A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

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havever, As we all know, the world is a different place today than it was ten years, five years, even one year ago. Threats to civil and harmonious existence are greater and seem closer than ever before, and the spreading and sharing of news is broader and quicker than history has ever experienced. We know this because we live it every day. Recently, our community felt this firsthand as our Calgary JCC received a phoned in bomb threat, and became a statistic as one of over one hundred threats issued to JCCs, Jewish Day Schools, and other Jewish organizations across North America.

JCC and Federation staff immediately addressed the issue and followed practiced protocols for the situation, and Calgary Police Service was on the scene in minutes to provide guidance and to assess the level of legitimacy involved with the threat. As a precautionary measure, members immediately visited adults’ rooms to leave the premises, and the building was quickly closed. Staff and police then continued to assess if there was any level of credible threat, and it was determined that we had been part of the spate of hoax threats which you have likely seen in the news in recent months. I commend our staff teams (JCC and Federation) for remaining calm and vigilant under the circumstances, as well as those who were present at the JCC that night and followed our requests and instructions without challenge, ensuring our response to the issued threat was timely and focused.

It is important to state two things: We take each threat, no matter where it is issued and no matter how credible it seems, as a serious concern and, we also refuse to live in fear. The purpose of these threats is to instill fear – and the response must be to demonstrate by our actions that the campaign is a failure. The response must be to PARTICIPATE more, not less, and to ATTEND events, REGISTER for programs, and SPEND TIME in our Jewish organizations. Our community is a proud one, a vibrant one – and one that will not fall victim to a strategy aimed at disrupting our day to day functioning.

Again, make no mistake, Federation and all of our Jewish institutions hold security and safety as primary concerns, and are continuously working on physical and procedural modifications to ensure increased levels of protection and response, should they be necessary. And you are asked to play a part in our security – keep an eye out for anything or anyone that is out of place and report anything suspicious to staff. If you see something, say something.

On another topic, this year Calgary Jewish Federation’s Program Allocations Committee (PAC) has been working diligently to ensure that funds raised through our community’s UJA campaign continue to be effectively and efficiently used by our community’s organizations, and to confirm that those funds are creating positive impact. Last year PAC initiated a two year funding cycle, in an effort to provide greater stability to essential community programs. As part of this process, our PAC committee has been meeting with funded partners to collaborate with them on establishing measurable criteria related to the impact of their programming, as well as to learn about trends they are experiencing. The meetings have been very positive, and PAC is looking forward to continuing to refine its best practices and to share news of the impact your UJA dollars are making on a daily and person-by-person basis.

The theme of my message this week is intended to be one of participation and engagement – in difficult times, we must be even more active, even more present, even more engaged. And, yes, we must be even more vigilant. Fear, however, cannot weigh into the equation. Fear will paralyze us. Hope and pride will inspire us. Let us all live inspired Jewish lives, inspired community lives.

Because… Together we are braver. Because… Together we are one. Because… Together we are stronger.

B’Shalom,

Adam Silver, CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation
Join us for the sixth of our Family Holiday Programs generously sponsored by Sam and Ida Switzer

Everything you need to know for a meaningful Pesach / Passover celebration.

Educator Amy Goldberg will delight us with Pesach stories, songs, crafts and special treats as we learn and celebrate together.

Sunday April 2
10:30am & 2:00pm | Calgary JCC

There are now two program times for you to choose from – 10:30am or 2:00pm. There is no charge but registration is required as space is limited. Contact: kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592 to register or for more information.

The Israeli consul is coming to Calgary on June 4. 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.

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 at esteinberg@jewishcalgary.org.

The 2016 UJA campaign culminated in our annual Western Canada appreciation event, jointly hosted in Palm Springs by the Jewish Federations of Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

Kol Hakavod & Thank You to Larry Katz and Yannai Segal

For making an impact and chairing Federation’s successful UJA 2016 campaign. Their continuing hard work and leadership has benefitted Jewish Calgary many times over.

For the second year, Calgary’s Jewish community enthusiastically embraced Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month in February.

JDAIM 2017: Calgary’s Jewish community enthusiastically embraced Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month in February.

Room at Your Table?

Passover is around the corner!

Do you need a place to go for a Pesach Seder?
Do you have a place at your table for a guest?

If you answered ‘yes’ to either of these questions, contact Karina Szulc, Shalom Calgary Coordinator before Saturday April 1 at: 403-389-6994 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org

2016 UJA Campaign

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