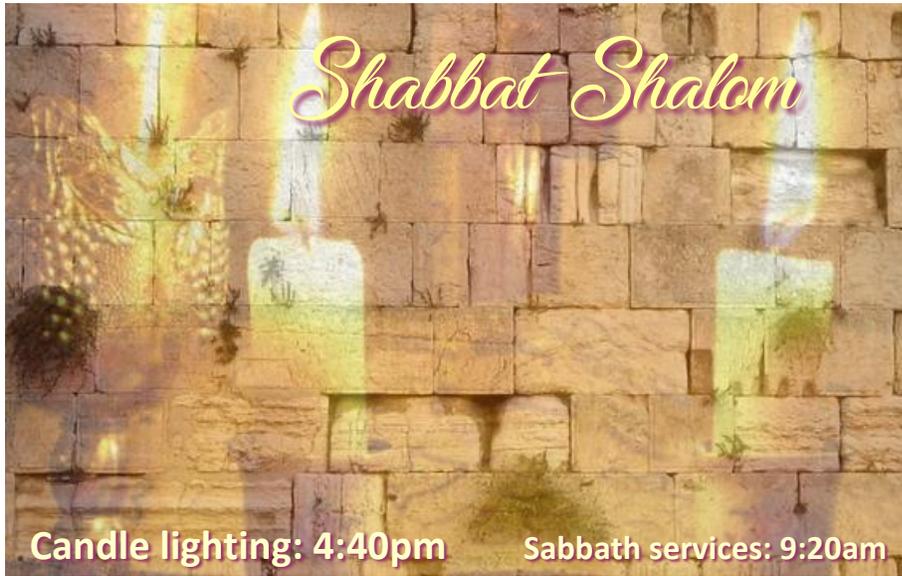




Carnegie Shul Chatter

December 21, 2017



Goodbye 2017

And so another secular year is about to enter the history books. It was a year in which the force of God, as seen in the form of Mother Nature, played a prominent rule, with major hurricanes striking the Caribbean, Texas, and Florida.

It was a year of major political dissent here in the United States.

It was a year in which Americans became increasingly concerned about the nuclear threat coming from North Korea.

It was a year in which terror attacks continued to be far too numerous, but also a year in which ISIS was beaten back somewhat on the ground.

It was a year in which the United States recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

And it was a year in which, sadly, our little congregation often struggled to get a minyan.

What will the coming year bring? God only knows, and none of us can read His mind.

And so we enter the new year, as we always do, with some fears and anxieties, but hopefully also with the knowledge and acceptance of the fact that God is always there for us when we need Him the most, and that He will hear our prayers to make 2018 a truly blessed year that will, as Dr. Block always says, hasten the coming of Moshiach.

A Guidebook for Jews

You know that old adage about, if you put two Jews together, you'll get three different opinions about the same thing?

Well, it might not be as bad as that, but let's face it, there are a lot of things that Jews don't necessary agree upon. Some Jews keep Kosher, others don't. Some Jews drive on Saturday, others don't. Some Jews put on tefillin, others don't. The list goes on and on.

And there are rules of Torah, rules of Oral Law, rules of mitzvahs, Rabbinic rules,

Talmud rules, and who can keep track of them all, let alone follow them all?

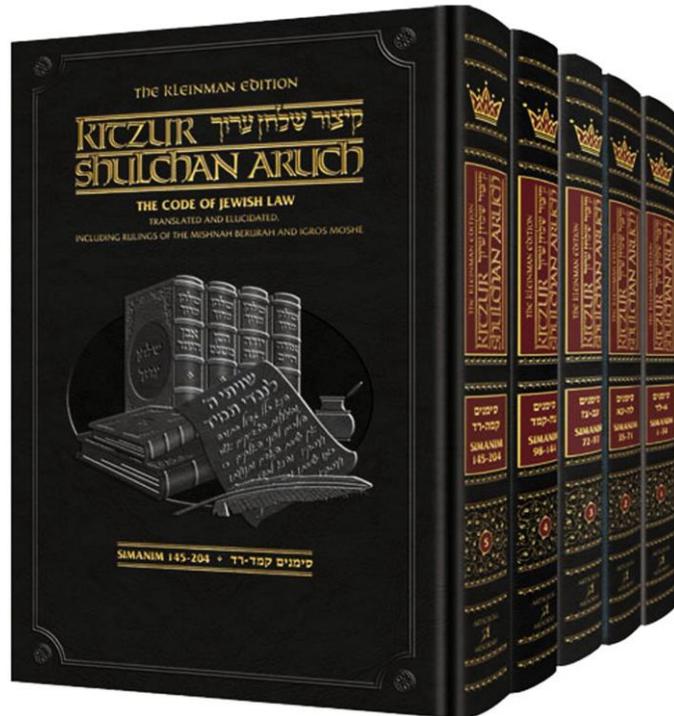
How many of you have ever heard of the Shulchan Aruch?



I must admit that I never did until I said something to Ellen a couple of weeks ago and she said, "I'll bet you the answer to that can be found in the Shulchan Aruch." And I, of course, scratched my head and said, "The what?"

So, what is the Shulchan Aruch?

According to the web site shulchanaruch.com, "*The Shulchan Aruch is the Jewish code of law written by Rabbi Yosef Kara about 500 years ago. It summarizes and lists the halachic decisions of the Talmud as well as the author's own view based on halachic opinions and discussions of the commentaries after the Talmud. Topics discussed are divided into chapters. The S.A. is split into four sections: Yorah Deah, Choshen Mishpat, Orach Chaim, and Even Haezer. The most commonly studied section is Orach Chaim, since it contains every day laws needed for the masses. The other sections are studied by Rabbis.*"



Now the Shulchan Aruch is full of interesting and important laws, but there are some that I must admit left me scratching my head. But some people, I know, would scorn me for doing so. You know, two Jews, three opinions. Anyway, here are some of the strange tidbits that I found in the Shulchan Aruch. I wonder how many of you knew these, or follow these.

One should not put on his undershirt while one is sitting. Rather, while still lying in bed, one should first place his head and arms through the garment. Then one should put it on. Therefore, when one gets up he will be covered.

One should be careful to put on his undershirt properly and not inside out.

One should put his right shoe on first and the left shoe last. Only after putting on the left shoe should one begin tying the shoe laces. First tie the left shoe and then the right one. [In our shoes where there are no laces, one should put the right shoe on first.]

When one takes off his shoes, he should remove the left shoe first.

It is forbidden to walk in an erect posture. And a man should not walk four cubits with an uncovered head due to respect for the holy presence. One should check to see if he needs to use the facilities after waking up. One should cover his entire body and should not go out barefoot. In addition, one should accustom himself in the morning and in the evening to use the restroom.

If one is excreting in an open place with no wall, he should be careful to face south with his back facing north or the opposite. However, it is forbidden to face east or west. [However, urinating is allowed in any direction.]

Similarly, it is forbidden to sleep facing west or east if his wife is with him. It is proper to be careful even if his wife is not with him.

One should not use his right hand to wipe himself.

For more of these enlightening tidbits, visit the Shulchan Aruch website at shulchanarach.com.

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.



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.

- CHABAD OF SOUTH HILLS PRESENTS -

ב"ה

BEHIND ENEMY LINES



**A FRENCH JEWISH SPY IN NAZI
GERMANY TELLS HER STORY**



AN UNFORGETTABLE CONVERSATION WITH

Marthe Cohn was born in France, in 1920. As the Nazi occupation escalated, her sister was sent to Auschwitz while her family fled to the south of France.

At the age of 24, she joined the Intelligence Service of the French Army. Utilizing her perfect German accent and Aryan looks, Martha posed as a German nurse desperately trying to attain word of a fictional fiancé. She traveled the countryside and approached troops sympathetic to her plight thereby obtaining vital information about troop movements for the Allied commanders. For her service, at the age of 80, she was awarded the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military honor.

Marthe is 96 years old and lives with her husband in California. She travels internationally sharing her remarkable story and has no plans of slowing down.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 7:00PM

22 TEVET, 5778

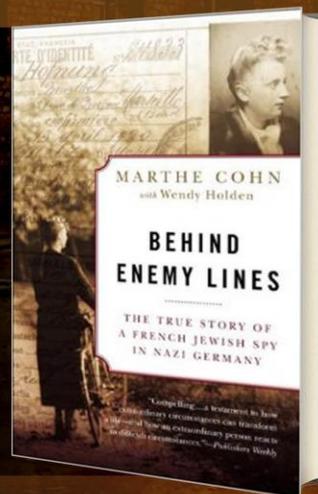
AT **CROWNE PLAZA**

164 FORT COUCH ROAD PITTSBURGH, PA 15241

COUVERT \$5 | SPONSOR \$180

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AND SIGNING

Please RSVP before December 26th



TO RSVP AND FOR MORE INFO:
412.344.2424 | www.ChabadSH.com