ALBERTA JEWISH PIPELINE

October 23, 2026
Cheshvan 12, 5787

Candle Lighting:
Edmonton: 6:01 PM Friday
Calgary: 6:09 PM Friday

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Parasha Lech Lecha ...



"LECH LECHA" in a Nutshell ...



The name of the Parshah, "Lech Lecha," means "Go Forth" and it is found in Genesis 12:1.

G-d speaks to Abram, commanding him, "Go from your land, from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you." There, G-d says, he will be made into a great nation. Abram and his wife, Sarai, accompanied by his nephew Lot, journey to the land of Canaan, where Abram builds an altar and continues to spread the message of a one G-d.

A famine forces the first Jew to depart for Egypt, where beautiful Sarai is taken to Pharaoh's palace; Abram escapes death because they present themselves as brother and sister. A plague prevents the Egyptian king from touching her, and convinces him to return her to Abram and to compensate the brother-revealed-as-husband with gold, silver and cattle.

Back in the land of Canaan, Lot separates from Abram and settles in the evil city of Sodom, where he falls captive when the mighty armies of Chedorlaomer and his three allies conquer the five cities of the Sodom Valley. Abram sets out with a small band to rescue his nephew, defeats the four kings, and is blessed by Malki-Zedek the king of Salem (Jerusalem).

G-d seals the Covenant Between the Parts with Abram, in which the exile and persecution (galut) of the people of Israel is foretold, and the Holy Land is bequeathed to them as their eternal heritage.

Still childless ten years after their arrival in the Land, Sarai tells Abram to marry her maidservant Hagar. Hagar conceives, becomes insolent toward her mistress, and then flees when Sarai treats her harshly; an angel convinces her to return, and tells her that her son will father a populous nation. Ishmael is born in Abram's eighty-sixth year.

Thirteen years later, G-d changes Abram's name to Abraham ("father of multitudes"), and Sarai's to Sarah ("princess"), and promises that a son will be born to them; from this child, whom they should call Isaac ("will laugh"), will stem the great nation with which G-d will establish His special bond. Abraham is commanded to circumcise himself and his descendants as a "sign of the covenant between Me and you." Abraham immediately complies, circumcising himself and all the males of his household.

TORAH GEMS

Hallel

Psalms 113-118 are collectively known as Hallel [praise]. The prophets ordained that the six psalms of Hallel [lit., praise] be recited on each Festival, and to commemorate times of national deliverance from peril. Moreover, before David redacted and incorporated these psalms into the Book of Psalms, Hallel was already known to the nation: Moses and Israel recited it after being saved from the Egyptians at the sea Joshua, after defeating the kings of Canaan; Deborah and Barak, after defeating Sisera; Hezekiah, after defeating Sennacherib; Chananyah, Mishael, and Azariah, after being saved from the wicked Nebuchadnezzar; and Mordechai and Esther, after the defeat of the wicked Haman (Pesachim 117a).

These psalms are sometimes called the Egyptian Hallel, to distinguish them from Psalm 136, which is referred to as the Great Hallel. The Talmud (Pesachim 118a) explains that the Egyptian Hallel surpasses the Great Hallel because its themes are essential articles of the Jewish faith. They include the Exodus from Egypt, the Splitting of the Sea, the Revelation at Mount Sinai, the revivification of the dead, and the cataclysmic advent of the Messiah.

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Psalms" by Rabbi Nossom Scherman / Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz, 2018, page 513.

Torah Gem Archives: https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/torahtidbits

YIDDISH CORNER ...

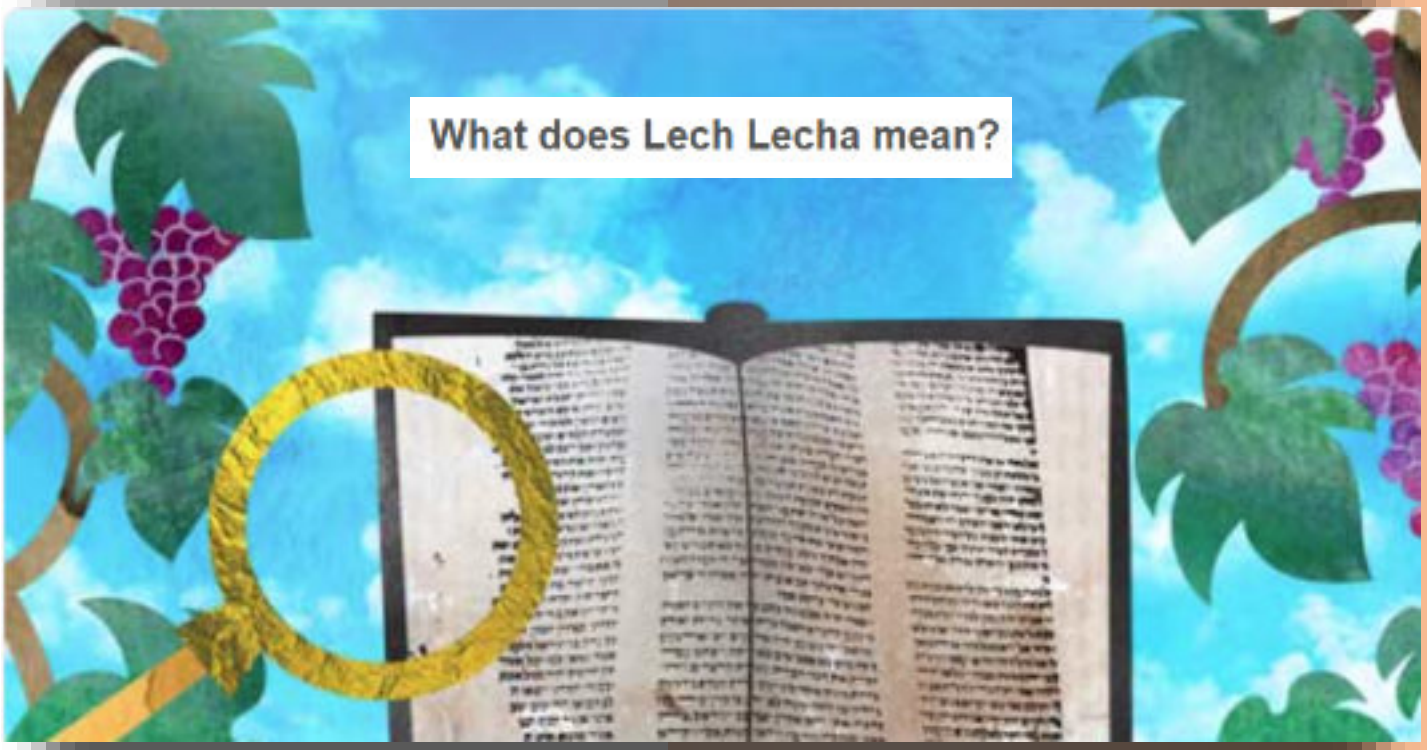
Besser eyn ku in shtal eyder tsen in feld.
Better one cow in the stable than ten in the field.

Ikh hob im fent.
I hate him.

Me krekhts, me geyt vayter.
I complain and I keep going.

Yeder mentsh hot zayn pekel.
Every man has his burden.

Lech Lecha Quiz ...



https://www.chabad.org/parshah/




BETH ISRAEL
SIGD
FAITH ◆ HERITAGE ◆ COMMUNITY
Join us for a meaningful Sigd celebration
at Beth Israel as we honour our rich heritage,
renew our commitment, and gather as one community.
MONDAY
NOVEMBER 9
6:00 PM
$15
per individual
$25
per family
Authentic
Ethiopian meal
Generously
sponsored by
Jewish Federation
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Temple Beth Ora

FROM RABBAH GILA CAINE

Last week I spent two fascinating days at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in NYC, the culmination of a year-long engagement in their Amplify Israel Rabbinic Fellowship.

We began the year with a week-long visit to Israel, traveling from the far South to the very North. We met with Israeli Jewish, Arab, Druze, and Bedouin communities and heard what the past few years have been like for them. We also listened carefully to their ideas for how the Land could become a better place for all communities, in a shared society within a Jewish state.

We continued the year with monthly online study sessions, another seminar in the US, and finally these two days in NYC. We heard from the CEOs of both the Jewish Democratic Council and the Republican Jewish Coalition. This was not immediately relevant to me as a Canadian, but it was important to understand the state of the American Jewish community in relation to its two largest political parties. We also heard from various teachers and speakers, such as Daniel Sharabi, a hero and survivor of the Nova festival, who shared his story of that day. More importantly, Daniel told us about the healing and support facility he has built with other survivors of the attack. Please take a look at their website, “A future for the Survivors and Wounded.” We also visited the offices of the ADL. Here is one interesting resource, and there is much more where it came from.

Finally, we spent a few hours hearing about the personal projects each of us had worked on this year. Mine is the Three Regalim liturgy I’ve been putting together, which some of you experienced on Sukkot. Other projects ranged from starting podcasts, to intercultural talks, to community-wide Oct. 7 commemoration events. I hope to "Zoom in" some of my colleagues to share their projects with us at TBO.

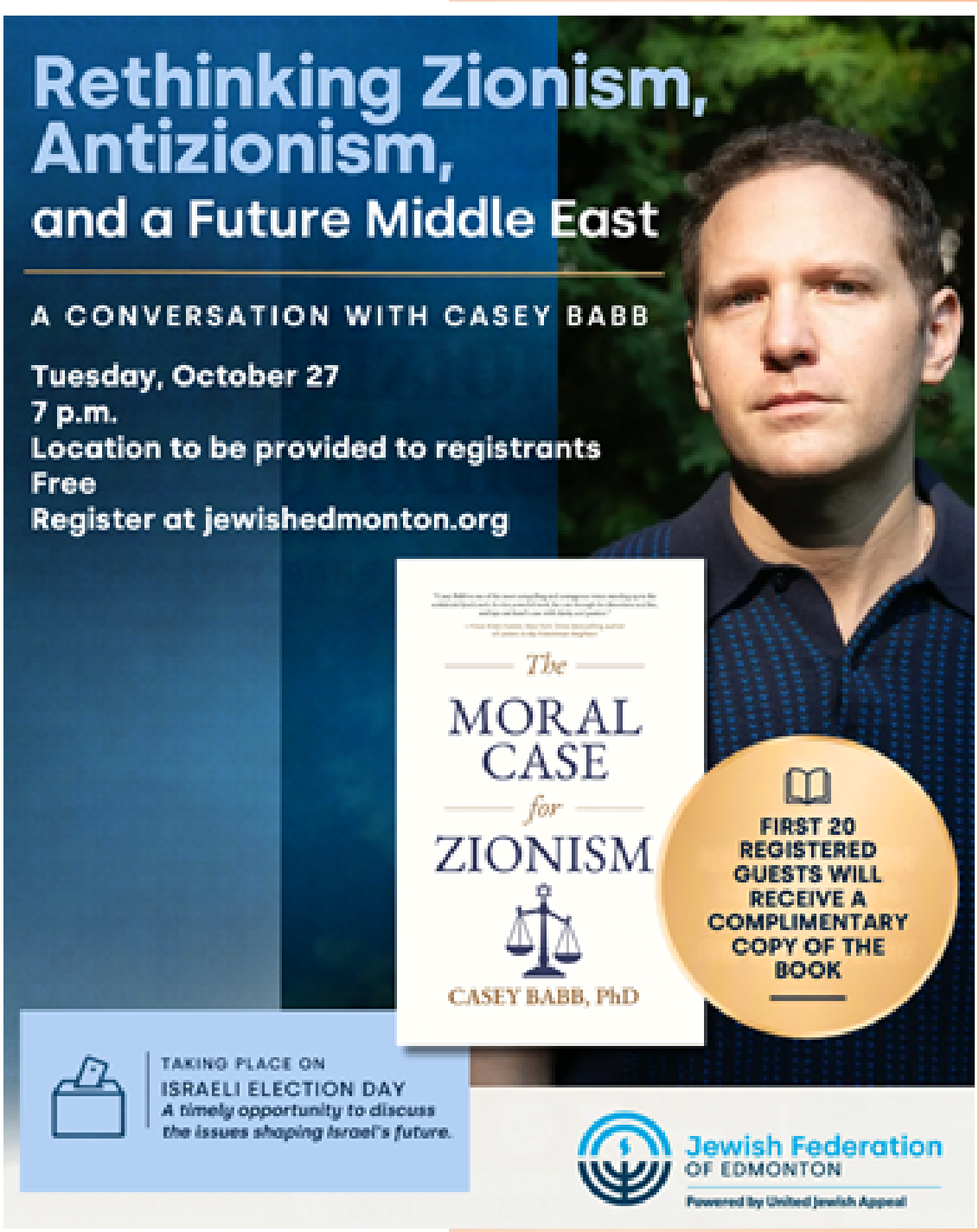
I began this year feeling alone. As an unapologetic Zionist in the North American Reform movement, and as an Israeli, a Jew, and a liberal living in Canada, I often ran out of words to explain who I am and where I stand. I felt myself being pulled toward a radicalism I didn’t like, and underneath it was a deep fear for Am Yisrael, wherever we live.

I leave this year in a very different place, and I owe that to the people who walked it with me, colleagues from the Amplify Fellowship, but more importantly many of you here at TBO and Edmonton's Jewish community. I’ve watched our congregation speak about Israel and Am Yisrael more freely, clearly, and proudly, with love and without flinching. I’ve been able to gather words, resources, and connections, not only for myself but for the Jews around me, so that none of us has to face this disruptive time empty-handed. I feel recentred, with less fear and more hope for our Jewish future. I’ve also stopped softening my message with apologies when I speak about the importance of Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, and the Torah of Yisrael.



If any part of this sounds like where you were over the past few years, I want you to know you are not alone, and there is a place for you here. Whether you’re searching for language, craving community, or simply want to be in the room with people who care about our shared future, please join us. Come and share your questions, your fears, and your hopes. This work is better, and far more hopeful, when we do it together.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbah Gila Caine



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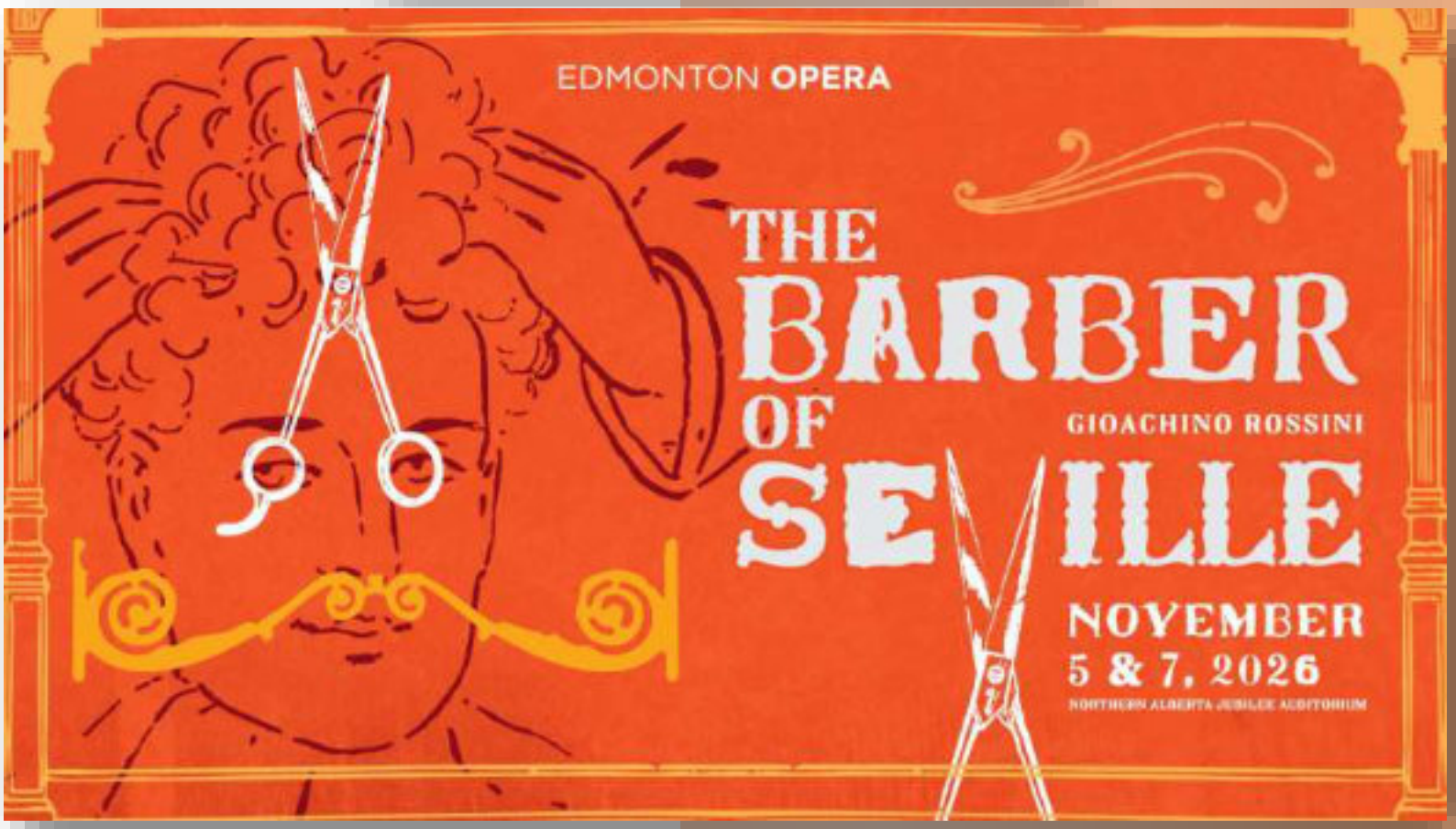


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Edmonton Opera presents ...

EDMONTON OPERA



Mainstage

The Barber of Seville

Composer: Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

Librettist: Cesare Sterbini (1784-1831)

The Barber of Seville is opera at its most joyful; a fast-moving comedy where wit, music, and cleverness always stay one step ahead.

Nov 5, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Nov 7, 2026 - 7:30 PM

Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium

Barber of Seville — Edmonton Opera

Recipe of the Week ...

jamie geller

A SECRET SHABBAT MENU



This week's parsha is a story of faith, vision, and secrets. Hashem asks Avraham to embark on a journey without revealing his final destination until he gets there. Later, Avraham and Sarah navigate hidden truths in Egypt, and Hashem is called the "God of Seeing" as He promises an elderly couple a legacy as infinite as the stars in the night sky.

https://jamiegeller.com/menus/a-secret-

Kveller

Henry Winkler Mused With God in His Garden on Yom Kippur This Year

You have to listen to the Jewish celebrity speak about joy and gratitude — and acting "like Emily Dickinson" on the High Holidays — on Ike Barinholtz's podcast "Funny You Ask."



Photo by Michael Yarish/WBTV via Getty Images

https://www.kveller.com/henry-winkler-

SHADOW THEATRE



Shadow Theatre


TALK ABOUT
ISRAEL
With knowledge.
With confidence.
In your own voice.
With internationally acclaimed educator and historian
Charlotte Korchak
You'll Explore
• Understanding Zionism
• Debate vs. Dialogue
• Protecting Your Peace
• Responding to Misinformation
• Social Media & Modern Activism
• Reclaiming the Narrative
Community-wide Events
November 21
7:00pm
Dialogue and Debate
Navigating difficult conversations
Open-mic Showdown
Sweets & Games
November 22
1:30pm
L'Dor V'Dor - From Generation to Generation
Understanding Zionism and Reclaiming our Narrative
For more information, scan the QR code or visit www.friendsofjnfca.org/TalkAboutIsrael
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Films and Schedules - Beth Tzedec Congregation





https://jhssa.org/

JHSSA 36th AGM

Monday, October 26, 2026

7:00pm

Calgary JCC and on Zoom

BRANCHING OUT

VIGNETTES FROM OUR ONLINE FAMILY HISTORY EXHIBIT



All welcome. Reception to follow.
To attend on Zoom, contact JHSSA's office:
403-444-3171 | jhssa@shaw.ca | jhssa.org

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

https://jhssa.org/



Films and Schedules - Beth Tzedec Congregation

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