



ALBERTA

# Jewish NEWS

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Naomi Broudo



# A little extra goodness

By Rabbi Steven Schwarzman



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.*

# 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).*

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### Rosh Hashanah

**Monday, September 6th**  
Erev Rosh Hashanah 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 7th**  
1st Day Rosh Hashanah  
Shacharit 8:30 a.m.  
Torah Reading 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 8h**  
2nd Day Rosh Hashanah  
Shacharit 8:30 a.m.  
Torah Reading 9:30 a.m.

### Yom Kippur

**Wednesday, September 15th**  
Erev Yom Kippur 7:00 p.m.  
Kol Nidre

**Thursday, September 16th**  
Yom Kippur Shacharit 8:30 a.m.  
Torah Reading 9:45 a.m.  
Yizkor  
Following Torah Service  
Mincha 5:15 p.m.  
Neila 6:30 p.m.  
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For change of address, please send both old and new addresses. We welcome your stories, pictures, artwork and opinions. Please send submissions to our office at the address above.

**Next Deadline: Next Deadline: September 9, 2021**



# 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 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.”

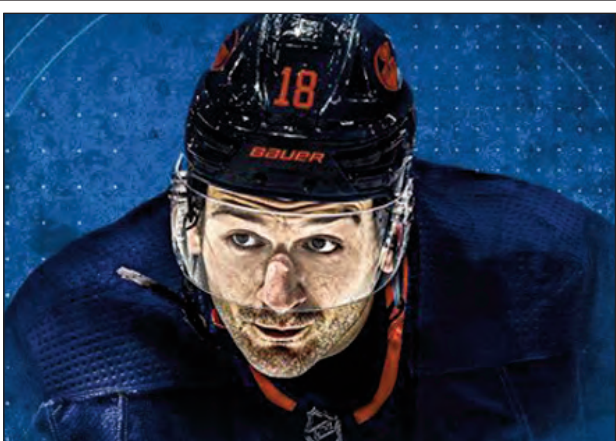
Growing up, he played for various teams in the Greater Toronto Hockey League — the Toronto Red Wings, the Jr. Canadiens and Mississauga Reps — before moving on to the Ontario Junior A Hockey League, where he played for the Hamilton Red Wings.

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 September and he'll be 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.



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# Orangetheory and spiritual motivation



Rabbi Zolly Claman

By Rabbi Zolly Claman

In 2010, Ellen Latham founded an exercise studio in Miami called Orangetheory. What began as one small business, that she opened to rebound from a devastating job loss while raising her 9-year-old son on her own, now boasts over 1 million members and 1,200 locations worldwide.

The epicenter of her business is a science-based fitness regime that is known by the acronym “HIIT,” and it

stands for High-Intensity Interval-Training. Unlike most forms of exercise, participants repeat short spurts of high-intensity exercise, intermingled within longer stretches of lower intensity activity designed for active recovery. Say, within a 60-minute workout, the goal is to keep the heart rate raised above 85% of your max for only around 15 minutes in total.

The science brings to light many physical benefits and on top of that participants find it easier to stay motivated. It is very hard to be motivated for a long and intense exercise that tests our physical and mental capacity for a sustained period of time. But during a HIIT exercise, since the recoveries are built-in and part of the process, the motivation is far easier to conjure up.

I believe that in a way, our Jewish calendar is designed as a HIIT workout – a spiritual one that is. We are challenged to push ourselves in high-intensity spiritual spurts, tap into different themes and energies via the holidays, and take the experience back into the recovery periods, also known as ‘the regular days,’ where it continues to enrich.

In a micro sense, the added dedication to Hashem and the spiritual realm on Shabbat is designed to surge our week with a higher level of awareness and mindfulness.

In a more macro sense, we have our annual calendar that puts us through a constant interplay between intense pushes and recovery.

With that said, having *Rosh Hashana*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, *Shmini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah* all back-to-back, the Jewish month of Tishrei is the ultimate intense interval in a HIIT spiritual workout. But we need to find the motivation within to push, because done right, it can fill our valve with passion and excitement for the entire year.

The science behind the HIIT workouts demonstrates that even during the recovery modes, our bodies are still stimulated with a continued rise in the metabolism even when recovering. May it be that the same will hold true for each and every one of us in our spiritual HIIT exercise – that it leaves our Neshamot feeling more alert, in tune and sensitive to opportunities to grow and connect even post-High-Holidays.

May your Rosh Hashana be sweet, your Yom Kippur be meaningful and your Sukkot be joyful – הַקּוֹתֵמוּ הַבוֹט הַנֶּשֶׁה.

*Rabbi Zolly Claman is the spiritual leader at Beth Israel Synagogue, the Modern Orthodox “Family Shul” in Edmonton.*

# Art and Scroll Studio: Presenting Season Two!

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.

On Wednesday October 6, 2021, at 7:00 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.



Artist Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik will be featured by Art & Scroll Studio, virtually on October 6 at 7 pm.



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 contem-porary pop culture story-telling techniques.

“My work is visual biblical commentary; I call it “paper

*Continued on page 6*



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## WITS Yeshiva of Canada presents Torah Pearls

### This month’s contributor: Noson Drelich

Inauguration day is coming up in a few weeks. Rosh Hashana is a time where we inaugurate the Creator of All (also known as G-d) to be our King and renew all of existence for a good and sweet year. One of the reasons we say good and sweet, is because although everything G-d does is good, it is not always visibly sweet, so we pray it should be visibly sweet as well.

Like anything, it’s best if it’s prepared for, as opposed to

waltzing in on the day of the event. Technically it is possible, to not prepare for a wedding and just get married, but what kind of event would that be?

Also, it wouldn’t make for a happy family either.

Just like a head of government is sworn into office, so too we elect G-d, so to speak, as our President.

We blow the shofar throughout the month of Elul to get us into the atmosphere of Rosh Hashana; we say extra Psalms, and we try to work on ourselves, to become better people that the President of All Presidents would be happy

with. Kind of like a spiritual fitness class. Or you could say we are spiritual bodybuilders, aka soul builders.

For some good resources check out Chabad.org or Aish.com

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, sweet year, with lots of soul building and soul positivity.

*Noson Drelich works in computing and digitization in Edmonton. His Jewish education is Edmonton Menorah Academy and Morisstown Rabbinical College of America.*

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Shanah Tovah  
U'metukah!

שָׁנָה טוֹבָה וּמֵתוּכָה



# Understanding Teshuva

By Rabbi Gila Caine



Rabbi Gila Caine

Last week my son had the misfortune of totally restarting his game on Nintendo. To clarify, in the mind of a seven-year-old, this experience is in the same order of magnitude as deleting your thesis or realizing that your taxes must be redone, on your own, by yourself. He cried. And when he finished crying, he looked at me and said, “I wish I could just go back in time and not press on that button.” I told him, “You know, what you are feeling now is regret.” Oddly enough, this regretful event took place only a day after Rosh Chodesh Elul – a perfect way to begin the month of looking back at the past year and counting all the buttons we wish we hadn’t pressed.

I don’t want to look at the reasons for our regrets, but rather at our capacity to feel regret and at our ability to believe other people when they say sorry. Because if there is anything I find reprehensible in popular culture today, it is not only the acts of public shaming, but also the absolute denial of forgiveness – and of course both things are connected. Our public spheres have become Roman circuses into which we throw the condemned or

unfortunate, and cheer at the exotic ways in which blood sacrifice is drawn. This is absolutely not what teshuva (repentance) is about, and most definitely not a space in which to explore regret. The late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks offers us a wonderful understanding of teshuvah:

“Our past does not determine our future. We can change. We can act differently next time than last. If anything, our future determines our past.... Our teshuva and God’s forgiveness together mean that we are not prisoners of the past.... In Judaism, sin is what we do, not who we are. (Rabbi J. Sacks, Ceremony & Celebration: Introduction to the Holidays. Maggid Books, 2017, p. 20)”

What a wonderful mantra to take with us into the new year – sin is what we do, not who we are. Listen to the way it echoes the morning prayer: “G-d, the soul you have given me is pure.” The tricky bit is that when we acknowledge that our given soul, our neshama, is pure, we are accepting at that very moment that the souls of our friends and enemies are pure as well.

So, my teshuva is real teshuva, but potentially so is the regret and return of those around me – the people I agree with on politics as well as those I don’t, my family but also those “friends” I wish I never had to meet again. All around me are people carrying huge and tiny regrets, asking themselves “how do we cleanse ourselves of this burden? How do we do teshuva?”

While I don’t know how YOU can do teshuva (and honestly I am still trying to figure it out for myself), there is one beautiful piece of Torah from the writings of the Imrei Emes (Reb Avraham Mordechai Alter, the fourth Gerrer Rebbe), which helped me find a useful direction. About the verse “I have been blameless before Him, I kept myself from my sin...” (2 Samuel, 22:24) He wrote that each of us is created to fix something in this world, and

that our Yetzer Harah (our inclination to do bad) tries its best to make us fail specifically at this one thing. In the words “I kept myself from my sin,” we ask not to fail in that place where we are prone to sin, which in truth is the exact same spot where we were meant to bring tikkun (healing) to the world. This very spot where we sin and heal is the sacred place where we hold onto life and where we can potentially bring our full passion and commitment.

Sometimes we misinterpret the direction our commitment is flowing, and instead of bringing good into the world, we bring shame and pain and sadness. But, by carefully reading our regrets and realizing our sins, hopefully we can discover what we are here to mend. This is not only the first step of teshuva, but also a great incentive towards researching our past year(s), knowing that by doing teshuva, we are fulfilling our potential on this earth. This is true of ourselves, but also of those around us. It is therefore imperative that we believe people when they do teshuva. By allowing for compassionate regret and teshuva, we are enabling everyone to go on and do the real work for which we were brought into this world.

As for my son, he worked hard at regaining all his magical items in *The Legend of Zelda: Link’s Awakening* and has achieved much glory, strange pieces of armour, and weird pets in his game. Incidentally, awakening, or as we call it in Hebrew, Hit’orerut, is another wonderful subject for the High Holidays, but we’ll talk about that at shul in the coming weeks.

May you, with all your family and friends, have a year filled with good health and blessings.

Shana Tova

*Rabbi Gila Caine is the spiritual leader at Temple Beth Ora, Edmonton’s Reform Congregation.*

## Art and Scroll Studio

Cont. from page 4

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.

The cover art is by Naomi Broudo, featured artist in November on Art and Scroll Studio.

Naomi Broudo was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, but grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Coming from a family of extremely creative people she always had someone to look

up to, learn from, and make art with.

She left Winnipeg after high school to go to Israel for a few months. Her few months turned into living in Israel for 12 years, getting married, having a son, becoming a kibbutz member, and, eventually, going to art school.

“Living on a small, young kibbutz in northern Israel, there were always more important things to be done. I spent my spare time designing kids toys out of plastic pop bottles, decorating for holidays, creating huge wedding cakes in many shapes, designing the occasional ketubah for friends, and waiting patiently”

After living in Israel for 12 years as a Kibbutz Adamit member, she returned to Vancouver in 1986, enjoying a successful

career as a graphic designer for 25 years.

“My body of work is constantly influenced by the world we explored and continue to experience every year. I try to keep my offerings fresh with new techniques I learn along the way as well as the cultures and traditions that we explore that become part of my soul.”

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



Wishing you  
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# Israel Pavilion was a Heritage Festival star!



The Israeli Pavilion was one of the shining stars of the 2021 Heritage Festival - especially the joyful and energetic performances of the Aviv Israeli Folk Dancers.

By Jenna Soroka

Preparation for the Israeli Pavilion at the Heritage Festival, organized by the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, may have happened in a fraction of the time than in typical years, but the execution was just as spectacular. “We are so happy we are here!” Christina Reboh, co-chair with Meirav Or for the Israeli Pavilion, said. Reboh also added that “it is nice to see life slowly returning back to what we know and love.”

Catering by Ed operated the food tent and prepared a delicious, kosher menu which included falafel, mint lemonana, fruit blintzes, and deep fried pickles. As people took in all that the Heritage Festival had to offer, volunteers worked hard behind the scenes to quench people’s thirst and fill their bellies in the hot weather.

When people entered the cultural tent, they could learn fun facts about Israel, experience a mini version of the Mahane Yehuda Market, and see a beautiful vignette of a traditional Jewish wedding. The vignette featured a chuppah, ketubah (marriage contract), wedding dress, Kittel, Tallit, and an explanation of what traditionally occurs before and after the chuppah ceremony.

Volunteers inside the cultural tent welcomed people into Israeli life and Jewish tradition, taking the time to answer questions and connect with the community. Stacey Leavitt-Wright, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, was one of the faces festival goers could expect to meet as she helped ensure the smooth running of the event throughout the weekend.

The Artistic Director of the Aviv Israeli Folk Dance Association (AIFDA), Sari Uretsky, and her dancers put on

eight entertaining shows over the weekend which included the vocal stylings of Emily Levine. People had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of dance routines with dancers ranging from ages 8 to those in their early twenties. In addition to the on-stage performances, Jayden Leung and Jonah Zwaigenbaum did an excellent job as MCs, making the audience laugh at their playful banter and puns.

At the end of each show, the audience got to participate in an interactive Israeli line dance which had people “dancing from the stage all the way back and up the hill,” Reboh said. Uretsky expressed her gratitude to all of the volunteers, teachers, performers, and caterers to help make the shows successful. “The Israeli pavilion really shone this year!” she shared after wrapping up for the long weekend.

Christina Reboh echoed Uretsky’s sentiments as she thanked the Jewish Federation of Edmonton staff, Susan and Ed Yedgarova, Meirav Or, and all the volunteers. “It couldn’t happen in a year’s notice without them, and it certainly couldn’t happen in ten weeks,” said Reboh. She also wanted to send a special *l’heetraot* to Tal Toubiana for his dedication over the years.

Even in these uncertain times, the community still showed up with enthusiasm and joy, at this year’s Heritage Festival. The Jewish Federation of Edmonton delivered a unique experience at the Israeli Pavilion, and it was made possible by the passion and support of its volunteers.

Jenna Soroka is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.



Emily Levine and Eddie Yedgarova at the Israeli Pavilion.

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# Preserving historical treasures in the community

By Regan Treewater-Lipes

The Edmonton Jewish community is largely familiar with the acronym JAHSENA, but some may not be aware of the significance and mission of this locally run organization. JAHSENA, or the Jewish Archive and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, has made a pledge of “preserving our community’s heritage from generation to generation.”

In 1893 when Abe Cristall and his wife Rebecca first set down roots in Edmonton, they were looking for new opportunities and fruitful prospects. In reality, they were the trailblazers that planted the initial seeds of what would eventually blossom into the diverse and vibrant Jewish community of today. This, and all that has followed, is the history that JAHSENA works to preserve for generations to come.

Their resources and collection are housed in a modest first-floor space; tiny treasures and artifacts tucked purposefully into every available nook. The sole archivist and caretaker of JAHSENA’s historical holding is Colleen Paull, a dedicated community member and historical detective.

“I was at an event, and a friend asked if I would be interested in serving on JAHSENA’s board,” Paull said. She attended only one meeting before she was asked to assume a position in the office instead of serving as a board member. This role in the office over time led her to become JAHSENA’s archivist.

Eclipsed by a stack of boxes recently procured from Beth Shalom Synagogue, Paull explained that sometimes what one person might think is insignificant, can actually have great historical value. “It can seem like ancient history,” she said as she pulled out a dusty framed photo of the Beth Shalom Women’s League. “I go through everything. I see if I can identify the people in photographs, and if I can’t, then I ask for help from older members of the community.” Unearthing a stack of old yellowing board minutes, she continued: “Minutes are priceless! They are so historical – they chronicle what is happening in the community. Sometimes the best way to track our history is through minutes.”

The majority of requests Paull receives are from people looking for information about relatives that once resided in town. With so many online Jewish genealogy projects, however, the public need for archival evidence of generations past continues to grow – especially concerning times of mass immigration.

“People don’t really send postcards anymore, and they’re really interesting. When you look at postcards from Israel, it’s fascinating to compare how the city skylines have

developed over the years.”

Paull also inventories such postcards because of the historical insights they provide. “Sometimes, even if I can’t identify people in a picture, if it’s an image taken in front of a boat with a year, and I can clearly tell its documenting someone’s immigration arrival, I keep it.” As Paull explained, such little gems as these could yield valuable information for piecing together a family’s settlement in Canada.

Since the COVID shut-down Paull has still had plenty to keep her busy: cataloging, organizing, and researching. As many people wind down from a summer of home improvement projects or plans to capitalise on the housing market boom and downsize, Edmontonians within the Jewish community are finding themselves confronted, daunted even, by boxes full of old stuff.

“A lot of times people get overwhelmed and don’t want to go through old boxes,” commented Paull. “But there is always the chance that there is something historically significant tucked away in there. What can be really fruitful are scrapbooks. People collect articles and pictures and other memorable things related to their family.”

Paull’s excavations have revealed old letters detailing experiences of immigration, class albums from the earliest days of Talmud Torah, and even jerseys and pins from the Macabee Games of years past.

“Of course, I don’t keep everything, but what we have here,” she said gesturing to shelves of books and archival boxes lined with acid-free paper, “all of this tells a really interesting story about Jewish civilization in this area.”

For locals previously unfamiliar with JAHSENA, the work Paull continues to dedicate herself to is a treasure trove of information and stories yet to be told. Perhaps that box of grandma’s old papers is taking up

## Anne Frank statue unveiled



A large crowd, including many members of the Edmonton Jewish community gathered at Light Horse Park in south Edmonton on August 8 as an amazing new statue of Anne Frank was officially unveiled. The statue, a replica of a work created by Dutch sculptor Pieter d’Hont in 1960, is a gift to the city from the Dutch Canadian Club of Edmonton to memorialize Anne Frank’s bravery during the Holocaust as well as the Canadian military’s contribution to liberating Holland during the Second World War. Several speakers addressed the crowd, each one with a moving story about how the “Diary of Anne Frank” touched them personally.

space in the basement, but to Paull and the JAHSENA collection, it has the potential to unlock forgotten secrets from generations past.

“People often want to keep pictures, which makes sense, so in those cases I digitise them for our records.”

For those with limited mobility, or who for any other reason have trouble relocating their boxes of soon-to-be rediscovered history, Paull is even willing to come collect donations. “If people are wondering whether or not they have something historically significant, it’s better to ask before discarding it,” she explained. So, before boxes get moved to the curb, give Colleen Paull a call at (780) 489-2809, and add your piece to the tapestry of Edmonton’s Jewish history.

Regan Treewater-Lipes is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter.

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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.

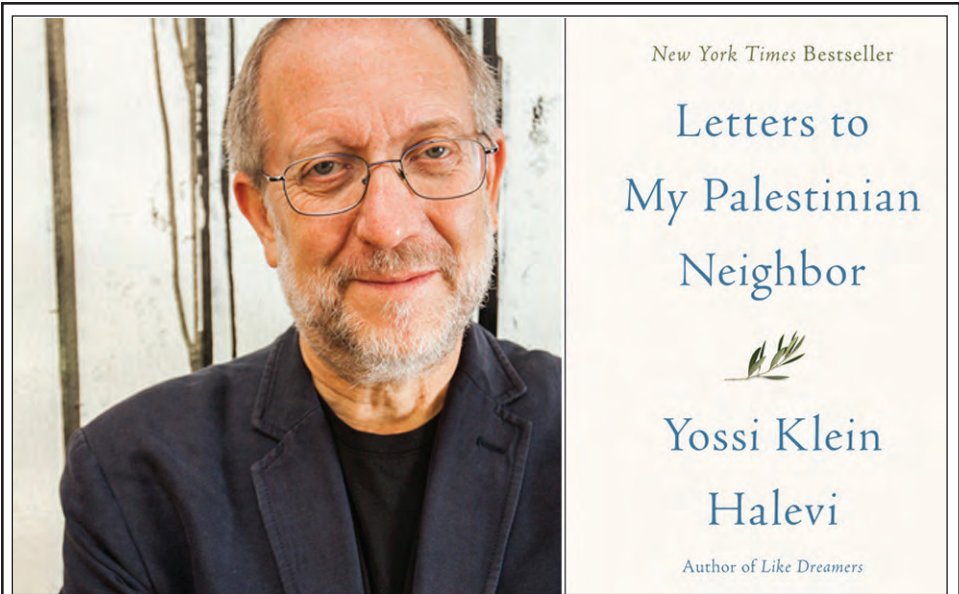
The Calgary and Edmonton Jewish communities are pleased to be hosting this event together to launch their 2021 UJA campaigns. Special guest Eric Fingerhut, CEO, Jewish Federations of North America will also be in attendance at the event and deliver up to date information about issues facing Jewish communities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

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# 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.

"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," said Fraiman. "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 a 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 Fraiman. "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."

The CMDA 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 Nation in the upcoming months."



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.

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



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



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# back to school

## Thursday, Sept. 2nd!



# Welcome back Talmud Torah students and staff!



# Back to school at Talmud Torah

By Natalie Soroka

It's almost time to welcome our Kindergarten to Grade 6 students for the 2021-22 school year, and we couldn't be more excited! Throughout the summer the school has still been buzzing, though, with children in our Early Learning Centre and Out of School Care programs. Thanks to our onsite security guard from May to August, our children and staff have been safe and secure.

Talmud Torah Society's Security Campaign has been in full swing this summer. With our fiscal year coming to a close August 31st, donations from our community will help offset this unexpected \$15,000 expense. To date, we have raised 70% of our goal. With 100% of our Board of Directors having already donated to this fundraising effort, we are looking to our current and past families, alumni and friends to help us reach our goal. You can donate by accessing our website at [www.talmudtorahsociety.com](http://www.talmudtorahsociety.com) (click on the "Special Security Campaign" button).

We want to remind you that our Edmonton Jewish Community Directory 2021-23 is still available for purchase at the Edmonton Talmud Torah Society office (780) 481-3377 or [nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com](mailto:nataliesoroka@talmudtorahsociety.com). You can also purchase one online through our website. Directory sales have been going extremely well, so you might want to buy one soon!

We have some exciting student initiatives for the 2021-22 school year, including, but not limited to, two amazing programs funded by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Edmonton's Covid Relief Fund; a Drumming Artist in Residence, and a Mental Health and Wellness Conference. We are very grateful for this amazing opportunity to enrich the curriculum and provide health and wellness support to our students and staff.

New this year is the Ancillary Judaic Program (AJP). This is a before and after Judaic educational program run out of Talmud Torah School. For more details on this exciting program, please email [info@judaicacademy.com](mailto:info@judaicacademy.com).

You can see these programs and much, much more that we have in the works this coming school year, by following us on our social media pages (Instagram: [@talmudtorahsociety](https://www.instagram.com/talmudtorahsociety); Facebook: [friendsof.talmudtorah.society](https://www.facebook.com/friendsof.talmudtorah.society)). If you are currently not in our database and would like to sign up to be kept informed of our many initiatives, please email



### TT School Council Fundraiser Post-High Holiday Bottle Drive

Save your bottles, jars, cans, cartons, and jugs from your holiday celebrations.

Once the Chagim are over, bring them to the Talmud Torah. Funds earned from the deposit returns will go to curriculum enrichment initiatives by the TT Parent School Council.

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[information@talmudtorahsociety.com](mailto:information@talmudtorahsociety.com).

The TT Society Board of Directors is energized and excited to share with you their hard work as they prepare for the 2021-22 year. Stay tuned!



Summer 2021 in the Talmud Torah Early Learning Centre and Out of School Care offered our children opportunities to flourish educationally, socially and emotionally, strengthening friendships in a warm, Jewish-oriented atmosphere.


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## Shana Tova!

Best Wishes for a sweet and healthy New Year.



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## Shana Tova

Wishing our friends a sweet, healthy, and prosperous New Year!



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## / Alberta Jewish News



# Jewish Seniors have much to be thankful for at JDIC

By Deborah Shatz

The Edmonton Jewish Seniors Citizen’s Centre has been providing a wide variety of enjoyable and informative health, wellness, recreational, nutritional, social and educational programs and services to seniors in our community since 1982. However, in February 2020 the Centre staff was forced to pivot because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The centre closed its doors but that did not deter Centre Executive Director Svetlana Pavlenko and Executive Assistant Luba Allen and their Board of Directors from adapting their activities to virtual programming.

In the Summer Newsletter, member Sarah Nyland writes, “During this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic I have missed so much the in-person contact of the Centre’s lunches, presentations, programs and overall fellowship.

“However, fortunately for everyone Svetlana and Luba initiated a multitude of programs courtesy of Zoom starting with Bonnie’s and Ilonka’s exercise classes the first week of May 2020 followed by a wealth of programs and presentations by many different speakers. These programs were and continue to be so helpful as we can see and talk to one another on our screens as many of the members of JDIC have had to adjust to being at home while wanting to keep active and continuing to interact with others as much as possible.

“Svetlana and Luba make it easy to know what is offered by JDIC. Back in the spring of 2020 when I had trouble registering for the first Zoom program Svetlana smoothed the way. Both Svetlana and Luba are always so welcoming as one joins in on the various programs.

“I have been so grateful for the choice of the many programs offered whether they be in series form or one by one.

There has been such a wide range of subjects offered, from health, architecture, baking, travel, history, books, cooking, music, and various other professional fields. Kathleen Silverman’s series on Art Museums in New York stands out as I love armchair travelling and D.T. Baker’s course on the History of Keyboard Instruments was fascinating as were so many others.

“Another plus has been that many programs have been offered at no charge or at a very reasonable price. Most programs have been inspirational and while often challenging they have been relaxing too as they have taken me out of myself while opening up other worlds to consider. Question and answer and discussions are always encouraged and often enlightening. Some presentations show visuals and power points to clarify and help one focus no matter what the subject. At least two of the presenters were in their teens and it was so good to see them and hear their viewpoints.

“Of course the treats that one can buy from the JDIC kitchen on Thursday afternoons of soups, mac and cheese and sweet treats made by Bozena and her helpers are so appreciated and delicious.

“I am always thankful for JDIC’s friendly faces and welcoming atmosphere. May we all stay well!”

The centre also started a “Let’s Get Acquainted” feature in their newsletter so “we can better get to know our fellow members and volunteers. Hopefully, it will bring us closer in a time when we cannot sit next to someone at the Centre, talk to them and get to know them.”

The summer newsletter introduced its members to Sylvia King-Farlow.

Sylvia was born in Lamont, Alberta in 1940 and lived in the village of Chipman where her father owned a Blacksmith Shop. Her family then moved to Edmonton where she had to learn English, as she only spoke Ukrainian because Chipman was predominately Ukrainian at that time.

She took a 5 year B.Sc. in Nursing, worked in Vancouver as a VON (Victoria Order of Nurses), and then on a medical heart unit at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. From there she worked at Mount Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles in Coronary Care and Intensive Care; both new fields at that time. Upon her return from Mt. Sinai, Sylvia was supervisor and clinical instructor of Cardiovascular Surgery at the University Hospital working with Dr. Callahan, a pioneer who did the first open heart surgery in Canada and was co-inventor of the pacemaker.

After Sylvia married, she moved to Guelph, Ontario where she was involved in the opening of the first Coronary Care Unit and Intensive Coronary Care Unit at the Guelph General Hospital. She took a Masters Degree in Education (Administration) in Ottawa, and then taught Gynecological Nursing at the RAH Women’s Pavilion and was a lecturer at the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing. She also took a BA (Special) in English and History, then did several years of law school, stopping because of ill health.

After Expo in Montreal, Sylvia decided to travel—she has now visited over 100 countries, many of them, such as Egypt and Turkey, six times each. She has traveled on



In the JDIC kitchen, Bozena is with dedicated volunteers Wendy Danson and Pauline Bronstein, masked and gloved, preparing delicious take-out meals and snacks for everyone to enjoy.

six of the seven continents—all except Australia and was a member of the Travelers Century Club for those who have visited 100 or more countries of the world.

As Sylvia says: “The Centre has been both a haven and a resource for me, supplying my need for continuing education and interesting companionship. The Jewish Senior Citizen’s Centre is in a class by itself as it attracts members with such hugely varied life experiences. All that and lovely meals! It has been my home away from home and has made me feel young again! I am looking forward to the Grand Re-opening!”

The Centre is currently offering Poling Workshops with Bonnie Austen, “Not Boring Book Club” with author Debby Waldman, Rosh Hashana Treats for sale and much more. For information call 780-488-4241 or email programmer@jdic.ca.



Urban Poling is popular for those interested in becoming more fit. It takes the benefits of walking but uses more upper body as in cross country skiing. To register for the August 30 workshop contact the centre at programmer@jdicseniors.ca.



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# Jewish highlights of 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 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 Jerusalem, won bronze at the 1996 Olympics in kayak slalom. Jerusalem 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



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)

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 de-feating the Russian Olym-pic Committee in the inaug-ural 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.

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for you and your families

Shana Tova  
from the  
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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.

## Rosh Hashanah with Uncle Max

By Varda Livney

Kar-Ben; ages 1 to 4

Who wouldn’t love a Rosh Hashanah visit from Uncle Max, who arrives in a pink car with balloons and a large bakery box tied to the roof? In this delightful board book, a trio of siblings and their adorable dog greet the start of Rosh Hashanah, enjoying a festive meal and hearing the shofar at synagogue. Varda Livney’s simple text is sprinkled with Hebrew words that are translated into English, such as “dvash” for honey. Her cartoon-style illustrations match the joyful verse and present a family with varying tones of skin color, a refreshing portrayal of the diversity of the Jewish world.

## 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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Stephen Deutsch

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from Shirley Goldberg and family

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and family

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from  
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Shanah Tovah to the  
entire community  
from Rabbi Ari  
& Rifka Drelich

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from Andrew, Aliya, Orly and Simon

L'Shanah Tovah  
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The Coppens-Muscat Family

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L'Shana Tova - Happy  
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Have a happy & healthy Rosh  
Hashanah to family, friends and the  
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and family

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Gail, Brian, Ethan,  
Ezra, and Sophie Buck

Best wishes to family & friends. May the year  
be filled with good health, peace & happiness  
from Rosemary  
& Stan Kitay  
and Naomi Beck

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

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from  
Rebecca & Shane  
Asbell and family


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Abby, & Zee Wright



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for this New Year!  
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and Nes Mandel

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Chaya Sarah, and the boys

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Special thoughts to our family & friends.  
May the year ahead be a sweet one.  
from Boris Sukalsky


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and family


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From Christina Tsipora & Joel Reboh  
and family

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all the best for this  
New Year!  
from Esther Sklofsky


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Rosh Hashanah!  
from Daniel, Becky, Lev  
and Micah Shapran

שנה טובה ומתוקה  
from Jane & Randy Soifer  
and family


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




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




Best wishes to family & friends.  
May the year be filled with good  
health, peace and happiness.  
from  
Tulane Rollingher




Best wishes  
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Naomi, Jared  
and Stephanie

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Riva & Howard  
Shein and family

Wishing the entire community a  
Happy New Year - Shana Tova Umetukah  
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and Gabriella Tankel


Special thoughts to our family & friends.  
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Francie Ratner  
and Mark Dolgoy





*Wishing friends & family  
all the best for this New Year!  
from Zhanna, Leon and Jason Uritsky*


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New Year - Shana Tovah Umetukah*



*from Connie & Danny  
Zalmanowitz*




*Wishing friends & family all  
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from Naomi Wolfman*




**L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!**  
from Freya & Lewis Wasel


**שנה טובה**  
*from Anna, Forrest,  
Adina, and  
Naomi Zeisler*



**L'Shanah Tovah  
- Happy Rosh Hashanah!**  
from Jodi, Michael and  
Rebecca Zabłudowski



**L'Shanah Tovah -  
Happy Rosh Hashanah!**  
from Shelley Weinstein  
& Bruce Bradley



*Wishing friends & family all  
the best for this New Year!*  
from Naomi & Ron Wolch

*Wishing friends & family all the best  
for this New Year!*  
from Eva & Sam Weisz

**לשנה טובה תכתבו**  
*from Hal Zalmanowitz*

# Ken Lister: Candidate for School Trustee

By Jenna Soroka

*Experience Matters.* That is the slogan you can expect from Ken Lister, Edmonton Public School Board Trustee candidate for the 2021 municipal election in October. He is looking forward to the opportunity of using his experience, both as a School Trustee and teacher, to serve families and communities in Ward F in Southwest Edmonton.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Lister has always had a passion for helping others and giving back to his community. This dedication led him to pursue a career as a teacher with the Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) where he taught at Talmud Torah School.

After teaching in Edmonton, Lister moved to Toronto and was elected School Trustee with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). As School Trustee, he continued to advocate for student success. During his time at the TDSB, Lister served as the Chair of the Budget Committee with a \$3.1 Billion Operating Budget. Lister eliminated the TDSB structural deficit without making any cuts in the classroom. He accomplished this by reducing the budget of School Trustees and by reducing the discretionary budget of superintendents. "Financial analysis experience is going to be key towards managing the EPSB operating budget," Lister stated, which is over a billion dollars according to

the 2021-2022 budget passed in June.

Another top priority for Lister is addressing school repairs. "The bigger the backlog grows, the greater the expense for taxpayers. \$812 million dollars are needed to fix our schools and it goes up each day," Lister noted. "These are dollars that could be put to other uses, such as creating more specialty programs and providing mental health supports for students." As a TDSB Trustee, Lister successfully advocated for \$645 million over three years to help eliminate the repair backlog in his schools.

Another issue Lister is pushing forward is fighting anti-Semitism, racism and hatred in schools. Ensuring a safe learning environment plays an important role in the growth and success of each student. In 2017, Lister put forward a motion to stop hate groups from utilizing spaces in public schools to spread harmful ideologies. This motion, initiated by Lister, was passed by the TDSB and reinforces his statement that he is "not afraid to stand up against anti-Semitism, islamophobia or homophobia and will continue to do so." At the time, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) put out a statement to applaud Lister and the school board's actions to fight anti-Semitism.

While discussing his role in combating anti-Semitism, Lister recalled an emotional experience he had while co-chairing the Jewish Heritage Month Committee. During a board-wide celebration, a group of non-Jewish students presented him with the story of Hannah's Suitcase. It "moved me almost to tears" Lister shared.

After a challenging year and a half for students and

families worldwide due to the pandemic, the topic of mental health has been brought to the forefront. Lister commented on how hard it was for students to access support even before the pandemic. His focus is to increase timely access to counsellors and psychologists for students who are looking for those supports.

Lister is also advocating for reduced class sizes. As a teacher, he has experience teaching in classrooms ranging from ten to thirty-five students. When Lister taught at Talmud Torah in Edmonton, he experienced small class sizes and knows the difference these numbers can make to students' learning and achievement. Smaller class sizes can also help minimize the spread of illnesses, which is even more important today.

Lister noted that out of the nine wards in Edmonton, seven School Trustees are not running for re-election. During this significant change in leadership, "experience is going to matter more than ever," Lister reinforced.

Throughout his campaign, Lister has focused on making himself accessible to community members in order to ask questions and engage with him one-on-one. He continues to volunteer his time to better his community in a number of ways including his role as Program Director for his community league.

Lister also mentioned what a joy it has been to reconnect with old Talmud Torah classmates and even former students who are now teaching his own children!

Head to Ken Lister's website [www.kenlister.ca](http://www.kenlister.ca), to learn more about the policies he will be advocating for as School Trustee.

*Jenna Soroka is a Local Journalism Initiative Reporter for Alberta Jewish News.*



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# Building a safe, strong, and prosperous city

By Sarah Hamilton

When I was elected four years ago, I promised to bring a smart, fresh and collaborative approach to City Council. Since then, I've delivered on key promises.

In 2017, I promised to make our communities safer. I delivered on this by getting over 30 additional traffic, crosswalk, and pedestrian controls in Ward 5, supported by new traffic safety initiatives within Vision Zero Street Labs. I kept funding stable for Neighbourhood Renewal, and I'm committed to seeing more west-end communities scheduled for the next cycle.

I said that I'd make sure that Ward 5 residents didn't get left behind in the Bus Network Redesign. While I couldn't change the routes, and subsequently didn't support the changes, I secured On-Demand Transit service for affected communities and made sure it didn't cost riders anything above normal transit fare.

In my first three years on City Council, I held taxes to an inflation-plus-growth formula. This meant the lowest tax rate increases in 20 years, culminating in 0% for 2021. The 2019-2022 budget saw the implementation of key


infrastructure accountability dashboards, meaning more projects on time and on budget.

That said, there's work that remains unfinished. While Councillor Knack and I were able to secure funding for planning and design for Lewis Farms, the construction remains unfunded. West Edmonton has the fewest recreation opportunities in the City, which affects other recreation centres; 40% of visitors to Terwillegar Recreation Centre come from west Edmonton. The changing fiscal condition of the city over the last four years calls for an experienced leader to find the resources to fill this need. We've been working to find alternate financing options and build partnerships so that we can continue this important project.

We will see the start of West Valley Line LRT construction. I promised four years ago that we'd ensure the train went over key intersections like 170th and 178th street. As the LRT is built out, an experienced City Councillor can hold City Administration accountable through the construction process and get quick and meaningful results.

Next term, I want to focus on providing stable and predictable funding for core services. The City does this already in some areas like the utility and policing budgets, but it doesn't provide the same to transit, fire, parks and roads, and social services, leaving them vulnerable to annual adjustments that could mean the difference between continued turf maintenance and mosquito control -- or not. Residents deserve to know what level of service they can expect from their city and stable funding formulas will give everyone that comfort.

### Yasher Koach Jody Schloss



The Edmonton community wishes Canadian Paralympian Jody Schloss success in Tokyo.

While the last few years have been challenging for all governments, they also represent an opportunity, which makes me excited to be your City Councillor for Ward sipiwiniwak. Our city has a bright future ahead, but requires experienced leadership to help us get there. As someone who was born and raised here, and has chosen Edmonton to grow my own family, I'm invested in building a safe, strong and prosperous city. I hope to have your support in achieving these goals.

# Nazi collaborator monument in Edmonton defaced with graffiti

By AJNews staff

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (FSWC) is once again calling for the removal of two monuments honouring Nazi collaborators and war criminals in Edmonton.

One is a statue of Roman Shukhevych, a Ukrainian military leader who collaborated with the Nazis and whose units massacred Jews and Poles between 1941-1944. The second is a memorial to the "freedom fighters" of the SS' 14th Waffen Division, who carried out massacres of women and children. Both monuments were the target of graffiti this month, with the words "Actual Nazi" written on the statue of Shukhevych and the words "Nazi Monument 14th Waffen SS" written on the memorial.

The statue of Shukhevych sits at the entrance of the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in North Edmonton, where it has remained since the complex opened in 1973. The monument to the SS soldiers, which is adorned with flowers and wreaths, sits at North Edmonton's St. Michael's Cemetery. FSWC and B'nai Brith Canada have been advocating for the removal of both monuments for decades, but given this moment of heightened interest in re-examining tributes to historical figures, it is hopeful the property owners will reconsider the value of maintaining the sites.

"It is beyond shameful to have monuments here in Canada honouring Nazi collaborators and war criminals," said Jaime Kirzner-Roberts, Director of Policy at FSWC. "These monuments are nothing less than a glorification and celebration of those who actively participated in Holocaust crimes as well the mass murder of Polish civilians. They represent an intolerable affront not just to the Jewish community but to all victims of Nazi horrors, to our veterans who fought and died to defeat the Nazi regime, and to the core Canadian values of tolerance and respect for human rights."

"The history on this is unequivocal," she added, specifically about Shukhevych. "There's absolutely no doubt about the scope of this individual's involvement in war crimes. It's just beyond unacceptable that such a person should be celebrated in any way — symbolic or otherwise — in our country."

Thomas Lukaszuk, Alberta's former deputy premier, and a board member of the Canadian Polish Historical Society told the Edmonton Journal that independent historians "unequivocally conclude that (Shukhevych) was definitely involved with, and instrumental in, the massacre of some 100,000 Poles, known as the Volyn massacre."

It is also undeniable, added Lukaszuk, that "he was a collaborator with the Nazis, with Hitler's forces, particularly when Hitler was advancing toward the Soviet Union in the Barbarossa campaign."

"I think it is a humanitarian position that individuals who have that track record — as part of their more extensive biography — should not be in any way honoured by having their statues displayed, particularly in Canada," he said.

Abe Silverman, B'nai Brith Canada's Alberta manager of public affairs and a Holocaust survivor, agrees with Lukaszuk. He said that previous discussions regarding the removal of the monument stalled because of "push-back from Ukrainian cultural organizations."

In an interview with Progress Report, Silverman said, "Was Roman Shukhevych an actual Nazi? He was a Ukrainian

nationalist and the evidence shows that was a fascist organization aligned with Nazi Germany. Did he hate Jews? Yes. Does that make him a Nazi? Probably yes.

"It seems to me that someone like that should not have a statue in his honour in our community. It's not acceptable. To hide behind the fact that he was a leader of a group that was fighting against communism is no excuse for being a murderer. To intentionally target civilians because you don't like who they are, be they Poles or Jews, is abhorrent."

FSWC added that it hoped, in "this moment of heightened interest in re-examining tributes to historical figures," that the property owners would rethink keeping the monuments.

"We ask the community that put up these statues... to take another look and realize that Canadians do not want these kinds of individuals being honoured, and it's time to retire these monuments and statues and replace them with icons that are more in line with the values of Canadians," said Kirzner-Roberts.



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# TAKING ACTION AGAINST RACISM

## OUR WORDS

*"Alberta's government stands shoulder to shoulder with our racial and religious minority communities and is proud to deliver on our election commitment to help keep them safe."*

**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."*

**Hon. Kaycee Madu,**  
MLA, Edmonton-South West

## ACTIONS TAKEN

**Alberta Security Infrastructure Program**  
Protecting religious and multicultural organizations from targeted, hate-motivated crimes and overt racist attacks.

**The Community Liaison on Hate Crimes and Hate Crimes Coordination Unit**  
Alberta's government is deploying resources to protect all Albertans from hate-motivated crimes.

**Bill 63 - Banning Carding**  
Randomly stopping people and collecting personal information is unacceptable, which is why we have banned carding outright.

For more information on efforts against racism, please visit:  
[unitedconservativecaucus.ca/antiracism](http://unitedconservativecaucus.ca/antiracism)

