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Giving Thanks

On our Jewish calendar, the month following all of our Jewish holy days, *Tishri*, is called *Cheshvan*. It also has a nickname: *Mar Cheshvan*, bad or bitter *Cheshvan*, because after all of our celebrating we have a month that has no holidays. Fortunately we live in the United States where we get to engage in our civil religion in November with the most joyful holiday of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a great holiday. We get to eat at a table that usually holds an array of colors which reflect the fall season. We get to gather with family and friends, inside a home that is warm with emotion and hopefully good cheer. Most importantly, we have the opportunity as Americans to join together and offer thanks.

We Jews are called many things,
continued on page 5

Commemorating *Kristallnacht*

K*ristallnacht*, the Night of Broken Glass, was a crucial turning point in German policy regarding the Jews. Many consider it to be the actual beginning of what is now called the Holocaust. In the words of historian Max Rein, "*Kristallnacht* came...and everything was changed."

Join **Janet Kleinberg** in an examination of this tragic event in modern Jewish history. This program will take place at Israel Congregation on November 11, at 7 pm.

From the High Holy Day Chairman

A *mitzvah* and a contingency. If you do not read on, you would say, "What a strange beginning for an article written by the High Holy Day Chairman."

Many of you have told me how much you enjoyed the services that were led by Rabbi Novak and Cantor Kintisch. Several went on to say they were the best services they ever attended here.

It's a total package that contributes to the success that we are able to achieve. Without our many volunteers we would be unable to function. I feel deeply indebted to all of them for their hard work, dedication, and loyalty. It's a very comforting feeling to know that there are always a handful of people who seem to never say, "no" and are always ready, willing, and able to step up when needed.

When I spoke from the *bima* on *Yom Kippur*, I outlined the various jobs that comprised some of the components of High Holy Day preparation and success. I said that those who helped did a huge *mitzvah*.

There are a few people who seem to have been volunteering forever. Barry Brown, Karen and Michael Dreiblat, Gary Marmer, and John Sobel. Two "newcomers," namely yours truly and his wife, Sasha, are "only" heading into their fifth year.

What happens when all or some of the above people want a break or are just
continued on page 5

Interfaith Council Harvest Auction and Potluck

The annual Harvest Potluck Dinner and Auction, sponsored by The Interfaith Council of the Northshire (formerly The Interfaith Council of Manchester and Dorset), will be held at First Congregational Church in Manchester at 5:45 pm on Sunday, November 2. The very funny Bill Drunic is the auctioneer and it's worth attending just to experience his wit. The funds raised by the auction go to refill the coffers of the Emergency Needs Fund of the IFC.

For those attending the potluck: Last names beginning with A-G, please bring a main dish, H-O, a salad, and P-Z, a dessert. For anyone wishing to attend only the auction, it will start about 6:30 P.M.

Items or services to auction off in support of IFC's Emergency Needs Fund will be welcome. Call Kathie Wall Evans at 802.867.5955 regarding donations.

The brief annual meeting of the IFC will precede the dinner beginning at 5:00. All are welcome to attend and hear about all we did this year.

Beverly Carroll

Gracious Hosts

A special thank you goes to Wilburton Inn inkeepers and generous congregants **Georgette and Albert Levis** for once again hosting a wonderful pre-Kol Nidre dinner, proceeds of which were donated to Israel Congregation. This annual dinner is widely anticipated and is yet another way for us to come together as a community. We are grateful to Georgette and Albert for their hospitality and for making everyone feel welcome and at home.

Sincerest Thanks

To the Members of Israel Congregation of Manchester,

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped make the celebration of my 85th birthday so memorable.

I am thrilled to be part of such a caring community-oriented congregation and delighted that our members cooperate on tasks both large and small.

Sincerely,
Justin Mueller

From the High Holy Day Hospitality Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the women who sat in the lobby and greeted everyone who came to services on the High Holy Days. I would also like to thank Gert and her staff for their help with our delicious *kiddushim*. To all the people who baked and brought goodies, my sincere appreciation. You are all terrific. God bless and next year I look forward to seeking your help again. May it be a good year for all.

Sasha Kent

Bikur Cholim

Bikur Cholim, or visiting the sick, is one of the many *mitzvot* we are commanded to perform. Having company lifts the spirits of those who are sick or isolated. Do you know someone who is ill and would appreciate a visit from Rabbi Novak? Please call the office at 802.362.578 to let Rabbi Novak know. He will gladly make the time to visit.

Condolences ~

Andrea (Joel) Kahan, on the passing of her mother, **Lillian Baddish**

President's Perspective

I recall vividly that as a little boy, (indeed a sobering and distant thought), I always took great delight in saving "the best for last." As a general rule, this was a process applied to some food form of which I was particularly fond. Whether it was an oreo cookie in which the cream filling was devoured first and the chocolate wafers saved for last or the cherry on top of an ice cream sundae that was reserved for special savoring after all the ice cream and other significant stuff had been downed, "the best" was reserved for special end game treatment and enjoyment.

And so it was, just a short time ago on the evening of *Yom Kippur*. As the concluding prayers of *Neilah* were being chanted by Cantor and congregants, there was a flurry of movement to the rear of the sanctuary to which we paid little or no heed, assuming that it was, in all likelihood, nothing more than the restlessness that always seems to overtake us as we realize that we are about to complete our fasting and another year together as a community.

As Rabbi Novak asked that the wine and candle be brought to the *bima*, the sanctuary was darkened and the sole illumination now came only from the flame of the braided candle held by the Rabbi. As a prelude to the blessings that were to follow, the congregation began to softly intone the introduction to the concluding service. The door to the rear patio was now opened and a parade of children began to slowly make its way into the sanctuary and down the aisle to the *bima*, the group creating a new light in the sanctuary with the flickering candles which each child carefully held aloft. The children continued their procession forward, keeping their pace in time with the concluding melody. Little ones walking or being carried by an accommodating and equally excited parent, with glowing faces livened by the mystery and the magic of it all. Older ones enjoying their moment of participation and belonging as they held their candle securely with one hand while extending the other to grasp the free hand of a younger brother or sister or cousin or friend. The procession moved forward and assembled on the steps of the of the *bima*. While continuing to hold their candles high, the younger ones listened in awe and the older ones joined the congregation in the blessings, finally extinguishing their

candles with their own breath or with help from others as we all joyfully witnessed the conclusion of the service. Clearly, the best had been saved for last.

As a parent and grandparent, I know that the process of nurturing our children is one in which we continuously find ourselves engaged, sometimes willingly, sometimes unknowingly. In providing to our children the opportunity to participate in the service, whether as readers of *torah* or *haftarah*, as *shofar* blowers, or as participants in a service, we have given them an opportunity to join in the spiritual life of the congregation. But the spirituality of the children of our congregation should not merely be viewed as a sometime thing.

Rabbi Sandy Sasso, a noted author of children's books, reminds us that just like adults, children are spiritual seekers who come to us with an innate spirituality, merely lacking the language to express it, language that, hopefully, will be provided to them in their religious education. She observes that we tend to think young children aren't old enough for conversations about religion and that they aren't ready to deal with the big questions of life's meaning and purpose.. Often, this is because we have lost faith ourselves and don't know where to find it. If we don't know what to believe in anymore, what can we possibly tell our children?

The truth is, Rabbi Sasso notes, that from the time they are born, our children have the gift of faith -a soul- and if we take their hand on a journey in search of spirituality, we just might find our own faith again.

By enhancing our efforts at Israel Congregation to involve parents and children in this joint venture, I believe we have commenced that journey.

Shalom,
Morty Buris

Mazel Tov ~

Janet Kleinberg & Harvey Flaxman on the birth of their new granddaughter, Melina Quinn
Justin Mueller on his 85th birthday
Rachel Rokes and the **Rokes Family** on Rachel becoming a *Bat Mitzvah*

Religious School

What a wonderful first Family *Shabbat* service we had on October 3! Great participation from our Religious School students and families filled our sanctuary with energy, music, and spirit. Thank you all for coming!

Our next Family *Shabbat* service will be on November 7 at 6:30 pm. We will again enjoy the musical accompaniment of **Joanne Beck** on piano and guitar, student participation, and special treats as part of our community dinner.

We also had wonderful participation from some of our students in raising the *Sukkah*. I especially want to thank **Elijah Brown, Joel Revo, Larry Stark, and Maddie Zeif** who helped the grownups get the *Sukkah* up.

As ever, I welcome your questions about our school. You can also find information about the school, including the annual calendar, at our website: www.israelcongregationvt.org.

Rabbi David Novak

Book Notes

As our library expands and attracts new readers to new works, I would like to make use of this issue to discuss a book very close to my heart – *Mr. Sammler's Planet*, by Saul Bellow. It stands out as one of the few literary novels of our recent time that speaks to not only the insanity of the 20th century, but to the seeming madness of today's hip-hop, techno driven culture. Bellow deals with large themes but sets these themes in characters not larger than life but very accessible to our everyday sensibilities. We all have that quirky sister, daughter, cousin, aunt, uncle, nephew, etc. This novel is filled with characters that are funny, mad and tragic.

"Mr. Arthur Sammler is a survivor of the Holocaust, haunted by memories of his literal escape from the grave." What crazier place to live out your days – he's now 74 – than in New York City. Once thriving on literature and philosophy of

*Happy Birthday to
Religious School Student...*

Louis Bronson, November 13

Neighbor to Neighbor

Thinking about holiday shopping? On November 14, 15 and 16 the Northshire Bookstore will host a bookfair to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor. **Identify yourself as a friend of Neighbor to Neighbor** and 20% of your purchase will be donated to this great organization. This is a wonderful way to shop locally while supporting your neighbors in need.

the Western Canon, he now "records the degradations of city life while looking deep into the sufferings of the human soul." And what has caught him up most seems to be the sensuality that surrounds him.

Some of my favorite lines:

"When he fired his gun, Sammler himself nearly a corpse, burst into life."

"An *interesting* life is the supreme concept of dullards."

"The idea of the uniqueness of the soul. An excellent idea. A true idea. But in these forms? In these poor forms? Dear God! With hair and clothes, with drugs and cosmetics, with genitalia, with round trips through evil....How terrified the soul must be in this vehemence."

Saul Bellow was the recipient of three National Book Awards – one of them for *Mr. Sammler's Planet* – and a Pulitzer Prize, for *Humboldt's Gift*. He also won a Nobel Prize in literature in 1976, "for the human understanding and subtle analysis of contemporary culture that are combined in his work."

We read this book in the book club and it engendered a great discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Harvey Flaxman

Giving Thanks

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and we could be called, "The people who give thanks." Every day, three times a day in the *Amidah* we recite a paragraph that is pure gratitude as we acknowledge the blessings that attend to our lives:

We give thanks to you, that you are THE ALL-MERCIFUL, our God, God of our ancestors, today and always. A firm, enduring source of life, a shield to us in time of trial, you are ever there, from age to age. We acknowledge you, declare your praise, and thank you for our lives entrusted to your hand, our souls placed in your care, for your miracles that greet us every day, and for your wonders and the good things that are with us every hour, morning, noon, and night. Good *One*, whose kindness never stops, Kind *One*, whose loving acts have never failed--always have we placed our hope in you."

I hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday--and that you will remember to offer up your prayers of gratitude each and every day.

In gratitude,
Rabbi David Novak

From the High Holy Day Chair

continued from page 1

plain tired of the continued volunteering? They would certainly be entitled to say, "This year I would like to sit in the sanctuary and actually be able to worship and enjoy the service." I'm sure you'd agree.

Where would that leave us? Not in great shape, to say the least. That's where I come to the use of the word "contingency." Good planning dictates us to have a plan in place in case the "what if" happens. In business, many refer to this as having a contin-

CENTER OF LEARNING

Tuesday Evening Classes

Nov. 11 70th Commemoration of *Kristallnacht*.
Please see page 1 of this issue of the *Shofar* for a description and join us. Led by
Janet Kleinfeld, 7 pm

Book Club

Nov. 4 *People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks.
Inspired by the true story of a mysterious codex known as the Sarajevo *Haggadah*, *People of the Book* is a sweeping adventure through five centuries of history. From its creation in Muslim-ruled, medieval Spain, through Inquisition-era Venice, fin-de-siecle Vienna, and the Nazi sacking of Sarajevo, *People of the Book* is a compulsively readable adventure story that transcends the usual boundaries of historical fiction. From www.geraldinebrooks.com
7 pm

gency plan, or a Plan B.

Our contingency plan is a simple, straight forward one. We need to have a new group of volunteers so we don't have to be faced with any dilemmas in the future. Those who are willing to accept leadership roles are especially appreciated. Our congregation is counting on its membership to answer the call.

I'll close by, again, wishing each and every one of you and all of your loved ones a healthy, happy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year.

Arnie Katz

It is never too early to volunteer. If you would like to be a part of next year's group of High Holy Day volunteers, please call Arnie at 802.362.2944.

Ma'aser Sheni



The Torah required three tithes of the Israelites. The first, Ma'asher Rishon, was given to the Temple priests. The second, Ma'aser Sheni, 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 Sheni by contributing to funds that benefit the synagogue and its members.

Thank you for your donations!

GENERAL FUND

Morty & Anita Bunis in honor of **John Sobel's** 60th birthday, **Doris Bass'** first *Aliyah*, **Arnie Katz'** dedicated and masterful handling of the High Holy Day arrangements • **Rabbi Michael Cohen & Alison Hill** in honor of **John Sobel's** birthday • **Dr. Norm and Ruthie Ellenbogen** in memory of Ruthie's mother, Mildred S. Roth • **Richard & Barbara Feingold** in honor of **Rabbi Novak, Arnie Katz**, and all the volunteers during the High Holy Days • **Ilse Fuchs** in honor of **Eric Dreiblatt's** inspiring Shofar • **Edith Greenberg & Sydney & Susan Katz** in memory of Esther and Paul Katz **Dr. Sanford Mailman** in memory of Lorraine Mailman • Elaine & Burt Marmer in honor of the **Marmer Family's** participation in High Holy Day services • **Esther Rosenberg** in memory of Paul Rosenberg • **Lean & Nathan Sperber & Carole & Richard Tannen** in honor of **Stan & Loretta Reisman's** "mini-workshop" • **Paul & Norma Waters** in honor of **Susan & Ronald Chernow** becoming the grandparents of twins and the marriage of **Horace & Shirley Entin's granddaughter**

SHABBAT DINNER FUND

Ruth & Bob Rosenfeld in honor of **Justin Mueller's** birthday

TIKKUN OLAM

Laurie & Jeff Sullivan & Roberta & Al Michaels in honor of **Justin Mueller's** 85th Birthday

TEEN ACTIVITY FUND

Sara Dolsky

HOROWITZ CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

Sara Dolsky in honor of Israel Congregation and in honor of **Rabbi Michael Cohen** and **Mark Koffman** for their support • **Laurie and Jeff Sullivan** in memory of Laurie's sister, Ruth Schindler, her father, Irving Schnapper, and her mother, Jeanette Schnapper **Bob & Mikki Horowitz** in memory of Lillian Needle and Harry Teplitz, in honor of **John Sobel's** 60th birthday and **Justin Mueller's** 85th birthday, and welcoming Jackson Kunish with congratulations to **Jamie & Ken Kunish**

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Martin & Sandy Castelbaum in memory of Sandy's mother Rae Weinberger • **Helke Rothberg** in memory of her husband, Allen S. Rothberg and his family • **Ina and Al Rubin** in honor of **Elaine Ross's** birthday and **Justin Mueller's** 85th Birthday • **Bob & Mikki Horowitz**

Ma'aser Sheni, continued

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Dr. Norm and Ruthie Ellenbogen in
honor of Janet Kleinberg &
Harvey Flaxman's new
granddaughter, Melina Quinn

MARILYN GLATT LINGLEY FUND

Deborah Peretz
Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Rappaport
Marilyn & Raymond Starker, in
memory of Ann Reiter

PETER JANNKE MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT

Bob & Mikki Horowitz

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. This amount will cover the food, serving, and clean-up expenses regularly provided by the synagogue. Attendees will still be expected to augment the meal by bringing a potluck dish.

A sheet of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about *Shabbat* Dinner sponsorship is available from the office.
Open Dates for sponsoring a *Shabbat* Dinner:

November 7, 14, and 21

December 12 and 26

All of January and February

March 6, 13 and 27

November Calendar Of Events

- Nov. 1 *Shabbat* Worship, 9:30 am
Parashat Noach
- Nov. 4 **Book Club:** *People of the Book*, 7 pm
- Nov. 5 **Religious School**, 3:50 pm
- Nov. 7 **Family *Shabbat* Service**, 6:30 pm
followed by our Community Dinner
- Nov. 8 *Shabbat* Worship, 9:30 am
Parashat Lech L'cha
- Nov. 11 **Center of Learning:** Commemoration of
70th Anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, 7 pm
- Nov. 12 **Religious School**, 3:50 pm
- Nov. 14 Friday Evening *Shabbat* Worship, 6:30 pm,
followed by our Community Dinner
- Nov. 15 *Shabbat* Worship, 9:30 am
Parashat Vayera
- Nov. 19 **Religious School**, 3:50 pm
- Nov. 21 Friday Evening *Shabbat* Worship, 6:30 pm,
followed by our Community Dinner
- Nov. 22 *Shabbat* Worship, 9:30 am
Parashat Chayei Sarah
- Nov. 26 **No Religious School**
- Nov. 27 Office Closed
- Nov. 28 Office Closed
- Nov. 28 Friday Evening *Shabbat* Worship, 6:30 pm,
followed by our Community Dinner
- Nov. 29 *Shabbat*, Worship, 9:30 am
Parashat Toldot

*Please call 802.447.1545 for information about the
Green Mtn. RSVP's Bone Builders Class*

Add to Your Calendar

- Dec. 5 *Shabbat* Dinner sponsored by **Merrily and Frank Lewis** in honor of the visit of their daughter, Kira Lewis Morewitz, and grandson, Miles
- Dec. 19 *Shabbat* Dinner sponsored by **Arnie Katz and Sasha Kent** in honor of their 45th Anniversary
- Please join us for these special dinners and bring a meatless dish to share.

Our newsletter goes to more than 400 households in eight states! You can place ads of any size, from business cards to whole pages. For rates, contact the office at 362-4578.



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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 the office



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Mitzvah Opportunity!

A congregant is working to find a used donated vehicle for someone who is in desperate need of transportation, having had their vehicle stolen.

If you would like to consider making such a donation, please contact Rabbi Novak at rabbi@israelcongregationvt.org or at 362.4578.

Hanukkah
stamps are
available
at all post
offices and
can be used
all year long.





**Israel Congregation
of Manchester**
*Enriching Jewish Community
in the Northshire*

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.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service: 6:30 pm, Friday
(followed by Congregational Dinner)
Shabbat Service: 9:30 am, Saturday
Religious School: 3:50 pm to 6 pm, Wednesday
Office Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, M-Th,
9:00 am to 1:00 pm Fridays
Telephone: 802.362.4578

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