

This Too Shall Pass



the elul project

Yamim Noraim- "ימים נוראים" Days of Awe", commonly referred to as the High Holidays – Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur - are composed of two themes; a new beginning and self-examination.

Providing us with an opportunity for change, Rosh Hashana marks a new Jewish year. Along with the new year, we are given the ability to begin on a new slate and leave the previous year in the past. However, during these challenging times, it may seem as though this year, beginning on a new slate seems unrealistic and perhaps even impossible. And yet, it was King Solomon who asserted that "this too shall pass", which acts as a reminder that everything in life is transient - nothing lasts forever. Thus, with optimism and hope, we can look forward to the upcoming year, and take the opportunity to be grateful for all that we have.

A week after the new year, we reach the crescendo of the High Holidays with Yom Kippur - a day of repentance, introspection and reflection. This unique time provides us with an opportunity to right wrongs in order to sculpt the best versions of ourselves for the future.

I encourage you to use this lockdown period as a chance to dig deep within yourselves to come out the other side prepared to take on the year ahead. COVID-19 has taken us on a rollercoaster, with many ups and downs. However, we must be thankful for what we have learnt in the past year, and what we have been able to achieve individually and collectively as an organisation of diverse and amazing women. After intense introspection, and with newfound goals and perspective, we can now look forward to being reunited with loved ones, surrounded by health and happiness.

During Rosh Hashanah, the days where we begin to plan the coming year, we decide what we want to achieve and the obstacles we want to overcome. We use our 'rosh', meaning 'head', to actively create goals and agendas, looking toward the future. On the other hand, Yom Kippur is the day of repentance, introspection and reflection, a day to look inside ourselves and engage with our hearts. So, this year, I encourage you to appreciate these times, and to lead with your head and your heart.

And hopefully, we will soon return to the days where we can meet each other face-to-face, and unite for our shared goal of making the world a better place while advancing the status of women, children and families in Israel.

This year's yamim noraim will look drastically different from every other. Nevertheless, the combination of the days and our new reality, provide us with an opportunity to look back on our actions over the past year and assess where we will be heading in the coming year. During this time, particularly in isolation, we are able to think and re-plan our personal, familial and communal lives. And hopefully, we will soon return to the days where we can meet each other face-to-face, and unite for our shared goal of making the world a better place while advancing the status of women, children and families in Israel.

As a wife and a mother of four children, I know I will take the time these holidays to be eternally grateful for what I have, and I encourage you all to reflect on what you may be thankful for too.

Wishing all of Am Israel a Shanah Tova U'metuka and a Chag Sameach.



RONIT CHRAPOT

WIZO Victoria President, Ronit Chrapot, was born and raised in the Jewish homeland, Israel. Arriving in Melbourne 22 years ago, Ronit met and married the love of her life, Marcus. Together they have four children.

Ronit is a hypnotherapist, businesswoman and philanthropist. Ronit believes in empowering women, assisting Israeli society and those in need, and found that WIZO allows her to express her passions.

Ronit believes that a dream becomes a vision, and then reality.

ABOUT THE ELUL PROJECT

An initiative aiming to share stories and teachings from Jewish women leaders in our community. Whilst many of us are stuck at home, or isolated from family over Elul and the High Holy Days, we hope this project will serve to inspire, nurture, and uplift during this difficult time.