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1722 Drawing by Father Domenge, S.J.:

"Kaifeng Jew reading the Bible on Chair of Moses, with two Attendants"

This follows the Mizrahi custom with the Torah scroll opened within its hard protecting case. An attendant is following the reading holding the Torah in book format.

Society of Jesus Archives, Library of the College of St. Genevieve, Paris

RABBI

Jane Rachel Litman

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President's Message

Shalom to everyone in our Kolot Mayim family. You will all know by now that Jenny Laing has stepped down as President. I have taken over from Jenny and will do my best to lead our congregation through the remainder of the year.

I think I can speak for all in the congregation when I say we are grateful to Jenny for her many years of dedication to Kolot Mayim. There is no one who has worked harder to help establish a Reform presence in Victoria.

Times of change offer opportunity. If anyone has ideas or energy to lend the executive, the Vice President's position is now vacant. Our nominating committee will be happy to entertain any applications for this position.

The month of January was particularly eventful for Kolot Mayim. For the second year in a row, we held the Cantorial Weekend led by Neil Weinstein. Neil delighted us with his guitar and voice. It was nice to see a full crowd come to the Friday service. My wife Louise and I were happy to host the Tu B'shevat Seder at our home. Michael Gans did an admirable job leading the Seder and everyone attending found it memorable. Rabbi Jane led our services at the end of the month which was, as always, spiritually inspiring.

In the following months, there are many exiting events planned. The Congregational Development Committee has planned some fascinating dinner talks. The first is scheduled for March 27 when Professor Jordan Paper will discuss his research on his upcoming book about the Kaifeng Jews of China. There will be a Silent Auction and a dinner. Anyone able to help prepare a vegetarian lasagna for the dinner please contact either Rennie or Alec. Anyone who has items or services that could be offered for auction, please contact Katrina Greenfield Hanevelt <klgreenfh@gmail.com>.

With winter soon coming to an end here in Lotus Land, we look forward to the arrival of cherry blossoms and daffodils. I wish everyone all the best in this coming year. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events.

L'shalom,

Neal Wasser



Rabbi Jane Writes

Being a Tzadik

Every Shabbat at Kolot Mayim we recite the prayers of the amidah, the silent standing reflection that is the center of the Jewish worship service. However, most of us don't realize that the amidah has additional prayers during the week. On shabbat we omit the prayers that make a request of God, because, according to Jewish tradition, even God deserves a day of rest. During the week, the amidah includes a number of supplicatory (asking) prayers, that are not recited on shabbat, and are therefore less familiar to the average worshipper.

I wish I could say that every day I recite the worship service and the prayers of the weekday amidah. Sometimes I'm "too busy" or forgetful of the time set aside for worship. However, there are times, mostly when I am fulfilling the mitzvah of a shiva minyan - I do have the opportunity of praying during the week, not just on shabbat. Then I recite the extra prayers of the weekday amidah.

One of these prayers is particularly resonant with me these days. It's called the prayer for the tzadikim, the righteous ones:

Adonai, our God, for the tzadikim and the decent people of all humanity, for all who act in accord with Your compassion, and affirm Your truth, please grant them well being, and please grant that we may be numbered among them. We praise You, Adonai, the Staff and Support of tzadikim.

I feel blessed to know so many tzadikim, people who give of themselves to our congregation, the community, the Jewish people and all humanity. As a rabbi, every day I witness acts - large and small - that show people's dedication to compassion, caring, faith and truth: I see people write letters urging their leaders to intervene to save the people of Darfur. I see people organize tutoring for children in need. I see people struggling to find peace and growth within themselves. I see people who care enough about their children's moral development to shlep them to religious school every week. I see people prepare meals for those who are sick or impoverished or grieving. I see people edit newsletters, plan events, write checks, lead services, all the acts - large and small - necessary to maintain a Jewish community. And I see God's presence in each of these acts. So for all the tzadikim who are reading this column, and I hope you know who you are, please accept my gratitude and appreciation for your inspiration.

Sometimes people ask me about the great philosophical questions, about God or about the meaning of life. It seems to me that the great questions can be broken down into humble acts of compassion and caring. The amidah says it all: may we try to be numbered among the tzadikim, the decent people, of the world.

For a True Tzadik, [Debbie Friedman](#), Her Memory is a Blessing,

Rabbi Jane

Chai חַי

Did you know that we have provided you with an opportunity to commemorate important events in the lives of your family and friends? Our Chai Fund appears in the Newsletter every month and contains the names of the donor and the occasion. These can be "Thank Yous," messages of condolence, good wishes for weddings, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, anniversaries, birthdays, appreciation or anything you find noteworthy. A card will be sent by us on your behalf to the person(s) you wish to honour. Chai Fund donations are a great way to raise much needed funds for our Congregation, and are tax deductible.

All you have to do is send a cheque to the Treasurer, made payable to Kolot Mayim Reform Temple. It may be left in the Kolot Mayim folder at the JCC, or mailed to Kolot Mayim Reform Temple at the JCC of Victoria, 3636 Shelbourne Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8P 4H2.

Donations made during the past month:

For the Social Action Committee - Arlette Baker

In memory of Kezia Allen's mother - Dorothy and David Torontow

In honour of Jessi Simpson and Steve's engagement - Dorothy and David Torontow

In honour of Reva Hutkin's 75th birthday - Dorothy and David Torontow, Earl and Ethel Chochinov, Dr. Ruth Simkin, Laura Yaros, Peter and Edna Hajnal, Libby Weiser

For the January two-pager mailout - Joe and Ann Gougeon-Ryant

If you would like to sponsor an issue of **The Voice**, please contact **Julie Elizabeth** at 250-388-4161 or email her at <madrona623@telus.net>.

Sponsorship costs \$100.00, is tax deductible, and covers our printing and mailing costs ONLY.



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SHMOOZIN



GLICK

"My son the psychologist has figured out a way to combine his Jewish background with his professional work -- he leads a support group for people trying to overcome the fear of being called up to the bimah"

Torah Study



Everyone is welcome to the Shabbat morning Torah Study Group at Joe and Ann Gougeon-Ryant's home, #110 - 999 Burdett Street (at Vancouver), at 11 am.

This is a lively conversation about how the themes of Torah relate to our lives. Rabbi Jane is preparing weekly materials, and teaches the group when she is in town. On other weeks, it is a cooperative learning session. Please call Joe or Ann at 250-384-9351 for more information.

Intrigued by our cover illustration?

Hopefully, the illustration on the cover intrigued you to want to open this newsletter and find out what it's all about!

It is the cover illustration of the new book by Dr. Jordan Paper, *The Theology of the Chinese Jews*, who have been in China for over a millenium. Hopefully, this teaser will intrigue you enough to book your tickets to our Spring Fling!

On **Sunday March 27th, beginning at 5:00 p.m.**, we have a wonderful event planned for you.

- * a 3-course meal **at Rennie and Alec's**,
- * a fascinating talk by Dr. Paper on the enigma of the Chinese Jews,
- * and an exciting **Silent Auction!**

It will be Food for the Body, Food for the Mind, and hopefully, some money raised for the coffers of Kolot Mayim.

Tickets are \$36.00 Single/\$60.00 Couple, from Katrina at <klgreenfh@g.mail.com> or 250-382-5694. Get yours early as seating is limited.

Dr. Jordan paper is Professor Emeritus of Religious and East Asian Studies at York University, Toronto, and a Fellow of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, Adjunct Professor in Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria.

Auction will feature many goods and services, including fine English China from a private collection. Bring your cheque books!

Photos by Reva Hutkin, of
Neil Weinstein with Hebrew
School kids and parents.





China: The Jewish Connection

Notes by Peter Hajnal

Before and during a short visit to Shanghai last November I have encountered some unexpected bits of Jewish connections with China. The reason for this trip (my first to China) was an academic conference, which left little time for exploring. Nevertheless, I came across some unexpected (as well as some known) items of Jewish interest.

As I already knew, China (and especially Shanghai) was good to Jewish refugees from

Nazi Germany and other European countries collaborating with the Nazis, saving many lives and providing safe – but not rich – living conditions. This all changed when the Japanese fascists occupied China, after which the Chinese themselves as well as Jews in China suffered very much. A new angle on this was revealed by Bernie Farber's article last December 29 in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, "China's Schindler" (<www.theglobeandmail.com/life/facts-and-arguments/the-day-i-discovered-an-unsung-holocaust-hero/article1851179>). In it, Farber, CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress, recounts his surprise discovery of an exhibit in the Israeli pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo last year: Dr. Feng Shan Ho, "one of the first diplomats to save Jews by issuing them visas to escape the Nazis and the Holocaust." Dr. Ho became Chinese consul general in Vienna shortly after Germany's annexation of Austria, and, after the Japanese occupied China, he gave Austrian Jews visas to allow them to emigrate to Shanghai, at the rate of 500 to 900 visas each month, thereby saving the lives of many Jews.

I had also heard of the famous Bund in Shanghai, which, in its heyday, accommodated some rich Jewish families (including the Sassoons) in the 19th and early 20th century. On my visit one evening I saw this finely illuminated boulevard on the shore of the Huangpu River. The buildings on the Bund contrast with the many new high-rises that now dominate the Shanghai skyline and are now occupied by large banks and luxury hotels (for those who want more detail, with photos, I recommend these two websites: <www.chinahighlights.com/shanghai/attraction/the-bund.htm> and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bund>).

To my surprise I met a young Chinese scholar in Shanghai who heads a small Hebrew department at a university there. He speaks and reads Hebrew, having studied in Tel Aviv for some time.

Continued on page 7.

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 bereaved person feels the embrace and concern of the entire community.

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), Jack Shalinsky (250 477-1012), or Michael Goldberg (250 598-9094).

China: The Jewish Connection, cont'd from page 6. My short visit did not allow time to go on one of the Jewish tours of Shanghai (focusing on places where Jews lived and prayed in the city). From everything I heard, I can recommend such a tour to Jewish (and non-Jewish) visitors, particularly tours given by Jewish guides. One highlight is the Jewish Refugees Museum in the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue (www.shanghai-jews.com and www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shanghai/jewish-refugees-museum.htm).

Some time ago I also learned from a visiting Chinese academic colleague about the Center of Jewish Studies in Shanghai but had no time to visit it on my short trip. This is the major research institute on Jewish and Israeli studies in China. The Center's website gives full information on its many activities; for example, it features a book, *The Jews in China*. (www.cjss.org.cn/new_page_9.htm; on the book, www.cjss.org.cn/200511283.htm).

More recently, the same colleague sent me some interesting tidbits about Jews in Harbin, the largest city in Northeast China. During her recent visit there, she saw a synagogue originally built in 1918 and renovated in 2006. She reports that this is the largest synagogue in China (see photos at <http://heilongjiang.abang.com/od/wxws/ig/ytg>). During 1903-1962, more than 20 thousand Jews lived in Harbin. The city's Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Science has a Centre for Jewish studies which published a book of old photographs documenting Jews in Harbin (<http://book.kongfz.com/5135/74616262>). Another example of the Jewish connection is the Institute of Jewish Studies at Nanjing University (http://en.judaic.cn/_d270641227.htm).

But Jewish presence in China is much older, going back many centuries. The historic (but now probably extinct) Kaifeng Jewish community began in the 8th century CE, according to some archaeological evidence (others say it started in the 10th

century), and lasted until the 19th, although some traces still survive. Marco Polo reportedly writes about meeting Jews in the 13th century. There are tours that focus on this little-known aspect of Jewish history (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaifeng_Jews, www.jewish-holiday.com/kaifeng.html and www.hebrewsongs.com/kaifeng.htm).

There is much for the traveller and the armchair explorer to discover about Jews in China. This historic Jewish connection survives and thrives today.

Our thanks go to Dr. Peter Hajnal for submitting this article.



Photo by Galen R. Fryinger

The Bund

http://www.galenfryinger.com/bund_shanghai_china.htm

To learn more about the Chinese Jews, come to our Spring Dinner on Sunday March 27th at Alec and Rennie's. Dr. Jordan Paper, Professor Emeritus of Religious and Eastern Studies at York University, will speak about the enigma of the Jews in China, who have been a presence in that country for over a millennia, and about his latest book: *The Theology of the Chinese Jews*.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.cjss.org.cn/203i.htm>

Shanghai Jewish Club in Route Pichon (now within the campus of Shanghai Conservatory of Music in Fenyang Road) was founded by Russian Jews and became their recreational center in the 1940s.

More photos on page 8.

Jewish law requires every individual to give tzedakah, even one who is himself sustained by the tzedakah of others. If the purpose of tzedakah were merely to rectify the unequal distribution of wealth between rich and poor, this law would make no sense. Tzedakah, however, is much more than that: it is the opportunity granted to every person to become a "partner with God in creation."



Avodah cooks and Kolot Mayim Helps!

Sandy and Joel Fagan helping in the kitchen for the Out-of-the-Rain project.



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.



Monument for Holocaust survivors in Hongku (Hongkew) was erected by Shanghai Municipal government in 1994.

China: The Jewish Connection

Photos courtesy of <<http://www.cjss.org.cn/203i.htm>>



On Bund, the Sassoon Building (today's Peace Hotel), was the symbol of the Sassoon family in the Far East.



Ohel Moshe Synagogue on Ward Road (today's Chang Yang Road) was founded by Russian Jews in 1907, and moved to this site in 1927. It was headed by Rabbi Meir Ashkenazi and became the centre of religious activities for the Jewish refugees from Europe during wartime.

Obituary

Debbie Friedman, Jewish songwriter and performer, dies



(JTA) -- Debbie Friedman, a popular singer and songwriter who is widely credited with reinvigorating synagogue music, has died.

Friedman died [Jan.19] after being hospitalized in Southern California for several days with pneumonia. She was in her late 50s.

"Debbie influenced and enriched contemporary Jewish music in a profound way," read a statement published Sunday on the website of the Union for Reform Judaism. "Her music crossed generational and denominational lines and carved a powerful legacy of authentic Jewish spirituality into our daily lives."

Friedman brought a more folksy, sing-along style to American congregations. In 2007 she was appointed to the faculty of the Reform movement's cantorial school in a sign that her style had gained mainstream acceptance.

She is best known for her composition "Mi Shebeirach," a prayer for healing that is sung in many North American congregations.

Friedman released more than 20 albums and performed in sold-out concerts around the world at synagogues, churches, schools and prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall. She received dozens of awards and was lauded by critics worldwide.

"Debbie Friedman was an extraordinary treasure of our movement and an individual of great influence," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism. "Twenty-five years ago, North American Jews had forgotten how to sing. Debbie reminded us how to sing, she taught us how to sing. She gave us the vehicles that enabled us to sing. Then she impacted our youth and our camps and, ultimately, from there she impacted our synagogues."

"What happens in the synagogues of Reform Judaism today -- the voices of song -- are in large measure due to the insight, brilliance and influence of Debbie Friedman."

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA CONTINUING STUDIES COURSE

History of the Jews of Spain

**February 8 to
March 15, 2011**

6 sessions on Tuesdays
from 7 pm - 9 pm.

In this course we will explore the rich history of the Spanish Jews from the ancient times through Roman, Visigothic and Moorish rule to the magnificent achievements of the Golden Age of the 11th and 12th centuries. We will learn about the period of the Reconquistas and, finally, about King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella's Edict of Expulsion in 1492, resulting in the diaspora of the Spanish Jewry. We will discover a wondrous story of survival, endurance and rebirth of the Jewish people of Spain.

**Instructor : Inna Smolov
Course Code: ASH1473**

Fee : \$ 95 plus \$11.40 HST

**To register,
call UVic at 250-472-4694.**

More information is available in the UVic Course Calendar, January - August 2011, page 33. You can also look online at www.continuingstudies.uvic.ca/register/, then click on "Continuing Studies Programs and Courses," and search for a course in section: Humanities, History, Contemporary Issues.

Those We Remember ...

2010 Obs'd Date	Civil Date of Death	Hebrew Date of Death	Name	Relationship	Mourner
2/1	Feb. 1, 1983	18 Shevat 5743	Jack Miller	Uncle	Don Sher
2/3	Feb. 13	29 Shevat	Goldie Litman	Grandmother	Jane Litman
2/4	Feb. 4, 1995	4 Adar 5755	Leon Goldman	Father	Tony Goldman
2/4	Feb. 14, 2010	30 Shevat 5770	Robert Litman	Father	Jane Litman
2/5	Feb. 5, 1996	15 Shevat 5756	Steven Brian Freeman	Son	Betty Cohen
2/6	Feb. 6, 1996	16 Shevat 5756	Dorothy Goldman	Mother	Tony Goldman
2/7	Feb. 7, 1960	9 Shevat 5720	Ethel Ross Sharpe	Mother	Arline Leshner
2/11	Feb. 11, 2001	18 Shevat 5761	Liberalina Ferriera Costa	Mother	Eva Katz
2/13	Feb. 13, 1943	8 Adar I 5703	Fernand Lévy	Father	Arlette Baker
2/13	Feb. 13, 1943	8 Adar I 5703	Renée Lévy	Mother	Arlette Baker
2/15	Feb. 15, 2009	21 Shevat 5769	Horst Rothfells	Friend	Congregation
2/17	Feb. 17, 1997	10 Adar I 5757	Clifford Theodore Kirk	Father	Donna Kirk
2/17	Feb. 17, 2008	11 Adar I 5768	Morris Miller	Cousin	Dorothy Torontow
2/17	Feb. 17, 2008	11 Adar I 5768	Chuck Waldman	Husband	Claire Waldman
2/17	Feb. 17, 2005	8 Adar 5765	Sue Pollick	Mother	Frances Aknai
2/19	Feb. 19, 1986	10 Adar I 5746	Jack Gerald Krasnick	Father	Jeffrey Krasnick
2/19	Feb. 19, 1984	16 Adar 5744	Isadore Berger	Stepfather	Kezia Allen
2/19	Feb. 19, 2007	1 Adar 5767	Lester Gordon	Cousin	David Torontow
2/20	Feb. 20, 1987	21 Shevat 5747	Harry Miller	Uncle	Don Sher
2/21	Feb. 21, 1984	18 Adar 5744	Fanny Horowitz	Mother	Isadore Horowitz
2/23	Feb. 23, 2003	21 Adar I 5763	Mark Schafer	Father	Karen Schafer
2/27	Feb. 27, 1988	9 Adar 5748	Stanley Bradshaw Laing	Grandfather	Jenny Laing
2/27	Feb. 27, 2005	18 Adar I 5765	Cassie Ostrov	Mother	Sue Sandell

Purim Katan

In regular years, the 14th of Adar is Purim, the festival that celebrates the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman's evil decree in the year 3405 from creation (356 BCE). However, in a Jewish leap year — which has two Adars — Purim is celebrated in Adar II, and the 14th of Adar I is designated as *Purim Katan*, the "little Purim." There are no special observances, however, associated with *Purim Katan*, other than the omission of *Tachnun* ("supplications") from the daily prayers, and a prohibition against fasting or holding eulogies on this day. *The Code of Jewish Law* cites an opinion that one should increase in festivity and joy, but rules that there is no obligation to do so; "Nevertheless, a person should increase somewhat in festivity... for 'One who is of good heart is festive always.'" (*Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim* 697:1).

*From Chabad Lubacitch of Vancouver Island 5771
Jewish Calendar 2010-2011*

February 2011

Shevet-Adar I 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 27	2 28	3 29	4 30 7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Rosh Chodesh 5 1 Adar I Terumah 11:00 Torah Study
10:00 Rel.Sch. 6 2	7 3	8 4	9 5	10 6	11 7 7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Tetzaveh 12 8 11:00 Torah Study
10:00 Rel. Sch. 13 9	14 10	15 11	16 12	17 13	Purim Katan 18 14 7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Ki Tisa 19 15 Shushan Purim Katan 11-Torah Study Havdallah
10:00 Rel. Sch. Family Ed. 20 16	21 17	22 18	23 19	24 20	25 21 7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Vayak'hel 26 22 11:00 Torah Study
10:00 Rel. Sch. 27 23	28 24					

White squares represent dates that Rabbi Jane will be with us.

Parshas are in red type.

REINVENTING RITUAL — CALLING ALL ARTISTS

We begin again on [February 1](#), at 7:30 pm at [Congregation Emanu-El, in the sanctuary](#). Artists of all media are invited: visual, textile, and graphic artists, sculptors, musicians, fiction writers, poets, story-tellers—whatever your creative calling, come and join Rabbi Harry in exploring the mysteries and meanings of Jewish ritual objects. You are sure to be inspired!

The course will go for about 5 months, meeting once/month on a Tuesday evening for a couple of hours. Even if you are not an artist, but would like to take the course, you are welcome. There is a small fee – more for non-Emanu-El members.

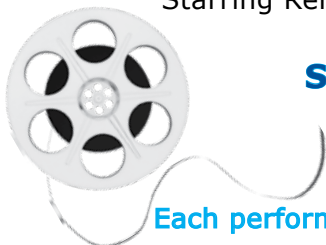
JCCV JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The JCCV is pleased to announce the advent of a continuing Jewish Film Festival commencing on February 12, 2011, and continuing monthly at the JCCV. The festival showings will feature a collection of both well and little known "Classic" Jewish Feature Films of the past 40 years, to be selected from the following list, and shown monthly at the JCCV: The Little Traitor (2007), Live and Become (2005), Leon the Pig Farmer (1992), A Price Above Rubies (1998), The Order (2001), Avalon (1990), Lost Islands (2008), The Burial Society (2002), Jakob The Liar (1999), The Frisco Kid (1979), Fugitive Pieces (2007), The Yankles (2009), Over the Brooklyn Bridge (1984), Two Lovers (2008), Everything is Illuminated (2005), A Stranger Among Us (1992).

Our inaugural screening will be **A Price Above Rubies (1998)** about a young Hasidic Jewess who is unhappily married to a very religious scholar, and the problems that trouble their marriage because she wants something more out of her life. She has a mystical bent which is manifested by ongoing dialogue with her deceased younger brother, and by encounters with a mysterious but wisdom-dispensing older woman. Abandoned by everyone, she finds a new life in the ashes, and sets out to pursue her dreams.

Director and Writer: Boaz Yakin

Starring Renée Zellweger, Christopher Eccleston, and Julianna Margulies



Saturday February 26, 2010 at 730 pm

Jewish Community Center of Victoria
3636 Shelbourne Street

Each performance will be accompanied by popcorn, and dessert & coffee.

Admission

Single screening: \$5.00 per person
5 Showing Package (February-June)

