

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.



Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



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



A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

A little over a year ago, I wrote one of my first Pomegranate articles, mainly reflecting on my first few weeks as CEO of Calgary Jewish Federation, and all of the potential I saw in Jewish Calgary. A year later, I can truly say that we, collectively, continue to build a strong, vibrant Jewish community; a community that possesses infrastructure well beyond many cities with larger Jewish populations, has an annual campaign that remains at the top of per capita giving in Jewish North America, has volunteers who are second to none, and has a generation of amazing children who will assure the Jewish future.

In the same article last year, I also highlighted the three key areas I envisioned as the underpinnings of our strong community and which I intended to develop and cultivate: Energy, Engagement, and Leadership. I had little idea at the time of writing the article that the political and economic climates, provincially and nationally, would change so dramatically over the course of the year, and that the underpinnings I had highlighted would become even more important for our success as a community.

Energy – It's difficult to avoid lethargy or friction when one is concerned about family, employment, friends, and the general state of Canada and the world. Now, more than ever, it is critical to maintain a high level of constructive energy, and our community's volunteer and professional leadership have been pouring their souls into all they do. Our agencies and schools have worked to serve our vulnerable, to understand the building wave of needs, and to keep our children safe, nurtured, and dreaming of the future. Our UJA annual campaign volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure

that every potential donor had an opportunity to support our community, and our generous donors continued to support the campaign, even in difficult financial times. At a time when the energy could have been sucked right out of community, instead we are seeing rejuvenated commitment to not only weather the storm, but to make sure we are poised to excel once the storm has passed.

Engagement – During difficult times, people tend to either hunker down and isolate themselves, or rise to the occasion and immerse themselves in community. Participation levels in PJ Library®, JAC (Young Adults), and campaign events were higher than prior years. More people donated to the 2015 UJA campaign. School enrollment and JCC course registration went up. In some cases, like Jewish Family Service Calgary, increased engagement is bittersweet – it means that more people are likely experiencing family or financial challenges, but it also demonstrates that those same people trust JFSC and feel comfortable reaching out for help.

Leadership – The key to good program offerings and to viable organizations is strong and diverse leadership. Jewish Calgary has some of the best lay and professional leadership in North America. Our organizations, congregations, and Jewish communal agencies are populated with talented and committed volunteer leaders, not only on their boards, but on their committees, task force groups and beyond. As well, the diverse and impressive professional leadership that exists in the city is second to none. To continue that course, a focal point of 2016 will be to recruit new leadership, and to support the development of both new and current leaders so

that they possess the necessary toolkit to best serve Jewish Calgary for years to come.

Finally, in last year's POM article I concluded by referencing Tu B'Shevat, which is quickly approaching, and it's appropriate for me to do so once again. During Tu B'Shevat, our tradition offers an opportunity to appreciate all that we have and all of the wonder in the natural world. We are encouraged to sample many different fruits, in order to understand and appreciate the abundance available to us.

This year, as we appreciate what we have, we recognize that now, and for the foreseeable future, the socio-political and economic climates will prove challenging for many in our community. Just as a deeply rooted and well-nurtured tree can sustain harsh weather, so too will our well-supported and caring community weather difficult times. A community is like a fruit tree – growing with nurture and love, and yielding wonderful, nutritious fruit in the form of friends, family, belonging, and meaning. May we all enjoy the fruits of our communal labour, and continue to plant seeds for those who come next.

B'Shalom,



Adam Silver, CEO
Calgary Jewish Federation and Calgary JCC



Har Vagai visit to Calgary

As part of the "Partnership 2Gether" (P2G) initiative to maintain a strong connection to Israel, students from Har Vagai school in our sister region of Etzba Hagalil (Galilee Panhandle) enjoyed a visit to Calgary in early December.

The teenagers spent time with their penpals from The Calgary Jewish Academy, made presentations, socialized, and visited Jewish sites in Calgary.

Of course, they enjoyed the snow and majesty of the Rocky Mountains.

The Grade 9 CJA students will visit their new friends in Israel in May.



Thank you Cathy and Marty Cole
for establishing the Cole Family
Israel Project Fund!

To celebrate their milestone birthdays, Cathy and Dr. Marty Cole established a fund to support the refurbishment of the computer lab at Uziel school in Kiryat Shmona, which is the partner school of Akiva Academy. This project is part of Partnership Together (P2G), which links Calgary to Etzba Hagalil. Cathy is the chair of our local P2G committee.

To donate to the fund, please call Irena Karshenbaum at 403-537-8594 or email: ikarshenbaum@jewishcalgary.org.

Integrated Bursary Program



*Jewish life
is not beyond
your reach*

If you find it's a financial struggle to participate fully in Jewish life in our community, Calgary Jewish Federation's Integrated Bursary Program can help you.

With one application followed by a discreet, personalized session with a Federation volunteer, you can access subsidies for day schools, summer camp and recreational activities, depending on your need and available community funds. **Applications available February 1** at jewishcalgary.org or at Jewish Family Service Calgary, Akiva Academy, Calgary JCC and The Calgary Jewish Academy.

• • • **Application Deadline: March 31, 2016** • • •

For information contact Judy Shapiro: 403-444-3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

PJ Library® and
Temple B'nai Tikvah
invite you to celebrate
our third annual

TU B'SHEVAT
NEW YEAR FOR TREES

Sunday January 24, 2016 • 3:00pm

Temple B'nai Tikvah • 900 47 Avenue SW

Join us for a unique, child-friendly Tu B'Shevat Seder. We'll eat, sing and celebrate the miracle of trees and nature. Create a new family tradition.

Contact Kathie Wainer at 403-537-8592 or kwainer@jewishcalgary.org for information.

Space is limited.



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



shalom baby chanukah

Our youngest community members celebrated Chanukah with a Shalom Baby Playgroup party. This group meets twice a month, giving young parents a place to socialize and their children a new stimulating environment. For information, contact Kathie at 403-537-8592 or kwainer@jewishcalgary.org.

Next Shalom Baby dates are January 28 and February 11
Next Tot Shabbat dates are February 5 and 19

A TRADITION OF SUMMER FUN



AN AMAZING SUMMER AND LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS

One Happy Camper provides grants of up to \$1,000 to children attending Jewish overnight camp for the first time.*

Visit OneHappyCamper.org to find your camp and apply.

For information, contact Judy Shapiro at 403.444.3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org

*Some conditions apply



Calgary JCC and PJ Library® invite you to a live – and lively **CHILDREN’S CONCERT WITH TORONTO’S OZAKAZOO**

SUNDAY MARCH 6 • 3:00PM • CALGARY JCC



TICKETS: In advance: \$25 for family of 4 • \$8 individual tickets
At the door: \$30 for family of 4 • \$10 individual tickets

Purchase tickets online: www.jewishcalgary.org

For more information and sponsorship opportunities contact:
Kathie Wainer at 403-537-8592 • kwainer@jewishcalgary.org
or Rhona Shore at 403-444-3168 • rshore@cjcc.ca



2015 UJA CAMPAIGN



JAC Gold & Black Gala

Although it wasn't yet Chanukah, the gelt was flying (both the real kind and the fun kind) at JAC's Gold & Black Gala on December 5. Everyone was dressed up and looking sharp as they rolled the dice, double-downed and rouletted their way to doing a great mitzvah raising funds for our community through Federation's United Jewish Appeal campaign. Amazing rare prizes, 50/50, and delicious hors d'oeuvres rounded out a great evening of gambling for a good cause. Kol Hakavod to the Gala chairs, Danielle Braitman, Jaclyn Switzer and Aliya Tafber.




It's not too late to donate

www.jewishcalgary.org/ways-to-give
403-444-3154




Akiva Students Support UJA

UJA staff went to Akiva Academy in November to speak to the Junior High Students about the importance of tzedakah and the role that UJA plays in our community and around the world. Each student was given a Pushka (tzedakah box) and was challenged to raise as much as they could before winter break. The students began collecting right away and their campaign really heated up over Chanukah. Kol Hakavod to Akiva Academy students for their enthusiastic embrace of the mitzvah of tzedakah.