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Celebrate Channukah with Kolot Mayim!

*Oh Channukah, oh Channukah,
Come light the menorah.....*



*Dreidle, dreidle, dreidle,
I made it out of clay*



Sunday December 14th, 11 am at Congregation Emanu-El:
Prepare for Channukah with food, songs and crafts led by Rabbis Moch and Harry.

Tuesday December 16th, 5:30 pm at the Milotay home. For families with kids and anyone who likes families with kids. Candle-lighting, songs, snacks.

Friday December 19th

5:30 Vegetarian Pot Luck. KM will provide latkes, sour cream and apple sauce, as well as soufganiot for the Oneg later.

7:00 (Note time for those who aren't attending the dinner.) **Kabbalat Shabbat Service** led by Julie, Lynn and Mark, including lighting of the Channukiot.

8:30 Kiddush, gift Exchange and Dreidle Game.

Please bring:

Channukiot, candles and matches. A vegetarian dish to share. Favourite Channukah songs. **Parents:** a generic gift for a child under \$10. **All adults:** a gift of a service* you would like to offer. *See page 8.

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From Rabbi Moch

The Evolution of Anti-Semitism and the Inflating Israeli-Palestinian Rift

As I sit down to write this article, I am still digesting the news of an attack on a synagogue in the Har Nof neighbourhood of Jerusalem that resulted in the death of four distinguished rabbis, all known as great teachers of this generation, and the death of a brave Druze policeman who ran into the synagogue and shielded others from the attackers with his body. One wonders what would lead to such an attack on a religious institution, far from any disputed part of Jerusalem. The weekly parashah, Toldot, tells of our matriarch Rebecca experiencing great pain as twins Jacob and Esau struggle in her womb. In her prenatal pain, Rebecca cries out, "If this is the way it is going to be, why do I exist?" After inquiring of God, she is told that her two sons represent two warring peoples.

Rebecca's difficulties during her pregnancy seem to point to the very human condition of constant struggle and strife. Her question, "Why me?" answers itself: You were created precisely to learn to manage and assuage and even eliminate that human condition of conflict. Human beings exist precisely that they might learn to overcome the conflicts that their competitive, self-serving spirits inspire.

Six million died in Europe during the Sho'ah because they were Jewish and because the demented and obsessed leader of the Third Reich decided that his mission in life was to rid the world of the people who gave the world conscience. He could not advance his thousand year Reich, which would stand on the basis of might makes right, without first cutting down the tree of Christian teaching which stood in his way. That ethical system, inherited from Judaism demanded conscience and ethical teaching as the guide of societal values. Hitler said, the Jews have inflicted two wounds on civilization, circumcision on the body and conscience on the soul." To accomplish his task, Hitler felt he needed to completely destroy the Jewish roots of Christian Europe, lest new shoots eventually sprout up and undermine the barbarism he hoped would become the new world order.

Hannah Arendt explained that in earlier forms of anti-Semitism, Jews were accused of being Christ Killers. In Fascist Europe, Jews, the source of Christian ethics, were suddenly being killed because they were Christ givers.

Those who died recently in the attack on the Har Nof synagogue were also murdered because they were Jews and because they were teachers of the Jewish faith. The exception to that was the brave Druze policeman, Zidan Sayif, who rushed into the synagogue and sheltered worshippers and his police partner with his body. He died defending a Jewish state that allows him as a minority to live with full rights and the same level of dignity as any Jewish citizen.

We know that the world was ripe with anti-Semitism, not just in Europe, but right here in North America. That anti-Semitism became

Continued on page 4.



President's Message

Shalom Chaverim,

December is a good month. The weather causes us to constantly shift our wardrobe, and family and friends come together to celebrate on many levels. It may also be a time to reflect on the last calendar year as we look forward to the next 12 months of our lives.

As we at Kolot Mayim approach our eighteenth year, I am reminded of the symbolism of "Chai" – 18. "Chai" means "Living" or "Life" and it also means "raw" as in "uncooked". I mention this because Judaism is a religion that emphasizes the importance of life. As Jews, we are encouraged to be good, ethical people and enjoy the time we are given on Earth. One of the beliefs I bring to every action as your President is that each day and each moment is an opportunity of limitless potential and action.

It is quite an accomplishment for us to reach Chai, yet in many ways, we are still very raw... uncooked...with a great deal of potential. As Margaret Meade said "Never underestimate the power of a few committed people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Kolot Mayim Reform Temple has more than a few committed people and is working to change something much smaller than the world. I know we can do anything we agree to do as a congregation.

I want to highlight that Rabbi Moch will be with us for his longest stay yet (December 12th-17th). We have several events planned, both on-site and in the community. Please read this entire newsletter for our upcoming events and join in as often as you can.

Speaking of doing ... did you know that we are going to Israel in April 2015? Rabbi Lerner's highly inspiring and informative visit last month certainly caused me to pause and seriously consider that now is the time to go to Israel as amazing things are happening in Israel within the Reform Movement. For some of us, this trip is a dream that will finally come true. For others, it will be an opportunity to once again connect in a new and exciting time with our Holy Land among friends and family. Please see page 7 in this newsletter for details of the trip.

I encourage you to fully consider going on this adventure and anything else that may bring great meaning and joy to your life and the lives of others.

L'Chayim!

Richard Gafter

President – Kolot Mayim Reform Temple

Kolot Mayim Chai!

Rabbi, Continued from page 2. an entirely different monstrosity in Hitler's Europe. It sought to do much more than ostracize and oppress the Jewish population of your particular duchy or country, and kill a few Jews here and there. It became a government sponsored program to scientifically approve of and then effect the dehumanizing of Jews, then to delegitimize their place and role in society and finally to deport them and murder them, not just a few, but had Hitler won his war, the murder of every last Jew on this planet.

David Nasi, one of the leading 18th Century Jews of Suriname, first an English, then a Dutch colony in South America, wrote a book of Jewish History in which he described anti-Semitism as endemic to European society. He went on to state the in the Americas that was not at all the case, but that Jews are treated as individuals according to their merit. He was probably influenced by living in a Dutch Colony where Jews were entirely accepted in society and later in his life in Philadelphia, where religious tolerance was the principle on which Pennsylvania was established. In reality there was plenty of anti-Semitism in the Americas, outside of his experience.

Hitler's defeat took the wind out of the sails of anti-Semitism in North America. Of course it existed in a sub-societal level, but in the open, anti Semitism decreased as it became widely disapproved of. The Civil Rights movement in the United States helped remove the last Jewish disabilities I remember from my childhood. Jews could no longer be unwelcome in certain neighbourhoods, hotels, clubs and professions.

I grew up seeing the world as an accepting place for Jews. It seemed the world would continue to grow in the direction of tolerance toward all people, Jews included.

The genocidal wars against the Tutsis in Rwanda and the Muslims of Bosnia and several minorities in the Sudan destroyed that notion. Still, we Jews were not part of any of those conflicts and did not suffer from them as a result.

Now, in the twenty-first century to my great surprise and dismay, anti Semitism has reared its ugly old head, both in familiar forms and new forms. The problem has been a markedly severe one in many parts of Europe, especially Sweden, Denmark, France, Germany, and Hungary. Now even England is falling victim to a revival of vicious anti-Semitism. Such activities surface in attacks against individual Jews, including Jewish children, walking on European streets. In many parts of Europe, Jews refrain from walking in public wearing any outward sign of Jewishness, no six-pointed stars or menorahs or chais or kippot. Jews are regularly assaulted verbally and physically, and more than a few have been murdered.

Some of the assailants are old European style anti Semites, others have assumed a new evolved form of anti-Semitism disguised as anti Zionism. These people try to delegitimize Israel as a state by putting Israel's *raison d'etre* and everything Israel does under a moral microscope reserved for Israel alone among the nations of the world. The Israeli army, trying to stop incessant rocket attacks on Israel, invades Gaza and does so, training its soldiers in how to avoid harming civilians, and employing more measures to insure that civilians are not harmed, than have ever been undertaken by any army of any nation in history. Still, the world condemns Israel's "disproportionate" invasion of Gaza, some even calling it "genocide" or "a crime against humanity." No one hears any statements about collateral civilian casualties as a result of the present bombing of the forces of ISIS by the US, Canada and other allies.

In addition to those two forms of anti-Semitism, today, too many Muslims act out their anger at Israel by attacking Jews or Jewish institutions. *Mein Kampf*, and the old text book of 19th Century European anti-Semitism, *the Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, with a mix of other anti Semitic tracts have become perennial best sellers in the Muslim world.

Continued on page 5.

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.

Rabbi, continued from page 4. Muslims I have spoken with often believe that Jews control the world economy and press. An internet search will quickly reveal site after site teaching the familiar, old, vicious lies about the Jews. You can hear the Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, claim that Jews rule the world. You can listen to Osama Hamadan, the top Hamas representative in Lebanon and a member of the Hamas Political Bureau, repeat the accusation that Jews used to kill Christian children and use their blood to make our holy matzah for Passover. You can hear Sheikh Abu Bilal Ismail, an Imam in Berlin, the city from which Hitler orchestrated the final solution to the Jewish problem, call for the total annihilation of the Jews in the world. Such deceitful or ignorant religious leaders propagate these absurd lies all over the world.

Over the years, I have had many cordial relationships with Palestinians with whom I have felt comfortable speaking about our conflict over the land. One Palestinian man from whom I used to purchase gas in St. Thomas, would always enjoy telling me about his good relations with his Israeli boss. He would commute from Gaza to Tel Aviv to work, and felt that his boss always treated him with respect, caring and dignity. When Sadaam Hussein began firing missiles at Israel during the first Gulf War, his boss said, "Don't go back to Gaza. Stay here in our home with our family. We have a bomb shelter and gas masks."

Such friendships are increasingly rare. What has changed that has left Palestinians and Israelis increasingly separated from each other? To me the answer stands clearly between them in the form of a wall. When Israelis and Palestinians worked together, they got to know each other as human beings. Despite the many friendships and relationships, there were also plenty among the Palestinian population who would listen only to the right wing rabble-rousers. Then began the process of terror attacks on buses and cafes and even schools. There was, after all, a conflict over the land. Those attacks in Israel led to fear and frustration on the part of the Israelis. In reaction, and to give them a sense of security, Israel built its version of the Great Wall to keep out terrorists.

I understand the reason Israelis wanted to build this wall, and it has been very successful keeping down the rate of terror attacks in Israel, so it is difficult to make the following point. An unintended consequence of erecting that wall and separating Arabs from Jews has been the isolation of Israelis from Palestinians. That separation of peoples will prove far more dangerous to Israel than hundreds of occasional terror attacks. That separation has allowed rejectionist Palestinians to once again propagate lies about their evil Zionist neighbours. Now that an entire generation of Palestinians has grown up without knowing any Jews personally, it becomes very easy to see Jews as monsters and less than human. It is very difficult, nearly impossible, to find a peaceful accommodation with inhuman monsters. That very wall meant to protect Jews from harm, is harming and making nearly impossible, the ability of the Palestinians to come to a peace arrangement with Israel.

I know it is not easy for a wall of protection to be taken down, once people believe that their safety lies in that wall. If we cannot tear down that wall, let us find ways to bring Palestinians and Israelis around that wall and into each others' lives on a daily basis.

The Jews of Venice put up the very first ghetto walls in that place so that they might feel safe. It was not long before ghetto walls became prison walls for the Jews in cities all over Europe.

Let us pray for the wisdom to live openly with our neighbours, not shut away from them. Let us pray to become bridge builders, not wall builders. Let us tear down the walls we have already built and let us together – on the ashes of the past – build a future of light and glory to the Most High.

Rabbi Shimon Moch

Women Wage Peace

Morris Bleviss received this from a friend, and forwarded it for inclusion here. We hope you will all want to join this very positive endeavour. Ed.

Dear Friends and Family,

I want to let you know about this new movement of [women in Israel](#) which I have joined. It was started up in August, following the horrible summer of warfare. A group of women decided that *they had to do something* other than wringing their hands and saying, "oy vay."

When I was invited to a parlour meeting about a month ago, I was inspired by what they had to say, and I totally identified with their feelings and intentions. I have since been actively involved and am doing my best to help broaden the membership base and help out with activities and events. From this small group which met in August, we now have over 6,000 signed up members! We are hoping to reach 10,000 within the next few months and 100,000 by the end of 2015.

In order to have any appreciable influence on the political decision-makers, we must have large numbers behind us. Our movement is broad-based, inclusive, and non-political. We encourage the support and participation of men as well as women; Jews, Muslims, Christians; Palestinians and Israelis; religious and non-religious; young and old; left-wing, right-wing, and everything in-between across the political spectrum.

The attached articles describe the aims, viewpoint, and activities (so far) of [Women Wage Peace](#). We are just beginning. We will not cease our activities until the power-holders on both sides put down their weapons, stop their violence, and sit down at the negotiating table, with no prior conditions, to [talk](#). What we all have in common is our hunger for peace.

We will soon be publishing on our website and Facebook page, notifications and descriptions of our events in English. Until then, I invite you to read the article from Ha'aretz, which is in English, and to view the photos accompanying the article in [Yediot Yerushalayim](#) (Jerusalem), which is in Hebrew. (You might notice someone familiar in these photos!) On the website, the [About Us](#) section has been translated into English— if you click on ENGLISH at the top of the Homepage, you can access the English version of this section.

I am in the process of translating the registration form for membership. If you wish to offer your support by joining us (no money involved, just your name!), you can try to fill in the form in its Hebrew version (on the website) by clicking on the word (hay resh shin mem hay)* in the navy blue box and filling in the first and third boxes only: name (shin mem soffit) and e-mail (alef yud mem yud yud lamed). The other boxes are not compulsory though, if you want to indicate where you are from, you can fill in the last two boxes which ask for 'region' (Canada/USA, etc) and 'city' (Vancouver/New York, etc.). * I don't know how to put in the Hebrew; someone teach me, please!

The website is: <http://womenwagepeace.org.il> The Facebook page is simply called: Women Wage Peace. It has lots of photos on it!

P.S. Please feel free to pass this on to any and all of your friends who you think would be interested!

Thanks so much,

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we are going to ISRAEL

APRIL 27 - MAY 8, 2015

from **\$2,849**
land only

URJ SMALL CONGREGATIONS
COORDINATED BY RABBI DAVID FINE,
MERRY LUGASY AND MARCIA GROSSFELD

TRIP INCLUDES

- 10 days trip with 8 nights' accommodation+ late check out using selected hotels
- Optional trip to Eilat & Petra
- 9 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus with licensed, English speaking tour guide
- All site entrance fees and program fees as per itinerary
- Meals: daily breakfast, 1 lunch & 4 dinners
- Portage at the hotels

Search by URJ Small Congregations at arzaworld.com to view full trip itinerary and highlights

TOLL FREE 1-888-811-2812

ARZA WORLD

As we enter into the year 5775, it is time to begin planning for an exciting and educational opportunity – traveling to Israel with other members of small congregations. We have been working closely with our travel partner, ARZA WORLD, to provide a unique experience, one that will enrich each individual participant. The adventure will take us to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, learn our history and our future, participate in an archaeological dig, visit ancient holy places and celebrate Shabbat together.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Dates: April 27- May 8, 2015

Cost: \$2,849, which includes all land cost. ARZA WORLD is happy to help you arrange for airline flights.

Contact and further information: Marcia Grossfeld, mgrossfeld@urj.org

Please go to the ARZA WORLD website at www.arzaworld.com, find the search box and type in "URJ small congregations", hit go! and you will be directed to our designated trip site. The link provides information and instructions to register. ALSO, when you are on the ARZA WORLD site, please watch the video titled, "experience the Israel that we know and love", as it will immediately connect you with how exciting Israel can be.

We look forward to many of your community joining us in this life-changing experience!

Small Congregation Network Directors,

Rabbi David Fine, Marcia Grossfeld, Merry Lugasy

PLEASE JOIN US! WE WELCOME NEW WRITERS AND NEW IDEAS FOR EDITORIAL AND ANY OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO JULIE AT [<madrona623@gmail.com>](mailto:madrona623@gmail.com)

*Sincere
Condolences
to
Caroline Hergt
and
Genevieve Brandt
and their families
on the loss of their
father and grandfather,
Basil Blackman*

Thank you

to **Katrina Hanevelt** for cleaning up and organizing Kolot Mayim's room at the JCCV.

Michael Gans is settling in nicely to life in Haifa, and is pursuing his dream of completing his PhD in Holocaust Studies at the University there. But he misses Victoria and Kolot Mayim and all of us. If anyone would like to contact him, he would be thrilled to hear from you at <mgans@aol.com>.

Channukah Gifts for our Celebration on the 19th

A few years ago, led by Rabbi Jane, we did something rather special for Channukah. We were all asked to bring a gift of a service we could offer to another congregant. For instance, I offered to design a business card; someone offered to make a DH play list, and someone else offered a Hebrew lesson. We all have special skills. The gifts were drawn randomly, and no one was allowed to draw their own! It was a really great idea, and one which we would like to repeat this year. So think of what special talent you have that you would like to offer, put it onto a certificate or letter or however you'd like to present it, and wrap it so that no one knows what it is! I guarantee that this will be a highlight of the evening!

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 Kadi-sha 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).

Greetings from the RAC!

Two new members have joined our committee so please be sure to thank them when you see them for the willingness to serve ; Mark Milotay and Martin Kogan have joined us and I personally am just delighted!

We have had some lively meetings regarding the student Rabbi, creating new recommendations for a house committee as well as Chanukah. During these wonderful opportunities for getting to know one another and to laugh ,we have creating what we hope will be a lovely plan to support our student Rabbi to flourish over the next two times that he visits us. We will have a mentor in place for him as well as musical accompaniment and of course, all feedback that was provided to the Chair of the RAC has been properly collated and provided to the appropriate people. We look forward to his continued success in our congregation and feel confident he will have learned a great deal from this internship.

In response to the concerns regarding some recent fiascos around people not having keys and set up not getting quite completed as planned or intended as a result, there are plans being made in cooperation with the board to have several backup systems as well as a training for set up people so that they also experience the success of a job well done. We have also recommended that the board consider finding a House Committee Chair with at least a few more volunteers on that committee to assist in the development of a seamless logistics team when it comes to this particular need of our congregation. If interested in being affective in this area, it would be great to approach the Religious Affairs Committee Chair and declare your intentions. Be prepared, she may hug and kiss you in celebration of this most needed function and your status would be instant hero in her eyes forevermore. But don't let that stop you!

Finally, there is much planning around the exciting celebration of Chanukah this year. Rabbis Moch will be here for the 12th and we will have a lovely service, then there are plans for a Torah study on the following day, the 13th. He is planning on joining the Hebrew School and doing a lovely preparation for Chanukah as well as attending the fabulous Milotay's house potluck celebration of the first night of Chanukah on the 16th. And then, get ready for Julie, Lynne and Mark's amazing fourth night of Chanukah special service after a potluck dinner. Please pay close attention to the most helpful and muchly needed announcements Katrina puts out for all the details on times and addresses.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude for the committee. They are all amazing and have been so helpful and I for one truly appreciate all of their contributions deeply! Thanks gentlemen!

Amanda Gafter-Ricks, Chair

Tzedakah: A way of life.

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 Supports Food Bank

Hebrew School Report

On Sunday December 14th, Rabbi Moch will join the Hebrew School where the lesson will be "Preparing for the Channukah Festival." There will be songs, food and crafts. This event is open to the public and will be held in the Social Hall of Congregation Emanu-El between 11 and 12:30.

Families with kids, and anyone who loves families with kids, will celebrate the first night of Channukah with candle lighting, songs and stories led by Rabbi Moch at Mark and Kelly Milotay's home, at 1250 Vista Heights. Call or email Mark to RSVP and for directions, at 250-885-6878 or <mark@milotay.me>. Light snacks will be served.

The children are really enjoying the shared Hebrew school, making new Jewish friends and community. The older children are going further into their studies of Hebrew. The youngest children have been learning alot about Shabbat and Torah.

Katrina Hanevelt
Vice President, Kolot Mayim

November 2014				Heshvan-Kislev 5775		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 December 9 Kislev	2 10	3 11	4 12	7:30 pm K.Shabbat Service led by Julie Elizabeth with music by Ne- hamashire & Greg Davidson	5 13 <i>Vayishlach</i>
7 15	8 16	9 17	10 18	11 19	7:30 pm K.Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Moch	12 20 <i>Vayeshev</i> 3:00 pm Torah Study Havdallah and dinner at the Greenhoughs
Hebrew School with Rabbi Moch	15 23	16 24 1st Nite Celebration w R. Moch at the Milotays	17 25	18 26	5:30 pm Channukah Pot Luck & K.Shabbat Service led by Julie, Mark & Lynn	19 27 <i>Miketz</i>
21 29	22 30	23 1 Tevet <i>Rosh Chodesh</i>	24 2	25 3	7:30 pm K.Shabbat Service led by Joel Fagan	26 4 <i>Vyigash</i>
28 6	29 7	30 8	31 9	White squares indicate rabbinical leadership. Green square indicates musicians at service.		

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Kolot Maym Sisterhood &/or Rosh Chodesh Group



Is there any interest amongst the women of our Congregation in starting a Rosh Chodesh group or Sisterhood or both? Of can we combine the two? I would really like to see at least one of these things happen. We have new members; we have returning members; we have recommitted members. We have a lot of forward-thinking positive energy happening now. Let's capitalize on it!

What's missing is one or both of these all-important groups that most other congregations have. Please call or email Julie at 250-388-4161 or <madrona623@gmail.com> to help us get started!

Rosh Chodesh, the celebration of the beginning of each month in the Jewish calendar, has blossomed into a celebration of women and femininity. While Rosh Chodesh exists as a women's holiday in traditional Jewish sources, the connection has been made much stronger with the emergence of the women's movement, and the establishment of women's Rosh Chodesh groups. There is no one way to celebrate Rosh Chodesh and there are no rules for establishing a Rosh Chodesh group. At the core, it should be comprised of women who gather on a monthly basis to celebrate the new month and their lives as Jewish women.

Sisterhood is a social offshoot of the congregation and is usually involved in some form of Social Action and/or Fundraising. They sponsor events, which could provide Adult Education or any of a number of things.

**Torah Study
&
Havdallah
with
Rabbi Moch**

Sat. Dec. 12th

at the home of
Lynn & Aaron
2905 Austin Ave.

at 3 pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Call
250-380-1863
for directions.

Those we remember ...

**December 2014/
Kislev-Tevet 5775**

OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
December 1, 2014	December, 1994	Unknown	Anna Duchin	GrandMother of	Marla Yacowar
December 3, 2014	December 3, 2004	20 Kislev 5765	James Jardine	Brother of	June Kadonoff
December 6, 2014	December 6, 2010	28 Kislev 5771	Gilleen Chase	Friend of	Julie & Reva
December 7, 2014	November 26, 1996	15 Kislev 5756	Godfrey Sandell	Father of	David Sandell
December 9, 2014	December 9, 2013		Arline Parrish	Mother of	Rennie Parrish
December 10, 2014	December 10, 1998	21 Kislev 5759	Janet Devor	Mother of	Aaron Devor
December 10, 2014	December 10, 2001	25 Kislev 5762	John Parrish	Father of	Rennie Parrish
December 11, 2014	December 11 2008	14 Kislev 5769	Zen Glesby	Friend of	The Congregation
December 14, 2014	December 14, 2006	23 Kislev 5767	Jim Storey	Step-Father of	Martin Hergt
December 17, 2014	December 17, 1999	8 Tevet 5760	Nancy Phyllis Munding	Sister of	Julie Elizabeth
December 17, 2014	December 17, 2009	30 Kislev 5770	Margot Cummings	Cousin of	Rennie Parrish
December 23, 2014	December 23, 2008	26 Kislev 5769	Max Spigelman	GrandFather of	Avraël Perreault
December 28, 2014	December 28, 2012	15 Tevet 5773	Michael Laub	Cousin of	Joel Fagan
December 29, 2014	December 29, 2003	4 Tevet 5764	Marion Small	Aunt of	Rennie Parrish

PLEASE JOIN US! WE WELCOME NEW WRITERS AND NEW IDEAS FOR EDITORIAL AND ANY OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER. PLEASE SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO JULIE AT <madrona623@gmail.com>

Progressive Judaism: Start-up Nation's Spiritual Counterpart

Précis of Drash given by Rabbi Leigh Lerner on November 21st.

We were very fortunate, last month, to be the beneficiaries of a visit by Rabbi Leigh Lerner on behalf of ARZA Canada, which is the URJ's Israeli connection. Although the evening started out rather unconventionally, with the Rabbi and everyone else being locked out of the building, the rabbi was unphased by it, and we all soon settled into a very musical service and an exceptionally enlightening drash. The thrust of his message is that the Reform movement is alive and well in Eretz Yisrael.

Starting with the premise that Israel is extremely active and successful in technological start-up businesses, and that many of these are being promoted by immigrants, Lerner goes on to compare the particular influences in Israeli culture which also are leading to the flourishing of Progressive (Reform) Judaism in Israel. The two main influences he sees are the fact that 90 percent of Israelis are immigrants, and therefore endowed with a certain chutzpah which is not afraid of failure, and the compulsory service of all Israelis in the IDF, the Israeli army. This service trains the soldiers to think on their feet and stand up and speak up in a non-hierarchical milieu. Lesser contributors are dissatisfaction with the status-quo, a culture of techno-tinkering, and government policies friendly to start-ups.

Maram, Progressive Judaism's rabbinic organization in Israel, has 70 members, largely Israeli born. 75% went to Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem. Because they are not Haredi, these rabbinical students and rabbis serve in the IDF like any other Israeli citizen, on the front lines. The soldiers have respect for these rabbis and these connections build credibility and the [Israel] Movement [for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ)].

Congregation Beit Daniel in Tel Aviv is a shining example. Relegated to an unpopular area of the city by the Orthodox influenced City Council, then required by that Council to build a bomb shelter and an indoor parking lot, this temple has thrived in what is now a very yuppy area of Tel Aviv, and there is even a branch in Yaffo! Always in use, the temple is a central address for Jewish life, and Shimon Peres's granddaughter sometimes leads services!

The Haredi are not letting go of the reins easily. For example, marriages performed by Reform rabbis are not recognized. However, many are opting for civil marriages elsewhere and a second Reform ceremony to satisfy their spiritual needs. In the army, rank is not as important as leadership and pragmatic accomplishment. Similarly, we have no chief rabbinate, no downtown Jerusalem office micro-managing our rabbis and their congregants. We've got to use our heads and our hearts and our knowledge to guide us, one congregation, one school at a time. Reform preschools are also thriving, as are day schools sponsored by ARZA in Canada and the US. Virtually every dollar you give to ARZA Canada goes to help establish and sustain IMPJ pre-schools in Israel. We consider it start-up money. It's start-up money for acquainting thousands of Israelis with another way to be Jewish, a liberal way; for Progressive Judaism in Israel, building our movement, and for social progress. Remember that the Israeli government gives every Jew in Israel a free Orthodox synagogue, but non-Orthodox congregations have to raise money for themselves to exist and survive. 8% of Israelis now identify as Reform and Conservative Jews in Israel.

Please consider joining ARZA Canada. Here is their Web Site: <http://www.arzacanada.org>. Rabbi Lerner's entire Drash can be read on our Web Site www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com. And please join us on the URJ/ARZA Small Congregation tour of Israel this April.