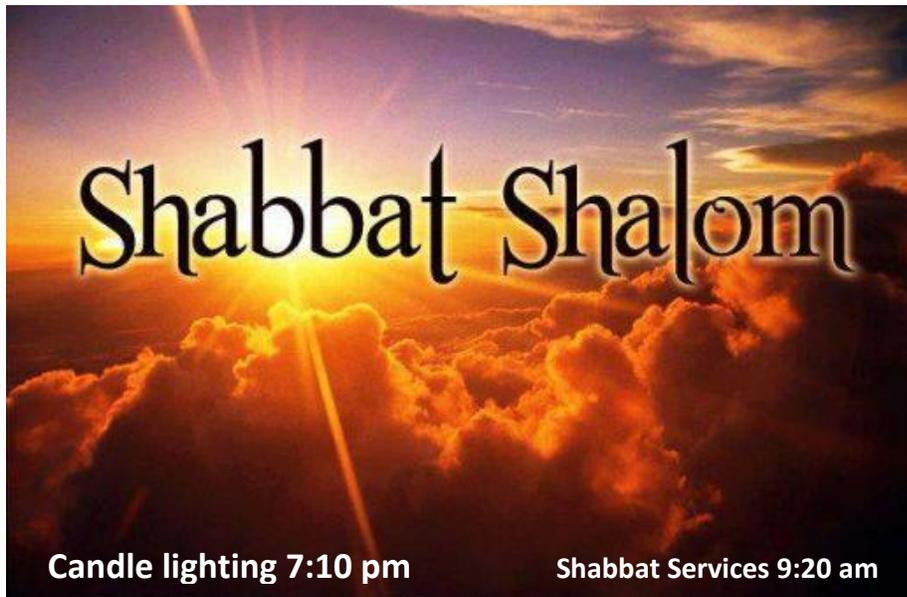




Carnegie Shul Chatter

March 15, 2018



Prayer: A Good Feeling - Or Not

I believe in prayer. I pray at services. I pray when I go to bed at night. I say Kiddush before dinner on Sabbath. I say a prayer for one who is sick and Kaddish for one who has passed. And, of course, those prayers are in my Jewish tradition.

But what about praying with others when the others are primarily not Jewish? I'm sure we have all been to a luncheon, or a graduation, or some other function where someone gets up to give the invocation at the beginning of the event. And quite often that invocation is given by a Christian who ends the invocation by saying, "we ask this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit," or, "In Christ's name we pray" and, if you are anything like me, that probably makes you feel uncomfortable.

Last month I was attending the annual luncheon of the Pittsburgh Pirates Bradenton Booster Club, of which I am President. The long standing tradition is to begin the luncheon with an invocation. The club member who has been giving the invocation for years, and who does not end with any Christian supplication, could not attend, so I asked my vice-president to deliver the invocation. I also asked him to please omit the mention of Christ, since several of us, though we are certainly the minority, are not Christian. He agreed and delivered a very nice invocation.

Nothing is Simple

Here is the first amendment as written in the US Constitution. Personally, I think it is the most important amendment of all:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Short and to the point. Or is it?

We have all heard much debate about the placement of The Ten Commandments on public property, prayer in the classroom, the placement of nativity scenes and Christmas trees on public property, and the rights of atheists.

I guess nothing is really simple anymore.

But I am certainly happy that I live in a country in which I have the right to pray as I see fit. Or do I? After all, when I was a kid in public school, I was required to say *The Lord's Prayer*, a Christian prayer, in school every day. Maybe that's why I have a problem with some invocations.

This week, our club had our annual beach party. I didn't even think about an invocation, but someone asked me just as we were being served our dinner, "What about the invocation?" I turned to our VP who was a few feet away from me, and asked if he would like to do it again, as he had done such a nice job at the luncheon. "No," he replied, "I am a Christian and cannot do another invocation without including Christ." And so I did the invocation.



Several people told me afterward that I did a very nice invocation. One of my officers asked me why the VP didn't do the invocation and, when I explained, the man said, "That is ridiculous. I am a Christian, too, and I think you did the right thing. He was wrong."

One of the three other Jewish members also asked me what happened. I told him, and he said I was wrong.

You just can't please everyone.

Izzy Horowitz - May His Memory be a Blessing

We regret to announce the passing of long time shul member Izzy Horowitz.

Rick D'Loss writes, "Izzy was at Kane Hospital for the past 5 years or so. He was active in our congregation for many decades, along with his sister Roseanne Tisherman and her husband Harris Tisherman. Izzy was Commander of the Jewish War Veterans Post 785, based at our shul. He retired from that post about 10 years ago. I have some old records that show him as post commander back into the 1960s. He was also active in the shul as a general 'helper.' When I needed help with something, like putting up the sukkah, he was there to help. Or if a contractor was coming over to the shul to do some work, I could call him and he would be there. There was no questioning his dedication to the shul."

The funeral will be on Friday, March 16. There will be no funeral viewing. Graveside service will be held at New Light Cemetery in the North Hills at 11:00 am, with Rabbi Alex Greenbaum officiating. Slater Funeral Home on Greentree Rd. is handling the arrangements. Attendees will meet at Slaters at 10:00 am for the procession to the cemetery.

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.



Sponsor a Kiddush

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.

Important Information to Share!

A service of South Hills Jewish Pittsburgh

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