A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

Chaverim,

During the last week of April we marked Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom HaAtzmaut – all incredibly important dates on their own, and even more moving and meaningful as a series. Yom Hashoah saw our community come together to remember and honour the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and the millions more who were also murdered during this inexcusable, horrendous time in history. We cried as a community when thinking about loved ones lost, and about those with no family to remember them. We listened to Fanny Wedros’ story of survival and triumph in the face of certain death. And we collectively vowed to “Never Forget” – to always fight for justice, to advocate for the persecuted, and to never be a bystander.

A difficult, but amazing transition followed Yom Hazikaron, when the very next day we celebrated Yom HaAtzmaut – Israel’s 69th Birthday! The sorrow and atrocities brought us to the creation of the State of Israel, our true gem and birthright. We celebrated as a community; gathering, dancing, eating, crafting, schmoozing – and, at the end, vowing to gather again in a year to celebrate Israel’s 70th birthday! Israel plays a very prominent role in how many of us define our Jewish identity, and Jewish Federation’s partners at the Canada Israel Experience administer the Birthright Canada Foundation program participants.

Finally, as I write this note and as a CJA participant, and the trip has certainly changed forever. Federation continues to work with Birthright Canada Foundation and Canada Israel Experience to cultivate future leaders and to engage with returning program participants.

The Calgary Jewish Academy’s grade 9 class recently returned from three weeks in Israel, touring and participating in amazing mifgashim (gatherings between Israeli and Diaspora Jews) and homestays with their Israeli pen pals from Har Vagai School. This program is deemed a Geshur Chai (Living Bridge) initiative, and is supported in part by Calgary Jewish Federation. Har Vagai School is in our partnership region (see next paragraph) and this trip is a reciprocal visit to the visit of Israeli students to Calgary which took place last November. On a personal note, one of my daughters is a CJA participant, and the trip has certainly fostered ahavat (a love of) Israel in her, and she has made Israeli friends for life.

As I write this note and as I mentioned in my last Pomegranate message, from May 13-15 we are planning to welcome close to 40 Israeli and Canadian friends and colleagues who comprise the Joint Steering Committee of P2G – Partnership 2+Gether, our partnership program with Bizba HaGalil, the Galilee Panhandle. We are so fortunate to have a working relationship with six Canadian cities and regions and five Israeli municipalities, cultivating relationships that transcend work and are really much more like family.

Jewish Calgary and Jewish Calgarians have many strong ties to Israel, and we are very fortunate to commemorate and celebrate Israel’s incredible importance to us through many different programs and initiatives. We will continue to value the contributions and ultimate sacrifices made by those who pioneered her creation and who continue to defend her existence, and we will continue to celebrate her as or Igoyim – a light unto the nations.

B’Shalom,

Adam Silver, CEO
Calgary Jewish Federation
THE SIX DAY WAR
MONDAY JUNE 5
7:00 PM | Calgary JCC

A panel discussion of the military victory and political implications of this important period in Israeli history.

For more information contact Judy Shapiro
403-444-3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org

EVERYONE WELCOME

CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION IS HONORED TO PRESENT

DR. MENASHE ZAAROOOR
Director of Department of Neurosurgery
Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa

Wednesday, June 7, 2017
7:00 PM | Calgary JCC

Ground-breaking technology in Neurosurgery coming to Calgary. MR guided focused ultrasound can treat Movement Disorders such as Essential Tremor and Parkinson’s Disease. Meet Dr. Zaaroor, an expert in the field.

For more information, contact Irena Karshenbaum, Resource Development Associate at 403-537-8594 or ikarshenbaum@jewishcalgary.org

May 26-28

Jews Schmooze and Canoes

Hillel Calgary

May 26-28

It’s time again for Hillel’s popular annual outdoor event for students at beautiful Camp BB Riback! Sign up now at jewishcalgary.org

Contact Jordan: 403.444.3146 | jwaldman@jewishcalgary.org

KESHER KLUB

PLEASE JOIN US!

May 14 - Kesher at the Theatre
June 11 - Calgary JCC
June 25 - Calgary JCC

For more information contact Karina Szulc at 403-389-6994 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org

Calgary Jewish Federation welcomes and supports children and adults with special needs. If you or a loved one needs special accommodations to participate in any of our events, please contact Karina Szulc at 403-389-6994 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org.