ALBERTA JEWISH PIPELINE

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

SHIMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH



SHIMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH 5787

OCT. 2 - 4th, 2026

Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah 2026



Simchat Torah: October 2-4, 2026

Following the seven joyous days of Sukkot, we come to the happy holiday of Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah.

In the diaspora, the first day is known by its biblical name, Shemini Atzeret. We still dwell in the sukkah, but without a blessing. Yizkor, the memorial for the departed, is also said on this day.

The second day is known as Simchat Torah, during which we complete and immediately begin the annual Torah reading cycle. This joyous milestone is marked with dancing, traditionally following seven circuits known as hakafot, as the Torah scrolls are held aloft.

Both days are celebrated by nightly candle lighting, festive meals at both night and day, and desisting from work. In Israel, the entire holiday is compacted into one heady 24-hour period.

https://www.chabad.org/library/article

my JEWISH LEARNING

What is Shemini Atzeret?

Not quite Sukkot, not quite its own holiday.



Although Hoshanah Rabbah may technically be the "last day" of Sukkot, the Rabbis decided to treat Shemini Atzeret (and Simchat Torah) as a part of Sukkot*, because its significance is unequivocally informed by Sukkot itself.

https://www.myjewishlearning.

How to Celebrate Shemini Atzere..

Prayers, Hakafot & Festive Meal



Festive evening services are recited. The custom in many communities—especially chassidic and Sephardic ones—is to also hold *hakafot* during the prayers of the eve of Shemini Atzeret.

How to Celebrate Shemini Atzeret

Prayers for rain, Yizkor, farewell to the sukkah, and . . . dancing!

In 2026, ***Shemini Atzeret*** *begins before sundown on Oct. 2.* ***Simchat Torah*** *begins at nightfall on Oct. 3 and ends the following night. See this link for exact times.*

The two days of the holiday of Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah (in Israel, only one day[1]) constitute a major holiday (*yom tov*), when most forms of work are prohibited. On the preceding nights, women and girls light candles, reciting the appropriate blessings, and we enjoy nightly and daily festive meals, accompanied by *kiddush*. We don't go to work, drive, write, or switch on or off electric devices. We are permitted to cook (using a pre-existing flame) and to carry outdoors (except on Shabbat).

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_

Edmonton Candle Lighting Times ...

Sukkot & Simchat Torah 2026

Shemini Atzeret

Friday, October 2, 2026
Tishrei 21, 5787

Light Shabbat / Holiday Candles at
6:49 PM

Saturday, October 3, 2026
Tishrei 22, 5787

Light Holiday Candles after
7:57 PM
from a pre-existing flame

Sunday, October 4, 2026
Tishrei 23, 5787

Holiday Ends
7:54 PM



Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah in a Nutshell ...

The Holiday when we become the Torah's "Dancing Feet"



"Hakafot" a painting by Shoshannah Brombacher

Immediately following the seven-day festival of **Sukkot** comes the two-day festival of **Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah**. (In the Land of Israel, the festival is "compacted" in a single day).

Shemini Atzeret means "**the eighth [day] of retention**"; the chassidic masters explain that the primary purpose of the festival is to retain and "**conceive**" the spiritual revelations and powers that we are granted during the festivals of the month of Tishrei, so that we could subsequently **apply them to our lives throughout the year**.

https://www.chabad.org/library/



Please join us for The Power of Small Conversations launch event on Wednesday, Oct 14th at 5:00 pm at the Beth Israel Synagogue (131 Wolf Willow Rd).

The event concludes at 7:30 pm.

Livestream of an interesting panel discussion starts at 5:30 pm. (Livestream takes place in Toronto).

There will be a light dinner served.

After the dinner, we will hear from Ashley Kravetsky, a volunteer storyteller, and then we will have small group discussions about antisemitism.

Registration link is below. The event is free, but you must register.

Please see the link below.

https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/

SHADOW THEATRE

Season 2026-2027



She's more than just a wicked old witch. Baba Yaga is a legend, usually known as that elderly woman who lives alone in the woods and grinds the bones of the wicked. But what if she was actually a sexy, smart, modern woman operating off of morally ambiguous motives?

A detective finds himself in a small, isolated town, asking what does the disappearance of the young heir to a yogurt empire have to do with some random lore about an old witch? Matched by an apprehensive local sheriff, a university professor with a taste for younger men, and a whole cast of curious characters, the Slavic myth of Baba Yaga twists into a new labyrinth of secret lives, ancient magic, and multiple suspects.

https://www.shadowtheatre.org/


BETH ISRAEL
WISHES YOU A HAPPY
Shemini Atzeret
AND
Simchat Torah
TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

HOW CAN YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HELP?

MP Kelly McCauley and his team are here for you for any help needed with Government of Canada federal programs and departments. Our Edmonton office is here to help with anything relating to:

- Citizenship and Immigration
- Service Canada
- Canada Pension Plan
- Disability Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Employment Insurance
- Passports
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Veteran's Affairs

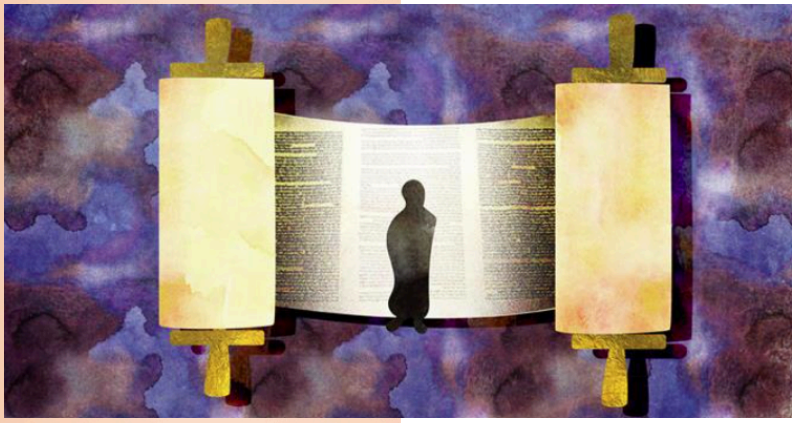


We always look forward to hearing from you.

104-10471 178 Street
Across from Rogers/Shaw building
kelly.mccauley.c1@parl.gc.ca
780-392-2515

KELLY McCAULEY
MP | EDMONTON WEST

"V'Zot HaBerachah" in a Nutshell



The name of the Parshah, "V'Zot HaBerachah," means "And this is the blessing," and it is found in Deuteronomy 33:1.

The Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret Torah readings are from Leviticus 22-23, Numbers 29, and Deuteronomy 14-16. These readings detail the laws of the moadim or "appointed times" on the Jewish calendar for festive celebration of our bond with G-d; including the mitzvot of dwelling in the sukkah (branch-covered hut) and taking the "Four Kinds" on the festival of Sukkot; the offerings brought in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem on Sukkot, and the obligation to journey to the Holy Temple to "to see and be seen before the face of G-d" on the three annual pilgrimage festivals — Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot.

On Simchat Torah ("Rejoicing of the Torah") we conclude, and begin anew, the annual Torah-reading cycle. First we read the Torah section of V'zot HaBerachah, which recounts the blessings that Moses gave to each of the twelve tribes of Israel before his death. Echoing Jacob's blessings to his twelve sons five generations earlier, Moses assigns and empowers each tribe with its individual role within the community of Israel.

V'zot HaBerachah then relates how Moses ascended Mount Nebo from whose summit he saw the Promised Land. "And Moses the servant of G-d died there in the Land of Moab by the mouth of G-d... and no man knows his burial place to this day." The Torah concludes by attesting that "There arose not a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom G-d knew face to face... and in all the mighty hand and the great awesome things which Moses did before the eyes of all Israel."

Immediately after concluding the Torah, we begin it anew by reading the first chapter of Genesis (the beginning of next Shabbat's Torah reading) describing G-d's creation of the world in six days and His ceasing work on the seventh—which He sanctified and blessed as a day of rest.

Learn: From the Rebbe's Talks
Browse: V'Zot HaBerachah Parshah Columnists
Prep: Devar Torah Q&A for V'Zot HaBerachah
Read: Haftarah in a Nutshell
Play: V'Zot HaBerachah Parshah Quiz


Temple
Beth Ora
Happy
Sh'mini Arzeret
and
Simchat Torah
May this special time bring
joy, peace and renewed
hope to you and your family.





In all Your Ways

"In all your ways know Him, and He will smooth your paths." (Provers 3:6) In all that you do, know that the purpose of whatever you do is to fulfill God's will. Then He will direct your path and you will succeed (Metzudos). According to Bar Kappara (Berachos 63a), this verse encapsulates all the main ideas of Torah. Know Him in all your ways — even the seemingly mundane. When eating, one should recognize the Divine wisdom in the creation of food and the digestive system (Ralbag). One should not live to eat but rather, eat to live and serve the Creator. Instead of sleeping because he is tired, a person should think that sleep will restore his energy for the pursuit of Torah and mitzvos. A person who considers each of his actions to determine how it will contribute to the service of God will be serving Him every minute (see Rambam, Hilchos Dei'os 3:2-3; R' Bachya to Exodus 20:9). In summary, R' Yonah derives four teachings from this verse: (1) In all of life's paths, place your trust in God; (2) your goal should be to know, serve, and honor Him by doing everything for the sake of Heaven; (3) never let pursuit of a livelihood or any other worldly goal drown out the Divine message; (4) make sure that every pursuit accords with God's wishes; whatever you do, know Him and reckon with His values and priorities.

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Proverbs" by Rabbi N. Scherman & Rabbi M. Zlotowitz, page 23. Torah Gem Archives: https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/torahtidbits

Yiddish Corner

A lebn in di bener!
A life in your bones!
(enthusiastic approval of a child)

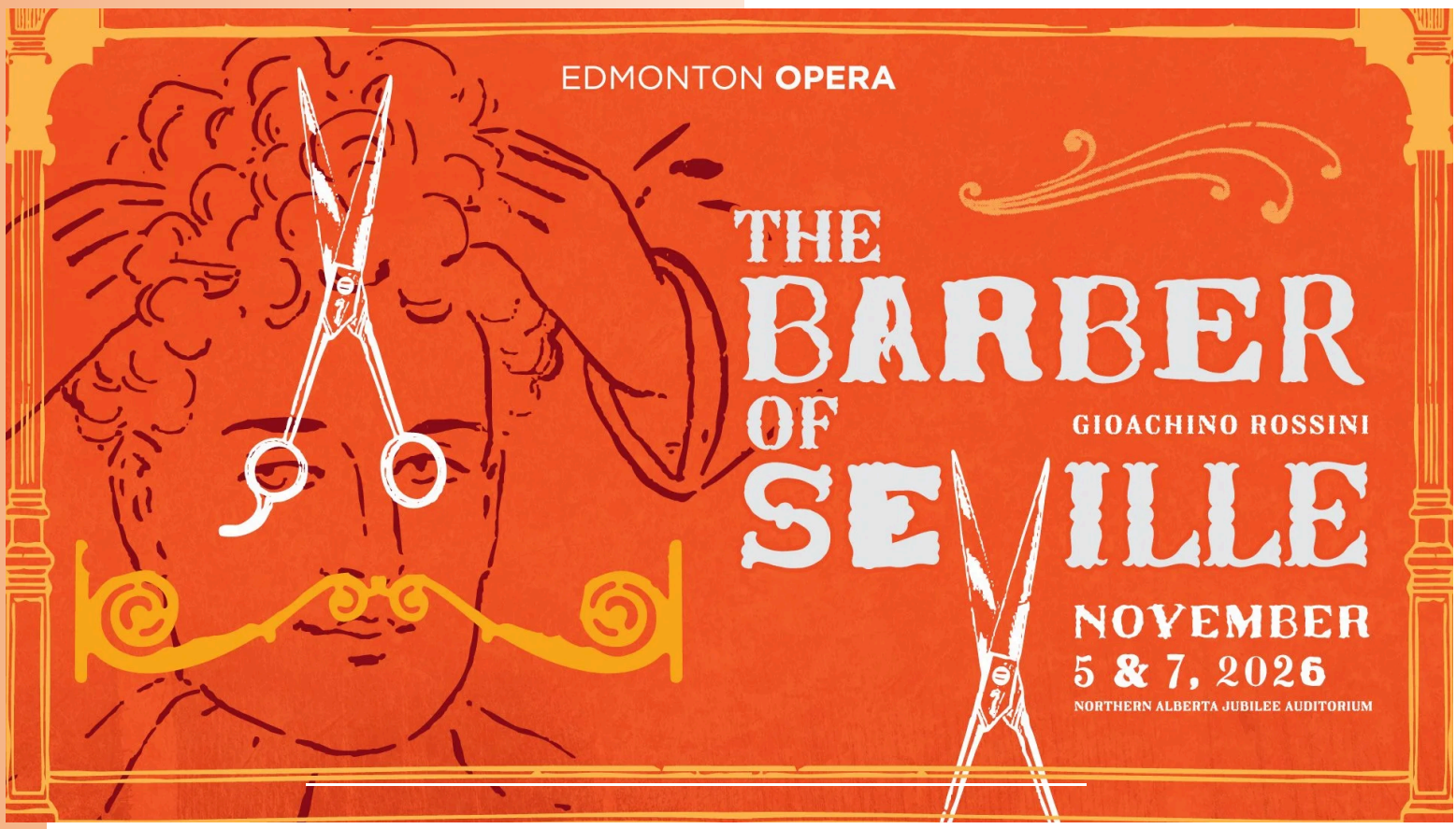
A mentsh zol lebn shoyn nor fun naygerikayt vegn.
A person should live if only for curiosity's sake.

Az me lebt, derlebt men alles.
If you live, you see everything.

Az me lebt, est men.
It you live, you eat.
(i.e. you taste all kinds of experience and have to stomach a good deal.)

[From The Taste of Yiddish by Lillian Mermin Feinsilver]

The Barber of Seville ...



Mainstage

The Barber of Seville

Composer: Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Librettist: Cesare Sterbini (1784-1831)

The Barber of Seville is opera at its most joyful; a fast-moving comedy where wit, music, and cleverness always stay one step ahead.

Nov 5, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Nov 7, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

In *The Barber of Seville*, a clever barber, a determined young woman, and a lovestruck count collide in a fast-moving comedy of disguises, secrets, and perfectly timed mischief.

BUY TICKETS

Experience *The Barber of Seville* live at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

Find Your Seats

https://www.edmontonopera.com/barber-

JDIC Seniors' Centre
All Seniors Welcome

Breaking News

On behalf of the Jewish Senior Citizen's Centre Board of Directors, I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Tatiana Kastner as our new Executive Director.

With a strong background supporting and enhancing the lives of seniors, and a passion for promoting dignity and respect for seniors, Tatiana brings valuable experience, leadership and a fresh perspective to our organization.

As Executive Director Tatiana will lead our organization, and help advance our mission, strengthen our community, and build on our success.

Join me in welcoming Tatiana to the Centre, and wishing her all the best. Excited to have her join us. Can't wait to see what this next chapter brings!

With Excitement,
Susan Baram | President, Jewish Senior Citizen's Centre


play alberta
play alberta
A
OILERS
OILERS
HOCKEY HISTORY MADE:
THREE JEWISH CANADIANS
ON THE SAME NHL TEAM
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER
UJA


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Israel Trip
Scholarships
Are you 15-25?
Interested in visiting Israel to learn Hebrew or to participate in a Zionist program of your choice?
$1000 scholarships available!
APPLY TODAY!
Contact Natalie at (780) 481-3377
nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com
Managed by Edmonton Talmud Torah Society
University Students Canada

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

BETH ISRAEL
EDMONTON'S FAMILY SHUL

— 5787 / 2026 —



EREV ROSH HASHANAH
Friday, September 11, 2026

Mincha:	6:40 pm
Candle Lighting – no earlier than:	6:37 pm
Candle Lighting:	7:40 pm

ROSH HASHANAH – FIRST DAY
Saturday, September 12, 2026

Shacharit:	8:00 am
Mincha/Maariv:	7:20 pm
Candle Lighting:	8:49 pm

ROSH HASHANAH – SECOND DAY
Sunday, September 13, 2026

Shacharit:	8:00 am
Tashlich:	5:00 pm
Mincha/Maariv:	7:30 pm
Havdalah:	8:46 pm

EREV YOM KIPPUR
Sunday, September 20, 2026

Mincha:	3:30 pm
Mincha/Kol Nidre:	7:00 pm
Fast Begins:	7:18 pm

YOM KIPPUR
Monday, September 21, 2026

Shacharit:	8:00 am
Drasha & Yizkor:	11:00 am
Mincha & Neila, including Pre-Neila Drasha:	5:45 pm
Shofar / End of Fast / Maariv:	8:27 pm

EREV SUKKOT
Friday, September 25, 2026

Mincha/Maariv:	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting:	7:06 pm
Kiddush in your Sukkah – ideally after:	8:16 pm

SUKKOT – DAY 1
Saturday, September 26, 2026

Shacharit:	9:00 am
Mincha/Maariv:	6:55 pm
Candle Lighting & No Preparations Before:	8:13 pm

SUKKOT – DAY 2
Sunday, September 27, 2026

Shacharit:	9:00 am
Mincha/Maariv:	6:55 pm
Havdalah:	8:11 pm

EREV SHEMINI ATZERET
Friday, October 2, 2026

Mincha/Maariv:	6:45 pm
Candle Lighting:	6:49 pm

SHEMINI ATZERET
Saturday, October 3, 2026

Shacharit:	9:00 am
Yizkor:	11:00 am
Mincha:	6:40 pm
Maariv & Hakafot:	7:30 pm
Candle Lighting & No Preparations Before:	7:56 pm

SIMCHAT TORAH
Sunday, October 4, 2026

Shacharit:	9:00 am
Hakafot:	10:00 am
Mincha/Maariv:	6:40 pm
Havdalah:	7:54 pm

Wishing you a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah

MAY YOU BE INSCRIBED FOR A GOOD AND SWEET YEAR

Calgary Candle Lighting Times ...

Sukkot & Simchat Torah 2026

Shemini Atzeret

Friday, October 2, 2026
Tishrei 21, 5787

Light Shabbat / Holiday Candles at
6:53 PM

Saturday, October 3, 2026
Tishrei 22, 5787

Light Holiday Candles after
7:58 PM
from a pre-existing flame

Sunday, October 4, 2026
Tishrei 23, 5787

Holiday Ends
7:56 PM





Three years ago, Hamas terrorists carried out the deadliest attack against Jews since the Holocaust.

On October 7, we remember the people whose lives were stolen, including eight Canadians murdered by Hamas. We honour the survivors and stand with the families whose lives were forever changed.

The pain of that day has never left us. And for Jewish communities around the world, October 7 also marked the beginning of an explosion of antisemitism that has not relented. Three years later, the hatred, intimidation and violence targeting Jews continues to escalate as we saw in Belleville.

Through it all, our community has continued to stand together. And we have a responsibility to remember — to say their names, tell their stories and ensure that what happened on October 7 is never forgotten.

We encourage you to join an October 7 commemoration in your community and remember together.

https://www.cija.ca/october_7_

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION



Join Beth Tzedec for Our
Simchat Torah Celebration Brunch

Join us for a joyful Simchat Torah celebration as we mark the conclusion of the annual Torah reading cycle and begin the journey all over again!

Start your morning with our 9:00am service, followed by a festive brunch at 10:30am. We'll celebrate together with delicious brunch treats, drinks for the adults, and plenty of joy as we honour this special moment in the Jewish year. Kids can join in the fun with festive activities while we celebrate together as a community.

Come for the service, stay for brunch, and help us dance, celebrate and welcome another year of Torah learning!

https://calgarybethtzedec.shulcloud.com/



Great Holiday recipes ...

the nosher

Today's taste of Jewish food | *Thursday, October 1, 2026*

Simchat Torah arrives Friday night with dancing, singing and, naturally, food. It's a joyful finish to the holiday marathon, so today we're leaning festive.



SHABBAT MEALS

How to Make Kreplach, Two Ways

One classic recipe, two fillings.

https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-

A great Shabbat recipe for Simchat Torah ...

jamie geller



Simchat Torah is all about high-energy joy, dancing, and feeding a crowd with easy finger foods!

These Sabich Potato Bourekas wrap up all the savory Israeli street-food flavors you love into flaky, golden pastries. They are absolute crowd-pleasers that both kids and adults will grab right off the platter. Dig in!

https://jamiegeller.com/recipes/sabich-

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