



TOI IN GAZA
EMANUEL FABIAN

IDF readying new Gaza offensive to disarm Hamas by force

Plans being drawn up for large-scale op, with terror group seen as unlikely to give up weapons otherwise; for now, IDF holding tight on Yellow Line, amid 'endless' tunnel demolition

A view of Gaza City's Shejaiya neighborhood from an Israeli army position in the Gaza Strip, February 9, 2026. (Emanuel Fabian/Times of Israel)

SHEJAIYA, Gaza Strip —

Four months into a ceasefire with Hamas, the Israeli military is drawing up plans for a renewed offensive in the Gaza Strip to disarm the terror group by force, The Times of Israel has learned.

The US-brokered ceasefire plan reached in October foresees the demilitarization of Gaza, including the disarmament of Hamas, along with a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Strip. However, implementation of the plan has remained unclear, with Israeli officials increasingly believing that stripping Hamas of its weapons will be impossible without the Israel Defense Forces taking action.

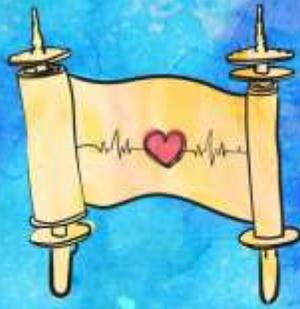
Should hostilities renew, fighting is liable to be more intense and more widespread than previous rounds, as Israeli forces will no longer be constrained by the presence of hostages on Gazan soil.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump have both insisted that the terror group must give up its weapons in the near future. Trump has repeatedly asserted that Hamas “promised” to lay down its arms, and has threatened the group over the issue.

However, at least publicly, Hamas has never agreed to lay down its arms.

IDF readying new Gaza offensive to disarm Hamas

"MISHPATIM" IN A NUTSHELL ...



The name of the Parshah, "Mishpatim," means "Ordinances" and it is found in [Exodus 21:1](#).

Following the [revelation at Sinai](#), [G'd](#) legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the [indentured servant](#); the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of [loans](#) and the responsibilities of the "[Four Guardians](#)"; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law.

Also included are laws warning against mistreatment of [foreigners](#); the observance of the [seasonal festivals](#), and the agricultural gifts that are to be brought to the [Holy Temple in Jerusalem](#); the prohibition against cooking [meat with milk](#); and the mitzvah of [prayer](#). Altogether, the [Parshah of Mishpatim](#) contains 53 [mitzvot](#)—23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions.

[G'd](#) promises to bring the people of Israel to the [Holy Land](#), and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants.

The people of Israel proclaim, "[We will do and we will hear](#) all that [G'd](#) commands us." Leaving [Aaron](#) and [Hur](#) in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses ascends [Mount Sinai](#) and remains there for [forty days and forty nights](#) to receive the [Torah](#) from [G'd](#).

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

TORAH GEMS

"Greeting the Sabbath"

"Come! Let us sing to Hashem, let us call out to the Rock of our salvation." (Psalm 95:1)

Come [lit., go]! The term "come," represents an enthusiastic appeal, urging someone to surrender his doubts or leave a course of action to which he has become attached. Forget your preoccupation with material concerns and heretical beliefs, the Psalmist urges, and join me in singing God's praises! (Meiri).

Every week, on the eve of the Sabbath, the Jew abandons his pursuit of and preoccupation with the material world and envelops himself in the spirit of the Sabbath. In Talmudic times, people would don their finest clothing and, with the approach of the Sabbath, say, "Let us go out to greet the Sabbath queen" (Shabbos 119a).

This custom was broadened by the Kabbalists of 16th-century Safed, who would literally walk out to the fields to greet the incoming Sabbath. The custom of reciting Psalms 95-99 at the Friday night service was instituted by Rav Moshe Cordovero (1522-1570), one of Safed's greatest mystics (Rav Yaakov Emden). From Safed, the new liturgy spread gradually until it was adopted in virtually all Jewish communities. The common theme of these six psalms is that God is King of the universe; that He created heaven and earth in six days and rested on the seventh. Someone who recognizes God as Master during the six working days is prepared to welcome His intense spiritual presence on the holy Sabbath.

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Psalms" by Rabbi Nossom Scherman / Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz, 2018, page 419.

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

YIDDISH CORNER ...

Shoyn eynmol a metsie!
What a bargain!

Ale meyles in aynem,
iz nito bay kaynem.
No one possesses all the virtues.

Dos veremel nart op,
un nit der fisher oder di vendke.

It's the bait that lures and not the fisherman or the tackle.

A lustiger dales geyt iber ales.

Happy poverty overcomes everything.

JEI: An Integral Part of Jewish Education



CHARLOTTE KORCHAK
FOUNDER, SENIOR EDUCATOR



Charlotte Korchak is the founder and Senior Educator of the Jerusalem Education Institute, a non-profit organization working to transform education on Israel and the Middle East. As an accomplished educator and speaker specializing in Israeli history, effective communication, and antisemitism, Charlotte captivates audiences with her passionate speaking style and ability to break down the most challenging concepts making them accessible to a wide range of audiences. Growing up in both the United States and in Israel during the Second Intifada, Charlotte brings a unique perspective as well as first hand experience of the conflict. Additionally, she earned her BA in Middle Eastern History from the University of Southern California where she also participated in the StandWithUs Emerson Fellowship. Charlotte began working at StandWithUs in 2010 where she eventually engaged over 50,000 students annually both online and on five different continents, ending her time there as the International Senior Educator. Often described as a walking encyclopedia, Charlotte's 15 years of expertise leaves audiences feeling educated, empowered, and more capable of engaging with their peers on these difficult issues. She has quickly become one of the foremost public speakers in her field.

Charlotte gave a very informative and bold lecture update February 9th in Edmonton and February 8 in Calgary. The topic was “Diaspora, Israel and The Go Forward”

Israel education should be a conversation, cultivating a space for critical thinking and asking questions. We are committed to encouraging individuals to develop what Zionism means to them and what it will look like throughout their lives.

Outside of the Jewish world, Israel education lacks accurate information and important details that are essential to understanding rifts in the region. We look to provide a variety of resources from presentations to curriculums to consultations to better prepare educators, students, and the community at large with the most accurate and current information.

Jerusalem Education Institute – A Renovation on Israel Education

**ISRAEL'S STORY IS STILL BEING WRITTEN EVERY DAY,
SOMETIMES CHANGING BY THE HOUR. JEI IS PREPARED TO
STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AS AN INTEGRAL RESOURCE
FOR ISRAEL EDUCATION.**

Zionism is our belief - and we are proud Jews



WHAT IS ZIONISM?



The Belief in a **Jewish State** in the Land of Israel.



Charlotte Korchak
Jerusalem Education Institute



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JEWISH BREAKFAST RECIPES

Savory Everything Bagel Monkey Bread Recipe

Monkey bread gets a savory, bagel-inspired makeover.

As it turns out, the origins of monkey bread are rooted in a Hungarian cake called Aranygaluska, which was brought to the United States by the Hungarian Jewish community.

[*Savory Everything Bagel Monkey Bread Recipe*](#) |

Plan to Attend Festival Hatzafon ... Sun. March 15

This is one event you don't want to miss...

You can buy tickets at the door of the Westbury Theatre located at 10330 - 84 Avenue.

A wonderful Israeli music/dance event for the whole family. Come and enjoy!



CONTEST:

What is the meaning of "Hatzafon?"

First person to "reply" correctly will win four tickets to the festival!

Reply to:
albertajewishpipeline@shaw.ca

CRISTINE & BARRY SLAWSKY PROUDLY PRESENT

אחד

**MARCH 15, 2026
WESTBURY THEATRE
4:00 PM**

festival **HATZAFON**

SPONSORED BY

EDMONTON TALMUD TORAH SOCIETY
אגודת תלמידי תורה אדמנטון

Jewish Federation OF EDMONTON
Powered by United Jewish Appeal

19 Jewish and Israeli athletes to watch at the 2026 Winter Olympics



The Winter Olympics are always a whirlwind: new sports, unfamiliar names, and suddenly you're emotionally invested in someone you met 12 seconds ago, Googling "what is a good time in skeleton."

At the 2026 Winter Olympics, everything happens at once: blades scraping ice, skis carving mountains, bodies flying down a track at "why would a human do this?" speed. The Games will bounce between Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy. Still, the vibe is universal: precision, chaos, and the kind of pressure that turns one clean run into a career-defining clip.

This year, Jewish and Israeli athletes will be in the mix across the rink, the slopes, and the sliding track, and part of the fun is realizing how wide that mix actually is. Some names you'll recognize right away. Others are the classic Winter Olympics experience: you learn them mid-competition, fall a little in love with their grit, and then spend the rest of the week acting as if you've always been a fan.

[19 Jewish and Israeli athletes to watch at the 2026 Winter Olympics](#) -

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 22nd to reserve your seat! At chabadedmonton.org

FOR MORE INFO CALL RABBI ARI @ 780-993-1818

Chabad Edmonton, Alberta  

A Project by Chabad of Edmonton

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#ChabadofEdmonton



Purim
Worlds of Fantasy
at Beth Israel

March 3, 2026
Megillah Reading 4 PM | Festive Meal 5 PM
Adults \$30 | Youth 12-18 \$20 | Kids 6-11 \$12
Kids under 6 Free

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



Now 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/>

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



Annual Tu Bi'Shevat Campaign
2026/5786

Let's restore life and hope to Kibbutz Holit



On October 7, Kibbutz Holit was devastated, losing beloved members of its community, including Canadian-born mother Adi Vital-Kaploun, who was killed while protecting her children. The survivors were forced to disperse, and now they are determined to return home in 2026.

At the heart of this renewal, Friends of JNF Canada is committed to building a central landscape with gardens, shaded playgrounds and outdoor fitness areas where children, parents and seniors can heal, reconnect, and rebuild community. You can help restore the Heart of Holit and turn resilience into renewal.

[Watch this
short video](#)





Calgary, AB – February 4, 2026 –

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the advocacy agent of Jewish Federations of Canada–UIA, is pleased to announce that Marley Gillies has joined the organization as Senior Director, Alberta.

Marking the establishment of CIJA’s first office in the province, Marley will work closely with the leadership teams of the Calgary Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton to strengthen and expand Jewish advocacy efforts across Alberta.

CIJA’s immediate priorities in the region include deepening relationships with elected officials and decision-makers, advancing community security initiatives, and driving coordinated action to confront antisemitism at all levels of government.

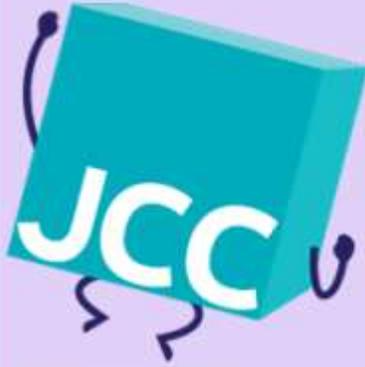
“Home to more than 15,000 Jews whose roots in the province stretch back to the mid-19th century, Alberta’s Jewish community has made enduring contributions to law, business, the arts, philanthropy, and public life,” said Noah Shack, CEO, CIJA.

“The opening of CIJA’s first Alberta office will significantly enhance our advocacy and help build a brighter future for our community and for all Albertans. This milestone is also a lasting legacy of Al Osten, whose generosity and commitment made it possible.”

The Jewish communities of Calgary and Edmonton have long been engaged in local advocacy. The establishment of a permanent CIJA presence in Alberta strengthens their collective ability to respond to emerging challenges while proactively advancing priorities that benefit these communities, the province, and Canada as a whole.

CIJA Strengthens Alberta Advocacy -





JUMP UP! WITH THE JCC

With the Family Day long weekend just around the corner, now's the perfect time to start planning some family fun! We have a great line-up of activities and programs for all ages—on **Family Day and beyond**—designed to bring people together, spark creativity, and make lasting memories. Be sure to check out what's coming up and join us in celebrating time well spent with family and community!

Camp JCC is a great place to be! Our annual [summer camp](#) for children ages 4 to 12 will run from June 29 to August 28. Explore our [camp guide](#) to discover all the programs that your children will love, and [register online](#).

Take advantage of our early bird discount and save 5% off general and sports camps when you register your child(ren) before April 30.

Do you have questions about this year's Camp? Then join us at our Summer Camp Sneak-a-Peek on Sunday, February 8 from 10:00am to noon! We'll have a craft table set up for the kids while parents ask us questions.

Camp JCC 2026 Registration

JCC Member: Opens on Wednesday, February 18

Public: Opens on Wednesday, February 25

Get your bounce on and be sure to mark your calendars for our next **Bouncy Castle Day** on Sunday, February 15 from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Double the fun because we'll also have it available on Monday, February 16 from 11:30am to 2:30pm as part of our [Family Day at the JCC](#) activities!

<https://www.calgaryjcc.com/event/family-day-at-the-jcc/>



**FAMILY PURIM
CARNIVAL**

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | 10AM TO 12PM

Costumes on, smiles ready! Join us for an afternoon of games, treats, laughter, and Purim fun for the whole family.

Don't miss this joyful community celebration — it's going to be *megillah*-mazing!

The poster features a dark red background with a striped and bunting border at the top. On the left is a colorful wooden toy (a dreidel-like object) and on the right is a purple and pink masquerade mask with colorful feathers.



**Purim Shpiel
& Dinner**

Monday, March 2 at 5:30pm

Celebrate Purim with us — under the sea!

Enjoy a festive service, a Little Mermaid Purim shpiel, and a joyful community dinner, in partnership with Temple B'nai Tikvah.

Sing, laugh, and share the joy of Purim together!

The poster has a white background with a decorative border of brown and gold triangles. At the top center is a colorful illustration of a mermaid's tail and a crown.

JOURNEY TO ISRAEL

TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH

LED BY RABBI MARK GLICKMAN

OCTOBER 21-29, 2026 /// FROM **\$3,895** (Price in USD)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Begin a meaningful journey of learning, connection, and shared purpose.
- Experience Jerusalem's sacred layers through study, history, and Shabbat.
- Stand at the Kotel and reflect on enduring Jewish faith.
- Ascend Masada and float in the timeless Dead Sea.
- Honor memory and resilience at Yad Vashem.
- Engage deeply with justice, democracy, and Israeli society.
- Bear witness to courage and rebuilding near Gaza's border.
- Explore Tel Aviv's creativity, markets, and modern Zionist story.
- Discover ancient Jaffa where roots and renewal intertwine.
- Return home inspired by Israel's spirit, people, and promise.



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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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CALGARY ...



CHAIR OR NOT CHAIR – THAT IS THE QUESTION

CELEBRATING JDAIM 2026 AND ITZHAK PERLMAN

FREE

FEATURING GUESTS



Mariya



Rachel



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 • 2:30 - 5PM

JDAIM
FEBRUARY 2026
Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

INCLUSION
POWERED BY CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION

Featuring a screening of *Itzhak* — a powerful documentary about the life, artistry, and accessibility journey of world- renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman — followed by a discussion and live musical performance by Violinist Mariya Usachev Bukhta and Pianist Rachel Kreyner.

This inspiring event asks an important question: “What would have happened if Itzhak Perlman had been denied the opportunity to perform seated?”

Accessibility and inclusion allow every talent to shine — and we all benefit.

Childcare available.



Mariya



Rachel

Followed by a live musical performance from Mariya Usachev Bukhta (violinist) and Rachel Kreyner (pianist).

Chair or Not Chair — That Is the Question:

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



HEROES
גיבורים

project-heroes.co.il/en



Mark your Calendar ...

ⴒ B'NAI BRITH
CALGARY LODGE #816
& CALGARY LODGE MENORAH FOUNDATION

73rd ANNUAL
Dinner

Special Guest
Moderator



— The Right Honourable —
**Stephen
Harper**



Honouring



— Ben Docktor
Award Recipient —
Bill Lister

An evening with

Conrad Black Barbara Amiel
Stephen Harper

Thursday, April 23rd, 2026

5:30PM COCKTAILS | 6:30PM DINNER

Tickets: \$375.⁰⁰

CRA Registered Charity #88893 8461 RT0001



Sponsorship opportunities: 403.255.6554

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



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