TWICE. Yup. Twice. It is mentioned following the "gathering of the waters" which divided the seas from the dry land, and then again following the sprouting of vegetation.*

*Because of the fact that the third day, Tuesday, has "...and God saw that it was good" twice, it is believed that Tuesdays are, well, a bit more auspicious, and a little luckier than the rest of the days of the week. That's why many people try to get married on a Tuesday, and to otherwise begin monumental events in their life on a Tuesday. The extra luck could certainly come in handy for such things! But, as mentioned, Mondays are "excluded" from the rest of the week. No mention of "...and God saw that it was good" on that day. Why not? What's going on here?*

*It is explained that the reason Monday gets no mention of "good" is because the creation of the water was not completed until the third day. As such, the praise of "good" cannot be bestowed on a project that is incomplete. Anything that is incomplete, and by extension, useless, is simply not yet good! When the creation of water and the seas were complete on Tuesday, it was "good."*

*But wait a second. Why didn't God finish the job on Monday? Did He get tired? Did He run out of time? A social engagement, perhaps? Of course not. For some reason God purposely chose to delay completion of Monday's work until Tuesday. Why? What can we learn from this?*

*The commentators explain that by completing the waters on Tuesday, God was teaching us a lesson for all time, and that is: "it's not over, until it's over." Meaning, sometimes things happen in life that we don't understand...at least not "on the same day."*



God intentionally wanted to leave something questionable, incomplete, and seemingly without purpose. It was only later, “the next day” when we can look back in hindsight and appreciate what took place. That, my friends, is what life is all about. There is no end to the list of things that happen in this world that we don’t understand, or don’t agree with. We often ask how God can let certain things happen. On “the day” we ask ourselves these questions, we have no answers. Often, however, sometime later (“the next day”), we’ll often realize the benefits of what took place. Only then do we realize that, ultimately, “...it was good.”

## The ‘Double Blessing’ of Tuesday – Origins of a Hebrew Idiom

When one takes a closer look at what is written in the Bible about the second day of Creation, an interesting thing emerges. Let’s have a look at the scripture:

*“And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.” (Genesis 1:6-9)*

What stands out about these verses is the fact that on the second day the Hebrew phrase ‘Va-Yare Elohim Ki Tov’ {בֹּטַח יְהוָה אֵלֹהִים אָרָא} (Hebrew for ‘and God saw that it was good’) is missing.

The Jewish Bible commentators noticed that and dedicated a long discussion on that matter. One of the more interesting explanations suggests that the concept of separation is not good. Since on the second day God ‘separated the waters from the waters’ the Bible deliberately did not mention that ‘Va-Yare Elohim Ki Tov’ (‘and God saw that it was good’).

However, this explanation, as interesting as it might be, encounters a difficulty because on the FOURTH day of Creation God created the ‘great lights’ in order ‘to separate the day from the night’ and afterwards it specifically mentions ‘Va-Yare Elohim Ki Tov’ (‘and God saw that it was good’)...

So what is the reason for the ‘missing phrase’?

Well, the answer can be found on the NEXT day – meaning on the THIRD day of Creation, in which the phrase ‘and God saw that it was good’ is mentioned TWICE.

According to the Jewish tradition, in order for ‘God to see that it was good’ the creation needs to be COMPLETE and that is the reason this phrase was not mentioned on the second day – because the completion of the action of separating ‘the waters from the waters’ actually ended on the THIRD day when:

*“And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.” (Genesis 1:9-11)*

In fact, this phrase appears once more on the third day because another creation was accomplished on this day – the creation of the plant world.

Following this explanation, in the Jewish tradition the third day of the week – ‘Yom Shelishi’ {ישילש סוי} in Hebrew – which is today (Tuesday) is known as ‘Pa’amaim Ki Tov’ {בוט יב מיימנפ} day – Hebrew for ‘double blessing’ and is considered a perfect day for weddings (lots of weddings on Tuesday in Israel), since there is nothing more COMPLETE than the union of two people in marriage...

## 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).

## Coming Events

Remember Leon Zions who gave a sensational concert at the Carnegie Shul a couple of years ago? Well, Leon is appearing on stage in Carnegie in a production of *The Carols* at the Carnegie Stage on December 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 8:00 pm, December 9, 10, 16, 17 at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$ 5-30. It looks like a great show and if I know Leon it will be terrific. For more info go to [www.carnegiestage.com](http://www.carnegiestage.com).

Also, be sure to check out the following information about upcoming Chanukah programs here in the South Hills. Flyers appear below.

A flyer for "The Carols" production at Carnegie Stage. The flyer features a silhouette of a person holding a menorah, a Christmas tree, and the text "More life, more love, more joy!" and "Carnegie Stage Presents The Carols". It lists the book and lyrics by Jennifer Childs, music by Monica Stephenson, and directed by Robyne Parrish. The cast includes Jill Keating, Kate Queen-Toole, Moira Outgley, Mandie Russak, Nick Stamataris, and Leon Zions. The dates are December 7-17th, 2017.

More life, more love,  
more joy!

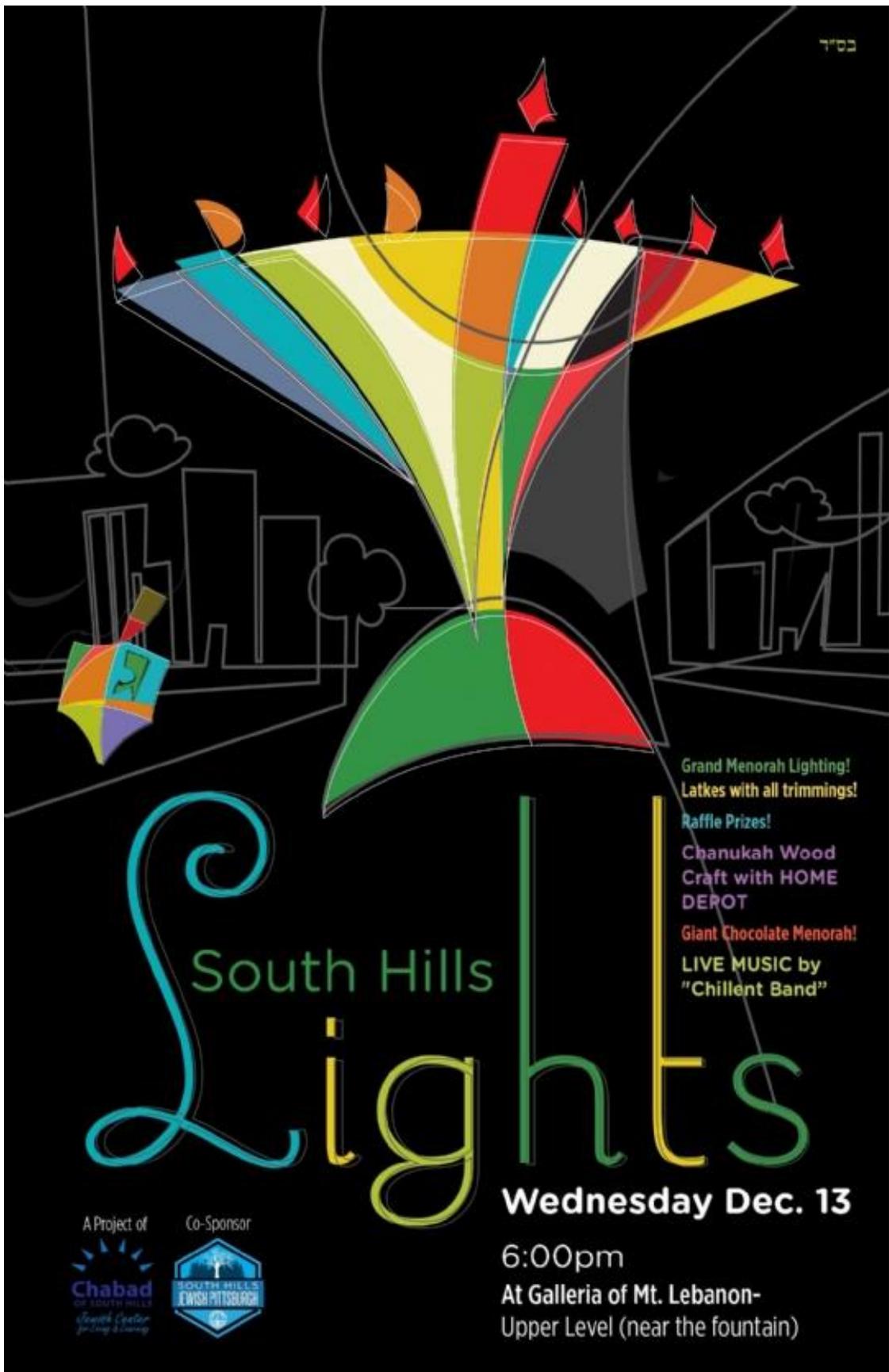
Carnegie Stage  
Presents  
**The Carols**

BOOK AND LYRICS BY JENNIFER CHILDS  
MUSIC BY MONICA STEPHENSON  
DIRECTED BY ROBYNE PARRISH

JILL KEATING  
KATE QUEEN-TOOLE  
MOIRA OUTGLEY  
MANDIE RUSSAK  
NICK STAMATARIS  
LEON ZIONS

CARNEGIE STAGE  
December 7 - 17th, 2017  
WWW.CARNEGIESTAGE.COM 724-873-3576  
25 W. Main St. Carnegie, PA. 15106

703



# South Hills Lights

Grand Menorah Lighting!  
Latkes with all trimmings!  
Raffle Prizes!  
Chanukah Wood  
Craft with HOME  
DEPOT  
Giant Chocolate Menorah!  
LIVE MUSIC by  
"Chillent Band"

**Wednesday Dec. 13**

6:00pm  
At Galleria of Mt. Lebanon-  
Upper Level (near the fountain)



# South Hills Community Chanukah Celebration



*Celebrate the 8th night  
of Chanukah with  
the entire community!  
FREE and open to everyone*

**Tuesday,  
December 19  
5:30-7:30 PM**

JCC South Hills  
345 Kane Boulevard

- Chanukah songfest and candle lighting
- Chanukah dinner with pizza, potato pancakes and jelly donuts
- Chanukah obstacle course in the gym
- EKC dreidel tournament
- Balloon artist and face painting

*Please bring a bottle of cooking oil to donate to the SHIM food pantry*



For more information and to RSVP: [southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org/chanukah/](https://southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org/chanukah/)

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Shul.org

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Pittsburgh, PA 15216