A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

Shalom Chaverim,

As a community, we recently marked Yom HaShoah, commemorating the millions of innocent victims of the Holocaust’s atrocities, and renewing our individual and communal commitment to act, to not be bystanders, when we see despicable acts of racism, bigotry, and violence.

This year’s Yom HaShoah program featured two important elements of Calgary Jewish Federation’s Holocaust Remembrance and Education initiatives – survivor testimony and educating the next generation. As a community, we are grateful to Fanny Wedro, who spoke on Yom HaShoah, and to all the Holocaust survivors who have the courage to share their stories. Reliving the horrors of the past is traumatic – and the reward comes only from the hugs of listeners and the knowledge that their speaking is invaluable to the goal of making us a better and more accepting world.

On Yom HaShoah we also heard from some of our community’s youth. If the participants in the 2016 March of the Living program are any indication, the memory of those who were murdered in the Holocaust will always be honoured and the lessons of this dark time in Jewish history will be passed on to generations to come.

The March of the Living is but one of Federation’s Holocaust Education programs. In the next month, close to 3,000 students will attend the annual Holocaust Education Symposium held in conjunction with Mount Royal University. All these students will be privileged to hear survivor testimony; some directly from the survivors themselves, others through video clips with children and grandchildren rounding out the presentation.

Also in May, grade nine students will travel to Washington, D.C. to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites. This journey is the culmination of a three-month program of study. We are always impressed by the commitment of March of the Living, Asper program and Washington program participants, who give up hours of their free time to study the Holocaust. Their commitment to Holocaust remembrance and to protecting human rights inspires confidence about the future of life in Canada.

In other Federation news, we are preparing to host the Steering Committee meetings of the Coast-to-Coast Partnership 2Gether (P2G) initiative. What is that you ask? P2G is a program which builds bridges between Diaspora and Israeli communities. Calgary is one of six Canadian communities (known as Coast to Coast Canada or CTC) partnered with Etzba Hagalil, the Galilee Panhandle, which is the northernmost part of Israel. The Steering Committee is made up of volunteer and professional representatives of all the Canadian communities – Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Atlantic Canada – and the five municipalities in the region – Kfar Shmona, Metulla, Yesod Hamala, Mevoit Hermon and Galil Elion. This committee meets twice a year – once in Israel and once in Canada, to establish policy and allocate funds to various projects.

We are thrilled to welcome close to 40 guests to Calgary May 13-16, including three of the region’s mayors. Watch for more about P2G in upcoming issues of the JFP.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the programs and services of Calgary Jewish Federation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

B’Shalom,

Adam Silver, CEO
Calgary Jewish Federation
ISRAELI CONSULAR SERVICES

AN 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.

CJA GRADE 9 TRIP TO ISRAEL

We wish the grade 9 students from The Calgary Jewish Academy a Nissah Tova on their April 13-May 4 trip to Israel. As part of their Israel experience, the students spend five days with their Israeli friends from Har Vagai School. Calgary Jewish Federation subsidizes this mifgash opportunity as part of our Partnership2Gether – Gesher Chai (Living Bridge) program which connects Calgary with Etzba Hagalil. The CJA students hosted their Israeli friends here last November, and they were sad to part ways. Undoubtedly their reunion in Israel was an emotional one.

GALIT BARAM

Calgary Jewish Federation was pleased to welcome Galit Baram, the new Israeli Consul-General for Toronto and Western Canada, on April 4. Ms. Baram took up her new post 18 months ago. Before that, she served as Director of the Department for Palestinian Affairs and Regional Cooperation (2013-2016). She has also held international postings in Washington DC, Cairo, and Moscow.

On this trip, Consul-General Baram met with University of Calgary leadership and addressed students and faculty at the School for Public Policy, which offers a course in Israel every year. She then generously gave her limited time here to meet casually with Hebrew speakers, immediately followed by a presentation in English with a larger crowd. The next day, Ms. Baram met with community leaders for an engaging breakfast meeting. She spoke about various aspects of the current situation in Israel and emphasized the positive relationship Israel enjoys with the government of Canada.

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