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Learning Together

From Rabbi Novak

July is a time for summer learning at ICM—and there are some wonderful opportunities on the calendar. First is the weekly Talmud class held Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am. The Talmud is Judaism's oral tradition that has been written down. It is based on the *Mishnah*, which was written down and finalized in the year 200 C.E., approximately 130 years after the destruction of the Second Temple.

The Talmud begins with a question: "What is the time to say the evening 'Sh'ma?'" This question presumes that they knew about the *Sh'ma* and that it was said in the evening. They did not know what time so they asked the question. The entire Talmud is a journey through questions and answers, without finalizing ultimate

truths. Each week the group that joins allows for the conversation to go in many directions. Come question with us.

Another learning opportunity is a repeat of "Four Core Questions about Judaism," four one-hour sessions that look at these questions: *Do I have to believe in God to be Jewish? Is there an afterlife in Jewish belief? If there is a God why is there so much suffering? What does it mean to be good, and just how good to I have to be?* These classes will be offered on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am beginning July 6.

Join with your fellow congregants in expanding your Jewish horizons with these unique learning opportunities. It may confirm something that you already knew, you might learn something new, but most importantly, you will be engaging in one of the pillars of Jewish practice, coming together with others to study, learn, and grow.

ICM's Third Annual Tag Sale September 11 ~ National Day of Service and Remembrance ~

There has been some concern expressed within the ICM community regarding the fact that our Annual Tag Sale will be held on September 11, a day on which so many lost their lives. The general consensus supports the idea of going forward on that day because, in doing so, we are honoring these people by performing a day of community service—*tikkun olam*.

In April, 2009, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act that officially established September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance. This day was declared a service day partly as a result of the activities of family members of victims who worked tirelessly to have this

day declared a national service day. What better way is there to serve others than for our community to get together and take action for a good cause? All of the proceeds from the Annual Tag Sale go to *Tikkun Olam* and are then donated to various charitable organizations, both locally and beyond. In the past, local organizations that have received donations through *Tikkun Olam* have included the MEMS KIND Fund, the Summer Lunch Program of the Interfaith Council, the Emergency Needs Fund of the Interfaith Council, Neighbor to Neighbor, the Community Food Cupboard, PAVE, and the Coalition for the Homeless. We have

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Israel Congregation Calendar of Events

JULY

7/1 6:30 pm **Family Shabbat** followed by our Potluck Dinner

7/2 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Chukat*

7/4 6:30 pm **Annual Fourth of July BBQ**
Office Closed

7/5 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

7/6 10:00 am **Adult Education:** 4 Core Questions

7/8 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship
Followed by Community *Oneg*

7/9 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Balak*

7/10 10:00 am **B'nai Barak Men's Hike**

7/12 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

7/13 10:00 am **Adult Education:** 4 Core Questions

7/15 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship
Followed by Community *Oneg*

7/16 6:30 pm Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Pinchas*

7/19 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

7/20 10:00 am **Adult Education:** 4 Core Questions

7/21 7:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting

7/22 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship
Followed by Community *Oneg*

7/23 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Matot*

7/26 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

7/27 10:00 am **Adult Education:** 4 Core Questions

7/29 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship
Followed by Community *Oneg*

7/30 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Masei*

AUGUST

8/1 7:00 pm **Women's Rosh Chodesh Group**

8/5 6:30 pm **Family Shabbat** followed by our Potluck Dinner

8/6 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Devarim*

8/9 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

8/12 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship
Followed by Community *Oneg*

8/13 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Vaetchanan*

8/16 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

8/18 7:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting

8/19 3:00 pm **Play & Pray Golf Tournament**
6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship
Followed by our **Potluck Dinner**
Sponsored by Irene & Ed Glazer

8/20 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Eikev*

8/23 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

8/26 6:30 pm Friday Evening Shabbat Worship
Potluck Dinner Sponsored by Ina Rubin & Marlene Skulnik

8/27 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Re'eh*
7:30 pm **Wendy & The Lost Boys**

8/28 3:00 pm **Theater Trip: My Name Is Asher Lev**

8/30 10:30 am **Adult Education:** Talmud Study

9/2 6:30 pm **Family Shabbat** followed by our **Potluck Dinner Sponsored by Micki & Bob Horowitz**

9/3 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Shoftim*

Mazel Tov!

Laurie & Jeff Sullivan on the engagement of their daughter Alexandra to Michael Harris

Norma Rosenblatt on the birth of her newest granddaughter, born to Norma's daughter, Tanya

Lynne Andreen & Dave Lyon on the birth of their grandson Kenan David

Carole Silverstein on the birth of her granddaughter Lucie Julia, born May 9, 2011

Mindy & Alan Bloom on the birth of their newest great-grandchild, Zehava, born June 10, 2011

Burr & Burton Academy graduates **Sydney Beck** (Hartt Conservatory) & **Jackie Schwartz** (Syracuse University)

Max Levis on earning his Master's of Theological Studies diploma from Harvard Divinity School

President's Column

Instead of delivering the traditional President's Report at our annual meeting, I took the opportunity to tell a story that I recently heard from a very wise friend. The story unfolds as follows. A man visited a synagogue for the first time. When it came time for the *Sh'ma* to be recited, some of the people stood up while others remained seated. The two groups started yelling at each other. The people that were seated told the people that were standing to sit down and the people standing told the people that were seated to stand up. This went on for a while and the visitor asked, "What is the custom at this synagogue?" No one seemed to know for sure. The group that liked to sit claimed the custom was to remain seated whereas the group that preferred to stand claimed the custom was to stand. The reality is that no one had a definitive answer but each group of course thought they were right.

The confused visitor happened to know the former rabbi, who lived nearby in a neighboring town. He went to visit the former rabbi and told him that he was perplexed. The visitor wanted to know from the rabbi what the custom was involving standing or remaining seated while the *Sh'ma* is recited. The man told the rabbi what he witnessed at the synagogue. The visitor then asked the rabbi, "Is standing the usual custom when the *Sh'ma* is recited?" The rabbi replied, "No, that is not the custom." The visitor then responded, "So sitting is the usual custom during this part of the service?" The rabbi replied, "No, that is also not the custom." The visitor was thoroughly confused and told the rabbi that the two groups do not listen to each other and then yell at each other. The rabbi interrupted and proclaimed, "That is the custom at that synagogue."

The point behind this story is that in all organizations, including synagogues, there are differences of opinion. The challenge for any synagogue is to acknowledge differences and to try to resolve them in a respectful and caring way without developing anger and disdain for other people and their opinions. In some synagogues the culture is contentious and many times can be hurtful. Our challenge is to resolve our differences with the overriding understanding that synagogue, and the work of the synagogue, is a sacred task. Our challenge is to preserve a tradition and religious system which is thousands of years

old and successfully pass it on to future generations. Part of the way we accomplish this goal is to make ourselves and the institution warm and inviting to both its members and visitors. Our behavior should ultimately reflect the high ideals that our Jewish heritage personifies.

As I complete my first year as president, I would be remiss not to express my sincere and profound appreciation to the many people that make Israel Congregation such a special place. I would like to start with our profession staff, including **Rabbi David Novak, Karen Dreiblat, Gert & Cosmo D'Eredita, Angela & Travis Wood**, as well as our educators **Rabbi Rose Durbin, Alison Hill, and Yuval Sela**. I need to sincerely thank my Executive Committee as well as the "at-large" members of the Board of Directors. No list would be complete without all the committee chairs and volunteers who serve on the many committees that service our community. To all these individuals, I wholeheartedly thank you for your hard work and dedication. I can only hope and pray that the year ahead of us will be even more vibrant and energized than the year that is now behind us. We can accomplish this objective with all of us working together toward this common goal.


Thank you very much,
John Sobel



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Religious School

Cathy Kimmel, religious school chair, has announced that **Rabbi David Novak**, **Alison Hill**, and **Yuval Sela** will constitute the faculty for the 2011-2012 Religious School year. Alison, a staff member in our school for 10 years, will be the Jewish curriculum teacher for our younger students. Rabbi Novak and Yuval will be preparing the *B'nai Mitzvah* students. Rabbi Rose Durbin, our former Religious School Director, will not be returning this year. She has accepted a position as Rabbi in Gloversville, NY.

This year, Religious School returns to Wednesdays and we continue with Family Shabbat on the first Friday night of the month, and Saturday morning Family Shabbat on the third Shabbat morning of the month (specifically for families with *b'nai mitzvah*, but all are welcome).

If you would like to reach any member of the Religious School staff, please feel free to contact:

Alison Hill keturamars@yahoo.com

Yuval Sela sela.yuval@gmail.com

Rabbi Novak rabbi@icmvt.org

Religious School begins September 14
Registration is now open!
 Call our office at 362-4578 for more information

Calling All Crafters

The date for our 2nd Annual ICM Crafts Fair is Sunday, November 13. Last year's event was a very happy experience for our member and friends-crafters and all the visitors to the fair, and now, with a little experience under our belts we anticipate an even more fun day.

If you were with us last year and want to reserve your space, or if you are a first-timer and want more information, please call Mickey Kent at 802-824-6809 or email her at mkent75151@aol.com.

There is a 20% discount off the price of exhibit space for members whose checks are received by August 15.

Wanted: Your Unused Car

Auto Angels is a local charitable organization that provides donated cars to local residents who need a car but cannot afford to buy one. If you have a

B'nai Barak Hike

The next hike will be on Sunday, July 10, beginning at 10 am. This will be a men-only hike. Because of the large tick problem this year, I have decided to keep the hike out of the woods. Therefore, we will hike in Dorset Hollow on a 4.7 mile loop on the Lower and Upper Dorset Hollow Roads. We can have lunch on the Dorset green following the hike. The hike is a mild uphill during the first half and downhill during the second half.

Please save the date. More information on meeting place and other information will be forthcoming.

Stan Reisman

ICM Women Unite

By popular demand, the historical women's observance of the new moon and new month, known as *Rosh Chodesh*, will be celebrated at ICM on Monday, August 1, at 7 pm. According to *Pirkei de Rabbi Eliezer*, a book of rabbinic legends, the holiday was given to women because of their refusal to participate in the construction of the Golden Calf.

For several years *Rosh Chodesh* was celebrated at ICM in meetings that ranged from open discussions of member's female genealogies to a Hawaiian Luau costume party in January. Part theology, part fun, these evenings were a wonderful way of getting to meet other women in the congregation.

In that spirit, the undersigned invite all women to this exploratory meeting to see if there is interest in reviving the *Rosh Chodesh* observance...once, twice, three times...or regularly. The more input, the better—and your attendance at this meeting doesn't imply any commitment on your part!

Conversation without food being unacceptable in any Jewish context, please bring some fruit or cheese or wine or other *nosherei* and join in the fun.

There is very little more information available about this evening, but if you feel the need to talk about it, please call any of us listed below.

Doris Bass, Karen Dreiblatt, Ina Rubin

car that you no longer are using and it is still serviceable, the Angels can really put it to good use. We can make limited repairs. Please contact **Stan Lisman** at 802-362-4332 or slisman@mindspring.com. Auto Angels will provide a receipt for tax purposes.

BOOK NOTES

It is summertime, and a perfect time for books that carry you away to a different time and place. Try a selection from ICM's collection of historical fiction.

~ PEOPLE OF THE BOOK by Geraldine Brooks, Pulitzer Prize winning author. In tracing the history of the Sarajevo Haggadah, missing for decades, a rare book conservator begins a journey that covers vast geographical settings and time periods. Each section, like the illustrations in the Haggadah, transports the reader to a fully realized, vividly peopled world.

~ BY FIRE BY WATER by Mitchell James Kaplan. "Must take its place as one of the most important contemporary historical novels with a Jewish theme." —*Ha'aretz*. Set in 15-century Spain amid the Inquisition, the action centers on the historical figure of Luis de Santángel, chancellor to the king of Aragon and a converso, a Jewish convert to Christianity at a time when the Inquisition sought to repress "judaizing."

~ IN THE IMAGE by Dara Horn. "An enchanting, introspective and emotionally charged debut, Horn travels back and forth through time and space." —*Publisher's Weekly*. Horn effectively draws the reader into the losses and desperation felt by American Jewish immigrants while also portraying them as strong and hopeful people who believe that here is better than there.

~ THE COFFEE TRADER by David Liss. "Ultimately about a central truth of capitalism, which is that the system is bigger and more powerful than anyone within it." —*The Washington Post Book World*. In Amsterdam in the mid-1600s, a former secret Jew who was once a successful commodities broker is down on his luck until he tastes a strange foreign beverage called coffee and decides that it is the key to regaining his fortunes.

~ RASHI'S DAUGHTERS by Maggie Anton. "Anton has reimagined the life and world of the famed eleventh-century biblical teacher Rashi through the lives of his three daughters." —*Romantic Times*. In 1068, Salomon ben Isaac returns home to Troyes, France, to take over the family winemaking business and embark on a path that will indelibly influence the Jewish world—writing the first Talmud commentary, and secretly teaching Talmud to his daughters. Joheved, the eldest of his three girls, finds her mind and spirit awakened by religious study, but, knowing the risk, she must keep her passion for learning and prayer hidden.

Theater Trip

My Name Is Asher Lev

Join the Social Programming Committee for an afternoon of theater on Sunday, August 28, when we go to see the poignant coming-of-age story, "My Name Is Asher Lev," performed by the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, MA (www.barringtonstageco.org).

Written and directed by Aaron Posner, they play is adapted from the novel by Chaim Potok and follows the journey of a young Jewish painter torn between his Hasidic upbringing and his desperate need to fulfill his artistic promise. When his artistic genius threatens to destroy his relationship with his parents and community, young Asher realizes he must make a difficult choice between art and faith. This stirring adaptation of a modern classic presents a heartbreaking and triumphant vision of what it means to be an artist.

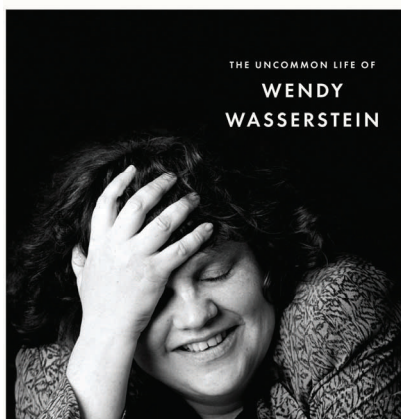
Tickets are available at the special group rate of \$25 per person, with **prepayment required by July 22**. Payment should be made to Karen in the office.

We will meet at the theater for the 3:00 pm performance. Transportation is independent. If you would like to carpool, contact **Bev Rokes** (875-1371) or **Alison Hill** (362-7220) and we'll do our best to arrange rides. After the show, we'll gather for dinner at one of the area restaurants; if you'd like to join us, please let Karen know so we can make reservations. Dinner will be Dutch treat and is not included in the ticket price.

Author to Visit ICM

WENDY AND THE LOST BOYS

JULIE SALAMON



Saturday, August 27, at 7:30 pm, Julie Salamon will read from her book *Wendy and the Lost Boys*. This is the authorized biography of Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein, sister of Georgette Wasserstein Levis. Refreshments will be served after a Q&A period. There is no charge for this very special evening.

Spotlight on . . . *Judith Cohen*

Sometimes dreams really do come true. And for ICM member Judith Cohen, dreams of being on Broadway did, many times over. "I always wanted to act and write," she said. She performed in all the school plays and was editor-in-chief of the school paper. After skipping two years in school her parents expected her to go into medicine—but Judith was bound for the Great White Way!

Born in Baltimore and raised in New York City, Judith's first role was in an off-Broadway production called "The Proposition." Without an Equity card or agent she went to an "open call" audition and was offered a role in the Boston production—which she rejected. A week later they offered her a role in the New York improv production. And the rest is show business history.

For Judith, "I was lucky from the word go. I always had people who believed in me." At her first singing gig at Reno Sweeney's in NYC, she was so overwhelmed with stage fright her first night, she instead talked to the audience. The piano player kept yelling at her to just sing. The audience roared. When she finally sang it was with her eyes closed, and she felt what she thought was food being thrown at her, so she ran off the stage . . . But—the audience was throwing flowers from their tables. They wanted her to sing more!

One night TV producer Norman Lear was in the audience and signed her to her first TV role, the "The Judith Cohen Story," a recurring show within the TV show "Good Times." Lear later offered her a contract. It was while she was in "Murphy Brown," with Candace Bergen, that she met Greg DeLuca, who became her agent and then her husband. Greg worked for a "fancy, smancy agency" in California, where Judith lived for eight years. For Judith, it was love at first sight. She and Greg just celebrated their 19th anniversary!

Judith has sung everywhere from Carnegie Hall to the London stage with her own orchestra led by the now deceased Keith Avedon. She "writes music," though she doesn't read it, by singing into a recorder and having someone write it down. She's appeared on Broadway, performed numerous times at the Public Theater, and in "tons" of commercials and movies, in-

cluding Woody Allen's "Stardust Memories."

As a member of the Screen Actors Guild, with 200,000 Equity members, Judith feels she's been "a very blessed actress." She thinks luck has something to do with it besides talent. "So much of theater and film and TV is being in the right place."

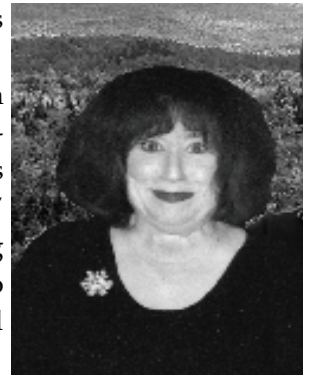
And now she finds Vermont the right place. Judith and Greg have called Dorset home for the last two years. As new members at ICM she said, "We were so taken by the interchange at services. Rabbi Novak is so inspiring, so smart, so funny. He has opened his heart to us and made us feel a part of things." She also finds the members warm and welcoming.

A "voracious reader," Judith has over 300 cookbooks she puts to good use; at the holidays she made quantities of gingerbread and orange cakes, which her friends insisted on selling. Possibly another business? She's seriously thinking about it.

Husband Greg is now an event planner and designer. He also created an all-natural, healthy dog treat company, "Dogsters," and a company that makes frozen dough for dog lovers to bake fresh dog treats at home.

Whether performing or working on her book, which may evolve into a stage reading or a show, replete with music, Judith has "never lost that feeling of 'wow, this is amazing.'"

Laurie Sullivan



Rosalind Compain

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Ma'aser Sheni

When the Temple functioned in Jerusalem, the Jewish community supported it and its priests with a system of tithes in the form of food and/or money. Today we feed our communal needs by offering financial gifts that strengthen and enhance Jewish religious and communal life in the Northshire.



GENERAL FUND

Barbara & Robert Friedman wishing *mazel tov* to Cathy & Saul Kimmel on the birth of their two new grandchildren and to Mindy & Alan Bloom on the birth of their newest great-granddaughter
Fran & Mark Aronowitz in memory of Mark's father, Arthur Aronowitz, and Fran's father, Ralph Rein
Susan & Herb Donner in memory of Sam Donner • **Arlene & Jerry Wiesenberg** in memory of Ida Keil
Cookie & Israel Mac in memory of Sylvia Kesman • Doris Bass in celebration of Cathy & Saul Kimmel's two new grandchildren • **Marlene & David Skulnik** in honor of Cathy & Saul Kimmel's two new grandchildren
Sandy & Marty Castelbaum in honor of Caralyn Schwartz becoming a *bat mitzvah*
Anonymous • **Jane & Doug Kleinfeld** in memory of Marion Tanzman and Seymour J. Kleinfeld
Maddie & John Sobel in memory of John's father, Jesse Sobel • **Ina & Al Rubin** in memory of Sara Levine
Merrily & Frank Lewis in memory of David Skulnik's mother, Renee Skulnik • **Robert Moss**

SHABBAT DINNER FUND

Helene & Al Feldan • **Laurie & Jeff Sullivan** in honor of the engagement of their daughter Alexandra to Michael Harris and in memory of Laurie's sister, Ruth Schindler

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Sara Dolsky in memory of Nathan Dolsky • **Cathy & Saul Kimmel** in memory of Lillian Kimmel
Barbara & Lee Silver in memory of Harry Silverberg • **Laurie & Jeff Sullivan** in memory of Laurie's father, Irving Schnapper, and Laurie's uncle, Robert Schnapper

CULTURAL AFFAIRS FUND

Carol & Phil Goldsmith in honor of the birth of Cathy & Saul Kimmel's two new grandchildren

TIKKUN OLAM FUND

Marilyn & Edgar Rice in honor of Betty Steinhorn's 90th birthday

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

Special Thanks

Dr. Guy & Anne Miller for sponsoring our community potluck dinner on May 6
Ivy & Bill Schwartz for sponsoring our community potluck dinner on May 20
Loretta & Stan Reisman for sponsoring our community potluck dinner on June 10
Merryl & Andrew Hazelton sponsoring our community potluck dinner on June 17
Ruthie & Norm Ellenbogen for sponsoring our community potluck dinner on June 24
Judy Hirschberg, Micki Lisman, and the wonderful people who volunteered to staff the Food Cupboard
Mindy Bloom and the wonderful people who volunteered to staff the Red Cross blood drive hospitality table including **Barbara Friedman, Micki Lisman, Ruth Gilbert, Fran Aronowitz, Cathy Kimmel, Karen Ganz, Ina Katzman, Alison Hill, Lynne Abcug, and Carol Gold**
Susan Cole for all of the work she puts into keeping our gardens looking so beautiful
 All those who attended the June Open Forum discussions

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

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 Rob Zeif

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 Cheryl Ullman

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:

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

Telephone: 802.362.4578

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**ANNUAL
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MONDAY, JULY 4TH 6:30 PM

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A – N Desserts (Parve)

O – Z Salads (Rice, Potato, Pasta, Green)

To purchase tickets please call our office with your credit card, pay
 online at www.icmvt.org, or mail the form below along with your check to:
 ICM, P.O. Box 1050, Manchester Center, VT 05255

Stan Lisman, Jen Weinstein, Sandy Castelbaum

Annual Fourth of July BBQ

Name _____ Phone _____

Adults _____ at \$8.00 each* \$ _____

Children _____ at \$4.00 each* \$ _____

I/We would like to be a Sponsor to help defray the cost of the picnic.

Optional Sponsor Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

*** Financial assistance is available; please speak to Rabbi Novak.**

Tag Sale Sept. 11

continued from page 1

also donated funds to Haiti after the earthquake, to Leket Israel, Mazon, Arava, ATZUM, and the House on Wheels, among other organizations.

Please join us and volunteer to perform a day of service on September 11 in recognition of those who so needlessly lost their lives! We'll need volunteers throughout the one week period preceding September 11, and especially on that day. The box to the right lists an early drop-off day for 'stuff' you no longer want, as well as days when we'll need people to organize everything.

*Micki Lisman,
 Chair, Tikkun Olam*

Tikkun Olam Tag Sale

Drop-off times

9:00 am – noon: July 17, September 4, September 5

9:00 am – 5:00 pm: September 6

Please, no major appliances, console tvs, computers, tires, mattresses, underwear, or swimsuits. Clothing should be unstained, without holes, washed and/or cleaned. Bind shoes with rubber bands or laced together, with size marked on the bottom. Place clothes on hangers when practical.

We need help on the drop-off days, the day of the sale, and the day after the sale. All help is greatly appreciated. Contact **Micki Lisman** (362-4332) or **Nancy Landis** (768-8221) to offer your help between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm September 4 through September 9; 8:30 am-3:30 pm September 11; 9:00 am – noon September 12.