Tour Map & Scavenger Hunt

Find pictures of prominent Jerusalem buildings in a stained glass window at Beth Shalom.

At what synagogue can you find a pond with fish in it?

Find the cornerstone at Poale Zedeck. What two events are commemorated by years?

What do the gardens outside Tree of Life have to do with the Pittsburgh Steelers Terry Bradshaw and “Mean Joe” Greene? You may have to ask your parents for help or Google this one.

What are the one and a half synagogue buildings designated as landmarks by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation?
Rodef Shalom Congregation | 4905 Fifth Ave

Meet at Fifth Avenue doors at 11:15 for a tour of the sanctuary. Otherwise, building only available for outside viewing.

Founded in 1856, the congregation has roots in a burial society formed in the 1840s and is the oldest in Pittsburgh. Originally Orthodox, the congregation adopted the Reform prayer book in 1863.

Building:
• A competition was held to determine who would design the building. Henry Hornbostel, the architect behind Carnegie Mellon University, emerged the winner.
• He retained in his design four representational stained glass windows from the 1901 Temple.
• The 1907 Kimball organ is the largest of its kind still in use. Interesting Fact:
• President Taft visited in 1909, marking the first time that a sitting United States president spoke from the bimah of a Jewish congregation during regular Sabbath services.

Tree of Life- Or L’Simcha

5898 Wilkins Ave.

After breaking away from Rodef Shalom in 1856, the congregation began meeting in temporary spaces until purchasing a former Lutheran church in downtown Pittsburgh. In 2007, the congregation started to rent a room to a group that had formed an independent minyan. The two officially merged in 2010, forming Tree of Life-Or L’Simcha.

Building:
• In 1946, Tree of Life President, Charles Rosenbloom, donated the land for the synagogue and supplied the cornerstone—made of limestone from Palestine.

Interesting Facts:
• Before moving to its current location, they sold their old synagogue to a theater company—now the Pittsburgh Playhouse.
• It is one of five remaining Conservative congregations that was originally affiliated with the Jewish Theological Seminary more than a century ago and is still in use today.

Shaare Torah Congregation | 2319 Murray Ave.

Available for outside viewing only.

The congregation formed in 1880 when flocks of Jews began arriving in Pittsburgh from Eastern Europe in order to escape persecution. They worshipped in the Irene Kaufmann Settlement Complex until 1948 when the current building was completed.

Interesting Fact:
• The sanctuary’s many stained glass windows depict different themes including the Life Cycle, Shabbat, Jerusalem, Tisha B’Av, the Holocaust, and Israel.

Community Day School | 6424 Forward Ave.

Enter from 9:30-10:30 to tour. Otherwise, building only available for outside viewing.

CDS was founded in 1972 as a non-denominational Jewish day school located in the old Hebrew Institute building. At the time it only taught grades K to 3, but added a grade a year and now serves to 8th grade.

Building:
• Built in 1922, the building housed the St. Philomena Church and School until 1993 when it was deconsecrated and the Jewish Education Institute moved in.

Interesting Fact:
• CDS is the only Conservative Jewish day school in the city.

Hillel Academy | 5685 Beacon St.

In 1947, local Orthodox Jews founded an all-day Jewish kindergarten. Hillel Academy grew from there, adding another grade each year and graduating its first 8th grade in 1955.

Building:
• The school originally rented space in the Morrowfield Apartments before purchasing the former Ellis School.
• They built and moved to the current location in 1958.

Interesting Fact:
• The boys’ high school and girls’ high school were not open until the 1990s.

Thank you to all of the participating buildings, sponsors, and volunteers!