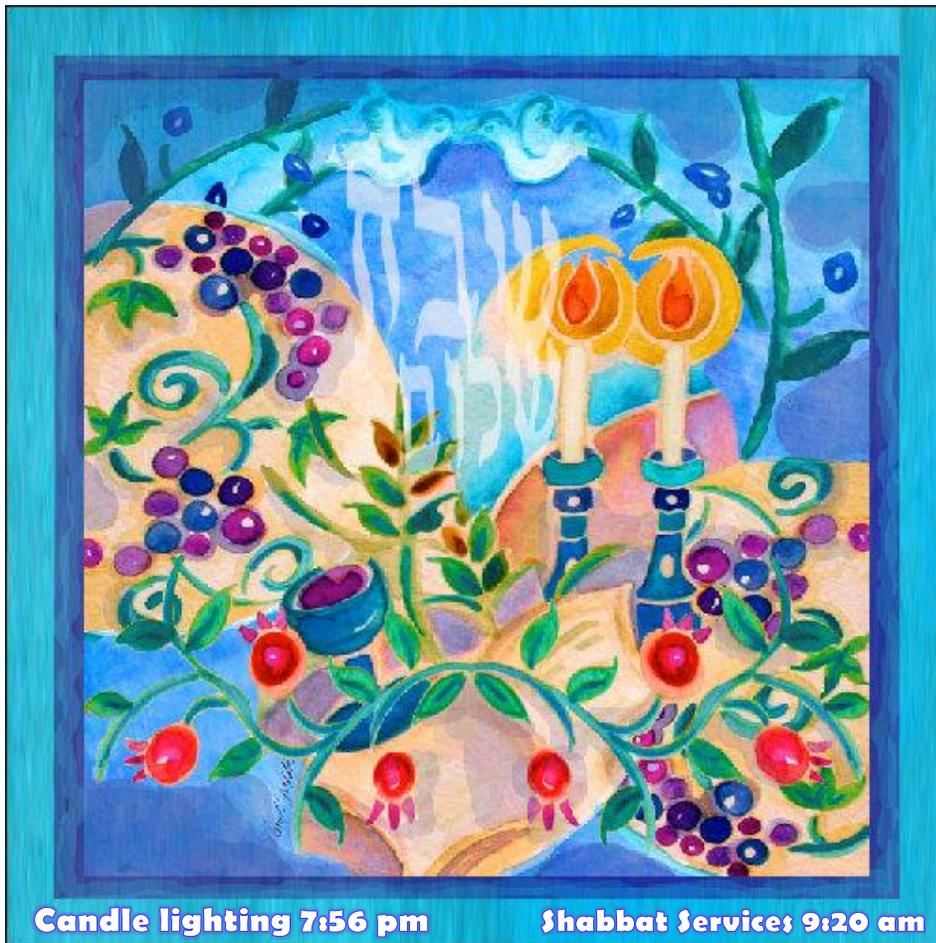




Carnegie Shul Chatter

August 15, 2018



Candle lighting 7:56 pm

Shabbat Services 9:20 am

Justice, justice shall you pursue

In last week's Torah portion we had the famous challenge to choose between the blessing or the curse. This week's portion includes another famous directive, "*Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live, and inherit the land which the Lord your God gives you.*"

**Reserve
your place
today!**

*See flyer below
for details.*



Justice: A Priority

This week's grand jury report of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania was especially disturbing, even after so many previous reports of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic priesthood. The sheer numbers – more than 300 predator priests and more than 1,000 child victims – is appalling.

If there is anyone people, especially children, should be able to trust it is clergy and teachers.

But instances of child abuse by clergy and teachers seem to be in the news every day. And scandalous sex charges against politicians, even presidents, seem to be everyday occurrences.

And it happens in Judaism too. I belonged to a synagogue in Harrisburg where the highly respected longtime cantor was convicted of sexual abuse of girls he was preparing for Bat Mitzvah.

We cannot just turn our heads and say, "That's the way things are." We must do something so that these things do not continue to happen in the future.

"Justice, justice" must once again be something that is the highest priority in our society.

The parshah says, *“Judges and officers shall you appoint in all your gates, which the Lord your God gives you, throughout your tribes; and they shall judge the people with just judgment. You shall not pervert judgment; you shall not respect persons, nor take a bribe; for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise, and perverts the words of the righteous. Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may live, and inherit the land which the Lord your God gives you.”*



Moses does not say it just once, he says it twice, “Justice, Justice.” Justice is that important.

How can any government expect to have the support of the governed if the governed do not believe that they are being treated justly by those who govern, by those who create laws, by those who enforce laws, and by those who mete out justice?

And yet, as I pick up the newspaper or watch television, all I see and all I hear are stories that question whether citizens in our great nation are receiving justice.

Monday, the West Virginia House of Delegates impeached four justices of the state Supreme Court on charges of extravagant spending and other misconduct, setting the stage for a Senate trial that could lead to their removal.

Yesterday, a sweeping grand jury report in Pittsburgh said that more than 300 Catholic priests across Pennsylvania sexually abused children over seven decades, protected by a hierarchy of church leaders who covered it up. The investigation, one of the broadest inquiries into church sex abuse in U.S. history, identified 1,000 children who were victims, but reported that there probably are thousands more.

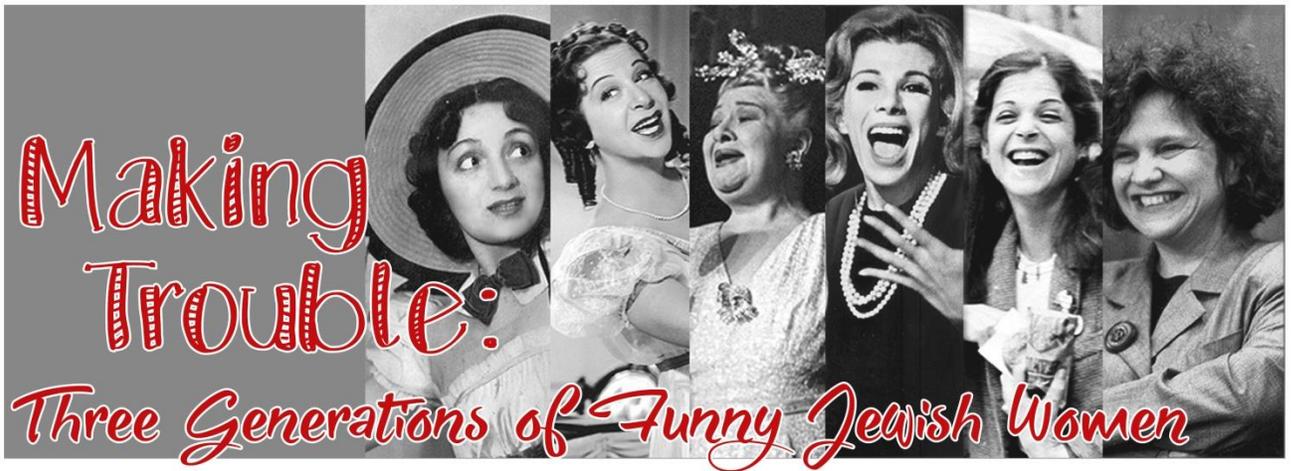
“Priests were raping little boys and girls, and the men of God who were responsible for them not only did nothing; they hid it all. For decades,” the grand jury wrote in its report.

Also yesterday, the defense rested in the trial of Paul Manafort, the former Trump campaign chairman accused of tax evasion and bank fraud.



Last week, the President tweeted about the attorney general, the head of the Department of Justice, "Our A.G. is scared stiff and Missing in Action."

This summer, protesters have taken to the streets across the Pittsburgh area protesting what they perceive to



Wednesday, August 29 - 7 pm

Doors open 6:30

The Hollywood Theater

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