

# ALBERTA JEWISH



# PIPELINE

Edmonton: Light candles Friday at 8:22 PM  
Calgary: Light candles Friday at 8:18 PM

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

April 15, 2026  
Nissan 28, 5786

*This is what "Spring" should look like in Calgary ...*



*Is it going to happen sometime soon?*

# "TAZRIA METZORAH" IN A NUTSHELL ...



**The** name of the Parshah, "Tazria," means "conceives" and it is found in [Leviticus 12:2](#). The name of the [Parshah](#), "Metzora," is often translated as "leper" and it is found in [Leviticus 14:2](#).

The Parshah of [Tazria](#) continues the discussion of the laws of *tumah v'taharah*, ritual [impurity](#) and purity.

A [woman](#) giving [birth](#) should undergo a process of purification, which includes immersing in a [mikvah](#) (a naturally gathered pool of water) and bringing offerings to the [Holy Temple](#). All male infants are to be [circumcised](#) on the [eighth day](#) of life.

[Tzaraat](#) (often mistranslated as [leprosy](#)) is a supra-natural plague, which can afflict people as well as garments or homes. If white or pink patches appear on a person's skin (dark red or green in garments), a [kohen](#) is summoned. Judging by [various signs](#), such as an increase in size of the afflicted area after a seven-day quarantine, the [kohen](#) pronounces it [tamei](#) (impure) or [tahor](#) (pure).

A person afflicted with [tzaraat](#) must dwell alone outside of the camp (or city) until he is healed. The afflicted area in a garment or home must be re-

moved; if the [tzaraat](#) recurs, the entire garment or home must be destroyed.

As outlined at the start of [the portion of Metzora](#), when the [metzora](#) ("leper") heals, he or she is purified by the [kohen](#) with a special procedure involving two birds, spring water in an earthen vessel, a piece of cedar wood, a scarlet thread and a bundle of hyssop.

When a [home](#) is afflicted with [tzaraat](#), in a process lasting as long as nineteen days, a [kohen](#) determines [if the house can be purified](#), or whether it must be demolished.

Ritual impurity is also engendered through a seminal or other discharge in a man, and [menstruation](#) or other discharge of blood in a woman, necessitating purification through immersion in a [mikvah](#).

Learn: [Tazria-Metzorah in Depth](#)  
Browse: [Tazria-Metzorah Parshah Columnists](#)  
Prep: [Devar Torah Q&A for Tazria-Metzorah](#)  
Read: [Haftarah in a Nutshell](#)  
Play: [Tazria-Metzorah Parshah Quiz](#)

## TORAH GEM:

### Songs for Rosh Chodesh

"He made the moon for festivals, the sun knows its destination." (Psalm 104:19) Psalm 104 is the Song of the Day for Rosh Chodesh, the first day the new month. Tur (Orach Chaim 423) explains that the Psamist alludes to the new month in verse 19. Rav Yitzchak Abohab explains that these words, "He made the moon for the festivals," are not merely a casual allusion to the new month.

Rather, they set the tone of this entire psalm, whose main theme is God's complete mastery over every aspect of creation. Throughout the monthly lunar cycle, the size of the moon visibly

waxes and wanes, to demonstrate dramatically that God has total mastery over His creations.

No other natural phenomenon conveys this message as vividly and forcefully as the moon's cycle. Thus, the theme of the New Moon complements the theme of the entire hymn of praise to the Master of Creation.

*Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Psalms" by Rabbi Nossom Scherman / Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz, 2018, page 450-451 and 455-456. Torah Gem Archives: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/torahtidbits>*

## YIDDISH CORNER ...

**Khasene hoben un shtarbn iz keyn mol nisht tsu shpet.**

It's never too late to marry or die.

**Itlikher shidekh vos me tut iz gut, nokh a yor vert men gevor.**

Lit. Every match that is made is good; after a year, one finds out (the truth).

Every match is a catch, after a year it becomes clear.

**Ikh gey oys nokh a glezley.**

I'm dying for a cup (glass) of tea.

**Dos gute ort**

Lit. The good place Cemetery

*[From "In Praise of Yiddish" but Maurice Samuel]*



## JOURNEY TO ISRAEL

TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH  
LED BY RABBI MARK GLICKMAN

**OCTOBER 21-29, 2026** /// FROM **\$3,895** (Price in USD)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Begin a meaningful journey of learning, connection, and shared purpose.
- Experience Jerusalem's sacred layers through study, history, and Shabbat.
- Stand at the Kotel and reflect on enduring Jewish faith.
- Ascend Masada and float in the timeless Dead Sea.
- Honor memory and resilience at Yad Vashem.
- Engage deeply with justice, democracy, and Israeli society.
- Bear witness to courage and rebuilding near Gaza's border.
- Explore Tel Aviv's creativity, markets, and modern Zionist story.
- Discover ancient Jaffa where roots and renewal intertwine.
- Return home inspired by Israel's spirit, people, and promise.

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Free

# YOM HAZIKARON

## ISRAEL'S MEMORIAL DAY

**Monday, April 20 | 7PM | Temple B'nai Tikvah**

Join us to commemorate and memorialize IDF soldiers who have perished in the line of duty, and victims of terror. Come together for a heartfelt ceremony and special commemoration featuring prayers, readings, and music.



Register at **OR** or go to [bit.ly/yomhazikaron2026](https://bit.ly/yomhazikaron2026)  
or contact the **JCC Customer Service Desk** at 403-253-8800 x0.





## TEMPLE TRUNK SALE

Victoria Day, Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm



**Seek out the treasures of our Temple Community!**



Browse the tables of homemade crafts, baked goods,  
books, and whatever else!  
**Bring the kids | 50/50 Draw | Cash Only**  
If you are interested in participating (Temple members only),  
please follow the QR Code. 18% of sales go to Temple.



# Artwork at Montreal's new Holocaust museum designed to inspire hope



*Stained glass murals by Marcelle Ferron to be installed at the Montreal Holocaust Museum. (Supplied photo)*



*Candelabra by Nicolai Baier, at the Montreal Holocaust Museum. (Supplied photo)*

**Artwork at Montreal's new Holocaust museum**



## A ZA'ATAR INFUSED SHABBAT MENU

This week's double parsha, Tazria-Metzora, brings us a fascinating look at the ritual of purification. When a person is healed from *tzara'at* (often translated as leprosy), the Torah describes a beautiful, symbolic ceremony involving spring water, cedar wood, a scarlet thread, and—most importantly for our kitchen—**hyssop**.

For those of us who love Israeli flavors, hyssop is the star ingredient of **Za'atar**, the aromatic green spice blend that is a staple on every Middle Eastern table. This week, we are celebrating this ancient herb with a menu that highlights the earthy, zesty, and versatile profile of za'atar. I promise it will put a “zing” in your Shabbat that feels both historic and modern!

*jamie geller*

<https://jamiiegeller.com/menus/a-zaatar-shabbat->

# MATZAH IN SPACE?

The second Jewish NASA astronaut tried to bring the Passover staple to space with him back in 1985, but that particular space mission was doomed to fail.



<https://www.kveller.com/what-happened-when-jewish-astronaut-jeffrey-hoffman-tried-to-bring-matzah-to-space/>

This Passover, we're all thinking about space. Artemis II is on the first space mission to the moon in decades, launched into space on April 1, the day of the first night of Passover.

While the mission's commander, Reid Wiseman, might not be Jewish (though he [has shared pictures of Israel from space](#) and [attended Space Week](#) in the state as a guest astronaut), Jews have gone to space during Passover before — most notably, the second Jewish American NASA astronaut, Jeffrey Hoffman, whose first mission to space in 1985 coincided with the Jewish holiday.

Hoffman even tried to bring matzah onto Space Shuttle Discovery but unfortunately, the flight's food coordinator, unfamiliar with the Jewish bread

of affliction, vetoed that particular Jewish space mission. She cracked the matzah and saw the sheer number of crumbs it produced and simply told Hoffman, "That matzah is not making it to space." While matzah crumbs are the bane of our existence during Passover, with endless sweeping and vacuuming, turns out they can be literally deadly to astronauts in zero gravity, where inhaling crumbs can cause some real damage.

But fear not — over his five space missions, Hoffman did manage to bring lots of Judaica to space, including [several mezuzahs](#), [atarot \(the inscription on the collar of a tallit\)](#), a [miniature Torah scroll](#), a [yad](#), a [menorah](#), a [tallit](#) and perhaps most famously, a silver dreidel made in Jerusalem that he spun for Houston and all to see.

# Dr. Sam Weisz 1932 - 2026



**D**r. Weisz was born June 22nd 1932 in Calgary, he was the youngest of four children of Gittele and Herman Weisz. He graduated in medicine from the University of Alberta and took his speciality in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota as well as a Master of Science from the University of Minnesota.

Sam was active in many parts of Edmonton's Misericordia Hospital having started the Thyroid Clinic in 1969 and serving as Chief of Medicine for 5 years.

Sam was devoted to his family; to his wife Eva, his children Joel, Claire, Marilyn, and David to his daughter-in-law Roanne and sons-in law Adam in North Carolina and Mark in New York City, to his much loved in-laws Senator Jack Austin, Natalie Freeman, Josie Promislow; his nieces and nephews, his nine precious grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Many thanks to the staff of the Misericordia Hospital and Rabbi Guy Tal.



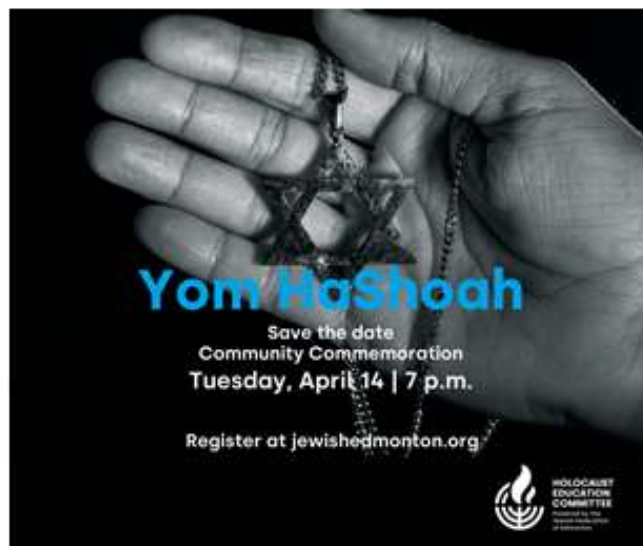
## Holocaust Remembrance in Edmonton

### Save the date for Yom HaShoah community event

As a community, we come together on Yom HaShoah to honour the memory of the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust and to carry forward the responsibility of remembrance.

By attending this event, we stand united against antisemitism, amplify survivor voices, and ensure these stories are never forgotten.

**Yom HaShoah Community  
Commemoration Tuesday, April 14  
7 p.m.  
Location will be given to registrants**





**Beth Shalom Synagogue**  
*A Welcoming Shul for All!*

Adult Education Committee Program

## Introduction To TALMUD

Presented By

# Alex Marcus

**Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 pm**

Zoom Link: TBA



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86993761627>



### BETH SHALOM MOSHE YEDLIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY SALE

11916 Jasper Avenue -  
entrance & parking at the rear

Hundreds of Jewish books for sale as we  
cull our shelves of duplicates.  
All proceeds will go to the purchase of new books.

**Sunday, April 26th from 11am to 5 pm**

Fiction	PRICED TO SELL
Poetry	Paperbacks - \$1
History	Hardcover - \$2
Auto/Biography & Memoir	Art/Illuminated/ Presentation/etc. - individually priced
Art/Coffee Table	

QUESTIONS? email [nettaphillet@gmail.com](mailto:nettaphillet@gmail.com)

## Refresh Your Nefesh

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE 83!**

Reclaim your  
**MAFTIR**

Re-learn your  
**HAFTORAH**

Reignite your  
**RITUAL SOUL**

Step back up to the  
bimah and show us  
what you've got!

Interested?  
Curious?

Please contact  
Cheryl Shur  
to sign up!

WE WILL,  
WE WILL...



## MENTAL HEALTH (MENSCH) SURVEY

# How is Our Community Really Doing?

Jewish Family Services Edmonton (JFSE) and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton invite community members to participate in the Mental & Emotional Needs Survey of Community Health (MENSCH), which is now live.

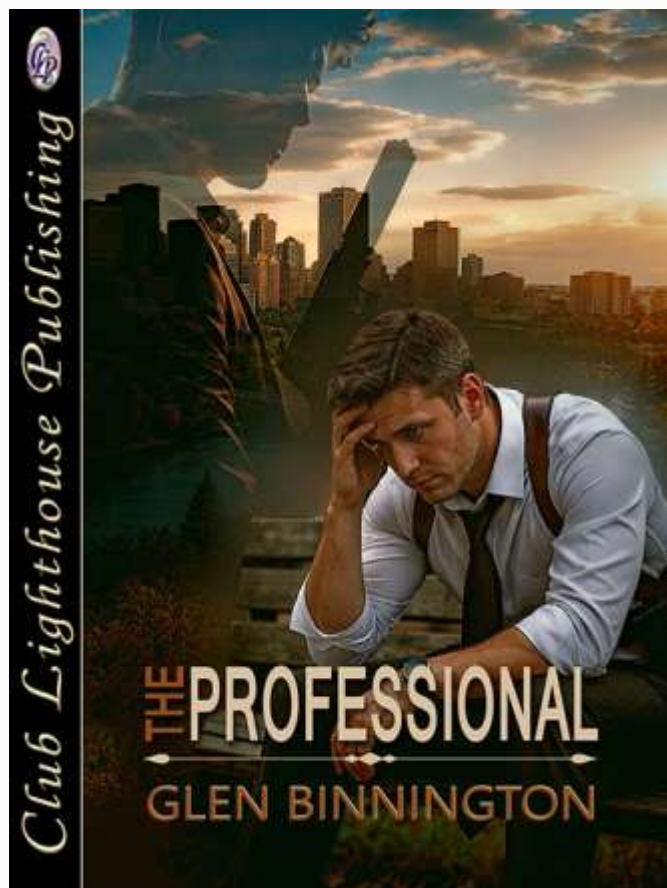
**YOUR VOICE MATTERS.**

<https://surveygo.ystation.ca/JFSEMENSCH>

**IN YIDDISH, A MENSCH IS SOMEONE WHO SUPPORTS OTHERS.**

**PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY IS A SMALL BUT MEANINGFUL WAY TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY.**





## The Professional

By Glen Binnington

David Schimeck was born and raised in a small town fifty kilometres north of Edmonton. The capital of Alberta is, by the reckoning of some, a sort of northern outpost of civilization, and it has a central role to play in the way events unfold in this story.

In fact, Dave had met his wife in a bar while desperately trying to find yet another way to disappoint his parents by flunking out of university. Five years later, his wife was pregnant, he had a degree in criminology, and he had joined the police force. Ten years later, his wife was dead, killed by a drunk in a tragically random car accident.

Left a widower, with two boys to raise, the now Detective Schimeck, has no idea why a particular woman has been brutally murdered. He is sure her husband is involved somehow, but how?

What he doesn't know at this particular moment, is that he is up against a seasoned, coldly efficient, professional killer whose story is as brutal as Dave's was pedestrian. Further, the thug has marked the cop for assassination if he gets in the way. Schimeck is out of his depth, and his boys are in danger of becoming orphans.

When Schimeck comes muzzle to muzzle with the dark stranger, he will be faced with a dreadful choice.



Glen Binnington

*The author is a retired lecturer in economics who has spent most of his life in Edmonton. He and his wife of over fifty years have travelled extensively across five continents and he enjoys writing, music and volunteering for several charities. This novel represents the culmination of a lifelong ambition to publish a work of fiction.*

<https://clublighthousepublishing.com/>

# Jewish Federation of Edmonton presents

## Register now for Monday's Yom HaZikaron commemoration

Join us as our community comes together for Yom HaZikaron, a solemn and meaningful ceremony commemorating Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror.

**Monday, April 20**  
**Gathering begins at 7 p.m.**  
**Ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Location will be given to registrants**

This annual commemoration is a time to reflect, remember, and stand together in unity.



**2026 Yom HaZikaron**

Please join us for the annual Yom HaZikaron ceremony, commemorating Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror.

**Monday, April 20**  
**The gathering starts at 7 p.m.**  
**The ceremony starts at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Register at [jewishedmonton.org](https://jewishedmonton.org)**

<https://jewishedmonton.org/2026-yom-hazikaron>

## Don't wait to get your Yom Ha'atzmaut tickets

Join our community for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 78th birthday, as we come together for an evening of pride, connection, and joy.

Your ticket includes a delicious hot dog dinner from 5:30–6:30 p.m., followed by music from a DJ, a photo booth and facepainting. **Bring your yellow ribbons and dog tags to hang on a special commemorative tree.**

Israel's Independence Day is a time to celebrate culture and stand together in community – and your presence makes it even more meaningful.

**Wednesday, April 22**  
**Doors open at 5:15 p.m.**  
**Dinner: 5:30–6:30 p.m.**  
**Celebration to follow**  
**Location will be given to registrants**



**YOM HA'ATZMAUT**  
**ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY**

*Come Celebrate Israel!*

**Bring your dog tags and yellow ribbons**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**  
**Doors open 5:15 p.m.**  
**Dinner 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Celebration to follow**

Logos for HCVWC, Friends of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, Temple Beth Ora, and other community organizations.

<https://jewishedmonton.ticketspice.com/2026-yom-haatzmaut-come-celebrate-israel>

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Camp Today!

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Contact Natalie at (780) 481-3377  
[nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com](mailto:nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com)



Managed by Edmonton Talmud Torah Society



# ALBERTA JEWISH PIPELINE



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SHADOW THEATRE

The HISTORY OF US

## Autumn

By Peter Quilter

May 6 to May 24, 2026

Two sisters. A rift. And a shotgun wedding. Between the cake, the wine and the distractingly handsome gardener, chaos ensues – and unexpected truths emerge. A sharp, funny play about sisterhood.



2025/26 SEASON

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