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From Rabbi Moch

"Let the Voice of Jacob overcome the Hand of Esau"

This first week of December, we read the Torah portion, Toldot. The portion recounts Jacob, the home-bound introspective son of Isaac and Rebecca, impersonating his wild-side, slightly older twin-brother, Esau, to cheat him of their father's deathbed blessing reserved for the first-born son. The most interesting commentaries see these twin-brothers, polar-opposite in character, as two inner drives within each of us. After hearing his voice, Isaac asks his impersonating son, if he can feel his arm to see if it was the smooth skin of Jacob or the hairy skin of Esau. He then says, "The voice is the voice of Jacob but the hands are the hands of Esau."

This account refers to an internal ethical debate that happens within each human being and within each segment of human society. Jacob has to come to terms with the fact that his ethical self, the voice of Jacob, succumbed to the domination of his whole self by the hands of Esau, the part of him that wishes to live by the might of the hand.

There is rather frightening evidence all around us of the hand of Esau taking command of the voice of Jacob from the rise of ISIS in the Middle East, to the turn away from a two-state solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict both in Palestinian and Israeli political and popular circles, to the Brexit vote in the United Kingdom to the US presidential election to what is bubbling and brewing all over Europe.

It took Jacob many years before he finally began to come to terms with how he had allowed his self-serving, acquisitive urges to overcome his sense of what was right and ethical and balanced and for the broader good of his family and their future. Jacob wrestled with God's angel who renamed him Israel (one who struggles with God) and said to him, "You have striven with men and with God and you have overcome."

The human problem comes not from making poor choices in life but from disabling our internal ethical debate about those choices.----> p. 2

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

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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Visit us on Facebook!

Rabbi, continued from page 1. That debate is also an expression of the voice of Jacob. The voice of Esau represents a triumph of power over ethical debate, a triumph of power over conscience. In a public setting it represents the triumph of power over public accountability that comes from ethical debate.

Hitler wrote, "The Jews have inflicted two wounds on humanity: circumcision on the body and conscience on the soul." Hitler saw that the only real conflict in the world was that between those who championed power – his chosen way – and those would have conscience rule over power – the way of Judaism, passed to its daughter faiths, Christianity and Islam.



Too much about today's world wants to put power ahead of what they know is right and just. For that reason, my heart leaps in joy when I see people making sure that their voice of Jacob has firm control of their hand of Esau. That was the case on November 21st, when I had the distinct privilege of attending a dinner at the UVic

Student Union for students and faculty co-sponsored and organized by BC Hillel Foundation at U Vic, together with the Muslim Students Association and the Jewish Students Association. This event brought together Jews and Muslims around dinner tables where the 200 plus attendees had an opportunity to get to know each other over dinner table talk and to hear a few inspiring speeches by Jewish and Muslim clergy, including Rabbi Harry from our sister Congregation and Jewish and Muslim students who all extolled the virtues of why we need such bridge building gatherings in a world that grows increasingly turbulent.



I laud their efforts. Let us follow in the footsteps of these far thinking students. Kol ha-kavod – let us give them every honor. We will inherit the world we deserve based on the world we imagine and build. Whether our ethical voice and compassionate ear triumph over our hand of power will be up to us. *Rabbi Shimon*

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President's Message

Just when you thought you couldn't be any busier, December comes along. On top of all your regular tasks, you've got holidays, and parades, and parties galore. How can we fit in time for spiritual reflection, or dare I say, organized religion? Why would we want to?

David Brooks, a conservative commentator for the New York Times, believes religion is one of the keys to bridging many of the gaps in our present conflicted society. He stated in an interview on NPR recently, "We need to become more communitarian in a society that's become too individual; we need to become more moralistic in a society that's become too utilitarian; we need to become more emotional in a society that's too cognitive. Religion speaks those three languages very well. Without them we're just deluded. It's not that we're bad; we're just morally inarticulate."

I'm sure most of us don't think in these terms when we put on our Friday best and head out to a service or light the Shabbat candles. Maybe you're even wanting something a little different at services, or they're not even your thing at all. And that's all good. But if you would like to see something a little different, please speak to the Board or Rabbi Moch about it, as we are always open to change here. Perhaps you would even like to contribute by sitting on the Ritual Affairs Committee?

You might be interested to know that our Board and religious leaders met for a day long exploration last month, facilitated by a volunteer from URJ, to help move us toward more focus and growth. It was a productive and interesting time that I hope will lead to more creative solutions and teamwork. On that note, the next Board meeting is Monday, December 5, at 7 pm at the JCC. All members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

On the more fun side, we also have this month Israeli dancing on Sunday December 11, an Interfaith dinner Friday December 23, and a Chanukah party at my house Thursday, December 29. As always, I look forward to seeing you then and to speaking to you in between.

Katrina 

Some of the participants at the UVic Interfaith Dinner sponsored by the BC Hillel Foundation at UVic with the Muslim Students Association and the Jewish Students Association, November 21, 2016. Our Rabbi Moch, Susan Abrill and Aaron Devor were there, although they do not appear in this photo. Our Israeli Dancing teacher, Etz, is on the left in the first row. Rabbi Harry (Emanu-El) is in the first row (blue shirt), and Rabbi Bregman (BC Hillel Director) is on right, first row standing next to Ora (UVic Hillel Director).



Roving Family Shabbat Dinner

6:00 pm

Friday December 16th

at the home of
Richard & Deb Weiss
3386 Haida Drive
(Veterans' Memorial
Pkwy/Cairndale)).

RSVP to 778-265-0533
or <dweiss1@shaw.ca>



Shabbat Services

Kabbalat Shabbat
Led by Rabbi Shimon Moch
7:30 p.m.

December 9th

with music by
Deena Kinarthy
Oneg sponsored by
Leah Kinarthy

in memory of her father,
Leonard Fromson.

& 23rd

with music by
Marcelina Stanton

*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.*

Torah Study
at 10:30 a.m.

December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Parashyot to be Studied:

December 3: Toldot; 10th: Vayetzai;
17th: Vayishlach; 24th: Vayeshev;
31st: Miketz

Shaharit Services
led by Rabbi Moch
11:30 a.m.

December 10th & 24th

All events are at the JCCV,
3636 Shelbourne Street.

Everyone is welcome.



RAIN & COLD WINTER
WEATHER ARE ON THE WAY
HELP US KEEP OUR FAMILY
MEMBERS WARM & DRY

BY PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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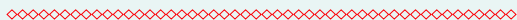


Channukah Celebration



Thursday
December 29th
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
at
the Hanevelts
1947 Highland Road
250-382-5694.

*Come
and share the
joy!*



Those we remember ...

November 2016
Tishrei-Kislev 5777

NAMES WILL BE READ ON DECEMBER 9TH

David Marks
Godfrey Sandell
Sara Kogan
Anna Duchin
James Jardine
Gilleen Chase
Arline Parrish
Janet Devor

NAMES WILL BE READ ON DECEMBER 23RD

John Parrish
Aaron Barwin
Jim Storey
Harry Friedman
Norman Elzer
Leonard Fromson
Nancy Munding
Margot Cummings
Don Sher
Alfred Levy (25 Kislev)
Louise Elzer

*May their memory
be for a blessing.*



December 23rd, 2016

Interfaith Dinner and Pre-Channukah Shabbat/Jumu'a Service

with

**Members of the Baitur Ahmadiyyah Masjid Mosque in
Vancouver**

6pm: Arrive at the JCCV and introduce each other

6:15: Light Shabbat Candles

6:20 Sharing of Muslim call to Prayer followed by Barechu and singing of Shema and ve-Ahavta then prayer of healing and Kaddish.

6:40 Kiddush and ha-Motzi with Muslim invocation of meal **الرحيم الرحمن الله بسم**

6:50 Meal is Served and guests will be seated interspersed with our members.

7:15 Attendees will be given a list of questions to ask each other about each others' faith and customs.

7:45 The Rabbi and Imam will share some thoughts

7:30 We will teach our guests a Hanukkah or Shabbat song and they will teach us a song.





Painting with Chagall and Susan:

Susan taught us how to paint and how to not make a bunch of scribbles. We watched a video about Chagall. The Nazis burned up his paintings. I liked that we got help with painting, and it was fun.

Willem Hanevelt

Copies of two famous Chagall paintings by Willem (L) and Nicholas (R).


Chagall Kids' Art Programme

by Susan Abrill

All colors are the friends of their neighbors and the lovers of their opposites.
— Marc Chagall

A total of five aspiring painters ranging in age from 7 to 13, three boys and two girls, participated in the first series of this year's Jewish art program. In the design of the series, my intention was to combine elements of art history, with a bit of color theory and imagination to discover the art of Marc Chagall. Moishe Segal, who lived nearly 100 years, was born in Vitebsk, Russia (now Belarus) in 1887. At that time, Vitebsk was more than 50% Jewish. Later known as Marc Chagall, he has been called the most important Jewish painter in modern times. His use of Jewish themes and his unique use of color are two elements which make his work extraordinary.

In the first class, we created a heaven and an earth, a swirly sky and a horizon, as Chagall did in some of his works. In the sky we created images that are important to us. In the second class, we began with only sky- but our skies had three colors or more, however not traditional sky colors. Over that we painted figures of people. In the third class, the challenge was to copy one of Chagall's paintings. The difficulty came in mixing and matching the colors as well as in copying his composition.

In 2017 there will be two more art series for kids and teens- Illuminated Hebrew Letters (watercolor) in February, and Jewish comics (archival pen and watercolor) in April. There has also been some interest in similar programs for adults. If you are interested in any upcoming art programs, please email me (Susan Abrill) at srussek@uvic.ca. 

Our President's Reaction to the US Election Results

This is a transcription of an address given at our Kabbalat Shabbat Service on November 11th.

What a different world we live in this Shabbat. If you don't know or have forgotten, I'm an American.


We come here in the names of Abraham, Jacob, Rachel and Leah but also in the names of the 6 million, Elie Wiesel, and Gerry, and Marion Marks, who risked her life to stop Apartheid in South Africa. After this election, we can't keep living the same way we have. I know I can't.

Vincent Harding, who was a contemporary of Martin Luther King, said in an interview in 2011, "Democracy is simply another way of speaking about what it means to be human. Religion is another way of speaking about that question. What is our purpose in this world, and is that purpose related to our responsibilities to each other and the world itself? All of that is a variety of languages getting at the same reality."

Harding continued, "That community that helped to create Martin Luther King, and he helped to nurture, was a community deeply grounded in religion and spirituality. What he was seeking was not simply equality or civil rights. What he was seeking was the creation of the beloved community. He saw everything that crushed against our best human development and our best communal development like segregation and white supremacy. When he moved to break down those laws and practices, he was doing not simply as an act of civil action, but he it was a deep spiritual responsibility. Seeing our best possibilities as a nation. He was looking with an eye deeply filled with love and compassion, and seeing things with that eye opens us up to see many things that might otherwise be missed."

Yesterday I participated in a conference call with reps from the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism and the president of NAACP, among others. If any of you want to hear details of it I will tell you, but I want you to know that our movement is at the forefront of fighting bigotry and hatred, and if you think this doesn't involve you, yes Jews have been targeted this week. But regardless of what the URJ or other bodies are doing, the work can start here. For now that can mean simply the way we choose to be out in the world as Jews and as humans, Canadian or American. In the coming weeks and months there will be many actions to take place, and I trust that we will answer those calls as a congregation.

Thank you.

Katrina If you are interested in listening to the call with the RAC-RJ and others, a recording of it can be found on our Facebook page. 



Latke Mania



starts on Thursday, December 1st and runs until Friday, December 23rd.

Drop into the **Lox, Stock & Bagel Deli** for traditional Channukah potato latkes with apple sauce and sour cream. Eat in or take out; \$10.00 for 3 large potato latkes with sour cream and apple sauce in the Deli, and \$20/dozen for take out. You can order your take out at least 24 hours in advance by calling 250-477-7185 or emailing jccv@telus.net.

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 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).

The Flying Rabbi



Rabbi Shimon Moch went flying with me last week. The Torah portion for that week was about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Abraham's near sacrifice of Isaac. Was the seriousness and intensity of the Parasha an omen of things to come? I imagine the Rabbi did a quick prayer before his flight, which was comforting to me. We have a man of God on board- no lightning, no wind shear- smooth flight please "baruch hashem"!

I was already inspecting my plane and ready to fly when Shimon appeared just in time. He made it! So quickly we got our headsets on, and squeezed into INH (India November Hotel) a solid beauty, 4 passenger, Cessna 172 S. One of the newer planes with state of the art GPS and great handling. I was surprised and happy that Rabbi Shimon agreed to fly with me but then- what if he throws up? What if he hates the experience and has to lie down in the back while vomiting in a barf bag? (previous guest). I've taken about a dozen friends up in the air so far and most have been either vomiting or feeling quite sick as we turn and bump around. Note to self- do not have guests when practicing 360's around the airport. This time I arranged for Shimon to have a tour of the harbour, very little turbulence only a bit of a cross wind – lots of clear skies and sunshine. It was an amazing day to fly.



Shimon was excited and chatty but soon grew quiet. I'm sure he realized that I was working with my instructor and talking with radio control towers getting clearance to taxi onto the runway. Once we were airborne, it was a glorious day. Having more weight in the back of the plane (sorry Rabbi) actually helped to stabilize it



AWARENESS • WISDOM • TRANSFORMATION

The Mussar Institute Israel Experience

Avi Fertig is ready to welcome you to Israel

Don't miss out! Space is limited and only a few slots remain. Reserve your place now before it is too late!

The Mussar Institute, in conjunction with tour operator Makor Educational Journeys, is thrilled to announce "The Mussar Institute Israel Experience" led by Dr. Alan Morinis and Rabbi Avi Fertig. This exciting program will take place February 19 to March 1, 2017.

Imagine ten days of learning and experiencing the land of Israel through the lens of Mussar.



Learn from today's leading Mussar teachers, visit the institutions where Mussar study is vibrant and see the holy sites that inspired it. Study Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto's *Messilat Yesharim*—Path of the Just in the synagogue where he prayed, and then visit his burial site.

Enjoy luxurious accommodations as well as home hospitality. Indulge the senses with exciting adventures, including a boat ride on the Kinneret, a visit to the spiritual city of Tsfat, and the Jerusalem Night Spectacular. Spend Shabbat in Jerusalem together with our wonderful TMI community, and much more!

See what's included. For further details, contact Avi Fertig at aviest@netvision.net.il or Bill Berk of Makor at bill@igt.co.il.

With gratitude and much excitement to share this journey with you,

Alan Morinis and Avi Fertig

The Flying Rabbi, continued from page 9. so it was not very bumpy. The Rabbi did splendidly, taking videos and having a great time.

Here's a thought – I get my pilot's license and then the Rabbi can reach Jews all over the Gulf Islands! What a wonderful Shabbat that would be – to light candles or do Havdalah for isolated families in our many Gulf Island communities! We could advertise: "Flying Rabbi brings Shabbat to you", "Challah on a wing and a prayer..." endless possibilities! It would certainly be unique!

All my earthly troubles disappear once my plane rises high in the sky. It gives one perspective when you see how small our troubles are on earth. The downtown Victoria harbour area and the Parliament buildings as seen from the air are just a group of gray shapes - nothing like the power of the grand architecture when viewed from the ground. Perhaps our systems of buildings and government assembly and voting for leaders is not as vital or important as we think it is.

I keep remembering a verse from the book of Proverbs (one of the 5 books of the Hebrew Bible) that reminds us, "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water. He turns it wherever He wishes." Thus, I believe that despite our feeble efforts to control outcomes, we should trust that God has a longer term plan that we may not see in the immediate future, with our human frailties.

B' Shalom

Leah Kinarthy 



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.

House of Commons (Nov. 15, 2016)

Antisemitism: Statements by Members

Mr. David McGuinty (Ottawa South, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we were shocked and horrified to learn of the anti-Semitic incident targeting a local Jewish home in Ottawa just last night. Residents woke to find part of a swastika and anti-Semitic slur spray-painted on their front door. This incident clearly demonstrates that anti-Semitism still exists in Canada and that all of us must be vigilant, speak out, and actively work together to combat it. We simply cannot let this kind of discrimination go unanswered, or worse, seep into the everyday lives of Canadians.

All of us in the House and in our communities must signal that religiously motivated attacks are indeed contrary to Canadian values and principles. I ask all members to stand together, side by side, in condemning, denouncing, and most of all, repudiating this incident and any others like it. 



Channukah

1st Candle

Saturday December 24th

**Celebrate Channukah
with Kolot Mayim!**

5:30-8 p.m.

**Thursday December 29th
at**

the Hanevelts

1947 Highland Road

ROSH CHODESH

KISLEV

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 1ST**

*All our
Kabbalat
Shabbat
Services
feature music.*



DECEMBER 2016/5777

CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

LED BY RABBI SHIMON MOCH

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH

7:30 pm

with music by

Deena Kinarthy

Oneg sponsored by Leah Kinarthy

FRIDAY DECEMBER 23RD

INERFAITH SERVICE & DINNER

7:30 p.m.

with music by

Marcelina Stanton

CHANNUKAH CELEBRATION

THURSDAY DECEMBER 29TH

5:30-8 p.m.

at the Hanevelts

TORAH STUDY

Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

at the JCCV

Led by Rabbi Moch, Dec. 10th & 24th.

Led by Julie Elizabeth, Dec. 3rd & 17th, & 31st.

PARASHYOT

December 3rd: Toldot; 10th: Vayetzei; 17th:
Vayhishlach; 24th: Vayeshev; 31st: Miketz

ROVING SHABBAT POT LUCK DINNER

6:00 p.m. Friday December 16th

at the home of Richard & Deb Weiss

3386 Haida Drive

(Veterans' Memorial Pkwy/Cairndale)

RSVP to

778-265-0533 or <dweiss1@shaw.ca>