



Israel Congregation's Ten Beliefs

What makes ICM the unique community that we are? Read on!

1. We believe in our religious diversity which is why we call ourselves "Just Jewish." We are a blend of Jews from all aspects of life, unaffiliated with any of the streams of American Judaism. No one form of Judaism predominates—all are welcome from our myriad of traditions and we, in turn, mix things up on a regular basis, all grounded in the past made fresh for the present.

2. We believe in humanity. We recognize that we are many people here—each of us deserving dignity.

3. We believe in being warm and welcoming. You should always be known when you come into this building and you should always feel like this is your Jewish home. When you are here you should see people that you know and like. When you run into fellow congregants around the community you should enjoy the feeling of spontaneously seeing someone.

4. We believe in respecting your intellect. Everything we do here is designed to be fully participatory to all Jews, men and women, and understandable, whether in Hebrew, English or any other language. No one is left behind at Israel Congregation.

5. We believe in lifelong learning. It's not about being a learned Jew—it's about being a learning Jew. Wherever you are on your learning journey is the PERFECT place to jump in. To us, the only bad question is the one that you do not ask. There are no pre-requisites for learning here—all are welcome in every learning environment.

6. We believe in sharing ourselves. Our

congregation functions best when our congregants contribute their time and efforts to shape what we do. If you are worried about figuring out where you'll fit in, don't worry: with **Ed Glazer** as our president you'll soon know!

7. We believe in caring for each other throughout life—from the joys of new children and grandchildren, through health challenges, to end-of-life and providing comfort to those in mourning: we are a cradle-to-grave community, with you throughout all stages of life.

8. We believe in community—which is why so many of us are involved in so many different activities in the greater Manchester and Northshire area, especially the Community Food Cupboard and the activities of the Interfaith Council of the Northshire. Our efforts as a community strengthen those in need here in Manchester and Jewish organizations in the US, Israel and around the world.

9. We believe in human diversity. Our doors are open to all no matter past experiences—this includes any who may have had an experience of brokenness in their past Jewish life, gay and lesbian Jews, and others who may have perceived themselves as outliers. At ICM there is no out, only in.

10. We believe in having a good time. Being part of ICM involves so many aspects of our beings—our religious side, our social side, our compassionate side. In these relationships that we develop and deepen over time we create meaning. This is why right after our Friday evening Shabbat service we have our Common Table Dinner which helps create a space for Shabbat hospitality for our entire community each week.

Rabbi Novak

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Calendar of Events

January

1/2	10:30 am	Adult Education: Heschel
	4:00 pm	Religious School
1/4	5:45 pm	Preneg Reception
	6:30 pm	Shabbat Services & Dinner
1/5	9:30 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Shemot</i>
1/8	10:30 am	Adult Education: Heschel
1/9	4:00 pm	Religious School
1/11	5:45 pm	Preneg Reception
	6:30 pm	Shabbat Services & Dinner
1/12	9:00 am	Tot Shabbat
	10:00 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Vaera</i>
1/13	4:00 pm	Interfaith Martin Luther King Commemoration at ICM
1/16	4:00 pm	Religious School
1/17	7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
1/18	5:45 pm	Preneg Reception
	6:30 pm	Shabbat Services & Dinner
1/19	9:30 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Bo</i>
1/20	4:00 pm	Winter Film Festival Continues
1/23	4:00 pm	Religious School
1/25	5:45 pm	Preneg Reception
	6:30 pm	Shabbat Services & <i>Tu b'Shvat</i>
1/26	9:30 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Beshalach</i>
1/29	10:30 am	Adult Education: Heschel
1/30	4:00 PM	Religious School
	4:00 pm	92nd Street Y Program at ICM

February

2/1	5:45 pm	Preneg Reception
	6:30 pm	Shabbat Services & Dinner; Kaddish for the Jews of Polna
2/2	9:30 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Yitro</i>
2/5	10:30 am	Adult Education: Heschel
2/6	4:00 pm	Religious School
2/8	5:45 pm	Preneg Reception
	6:30 pm	Shabbat Services & Dinner
2/9	9:00 am	Tot Shabbat
	10:00 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Mishpatim</i>
2/10	4:00 pm	Winter Film Festival Continues
2/12	10:30 am	Adult Education: Heschel
2/13	4:00 pm	Religious School
2/15	5:45 pm	Preneg Reception
	6:30 pm	Shabbat Services & Dinner
2/16	9:30 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Terumah</i>
2/19	10:30 am	Adult Education: Heschel
2/20	4:00 pm	Religious School
	4:00 pm	92nd Street Y Program at ICM
2/21	7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting
2/22	5:30 pm	Shabbat Services & Dinner Wear Your Purim Costume
2/23	9:30 am	Shabbat Services, <i>Parashat Tetzaveh</i>
2/24	10:00 am	Purim: English Reading of the Book of Esther
2/27	4:00 pm	Religious School

Save the Dates for Life Long Learning Programs

June 14-15, 2013: **Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Michael Grodin**, Professor of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights, Boston University. His topics will include: Jewish Bioethics and Modern Medicine; Healing and Jewish Meditation; Death and Dying— the Jewish Way.

April 28, 2013: Michael Roemer, Professor of Film and American Studies at the Yale School of Art, will answer questions following the viewing of his film, *Faces of Israel*.

Israel Scouts Caravan: Watch for exciting news on the visit of the Israel Scout Caravan in early summer 2013.

It's Time For a Toast

In the tradition of our secular New Year, I would like to raise my imaginary champagne glass and toast the many people who have made 2012 at ICM so special—the people who have donated their time and skills to organize an extraordinary number of meaningful events, and the money to ensure that we will continue to thrive in 2013 and beyond. Any synagogue in the world would be grateful to have such dedicated volunteers—the fact that our small temple has so many continues to amaze me.

So: here are my personal thank-you's to:

- The remarkable group of volunteers who make the Tag Sale work for the community and for ICM
- The Fund-Raising Committee which went from \$0 to \$18,000 in one year mainly through the Moveable Feast, which was, in every way, a beautiful event.
- The Library Committee which has sponsored an annual program which has been a feast in itself—but more importantly, keeps our library organized and current.
- The Life-Long Learning and Cultural Affairs Committees which bring a variety of programs ranging from the Fine Crafts and Arts Festival to a forthcoming Scholar in Judaism program.
- Those who serve on the Interfaith Council for keeping us connected to our community-at-large through a variety of interfaith programs.
- The many people who, sometimes anonymously and sometimes under the rubric of *Ma'aser Sheni*, donate money to keep these programs going and growing. Since the announcement that we wanted to organize a Music Committee to make our services even more meaningful, we have received pledges of over \$12,000 to get the program going.

So to all of you reading this—consider yourself “toasted.”

And, if as you read this you are motivated to join this pretty incredible group of volunteers, know that speaking for the whole Board of Directors, we welcome and need your involvement.

Ed Glazer, President

Religious School & Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat, which takes place the second Shabbat of each month from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, has gotten off to a great start. The preschoolers have made *shofars*, acted out the creation story, braided challah dough, and made *chanukiot* out of marshmallows.

Our school-aged students meet on Wednesdays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. In addition to improving their Hebrew reading skills, they are continuing their journey through the stories in the Torah (our Torah story plays are quite popular), as well as learning about the holidays (why **do** we play Dreidel on Chanukah?).

If you would like more information about our Religious School please call Karen at 802-362-4578.

Alison Hill

A Note of Thanks

Kudos to our Fundraising Committee for planning and implementing three successful events for our synagogue and to our wonderful congregants who participated in these events. We enjoyed the family-friendly July 4th BBQ and baked goods auction, the Tag Sale which always offers affordable items for our local community members, and our first annual Moveable Feast and Silent & Live Auction which brought so many of us together for a night of fine food, good friends and bidding excitement. Our Fundraising Committee has one more event in place; the return of the giving of those beautiful Purim Baskets. Start thinking of who you might want to favor with a Purim Basket and watch for more information after the first of the year on this event. Be well and have a peace-filled, healthy 2013.

Fondly,

Lynne Abcug, Fundraising Chair

Bikkur Cholim

Do you know someone who is ill and would appreciate a call or visit from Rabbi Novak? Let Rabbi Novak know by calling him at our office, 802-362-4578, or on his cell phone, 802-688-3555.

Jewish Film Festival Continues

Journey back to Budapest in the 1930's when Israel Congregation screens the German/Hungarian film *Gloomy Sunday* (Ein Lied von Liebe und Tod, 1999) at 4:00 pm on Sunday, January 20. Although the movie centers on a romantic love triangle in the early years of the Nazi regime, the beloved but haunting title song triggers off a chain of suicides that has some basis in reality.

"I love the song *Gloomy Sunday* that was made popular by songstress Billie Holliday," explains **Doris Bass**, chair of ICM's programming committee which is hosting the Jewish Film Festival. "When I was in college there was a widespread rumor that the song had been banned from radio in the United States because it was supposedly linked to innumerable suicides. I never knew the real history behind the song until I saw this film."

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, "*Gloomy Sunday* has a mood and a magic about it that elicit emotion from the beginning and make an audience follow it down its curving and melancholy path."

Please note that, due to its adult content and several scenes of a sexual nature, this film is for mature audiences only.

Admission is open to the general public by free-will donation. In the event of snow, call **Doris Bass** (802-297-0167) or **Rosalie Fox** (802-867-0199) to confirm that the screening will take place.

MLK Commemoration

Israel Congregation hosts our annual interfaith gathering to commemorate the work and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 13 at 4:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. This year, the Interfaith Council of the Northshire welcomes Chaplain Bilal Ansari of Williams College as speaker. Chaplain Ansari is Williams College's first Muslim chaplain and also serves as associate coordinator of community engagement on the Williams campus. Read about his work at <http://www.williams.edu/feature-stories/feature-stories-archive/a-muslim-for-all-williams-seasons/> The entire community is welcome!

Tu b'Shvat Celebration

On Friday evening, January 25, join us at Israel Congregation for our regular Shabbat service where we will celebrate *Tu b'Shvat*, the Jewish new year for trees. At our Common Table Dinner that evening, fruits and nuts from Israel will complement our meal.

Tu b'Shvat is a wonderful boost to our mid-winter spirits as we reflect on the natural rhythm of the world and the gifts that nature offers us year in and year out. Mentioned in the *Mishnah*, the first writings of rabbinic ideas, *Tu b'Shvat* is one of the four new years on the Jewish calendar. In the Land of Israel this is the time that almond trees blossom; these are the first trees to blossom symbolizing the bounty to follow through the growing year.

Even though it will be winter here in Vermont, *Tu b'Shvat*, the 15th of the month of *Sh'vat*, reminds us that within a few month's time our Vermont landscape will again be blooming.

Live From New York's 92nd Street Y Series

Following on the success of the fall presentations, ICM is delighted to again co-sponsor, with the Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning, 3 programs which are soon to be held at the 92nd St. Y in New York City. These events have achieved national acclaim in bringing together fascinating people with equally interesting and acclaimed interviewers.

The winter programs will be shown at Israel Congregation at 4:00 pm :

- **Jon Meacham: On Jefferson**
Wednesday, January 30
- **Paul Krugman's Economy Fixes**
Wednesday, February 20
- **Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor**
Wednesday, March 13

If we were in New York, every one of these programs would be a "must see" on our calendars. How lucky we are to have them available almost immediately after their original taping.

More information about all of the programs is available in the Green Mountain Academy catalog and at their website, www.greenmtnacademy.org.

The Joy of Purim

Purim is the last weekend in February – but more importantly it is the 15th of *Adar*: when *Adar* enters, our joy increases. Increase our joy at ICM with your appearance, hopefully in costume, as we observe Purim on Friday evening, February 22 at the **family-friendly time of 5:30 pm** (an hour earlier than normal—no Preneg). We will read *Not the Whole Megillah*, eat *hamentaschen* and have other treats to go along with our festive Purim meal! On Sunday, February 24 at 10:00 am we will have an adult reading of the Book of Esther (*Megillat Esther*) in English with bagels, coffee, and *hamentaschen*. This is a new tradition at ICM where we read in English, discuss the book's literary structure, that is, how it tells the story and drops clues as it goes.

Purim may be in February on the calendar, but it's still mid-*Adar* on the Jewish calendar!

Purim Baskets (*Mishloach Manot*)

Purim Is Just Around the Corner!!!! Last year's *Mishloach Manot* Project was such a success, that we have decided to bring it back again for a second year. In a few weeks you will receive information on how to participate in this wonderful community connection. Sending BEAUTIFUL GIFT BASKETS to family, friends, members, college students or the infirm is a meaningful way to say 'you are in my thoughts'. Please watch *the Shofar* and your email for the details on how to be part of this incredible showing of love and friendship. **Lynne Abcug** and **Karen Dreiblatt** will once again be chairing this event and look forward to working with many of you to bring this project to fruition. Health and peace in the 2013.

Adult Education: Heschel

Rabbi Novak's lively class on Heschel's *The Prophets* continues in 2013. We will be looking at Heschel's core idea that God has human feelings and because of that, God needs human beings.

The first class meets Wednesday, January 2 at 10:30 am. We resume our regular Tuesday time at 10:30 am on January 8. Class continues on Tuesday, January 29 and meets weekly until February 26. All are welcome. If you'd like to join us, please get a copy of *The Prophets* by Heschel at the bookseller of your choice or from the ICM library.

BOOKNOTES

We have recently added to the library a 3-volume history of the Jews in New York City. This is the first time there has been a published history of New York Jews who are so visible and integral to the culture, economy and politics of America's greatest city.

Volume I, *Haven of Liberty*, by historian Howard B. Rock, chronicles the arrival of the first Jews to New York (then New Amsterdam) in 1654 and highlights their political and economic challenges. Overcoming significant barriers, colonial and republican Jews in New York laid the foundations for the development of a thriving community.

Volume II, *Emerging Metropolis*, written by Annie Polland and Daniel Soyer, describes New York's transformation into a Jewish city. Focusing on the urban Jewish-built environment—its tenements and banks, synagogues and shops, department stores and settlement houses—it conveys the extraordinary complexity of Jewish immigrant society.

Volume III, *Jews in Gotham*, by historian Jeffrey S. Gurock, highlights neighborhood life as the city's distinctive feature. New York retained its preeminence as the capital of American Jews because of deep roots in local worlds that supported vigorous political, religious, and economic diversity.

Each volume includes a "visual essay" by art historian Diana Linden interpreting aspects of life for New York's Jews from their arrival until today. These illustrated sections, many in color, illuminate Jewish material culture and feature reproductions of early colonial portraits, art, architecture, as well as everyday culture and community.

City of Promises: a History of the Jews in New York City reads like all good non-fiction. The books are fun to browse and excellent for history buffs—especially those who were born in the Bronx or Brooklyn. The books can be found in the library in the section labeled "Jews in America." The library is open whenever Israel Congregation is open.

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

Norma & Marvin Rappaport in honor of Caitlin Waters passing the MCATs • **Nancy Landis** in honor of Irene & Ed Glazer with thanks for their friendship and hospitality • **Merrily & Frank Lewis** in honor of Nancy Horowitz's wedding • **Karen & Michael Dreiblat** in honor of Caryn Kane's engagement • **Ina & Al Rubin** in honor of Mindy & Alan Bloom's newest great-grandchild • **Merrily & Frank Lewis** in honor of Eileen Wolff's granddaughter becoming a *bat mitzvah* and in honor of Carol & Phil Goldsmith's grandson becoming a *bar mitzvah* • **Geraldine & Edward Kaplan** • **Sandy & Marty Castelbaum** in honor of Norma & Paul Waters on their anniversary and in honor of Frank Lewis' 70th birthday • **Barbara Friedman** in memory of Gail Krevitt's mother, Eva Miller • **Norma & Marvin Rappaport** in honor of Irene & Ed Glazer's 50th anniversary • **Geri & Jim Gould** in memory of Ilse Fuchs • **Sandy & Marty Castelbaum** in memory of Yvonne Khadhouri • **Helena & Neil Davidoff** in honor of Mindy & Alan Bloom's newest great-grandchild **Bone Builders** with thanks for the use of our building • **Mindy & Alan Bloom** in memory of Ellie Wiener **Cathy Rano** in honor of Rabbi Novak's 50th birthday • **Fran & Mark Aronowitz** • **Susan & Gary Marmar** in memory of Jessie Meyer's mother, Carola Petzelt • **Jane & Warren Shapiro** in memory of Gail Zimmer's mother, Annette Wallach • **Cookie & Israel Mac** in honor of the marriage of Rachel Olanoff to Jeff McGuire and Jared Olanoff to Lauren Follet • **Carmel Furtado** in honor of Marlene & David Skulnik for their generosity and kindness • **Karen & Michael Dreiblat** in memory of Jessie Meyer's mother, Carola Petzelt **Robin & Bruce Guttman** in memory of Bernard P. Lipton • **Ina & Al Rubin** in memory of Max Rubin **Lana & Ben Hauben** in memory of Oscar Hauben • **Abby Ross** in memory of Harry Rosenblum **Theodor Friedman** in memory of Frances Friedman • **Marjorie & Michael Weiss** in memory of Frances Weiss • **Claire & Richard Katz** in memory of Richard Donn • **Barbara & Martin Donner** in memory of Mildred Finkelstein • **Susan & Herb Donner** in memory of Syd Cohen & Albert Cohen **Marilyn & Ed Rice** in memory of Henry Noreck

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Betty & Martin Welt in memory of Henry Fuchs • **Sheryl & Robert Tepper** in memory of Ilse Fuchs **Carmel Furtado** in honor of Rabbi Novak's 50th birthday

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Carol & Phil Goldsmith in honor of Norma & Paul Waters' granddaughter passing the MCATs and in honor of Irene & Ed Glazer's Big Anniversary
Lynne & Les Abcug in celebration of the life of Jeremy Abcug

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Barbara & Lee Silver in memory of Ann Schneider and Harry Silverberg • **Ellen & Jerry Alpart** in memory of the 10-year Yahrzeit of Jessie Dubow, mother of Ellen and grandmother of seven • **Loni Bader** in memory of Steven David Bader • **Hedy & Morris Cohen** for Tot Shabbat & other programming

SHABBAT DINNER FUND

Susan Cole in memory of Daniel Cole • **Mindy & Alan Bloom** in memory of Esther Simon's sister, Chana **Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman** in honor of Irene & Ed Glazer's 50th anniversary • **Carmel Furtado** **Micki & Bob Horowitz** in honor of Irene & Ed Glazer's 50th anniversary • **Lisa & Mark Scherzer** with thanks for hospitality during Hurricane Sandy

Please Note: Donations received after the 20th of December will appear in the March edition of *the Shofar*.

Ma'aser Sheni, continued

HOROWITZ EDUCATION FUND

Micki & Bob Horowitz in honor of the marriage of Nancy Horowitz to Jeff Yates

MERKADO LIBRARY FUND

Carole & Billy Gold in honor of Vicki & Steve Greene becoming grandparents

Lynne & Les Abcug in honor of Vicki & Steve Greene becoming grandparents

TIKKUN OLAM

Ruth & Stanley Gilbert in memory of Blanche Shapiro

Please Note: Donations received after the 20th of December will appear in the March edition of *the Shofar*.

Special Thanks

- ◆ **Irene & Ed Glazer** for sponsoring our Shabbat Dinner on November 12, 2012
- ◆ **Rabbi Michael Cohen** for leading services on December 7 & 8, 2012
- ◆ **Rabbi Novak** for sponsoring our Shabbat Dinner on December 21, 2012
- ◆ **Lee Fox** for baking our challah for the first Shabbat of each month
- ◆ **Bonnie & Oliver Levis** for baking challah
- ◆ **Gary Fishkin** for producing an online Blue Book Membership Directory
- ◆ **Lynne & Les Abcug** for their fundraising donation in honor of Sandy Castelbaum, the best chairperson a person could ask for
- ◆ **Sheila & Russ Mills, Susan & Michael Kreitzer, Rosalie & Lee Fox, Karen & Michael Dreiblatt, Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen, Marlene & David Skulnik, Lynne & Les Abcug, Marilyn & Ed Rice, Norma & Paul Waters, Barbara & Robert Friedman, Sandra & Harry Stein, Eileen Wolff, Becky & Gary Fishkin, Joan & Aaron Fischer** for their donations to the new Music Fund in honor of Irene & Ed Glazer's 50th anniversary

Mazel Tov

Phyllis & Arthur Angstreich on their 50th anniversary

Barbara & Steve Kane on the engagement of their daughter, Caryn

Vicki & Steve Greene on becoming grandparents

Matt Mayerson on his college acceptances

Sandy Castelbaum on her special birthday

Rabbi Novak on his 50th birthday

Irene & Ed Glazer on their 50th anniversary

Frank Lewis on his special birthday

Blue Book Membership Directory Online

Thanks to the hard work of congregant **Gary Fishkin**, our Blue Book Membership Directory is now available online at our website, www.icmvt.org. To access the directory, simply go to our website and enter the User ID and Password distributed by email earlier this month. If you do not know the User ID and Password, please contact Karen in our office at 802-362-4578 (we would like to keep this information confidential so that only ICM members may access the directory). Changes to your contact information may be made by sending an email to Karen at office@icmvt.org.

Condolences

Jessie & Rob Meyer on the loss of Jessie's mother, Carola Kubon Petzelt

Israel Congregation has about 175 member families of diverse Jewish backgrounds, both full-time and part-time residents of southern Vermont. We provide weekly *Shabbat* and holiday services, a religious school, adult education, life cycle events, and cultural and social programming in a warm and welcoming environment.

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

David Novak, Rabbi
 Michael Cohen, *Rabbi Emeritus*
 Karen Dreiblat, *Administrator*

Board of Directors

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Shofar Editorial Board: Doris Bass, Karen Dreiblat,
 Laurie Sullivan, Cheryl Ullman

Kabbalat Shabbat Service:

6:30 pm, Friday
 (followed by Congregational Dinner)

Shabbat Service:

9:30 am, Saturday

Tot Shabbat:

9:00 am, Second Saturday of each month

Office Hours:

8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday
 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Friday

Telephone: 802.362.4578
Rabbi Cell Phone: 802.688.3555
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Office Email: office@icmvt.org
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