

קולות מים KOLOT MAYIM REFORM TEMPLE

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## A New Year : A New Life! Mazel Tov to Rabbi Moch!



My beautiful new grand daughter, born to Jon and Leah last month at home after a three hour labor. Jonathan gives thanks for his new daughter and also that the midwife arrived in time to save him from having to deliver her.

I am one happy sabba here in Edmonton and cannot wait to meet my first granddaughter.

Can anyone see the resemblance? Your editor definitely can!

### Mazel Tov to Student Rabbi, Michael Cohen

on his recent marriage to fellow student rabbi, Emily, in Colorado. Emily's bouquet was made from an old Siddur, specifically the pages with L'Chah Dodi - honouring the Sabbath Bride!





## **BODICE**February 2015Shevat-Adar 5775

#### Page RABBI

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#### From Rabbi Moch .....

I was never particularly a student of history, until I moved to the Virgin Islands. There I became intrigued by the colorful history of the Caribbean, and especially the Jewish history of the Caribbean. I had the opportunity to share

some of the amazing and colourful stories of the earliest Jewish settlers of the Western Hemisphere at a Havdallah with many of you in Kolot Mayim during the Shabbaton at my first visit.

That history became an important part of who I am while I lived in the Caribbean. Now that I have been captivated by history, I am eagerly diving into a new interest in Canadian Jewish History. We are reading in the Torah of the Exodus from Egypt, and how twelve tribes amalgamated into a nation and organized themselves under Moses' leadership, to defend itself. In a similar manner, the modern state of Israel has had to organize itself for its defense from very determined adversaries which surround it. The following article came to my attention and I share it with you. It relates the proud history of the training of the Jewish Legion at Fort Edward in Nova Scotia, by and for the British Army during World War I. The article also relates how that first modern Jewish military force helped give rise to the Hagganah and the Israeli Defense Forces. The article by Rob Gordon from the National Post follows.

The Fort Edward blockhouse in Windsor, Nova Scotia is one of the oldest wooden fortifications still standing in North America. It played a major role in the Expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, helped defend Nova Scotia in the War of 1812 and, in a truly odd twist of history, assisted



in the creation of the State of Israel.

Fort Edward sits atop a wind-swept hill overlooking the former mill town of Windsor. The town has bragging rights as the birthplace of ice hockey and hometown to some of the world's largest pumpkins. But there is another less known boast: in the summer of 1917, Windsor was home to some of Israel's founding fathers and the place where the forerunner of the Israeli Defense Force was forged.

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#### **President's Message**

Shalom Chaverim,

As we march through winter on beautiful Southern Vancouver Island, this incredibly warm weather has caused me to look forward to my birth month - Adar. Adar begins midway through this month (February) and carries with it an energy and opportunity that our community can pay attention to and

prepare for. Adar is related to the Hebrew word 'adir" meaning "powerful or mighty". When I think of our temple and our dear Kolot Mayim family, words like "powerful and mighty" are not the first words I would use to describe us. Rather, I see Kolot Mayim as a "robust and glorious" community that continues to shine a bit brighter week by week.

Adar is known to be full of healthy and powerful mazel that paves the way to wonderful things. It is said that even without prayer and repentance, everything is predisposed in Adar to bring us to our highest self; to allow for the essence of who we are to manifest. That's what the healthiness of this month is. We don't necessarily need to go through the actual steps of prayer and repentance in order to avert the negativity and manifest the positive. That is the power, force and glory of Adar -We can all manifest that goodness and holiness!

So my message to you is this - throughout the next two months, look to increase your joy supported by the latent power of Adar. Adar will support us and help us move forward in every aspect of our lives, giving us the courage to let go of the external trappings of our identity and get connected to our real and powerful core that is on the inside.

Please take a longer look at the numerous events we have planned over the next two months, remembering that we all have the power and ability to transform things. What do you have inside that is begging to come out? Perhaps you can share whatever that is at our next Kolot Mayim Cabaret on the last Saturday of every month! Jump in! Celebrate your life and bring joy wherever you are!

B'shalom

#### Ríchard Gafter

President - Kolot Mayim Reform Temple

#### KM Cabaret A Success — well, sort of.....

The stage was set, the munchies and drinks displayed, and volunteers to sell them in place. The musicians were there and ready to go. The lights were dimmed and the MC (Pony Rainshadow) began by introducing the first act, a guitarplaying singer named Jack, who was really good! Pony performed three of her own compositions next. Half of the duo slated to play next was sick and didn't come, so that didn't happen. Then Kouskous played, drummed, and sang in a variety of languages. For those of us who were at services on Friday, it was a back to back musical delight hearing these two accomplished musicians. That took care of the Open Mic part of the evening. After a short break, our Feature Performers, Without a Net: David and Mary Lowther, Cont'd. on page 5.



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#### From Rabbi Moch, continued from page 2.

In the shadow of the blockhouse, hundreds of Jewish boys from New York, Montreal, Russia and
Palestine first put on a uniform and learned how to handle a rifle. It was here that the Jewish
Legion was formed — one of the first all-Jewish military forces in modern times. Although the legion
trained in Canada, the soldiers where never part of the Canadian army. They were considered British
imperial forces and came under British command.

Young recruit David Ben-Gurion arrived to train with the Jewish Legion on June 1, 1918. Like all the legion's recruits, Ben-Gurion was paid 50 cents a day. The future first prime minister of Israel roughed it in a bell tent and slept on the bare Nova Scotia earth.

"In this camp there are all types to be found among Jewish people, from the most lofty-minded idealists and the highly educated, to coarse and evil-minded individuals, born criminals," is how Ben-Gurion described his first impressions of the camp in a letter to his wife Paula, just days after getting to Nova Scotia.

One of Ben-Gurion's brothers-in-arms in Windsor was Ze'ev Jabotinsky, an ardent Zionist who was one of the co-founders of the Jewish Legion. Jabotinsky, like many of the legion soldiers, saw forming a Jewish military unit as essential to their dream of creating an Israel. While learning the ins and outs of military life in Nova Scotia in April 1918, soldier-poet Abraham Isserman wrote the following:

"A million more must follow: You! Join in with the brave: Or else their faith is hollow, And Zion seeks her grave."

The coarse, the evil-minded and the lofty that Ben-Gurion trained with appear to have been welltreated by the local people of the Annapolis Valley town. One account in the local paper talks about the joyous celebration of the Jewish New Year in 1918 when 500 legionaries gathered at the Windsor opera for a kosher meal.

On July 1, 1918 Windsor celebrated Dominion Day, the Jewish Legion was invited to take part but the soldiers wanted the "Jewish flag" to fly along side the Canadian and British flags. "At first they didn't fly the Jewish flag, and our boys were going to refuse to take part in the parade. I went to the major and demanded that the Jewish flag be displayed as well, and at once he gave the order to fly the blue and white flag," Ben-Gurion wrote to his wife.

The 39th Battalion of the Windsor-based Jewish Legion was dispatched to fight the Turkish troops of the Ottoman Empire in June 1918. The legion fought in the Jordan Valley with the 39th Battalion, listing 23 dead. Many, many more were disabled or died because of malaria or other disease.

But the First World War was coming to a close and that meant the Jewish legion was to be stood down by the British. Still the legion achieved what many of its members wanted: formally-trained, professional, Jewish soldiers stationed in the Middle East. And many of the legion's former soldiers formed the backbone of Jewish defense teams protecting villages.

The rifle training, the marching in unison and the military mind-set learned at Fort Edward stuck with Ben-Gurion all his life. In 1996, a letter was discovered from the former prime minister of Israel to the mayor of Windsor describing the importance of what happened beneath Fort Edward in 1917-1918. "In Windsor one of the great dreams of my life — to serve as a soldier in a Jewish Unit to fight

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#### From Rabbi Moch, continued from page 4.

for the liberation of Israel (as we always called Palestine) became a reality, and I will never forget Windsor, where I received my first training as a soldier, and where I became a corporal."

Today there is no mention of the Jewish Legion at Fort Edward. That should change, says Jon Goldberg of the Atlantic Jewish Council. "Its important what happened there. Important for Canada, Nova Scotia and Israel," said Goldberg in an interview. Goldberg had always heard rumours of the Jewish Legion, but only became fully aware of the unit and its Nova Scotia roots 15 years ago, when he was shown a picture of the unit on parade at Fort Edward.

Parks Canada has studied the contribution of the Jewish legion to the history of the Fort Edward, but so far the tale of the corporal-turned-statesman, and the 1,100 Jews who joined him, hasn't been publicly etched into the Fort's official history. Perhaps that will soon change.

# Kolot Mayím Chaí!

#### **Kolot Maym Sisterhood**

**Sisterhood** is a social offshoot of the congregation and is usually involved in some form of Social Action and/or Fundraising. They sponsor events, which could provide Adult Education or any of a number of things.

I am pleased to report that three women, including myself, will be meeting with Donna Ornstein from Temple Sholom, Vancouver, in mid February to discuss the options for a Kolot Mayim Sisterhood. If anyone else would like to join us, we would be more than delighted. We will have a pot luck dinner and discussion on February 16th at the home of Reva Kogan. We'd love to get something going here, and it would be great if more of you would join us!

KM Cabaret, continued from page 3. took the stage with a variety of foot-stomping, hip-swinging Klezmer and Celtic tunes, as well as a good sampling of David's own sardonic repertoire. We couldn't have asked for a better opening for our monthly Cabaret Fundraiser!

We would like to thank Pony Rainshadow, David and Mary Lowther, Martin and Reva Kogan, Julie Elizabeth, Shale Rainshadow & Celine Lacroix, and of course, Reva Hutkin, the driving force behind this venture.

The disappointment, or *lack of success*, comes from the poor attendance. Between the door cost (a mere \$5) and food and drink sales, we were able to cover the JCCV rental fees. But there was definitely no profit for Kolot Mayim; we haven't covered our other expenses yet!

Other than our volunteers and the musicians, there was a notable absence of support from our own membership, which is really sad, as well as from the general public and the larger Jewish community. The musicians all agree that it is always more difficult to play to smaller audiences than it is to larger ones. We know a lot of people were sick, but please people, come out and support your Temple, and enjoy a really excellent evening of music – once a month, on the last Saturday!

Our next Cabaret is on Saturday February 28th, beginning at 8 pm. Watch for the Feature Performer in our Weekly Updates.

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## **BODICE**February 2015Shevat-Adar 5775

#### Chai 'T

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE THE LAST **NEWSLETTER:** 

#### CHAI FUND

Hank Peters

Condolences to Eric Brandt and family on the passing of his father, Josef Brandt - Joel and Sandy Fagan

#### Tzedakah: A way of life.

#### Kolot Mayim Supports Food Bank

Hundreds of people rely on the various food banks in town. Torah tells us to leave the four corners of our fields for those in need; today, this could be translated to mean the 4 corners of our shopping carts!

I urge everyone to bring a little something to Shul on Fridays for our Tzedakah Box. We support two food banks: Jewish Family Services and the James Bay Community Project Food Bank. If everyone brought one can each week, it would go a long way to helping those in need. Thank you for your support.

#### **Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC)**

As you know, the RAC has played a central role in our Movement's legislative advocacy efforts for the last 50 years - and for the last 40, has been led by the inimitable Rabbi David Saperstein. When the history of the RAC is written, Rabbi Saperstein's role in the RAC's growth and strength will be clear and his list of accomplishments will be long and impressive.

With David's retirement comes a once-in-a-generation opportunity to find the next leader of the RAC. The position requires someone with a deep commitment to social justice, the skills to organize our Movement, and the passion to inspire Reform Jews from coast to coast to take action. Once those criteria were established, the leading candidate was crystal clear: I am pleased to announce that Rabbi Jonah Pesner has been appointed as the next director of the RAC. Rabbi Rick Jacobs

#### **Putting Stones on Jewish Graves**

**Ouestion:** Why do Jews put stones on graves instead of leaving flowers? Is there a ritual or blessing that goes along with this practice? -- Anna.

New York Answer: The Jewish tradition of leaving stones or pebbles on a grave is an ancient one, and its origins are unclear.

It is a custom or tradition, rather than a commandment, and over time many interpretations have been offered for this practice. Here are some of my favorite explanations:

\* During the times of the Temple in Jerusalem, Jewish priests (kohanim) became ritually impure if they came within four feet of a corpse. As a result, Jews began marking graves with piles of rocks in order to indicate to passing kohanim that they should stay back.

\* The Talmud mentions that after a person dies her soul continues to dwell for a while in the grave where she was buried. Putting stones on a grave keeps the soul down in this world, which some people find comforting. Another related interpretation suggests that the stones keep demons and golems from getting into the graves.

\* Flowers, though beautiful, will eventually die. A stone will not die, and can symbolize the permanence of memory and legacy. Continued on page 9.

Thanks to those who have already liked our Facebook page. Please do so if you haven't already. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, KIS INFORMS US THAT WE **MUST** INTERACT WITH THE PAGE TO MAXIMIZE ITS BENEFIT.





As we enter into the year 5775, it is time to begin planning for an exciting and educational opportunity - traveling to Israel with other members of small congregations. We have been working closely with our travel partner, ARZA WORLD, to provide a unique experience, one that will enrich each individual participant. The adventure will take us to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, learn our history and our future, participate in an archaeological dig, visit ancient holy places and celebrate Shabbat together.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**:

#### Dates: April 27- May 8, 2015

**Cost:** \$2,849, which includes all land cost. ARZA WORLD is happy to help you arrange for airline flights.

Contact and further information: Marcia Grossfeld, mgrossfeld@urj. org

Please go to the ARZA

WORLD website at <u>www.arzaworld.com</u>, find the search box and type in "URJ small congregations", hit go! and you will be directed to our designated trip site. The link provides information and instructions to register. ALSO, when you are on the ARZA WORLD site, please watch the video titled, "experience the Israel that we know and love", as it will immediately connect you with how exciting Israel can be.

We look forward to many of your community joining us in this life-changing experience!

Small Congregation Network Directors,

#### Rabbi David Fine, Marcía Grossfeld, Merry Lugasy

PLEASE JOIN US! WE WELCOME NEW WRITERS AND NEW IDEAS FOR EDITORIAL AND ANY OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO JULIE AT <madrona623@gmail.com>



# **BODICE**February 2015Shevat-Adar 5775

Happy Birthday, Gaby Hergt! Two weeks ago was the culmination of a portion of my journey that started two years ago. It has been my personal blessing to have been able to experience four amazing trips with Taglit-Birthright. My first trip in 2013 was the start of a life-long love affair with a country that has become, in my heart, soul, and spirit, my home and people who have become my friends and family. Taglit has offered me a view of Israel as both a participant and as a leader and counselor. These have both been invaluable to my personal growth and learning of Israel.

The beginning of my trips always start with me telling the participants why I chose to lead. I explain to them that my reason for being with them is not for a free flight, delicious food, and gorgeous Israeli boys, but rather because of the personal fulfillment that I gain by helping each participant fall in love with Israel. Being able to show my participants Israel through my eyes and heart and at the same time being able to see Israel through their eyes and heart brings me closer to my community, my homeland of Israel, and the spirit that binds us all.

Taglit may not cost anything for participants, but it is far from free: it costs roughly \$3,000 per participant, an amount mainly shouldered by the government of Israel and private donors. This means that I have been given trips valued at \$12,000 in addition to my priceless experiences. With my birthday approaching, I feel that it is my time to give back. Therefore I'm asking that in lieu of any birthday gifts, you would consider making a donation to Taglit. If I can help fund just one person to experience their Taglit gift and help them find their passion: Dayeinu, it would have been enough.

Donations can be made at: <u>https://donate.birthrightisrael.com</u>



JULY 2014

AUGUST 2014

JANUARY 2015



Gary & Amber (Kouskous) at the KM Cabaaret.

Photo by Julie Elizabeth

#### **Did You Know?**

In Blois, France, in 1171, it is alleged that a number of Jews-reportedly 34 men and 17 women—were burned at the stake for refusing to renounce their faith. They are said to have gone to their deaths bravely singing Aleinu to a "soul-stirring" melody, which astonished their executioners. Some have suggested that this act of martyrdom inspired the adoption of Aleinu into the daily liturgy. But Aleinu is already found at the end of the daily shacharit in Mahzor Vitry in the early 12th century, well before 1171. <en.wikipedia.org>

Stones on Graves, continued from page 6. Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, Rabbinic director of the New York Jewish Healing Center, offered another traditional interpretation: "The Hebrew word for 'pebble' is tz'ror – and it happens that this Hebrew word also means 'bond.' When we pray the memorial El Maleh Rahamim prayer (and at other times) we ask that the deceased be 'bound up in the bond of life' - tz'ror haHayyim. By placing the stone, we show that we have been there, and that the individual's memory continues to live on in and through us."

Many people take special care in choosing a stone to put on the grave of a loved one. It may be a stone from a place that was significant to the deceased, a stone that was chosen at an event during which the deceased was especially missed, or simply an interesting or attractive rock. Because there is no commandment to fulfill here, placing a stone on a grave is an opportunity for you to create your own ritual, or do things in the way that feels most meaningful to you.<myjewishlearning.com>



Pony Rainshadow at the KM Cabaret



Saturday February 28th starting at 8 pm at the 3Cev dat the 3Cev dat he 3Cev d

Our second monthly Cabaret will take place on

#### The Victoria and Vancouver Island Jewish Burial Society

The Jewish Burial Society of Victoria and Vancouver Island is a service organization founded to assist all Jews with end of life requirements. We administer four totally separate and distinct sections in the Hatley Memorial Gardens and provide space for all persuasions of Jewish life from orthodox to secular, complete with cremation if specified.

The Society works with the Victoria Chevrah Kadisha in preparation of the body for burial, and works with the family in all ways to ensure that the concern and embrace of the entire community for the bereaved.

While we are a non profit Society, regretfully, end of life does not respect one's pocketbook, and costs are dear. There is a small membership charge that must be paid to become a member of our Society, and arrangements for this, and for burial requirements may be made at any time. We recommend dealing with one's self and saving the pain and expense of the survivors at a very stressful time.

For additional information on a highly confidential basis, call Joel Fagan (250 477-2006), or Jack Shalinsky (250 477-1012).

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Photo by Julie Elizabeth

David and Mary Lowther, Without A Net, at the KM Cabaret.

#### February 2015

### Torah Study & Havdallah with Rabbi Moch Sat. Feb. 14th at 3:30 pm. at the home of

Joel & Sandy Fagan #605 - 1178 Beach Drive

A light snack will follow. *Everyone is welcome.* Call for directions. 250-477-2006

Shevat-Adar 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 February 12 Shevat	2 13	strange and	Tu B'Shevat 4 15 <b>ruary 6th:</b> P exotic fruits a celebration of	and nuts for	7:30 pm 6 K.Shabbat 17 Service led by Julie Elizabeth & Caroline Hergt * * * * * * *	Yitro 7 18
8 19	9 20	Joint H	11 22 y February 13 ebrew Schhoo Idren's servic	ol Pot Luck.	13 7:30 pm 24 K.Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Moch	Mishpatim 14 Shbt Shekalim 25 3:30 Torah Stdy Havdalah and Snack at Joel & Sandy Fagan's.
15 9:30-12:30 <sup>26</sup> Rabbi Moch at Hebrew School	16 27	17 28	18 29	19 20	Rosh 20 Chodesh 1 Adar 7:30 pm K. Shabbat Service led by Joe Gougeon- Ryant	Terumah 21 2
22 3	23 4	24 5	White square rabbinical lea Green square musicians at		7:30 pm 27 K.Shabbat 8 Service led by Joel Fagan	Tetzaveh 28 Shabbat 9 Zachor 8:00 pm KM Cabaret at the JCCV

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY LIKED OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. PLEASE DO SO IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, KIS INFORMS US THAT WE **MUST** INTERACT WITH THE PAGE TO MAXIMIZE ITS BENEFIT.



Our wonderful new High Holiday machzor, Mishkan HaNefesh will be available for the new year 5776 (Fall 2015). This machzor is comprised of two volumes - one for Rosh hashanah and one for Yom Kippur, and includes all transliterations!!!!!

In order to defray the costs of this significant purchase for our Temple, we encourage you to purchase one or several copies as a donation to Kolot Mayim and/or for yourselves. The cost is \$50.00 per set of two machzorim (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). These can be in memory or honour of a family member or friend, or simply as a donation to the Temple, **which is now Chai (18)** — a fabulous reason to donate!

Please make cheques payable to Kolot Mayim Reform Temple and bring them with you to any Kabbalat Shabbat service or mail to Kolot Mayim Reform Temple, 3636 Shelbourne Street, Victoria, BC, V8P 4H2.

Those we remember				February 2015/ Shevat-Adar 5775		
OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER	
February 3, 2015	February 3, 2011	29 Sh'vat 5771	<b>Ruth Beck</b>	Mother of	Rafi Beck	
February 4, 2015	February 4, 1995	4 Adar I 5755	Leon Goldman	Father of	Tony Goldman	
February 5, 2015	<b>February 5, 1984</b>	2 Adar I 5744	Adeline Levinta	Mother of	<b>Eleanor Patten</b>	
February 6, 2015	February 6, 1973	7 Adar I I 5733	Sidney Devor	Father of	Aaron Devor	
February 6, 2015	February 6, 1996	16 Sh'vat 5756	<b>Dorothy Goldman</b>	Mother of	Tony Goldman	
February 7, 2015	February 7, 1960	9 Sh'vat 5720	<b>Ethel Ross Sharpe</b>	Mother of	Arline Leshner	
February 9, 2015	February 12, 2004	20 Sh'vat 5764	Rose Katz	Friend of	Caroline Hergt	
February 9, 2015	February 9, 2014	8 Sh'vat 5774	Isabel Wright	Cousin of	Rennie Parrish	
February 12, 2015	February 12, 2011	8 Adar I 1 5771	Judy Kahan	Friend of	Dorothy & David Torontow	
February 13, 2015	February 13, 1943	8 Adar I 1 5703	Fernand Levy	Father of	Arlette Baker	
February 13, 2015	February 13, 1943	8 Adar I 1 5703	Renee Levy	Mother of	Arlette Baker	
February 15, 2015	February 15, 2009	21 Sh'vat 5769	Horst Rothfells	Friend of	The Congregation	
February 17, 2015	February 17, 1997	10 Adar I I, 5757	Clifford Theodore Kirk	Father of	Donna Kirk	
February 17, 2015	February 17 2008	11 Adar I 1 5768	<b>Morris Miller</b>	Cousin of	<b>Dorothy Torontow</b>	
February 18, 2015	February 18, 2006	20 Sh'vat 5766	Harry Charles	Brother of	Alec Lewis	
February 19, 2015	February 19, 2013	9 Adar I 5773	Edith Brink	Mother of	Kis Brink	
February 19, 2015	February 19, 2007	1 Adar I 5767	Lester Gordon	Cousin of	<b>David Torontow</b>	
February 28, 2015	February 28, 1996	8 Adar I 1 5756	Marshall Rotstein	Friend of	Katrina Hanevelt	

Please join us! We welcome new writers and new ideas for editorial and any other contributions to our Newsletter. Please send your contributions to Julie at <madrona623@gmail.com>

