E ach year, the month of February marks two very significant events: Black History Month (BHM) and Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). As a community, we are made better and more complete by ensuring we embrace diversity and inclusion. We not only recognize the strength that comes in welcoming people of all abilities and backgrounds to our community, but we also acknowledge the responsibility to live our lives with empathy, partnership, and intentionality.

The Jewish people have a long history with the Black community, with some similarities in overall experience, and with alignment and collaboration in historical achievements. Both communities also intersect, and our Jewish community includes Jews of Colour who might find themselves balancing the strengths and challenges facing both communities in a combined way.

Both communities have known, and still know, discrimination. Both communities have known slavery, persecution, and human atrocities. Both communities have worked together at times to work toward achievements based on shared values. Please acknowledge BHM with me – seek out resources, participate in online programs, and give pause and thought as to how you, and we, can live and breathe the value of true community and compassion in earnest. February is also a time during which we embrace differences as strengths. This is not limited to only JDAIM, as our community has a small but robust program department focused on inclusion throughout the year. However, JDAIM is a time to reset and provide a reminder that people of all abilities are welcome in Jewish Calgary.

Those in our community with special needs and abilities are strengths – not weaknesses. They teach us every day about human nature. While we are not perfect and have about what is possible, about caring and kindness, and those in our community with special needs and abilities are strengths – not weaknesses. They teach us every day about human nature. While we are not perfect and have a long way to go, Jewish Calgary continues to make strides in accessible programming, education and training, and in deeper, true integration of our programs and services. Again, we have a long way to go, but it is inspiring to see our community’s organizations leading the way to provide more opportunities to even more community members. Please be sure to seek out JDAIM programming, and don’t be shy to ask organizations with which you are affiliated about the efforts they are making to welcome people of all abilities.

Keeping empathy, warmth, and thoughtfulness at the forefront of what we do as a community will support a vibrant, more engaged, model Jewish Calgary. Together, WE CAN include all! Together, WE CAN lift up others! Together, WE CAN be whole.

Wishing you and yours a safe and meaningful February. B’shalom,

Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation
A LETTER TO OUR COMMUNITY

Could you ever have imagined this world in which we find ourselves? And that it would have lasted this long?

The Calgary Jewish community has risen to this occasion by shifting programs, classes, and events online, dreaming up new ways to engage one another and doing what we can to stay connected.

You know how important it is to our community that we continue our work now and in the future. To ensure financial stability, the organizations listed below are currently participating in the LIFE & LEGACY® initiative focused on strengthening our community now and forever.

Please consider making an after-lifetime charitable gift to secure the future of Jewish Calgary. Your gift costs nothing today – it starts with a promise, your commitment that you will remember one or more of these cherished organizations in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy. The Letter of Intent is available on our website at jewishcalgary.org or you can contact Diana Kalef at dkalef@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3154.

Those who came before us built and seeded Jewish life so that we would have places for connection, education, prayer, and fellowship. Now is your opportunity to do that for the next generation.

We hope you and your loved ones are in good health and remain that way. We look forward to welcoming you to the LIFE & LEGACY family.

Sincerely,

Beth Tzedec Congregation
Calgary JCC
Calgary Jewish Federation
Camp BB Riback
Halpern Akiva Academy
House of Jacob Mikveh Israel
Jewish Family Service Calgary
Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta
Temple B’nai Tikvah
The Calgary Jewish Academy

P.S. If you are able to submit your LOI before March 31, 2021, organizations will receive cash incentive grants in the spring!

JEWISH TOGETHER FUND

Our Calgary community has shown incredible strength during 2020, but many organizations still have financial needs that are more than our annual UJA campaign can support. To offer additional assistance this year, we created the Jewish Together Fund (JTF). JTF was funded using 50% of the increased portion of every UJA donation that was over and above the 2019 amount.

In the first round of applications $49,000 was distributed to the following six organizations:
• Beth Tzedec Congregation
• Calgary JCC
• Chabad Lubavith of Alberta
• Halpern Akiva Academy
• Temple B’nai Tikvah
• The Calgary Jewish Academy

In the second round of applications $39,000 was distributed to the following five organizations:
• Calgary JCC
• Camp BB Riback
• House of Jacob Mikveh Israel
• JFSC
• The Calgary Jewish Academy

For detailed information go to: jewishcalgary.org/ways-toGive

ROUND 3 APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

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Together UJA 2020 WE CAN

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US REACH OUR UJA 2020 FUNDRAISING GOAL!

Tax receipts are in the mail.