



ALBERTA

# Jewish NEWS

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שנה טובה ומתוקה Calgary Edition

August 23, 2021



Best wishes for all good things in the New Year



# Ability Arts celebrates community, inclusion, resilience, and hope

By Karina Szulc

During the month of August, members of the Jewish community of Calgary came together to celebrate the values of community, inclusion, resilience, and hope. These values and strengths have been a challenge for all of us during the pandemic, so an idea was hatched to create an outlet for peoples’ creativity, and to show how their virtual experiences affected, and connected them, their friends, and their families.

*Ability Arts Community Mural and Virtual Arts* is this dream come to life. These two programs provide an opportunity for participants to express themselves, get creative, and share perspectives.

Everybody came together to paint a mural on a large-scale, eighteen by five foot canvas, expressing visually how they have maintained connections during the last year of isolation and dealt with the challenge of keeping relationships in place. Bringing the community together with art and colour was amazing!

People were asked to show in this painting, a representation of their experience during the pandemic, and to convey how the virtual world helped cultivate togetherness in the midst of us being isolated in our homes.

Sara Bing, our Mural Artist in residence, brought her talent, experience, professionalism, and joy to this project. One hundred and fifty talented participants of all different ages and stages painted on one shared and unified work of art, their personal experience in a “Zoom window.” The resulting diversity that can be seen greatly emphasized how this time has affected people, in so many different ways.

At first our younger participants were afraid and unsure, but then embraced the whole experience. They moved the paint around the canvas with wild abandon and joy!

People who had never painted before had a wholesome artistic experience guided by Bing. She said, “It was awe-inspiring watching one participant’s process oriented experience. He really enjoyed moving the paint around and creating layers and layers of red!”

The second program, *Virtual Ability Arts*, was a 7 week online program led by Alexis Katzeff. Fifty *Ability Arts* participants received ready-to-use art kits to explore their artistic natures.

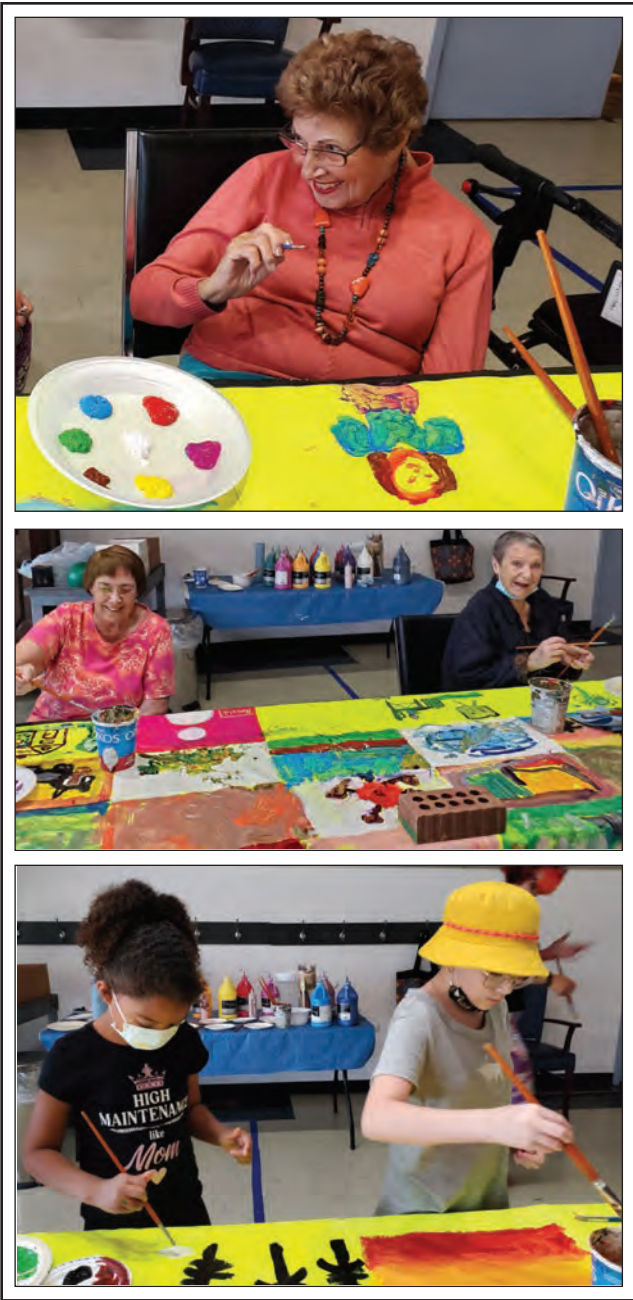
“Through these seven weeks of concept-based learning and creativity,” Alexis said, “we have explored many Jewish artists and their contributions to the art community. We began with Mark Rothko and took inspiration from his colour fields. The next artist we approached was Amedeo Modigliani. As a class we created, with pastels, our self-portraits, taking influence from his techniques. The following artist we encountered was Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Through Hundertwasser, we practiced the art elements of colour and line and had an opportunity to work with watercolours. Marc Chagall’s genius was the insight used towards our stained-glass creations. Camille Pissarro taught us about the art of impressionism, allowing us to use multiple tools other than paintbrushes to create our masterpieces.

“Finally, as a class, we learned about the impact of pop culture on art as we know it today. We explored the history and contributions of Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, the latter being Jewish. We practiced our hands in the art of printmaking and took further inspiration from the creators of superman to create our superhero selves. Also incorporating the concept of gesture drawing, drawing with motion and movement.”

Many wonderful pieces of art were created during these seven weeks and there was growth in the overall appreciation for art as a whole. Participants came to our Zoom class with the willingness and openness to try new things and challenge their preconceived notions of art.

Our mural and virtual programs are a vibrant testimonial of talent, new discovered abilities, diversity, and belonging. It is a collective expression that together “we can”; that beyond a global pandemic we can create beauty. We can collaborate, we can explore new directions, and leave a mark for future generations.

Inclusion is a mindset and these two programs are examples of a community working together in harmony sharing talents and appreciating the beauty of diversity like the pieces of glass in one of the Chagall vitraux.



This program was run in partnership by Calgary Jewish Federation and the Calgary JCC, with the generous support from Alberta Culture and Tourism.



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# I'm done with the Ashamnu's



Rabbi Leonard Cohen

By Rabbi Leonard Cohen

"I'm done with the Ashamnu's, Rabbi."

I knew exactly what he was talking about. Eric was a stalwart friend dating back to university; since my Semicha, he calls me Rabbi half in jest and half in respect. He was talking about the famous Yom Kippur Vidui prayer, where we announce all our transgressions: we have sinned, we have betrayed, we have stolen...

"I'm done with it. All these years of guilt and making myself small, and where has it gotten me? Divorced, scrambling in my career, almost 54 years old and still trying to figure out who I'm supposed to be when I grow up."

Was this where he and I were meant to be at this stage

in our lives? I reminded Eric that we were now in Elul, the month where we take stock of our lives, ask the hard questions, figure out what we need to change. We had roofs and clothes and food and all those basic amenities at the bottom of Maslow's pyramid of needs. Were we entitled to more?

"So what's the deal with all those Ashamnu's? Why do we keep saying them year-in year-out?"

I wasn't sure how to respond. Everyone's experience of the High Holidays is different. We pray the same liturgy: the Rosh Hashanah verses of *Malchuyot* (Kingship), *Zichronot* (Remembrances) and *Shofarot*; the Yom Kippur imploration not to perish by fire or COVID, but instead be redeemed through Teshuva, Tefilah and Tzedakah (penitence, prayer, and giving). Some find it distressing, others exalting.

We may find our own High Holiday feelings changing dramatically from one year to the next.

It occurred to me that the Yom Kippur service was not meant to belittle or discourage us. If we were opening up our hearts to Hashem, and sharing our vulnerability, then it was meant to be done in a spirit of optimism. We weren't meant to be perfect; we were meant to be honest. By being wholehearted with G-d and with one another, we made possible the potential for *Teshuva* – returning to our souls, to the selves we were meant to be and become. And we were doing all this in the heart of a community where no one was meant to stand above one another.

"So in other words it's not about the ratrace or keeping up with the Schwartzes, it's about helpful humility."

Couldn't have said it better myself.

Friday afternoon was turning to Shabbat evening, and so my call with Eric was nearing its end. I wished him a Gmar Hatimah Tovah, an early wish for him to be inscribed in the Good Book. He wished me lots of laughs and good digestion for the coming year.

I conveyed one last thought: It was still the middle of Elul, so Hashem didn't promise us any answers to our questions yet. Maybe the questions we asked about ourselves and our lives were more important than the answers.

"You're probably right, Rabbi. Next time you speak to G-d, tell 'em I've got a lot of questions."

I said to Eric, "Tell Hashem yourself."

In addition to High Holiday services, Kehilat Shalom is also hosting an outdoor Family Tashlich Service at Heritage Park on **Tuesday, September 7 at 3:00pm** at Heritage Park. The service is open to all who wish to participate.

For further information or to attend, please contact [info@kscalgary.org](mailto:info@kscalgary.org).

*Rabbi Leonard Cohen is leading in-person High Holidays at Kehilat Shalom, with services at the Calgary JCC. Health and safety precautions will be exercised.*

# Pediatricians gravely concerned over Alberta's removal of Covid restrictions and community testing

(Alberta)– The executive members of the Alberta Medical Association's Section of Pediatrics sent a letter to Alberta Premier Jason Kenney on August 9 expressing their grave concern regarding Alberta's plan to eliminate COVID-19 testing in the community, contact tracing and mandatory isolation this month. Pediatricians say that the removal of monitoring measures, combined with the recent removal of public health restrictions such as the mask mandate, will further accelerate the spread of the Delta variant – which is already growing exponentially in Alberta.

Dr. Michelle Bailey, President of the Section of Pediatrics said, "Evidence shows that the Delta variant is more contagious than seasonal influenza and spreads as easily as the chicken pox virus. Over 1.5 million Albertans remain unvaccinated and over half a million children under 12 are still ineligible for the vaccine, which leaves us far from reaching herd immunity and nowhere near the endemic phase of COVID-19."

Vaccine trials in children under 12 years old are underway and vaccines for this age group will likely be

Continued on page 5



Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

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# Kehilat Shalom

## High Holiday Services 2021 - 5782

### in person Services with Rabbi Leonard Cohen

### Please book your seats early

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Mon - Sept. 6, 2021	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Rosh Hashanah	Tues - Sept. 7, 2021	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Rosh Hashanah	Wed - Sept. 8, 2021	9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Yom Kippur	Wed - Sept. 15, 2021	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Yom Kippur Kol Nidre	Thurs - Sept. 16, 2021	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Tashlich	- Sept. 7, 2021	3:00 pm -

### Health Precautions Will Be Observed

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opinions. Please send submissions to our office at the address above.

Next Deadline: September 9, 2021

# Working together to keep Jewish Calgary vibrant

By AJNews staff

These have been difficult and challenging times around the world and right here at home, but the various organizations and agencies with the Calgary Jewish Community have worked together to keep the community vibrant and thriving.

“The last year and a half has been very challenging for Jewish Calgary,” stated Calgary Jewish Federation CEO Adam Silver in a special video made for the community. “As COVID set in, our local organizations adapted, collaborated and stepped up to do what they do best, make a difference. On behalf of our community, we want to thank you for: leading the next generation, supporting our families, for ensuring that we can continue building an inclusive Jewish Calgary and making our community feel like a family. Thank you for creating a safe and caring place, caring for the vulnerable and making our community a place to grow up and grow old. Thank you for ensuring the future of our Jewish community.

Cantor Russ Jayne, the Kolbo and spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec Congregation, expressed his appreciation for the community bonds that have strengthened over the course of the pandemic.

“When the pandemic hit and the AHS restrictions began in March of 2020, Beth Tzedec moved quickly to embrace online services via zoom for our twice daily minyanim and via live stream for Shabbat and the chagim,” stated Cantor Russ. “This swift change allowed us to keep our congregation connected during the time of great stress and uncertainty. As our understanding of this health crisis progressed, Beth Tzedec has been the champion of adopting a hybrid model not only for services but for all synagogue programming so that we could reach anyone who wanted a connection to our community and could navigate the changing health guidelines successfully. None of this would have been possible without the support of this community through our weekly zoom calls. Knowing that we were part of a larger support network gave us at Beth Tzedec the strength to do what we needed

to do and I believe that both our synagogue and Jewish Calgary is stronger as a result.”

Director of Camp BB-Riback Stacy Shaikin expressed his appreciation to Calgary Jewish Federation for supporting them through probably one of the most difficult times in their history.

“Not only did Calgary Jewish Federation help us develop some programs to keep the interest in our community but also put together all the community leaders on a regular basis so we could have more peer-to-peer contact and discuss how to work together in a pandemic as a community. Without them I think it would have been a much more difficult chore for us to put the pieces together and then come out of this thing with a very nice light at the end of the tunnel. So, thank you Federation. Thank you for recognizing us. We appreciate you.”

Rabbi Matusof, Senior Rabbi and Executive Director of Chabad Alberta said that “the whole Torah on one foot is love and care for each other.”

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Calgary Jewish Academy recently unveiled its new Nature Space and outdoor play areas that provide opportunities for hands-on learning, sensory stimulation, and a safe outdoor learning space for students, generously supported by the Calgary Jewish Federation through the Jewish Together Fund.

Dr. Andrew Ho

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# It's a different kind of New Year



Cantor Russ Jayne

By Cantor Russ Jayne

Rosh Hashanah is more than just a holiday; it is Judgment Day. That's why the traditional greeting at this time is not "happy holiday," or even "good yom tov," or "chag sameach," but rather "shanah tovah" or, in Yiddish, "ah gut yohr" (good year). The heavenly court will be deciding our destiny and determining our fate for the new year, so our wish for each other is that these days of reckoning go well, and that we each be blessed with only good things for the new year.

Yet this is precisely what makes our New Year observances distinctively different from those of so many others around the world. For Jews, New Year's Day is joyous but somber. No late-night partying for us. No drunken revelry as the clock strikes midnight. Actually, I've often wondered whether New Year's Eve partygoers are just having a harmless, fun night out, or if there is some kind of subconscious drowning of sorrows in drink as they mourn the passage of another

year and all its unfulfilled dreams. I've also often wondered what we Jews would do without Rosh Hashanah. This is the season of *cheshbon hanefesh* (spiritual stocktaking), when we take inventory of our most personal, intimate moments. We reflect on the year gone by, our successes and our shortcomings. We consider and reconsider our relationships with G-d and with other people. We try to pinpoint our failings so that we may correct them for an improved year to come. We make amends with those we may have hurt in the year gone by. We put an end to the petty grudges and grievances of life, and look forward to a better, happier, more serene and peaceful future.

But what if we didn't have Rosh Hashanah? What if there were no season dedicated to self-appraisal and assessment? Would we create it on our own? And if not, would we ever emerge from the rut we work ourselves into over a long, hard year? I imagine that we would just continue along the same tedious treadmill of life until something drastic arrived out of the blue to jolt us from our lethargy.

Without Rosh Hashanah, would we ever stop to consider whether the way we are living is the way we really want to live? Would we ever pause and become introspective enough to rethink life's game plan? More than likely, we would just keep running the rat race and, as some wise person once observed, "In the rat race, even if you win, you're still a rat!"

Rosh Hashanah is a time when we are compelled to sit

up and take notice, to put the brakes on the mediocre merry-go-round and shout, "Stop, I want to get off!" These Days of Awe compel us to think about life, about ourselves, about our families, our relationships and our way of life, and if necessary, to do a re-think. It gives us the chance for at least an annual "compass reading" to establish our sense of direction so that, if necessary, we can alter our course and reroute ourselves. How does the voice inside our GPS put it? "Recalculating." Most of us do need to recalculate from time to time. So, if we didn't have this once-a-year challenge and opportunity for personal introspection, what are the chances we would actually sit down and do it of our own volition? Probably very small indeed. Well, thank G-d then that we do have Rosh Hashanah. Because the time for stocktaking is now, or, as the legendary Hillel put it in Ethics of the Fathers, "If not now, then when?"

In our chaotic, often mad, world we ought to appreciate and embrace this wonderful opportunity. Honestly and truly, what would we do without Rosh Hashanah? I wish each and every one of you in our community, and indeed the world, a *shanah tovah*. May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a happy, healthy, peaceful, prosperous, safe, secure and spiritually rewarding new year.

Cantor Russ Jayne is the Kolbo and spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec Congregation, an egalitarian conservative synagogue in Calgary.

## Pediatricians concerned

Cont. from page 3

approved in the next six months, but pediatricians say that in the meantime it is imperative that we continue to protect our children and vulnerable populations with other risk mitigation measures. Testing, tracing, and isolating are the tenets of disease control in public health and are supported by national and international organizations including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Section of Pediatrics is concerned that there is no scientific basis to abandon these measures during the start of a fourth wave of the pandemic. They point out that the CDC recently reversed

their indoor mask policy, stating that children and fully vaccinated individuals should be wearing masks indoors in areas of high COVID transmission. The letter to the Premier outlines the many reasons why pediatricians are so concerned for the health of children and their families, including the fact that high numbers of COVID-19 infections in children translate to higher numbers of children who develop serious illness such as Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C) or severe COVID-19 pneumonia. Dr. Tehseen Ladha, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Alberta and an executive member of the AMA's Section of Pediatrics said, "There are lessons to be learned from other jurisdictions, such as Florida and Louisiana, who have also abandoned their protective measures and as a result are

now seeing rapid increases in pediatric hospitalizations. As we near the start of the school year, the relaxed public health measures will result in a fourth wave where COVID-19 will spread quickly throughout unvaccinated populations and children. This poses a high risk to children and families. We are asking the government to continue with strong public health measures until we have either reached herd immunity (85% of Albertans immunized) or the endemic phase of COVID-19. We don't want to see any more of our young patients getting sick. They are vulnerable and it is our job to protect them." The AMA's Section of Pediatrics represents over 300 members of the Alberta Medical Association who practice pediatric medicine. Pediatricians play a critical role in advocating for our patients and our health care system.



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May your New Year be blessed with peace, happiness, and many sweet moments!

**Shana Tova!**





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# Art and Scroll Studio: Presenting Season Two!

By Breney Brotman

On Wednesday October 6, 2021, at 7 pm MDT on zoom, the second season of Art and Scroll Studio will begin with the bold work of Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik. Isaac's work is detailed and expressive and leads the viewer to a new understanding of Judaic tradition, melding it with modern motifs.

As an artist living in Southern California his work can be found in private collections around the world. He cuts up comic books and reassembles them into work made of clean lines and patterns, sinuous shapes and sharp edges, large fields of color and small intimate spaces. Trained in graphic design, Brynjegard-Bialik started cutting paper while living in Jerusalem. He regularly speaks about the intersection of art and Judaism.

"My work explores the role of narrative in the development and expression of identity. I work in paper because I like its fragility and its place as our primary medium for telling and sharing stories across generations. It is both ephemeral and constant."

He works with the stories and traditions primarily of the Jewish people, though other peoples and cultures enter into the papercuts as well. These are filtered through the twin lenses of the traditional art form of papercutting and contemporary pop culture storytelling techniques.

"My work is visual biblical commentary; I call it "paper midrash." I always begin with text - often bible and other traditional sources, but also the words of poets and musicians. My work is influenced by elements of the natural world and how tradition understands its connection to the Divine: for example, the burning bush, the parting of the Red Sea, the revelation at Sinai," says Brynjegard-Bialik.

He layers cut-up comic books into his work, drawing parallels between mythologies and religious traditions

**The joyful image that appears on the cover of this month's Alberta Jewish News is by Shelley Werner.**



to delve into the stories that make us human. His vision is that comic superheroes exist outside of the "natural" world, be they visitors from other planets or people whose powers stem from strange scientific accidents; they have weaknesses and flaws, and their struggles are often a metaphor for the human experience. He brings these different types of stories together in the layers of his papercuts, searching for new meanings in these combinations.

Following the very successful launch of Art and Scroll Studio Season One, this upcoming year will feature more unique artists whose work originates in the world of Judaica. Celebrating the makers and creators of Judaica art, the zoom show has brought to life the backstory of a wide range of artists. Last year's guests joined the show from a multitude of locals including California, Brooklyn and Calgary's own Milt Fischbein. Viewers were engaged in the variety of media that was expressed in the featured artist's work. Ranging from the "found objects" in Frann Addison's assemblages, to the embroidery of Rachel Braun's Torah passages, the audience grew organically as viewers returned again and again.

The season finale included the addition of guest commentator Rabbi Mark Glickman of Temple B'nai Tikvah in Calgary. He contributed Judaic insights to compliment the work of Rachel Braun as they discussed similar passages from the Torah.

The image on the cover of this month's Alberta Jewish News is by Shelley Werner, a designer and Judaica Illustrator. She is one of the founding members of Art and Scroll Studio, which includes Michele Doctoroff and Caron Glickman. She is the host of their live Zoom series. An award-winning speaker, she is passionate about integrating Tikun Olam in all things. Having recently moved from Winnipeg to Calgary, she uses bold colours, water-colour and markers to celebrate her Jewish heritage. Her inspiration is found in the joy of life cycle events, the Jewish calendar of celebration, and the resonance of

ritual and contemplation. The Rocky Mountains have brought her a new form of meditation on majesty.

To register for the first show featuring Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik on Oct. 6, 2021 visit [www.artandscrollstudio.com](http://www.artandscrollstudio.com).



Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik will be featured in the October 6 episode of Art & Scroll Studio.



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# Rosh Hashanah is a time for renewal



Judy Zelikovitz

By Judy Zelikovitz

This past year was challenging for our community. The COVID-19 pandemic forced all of us to be physically distant from our loved ones, while many faced grave illness or terrible loss.

In May of this past year, we also witnessed a dangerous surge in antisemitism that struck at the heart of our communities. Peaceful pro-

Israel protestors were pelted with rocks in Montreal, Toronto saw a fivefold spike in antisemitic incidents. This surge in antisemitism attacked every corner of our country, including Alberta, where Hitler Youth flags were flown on rural properties near Edmonton.

And this increase in antisemitism was not limited to physical incidents. A shocking rise in online antisemitic memes, graphics, and messages flashed across the computer screens of our children and grandchildren.

However, notwithstanding the past year's challenges, Jewish Canadians stood tall, proud, and resilient – and united in our shared history, diversity, and strength.

Over the last year, together as a community, we made significant gains to preserve and protect Jewish life in Canada.

We secured emergency funding for Jewish institutions to help them continue to serve our community throughout the pandemic.

We stood shoulder to shoulder as tens of thousands of Jewish Canadians and many others of good conscience joined CIJA and secured an Emergency Summit on Antisemitism – an important initiative to discuss and develop actions to combat that vile, age-old scourge.

We made gains with the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and in many municipalities across Canada, building on our nation's adoption of the IHRA definition in Canada's anti-racism strategy. The IHRA working definition – the most widely respected definition in the world – is an important

educational tool to identify and address antisemitism.

Despite this year's challenges, we made progress. And we did these things, and many more, because of you.

Next year, 5782, presents an opportunity not only for reflection but also renewal. The future is never certain, but of this I am sure: if we rededicate ourselves to our community, advocacy, and to one another, we will continue our progress and build a better tomorrow for our children.

As we look ahead and plan for the new year, we at the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) are asking to hear from you about what you consider the most important issues to you and your family, what you want to say to elected officials about antisemitism in Canada, and what you would do to strengthen our community's advocacy efforts. Input from Jewish Canadians across Canada is a vital measure informing our advocacy in the coming year. We cannot do it without you.

Please visit [cija.ca/you](http://cija.ca/you) and tell us what you think.

We wish you and your families a sweet, healthy and happy 5782.

L'Shana Tova!

Judy Zelikovitz is Vice President, University and Local Partner Services, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

## High Holidays recipe: Fresh tomato soup

By Ronnie Fein

(JTA) – You hear it every year: The High Holidays are either early or late, never on time.

This year is an early one – real early. Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown Sept. 6, the night of Labor Day for Americans. Fortunately it's also the peak of tomato season, so why not include some in your holiday meal?

This soup, made from fresh tomatoes, has lots going for it: You can make it ahead by four or five days; you can enrich it with dairy or nondairy milk or cream if you wish; and it's delicious either hot or cold.

While it is lovely as a first course for dinner on the first or second night of Rosh Hashanah, I'll be serving this at room temperature in juice glasses to my break-the-fast guests as we gather after services and need a little nosh before our post-fast dairy meal.

You can warm it up, too, for Sukkot for those chillier nights in the sukkah.

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 thick scallions, chopped
- 2 large cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 pounds ripe tomatoes, chopped
- 4 cups vegetable stock
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 6 tablespoons uncooked white rice
- 1 cup dairy or nondairy milk or cream, optional
- Garnish (fresh herbs or croutons)

### Directions:

Heat the olive oil in a soup pot over medium heat. Add the scallions and cook, stirring occasionally, for 2 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for about another minute. Add the tomatoes, stock, basil and salt and pepper.

Bring the soup to a simmer, cover the pan and cook for 10 minutes. Add the rice, cover the pan and cook for another 20 minutes.

Blend the soup in a blender or with an immersion blender. Serve hot or let cool. Stir in the milk if desired. Chill completely.

Serve garnished with fresh basil, parsley or Italian bread croutons. Makes 8 servings.





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# Working together

Cont. from page 4

“From the moment the pandemic began, we at Chabad turned our immediate attention and efforts to new and innovative programs and helped turn isolation into connection and confusion into action,” explained Matusof.

“We developed immediately a webpage Chabadrelief.ca which was a beacon of light and a user-friendly site addressing current community needs for people to be able to turn to Chabad and know where they could get help. A big thank you to the Calgary Jewish Federation who immediately facilitated the community to come together. I think that in the last year our community was together on weekly basis with leadership discussing everything from Alberta Kosher to mikveh to every shul to every school to camp. Camp BB, Camp Gan Israel - everyone came together as a community helping each other, brainstorming together and working together. Brochaynu aveeno kulano kaechot. Bless us our father when we are all as one. We will only continue and grow from strength to strength.”

Susan Dvorkin, Vice President of Communications for the Calgary Chevra Kadisha said that the Chevra has always been aware of their vital role to the Calgary Jewish Community in their time of need and take pride in the service that they provide.

“At the onset of the pandemic when restrictions became paramount we implemented various protocols that would ensure the safety of our volunteers as well as our mourning families,” she explained. “Protocols included limiting attendees at funerals as well as ensuring all attendees wear masks and gloves. Unlike other organizations in our community, we have had to work within our society to come up with strategies and procedures that have allowed us to continue to deliver the essential service we provide. Closing the door and working from home was not an option. As such, we were unable to work with the various community organizations to learn about how they were modifying their day-to-day activities.

“We are grateful that because of our efforts, no Covid 19 cases have arisen from our events and we will continue to adhere to most of Alberta Health Services guidelines as reopening stages occur. At the same we are also cognizant that the nature of funerals and unveilings is unlike other social outdoor gatherings with a tendency to gravitate towards a grave or a mourning family. We will do our utmost to allow for both comfort to the mourning families as well as safety to all.

“Special gratitude goes to Rick Pollick, our Executive Director for his tireless effort to pivot and adapt at this very difficult time and still give the utmost care, compassion and attention to our mourning families. We would also like to thank our community clergy for their cooperation with our protocols. Hazak hazak v nithazeck, be strong be strong and may we all be strengthened through these difficult times.”

Halpern Akiva Academy is also grateful for the leadership showed by Calgary Jewish Federation. “The support we received from the Calgary Jewish Federation during this pandemic year allowed us as a school to offer social emotional support to our students and also allowed us to create a safer cleaner environment for our students to thrive in here at Halpern Akiva Academy. So, thank you Calgary Jewish Federation for all you did to help support our students through this year.”

House of Jacob Mikveh Israel Rabbi Binyomin Halpern said, “Looking back on the last almost year and a half it’s amazing to see the ways we’ve adapted during covid to meet the challenges of the times. In our own shul that’s included things like hand sanitizers and masks, social distancing and rethinking how we can give out the aliyot, the torah readings, but it’s also included things like adapting and using new technology. I don’t think I knew what the term zoom meant in the way that I understand it now and definitely it’s been a large part of the way now that we give classes. Moving forward it’s really been a silver lining because it has allowed people to have more access to the programming that we offer in shul and something that we would like to use moving forward. We actually had increased attendance in some our classes because people are more able to participate through zoom and in fact not just in our community but around the world we were able to interact with past community members and share information and bond and reconnect with people from all over the world.

“A special thanks to Federation for the financial support and other wise they’ve offered during this time. I particularly enjoyed the weekly federation meetings on Mondays with the community leaders, learning from everyone and meeting people in that way. Yasher koach to everyone and we’re all very much looking forward to getting back to normal.”

Jewish Calgary is also grateful for the many contributions of JSFC, especially during the onset of COVID-19. They continued to serve their clients, and added additional supports and services to address new concerns.

Rabbi Leonard Cohen of Kehilat Shalom said, “From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic Kehilat Shalom held overarching concern for the mitzvah of picuach nefesh, saving lives and we embraced all the stringencies needed to protect the health of our congregation and community.



The annual Bark Mitzvah, held August 1 at the Calgary Paperny JCC field was a fun-filled day for dogs and humans alike. There were fabulous vendors, dog contests, mural painting for dogs and humans, raffles and more!

We applaud the Calgary Jewish Community and its institutions for the resilience they have shown over the past year. With Hashem’s help, with vaccinations and continued vigilance, we will continue to ensure everyone’s safety in this remarkable time. We wish everyone brachah and briot in the year ahead. Shalom v’chol tuv.”

Jerrad Blanchard, chair of the Paperny Family JCC operations board said, “As you know, the JCC is built around the mission of bringing people together physically. So, we were very challenged over the past year to achieve that mission and try to bring people together virtually while still embracing the community that is so important to us all. I’m very happy to report how successful we were with engaging our membership and keeping in touch with all of our members so that as we’re allowed to open physically in the future we’ll be stronger than ever together. Access to consistent funding through the Federation and the Jewish Together Fund has really allowed us to continue with our mission and ensure that we’re able to engage with our most vulnerable membership. So, we would like to thank our funders for their support during this difficult time.”

Josh Hesslein, President of Temple B’nai Tikvah said that Temple’s sanctuary has been a dark and quiet sanctuary for a year and a half as covid 19 has impacted all of their services. “We moved entirely online during the pandemic that includes everything from our weekly services to our torah studies to our bnai mitzvah to our days of awe last year. Everything has been online and while we have missed the opportunity to celebrate and to practice and to pray in person together, the zoom platform has also afforded us some opportunities that we wouldn’t have necessarily had otherwise.

“Together with the reform Jewish Community of Canada we have been able to put on services like Shavuot that went from coast to coast to coast including all of our member synagogues but online isn’t the only way we have connected. We’ve also done things to keep people engaged and community oriented like baking and delivering over 300 miniature challot, 41 drivers to do it so that everybody in our congregation could break the fast together as a community after Yom Kippur. We have also received some help from the CJF and from UJA in the form of a grant which is actually going to help us get back into the sanctuary as soon as we’re ready to. That includes putting

Continued on page 29

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# Combating antisemitism will require action beyond a single day’s summit

By Shimon Koffler Fogel



Shimon Koffler Fogel

Growing up in Montreal, nothing equalled the excitement of watching my beloved Canadiens play at the Forum. The joy of that experience, however, was sometimes eclipsed by the shame and anxiety my brother and I felt when, as we left a game, other fans would occasionally toss pennies at us, two obviously Jewish kids wearing kippot. Though uncomfortable, it was really the only anti-Semitism I encountered in my youth.

That experience certainly did not approach the nightmare my parents lived during the Holocaust. Fortunately, they both survived the attempt to annihilate the Jewish people and were able to embrace the wonder of Canada. To them, Canada was a land free from the hate that robbed them of their families.

Were they still alive, my parents would be deeply troubled by the global rise of anti-Semitism we are witnessing.

These days, too much hatred is being expressed in Canada. Too many groups are being targeted for discrimination, vitriol, and threats – especially Indigenous, Muslim, Black and Asian communities. While the National Summit on Antisemitism hosted by the

federal government focused on hatred of Jews, many of the lessons learned and measures that will follow will be instructive in combatting other forms of bigotry.

That said, it is important to underscore that hatred of Jews is exceptional in three ways. It is global in its scope; it is timeless in its manifestation – morphing through the millennia from religious and racial animus to socio-economic and political expressions; and it may be the only hatred sourced across the spectrum (the extreme right, the extreme left and within some segments of fundamentalist Muslim and Christian communities).

Anti-semitism is also unique as it extends to the vilification, delegitimization and demonization of the Jewish state, which is increasingly becoming a proxy for hatred of Jews. Anti-Zionism is increasingly used as cover for the same.

It is obviously not antisemitic to criticize Israeli government policy. But it is antisemitic to deny the Jewish people nationhood and the right to self-determination. And it is antisemitic to attempt to erase Jewish history and the Jewish people’s deep links to their ancestral homeland.

In the contemporary struggle to right wrongs and validate the realities confronting racialized communities, the Jewish lived experience – with all its suffering, both past and present – feels too often dismissed in the public conversation. For many, Jews are seen as revelling in white privilege, and therefore cannot be victims; for others, Jews are the authors of “globalism,” an insidious and often racist conspiracy that involves people believing a cabal controls and is undermining the world.

The national summit goes beyond acknowledging anti-Semitism – it is about advancing proposals to combat it. Among the recommendations the Centre for Israel and

Jewish Affairs (CIJA) offers are proposals related to education, which remains the most constructive approach to addressing and diminishing hate. It has applications within the classroom, but with the rise of social media, there is an equally high imperative to address anti-Semitism found online. As such, we are proposing a national social media literacy campaign that educates Canadians about the growing toxicity on the web. The sustained campaign would give Canadians the tools to create a more inclusive online world. It would reinforce social media companies’ own codes of conduct, and flag behaviours that are hateful and dangerous.

While education is a necessary component, it must be accompanied by vigorous legislative action. Leveraging the recent Heritage Canada-sponsored Action Summit to Combat Online Hate, organized by CIJA, the literacy campaign should be complemented by more robust legislation governing the obligations and responsibilities of social media platforms. This would go beyond Bill C-36 and reflect a comprehensive approach to combatting online hate, which too often turns into real-world violence.

And finally, we are calling for an amendment to the Criminal Code to include Holocaust denial as a stand-alone, indictable offence, as it is in France, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Poland. The link between anti-Semitism and the Holocaust is self-evident; less obvious, but no less real or insidious, is any effort to deny the Holocaust as a strategy to diminish, trivialize, challenge, refute, or repudiate Jewish lived experience.

We are grateful for the leadership demonstrated by all levels of government to tackle hatred of Jews. But the summit is only the starting point. It will fall to all Canadians – Jewish and non-Jewish alike – to translate sentiment into action.

*Shimon Koffler Fogel is the president and CEO of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA). This article originally appeared in the Globe and Mail.*

# Observing Yom Kippur with a disordered eating past

By Sarah Simone

(Almat via JTA) -- Yom Kippur is arguably one of the most important days in the Jewish calendar. It is the Day of Atonement, a day for reflecting and repenting, where sins of the previous year are acknowledged and restitutions are made. Your repentance sets the tone for the future, and intentions are set for bettering yourself in the year ahead. That the atoning traditionally manifests itself as fasting all day isn’t problematic for some.

For others, like me, who are either in recovery from or still struggling with an eating disorder, the issue is far more complex.

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that one in five women suffer from eating disorders or disordered eating, a statistic that entirely excludes the men who are often overlooked. Regarding anorexia alone, men make up a quarter of those suffering and, according to the National Eating Disorder Association, are more likely to die due to the cultural denial of male eating disorders. Anxiety-related disorders have been amplified during the pandemic, and those with eating disorders may be

reverting to harmful behaviors to gain a sense of control.

My eating disorder began when I was 12 and landed me in the hospital by age 16. At 18, I was firmly in the beginning stages of my recovery, though it’s important to note that recovery is not a linear process with a fixed endpoint but a process with ups and downs. Most everyone who has received treatment for an eating disorder is aware of the therapeutic conversations that surround big holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter: These holidays all center around food. That’s not unusual by any stretch; where people gather, they often break bread. What rarely exists in treatment, however, is a conscious awareness around Jewish holidays that center eating differently.

It’s one thing to have your mom looking over your shoulder making sure you fill your plate. It’s another to be religiously obligated to fast for a holy day, when fasting is exactly what you need to avoid.

Before my habits became public to my family and health care professionals, I would fast every year for

Yom Kippur. As a child, I’d been difficult, always feeling there was much for which I had to atone. Later, in the thick of my eating disorder, it was an opportunity to restrict for a day without excuses or sleight of hand. Traditionally, you don’t have to fast until you’ve been a bar or bat mitzvah and are seen as an “adult” in the eyes of God. This usually falls around puberty, which is an unfortunate coincidence regarding eating disorder risk periods.

Once my eating disorder became public to my close family, at age 16, the conversation about Yom Kippur became all the more relevant. My overprotective mother immediately and adamantly said “No fasting!” She was right in doing so, and while I knew I shouldn’t — and couldn’t — disagree, I still felt like it was a copout. It’s not like every other girl my age hadn’t struggled with thoughts

*Continued on page 21*

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# Of Cars and Creators

By Rabbi Binyomin Halpern



Rabbi Binyomin Halpern

Rosh Hashana is just around the corner. The High Holidays are a busy time, and an important time. There are meals to be prepared, services to be arranged, and apples and honey to be picked and purchased. This is true in general, but especially this year, when as individuals

and as a community we continue to evaluate how we emerge from the last year and a half.

This can all be very stressful. At times even overwhelming. But stress and worry are hardly helpful attitudes in preparing for a holiday.

In addition, a major theme of Rosh Hashana is *Malchiyut* - Kingship, that we acknowledge and proclaim that Hashem is King, and Master of all creation.

This seems easy to understand intellectually. Hashem,

as the Creator, is in full control of His world. But how does one internalize this idea? Or another way to put it, what does it *feel* like, to know fully that Hashem is King?

As I write these words in July, in the middle of ‘road-trip’ season, the following example comes to mind.

Imagine you have been looking forward to spending a few days in the mountains, and have been planning this trip for months. You have booked a rental car way ahead in advance (when they were still available at a somewhat reasonable price,) with the ‘Spendy’ rental car company. Then on the day of your trip, disaster strikes! You arrive at the rental car company office to pick up your car, only to be informed that there has been an accidental overbooking, and there are no cars left. Not one. Not even a gas-guzzling 15-seater van. You are at a total loss of what to do and feel the stress and anger building up inside. How could they do this to you! How are you going to get out of this mess! Your vacation is ruined!

The clerk behind the desk, sensing your attitude, says that the only person who might be able to help would be the manager, who has access to certain cars that are only given out at his discretion, and suggests that you discuss this with him. You are directed to the back office and you timidly knock on the door.

“Yissachar!” comes the excited cry from the behind the desk, “how are you doing? It’s me Zevulun, the guy who sits next to you in shul! Please come in! What can I do for you today?”

All of the sudden, your nerves dissipate. Your buddy Zevulun is going to take care of this for you, and everything is under control.

PS- Happy ending: You emerge a few minutes later driving a Tesla convertible, a free upgrade as compensation for your previous aggravation and you drive off into the sunset.

The key to the story is that your feelings totally shift when you know someone is in control of the situation and has your back.

This is what it means to feel that Hashem is the King- it means that we can rest assured that Hashem will take care of all the details, because He knows, because He can, and because He is *Malkeinu*, our King, who cares about each and every one of us.

So yes, there is a lot to do leading up to Rosh Hashana. But our job is to get to a place where we can know and feel that Hashem will help us, and bless us with a year of joy, success and fulfillment.

Malka and our children join me in wishing everyone a Ketiva Vachamita Tova, a year of health and blessings.

*Rabbi Binyomin Halpern is the spiritual leader of the House of Jacob Mikveh Israel in Calgary. He welcomes any feedback on this article and is passionate about any Jewish discussion. He can be reached at rabbi@hojmi.com*

# Biden nominates David Cohen as US ambassador to Canada

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — David Cohen, a Comcast executive and former vice chairman of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, is President Joe Biden’s pick to be U.S. ambassador to Canada, the White House has announced.

In addition to being a lobbyist for the communications giant, Cohen is a longtime Democratic fundraiser who was chief of staff to Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell in the 1990s. He also served as head of diversity and inclusion efforts at Comcast.

Cohen grew up in Highland Park, a New Jersey town

with a high percentage of Jewish residents.

“Federation involvement is in my DNA,” he told the Jewish Exponent of Philadelphia in 2013. “In my family, it would be unthinkable not to be involved in Federation and the Jewish community.”

Cohen has had close ties to Biden and hosted his first presidential fundraiser of the 2020 campaign. The White House announcement on the choice of Cohen was made on July 21.

“His Senate confirmation can’t come soon enough for the Canada-U.S. relationship,” Scotty Greenwood, president and CEO of the Canadian American Business Council, said in a statement.



David Cohen, nominated as US Ambassador.



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# A conversation with celebrated author Yossi Klein Halevi

By AJNews staff

Mark your calendars for a very special virtual event on Sunday September 19 at 11:30 am. To launch the 2021 United Jewish Appeal campaign, the Jewish Federations of Calgary and Edmonton are jointly hosting a conversation with celebrated author Yossi Klein Halevi, a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute of Jerusalem. He is a leading expert on the middle east, a frequent op ed contributor, a New York Times best-selling author and a popular lecturer on Israeli affairs.

“Yossi Klein Halevi is a tremendous writer who comes from a wildly interesting background,” said Calgary Jewish Federation co-president Jared Shore. “His presence is timely as he has some wonderful insight into where Israel currently stands and also where we stand in the Diaspora - being both supportive of Israel and critical of Israel.”

The September 19 event will feature a conversation between Shore and Yossi Klein Halevi. They will cover a wide range of relevant topics including some controversial perspectives and provocative ideas. Questions from the audience will also be invited.

Halevi left his home in New York when he was in his 20s and moved to Israel in 1982. Over the decades, he has tried to sort out for himself how and why the Israelis and the Palestinians, have been locked in their intractable conflict for generations.

In his book, “Letters To My Palestinian Neighbors,” Halevi tries to reach beyond the failed politics and toxic polarized narratives to connect with his neighbours. He looks at the elements that would be necessary to build a lasting relationship between two peoples who disagree on almost everything.

*Wall Street Journal* Reporter Daphne Merkin calls the book, “a clarion call – not to arms, but to empathy... the work of a gifted thinker. It is a profound and original book.”

Halevi emphasizes that he’s not a politician, he’s a writer who considers difficult questions and shares his thoughts. He is also a co-host with Donniel Hartman and Elana Stein Hain, of the Hartman Institute’s *For Heaven’s Sake* podcast. In this podcast, the reporters tackle difficult issues including the notion of Israel as an Apartheid state, the reason that progressives are turning their backs on Israel and why Israel is perceived as losing the public relations war against Hamas.

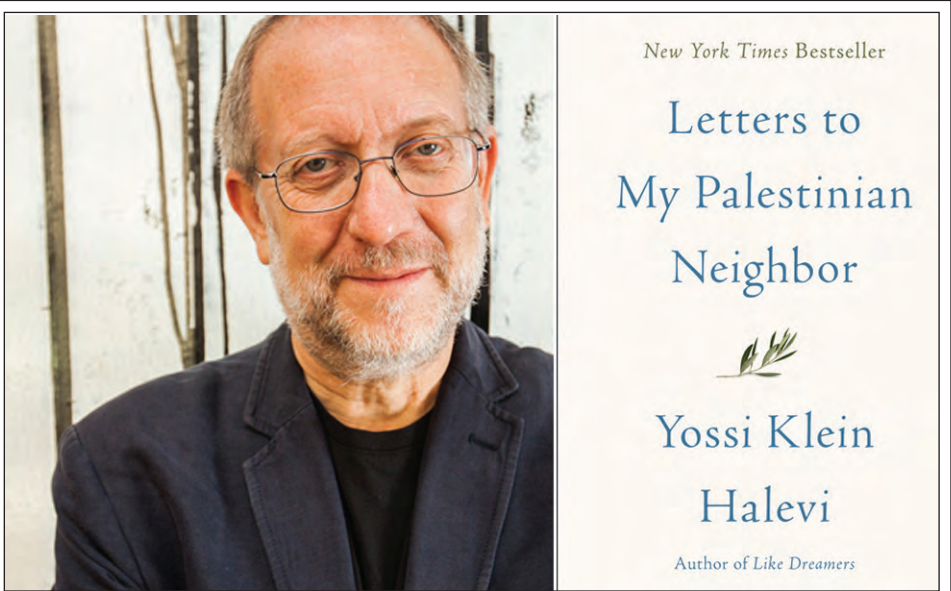
The Calgary and Edmonton Jewish communities are pleased to be hosting this event together to launch their 2021 UJA campaigns. Special guest Eric Fingerhut, CEO, Jewish Federations of North America will also be in attendance at the event and deliver up to date information about issues facing Jewish communities in the Diaspora.

“The past 18 pandemic months have taught us all about the need to adapt,” said Edmonton UJA co-chairs Howie Sniderman and Darryl Antel. “Hosting joint programs for the members of our communities in Calgary and Edmonton is just one of the innovations that, in many respects, were a long time coming and are very welcome, as they bring our wonderful Alberta Jewish community even closer.”

“This is an excellent opportunity to pool our resources,” noted Shore. “The Calgary and Edmonton communities have partnered for many years in provincial lobbying initiatives, and this is a way to partner in a new and inspiring way.”

“We are indeed stronger together,” added Sniderman and Antel, “and bringing the views of an important thought leader in the Jewish world such as Yossi Klein Halevi to our communities is a small example of the impact of the UJA campaign. His take on the current state of the Jews as well as the Jewish State will undoubtedly be of interest to us all. We are excited to provide the opportunity to hear and learn from Yossi as we launch our annual community UJA campaign.”

Yossi’s professional endeavours are diverse. Together with Imam Abdullah Antepli of Duke University and Maital Friedman, he co-directs the Hartman Institute’s



On September 19 at 11:30 am the Calgary Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of Edmonton are jointly hosting, by zoom: A Conversation with Celebrated Author Yossi Klein Halevi. This special event is the official launch of the 2021 United Jewish Appeal Campaign and it will prove to be a fascinating and provocative conversation. CJF co-president Jared Shore will conduct the interview and cover a wide range of topics related to Israel and the Diaspora. Register for this free event at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org).

Muslim Leadership Initiative, which teaches emerging young Muslim American leaders about Judaism, Jewish identity and Israel.

He is also the author of *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation*, which won the Jewish Book Council’s Everett Book of the Year Award.

“This year’s campaign is as important as any,” concluded Jared Shore. “We’ve seen how a strong community response has helped us weather some enormous challenges over the past 18 months. It’s a critical time to invest and reinvest in our community’s organizations and agencies.”

The 2021 UJA launch takes place over ZOOM on September 19 at 11:30. Register for the free event at [JewishCalgary.org](http://JewishCalgary.org) and you will be entered into a raffle to win a copy of “Letters to my Palestinian Neighbour.”

## TAKING ACTION AGAINST RACISM

### OUR WORDS

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**Hon. Jason Kenney,**  
Leader of the United Conservative Caucus

“Hate-motivated crimes and racism are unacceptable – full stop. We’re taking action to help support and empower the communities and groups most affected by this deplorable behaviour.”

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MLA, Edmonton-South West

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# Sam Switzer – long time CMDA supporter’s legacy continues

CMDA is so grateful to the family of Sam Ousher Switzer OBM for donating a new advanced life support ambulance, in his memory, now ready to go into service in Israel. The family is carrying on Sam’s long-standing contributions to CMDA and its vital work serving the people of Israel. The ambulance, manufactured in Canada has just arrived at MDA headquarters in Tel Aviv.

“It’s a simple fact that without the support of community leaders like Sam and his family, CMDA would fall short in helping meet the emergency medical service needs for all the citizens of Israel,” said Mr. Leonard Shapiro, Honourary Chair, CMDA Calgary. “Our donations here in Canada are critical to fund and supply MDA with essential equipment like ambulances, emergency medi- scooters and ATVs and mobile advanced life support technology.”

Sam Switzer was a “larger than life White Hatter” native Calgarian with a flare for business. Sam saw many successes and is famous as an hotelier for building the Summit Hotel, Calgary’s first and only round hotel, and as the owner of the iconic Elbow River Casino.

His contributions to the community as a volunteer and philanthropist were many, supporting causes ranging from cancer research, to the Alberta Children’s Hospital to the Little Synagogue on the Prairies. In 2012, the Jewish National Fund honoured Sam for his role in developing recyclable water in Sderot in Israel’s Negev Desert. Sam was an active Rotarian and lifetime Calgary Stampede volunteer.

“It’s really heart-warming to see Sam’s family continue to support the community in his honour and memory,” said Sharon Fraiman, Western Regional Director, Canadian Magen David Adom. “It’s has been a special privilege working with Sam’s daughter Darlene on this ambulance project and I want to thank her for her support and guidance.”



Mark your calendars. The Western Canada Chapter of Canadian Magen David Adom is planning a Gala Event on May 22, 2022 at the Carriage House Inn in Calgary. The gala will honour long time CMDA supporter, the late Sam Switzer z"l and his family, with special recognition for their recent donation of a CMDA Advanced Life Support Ambulance.

## CMDA prepares for 2022 Gala

*May event promises to be the biggest and best ever*

More than two dozen CMDA volunteers and Western Canada Board Members came together in late June to start planning for the much-anticipated May 29, 2022 gala. It’s promising to be the most spectacular gala in many years.

“We’re really excited about our plans,” said Sharon Fraiman, Western Regional Director, CMDA. “It’s going to be an incredible event and we encourage everyone to save the date.”

The gala will be held in the newly renovated ballroom at Calgary’s landmark Carriage House Inn.

“The 2022 gala will feature a sit-down three course meal,” says Fraiman. “And of course, everything will be Kosher so we look forward to welcoming everyone from the community.”

The evening will include a special presentation from an MDA speaker from Israel. Cantor Russell Jayne, from the

Beth Tzedec synagogue will be performing and the special musical guest will be Barry Shaw and his fabulous jazz and swing band. “It’s the chance to dance the night away,” adds Fraiman.

This year’s gala will honour the late Sam Switzer, a long time CMDA supporter. Mr. Switzer’s family recently donated an Advanced Life Support Ambulance to CMDA. The vehicle is now being built for service in Israel later this year. The gala will also recognize the tireless efforts of Honourary Calgary CMDA Chair Lenny Shapiro and his wife Fagel.

“It may be a few months away, but the sponsorship packages are going out in the mail soon and we’ll also be soliciting items for our exciting silent auction,” says Fraiman. “We already have trips, weekend getaways and ski packages available.

CMDA volunteers from Calgary, Airdrie, Okotoks and Three Hills took part in the planning event which was held at the Grey Eagle Casino. CMDA Board Member Lee Crowchild, former Chief of the Tsuut’ina Nation and candidate for Chief of the Assembly of First Nations was also part of the planning. “As well as support from rural Alberta, it’s important that we reach out to the Tsuut’ina Nation,” says Fraiman. “They’re our neighbours and we want to engage the Nation, so with Paramedic Don Sharpe, we are planning to offer our world famous “Seven Minutes to Live” lifesaving program to members of the



CMDA board members Shane Gerzon & Christopher Yee with Western Regional Director Sharon Fraiman.

Nation in the upcoming months.

Single tickets for the CMDA 2022 Gala cost \$100 each or \$150/couple and will be on sale early in 2022.

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# Apples and honey french toast – for a sweet year

Chef Amanda Lambert – Meraki Cuisine

Who doesn't love French toast and warm apple pie? This is a delicious breakfast or brunch dish to enjoy year-round with family and friends, but you may just want to keep it as a special treat for Rosh Hashana and the holidays.

It can be made in the morning or pre-made the day before and kept in the fridge overnight and baked in the morning. There are a few more ingredients and steps than everyday French toast but it's worth the extra effort.

I serve with warm real maple syrup and fresh fruit as a side.

Ingredients - French Toast

- One large challah or raisin challah
- 5 large eggs
- 1-1/2 cups half & half cream
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 tablespoons bourbon (optional, substitute with apple juice)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Ingredients - Apple Topping

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter

- 3 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced thinly
- 1/4 cup + 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- 5 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Confectioners' sugar
- maple syrup

Directions

Butter a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Slice the bread into 3/4-inch-thick slices. (approx. 12)

In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, half & half, maple syrup, honey, bourbon, vanilla, and salt.

Dip each slice of challah into the custard mixture to coat well and place in an overlapping pattern in the prepared baking dish. The entire bottom of the dish should be covered with the challah slices. Set aside.

Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees and set oven rack in middle position.

In a large sauté pan, melt the butter over medium-high heat. Add the apples, brown sugar, maple syrup, honey, and cinnamon. Bring to a gentle boil and continue to cook, stirring frequently, until the apples have softened, and the sauce is thickened, about 8 minutes.

Spoon all the mixture evenly over the bread. (If you're



preparing the dish ahead of time, cover the dish with plastic wrap and put in refrigerator until you're ready to bake and eat)

When you're ready to start baking, cover the baking dish with aluminum foil and bake for 25 minutes. Remove the foil and continue baking until puffed and golden, about 20 minutes more. (If you pre-made the dish and had it refrigerated, allow for an extra 10 minutes of cooking while covered)

Remove from the oven.

Using a fine sieve, dust with the confectioners' sugar.

Serve with warm maple syrup.

Serves 6 – 8.

Prep time: 15 minutes. Cooking Time: 55 minutes

## A little extra goodness

By Rabbi Steven Schwarzman

We usually think that there's only one new year each year. Well, maybe two, counting the civil new year along with the Jewish new year. But the Talmud's tractate Rosh Hashanah begins with a description of not one new year, but at least four new years, and possibly more.

When you think about it, we know this. There are school years and tax years and other kinds of years. And so it really isn't so surprising that the Talmud speaks of multiple new years, too. (If you've ever observed Tu Bishvat, for example, that's one of those new years, the new year for trees.)

But of all the new years, there is only one new year for years, and that is of course Rosh Hashanah. This is the day on which we mark the anniversary of the world's creation.

This is the day when we gather in the synagogue to hear the shofar and to pray that we be inscribed in the Book of Life. It is a day of serious reflection and prayer. It is *Yom Hadin*, the day of judgement.

Yet Rosh Hashanah is not entirely somber. It is also a joyous holiday. We put on our best clothes, we eat festive holiday meals, and we gather with family and friends, because whatever is decreed for us for the coming year, here we are: we may be battered by the pandemic and its lasting societal effects, we may be hurting spiritually or suffering financially, we may be saddened that the pandemic is still not entirely behind us. Or we may be hurting in other ways, because there is some pain in everyone's life.

But we are here, and we can be grateful for our lives, for our loved ones, for the community we belong to, and more. This year, it's important to remember how much good

there is in our lives when we ask G-d to remember us for good. And there is, perhaps, no better way to show this gratitude than to consciously begin treating those around us with a little extra goodness.

We can start doing this on Rosh Hashanah. And we can begin making this a year-round habit. Because, after all, there are multiple new years in the year, so we can start anew, and keep restarting anew, all year round. There's no need to wait, and if we start now, we can enter Rosh Hashanah and the Days of Awe with a little extra merit. Truly a win-win for all involved.

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life for a sweet, healthy, and good new year. *Shanah tovah*.

Rabbi Steven Schwarzman is the spiritual leader at Beth Shalom Synagogue, Edmonton's Conservative Egalitarian Congregation.

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# New children’s books for the Jewish New Year



By Penny Schwartz

BOSTON (JTA) -- Challah-eating Australian kangaroos, an adventurous cartoon retelling of the biblical story of Jonah and the welcome second-in-a-series chapter book about a young girl with a magical sense of smell are among the highlights of this year’s crop of Jewish children’s books for the High Holidays.

Kids named Max will be tickled by two books with their name in the title. And the prolific master storyteller Jane Yolen offers up a fun-to-read-aloud story that young kids no doubt will ask for again and again.

The array of colorfully illustrated books will enliven the High Holidays, which begin this year with Rosh Hashanah on the evening of Sept. 6. Jewish families can bid farewell to the summer and usher in the Jewish New Year by cracking open these engaging new holiday books.

## Not So Fast, Max: A Rosh Hashanah Visit with Grandma

By Annette Schottenfeld; illustrated by Jennifer Kirkham  
Kalaniot Books; ages 4-8

When Emily and Max’s grandmother, who they call Savta, visits from Israel for Rosh Hashanah, they look forward to their favorite tradition -- making caramel apples. But Max is impatient when Savta’s plan to visit an orchard to pick “tapuchim,” Hebrew for apples, will delay the process. Max wants no part of the fun until his spunky, youthful Savta surprises him with basket-shooting pointers and juggling lessons.

Annette Schottenfeld deserves praise for featuring an active, lively grandmother. Jennifer Kirkham’s large,

expressive illustrations glow with the colors of fall. Back pages include a note about Rosh Hashanah, a glossary of Hebrew words, and recipes or Savta’s apple cake and Max’s caramel apples.

## Happy 'Roo Year: It's Rosh Hashanah

By Jessica Hickman; illustrated by Elissambura  
Kar-Ben; ages 1-4

Young kids will be hopping to welcome Rosh Hashanah with a fun-loving family of kangaroos in this lively book in rhyming verse. At synagogue, they hear the blowing of the shofar, a ram’s horn, along with their Australian friends the koalas, wombats and wallabies. “Here everyone belongs” is a welcoming message.

## Something New for Rosh Hashanah

By Jane Yolen; illustrated by Christine Battuz  
Kar-Ben; ages 4-8

The kids will find a kindred spirit in Becca, a spunky girl who insists that she does not like anything new. In Jane Yolen’s delightful rhyming story set at the start of Rosh Hashanah, Becca declares “Never” to tasting her bubbe’s brisket and turns down kugel and even sweet honey cake.

But will something new on the New Year’s table attract Becca’s curiosity? Yolen, the acclaimed author of more than 400 books for children and dubbed “America’s Hans Christian Anderson,” delivers a charmer with playful language and repeating phrases that are perfect for reading aloud. Christine Battuz’s vibrant illustrations match the fun.

## Jonah’s Tale of a Whale

By Barry L. Schwartz; illustrated by James Rey Sanchez  
Apples & Honey Press; ages 5-9

Kids will be engrossed by this cartoonlike, age-appropriate retelling of the story of Jonah based on the eponymous biblical book that is read aloud in synagogues on Yom Kippur.

Jonah the prophet is not happy when God instructs him to warn the people of Nineveh to change their wicked

behavior, thinking Israel’s enemies should be punished for their misdeeds. To avoid doing what God asks, Jonah flees on a ship, is thrown overboard in a storm and swallowed by a whale. Jonah realizes he was wrong, however, and when he is freed from inside the whale, he warns the people of Nineveh, who take heed and begin to act kindly to each other.

Barry L. Schwartz, a rabbi and acclaimed author, balances the captivating adventure with the moral tale of the power of forgiveness. James Rey Sanchez’s colorful, cinematic illustrations bring the action to life with drama and touches of humor.

## Starlight Soup: A Sukkot Story

By Elana Rubinstein; illustrated by Jennifer Naalchigar  
Apples & Honey Press; ages 7-10

Just in time for Sukkot, Saralee Siegel is back in a chapter-book series about the endearing, spunky school-age girl whose magical sense of smell saves the day in the original, “Once Upon an Apple Cake: A Rosh Hashanah Story.”

Saralee’s grandfather, Zayde, the patriarch of the family’s popular Siegel House restaurant, asks her to create a zippy new recipe to excite customers for the seven-day fall festival, when Jews eat in small, open-roofed huts and welcome guests. Standing in her family’s large sukkah, Saralee’s senses waft up to the starlit skies and fill her with the fragrant aromas. Magically the flavors transform pots of boiling water into Starlight Soup -- it tastes like everyone’s favorite food.

Meanwhile, Saralee’s best friend, Harold, whose family owns a rival Jewish restaurant, is plotting his own Sukkot celebration. Trouble stirs the pot when Saralee’s soup overpowers everyone’s tastebuds and ruins their appetites.

What will Saralee do to make it all better? The book’s school setting is Jewish with racially diverse kids. Jennifer Naalchigar’s black-and-white, cartoon-style illustrations enliven the pages.

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# Deborah Lipstadt, noted Holocaust historian, is Biden’s pick for antisemitism envoy

By Ron Kampeas

(JTA) – On August 1, American President Joe Biden nominated Deborah Lipstadt, the Emory University Holocaust historian, to be the State Department’s antisemitism envoy.

Lipstadt is perhaps best known for defeating Holocaust denier David Irving after he sued her in a British court for defamation for calling him a Holocaust denier. Her 2005 book, “History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier,” was made into a 2016 movie with Rachel Weisz starring as Lipstadt.

Lipstadt, 74, has been for years a go-to expert for the media and for legislators on Holocaust issues, particularly on how the genocide’s meaning should be understood in the 21st century, and whether it had any cognates among anti-democratic forces in the current day. She twice endorsed Barack Obama for president but has been on call for her expertise across the political spectrum.

Last year, during the election, she broke a longstanding

taboo on comparing present-day American politicians to the Nazis and endorsed an ad by the Jewish Democratic Council of America likening the Trump administration to 1930s Germany. Lipstadt said Holocaust analogies were still off-limits, but she could see parallels to the rise of the Nazis.

“I would say in the attacks we’re seeing on the press, the courts, academic institutions, elected officials and even, and most chillingly, the electoral process, that this deserves comparison,” she said at the time, referring to the JDCA ad. “It’s again showing how the public’s hatred can be whipped up against Jews. Had the ad contained imagery of the Shoah, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Jewish organizations, alarmed by a spike in antisemitism, have been pressing the Biden administration to name an envoy and to name a Jewish liaison to the community — another post that White House officials said would be filled soon. The Trump administration took two years to name an envoy.

Lipstadt will be the first nominee who will need to be confirmed by the Senate since Congress first created the



Deborah Lipstadt Renowned Holocaust Historian (Osnat Perelshtein)

position in 2004. Congress last year elevated the role to ambassador-level, granting the position more funding and easier access to the secretary of state and the president. If Lipstadt is confirmed, she will be the fifth person in the position.

The antisemitism monitor’s role is tracking and reporting on the phenomenon overseas, and lobbying governments to address anti-Jewish bigotry within their borders. The position does not have a domestic role, although Elan Carr, Trump’s appointee, sometimes criticized domestic actors, including J Street.

## ADL and Hillel join forces to address antisemitism

Hillel International, the largest Jewish student organization in the world, and ADL (Anti-Defamation League), a leading anti-hate organization fighting antisemitism and all forms of hate, are joining forces to work collaboratively on several initiatives starting in the new academic year to proactively address the disturbing rise in antisemitic activity on campus through new educational programs and assessments of the climate on campus for Jewish students.

The new initiative will harness ADL’s deep expertise in tracking and responding to antisemitic incidents and Hillel’s vast network of professionals and programs on campus, reaching more than 400,000 Jewish students in North America and hundreds of thousands of Jewish students overseas. Working together, ADL and Hillel will grow their education and engagement of the full campus community – including students, faculty, university staff and administrators – with quality curricula, programming and research, and will collaborate in responding to antisemitic incidents when they occur.

“Jewish college students are increasingly subjected to antisemitism today, both on campus and on social media, and are urgently seeking support and tools to effectively respond,” said Adam Lehman, President and CEO of Hillel International. “Bringing together ADL’s expertise and Hillel’s deep relationships on campus, we can empower Jewish students to speak out against hate and educate the

broader campus community to ensure antisemitism is not tolerated at colleges and universities.”

“Antisemitism remains a serious problem on campus, and many Jewish students are not fully equipped to respond when they encounter hate in the university environment,” said Jonathan A. Greenblatt ADL CEO and National Director. “Hillel International and ADL are both committed to ensuring all Jewish students feel safe on campus and are able to live and study in environments free of harassment and antisemitism.”

During the 2020-2021 academic year, Hillel International counted a total of 244 antisemitic incidents on college and university campuses, according to preliminary data. This compares to the 181 antisemitic incidents reported during the 2019-2020 academic year, when most classes were still taking place in person.

ADL and Hillel International will collaborate on several new initiatives:

**Curriculum development:** Developing training on the history of antisemitism and how it manifests on campus today for Hillel professionals and students on campus, so they can better identify and respond to antisemitic activity.

**Research:** Working through Hillel’s Campus Climate Initiative, surveying campuses nationwide to assess the campus climate for Jewish students across the United

States, with results likely available in early fall.

**Incident Reporting:** Hillel, ADL and the Secure Community Network, the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, will work to create a single reporting mechanism that can help ensure students receive the support they need when they encounter antisemitism on campus and to ensure that antisemitic incidents at universities are appropriately tracked in a centralized database.

**Never is Now Summit:** Hillel International will be a co-sponsor of ADL’s annual Never is Now Summit on Antisemitism and Hate, which will be held virtually this year Nov. 7-9, to address antisemitism on campus and engage college students and parents, university administrators and high school students and parents with program and sessions tailored to their concerns.

Founded in 1923, Hillel has been enriching the lives of Jewish students for more than 90 years. Today, Hillel International is a global organization that welcomes students of all backgrounds and fosters an enduring commitment to Jewish life, learning and Israel. Hillel is dedicated to enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world. As the largest Jewish student organization in the world, Hillel builds connections with emerging adults at more than 550 colleges and universities, and inspires them to direct their own path.

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# Rosh Hashanah and the sweetness of the ordinary

By Rabbi Ilana Krygier-Lapides



Rabbi Ilana Krygier-Lapides

In the 2006 fantasy/comedy film, *Click*, Adam Sandler plays a harassed 40-something trying to juggle the challenges of making a living with being a good husband, father, and son to his ageing parents. He comes across a magical universal remote control and discovers that, with a simple click of a button, he can fast-forward through the tiresome, boring, and annoying parts of his life. Fights with his wife, long hours at the office, and the grunt-work of parenting his little ones are passed over so he can get to the good stuff like receiving a promotion and accolades at work. The technology becomes so adept at forwarding over the less-interesting moments that Sandler's character doesn't even have to push the button – the remote just 'knows' – and this is when things start to go horribly wrong. Sandler's character starts missing out on great swathes of his life – he gets thrust forward in time to find that his young children are surly teenagers; more time travel and he learns that his father has passed away; another long push and Sandler learns that he's been so robotic and unavailable during his 'forwarding times' that his beloved wife leaves him for someone more responsive.

I won't give away the ending, but I will say that Sandler's character learns very quickly that fast-forwarding over the more tiresome aspects of one's existence may mean missing some of life's most sweet and meaningful moments in the process.

This movie has an important message for us these days. As we enter into the introspective weeks approaching Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we are challenged in our tradition with *Cheshbon HaNefesh* – an accounting of the soul. We must take stock and ask questions

about how we treated our family, our friends, strangers, and even ourselves. Were we present and mindful, or were we phoning it in? Rabbi Mendy Kaminker says: Once you have a better picture of who you are now, and who you'd like to be, then come the High Holidays you are ready to get under the hood and make the necessary changes and commitments.

Rabbi Ruth Adar in her blog, 'The Coffee Shop Rabbi,' cautions that "*Cheshbon HaNefesh* is not for beating ourselves up. Jewish tradition ascribes to each human being an infinite, unmeasurable worth. There is no such thing as a worthless human being in Judaism. This is not about our worth as individuals; it is about the worth of our individual behavior." Like Missouri, the 'show-me' state, what matters is not our motivation or even our thoughts. In the end, the only thing that really matters are our actions.

If there are no worthless human beings in our tradition, what about worthless moments? In the in-between time of this pandemic, with its 'two steps forward, one step back,' it is difficult to gain momentum. We lurch toward the goal of some kind of normalcy, experiencing moments of joy and reunion, but we also feel frustration, boredom, and fear. In Yiddish, the expression '*nish aheen une nish aheyr*' sums it up – we are neither here nor there.

It is tempting to be like Sandler's character in the movie and wish away our days; to close our eyes, shut-down emotionally, and wait for the nightmare to pass. That would be a missed opportunity. This pandemic has provided us with plenty of character-building moments. Over the course of the past year and a half, we realized that we took simple things for granted: being crammed onto a plane to visit family, or making small-talk with an acquaintance, or running into a store without the risk of exposure.

When we are finally able to return to those ordinary,

## Camp BB-Riback: A success



Camp BB-Riback Summer of 21 wrapped up this week and they're already counting the sleeps until Summer 22.

commonplace, tedious moments that we once took for granted, will we be able to remember the sweetness they bring? How long will it be before we take them for granted again?

As much as we want to leave behind us the scourge of this virus and the fear it instills, let us not wish away our days. Every day brings its own challenges and gifts - every moment is one we won't get back.

May the coming New Year bring love, joy, and good health to us all, and may we meet the boring, uncomfortable moments with the patience and strength to uncover their buried sweetness.

From my family to yours, *Shana Tova U'metukah – A Zeece une Gezint Yor!*

*Rabbi Ilana Krygier-Lapides is a freelance, non-denominational officiant and educator in Calgary. The focus of her Rabbinate is in helping people of all ages and affiliation to create positive and meaningful relationships with their Judaism. For more information about her practice, visit [www.RockyMountainRabbi.com](http://www.RockyMountainRabbi.com) or email Rabbi Ilana at [RockyMountainRabbi@gmail.com](mailto:RockyMountainRabbi@gmail.com)*



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A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER

Where has the time gone? It seems like just yesterday Jews around the world were wondering: “What does the pandemic mean for the High Holidays? Will I be able to gather with family? Will synagogues be open, and services be held in person? If not, what are my alternatives?” A whole year later, we are wondering many of the same things. Over the last twelve months we have struggled with uncertainty, continued to feel isolated, and at times held out hope that this year would be better, that things would ‘return to normal’. This year has continued to be very difficult for most of us. We have felt alone, we have experienced enhanced anxiety, and chances are that someone we know and care for has been impacted by COVID-19.

In the face of all of these challenges, we have continued to thrive as a community. I’m not suggesting it’s been easy, but I have had the privilege of working and partnering alongside many of our community’s organizations, synagogues, staff teams, and volunteer leaders – and Jewish Calgary measures up against any Jewish community around the world. Our community’s organizations and their leadership have been innovating all year long to keep us engaged, provide Jewish experiences, and support our most vulnerable community members. In fact, the

day after last year’s High Holidays, our synagogues were already developing main plans, contingency plans, and more for this year. Jewish Calgary is very fortunate to not only have amazing individual organizations, but a collaborative group that is so much more than the sum of its parts.

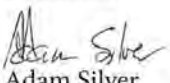
The Hebrew month of *Elul* is a time of preparation for *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*. For many of us, we use this time to reflect on our successes and challenges over the past year, and set goals and dreams for the days and months to come. For some of us this means correcting bad habits and expanding on good ones. For others, this means rebuilding relationships and rethinking values. For all of us, *Elul* and the High Holidays are a time of renewal; individual and communal. As Jews, we have a reset button built into our calendar, each and every year. However, I’m not sure enough of us make use of this tool. So – especially this year – I would like to challenge all of us to push the reset button. I’m not suggesting we wipe out all of the good we’ve done, or momentum we’ve started to build toward whatever positive goals we have set. I am suggesting we reset our attitudes, that we find gratitude and compassion for ourselves and for others in the coming year. This has been a very difficult time

for most everyone and chances are if you are feeling something, someone else is also experiencing the same thing, too.

When the *shofar* blasts, when we taste the apples and honey, and when we beat our chests as we atone for our sins, let’s all take a pause to find something – no matter how small – for which we can be grateful. Let’s use that ember to continue to build a light of positivity, of hope. Let’s each consider what we can do – for ourselves and for others – that will help start the year 5782 off on the right foot. How can we make Jewish Calgary better and stronger? How can we use our Jewish reset button in positive, meaningful ways? What small steps can we take to improve the world for others?

As we contemplate this (as well as how many pieces of honey cake and sweet *challah* we will eat), my family and I would like to wish each and all of you a *Shana Tova U’Metukah* – A Sweet and Happy New Year!

B’Shalom,

  
Adam Silver  
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

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# Shana Tova

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# SHANA TOVA

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# Rabbis are supposed to offer hope on the High Holidays. What if I can't?



Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

By Rachel Barenblat

(JTA) — I was a writer before I became a rabbi and High Holiday sermons usually come easily to me. Some years I have so many ideas and teachings and hopes to share that I accidentally write more sermons than I need to give. Not this year. This year I haven't felt able to begin writing at all.

The enormity of what's broken in the world feels paralyzing. In recent weeks we've seen unprecedented heat and wildfires in the Pacific Northwest, a flaming oil spill turning part of the Gulf of Mexico into an inferno, and extreme flooding across Europe. "Who by fire, who by water," the words of the Unetaneh Tokef prayer, land differently this year. Dayenu, that could be enough to still my pen — but there's more. Last year, leading High Holiday services via Zoom from home, I spoke about our obligation to take care of each other by staying apart. I turned to the rabbi of the Warsaw Ghetto for his teachings about hope during adversity. I imagined Rosh Hashanah 5782: Surely we would be

vaccinated and safely back together!

The past 18 months of pandemic were hard even for those of us who have it easy (a job, a place to live, no illness). For many the isolation of sheltering in place was crushing, or numbing. For many without stable income or a roof overhead, the pandemic has been unimaginably worse. So, too, for frontline workers and those whose jobs are "essential" and often unseen.

When vaccines became available, my heart soared on wings of hope. But I hadn't reckoned with the power of social media influencers lying about the putative risks of the vaccine, or claiming the virus is a hoax or "not that bad." The simple truth that vaccines save lives became perversely inverted — and weaponized. Now vast numbers of my fellow Americans are refusing vaccination, claiming "personal freedom" at the expense of the collective good.

I keep thinking of the parable of the guy in the boat drilling a hole under his own seat. He doesn't seem to notice that his personal freedom is going to drown everyone else. As a parable, it's tart and a little bit funny. In real life, it's horrifying. Dayenu: that too could be enough to spark despair. But there's more.

The governor of Texas recently made it illegal for municipalities to require masks. To many, masks have become a symbol of government control. To me, a mask is literally the least we can do to protect the immunocompromised (and all children under the age of 12.) Refusing to wear a mask during this pandemic is like leaving your lights on during the London Blitz.

Combine the anti-maskers, and the anti-vaxxers, and the new Delta variant (more contagious than chicken pox, and vaccinated people can spread it), and cases are rising again. We're facing another long winter of isolation and mounting death counts — and it didn't have to be this way.

Between what we're doing to our planet (which disproportionately harms those who are most vulnerable), and the impact of anti-maskers and anti-vaxxers on public

health (ditto), and the persistence of the Big Lie that the presidential election was "stolen," and the lack of accountability around the Jan. 6 insurrection, it's hard not to despair. How can I write sermons from this place? I'm pretty sure no one comes to High Holiday services to hear their rabbi admit that she's given up hope.

I poured out my heart about this to my hevruta partner, who reminded me that in Torah even G-d sometimes despaired of humanity. When G-d despaired of us, it was our ancestors' job to push back and remind G-d of reasons to hope for humanity's future. This is part of why we live (and learn!) in community: to help each other find hope when our hearts despair.

Indeed, the Torah readings most of us will encounter on Rosh Hashanah cue up that inner journey. On the first day we read about the casting-out of Hagar and Ishmael. On the second day, the stakes may feel even higher with the binding of Isaac. Yet these same Torah stories also remind us of the hope to be found in tough times. An angel opens Hagar's eyes to a flowing spring, and she and her son are saved. An angel opens Abraham's eyes to the ram caught in the thicket, and Isaac's life is spared.

Our task is to see the traumas of this moment clearly — and also to cultivate the ability to look beyond our own despair. The Days of Awe open the door to new beginnings, even when (or especially when) we can't see our own way back to hope for change. We just have to be like those biblical angels for each other: helping each other see the hope we can't find alone.

*Rachel Barenblat, a founding builder at Bayit: Building Jewish, is rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams, MA. Since 2003 she has blogged as the Velveteen Rabbi.*

*The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.*

# B'nai Brith appalled by wave of Swastika Graffiti in Eastern Canada

TORONTO – B'nai Brith Canada is alarmed by a noticeable increase in antisemitic vandalism across Eastern Canada, seemingly coinciding with the start of the federal election campaign.

In the latest outrage, on August 19, a swastika and other graffiti was discovered on the entrance of the Beth Sholom Synagogue in midtown Toronto. That incident has been reported to Toronto Police.

Earlier in the week, campaign signs for Anthony Housefather and Rachel Bendayan, two Jewish MPs running for re-election in Montreal, were found defaced with swastikas, prompting condemnations from Prime Minister Trudeau and other federal party leaders.

On August 21, a sign in downtown Toronto intended to

draw awareness to the scourge of antisemitism was ironically vandalized with antisemitic rhetoric.

On August 16, a vehicle in the parking garage of a midtown Toronto apartment building was defaced with swastikas. That same day, Charlton Public School, located in the heavily Jewish Thornhill neighbourhood, was hit with swastikas and other obscene graffiti.

And on August 15, the date the federal election was formally called, participants in a Toronto-area Jewish baseball league found a giant swastika drawn in the sand at Harding Park in Richmond Hill, where they were set to play that morning. That incident is under investigation by York Regional Police.

"The continued use of the Nazi swastika in an attempt

to intimidate Jewish communities is reprehensible and unacceptable," said Michael Mostyn, Chief Executive Officer of B'nai Brith Canada. "We trust that our law enforcement partners will investigate these matters diligently and do everything possible to apprehend the perpetrators."

Coincidentally, Toronto Police announced on August 16 that Carlos Anaya-Sanchez had been charged with one count of mischief under \$5000 in connection with swastikas drawn on chairs at Downsview Park back in June.

In recent years, B'nai Brith has noted that incidents of antisemitism tend to increase during election campaigns in Canada, whether federal or provincial.

In addition, May of 2021 bore witness to the highest number of antisemitic assaults reported to B'nai Brith since it began its Annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 1983, many of them connected to fighting between the State of Israel and the Hamas terror group. Indeed, more antisemitic assaults were reported to B'nai Brith in May of 2021 than in all of 2020, 2019 and 2018 combined.

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# Shanah Tovah!

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# Shanah Tovah



# May you be like Ruth and like Esther... and like Sisera's mother



Rabbi Mark Glickman

By Rabbi Mark Glickman

Jewish tradition provides us with countless wonderful role models: Moses, the brilliant leader; Esther, the courageous queen; Abraham, the faithful servant of G-d and the destroyer of idols. The list could go on.

One of the most important people our tradition calls upon us to emulate, however, is a person who doesn't even get a name in the bible. The

text refers to her only as Sisera's mother – the mother of the powerful Canaanite general who commanded 900

chariots and was assassinated by Yael after his army fell to the Israelites in the battle of Mount Tabor.

After Sisera's death, the bible tells us that Through the window peered Sisera's mother. Behind the lattice she wailed (*vayitabbev*): "Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why so late the clatter of his wheels." (Judges 5:28)

Reading the text, our heart breaks for Sisera's mother. We can picture her waiting by the door; we can hear her wail; we can feel her heart break with the realization that never again will the clattering of her son's wheels announce his return.

When will things be better again, she wonders. When will my life be whole and complete like it used to be?

If we could speak with Sisera's mother across the ages, we might respond with compassion, reminding her that grief and sadness strike most of us at some point, that healing is possible, but that after a loss such as this, her life will never be whole again. Her challenge now will be to learn to live despite the pain. In the meantime, we would embrace her and encourage her to weep for as long as she wants.

Notably, centuries later, as the rabbis crafted their instructions as to how we are to observe the Days of Awe, they turned not to the brilliance of Moses or the courage of Esther as models for how we are to behave, but rather to the sincerity of Sisera's mother. In fact, Rosh Hashanah,

the Talmud says, is supposed to be a *Yom Yevavah* for us – a day of wailing. It's the same word that the Torah used to describe the mournful cries of Sisera's mother. One sage argued that each of the three blasts of *shevarim*, the broken Shofar call, should be as long as one of the broken cries of Sisera's mother.

This year, perhaps more than many others, we will be able to understand Rosh Hashanah as a day of wailing. When will our lives be whole again? When will the world be like it used to be? How can we possibly mourn our losses? The broken notes of the Shofar's *shevarim* will echo the brokenness we see around us in so many places.

This year, let's allow Sisera's mother to be our role model. Let's wail as we need to; let's mourn our losses; let's allow our broken cries to ascend heavenward. Then, perhaps G-d will enfold us in a divine embrace, reminding us that grief happens, that pain can heal, and that life will never again be the same.

When we cry from our hearts, when we make this New Year a *Yom Yevavah*, then we will have taken one important step to finding healing and making it a good year for us all.

G-d knows we need it.

*Rabbi Mark Glickman is the spiritual leader at Temple B'nai Tikvah, Calgary's Reform Congregation.*

# Canada will spend \$5M to strengthen security at Jewish institutions

By David Lazarus

MONTREAL (JTA) — Amid an unprecedented number of antisemitic incidents in Canada, the government allocated more than \$5 million to shore up the security of the nation's Jewish community institutions.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the announcement last month at a special virtual national "summit" on antisemitism.

The new funding is part of his government's Security Infrastructure Program to bolster the safety of at-risk minorities.

A main message at the conference was that good intentions won't be enough to rid the world of one of its oldest scourges.

According to B'nai Brith Canada, more than 2,600 antisemitic incidents took place in Canada in 2020, a fifth consecutive record-setting year. Some 44% of them appeared to be related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the group said.

"The rise in hate-motivated crimes against the Jewish community in the past few months is not only alarming, it's completely unacceptable," Trudeau said. "As Jewish Canadians, too many of you have told me you're feeling isolated and vulnerable."

Trudeau was among the number of prominent voices heard at the conference, which was chaired by Diversity and Inclusion Minister Bardish Chagger and former Justice Minister Irwin Cotler. Along with the many government officials, the participants included Jewish advocacy organizations, the Black community, educators, law enforcement and students.

Annamie Paul, the Black-Jewish leader of Canada's Green Party, told the conference that her support of Israel has led to a barrage of antisemitic hate against her.

Trudeau noted in his remarks that measures already taken by his government to fight hate included naming Cotler as a special envoy to further Holocaust education and adopting the working definition of antisemitism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Cotler said in a published interview that the summit was "timely" and "necessary," but that action needs to follow words.

"It can't be just a one-time discussion," he said. "It will have to be an action plan that is developed and implemented as a result of the discussion."

A related summit on Islamophobia was held the following day.

# L'Shanah Tova Umetukah

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# R shana tova!

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# JHSSA: Preserving local history and looking to the future

By JHSSA Staff and Board Members

As Rosh Hashana approaches, Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta is preparing for a new year, and looking back on a busy and strange time, with all of the varied impacts of the pandemic.

JHSSA Zoom programming continues to be well received and attended, and over the past year, we expanded our 'reach' to include a mini-series co-hosted with Calgary Hadassah-WIZO. We were also pleased to be invited to present *Attestations: a military mosaic of unexpected stories*, for JCC Chicago last April. The American process for accessing military records is different from the Canadian one, so there was substantial interest in the range and amount of information we have been able to include in our Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I & II database. This presentation, a slight revision of our 2017 Remembrance Day program, can be viewed on our website, [jhssa.org](http://jhssa.org), under the Publications / Videos tab.

We were very excited by the local community's response to our Canadian Jewish Heritage Month project last May, the *History Mystery Box*. Interested parties signed up to receive a free box containing 11 mystery history items, copies of documents or photos – including photos of artifacts -- from the JHSSA archives. Each box included questions and open-ended prompts for examining and responding to the material, along with a sealed envelope containing factual information about each item. Participants received their box, spent some time engaging with it either individually or in a group (respecting all relevant Covid restrictions), and then sent their response back to JHSSA. We've included one of the responses in the Fall 2021 issue of our journal, *Discovery*, and are hoping to use many others as the basis of a JHSSA program in the spring of 2022. A copy of the *History Mystery Box* is still available for loan from the JHSSA office.

JHSSA was proud to again participate in *Historic Calgary Week*, this year's timely theme being "Zooming Back: Unmasking the Past," with a reading by local author and JHSSA member Trudy Cowan. Cowan's children's book *Quarantine: Keep Out*, is based on the use of the Montefiore homesteader's synagogue building as a hospital, during the 1918 Influenza pandemic. Covid pandemic considerations prompted an outdoor event, and JHSSA was fortunate to be able to partner with Heritage Park Historical Village in Calgary, where the building was

donated after its restoration in 2009 through the work of *The Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project*, and hold the presentation on the lawn beside the building. Also during Historic Calgary Week, JHSSA Board member Harry Sanders gave a Zoom presentation with Calgary Public Library, about the only street in Calgary to ever be named for a Jewish person, Reinach Avenue. Both programs were enthusiastically received. Many thanks to Heritage Park, Calgary Public Library and Chinook County Historical Society, and especially Trudy and Harry for their efforts toward the programs.

As much as we focus on our past, JHSSA is always moving forward. We are pleased to announce that our *Voices of Experience* oral history project has received additional funding through a Heritage Preservation Partnership Program grant from the Government of Alberta. We are delighted that Judy Shapiro is back to helm the project, and are grateful to our intrepid volunteers, who have been working steadily since we received notification mid-summer. Our target for Part 2 is an ambitious 50 interviews recorded and transcribed over nine months. We would welcome additional volunteer transcribers to help us reach this goal.

Our programming committee has been hard at work, and we invite everyone to keep an eye on our website for information about several upcoming events. The program for our AGM on October 25 will feature a look at the Calgary Jewish community's commitment to the situation in the Soviet Union through the early 1970's, and on November 16, Sandra Lipton will present on her research for the "She Also Served" art exhibit at The Military



Trudy Cowan presents her book *Quarantine: Keep Out* at Heritage Park for Historic Calgary Week July 2021.

Museums in Calgary, highlighting the little-known stories of the southern Alberta Jewish servicewomen (including Cecilia Feingold, Esther Raber, Tanya Volvnick) as well as the experiences of the Jewish servicewomen who moved to southern Alberta in the postwar period.

Volunteers are also hard at work gathering material for a winter program in honour of our late board member and resident history buff, Manny Cohen. The program will touch on areas of local Jewish history that Manny held close to his heart, interspersed with stories from people who knew him in the many different facets of his life. Please contact the JHSSA office if you can share any memories, photos or video of Manny.

We are looking forward to the coming year, to our planned projects and programs, and to working together to preserve our local history with our resilient community, as we all make the most of our ever-evolving circumstances.

## A Super Fun Summer at JCC Camp



The summer is coming to an end - marking another successful season of fun for the kids who attended JJC Day Camp.

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A still life image featuring a bowl of honey, a pomegranate, and other fruits.

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# Zach Hyman chats about his Jewish upbringing and about wearing #18

**By Jeremy Appel**

Recent Edmonton Oilers acquisition Zach Hyman says the supportive Jewish environment he was raised in gave him a strong foundation of support for launching and sustaining his professional hockey career.

“It was very familial,” Hyman, who has four brothers, says of his Jewish upbringing in Toronto. “I had great, supporting parents, who really believed in me and tried to encourage me to follow my dreams and my passions. And I had a great support system of extended family, and of course a very strong support community behind me.”

Hyman, 29, signed a seven-year \$38.5-million contract with the Oilers in late-July after playing six seasons with the Toronto Maple Leafs, where he scored 185 regular season points — 86 goals and 99 assists — as well as 13 playoff points.

“That was a special time to be able to play for my home team to start my career out, but I’m really excited about this new chapter in my life and this new opportunity,” Hyman said.

He says he'll be moving to Edmonton in early September in time for Oilers training camp. He plans to grow his family and provide his kids with a strong Jewish communal upbringing, just like the one he had.

Hyman, who says he knew he wanted to play in the NHL from a young age, describes his Jewish upbringing as secular — he grew up attending shul on the High Holidays and doesn't consume pork. "For me, being Jewish is more than just a religion. Obviously, there's a really big communal aspect to it," he said, describing the distinction between various religious denominations as "blurred".

He received a full Jewish day school education growing up in Toronto — first at the United Synagogue Day School, and then at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto

Tanenbaum Campus for high school, where he met his future wife, with whom he has an eight-month-old son named Theo and a Siberian Husky dog named Whitey.

After taking a year off to focus on hockey, Hyman spent four years playing hockey on a scholarship at the University of Michigan starting in 2011, where he majored in history.

While his Jewish education provided him with a strong communal foundation, playing hockey allowed Hyman to expand his social sphere outside the Jewish bubble, interacting with people of various backgrounds, he says.

“For me, leaving home and going to university outside of Toronto obviously was a change, but I think hockey prepared me for that,” said Hyman. “It was an incredible experience. I learned a ton there, and it really helped propel my hockey career and shape my career too.”

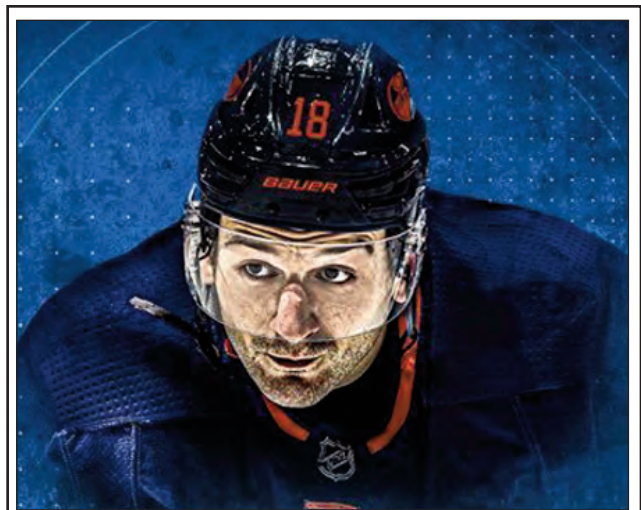
Growing up, he played for various teams in the Greater Toronto Hockey League — the Toronto Red Wings, the Jr. Canadiens and Mississauga Reps — before moving on to the Ontario Junior A Hockey League, where he played for the Hamilton Red Wings.

In 2013, he represented Canada at Israel's Maccabi Games, where he won a gold medal.

Hyman was number 11 on the Leafs, but he can't use that number on the Oilers, since it's retired as Mark Messier's, so Hyman will be playing as number 18, which is the day in December Theo was born on, in addition to its Jewish significance of chai, the hebrew word for life.

Hyman has published three children's books with Penguin Random Rouse since 2014 — *The Bambino and Me*, *Hockey Hero* and *The Magician's Secret*.

Ultimately, Hyman says the Toronto Jewish community's support for his ambitions, from his teachers who allowed him to do work outside the classroom to accommodate his hockey commitments to his family's large



**Zach Hyman will be suiting up as an Edmonton Oiler this fall, wearing Number 18.**

network of friends who all wanted to see him succeed, was instrumental in his success. "Everybody was cheering for me and supporting me, and rooting me on," he said.

## Lightning round

Matzo balls or kreplach? Matzo balls.

Favourite Jewish holiday: Pesach, because you could always go away for spring break, so I would go to California to visit my grandparents.

Red or white horseradish? Red.

Adam Sandler or Seth Rogen? Adam Sandler.

Favourite hamantaschen flavour: Cherry.

Apple sauce or sour cream on latkes? Apple sauce all day.

Larry David or Jerry Seinfeld? Larry David.

Favourite type of mustard: Spicy honey.

Montreal or Toronto bagels? (Laughs) You're going to do that to me? Toronto, I guess.

Smoked meat or corned beef? Corned beef.

*Jeremy Appel is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.*

## Yom Kipper *Cont. from page 9*

of frustration and sadness when it came to their body, I told myself, and they weren't skipping the fast. A few years of unhealthy choices and suddenly I'm exempt for life? It didn't seem right.

Children, elders and the ill are free from fasting. Those of us with eating disorders in our histories aren't mutually exclusive to any of those categories. For me, that meant I needed more than a "well, babies don't fast either" brushoff when I asked why I shouldn't. Ultimately, Yom Kippur is a holiday about self-reflection and solitude, and I didn't want to miss out on that. The point, as I'd always assumed, was kind of that you're made to suffer, and in that suffering lies redemption.

But since then, I've come to realize several key things through my years of recovery regarding Yom Kippur, and what it means not to fast:

1. It's a day for self-reflection, meaning that what everyone else is doing with their bodies in relation to their faith is none of your concern, and your eating habits should likewise be none of theirs (provided said eating habits are not causing you bodily harm).

2. The way to atonement is not through pain, and punishing your body has nothing to do with redemption. My belief is that God wants each of us healthy and kind to ourselves, and when you are engaged in disordered behaviors, you're not being either.

3. In terms of atonement, Yom Kippur is a day not only for thinking about your actions, but how your actions have affected others. When engaged in your eating disorder, you are thinking of yourself. This is an uncomfortable thought, since so many with this disease are people-pleasers and accommodators, but in practice, it has truth. So think instead of your family, of those who love you and want you healthy and alive, and practice love for them by nurturing your own body.

Yom Kippur, more than being a Day of Atonement, is a day for setting goals and sealing fates for the coming year. If you are suffering or have suffered from an eating disorder, rather than repenting through the act of not eating, repent by giving your body and soul the sustenance they had once been denied. Ask your body's forgiveness, and more than anything, try to forgive yourself.

Punishment and atonement are not the same; what I had assumed about the role of fasting was incorrect. Yom Kippur is not at all about suffering — it is about apologizing. I used to spend the day, and much of my life, apologizing to others. Now that I am healthy, on the Day of Atonement, I apologize to myself.

If you or someone you know is suffering from an eating disorder, you can call (800) 931-2237 for help, or visit [nationaleatingdisorders.org](http://nationaleatingdisorders.org).

*Sarah Simone in 2020 was a student at the University of Colorado Boulder studying English literature, Jewish studies, and peace and conflict studies. She is involved with the restorative justice community in Boulder and is interested in applying restorative techniques wherever possible to build a more just world.*

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from the

Sources

Smoke gets in our eyes

by Eliezer Segal

In the days when the Temple stood in Jerusalem, the service of the Day of Atonement was focused principally on the unique ceremonies that were performed there by the high priest. On that one day of the year when he alone entered the Holy of Holies, the Torah instructed that “he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord... and bring it within the curtain. And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the covering that is upon the ark of testimony, lest he die.”

The wording of the passage seems quite clear about the sequence: First, the priest removes some burning coals from the altar in the sanctuary and places them in a censer. Then the ingredients of the incense are carried in. After these items have been conveyed through the curtained partition leading into the Holy of Holies, he activates the incense by placing it on the burning coals, thereby producing the desired cloud of fragrant smoke. This indeed is the sequence delineated in the Mishnah and other rabbinic traditions.

However, during the era of the Second Temple some Jews were insisting that the high priest place the incense on the fire *before* entering the Holy of Holies so that the cloud would envelop him while he was approaching the inner sanctum.

This divergence of interpretation was the topic of a crucial sectarian split between the two most influential Jewish ideological groupings of the era, the Pharisees and the Sadducees (or “Baitusin”). The rabbinic texts normally reflect the viewpoints of the Pharisees out of which talmudic Judaism evolved. A contrary position was advocated by the Sadducees, the party that was rooted in the priestly aristocracy (descended from the line of King David’s high priest Zadok). Josephus Flavius and the rabbinic tradition both attest that the Sadducees were reluctantly compelled to follow the Pharisee practices under pressure from the general populace for whom any deviation could provoke violent protests.

With regard to the preparation of the incense, the talmudic traditions traced the Sadducee position to the

wording of a verse introducing the Torah’s account of the Day of Atonement: “for I will appear in the cloud upon the ark covering.” In its original context, the verse seems to be employing the familiar imagery of the divine presence being concealed in a mystical cloud. However, the Sadducees applied it specifically to the smoke of the burning incense. From this they inferred that there is no moment when the high priest can venture inside the Holy of Holies without the protective covering of the incense cloud. According to the Talmud, the Pharisees explained that text differently, as a requirement that the incense formula contain an ingredient that made the smoke rise upward.

This controversy does not conform to the usual patterns of disputes between the sects over the interpretation and application of Jewish law. In most cases, it was the Sadducees who supported simple literal readings of the scriptural texts, whereas the Pharisees proposed novel interpretations or followed customs based on oral traditions that had little or no basis in the written Bible. And yet when it came to the preparation of the incense on Yom Kippur, it was the Pharisees who come across as the literalists and the Sadducees who appear to be taking liberties with the sacred text.

For these reasons, a widely accepted theory among scholars is that this dispute did not really originate in differing textual interpretations, but rather in the experiential dimensions of the Day of Atonement service. The Sadducees, we must recall, represented the perspectives of the elite priestly circles; and it was the high priests alone who had to undergo the awesome encounter with the divine presence. We may readily imagine the fear and trepidation that agitated the priest lest he violate the Torah’s admonition “that he come not at all times into the holy place, lest he die.” Indeed, biblical and rabbinic traditions contain examples of unfortunate persons who perished from approaching the sacred domain. The high priests would even hold parties after Yom Kippur to celebrate their safe emergence from the terrifying ordeal.

Some scholars interpret the dispute in a very different

direction. They argue that the Pharisees were the ones who perceived the cloud of incense permeating the Holy of Holies as a tangible embodiment of the divine presence enshrined in the Temple; whereas the Sadducees—by situating the burning of the incense in an outer area—were in effect rejecting that position.

The Sadducees noted that the normal rules governing social etiquette at banquets required that incense be prepared in an outer hall before being brought into a banquet hall; hence it would appear disrespectful to act otherwise toward the Almighty.

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch pounced on this detail to score polemical points against advocates of modernization in nineteenth-century Europe. This was in keeping with a well-established polemical convention where ideological rivals accused each other of being the successors of the heretical Sadducees, whether for their inflexible conservatism or for their rejection of oral tradition. “So already with these ancient Sadducees, empty conventional forms were the same hollow idols to which alone our modern Sadducees bow, and in whose name they try to introduce the most open breaches of the Law into the most holy moments of the divine service.”

The Mishnah relates that the elders who instructed the high priest in performing the Yom Kippur rites used to impose on him a solemn religious oath “not to change even one detail of all that we have taught you.” Both sides were then moved to tears at the realization of how factionalism and distrust had made such an oath necessary.

Perhaps we would do well if we too were moved to shed a few tears over the ideological intransigence and dogmatism that persist in casting their clouds over our fragmented Jewish world.

Eliezer Segal is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.

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



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Rosh Hashanah from  
Sheila Bermack & family


L'Shanah Tova  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah! from  
Lorie Abernathy and Gie Roberts



L'Shanah Tovah - Happy  
Rosh Hashanah!  
from Jeannette & Rudy Berger

L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from  
Marni Besser  
and Steve Lipton





L'Shanah Tovah - Happy Rosh  
Hashanah! from Jackie & David  
Busheikin and family

Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from  
the Balaban family





Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from Sam & Lauren Bell  
and family



Happy & Sweet  
Rosh Hashanah!  
from Helena Barker  
& Israel Lachovsky

L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Murray Robins  
and family







Wishing friends & family all  
the best for this New Year!  
from Linda & John Barron  
and family

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all the best for this new year!  
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לשנה טובה תכתבו  
from Faye & Warren Book and family


L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh  
Hashanah!  
from  
Kim, Alex, Adam  
& Zach Chulsky





L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Cheryl Baron


Wishing friends &  
family all the best  
for this new year!  
from the Cobos,  
Carson & Bouma  
family




Wishing friends and family  
all the best for this new year!  
from  
Jenny Belzberg




Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from  
Bronia & Sid Cyngiser






Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from  
Harvey Cyngiser & family



L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Renée & Milt Bogoch


L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Marnie,  
Darren, Jonah  
& Chloe Bondar




שנה טובה ומתוקה  
L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh  
Hashanah!  
from  
Jerry and Fay z'l  
Schwartz



Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from  
Alvin Libin,  
Bobby Libin  
and family








L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Shirley & Al  
Chafetz


*Wishing friends & family all the best  
for this New Year!  
from Sheila and Howard Cohen*

Wishing the community  
a Shana Tova  
  
from  
Sandy & Bernie  
Corenblum  
and family





Happy & Healthy  
Rosh Hashanah!  
from Eva Falla



Wishing the entire  
community a healthy  
& happy New Year  
from Phyllis D'Aguiar


L'Shanah Tovah! - Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from  
Helen, Jeff, Emma, Jacob, Hannah  
and Juan Faber



Happy & Sweet  
Rosh Hashanah!  
from Maxine & Mill Fischbein


*Wishing friends & family all the best  
for this New Year!  
from Halley & Bruce Girwitz*

L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah! from  
Rikki & Don Heilik and family




Happy & Swwt  
Rosh Hashanah!  
from Jackie Halpern,  
Glenn Soloman and family

Best wishes to family & friends,  
may the year be filled with good  
health, peace, and happiness.  
  
from  
Eva & Gordy  
Hoffman and family




*Wishing friends & family all the best  
for this new year! from Lea Kohn*



Happy & Sweet  
Rosh Hashanah!  
from Dr. Caron &  
Rabbi Mark Glickman


*Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from Danny & Roz*

Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this New Year!  
From Faith & Jerry Dubisky



Wishing friends & family all  
the best for this new year!  
from  
Sandra Fayerman

Best wishes to family & friends  
L'Shana Tova Tikatayvu  
  
from  
Bill and Darlene  
Foster




Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
  
from  
Louise Glin  
and family



Wishing friends & family all  
the best for this new year!  
  
from Judith Hagan  
& family




Happy & Sweet Rosh Hashanah  
from  
Diana Kalef, Elliott,  
Jonah and Micah Steinberg




Special thoughts to our family &  
friends. May the year ahead be a  
sweet one.  
  
from Janis &  
Brian Kowell  
and family



Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from  
Gail & Mel Ksienski & family



L'Shanah Tova  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
  
from  
Jeff and Rich  
Eichler



L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
  
from Ruth Dvorkin,  
Susan Dvorkin,  
Dara, Spencer  
& Josh




שנה טובה ומתוקה  
from Shael Gelfand  
and family

Happy & Sweet Rosh Hashanah  
from Charles & Therese  
Groner and family


Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
  
from  
Arlein Hoffman  
Chetner & family




L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Vivian  
& Ben Herman



Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this new year!  
from Susan & David Inhaber  
and family



Wishing friends & family all  
the best for this New Year!  
from Barb and Ron Krell  
and family



L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Phil & Harriet Libin,  
Michael & Matthew Ackman  
Stuart, Sierra & Thea Libin

Wishing friends & family all the best  
for this new year! from Charlene & Gerry  
Melotsky and family




Wishing the community all the best for this new year!



from  
Cantor Russel G. Jayne  
& Mr. Russ Janiger

Best wishes to family & friends, may the year be filled with good health, peace, and happiness.

from  
Saundra & Harold Lipton and family



L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!



from  
Miriam Milavsky  
& family

Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!




from  
Lily and Bill Lister

L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Roslyn Mendelson  
& David Hodgins

Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from Cheryl, Rob, Danielle  
and Jarret Miliner

L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!




from  
Marilyn Libin  
& Jed Gaines  
and family

Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!



from  
Walter Moscovitz

Happy & Sweet  
Rosh Hashanah!



from  
Sandy & Larry Martin

L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Michele Moss &  
Allan Donsky & family



Happy & Sweet  
Rosh Hashana  
from Marina Paperny  
& Shep Secter




L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Frances Pearlman



L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah! from  
Irene & Dr. Stuart Ross and family

Happy & Sweet Rosh  
Hashanah from Beth &  
Lorne Price and family




Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from Carol Ryder


Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from Jessica Starkman  
& Jaimie Churchward



Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from  
Ron Plucer & family



Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from Cynthia and David Prasow



Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!



from  
Hilda & Lennie Smith  
and family

L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!




from  
Evelyn Sheftel-Shapiro  
& family

Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from  
Betty Sherwood  
& Jim Casquenet




L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from Reyna & Hermanos




L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from  
Gail & Brian Sidorsky  
and family

Best wishes to family and friends for a happy, healthy New Year!



from  
Marilyn Sheftel

Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from Stan and Carey Smith  
and family





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שנה טובה ומתוקה  
from The Schacter Family  
Candy, Mike & Ari J.

שנה טובה  
from Judy Shapiro  
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Wishing friends & family all the best for this New Year! from Michele Doctoroff, Ted and Sydney Switzer

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Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
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Wynne &  
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Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
from  
Carole Stoffman & family

Shana Tova to everyone  
from Medina Shatz,  
Randy Best and Scout




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Cheryl & Morley Shore & family




from  
Marg Semel,  
Adam Singer,  
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שנה טובה ומתוקה


Happy & Sweet  
Rosh Hashanah  
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Mary & Ken Taub




Wishing friends & family all the best for this new year!  
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from Linda & Gary Wolf



L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
from  
Dalia, Allan, Tammy  
& Mark Wolinsky



Wishing the entire community,  
a Happy New Year  
תכלה שנה וקללותיה  
תחל שנה וברכותיה  
FROM ZOHAR & DAVID WALLACH

L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!  
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From all of us at  
Alberta Jewish News:

Deb Shatz, Dan Moser, Sandy Fayerman  
and Maxine Fischbein





# Record-breaking aliyah from North America projected for 2021

By Renee Ghert-Zand

Leah and Yehuda Smolarcik are moving to Israel from Chicago with their four children this summer. The challenges over the past year and a half of COVID convinced them not to put off reaching for their dream any longer.

“My husband and I met in Israel while living there temporarily after college, and we always hoped to return as immigrants,” Leah said. “The pandemic made us realize that there is no sure or stable thing anywhere, so we felt now was the time to make the move.”

The Smolarciks are far from alone in seizing the moment.

Approximately 5,000 people are expected to immigrate to Israel from North America in 2021, a 42% increase over the annual average, according to Nefesh B’Nefesh, which coordinates North American immigration to Israel, known as aliyah.

Such numbers would mark a historic high for aliyah from North America.

Over 2,000 olim — 1,000 in August alone — are expected to arrive in Israel this summer on 40 group flights organized by Nefesh B’Nefesh, which facilitates and assists with immigration from North America in partnership with Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and JNF-USA.

Since the beginning of the global pandemic in March 2020, more than 18,000 aliyah applications have been opened and some 16,000 unique households have attended online informational events run by Nefesh B’Nefesh.

The major increase in aliyah is due to a number of factors. Young people, families and even retirees are reordering their life priorities amid the experience of the pandemic. Israel’s relatively successful management of the pandemic has cast a more positive light on life in the country. Not only was Israel a global leader in vaccine rollout and endured a much lower fatality rate than the United States — both per capita and per COVID-19 infection — but the country’s socialized health care system proved invaluable during the pandemic.

The normalization of remote work has opened new opportunities for people who want to move and keep their jobs. Some university students are also moving to Israel now with plans to complete their degrees through distance learning online.

“Young people see Israel as a skills-based society and are choosing to launch themselves here instead of staying in North America and following more conventional career tracks,” said Marc Rosenberg, vice president for Diaspora partnerships at Nefesh B’Nefesh.

Internet entrepreneur Eli Cohen, 27, said he saw no reason to stay any longer in Los Angeles after deciding following a 2019 Birthright Israel trip that he wanted to make Israel his home. Having joined a July aliyah flight, he plans on living in the Tel Aviv area, where there is a lively singles social scene.

Cohen’s ability to work anywhere with a laptop and smartphone made the move possible.

“I can work from anywhere in the world with an internet connection,” Cohen said. “And I do business with multiple Israeli companies, so it makes sense to be in an area where there’s a lot of connections to be made.”

Leah Smolarcik, 39, is also taking advantage of the opportunity to make a U.S.-level salary while working remotely from Israel. A medical biller and office

administrator at a mental health center, she approached her boss about working from Israel and he assented.

Her husband, a clinical psychologist focused mainly on social-emotional testing for children, as well as geriatric testing, will search for a job after getting settled. Smolarcik said he is open to employment in different fields, too.

“Even just two years ago, 90% of olim started their job search after arriving here,” Rosenberg said. “Now only about 60% do so because of the increase in opportunities to keep their existing jobs and work remotely.”

Aliyah numbers are up as well because a greater number of families with older children are moving, according to Rosenberg. Before the pandemic, the vast majority of the families immigrating were young couples with no children or young children. Since the pandemic, there are more parents with established careers coming with their children in upper elementary grades and high school.

The Smolarciks’ oldest son is 16 and heading into 11th grade. The family will live in a Jerusalem suburb and he will attend YTA, a yeshiva high school for English speakers in the capital city.

“We didn’t want to wait until any of our kids were old enough to opt out of coming with us to Israel,” Leah Smolarcik said.

Another change since the pandemic is increased interest in immigration among retirees whose children still live in North America rather than almost exclusively among retirees following their adult children to Israel.

Naomi, 67, a retired nurse who for privacy reasons asked that her last name be withheld, will make aliyah this summer from Woodmere, New York, along with her husband. They plan to buy an apartment in either the coastal city of Netanya or Jerusalem.

After several years of regularly spending about two months per year in Israel, Naomi said she and her husband are ready to make it their primary home. With the option of spending part of the year back in New York with their three children and eight grandchildren, they don’t see any reason not to make their long-held aliyah dream come true.

Naomi said she looks forward to her American grandchildren coming to study in Israel after high school and being able to spend time with them.

Chaim Reiss, 73, also takes comfort in knowing that his grandchildren will come and study in Israel after he and his wife, Phyllis, make aliyah in August from Boca Raton, Florida. The couple lived for many years in Far Rockaway, New York, before

## Na'amat School Supplies for Kids



The members of Calgary Chapter of Na'amat are busy unpacking boxes and prepping for the School Supplies for Kids project.

retiring from their jobs in business and accounting for major Jewish organizations and moving to the Sunshine State a year ago.

By keeping their apartment in Florida, Reiss and his wife plan to maintain a foothold in North America, where their five children, many grandchildren and one great-grandchild live.

“The family used to come to us for holidays in the U.S., and we hope they can come be with us in Israel,” Reiss said. “In addition, we hope to see them when we use our Florida home during the winter months.”

For decades, Reiss made two trips to Israel per year as part of his work. But making aliyah was never something he and his wife felt they could do because of career and financial reasons.

Now they are ready to make their principal home the Jerusalem apartment they purchased four years ago in anticipation of their eventual aliyah.

“As a Jew, I have always believed that my place is in Israel. Now is the time to act on that belief,” Reiss said. “I have no more excuses.”

*This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with Nefesh B’Nefesh, which in cooperation with Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah, The Jewish Agency, KKL and JNF-USA is minimizing the professional, logistical and social obstacles of aliyah, and has brought over 65,000 olim from North America and the United Kingdom for nearly two decades. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team.*

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# 2021 Emmys: All the Jewish nominees

By Emily Burack

(JTA) — At the last Emmy Awards, “Schitt’s Creek,” the comedy from Jewish father-son duo Eugene and Dan Levy, swept the night, winning every comedy category for its sixth and final season. While there’s no big Jewish show to cheer on for another powerhouse performance this year, there’s still a bevy of Jewish nominees, which were announced Tuesday.

## Black Jewish actresses lead the way

Jurnee Smollett received her first Emmy nomination, as lead actress in a drama series, for her role in “Lovecraft Country” starring as Letitia “Leti” Lewis. While the show won’t be returning for a second season — and contained a plot point that some viewers found antisemitic — the HBO horror show had 18 nominations.

As a child actress, Smollett made her debut on “Full House.” Then she starred in “On Our Own,” a 1994 ABC sitcom, with her five siblings.

“We all were in the same school trailer. We would eat hot links and bagels for breakfast every morning — very Black and Jewish of us,” she joked.

Tracee Ellis Ross was tapped for lead actress in a comedy series for her role in “black-ish.” It’s her fifth nomination; she’s never won. Ross recently announced a docuseries with Oprah, “The Hair Tales,” about Black hair and a “love letter to Black women.”

British Jewish actress Sophie Okonedo, who calls herself a “Jewish Nigerian Brit,” received a nod for best guest actress in a drama series for “Ratched,” a Netflix prequel to “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.” She plays Charlotte Wells, a patient with dissociative identity disorder at Nurse Ratched’s hospital.

And Maya Rudolph scored her seventh and eighth Emmy nominations for her guest appearances on “Saturday Night Live” — for the episode she hosted and portraying Vice President Kamala Harris over the course of the season. She was nominated as well for her voiceover performance as Connie the Hormone Monstress in the puberty-themed (and very Jewish) animated comedy “Big Mouth.” Last year she won in both categories.

“Big Mouth,” co-created by the Jewish comedian Nick Kroll and his friend Andrew Goldberg, also was nominated for best animated show.

## Jewish comedies

“The Kominsky Method,” starring Jewish actor Michael Douglas, returned for its third and final season in May — but not with Alan Arkin, the show’s other Jewish star.

“The less work I get, the better my health,” the 87-year-old Arkin said. “The stress in the marketplace is enormous and my system has a fast reaction. I can’t deal with stress anymore.”

Even without Arkin, the show still garnered six nominations, including nods for Douglas as lead actor, Morgan Freeman and Jewish actor Paul Reiser as guest actor and supporting actor, respectively, and best comedy series.

And “Hacks,” the new comedy series from HBO Max



From left: Brett Goldstein, Jurnee Smollett, Michael Douglas, Hannah Einbinder and Tracee Ellis-Ross. (Apple TV, Netflix, HBO)

starring Jean Smart and Jewish comedian Hannah Einbinder, received nominations in four major comedies: best comedy series, lead actress for Smart, supporting actress for Einbinder and supporting actor for Carl Clemons-Hopkins. The show is from “Broad City” writers Paul Downs, Lucia Aniello and Jen Statsky.

Einbinder, the daughter of Jewish comedian Laraine Newman, told Nylon Magazine, “I want to do any comedy that feels authentic and good and meaningful. I have totally readjusted my view of what TV and film can be as a comedy medium. I will always be doing stand-up. Until I reach an age where I’m just complaining at which point I will remove myself, as we all should.”

And while there’s nothing much Jewish about the breakout Apple TV hit “Ted Lasso” starring Jason Sudeikis, it features British Jewish actor Brett Goldstein as soccer team captain Roy Kent. Goldstein received a nomination for best supporting actor in a comedy series — helping “Ted Lasso” garner a total of 20 nominations, leading the comedy pack.

## Jew-ish dramas

The smash hit Netflix regency romance “Bridgerton,” based on Jewish romance author Julia Quinn’s series, scored 12 nominations — including for best drama and lead actor for Regé-Jean Page.

“I’m Jewish, and when I would read a book and one of the characters would be Jewish, I’d be like, ‘Oh, that’s me.’ And it was very powerful,” Quinn said of the diverse casting of the show. “And so now I feel like I’m able to start to extrapolate that and be like, ‘You know what, everybody needs that.’”

The second season of “The Boys,” the anti-superhero show on Amazon Prime, received six nominations, including for best drama. “I realized what a perfect metaphor this was for the exact second we’re living in,”

Jewish showrunner Eric Kripke told The New York Times. “For this world, where authoritarianism and celebrity are combined and fascism is packaged through social media.”

As Lior Zaltzman wrote on Kveller, “The Boys’ isn’t a very Jewish show — but that doesn’t make its exploration of Nazism any less poignant. While it alludes to the history of the Holocaust, it is much more interested in how Nazi ideology takes form and spreads in these modern days.”

## Other notable Jewish nominees

Dan Levy isn’t done with the Emmys just yet: The “Schitt’s Creek” star was nominated for guest actor in a comedy series for his turn hosting “Saturday Night Live” earlier this year.

HBO’s “Oslo,” a film adaptation of the Tony Award-winning play about the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that led to the Oslo Accords peace agreement in 1993, is nominated for best TV movie. In 2017, the play won Tony Awards as best new play and best lead actor.

Jewish multi-hyphenate talent Daveed Diggs scored a nod for supporting actor in a limited series or TV movie for his portrayal of Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson in the smash “Hamilton.” Diggs has already won a Tony and Grammy for the role. (“Hamilton,” which premiered on Broadway in 2016, debuted on Disney+ during summer 2020 and received 12 total nominations.)

“Top Chef” Jewish co-host Gail Simmons received her second Emmy nomination for best host of a reality show alongside co-hosts Padma Lakshmi and Tom Colicchio.

The 73rd Primetime Emmy Awards will air Sept. 19 on CBS and Paramount+.

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# What should I know before visiting the cemetery?

By Harold Lipton and Susan Dvorkin

Many of us will visit the graves of our deceased loved ones at various times. Some of these times are: after the conclusion of shiva (seven days of mourning after a passing), after the conclusion of shloshim (first thirty days of mourning after a passing), on the anniversary of the passing (yahrzeit), before Yom Kippur (Kever Avot), and around the times the memorial service (Yizkor) is recited in the synagogue. (Drive-in gates are open at Chevra Kadisha 37 Street cemetery in Calgary Sunday through Friday 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Access to Erlton Cemetery and after hours at 37 Street is through the walk-in gates. Call 403-244-4717 for access codes. The chapel is closed right now due to pandemic restrictions.)

There are certain days when one should not visit a grave. These include Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh (start of a new month on the lunar calendar), during Chanukah, and on major Festivals of Passover, Sukkot and Shavuot (including the intermediate days of Chol Hamo'ed). Chevra Kadisha cemetery gates are closed on these days.

There are certain memorial prayers and Psalms that can be said when visiting a cemetery, but did you know that there are various other customs governing cemetery visitation?

Judaism puts a heavy emphasis on being respectful of the dead (Kibud Ha'met). From the time of one's passing, to the funeral, and even after, we follow certain traditions that are focussed on maintaining this respect. This includes those occasions when we visit the cemetery. Here are some of those traditions.

When walking around a cemetery, one should never walk on top of a grave, but only around it. That is one reason why many graves are clearly marked with a headstone and a border or covering.

One should behave at a cemetery very much like when attending synagogue. Dress should be modest and tasteful. Food and drink should not be brought into the cemetery. Playing music is forbidden. Frivolous conversation, especially when attending a funeral, should be avoided out of the belief that the soul of the departed is hovering among us until burial. Men should have their heads covered, as do observant women.

One should avoid shaming the deceased by refraining from certain practices in the cemetery that the deceased cannot do. For example, recitation of daily services, reading from the Torah, or wearing tefillin is avoided. Social visitation should not take place within the confines of a cemetery. There are special prayers that can be said during a cemetery visit. Saying them in Hebrew is preferred if one can, but it is also acceptable to recite those prayers in English. Either way, it should be remembered that while we are praying on behalf of our departed, all prayer is directed to Hashem.

Small stones should be placed on top of the grave to symbolize that the deceased has not been forgotten. The custom of placing flowers on a grave site is not typically done in the diaspora to distinguish our practices from non-Jewish ones. Many cemeteries discourage placing objects on gravesites because they pose a risk to groundskeepers and their equipment.

It is very common to make donations to charity in the name of the deceased, especially on the occasions mentioned earlier. There are various reasons for this including perpetuating and honouring the name of the deceased in this world, and aiding the soul in its journey in the next world.

Another tradition in honouring the deceased that is followed by some is to keep one's focus on the purpose of the visit to the cemetery. If one is attending a funeral, the focus should be on the obligation to escort the deceased to proper burial. In this regard, one should avoid combining reasons for visiting a cemetery. When attending a funeral, if one wants to also visit other gravesites, one should do so either before or after the burial, exit the cemetery and then re-enter. There are various explanations for this, such as

## JAC Fit rides again



JAC Fit enthusiastically held their first in person event in 17 months - cycling around the Glenmore Reservoir. "We are so excited to provide in person offerings again, with a few safety modifications, due to Covid-19."

honouring the deceased by not diminishing our reason for coming to the cemetery. Some say this also respects that other deceased people are also mourning the newly deceased person.

Authorities advise us to avoid the extremes of never visiting the graves of our loved ones, or visiting too often. Mourners should judge for themselves how best to remember and honour the departed, but it is also important to resume the process of living.

The Chevra Kadisha wishes everyone a healthy and happy upcoming New Year, free from sorrow.

Harold Lipton and Susan Dvorkin are Board Members at the Calgary Chevra Kadisha.



## Working together *Cont. from page 8*

up some screens that will help us move to a virtual tfilah service getting us away from shared books when we need to. So, for that we're very thankful."

The Calgary Jewish Academy has continued to provide excellent learning opportunities and support for their students despite the many challenges that covid 19 has presented. The faculty and staff at the CJA took the lead on instructing students on zoom and provided classroom learning platforms on Google. Students submitted more than 25000 assignments and projects throughout the past year on Google.

"With support of our community, the CJA was able to enter school safely from touchless sinks to desktop sneeze guards, the CJA was well equipped to face the many challenges that were presented. Our faculty also increased outdoor teaching and with enhanced outdoor learning and natural spaces we have adapted to meet the needs of our learners. Together we have remained CJA strong with the support of our parents and the Jewish community. The CJA board of directors was instrumental in supporting the school and together the students, faculty, staff, parents and community ensured that the mission and vision of the Calgary Jewish Academy was achieved."

Adam Silver has been heartened by the efforts of the community as a collective.

He said, "It is thanks to each one of our agencies, institutions and members that we've been able to work together to create a vibrant, caring, welcoming and inclusive Jewish community locally, in Israel, and around the globe."



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The Chevra Kadisha of Calgary sends its condolences to all those who lost loved ones in the past year. May their memories be a blessing in the coming year 5782 and in the years to come. May you all be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life for a year of sweetness and peace.

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

## Shana Tova!

Wishing you good health, happiness, and prosperity throughout the New Year!



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# Memorial Tribute



# Remembering Lil Faider

June 19, 1923 -  
June 1, 2021

**By Eva Falla**

## Lil Faider OBM

sitting in one of the student's seat, at the top-most level (SS131) of the Beth Tzedec, Congregation. Her invitation to me was to 'break the Yom Kippur fast' with her family and relatives that evening thereafter, it was tradition. After my conversion to the Jewish faith and adopting the name of Esther Rachel bat Abraham, Lil was there as a witness at the Mikveh.

Lil talked me through the 'female version' of being a Jew. We sat together each Sabbath at the Beth Tzedec, Congregation in Aisle F (F for Faider/F for Falla) as I often remarked. From those seats we were more aware of how tarnished the Torah's breastplates were and we undertook the polishing of silver on behalf of the Beth Tzedec Congregation. Lil encouraged me to list my name in the Calgary Jewish Community Directory 194-1995 edition, the Calgary Jewish Free Press and to join the Ladies Auxiliary (sewing) Group at the Chevra Kadisha where 'we practiced Chesed Shel Emet'.

Many Sabbaths later, after attending morning prayers at the Beth Tzedec, Lil asked me if I would drive her home in her car and I knew her driving to Shul earlier had been her last time behind the wheel. Thereafter we attended socials, unveiling and meetings (Interfaith, etc.) together in my vehicle. I remember our attendance at an unveiling at the Erlton Cemetery and, as we had arrived quite early, we walked ker over to her son's resting place thereby acknowledging our visit and Lil was quite surprized that

Eric was there.

I've spent many treasured times with Lil while driving, at her home and on her back patio watching the golfers walk by, many of whom called out to her.

For Lil, the telephone was always a means of keeping in contact with her family and friends and so often told me her brother Hy called her every day. This practice continued between us more and more and during my last call to her I confessed because of my affliction 'I could no longer go on' and Lil replied 'Eva you must keep going do not give up I'll pray for you' and Lil hung up.

The time between Lil's advice to me and my receiving the call from her niece advising me of Lil's death can be anybody's guess as my mind has been scarred by my illness.

Carol Ryder telephoned me of Lil's passing and advising 'in light of Covid, there will not be a public service' however I was invited to attend the interment on Thursday, June 3rd. I was indeed honoured to have been selected to spend this final time with Lil Faider, my friend.

## Jewish highlights of the Tokyo Olympics

**By Emily Burack**

(JTA) — The Jewish highlights of the Tokyo Olympics kicked off with Jewish basketball superstar Sue Bird serving as one of Team USA's two flag bearers at the opening ceremony, a huge honor, and ended with Linoy Ashram, Israel's first female gold medalist, carrying the Israeli flag at the closing ceremony.

The lasting accolades, though, are the medals that winning athletes take home — including gold medals for Bird and Ashram. Dozens of Jewish athletes competed in the Games this year, but the fierce competition meant that only some entered the record books as gold, silver or bronze medalists.

Here are the Jewish athletes who clinched a medal at the Tokyo Olympics, in chronological order.

Avishag Semberg won bronze in taekwondo for Team

Israel on day one of the competition.

Semberg, 19, was third in the women's under-49 kg category, giving Israel its first medal of the Tokyo Olympics and its first ever in the sport.

"I said to myself, 'I want this medal more than she does,' and I did it ... I have an Olympic medal at 19, it's a dream come true," Semberg said following her win.

Because of the pandemic, Semberg did not stay in Tokyo long afterward, and she was greeted at Ben Gurion Airport with a festive reception and big celebration.

Jessica Fox of Australia won bronze in women's kayak slalom on day four of the competition. Two days later she took gold in women's canoe slalom.

Fox, considered by many to be the greatest paddler of all time, was the only athlete to medal in both canoe slalom

*Continued on page 31*



Israel's Linoy Ashram won the gold medal in Rhythmic Gymnastics at Ariake Gymnastics centre in Tokyo, on Aug. 7, 2021. (Photo by Lionel Bonaventure/AFP via Getty Images)



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Tokyo Olympics

Cont. from page 30

and kayak slalom. She finished a disappointing third in the kayak race, but rallied for the gold in the historic canoe event — it was the first time that women’s canoe slalom has been contested at the Olympics.

Fox had previously won two Olympic medals: silver in 2012 and bronze in 2016. Her mom, Jewish Olympian Myriam Jerusalmi, won bronze at the 1996 Olympics in kayak slalom. Jerusalmi now coaches her daughter.

Lilia Akhaimova won gold with Team Russia in the women’s team gymnastics competition on day four of the Games.

Akhaimova, who is competing in her first Olympics, earned the top score on vault during the women’s gymnastics team finals, helping propel the Russian Olympic Committee, aka Team Russia, to the gold medal.

Team Israel won bronze in the mixed judo event on day eight of the competition.

After a disappointing showing in individual judo events, Team Israel took home a bronze after defeating the Russian Olympic Committee in the inaugural judo mixed team event. Team Germany, too, won a bronze in the competition, in one of the Games’ few ties.

The win was emotional for many on the team. Sagi Muki said, “Everyone here gave their heart and soul, and that is what we won here.” The bronze is Israel’s sixth-ever medal in judo.

Israeli gymnast Artem Dolgopyat won gold in the men’s floor exercise on day nine.

Israeli men’s gymnast Artem Dolgopyat took home the Olympic gold medal in floor exercise, giving Israel its second-ever gold in any Olympic event. The 24-year-old Israeli is one of many Jewish gymnasts competing at this year’s games. Born in Ukraine, he immigrated with his family to Israel at the age of 12.

“I don’t know what it will be like when I go back to Israel — until now I definitely wasn’t well known or recognized,” Dolgopyat said. “I want to continue to be modest the way

I am, and not think about the things around me and just do my work.”

He’s already shifted his sights to the 2024 Olympics in Paris, hoping to repeat his success.

American volleyball star Alix Klineman won gold in beach volleyball with partner April Ross on day 14.

In her Olympic debut, the American Jewish beach volleyball player won gold with her partner, three-time Olympian April Ross (this is Ross’ first gold). Klineman becomes the first American Jewish athlete to medal at these Games.

Klineman, a 31-year-old California native who attended Stanford University, was inducted into the Southern California Jewish Hall of Fame in 2015.

Israeli gymnast Linoy Ashram won gold in all-around rhythmic gymnastics on day 15 of the Tokyo Olympics.

Linoy Ashram became the first Israeli woman to win an Olympic gold medal, and the third-ever Israeli to win gold, following Dolgopyat’s win earlier in the week.

Ashram’s winning score, just .15 of a point over that of her Russian competitor, Dina Averina, prompted an appeal and cries of “injustice” in a tweet from the Russian Olympic Committee. Ashram’s victory broke Russia’s two-decade Olympic gold-medal streak in the individual rhythmic gymnastics contest.

“I feel a bit like Wonder Woman,” Ashram said after her win. “Even Gal Gadot, who plays Wonder Woman in the movies, sent me a message right before the competition which got me so excited. It inspired me to do the best that I could. This is

the most satisfying moment in my life. I only dreamed of making it to the Olympics, not to stand atop the podium in first place. But it’s all thanks to everyone who supported me.”

USA basketball star Sue Bird won a fifth gold medal on the final day of the Tokyo Olympics.

In her fifth Olympic appearance, Sue Bird made history. Along with teammate Diana Taurasi, they became the only basketball players – men’s or women’s — to win five gold medals. The U.S. women’s basketball team won their seventh consecutive gold medal, defeating Japan 90-75 in the gold medal match.

This will be Bird’s last Olympics — at 40, she became the oldest basketball player ever to win gold, and helped the U.S. team solidify their winning streak of seven gold medals and 55 consecutive games at the Olympics.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better ending,” Bird said. “I feel so proud to wear this uniform as long as I have.”



The Jewish athletes to win medals in Tokyo are, left to right, Avishag Semberg, Team Israel Judo, Jessica Fox, Sue Bird, Linoy Ashram, Artem Dolgopyat, Alix Klineman, and Lilia Akhaimova. (Getty Images)





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