

# ALBERTA JEWISH PIPELINE



January 12, 2025  
Tevet 23, 5786

Edmonton: Light candles Friday at 4:30 PM  
Calgary: Light candles Friday at 4:42 PM

FREE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER



## MIDDLE EAST NOW

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YAAKOV LAPPIN Security Analyst



# "VA'EIRA" IN A NUTSHELL ...

The name of the Parshah, "Va'era," means "and I appeared" and it is found in [Exodus 6:3](#).

Gd reveals Himself to [Moses](#). Employing the "[four expressions of redemption](#)," take out the Children of Israel from Egypt, deliver them from their enslavement, redeem them, and acquire them as [His own chosen people](#) at "[Mount Sinai](#)"; He will then bring them to the [land He promised to the Patriarchs](#) as their eternal heritage.

Moses and [Aaron](#) repeatedly [come before Pharaoh](#) to demand in the name of Gd, "Let My people go, so that they may serve Me in the wilderness." Pharaoh repeatedly refuses. [Aaron's staff turns into a snake](#) and swallows the magic sticks of the Egyptian sorcerers. Gd then sends a series of [plagues](#) upon the Egyptians.



The waters of the Nile [turn to blood](#); swarms of [frogs overrun the land](#); [lice](#) infest all men and beasts. Hordes of [wild animals](#) invade the cities; a [pestilence](#) kills the domestic animals; painful [boils](#) afflict the Egyptians. For the seventh plague, [fire and ice](#) combine to descend from the skies as a [devastating hail](#). Still, "[the heart of Pharaoh was hardened](#) and he would not let the children of Israel go, as Gd had said to Moses."

Learn: [Va'era in Depth](#)

Browse: [Va'era Parshah Columnists](#)

Prep: [Devar Torah Q&A for Va'era](#)

Read: [Haftarah in a Nutshell](#)

## TORAH GEMS

### "The Unsullied Organ" "

Let my prayer stand as incense before You; the lifting of my hands as an afternoon offering." (Psalm 141:2) Tanchuma (Tezaveh 14, 15) elaborates on the significance of the incense-offering and concludes that incense is the most intimate and personal of offerings, for all other offerings are brought on the Outer Altar of stone, whereas incense is burnt on the inner Altar of gold, in the proximity of the Holy of Holies, where God's spirit dwells.

Bnei Yisas'char (Chodesh Sivan 4:7) explains that God cherishes the sense of smell because it was the only one of the five

senses that did not participate in Adam's sin. [Scripture recounts that Adam's ears heard God's command and disregarded it; Eve's eyes saw the fruit and coveted it; her hands plucked and handled it; and their mouths tasted and savored it.] God blew the original breath of life into Adam's nostrils, and the nose remains the most spiritual and unsullied organ of man.

Adapted from Artscroll's "The Writings; Psalms" by Rabbi Nossom Scherman / Rabbi Gedaliah Zlotowitz, 2018, page 643. Torah Gem Archives: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/torahidbits>

## YIDDISH CORNER ...

**Sholem aleykhem!** Lit. Peace be unto you! Hello! Customary reply: **Aleykhem Sholem!**

In Israel, the Hebrew word "**shalom**" is used for both greeting and parting.

(Note the different spellings for the first word: Sholem, Sholom, Sha-

lom—Yiddish, Ashkenazic, Biblical/modern Hebrew).

**Vos makht a yid?** Lit. How's a Jew doing? A good-natured inquiry as to how things are going.

**Zay nit keyn fremder.** Don't be a stranger. This is a parting word from a host; i.e. "Keep in touch."



**Last month I toured the Rachashei Lev facilities at Tel Hashomer in Tel Aviv.**



My visit was kindly arranged by Osnat Dvorkin, the Senior Israel Representative of Canadian friends of JNF, on the recommendation of Jason Cairns, the Friends of JNF Canada representative in Edmonton. KKL / JNF are a sponsor of this facility.



The facilities are on a campus in the centre of the Tel Hashomer health facilities. I was also able to tour the Tel Hashomer hospital's pediatric oncology facility.

It is remarkable what Israel is able to provide for children with cancer in Israel. All patients and their families are provided with housing, food and all the necessary medical treatment.

Please see the four pages that follow, and feel free to visit the Rachashei Lev website at:

**<https://rachasheilev.org/?lang=en>**

If you would like to donate to this facility contact:  
**odvorkin@friendsofjnfca.org or info@r-lev.com**



# Heart of Compassion - Rachashei Lev



## The activities of the Rachashei Lev

A Non Profit Organization for Children with Cancer



**Rachashei Lev** has taken it upon itself to help children with cancer and their families and accompany them hand in hand from the moment the disease is discovered.

The emphasis are medical, social, psychological and economic with the aim of giving the children strength, optimism and hope in their war for life.

The organization is accompanied by the best doctors in Israel and around the world, and leading businessmen, in order to ensure the best professional assistance for children with cancer.

We make sure at Rachashei Lev to do our best to complete the medical treatment with our aid – while the doctors take the disease out of the child, we take the child out of the disease.





# Children's House - the Organization's Flagship



In the Sheba Hospital – Tel Hashomer complex, near the Safra Children's Hospital, the Rachashei Lev organization created the Children's House in 2007, which is an activity center for children with cancer from all around the country.



Rachashei Lev offers free accommodation for children and their parents in 20 fully equipped suites. Each suite consists of three rooms, parents room, a children's room, a living room, a kitchenette and a balcony, which allows the child and his family to be comfortably accommodated in a spacious place and to maintain the integrity of the family.

The main building of the complex is an activity center for guests of the Children's House and for the children hospitalized in the oncology wards. There is a spacious dining room that offers daily hot meals, game rooms, computer room, a library, a synagogue, a playground and shaded outdoor play areas.

The Children's House allows cancer ill children and their families to be together throughout the difficult treatments and to receive personal assistance and support by the professional staff of the organization.





# Heart of Compassion ... Whisperers of Hope



**Watch this video:**

[Promotional Videos of Rachashei Lev for Children](#)





# "Whisperers of the Heart" for Kids with Cancer in Israel





# *"Rachashei Lev" in Israel Assists Kids with Cancer*



Sendy Yudkevitz



<https://rachasheilev.org/?lang=en>

If you would like to donate to this facility contact:  
[odvorkin@friendsofjnfca.org](mailto:odvorkin@friendsofjnfca.org) or [info@r-lev.com](mailto:info@r-lev.com)



**"Heart of Compassion / Whisperers of the Heart"**



# Evolving in the 21st Century...

## Edmonton Chevra Kadisha's Legacy of Inclusion



**Supporting Diversity**

**Edmonton Chevra Kadisha**  
**Interfaith cemetery campaign**

Every donation makes an impact.  
Your gift helps create a place that reflects the  
inclusivity and values of our diverse Jewish community.

[Donate Now](#)

Click "donate" or scan QR code

**O**ur Edmonton Interfaith cemetery is more than just land...it is about compassion, inclusion, and legacy. Launching a public campaign ensures that all members of our diverse Jewish community have an opportunity to participate in this special campaign.

Since 1907, dedicated volunteers of the Edmonton Chevra Kadisha (ECK) have provided a dignified and respectful final tribute, ensuring every soul is treated with the utmost reverence and respect. In February 2025, ECK membership overwhelmingly passed a motion to create an Interfaith section at the north cemetery, allowing families with one non-Jewish spouse/partner to be laid to rest together.

ECK is proud of its history and ability to evolve over a century, continuing to meet our diverse community's needs. With the inclusion of the Interfaith section, ECK will continue the sacred rites of a Jewish burial, along with a respectful burial for a non-Jewish spouse/partner.

Through the generosity of many donors, \$197,881 has been raised to date. We have now launched a public campaign to ensure that all members of our community can participate. It is our hope that with your help, we will meet our goal of \$250,000.

**YOU CAN MAKE YOUR GIFT NOW BY  
CLICKING ...**

[Supporting Diversity - Edmonton Chevra Kadisha Interfaith cemetery campaign](#)

# *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**





## Birobidzhan The Jewish Land, Far, Far Away

with  
Rabbi Zilbershtein

Ever wondered where  
Rabbi Zilbershtein came  
from? Is it Ukraine?  
Is it Russia? Time to  
unravel the mystery.

Join Rabbi Alisa  
Zilbershtein for a  
journey to Birobidzhan,  
the Soviet Union's Jewish  
Autonomous Region.  
Discover the fascinating  
history of this little-known  
"Jewish homeland" in  
Russia's Far East, and  
hear Rabbi Alisa's personal  
memories of growing up in  
this unique corner of  
the Jewish world."



## Adult Education Committee Program

# בִּירוֹבִּידְזְשָׁן



**Sunday,  
January 25  
at 1:00pm**

Zoom link: [https://  
us02web.zoom.us/  
j/89754906135](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89754906135)

## 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

The Moshe Yedlin library is  
open during regular office  
hours Monday through Fri-  
day. Come in and browse  
our wonderful collection. If  
you choose to borrow a  
book and no library volun-  
teer is on site, please enter  
the book information on  
the sign up sheet in the li-  
brary. If you have not been  
registered into the system  
already, please contact Ka-  
ren Hering at [heringk@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## 13 Jewish Meatball Recipes for Every Mood

*Just roll with it.*



The old trope “two Jews, three opinions” does not apply to meatballs. A love of meatballs is the great Jewish unifier, with treasured recipes hailing from communities all over the world – from Syria to Russia, Persia to the good old US-of-A.

I’ve rounded up The Noshers’ 13 best Jewish meatball recipes to deliver you a spherical dish for every mood. We have meatballs of every size; chicken ‘balls, beef ‘balls and lamb ‘balls; summer ‘balls and winter ‘balls. So dampen those palms, turn on your stove and get ready to roll.

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher/13-jewish-meatball-recipes-for-every-mood/?>



# Reunion planned for Talmud Torah Grad Class of 1961



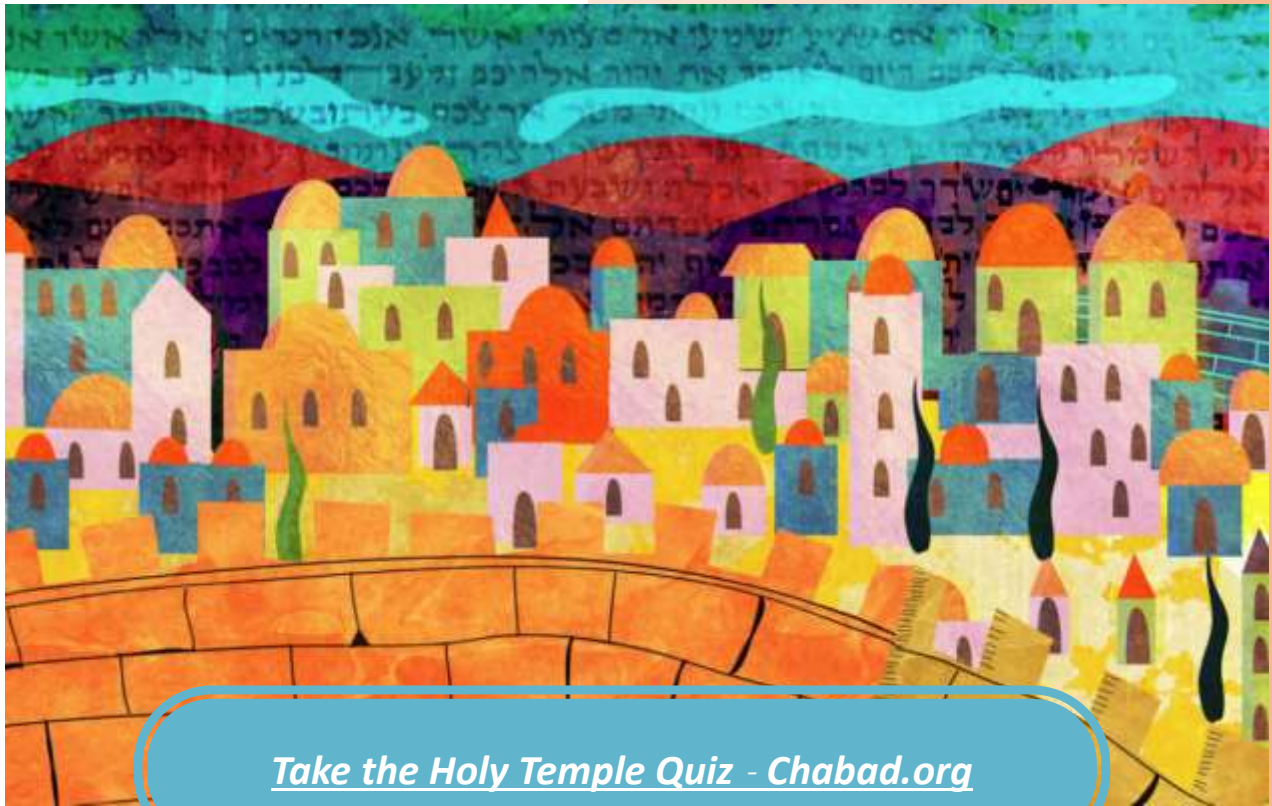
A reunion will take place in May for Edmonton Talmud Torah students from the graduation class of 1961.

Can identify any of the students in these photos ?  
There will be a prize rewarded for whoever sends in the most correct names to:  
[edmontonjewishpipeline@shaw.ca](mailto:edmontonjewishpipeline@shaw.ca)





## Take the Holy Temple Quiz



[Take the Holy Temple Quiz - Chabad.org](https://www.chabad.org/quiz/holy-temple-quiz)

## Your Kosher Headquarters in Edmonton

A cartoon illustration of a smiling man with a beard holding various kosher products including Bamba, Gefilte Fish, Schewitz, and Kedem. The background is yellow with a pattern of Stars of David.

✓ Everything kosher,  
all in one place.

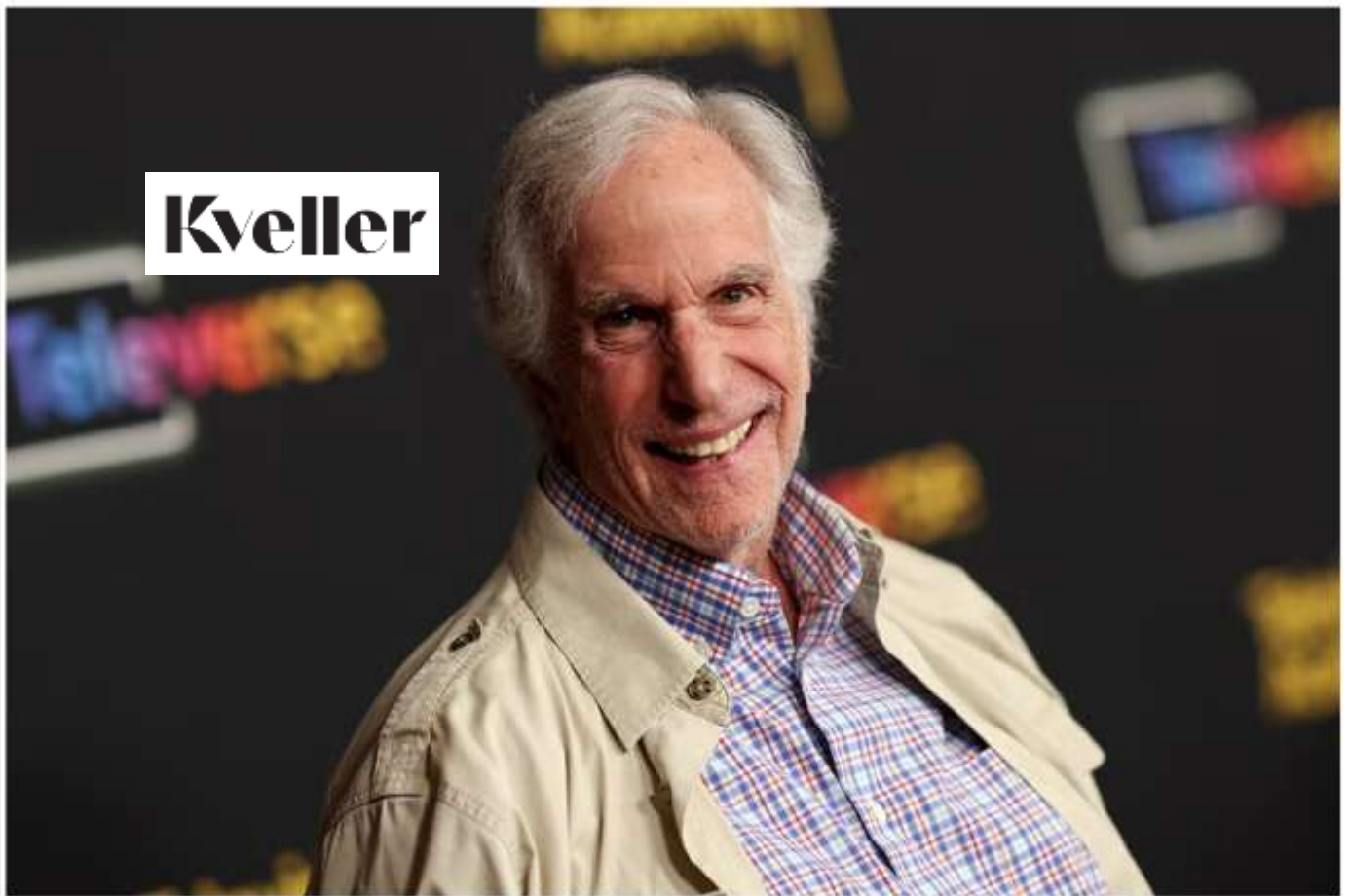
Brook's

**NOFRILLS**

10467 80th Avenue NW., Edmonton



### Henry Winkler to Star as Lawyer Howard Greenberg in New NBC comedy



via VALERIE MACON/AFP via Getty Images

If you've ever watched "Arrested Development," you know that Henry Winkler is really good at playing comically bad lawyers on TV. It's honestly impossible to forget (and not to laugh at) his Barry Zuckerkorn.

Now, Winkler is about to star in a legal comedy all of his own. "Last Chance Lawyer," in which Winkler plays "hard-driving and unconventional criminal defense attorney" Howard Greenberg, is currently in development at NBC, according to Variety.

<https://www.kveller.com/henry-winkler-to-star-as-lawyer-howard-greenberg-in-new-nbc->



We invite you to attend our upcoming ZOOM lecture series:

## **RESPONDING TO CHRISTIAN CHALLENGES TO JUDAISM**

**The Jewish Christian Argument**  
with Rabbi Michael Skobac

<https://jewsforjudaism.ca/challenges26/>

How should Jews respond to challenges from Christian friends, neighbours, business associates, or online articles and video

In these four pre-recorded lectures Rabbi Skobac will focus on the basic concepts in the Jewish-Christian debate. Jews will grow confident in their commitment to Judaism and not feel intimidated by those seeking to undermine their faith.

Each week, after the presentation of the pre-recorded video lecture, Rabbi Michael Skobac will answer all participants' questions during a **Q&A session**.



THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

# The world's breathtaking hypocrisy on Somaliland

*The country suffered a 30-year boycott for the sin of separating itself from a state defined by genocidal violence and starvation – Israel righted a historic wrong*



An elderly Somali man (front) fights to retain the sack of rice he has stolen from a feeding center during looting in Mogadishu, Jan. 9, 1993. (AP Photo/Greg Marinovich)

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-worlds-breathtaking-hypocrisy-on-somaliland/>

# 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](mailto:nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com)



Managed by Edmonton Talmud Torah Society





# 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  
ChaiLifeeyyc.ca



TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH

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.chailifeeyyc.ca/>

## L'dor v'dor: Reviving Jewish Theatre in Calgary

Born from the legacy of the Beth Israel Players, Chai Life Productions revives Jewish theatre in Calgary after 40 years.

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[albertajewishpipeline@shaw.ca](mailto:albertajewishpipeline@shaw.ca)

