

**Calgary Jewish Federation wants you!**  
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 Janene Puffer at 403-444-3157 or [jpuffer@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:jpuffer@jewishcalgary.org).

# Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



## SPRING INTO CALGARY'S JEWISH PROGRAMMING

It's springtime – the season of new growth, new opportunities and choices. Our senses reawaken as we remove the winter's blanket of slumber, and venture out to enjoy the plenitude of possibilities we have to explore in our wonderful world-class city and surroundings.

We, as people and as a people, love choices. And our world is opulent with them at this time of year. We have long been a Jewish community that – though relatively modest in numbers – is high in expectations, of itself and its leadership. It's what drives us to maintain two fulltime Jewish day schools, five congregations, a vibrant JCC, a caring JFS, and numerous organizations, all working to think of new ways to strengthen your body, challenge your mind and reawaken your soul.

So, get out your calendar and get ready for a very busy and exciting spring, as the Calgary Jewish Community has planned something for everyone.

It's Adar – so be happy! Luckily we Jews have developed the ability to look at life and the world with a sense of humour.

Only a few days from now, the community will 'yuk it up' at *When Jews Were Funny*, a documentary film being screened by JNF on Monday March 31 at Cineplex Theatre

Chinook followed by a JNF Future event for young leaders.

Kehilat Shalom will host *Flamenco Road*, Michael Laucke in Concert on Tuesday April 1.

As the frivolity of Adar shifts to the remembrance of Nissan, we celebrate Passover, followed by Yom HaShoah on Sunday April 27. The service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument at the JCC will be followed by a program at the Beth Tzedec featuring Ann Weiss, who will tell the fascinating story of *THE LAST ALBUM: Eyes from the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau*.

Another Holocaust related lecture not to be missed is that of Father Patrick Desbois, a French Catholic priest, and founder of Yehad-In Unum, an organization that helps locate the mass graves of Jewish victims of the Nazi mobile killing units. Father Desbois will speak on Wednesday May 14.

In April and May, our March of the Living and Asper participants will round out their weeks of study with journeys of remembrance and education; the CJA Grade 9 students will enjoy their graduation Israel experience; and thousands of students will be educated at the annual Holocaust Education Symposium.

The ability to experience both

remembrance and celebration has always been a hallmark of Jewish history. There is no time of year this is more apparent than early in the month of Iyar, when we celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut – Israel's Declaration of Independence in 1948 – immediately preceded by Yom Hazikaron, honouring the county's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

At the Yom Hazikaron program organized by the JCC on Sunday May 4, each seat at the Beth Tzedec will be labeled with the name of a soldier killed in battle or a civilian murdered in a terrorist attack. Let's make sure that all of these nearly 1,500 seats of honour and commemoration are filled that night.

The following day, on Monday May 5, the Aviv Dancers, a wonderful Israeli dance troupe from Edmonton, will entertain at the JCC. During both days, a tent of photographs from members of the community's journeys to Israel will be on display in the lobby of the JCC.

If these events aren't enough:

- Na'amat hosts locally grown talent Leah Giselle Field on Monday May 12
- Comedian Avi Liberman is the headliner of Akiva Academy's *Class Act 2, a Kosher Cabaret for Jewish*

Education, on Sunday May 25

The JCC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sports Dinner will be celebrated with Hall of Fame football wide receiver Cris Carter on Thursday May 29

CJA's fundraiser is at the Aviation Museum on Sunday June 1

The ever-popular YLD and PJ Library\* Popsicles in the Park is on June 8, as is the annual Beit Halochem concert in aid of Disabled Veterans of Israel

Marilyn Libin, whose efforts have benefited so many organizations in our community, including the CJA, UJA, and Calgary Hadassah WIZO, will be honoured at JNF's Negev Dinner on Wednesday June 18.

Whatever your plans for the spring and summer, make sure you set aside some time to be Jewishly active. Watch for more information about all these events in ePOM.

Celebrate Jewish life in Calgary! B'Shalom!

*Drew Staffenberg*  
Drew Staffenberg  
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

## THE INTEGRATED BURSARY PROGRAM

The Integrated Bursary Program Deadline for applications March 31, 2014.

For more information about IBP, contact Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or [js Shapiro@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:js Shapiro@jewishcalgary.org).



## Calgary UJA in Palm Springs

More than 90 people from across Western Canada gathered at the home of Fran and Sam Belzberg in Palm Springs for a UJA donor appreciation event. Among them were 30 Calgarians who flee the cold Alberta winters, but hold our community in their hearts.

Guest speaker, Ido Aharoni, Israeli consul general from New York, captivated the audience. The Palm Springs event was a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to the UJA donors who keep our communities strong and vibrant through their generous donations of time and tzedakah.



1. Deborah Yedlin, Perry and Lisa Itzcovitch; 2. Allison, Eric, Gay and Beryl Libin; 3. Marina, Maurice and Myra Paperny

## UJA Volunteers Bowl Them Over

Calgary Jewish Federation expressed its appreciation to the volunteers who made UJA 2013 a great success with a bowling night on Monday March 3. The true bowlers showed their stuff with Rabbi Safren coming out in the lead and Drew Staffenberg a close second.

Lead by UJA 2013 co-chairs Sam Feldman and Michael Ghert, the campaign raised a record \$3.1 million.

Thank you to ALL our UJA volunteers who day in and day out give of their time to raise money for our wonderful Jewish community.



1. Rabbi Chaim Safren – 2014 UJA Bowling Champ; 2. Alana Devlin, Debbie Ryder and Stephanie Berman; 3. Milt and Maxine Fischbein



## Karina Szulc to Make Inclusion Efforts Sing

The woman who got the city's Jewish seniors up and singing has been appointed as the Calgary Jewish Federation's new Shalom Calgary and Inclusion Coordinator, Drew Staffenberg, Federation's CEO announced earlier this month. Karina Szulc founded the JCC's Senior Voices Choir in 2007 with 18 members and has since doubled its ranks. "Music is the tool to give seniors 'kovid', honour and to keep Jewish music alive," said Szulc. "It also just a way of bringing people together." Uniting disparate and often disenfranchised voices has been a hallmark of Szulc's career.

She spent 25 years working with adults with special needs in her native Argentina, including eight years in a Jewish nursing home that focused on Holocaust survivors. She immigrated to Canada in 2006 to take a job as a music therapist.

"This is something I have advocated all my life, for an inclusive community," said Szulc. "Now, it has a personal meaning for me because I have a child," she said, referring to Ari, her 15-month old son.

Szulc will oversee the Federation's Shalom Calgary program, which welcomes newcomers to the city. She will also be in charge of all inclusion programs, such as the highly regarded Keshet program.

"Karina's experience makes her uniquely qualified to take over these important programs working with people with special needs," said Staffenberg. "Her experience as a recent newcomer also makes her particularly sensitive to their needs as well."

Szulc has a bachelor's degree in music therapy and MA in neuropsychology as applied to dementia from Universidad de Buenos Aires. She said that she doesn't like to use the term 'special needs'.

"I say 'different needs,'" said Szulc, "because everyone has talents to share and everyone has things they don't do so well. Everyone has something to make this world better and different."

Szulc will take the spot of Hila Maydar, who been the Shalom Calgary and Inclusion Coordinator since the fall of 2012. Staffenberg praised Maydar's "outstanding job in developing the Keshet program and furthering our commitment to inclusion within the Jewish community."

Karina can be reached at [karinas@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:karinas@jewishcalgary.org) beginning on April 15.

## Students Invited to Apply Now for Lion of Judah Scholarships

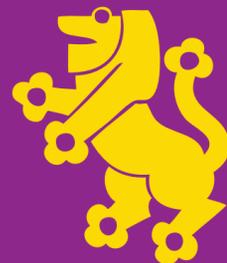
For the second time since 2011, the local Lions of Judah, the internationally recognized women's group whose members donate \$5,000 annually to the UJA campaign, will offer a scholarship to a deserving Calgary university student.

Selection criteria for the scholarship include:

1. Financial need.
2. Acceptance into or currently attending a recognized university in Calgary.
3. A written proposal expressing how the grant will benefit the aspirations of the applicant.
4. Volunteering in the Jewish community.

To apply for the LOJ Student Grant, visit [www.jewishcalgary.org](http://www.jewishcalgary.org). Applications must be submitted by Friday May 23.

For more information about the grant program, contact Diana Kalef, at 403-444-3154 or [dkalef@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:dkalef@jewishcalgary.org).



Watch the next edition of Pomegranate for great Purim pictures!



## MAKE YOUR CHILD ONE HAPPY CAMPER

One Happy Camper provides grants of up to \$1,000 to children attending Jewish overnight camp for the first time.\*

Visit [OneHappyCamper.org](http://OneHappyCamper.org) to find your camp and apply.

For more information, contact Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or [js Shapiro@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:js Shapiro@jewishcalgary.org)

\*Some conditions apply



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 [js Shapiro@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:js Shapiro@jewishcalgary.org).

All events on the Pomegranate pages are supported by UJA dollars.



## PJ Hits the Road and Finds Treasure

It's been quite a month for PJ Library\* in Calgary. In addition to its regular mandate of mailing age-appropriate books of Jewish content to the homes of registered children between six months and eight years old, PJ made visits to both local Jewish day schools and also held a 'treasure' of a program with House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel.

Kids who attended the 'PJ Goes to Preschool' programs celebrated Shabbat at Akiva Academy on Friday February 7 and at The Calgary Jewish Academy on Friday February 28.

"The program provided a unique and informal way for these children and their parents to experience a morning at the schools, meet the other students and the teachers," PJ Library\* Coordinator Kathie Wainer said regarding the preschool visits.

The PJ kids joined the nursery class Shabbat program at Akiva Academy, learning the blessings and enjoying Sabbath treats. At the CJA, a group of PJ

preschoolers and their parents also enjoyed a Shabbat celebration, as well as a PJ Library\* story in the school's library and a craft, snack and playtime in the nursery classes.

On Sunday March 9, nearly 50 children enjoyed an animated reading of Uri Shulevitz beloved book, *The Treasure* by Morah Debby Miller (see bottom photo), followed by a treasure hunt in the synagogue.

Children followed a series of clues and found coins to redeem for their own treasure box, which they then personalized. The treasure boxes ultimately revealed to the children that it is actually their own families who are their treasure (along with gold coins and treats, of course!).

And much like Isaac in *The Treasure*, the children learned that "sometimes one must travel far to discover what is near."

April promises to be just as exciting as PJ Library\* Calgary plans for its Menschen & Munchkins program on Sunday April 6 (see information below).



## C'mon, Be a Mensch!\*

Bring your children and grandchildren to

## Menschen & Munchkins

A Morning of Magic and Wonder

Sponsored by PJ Library\* and Beth Tzedec's Menschlichkeit Committee

**Sunday April 6**  
10:30am to noon  
Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1325 Glenmore Trail SW

Join Rabbi Shaul Osadchey as he reads from the beloved PJ Library\* book: *How Dalja Put a Big Yellow Comforter Inside a Tiny Blue Box* and Other Wonders of Tzedakah.

Beth Tzedec's menschen will inspire us and share tips about how to be a mensch for life.

\*Mensch is a word derived from Yiddish meaning "a person of integrity and honour."

There is no charge for this program, but registration is required by April 2 by contacting Kathie Wainer at 403-612-6604 or [kwainer@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:kwainer@jewishcalgary.org)



This program is funded in part by UJA dollars

## SAVE THE DATE

### Yom HaShoah Sunday April 27

Yom HaShoah will be commemorated by the community on Sunday April 27. A service at the Holocaust Memorial Monument at the JCC at 6:30pm will be followed by a program at Beth Tzedec Congregation at 7:30pm, featuring Ann Weiss, who will tell the fascinating story of *THE LAST ALBUM: Eyes from the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau*.

