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ICM Through a New Member's Eyes

On the Shabbat where we read in the Torah that God appears to Abram and tells him to go to a place that God will show him, new congregant Saragail Benjamin shared these beautiful words with us:

"In two weeks it will be exactly one year since I first came to ICM, to scout out a new place to live. At the time, people asked me, was I so religious, that I came to check out the shul? And I thought, what does that even mean, "religious"? I thought, I don't keep kosher, I'm not shomer shabbos, so, no, not religious. I can't remember what I answered people, but I remember knowing more clearly than ever that being Jewish is a fundamental part of who I am, and that for me, a place without a Jewish community could never truly be home.

So I walked into ICM a year ago and was overcome by the waves of warmth I felt, that seemed to wash over me. This feeling has only intensified in the time I've

lived here. I have found here a community of learning, and Yiddishkeit, and music. I have found friendship, and a great teacher, full of knowledge, insight, and love of Torah. I have found a group of individuals who inspire me with their life stories and their joyful, laughing approach to the realities of life, a community that gives me strength as I take on new challenges in my life and work, helping me, an ordinary person, feel I might be capable of what I must do to move forward.

Back in NY, as my moving date approached and I started telling people goodbye, they told me I was so brave, making such a big move on my own. "Do you know anyone there? Do you have family there?" they asked. In the flurry of selling my house and moving, I couldn't quite think of how to explain about ICM. Now I know I should have just answered, "Yes. I

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The First Day Of Chanukah

Last year I shared with you that our two major Glazer family holidays are Thanksgiving and Chanukah—and that we usually celebrate Chanukah the night after Thanksgiving.

This year, much to my happy surprise, Chanukah starts the night BEFORE Thanksgiving. So in the last week of November we light the Chanukah menorah Wednesday night, enjoy Thanksgiving and light the second candle, and then on Friday night we are having our second annual latke contest and early evening family service at 5:30. Of course at our home the turkey will be home grown, and latkes will probably be a side dish on our table.

These two holidays falling at the same time are a great reminder of all we hold

dear, as Americans and as Jews. As Americans, we get to live in a country where we are free. As Jewish Americans, we get to practice our religious free of government interference which impacted so many other Jews in other places.

This is why ICM is such an important place to all of us. A place where we can freely be Jews, in the United States of America, in this small and special corner of the world.

Irene and I wish you a safe and calm holiday season, and in order, a Happy Chanukah and a Happy Thanksgiving!

See you Friday night November 29th for Chanukah at ICM, if not sooner!

Ed Glazer, President

Rabbi Novak Will be Away

Rabbi Novak will be away from Manchester from November 2 through November 15. In his absence, please contact Rabbi Jarah Greenfield of Bennington for rabbinic emergencies at (802) 442-9645 (Beth El Bennington) or (802) 430-4079 (mobile).

ICM Through a New Member's Eyes

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have family there.”

May all of us experience the same warmth and richness of ICM! Chag Urim Sameach -- Happy Chanukah and Chag Hodu Sameach -- Happy American Thanksgiving!

Rabbi David Novak

ICM's Jewish International Film Festival

Be sure to save the dates for our Sunday 2013-14 film series: December 8, January 12, February 2 and March 2. All showings are at 4 pm, and as in the past, snacks are provided.

Our first screening on December 8 will be the short film “Hava Nagila” which tells, through this song, the full constellation of history, values, and hopes for the future for all Jewery and especially the state of Israel. As a special treat, there will be an hour of Israeli dance, with instruction, led by Robin Bass.

The full schedule of films will be announced shortly, so be sure to mark your calendars and join in what has become a community-wide special event.

Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat, led by Alison Hill, continues on the second Saturday of each month from 9 to 10 am. In October fun was had with the story of Noah by building an ark and then adding some stuffed animal friends. In November there will be a special Chanukah program, and in December Saragail Benjamin will bring her very special musical talent to the group. These Shabbats are a wonderful opportunity for parents and grandparents to spend an awesome hour with their children and grandchildren! Children being raised in interfaith settings are also warmly welcomed!

Children's 2013-2014 Education News

Lessons for school-aged children for the 2013-2014 school year began on September 18 just in time to learn about Sukkot and Simchat Torah. In addition to learning about each holiday as it arrives, our topic this year is mitzvot. We will be looking at as many mitzvot as we can fit in and learning why it is Jewish and what stories from the Bible teach us about each particular mitzvah. In the beginning of October, in conjunction with ICM's month at the food cupboard, we looked at the mitzvah of “Feeding the Hungry.” We took a field trip to the food cupboard where Martha Carey explained to the students how the food cupboard operates and answered lots of questions. The students packed bags for Martha to deliver to food recipients who are homebound and helped her write the next list of requested donations. We are very appreciative that Martha took this time to spend with us. At the end of October we covered the mitzvah of Tzedakah, learning why we give it and the best ways to give it, including looking at Maimonides' Ladder of Tzedakah.

Alison Hill, Teacher

Vera Broekhuysen Leads Friday Night November 8

Join us on Friday evening November 8 to again experience Vera Broekhuysen's magnificent voice as she leads worship.

Rabbi Joanie “Yafa” Chase Leads Shabbat Morning November 9

Rabbi Joanie “Yafa” Chase of Rutland, daughter of our late members Betsy and Jim Chase z"l, will be leading Shabbat Morning worship November 9 at 10:15 am (a late start because of Tot Shabbat). Please show Rabbi Chase your support by coming to this special service.

NOVEMBER

- 11/1 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 11/2 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Toldot*
- 11/4 1:15 pm Beginners Mah Jongg Class
- 11/6 4:00 pm Religious School
- 11/7 1:00 pm Beginners Mah Jongg Class
- 11/8 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship led by Vera
Broekhuysen followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 11/9 9:00 am **Tot Shabbat**
10:15 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat
Vayetzei*, led by Rabbi Joanie
“Yafa” Chase
- 11/11 1:15 pm Beginners Mah Jongg Class
- 11/13 4:00 pm Religious School
6:00 pm **ICM Book Club Meeting**
- 11/14 1:15 pm Beginners Mah Jongg Class
- 11/15 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 11/16 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Vayish-
lach*
- 11/17 5:30 pm **Harvest Supper and Auction to
Benefit Emergency Needs Fund**
- 11/18 1:15 pm Beginners Mah Jongg Class
- 11/20 4:00 pm Religious School
- 11/21 1:15 pm Beginners Mah Jongg Class
7:00 pm **Board of Directors Meeting**
- 11/22 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship with Guest
Speaker Dick Malley from Habitat
for Humanity followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 11/23 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Vaye-
shev*

- 11/27 5:05 pm **Light the First Chanukah Candle**
- 11/28 - 11/29 Office Closed
- 11/29 5:30 pm Special Shabbat Celebration for Cha-
nukah
- 11/30 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Miketz*

DECEMBER

- 12/4 10:30 am Rabbi’s Class
4:00 pm Religious School
- 12/6 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 12/7 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Vayigash*
- 12/8 4:00 pm Jewish International Film “Hava
Nagila”
- 12/9 1:15 pm Beginners Mah Jongg Class
- 12/11 10:30 am Rabbi’s Class
4:00 pm Religious School
- 12/13 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship with Student Can-
tor Vera Broekhuysen followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 12/14 9:00 am **Tot Shabbat**
10:15 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Vayechi*
- 12/18 10:30 am Rabbi’s Class
4:00 pm Religious School
- 12/19 7:00 pm **Board of Directors Meeting**
- 12/20 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:30 pm Shabbat Worship followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 12/21 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Shemont*
- 12/27 5:45 pm Wine & Cheese Preneg
6:00 pm Shabbat Worship followed by
Common Table Dinner
- 12/28 9:30 am Shabbat Worship, *Parashat Vaera*

Please note that there will be Chanukah items (gift wrap, candles, cards, dreidels, etc.) for sale in the office beginning November 1.

Harvest Supper and Auction to Benefit Emergency Needs Fund

Sunday November 17 at 5:30 pm the Interfaith Council of the Northshire (IFC) will hold its annual Harvest Potluck Supper and Auction. Proceeds of the auction will go directly to the IFC's Emergency Needs Fund. This fund provides vital resources such as heat, shelter, food, electricity bills, and more. It is administered by Bill Drusic on behalf of the Interfaith Council. ICM congregants are encouraged to support this important fundraiser that allows us to tighten the social safety net of our community.

Book Lovers Take Note: The ICM Book Club Begins on November 13

Responding to requests over the past several years, the Library and Program Committees are hosting a bookclub organizing meeting on Wednesday evening, November 13, at 6 pm. The book under discussion is *Bee Season* by Myla Goldberg.

Supper of the lox and bagel sort will be served, so there will time for socializing. Just to get us into the book mode, there will be a discussion of *Bee Season*, led by Doris Bass. But the real business of the evening is to decide how the book club should work: how often to meet? fiction only, or non-fiction too? Jewish only? how to select the books to be read? All of these issues will be addressed, and your input is essential.

So even if you haven't read *Bee Season*, if you want to participate in the development of a book club that can be an intellectually stimulating and emotionally satisfying...please join us.

It is important to RSVP: not having enough food is frightening to contemplate!

Special Thanks

**To all that helped during High Holy Days and
To all that made High Holy Day pledges
Saragail Benjamin** for sponsoring Shabbat dinner
Gary Fishkin for installing the office's new computer

Come Light ICM's Outdoor Chanukiah (Menorah)

Each night of Chanukah is an opportunity for you to light ICM's outdoor Chanukiah (menorah). There are seven nights remaining—please let Rabbi Novak know which night you'd like!

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service November 26 at First Congregation Church of Manchester

This year's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at First Congregation Church of Manchester on Tuesday evening, November 26, at 7 pm. The Reverend Skip Dickinson will offer the sermon. Please mark your calendars now to spend an hour with others as we share our gratitude.

Special Shabbat Celebration November 29 at 5:30 for Chanukah

Be at Israel Congregation Friday evening November 29 at 5:30 for our special Chanukah Family Service, Latke contest, and lighting of our Chanukah Menorot! The early time allows congregants with young children to be here. Come and bring light into one of the darkest nights of the year.

Condolences

Barbara Bishop and her children on the loss of her husband and their father, Harris Sufian

Patricia and Jerry Kreitzer on the loss of her sister-in-law, Diane Raycher

Mark and Lenor Szuchman on the loss of his brother-in-law, Yaakov Farber

Sandra Weiner on the loss of her husband, Leon

Ma'aser Shenit

Thank you for your generous donations!

GENERAL FUND

Frances & Mark Aronowitz • Karen Ganz in memory of Larry Glass and Morton Metzger
 • **Lory Glitter** in memory of Leslie Lanvy (to purchase flowers for the sanctuary) • **Gail & Philip Krevitt** in memory of Larry Glass • **Barbara & George Polifka** in memory of Karl & Ruzena Polifka
 • **Abby Ross** in memory of Harry Rosenblum • **Ivy & William Schwartz** in honor of Ed, Irene and Jay Glazer • **Iris Taylor** in memory of Robert Taylor • **Phyllis Topchik** in memory of Larry Glass and in honor of Jacob Waters' bar mitzvah • **Joe & Debra Zeff** in memory of Larry Glass

TIKKUN OLAM

Marjorie & Michael Weiss in memory of Jarvis Weiss

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Garry Berlin in memory of Margrit E. Berlin • **Rosalind Compain** in memory of Mark Klamkin •
Estelle Schwartz in memory of her grandmother, Sara Goldstein Stone • **Leah Sperber** in memory of Joseph Harrison

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sandra & Martin Castelbaum in memory of Rae Weinberger • **Susan Cole** in memory of Daniel Cole
 • **Susan & Herb Donner** • **Dave & Esther Rosenberg** in memory of Paul Rosenberg • **Judith Rudiakov** in memory of Michael Rudiakov • **Betty & Martin Welt** in memory of Henry Fuchs

MARILYN GLATT LINGLEY FUND

Deborah Peretz in memory of Jules Peretz

MICKI & BOB HOROWITZ CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Robert & Micki Horowitz in memory of Larry Glass

MUSIC FUND

Irene & Edward Glazer in memory of Beatrice Hahn, Larry Glass, Jacob Farber, Mark Szuchman's brother-in-law and in honor of Saragail Benjamin • **Michael & Susan Kreitzer** in memory of Beatrice Hahn

MERKAZ FUND

Dave and Esther Rosenberg

LYON/ANDREEN FUND

Lynne Andreen & David Lyon in memory of Leon Wiener and Larry Glass

SHABBAT DINNER FUND

Boris & Julie Kotler Berlin with thanks to Rabbi David and Ed Glazer • **Ronald Cohen** • **Marc & Carolyn Milzman** in memory of Madeline Milzman • **Steven & Susan Rappaport** • **Marcia Sacks** • **Henry & Sherry Stein** • **Samson & Jodi Wiseman**

Donations received after October 18 will appear in the January edition of the Shofar.

Rabbi Resumes Adult Education in December

Join Rabbi Novak every Tuesday morning in December at 10:30 for his next adult education offering. The topic will be announced in November.

Israel Congregation has about 180 member units from 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.

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Friday Evening Shabbat Services, 6:30 pm
Preneg at 5:45 pm; services are followed by a Communal Dinner

Saturday Morning Shabbat Services, 9:30 am
Tot Shabbat: 9:00 am, second monthly Shabbat morning; services begin at 10:15 am

Rabbi David Novak, Rabbi

Rabbi Michael Cohen, *Rabbi Emeritus*

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