

TZEDEK V'SHALOM NEWS



NOVEMBER 2013

CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5774

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3

צדק ושלום



THEME OF THE YEAR: TZEDEK V'SHALOM

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

JONATHAN (AKA JES) SAVRIN came to our October Tzedek v'Shalom board meeting with a request and a challenge: Could our congregation please live up to our name?

Some board members were genuinely perplexed. They had been members for years, but had never heard how our name had been chosen. They were not aware of the process earlier members had gone through to find our name and had no idea about the depth of its meaning.

Many of us present were moved by the passion with which Jonathan (aka Jes) spoke. He reminded us that “tzedek v'shalom — justice and peace” required balance at every level, from international relations, to communal communications, to personal internal struggles. Yes, even individuals need to grapple with considering both justice and peace on a spiritual levels. Our souls need to attend to the relationship of justice and peace as much as our community needs to.

Our summer organizing committee — Joan, Larry, and Howard — had recommended that Tzedek v'Shalom organize ourselves around an annual theme. Our congregation would share a common focus (besides our beloved community) and we would center all events around this theme. The Board voted to make our name, Tzedek v'Shalom, our inaugural theme of the year.

The Spiritual Life Committee, meeting the following week, jumped at the prospect of creating programs around the theme of our name. Rabbi Anna volunteered to approach two members to create a mini-series addressing Israeli-Palestinian issues. We would encourage those interested in a book group to make choices based on our theme.

And so we are off — driven and inspired by ideas from ourselves.

TZEDEK V'SHALOM — JUSTICE AND PEACE

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November Services & Celebrations

Torah Study

Saturday, November 2 at 10 a.m. – noon

Location: at Anna Kitces and Seth Fishman's home
1015 Yorkshire Drive, Yardley PA 19067

Please RSVP (for a kiddush count) to Anna at 267-229-7487. Use the same number if you get lost!

Directions: From the Newtown Bypass, traveling toward Yardley:

1. Continue onto Schuyler Dr. (0.9 mi.)
2. Turn left at Edgewood Rd. (0.6 mi.)
3. Take the 2nd right onto Oxford Valley Rd. (0.2 mi.)
4. Take the 1st left onto Countess Dr. (367 ft.)
5. Take the 1st left onto Saxony Ln. (0.1 mi.)
6. Take the 2nd right onto Yorkshire Dr. 1015 Yorkshire Dr. is on the right.



Second Friday

Friday, November 8

Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service led by Bobbie, Debbie, Seth, and Max, ably backed up by Hannah Spiro

7:30 p.m. Dairy Delicious Potluck
RSVP for dinner to Elana Braz at elanabraz@verizon.net.

Location: The Mollie Dodd Anderson Library at George School

Directions: Turn into GS at the 2nd entrance south of the Newtown bypass. Park just beyond the library, which is across from the meetinghouse. **See page 3 for details.**

צדק ושלום

Tzedek v'Shalom



P.O. Box 863

Newtown, PA 18940

(215) 860-0119

tzedekvshalom@gmail.com

<http://tzedekvshalom.org>

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy

215-287-5128

Board Leadership:

Treasurer: Joel Bacher 215-860-3565

Debbie Bossio 215-801-2005

Linda Gold 215-741-4571

Naomi Mindlin 215-757-8921

Ralph Posmontier 215-579-2644

Past President:

Jerry Manas 215-341-6413

Saturday, November 9: Havdalah Dinners

Location: at members' homes

Contact Joan Amatniek at jamatniek@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday, November 16 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.

Hanukkah Party with

Tzedek v'Shalom

Saturday, November 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

Location: TBA

Organizer: TBA

Stay tuned for more information. The

Spiritual Life Committee scheduled our community

Hanukkah celebration for the week BEFORE

Hanukkah in order to avoid Thanksgiving weekend.

But now it seems none of the people who volunteered to help with holiday celebrations will be around.

We'll try a plan B — and are open to suggestions.



Torah Study

Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m. – noon

Location: at the Bossios' home at 14 Houston Road, Yardley, PA 19067

Please RSVP (for a kiddush count) to Debby at 215-321-4081 or deborahbossio@comcast.net.

☆ ☆ ☆

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



Tzedek v'Shalom Singing Shabbat

Friday, November 8 at 6:30 p.m.

at the Mollie Dodd Anderson
Library at George School*

Come join **Bobbie, Debbie, Seth, and Max**
as they lead/sing our

Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv Service,

ably backed up by **HANNAH SPIRO** on guitar, our
very own **Ralph** on drums, and hopefully a few
more players. Hannah is a musician and Reconstructionist
Rabbinical College student who got rave reviews for her Shabbat style at Camp
JRF this summer.

The service starts at 6:30 and will take about an hour. Except for a short d'var Torah, a few page numbers, and the appropriate silent prayers, it will be totally sung! We've picked out a special mix of old Tzedek v'Shalom favorites and some new music you may not have heard before. For sure, it will be joyful, moving Shabbat.

Afterwards we will keep our Shabbat tradition and have a **Potluck Dinner**. Please bring a generously sized vegetarian/dairy entrée and drink to share. You may bring an additional dessert if you'd like. Also, please bring serving utensils. We will provide the rest.

We'd appreciate an RSVP to Elana Braz at elanabraz@verizon.net so we can get a head count.

Please let your Jewish and/or music-loving friends know about this service. Everyone is welcome.

For questions, email Max Yaffe at maxyaffe@gmail.com

HANNAH SPIRO has been singing and strumming at Washington, D.C. area coffeehouses since she was 13. Now, a rabbinical student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, Hannah is revolutionizing the concept of Jewish music, beginning with her 2010 alt-Jewish CD, "Aliyah." Her newest album, "It Is Upon Us," combines traditional inspirations with alternative perspectives for an alt-folk original album of Jewish prayer. Hannah's sound is a combination of folk, pop and rock, reminiscent of such other singer-songwriters as Natalie Merchant and Tegan and Sara. With her interpretive liturgy, musical midrash, and other folk-rock music, Hannah combines raw emotion with thought and purpose.

Learn more about Hannah Spiro and sample her music at <http://www.hannahspiro.com/home.html>.

*Map of George School: <http://www.georgeschool.org/campusmap/index.html>
The Anderson Library is building #61



Board News

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13 at 7 p.m. at Joel Bacher'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, November 10th 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 second and third sessions will be at 3–5 p.m. as follows:

- November 17: Shiva Calls: The Rituals of Mourning at a location TBA (George School told us at our press deadline that the library is not available on 11/17, so watch your mailbox of a new location.)
- December 15: Stand Up and Be Present: How to Lead Any Kind of Service, at the Anderson Library at George School.

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. We are reading Job now.

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

Debbie Chong
215-504-9268 or weederwiz@aol.com



TvS Romeo and Juliet Club

The next ROMEO and JULIET lunch club will meet Wednesday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m. at Jake's Eatery, 49 Cambridge Lane, Newtown, PA 18940,

(215) 968-8676 (off Newtown-Richboro road, roughly across the street from NAPA Auto Parts).

Can't make it this month? Remember, we meet every month at a location 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



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>.



Reconstructionist Updates

Behrman House Site Showcases Reconstructionist Prayers: Many prayers from the Reconstructionist liturgy — including *kiddush*, *gevurot*, *kedushah*, *sim shalom*, *havdalah*, *aleyну* and *kaddish* — now appear on the Behrman House website at <http://www.behrmanhouse.com/reconstructionist>, in an easy format for first-time study or as a “refresher.” Each prayer is downloadable, and users can also hear it read aloud. This material is free.

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., is the new president elect of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. You can share in the excitement that filled the air the day this news was announced by **listening to her impromptu remarks**. Rabbi Waxman brings us a generous, inclusive vision informed by her expert knowledge of American Jewish history. **Learn more here** or through the RRC homepage at <http://www.rrc.edu>. And she plans to travel widely, so that she can engage with members of Reconstructionist communities all over North America. If you have questions for Rabbi Waxman, you can reach her at officeofthepresident@rrc.edu.

Israel Is Calling You! The first Reconstructionist movement trip to Israel will run May 14–21, 2014. Deepen your connection to Judaism as you experience life in Israel today. Learn from leading academics, Israeli thinkers, and political activists in a unique series of stimulating and provocative programs. Take

your part in a progressive Jewish conversation — an intellectual, spiritual and political dialogue that will build your knowledge, challenge your perspectives, and broaden your understanding of Israel. Learn more at <http://www.rrc.edu/Israeltrip>.



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)

Lifecycle Events at TvS

Anniversaries:

Anna Kitces & Seth Fishman	November 10, 1991
Elana Braz & George Reese	November 15, 1986
Janis & Dan Gemelfarb	November 21

Birthdays:

Bernie Heyman	November 3
Nora Leitner	November 4
Al Bossio	November 7
Amanda Posmontier	November 10
Jeanlu Ryersbach	November 12
Barb Goldman	November 16
Julian Bacher	November 21, 2004
Matthew Adler	November 16
Larry Kennedy	November 23

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.

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
Gene Leitner	8 Kislev/November 11 (12/9/05)
Ben Silberfein	17 Kislev/November 20 (12/8/87)
Henry Blask	19 Kislev/November 22 (11/30/07)
Millie Director	2 Tevet/December 5 (12/27/03)

A request from Debbie about our name...



An early Tzedek v'Shalom logo used for our religious school bookbags.

Hevre,

It is time once again to submit my annual request that we use the full name of our congregation, Tzedek v'Shalom, when we talk among ourselves and to others.

We chose this name with serious deliberation 17 years ago, a name that described our highest aspirations for our faith community, the Jewish people, and the world. It was then as it is now a goal that we work towards every day. As we have chosen the themes of justice and peace for our service and study this year, I propose that we...try to remember to say the full, meaningful name of our congregation, perhaps making it an ongoing reminder of our purpose.

I look forward to your comments. Many thanks.

Debbie Chong
weederwiz@aol.com

High Holiday Thanks

Over the summer, we voiced a desire for more participatory services. We thank the following people who stepped up to the plate (it was still baseball season) to grace our High Holidays with their efforts:

Rabbi: Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy
High Holiday Committee: Rabbi Anna, Kina Leitner, and Naomi Mindlin
Organize supplemental readings with Rabbi Anna: Naomi
Gabbaim: Max (RH), Joel (YK)
Torah Readers: Joel Bacher and Rabbi Anna
Musicians: Joanne Loewy, Ralph Posmontier, Bobbie Posmontier, Max Yaffe, Jerry Manas, and Joel Bacher
Kavannot: Goldie Cohen, Fran Heyman, and Rob Weintraub
Storyteller: Bernie Heyman
Shofar Blower: Victor Chong
Year in Review: Joan Amatniek
Dancers: Nora Leitner and Naomi Mindlin
Forgiveness Meditation Leader: Norma Kaplis
Yom Kippur Break Leaders: Steve Bacher and Jes Savrin
Mitzvah Drive: Naomi Mindlin and Fran Heyman
Set up sound system: Ralph
Set up services space and clean up: Jennifer, Larry, and

Bennett Garfield, Paul Kleinbaum, Janis Gemelfarb and her brother, Debbie & Victor Chong, and Rob Weintraub
Ushers or greeters: Marcia Gordon, Norma Kaplis, Rob Weintraub, Howard Blumenthal, and Goldie Cohen
Signs for Parking: Ralph and Amanda Posmontier
Hired adult babysitter (even though we never used one): Debbie Bossio
Organize every one of our scrumptious pot luck dinners: Elana Braz
Help set up and clean up for those dinners: Fran and Bernie Heyman, Kina Leitner, Marcia Gordon, and Rob Weintraub
Host sukkah at your home: Ralph and Bobbie Posmontiers. Ralph arranged for the hoisting and the taking down of our sukkah and the Posmontiers hosted two events.
And everyone who accepted requests to read a reading or otherwise help on the spur of the moment.

2013-2014 Mitzvah Drive

Yasher koach! Congratulations to all of us!

During Yom Kippur services this year, Tzedek v'Shalom renewed its traditional Mitzvah Drive in order to build connections within our community through the actions of our members. We delved into our hearts and committed some of our time, energy, and talents to the health of Tzedek v'Shalom.

Naomi Mindlin organized the campaign and Fran Heyman organized the tally.

We volunteered in droves. Almost everyone presented with a Mitzvah Drive card joined our campaign.

Now we need two actions from each and every one of us:

1. Follow through on your Mitzvah Drive commitment, please.
2. Please consider volunteering for a job that attracted few responses. Clearly, we could use more help with Membership and Fundraising!

If you are on the list for something you did NOT volunteer for, please let Naomi know. And if we missed something you DID volunteer for, please contact Naomi so she can add you.

During November, Naomi will post this list on our webpage under the Membership heading. We will also list the jobs that we need people to commit to so we can minimize the stress in our Tzedek v'Shalom organizing lives.

Again, Yasher koach! Congratulations to all of us!

Naomi and Fran

For corrections/additions: nsmindlin@photoreview.org

HELP WITH 2ND FRIDAY SHABBAT

Elana Braz
Debbie Chong
Larry Garfield
Diane Gold
Marcia Gordon
Bernie Heyman
Ralph Posmontier
Max Yaffe (organizing alternate month's events with guest musicians)

HELP WITH MUSICAL EVENTS

Joel Bacher
Norma Kaplis
Noa Kuzma
Steve Pastor
Ralph Posmontier
Bobbie Posmontier
Anna Kitces
Laura Fishman
Jerry Manas

HELP PLAN A FIELD TRIP

Jennifer Garfield
Janis Gemelfarb
Bernie Heyman
Irene Pastor
Marilyn Silberfein
Debbie Bossio
HELP WITH MEMBERSHIP/
OUTREACH
Linda Gold

HELP WITH HAVDALAH
DINNERS

Joan Amatniek (head organizer)
Joel Bacher
Norma Kaplis
Elana Braz
Diane Gold
Bernie Heyman
Noa Kuzma
Ralph Posmontier
Bobbie Posmontier
Laura Fishman
Anna Kitces

LEAD OR HOST TORAH STUDY

Linda Gold (head organizer)
Joel Bacher
Steve Bacher
Debby Bossio
Debbie Chong
Victor Chong
Jennifer Garfield
Fran Heyman
Ralph Posmontier
Jes Savrin
Debby Bossio
Anna Kitces
Seth Fishman
Naomi Mindlin

HELP WITH A BOOK GROUP

Howard Blumenthal
Goldie Cohen
Jennifer Garfield
Larry Garfield
Janis Gemelfarb
Diane Gold
Fran Heyman
Bernie Heyman
Diane LeBas
Marilyn Silberfein
Joan Amatniek

ATTEND A SHABBAT AM
SERVICE TO MAKE A MINYAN

Debbie Chong (head organizer)
Joel Bacher
Elana Braz
George Reese
Victor Chong
Norma Kaplis
Ralph Posmontier
Bobbie Posmontier
Jes Savrin
Debby Bossio
Anna Kitces
Naomi Mindlin

HELP WITH ACTS OF CARING

Elana Braz
Debbie Chong
Janis Gemelfarb
Fran Heyman
Norma Kaplis
Diane LeBas
Kina Leitner
Lee Leitner
Nora Leitner
Ralph Posmontier
Naomi Mindlin

HOST A SHABBAT MORNING

KIDDUSH (after Shabbat morning
services at NFMH)

Naomi Mindlin (head organizer)
Joan Amatniek
Elana Braz
Debbie Chong
Fran Heyman
Susan Kitces
Ralph Posmontier
Rob Weintraub

HELP WITH FUND RAISING

PROJECT(S)

Janis Gemelfarb
Debby Bossio

HELP WITH TIKKUN OLAM
(SOCIAL ACTION)

Victor Chong
Larry Garfield
Janis Gemelfarb
Fran Heyman
Norma Kaplis
Diane LeBas
Irene Pastor
Ralph Posmontier
Bobbie Posmontier
Jes Savrin
Debby Bossio
Stephen Perloff (J Street event)

HELP WITH HOLIDAYS

Steve Bacher
Elana Braz
George Reese
Larry Garfield
Janis Gemelfarb
Bernie Heyman
Norma Kaplis
Jes Savrin
Naomi Mindlin
Sharon Manas

HELP WITH
ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS

Debbie Chong
Goldie Cohen
Linda Gold
Bernie Heyman
Ralph Posmontier
Debby Bossio

HELP SHLEP!

Elana Braz
Jennifer Garfield
George Reese
Victor Chong
Diane LeBas
Ralph Posmontier
Laura Fishman



TvS Calendar — November 2013 • Cheshvan/Kislev 5773

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 28 Cheshvan	2 Torah Study 10 am – noon @ the Kitces/Fishmans'
3 30 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh	4 1 Kislev Rosh Chodesh	5	6 Romeo and Juliets 1 p.m. @ Jake's Eatery	7 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	8 Second Friday Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 pm @ the Anderson Library at George School	9 Havdalah Dinners @ members' homes
10 Spiritual Life Committee Meeting @ the Chongs'	11	12	13 Board Meeting 7 pm @ the Joel Bacher's	14 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	15	16 Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10 am – 12:30 pm @ Newtown Friends Meetinghouse
17 Practical Adult Ed. w/Rabbi Anna 3–5 pm (NOT at George School) Location TBA	18	19	20	21 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	22	23 Hanukkah Party scheduled for 6:30 p.m. - to be confirmed
24	25	26	27 Erev Hanukkah Light 1st candle.	28 Hanukkah - 1 Thanksgiving	29 Hanukkah - 2	30 27 Kislev Hanukkah - 3
December 1 Hanukkah - 4	2 Hanukkah - 5	3 Hanukkah - 6	4 Hanukkah - 7	5 Hanukkah - 8	6	7 Torah Study 10 am – noon @ the Bossios'

HANUKKAH PARTY

Saturday, November 23 @ 6:30 p.m.?

Location: TBA?

Organizer: *YOU?*

Our community Hanukkah celebration is set for the week BEFORE Hanukkah in order to avoid Thanksgiving weekend. But now it seems none of the people who volunteered to help with holiday celebrations will be around. Can you help?

Call Naomi today if you can lead in planning our party: **215-757-8921**



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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