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**Hag Pesach Sameach**  
to all our Congregants  
and their families.

See you at our  
**Community Seder**  
on April 23rd.



## From Rabbi Moch

### "Achieving Holiness Requires Less of Me"

Dear Haveirim and Haveirot,

We are getting ready for Pesach and at the same time we are reading the Book of Vayikra, or Leviticus. This book addresses its concerns to building and maintaining a life of kedusha, holiness, for the individual and for the community. The Book of Vayikra begins "Vayikra el Moshe," "[Adonai] called to Moses." The ability to experience such a Divine call defines holiness. The content of the book that follows speaks of the meaning of sacrifice and purity. At its heart we read "You shall be holy for I, Adonai, your God, am holy." Often, however, we find a sense of kedusha difficult to achieve and more difficult to maintain.

If we were to go back to the very beginning of Vayikra and look at the Hebrew text, we would notice something unusual. The first word *Vayikra* is written with a small letter Aleph at the end; this hints at an important insight to achieving kedusha. Aleph also begins the word "ani" meaning "I" and it begins the word "Anochi", the word that God uses when God says "I". "Anochi Adonai Eloheicha," - "I am Adonai Your God." Holiness has to do with letting that "ani" (one's 'I' or sense of self) connect with and experience something of "Anochi" (God's Eternal 'I'). The very nature of "ani" – awareness of self and self-need – almost always gets in the way. "Ani" (my sense of 'I'-ness) says, "What's in it for me?" In human relationships, one person's concern for 'self,' may prevent real or enduring connection with any other significant 'self'. My own problems, or issues or concerns or needs keep me from hearing, understanding or attending to the problems, issues, concerns and needs of others for whom I tell myself I care.

The cosmology of Kabbalah offers us a solution to overcoming this ubiquitous human stumbling block. Kabbalah teaches that before the beginning, God wanted to create a universe, but could not because God filled all potential space and time; there remained no room for a universe (that which is other than God). God then performed a "tzimtzum" an act of "contraction," drawing back, pulling back part of God's self and making room somewhere inside for a universe to come into being. [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

#### Shimon Moch

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206-422-8690  
on whatsapp and by FaceBook  
Messenger at Shimon Moch

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#### Julie Elizabeth

madrona623@gmail.com

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### TREASURER

#### Morris Bleviss

## 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.** The same must be true on the smaller scale of human existence. Moses, whom the Torah calls the most-humble of human beings, could hear that call to which most of us remain deaf. Our own lack of humility gets in our way. The small Aleph at the end of Vayikra tells us of the need for tzimtzum, drawing back, for making our needy ani 'I' smaller, in order to allow for the possibility for God's Eternal Anochi to enter into our spiritual awareness. Only by lessening self-concern can we open ourselves to the kedusha of becoming a vessel for the outpouring of Divine Anochi, the 'I' of the Eternal.

When someone enters the Synagogue wondering what s/he will get out of it or leaves asking whether s/he got anything out of the experience, that person's concerns for his or her ani prevent any real kedusha from blossoming. To allow an awareness of holiness to begin, one must first make less of one's 'I'. Instead of asking 'What will I get out of this?' ask 'How must I enter into this?' Kabbalah teaches that one must achieve "Bitul Yesh" or the elimination of one's sense of self before one can glimpse the "Throne of Divine Glory." Eliminating one's sense of self does not come easy to anyone, and is certainly not a Jewish strength. That makes it all the more important to work at making "less of 'Me'." Crossing this great internal divide is the Red Sea whose waters are parted by making the alef of ani smaller. When we succeed, it allows for entire worlds, even universes, to grow in the space we vacate. We are told in the Torah not just to refrain from eating hameitz, leavened bread, on Pesach but rather to rid our houses of all hameitz. Hameitz, bread made from fermentation processes that puff-up the dough, represents an inflated sense of self that prevents us from leaving Mitzrayim (Egypt). Mitzrayim literally means "narrow places" of our lives. Getting rid of an imposing sense of self could be the most important preparation we make for Pesach this or any year.

*Rabbi Shimon* 



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

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

## Pot Luck and Havdallah

Kolot Mayim  
invites you to bring  
a dish to share for a  
**potluck dinner**

and  
**Havdallah**  
with  
**Rabbi Moch**

at  
**6 pm**  
on

**Saturday, April 16th.**

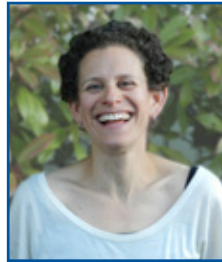
Dinner is followed  
by music and  
an Israeli  
dancing programme  
with  
**Kouskous!**



Suggested donation  
\$20. per family

2582 MacDonald Dr.  
West, Saanich BC.

## President's Message



What a beautiful community we have here. On fairly short notice, a good number of caring members (and future members!) came out to Wild Coffee to envision our long term future and brainstorm some immediate solutions. The enthusiasm and willingness of this group to step up was inspiring. I look forward to sharing that energy with the wider community. Please get a hold of me if you wish to hear more on that.

The big community spirit of our small community was also made evident at our combined Purim spiel/ Kabbalat Shabbat service on March 18. For those of you who missed it, it was truly the best in recent memory! Rabbi Moch's adept weaving of the Megillah story into the service combined fabulously with our usual ruach.

April is a big month for us. Coming right up, on Saturday, April 2, Rabbi Moch will be sharing our Torah with interested members of the public from 2-3 at the Monterey Centre in Oak Bay. This is a great opportunity for anyone to see a Torah up close without the potential intimidation of ritual, so tell all your friends. That night there will also be a Havdallah service and dessert pot luck at the home of Charlotte Sutker, 1135 McClure Street at 7:30, following a later than usual adult ed session.

Last but not least, we will have a potluck dinner at 6 and music provided by Kouskous with a bit of dancing and Havdallah from 7-8 at the Kinarthys' home on Saturday, April 16. This again is a great opportunity to introduce anyone to the congregation.

Last but not least, we have my personal favorite of our congregational year, our annual family friendly community Seder on April 23. We can always use more volunteers, and do not fail to get your tickets! Get them before April 12 and save some money! See you there!



April 2016  
Adar II-Nissan 5776

**Tzedakah:  
A way of life.  
Kolot Mayim  
Supports Food Bank**

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.

**Please remember to bring food contributions for the *Onegs*, so that we can all stay a little longer and schmooze.**

## Chai חַי

### CHAI FUND

Leah Kinarthy in support of Shabbat Across Canada  
Jo Payment in honour of Reva Hutkin's 80th birthday.

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

## Those we remember ...

**April 2016  
AdarII-Nissan 5776**



**April 1st**  
Selig Weiss  
Martin Spigelman  
Alex Aiken

**April 15th**  
----

*May their memory  
be for a blessing.*

Due to a computer glitch, we have reason to doubt that these are the only Yahrzeits between March 19, 2016 (9 Adar II, 5776) and April 15, 2016 (7 Nissan 5776).

Because of this, we would appreciate it if you would send *all* your Yahrzeits to Julie at <madrona623@gmail.com>. We are redoing the list, and apologize for any inconvenience. J.

מחזור לימים הנוראים  
**משכן הנפש**  
MISHKAN HANEFESH  
Machzor for the Days of Awe



**\$50.00 per set**  
payable to Kolot Mayim Reform Temple  
for your own home copy  
**or** as a gift to the Temple.  
The latter will receive a tax receipt.



## Kabbalat Shabbat Services

led by Rabbi Moch

**7:30 p.m.**

**Friday Apr. 1st  
& 15th**

*Shabbat Ha-Gadol*

Honouring non-Jewish spouses

New members

## Tot Shabbat

9 a.m. April 16th

## Shacharit Services

led by Rabbi Moch

**10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday Apr. 2nd & 16th**

followed by

## Torah Study

**at 11:00 a.m.**

at the JCCV

3636 Shelbourne

Apr. 2\* & 16 - led by Rabbi Moch

Apr. 9, 23, 30 - led by Julie Elizabeth

\*Bring some lunch to Torah Study on April 2nd, as there is little time between that and Torah on the Town if they wish to attend both.

## Torah-on-the-Town

2:00pm - Monterey Centre

1440 Monterey Avenue

## Adult Education

**7:30 p.m. Apr. 2nd**

**The Exodus of Jews  
from Eastern Europe**

Come prepared to tell  
some part of your family's story.

at the home of

**Charlotte Sutker**

1135 McClure Street

Includes havdallah & Pot Luck Desserts

**2:30 pm Apr. 16th**

**Making Pesach Real  
and My Seder Compelling**

at the home of

**Joel & Sandy Fagan**

605 - 1178 Beach Drive

**Everyone is welcome.**

April 2016  
Adar II-Nissan 5776

**THE VOICE**

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*To 'My Dear Kolot Mayim Family:  
It is with much love that I  
acknowledge your very special get  
well card, and the beautiful  
sentiments which it expresses.  
This illness has been a long and  
difficult one. However, I'm on the  
mend now and looking forward to  
being with all of you.*

*To me, you truly are my family and  
I have missed you so very much.*

*Many thanks to each and every one.*

*See you soon. Promise!*

*Love, Arline*



**Save  
The Date**

**WRJ Pacific District Area Day**

*For all Pacific NW Sisterhood  
Women*



☀ **When:** June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

☀ **Time:** 10:30-4:00 pm

☀ **Where:** Temple Beth Am

2632 NE 80<sup>th</sup> St.

Seattle, WA

☀ **Cost:** \$25

(includes lunch & materials)

Registration: info will be out this spring



## Kolot Mayim Community Passover Seder

**Saturday, April 23**

**Doors open at  
5:30**

**Seder begins  
at 6 p.m.**

Family friendly,  
everyone is  
welcome!

Free raffle for a  
special Pesach  
prize!

Held at the Jewish  
Community Center of  
Victoria (JCCV)  
3636 Shelbourne St.



**Final deadline to order tickets is April 20th**

**Early Bird** Tickets purchased  
before **April 12**

Adult Members \$40  
Adult Non-Members \$45  
Full-time Students/teens \$20  
Kids age 5-12 \$12  
Kids under 5- free

Tickets purchased after  
**April 12**

Adult Members \$45  
Adult Non-Members \$50  
Full-time Students/teens \$22  
Kids age 5-12 \$12  
Kids under 5- free

You can pay online by credit card at [www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com](http://www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com)

Or send a cheque made out to Kolot Mayim Reform Temple/Seder to Julie Elizabeth at Kolot Mayim, 3636 Shelbourne Street, Victoria, BC, V8P 4H1 **or** order by phone 250-704-2503 **or** email <km@kolotmayimreformtemple.com>.

### **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).



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

### **The Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island is pleased to announce that applications for 2016 grants and scholarships are now online!**

The Federation's mandate is to assist the vulnerable, to strengthen Jewish education and identity, to support Israel, to advocate on behalf of the Jewish community and to continue community development. Whether you need some help sending your children to a Jewish Summer Camp, or have a great idea that would benefit the community - Jewish Federation would like to hear from you!

#### **There are three categories of allocations funding available:**

**Community Agency Grants** are issued to Canada-Revenue-Agency-approved charities. Projects can be initiated by lay leaders who have a great idea and partner with an agency .

**Israel Experience / Jewish Experience Grants** are issued to individuals who are attending programs in Israel and elsewhere that provide a meaningful Jewish educational experience that fosters Jewish identity and / or a connection to Israel.

**Summer Camp Scholarships** are awarded to families who need help in sending their children to Jewish summer camp. The funding is issued directly to the Camps who apply the amount to camp tuition fees.

For more information, please see the Federation website:  
<http://www.jewishvictoria.ca/grants-scholarships/>

**The deadline for applications is April 30th, 2016.**







## A PURIM STORY

By Deena Kinarthy

Every Purim since I can remember as a child, my brothers and I dressed up in our parents' clothes, and wished we were the characters from the famed M'gillah, from the book of Esther. I used to wear my mother's lipstick and pearl necklace and her turquoise embroidered scarf around my head, and I became Queen Esther for a day. My younger brother, naturally was Mordechai, since his middle name actually is Mordechai, named after the famous Jewish uncle. We'd feast on Hamantashan cookies filled with prunes and poppy seeds, and excitedly hiss and boo at any mention of the wicked Haman character.

Last Friday night at the Victoria Jewish Community Centre, Kolot Mayim's celebration reminded me of those lovely childhood memories in the synagogue back home. But now, as a young adult bringing my (albeit non-Jewish) partner to the shul, I was able to appreciate it with new eyes. My partner, Rowan, who is originally from PEI, (a true Maritimer), although he grew up in a family of scientists with English, Irish, and Scottish heritage, he recalls one of his earliest childhood memories was also a celebration of the story of Purim, as his Jewish grade school teacher taught all the children in her class the story.

It is a long-time ritual and custom in Reform Judaism for celebrants to dress in costumes, have festive parties, and perform "Purim-spiels," or silly theatrical adaptations of the story of the **M'gillah**. On Friday night's Shabbat service, Rabbi Moch led us through the service with a silly theatrical adaptation and retelling of the story of Esther, and various members of the congregation each played a part.



Kis Brink was a compelling second narrator, the lovely Queen Esther was played beautifully by Arlette Baker, Martin Hergt was a distinguished King Ahashverus, and Mordechai was performed with panache by our Vice President Richard Weiss. Aaron Banfield (our membership Chairman) showed off his theatrical background as he hammed up the role of Haman, inciting laughter and giggles and noisy groggers. The costumes and props were also a fine touch. Kis Brink's beautiful robe glistened under the lights. Martin Hergt had fun waving the yellow fly swatter aka royal scepter around, and the hats worn by Richard and Aaron were funny and fitting. In fact, Aaron, recited how finding his perfect black, three-cornered Haman hat for the role was a Purim miracle!

The story goes: He had searched all over town a few days before the event, in all the fancy shops and no one seemed to have a three-cornered hat. Disappointed, Aaron decided to walk back to his home in Fernwood. Along the way, he spotted





on the corner of a sidewalk a box labeled "free". Curious as to its contents, he approached the box and peeked inside, and to his surprise laying in the middle of the box was a black, three-cornered hat! Now, that's a Purim miracle!

During the service, there were many Purim adaptations of familiar tunes mixed in between prayers, with the audience taking part and joining in the fun. The songs were accompanied by lovely acoustic guitar played by Marcelina Stanton.

The  
Oneg

afterwards (sponsored by Arlette Baker) featured delicious homemade Hamantashan cookies filled with real prunes and poppy seeds, and tea and coffee. Just like the ones I used to eat. A real treat!

All in all, Kolot Mayim's service was both highly entertaining and educational, but also warming to the soul. It is truly a blessing to have such a community here in Reform Judaism. Hoping to see more faces at the next event!



## Congratulations to Dr. Aaron Devor



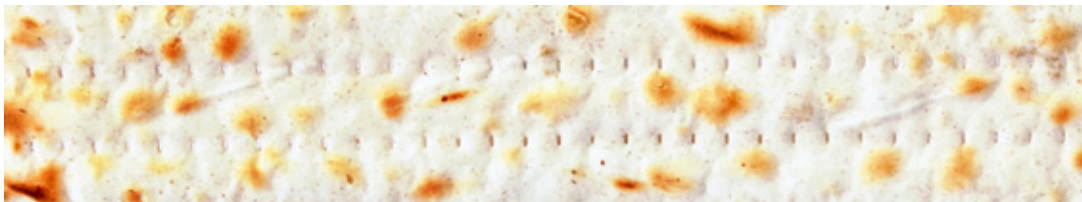
The University of Victoria has added a chair in transgender studies to its faculty, the first such position in the world. The position was afforded by a \$1 million US donation from the Tawani Foundation. The American-based organization has also pledged to match any other donations towards the position to a maximum of another \$1 million US.

Dr. Aaron Devor, currently a professor in the university's sociology department and the former dean of its graduate studies faculty, was appointed the inaugural chair.

He also founded the extensive Transgender Archives at UVic, established in 2012.

Dr. Devor will work with researchers, community activists and students to advance study into a broad range of topics that affect the lives of transgender people. He will explore crucial issues on the subject including health care, poverty, discrimination and suicide.

Photo of Dr. Aaron Devor Photo Credit- CBC News, British Columbia



## Congratulations to Janna Ginsberg Bleviss

Created in 1995, the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award recognizes living Canadians and permanent residents who have made a significant, sustained, unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad. Often working behind the scenes, these individuals volunteer their time and efforts to help their fellow citizens. The award also brings to light the example set by volunteers, whose compassion and engagement are a part of our Canadian character.

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presented honours during ceremonies on March 4th at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, in Vancouver.

Janna was presented this award for being actively engaged in her local community as a volunteer with Victoria AM Tourist Services, United Jewish Appeal, and her synagogue, the Congregation Emanu-El. Notably, she coordinated the congregation's 150th anniversary celebration, which included a veteran's luncheon and the creation of a war memorabilia exhibit.

Photo of Janna Ginsberg Bleviss and Governor General David Johnston, March 4, 2016 in Vancouver.  
Photo Credit- Sgt. Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall





# Torah on the Town



**Where** The Bamboo Room  
Monterey Recreation  
Centre, 1442 Monterey Ave,  
Oak Bay.

**When** Saturday, April 2,  
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

**What** See a real Torah Scroll up  
close. Hear about what Torah  
is and how a scroll is made  
and cared for.

**Why** Learning about the  
blueprint of creation is  
way cool and it could  
be very enlightening.

**Who** Join Rabbi  
Shimon Moch,  
of Kolot Mayim  
Reform Temple.





**First Seder**  
**April 22**

**Temple**  
**Seder**

**April**  
**23rd**

**Pot Luck Dinner\***  
**&**  
**Havdallah**

with music &  
Israeli dancing  
**by Kouskous**

**April 16th**

**Adult Hebrew Classes**  
**with Dr. Elinor Kinarthy**  
at the JCCV

Last class:  
Thursday April 7th  
from 7 until 8:30 pm

*All our  
Kabbalat  
Shabbat  
Services  
feature music.*



## CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

**APRIL 2016/5776**

### KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

led by Rabbi Moch  
7:30 pm at JCCV

**Friday April 1st & 16th**

**1st:** honouring non-Jewish spouses

**16th - Shabbat Ha-Gadol**

honouring New members

### SHABBAT SHACHARIT SERVICES

led by Rabbi Moch  
10: a.m. Saturday April 2nd & 16th

### TORAH STUDY

Every Saturday at 11 a.m.  
at the JCCV

Led by Rabbi Moch: Sat. Apr. 2nd & 16th @ 11:30  
and Julie Elizabeth: Apr. 9th, 23rd & 30th @ 11

**Parashot:** Apr. 2: Shemini; Apr. 9: Tazria;

### TOT SHABBAT

9:00 am Saturday April 2nd

### ADULT EDUCATION

7:30 pm Sat. April 2nd\*

**The Exodus of Jews from Eastern Europe**

Come prepared to tell some part of your family's story.

Includes Havdallah & Pot Luck Dessert

2:30 p.m. Saturday April 16th\*

**Making Pesach Real and My Seder Compelling**

### KOLOT MAYIM FAMILY SEDER

led by Rabbi Moch  
**Saturday April 22nd**  
**Doors open 5:30;**  
**Seder begins 6 pm**

### ROVING SHABBAT POT LUCK DINNER

**Friday April 30th, 7 p.m.\*\***

Reserve to save your seat. Space is limited.

\*\*For location information on Shabbat dinner, please contact the Temple office at 250-704-2503 or <km@kolotmayimreformtemple.com>. For Adult Education, see page 5.