

נֵר יְהוָה נִשְׁמַת אָדָם חִפְשׁ כָּל-חֲדָרַי-בְּטוֹ:

*A candle of G-d  
is the soul of a person,  
searching out all of  
the inner chambers.*

(Proverbs 20:27)

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# The Chanukah candles cast light within



*“A candle of G-d is the soul of a person, searching out all of the inner chambers.”*

(Proverbs 20:27)

The leaves have fallen, the days grow darker, and something in the soul stirs within us. The darkness that turns day to night, ever quicker as each day passes, brings dusk to knock on our doors before we can make ready for its arrival. Rather than the summer's open terraces, bright with light, we face the inner chambers of this season: the shade, the twilight, the dark.

Yet, the night brings its own quality of light into the world with the stars and moon, setting it apart from daytime not only because of its darkness, but because of the quality of its light.

So, too, as we gather together for Chanukah, we remember the period of time where, under the hands of the Greeks, a darkness befell our people in the form of the desecration of the Second Temple. So our ancient story goes, the people Chanukah-ed, that is “rededicated” the Temple and lit the miraculous light that would last eight days. Light illuminated the darkest chambers of our Temple and history.

That was then, and this is now. Yet something endures beyond simply retelling this story of moving from darkness to light. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Hasidic Rabbi known as the Sefat Emet taught that the “Temple is found in every one of Israel,” meaning that each of us is a unique Temple that must be cared for. To the Sefat Emet, to care for that Temple means to search out “the hidden light within all our own inner chambers,” and the means to do so are by way of the mitzvah of lighting the Chanukah candles.

Thus, lighting Chanukah candles is not simply an outward ritual; it is also an inward process, which brings light into our darkest places and direction to our lives.

With the weaving of Chanukah and American Thanksgiving this year, keeping this teaching in mind could not be more helpful. We might accompany the outward expressions of the holiday season with its food, discussion, family and friends, and travel with an inwardness of attention. Weaving together the themes of these two holidays, we might focus on the light in our lives, our greatest places of gratitude, our need to help those with less privilege, the importance of family, and the miraculous that fills our daily lives.

As we light the Chanukah candles this year, may the light that shines forth bring us closer to a world, both within and without, illuminated with thanksgiving and everyday miracles.

Rav brachot, many blessings of light and gratitude,

David Fainsilber  
Religious Leader of JCOGS



*Dear fellow JCOGS members and friends:*

The High Holiday season has passed and, at the time of this writing, Thanksgiving and Chanukah are approaching. Your board of trustees and executive committee each meet regularly to consider, review, and guide the management and activities of JCOGS. Under the fresh and vibrant leadership of our Religious Leader David Fainsilber, Shabbat services and Torah Study have been well attended. Religious School is in full swing. Our various committees are active — essential for the continuing vibrancy of JCOGS.

I want to make special mention of the JCOGS Cemetery (located on Route 100 just north of the North Country Animal League) and our new Tikkun Olam Committee.

The very worthwhile purpose of the Tikkun Olam Committee, with Lynne Gedanken as chair, is to respond to the needs for warmth, shelter, and food for the underserved and often unseen members of the Stowe and neighboring communities. A number of projects are currently under consideration by this committee, several in participation with other faith communities. On page 6 of this newsletter, Lynne provides more details.

The name of our Cemetery, Darchei Shalom, means Paths of Peace. Its establishment is an integral part of our Stowe Jewish Community. I hope that many of you have seen or have visited the Cemetery. The driveway and perimeter road have been resurfaced; there is a beautiful granite sign; and trees have been planted along Route 100 and along the path separating the two sections of the Cemetery. The grass has been reseeded and looks beautiful. Some of the trees that are not doing well will soon be replaced.

None of the funds used to acquire and develop the Cemetery came from the JCOGS operating budget. Darchei Shalom, although a part of JCOGS, is managed separately and has its own budget. The Cemetery Campaign raised the funds to make possible the completion of this important part of our community.

The Campaign is in its final stages — a final appeal to close out the campaign will be made in the near future. We have sold outright or through an Easy Payment Program over 20 Burial Rights Lots and have extended the program (whereby lots can be paid for in five annual payments).

The enhancement of the Cemetery is continuing with plans for gardens, benches, and trees, along with lot sales and overall maintenance. As we transition from a Cemetery Committee developing the Cemetery to a Cemetery Management Committee, we are revisiting our mission. Our Committee will be discussing what role we should play in the future: Whether, in addition to managing the Cemetery, we should also become the “go to” committee to help a family during a time of loss.

The Cemetery Committee will welcome as a member anyone having a serious interest in the Cemetery.

Steve Lichtenstein  
(on behalf of your executive committee)

# Next Thanksgivukkah in 70,000 years

by Amanda Kuhnert

If you hadn't heard the term "Thanksgivukkah" until recently, there's good reason. The name was coined — and later trademarked — by Dana Gitell, a marketing specialist in Massachusetts, on a morning drive to work in November 2012. Combining the names of Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, this creative portmanteau captures a rare convergence of the two holidays that won't happen again for another 70,000 years, according to some experts. Thanksgivukkah is a "super holiday" created by the overlap of Thanksgiving Day with the first full day of the eight-day Hannukah, which is set by the Jewish calendar.

Thanksgiving and Hannukah last overlapped in 1888, according to an article in the Boston Globe. But the upcoming holiday will be the first Thanksgivukkah in recent history and the last one until the year 79,811, according to Jewish physicist and calendar expert, Jonathan Mizrahi.

In an interview with ThanksgivukkahBoston.com, Mizrahi explained that "the Jewish calendar is mathematical in nature; it's not determined by a person. It is designed so that the months line up with the lunar cycle, while the years stay synced with the solar cycle." He added that this synchronization with the solar year is complicated and imperfect.

"The calendar is drifting forward with respect to the solar cycle at a rate of four days every 1,000 years," he said. "Right now, the earliest that the first day of Chanukah can fall is November 28. Coincidentally, this is also the latest that Thanksgiving can fall."

Other mathematicians argue that the phenomenon will never happen again. Regardless, no one can argue with the fact that Thanksgivukkah is an extremely rare and significant event in our lifetimes.

Some people are going all out for Thanksgivukkah with Menurkeys —turkey-shaped menorahs, and modified traditional Thanksgiving dishes, like turkey brined in Manischewitz and stuffed with Challah bread, pumpkin kugel, and pecan pie rugelach. Others are less enthusiastic, turned off by "all the commercial hype." And you can't argue with that. Thanksgivukkah is big business. People are selling T-shirts, table décor, dreidels, jewelry and more in honor of the super holiday.

But whether or not you agree with the way people have chosen to celebrate Thanksgivukkah, this unique historical event provides an opportunity for introspection and reflection, says JCOGS Religious Leader David Fainsilber.

"The thinker behind Reconstructionist Judaism, Mordechai Kaplan, was the first to introduce a Thanksgiving service into his siddur/prayer book," David said. "One of his main contributions to Jewish thought is the concept that, as Jews in America, we live in two civilizations: American and Jewish. Today, as American Jews (or Jewish Americans) this concept is now taken for granted in many ways. Yet still, with Thanksgiving and Chanukah falling on the same day, this super holiday makes one stop and think: What American values inform my Judaism? What Jewish values inform my Americanism? Where do the two meet and where do they depart? The same can be said for our Canadian members, living in Canadian and Jewish civilizations all at once."

Thanksgivukkah also can be seen as an opportunity to make the traditional Thanksgiving values of "giving" and "gratitude" a more significant part of the celebration of Chanukah. Some ideas that have been floating around the Internet include: designating one

night during Chanukah to give a gift to someone in need, choosing a local nonprofit or food drive to support, or simply dedicating time every day to giving thanks.

Whether you decide to embrace the Thanksgivukkah theme or stick with your traditional Thanksgiving and Chanukah plans, the convergence of these two significant holidays will undoubtedly be experienced at some level in every Jewish-American home this year.

"Chanukah as the holiday of 'miracles' can help us reframe our gathering together with family and friends at this secular season as an incredible miracle that requires much gratitude," David said. "Thank God for this miracle of life and family, gathering, friends and gratitude."



*Lighting the candles at last year's Chanukah party at JCOGS*

## Chanukah Party



SUNDAY, DEC. 1, AT 2 P.M.  
JCOGS

1189 CAPE COD ROAD, STOWE

JOIN US FOR MUSIC AND LATKES. • RAFFLE PRIZES  
FUN AND GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN  
BRING ALONG YOUR FAVORITE MENORAHS  
AND SIX CANDLES.

\*\*PLEASE BRING A CANNED ITEM (OR TWO)  
FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING.

TO RSVP: JCOGS AT 253-1800 OR  
BARBARA BAUMAN AT 802-999-6370.

TO BENEFIT THE LAMOILLE COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE

# Tu B'Shevat service to be held Jan. 17

by Patti Rubin

Imagine for a moment this vision: It is the sixteenth century, and a group of Kabbalists (Jewish Mystics) from the town of Safed decide to celebrate the (fruit) trees by creating a seder modeled after the Passover Seder. The evening begins with a formal vegetarian meal followed by four cups of wine and four courses of fruit, consumed with the appropriate blessings over a festively decorated table. A special haggadah, readings, poems, and songs accompany the meal.

Now let's fast-forward to our 21st century celebration of the "New Year of the Trees," or Tu B'Shevat. Imagine the worlds of fruits and nuts that are eaten during the special Seder. The first world contains fruits with a nonedible shell. The second world contains fruits with a soft exterior and a hard-pit center. The third world contains fruits that are edible both inside and out. And the fourth world of Atzilut? You'll just have to make plans to attend to find out!

Because of its joyous expression of respect for the trees, Tu B'Shevat has become a popular holiday for modern Jews as a symbol of the environmentalist movement and our respect for nature. Jewish environmental ethics stem from the Jewish teaching that there exists a divine plan to creation and that we must regard creation, nature, and all the creatures in nature as holy.

Historically, Tu B'Shevat was a way of maintaining a connection with the land of Israel, where in the month of Shevat, the winter rains end and the first signs of spring begin. Not the case here in Vermont during the month of January!

Rabbi Brian Besser organized the first JCOGS Tu B'Shevat Seder in 2000. It was held in our Baggy Knees space. It remains a popular celebration for our diverse congregation.

So mark your calendars for Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. JCOGS Religious Leader David Fainsilber will lead us in Kabbalat Shabbat worship at 6 p.m. A vegetarian potluck supper will follow. We will complete this special Shabbat with our family-friendly Tu B'Shevat Seder. Watch your weekly emails for reservation information.

# Feedback helps us plan for High Holy Days 2014

The Rabbinic Advisory Committee would like to sincerely thank those members who provided feedback to us about the High Holiday Services. We heard many positive comments about services and our new religious leader, David Fainsilber. Additionally, we received constructive criticism and suggestions on how JCOGS might better serve various constituencies within our membership in the future. We have discussed all comments as a committee, and David will take each of these notes into consideration

as he moves forward as our religious leader. It is his goal to make services and programming meaningful and accessible to each of our members. We are grateful that so many of you took the time to email or call committee members with feedback. Please keep the comments coming.

*The Rabbinic Advisory Committee (RAC): David Fainsilber, Nancy Krakower, Roselle Abramowitz, Gretchen Besser, Lynne Gedanken, and Sheldon Klein.*

## Chanukah Candle Lighting Blessings



### Blessing over Candles

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam*  
Blessed are You, Connector, Sovereign of the universe

אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ

*asher kideshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu*  
Who has sanctified us with ways of connecting with You and commanded us

לְהַדְלִיק נֵיר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה: (אָמֵן)

*l'had'lik neir shel Chanukah. (Amein)*  
to light the lights of Chanukah (Amen)

### Blessing for Chanukah

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam*  
Blessed are You, Miracle Maker, Sovereign of the universe

שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה: (אָמֵן)

*she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baz'man hazeh. (Amein)*  
Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time (Amen)

### Shehecheyanu (first night only)

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם

*Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam*  
Blessed are you, Life Sustainer, Sovereign of the universe

שֶׁהַחַיָּנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזִמְנֵן הַזֶּה: (אָמֵן)

*shehecheyanu vekiyemanu v'hig'enu laz'man hazeh. (Amein)*  
Who has given us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment (Amen)

## Special Chanukah and Shabbat service and dinner

JCOGS community members are invited to the home of Religious Leader David Fainsilber and his wife Alison on Friday, Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. for Chanukah and Shabbat. The evening will include a service, Chanukah candle-lighting, and vegetarian post-Thanksgiving potluck dinner. It is bound to be freilech/fun! Babies, kids, teens, young adults, adults, elders ... All are invited! Please call the office for directions. We hope you can join us.

## Chanukah Boutique through Dec. 5

The first night of Chanukah begins Wednesday, Nov. 27. JCOGS Chanukah boutique shopping will run through Thursday, Dec. 5. Shopping hours are 9-2, Monday through Friday. Extended shopping hours during religious school hours will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. You can purchase all your Chanukah gifts at the Chanukah boutique shop. Items include: dreidels, gelt, candles, menorahs, tchotchkes for the children, Chanukah wrapping paper, Chanukah cards, and jewelry.

Children love giving their friends a small dreidel and bag of gelt to share the holiday with others.

For information: JCOGS, 253-1800; Barbara Bauman, 802-999-6370.



## “Nearly New Sale” makes a comeback at JCOGS in 2014

Our last Nearly New Sale in 2010 was such a success that we would like to bring it back again. We can only do this with the help and donations from our JCOGS members and their families and friends. We earned over \$7,000 from the 2011 sale, and we hope to surpass that number at next year's sale.

The Nearly New Sale is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 10, the weekend of the Antique Car Show. Please start cleaning out your homes and put aside for this event gently used items that could bring in at least \$5 or more.

The only clothes we will accept for inclusion in the sale will be gently used ski jackets and upscale or designer clothing in perfect condition. Framed art, furniture, oriental rugs, books, games, kitchen supplies, antique collectibles, small current electronics, bikes, designer handbags and more would also be greatly appreciated.

To make this a successful event, we need to form a committee. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Suzan at sfeibus1@gmail.com or 802 253-7809, extension 4.

## New Member Shabbat and Dinner on tap for Dec. 20

A New Member Shabbat Service and Dinner is planned for Friday, Dec. 20. The Friday evening shabbat service will begin as usual at 6 p.m., with a dinner immediately following the service. All JCOGS members and guests are encouraged to participate in this community celebration.

We look forward to welcoming our newest members to the JCOGS community: Susan Bauchner, Harvey Johns, Marni and Roger Singer (with children Lindsey and Max), Wendy and Colin McCreight (with son Eli), Ellen and Larry Gibs, Howie and Margie Dananberg, Jim Flynn and Dara Schecter (with daughters Rachel and Olyvia), and Rachel and Benjamin Clarkin (with children Jake, Sam, and Violet).

Keep an eye to your weekly emails for more information about the special service and dinner. To RSVP for the event: the JCOGS office at 253-1800. For questions about this event or to help with the planning and organization: Rich Jacobs at 888-4207, 498-4343, or richardpauljacobs@gmail.com.

## Membership Committee seeks new members

The JCOGS Membership Committee is looking for congregants who wish to join the committee. Please contact Rich Jacobs at 888-4207, 498-4343/ richardpauljacobs@gmail.com if you have any questions about the JCOGS Membership Committee, or if you wish to be a part of our membership initiatives at JCOGS.



## TU B'SHEVAT SHABBAT AND SEDER

Community members gather around the table at last year's Tu B'Shevat Seder. A Kabbalat Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat Seder will be held again this year on Friday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. at JCOGS. Keep an eye to your weekly emails for more information.

# Tikkun Olam committee: Doing our part to help repair the world



by Lynne Gedanken, committee chair

Tikkun Olam (“repairing the world”) is a central part of Jewish thought and ethics. In Pirke Avot, Rabbi Tarfon said, “You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.” More recently, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, said, “If you see what needs to be repaired and how to repair it, then you have found a piece of the world that G-d has left for you to complete.” In that spirit, a new Tikkun Olam committee was formed at JCOGS this summer, and we’ve been at work developing a program that addresses a range of issues, from local needs to the Israeli-Palestinian situation.

Tikkun Olam committee members include: Roselle Abramowitz, Lynne Gedanken, Ellen Gibbs, Carole Lichtenstein, Alison Link, Helenmarie Patashnick, Patti Rubin, and Lori Weibert. We welcome new members and ideas. Please tell us what interests you, what piece of the world you might like to see the Tikkun Olam committee help repair.

For our first project, during Chol Hamoed Sukkot, JCOGS members gleaned 200 pounds of eggplant and 12 bushels of chard for the Lamoille Community Food Share and the Vermont Food

Bank. vYasher Koach to the great crew who picked and bagged: Betsy Blechman, David Blechman, Judy Dunn, Larry Dunn, Lynne Gedanken, Ellen Gibbs, Larry Gibbs, Carole Lichtenstein, Steve Lichtenstein, Miriam Rosenbloom, Debbie Steinerman, and Peter Steinerman. A very special thanks to Pete’s Greens for letting us glean at their farm and to Emmet Moseley of the Vermont Food Bank for spending his Sunday morning showing us how to glean!

More programs are in the works. Among them, we are planning on participating in the new interfaith warming station and soup kitchen to be held on Fridays at St. John’s in the Mountains Episcopal Church in Stowe. Watch the weekly JCOGS email for updates as to the date and time when JCOGS will staff and serve and how you can help.

We are also in the early stages of planning for a mid-winter viewing of and discussion about Just Vision’s Peabody Award winning film, “My Neighborhood,” concerning events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem. Just Vision is dedicated to publicizing and supporting Palestinian and Israeli efforts to end the occupation and the conflict through non-violent means. More information will be in the weekly email when we have a date.

We hope that every JCOGS member will join us in our efforts to do our part to help repair the world. We look forward to seeing you at our programs.



*Above pictured from left to right: Miriam Rosenbloom, Lynne Gedanken, Ellen Gibbs, Larry Gibbs, Debbie Steinerman, Peter Steinerman, Judy Dunn, David Blechman (not visible), Betsy Blechman, and Emmet Moseley (in front).*

*Pictured above, Betsy and David Blechman work in the outside garden at Pete’s Greens in Craftsbury.*

*Judy Dunn at work in the greenhouse at Pete’s Greens.*

## December 1 – January 31 28 Kislev – 8 Adar 1

The following Yahrzeits go by the Gregorian calendar unless the Hebrew date observance was specifically requested by the family. The names of loved ones will be read at the indicated services.

### December 1–21 28 Kislev – 18 Tevet

**Service: Dec. 20**

Lillian Greenberg  
Lorne Abramowitz  
Hyman Besser  
Fannie Bear Besser  
Harold Segall  
Rose Barr  
Rosita Hardoon  
Rose Heitner  
Milton Fried  
Steven K. Teplick  
Emily Hope Salmon  
Max Nisenholtz  
Helen Piccinini  
Peter S. Lonn  
Elisabeth Noyes  
Oscar Antelman  
Alvin W. Gershon  
William J. Campbell

Fanny Ewen  
Julius Allen  
Louis Pinsky  
Sally Fishman  
Jack Robert Ross

### January 12–18 11 Shevat – 17 Shevat

**Service: Jan. 17**

Ray Nisenholtz  
Edmund Hardoon  
Blanche P. Karkus

### January 19 – February 8 18 Shevat – 18 Adar

**Service: Feb. 7**

Manuel Hazen  
Shirley Greenbaum  
Robert Digiulio  
Max Minkin  
Solomon Jack Baumrind  
Bertha Figarsky  
Eric Jacobs  
Steven Alan Dorfman  
Nicholas Fon Eisen  
Rhoda Lee Baskin Kaplan  
Fred Erstein  
Haskell Robern  
Fred Greenbaum  
Bertram Polow  
Ethel Spielvogel  
Murray Dananberg  
Jean Lazar  
Dinah Adelson  
Albert Katsof  
Gertrude Anna Zamvil  
Harvey Steiner  
Randolph Wolfgang  
Ann Bayer  
Jack Lyman  
Monte Aaron Feinstein

### December 21 – January 11 5 Tevet – 10 Shevat

**Service: Jan. 10**

Sidney Lichtenstein  
Jack Cummings  
Milton Albert  
Doris Tunick  
Libby Aronsohn  
Sondra Druckman  
Barbara Bigler  
Ruben Samuels  
Shirley Katsof  
Ruth N. Zell  
Max Minkin  
Rebecca Allen  
Mildred Aronson Cohen  
Emanuel Heitner  
Rose Vasilevsky Black  
Julie Tauben

“Who donates much to charity  
becomes richer for it ...”

Zohar, iii 110b

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of these thoughtful contributions in honor and memory of friends and loved ones. The following gifts were made between September 16, 2013 and November 1, 2013.

#### GENERAL FUND

*In appreciation for summer services at JCOGS...*

Marcy & Howard Goldstein

*In celebration of Bunny Lechter's birthday...*

Jackie & Arthur Freedman  
Jean Remmer & Marvin Rosenbloom

*In honor of the birth of the grandson of Robert & Linda Levy...*

Suzan & Gary Feibus  
Miriam & Stephen Rosenbloom

*In honor of Jane & Steve Greenfogel's special milestones...*

Sandy & Bernie Nisenholtz  
Joan & Bob Katz

*In appreciation to Ric Cabot...*

Richard Rosenbloom

*In honor and celebration of Sara & Irwin Tauben's new home...*

Barbara & Jack Rosenthal  
Barbara & Mervin Brown

*In honor of the birthday of Suzan Feibus...*

Miriam & Stephen Rosenbloom

*In honor of the birthday of Rita Schneps...*

Fern Ellen Blood

## Mazel Tov

### Simchas in our community

- Philip Sherman, former rabbinic intern at JCOGS, and his wife Leah became the parents of daughter Elsie Eden in October.
- Stephen and Miriam Rosenbloom have a new granddaughter. She was born on Oct. 28 to the Rosenbloom's son Jonas and his wife Nava, who live in Israel.
- Robert and Linda Levy celebrated the birth of their grandson.
- Barbara and Robert Bauman celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.
- David Goodman completed the New York City Marathon.

### New feature for online version of the Bulletin

We're excited to announce a new feature that makes it easier to view the online version of the JCOGS Bulletin. Click on the link to the Bulletin on the home page of our website at [jcogs.org](http://jcogs.org), and a new interactive feature will enable you to "virtually" flip from page to page of the Bulletin. "Click to read" enlarges the pages, and the arrow on the right flips the pages. Give it a try and let us know how you like it.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ONGOING

**Friday Night Shabbat services** will be held on the following dates at 6 p.m.: Dec. 20; Jan. 10, 17; and Feb. 7, 21.

**Religious School classes** will be held on the following Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.: Dec. 4, 11, 18; Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29; and Feb. 5, 12, 19.

### Chanukah Boutique

Through Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, at JCOGS. Chanukah gift items include: dreidels, gelt, candles, menorahs, and more. For information: JCOGS, 253-1800; Barbara Bauman, 802-999-6370.

### NOVEMBER

#### Special Chanukah and Shabbat service and dinner

Friday, Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. A special service and dinner at the home of Religious Leader David Fainsilber and his wife Alison. The evening will include a service, Chanukah candle-lighting, and vegetarian post-Thanksgiving potluck dinner. Family-friendly. All are invited. Please call the office for directions.

### DECEMBER

#### Chanukah party

Sunday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. at JCOGS. Music, latkes, and raffle prizes. Special activities for children. Bring a canned good to benefit the Lamoille Community Food Share. RSVP to JCOGS at 802-253-1800, or Barbara Bauman at 802-999-6370.

### Book club

Thursday, Dec. 5, at 3 p.m. at JCOGS. We'll discuss the graphic novel "Jerusalem" by Boaz Yakin and Nick Bertozzi.

### Classic Film Lecture

Sunday, Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. at JCOGS. Lecture by Rick Winston, a Vermont Humanities Council speaker. Contact: Carole at 802-253-7408.

### New Member Shabbat

Friday, Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. A special Shabbat to welcome new members, followed by a community dinner.

### Torah study

Saturday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m.

### JANUARY

#### Friday Night Shabbat service

Friday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m.

### Torah study

Saturday, Jan. 11: 4-5 p.m.

### Melaveh Malkah Sing-a-Long

Saturday, Jan. 11, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. An après-ski sing-a-long and Havdallah.

### Tu B'Shevat service and seder

Friday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat service and seder at JCOGS, followed by a vegetarian potluck supper.

### Torah study

Saturday, Jan. 18, at 10 a.m.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. program**  
Sunday, Jan 19, at 4 p.m. at Stowe Community Church. The Greater Stowe Interfaith Coalition's annual program. Contact: Patti Rubin at rubibell@aol.com or 253-7990.

### FEBRUARY

#### Book club

Thursday, Feb. 6, at 3 p.m. at JCOGS. Book to be announced. Contact: Carole at 802-253-7408.

#### Friday Night Shabbat service

Friday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m.

#### Valentine's Day opera film

Sunday, Feb. 16, at 3 p.m. Film to be announced. Contact: Carole at 802-253-7408.

#### Friday Night Shabbat service

Friday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m.

### MARCH

#### Purim party

Saturday, March 15: 5:30 p.m. event for children; 6:30 p.m., Purim party and Megillah reading for families and adults.

### APRIL

#### Second night of Passover

Tuesday, April 15, at 5:30 p.m. JCOGS community seder.

*Other event information, including Learning Mab Jong Class and Yiddish Movie Club, will be announced in the weekly emails. For info: JCOGS, 253-1800.*