

TZEDEK V'SHALOM NEWS



APRIL 2013

NISAN / IYAR 5773

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

FROM RABBI ANNA BOSWELL-LEVY

CIVIL RIGHTS NOW

As I write this during Pesach, it has been a momentous week for gay rights, human rights, and civil rights. Who could have believed that the US Supreme Court might seriously be leaning toward supporting same-sex marriage? Who could have imagined the remarkable support for ending DOMA?

Many of you know that I am a proud alumna of Smith College, a wonderful women's-only institution of higher learning that is known for being a safe and supportive place for all women (regardless of sexuality) to grow intellectually. I credit Smith for allowing me to become truly comfortable with the budding feminist and woman I was becoming. So it was important to me that any rabbinical school I chose be just as wonderful in that regard. Being "accepting" or "tolerant" didn't cut it.

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical College was by far the most welcoming choice. Since it was the first seminary to take the step of welcoming gays and lesbians as rabbinical students back in the 1980's, the administration and students had made a lot of progress to integrate GLBT practices and sensitivities into the culture of the college. I remember feeling that it was like being at a coeducational Smith College.

Last November, I performed my first same-sex wedding, for two women, in Stockton, NJ. It was an honor, and kind of a "Dayenu" moment for me, even

as I realize that my experience of growing up in such inclusive and progressive learning environments was rather a unique privilege.

As a society, we still have a way to go before every part of this country is a safe place for people of any sexual orientation. That safety, in my view, must include the right to marry the person one loves. The ability to marry not only is a civil right in and of itself, but in this country it also confers numerous other privileges and legal protections to spouses. As a Jew and as a rabbi, I believe that marriage must be accessible to same-sex couples with all my heart, and I am very hopeful we can get there.

I want to let you all know how proud I am of the Reconstructionist movement's leadership on this issue. At this month's annual conference of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) in New Orleans, Rabbi Jason Klein became the first openly gay man to lead any rabbinical association. (Rabbi Toba Spitzer had previously been installed as the first openly lesbian president of our association in 2007.) Rabbi Klein said: "Coming out and growing into my adult Jewish identity would not be the same were it not for affirming teachers, rabbis, and other mentors along the way. Now, I am honored to be able to give

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April Services & Celebrations

Friday, April 5

First Friday

Shabbat Services followed by potluck
 6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service
 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 Library at George School
 Directions: Turn into GS at the second entrance south
 of the Newtown bypass. Parking is on your left; the
 library is across from the meetinghouse.

Saturday, April 6

Havdalah Dinners

Members gather at members's homes
 Contact: Joan Amatniek at jamatniek@gmail.com



**Monday April 15 at 7 p.m.
 Yom Ha'Atzma'ut/Israel
 Independence Day Celebration**

Location: Ohev Shalom
 944 Second Street Pike, Richboro, PA 18954
 Contact: Rabbi Anna at 215-287-5128 or rabianna@gmail.com
 Find more info on the flyer on page 3 of this newsletter.

Saturday, April 20 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



Saturday, April 27 at 10 a.m. – noon

Torah Study

Lead by Naomi Mindlin
 Location: at Joel Bacher's home
 56 Cypress Place, Newtown 18940
 Contact: Joel at 215-860-3565 or
joel.bacher@comcast.net

Friday, May 3

First Friday

Shabbat Services followed by potluck
 6:30 p.m. Completely Singing Service
 7:30 p.m. Dairy Delicious Potluck

RSVP for dinner: Elana Braz coordinates to ensure we
 have a balance of food: elanabraz@verizon.net.

WHAT'S IN THAT POTLUCK DISH?!

Please write down the ingredients in your
 potluck dish on an index card to place next
 to your dish. This will help with any awkward
 questions and/or explanations about the
 contents of foods, allergies, etc.

צדק ושלום Tzedek v'Shalom



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 Newtown, PA 18940
 (215) 860-0119
tzedekvshalom@gmail.com
<http://tzedekvshalom.org>
 Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy
 215-287-5128

- President: Jerry Manas 215-341-6413
- Treasurer: Arnie Gold (Finance Chair) 215-295-2028
- Secretary: Larry Necowitz 215-321-3694
- Membership (Committee Co-Chairs)
- Linda Gold 215-741-4571
- Debby Bossio (Fundraising) 215-801-2005
- Communications: Bob Abrahamson 215-968-1956
- Shammus Coordinator
- Ralph Posmontier 215-579-2644
- Spiritual Life (Committee Chair)
- Diane Gold 215-295-2028
- Teen Group Representative: Arli Necowitz 215-321-3694

Past Co-Presidents:

- Wendy Friedman 215-579-9275
- Noa Kuzma 215-493-8418



Non-Board Committee Chairs and Coordinators:

- Acts of Caring
- Debbie Chong 215-504-9268
- Jeanlu Ryersbach 215-943-4565
- Teen Class
- Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy 215-287-5128
- Webmaster: Jerry Manas 215-698-7957
- Youth Advisory Committee: Solomon
 Abrahamson, Bennett Garfield, Arli
 Necowitz, 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](mailto:nsmindlin@photoreview.org)

CELEBRATE ISRAEL 65

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM



SPONSORED BY BUCKS COUNTY

SYNAGOGUES

AT OHEV SHALOM OF BUCKS COUNTY

944 SECOND STREET PIKE RICHBORO

Israel 65 Celebration ★ Yom Ha-atzma-ut ★ Israel Independence Day

JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL FEATURING:

- * our Youth sharing the meaning of Israel for them
- * combined synagogue and youth choir representing area synagogues
- * a montage of our favorite Israel pictures

SEND YOUR FAVORITE PICTURE OF YOUR ISRAEL TRIP AS A JPEG TO

Israel65pics@Ohev.org

- * and more.....

Israeli refreshments following program



(Rabbi's column, continued from page 1)
back by supporting colleagues who are creating welcoming communities in hundreds of settings across North America and beyond."

Also, at the RRA convention, a new document was approved for our rabbis to think about Jewish identity in new ways. It included guidelines for determining the Jewish identity of children of same-sex couples or those born using surrogates and other "alternative" means of procreation. Rabbi Rachel Weiss of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (where TvS member Paul Kleinbaum's sister Sharon Kleinbaum is the senior rabbi!) inserted language into the guidelines that made clear that we do not privilege births via heterosexual sex over births via other reproductive technologies. As Rachel said, in her community, those births are the norm. It was a proud moment when the entire plenum voted to support the changes.

Who knows what the Supreme Court will decide? We will have to be patient until the ruling comes down. But in the meantime, it is interesting to note the widespread support for same-sex marriage and the near-universal denunciation of the Defense of Marriage Act. The opposition has not disappeared—they were certainly in evidence in Washington, D.C. this week. But the momentum has shifted. Miraculous, no?

As we chant hallel, the ancient psalms of praise, throughout the week of Pesach, let us acknowledge and proclaim these holy words: Hodu l'Adonai ki tov, ki l'olam chasdo, which this week, I translate as: Give thanks to the Holy One for all the goodness we have received; for love of all kinds is divine and is the most powerful tool we have to recreate our world in God's image.

With blessings,

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy



Board News

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. at Larry Necowitz's home, 1268 Harrow Crescent, Yardley, PA 18067.

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



Fundraising News

E-scrip Recycling, Dining, Shopping

Now we have E-scrip Recycling! A small box for your ink cartridges, CDs, DVDs, and video games will be at NFMH for their safe disposal. TvS earns a percentage

for every accepted recyclable item. If you'd rather send your recyclables on your own, Debby Bossio has boxes and pre-addressed, paid labels for shipping. Just contact Debby (info below) to receive your box.

McCaffrey's Receipts*

Save your McCaffrey's grocery receipts. TvS earns 1% of all items except for cigarettes and milk. Look for the "jug" with the McCaffrey label at NFMH. We just found out that over the last 2 years we earned close to \$300.00! So stock up on that post-Passover gefilte fish at McCaffrey's supermarket and SAVE YOUR RECEIPT!

* This is NOT the same as the E-scrip program. You don't need to register any credit or grocery cards for McCaffrey's.

Flower Power!!!

Let's hear some stories about your BULBS! I can tell you that my Flower Power violets have poked through the soil and are searching for the sun...while my daffodils are happy, happy, happy in full bloom! Such a pretty sight after the cold weather. Joel, Linda and Bobbie...how pretty are your flowers? If you'd like to know more about our Fall Flower Power Fund-raiser, simply inquire.

Please join our committee!

Do you have a knack for fundraising? Please join the TvS Fundraising Committee (TSFC). We will need help planning an upcoming event for fall, 2013. A film series is already in the works for summer, 2013! As soon as the films are on the calendar, we will have openings for helpers and bakers for a Bake Sale!

Please contact Debby for more information or to volunteer at 215-801-2005 or deborahbossio@comcast.net.



Havdalah Dinners

Next Havdalah dinner: Saturday, April 6th. We now have a tradition going, so do not despair! Check your email soon after the 6th to find out when our next Havdalah dinner is.

March dinners were a resounding success! Thank you to Talia and to Diane and Arnie for hosting. At Talia's, there were 11 people, with much yummy food, great conversation (from reincarnation to favorite movies), and singing afterwards, led by Frumi and Joel. And 11 people also dined at Diane and Arnie's dinner — with wonderful food and conversation (coincidentally, also from reincarnation to favorite movies) that evolved into an intergenerational game night.

Once was luck, but twice is a tradition! Again, check your email soon after the 6th to find out when our next Havdalah dinner is. You'll be able to volunteer to attend or to host.

Joan Amatniek
jamatniek@gmail.com



Outreach/Membership News

Cochairs Linda Gold and Debby Bossio, and many more, are working on ideas to bring prospective members our way. Send your ideas for events and/or publicity to lingold8@verizon.net OR deborahbossio@comcast.net.



Spiritual Life Committee

The next Spiritual Life meeting is April 28 at 3:30 p.m. at the Chongs' home at 417 Edgeboro Rd. in Newtown. The agenda will include May events plus a discussion of our Shabbat morning service and Torah study. Please join us — or send your two cents (or more) to someone on the committee: Rabbi Anna, Arnie and Diane Gold, Linda Gold, Debbie Chong, Naomi Mindlin, or Jeanlu Ryersbach.

Arnie and Diane Gold
agoldn1@aol.com



TvS Romeo and Juliet Club

The ROMEO and JULIET lunch club meets every month at a variety of locations. At press time, the date, time, and location of the April soiree have not been set. For more information about the group and our next meeting, please contact me.

Joel Bacher
joel.bacher@comcast.net

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



Community Announcements

Nashirah presents *Sabbath Variations*: Sunday, April 21, 2012 @ 3:00 PM at Society Hill Synagogue, 418 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA - General Admission Tickets: \$25 - for more information, visit <http://nashirah.org> or go to <http://nashirah.tix.com> to purchase tickets or call 1-888-901-6274. NOTE: Tickets will be mailed for purchases made up to one week prior to the

concert. Purchases made during the week of the concert will be available at will-call.

A new bill has been introduced by State Senator Anthony Williams and State Representative Brendan Boyle for legislation to mandate Holocaust and Genocide Education for Grades 6-12 in Pennsylvania. In order to support this legislation, community members are asked to send letters of support to members of the House and Senate Education Committees. (See sample letters and contact information at the Holocaust Programming page of JCRC/Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia at <http://www.jewishphilly.org/page.aspx?ID=159749>.)

The goal is to reach Representative Paul Clymer, Chair of the Education Committee, 216 Ryan Office Building, PO Box 202145, Harrisburg, PA 17120, 717-783-3154, fax: 717-705-1854. On the JCRC site, you will also find information on the Mordechai Anielewicz Creative Arts Contest, the 36th Annual Youth Symposium on the Holocaust, and the Spring Holocaust Education Newsletter (<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs199/1102707121253/archive/1112506558727.html>). More information about a bus trip for teachers planned to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. is available at The Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center website at <http://www.holocaustawarenessmuseum.org>.

A new Shma.com: For the past 43 years, *Sh'ma* has been bringing you the best voices in Jewish thought to wrestle with ideas concerning Jewish life and the Jewish people. With a newly designed website, Shma.com continues that commitment to "conversation" by encouraging deeper participation in the process. Check it out!

Want to know what's happening in the rest of the Recon world (i.e., outside of Tzedek v'Shalom)? Sign-up online at www.rrc.edu to get updates sent directly to your e-mailbox.

Gratz College Insider: Get the Gratz College newsletters with articles and reviews on varied topics at <http://gratz.edu/pages/newsletter>.

The Maccabeats* are coming!

The Gratz College Annual Gala Benefitting The Jewish Community High School: Tuesday, April 30, 2013 @ 6 pm at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, PA - For more info, visit <http://gratz.edu/news/entry/the-gratz-college-annual-gala>.

*A Jewish cappella group performing an eclectic array of Jewish, American, & Israeli songs.

In Our Shul...

Member News

Mazel tov to **Solomon Abrahamson** on his recent super performance in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Our roving reporter raves that Solomon's "voice and gestures as the plant were totally amazing!" And a second reporter confirms, "Bravo, Solomon! Fantastic job as the evil, man-eating plant, Audrey II."

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 to the General Fund

From McCaffrey's, who donated \$234 from their receipt rebate program

From Ruth Blask, for a "Refuah Shleymah" for Debbie Chong

From Judith Ann and Stanley Woloff, for a "Refuah Shleymah" for Debbie Chong

Sharon & Jerry Manas, for the President's Appeal

From Howard Blumenthal to keep TvS at NFMH

From Norma Kaplis to keep TvS at NFMH

Lifecycle Events at TvS

Anniversary:

Wendy and Jason Friedman April 12

Birthdays:

Stephen Perloff	April 5
Stephen Blumenthal	April 9
Zachary Friedman	April 11
Chuck Segal	April 12
Evan Bossio	April 13
Joan Amatniek	April 14
Robin Kevles Necowitz	April 17
Al Goldstein	April 19
Brandice Ann Sarandea	April 19
Zoe Necowitz	April 30, 2002

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.

Victor Yaffe	8 Nisan/March 19 (4/8/76)
Ralph Augusta Posmontier	24 Nisan/April 4 (4/11/42)
Carroll Gold	27 Nisan/April 7 (5/1/1981)
Raymond Kuzma	4 Iyar/April 14 (5/4/76)
Mildred Cohen	10 Iyar/April 20 (5/17/78)
Pearl Schwartz	15 Iyar/April 25 (4/26/94)
Renee Geller	18 Iyar/April 28 (5/7/96)
Mollie Gordon	18 Iyar/April 28 (5/27/86)
Jean Trachtenberg	21 Iyar/May 1 (5/9/10)
Cindy Ornstein	23 Iyar/May 3 (6/1/05)
Beverly Garfield	25 Iyar/May 4 (6/1/97)



Mishkan Shalom presents a dramatic presentation of

SISTER HILLS

from Nathan Englander's book of short stories

What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank

Saturday, April 27, 2013 at 7:30 PM

At Mishkan Shalom, 4101 Freeland Avenue, Philadelphia 19128

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

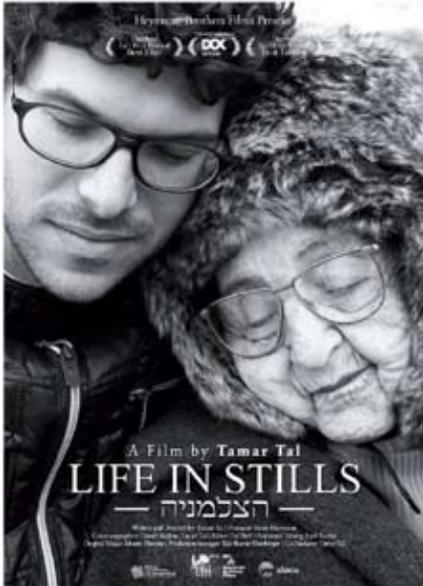
One Book Mishkan in conjunction with the One Book, One Jewish Community series

Lighting, costumes, music, and more bring the deceptively powerful *Sister Hills* to life as the Mishkan Players transform the story into a dramatic presentation that recounts the history of Israel's settlements through the tale of two women and a pact to ensure a child's survival.

Mishkan Shalom is a Reconstructionist congregation in which a diverse community of progressive Jews finds a home. Mishkan's Statement of Principles commits the community to integrate Prayer, Study and Acts of Caring — and to work with other people of faith to repair the world in justice and peace.

For directions, visit www.mishkan.org or call (215) 508-0226.

For more information, e-mail library@mishkan.org.



From first-time filmmaker Tamar Tal comes a riveting portrait of a mesmerizing family of two, who together fight to preserve Israel's history — and their own — in photographic stills.

LIFE IN STILLS

Saturday, April 20, 2013 @ 8:30 PM

at the Gershman Y, 401 Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Film preceded by New Filmmakers Award Ceremony with all three directors present.

Director: Tamar Tal

Israel, 2011, 58 minutes

In Hebrew and German with English subtitles

Established in 1940, Pri-or, Tel Aviv's first and oldest photohouse, exhibits and sells negatives and prints that preserve Israel's most defining moments.

The visual history of the state of Israel are captured in the breathtaking photographs of the late Rudi Weissenstein and kept alive by his sparkplug 96-year-old wife, Miriam, and their caring and charismatic grandson, Ben.

Now Miriam and Ben prepare for their greatest challenge ever: saving the legendary photohouse from demolition to make way for luxury condos.

An audience favorite at festivals worldwide, *Life in Stills* won Best Film and Best Editing at Docaviv International Documentary Film Festival and was granted top honors at Hotdocs.

Watch the trailer at this site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aj-fZpxTYf0>.

For more information, contact 215-545-4400
or visit <http://www.gershmany.org/LifeStills.cfm>.



TvS Calendar — April 2013 • *Nisan/Iyar 5773*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 21 Nisan Passover 7	2 Passover 8 (if observed)	3	4 NO Hebrew classes	5 First Friday Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 pm @ The Mollie Dodd Library at George School	6 Havdalah dinners @ members' homes
7 27 Nisan Yom Hashoah	8	9	10 Board meeting 7 pm @ the Necowitz home Rosh Hodesh Iyar	11 1 Iyar Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm Rosh Hodesh Iyar	12	13
14	15 5 Iyar Yom Ha'Atzma'ut/ Israel Independence Day Celebration 7 pm @ Ohev Shalom Yom Ha'Zikaron	16 6 Iyar Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	17	18 Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	19	20 Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10 am – noon @ Newtown Friends Meetinghouse
21 Mussar Class 3–4:30 pm @ the Garfields' home	22	23	24	25 Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	26	27 Torah Study 10 am – noon @ Joel Bacher's home
28 18 Iyar Spiritual Life Committee meeting 3:30 pm @ the Chongs' home Lag B'Omer	29	30	May 1	2 Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	3 First Friday Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 pm @ The Mollie Dodd Library at George School	4 24 Iyar



The 5th Annual LimmudPhilly Learningfest

April 26–28, 2013 at Friends Select School,
1651 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia, PA, 19103. Your choice of enlightening presenters and the company of engaging participants — including Young Limmud for 3–10 year olds — will be paired with a relaxing, educational Shabbat experience.

For further information, contact 267-235-4083 or visit <http://www.limmudphilly.org>.

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) _____

On the birth / naming / adoption

On his/her graduation / birthday

of: _____

On their wedding / engagement
/ wedding anniversary

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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