

Calgary Jewish Federation wants you!
We have lots of exciting information to share about upcoming programs and events. If you are not already receiving our publications, please send us 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.



Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM JEFFREY SMITH

Shalom friends,

One of Calgary Jewish Federation's key roles is to represent the whole Jewish Community while advocating on issues of common concern.

In doing this, we recognize that the Jewish community is very diverse - we are Orthodox, Conservative and Reform, we vote PC, Liberal and NDP and we vary from being comfortable financially to living in poverty. But on some issues we agree - the importance of the safety and security of the State of Israel, eliminating antisemitism and all forms of racism in Canada and the need to fiercely protect the democratic, multicultural country in which we live.

There is naturally a range of opinion on how to accomplish those goals. Federation's job is to find a common ground, to encourage a diversity of opinion and still work on promoting the Community's interests in a way that is acceptable to the majority.

Our Community Relations Committee (CRC) and staff work on your behalf in many ways:

1) Liaison with Calgary Police Service, RCMP and CSIS - the safety and security of our community is paramount and to that end, we are in regular contact with police services at all levels. We also regularly educate Calgary police about Judaism and community sensitivities through diversity training courses. In addition, Federation offers security training and consultations with local police and with The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs' (CIJA) security advisor to all community agencies.

2) Government Relations - Along with our national partner, CIJA, we work to develop relationships with politicians of all political stripes. It is essential that Israel never become a "wedge issue" between parties and I believe we have succeeded as a national community in

ensuring that there is very little difference in the three national parties' policies on Israel. On a provincial level, we joined with Edmonton Federation and CIJA in hosting a reception for MLAs which was attended by several cabinet ministers. Among the issues on the agenda are a bill to ban Genetic Discrimination and encouraging a trade mission to Israel.

3) Holocaust and Human Rights Education - Every year, our Holocaust and Human Rights Education department educates approximately 5,000 students about the Holocaust and the dangers of racism. Although this is not a community relations exercise, these programs result in the exposure of students to the Jewish community and our values in a significant and meaningful way.

4) Promoting Israel - CRC shares the philosophy of CIJA that our work should focus on building relationships with influencers of opinion. We are extremely unlikely to change the minds of those with firmly held anti-Israel beliefs - and it is probably a waste of effort to take that approach. Our energies must be directed to reinforcing relationships with those who support us, and to gaining the support of the average Canadians who don't hold strong opinions on Israel. To that end, members of our committee attend many events, as representatives of the Jewish community. We speak to groups and schools and we sit on panels when requested. Our philosophy is to present Israel as a country with which Canadians share values and to which they can relate because it is similar to our own. Once that affinity is established, the conversation about Middle East politics takes on a more positive tone.

5) University Campus - At a time when Jewish students across North America are facing enormous challenges from anti-Israel forces, we are fortunate in Calgary that

this year there has been very little pro-Palestinian activity. We cannot remain complacent, however, and as a community, our role is to provide students with advocacy tools, information and support when problems arise. Our students and staff are working to build relationships with student leadership to prevent the introduction of a BDS resolution. We meet regularly with campus security and administration and, this year, relationships were strengthened with the Faith and Spirituality Centre. One of the biggest local success stories is the School for Public Policy's graduate block course in Israel which CIJA helps organize every year. U of C president Elizabeth Cannon has been to Israel with CIJA and the university is engaged in several initiatives to increase academic exchanges with Israeli universities.

Not all of the efforts of the CRC can be made public, and some may appear to be mundane. But every time one of us meets with an ethnic or faith leader, or we work with university administrations or teach kids about the Holocaust or about Judaism, or join a panel about racism or hate crime or multiculturalism, we are confirming to the public that the Jewish community is a significant player in building a diverse, safe, and accepting Canadian society. That positive image and the relationships built will go a long way to ensuring our safety as a Community.

B'Shalom

Jeffrey L. Smith QC is the chair of Calgary Jewish Federation's Community Relations Committee.

JAC IN A BOX

JAC Chametz Fest Shabbat Dinner

Pizza and pasta were on the menu for JAC's pre-Passover Chametz Fest & Shabbat dinner on April 15. The event had all the ingredients for success - a great turnout and fun for kids and adults. Watch for more JAC Shabbat Dinners and other programs! Contact jac@jewishcalgary.org with questions.



JAC at the foodbank

On April 20, nine members of JAC volunteered at the Calgary Foodbank.

All in | -packed 9,560 lbs of food | -made 238 hampers
all they: | -moved 26 pallets | -touched the lives of 525 people



Thanks to everyone who came out to give back!



An Evening of Stimulating Ideas & Business Networking

As is usually the case when Dr. Jack Mintz speaks about economics, all attendees at this Federation event were rapt during his presentation and Q&A session. Almost 60 guests in the audience had an opportunity to schmooze and network before absorbing the insights of one of Canada's most pre-eminent economists. Watch for future events with equally intriguing speakers. Thank you to Ron Barron & Bennett Jones LLP for hosting and co-sponsoring this event.



PJ at CJA Seder

PJ Library® families had a great time celebrating Passover with CJA students at the annual pre-school seder on April 15. Thanks to the CJA for making space at the table for extra guests!



JFC-UIA [jā-ef-sē-yü-ī-ā]

Jewish Federations of Canada - United Israel Appeal

The national organization which partners with the Canadian Jewish Federations and communities to maximize our commitment to Israel and our collective impact on the local, national and global Jewish agenda. For more information please visit our website at jewishcalgary.org.



Join us for the second of our Family Holiday Programming
generously sponsored by Sam and Ida Switzer

PJ Library®
**CHAG★
SAMEACH**
.....
Shavuot

Sunday May 29
10:30am • Calgary JCC



Educator Amy Goldberg and musician Karina Szulc will help answer some of our questions:

1. Why do we celebrate Shavuot?
2. Why do we eat dairy?
3. How is it relevant to my family?



There is no charge but registration is required.
Contact Kathie Wainer at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592.
Limited space - register soon to avoid disappointment.

A TRADITION OF SUMMER FUN



**AN AMAZING
SUMMER AND LIFE-
LONG FRIENDSHIPS**

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22
CALGARY JCC 1607 90 AVENUE SW

6:45PM - CALGARY JCC AGM
7:15PM - CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION AGM



SHEM TOV AWARDS FOR COMMUNAL LEADERSHIP WILL BE PRESENTED

FREE TRIP to Israel - Leadership Opportunity
www.israelforfree.com/leadership

For more info: Jordan Waldman
403-444-3146 | jwaldman@jewishcalgary.org



HILLEL
BBQ



A beautiful day and a fun BBQ with over twenty university students made for a great way to cap off the year at Hillel Calgary. Watch for next year's events!

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.

MUSIC AND REMEMBRANCE

Please join us for a special performance featuring music painstakingly composed in POW and concentration camps, as well as works by modern, Jewish composers.

WORKS BY VIKTOR ULLMANN, GIDEON KLEIN, OLIVIER MESSIAEN, SRUL IRVING GLICK, OSVALDO GOLLOV, and KEVIN PUTS

2016 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CONCERT

Sunday May 15, 7PM
TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH
900 - 47 St SW, Calgary AB

\$25, \$18 Students/Seniors

Tickets on Eventbrite and through B'nai Tikvah



Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra's
Concertmistress Diana Cohen, violin;
David Lakirovich, violin; Virginie Gagne, violin;
Marcin Swoboda, viola; Johanne Perron, cello;
Esther Bing, piano; Erin Fung, clarinet;
Tim Borton, marimba

Profits to Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site
This concert is generously funded in part by David Lyons

Register NOW



Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

COMMUNITY DAY

Sunday May 29
9:30AM - 7:30PM • Calgary JCC

Join us for:

- Panel discussions on Southern Alberta Jewish History and Montefiore Institute
- Book Launch: *A History of Antisemitism in Canada*, with author Dr. Ira Robinson
- 40th Anniversary Banquet with presentation of Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award
- Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta Photo Exhibit

For more information about Community Day and to register, contact JHSSA at jhssa@shaw.ca or 403-444-3171.

For more information about the conference and other events open to the public, go to acjs-aejc.ca/conference



Celebrate Sunshine
with friends and family
..... AT THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL
Popsicles Park
IN THE

FREE FAMILY EVENT

SUNDAY JUNE 5 • 11:00AM - 2:00PM • CALGARY JCC

Pleasing Polar Popsicles
(Kosher, of course!)

Cuddle the Critters
(from Butterfield Acres Petting Zoo)

- Blow some bubbles
- Paint your punim (face)
- Pack a pareve picnic
- Bounce & bound & bellow!



For more information:

Please contact Kathie Wainer at 403-537-8592 or kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154 or dkalef@jewishcalgary.org



This program is funded in part by your generous donation to UJA.