



December 25, 2025
Tevet 6, 5786

Light candles for Shabbat Fri. 4:02 PM
Shabbat ends Sat. 5:13 PM

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Video: Here is Why Jews Don't Have Christmas



Elon Gold is an American stand-up comedian, actor, writer, and producer known for sharp celebrity impressions and roles in TV series like *In-Laws*, *Stacked*, and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. His acclaimed Netflix special *Chosen* and *Taken* showcased his Jewish cultural humor.



<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Qrz22yfvL/?>

TORAH PORTION "VAYIGASH" IN A NUTSHELL ...



The name of the Parshah, "Vayigash," means "And he approached" and it is found in Genesis 44:18.

[Judah approaches Joseph](#) to plead for the release of [Benjamin](#), offering himself as a slave to the Egyptian ruler in Benjamin's stead.

Upon witnessing his [brothers'](#) loyalty to one another, Joseph [reveals his identity](#) to them. "I am Joseph," he declares. "Is my father still alive?"

The brothers are overcome by shame and remorse, but Joseph comforts them. "It was not you who sent me here," he says to them, "but [G-d](#). It has all been ordained from Above to save us, and the entire region, from famine."

The brothers rush back to

Canaan with [the news](#). Jacob comes to Egypt with his sons

and their families—[seventy souls in all](#)—and [is reunited with his beloved son after 22 years](#).

On his way to Egypt [he receives the divine promise](#): "Fear not to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation. I will go down with you into Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again."

Joseph gathers the wealth of Egypt by [selling food and seed during the famine](#).

Pharaoh gives Jacob's family the fertile county of [Goshen](#) to settle, and the children of Israel prosper in their Egyptian [exile](#).

Learn: [Vayigash in Depth](#)

Browse: [Vayigash Parshah Columnists](#)

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

Read: [Haftarah in a Nutshell](#)

Play: [Vayigash Parshah Quiz](#)

TORAH GEMS

Psalm 119: "Yud"

"Your hands made me and prepared me; grant me understanding so that I may learn your commandments." (Psalm 119:73) This series of verses (Psalm 119:73-80) begins with the letter Yud.

The Talmud (Menachos 29b) teaches that the World to Come was created with Yud, the smallest of all the letters, because a relatively small number of people will be righteous enough to merit its rewards.

The Talmud (Shabbos 104a) says that Yud stands for the word רשות inheritance; i.e., the righteous who follow God and put themselves

in His hands will inherit good fortune for themselves and their descendants.

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Psalms" by Rabbi Nosson Scherman / Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz, 2018, page 553. Torah Gem Archives: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/torahtidbits>

YIDDISH CORNER ...

Tsuleygn moykh
Concentrate (on); Think hard about

Skotsl kumt! Lit. A prankster has come. Look who is here! Welcome!

Oysgeleykhn di beyner. Lit. Straighten out the bones. Stretch oneself; stretch one's limbs.

Brekhn dos ayz.
Break the ice (as in English re conversation).



What's happening in Edmonton ...



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*Shelley Weinstein, Bruce Bradley
and Netta Phillet ...
serving lunch to the hungry folks
at Edmonton's Bissell Centre*

Max's View: "The Miracle of Israel"

The Miracle Of Israel

We have just witnessed the closing days of Chanukah, The Jewish festival of lights. It is appropriate at this time, witnessing as we are events in different parts of the world, showing that Jew Hatred is alive and well. Not because it is unique, but because it is ever present as a reminder that many years ago, courageous souls, remembering the spirit of the Maccabees.

Those days when Alexander and his inheritors ruled the known world, the Maccabees, recognizing an attempt to eradicate Judaism, rebelled and re-established an independent Jewish state on the land Israel occupies now. It was this land that Jews occupied for thousands of years after Moses led them out of slavery in Egypt.

Israel has always existed as a small nation in a world dominated by giant states. When its people were spread to four corners of the world two thousand years ago, when Jews again rebelled against Rome's attempt to eradicate them, the odds against survival were very high.

Almost uniquely, Jews retained their identity by building a culture that united their diverse parts wherever their communities existed. This was in spite of the reality that the majority of its adherents eagerly joined the home nations and were absorbed where Jews were housed. Even worse, even though the ideas it brought to its hosts became the foundations of Christianity and Islam, their continued existence led to persecution on religious and other grounds. The Holocaust was only latest major expression of this hostility.

What happened on October 7. 2023 was in that tradition. We must remember that when Israel was declared in 1948, and seven Arab nations attacked, Israel lost 6000 citizens in the struggle to retain its existence. At the same time nearly one million Jews were expelled from Arab countries where they had lived for centuries.

Yet courageous Jews left their homes and adopted the dream of Zionism, the re-establishment of an independent Jewish state in a corner of the Ottoman

Empire. The League of Nations approved it after World War I and set up the British mandate to establish it. The United Nations declared it after World War II. Israel's initial population was 700,000.

Israel fought a series of wars with its aggressive neighbors after its establishment, to bring them to heel, and expanded its borders. It gathered in homeless Jews from around the world.

What we have seen lately is that the fledgling state has spread its wings and is now a relevant factor on the world scene. When Iran established a ring of armed proxies to stifle Israel and eliminate it, Israel smashed them all. When Iran attacked directly, a nation of ninety million against ten, it was shown Iran was almost helpless in a struggle with Israel. And Iran's nuclear establishment was almost eliminated. (Some claim Israel is a nuclear power.)

Israel hi-tech and med-tech are recognized as among the major world actors. In military affairs its researchers are in the forefront and some countries establish relations purely to tap Israel's expertise.

Its citizens are in demand around the world for their expertise in many fields. The US depends on its intelligence expertise. Its enemies are not safe wherever they hide.

For the Jews of the world Israel is a necessity. Western immigration policy has seeded its cities with Islamists who will not integrate and will not play by western rules. As well as being a threat to Jews everywhere, many abhor Western values and play with western politics with Islamist objectives in mind. Mixed feelings at best is the western verdict on Jews and Israel. Crowds in the street favored Hamas after October 7, 2023

Failure to deal with Jew hatred is putting all publics in danger. Countries like Qatar and Saudi Arabia are using oil wealth to open western media and institutions to quasi-terrorists in sheep's clothing. In the face of all this, the Israel show is surely the best show in town.

Max Roytenberg



Na'amat Ladies Celebrate Chanukah



**Reisa and Murray Sheckter
hosted a
7th night of
Chanukah party for
Na'amat Edmonton members**

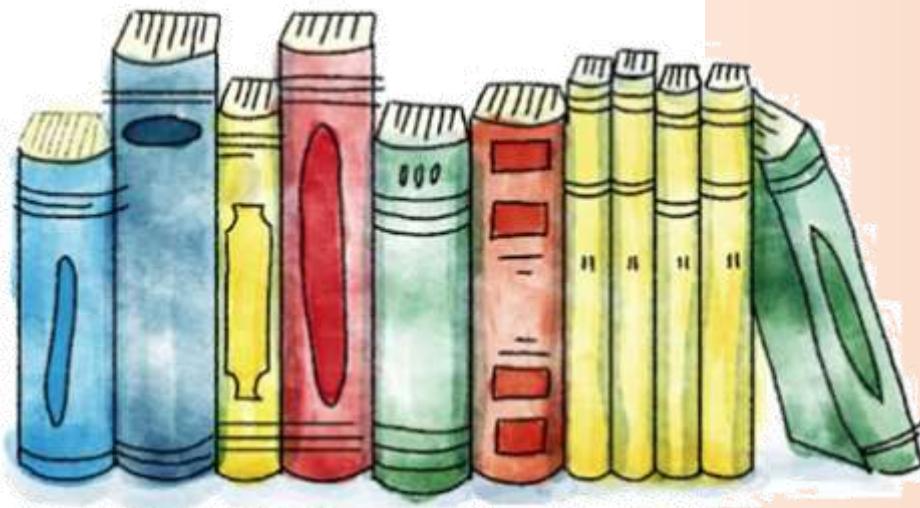


Gail Estrin's eighth night of Chanukah party ...



What's Happening in Edmonton ...

The Jewish Books Quiz



Start!

Learn at Beth Israel Edmonton

CLASSES AT BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

HERE ARE SOME GREAT CLASSES
HAPPENING THAT YOU MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN:



MONDAY, 7:15 PM:

**CHASIDUT IN THE
PARASHA**

TUESDAY, 7:30 PM:

**SCP
SMICHAT CHAVER**

WEDNESDAY, 8:00 AM:

TANACH

SATURDAY, 8:15 AM

TALMUD

**SATURDAY,
AFTER KIDDUSH:**

**MESILAT YESHARIM
PATH OF THE JUST**

This weeks recipe ...



12 Festive Jewish Recipes For Hallmark Season

Grab your plate and shut the blinds, these recipes are perfect for movie night!

12 Festive Jewish Recipes For Hallmark Season |

Haredi rabbis push English-speakers to dodge IDF



Ultra-Orthodox leaders hold event in Ramat Beit Shemesh taking aim at a community of immigrants thought more likely to enlist than other Haredim, drawing small crowd of protesters

Hundreds of members of Israel's ultra-Orthodox community gathered at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl military cemetery to accompany one of their own to his final resting place.

Two days earlier, Moshe Shmuel Noll, a 21-year-old member of the IDF's Netzach Yehuda battalion serving in Gaza, had been killed along with four other troops in a roadside bombing.

Speaking at the funeral, Noll's older sister Gila said her brother had "loved our nation with all your heart, and no matter how dangerous it was, you knew this is what you had to do."

On Tuesday night, not far from where the Noll family's home is, several of those rabbis took to the stage at an event billed as helping English speakers "to deal with the threats and temptations of the IDF against the Haredim."

Some 80,000 ultra-Orthodox men aged between 18 and 24 are currently believed to be eligible for military service, but have not enlisted, relying on the continuation of longstanding exemptions afforded the community but deemed illegal by a court ruling last year.

The Israel Defense Forces has long attempted to encourage ultra-Orthodox enlistment, including by creating service tracks for Haredi conscripts such as the Netzach Yehuda battalion that Noll served with, but has met with only middling success.

Haredi rabbis push English-speakers to dodge IDF draft, worried they might join up | The Times of Israel

Mayor and Premier help Calgary celebrate Chanukah



Jeremy Farkas • 2nd

Mayor of Calgary | Pathfinder, non-profit executive, and commu...

1w •

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...

Last night at City Hall, our Council team stood with Calgary's Jewish community and affirmed the city we are building.

Confronting antisemitism, defending freedom of worship, stopping intimidation, and taking responsibility for public safety.

Calgary chooses courage, unity, and light. Chag Chanukah Sameach!

#yyccc

[\(37\) Post | Feed | LinkedIn](#)

Greetings from Rabbi Gila Caine ...

This past Tuesday, my family and I had the privilege of attending a truly remarkable event at the Knesset.

On the 1st of Tevet 1935—exactly 90 years ago—Regina Jonasz"l (1902-1944) became the first woman officially ordained as a rabbi. Her brief but impactful life broke down barriers that had stood for generations. Though her legacy remained hidden for decades, it is now being rediscovered at a moment when it's needed most.

In honor of Fräulein Rabbiner Jonas's groundbreaking achievement, Rabbi MK Gilad Kariv convened a special parliamentary session—the first of its kind in the Knesset dedicated to celebrating Liberal Judaism's contributions. The gathering drew guests from across the religious spectrum, including Secular rabbis and rabbis and leaders from Reform, Conservative, and Modern Orthodox movements.

You can see a recording of the event in this link (Hebrew, no subtitles):

עודת העליה, הקליטה והתפוצות - 23.12.25 - חלק ב
באתר - ערוץ הכנסת VOD לצפייה ב-

While other chambers in the Knesset may echo with more divisive voices, those two hours stood as a powerful testament to the resilience and determination of Liberal Judaism, both in Israel and worldwide.

P.S. If you're ever in Jerusalem, don't miss the stunning new National Library of Israel!

Shabbat Shalom, Rabbah Gila Caine



Calgary Happenings ...

January Family Shabbat Dinner

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9
5:30PM

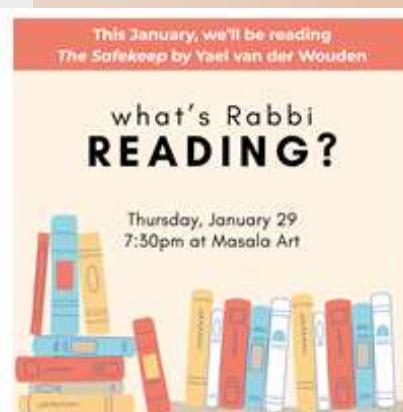
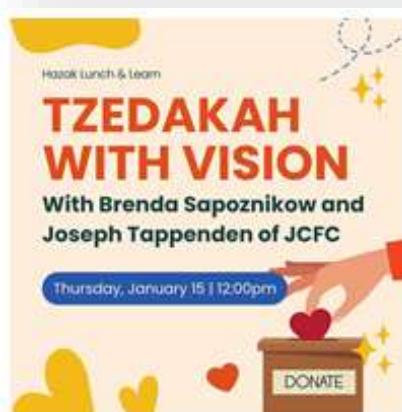
Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 9 | 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Winter days may be short, but Shabbat gives us a reason to gather, slow down, and reconnect. Join us for our January Family Shabbat Dinner—an evening of good food, meaningful moments, and the comfort of community.

As the season invites us indoors, come warm your spirit around the Shabbat table with friends old and new. Everyone is welcome.

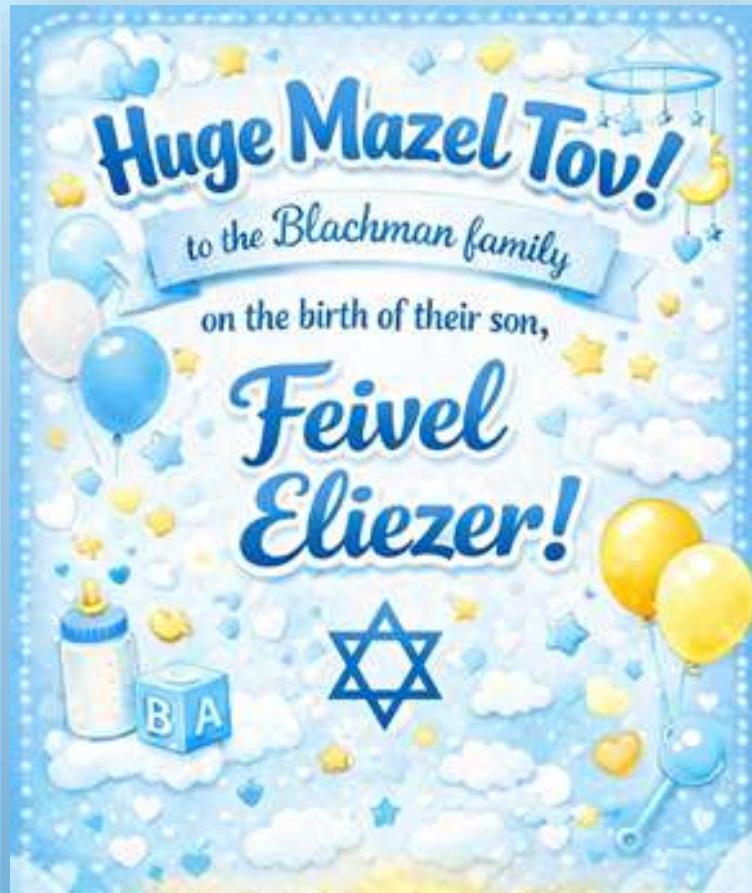
REGISTER: [Family Shabbat Dinner - Beth Tzedec Congregation](#)



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