

**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 Elliott Steinberg at 403-252-5801 or [esteinberg@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:esteinberg@jewishcalgary.org).

# Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



## A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

**W**hy? Why do we care? When people across the globe are suffering, why does it resonate so strongly with us? Why are we moved to sympathize, empathize, and mobilize?

The answer is simple: Because. Because as Jews we are empowered to be *Or LaGoyim*, a light unto the nations, and we lead by example. Because when people suffer, we respond. As a people, we embody the concept of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world, and we work to help others, to stabilize traumatic situations, and to provide our talent, time, and treasure to make the world a better place. Because in urgent situations, action is better than inaction.

Our community is exceptional at rising to a challenge, and this month's earthquakes in Nepal are no different. Collectively, in the span of a few days, our generous community raised more than \$20,000 for urgent assistance support in Nepal, to be provided by our international partners. Furthermore, this amount is to be matched by the Government of Canada, providing that much more support to those in need. *Kol Hakavod* to our community for its consideration of others in desperate times, especially as Albertans become increasingly concerned with the local economic climate, and its potential impact on our own community's needs. To all of our credit, we are leading by example, and putting the needs of others front and centre.

Many of you reading this will also be aware of Israel's immeasurable contribution to rescue and rehabilitation efforts in Nepal. Israel's team of more than 200 IDF soldiers, doctors, and reservists, landed quickly in Nepal, and set up its largest field hospital ever. Israel was the second largest delegation to send aid, after India, and larger than all response personnel from other countries combined. Wounds were healed, babies were delivered, and families were reunited – all because Israel felt compelled, as a nation, as the Jewish nation, to focus on *tikkun olam*. And, it did so without tarry. Without concern for who else might be responding. Without concern if anyone else would respond. *Or LaGoyim*, a light unto the nations. I cannot think of a better example.

Another is our people's determination to turn our personal tragedy into a quest for human rights and repairing the world, *tikkun olam*. I speak of our community's Holocaust education programming.

This year, our Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Education program was the largest and most successful ever with more than one hundred grade 8, 9 and 10 students – mostly non-Jewish students – taking part. The students attended classes once a week for 10 weeks in preparation for their trip to Washington, DC, where they visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other sites. The message of the program: never be a bystander to injustice, stand up

for what is right.

Most recently, we held our incredibly meaningful Holocaust Education Symposium, educating close to 3,000 high school students, mostly non-Jewish, on the topic of genocide, the Holocaust, and the importance of human rights. The powerful presentations of our courageous Holocaust survivors inspire with their message of hope and help the students understand where racism can lead. The program connects the dots for them from isolated events to global movements, and helps them see the big picture. They are empowered and inspired to be ambassadors of change, and to make a difference in how future generations treat one another.

So, again, why do we do all of this? Because. Because people need education and inspiration. Because we hope to learn from others. Because there will always be people in need. Because we value and excel in *tikkun olam*. The challenges and responsibilities are never ending. The opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the wellbeing of others should always be embraced. Why? Because!

*Adam Silver*

Adam Silver,  
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

## HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION



Calgary Jewish Federation hit an impressive participation record for the Asper Holocaust and Human Rights Education Program this year. On April 26, 112 students and chaperones from Calgary and outlying areas travelled to Washington, DC for a five-day educational experience. Before travelling to Washington, students are required to attend 10 classes regarding Holocaust and Human Rights, as well as participate in 16 hours of community service. The grade 8, 9 and 10 students, primarily non-Jewish, visited the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Korean Veterans War Memorial, the Vietnam Veteran's War Memorial, and Arlington Cemetery.

Students also explored various Smithsonian Museums. A favorite was the "Newseum – the Museum of News" which speaks to the need for a free and democratic media and freedom of speech. They also toured landmarks of Washington such as the White House, the Capital building and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

The final piece of the program took place on Tuesday, May 19 when students and their parents were invited to the Asper graduation ceremony. Students were presented with a "Memorandum of Personal Responsibility" – a contract which they sign as a commitment not to be a bystander when they see human rights violations and to stand up to injustice.



## CJA ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

Federation's support of the Calgary Jewish Academy's Grade 9 Israel experience helps Calgary teens form connections with their peers in Israel. As part of our Partnership 2gether program, which links Calgary to our sister region of Etzba Hagalil in northern Israel, the CJA students and their friends from Har Vagai school had two opportunities to build "gesher chai" or living bridges between our communities – first in Calgary in December, and recently in Israel.



CJA students Jacki and Addi described their experience this way:

"Our experience started here in Calgary in December, when we first met our Israeli pen pals at the airport. We each hosted someone for a week, which was a ton of fun and brought a taste of Israel to our own homes. [In Israel] We had the opportunity to live like Israeli teenagers on a Kibbutz for five days. This was both enjoyable and educational.

Throughout this experience we have all become very close friends with our pen pals. This program allowed us to create friendships on the other side of the world and we are all confident that these friendships will last forever."



### ISRAEL 101

The History of Tel Aviv  
Thursday May 28 • 7:00PM • 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.*



### DRINKSAFTERWORK

SCHMOOZE ON THE ROCKS  
FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
June 4, 2015 | 5:00pm | CRAFT BEER MARKET

QUESTIONS? CONTACT  
Irena Karshenbaum at 403.537.8594  
or [ikarshenbaum@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:ikarshenbaum@jewishcalgary.org)  
Jordan Waldman at 403.444.3146  
or [jwaldman@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:jwaldman@jewishcalgary.org)

### Celebrate Sunshine

with friends and family  
AT THE  
SIXTH ANNUAL  
**Popsicles**  
IN THE Park  
FREE FAMILY EVENT

SUNDAY JUNE 7 • 11:00AM - 2:00PM • CALGARY JCC

### Pleasing Polar Popsicles

(Kosher, of course!)

### Cuddle the Critters

(from Butterfield Acres Petting Zoo)

- Blow some bubbles
- Pack a pareve picnic
- Slather on sunscreen
- Fiddle with a firetruck
- Paint your punim (face)
- Bounce & bound & bellow!

For more information:  
Kathie Wainer at 403-537-8592 or [kwainer@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:kwainer@jewishcalgary.org)  
or Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154 or [dkalef@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:dkalef@jewishcalgary.org)

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

### Our Words Matter

#### A Sack Full of Feathers

"Lashon Harah" – derogatory speech – was the theme of PJ Library's® May 3 event, held in conjunction with Jewish Family Service Calgary. The program featured *A Sack Full of Feathers*, a story illustrating how gossip spreads like feathers in the wind. Andrea Silverstone and Stephanie Lis from JFSC spoke about expressing one's feelings and about the importance of using our words wisely. The 20 families that attended left with much to think about and talk about at home.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24  
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

### THEY SEE FUN & FRIENDSHIP WE SEE THE JEWISH FUTURE

One Happy Camper provides grants of up to \$1,000 to children attending Jewish overnight camp for the first time.\*  
Visit [OneHappyCamper.org](http://OneHappyCamper.org) to find your camp and apply.

For information, contact  
Judy Shapiro at 403.444.3153  
or [jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org)

\*Some conditions apply

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 Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or [jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org).

### Shalom Baby Play Group

For the Under Twos  
Thursday Mornings  
10:30am - Noon | Calgary JCC

### PJ Library® Tot Shabbat

For the Under Threes  
Friday Mornings  
9:45 - 10:30am | Calgary JCC

2015 Meeting Dates  
May 22  
June 11  
June 25

2015 Meeting Dates  
May 22  
June 19

For more information, contact Kathie Wainer at [kwainer@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:kwainer@jewishcalgary.org) or 403-537-8592.

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