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## Tu B'Shevat: New Year of the Trees

Perhaps even more than any other Jewish holiday, Tu B'Shevat has evolved over two thousand years of Jewish history. This year, Tu B'Shevat falls on Monday, February 9, 2009. The words Tu B'Shevat literally mean "the fifteenth [day in the month] of Shevat." Originally, in post-biblical times, Tu B'shevat was simply the yearly date for reckoning the age of trees for purposes of taxes and of orlah (the first three years during which a tree's fruit was considered strictly God's property and not to be eaten). Later, the mystics developed a Tu B'shevat Seder (see below) that represented both their connection to the land of Israel and reflected their ideas of God's relationship to the world using the imagery of a cosmic tree.

At the beginning of the Zionist movement, Tu B'Shevat again took on new meaning as planting trees became a symbol for the Jewish re-attachment to the land of Israel. The most recent transformation has re-popularized Tu B'Shevat into a holiday of Jewish environmentalism as a sort of Jewish Earth Day because of its association with trees and, by extension, with nature.

### Judaism & Trees

Trees figure prominently in Jewish literature and lore—from the very first trees planted at creation and the Garden of Eden, to the trees worshipped by King Ahaz in the final chapters of the Bible. In the Bible, the Hebrew word for tree appears over 150 times, and more than 100 different kinds of trees, shrubs and plants are named. The Mishnah (Masechet Zera'im in particular deals with laws of agriculture) adds hundreds of names of plants. Midrashim, too, often use plants in similes and parables. In all, over 500 different plants are mentioned in classical Jewish sources.

Trees and plants were important in the ancient world. Trees furnished wood for construction of buildings, boats, furniture and smaller articles. Many trees provided nutritious and tasty fruit. Grains and vegetables were cultivated and wild plants were gathered. Other plants were used for food, medicinal purposes, herbs and spices, incense important for use in sacrifices, rope and cloth fibers. Sap and oils were extracted from plants and trees.



Continued on page 4.

## RABBI

**Louis Sutker**

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## INTERESTED

## IN ADVERTISING?

For rates and copy deadlines,  
contact Julie Elizabeth  
at [madrona623@telus.net](mailto:madrona623@telus.net)

## WEBSITE

[http://www.](http://www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com)

[kolotmayimreformtemple.com](http://www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com)

## From Rabbi Louis .....



What is the connection between Jewish identity and grammar? I suggest that the "parts of speech" that most of us learned in English class to diagram a sentence can be helpful in giving a model to consider our ownership of Jewish identity.

There is always the "subject" of a sentence. This is a nominal Jew. A Jew in name only who does not deny his identity, but who also does not engage any further.

There are adjectival Jews, who are "Jewish" and who identify with the cultural and religious symbols of Judaism. such as food or synagogue attendance.

There are verbal Jews, who actively involve themselves in community affairs, study, good works, spirituality, and the like, but in only one area.

Then, there are complete sentence Jews. These are the rare people who exhibit all of the qualities above, and it is also the Jewish people as a whole. Like the palm branch, myrtle, willow and etrog at Sukkot, all of the parts of speech are necessary and valuable to the entire world of Jews (k'lal Yisrael).

Each one is valuable in itself, and has a unique contribution to make to sustain and improve the world. May our understanding and appreciation for each other and the unique roles that we have in the world of Judaism increase, so as to appreciate the purpose and contribution of each part of speech.

*r. Louis*



## President's Message

### *Greetings Temple Family,*

While we went through the winter doldrums of January, we did manage some good news. The snow and cold weather played havoc with our planned Board meeting, which was cancelled. On the positive side, Susan Halpert is now our new Secretary on the Board. We are all looking forward to working with her on both the Executive and the Board.



Congratulations to Jessi Simpson and to her new husband, Steve Goss who were married last month. Our congregation had the opportunity to help celebrate their upcoming wedding with the Aufruf service that Jenny led on the Friday the week before their wedding. There was a large number of congregants who came out to the service to wish Jessi and Steve a big Mazel Tov on their upcoming wedding.

Rabbi Louis' service was enjoyed by a small cozy, group who fought off the elements to make it to services. In February, the Rabbi will lead a brief Children's Service at 6:00 pm on Friday February 24th. This will be followed by a pot luck dinner for the religious school families. Regular Kabbalat Shabbat services will begin at 7:30 as usual on that day. On Saturday the 25th, Rabbi Louis will offer an Introduction to Kabbalah, which will be the first of three sessions, at the Torah Study, at his home at 4:00 pm.

Shalom,

Neal



## Hebrew School Report

At the end of last year, Hebrew School ended with the very enjoyable community Channukah party, held at the JCCV and planned by all of the Jewish organizations in town, including Kolot Mayim and Emmanuel. Crafts, stories, candle-lighting and of course latkes were enjoyed by all.

The children continue to enjoy attending the Emmanuel Hebrew School. They are learning Hebrew, and really enjoying that. They also enjoy having children their own ages in their classes. Since Hebrew School started up again in January, they have been working on the regular curriculum, including Hebrew, Bible stories, and Jewish holidays. The older children are starting to prepare for the Bible contest in the Spring.

*Lynne Marks*

Co-Chair

Hebrew School Committee

Tu B'Shevat, continued from page 1.

### What are trees?



Trees are the tallest and longest living plants on the earth. It is difficult not to be inspired by an enormous tree, whose roots are in the earth, yet whose branches seem to touch the very sky. Today, since many buildings dwarf trees, and we are jaded, we need to go to the redwood forests to be impressed by these towering giants, in the ancient world, trees would have been the tallest structures, (except for mountains, which also were often a site of sacred power). Trees typically survive for several human generations, and their longevity must have also impressed the ancient Israelites. For these reasons, it is not surprising that trees were powerful symbols for the ancient Israelite, and many significant trees are featured in biblical stories.

Most of us today live much farther removed from the natural world than did our biblical ancestors who lived and worked outdoors for much of their lives. It is only natural that the Bible used images of the great outdoors that surrounded them. Although the Bible is not a botanical textbook, and often mentions plants and trees only incidentally, the Bible is rich in natural imagery, metaphors and parables. Often, our understanding of the biblical text is impoverished because we no longer appreciate their meaning.

The Bible uses images and descriptions of trees but is not meant to be a botanical encyclopedia. The names and descriptions of plant (and animal) life are casual; many common species of plants are not mentioned in the Bible (like the carob), while others appear only once (such as ebony, pistachio, and walnut). Tu B'Shevat is a day in the Jewish calendar which encourages us to take a deeper look at our connection to trees and to the nature of Israel.

## The Tu B'Shevat Seder

Here is an outline of the Tu B'Shevat Seder. Many different Seders are available in Jewish bookstores and online. Invite a few friends to share an evening devoted to thinking about the environment, our relationship to the earth, eco-Judaism and some fresh and dried fruit from the land of Israel.

Like at the passover seder, one drinks four cups of wine and reads readings. Because of the focus on trees, one also eats fruit. The order of the seder is based on the four "worlds" described by the kabbalists -- the Jewish mystics. Basically, the order of the seder is:

Fill glasses with the appropriate (see table below) wine. Read or sing.  
Say the blessing over fruit:

*Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, borei pri ha'etz.*

*Praised are You, Adonai, our God, Sovereign over all, that creates the fruit of the tree.*

Eat the appropriate fruit. Maybe read or sing some more.  
Say the blessing over wine:

*Barukh atah Adonai, Elohenu melekh ha'olam, borei pri hagafen.*

*Holy One of Blessing, Your Presence fills creation, creating the fruit of the vine.*

Drink the wine.

Repeat three more times for each of the Worlds.

Tu b'Shevat, continued from page 4.

The chart below allows you to construct your own seder by giving you the four worlds, the fruit associated with each, the sort of wine associate with each, and four tikkunim -four sorts of world-repair that have been associated with Tu B'Shevat over its history. Thank you to Ari Elon for the idea of the four tikkunim of Tu B'shevat. The table intersecting the tikkunim and the four worlds was created by Rabbi Neal Joseph Loevinger; you might find other ways of filling it in. You can choose readings and songs based on the world and any of its tikkunim. This table and this webpage are just a hint of the meanings of the holiday.

<b>Tu b'Shebat Seder Themes Chart at a Glance</b>				
<b>WORLD English “aspect”</b>	<b>Assiyah Action physical</b>	<b>Yetzirah Formation Connection/emotion</b>	<b>Beriyah Creation Ideal/Intellect</b>	<b>Atzilut Emanation Essence/spirit</b>
FRUIT	Hard outer/soft inner	Soft outer/hard inner	Soft outer/soft inner e.g. fig, grape	Pure spirit: cannot be represented by fruit
WINE	White	White with Red	Red with White	Red
TIKKUN 1: SOCIAL	“Fruit” of our labour taxed and given freely for preserving society.	Civic participation, forming community	Political economy, law	Justice and peace
TIKKUN 2: COSMIC/ EXISTENTIAL	Conscious eating, performing mitzvot	Prayer, song	Torah, meaning	Redemption, attachment to God
TIKKUN 3: NATIONAL	Planting trees in Israel; general financial and physical support of Israel.	Love of fellow Jews; visiting Israel	Zionism	Am Yisrael chai! (The people of Israel lives!), Alyah
TIKKUN 4: ECOLOGICAL	Reduce, re-use, recycle, preservation & restoration	Walk in the woods, go to the zoo, “cute animal environmentalism”	Environmental science	Internalized interconnection with the web of life and creation

From <<http://www.kolel.org>>



**History of  
the Jews of Spain**  
*Presented by Inna Smolov*

**Tuesdays, March 6th, through April 3rd, 2012.**  
**7 pm – 9 pm**

\$100 per person for JCCV members  
\$120.00 for non members

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 XI and XII centuries. We will learn about the period of the Christian Reconquista 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 wondrous stories of the many triumphs and sufferings as well as of the survival and endurance of the Jewish people of Spain. The course will be supplemented with audio-visual presentations. The course was presented by Inna Smolnov, at the University of Victoria in February - March of 2011.

For more information or to register, contact  
Inna at <innasmolov@shaw.ca>, or 250 598 3376,  
or Edie at the JCCV  
<jccv@telus.net> or 250-477-7185.

Photo Inna Smolnov

## Gluten-free Tu b'Shevat Recipes



### **Double Almond Chocolate Chip cookies**

2 ½ cups blanched almond flour  
½ teaspoon celtic sea salt  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
½ cup grapeseed oil  
½ cup agave nectar  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
½ cup dark chocolate chips  
½ cup sliced almonds

In a large bowl, combine almond flour, salt and baking soda.  
In a medium bowl combine grapeseed oil, agave and vanilla.  
Stir wet ingredients into the almond flour mixture until thoroughly combined.  
Fold in chocolate chips and almond slices.  
Spoon dough 1 heaping tablespoon at a time onto a parchment paper lined baking sheet, pressing down with palm of your hand to flatten.  
Bake at 350° for 7 to 10 minutes, until lightly golden.  
Cool cookies on the baking sheets for 20 minutes, then serve.  
**Yield:** 3 dozen cookies

Recipes from <<http://www.elanaspantry.com>>



## Torah Study

**Sat. Feb. 25th**

**at 4:00 pm**

at the Sutker's home  
1135 McClure St.

Everyone is welcome.

This month, Rabbi Louis  
will begin a three part  
Introduction to Kaballah

February 2012  
Sheva-Adar 5772

**THE VOICE**

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### Stuffed Dates

- 1 cup pistachio nuts, shelled
- ¼ cup orange juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 1 pinch celtic sea salt
- 20 large dates



In a food processor, pulse pistachios, orange juice, orange zest and salt. With a sharp knife, make a slit on one side of each date and remove the pit. Push a teaspoon of pistachio paste into each date; gently squeeze closed so that filling spills over. Serve.

[Makes 20 stuffed dates](#)

## 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.

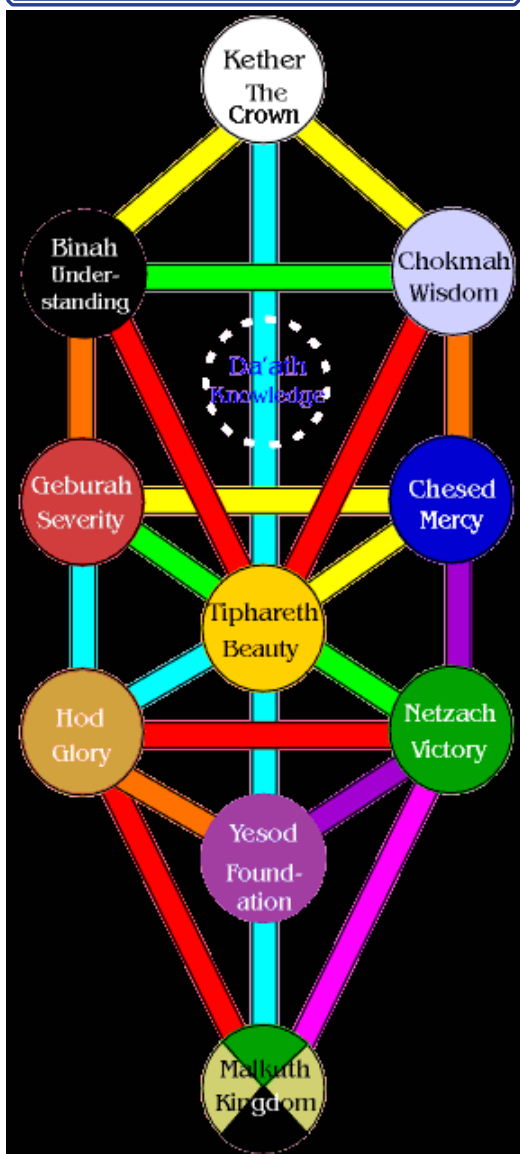
The Society works with the Victoria Chevrah Kadisha in preparation of the body for burial, and works with the family in all ways to ensure that the concern and embrace of the entire community for the bereaved.

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

### Good News

"The Society is happy to announce that the first stage of its beautification program is now complete. This consists of a network of paved pathways and a sign identifying the Jewish Community Section of the cemetery. In the very near future we hope to see a number of trees planted and a bench or benches placed.. In the spring we hope to have a formal Service of Consecration at the cemetery, to which the whole of the Jewish community will be invited. The community is invited to visit the Jewish Community Section at any time." The office staff at Hatley Memorial Gardens will be pleased to direct you to the site."



February 2012  
Shevat-Adar 5772

## Jewish Film Festival

at the JCCV

## The Burial Society (2002)

7:30 pm

Saturday February 25th  
Details info in the *Shalom*

## JCCV

### Food-for-Thought Luncheon

February 12th  
12 noon to 1:30 pm

### Dr. Benjamin Isitt

Faculty of law, UVic

will speak on

### Revolution & Military Intervention in the Middle East

More info in the *Shalom*

Call the JCCV at

250-477-7185 to reserve.

## JCCV Newcomers' Group

If you are new to our fair city, and want to meet other Jewish people socially, give Joanne Helm a call at 778-426-2996, or email her at <helmj@shaw.ca>.

## Chai חיי

### Donations received since the last newsletter:

Celebrating **Joe Gougeon-Ryant's** good news! Mazel Tov! — *Julie Elizabeth and Reva Hutkin*

Honouring **Jenny Laing** as a new mother-in-law, and **Jessi Simpson** as a bride — *Susan Halpert*

Honouring **Jessi Simpson and Steve Goss** on their marriage — *Neal Wasser and Louise Peloquin*

Honouring **Katrina Greenfield-Hanevelt** on her 40th birthday. Mazel Tov! — *Julie Elizabeth and Reva Hutkin*

### Please Hold this Date — You Won't Want To Miss It!!



Jewish Community Centre of Victoria

## Fundraising Dinner

**Olive Grove Restaurant**  
4496 West Saanich Road

**Sunday, May 6, 2012**

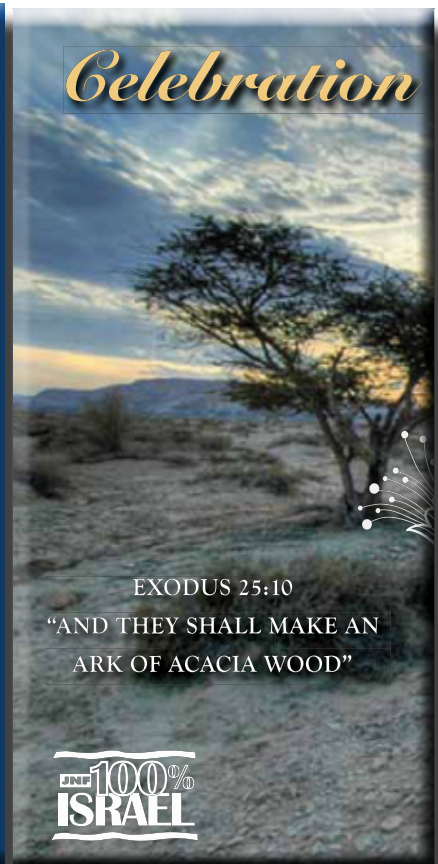
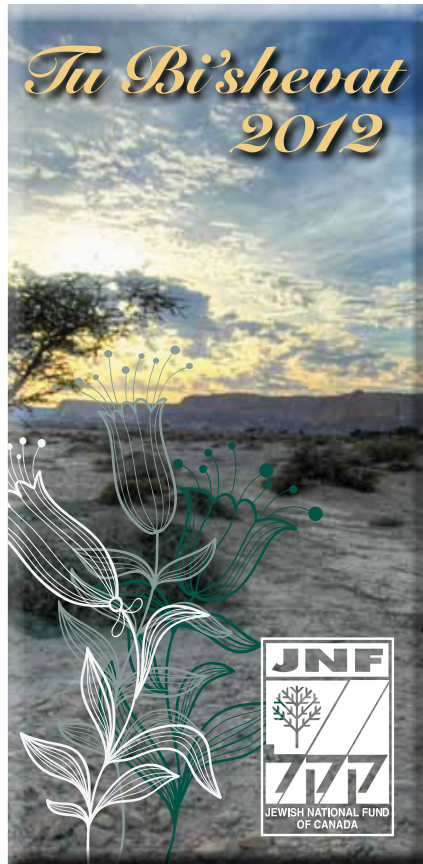
Cocktails at 5:30 pm  
dinner at 6:30 pm

Fabulous buffet menu,  
music and draw prizes

Tickets (\$50 per person)  
will go on sale in February 2012

Part of the cost (\$36) will be a tax deductible donation to the JCCV.





**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**EZRA RAVINS**  
MAYOR, ARAVA REGIONAL COUNCIL

**TOPIC**  
**AMAZING ARAVA INNOVATIONS**

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**TU BI'SHEVAT PROJECT**  
**ADOPT AN ACACIA**

The acacia tree is mentioned in the Bible in connection with the desert tabernacle.

Its roots go down deep into the Arava soil, as do ours.

The dream of making the desert bloom is a vision of JNF.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF CANADA PACIFIC REGION  
REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY AT OUR

**Celebration**  
***Tu Bi'shevat 2012***

**WITH SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR**  
**H.E. MIRIAM ZIV**  
**AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL TO CANADA**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 2012**  
**RECEPTION 6:45 PM**

**APPETIZERS, DESSERTS, WINE & TU BI'SHEVAT FRUITS**  
**LEONARDO DA VINCI CENTRE, 195 BAY STREET, VICTORIA**  
**ENTERTAINMENT - THE AVRAM MCCAGHERTY QUARTET**

**TICKETS \$40**

**RSVP: JNF OFFICE 604.257.5155 or van@jnf.ca**  
[www.vancouver.jnf.ca](http://www.vancouver.jnf.ca)



## 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.

## Those we remember ...

OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
February 1, 2012	Feb, 2010	Unknown	Hilda Behr	Mother	Peter Behr
February 1, 2012	February 1, 1983	18 Shevat 5743	Jack Miller	Uncle	Don Sher
February 3, 2012	February 3, 2011	29 Shevat 5771	Ruth Beck	Mother	Rafi Beck
February 4, 2012	February 4, 1995	4 Adar 5755	Leon Goldman	Father	Tony Goldman
February 5, 2012	February 5, 1996	15 Shevat 5756	Steven Brian Freeman	Son	Betty Cohen
February 6, 2012	February 6, 1996	16 Shevat 5756	Dorothy Goldman	Mother	Tony Goldman
February 6, 2012	February 6, 1973	7 Adar I 5733	Sidney Devor	Father	Aaron Devor
February 7, 2012	February 7, 1960	9 Shevat 5720	Ethel Ross Sharpe	Mother	Arline Leshner
February 11, 2012	February 11, 2001	18 Shevat 5761	Liberalina Ferriera Costa	Mother	Eva Katz
February 12, 2012	February 12, 2011	8 Adar I 5771	Judy Kahan	Friend	Dorothy & David Torontow
February 13, 2012	February 13, 1943	8 Adar I 5703	Fernand Levy	Father	Arlette Baker
February 13, 2012	February, 13th	29 Shevat	Goldie Litman	Grandmother	Jane Litman
February 13, 2012	February 13, 1943	8 Adar I 5703	Renee Levy	Mother	Arlette Baker
February 13, 2012	February 12, 2004	20 Shevat 5764	Rose Katz	Friend	Caroline Hergt
February 14, 2012	February 14, 2010	30 Shevat 5770	Robert Litman	Father	Jane Litman
February 15, 2012	February 15, 2009	21 Shevat 5769	Horst Rothfells	Friend	The Congregation
February 17, 2012	February 17 2008	11 Adar I 5768	Chuck Waldman	Husband	Claire Waldman
February 17, 2012	February 17, 1997	10 Adar I, 5757	Clifford Theodore Kirk	Father	Donna Kirk
February 17, 2012	February 17 2008	11 Adar I 5768	Morris Miller	Cousin	Dorothy Torontow
February 17, 2012	February 17, 2005	8 Adar 5765	Sue Pollick	Mother	Frances Aknai
February 18, 2012	February 18, 2006	20 Shevat 5766	Harry Charles Lewis	Brother	Alec Lewis

# why “sh” is so important in Yiddish

.....(Blend the “sh” with each unfinished word to pronounce)

SH MUCK No need to translate

SH NORER Someone who mooches, feeds off others, low life

SH LIMAZL Someone who can’t do anything right, a klutz

SH VANTZ “Tail”- for someone whose annoying, incompetent

SH VITZ Sweat, perspire

SH MENDRIK Sort of the same as SHLIMAZL

SH TUPN ARAIN To stuff (forcefully) I like over eating

SH TARK VI A FERD Strong as a horse

SH EINER TUCHES Nice “ass!”

SH VARTZE Black

SH IKSA Non Jewish female

To be continued in the March *Voice*.

February 2012				Shevat-Adar 5772		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8	2 9	7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Jessi Simpson Goss3 10	Beshalach4 11
5 12	6 13	7 14	Tu B'Shevat8 15	9 16	7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Randy Enkin10 17	Yitro11 18
12 19	13 20	14 21	15 22	16 23	7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Joe Gou- geon-Ryant17 24	Mishpatim Shekalim18 26
19 26	20 27	21 28 22	22 29	23 30	Rosh Chodesh24 1 Adar 6:00 & 7:30* Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Rabbi Louis	Terumah25 2 Torah Study 4:00 chez Rabbi Louis
26 3	27 4	28 5	29 6	*Fri. Feb. 24th - 6 pm <b>Children's Service</b> & Family Pot Luck precede regular Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm		White squares indicate days Rabbi Sutker is with us.



## NOTICE OF VACANCY

(Up to \$26,000+\* a year)

The Jewish Federation of Victoria and Vancouver Island (JFVVI) is seeking to replace its Community Development Officer (CDO) who is retiring after 7 years of dedicated service. JFVVI is an umbrella organization, providing financial and other assistance to individuals and organizations within the Community on Vancouver Island and to selected projects in Israel.

The CDO position is a part time contract position and should appeal to someone who possesses strong interpersonal and communication skills, can organize and set priorities, is collaborative, shows initiative, is self motivated and an independent worker. The CDO assists in FUNDRAISING activities, focussing on the annual campaign. The CDO spends considerable time on the campaign and in fundraising support activities, particularly between early September and mid-December. Activities include: Organizing campaign events, meeting with potential donors under the direction of the Campaign Chair, keeping banking and other records and providing tax receipts.

The CDO also participates in various COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND OUTREACH initiatives, by maintaining and developing relationships with other Jewish organizations on Vancouver Island and elsewhere. The CDO liaises with, and assists the Central Vancouver Island and Comox Jewish Communities, various national organizations (CJC, CIC, UIA, Hillel, Consul General's Office, etc.) and maintains a positive relationship with the non-Jewish community. The CDO also prepares a weekly Community-wide e-mail and maintains the Community Calendar.

The position may also provide BOARD SUPPORT and be involved in certain EVENT PLANNING as required.

The applicant should be familiar with MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Knowledge of the Jewish community and organizations would be an asset. Familiarity with fundraising activities would also be highly beneficial.

This position may be required to perform, or oversee, some administrative work—maintaining and updating the Federation website, acknowledging life cycle donations and events, maintaining the community data base, etc.

Some volunteer work may be required if monthly maximums are exceeded.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit their expressions of interest, together with a resume, by Wednesday, February 29, 2012 to: JFVVI CDO Position Search, 3636 Shelbourne St, Victoria BC V8P 4H2. For further information, please contact the Federation at 250-370-9488.

\*specific compensation is subject to further discussion.