**A MESSAGE FROM YANNAI**

As we exit a long and snowy winter and start to experience the budding warmth of spring, we should seize the opportunity to look at the present with thankfulness, and the future with optimism and purpose. This is one component of the mitzva of selichot hamner, the daily counting of the 49 days between Passover and the holiday of Shavuot. As we celebrate our freedom and praise HaShem for our redemption from slavery in Egypt, we immediately look forward to the giving of the Torat and the establishment of our special collective responsibility for each other and our national responsibility to be an or lagoyon, a light unto the nations. Now is the time to channel our appreciation for what we have in our community into action and towards what we should and can build for ourselves and our children.

There is much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in our community. After several years of down campaigns in tough economic times, the 2017 UJA campaign was up year-over-year, a hopeful portent of a recovering local economy and an increase in overall charitable giving. Federation and its agencies continue to develop and deliver a variety of exciting programs and services. Progress is being made on the campus project, with the vision of a much-needed Jewish nursing home increasingly within reach. While facing many challenges, our many community institutions are thriving and opportunities for meaningful Jewish experiences in Calgary remain plentiful and vibrant. While challenges undoubtedly remain, our collective institutional memory of over a century of Jewish life in Calgary tells us things are pretty good, and we can make them even better.

We also have the special opportunity to mark the seventieth anniversary of the State of Israel this Yom HaAtzmaut. We have so much to be thankful for, from the miraculous military victories of 1948 and 1967, to the ingathering of the exiles from Jewish communities around the world, to the current economic miracle of the startup nation. While the last seventy years have included periods of turbulence and moments of tragedy, there is no question that Israel has fulfilled much of the longing and idealism enshrined deeply in Jewish hearts through two thousand years of national exile.

During her recent economic mission to Calgary, Canadian Ambassador to Israel Deborah Lyons shared with us her extreme optimism at renewed prospects for peace, rapid positive changes across the political and social landscape of the Middle East, and a continued strengthening of the great relationship between Canada and Israel – including greater economic integration between Israel and Western Canada. We join our brothers and sisters in Israel and around the world in joyous celebration of Israel’s achievements to-date, and we continue to work as a global Jewish family to ensure the next seventy years are even better.

Back in Calgary, I ask each of the members of our wonderful Jewish community to take a moment of reflection, mindful appreciation for all we have, and thoughtful consideration for what we should aspire to and how you can help us achieve our aspirations. As we at Calgary Jewish Federation work hard towards continuous improvement of our community, I look forward to partnering with each and every one of you to accomplish our goals.

Yannah Segal, President
Calgary Jewish Federation

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**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Reporting to the CEO of Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF), the Director of Community Relations and Communications is responsible for:

- Working in coordination with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and internal CJF committees to promote issues of concern to the Jewish community;
- Building relationships with government, academia, police services, interfaith, and other cultural groups;
- Serving as the primary contact for crisis management, security concerns, issues of anti-Semitism and additional risk management;
- Developing and implementing a strategy to promote all CJF programs and services through the use of appropriate communications tools and channels, including digital and social media.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- Post-secondary degree in Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, Political Studies, Human Rights or equivalent. A minimum of 5+ years experience in public relations, media and communications, advocacy, public policy, and/or community relations.

**ABILITIES**

The successful candidate will have demonstrated organizational ability, strong written and oral communication skills, the ability to work independently and as a part of a team, a keen understanding of issues that impact the Jewish community, and of Jewish history, culture and tradition; event planning expertise; and an understanding of crisis management.

- A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered.
- Please email detailed cover letter and resume in confidence to:
  - Traudy Spilack at tspilack@jewishcalgary.org
  - Before May 15.

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**KESHER**

Rabbi Mark Glickman led the proceedings at Kesher’s Model Seder on March 26, including the eating of ritual foods, practicing special songs, and reviewing the meaning traditions of Passover in preparation for family Seders at home. One of the highlights was the “make your own charoset” bar.

For more information about Kesher, contact Karina Tzadik at karinas@jewishcalgary.org or 403-389-6994.

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**PJ Library**

**BOOK LAUNCH**

**PJ Library®**

**Saturday, May 7 | 10am | Calgary JCC**

Come and hear Trudy Cowan’s talk about the “Spanish Flu” epidemic of 1918-1919, which took over 100 years ago and which touched all of us. She will bring to life the story of the book, QUARANTINE: Keep Out!, beautifully illustrated by Maria Muszynski. The book is based on the true story of the children of one Jewish family trying to maintain their home life, and a proper Shabbos, while Mama was ill and quarantined at the Montefiore Institute, the historic synagogue now at Heritage Park.

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**A MESSAGE FROM YANNAI**

A hand to the Good Food Box Program: Jewish Adults Calgary (JAC) will be getting together to pack nutritious fruits and vegetables as part of the Community Kitchen Program of Calgary. The Good Food Box makes fresh food available to people in a way that promotes community and eliminates the stigma of food charity programs. Let’s enjoy each other’s company and do some good!

Sign up is required at jewishcalgary.org. For more information, contact Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154 or dkalef@jewishcalgary.org.

**DO YOU HAVE HOLOCAUST ARTEFACTS?**

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR) is partnering with Federation to collect Holocaust-related artefacts. Donated objects become part of the CMHR’s permanent collection and will be preserved and cared for in accordance with the highest museum standards.

For information contact Ilana Krygier Lapides at lkrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3162.

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**JACFIT NORDIK**

What a great day for cross-country skiing at the Canmore Nordic Centre on March 25 – and what a great season of JACFIT! Nordic events! Watch for more events for under 40s this spring. Get out and enjoy the outdoors with JACFIT! For more information about JAC, contact Diana Kalef at dkalef@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3154.

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**Celebrating Pesach**

Although spring flowers are still asleep, Pesach events were sprouting everywhere at the end of March. PJ Library® celebrated Pesach with 55 of our youngest members and their families who enjoyed our two PJ Chag Sameach Pesach programs on March 18, with educator Amy Goldberg and musical guests Daniel Birnbaum and Lara Rotin. Children enjoyed Pesach stories, songs, interactive crafts, and delicious matzah brei. The fun continued when PJ joined the Calgary Jewish Academy’s Preschool Seder on March 21, and then again on March 23, when special guest and PJ supporter Jenny Bizberg joined in the excitement with PJ Tot Shabbat Pesach. Everyone was humming MaNishtanah and Dayenu by the end of the week!

For more information about PJ Library®, contact Katirie Warner at kwanner@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592.

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**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Current salary: $70,000 - $75,000

**Reporting to the CEO of Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF), the Director of Community Relations and Communications is responsible for:**

- Working in coordination with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and internal CJF committees to promote issues of concern to the Jewish community;
- Building relationships with government, academia, police services, interfaith, and other cultural groups;
- Serving as the primary contact for crisis management, security concerns, issues of anti-Semitism and additional risk management;
- Developing and implementing a strategy to promote all CJF programs and services through the use of appropriate communications tools and channels, including digital and social media.

**EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE**

- Post-secondary degree in Communications, Journalism, Public Relations, Political Studies, Human Rights or equivalent. A minimum of five (5) years experience in public relations, media and communications, advocacy, public policy, and/or community relations.

**ABILITIES**

- The successful candidate will have demonstrated organizational ability, strong written and oral communication skills, the ability to work independently and as a part of a team, a keen understanding of issues that impact the Jewish community, and of Jewish history, culture and tradition; event planning expertise; and an understanding of crisis management.

- A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered.
- Please email detailed cover letter and resume in confidence to: trudy/spilack at jpeople.ca/ujac@jewishcalgary.org BEFORE MAY 15.