Salam friends,
It will come as no surprise to any of you that Alberta is experiencing difficult financial times, and a wave of depleting morale. Jewish Calgary, unfortunately, is not immune to the challenges facing all Albertans. However, the strength and vibrancy of our community is demonstrated through a virtually flat $2.8M United Jewish Appeal (UJA) campaign, and through the innovative, critical, and welcoming programming and services of many partner agencies and synagogues. That being said, individually we cannot escape the current reality. Perhaps we are experiencing financial challenges, or we might know a family member or friend who lives daily with concerns of job security, food availability, or for whom the stress of managing her/his household during this downturn is taking a toll on family, on health, and on confidence. It’s inspiring to me to witness us working together to weather the storm, continuing to celebrate all that is amazing about being Jewish.
Now that the annual UJA campaign is done, Calgary Jewish Federation’s board and committees begin to focus on distributions of funds raised to support the many programs and services that assist Calgary families in living Jewish lives. Although our campaign brought in slightly less in donations than last year, we are determined to make the funds stretch in order to maintain the level of service we are proud to provide. Two committees in particular will be hard at work in the coming weeks. The community’s Integrated Bursary Program (IBP) provides subsidies for school tuition, summer camp and JCC membership. Allocations to vital programs provided by our dedicated partner organizations is a process adjudicated through our volunteer run Programs and Allocations Committee (PAC). In both cases, IBP and PAC, the process is volunteer led, and strives to be dignified, responsible, transparent, and collaborative. From the outside, the processes may appear to be smooth and easy, however, in fact they are anything but. IBP and PAC involve dedicated teams of volunteers contributing hours of preparation and meetings, and holding the responsibility of making very challenging, and in some cases heart-wrenching, decisions. There is love, and there is accountability applied to their efforts, and the community is incredibly fortunate to benefit from their time, talent, and compassion. This year, we will be striving to maintain flat levels of distributions to support families that require accountability applied to their efforts, and the community will persevere and emerge stronger than ever. Kol Hakavod to our volunteers, and B’hatzolah to all of us. Because, together we are Jewish Calgary.
B’Shalom,

CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

The power of community.
There were a lot of doughy “snakes” and flour-dusted clothes as students at Akiva Academy and The Calgary Jewish Academy were joined by children from PJ Library® Calgary in making challah for Shabbat. Volunteers from JAC helped with the rolling and braiding, delivering fresh-baked mini-loaves back to their respective creators.

PJ-JAC Challah

Beautiful desert settings, Jewish networking, and engaging speaker Irwin Cotler made for two great events to thank our UJA donors living in warmer climates. Four western Federations and the Atlantic Jewish Council joined forces to engage their respective community members with congenial and thought-provoking programs. Many thanks to Jody and Harvey Dales in Scottsdale and Sydney and Bob Kalef and Sam and Ida Switzer in Palm Springs for hosting.

Integrating 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 at jewishcalgary.org or at Jewish Family Service Calgary, Akiva Academy, Calgary JCC and The Calgary Jewish Academy.

UJA Scottsdale / Palm Springs

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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 403-444-3158 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org.