

The American
Jewish World

VOICES OF MINNESOTA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY • FOUNDED JUNE 12, 1912

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Rosh Hashana begins at sundown on
Wednesday, Sept. 24.

A Good and Sweet New Year!



*Opening
the
Heart*

*At the year's turn,
in the days between,
we step away
from what we know
into the spaces
we cannot yet name.*

*Slowly the edges
begin to yield,
the hard places
soften,
the gate to forgiveness
opens.*

— Marcia Falk, from *The Days Between: Blessings, Poems, and Directions of the Heart for the Jewish High Holiday Season* (Brandeis)

For more about Marcia Falk, our cover artist and poet, see Page 4.

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AJW Cover Artist: Marcia Falk

The American Jewish World is very pleased to present artwork and a poem by Marcia Falk on the cover of our Rosh Hashana special edition.

The cover motif is based on Falk's illustration titled "Gilead Apples," which adorns the cover of her new book, *The Days Between: Blessings, Poems, and Directions for the Jewish High Holiday Season* (Brandeis).

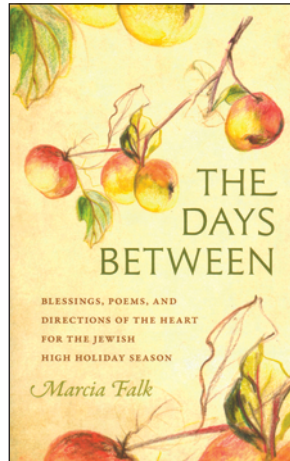
The short poem on the cover, "Open the Heart," is an epigraph to her new book, which is a fascinating supplement to the traditional High Holidays liturgy. Rabbi David Teutsch, professor of Jewish civilization at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, calls it "a wonderful companion for the Ten Days of T'shuvah."

Falk, who lives in Berkeley, Calif.,

is a Brandeis University graduate, and went on to Stanford, where she earned a doctorate in English and comparative literature. She studied Hebrew language and literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

A professor of literature, Jewish studies, and creative writing for many years, Falk is a popular public speaker, on subjects ranging from Jewish women's voices to the love poetry of the Bible.

I first became aware of Falk's liturgical poetry when Harper Collins published her innovative and lovely prayer book, *The Book of Blessings: New Jewish Prayers for Daily Life, the Sabbath, and the New Moon Festival*, in 1996. (For our family Kabbalat Shabbat ritual over many years, we use her poem, "Bless-



Marcia Falk

ing the Children"; we place a hand on each son's head, say his name and recite: "Be who you are, and may you be blessed in all that you are.")

For more about Marcia Falk and *The Days Between*, go to: marciafalk.com.

— **Mordecai Specktor**

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Israeli polygamist, cult leader convicted of sexual offenses

(JTA) — An Israeli polygamist and cult leader was convicted of several sexual offenses, including raping his wives.

Goel Ratzon, 64, was convicted Monday in Tel Aviv District Court on charges including rape, sodomy, indecent assault and sexual abuse within the family. He was cleared on one charge of sexually enslaving one of the women that he called his wife.

Ratzon was arrested and indicted four and a half years ago following a complaint filed by one of his of 21 "wives," with whom he fathered 38 children.

He made the women believe that he was the savior of the world and had supernatural abilities. Ratzon also alienated the women from their families and only allowed them to speak in public areas of their home.

Ratzon never officially married any of the women that he called his wives.

AJW office closings

The American Jewish World offices will be closed on Thursday, Sept. 25 and Friday, Sept. 26 in observance of Rosh Hashana.

We wish our readers a happy and healthy new year!



NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT'S TIME TO LOOK BEYOND OUR LABELS

With the crises in Israel and Ukraine foremost in our minds, this Rosh Hashana takes on an even deeper significance. And so does our unity.

Because no matter how we may label ourselves—we are all Jews. That's what matters. Now more than ever.



So this Rosh Hashana, let's make it a sweeter new year by standing together. By building a stronger Jewish community. By making sure Jews are free to live—anywhere in the world—without fear of persecution.

By giving to the Minneapolis Jewish Federation.

**TOGETHER WE DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS
—TAKE THE FIRST STEP.**

Visit jewishminneapolis.org or call 952.417.2344 today.

