

TZEDEK V'SHALOM

A Reconstructionist Jewish Congregation

Mercy and truth will meet, justice and peace will embrace.
– Psalm 85:11



JANUARY 2012

TEVET /SHEVAT 5772

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 5

From Our President, Jerry Manas

Growing TvS while Fulfilling Our Mission

As we reach the mid-year point of our 2011/2012 season, it seems we are at a crossroads as a congregation. On one hand, several people have spoken up and said we weren't doing enough in the area of social justice. They felt we should take a stronger, more activist approach and lamented that more members haven't been engaged in social justice activities. And yet, others have called for less focus on social justice, and say we're preaching our ideals too strongly, given our diverse community.

No doubt, our community has become more diverse over the years, and more growth will bring even more diversity. But grow we must, and this no doubt means challenging debates regarding TvS founding principles and adapting to a membership base that is evolving. It also means we must grow not only in numbers, but also in our ability to manage diversity while remaining true to core Reconstructionist and TvS principles.

A number of years ago, the congregation went through an exhaustive exercise to craft a mission, purpose, and values statement. The core purpose was stated as follows:

To nurture each person's unique gifts and spirituality through a dynamic Jewish community dedicated to justice and peace.

The core values were built on the three cornerstones of *Community, Spirituality/Learning, and Tikkun Olam.*

And the mission called for all members to be "actively engaged in an array of intergenerational practices and activities that meet their spiritual needs and integrate Torah, lifelong learning, and tikkun olam."

While those goals and core values remain valid and inspiring, there are some facts to consider:

- We have been lagging in our ability to do anything with social justice.
- As more children become bar and bat mitzvah we run the danger of our community shrinking.
- Our budget is flat, which means that our income matches our expenses. But we cannot sustain a flat budget for very long and hope to survive.

We have a challenge here: the age-old battle of principles vs. diversity. And I am challenging us to not take an either/or position, but to find a way to integrate both.

I believe we are actually in a unique position with some unique advantages.

First, I suggest three things:

1) A more open approach — We can't force one perspective or approach on the entire congregation. Some people choose to attend Saturday morning

(Continued on page 4)



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January Services and Celebrations

Friday, January 6

Friday Night with TvS

Theme: Back by Popular

Demand: Singing Service

— **Just Music, no Talk**

5:30 p.m. Community set-up
for potluck

6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat:
Welcome in Shabbat with
this family-friendly service and stories

6:30 p.m. Potluck dinner

7:15 p.m. Clean-up shared by all

7:30 p.m. Ma'ariv with JUST SINGING

Location: Newtown Friends Meetinghouse (NFMH),
Court Street, Newtown, PA 18940



Saturday, January 14 @ 6 p.m.

Havdalah and a showing of the movie *The Help*,
followed by a discussion

Location: The Manas home
13305 Howard Arthur Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19116
215-698-7957 or jerry.manas@gmail.com

Saturday, January 21

Shabbat Morning Meditation and Service followed by Kiddush

Leader: Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy

Theme: Exploring Torah through Bibliodrama
10 a.m. Shabbat Morning Services followed by a
kiddush

After kiddush: Bibliodrama workshop with the B'nai
Mitzvah class

Location: NFMH

Saturday, January 28 @ 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Torah Study

Location: The Bossio home

14 Houston Road, in Newtown, PA 18940

215-801-2005 or deborahbossio@comcast.net

Friday, February 3

Friday Night with TvS

Theme: Tu B'Shvat — Discussion of the book

Tomatoland by Barry Estabrook (follow-up from
Rabbi Anna's Yom Kippur sermon)

5:30–8:30 p.m.: See January 6 for detailed times.

Location: NFMH

צדק ושלום



Tzedek v'Shalom

P.O. Box 863

Newtown, PA 18940

(215) 860-0119

<http://tzedekvshalom.org>

Anna Boswell-Levy 215-287-5128
Rabbi and Education Director

President: Jerry Manas 215-341-6413

Secretary: Cindy Weiss Fisher 215-860-0326

Treasurer:

Arnie Gold (Finance Chair) 215-295-2028

Education (Committee Co-Chairs)

Marc Bloom 267-364-5438

Becky Rice 215-504-4247

Fundraising (Committee Chair, open)

Membership/Marketing (Committee Co-Chairs)

Linda Gold 215-741-4571

Bob Abrahamson 215-968-1956

Shammus Coordinator

Ralph Posmontier 215-579-2644

Spiritual Life (Committee Chair)

Diane Gold 215-295-2028

Tikkun Olam (Committee Chair)

Kina Leitner 215-378-4868

Past Co-Presidents:

Wendy Friedman (Fund-raising) 215-579-9275

Ruth Jampol 215-860-8903

Noa Kuzma (Fund-raising) 215-493-8418

Intergenerational Activities/Events/

Adult Ed (Liaison) - OPEN

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

☆ ☆ ☆

Non-Board Committee Chairs and Coordinators:

Acts of Caring

Debbie Chong 215-504-9268

Jeannie Ryersbach 215-943-4565

Teen Coordinator

Wendy Friedman 215-579-9275

Webmaster

Jerry Manas 215-698-7957

Newsletter Editor: Naomi Mindlin 215-757-8921

To submit news to the newsletter:
[email: nsmindlin@photoreview.org](mailto:nsmindlin@photoreview.org)

New Year's Celebration for Peace

January 1st @ 1:00 p.m.
Yardley Friends Meeting

65 North Main Street, Yardley, PA
(www.yardleyfriendsmeeting.org)

Let's celebrate the New Year together with optimism and hope!
Please join us to share an hour of spontaneous prayers for peace
in Israel/Palestine, the Middle East, and throughout the world.

Feel free to be creative and join us in prayer, song, music, si-
lence, or any way your heart is moved!

NO CHARGE - Please bring snacks to share afterwards.

For more info contact Dr. Susan Burger at
(215) 932-9263 or peacedoc_1@msn.com



Interfaith Community for Middle East Peace

Interfaith Conversation

January 8th @ 4-6 p.m.
at Newtown Friends Meeting House
Court Street, Newtown, PA 18940

Five of these programs were held at different houses of worship across the Delaware Valley in 2011, most recently at Minister Charles Stephens Unitarian Universalist Church in Titusville with members of ICMEP facilitating positive table discussions around a series of questions that allow each individual to identify many of the things that are most important in their faith and share it with those of other faiths. It is a wonderful experience for people of all faiths to come and listen and share and learn more about the faiths of their neighbors.

Tzedek v'Shalom and Newtown Friends Meeting are co-hosting this event.

For more information, contact our TvS rep:

Rabbi Anna at 215-287-5128 or rabianna@gmail.com.

Parking Arrangements for events at Newtown Friends Meetinghouse

A small number of on-site parking spaces are available at NFMH for those with mobility difficulties.

Parking for all is available at three nearby locations with a brief walk to the meetinghouse.

1. The Stocking Works office building at the corner of South State and Sterling Streets
2. A parking lot at the west end of Penn Street
3. The lot by the former Stockburger showroom, now George's Floor Covering.

We also encourage those who are able to walk, bike or car pool.

We Need Your Help Because of...



Rabbi Anna's maternity leave is coming soon. Do a mitzvah! Sign up today!

Special Dates

3/7 – Rabbi Anna will not be with us for **PURIM** AND Paul, who was voted Shpielmeister last year, has a conflict and cannot do it. So... We need a Shpielmeister (or two) and Purim Megillah Readers and Shpiels performers.

4/7 – Our **Community Seder** needs a leader!

Service leaders, d'var Torah presenters, etc. for when Rabbi Anna cannot be with us.

You can check online at the TvS website under Membership (tzedekvshalom.org/membership) to find the links to additional positions that are still open and to the description of each job.

(President's Column, continued from page 1) services. That's their right. Some prefer Friday Night at TvS events. Different things will attract different people based on their lifestyles and interests. Personally, what nurtures my spirit is community, song, teaching, and discussion. Prayer and meditation, not so much. For others, prayer and meditation is the essence of the beauty of Judaism, and it speaks to them. Likewise, some people are "just not that into" social justice. Those that are should feel comfortable sharing their views with those who will listen and/or participate.

In this way, we can be like a choir, with all of our voices operating in harmony (each one carrying out our principles in their own way), and not necessarily in unison (all saying and doing the same thing).

2) Do things that attract families – We need to get a better feel for what families want, and don't want, in a Jewish community. We need to learn their preferences for types and frequency of events and activities, again, within the constraints of our values. And we need to be conscious of their concerns and availability as busy parents. In line with this, I plan to propose a meeting of our religious school parents on a Sunday in the near future (or as part of an existing parents meeting) to discuss this very topic.

3) Understand what growth can enable – If we grow, or I should say "when" we grow, the burden of volunteerism will lessen. For now, as I've said before, many hands make light work. The more of us that pitch in for committees and board positions, the easier it will be for everyone. But if we do the first two things right, we'll retain and attract families, and grow to the point where we can hire administrative help. Then we can begin pursuing all the interests and activities we wish, and operating on all cylinders.

Also, as we grow not only in numbers, but in our ability to interact as a diverse community while upholding core values, we will be better prepared for the

long-term as an inspiring model of success in a truly pluralistic community.

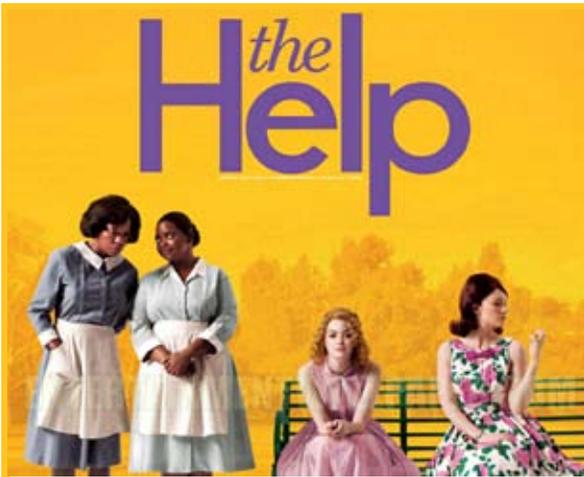
Meanwhile, we have something many other congregations do not---a strong sense of community, of belonging. At TvS, we're not lost in some large institution. At TvS, we have an opportunity to make a difference and get to know each other. And we have an opportunity to shape our community, and our future.

We also have a strong intergenerational model as well. Visit our Family Assembly at Goodnoe Elementary some Sunday morning at 9:30 to see the advantage of a small community of families---adults and children learning and singing together. Or just consider our incredibly fun and engaging Hanukkah parties. This year's party was no exception, as we had at least 60 people---adults, teens, and children, all having a blast during our gift exchange, freeze dance, and latke tastings. We need to have even more opportunities like this for our diverse community to interact.

Another advantage we have is that we also don't have the burden of an expensive building to upkeep, so we can keep our prices lower than most other congregations. And if we grow, we can even consider lowering prices further.

When you look at it, we're really in a unique position to become extremely attractive to families seeking a religious school and a connecting to a small Jewish community. Congregations everywhere are shrinking. So we need to get creative and be persistent. But if anyone can do it, we can. And the end result and the joy of seeing our community grow will be worth it. We can do this, and yet still honor our original goals and values. This, I think, is our most important challenge in the coming year.

L'shalom,
Jerry Manas



Movie, Havdalah, and Pizza Night

with a showing of *The Help*
 Saturday, January 14th at 5 p.m.

related to the social justice theme and MLK Day
 Rabbi Anna will lead Havdalah.

at the home of Jerry, Sharon, and Elizabeth Manas
 13305 Howard Arthur Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19116

For further information, contact
 Jerry at 215-341-6413.

Please RSVP to Jerry: jerry.manas@gmail.com.

This movie is rated PG-13, so to please use discretion if bringing children.
 More advice on the film's appropriateness for children can be found at
www.common SenseMedia.org/movie-reviews/help-0.

The #1 New York Times best seller by Kathryn Stockett comes to vivid life through the powerful performances of a phenomenal ensemble cast. Led by Emma Stone, Academy Award®-nominated Viola Davis (Best Supporting Actress, *Doubt*, 2008), Octavia Spencer, and Bryce Dallas Howard, *The Help* is an inspirational, courageous and empowering story about very different, extraordinary women in the 1960s South who build an unlikely friendship around a secret writing project — one that breaks society's rules and puts them all at risk. Filled with poignancy, humor and hope, *The Help* is a timeless, universal and triumphant story about the ability to create change. The movie website is at thehelpmovie.com.

Board News

Our next TvS Board meeting is Monday, January 9th at 7 p.m. at Ralph's house, 32 N. Lincoln Avenue, Newtown 18940.

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



Spiritual Life News

Start the new year off with TvS! On January 6, Friday Night @ TvS will be all singing, all the time. Kabbalat Shabbat will be filled with singing and storytelling (as usual); we'll enjoy our usual/unusual delicious potluck dinner; and then we'll have a Singing Service — Just Music, no Talk!

On Saturday morning, January 21, the Niggun workshop led by Rabbi Anna has been cancelled. Instead, the theme for the day will be "Bibliodrama." We

will explore the Torah portion during services through Bibliodrama and then the B'nai Mitzvah class (parents and students) will participate in a Bibliodrama workshop following our Shabbat kiddush.

The Spiritual Life Committee generally meets once each month. Please call Arnie or me with any questions you may have.

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



Schools News

In December, Rabbi Anna attended the biennial conference of RENA — Reconstructionist Educators of North America — which this year was in Summit, New Jersey. She found it to be very inspiring and learned about a lot of things that can benefit our school. And then, when she returned, she shared what she learned with our TvS teachers.

Also in December, Jennifer Abrahamson facilitated a school-wide art project making Hanukkah menorahs!

For more information about our school, contact Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy, Religious School Director, at rabianna@gmail.com.



Adult Hebrew Class @ Debbie's Again!

Debbie's class is back at her home, 417 Edgeboro Drive, in Newtown. For now, class will continue to meet on Thursday, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Questions? Call or e-mail Debbie at 215-504-9268 or weederwiz@aol.com.



Tikkun Olam

The next public meeting of the Interfaith Community for Middle East Peace is scheduled for January 8th at 4–6 p.m. at Newtown Friends Meeting House. Please see the announcement on page 3 for full details.

We will hold a “Movie, Havdalah, and Pizza Night” — with a showing of the movie *The Help* — at the home of Sharon, Jerry, and Elizabeth Manas on Saturday, January 14th at 5 p.m. There is additional information and links in the announcement on page 5.

The Tikkun Olam committee needs members so we can accomplish our goals. If you are interested in participating, please email me, Kina Leitner, at kina.leitner@gmail.com or call me at 215-378-4868.



TvS Romeo Club

The ROMEO* Club meets once every month, at which time the participants schedule the next date and place. The December meeting of the Romeo Club will be held on Tuesday, January 3 at 1:00 p.m., at The Canal Street Grill, which is located at 27 East Afton Avenue in Yardley, PA: “BYOB located on the historic Delaware Canal serving Greek/American Comfort Food.”

And yes, the December meeting IS in January. Stay tuned to your email for when the January meeting will be!

—Joel Bacher, carjoel@comcast.net.

*Retired Old Men Eating Out, now adapted to “Reconstructionist” (or not, or rebellious, or raucous, or rascally) Old (or Young) Men (but could be women, too) Eating Out.

The OMG Club

TvS has a new group: the OMG* Club. Centered around the fact that seniors can get into movies at Neshaminy Mall for \$6 on Tuesdays, the group meets to go to the movies any Tuesday someone sends out a message to the TvS Google group. Just announce what movie you're going to see and when you're going and see who shows up. The group is not limited to TvS members, any age group, or even Neshaminy Mall movies — although that's obviously a perk!

*Old Movie Goers, or Odd Movie Goers, or Optimistic Movie Goers, etc., etc., etc.



Community Announcements

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, in partnership with the Neubauer Family Foundation and the Foundation for Jewish Camp, is pleased to once again offer incentive grants of up to \$1,000 for first-time campers going to a Jewish overnight summer camp across North America. We at the Federation would appreciate it if you could email the following message to parents of camper-age children. If you have any questions, please contact my assistant, Drew Martin, at 215-832-0530 or dmartin@jfgp.org.



In Our Shul...

Member News

Mazel tov to Marcia Gordon who became the grandmother of a beautiful baby boy in December. She now has two grandchildren to kvell about. Ask to see her pictures!

We are saddened to share that Elaine Lifson, mother of Eric Lifson, mother-in-law of Ruth Jampol, and grandmother to Eve and Matthew, passed away peacefully at Pennswood Village on in December. She moved to the area later in her life to be near the Jampol/Lifsons who helped her immensely as her needs increased. Elaine has regularly attended our High Holiday services for many years now and she will be missed.

Refuah Shleymah (Get Well Wishes)

Jules and Arline Kessler, Paula Adler's parents
Renee Desobry — also would love to have visitors!
She is now in Manor Care in Yardley.

Home Bound (and would love visitors!)

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

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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

Birthdays:

Elana Braz	January 8
Larry Garfield	January 8
Michele Kleinbaum	January 10
Noah Kall	January 11, 1990
Frumi Cohen	January 21
Nathan Pinsky	January 25
Bobbie Posmontier	January 30
Ilana Thorne	January 31, 2001

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 Mindlin	7 Tevet/January 2 (12/24/09)
Beatrice Trachtenberg	10 Tevet/January 5 (12/24/93)
Paul Goldstein	10 Tevet/January
Harry Heyman	11 Tevet/January 6 (1/1/77)
Bernard Myers	14 Tevet/January 9 (1/7/93)
Richard Ornstein	19 Tevet/January 14 (12/28/99)
Micheline Charpie	16 Tevet/January 11 (1/2/10)
Beatrice Mallin	21 Tevet/January 16 (1/18/90)

Steven Silberfein	23 Tevet/January 17 (1/11/99)
Fred Ryersbach MD	23 Tevet/January 17 (1/11/99)
Alma Mann	2 Shevat/January 26 (1/19/99)
Lucille Slansky	25 Tevet/January 20 (1/21/09)
Jessie Silberfein	3 Shevat/January 27 (1/30/98)
Saul W. Schram	6 Shevat/January 30 (2/1/90)
Howard Fechtner	7 Shevat/January 31 (1/24/99)
Israel Kernis	10 Shevat/February 3 (1/15/62)
Ida Matlofsky Bacher	11 Shevat/February 4 (1/15/84)
Billy Abrams	11 Shevat/February 4 (2/2/85)
Edith Basseches	13 Shevat/February 6
Rose Federman	16 Shevat/February 6

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TvS Calendar — January 2012 • Tevet/Shevat 5772

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 6 Tevet NO SCHOOL	2	3	4 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home	5 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	6 Friday Night @ TvS 5:30-9 p.m. @ NFMH	7
8 9:30 a.m. Religious School @ Goodnoe School	9	10	11 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home	12 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	13	14 6 p.m. Havdalah, Pizza, and the movie <i>The Help</i> (with discussion) @ the Manas home
15 9:30 a.m. Religious School @ Goodnoe School	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17	18 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home	19 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	20	21 10 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service @ NFMH
22 9:30 a.m. Religious School @ Goodnoe School	23	24	25 1 Shevat 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home Rosh Hodesh Shevat	26 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	27	28 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Torah Study @ the Bossio home
29 9:30 a.m. Religious School @ Goodnoe School	30	31	February 1 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home	2 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	3 Friday Night @ TvS 5:30-9 p.m. @ NFMH	4 11 Shevat


Making
HISTORY
 March 24-27, 2012
 Washington, DC 

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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