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## L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

### Selichot

8:00 pm Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup>  
Showing of the film ***Hungry Hearts***,  
discussion and pot luck dessert following.

### Erev Rosh Hashanah

7:00 pm, on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

### Rosh Hashanah

9:15 am - Children's Service  
10:00 am, on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

### Taschlich

1:30 pm on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>  
at Gyro Park

### Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidrei

7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Yom Kippur

9:15 am - Children's Service  
10:00 am, on Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Yom Kippur Study Session

3 pm

### Afternoon Service

3:30 pm

### Yizkor and Neilah Concluding Service

5 pm

All services will be led by Rabbi Leigh Lerner and will be at the JCCV, 3636 Shelbourne Street, unless otherwise noted. Child minding will be provided on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings. See page 13 for Note about film, ***Hungry Hearts***.

## **RABBI**

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## **NEWSLETTER**

**Julie Elizabeth**



## **From Rabbi Moch**

### **The turning of our ways and the turning of Government**

Jews have a lot in common with how our political system works. Much time is spent campaigning for months, even years prior to elections as various candidates run for political office. Why all this preparation? Why not simply ask voters to show up on election day and vote?

Two answers come to mind. First, we give the political parties time to convince us, the voters, to choose their candidates by giving us their spin on the nation's woes and its hopes: "Vote for us because the other party has gotten us into a royal mess and we represent the hope that will get us to a better place."

The second answer has a more positive underpinning. We give ourselves time to understand what went wrong, what went right and what kinds of efforts, personalities and party platforms will more likely get our community and country to a better place. This affords us a time of collective evaluation. What have "we" done right and what have "we" done wrong? Where have we gone astray and how can we get back on a better track? It gives us time to evaluate the track on which our community's and our country's leaders have taken us. We listen to the cacophony of political claims and try to decide for ourselves the issues most important to us and how we might best achieve them. Then we can choose the candidate and party most likely to work toward that vision of community and country for which we hope.

Jews everywhere go through a similar process of evaluation every year at this season. For us the soul-searching has something to do with society's failures and successes but more to do with our own part in what has happened or not happened.

What kind of a human being and what kind of Jew have I been this past year? Where have I gone astray in my relationships with my spouse, my children, my siblings, my parents, my colleagues, my neighbours, my friends, my enemies? Where have I failed to live up to the values of honesty in my business dealings? Have I conducted my business [Continued on page 5.](#)

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## From Rabbi Lerner

### Just Between Us

We are about to participate together in the High Holydays of 5776, and I look forward to being with you in Victoria.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are a statement of our belief in free will. If we did not have free will, we could not change our lives, offer forgiveness, or seek pardon. Far beyond the old saying, "People don't change," Judaism teaches, "People can and must change."

At the same time, the High Holydays suggest that we are broken people. How do I know Judaism teaches this? From the shofar.

First, the calls of Rosh Hashanah include broken notes that ask us to break the yoke of evil inclinations and bad habits. Can we use the time provided by the Great Days to take a fearless look at our souls, seeking at last to root out jealousy or pettiness, rancour or deceit? It's a tall order the Ten Days of Penitence place before us -- truthful self-examination.

Second, Rabbi Judah the Prince points out that the shofar itself is bent, reminding us to bend before God, to submit to higher laws and ethics than the simple inclinations of our heart. Western society endorses the inclination of the heart, but Judaism is a tradition that seeks to shape the heart's inclinations – toward holiness. The High Holydays remind us to make our desires bow to the highest ethical demands of Torah. The Great Days can be a time of learning and growth, as we consider the highest principles of Jewish living.

Finally, the sound of the shofar itself may be described as a moan or a wail, tones made in a cracked voice emanating from a broken heart. The shofar's wail seeks to break the pride of soul that keeps us from making peace with others whom we may have hurt, or that keeps us from going to others who hurt us and telling them we want to make peace. Will this be the year that the family feud resolves itself? Will this be the season when, at last, old bitterness is replaced by a hug, a handshake, or a mutual smile? The shofar calls us to attempt the change.

May this year's shofar service inspire us to achieve a restoration of self and soul such as we have never experienced before.

My wife Loren and I send our best wishes to all the members of Kolot Mayim for the new year of 5776, with our prayers that you'll be inscribed for life. [\*Leshana Tova Tikatevu.\*](#)

*Rabbi Leigh Lerner*





## President's Message

It is hard to believe it is already September and the High Holy Days are upon us. Hard to believe we are being asked already to stand before God and take stock of our lives and how we have treated the people around us.

For close to a decade, I have been blessed to be a part of this congregation, and it is an honor to now be the Board President. It is a weighty task at this difficult, and yet promising time of transition in our congregation. I take the job on with joy, and

I ask at this season of introspection that we all reexamine how we see our fellow congregants and the roles they may play. We are here to learn from each other and draw strength from one another. I believe the more we open our individual selves up to the value we all hold, the more our collective light will shine.

At Kolot Mayim I've basked in the comfort of a true spiritual home, the first I've ever discovered. I've found a place where I can live my own Judaism among a family of Jews celebrating in their own authentic ways. I pray that with the instalment of Rabbi Moch as our regular rabbi with twice monthly services, and with Rabbi Lerner's adept delivery of High Holy Days services, more kindred folk will be drawn to us this season and in the years to come. And let us not forget we also have a trained Sh`liach Tzibur, Julie Elizabeth, for services when the Rabbi is not here. With the regular participation and generosity of more of those of us who already care for our Temple, our future will be that much brighter.

I look forward to seeing you all at the film and discussion event for Selichot on Sept 5, at the regular High Holy Days services, and at Kabbalat Shabbat services on the first and third Fridays each month this Fall. And who knows? Perhaps at a Shabbat dinner at your place or mine on a second or fourth Friday?

*Katrina*

## Is there a ritual that marks the completion of reading one of the books of the Torah?

**Answer by: Rabbi Victor S. Appell**

During a worship service, each time the reading of a book of the Torah is completed, the congregation rises and says, "chazak chazak v'nitchazek – be strong, be strong, and we will be strengthened." According to Rabbi David Saperstein, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom (and former director of the Religious Action Center), "This seems to suggest that our personal strengths are inextricably bound with those of the community: as we individually strengthen ourselves, the collective is subsequently fortified. The command may be in the singular, but the result is in the plural.

<http://www.reformjudaism.org/practice/ask-rabbi/>

From Rabbi Moch, continued from page 2. dealings by the strict moral standards that the Torah (Five Books of Moses) demands of me? What kind of Jewish life have I led? Did I make time for regular prayer? Did I observe the Sabbath and holidays? Have I left the edges of my field (my time, energy and income) for the poor, the stranger and the helpless? Have I acted and spoken with sensitivity and compassion to others, both those with whom I feel close and those I encounter along the way?

Elections give Canadians the opportunity to create government all over again by tossing out failed leaders and replacing them with new leaders. This season of the year gives Jews the opportunity to remake ourselves in the image we have of ourselves at our best.

Even when we decide not to change elected leaders, we can give those leaders the message that change needs to be made. This season for Jews, with its chilling sounding of the shofar, the ram's horn, tells each of us that change needs to be made in how "I" lead my life. This season compels us to remind ourselves, "I had better wake up and make those changes I thought about last year and failed to make. After all, life will only give me so many chances to get it right."

*Rabbi Shimon Moch*

## I Am To My Beloved

The Torah verse that epitomizes the emotion of love is: "Anee l'dodi v'dodi lee" - I am to my beloved, and my beloved is to me (Song of Songs 6:3). The ideal love relationship according to the Torah is one in which both parties are willing to give themselves to their chosen partner. The Hebrew acronym for the verse Anee l'dodi v'dodi lee is "Elul," the name of the Hebrew month that precedes Rosh Hashana.

When speaking of Rosh Hashana, the sages discuss the great sense of awe that one must feel. They do not, however, mean awe as in fear. Rather, they mean awe as in a sense of reverence, of being overwhelmed by the greatness of God. The purpose of Rosh Hashana is not simply to make people feel guilty for their mistakes or promise to do better (although that too is important), but, as with much of Jewish life, it is to help develop each individual's relationship with God.

To have a relationship with God, a person must recognize all of God's roles--including King and Judge, as is the focus of Rosh Hashana. During Elul, however, we focus on God as the Beloved of the Jewish people.

In many rabbinic allegories, the Jewish people are likened to a bride while God is portrayed as the waiting groom. The Jewish people (both as individuals and as a nation) can gain the most by recognizing that God loves His people and wishes to bring blessing upon their homes.

I am to my beloved, and my beloved is to me." When "I" (meaning the Jewish people) can truly give to "my beloved" (meaning God), then God will become ours in a beautiful and Divine partnership.

Today's Tip: Divine Relating

Take some time to think about how you allow yourself to experience God's presence.

[Jewish Treats from NJOP](#)



## Introducing Your 2015-16 Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

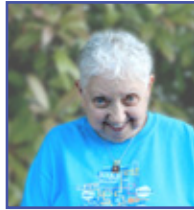


**Katrina Hanevelt**

has been a member of Kolot Mayim for ten years.

This is her fourth board position. Previously she was Membership Chair and Hebrew School Chair, Acting President and Acting Ritual Affairs Chair. She has found a true spiritual home in our little temple; investing in its future and seeing it thrive are dear to her heart. When not working on Temple business, she can be found playing tenor saxophone in a swing band or chasing down her unruly offspring.

### PAST PRESIDENT



**Reva Hutkin**

started her service to Kolot Mayim as Vice President followed by two years

as the President. She has greatly enjoyed serving our congregation and will continue as Past President to support our new Board of Directors. She has taken on the position of Chair of the Fund Raising Committee and looks forward to implementing some novel ideas that will raise our visibility in the wider community, as well as make some money. She has been Chair of the Social Action Committee, and will continue to serve on that Committee under the leadership of Sandy Fagan.

### TREASURER



**Morris Bleviss**

Having completed a Bachelors of Commerce from the University of Alberta,

Edmonton, my working career was in financial management and led me to work in Montreal, Denver, Los Angeles and Calgary with a major commercial real estate development company. I have been a long time car enthusiast – rallying and racing- and have marshaled at many Indy races in Vancouver. I took some time out to go to the dogs- finishing a Bedlington Terrier in conformation. In addition to this my 4th year as treasurer of Kolot Mayim, I am also Treasurer and Board member of the Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island.

### CHAIR, HEBREW SCHOOL COMMITTEE



**Lynne Marks**

has been a member of Kolot Mayim for over 14 years, and has been involved

several times on the Board in the past. Three generations of her family have belonged to Kolot Mayim, including her parents, Gerry and Marion, and her children, Dori, 18 and Mira, 11. She is the Chair of the History Department and teaches Canadian history, Women's History and the History of

Religion at UVic. Lynne is eager to insure that our children receive a Reform Jewish education, while reaping the benefits of exposure to more Jewish children at Congregation Emanu-El.



### HOUSE COMMITTEE CHAIR



**Murray Ashford**

has been retired for the last 8 years following a career

in Finance. He is married to Charlyne, and has 2 sons, Jay who lives in Victoria, and Al who lives in Toronto with his wife Leah. Murray spends his time walking his dogs, gardening and relaxing a couple of times a week at the gym.

## SECRETARY

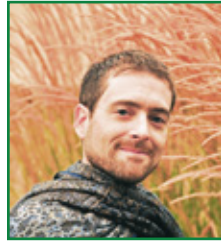


**Caroline Hergt,**

her husband Martin and 3 (now adult) children have been members of

Kolot Mayim since 1997. Both she and Martin took positions on the Board in the very, very early days, as Treasurer and Secretary. They have 3 grown children, all of whom went through the Kolot Mayim Hebrew School; and all of whom were in the charter year of the school. Quintin is now 28, Sheldon 26 and Gabrielle 24. Quintin's Bar Mitzvah was the first one for our congregation, held shortly after we adopted it's name. Sheldon was in the largest Bar Mitzvah class we have had to date - he was one of 7! Both Sheldon and Gabrielle spent some time in the Hebrew school's Madrich programme and Gabrielle spent two or three years teaching Hebrew to the first class. The choir had it's early beginnings in her living room - Randy and Eva, Rose Katz, and Murray and Charlene came over for a few weeks so we could learn some familiar tunes. They hosted the Sukkah and the potluck Shabbat at their house for several years, as well as the communal Break- the-Fast. Although Caroyne and Martin took a break for the past few years, Kolot Mayim has never been far from their hearts. Caroline is looking forward to this second term as Secretary on the board.

## CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



**Aaron**

**Banfield** has lived in B.C. his whole life and in Victoria since 2006.

He traces

his roots to the Ashkenazic communities of Poland, Romania, and The Bronx. His grandfather was a Socialist union organizer, and this tradition of progressiveness and social justice drew Aaron to the ideals of Reform Judaism.

Aaron works as an acupuncturist in Victoria and lives in the Fernwood neighbourhood. In his spare time he enjoys exploring the woods, practising yoga, and studying history.

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE



**Peter Barwin**

was born in South Africa where he met Merial; they were married in 1962. Together with their four children they

immigrated to Canada in 1974. He has always been in general management with his forte being sales and marketing. He has served in various capacities on the Board of the Kelowna synagogue. Peter is looking forward to his second term as a Member-at-Large on our Board.

## CHAIR, SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE



**Sandy Fagan**

is a retired hospital social worker. She has been married to Joel for 51 years and

has 2 daughters and a son-in-law. Since retiring, she has enjoyed volunteer work, painting, reading and swimming. Sandy is very interested in social justice, has been a member of our Social Action Committee for several years, and is a member of Avodah - Congregation Emanu-El's Social Action Committee. She hopes that this year's Committee will provide leadership for projects that our congregation will find meaningful.

## CHAIR, CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE



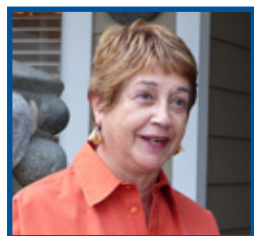
**Julie**

**Elizabeth**

has been involved in the affairs of Temple since she

first joined 8 years ago. Her pet project is, of course, our newsletter, the **Voice**, and she has also chaired the Ritual Committee for 2 years, and been one of several Lay Leaders for several. Having recently completed [Cont'd. page 8.](#)

## COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR



**Serena Stone** was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta. During

her teen years she was highly active in B'nai B'rith Girls as chapter president and in representing her region twice at district conventions. In 1963 she studied in Israel on a scholarship for six months. Graduating from the Pasadena Playhouse in 1967, she toured the USA for a year as an actress. Returning to Toronto, Serena worked in television and radio. A highlight was creating and writing the CBC network children's series "Just for Fun". For a total of ten years she taught television and radio broadcasting at both Canadore College and Red River College, where former students included CBC's Diana Swain and Global's Dawna Friesen.

From 2001-2009 Serena taught English and drama to elementary students in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Lahore and Kiev before returning to Mexico where she lived until 2011. She then returned to the Vancouver area to be closer to her son Josh in New Westminster. Arriving in Victoria this past April, Serena is delighted to have become involved with Kolot Mayim.

*Julie, continued.* training, she is now Kolot Mayim's sole Lay Leader, happy and willing to help in whatever way she can when our esteemed rabbi is not in town.

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE



**Hal Yacowar** is one of the founding members of Kolot Mayim, and has served on

the Congregation Board and Executive intermittently over the years. He brings to the Board an array of Board, policy, legal and management experience. He has served on the Board of JFVVI, various management boards and committees in the public sector, and more recently, on the Board of the Consumer Protection Authority. Hal was appointed Queen's Counsel in April, 2000 and was awarded a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in February, 2002. Hal believes it is important that the Reform Jewish Congregation succeeds on Vancouver Island. He wants to see the Congregation grow and thrive, reflecting the diversity within the Reform Movement, including families and a younger demographic. He believes that future directions planning, and effective communication between the membership and the Board are both very important in moving the congregation forward.

## Ask the Expert: Proselytism

**Why don't Jews seek converts?**

By MJL Staff

**Answer:** In order to give you a good answer, ... I want to first flip your question around. Why do Christians and Muslims, traditionally, proselytize? Because they believe that in order to achieve salvation—that is, to make it to heaven—you have to believe in the same things they believe in.

Judaism doesn't operate in the same way. According to the Talmud, righteous gentiles have a place in the World to Come (Sanhedrin 105a). As a result, there's less of an incentive for Jews to encourage conversion, and for non-Jews to join up. If someone who isn't born a Jew is a good person, she'll get to hang out in the Garden of Eden whether or not she ever gets a Hebrew name.

I think that's really at the root of why Jews don't proselytize, but there are a few other reasons that also figure in.

First of all, historically there's been a significant connection between proselytizing and politics. New groups come to power and coerce the local people to join their religion. Among many other advantages, converting conquered lands to your religion makes them easier to govern. This accounts for much of the spread of Christianity and Islam. >>>>



## A SCREENING Perspectives on Faith & Identity



### A YOUTH DOCUMENTARY PROJECT

Leat Ahrony, David Mutuku, Brianna Dick,  
Suvreet Johal, Jessica Pamplona

**Screening:** Saturday, September 12, 2015

**Time:** 4:00pm – 5:30pm

**Venue:** Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville St.

An Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria Project  
Funded by Inspirit Foundation & ICA's Blossoms  
Campaign



Historically, Jews have not had this kind of power, though there is one known case in which Jews (as a ruling power) did in fact force gentiles to convert. This took place in the Maccabean era, around 168 BCE. A group called the Idumeans was forcibly converted by second generation Maccabees. However, in his book *Galilee: History, Politics, People*, Richard A. Horsley wrote that, "the Idumeans' 'conversion' was not especially effective." And it doesn't appear that the policy of forced conversions was popular with other Jewish zealots of the time.

According to Rabbi Michael Myers, the Dean of the Hebrew Theological College in Skokie, Illinois, during Roman times, before Christianity, there was "a tremendous interaction between Romans

and Jews and it's estimated that there were thousands of converts from Romans to Jews." This was probably more as a result of Jews having a high profile at the time, and less because they were actively trying to recruit converts, but it's certainly possible that some proselytism was taking place.

In any event, when Paul showed up and began preaching Christianity, many of those who had been attracted to Judaism joined him. This caused the rabbis at the time to worry about whether converts' commitments could be trusted, and at that point they began actively discouraging proselytizing.

It is interesting, though, that in recent years the Reform movement has been reaching out to non-Jews, particularly non-Jews who are married to Jews, and encouraging them to convert. In 2005, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, made converting the spouses of Jews a topic of his address at the Reform movement's biennial convention.

So no, you're not likely to find Jews knocking on your door offering to give you a copy of the Tanakh and telling you about the joys of abstaining from eating shellfish. There are a lot of reasons Jews aren't on a mission to save non-Jews. Now if we could just get the non-Jews to stop trying to save us...  
<[myjewishlearning.com](http://myjewishlearning.com)>

## Those we remember ...

**September 2015  
Elul-Tishrei 5775**

**Yahrzeits for the following people will be observed on the dates as listed below:**

### September 4th, 2015

Louis Ostrov  
Bob Kadanoff  
Sheina Gans  
Raoul Auerbach  
Donald Soutiere  
Ron Finestone  
Sam Duchin  
Erzvilkas, Lithuania  
Fay Leshner-Manna

### September 18th, 2015

Ken Lintott  
Michael Miller  
Shoshanah Brandt  
Sharon Enkin  
Meyer Sugarman  
Rebekah Ann Robinson  
Gerald Blackman  
Bella Bleviss  
Ida Halpert  
Carl Wagner  
Betty Aaron

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



It's not too late to purchase your own set of our new High Holyday Machzor, or to purchase a set for the Temple. The two volume set costs \$50.00 and is a wonderful investment. 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.



*Vancouver Island's  
newest film festival  
celebrating the Jewish  
experience through film.*

**November 7-9, 2015**  
at the Cineplex Odeon  
theatre at Yates and  
Blanshard.

Adults: \$13 per film  
Students/Seniors: \$10 per film  
Exception: \$20 for Opening Night Film  
and Reception

For more information:  
victoriajewishefilmfestival@gmail.com  
250-208-8534



## The Louis Sherman Award

This award is presented annually to a member of Kolot Mayim Reform Temple who has made a singular contribution to our synagogue over the previous year. It is named after an early member and benefactor of our Temple, Louis Sherman, and was created in 2004 by Caroline and Martin Hergt to honour his memory. Each year, the previous year's recipient selects the new winner.

This year, Reva Hutkin presented the 2014-15 Louis Sherman Award to **Morris Bleviss** for keeping us "balanced!"

To list your name in the  
**Vancouver Island Jewish Community Directory**  
OR to update information or add a greeting  
please contact  
Frances Aknai, VIJC Directory  
<faknai@shaw.ca> or phone 250-360-0356.

## In Memory of Len Jaffe



After a period of ill health, Len Jaffe died in hospital on August 11th, 2015. There was no funeral but his daughters, Hope and Melissa, hosted a Celebration of Len's Life on August 23rd at his former residence. Several members of Kolot Mayim were in attendance.

Len and his wife Mary moved from California to Victoria in 2000. Shortly afterward, they joined Kolot Mayim. Len and Mary had a wonderful life together in Victoria, to which their beautiful garden is a testament.

Together they created an urban park, which was featured in an article in the Saanich news in '07. And just like the flowers and trees that thrive here, Len's spirit, humor and joy of life will continue to give those he touched, the blessing of his presence.

Mary suffered ill health and unexpectedly died in 2006. Len was very grateful to Kolot Mayim for the support both he and Mary, then he alone, received from the congregation. He was an active member, serving as our first Newsletter Editor and then as Chair of the Ritual Affairs Committee. He sometimes served as a Lay Leader of Services.

He had a good sense of humour and loved a good story. We mourn his loss.

## **Tzedakah: A way of life.**

### **Kolot Mayim Supports Food Bank**

Hundreds of people rely on the various food banks in town. Torah tells us to leave the four corners of our fields for those in need; today, this could be translated to mean the 4 corners of our shopping carts!

I urge everyone to bring a little something to Shul on Fridays for our Tzedakah Box. We support two food banks: Jewish Family Services and the James Bay Community Project Food Bank. If everyone brought one can each week, it would go a long way to helping those in need. Thank you for your support.

## **Chai חיי**

**THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS HAVE BEEN  
MADE SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER:**

### **CHAI FUND**

Morris Bleviss in memory of his sister  
Bella Bleviss

### **NEVE MICHAEL CHILDREN'S VILLAGE**

Caroline Hergt in memory of Isla Rose  
Marie Hergt

## **Last Chance to donate to Neve Michael Children's Village in Israel**

Our social Action Committee has committed to sending financial aid to this most worthwhile project in Israel, and will match all funds donated. We will be sending our donation at the end of the month. *Please* find it in your hearts, at this time of renewal and introspection, to help with a donation of *any* size to this most worthwhile project. Thank you.

### **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. You'd be surprised how quickly the funds add up to a sizeable donation for Kolot Mayim. They're easy to use: just load up the card with any amount you wish, then each time you shop, pay for your groceries with the card, and Thrifty's will donate a percentage of your grocery bill to us! It's that simple! A really easy way to help out your Temple: you're buying food anyway, so why not allow your purchases to 'feed' Kolot Mayim as well?!?



Elul-Tishrei 2015				Elul-Tishrei 5775-76		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 September 17 Elul	2 18	3 19	7:30 pm K. Shabbat Service led by Julie Elizabeth	Ki Tavo SELICHOT 8:00 pm Film & Discussion at the JCCV*
6 22	7 23	8 24	9 25	10 26	11 27 NO KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	12 28 Netzavim
7:00 pm services led by Rabbi Leigh Lerner EREV ROSH HASHANAH	R.Chodesh 1 Tishrei See Service schedule p.1 ROSH HASHANAH	15 2	16 3	17 4	7:30 pm K. Shabbat Service led Julie Elizabeth	Vayelech 19 6
20 7	21 8	7:00 pm services led by Rabbi Leigh Lerner KOL NIDREI	See Service schedule p.1 Break-the- Fast YOM KIPPUR	24 11	25 12 NO KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	Ha'Azinu 26 13
27 14 EREV SUKKOT	28 15 SUKKOT	29 16	30 17	Wishing you a Shanah Tovah!		

## A Different Observance for Selichot

This year, instead of our usual candlelight service at 10 pm, we are trying something different. At the suggestion of Rabbi Lerner, we have ordered a copy of the silent film: Hungry Hearts. It is based on a novel written by Anzie Yeziarska, an early American Jewish novelist.

It's not a long film (80 minutes), so there is time for discussion. It raises questions about how we fantasize about our Jewish past. Have we exaggerated and fluffed up the memory of our origins on these shores and what life was like? Have we forgotten how important Reform was to the liberation of women, of entry into the mainstream of N.A. life. What similar roles does it play today? How is it different? The image of the perfect suburban cottage at the end of the film — how was this the fulfillment of the dream? Having achieved it, how did it miss the mark? What's Hollywood's portrayal of Jews like in 1922? How does it compare to today? Are we returning to the era of anti-Semitism? Etc.

It's an unusual choice, but somewhat provocative of thought, and gives insight into our own history in North America. I doubt that anyone has seen it. By the way, Yeziarska also wrote Bread Givers, well worth a read and a review for its insights into Jewish immigrants in North America.

We will meet at the JCCV at 8 pm on Saturday September 5th to watch the film and discuss the points raised by Rabbi Lerner and any other thoughts people have. Pot Luck Dessert. Open to the Community.



## Now on Vancouver Island!

Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island is very excited about our newest project, PJ Library. We are the 13th area in Canada to have this children's program of age-appropriate, top quality Jewish children's literature and music.



PJ Library started in 2005 when Harold Grinspoon of Boston decided to help children and Jewish families. He had seen Dolly Parton's successful efforts to provide cultural materials to Appalachians and realized that he could create something similar in the Jewish community. Since the program began, over 6 million books have been delivered to more than 200,000 children in North America and now covers 6 continents. Today there are more than 250 community partners in the U.S. and Canada.

There is no cost for the participating families, it is a gift from Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Children from 3 to 8 years old receive each month, addressed to them, a book or music about some aspect of Jewish culture or tradition. PJ stands for "pyjamas" - reading Jewish stories to young children at bedtime can be a simple experience, yet can enhance Jewish identity and heritage in powerful ways. There is nothing quite like the excitement of a young child waiting for a new book each month!

Local community organizations are invited to partner with JFVVI and to create special programs suitable for young families and the children who are PJ Library readers to further connect families to Jewish life on the Island. Give us a call at (250) 370-9488 if you have an interest in creating such programs.

If you would like to enroll your child, or for more information about the program, please go on the website or email the Federation office at [info@jewishvancouverisland.ca](mailto:info@jewishvancouverisland.ca).

[www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org)  
[www.jewishvancouverisland.ca](http://www.jewishvancouverisland.ca)

*"Being an interfaith family, the books really help us add new traditions to our home life and help me learn more and more about Jewish holidays and practices."*

- A PJ Library Family

*"The affirmative stories from parents and grandparents about the ways the books INSPIRE NEW FEELINGS about their Jewish identities are powerful."*

- Ted Skolsky, President & CEO,  
UJA Federation of Toronto.



# Thursday, September 10th UNITED JEWISH APPEAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCH EVENT



featuring the film

## DELI-MAN

A documentary by  
ERIK GREENBERG ANJOU

7:00pm at the  
**Jewish Community Centre of Victoria**  
3636 Shelbourne Street

*Popcorn & Deli Treats  
from the JCC will be  
served!*



*No charge for  
admission but donations  
to the UJA Campaign  
appreciated!*



## Sesame Halvah

By Tina Wasserman

Halvah or halwa means “sweet” and refers to any firm, sweet confection in the Middle East and India made with nut butter or starchlike rice flour or semolina. In America the most recognized halvah is the one made from sesame seed paste. You could always find the big chunks of halvah at Jewish delis, and a recurrent joke in the 1950s and '60s

was that bar mitzvah boys' profiles would be carved out of halvah for their receptions! [Makes 15 to 20 Servings](#)

### Ingredients:

2 cups granulated sugar

3/4 cup cold water

1/4 cup egg whites at room temperature  
(about 2 large egg whites)

1 pound tahini (unflavored sesame paste)

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon vanilla

1/4 teaspoon cinnamon

Pinch of ground cloves (optional)

### Directions:

Combine the sugar and water in a 2-quart saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring only once or twice until sugar is dissolved. Reduce the heat to medium, and cook for 10–15 minutes or until mixture forms a firm ball when dropped into a small bowl of ice water (approximately 240°F on candy thermometer). Remove from heat when done.

Meanwhile, using a handheld mixer, beat the egg whites until firm but no dry peaks form. Set aside.

Using the same beaters on the mixer (no need to clean first), combine the sesame paste, lemon juice, vanilla, and cinnamon in a medium bowl.

Fold the egg whites into the sesame seed paste until thoroughly combined.

Place the bowl on a damp towel. Turn the mixer to medium speed, and slowly pour some of the hot sugar syrup into the sesame mixture, rapidly combining the two. Continue to add the syrup slowly while beating until all the syrup has been used.

Pour the mixture into a glass loaf pan or 8-inch square pan, and smooth the top. Cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate until firm, preferably overnight.

To serve, unmold the halvah from the pan and cut into small bars or squares, or just serve with a knife and let guests cut off pieces as they wish.

### Tina's Tidbits:

It is important that you always start with fresh, not overly roasted sesame seed paste or the finished halvah will have a burnt or rancid flavor.

Placing a bowl on a damp towel will prevent the bowl from spinning when using a handheld mixer or a whisk. This leaves your other hand free to add ingredients while mixing.

If halvah does not appear firm enough, then freeze or keep refrigerated until ready to serve. It will be easier to slice and pick up. <http://www.reformjudaism.org/jewish-life/food-recipes/sesame-halvah>