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From Rabbi Moch

The Mystery and Meaning at the Core of Our Being

We begin a week before our more traditional neighbours to read parashat Bamidbar the beginning of the Book of Numbers that recounts thirty-eight of the forty years of wandering through the wilderness. That period, however, came after the revelation of Torah at Mt. Sinai, a desert mountain whose identity still alludes us. Despite Christian and Muslim traditions identifying Nebel Musa, "the Mountain of Moses" as Mt. Sinai, we have no real indication of that being the place we made our most intimate connection with God. That place remains shrouded in mystery and, in fact, mystery pervades the wilderness experience. That very fact invites us to look at mystery as lying at the core of our religious experience.

Most of us live our lives without thinking too much about the mystery behind it and less so about the meaning of that essential mystery of existence. We may or may not believe in a Higher Power, but even when we do, we rarely make the effort to reflect on what significance the reality of a Higher Power (read God) has for us.

Isaac Bashevis Singer writes about the mystery that permeates everything in our world, even what we experience as commonplace. He says: "For me everything is still mysterious, even the most natural things. When I throw a stone and it falls back to the earth, I know that it is gravity. But isn't that a great mystery? A writer gave me once a story about a man with a chopped-off head who could still talk. I said to him, 'Isn't it marvelous enough that a man with a head can talk?'"

Our tradition teaches us not to take even the smallest thing in our world for granted and instructs us to say blessings for everything we see, hear, smell, feel, taste, experience in this world. Tradition also places in our tefillah a blessing of thanksgiving and instructs us to say it three times each day. The blessing thanks God "... for Your beneficent wonders we experience at all times, evening, morning and noon."

Continued on page 2.

Kolot Mayim Reform Temple Mission Statement

Kolot Mayim Reform Temple provides a spiritual home for liberal Jews to worship, study Torah, and observe Jewish sacred times together. Kolot Mayim seeks to build community through spiritual practice and social justice; we embrace Jews by birth and by choice and we welcome individuals, couples and families of diverse backgrounds and abilities. Our members are believers, seekers and doubters. We encourage living true to progressive Jewish values and to the full scope of one's own Jewish practice.

RABBI

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The Voice Newsletter

is published monthly with the exception of August. Send submissions and/or ads to <km@kolotmayimreformtemple.com>.

Visit us on Facebook!

Rabbi, continued from page 1.

Mystery and meaning abound around us but we fail to see, sometimes because we busy ourselves trying to comprehend. Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote, "Analyze, weigh and measure a tree as you please; observe and describe it from every angle, every function, every science; uncover its laws, set out its type and timber – and still you will not know that tree. For the essence of a thing is "no thing at all. The heart of everything of matter is immaterial. Mystery fits no graph. Wonder knows no charting. The unknown precedes the known, employs the known and out lasts the known. The tree of knowledge grows in the soil of mystery. And so do we."

No greater mystery abounds than the mystery of growth and relationship. A pile of chemicals, a few billion molecules, interact with each other to produce a being that grows in self-awareness and in awareness of relationship to other piles of self-aware chemicals nearby. I find it incredible that the interactions of these self-aware beings then can produce internal reactions that can only be described as feelings such as love, betrayal, regret and hope. Those feelings in the face of the mystery we call life and the unknowable mystery we call God, bring us back to communion with the Higher Power – who we once called by the four-letter name

In the unpredictable wilderness of life, we learn to praise God at each glance, each swallow, each step, each breath. The tradition of counting each day of the Omer period between Pesach and Shavu'ot gives us an additional way of seeing the miraculous in the everyday and living each day and each moment as a sacred gift. May we all feel uplifted and consecrated by a rising awareness of the miracles that abound around us and the meaning that flows from the mystery that abides at the core of life and creation itself.

Shimon Moch



**Don't forget to use
your Thrifty's Smile Card.**

EMAIL: km@kolotmayimreformtemple.com **PHONE:** 250-704-2503

WEBSITE: <http://www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com>

President's Message



This month, as we head into our slower months of summer, we are highlighting all the efforts of our many and tireless volunteers over the past season.

It's hardly even possible to describe the importance of volunteers in an organization of our size; we rely completely on efforts from within to create, energize and grow. Volunteers have accomplished so much this year: Rabbi

Lerner led lovely High Holiday Services filled with beautiful music. A clear mission statement was hammered out to guide our operations. We held a well attended and lively Sukkot gathering and a HUGE Chanukah party. We had one of the biggest and most efficiently cleaned up Seders ever, not to mention all the regular services and meetings sprinkled in between everything else. All of these activities account for many hundreds of volunteer work hours. Each minute of dedication by these volunteers is an expression of love for what we do and where we are trying to go. Please look for the article elsewhere in this newsletter for an extensive list of whom you should thank for what.

Although he is not a volunteer, I also want to express sincere gratitude for Rabbi Moch. In spite of being our rabbi only part-time, he has played full out for us through and through. He has been a tremendous source of energy, light, spiritual and practical guidance for our congregation. He will be here with us the rest of this month, and then he will, like last year, return to Suriname for the summer and High Holidays. I look forward to his return to us and a repeat of Rabbi Lerner's generous and adept leadership at the High Holidays. Julie Elizabeth, our Schliach Tzibur, will be leading Friday services August to October, and we are planning something special for July.

This brings me to our most recent upcoming special event and call for even more volunteers. There are many jobs to be done to make us a vital force in your life and the life of our community. When you are called upon to help with a particular function, please do everything in your power to say yes! We will look at our volunteer roles, elect the new Board and approve next year's budget and dues structure at our Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, June 15 at 7 pm. As was the tradition in years past, the Board will be providing dessert. See you then!



Tzedakah: Kolot Mayim

Please remember to bring something for the Tzedakah Box (Watch for case sales for great deals.)

We 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.

Chai חַי

CHAI FUND

Mazel tov to Pony Rainshadow on her Graduation - Julie & Reva

Mazel tov to Ann Gougeon-Ryant on her 75th Birthday!- Julie & Reva

Mazel tov to Amy & Quentin, and Caroline & Martin Hergt on the birth of Cohen Kristopher Ivor Hergt. May 19. 6lbs 2 oz. - Julie & Reva

Donations may now be made on our website via PayPal and credit card.



A warm Mazel tov to Amy, Quentin and Cohen Hergt, and to proud grandparents, Caroline and Martin.

Those we remember ...

June 2016
Iyyar-Sivan 5776

June 3rd
Gila bat Miryam
Charlie Mackie
David Kinarthy
Evelyn Berke
William Cravtts
Goldie Ryant

June 17th
Helene Levy
Ray Torontow
Ernest Ashford
Richard SinninD

*May their memory
be for a blessing.*

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

led by Rabbi Moch

7:30 p.m.

Fridays June 3rd

& 17th: Observance of
Shavu'ot (a week late), and
Honouring our volunteers

*Please remember to bring food
contributions for the Onegs,
so that we can all stay a little
longer and schmooze. And
don't forget something for our
Tzedakah box. Thank you.*

Tot Shabbat

9 a.m. June 18th

Shacharit Services

led by Rabbi Moch

10:00 a.m.

Saturday June 4th & 18th

followed by

Torah Study
at 11:00 a.m.

June 4th & 18th - led by Rabbi Moch

June 11th & 25th - led by Julie Elizabeth

Adult Education

2:30 p.m.

June 4th

Judaism 101, Part 2: Torah & Tanakh,
The Hebrew Holy Scriptures
May 21st

Judaism 101: Parts 3 & 4:
Talmud and the Oral Tradition
that keeps Torah Alive Today
Part 4: The Ten Commandments
through the Eyes of Our Members

All events are at the JCCV,
3636 Shelboure Street.

Everyone is welcome.

Why we are a Week Ahead
in our Reading of the Torah

The traditional calendar is overlaid with weekly parashiyot consisting of the Torah divided into 52 sections. In regular years some of those sections are double portions; when a leap month is added to the calendar, they are split into two separate sections.

The discrepancy occurs when a Jewish festival overlaps onto the Sabbath on the second day of Shavu'ot or Shemini Atzeret or the eighth day of Pesach. These are days that are not observed as holy days in Eretz Yisrael where the biblical number of days prescribed are observed. Outside of Israel, they are observed with an extra day because it took too long to get word, by riders on horseback, to Diaspora Jewry as to when the Beit Din in Jerusalem declared the new moon, which in turn would determine the correct day to observe the festival. To make certain they were observing the festival on the correct day, a second day of observance was added outside of Israel. Today, that practice persists among traditional Jews despite the current determination of the new moon and festivals by mathematical calculation. Reform Judaism long ago returned to the biblical number of days of observance, even outside of Israel.

When the second day of a festival overlaps with Shabbat, Jews in Israel go on to the next week's parasha while Jews in the Diaspora read a holiday passage and then go on to the next weekly passage the following week. This puts Diaspora Jews a week behind Israeli Jews for a number of weeks until the next double portion when Diaspora Jews can catch up with Israeli Jews.

I have always calculated the parashiyot read in the Synagogues I have served according to the Israeli readings, which made complete sense to me. I long ago rejected the parasha divisions found in the calendar of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, now Women of Reform Judaism. The solution there was to cut one

Continued on page 6.

Feeding our Tzedakah Box = Feedings Victoria's Hungry!
Please help if you can!

Kolot Mayim Reform Temple Annual General Meeting

Wednesday June 15th
7:00 pm

JCCV

3636 Shelbourne Street. Victoria

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. D'var Torah
3. Acceptance of 2015 AGM Minutes
4. **Reports**
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Membership Committee
Religious School Committee
Fundraising Committee
Social Action Committee
5. Budget for 2016/17
6. **Election of Officers**
Proposed Slate 2016 - 2017
President - Katrina Hanevelt
Vice President - Richard Weiss
Treasurer - Morris Bleviss
Secretary - Aaron Banfield
Religious School – Lynne Marks
7. **New Business**
Frequency of Services
8. Presentation of the Louis Sherman Award
9. Adjourn

[A Week Ahead](#), continued from page 5.
week's portion in half and read one half one week and the next half the following week. This meant that we were trying to keep our calendar in some kind of sync with our traditional neighbours rather than with the biblical and Land of Israel standard. Much to my chagrin, the URJ has adopted that unfortunate way of determining our calendar. That has become an issue now that they send out emails with Torah commentary according to that calendar determination.

This places me in the uncomfortable position of being pressured to compromise integrity with expediency. As the spiritual leader of Kolot Mayim, I am choosing to honour my integrity and keep our Torah portions in line with Eretz Yisrael.

Shimon Moch

Kolot Mayim thrives because of the efforts of many

Here are some of the many volunteers who have made our year such a good one. Sincere apologies if you helped out and were missed!

Susan Abrill for organizing the monthly Shabbat dinners at members' homes and making some ace coloring books for the kids at Passover.

Arlette Baker for phoning groups of members on more than one occasion, being a superstar Esther at Purim, and all round mensch, and her contributions to the Social Justice Committee.

Aaron Banfield for his work as membership chair, organizing the setup at Seder, being such an adept Thespian for Purim, contributing to the ad-hoc Financial Future Committee, and his work with the Mission Statement. [Continued on page 7.](#)

Sandy Fagan for doing our caring correspondence and making wickedly good [Volunteers](#), continued from page 6. matzah balls! **Joel Fagan** for helping to prepare the children for their roles at special services and helping with the Seder.

Katrina Hanevelt for her far-reaching work as President, overseeing the Seder, working on the Mission Statement, making arrangements with musicians, and co-managing the Facebook page.

Caroline Hergt for being a really pro Board Secretary, organizing volunteers, and spending the entire day in the kitchen for the Seder, and helping with clean up afterwards! **Martin Hergt** for his work at the Seder and loan of his PA system, and his sparkling bass voice at Purim.

David and Dorothy Torontow for organizing the Seder seating and providing thoughtful feedback for our Rabbi.

Richard Weiss for being a huge support to the President as Vice President, his role at Purim and shopping for Seder. **Deb Weiss** for Passover shopping and cleanup, providing babysitting at Friday night services and being an all around mensch.

Elior Kinarthy for spending many hours and much energy creating and delivering our unique introductory Hebrew class. This class was extremely popular and well received, and will most likely be repeated next year. Elior also recently spearheaded an initiative to enact change from within. We should start to see results of that effort in the coming months.

Tamara Gonçalves and **Marcelo Rochas** and for helping prepare and clean up the Seder.

Bev Bookman for preparing the Seder. **Reesa and Ted Vermeulen** for her helping with the Seder.

Kathy Holtby for managing the Seder kitchen.

Reva Hutkin for her work as Social Action Chair, sitting on the Board as Past President, and working on the Mission Statement.

Kis Brink for managing the Facebook page and providing child-minding at services.

[Continued on page 8.](#)

Social Justice Activities around Town

June 2nd

11:30am - 1:00pm

Rally at the Legislature
94 Calls for Justice
Truth and Reconciliation Report

June 11th

11:00am - 4:00pm

Visit Choices Transitional Home.

Enjoy the residents' Art Show, Open House & BBQ.

94 Talcott Road, View Royal
(former Youth custody Centre)

Lynn Greenhough for her extremely thoughtful and popular service leadership and many Volunteers, continued from page 7. contributions to our High Holidays.

Eva Bild and **Randy Enkin** for their beautiful singing voices at High Holidays.

Morris Bleviss for his extreme dedication as Treasurer over many years, including not only numbers but all things paperwork, and contributing to the ad hoc Financial Future Committee.

Janna Ginsburg for being an all around supporter and mensch.

Lynne Marks for chairing the Hebrew School committee.

Murray Ashford for liaising with the JCC as House Chair and sitting on the Board.

Peter Barwin for sitting on the board as Member-at-Large, sitting on the ad-hoc Financial Future Committee and organizing the Thrifty Smile Card program.

Julie Elizabeth – in addition to her work as Lay Service Leader (Sheliach Tzibur) and Office Administrator, she has done innumerable tasks of support and outreach on a volunteer basis. Starting back at Rosh Hashana, she was integral to organizing the readers, musicians and general flow of the High Holiday services alongside Rabbi Lerner. She has chaired the Care and Concern committee, produces this newsletter, and leads Torah study in the Rabbi's absence.

Martin Kogan for researching different fundraising opportunities and sitting on the ad-hoc financial future committee. **Reva Meyers** for organizing the music calendar for services.

Serena Stone for supplying overwhelming energy in publicity, and managing our calendars for our Website and Federation. Continued on page 9.

Volunteers, continued from page 8. **Hal Yacowar** for his advice and support to the Board.

Rennie Parrish for the continued use of his fine china and for helping with several Onegs throughout the year.

We'd also like to send out special mention to the following people:

Marcelina Stanton for providing our beautiful musical accompaniment every month and being a true friend of the Congregation. And **Matt Stanton** for driving Marcelina to and from our services!

Kendra Douglas for being completely reliable in setting up for services and preparing the Oneg and putting it all back when we're done.



Many have done a lot but we especially want to highlight the work of **Leah Kinarthy**, who came back to us after an absence of several years and jumped in with both feet. To start, she has hosted large events in her beautiful home (Sukkot and our April musical Havdallah and several Adult Ed sessions). But what many may not realize is how much she has done behind the scenes, supporting our Website, working tirelessly to get the word out by contacting media, crafting posters and distributing them, creating wordings for our social media, and networking. Many of our events, especially Torah-on-the-Town, Shabbat Across Canada, the Seder, and our Spring Havdallah would not likely have been as successful without her legwork and this is not to be discounted. Leah also went the extra mile in organizing our Kolot Mayim Team for the Global Partnership Walk. **Way to go, Leah!**



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, regrettably, 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).

Save The Date

WRJ Pacific District Area Day
For all Pacific NW Sisterhood Women

☀️ **When:** June 26th, 2016
☀️ **Time:** 10:30-4:00 pm
☀️ **Where:** Temple Beth Am
2632 NE 80th St.
Seattle, WA
☀️ **Cost:** \$25
(includes lunch & materials)

Registration: info will be out this spring



Photo Collage by Julie Elizabeth

Cheese Blintz Casserole
By Amy Kritzer



My favorite traditions involve food. Latkes on Hanukkah, matzah ball soup on Passover, and Bubbe’s blintzes whenever her bubbelahs are in town (or for Shavuot, as is traditional for the holiday). Blintzes are sweet or savory, filled with jam or fruit, meat, potatoes, or in this case, cheese. I like mine in casserole form.

Ingredients

Batter

- 6 eggs
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 1/2 cups sour cream
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 2 tsp baking powder

Filling

- 8 oz softened cream cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 pint cottage cheese
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla

Directions

- Preheat your oven to 350°F.
- For the batter, mix wet ingredients together until combined.
- Mix in sugar, flour and baking powder.
- In a separate bowl, mix together filling ingredients.
- Pour half of batter mixture into a greased 9 × 13-inch baking pan.
- Top with all of the filling.
- Pour the rest of the batter on top.
- Bake for 45 minutes or until golden.
- Top with sour cream.

Amy Kritzer is a food writer and recipe developer in Austin, TX who enjoys cooking, theme parties and cowboys. She challenges herself to put a spin on her Bubbe’s traditional Jewish recipes and blogs about her endeavors at What Jew Wanna Eat. Her recipes have been featured on Bon Appetit, Daily Candy, The Today Show Blog and more. You can follow her on Twitter, Pinterest and Facebook and watch her cooking videos on Google+. See more at: <http://www.reformjudaism.org/print/302#sthash.OOk8pqNS.dpuf>



Kolot Mayim
World
Partnership
Walkers



Members of Kolot Mayim are invited to join this tour, even if they are unable to make the meeting in Vancouver this month.

Spring 2017 Family Israel Trip with Temple Sholom

Please join us for an informational meeting about the trip on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Temple Sholom. Please call the office at 604.266.7190 to RSVP.

March 12-22, 2017, I will be leading a Temple Sholom Multi-Generational Trip to Israel and I am writing to invite you to join me and my whole family (kids too). Let’s see the Holy Land through each other’s eyes, it will be an experience we will never forget!

2015 Israel Trip

During our 10 Day Israel experience, we will travel all over the country, from the roots of Kabbalah in the northern city of Tzfat, to the floating in the Dead Sea and all parts in between. We’ll literally walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, with a bible in one hand and a map in the other; we’ll stand at the base of the ancient wall in Jerusalem and place our heartfelt prayers in its cracks and crevices. We will experience Jewish history in ways you can only experience in Israel! But it’s not all history; so much of Israel is happening right now! We’ll immerse ourselves in modern Israeli culture, discover, as I have, this vibrant and exciting country with its beautiful art and architecture, incredible night life, warm community spirit and unparalleled shopping and restaurants. You’ll be filled with pride for the Jewish people everywhere you go, and your suitcases will be filled with mementos and gifts!

Our trip will be safe, comfortable and packed with things to do every day for every age. For those who are at or approaching Bar/Bat Mitzvah age, why not have you Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel? Why spend thousands on a DJ and a rubber chicken dinner, when you could get a 10 day family Israel experience for about the same?

A complete and detailed itinerary is available at this link: <http://www.arzaworld.com/temple-sholom-of-vancouver-intergenerational-triptto-israel.aspx>

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to call.
B’shanah Habah B’Yerushalyim (Next Year in Jerusalem, for real!)
B’Shalom,
Rabbi Dan Moskovitz

Trip includes:

- * 9 nights' accommodation at selected hotels
- * 7 days of touring in a luxury, air conditioned bus with licensed English-speaking tour guide and walking tour on Shabbat
- * All Site entrance fees and programme fees as per itinerary
- * Meals: daily breakfasts and 6 dinners
- * Portage at hotels

From \$4,239 CAD (land only)

For more information, please call ARZA World at 1.888.811.2812.



YOM YERUSHALAIM

Sunday June 5th

ROSH CHODESH SIVAN

Tuesday June 5th

EREV SHAVU'OT
Saturday June 11th

SHAVU'OT
Sunday June 12th



*All our
Kabbalat
Shabbat
Services
feature music.*



CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

JUNE 2016/5776

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

led by Rabbi Moch

7:30 pm at JCCV

Friday the 3rd and 17th

(Shavu'ot-a week late & Honouring our Volunteers)

SHABBAT SHACHARIT SERVICES

led by Rabbi Moch

10: a.m. Saturday June 4th & 18th

TORAH STUDY

Every Saturday at 11 a.m.

at the JCCV

Led by Rabbi Moch: Sat. May June 4th and 18th @ 11

and Julie Elizabeth: June 11th & 25th @ 11

Parashyot: June 3rd: Bemidbar; 10th: Naso;

17th: Beha'alotekha; 24th: Shelah Lekha

TOT SHABBAT

9:00 am Saturday June 18th

ADULT EDUCATION

2:30 pm Sat. June 4th

**The Evolution of our Covenants with God,
Part 2:**

Torah and Tanakh, the Hebrew Holy Scriptures

2:30 p.m. Saturday June 18th

**The Evolution of our Covenants with God,
Part 3: Talmud and the Oral Tradition
that keeps Torah Alive Today**

**Part 4: The Ten Commandments through the
Eyes of Our Members**

ROVING SHABBAT POT LUCK DINNER

Friday June 24th @ 7 p.m.

at the home of Susan Abrill, 3930 Dawe Road

Reserve to save your seat. Space is limited.