



In This Issue

From Rabbi Moch	1
The Holocaust by Bullets	2
Yom Ha'Shoah Memeorial	2
Tzedakah	2
Smile Card	2
Heads Up	4
Those We Remember	4
Yom Ha Hatzma'ut @ Hillel	4
Chai	4
Mishkan Ha Nefesh	4
Rabbi's Schedule for May	5
Yom Ha Zikaron Celebration	5
A Passover Seder to Remember	6
Lag b'Omer	6
WRJ pacific District Area Day	8
KM to Take Part in World Partnership Walk	8
VVI Jewish Burial Society	8
Why We're Not Free at this Season of Freedom	9
Torah-on-the-Town Pics	10
Go to Israel with Temple Sholom, Vancouver 5.17	11
Calendar-at-a-Glance	12



From Rabbi Moch

Living a life that is Wholly Holy

The Torah portion for the first week of May will be listed in your Hebrew calendars as Acharei Mot. We, at Kolot Mayim however, will be a week ahead in our reading of Torah portion and we will continue reading a week ahead of our traditional neighbors for quite a while. This is because the 8th day of Pesach, observed as the last day outside of Israel, fell on Saturday, April 30. Holiday Torah readings supersede and put off a reading of the next weekly parasha. In Israel and similarly among Reform Jews in the Diaspora Pesach lasts only seven days and April 30 was a regular Shabbat, not a holiday, and the weekly Torah readings begin again. So the following week we at Kolot Mayim will read, Kedoshim, Leviticus 19, also known as the "Holiness Code." This parasha frames the mission of every Jew, and indeed of all religious people: to sanctify their lives in imitation of Deity. "You shall be holy for I, the Eternal, your God am holy." It contains a long list of behaviours that form the ingredients of a holy life. The list includes the expectation of a ritual life that does not conflict with our ethical life. This passage gives us a prescription for living ethically and living with sensitivity, compassion and provision for those who cannot provide for themselves including the stranger, the poor, the widow and the orphan. It also asks us to make attitudinal adjustments, to dampen the desire to get even with those who have wronged us, to stop harbouring resentments, to refrain from hating others in our hearts and to love others as we love ourselves.

Here in this passage which literally lies at the center of Torah we see Judaism and religious life at its best. These prescriptions for living worthily give us pause to look at the specifics of our own lives and to ask ourselves whether we live with integrity and find our living drawing us closer to the Most High in ourselves and in the universe around. Do we live in a dignified and upright manner, befitting someone numbered among this kingdom of priests, this holy people? Do we act in each instance of life in a manner befitting one who bears God's image? As we observe Yom Ha-Atzma'ut next week, we will ask ourselves the same questions regarding the Jewish state of Israel. As in our personal lives, we will find that we often fall short of that high standard, [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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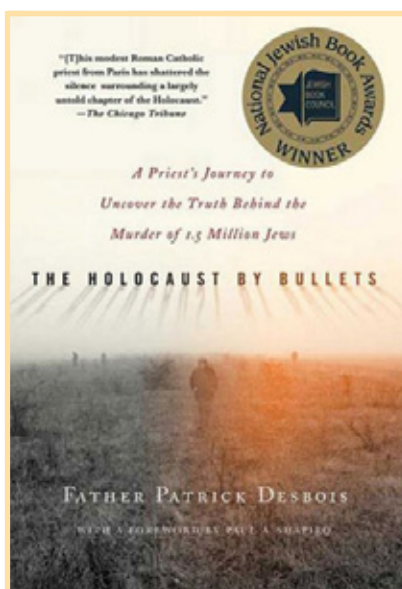
The Voice Newsletter

is published monthly with the exception of August. Send submissions and/or ads to <km@kolotmayimreformtemple.com>.

Visit us on Facebook!

From Rabbi Moch, continued from page 1. but the essential element the religious life of members of a holy people is that they judge themselves in need of change when they see such deficiencies and work toward living at a higher standard today than yesterday.

Rabbi Shimon Moch



sanctioned by the Pope, Father Desbois founded Yahad-In Unum, "together" in Latin and Hebrew. The organization's main goal is to advance relations between Catholics and Jews. But its biggest project is something equally weighty: to locate the many mass graves of Jewish victims across Eastern Europe.

Since its founding in 2004, Yahad-In Unum has researched 1,617 execution sites, gathered 4,186 testimonies, and has taken over 94 investigate trips.

And if that wasn't good enough fodder for his CV, Father Desbois's 2008 book Holocaust by Bullets—which refers to the Jews killed outside of camps by the Einsatzgruppen—won a National Book Award. Our hats are off to you, Father Desbois.

TheJewiverse.com



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

If there was a distinction for modern-day Righteous Gentiles, Father Patrick Desbois would be the first to be honored.

In 2002, sometime after learning that his grandfather, a French soldier, had been imprisoned during the Holocaust, Father Desbois trekked out to Ukraine to see the concentration camp. When he arrived, he was flabbergasted to find no memorial, no marker at all, alluding to the Jewish victims of the area.

So in addition to serving as the Director of the Episcopal Committee for Relations with Judaism and having his work

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

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



During the commemoration, names of places (villages, shtetls, etc.) where our relatives lived before the Shoah, will be remembered. Please send placed in advance to <victoriashoahproject@gmail.com> or upon arrival.

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Commemoration Event

April 25, 2016

On behalf of the Victoria Shoah Project, we would like to invite you to the annual remembrance of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). This year's commemoration will take place on **Sunday, May 8, 11 a.m. – noon, at the Victoria Jewish Cemetery on Cedar Hill Road** (south from Hillside Ave.). The Victoria Jewish community and friends will be remembering those who perished in the Holocaust as well as recognizing the strength of survivors and the lessons to be learned for all peoples from that tragic event.

During the service, we will hear the personal story of a Holocaust survivor and hear other readings and reflections from community members representing the second generation and third generation, as well as university students of diverse backgrounds.

The tragedy of the Holocaust continues to reverberate through the generations and provides relevance for Jews and non-Jews alike in today's world.

We hope you will be able to share in this event with us. We welcome your presence and support as we gather to remember the past and look towards a future of peace and unity.

Sincerely yours on behalf of the Victoria Shoah Project,

Micha Menczer and Elisheva Gray, Coordinators
E-mail: victoriashoahproject@gmail.com

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.

May 2016
Nissan-Iyyar 5776

Chai חיי

CHAI FUND

Arlette Baker, in memory of William Baker;

Morris Bleviss, in memory of his father
Julius Bleviss

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

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.

Heads up!

*Our Annual General Meeting will be held on
Wednesday June 15th at 7:30 pm at the JCCV.*

Those we remember ...

**May 2016
Nissan-Iyyar 5776**

May 6th

Linda Quinn
Margaret Sugarman
Elfrede Maroke
David Ritt
Joseph Yacowar

May 20th

Alice McCulloch
Duart McLean
Julius (Ziggy) Bleviss
Ann Rhodes
Sonia Wagner
David Halpert
Zelda Weiss

*May their memory
be for a blessing.*

VEGGIE POTLUCK & EGGPLANT COMPETITION

DOOR PRIZES

1st, 2nd & 3rd

SHESHESH, HOOKAH,
MUSIC & FAMILY FUN!



*Do you make the best 'chatzlim' on the island? If so, enter to
win a door prize! For more info, email carmel@hillelbc.com*

יום העצמאות YOM HAATZMAUT Thursday, May 12, 2016

17:00-20:00

at Hillel House

4012 Dawnview Crescent

FREE ENTRY
with one veggie
potluck dish
OR \$5.00



**Feeding our Tzedakah Box = Feedings Victoria's Hungry!
Please help if you can!**

Kabbalat Shabbat Services

led by Rabbi Moch

7:30 p.m.

**Fridays May 6th
in honour of Yom Ha Shoah
& 20th**

Interfaith Service

*Please remember to bring food
contributions for the **Onegs**,
so that we can all stay a little
longer and schmooze. And don't
forget a something for our
Tzedakah box. Thank you.*

Tot Shabbat

9 a.m. May 21st

Shacharit Services

led by Rabbi Moch

10:00 a.m.

Saturday May 7th & 21st

followed by
Torah Study

at 11:00 a.m.

at the JCCV

3636 Shelbourne

May 6th & 20th - led by Rabbi Moch

May 13th & 27th - led by Julie Elizabeth

Adult Education

2:30 p.m.

May 7th

**The Changing Dynamic
between Diaspora Jewry & Israel
May 21st**

Judaism 101:

The Evolution of

**our Covenants with God: Part 1:
Creation to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob**

Locations TBA in the Weekly Updates

Everyone is welcome.

May 2016
Nissan-Iyyar 5776

THE VOICE

Page 5

יום הזיכרון יזכור

YOM HAZIKARON

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

18:30-19:30

at the JCCV

3636 Shelbourne Street



Remembering Israel's Fallen and the Victims of Terror

Tuesday, May 10th

from 6:30pm to 7:30pm

**At the Jewish Community Centre of Victoria (3636
Shelbourne Street)**

The Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island presents a meaningful program to remember and honour those who have lost their lives in Israel's defense, and the victims of terror in HaAretz Yisrael. Included in the program will be the traditional candle-lighting and memorial prayers, as well as music by Orly Salama-Alber and an interpretive dance piece by dancer-choreographer Caitlin Griffen, who was recently featured in the Jewish Independent. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the article.

During the ceremony, names of fallen soldiers and victims of terror connected to Vancouver Island residents will be read. Please send names in advance to carmel@hillelbc.com, or provide them upon arrival.



A Passover Seder to Remember

By Deena Kinarty



This season's community Passover Seder held at the Jewish Community Centre, organized by the many lovely volunteers from the congregation of Kolot Mayim Reform Temple, and led by our beloved Rabbi Moch, was a night to remember. A night not only to recall and retell the story of the Ancient Israelites and their move from bondage to freedom but also a night for our families, for both young and old alike, for the whole community to get together. The Passover Seder at Kolot Mayim was a family-friendly evening, produced in a refreshing modern way by the Rabbi. Haggadot were engaging for both the old and young, as the text incorporated familiar and catchy tunes such as 'Go Down Moses,' the Pharaoh Frog's song, and a jazzy version of The Ten plagues, but also there were coloring books for the children (graciously put together by Susan Abrill). Music and celebration filled the entire ceremony—as well as various customs from different traditions and regions of the world. For instance, in the middle of the table



long stems of green onions were placed in jars of water, and taken out just at the right moment to lightheartedly use to "whip" the other people sitting at each table. As the Rabbi explained, this is a Persian custom at the Passover table. Rabbi Moch also explained the various styles of Haroset from both the Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jewish traditions, and substituted beets for lamb shanks for the vegetarian and vegan-minded on the Seder plates. In fact, if the night could be summed up with a single theme it would be a night of inclusion, and that is perhaps why Kolot Mayim is my first choice for Jewish gatherings and a place to practice Judaism in the city.

During the Seder, the Rabbi did a wonderful job of adapting the four questions and other sections of the Haggadah to empower women, and lift up Miriam and the women of the Torah. He also included stories relating to diverse cultural backgrounds, and people with various preferences. Rabbi Moch certainly has a knack for including and engaging the people in our community, from all walks of life to participate in his services, either by reading a passage out loud, or by asking illuminating questions or singing songs together.

In addition, the Seder lasted just the right length of time—not too long and not too short. And the food was generously prepared by a crew of volunteers* under the leadership of Kathy Holtby, for everyone to enjoy. All in all, this was probably the most enjoyable community Seder I have ever been to! I can't wait for the next holiday to come around! See you all for Lag b'Omer!



Lag b'Omer

Evening, Wednesday May 25th

Would anyone, with the capabilities to have a bonfire in their yard, like to host a Kolot Mayim Lag b'Omer Celebration? Perhaps a dessert pot luck????



* Our Pesach Seder would not have been so wildly successful without the hard work of many dedicated volunteers. I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the following people:

Aaron Banfield for organizing the set up and dealing with the rental of dishes and cutlery; Julie Elizabeth for Costco shopping, preparing the charoset; and taking care of everyone's tickets; Sandy Fagan for making 95 of the best matzah balls in Victoria; Joel Fagan for delivering matzah balls and serving and clearing at the seder; Jason Hanevelt for ironing all the tablecloths; Willem Hanevelt for helping set up; Tyler Hanevelt for helping in the kitchen and set up; Caroline Hergt for organizing volunteers, cooking and cleaning up; Martin Hergt for cleaning up and providing the sound system; David and Dorothy Toronto for the most streamlined seating plan and table arrangement ever;

Leah and Elinor Kinarthy for getting the flowers and door prize, and helping with clean up;

Tamara Gonçalves for cooking, set up and clean up; Marcelo Rochas for setup and cleanup;

Reesa Vermeulen for cooking and cleanup; Ted Vermeulen for clean up; Bev Bookman for cooking, and last but not least, Kathy Holtby for running our Seder kitchen for many years in a row.

We would also like to thank Andrew Furman, who cleaned the JCC efficiently and thoroughly.

And of course, we could not have done it without the adept leadership of Rabbi Shimon. ***Many have said it was our best ever!***



A highlight of the evening was the blessing, by Rabbi Moch, of our newest and youngest member!

Photos by
Julie Elizabeth



Kolot Mayim to Take Part in World Partnership Walk

At 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 29th at the University of Victoria, the World Partnership Walk gathers together thousands of Victorians of all races and religions to raise money to alleviate 3rd world poverty. The World Partnership Walk is run by The Aga Khan Foundation of Canada. Last year the foundation raised over \$5,000,000, with the goal of \$8,000,000 set for this year. This

fundraiser is an Ismaili Muslim community initiative. They have been called the "Jews of Islam" as they have been persecuted throughout the Muslim world for their modern approach and choosing to prioritize the education of women and remain politically neutral.

We would like to form a Kolot Mayim team to participate in this walk that occurs simultaneously in ten cities across Canada. Free Kolot Mayim T-shirts for all members (\$15 for non members) who participate and gather donations! Bring your partners, friends, children and pets and meet at the Petch Fountain by the McPherson Library. There is family entertainment and a BBQ after the walk for everyone to enjoy.

For more information- go to <<https://www.worldpartnershipwalk.com>>

Please email Leah Kinarthy <leahk@shaw.ca> to join our Kolot Mayim Team!

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).

Save The Date

WRJ Pacific District Area Day

For all Pacific NW Sisterhood Women

☀ **When:** June 26th, 2016

☀ **Time:** 10:30-4:00 pm

☀ **Where:** Temple Beth Am
2632 NE 80th St.
Seattle, WA

☀ **Cost:** \$25
(includes lunch & materials)

Registration: info will be out this spring



Why We're Not Free at This Season of Freedom

By Hannah Kestenbaum

On Sunday, April 24, 2016 – the first day of chol hamo-eid (the intermediate days of Passover) in Israel – two gatherings, a mere 400 meters from each other tell a dire modern tale of Jerusalem.

At the Western Wall, the Women of the Wall had planned to come together to conduct a first-ever, all-female priestly blessing, a tradition by which the male descendants of the ancient kohanim (priestly class) bless the community of Israel with words of peace. However, despite all the intentions to fill the prayer space of the Western Wall with women who yearned to fulfill this mitzvah, they were barred from being able to do so. The day before Passover, Israel's attorney general had ruled against the all-female blessing. The women were left with no choice but to cancel this effort.

Down the street at Yeshivat Ateret Yerushalayim, leaders of various Orthodox streams gathered for a conference titled "[The Reform Problem.](#)" They questioned whether Reform Judaism is a legitimate part of the Jewish world, or a "perversion" outside of the Jewish faith with members who thrive on the "wings of the dollar." At the yeshiva, we saw a demonstration of Haredi Judaism that is profoundly threatened by diversity in thought and practice – and by the genuine inroads that liberal Judaism is making every day in Israeli life.

It is striking that these two events were scheduled to take place during the Festival of Pesah, one of the three pilgrimage holidays during which we are commanded to return to Jerusalem.

The Eternal One spoke to Moses, saying: *Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: These are My fixed times, the fixed times of the Eternal, which you shall program as sacred occasions.... These are the set times of the Eternal, the sacred occasions, which you shall celebrate each at its appointed time: In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, there shall be a Passover offering to the Eternal.* [Leviticus 23:1-2, 4-5]

Two nights earlier, the participants at each gathering sat at their seder tables, lifted their matzot and recited these words from the haggadah: *This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Whoever is hungry, let him come and eat; whoever is in need, let him come and conduct the seder of Passover. This year we are slaves; next year we will be free people. This year we are here; next year we are in the land of Israel.*

In these words we glimpse the extent to which Passover was intended to be not only a gathering holiday, but also a pilgrimage in which Jews from all corners of the earth join together as one and are welcomed unconditionally. The commandment to welcome everyone to the seder is an active application of the freedom we were given at the Exodus and demonstrates Judaism's innate pluralistic and tolerant nature.

Although disheartening, the synchronicity of these two events – one promoting progress, the other disparaging fellow Jews – is by no means surprising. Israel is in the midst of a religious upheaval. Many Israeli Jews have little knowledge of the profundity and beauty of a pluralistic Judaism, for its practice continues to face restrictions. [Continued on page 10.](#)

Why We're Not Free, continued from page 9. This past Sunday, the Women of the Wall demonstrated yet again – as they have for nearly three decades – for an egalitarian section of the Western Wall to stand as a beacon of progressive Judaism in Israel, the homeland of all Jews. Nearby, Haredi and National Religious rabbis, politicians, and other leaders gathered not only to deny the rights of Jews to practice in alternate ways, but also to reject their legitimacy as Jews. Their actions underscore for us the importance of uniting all those who believe that there is more than one way to be Jewish.

Indeed, the tug-of-war over religious ritual and practice is coming to a head. At this season of freedom, as we commemorate our Exodus from Egypt and our ascension to Jerusalem, we must continue our struggle to ensure the Western Wall as a place where all Jews and Jewish prayers and practices find welcome and respect. We must raise our voices in solidarity with the many Jews in Israel who support equal access to the Western Wall and freedom for all to participate in all realms of life in the Jewish State.



Hannah Kestenbaum is ARZA's digital communications manager. After moving to Israel in 2007, she joined the Israeli Defense Forces, and completed her BA. She's currently studying for an MA from Bar-Ilan University. Hannah grew up taking an active role in the Jewish community with a strong love and appreciation of the State of Israel. She is committed to advancing pluralistic and democratic values. She lives in New Jersey with her husband Aharon and their two daughters, Eliana and Ilanit.

- See more at: http://www.reformjudaism.org/blog/2016/04/27/why-were-not-free-season-freedom?utm_source=TMT-Wednesday&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20160427&utm_campaign=TMT#sthash.ECzWwRqg.dpuf



Torah-on-the-Town

By all reports, a great success with approximately 40 people attending at the Monterey Centre in Oak Bay.

Photos by Katrina Hanevelt

Members of Kolot Mayim are invited to join this tour, even if they are unable to make the meeting in Vancouver this month.

May 2016
Nissan-Iyyar 5776

THE VOICE

Page 11

Spring 2017 Family Israel Trip with Temple Sholom

Please join us for an informational meeting about the trip on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm at Temple Sholom. Please call the office at 604.266.7190 to RSVP.

March 12-22, 2017, I will be leading a **Temple Sholom Multi-Generational Trip to Israel** and I am writing to invite you to join me and my whole family (kids too). Let's see the Holy Land through each other's eyes, it will be an experience we will never forget!

2015 Israel Trip

During our 10 Day Israel experience, we will travel all over the country, from the roots of Kabbalah in the northern city of Tzfat, to the floating in the Dead Sea and all parts in between. We'll literally walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, with a bible in one hand and a map in the other; we'll stand at the base of the ancient wall in Jerusalem and place our heartfelt prayers in its cracks and crevices. We will experience Jewish history in ways you can only experience in Israel!

But it's not all history; so much of Israel is happening right now! We'll immerse ourselves in modern Israeli culture, discover, as I have, this vibrant and exciting country with its beautiful art and architecture, incredible night life, warm community spirit and unparalleled shopping and restaurants. You'll be filled with pride for the Jewish people everywhere you go, and your suitcases will be filled with mementos and gifts!

Our trip will be safe, comfortable and packed with things to do every day for every age. For those who are at or approaching Bar/Bat Mitzvah age, why not have you Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Israel? Why spend thousands on a DJ and a rubber chicken dinner, when you could get a 10 day family Israel experience for about the same?

A complete and detailed itinerary is available at this link:

<http://www.arzaworld.com/temple-sholom-of-vancouver-intergenerational-tripto-israel.aspx>

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call.

B'shanah Habah B'Yerushalyim (Next Year in Jerusalem, for real!)

B'Shalom,

Rabbi Dan Moskovitz

Trip includes:

- * 9 nights' accommodation at selected hotels
- * 7 days of touring in a luxury, air conditioned bus with licensed English-speaking tour guide and walking tour on Shabbat
- * All Site entrance fees and programme fees as per itinerary
- * Meals: daily breakfasts and 6 dinners
- * Portage at hotels

From \$4,239 CAD (land only)

For more information, please call **ARZA** World at 1.888.811.2812.

COMMUNITY YOM HA'SHOAH COMMEMORATION

Sunday May 8th
from 11: am-noon
Congregation
Emanu-El Cemetery
See details on page 3.

COMMUNITY YOM HA'ZIKARON COMMEMORATION

Tuesday May 10th
from 7:30-9:30 pm
at the JCCV
See details on page 5.

HILLEL YOM HA'ATZMA'UT COMMEMORATION

Thursday May 12th
from 5-8 pm
Hillel House,
4012 Dawnview Cres.
See details on page 4.

*All our
Kabbalat
Shabbat
Services
feature music.*



CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

MAY 2016/5776

KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES

led by Rabbi Moch
7:30 pm at JCCV
Friday 6th (Yom Ha'Shoah Remembrance)
and 20th (Interfaith Service)

SHABBAT SHACHARIT SERVICES

led by Rabbi Moch
10: a.m. Saturday May 7th & 21st

TORAH STUDY

Every Saturday at 11 a.m.
at the JCCV
Led by Rabbi Moch: Sat. May 7th & 21st @ 11and
Julie Elizabeth: May 13th & 27 @ 11
Parashyot: May 7th - Aharei Mot;
14th - Kedoshim; 21st - Emor; 28th - Behar

TOT SHABBAT

9:00 am Saturday May 21st

ADULT EDUCATION

2:30 pm Sat. May 7th
**The Changing Dynamic between
Diaspora Jewry and Israel**
2:30 p.m. Saturday May 21st
**The Evolution of our Covenants with God,
Part 1: Creation to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob**
Locations TBA: Watch the Weekly Updates.

ROVING SHABBAT POT LUCK DINNER

Friday May 27th @ 7 p.m.
Location TBA: Watch the Weekly Updates.
Reserve to save your seat. Space is limited.