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Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

At the time of writing this column, I am only several days back in Calgary after a trip to Israel during which I participated in an executive leadership seminar. In addition, I had the opportunity to visit our partnership region of Etzba Hagalil (Galilee Panhandle), our Partnership2Gether (P2G) friends in the north.

What became abundantly clear during my visit is that Israel is as complex as she is beautiful, as challenging as she is inspiring, and as meaningful and relevant as ever. Much of my trip was spent participating in a study tour provided by the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership's Executive Leadership Program. Over the last twelve months I have been participating in its inaugural cohort, comprised of sixteen North American Federation and JCC professionals, and seasoned faculty with varied academic and Jewish communal professional experience.

The Israel study tour was framed through President Rivlin's presentation of the four tribes he believes make up most of Israel: Hiloni (Secular), Dati-Leumi (National Religious), Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox), and Arab. As such, our cohort engaged with members of all of these groups to hear about the challenges and opportunities in front of them, as well as their connection to Israeli society overall. It was amazing to see the important and transformative roles that each group plays, and will continue to play, in shaping the political and

social fabric of our homeland. What stood out to me was the approach most leaders are using to tackle problems and amplify solutions.

Most solutions were very much in line with Israel's start-up nation reputation, with individuals or small groups using innovative approaches to address core issues, testing to see if those approaches could scale up to yield broader



impact. What also stood out was the level of risk involved for many of the social entrepreneurs with whom we engaged – the Haredi woman who risked being ostracized by her community for starting a group for divorced women; the Bedouin school head who introduced a broad, secular curriculum into his academic program; the leaders in northern communities in the periphery who continue to build lives in more remote parts of the country and, in many cases, on the border just a short distance from Israel's sworn enemies.

The final few days of my trip were spent in our

partnership region in the north. It was a busy and meaningful time during which I was able to see our P2G efforts in action and to engage directly with Israeli professionals and volunteers. I saw the impact that a curricular STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) initiative is making in Metsudot School in Kiryat Shemona, raising the quality of education for



students in the area and serving as a pilot project that will lead to STEAM adoption in other schools. I planted a lemon tree for Tu B'Shevat with participants from Beit Gesher, a program for youth with special needs, and with Amyhai Shtern, Mayor of Kiryat Shemona.

It was my distinct honour to meet with Rachel Rabin, sister of the late Yitzhak Rabin and pioneer of Kibbutz Menara, creating the kibbutz before the the State of Israel was declared. She shared stories of its early formation and highlighted its importance as a key location situated right on the

border with Lebanon. And finally, I experienced the contrast of daily life in Metula, touring an active daycare and youth centre before driving along the border with Lebanon and visiting the site of one of the recently discovered tunnels being constructed by Hezbollah. Mayor David Azulai stood strong in his resolve to ensure Metula is a safe and welcoming community for its residents, and he thanked us for our continuing moral and financial support to his community and the rest of the region.

As I type this article, I recall how proud I was to be walking in Jerusalem, touring in Tel Aviv, visiting the Negev and Etzba Hagalil, and meeting the diverse groups of people who make up the very fabric of Israel. Our homeland is still young and continues to experience growing pains and great achievements, but it is ours and it is amazing. I still tear up when I sing Hatikvah, stand a little bit taller when I hear about another ingenious Israeli discovery, and above all I say a quiet thank you in my head whenever I picture the land of milk and honey, historic and futuristic, all rolled into one.

B'Shalom,

Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

JDAIM
FEBRUARY 2019
Jewish Disability Awareness,
Acceptance & Inclusion Month

We don't welcome people with disabilities because they have disabilities. We welcome them because they are people.
Rabbi Lynne Landsberg^{z"l}

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FOLLOWED BY A CONVERSATION WITH FACILITATOR, AMY GOLDBERG

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28 | 6:30PM

BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION | 1325 GLENMORE TRAIL SW

DAN HABIB'S AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILM EXAMINES THE EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

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FOR INFO CONTACT KARINA SZULC: KARINAS@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG OR 403-444-3158

PJ Library® and Temple B'nai Tikvah presents an afternoon of

WINTER FUN!

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24
2-3:30PM • TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH
900 47 AVENUE SW

Join us for an afternoon of skating fun at the park across from Temple and then come indoors and warm up with hot chocolate, snacks, stories, and fun with Rabbi Glickman. There is no charge but registration is requested.

Please consider bringing a donation of something warm (gloves/toques/scarves) for those in need.





For information contact Kathie: kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592.

Celebrate PURIM

with PJ Library®

TOT SHABBAT PURIM
MARCH 15 | 10:30AM
CALGARY JCC, 1607 90 AVENUE SW

BETH TZEDEC PURIM CARNIVAL
MARCH 17 | 10:00AM-1:00PM
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION, 1325 GLENMORE TRAIL SW

AKIVA PURIM CARNIVAL
MARCH 17 | 1:00-3:00PM
HALPERN AKIVA ACADEMY, 140 HADDON ROAD SW

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE **KID-FRIENDLY AND FUN EVENTS** CONTACT KATHIE AT KWAINER@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG OR 403-537-8592



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

Thank You

TODAH RABAH

because of your generosity, **EVERYONE COUNTS** and our community raised

\$2,515,317

to support the vital programs and services provided by Calgary Jewish Federation and our partner agencies



Wynne and Harvey Thal
UJA Campaign Co-Chairs



Gail Sidorsky
Lion of Judah Chair



Megan Zybutz
Super Sunday Chair

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Calgary Jewish Federation's UJA campaign wouldn't function without your time and commitment – a benefit for all of Jewish Calgary

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Craig Steinberg
Beth Steinberg
Micah Steinberg
Sharla Stoffman
Joseph Tappenden
Mike Ullman
Riley Zipursky
Zack Zipursky

We apologize if we accidentally missed any volunteer names

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNER AGENCIES FOR VOLUNTEERING



IMAGINE IF YOU COULD PROVIDE A GIFT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT WOULD LAST FOREVER



Our Calgary Jewish Community is blessed to have already received

44 COMMITMENTS FROM 17 FAMILIES

KOL HAKAVOD TO THOSE WHO ARE ENSURING OUR JEWISH TOMORROWS



To learn more about LIFE & LEGACY™ and how you can leave a gift in perpetuity, contact Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154 or dkalef@jewishcalgary.org.