



Carnegie Shul Chatter

May 24, 2018



A Dream Come True

I've been thinking for the last couple of days about what I should write about this week. Should it be this week's parshah? Should it be something that's happening in Israel like the Hamas violence along the border fence? Or perhaps something that is happening in Jewish Pittsburgh?

And then, last night, I had the strangest dream. It was about a new museum, about the size of the Carnegie Museum in Oakland, all about Jewish life in America including Jews in television, movies, music, on Broadway, and Jewish medical achievements in America, and the whole Jewish experience in general.

But such a place has to already exist, doesn't it?

Tradition!

There is a song in Fiddler on the Roof that most of you surely know. It is called Tradition, and we at the Carnegie Shul, like to call ourselves a "traditional" congregation.

Last week, on Shavuot, I attended services at another "Conservative" shul in the city as we dedicated a memorial plaque for my late father-in-law.

The Shul, which I will not name, may have been Conservative, but it was certainly not traditional. Oh, how times have changed.

Most of the aliyahs went to women. The Torah readers were mostly women. One woman, who took out the Torah, wore leggings. A man wore a tee shirt and had a tattoo covering his arm from shoulder to elbow. I did not recognize the tune for "Ayn Kelohaynu" or "Aitz Chaim." The Amidah was not read silently before the repetition. Some men did not have yarmulkes or tallises, but some women did.

Tevya would be shaking his head and screaming, "TRADITION!"

And so I went to that place where you can find absolutely everything, Google, and sure enough, I found listings for American Jewish Museums in Philadelphia, Washington, New York, and San Francisco, among others.

So, since Philadelphia is right here in Pennsylvania, I decided to visit that web site first.

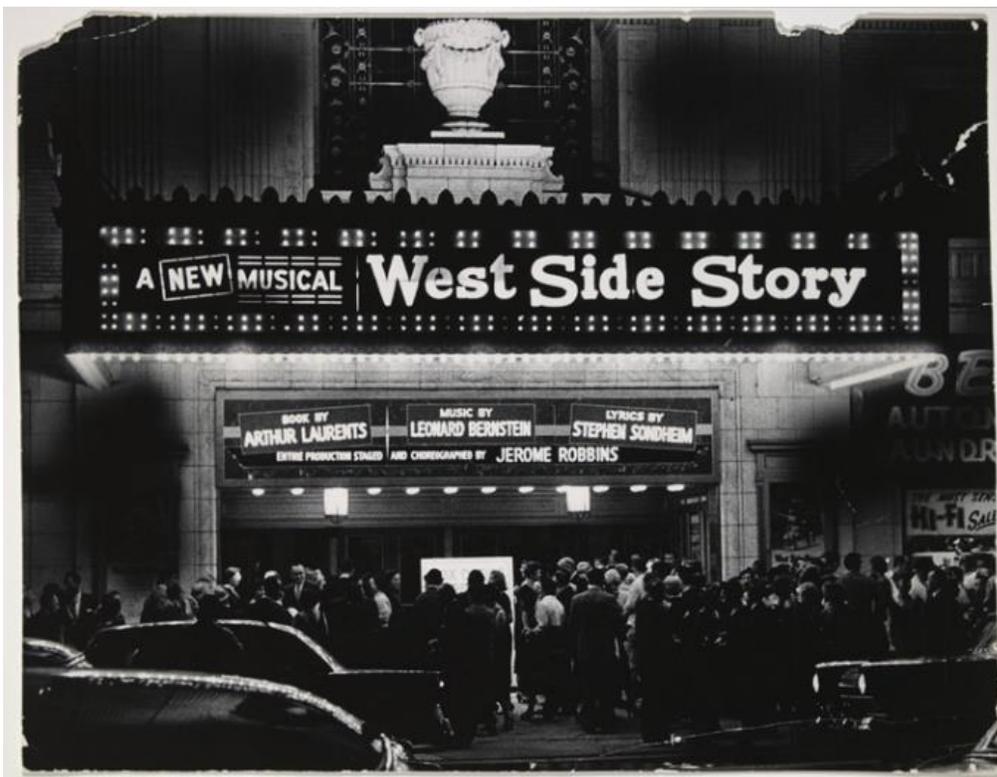
It turns out that May is actually Jewish American Heritage Month and the Philadelphia National Museum of Jewish American History, A Smithsonian Museum Affiliate, located at Fifth and Market Streets on Independence Mall, had an interesting article on Broadway musicals, something that Jews like Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II, to name just a couple, have had a profound effect upon.

So here is the article, and perhaps you might consider this museum as a place for an in-state road trip this summer.

The Broadway musical is one of two quintessentially American genres of music. Like jazz, the Broadway show is an art form created by outsiders that has had a profound influence on American music.

The United States provided the opportunity for immigrant Jews to live the American dream. Jewish lyricists, composers, and musical book writers returned the favor, giving back what some scholars call America's classical music.

*Many Broadway musicals are about outsiders fighting to make their way in the world. In dramatizing the stories of others, Jewish writers and composers explored their own journeys. Lyrics such as "I want to be in America" from **West Side Story** or "You've got to be taught to hate and fear" from **South Pacific** are clear reflections of the Jewish experience. Yet it wasn't till 1964 that Jews told their own story on stage, in the enormously successful **Fiddler on the Roof**.*



Outside the Winter Garden Theatre after the Broadway Opening of West Side Story, which reflected the Jewish experience of emigrating to America. The book was written by Arthur Laurents (born Arthur Levine), with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

American-Jewish composers and lyricists often probed social themes—women’s rights, in **Annie Get Your Gun**; interracial marriage, in **Showboat**; and love, loss, and hope, in **Carousel**’s “You’ll Never Walk Alone.”

Today, Broadway musicals continue to entertain millions. To quote Stephen Sondheim in *Follies*:

**Good times and bum times,
I've seen them all,
And, my dear, I'm still here.
Plush velvet sometimes,
Sometimes just pretzels and
beer,
But I'm here.**



Intersection of Broadway and 42nd Street, south-east corner of Times Square.

The Broadway musical is still here. It is the Jewish gift to America that keeps on giving.

Written by Barbara Brilliant, a television host and producer, musician, and journalist. She is the creator and executive producer of the PBS Great Performances program *Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy*.

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.

THE PITTSBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY STUDY:

Where Do We Go from Here? A South Hills Conversation

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30 7:00 PM
SOUTH HILLS JCC
345 Kane Blvd., 15243



Featuring:

RABBI DANNY SCHIFF

Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh Foundation Scholar

A panel of Jewish community leaders including:

BRIAN SCHREIBER

President/CEO, JCC of Greater Pittsburgh

RAIMY RUBIN

Manager, Pittsburgh Jewish Community Scorecard

JONATHAN FISCHER

STACEY REIBACH

DAVID WEISBERG

FREE AND OPEN TO THE ENTIRE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Snacks and refreshments provided.

Dietary Laws Observed

RSVP: southhillsjewishpittsburgh.org/commstudy



SOUTH HILLS
JEWISH PITTSBURGH



Important Information to Share!

A service of South Hills Jewish Pittsburgh

All You Need is Love...
and a simple saliva test.

1 in 2 Ashkenazi Jews is a carrier of at least one preventable genetic disease

Get Tested:
jscreen.org/jgenessouthhills

