

TZEDEK V'SHALOM NEWS



OCTOBER 2013

TISHREI/CHESHVAN 5774

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

FROM RABBI ANNA BOSWELL-LEVY...

DO NOT OUTSOURCE YOUR JUDAISM

(AN EXCERPT FROM RABBI ANNA'S ROSH HASHANAH SERMON)

...The first point I want to make to you today is: **Don't outsource your Judaism** — to a synagogue or a school. Make your home and your own learning the backbone of your Jewish life. If you live alone, invite people into your home and make holiday celebrations your own way. Light candles to start and end Shabbat, and offer a blessing of thanks when you sit down to eat. Start a book group. Explore the *how-to's* and *why's* of Jewish life through books like the *Jewish Catalog*, or simply search "Rabbi Google."

In the most recent edition of *Sh'ma*, a journal that explores Jewish ideas, its editor Susan Berrin discusses the ethical issues surrounding parenting — parenting babies and children, parenting adult children, and even parenting our elderly parents. It got me to think about the ethical choices I make as a parent, and I realize that what underpins those decisions is my belief that I have an ethical responsibility to make myself into the best person, not just parent, I can be. Far from being a selfish decision, I know that if I am fulfilled and happy, I make better choices for everyone concerned. I want to be available 100% for Adar, and the only way I can do that is to take care of myself. And, when you model self-care and growth for the next generation, you show

them what is possible and achievable for them.

The second point I want to make is to take Berrin's idea a step further — I want to suggest that we are also parenting ourselves. When we strive to be better each day, we show *ourselves* what is possible. We know that if we fall down on a given day, tomorrow we can try again because we have seen our own potential.

I have noticed, with all the Jewish parenting reading I do, that when we read about the future of Judaism (or the future of anything) often the focus is on the next generation. And that focus IS critically important.

But perhaps it is easier to look at the promise of the next generation rather than face ourselves, who are all growing older, have secrets and perhaps some shame, hurts that we can't erase. But we must face ourselves, and if we can't do it for ourselves, then we must do it as part of the legacy that we leave the next generation. But let's not forget that the "future of Judaism" starts with ourselves. It starts with us living every day consciously, rooted in our true nature, expressing our authentic selves to the world.

And that's what makes my last point the trickiest of all.

(Continued on page 4)

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October Services & Celebrations

Saturday, October 5 at 10 a.m. – noon

Torah Study

Location: at Bobbie and Ralph Posmontier's home
32 N. Lincoln Ave., Newtown, PA 18940
Please RSVP (for a kiddush count) to Ralph at
215-579-2644 or ralph9816@gmail.com



Friday, October 11

Second Friday

Shabbat Services followed
by potluck
6:30 p.m. Completely
Singing Service led by
Rabbi Anna

7:30 p.m. Dairy Delicious Potluck
RSVP for dinner: Elana Braz coordinates to ensure
we have a balance of food:
elanabraz@verizon.net.

Location: The Mollie Dodd Anderson Library at
George School

Directions: Turn into GS at the second entrance

south of the Newtown bypass. Parking just
beyond the library, which is across from the
meetinghouse.

Saturday, October 19 at 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Shabbat Service and Torah Study

Lead by Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy
Location: at Newtown Friends Meetinghouse,
Court Street, Newtown
Song-filled, contemplative Shabbat morning
service with Torah reading and discussion,
followed by Kiddush.

Saturday, November 2 at

10 a.m. – noon

Torah Study

Location: at a member's home
TBA



Our first Shabbat morning service of the year is Saturday, October 19th!

Do a mitzvah!

Help make a minyan!

צדק ושלום Tzedek v'Shalom



P.O. Box 863
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tzedekvshalom@gmail.com
<http://tzedekvshalom.org>
Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy
215-287-5128

Board Leadership:

Treasurer: Joel Bacher	215-860-3565
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Ralph Posmontier	215-579-2644
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Jerry Manas	215-341-6413

☆ ☆ ☆

Committee Chairs and Coordinators:

Acts of Caring	
Debbie Chong	215-504-9268
Jeanlu Ryersbach	215-943-4565
Spiritual Life: Diane Gold	215-295-2028
Webmaster: Jerry Manas	215-698-7957
Youth Advisors: Bennett Garfield and Abby Yaffe.	

Please feel free to contact any member of
our Board for any additional information.

Newsletter Editor: Naomi Mindlin 215-757-8921

To submit news to the newsletter:
email: nsmindlin@photoreview.org

Second Fridays

2013/2014 — 5774

Last year's First Fridays have evolved into this year's new, improved Second Fridays.

October 11	with Rabbi Anna	March 14	with Hannah Spiro
November 8	with Hannah Spiro	April 11	with Rabbi Anna
December 13	with Rabbi Anna	May 9	with Jack Kessler
January 3	with Jack Kessler	June 13	with Rabbi Anna
February 14	with Rabbi Anna	July 11	with Hannah Spiro

Why change to the second Friday of each month?

Because many Bucks County families have discovered Princeton's Zamru, Tzedek v'Shalom wanted to enable our members to enjoy our Shabbat celebration and also take advantage of the opportunity to attend Zamru's monthly event. Our new schedule minimizes overlapping with Zamru.

Why alternate Rabbi Anna's leading with someone else's?

Rabbi Anna established a beautiful entry into Shabbat—a totally musical service followed by a delicious potluck dinner. Many members voiced their desire to keep that new tradition going. Other members were eager to try a Zamru format in our community. Voilà! The alternating Second Friday is born.

Why are the November, January, March, May, and July Second Fridays different from all other Second Fridays?

Because the service will follow a Zamru format. We'll still have an all-singing service followed by a potluck dinner, but this service will feature a musical director — either Hannah Spiro or Jack Kessler — and a group of our lay leaders who will form the service and co-lead it.

What does "Zamru format" mean?!

Stay tuned in the coming months for more details. Until then, you can...

1. Experience Zamru yourself on October 18, 2013, at The Jewish Center at 435 Nassau Street in Princeton, NJ. Please visit <http://zamru.org/5.html> for details.
2. Visit the Zamru website at <http://zamru.org/index.html>.
3. At our last congregational meeting, Larry Garfield told us about his experience with Hannah Spiro, a Reconstructionist Rabbinical College student, at Camp JRF this summer. Find out more about her at <http://www.hannahspiro.com/>.
4. "Hazzan Jack Kessler has been described as a one-man force of nature in Jewish music" (<http://www.aleph.org/hazzan.htm>). That is not hype. You can find out more about him at several websites: <http://hazzanjackkessler.homestead.com/about.html>, <http://atzilutmusic.com/>, or <http://www.klingonklezmer.com/>.

(From Rabbi Anna, continued from page 1)

...I almost always talk about the power of community to transform the self. I believe in that powerful ideal. But today, I will be brutally honest here, most Jewish American congregations do not promote the intimacy that is needed for real self-transformation. In fairness, they weren't built with that purpose in mind. These days, even the most active Jew goes to shul to observe holidays, be social and eat Jewish food, mark life cycle occasions, and maybe learn a bit. But inner-work and self-transformation? Not so much.

That why it's important for me...to focus instead on the individual — not community, not the next generation — but the here and now, the self before God. We have to own our identities, own our Judaism in real, practical terms. We have got to start with a kernel of something we can build on, maybe something small, but something real. One of the final portions of the Torah, *Nitzavim*, famously tells us, "For this commandment is not beyond the sea, that you should say: 'Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it to us?' Rather, the matter is very near to you — in your mouth and your heart — to do it."

...The world needs this kind of Judaism, you and I need it, and the next generation needs it. Now.

For Rabbi Anna's complete High Holiday sermons, visit <http://tzedekvshalom.org/services/sermons/>.



Board News

The next Board meeting will be on October 2nd at 7 p.m. at Ralph Posmontier's home. All members are welcome to attend meetings, or volunteer to join the Board.

Contact information for the Board is always on page 2 of the newsletter.



Spiritual Life News

Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 6th at 4 p.m. at Debbie Chong's house, 417 Edgeboro Drive, Newtown, PA 18940. Please join us and put in your 2¢.

Please join our Adult Ed workshops lead by Rabbi Anna this fall. The first session starts on October 20. Information immediately follows this Spiritual Life News. And please call Arnie or me with any questions you may have.

Diane Gold, Spiritual Life Chair
agoldn1@aol.com or 215-295-2028

Adult Education — Beyond September

A Time to Study with Morah Devorah

Beginner's Hebrew: If you've ever wanted to learn the alef-bet, then seize the day! I'll teach the Hebrew alphabet at my house on Thursdays, 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Text Study—Job: If you've always wanted to read Hebrew texts with like-minded folk, a group meets at my house on Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. This week we'll start reading Job.

Call or email to tell me of your interest or to ask questions about the lessons.

Debbie Chong
weederwiz@aol.com

Practical Adult Education

In response to members' wanting to participate more in their own Judaism, Rabbi Anna will lead the following three one-session workshops this fall. Sessions will be on the third Sunday afternoon of each month, October–December, 3–5 p.m., at the Mollie Dodd Anderson Library, at George School:

- November 17: Visiting the Sick and Comforting the Afflicted
- November 17: Shiva Calls: The Rituals of Mourning
- December 15: Stand Up and Be Present: How to Lead Any Kind of Service

Introduction to Judaism course

Subtitled "Exploring Jewish Beliefs and Practices," this 20-session course will be taught by members of the Bucks County Rabbis' Council. Organized by Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy and Rabbi Paula Goldberg, classes will meet Thursday evenings, October 10 – April 17 @ 7–9 p.m. (no class on 10/31, 11/28, 12/26, 1/2) at Shir Ami, 101 Richboro Road, Newtown PA. Fee: \$150 for 24 weeks of study. See complete details on page 5 of this newsletter.



TvS Romeo and Juliet Club

The ROMEO and JULIET lunch club meets every month at a location generally determined when the group dines. The next meeting will be held in October, someplace offering delicious food, with our fine company.

Everybody is welcome.

Joel Bacher carojoel@comcast.net.

* Reconstructionist Old Men Eating Out and Jewish Unorthodox Ladies Interested in Eating and Talking



A New Opportunity to Study in Bucks County this Fall!

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM: EXPLORING JEWISH BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Taught by members of the Bucks County Rabbis' Council

If you are:

- in an Interfaith relationship
- considering conversion
- a Jew looking for adult-level basics
- a seeker and a lifelong learner

If you want to know more about:

- Jewish ethics and values
- Holidays and the Jewish calendar
- Prayer and liturgy
- Lifecycle celebrations and passages
- Jewish beliefs that underpin Jewish practices



This course is for you!

Explore, discuss, experience the basics of Jewish thought and practice
with rabbis from different streams of Judaism.

Thursday evenings October 10 – April 17 @ 7–9 pm

(no class on 10/31, 11/28, 12/26, 1/2)

Classes to be held at Shir Ami, 101 Richboro Road, Newtown PA

\$150 fee for 24 weeks of study.

To register and for more information contact
Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy rabianna@gmail.com
or Rabbi Paula Goldberg rabbipaula@gmail.com

Community Announcements

In the Beginning: Three Jewish Firsts in the Rosenbach Collection - On display through Sunday, January 12, 2014, at Rosenbach Museum & Library, 2008-2010 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, PA 19103 USA, (215) 732-1600, info@rosenbach.org, <http://www.rosenbach.org/learn/exhibitions/beginning>.

Two Outstanding Gratz Events in October!

The Jewish Storytelling Concert - Sunday, October 13 at 1:30-4:30 p.m. - with some of the country's nationally acclaimed storytellers. **Storytellers DVD especially created for this event available for purchase** - \$18 per adult, \$9 for children & students, Recommended for ages 7 and up - refreshments included - for more information please contact Barbara Rosenau at brosenau@gratz.edu or 215-625-7300 x182.

The American Jewish Story Through Cinema - Thursday, October 17 at 7:30-9:30 p.m. - The Shusterman Distinguished Scholar Lecture presents **Dr. Eric Goldman**, an adjunct associate professor of cinema at Yeshiva University and The Jewish Theological Seminary, author of *The American Jewish Story Through Cinema* - free and open to the public, dessert reception following lecture - RSVP requested to mcohen@gratz.edu, 215-635-7300 x155.

Connect with the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement - Tzedek v'Shalom is a member of this movement and you can keep in touch with our parent organization through its website and its digital newsletter. The movement offers various listserves to sign up for, depending on your interests, and is available on Facebook and Twitter. For more information, contact <http://www.jewishrecon.org/>.



In Our Shul...

Refuah Shleymah (Get Well Wishes)

Please remember Arline Kessler, Paula Adler's mother. **Home Bound (and would love visitors!)**

Susan Kitces, Anna Kitces's mom (lives at the Kitces/Fishman residence)

Ettie Kernis, Bobbie Posmontier's mom (lives at the Posmontier residence)

Eddie Mann, Diane Gold's dad (lives at Manor Care in Yardley)

Contributions

High Holiday donations

Jacob and Eleanora Angert

Susan and Harvey Gressgott

Rebecca and Mark Schaeffer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blumenthal

General Operating Fund

From Sharon and Jerry Manas

From Janis and Dan Gemelfarb, in honor of Bernie Heyman's 90th birthday and Bennett Garfield's Bar Mitzvah

From the Necowitzes, with thanks to Arnie and Diane Gold for taking care of Nugget

From Talia DeLone, in memory of her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Nathan Trachtenberg

Lifecycle Events at TvS

Anniversaries:

Bobbie & Ralph Posmontier October 10, 1976

Birthdays:

Audrey Antonello October 2
Steve Pastor October 5
Howard Blumenthal October 16
Joel Bacher October 17
Rotem Braz/Reese October 23, 1996
Sandi Fein October 24
Max Yaffe October 26
Jaye Leah Plumb October 27, 1993
Marilyn Silberfein October 27
Sharon Manas October 29

Yahrzeits:

Yahrzeit dates are listed here by the Jewish death day (according to the Jewish calendar) and its Gregorian equivalent this year. The original death date follows in parenthesis when available.

Louis Fein 15 Tishrei/September 19 (10/14/08)
Herman Blask 19 Tishrei/September 23 (10/9/98)
Elaine Weintraub 21 Tishrei/September 25 (10/7/12)
Anne Perloff 23 Tishrei/September 27 (10/24/97)
Jack Bacher 1 Cheshvan/October 5 (11/1/78)
Celia Keces 11 Cheshvan/October 15
Bruce Slomin 13 Cheshvan/October 17 (10/28/85)
Samuel Blask 14 Cheshvan/October 18 (11/4/60)
Anne Sanders Grand 15 Cheshvan/October 19 (11/4/98)
Fay Tabolsky Schram 16 Cheshvan/October 20 (10/28/77)
Alex Kauffman 16 Cheshvan/October 20 (10/28/07)
Alfredo Chong 22 Cheshvan/October 26 (10/28/02)
Morris Berkowitz 22 Cheshvan/October 26 (11/17/03)
Harold Schwartz 27 Cheshvan/October 31 (11/6/99)
Hilda Rosenthal 2 Kislev/November 5 (11/27/03)
Gertrude Kauffman 2 Kislev/November 5 (12/2/78)
Ethel Rachel Kitsis 3 Kislev/November 6

Honoring Generativity: This Is What 80 Looks Like



- **Dine with Gloria Steinem, Rabbi Arthur Waskow, and a host of others** supporting spirit-centered social activism and The Shalom Center. Dinner tickets are \$180/ seat until October 4 and increase on October 5 to \$198. Dinner admission includes the Honor Event described just below. Seats are limited. Pre-registration for the dinner is required by October 18. **Nov 3, 5:00-7:00pm**
- Attend and participate in an **Honor Event** after dinner. It will include a conversational interview of Gloria and Arthur, musical performance, several Special Guests who will introduce & honor Gloria & Arthur, and delicious desserts. Tickets for the Honor Event admission alone is \$50 or (\$25 for underemployed) until November 2. On November 3, prices will increase to \$55. Seating is limited. If you do not pre-register, check www.theshalomcenter.org to see if we are sold out. **Nov 3, 7:00-9:00pm**
- Add your own message to the **Tribute Book** which will include essays by Gloria Steinem and Reb Arthur. (See registration page for details.)
- Organizational co-sponsors are invited. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Dinner committee is in formation. Write to office@theshalomcenter.org for details.

When November 3rd, 2013 5:00 PM

Location Mishkan Shalom
4101 Freeland Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19128
United States

Contact Phone: 215-844-8494
Email: office@theshalomcenter.org

TvS Calendar — October 2013 • *Tishrei/Cheshvan 5774*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 27 Tishrei	2 Board Meeting 7 pm @ the Posmontiers'	3 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	4 30 Tishrei Rosh Hodesh Cheshvan	5 1 Cheshvan Torah Study 10 am – noon @ the Posmontiers' Rosh Hodesh Cheshvan
6 Spiritual Life Committee Meeting 4 p.m. @ the Chongs'	7	8	9	10 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	11 Second Friday Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 pm @ the Anderson Library at George School	12
13	14	15	16	17 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	18	19 Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10 am – 12:30 pm @ Newtown Friends Meetinghouse
20 Practical Adult Ed. w/Rabbi Anna 3–5 pm @ the Anderson Library at George School	21	22	23	24 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	November 1	2 Torah Study 10 am – noon @ a member's home

A Bumper Crop of Adult Ed Classes

Study Hebrew with **Morah Devorah**
(aka Debbie Chong) OR

Study Practical Judaism with **Rabbi Anna** OR

Study about basic Judaism with a variety of **Bucks County Rabbis**

OR

Do it all! See pages 4 & 5 for complete details.



Tzedek v'Shalom Tzedakah Opportunities

Donor (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Date _____ Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____ to the following fund:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jordan Wallis TvS Memorial Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Books Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Tzedakah Fund |

Please make checks payable to Tzedek v'Shalom.

Send to: Arnie Gold, Treasurer

Tzedek v'Shalom

Post Office Box 863

Newtown, PA 18940

Some suggested occasions you may wish to commemorate with your donations:

🔗 With Gratitude to: _____

For _____

🔗 Mazel Tov to: Name(s) _____

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On the birth / naming / adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> On his/her graduation / birthday |
| of: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> On their wedding / engagement / wedding anniversary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On becoming a bat/bar mitzvah | |

🔗 Condolences to: _____ on the recent death of _____

🔗 In memory of _____

🔗 Get well wishes (Refuah Shelemah) to: _____

🔗 Special message: _____

Please send an acknowledgment to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

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