

# ALBERTA JEWISH



# PIPELINE

February 3, 2026

Shevat 16, 5786

Edmonton: Light candles Friday at 5:10 PM  
Calgary: Light candles Friday at 5:18 PM

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF JNF CANADA PRESENTS

# DIASPORA, ISRAEL & THE GO FORWARD

Monday, February 9th, 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](mailto:jcairns@friendsofjnfca.org)



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# "YITRO" IN A NUTSHELL ...

## 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/torahidbits>*

## 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 aleydn.  
Even in paradise it is not good to be alone.

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

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



**M**oses' father-in-law, **Jethro**, hears of the great **miracles** which **G**od performed for the people of Israel, and comes from Midian to the **Israelite** camp, bringing with him **Moses' wife** and two sons. Jethro advises Moses to appoint a hierarchy of **magistrates and judges** to assist him in the task of governing and administering justice to the people.

The children of Israel camp opposite **Mount Sinai**, where they are told that **G**od has **chosen** them to be His "kingdom of priests" and "holy nation." The people respond by proclaiming, "All that **G**od has spoken, **we shall do.**"

On the sixth day of the third month (**Sivan**), seven weeks after the **Exodus**, the entire nation of Israel assembles at the foot of **Mount Sinai** for the **Giving of the Torah**. **G**od descends on the

mountain amidst thunder, lightning, billows of smoke and the blast of the **shofar**, and summons Moses to ascend.

**G**od proclaims the **Ten Commandments**, commanding the people of Israel to **believe in G**od, **not to worship idols** or take **G**od's **name** in vain, to **keep the Shabbat**, **honor their parents**, not to **murder**, not to commit **adultery**, not to **steal**, and not to bear false **witness** or **covet** another's property. The people cry out to Moses that the revelation is too intense for them to bear, begging him to receive the **Torah** from **G**od and convey it to them.

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

Exodus 18:1-20:23

## A Message from your Rabbi, Alisa Zilbershtein

### Joy as Sacred Work

In February, Edmonton's cold penetrates everything. Step outside and the air shocks your lungs. Your face goes numb within minutes. But then you come back inside. You unwrap your scarf, peel off your gloves, hold your hands near warmth. Your whole body remembers what it feels like to be comfortable. That simple pleasure of warmth returning to cold skin feels like a gift.



The 15th of Shvat arrives while winter still grips Edmonton, though in Israel the almond trees begin their first pale blossoms. The kabbalists of Tzfat in the 16th century created a ritual for this day: they prescribed eating ten specific fruits in a particular order, drinking four cups of wine that progress from white to red, and reciting the proper blessings over each one with complete intention and focus.

This was no casual meal. The kabbalists taught that this ritual actually brings human beings, and the world itself, closer to spiritual perfection. Through the simple acts of eating fruit, drinking wine, and saying blessings, we participate in repairing the cosmos.

How can pleasure repair the world? The answer lies in understanding what pleasure truly is. Kohelet writes:

ל האדם שיאכל ושתה וראה טוב בכל עמלו מתת אלקים היא

That every person should eat and drink and find enjoyment in their toil - this is a gift of God." (Ecclesiastes 3:13)

What kind of gift? God gives us the capacity to experience joy, to taste sweetness, to feel pleasure in our bodies. And this gift serves a purpose. When we eat and drink with genuine enjoyment, when we receive the pleasures of this world with gratitude and blessing, we are doing the work God placed us here to do. Joy itself becomes a form of repair.

The Tu BiShvat seder takes this principle and gives it structure. Taste this fig with full attention. Notice the burst of sweetness from the grape. Feel the warmth of wine. Say the blessing *borei pri ha'etz* and mean it. Each act of pleasure, received with intention and gratitude, brings holiness into the world. This is the teaching at the heart of Tu BiShvat: that joy is not frivolous, pleasure is not a distraction from spiritual work.

The same mouth that speaks prayers tastes fruit. The same heart that yearns for connection feels warmth after cold. In the depths of February, when Edmonton feels frozen and distant from any blooming tree, Tu BiShvat reminds us that the work of repair happens through joy.



# Volunteer to assist the IDF ...



## SAR-EL CANADA

Canadian Volunteers For Israel

In Edmonton contact Bernie Estrin  
In Calgary contact Milton Bogoch

### Who volunteers?

Students  
Retirees  
Working people  
Jews  
Christians  
Non-religious

Volunteers come from  
all over the world



**N**ow that I have had a few months to digest my Sar-El experience of February (2013), I wanted to share some of my thoughts with you. As with most other first time volunteers, I was not sure what to expect when I arrived at the airport in Tel Aviv with instructions to meet in front of the "Swarovski booth". Forty-five years ago when I reported for duty with the US Army, it was certainly not at the Swarovski booth!

My first encounter with Sar-El was with coordinator Pamela Lazarus who bore no resemblance to my long-ago drill sergeant. Pamela was clearly in charge, but needed no uniform or bluster to display command presence. It was the first indication that I had that things here would be different. Sar-El and the IDF were profoundly different from the military that I knew. In Sar-El we followed orders because we wanted to and because orders were communicated in a collegial,

outcome-oriented and egalitarian manner; we were all pulling in the same direction with no personal agendas! Soldiers, civilian supervisors and volunteers all knew the stakes - there were no slackers.

I felt at home in Israel even though it was only the second time I had been there. When I went to sleep the first night (on my half inch thick worn out mattress), I was emotionally in my own bed. My barracks mates, whom I had just met, were my family-Jews from around the world with whom I shared common ancestry and common beliefs. I immediately liked them and trusted them-and put up with their snoring as they did with mine. In the morning at flag raising, it was difficult to get out the words of HaTikvah while watching the blue and white Magen David hoisted into the Israeli sky. It's hard to sing while you're all choked up. I'll do better next time-maybe.

<https://jewishmag.com/178mag/>



Jake Walman signed a seven-year, \$49 million contract with the Edmonton Oilers on Oct. 6, 2025, an average annual value of \$7 million that provided stability in the NHL after he was traded three times.

The defenseman was selected by the St. Louis Blues in the third round (No. 82) of the 2014 NHL Draft, and subsequently traded to the Detroit Red Wings, San Jose Sharks and Oilers.

He had eight points (one goal, seven assists) in 15 regular-season games for Edmonton and 10 points (two goals, eight assists) in 22 Stanley Cup Playoff games to help it reach the Stanley Cup Final for the second consecutive season, a six-game loss to the Florida Panthers.

He was in the middle of a career season with the Sharks prior to trade and finished 2024-25 with what were NHL career bests in assists (33),



# Our old friend Neil Loomer reporting from Puerto Vallarta



**R**abbi Shneur Hecht and his wife Mushkie have built an extremely successful Chabad house here. I first met him a few years ago but was able to see him more on this longer stay.

If you go to his web site , [www.chabadvallarta.com](http://www.chabadvallarta.com), you'll see the many programs they run. I've met many of the people who attend Chabad events. Some are here for 2 weeks to 6 months

while others have moved full time from Canada or the US as well as a few native Mexicans.

Typical of Chabad rabbis he is welcoming, friendly and eager to meet any Jews who come to Puerto Vallarta.

The Chabad centre is centrally located on a main road between the hotel/marina area and the Malecon.



## The Canadian Jewish News

### Tu

b'Shevat, the new year for the trees, took place at sunset on Feb. 1.

Historically a minor holiday, the Zionist pioneers changed it to be a holiday that celebrated the Jewish people's connection to the Land of Israel.

Planting trees became a crucial part of building the land as trees help drain malaria-infested swamps, protect crops from wind and provide shade.

During the 20th century, 240 million trees were planted in Israel primarily through the efforts of the Jewish National Fund that was founded in 1901.

One of the most famous trees ever planted in the Land of Israel was planted by

**Theodor Herzl** in Motza, outside Jerusalem, during his one visit to Palestine in 1898.

It was a cypress tree but was mistakenly referred to by Herzl in his diary as a cedar.



the  
**nosh**er



PHOTO CREDIT SONYA SANFORD

EASY JEWISH DINNERS

## One Pot Chicken with Potatoes and Dried Fruit

*A savory, Bukharian-inspired braised chicken that you can make on the stove or in the slow cooker.*

*[One Pot Chicken with Potatoes and Dried](#)*

# 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



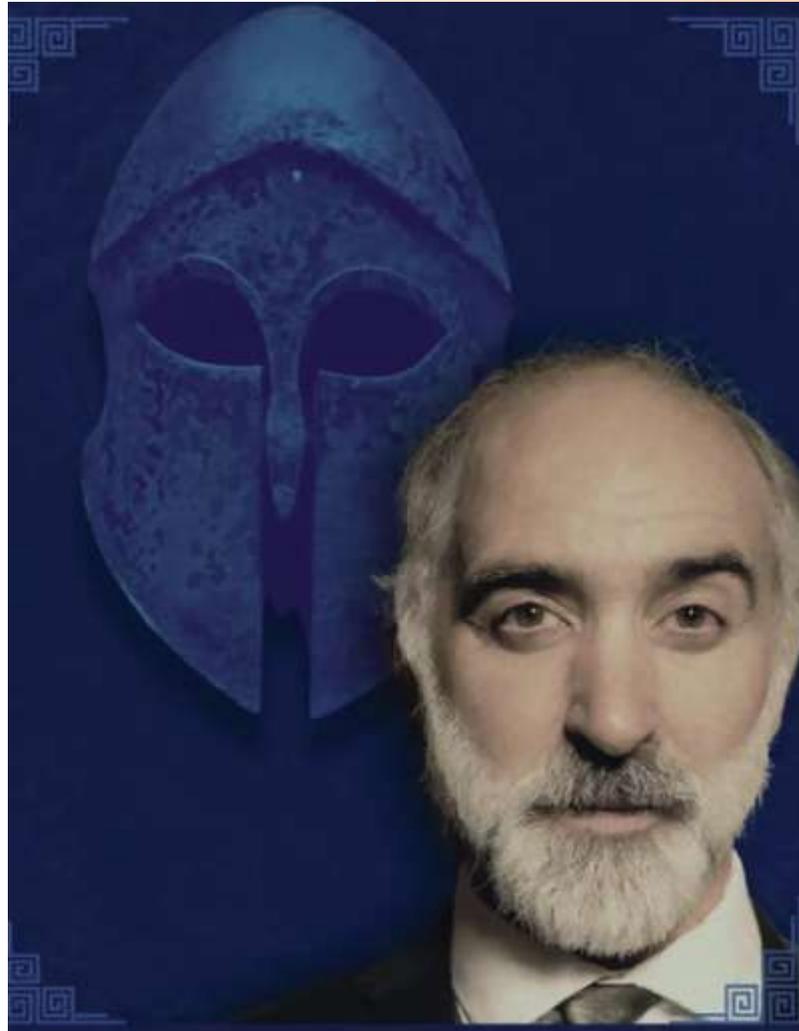
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all in one place.

Brook's

# NOFRILLS

10467 80th Avenue NW., Edmonton

# *Evolving in the 21st Century ... Until Feb. 8* *"An Iliad" presented by Shadow Theatre*



## **An Iliad**

January 21, 2026 - February 8,  
2026

Written by Lisa Peterson & Denis  
O'Hare

Directed by John Hudson

AN ILIAD 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***

# He Rescued 669 Children from the Holocaust



*One Life* is a 2023 [biographical drama film](#) directed by [James Hawes](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

Based on the true story of British humanitarian [Nicholas Winton](#), the film alternates between following [Anthony Hopkins](#) as a 79-year old Winton reminiscing on his past, and [Johnny Flynn](#) as a 29-year old Winton who successfully helps 669 predominantly Jewish children in [German-occupied Czechoslovakia](#) to [hide and flee](#) in 1938–39, just before the beginning of [World War II](#).

[Helena Bonham Carter](#), [Lena Olin](#), [Romola Garai](#), [Alex Sharp](#) and [Jonathan Pryce](#) co-star in supporting roles.<sup>[5]</sup>

When 29-year-old London [stockbroker Nicholas Winton](#) visits [Czechoslovakia](#) in 1938, just weeks after the [Munich Agreement](#) was signed, he encounters families in Prague who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria.

They are living in poor conditions, with little or no shelter or food and in fear of the invasion of the Nazis.

Winton is introduced to [Doreen Warriner](#), head of the Prague office of the [British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia](#) (BCRC).

*[One Life - Official Trailer \(2024\)](#)*



# PURIM PARTY

## Extravaganza

**Tuesday  
March 3rd,  
2026**

**4:30 PM**  
*Megillah  
Reading*  
**ROOM 7**

**5:30 PM**  
*Lavish  
Dinner*  
**BEVERLY HILLS  
BALLROOM**

**Fantasyland  
Hotel**

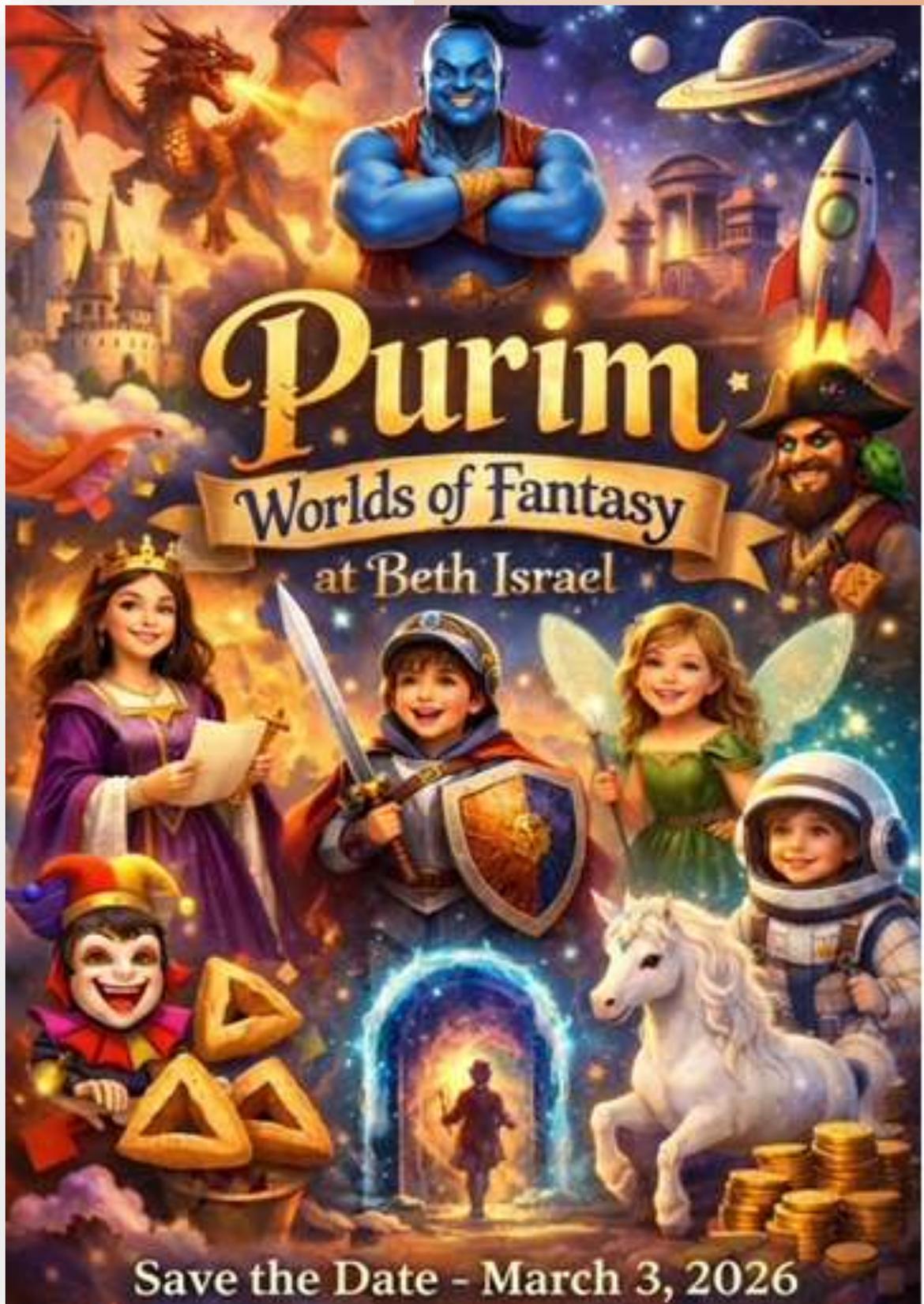
**Bouncy  
House**   **Bubble  
Man**   **Costumes**   **Balloon  
Man**

Register by Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> to reserve  
your seat! At [chabadedmonton.org](http://chabadedmonton.org)  
FOR MORE INFO CALL RABBI ARI @ 780-993-1818

**Chabad  
Edmonton, Alberta**

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#ChabadofEdmonton

**A Project by Chabad of Edmonton**



Temple Beth Ora presents

# K-POP PURIM SPIEL 2026

Mar. 1  
1 - 3pm  
At TBO

Join us for our annual Purim spiel of parody lyrics, drag performance, and festive fun. Children welcome! Costumes encouraged!



RSVP here

RSVP to [templebethora.org](https://templebethora.org)

# 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.c  
a/cja-open-](https://www.cja.ab.ca/cja-open-)



*Calgary: Sunday, February 8  
Everyone Welcome ... sign up at the scan below*

FRIENDS OF JNF CANADA PRESENTS

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OF  
**JNF**  
CANADA



Nitzanim Community Fund  
JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CALGARY

Scan  
here to  
sign up



# UNDER THE SEA... AND INTO THE SHPIEL!

Beth Tzedec and Temple B'nai Tikvah are teaming up for a Purim parody of *The Little Mermaid*—and we want you to be part of it!

All ages welcome. Singing and non-singing roles available, plus backstage help (props, costumes, and more). No experience needed—just a sense of humour and a love of Purim fun.

**Rehearsals:** Sundays, Feb 8, Feb 22 & March 1, 12:00-1:30pm at Beth Tzedec

**Performance:** Monday, March 2 at Beth Tzedec, following the evening service at 5:30pm

Don't be a poor, unfortunate soul—scan the QR code to dive in and join the fun!



*Don't Miss ... March 18 in Calgary*

THE PAPERNY FAMILY JCC PRESENTS:

# Project HEROES CONCERT



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

7PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

**\$36**

JCC MEMBER

**\$45**

PUBLIC

PAPERNY FAMILY

**JCC**  
CALGARY



HEROES  
גיבורים  
[project-heroes.co.il/en](http://project-heroes.co.il/en)



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CALGARY JEWISH  
FEDERATION

GET READY FOR A NIGHT OF MUSIC, COSTUMES,  
AND CELEBRATION AT OUR PURIM CARNIVAL!

If you're 18+ years, then join us for an unforgettable evening  
featuring DJ Guy K, nonstop dancing, and a costume  
contest— so bring your best Purim look!

18+

TICKETS



# Purim Carnival

DJ GUY K · DANCE · COSTUME CONTEST

MARCH 7 | 8:00 PM

Braeside Community Association  
11024 Braeside Dr SW

CASH BAR

BEFORE FEB 1<sup>ST</sup>

\$18



AFTER FEB 1<sup>ST</sup>

\$23

To purchase tickets go to:

<https://jewishcalgary.crowdchange.co/54783>

Questions?

Lihi @ 587-572-2447

Lilaj @ 204-510-5864

Sydney @ [struax@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:struax@jewishcalgary.org)



HOJMI  
*Gala*  
2026

Honouring  
**Samantha & Michael  
Berlin**



Featuring  
Guest Speaker

**Rabbi Elie Karfunkel**

*The October 9<sup>th</sup> Jew*

**March 8, 2026 at 5:30PM**  
**Carriage House Inn**

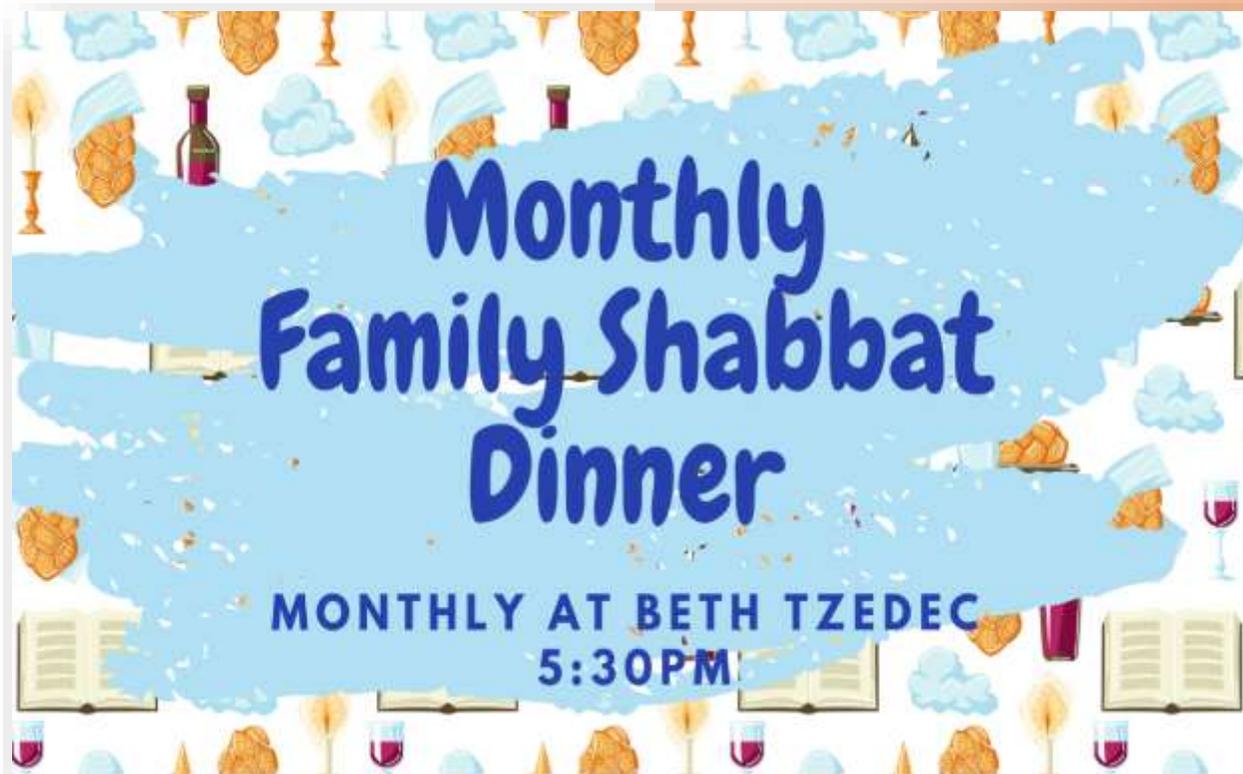


**For Tickets and Donations:**

Email: [officemanager@hojmi.org](mailto:officemanager@hojmi.org)

Call: 403.259.3230

[www.hojmi.org](http://www.hojmi.org)



Bring your whole family together for an unforgettable Friday night filled with music, laughter, and community spirit!

At 5:30pm, jump into an interactive Shabbat service with singing, games, and stories that will have kids (and grown-ups!) smiling from ear to ear. Then at 6:00pm, we'll gather around the table for a mouthwatering,

shul-cooked dinner—because Shabbat tastes better when we share it together.

More than a meal, it's a night of connection, joy, and Shabbat magic.

Registration closes on the Wednesday preceding each dinner.



<https://bethtzedec.ca/purim->

# ALBERTA JEWISH PIPELINE



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