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May 12th, 7:30 pm at the JCCV

## Mothers' Day Concert

(à la Boston Pops)

Cheese or fruit plate  
, wine and candlelight.

Hot Klezmer music by *Without A Net*,  
and Klassics to Klezmer with *Duo West*.

*Could lead to a little dancing ...*

## Mums for Moms

*...and all the other women with  
whom you share happy Spring days.*

**Mother's Day is almost here! Give the special women in your life a carefully selected potted mum, and support Kolot Mayim's school children at the same time.**

**Spring colours. 6" pots.  
\$12.00. Available at the  
Mothers' Day Concert.**



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**Louis Sutker**

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For rates and copy deadlines,  
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at [madrona623@gmail.com](mailto:madrona623@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE

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

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

## From Rabbi Louis .....



A few weeks ago I attended a meeting of leaders from many faith groups at the Anglican Cathedral on Quadra and Rockland. The purpose of the meeting was to dedicate a special space at the entrance of the Cathedral for use by different faith groups. Jenny Laing and Rabbi Harry Brechner also attended from the Jewish community. The impetus was generated by the Charter of Compassion that originated from

many people and has been championed by well-known authoress, Karen Armstrong.

I present it to the Kolot Mayim community as a standard by which to judge our personal and communal lives. To date, I have been extremely impressed by the willingness of Kolot Mayim members to act with compassion even under difficult circumstances. Let us continue on this path and utilize our prayers to help us connect with our compassionate selves, and the compassion of the Holy Blessed One.

The following is the text of the Charter:

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary, in both public and private life, to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others — even our enemies — is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We, therefore, call upon all men and women:

- ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion;
- ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred, or disdain is illegitimate;
- ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful

[Continued on page 10.](#)

## President's Message

Hello Temple Family,



Since our last newsletter there has been a beehive of activity within our congregation. In March, Rabbi Louis led a Saturday morning Shabbat service. This morning service was an experiment to gauge the congregation's interest in holding occasional Saturday morning services. While we didn't attract as many families as we'd hoped, there was a good showing of more than 20 people with some new faces in the crowd. We had a potluck Kiddish lunch, and then continued with Torah Study. The Torah Study seemed to benefit from this morning service, as we had more people than usual.

In the latter part of March Kolot Mayim hosted a cooking class/dinner/open house for around 70 people as part of the Inter-Cultural Association's Interfaith Community Food Project. This project included the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, and Jewish faith groups. Each group had their own day when they were responsible for presenting their food and faith to the general public. An important aspect of this interfaith dialogue was the cooking class where people from different faith groups worked together to create the food that was served at the open house dinners. Kolot Mayim hosted a cooking class of Jewish food for 20 participants at Corine's Kitchen, which is part of the Fairfield Community Centre. Jenny Laing's son, Austin Simpson, was our head cooking instructor and the chef for the delicious evening meal that followed. At the dinner and open house, held at the Jewish Community Centre, Rabbi Louis and Jenny teamed up to give a lively presentation of some of the important aspects of Judaism. Thanks to all who participated to make this event so successful.

We have begun Part 2 of the Nonviolent Communication (NVC) Practice Group. This is a continuation of November's NVC workshop which is based on Marshall Rosenberg's book. Due to the success of the workshop and our continuing Practice Group, we are planning to replicate it next Fall. Individuals interested in taking part in next Fall's workshop can contact me for further information.

Our Passover Seder this year was extremely successful with 86 people attending. The crowd included a large number of families with children. The Seder was both uplifting and congenial. As many have said, "There was a great vibe that night." Rabbi Louis led the Seder in a way that imparted the spiritual message, as well as including his trademark humour. He had all of us joining in with him singing the prayers with enormous joy. As well, kudos to Rabbi Louis for his harmonica solo that brought the whole room to silence. The planning and execution of the Seder went extraordinarily well. The food was all home made with lots of love and the result was delicious. I want to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard to make the Seder a success, and in particular, my wife, Louise, who took the lead in its planning.

Don't forget about our upcoming Mother's Day concert, ***From Klezmer to Classics***, on Saturday May 12th. Come have some fun while helping to support this fundraiser for Kolot Mayim. If you haven't ordered your mums yet, there will be a few available for sale at the concert.

Rabbi Louis will lead services on May 11th. As well, come to Rabbi Louis and Charlotte's home when they host a Study Session and Dairy Pot Luck on May 26th, from 8:30-11:30, for Shavout when we celebrate G-D's giving of the Torah to the Jews.

With the passing of Marion Marks last month, on behalf of the congregation I want to offer our condolences to the Marks family. In the past, Marion had played an active role in the President's

[Continued on page 10.](#)

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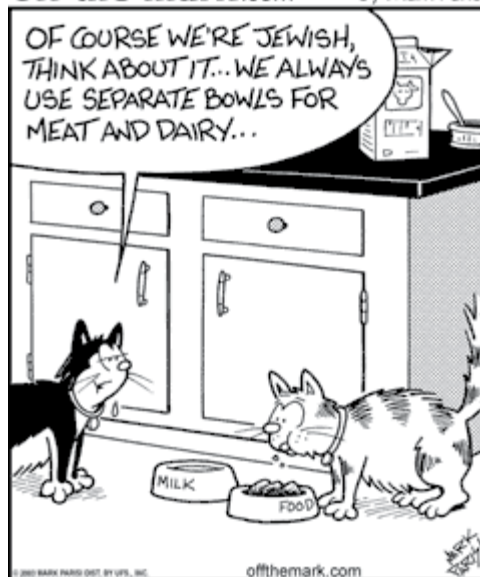


KM Member, Rennie Parrish, as President of the St. Andrews & Caledonian Society, with Dave Cook, and Mayor Dean Fortin on Tartan Day 2012.



KM Member, Ann Gougeon-Ryant at *Our Place* April Birthday party. Photo: Penny Tennenhouse

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi



© Mark Parisi, Permission required for use.

## 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 People Around the World

VISIT A SYNAGOGUE: PITIGLIANO, a tiny town in the Tuscan valley, Italy, known as La Piccola Gerusalemme, has four Jews, a synagogue (photo), an old wine cellar, a slaughter house, a mikveh, and a Passover bakery that all serve as a museum of the Jewish life. <http://www.haaretz.com/blogs/modern-manna/a-passover-exodus-to-italy-s-little-jerusalem-1.421229>

## Thoughts on Shavuot: Torah Eternel

by Adin Even-Yisrael (Steinsaltz)

Shavuot, the day of the giving of the day of the receiving of the Ten would seem to be a natural pairing receiving being the two sides of interchangeable as descriptions of

Nevertheless, they are not identical. meaning. As the Kabbalah puts movement from above to that which a movement from below reaching of time, the giving of the Torah is receiving of the Torah is a diversified



the Torah by G-d, is also called Commandments by Israel. And it of concepts - the giving and the the same action and apparently the event.

Each has its own particular it, the giving of the Torah is a is below, while the receiving is upward. And in the dimension essentially a single act, while the and continuing process in history.

Before expanding on this point, it may be helpful to clarify what is meant by the word "Torah." To translate Torah as "law" misses the mark, even though the Bible may be seen as a book containing laws and moral instruction for living. On the other hand, this aspect of instruction - the teaching - is certainly basic to Torah; without it the Torah would be just a monumental work of literature.

Moreover, Torah that is not a living framework for action is no longer Torah. Therefore, the giving and the receiving of Torah is more than just the transmission of a certain body of information. It is the communication of a message that causes a profound change in the thought and behavior of those who receive it. It is clear, too, that Torah constitutes a bridge between the Divine essence and man.

The actual giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai was a most dramatic and awesome event, with heavenly voices and trumpets, lightning and thunder. One may wonder a little at all the fuss, considering that the Ten Commandments are no more than fundamental rules for the conduct of any society. In part, at least, they are already to be found in the older codes of Babylon and Egypt, India and China.

Hence, it must be admitted that the full weight of the Ten Commandments is not only in their content, but in the special way they were given. In the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not murder" is not a ruling set by some local chief to avoid vengeful blood feuds. It is the command of an Almighty G-d, and this is what gives it power and meaning. To transgress any of the commands of the Torah is primarily to defy G-d, and only after that is it an offense against society.

This however, is only a relatively external, formalistic aspect of the giving of the Torah. More significantly, it is an act from above to below, the crossing of the infinite gap between G-d and the world. There is no way man can cross it. One can only cry out in despair, "What has He to do with us dwellers of the dust?"

This is not a modern thought; it is repeated often enough in the Bible and is probably a basic experience in all religions. Indeed, the inner message of the Ten Commandments is an answer to this feeling of man's insignificance. It is a central aspect of the confrontation at Sinai, as it is written: "Behold, the L-rd our G-d has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that G-d does talk with man, and he lives" (Deuteronomy 5:21). The importance of this encounter is not in the actual words spoken but

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*The Board of Directors,  
on behalf of the entire congregation,  
extend their sincerest condolences  
to the Marks' family  
on the loss of their wife, mother, and  
grandmother, Marion.*

## Chai חַי

### Donations received since the last newsletter:

**In memory of Maurice Ryant** — Joel & Sandy Fagan, Arlette Baker, Jenny Laing.

**In memory of Marion Marks** — Joe and Ann Gougeon-Ryant

**In honour of the marriage of Steve and Jessi Goss** — Arlette Baker

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Joe & Ann Gougeon-Ryant, Morris Bleviss, Caroline Hergt, Joel & Sandy Fagan, Dorothy & David Torontow

**In honour of Dr. Stan Shortt** — Peter and Merial Barwin

**In memory of Maruice Ryant** — Julie Elizabeth & Reva Hutkin, Susan Halpert

**In memory of Marion Marks** — Peter and Merial Barwin, Julie Elizabeth & Reva Hutkin, Susan Halpert (one donation for Gerry and one for Lynne)

## Yom HaZikaron in Israel

By Leah Citrin

Exactly one week after Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Israel commemorates Yom HaZikaron-Memorial Day. In Hebrew, the full title of the day is:

Israeli Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism Remembrance Day

It is a Memorial Day not celebrated as a holiday weekend with a day off from work or school, barbeques, or retail sales, but as a stark reminder that not a single citizen in the country of Israel is untouched by the ultimate sacrifice of life that is exchanged for Israel's existence.

Last year, while in my first year of rabbinical school at HUC, I was in Jerusalem for Yom HaZikaron. I had the opportunity to experience multiple ceremonies and services that marked the day, and each one changed my relationship with Israel in ways I certainly did not expect.

As with all Jewish holidays, Yom HaZikaron begins at sunset. There is a ceremony at the Kotel, or Western Wall, attended by many important political figures as well as families of recently deceased soldiers or terror victims. The evening begins with a 60 second siren, at which point the entire country comes to a stop in silent memorial to all those who have died fighting for the State of Israel. Though I might not have understood the words of a lot of the speeches, I could not possibly have avoided the tone of the atmosphere. The sense of collective mourning and remembrance; the acknowledgement that no one escapes unscathed. [Cont'd on p. 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 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.

The first stage of the 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.

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).

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THE VOICE

Page 7

Yom Hazikaron in Israel, continued from page 6. The following morning, two of my classmates and I were responsible for leading our morning services. As we planned the service, we struggled tremendously: how could we maintain the emotional integrity of the day when we felt like outsiders to the entire process? How could we reflect the true meaning of this Memorial Day when we could not comprehend the full meaning of the day? But we found a way. Through conversation and through resources designed to do exactly that: help us understand what it really means to be a part of Yom HaZikaron in Israel.

After services, our entire program (60+ people) headed over to Gymnasium Rehavia to attend their tekes, or ceremony. We walked through their Hall of Remembrance, memorializing the people from their school (which is more than 100 years old) who gave their lives in this ongoing battle. We listened as the name of each soldier or terror victim who had come out of this school was read, and paused for the second memorial siren of the day. Everyone was dressed in white, and everyone stood at attention silently as the siren sounded. It was a moving memorial that certainly left me thinking.

Later that afternoon, I went with a friend to Har Herzl, the military cemetery in Jerusalem. We visited the grave of my friend's cousin, killed in combat in 2002, and then wandered around some more. We watched the swarms of people around the newest graves-some less than a month old. We also noticed the much more lonely graves of soldiers who died decades ago-perhaps with no one left to come visit them. Yet on each and every grave lay at least one bouquet of flowers, laid there carefully by an Israeli scout (sort of like our youth groups). Everyone was to be remembered. No one was to be forgotten.

Unexpectedly, I began to cry. At first I couldn't explain it. I didn't know any of these people-not the ones who had died or the ones who had come to visit their deceased. But then it hit me. For maybe the first time, I felt connected to the country on a deeper level. The fallen soldiers, many who were two, three or four years my junior, whose graves I stood before, died fighting for a country that I too felt a part of. They gave their lives for me to be able to stand there; study there; live there. Though I might have started the day unable to relate to its meaning or emotions, I suddenly understood in an intrinsic, unexplainable way.

As the sun sets to mark the end of Yom HaZikaron, the entire country transitions into one of the happiest days on the calendar: Yom HaAtzmaut, Independence Day. It is a bizarre and difficult transition: from grief and sadness to [Continued on page 9.](#)

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## JCCV PAGE

### 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>.

### JCCV JEWISH FILM

## Lies My Father Told Me

**Saturday May 26th at 7:30  
at the JCCV**

For more information, see this month's Shalom at <www.jccvictoria.ca>.

### JCCV Food-for-Thought Luncheon

**Monday May 28th, 2102**  
12 noon - 1:30 pm

#### Speaker

**Dr. Elinor Powell**

Retired physician, author  
will speak on Physicians for the  
Prevention of Nuclear War, winning  
the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984

More info in the Shalom  
Call the JCCV at  
250-477-7185 to reserve.

Yom Hazikaron in Israel, continued from page 7. uninhibited celebration. Perhaps, it is a transition only Israelis can really understand how to make. There is a ceremony on the top of Mount Herzl that captures this moment, and at once, the entire country moves from commemoration to celebration.

I can honestly say that this twenty-four hour period that I spent in Jerusalem was one of the most meaningful days of my entire year there. I experienced the intricacies and paradox of Israeli culture and simultaneously realized the powerful connection I had developed to a country that I once struggled to see as an important part of my identity.

Yom HaZikaron in Israel is a unique experience that cannot be felt in the same way anywhere else. But the ikar, or most important thing, about this day, is to remember that we can create a feeling of solidarity and a feeling of connection to it-and to Am Yisrael, the People of Israel, both in the country of Israel and beyond.

*Leah Citrin is currently a 2nd year rabbinical student on the Cincinnati campus of HUC-JIR. Originally from Rye Brook, New York, Leah currently serves as the student rabbi at Congregation Gates of Prayer in New Iberia, Louisiana.*



Nejama A. Ferstman Music Therapist Music teacher, facilitator, enthusiast Bachelor of Music Therapy

**If you or a loved one is in need of support with social cognitive learning challenges, mood disorders, memory loss, chronic illness, palliative care, rehabilitation, convalescence, peri-natal, and more.**

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Thoughts on Shavuout, continued from page 5. that G-d appeared before man and told him what to do, that G-d established some sort of contact with man. And this is the meaning of the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary.

Consequently, the giving of the Torah is a single historic event in which the Divine is the decisive factor. The receiving of the Torah, by contrast, is an enduring process in time, with man as the decisive factor. The paradox is resolved when the two movements meet. [...]

Time is needed for any truly revolutionary teaching to be understood, and there are any number of intermediate stages. In the history of Israel, it may be assumed that only during the time of the Second Temple did the people of Israel as a whole accept the Torah as an obligatory way of life. From that time until recent generations, there has no longer been any serious division between the Jews and Torah. They have been one consistent entity.

More than a thousand years elapsed, then, between the giving of the Torah and some sort of total receiving of the Torah. Of course, it is not simply a matter of the spiritual and intellectual capacities of one generation or another. So long as men are possessed of free will, the problem of receiving the Torah will be posed anew for every individual in every generation.

The process of receiving the Torah has thus been continuing - from the incident of the Golden Calf to the present day. It is a process of training the Jew to genuinely absorb what is being offered to him. And, as we have seen, it cannot be a straightforward learning process. It is always being obstructed and delayed, not only by the diverse kinds of rejection, but also by the many forms of inadequate or premature acceptance. After thousands of years and countless good intentions and incessant struggle on the part of generation after generation of devout Jews, we can only be sure of one thing: The Torah once given at Sinai continues to be received by Israel. To read the complete article, go to <[www.chabad.org](http://www.chabad.org)>.

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From Rabbi Louis, continued from page 2.

- information about other traditions, religions and cultures;
- ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity;
- ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings, even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

r Louis

President's message,  
continued from page 3.

congregation. Marion was a regular at Friday services for many years. She will be missed.

L'shalom,

Neal

## Those we remember ...



OBSERVED DATE	CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
May 1, 2012	May 1, 2008	27 Nisan 5768	Manly Norman Spigelman	Brother	Steven Spigelman
May 1, 2012	May, 2006	unknown	Nieves Molina	Aunt	Grace Sandell
May 1, 2012	May, 2002	unknown	Rita Sonner	Grandmother	David Levinson
May 5, 2012	May 5, 1995	5 Iyar 5755	Mark Krasnick	Brother	Jeffrey Krasnick
May 6, 2012	May 6, 1989	1 Iyar 5749	Joseph Yacowar	Father	Hal Yacowar
May 6, 2012	May 6, 1984	4 Iyar 5744	Mary Miller-Finklestein	Aunt	Don Sher
May 7, 2012	May 6, 2004	15 Iyar 5764	Julius (Ziggy) Bleviss	Father	Morris Bleviss
May 8, 2012	May 8, 1975	27 Iyar 5735	Isadore Simpson	Grandfather	Bill Katz
May 10, 2012	May 10th	Unknown	Barry Fox	Brother	Barbara Fox-Juchau
May 11, 2012	May 11, 1992	8 Iyar 5752	Lou Cohen	Grandfather	Michele Butot
May 12, 2012	April 23, 1992	20 Iyar 5752	David Halpert	Father-in-Law	Susan Halpert
May 12, 2012	May 19, 1987	20 Iyar 5747	Jack Monson	Father	Charlyne Ashford
May 13, 2012	May 13, 1983	1 Sivan 5743	Alice McCulloch	Grandmother	Rennie Parrish
May 13, 2012	May 13, 2010	29 Iyar 5770	Christine McLean	Friend	Rennie Parrish
May 15, 2012	May 15, 2010	2 Sivan 5770	Mort Mickelson	Grandfather	Max & Jac-Lyn Mickelson
May 15, 2012	May 15, 1992	12 Iyar, 5752	Robert Shnay	Father	Frederica Bowden
May 15, 2012	May 15, 1992	12 Iyar, 5752	Sam Finger	Father	Jerry Finger
May 19, 2012	May 19, 2011	15 Llyar 5771	David Kelley	Grandfather	Jessi Simpson
May 19, 2012	May 19, 1990	24 Iyar 5750	Morris Hibloom	Father	Karen Hibloom
May 21, 2012	May 23, 2009	29 Iyar 5769	Gila bat Miryam	Friend	Eric & Genevie Brandt
May 23, 2012	May 23, 1997	17 Iyar 5757	Goldie Ryant	Mother	Joe Gougeon-Ryant



## Torah Study

**Saturday May 12th**  
at 4:00 pm

at the home of  
Rabbi Louis  
1135 McClure Street

**Everyone is welcome.**

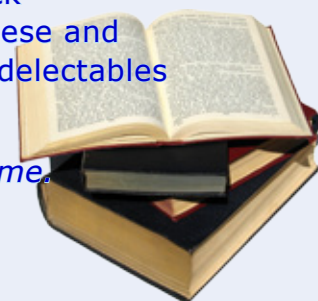
## Shavuot Study Session

at the home of Rabbi Louis  
1135 McClure Street



**Saturday May 26th**  
**8:30 - 11:30 pm**

Potluck  
Cottage Cheese and  
Cream Cheese delectables



*Everyone is welcome.*

**May 2012**

**Iyar-Sivan 5772**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9	2 10	3 11	Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Jessi Goss 4 12	Acharei- Kedoshim 5 13
		Omer	Omer 25	Omer 26	Omer 27	Omer 28
6 14	7 15	8 16	9 17	10 18	7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Rabbi Louis 11 19	Emor 12 4:00 pm Torah Study chez rav Louis 20
Omer 29	Omer 30	Omer 31	Omer 32	Omer 33	Omer 34	Omer 35
13 21	14 22	15 23	16 24	17 25	7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Jenny Laing 18 26	Behar- Bechukotai 19 27
Omer 36	Omer 37	Omer 38	Omer 39	Omer 40	Omer 41	Omer 42
20 28	21 29	Rosh Chodesh 22 1 Sivan	23 2	24 3	7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat, led by Julie and Reva 25 4	Bamidar 26 8:30 pm Shavuot Study chez rav Louis 5
Omer 43	Omer 44	Omer 45	Omer 46	Omer 47	Omer 48	Omer 49
Shavuot 27 6	12 noon 28 Food for Thought Luncheon at JCCV	29 8	30 9	31 10	White squares indicate days Rabbi Sutker is with us.	

**THE VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND JEWISH BURIAL SOCIETY**

**COMMUNITY DEDICATION**

**SUNDAY JUNE 3RD – 2:00 PM**

We are delighted to announce that there will be a ceremony to formally dedicate the Jewish Community Section of Hatley Memorial Gardens on Sunday June 3rd, 2012 at 2:00 PM. This will occur at the cemetery. We hope you will attend, and help us to celebrate this significant milestone.

We are very proud of the progress we have made in beautifying our cemetery, and look forward to sharing this, and our future plans with you. Please mark this event on your calendar. This occasion will allow past and present Board Members of our Society, and others, to be publicly acknowledged for their fine efforts on behalf of the Jewish Community. Hatley Memorial Gardens is located at 2050 Sooke Rd, immediately across from Royal Roads University.

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**Please help if you can .....**

*Dear Rabbis Meir, Harry, Louis and Barak,*

*Michael Mann, a fellow who grew up with me on my street in Montreal has just had a very dramatic liver transplant in Edmonton a couple of days ago. Michael has led an outstanding, upright and loving life. He has made a long and distinguished career as a petroleum geologist, but it is believed that his exposure to chemical substances used in oil well exploration, caused him to suffer an unusual form of liver disease, and his only hope of survival was a prompt liver transplant.*

*In addition to being a devoted Father and professional, want you all to know that Michael lived for a time in Israel and was both a lone soldier as well as a decorated combat veteran of the 1973 Yom Kipper War, in which he fought bravely as a member of a tank crew.*

*Michael's young son Jackie followed his father's example of bravery, love, Tikkum Olam and ahava Am Yisrael and was a living transplant donor for his own father. For this procedure, the family has had to temporarily relocated to Edmonton from Calgary, and Michael's children have quit jobs and suspended their lives to take care of him during the recovery process. It is estimated that if all goes well, Michael should be able to go home in three months to a year.*

*Naturally, this has caused an unusual financial burden to the family. And today I have made my own PayPal donation to them, and would like to encourage other people of good will and of some means to hopefully contribute something as well.*

*If you could circulate this story among your congregations and forward it to anyone else in a position to help, that would be very much appreciated.*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Harry Abrams*

With sincere thanks ...

Gerry and Lynne Marks would like to express our deep and heartfelt thanks to our Kolot Mayim community for the wonderful love, care and support that you have given to us over the difficult time of Marion's passing. We were very pleased and comforted to see so many of you at Marion's funeral, and at the shiva. And your hugs, phone calls, cards and words of support make a difficult time somewhat easier, as we feel very much part of a loving, caring community. Thank you, all.



And we would like as well to express special thanks to Rabbi Louis and to Joel Fagan. Rabbi Louis was very much there for us at a difficult time, and we are very grateful for the time he spent with us, respectfully and lovingly discussing both the details of Marion's life and of her funeral. We also very much appreciate the warm and wonderful way in which he celebrated Marion at her funeral and at the shiva. We are also very grateful to Joel Fagan, who fielded endless phone calls with his gracious and loving kindness, answering all of our questions so helpfully, providing practical support, and making a difficult time much more bearable. We would also like to sincerely thank Lynn Greenough and the other members of the Chevra Kadisha for the important work they do, and for their warmth and kindness. We are very blessed with our community.

Gerry, Lynne, Dory and Mira Marks