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It's Never too Late to Learn

On October 17 and 18, Cathy Rano, Micki Lisman, Nancy Landis and Elinor Katz became b'not mitzvah. Our sanctuary and social hall were filled to capacity with congregants, friends, family and members of the Interfaith Community of the Northshire who shared the beauty of the service and experienced the warmth of the celebration. For their D'var Torah, each gave a thought-provoking speech relating to their unique perspective of Genesis.

The four women proved that it's never too late to learn. All agree that Rabbi Novak has been an incredible influence in helping them each in their intellectual and spiritual journey to understand their Jewish identity.

Nancy, Elinor, Cathy and Micki wish to express special thanks to their wonderful voice coach, accompanist, and cheerleader, Joanne Beck as well as kudos to their ushers, Carol and Phil Goldsmith, Ed Glazer, John Sobel, Al Rubín and Harvey Flaxman and to Ina Rubín and Harvey Flaxman for their spontaneous and joyful dance.

Behind the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Many of you entrust your contributions to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, a place where monies reside where I, as the rabbi, get to make the decisions about how to use them. It is important to me that I give you a few of the many places that I have supported over the past seven-plus years with Discretionary Fund donations.

First are people in need. When they come to me with a dire need for financial support, and I am able to verify it, I will offer assistance by directly paying the vendor. This has included the need for heat, car repair, and transportation.

Second are compelling local organizations that are worthy of support, such as the Community Food Cupboard, the Emergency Needs Fund of the Interfaith Council of the Northshire, and the Mark Skinner Library's annual campaign.

Third are worthy Jewish causes, domestically and internationally, such as ATZUM (www.atzum.org), The Jewish Daily Forward (forward.com), Keshet (keshetonline.org), Machon Hadar (mechonhadar.org), Mayyim Chayyim (mayyimchayyim.org), and other organizations where small donations make a big difference.

Finally there are cases of special needs. This one story comes from this past summer when an acquaintance of mine was murdered in his garage in Tallahassee, Florida. His murderer has not been found. He left behind two young children. I made a gift from

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The First First Day Of Chanukah

Once again, as Thanksgiving rolls around, allow me to revisit how our family celebrates it and Chanukah, what Irene and I consider the two major family holidays. We indulge in the important stuff: food, song, more food and story-telling, but having the family together is the absolute essential element.

When we became empty nesters, getting the whole family together for both holidays, so close in time, became increasingly difficult. Thanksgiving, being a national holiday, was the event we could count on to have our children and their children and

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Behind the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to a trust fund that was established for their future education.

Please know that every dollar you entrust to me through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund is treated with the highest level of fiduciary responsibility. I remain grateful to all for your trust and confidence.

Rabbi David Novak



The First First Day Of Chanukah

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our extended family around the dining room table. We ate, we sang. We shared our reasons for giving thanks.

But all too often Chanukah loomed as an empty event because it often followed on the heels of Thanksgiving.

And so Irene and I started a new Glazer tradition. . . by making the day after Thanksgiving the "first first day of Chanukah." With our whole family together, we light the first candle, exchange a few gifts, eat latkes with apple sauce and talk about this very special holiday.

Now, as President of Israel Congregation, I feel a different but just as important sense of family and community.

It is written that the real meaning of Chanukah is freedom - freedom to choose and practice our religion and our freedom not to assimilate - and that the menorah, which symbolizes light, really means wisdom. We have the freedom to observe our religion, and at ICM we benefit from the wisdom of the members who came before us who made possible this beautiful home. So on Thanksgiving day we have much to celebrate. Most of all, we need to give thanks for our amazing community of members who enrich each other's lives on a daily basis.

Irene and I want to wish you and your family a safe and calm holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving and happy first, first day of Chanukah.

Ed Glazer, President

92nd Street Y Programs

On Wednesday, November 5, there will be a screening of "The Glass Cage." Author Nicholas Carr discusses with public advocate, Columbia Law School professor and developer of the highly-influential Net Neutrality theory, Tim Wu, "What kind of world are we building for ourselves?" This is the question bestselling author Nicholas Carr tackles in his urgent new book, "The Glass Cage," about the human and economic consequences of automation.

Digging behind the headlines, Carr and Wu explore the hidden costs of granting software dominion over our work and our leisure. Drawing on psychological and neurological studies they reveal something we already suspect: shifting our attention to computer screens can leave us disengaged and discontented.

On Wednesday, November 12, a screening of "When Your Life is on Fire, What Would You Save?" will be shown. Psychotherapist and pastor Erik Kolbell, author of the book by the same title, asks the questions and helps us all to consider what it is that we value most in life. He will lead a discussion with Alan Alda, Jane Pauley and Fred Newman.

These programs begin at 4:30 pm, cost \$10 each and are co-sponsored by the Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning.

A Note from the Rabbi

I am pleased to let you know that Vera Broekhuysen, our student cantor, has agreed to return to Israel Congregation for the High Holy Days next fall. All of us are delighted to welcome Vera back, along with her husband, Mike, and their new son, Jonathan.

November/December Are Interfaith Months at ICM

ICM is an active member of the Interfaith Council of the Northshire (ICF). November is a major month for IFC activities, both at ICM and in the community.

On November 23, ICM will be hosting the ICF annual meeting, harvest potluck, and fundraising auction for the Emergency Needs Fund. The meeting will begin at 5:00 pm, with the dinner following and then the auction. The Emergency Needs Fund is a place for people to go in our community when there is no other place to turn. We are delighted to be hosting this for the second year in a row.

On November 25, at 7:00 pm at St. Paul Roman Catholic Church (398 Bonnet Street), IFC's Annual Thanksgiving Service will take place. This is an important opportunity to come together as an interfaith community and celebrate our gratitude. This year Rabbi Novak will be giving the sermon.

In early December, the IFC sponsors the Holiday Gift Project. ICM congregants and others from the community will be given the names of children, along with their sizes and a list of their needs. After purchasing and wrapping these gifts, they will be given to people who have enrolled in the Holiday Gift Project. Alongside the Holiday Gift Project the recipients will be provided with food for their holiday meals, in part through a gift from the Community Food Cupboard to the IFC.

In addition to Rabbi Novak, ICM is represented on the IFC by Micki Lisman and Nancy Landis.

Yizkor Book of Remembrance: Going Forward

Thanks to my fellow congregants who participated in making the Yizkor Book of Remembrance possible this inaugural year! Given your enthusiastic response, we'll try to make this an annual opportunity to remember loved ones on Yom Kippur. My heart-felt thanks to Rabbi Novak who, as expert editor and photographer, wrote text and guided me in finding contemplative and comforting writings; to Lisa Bendik who proofread content with me and accepted your donations for tributes; to my husband Lee who created easy-to-read formatting for the initial mailing; and to Debbie Wraga from the Northshire Bookstore, who ensured a beautiful product and timely delivery. I welcome your suggestions to improve next year's booklet and even greater participation in honoring those who will remain forever in our hearts. Please email me at rosalie@yourenduringlegacy.com or call 802.867.0199. Shalom.

Rosalie Fox

Habit for Humanity Resale Store Needs Help!

ICM's Tikkun ha Nefesh Committee supports Habitat for Humanity's "Shires Resale Store." The store urgently needs volunteer staff.

Please contact Cathy Rano at 917.838.1540 to let her know you're available.



Chanukah

Hard to believe but Chanukah is right around the corner. We begin to light our Chanukiot the first night of Chanukah, December 16. On Friday, December 19, we will have our annual Chanukah service, communal lighting of our Chanukiot, and a delicious and festive meal featuring our annual latke contest, dreidel games, and sufganiyot, the special donuts for Chanukah. Those wishing to light our communal Chanukah on ICM's front lawn are invited to contact Rabbi Novak to reserve your date!

New Time for Tot Shabbat

ICM is happy to announce a new time for Tot Shabbat: 9:30 am. Tot Shabbat is held on the second Shabbat of every month, meaning November 8 at 9:30 am and December 13 at 9:30 am. We hope to see you there!

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 services followed by a communal dinner, 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 Route 7A, 1.2 miles north of Route 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: 9:30 am, second monthly Shabbat morning; services begin at 10:30 am

Rabbi David Novak, Rabbi
Rabbi Michael Cohen, *Rabbi Emeritus*

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