Being Jewish isn’t something we do alone. We pray together. We celebrate together. We commemorate together. And we work together in mutual support and in bettering the world.

Michael Ghert
UJA Campaign Co-chair

Every person is unique and special and together we can create an inclusive Jewish community accessible to all.

Beth Price
Federation Vice President
Chair, Integrated Bursary Program
Inclusion and Affiliation

We have a wonderful, vibrant, caring Jewish Community. The contributions of those quoted here and the people and programs featured in this annual report are perfect examples.

Bruce Libin
Federation President

We are a community with common interests and goals, which requires us to speak with one clear voice on issues affecting us all. As Jews we are all responsible for one another. As citizens, it is also our duty to reach out to other faith groups in Calgary and across our country.

Jeffrey Smith
Chair, Community Relations and CIJA Local Partner Committee

I am Jewish and very proud of it. Being a leader of the UJA campaign has given me deep-rooted appreciation of the wants and needs of the Jewish community in Calgary and Israel. I am very happy to say that it was an honor to have had this opportunity. Please get involved!

Sam Feldman
UJA Campaign Co-chair

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Jeffrey Smith
Chair, Community Relations and CIJA Local Partner Committee

Calgary’s Young Leadership Division (YLD) knows that it has Big shoes to fill when it comes to keeping our community strong, growing and vibrant.

Michelle Jacobson
YLD Committee

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Jeffrey Smith
Chair, Community Relations and CIJA Local Partner Committee
B’yachad Together Our Community is Always Stronger

At last year’s Annual General Meeting, we pledged to continue Calgary Jewish Federation’s practice of being fiercely supportive of every member of our Jewish Community—newcomers and longtime residents alike.

As we do every year, Calgary Jewish Federation set out to connect each member of ‘K’lal Calgary,’ to make each person and family feel connected, feel involved, whether that means providing support for Jewish day school or summer camp, or working with our partner agencies to provide diverse programs and services to celebrate and serve Jewish life in Calgary and around the world.

Calgary’s long tradition of caring is the reason that we chose B’yachad (together), as the theme of this year’s annual report. Our history confirms that every time we come together—whether in prayer, celebration, or advocacy—we are stronger.

No year provided a better reminder of this than 2013-14. The Crises Weathered: Just two days after last year’s AGM, we banded together to support members of the Community whose homes and lives had been ravaged by June’s terrifying floodwaters.

As the fall months approached, we were admitted concerned about the effect of the summer’s events on our annual UJA campaign. How would our donors manage to match their past Tzedakah, their level of caring and support, when so many faced such formidable repair bills on the horizon?

Together, we raised almost $31 million—a record UJA campaign, the first time we’ve exceeded $3 million and the third consecutive increased campaign. Our Federation-led programs continued to expand and grow in numbers this year, thanks to the financial support of donors, the boundless time and energy of volunteers and the creativity of Federation staff.

Looking to the future, our Campus Committee continues its work on guiding us forward toward the once-in-a-generation project which will eventually allow us to enjoy a Calgary Jewish Community campus that will be the envy of other communities.

Another major project this year was the Jewish Day School Education Task Force which recently completed and submitted its final report to the Federation Board. We anticipate a Community meeting in the fall to consider the implications of the report.

Stronger Together – B’yachad It is the role of Federation to ensure everyone in the Jewish Community of Calgary has the opportunity to participate in our Community, to strive to ensure no one is left isolated or wanting – physically, socially, financially or spiritually. It is our honoured responsibility to provide and to support the programs and the groups that make this possible; to those as close-by as our own JCC and as far as Israel’s Galilee.

We most sincerely pay tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who put in so much time and effort year-round to make this the open and welcoming Community that it is. We thank all donors to UJA, whose contributions ensure that Federation and all our partner agencies can do the important work we all do. We thank Akiva Academy, Calgary JCC, Calgary Kollel, Camp BB Riback, Jewish Family Service Calgary, and The Calgary Jewish Academy for being outstanding partners in promoting Jewish life.

We ask each of you, the unique and special individuals who make up Calgary’s Kli to come together, B’yachad, to ensure that our Community continues on its path of growth, of service, of inclusiveness – of quality Jewish life in Calgary.

B’Shalom.

Bruce Libin President
Drew Staffenberg CEO

Calgary Jewish Federation 2013-14

Board of Directors
Bruce Libin, President
Michal Libin, Vice-President
Beth Price, Vice-President
Deborah Yedlin, Vice-President
Jordan Balaban, Treasurer
Cathy Cole, Secretary
Adam Singer, Immediate Past President
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Michael Ghet
Riki Heilik
Jonathan Lexier
Alex Linetsky
Kevin Libin

Advisory Committee
Gerry Barron
Nelson Halpern
Jack Mintz

For a listing of CJF staff and contact information, go to www.jewishcalgary.org

Annual Report 2013-14

You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet! Federation Sets New Horizons for 2014-15

After a year during which the Calgary Jewish Community showed its mettle, commitment and creativity, the Federation and its staff are looking forward to an equally successful and exciting year to come. Among our many projects:

UJA Campaign – Following up on the record-breaking 2013 campaign, the 2014 campaign leadership team, led by Debbie Ryder and Michael Ghet, are already planning exciting events, publicity materials and canvassing strategies.

PJ Library* is looking for another major jump in subscriptions this coming year, ranging from 10 to 35 new young readers and their families. PJ is also making plans for a family concert during the year.

Shalom Baby is planning a series of regular play dates for mommies, daddies and grandparents that will feature guest speakers and activities of interest to new parents.

The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Department will continue training descendants of Holocaust Survivors to tell their parents’ and grandparents’ stories through the use of video testimony and careful preparation. The resulting “Through Their Eyes” presentations will be piloted in Calgary schools starting in the fall.

Chaplaincy – The Jewish Community Chaplain, together with Jewish Family Service Calgary, will offer a two-part educational program for Jewish teens focusing on Bilur Cholim (visiting the ill), and end-of-life beliefs in Judaism. The program is scheduled to commence in the fall of 2014.

Shalom Calgary will expand its Betchem Ha’Ba’im program to ensure that every newcomer to the city is invited to a Shabbat or holiday meal with an established family. Volunteers are needed to welcome and host newcomers.

The NextGen Initiative of Calgary Jewish Federation and Calgary JCC will focus increased resources and attention on our youth and young adults; expanding services from those from grade 6 to post-university.

In addition to all the programs mentioned above, Calgary Jewish Federation will continue with all the services and programs it has always offered. None of this would be possible without the support of all of our donors and volunteers. As always, we are counting on your dedication, input and support.

Together, B’yachad, we will continue to build a warm, welcoming and inclusive Jewish community of Calgary.

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