

TZEDEK V'SHALOM NEWS



MAY 2013

IYAR/SIVAN 5773

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 9

TVS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR TZEDEK V'SHALOM

Sunday, May 19th, @ 2–4 p.m.

at the home of Max Yaffe and Joan Amatniek
375 Sentinel Avenue, Newtown, PA 18940

Please RSVP to Jerry Manas at jerry.manas@gmail.com

FROM RABBI ANNA BOSWELL-LEVY

STANDING TOGETHER AT SINAI

Sometimes, the way other people see you has an impact on the way you see yourself. As someone who was raised Jewish, I never really thought one way or the other about being considered a part of the “Chosen People.” The term was merely a name, similar to “People of the Book.” But in the part of Texas where I grew up, many times when people would learn that I was Jewish, they would look at me with respect and say, “So, you are one of the Chosen People.” I remember feeling distinctly uncomfortable in those moments. I felt way too young to be chosen for anything, especially as I never chose Judaism myself. I didn’t see myself as a representative, and of what, I wasn’t sure. The concept of being “God’s chosen people” was never

brought up at my little Hebrew school, and our rabbi never discussed it at Friday night services.

We Jews still don’t talk about chosenness that often. I think it makes us a bit uncomfortable to think of ourselves as chosen (by God?) for a particular purpose or destiny. Liberal Jews talk more in terms of our responsibility and our values, rather than our destiny and purpose. There are two main reasons I can think of for this: First, most American Jews don’t want to think of themselves as separate or different from other people. We want to fit into American society, not stand out. In this democracy, we are all equal citizens under the law.

(Continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE...

Bennett & Bernie’s Simchas	5	Contributions Form	9	Romeo and Juliet Club	3
Board/Committee Info	2	Fundraising News	4	Services & Celebrations	2
Board News	3	Havdalah Dinners	4	Shavuot Celebration	4
Calendar	8	In Our Shul	6–7	Spiritual Life Committee	3
Community Announcements	3, 6	Mussar class change	3	T’ruah Fair Food Campaign	7
Congregational Meeting Info	1	Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy	1, 3		

May Services & Celebrations

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

Location: The Mollie Dodd 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, May 11 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



Tuesday, May 14

Shavuot Celebration

7:00 p.m. Candlelighting

7:15 p.m. Kiddush/Pot Luck Dinner and Dairy Delights!

7:45 p.m. Creative Chanting of the Ten Commandments

8-9:30 p.m. Am I Chosen?? Exploring the Meaning of “The Chosen People” in an Age of Pluralism and

Democracy — Traditional Texts and Contemporary Expressions

RSVPs are appreciated to Rabbi Anna at 215-287-5128.

Location: at the home of Susan Talia Delone, 4300

Church Road Doylestown, PA 18902. Phone: 215-794-6990

Please bring a dairy dish to share. It is traditional to eat dairy delights (blitzes, cheesecake) on Shavuot!

Saturday, May 18 at 10 a.m. – noon

Torah Study

Location: at Fran and Bernie Heyman’s home

245 N. Lincoln Ave. - Apt. 305, Newtown, PA 18940

Contact: Fran or Bernie at 215-504-0358 or

bernie.heyman@gmail.com or

gramfram@gmail.com



Saturday, June 1

Bennett Garfield’s TvS Bar Mitzvah

Location: at Newtown Friends

Meetinghouse, Court Street, Newtown

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



P.O. Box 863

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

(Rabbi's column, continued from page 1)

We all want and deserve the same treatment, regardless of our heritage.

Reason #2 — I know that for myself, I don't believe in a God that "chooses" one people, ostensibly over another people, to be any more holy than anyone else. I don't believe that Jews ultimately have a different, separate destiny from other people. And I think that kind of thinking is really problematic and can get us into a lot of trouble — the kind of trouble that religion is often blamed for. It is a danger that is unfortunately quite real and present, as we tragically are reminded of again and again in the news, most recently from the Boston Marathon. So we are understandably reluctant to think of ourselves in any way as chosen.

But might this be to our detriment? Is it a term we need to reject out of hand, or is there a way we can or should reclaim and reconstruct the idea of chosenness? For better or for worse, it is a powerful concept. We may know what it means to Christians — to another people's perception of us, but what does it mean to us, from a Jewish perspective?

This is what we will be exploring on Shavuot, which falls on Tuesday May 14th, and I hope you will join us at the home of Talia Delone and Larry Kennedy. I will present traditional sources, as well as contemporary reflections on the concept of chosenness, and we will have what I am sure will be a lively conversation.

Shavuot is an important holiday that celebrates the receiving of Torah. We gather not only to celebrate Torah, but to receive its wisdom anew, as if we ourselves were standing at the foot of Mt. Sinai. It is perfect time to rethink old paradigms and reclaim our tradition in the place where we are standing now.

I look forward to standing again at Sinai with you.

With blessings,

Rabbi Anna



Board News

We'll be having an important Congregational Meeting on Sunday May 19th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of Joan Amatniek and Max Yaffe at 375 Sentinel Avenue in Newtown 18940. I hope as many of you can attend as possible. Please RSVP to me at jerry.manas@gmail.com if you can be there. The topic will be "Building a Sustainable Future for Tzedek v'Shalom." This is an important meeting so I hope many of you can attend. More to come.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at Debby Bossio's home, 14 Houston Road,

Yardley, PA 18067.

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

Jerry, TvS President

215-341-6413 or jerry.manas@gmail.com



Mussar Class Change

The May Mussar class, previously scheduled for May 19th, will now be held on May 5th (3 p.m., at the Garfields') so that everyone will be able to attend the congregational meeting on May 19.



Spiritual Life Committee

The next Spiritual Life meeting is June 16th at Naomi Mindlin's home at 301 Hill Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047.

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. The next soiree will be on Tuesday, May 14, 1:00 p.m. at the Canal Street Grille, in Yardley. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

Joel Bacher

joel.bacher@comcast.net

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



Reconstructionist Community Announcements

Search Committee Expanded as Recon President Plans to Step Down

Following Rabbi Dan Ehrenkrantz's announcement in late February that he plans to step down from the RRC presidency, the search is underway for a new movement leader. RRC Board Chair David Roberts, who is directing the search, has convened an expanded committee in order to reflect the nature of the restructured movement. Ehrenkrantz will remain as president during the search process to help assure a smooth transition.

(Continued on page 6)

Continuing a wonderful tradition...

Erev Shavuot at Tzedek v'Shalom

Beginning on the second night of Pesach we count 49 days leading up to Shavuot, the awesome day on which we received Torah at Mt. Sinai. Come celebrate Shavuot at Tzedek v'Shalom!

Tuesday evening, May 14th at 7 p.m.
at the home of Talia Delone
4300 Church Road, Doylestown, PA 18902
Phone: 215-794-6990

Please bring a dairy dish to share.

It is traditional to eat dairy delights (blitzes, cheesecake) on Shavuot!

- 7:00 p.m. Candlelighting
- 7:15 p.m. Kiddush/Pot Luck Dinner and Dairy Delights!
- 7:45 p.m. Creative Chanting of the Ten Commandments
- 8-9:30 p.m. Am I Chosen?? Exploring the Meaning of "The Chosen People" in an Age of Pluralism and Democracy — Traditional Texts and Contemporary Expressions

RSVPs are appreciated to

Rabbi Anna at

215-287-5128.



שבועות

103 Years of Life

Come celebrate 2 lifecycle events at TvS!

Bennett Garfield will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah in Jerusalem on June 27th, but the Garfields invite the entire Tzedek v'Shalom community to join together on

Saturday, June 1, 2013, at 10 AM
at Newtown Friends Meetinghouse,
Court Street in Newtown, as



**Bennett Garfield celebrates his
Bar Mitzvah with TvS.**



Please help us celebrate

Bernie's 90th Birthday! We're hosting a buffet lunch party for all our friends and relatives on June 15th. Save the date! We're looking forward to having you join us for the occasion!

BUT . . . NO GIFTS, NO CARDS, NO FANCY DUDS!

Please respond by phone to 215-504-0358, or to gramfram@gmail.com soze we can count you in — then just come!

- Fran Heyman

Saturday, June 15, 2013 at 1–4 PM
at the American Legion Hall, 41 Linden Avenue in Newtown

PLEASE COME TO MY PARTY!

- Bernie

Sharim v'Sharot's
 "Bar-Mitzvah" concert
 The Select Jewish Choir of Central NJ
 (609) 22-CHOIR
 [609-222-4647]
 www.SharimVSharot.com
 Mail to: Sharim v'Sharot,
 P.O. Box 5102, Trenton, NJ 08638
 by May 1

American Jewish music
Sunday, May 5, 2013, 3 PM
Bart Luedeke Center
Rider University
Lawrenceville, NJ

Tickets
 \$15 in advance
 \$20 at the door

RRA Leader Breaks New Ground

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) has elected Rabbi Jason Klein as its new president, making it the first national rabbinical association to choose an openly gay man as its leader. Klein has served as executive director of Hillel at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) since 2006 and recently was honored by UMBC's Muslim community as a "Best Friend." He is also the first campus-based rabbi to be elected as the president of the RRA. "I have been grateful to partner with strong, invested volunteer leaders at UMBC Hillel these past several years, so it is with a great deal of humility that I walk into the opportunity to serve over 325 rabbis as the chief volunteer leader," Klein states. He is also on the board of the National Union for Jewish LGBTQ Students, acts as a consultant to Baltimore's Center for Jewish Education, has published commentary in the collection *Torah Queeries*, and contributes to *The Hillel LGBTQ Resource Guide*. His selection has garnered much press coverage, including stories in the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, *The Jewish Daily Forward* and *Jweekly.com*.

Shema from a Different Angle

Experience the ancient words of the *shema* prayer in a whole new way with this American Sign Language interpretation by Rabbi Darby Jared Leigh, '09. Ever since his student days, Leigh has been bringing unique

insights about liturgy and inclusive Jewish community to various pulpits and to Hillels. Currently he is the associate rabbi at B'nai Keshet in Montclair, New Jersey. Watch this moving *shema* now at <http://www.ritualwell.org/videos/rabbi-darby-jared-leigh-shema-asl>.



**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 to the General Fund

- From Norma Kaplis
- From Sharon and Jerry Manas

to the President's Appeal Fund

- From Talia Delone
- From Diane and Arnie Gold
- From Sharon and Jerry Manas
- From Bobbie and Ralph Posmontier

Lifecycle Events at TvS

Anniversary:

Jeanlu Ryersbach and Zvi Schram May 7

Birthdays:

Jason Friedman May 2
 Emily Savrin May 4, 1996
 Sam Garfield May 7, 1993
 Jack Fein May 7
 Bennett Garfield May 13, 2000
 Meredith Laden May 14
 Diane LeBas May 18
 George Reese May 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.

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 Ornsteen 23 Iyar/May 3 (6/1/05)
 Beverly Garfield 25 Iyar/May 4 (6/1/97)
 Samuel A. Kahn 26 Iyar/May 6 (5/28/03)
 Sam Kitces 5 Sivan/May 14
 Norman Necowitz 9 Sivan/May 18 (5/20/02)
 Hannah Pearson 9 Sivan/May 18
 Dimon Barth 11 Sivan/May (6/8/87)
 Morris Sanders 13 Sivan/May 22 (5/23/75)
 Jay Feldman 13 Sivan/May 22 (6/2/93)
 Sarah Hersh Gordon 14 Sivan/May 23 (6/20/59)
 Max Kleinbaum 17 Sivan/May 26 (6/20/00)
 Saul Abrams 18 Sivan/May 27 (6/1/47)
 Zvi Granek 20 Sivan/May 29 (6/13/71)
 Richard deLone 22 Sivan/May 31 (6/23/92)
 Herman Cohen 23 Sivan/June 1 (6/12/85)
 Jay M. Garfield 23 Sivan/June 1 (6/13/12)
 Robert Gordon 23 Sivan/June 1 (6/16/71)
 Jacob Moskowitz 23 Sivan/June 1 (6/23/03)
 Grace Posmontier 26 Sivan/June 4 (6/27/92)



Today, grocery chains in America possess an incredible opportunity to help end forced labor, poverty-level wages and other human rights abuses faced by farmworkers. 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!

Many of the leading fast-food chains in America have signed Fair Food Agreements with the CIW. Now, 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 day to hold itself to a more ethical standard!

Find out more at <http://www.truah.org/issuescampaigns/slavery-a-human-trafficking/ciw.html>.



Formerly Rabbis for Human Rights — North America

TvS Calendar — May 2013 • *Iyar/Sivan 5773*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 21 Iyar	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
5 Mussar Class 3–4:30 pm @ the Garfields' home	6	7 Board meeting 7 pm @ the Bossio home	8	9 Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	10 1 Sivan Rosh Hodesh Sivan	11 Shabbat Service & Torah Study 10 am – noon @ Newtown Friends Meetinghouse
12 Mother's Day	13	14 Shavuot 7 p.m. at the Delone/Kennedy home Erev Shavuot	15 Shavuot	16 Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm Shavuot	17	18 Torah Study 10 am – noon @ the Heymans' home
19 Congregational meeting 2–4 pm @ the Amatniek/Yaffe home	20	21	22	23 Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Hebrew classes with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	31	June 1 23 Sivan Bennett Garfield's Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m. @ Newtown Friends Meetinghouse

TVS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR TZEDEK V'SHALOM

Sunday, May 19th, @ 2–4 p.m.

at the home of Max Yaffe and Joan Amatniek
375 Sentinel Avenue, Newtown, PA 18940

Please RSVP to Jerry Manas at jerry.manas@gmail.com

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 _____

RALPH'S Computer Service

Ralph Posmontier - Owner ralph9816@gmail.com

**On-Site P.C. Sales, Service, Training, and Software Support.
Windows 95/98/XP Networks - Established 1993.**



**32 N. Lincoln Avenue
Newtown, PA 18940**

Phone: (215) 579-9816

Mobile: (215) 962-1494