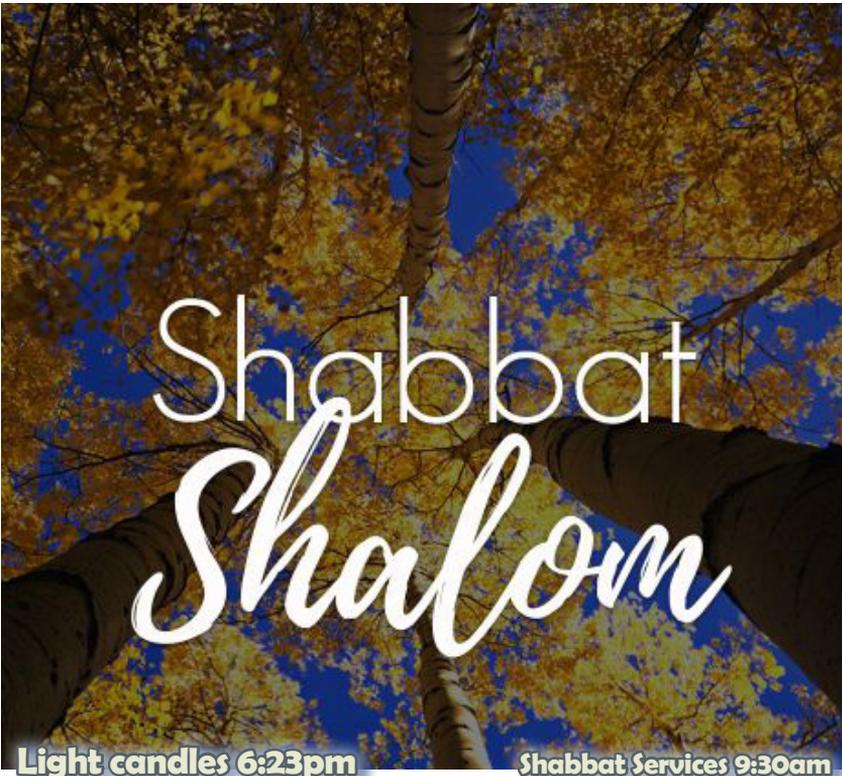




Carnegie Shul Chatter

October 14, 2022



Light candles 6:23pm

Shabbat Services 9:30am

Shabbat Services

The Carnegie Shul continues to offer hybrid Shabbat services. Please join us in the sanctuary, providing you have been vaccinated for Covid 19. Masks are optional, and there is plenty of room for social distancing. Those wishing to attend virtually should watch for a Zoom link in their email later in the week. If you don't receive it, contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.

The End... and the Beginning

Next Monday evening we celebrate the holiday of Simchas Torah, rejoicing in the Torah. And though I rejoice at the wonderful gift that is the Torah, I am also somewhat saddened. Why? Because as we celebrate Simchas Torah, we read the last parshah of the Torah before we immediately read the first parshah, to symbolize the never-ending cycle of Torah in our lives. And what happens in the last parshah? It is, of course, the death of Moses.

Could there be any greater human being than Moses?

What an incredible man. And yet he was just that – a man. He wasn't a God. He wasn't an angel. He wasn't the Messiah. He wasn't Superman: he had no super powers of his own – the miracles that he administered were miracles from God. Moses was simply the messenger. But what a messenger he was.

He lived 120 years and most

Continued on next page.

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of his life was spent in service to God and the Jewish people. But he was human and he made mistakes. And when the time came for the Children of Israel to enter the Holy Land it was Joshua, not Moses, who was chosen by God to be the leader.

But let us not shed too many tears for Moses because there can be no doubt that Moses will forever occupy a very special place with God in heaven.

And so, on Simchas Torah, let us celebrate. We have the Torah, given by God through Moses, to guide us through life in the way that God directs us.

Shabbat Chol Hamoed Torah Reading in a Nutshell

Exodus 33:12-34:26

From Chabad.org

G-d agrees to Moses' request that His presence only dwell amongst the Jews. Moses requests to be shown G-d's glory. G-d agrees, but informs Moses that he will only be shown G-d's "back," not G-d's "face."

G-d tells Moses to carve new tablets upon which G-d will engrave the Ten Commandments. Moses takes the new tablets up to Mt. Sinai, where G-d reveals His glory to Moses while proclaiming His Thirteen Attributes of Mercy.



G-d seals a covenant with Moses, assuring him again that His presence will only dwell with the Jews. G-d informs the Jewish people that He will drive the Canaanites from before them. He instructs them to destroy all vestiges of idolatry from the land, not to make molten gods, to refrain from making any covenants with its current inhabitants, to sanctify male firstborn humans and cattle, and not to cook meat together with milk.

The Jews are commanded to observe the three festivals — including the holiday of Sukkot, "the festival of the ingathering, at the turn of the year." All males are commanded to make pilgrimage to "be seen by G-d" during these three festivals.

The maftir, from the Book of Numbers, discusses the public offerings brought in the Temple on this day of Sukkot.

Simchas Torah Is Coming

We pray that you are having a joyous Sukkos and that you have had an opportunity to eat in a Sukkah and wave the Lulav and Etrog.

Beginning at sundown on Monday evening, October 17, we will celebrate the holiday of Simchas Torah, my favorite holiday. Here is an article from the Jewish Journal that captures some of the joy of Simchas Torah.

Grasping the Joy of Simchat Torah

Our unadulterated joy on Simchat Torah isn't disrespectful of Torah—it underscores our respect and love.

Judy Gruen

September 23, 2021

There is a moment in shul on Shabbat morning when I will, unfailingly, be overcome with emotion. That moment is after the Torah has been read and been carefully, lovingly carried back into its physical home in the Ark. We stand reverently, dressed in our Shabbat finery, as we look toward our Torah scrolls cloaked in fine, rich mantels; gleaming silver breastplates; and silver crowns. A royal ensemble.



And then, we sing: Eitz Chayim hi, l'machazikim ba, v'tomheha meushar. . . "It is a tree of life for those who grasp it, and its supporters are praiseworthy." I love these lines, but the tears begin to flow two lines later, when our voices rise as we sing, Hasheveinu, Ado-shem, eylecha, v'nashuva, chadesh yameinu k'kedem. . . "Bring us back to you, Hashem and we shall return, renew our days as of old." I know: the English sounds stilted, but the Hebrew is so beautiful and the sound of our communal song is so electric that I can never get those last words out except in a whisper. My tears are flowing. I cannot speak.

We treat the Torah reverently all year long. If the Torah is being moved in shul, we stand until it has been set in place. If someone accidentally drops a Torah scroll, fasting is required as a symbol of atonement. We clothe it in regal garments and accoutrements. We study it, day in, day out. Its life-giving spiritual nourishment is considered a gift, one we are denied only when we are in mourning, such as on Tisha B'Av.

Yet on Simchat Torah we sing and dance with these holy scrolls with abandon, excitedly,

sometimes chaotically. We may be knocking back a few as we sing of our love for the Torah and for God in merry melodies that seem better suited for the lightest of verses. Any newcomer walking into a rowdy, tipsy Simchat Torah celebration might well wonder: is this boisterous partying with God kosher?

The reason I cry when we sing Eitz Chayim hi and the reason I laugh and sing with joy on Simchat Torah are one and the same. It wasn't until I also "grasped" the Torah as my chosen life path that I began to see that is really is a tree of life. We live with insecurity and instability. Today all may be well; tomorrow we may face a plague, terrorist attack, social and political upheaval, personal tragedy. We require armed guards at our schools, shuls, and community centers. We are whipsawed by increasingly radical ideologies that threaten our Jewish values and freedom to practice our faith. The Torah and God's eternal promise to us provide ballast in the storm. And even during calm times, the Torah's wisdom and guidance help us navigate our most important relationships in life: with spouses, children, parents, and even ourselves.

People often turn to religion when life feels like it's spinning out of control. During Covid, this happened in the Jewish world, too. Several Jewish outreach organizations with study partner programs faced a surge in demand, including Partners in Torah and Oorah's TorahMates initiative.

Rabbi Yisroel Mayer Hoberman, co-director of TorahMates, told the Journal that they have seen a nearly 40 percent increase in the number of students and study partners from February 2020 through September 1. "The turbulence of the past couple of years has upended so much that we take for granted in life," Rabbi Hoberman said. "It has added significant urgency to the search among many people for a meaningful connection to the Jewish community and to the Torah's wisdom and guidance."

Our unadulterated joy on Simchat Torah isn't disrespectful of Torah—it underscores our



respect and love. In a fragile world, where today's "wisdom" will become tomorrow's refuted and discarded theory, we sing and dance with the Torah and study it because no matter what faces us tomorrow, it will always remain our Tree of Life.

Judy Gruen is a writer and editor. Her books include "The Skeptic and the Rabbi: Falling in Love with Faith."

Rabbi Danny Schiff to Speak

Don't forget, the first Legacy Cohorts program of the year is in two weeks: Rabbi Danny Schiff will speak via Zoom on Thursday, October 26, at 7:00 pm. (See the flyer on final page of this newsletter for more information about that program and others to be presented in the future.)

The meeting registration link for October 26 with Rabbi Schiff is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvdOusqjosGNDPjXGZ8-S6jkckfD0qD34t>

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Samuel Bales

Sarah Kalla

Mark Speizer

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donations

Michael L Averbach

In Memory of Eleanore Averbach

Michael L Averbach

In Memory of Victor Averbach

Michael L Averbach

In Memory of Dr. Evan Dreyer

Michael L Averbach

In Memory of Rhondda Averbach

Cliff and Judith Zlotnik

General Donation

Wendy Panizzi

General Donation

ANTI-ZIONISM FROM A TO Z

Presented by: Dr. Danny Schiff, Rabbi

Jewish Community Foundation Scholar

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

at 7:00 pm

Rabbi Schiff will explore the phenomenon of Anti-Zionism in 2022 with a particular focus on its impact within the Jewish community. He will define what Anti-Zionism is, and its links to antisemitism.



Rabbi Dr. Danny Schiff is the Foundation Scholar at the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. He is a noted teacher and researcher in Jewish ethics.

Rabbi Schiff previously served as the Community Scholar for the Agency for Jewish Learning in Pittsburgh, as rabbi of B'nai Israel in White Oak, Pennsylvania, and as rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne.

He is the author of Abortion in Judaism, published by Cambridge University Press and a forthcoming book on the future of non-Orthodox Judaism. He is a former Board member of the City of Pittsburgh Ethics Board and the Society of Jewish Ethics.

TWO JEWISH FEMALE JUSTICES:

RUTH BADER GINSBURG & ELENA KAGAN

Presented by: Dr. Rose Feinberg

Thursday, January 26, 2023

at 7:00 pm



Discover how each woman's life and Jewish heritage related to steps taken to becoming a Supreme Court Justice. Other Jewish Justices will be mentioned at the end of the program. Pictures and video clips via PowerPoint enhance this presentation.



Dr. Rose Feinberg is a popular presenter and Lifelong Learning Instructor for Florida Atlantic University and Nova University. Rose earned her Doctor of Education degree from Boston University and was a school principal in Massachusetts. She was an

Adjunct Professor at several universities, including Florida Atlantic University. Her prior careers in education, as well as her theater training, have enabled her to research and create twenty-six informative and entertaining programs, using PowerPoint and video clips.

WESTERN PA SMALL CONGREGATION 2022-2023 PROGRAMMING

with assistance from the Jewish Community Legacy Project

B'NAI B'RITH IN WESTERN PA

Presented by: Eric Lidji, Director

Rauh Jewish History Programs & Archives

Thursday, March 16, 2023

at 7:00 pm

The International Order of B'nai B'rith was one of the most important Jewish organizations in the world for much of the 19th and 20th centuries, but it was especially important for small towns in Western Pennsylvania. B'nai B'rith promoted unity within small towns Jewish communities. It also helped these isolated Jewish communities connect to the larger Jewish world. B'nai B'rith started at least 92 lodges throughout Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, plus dozens of B'nai B'rith Women chapters and BBYO chapters. We'll look at the history of B'nai B'rith in Western Pennsylvania using photographs and documents from numerous small towns throughout the region.



Eric Lidji is the director of the Rauh Jewish Archives at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. He curates its website "The Jewish Encyclopedia of Western Pennsylvania" and hosts its local history podcast "The Cornerstone." He is the author of many books and articles on the Jewish history of Western Pennsylvania.

LET ALL VICTIMS GAIN A MEASURE OF JUSTICE AS WE CONTINUE TO HONOR THEIR MEMORIES

Presented by: Dr. Richard H. Weisberg

Beth Samuel Congregation, Ambridge, PA

Thursday, April 27, 2023

at 7:00 pm

Richard Weisberg discusses the place of post WWII trials, beginning with Nuremberg, in the difficult endeavor to add a measure of justice to other ways of honoring victims of the Shoah. His focus will be on civil litigation in US federal courts, in which he has frequently participated as a lawyer for the victims or their heirs, litigation which continues to this day.

Richard Weisberg has been an attorney on behalf of survivors and their heirs before US federal judges in six cases, some successful, over many years in which defendants are Holocaust-era wrongdoers. In part relating to these efforts, he was appointed by Pres. Obama to the US Commission on the Preservation of American Heritage Abroad (2011-16) and he was awarded the French Legion of Honor by Pres Sarkozy (2008).

