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The Heimish Times

ISSUE 1 · TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026 · PARSHAS TOLDOS



THIS WEEK

WHO REALLY WON?

Democrats took the House and the Senate. Our opinion pages ask whether voters chose them, or just rejected the other side.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Our First Issue

Shalom, and welcome. You are reading the first issue of The Heimish Times, a free magazine for the heimish communities of Lakewood, Monsey, Brooklyn, the Five Towns and beyond.

Our goal is simple: clear, respectful reporting on what matters to our families, alongside Torah and writing worth bringing to the Shabbos table.

This issue is about last week's American election: a Democratic sweep of Congress, the results in New York and New Jersey, how Jewish voters moved, and two opinion pieces on what it all means. We also bring business news, the latest from Israel's coalition talks, and a column for Erev Shabbos.

Please share this issue with family and friends, and tell us what you would like to read next.

— The Editor

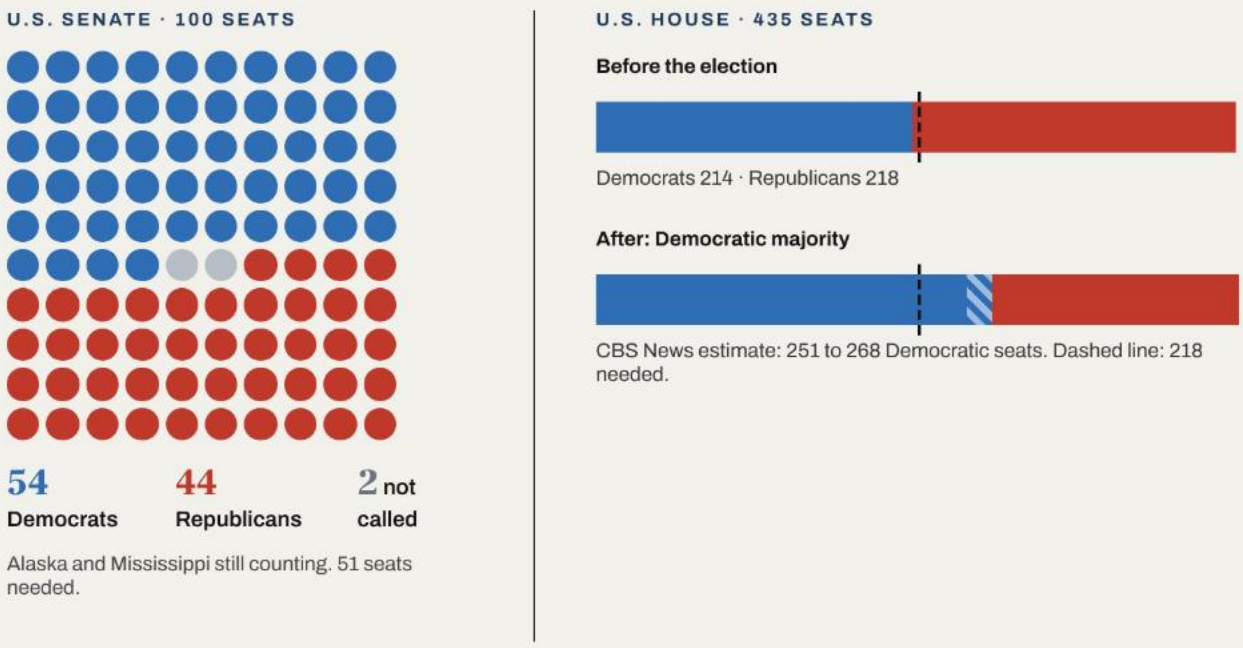
ELECTION 2026

A BLUE WAVE SWEEPS CONGRESS

Democrats won the House and the Senate on Nov. 3. Here is what changes in Washington, and why voters moved.

BY YOSEF HALPERN

Democrats take both houses of Congress



Graphic: The Heimish Times. Sources: AP, CBS News and NBC News projections.

Democrats won control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate in the Nov. 3 midterm elections, one of the most lopsided midterm results in modern times. When the new Congress is sworn in this January, President Trump will face Democratic majorities in both chambers for the final two years of his term.

The Senate turned on a string of upsets. Democrats flipped seven Republican-held seats: Kansas, Iowa, Texas, Ohio, Maine, North Carolina and South Carolina. By Nov. 5 they held 54 seats to the Republicans' 44, with two races still counting. In Mississippi, Democrat Scott Colom led Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith by about 1,700 votes. In Alaska, Democrat Mary Peltola led Sen. Dan Sullivan by fewer than 700.

In the House, Republicans held 218 seats to the Democrats' 214 going in, so Democrats needed a net

gain of only three. They passed that mark easily. By the afternoon of Nov. 5 CNN projected the party would hold at least 250 seats, its largest majority since 2008. Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of Brooklyn, who won reelection, is in line to become Speaker.

WHY VOTERS MOVED

Exit polls pointed to the economy. Eighty-nine percent of voters told CBS News that the cost of living was a major or crucial factor in their vote. The President's approval rating in early exit polls stood at 38 percent, historically low for a midterm. Vice President JD Vance blamed the war with Iran for the Republican losses.

> **"Eighty-nine percent of voters said the cost of living was a major or crucial factor in their vote."**

Republicans promised to fight back. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said his party would not stand idly by as Democrats try to undo its work. Jeffries said the new majority would use its power to check the administration.

WHAT CHANGES

Control of both houses gives Democrats the power to block legislation, open investigations and shape spending bills for the next two years. Markets reacted quickly, jumping on Nov. 4 before giving the gains back on Nov. 5.

A Democratic Congress may also try to restrain the war against Iran that began in February, and several newly elected members are sharp critics of Israel. That has raised concern in parts of the Jewish community, a subject we look at later in this issue.

About two dozen House races were still uncalled on Nov. 5, and final totals may take days.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Florida: Republican Byron Donalds defeated Democrat David Jolly, 50.0 to 48.7 percent, becoming the state's first Black governor and extending the GOP's 28-year hold on the office.

Texas: Democrat James Talarico won a U.S. Senate seat, the first Democrat to do so in Texas since 1988. Democrat Gina Hinojosa won the governor's race.

Maine: Republican Sen. Susan Collins is projected to lose to Democrat Troy Jackson. ■

WASHINGTON

Jeffries Eyes the Speaker's Gavel as Johnson Steps Aside

BY YOSEF HALPERN

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries formally asked his colleagues on Nov. 4 to support him for Speaker of the House, a post he is widely expected to win when the new Congress convenes in January. He would be the first Black Speaker in American history, and he represents a Brooklyn district.

The Speaker controls the House agenda and decides which bills reach the floor, and stands second in line to the presidency. Jeffries pledged to make affordability and accountability his central priorities.

JOHNSON BOWS OUT

On the Republican side, Speaker Mike Johnson said he will not seek to stay on as his party's leader in the minority. His spokesman confirmed the decision in a one-word email: "Accurate." Johnson won reelection to his Louisiana seat and is expected to remain in the House.

President Trump praised Johnson's leadership and said he would stay out of the race to replace him. Reps. Steve Scalise and Jim Jordan have been mentioned as possible successors, and House Republicans are expected to vote as soon as next week.

Johnson became Speaker in October 2023, after weeks of turmoil that followed the ouster of Kevin McCarthy, and led one of the slimmest majorities in modern times. ■

POLITICS

After the Victory, the Hard Part: Governing

Progressives and moderates both say the Nov. 3 results prove them right. Now Democrats have to agree on what to do with their majority.

BY DOVID LIEBERMAN

Democrats are celebrating a sweeping midterm victory. They now face a harder question: how to govern with a coalition that runs from progressive activists to moderates who won in districts that voted Republican two years ago.

The results gave both wings something to point to. Progressive candidates won high-profile races, including Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan, while moderates flipped seats in places like New Jersey's 7th District. Each side argues that its approach delivered the majority.

Party leaders will have to balance calls for aggressive investigations of the administration and sweeping policy changes against the realities of governing a divided country, with a Republican President who can still veto their bills.

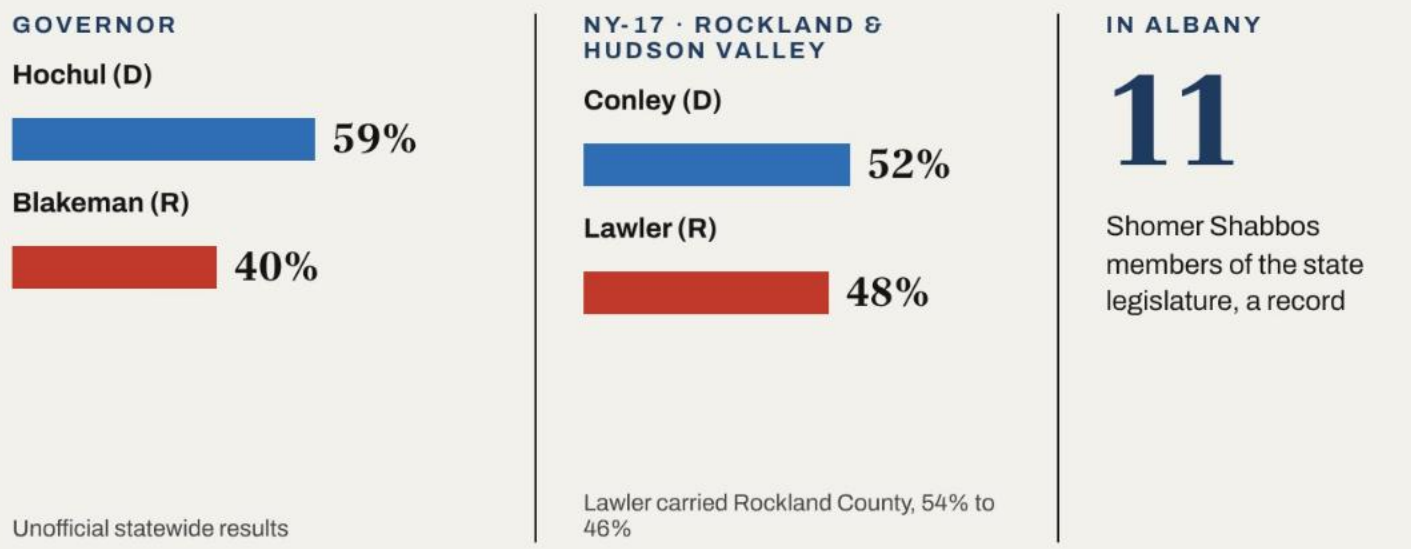
The results are already shaping talk about 2028, as potential presidential candidates begin to position themselves. For now, Democrats take control of Congress in January under pressure from voters to deliver on the issue that decided this election: the cost of living. ■

NEW YORK

Hochul Wins Big, and Rockland's Congressman Falls

The governor's race, the House seat that includes Monsey, and a record number of shomer Shabbos lawmakers headed to Albany.

BY DOVID LIEBERMAN



Graphic: The Heimish Times. Sources: NYS Board of Elections unofficial results; Met Council.

Governor Kathy Hochul won a second full term on Nov. 3, defeating Republican Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman by about 20 points statewide, 59 to 40 percent in unofficial results. The Associated Press called the race about half an hour after polls closed. In New York City, Hochul took about 75 percent of the vote.

Both candidates courted Jewish voters. Blakeman, who is Jewish, built his campaign around antisemitism and Israel, and accused the governor of failing to protect Jewish New Yorkers. Hochul campaigned on her record with law enforcement and made an early play for Orthodox voters with tuition help for yeshivah families and buffer zones around shuls. With Adrienne Adams elected lieutenant governor, New York will have its first all-female statewide executive team.

NY-17: A SEAT CHANGES HANDS

In the 17th Congressional District, which includes all of Rockland County, Democrat Cait Conley, an Army combat veteran, defeated Republican Rep. Mike Lawler by about 52 to 48 percent. Lawler still carried Rockland, roughly 54 to 46, but Conley's margin in Westchester was too large to overcome.

Lawler conceded on election night and congratulated Conley, noting that he had never been offered a concession in any of his own races. For Monsey and the surrounding communities, it means a new representative in Washington for the first time since 2023.

A RECORD IN ALBANY

As the wave swept the state, another group grew. A record 11 shomer Shabbos members will sit in the state legislature next year, according to Met Council CEO David Greenfield. Eight were reelected, among them Assemblymen Simcha Eichenstein, Kalman Yeger and Aron Wieder.

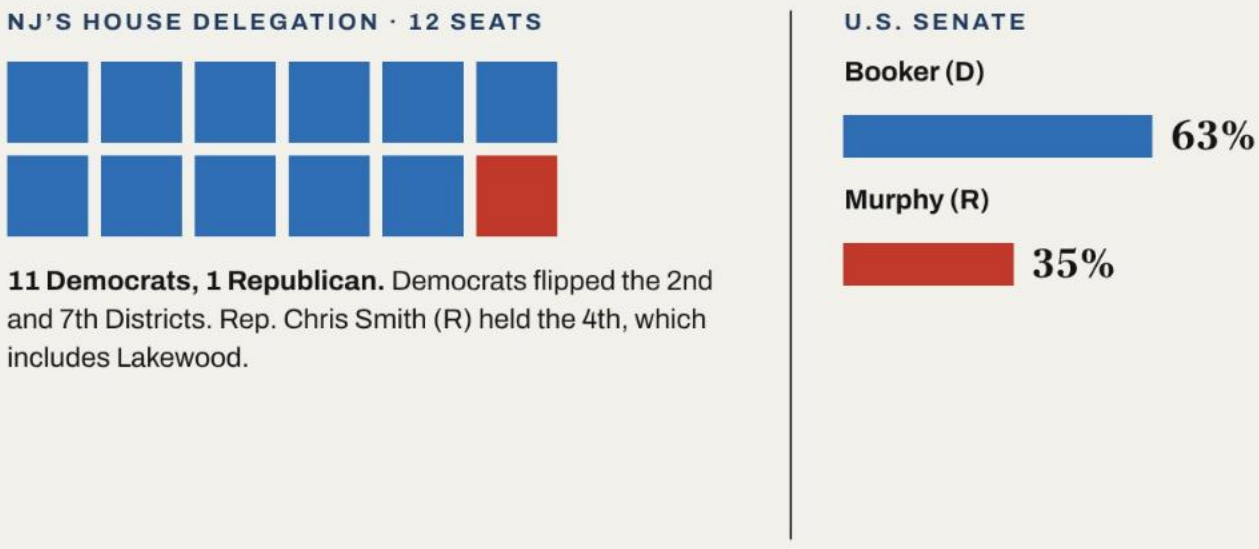
Three are new. Pesach Osina won an Assembly seat in a Queens district that includes Far Rockaway. Joey Cohen-Saban won a South Brooklyn Assembly seat two years after losing it by 232 votes. Lisa "Malkie" Vider narrowly won a State Senate seat on Long Island. ■

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Turns Bluer, but Lakewood's Congressman Stays

Booker wins a third term and Democrats flip two House seats, while Rep. Chris Smith cruises to a 24th term.

BY SHMUEL ROSEN



Graphic: The Heimish Times. Sources: AP race calls.

Sen. Cory Booker won a third full term on Nov. 3, defeating Republican Justin Murphy 63 to 35 percent.

Democrats also flipped two of the state's three Republican-held House seats. In the 7th District, Rebecca Bennett, a former Navy helicopter pilot, unseated Rep. Tom Kean Jr. by about 16 points, 57 to 41 percent. In South Jersey's 2nd District, Rep. Jeff Van Drew conceded to his Democratic challenger. New Jersey's House delegation will now be 11 Democrats and one Republican.

That one Republican represents Lakewood. Rep. Chris Smith, already the longest-serving member of New Jersey's delegation, won the 4th District easily and will serve a 24th term. With Democrats in charge of the House, he will serve in the minority next year.

CLOSE TO HOME

In Ocean County, Republican Commissioner Frank Sadeghi won a second three-year term. No Democrat has won a countywide seat in Ocean County since 1989.

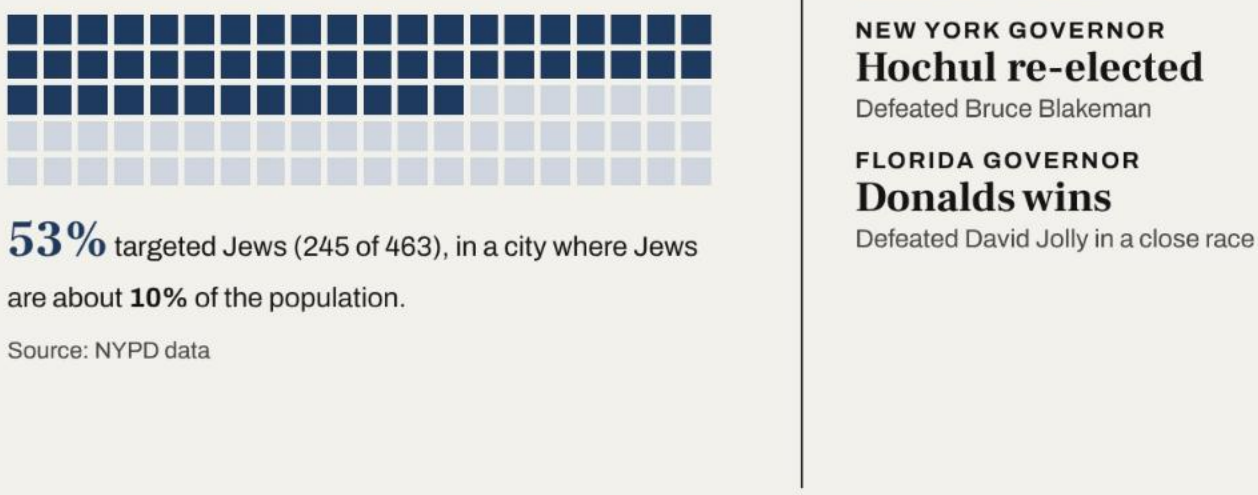
Lakewood voters also chose two members of the Township Committee, three members of the Board of Education and fire commissioners, and voted on whether to shrink the Board of Education from nine members to seven. ■

THE JEWISH VOTE

The Jewish Vote: Still Mostly Democratic, but Less So

Exit polls show about two-thirds of Jewish voters backed Democrats, down from three-quarters two years ago. Frum voters remain the exception.

BY AVRAHAM KLEIN



Graphic: The Heimish Times. Sources: NYPD data; Associated Press race calls.

About two-thirds of Jewish voters chose Democrats on Nov. 3. NBC News and CNN exit polls both put the figure at 68 percent, down from roughly three-quarters in 2024. Jews made up about 3 percent of the electorate.

Orthodox voters remain the outlier. A 2024 survey found 74 percent of Orthodox voters backing Trump, and the community's concerns rarely line up neatly with either party: chinuch, safety, religious freedom, and the cost of keeping a large family afloat.

That diversity is something communal askanim insist on. As one Agudath Israel representative put it, Orthodox voters are not party-bound, and are politically sophisticated and pragmatic. It is not unusual for the same neighborhood to go strongly one way at the top of the ticket and back local officials of the other party who they felt represented their interests.

> **"Orthodox voters are not party-bound, and are politically sophisticated and pragmatic."**

SAFETY: A CONCERN THAT CROSSES EVERY LINE

If one worry united voters across every community, it was the safety of Yidden who are easily recognized on the street. The numbers behind that worry are stark. According to NYPD data, Jewish New Yorkers were the victims in 245 of the 463 confirmed hate crimes in the city during the first nine months of 2026, or 53 percent, in a city where Jews make up roughly a tenth of the population. The pattern is not new: of 576 hate incidents recorded in 2025, 330 were antisemitic. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch has called antisemitism the most persistent hate threat the city faces.

Those most exposed are often the most visible. The ADL has noted that more than half of the anti-Jewish physical assaults it recorded in New York City in 2024 targeted Orthodox Jews. Leaders across the

political spectrum have acknowledged the problem. Mayor Zohran Mamdani called it "unacceptable" that Jewish New Yorkers make up a minority of the population yet the majority of hate-crime victims, and said his administration was working to address it. Even as overall crime fell, many Jewish New Yorkers said they still felt unsafe. In national surveys, antisemitism ranked among the top three issues for Jewish voters, alongside the cost of living and the future of democracy.

ISRAEL ON THE BALLOT

For many Jewish voters, unease over Israel hung over this election. In Michigan, Democrat Abdul El-Sayed won a Senate seat despite deep concern in the Jewish community over his positions on Israel and antisemitism. A poll of Jewish early voters there found him running 21 points behind his party's candidate for governor.

Behind many local conversations was a larger one. The Middle East saw a year of conflict, including a regional war that began in February and a series of fragile ceasefires. For countless families, this was not an abstract news story. Brothers, sisters, children and talmidim live in Eretz Yisroel, and tefillos for their safety were said in shuls and batei medrash across the country. For many, these worries sat quietly beside the practical business of choosing a ballot.

THE COMMON THREAD

Walk the streets of any of these communities and the same concerns surface: the safety of those who wear their Yiddishkeit openly, the freedom to run yeshivos as the community sees fit, the price of tuition and groceries, and a quiet hope for peace for Yidden wherever they live. Where neighbors differed was on who could best deliver, and that was the subject of many a Shabbos table. ■

MICHIGAN

El-Sayed Wins Michigan, Becoming the First Muslim Senator

A milestone for many Michigan voters, and a source of deep concern for the state's Jewish community.

BY MOSHE TANNENBAUM

Democrat Abdul El-Sayed won Michigan's open Senate seat on Nov. 3, defeating former Republican Rep. Mike Rogers. He will be the first Muslim to serve in the United States Senate when he is sworn in on January 3.

El-Sayed, a physician and former public health official who had never held elected office, campaigned on health care, the cost of living and getting money out of politics. He also campaigned on ending military aid to Israel.

CONCERN IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

That position, and the tone of parts of his campaign, alarmed many Jewish voters in Michigan. A poll of Jewish early voters found him running 21 points behind his party's candidate for governor, and many Jewish Democrats said they voted for Rogers or skipped the race.

After the election, El-Sayed said he welcomed President Trump's plan to cut aid to Israel and called for an end to arms sales. He also questioned American military support for Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Pakistan.

The campaign was bitter on both sides. During the race, President Trump and Rogers suggested El-Sayed had ties to the Muslim Brotherhood, claims that news organizations described as baseless.

Michigan has long been a battleground, and the result is expected to bring new attention to

the growing influence of younger and more progressive voters in the state's Democratic Party. ■

MARKETS

Wall Street's Wild Ride After the Vote

Stocks had their best post-election day in decades on Nov. 4, then gave it all back on Nov. 5.

BY ELI GOLDFARB

Investors cheered the end of election uncertainty on Nov. 4. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped 1,569 points, or 3 percent, to close at 53,356, its best day since April 2025. Oil prices fell sharply as traders weighed what a Democratic Congress could mean for the war with Iran.

Not everything rose. Companies tied to artificial intelligence and the data-center buildout fell on fears that Democrats will bring more regulation. In Texas, Democratic Governor-elect Gina Hinojosa has pledged an immediate moratorium on new data centers.

On Nov. 5, the rally reversed. The Dow fell about 1,670 points, erasing nearly all of the previous day's gain, as investors moved out of technology stocks for a second day and chip stocks had their worst day since March 2020.

Analysts say markets will keep watching inflation, interest rates and the Iran conflict as Washington prepares for divided government. ■

BUSINESS

CVS Is Breaking Itself in Two

The drugstore giant will separate its 9,000 pharmacies from Aetna and Caremark. Customers will not see changes for now.

BY ELI GOLDFARB

CVS Health announced on Nov. 4 that it plans to split into two independent, publicly traded companies, reversing two decades of deals that combined pharmacies, insurance and medical services under one roof.

One company, keeping the CVS Health name for now, will hold the insurer Aetna, the pharmacy benefit manager CVS Caremark, CVS Specialty, Oak Street Health and Signify Health. It will be led by CEO David Joyner.

The other, called CVS Pharmacy, will run about 9,000 drugstores, the mail-order pharmacy and MinuteClinic. It will be led by Prem Shah, now a group president at the company.

The split is expected to be finished in the first half of 2028. Until then, CVS says it will operate as it does today, and current shareholders will own shares in both companies.

The move comes as lawmakers and regulators look more closely at companies that combine insurance, pharmacy benefits and drugstores. ■

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



“I am disappointed, too. But we are never discouraged.”

SPEAKER MIKE JOHNSON
R-La., election night in Shreveport



“This is a red, white and blue moment.”

REP. HAKEEM JEFFRIES
D-N.Y., the morning after Democrats won the House



“If I were on the ballot, we would have won.”

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP
To reporters, the day after the election



“The political equivalent of a meteor strike.”

GOV. RON DESANTIS
R-Fla., on the Nov. 3 Republican losses



“In the new Congress, we will aggressively fight for an affordable America.”

REP. HAKEEM JEFFRIES
In his letter launching his run for Speaker



“We oppose rotation.”

OFIR KATZ
Likud coalition whip, on sharing the premiership



“Forty-eight seats is far less than what we expected.”

AVIGDOR LIBERMAN
Yisrael Beytenu leader, on the opposition’s results



“We did it, we did it.”

KIMI ANTONELLI
Over team radio after becoming F1’s youngest champion



“I always wanted to win, and God decided it.”

A LOCAL CANDIDATE IN PERU
After winning his race on a coin toss



“You live as long as God has decreed.”

QAMILE MARRA, 117
Of Albania, who may be the world’s oldest woman

OPINION

DEMOCRATS DIDN'T WIN. REPUBLICANS LOST.

The 2026 Midterms Were a Rebuke of the GOP—Not a Blank Check for Democrats

BY NACHUM BRENNER

The headlines are predictable: Democrats swept Congress. A blue wave. A historic comeback. A mandate for change.

But beneath the celebratory speeches and victory-night declarations lies a more uncomfortable truth for both parties: Democrats may have won the election, but they did not necessarily win the hearts of the American people. Republicans lost them.

There is a difference—and it matters.

The election was not necessarily a sudden conversion to the Democratic platform. It was a verdict on the party that held power. Voters were frustrated, angry, and tired of what they were seeing. The economy was not delivering the relief many Americans had expected. The cost of living remained a daily concern. The war with Iran and its impact on prices added another layer of anxiety. And President Trump's approval ratings had become a burden on Republican candidates across the country.

In the end, voters had an opportunity to send a message. They sent it loudly.

But a message against one party should not automatically be interpreted as enthusiasm for the other.

A VOTE AGAINST THE STATUS QUO

Midterm elections have long served as a referendum on the party occupying the White House. The president's party often loses seats, sometimes dramatically. Voters who feel ignored or disappointed use the ballot box to express their frustration.

This time, the Republican losses were extraordinary. Democrats made gains not only in traditional battlegrounds, but also in states and districts that had recently seemed safely Republican.

That tells us something important: Republican candidates were unable to separate themselves from the national mood.

President Trump urged voters to treat the election as a referendum on his leadership. In a sense, they did exactly that. The problem for Republicans was that the referendum did not go their way.

The election was less about voters embracing a new political philosophy than about voters rejecting the direction in which the country was moving.

When families are worried about grocery bills, gasoline, housing, healthcare, and their financial future, political slogans lose their power. Voters want results. They want to feel that their leaders understand the pressures of ordinary life.

Republicans had promised improvement. Many voters did not feel they had received it.

WHERE WAS THE REPUBLICAN MOTIVATION?

Perhaps the most striking part of the election was not simply how many Democrats turned out. It was how many Republicans failed to deliver the turnout their party needed.

A party can have a large base, a popular movement, and a powerful national leader—and still lose if its supporters become complacent.

> **"A protest vote is not a blank check."**

Some Republican voters may have assumed that their party's control of Washington was secure. Others may have been disappointed enough to stay home. Still others may have supported Trump in 2024 but felt less enthusiastic about voting Republican two years later.

That is the danger of governing: the excitement of winning eventually gives way to the responsibility of delivering.

The Republican coalition that brought Trump back to the White House was not necessarily a permanent alliance. It was made up of voters with different priorities—working-class families, conservatives, independents, business owners, and people who simply wanted change.

Those voters do not all have unlimited patience.

When a coalition is united by expectations rather than results, disappointment can quickly become disunity.

DEMOCRATS BENEFITED FROM THE ANGER

Democrats deserve credit for recognizing the political opportunity. They focused heavily on affordability and the economy, issues that directly affect households. They also benefited from voters who were unhappy with the president and his party.

But winning an election by benefiting from anger is not the same as winning an election by inspiring confidence.

The Democratic victory does not erase the party's own challenges. It does not mean every voter suddenly agrees with its positions on immigration, social issues, taxes, or government spending. Nor does it mean that the country has moved decisively to the left.

In fact, the results may reflect something much simpler: millions of Americans wanted to change the people in charge.

That distinction will become important when Democrats begin governing.

If they interpret the results as permission to pursue every item on their ideological wish list, they may discover that the coalition that delivered victory is

far less united than it appears. Voters who wanted lower prices and greater accountability may not necessarily want a sweeping transformation of American society.

A protest vote is not a blank check.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY HAS A MUCH BIGGER PROBLEM

For Republicans, the election should be a wake-up call.

It is not enough to blame historical midterm trends, unfavorable circumstances, or Democratic enthusiasm. Those factors may explain part of the result, but they do not excuse it.

The party must ask difficult questions.

Did it lose touch with the voters who helped it win in 2024? Did it spend too much time celebrating political victories and too little time addressing everyday concerns? Did its candidates become too closely tied to a national message that was not working in their own states?

And perhaps most importantly: did Republican voters themselves lose motivation?

A party cannot expect its supporters to turn out indefinitely based on loyalty alone. Enthusiasm must be renewed. Trust must be earned. Promises must be translated into tangible improvements.

The Republican Party now faces a serious challenge: rebuilding a coalition that appears to have been held together by hope, frustration, and the promise of change—but that has become increasingly vulnerable to disappointment.

THE REAL LESSON

The most important lesson of the 2026 midterms may be that American voters are not permanently loyal to either party.

They can swing dramatically when they feel that the party in power has failed them. They can vote for one party in a presidential election and punish it two years later. They can support a candidate without embracing the candidate's entire platform.

This was not necessarily a Democratic revolution.

It was a Republican reckoning.

Democrats will now have their opportunity to prove that they can do better. Republicans will have to decide whether they are willing to learn from the defeat—or whether they will simply blame everyone else.

And voters will be watching.

Because the same electorate that rejected Republicans last week may reject Democrats just as decisively if the promises of lower costs, better governance, and a more stable country remain unfulfilled.

The ballot box did not declare that Democrats are the answer. It declared that, for millions of voters, Republicans had become the problem. ■

The Iran War Isn't the Whole Story

BY ARI FELDMAN

The war mattered. But voters were reacting to much more than that.

In the days after the midterms, a simple explanation began to take hold: that the Iran war is the reason Republicans lost. It is an understandable conclusion, and the war is surely part of the story. But elections are rarely as black and white as that.

If the Iran war were ongoing, but we had peace and prosperity at home instead of the current chaos, things might have looked different.

If the Iran war were ongoing, but gas prices hadn't soared, the situation might have looked a little different.

If the Iran war were ongoing, but the messaging were clear and steady instead of the current weak, tweet-driven messaging, people might have held the line.

> **"Americans don't care about the ifs and the buts, the strikes and the ceasefires. All they want is strength."**

And if everyone in the administration had been on the same page, things might have looked brighter.

People don't like wishy-washiness, and they don't like weakness. We saw that in the last presidential election.

Where it gets messy is that the enemy doesn't care what you prefer, whether you lean liberal, wishy-washy, Islamist or isolationist. He will simply take advantage of it.

It makes no difference to him whether you support the humanitarian cause of the people of Gaza, the Houthis or the Revolutionary Guard. He doesn't even understand why. But he will be there, ready to take advantage.

Americans don't care about the ifs and the buts, the strikes and the ceasefires. All they want is strength.

And if people in this country decide to take an enemy's side because it advances them politically, then I think we have truly lost. ■

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

How Does a Government Actually Get Formed? A Guide for the Weeks Ahead

Consultations, a mandate, and a ticking clock.

BY YEHUDA STERN



Illustration: The Heimish Times.

For readers following the news, the process is less mysterious than it can seem. It began last week.

After receiving the official results, the President of Israel meets with representatives of each faction. He asks two questions: whom do you recommend to form the government, and which coalition would you support or oppose? This round begins with the smaller factions and proceeds in ascending order of size. The President must assign the task within seven days of the official results, and he may hold a second round of consultations before he decides.

The person chosen does not have to be a party leader. Any Knesset member the President believes has the best chance can receive the mandate.

Whoever receives the first mandate has 28 days to form a government, and the President may extend that by another 14. If the effort falls short, the President can turn to another Knesset member. If that fails too, a majority of the Knesset has 21 days to agree on a candidate of its own.

And if no one succeeds? Israel heads to another election. That is an outcome every faction, from every part of the spectrum, says it hopes to avoid.

THE TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

Wednesday and Thursday, November 4–5: the President received the official results and heard the factions' recommendations.

By November 11: the President names the candidate who receives the mandate.

Day 28: the deadline to present a government, unless the President grants an extension.

Day 42: the final deadline with the full 14-day extension.

After that: a second candidate, then 21 days for the Knesset, and if all else fails, new elections. ■

ISRAEL

Israel: Eisenkot Wins 67 Recommendations as UTJ Stays Neutral

President Herzog finished his consultations on Nov. 5. United Torah Judaism declined to back either candidate, and Gadi Eisenkot is expected to get the first chance to form a government.

BY YEHUDA STERN



Illustration: The Heimish Times. Seat totals from the official results.

Israel's October 27 election left no one with a clear path to a government. Likud finished as the largest party with 27 mandates. The Netanyahu bloc holds 53 seats, the opposition bloc 48, and the Arab parties 19. Sixty-one are needed to govern. Turnout reached nearly 78 percent, more than seven points higher than last time.

President Isaac Herzog received the official results on Nov. 4 and spent two days hearing the parties' recommendations. Religious Zionism, Shas, Otzma Yehudit and Likud recommended Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Yisrael Beytenu, the Democrats, B'Yachad, Ra'am, the Joint List and Eisenkot's own Yashar list recommended Gadi Eisenkot.

The final count: 67 recommendations for Eisenkot, a majority of the Knesset, and 46 for Netanyahu. Herzog is expected to give Eisenkot the first mandate. He has until November 11 to decide.

> "**Sixty-seven recommendation do not make a government.**"

UTJ'S DECISION

United Torah Judaism, with seven seats, told the President on the morning of Nov. 5 that it would not recommend either candidate, saying it is not committed to either bloc. On Nov. 4 its Degel HaTorah faction, following the guidance of HaGaon HaRav Dov Landau, had announced it would not recommend anyone.

The decision reflects a deep rift with Netanyahu over the outgoing coalition's failure to pass a law protecting the status of bnei yeshivah. In a call with party chairman Rabbi Yaakov Asher on Nov. 3, Netanyahu reaffirmed his commitment to completing the

draft law. Party officials made clear that words alone were no longer enough.

Shas took the other road and recommended Netanyahu, after he publicly backed its chairman, Rabbi Aryeh Deri.

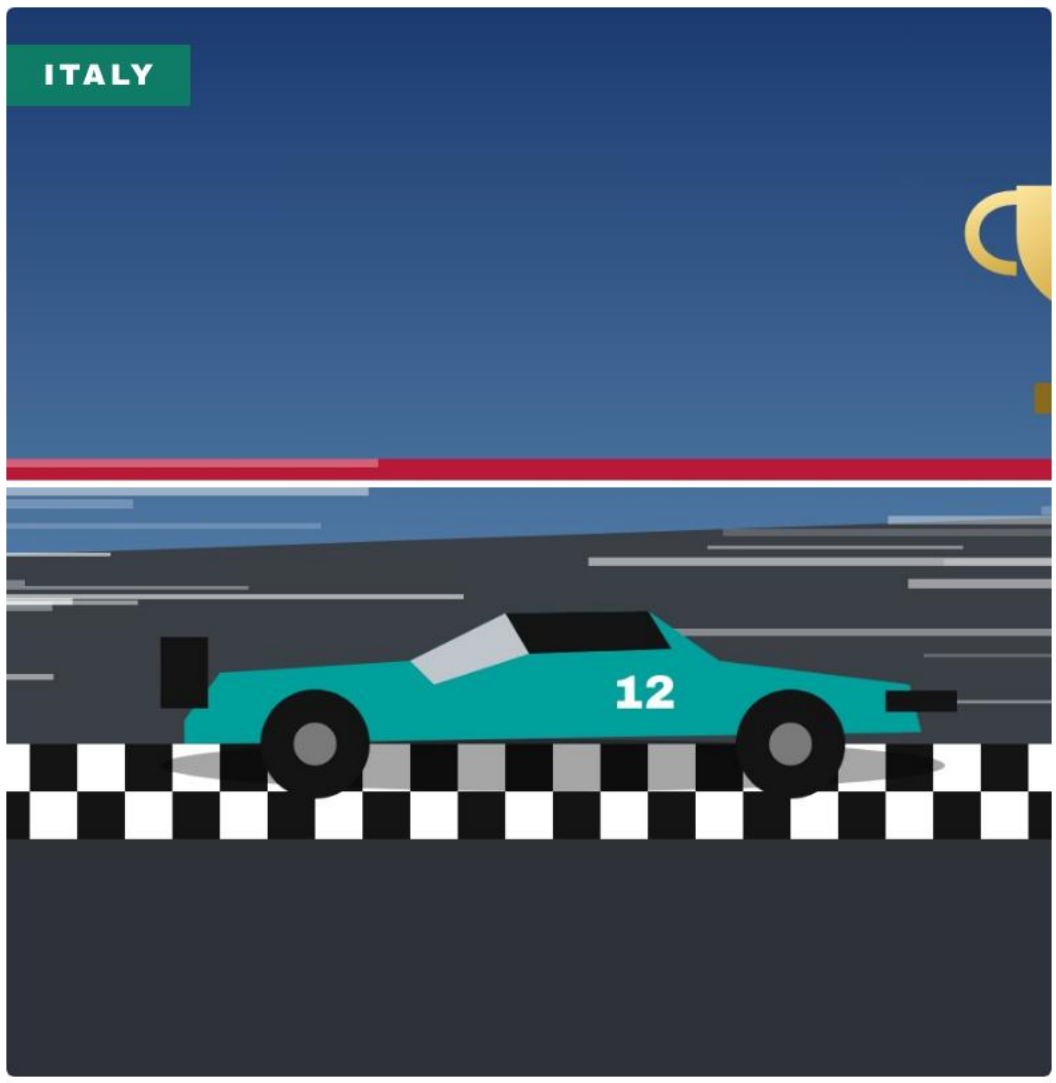
RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT A COALITION

Sixty-seven recommendations do not make a government. Nineteen of Eisenkot's come from the Arab parties, and several of his Jewish partners have ruled out sitting in a coalition with them. The Joint List said it was prepared to support a government from outside the coalition.

Whoever receives the mandate will have 28 days to form a government, with a possible 14-day extension. With no side holding a working majority, attention has turned from the ballot box to the negotiating table, where small factions may carry outsized weight. ■

AROUND THE WORLD

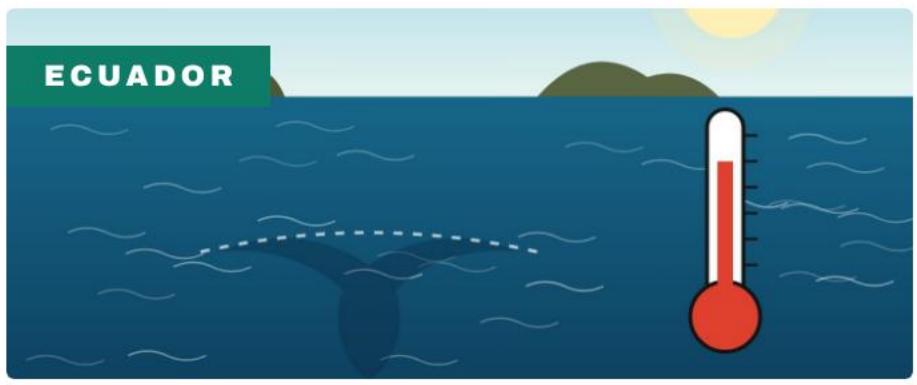
Seven stories worth talking about at the Shabbos table



Antonelli's Mercedes crosses the line in third place to clinch the title. ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

Youngest Champion in Formula One History

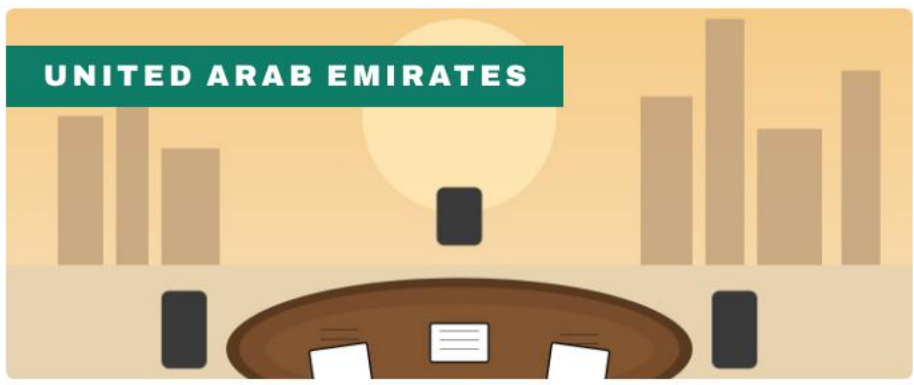
Kimi Antonelli became Formula One's youngest world champion on Nov. 1, clinching the title by finishing third at the Mexico City Grand Prix. At 20 years and 68 days old, he beat Sebastian Vettel's record by nearly three years. He is the first Italian to win the title since Alberto Ascari in 1953 — a 73-year wait — and he did it with four races still left in the season.



Warm El Niño water may have sent the whales elsewhere. ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

The Blue Whales That Didn't Come

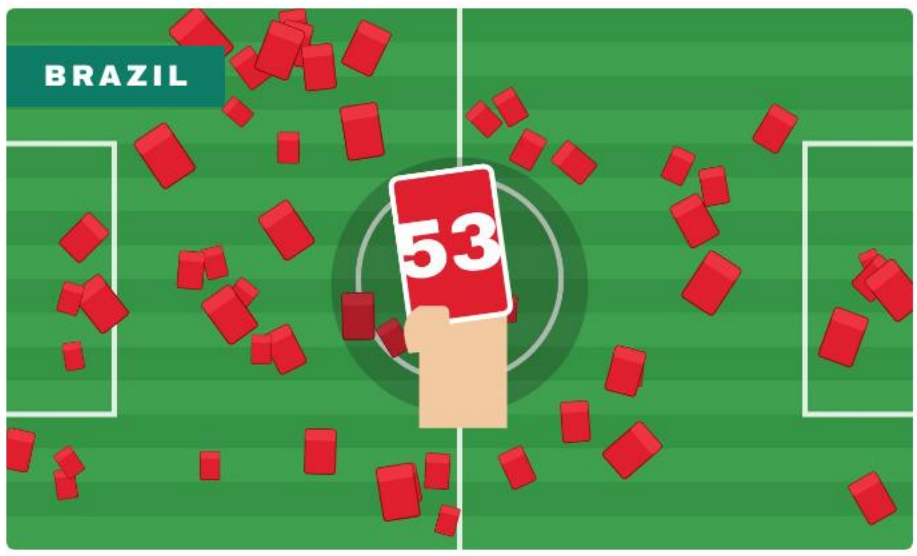
Scientists spent months searching the waters around the Galápagos Islands to fit blue whales with satellite tags — and did not find a single one. They suspect this year's strong El Niño warmed the sea and moved the krill the giants feed on, perhaps toward Peru. A mother and calf spotted off San Cristóbal in September show the whales have not vanished for good.



Abu Dhabi has hosted earlier rounds and prisoner exchanges. ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

Peace Talks Back On in Abu Dhabi

Delegations from Russia, Ukraine and the United States are scheduled to meet in Abu Dhabi on Nov. 10–11 — the first U.S.-brokered three-way talks since February, when the process stalled as the war with Iran began. The Kremlin says its team includes senior diplomats and military officers, and security arrangements top the agenda. Last month the UAE helped arrange a swap of 540 prisoners.



A new world record nobody wanted. ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

53 Red Cards in One Game

A brawl at a youth soccer semifinal in Minas Gerais ended with 43 players, eight coaches and two club officials sent off — 53 red cards in all. The old world record was 36, set in Argentina in 2011.



One flip decided the race. ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

Heads You Win

When a local election in Peru ended in an exact tie, the two rivals settled it with a coin toss — Peruvian law allows it if both candidates agree. The winner credited a Higher Power (see Quotes of the Week).



Her family has asked Guinness to verify her age. ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

Still Going Strong at 117

Qamile Marra's papers say she was born Aug. 19, 1909 — two days before the woman Guinness lists as the world's oldest. Her family has asked Guinness to check. If confirmed, she would be the oldest person alive.



The 'bear' existed only on a phone screen. ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

The Bear That Wasn't There

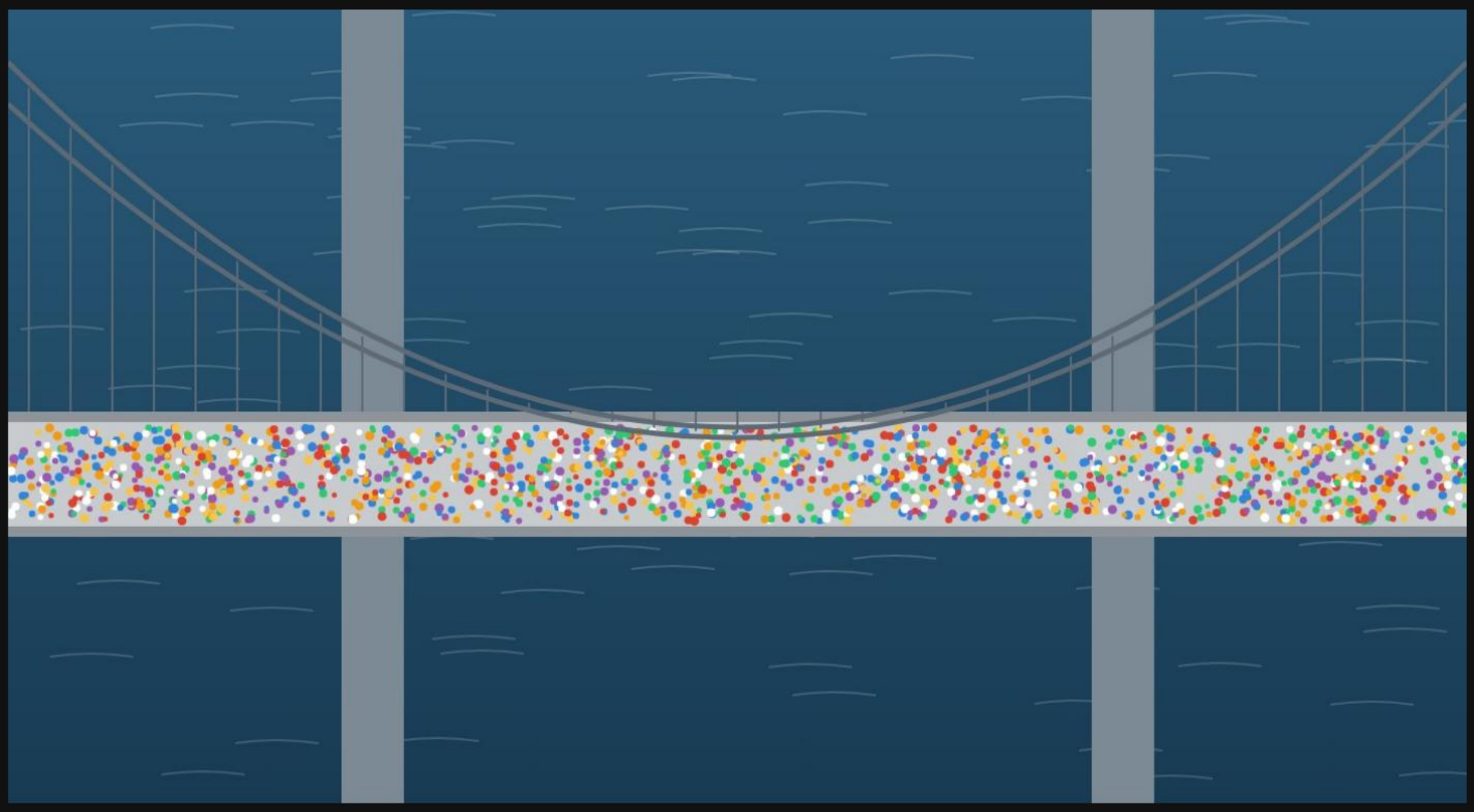
A woman in Magdagachi, in Russia's Amur region, used ChatGPT to add a big brown bear to a photo of her street and sent it to a friend as a joke. The picture spread, neighbors called the police and rangers went hunting for the animal. A court fined her 15,000 rubles, about $178. Nerves are raw: real bears have killed at least 26 people in Russia since spring.

Illustrations by The Heimish Times. Sources: AP, Reuters, AFP, Live Science, Kremlin statements, Amur regional court.

THE WORLD IN PICTURES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026

Remarkable sights from around the globe this past week



NEW YORK

60,000 Runners, One Bridge

Runners pour across the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge at the start of the New York City Marathon on Nov. 1. About 60,000 people from more than 140 countries took part — the 50th time the race has run through all five boroughs. Sweden's Andreas Almgren won in his first-ever marathon.

ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES



OUTER SPACE

A Cat in the Clouds

Hubble and Webb photographed a corner of the Carina Nebula nicknamed the Cat's Head, because it looks like a cat sitting with its back to us — complete with a glowing red "eye." It lies about 7,500 light-years away.

ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES



INDONESIA

Semeru Rumbles Again

Mount Semeru in East Java erupted on Nov. 5, sending an avalanche of hot ash and gas 3.5 km down its slope. People are told to keep at least 5 km from the crater.

ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES



UKRAINE

Winter Knocks Early

The first snow of the season dusted the Carpathian Mountains on Nov. 6, from Slavske to the Bukovel ski resort. Lower down it came as hail and freezing rain.

ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES



MEXICO CITY

Rivals Lift the Champion

Race winner Max Verstappen and runner-up Lewis Hamilton hoisted the new champion, 20-year-old Kimi Antonelli, onto their shoulders after the Mexico City Grand Prix.

ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES



SICILY, ITALY

Etna Lights Up the Night

Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, flared up again last week. On Nov. 3 the volcano observatory in Catania raised its ash warning for aircraft to orange.

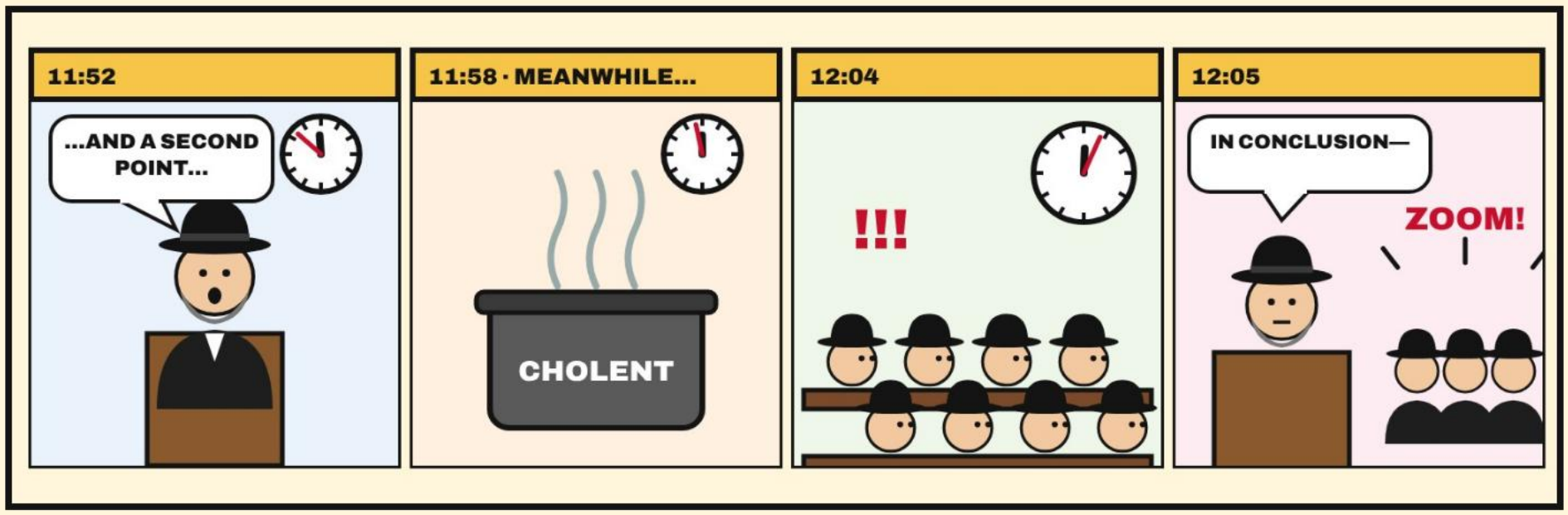
ILLUSTRATION: THE HEIMISH TIMES

Illustrations by The Heimish Times. Sources: AP, NASA/ESA/CSA, PVMBG/Antara, UA.News, INGV.

KISHKE KORNER

Smile — it's a mitzvah

THIS WEEK: "THE DRASHA CLOCK"



THE SHORTCUT

Yanky told his wife he found a shortcut to the wedding hall.

Forty minutes later she asked, "Nu, where's the shortcut?"

"We're on it," he said. "It's just a long shortcut."

HEIMISH TIME

The invitation says 7:00. The chuppah is at 8:30. The second dance starts at 11. My GPS now lists "heimish time" as a traffic delay.

COUNTING SHEEP

"Rebbe, I can't fall asleep."

"Have you tried counting sheep?"

"I got to 400 and started wondering what they cost per pound."

ELECTION RESULTS

My son asked who won the election.

I told him: the people who print lawn signs.

SNOW FORECAST

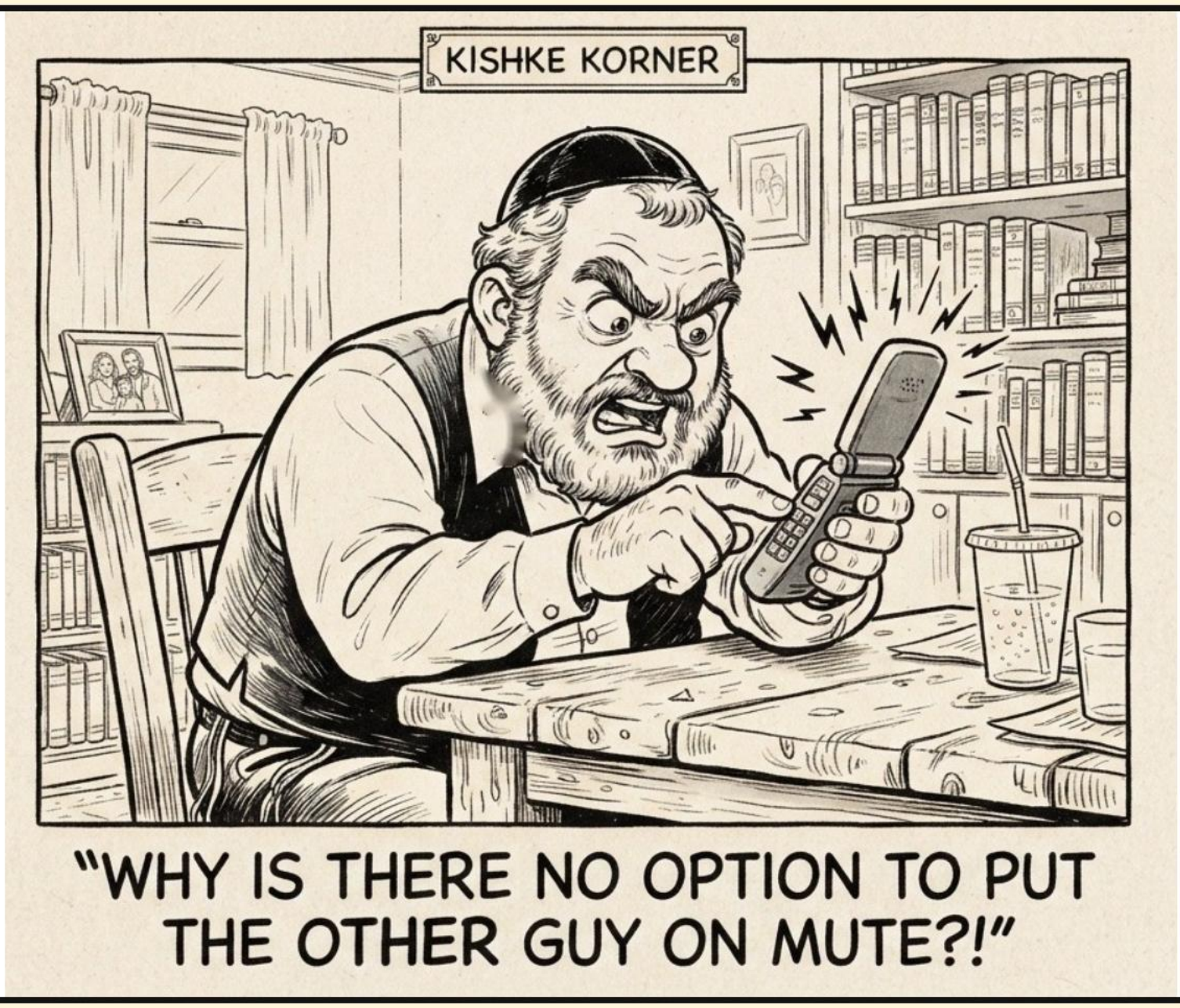
The forecast said "chance of snow." In our neighborhood that means a 100% chance the bread shelves are empty by 3 p.m.

TWO JEWS, THREE OPINIONS

...and that was before somebody started a group chat.

PARKING

In our neighborhood, a "parking spot" is any place your car fits — if you have enough emunah.



ONLY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Where a "quick stop" at the grocery includes three conversations, one shidduch idea and a kugel recipe.
- Where the bakery parking lot on Erev Shabbos is a harder driving test than the DMV's.
- Where every child knows the exact minute of candle lighting, but nobody knows where the other glove went.
- Where "I'll be right there" can mean any time before Havdalah.

OVERHEARD

- *"I'm not late for Mincha. I'm early for the next minyan."*
- *At the bakery, Friday 1 p.m.: "Any chocolate babka left?" "Lady, at this hour we have hope."*
- *"He's not a picky eater. He just only eats his mother's kugel."*

The Last Eighteen Minutes

BY BARUCH ADLER

Flour on the counter, soup on the stove, and the holiness hiding in Erev Shabbos.

At 4:12 on a Friday afternoon, my kitchen looks like a crime scene. There's flour on the counter, a pot of chicken soup threatening to boil over, and a trail of small shoes leading from the door to the couch. My wife is upstairs on the phone with the baby's doctor. The kids are "helping," which means someone is crying.

Candle lighting is in eighteen minutes, and I have never in my life felt less ready for Shabbos.

Every Friday, I tell myself it will be different next week. I'll start earlier. I'll make a list. I'll do the shopping on Wednesday like a person who has things figured out. And every Friday, the clock arrives anyway, with its usual lack of sympathy.

But this time, standing over that soup, something I once heard came back to me. Mi shetarach be'erev Shabbos, yochal be'Shabbos. He who toils on Erev Shabbos will eat on Shabbos. It's a Gemara in Avodah Zarah, and I'd always taken it as a reassurance, the way you'd say "hard work pays off."

This time I heard the other half. Shabbos doesn't happen to you. It's made, in the hours before, by people who are tired and rushing and a little frazzled. The beauty of Shabbos isn't separate from the chaos of Friday. It's built out of it.

There's a passage in Shabbos (119a) that I love for exactly this reason. It describes the great Amoraim getting ready for Shabbos with their own hands. Rav Safra singed the head of an animal. Rava salted fish. Rav Huna lit the lamp. Rav Papa braided the wicks. Rav Chisda cut the beets. Rabbah and Rav Yosef chopped wood. Rabbi Zeira prepared the kindling. Rav Nachman bar Yitzchak carried things in and out on his own shoulders. People who could have asked someone else to do it, and instead chose to put their hands in.

I've always found that image oddly comforting. The giants of the generation were also in the kitchen at 4:12.

I think this is what I was missing: a mitzvah isn't only the moment of candle lighting. It's the whole stretch of time leading to it. The soup, the shoes and the last-minute scramble are part of the same act. If I treat them as obstacles to Shabbos, I'll resent them. If I treat them as Shabbos itself, already beginning, then even the flour on the counter has a kind of holiness.

At 4:25, my seven-year-old appeared at my elbow with a small, wrinkled hand. "Tatty, I set the table all by myself."

She had. The forks were on the wrong side and there were two napkins at one place and none at the next. It was the most beautiful table I'd seen all week.

At 4:30, my wife came down, looked at the kitchen, looked at me, and we both laughed. Then she lit the candles, and the house, which had been spinning a minute ago, went quiet in a way that still surprises me.

Eighteen minutes. It wasn't enough time. It never is.

But somehow, it was exactly enough. ■