

November 6, 2025
Cheshvan 15, 5786



Light candles for Shabbat Fri. 4:32 PM
Shabbat ends Sat. 5:34 PM

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Kristallnacht in Edmonton: Sunday at 7 PM

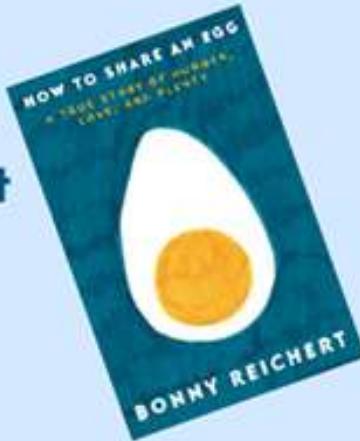
Countering Antisemitism: Voices of Resilience

How to Share an Egg

A true story of hunger, love and plenty



Bonny Reichert



Kristallnacht
Sunday, November 9 | 7 p.m.
Beth Shalom Synagogue
Register now at
jewishedmonton.org



HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE
Powered by the
Jewish Federation
of Edmonton



Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON
Powered by United Jewish Appeal

[How to share an egg: A true story of hunger,](#)

"VAYERA" IN A NUTSHELL ...



The name of the Parshah, "Vayera," means "And He appeared" and it is found in [Genesis 18:1](#).

G-d reveals Himself to [Abraham](#) three days after the first Jew's [circumcision](#) at [age ninety-nine](#); but Abraham rushes off to prepare a meal for three [guests](#) who appear in the desert heat. One of the three—who are [angels](#) disguised as men—announces that, in exactly one year, the barren Sarah will give birth to a son. Sarah laughs.

[Abraham pleads with G-d](#) to spare the wicked city of [Sodom](#). Two of the three disguised angels arrive in the [doomed city](#), where Abraham's nephew [Lot](#) extends his hospitality to them and protects them from the evil intentions of a Sodomite mob. The two guests reveal that they have come to overturn the place, and to save Lot and his family. Lot's wife [turns into a pillar of salt](#) when she disobeys the command not to look back at the burning city as they flee.

While taking shelter in a cave, Lot's two daughters (believing that they and their father are the only ones left alive in the world) get their father [drunk](#), lie with him and become pregnant. The two sons born from this incident father the nations of Moab and Ammon.

Abraham moves to Gerar, where the Philistine king Abimelech [takes Sarah](#)—who is presented as Abraham's sister—to his palace. In a

dream, G-d warns Abimelech that he will die unless he returns the woman to her husband. Abraham explains that he feared he would be killed over the beautiful Sarah.

G-d remembers His promise to Sarah, and gives her and Abraham a son, who is named [Isaac](#) (*Yitzchak*, meaning "will laugh"). Isaac is circumcised at the age of [eight days](#); Abraham is one hundred years old, and Sarah ninety, at their child's birth.

[Hagar](#) and [Ishmael](#) are [banished from Abraham's home](#) and wander in the desert; G-d hears the cry of the dying lad, and saves his life by showing his mother a well. Abimelech makes a treaty with Abraham at Beersheba, where Abraham gives him [seven sheep](#) as a sign of their truce.

G-d tests Abraham's devotion by [commanding him to sacrifice Isaac](#) on Mount Moriah (the [Temple Mount](#)) in Jerusalem. Isaac is [bound](#) and placed on the altar, and [Abraham raises the knife](#) to [slaughter his son](#). A voice from heaven calls to stop him; a ram, caught in the undergrowth by its horns, is offered in Isaac's place.

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

TORAH GEMS

I Have Written for You

"Surely, I have written for you [in the Torah] extremely noble things, with counsel and knowledge." (Proverbs 22:20) Counsel alludes to the principles by which the Torah is interpreted, and knowledge to the intelligence that allows one to arrive at truth through discussion and debate (Alshich). Should a person wonder how he can dedicate his life to Torah study when its words are being taught by fallible mortals, this verse affirms that Hashem has given us a Torah of noble words filled with sound advice and vast knowledge (Metzudos). Many sources associate the word **שְׁלֹשָׁה**, with three. Sefer Halkkarim teaches that the essence of our faith may be reduced to three fundamental

principles: (1) the existence of Hashem; (2) the Divine origin of the Torah; and (3) reward and punishment. Meiri lists three categories of mitzvos: (1) Those that relate to character improvement, such as honoring certain classes of people, performing deeds of kindness, and refraining from harming others; (2) actions that instill deeper faith, such as the recital of the Shema, wearing tefillin, and observing the Festivals; and (3) contemplation and visualization that help inculcate a belief in Torah principles.

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Proverbs" by Rabbi N. Scherman & Rabbi M. Zlotowitz, page 199. Torah Gem Archives: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#forum/torahtidbits>

YIDDISH CORNER ...

Ich bin broygez af im.
I am angry/sore at him.

Makhn a gantse khasene.

Make a whole wedding (of something); is to "blow up" a minor incident into a major "production".



Mir zenen shtiklekh mekhontim.

We are little bits of "in-laws", meaning "We're slightly related by marriage".

Shtatkones gelt

Match money (fee paid to shadken, the matchmaker).

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

Attend Remembrance Day: Tuesday

REMEMBRANCE DAY *Service*

All are welcome.

Edmonton Chevra Kadisha

Tuesday, November 11

10:30 a.m.

7622 – 101 Avenue



חברה קדישא ד'עדמאנטאון

EDMONTON JEWISH COMMUNITY

Please join us for the annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha

Cemetery on Tuesday, November 11th at 10:30 a.m.

This meaningful ceremony honors the memory of our veterans and those who served with courage and dedication. Community members, families, and organizations are encouraged to attend and pay their respects.



Israel Announces Tax Reform for Olim

jns

[https://www.jns.org/
israel-to-grant-new-
immigrants-two-year-
income-tax-exemption/?](https://www.jns.org/israel-to-grant-new-immigrants-two-year-income-tax-exemption/?)



New Jewish immigrants and citizens moving back to Israel in 2026 will pay no income tax during their first two years in the country, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced on Thursday.

The tax reform for *olim*, which is part of next year's state budget and was first announced during a ceremony at the Jerusalem headquarters of Nefesh B'Nefesh Thursday, seeks to attract immigrants and returning residents from Western nations amid a global surge of antisemitism.

"This is a Zionist and economic revolution," Smotrich declared, speaking alongside Aliyah and Integration Minister Ofir Sofer.

"Zionism has always relied on three pillars—

settlement, security and aliyah," he added. "These past two years, we invested heavily in security, and the State of Israel is now in a different place. The year 2026 will be a year of revolution in aliyah not as a slogan, but as a practical work plan."

Sofer called immigration "of Zionist, social and economic importance to the State of Israel," emphasizing that aliyah "strengthens our social fabric, brings high-quality human capital and directly contributes to growth, innovation and economic development."

Under the tax reform, new immigrants who make the Jewish state their home and Israelis who return after living abroad for 10 or more years will be charged a zero-percent income tax rate in 2026 and 2027.

Enjoy Music by the Alibi Sisters



The female duo of Anna and Angelina Zaval'ska, known as [The Alibi Sisters](#), has been shining in the Ukrainian-Jewish musical scene for five years. Their songs in Yiddish and Ukrainian captivate with charm and melody, reviving a seemingly lost world. The Ukrainian Jewish Encounter presents an exclusive interview — a heart-to-heart conversation with Anna Zaval'ska.

The interview was conducted and edited by Shimon Briman, UJE's liaison in Israel.

Shimon Briman: Was there anything in your childhood that reminded you of your Jewish roots? Communication with relatives, family stories or moments during holidays, or dishes from Jewish cuisine?

Anna Zaval'ska: Even at the everyday level in Ukraine, we partially remain carriers of Jewish culture: songs, names of dishes, and some jargon and slang elements in the language (for example, those that allow you to swear colorfully: "myshygine kopf" — stupid head, etc.).

Challah buns and fish dishes in Ukraine are recognized by all families, it seems, regardless of religion or nationality. They often appear on holiday tables at home.

But my sister and I began to explore the Jewish traditions of celebrations and customs in greater detail during our adulthood, alongside our study of the Ukrainian-Yiddish cultural heritage.

<https://youtu.be/tlOKmrhHU4c?>

SHABBAT MENU FOR THIS WEEK'S PARSHA ...

The Pillar of Salt: A "Salt-Sational" Shabbat Menu for Parsha Vayera



It is little wonder that so many Jewish people become lawyers! Abraham's demanding negotiations with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah—his fierce plea for righteousness and justice—have echoed for centuries, teaching us the courage of conviction.

Ultimately, Sodom and Gomorrah are judged beyond redemption and destroyed. As Lot and his family are given the chance to flee and start a new life, Lot's wife famously looks back, instantly turning into a **pillar of salt**. This week, as we read **Parsha Vayera**, we remember this dramatic story with a Shabbat menu that will "turn around" your ordinary dinner into something wonderfully **Salt-sational!**

[***A Healthy Southern Comfort Shabbat Menu »***](#)

RECIPE OF THE WEEK ...

jamie geller



BROWN SUGAR CANDY CHICKEN

Feast your eyes on the easiest and most scrumptious slow-cooked chicken you will ever eat! The skin on this chicken is a beautiful dark brown and every juicy bite is filled with the sweet candy flavor of brown sugar, garlic and soy sauce.

[Brown Sugar Candy Chicken » Jamie Geller](#)

The Rebbe's Shtetl

Confined to the pale of settlement and subject to forced military conscription from the age of seven, the Jews of 19th century Russia were barred from various trades and occupations and subject to countless official and unofficial persecutions. Yet they were allowed, and at times even encouraged, to establish agricultural settlements in certain districts of Southern Russia.

A cache of records recently discovered in St. Petersburg's Russian State Historical Archive detail the founding of one such storied settlement, Schedrin (Щедрин), which lies a little to the south east of Babruysk, Belarus. The discovery was made through the research of Jewish Educational Media, and published in a new volume of the Tzemach Tzedek's correspondence (*Igrot Kodesh Ad-mur Hatzemach Tzedek, Kehot Publication Society 2013*) by Rabbi DovBer Levin, head librarian of the Central Library of Chabad-Lubavitch in New York.

Significantly, the newly unearthed records show that Schedrin was established by Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Lubavitch (1789-1866), the third rebbe of Chabad, who is commonly referred to as "the Tzemach

Tzedek." The finds cast new light on some of the ways that Rabbi Menachem Mendel and other Chabad leaders responded to the problems faced by the Jewish community during these troubled times.

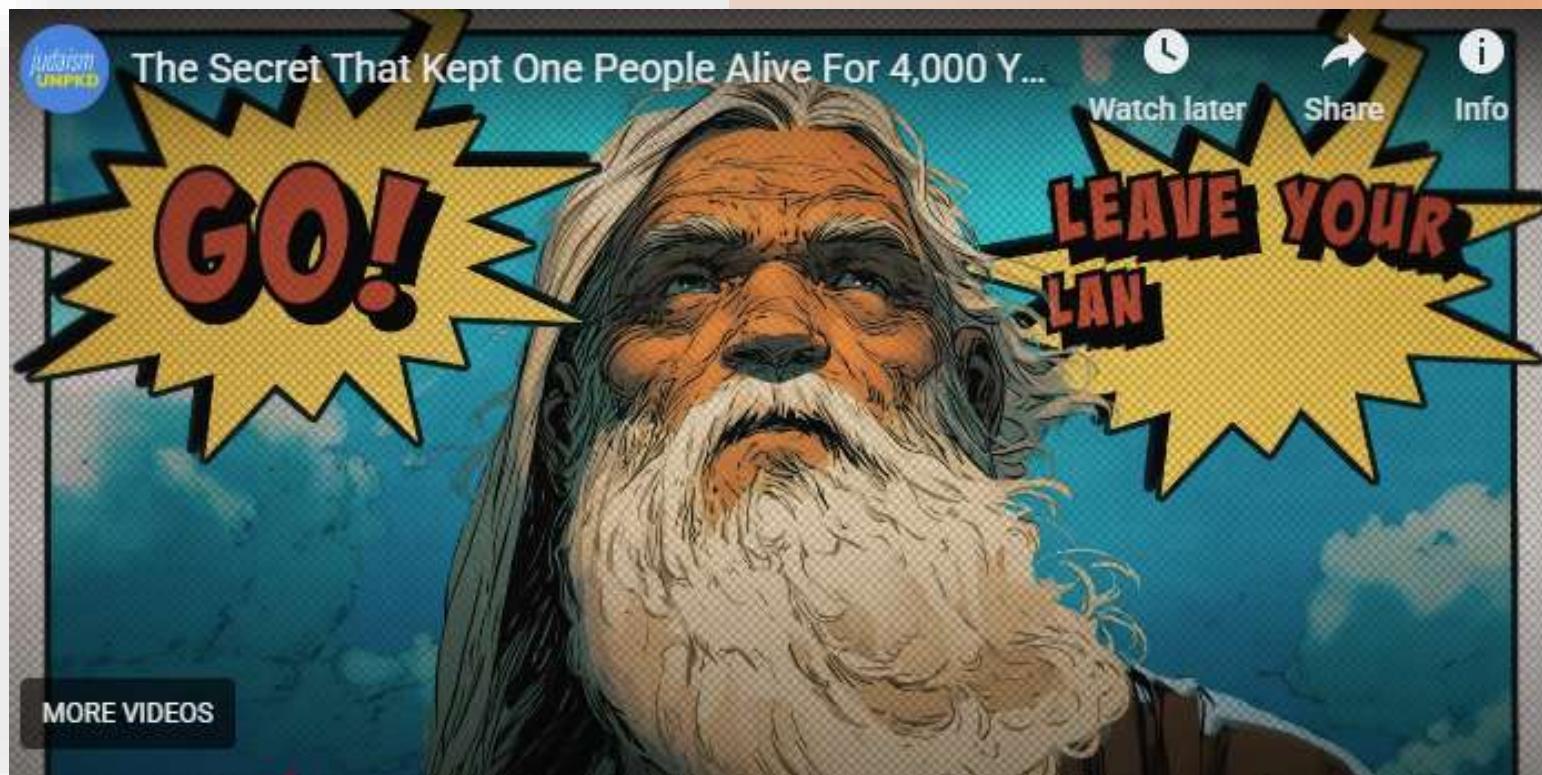
In 1846, records show, Rabbi Menachem Mendel purchased the 17.5 square kilometer estate of Schedrin in 1846. He settled sixty Jewish families on the land, provided them with building materials and other necessary equipment, and ceded them each a rent free agricultural allotment for a period of 25 years.

The newly discovered documents also invoke a little known law entitling anyone who settled more than a hundred Jews on their own land to seek Hereditary Honored Citizenship. Accordingly, the Governing Senate of the Russian Empire ultimately nominated Rabbi Menachem Mendel a Hereditary Honored Citizen in 1851.



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

Empires rose and fell, but Judaism endured. What's the secret?



<https://aish.com/what-kept-the-jewish-people>



A Message to the Jews of New York



Now is the time for Jewish unity, courage, and renewed leadership — to turn loss into strength and division into resolve.

There is no way to sugarcoat it: Zohran Mamdani's election was a crushing defeat for the Jewish community of New York. We worked so hard to stop the DSA machine, but came up short. The city with the single largest population of Jews in the world has just elected an anti-Zionist mayor.

Watching the rejoicing Mamdani campaign is painful. So many of his supporters have taken to social media to gloat about defeating the "Zionists." Their candidate has won, and these snarky anti-Zionists will set the agenda in the years to come.

It is humiliating for a community that has long had a place around the municipal table to be reduced to beggars, hoping for some crumbs of attention from the new mayor.

Unquestionably, there will be postmortems about our community's failure. Yes, we faced a nearly impossible task: electing a deeply unpopular candidate who ran against a slick, smiling, Teflon candidate. Even so, this election exposed our community's weakness.

<https://aish.com/after-mamdanis-victory-a->

Rudolph Vrba Remembered in Vancouver



PHOTOS BY PAT O'NEILL
Robert Krell, left, founding president of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, and Al Szajman, the current president, unveil the monument to Rudolf Vrba at Schara Tzedeck Cemetery.

Rudolf Vrba, a scientist who had a significant but comparatively quiet career in the laboratories and lecture halls of the University of British Columbia, enjoyed a comfortable life with his wife Robin in Vancouver before his death in 2006. Unbeknownst to thousands of his students over the years, Vrba may have saved more Jews during the Holocaust than any other individual. Despite this astonishing fact, his name has remained almost unknown not only among scholars of that history but even in his own adopted community of Vancouver.

At Schara Tzedeck Cemetery in New Westminster on Oct. 26, a monument was unveiled that seeks to remedy Vrba's relative anonymity.

"Why do so few know his name?" asked Dr. Robert Krell, founding president of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre and a member of an ad hoc group that came together to recognize Vrba's life and bravery. "Sir Martin Gilbert, the British historian, wrote that Vrba was directly responsible for saving at least 100,000 Jewish lives. Others now credit him with the preservation of as many as 200,000 Hungarian Jews."

Rudolf Vrba



Vrba in New York, November 1978, during an interview with Claude Lanzmann for the documentary *Shoah*

Born	Walter Rosenberg 11 September 1924 Topoľčany, Czechoslovakia
Died	27 March 2006 (aged 81) Vancouver, Canada
Citizenship	British (1966), Canadian (1972)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/>

THE 39 STEPS at TEATRO LIVE !

AT THE
VARSCONA
THEATRE

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S
THE 39 STEPS
ADAPTED BY
PATRICK BARLOW

Directed by Farren Timoteo



4 ACTORS
139 CHARACTERS
100 HILARIOUS MINUTES!

Nov. 14-30, 2025 | PREVIEW: Nov. 13th

<https://tickets.teatrolive.com/purchase/tickets/>

BE A PART OF “SOMETHING BIG” ...



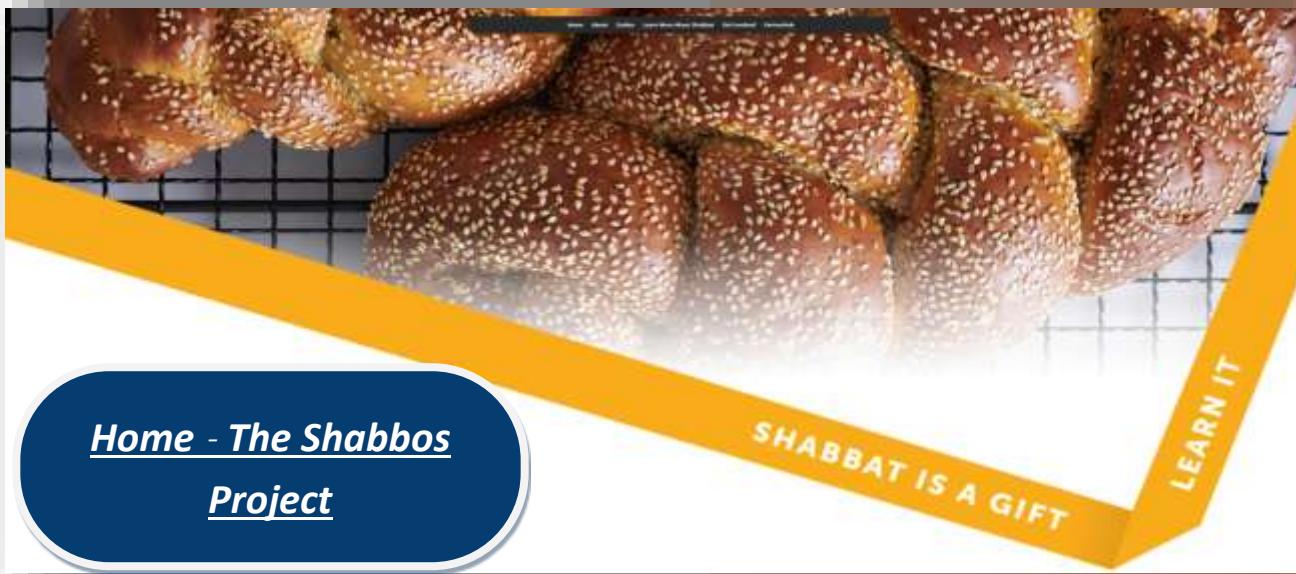
Join the worldwide movement keeping it together
on Shabbat

7-8 November 2025

The Shabbat Project is a global movement, founded in South Africa in 2013 by Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein, that invites Jews everywhere to rediscover the gift of Shabbat.

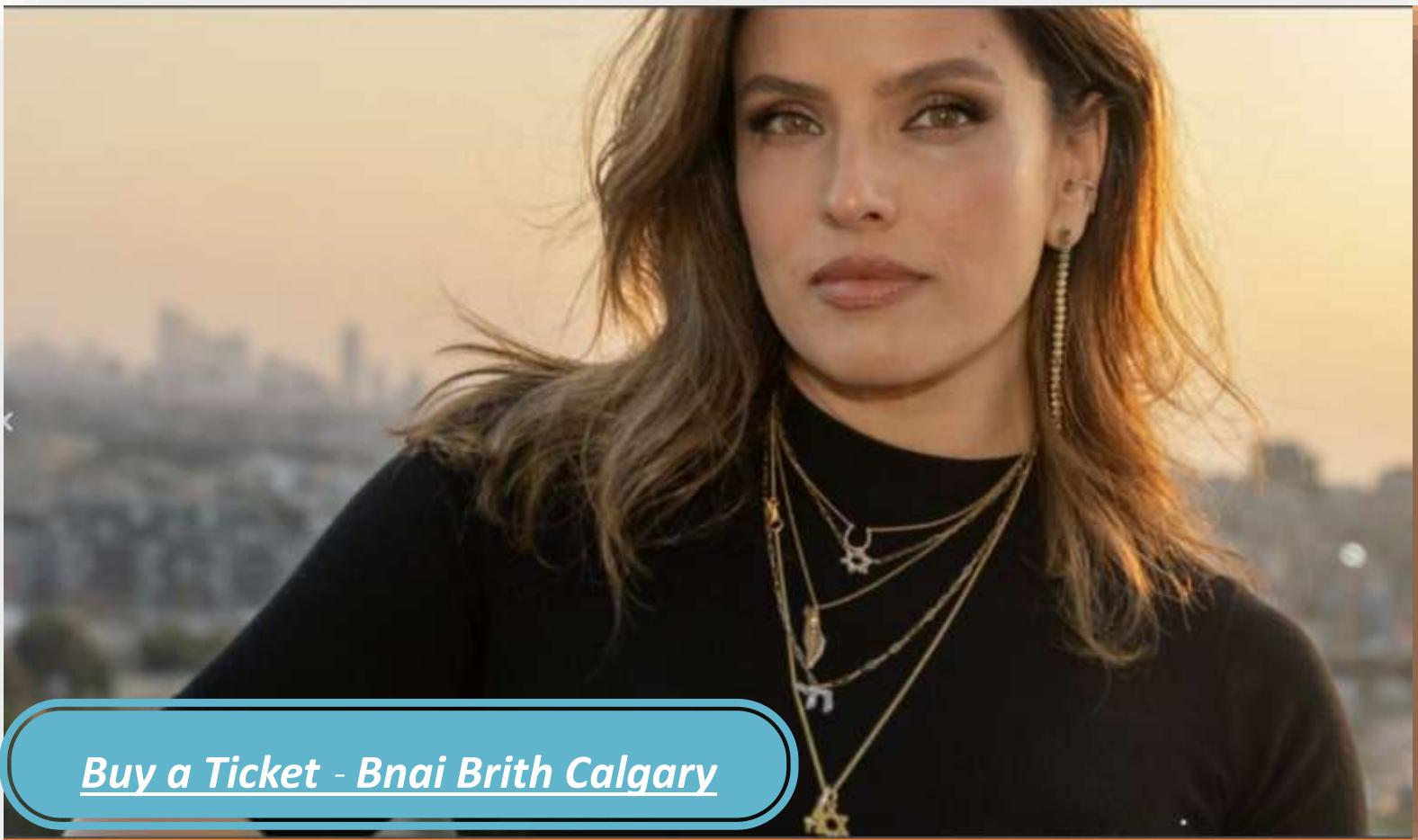
“I have a wonderful gift in My treasure house, and Shabbat is its name.”

– Talmud Shabbat 10b



[Home - The Shabbos
Project](#)

Sun. Dec.7, 1 PM at Beth Tzedec Calgary



Buy a Ticket - B'nai Brith Calgary

B'nai Brith Calgary is pleased to welcome [NOA TISHBY](#) – a globally recognized author, activist, and social media influencer – in conversation with [Amanda Eskenasi](#), former National Director for the B'nai Brith League for Human Rights and current Director of Education for HonestReporting Canada.

NOA TISHBY has become one of the most prominent and compelling voices advocating for Israel

and fighting antisemitism worldwide. Her ability to speak truth with clarity and passion is both rare and urgently needed. Noa speaks directly to the challenges we face today, offering not only the facts but also empathy, historical context, and a message of resilience.

This is more than just a speaking event – it's a moment to educate, inspire, and strengthen our voice against hate.

IN CONVERSATION WITH
NOA TISHBY

The globally recognized New York Times bestselling author, activist, and social media influencer is coming to Calgary on Sunday, December 7, 2025.

Special Guest Moderator Amanda Eskenasi

 HonestReporting Canada



Enjoy Calgary's Jewish Film Fest

C A L G A R Y

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 1-16, 2025

[Buy Festival Passes - Beth Tzedec Congregation](#)

THE 25th ANNUAL BETH TZEDEC CALGARY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

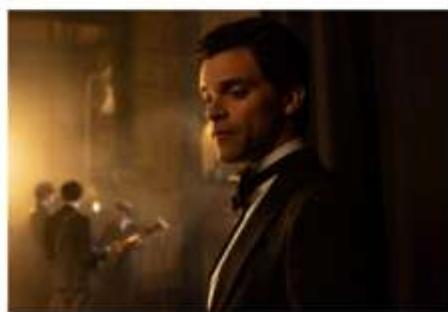
Opening Night



The Blond Boy from the Casbah

Saturday, November 1

Closing Night



Midas Man

Sunday, November 16

Hazak Lunch & Learn: Palliser Hotel with Harry Sanders



Hazak Lunch & Learn Explore the Palliser Hotel with Harry Sanders

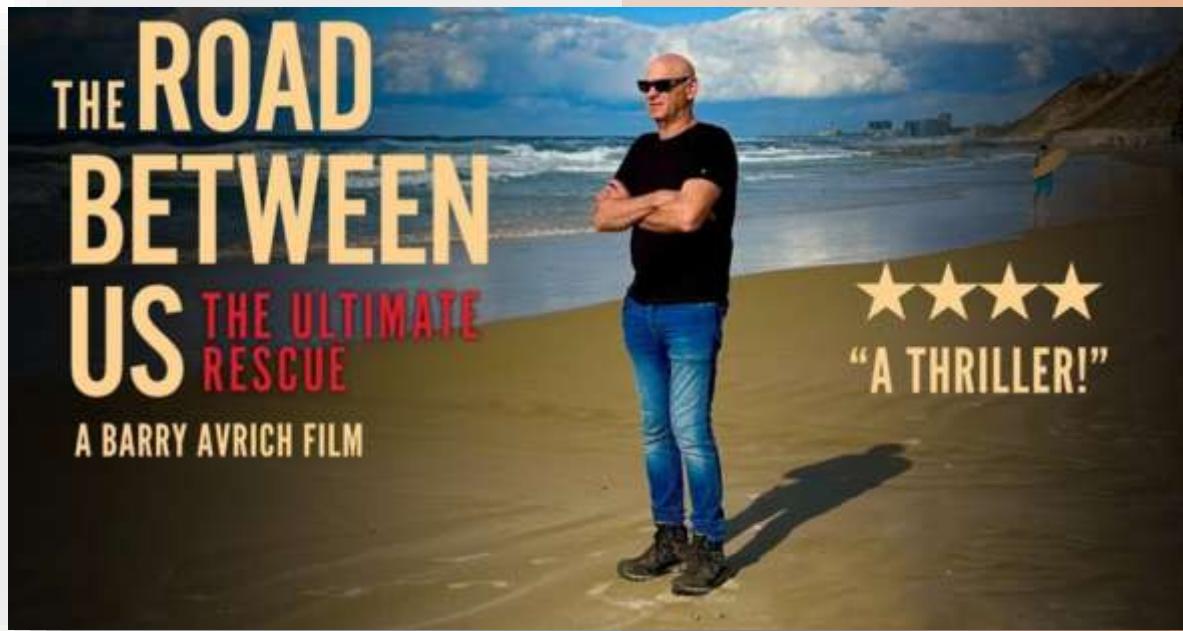
Thursday, November 13 at 12:00pm

Join us for our monthly Hazak Lunch & Learn, featuring guest speakers on a variety of engaging topics. Enjoy a delicious meal while expanding your knowledge and connecting with the community. Each session offers fresh insights and lively discussions. Don't miss this enriching lunchtime experience! This November, we'll be joined by Harry Sanders.

Harry the Historian was born in 1966 in Drumheller. His father opened the Whitehouse Hotel. Spending his early youth in and at the hotel gave Harry a lifelong appreciation for heritage buildings, which influenced his decision to study history and to follow a career as a local historian. Harry will delight us with the definitive history of how one hotel, the Fairmont Palliser, has defined our city of Calgary from the first oil boom to modern times.

<https://bethzedec.ca/event/hazak-lunch-learn-palliser-hotel-with-harry-sanders/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CALGARY ...



Calgary Jewish Federation is pleased to partner with the Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival for the screening of *The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue* on Saturday, November 15 at 7:00pm.

Perhaps the most talked about film of this year's Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), *The Road Between Us* was originally pulled from the TIFF lineup to great controversy, only to be ultimately reinstated, and going on to win TIFF's People's Choice Award for Best Documentary.

The film follows retired Israeli general Noam Tibon, who on October 7, 2023, received a desperate text from his son Amir: Hamas terrorists had stormed Amir's home on a kibbutz near the Gaza border, and he, his wife, and their two young daughters feared for their lives. With no time to spare and relying only on his instincts and military training, Noam sets out from Tel Aviv – 85 kilometres away – together with his wife Gali – navigating ambushes, roadblocks, and a collapsing security system – in a relentless race against time to reach and save their family.

Set against the backdrop of one of Israel's darkest days, and blending intimate firsthand testimony with the raw urgency of a survival thriller, this film is both a gripping cinematic retelling of an extraordinary rescue, and a profoundly human story about courage, family, resilience, and the human capacity for bravery and love in the darkest of moments.

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

[VIEW TRAILER](#)

[The Road Between Us: The Ultimate Rescue - Beth](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CALGARY ...

Jewish BOOK FESTIVAL



NOVEMBER 23-30
10AM - 5PM*

Join us for a dynamic
celebration of culture,
community, and conversation!

Explore the richness of Jewish life through
a week of engaging events for adults,
children, and families. Don't miss the
opportunity to discover a wide selection
of Jewish literature for all ages
and connect with authors,
stories, and ideas that inspire.

**Featuring authors: Douglas Century,
David Eisenstadt, Micah Siva, and more!**

To volunteer or become a sponsor, contact
Yanina Rabinovich at yrabinovich@cjcc.ca.

Get ready for the holidays! *

Check out our **Chanukah Market**
Sunday, November 23 • 10AM-4PM.

PAPERNY FAMILY

JCC
CALGARY

CALGARYJCC.COM

*Nov. 28: 10AM to 2PM
Nov. 29: No Book Festival





Join us for our community's annual Kristallnacht Commemoration on Sunday, November 9 at 7:00pm at [Beth Tzedec Congregation](#).

We will honour the victims of *Kristallnacht* when Nazi violence destroyed Jewish life across Austria and Germany. The evening will include a candle-lighting ceremony led by Holocaust survivors and descendants, followed by the film screening of [The Last Twins](#).

No registration is necessary. This free program is proudly co-sponsored by the [Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival](#) and the [Holocaust and Human Rights: Remembrance and Education department of Calgary Jewish Federation](#).

<https://bethzedec.ca/event/the-last-twins/>

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https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/5559991/jewish/Take-the-Tallit-

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