

TZEDEK V'SHALOM NEWS



DECEMBER 2013

KISLEV/TEVET 5774

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4

FROM T'RUAH: THE RABBINIC CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS . . . TZEDEK — תזדק

FAIR FOOD

Who picks the food that you eat? How much are they paid? Would you pay a penny more for better wages for the workers who pick your food? Every year, from September until May, millions of tomatoes are harvested by farm-workers in Florida and shipped all around the country. But their earnings have not changed in 30 years.

Because of exemptions related to farmworkers in American labor law, farmworkers are paid by the pound, not by the hour: \$0.50 for every 32 pound bucket of tomatoes they pick (We pay \$75–80 in the store for the same 32-pounds of tomatoes). At these rates, most workers make well below the minimum wage, for an average annual salary of about \$10,000.

In addition, the farmworkers who pick tomatoes in Florida also face extreme pesticide exposure and unsafe working conditions. Meanwhile, cases of human trafficking and slavery are rampant. One federal prosecutor has called Florida “ground zero” for modern slavery.

But the workers are fighting back. [The Coalition of Immokalee Workers](#) (CIW) has organized workers to work for safety and dignity in the Florida tomato fields. The CIW’s Campaign for Fair Food raises the wages of tomato pickers by one penny a pound and

ensures fair, regulated working conditions in the fields to end the conditions that have led to widespread labor trafficking and slavery. They have already successfully campaigned fast food chains such as Taco Bell and McDonald’s, food service companies, and the grocery stores Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s to sign Fair Food Agreements, which commit the companies to only source from growers who have instituted a legally binding code of conduct in the fields.

In Judaism, the concept of the fair treatment of workers is of great importance. Judaism requires employers to pay workers fairly and on time, and protects workers against dangerous working conditions. Judaism also prohibits buying goods produced unethically, or goods that are known to be stolen, holding the buyers as responsible as the thieves. We have an obligation to avoid buying those products that have documented human rights abuses in their supply chains and supporting independent monitoring of working conditions. Motivated by these Jewish values, T’ruah advocates for the just treatment of farmworkers in the Florida tomato fields.

Today, grocery chains in America possess an incredible opportunity to help end forced labor, poverty-level

(Continued on page 4)



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December Services & Celebrations



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.

Directions: From the Newtown Bypass, traveling toward Yardley:

1. Turn LEFT onto CREAMERY RD. info@meicatering.com
2. Turn RIGHT onto QUARRY RD. 0.4 miles
3. Turn RIGHT onto HOUSTON RD. 0.1 miles
4. The Bossio's at 14 Houston Rd. is on your right.

Shabbat Services followed by potluck

Second Friday

Friday, December 13

6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service led by Rabbi Anna

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.

Shabbat Service Field Trip

Saturday, December 21

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy was originally scheduled to lead a Shabbat morning service, but she will be attending an aunt's 100th birthday celebration instead! So we are considering taking a "field trip" to either Beth El (in Yardley) or Brith Sholom (in Bethlehem) to experience a spirited, spiritual service.

Shabbat Services followed by potluck

Friday, January 3

6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service led by Bobbie, Debbie, Seth, and Max, with musical director Jack Kessler



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

See page 3 for details.

צדק ושלום

Tzedek v'Shalom



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Jerry Manas 215-341-6413

☆ ☆ ☆

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Acts of Caring

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Jeanlu Ryersbach 215-943-4565

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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, January 3 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,

with Musical Director **JACK KESSLER**, our very
own **Ralph** on drums, and hopefully a few more
players. Jack is the director of the ALEPH Cantorial Ordination

Program, teaches voice and hazzanut, and is the vocal lead of two touring
ensembles ATZILUT—CONCERTS FOR PEACE, a duet format of Arab and Jewish musicians
performing together, and KLINGON KLEZMER.

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! With a special mix of old
Tzedek v'Shalom favorites and some new music, this 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

Jack Kessler has been called a one-man force of nature in Jewish music. (He has also been called
the Jewish Sun Ra; and he claims to have been called late for dinner). He sang Jewish liturgical music
as a Hazzan (Cantor) for twenty years before he decided that he prefers singing with a band. Jack is
musical director, vocalist, and composer-arranger for Klingon Klez, which describes itself as "good
old-fashioned, heartwarming, foot-stompin' fun-for-the-whole family klez/funk fusion from other
planet." He also directs Atzilut, a ten-member ensemble that performs Concerts for Peace, featuring
Arab and Jewish musicians in concert together. An excerpt from one review of Azilut proclaims,
"Cantor Jack Kessler's deep, resonant voice, playing against Shaheen's violin, and the entire ensemble,
is amazing! The result is music that gets deeper the longer that you listen, but that is also a relaxing
pleasure the first time through."

To hear a range of Jack Kessler's talents, listen to excerpts at <http://atzilutmusic.com/ourmusic.htm>

*Map of George School: <http://www.georgeschool.org/campusmap/index.html>

The Anderson Library is building #61.



(Fair Food, Continued from page 1)
wages and other human rights abuses faced by farm-workers. By signing Fair Food Agreements through the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), grocery chains can ensure humane wages and working conditions for the people who harvest the tomatoes they sell.

Join T'ruah in calling for Stop & Shop/Giant (Royal Ahold), Kroger and Publix to sign Fair Food Agreements and live up to the values of their customers! It is time for grocery stores to step up and follow the lead of other industries. Take action today as an activist and tell the store where you shop every week to hold itself to a more ethical standard!

See more at: <http://www.truah.org/issuescampaigns/slavery-a-human-trafficking/ciw/307-take-action-grocery-stores.html> - sthash.zFEkme4Q.dpuf.

For up-to-date news from CIW (Coalition of Immokalee Workers), visit <http://ciw-online.org/>.

For a sample letter to a Giant manager, visit <http://www.truah.org/images/stories/Giant%20Store%20Manager%20Letter%202013.pdf>.

Board News

The next Board meeting will be on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at Debbie Bossio'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.



Adult Ed with Rabbi Anna

Please join our last fall Adult Ed workshop lead by Rabbi Anna: December 15: Stand Up and Be Present: How to Lead Any Kind of Service, at the Anderson Library at George School. Rabbi Anna will send out a reminder and request for an RSVP in early December.



Adult Education 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 ROMEO and JULIET lunch club meets every month at a location offering delicious food, with our fine company. Check your mailbox of this month's time and location.

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

First Plenum Business Meeting a Resounding Success: The first business meeting of the new Reconstructionist plenum, a conference call on Sunday, October 27, opened with a cacophony as 89 voices from all over North America recited a prayer for conducting community business. Fifty-three voting representatives of congregations and havurot participated. By a vote of 46 in favor and seven abstentions (with zero "no" votes), the plenum ratified the slate of RRC board governors who had been elected for three-year terms to end August 2016.

A lively discussion ensued about the current tikun olam issue our communities are addressing—the "wealth gap." For the next two years, Reconstructionist congregations and havurot will examine the widening discrepancy between rich and poor in North America. The commission will develop resource materials and will gather information about what our communities are doing currently.

The other main topic was the new draft vision statement of the Reconstructionist movement. Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., the new president elect of RRC and

(Continued on page 6)

AN ODE TO SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

When our board was approached with the idea of Tzedek v'Shalom's discontinuing its Shabbat morning monthly service, I had a nearly visceral response. Fortunately, the board could not imagine our shul without at least one full service each month. But then, when the first two services came and went with no minyans — and no Torah reading — I felt myself thrust into despair again.

I know that when we began our congregational journey, I hoped to help create a congregation in which all b'nai mitzvah would be celebrated within the context of regular, communal services. Bar and bat mitzvah students would recognize the value of their lifecycle events as part of the regular cycle of their synagogue.

But I recognize that my response to not having regular (even if only monthly) full Shabbat services goes far deeper than a sense of not having reached a goal. I have begun to examine my own relationship to Shabbat morning services in general, and the Torah service in particular.

I grew up in a Conservative congregation of about 225 families that could barely gather a Shabbat morning minyan and which did not count women in that minyan or allow women to read Torah. Yet, between weekly Junior Congregation and hearing regular Torah and haftarah chanting, the sounds and movements from the service entered my body/mind almost through osmosis.

And so I remember the extremely emotional moment when Rabbi Caryn Broitman asked me to hold the Torah during a service. I remember almost crying as I felt the weight of the Torah against my body. There I was, for the first time in my life, facing the congregation with the Torah in my arms. I was about forty-six.

Then, when I was forty-eight, I celebrated my own bat mitzvah. (My Uncle Harry quipped that it was a shame that it had taken me so long to learn my Torah reading, but he and Aunt Bea came from Columbus, Ohio, to celebrate!) I had been called to the Torah for an aliyah by then, but I had never read Torah or chanted a haftarah. My bat mitzvah was awesome — children lead some prayers, different people had various honors, at least three other family members read Torah.

I have grown to realize that I enjoy the sounds and choreography of the Shabbat morning service. Intellec-

tually, I know that the service connects to rituals from the temple in Jerusalem. I have learned that the Torah service itself allows us to experience standing at Sinai and receiving the Torah. But for me, the service itself is more an aural, visual, physical experience that transcends whatever intent originally surrounded it.

When allowed to flow with its natural rhythm, the Shabbat morning service itself feels like a journey from joyous morning prayers, through silent meditation, to the ritual to the Torah service. The structure of the choreography of the Torah reading includes a wavelike passage of people from their seats within the community, to one side of the Torah, through the sort of “eye” of the Torah, to the other side, and then back (somehow changed) to their seats. Time passes. Chants wash over me. Movement stirs the air and connects us to each other through handshakes and congratulations.

In preparing to write, I (of course) did a couple Google searches. I found inspirational examples of efforts to rejuvenate Shabbat services:

- Several Reform have innovative approaches to developing Shabbat morning minyans (separate from their b'nai mitzvah services): <http://reformjudaismmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=3021>.
 - The Reconstructionist congregation started by Rabbi Sidney Schwarz (author of the book some of us read last year) declares Shabbat morning the centerpiece of its communal life: <https://www.adatshalom.net/spiritual-community-123/our-shabbat/shabbat-mornings>.
 - Congregation Beth Am even has a Café Shabbat once a month, 1-1/2 hours before services: under the Shabbat tab at <http://bethamtampa.org/>.
- The new rabbi of my childhood synagogue built a vibrant Shabbat morning service, which continues to this day. A lifelong member commutes by motorcycle from New York to act as cantor, introducing new melodies and encouraging full-capacity singing. Men and women take turns leading various parts of the service and regularly read Torah. Attendance now averages 50–75 people — including children, who ascend the bimah to lead the final Adon Olam. And everyone stays for a full kiddush lunch.

I am convinced: If **we** will it, it is no dream.



Jewish Reconstructionist Communities, led a discussion of the new draft statement the Strategic Planning Committee has put up for consideration. The statement should advance a vision for the movement at large, she said, and should also help to answer the basic question, why belong to a Jewish religious movement to begin with?

Read the full report on the first plenum business meeting at www.jewishrecon.org/first-business-meeting.

Registration Is Now Open for Summer 2014 at Camp JRF! Recognized as one of the “Top 10 Jewish Camps,” Camp JRF provides innovative, creative and engaging programs for youth entering 2nd through 12th grades. We welcome children from a wide variety of family structures, religious practices, and socio-economic backgrounds. And it wouldn’t be camp without all the fun of summer—swimming, sports, arts, music, friends, and so much more! One, two, three, and four week sessions, plus a five-day Family Camp program, all in the beautiful Pocono Mountains! For more information and to register, call 877-226-7573 or visit www.campjrf.org. Or contact our own Ethan Leitner or Bennett Garfield, both of whom are Camp JRF regulars.

Israel Is Calling You! The first Reconstructionist movement trip to Israel will run May 14–21, 2014. 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 — now in Chandler Hall, following a fall.

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

Lifecycle Events at TvS

Anniversaries:

Debbie & Victor Chong	December 9, 1984
Sandi and Jack Fein	December 26, 1964

Birthdays:

Jon Thorne	December 1
Naomi Mindlin	December 2
Ethan Leitner	December 5, 2000
Janis Gemelfarb	December 11
Austin Bossio	December 12
Abigail Yaffe	December 16, 1999

Debbie Chong	December 25
Saul Posmontier	December 25, 1991
Seth Fishman	December 27

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.

Gertrude Kauffman	2 Kislev/November 5 (12/2/78)
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)
Sara Amatniek	3 Tevet/December 6 (12/13/96)
Jack Pearson	4 Tevet/December 7
Jules Kessler	4 Tevet/December 7 (12/30/11)
Morris Mindlin	7 Tevet/December 10 (12/24/09)
Beatrice Trachtenberg	10 Tevet/December 13 (12/24/93)
Harry Heyman	11 Tevet/December 14 (1/1/77)
Bernard Myers	14 Tevet/December 17 (1/7/93)
Micheline Charpie	16 Tevet/December 19 (1/2/10)
Beatrice Mallin	21 Tevet/December 24 (1/18/90)
Steven Silberfein	23 Tevet/December 26 (1/11/99)
Fred Ryersbach MD	23 Tevet/December 26 (1/11/99)
Lucille Slansky	25 Tevet/December 28(1/21/09)
Alma Mann	2 Shevat/January 3 (1/19/99)
Jessie Silberfein	3 Shevat/January 4 (1/30/98)

Contributions

High Holiday donations

Debbie and Victor Chong
Andrea and William Polites
Deborah and Stanley Cohen
Kenneth and Louise Klipper
Susan and Andrew Glass
Arthur Paoll
Stacy and Lee Zeitz
Jacob and Eleanora Angert
Susan and Harvey Gressgott
Mark and Rebecca Schaeffer
Robert and Lynne Blumenthal
Jennifer and Bob Abrahamson
Sandra Berg

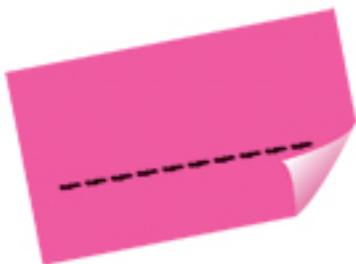
General Operating Fund

From the Necowitz family (from their dog Nugget),
“With Gratitude to my Aunt Diane and Uncle Arnie [Gold] for taking care of me while my family visited New York City.”

President’s Appeal Fund

Jerry Manas makes a monthly donation to this fund.

Being



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

at Christmas.

ANNUAL DAY OF FAMILY FUN

Wednesday, December 25
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Snowy. Jewish. Happy. Caring. Buddhist. Generous. Family. Creative. Friendly. Sparkly.
Fill in your own blank and join us for our annual day of family fun.

This signature event for more than 30 years running is back featuring
returning favorite, dance-party sensation Baby Loves Disco, and more!

Sponsored by the Robert Saligman Jewish Heritage Fund

ACTIVITIES

- 11:00 am - 4:00 pm Drop-in art project with The Clay Studio
1:00 pm & 2:00 pm Stand-up Comedy with The Great Holtzie
(Most appropriate for children ages 5 and up)
11:30 am, 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm Storytime

TICKETS

All Being [] at Christmas program tickets include Museum Admission.

Adult Pricing

\$12 Adults/FREE for Members*

Child Pricing

\$5 Kids 12 & under/FREE for kids of Family Level Members* and above

For more information, visit <http://www.nmajh.org/dec25/>.

National Museum of American Jewish History
101 South Independence Mall East • Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 923-3811 or <http://www.nmajh.org>

TvS Calendar — December 2013 • *Kislev/Tevet 5774*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 28 Kislev Hanukkah - 4	2 Hanukkah - 5	3 Hanukkah - 6	4 30 Kislev Rosh Hodesh Tevet Hanukkah - 7	5 1 Tevet Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs' Rosh Hodesh Tevet Hanukkah - 8	6	7 Torah Study 10 am – noon @ the Bossio's
8	9	10	11 Board Meeting 7 pm @ the Bossios'	12 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	13 Second Friday Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 pm @ the Anderson Library at George School	14
15 Practical Adult Ed. w/Rabbi Anna 3–5 pm @ the Anderson Library at George School	16	17	18	19 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	20	21 Shabbat Service Field Trip (stay tuned for details)
22	23	24	25	26 Hebrew classes with Debbie 5:30 & 6 pm @ the Chongs'	27	28
29	30	31	January 1, 2014	2 Rosh Hodesh Shevat	3 Shabbat Singing Services with Jack Kessler followed by potluck 6:30 pm @ the Anderson Library at George School	4 3 Shevat

Do a Mitzvah! Introduce a Friend to Tzedek v'Shalom

We'll send out a wonderful introductory packet of information to any of your friends who you think may be interested in membership, just exploring Judaism, or connecting with their Jewish roots. Send your referrals to **tzedekvshalom@gmail.com** and ask that information be sent to:

Name:
Street Address, City, and Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Referred By:

AND please have friends visit the www.tzedekvshalom.org website.

OR better still... Bring them to a TvS event!

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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