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## Unetane Tokef

By Cantor Buckner

*"We shall ascribe holiness to this day.  
For it is awesome and terrible....  
The great shofar is sounded,  
A still small voice is heard.  
The angels are dismayed,  
They are seized by fear and trembling  
As they proclaim: Behold the Day of Judgment! .....*

*On Rosh Hashanah it is inscribed,  
And on Yom Kippur it is sealed.  
How many shall pass away and how many shall be born,  
Who shall live and who shall die...."*

These poetic lines, written many centuries ago, are part of the Unetane Tokef prayer in the Rosh Hashana liturgy and are considered by many to be the high point of High Holy Day services. This prayer highlights one of the central themes of the Yamim Nora'im (The Days of Awe), that God will judge the deeds of everyone at this time of year. Unetane Tokef spells out the consequences that we may expect to bear should we not live up to God's standards of moral and ethical behavior. The pray-

*continued on page 2*



## Inspiration

By Rebecca Fishkin

This year, the first day of fall coincides with the first day of Rosh Hashanah. A new season and a new year will begin together. Both fall and Rosh Hashanah inspire an awareness of our surroundings. The autumn colors encourage us to look at nature and appreciate the world around us. Rosh Hashanah inspires us to look within ourselves.

I would like to thank the people who inspire me, our dedicated volunteers, because they make all of our incredible programs possible. Thank you so much for your commitment to Israel Congregation.

I hope that you will all come join us for services with our new spiritual leader Cantor Buckner. I am looking forward to his inspirational words and music over the holidays.

Wishing you all a year full of happiness and good health.

## Scholar-in-Residence Allan Chernoff

Allan Chernoff, author, award winning journalist and former senior correspondent for both CNN and CNBC, will be ICM's Scholar-in-Residence for Labor Day weekend. He will speak on two separate occasions.

On Friday evening during Kabbalat Shabbat and following dinner, his topic will focus on the Parsha of the week, Ki Teitzei (Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19). The title of the evening will be *Creating Civility (Derech Eretz) in a Fractured Society*.

Following a light breakfast at 9:30 am on Sunday, September 3, Mr. Chernoff will talk about the book he co-wrote with his mother, *The Tailors of Tomaszow: A Memoir of Polish Jews and the Lost Society of Eastern European Jewry*.

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## Unetane Tokef

*continued from page 1*

-er graphically enumerates how we may reach our end as a result of God's judgement.

*"Who shall reach the end of his days and who shall not,  
Who shall perish by water and who by fire,  
Who by sword and who by wild beast,  
Who by famine and who by thirst...."*

The harshness of Unetane Tokef is meant to grab our attention and reminds us of the frailty of life. As human beings we may feel small when contemplating the grandeur of the universe and the power of nature. This poem brings those feeling to the forefront. Life itself may overwhelm us at times and we don't know what to do or how to cope. The secret to forging ahead in our attempt to live a good life in the wake of many storms we must navigate, is written at the conclusion of the prayer....

*"But repentance, prayer and righteousness avert the severe decree."*

In the end Unetane Tokef reminds us that when life seems most difficult due to forces beyond our control, or due to our own failings, the key is Teshuva - repentance (making amends and forgiving ourselves and seeking forgiveness from others), Tefilla - prayer (introspection and self transformation) and Tzedaka - righteousness (giving charity and working for social justice). The Days of Awe give us the time and space to reflect on our lives but ultimately to act. All three of these terms - Teshuva, Tefilla and Tzedaka require our participation. If we've hurt someone intentionally or unintentionally take the first step and seek reconciliation. If we want to make a difference for our neighbors and failed to do all we could, let's do some soul searching, figure out why and resolve to act, even taking small steps to ease the burden of others. As we prepare to gather together for this season of repentance may the community lift us up and give us renewed strength to face our personal challenges and bring our best selves to the table of living, in order to transform our lives and begin step by step to address the social ills of our time.

Shana Tova! May you be inscribed for a good year of health, happiness and meaning.

## Allan Chernoff

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Allan Chernoff, a graduate of Brown University, is a six-time winner of best reporting awards from the Society of Professional Journalists. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fortune Magazine*, *The Forward* and *Newsweek*. He is currently the principal of Chernoff Communications, a writing and video production and media strategy firm. As an expert in communications, Checkoff offers a clear and granular analysis of various communication styles.

*The Tailors of Tomaszow: A Memoir of Polish Jews*, a slim volume, is an exquisitely detailed and quiet memoir of life in a small Polish town authored by Mr. Chernoff and his mother, Rena Margulies Chernoff. Following attendance at a Holocaust conference, his mother wanted to tell her story and began talking to relatives. They went back to Tomaszow in 1994 to find no Jews; they studied oral histories and did research at Auschwitz and Birkenau. He learned much of his mother's past and realized that she had become an involved, accidental investigative journalist. The book will be available for purchase on Sunday, September 3.

Wolf Blitzer, CNN Anchor, commented that *The Tailors of Tomaszow* is "truly an amazing and powerful read....a critically important work of history".

We look forward to a weekend of mindful thinking and sharing as we welcome Allan Chernoff to ICM and the Northshire.



## SCHEDULE *of* SERVICES *High Holy Days 5778*

ISRAEL CONGREGATION OF MANCHESTER

CANTOR SCOTT BUCKNER



### **ROSH HASHANAH**

**EREV ROSH HASHANAH**

Wednesday, September 20 , 8:00 pm

### **ROSH HASHANAH I**

Thursday, September 21, 9:00 am

*Tashlich will follow Kiddush; bring walking shoes.*

### **ROSH HASHANAH II**

Friday, September 22, 9:00 am

### **SHABBAT SHUVAH**

Kabbalat Shabbat: Friday, September 22, 6:30 pm

Come as You Are: Saturday, September 23, 9:00 am

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES** will be held at ~ 10:45 am on Rosh Hashanah I and Yom Kippur.

**CHILDCARE** will also be available.

### **SUKKOT**

October 4 - October 11

Sukkah Raising: Sunday, October 1, 9:30 am

*Communal Luncheon in the Sukkah:*

*Sunday, October 1, Noon*

*The Sukkah will be open throughout Sukkot*

### **EREV SUKKOT**

Wednesday, October 4, 6:30 pm

### **SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED**

*Evening Services, Friday, October 6, 6:30 pm*

Come as You Are: Saturday, October 7, 9:00 am

### **SHMINI ATZERET YIZKOR**

Date and time to be announced

### **SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION**

Date and time to be announced

### **YOM KIPPUR**

**KOL NIDRE**

Friday, September 29, 6:00 pm

*Services begin promptly; please arrive early.*

### **SHACHARIT**

Saturday, September 30, 9:00 am

*Yizkor will be at approximately 11:30 am.*

### **MINCHA**

Saturday, September 30, 5:00 pm

### **NEILAH**

Saturday, September 30, ~ 6:00 pm

*The final shofar will be sounded at 7:05 pm.*

*Havdalah with children's procession follows,*

*and after that, Break Fast.*



### **YOM KIPPUR FOOD DRIVE**

*"...share your bread with the hungry..."*  
[Isaiah 58:7]

*During the High Holy Days, please pick up a list of needed items and bring back your donations when you come to services. After Yom Kippur, we will deliver them to the Food Cupboard. All non-perishable food donations are welcome. Thank you for taking part in this mitzvah and helping those in need in our community.*

## Rumpleteaser! September 9, 7:30 pm

Rumpleteaser is a musical improv group from the Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) Theater in New York City. They have toured around the US, asking audiences for just one suggestion from which they will create a brand new musical right before your eyes! Everything is made up on the spot—from the dance to the music to the lyrics. This is an evening not to be missed!

**Call Now for Tickets – 802.362.4578**

In Advance - \$25

At the Door - \$30

Student (under 18) - \$15

## Calling All Bakers!

Please reach out to Rebecca Fishkin at [rffacpa@optonline.net](mailto:rffacpa@optonline.net) to let her know what cookies, cakes or sweets you'll contribute to our kiddush after Rosh Hashanah Services.

## Selichot, Saturday Night, September 16, 8:00 pm

Join Cantor Buckner for *Selichot*, a session of prayers and discussion to prepare for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Beginning with *havdalah*, we will then proceed through a short liturgy and discussion.

## Break Fast, September 30

Let's break the fast as a community at the conclusion of Yom Kippur, Saturday, September 30. When you arrive for our afternoon service (beginning at 5:00), please bring a vegetarian/dairy side dish, salad or dessert to the kitchen.

We will be providing bagels, cream cheese, and lox.

We look forward to seeing you!

## C e L e B R a T e

## September and October Birthdays and Anniversaries

### September Birthdays

Valerie Heisler · Judi Hochstin · Micki Horowitz · Elinor Katz · Mickey Kent · Allison Mason · Elisabeth Prial · Cathy Rano · David Sischy · John Sobel

### September Anniversaries

Mindy & Alan Bloom · Rebecca & Gary Fishkin · Micki & Bob Horowitz · Cookie & Israel Mac · Sheila & Russell Mills · Marlene & David Skulnik

### October Birthdays

Matthew Beck · Alan Bloom · Susan Donner · Rebecca Fishkin · Daniel Fox · Edward Novick · Philip Perlah · Marvin Rappaport · Norma Rappaport · Mildred Rose · Lisa Rudiakov · Alexandra Sullivan

### October Anniversaries

Helen & Peter Engel · Phyllis & Stephen Gottdiener · Beth & Jason Rosenthal



## Rosh Hashanah Apple Picking at Mad Tom Orchard

Get in the spirit of Rosh Hashanah with an afternoon of picking fresh apples to go with your honey! Make your New Year sweet and local!

Gather on Sunday, September 17 at 2 pm at Mad Tom Orchard in East Dorset.

Enjoy the mountain views while learning about the Jewish New Year. We will donate a portion of our picked apples to the Community Food Cupboard, our local food pantry in Manchester.

All are welcome! Free admission; each family pays for apples picked. Remember to bring water and a snack.

Mad Tom Orchard is at 2615 Mad Tom Road, East Dorset, VT 05253; 802-366-8107.

# Join Us in our Sukkah Raising/Decorating & Communal Luncheon in the ICM Sukkah Sunday, October 1

Help build ICM's sukkah at 9:30 am on Sunday, October 1 and then help decorate it. Sukkot, literally the Feast of Booths, is the time that the Torah tells us to be happy and rejoice at the harvest season. You will have the opportunity to sit in the sukkah as well as wave the lulav and the etrog, both mitzvot for Sukkot. We'll have a celebratory communal meal following the raising and decorating of the sukkah.

Please bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to share. We'll provide drinks.



## October is ICM's Month at CFC

In October, ICM has committed to staffing the Community Food Cupboard on Wednesdays and Thursdays. To claim your shift, contact Micki Lisman at [msloane.esq@mindspring.com](mailto:msloane.esq@mindspring.com) or 802.362.4332 or Judy Hirschberg at [judyhirschberg@yahoo.com](mailto:judyhirschberg@yahoo.com) or 585.721.0500.

## Let's Dance!

Join us for a late afternoon celebrating the Great American Songbook featuring the Taconic Chamber Players and Israel Congregation's Cantor Scott Buckner on Sunday, October 8 at 4:00 pm.

We'll be entertained by the music of the most popular and enduring songs from the 1920s to the 1950s that were created for Broadway theater, musical theatre and Hollywood musical films by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Irvin Berlin, Jerome Kern, Richard Rogers and more.

A reception will follow.

Advance tickets \$40; at the door \$50; Student (under age 18) tickets \$18; VIP (priority seating) \$150; Patron (priority seating plus Patron listing in program) \$250. For tickets contact the ICM office.



Cantor Scott Buckner & Ari Rudiakov, one of the Taconic Music Players



## Condolences

**Michele and Elliott Zide** on the loss of their daughter, Shanna Zide.

**Jennifer Atlas and John Coppola** on the loss of Jennifer's mother, Barbara Atlas.

**Israel Congregation** is a thriving 160 household synagogue that draws from diverse Jewish backgrounds, of both full- and part-time residents of Southern Vermont. We are a welcoming Jewish space for all. Our doors are always open on Friday night where worship is followed by our Communal Shabbat Dinner, on Shabbat morning, for Jewish festivals and holy days, adult and children's education, and an array of social events. Join us.

ICM is located at 6025 Main Street (Route 7A) between the medical offices and Town Hall. Our building is ADA accessible.

Office: 802.362.4578

Website: [www.icmvt.org](http://www.icmvt.org)

Email: [office@icmvt.org](mailto:office@icmvt.org)

Cantor's cell phone: 952.479.0878

Cantor's email: [cantor@icmvt.org](mailto:cantor@icmvt.org)

6025 Main Street / P.O. Box 1050

Manchester Center, Vermont 05255

### **Friday Evening Shabbat Services, 6:30 pm**

Preneg at 5:45 pm; services are followed by a Communal Shabbat Dinner

Our weekly calendar updates, FB page and website will keep you apprised of any scheduling changes.

### **Saturday Morning Shabbat: Come as You Are, 9 - 10:00 am**

#### **Spiritual Leader**

Cantor Scott Buckner

#### **Board of Directors**

Rebecca Fishkin, *President*

Elisabeth Prial, *First Vice President*

Sheila Mills, *Second Vice President*

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#### **Shofar Editorial Committee**

Carol Goldsmith, Lana Hauben, Laurie Sullivan, Morgan Taylor

#### **Synagogue Administrator**

Lisa Bendik

#### **Rabbi Emeritus**

Rabbi Michael Cohen

## **Derek Boothby Speaks on the Balfour Declaration on Tue, Sept 12**

Derek Boothby will talk about the Balfour Declaration, originally signed in 1917. One of the interpretations of this monumental British document was the "foundation stone" for the establishment of Israel as a Jewish state some thirty years later. Neighboring countries saw the document as a betrayal of assurances previously promised. Its originators intended neither narrow interpretation per se.

Derek is expert at untangling conflicting sides of multi-faceted issues. The lecture and discussion, sponsored by the Green Mountain Academy of Lifelong Learning, will take place from 5:30-7:00 in the Hunter Seminar Room at Burr and Burton Academy. The registration cost is \$15 per person prior to the event or \$20 at the door.



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