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Talking to God *from Rabbi Novak*

Anyone who has been to ICM knows that we speak with many voices and represent many different ways of being Jewish. This is reflected on the bookshelves when you enter the sanctuary. There you'll find Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform prayer books (and a few Orthodox ones sprinkled in), as well as copies of the Torah/Haftarah commentaries in Reform, Women's, Conservative, and Orthodox translations. Pluralism is one of our shul's hallmarks.

Yet beyond what is in the books on our shelves, there is another kind of prayer – the kind of prayer that is more spontaneous than those in prayer books. Those kinds of prayers have been written by Rabbi Naomi Levy in a wonderful book entitled Talking to God; Personal Prayer for Times of Joy, Sadness, Struggle and Celebration. It is an important book for all of us.

When I have used this book there has always been a positive response. Personal prayers are a longstanding part of Jewish tradition, although many Jews do not realize that we have full right and permission to use them. Our prayers do not have to be from our canon; they can come from deep within us, reflecting our personal experiences, our hopes and aspirations, our hurts and suffering, and marking those liminal times when there are status changes in our lives.

Rabbi Levy's book has daily prayers, prayers for love and marriage, pregnancy and childbirth, prayers for parents, for healing, work prayers, prayers for comfort and strength in difficult times, prayers for spe-

cial occasions, prayers for the blessings of age, prayers for death and mourning, prayers for living up to the best in our souls, and prayers for our country and our world.

It is my hope that all who encounter this book come away with new words to animate their personal prayers, drawing us closer together, and bringing us closer to the One who hears all prayer.

Second Night *Seder*

On Tuesday, April 19, at 6:00 pm, ICM will host its traditional Second Night Passover *Seder* for members, families, and friends. The *Seder* will be led by Rabbi Novak and all are invited to join him.

As she has for the past several years, **Jodi Stark** will be coordinating this event. To enable Jodi to plan the *Seder*, please contact her directly with the number of people attending and she will let you know what dishes are needed for the *Seder*. Jodi can be reached at 516-761-5887. Adults \$18, children under 13 years of age may attend at no charge.

Pesach Quilt Raffle

Win this beautiful handcrafted *Pesach* quilt on display in our lobby. Tickets are on sale in our office for \$25 each or 5 for



\$100. The winner will be drawn at random at our Second Night *Seder* on April 19; you do not need to be present to win. See the quilt in color on

our website, <http://icmvt.org/shofar.html>. Call or stop by the office to buy your tickets now!

Israel Congregation has about 200 member families of diverse Jewish backgrounds, both full-time and part-time residents of southern Vermont. We provide weekly *Shabbat* and holiday services, a religious school, adult education, life cycle events, and cultural and social programming in a warm and welcoming environment.

An integral part of Jewish life in the Northshire for almost 90 years, Israel Congregation has been at its current location on Rte 7A, 1.2 miles north of Rte 11/30, since 1985. Our building is ADA accessible.

David Novak, *Rabbi*

Michael Cohen, *Rabbi Emeritus*

Karen Dreiblat, *Administrator*

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Kabbalat Shabbat Service:

6:30 pm, Friday

(followed by Congregational Dinner)

Shabbat Service:

9:30 am, Saturday

Religious School:

3:50 pm to 6:00 pm, Thursday

Office Hours:

9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday-Thursday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Friday

Telephone: 802.362.4578

Email: office@icmvt.org

Website: www.icmvt.org

P.O. Box 1050 Manchester Ctr. VT 05255

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now and plan on attending our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15, at 10:00 am. At the Annual Meeting we will be voting on a new slate for the Board of Directors and our budget. You will hear reports from the rabbi and committee chairs. Please join us. Light refreshments will be served.

Mazel Tov

Betsy & Jim Chase on their daughter Joanie receiving ordination as a rabbi in Broomfield, CO, by ALEPH:Alliance for Jewish Renewal

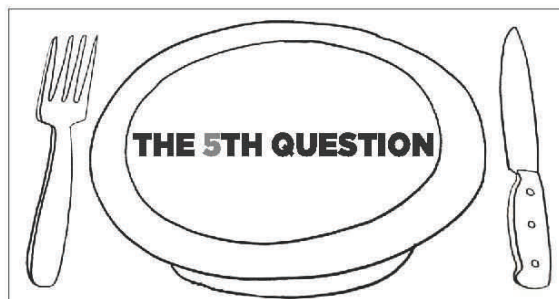
Joanne & Matthew Beck on the engagement of their daughter Sarah to Devin Murphy; a Fall 2012 wedding is planned

Shirah Hill-Cohen on her induction as a member of the Manchester LEO's Club, a student subsection of the Lions Organization, and on her role in starting a debate team at Burr & Burton Academy

Ilse Fuchs on the birth of her great-granddaughter Samantha Rose, born on Ilse's 95th birthday, March 18, 2011

Share your naches. Send your news to Karen at office@icmvt.org.

THIS PASSOVER, ASK AND ANSWER



WHY ON THIS NIGHT ARE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE GOING HUNGRY? BECAUSE ON THIS NIGHT, LIKE EVERY OTHER NIGHT, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

This Passover, as you gather to retell the story of our people's freedom from bondage, help rewrite the stories of others less fortunate. Donate what you would have spent to invite one more person to your Seder table. This Passover, don't just say the blessings, share them.

DONATE TODAY

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President's Column: Choosing to Welcome & Share

Israel Congregation is a labor of love shared by many. We are generous with our time and our financial resources. We strive to welcome all who enter our doors in order to foster traditional egalitarian Jewish worship values.

Although our budget is restricted, we offer wonderful educational opportunities to both our children as well as to the adults in our community. One only has to look at the numerous social, cultural, and family programs that have been offered during this current year to appreciate all that is done to welcome each and every member of our congregation.

We strive to be a community of life-long, year-round, committed, and practicing Jews. We care for one another in times of illness, provide support during difficult times, and welcome all in participatory, traditional Jewish worship and learning. Hopefully, we are

Religious School

In March, our religious school celebrated Purim together. We learned about the important players in the Purim *Megillah*, and the customs and *mitzvot* connected to this festive holiday. We made

masks and hand puppets to play out the Purim story, which *Kitah Bet* (the *bar/bat mitzvah* preparation class) performed for *Kitah Alef*, who also made generous use of our homemade groggers to blot out Haman's name! We also spent time getting into the Purim spirit by applying face paint and bringing in *tzedakah* to share with those less fortunate than ourselves. Yuval then helped us make many, many flavors of Hamantaschen—we rolled and filled dough together and had a great time eating and sharing our hamantaschen.

This month, we will explore the rich history and ritual of Passover together as a school. By learning that we were all once strangers in Egypt, we will learn to empathize with those in bondage, and relate to our



committed to our individual and collective spiritual paths. Our Ritual Committee is continuously examining worship issues, including the shape and format of our Shabbat services as well as the High Holy Day services. By managing the process, we strive to genuinely listen to the views and concerns of all our members, within the context of strengthening our existing religious and moral community and its values.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the numerous members of our ICM community who generously donate their time and resources to make our synagogue a very special place. Rather than thanking specific individuals, allow me to recognize all our Board members as well as all the people who serve on our various committees and just say, "Thank you," for all that you've done and will continue to do in the future to make ICM a place where people feel welcome and unconditionally share with each other.

John Sobel

shared history of *Am Yisrael*, the Jewish people.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of our school, and *Chag Sameach!*

Rabbi Rose

Tikkun Olam Update

Tikkun Olam is a very interesting committee and it does a lot more than review charitable organizations and make recommendations to the Board regarding which charities should receive contributions and the amount to be donated. Tikkun Olam also has various fund-raising responsibilities in order to increase the amount of monies available for charitable donations. Of course, chief among these is the Annual Tag Sale. We have also sponsored the raffle at the annual Fourth of July picnic for several years. Most of the congregation knows about these particular activities.

What many of you are not as familiar with is Tikkun Olam's representation on the Interfaith Council of the Northshire and its coordination of the Interfaith Council Programs here at ICM. In the last issue of *the Shofar*, everyone read about the upcoming Interfaith Seder to be held on April 6 at 6:00 pm at ICM. Members of Tikkun Olam are responsible for coordinating ICM's contribution to the Interfaith Seder, including getting foodstuffs bought and prepared by various members of our congregation. We've recently added information on the upcoming Interfaith Seder to the Refrigerator Page, but so far we've received very little in the way of responses for either attendance at the seder and for helping with the preparation. **We Need You!** Please call or email **Micki Lisman** at 362-4332 or msloane.esq@mindspring.com and let her know you'll attend the seder and help with the preparations.

Other Interfaith Council activities include Simple Suppers, Faith and Nature Camp, Neighbor to Neighbor, the Interfaith Council Storage Unit, Auto Angels, and the Christmas Holiday Project to which many of you contributed.

This is the time of the year to begin thinking about Israel Congregation's annual Tag Sale. We've already set the date of **Sunday, September 11, 2011**, for our annual event, and it is time to mark your calendars. This event is a key fund-raising activity for Tikkun Olam and also provides a service to the community at large. In order to be successful, the Tag Sale will require the support of a small army of volunteers. For those of you who have participated in the past, you know that preparations for this event officially start the previous Sunday, which is the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, when many families are visiting. Because of the timing, it's likely that we'll be short on volunteers for the

first Sunday and Monday, so we'll need more volunteers than usual to make up for it the rest of the week preceding the big sale day. Of course, Sunday, September 4, is the big drop-off day for your accumulated items and the day that we begin turning Israel Congregation upside down. There'll be other drop-off days following Labor Day weekend and we'll have a drop-off day scheduled prior to that date. If you can, clear your calendar for the whole week and join the group at Israel Congregation as we organize, joke, and get to know each other a whole lot better. So at the very least, add Sunday, September 11 to your calendar and be prepared to either volunteer or shop till you drop. If prior years are any indication, the members of our congregation accumulate items like pack rats, including many very wonderful things, and then donate them to ICM just in time for the Annual Tag Sale. So start to clean out your closets and drawers, books, sweaters, and ski stuff and finally decide to part with some old family heirlooms and other items that have been eating up storage space in your house. See you at the Tag Sale!!

Micki Lisman

Marking Yom ha Shoah

ICM observes *Yom ha Shoah*, the day memorializing our people's genocide, on Sunday, May 1. We gather at ICM at 5:30 pm for a half-hour memorial service led by Rabbi Novak. Then those who wish are invited to caravan to the Rutland Jewish Center for **Robert DeCormier's valedictory performance with Counterpoint**—"Music to Remember: Songs from Jewish Life" — at 7:00 pm. We invite you to join us in commemorating all that was lost in the *Shoah*. The Rutland Jewish Center will be accepting donations at the door.



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BOOKNOTES

The ICM Library has three new books that provide diverse perspectives on the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as detailed historical information.

~ **Palestine Betrayed**, by Professor Ephraim Karsh, takes a look at the origins of the conflict. Karsh does extensive research, which includes the use of recently declassified Soviet, Western, UN, and Israeli documents, as well as unfamiliar Arab sources. Karsh asserts that the historical decisions of the Palestinian leadership bear responsibility for the refugee problem.

~ **1948**, by Benny Morris, recounts in detail the history of the 1948 war. Many of the issues that plague us today had their roots in the 1948 struggle. This book not only provides us with the military history of the war, but also focuses on the political dimensions of the war and the civilian history, giving us insight into the refugee problem.

~ **One State, Two States**, by Benny Morris, provides an in-depth history of the goals of the Palestinian and Zionist movements, which he uses to help critically analyze the various proposed solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the one he finds most reasonable, given the current state of affairs, which is a two-state solution involving Jordan.

These books can be found in the ICM Library and may be signed out any time the synagogue is open.

The ICM Library has a wide variety of Passover books to enrich your Passover experience.

Cemetery Plots Available

Sometimes it is hard to think about certain aspects of life, but people do look ahead and plan for the future in many ways. ICM has its own section at Park Lawn Cemetery in Bennington, VT. The synagogue still owns a number of plots at this cemetery. If you are interested in purchasing one or more plots, please contact our synagogue administrator, **Karen Dreiblatt**, at 802-362-4578 or office@icmvt.org or contact our Cemetery Committee Chair, **Mark Aronowitz**, at 802-362-1205 or aronobird@aol.com.

Have Dessert With the Barefoot Contessa

On Wednesday May 11, at 7:00 pm, there will be a screening of an interview of Ina Garten (the "Barefoot Contessa") by Pulitzer Prize winning author Anna Quindlen at Israel Congregation. This interview originally took place on March 23, 2011, as part of the highly respected 92nd Street Y's lecture series in New York City.

Host of the Food Network's highly rated program "Barefoot Contessa," Ina Rosenberg Garten is known for designing recipes with an emphasis on fresh ingredients and time-saving tips. She has been noted by Martha Stewart and Oprah Winfrey for her cooking excellence and home entertaining savvy. In this special interview, America's favorite hostess talks with author Anna Quindlen about her successful ventures in retail, television, and publishing, as well as her life as mother, wife, and home cook. Quindlen's books have appeared on fiction, nonfiction and self-help best-seller lists, and her columns in the *New York Times* and *Newsweek* have won journalism's most prestigious awards, including the Pulitzer Prize.

Following the screening of the interview there will be a dessert hour hosted by ICM's Program Committee, which will feature delectable Ina Garten specialties. **Don't miss this fun event . . . mark your calendar now!**

Neighbor to Neighbor

On Thursday, April 14, Neighbor to Neighbor will host a fund-raising dinner at the United Church of Dorset, Dorset, VT. Dinner will feature both meat and vegetarian baked ziti with homemade sauce, mixed green salad, fresh local breads, coffee, and desserts made by our volunteers. Neighbor to Neighbor will start serving at 5:30 pm. Dinner will be a free-will offering. All proceeds will benefit Neighbor to Neighbor, a program geared toward building relationships and providing services that keep our older neighbors independent and connected to the community. If you know someone who would benefit from our program or you have a few hours to assist your neighbors in need, please call 802-367-7787.

Ma'aser Shenit

When the Temple functioned in Jerusalem, the Jewish community supported it and its priests with a system of tithes in the form of food and/or money. Today we feed our communal needs by offering financial gifts that strengthen and enhance Jewish religious and communal life in the Northshire.



GENERAL FUND

Laney & Larry Davis in memory of Laney's mother Bertha Levine and Eleanor Ranzal's mother Dorothy Parker • **Richard Trachtenberg** • **Ina & Mark Katzman** in memory of Lynne Abcug's mother Shirley Rosenberg, Frankie Oberst's mother Jeannette Kleinberg, and Ina's mother Etta Goldstein **Norma Rosenblatt** in memory of Eleanor Ranzal's mother Dorothy Parker • **Cathy & Saul Kimmel** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg • **Linda & David Sischy** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg • **Janet Steig Carol & David Buchdahl** in memory of Sol Shuchman • **Merrily & Frank Lewis** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg, Minnie Neuwirth, and David Neuwirth • **Barbara & Robert Friedman** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg • **Fran & Mark Aronowitz** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg • **Carole & Billy Gold** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg • **Ted Friedman** in memory of Irving Friedman • **Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg • **Bettina & James Baum** in memory of Dorothy Parker • **Claire & Richard Katz** in memory of Norcia Katz and Esther Roseman • **Gail Zimmer** in memory of Len Wallach and Bessie Cohen • **Susan & Herb Donner** in honor of Emet Koffman becoming a *bat mitzvah* • **Maddie & John Sobel** in memory of Jackie Borella's parents Minnie & David Neuwirth and Miriam Hyman's sister Dalia Nissenbaum Diamond • **Eric Zinner** in memory of Albert Zinner • **Sara & Chuck Michelsen**

SHABBAT DINNER FUND

Sasha Kent & Arnie Katz in memory of Lynne Abcug's mother Shirley Rosenberg • **Joel Rotner Karen & Michael Dreiblat** in honor of Ilse Fuch's 95th birthday, the birth of Ilse's great-grandson, Raymond Lipshutz' 92nd birthday, in memory of Shirley Rosenberg, Minnie & David Neuwirth, and Dalia Nissenbaum Diamond • **Cookie & Mac Israel** • **Ruth & Stan Gilbert** in memory of Barnet Shapiro, Irving Gilbert, and Ida Gilbert

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Sasha Kent & Arnie Katz in memory of Jackie Borella's mother Minnie Neuwirth • **Carol & Phil Goldsmith** in memory of Shirley Rosenberg, Minnie Neuwirth, David Neuwirth • **Judith & Hank Kaplan** in memory of Fay Kaplan • **Phyllis Gimbel & Paul Schnitman** in memory of Nancy Joy Gimbel

MERKADO LIBRARY FUND

Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman in memory of Jackie Borella's parents Minnie & David Neuwirth and Lynne Abcug's mother Shirley Rosenberg • **Sara Dolsky** in memory of Irwin Whitton

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sandy & Marty Castelbaum in memory of Lynne Abcug's mother Shirley Rosenberg and Miriam Hyman's sister Dalia Nissenbaum Diamond • **Roseann & Edwin Gordon** in memory of Florence & Louis Abramson **Ina & Al Rubin** in memory of Estelle Cohen, Minnie Neuwirth, Shirley Rosenberg, and Dalia Diamond **Helene & Len Glaser** in memory of Jacob Glaser • **Ilse Fuchs** in honor of the birth of her great-grandson Jamie Franklin Otis and in memory of Karl Gradwohl (Gidron) and Avishai Gidron • **Lynne & Les Abcug** for *Shiva* prayers and love

MARILYN GLATT LINGLEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Marilyn & Raymond Starker in memory of Stanley Reiter

Ma'aser Sheni, con't.

MICKI & BOB HOROWITZ CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Franci & Tom Carieri in memory of Minnie & David Neuwirth • **Micki & Bob Horowitz** in honor of Emet Koffman becoming a *bat mitzvah*

MARTHA LYON AND

LYNNE ANDREEN ISRAEL FUND

Lynne Andreen & Dave Lyon in honor of their grandson Abraham Lyon becoming a *bar mitzvah* and in memory of Minnie & David Neuwirth, Walter Lazaroff, Dalia Nissenbaum Diamond, and Martha Lyon

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Carol & Phil Goldsmith in memory of Henry Cohen, Cora Goldsmith, Benjamin Goldsmith
Lana & Ben Hauben

***Please Note:** Donations received after the 15th of the month will appear in the next edition of *the Shofar*.

Special Thanks

Jen & Lloyd Weinstein for sponsoring our Shabbat Dinner on March 5

Sandra & Mark Koffman for hosting our Shabbat Dinner on March 18 and our Purim Festival on March 19

Ellen & Raymond Lipshutz for sponsoring our Shabbat Dinner on March 25

Mindy & Allan Bloom for the beautiful flowers in the sanctuary sconces

Paul Ross and Marlene Skulnik for bringing us the screening of the documentary *Shoah*

APRIL Calendar of Events

4/1	6:30 pm	Family Shabbat & Potluck Dinner
4/2	9:30 am	Shabbat Worship, <i>Parashat Tazria</i>
4/5	10:30 am	Adult Education: Talmud Study
	6:00 pm	ICM Staffs Simple Suppers at the Barrows House
4/6	6:00 pm	Annual Interfaith Seder at ICM
4/7	3:50 pm	Religious School
4/8	6:30 pm	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Followed by our Potluck Dinner
4/9	9:30 am	Shabbat Worship, <i>Parashat Metzora</i>
4/12	10:30 am	Adult Education: Talmud Study
4/14		No Religious School
4/15	6:30 pm	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Followed by our Potluck Dinner
4/16	9:30 am	Saturday Morn. Family Shabbat <i>Parashat Achrei Mot</i>
4/18	1:00 pm	Office Closes Early—Pesach
4/19	9:30 am	Pesach Worship Office Closed
	6:00 pm	Annual SccondNight Seder at ICM
4/20	3:50 pm	Religious School
4/22	10:30 am	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship and <i>Pesadik</i> Potluck Dinner
4/23	9:30 am	Shabbat Worship, <i>Parashat Chol HaMo'ed Pesach</i>
4/25	9:30 am	7th Day Pesach Worship Office Closed
4/26	10:30 am	Adult Education: Talmud Study
4/28	3:50 pm	Religious School
4/29	6:30 pm	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Followed by our Potluck Dinner
4/30	9:30 am	Shabbat Worship, <i>Parashat Kedoshim</i>



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Battenkill Chorale *Voices of Hope and Remembrance: Honoring the Legacy of Terezin*

On May 7 at 8:00 pm and May 8 at 4:00 pm, at the Zankel Music Center at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, the Battenkill Chorale will be performing a concert entitled *Voices of Hope and Remembrance: Honoring the Legacy of Terezin*. This concert features music that was written and performed at Terezin by those incarcerated there and other music written by Bernstein, Lewandowski, Janowski, Whitacre, Weill, and others. Also featured is a pre-concert talk on May 8 by music historian Joshua Jacobson and a videotaped interview with 90-year-old Terezin survivor Edgar Krasa. The concert also includes the Bennington Children's Chorus performing excerpts from Charles Davidson's I Never Saw Another Butterfly, with texts written by children confined at Terezin.

Tickets for the concerts are \$15 each and can be reserved by calling 518-692-7458 or by emailing jen.braucher@gmail.com.

This summer, as part of the Battenkill Chorale's choral tour to Vienna and Prague, they have been given special permission to give a memorial recital at the site of the Terezin concentration camp and will also present a concert at the Spanish Synagogue in Prague. For more information, contact Julie Turner at 802-885-3771.



The Tree of Life in our Social Hall is adorned with leaves that commemorate events in the lives of our congregants. To inscribe your family event or *simcha*, call Karen in our office at 802-362-4578.



802.366.9124
DINA BRONSON
P.O. Box 1086
MANCHESTER CENTER VERMONT
05255

Sponsor a Shabbat Dinner

We encourage members to support our communal Shabbat Dinner by sponsoring a dinner in honor of a life-cycle event, achievement, anniversary, birthday, or for any other *simcha*.

The cost to sponsor a dinner is \$200, which covers the food, serving, and clean-up expenses regularly provided by the synagogue. Attendees are still expected to augment the meal by bringing a potluck dish. Please contact Karen in our office for more information. A Shabbat Dinner FAQ Sheet is available.

CFC April Wish List

It's spring! Donations of basic cleaning products will help families get their spring cleaning done. Some needed items are dish soap, paper towels, sponges, laundry detergent, and bathroom cleansers.

Monetary donations are always welcome, especially this month. For the fourteenth consecutive year, the Feinstein Foundation is offering a one million dollar grant to help fight hunger across the country. Donations made to CFC during April will help bring a portion of that grant right here to the Community Food Cupboard and the Northshire. To take up the challenge with us, please send your contributions to CFC, P.O. Box 864, Manchester Center, VT 05255. Donations of non-perishable food are counted as one dollar per pound for the grant and may be left in the collection boxes at ICM, Shaws Supermarket, or the Town Hall. For more information, please call 802-362-0057 or check the website, www.communityfoodcupboard.org.

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