

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



CALGARY
JEWISH FEDERATION
The strength of a people.
The power of community.

A MESSAGE FROM DREW



For almost six decades, Calgary Jewish Federation has been a unifying force for Jewish community-building and philanthropy. In collaboration with our partner agencies, we work to enrich the quality of Jewish life in Calgary and to bring comfort and hope to the vulnerable. By investing in programs that build Jewish knowledge, identity and peoplehood, we ensure the continuity of our people.

Our Annual Federation / UJA Campaign raises millions of dollars each year to fund agencies locally – including Akiva Academy, The Calgary Jewish Academy, Calgary JCC, Jewish Family Service Calgary, Camp BB Riback and Kollel.

In order to best serve the needs of our community, we need to know who we are. We are fortunate that the government of Canada shares its census data with organizations such as ours. This information provides us with important demographic information which helps us plan for our community today and in the future. Last spring we received an overview of our Calgary Jewish community demographics, which is available on our Federation website, www.jewishcalgary.org.

Last month, we received detailed information on our senior population and those identified as Jewish poor. I want to share this information with you as it paints an interesting picture of a segment of our population. The full report will also be posted on our website.

Jewish Elderly

As of the 2011 census, there are 1,110 Jewish elderly, those over age 65, residing in Calgary which represents 13.3% of the Jewish community. Almost half the seniors are over age 75 (these figures do not include those living in nursing homes or lodges, therefore our numbers of Jewish seniors are even higher).

The percentage of elderly in the Jewish community (13.3%) is higher than the proportion of seniors in the overall Calgary population (8.9%). However, the percentage of Jewish seniors in Calgary is significantly lower than that for the Canadian Jewish population (16.9%).

Seventy-five percent of elderly Jews reside in the SW sector of Calgary (845); 10% reside in the SE; and 10% in the NW.

The census tells us that more than a third (35.4%) of elderly Jewish women live alone; 14% of senior men live in single person households.

Economically, 13.5% of the elderly Jewish population live below the poverty line. More than half (56.8%) of seniors, (605 individuals), report experiencing some type of disability. Senior women are almost twice as likely to be disadvantaged as men (18.3% and 9.2% respectively). A particularly vulnerable group in terms of health and quality of life is the 135 seniors who are disabled and living alone.

Looking ahead, projections suggest that the number of Jewish seniors in 2011 will increase by almost 80% by 2021 as the Baby Boomers swell the ranks of the elderly. This increase has important implications for community planning and the future allocation of resources.

Jewish Poor

In our very blessed community, it hard to imagine how many depend on our community agencies for basic support (food and housing assistance) and connection to Jewish life. One in eight Jewish people depend on Federation and our local agencies for some form of financial assistance. We serve as a critical safety net, caring for the vulnerable among us with nutritional support, emergency aid, counseling, and bursaries.

One in nine (905) of our Jewish community is living below the poverty line, including children. In the last decade, there has been a slight increase in the number of disadvantaged individuals in the Calgary Jewish population.

The poverty level among unattached individuals (living alone or with non-relatives) is relatively high (33.5%), comprising 435 persons. Young Jewish adults between 15-24 years who are unattached (living alone or with non-relatives) are a particularly vulnerable group for poverty (65.7%). Another particularly high risk segment of

unattached Jews includes those 75+ years (45.8%).

More than half (52.5%) of individuals relying on social assistance or worker's compensation live below the poverty cut-off. There are 280 "working poor" in the Calgary Jewish community who earn wages that are not sufficient to push their income above the poverty line.

The Federation, through our annual UJA campaign provides considerable support for our seniors and low-income members of our community. JFSC and the JCC provide on-going programming to seniors and the JFSC is our community's front line agency serving this population.

Through your support of the annual UJA campaign, Federation and its partner agencies provide a lifeline of vital services to the frail and vulnerable, and that is just one aspect of the many programs and services we fund.

Through the commitment of hundreds of donors and volunteers, Federation is able to fund and partner with a vast network of agencies and programs to make a difference every day in the lives of thousands of individuals.

Our work is not possible without you and for that you have our deepest respect and my sincere gratitude. We believe that every voice matters and our holy work is best achieved when everyone joins together for the greater good.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for your generous and compassionate gifts, allowing UJA to do what it has been doing for over six decades, helping the Jews of Calgary and across the globe.

Shana Tova. I wish everyone a sweet and healthy year.



Drew Staffenberg
CEO
Calgary Jewish Federation



STUDENT INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18



MARCH OF THE LIVING

APRIL 12-27, 2015*

Join thousands of students from all over the world as they commemorate Yom HaShoah in Poland and celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel.

March of the Living Coast-to-Coast Co-Chair: Paula Lexier
For information contact Ilana at ikrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3162

*dates subject to change

Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 and their parents are invited for an Information Evening: September 18, 2014 • 7:00pm • Calgary JCC



ADULT MARCH OF THE LIVING

Accepting participants until October 1

For information contact Riki Heilik at 403-816-1918 or Bonny Gold-Babins at 403-819-1620 or Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153.

Women in Politics

A Women's Event of Wine, Cheese and Conversation

Featuring
Danielle Smith
Leader of the Wildrose Official Opposition and MLA for High River

Tuesday September 16
7:00pm • Calgary JCC

There is no charge for this event but registration is required via email to jshapiro@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, Shalom Calgary and Inclusion Coordinator at 403-444-3158 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org.

Pomegranate is produced by Calgary Jewish Federation.

COMMUNITY SECURITY



By Jeffrey Smith
Community Relations Chair, Calgary Jewish Federation
LP Chair, The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

This summer, as Israel engaged in war with Hamas in Gaza, many members of our community expressed concern that the violence of the Middle East could spill over into Canada. That concern was heightened when members of our community were assaulted on July 18 at a pro-Palestinian rally. Also disturbing are recent reports of the radicalization of Muslim youth who were recruited in Calgary and subsequently died fighting for ISIS in Syria.

The security and safety of Jewish Calgarians is a priority for Calgary Jewish Federation. We always maintain very close contact with Calgary Police Service and the RCMP regarding potential risks and threats. This summer, our contact was more frequent. We also consulted regularly with Adam Cohen, the National Security Director for the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, who is in constant contact with national police and intelligence services.

Throughout the summer, we were assured by the police services that they had no information that would lead them to change the risk assessment for the Calgary Jewish community. That being said, we advised all the Jewish institutions to review their security procedures and ensure that all precautions were in place.

In addition to our contact with police services, we have also held several meetings over the past year with University of Calgary administration and security services, the most recent on September 2, to discuss our concerns for the safety of Jewish students on campus.

We were fortunate to host Adam Cohen from September 8-11. During his visit, he held two security workshops for Jewish community professionals, toured and advised several institutions about their security arrangements, and met with university students about personal and event security on campus.

Calgary Jewish Federation will continue to monitor security concerns even when current tensions abate. Unfortunately, security is a constant priority for Jewish institutions. We need not live in a fortress, but we always need to be vigilant and aware.

You can help – if you see something suspicious, speak up. Don't leave bags unattended in Jewish communal institutions. And be patient if asked to identify yourself.

If you have any questions or concerns about community security, Judy Shapiro or I would be happy to discuss them with you. Just email Judy at jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

The Shabbat Project

A community-wide celebration of Shabbat
October 24-25

Do something to make this Shabbat special:

- Shut off your cell phone for 25 hours
- Light Shabbat candles
- Engage in Jewish learning
- Enjoy a Shabbat meal with friends, at a synagogue or at the JCC
- Walk to Shabbat services
- Spend time as a family with no electronic intervention!
- Stay with a Shomer Shabbat family

More ideas on how to make this Shabbat special still to come!

Shabbat Project events:

Challah Cover Workshop

Sunday September 28

1:00 - 4:00pm | Calgary JCC

Carolyn Devins, a member of Rimon Calgary, will lead a painted silk challah cover workshop. Registration required by September 22 at 403-253-8600, ext.0. \$25 fee to cover costs.

Challah Braiding

Thursday October 23

Various locations TBA

Cost: \$10

Shabbat Dinners

Various locations TBA

Shabbat Learning

Various Locations TBA

Havdallah Service and Concert

Saturday October 25

8:30pm | Calgary JCC

Participating Organizations

- Beth Tzedec Congregation
- Calgary JCC
- Chabad Lubavitch
- House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel
- Kehillat Shalom
- Temple B'nai Tikvah

Watch the Calgary Jewish Federation website at www.jewishcalgary.org for more suggestions for a meaningful Shabbat!

For more information, contact Marilyn Samuels at mtsamuels@gmail.com or Judy Shapiro at 403.444.3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

"More than Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews."

– Ahad Ha'am

KESHER KLUB

IS READY FOR FALL!

Kesher Klub – the social, cultural and recreational program for Jewish adults (18+) with disabilities – brings participants together on the first and third Sundays of each month. New members and volunteers are warmly welcomed!

For more information, contact our Shalom Calgary and Inclusion Coordinator, Karina Szulc, at 403-389-6994 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Communication Coordinator

Calgary Jewish Federation's Communication Coordinator is responsible for all information and promotional materials produced by Federation, including electronic and print newsletters, UJA campaign materials, brochures, and press releases. The Communication Coordinator also writes speeches for community volunteers and oversees the messaging on the Federation website. Salary commensurate with experience. Applicants must have:

- exemplary writing skills
- ability to work to multiple deadlines
- ability to work with a diverse team of Federation and community professionals and volunteers
- knowledge of production and layout of print materials
- knowledge of the Jewish community of Calgary
- experience with web and social media
- a strong commitment to Jewish communal life.

To apply, please email cover letter and resume to: Paula Egelnick at pegelnick@jewishcalgary.org by September 30, 2014. Only those candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.



BREAKING THE SILENCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2014

7:00PM - CALGARY JCC
1607 90 AVENUE SW



JOHN GULAK AND CINDY RADU, BOTH CALGARY LAWYERS, WILL SHARE THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, AND THE CREATION OF THEIR BOOK, *SICK TO DEATH OF THE SILENCE: STORIES TO BREAK DOWN THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS*, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS 15 CALGARIANS WHO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE OF LIVING WITH THIS ILLNESS. THEY HOPE THEIR BOOK AND PROGRAMS LIKE THIS ONE WILL HELP EASE THE STIGMA AND MISCONCEPTIONS OF MENTAL ILLNESS BY STARTING A DIALOGUE.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT STEPHANIE SACKS AT 403-238-1014 OR NAAMATCALGARY@YAHOO.CA

PRESENTED BY



FREE ADMISSION · LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT END OF PROGRAM