



*Inside this issue:*

From the Rabbi	1
Barefoot Contessa	1
President's Column	3
Religious School	3
Food Cupboard	4
Blood Drive	4
<i>Cradle Duende</i>	4
<i>Mazel Tov</i>	4
Adult Education	5
Save the Date	5
<i>Shavuot</i>	5
Calendar	6
<i>Ma'aser Sheni</i>	7
Cemetery	8

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## Radical Amazement

*From Rabbi Novak*

When we generally think of creation, if we do think of creation, our minds often go to the beginnings of the Hebrew Bible where the world is described as being created in six days with the seventh day being a day of rest, Shabbat. Another way to think of creation is the vast amounts, incalculable, really, of creation that is ongoing in all times and in all places.

This is always realized here in southern Vermont at this time of year where after a winter that was cold and snow-laden, the natural world begins to reveal itself subtly as it bursts, to use the metaphor, into full flower. A sense of life renewed brightens our being.

Just outside the window of my study at ICM is a white lilac bush that is a privilege for me to stare at throughout the winter into the spring. In winter there are small buds, creation in potential, waiting for

warmer weather. In April the buds are turning green and beginning to emerge. In May the bush will go into full flower and then have green leaves through the rest of the summer season.

Why do I notice? Because to recognize creation and the ongoing work of creation is to be a person for whom radical amazement is not an abstract idea, but a living reality. All around us, from what we see and what is unseen, creation continues in a relentless ongoing pattern that makes the world a place that sustains our being. Our ancestors could not even grasp the enormity of creation in the world and perhaps that holds true for us today.

So slow down and observe what is going on. Whether your sense of radical amazement comes from the creation stories in the Torah or from observing nature, make sure you note the creative forces ongoing around you, observing the exquisiteness of renewal in all of its forms.

## Screening the Barefoot Contessa

On Wednesday, May 11, at 7:00 pm, there will be a screening of the interview of Ina Garten (the "Barefoot Contessa") by 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.

Ina Rosenberg Garten, host of the Food Network's very popular "Barefoot Contessa" program, is known for her cooking excellence and home entertaining savvy.

Anna Quindlen is the author of numerous best-selling works of fiction and non-fiction and her columns in the New York Times and Newsweek have earned her a Pulitzer Prize, journalism's most prestigious award. In the interview, America's favorite hostess talks about her successful ventures in television, publishing and retail, as well as her life as wife and mother. The interview is illuminating, informative and totally entertaining.

Following the screening, there will be a delicious dessert social hour, featuring, of course, Barefoot Contessa recipes. Price of admission is \$15 per person; \$25 per couple. To register, please call Karen at 362-4578 or register online at [www.icmvt.org](http://www.icmvt.org).

**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**  
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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**

With pride, delight and tremendous love,  
we invite you to join us as our daughter,  
**Emma Halcyon**  
is called to the Torah  
as a Bat Mitzvah  
Saturday, May 7, 2011  
at 9:30 am  
Kiddush to follow  
Jen and Lloyd Weinstein

*We invite you to share in our Simcha  
as our daughter  
Caralyn Julia Schwartz  
is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah  
9:30 am 21 May 2011 ~ 17 Iyyar 5771  
Kiddush to follow  
Ivy & Bill Schwartz*

## Annual Meeting Approaches

**M**ark 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 the 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.

## President's Column

There is no question that events in the Middle East over the past several months have captivated our attention. This February, the suicide of a street vendor in Tunisia led to a revolt that ousted the country's autocratic ruler. Thousands of Egyptians protested against the oppressive 30-year plus rule of Hosni Mubarak which eventually drove him from office and overthrew the government. Currently there is open revolt against Colonel Muammar el-Quaddafi's government in Libya. Anti-government demonstrations are also currently taking place in Iran, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Bahrain, and Yemen.

Middle East analyst, author, and scholar Aaron David Miller sees this wave of turmoil and unrest sweeping across North Africa and the Middle East as the Arab world tearing down its own "Berlin Wall." If his analogy holds true, we may see as profound a geopolitical transformation as the world witnessed two decades ago.

From 1989 to 1992, peaceful transfers of power to non-Communist governments occurred in Poland, East Germany (reunification of East Germany with West Germany), Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic and Slovakia), Bulgaria, and Albania. A violent transfer of power to a non-Communist government took place in Romania. Also, during the breakup of the Soviet Union, war raged in Yugoslavia. The Warsaw Pact fell apart and the Chinese democracy movement was violently suppressed. During these years there were changes in many other countries resulting in the end of the Cold War.

In South Africa, Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990 and led his party in the negotiations which created a multi-racial democracy in 1994. In Burma, opposition leader Aung San Sun Kyi was detained under house arrest before the 1989 elections in which her party won majorities in both the national votes and the seats in Parliament. She remained under house arrest for almost fifteen of the next twenty-one years, until her release in November 2010.

As Jews, we are familiar with both oppression and freedom. At our Passover *seders* it is our duty to retell the story of our exodus from Egypt. Even if there are those among us who are wise and well learned in the Torah, the more we tell of our departure from Egypt, the more we learn about our history and heritage. We

## Religious School

Following our week off for Spring Break, our Religious School celebrated Passover in style with our Chocolate *Seder!* Rabbi Novak, Yuval, and Alison led a fun and sugar-filled *seder* with all of our students. Highlights included a trivia game, drinking chocolate milk instead of wine, red jelly beans to represent the plague of "dam" (blood), and eating chocolate-covered matzoh instead of regular matzoh.

During the months of May and June, three of our *Kitah Bet* students will become *Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah*, so these students will continue their hard work and preparation for the rest of the school year. The *Kitah Alef* students will continue to strengthen their Hebrew reading skills and all the students will continue praying together during their weekly *tefilah* services. During the last day of school, May 12, all of the students will work together on a community service project while enjoying the beautiful weather and celebrating a wonderful year of learning and growing together!

Have a wonderful summer,  
*Rabbi Rose*

cannot help but feel as if we were personally freed from slavery, which helps us appreciate what we have today. Some of us have suffered under political oppression while others among us have fought in wars to defend freedom. However, most of us enjoy the blessings of freedom most of the days in our lives. We are fortunate to be citizens of the United States.

We can only hope that the overthrow of oppression and the spread of freedom in the Middle East and North Africa lead to a more peaceful world.

I hope you had a happy and joyous Passover.

*John Sobel*



## ICM Staffs Food Cupboard in May

**Call for Volunteers in May:** May is our month to staff the Community Food Cupboard. Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the month of May. On Tuesdays, you will be needed from 9:45 am – 12 pm and from 1:45 pm – 4 pm. On Wednesdays, we'll need you to help from 1:45 pm – 4:00 pm. Please contact **Micki Lisman** at 802-362-4332 or [msloane.esq@mindspring.com](mailto:msloane.esq@mindspring.com) or **Judy Hirschberg** at 802-297-2356 or [rhirsch578@aol.com](mailto:rhirsch578@aol.com) to offer your help.

## Community Food Cupboard Wish List

Celebrate Mother's Day this May with a gift for a Mom. The Food Cupboard wish list for this month includes diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo/soap, and baby food. All donations are welcome.

## May 25 Blood Drive Hospitality Table

Area houses of worship take turns hosting the hospitality table at the Red Cross blood drives scheduled throughout the year. Israel Congregation is proud to offer a bountiful table of sandwiches, snacks and beverages when our turn to host rolls around; this year we will be hosting on May 25. If you can help pick up food or staff the table on May 25, please contact **Mindy Bloom** at 802-867-5935 or [vtmindy@aol.com](mailto:vtmindy@aol.com).



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## Cradle Duende Cultural Tour

Klezmer Trio: Friday, June 10, 6 pm

*Musicians sharing conscious change from San Francisco to Vermont.*

This grassroots trio, including native Vermonter Morgan Nielsen, will travel from San Francisco to Vermont across the US by train and bicycle for a month-long string of musical performances. *Cradle Duende* promotes sustainable living and the strengthening of community; as well as holding onto Jewish roots through sharing their generation's new Jewish music.

*Cradle Duende* plays traditional Jewish tunes with a flare of Flamenco influence. *Cradle Duende* is an inspiration to bring together the beautiful traditions of the past and renew the kinship between neighbors, family, and friends. More information is available at <http://morgannilsen.wordpress.com/>.

*Cradle Duende* will perform at ICM on Friday, June 10. The performance begins at 6 pm. *Cradle Duende* will ask for a donation at the door. Our Friday evening worship will follow the trio's performance.

## Mazel Tov

**Cathy & Saul Kimmel** on the birth of their two new grandchildren

**Mindy & Allan Bloom** on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Devorah

**Karen Ganz** on the marriage of her son, David, to Dina Cagliostro

## Condolences

**The Hazelton Family** on the loss of Sarah Frost, grandmother of EJ and Lili Hazelton

**David & Marlene Skulnik** on the loss of David's mother, Renee Skulnik

## Four Core Questions About Judaism

Judaism is based on questioning. In fact, the Talmud begins with a question! We are not a people to accept answers and just "go with it." The rabbis in the Talmud understood this, which is why they up-ended several dicta of the Torah, actually turning them on their head. Most of us are not familiar with this aspect of our Jewish inheritance. I invite you to join me in May on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at ICM (6 pm on May 11) for four vibrant one-hour sessions where we will struggle together with four questions:

- ~ May 4: Do I have to believe in God to be Jewish?
- ~ May 11 at 6 pm: Is there life after death?
- ~ May 18: If there is a God, why is there so much suffering in the world?
- ~ May 25: What does it mean to be a "good Jew" and how good do I have to be?

*Rabbi Novak*

## B'nai Barak Hiking Season Begins

The weather is getting nicer and it is time to start thinking about hiking. We will start off the *B'nai Barak* hiking season with the traditional Pawlet Mountain Road hike from the Reisman's house in Rupert to the Pawlet Library. Following the hike will be the traditional lunch at the Reisman's. The hike is for men only but the lunch is for hikers plus significant others.

Please save the date for Sunday June 5. More details will be available soon.

*Stan Reisman*

## Shavuot Is Just Around the Corner

*Shavuot* is one of the three major festival holidays in the Torah (the others are *Pesach* and *Sukkot*). In the Jewish tradition, *Shavuot* celebrates the journey from Egypt to freedom, from slavery to Torah. Its literal name means "weeks" because it is seven weeks from the beginning of *Pesach* and the agricultural season in Israel. Seven weeks after the growing season began came the first wheat harvest. Unlike *Pesach* and *Sukkot*, which are both a week long and come at the beginning and end of the agricultural season, respectively, *Shavuot* is a one-day holiday, coming as it does at the height of the growing season. It's no time to take a week off (just ask any of our local farmers here in Vermont).

In addition to its agricultural origins, *Shavuot* was infused by the rabbis of yore who created "Rabbinic Judaism" (which is what we practice) with the religious significance of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai—given the name "*z'man Torateinu*" — the time of our Torah. In recognition of this, Jews celebrate *Shavuot* by studying Torah. Our Torah study in observance of *Shavuot* on June 7 at 7:30 pm will give us the opportunity to learn together and to share ideas. *Shavuot* observance continues with a service on June 8 at 9:30 am.

### Save the Date

July 16, 2011

Progressive Dinner

A wonderful evening of food, festivities & friendship.



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## MAY Calendar of Events

5/1	5:30 pm	<b>Yom ha Shoah Commemoration</b>
5/3	10:30 am	<b>Adult Education:</b> Talmud Study
5/4	7:00 pm	<b>Adult Education:</b> 4 Core Questions
5/5	3:50 pm	<b>Religious School</b>
5/6	6:30 pm	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship & Community Dinner <b>Sponsored by Dr. Guy &amp; Anne Miller</b> in honor of <b>Emma Weinstein's Bat Mitzvah</b>
5/7	9:30 am	<b>Shabbat Worship &amp; Bat Mitzvah of Emma Weinstein</b>
5/10	10:30 am	<b>Adult Education:</b> Talmud Study
5/11	6:00 pm	<b>Adult Education:</b> 4 Core Questions
5/11	7:00 pm	<b>Barefoot Contessa Program</b>
5/12	3:50 pm	<b>Religious School—Last Day</b>
5/13	6:30 pm	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Followed by our Potluck Dinner
5/14	9:30 am	Shabbat Worship, <i>Parashat Behar</i>
5/15	10:00 am	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
5/17	7:00 pm	No Talmud Study
5/18	7:00 pm	<b>Adult Education:</b> 4 Core Questions
5/20	8:00 pm	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Followed by a Dessert Oneg <b>Sponsored by Ivy &amp; Bill Schwartz</b> In honor of Caralyn's <i>Bat Mitzvah</i>
5/21	9:30 am	<b>Shabbat Worship &amp; Bat Mitzvah of Caralyn Schwartz</b>
5/23 - 5/30		Office Closed
5/24	10:30 am	<b>Adult Education:</b> Talmud Study
5/25	7:00 pm	<b>Adult Education:</b> 4 Core Questions
5/27	6:30 pm	Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Followed by our Potluck Dinner
5/28	9:30 am	Shabbat Worship, <i>Parashat Bamidbar</i>
5/31	10:30 am	<b>Adult Education:</b> Talmud Study

## The Jewish Calendar

Are you looking for an easy way to have a listing of important Jewish holidays and dates? Is it confusing to keep your secular and Jewish calendars in sync with each other? Download a calendar of holidays and synch it with your outlook calendar in a few easy steps by going to <http://hebc.com>.

### *Special Thanks*

**Jodi Stark** for organizing our Second Night *Seder*  
**Lory Gitter** for her donation toward flowers for the sanctuary in memory of Deborah Platt

### Do You Have News?

Share your *naches*—we want to *kvell* with you!  
Send your news to Karen at [office@icmvt.org](mailto:office@icmvt.org) by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next edition of *the Shofar*.



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

Do you own or operate a business?  
Are you a craftsman? An artist?  
A hobbyist who likes to sell their works?

### **Advertise with us!**

Call Karen at the ICM office for our low rates.

# 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

**Helena & Neil Davidoff** in memory of Lynne Abcug's mother, Shirley Rosenberg  
**Merrily & Frank Lewis** in honor of Emet Koffman becoming a *bat mitzvah* and Raymond Lipshutz' 92nd birthday • **Cathy & Saul Kimmel** in memory of David Skulnik's mother, Renee Skulnik  
**Vicki & Steve Greene** in memory of David Skulnik's mother and Eleanor Ranzal's mother  
**Sandy & Marty Castelbaum** in honor of the marriage of Karen Ganz' son, David Ganz, to Dina Cagliostro • **Ilse Fuchs** in honor of Betty & Marty Welt's 45th anniversary • **David & Carolyn Schneider** in honor of Emet Koffman becoming a *bat mitzvah* • **Beth & Jason Rosenthal** in memory of Morton Rosenthal • **Marjorie & Michael Weiss** in memory of Matilda Fried • **Jane & Doug Kleinfeld** in memory of Renee Skulnik • **Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen** in memory of Renee Skulnik

## SHABBAT DINNER FUND

**EJ Hazelton** • **Caralyn Schwartz** • **Mindy & Alan Bloom** in memory of Renee Skulnik and wishing David Sischy a full & speedy recovery • **Deborah & Richard Polivy** in honor of Dina & Henry Bronson • **Karen & Michael Dreiblatt** in honor of the birth of Ilse Fuchs' great-granddaughter and in memory of David Skulnik's mother

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

**Sara Dolsky** in memory of Mildred Dolsky • **Anonymous**

## TIKKUN OLAM FUND

**Vicki & Stephen Greene** in memory of Joseph Greene

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Leah Sperber** in memory of Sidney Sperber • **Ina & Al Rubin** in memory of Betty Brown  
**Karen Ganz** in memory of Edythe Metzger • **Ina & Al Rubin** in honor of Emet Koffman becoming a *bat mitzvah*, Raymond Lipshutz' 92nd birthday, and in memory of Dick Heyman's mother, Frieda  
**Carole & Mel Cohen** in memory of Lillian & Louis Moncher • **Paula & Harvey Alpart** in memory of Morris Alpart • **Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman** in memory of David Skulnik's mother, Renee Skulnik, and in honor of Roberta Kanarick in celebration of the honor she received from Rutgers University • **Susan & Michael Kreitzer** in honor of the birth of Mindy & Alan Bloom's great-granddaughter, Devorah, and in memory of Lynne Abcug's mother, Shirley Rosenberg  
**Ina & Al Rubin** in memory of Renee Skulnik • **Estelle Schwartz** in memory of Henry Schwartz and Rose Markovits • **Ilse Fuchs** for Passover 2011

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS FUND

**Leonard & Gail Kotler** • **Anonymous**

## MARILYN GLATT LINGLEY FUND

**Laurie & Jeff Sullivan** in memory of Jeannette Schnapper

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

## The Grave Subject Your Estate Planner Doesn't Discuss

**Remove the burden from your heirs and choose your final resting place.**

The Israel Congregation of Manchester burial section in Bennington Park Lawn Cemetery was chosen not only for its spectacular views, but also because of its fine reputation and reasonable prices, including perpetual care. Moreover, the management has a proven sensitivity in honoring our service with the dignity, sanctity and modesty required of a Jewish funeral. Double and single plots are available.

For more information please contact Mark Aronowitz, Cemetery Committee Chair, at 802-362-1205 or Karen Dreiblatt in the synagogue office at 802-362-4578.



## Religious School Students Celebrate Passover With a Chocolate Seder

