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## Our Teeming Multitude

*by Rabbi Novak*

January dawns as we begin the new Hebrew month of *Tevet*. Following Hanukkah, the new month reminds us of the blessing of time's continuity: the continuity of our lives, the continuity of the world that sustains us, the continuity of our *kehilat kedosha*, our holy community here at Israel Congregation.

Even with the waves that traveled over the surface of our congregation in recent weeks, we are and will remain a strong, vibrant, passionate community. These waves reflect the teeming multitude of our congregation, our enormous storehouse of energy and dedication to a community that is important.

As it does month after month, our synagogue continues into our present and our future with doors and hearts open. We are a small congregation that does so much more than other communities our size. It reflects our energy, and our vibrancy. It is what we've always done. It is what we will always do.

My blessing for all of us is to look, observe, absorb, and embrace all that sustains us, recognizing that ICM is part of what makes our community unique and we are the community that makes ICM.

## *Bikkur Cholim*

Do you know someone who is ill and would appreciate a visit from the rabbi? Please contact our office to inform Rabbi Novak. Rabbi Novak may be reached directly at 802-688-3555 or [rabbi@icmvt.org](mailto:rabbi@icmvt.org).

## Israel Congregation Chorus

Music is essential to the spirit. Come raise your spirit and those of others through music! Join the **Israel Congregation Chorus** and be part of Israel Congregation's strong tradition of singing together, in harmony. The Israel Congregation Chorus is open to all members of Israel Congregation as well as the entire interfaith community. We hope to have traditional four- to six-part harmony singing simple rounds, *nigguns*, contemporary music, as well as "classical" music. Suggestions for pieces are welcome. The chorus will be conducted by **Joanne Beck** and will begin rehearsing in mid-January, once a week for an hour and a half. Please share your voice and spirit with us all.

If you are interested, please contact **Joanne Beck** at [vtbecks@gmail.com](mailto:vtbecks@gmail.com) or 802-297-9460 for more information or, better yet, to sign up!

## Board News

It is with great regret that the Board of Directors announces the resignation of our President, John Sobel, for personal reasons. John has, during his presidency, acted on our behalf with understanding, intelligence and compassion, and we know that he will continue to be an ICM friend and supporter.

Cathy Kimmel will fulfill this leadership role until a new president is chosen by the Board of Directors in accordance with our by-laws.

## Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

- 1/3 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 1/4 3:50 pm **Religious School**
- 1/4 5:00 pm **Courage to Remember**  
at Mark Skinner Library
- 1/6 6:30 pm **Family Shabbat** followed by our  
Community Potluck Dinner
- 1/7 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Vayechi*
- 1/7 7:00 pm **Havdalah & Israeli Dance**
- 1/8 4:00 pm **Film Festival;** *Au Revoir Les Enfants*
- 1/10 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 1/11 3:50 pm **Religious School**
- 1/13 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship  
Followed by Community *Oneg*
- 1/14 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Shemot*
- 1/15 4:00 pm **Martin Luther King Service**
- 1/17 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 1/18 4:00 pm **Religious School**
- 1/19 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting
- 1/20 10:00 am **Tot Shabbat**
- 1/20 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship  
Followed by Community *Oneg*
- 1/21 9:30 am **Saturday Morn. Family Shabbat**  
*Parashat Vaera*
- 1/22 4:00 pm **Film Festival**
- 1/24 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 1/25 3:50 pm **Religious School**
- 1/27 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship  
Followed by our Potluck Dinner  
Sponsored by **Rosalie & Lee Fox**
- 1/28 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Bo*
- 1/29 3:00 pm **Rosh Chodesh Gathering**
- 1/31 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

### FEBRUARY

- 2/1 3:50 pm **Religious School**
- 2/3 6:30 pm **Family Shabbat** followed by our  
Community Potluck Dinner
- 2/4 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Beshalach*
- 2/4 6:00 pm **Cross Country Ski/Snowshoe Eve**
- 2/5 4:00 pm **Film Festival**
- 2/7 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 2/8 3:50 pm **Religious School**
- 2/10 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship  
Followed by Community *Oneg*
- 2/11 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Yitro*
- 2/14 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 2/15 3:50 pm **Religious School**
- 2/16 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting
- 2/17 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship  
Followed by Community *Oneg*
- 2/18 9:30 am **Saturday Morn. Family Shabbat**  
*Parashat Mishpatim*
- 2/21 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 2/24 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship  
Followed by Community *Oneg*
- 2/25 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Terumah*
- 2/26 4:00 pm **Film Festival**
- 2/28 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study
- 2/29 3:50 pm **Religious School**
- 3/2 6:30 pm **Family Shabbat** followed by our  
Community Potluck Dinner
- 3/3 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Tetzaveh*

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### *Mazel Tov*

**Carol Goldsmith** on her special birthday  
**Alan Bloom** on his special birthday

## ICM's Jewish Film Festival Travels to France & Ukraine

Our do-away-with-the-winter-Sunday-blahs programming continues with "*Au Revoir Les Enfants*" on January 8 and "*Everything Is Illuminated*" on January 22. Both films will be screened at 4:00 pm in Israel Congregation's comfortable social hall.

"*Au Revoir Les Enfants*" is the French director Louis Malle's heart wrenching memoir of his days in a French Catholic boarding school in Vichy France where the priest-headmaster attempts to save the lives of several Jewish boys by enrolling them in the school. A *New York Times* reviewer concluded that "Malle has written and directed with the compassion of an adult and the simplicity of a child."

"*Everything Is Illuminated*," the quirky film made from the book of the same name by Jonathan Safran Foer, will be shown on January 22. A young Jewish American flies to the Ukraine in search of his grandfather's past. He hires Odessa Heritage Tours, made up of a gruff old man and his English-speaking grandson. The three, plus the grandfather's deranged dog, travel in an old car from Odessa into Ukraine's heart. This tale of journey and self-discovery is highlighted by strong ensemble performances and sharp direction with a storyline that enriches and enlightens the soul.

*American Chronicle* recounted the film as one of the "rare films that encapsulate the emotion of discovery and drama with humor," while *Time Out* called director Liev Schreiber's effort "an unbelievably assured debut as a director." Noted film critic Roger Ebert praised the film and gave it 3 and a half stars out of 4.

As is customary, light refreshments will be served. There is no charge for admission, but free-will donations are welcomed. Be sure to note future film dates: February 5, February 26, and March 11.

### Condolences

**Barbara Kane** and the Kane family on the loss of Barbara's beloved mother, Bubbles Kaswiner  
**Gail, Case, and Jessica Whitcomb** on the loss of their beloved husband and father, Craig

## COURAGE TO REMEMBER

### A Holocaust Exhibit *Opening Reception January 4*

Israel Congregation is proud to be a co-sponsor of the opening reception for this very moving photographic exhibit, which will be on view at the Mark Skinner library January 4 to January 20. The internationally acclaimed exhibit comes from the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Studies program and will be introduced before the library's First Wednesday event entitled "Daily Life in Pre-war Nazi Germany." Keene State Professor Paul Vincent, chair of the university's Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program, is the evening's speaker.

The opening reception will take place prior to the First Wednesday program on January 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Mark Skinner Library, during which Rabbi Novak will introduce the exhibit and the evening's speaker. ICM congregants are urged to attend this very important community learning event.

The exhibit is free to the public. To attend the opening wine and cheese reception on January 4 at 5:00 pm, RSVP to the Mark Skinner Library at 362-2607 or email [mkskinnerlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mkskinnerlibrary@gmail.com).

## Israeli Dance Instructor Comes to Israel Congregation

On Saturday evening, January 7, the Israel Congregation social hall will be filled with the sounds of Israeli music, dancing feet, and laughter. Join us for this fun-filled evening, as dance instructor Eve Cameron guides us through a variety of traditional and modern Israeli dances. Absolutely no experience is necessary, and all levels and ages are welcome. Even if you don't want to dance, join us at 7:00 pm for *Havdalah* and then sit back and enjoy the music. *Nosherei* provided. If you have any questions call **Bev Rokes** at 875-1371 or **Alison Hill** at 362-7220.

## Welcoming All

The introduction to our synagogue's mission statement states, "We are a **warm and welcoming** congregation that provides Jewish identity and meaningful spiritual, educational, cultural, and social programming to our diverse Jewish population." I would like to explore a particular segment of this introductory statement; "welcoming all."

What do we mean by welcoming all? This statement can be interpreted in many different ways. Welcoming all can mean, to some, simply access to our beautiful building; however, we also welcome all in other ways.

We welcome all each and every Friday evening with either a generous oneg or dinner. To meet the varying needs of our congregants, we provide a variety of foods, ranging from pizza to sugar-free desserts. In this case, welcoming all is defined by providing food to all who attend Friday night services.

We welcome all during Jewish holidays and festivals, as shown in our recently completed High Holy Day services. The warm greeting by our volunteers at the front door, by the ushers once inside the sanctuary, and the service leadership by **Rabbi Novak** and **Cantor Waldman** very definitely helped generate a sense of warmth, comfort, and inclusion.

The same holds true with our level of observance. We do not limit our prayerbooks to a single source. Depending on the need and interest of the congregants attending a specific service, we choose between *Mishkan T'filah*, the Reform *siddur*, and *Kol Hane-shamah*, the Reconstructionist prayerbook. We have members who drive to services, whereas others choose to walk. I have even witnessed congregants who journeyed to our synagogue in cross-country skis in the middle of winter. No matter how one arrives, all are welcome. We are an egalitarian congregation that embraces diversity.

These are just a few examples of our founding values and beliefs about acceptance and how we go about making members and guests feel welcome at ICM. Thus we all should take great pride in working closely together to provide both warmth and compassion to all who enter the doors of our synagogue. By doing so, we stand committed to ensure the future of Judaism here in the Northshire.

*John Sobel*

## Religious School

**Alison Hill** and **Rabbi Novak** are happy to report that the religious school year is proceeding nicely and our students are all progressing in their learning and personal growth. Our school is broken into two classes, one for *b'nai mitzvah* preparation and one for younger students. All of our students are growing in their Jewish knowledge as they build Jewish friendships. Alison's curriculum is based on learning Hebrew letters and basic Hebrew words, as well as stories from the Torah. It includes plays, cooking, and storytelling that reinforce the information the students are learning. In the rabbi's *b'nai mitzvah* class, the students work on learning the service, not from the perspective of the Hebrew prayers, but how the service works overall: its structure, the various meanings, the types of *berachot*, and the different themes. In-school work is complemented by monthly Friday Family Shabbat services and a monthly Shabbat morning service for *b'nai mitzvah* candidates and their families. If you have questions about our religious school, please do not hesitate to contact either Alison or Rabbi Novak.

## Women's *Rosh Chodesh* Gathering

Please join the women of ICM at our next *Rosh Chodesh* celebration to be held on January 29 at 3:30 pm. Since we will all need to de-stress after the holidays and chase away the mid-winter blues, **Lynne Andreen** will be leading us in an easy, relaxing restorative yoga session. Wear loose comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat if you have one. Yoga will be followed by healthy snacks (please bring something to share) and conversation. Please RSVP to Karen in our office at 362-4578 or office@icmvt.org so we know how many people to expect.

**Advertising Pays!**

Call 362-4578

For Our Low Rates

## Northshire MLK Day Commemoration at ICM

On Sunday, January 15, at 4:00 pm, the greater Northshire community will gather for one of the most warm and moving interfaith events of the year: our annual Martin Luther King Day Service. The Interfaith Council of the Northshire sponsors this celebration of the life and work of Dr. King, a meaningful tradition held at Israel Congregation every year. Those who further his vision of social justice today will be honored—and the Interfaith Chorus led by Jeff Linebeck will grace the service with joyful music. Refreshments and camaraderie will follow. Join us!

## ICM Reads BOOKNOTES

### *“It Was an Extraordinary Evening . . .” \**

Over 60 people attended and enjoyed the third annual ICM Reads program, based on the book “By Fire, By Water” by Mitchell James Kaplan.

The sumptuous tapas table was laden with foods mentioned in the book: carrot salad and garbanzo bean salad and fish cakes and multi-filling empanadas. But the hit of the evening was our speaker, Dr. Leyla Rouhi, whose insights into medieval Spain were enlightening and sparked a hearty discussion. The program ended with Mel Brooks’ interpretation of the Inquisition which proved, once again, that throughout Jewish history we eat, we suffer egregious acts against us, and then we manage to find a way to laugh.

The Library Committee thanks everyone who attended—and for those who didn’t, there is always next year.

*Alison Hill, Chair; Gail Glanzberg;  
Stan Reisman; Stephanie Merkado Weiss;  
Harvey Flaxman; and Doris Bass*

*\*.....and Dr. Rouhi was totally engaging. If I had had teachers like her I would still be in school.” —Sandy Castelbaum*

## Tot Shabbat, January 20

ICM is delighted to be offering our second Tot Shabbat on January 20 at 10:00 am. This program is for anyone with toddlers who want to dip their toes into the Jewish experience. Only one hour long, we will offer you an experience of storytelling, food, and candle lighting. This is open to children being raised in Jewish and interfaith households by ICM members and nonmembers. We especially encourage grandparents to bring their children and grandchildren. Please call or e-mail Rabbi Novak with any questions. Rabbi Novak looks forward to welcoming you and your toddlers on January 20 at 10:00 am.

## Moonlight X-Country Ski/Snowshoe Evening

It’s that time of year again! Join us on Saturday, February 4, for an evening of cross-country skiing/snowshoeing on the 3 km of lit and groomed trails at the Viking Nordic Center in Londonderry, Vermont. If you’ve never joined us for this event before, come and see how magical it is to ski and snowshoe in the moonlight.

We’ll start the evening at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner in one of the toasty warming huts and then take to the trails, where we can ski and snowshoe until 9:00 pm. With trails that range from easy to more advanced, there is terrain that works for all levels and abilities. The warming hut is ours for the evening, so you can join in this fun event even if the great outdoors is not for you.

The cost is \$10 per person, \$20 maximum per immediate family. Rental equipment is available from Viking for \$5 per person. ICM members and nonmembers are welcome. **Please RSVP to Karen.** For more information, please contact Alison Hill at 802-362-7220 or Bev Rokes at 802-875-1371. Don’t miss this evening of fun and adventure!

## Share Your Naches

Send your news to [office@icmvt.org](mailto:office@icmvt.org) by the 15th of each month and let us *kvell* with you.

## Rabbi's Schedule

Many congregants visit with me – and I welcome this. You can always make an appointment by calling my mobile phone at (802) 688-3555 or by emailing [rabbi@icmvt.org](mailto:rabbi@icmvt.org). If you drive by ICM and see my car you should feel free to stop in. If I am available I will be more than happy to spend time with you. In case of an emergency please contact me at any time.

*Rabbi Novak*

## Food Cupboard Wish List

Help us to keep people warm during these short and cold days. The CFC wish list includes oatmeal, canned chili or stew, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, canned soup, Hamburger Helper, and other dinner mixes. All donations to the CFC are appreciated and may be left in the collection boxes at Shaw's or the ICM lobby. Monetary donations are always welcome. Please make your check payable to CFC and mail it to PO Box 864, Manchester Center, VT 05255.

## Marking *Tu b'Sh'vat*

Four times a year the *Mishnah* (a rabbinic text from 200 CE) tells us it is the "new year." On the 15th of *Sh'vat*, the *Mishnah* calls it the new year for trees. "TU" is how you pronounce the two Hebrew letters for "15." Thus, "*Tu b'Sh'vat*" is literally the "15th of *Sh'vat*."

This year, *Tu b'Sh'vat* falls on February 8, the day we have Religious School. All congregants and friends are invited to join with our Religious School students and families in a *Tu b'Sh'vat seder* at 5:00 pm that the students will be leading. We hope you will join our Religious School families in celebration.

## Visit Israel ~ We'll Help!

The Martha Lyon and Lynne Andreen Israel Fund was generously established to offer financial assistance to any of our youth who may be interested in visiting Israel. If your child is interested in visiting Israel, call Karen in our office at 362-4578 for details on how the Martha Lyon and Lynne Andreen Israel Fund can help.



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## Special Thanks

- ◆ High Holy Day Donors **Norma & Marvin Rappaport, Judy Rudiakov, Loree & Rob Zeif, JB Lyon**
- ◆ **The Library Committee** for the exceptional ICM Reads program
- ◆ **Sasha & Arnie Katz, Cathy & Saul Kimmel, Merryl & EJ Hazelton, Jen, Emma, Alex, Caleb, & Chase Weinstein** for taking turns lighting our outdoor menorah
- ◆ **Carol Goldsmith** for giving the D'var Torah on Friday, December 30, and **Carol and Phil Goldsmith** for sponsoring our Shabbat Dinner that night



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# Ma'aser Sheni



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

**Helene & Len Glaser** in memory of Sigmund Nathan • **Theodor Friedman** in memory of Frances Friedman  
**Lana & Ben Hauben** in loving memory of Oscar Hauben • **Cookie & Israel Mac** in memory of Sam Saiber  
 and David Mac • **Norman Cohen** in memory of Betsy Chase • **Carol & Charlie Robbins** in memory of  
 Betsy Chase • **Vicki & Steve Greene** in memory of Gary Katz' mother • **Deborah & Ronald Goldman** in  
 memory of Betsy Chase • **David Frazer** in memory of Betsy Chase • **Karen & Michael Dreiblat** in memory  
 of Harry Kolotkin • **Claire & Richard Katz** • **Phyllis & Paul Schnitman** with thanks for the ICM Reads  
*By Fire, By Water* event • **Bone Builders** • **Cookie & Israel Mac** in memory of Betsy Chase

## SHABBAT DINNER FUND

**Cathy & Saul Kimmel** in honor of Alan Bloom's special birthday and in honor of the wedding of  
 Mindy & Alan Bloom's grandson

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

**Ellen & Jerry Alpart** in memory of Jessie Dubow, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother  
**Julie & Benjamin Levin** in memory of Anne Gilbert • **Ellen & Jerry Alpart** in memory of Benjamin Dubow  
**Lynne & Les Abcug** in celebration of the life of Jeremy Abcug

## MERKADO LIBRARY FUND

**Loree & Rob Zeif** with thanks for the ICM Reads *By Fire, By Water* event  
**Sylvia Yedinsky** with thanks for the ICM Reads *By Fire, By Water* event

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Lynne & Les Abcug** in celebration of the life of Jonathan Bass  
**Rebecca & Gary Fishkin** in memory of Betsy Chase

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

**Mickey Kent** in honor of Carol Goldsmith's birthday • **Marilyn & Ed Rice** in honor of Carol Goldsmith's  
 birthday • **Phyllis & Steve Gottdiener** in honor of Carol Goldsmith's birthday • **Anonymous**

## TIKKUN OLAM

**Marjorie & Michael Weiss** in memory of Francis Weiss

## BETTY KAMBER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Mark & Sandra Koffman**

## MARILYN GLATT LINGLEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Norma & Marvin Rappaport**

**\*Please Note:** Donations received after the 15th of December will appear in the March edition of *the Shofar*.

**I**srael 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 Dreiblatt, *Administrator*

**Board of Directors**

Cathy Kimmel, *Vice President*

Arnold Katz, *Vice President*

Marlene Skulnik, *Treasurer*

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Morty Bunis, *Immediate Past President*

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Ed Glazer, *Member-at-large*

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Sandy Castelbaum, David Heisler,

Georgette Levis, Micki Lisman, Bev Rokes,

David Sischy, Jen Weinstein, Rob Zeif

*Shofar Editorial Board:* Doris Bass,

Marisa Eisemann, Karen Dreiblatt, Bev Rokes,

Laurie Sullivan, Cheryl Ullman

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service:**

6:30 pm, Friday

(followed by Oneg or Congregational Dinner)

**Shabbat Service:**

9:30 am, Saturday

**Religious School:**

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Wednesday

**Office Hours:**

8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday

8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Friday

**Telephone:** 802.362.4578

**Rabbi's Email:** rabbi@icmvt.org

**Office Email:** office@icmvt.org

**Website:** www.icmvt.org

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