S halom Chaverim,
I continue to marvel at the breadth, depth and variety of our Jewish community, at the passion of those in volunteer leadership roles and of the many in our Community who participate and make Calgary a wonderful place to be Jewish. To be strong, our Jewish Community must ensure viable, well-subscribed educational programs are in place; that Community members can celebrate, commemorate and pray with meaning; and that kosher food is available for those who observe the Jewish dietary laws.

Kosher Food: Calgary Jewish Federation supports and supervises Calgary Kosher (CK), the local supervisory body for kosher. It has always been our policy to be as inclusive as possible and to provide a high standard of kosher to meet the needs of our constituents. In our quest for continuous improvement, we looked for ways we might offer even more support to kosher service provision to our Community.

I am pleased to announce that we have entered into a relationship with Kosher Check (formerly BC Kosher) placing them in charge of kosher supervision in Calgary and other parts of Alberta as of June 2015. We have been working with them, seamlessly, for the last few months in terms of support for local special events and dinners and support of our current mashgiach (on site supervisor), Philip Wolf. Mr. Wolf will continue to serve as mashgiach with increased training and support from Kosher Check. For those of you who are unaware, Kosher Check is a globally respected certification and associating with them will ensure continued consistency of service, as well as appealing to a broader consumer base. We are most excited to be able to offer this service to the community. All kosher food providers currently under CK will be transitioned to Kosher Check’s supervision, possibly under a different certification mark, and certainly part of the Kosher Check family.

This has been a long process and we thank you for your patience. The results, I believe, demonstrate Federation’s commitment to engaging with the right partners to ensure Jewish Calgary is ever stronger, even if it takes a little while to align those partnerships. We believe that this relationship will enhance our Community, possibly even resulting in more kosher options for those who are kashrut observant. Calgary Jewish Federation will continue to provide updates, and we also welcome feedback from the community, so please do not hesitate to be in touch with our CEO, Adam Silver at asilver@jewishcalgary.org regarding kosher, or any other item.

Funding Issues: Our committed lay leadership teams have recently undertaken the tasks of determining allocations to our partner agencies and adjudicating ever increasing subsidy applications for our Integrated Bursary Program (IBP) – both very difficult, extremely meaningful responsibilities. Many hours of preparation by agencies, families and our dedicated volunteers regularly result in processes that are respectful, dignified and serve the many needs of our Jewish Community as a whole, and of its individual members.

As Calgary experiences difficult financial times, Calgary Jewish Federation is very cognizant of the growing financial and service needs of our Community, and we know that we will be there for each other when it matters most. Our agencies tell us they are already experiencing increased requests for assistance, and that even greater support from Federation’s upcoming 2015-16 United Jewish Appeal (UJA) campaign will be required.

We have also experienced a spike in our IBP applications to virtually double what we had received last year at this time, submitted by families who hope to send their children to Akiva Academy or Calgary Jewish Academy, to Camp BB Ribak, to JCC day camp, to the Asper Holocaust and Human Rights Program and more. These are families who have made a commitment to engage their children in Jewish experiences, without being in a financial position to fully support the expense. Many of them need a helping hand, our community is so very generous and supportive in enabling a significant number of children to engage in these experiences. The decisions made by the volunteers are extremely difficult given that the funds available are finite. Let’s recognize that despite our Community’s generosity there will be children who are not able to participate. We will need to generate more resources to satisfy our Community’s growing needs.

I wanted to share a glimpse of the hard work, the generosity of spirit, and the can-do nature of Jewish Calgary and our Community members and volunteers. I cannot stress enough: through both good and challenging times, we are one Community; we will continue to thrive. We have the ingenuity, the dedication and the koch (strength) to ensure we remain vibrant, inclusive, and strong.

B’Shalom,
Bruce Libin
President, Calgary Jewish Federation

A MESSAGE FROM BRUCE

We have bits of exciting information to share about upcoming programs and events. If you are not already receiving our publications, please send in your contact information and we will be sure to bring you up to date on happenings in Jewish Calgary. To sign up today, please contact Aviva Kolotinsky at 403-444-3157 or akolotinsky@jewishcalgary.org.

All programs on these pages are funded in part by your donation to United Jewish Appeal.
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA Tribute Cards

Calgary Jewish Federation invites submissions from visual artists! We are designing new tribute cards and want to showcase works by talented community artists willing to volunteer cover art. We are looking for a variety of images (original paintings, photographs, etc.). Preference is for Jewish themes, particularly if they are local or regional.

For details visit www.jewishcalgary.org. For more information contact Irena Karshenbaum at ikarshenbaum@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8594.

NEW DUE DATE - MAY 14

Calgary Jewish Federation tribute cards can be purchased online at www.jewishcalgary.org or by contacting Irena Karshenbaum at 403-537-8594 or ikarshenbaum@jewishcalgary.org. Minimum donation: $18.

SHABBATUNEUP

REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON

REGISTER ONLINE. SPACE IS LIMITED

www.jewishcalgary.org/calgary-yid-the-young-leadership-division

Canmore - JUNE 12-14

ISRAEL 101

The History of Tel Aviv

Thursday May 28 • 7:00 PM • Calgary JCC

Guest Speaker: Eran Eldar

Professor Eran Eldar is the Visiting Israel Studies Scholar at the University of Calgary. His areas of research are urbanization in Israel and Israeli society and politics in the 50s and 60s. Dr. Eldar received his PhD in Jewish History at Tel Aviv University and is the author of *By its own efforts: The urban development of Tel Aviv in the twilight of the British Mandate and the first decades of the State of Israel.*

One Happy Camper provides grants of up to $1,000 to children attending Jewish overnight camp for the first time.*

Visit OneHappyCamper.org to find your camp and apply.

For information, contact Judy Shapiro at 403.444.3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

*Some conditions apply

Pomegranate is produced by Calgary Jewish Federation.