

# TZEDEK V'SHALOM NEWS



JUNE 2013

SIVAN/TAMUZ 5773

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 10

## WHICH SPY WILL WE BE?

**As** I write this column in the final week of May, my heart and my message to you feel quite different from how they felt when I wrote to you just a few weeks ago, before the first congregational meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>. It is remarkable what has transpired since then. I have immense respect for all of you who are engaged in lifting up and shining a light on what is unique and transcendent about our synagogue community.

It takes courage and resilience to examine our challenges — and our possibilities as well. Congregational work is hard, no doubt, and being a small congregation is even more challenging. We always want to do so much more than we can realistically achieve, and so it is tempting to look at larger congregations and get overwhelmed by all that we are not. Sometimes it feels as though we face an uphill battle in our struggle to grow and thrive.

Of course, being me, I can't help but be reminded of this week's Torah portion! Parshat Shelach tells the story of twelve spies, each one representing his ancestral tribe, who were sent to survey the land of Canaan, the land God promised to the Israelite people. The scouts return with a mixed message. While they are enraptured by the possibilities that the land holds for them, "it does indeed flow with milk and honey," they are also terrified by the seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Ten of the twelve spies are filled with despair as they perceive the resident population as unconquerable

"giants" and feel miniscule in comparison. The idea of making this foreign land their own becomes impossible to fathom, even though God had long promised that this "land of milk and honey" would one day be their homeland.

When we feel small and powerless and feel that the obstacles are insurmountable, we may lose courage, fortitude, and hope. In such moments, we are like the insecure Israelites, who lose sight of their spirit, strength, and their authentic power.

It is important — indeed critical — to take time to reflect on our mission, vision, and the unique spirit of our congregation. We have to remember what brought us to this community, and what makes it worth sticking around. We have to give more than lip service to questions like the ones Rabbi Sid Swartz puts forth in his book *Finding a Spiritual Home*. He asks the reader, "Why does our synagogue exist? What are its objectives? What is the purpose of Judaism?"

Only by remembering our spirit and our worth can we merit to enter the Holy Land. Comparing ourselves to other congregations will only remind us of what we are not. We have to do the hardest kind of "spying," by going into our own hearts to search out what we are truly capable of and what kind of home God truly wants for us.

Bivracha/In blessing,  
Rabbi Anna



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# June Services & Celebrations



**Saturday, June 1 @ 10 a.m.**  
**Bennett Garfield's TvS Bar Mitzvah**  
 Location: at Newtown Friends Meetinghouse, Court Street, Newtown  
 Join us for a real community celebration!

**Friday, June 7**

**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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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

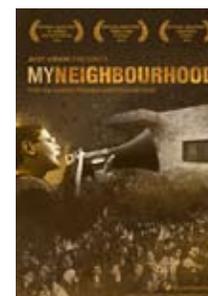
**Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m. – noon**  
**Torah Study**

Location: at Debbie and Victor Chong's home  
 417 Edgeboro Dr., Newtown, PA 18940  
 Contact: Debbie or Victor at 215-504-9268 or  
[weederwiz@aol.com](mailto:weederwiz@aol.com)

**Saturday, June 29 at 8–10 p.m.**

**Havdallah followed by the movie**  
*My Neighbourhood*

Location: The Mollie Dodd Library at George School  
 A Peabody Award-winning documentary short about Israeli-Palestinian relations brought home on a personal basis. Movie will be followed by a discussion.



For more information, contact Debby Bossio at  
[deborahbossio@comcast.net](mailto:deborahbossio@comcast.net).

## SUMMER SERVICES

The dates for summer services and Torah study are:

- Friday night, July 12
- Saturday morning, July 27
- Friday night, August 2
- Saturday morning, August 17 OR 24 (depends on the date of Welcome Back barbeque).

Please contact us to volunteer to lead and/or host.  
 Arnie and Diane Gold [agoldn1@aol.com](mailto:agoldn1@aol.com)

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)

# 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](mailto: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

## From our president...

We've had two important Congregational Meeting in May on the topic "Building a Sustainable Future for Tzedek v'Shalom." Thanks to all who participated in our sessions, either in person or via email feedback.

Minutes will be forthcoming, but for those who could not attend, I did want to share that I'm pleased to say that the congregation authorized the board to renew Rabbi Anna's contract for the coming year, with the details to be determined through mutual discussion between the board and Rabbi Anna, and based on our vision, needs, and budget.

In addition, an organizing committee was spontaneously formed by Larry Garfield, Joan Amatniek, and Howard Blumenthal to review the feedback and propose a recommendation to the board in the areas of programming, member relations, financial management, and spiritual needs, all tied to our core purpose and vision.

So things are well on their way! And as you may know, LOTS of people volunteered to lead activities in the areas of Tikkun Olam, Education/Spirituality, and Community/Social events — the three pillars of our vision.

More to come...

The next Board meeting originally set for early June will be scheduled as soon as the ad hoc triumverate submits their recommendations. The congregation will be notified as soon as a date/time is chosen.

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

Jerry, TvS President  
215-341-6413 or [jerry.manas@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.manas@gmail.com)



## Spiritual Life Committee

The next Spiritual Life meeting is June 16th at Naomi Mindlin's home at 301 Hill Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047. It will be set in the morning so that everyone who wants to can celebrate Father's Day and/or attend Stephen Perloff's closing reception for his photography show at The Light Room in Philly.

The dates for summer services are: Friday night July 12, Saturday morning July 27, Friday night August 2, and Saturday morning 17 OR 24 (depends on date of Welcome Back barbeque). Please contact us to volunteer to lead and/or host a summer service.

Arnie and Diane Gold  
[agoldn1@aol.com](mailto:agoldn1@aol.com)

## TvS Romeo and Juliet Club

The next gathering of the ROMEOs and JULIETs will be on Wed. June 19, at 1:00 p.m. at a new location: Zoe's Kitchen, in Newtown. This is a new restaurant in Newtown located where Cosi's used to be, next to Jules Thin Crust, 300 N. Sycamore St., in the area called Goodnoe Corner Shopping Center. Near the Rite Aid, Green Parrot, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you all,  
Joel

[joel.bacher@comcast.net](mailto:joel.bacher@comcast.net)

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



## Community Announcements

**LASHIR, the Jewish Community Choir of**

**Princeton**, will present their annual Spring concert on Sunday, June 9, at 2 p.m. at the Princeton Jewish Center, 435 Nassau Street - conducted by Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman, renowned expert in Jewish music - Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, LASHIR will sing several Yiddish songs in contemporary settings to celebrate the vibrancy of the community that produced this music, as well as the continuing vitality of a modern Jewish community that continues to enjoy this music. This section will be followed by a tribute to the music of Israel on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Jewish state - FREE, open to the public, with a reception following the concert.

**Kallah 2013: Kol Echad — Connecting With the Divine, Within & Around Us** - July 1-7, 2013 at Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH - sponsored by ALEPH — Alliance for Jewish Renewal - for further information, visit <http://www.aleph.org/kallah.htm>



## 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)

***Tzedek v'Shalom and Newtown Community  
Summer Film Series:  
June 29, July 21 and August 11***

***\$5.00/night per family. \$5.00 per individual.***

***Sign up for the entire series by June 25 to receive 10% discount — just \$13.50!  
Beverages and Snacks will be for sale.***

**at the Mollie Dodd Library, at George School, Newtown, PA**

**Register at <http://tzedekvshalom.org>**

**Please plan to attend and bring your friends to one or all of these films, reflecting the struggles of ordinary people; their trials and how they have overcome them. Thought-provoking discussion will follow the film.**

***My Neighbourhood* — Saturday, June 29, 8-10 pm**

**Preceded by Havdalah to culminate the Sabbath**

**<http://www.truah.org/issuescampaigns/justiceforjerusalem/insideneighborhoods/sheikh-jarrah/my-neighbourhood.html>**

*My Neighbourhood* is a Peabody Award-winning documentary short, that chronicles the story of Mohammed El Kurd, a Palestinian teenager forced to share a section of his house with Israeli settlers. Mohammed comes-of-age in the midst of unrelenting tension with his neighbors and unexpected cooperation with Israeli allies in his backyard. Directed by Julia Bacha and Rebekah Wingert-Jabi.

***Beyond Belief* — Sunday, July 21, 3-5 pm**

**<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0989618>**

This documentary relates the story of Susan Retik and Patti Quigley, two soccer moms living in the suburbs of Boston until the tragedy of September 11 strikes. Rather than turning inwards, grief compels these women to focus on the country where the terrorists who took their husbands' lives were trained: Afghanistan. Over the course of two years, as they cope with loss and struggle to raise their families as single mothers, these extraordinary women dedicate themselves to empowering Afghan widows whose lives have been ravaged by decades of war, poverty and oppression — factors they consider to be the root causes of terrorism. From the ruins of the World Trade Center to those of Kabul and back, theirs is a journey of personal strength and international reconciliation, and a testament to the vision that peace can be forged — one woman at a time.

***Crazy, Sexy Cancer* — Sunday, August 11, 3-5 pm**

**<http://www.crazysexcancer.com>**

Here is an irreverent and uplifting documentary about a woman looking for a cure and finding her life. In 2003, 31-year-old actress/photographer Kris Carr was diagnosed with a rare, incurable cancer. Weeks later she began filming her story. Taking a seemingly tragic situation and making it a creative expression, Kris shared her inspirational story of survival with courage, strength, and humor. With experimental treatment as her only option, Kris became determined to find answers where there were none. She traveled the country interviewing experts in alternative medicine as she tenaciously dove headfirst into a fascinating and often hilarious holistic world. On the way, she met other vivacious young women determined to become survivors. Their stories are as poignant and exciting as the women who tell them. As Kris's journey unfolds, she realizes that healing is about living rather than fighting. *Crazy Sexy Cancer* is more than a thought-provoking film, it's an attitude! It's about rising to the challenge of life and turning lemons into champagne.

***What a great summer event!***

## Contributions to the General Fund

From Sharon and Jerry Manas

## Lifecycle Events at TvS

### Anniversary:

Michele & Paul Kleinbaum	June 10, 1979
Sharon Pope and Rob Weintraub	June 14
Al and Eileen Goldstein	June 15, 1969
Frances and Bernie Heyman	June 17, 1944
Talia deLone and Larry Kennedy	June 18
Steve Bacher and Karen Courtney	June 22, 1996
Marilyn Silberfein and John Pawling	June 27, 1971

### Birthdays:

Meryl Cohen	June 5, 1985
Tali Adini	June 6
Greg Plumb	June 6, 1989
Jake Antoniello	June 10
Larry Necowitz	June 12
Emma Perloff	June 13, 1993
Arnie Gold	June 14
Cressa Perloff	June 21, 1987
D.J. Kleinbaum	June 26, 1982
Ilene Pastor	June 27
Nora Chong	June 27
Zvi Schram	June 29
Jean-Pierre Sarandrea	June 30

## 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.*

Sylvia and Reuben Bishoff	June
Dimon Barth	11 Sivan/May 19 (6/8/87)
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)
Mildred Daniels	29 Sivan/June 7 (6/21/09)
Esther Piaskovsky	30 Sivan/June 8 (6/26/06)
Harry Tarlo	1 Tammuz/June 9 (6/23/63)
Barry Cohen	6 Tammuz/June 14 (6/20/99)
Richard Netter	11 Tammuz/June 19 (7/3/09)
Olive Levy Rosenfield	12 Tammuz/June 20 (6/27/10)
Lillian Lande Goldstein	13 Tammuz/June 21
Sarah Weintraub	13 Tammuz/June 21 (6/23/02)
Sydne Boswell	16 Tammuz/June 24 (7/6/12)
Nettie Tarlo	23 Tammuz/July 1 (7/12/85)



## Jewish Genealogy Fair

Free Event

Sunday, June 9th, 1–5 p.m.

at Congregation Tifereth Israel

2909 Bristol Road, Bensalem, PA



Whether you are a beginner or expert,  
find out how to learn more about your family history!  
Experts in researching or translating Polish, Russian,  
German records, representatives from NJ State Archives,  
US National Archives, Family History Centers, and  
more...

presented by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Philadelphia

For more info: (215) 752-3468 or <http://www.jgsgp.org>

# TZEDEK V'SHALOM: EMBRACING OUR ROOTS

## OUR CORE PURPOSE

Tzedek v'Shalom is dedicated to nurturing each person's unique gifts and spirituality through a dynamic Jewish community dedicated to justice and peace.

## OUR VISION

All members actively engage in an array of intergenerational practices and activities that meet their spiritual needs and integrate Torah study, lifelong learning, and tikkun olam.

## OUR FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

We are a progressive Jewish community, committed to realizing tzedek v'shalom — justice and peace — in our lives and in the world. We seek to build a spiritual community based on love, compassion and mutual respect. We deepen our spiritual lives through prayer and meditation (tefilah), Jewish study (Torah and mitzvot) and action to heal the world (tikkun olam). Our faith and actions are based on three great Jewish principles:

...In the image of God.

Genesis 1:27

We seek God's image in ourselves and in others, knowing that God has many faces. Our Judaism is a generous spiritual path, enriched by a diversity of belief, spiritual practice, and human experience.

We challenge ourselves to see God's image in those whom we have been taught to fear, in those with whom we disagree, and those who have been marginalized because of race, class, gender or sexual orientation.

...Turn it, turn it, for every-  
thing is in it.

Pirkei Avot 5:25

We embrace Torah as the foundation of our Jewish study. We seek to learn its many layers, from the plain meaning (pshat) to the most hidden truths (sod).

We will learn from modern interpretations as well as the ancient texts and commentaries. As part of our study, we will create our own commentaries, midrash, rituals, and other sacred works, using the talents, energies, and life experiences of our community.

...Justice, justice shall you  
pursue.

Deuteronomy 16:20

Faith calls us to seek justice for all people. We are committed to act with other faith communities to challenge institutions and structures that have perpetuated injustice in our nation and throughout the world.

Love of Israel especially obligates us to support Israelis who are striving for peace and justice in Israel, for reconciliation between Israeli and Palestinian people, and for peace between Israel and its neighbors.

Let us strive to fulfill God's commandment to become a holy nation... Exodus 19:6

**Kol ha-kavod (greatest honor) to our own**

**Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy**

for becoming co-chair of

**T'ruah, Formerly Rabbis for Human Rights — North America**

<http://www.truah.org/>



# TvS Calendar — June 2013 • *Sivan/Tamuz 5773*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 23 Sivan Bennett Garfield's Bar Mitzvah 10 a.m. @ Newtown Friends Meetinghouse
2	3	4	5	6 <b>Hebrew classes</b> with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	7 First Friday Shabbat Services followed by potluck 6:30 pm @ The Mollie Dodd Library at George School	8 30 Sivan  <b>Rosh Hodesh Tamuz</b>
9 1 Tamuz  <b>Rosh Hodesh Tamuz</b>	10	11	12	13 <b>Hebrew classes</b> with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	14	15
16 Spiritual Life Committee morning @ Naomi's home  <b>Father's Day</b>	17	18	19 <b>Romeos &amp; Juliets</b> 1 pm @ Zoe's Kitchen	20 <b>Hebrew classes</b> with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	21	22 <b>Torah Study</b> 10 am – noon @ the Chongs' home
23	24	25	26	27 <b>Hebrew classes</b> with Debbie @ the Chongs' home 5:30 & 6 pm	28	29 <b>Havdalah &amp; Film Series: My Neighbourhood</b> 8–10 pm @ The Mollie Dodd Library at George School
30 22 Tamuz						



**THE 4TH NATIONAL  
J STREET CONFERENCE**

**“OUR TIME TO LEAD”**

**SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1, 2013  
WALTER E. WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER  
WASHINGTON, DC  
[HTTP://CONFERENCE.JSTREET.ORG](http://conference.jstreet.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) \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                                           |                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <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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