

community calendar

Want to know what's going on in Jewish Calgary? Check out the Community Calendar at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)

Have an event? Click on "Suggest an Event" to add it to the calendar



A MESSAGE FROM BETH PRICE AND KATHIE WAINER

Anyone who reads these messages has heard of PJ Library® in Calgary, but perhaps not everyone understands why Calgary Jewish Federation places such value on this program, which empowers families to engage with Jewish life. PJ Library (as in "pajamas") was established in 2005 by Harold Grinspoon, a prominent US Jewish philanthropist, to instill Jewish values, traditions, and culture in young children by creating Jewish moments and memories through the simple act of reading bedtime stories (hence the name).

We were privileged to launch PJ Library in Calgary in 2009 with a modest goal of reaching 120 children. PJ Library books are always free to families with children from birth to eight years old, offering them a barrier-free entry into our community. Matching grants from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, with support from local donors and UJA, cover our expenses. Demand for this gift of Jewish books was overwhelming and within a short time, our waiting list grew to over 200 children.

When a very committed local donor heard that Calgary children had to wait to receive these books simply because funding was not available, he provided the necessary funds and promised that there would never be a waiting list for PJ Library in Calgary. We are grateful that our devoted and generous Calgary donors have kept

this promise and, unlike many communities, our families never have to wait to receive PJ Library books.

PJ Library is flourishing in Calgary. In addition to receiving monthly books, families enjoy a weekly PJ Tot Shabbat program, our popular PJ Chag Sameach holiday programs, a PJ Grandparents program, and in 2021 we joined PJ Our Way (PJOW), the next step in PJ Library for children 8½ to 12 years old.

With PJOW, children take ownership of their reading by choosing their own books every month. Age appropriate and often child-driven programming provides this underserved demographic with the opportunity to connect with peers locally and nationally. We see PJOW as an invaluable tool in engaging pre-teens in their formative years – a first step to becoming active participants in Jewish Calgary.

This year – our 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary – 550 Calgary children are receiving the gift of PJ Library books every month, and 120 children receive PJOW books.

Calgary Jewish Federation prioritizes community outreach, inclusivity, diversity, affiliation, and engagement of families. For some families, PJ Library is an enhancement of their Jewish experience, while for others PJ Library is the sole provider of the Jewish experience, their only point of contact with our Jewish community. We have

seen families enter our community through PJ Library and go on to participate in other aspects of Jewish communal life from joining the JCC to enrolling in one of our Jewish preschools.

As we celebrate 12 years of PJ library in Calgary, we are excited to announce that the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, in partnership with Calgary Jewish Federation, has launched the PJ Library® Legacy Fund ensuring that Calgary families will have the gift of PJ Library books for generations to come. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is offering matching funds for cash legacy gifts for the next two years, with no minimum amount to participate (see ad below for additional information).

Please consider making a gift so that our children's children will always have the great experience and joy of reading a PJ Library book.

B'Shalom,

*Beth S. Price*  
Beth Price  
Founding Chair  
PJ Library Calgary

*Kathie Wainer*  
Kathie Wainer  
PJ Library Manager  
Calgary Jewish Federation

Building an inclusive community is a priority. Contact us and we will make every effort to meet your needs.



invites you to join us for our community-wide

# SHAKSHUKA SUNDAY

Sunday, June 13 | 10AM | Zoom

No need to leave home to taste and feel like you are in Israel!

We invite all Calgary families to enjoy an Israeli-inspired breakfast of your own creation.

Noy, our community *shlich*a, will teach us how to make her famous *shakshuka* and take us on a fun-filled virtual tour of an Israeli *shuk*.



REGISTER at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) for the recipe, Israeli breakfast ideas, and Zoom link.

For info contact **Kathie**: [kwainer@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:kwainer@jewishcalgary.org) or 403-537-8592.

## Judaism has a deep and rich tradition of storytelling, of passing down stories from one generation to the next.

PJ Library® Calgary has become an integral part of Jewish Calgary, delivering books and programs to children from birth to age 12, making it easy for families to share Jewish values and traditions with their children and grandchildren.

### How will you ensure our Jewish story continues in Calgary?

Calgary Jewish Federation has launched the PJ Library® Legacy Fund in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) ensuring families will have the gift of books for generations to come.

For the next 2 years, HGF is offering a 25% match for cash legacy gifts to support PJ Library Calgary in perpetuity. There is no minimum amount to participate.

For more information, please contact:

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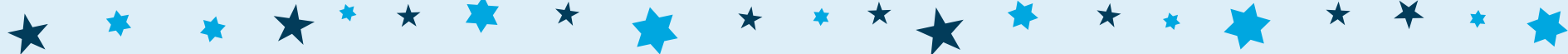
## NICE JEWISH PETS CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Is your fur baby especially photogenic? JAC (Jewish Adult Calgary) is looking for animals of all kinds for our upcoming calendar campaign. Apply by **Monday, June 7** at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) and show the world what makes your pet so special. Winners and their paw-rents will be notified by June 14 to schedule their professional photoshoot. Advertising and sponsorship opportunities also available.





# Our community is grateful to these donors who have been helping to keep Jewish Calgary strong and vibrant – Thank YOU!



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