Shalom friends,

In these uncertain and troubled times, the work of Calgary Jewish Federation and our national partner, The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is more important than ever in making sure that the Jewish community has a strong and effective voice in the Canadian fabric and that issues of concern to our community are addressed on a local, regional, and national level.

In addition to the regular monthly meetings of our Community Relations Committee, in the past few weeks, several events have occurred requiring our attention. Here are some of the activities we have undertaken lately:

1. Quebec Mosque Attack – Both Federation and CIJA were prompt in issuing press releases condemning the murderous attack at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Quebec City on January 29. Federation also sent letters of solidarity to many Muslim organizations in Calgary. I was invited to speak at the first vigil at Calgary City Hall and my remarks and the presence of members of the Jewish community were most appreciated by the 500+ people there. In addition, Federation was asked to assist in finding a Rabbi to participate in an Interfaith Prayer Vigil at the Akram Jomaa Mosque the following day. Rabbi Joshua Corber of Beth Tzedec Congregation represented the community on that occasion.

2. Community Security – In light of world events, it is natural that Jewish communities feel a sense of discomfort or even fear about their safety and security. Whenever there is a terrorist attack or a bomb threat against Jewish institutions or an anti-Israel speaker, members of our community ask: What is Calgary Jewish Federation doing to protect our community? Federation is in constant contact with our liaison officers in the Calgary Police Service, the intelligence team and the special events team as well as our contacts in the RCMP. Our discussions involve specific incidents requiring investigation, an assessment of risk surrounding large events in our own community, and oversight of organizations and individuals who may pose a threat. This month, with 39 JCCs and schools in the US targeted by bogus bomb threats, Federation sent out an alert to all community agencies reminding them to review bomb threat procedures with all staff.

3. Consultation on Advocacy Priorities – Calgary was one of nine communities in Canada to engage in grassroots consultation on the advocacy priorities to be pursued by CIJA. Thank you to the 20 people who participated locally! To see the results of the consultations, and to vote on your priorities, go to cija.ca/grassroots.

4. Meetings with Political Leaders – Federation recently held two fruitful meetings with political leaders. In January, Federation CEO Adam Silver and I met with MP and Minister of Veteran Affairs Kent Hehr and discussed the importance of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern. This month, Adam, Yannai Segal and Judy Shapiro met with Mayor Nenshi to give him an update on the Jewish community, of Canada’s support for Israel, and other issues of concern.

5. Avi Shabbat – Our Hillel and JAC groups play an important role in reaching out to other faith and cultural groups. Among those activities is Avi Shabbat, an interfaith celebration of Shabbat which is now in its third year. Kol Hakavod to the students and young adults who recognize the importance of building bridges of understanding between all the communities that make up the Calgary mosaic.

As this edition of the paper gets into the homes, Judy Shapiro is in Ottawa for two meetings: a fly-in focusing on advocating on behalf of Jewish people with disabilities and the first meeting of a cross-Canada national security committee.

Coming up, we expect the new Israeli Consul-General, Gailt Baram, to visit in April – watch Pomegranate for details.

Meanwhile, we will continue to work on your behalf to make sure that the voice of Jewish Calgary is heard. If you have any questions or concerns about the community relations and security activities of Federation, please do not hesitate to contact me or Judy Shapiro at js@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3153.

B’Shalom,

Jeff Smith, Chair, Community Relations Committee of Federation, the Local Partner of The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

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**A MESSAGE FROM JEFF**

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 Elliott Steinberg at 403-252-5801 or esteinberg@jewishcalgary.org.
Keynote speaker

Arthur Fleischmann

Author of Carly’s Voice: Breaking through Autism
(Father of Carly Fleischmann)

Feb. 26, 2017 | 7:00pm
Temple B’nai Tikvah
900 47 Avenue SW

Register online at www.jewishcalgary.org
Limited seating available

For more information contact Karina Szulc at karinas@jewishcalgary.org or 403-389-6994

This is a free event
Contributions gratefully accepted at the door.

Sponsors:
Inclusion Alberta
Autism Calgary
Temple B’nai Tikvah
Lenny & Faigel Shapiro Family
Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation
Carly Fleischmann

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 Karina Szulc at 403-389-6994 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org.

There is no charge but registration is required. Space is limited.
Contact Kathie Wainer at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592.

Join us for the fifth of our Family Holiday Programming generously sponsored by Sam and Ida Switzer

For more information contact Kathie Wainer at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592.

PITCH PERFECT PURIM
SATURDAY MARCH 12 • 8:00pm
GALAXY KARAOKE
TICKET: $20 (INC. DRINK AND SNACKS)
DRESS UP THEME: FAVOURITE MUSICAL ICON

CONTACT JORDAN • JAC@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG • 403-444-3146

If you haven’t been receiving emails from Calgary Jewish Federation, it isn’t because we aren’t sending any! Please let us know if you’ve changed your email address so we can stay in touch with you. Contact Elliott atesteinberg@jewishcalgary.org.

Purim Carnival
Sunday March 12
11:30am – 1:00pm
Akiva Academy • 140 Haddon Road SW

PJ Library® and Akiva Academy open the doors to a world of Purim fun and games! Make sure to wear your costume! There is no charge and no need to register.

For more information contact Kathie Wainer at 403-537-8592 or kwainer@jewishcalgary.org.

The Israeli consul is planning to come to Calgary in the spring. If you need to see the consul for matters requiring a personal appearance, for example, renewing a child’s passport, please contact Judy Shapiro at jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org to get on the appointment list.

An opportunity for educators to learn about resources, techniques and pedagogy surrounding Holocaust Education. Recommended for teachers of grades 6-12. *$30 ($15 for student teachers).
Contact Ilana at 403-444-3162 or ikrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org.

CAlgAry jewiSh FederAtioN
FirSt BieNNiAl
MARCH 17, 2017 | 9:30am - 4:00pm | CALGARY JCC

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A TASTE OF JUDAISM

Thank you to Rabbi Shaul Osadchey and Beth Tzedec Congregation for the generous donation of aprons to Kesher program members. The participants delighted in colourfully personalizing them before their cooking class “A Taste of Judaism.” Rabbi Osadchey regularly teaches cooking to the Kesher group.

P J Goes to Preschool
CJA
February 26, 2017

Purim
Sunday March 5
10:30am • Calgary JCC

Purim is one of the most joyful Jewish holidays and educator Amy Goldberg will delight us with Purim stories, songs, crafts, special treats.

Register today at jewishcalgary.org

This is the perfect opportunity for you to experience a morning at preschool with your children and join in Kabbalat Shabbat celebrations.

There is no charge but registration is required (no exceptions) by Wednesday, March 1 (CJ A) and Wednesday, March 29 (Akiva).

PJ Library® and Akiva Academy open the doors to a world of Purim fun and games! Make sure to wear your costume! There is no charge and no need to register.

For more information contact Kathie Wainer at 403-537-8592 or kwainer@jewishcalgary.org.

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