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## Annual General Meeting

Kolot Mayim Reform Temple

**Wednesday June 25th, 2014.**

**7:00 p.m.**

at the Jewish Community Centre of Victoria

3636 Shelbourne Street

Reports, Financial Statements and Budget

Election of 2014-15 Board of Directors

Presentation of the Louis Sherman Award

***Come and be part of Kolot Mayim's future!***

## Cocktail Party

Immediately after the AGM

in honour of

**Rabbi Louis**

to show him

our appreciation for

his rabbinical leadership

and

to wish him well

on his new adventure in Vancouver.

**Everyone welcome.**

## RABBI

**Louis Sutker**  
ravenlws@gmail.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

**Reva Hutkin**  
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### VICE PRESIDENT

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## WEBSITE

<http://www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com>

## From Rabbi Louis .....



**Goodbye, Good luck, and May the Good Lord take a liking to you. Happy trails ...**

*Shalom Everyone,*

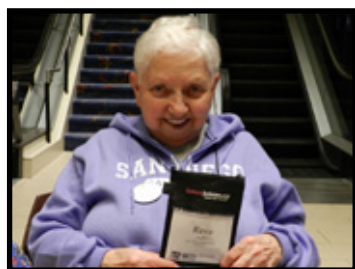
The title of this article dates me and if you recognize it, it dates you also to when the Roy Rogers Show was on radio. However it also echoes my wishes for this entire Holy Congregation of Kolot Mayim as I leave for Vancouver. I am taking the position of Interim Rabbi for Or Shalom for one year while they search for a permanent Rabbi. I start in July. It is a huge transition necessitating a move to Vancouver for at least that year.

We also transition from the Book of Vayikrah to the Book of BaMidbar, which means "in the wilderness". This Book points out the usefulness of transitions and the kinds of ecology that foster changes which have to happen as we transition from one stage to another. Of course, from one point of view, life is nothing but a series of transitions with the illusion of stability on occasion.

Our ancestors spoke of the usefulness of the wilderness as a place of transition. The wilderness has no owner. It requires learning new, adaptive skills to survive. It sometimes requires that we ask for advice from others who have acquired these skills, like Moses's father-in-law, Jethro. It often requires faith in ourselves, each other and in our spiritual history when the going gets tough. The wilderness and its travails sometimes causes us to regret leaving safe havens for new adventures, and requires us to leave the regrets along with the safety of comfort that inspires this regret. We also deal with the wilderness by talking about it to each other, and relating stories of success and failure both as we travel through it and retrospectively when we have left.

My time as Rabbi of Kolot Mayim has been rich and varied. I leave knowing that much needs to be done to ensure the stability of this Holy Kehilah to keep it as a vibrant, spiritual, friendly, socially active and financially secure place for Jewish people attracted to the Reform tradition to gather together. I regret not having contributed more to these needs. The leadership of this Temple needs your enthusiasm, support and contribution. We continue to encourage members to take on positions of responsibility and to learn new skills. [Continued on page 4.](#)

## President's Message



### *Greetings Kolot Mayim family,*

Your Executive and Board have worked hard this past year to ensure our Temple runs smoothly and is in the best interest of all the members. Now it is time to introduce you to the people who have agreed to lead and guide you into the next year:

### **2014-15 KM Board of Directors Nominees**

**President** - Katrina Hanevelt

**Vice President** - Mark Milotay

**Past President** - Reva Hutkin

**Secretary** - Carolyn Hergt

**Fundraising Chair** - Reva Hutkin

**Care and Concern** - Ann Gougeon-Ryant

**Religious School** - Lynne Marks

**Ritual Affairs Committee** - Chair? and members, Jack Shalinsky, Joe Gougeon-Ryant and Joel Fagan

**Membership** - Chair, Sharon Shalinsky and member, Marla Yacowar

**Marketing/PR** - Chair, Peter Barwin and member, Marla Yacowar

**Members at Large** - Hal Yacowar and Amanda Gafter-Ricks

**House** - Gavin Wyer

We are still looking for someone to chair the Ritual Affairs Committee. If you are interested, please contact Hal Yacowar at 250-658-0289, or Julie Elizabeth at 250-388-4161.

We have been searching for our next spiritual leader. To this end we have had Rabbi Moch for an intensive weekend and we have hired a third year Reform student Rabbi, Michael Cohen. He will be leading us during High Holidays plus 3 or 4 other weekends during the year. We hope to have him meet us soon. Other weekends will be supplemented with an ordained Reform Rabbi, possibly Rabbi Moch. This promises to be an exciting year, and I am looking forward to the new lay and spiritual leadership.

We hope you have enjoyed the weekend with Rabbi Moch. We are interested in your feedback. We, the Board, did like him but we want to hear from you, the congregation, if we should proceed with signing him on.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be on **Wednesday June 25th at the JCCV at 7:00 p.m.** This will be followed by a cocktail party in honour of Rabbi Louis, to say thank you for being our Rabbi for two years, and to wish him well on the next leg of his journey. I hope everyone will attend both these important events.

Our beautiful tzedakah box awaits your generous donations. I want to remind everyone, now that the summer is upon us, that fruit from your trees is also great for donations. If you need help picking, Lifecycles will pick your fruit and share it with you and the food bank.

We are pleased to have had several Onegs sponsored this past year. June 6th Arlette Baker will sponsor an Oneg in honour of her grandmother and also in honour of all the regular attendees at Friday night services. [Continued on page 4.](#)

From Rabbi Louis, continued from page 2. I thank you all for your support and help. We will stay in touch. I wish you well in your search for new Rabbinic leadership.

Happy trails to you, 'til we meet again.

*r. Louis*

**President's Message,** continued from page 3. We are hoping to have more music at one Kabbalat Shabbat Service each month, calling upon the talented in our community to enhance our services. Look for announcements when these events will be taking place.

Until next time,

*Reva*

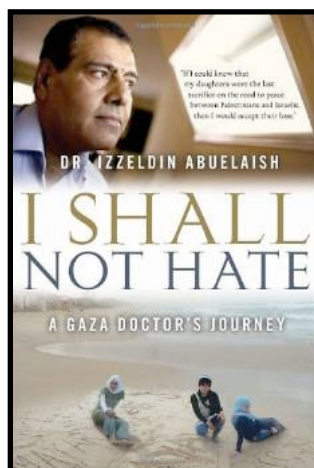
## Hebrew School Report

Hebrew School has wrapped up for this year. The children enjoyed a wonderful year. This is the third year with the combined school and it

is working well, with many new friendships struck. Our preschoolers were exposed to a number of Bible stories; the lower grades delved into Hebrew, and the upper ages, of course, went into Hebrew and questions of existential nature further still.

In the Hebrew School committee, we discussed ways in which we can cross-promote our congregations through the school. Most notably, in the future, when there are larger events such as the Pesach Market, our affiliation will be publicized.

One additional note: one of our students, Cayden Perrault, competed in the annual Bible Contest in Toronto along with a number of other Emanu-El students, and advanced as far as the semi-finals! All the kids who went on that trip had a great time! The chaperones are still recovering.



## I Shall Not Hate

by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish  
(Vintage Canada)

**I Shall Not Hate** is the memoir of Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, a fertility specialist who was born and raised in a Palestinian refugee camp, and continued to live in Gaza through much of his education and while working in an Israeli hospital. Through the book, he chronicles growing up in the camp and his extended family's

emotional struggles over being displaced, his daily trials of passing through checkpoints just to get to work, and the difficulties he encountered with his own people, when he tried to become politically active.

The author's perspective is unique from the start, but his focus on peace becomes that much more profound when three of his daughters are killed in his own home by Israeli shells. His zeal for peace remained unshaken. He states, "If I could know that my daughters were the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis, then I would accept their loss."

This book is a typical memoir – filled with a variety of stories, some funny, many not, and you get to know the author in a special way. I won't lie – this is not a book to read on the beach when you want to forget all your cares. But it is a very important book, and many readers will find their previously held views of the conflict challenged, no matter where they stand.

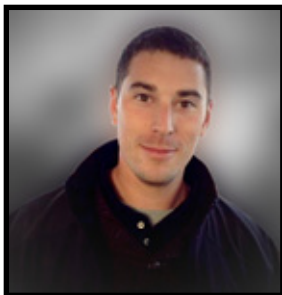
One cannot avoid being inspired by Abuelaish's message of hope. "There is a difference between anger and hate. Anger is acute but transient; hate is a poison, a fire, which burns you from the inside. We need to be angry, but direct it in a positive way."

## Exciting New Spiritual Leadership for 2014-15

2014-15 is going to be an exciting year of growth and renewal for Kolot Mayim. Not only will we have fresh faces on our Board of Directors, as outlined in Reva's President's Report, but we will also have new spiritual leadership. As I write this, we are on the eve of a wonderful Shabbaton to be led by Rabbi Shimon Moch. As noted in last month's newsletter, Rabbi Moch is the new three quarter time Rabbi in Edmonton. If we enjoy our weekend with him — and I'm sure we will — and he equally enjoys us, then he may well be our new Rabbi. His primary commitment is, however, to Temple Beth Ora in Edmonton, which means that we will have to find other rabbinic leadership for the High Holidays.

To this end, we have engaged the services of Michael Cohen, a third year rabbinic student at Hebrew Union College. He will lead us during the High Holidays and three or four more times throughout the year. Please read his introduction below. As he would like to meet us, if possible, before the High Holidays, we may indeed, have a *sneak preview* over the summer. Watch Rennie's Weekly Updates for this news when it breaks!

Services over the balance of the year will be led by your trusty Lay Leaders. We hope to see you at our weekly Kabbalat Shabbat services. It is also our plan to have musical embellishment for our services at least once a month. ***Be sure to give us your feedback after this weekend's events.***



### ***Shalom!***

My name is [Michael G Cohen](#). I am excited to work with your congregation in just a few short months. Let me provide you with a little background on who I am and a few roads I've taken. I am from Nashville, TN (the home of country music), and am probably a little too proud of that. I attended undergraduate school at Brandeis, University. It is located just outside of Boston, MA. After Brandeis, I enlisted in the US Army for five years and deployed to Haiti a few days after the earthquake. I also deployed to Afghanistan. After my five years, I began my training at Hebrew Union College and switched into the US Army Reserve to become a Jewish Chaplain. As of a few weeks ago, I have finished my second year of rabbinical school. I am still a student and have much to learn. And I look forward to us learning together this year. I will be ordained in 2017 and expect to have a Master's in Hebrew Letters as well as a Master's in Jewish Non-Profit Management.

I currently live in Los Angeles with my wonderful fiancée, Emily, and my dog, Smoky. Again, I am excited to serve as your Student Rabbi and look forward to meeting each and every one of you in the Fall!

As we count our days to Shavuot, we are ever mindful that we left Egypt as strangers but came to Sinai to fulfill a mission. The Torah teaches us that, having once been strangers and outcasts in the Land of Egypt, we must always defend the rights of the stranger, treating the stranger in our midst as the native born. There may be many commands that seem difficult or impractical, but that is not the case with the command to defend the rights of those who sojourn among us. That must be our collective task for this Shavuot season.

– Rabbi Sam Gordon, Congregation Sukkat Shalom, Wilmette, IL <[reformjudaism.org](http://reformjudaism.org)>



## **Tzedakah: A way of life.** **Kolot Mayim Supports Food Bank**

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

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

## **Magen David Adom in Israel, Victoria, BC Chapter**



Photo by Julie Elizabeth

Jack Shalinsky at Magen David Adom Table at recent Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration at the JCCV

Israel's National Emergency Medical Services and Blood Services Society was

founded on June 7, 1930 in Tel Aviv. It is Israel's only national first aid society and works according to the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It also maintains a storage service of blood, plasma and their by-products for the benefit of all Israeli residents.

Magen David Adom provides extensive training in first aid and pre-hospital emergency medicine, including advanced life support techniques. Besides encouraging an array of volunteers, the Society is also involved in the transportation of patients, medical personnel and evacuation of road accident, wounded and killed.

Our goal is to raise enough funds for an ambulance identified as coming from our Victoria community. In the meantime, it feels great to know there is a plaque on one piece of medical equipment in Israel (a semi-automatic external defibrillator) that reads "Donated to the People of Israel by members of the Victoria, BC Jewish Community, 2013."

Because of his deep commitment to, and support of Israel, Jack Shalinsky established this chapter with the sole goal of reaching out to fellow supporters on Vancouver Island. He can be reached at [jis@shaw.ca](mailto:jis@shaw.ca) and 1-250-216-2897.

## **Walking Tour of Jewish Victoria**

**Discover the role that the pioneer Jews had in shaping Victoria. Experience a guided tour of Congregation Emanu-el, Canada's oldest synagogue lead by the country's first ordained Jewish Storyteller (Maggidah)**

### **Walking Tours**

**June 1st to Aug. 28**

**2:00 pm every  
Thursday**

### **Synagogue Tours**

**1:00 pm**

Walking Tours begin outside Congregation Emanu-el (Pandora and Blanshard) and slowly wind through downtown ending at Government and Yates. It will be given rain or shine. Led by Gary Cohen. Synagogue Tours explore fascinating historical displays, the synagogue's unique architecture and dynamic restoration as well as Jewish customs, history, sacred texts and stories. To book a Walking Tour at a different time contact Discover the Past: 250-384-6698 [discoverthepast@telus.net](mailto:discoverthepast@telus.net) [www.discoverthepast.com](http://www.discoverthepast.com) To book a Synagogue Tour at another time contact Shoshana at: [stories@maggidah.com](mailto:stories@maggidah.com) OR [www.congregationemanuel.com](http://www.congregationemanuel.com).

**Adult Walking Tours: \$15.00 cash only**

**Synagogue Tours: \$10.00**

**Children under 12 free**

**Senior/Student/discount for taking both tours : \$12.00 cash only**

## 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).

## Chai חַי

Kolot Mayim has several funds to which you may earmark your donations. They are: Chai Fund (General Fund/Temple Operations), Religious School Bursary and Scholarship Fund (to support children to attend Religious School), Social Action Fund (to support the Congregation's Social Action activities), Parochet (Ark Curtain) Fund (to collect funds to commission new Parochets [yearly & High Holiday] and related items), Jenny Laing Legacy Fund (to provide bursaries of up to \$500.00 for any adult member of the Congregation to pursue Jewish education), Building the Congregation Fund (to build a synagogue congregation in Victoria for Reform Jews), Youth Fund (to provide funds for children and youth programmes), Youth Group Fund (to support local youth group development), and Passover Outreach Fund (to provide free Passover tickets for individuals who could otherwise not afford to attend a community Passover Seder). One last fund is the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, which allows our Rabbi to administer funds at his discretion, as per the expressed needs of congregants. Undirected donations will go into the Chai Fund.

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

#### CHAI FUND

Hank Peters

Hal and Marla Yacowar

Joel & Sandy Fagan, Joe & Ann Gougeon-Ryant, Julie Elizabeth & Reva Hutkin  
for the Kiddush Luncheon

Arlette Baker in honour of Michael Gans

Morris Bleviss in memory of his father, Julius (Ziggy) Bleviss

#### PAROCHET FUND

Arlette Baker in honour of the lay leaders of Kolot Mayim

#### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Arlette Baker, in honour of the service of Julie and Reva



## Golda Meir's matzah balls simmering on the stove!



[Chicken soup a la Golda Meir](#)

National Archive releases former prime minister's recipe  
The Times of Israel

[Aaron Kalman](#) Aaron Kalman is a writer and breaking news editor for the Times of Israel

The secret's out, for every Yiddishe Moma to follow: Former prime minister Golda Meir's chicken soup recipe, entered as a document in English by the national archives more than 30 years ago, was released to the public on Tuesday.

### Golda Meir's recipe for chicken soup

Boil the chicken with parsley, celery, cut-up carrots, peeled onion, salt, pepper, a pinch of paprika, until the chicken is tender.

If you like rice, you may add it after straining the soup, bringing to boil for another quarter of an hour.

Mrs. Meir generally serves chicken soup with KNEIDLACH which she prepares as follows :

The matzoh (unleavened bread) are soaked in cold water until soft, then squeeze dry, crush with a fork and add fried onions and a little oil, some parsley, salt, pepper and two beaten eggs. Add enough matzoh meal for binding. Make into small balls, set aside before serving for one hour. Half an hour before serving, drop the balls into the boiling soup and cook for about half an hour.

Golda Meir's chicken soup recipe (photo credit: National Archives)

The typed one-page recipe — which calls for chicken, parsley, celery, carrots, onions, a pinch of paprika, salt [Continued on page 9.](#)



Golda Meir, continued from page 8. and pepper — appears on a page of what appears to be Foreign Ministry-headed paper and looks as if it's marked as secret, bearing the stamp "Incoming cable, classified."

But the light-hearted National Archives [blog on which it was uploaded assures readers](#) this is "an optical illusion," created when the recipe was photocopied on top of other, unrelated, documents.

To date the only female prime minister in Israel's history, Meir resigned from office following the Yom Kippur war in 1973. The Ukrainian-born, Milwaukee-raised politician had hosted members of her government at home in a forum that was known as "Golda's kitchen," and even cooked for them herself, earning a reputation for fine gefilte fish and strong Turkish coffee.

The newly released page notes that "Mrs. Meir generally serves soup with Kneidlach (Matzo balls)," and provides her instructions for preparing the traditional Passover dumplings.

Kindly, the prime ministerial cook tells us that if we like rice, we can add that too, after straining the soup. Now eat up!

Read more: [Chicken soup a la Golda Meir | The Times of Israel](#) <http://www.timesofisrael.com/golda-meirs-chicken-soup/#ixzz30ahNQ0IE>

Follow us: [@timesofisrael on Twitter](#) | [timesofisrael on Facebook](#)

## Torah: The Tree of Life

### What is the Torah and Why Do We Study It?

*It is a tree of life to all who grasp it, and whoever holds on to it is happy; its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace. (Proverbs 3:17-18)*

In its broadest sense, Torah is sometimes used to refer to the vast library of Jewish text. More specifically Torah usually refers to the *Pentateuch*, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These books make up the story of the Jewish people. These ancient stories touch upon science, history, philosophy, ritual and ethics. Included are stories of individuals, families, wars, slavery and more. Virtually no subject was taboo for Torah. Running through these stories is the unique lens through which the Jewish people would come to view their world and their God.

### Revelation

We cannot talk about Torah without saying something about revelation. By revelation, we mean ways in which God is revealed to people. The basic underlying difference between the Orthodox and non-orthodox approaches to Judaism hinges on this very issue. The Orthodox view is that everything in the Torah (both the material in the Five Books of Moses and the ancient rabbis' interpretations of that material) was revealed directly by God. The non-Orthodox view is that the Torah contains the understanding of many people about God. It evolved over a long period and was written by numerous individuals. Some like to say that these individuals were divinely inspired. Some rabbinic scholars speak in terms of "progressive revelation" (the idea that God is revealed differently in every age); other scholars teach that Torah *contains* the words of God rather than *is* the word of God.

### Interpreting Torah

Throughout most of Jewish history, the Torah functioned as "the law" for Jews. Its commandments and the interpretation of them regulated both Jewish personal and communal life. The calendar was set according to the festivals and sacred holy days prescribed by the Torah. Regulations concerning public safety, diet, marriage, divorce

and the rearing of children were all found in the Torah. An interpretation of diagnosing an illness may have worked thousands of years ago but would not in today's scientifically advanced world. Laws regarding divorce that may have made sense for Jews living in seventeenth-century Europe may not apply as well today.

In order to accommodate such changing needs and circumstances, Jews created a process of interpreting Torah that continues to this day. Explanations and interpretations were collected and formed the *Midrash Agadah* (literary and moral explanations) and *Midrash Halachah* (legal explanations). Many of these make up the Talmud. After the completion of the Talmud rabbis such as Maimonides, Rashi, Abraham ibn Ezra and Abravanel – to name just a few – continued to process of interpreting Torah.

Every generation of Jews has had its commentators. Today discoveries in archeology, comparative religion, and linguistic analysis contribute to our understanding of Torah. For most of history, women's voices were absent from the interpretation of Torah. However, for the last generation, women have been contributing to this wonderful process and have added a unique and much needed understanding of our sacred text.

[Continued on page 11.](#)

*EVERYONE IS WELCOME*

*TO ATTEND THE ONEG  
ON JUNE 6TH*

*SPONSORED BY  
ARLETTE BAKER*

*IN HONOUR OF  
HER GRANDMOTHER'S YAHRZEIT  
AND  
ALL REGULAR ATTENDEES  
AT FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES.*

## Shavuot

Shavuot is the Hebrew word for "weeks" and refers to the Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, which occurs seven weeks after Passover. Shavuot, like many other Jewish holidays, began as an ancient agricultural festival that marked the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. In ancient times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival during which Israelites brought crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, it is a celebration of Torah, education, and actively choosing to participate in Jewish life. <reformjudaism.org>

## June 2014

## Sivan-Tammuz 5774

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 1 3 Sivan <b>Rosh Chodesh</b>	2 4	3 5	4 6 <b>Shavuot</b>	5 7 <b>Shavuot /Yizkor</b>	6 8 7:30 pm Service led by Rabbi Louis ONEG sponsored by Arlette Baker	7 9 <b>Behaalotecha</b> <b>Torah Study</b> <b>3:00 pm</b> <b>chez Rabbi</b> <b>Louis</b>
8 10	9 11	10 12	11 13	12 14	13 15 7:30 pm Service led by Joe Gougeon- Ryant	14 16 <b>Shlach</b>
15 17 <b>Fathers' Day</b>	16 18	17 19	18 20	19 21	20 22 7:30 pm K.Shabbat Service led by Julie & Reva	21 23 <b>Koirach</b>
22 24	23 25	24 26	25 27 7:00 AGM & Cocktail Party for Rabbi Louis	26 28	27 29 7:30 K.Shabbat Service led by Joel Fagan	28 30 <b>Rosh Chodesh</b> <b>Chukat</b>
29 1 Tammuz <b>Rosh Chodesh</b>	20 2				Rabbi Louis will be with us when the squares are white.	

## Those we remember ...



OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
June 4, 2014	June 4, 1978	28 Iyar 5738	Helene Levy	Grandmother of	Arlette Baker
<b>June 4, 2014</b>	<b>May 17, 1964</b>	<b>6 Sivan 5764</b>	<b>Mignon Cohen</b>	<b>Friend of</b>	<b>David Sandell</b>
<b>June 7, 2014</b>	<b>June 7, 2012</b>	<b>17 Sivan 5772</b>	<b>Ray Torontow</b>	<b>Brother of</b>	<b>David Torontow</b>
<b>June 17, 2014</b>	<b>June 17, 2012</b>	<b>17 Sivan 5772</b>	<b>Richard Dinning</b>	<b>Brother in Law of</b>	<b>Julie Elizabeth</b>
<b>June 18, 2014</b>	<b>June 22 2011</b>	<b>20 Sivan 5771</b>	<b>Dora Sandell</b>	<b>Mother of</b>	<b>David Sandell</b>
<b>June 19, 2014</b>	<b>June 19, 2011</b>	<b>17 Sivan 5771</b>	<b>Gertie Cohen</b>	<b>Aunt of</b>	<b>Reva Hutkin</b>
<b>June 21, 2014</b>	<b>June 21, 2007</b>	<b>5 Tamuz 5767</b>	<b>Marion Edith Kirk</b>	<b>Mother of</b>	<b>Donna Kirk</b>
<b>June 23, 2014</b>	<b>June 23, 1977</b>	<b>25 Sivan 5736</b>	<b>Bertha Booth</b>	<b>Mother in Law of</b>	<b>Len Jaffe</b>
<b>June 23, 2014</b>	<b>June 23, 2012</b>	<b>3 Tamuz 5772</b>	<b>Georgina Schulstad</b>	<b>Mother of</b>	<b>Jacqueline Seigel</b>
<b>June 30, 2014</b>	<b>June 30, 2011</b>	<b>28 Sivan 5771</b>	<b>Bunny Harrison</b>	<b>Friend of</b>	<b>Caroline &amp; Martin Hergt</b>
<b>July 4, 2014</b>	<b>July 4, 1993</b>	<b>15 Tamuz 5763</b>	<b>Dorothy Hale Blakely</b>	<b>Mother of</b>	<b>John Blakely</b>

Why Study Torah, continued from page 9.

### How We Read Torah

The Torah is divided into fifty-four sections, each one called a *sidrah* or *parasha*. Each week, on Shabbat another portion is read (some weeks have a double portion). In most Reform synagogues, a portion of the *sidrah* is read. On Festivals, Reform congregations read from the portions traditionally assigned to those holidays. In addition, a selection from the Prophets or Writings is read each week. Known as the Haftarah, this reading is selected to relate to the text of the Torah portion. In most synagogues, the Torah and Haftarah portions are chanted.

Most synagogues have at least several Torah scrolls, from which the Torah is read during worship services. It is handwritten on parchment made from the specially treated skin of a kosher animal and the letters are inscribed with a quill pen by a specially trained scribe called a *sofer*.

The cycle of Torah reading is completed within one year. On the holiday of Simchat Torah, the last and first verses of Torah are read as the cycle continues. This is a joyous observance, often accompanied by dancing and music.

### Studying Torah

For the Jewish people, the study of Torah never ends. Each year, as we read the sacred text again, it can be as if we are reading it for the first time. Each encounter with sacred text offers the possibility of new meanings. The Reform movement has [published a number of editions of the Torah](#), with contemporary commentary. Many Reform synagogues have ongoing Torah study groups. Some meet during the week over lunch, while others convene on Shabbat morning. Some rabbis lead Torah study in business offices and others in coffee shops. [We hope to offer regular Torah Study with our new Rabbi and student Rabbi in the coming year.]

A first-century CE teacher, Ben Bag Bag, taught his students, "Turn the Torah, and turn it again, for everything you want to know is found within it." (Avot 5:25) The study of Torah can be both an intellectual adventure and a spiritual journey. The many meanings of Torah offer the potential to add greatly to one's life.

Source: [Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice \(Revised Edition\)](#) by Mark Washofsky

[Every Person's Guide to Judaism](#) by Stephen J. Einstein and Lydia Kukoff

[A Torah Commentary for Our Times, Volume One: Genesis](#) by Harvey J. Fields

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# Cheese Blintzes Casserole

By Amy Kritzer



My favorite traditions involve food. Latkes on [Hanukkah](#), matzah ball soup on Passover, and Bubbe's blintzes whenever her *bubbelahs* are in town (or for [Shavuot](#), as is traditional for the holiday). Blintzes are sweet or savory, filled with jam or fruit, meat, potatoes, or in this case, cheese. I like mine in casserole form.

Cook Time: 1h | Makes 12 servings

Ingredients:

Batter:

6 eggs  
1/2 cup melted butter  
1 1/2 cups sour cream  
1/2 cup orange juice

1/2 cup sugar  
1 cup flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
Filling:  
8 oz softened cream cheese  
1 egg  
1 pint cottage cheese  
1 tbsp sugar  
1 tsp vanilla

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F.
2. For the batter, mix wet ingredients together until combined.
3. Mix in sugar, flour and baking powder.
4. In a separate bowl, mix together filling ingredients.
5. Pour half of batter mixture into a greased 9 × 13-inch baking pan.
6. Top with all of the filling.
7. Pour the rest of the batter on top.
8. Bake for 45 minutes or until golden.
9. Top with sour cream.

**Amy Kritzer** is a food writer and recipe developer in Austin, TX who enjoys cooking, theme parties and cowboys. She challenges herself to put a spin on her Bubbe's traditional Jewish recipes and blogs about her endeavors at [What Jew Wanna Eat](#). Her recipes have been featured on Bon Appetit, Daily Candy, The Today Show Blog and more. You can follow her on [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Facebook](#) and watch her cooking videos on [Google+](#). <[reformjudaism.org](#)>

Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai, signifying the sacred covenant between God and the Jewish people. The period of the Omer (the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot) and the evening of Shavuot itself are times of preparation for re-living the moment of revelation, and the entire Shavuot season is a time to reengage with Torah. <[reformjudaism.org](#)>