



December 31, 2025

Tevet 11, 5786

Light candles for Shabbat Fri. 4:09 PM
Shabbat ends Sat. 5:19 PM

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER



" VAYECHI " IN A NUTSHELL ...

TORAH GEMS

He Recompenses

"If you will say, 'Surely we did not know this!' But the One Who resides in hearts, He understands; and the Protector of your soul, He knows; and He recompenses a man according to his deeds." (Proverbs 24:12)

"And He recompenses a man according to his deeds": This means that a person is held as responsible for passive inaction as for active sinning. The verse says that a person may be reluctant to sacrifice his time and money in order to help a stranger, but if he does it, Hashem rewards a

man according to his deeds, in unimaginable ways (see Isaiah 64:3). The verse states that Hashem perceives the heart and pays according to his deeds. If he tries but is unsuccessful, Hashem rewards him as if he succeeded (Me'am Loez, citing Mussar Av).

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Proverbs" by Rabbi N. Scherman & Rabbi M. Zlotowitz, page 215.

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

YIDDISH CORNER ...

ALE MAYLES IN EYNEM, IZ NITO BAY KEYNEM.

No one person has every good quality. [Nobody is perfect.]



AZ DER BEKER IZ BREYT, BAKT ER BREYT BROYT.

If the baker is wide, he bakes wide bread.

[Adapted from 15-Min Yiddish (Season 4 Episode 9)]

The name of the Parshah, "Vayechi," means "And he lived" and it is found in [Genesis 47:28](#).

Jacob lives the final **17 years** of his **life in Egypt**. Before his passing, he asks **Joseph** to take an oath that he will bury him in the **Holy Land**. He blesses Joseph's two sons, **Manasseh** and **Ephraim**, elevating them to the status of his own sons as progenitors of **tribes** within the nation of Israel.

The patriarch desires to reveal the **end of days** to his children, but is **prevented from doing so**.

Jacob blesses his sons, **assigning to each his role as a tribe**: Judah will produce leaders, legislators and kings; priests will come from **Levi**, scholars from Issachar, seafarers from Zebulun, schoolteachers from **Simeon**, soldiers from Gad, judges from Dan, olive-growers from Asher, and so on. Reuben is rebuked for "confusing his father's marriage bed"; Simeon and Levi, for **the massacre of Shechem** and the plot against Joseph. Naphtali is granted the swiftness of a deer, **Benjamin** the ferociousness

of a wolf, and Joseph is blessed with beauty and fertility.

A large **funeral** procession consisting of Jacob's descendants, Pharaoh's ministers, the leading citizens of Egypt and the Egyptian cavalry accompanies Jacob on his final journey to the Holy Land, where he is buried in the **Machpelah Cave** in **Hebron**.

Joseph, too, **dies in Egypt**, at the age of 110. He, too, instructs that **his bones be taken out of Egypt** and buried in the Holy Land, but this would come to pass only with the **Israelites' exodus from Egypt** many years later. Before his passing, **Joseph conveys to the Children of Israel the testament** from which they will draw their hope and faith in the difficult years to come: "G-d will surely remember you, and bring you up out of this land to the land of which He swore to **Abraham, Isaac** and Jacob."

Learn: [Vayechi in Depth](#)

Browse: [Vayechi Parshah Columnists](#)

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

Read: [Haftarah in a Nutshell](#)

Play: [Vayechi Parshah Quiz](#)

RECIPE OF THE WEEK ...

TURNING TRADITION ON ITS HEAD: A SWEET SHABBAT MENU

jamie geller



In this week's parsha, *Vayechi*, we see Jacob's days drawing to a close. As he gathers Joseph's children, Ephraim and Manasseh, to give them that beautiful blessing we still recite for our sons every Friday night, he does something totally unexpected!

<https://jamiegeller.com/menus/shabbat-menu>

SPARKLING MANGO STRAWBERRY SANGRIA



As this year draws to a close, invite your friends over for a glass or two of [champagne](#) and ask each friend to bring over 2-3 small dishes from a particular country. You can have your own international extravaganza without leaving your living room.

Here are a few ideas to get you started with small plates from all our favorite cuisines. Make a platter of olives and Spanish cheeses and crackers and serve with this delicious [Mint and Fava Beans Spread](#) made with Goat Cheese. Then serve these hot and scrumptious [Zucchini and Goat Cheese Tarts](#). And one more fun treat is to make some roasted potatoes and serve with [Romesco Sauce](#). And don't forget the Sangria! We love this [Sparkling Mango Strawberry Sangria](#) for New Year's Eve.

[New Year's Eve Party Ideas » Jamie Geller](#)



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

January 2026/Tevet-Shevat, 5786

Beth Shalom Synagogue Bulletin www.edmontonbethshalom.org

Torah Circle: Weekly Parasha Study with Rabbi Zilbershtein

Make Torah part of your week! In these dynamic Zoom sessions, we'll study the designated Torah reading for each week (Parashat haShavua) in a welcoming virtual space.

Together, we'll explore how these sacred texts speak to our lives today, discussing everything from ancient commentaries to modern applications.

All levels of Jewish learning are welcome—come, be part of our learning community!

Time: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81301146218>

Library News

The Moshe Yedlin library is open during regular office hours Monday through Friday. Come in and browse our wonderful collection. If you choose to borrow a book and no library volunteer is on site, please enter the book information on the sign up sheet in the library. If you have not been registered into the system already, please contact Karen Hering at heringk@gmail.com.

Likewise if you would like are interested in the new non-fiction book discussion group, also please contact Karen. The library and book discussion groups are open to all members of the Jewish community.

MOVING? DOWNSIZING?



We Want Your "New" or "Preloved"

JUDAICA ITEMS

Paintings, Object DE Arte, Menorahs,
Dreidels, Shabbat Candlesticks & etc.

Drop off at Beth Shalom or
Call Cheryl Shur for Pick-Up

780-918-7535

Some Edmonton Funerals held in 2025

May their memories be a blessing

Mona Gross

Yuri Zlotnikov

Elizabeth Berkovich

Terrie Margolis

Lois Spiegel



Harry Kipnes

Christine Dolman

Gary Koliger

Gail Buck

Randy Soifer

Myrna Kramer-Segelbaum

Robert Aaron

לברכה זיכרונם

Harold Samuels

Jim Bowron

Abe Goldstein

Rosa Kovalski

Jerry Glasser

Gillian Horowitz

Mark Goldfeder

Freya Wasel

David Kagan

Sheila Greenberg

Vincent Lurie

Maurice Lipsett

Phil Lister





B"H

SAVE
THE
DATE

CHABAD SHABBATON
JANUARY 9-10 2026
FANTASYLAND HOTEL

FOT MORE INFO CALL
RABBI MENDY @
780-200-5770

Illustrations include a menorah with three lit candles and a string of orange Chanukah gelt (pottery coins) at the bottom.

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

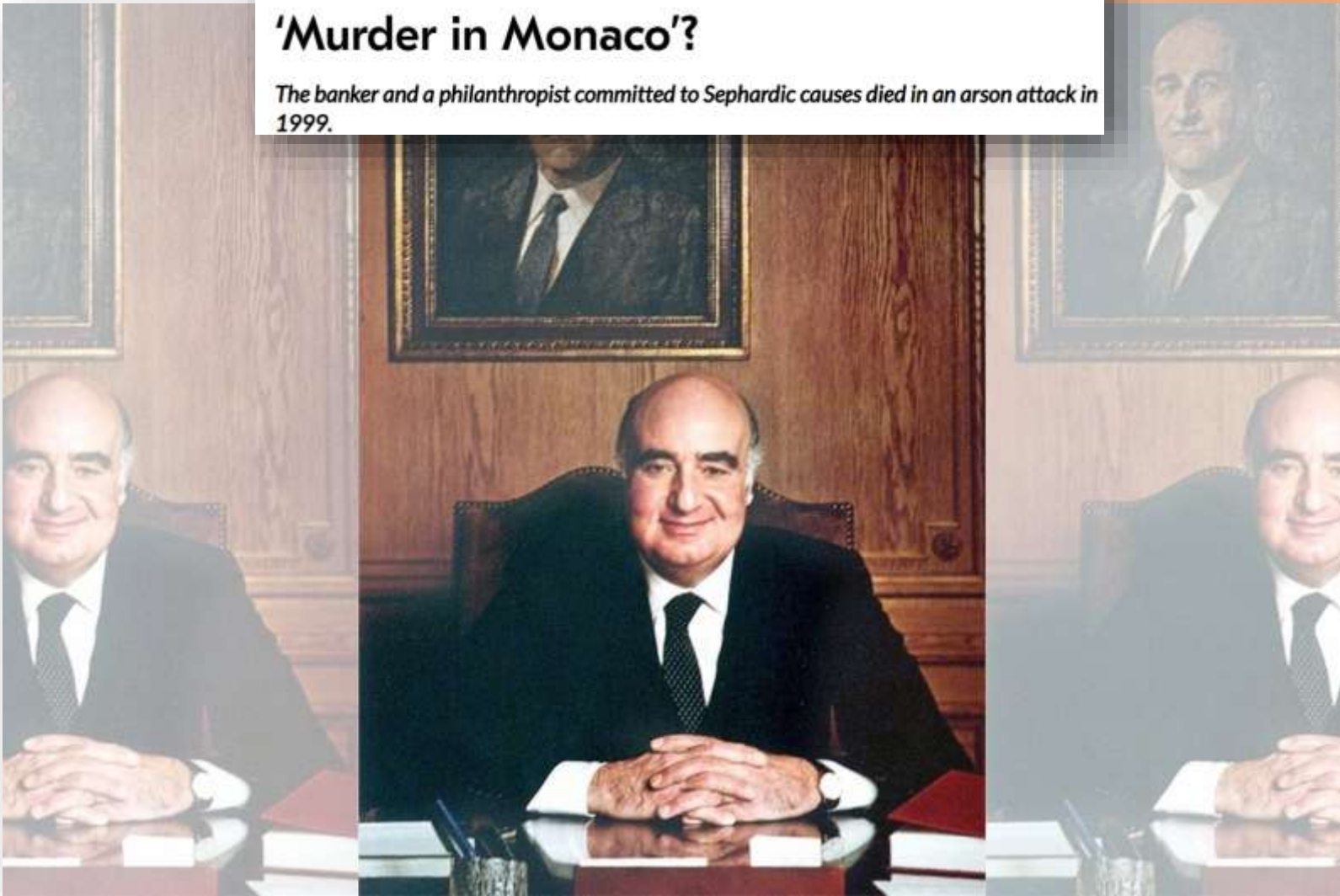


Managed by Edmonton Talmud Torah Society



Who Was Edmond Safra, the Jewish Billionaire at the Heart of Netflix's 'Murder in Monaco'?

The banker and a philanthropist committed to Sephardic causes died in an arson attack in 1999.



Netflix's new hit documentary "Murder in Monaco" doesn't offer new answers about the 1999 death of Edmond Safra, the Jewish billionaire and banking scion, who was killed, along with one of the nurses in his employ, Vivian Torrente, in an apartment fire deemed to be arson. Safra, who was battling Parkinson's, was 67 when he died in the bathroom of his Monaco penthouse.

Who Was Edmond Safra, the Jewish Billionaire

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CALGARY ...



CHAI LIFE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

THE LAST YIDDISH SPEAKER

by Deborah
Zoe Laufer

Directed by
Zelda Dean

Performances:
May 20, 24, 30 & 31 • June 6-7 — 7 PM

Temple B'Nai Tikvah 900 47 Ave. S.W.



Tickets at
ChaiLifeYyc.ca

CHAI LIFE PRODUCTION: AUDITIONS CALL
Submission Deadline: January 6, 2026

Upcoming Auditions: The Last Yiddish Speaker

By Deborah Zoe Laufer

Directed by Zelda Dean

Produced by Laura Shuler, Scott Ellsworth, and Ari Cohen

In this fast-paced drama with a streak of magical realism, a Jewish father and daughter rely on their wits and powers of deceit to survive when the world has dramatically changed and the slightest divergence from the norm could cost them their lives. When an ancient Yiddish-speaking woman is deposited on their doorstep, Sarah and her father must decide whether to help the woman hide or to save themselves. Though it centers on Judaism and the right for Jews to exist, it has universal appeal to anyone who worries about marginalized groups, and the often-unwitting or uneducated, both well-meaning and vengeful, who group together to persecute them.

<https://www.chailifeYyc.ca/auditions>

Calgary Beth Tzedec ...



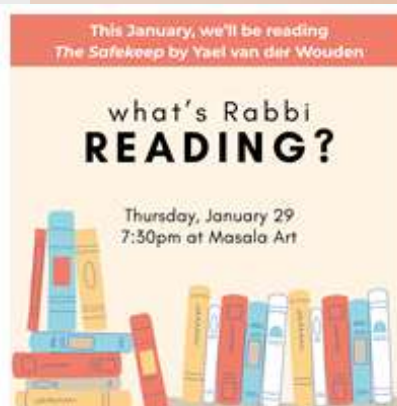
Family Shabbat Dinner

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](#)



ALBERTA JEWISH PIPELINE

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER



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