



Carnegie Shul Chatter

June 25, 2020



Stay Well!

Covid 19 just does not seem to want to go away. Some states, especially in the south and west, are seeing steep increases in the number of cases and hospitalizations. And even though we are still doing well here in Allegheny County, there has been an uptick in cases here too this week.

We have been able to hold services at the Carnegie Shul for the past two Saturdays and things have gone well with social distancing and other protective policies that we have put in place. For now, our Shul seems to be one of the safest places that you can go.

But even though we are very comfortable having services at our Shul, having the Annual Meeting there was a bit more problematic and the Shul's officers and Board, with an abundance of caution (I'm sure you are probably all tired of hearing that term by now) decided that it would be more prudent to conduct the Annual Meeting by Zoom conference.

We would love to have you attend our services in person, and we would also love to have you attend the Annual Meeting via Zoom.

We look forward to seeing you at one or, preferably, both. Stay well!

Words of Inspiration

How many of you read the English translations in our Siddur, The Daily Prayer Book, originally translated by Philip Birnaum in 1949, but still as fine a translation as any that have come along since.

One portion that I find very inspiring, especially in

trying times such as we face today, can be found on Page 348, just a couple of pages after the Shema. If you have never read it in English, allow me to share it with you now.

“True and certain, established and enduring, right and steadfast, beloved and precious, pleasant and sweet, revered and glorious, correct and acceptable, good and beautiful is this faith to us forever and ever. True it is that the eternal God is our King, the stronghold of Jacob and our saving shield. He exists throughout all generations; his name endures; his throne is firm; his kingdom and his truth are forever established. His words are living and enduring, faithful and precious, forever and to all eternity, as for our fathers, so also for us, for our children, and for future generations, and for the seed of Israel his servants.

Alike for the first and last generations this faith is good and valid forever and ever; it is true and trustworthy, a law that will not pass away. True it is that thou art the Lord our God and God of our fathers, our King and the King of our fathers, our Redeemer and the Redeemer of our fathers, our Maker and saving Stronghold, our Deliverer and Rescuer. Thou art eternal; there is no God besides thee.”

These are powerful words indeed, and they are a wonderful reminder of the strength of our Jewish religion that survives even the greatest of challenges because of our eternal God.

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.

Mailing List and Membership Information

The Chatter mailing list includes many people who are not Shul members and that is fine, but we do want to make certain that non-members who are receiving the Chatter are actually interested in continuing to receive it. If you are not a member, please email mrmike7777@yahoo.com if you want to remain on the list.

Additionally, we are updating our membership list to include the correct names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all of our members. Please also email your current information to mrmike7777@yahoo.com.

Thank you.



Join Us — and Stay Safe

Please join us for Sabbath services. We will use the following safeguards.

1. Enter through the front doors.
2. Take your prayer book and tallis to your seat. After services, leave them, to remain there until the next time you attend.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available.
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. These Torah reading procedures have been declared ritualistically acceptable by Orthodox rabbis:
 - If you receive an aliyah, you will say the blessings at your seat. No one except Dr. Block will be on the bimah.
 - Gabbis will do their functions from their seats.
 - One person will both lift and wrap the Torah.
8. There will be no Kiddush. When services are concluded, remain socially distanced from other congregants as you exit.



Recent donations to the Carnegie Shul:

Robert M. Mandelkorn, M.D., for the yahrzeit of Benjamin Mandelkorn

Lois Ash Metlika, for Mi'sheberachs

Irwin and Lori Norvitch, for Yizkor donations