

TZEDEK V'SHALOM

A Reconstructionist Jewish Congregation

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



TvS News - November 2009 • Heshvan/Kislev 5770

From the President

During the “Moving Forward” process, in the Spring of 2008, our community looked inward and reaffirmed our commitment to Tikkun Olam (Repair of the World). Tikkun Olam (or Justice and Peace, as we called it) was so central to our identity, we decided, that it belonged in our Core Purpose, the single sentence that defines our reason for being: *To nurture each person’s unique gifts and spirituality through a dynamic Jewish community dedicated to justice and peace.* My reaction at the time was mixed. On the one hand, this was a powerful reaffirmation of one of the core values we held at the inception of TvS twelve years earlier. On the other hand, we hadn’t done much to show our commitment to justice and peace over our first twelve years.

I’m happy to say that this is no longer true. In the past year, with a rejuvenated Tikkun Olam Committee and Rabbi Anna’s commitment to justice and peace, we have begun to act on our commitment. We are teaming with the Newtown Friends to create an ambitious program, *Community Building in Tough Times*, to address economic need in our own communities. Our Hebrew School families are taking on the task of cleaning up the community garden at the Klein JCC for Mitzvah Mania Day.

Two holiday mitzvah projects are planned: “adopting” a family at Christmas and providing them with food and gifts; and leading Bingo at Pickering Manor so staff can have the day off. And we have begun a difficult, but important, conversation about how our commitment to justice and peace relates to current events in Israel. And that’s just this Fall.

While I am nominally the chair of the Tikkun Olam Committee, my other responsibilities leave me no time to do more than facilitate. Each project we have undertaken has been because someone has stepped forward to lead. I have been fortunate to have many committee members willing to take on this responsibility. Larry Garfield, Jennifer Garfield, Joan Amatniek, Janis Gemelfarb, and Jean Ryersbach have all taken on projects and seen them through. They have had the backing and help of other committee members, and ultimately the whole congregation, to make the projects successful. It’s a great beginning, but there is of course much more we could and should be doing.

Our ongoing success of living the words of our Core Purpose will depend on the creativity, energy, and leadership of many congregants. If you have an idea, a passion, or a favorite cause—and especially if you are willing to take the lead—there is a committee and a congregation who will help make it

happen. Consider joining the Tikkun Olam Committee for a meeting or for years and help keep the momentum going. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Julie and Charles Gromer.

Ruth Jampol, *on behalf of the TvS Co-Presidents, including Noa Kuzma and Wendy Friedman.*

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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

Co-Presidents:

Wendy Friedman 215-579-9275

Ruth Jampol 215-860-8903

Noa Kuzma 215-493-8418

Secretary: Jennifer Paget 215-736-9525

Treasurer:

Joel Bacher (Finance Chair) 215-860-3565

Communications Liaison and Webmaster

Jerry Manas 215-698-7957

Education (Committee Chair)

Wendy Friedman 215-579-9275

Jordan Wallis Fund Administrator

Jerry Wallis 215-547-1971

Membership (Committee Chair)

Carolyn Bacher 215-860-3565

Spiritual Life (Committee Co-Chair)

Bobbie Posmontier 215-579-2644

Tikkun Olam (Committee Co-Chair)

Ruth Jampol 215-860-8903

Rob Weintraub 215-968-7616

Past Co-Presidents:

Ralph Posmontier 215-579-2644

Rob Weintraub 215-968-7616

Fund Raising (Liaison): OPEN

Intergenerational Activities/Events/

Adult Ed (Liaison) - OPEN

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

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Non-Board Committee Chairs and Coordinators:

Acts of Caring -

Debbie Chong 215-504-9268

Jeannie Ryersbach 215-943-4565

Spiritual Life (Committee Co-Chair)

Diane Gold 215-295-2028

Bobbie Posmontier 215-579-2644

Shammus Coordinator :

Ralph Posmontier 215-579-2644

Oneg Coordinator - OPEN

Teen Advisor - Debby Bossio 215-801-2005

Newsletter Editor: Naomi Mindlin 215-757-8921

To submit news to the newsletter:

email: nsmindlin@photoreview.org

News Deadline: 22nd of the month. Any submissions after that date will be included in the next newsletter.

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November Services and Celebrations at TvS

Shabbat Evening Service

When: Fri, November 6, 7:15 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Where: NFMH

Description: Oneg - Diane and Arnie Gold, Oneg helper - Cindy Weiss-Fisher

Torah Study

When: Sat, November 14, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Where: Home of Diane and Arnie gold

Description: need TS shammus

Learning to Lead Evening Service workshop

When: Sun, November 15, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Details Forthcoming

Shabbat Morning service

When: Sat, November 21, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Where: NFMH

Description: Oneg organizer and Oneg helper needed

Learning to Lead Evening Services

When: Sun, November 22, 5 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Details Forthcoming

Shabbat Service and Bar Mitzvah of Tyler Sheckman

When: Sat, December 5, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: Newtown Friends Meetinghouse

TvS Board News

The next TvS Board meeting is on November 11 at 7 p.m. at the Jampol/Lifson home, 456 Lafayette Street, Newtown, PA 18940. For directions, contact Ruth at 215-860-8903 or rjampol@aol.com.

TvS Board Meeting Highlights October, 2009

The Board meeting began with a kavanah from Rabbi Anna about the coming month. Heshvan has no holidays and so is a good time to gather energy to carry out intentions laid out during the High Holidays. She encouraged the Board to reflect on what we would build on and what we would change from last year as we look ahead to the coming year.

Our Holy Space

The Board discussed the need for more hands-on help with setting and cleaning up for services. We discussed how working together and sharing this responsibility connects us to each other. The board agreed to a number of steps for reaching out for more help. In addition, we will be asking members to arrange substitutes when they are unable to keep their commitments.

High Holiday Donation

Participation in the High Holiday Fundraising drive was strong this year. More members and visitors contributed than ever before. Many thanks to all who contributed and helped Tzedek v'Shalom get off to a healthy financial start for the New Year.

Communications

The Board continued ongoing conversations about our communications with congregation members, long-term friends of our community, and perspective members. We are refining our systems and policies under Jerry Manas's leadership. Feedback is always welcome.

Membership

Our membership chair, Carolyn Bacher reported an increase in membership of several members! We are fortunate to have Carolyn's dedication to the process of helping interested individuals learn about Tzedek v'Shalom.

Fundraising-Mark Your Calendars!

January 30, on the Saturday night after our Shabbaton, the congregation will host a dessert and dancing event with music by the Posmontier band. The fundraising event is being organized by Wendy Friedman.

On March 20, the congregation will host a sing-along to *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Newtown Movie Theater.

May 16 will be our second annual flea market.

Rabbinic Support

In preparation for renewing Rabbi Anna's contract, the board will be conducting an evaluation of her work as our rabbi. This will include a survey of the congregation. The Board is committed to an evaluation process that will support Rabbi Anna's professional development. Wendy Friedman, Noa Kuzma, Ruth Jampol, Jennifer Paget, Ralph Posmontier, and Jerry Wallis will conduct the evaluation process.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Anna asked for financial support to attend two conferences to advance her knowledge and to participate in the larger Jewish community of learners and leaders. The matter was not resolved at the meeting as it raised some issues of budget procedure that the Board needs to define.

Education

Wendy reported that the Religious school has a nice group of enthusiastic families. We look forward to seeing and getting to know them this year.

Spiritual Life

Rabbi Anna asked the Board to reflect on the recent High Holiday events and processes so that we can identify and record areas of success and areas needing improvement while they are still fresh in our minds.

Tikkun Olam

The High Holiday food drive was quite successful.

November 1 Mitzvah Day The congregation will participate in a gardening project at the Klein Branch of the Y.

December 6, Newtown Friends and Tzedek v' Shalom will hold a workshop to support local community members who have been hit by the recession. The event will include sessions on interview skills, resume writing, predatory mortgages and stress management. Babysitting will be provided.

TvS will organize Bingo on Christmas Day at Pickering Manor.

We will collect donations for one needy family for the winter holiday season.

Bobbie Posmontier reports that Interfaith Housing of Bucks County and Bucks County Housing Group are reporting the need for more volunteers during these difficult economic times.

Plans for a Martin Luther King project have begun. No definite plans yet.

Retreat

Joan Plumb has agreed to plan this year's retreat. Yay! She will need lots of help. If you are interested, let her know.

Jennifer Paget, Board Secretary
215-736-9525 or jlpaget@yahoo.com



Spiritual Life News

Our meeting for Spiritual life will be Sunday November 8 and Sunday December 20 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Bobbie Posmontier's house.

– Diane Gold and Bobbie Posmontier
Spiritual Life Co-Chairs
agoldn1@aol.com
bobbiepos@verizon.net

Spiritual Life Mitzvah Projects

Thank you TvSers

for responding to the BINGO and Clothing, Gifts and Food Project invitation. We have enough people to help with the BINGO event at Pickering Manor on December 25. I will be in touch with those of you who volunteered by mid-November.

As soon as I get further information from Karen Lawler, Coordinator of the Clothing, Gifts and Food Project, I will provide you with the ages, names (children and parents or caregivers), clothing sizes and the food requests which we will be asked to contribute to one family.

This information should come early November. Wrapping gifts takes place

on the 18th of December. More information on that, too.

□

Shalom, Jeannie
215-943-4565



Teen and Tween News

Welcome Teens and Tweens!

First, **A BIG congratulations to Audrey on her becoming a Bat Mitzvah!!**

Next Saturday is **Torah Study** at the home of Jeff and Evan Bossio (and his mom). It's early, but it would be great to see some half awake faces. I will make sure to make a Starbucks run with anyone who gets to our home by 10 A.M.. It's adult Torah Study, so anyone over the age of 13 who would like to learn/read about the Parsha (Torah portion) for the week is welcome.

Teen/Tween Liaison Needed! We need to have a contact person (maybe YOU) to help get the word out about parties, gatherings, community service opportunities, etc. The job entails getting an e-mail from me (Deb Bossio), then forwarding it with your special touch, to the Teens/Tweens in our TvS community. Which brings me to...

Sunday, November 1st, is **MITZVAH DAY!** The congregation is also participating. Help is needed to clean up athletic fields and do general cleaning in and around the Klein JCC in Philadelphia. You can earn community service hours (certificate) for doing this. AND at 6pm on the same night, Sunday, November 1st, we would like to hold a planning (dessert) meeting. Who would like to host? We could all bring a goodie to share. (Being it's the day after Halloween...you might have some really good candy for kupah!) What do ya think?

Debby Bossio, TvS Teen Coordinator
deborahbossio@comcast.net 215-801-2005



Tikkun Olam Committee

The next Tikkun Olam meeting will be held on Wed. Nov 4th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Julie and Charles Gromer, 300 Strawberry Circle, Langhorne.

For more information about the Tikkun Olam Committee, contact Ruth Jampol at 215-860-8903 or rjampol@aol.com.



Community Announcements

“Reinventing Ritual: Contemporary Art and Design for Jewish Life” - a new exhibit at the Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, New York, NY - www.thejewishmuseum.org or 212-423-3200 - Sat-T & Th 11 a.m. – 5:45 p.m., F 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. - through February 7.

Jewish Reconstructionist Federation News: Ma Nishma (“What’s Happening?”): Register at the JRF website at <http://jrf.org/user/register> then click “Manage your JRF e-newsletter subscriptions” at the top left of the home page to subscribe.

Jewish Federation News: to get email news about the Kehillah of Bucks County, contact jkraus@philafederation.org or visit www.jewishphilly.org.

Jewish Family and Children’s Service offers a variety of programs and workshops. For information on Philadelphia area programs, contact (866) 532-7669, info@jfcsp Philly.org, or visit www.jfcsp Philly.org. For Mercer County programs, contact Debra H. Levenstein at 609-243-0390 or debral@jfcsonline.org, or visit www.jfcsonline.org and follow the link to “Calendar” for complete information.



An Update for Israel

We received an update from Tali Adini in Israel! Here’s what she had to say...

We are happy. Ketura is a great place and it feels like we've been there a long time

I keep meaning to send an update for the newsletter! I am working at a Renewable Energy Project, Jon in the landscaping crew - mostly in charge of irrigation. We are putting together a community garden in our spare time. Lani in 3rd grade - full of attitude. Amalia in 1st - very cute when she goes off to school every day. The weather is lovely - it seems like the hot spell is slowly ending. Overall life is good!
- Tali”

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS for 2010 !

Usable Now — Good to November or December of 2010.

All for a discount price of \$30.⁰⁰

Please purchase Entertainment Books for your family and friends as gifts and sell them to your co-workers and neighbors.

Please help make this a successful fundraiser.

Contact Arnie Gold at 215-295-2028 or agoldn1@aol.com

In Our Shul...

Contributions

High Holiday Contributions from...

Gertrude and Leonard Borthwick
Debbie and Victor Chong
Paul and Michelle Kleinbaum
Jenny and Stan James
Mitchell Koblenz
Elaine Lifson
Arlene Sorens
Zve Schram and Jeannie Ryersbach
Larry and Jennifer Garfield, in loving
memory of Beverly Garfield, Larry's
Mom
Howard and Sharon Blumenthal

Jordan Wallis Memorial Fund

from Joy and Jerry Wallis

Lifecycle Events at TvS

Anniversaries:

Julie and Charles Gromer
November 7, 1999
Elana Braz & George Reese
November 15, 1986
Stan and Jenny Ornsteen James
November 17, 1994
Ruth Jampol & Eric Lifson
November 17
Janis & Dan Gemelfarb
November 21

Birthdays:

Bernie Heyman - November 3
Marc Fisher - November 6
Al Bossio - November 7
Amanda Posmontier - November 10
Joy Wallis - November 13
Ben Kall - November 21

Julian Bacher - November 21
Matthew Adler - November 16
Ben Kall - November 21
Ruth Jampol - November 23

Yahrzeits:

Yahrzeit dates are listed 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.

Jack Bacher
1 Cheshvan/October 19 (11/1/78)
Samuel Blask
14 Cheshvan/November 1 (11/4/60)
Anne Sanders Grand
15 Cheshvan/November 2 (11/4/98)
Fay Tabolsky Schram
16 Cheshvan/November 3 (10/28/77)
Alex Kauffman
16 Cheshvan/November 3 (10/28/07)
Jordan Wallis
20 Cheshvan/November 7 (11/15/03)
Alfredo Chong
22 Cheshvan/November 9 (10/28/02)
Harold Schwartz
27 Cheshvan/November 14 (11/6/99)
Rheta Pinsky
1 Kislev/November 18 (11/28/08)
Hilda Rosenthal
2 Kislev/November 19 (5764,
11/27/03)
Gertrude Kauffman
2 Kislev/November 19 (12/2/78)
Bernice Jampol
10 Kislev/November 27 (11/15/02)
Ben Silberfein
17 Kislev/December 4 (12/8/87)
Henry Blask
19 Kislev/December 6 (11/30/07)
Gertrude Chall 11/92

Tzedek v'Shalom Tzedakah Opportunities

Donor (s) _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Date _____ Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____ to the following fund:

- General Operating Fund
- Jordan Wallis Memorial Fund
- Prayer Books Fund

Please make checks payable to Tzedek v'Shalom.
Send to: Joel Bacher, 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

of: _____

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 _____

Tzedek v'Shalom
P.O. Box 863
Newtown, PA 18940

FIRST CLASS