



Carnegie Shul Chatter

June 18, 2020



Join us on Shabbas

What a wonderful way to spend a Shabbas morning! Last Saturday we resumed our Sabbath services, and although some alterations were made to our normal procedures due to the coronavirus pandemic, it was still exhilarating to have a minyan and pray together as a congregation.

This week we will once again be using the safeguards that we put in place last week. These are:

1. Enter through the front doors. No access code will be needed.
2. Take your prayer book and tallis to your seat with you. When services are concluded, leave them at your seat, where they will remain until the next time you attend.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available.

No Place Like Shul

Over the past several months, during the coronavirus pandemic, many of us have said our prayers at home, not in the synagogue. And that was okay. God hears our prayers whether we are at home or at Shul. After all, God is everywhere isn't he? And God knows even our most private thoughts, doesn't he?

But last week we were able to return to the synagogue and pray alongside our fellow congregants, and if you were there you know how good that felt.

Some prayers do require a minyan to recite. We cannot read the Torah without a minyan. We cannot recite the Amidah's Kedushah without a minyan. We cannot say Kaddish without a minyan.

Some may wonder why in such extraordinary times we cannot say these prayers without a minyan, but the purpose of this sidebar is not to debate that question. The purpose is merely to say how good it was to pray among fellow members of our little Jewish community at the Carnegie Shul. It really was.

We will be there again this Saturday. How about joining us? Try it. I promise you will like it.

4. Wear a mask.
5. Sit only in rows that have not been taped off. Do not sit next to anyone unless they reside in your household.
6. During services there will be no parading of Torahs, and we ask you not to shake hands.
7. If you receive an aliyah, you will say the blessings at your seat. No one except Dr. Block will be on the bimah.
8. Gabbis will do their functions from their seats.
9. One person will both lift and wrap the Torah.
10. The procedures with regard to Torah reading have been declared ritualistically acceptable by Orthodox rabbis.
11. There will be no Kiddush after services. When services are concluded, remain socially distanced from other congregants as you exit the synagogue.

Looking forward to seeing you in Shul on Saturday!

Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 28 at 2 pm**. But this year's Meeting will also be different due to the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of conducting the meeting at our Shul, we will instead hold the meeting using Zoom. To participate, please email our president, Dr. Larry Block, at lhblockphd@gmail.com, and he will send you the necessary link.

We will be electing a new secretary at the meeting, and the nominating committee has nominated Wendy Panizzi for this position.

Our guest speaker for the meeting will be Zack Block, son of our president, Dr. Larry Block.

Zack is the Senior Director of Communities and Executive Director, Repair the World Pittsburgh. His talk will primarily focus on Repair the World and the unrest that has been a constant feature of our news since the murder of George Floyd.

Zack was recently interviewed for the June 2020 issue of Pittsburgh Magazine.

Zack is a born-and-bred Pittsburgher, who grew up watching the Pittsburgh Pirates of the 1990s, and bleeds black and gold. He is ecstatic that the team is a contender again.

Zack spent many years working for large public accounting firms, assisting Fortune 500 companies in reducing their state tax exposure. During that time, he dedicated much of his free time to volunteering for countless non-profit organizations, including Hillel Jewish University Center ("JUC") and the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh ("Federation"). It was during this "free time" that he found out how meaningful his impact could be for the



organizations where he served. Zack wanted to focus on that service and is thrilled to now be pursuing his passions for volunteerism, community activism and philanthropy in his day job by engaging and inspiring young people to join him in these important efforts.

As a long-time board member of the Hillel JUC in Pittsburgh, Zack was instrumental in building and sustaining J'burgh, Pittsburgh's social and professional network for Jewish graduate students and young professionals. Zack also served as Young Adult Campaign Chair at the Federation, which raised over \$450,000 in young adult donations for its annual campaign.

Zack received his B.S. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 2000, and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2005.

When he's not watching the Pirate's win, Zack enjoys drinking Zeke's Repair the World Reserve coffee and taking walks on Forbes and Murray in Squirrel Hill with his wife and three kids.