

ALBERTA JEWISH PIPELINE

January 21, 2025
Shevat 2, 5786



Edmonton: Light candles Friday at 4:43 PM
Calgary: Light candles Friday at 5:50PM



FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Festival of Trees Celebration at Beth Israel Edmonton



ENJOY AN
ENGAGING
& INSIGHTFUL
EVENING
WITH
RABBI TAL



**FRIENDS
OF
JNF
CANADA**

SUN FEB 1

6-8 P.M.

AT BETH ISRAEL

HOSTED BY BETH ISRAEL
& FRIENDS OF JNF EDMONTON

FESTIVE MEAL &
TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

TREE PLANTING WITH FRIENDS OF JNF
GAMES & PRIZES FOR KIDS



\$18 per person

\$36 per family

REGISTER:
familyshul.org
(780) 488-2840
office@familyshul.org

<https://www.familyshul.org/form/tu-bshevat->

"BO" IN A NUTSHELL ...

The name of the Parshah, "Bo," means "Come [to Pharaoh]" and it is found in [Exodus 10:1](#).

The last three of [the Ten Plagues](#) are visited on Egypt: a swarm of [locusts](#) devours all the crops and greenery; a thick, palpable [darkness](#) envelops the land; and all [the firstborn](#) of Egypt are killed at the stroke of [midnight](#) of the 15th of the month of [Nissan](#).

Gd commands the [first mitzvah](#) to be given to the people of Israel: to establish a [calendar](#) based on the monthly rebirth of the [moon](#). The [Israelites](#) are also instructed to bring a ["Passover offering"](#) to **Gd**: a [lamb or kid](#) goat is to be slaughtered, and its [blood sprinkled on the door-posts](#) and lintel of every Israelite home, so that **Gd** should [pass over](#) these homes when He comes to kill the Egyptian firstborn. The roasted meat of the offering is to be eaten that night together with [matzah](#) (unleavened bread) and [bitter herbs](#).

[The death of the firstborn](#) finally breaks Pharaoh's resistance, and he literally drives the children of Israel from his land. So hastily do they depart that there is no time for their dough to rise, and the only provisions they take along are unleavened. Before they go, they ask their Egyptian neighbors for gold, silver and garments—fulfilling [the promise made to Abraham](#) that his descendants would leave Egypt with great wealth.

The children of Israel are commanded to [consecrate all firstborn](#), and to observe the anniversary of the [Exodus](#) each year by removing all [leaven](#) from their possession for seven days, eating matzah, and [telling the story](#) of their redemption to their children. They are also commanded to wear [tefillin](#) on the arm and head as a reminder of the Exodus and their resultant commitment to **Gd**.

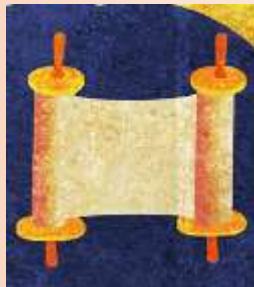
Learn: [Bo in Depth](#)

Browse: [Bo Parshah Columnists](#)

Prep: [Devar Torah Q&A for Bo](#)

Read: [Haftarah in a Nutshell](#)

Play: [Bo Parshah Quiz](#)



TORAH GEMS

CONCERN

The lofty attitude of the false leader, the scholars who stood apart from the people, has been characterized as one of contempt which stemmed from pride, justified seclusion and contributed to the prevailing condition of 'perud'. The attitude of the true leader, the zaddik, can also be characterized by a term—concern. Humility makes concern possible, because it implies the awareness of the other's existence.

But concern is more than awareness of another's existence. It means to care: to go out of oneself toward one's fellow man, to help him, to heal him, to raise him. It means the drawing together of what has been shattered. It means that a man alone is incomplete, only half a man, and that he must feel for another in order to be whole himself.

Only by helping to heal others is he himself healed. "The essence of returning to God is to turn others also." It means that the outpouring of God's concern for man overflows the zaddik's heart, reaching out to touch other men.

God's concern for man becomes the zaddik's concern for God's concern and, therefore, concern for man himself.

"The zaddik thinks that each Israelite is a limb of the Shechinah," and thus, concern for the anguish of the Shechinah becomes concern for the anguish of the people. Concern means love and compassion.

The zaddik loves the people and finds even among the plainest of them signs of holiness.

Adapted from *The Zaddik*, by Samuel H. Dresner, 1960, page 154. Archives: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/torahtidbits>

YIDDISH CORNER ...

Es iz nishto keyn miese kale.

There is (no such thing as an) ill-favoured bride.

Khosn doyme

lemelekh. A bridegroom is likened to a king.

Afile in gan-eydn iz

nisht gut tsu zayn aleyn. Even in paradise it is not good to be alone.

Fri oyfshteyn und fri khasene hobn shat

nisht. To be up betimes and to marry early does no harm.

Itlikher shidekh vos me tut iz gut, nokh a yor vert men gevor. Every match is a catch, after a year it becomes clear. [From "In Praise of Yiddish" but Maurice Samuel]

Celebrate the New Year of the Trees — Sun. Feb. 1



Four Worlds, One Earth: A Mystical Tu B'Shevat Seder

with
Rabbi Zilbershtein

Sunday, February 1

5:00 pm

at

Beth Shalom

Join us for a mystical Tu B'Shevat seder rooted in kabbalistic tradition and focused on environmental action.

We'll gather to taste fruits and wines as we move through the four spiritual worlds, exploring our connection to trees, nature, and the earth. This ancient ritual invites us to consider how we care for creation and what commitments we can make to protect our planet.

Come celebrate the birthday of the trees and recommit to being guardians of the earth.

Dinner Cost

\$25.00 Adult

\$12.00 Teenagers (12-18)

Free Kids (0-11)

RSVP &

**prepayment
are required**

780.488.6333 / 301,

or by email

(e-transfers) at:

info@e-bethshalom.org

This Sunday (on zoom) from Beth Shalom Edmonton

Birobidzhan The Jewish Land, Far, Far Away

**with
Rabbi Zilbershtein**

Ever wondered where Rabbi Zilbershtein came from? Is it Ukraine? Is it Russia? Time to unravel the mystery.

Join Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein for a journey to Birobidzhan, the Soviet Union's Jewish Autonomous Region. Discover the fascinating history of this little-known "Jewish homeland" in Russia's Far East, and hear Rabbi Alisa's personal memories of growing up in this unique corner of the Jewish world."



Adult Education Committee Program

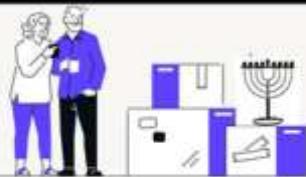
בִּירוּבִּידְזְּהָן



**Sunday,
January 25
at 1:00pm**

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89754906135>

MOVING? DOWNSIZING?



We Want Your "New" or "Preloved" **JUDAICA ITEMS**

Paintings, Object DE Arte, Menorahs, Dreidels, Shabbat Candlesticks & etc.

Drop off at Beth Shalom or
Call Cheryl Shur for Pick-Up

780-918-7535

The Moshe Yedlin library is open during regular office hours Monday through Friday. Come in and browse our wonderful collection. If you choose to borrow a book and no library volunteer is on site, please enter the book information on the sign up sheet in the library. If you have not been registered into the system already, please contact Karen Hering at he-ringk@gmail.com.

Likewise if you would like are interested in the new non-fiction book discussion group, also please contact Karen. The library and book discussion groups are open to all members of the Jewish community.

Learn about our Jewish World Today

— FRIENDS OF JNF CANADA PRESENTS —

DIASPORA, ISRAEL & THE GO FORWARD

Monday, February 9, 2026

7:00 PM | EDMONTON (location TBA)

With Special Guest Speaker
Charlotte Korchak

Charlotte Korchak is a leading educator with the Jerusalem Education Institute. She is a passionate Zionist advocate empowering audiences with clarity, courage, and truth about Israel.

Meet & Greet

\$36/person

light fare served

General Admission

\$10/person

You must present a valid ID at the venue.

For sponsorship opportunities & information: Jay Cairns 1-800-806-8237 ext. 501 | jcairns@friendsofjnfca.org



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Netanyahu fumes at Gaza oversight panel makeup as Trump invites Erdogan to peace board



Netanyahu fumes at Gaza oversight panel makeup as Trump invites Erdogan to peace board

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Saturday that the White House's [unveiling](#) of a key international oversight panel for Gaza "was not coordinated with Israel and contradicts its policy," in a rare break with US President Donald Trump's administration that was met with a sharp rebuke from a senior US official.

Netanyahu appeared to be taking issue with the makeup of a new body called the executive board, which will include senior officials from Qatar and Turkey — two countries that have been highly critical of Israel's prosecution of the war in Gaza.

While it will technically operate beneath the Board of Peace — which is headed by Trump and made up of world leaders — the executive board will be more directly involved in overseeing the postwar management of Gaza, playing a critical role as opposed to the more symbolic Board of Peace.

Former Edmontonian Jack Lutsky passes in Vancouver

The Canadian Jewish News



With broken hearts we announce the passing of Jack Lutsky in Vancouver General Hospital on Dec. 24 at age 77. Jack is survived by his beloved wife Susan Mendelson, his son Soleil Lutsky (Taylor), his daughter Mira Lutsky Buchan (Michael), his grandchildren Rayden, and Josie, his brother Peter (Shari), his sister Reva Lutsky Davidson (Ken), and sisters and brothers-in-law and many loving nieces, nephews and their children whom Jack loved and was loved by them all.

Jack was an architect and designed spaces that drew people together. He loved music and art and the communities in which he lived. He felt privileged to be able to generously support all of the causes that meant so much to him.

His Jewish identity defined him in many ways and it gave him great pleasure to support the Jewish Communities both in Vancouver and Israel with his time and resources. His dedication to fund hospital projects and more through the Lutsky Family Foundation will be a part of his legacy.

He made people feel valued and accepted for who they were and so he was admired and appreciated by so many people who came into his sphere.

Funeral services were held at Temple Sholom Synagogue on December 26. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Jack's memory to the Temple Sholom Capital Campaign which meant so much to him. www.templesholom.ca

Alex Bregman, who drew Jewish star on his cap after Oct. 7, inks \$175M deal with Cubs

Contract is the second-largest ever for a Jewish baseball player; his father has described his major league career as 'the fulfillment of four generations of short Jewish Bregmans'



New Chicago Cubs infielder Alex Bregman talks to media at a news conference in Chicago, January 15, 2026. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

JTA — For the second year in a row, Jewish star third baseman Alex Bregman has signed a lucrative free-agent contract with a team that is run by a Jewish executive and plays in a historic ballpark in a city with a significant Jewish community.

Last year, it was the Boston Red Sox. Now, Bregman is headed to the Chicago Cubs — a team whose Jewish fans possess almost religious devotion.

Bregman, who had opted out of a three-year, \$120 million deal with Boston, has signed a five-year, \$175 million pact with the Cubs. It is the second-largest contract ever signed by a Jewish ballplayer, behind Max Fried's \$218 million contract in 2024. Bregman previously signed a five-year, \$100 million extension with the Houston Astros in 2019.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/alex-bregman-who-drew->

Evolving in the 21st Century ... Jan. 21-Feb. 8
“An Iliad” presented by Shadow Theatre

AN ILLIAD

BY LISA PETERSON & DENIS O'HARE

An Iliad

January 21, 2026 - February 8,
2026

Written by Lisa Peterson & Denis
O'Hare
Directed by John Hudson

AN ILLIAD is a modern-day retelling of Homer's classic. Poetry and humor, the ancient tale of the Trojan War and the modern world collide in this captivating theatrical experience. The setting is simple: the empty theater. The time is now: the present moment. The lone figure onstage is a storyteller—possibly Homer, possibly one of the many bards who followed in his footsteps. He is fated to tell this story throughout history. "Spellbinding...Smartly conceived and impressively executed" - The New York Times

Shadow Theatre

An appeal to Jews: Stand with the Iranians

From the Blogs

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL



<https://www.timesofisrael.com/an-appeal-to-jews->

W

e are Jewish writers: Roya, an Iranian American living in the United States, Yossi, an Israeli living in Israel. We have come together to appeal to Jewish communities throughout the world to take up the cause of the Iranian people.

In the terrible days after October 7, Jews felt alone and abandoned by much of the world.

Yet Iranian expatriates throughout the West openly joined us in grief and outrage. The ancient Iranian flag flew at our solidarity demonstrations; often the

only non-Jews who stood with us in the streets were Iranians.

Even inside Iran, many have courageously refused to participate in the regime's anti-Israel spectacles.

Over the years, numerous video clips have shown Iranians refusing to step on the Israeli flags laid out by the regime at the entrance to mosques and on university campuses; one of the most popular chants in the current protests is against the regime's support for radical Islamist terror groups.

Reunion planned for Talmud Torah Grad Class of 1961



A reunion will take place in May for Edmonton Talmud Torah students from the graduation class of 1961.

Can identify any of the students in these photos ?
There will be a prize rewarded for whoever sends in the most correct names to:
edmontonjewishpipeline@shaw.ca



FRIENDS OF THE JNF CANADA ...



Annual Tu Bi'Shevat Campaign | 2026/5786

Plant Hope. Grow Israel.

Let's restore life and hope to two places deeply scarred by war.



You can help restore life and hope to two places deeply scarred by war.

This Tu Bi'Shevat, we are reminded that even after devastation, renewal is possible.

This year, Friends of JNF Canada invites you to help restore life and hope to two areas where healing, resilience, and community must take root once again.

Friends of JNF Canada | Charitable Support for Israel

Get real worldwide news coverage
(without the BS)

from i24 News

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all in one place.**



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Congrats Rabbi Tal of Edmonton's Beth Israel

NEW RELEASE

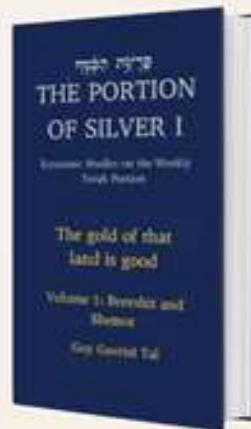
THE PORTION OF SILVER

Economic Studies on the Weekly Torah Portion

What can a 3,000-year-old scroll tell you about:

- Building an investment portfolio
- Fiscal and monetary policy
- The true meaning of money
- Managing a modern economy

In this unique work, Rabbi Dr. Guy Gavriel Tal draws on his expertise as both a spiritual leader and a financial columnist to harmonize the reading of the weekly Torah portion with contemporary economic theories and the world of investing.



English * Spanish * Hebrew

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with

kindle
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Our Rabbi, Dr. Guy Gavriel Tal, has published a new book entitled The Portion of Silver:

Economic Studies on the Weekly Torah Portion — and we are so very proud.

In this unique and thought-provoking work, Rabbi Tal draws on his expertise as both a spiritual leader and a financial columnist to

explore the weekly Torah portion through the lens of economics. The book examines how a 3,000-year-old Torah scroll can speak to very contemporary issues, including building an investment portfolio, fiscal and monetary policy, the true meaning of money, and managing a modern economy. It is a remarkable synthesis of Torah wisdom, economic theory, and practical insight.



9 Irresistibly Flaky Boureka Recipes To Snack On All Day Long

With an endless variety of fillings, bourekas are our on-the-go, savory snack of choice.

9 Irresistibly Flaky Boureka Recipes To Snack On All Day

Youth Scholarships Available for Israel

Friedman Fund 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



Winnipeg Hebrew immersion elementary school on guard after antisemitic vandalism at synagogue, high school

THE **Free Press**



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<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2026/01/07/hebrew->

An elementary school in River Heights that offers the province's only Hebrew immersion program is assuring families that it is following security protocols in the wake of recent hate-fuelled vandalism incidents in order to keep students and staff safe.

In an emailed letter sent to Brock Corydon School

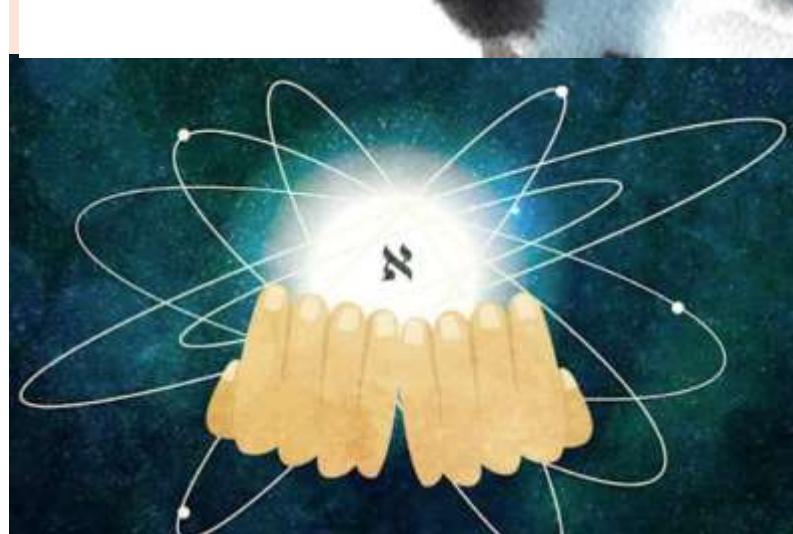
families Wednesday, principal Lars Sigurdson and vice-principal Richard Hechter said they are in regular contact with the Winnipeg Police Service to ensure the school is safe and secure.

"We are aware of the recent incidents at Kelvin High School and Shaarey Zedek (synagogue), and we understand that these events may cause concern," said the letter. "Please know that the safety and well-being of our students remain our highest priority."

Take the Parsha Weekly Quiz



[https://www.chabad.org/
library/article_cdo/
aid/4803183/jewish/Bo-](https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/4803183/jewish/Bo-)



Article by Bernie Estrin, Publisher — Canada Jewish Pipeline

Last month I toured the Rachashei Lev facilities at Tel Hashomer in Tel Aviv.

My visit was kindly arranged by Osnat Dvorkin, the Senior Israel Representative of Canadian friends of JNF, on the recommendation of Jason Cairns, the Friends of JNF Canada representative in Edmonton. KKL and JNF are a big financial supporters of this facility.



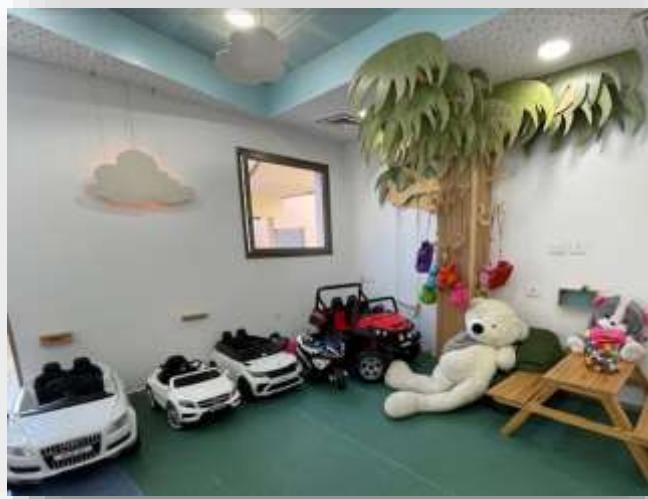
The facilities are on a campus in the centre of the Tel Hashomer health facilities. I was also able to tour the Tel Hashomer hospital's pediatric oncology facility.



It is remarkable what Israel is able to provide for children with cancer in Israel. All patients and their families are provided with housing, food and all the necessary medical treatment.

Please see the four pages that follow, and feel free to visit the Rachashei Lev website at:

<https://rachasheilev.org/?lang=en>



Heart of Compassion - Rachashei Lev



The activities of the Rachashei Lev

A Non Profit Organization for Children with Cancer



Rachashei Lev has taken it upon itself to help children with cancer and their families and accompany them hand in hand from the moment the disease is discovered. The emphasis are medical, social, psychological and economic with the aim of giving the children strength, optimism and hope in their war for life.

The organization is accompanied by the best doctors in Israel and around the world, and leading businessmen, in order to ensure the best professional assistance for children with cancer. We make sure at Rachashei Lev to do our best to complete the medical treatment with our aid – while the doctors take the disease out of the child, we take the child out of the disease.



Children's House - the Organization's Flagship



In the Sheba Hospital – Tel Hashomer complex, near the Safra Children's Hospital, the Rachashei Lev organization created the Children's House in 2007, which is an activity center for children with cancer from all around the country.



Rachashei Lev offers free accommodation for children and their parents in 20 fully equipped suites. Each suite consists of three rooms, parents room, a children's room, a living room, a kitchenette and a balcony, which allows the child and his family to be comfortably accommodated in a spacious place and to maintain the integrity of the family.

The main building of the complex is an activity center for guests of the Children's House and for the children hospitalized in the oncology wards. There is a spacious dining room that offers daily hot meals, game rooms, computer room, a library, a synagogue, a playground and shaded outdoor play areas.

The Children's House allows cancer ill children and their families to be together throughout the difficult treatments and to receive personal assistance and support by the professional staff of the organization.



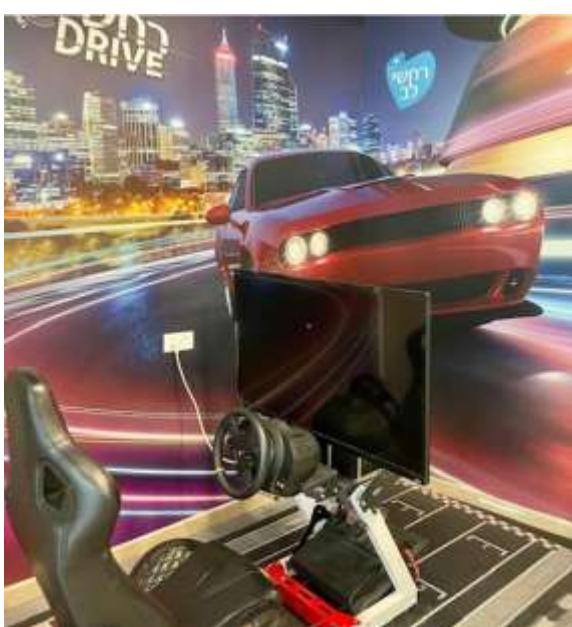


Heart of Compassion ... Whisperers of Hope



ולכולם כבר מסכרים

“Whisperers of the Heart” for Kids with Cancer in Israel



“Rachashei Lev” in Israel Assists Kids with Cancer



<https://rachasheilev.org/?lang=en>

If you would like to donate to this facility contact:
odvorkin@friendsofjnfca.org or info@r-lev.com



“Heart of Compassion / Whisperers of the Heart”



Attention Calgary Families



See learning in action, meet our community and learn why families choose Calgary Jewish Academy!



Thursday, February 5

9:00-10:30 am

Join us for Explore CJA Open House!

Visit classrooms during the school day.

Meet our students, teachers and families.

[https://
www.cja.ab.ca/cja-
open-house/](https://www.cja.ab.ca/cja-open-house/)



Calgary: Sunday, February 8

Everyone Welcome ... sign up at the scan below

— FRIENDS OF JNF CANADA PRESENTS —

DIASPORA, ISRAEL & THE GO FORWARD

Sunday, February 8th, 2026

7:00 PM | CALGARY (location TBA)

With Special Guest Speaker
Charlotte Korchak

Charlotte Korchak is a leading educator with the Jerusalem Education Institute. She is a passionate Zionist advocate empowering audiences with clarity, courage, and truth about Israel.

Meet & Greet

\$36/person

light fare served

General Admission

\$10/person

You must present a valid ID at the venue.

For sponsorship opportunities & information: Jay Cairns 1-800-806-8237 ext. 501 | jcairns@friendsofjfca.org



Scan
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Tu B'Shevat (Festival of Trees) in Calgary



Celebrate **TU B'SHEVAT!**

Sunday, February 1 • 10AM



House of Jacob Mikveh Israel

Join us to celebrate Tu B'Shevat through
stories, songs, and a fun, edible craft!



Register? Scan QR or go
to jewishcalgary.crowdcharge.ca



Questions?

Contact Sydney Truax at
struax@jewishcalgary.org



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