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Message from the Rabbi

"So, are you ready for it?" Linda asked. "What's 'it'?" I responded. "Purim, Pesach, packing," she said.

Yes, it was that point in the year in Jerusalem at Hebrew Union College where we were turning our attention away from the time remaining ahead of us in our beloved Israel back to the United States. And I was not ready to think this way. After all, I found much to love about being in Israel and I was having a wonderful time learning at our Jerusalem campus. It hadn't dawned on me that I would return to the United States.

Just as Linda predicted, the time passed quickly. Purim, Pesach, and then the packing. It is always bittersweet to leave Israel. It is a place that I love to be but I found, at the end of my time in Jerusalem, that a lot of the people who made Jerusalem a great place to be had taken their leave. It was time for me to join them in that journey.

But oh, what an experience that year was. Sure, the learning was part of it. Modern Hebrew four days a week (always with the same group of students and teacher). Hebrew grammar, known as *dikduk*, twice a week. Jewish history. Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah* (where the *mitzvot* of the *Torah* are boiled down into do's and don'ts.) Weekly Wednesday *tiyuulim* throughout the country.

When Friday would roll around there was always a great sense of relief . . . a two day break from classes (Friday and *Shabbat*), a day to get my personal business done, and then the blessed holy *Shabbat* would come in. *Shabbat* in Jerusalem was always beautiful. No matter whether I was at the liberal *Kol ha Neshamah* or the Modern Orthodox *Shira Chadasha*, or slept in, it was a day of joy.

I loved that year. I affirm what the *Rosh*

Yeshivah (the head of HUC-JIR) says: the road to the Reform rabbinate (or any position of Jewish responsibility) must lead through Jerusalem and Israel. There is nothing in the Jewish universe that strengthens the commitment to Jewish leadership than the experience of living in *Eretz Yisrael*, the land of Israel.

Having said that, let me share with you a funny story. About two months after arriving in Israel I was sitting in a therapist's office bemoaning how hard it was to understand the culture. My specific complaint was I couldn't understand the dairy

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Annual Interfaith Community Seder

We'd like to extend an invitation to all of our congregants to attend our annual *Interfaith Seder* on Sunday, March 21 at 4:00 pm at Israel Congregation. Our past *seders* have been extremely well attended by congregants from the seven participating congregations of the Northshire. We've loved having our own congregants seated among the various attendees to aid in questions about the *seder* and to help sing along to Passover songs. Dinner will be served and will be provided by all of the congregations of the Interfaith Council. Our choir will graciously lead us in singing. Please join us for this most happy, satisfying evening. If you'd like to attend, please contact Karen in our office at 362-4578 so that we can keep tabs on the quota for our congregation.

Israel Congregation has about 230 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 more than 70 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, Wednesday

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.israelcongregationvt.org

P.O. Box 1050 Manchester Ctr. VT 05255

Tikkun Olam

This has been a busy year for the Tikkun Olam Committee. We had a very successful fund-raising drive through our Annual Tag Sale and raised a substantial amount of money to be used for donations. The success of our fundraising enabled Tikkun Olam, on behalf of Israel Congregation, to donate \$1,000 to Haiti fairly soon after their devastating earthquake. Since many members of our congregation also sent money to us specifically for Haiti, we were able to send a combined amount of nearly \$2,000. We've also donated \$500 to ARAVA, an environmental organization based in Israel as well as \$500 to ATZUM, an Israeli organization that helps survivors of terror attacks, provides for the needs of the Righteous Gentiles (individuals who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust and now live in Israel) and fights human trafficking in Israel. Another \$500 went to The House on Wheels, an Israeli organization which provides rehabilitation and support to children, youth and young adults affected by certain diseases.

On a local basis, we've donated \$500 to the MEMS KIND Fund and additional monies to the Summer Lunch Program of the Interfaith Council. We also augmented ICM's Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to provide assistance to members of our congregation.

This is the time of the year to begin thinking about our annual Tag Sale. We've already set the date of Sunday, August 22. This event is a key fundraising activity for ICM and also provides a service to the community-at-large. In order to be successful, we will require the support of a small army of volunteers. Preparations for this event officially start the prior Sunday, August 15. That's the big drop-off day for your accumulated items. If you can, clear your calendar for the whole week and join us as we organize, joke and get to know each other a whole lot better. Volunteers are needed for the whole week, but especially for Tag Sale Day on Sunday, August 22. So at the very least, add that day 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 crazy, including very many 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. The formal drop-off days will start on August 15, but we'll have an early drop-off day over the summer to accommodate those of you who must absolutely clean things out of their house.

Micki Lisman

President's Perspective

Manischewitz, Streit's, Horowitz Margareten, Goodman...names of tradition, of history, of technology, and of "fitting in" to a new society while still meeting the traditions and needs of an ancient culture. These names, at least one of which appeared at some time in virtually every Jewish household in this country, represent leaders of the Jewish food industry in the United States, each of them having started their enterprise with the hand mixing and baking of *matzah* which could be consumed by Jews observing the festival of Passover as well as by non-Jews indulging an adventurous palate and referring to *matzah* as "an oversize communion wafer."

We, as Jews, are no strangers to unleavened bread, knowing of its relationship to the deliverance of the Jews from slavery in Egypt, their exodus under the leadership of Moses and their hurried departure causing them to bake their "cakes" with dough that had not yet leavened, producing what we know of today as a thin cracker-like wafer. We are familiar with the commandment of the *Torah* that *matzah* be eaten on Passover. But what do we know about *matzah* which relates to its use and development in the more than 3,000 years since the exodus from Egypt?

Matzah is unleavened bread made from one of five species of grain – wheat, barley, spelt, rye or oats. To be kosher and compliant with the tradition created during the rapid departure from Egypt, *matzah* must be made in no more than 18 minutes, the time within which grain, under normal weather conditions, if moistened and heated, will begin to ferment.

In Talmudic times, *matzot* were enormously thick. There was controversy as to whether their thickness could exceed the breadth of four fingers. In the Middle Ages, the thickness of *matzah* was limited to the breadth of one finger. As time went on, *matzah* became thinner and thinner and, at the same time, crisper, and so, could be prepared in advance for the entire festival. The earlier *matzah* was not edible after one day and thus had to be prepared daily. The hard thin wafer is known as Ashkenazi *matzah* while the softer, thicker variety came to be known as Sephardic *matzah*.

Matzah would generally be made by three women; one to knead the dough, one to roll it and one to bake it. There was a time in some areas when it was customary to make figured or shaped *matzah*. However, this

was not regarded as being strictly kosher because of the extra time it took to produce the shapes, with the resultant possibility that fermentation might occur.

There are several kinds of *matzah* used at Passover, varying in the strictness of the baking process. *Matzah Sh'murah* (watched) is usually hand-made. The grain is watched from the time of harvesting until the final baking to ensure that water, heat or other natural processes do not cause it to begin to ferment. The utensils used to make it are washed every 18 minutes to prevent fermentation which, according to *halachah*, will take place after 18 minutes.

Regular *matzah* which can be bought at the supermarket, is only watched from the time of grinding. This *matzah* is also kosher and is generally in use at the *seder*. Egg *matzah*, which is baked with egg, wine, or fruit extracts, is referred to as "unleavened bread prepared in the rich manner" or sometimes as the "*matzah* of opulence." It is believed by many that eating egg *matzah* will not fulfill the obligation of eating *matzah* at the *seder*.

The industrial revolution, combined with a growing urban population across Europe, resulted in the amounts of traditional hand-made *matzah* produced being insufficient to provide enough *matzot* to satisfy everyone's needs. As a result, 1838 brought the introduction of the first primitive machine that rolled *matzah*. Twenty years later, a bitter *halachic* debate ensued over the use of the machine owing to the fear that the machine process might cause fermentation, and also whether a machine could fulfill the requirement of *matzah* being made with the proper intent. The dispute continued for more than half a century, until the machines improved technically and the rabbinic authorities began to accept their production as kosher.

Today, the tons of world *matzah* – over \$100 million in sales – are produced primarily by two major companies in the U.S.: Manischewitz, which built the first *matzah* factory in this country, and Streit's, as well as a dozen factories in Israel, all of which are engaged in the competitive battle to increase their market share of *matzah* production and sales.

Be it bread of affliction, bread of opulence, or just plain *matzah*, enjoy it at the *seder*. It's great with peanut butter, and, when properly prepared, nothing beats a good *matzah brei* topped with Vermont maple syrup on a cold March morning.

Morty Bunis

Stephen Berk



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! August 14 is the day that Dr. Stephen Berk — universally acclaimed as an “amazing”, “superb” and “entertaining” lecturer — comes to ICM, thanks to the generosity of many of our enthusiastic congregants. An esteemed Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York, Dr. Berk also serves as Chair of the Department of History and Director of the Program in Comparative Communist Studies. He is the author of books and many articles on Russian history, Russian Jewish history, anti-Semitism and American policy in the Middle East.

A much sought-after expert on Israeli-Arab affairs, American politics, Black-Jewish relations, and related Jewish concerns, Professor Berk is frequently consulted by newspaper reporters and television and radio stations, including the BBC. He has lectured in numerous universities in countless cities and towns in the United States and Israel; and he is a primary speaker for the UJA, Israel Bonds and B'nai B'rith.

So save the date for this gala event! More details will follow in future issues of *the Shofar*. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for those who are interested. For more information, please call Karen at 362-4578.

Merrily Lewis

Simple Suppers Benefit

Simple Suppers are held on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 at the Barrows House beginning February 23 and continuing through the end of March. The cost is \$10 per person and the proceeds benefit the Food Cupboard. Each of the congregations that are members of the Interfaith Council of the Northshire take turns, on a weekly basis, acting as waiters. You get all the soup, bread & butter and coffee or tea that you want, and the meals are prepared by the staff of the Barrows House. Come share dinner with people you like! Reservations by the previous Sunday are requested, but not required. Israel Congregation will be waiting on tables on March 16. Help out, enjoy a good meal, and keep us company!

Religious School

The religious school had a terrific time working with **Susan Leader** making *Kiddush* cups this month. With funds generously provided by the Horowitz Education Fund we have just completed our second of six projects over the course of two years. Apple and Honey Dishes were ready for use by *Rosh HaShanah*. Our *Kiddush* cups will be back from the kiln this month and we will begin our study of Passover in March with learning about the *Seder* Plate followed by each child making his or her own plate with Susan's help. Next year we'll be adding *Shabbat* Candlesticks, a *Menorah* and a *Mezuzah*. With Susan's guidance the pieces come out beautifully . . . and the children love getting their hands dirty!

Of course these fun projects serve to round out the learning of Hebrew and Judaism. We have a vibrant group of students who work well together. They look forward to showing Yuval what they've learned as he hopes to return to the classroom soon.

Loree Zeif

Religious School Coordinator

ICM READS Outing

Save Monday, April 12 for a tour of the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. The response to our first two programs built around Aaron Lansky's book, *Outwitting History*, was more than enthusiastic and the opportunity to tour the National Yiddish Book Center and talk with Aaron Lansky is not to be missed. We can car pool or, with enough respondees, hire a bus. The choice will be yours.

Estimated costs per person:

Museum tour: \$5.00

Lunch: \$10.00

Travel by bus: \$10-\$20

It is important that we know how many people wish to travel in order for us to make travel arrangements, Please respond as soon as possible with your tour reservations and information as to whether or not you intend to car pool or would like to travel by bus. Please contact Karen in our office at 362-4578 or office@icmvt.org.

Let's deepen our *yiddishkeit* involvement by sharing this wonderful experience together.

Winter Film Fest

This popular series continues on Monday, March 1 with the rescreening of *Defiance*, a highly acclaimed film based on the true story of the Bielski brothers and the group of Jews who followed them into the forest as a means of survival in Nazi Germany. Marlene Skulnik's father grew up in the same town as the Bielski brothers and knew many of the people depicted in the film. Marlene will give a short presentation before the movie begins.

On Sunday, March 7 at 4 pm we will screen the 1958 classic *Marjorie Morningstar*, starring Gene Kelly and Natalie Wood. Based on the bestselling book by Herman Wouk, *Marjorie Morningstar* follows the story of a young Jewish girl who rebels against her parents and her upbringing to follow her dream of becoming an actress. Will she succeed in her quest for independence and forbidden love?

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 \$180, 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.

March Calendar Of Events

March 1	7:00 pm	Winter Film Festival: Re-screening of <i>Defiance</i>
March 3	3:50 pm	Religious School
March 5	6:30 pm	Family Shabbat with Rabbi Novak Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner
March 6	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Ki Tisa</i>
March 7	4:00 pm	Winter Film Festival: <i>Marjorie Morningstar</i>
March 10 - 12		Office Closed
March 10	3:50 pm	Religious School
March 12	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship with Rabbi Cohen Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner
March 13	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Vayakhel/Pekudei</i> with Rabbi Cohen
March 17	3:50 pm	Religious School
March 19		Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship with Rabbi Novak Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner
March 20	6:30 pm	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Vayikra</i>
March 21	4:00 pm	Annual Interfaith Seder
March 24	3:50 PM	Religious School & Model <i>Seder</i>
March 26	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship with Rabbi Cohen Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner
March 27	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Tzav</i> with Rabbi Cohen
March 29		<i>Erev Pesach</i> (First <i>Seder</i>): Office Closed
March 30	9:30 am	Pesach Day 1 Davening ; Office Closed
March 30	6:00 pm	ICM Community Second Seder
March 31		Pesach Day 2 : Office Closed

Community Food Cupboard

The Community Food Cupboard wish list this month is for essential ingredients to help families restock depleted pantries: cooking oil, flour, chicken broth, canned tomatoes, salt and pepper.

All donations to CFC are appreciated, and may be left in the collection boxes at Israel Congregation, Shaw's Supermarket and the Manchester Town Office Building.

Mazel Tov

Marlene and David Skulnik on the birth of Jacob Levi Gelfman to David's daughter on February 4

Jesse Myerson on being named to the Dean's List at Gettysburgh College

Adam Zeif on being named to the Provost's List at Southern VT College

Tyler Dreiblatt on being named to the Dean's List at Allegheny College

Eric Dreiblatt on being accepted to Drew University

Ma'aser Shen

The Torah required three tithes of the Israelites. The first, *Ma'asher Rishon*, was given to the Temple priests. The second, *Ma'aser Shen*, supported the general community, benefiting both giver and receiver. The third, *Ma'aser Shlishi*, provided funds for the poor. Our congregants participate in the mitzvah of *Ma'aser Shen* by contributing to funds that benefit the synagogue and its members.

GENERAL FUND

Barbara & Robert Friedman and Myrna Ricken in memory of Bob Taylor • **Judy Hirschberg, Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen, Fran & Mark Aronowitz and Marlene & David Skulnik** in memory of Mark Sischy
Marion & Justin Mueller, Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen, Sasha & Arnie Katz, Devorah & Sydney Goldstein,
 and **Esther Rosenberg** with wishes for Rabbi Novak's speedy recovery • **Holly & Jonathan Strelzik**
Herb Sackett in memory of Evelyn Sackett • **Gail Zimmer** in memory of Leonard Wallah and Bessie Cohen
Eric Zinner in memory of Albert Zinner

SHABBAT DINNER FUND

Ina & Al Rubin in memory of Sheila Silverman • **Barbara & Richard Feingold** in memory of Robert Feingold, Tess Feingold, Milton Feingold and William Bogle and in appreciation of Rabbi Novak • **Ina & Al Rubin, Carole & Dick Tannen** and **Karen & Michael Dreibblatt** with wishes for Rabbi Novak's speedy recovery • **Sasha & Arnie Katz** and **Cathy & Saul Kimmel** in memory of Mark Sischy • **Carol and Phil Goldsmith** in memory of Henry Cohen, Cora Goldsmith and Benjamin Goldsmith • **Ina & Al Rubin** and **Karen & Michael Dreibblatt** in memory of Peggy Rice • **Ilana & Herb Hirsch** • **Robin Adair & Jason Dunn**

TIKKUN OLAM

Marilyn & Ed Rice in memory of Harvey Lewis • **Vicki & Steve Greene** in memory of Mark Sischy
Roberta & Al Michaels in memory of Peter Jannke • **Jeanne & Lee Nemlich** for Haitian Relief in honor of Rabbi Novak • **Vicki & Steve Green** wishing Rabbi Novak a speedy recovery and for Haitian Relief in memory of Natalie Greene • **Loretta & Stan Reisman, Ina & Al Rubin, Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen, Sandy and Marty Castelbaum, Micki & Bob Horowitz, Judy Rudiakov, Judy Hirschberg, Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman, Ruth & Stanley Gilbert, Carol & David Buchdahl, Lynne & Les Abcug, Joel & Elinor Katz and Roberta & Al Michaels** for Haitian Relief

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Marilyn & Raymond Starker in memory of Stanley Reiter • **Eric, Karen & Valerie Starr** in memory of Anita Starr-Gilbert • **Helene & Len Glaser** in memory of Jacob Glaser • **Carole & Dick Tannen** in memory of Peggy Rice • **Lynne & Les Abcug** in memory of Sophie Deutsch • **Eileen & Stephen Cohen** in honor of Rabbi Novak • **Nancy & Larry Steinberg and Marcia & Howard Siegel** wishing Rabbi Novak a complete and speedy recovery • **Sandy & Marty Castelbaum** and **Lynne & Les Abcug** in memory of Mark Sischy

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Sara Dolsky in memory of Irwin Whitton • **Melva Eidelberg** in memory of Stanley Weissman
Judith & Henry Kaplan in memory of Fay Kaplan

GOLDSMITH PRAYERBOOK FUND

Natalie & Jerome Margolis in memory of Sophie Deutsch

LYON/ANDREEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Lynne Andreen & Dave Lyon with wishes for Rabbi Novak's speedy recovery

Last Call For College Scholarship Applications

Bound for college? The Marilyn Glatt-Lingley Endowment Fund offers scholarships toward funding for books and other necessities to help with your first-year expenses. Applications are available in the office and are due back to us by April 15.

The Marilyn Glatt-Lingley Endowment Fund was established in loving memory of Marilyn Glatt-Lingley, an energetic supporter of ICM.

Blue Book Membership Directory

We are in the process of putting together a new Blue Book Membership Directory. If you have not already sent in your information form, please do so now. You can email the form to office@icmvt.org, fax it to 362-4709, or mail it to Israel Congregation, P.O. Box 1050, Manchester Center VT 05255. If you should need a new copy of the information form, please contact Karen in our office.

Special Thanks

Sasha Kent for her help in the office

Carol & Phil Goldsmith for sponsoring our Shabbat Dinner on February 19

Cathy & Saul Kimmel, Marlene & David Skulnik, Doug & Jane Kleinfeld, Ina & Al Rubin, Merrily & Frank Lewis, Carol & Phil Goldsmith, Laney & Larry Davis, Eileen & Stephen Cohen, Phyllis & Steve Gottdiener, Helena & Neil Davidoff for sponsoring our evening with Dr. Stephen Berk Allan Eisemann and Gary Marmer for leading services and helping with our *b'nai mitzvah* students

Condolences

To Cathy and Saul Kimmel on the loss of Cathy's beloved mother, Catherine "Sissy" Thompson

Dance Night Planned

A mid-week June evening of dance lessons featuring Salsa, Miranga and Tango is under consideration. Would you be interested in participating? Please call Carole Gold at 297-3723.

Rabbi's Message

continued from page 1

products at the supermarket. She said to me, "David, you've been here how long?" I replied: "Two months." She said, "What the (expletive deleted) were you thinking? It's only two months!"

The journey that began in 2001 continues today, in 2010, here in Vermont. I never imagined I would end up in a place where the natural environment is complemented so beautifully by the people. You all continue to hold me, as I hold you. I am grateful for the privilege of being your rabbi.

Rabbi David Novak

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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The Tree of Life on the wall 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 the synagogue office at 802.362.4578.

Do You Have News?

Send your news to office@icmvt.org by the 15th of the month for inclusion in *the Shofar*.