



Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM YANNAI

It is a surprising fact that *Rosh HaShanah*, despite its two prayer-filled days comprising the first 20% of the Ten Days of Repentance (of which *Yom Kippur* is the last 10%), is a day on which repentance is forbidden.

This may seem like an outrageous claim, but Maimonides, in the *Mishneh Torah* – his magnum opus codification of Jewish law – clearly states that *Vidui*, confession of one's sins, is the required first step of any and all repentance. And yet all of the early *halachic* codes make clear that confession is forbidden during the High Holidays. In fact, a close reading of the *Rosh HaShanah* liturgy results in a single reference to confession in the opening line to the *Avinu Malkeinu* prayer: "Our Father, Our King, we have sinned before you."

Our rabbis describe how, despite this single offending line, this prayer was reluctantly included in (most traditions of) the New Year liturgy due to the appropriateness of the rest of the verses. Additionally, they caution us to ensure that when we say this offending line of prayer on *Rosh HaShanah*, we should specifically have in mind the general sins of our

ancestors, and not our sins in particular, and should refrain from clapping our chests with our fists as we do when we confess on other days of the year. Without confession there is no repentance. On *Rosh HaShanah* there is no confession and therefore no repentance.

This begs the question, why is this so? Why would we specifically avoid confessing and repenting our sins on *Rosh HaShanah*, despite its obvious role in marking the intense lead up to our repentance-focused *Yom Kippur*?

The answer is that the main focus of *Rosh HaShanah* is *Malchut*, G-d's kingship and dominion over the world. In this context, the blowing of the *shofar* is like the herald's call to arms, and our focus on *Rosh HaShanah* should not be on the sins of the past, but rather on answering that call with immediate action focused on doing Hashem's will in the present and the future. When called upon to do an urgent and important task, one should begin with their best efforts immediately, even if past failings remain to be addressed. Our traditional symbolic foods such as apples and honey, are

likewise focused on an optimistic future, and not on the sub-optimal past.

So this New Year, let's answer that call to arms. Worrying about what we (and others) could have done better can wait for another time. Let's jump into immediate action and focus on what we can do in the present and the near future to build and strengthen our community. To ensure that every Jewish family has access to a meaningful Jewish life. To intensify our connection with Israel and the global Jewish community. Let's find a way to volunteer a bit more, to donate a bit more, to cooperate a bit more, and to reach out a bit more.

Shanah Tovah Umetuka and G'Mar Chatima Tovah,

Yannai Segal
President
Calgary Jewish Federation

PJ Library

WHAT'S HAPPENING

PJ LIBRARY TOT SHABBAT

Fridays: September 27 (Rosh HaShanah), October 4, October 18 (Sukkot)
9:45AM for 10:00 start | Calgary JCC

Join us for our popular musical half-hour to 45-minute class focusing on the festive feeling of Shabbat and holidays through songs and movement, with brachot and challah.

FALL FAMILY ADVENTURE

Sunday, October 6 | 10:30AM - Noon | Calgary Corn Maze
Children under 10 free | \$17 per participant

Celebrate the fall, nature, and Sukkot with an adventure-filled morning! Meet at the Corn Maze and enjoy Sukkot stories, treats, and a treasure hunt. Stay for the Pumpkin Festival (activities include face painting, pony rides, and pumpkin decorating). Register online at jewishcalgary.org on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration closes when all spots are taken.

10TH ANNUAL SMOOTHIES IN THE SUKKAH

Sunday, October 20 | 10:30AM - Noon | Beth Tzedec Sukkah

Join PJ Library and Beth Tzedec Congregation for stories, crafts, snacks – and of course – our famous and fabulous smoothies! There is no charge for this program but registration is required at jewishcalgary.org. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we can prepare for you and your children.

PJ 'GET TOGETHERS' ARE BACK IN TIME FOR ROSH HASHANAH

We are inviting all PJ Library and PJ Our Way families to get together with at least two other families raising Jewish children, and PJ Head Office will reimburse you (up to \$100USD). Celebrate together!

ATTENTION PJ LIBRARY PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

PJ Grandparents can receive the gift of PJ Library books too! Register and receive two PJ Library books in the mail and special grandparent resources. Grandparents must have grandchildren enrolled in PJ Library (anywhere in North America) and multiple grandparent households can sign up.

PJ LIBRARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE BOOKS

PJ Library is offering books in Hebrew, Russian, and Spanish for purchase. A set of four books (in language of your choice) are available directly from PJ Library. Orders must be placed by September 26 and delivery will be at the end of October.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PJ LIBRARY

Contact Kathie Wainer at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592 or visit our website at jewishcalgary.org/pj-library-pj-our-way-and-more



Room Table at your

THE HIGH HOLIDAYS ARE AROUND THE CORNER!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29 • MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30

**DO YOU NEED A PLACE TO GO FOR ROSH HASHANAH
OR TO BREAK THE FAST FOR YOM KIPPUR?
DO YOU HAVE A PLACE AT YOUR TABLE FOR A GUEST?**

IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO EITHER OF THESE QUESTIONS, CONTACT DANIELLE AT: 403-444-3146 OR DBRAITMAN@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG

Striving and Thriving STRENGTHENING EXECUTIVE SKILLS



On August 28, faculty and staff from The Calgary Jewish Academy and Halpern Akiva Academy joined Dr. Peg Dawson at Beth Tzedec Congregation for **Striving and Thriving: Strengthening Executive Skills**. Jewish Calgary educators gained the tools to nurture inclusion in the classroom and assist their students in developing executive skills, critical to academic success and everyday life. That evening, around 20 families attended a second session at Calgary JCC. Sincere thanks to Dr. Dawson, participants, Beth Tzedec Congregation, Calgary JCC, and *Pushing the Boundaries* who provided a grant which helped to fund this event.

INCLUSION
POWERED BY CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION

TOWN HALL MEETING IN ADVANCE OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION

CIJA



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

6:45PM • CALGARY JCC
FREE EVENT • RSVP NOT REQUIRED
FOR INFO CONTACT ILANA AT 403-444-3162



UJA 2019
POWERED BY YOU

All activities on this page are made possible by your gifts to Federation's annual UJA Campaign

UJA 2019 POWERED by YOU



CALGARY
JEWISH FEDERATION

The strength of a people.
The power of community.



As someone who was raised in Calgary's Jewish Community, one of the things that I value the most about my upbringing are the life-long friendships and common experiences that I share with so many of my peers from childhood through to present day. From strengthening my love of Israel through my class trip at The Calgary Jewish Academy to sharing summers with my friends at Camp BB Riback, many of my early and formative experiences were built through our Jewish institutions.

As I grew into adulthood, I moved with my friends into new experiences and discovered opportunities to grow and serve in the community. During high school, I joined BBYO and later served as the BBYO City Supervisor and led youth to the JCC Maccabi games three years in a row. During university, I was inspired to start the first Hillel chapter at Mount Royal University and am proud to say that with the support of Federation it is still going strong today! After university, I explored my Judaism individually through my experience with Calgary Community Kollel – deepening my knowledge of Judaism, *Torah*, and *Mitzvot*.

My family and upbringing in the community have instilled in me a strong sense of giving, *Tzedakah* (justice, charity), and *Chesed* (loving kindness). I recognize the importance of maintaining our culture and support of our agencies and institutions. For me, being part of the annual UJA Campaign is about saying thank you to the community, acknowledging how it has shaped who I am today, and taking responsibility to maintain and improve upon what we have built together.

Through my role as UJA JAC Campaign Chair, I am rewarded in encouraging my peers' involvement, being part of their experiences, and showing that if I can make a difference, then so can they. My door is always open. Should you have any questions about Campaign or how you can get involved, please don't hesitate to contact me at zimm.joel@gmail.com.

Jewish Calgary is Powered by YOU – Jewish Calgary is YOU!

Joel Zimmerman

Joel Zimmerman
JAC UJA 2019 Campaign Chair

Jewish Calgary IS POWERED BY YOU! Jewish Calgary IS YOU!



Thank you to everyone who joined us on Sunday, September 8 to help kickoff campaign season at **Evening of Insight & Inspiration: 2019 UJA Campaign Launch and Major Gifts Dinner**. Special thanks to our guest speakers Nikki Holland, CEO JFC-UJA and Michael Frankel, Chair JFC-UJA; Isaac 'Bougie' Herzog, Chair of the Executive Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and to our featured launch speakers, Jeannie Opdyke Smith and Dr. Sherri Wise. Also, we wish to acknowledge and say *Todah Rabah* to Lenny and Faigel Shapiro, and family for their significant contribution to our matching campaign – helping to power Jewish Calgary even further!

Chai Stakes

POKER

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26 • 5:00PM • DEERFOOT INN & CASINO
COME OUT FOR A NIGHT OF POKER, FUN, AND FOOD!

PRICE: \$185 • 5PM REGISTRATION WITH DINNER TO FOLLOW • 6:45PM POKER BEGINS
OPEN TO WOMEN AND MEN OF ALL POKER-PLAYING PROWESS

REGISTER ONLINE AT JEWISHCALGARY.ORG

Make Your GIFT TODAY

AND SUPPORT OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

ONLINE jewishcalgary.org	IN PERSON Federation Office at the Calgary JCC
MAIL Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA 1607 90 Avenue SW Calgary, AB T2V 4V7	PHONE Jessica Miller Switzer 403-444-3157

