



January 27, 2025
Shevat 8, 5786



Edmonton: Light candles Friday at 4:56 PM
Calgary: Light candles Friday at 5:06 PM

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

— FRIENDS OF JNF CANADA PRESENTS —

DIASPORA, ISRAEL & THE GO FORWARD

Sunday, February 8th, 2026

7:00 PM | CALGARY (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



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OF
JNF
CANADA**



Nitzanim Community Fund
JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CALGARY

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"BESHALACH" IN A NUTSHELL ...



The name of the Parshah, "Beshalach," means "When he sent" and it is found in [Exodus 13:17](#).

Soon after allowing the children of Israel to [depart from Egypt](#), [Pharaoh](#) chases after them to force their return, and the [Israelites](#) find themselves [trapped](#) between Pharaoh's armies and the sea. [G‑d](#) tells [Moses](#) to [raise his staff over the water](#); [the sea splits](#) to allow the Israelites to [pass through](#), and then closes over the pursuing Egyptians. Moses and the children of Israel [sing a song](#) of praise and gratitude to [G‑d](#).

In the desert the people suffer thirst and hunger, and repeatedly [complain](#) to Moses and [Aaron](#). [G‑d](#) miraculously [sweetens the bitter waters of Marah](#), and later has Moses bring forth water from a rock by striking it with his staff. He causes [manna](#) to rain down from the heavens before dawn

each morning, and [quails](#) to appear in the Israelite camp each evening.

The children of Israel are instructed to gather a [double portion](#) of manna on Friday, as none will descend on [Shabbat](#), the divinely decreed day of rest. Some disobey and go to gather [manna](#) on the seventh day, [but find nothing](#). Aaron preserves a small quantity of manna in a [jar](#), as a testimony for future generations.

In Rephidim, the people are attacked by the [Amalekites](#), who are defeated by Moses' prayers and an army raised by [Joshua](#).

Learn: [Beshalach in Depth](#)

Browse: [Beshalach Parshah](#)

Columnists

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

Read: [Haftarah in a Nutshell](#)

Play: [Beshalach Parshah Quiz](#)

TORAH GEMS

"Envy"

"Wrath is cruelty and anger is torrential, but who can withstand envy?" (Proverbs 27:4)

An envious person may well prefer to endure suffering as long as his fellow will also suffer, rather than enjoy good if that means that others will also prosper. This point is illustrated by the parable of a king who made an offer to two subjects, one a lustful person, and the other a jealous person.

The king said that he would fulfill any request that either of the two would make, and whatever that person received, his fellow would receive double. The lustful person was silent, because he wanted to receive double of whatever the jealous person requested.

The jealous person would not request a lavish gift because he didn't want his friend to be given double. Instead, he said to the king, "Poke out one of my eyes," thus assuring that his fellow would become blind in both eyes.

The verse warns that hatred born of envy is the worst kind of anger. Ordinarily, hot-headed people can be appeased, but the anger of envious people is incurable. Teachers of mussar say that there is no cure for three conditions: old age, poverty caused by laziness, and hatred born of jealousy (Meiri).

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Proverbs" by Rabbi N. Scherman & Rabbi M. Zlotowitz, page 237.

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

YIDDISH CORNER ...

Fardayget

Anxious

A sheynhayt

An attractive girl

A meyven

An authority (on a subject)

AUTHORITY

A mitlmesiger
An average person



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CALGARY ...



Wicks & Flicks with PJ Library

Saturday, January 31 | 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Our popular Havdalah movie night is back, in partnership with PJ Library! Families are invited to join us for popcorn and a cozy pyjama party as we celebrate the beginning of a new week together.

This time, we'll be watching *An American Tail*, the beloved animated classic about Fievel Mousekewitz, a young Jewish mouse who immigrates with his family to America in search of freedom and safety. When Fievel is separated from his parents upon arrival in New York, he embarks on an adventurous journey through the city, making new friends and discovering courage, hope, and the meaning of home.

A warm and meaningful story of resilience, belonging, and new beginnings—perfect for a Havdalah night with families

[Click Here to Register](#)

<https://jewishcalgary.crowdchange.co/54522>

Tu B'Shevat (Festival of Trees) in Calgary



Celebrate **TU B'SHEVAT!**

Sunday, February 1 • 10AM



House of Jacob Mikveh Israel

Join us to celebrate Tu B'Shevat through
stories, songs, and a fun, edible craft!



Register? Scan QR or go
to jewishcalgary.crowdchange.ca



Questions?

Contact Sydney Truax at
struax@jewishcalgary.org



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CALGARY ...

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 1ST

\$18



AFTER FEB 1ST

\$23

To purchase tickets go to:

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

Questions?

Lihi @ 587-572-2447

Lilaj @ 204-510-5864

Sydney @ struax@jewishcalgary.org



Al Osten passes in Calgary



CityNews
Everywhere

Al Osten smiles as he poses for a photo. (Courtesy National Music Centre)

ong-time philanthropist Al Osten, who made life better for countless Albertans, has died, according to the Chevra Kadisha of Edmonton. He was 95.

Osten was born in Saskatchewan on Jan. 9, 1931 and was raised in Edmonton before moving to Calgary — but not before meeting his life-long partner, Buddy Victor.

They met in the United States as part of a doo-wop group, The Rover Boys, while Osten pursued his musical dreams and ambitions. The Rover Boys charted the hit "[Graduation Day](#)," which was covered by The Beach Boys, before the group wound down.

While not a financial success, a call from Osten's mother led them to bring their funds together to purchase Weight Watchers before it exploded in popularity in the 1960s. They later sold it in 2013, with Osten saying that it opened

up opportunities to give back to the community.

With over 65 years together, the dream was still strong as Osten and Victor supported the arts from Broadway to Alberta — producing the original *Little Shop of Horrors*, investing in *Hairspray* and *Back to the Future*, and championing local performances across Calgary.

Victor died on Aug. 4, 2023, just shy of his 93rd birthday. A funeral is being held for Osten on Sunday at 3 p.m. in Edmonton.

Al Osten, Alberta philanthropist and lover of the arts, dies at 95

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.ca/cja-
open-house/](https://www.cja.ab.ca/cja-open-house/)



THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

Breaking News

LIVE UPDATES

IDF says it has located and identified the body of final slain hostage Ran Gvili in Gaza

BY TOI STAFF

Gvili's body being brought back to Israel * Tourism ministry develops plan to evacuate some 42,000 tourists in event of new Iran war * Yemen's Houthi rebels threaten new Red Sea attacks as US aircraft carrier nears Iran



<https://www.timesofisrael.com/>

Every Light Has Finally Returned Home



Today, we share a moment of profound relief and gratitude.

After unimaginable uncertainty, **every hostage has returned home** from Gaza, including the body of **Ran Gvili**, 24, the last to be brought back to his loved ones. This is a moment to pause, breathe, and let hope lead - a reminder that even after darkness, light can and does return.

We celebrate the strength of those who endured, the families who never stopped believing, and the countless people around the world who raised their voices, their prayers, and their hearts in solidarity.

As a community, we stand together in this moment - united by compassion, resilience, and an unwavering connection to Israel and its people.

May this homecoming bring healing, renewed strength, and hope for the days ahead.



The #WeRemember Campaign For International Holocaust Remembrance Day

We are dedicated to keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive. Join us and millions across the globe by raising your voice and shining a light on the dangers of failing to learn from history.

[Join the #WeRemember Campaign!](#)

Celebrate the New Year of the Trees — Sun. Feb. 1



Four Worlds, One Earth: A Mystical Tu B'Shevat Seder

with
Rabbi Zilbershtein

Sunday, February 1

5:00 pm

at

Beth Shalom

Join us for a mystical Tu B'Shevat seder rooted in kabbalistic tradition and focused on environmental action.

We'll gather to taste fruits and wines as we move through the four spiritual worlds, exploring our connection to trees, nature, and the earth. This ancient ritual invites us to consider how we care for creation and what commitments we can make to protect our planet.

Come celebrate the birthday of the trees and recommit to being guardians of the earth.

Dinner Cost

\$25.00 Adult

\$12.00 Teenagers (12-18)

Free Kids (0-11)

RSVP &

**prepayment
are required**

780.488.6333 / 301,

or by email

**(e-transfers) at:
info@c-bethshalom.org**

Smashed by Isis, a 2700-year-old carving may have been the earliest-known depiction of Jerusalem



New research suggests a long-overlooked bas-relief in King Sennacherib's palace in modern-day Mosul, Iraq, destroyed with other priceless artifacts, showed the Temple Mount and Bible's King Hezekiah

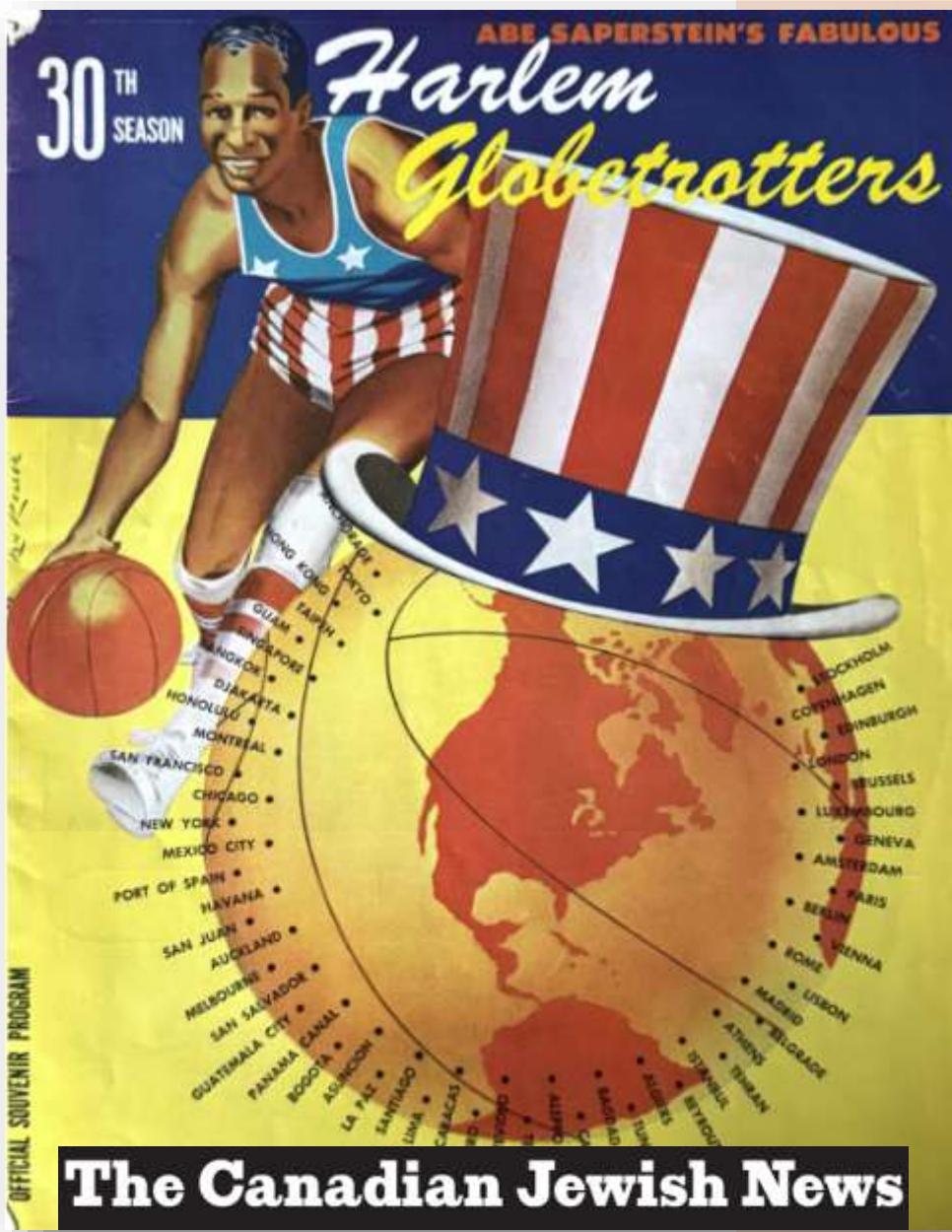
For millennia, hundreds of vivid bas-reliefs adorned the walls of the Nineveh palace of the legendary eighth-century BCE Assyrian king Sennacherib, depicting daring conquests richly described in Assyrian sources and the Hebrew Bible.

In 2016, Islamic State

terrorists entered the palace, in modern-day Mosul, Iraq, and systematically smashed the artifacts. The long-surviving sculptures had enabled modern scholars to compare biblical information on Sennacherib with historical sources and archaeological findings since the 19th century. Had they not been destroyed, they would have likely had more to offer.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/>

The Jewish founder of the Harlem Globetrotters



The Canadian Jewish News

[https://thecjn.ca/arts-culture/
treasure-trove-remembers-the-](https://thecjn.ca/arts-culture/treasure-trove-remembers-the-)

AS they celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2026 (with a tour that includes games in Canada), David Matlow writes about the founder of the Harlem Globetrotters, Abe Saperstein.

Saperstein not only helped integrate professional basketball, he also supported Israel and Jewish causes.

Matlow writes, “At five feet three inches tall, Saperstein is the shortest member of the Basketball Hall of Fame.

As a person who used his skills, connections and life’s work to advance race relations and support Israel and Jewish causes, he was a giant (or at least the height of a current NBA player).”



Announcing: Milken Archive Online Quizzes

Soundtrack of Jewish Life: History and Tradition



MILKEN ARCHIVE

of Jewish Music

The American Experience

How well do you know the music that has shaped Jewish life across centuries, continents, and communities?

This year, we are launching a new series of interactive quizzes that invite exploration, spark curiosity, and deepen engagement with Jewish musical history. The first, "Soundtrack of Jewish Life: History and Tradition," is a 20-question journey across genres, eras, and cultural contexts—from synagogue and ritual music to the sounds of immigration, popular culture, and American Jewish creativity.

<https://www.milkenarchive.org/news/>

JEWISH DESSERT RECIPES

Easy Marble Cake Recipe

This 5-ingredient cake is ready in under an hour.

the nosher



This recipe comes from the Rinkoff family, whose 100-year-old London family bakery is a British institution. The bakery was founded by Hyman Rinkoff, a Jewish Ukrainian immigrant, in 1911, and is now run by fourth- and fifth-generation family members. While the bakery has moved several times, it's always stayed in London's East End, where the majority of Jewish immigrants settled in the 1800s and early 1900s. Since then, most of London's Jews have moved north, into more spacious, greener suburbs, but many happily still journey to Rinkoff's for their nostalgic baked goods. Learn more about the fascinating history of Rinkoff bakery in this article.

[https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/easy-](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/easy-marble-cake-recipe/)

Festival of Trees Celebration at Beth Israel Edmonton

ב"ה



ENJOY AN ENGAGING & INSIGHTFUL EVENING

WITH
RABBI TAL



SUN FEB 1

6-8 P.M.

AT BETH ISRAEL

HOSTED BY BETH ISRAEL
& FRIENDS OF JNF EDMONTON

FESTIVE MEAL & TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

TREE PLANTING WITH FRIENDS OF JNF GAMES & PRIZES FOR KIDS



**\$18 per person
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Evolving in the 21st Century ... Jan. 21-Feb. 8
“An Iliad” presented by Shadow Theatre

AN ILLIAD

BY LISA PETERSON & DENIS O'HARE

An Iliad

January 21, 2026 - February 8,
2026

Written by Lisa Peterson & Denis
O'Hare

Directed by John Hudson

AN ILLIAD 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

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