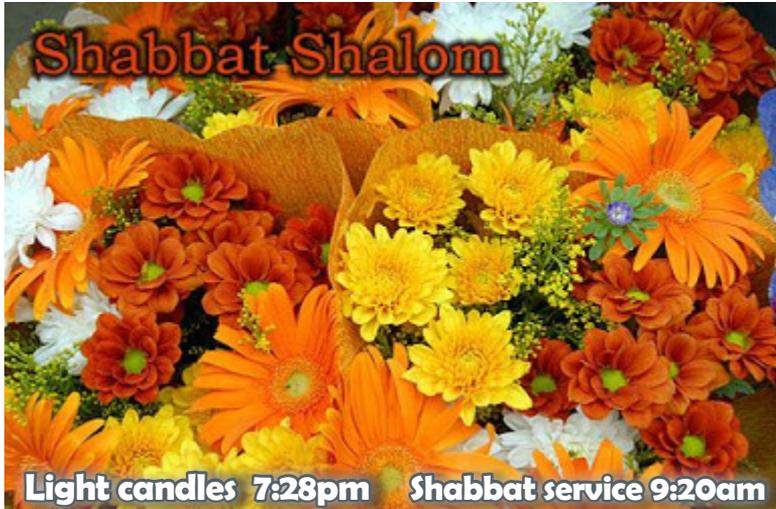




Carnegie Shul Chatter

September 3, 2020



What a Year!

Oy, what a year. Let's end this one and move on to the next. It can't possibly be worse.

Most of us at some point or another have had that very thought this year. Some have lost a job or have had a friend or loved one lose a job due to the pandemic. Some have had serious financial setbacks as a result of the pandemic. Some have suffered illness or maybe even been hospitalized as a result of the pandemic. And some have seen friends or loved ones lose their lives to the pandemic.

For many, it has not been a good year.

Our country has been divided politically and we have seen social unrest that has sometimes boiled over into rioting in our streets. Some have seen their businesses looted or even burned to the ground.

We had months when we could not attend services in our Shuls because of the pandemic. Many of us could not visit

A New Beginning

Yes, it has been a tough year, but with the coming of the High Holidays and the beginning of the New Year, there is indeed hope for a better year ahead.

The Times of Israel yesterday reported that a third coronavirus vaccine has started the final stage of testing. And there are more vaccines still in the pipeline. Surely at least one vaccine will give us the protection from the virus that will enable our lives to return to normal.

It is easy to despair when times are tough. It is easy to feel isolated and alone.

But we are never alone. God is always there for us. Don't be afraid to reach out to God. Don't be afraid to pray. Remember to give thanks to your Creator even when things look their darkest.

The Jewish people have survived slavery in Egypt. We have survived the Inquisition. We have survived the Holocaust.

And with God as our protector, we will survive the current pandemic and any future challenges that come our way if we maintain our faith in our one true God.

our elderly relatives in nursing homes because of the pandemic. Many celebrated Passover apart from their families because of the pandemic.

Anti-Semitism has been a constant theme, although with everything else that has been going on, it has often been overlooked by mainstream media. Shuls have been set on fire. Swastikas have been painted on Shuls. Jews have been attacked and have been seriously injured or even killed.

And it is not just here in the good old USA. Riots and political unrest have been an everyday occurrence in Israel as well, as thousands have taken to the streets outside of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence, protesting against police brutality, the handling of the Coronavirus crisis, the lack of a budget, and the possible annexation of land on the West Bank, to name just a few of the crises that have affected the State of Israel this year.

And yes, the year that has been so very difficult will soon be coming to a close.

But things appear to be getting just a bit better. Cases of the virus in Allegheny County have been trending downward over the last month. Some people have been able to go back to work, and the markets have recovered most of their losses. Schools are trying to reopen, though the virus does not seem to want to allow that to happen.

We have been attending Shul again in Carnegie for nearly two months, albeit with many changes to our usual processes. Sadly, at least for now, most larger congregations remain closed. But at least we are back.

And a major breakthrough has taken place in Israel over the past couple of weeks with a peace accord being struck between the United Arab Emirates and our Jewish homeland.

The High Holidays are now upon us. Most of us will still need to spend the Holidays apart from, or at least socially distanced from, our loved ones. But we will be able to go to Shul. As we recently announced, the Carnegie Shul will be having services for the High Holidays. The process will be different, accommodations will be made, but we will be having services in our building and online.

Last week, we sent you a reservation form for in-Shul services. We hope you will be able to join us. We look forward to seeing you in person. It will be good for you, and it will be good for us. **Please complete the reservation form below and return it ASAP so we can reserve your seat for you.**

Thank You!

Recent donations to the Carnegie Shul:

Gerrie Ketler, in memory of her husband, Jack Ketler, and all her family members memorialized on yearzeit plaques at the Carnegie Shul

Gerrie Ketler, for flowers for the Shul on Yom Kippur, donated in memory of her husband Jack Ketler.

Wendy Panizzi, for flowers for the Shul on Rosh HaShanah, donated in memory of her parents, Arthur and Gloria Weisz

Michael & Ellen Roteman [through the Bob and Ruth Roteman Memorial Philanthropic Fund] in honor of Larry Block, in appreciation for his leading services on Shabbos

Reserve Your Place!

This year, because of the Pandemic, our High Holiday services at Ahavath Achim, the Carnegie Shul, will be a little different than usual, but hopefully they will still serve as an inspiration to all as we begin the New Year.

Our services have been planned to provide as safe an environment as possible for those of you who elect to attend services in our Sanctuary. For those who elect to not attend in person, we will be streaming our services to you via Zoom, You Tube, or some other medium. Information on accessing the streamed services will be sent out in a few days.

We are conducting our High Holiday services with as much social distancing as we possibly can. Your health is of the utmost importance to us. If you are the least bit uncomfortable being in the sanctuary with others, you are not Halachically required to attend. Please do not attend if you feel even slightly ill (coughing or sniffing), or if you have been exposed to someone who is a possible Covid-19 carrier. Likewise, if you know you have any underlying health issues that put you at greater risk, please stay home.

The following protocols will apply for the High Holiday Services:

1. A face mask must be worn properly at all time. NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. When you enter the Sanctuary, please go directly to your assigned seat. A prayer book will be waiting for you. Please leave the prayer book at your seat when departing from services.
3. Do not walk around the Shul after you have taken your seat.
4. Please bring your own yarmulke and tallis if you have one, and take them with you when you depart at the end of services. If you use one of the synagogue's yarmulkas or tallises, please leave them at your seat at the conclusion of services.
5. Please maintain social distancing as you come and go from the synagogue.
6. Please sanitize hard surfaces in the restrooms before and after each use with materials provided in the bathrooms.
7. There will be no parading or kissing of the Torah. If you are given an Aliyah, you will recite the blessings at your seat, not on the Bimah. The reader will be the only one on the Bimah.
8. The maximum number of participants will be 50. All participants will need to RSVP before the holidays. Seats will be reserved on a first come, first served basis.
9. Please understand that space is limited. If you cannot attend a service for which you RSVPed, please let the Carnegie Shul know as soon as possible to allow for someone else to take your place.
10. DO NOT attend services if you are not feeling well or if you have been exposed to someone who is a possible Covid 19 carrier, or if you have underlying health issues that may put you at greater risk of becoming infected.

Coronavirus, COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily through person-to-person contact. Federal and state authorities recommend social distancing and mask usage as a means to prevent the spread of the virus. COVID-19 can lead to severe illness, personal injury, permanent disability, and death. Participating in a service at Ahavath Achim could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. Ahavath Achim in no way warrants that COVID-19 infection will not occur through

Please complete and return the reservation form below via email (preferred) to Mike Roteman at mrmike7777@yahoo.com or via US mail to Mike Roteman, 307 S. Dithridge St, Apt 412, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. RSVP by Sept. 11.

High Holiday Reservations – Ahavath Achim (The Carnegie Shul)

Your name and names of all who will be attending with you _____

Your E-mail: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Please Place an X next to each service you will be attending.

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, Sept. 18, 2020

Evening Services..... 7:15 pm

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020

Morning Services 8:30 am

Evening Services..... 6:15 pm

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020

Morning Services 9:30 am

Tashlich / Evening Services 6:15 pm

Yom Kippur

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020

Kol Nidrei Services..... 7:00 pm

Monday, Sept. 28, 2020

Morning Services & Yizkor Memorial Service..... 9:00 am

Afternoon & Neilah Closing Service 5:45 pm

Please help the Carnegie Shul continue to provide services on the High Holidays and throughout the year by making a Holiday Contribution.

Please indicate the amount you would like to contribute. Thank you.

\$50

\$200

\$500

\$100

\$300

Other \$_____

Tentative Holiday Schedule 5781, 2020

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 18

Evening service... 7:15 pm

Saturday, September 19

Preliminary

Service..... 8:30 am

Shacharis 9:00 am

Torah Reading . 10:00 am

Sermon 10:45 am

Musaf 11:15 am

Recess..... 1:15 pm

Tashlich 6:15 pm

Minchah 7:00 pm

Maariv 7:15 pm

Sunday, September 20

Preliminary

Service..... 8:30 am

Shacharis 9:00 am

Torah Reading .. 10:00 am

Sermon..... 10:45 am

Musaf 11:15 am

Yom Kippur

Sunday, September 27

Kol Nidre7:00 pm

Maariv7:45 pm

Monday, September 28

Preliminary

Service9:00 am

Shacharis.....9:30 am

Torah Reading...10:30 am

Sermon11:15 am

Yizkor11:45 am

Musaf12:15 pm

Recess2:30 pm

Minchah..... 5:45 pm

Neilah..... 6:45 pm

Shofar7:45 pm

Break The Fast7:50 pm