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Kolot Mayim Reform Temple Special General Meeting

**This is a crucial meeting if the future of
our Temple is important to you.**

Wednesday June 17th at 7 pm

at the

Jewish Community Centre of Victoria
3636 Shelbourne Street

The date for the Annual General Meeting will be set.



Neve Michael Children's Village above, and left: Children's bicycles at Neve Michael (Photos Julie Elizabeth)

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From Rabbi Moch

The Torah portion for the Shabbat that just ended, Naso, contains the well-known, three-fold kohanik blessing: Yevarechecha, May the Eternal bless you and keep you.

May the Eternal's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Eternal lift Her/His face upon you and give you well-being (shalom). Our people have always been blessed with the awareness of blessing. That awareness has carried us through more dark and difficult times than we can remember.

During my last visit to Victoria, I had the occasion to preach at the Unitarian Universalist Church. My topic was "Counting Our Blessings." This topic came to mind as Jews world-wide were then concluding the counting of the Omer period leading to Shavu'ot. The thoughts I conveyed were filtered through my own experiences of going through a major transition in my life, one that by all rights should be traumatic and painful – and it has been. The trauma and pain, however, I have managed to carry without it disabling me. In fact, I feel filled with positive determination to find new and exciting pathways ahead. I have enabled this positive potential in myself by broadening my understanding of blessing. The years have taught me to learn to bless my path, even when it takes me through a river of sewage and the muck of life. Wherever I go, even the most painful places, that journey presents me with a multitude of new possibilities all of which contribute to my personal growth. I may now journey to places I never would have considered going, places of great personal reward and fulfilment.

Moses taught the Israelites to carry with them their painful blessings. After the golden calf incident, when Moses smashed the tablets of the Ten Commandments of God, he instructed the people to place those broken fragments into the Ark of the Covenant with the new Tablets and carry them wherever they went.

So even now, that the Omer is over, remember every day to count your blessings and to be aware of blessings you might once have considered curses. Every step we take in life can take us to a better place; even the mis-steps and the pain-filled steps.

God appears to us when we find blessings in every challenge, joys in every trial and gratitude behind every loss. God appears to us in each opportunity to act in an expansive, holy way. In that holy place we learn to count our blessings as we never have before. Someone named Lisa said of the song; "Count your blessings, name them one by one." "...I am so blessed that I cannot count them one by one. I have to count them ton by ton."

Count your blessings every day! *Rabbi Shimon*



Acting President's Message

Dear Chaverim

This past month has been one of great transition for Kolot Mayim, and we find ourselves headed toward a chamber of unknowns. With the board of directors' diligence leading to more questions than answers, we have postponed the Annual General Meeting and implore you to come to a Special Members' Meeting on Wednesday June 17 at 7 pm at the JCC. The importance of this meeting can not be overstated; if the presence of Reform Judaism in Victoria matters to you, you must attend. I am hopeful dialogue at this unprecedented meeting will lead to a new and exciting direction for our congregation. Stay tuned for an agenda in your email inbox soon.

Another exciting first planned for this month is Rabbi Moch's service in honor of Victoria's Pride Week on Friday, June 19. It should prove to be a beautiful and vibrant service celebrating the diverse colour that makes up our community. Please come show your support for our LGBTQ congregants, friends, and loved ones.

I look forward to seeing you all at these events and our regular Friday night services.

B'Shalom.

Katrina Hanevelt



Fundraiser Under Way.

Kolot Mayim has been approved to take part in the Thrifty Foods Smile Card Fundraising Program. We will receive an automatic 5% of the amount you load on your Smile Card – there is no cost to you.

Ask the cashier at Thrifty's to load any amount you wish onto your Smile Card **before** having your grocery order rung through. You can load your Smile Card with cash, debit card or credit card. When your card balance is running low, load it again to continue to support Kolot Mayim. It's that simple.

When using a credit card to load your Smile Card you will still get your credit card points and you will continue to get your AIR MILES reward miles. Remaining balances will be shown on your receipt after each purchase. Kolot Mayim's name will also appear with a thank you for your support.

The term of this fundraising programme expires next year on April 30th, 2016 at which point we can re-apply for an extension. Thrifty's allows us to receive \$1,000.00 annually which is paid to KM monthly by cheque.

As a hands-on test we have been using the Smile Card for a few weeks– it is super convenient with no signature or pin number required – it's a good feeling knowing that Kolot Mayim is benefitting with each time you visit Thrifty Foods.

You should have already received your Smile Card by mail. If not, then kindly let us know and we will arrange to have a card mailed to you. Your participation will be appreciated.

Reva Hutkin Fundraising Chair

Social Action Project: Neve Michael Children's Village

On a hot and sunny day, Julie and I visited Neve Michael, an amazing Children's Village in Pardes Hana, Israel. The first thing to greet us was the Canada building, built by Canadian dollars. In fact, as we were toured around by Tsvia the "ima" or mother of all, we noticed that all the buildings were built with donations from all over the world. It is heartwarming to see so much support for such a worthwhile place.

Their mission statement reads, "At Neve Michael, our mission is to provide our children with daily sustenance, a warm, family atmosphere, the best education and therapeutic care, so that they can overcome their past traumas and develop into healthy and vibrant young men and women."

The children at Neve Michael range in age from six to teenagers. The Village provides a twenty-four hour Crisis Centre to receive children at risk, and offers family units supplying love and support, on-site elementary school, day care facilities for disadvantaged children in the area, therapy, counselling, and so much more. The children who end up here, come from the most horrific backgrounds. Some have witnessed one parent killing the other, have been sexually, physically or emotionally severely abused, or have run away from such homes and are living on the street.

Each "home" is fully equipped with full-sized kitchens, modern bathrooms, tv, computers, shared bedrooms, etc. Tsvia told us that with donations they buy Melmac dishes for all the houses, and that these are made in Canada.

The children come from all walks of life — Jewish, Christian, Muslim — but the language is Hebrew, and quite a few boys and girls had their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, to which available parents were invited up last month.

There is also a teenage (thirteen to eighteen) Girls' Crisis Centre. *"Every girl has her own story. Some express it in words, others can only convey their past traumas through the haunted looks in their eyes."*

There is so much to tell but I will leave it here with the hope that you can feel the tragedy behind Neve Michael, and the great need to support their mission. Kolot Mayim Social Action Committee is asking for your support. We will match donations received and send along a cheque to lend our voice to this worthwhile endeavour.

Check out their website for more information. www.nevemichael.com



Photos by Julie Elizabeth

Reva & Tsvia in one of the dorm kitchens.



The dining hall. Israeli flags are still hanging from Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, a few weeks earlier.

Area Day for Sisterhoods of the Pacific Northwest



Our theme: “Leadership of Others Begins with Leading Ourselves”

- Leadership Training & Havdalah: Saturday, July 25, 2015, 2:30 pm at a private home in Bellevue, WA
- Pacific Northwest Area Day: Sunday, July 26, 2015 10:00am - 3:30pm at [Temple B’Nai Torah, NE 4th Street, Bellevue, WA, 98008](#)

All of the presidents of the WRJ affiliated sisterhoods in the Pacific Northwest are well on their way to finalizing this wonderful interactive day. Our morning will focus on social justice issues identified in both Canada and the United States and action identified by WRJ and what we as sisterhoods and individuals can do to set change in motion.

After a delicious lunch, we will have the opportunity to gain insights into other sisterhoods’ successes by sharing what we know about membership, programming and the nurturing of leadership. Please join us for this day, so that each of you can help our sisterhoods grow, thrive and make a difference in our congregations and our communities.

For more information about this event, including the cost, car pooling from Vancouver and hotel accommodation, please contact sisterhood member, Toni Kennedy, Pacific Northwest Area Director, through our Sisterhood.

Kolot Mayim Women is breaking early for the summer. We will reconvene in the Fall and hope more of you will join us for social and service projects dedicated to Kolot Mayim.

Beyond the Wall: Feminism and Jewish Pluralism in Israel

NO TORAH FOR YOU
by Bonnie Riva Ras

On Rosh Hodesh Sivan, just days before Shavuot, the Torah was locked out of reach for the hundred women who came to pray with Women of the Wall and celebrate and with six 12-year-old b'not mitzvah girls at the Kotel.

I arrived early that morning to find padlocks on the mehitzah and a three meter barricaded section between the men's and women's sections. The administrator clearly did not want a repeat of last month's events when one of the hundred or so Torahs available for use at the Kotel was used for a women's Torah service.

There is no halachic reason why women cannot read Torah in a women's only Tefilla group in the women's section and there is no legitimate legal reason why women cannot read from a Sefer Torah at the Kotel. In fact, the opposite applies. Our sacred texts clearly state that a woman can read from the Torah and the April, 2013 Sobel decision explicitly says that women are allowed to read Torah in the women's section. So why was Natai Groen, a WOW supporter, detained for trying to let women use just one of those many Torahs available for use at the Kotel? Evidently you don't have

Continued page 7.

Victoria - A Jewish Legacy



Oldest Synagogue in Canada
in continuous use

Founding members of the
Odd Fellows and Freemasons

First Jewish Mayor in North America

Two Tours that Bring Victoria's Jewish History to Life

Every Thursday in June, July, August
1 pm Tour of Congregation Emanu-el

\$10 Free for children under 12

2 pm Leisurely 90 minute Walking Tour
of Jewish Victoria

\$15 for Adults \$13 for Students/Seniors

\$2.00 discount for taking both tours

Meet at the synagogue 1461 Blanshard
Street (Corner of Blanshard and Pandora)
for both tours

For information or to book a private tour
please contact:

Synagogue tour: stories@maggidah.com
Walking tour: www.discoverthepast.com

May 30th's KM Cabaret was fabulous! — sadly low in attendance but fantastic in spirit, music, and with a surprise addition for some unscheduled jamming! Our thanks to [Pony Rainshadow](#) and [Kent Skolos](#), who stepped in at the last minute, to replace Deb Maike, who was ill, and to [Neal Wasser](#) for the great tunes and jamming.

Our last Cabaret will be held on June 27th, beginning at 8 pm. These events are open to the entire Victoria community - not just KM members or members of the Jewish community. Our guest next month will be professional singer-songwriter, [Deb Maike](#), who started the Islands Folk Festival in Duncan, which is still going strong, over 35 years ago!

At the cost of concerts these days, our \$5 at the door is practically a give away. No host bar and snacks are available. Open Mic from 8 until 9 followed by our feature performer after a refreshments break. The music and camaraderie are great!

Come out and support your Temple and enjoy a great evening's entertainment!



KM Cabaret

June 27th
featuring
Deb Maike
Singer Songwriter

at the JCCV
3636 Shelbourne Street

8:00 Open Mic
9:00 Break & Refreshments
followed by our feature performer

\$5.00 at the door.
No host bar and light snacks.

For info, or to register as a feature performer,
contact Reva at 250-388-4161 or <bubbareva@gmail.com>.

***Come for a fun evening; share your talents,
and enjoy the talents of others.***

The Cabaret is a fundraiser for Kolot Mayim Reform Temple.

[Beyond the Wall, continued from page 6.](#) to actually break a law to be detained in Rabinowitz's realm.

So, just days before the holiday where we celebrate Matan Torah (the giving of the Torah) to all Jews, women are being told that Judaism is being revised, the giving of the Torah didn't really happen the way the Torah reports it did. And six young women who spent a year preparing for their b'not mitzvah were shown that they were not actually admitted into Jewish adult life because In Rabinowitz's dominion women don't really count. If you are a women there is no Torah for you.

Why the keys to the kingdom, to the holiest site in Judaism, were handed to the Haredim, after we finally regained access to the Kotel in 1967 is a nagging question. After all, all Jews were welcome to worship at the Temple, so why aren't all Jews welcome to worship at the Western Wall, the symbol of our national sovereignty?

Sadly, this is unlikely to change. The negotiations for the new pluralistic third section of the Kotel broke down when the government dissolved and seem unlikely to be re-opened by the new government that has already acquiesced to the Haredi demand to maintain the "former" status quo. [Continued page 8.](#)

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.

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).



Beyond the Wall, continued from page 7. In Tel Aviv, this same drama is being played out, by the inclusion, exclusion and sort of inclusion again of non-Orthodox rabbis at the Tikkun Leil

Shavuot being held at the Tzayta Theater. The non-Orthodox rabbis will be allowed to teach in a session that will run parallel to the main section. But it took world condemnation for the events' organizers for this clearly separate and not equal concession. Last year, over 1,500 people from all streams of Judaism attended the event.

The religious reforms that were loosening the Haredi grip on Jewish life in Israel are being reversed and a tsunami wave of official discrimination is on the way. When the Israel's chief rabbi David Lau can demand to approve all Knesset legislation and there aren't mass protest rallies in the streets, it is clear that the warning sirens are being sounded and we are not running to higher ground. I can only hope that Israel's civil rights and religious rights do not drown in this reactionary wave of intolerance. <jpost.com>



Neve Michael Children's' Village 2015 B'nai Mitzvot Invitation (Photo Julie Elizabeth)

Save the Date!

Coming Soon:

Victoria International Jewish Film Festival

*Vancouver Island's newest film festival
celebrating the Jewish experience through film.*

from

November 7-9, 2015

at the Cineplex Odeon theatre at Yates and Blanshard.

Celebrate five movies over three days with the Festival Pass.
(includes five movies plus the Opening Night Reception – a \$72. value!)

Adults: \$62! Seniors/Students: \$50!

Look to this space in the coming months for more details about the film titles.

For more details:

Single Tickets:

Adults: \$13 per film

Seniors/Students: \$10 per
film

Exception: \$20 for Opening

Email: victoriajewishfilmfestival@gmail.com

Phone: [250-208-8534](tel:250-208-8534)

Follow us on Twitter: @VJFFest

Sponsorship opportunities available.

To get involved as a volunteer or for
more information, please contact
Sandra Glass at s.glass@shaw.ca

Have we got a film for you!





Neve Michael Children's Village: The Jusidman Family Child Enrichment Centre - Mexico (Photo Julie Elizabeth)

Chai חַי

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER:

CHAI FUND

Hank Peters; Gabriella Golliger

Condolences to Peter & Merial Barwin on the loss of Peter's brother, Sydney - David & Dorothy Torontow, Shirley Lecker

In honour of the Yahrzeit of his father, Julius (Ziggy) Bleviss - Morris Bleviss

Torah Study



Saturday June 20th at 4:00 pm.

followed by a Pot Luck BBQ

and Havdallah

**at Julie & Reva's
102 Meadow Park Lane
(corner of Burnside West)**

We hope you will join us for Torah Study. But if you don't, and you would still like to join us for the pot luck BBQ and Havdallah, you will be more than welcome!



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.



Children's Bicycles at Neve Michael
(Photo Julie Elizabeth)

June 2015
Sivan-Tammuz 5775

THE VOICE

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June 2015							Sivan-June 5775						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday							
	1 June 14 Sivan	2 15	3 16	4 17	K. Shabbat Service led by Joe Gougeon- Ryant	6 19 Behaalotecha							
7 20	8 21	9 22	10 23	11 24	7:30 pm K. Shabbat Service led by Joel Fagan	13 26 Shlach							
14 27	15 28	16 29	17 30	18 1 Tammuz Rosh Chodesh	7:30 pm K. Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Moch	20 3 Korach 4:00 Torah Study > Pot Luck BBQ > Havdallah @ Julie & Reva's							
21 4	22 5	23 6	24 7	25 8	7:30 pm K. Shabbat Service led by Julie Elizabeth	27 10 Chukat 8:00 pm KM Cabaret at the JCCV							
28 11	29 12	30 13	White squares indicate rabbinical leadership. Green square indicates musicians at service.										

Those we remember ...				June 2015 Sivan-Tammuz 5775	
OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
June 4, 2015	June 4, 1978	28 Iyar 5738	Helene Levy	Grandmother of	Arlette Baker
June 7, 2015	June 7, 2012	17 Sivan 5772	Ray Torontow	Brother of	David Torontow
June 12, 2015	June 12, 2014		Frederica Bowdwen	Friend to	Many in the Congregation
June 17, 2015	June 17, 2012	17 Sivan 5772	Richard Dinning	Brother in Law of	Julie Elizabeth
June 18, 2015	June 22 2011	20 Sivan 5771	Dora Sandell	Mother of	David Sandell
June 19, 2015	June 19, 2011	17 Sivan 5771	Gertie Cohen	Aunt of	Reva Hutkin
June 21, 2015	June 21, 2007	5 Tamuz 5767	Marion Edith Kirk	Mother of	Donna Kirk
June 23, 2015	June 23, 1977	25 Sivan 5736	Bertha Booth	Mother in Law of	Len Jaffe
June 23, 2015	June 23, 2012	3 Tamuz 5772	Georgina Schulstad	Mother of	Jacqueline Seigel
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2011	28 Sivan 5771	Bunny Harrison	Friend of	Caroline & Martin Hergt



**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION
OF VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND
(JFVVI)**

Tuesday, June 16, 2014 - Beginning at 7:00pm

**Taking place at The Jewish Community Centre
3636 Shelbourne Street, Victoria BC**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

**Anyone who has donated to our 2014-2015
United Jewish Appeal Campaign is a member
of JFVVI and can vote at our AGM.**

Light refreshments will be served!

See reverse for the AGM Agenda.



Immediately following the AGM, please stay for a special presentation by Paul Lewis of the Grinspoon Foundation (Springfield, MA) on the PJ Library Library Program, which the Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island will be making available to Jewish families on Vancouver Island starting in the summer! The PJ Library is a subscription program that provides Jewish books and CDs for children aged 6 months to 8 years - mailed direct to your door FREE of charge! This is an exciting development for Jewish families on Vancouver Island, so come find out more!