

community calendar

Want to know what's going on in Jewish Calgary? Check out the Community Calendar at jewishcalgary.org

Have an event? Click on "Suggest an Event" to add it to the calendar



A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

The coming week brings one of my favourite Jewish holidays, Passover. Leading up to Passover, or *Pesach*, my family anticipates the smells, tastes, family time together, change of seasons, and the overall traditions we have developed over the years. We grumble about having to meticulously search for and remove every scrap of *chametz* (leaven), and we complain about the schlepping we must do to transition our entire kitchen from its everyday status to kosher for Passover status.

At the same time, we look forward to cooking and eating *hentzalach* (matzah meal pancakes) – that I'm certain my mother-in-law created; we are likely the only family in Calgary that makes them... feel free to stop by and have some – and devouring *matzah brei* while debating whether it should be eaten with apple sauce or cinnamon sugar

and syrup. We also look forward to (yes, look forward to) the *Seders* (festive meals which are bookended by traditional prayers, blessings, and songs). It has been interesting seeing our children mature and selectively grow out of some traditions, while maintaining others. There is both an excitement and a comfort with the introduction of new traditions while maintaining the continuity of existing ones.

Borrowing from some information I found on *aish.com*, it is notable that during *Pesach* there is a focus on teaching the next generation and perpetuating our People's story that takes us from slavery to freedom, from Egypt to *Eretz Canaan*. During our *Seders*, we symbolically relive the oppression our ancestors experienced, tell the story of the ten plagues and the seemingly endless journey to freedom. We encourage our children to ask questions and to consider

their roles in maintaining a free, meaningful society. During *Pesach* we read in the *Haggadah*: "All who are hungry – come and eat. All who are needy – come join the Passover celebration." This is said while we are already sitting together and, interestingly, not proclaimed to the outside world. Some interpretations suggest that we start the *Seder* this way to ground ourselves and to refocus our thinking toward appreciation and aspiration. In saying these words, we acknowledge that we must be present and aware, and that while we might not literally be oppressed, we might still be preoccupied with things that ultimately distract us or take us away from things that really matter.

As we celebrate Passover this year, let's all renew our focus on family, community, and making a positive impact in the world. While trivial distractions might impede our ability

to meaningfully engage with one another or focus on things that matter, I am confident that if we all take the time and consciously make the effort, we can all build the type of world that we want to live; in the present and see for the future. By reflecting on our values, strengths, and challenges – and by moving our thoughts to action – we can ensure the months and years ahead are even better and more meaningful than the ones already behind us.

Wishing you and yours a *Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach!*

Adam Silver
Chief Executive Officer
Calgary Jewish Federation

CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION INVITES YOU TO THE COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION OF

YOM HASHOAH

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

WEDNESDAY MAY 1, 2019 | 26 NISAN 5779

CHILD SURVIVORS • MARCH OF THE LIVING

OUR EVENING BEGINS – 6:30PM
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL WALL, CALGARY JCC

COMMEMORATION CONTINUES – 7:30PM
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

FEATURING ANGELA OROSZ RICHT
ONE OF ONLY TWO BABIES THAT SURVIVED BEING BORN IN AUSCHWITZ

CONTACT ILANA FOR INFO: 403-444-3162 OR IKRYGIERLAPIDES@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG

INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH US AT

Popsicles IN THE Park

It's a Party!

IT'S OUR 10TH BIRTHDAY!

SUNDAY JUNE 2 • 11AM-2PM • JCC

Bring the family for a fun-filled day and celebrate 10 years of PJ Library® in Calgary!

Petting zoo, face painting, bouncy house, bubbles, kosher popsicles, and lots of birthday treats and surprises

There is no need to register
Email: kwainer@jewishcalgary.org with any questions

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY JUNE 20
CALGARY JCC 1607 90 AVENUE SW

6:45PM CALGARY JCC YEARLY UPDATE MEETING

7:00PM CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION AGM

FEDERATION AGM AGENDA INCLUDES: ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS, COMMUNITY UPDATES, AND SHEM TOV AWARDS.

IMAGINE IF YOU COULD PROVIDE A GIFT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT WOULD LAST FOREVER

BE REMEMBERED FOREVER IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL, TRUST, OR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

To learn more about how to create your Jewish legacy, contact Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154 or dkalef@jewishcalgary.org

All activities on this page are made possible by your gifts to Federation's annual UJA campaign