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The Rewards of Reconciliation

Rabbi Novak

In just a few weeks we will gather as a community to celebrate the start of 5770, the new year according to the Jewish calendar. As you prepare for *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* I invite you to do so with intention, to prepare for this spiritually robust time by engaging in activities that make you even more conscious.

Specifically I invite you to consider your relationships with others and whether there is room for reconciliation.

We humans are more fragile than we let on. Our skin is the largest organ in the human body—and the basis of the metaphor "you need a thicker skin." Because skin is so permeable, a "thicker" skin is one that doesn't let the hurt in so easily. Yet when a hurtful comment is uttered about someone and is heard either first hand or through the grapevine, why shouldn't a person be bothered by it? When you've heard something hurtful, why not be hurt?

Ill-conceived words that are uttered or written about another human being are among the most powerful weapons that each of us possess. As human beings one would think that we would learn how *not* to hurt the feelings of others. Alas, this is part of the human condition. There are few correctives offered other than saying that you are sorry. Many of us never say it. In fact, many of us utter the hurtful words and never give a second thought as to how or where the words land. That's how easy it is to hurt with speech.

Having created a hurt also creates an

opportunity for reconciliation.

Our period of *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* offers a time of year when the project is to fix, mend, and repair relationships with other people.

It is hard to reconcile. There are often lingering feelings of ill-will. The reward of reconciliation though, can be a relationship with another person that is righted. There is no more difficult work between people. Given the difficulty, there is also little that is more rewarding, even if you are the only one aware of the reward.

Until I see you, may I be one of the first to convey to you a *l'shanah tovah u'mitukah*, a good and sweet new year, a time of renewal, blessings, and all that is good in life, a time of reconciliation and inspired humanity.

Rabbi M. Cohen Nominated as Jewish Community Hero

Rabbi Michael has been nominated by the Green Zionist Alliance for a Jewish Community Heroes contest award. The winner of which receives \$25,000 for his/her nonprofit. So if Michael wins, that's \$25,000 for the GZA! It's free to vote and one can vote for the same person once every 12 hours, so please make it a part of your daily routine to vote for Michael!

Vote early and often and spread the word: <http://www.jewishcommunityheroes.org/nominees/profile/michael-cohen/>

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 6:15 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@israelcongregationvt.org

Website: www.israelcongregationvt.org

In Appreciation

from Rabbi Novak

Two weeks after the installation (at the time of this writing) and I'm still reveling in what a magnificent evening it was. My gratitude to those of you who attended or contacted me to wish me well. I also want to thank many people who made the evening as joyous as it was:

Ed and Irene Glazer, for chairing;

Rabbi Susan Silverman for traveling to Manchester Center and for her beautiful (and funny) installation remarks;

Morton Bunis for his kind remarks, for introducing the dignitaries and for reading the beautiful statement from Rabbi Michael Cohen;

Rabbi Bob Alper for his moving words;

Reverend Jim Gray of the Dorset Church and the Northshire Interfaith Council for his beautiful words;

Shalom Rav Singers for once again elevating us with beautiful music;

Judy and Ariel Rudiakov for adding Mendelssohn to the evening;

Cathy Kimmel and all those who joined her in making that outstanding dessert oneg;

and all others who made the evening so special.

Finally let me answer one question: why did we do installation more than two years after I arrived when in many communities it is done upon arrival? The answer is that this is the way that I wanted to do it. I wanted it to be an celebration of a rabbi and a community together--and I think that we accomplished that goal.

Again my thanks.

Rabbi Novak

Special Thanks

Sandy Castelbaum, Ellen and Jerry Alpart for their work on the Laugh in Peace Comedy Tour with **Rabbi Bob Alper**

Cathy Kimmel and Micki Lisman and their army of volunteers for their tireless work on the Annual ICM Tag Sale

Frieda and Herman Seidner for the donation of beautiful artisan crafted candlesticks in honor of Rabbi Novak's installation

Condolences

to **Phyllis Schnitman and family** on the loss of Phyllis' brother-in-law

President's Perspective

As the High Holy Days approach, one of the chores associated with the season is the annual selection and addressing of New Year's cards which are sent to family and friends. But how and when did this custom begin?

The sending of *Rosh HaShanah* greetings is a practice which developed as an Ashkenazi custom more than 500 years ago. The 14th century Rabbi Shalom of Neustadt encouraged his followers to include a blessing for the new year in their regular correspondence. But it was Rabbi Shalom's student, Rabbi Yaakov Molin (1355-1427) of Rhineland, who firmly established the custom. He urged that from the month of *Elul* (the month before *Rosh HaShanah*), through *Yom Kippur*, wishes for a good year should be included when writing a letter. The exact greeting was "May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year." This phrase derives from the liturgy of the day and refers to the belief that during this period, one's fate for the coming year is inscribed and sealed in one of three books. The wish is that this inscription will be in the *Book of Life*.

But there are always those who want to improve on things and soon people started writing letters for the sole purpose of sending *Rosh HaShanah* greetings. The custom spread throughout the Ashkenazi Jewish communities, especially those in Central Europe, reaching Eastern Europe somewhat later. Sephardi Jews did not begin sending *Rosh HaShanah* greetings until the early 20th century.

Modern printed *Rosh HaShanah* cards first appeared in Germany around 1837. These early cards were printed in gold on double sheets of white paper, with plenty of room for handwritten messages. This was about the same time that non-Jewish New Year cards began appearing in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. In Victorian England, Raphael Tuck, an orthodox Jew, became famous for his high quality Christmas cards. But within a matter of years, he had also ventured into the design and production of high quality *Rosh HaShanah* cards printed on fine papers

Many believe that the Jewish custom of sending cards probably grew out of the Christian one. Many of the early cards had graphic elements such as three dimensional foldouts, which were definitely influenced by non-Jewish cards. Others, however, believe that

Jews began the greeting card custom. For Jews, the period before the new year is a time of repentance leading to the Day of Judgment, while for non-Jews, it is not. Scholars have found that in the relationship between Jewish and non-Jewish customs, Jews tended to initiate spiritual elements while Gentiles developed the artistic elements and there is much evidence that Jews were influenced by non-Jewish artistic elements of New Year cards.

The breakthrough in printed, commercial greeting cards came at the end of the 19th century, with the custom becoming popular, especially in eastern Europe with Russian Jewish immigrants bringing it to America, with the cards being saved to be placed as decorations in the *Sukkah*.

Rosh HaShanah cards have always reflected the aspirations, hopes, and lifestyles of the Jews sending them. Late 19th century German cards tended to be elaborate, with artistic gilt edged layers, giving concrete expression to the material values of German Jewry. Those produced during the same period for eastern European or American Jewry often focused on immigration. The Jewish Museum in New York exhibits cards from the early 20th century, one showing Miss Liberty receiving eastern European Jews to America with a *shana tova*, while a card sent in 1912 by a Jewish couple in Alaska has its Hebrew greeting carved in a walrus tusk by an Eskimo artist. A World War II card printed by the United States Army and sent via V-mail, depicts an American Jewish soldier blowing the *shofar*. Early Zionists used scenes from *Eretz Yisrael* while Yeshivas sent cards depicting the holy places as a means of fund raising.

With the establishment of the State of Israel, *kibbutzniks* and agriculture became popular greeting card images. Following the Six Day War, likenesses of Rabin and Dayan greeted the new year.

Recent practice has witnessed a return to more traditional symbols—the *shofar*, the *Torah* and biblical illustrations – which have become popular with the commercial producers of New Year greetings and which are more in keeping with what Rabbi Yaakov might have expected a *Rosh Hashanah* greeting card to look like.

But remember, whatever the format, style or motif, it is, in the final analysis, the sentiment that counts.

*Shana tova,
Morty Bunis*

ICM READS

A Community Exploration and Celebration of *Yiddishkeit!*

Using the book *Outwitting History* by Aaron Lansky as an opportunity to read together, share experiences together and talk about an important aspect of our shared culture, we will read and discuss the often funny, often heartbreaking, always fascinating adventures of Lansky as he seeks to save the Yiddish literature which was sentenced to death by the Holocaust.

THE BOOK:

The ICM Library Committee cordially invites you to participate in this examination of the importance of Yiddish language and literature to our cultural heritage. The book details Aaron Lansky's vision and dedication to saving every Yiddish book in the world. The organizer of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, Lansky has spent his life not just collecting books, but in collecting life stories as well, and these stories make up the heart of the book.

THE PROGRAMS:

~ October 24 at 6pm: A Celebration of Yiddish . . . with music and food. We will remember and share a wonderful discussion of not just the book, but of our own personal Yiddish memories.

~ November 15 at 5pm: A Yiddish film program with more opportunities to *knosh* and talk together.

~ A visit to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst later in the season will be the final program of this community read-along.

JOIN ICM READS!

Outwitting History can be ordered through the ICM office for only \$10.00 and is available now. To order, contact Karen at 362-4578. For more information, please contact Doris Bass at doribass@comcast.net.

Exciting New Year for the Religious School

It's September/Elul which means that the new Religious School year has arrived at ICM! Our first day of the new academic year convenes Wednesday, September 9 at 3:50 pm—and what a year it promises to be.

There are wonderful changes to our school this year. Joining our faculty is **Carolyn Sobel**, an ICM member and Chester resident. Carolyn will be teaching our "Becoming a Better Person Curriculum" on Jewish ethical behavior. Welcome, Carolyn.

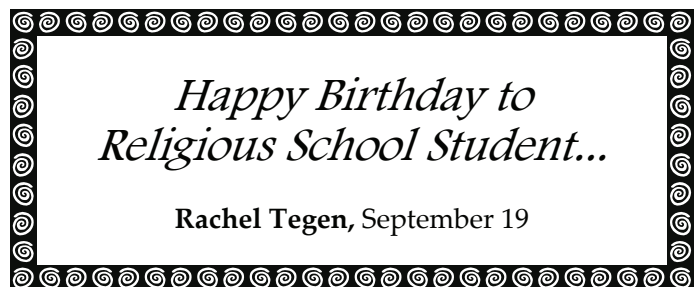
Another exciting addition is our new school administrator (and old friend to many of us at ICM) **Loree Zeif**. Loree is already planning for an exciting start to the school year with special activities for the children both here in the synagogue and out in the community. If by chance she asks you to volunteer for something for the school, please say, "yes!"

Returning to the school's faculty, in addition to **Rabbi Novak**, are **Yuval Sela** (Hebrew) and **Joanne Beck** (music and prayer).

Our Children's Education Committee also has a new chair; parent **Betsy Hart**.

Parents should have received registration materials already. Please make sure that they are returned before the first day of school so that we can have an accurate idea of who will be in the school and plan accordingly.

Here's to a great year of learning and celebrating together!



Mazel Tov ~

Stan and Micki Lisman on Jennifer & Rich's wedding
Elijah Brown on receiving the Coaches' Award for teamwork, leadership, respect and effort

College Connections

We like to keep in touch with our college-aged congregants and let them know the members of Israel Congregation are thinking of them. Send your child's school mailing address to **Karen Dreiblatt** and **Jackie Borella** at office@icmvt.org and we will send your child a "Thinking of You" gift for the High Holy Days, *Chanukkah*, and *Pesach* (Passover). Be sure to send addresses to Karen and Jackie by September 10 to ensure delivery of High Holy Day gifts.

If you'd like to join Karen and Jackie in continuing this program, now in its fourth year, please drop them an email at the address above or call the office at 362-4578.

N2N Benefit Luncheon

Neighbor to Neighbor is delighted to present Ken & Joann Davis as their guest speakers at their annual book/author luncheon, Wednesday, September 9th at the Manchester Country Club.

Ken Davis is the author of the million-copy-selling book *Don't Know Much about History*, which spent 35 consecutive weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Joann Davis is a former news editor at *Publishers Weekly*, an editor at the publishing imprints Warner Books, William Morrow, and HarperCollins.

The luncheon starts at 11:30. There will be ample time for questions. Please call the N2N office for tickets 367-7787.

September Calendar Of Events

Sept. 3	12:00 pm	Center of Learning: Lunchtime <i>Torah</i>
Sept. 4	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship; Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner sponsored by Marlene and David Skulnik in honor of their 8th Anniversary
Sept. 5	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Ki Tavo</i>
Sept. 7		Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept. 9	3:50 pm	First Day of Religious School
Sept. 11	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship; Followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner Sponsored by Hedy and Morris Cohen in honor of the marriage of Sara Cohen and Chuck Michelsen
Sept. 12	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Nitzavim, Vayeilekh</i>
Sept. 13	11:00 am	Modern Conversational Hebrew with Yuval Sela
Sept. 16	3:50 pm	Religious School
Sept. 18	10:00 am	Manchester Music Festival Open Rehearsal
	8:00 pm	Erev Rosh HaShanah Ma'ariv Worship Followed by a sumptuous dessert Oneg
Sept. 19	8:30 am	Rosh HaShanah Worship
Sept. 20	8:30 am	Rosh HaShanah Worship
Sept. 23	3:50 pm	Religious School
Sept. 25	6:30 pm	Friday Evening <i>Shabbat</i> Worship and Mural Dedication, followed by our Community Pot Luck Dinner sponsored by Mindy & Alan Bloom and Phyllis & Steve Gottdiener
Sept. 26	9:30 am	<i>Shabbat</i> Worship, <i>Parashat Ha'azinu</i>
Sept. 27	6:30 pm	Kol Nidre Worship
Sept. 28	9:00 am	Yom Kippur Worship
Sept. 30	3:50 pm	Religious School
Oct. 3		Sukkot

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 the office for more information.

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.

Thank you for your donations!

GENERAL FUND

Marjorie Magner • Irwin Robinson in memory of Rae Slavin • Fran & Mark Aronowitz
 Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen in honor of Steve Greene's special birthday • Gail & George Glanzberg
 Cathy & Saul Kimmel in honor of the wedding of Mindy & Alan Bloom's granddaughter and with wishes
 for a speedy recovery to Doris Bass • Marion & Justin Mueller in memory of Lillian Flaxman
 Jane & Douglas Kleinfeld in honor of the engagement of Liz Friedrich • Marilyn & Elliot Shapiro
 Judith & Leon Mir

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sasha Kent & Arnie Katz with wishes for a speedy recovery to Doris Bass • Sylvia & Carl Dolitsky,
 Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen, and Merrily & Frank Lewis in honor of Rabbi Novak's installation
 Ina & Al Rubin in memory of Lillian Flaxman

SHABBAT DINNER FUND

Fran & Mark Aronowitz in memory of Fay Schwartz • Sasha Kent & Arnie Katz in memory of
 Lillian Flaxman • Sylvia & Carl Dolitsky in honor of Karen & Michael Dreibratt

MERKADO LIBRARY FUND

Jacqueline & Jerry Stolzenberg, Sherri & Bob Alper, Georgia & Gene Mittleman,
 Ellen & Raymond Lipshutz, and Sylvia & Carl Dolitsky in memory of Lillian Flaxman
 Ellen & Raymond Lipshutz in memory of Ellen's mother Salle Cutler and Raymond's parents
 Jeannette & Philip Lipshutz

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND

Sara Lee & Barry Larner in honor of Steve Greene's special birthday

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MARILYN GLATT LINGLEY FUND

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HOROWITZ CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Sylvia & Carl Dolitsky with wishes for a speedy recovery to Doris Bass

GOLDSMITH PRAYERBOOK FUND

Valerie & David Heisler in memory of Lillian Flaxman



Ma'aser Shen

The Board of Directors at Israel Congregation of Manchester is grateful for the many donations our congregants give both in honor of joyous occasions and in memory of beloved family and friends. Once a year, we publish a full list of the funds among which congregants and friends may choose to designate their donations. Donors and the people in whose honor donations are made are acknowledged both in the Shofar and through personal acknowledgment cards. Please remember, acknowledgment cards are sent for contributions of \$10 or more. A listing will appear in the Shofar for any donated amount.

General Operating

General Fund: Helps subsidize our day-to-day operating costs.

Tikkun Olam: Supports local and international charitable activities.

Endowment Fund: Investment income helps subsidize day-to-day operating costs.

Ritual

Shabbat Dinner Fund: Pays for our communal Shabbat Dinners.

Goldsmith Prayer Book Fund: Provides for new prayer books and Torah texts.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: Allows the Rabbi to subsidize or contribute to efforts as necessary.

Education

Hebrew School Fund: Helps subsidize our Religious School operating costs.

Bob & Micki Horowitz Children's Education Fund: Provides cultural and educational enhancements to the Religious School Program.

Cultural Affairs Fund: Pays for guest scholars, and helps subsidize adult education and cultural programming.

Fred and Susan Merkado Library Fund: Provides books and materials for our library.

Teen Activity: Supports educational, social, and cultural programs.

Buildings & Grounds

Building Improvement Fund: Pays for major repairs and updates to the building.

Ellen Kalinsky Memorial Garden: Provides for enhancements to the grounds.

Peter Jannke Maintenance Endowment: Provides for the on-going strength and integrity of the facility.

Scholarship

Betty Kamber Fund: For individuals pursuing Judaic studies.

Martha Lyon and Lynne Andreen Israel Fund: For children visiting Israel.

Marilyn Glatt Lingley Fund: For a graduating congregant going to college

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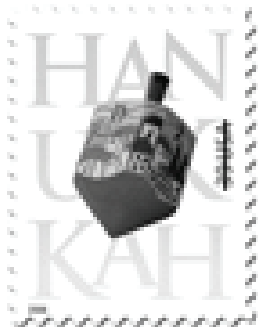
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The Tree of Life on the wall in our Social Hall is adorned with leaves that commemorate events in the lives of our congregants. To inscribe your family event or Simcha call Karen in the synagogue office at 802.362.4578.

Worship Schedule High Holy Days 5770

Rosh HaShanah

Ma'ariv – Friday, September 18, 8:00 pm
Followed by a sumptuous dessert *Oneg*

Shachrit – Saturday, September 19, 8:30 am
and Sunday, September 20, 8:30 am
Due to *Shabbat*, the *Shofar* will not be sounded Saturday; the *Shofar* will be sounded Sunday at approximately 11:00 am
Followed by a sumptuous dessert *Oneg*

Tashlich – Sunday, September 20, one half hour after the conclusion of services

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre – Sunday, September 27, 6:30 pm
Kol Nidre begins promptly; **please arrive early**

Shacharit – Monday, September 28, 9:00 am

Yizkor will be at approximately 11:30 am

Mincha – Monday, September 28, 4:15 pm

Ne'ilah – Monday, September 28, approximately 5:45 pm
The *Shofar* will be sounded at approximately 7:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: Usage of cell phones/paging devices are forbidden on synagogue grounds during worship services. If you may be needed in an emergency situation (on call), kindly switch your device to vibrate before entering the synagogue.

Congregation Beth El Celebrates Its Centennial

In 2009, Congregation Beth El celebrates its centennial year as a community – it is amazing to think that there has been a Jewish community in Bennington for this long.

Emmett Leader is an extraordinary artist whose family's relationship to Bennington stretches back to those early years. As part of Beth El's centennial year programming, they are partnering with the Bennington Museum to bring you an exhibit of Emmett's work, "Revisiting Traditions – Illuminating our Times: Works by Emmett Leader" beginning Sunday, September 13th. Be sure to stop by to see this wonderful exhibit and celebrate the enduring presence of the Jewish community in Southern Vermont.

Staying Comfortable in the Sanctuary

Synagogues everywhere grope with the issue of finding the "right" thermostat setting during High Holy Day services—and we do as well. If you tend to feel cold when the air conditioners are operating, please ask the ushers to be sure that you are not seated under an air conditioning vent and bring a sweater/jacket/shawl with you.

We have also received many requests from congregants asking everyone to kindly refrain from using perfume or cologne since some people suffer allergic reactions to perfume products.

It is our hope that this to be a truly comfortable and comforting communal religious experience for all.

Mayyim Hayyim Launches Redesigned Website

Mayyim Hayyim is proud to announce the launch of their redesigned and much-improved website. The URL is the same: www.mayyimhayyim.org but they've changed almost everything else: with a brighter look, more information, and easy search-ability.

You'll find more information than ever about Mayyim Hayyim's range of services, including immersions, education programs, publications, and consultation.