Our community commemorated Yom HaShoah on the evening of April 11.

The theme Hidden Children of the Holocaust was conveyed with a historical background by Dr. Scott Murray of Mount Royal University, and the personal story of Irene Ross. Irene’s daughter Kathy and husband Stuart added to the very moving narrative of being a hidden child in Holland.

The program paid tribute to Win and Leenje Hoo, who have been declared Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem for their courage in sheltering Irene.

A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

Carureen,

This time of the year is especially emotional and meaningful as we reflect on our past and our future in the days that some of us refer to as the Yomim - Yom HaShoah, Yom HaAtzmaut, and Yom HaKippurim. In a contracted timeframe, we experience despair, sorrow, pain, and sacrifice, followed by pride, celebration, and pure joy. The contrast between these days make them all the more meaningful.

This year, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), we remembered those murdered in the Shoah, and renewed our commitment to ensuring that the memory of the atrocity and the lessons of the Holocaust are not lost. We also acknowledged our dear Survivors, with a special focus on hidden children – those righteous gentiles who put themselves in potential peril to save others. We heard the moving story of Irene Ross and the Dutch family that saved her, learning that some goodness was present, even in the darkest of times.

The next week, we commemorated Yom HaAtzmaut, marking our Formal Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terror. We remembered those who fell in the line of duty and those taken by the violence of terrorism. We revisited and acknowledged that Israel’s very existence 70 years later cannot be taken for granted and does not come without extreme pain and sacrifice, which impacts many families directly, as well as Klaf Yisrael – all of Israel, including those of us in the Diaspora.

We then entered Yom HaKippurim – Israel Independence Day, and celebrated 70 years of innovation, tenacity, and existence. Israel is our homeland, our beacon of hope, and our Or Gryon – light unto the nations. We take pride in all that Israel has become, in all the ways it has led the world in innovation and compassion. We celebrate Israel’s accomplishments and we mourn its (and our) losses. We share with Israelis the hope for a bright, peaceful future and we share their fears during challenging times. Israel is more than a country, it is our home.

This year, I am personally even more emotional as my oldest daughter participated in March of the Living, an international program for high school students that is supported by many Federations, including ours. The program sees students visit Poland and its death fields and concentration camps for a week, followed by a transition to Israel for a week. Knowing that my fourth generation Survivor daughter visited the very place where her great-grandparents struggled to stay alive and where many of our family members perished is gut wrenching. And it is inspiring to know that after a week of immense loss and remembrance, she was able to experience Israel, our amazing homeland.

Although the Yomim have passed for this year, let us renew our commitment to Israel, to remembering and teaching about the Shoah, to being a just and compassionate people, and to being a caring Jewish community.

To get to where we are as a global Jewish community, many sacrifices have been made. We are debt bound to honour those sacrifices and to carry the work forward. Each person’s sacrifice and each person’s success counts. Each contribution and show of kindness counts. In Jewish Calgary, everyone counts.

Shalom,

Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

Hand In Hand
Center for Jewish-Arab Education in Israel

Guest Speaker
LEE GORDON, CO-FOUNDER OF HAND IN HAND

THURSDAY MAY 10 • 7pm • JCC

Hand In Hand brings together thousands of Jewish and Arab students in six schools and community programs throughout Israel in a unique co-teaching model that promotes inclusion and equality for all Israeli citizens. Mr. Gordon will speak about Jewish-Arab relations in Israel, about challenges in education, and about innovative models of integration.

INFO: KARA GOODWIN AT 403-444-3103 • KGGOODWIN@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG

Full job descriptions for the above positions, including required qualifications, are available at jewishcalgary.org/about-us/careers.

Free Event

STAFFING OPPORTUNITIES

The mission of Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF) is to act as the representative body of the Calgary Jewish community in building and sustaining a strong, secure and connected community rooted in Jewish values. Reporting to the CEO of Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF), the Director of Community Relations and Communications is responsible for:

RESPONSIBILITIES
• Working in coordination with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and other internal 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 antisemitism and additional risk management;
• Developing and implementing communications strategy to promote all CJF programs and services through the use of appropriate communications tools and channels, including print and social media.

A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered. Please email detailed cover letter and resume in confidence to: lynne@jewcalgary.org before May 15.