

Calgary Jewish Film Fest unveils its 2026 season

By Maxine Fischbein, LJI Reporter

Following a quarter century of crowd-pleasing cinema, the Calgary Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival is pulling out all the stops with an outstanding lineup of feature films, documentaries and special guests that will make Season 26 very special for film lovers, says the festival's founder and long-time director Harvey Cyngiser.

The film fest takes place at Beth Tzedec November 7-22 beginning with opening night feature film *Our Loves*, directed by preeminent Israeli filmmaker Avi Nesher, who provided deeply thoughtful insights to Calgary Jewish Film Festival attendees during a time of crisis for Israel and the Jewish people when he introduced his film *The Monkey House* just weeks after the devastating October 7, 2023 Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel.

An October 7-adjacent film, *Our Loves* really has more to do with human relationships, resilience, and humanity than the national calamity, which serves as backdrop and catalyst for change as a variety of characters are forced to confront fault lines in their relationships with others and themselves.

Nesher's tour de force recently garnered a stunning 12 Ophir Awards nominations (Israel's equivalent to the Oscars), including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay.

The following day, film and folk aficionados are guaranteed to love *Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls: Another Side of Woody Guthrie*. The nostalgic feel-good

One thousand people join Calgary's Walk with Israel



Some 1,000 from Calgary's Jewish community and its allies attended this year's Walk with Israel and UJA campaign launch on Sept. 7. The event coincided with a freilach holiday marketplace. Photos by Derrick Birkmann for Calgary Jewish Federation.

documentary explores Jewish influences on the life, times, and music of the folk music legend, most notably his touching relationship with his mother-in-law, acclaimed Yiddish poet Aliza Greenblatt, who was herself a star.

It is fitting that a film celebrating Jewish values that Guthrie (though not himself Jewish) lived by, is the inaugural Arlein Z"L and Dov Chetner Z"L *Am Yisrael Chai* Screening, dedicated by the Chetner family in memory of Arlein and Dov, both of blessed memory, whose names remain synonymous with music and Jewish life.

Notably, the Jerusalem Foundation will also be supporting the film festival for the first time, as sponsors of two feature films: the highly acclaimed and multiple award-winning Israel/Germany drama *Where To?* and the often-madcap Israeli dramedy *The Wedding Entertainer* (*The tale of Moishe Badhan*).

A rare triple-documentary picture show constitutes this year's Dr. Ralph Gurevitch Tikkun Olam Screening.

The Sacred Society – a US film presented in

Continued on page 18

Edmonton UJA campaign launches with a joyful event that celebrates community

By Deborah Shatz

The Edmonton 2026 UJA launch was a joyful event that celebrated Jewish culture and community. It featured a fireside chat with Edmonton Oiler Zach Hyman, an acclaimed hockey player – an Edmonton Oiler – who is proudly Jewish. He wears the number 18 on his jersey – much to the delight of the entire Edmonton Jewish Community. There is also a coveted jersey in circulation with his Hebrew name on the back.

His delightful conversation with former sports anchor and community leader Lisa Miller was engaging and uplifting and reminded the sold-out crowd about the importance of Jewish Pride.

Replying to Lisa's engaging questions, Zach discussed his Jewish upbringing and his Jewish values. His demeanor was relaxed, calm and charming as he regaled stories about his family life in

Toronto, attending Jewish Day School through High School, participating in Jewish community events in Toronto and the Maccabiah Games. We learned that his parents taught him to value Jewish education, family, friendships and community. He told the community that basically he was and still is a Jewish kid who plays hockey.

He's a local hero to the Edmonton Jewish community and to most in the community at large. And he's openly Jewish; community is important to him. Jewish culture is important to him. In his first season with the Oilers, he participated in the Edmonton Giant Menorah lighting, hosted by Chabad of Edmonton. He told the Edmonton UJA audience that his main charity event is a golf game – not because he's great at golf but because his friends are and it's a great activity to bring them together. The beneficiaries of his charity golf tournament are the Jewish Federation of Toronto (his home town), Sick Kids Hospital, Jewish Federation of Edmonton and



Zach Hyman and Lisa Miller

the Stollery Children's Hospital.

He said that moving to Edmonton was the best decision that he and his wife made. Sure there was the obvious draw of playing with world class NHL teammates McDavid, Draisaitl, Nugent-Hopkins and others but he let each one of us believe that the strength of our Jewish community had something to do with it. It was like a challenge for each of us to do

Continued on page 21

Diverse communities unite in Calgary's Walk with Israel

By Mark Cooper, LJI Reporter

While some 1,000 supporters marched through the damp weather for Calgary's Walk with Israel, a group of Iranian Canadian allies braved far more than the elements.

Among them was Arash. Having lived in North America for 15 years, he fears a photograph of him marching could cost him his freedom, or his life, if he ever returns to Iran while the Islamic Republic regime is in power.

Yet for Arash and others in his community, standing in solidarity with the Jewish community during the September 7 walk in southwest Calgary from the Paperny Family JCC was a "duty." They feel a deep sense of gratitude toward the Jewish state.

"The only ally that we have in Iran is Israel and the only ally that the Israeli people have in the region is the Iranian people," said Arash, who didn't want to provide his last name for fear of repercussions from those loyal to the regime.

"It's our job, it's our duty (to be here). The people are here for us, and we are here for Israel," he said.

He was walking under a Persian "Lion and Sun" flag—one of many mixed alongside Israeli and Canadian flags during the march, which was shortened slightly by a steady drizzle and cool temperatures.

Eghbal Kayadan, a Calgary-based Iranian community leader and journalist who leads local opposition to the Islamic Republic, explained that some community members fear for their safety due to the presence of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) operatives in Canada and Calgary. He noted that their regular peace marches in the city are frequently disrupted by foreign actors who support the regime. Still, the sense of allegiance runs deep.

"We are honoured to be side-by-side with the Jewish community in Calgary, in Alberta and in Canada," said Kayadan, who has been living in exile in Canada for 36 years.

"We are so happy anytime the Jewish community has a program or an event; we are happy to join them and to support them and be united with them.

"It was so beautiful to get out and to feel energized.

It was a rainy day, but people were so happy united together."

In addition to the Persian community, the walk drew allies from the Christian, Hindu, Hazara, Kurdish, and Nigerian communities. Calgary city councillors and MLAs from both the NDP and UCP also joined the event coordinated by the Calgary Jewish Federation.

Organizations such as Allies for a Strong Canada, Bridges Calgary Association, and Stand With Us also had a strong showing during the annual event, which marks the official kickoff for the 2026 United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Campaign. Sponsored by the Balaban family and Peakhill Capital, the gathering also included a children's carnival and a Rosh Hashanah market.

For the first time, the *Alberta Jewish News* and Chai There! the podcast had a table at the market. Alberta Jewish News Publisher Deborah Shatz said the energy she felt was electric.

"The reception we received was truly special," said Shatz. "People were incredibly welcoming, and it was wonderful to connect so closely with everyone throughout the day."

Rob Nagus, CEO of the Federation, said having so many allies supporting the community at this year's walk was an inspiration.

"It's a testament to the friends we have here in the City of Calgary and to our Jewish community and our leaders who are constantly going out and making those connections, supporting other marginalized communities that are in need of support, and they really showed up for us today," said Nagus. "And this is what friendship and allyship is all about."

The wide-ranging support was a huge boost for the young Israeli women who recently began their one-year term under the Shinshinim program, which brings Israeli high-school graduates who choose to postpone their mandatory army service, to both Calgary and Edmonton and around the world to volunteer.

"It's amazing to see people from all over who came just to walk with us and to be here," said Adva Tzukerman, one of the four Shinshinim who danced joyfully draped with Israeli flags during the march.

Tzukerman, who is spending her gap year in Calgary, found the walk truly eye-opening. She noted that living in Israel can sometimes feel isolating,



Friends and allies proudly joined the 2026 Walk with Israel including Iranian Canadian Eghbal Kayadan (second from right) and others. Photo by Derrick Birkmann for CJF.

leaving many residents disconnected from the global support that exists for their country.

"It's so beautiful and the community and people are so nice and warm. You are not aware how much love there is to Israel when you are in Israel, and you don't see how much people around the world care."

That's one of the main reasons Pastor Jon Harwood, from Calgary's Solid Rock Baptist Church and many of his congregants showed up for the walk.

"Number one, we love the God of Israel," said Harwood.

"The same God they serve is the same God we serve. And that's why we come out here, because of Him. That's why we're here today and that's what motivates us to keep doing this.

"It was good to be out here with everybody and to see what is going on and that there's still a lot of support for the Jews in Calgary. We just love the Jewish people and if the Lord will give us many more years, we want to keep doing this."

Calgary-Elbow NDP MLA Samir Kayande joined members of the Jewish community for the walk. His attendance follows an incident earlier in the summer involving party leader Naheed Nenshi, who faced a two-pronged backlash over a Stampede photo-op. After drawing heavy criticism from some for posing with Israeli Ambassador Iddo Moed, Nenshi first defended the encounter then issued a public apology. However, that apology, which included a condemnation of the actions of the Israeli government, sparked immediate displeasure from Jewish community organizations and others, who criticized him for treating a routine diplomatic greeting as a moral infraction.

"It's important to me and the entire Alberta NDP that Jewish Albertans feel safe, included and enmeshed in the fabric of this province," said Kayande in a written response provided to the *Alberta Jewish News* by the NDP caucus.

"Hateful antisemitic acts are on the rise, and we must all stand with the Jewish people, who deserve to be safe everywhere in the world. Attending the Walk (with) Israel is a small symbol of our solidarity."

Family SHABBAT DINNER

OCTOBER 23 AT 5:45PM

Celebrate Shabbat with friends, family and a delicious meal.



 BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

Register online at bethtzedec.ca

The family of
Morris Dancyger מ"ד
would like to sincerely thank all of our friends for your condolences, best wishes, donations to worthy causes, flowers, and family meals in memory of Morris.

Your support has really meant a lot in our time of grief.

 Ann Dancyger

ADAM SINGER, M.A., LL.B.
Divorce & Family Law

(403) 476-0153
asinger@wilcraft.com
www.wilcraft.com

650, 211 - 11 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, T2R 0C6

WILSON LAYCRAFT



SADOVNICK MORGAN LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

* Full Service Accounting
* Legacy Planning
* Tax & Audit Services
* Specializing in High Net Worth Families

Have a good school year!

Call for a free consultation:
(587) 401-4900
www.smlp.ca • michael@smlp.ca

By Mark Cooper, LJI Reporter

For those 72 hours, his work almost entirely focused on facilitating dozens of interviews with Israelis on the ground, ensuring Canadians could bear witness to the atrocities committed that day. He knew immediately his job would never go back to what it was prior to October 7.

He was hired by Honest Reporting Canada in 2004 from his job as a project manager at a marketing company to help do that work.

Change Requires Constant Pushback

However, since October 7, Honest Reporting Canada has observed a rapid rise in the delegitimization, demonization, and double standards applied to Israel, rhetoric the group says often crosses into antisemitism. Furthermore, the organization notes that those who voice these perspectives on media platforms frequently go unchallenged by Canadian journalists.

"I would rather educate a journalist and try to prevent bad media coverage from happening than try to cure it after the fact."

However, as his March 10, 2026 written testimony to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage articulates, Fegelman has faced an onslaught of post October 7 anti-Israel stories that he says promote “hardline anti-Israel disinformation” and contribute to a spike in anti-Jewish hate crimes in Canada.

"It soon became clear that for CBC – and for wide swathes of the Canadian media landscape – their role was not to report the facts to the Canadian public, but to use their immense influence in society to promote a narrow, ideological agenda," he testified.

“Present day news outlets regurgitate talking points from pro-Palestinian activists and overwhelmingly



Challenging the Public Broadcaster

While Fegelman has challenged all corners of Canada's media landscape his most vociferous criticism is saved for the CBC which he says deliberately chooses to promote ideology over facts at the taxpayer's expense.

Honest Reporting Canada subscribers now receive near-daily action alerts. These emails ask them to sign pre-written complaints to journalists and editors over coverage the group flags as biased or incomplete. Often, the action alerts are directed at the CBC.

“There’s no question that CBC is the number one proponent of media bias against Israel in Canada, whether that’s English or French Canada with Radio Canada,” he said, noting that part of that is due to the number of resources the public broadcaster has at its disposal.

But Fegelman is deeply critical of CBC's editorial direction, noting the highly controversial directive to its journalists not to refer to Hamas as terrorists, as well as allegations the public broadcaster sanctioned one of its Jewish journalists for posting video on his own social media platform of a pro-Palestinian protest outside of a Toronto Yom Kippur gathering.

CBC Defends its Reporting

In a written response to questions from *Alberta Jewish News* about these criticisms, Chuck Thompson, CBC's Head of Public Affairs, defended the public broadcaster's objectivity.

“We firmly reject the assertion that *CBC News* exhibits an anti-Israel bias, or that our coverage prioritizes ideological narratives over facts,” said Thompson.

Thompson said that CBC journalism adheres to strict standards of fairness, balance, and integrity. He defended the network's restriction on the word "terrorist," arguing that credible international outlets have similar policies "to rely on precise, fact-based

Continued on page 20



JEWISH COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION OF CALGARY



AGM 2026

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 28, 2026

7:00 PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

Register by email at
mail@jcfc.ca
 or by the
 QR code




THOUGHTFUL GIVING.
MEANINGFUL CHANGE.


STRONGER TODAY.
SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW.


CONNECTED.
STRONGER TOGETHER.


JCFC.CA

Jewish Identity Educator Charlotte Korchak returns to Edmonton Nov. 21 & 22

By Jay Cairns

Friends of JNF Canada is bringing back world-class Jewish identity and Israel educator Charlotte Korchak to Edmonton in November. She is one of the best speakers you will ever hear, which is why we decided to bring her back for an opportunity to engage, learn and ask questions on Saturday night and/or Sunday afternoon, Nov. 21–22, 2026.

Charlotte is on the front lines, tabling, educating and interacting with students on campus and online. She is a well-known keynote speaker at international Jewish and Israel conferences, famous for her ability to connect with and educate youth and university-age students. She has a global pulse on what Jewish students are dealing with on campus, which is often a precursor or indicator of what is to come in general society.

I had the opportunity to table with Charlotte and SSI (Students Supporting Israel) in Calgary in February, during the last school year, and it was a serious eye-opener. University campuses are a different scene. I spent about three hours at the table that day, watching and listening to the conversations taking place, and the imprint of that experience has stuck with me.

The anti-Israel movement is well versed in a narrative designed to corner you and force you to capitulate to whatever demand is being made. That's their style. It can be aggressive and intimidating. What I learned from watching Charlotte is that the best reaction is often no reaction. Stay calm. Listen. Know what you know, but also understand that you don't need to have an answer for everything.

"It's complicated" is a shirt Charlotte can often be seen wearing in Jerusalem Education Institute's Instagram reels, and there is something important in those two words. Israel, Zionism and the Middle East are complicated. We don't help ourselves by pretending otherwise. Charlotte doesn't teach people to memorize talking points. She gives them the knowledge and confidence to have much more honest conversations.

Over the weekend, Charlotte will explore Zionism through both its history and its modern context—where it came from, what it actually means, the different forms it has taken, and some of the common myths surrounding it. She'll also talk about how we reclaim the Zionist narrative and communicate Israel's story with honesty, nuance and confidence, rather than feeling like we constantly have to defend ourselves.

Just as importantly, she will get into the difference between debate and dialogue. How do you have these conversations with family, friends, colleagues or people in the broader community who may see things very differently than you do? How do you build bridges without abandoning your values? And how do you recognize when someone actually wants a conversation versus when they simply want an argument?

These conversations are particularly important in a world shaped by social media. Charlotte will look at how social media distorts reality, rewards outrage and amplifies the most extreme voices. She'll talk about building confidence in responding to misinformation, but also about something I think is equally important: knowing where to put your energy. Not every comment requires a response. Not every

argument is ours to have. Part of being effective is knowing when to engage, who has a responsibility to respond, and when it is okay to step back and protect our own sanity. That balance – being informed and confident without feeling like you need to fight every battle – is a big part of what makes Charlotte so effective. You leave her sessions knowing more, but also feeling better equipped to actually use what you've learned. Come with questions and grill the expert!

Special thank you to the following family sponsors:



Joan Goldstein, Cristine and Barry Slawsky, Schayer/Scholl Families in memory of Hanna Schayer z"l, Christina and Joel Reboh, Tanya and Tony Ghermezian, Romanovsky Families, Teddy Braun & Lisa Davidson, and Colin & Jenn Muscat.

Jay Cairns is the Alberta Executive Director of Friends of JNF Canada.

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



Follow us on twitter.com @ABJewishNews

PRESENTED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON
Powered by United Jewish Appeal

Hillel
Edmonton



Honouring Dianne Kipnes z"l through a new community mikveh in Edmonton

By Tammy Vineberg

When Dianne Kipnes converted to Judaism, accessing a mikveh meant travelling to Calgary.

The experience left a lasting impression. For Dianne, whose Jewish journey would become a deeply meaningful part of her life, it highlighted the importance of having a mikveh that could help serve the needs of the broader Edmonton Jewish community closer to home.

Now, that experience is inspiring a lasting legacy.

Jewish Federation of Edmonton and the Oshry | Kipnes Jewish Community Centre are pleased to announce plans for the Dianne Kipnes z"l Community Mikveh, a new ritual bath that will be designed to support broad community use and help serve the religious and spiritual needs of Edmonton's Jewish community.

Made possible through a significant gift from the Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation, the mikveh will be established in memory of Dianne z"l, whose devotion to Judaism, commitment to community, and extraordinary philanthropy touched countless lives in Edmonton and beyond. Throughout her life, Dianne was known for her generosity, leadership, intellectual curiosity, and unwavering commitment to helping others. Together, Dianne and Irving supported countless initiatives in healthcare, education, arts and culture, veterans' services, and Jewish community life. Their contributions were recognized nationally when they were appointed to the Order of Canada in 2018.

For Irving, the new mikveh represents both a tribute to Dianne's memory and a way to strengthen Jewish life in Edmonton for generations to come.

"Dianne's Jewish journey gave her a deep appreciation for the importance of a mikveh and the role it can play in Jewish life. When she converted to Judaism, she had to travel to Calgary to access a

mikveh. Establishing the Dianne Kipnes z"l Community Mikveh in her memory is a meaningful tribute to her commitment to Judaism and an opportunity to make this important resource available to our community," he says.

A mikveh is a ritual bath used for spiritual renewal and a variety of religious purposes, including conversion to Judaism, preparation for marriage, family purity observance, and other lifecycle transitions. While specific practices vary across Jewish traditions, the mikveh has served as a place of reflection, transformation, and connection for centuries.

Jewish tradition regards a mikveh as one of the fundamental institutions of communal life. In the Babylonian Talmud, a ritual bath is listed among the essential communal resources needed to sustain a thriving Jewish community.

The Dianne Kipnes z"l Community Mikveh is being envisioned as a welcoming and inclusive resource that will support broad community use and provide another important way for individuals and families to engage with Jewish tradition here in Edmonton. It will be located at the Oshry | Kipnes Jewish Community Centre as part of a future phase of development.

As planning moves forward, the Federation and JCC are consulting with community leaders and rabbinic advisors, including Rabbi Alisa Zilbershtein of Beth Shalom Synagogue and Rabbah Gila Caine of Temple Beth Ora. Additional guidance is being provided through Mayyim Hayyim, a recognized organization that supports the development and operation of community mikvaot.

"A mikveh is one of the foundational institutions of Jewish communal life," says Stacey Leavitt-Wright, CEO of Jewish Federation of Edmonton. "We are deeply grateful to the foundation for its generosity and



Dianne Kipnes z"l and Irving Kipnes.

vision in making this project possible. The Dianne Kipnes z"l Community Mikveh will be a meaningful addition to Jewish life in Edmonton and a lasting tribute to Dianne's devotion to Judaism and community."

Those who knew Dianne often speak about her ability to see needs in a community and work tirelessly to address them. Whether championing healthcare research, supporting arts and culture, advancing educational opportunities, or strengthening Jewish life, she believed in creating meaningful change and helping others thrive.

The Dianne Kipnes z"l Community Mikveh reflects that same spirit.

More than a building project, it is a commitment to future generations, a place where people will mark significant moments in their Jewish journeys, deepen their connection to tradition, and find meaning in community.

In that way, the mikveh will stand not only as a new community resource, but as a living tribute to a woman whose impact continues to be felt throughout Edmonton and beyond.

Tammy Vineberg is the Director, Marketing and Communications at the Jewish Federation of Edmonton.

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

The Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation

For its transformational gift establishing the future

DIANNE KIPNES Z'L COMMUNITY MIKVEH

Through the future Dianne Kipnes z'l Community Mikveh, her legacy will continue to enrich Jewish life for generations to come.

A photograph of Irving and Dianne Kipnes. Irving is on the left, wearing glasses and a suit. Dianne is on the right, wearing a pink jacket and a pearl necklace. They are both smiling.

Check out our community calendar at jewishedmonton.org.

The Hub

Your bridge to Jewish Edmonton



Jewish Federation
OF EDMONTON

A MESSAGE FROM CEO STACEY LEAVITT-WRIGHT

Since October 7, our community has carried grief, fear and uncertainty alongside an even deeper sense of responsibility to one another and to Israel. We have mourned those murdered, prayed for the return of every hostage, supported family and friends in Israel, welcomed newcomers, and confronted an alarming rise in antisemitism here at home. Through it all, I have been moved by the courage, compassion, and determination that define our community.

That determination is the spirit behind the October 7 gathering, Messages of Hope. We are collecting messages for the children returning to Kfar Azza, Be’eri and Kiryat Shmona, as well as a guest book for President Herzog, all of which will be hand-delivered later this month. We will also hear from our Shinshinim as they share the impact of the war on northern Israel and reflect on the future ahead. Hope is a choice we make through presence, remembrance and action. It is the decision to stand together even when the path ahead is difficult.

The hope we express through this gathering must extend beyond a single evening. Through United Jewish Appeal (UJA), we translate our shared values into meaningful support. We are strengthening Jewish life in Edmonton, helping communities recover and rebuild in Israel, and preparing to respond as new needs emerge. Giving is one expression of that commitment; showing up, speaking out and staying connected are equally essential.

Our relationship with Israel has never been only about moments of crisis. It is rooted in peoplehood, history, and a shared future. Standing with Israel means caring about its safety, resilience, and flourishing while continuing to lead with our Jewish values and our humanity.

I also invite you to join us on October 27 for a timely conversation with Casey Babb on Zionism, anti-Zionism and the future of the Middle East. Taking place on the day of Israel’s national election and just days after the release of his new book,

The Moral Case for Zionism, the discussion will explore some of the most pressing issues shaping Jewish life today, including antisemitism, Israel’s place in a changing Middle East, and the relationship between Israel and Jewish communities around the world.

At a moment when these ideas are too often distorted or reduced to slogans, this event offers an opportunity to deepen our understanding, ask thoughtful questions, and consider the broader context. I hope you will join us for this important discussion.

Whatever comes next, we will continue to remember, respond and rebuild. We will stand with Israel, care for one another and refuse to surrender our future to fear. Together, rooted in our values and united in responsibility, we will continue to choose hope.

Register for our upcoming events at jewishedmonton.org.

Let’s build the Jewish Future

As One

We open doors to Jewish life.
We stand strong against rising hate.
We help restore hope in Israel.



Make your gift today.
Scan the QR code or visit jewishedmonton.org to learn more.



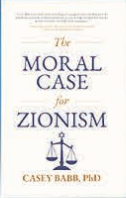
Rethinking Zionism, Antizionism, and a Future Middle East

A CONVERSATION WITH CASEY BABB

Tuesday, October 27
7 p.m.
Location to be provided to registrants
Free

Register now





FIRST 20 REGISTERED GUESTS WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF THE BOOK





SAVE THE DATE

Kristallnacht:
SONGS OF SURVIVAL

An evening of commemoration through Yiddish music

Sunday, November 8
7:30 p.m.
Registration coming soon



THERESA TOVA
VOCALIST



MATT HERSKOWITZ
PIANIST



OILERS NIGHT OUT

Join Jewish young adults for a night of hockey and community.



EDMONTON OILERS VS. DETROIT RED WINGS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
7:30 P.M.
ROGERS PLACE

Register at jewishedmonton.org





COMMUNITY

PEOPLE

IMPACT

TOGETHER



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, December 2
7 p.m.
Beth Shalom Synagogue

Read the official notice and register to attend at jewishedmonton.org.



PJ and Shalom Playtime

Open play time for families with young children
Two Sundays each month
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Talmud Torah School Gymnasium
\$72 for the whole season or \$36 for October to December
\$90 January to April

REGISTER NOW FOR PLAYTIME FROM OCTOBER TO APRIL jewishedmonton.org



Hebrew Lunch & Learn
Ages 3 - 6

Join the Edmonton ShinShinim for four lunch and learn lessons and enjoy Hebrew engagement through interactive games, songs and aleph bet activities. A light lunch will be served as part of the program.

Dates: October 25, November 8 and December 13.
\$38 per child including lunch and Hebrew Program.
Register at jewishedmonton.org



TBT features scholar-in-residence in Calgary: Nov. 6 & 7

By David Sklar, LJI Reporter

Elon Gilad’s journey into Hebrew etymology began with a decrepit apartment, a Tel Aviv Street sign and an eggplant.

The historian, linguist and *Haaretz* columnist recently joined the *Chai There!* podcast ahead of his visit to Temple B’nai Tikvah in Calgary, where he will serve as the 2026 Moshe Yeldin Scholar-in-Residence. The podcast episode will be available later this month.

Gilad recalled moving into an apartment on Luntz Street near Rothschild Boulevard. The place was in such poor condition that he had to install his own toilet, but its location made it worth the trouble. Curious about the person behind the street’s name, Gilad discovered Abraham Luntz, a 19th-century Jerusalem scholar credited with coining *hatzil*, the modern Hebrew word for eggplant.

“I was mind blown that I’d been using this word my whole life, and suddenly I find out that this guy a hundred years ago just came up with it,” Gilad said.

After researching Luntz, he became curious about the Hebrew word for tomato. One word led to another, and what began as a hobby eventually became a regular *Haaretz* column that has run for approximately 13 years.

“Each one of these columns is like a window into an aspect of Jewish history that I wouldn’t otherwise have been privy to,” he explained. “I’m trying to lure in readers and say, ‘You speak this word let me tell you about this word.’ But really, I’m going with them on a journey.”

That journey often leads into the Bible, the Mishnah and the writings of medieval rabbis. Gilad uses words as an entry point, but the stories he uncovers are ultimately about the people who spoke, debated and reshaped Hebrew across generations.

Gilad also challenges the familiar story that Eliezer Ben-Yehuda single-handedly revived the language. Ben-Yehuda was an important catalyst, he said, but Hebrew had never disappeared from Jewish life. Jews continued using it in prayer, books, newspapers and correspondence even when Yiddish, Ladino or Arabic

were their everyday spoken languages.

That history helps explain why modern Hebrew carries influences from across the Jewish world. Its structure bears the imprint of Yiddish, while much of its slang comes from Arabic-speaking Jewish communities.

“I think it’s beautiful,” Gilad said. “We come from everywhere.”

Asked which Hebrew word English speakers should adopt, Gilad chose *davka*, a versatile word inherited through Yiddish and Aramaic. He illustrated its subtle power with a mother-in-law tasting her daughter-in-law’s kugel and declaring it “davka good”, a compliment that also suggests she expected it to be terrible.

“It’s a very subtle word, a very useful word,” he said.

Gilad’s Hebrew-language book, *The Secret History of Judaism*, traces the development of Jewish holidays. While researching Shabbat, he encountered evidence suggesting that an earlier lunar observance eventually evolved into the weekly day of rest. Such discoveries can provoke resistance, but Gilad believes historical inquiry offers another way into Judaism

for people who cannot accept religious texts as literal history.

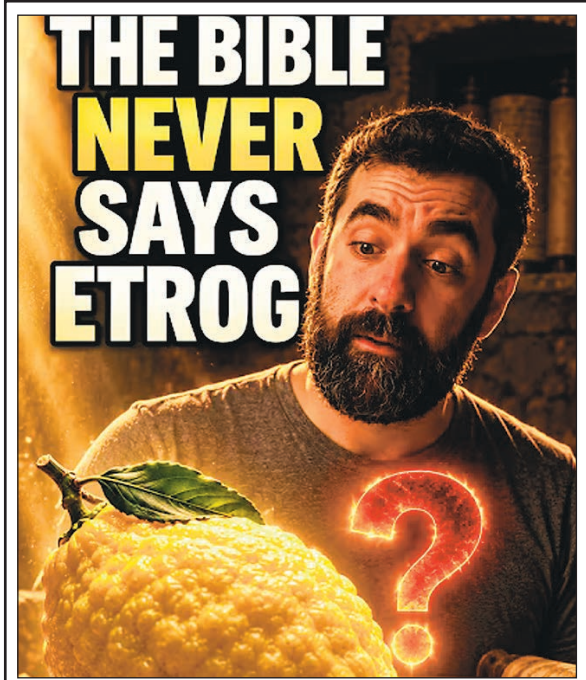
“I want to keep the traditions, not because Moses brought them down from Mount Sinai, but because we’ve been doing it for hundreds of years—thousands of years—and it won’t stop with me,” he said.

For Gilad, these historical stories can help secular Jews find a meaningful connection to Jewish life without demanding certainty or literal belief. They do not have to replace traditional understandings; they can exist beside them.

His Calgary visit also has a personal Canadian connection. Gilad’s mother grew up in the Montreal area, he holds Canadian citizenship and he spent childhood summers in Montreal. A childhood visit to his aunt in Calgary gave him his first taste of sushi, something that had not yet made its way to Israel.

Rabbi Glickman said Temple B’nai Tikvah is looking forward to Gilad’s visit.

“Gilad is a wonderful and engaging teacher who regularly captivates his reading and listening audiences with fascinating tidbits from Jewish



Historian Elon Gilad will be in Calgary at Temple B'nai Tikvah on Nov. 6 and 7.

history,” he said. “We here at Temple are excited to welcome him and to learn some of the many lessons he can teach.”

Gilad hopes participants will come away with greater curiosity about Hebrew and a fresh way of approaching Jewish history.

“I’m not trying to replace the way that they see their history and Judaism,” he said. “I’m trying to add another layer, another way to look at who we are.”

On Friday, November 6 during Shabbat services at 7:30 pm Gilad’s topic will be “The King, the Moon, and the Sabbath: How a Little-Known Babylonian King Accidentally Invented Judaism,” during Shabbat services.

On Saturday, November 7 from 9:30 to 10:20 he will meet with Shabbat School students. At 10:30 he will deliver a D’var Torah during services on “Chayei Sarah: Lessons from the Words of the Parashah,” in the Temple sanctuary. At 12:15 to 1:15 he will meet with the Temple B’nai Tikvah youth group. That evening from 7 to 8:45 pm he will discuss “The Secret History of Hebrew: From the Bible to Balagan,” followed by Havdalah.



ISRAEL  BONDS

Three years have passed since October 7, 2023, a moment that tested Israel and the Jewish people worldwide.

**Then, as now,
we have stood strong together.**

As we mark the moment, Israel Bonds continue to offer strong rates and a proven record of reliability. Investing today means turning solidarity into action, strengthening Israel’s economy while building your own financial future.

**ISRAEL BONDS US TOGETHER
INVEST IN ISRAEL BONDS**

israelbonds.ca

Canada-Israel Securities, Limited is registered as an Exempt Market Dealer

WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
7:30 p.m. “The King, the Moon, and the Sabbath: How a Little-Known Babylonian King Accidentally Invented Judaism”
During Shabbat services

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.
Meeting with Shabbat School students
10:30 a.m. – noon
D’var Torah during Services: “Chayei Sarah: Lessons from the Words of the Parashah”
Temple Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Meeting with the Temple B’nai Tikvah Youth Group
7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.
“The Secret History of Hebrew: From the Bible to Balagan” (and Havdalah)

TEMPLE B’NAI TIKVAH’S
2026
MOSHE YEDLIN
SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE
**ELON
GILAD**
NOVEMBER 6–7, 2026

Columnist for *Haaretz*,
Historian, Linguist

Elon Gilad writes on the Hebrew language and Jewish history for *Haaretz*, where his etymology column has been a fixture for over a decade. He is the author of *The Secret History of Judaism*.

His short-form videos on Hebrew, the Bible, and Jewish history reach more than 200,000 followers across YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok. He speaks regularly at synagogues and Jewish institutions across North America. He lives with his family in Modi’in, Israel.



Elon Gilad

Talmud Torah opens outdoor classroom and leisure space

By Regan Lipes, LJI Reporter

Talmud Torah School was delighted to recently unveil a new outdoor leisure and learning space onsite at the school. It officially opened this fall in loving memory of TT alumni Nathan Reboh, of blessed memory, who passed away in 2020 from cancer. Tragically, Nathan was only 31 years old. The outdoor space was a passion project of Nathan's family, particularly for his older brother Joel and sister-in-law, Christina.

“Nathan was well known for being the friend who always got everybody together. In his later teen years and early twenties, his friends would often meet at my house to hang out before they went out for the evening,” commented Joel Reboh, the most senior of the Reboh brothers. Nathan was a vibrant and energetic staple of the Edmonton Jewish community whose name is still spoken with love and respect. “I was the oldest and Nathan was the middle child, and I had a lot in common with him. So, for me, it felt like losing a piece of myself.” Joel also recalled Nathan’s deep sense of tzedakah: “He was passionate about helping other people. He had gorgeous, long, wavy hair, and I’ll never forget when he shaved it all off to raise money for cancer. He also regularly campaigned for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, going door to door to raise money.”

When Nathan passed away in 2020, the entire Jewish community mourned a man who brought smiles wherever he went. Nathan made those in his orbit feel special, but in turn, he was deeply loved by close friends and family. “We lost someone who was always willing to volunteer, and we all know how difficult those people are to find. Beth Israel and Chabad members still tell me how much they miss having Nathan at minyan.”

Thinking of all the lives he impacted, Joel elaborated: “He had a lovely fiancée named Selina who stuck with him every step of the way and who our family has adopted.” Both Joel and his brother Jasen, the youngest of the trio, feel the loss intensely. “My youngest brother Jasen who was also a part of this project misses Nathan’s positivity, goofy humour, and playing hockey with him.” Joel added: “For my parents, obviously it was devastating. But they did everything they could for him. In fact, if it weren’t for their persistence in getting him properly diagnosed, he likely would have passed away years earlier. They fought for him every step of the way and, throughout everything, tried to enjoy every moment they had with him. They cared for him until the end and that’s really all one can do for their loved one.”

Those who attended the official opening of the outdoor classroom, hosted at TT prior to the start of the new instructional year, were witness to a bit of Edmonton Jewish history in the making. “We wanted to find a way to celebrate Nathan’s memory somewhere within the community,” said Joel. “Talmud Torah seemed like an ideal place. Most of Nathan’s closest friends had gone to school there with him, and it was such an important part of his life.” Joel credits Christina with envisioning the direction this project would take. “In 2023, I asked Nathan’s friends and members of our family what they thought, and every single person agreed that building something at Talmud Torah was the way to go.”

“We started hashing out ideas and Talmud Torah’s [then] principal,

Darin Johnson, convinced me that we needed some sort of outdoor classroom. I wanted an outdoor chess table and ping-pong table because Nathan loved both of those activities,” explained Joel. Any undertaking of this scale comes with a price tag. “Christina and I committed to matching every donation that came in. Donations came from friends and family in Edmonton, Calgary, Montreal and elsewhere, but we still needed significantly more. I ended up personally calling just about every one of Nathan’s friends and also held an event at our home to raise the final amount we needed.”

He added, with gratitude: “The *Alberta Jewish News* was also incredibly helpful. They were kind enough to include our first advertisement in a couple of publications, which helped us get the word out. One of the owners was a close friend of Nathan’s. Fundraising was probably the hardest part of the project.” And so, in Fall 2026 a dedicated outdoor learning space was opened in honour of an Edmontonian who will never be forgotten. “The vision includes enough seating for a class to learn in the fresh air, play chess and table tennis to make recess even more fun, with seating for



Talmud Torah students enjoying the new outdoor classroom that was donated to honour Nathan Reboh z"l.

parents to connect while waiting for children, and landscaping to beautify our school,” reads the TT website.

“Seeing the space in action has been the most rewarding part of the entire project,” Joel explained. “Recently, the kids have invented their own handball game using the ping-pong table, and there’s a lineup to play every recess. That’s exactly what I hoped would happen. I didn’t want this to simply be a memorial. I wanted it to be a place that kids would actually use and enjoy.”

The children may not have had the pleasure of knowing Nathan, but his wonderful legacy lives on quite actively. “If Nathan were alive today, I think he’d

Continued on page 19

Invested in our community.

Ahead of the curve on your future.

Joel Reboh, CIM®
Portfolio Manager
Senior Investment Advisor
TD Wealth Private Investment Advice
780-408-6265 - Joel.Reboh@td.com

TD

More human.

TD Wealth Private Investment Advice is a division of TD Waterhouse Canada Inc., a subsidiary of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. ©The TD logo and other TD trademarks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or its subsidiaries.

ALBERTA REAL ESTATE LISTINGS



\$1,625,000
Calgary Winston Heights/Mountview
421 29 Avenue NE
House • 3191.6 sqft
Kowall Boutique Real Estate
403-992-5765
info@kboutiquere.com
MLS® Number: A2341843



\$6,900,000
Calgary Eagle Ridge
40 Eagle Ridge Drive SW
Single Family • 5433+1720 sq ft
Gizella Davis 403-390-7600
gizella@gizelladavis.com
MLS® Number: A2255146



\$928,000
Edmonton Oleskiw
783 Wheeler Road
Bungalow • 2,793 sqft
Peter Leveille - AB Realty Ltd
780-951-1064
peter@abrealtylistings.com
MLS® Number: E4496904



\$189,900
Alberta Ranfurly
4715 49 Avenue, Ranfurly, AB
Acreage • 2.31 acres
Ashton Choufi - Royal Lepage Noralta
780-722-1014
mrchoufi75@gmail.com
MLS® Number: E4499380



\$2,970,000
North Ra'anana
4 Room Apartment
1,076 sqft
Marina Shear
+1-872-873-1011
marinashear12@gmail.com



\$258,800
Calgary Kelvin Grove
1001 68 Avenue SW # 307
Apartment • 1092 sq feet
Paul Ackerman - RE/MAX Realty Professionals 403-259-4141
paulackerman@shaw.ca
MLS® Number: A2340046



\$369,000
Calgary Beltline
530 12 Avenue SW # 706
Condo • 918.84 sqft
Kowall Boutique Real Estate
403-992-5765
info@kboutiquere.com
MLS® Number: A2326165



Attention Realtors and Owners:
To submit a real estate listing for Residential or Commercial for Sale or Rent (house, condo, vacation home, timeshare, or short or long-term rental), visit albertajewishnews.com/realestate or call Dan at 780-421-7966.

local artists | exclusive collection
original pieces

WG

Wakina
Gallery



carvings • paintings • illustrations • cards

780-237-1556

www.wakinagallery.com



Are you looking
to sell or rent out property?

HAVE YOUR AD APPEAR ON OUR MONTHLY
ALBERTA REAL ESTATE LISTINGS PAGE!



KRE
KOWALL REAL ESTATE
*Born Here. Raised Here.
Selling Here.*

Award Winning Realtors You Can Trust

Buying

Selling

Investing

Home Evaluations

Market Experts

@dk_boutiquerealestate
@tali_boutiquerealestate

Lets Connect!

kowallre.com
403.992.5765





Let us spread the word for you and celebrate

YOUR **SIMCHAS**
WITH ALBERTA JEWISH NEWS

We welcome notices about Weddings, Births, Bar Mitzvahs and other milestone events, and offer reduced rates to help spread the word to the community!

We are happy to be part of the celebration!
For information contact Deb at 780-421-7966
or albertajewishnews@gmail.com.

Edmonton Schoolboys Alumni band will perform at Beth Israel on Nov. 22

By Regan Lipes, LJI Reporter

The Edmonton Schoolboys Alumni Band has a rich and storied connection to the Edmonton community and they'll be performing a joyful concert at Beth Israel Synagogue on November 22 – including many Jewish favourites.

Longtime Edmonton residents fondly remember Mikes News Stand locations on Jasper Avenue and the southside and more recently those who have visited the City of Edmonton's Neon Sign Museum have likely seen the original Mike's News logo. "Pre World War I, if you wanted a newspaper from Paris, or London, Mike's would bring it in," explained Ray Friedman during a recent interview with the *Alberta Jewish News*.

"There was a call for an Edmonton Newsboys' Band, sponsored by Mike's News and the *Edmonton Journal*. After the 1929 Stock Market crash, instruments were being put in storage," he elaborated. "Then a schoolteacher, with full support from EPSB, who wanted to get bands going got the instruments out of moth balls and started a band in 1936. There were no band programmes in the schools at that time; his was the first. This also happened to take place in the first Edmonton junior high school, so it was a combination of things. Grade 7 is the perfect time to introduce kids to music and playing in a band together."

What was a group of thirty kids in 1936, grew to more than two hundred by 1940, and eventually over one thousand boys participated, thirty-two from the Jewish community, as the band for grades 7, 8, and 9, necessitated an additional group for grades 10, 11, and 12. "This guy was known for scouring second-hand shops to find the instruments they'd need. He knew how to repair old instruments. Things that were broken, he'd pick up and fix."

This lasted all the way till 1969, by which point music programmes in schools had begun to become

more popular. "I was with that band from 1963 to 1969," said Friedman. "I played in their last concert. After that it also wasn't as viable to have a band just for boys anymore, so it was converted into the All City Honour Band for both boys and girls."

For many young people, playing in the school band is a special experience that provides them an early opportunity to travel and perform around Western Canada and the Prairies. Friedman remembers this time fondly, as do many of the other musicians who now play in the Edmonton Schoolboys' Alumni Band.

"We have a good range of ages," he said. "Sometimes people decide to slow down once they hit their nineties, but then again, others just keep going."

Friedman noted that for everyone, it is a celebration of a shared love for music, and ensemble performing, and 2026 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the alumni band's inception. "Every once-in-a-while someone will suggest that we call ourselves the Edmonton Seniors' Band, but that usually gets shot down pretty quickly," he said with a chuckle. "We have a wide range of ages, and the average is around seventy-seven."

To celebrate thirty years, the band will be performing at Beth Israel Synagogue on Sunday, November 22 at 2:30 pm.

"It's not the first time we've performed in a synagogue, it's actually the twelfth, but we are a band of fifty plus musicians, and I'm the only Jewish alumnus," noted Friedman. "We've played Jewish music in the past, and all our musicians really enjoyed the songs because they're



The Edmonton Schoolboys Alumni Band will be performing their 30th Anniversary Concert at Beth Israel on November 22.

always so lively or soulful, and everyone is excited that we'll be playing a few Jewish favourites for this concert too."

Friedman, who celebrated his own Bar Mitzvah many years ago at BI when it was still at its old location, feels that the band's enthusiasm to play in a Jewish space, and feature Jewish music among their repertoire is a hopeful indicator for the community bridgebuilding impact facilitated by music.

"We've had many talented Jewish band members through the years, and maybe we'll gain a few more, but regardless, even with far fewer than a minyan, the Jewish musical flavour is a band favourite." Friedman is also excited that his granddaughter will be in the audience for this big anniversary performance. "This is a show that the whole family will enjoy, and there's something for everyone in the mix."

What better way to spend a November afternoon than comfortably seated with the whole family at BI to listen to some great band music, with a few Jewish favourites sure to delight! Guests are asked to pre-purchase their tickets through EventBrite: \$18, or free for children fourteen and under. Ray Friedman and the band look forward to welcoming a big, happy, crowd of music-lovers.

More information can be found at EdmontonSchoolboysAlumniBand.com.

Jewish Alumni of the
Edmonton Newsboys' Band (1920s)
and Edmonton Schoolboys' Band

• Jack Pinski 1920 Saxophone

• Frank Sklove 1923 Clarinet

• Mace Pinski 1923 Saxophone

• Harold Lauer 1923 Saxophone

• Joe Garfin 1928 Trumpet

• Saul Orest 1936 Clarinet

• Sam Smolyk 1936 Percussion

• Mat Bernstein 1937 Baritone

• Sidney Goorevich 1937 Clarinet

• Nathan Milner 1937 Saxophone

• Sidney Milner 1937 Clarinet

• Maurice Spector 1937 Clarinet

• Sam Goorevich 1939 Clarinet

• Eser Lipsett 1939 Flute

• Abe Klimove 1940 Clarinet

• Mitch Klimove 1940 Clarinet

• Sidney Levine 1941 Clarinet

• Theodore Shnitka 1945 Clarinet

• Phillip Shragge 1945 Percussion

• Harry Goldberg 1949 Percussion

• Allan Sklove 1949 Saxophone

• Morley Lipsett 1950 Oboe

• Milt Stein 1950 Cornet

• Harry Hiller 1957 Saxophone

• Sid Estrin 1962 Oboe

• Marc Estrin 1963 Clarinet

• Ray Friedman 1963 Flute

• Lorne Wise 1963 Clarinet

• Kahman Estrin 1964 Clarinet

• Ian Shoctor 1964 Cornet

• Barry Estrin 1965 Cornet

• Ken Wasserman 1966 Clarinet

EDMONTON SCHOOLBOYS ALUMNI BAND

30



YEARS

CELEBRATING MUSIC • COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Under the Baton

30th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT
Sunday • November 22 • 2:30 pm

Beth Israel Synagogue

Advance Tickets Only:
\$18 / Children Under 12 Free
eventbrite.ca — 30th Anniversary Concert

EdmontonSchoolboysAlumniBand.com

Follow us at twitter.com

 @ABjewishnews

community calendar

Want to know what's going on in Jewish Calgary?
Check out the Community Calendar at jewishcalgary.org

Have an event?
Click on "Suggest an Event" to add it to the calendar



Calgary Jewish Federation
The strength of a people.
The power of community.

jewishcalgary.org



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT JERRAD BLANCHARD

My name is Jerrad Blanchard, and I have the privilege of serving as President of the Board of Calgary Jewish Federation. I am grateful for the trust our community has placed in our Board and staff, and for the chance to introduce myself through this Pomegranate page.

Federation is strongest when leadership is shared. Alongside our CEO, Rob Nagus, and an outstanding professional team, our Board's role is clear: set direction, provide oversight, and help keep Jewish Calgary focused on what matters most – connection, care, security, education, and a vibrant communal life for every generation.

I would also like to highlight our annual **United Jewish Appeal Campaign**. UJA is how we translate

shared values into real support:

- Security and preparedness
- Social services and inclusion
- Holocaust education and human rights
- Israel engagement
- Newcomer welcome through Shalom YYC
- Programs that make Jewish Calgary feel like home.

Last year's Campaign showed what is possible when this community shows up together. That momentum is not a finish line – it is a foundation. This year's UJA Campaign asks us to build with the same generosity and purpose.

We continue our movement from planning into action. Our community-wide strategic planning work has helped clarify priorities for the years ahead. Your

gifts to UJA fund the everyday work that makes that vision real – not as a slogan, but as people served, institutions strengthened, and a community ready to thrive today and build for the next generation.

I look forward to meeting more of you, listening carefully, and working alongside Rob and our team as we strengthen Jewish Calgary together. Thank you for everything you already give – of your time, your leadership, and your support.

B'Shalom,
Jerrad
Jerrad Blanchard
President, Board of Directors
Calgary Jewish Federation

Building an inclusive community is a priority. Contact us and we will make every effort to meet your needs.

Kristallnacht

COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION

Join our community's annual *Kristallnacht* commemoration in partnership with the Beth Tzedec Congregation Calgary Jewish Film Festival.

Following the commemoration ceremony at 7:15PM, the evening will feature a screening of *I Draw Them the Best I Can*. After the film, we will welcome co-directors, **Jamie Michaels** and **Liam Karp**, and film subject, survivor **Adam Policzer** for a panel discussion and Q&A.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL holocaustedu@jewishcalgary.org

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 9

DOORS OPEN
AT 7:00PM

THIS PROGRAM IS FREE OF CHARGE
BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
SCAN QR CODE OR GO TO
JEWISHCALGARY.CROWDFUNDER.CO

The Hillel **ROOTS AND RISING SHABBATON** for students from Northwest Canada, was a weekend of connection, bonding, growth, and learning. Students from different campuses and provinces came together to celebrate who they are, connect with their Jewish roots, and simply be themselves. From Rabbi led services, meaningful conversations, to the "Two Jews, Three Opinions" debate, and our shared Shabbat experience, there were countless opportunities to learn, reflect, and connect. Many students even chose to lock their phones away in a box, creating space to be fully present with one another. During Jewish Journeys, we created keychains using beads representing the different facets of our Jewish identities – a celebration of both our diversity and our unity. The most beautiful moment might have been when the student leaders came together to lead *Havdalah*. Throughout the weekend, one message stood out: We are not alone.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Stay up-to-date on action alerts, events, programming, and services offered through Calgary Jewish Federation and around our community.

Join our email list by scanning the QR code or go to jewishcalgary.org

Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to send eight local women to Israel as part of the 2026 Momentum cohort. The Calgary participants will travel alongside six women from Edmonton, joining more than 400 Jewish mothers from communities around the world, including South Africa, Australia, Argentina, Spain, and across North America.

Momentum is much more than a trip to Israel. The year-long program brings Jewish mothers together for meaningful learning, connection, and exploration of Jewish values, identity, family, community, and Israel. The immersive experience in Israel is a highlight of the program, giving participants the opportunity to experience the country together while building relationships with Jewish women from around the world.

The impact of Momentum continues long after participants return home. By investing in Jewish mothers, the program helps strengthen Jewish families, deepen connections to community, and inspire participants to take an active role in shaping the next generation of Jewish life.

Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to support this opportunity and looks forward to seeing the impact these eight women will bring back to Jewish Calgary.

For more information about Momentum or future cohorts, contact Sydney Truax at struax@jewishcalgary.org.

All events on this page are made possible by your gifts to Calgary Jewish Federation's annual UJA Campaign.

BOARDING PASS

DESTINATION

TROPICAL TRIVIA

Join Calgary Jewish Federation for an amazing night of trivia, tasty tropical treats, tiki vibes, beach-inspired beverages, and fundraising for the 2026 UJA Campaign!

*Location will be shared after registration.

DATE

OCTOBER 22*

TIME

7:00PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Scan QR code or go to jewishcalgary.crowdchange.co

Calgary Jewish Federation
The strength of a people.
The power of community.

For sponsorship opportunities contact
Sydney Truax at struax@jewishcalgary.org

...THAT'S
FEDERATION

Walk with Israel

Todah rabah! What a day! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Walk with Israel and 2026 UJA Campaign Launch on September 7!

From our community members to our allies, friends, and government partners, your energy, pride, and support made the day unforgettable. Together, we showed the strength and spirit of Calgary's Jewish community. *Am Yisrael Chai!*

SCAN QR to view photo album

A special thank you to the **BALABAN FAMILY** and **PEAKHILL CAPITAL** for their generous support.

A COMMUNITY BUILT BY PEOPLE.
REAL STORIES. REAL IMPACT.

“ PJ Library® helped our young family find our place in Jewish Calgary. ”

“ As parents of an adult with different abilities, we are thrilled that our son has found an inclusive community through Keshet, where he is supported and celebrated. ”

“ Because of JAC, I found people my age who I can connect with and now have built lifelong friendships. ”

...THAT'S FEDERATION

TOGETHER,

we can create a future where Jewish life continues to grow, connect, and thrive.

WAYS TO GIVE

jewishcalgary.org

403.444.3157

fedtransfer@jewishcalgary.org

1607 90 Avenue SW

Maccabi Games *Cont. from page 3*

Notably, Stoffman – a Grade Ten student who plays AA/AAA hockey – is also the 2026 recipient of the Norman Ronald Silver Sports Leadership Award, presented last spring by the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary.

“Noah has volunteered as a summer junior hockey instructor at WinSport for the past two years and has held leadership roles at school and in hockey,” said Noah’s father, Dan Stoffman. “As a parent, I’ve seen him grow as a person through the games and love the connections he has made through athletics and the Jewish community as a result of his participation.”

Sharon Abrahamson seconds the emotion. “It’s been a really great experience for Joey, not just from a Jewish perspective but all around, to be able to go to a new city and meet new people without his parents hovering over him and telling him what he can and can’t do,” Abrahamson said.

“It is the very first thing that has given Joey any sense of Jewish identity.... He’s always been an athlete first. That’s always been his identity,” added Abrahamson. For him to be able to go as an athlete, to all of a sudden be with thousands of other Jewish kids that are also athletes, it really did something in him. He feels much more of a Jewish connection.”

Joey has since become a member of BBYO, alongside some kids he got to know because of the Maccabi games and others he had previously gone to school with at The Calgary Jewish Academy. It was the opportunity to compete in sports that first drew Joey to the JCC Maccabi Games where he competed on a mixed-delegation hockey team at the 2025 games in Pittsburgh. A dedicated hockey player for the Bow Valley Hockey Society in Calgary, last year he played on an Under 15 Body Contact Division 2 Team.

Swapping hockey stick for golf club at the 2026 JCC Maccabi Games, Joey had a particularly great day on the course when, following a couple days of competition, the golfers enjoyed a scramble, team play where each participant golfs each hole. The team chooses the best shot, which is counted toward the score, and all players then take their next shot from that spot on the course. Several of the chosen shots were played by Joey.

Horwitz was impressed by all his Team Alberta golfers. “Some of them hadn’t played in tournaments before, but, honestly, all 12 of them held up really well,” recalled Horwitz, adding that they were playing in challenging conditions, the mercury rising to a punishing 35 degrees. “They didn’t win, but they still had a great time and met other nice kids.”

“Mixed teams really give kids the opportunity to form bonds with teens from elsewhere,” said Chloe Soibelman, referencing hockey, soccer, softball, baseball and basketball. “You don’t have to be the best athlete in your sport. There are varying levels. In some of the individual sports there are recreational categories.”

“The sports aspect is only part of the experience,” said Horwitz. “You have to play a sport to be able to go, but it’s much more than just the sport itself.”

“When I went as a hockey player, I was on mixed teams with kids from Florida and places where hockey wasn’t that big, so our teams never did well, but I’ve still got buddies who I talk to regularly that I met at the games,” added Horwitz. “With these kids, it’s the same way.... They are quiet on Monday when they don’t know anyone from any other delegations, and then by Thursday they’re sad to say goodbye to kids from Cincinnati or Boston or wherever it might be.”

Horwitz praised the creativity games organizers

brought to planning down time for the athletes, providing a hub where a couple of thousand kids enjoyed snacks, a variety of activities, and the simple pleasure of “hang time.”

Some of the sports, including hockey, took place at the hub, giving athletes an opportunity to take in sports competitions other than their own. “It was a cool way to bring people together,” said Horwitz, adding that it maximized excitement and energy.

Opening and closing ceremonies and evening events provided other great opportunities for the athletes to mix. One major icebreaker at the games was pin trading, an easy way for even the shyest kids to engage with others. “Some of the kids made it their mission to score pins from every delegation attending the game,” Horwitz said, adding that the Israel pins are especially treasured.

Horwitz knows that the friendships forged at the JCC Maccabi Games have the potential to last a lifetime. To this day he keeps in touch with friends and host families from games past.

Those connections and others he made years ago at camp and BBYO have made Horwitz’s recent move to Edmonton a comfortable and enjoyable one. Now 23 – and armed with a bachelor’s degree in Management and Organization Studies from Western University, Horwitz is at the beginning of his professional career and looking forward to playing hockey in the Edmonton Jewish Hockey League. The team that gets him will, no doubt, be cheering. Horwitz knows a thing or two about the game, having played both AAA and Junior Hockey.

Horwitz – who served as a hockey coach at the 2025 JCC Maccabi Games in Pittsburgh – also plans to remain involved in the games, which is a family affair. His brother Jordan is also a JCC Maccabi Alum, and their mother Aviva Horwitz, an avid Maccabi Games volunteer, served for years as a parent organizer and now mentors and supports new cohorts of parents.

As with the Horwitz family, so with the Abrahamson clan. Joey’s mom Sharon hails from a family steeped in voluntarism. Already an active hockey mom, she jumped in with both feet when Joey became involved in the Maccabi Games.

Last spring, Sharon chaired a Calgary fundraiser to help defray the cost of participation for Team Alberta athletes. The Support the Sport comedy night, headlined by Edmonton radio host and stand-up comedian Rob Pepper included a silent auction and was, in equal parts, a fundraiser and a fun raiser thanks to the efforts of Abrahamson and other volunteers, most notably Reva Kislik, Kim Nagan and Aviva Horwitz.

The evening was a success thanks to sponsorships from RBC Nagan Wealth Management and B’nai Brith and donations by Team Alberta families and friends.

Fundraising efforts take place in both Calgary and Edmonton annually, with the athletes themselves pitching in as appropriate. Games participants must also complete five hours of service to the Jewish community. In the lead up to the 2026 games, Calgary



Edmonton Team Alberta athletes Annie (swimming) and Maren (dance) tour an exhibit at the Schwartz/Reisman Centre focused on notable Jewish sports figures including Samuel Rothschild, the first Jewish player in the NHL.

athletes volunteered at a wide of variety of community events, including the Walk for Israel and Jonny Daniels events organized by Calgary Jewish Federation, the B’nai Brith Noa Tishby event, Temple B’nai Tikvah, and the Beth Tzedec Purim Carnival.

The host cities for the 2027 JCC Maccabi Games are Philadelphia and Austin, though the city in which Team Alberta will compete has not yet been confirmed.

“I haven’t decided yet on the sport, but I am definitely going back,” Joey Abrahamson told AJNews. If all goes according to plan, his younger brother Justin will be joining him as a first-time participant.

Joey has words of encouragement for other teens who are considering going to future games. “It’s a great opportunity to meet new people and have lots of fun,” said Joey, who got to hang with a lot of other kids, including a new friend from Philly. Chances are good they will meet again on his turf next year.

Potential JCC Maccabi participants and their parents should contact Delegation Head Chloe Soibelman if they wish to attend upcoming information evenings. The one slated for Calgary will take place on Wednesday, November 4. Interested families can email Soibelman at jccmaccabi@edjfed.org for more information including the Calgary location and details on the Edmonton session which were not available prior to press time.

Soibelman also suggests that newbies reach out to previously participating athletes and their parents for their perspectives on the JCC Maccabi experience.

Some families have, in the past, chosen not to send their children to the games because of security concerns, especially since the spike in antisemitic acts following the October 7, 2023 Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel and the subsequent war in Gaza. “This is a crazy world, and there are no guarantees,” said Soibelman. “What I can guarantee is that security of participants is paramount.”

Fortunately, the games continue to attract thousands of kids with many of their loved ones attending the games as spectators. Soibelman says that 52 family members traveled to the Toronto games to cheer on Team Alberta athletes.

For veteran volunteer Aviva Horwitz, it is a source of joy that in the five years since her younger son Jordan went to the games, the number of Team Alberta participants has increased five-fold, giving more young athletes the chance to do what they love doing while forming Jewish connections to last a lifetime.

WITTEN LLP – Your trusted legal partner in the heart of Edmonton, serving our community for nearly a century.

Discover our dedicated team and comprehensive services at www.wittenlaw.com.

P: 780.428.0501
E: lawyers@wittenlaw.com

albertajewishnews.com
Subscriptions in Canada: \$37.80 per year
Subscriptions outside Canada: \$72 USD per year

Publication Mail Agreement No. 40050628
Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
#206, 8944 182 Street, Edmonton AB T5T 2E3
E-mail: albertajewishnews@gmail.com
Tel: (780) 421-7966

Volume 37, Number 10, October 2026

PUBLISHER: Deborah Shatz
EDITOR: Daniel Moser
PAST PUBLISHERS: Barry Slawsky, David Moser, Judy Shapiro, Richard Bronstein

For change of address, please send both old and new addresses. We welcome your stories, pictures, artwork and opinions. Please send submissions to our office at the address above.

Next Deadline: November 12, 2026

Funded by the Government of Canada / Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

All rights reserved. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Editor. Alberta Jewish News is published by 320754 Alberta Ltd.

Montefiore Institute Dedication re-enacted at Heritage Park

By Irena Karshenbaum, LJI Reporter

On August 17, 1916, when Mrs. Rosenberg sang and Mr. McGregor gave a recitation on “the occasion being the dedication of the Montefiore Institute building... on the North West 30-29-2 of the 4th,” near Sibbald, in eastern Alberta, the thought never would have crossed their untamed imaginations that a theatrical production would be staged based on their dedication ceremony, one hundred and ten years in the future.

The re-enactment was performed by musicians and actors, most of whom are Synagogue interpreters, on the front porch of the Montefiore Institute at Heritage Park, and was produced and directed by Gary Silberg, a Synagogue interpreter himself and a community theatre actor. The script, the original author of which has been lost to time, was originally performed at Heritage Park on August 21, 2016, and was expanded for the latest production with input from some of the new cast members.

The production was inspired by two newspaper articles published by *The Oyen News*. The first, a notice appearing on August 9, 1916, invited “neighbours, more particularly our Christian friends” to attend the dedication. The second was a post-event article, published on August 20, 1916, describing the joyful event, “After the concert a very enjoyable dance was given and continued until the small hours of the morning.”

Both articles were found by the late Calgary historian, Jack Switzer (1937-2012), while a board member with The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project Society that had gifted the 1916 Montefiore Institute to Heritage Park in 2008.

They proved to be gems, not only because the stories served as a record of the 1916 dedication ceremony, but they also gave a glimpse, however grainy, into the life of the tiny Jewish farming community in this remote part of Alberta.

When Jack Switzer found the newspaper articles, he

could not have imagined that years later they would also inspire a theatrical production.

In looking back, it is also hard not to look forward into the future and ask the question, how will history be preserved in 2126? In 2136?

I asked Deborah Shatz, publisher of *Alberta Jewish News*, this question and she explained their process for preserving the newspaper for future generations, “*Alberta Jewish News* mails a hard copy each month to Library and Archives Canada and also to The National Library of Israel. Prior to its closure in 2020, [Calgary’s] *Jewish Free Press* also sent a hard copy each month to Library and Archives Canada at <https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives.html>.”

Shatz further explained that Alberta on Record, a database for the archival holdings of the Archives Society of Alberta, at <https://archivesalberta.org/>, holds digital issues of the *Edmonton Jewish News* from 1991 to 2009. The *Alberta Jewish News* website, under the Archives tab <https://albertajewishnews.com/archives/>, stores digital editions of *Alberta Jewish News* and *Edmonton Jewish News* from December 2014 to the present day.

I tried searching for these newspapers and am embarrassed to admit that I could not find electronic issues of the *Jewish Free Press* on the Library and Archives Canada or on Alberta on Record websites. I wish I had the super research skills of the late Jack Switzer.

So for future historians and script writers, who are currently reading board books, or may not even be born, yet, here is what happened on August 16, 2026. It was a warm Sunday. The sun was shining, the sky was a clear blue and a large audience gathered in front of the Montefiore Institute. We staged two performances, the first at 11:00 am and the second



Dancing at the Montefiore Institute dedication. Photo by Carol Abbott-Wolfson.

at 2:00 pm.

Gary Silberg played Mr. Harry Oretzky, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Building Committee, and was the master of ceremonies for the production. As Mrs. Dunford, I played a familiar role, a journalist who typed a notice on a Remington typewriter inviting guests to the Montefiore Institute opening ceremony. (A typewriter is a mechanical writing device used before brain implants that I am imagining you are now using to transcribe your thoughts directly to a Liquid-crystal display panel).

Everyone in attendance stood up for the singing of *God Save the King*. David Sussman, as the homesteader Mr. Leon Ullman, played the oboe and Joseph Fernando, as Mr. Ben Berezovsky, played the guitar performing the Yiddish classic, *Oyfn Pripetchik*. (If you are unfamiliar with this melody, ask AI to find a good version for you and add it to your GarageBand Sound Library, or whatever app you are using in 2136. Or is an app like a Remington typewriter in your time?)

Bob Pearson, was Mr. James McGregor a dairy farmer who lived close to Sibbald, and recited with such powerful feelings the poem, *A Summer Storm*, by Canadian poet, Duncan Campbell Scott. Reva Faber, as Mrs. Lillian Rosenberg, sang the Yiddish classic, *Tumbalalaika*, accompanied on guitar by Sandy Kogut, who was Mrs. Ethel Segal, while Eli Kogut, as

Continued on page 18



Advance Voting
Tues, Oct 13 to Sat, Oct 17, 2026

Election Day
Monday, October 19, 2026



To find your designated voting place, scan the QR code and enter your residential address.

Barrier-free access is provided at voting places where possible. For more information visit elections.ab.ca/accessibility

Your Guide to Voting in a Referendum

In this referendum, electors will be asked to vote on 10 questions. Nine questions require a “Yes” or “No” response. One question asks electors to choose between two options.

You have three ways to vote:

- 1. Vote during Advance Voting**
from October 13 to 17, 2026, at an advance voting place in your electoral division.
- 2. Vote on Election Day, October 19, 2026**
at your designated voting place.
- 3. Vote by special ballot.**
Requests for special ballot end September 25. If you’ve already requested a special ballot, it must be received by mail at Elections Alberta by 5:00pm on October 16. Canada Post recommends you mail it no later than October 9.

Find everything you need to be referendum ready at elections.ab.ca

Rimon Calgary: Where craft meets community

By Jana Zalmanowitz, LJI Reporter

You may have encountered Rimon Calgary without knowing it. They're the people sewing historically accurate sails for the Seniors' model ship-building club. They'll rent you a chuppah for your upcoming wedding. They designed and stitched an entire felt *alephbet* for the Calgary JCC's Book Nook. You may have even purchased one of their treasures at the Jewish Film Festival.

I'd been hearing whispers of Rimon throughout my forays into Jewish Calgary and I had to find out: Who are these people quietly sprinkling our community with skillfully crafted creativity?

So I went to a meeting of Calgary's Judaic needlepoint guild. I had never been to an official needlepoint guild meeting before. I went with an open mind.

Rimon brings together members of the community to create and preserve traditional methods of fibre and textile art. I wasn't aware there was enough to differentiate Judaic textile arts from secular ones. My mind was quickly changed by the *d'var Torah* that begins every meeting.

Today, member Elka, delivers an interpretation of the Torah reading for the first day of Rosh Hashana. She talks about how God wove together elements from the unformed and void, and how sewing reflects Jewish values such as the power of connection, embracing imperfection and finding patience in the details.

I had arrived wondering how a needlepoint guild could be specifically Jewish. My takeaway from Elka's talk is, "Of course, textile arts are inherently Jewish."

There's a careful structure to the meeting. Everyone goes around the tables and introduces themselves for the benefit of any new members, or visitors like myself. Contrary to what I expected, there isn't a specific age or obvious type amongst the group. But there are three Susans.

Members make motions, second motions and set aside time for new business. A secretary records minutes. There are snacks, arranged by this evening's host, and a good chunk of time set aside for that month's creative project.

Don't let the official business of Calgary Rimon mislead you. The structure of the evening quickly gives way to something more free-flowing.

Long-time member and fibre artist, Marilyn, begins passing out materials while explaining the focus of the evening: hand beaded buttons. Her sample beaded



Tables at a Rimon Calgary meeting are filled with materials and samples for inspiration.

projects are passed around and fabric scraps are selected.

"Put fabric on the button form and play!" Marilyn encourages. "Don't stress over it."

That seems to be the philosophy.

My initial connection to Rimon is Trudy, one of the original members and an award-winning textile artist. She fills me in on how Rimon works, how the projects come to life and who leads each meeting. On the tables I see a flyer for her upcoming exhibit. It features a work that is so intricately detailed it's hard to believe it's fabric and thread. Trudy is the real deal.

While everyone dives into their project, it's my opportunity to circulate.

I start with Elka, asking whether she gives *d'var Torahs* for fun. It seemed like just another evening at the pulpit for her. I learn she's the ritual chair for Temple B'nai Tikvah. She joined Rimon three years ago when other women from synagogue caught wind that she was a quilter and brought her into the fold.

"I like to study Torah. I do executive training and coaching so I'm comfortable with public speaking," she adds.

I ask about her quilting skills. "I can tinker a bit with that," she says.

That modesty seems to be another common thread.

Tal is one of the younger members of the group. She had never heard of Rimon until two days ago when she encountered some members at an event. She had just returned to Calgary after completing a fine arts degree and was looking for inspiration and work in textile arts. How could they not recruit her?

Seated next to Tal is Therese who identifies herself as, "Possibly the oldest member of the group, but not the wisest."

I later learn from Marilyn that Therese is indeed the wisest, and a very talented stitcher and knitter. Marilyn references an "amazing fascinator" Therese created for a challenge in the past.

Therese explains she's been coming for years to admire other people's skillsets and for the camaraderie.

The members span many generations. There's Phyllis and Carly, a mother-daughter duo who have been coming together for the last year. Carly initially came because Phyllis doesn't like to drive at night. She handily also has a fine arts degree and an interest in painting so she fit right in.

Then there's Carolyn who teaches me what a milliner is. Having finished her button, she's working

on something different.

"I have a beading project I have to finish for work," she tells me. Her work is intricate hat-making for film, television and theatre costumes. Carolyn has been coming to Rimon since the beginning, almost 20 years, noting her first encounter was a lecture on preserving textiles.

Nearby, one of the Susans tells me about her craft of sewing. She started out self-taught and after taking lessons, realized she had much to learn. She keeps coming back for the wealth of talent around the tables. "It's a great way to learn stuff with talented people who want to share their skills by teaching others," she says.

That seems to capture something fundamental about Rimon. The members aren't all professionals. Some are serious hobbyists. Some are artists. Some are simply creative people looking for an outlet.

Each has a different story about how she arrived at Rimon, what she makes and how textile arts intersect with the rest of her life.

The crafts bring them into the room, but the relationships are what keep them coming back.

As I talk to the women, they describe their fellow members as "prolific in her artwork," "mind-blowingly inspiring" and possessing "invigorating energy." They are teachers, psychologists, financial planners, mothers, grandmothers and artists in their own way.

They're also cheerleaders for one another.

In new business, a younger member, Megan, shares the new project she's working on.

"I'm growing a human!"

The announcement is met with a chorus of excited well wishes.

Rimon is about much more than the objects being created. The buttons, quilts, sails, chuppahs and *alephbet* letters are the visible products. The less visible work is happening around the tables. They are skills being passed down, friendships being formed, new members being welcomed and generations learning from one another.

Elka's words from the beginning of the evening come back to me: connection, embracing imperfection, patience.

They seem to describe more than the craft.

Each member contributes something: a skill, a story, a little advice, a piece of fabric. Each one adds another thread.

I wondered how to truly describe the meaning of a Jewish needlepoint guild. Elka sums it up. "It's the people that bring me here. It is the kindred spirits. A way to create community."

One stitch at a time.

You can purchase one-of-a-kind artwork made by Rimon's members at the Calgary Jewish Film Festival starting November 7, 2026 at Beth Tzedec Congregation. For more information on Rimon, contact calgaryrimon@gmail.com.



OLIVER SQUARE

REGISTRIES LTD

A fast, full service, friendly & convenient registry centre.

Oliver Square • 11648 104 Ave
PH 780.408.2000
www.osreg.ca

Licensing, Registrations & Renewals
All classes of written & road tests
Drivers' Abstracts
Name Searches & NUANS
Commissioners for Oath
Corporate Registrations & Searches
Vital Statistics Certificates & Registrations
Personal Property Lien Searches & Registrations
And many other services for Public & Professional
"Licensed to please."



First Call Cemetery Monuments Ltd.
Chevra Kadisha Approved Supplier



Serving: 37th Street Cemetery • Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
• Erlton Cemetery • Queens Park Cemetery

WE GUARANTEE THE LOWEST PRICES
★ CALL US TO COMPARE ★



LARGE INVENTORY IN CALGARY



One of Calgary's Largest In-Stock Selections in ALL STYLES, SHAPES & COLOURS
SEE IT. COMPARE IT. SAVE MORE.

5010 1st Street SE, Calgary | firstcallcalgary@gmail.com

403-723-0800

firstcallmonuments.com

Margarita's dishes

at the Calgary Farmers Market

NOW HIRING!

403-667-7567 • 510 77 Ave SE Calgary



Welcome back to school, from

Hon. Adriana LaGrange,

MLA for Red Deer-North
Minister of Hospital and Surgical Health Services.



#202, 5913 - 50 Avenue
Red Deer, AB T4N 4C4
Phone: 403.342.2263
RedDeer.North@assembly.ab.ca

 AdrianaLaGrangeRD

 @AdrianaLaGrange

 @Adriana_LaGrange

Gan HaZikaron officially opens at Erlton Cemetery in Calgary

By Irena Karshenbaum, LJI Reporter

In the early morning hours of October 7, 2023, which fell on Shabbat as well as Simchat Torah, Calgarian, David Wallach, and his wife, Zohar, were still asleep in their Tel Aviv hotel room when they were awoken by explosions. The day that followed was consumed with the couple running to a nearby bomb shelter as the city was pounded by rockets and where just a block away a building was struck, injuring four people.

Wallach recounted the incident at the unveiling ceremony, held on August 23, 2026, of the new Gan HaZikaron (translated as, Garden of Remembrance) that has been built by Chevra Kadisha Calgary on site at the Erlton Jewish Cemetery.

He remembered the early days of the war when Israel “was in complete chaos.” The Israeli government was “paralyzed” while the army was “trying to get organized” and was calling in reservists.

The act of war, however, did galvanize the people of Israel, as Wallach explained, “There were no Sephardim or Ashkenazim, there were no Liberals or Conservatives, there were no Charedim or Mesoratim or Chilonim. The country became a united nation demonstrating the old Talmudic saying, ‘All of Israel are responsible for each other.’”

Gan HaZikaron is a project of the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary and is located on the west end of the cemetery where a small house once stood. It will serve as a visiting area and reflective space for people who are visiting the cemetery, separate from the grave sites so that visitors can gather respectfully and Kohanim can enter it without contravening the prohibition against them being too close to the graves.

The project was chaired by Dr. Darryl Gurevitch. A key piece of the garden is a donation of the ‘Shattered into Light’ memorial sculpture gifted to honour “in a significant way” his parents, Dr. Ralph and Sheila Gurevitch, by him, his siblings, Illana Morton and Dr. Jason Gurevitch, and their families.

Speaking at the unveiling, Gurevitch explained,

“Our parents have been active, contributing, long-standing members of our community. For many years they have supported many, both Jewish and non-Jewish, organizations and have volunteered countless hours to our community and the greater Calgary community.”

He continued saying, his parents have always loved art and sculpture, but, “After the horrors of October 7, 2023, the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, [we] felt that a memorial sculpture to October 7, was more fitting and timely for the space than just a really nice piece of art.”

Shattered into Light is enclosed by a landscaped reflective garden and was created by Charles Sherman, a Los-Angeles-based artist, whose works are held by the San Diego Museum of Art and Cedar-Sinai Hospital Galleries in Los Angeles and can be found in public spaces in Beverly Hills, Palm Desert and other cities across California.

Made of Corten steel, Gurevitch described poetically, “Steel is strong, but it weathers. It changes. Its rust is not a flaw – it becomes part of the sculpture. And it bleeds. The rust becomes a record of time. The broken forms become something that rises. And the light that touches them reminds us that even in the presence of darkness, light remains.”

“The three forms rise unequal, imperfect, and each different from the other,” he continued. “They are not meant to represent three separate stories. Rather, together they represent the many lives, families, communities, and dreams that were shattered – and the human spirit and light that continues to rise from that devastation.”

Gurevitch read a note by Charles Sherman written for the unveiling ceremony describing his work, “The sculpture is what I call a Miracle Tower, because it evokes both the miracle of flight and the human desire to rise above tragedy. Technically, it is composed of three pyramids, with each face forming a triangle, the geometry long associated with strength, balance, and an enduring connection between the core of the earth and the heavens above.”

An archway into the garden was created by industrial designer, Elliott Steinberg, and donated by the Ruth Dvorkin family in memory of her late husband, Norman Dvorkin z”l.

Gurevitch described Steinberg’s design as, “Comprised of stylized trees that also had a Jewish component of a *mezuzah*, symbolized by the large letter *Sheen*, which also acts as the centre of the trees. The garden theme is continued in the overhead signage, with stylized flowers.”

A donor board for the entire Gan HaZikaron project will be unveiled in the near future and will live in the



Chevra Kadisha Calgary officially opened Gan HaZikaron at Erlton Cemetery with a moving ceremony. Photos by Irena Karshenbaum.

Chevra Kadisha of Calgary chapel on 37 Street SW.

The Gan HaZikaron project committee included Louis Bracey, Halley Girvitz, Scott Siemens, the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary facilities manager, and co-presidents, Harold Lipton and Susan Dvorkin.

Lipton and Dvorkin recounted the history of the Erlton Jewish Cemetery that was founded in 1904 after the tragic passing of the infant, Goldie Bell. The early Jewish community was then propelled to purchase land that became its first cemetery and which over the last one hundred and twenty years has become nearly full.

Lipton and Dvorkin explained that when this section of the grounds became available and it was decided that no new grave plots would be added to the cemetery, it would be designated instead as, “A reflective garden where visitors could come, reconnect with people, and reminisce over their departed loved ones who were resting nearby.”

Soon after the planning for the reflective garden had begun, the co-presidents continued, “Another calamity that many deem the most deadly since the Holocaust,” occurred and, “It was decided that this new garden should also be the place where we should build a memorial to those who perished on October 7 and in the weeks that followed.”

Louis Bracey, Lifetime Honourary Chair of the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, read a new version of the *Kel Maleh Rachamim* prayer that was written shortly after the October 7 massacre by Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis, the Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain and the Commonwealth.

The memorial prayer dates back one thousand years, as Bracey explained, and honours the destruction of both Temples, the Crusades and other tragedies inflicted upon the Jewish people over the centuries. Mirvis’s version prays for the men, women and children “who were murdered in the terror attacks of Shemini Atzeret and the days that followed” and “the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces who sacrificed their lives for the sanctity of God in defence of our people.”

Irena Karshenbaum writes in Calgary.
irenakarshenbaum.com



Dr. Darryl Gurevitch spoke beautifully about the garden project.



SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT RECOVERY

FORWARD TOGETHER

EDUCATION INTERRUPTED SHOULD NOT MEAN DREAMS ABANDONED.



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY CANADA

cftau.ca

833.322.2328

info@cftau.ca



Film Fest *Cont. from page 1*

collaboration with the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary – is an animated short documentary featuring the voices of male Chevra Kadisha volunteers describing the reasons they embraced the mitzvah of preparing deceased peers for burial according to time-honoured Jewish traditions. The moving observations of these anonymous angels of mercy are paired with mesmerizing sand art, capturing the temporariness of life and the comfort of rituals linking us from generation to generation.

The documentary short, *The Asset*, tells the story of American trauma surgeon Dr. Anna Goldenberg’s mission to ensure that Israel adopts the “Advanced Surgical Skills for Exposure in Trauma (ASSET), an effort complicated by the fact that the course relies on the use of cadavers, which runs counter to Orthodox Jewish practice. Inspired by her former colleague – an Israeli physician battling an aggressive cancer – Goldenberg, a childhood immigrant from the former Soviet Union, goes on a journey of her own as her Jewish identity morphs and changes.

The third Tikkun Olam screening, the documentary *Sapiro v. Ford: The Jew who sued Henry Ford*, focuses on Jewish lawyer and labour organizer Aaron Sapiro, the David who brought a libel suit against automobile goliath and vicious antisemite Henry Ford. This true story is sadly resonant today, given the huge spike in antisemitism around the world and here at home.

Sapiro’s courage in the face of adversity is both inspiring and empowering, despite the enormous personal price he paid. His advocacy of farmers both in the US and Canada (How did we not know this history?) led to positive change and is guaranteed to stoke the pride of a Canadian Jewish audience.

The Tikkun Olam screenings are well-timed, given that Ralph Gurevitch, a long-serving film fest committee member together with his wife Sheila, recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

Other sponsored screenings include the delightfully quirky and highly stylized arthouse feature film *The Soundman*, this year’s Dr. Martha Cohen Memorial Screening; and *We Met at Grossinger’s*, a nostalgic documentary exploring the amazing history of the Jewish resort that was the beating heart – pun intended – of the Borscht Belt, largely due to the magnetic personality of Jenny Grossinger, the beloved institution’s “hostess with the moistest.”

We Met at Grossinger’s is this year’s Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta’s Jay Joffe Memorial Program. Joffe, the JHSSA’s first and long-serving president, had a passion for documenting, archiving, and, most importantly, sharing local Jewish history. It is safe to say that he would have been thrilled with the way that the film brings rarely seen archival materials to the telling of a Jewish history that earned its rightful place in American social history.

There are two weeknight screenings at this year’s film fest. The Kristallnacht screening, once again co-sponsored by the Calgary Jewish Federation – will be open to the entire community free of charge as part of its annual Kristallnacht commemoration.

I Draw Them the Best I Can tells the story of child Holocaust survivor and artist Adam Policzer, whose drawings for his graphic memoir *The House Across the Street* helped him to process the trauma he endured

during the Shoah. Hidden by a neighbour, little Adam, only five years old at the time, saw his family rounded up, and was later denounced and arrested. The film – which brings Policzer’s art to life through skillful animation – delves into Policzer’s improbable survival, the effects of intergenerational trauma on his family, and the power of artistic expression in healing.

Policzer, 87, who lives in Vancouver, will be a special guest at the screening together with co-directors Jamie Michaels – an English professor at the University of Calgary – and Liam Karp.

Another weekday highlight is the documentary *The Campaign: Disinformation in a Time of War*, featuring lawyer, journalist, author, and film subject Warren Kinsella, who will be on hand for both a Q and A session and a book signing immediately following the screening.

This marks the return of Kinsella to Beth Tzedec after a well-received summer book talk about his recent best-seller *The Hidden Hand* – detailing the carefully coordinated and well-funded propaganda war, decades in the making, that literally exploded in the aftermath of the October 7 attacks and the subsequent war in Gaza in the guise of a grassroots uprising.

Presented in collaboration with both the Paperny Family JCC Jewish Book Festival and Allies for a Strong Canada, the screening of *The Campaign* was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Krell Nitzanim Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary and Joe and Sondra Spier.

“We are grateful for the support of all our sponsors,” said Harvey Cyngiser, who adds that festival sponsorships, event co-sponsorships, and endowment funds supporting annual screenings are increasingly important as Cyngiser and his committee of dedicated volunteers ensure that the film festival remains affordable.

“When we established the festival 25 years ago, makers of Jewish and Israeli movies were excited to share their films, often at moderate cost,” said Cyngiser, who takes pride in keeping the cost of full festival passes low so that as many people as possible can enjoy all that film festival has to offer.

As the taste for Israeli and Jewish films has grown, so has a huge industry, adds Cyngiser. That, coupled with the facts that screening rights are generally paid for in US dollars, and the cost of virtually everything – including the plentiful nosh served between screenings – has risen dramatically.

“We could not do this without our sponsors,” said Cyngiser, adding that the list of contributors and support for special screenings continue to grow.



Director Caroline Kaye – one of an impressive array of special guests at the 2026 Jewish Film Festival – will take her Calgary audience on a deep dive into her family’s migrations with the delightfully unique documentary *Left Lane Straight*. Filmed over three decades, Kaye traces the family history from her Sephardi ancestors’ expulsion from Spain to the Ottoman Empire, the horrors of the Holocaust, and, finally, their planting of new roots in New York.

Ticket sales are also vital to the viability of the film fest. At \$20 per person for a full afternoon or evening of film, the annual event continues to provide big bang for the buck. But the best deal for those attending multiple screenings is the full season pass, at \$85 per person, if purchased prior to November, or \$95 at the door. University students get the full festival pass for only \$20.

Youth under the age of 18 may attend screenings free of charge. For minors, it is recommended that parents provide guidance as some of the movies may not be appropriate for younger viewers. In general, film goers are well advised to read and consider the film synopses, as the film festival does not shy away from difficult subjects that could be upsetting for some viewers.

One film that comes to mind this year, is *The Darkest Light*, a documentary that explores the mixed legacy of musician and singer Shlomo Carlebach – once dubbed “the singing Rabbi” – who rose to stardom in the Jewish world for his modern songs based on Jewish liturgy. His songs formed the Jewish playlist of the 1960s and 1970s and became a staple in Synagogue services across the denominational spectrum.

The Darkest Light explores how Carlebach’s legacy was tarnished in the face of multiple and credible accusations of sexual abuse following Carlebach’s 1994 passing, begging the question as to whether his music has a place in a post-Me-Too world. The documentary combines Carlebach’s music, film clips, and interviews with some of his accusers and clergy who grapple with this question. Prominent in the film is Carlebach’s daughter Neshama, herself a talented singer, who must “reconcile the unreconcilable.”

Special guests at the screening will be director Simon Mendes and co-producer Jacqueline G. Tepper.

The task of Cyngiser and his committee is to bring a variety of films representing the diversity of Jewish life in Israel and around the globe. This requires

Continued on page 22

Montefiore *Cont. from page 15*

Mr. Saul Segal, sang.

Zena Drabinsky was the most delightful Mrs. Minnie Ginsberg and sweetly recited the poem, *Harvest Time*, by Emily Pauline Johnson, which captures the spirit of the transition from summer to autumn in our little colony of Jewish farmers, as Mr. Harry Oretzky explained to the audience.

Mr. Ben Berezovsky performed, *Tanz Yidelekh*, on the accordion and also accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Oretzky singing, *On Moonlight Bay*, a popular song from 1912, and *By the Beautiful Sea*, another popular song, from 1914.

Mel Ksienski, as Mr. Louis Novikoff the President of the Building Committee, unveiled the *mezuzah* attached to the doorpost at the front entrance of the Montefiore Institute and recited the *Shema* prayer while his lovely wife, Mrs. Rose Novikoff, played by Leslie Levant, explained the meaning of the prayer.

The performance concluded with men and women dancing, separately of course, to the favourite folk

song, *Hava Nagila*, which means, let us rejoice.

A small note to future historians. *Hava Nagila* was not written until 1918, two years after the opening of the Montefiore Institute. We slipped up in our historical fact-checking, but the song was just too perfect not to include in our re-enactment, as confirmed by the group of happy Sikh young men who formed their own circle and danced with joy to the melody in the field facing the Montefiore Institute.

Have I given you enough material in my story to write your own script in 2136?

Irena Karshenbaum is the founder and served as president of The Little Synagogue on the Prairie



The Montefiore Dedication re-enactment cast put on a wonderful performance. Photo by Carol Abbott-Wolfson.

Project Society that gifted the 1916 Montefiore Institute to Heritage Park. Today, she volunteers as an interpreter in the exhibit and writes. irenakarshenbaum.com

Jewish Studies Week at U of A will be held from Nov. 2-6

By Regan Lipes, LJI Reporter

The Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies is proud to present a lineup of excellent programming in honour of Jewish Studies Week, to be held at the University of Alberta November 2 through 6. The programing kicks off with Bente Kahan’s *Unfinished Lives* which will be on display in the Rutherford Library Atrium. According to the exhibition’s official website: “*Unfinished Lives* is a multimedia project by the Bente Kahan Foundation (Fundacja Bente Kahan/FBK), introducing European Jewish artists who perished during the Holocaust. In the midst of the horror, artists continued to express themselves through literature, music, visual and performing arts.” Bente Kahan, a performing artist originally from Norway, established the Foundation in Wroclaw, Poland in 2006 as a cultural preservation and educational organization.

In the middle of Wroclaw, past several decorative gnomes, behind an old archway and through a charming courtyard stands the historic White Stork Synagogue. Dating back to 1829, this historic building was where the exhibition was first unveiled. “The material included in the exhibition is unique, presenting often forgotten artists and their work, and sometimes even showcasing them to the public for the first time. European Jewish art before World War II was multilingual, multicultural, and diverse, both thematically and formally. Behind each photo is an actual person, introduced with a biography and surviving artwork, such as writings, paintings, films, or music.” There is the permanent display in Wroclaw, and the show has toured Poland, Germany, Czechia, Norway, and now makes its way to Canada.

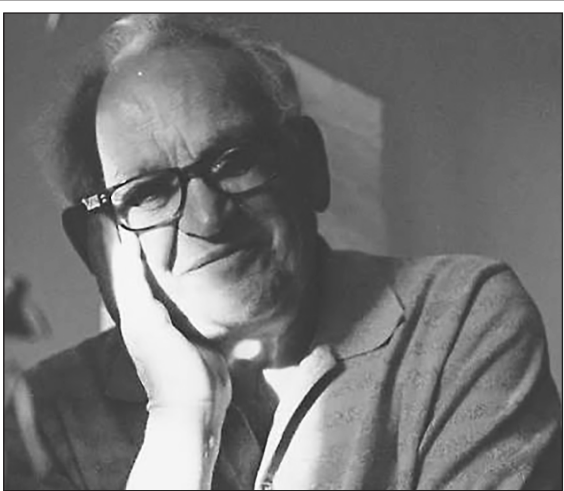
On Monday, November 2 at 4 pm in the Henry Marshall Tory Building, room 2-58, the Wirth Institute invites students, faculty, and community members to listen to an exciting lecture by Professor Tvrtko Jakovina, from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, MIREES, Università di Bologna. As elaborated on the Wirth Institute’s website, Professor Jakovina will be: “exploring how the Holocaust is understood, remembered, and discussed in Croatia and the wider post-Yugoslav region. A prominent political historian, author, public commentator, and former television host, Jakovina examines the ways twentieth-century history, memory, and nationalist narratives continue to shape contemporary understandings of the region’s past.” Jakovina, is a prolific scholar with numerous works to his name.

On Thursday, November 5 at 4 pm, the annual Toby and Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture will be delivered in Tory Lecture Building T LB-1 by Professor Anna Cichopek-Gajraj from Arizona State University. Her talk, “Beyond Violence? Survivors’ Returns to Poland

after the Holocaust” promises to be an engaging and valuable investigation of displacement, return, and belonging in the face of trauma. According to the lecture abstract on the Wirth Institute’s website: “What did it mean for Jewish survivors to return “home” to Poland after the Holocaust? This is a familiar story: survivors returned to find their families murdered and their homes occupied, while facing their Polish neighbors’ hostility, violence, or indifference. Yet these common postwar experiences do not tell the whole story. Although loneliness, pain, fear, and sorrow were palpable, survivors also exhibited resilience and creativity in their search for a new sense of belonging in their old country. They sought justice, entered schools and workplaces, and tried to recover some measure of normality in the shadow of the genocide.”

The work of scholars like Professor Anna Cichopek-Gajraj does much amidst current geopolitical polarization to keep human perspectives at the forefront of public consciousness. Focussing on Jewish civilizations of Poland and Slovakia, “she is the author of *Pogrom Żydów w Krakowie 11 sierpnia 1945 r.* (*Jewish Historical Institute, 2000*) and *Beyond Violence: Jewish Survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944–1948*), which was a finalist for the 2016 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award and received an Honorable Mention for the 2015 Barbara Heldt Prize. In 2016, she was honoured with the Shofar Zakhor Award for her work on Holocaust education in Arizona.”

This year’s lecture marks the first since the recent passing of Saul Reichert (OBM). On July 27, 2026, the Wirth Institute published a moving tribute to Reichert, stating: “With the support of the Edmonton Jewish community, Saul became a successful restaurateur and businessman while remaining deeply committed to Holocaust education and sharing his experiences with future generations. Throughout his life, he dedicated his time and energy to Holocaust education, believing that remembrance was essential to building a more just and compassionate future. Among Saul’s most enduring legacies at the Wirth Institute is the Toby and Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture.” Predeceased by his wife Toby OBM in 2021, Sual Reichert “also felt strongly about seeing a Holocaust museum established in Edmonton. He would have been immensely proud to know that this vision is now becoming a reality through the planned museum in the new Jewish Federation building. It is a fitting testament to a life devoted to preserving memory and educating future generations.”



Honouring Saul Reichert z”l.

On Friday, to wind down a week of scholarly discussion, the Wirth Institute warmly invites students, faculty, and the community to gather at Henderson Hall 1-17 of Rutherford Library South at 2 pm to meet with the distinguished lecturers and enjoy some delicious pastries and refreshments. Toby and Saul Reichert are sadly no longer able to bear witness to all they built and accomplished, but their four daughters Rochelle, Jerell, Adell, and Bonny, can be proud of the impact their parents are still making. The Wirth Institute stated: “Saul Reichert transformed unimaginable loss into a lifetime of generosity, community leadership, and education. His story stands as a powerful reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and of the enduring importance of preserving the memory of the Holocaust. Through the Wirth Institute’s Toby and Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture, his legacy will continue to educate, inspire, and remind future generations of the consequences of hatred and the enduring responsibility to uphold human dignity.”

This year when attending Jewish Studies Week at the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies, please take a moment to remember Toby and Saul Reichert; may their memories be a blessing.

Talmud Torah *Cont. from page 19*

spend time at the park talking to the people who use it, learning about them and where they’re from. And that’s probably the best way I can think of to honour him: creating a place where people come together, where kids are having fun, and where people from different backgrounds can interact with each other.”

Only a few months into the school year, the TT community is still figuring out all the positive ways this exceptional space can be engaged. With each new season the potential for how staff, students, and the community will interact with the outdoor classroom will evolve and unveil new potential. “I think the part my brother would have enjoyed the most is the fact that the neighbourhood is so multicultural. After school and on weekends, the Talmud Torah park is used by people from the surrounding neighbourhood, including members of the nearby mosque community.”

Nathan Reboh is missed by the Edmonton Jewish community, but the new outdoor classroom dedicated in his name means that those who knew and loved him will always have a place to gather and share cherished stories. For those who have not yet visited the space, there really is no time like the present. May Nathan Reboh’s name be a blessing.



Students enjoy a game of chess in the new outdoor classroom.

FALL 2026

Jewish Studies Week

Scan for more information!

Featuring the Annual Toby & Saul Reichert Holocaust Lecture with Dr. Anna Cichopek-Gajraj and more!

November 2 - 6

North Campus | University of Alberta

Free & Open to the Public!

Presented by the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Mayim and Mindfulness: A women's wellness brunch in Edmonton on Oct. 18

By Regan Lipes, LJI Reporter

Who could say no to an opportunity for noshing, learning, and kibbitzing! All the ladies of the Edmonton Jewish community should mark their calendars now for October 18, when Beth Israel Synagogue will host ‘Mayim and Mindfulness.’ This Women’s Wellness Brunch is a wonderful opportunity to learn about women’s health, tour the mikvah, and ask lots of questions.

With all the rain of the past summer, the BI mikvah required some important renovations. “It takes a lot to keep a mikvah operational,” explained Nina Bernstein who helped to coordinate the repairs. “A mikvah is a cornerstone of Jewish life and a healthy Jewish family. When we have strong families, we have strong communities.”

Wellness Brunch is not just a lunch and learn; it aims to do some important fundraising to help maintain the mikvah. “We want women to be healthy spiritually and physically,” Bernstein emphasized. “To speak to the physical part of health, we’re fortunate to have Olga Muradov, Nurse Practitioner at the TruMed Clinic, delivering a talk called “Thriving Through Perimenopause and Menopause” which will be relatable for middle-aged women and up, but also extremely informative for younger women too.”

“Perimenopause and menopause are natural life stages, yet the physical and emotional changes they

bring are often misunderstood or quietly endured. This engaging presentation will offer practical, evidence-informed guidance to help women better understand their bodies and feel empowered in their health decisions,” explained Muradov. She plans to give attendees some crucial information to better support their ongoing health, focusing on “the changing roles of estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone; the relationship between menopause symptoms, thyroid function, and iron levels; and the potential role of individualized hormone therapy. I’ll also discuss hormone options, sleep, mood, bone health, and metabolic changes.”

Of course, no Jewish gathering, let alone a brunch, would be complete without food. There will be brunch favourites to satiate appetites and plenty of warm beverages to keep conversation flowing. “We’ll also have some prizes.” the organizing committee would like the community to know that there is still room for sponsorship, and that if anyone would like to donate directly to the operational upkeep of the mikvah, this too is welcomed with gratitude.



MIKVAH

A Resource for Our Jewish Community

The Beth Israel Mikvah is open to **all Jewish women**, regardless of synagogue affiliation or level of observance, for personal and ritual immersion needs.

Toveling of dishes is also available.

Maintained according to Orthodox halachic standards.

Mayim & Mindfulness

WOMEN'S WELLNESS BRUNCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Beth Israel Synagogue

Featuring **Olga Muradov, NP**
Thriving Through Perimenopause & Menopause

Details & registration: **familyshul.org**

Mikvah appointments & information: **BI.mikvah@gmail.com**

Those planning to attend are asked to please register by October 11 by calling the BI office 780.488.2840, or through the website at FamilyShul.org. It is a wonderful opportunity to gain useful knowledge and enjoy some tasty food. For those who may have never visited a mikvah before, it’s the ideal time to tour BI’s lovely facility and ask questions. The cost to attend is only \$36, but it is a fantastic investment in spiritual and physical health. Although there are still opportunities to contribute through sponsorship or other donations, the organizers would like to thank the Edmonton branches of Na’amat and NCJWC for their tremendous support.

Honest Reporting

Cont. from page 4

descriptions of events rather than adopting labels without attribution.”

Fegelman, however, noted that public backlash forced the network to reverse that policy in late summer, when an internal memo had allegedly instructed journalists not to call the 9/11 attacks “terrorist attacks.”

Despite that reversal, the network has not changed its stance on the October 7 attacks, and journalists are still advised against using the term without attribution.

Thompson added CBC is “deeply troubled” by the assertion that its reporting contributes to a spike in anti-Jewish hate crimes.

“Antisemitism is a vile reality that has seen an alarming and well-documented rise in Canada,” he said. “CBC News has reported extensively on this issue, highlighting the fears and threats faced by the Jewish community.”

Collaborative Effort Needed

But Howard Fremeth, Vice President of Communications at CIJA (The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs) said the media is not operating in a neutral environment.

He noted warnings from Canada’s security agencies

that the frequency and severity of antisemitism have created an environment in which extremists are directed toward more violent pathways.

“That is why the media have a critical responsibility to stick to rigorous standards of accuracy, integrity and fairness,” wrote Fremeth in an email.

“However, far too often, from our publicly funded broadcaster to other networks, we have seen Canadian media fail to uphold their own rules and policies.

“We have partnered with Honest Reporting Canada on previous campaigns, and organizations such as HRC, along with other influentials voices, play an important role in scrutinizing media coverage and holding news organizations accountable to their uphold their own standards.”

Encouraging Progress Being Made

Fegelman says he understands that sometimes people may observe the work his and other organizations do to fight for media balance as pugilistic, but he says that’s not always the case.

“More often than not you can file a complaint and then you’ll get a listening ear or a prompt response,” Fegelman said.

“A lot of time you’re going to have to agree to disagree and that’s OK. But there is a dialogue.”

He notes some significant progress being made with some media organizations such as the Globe and Mail in the national newspaper’s editorial viewpoint on recognizing antisemitism.

“We’ve noticed in the past half year or so that the editorial view of the paper has been actually incredibly supportive of the Jewish community, going as far to say on record that anti-Zionism is antisemitism and calling on the govern-ment to consider it so.”

Fegelman would like to see this kind of momentum happen with alacrity, but he recognizes the journey will be a long one.

While he acknowledges that the CBC occasionally corrects its journalistic transgressions, he argues that the network, and other media outlets, too often resort to evasion or window dressing to obscure their mistakes.

A Call for Independent Media Audits

Among other recommendations to Parliament Fegelman would like to see a permanent, independent commission be created to audit and investigate systemic bias in publicly funded media.

CBC’s Thompson strongly disagrees with these recommendations. He stated that Honest Reporting Canada’s recommendation requiring publicly funded media to submit regular reports to Parliament about editorial decisions is “fundamentally incompatible with the principles of a free press.”

“We already have robust, transparent mechanisms in place, such as the independent Office of the CBC (Ombudsman) who investigates public complaints and publishes its findings for all Canadians to see,” he wrote.

Fegelman argues that the office lacks true independence. Because the network’s board appoints the ombudsman – frequently choosing an insider from the CBC ranks – he believes the office is incapable of policing itself. He also says the office can only conduct a review but can’t command and enforce corrective action.

The Ongoing Battle for Balanced Coverage

As he’s done for 22 years, Fegelman will continue to fight for the balanced coverage he believes Israel and the Jewish community deserves.

Buoyed by the engagement he has seen from their base of followers from all walks of life and from communities across Canada Fegelman will continue to try to make a difference.

While he understands that Canadian Jews may feel alone, he insists that is not the case. Instead, he sees a steady increase in Canadians speaking up against antisemitism and biased or incomplete media coverage.

“Naturally there’s a fear. There’s a fear of consequences for speaking up. But we need to push back very strongly against that.”

Book your Chanukah Greeting with Alberta Jewish News today!

**Chanukah is early this year
and our deadline for booking greetings
in Alberta Jewish News is November 12.**

If you've already booked - thank you. If not, please head over to albertajewishnews.com/greetings/ and book it or call 780-421-7966 and we can book it for you.

Please say yes when you are contacted by Sandy Fayerman in Calgary or a member of Talmud Torah Society in Edmonton.

Your greeting helps us send the newspaper out.
Todah Rabah!



UJA campaign *Cont. from page 1*

better and we all left the hall with a smile on our faces.

Earlier in the evening, Jewish Federation of Edmonton CEO Stacey Leavitt-Wright spoke about the anti-Israel protest and alleged knife attack that took place on the grounds of the Edmonton Heritage Festival this summer. She commended the performers and volunteers who demonstrated resilience and cultural pride by continuing to perform despite the angry crowd. Leavitt-Wright invited the dancers and volunteers to the stage, and each one was congratulated by Zach Hyman and they received a heart-felt round of applause from the audience.

UJA co-chairs Josh Raisman and Farrel Shadlyn spoke about the importance of giving to the UJA. Francie and Jon Nobleman were announced as this year's recipients of the Kavod Award. They were awarded this honour in recognition for their decades long dedication to serving the Jewish community of Edmonton. Highlights included Francie's outstanding contributions to Temple Beth Ora, Beth Shalom, Talmud Torah, Mitzvah Day and others and Jon's unwavering impact to Friends of JNF Canada, TBO,

Federation's PartnershipTogether and the Jewish Free Loan Society to name a few. They are both always ready to lend a hand where it's needed and to work hard to solicit help from others. They are true menches in our community and very deserving of the honour.

For decades, Jon and Francie have been active leaders in the Edmonton Jewish Community because they believe strongly in supporting the community and the organizations that help sustain Jewish life both locally and abroad.

"It's up to us to support Jewish causes," says Francie, "because nobody else is going to do it."

Yasher Koach to the Jewish Federation of Edmonton for their inspirational 2026 UJA launch. With role models like Jon and Francie, volunteers and performers like the Israeli dancers and Edmonton stars like Zach Hyman, we all



Jon and Francie Nobleman (centre) received the Kavod Award in recognition of their outstanding dedication to the community. Photo by Bar Lavy for JFE.

came away with the understanding that it's up to each of us to support the Jewish causes within our community – and help them to thrive.

I'm voting for a strong Alberta within a united Canada

By Kelly McCauley,
Member of Parliament, Edmonton-West

I'm voting for a strong Alberta within a united Canada which is why I'm voting Option 1 for Alberta to stay in Canada

I am a proud Albertan and a proud Canadian. Those two identities have never been in conflict for me. As a Member of Parliament for Edmonton West, I have the privilege of representing Albertans in Ottawa, and that experience has reinforced my belief that Alberta's future is best served within a strong and united Canada.

My decision to vote for Alberta to remain in Canada is ultimately about what I believe is in the best interests of the people I represent.

That does not mean accepting the status quo. Alberta has legitimate grievances with Ottawa. I have seen first-hand the frustration over federal policies affecting our energy sector, taxation, regulation, and economic opportunities. I believe strongly that Alberta should have a greater voice in decisions that affect our province.

But I also believe there is a difference between demanding a better deal within Confederation and leaving Confederation altogether.

As an MP, I have seen the importance of having Alberta voices at the federal table. Our province has an enormous contribution to make to Canada: our natural resources, entrepreneurs, workers, agriculture, energy expertise and growing communities all strengthen the country.

I also believe Canada benefits enormously from Alberta. A successful Alberta means more jobs, investment, vital resources for our valued social programs and opportunities for Canadians across the country.

Voting to remain in Canada does not mean giving Ottawa a blank cheque. Quite the opposite. I believe Alberta should remain steadfast at the table while continuing to fight for a fairer federation—one where provincial jurisdiction is respected and Alberta's economic potential unleashed.

There is plenty of work ahead. We need to build the infrastructure that gets our resources to market, reduce unnecessary red tape, encourage investment and make sure Alberta has the opportunity to compete and prosper.

My commitment is to continue making that case in Ottawa.

I am voting for Alberta to remain in Canada because I believe we can have both: a strong, confident Alberta and a stronger, united Canada.

On October 19, I am voting option 1.

Kelly McCauley is the Member of Parliament for Edmonton West. He can be reached at Kelly.McCauley.C1@parl.gc.ca

HOW CAN YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HELP?

MP Kelly McCauley and his team are here for you for any help needed with Government of Canada federal programs and departments. Our Edmonton office is here to help with anything relating to:

- Citizenship and Immigration
- Service Canada
- Canada Pension Plan
- Disability Pension Plan
- Old Age Security

- Employment Insurance
- Passports
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Veteran's Affairs



We always look forward to hearing from you.

104-10471 178 Street
Across from Rogers/Shaw building
kelly.mccauley.c1@parl.gc.ca
780-392-2515



KELLY McCAULEY
MP | EDMONTON WEST

PICKLEFEST™



BIG CRUNCH, BIG CROWDS, BIG DILL

PICKLEFEST IS COMING TO
EDMONTON OCT 17



SCAN THE CODE
AND GET IN
ON IT.



Film Fest *Cont. from page 18*

significant commitment, Cyngiser says.

“Most volunteer gigs do not require the time and focus brought to film selection,” said Cyngiser. “My committee members spend hours watching multiple films. The committee begins previewing just after Passover and continues into the summer, meeting regularly to discuss them.”

“It is a huge commitment, for which I am deeply grateful,” Cyngiser said, also lauding the cooperation of community partners on various screenings and events.

One example is the Paperny Family JCC, whose 2026 Book Fair and Hanukkah Market begins on closing night of the Film Festival, Sunday, November 22, and runs through to November 19.

“When a film relates to books, we are thrilled to team up with the Book Fair, offering them the opportunity to bring to our audience books related to the films we are screening,” said Cyngiser.

“We are especially excited to team up with the book fair for our closing night film *The Choice*,” Cyngiser said.

The film brings Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivor, psychologist, and bestselling author Dr. Edith Eger together with bereaved Israeli mother Iris Haim, for whom Eger’s book was a source of comfort and healing.

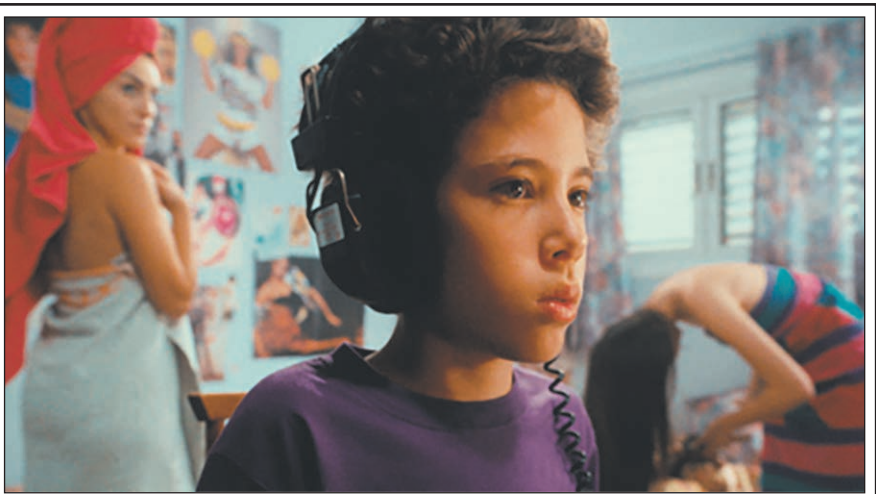
Both Eger’s book and the film that shares its name combine Eger’s testimony as a survivor of

Auschwitz, Mauthausen, and a death march and her subsequent journey toward becoming a psychologist who knows trauma from both sides.

Sadly, Eger passed away in April 2026, but she leaves a rich legacy, exemplified by many trauma victims who have found a path to resilience thanks to her life-changing and life-affirming guidance. Two of them, Iris Haim, and her son Tuval – both of whom appear in *The Choice* – will be special guests at this not-to-be-missed closing night screening which, despite the challenging subject matter, is ultimately uplifting.

This and much more awaits film lovers during season 26 of the Annual Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival. See you at the movies!

For more information or to purchase festival passes online, go to <https://bethtzedec.ca/jewish-film-festival/>.



Tell me Everything – winner of the 2026 Ophir Award for Best Picture, and Israel’s official submission to the 2027 Academy Awards for best foreign film – is a poignant coming of age story that captures the zeitgeist of the 1980s, when 12-year-old Boaz becomes aware of his father’s secret, a seismic event for his family, and especially for a boy on the cusp of Bar Mitzvah and manhood...a time when he needs his dad. This brilliantly acted feature film, co-sponsored by JAC (Jewish Adult Calgary), is bound to be an audience favourite at the Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival.

To explore sponsorship opportunities or buy tickets the old-fashioned way, call the Beth Tzedec office at 403-255-8688.

CJA celebrates the Chaggim

By Krista Wilson

Our Calgary Jewish Academy community came together for a joyful celebration of Hakafof, led by our Grade 9 students. The space was filled with music, dancing, laughter, and incredible energy as students danced with the Torah alongside teachers, families, and community members.

It was especially meaningful to see generations come together in celebration, sharing in our traditions and creating wonderful memories as a community. What a beautiful way to celebrate together!





Hellooooo,
Alberta!

“A Surefire Hit!”
Daily Express

Mrs. Doubtfire
The New Musical Comedy

JANUARY 5-10
CALGARY

JANUARY 12-17
EDMONTON

TICKETMASTER.CA • BROADWAYACROSSCANADA.CA

BROADWAY  ACROSS CANADA

Sign up for the Alberta Jewish News e-schmooze today!
Keep up to date on a weekly basis delivered right to your inbox.
Visit albertajewishnews.com to sign up

from the

Sources

by Eliezer Segal

Prayer, protection and peace

The traditional Jewish evening prayers deal with such themes as the cycle of nature, the manifestation of divine love in the giving of the Torah, and past and future redemptions. It is not surprising that the service includes a prayer for protection during the night – a concern that was more urgently felt in earlier generations, before the introduction of electric lights, when the nocturnal environment could be quite threatening and perilous.

The wording of this section according to all the standard rites begins: “Enable us to lie down in peace,” and concludes by blessing the Lord “who protects his people Israel eternally.”

According to the practice that is now virtually universal, a different version of this blessing is substituted in the evening service for Sabbaths and festivals: “Blessed is the Lord who spreads a canopy of peace over us and over all his people Israel, and over Jerusalem.”

The origins of the distinction between the texts is actually quite straightforward. As we have learned from the Jerusalem Talmud and from the liturgical fragments preserved in the Cairo Geniza, the formula “who spreads a canopy of peace” was the prevailing rite in the land of Israel during the talmudic and Byzantine eras— on weekdays as well as on Sabbaths or festivals. Correspondingly, in Babylonia, “who protects his people Israel eternally” was recited at *all* evening services.

The earliest known record of a distinction between weekday and Sabbath texts is ascribed to Rav Natronai Ga’on, who stood at the head of the Sura Babylonian academy in the ninth century. In a responsum concerning additions to the evening prayers, he surveyed various customs that had developed in Jewish communities and scholarly circles. Among these was the practice of his own Sura academy to recite “who spreads a canopy of peace” only on Friday night. This was consistent with a longstanding receptivity of that institution to traditions emanating from the holy land.

Already in Natronai’s days, the customs for reciting this section of the evening prayers had fragmented into a confusing array of options, and he ascribed differing

usages to: the rabbis of the Talmud, later rabbis, “the yeshiva,” “the academy of our rabbi,” “the other synagogues of Israel,” “the other localities of Israel,” and “all of Babylonia.”

Why should a different wording of the blessing be required for the Friday night prayers. After all, the basic sentiments of the two versions seem substantially identical.

Rabbinic commentators, especially in medieval France and Germany, have proposed specific explanations related to the kinds and degrees of heavenly protection that might be needed on different days of the week.

Rabbi Eleazar of Worms and other interpreters presumed that the “canopy of peace” version implied that there is less need for divine protection on the Sabbath. Several authorities cited a statement (apparently spurious) from the Jerusalem Talmud that the appeal to divine protection is necessary only on weeknights because our merits are then diminished by the fact that certain precepts are not in force at night. However, the holiness of the Sabbath obviates the need for such protection.

Rabbi Eliezer ben Nathan of Mainz took the opposite position, maintaining that Friday nights are more fraught with danger, in keeping with the Talmud’s admonition that one should not venture out alone on Friday or Tuesday nights, “because the arch-demon Agrat daughter of Maḥalat... goes out at these times.”

A compendium from the school of Rashi grouped this practice together with other customs designed to shorten the Friday night synagogue service, whether motivated by fears of encountering malevolent spirits, or for more tangible reasons; for example, to facilitate arriving home before the lamps go out, or out of consideration for people who have hardly eaten anything since Friday morning so they can enter the Sabbath with a hearty appetite. Rabbi Eliezer also pointed out that Jews walking outdoors on Friday nights were at a practical disadvantage because they were not allowed to carry torches or lanterns.

“It was for these reasons that the rabbis established the prayer ‘who spreads a canopy of peace,’ imploring that he stretch out and spread his serenity over us, so

that we should not come to harm.”

When it comes to matters related to demons and malevolent spirits, we find ourselves in the realms of the Kabbalah as set out in the classic compendium of Jewish esoteric lore, the Zohar (Book of Splendour), first published in Spain in the thirteenth century.

According to the midrashic myth adapted by the Zohar, demons were the last living beings to be created on the first Friday. With the advent of the Sabbath at sunset, those beings were left incomplete, as disembodied spirits lacking physical bodies.

On Sabbath the demons are detained in an abyss to protect our world from their assaults. During the week humans must be steadfastly vigilant against their incursions, but the onset of the holy Sabbath changes all that. From the moment when the day is declared to be sanctified, the Sabbath itself (a kabbalistic symbol for the Divine Presence) begins to hover as a protective canopy of peace spread out over the world, preventing the hostile forces from inflicting harm upon the people of Israel.

Therefore, on Friday night there is no need to pray for the protection invoked in the blessing “who protects his people Israel eternally.” That blessing was ordained only for weekdays, when the world requires shielding; whereas on the Sabbath the canopy of peace is spread over the world, and it shields us from all sides, in both the upper and lower realms.

It is for this reason, the Zohar concludes, that when sanctifying the Sabbath, we recite the words “who spreads the canopy of peace over us and over all his people Israel and over Jerusalem.”

Of course in today’s precarious and hostile environment Jews should pursue all effective measures to ensure our security.

But any additional assistance from heavenly sources would certainly be a blessing.

‘From the Sources’ by Eliezer Segal is sponsored by the Zeisler Families of Calgary, Edmonton, New York and Los Angeles

Terry Fox Day at Halpern Akiva Academy: Learning, remembering and running for a cause

On Wednesday, September 16, Halpern Akiva Academy marked Terry Fox Day — a day dedicated to learning about Terry Fox’s inspiring story, remembering his legacy, and raising awareness about the importance of cancer research.

The day began with a special school-wide assembly in the gym, where students learned about who Terry Fox was, his life, and the mission he set for himself: Raising funds for cancer research by running across Canada.

Following the assembly, the younger students returned to their classrooms to take part in age-appropriate activities that allowed them to explore

Terry’s story in a meaningful and engaging way.

The older students participated in a special 30-minute long session with a Terry Fox Foundation Ambassador. They learned more about Terry’s life and his battle with cancer, the incredible amount of money he raised, and the support he received from communities across Canada throughout his journey.

One of the highlights of the day came after morning recess, when students from across the school went outside to run together around the field. As they ran, they reflected on the incredible challenge Terry Fox took on — running an average of approximately 42 kilometres every day! The experience gave students an

opportunity to think about the determination, perseverance and strength of spirit that Terry demonstrated throughout his journey.

Terry Fox Day at Halpern Akiva Academy was an opportunity for students not only to learn about an important figure in Canadian history, but also to connect with values of courage, generosity, perseverance and community.

To learn more about the school’s Terry Fox activities and fundraising efforts, visit: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/HalpernAkivaAcademyCalgary/>

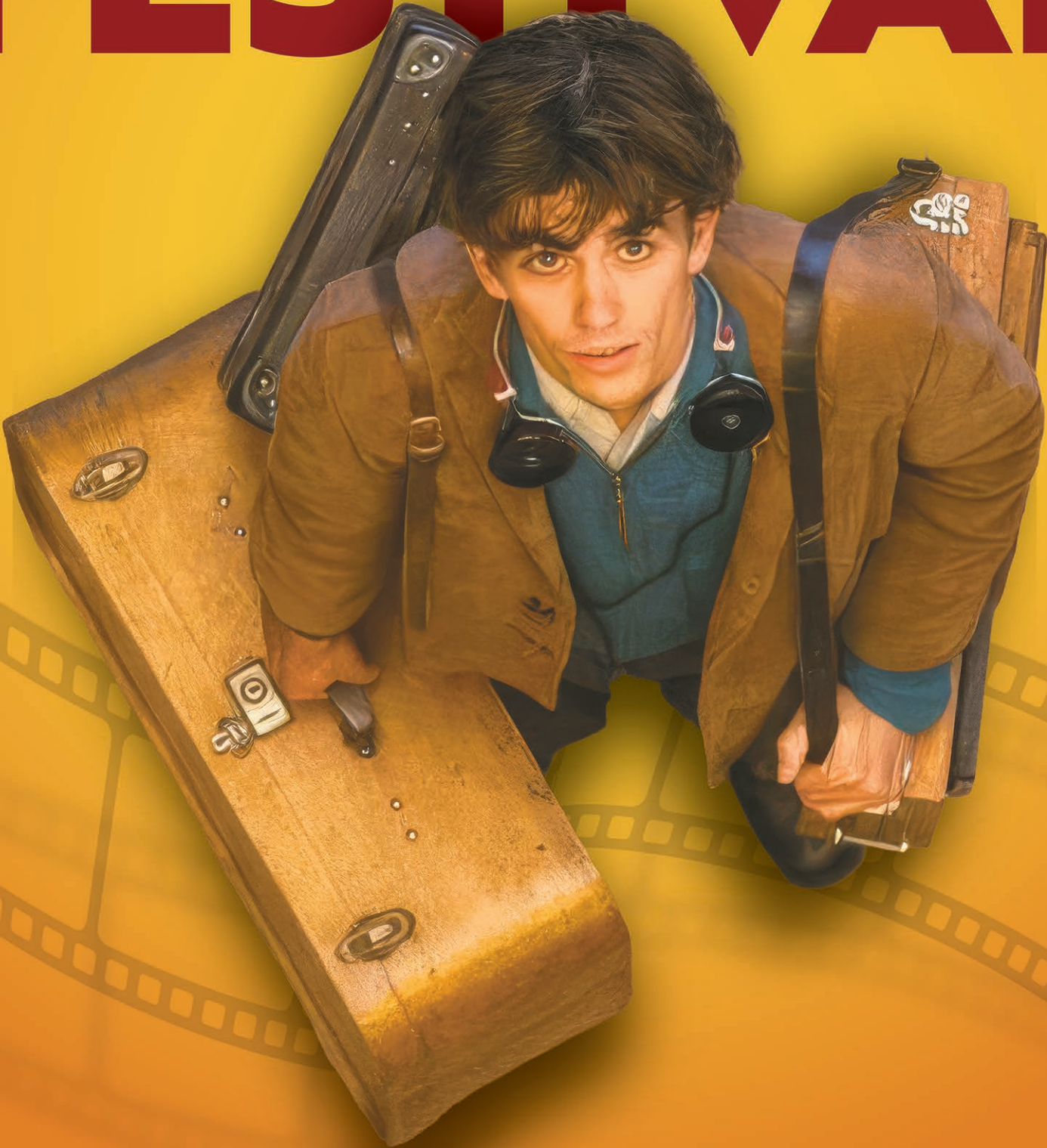


Pictured above: A variety of engaging activities that took place this past month at Halpern Akiva Academy in Calgary.

CALGARY

BETH TZEDEC
CONGREGATION
26TH ANNUAL

JEWISH
FILM
FESTIVAL



... NOVEMBER 7 - 22, 2026 ...

Festival Passes may be purchased online at CalgaryJewishFilmFestival.com
or by calling the Beth Tzedec office at 403-255-8688.