PICTURE THIS: JEWISH HISTORY EXHIBIT A HUGE SUCCESS

The hundreds of visitors whose curiosity led them to visit the exhibit, either at JCC or City Hall, learned that the history of the Jewish community is a Canadian success story. It is an example of how one minority group maintained its cultural traditions while integrating into and contributing to society as a whole.

Visitors to the exhibit were particularly intrigued by the section on local Jewish history, which often elicited stories of personal connections to members of the Jewish community. The exhibit also encouraged visitors to share their stories of immigration to Canada and their own family histories.

For many, the exhibit was a source of pride in all that the Jewish community of Canada, and our local community, has accomplished.

Thank you to our supporters: the Alberta Government's Community Spirit Grant and the Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation.


Photos:
1. Akiva Academy students at City Hall.
2. Opening night.
3. From left – Councillor Brian Pincott, Federation Community Relations Chair Jeffrey Smith, Dr. Irving Abella, Federation President Bruce Linton, MLA Linda Johnson, Minister of Justice Jonathan Denis and leaders of the city's Muslim and other communities.
4. The Calgary Jewish Academy students at the Calgary JCC.

THE INTEGRATED BURSARY PROGRAM

Now Accepting Applications for 2014-15

If Jewish day school education, summer camp and recreational activities are beyond your financial reach, you may qualify for support through Calgary Jewish Federation's one-stop Integrated Bursary Program (IBP). Bursaries are awarded based on need and available community funds. The highest standards of confidentiality are maintained.

Applications available online at jewishcalgary.org or at Jewish Family Service Calgary, Akiva Academy, Calgary JCC and The Calgary Jewish Academy.

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2014.

For information about IBP, contact Judy Shapiro at jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3153.

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 events on the Pomegranate pages are supported by UJA dollars.
Hillel conference promotes connections of all sorts

Hillel students from Edmonton and Winnipeg journeyed to Calgary to join U of C and Mount Royal students for Shabbat Shabbang, a conference held January 17-19.

The event offered the 35 participants a bit of everything, from Israel advocacy training, to an interfaith experience, to social action and socializing.

“The conference was great for our students,” said Calgary Hillel director Kira Blumer. “When you come from smaller Jewish campuses, it’s fun to meet new people and feel like you’re part of a larger Jewish world.”

The jam-packed two-day event ran the gamut, including separate programs about Israel, Canadian Jewish history, the challenges facing the Jewish world, the need for civic engagement, and a Tikvah Olam project at a local food bank. Guest speakers included Ryla Braemer of The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Eleanor Millar of CJPAC, Dr. Irving Weizenbluth, to an interfaith experience, to social action and socializing.

Among all the content-driven sessions, there was still room to socialize and bond. All in All, the students left the conference anxious to get back to their cities and bring more Jewish students into the Hillel fold.

“Through an honest conversation about our successes and challenges in Calgary, our students effectively created a peer support network for campus leaders across Western Canada,” said Blumer. “It speaks to the leadership among Calgary’s Jewish youth.”

Michael Zhuhovitsky, a third-year mechanical engineering student at the University of Calgary, has never met most of the Calgary members of the Lions of Judah (LOJ), the internationally recognized women’s group whose members donate a minimum of $5,000 annually to the UJA campaign.

Nevertheless, Michael, the first to admit that a scholarship he received from the LOJ in 2011 had a significant and diverse effect on his education.

“It was very encouraging,” said Michael, regarding the LOJ student grant that he and Gabriella Fialkow, the other scholarship winner, received. “It gave a boost to my self-esteem. It was another push forward mentally and physically.”

Sandy Martin, a longtime Lion, came up with the idea for the scholarship program, as a tribute, in part, to a fellow Lion who had recently died, Sophie Kettner. Sophie was a long-time leader with UJA and other organizations in Calgary’s Jewish community.

“Sophie had been instrumental in many endeavors in the community,” said Sandy. “This scholarship is a great way to honour her and to create another generation of leaders in the Jewish community.”

Supporting the education of select university students and prompting them to become committed to and involved in the community are the dual goals of the LOJ Student Grant program.

Selection criteria for the scholarship include: financial need, acceptance into or currently attending a recognized university in Calgary, a written proposal expressing how the grant will benefit the aspirations of the applicant, and participation in the United Jewish Appeal Campaign if they are not already doing so.

“We want them to be involved, to have a sense of the perpetuity of the community,” said Donna Riback, LOJ committee member, referring to the applicants. “We are not always going to be around. These young people are going to have to take the reins.”

Like her co-scholarship recipient, Gabriella Fialkow, a third-year criminal justice student at Mount Royal University, is always grateful for the help and vote of confidence she received from the Lions.

“I am paying off my own education, so it was very helpful to me financially and helpful that they believed in me enough to give me money to help pay for my education,” she said.

To apply for the LOJ Student Grant, visit www.jewishcalgary.org. Applications must be submitted by May 23.

For more information about the Lion of Judah Student Grant program, contact Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154 or dkalef@jewishcalgary.org.