

Calgary Jewish Federation wants you!
We have lots of exciting information to share about upcoming programs and events. If you are not already receiving our publications, please send us your contact information and we will be sure to bring you up to date on happenings in Jewish Calgary. To sign up today, please contact Aviva Kolotinsky at 403-444-3157 or akolotinsky@jewishcalgary.org.



HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

For over 30 years, Calgary Jewish Federation has partnered with Mount Royal University to educate high school students about the Holocaust and where racism can lead.

This year, 2,600 students had the opportunity to hear from a university historian, watch a Holocaust film, and hear the testimony from a Holocaust survivor or second generation survivor as part of the annual Holocaust Education Symposium.

As survivors age, Calgary Jewish Federation has embarked on a program to train children and grandchildren of

survivors to tell their stories. Using video recordings of the survivor's testimonies, their descendants conduct a three-way "conversation" with the students. Thanks to a grant from the Alberta Human Rights Commission, five presentations are being prepared.

Imparting the lessons of the Holocaust to generations of Jewish and non-Jewish students has long been a goal of Calgary Jewish Federation. By teaching students about the dangers of racism and the importance of good citizenship, we hope to make this a better and more secure world.



Holocaust survivor Bronia Cyngiser shows her Auschwitz number to students.



Holocaust survivor Ann Dancyger shows her mother's embroidery.

ASPER FOUNDATION HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES PROGRAM

At the graduation ceremony for the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program on May 19, over 100 Calgary students signed a Memorandum of Personal Responsibility, committing themselves to not be bystanders to injustice. Several students spoke of their experience on the program. Below is an excerpt of one such speech.

Out of the various monuments, museums, and landmarks we saw during our trip to Washington, there was one place we visited that I will never forget. The Holocaust Museum. It was an individual encounter with the enormity of the Holocaust where the entire layout was darkened and I was accompanied only by my personal thoughts. The experience really put the extent of all the hatred and violence that plagues our world into perspective.

The Holocaust not only abolished the right to religion, but it put a roadblock in intellectual and social advancement. Children my age longed to experience things that I take for granted today. Their entire existence lacked the definition of what we call a childhood. I cannot even imagine living a life like that.

The trip also highlighted the power and influence of remembrance. It allowed me to understand that the awful truth must be told, in memory of those who died, and as a tribute to those who survived. We must protect each other as human beings.

Bearing witness is a way of making sure that the world does not forget. It is the only way to ensure that society as a whole realizes what went wrong in the past and takes action to make sure nothing like it will ever happen again. It is a reminder to stay vigilant against evil. "For the dead and the living we must bear witness."

- Anchita Sharma, Renert School



For more information about Calgary Jewish Federation's Holocaust and Human Rights Education Programs, please contact Ilana Krygier at 403-444-3162 or ikrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org.

What did you learn or take away from your experience at the Holocaust Education Symposium?

"Now I'm more grateful for what I have."
Student

"The students talked about it for days. It had a very strong impact."
Teacher

"I learned not to be a bystander."
Student

"This was the first time I attended the Symposium - it was a powerful experience. I left with a renewed urgency to continue to inform students of a past event that continues to have implications for our present and our future."
Teacher

Thank you to the many volunteers who make the symposium flow so smoothly.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24

CALGARY JCC 1607 90 AVENUE SW

6:45PM - CALGARY JCC AGM

7:15PM - CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION AGM

SHEM TOV AWARDS FOR COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP WILL BE PRESENTED

Because...

Volunteers make it happen

The UJA Campaign runs from September to December and Federation needs YOU to join our volunteer team.

Contact Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154 or dkalef@jewishcalgary.org or Irena Karshenbaum at 403-537-8594 or ikarshenbaum@jewishcalgary.org to find out how you can help.

For more information visit www.jewishcalgary.org and click on the *Because...* link.

Calgary Jewish Federation welcomes and supports children and adults with special needs. If you or a loved one needs special accommodations to participate in any of our events, please contact Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

All programs on these pages are funded in part by your donation to United Jewish Appeal.