

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 ADAM SILVER

This time of the year often inspires us to reflect back on the year that was, as well as envision the year that's ahead of us. More often than not, we are quick to develop a list of things left unfinished, or not even started. Sometimes, we discount our achievements because we are either too quickly looking forward to the next year, or due to the fact they might have turned out other than we planned. This last year, in particular, has been very difficult for many in our Jewish community. The never-ending COVID-19 pandemic and the isolation and loss it continued to bring, as well as the tensions we experienced in the spring as Israel defended her citizens from Hamas terror attacks which resonated back home with a barrage of increased antisemitic sentiment, made 2021 very challenging.

I am hoping, though, that you will join me in celebrating and being grateful for the milestones we did reach, the meaningful things we did achieve, and the time we might have taken to reflect, slow down, and be appreciative. We found new ways to express our Judaism, and didn't let distance or limitations of gathering with others stop us from having *Pesach Seders*, welcoming *Shabbat*, participating in virtual or in-person programs and lectures, and lighting *Chanukah* candles. Sadly, we also had to find new ways to mourn, to spend virtual visits with

family and friends great distances apart, and we haven't been able to fully gather as a *kehillah*, a community.

One thing that became clear is that we can never be thankful enough, never express enough gratitude. So, I would like to acknowledge our amazing Federation staff team and volunteer leaders, along with all of our community's dedicated and talented Jewish communal professionals, volunteers, and educators. I know our community is well aware of the pressure and demands placed on them and on our organizations this year, and the staff, boards, and volunteer committee members have worked extremely hard to ensure Jewish Calgary continued to thrive. Of course, an equal *Todah Rabah* should be expressed to anyone who still participated in community – those who gave generously, who attended events, who found ways to "do Jewish" in their homes in innovative ways, and to those who checked in on neighbours, friends, and family to keep them connected.

As we savour a last pause before 2021 leaves us, and we rustle up the energy and excitement we require to begin 2022 with a strong start, I'm hoping all of our plans include being counted in community. I'm dreaming of a year filled with celebrations and successes, with mini and large milestones, and with even more opportunities

to come together as *Am Echad*, one people. While we cannot predict what the continuation of COVID-19 will mean for our new year, we can and should certainly rededicate ourselves to being even more active in our community, more generous, more caring – and we should live proud Jewish lives... together.

*L'fum tzara agra* – according to the effort is the reward (*Pirkei Avot* - Ethics of Our Fathers, 5:26), meaning we must put in the work and care to enhance the payoff of our efforts. As members of a special community, that of Jewish Calgary, I am inviting you to join me, our incredible staff team, and our wonderful board and committee volunteers in action, in caring, and in making a difference. Only when we leverage everyone's abilities and spirit will we fully live up to our potential.

Wishing you and yours a safe and enjoyable close to 2021, and an inspiring beginning to 2022.

B'Shalom,

Adam Silver  
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

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

ONLINE: [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) EMAIL: [lwolf@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:lwolf@jewishcalgary.org)  
PHONE: 403-444-3157 IN-PERSON: 1607 90 Avenue SW

LEARN HOW YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR OWN JEWISH LEGACY AT CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION

BE REMEMBERED FOREVER IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL, TRUST, OR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

Learn how to create your Jewish legacy  
Contact Diana Kalef  
403-444-3154 • [dkalef@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:dkalef@jewishcalgary.org)

CASINO VOLUNTEERS  
FEBRUARY 6 AND 7, 2022  
DEERFOOT INN AND CASINO

Please consider volunteering for a shift at our upcoming casino. Funds raised support programs such as Holocaust Education Symposium, *Yom HaShoah* commemorations, and ensuring our community *mikveh* is available for use. Positions (banker, general manager, cashier, chiprunner) available on Sunday and Monday from 6:45PM to 3:30AM.

Contact Lori at [lwolf@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:lwolf@jewishcalgary.org) or 403-444-3157 to lend your time to this important fundraising cause.

JANUARY 27, 2022 • 7PM

HISTORY OF JEW HATE  
THE NEVER ENDING STORY

A VIRTUAL CONVERSATION WITH BEN M. FREEMAN

In honour of **International Holocaust Remembrance Day**, please join internationally renowned Jewish author and educator Ben M. Freeman as he discusses Jewish identity, combating antisemitism and raising awareness of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust may have ended years ago but the story that led to it is still being written today.

**Ben M. Freeman** is a Jewish leader, Jewish thinker, and Jewish educator. Born in Scotland, Ben is a gay Jewish author and internationally renowned educator focusing on Jewish identity, combating antisemitism, and raising awareness of the Holocaust. His first book, *Jewish Pride: Rebuilding a People*, was released in February 2021.

Currently based in Hong Kong, Ben now heads up the Humanities Team at an American International School and lectures on antisemitism at Hong Kong universities. Through his work, he aims to educate, inspire and empower both Jewish and non-Jewish people from all over the world.

THIS PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY The Isadore and Florence Burstyn Memorial Fund for Human Rights & Holocaust Education KSW Calgary Holocaust Education & Commemoration Endowment Fund Human Rights and Holocaust Education Fund at the Calgary Public Library Foundation



[epl.ca](http://epl.ca)



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# GIVE GENEROUSLY

# TOGETHER

## WE ARE A COMMUNITY

### UJA 2021



CALGARY  
JEWISH FEDERATION  
The strength of a people.  
The power of community.

Your UJA gift supports our brothers and sisters in Israel.

You are essential to our community.



## TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG

This spring, as rockets rained down in Israel, Jews in the diaspora faced one of the worst spikes in antisemitism in the last decade - especially our students and young people. Unfortunately our community is grappling with this on an ongoing basis. Your support provides funding for year-round important programs such as community security, government relations initiatives, and support programs for students and young people, such as **Hillel Calgary**.

Your UJA gift is vital as we provide our community with the resources it needs to stay strong, safe, and united even in the most difficult situations.

## TOGETHER WE ARE JEWISH CALGARY

Whether you are part of an agency or institution, volunteering your time to help someone in need, or simply bringing joy with your presence, YOU are important to our community. As a UJA donor, you are supporting valuable programs and services, and helping individuals in need. You are the glue that binds each aspect of our community together - creating the home that we know as Jewish Calgary. You make a profound difference.

Your UJA gift is vital to maintaining, caring for, and unifying our community.

**WAYS  
TO GIVE**

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