HEVOICE WATERS

December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772

קולות מים KOLOT MAYIM REFORM TEMPLE

into the hands of the pure, the

wicked into the hands of the

righteous, and the provokers into the hands of those who

involve themselves with Your

In This Issue

| Chanukah | 1 |
|---|---|
| From Rabbi Louis | 2 |
| President's Message | 3 |
| Great Things Ahead | 4 |
| Community Menorah- lighting | 4 |
| People in the News | 5 |
| Fine China & Craft Sale | 5 |
| Introduction to Yiddish | 6 |
| Wandering Jews | 6 |
| Torah Study | 7 |
| Tzedakah | 7 |
| Jewish Women's Retreat | 7 |
| Chai | 8 |
| Oil for the Lamps | 8 |
| "Rabbi & Alex" | 9 |
| Hadassah-WIZO | 1 |
| Those We Remember | 1 |
| Tzedakah | 1 |
| Ten Things To Do | 1 |
| Calendar | 1 |
| Community-wide Getting Ready For Chanukah Party | 1 |
| | |

0

0

1

1

1

2

Chanukah

by Rabbi Yaakov Menken

In the prayer "Al HaNisim" [for the miracles] that we

add during Chanukah, we read that G-d's miraculous deliverance included "the strong into the hands of the weak, the many into the hands of the few, the impure



Shlomo Brevda shlit"a, one of the current leaders in the promotion of Jewish ethics, offers an explanation

Torah."

Rabbi

the impure by Rabbi Yechezkel Levinstein zt"l (of blessed memory) of the progression from pure, to righteous, to involved with Torah. Rabbi Levinstein explained that the entire battle was spiritual - it may have looked

explained that the entire battle was spiritual - it may have looked like a war, but the battle was supernatural, and depended upon spiritual levels rather than physical strength. Thus each level of evil, as embodied in a Greek soldier, could only be overcome by a Jew with a corresponding level of holiness.

The average soldier was not truly evil, but was merely dominated by the impure practices and beliefs of the Greek oppressors. To rebuff him, a Jew merely needed to avoid these impurities - and thus the battle brought "the impure into the hands of the pure."

There were other Greeks who were indeed evil (who helped to set up idols in the Temple and force Jews to abandon their faith). Such soldiers could only be beaten by those who were not merely free of Hellenist beliefs, but had dedicated themselves to observe Mitzvos even when self-sacrifice was involved - meaning it had to be "the wicked into the hands of the righteous."

Finally, there were those Greeks who were "great in their Cont'd. p. 9.

EVOICE December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772

Page

RABBI

Louis Sutker

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From Rabbi Louis



We are rapidly approaching the time of the 25^{th} — that is, the 25^{th} of the month of December and the 25th of the month of Kisley.

The 25th of the month of December, called Christmas, celebrates the birth of Yehoshua who becomes the founder of the Christian spiritual path and who is considered to be the Messiah by Christians.

The 25th of the month of Kislev, called

Chanukah, celebrates the freedom of our people from Greek domination, the right to worship in our own way, and the miracle of a small bit of oil that lasted eight days instead of the expected one day. It is considered a minor holiday in the Jewish liturgical calendar.

In most Western countries, the 25th of the month of December is a national holiday. It is celebrated by people giving each other presents, decorating trees, and having festive parties. Santa Claus visits households, leaving presents for children.

The 25th of the month of Kislev is celebrated by lighting candles for eight days with a special blessing, spinning a top called a dreidel, eating special foods that relate to oil (to remind us of the miracle) and by giving small gifts. In most Western countries, the holiday of Chanukah receives scant attention by anyone except Jews. The Jewish people make up approximately 0.1%-0.2% of all the peoples of the world.

In many households today that are comprised of Christians and Jews living together, there is both cooperation and tension as to how to celebrate these two holy days in ways that are respectful to each others' religious convictions, and yet respectful to the differences between these two celebrations. Each spiritual tradition struggles with capturing the spiritual essence of the holiday (holy day) and not succumbing to the superficial - although charming -aspects so obvious in the advertisements. This can be especially true for Jewish children who succumb to "Christmas Envy".

There are no simple solutions to these issues. The Rabbis themselves were ambivalent about some of the results of the Chasmonean victory. We can start off by being aware of the issues and staying open-hearted to potential solutions.

For us, followers of the Jewish spiritual path, keeping in mind the essential messages of the 25th of Kislev - namely, that our rituals Continued on page 4.

Kislev-Tevet 5772

December 2011

President's Message

Shalom Temple Family,

I am happy to report it was a very good month at Kolot Mayim. We had a very large turnout for Rabbi Louis' service where we welcomed our new members. At last count we had 17 new members who have joined our congregation. He led us in an engaging service where he warmly welcomed our new members, calling

them up for a group Aliya, and bestowing upon them a very appropriate blessing. We enjoyed an amazing Oneg with all kinds of savoury and sweet foods. Thanks to everyone who brought food to share. I want to express my gratitude to Rabbi Louis for his enthusiasm towards his role as Rabbinical Leader, and his willingness to work collaboratively with the Religious Affairs Committee. As well, I want to express our appreciation to Sharon Shalinsky for all her efforts as Membership Chair to help strengthen our community. Well done!

We had our first Torah Study of the year. Rabbi Louis' knowledge of Torah and the insightful discussion he led were appreciated by all attending. Everyone is invited to participate in the monthly Torah Study held at the Sutker's home in Fairfield. Thank you Charlotte for the tea and goodies.

Our Non Violent Communication (NVC) Workshop was very successful, with 13 participants including Rabbi Louis and Rabbi Barak Cohen from Aish Ha Torah. As Rabbi Louis said during the workshop, this work we were undertaking was about "Tikkun Olam" - working to achieve a better world. We had two Sundays of inspired learning about how we could better connect to others more compassionately. NVC is about making a heart connection with others, based on having our needs met as well as meeting the needs of others, without blame or judgement. The presenter, Michele Favarger did an excellent job facilitating the workshop in a way that left us feeling encouraged and wanting to continue this learning. We are feeling so inspired that it was decided we would continue with a bi-monthly, facilitated practice group to help us become more skillful in NVC. Anyone with who has previous NVC training and would like to join the continuing practice group, please contact Reva Hutin @ 250-388-4161. Thanks, Reva, for taking responsibility for the workshop registration. We are grateful to the Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island for the grant that allowed us to hold the NVC Workshop.

Don't forget to come and support our fundraiser, the Fine China and Craft Sale coming Dec. 4 from 10 until 4:00 at the JCCV. While you are shopping, you can enjoy delicious potato latkes being sold by the JCCV Deli. The JCCV will also be selling Chanukah ritual and gift items at this event.

Our Kabbalat Shabbat services for the month of December, will be led by Michael Gans (Dec. 2), Joe Gougeon-Ryant (Dec. 9), Jenny Laing (Dec, 16), Rabbi Louis (Dec. 23), and Joel Fagan (Dec. 30). Torah Study at the home of Rav Louis will be on Saturday December 24th at 4 p.m.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone and their families, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Kolot Mayim, a most joyous Chanukah. Don't forget to attend the Community Chanukah Party at the JCCV on December 11th from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the JCCV. Kolot Mayim is one of several organizations putting it on.

Chag sameach!

Neal



Page w

EVOICE December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772

From Rabbi Louis, continued from page 2. are vital to help us connect to the Creator of all, and that G!d continually intervenes in our lives on a micro level. It is essential that we draw hope and sustenance from these connections and interventions.

Chag Chanukah Sameach — Chappy Chanukah!

GREAT THINGS AHEAD

Rabbi Louis

Community-wide Chanukah Candle-lighting Ceremony

December 27th. 5:00 p.m.

at the front of the Legislature.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS COMMITEE

We have a lovely line-up of Service Leaders December through March, and we are planning an interesting mix of the familiar and the new from January onwards.

For example, in late February, Rabbi Louis will conduct a Saturday morning Family Service in lieu of a Friday night Service. We are hoping that this Service will attract children of all ages and, of course, their parents.

Our monthly Torah Study has begun, and will continue on the Shabbat afternoon following a Rabbi Louis Service. The first session was very well-attended. The discussion was lively and animated. People learned a great deal and had a good time doing so. We concluded with Havdalah and Charlotte Sutker's cake and tea.

The Religious Affairs Committee is considering bringing back the beloved Monday Morning Minyan. The Service would include a brief Torah reading and would be limited to no more than one hour in length. When available, Rabbi Louis would conduct the Service. We would probably follow our former custom of concluding at the Muffin Shop for a morning coffee and a nosh. Feedback to Joe and/or Jessi is very much requested.

We are looking to expand the list of Lay Service Leaders. Rabbi Louis has offered help in the form of individual consultation or a joint training session. If you are interested, please contact Joe Gougeon-Ryant or Jessi Simpson.

We are hoping to bring back Neil Weinstein for a Shabbat, hopefully in March. Neil has always been a very popular and helpful contributor to the musicality of our lovely congregation.

We should also be thinking now about what we want to do at Pesach. We have the JCC booked for the second Seder night but beyond that we are open to suggestions. Do we want self-catering and,if so, do we have enough volunteers for ticket sales, shopping, cooking, set-up, serving, and cleanup? We have a long history of doing this very successfully on our own but it does depend on our stepping up to the (Seder) plate to make it happen. Alternatively, we may wish to have a catered Continued on p. 5

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Thanks, Sharon Gillean Shalinsky, for planning a lovely Welcome to New Members at our November 21st Service.

T'was lovely to see young Thomas, the infant son of Sarah Sandwith and Dan Wainberg, in attendance. Perhaps a future Torah scholar.

Our own Michael Gans will be offering an eight week course on Yiddish Language and Culture at the JCC, beginning in January. Call the JCC for details.

We hear that Kolot Mayim connections extend to Israel. Our Dahlia Beck has already had a lunch with Kalman Sutker (son of Rabbi Louis and Charlotte) in Beersheva. Dahlia is a faculty member, and Kalman is a graduate student, at Ben Gurion University.

So good to see Arline Leshner back after a long bout of illness. Her smile and hugs were sorely missed.

Those present were touched to hear what young Jack Kushner had to say about his late grandfather at a recent Service. It was very moving.

Gilda Good is back from a three week trip to India. She found it challenging to all her senses but very worthwhile.

Our appreciation to Lynne Marks and Amanda Gafter Ricks for representing Kolot Mayim interests in the merging of our Religious School with that of Congregation Emanu-el. This is a goodwill enterprise that everybody is wishing success!

December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772

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Great Things, cccontinued from page 4.

Seder. If so, what are the individual and family cost constraints within which we will have to operate? Consider this both a solicitation of opinion and a place to volunteer. Let Joe or Jessi know what you think.

The next Religious Affairs Committee meeting is on Wednesday, January 4th. These meetings are open to any who would like to attend. Feedback and Suggestions should be sent to Joe (jgougeonryant@shaw.ca) and/or Jessi (jessi. simpson@gmail.com). We want to hear from you.



Kudos to our President, Neal Wasser, for conceiving of the Non-Violent Communication Seminar as a Kolot Mayim community activity and to VP, Reva Hutkin, for handling the registration. The sessions were very successful and there will be bi-weekly facilitated ongoing sessions.

If you have heard beautiful singing from the end of the back row at recent Services, they come from Matt Goldberg, a new Student Member. We expect that Matt will assist in, and eventually lead, a future Service.

Mazel tov to Avrael Perreault and Phyllis Chuly on the birth of a daughter and granddaughter respectively. Since Phyllis is Avrael's mother, one little girl fits both descriptions.

≝VOICE

December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772

Page 6



The photos below were taken by our new member, Aaron Devor, on a trip to Gondar, Ethiopia in August of 2009.



B ThursdaysJan 5 to Feb 237:00 to 8:30 pmAt the JCCV

Come join us on Thursday evenings for a bisl yiddishkeyt – a little bit of yiddishkeyt!

Together, we will travel back in time to the pre-Holocaust Yiddish world through eight (8) evenings of classic, Yiddish film (we provide the popcorn), klezmer and other Jewish music, Yiddish cooking (a potluck dinner, served in Yiddish), comedy (your chance to do stand up comedy, vaudeville, Yiddish cabaret, etc...in Yiddish, of course), literature, poetry and Yiddish theater (a Yiddish star is born), all the while, learning to speak the mameloshen, our colorful, bawdy, and charming Yiddish.

Gondar Beta Israel Association Feeding Center for Children Under Age Sin + Fregnant Harmen Hulssonneber SIMERIE











Tzedakah: A way of life.

Kolot Mayim Supports Food Bank

Please bring food donations for the James Bay Community Project Food Bank to the JCC on Friday nights. We have a beautiful box for your contributions, which are deeply appreciated. Packaged goods as well as produce are welcomed.

Donations of cans of beans and soup are especially needed.

For more information, please contact Reva Hutkin, 388-4161, or Ann Gougeon-Ryant, 384-9351.

JEWISH WOMEN'S RETREAT

ONE DAY - SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2012

COME AND ENJOY THE DAY AT SLEEPING DOG FARM & RETREAT 1506 BURNSIDE ROAD WEST



8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

MORNING AND AFTER-NOON SNACKS, LUNCH

\$75.00/ PERSON

TOGETHER WE'LL EXPLORE AND NURTURE OUR MINDS, BODIES AND SOULS, AND REKINDLE FRIENDSHIPS.

> OUR DAY WILL INCLUDE: SPIRITED AND INSPIRING REFLECTION MUSIC AND SINGING ART ACTIVITIES SCHMOOZING TIME ORGANIC VEGETARIAN CUISINE

FURTHER INFORMATION:

CHARLOTTE SUTKER

RAVENCAS@SHAW.CA

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December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772

Chai 'T

Donations received since the last newsletter:

In memory of David's parents, Sarah Gottdank Torontow and Harry Torontow – Dorothy and David Torontow

Condolences to Meriel Barwin on the death of her uncle — Dorothy and David Torontow

To celebrate both of our November birthdays — Dorothy and David Torontow

Speedy recovery to Charlotte Sutker — Julie Elizabeth and Reva Hutkin

In memory of my sister, Nancy Mundinger, and father-in-law, George Dinning – Julie Elizabeth

In memory of our friend, Gillean Chase – Reva Hutkin and Julie Elizabeth



OIL FOR THE LAMPS, THE ORIGINAL "LIGHT" OPERA

The world premiere of Oil for the Lamps, a Chanukah Folk Opera for children and families, will light up the stage at ArtSpring, Salt Spring Island's Centre for the Arts, on Tuesday and Wednesday,

December 13 and 14. The performance is packed with surprises and rich with Chanukah lore. A brand-new production, its lively score and lyrics the work of composer-librettist Joi Freed-Garrod, the opera highlights eight different aspects of the holiday, one for each night.

With Tevye and his family telling the ancient history of Chanukah, the loosely constructed storyline follows the tale of Fiddler on the Roof after the family leaves Anatevka. They take the audience from 1906 to the present, from Russia to Canada. The inter-generational cast, drawn from Salt Spring Island's dynamic arts community, dance, act and sing the emigrant experience as the soft glow of each successive candle builds towards the eighth night.

Freed-Garrod explains that folk opera brings together folk music, which tells stories of the people in song, with the formal, musical-dramatic structure of opera. As the story is chanted or sung, Oil for the Lamps features a surprising mix of folk, rap and wordless melody, backed by the underlying, pulsing rhythms of Klezmer. Continued on page 9.

Page 8



Oil for the Lamps, continued

from page 8. Directed by Rachel Jacobson, with costume and stage design by Lynda Jensen and choreography by Sue Newman, evening performances begin at 7:30, preceded, beginning at 6:30, by latkah tasting and dreydl games in the ArtSpring lobby. At just one hour long, the show is appropriate for everyone including the younger set.

More detailed background information is available for parents and educators on request (please e-mail Joi at jfreed@tru.ca.)

Donations are gratefully accepted. Contributions over \$20 will receive a tax receipt. Please make cheques payable to *ArtSpring *and on the reference line write: "attention George Sipos, ArtSpring Executive Director, and Oil for the Lamps

For tickets call or visit ArtSpring Ticket Centre (250) 537-2102 or toll free (866) 537-2102. For ArtSpring's secure online ticket sales site go to: <u>https://tickets.</u> <u>artspring.ca/TheatreManager/1/</u> <u>login&event=0</u>

...See you at the show!

"Rabbi & Alex"

One Saturday morning, the rabbi noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the shul staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it. Chanukah, continued from page 1. wickedness," those who enacted the decrees to separate the Jews from G-d and Torah. These individuals could only be countered by those great Jews who were totally involved with the study of our Holy Torah - and thus "the provokers" could only fall "into the hands of those who involve themselves with Your Torah."

What goes around, comes around, and there is little doubt that our current society is in the midst of a moral decline. In last week's "RavFrand" class, the Rabbi quoted a study of the top ten problems in the public schools forty years ago versus today - and the comparison was mind-boggling: forty years ago, gumchewing in the halls was a problem; today, kids and teachers must watch out for knives. So many good people ask, what can I do to reverse this? How can I make an impact?

Rabbi Levinstein provides us with one answer. The Torah and its commentaries are repositories of ethical teachings and works of spiritual improvement. The more Torah that a person knows, the greater the "soldier" in society's spiritual battles. And the use of the various techniques and advice can indeed bring a person to a more ethical and spiritual level. The battle begins at home, or more accurately within oneself. One needn't be a great scholar, or even totally righteous - one merely needs to be free of a particular ill to be able to combat it. But the greater the person, the greater his or her impact.

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The author is the Director of Project Genesis.

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"Rabbi & Alex," continued The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the rabbi walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly,"Good morning Alex."

"Good morning rabbi," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Rabbi, what is this?" he asked the rabbi.

The rabbi said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, Rabbi, Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur?" **EVOICE** December 2011 Kislev-Tevet 5772





Hadassah-WIZO of Victoria

Gala Chanukah Party

6:30 p.m. Thursday December 22, 2011 At the JCCV

Please call Sharon Fitch at 250-381-1166 for information on what to bring for pot luck.

Chag Sameach!



| OBSERVED DATE | CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH | HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH | NAME | RELATIONSHIP | MOURNER |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| December 1, 2011 | December, 1994 | Unknown | Anna Duchin | Grandmother | Marla Yacowar |
| December 1, 2011 | December 1, 1999 | 23 Kislev 5760 | Morris Hanson | Father | Anne Hanson-Finge |
| December 2, 2011 | December 2, 2008 | 5 Kislev 5768 | Lois Yake | Mother | Elizabeth Yake |
| December 3, 2011 | December 3, 2004 | 20 Kislev 5765 | James Jardine | Brother | June Kadanoff |
| December 6, 2011 | December 6, 2010 | 28 Kislev 5771 | Gillean Chase | Friend | Julie & Reva |
| December 10, 2011 | December 10, 1998 | 21 Kislev5759 | Janet Devor | Mother | Aaron Devor |
| December 10, 2011 | December 10, 2001 | 25 Kislev 5762 | John Parrish | Father | Rennie Parrish |
| December 10, 2011 | December 10, 1991 | 3 Tevet 5762 | Kevin Coleman | Husband | Michele Butot |
| December 11, 2011 | November 26, 1996 | 15 Kislev 5756 | Godfrey Sandell | Father | David Sandell |
| December 11, 2011 | December 11 2007 | 2 Tevet 5768 | Kathy O'Connell | Sister | Dan O'Connell |
| December 11, 2011 | December 11 2008 | 14 Kislev 5769 | Zen Glesby | Friend | The Congregation |
| December 12, 2011 | December 12, 1971 | 24 Kislev 5732 | Mildred Shnay | Mother | Frederica Bowden |
| December 13, 2011 | November 13, 1995 | 20 Cheshvan 5756 | Mortimer Freedman | Father | Yehudi Freedman |
| December 14, 2011 | December 14, 2006 | 23 Kislev 5767 | Jim Storey | Step-Father | Martin Hergt |
| December 17, 2011 | December 17, 2009 | 30 Kislev 5770 | Margot Cummings | Cousin | Rennie Parrish |
| December 17, 2011 | December 17, 1999 | 8 Tevet 5760 | Nancy Phyllis Mundinger | Sister | Julie Elizabeth |
| December 18, 2011 | December 18, 2005 | 17 Kislev 5766 | Gertrude Laing | Grandmother | Jenny Laing |
| December 23, 2011 | December 23, 2008 | 26 Kislev 5769 | Max Spigelman | Grandfather | Avrael Perreault |
| December 24, 2011 | December 24, 2002 | 19 Tevet 5763 | Marlene Gordon | Mother | Hugh Gordon |
| December 26, 2011 | December 26, 2004 | 14 Tevet 5765 | Henri Cunow | Life Partner | Lesley Wicks |
| December 27, 2011 | December 27 1995 | 4 Tevet 5756 | Ruth Haidt | Mother | Wendy Rolph |
| December 28, 2011 | December 28, 1987 | 7 Tevet 5748 | Michael Kelley | Foster Brother | Jenny Laing |
| December 29, 2011 | December 29, 2003 | 4Tevet 5764 | Marion Small | Aunt | Rennie Parrish |

Those we remember

JCCV Newcomers' Group

The Victoria Jewish Community Centre is starting a program for people who are new to Victoria or who have moved here in the last three years or so. This group is open to anyone who wishes to meet other newcomers and wants to integrate into the Jewish Community and to learn about the Jewish opportunities available in Victoria. Please contact Joanne Helm at 778-426-2996 or <helmj@shaw.ca> for further information.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES:

*Out and About — visits to all things Jewish (5 religious groups) and some things that are just interesting and fun *Walking Groups *Dining out in a group at various restaurants *Dining in at a hosts house *Book Club *anything else anyone wants to organize.

TEN THINGS TO DO AS A TEMPLE MEMBER

- Offer to give a "drash" at one of our Services
- Volunteer to be on a committee
- Start a Temple Book Club
- Donate to the Rabbi Fund
- Join ARZA Canada and support Israel
- Honour other members through the Chai Fund
- Write for the Newsletter
- Agree to sit on the Temple Board
- Bring a friend to Temple events
- Encourage our young people

Kislev-Tevet 5772 Wednesday Thursday Sunday Monday Tuesday Friday Saturday 1:30 3 2 White squares 6 Kabbalat 5 Kislev indicate days Shabbat, Rabbi Sutker led by Michael is with us. Gans Vayishlach 5 10 4 6 8 0 9 10 8 11 12 Kabbalat 13 14 Shabbat, led by Joe Gougeon-Ryant 14 15 11 12 13 17 16 Vaveshev 7:30 16 17 19 21 Community¹⁵ 18 20 Kabbalat Shabbat, led Party by Jenny 10 am to 12 Laing Mikeitz 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 7:30 Erev Torah Study 28 23 25 26 27 Hadassah²² Chanukah²⁴ Kabbalat Shabbat, 4:00 chez Party led by Rabb **Rabbi** Louis 6:30 pm Louis 25 26 Rosh Chodesh 27 28 29 30 Vayigash 31 29 30 Kabbalat 1 Tevet 2 3 4 5 5 pm Shabbat, led Community Menorah-lighting by Joel Fagan

December 2011

Page

Jewish community-wide Event: "Getting Ready for Chanukah" Party

Sunday, December 11th

day, December 10 a.m. until noon max ^{\$2} per person "CCV in Victoria" ⁵⁰ 00 per son Family at the JCCV in Victoria

Featuring family fun'telling latkes and more. Brought to you with the participation and support of the many Jewish congregations and societies in Victoria, including Aish HaTorah, Chabad, Emanu-el, Hillel, Jewish Federation, Kolot Mayim, Jewish Society of Humanistic Judaism, and the JCCV.

