קולות מים KOLOT MAYIM REFORM TEMPLE

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WE WILL CELEBRATE PURIM!

7:30 pm at the JCCV

Get ready for Friday night Services on March 6th. Think about your costumes and masks. Bake (or otherwise acquire) your hamentaschen for the Oneg. Be entertained, and participate with Kouskous. Enjoy a Service conducted by KM's famously best Queen Esther! Prepare your children (and yourselves) to hiss & boo Haman, and to cheer & applaud Esther and Mordechai.



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From Rabbi Moch

We are reading in the Torah now about the building of the Desert Sanctuary of God's Presence. Over the years, a secondary meaning of sanctuary has developed – the idea of a place of protection and refuge to be used in times

of danger. Jews are again in need of such protective sanctuary.

The news today tells of a marked resurgence of anti-Jewish incidents around the world, but especially in France, England, Denmark, Sweden and Turkey, as well as other European countries. These are characterized by individual attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions, and by a general attitude of tolerance toward such attacks within European society.

Often, European Jews fear wearing kippot or Jewish themed Jewelry in public lest they attract ridicule or physical assault. The exception to a growing tolerance by the public come from the Prime Ministers of France and Denmark, who have both addressed this problem head-on with an attitude that anti-Jewish acts cannot and will not be tolerated.

All of this needs to be addressed in a very serious way, but these attacks on individual Jews or Jewish institutions should not distract Jews around the world from a far-more pressing danger in which Jews are put into situations that endanger their lives every day in far-greater numbers. That place is Ukraine where some 300,000 to 350,000 Jews live — almost as many as the 380,000 Jews who live in Canada. 30,000-40,000 of Ukrainian Jews live in Eastern Ukraine where Russian sponsored Rebels have taken control and where fighting continues, despite a recent cease fire deal arranged with the Russian and Ukrainian governments. Some 100,000 more live in adjacent areas that could soon be drawn into the conflict, like Kharkov (40,000 Jews) where a bomb exploded recently.

The Ukrainian Jews who live continue to live in Donetsk (15,000 Jews) and Lugansk (8,000 Jews), in the midst of the fighting, are mostly elderly Jews who cannot flee or properly care for themselves in a situation in which they are utterly vulnerable. Civilian deaths continue to mount and these include the Jews living in those places. There are some 7,000 Jews who have been displaced by the fighting and are receiving shelter and support from the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

The JDC has long been the arm of the Organized North American Jews and has been helping care for marginal and challenged Jewish communities around the world. The JDC currently operates 32

Continued on page 4.



President's Message

The month of Adar brings with it the joyous and oftentimes 'wild' holiday of Purim. Purim has always been a special occasion for me, as my birthday (March 9th) occurs very near to it each year.

This year, my hope is that we all celebrate the many blessings and good fortune we have with more intention and greater fervor. Say what you want to say. Listen to

bear witness. Acknowledge each other's gifts and accomplishments. Sing the songs that are within each of you. Dance with one another. Act courageously, knowing that we live a charmed life in this part of the world, while so many suffer and live in fear that g-d knows what may be lurking around the corner.

Live deeper and wider for those who have afforded you that opportunity — and reserve your Kolot Mayim Passover Seder seats EARLY! This year's Seder is shaping up to be the best one in recent memory. The ticket reservation form is on the last page of this newsletter.

B'Shalom,

Richard Gafter

Hasidic Man Sues Quebec Government

Cheating Hasids Out of a Future: When Yeshivas Dump 3 R's for Torah and Talmud By Jay Michaelson

An innovative lawsuit in Quebec offers an intriguing model for reforming the substandard secular education provided in many Hasidic communities.

For years it's been well known that many Hasidic yeshivas in New York fall far short of the state's education department requirement that private school curricula be "substantially equivalent" to those in public schools. As reported in The New York Times last year, many Hasidic elementary school students receive only 90 minutes of math and English education each day, in contrast with seven and a half hours of religious education. Such practices, the Times observed, have been going on for decades.

Yohanan Lowen was educated in the reclusive Tash enclave in Boisbriand, north of Montreal. Like similar communities in New Square and Monsey, New York, Boisbriand is a world unto itself. The Hasidic power structure controls everything and enforces its own rules. One can live in Boisbriand and never encounter a non-Hasid, let alone a non-Jew.

Lowen, represented by the not-for-profit Clinique Juridique Juripop, alleges that he was deprived of his right to a secular education. And he's suing not just the yeshivas that left him functionally illiterate, but also the Quebec government and other public agencies that knowingly allowed this illegal activity to continue.

Now 37 and the father of four, Lowen says he's unable to hold down meaningful employment; he currently teaches Talmud part time at a liberal synagogue and is on the dole. Although Lowen's claims may seem trumped-up for his lawsuit — he is seeking \$1.25 million in damages — I have met many Continued on page 6.

From Rabbi Moch, continued from page 2 Chesed Social Welfare Centers in every part of Ukraine on both sides of the conflict. It provides needed help and supplies to Jews living in over 1,000 locations around Ukraine.

The National JFC-UIA had a budget last year of \$25 million, of which \$700,000 was passed on to help JDC, of which they used a significant portion helping the Jews of Ukraine.

Being able to help desperate and impoverished Jewish communities in distant parts of the world provides all the reason we Jews need to join together to support community and national Jewish organizations that strengthen Jewish Life in far flung places. You and I could do little to help on our own; our combined efforts through Jewish Federation mean a great deal to a great many.

The Sanctuary contained one thing: the Holy Ark of the Covenant. It was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold inside and out. The cover was solid gold and had on it the images of two cherubim facing each other, with their wings stretched forward just touching at the tips. God means us to see each other fully - each other>s joys and pains, triumphs and trials. God means us to reach out toward each other to touch and to bless, to lift up when fallen, to up lift when defeated. God's Presence rests where we see each other's needs and reach out to each other in care and in love.

An Extra Treat from Rabbi Moch "The Sanctuary Helps Us Keep our Lives Divinely Directed"

We recently began reading a series of parshiyot in the Torah that describe the instructions by God to build a Sanctuary for God's presence. It all began with the words,

"Speak to the Israelites that they take an offering for Me from each person whose heart so moves him (Exodus 25:2)."

Then Torah tells us that the Presence of God will not be in that Sanctuary at all, but rather in the people themselves.

"They shall make Me a Sanctuary and I will dwell inside them. (Exodus 25:8)."

Rashi, the great biblical and Talmudic commentator from 10th Century France, tells us that the instructions to build a Sanctuary, a physical structure to represents God's Presence among the Israelites, came as a response by God to the incident of the Golden Calf. The Calf resulted from the Israelites need for something physical to worship.

We do not think of ourselves as idol worshippers, yet we centre our lives on so many physical things and things that put our physical gratification first. Our sages tell us that at Sinai, our ancestors achieved a state of spiritual purity, not unlike that of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, before they ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge. Before that, they had a world without sin or shame; everything was pure and holy. There was nowhere where God was not integral, and so the entire universe existed as God's Sanctuary.

Once a single person deviated from the will of God and submitted to his own desires, he lost that direct connection with God everywhere. Rabbi Abraham Twerski, a Hasidic rabbi and psychiatrist who worked his entire career running a drug treatment center, writes, "When a man yields to temptation, the world becomes a challenge instead of a Sanctuary. Everywhere there are pitfalls, things that titillate his physical desires, things that seduce him to seek self-gratification. Man's world now becomes an obstacle course, and in such a world he now needs a place of refuge, a Sanctuary where he can develop

Continued on page 5.

The Sanctuary Helps Us ... continued from page 4. his spirituality."

We so frequently misdirect our lives from the pure and holy and surrender to our desire to indulge ourselves to the temptations of the physical world. While God surely remains everywhere, we become so distracted by our own selfneeds; we blind ourselves to the interconnectedness of All and to the imminence of God everywhere and at all times. The Sanctuary acts as our aide, a place to help us focus and re-direct our lives back toward satisfying a holier side of ourselves that connects us with God, with each other and with the universe as a whole. Judaism gives us not only a Sanctuary to help us do that (the Physical centre of our Jewish community), but also the community itself, as it comes together to study Torah, pray and do righteous, uplifting deeds together. We have been given these tools to help us direct our lives when we go astray. Let us not waste such a wonderful gift. Rather we must engage with our sacred community and the sacred spaces it uses to help us focus on the meaning of being a community and our divinely ordained purpose of perfecting our inner and outer worlds.

Rabbí Moch

KOLOT MAYIM SEDER

3rd night of Passover Sunday April 5th, 2015

Doors open at 5:30 pm Seder begins at 6:00 pm promptly

This year's Seder will be led by Student Rabbi, Michael Cohen, with musical assistance from Kouskous, Gary Cohen and Amber Wood.

We are looking forward to a wonderful, joyous, hamishe event, and hope you will all join us for a very special remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt.

Ticket order form is on the last page of this newsletter. Please mail, email, or call your order to Julie Elizabeth at 250-388-4161, or <madrona623@gmail.com>, or

102 Meadow Park Lane, Victoria, BC V9B 6N1,

no later than Wednesday April 1st.

Tzedakahkah: A wayvafylifelife.

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.



Kolot Mayim Women

We are off and running! On Monday February 16th, Julie Elizabeth, Reva Hutkin, and Charlyne Ashford met with Donna Ornstein from Temple Sholom in Vancouver, at Reva Meyers (Kogan)'s home, to discuss options for forming a women's group adherent to Kolot Mayim.

It was a wonderful meeting, and we all left inspired and eager to carry on. Another meeting was planned for the following Monday but had to be postponed due to illness.

We already have others wanting to join, and any Kolot Mayim or other Jewish woman in Victoria is welcome to join us.

We were offered lots of ideas of how our group could function, from purely social to educational to fundraising for KM to any number of other possibilities. To get in on this ground-breaking and exciting offshoot of Kolot Mayim, please contact Julie at 250-388-4161 or <madrona623@gmail.com>, or <kolotmayimwomen@gmail.com>.



Top, L to R: Donna Ornstein and Charlyne Ashford. **Bottom**, L to R: Reva Hutkin, Reva Meyers, Donna Ornstein, Charlyne Ashford, Julie Elizabeth

Hasidic Man, Continued from page 3. people with similar stories. They struggle to emerge out of fundamentalist ghettos, receive almost no support from the mainstream Jewish community, and often have to start from scratch as adults, learning English (or, in Israel, modern Hebrew) and basic life skills. Many find their way, but many others are lost souls, abandoned by their families and by the wider Jewish community.

There are points of light in this darkness of coercion and ignorance: small organizations like Continued on page 7.

Two 20th Century Jewish Musicians

This past January, Jewish Treats honored two musicians who were born on January 6: Maurice Abravanel and Menahem Avidom.

Maurice Abravanel (1903-1993), who was the descendant of Don Isaac Abravanel (the famous biblical commentator from Spain), was born in Salonika (now Thessaloniki, Greece). In 1909, the family moved to Lausanne, Switzerland, where they lived in the same house as Ernest Ansermet, the conductor of the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, with whom the young Abravanel played piano.

In 1922, Abravanel moved to Berlin and began to study with Kurt Weill, who would become his life-long friend. He left Germany as the Nazis gained power. In 1936, he became the youngest staff conductor at the New York Metropolitan Opera. After two years at the Met and a few years working on Broadway, Abravanel accepted a position at the Utah Symphony Orchestra. In 1947, this was a small provincial orchestra. By the time Abravanel retired 40 years later, the Utah Symphony was internationally

renowned and had recorded on major music labels. Abravanel passed away on September 22, 1993.

The acclaimed composer Menahem (Mahler-Kalkstein) Avidom was born in Stanislav, Russia (then Hungary), in 1908. Shortly after emigrating to Palestine when he was 17, Avidom studied at the American University of Beirut and then at the Paris Conservatoire. He then spent four years in Egypt before returning to Tel Aviv to teach at the Music Teacher Training College and at the Tel Aviv Conservatory. He also worked as a music critic, served as the general secretary of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (1946-1952), chaired the Israel Composers' League (1958-71) and held several other prestigious positions.

Avidom's composing style was deeply influenced by his travels. He mixed Mediterranean and Asian folk music and French culture into his music. His work in atonal composition influenced music in Israel and brought him great acclaim, as did his later experiments with 12-tone technique. Avidom won the Engel Prize (1947), the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Prize (1951), the Israel Prize (1961), and the ACUM Prize ~ (1962). He died in Tel Aviv. Israel, on August 5, 1995.

Housing Needed

Recent adherent to Kolot Mayim has relocated to Greater Victoria and seeks (preferably) furnished suite to rent at modest price. Middle age, quiet-living, solo gentleman with written references. Also, seeks housesitting gigs - of any duration - through 2015 into 2016. No fee charged; no fee paid.

Please leave voicemail message for Réal at 250-383-5144, ext. 1003. Todah Rabah.

Hasidic Man Footsteps (in the United States) and Hillel (in Israel); stirring narratives published in these pages by Frimet Goldberger and others; and stories of those who have thrived outside the ghetto walls.

But the collusion among Hasidic leadership, Jewish powerbrokers, politicians and the mainstream Jewish community has failed thousands of individuals trapped inside lives they do not wish to lead, but cannot leave, for fear of Continued on page 8.

Hasidic Man, continued from page 7. letters (and checks) of support from around the world. They want the change he is seeking, but would risk excommunication if they tried to bring it about.

A lawsuit such as Lowen's should not be understood as anti-religious or anti-Hasidic. As long as it is voluntarily chosen, the Hasidic way may be beautiful and profound.

As many have said before me, such negligence is a chillul Hashem, a profanation of the divine name. But the secular system, too, has failed. Not only have we failed to fight this coercion, we also have aided and abetted it.

Jay Michaelson is a contributing editor to the Forward.



A recent Torah Study session with Studeent rabbi, Michael Cohen at the Gougeon-Ryants. Photo by Julie Elizabeth

Torah Study & Havdallah with Rabbi Moch

Sat. March 14th at 3:30 pm.

at the home of **Julie & Reva**102 Meadow Park Lane

Call 250-388-4161 for directions.

A light snack will be served.

Everyone is welcome.

Note: This article may be read in its entirety at http://forward.com/articles/215137/cheating-hasids-out-of-a-future. Due to space restrictions in our newsletter, the majority of references to American politics in this article have been removed. What is of interest here for us, is that this is happening in Quebec. JE



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).



The Board and membership of Kolot Mayim Reform Temple greatly appreciate the help of Harry Abrams in advertising our monthly cabarets.

Shabbat Across America and Canada

"Turn an ordinary Friday night into something extraordinary!"

On **Friday night**, **March 13**, **2015** hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat! Everyone is invited – singles, couples, families, all ages.

That's the magic of Shabbat Across America and Shabbat Across Canada. By participating in this continent-wide event, you will not only have the opportunity to experience Shabbat, but you will be sharing your experience with tens of thousands of Jews across North America.

No matter what your affiliation or which Shabbat Across America or Shabbat Across Canada location you choose to attend, NJOP's annual Shabbat program will give you a "taste" of Shabbat. Explanatory services, traditional rituals, delicious meals and lively discussions are all important components of the Shabbat experience, as well as the opportunity to spend the evening with likeminded people, friends and family.

Shabbat Across America or Shabbat Across Canada is for every Jew, and those who are unable to go to a registered location can participate in their own homes or in gatherings with friends/family.

Join Rabbi Moch and Kolot Mayim members for a Vegetariam Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00 at the Jewish Community Centre of Victoria, 3636 Shelbourne Street, followed by a special Kabbalat Shabbat Service. For more information, contact Julie at 250-388-4161 or <madrona623@gmail.com>.



March 2015 Adar-Nissan 5775 **Sunday** Monday **Tuesday** Wednesday **Thursday Friday** Saturday 1 March Ki Tisa 3 7:30 pm 11 10 Adar 12 13 15 16 K.Shabbat Service led by Fast of **PURIM** Joe Gougeon-Ryant <mark>Shushan</mark> Esther **PURIM** habbat Across3 Vayakhel-8 10 America & 21 17 18 19 20 Pekudei 23 Canada 3:30 Torah Stdy 6 pm Pot Luck 7:30 pm Havdalah and K.Shabbat Snack. Location Service led by tba Wkly Update Rabbi Moch 17 18 20 Vayikra 16 25 1 Nissan 9:30-12:3024 26 27 28 29 7:30 pm Rabbi Moch K. Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Service led by at Hebrew Julie Elizabeth School Tzav 22 23 24 25 28 26 7:30 pm 27 K.Shabbat Service led by Joel Fagan 8:00 pm KM Cabaret at the JCCV 29 30 31 White squares indicate 10 rabbinical leadership. Green square indicates musicians at service.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY LIKED OUR FACEBOOK PAGE. PLEASE DO SO IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, KIS INFORMS US THAT WE **MUST** INTERACT WITH THE PAGE TO MAXIMIZE ITS BENEFIT.





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.

The extended Blackman, Brandt and Hergt family graciously thank the Kolot Mayim community for their heartfelt support following our recent loss of Basil Blackman and Jozef Brandt.

Those we remember		A	Adaı	March 2015 r-Nissan 5775	
OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR	HEBREW DATE	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
	OF DEATH	YEAR OF			
		DEATH			
March 1, 2015	March 1, 1978	22 Adar I , 5738	Harry Pattenick	Husband of	Eleanor Patten
March 3, 2015	March 3, 1983	18 Adar I I 5743	Martha Greenfield	Mother of	Gerald Greenfield
March 6, 2015	March 6, 2005	25 Adar I I 5765	Cassie Ostrov	Mother of	Sue Sandell
March 6, 2015	March 6, 2004	13 Adar I , 5764	Sylvia Smith	Friend of	Jacqueline Seigel
March 8, 2015	March 8, 2000	1 Adar II , 5760	Sonia Rawicki	Mother of	Dorothy Torontow
March 9, 2015	March 9, 1955	15 Adar I 5715	Henrietta Jaffe	Mother of	Len Jaffe
March 9, 2015	March 9, 2001	14 Adar I , 5761	Harry Agulnik	Father of	Dorothy Torontow
March 10, 2015	March 10, 2008	3 Adar II 5786	Betty Ann Cohen	Member of the	Congregation
March 11, 2015	March 11, 1980	23 Adar I 5740	Annie Marks	Grandmother of	Lynn Marks
March 13, 2015	March 13, 1995	11 Adar II 5755	Wayne Sullivan	Husband of	Doreen Sullivan
March 14, 2015	March 14, 1997	5 Adar II 5757	Frank Taylor	Father of	Doreen Sullivan
March 14, 2015	March 15, 2010	29 Adar I I 5770	Bernice Packford	Friend of	the Jewish Community
March 16, 2015	March 16, 2012	22 Adar I 5772	Maurice Ryant	Brother of	Joe Gougeon-Ryant
March 17, 2015	March 17, 1994	24 Adar I 5754	Clara Chuly	Mother of	Phyllis Chuly
March 17, 2015	March 17, 2005	6 Adar II 5765	Saul Holiff	Friend of	David Torontow
March 21, 2015	March 21, 1980	4 Nisan 5740	Isadore Levinta	Father of	Eleanor Patten
March 31, 2015	April 13, 2003	11 Nisan 5763	Maurice Fogel	Friend of	Caroline Hergt

reservation form

KOLOT MAYIM PASSOVER SEDER

SUNDAY APRIL 5TH, 2015

5:30 pm arrival for 6:00 pm commencement

name:	37 6			
phone:				
email	A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A			
vegan/vegetarian preference : please specify how many people: nut allergy : please specify how many people: TICKET ORDER DEADLINE IS APRIL 1ST. EARLYBIRD ORDER DEADLINE IS MARCH 26TH, 2015.				
WILL YOU VOLUNTEER TO SERVE? OR CLEAN UP?				
EARLY BIRD - BEFORE APRIL 1ST	AFTER APRIL 1ST			

adult members

adult non-members

full time students/teens

children (5-12 years)

children (under 5)

@ \$40. =

@ \$45. =

@ \$20. = _____

@ \$12. = _____

@ free =

Julie Elizabeth will be pleased to take your reservations.

@ \$36. = _____

@ \$40 = _____

@ \$12. = _____

@ free =

adult members

adult non-members

children (5-12 years)

children (under 5)

full time students/teens @ \$18. = _____

Please mail this form, along with your cheque made payable to Kolot Mayim Reform Temple/Seder, to the Julie at 102 Meadow Park Lane, Victoria, BC, V9B 6N1 or call 250-388-4161, email: madrona623@gmail.com