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L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

Selichot

Candle-light service at 10 pm, Saturday
September 8th, at the home of Rabbi Louis &
Charlotte Sutker, 1135 McClure Street.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

7:30 pm, on Sunday September 16th

Rosh Hashanah

10:30 am, on Monday September 17th

Taschlich:

1:30 pm on Monday September 17th at Gyro Park

Erev Yom Kippur

7:30 pm on Tuesday September 25th

Yom Kippur

10:30 am, on Wednesday September 26th

Yizkor

4 pm

Concluding Service

4:30 pm

All services will be led by Rabbi Louis Sutker and
will be at the Jewish Community Centre of Victoria,
3636 Shelbourne Street, unless otherwise noted.

RABBI

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ravenlws@shaw.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

COPY DEADLINE: The 20th of the month prior to publication.

RATES: Contact Julie Elizabeth at madrona623@gmail.com.

WEBSITE

<http://www.kolotmayimreformtemple.com>

From Rabbi Louis



WHAT MAKES A YEAR "NEW"?

The basic idea behind the word "new" is that it has never existed before. Certainly that is the what we meant by a "new year." However, the Hebrew word for the upcoming Holy Day has nothing to do with the newness of the year.

In fact there is no real phrase for a new year in our tradition. Rosh HaShanah is the Head (Beginning) of the year. It has become the Jewish New Year, par excellence however, even though it actually occurs in the seventh month of the year (Tishri). This reflects the fact that there is an argument in the Talmud as to when the Universe was created — in the month of Nisan (when we were liberated from Egypt), or the month of Tishri. In some ways it celebrates the anniversary of the creation of space and time.

Even in our secular lives, we have multiple *new years*. There is January the first, from which time we count the years. There is the tax year, and there is the fiscal year. There is the school year. And then, there is the very personal year of our birthdays.

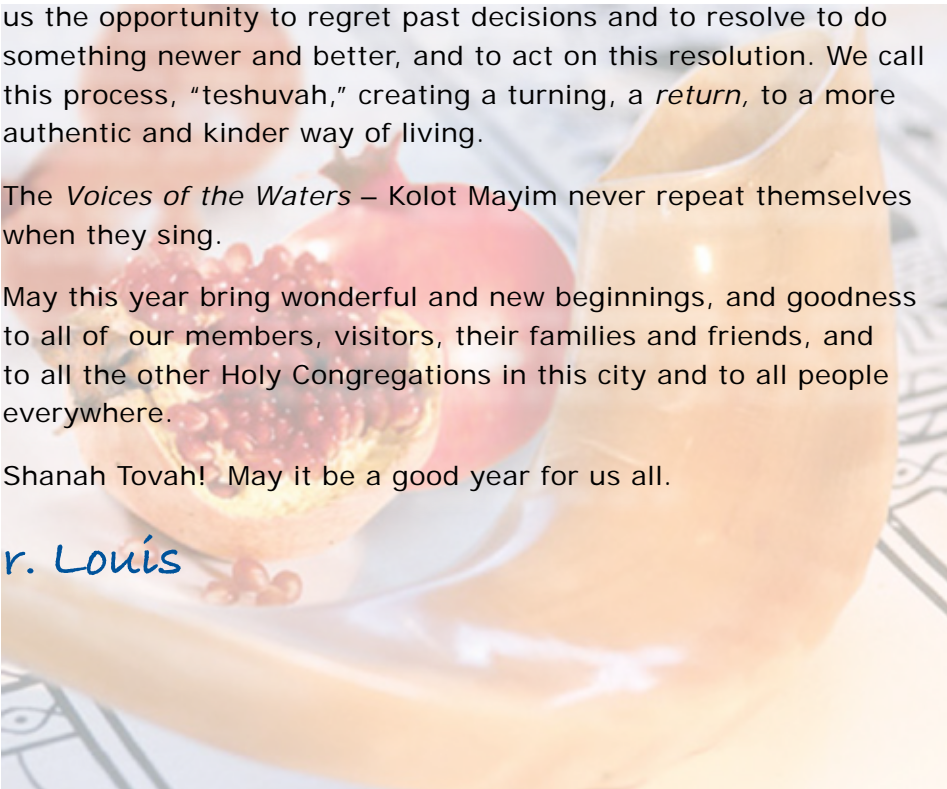
In another sense, every moment is new. Every moment gives us the opportunity to regret past decisions and to resolve to do something newer and better, and to act on this resolution. We call this process, "teshuvah," creating a turning, a *return*, to a more authentic and kinder way of living.

The *Voices of the Waters* – Kolot Mayim never repeat themselves when they sing.

May this year bring wonderful and new beginnings, and goodness to all of our members, visitors, their families and friends, and to all the other Holy Congregations in this city and to all people everywhere.

Shanah Tovah! May it be a good year for us all.

r. Louis



President's Message



Shalom Kolot Mayim Family,

As the old year fades and a new one begins, I look forward to many adventures as your new President. Of course, this means the Board is now searching for a Vice-President, and I would be very grateful if someone would step up to fill this position. Our new Board is as follows:

Reva Hutkin, President

Neal Wasser, Past President

Vice-President, Open

Susan Halpert, Secretary

Morris Bleviss, Treasurer

Elizabeth Mincey, Congregational Development

Sharon Shalinsky, Membership Chair

Julie Elizabeth and Catherine Bianco, Religious Affairs Committee Co-Chairs

Lynne Marks and Amanda Gafter-Ricks, Religious School Co-Chairs

Arline Leshner, Member-At-Large/Care and Concern

I have accepted the position of President, as Neal and the rest of the Board have offered me full support to be the best President I can, and I sincerely thank them for their support.

We have enjoyed a year with Rabbi Louis as our Spiritual Leader and look forward to another year with him at the helm. I especially want to thank Rabbi Louis for his wonderful Torah Service service on August 24th, This was outside the parameters of our contract with him, and we really appreciated it.

The High Holidays are upon us, and I know our congregation will enjoy hearing the Victoria Jewish Community Choir, Eva Bild-Enkin, Randy Enkin, David Torontow, Wendy Rolf, and Aloni & Highbough (our usual Kol Nidre pianist & cellist) during our services. They will, indeed, be spiritually uplifting. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Congratulations are in order to Michael Gans who has achieved his Masters Degree. We wish him well and look forward to his excellent leadership.

I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to serving you as your President.

L'shanah tovah tikatevu

Reva

Your 2012-2013 Board of Directors



Reva Hutkin
President

Neal Wasser
Past President

Susan Halpert
Secretary

Sharon
Shalinsky
Membership

Missing: Lynne Marks, Co-chair, Religious School Committee; Arline Leshner, Care & Concern

THE VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND JEWISH BURIAL SOCIETY

Community Dedication

Sunday September 9th, 2012 – 2:00 pm

Hatley Memorial Gardens

2050 Sooke Rd, immediately across from Royal Roads University.

We are delighted to announce that there will be a ceremony to formally dedicate the Jewish Community Section of Hatley Memorial Gardens on Sunday September 9th, 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.

The Louis Sherman Award

This award is presented annually to a member of Kolot Mayim Reform Temple who has made a singular contribution to our synagogue over the previous year. It is named after one of the earliest members of our Temple, Mr. Louis Sherman. Mr. Sherman was a retired concert violinist, who was a generous benefactor of a number of local arts groups. He became a member of Kolot Mayim very late in his long life, and found his association with us to be very meaningful and gratifying. Sadly,



he died several years after he became a member. However, shortly before his passing, he donated a significant sum of money to the Congregation, with the expressed intent that his generous gift be used to purchase a Torah. This purchase was carried out shortly thereafter. It is a lasting testimonial to Mr. Sherman's generosity. In 2004 Caroline and Martin Hergt created the Louis Sherman Award to honour his memory.

This year's award was presented by last year's winner, Neal Wasser, to **Julie Elizabeth** for her continued work in producing our newsletter, the *Voice*.

Jewish People Around the World



SPAIN: Chuetas (the Catalan word for pig), descendants of Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity in the 14-15th centuries, number an estimated 20,000 of Majorca's 860,000 residents. Some have recently converted to Judaism, Photo; A Chueta writer, Miquel Segura, who converted to Judaism in 2009, in the synagogue in Palma de Majorca. <http://www.france24.com/en/20120312-jews-majorca-reconnect-with-roots>

Kol Nidrei

At our first choir practice for the High Holidays, one of the choir members, who is not Jewish, wanted to know the meaning of Kol Nidrei. I offered to research it, and send everyone what I discovered. The first Site I consulted, written by a JB Campbell, said: *The Kol Nidre is the holiest Jewish prayer and is recited several times on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It means "all vows" and is a flat statement that no promise of any kind will be kept for the coming year. [It] goes like this:*

"All vows, obligations, oaths or anathemas, pledges of all names, which we have vowed, sworn, devoted, or bound ourselves to, from this day of atonement, until the next day of atonement (whose arrival we hope for in happiness) we repent, beforehand, of them all, they shall all be deemed absolved, forgiven, annulled, void and made of no effect; they shall not be binding, nor have any power; the vows shall not be reckoned as vows, the obligations shall not be obligatory, nor the oaths considered as oaths."

Continued on page 8.

You decide: One hour of Yiddish or two?

If you want to learn Yiddish grammar and how to read and write Yiddish, the **Yiddish Grammar** course, offered from 7:00pm to 8:00pm is right for you. If you want to use your knowledge of Yiddish in conversation, **Conversational Yiddish**, offered from 8:00pm to 9:00pm, is the course for you. If you want to learn Yiddish grammar **and** how to read, write and converse in Yiddish, taking both classes is best for you.

**Come join us
at the Jewish Community Centre of Victoria
3636 Shelbourne Street**

**on 8 Monday evenings
November 5 to December 24, 2012**

for

**a bisl dikdek - an hour of Yiddish Grammar from 7:00pm to 8:00pm (or)
a bisl yidishkeyt - an hour of Conversational Yiddish from 8:00pm to 9:00pm (or)
a bisl dikdek un yidishkeyt – both classes for a full two hours.**

Together, we will travel back in time to explore the lost Jewish world of Eastern Europe through classic Yiddish film (we provide the popcorn), Klezmer and Jewish music, Yiddish cooking (a potluck dinner, served in Yiddish), comedy and cabaret, literature, poetry, and Yiddish theater, all the while, learning to speak the *mameloshen*, our nation of words, our beloved Yiddish.

Beginners & Intermediate Grammar	7:00 pm	\$80/72 (JCCV members)
Conversational Yiddish	8:00	\$80/72 (JCCV members)
Yiddish Grammar & Conversation	7 to 9 pm	\$150/135 (JCCV members)

Taught by Michael Gans

mgans@aol.com
250-884-8725

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.

*So many mitzvot
How can we keep all of them?
We just have to try*

Chai חַי

Donations received since the last newsletter:

Speedy Recovery to **Dorothy Torontow**
- Julie Elizabeth & Reva Hutkin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Thank-you to **Jacqueline & Sheldon Seigal** - Julie Elizabeth

The **Dedication Ceremony** for our Cemetery has been postponed until
September 9th, 2012.

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, regrettably, 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).



September 2012/Elul-Tishrei 5772-3

CIVIL DATE YEAR OF DEATH	HEBREW DATE YEAR OF DEATH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	MOURNER
September 1, 1967	26 Av 5767	Raoul Auerbach	Father	Julie Elizabeth
September, 1980	Unknown	Sam Duchin	Grandfather	Marla Yacowar
September 9, 1998	18 Elul 5758	Ida Halpert	Mother-in-Law	Susan Halpert
September 4, 2011	5 Elul 5771	Fay Leshner-Manna	Sister In Law	Arline Leshner
September 5, 1996	21 Elul 5756	Fred Preuss	Father	Jennie Preuss
September 9, 2011	1 Tishrei 5771	Michael Miller	Cousin	Joe Gougeon-Ryant
September 10, 2009	21 Elul 5769	Sharon Enkin	Aunt	Randy Enkin
September 11, 1985	29 Elul 5745	Meyer Sugarman	Father	Sandy Fagan
September 11, 2009	22 Elul 5769	Rebekah Ann Robinson	Cousin	Rennie Parrish
September 12, 2005	8 Elul 5765	Jean Gatland	Aunt	Heather Gatland
September 12, 2011	13 Elul 5771	Gerald Blackman	Cousin	Caroline Hergt & Geneveie Brandt
September 26, 2008	26 Elul 5768	Shoshanah Brandt	Mother	Eric Brandt
September 14, 2003	28 Elul 5763	Carl Wagner	Grandfather	Ian Aaron
September 15, 1966	1 Tishrei, 5767	Betty Aaron	Grandmother	Ian Aaron
September 15, 2002	9 Tishrei 5763	Dinah Cohen	Grandmother	Michele Butot
September 15, 1977	3 Tishrei 5738	Pearl Cohen	Mother	Beverly Bookman
September 29, 1989	29 Elul 5749	Bella Bleviss	Sister	Morris Bleviss
September 18, 1976	23 Elul 5736	Sheldon Silverman	Brother	Kezia Allen
September 9, 2002	3 Tishrei 5763	Florence Weisz	Mother	Eleanor Mintz
September 19, 1997	17 Elul 5757	Nancy Shalinsky	Mother	Jack Shalinsky
September 20, 1961	10 Tishrei 5722	Arthur Greenfield	Father	Gerald (Jerry) Greenfield
September 20, 2005	16 Elul 5765	Mary Neufeld	Mother-in-law	Heather Gatland

Kol Nidrei, continued from page 5. After a brief reference to Al Jolson in *The Jazz Singer*, the author continues, saying: *Can any person or people with this mentality be trusted? The Kol Nidre mentality is the underlying cause for all the anti-Jewish reaction by normal people down through the ages. Have we ever heard a renunciation of this "prayer" by any Jew - orthodox, reform or otherwise? In fact, how many of us are even aware of this subversive practice, this license to lie, which is glorified in a holy ritual every year?*

Every Jew in a position of power, from Paul Wolfowitz to your judge, doctor or teacher, should be questioned on this subject. Jewish judges should be asked to recuse themselves on this grounds automatically. Only in this positive but defensive manner can we at this late date begin to take charge of our lives by denouncing the lie of "anti-Semitism" and confronting those whose practices are based on deception.

Remember the motto of Israel's elite organization, the Mossad: "By way of deception thou shalt make war." <www. <http://rense.com>>

Continued on page 9

September							Elul-Tishrei 5772-3						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday							
						Ki Teitzei 1 14 Elul							
2 15	3 16	4 17	5 18	6 19	7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat led by Joe Gougeon-Ryant	7 20	Ki Tavo 8 21						
9 22	10 23	11 24	12 25	13 26	Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Joel Fagan	14 27	Nitzavim 15 28						
Erev Rosh Hashanah 16 29	17 Rosh 1 Tishrei Hashanah Rosh Chodesh	18 2	19 3	20 4	Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Julie Elizabeth & Reva Hutkin	21 5	Vayelech 22 6						
23 7	24 8	Erev Yom Kippur 25 9	Yom Kippur 26 10 Yizkor	27 11	Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Joe Gougeon- Ryant	28 12	Haazinu 29 13						
Erev Sukkot 30 14													

White squares indicate
days Rabbi Sutker is with us.

Kol Nidrei, continued from page 8

Imagine my horror! I wished I had never made the offer! So, I checked out other Sites, and discovered, to my amazement, that this is, indeed, what Kol Nidrei means. But ... is it the intent?

Indeed not! *The Kol Nidrei service is the first part of the Yom Kippur services and has a long history of being misunderstood. A simple reading of the text without any Talmudic or legal knowledge would lead one to believe that it is license to lie and deceive. However, even a little knowledge shows that this perception is totally incorrect. [.....] Kol Nidrei's effect is legally very small and is, in fact, either an annulment for strictly personal vows or a clause for a limited number of future personal vows. Either way, it absolutely DOES NOT undermine the effectiveness of vows taken for others.*

Judaism takes vows and oaths very seriously. While the Bible has many passages discussing vows about sacrifices, the only passage in the Pentateuch regarding personal vows is in Numbers 3: If a man takes a vow to G-d or swears an oath to establish a prohibition upon himself, he shall not desecrate his word; according to whatever comes from his mouth he shall do.

Kol Nidrei, cont'd. from p. 9
This prohibition against violating one's oaths is considered so strong that the Talmud [Shevuot 39a] states that the whole world shakes over this prohibition. The Talmud [Bava Metzia 5b] says that even Jewish thieves (yes, there are thieves in every society) are more careful about keeping their word than respecting other's property.

The article goes on to cite various Judaic sources, disproving the premise that

Kol Nidre gives us licence to lie and cheat, and concludes with: *Kol Nidrei dates back to at least the ninth century where it was included in the first comprehensive prayer books, Seder Rav Amram Gaon. In the twelfth century, a debate within the Jewish community ensued regarding the intent of Kol Nidrei.*

The clear intent of this service as it was originally written was to be an annulment of previous vows that, immediately prior to the day of judgement (Yom Kippur), would free a person from

being liable from violating personal vows. Since, as we saw above, only personal vows can be annulled, Kol Nidrei sought to remove from people the possible stigma of violating their personal vows.

In the twelfth century, Rabbeinu Tam objected to this application of the annulment of vows due to a number of technical reasons, particularly its lack of individuality. How can you annul an individual's vows in a group ceremony which does not even list the vows, asked Rabbeinu Tam? Therefore, Rabbeinu Tam insisted on changing the text of Kol Nidrei to use a future tense so it would serve as a pre-existing clause in future vows (assuming that individuals read along quietly with the service) [Tosafot, Nedarim 23b]. This change was opposed and the original text was defended by some scholars, such as R. Asher ben Yechiel [Rosh, Yoma 8:28]. The prevailing custom is to either follow Rabbeinu Tam's modified text or to use a compromise version that includes both past and future vows.

[Continued on page 12](#)

JEWISH MOVIE NIGHT

Hosted by Michael Gans and Bob Cameron

For September, we are pleased to present:

Walk on Water

(Israeli film in English)



Eyal is a hitman in Mossad, who targets enemies of committed suicide, and he needs to take on a less to find an aging Nazi war God does".

the Israeli security service, Israel. His wife has recently the agency decides that challenging assignment: criminal, and get him "before

Jewish Community Centre of Victoria
3636 Shelbourne Street Victoria, BC V8P 4H2

Saturday, September 29, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Movie and popcorn
followed by schmoozing (a discussion) and noshing (coffee, tea and dessert).

\$5.00 per person

Contact: Michael Gans or Bob Cameron 250-884-8725

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THE VANCOUVER JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL?

The Jewish Community Centre of Victoria is planning a weekend at the Vancouver Jewish Film Festival to include:

- * Friday afternoon Group coach departure (and ferry) from Victoria to Vancouver
- * Opening Movie Gala "Anita" at the Empire Oakridge Cinema followed by a dessert reception at the Peretz Centre).
- * 2 nights at a 2-star hotel
- * Saturday evening Cocktail Reception
- * 2-days of Festival Movie Passes for The Ridge Theatre
- * Sunday Bagel and Brunch
- * Return Group coach (and ferry) from Vancouver to Victoria, late Sunday afternoon

Friday, November 9 – to Sunday, November 11, 2012

**PRICE: \$370-\$430 PER PERSON, \$470-\$550 WITH SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
BASED ON A GROUP OF 10 PEOPLE**

**For further information, please email us at
JCCV@telus.net or call us at 250-477-7185.**

Anyone who enjoys a good bagel, hot popcorn and great movies will love this film festival. Attendance statistics place VJFF as the second largest Jewish film festival (just after Toronto), in Canada, and in the top 10 in North America. Attendance has doubled over the last five years. With our 23rd anniversary and screenings taking place in November we expect our attendance to increase again in 2012. Our fabulous Westside venues include our opening Gala film and 10 days at the Ridge Theatre on Arbutus at 16th Avenue.

Kol Nidrei, continued from page 11. However, and this is crucial, NO ONE claims that Kol Nidrei exempts individuals from either past or future vows that involve others. Kol Nidrei is ONLY for personal vows, as demonstrated above. Whether in business deals or in interpersonal interaction, Kol Nidrei does not in any way provide license for Jews to be deceitful or lying.

I invite you to read this article in its entirety at <http://www.angelfire.com/mt/talmud/kolnidre.html>. I, personally, found this exercise to be very intriguing, if not confusing, and am now eagerly awaiting the book I just ordered, *All These Vows: Kol Nidrei*, by Lawrence A. Hoffman. The blurb about the book says:

*People who attend no other services go out of their way to be present on Yom Kippur eve just to hear Kol Nidre chanted. Yet the prayer is in medieval Aramaic, which no one understands, and may not even have a translation supplied, since the prayer's content defies moral logic. Kol Nidre is a blanket request that God hold us guiltless of vows we make and do not honor! Judaism demands, however, just the reverse. We must honor promises we make. How then did this prayer come into being? Why was it retained? How did it attract the most haunting chant in all of Jewish tradition? *All These Vows: Kol Nidre* examines the prayer's theology, authorship and history through a set of lively essays, all written in accessible language by over thirty contributors who span three continents and all major Jewish denominations. They are men and women, scholars and rabbis, artists and poets. Introductory essays trace the actual history of the prayer and attempts through the ages to emend it, downplay it and even do away with it – all in vain. Kol Nidre remains, despite them all, an annual liturgical highlight that is regularly attended, even by Jews who disbelieve everything the prayer says.*
Julie Elizabeth, Editor

Congregation Emanu-El Adult Hebrew Literacy Program

All are Welcome to Enroll !

BIBLICAL HEBREW - LEVEL I

This is a beginner's level course, and is designed for the individual with very little or no previous knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet. You will be introduced to the Hebrew language, using the Shabbat evening service as a guide. The goal of the class is to enable students to learn to read simple Hebrew prayers, including learning the melodies.

Mondays, October 15, 2012 – February 25, 2013

Sixteen (16) Sessions

Taught by Gidi Nahshon

(No Class: November 12, December 24 & 31, February 11)

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Congregation Emanu-El, Fisher Education Centre

FEE:

Members: \$125.00 **Non-Members:** \$165.00+ Textbook: \$23.00

TO REGISTER AND FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please call Lesley Lymbery (Hebrew Literacy Coordinator)
at 250-479-2350 or email: ljlymbery@shaw.ca