A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

Shalom friends,

I recently read an article about Chanukah by renowned Rabbi, scholar, and leader Jonathan Sacks. In his article, Rabbi Sacks provides a number of short thoughts about Chanukah, with one in particular standing out to me as relevant for my message this week.

Rabbi Sacks speaks of inside and outside lights in Judaism, as well as their intersection. He notes there is more than one command in Judaism to light lights. There are three. There are the Shabbat candles. There is the havdalah candle. And there are the Chanukah candles.

The Shabbat candles represent shalom bayit, peace in the home. They are lit indoors. These candles represent Judaism’s inner light, the holiness of the home.

The Chanukah candles were once displayed outside the front door as a way of publicizing the miracle of Chanukah. It was only fear of persecution that changed this practice, thus the Chanukah candles are the light Judaism brings to the world when we bring the Chanukah candles inside. In essence, Chanukah was only fear of persecution that changed this practice, thus the Chanukah candles are the light Judaism brings to the world.

Rabbi Sacks’ story applies to Jewish Calgary. As we continue to build a strong internal community, one that offers many cultural programs, social services, opportunities for ritual practice, and pathways to education and engagement, we also continue to build external relations with broader Calgary, as well as with Jewish and non-Jewish stakeholders across Canada, in Israel, and around the globe. We must maintain a mindful balance of serving our immediate Jewish needs and instilling yiddishkeit in our children and grandchildren, while at the same time ensuring that we are strengthening our community and our relations with others, so that all that we have built will endure for generations.

Above all else, we must embrace our diversity as a community and leverage our differences as strengths. We must not pull apart from each other or fracture – rather, we must come together, not only for our own good, but as an example, as ohr Igoyim, a light unto the nations.

As we approach Chanukah and, at the same time, come to the close of our community’s UJA Campaign, I thank all of our generous donors and supporters, noting that we would not be the envy of many small communities without your thoughtfulness. I also appeal to those in our community who enjoy all that we have to offer, and who would certainly miss the vibrant Jewish Calgary we all know, if services and programs could not be offered due to lack of support.

To those people, I ask you to step up and make a gift to our community now. Join us in ensuring that our community’s future remains bright.

In Jewish Calgary, every person is important, every gift makes a difference, everyone is welcome. In Jewish Calgary, Everyone Counts!

Chag Chanukah Sameach,

Adam Silver,
Chief Executive Officer, Calgary Jewish Federation
The auditorium was filled with song, brachot, candlelight, and sounds of happiness when over 50 children, their parents and grandparents gathered to celebrate Havdalah with PJ Library on November 18. Thank you to Amy Goldberg and Eytan Graubart for adding some magic to this meaningful event!

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For information contact Karina Szulc: karinas@jewishcalgary.org or 403-389-6994

Keynote speaker
Dr. Stephen Shore
Life On and Slightly to the Right of the Autism Spectrum

Diagnosed with “atypical development and strong autistic tendencies” and “too sick” for outpatient treatment, Dr. Stephen Shore was recommended for institutionalization. Nonverbal until four, and with much support from his parents, teachers, wife, and others, Dr. Shore is now a consultant, author, and professor at Adelphi University where his research focuses on matching best practice to the needs of people with autism.

For more information contact Veronika Havkin at 587-707-2077 or vhavkin@jewishcalgary.org.

PJ Library® at the JCC
Chanukah Family Dance Party
Saturday, December 16
6:00-6:30pm | Calgary JCC
Join us for a special party before the main event at the JCC. A free and fun family event. The little ones will love the light-up dance floor!

For more information about PJ Library contact Kathie Wainer, PJ Library® Program Manager 403-537-8592 or kwainer@jewishcalgary.org

PJ Library® for Russian-Speaking Families
Saturday, December 16
5:45pm | Calgary JCC
Join us for our Russian and Hebrew Chanukah program then enjoy the JCC Chanukah Family Dance Party from 6:30-8:30pm.

For more information contact Veronika Havkin at 587-707-2077 or vhavkin@jewishcalgary.org.

PJ Library® on Russian language invites you to celebrate Hanukkah! In the program, the history and traditions of Hanukkah, many music, dances, interesting crafts and lots of fun! Join all the family! Waiting for you on Saturday, December 16 at 5.45 pm at the JCC.

For more information please call 587-707-2077 or email vhavkin@jewishcalgary.org.
Reva knows about struggling. She survived the Holocaust and decades of poverty and discrimination in the former Soviet Union. She is grateful that her children and grandchildren are building a better life in Canada and joined them here not long ago. She arrived with virtually nothing, and now at 83 years old, she doesn’t have the energy or language skills to navigate unfamiliar government support programs. Without the support of Jewish Family Service Calgary (JFSC), a partner agency of Federation, Reva would have been one of those who “fell through the cracks.”

Instead, she received help with applying for government aid, subsidies for food and medicine, and Holocaust Reparations. Visits from a Russian-speaking social worker brighten her day. Reva enjoys the cultural and social opportunities of JFSC and Calgary JCC programs and has found a network of friends, thus avoiding the isolation many seniors experience. Reva’s path to Calgary and transition was difficult. Supporting her now is our collective responsibility, because everyone counts.

Make your own impact on Jewish life through Federation’s UJA campaign.
MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

It’s never too late to do your part and count yourself in!

If you’ve already made your gift to the UJA 2017 campaign, thank you!

Don’t forget that to get a 2017 charitable tax receipt, payments must be received by December 31.

How to Give
Online jewishcalgary.org
In person 1607 90 Avenue SW
Phone 403-444-3157