A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

Chaverim,

At this time of year, many of us are experiencing the excitement, and the angst, of the weeks leading up to Pesach; we are looking forward to Passover with family and friends and the many good times we enjoy over the week, but we are also dreading the path we need to get there, the cleaning, kitchen switchover, multiple grocery store visits, recipe swapping, and hours of cooking. Not only is Passover a time of festive celebration, but it is also a time of seasonal renewal, a change of seasons and of attitudes. We emerge from the cold of the winter with positive energy for a productive and enjoyable spring.

Pesach as a chag, a holiday, is also a time of renewal. It represents a time when we moved from slavery to freedom, from absence of hope to hope. The Israelites had been enslaved to Pharaoh for many years before Moses uttered the famous words “Let my people go!” At the Pesach seder, we celebrate the breaking of the Israelites’ bondage and often use the opportunity to give thanks for the freedom we enjoy as Jews in Canada today.

But the Passover story leads us to other discussions as well. Over the time spent in the desert, finding their way to Eretz Canaan, the Israelites became a nation – a strong and passionate people, seasoned and committed to the common goal of reaching the Promised Land and living according to Jewish laws. Although there were many challenges along the way, the destination was worth working toward and fighting to achieve.

What does that tell us about our Jewish community of Calgary in 2017? We have a clear destination – and that is to build and maintain a vibrant Jewish Calgary, filled with proud, educated, engaged Jewish children and adults, who enjoy living a Jewish life in a free and accepting Canada. As we work together to reach that destination today and in the future, we will certainly encounter bumps and challenges along the way, and our focus will be tested. Over the coming months and years, however, we will craft a meaningful route to our destination – a picture of success for our community, and a map of how to get there. It is my hope that we will, as a community, identify key priorities and opportunities aimed at solidifying the present, and building for the future. We will, together, ensure that we continue to support those in need, that we enhance programs for youth and young adults through which they can express their Jewish pride and engage with community, that we continue to build bridges with other communities, and that we strategically combat hate and bigotry to not only address the symptoms, but the roots of the problem.

In Jewish Calgary’s case, Eretz Canaan is an aspirational destination that will be built from our continuing journey together. We are well positioned to reach the destination in the coming years, and with the breadth and depth of Jewish Calgary, we will all be better off through the experience of getting there.

Because…Together the journey is more meaningful. Because…Together reaching the destination is sweeter. Because…Together we are stronger.

Chag Pesach kasher v’sameach,

Adam Silver, CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation
PJ Library® Calgary and Calgary Jewish Federation are hiring a part-time Russian-speaking educator to plan and implement PJ Library® programs for the Russian-speaking community.

The successful candidate will:
- Work as part of the PJ Library® team to further programs, services and engagement of Russian-speaking parents, grandparents and children.
- Work with the PJ Library® professional to plan and implement four to six PJ Library® programs over the course of a year.
- Communicate with and reach out to Russian-speaking Jewish families.
- Develop and maintain a Russian and Hebrew language PJ Library® social media presence.

Job requirements:
- Russian as a first-language.
- Fluent in English and Hebrew.
- Must have a teaching degree or diploma.
- Experience working with pre-school and early elementary-aged children.
- Familiarity with Jewish traditions and culture.
- Familiarity with Jewish songs in Russian and Hebrew.
- Must be available on Sundays.
- Excellent interpersonal communication and organizational skills.
- Able to work collaboratively with a team.

Salary commensurate with experience and hours. Send resumes and cover letter (in English and Russian) to: Paula Egelnick at pegelnick@jewishcalgary.org by Friday, April 28, 2017.

The goal of the conference was to give classroom teachers the tools and resources to teach the Holocaust thereby making local teachers our partners in the important task of Holocaust Education.

The inaugural conference was a full day of discussion, workshops, and presentations about the latest pedagogy and technologies around Holocaust Education. An excellent keynote address by Mount Royal College historian Scott Murray was followed by presenters from Voices into Action, and the Azrieli Foundation in Toronto which introduced teachers to their ReCollection resource. Teachers also experienced a presentation by one of our 2nd Generation – 2nd Voices presenters. The junior high and high school public and private school teachers left the conference armed with information on new initiatives and resources. Most now feel well-equipped to go into their school communities and teach Holocaust history to countless students for years to come.

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.