Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF) is Jewish Calgary’s Centre of Jewish Philanthropy and its planning and coordinating body. We proudly fund vital programs and services through our annual United Jewish Appeal Campaign and allocate resources according to a strategic plan based on Jewish communal needs and priorities. Core Federation responsibilities include supervision of kashrut (kosher food); maintenance of the community mikvah (ritual bath); hospital and campus chaplaincy; and programming with specific emphasis on leadership development, outreach and Holocaust education.
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Staying in Touch – Keeping You Informed

In keeping with our commitment and effort to regularly update the community, we are very pleased to share with you our first Mid-Year Update on Federation activities.

It has been an exciting six months since Calgary Jewish Federation's Annual Report in June. Our community is extraordinarily busy and we are thrilled to share snapshots of the many Federation highlights from June through December 2011.

During the past months, we have focused on reaching out to as many Jewish Calgarians as possible including newly arrived or re-engaged community members, UJA donors, our partner agencies, local Jewish organizations and community leaders within and beyond Federation. Key to everything we have done, and continue to do, is caring, engaging, welcoming and working together with the many individuals and organizations that make Jewish Calgary such a wonderful place to live and to grow.

Throughout this report you will read about Federation initiatives, successes and plans. Our most visible contribution to Jewish life in Calgary is the Annual United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Campaign which, thanks to your generous support, fuels our community's core programs and services. Additionally, we are very pleased to spotlight some of the Federation programs and services that are putting smiles on the faces of community members of every age and stage, here in Calgary, in Israel and throughout the world.

Our Annual Report, which is presented to the community at our AGM each June, provides full details on Federation activities throughout the year as well as our financial statements. The purpose of this Mid-Year Update is to provide snapshots of some of our highlights over the past six months.

Our most important focus is on our people, the young and the young at heart – the volunteers, contributors, professional staff and leaders who help to create an open, forward-thinking and inclusive community. It is this vision that motivates the work of Calgary Jewish Federation.

We are committed to building a community that provides every member with a warm welcome and multiple opportunities to live Jewishly.

We trust that you will enjoy this update and share our excitement at the many innovative programs that are inspiring more and more Jewish Calgarians to get in the picture as leaders, participants and donors.

Please join us!

Adam Singer
President

Drew Staffenberg
Executive Director
Improved Communications

Calgary Jewish Federation has invested staff resources in continual improvement of the frequency and quality of communications with community leaders and members of the community at large through:

- **E-Pom**, our bi-monthly E-Blast bursting with information on the upcoming events of local Jewish organizations.

- **Pomegranate**, a Federation funded feature in every issue of the *Jewish Free Press* that keeps the community up-to-date on Federation / UJA achievements, information and events.

- Articles on Federation-sponsored programs, services and events in the *Jewish Free Press*.

- www.jewishcalgary.org, Federation’s community website, providing information about Jewish Calgary, with special emphasis on Federation, our partner agencies, a continuously updated community calendar and outreach to all members of the community including newcomers.


**Focus on the Future**

Plans are in the works for regular E-Blasts to Federation and community leaders.

**Snapshot of Success**

“Love reading and truly enjoy E-Pom! I think it a wonderful way for those of us who go to the hopefully warmer weather in the South to keep connected with the YYC Jewish community. Thank you for this foray into the “new” technology. Really appreciate it.”
Interagency Synergy

Since this past summer, senior professional leaders of Calgary Jewish Federation and its partner agencies have again been meeting monthly in a joint effort to enhance the quality of Jewish communal life through cooperation and coordination. Agendas have included:

• Joint assessment of communal needs;
• Deeper insight into the programs, services and events offered by each agency / school;
• Opportunities to engage in joint programming; and
• Fundraising ideas like UJAplus Giving (See UJA – page 6).

Focus on the Future

As the Executive Directors and Principals continue to meet, future discussions will include human resource development, community calendar clearing, joint leadership development opportunities and the creation of forums that engage and encourage active participation of veteran lay leaders in communal activities throughout Jewish Calgary.

Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA Partner Agency
Executive Directors and Principals

Front row (l to r): Jerrod Henoch, Camp BB-Riback; Ben Karmel, The Calgary Jewish Academy; Rabbi Chaim Greenwald, Akiva Academy.

Back row: Janine Krusky, Calgary JCC; Bev Sheckter, Jewish Family Service Calgary; Rabbi Chaim Safren, Calgary Community Kollel; Drew Staffenberg, Calgary Jewish Federation.
Financial Sustainability

One of Calgary Jewish Federation’s most important roles is to ensure the financial sustainability of Jewish life in Calgary through successful fundraising, visionary planning and prudent management of community resources.

Spotlight on United Jewish Appeal

United Jewish Appeal is Jewish Calgary’s life source, raising the funds that provide for our community’s core programs and services, including assistance for the most vulnerable among us. Through the Program Allocations Committee process, funds raised through this annual campaign are allocated to critical programs and services provided by our local partner agencies, Federation-sponsored programs, and charitable projects in Israel and throughout the Jewish world... wherever there are Jews in need.

Through the proceeds of our Annual UJA Campaign, we are very proud to support some of the programs of our partner agencies:

Snapshots of Success: 2011 UJA Campaign

• Our newly instituted UJAplus Giving has, to date, yielded $84,189 extra dollars designated by our generous donors to local partner agencies, Federation programs and charitable projects in Israel and around the world.

• UJA chairs and volunteers have contacted more donors and received more pledges than ever before!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Pledges</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>YLD* Donors</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

*ages 25-45
Financial Sustainability

• Card for card increases topped 5% per cent – reflecting increased support and enthusiasm across our community.

• An army of UJA and partner agency volunteers raised $135,242 at 11 very successful Cell-a-Thon events held throughout the campaign.

• Community conversations gave donors, lay leaders and staff a deeper understanding of events and issues affecting Jews in Calgary and in Israel. For example, in September, United Israel Appeal Canada’s Director of Infrastructures, Victor Yagoda, brought Jewish Calgarians a first-hand report on current events in Israel with a focus on our partnership region in Etzbah HaGalil, the Galilee Panhandle.

• The community celebrated the 2011 campaign at a fun, community-wide event in October featuring special guests Premier Alison Redford and the highly entertaining Gregory Levey, author of Shut Up, I’m Talking: And Other Diplomacy Lessons I Learned in the Israeli Government and How to Make Peace in the Middle East in Six Months or Less Without Leaving Your Apartment.

Focus on Voluntarism

155 volunteers lent their time and talent to the 2011 UJA Campaign. Please join us in thanking them for a job well done!
Financial Sustainability

• The Lion of Judah Division, comprised of local women who give an annual gift of at least $5000, awarded two scholarships to local university students Gabriella Fialkow and Michael Zhuhovitsky at an October dinner featuring special guest Miri Eisen, retired IDF Colonel and Israeli government spokesperson.

• Men’s Division brought back its November classic, the UJA Texas Hold ‘Em event. Winning poker mavens enjoyed some great prizes provided by generous community members and local businesses. UJA hit the jackpot with new donors, new dollars and plenty of funraising.

Focus on the Future

Next year’s UJA Team is already being formed under the leadership of co-chairs Micah Libin and Sam Feldman. Debbie Ryder will once again head Women’s Division and other members of the 2012 Team will be announced in the near future. Calgary Jewish Federation is actively recruiting volunteers with a view toward increased involvement and closer cooperation with community partners. If you would like to join the team, please contact Diana Kalef, UJA Campaign Director, at 403-444-3154 or dkalef@jewishcalgary.org.
Leadership Development

Calgary Jewish Federation is investing in the future through its support of young leadership initiatives. The more young leaders we have in the picture, the brighter our collective future will be!

**Spotlight on Calgary YLD**

Calgary Young Leadership Division provides a fun forum for social and educational programming enriching the Jewish lives and connections of women and men up to the age of 45. YLD’s enormous success is evident in the increasing numbers of young Calgarians participating in events and lending their enthusiasm and skill to overall leadership in the community.

More and more, our very dedicated and energetic young leaders are in the spotlight, and we echo the sentiments of John F. Kennedy who famously once said, “The Jewish people, ever since David slew Goliath, have never considered youth as a barrier to leadership.” Thankfully, neither does Federation!

**Focus on Fun**

It isn’t all work and no play for our up and coming YLD community leaders who also organized events that kept fun front and centre, including *Got Beer*, a crowd-pleasing November event held at CRAFT Beer Market.
Leadership Development

Snapshot of Success:
It’s Up 2 Us Conference – A Day of Community Building, June 6, 2011

- Calgary YLD hosted all Jewish agencies in Calgary with representation from the 25 to 45 year old demographic.

- Philanthropists and veteran community leaders Phil Libin and Maurice Paperny opened the day-long conference with a chat to inspire and motivate participants.

- Debbie Stein, of Jewish Federation of North America’s Mandel Centre of Excellence, helped to facilitate the round-table discussions focusing on:
  - Stimulating Jewish engagement;
  - Strengthening Jewish identity and learning;
  - Sustaining Jewish infrastructure;
  - Developing human and financial resources;
  - Inspiring collaborations;
  - Thinking differently and creatively; and
  - Taking care of Jews in need.

- A committee was formed to bring forward the recommendations to the greater community.

- Executive summary will be available early in 2012.
Spotlight on Hillel

Hillel continued to bring Jewish programs to students attending University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, SAIT Polytechnic and the Alberta College of Art and Design. During the first semester of 2011 – 2012, undergraduates, graduates and other Jewish young adults between the ages of 18 and 26 have enjoyed social and educational programs including:

- Welcome BBQ;
- Weekly bagel lunches at U of C and MRU;
- Hillel / Kollel Hookah in the Sukkah;
- Israeli Shabbat dinner and food bank drive;
- Information sessions on Israel-based programs;
- Guest speaker Miri Eisen, former IDF colonel and spokesperson;
- Representation at Canadian Federation of Jewish Students meetings in Toronto;
- Flames game; and
- Festivus Jewdo.

Snapshot of Success

They enjoyed a wonderful taste of Israel as 25 young adults joined in a festive Shabbat dinner at the Calgary JCC in November. Participants shared the bounty by bringing non-perishable food items for the Food Bank and Miriam’s Well. They may have come for the hummus and falafel, but they left with a whole lot more, including information about study and work opportunities in Israel and upcoming events in Jewish Calgary.
Spotlight on Campus Chaplaincy

The Federation-funded Jewish Campus Chaplain continued to provide study, worship, counseling and information opportunities to Jewish students at the University of Calgary and beyond. The Campus Chaplaincy once again worked in close cooperation with Hillel and the Calgary Community Kollel to help strengthen and deepen the quality of Jewish life for young adults on and off campus.

- Mizmor Shir, a prayer group organized by and for students, continued to provide egalitarian High Holidays, Shabbat and holiday services that were musical, participatory and fun.
- Rabbi Benji Gruber spoke about progressive Judaism in Israel at a program jointly sponsored by the Chaplaincy and Temple B’nai Tikvah.
- The Jewish Campus Chaplain provided counseling to several students requiring assistance with personal matters.
- The Jewish campus chaplaincy will begin weekly Jewish text-based study sessions on sexuality beginning January 12.

Snapshot of Success

“The chaplaincy has offered me the opportunity to complement my academic studies with spiritual development, in many ways. Weekly study sessions with Oren and other students always give me interesting perspectives on key themes in Judaism, and the chaplaincy provides a warm environment for celebrating holidays with other Jewish students on campus. And with chaplains and students from all kinds of traditions gathering in close proximity, the chaplaincy always offers the opportunity for cross-cultural learning!”

Focus on Mizmor Shir

It is energetic, musical and uplifting! Mizmor Shir, established by the Federation funded Jewish campus chaplain and locally-based University students in 2009, enjoyed their largest gathering this past summer, with over 30 in attendance. Recently they have upgraded their Kashrut standard so as to accommodate new members who are more strictly observant. More than 25 people attended Mizmor Shir High Holiday services, five of them first-timers! For the first time, services included Torah reading and Shofar blowing.
Snapshots of Success

- In surveys conducted in June and September, the Integrated Bursary Program received high praise from applicants, counselors, adjudicators and partner agencies.
- 77% of applicants were totally satisfied or satisfied with the Integrated Bursary Process.
- 91% of applicants found the “one stop shop” to be beneficial.
- 100% of counselors, 100% of the adjudication committee and 80% of agency respondents felt that IBP should be a permanent program of Federation.
- At its December 14 meeting, the Federation Board voted unanimously to continue the IBP as a permanent service to the community.

“Inclusion

Calgary Jewish Federation remains dedicated to building and sustaining a community in which there are no barriers to the maximum and joyous participation of all Jewish Calgarians.

Spotlight on Integrated Bursary Program

In June, Federation marked the final year of the three-year pilot Integrated Bursary Program. The program was established in response to the Poverty Task Force, which identified previous subsidy application processes as a barrier to participation in Jewish life.

Based on the principals of equity, anonymity and dignity, the “one-stop” program minimizes embarrassment and humiliation for applicants as they only have to tell their story once. Every application is measured by the same standards, making the process as fair as possible. The highest standards of confidentiality are maintained.

In 2011, $365,000 was allocated to IBP. A total of 64 families applied for subsidies for school (Akiva Academy and Calgary Jewish Academy), summer camp (Camp BB-Riback and JCC day camp), JCC membership and the Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program.

“Thank you again for all the help and support. The “one stop” system helped me and my children obtain services in a respectable manner. All the staff I was in contact with showed a high degree of respect and concern. Thank you again.”

“Thank you for this program, it is helping me and other families in financial difficulties a lot. Keep up the great work!!”
Task Force on Inclusion of Jewish People with Disabilities

In keeping with Calgary Jewish Federation’s goal to increase affiliation, the Task Force was created to address the needs of Jewish people with disabilities and to eliminate barriers to full participation in Jewish life.

In the spring of 2010, Federation held a workshop with guests Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson and Shelley Christenson. Rabbi Artson gave a passionate presentation about being a Rabbi and the parent of an autistic son. Ms. Christensen presented workshops to Jewish community professionals and lay leaders about how communal organizations can be more inclusive of individuals with disabilities.

Federation also commissioned the University of Calgary to conduct a survey to identify challenges and areas of greatest need. Because of the small number of respondents – 36 people completed the survey – the results are not statistically significant, but the responses did provide useful anecdotal evidence and identified the following needs:

- Barrier-free communal institutions;
- Inclusive programming at all organizations;
- Addressing disabilities across the age spectrum;
- Youth education and sensitivity training. The Task Force provided sensitivity training at the December 2011 BBYO convention; and
- Engaging those with disabilities in the community building process.

Snapshot of Success

In November, the Task Force co-sponsored a film at the Beth Tzedec Film Festival. *Dreamcoat: The Documentary* tells the story of a production of *Jacob and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* honouring the 25th anniversary of the Tamir Foundation, in Ottawa, which provides services to people with developmental disabilities. This program highlighted challenges and solutions to including people with developmental disabilities in Jewish communal life.

Discussions with the Judaic director of the Tamir Foundation sparked discussions among Task Force members regarding some concrete programming that could be instituted in Calgary in the coming months.
Jewish Community Chaplain

In keeping with Calgary Jewish Federation’s efforts to reach out to all members of the community – especially the most vulnerable among us – the Jewish Community Chaplain continued to bring messages of hope and support to community members in need of healing, including:

- 50 hospital patients and their families;
- Two Jewish individuals from out of town who made contact through Federation’s website at www.jewishcalgary.org;
- 10 community members with mental health issues, including seven individuals who regularly attend monthly meetings of the Mental Health Support Group established by the Jewish Community Chaplain;
- Five families who received end of life and grief support;
- Four new volunteers who participated in bikkur cholim (visiting the sick) training; and
- Two volunteers who plan to make regular visits at the Chinook Care Centre.

Focus on the Future

When a local Jewish family was told that an autopsy would have to be performed on their loved one, the Jewish Community Chaplain – with the help of a local Rabbi – helped to ensure that the hospital’s legal requirements were met while honouring the deceased with a less invasive procedure. The issue has been referred to the Alberta Health Services Spiritual Care Advisory Committee for further consideration and they plan to meet with the Medical Examiner to provide insights on the laws, traditions and sensitivities of various religions regarding autopsies.

Snapshot of Success

“My mom passed away suddenly in June, on the second day of Shavuot. The hospital chaplain had previously visited with her at the hospital, and my mother loved her. Sari was an anchor at a time of storm. She was really there for my mom and for all of us. I don’t know what we would have done without her.”
In addition to supporting formal Jewish education as provided by our community Jewish day schools, Calgary Jewish Federation supports a wide variety of educational opportunities for children and adults within and beyond the Calgary Jewish community.

**Spotlight on Holocaust Education and Remembrance**

Calgary Jewish Federation’s Holocaust Remembrance and Human Rights Education department continued to develop, promote and deliver community and school-based programs enriched by the courageous and inspiring participation of local Holocaust survivors.

**Focus on the Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program**

The Asper graduation ceremony in June honoured the 74 junior high students who successfully completed the 2011 program which included educational sessions, community service and a visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites in Washington, DC. The 2012 Asper Program began education sessions on January 10, 2012 with a total of 85 participants and 15 chaperones.

**Spotlight on Kristallnacht**

The Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration, held on November 10 in conjunction with the Beth Tzedec Congregation Jewish Film Festival, brought together 600 community members in memory of all those who perished at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. The program included a candlelighting ceremony and a special screening of the heart warming Canadian documentary *The Heart of Auschwitz*. 
Focus on BESA: A Code of Honor – Muslim Albanians who Rescued Jews During the Holocaust

The BESA Exhibit is proudly presented by Calgary Jewish Federation in association with Canadian Society for Yad Vashem from January 27 through February 11 at the Calgary JCC. Watch for details in Pomegranate, Jewish Free Press and Calgary Jewish Federation’s Annual Report in June.

Spotlight on March of the Living

The March of the Living is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that takes thousands of Jewish teens from countries around the world to Poland and Israel. Participation in the program is organized locally by Calgary Jewish Federation. A highlight is the march itself, a three-kilometer journey from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built by the Nazis during World War II. The trip ends with hope for the future as participants celebrate the inextinguishable vibrancy of Jewish life that not only survived, but thrived. A total of 22 Calgary participants will begin preparatory classes in January and depart for Poland in April, 2012, led by local chaperones Max Lipsman and Paula Lexier.

Snapshot of Success

Calgary will be sending the second largest Canadian Coast to Coast contingent to Poland and Israel this spring.

Focus on School-Based Holocaust Education

Local Holocaust survivors continue to visit junior high, high school and University classrooms throughout Calgary and environs. Seven very meaningful visits were conducted between June and December. Many more are expected during the first half of 2012.

Focus on the Future

The Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) community-wide commemoration will take place on Wednesday April 18.

The 28th Annual Holocaust Education Symposium, also organized by Calgary Jewish Federation and held in conjunction with Mount Royal University, happens May 8 – 10.
In keeping with its commitment to ensure inclusive and pluralistic adult education options for Jewish Calgarians, Calgary Jewish Federation was very pleased to present an outstanding line-up of virtual speakers. 92nd Street Y brought some of the greatest thinkers, entertainers and newsmakers in the Jewish world to Calgary via live and pre-recorded broadcasts from the 92nd Street Y in New York City.

Our fall 2011 broadcasts included:

- **A Turning Point for the Middle East and the World**  
  with Eliot Spitzer and Alan Dershowitz, October 2011

- **A Progressive Vision for Israel** with Jeremy Ben-Ami and Peter Beinart, October 2011

- **The Funniest American Writers**, with Andy Borowitz, November 2011

- **Finding a Lost Tribe of Israel: The Bnei Menashe of India**, with Michael Freund, November 2011

Watch *Pomegranate* in the *Jewish Free Press* and *E-Pom* (available online at www>jewishcalgary.org) for further details on these and other upcoming Federation programs.
One of the most important roles fulfilled by Calgary Jewish Federation is outreach, with special emphasis on reaching the unaffiliated and welcoming newcomers to the Calgary Jewish community. Calgary Jewish Federation’s outreach coordinator reaches out to individuals and families who are new to Calgary as well as those who are looking for a new Jewish “fit”.

Spotlight on PJ Library®

The PJ Library® reading revolution is bringing more and more Jewish kids and parents into the picture when it comes to Jewish engagement at home and in the community. Registered children between the ages of six months and eight years receive quality, age and season-appropriate Jewish content books and CDs monthly thanks to the generous support of UJA, community sponsors and matching grants from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. A PJ Library® Calgary newsletter keeps young families informed on book news, family-friendly activities and local Jewish events.
Outreach

PJ Library® Highlights: June – December 2011

- Popsicles in the Park, in partnership with Young Leadership Division, Calgary JCC and Temple B’nai Tikvah, June 12
- Rosh Hashanah with Jewish Family Service Calgary, September 11
- PJ Pyjama Party, with Temple B’nai Tikvah, November 19
- PJ Library® at the JCC Jewish Book and Art Festival, December 4
- PJ Goes to Preschool, Akiva Academy, December 9
- PJ Library® Celebrates Chanukah at the JCC Chanukah Family Dance Party, December 10

Snapshots of Success

Current PJ Library® subscribers: 245.
Generous community sponsors have helped to reduce our waiting list, but 33 children are still looking forward to the day when they can become subscribers too.

Here’s what a young family had to say about the PJ Pyjama Party:

“My husband, who is not Jewish, and son attended the Pyjama Party last night. They were late coming home because they stopped at Chapters to buy “The Bedtime Sh’ma” which they read together. Thank you for helping us be more Jewish.”
Spotlight on *Shalom Baby*

Calgary Jewish Federation loves to say *bruchim haba’im* to all newcomers, especially newborn and newly adopted children! In the last six months *Shalom Baby* gifts have been delivered to more than 20 new little members of our community! Each *Shalom Baby* gift includes an informative *Shalom Baby* resource book and special gifts from schools, synagogues, women groups and Jewish business owners.

Spotlight on *Shalom Calgary*

Through our *Shalom Calgary* program, our outreach coordinator welcomes Jewish families and individuals to Calgary, providing important information about the community, including Calgary Jewish Federation’s *Shalom Calgary* resource book. Available in print and online at www.jewishcalgary.org, *Shalom Calgary* offers information on all aspects of Jewish life in Calgary including Jewish education, Synagogues, Jewish camping, bursaries, kosher food services and much more.

Since June, we have assisted 44 individuals, some from as far away as Israel and others from Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg. All have used our website and found *Shalom Calgary* useful in planning their move.

Focus on the Future

A Chanukah reading for preschoolers was held at the Shawnessy Public Library in early to December to help share the Chanukah spirit beyond our usual venues. In the coming months Calgary Jewish Federation’s *Shalom Calgary* program will focus on increasing our outreach to Calgary Jews not yet affiliated with the organized Jewish community by bringing a taste of Judaism to more Calgary neighbourhoods.
North American studies have shown that a Jewish camping experience is one of the top contributors to the development of strong Jewish identities and future community leaders. Calgary Jewish Federation was very proud to support bursaries enabling attendance at Camp BB-Riback and the JCC Day Camp during the summer of 2011 and is also looking forward to providing bursaries for the summer of 2012 so that qualifying families without the financial means can once again say “yes” to their kids, providing Jewish memories and friendships to last a lifetime.

Focus on One Happy Camper
Last summer, six Calgary children took advantage of $1000 One Happy Camper (OHC) grants for first-time overnight summer campers who do not attend Jewish day school. Half of the grant comes from the Foundation for Jewish Camp; the other half from a generous Calgary donor. Local OHC grants are coordinated by Calgary Jewish Federation.

Spotlight on Shalom Camp
Last month, Federation published Shalom Camp, an online resource for Calgary families looking for the right Jewish overnight camp for their kids. Shalom Camp, which provides listings on a wide variety of Jewish camps throughout Canada, is available on the Federation website at www.jewishcalgary.org.

Snapshot of Success
“Last summer our daughter attended camp for three weeks in August. She didn’t believe a Jewish camp would be any fun, but it turned out to be the best summer she has ever had. She learned some Hebrew words, met Jewish kids, and forged what she expects will be long-term friendships while exploring some interesting global and Jewish issues. She came home bursting with stories filled with community, friendship, humour and fun. She made a trip, with one of her counselors, to the hospital for stitches. Even that became a funny adventure story. The One Happy Camper grant was the difference between her attending or not, so we appreciate both the generosity and the ease of applying. She can’t wait to go back next year.”
Jewish Religious Life

One of Federation’s most important roles is ensuring core services that enable Jewish religious life in Calgary. This includes hashgacha (kosher supervision) and the maintenance of the community mikvah (ritual bath). Located at House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel, the mikvah is a community facility that serves all members of the community regardless of synagogue affiliation.

Spotlight on Calgary Kosher

Kashrut services are provided through Calgary Kosher, which operates under the direction of Rabbi Yisroel Miller of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel. Mashgiach (kosher supervisor) Philip Wolf supervises commercial companies, trucking services transporting vegetable oil, and local kosher catering facilities including Karen’s Café.

Snapshot of Success

B’nai Brith Lodge #816 is now supporting Calgary Kosher with a generous annual grant! Following a conversation with Federation Executive Director Drew Staffenberg, the lodge membership approved an annual grant of $3,600 to support kashrut services in Calgary. B’nai Brith hopes that other organizations will join them in supporting this crucial community service.
Community Relations Committee

Federation’s Community Relations Committee continues to reach out to other ethnic and minority groups; to maintain dialogue with municipal, provincial and federal politicians; to provide educational and cultural exchange opportunities within the Calgary community at large; to monitor acts of antisemitism; and to liaise with the Calgary Police Service and other policing agencies.

Spotlight on Hate Crime

In June, Federation president Adam Singer responded to media questions following the sentencing hearing for the young offender who committed the antisemitic attack on the community in November 2009. The young man was sentenced to 18 months probation and 150 hours of community service.

In November, Judy Shapiro presented “A Case Study of a Hate Crime” to the 2011 Diversity Conference organized by the Calgary Police Service. This presentation to police from across the country and other community members focused on the impact on and reaction of the Jewish community to the antisemitic graffiti incident in November 2009.

Focus on Education and Community Outreach

Planning through December 2011 focused on BESA: A Code of Honor, an exhibit about Albanian Muslims who saved Jews during World War II. As well as being an excellent Holocaust education tool, this exhibit provides an outstanding opportunity for community outreach, in particular to the Muslim community.
Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA
Support for the People of Israel

Zionism has deep roots in the Calgary Jewish community dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. Since the local establishment of the UJA Campaign close to 50 years ago, a gift to United Jewish Appeal has meant additional support for charitable programs and services that touch the lives of many men, women and children throughout Israel. With the establishment of Partnership 2000 (P2K) more than a decade ago, Calgarians have had the opportunity to better the lives of Israelis living in Etzba HaGalil, our Partnership region in the Galilee Panhandle along the Lebanese and Syrian borders. Today, through Partnership 2Gether (P2G) we continue to reach out to Israelis through joint charitable projects devoted to education, leadership development and capacity building in the region.

The Calgary Jewish community’s solidarity with Israelis was evident when community members gathered at a special breakfast in October to watch live coverage of Gilad Shalit’s return from captivity and celebrate his return to the Shalit family’s home in Mitzpe Hila. During Shalit’s five years of captivity, Federation spearheaded local public awareness and action on behalf of Shalit.

Focus on Friendship

Over the past six months a dozen Calgarians have made visits to our partnership region. Federation / UJA staff, volunteers and supporters have visited in the line of duty, on missions and during vacations, visiting many of the exciting projects funded by UJA through the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and Partnership 2Gether (P2G) including:

- Har Vagai Regional School (Twinned with Calgary Jewish Academy);
- Uziel School (Twinned with Akiva Academy in Calgary);
- Kav Hazinuk (Starting Line) a ten-year young leadership training program;
- Tel-Hai College; and
- Tzfat Medical Centre
Family Menorah Lighting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Calgary Jewish Federation and the Calgary JCC joined together in a very special Chanukah celebration on December 22 when Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mrs. Laureen Harper joined approximately 200 community members in lighting the candles marking the third night of Chanukah. Also on hand to share in the celebrations were the Honourable Jason Kenney, the Honourable Michelle Rempel and the Honourable Lee Richardson. The participation of Voices Jewish Senior Choir and accompanist Arlein Chetner, under the direction of Karina Szulc, helped to make the event festive and memorable. During his warm address within his own constituency, Prime Minister Harper reaffirmed his support of the Canadian Jewish community and the State of Israel. What a wonderful note on which to end 2011 and this mid-year update to the community! Todah rabah to everyone who participated in this festive event!
Calgary Jewish Federation

Board of Directors

**Adam Singer – President**
Howard Bell
Micah Libin

**Jonathan Lexier – Secretary**
Cathy Cole
Jack Mintz

**Matt Singer – Treasurer**
Anna Gelt
Lorne Pernery

Robbie Babins Wagner
Nelson Halpern
Beth Price

Dan Balaban
Michelle Jacobson
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Gerry Barron
Kevin Libin
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Calgary Young Leadership Division (YLD)

**Jordan Balaban – Co-Chair**
Dahlia Libin
Jeremy Pertman

**Cali Margolus – Co-Chair**
Jordana Linder
Avi Sherman

Marnie Bondar
Alex Linetsky
Alisa Singer

Jana Frydberg
Hadasa Pertman
Alon Wolfman

Community Relations Committee

**Jeff Smith – Chair**
Cheryl Shore
Jared Shore

Carol Ryder
David Busheikin

Federation-JCC Joint Finance Committee

**Matt Singer – Chair**
Trent Doell
Steve Maudsley

Dan Balaban
Nate Feldman
Corey Mitchell

Doron Barkai
Nelson Halpern
Judy Shapiro

Gerry Barron
Janine Krusky
Adam Singer

Darren Bondar
Jonathan Lexier
Drew Staffenberg

Hillel Executive Board

Albina Chousterova
Brenna Perera
Joel Zimmerman

Ari Morgentau
Daniel Sheinfeld

Integrated Bursary Program

**Beth Price – Chair**
Bev Shecketer

Joe Katchen
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Israel and Overseas Committee

**Lily Lister – Co-chair**
Karen Behar – Co-chair

Jewish Education Committee

**Cathy Cole – Co-chair**
Deborah Yedlin – Co-chair
Program Allocations Committee (2012 - 2013)

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- Carolyn Libin
- Alex Linetsky
- Dan Balaban
- Eric Libin
- Sara Rosenfeld
- Anna Gelt
- Rabbi Yisroel Miller
- Rabbi Shaul Osadchey

Synagogue Relations

**Cheryl Shiell – Chair**
- Roslyn Mendelson
- Lorne Pearl
- Nelson Halpern
- Rabbi Yisroel Miller
- Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman
- Rabbi Menachem Matusof
- Rabbi Shaul Osadchey

Task Force on Inclusion of Jewish People with Disabilities

**Sandra Morton-Weizman – Chair**
- Ida Gelt
- Marilyn Samuels
- Beth Price – CJEducation Chair
- Susann Grodsky
- Bev Scheckter
- Jeff Booke
- Joey Mann
- Robin Slater
- Naida Feldman
- Sara Rosenfeld
- Ronnie Staffenberg

United Jewish Appeal (UJA)

**Micah Libin – Chair**
- Elizabeth Carson
- Carolyn Libin
- Sam Feldman
- Naida Feldman
- Debbie Ryder
- Jordan Balaban

Staff

- Drew Staffenberg – Executive Director
- Judy Shapiro – Associate Executive Director
- Kira Blumer – Hillel Coordinator
- Maxine Fischbein – Communications Director
- Diana Kalef – UJA Campaign Director
- Ilana Krygier Lapides – Web and Social Media Coordinator
- Klara Meyers – Outreach Coordinator
- Donna Lee Powers – Office Manager
- Janene Puffer – UJA Campaign Assistant
- Efrat Shemesh Idelson – Director, Holocaust Remembrance and Human Rights Education
- Sari Shernofsky – Community Chaplain
- Oren Steinitz – Campus Chaplain
- Kathie Wainer – PJ Library® Coordinator
- Philip Wolf – Mashgiach (Kosher Supervisor)

Shared Staff – CJF / Calgary Jewish Community Council / Calgary JCC

- Trent Doell – Comptroller and Senior Accountant
- Tena Karagiannis – Accounting
- Anita Jong – Creative Director