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KM holds First-ever Election!

There were no surprises at the Annual General Meeting on June 25th — that is, until it came time for the usual election by acclamation of the new Board of Directors.

Hal Yacowar read out the Slate as published, with all positions accounted for except the Religious Affairs Committee and the House Committee. We were just about to declare all parties elected by acclamation – as has always happened before – when there was a nomination from the floor! For President, no less!

As some of you might recall, we initially had difficulty finding people willing to accept the responsibilities of Board leadership for the coming year. We were extremely grateful to all who agreed to run, especially to Katrina Hannevelt, who was willing to take on the presidency.

But everything seemed to come together for Richard (Rich) Gafter in a way that compelled him to submit his name for President as well. At the last minute, we were faced with an election! At the last minute, each candidate was asked to speak briefly, and unpreparedly, about why s/he wanted to be president and what s/he would bring to the task. Rabbi Louis was appointed Scrutineer, and after we had voted, Reva announced that her successor as President would be Richard.

Rich then nominated Amanda Gafter-Ricks as Religious Affairs Committee Chair, and she accepted, vacating one of the Member-at-Large seats, which was filled by Katrina, upon Joe Gougeon-Ryant's recommendation! This is, indeed a first for our small shul.

Congratulations to all who put their names forth and will be leading us in the coming year. And ...

... we have exciting new spiritual leadership! Rabbi Shimon Moch has been hired to lead us in six weekends over the coming year, and we have engaged a student rabbi, Michael Cohen, for the High Holidays plus three other weekends in 2014-15.

Kolot Mayim is reborn! We hope you are as excited about this turn of events as we are, and that you will come to services and Kolot Mayim events and support your Temple!

Thank you to all the outgoing Board and Committee members who made this happen!

RABBI

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From Rabbi Moch

Shelach Lecha 5774 "The Treasures We Unknowingly Possess"

Often we possess what we know has some value. Occasionally we discover that the worth of a valued possession far exceeds our wildest imaginings.

I used to enjoy surfing the cable television channels. Not infrequently, my control would settle on the *Antique Road Show*. I would glory in the surprised expressions of wonderment and shock as those bringing in some "old thing" they hoped would be worth a few hundred dollars, discovered they owned something worth thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars. One such man brought in a very plain old Navajo carpet with none of the wonderful designs that often characterize Navajo carpets. He found it stored in his attic. The appraiser nearly fell over with excitement as he said to the man, "What you have here is a rare Navajo chief's carpet from the days before the Navajos began weaving for tourist markets. It is a national treasure and its worth exceeds half a million dollars."

Last year, I came across a similar Jewish story. Hebrew professor, Mauro Perani, at the University of Bologna, Italy, was cataloguing the old Hebrew manuscripts in the University's possession, when he discovered, by stylistic analysis and carbon dating, that a Torah scroll, listed as being from the 17th century, was actually from the second half of the 12th and beginning of the 13th centuries, making it the oldest known complete Torah scroll in existence.

This week, we read in the Torah of how Moses sent out *meraglim*, "spies" or "scouts," to see what kind of land they were about to enter. They mistakenly thought that they were scouting to see how strong the inhabitants of the land were, and whether the Israelites could defeat them in ensuing battles to control that land. Moses never had any question about that. He already knew the assured outcome promised by God. Rather he sent the scouts ahead, in hopes that they might bring back word of how precious a treasure this land would be for our people. They unwittingly did just that by bringing back giant grape clusters, each needing to be carried on poles supported between the shoulders of two men. [Continued on page 4.](#)



President's Message

Greetings Kolot Mayim family,

I am writing this message to you just as the Annual General Meeting and cocktail party in honour of Rabbi Louis, are ending. In fact, my wife, former Vice-President and new Religious Affairs Chair, Amanda Gafter-Ricks and I needed to make an early exit to give me time to write this in time for publication!

It is my great pleasure to announce that we have a new Board with all but one chair (House) filled. I would like to congratulate the former Board for all of their hard work in accomplishing this task. The last thing I knew was that they were looking to fill several vacancies. I arrived tonight to a printed agenda that included 12 of 14 Nominations to the 2014-2015 Board of Directors filled. Well done ladies and gentlemen of the former Board!

I understand that most of you are reading this message with a look of surprise on your face, which is completely understandable. My decision to put my hat in the ring to be the next President happened suddenly, but it had been stirring quietly at the back of my mind for a few years. You may be familiar with this type of experience. It is the moment when everything becomes very clear and calm, regardless of the odds or potential challenge. One might say that is the moment where faith trumps doubt, the moment where courage emerges because caring, talented and experienced people surround us. The incoming Board members made my choice very simple, and now I get to serve with them as wonderful initiatives and changes are underway, thanks to a well-structured and dynamic strategic plan.

My family and I have been Kolot Mayim members for seven years, and have seen a strong and warm community hold its own. And my daughter, Annika's will be Bat Mitzvah at the Temple during the July 4th weekend.

Your Executive and Board have worked hard this past year to ensure that our Temple ran smoothly and in the best interest of all members. Now it is time to introduce you to the people who have agreed to join me in leading and guiding you in the coming year:

New member, Mark Milotay will be Vice President. He has a special interest in growing the congregation, and brings 4 children to our school as well! Reva Hutkin will continue on in the role of Past President, as well as chairing the Fundraising Committee, and Caroline Hergt will be our Secretary. We are very happy that our Treasurer par excellence, Morris Bleviss has agreed to continue crunching the numbers for us. Ann Gougeon-Ryant will chair our Care and Concern Committee, and Lynne Marks is returning as Religious School Chair. Amanda Gafter-Ricks has stepped up to fill the position of Ritual Affairs Committee Chair, and Sharon Shalinsky will continue in the role of Membership Chair. We will benefit tremendously this year by publicity under the chairmanship of Peter Barwin. And finally- but not least - Hal Yacowar and Katrina Hanevelt will be our Members-at-Large. The only unfilled position is Chair of the House Committee. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at richgafter@gmail.com.

I would like to especially thank Katrina Hanevelt for her readiness to take up the position of President, and hope that my sudden decision to run against her for the job did not cause her too much stress. I look forward to working with Katrina and all the new and returning Board members in the coming year.

[Continued on page 6.](#)

From Rabbi Moch, continued from page 2. Many times we do not recognize the real value of treasures we possess and treasures within our reach, because they may not have material value. They may actually have far more value than any material thing could have. Each of us inherits objects or photographs and stories from our forbearers. Those treasures exceed in value any material object we might purchase.

When I visited Kolot Mayim the last weekend in May, I had the pleasure of hearing Janna Ginsberg Bleviss relate significant parts of the history of Canadian Jewry that happened right in Victoria. Those stories are an irreplaceable heritage.

We can choose to treasure or forget each story of the past, each old melody passed on to us, or each *hiddush*, each new, insightful Torah teaching we ourselves realize and pass on to the next generation.

I choose to receive from the past as fully as I can and transmit to the next generation as fully as I can EVERY TREASURE I uncover. I hope you will too.

Rabbi Shimon Moch

Shabbaton Very Successful



Friday evening May 30th saw a record 43 people at our Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Shimon Moch and adorned with the beautiful singing of Josie (Nehamashira) Davidson, accompanied by her husband, Greg on the piano. Most of these were current and past members, although we did have a few visitors as well. Given that our current membership stands at 53 heads, this was most gratifying. An Oneg, sponsored by the Board of Directors followed the service, which was very uplifting and energizing. Indeed, some of us had trouble falling asleep that night!

On Saturday morning, we had 13 for Torah Study and the Sha'arit Service, which was a good number as well. Rabbi Moch was able to engage everyone in meaningful conversations about the week's Parasha. The Kiddush Lunch and Learn, sponsored by the Fagans, Gougeon-Ryants, and Reva & Julie, was equally engaging. In the evening, we had 32 for the Salmon Bake, and yours truly ended up making the salmon, having forgotten to delegate that task!!!! ;-) After the dinner, Rabbi Moch gave a fascinating talk on Caribbean Jewry, which unfortunately, did go on too long. [Continued on page 7.](#)

A few words from your ex-President and now Past President

It has been a pleasure being your President for these past two years. I have learned many new skills and working with the Executive and Board has been a wonderful experience. We managed not to get into any squabbles and actually accomplished a few things.

I want to wish the incoming Board a very successful run. As your P.P. I am here to assist in any way I can.

Over and out from Reva

Important Breaking News!!!!

Due to renovations at the JCCV, we are having to relocate for our summer Kabbalat Shabbat services.

Friday July 4th, the Bat Mitzvah of Amanda Gater-Ricks, will be held at Congregation Emanu-El, 1461 Blanshard Street. Venues for our services on Fridays July 18th, and August 8th and 22nd will be announced in the Weekly Updates.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Kolot Mayim 2014-15 Bord of Directors



Photo by Julie Elizabeth

L to R, Standing: Morris Bleviss, Treasurer; Hal Yacowar, Member-at-Large; Carolyn Hergt, Secretary; Rich Gafter, President; Mark Milotay, Vice President.
Seated: Katrina Hanevelt, Member-at-Large; Amanda Gafter-Ricks, Chair, Religious Affairs Committee; Reva Hutkin, Past President and new Chair, Fundraising Committee; Ann Gougeon-Ryant, Chair, Care and Concern Committee.
Missing: Lynne Marks, Chair, Religious School Committee; Peter Barwin, Chair, Marketing and Publicity Committee; Sharon Shalinsky, Chair, Membership Committee; Sandy Fagan, Chair, Social Action Committee.

[President's Message, continued from page 3.](#) I am pleased to announce that we have hired Rabbi Moch, who led us in an exciting Shabbaton at the end of May, and we have hired a third year student rabbi, Michael Cohen, to lead us for the High Holidays and 3 other occasions. Rabbi Moch is the ¾ time Rabbi in Edmonton, and will spend six weekends with us in 2014-15.

I would like to wish everybody a fun-filled and fulfilling summer. As part of that fun, we will be having the third Annual Kolot Mayim BBQ/picnic at the home of Julie and Reva, 102 Meadow Park Lane, on Saturday July 26th, beginning at 5:00. As in past years, it will be pot luck, and bring BYOB, but we will have fun! Bocce ball anyone????

Finally, remember that we meet on alternate weeks during the summer. In July, our Kabbalat Shabbat services will be on the 4th, and 18th. Because of the August holiday, we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays this month, i.e., the 8th and 22nd. We will return to our weekly services on Friday September 5th.

Also, please watch for a different venue for our summer services in Rennie's Weekly Updates. Friday July 4th (Annika Gafter-Ricks' Bat Mitzvah) will take place at Congregation Emanu-El.

Venue(s) for our other summer services have yet to be arranged.

Rich Gafter

Doing a Victory Dance for LGBT Rights in Israel

by Anat Hoffman

I watched Nurit Melamed dance for the first time this week. Seeing her gracefully weave her feet is not something outside of the ordinary for Nurit, who is an accomplished choreographer and folk dance teacher in Jerusalem. But, even for her this was a new experience, as, together with lawyers and staff of the Israel Religious Action Center, we danced in the corridors of our office to celebrate her victory.

Our story began five years ago, when a prominent state-employed rabbi, Rabbi Issar Klonski of the Givat Mordechai neighborhood, defamed Nurit, who is a lesbian. He posted signs all over the neighborhood "outing" her, calling her a danger to the public, and warning women not to attend her dance classes.

Any woman, single or married, young or old, should not set foot there while a class is under way. This is strictly forbidden! Every man must do all he can to prevent a female family member from attending these classes, which are an abomination.

We sued this rabbi for libel, but after three years of fighting in court, lost the case. Even worse, in his verdict the judge stated that a rabbi has the right - and even the duty - to warn the public against deviants. This decision effectively put rabbis above the law, by enabling them to abuse their rabbinic authority to slander against LGBT people with impunity. With the backing of Reform Congregation Kol haNeshama and the generous support of some of our donors, IRAC appealed the verdict and last week we won.

I spoke with Nurit last week, just days before the verdict in our appeal. Her classes had dwindled and she was considering giving up dancing. She was in a terrible state. All this changed when the Jerusalem District Court ruled in her favor. The rabbi will now have to publicly apologize to her and pay her 60,000 shekels (\$17,400) in compensation.

This is a huge victory, for Nurit, for LGBT people, and for all Israelis who believe in the right to privacy and equality before the law.

To quote Nurit: *Religion is the most beautiful thing in my life next to dancing, and it's a shame that one sabotaged the other. When they spilled my blood over the billboards of the city, it was even worse that it was done by a rabbi in Israel. The rabbi undermined the most basic precept of Judaism, 'love thy neighbor as thyself.'* May my own private journey that ended [Continued on page 7.](#)

Victory Dance, continued from page 6. today with an apology and compensation teach us all to preserve each other's privacy and way of life, for we are all one heart and one people.

Anat Hoffman is the executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the public and legal advocacy arm of the Reform Jewish Movement in Israel. She is also the chairwoman of Women of the Wall, a group of Jewish women and men from around the world who strive to achieve the right of women to wear prayer shawls, pray, and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

<reformjudaism.org>

Shabbaton Very Successful, continued from page 4. The



only fault we can find with the rabbi is his over zealousness in this presentation! I think that is easily remedied with a pre-agreed upon signal that it's time to wrap up!

Sunday morning saw a smaller turnout for the children's activity, but we did have 6 children of varying ages, and



Rabbi Moch was delightfully able to connect with each of them. After an enjoyable brunch, sponsored by the Temple, Rabbi Moch wrapped up the Shabbaton with a couple of videos of Edith Bunker teaching compassion. (His originally planned presentation seems to have

gotten lost somewhere in cyberspace or travel! He obviously is someone who is able to think quickly, providing relevant, stimulating and enjoyable alternatives.

The feedback I have received from everyone has all been positive with the exception of needing to contain his enthusiasm somewhat! Many showed me two thumbs up! Everyone felt acknowledged by him; indeed, it is his priority to meet and connect in a meaningful way with



as many congregants as possible. One past member, who only attended the Saturday evening session, noted that Rabbi Moch came up to him and his wife, and introduced himself, realizing that he hadn't seen them at any of the previous events. Another member said, "He's a keeper!"

Rabbi Moch, as well, enjoyed his time with us. He told me that when he first stepped off the plane, right through the entire weekend, he felt like he belonged; that we "fit like a glove!" I myself, felt so energized and so positive about him and the events of the weekend, that I am really looking forward to his future visits to Kolot Mayim. I feel like we are the phoenix rising



out of the ashes! This is so exciting!

Julie Elizabeth



A lighter moment at the AGM

Chai חיי

Kolot Mayim has several funds to which you may earmark your donations. They are: Chai Fund (General Fund/Temple Operations), Religious School Bursary and Scholarship Fund (to support children to attend Religious School), Social Action Fund (to support the Congregation's Social Action activities), Parochet (Ark Curtain) Fund (to collect funds to commission new Parochets [yearly & High Holiday] and related items), Jenny Laing Legacy Fund (to provide bursaries of up to \$500.00 for any adult member of the Congregation to pursue Jewish education), Building the Congregation Fund (to build a synagogue congregation in Victoria for Reform Jews), Youth Fund (to provide funds for children and youth programmes), Youth Group Fund (to support local youth group development), and Passover Outreach Fund (to provide free Passover tickets for individuals who could otherwise not afford to attend a community Passover Seder). One last fund is the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, which allows our Rabbi to administer funds at his discretion, as per the expressed needs of congregants. Undirected donations will go into the Chai Fund.

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER:

CHAI FUND

Hank Peters

PAROCHET FUND

Speedy recovery to Kis Brink - Julie Elizabeth & Reva Hutkin

Mazel tov to Joel and Sandy Fagan on their 50th Anniversary

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), Jack Shalinsky (250 477-1012), or Michael Goldberg (250 598-9094).

Summer is BBQ time!

The congregation is invited to a potluck BBQ

**at
Julie & Reva's
102 Meadow Park Lane
(Watkiss and Burnside West)**

**on
Saturday July 26th
beginning at
5:00 pm
BYOB**

Phone for directions: 250-388-4161



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.



Walking Tour of Jewish Victoria

Discover the role that the pioneer Jews had in shaping Victoria. Experience a guided tour of Congregation Emanu-el, Canada's oldest synagogue lead by the country's first ordained Jewish Storyteller (Maggidah)

Walking Tours

June 1st to Aug. 28

**2:00 pm every
Thursday**

**Synagogue
Tours**

1:00 pm

Walking Tours begin outside Congregation Emanu-el (Pandora and Blanshard) and slowly wind through downtown ending at Government and Yates. It will be given rain or shine. Led by Gary Cohen. Synagogue Tours explore fascinating historical displays, the synagogue's unique architecture and dynamic restoration as well as Jewish customs, history, sacred texts and stories. To book a Walking Tour at a different time contact Discover the Past: 250-384-6698 discoverthepast@telus.net www.discoverthepast.com To book a Synagogue Tour at another time contact Shoshana at: stories@maggidah.com OR www.congregationemanuel.com.

Adult Walking Tours: \$15.00 cash only

Synagogue Tours: \$10.00

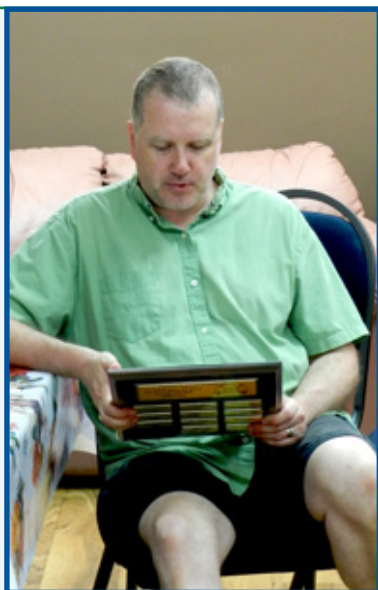
Children under 12 free

Senior/Student/discount for taking both tours : \$12.00 cash only

Those we remember ...



OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
July 4, 2014	July 4, 1993	15 Tamuz 5763	Dorothy Hale	Mother of	John Blakely
July 5, 2014	July 5, 2008	2 Tamuz 5768	Barb Burney	Sister of	Anne Gougeon Ryant
July 5, 2014	July 5, 1992	4 Tamuz 5752	David Lazarus	Father of	Jack Shalinsky
July 7, 2014	July 7, 2006	11 Tamuz 5766	Arthur Blakely	Father of	John Blakely
July 12, 2014	July 12, 1951	6 Tamuz 5719	Nathan Ryant	Father of	Joe Gougeon-Ryant
July 13, 2014	July 4, 1993	15 Tamuz 5753	Rosa Gans/Ruth bat	Mother of	Michael Gans
July 13, 2014	July 13, 2001	22 Tamuz 5761	Leah Yacowar	Mother of	Hal Yacowar
July 14, 2014	July 14, 1993	25 Tamuz 5753	Esther Auerbach	Mother of	Julie Elizabeth
July 15, 2014	July 15, 1985	26 Tamuz 5745	Ian Taylor	Brother of	Doreen Sullivan
July 15, 2014	July 13, 2015	8 Av 5773	Les Young	Partner of	Hank Peters
July 18, 2014	July 18, 2006	22 Tamuz 5766	Mary Jaffe	Wife of	Len Jaffe
July 19, 2014	July 19, 1981	17 Tamuz 5752	Clifford Eric	Son of	Jack Shalinsky
July 21, 2014	July 21, 1990	28 Tamuz 5750	Jack Leshner	Husband of	Arline Leshner
July 25, 2014	July 25, 2011	23 Tamuz 5771	Audrey Conlin	Mother of	Sharon Gillean-Shalinsky
July 26, 2014	July 26, 2009	5 Av 5769	Barry Goodman	Nephew	Joe Gougeon-Ryant
August 1, 2014	Aug. 1979	Unknown	Jack McCulloch	GrandFather of	Rennie Parrish
August 6, 2014	August 6, 1978	3 Av 5738	Ralph Chuly	Father of	Phyllis Chuly
August 6, 2014	August 6 1979	13 Av 5739	Mary Hutkin	Mother of	Reva Hutkin
August 10, 2014	August 17, 1997	14 Av 5757	Art Bleviss	Uncle of	Morris Bleviss
August 12, 2014	August 8, 1998	16 Av 5758	Roseline Van Wilde	Sister of	Morris Bleviss
August 22, 2014	August 15, 2001	26 Av 5761	Gwen Fogel	Friend of	Caroline Hergt
August 26, 2014	August 26, 2006	30 Av 5766	Louis Ostrov	Father of	Sue Sandell
August 29, 2014	August 29, 2011	29 Av 5771	Bob Kadonoff	Husband of	June Kadonoff
August 30, 2014	August 28, 1968	4 Elul 5728	Sheina Gans	Aunt of	Michael Gans



Applause for Reva Hutkin as she receives the 2014 Louis Sherman Award **for her Dedication** from Rennie Parrish. Well deserved recognition! **Mazel tov, Reva!**





Harbin's Main Synagogue today. (photo credit: Erica Lyons/Times of Israel)

105-year-old Chinese synagogue reopens to public

After a year-long restoration project, Harbin's Main Synagogue looks as it [did] when first completed in 1909

The Chinese city of Harbin reopened a 105-year-old synagogue to the public after an extensive restoration.

The Main Synagogue on Harbin's Tongjiang Street was reopened last week after 12 months of renovations at a festive ceremony featuring a performance by the String Quartet of the State Glazunovs Conservatory from the city of Petrozavodsk in Russia, the Xinhua news agency reported.

In 19th and 20th centuries, thousands of Jews immigrated to the northeastern city of Harbin to escape persecution in Europe and Czarist Russia, establishing there one of the largest Jewish communities in the Far East.

The Chinese government conducted the restoration project with help from Dan Ben-Canaan, an Israeli scholar who has lived in Harbin for more than decade and works there as director of Heilongjiang University's Sino-Israel Research and Study Center.

The restored synagogue, he told Xinhua, "looks exactly the same as when the synagogue first opened in 1909, making this a unique location."

Once an Orthodox synagogue seating up to 450 people, the building's exterior boasts a Star of David sitting atop the rooftop dome.

Inside, the women's gallery on the second floor, the men's prayer hall and rabbi's bimah platform have all been restored, complete with safety rails featuring elaborate decorations that combine Jewish and Chinese symbols.

However, the reopened synagogue is not meant to function as a place of worship but as a concert theater, according to Xinhua.

The synagogue was damaged in 1931 by a fire that, according to Ben-Canaan, was started by gangs of anti-Communist Russians. It was renovated after the fire and closed down in 1963. It was converted into a hospital and a hostel, leaving its interior badly damaged, the report said. timesofisrael.com

