leading into the recent lunar eclipse on Erev Sukkot, the internet was full of chatter about the rarity of such an occurrence, about the splendor of NOT seeing something that is typically present (if unnoticed) every evening, and about how awesome the moon would look (red, bright, large) when it reappeared after a short period of hiding. The more I heard about it, the more I wanted to see this rare Lunar Super Blood Moon Eclipse. Or, more technically, NOT see it. We were with friends in their sukkah, sharing some good company and good food, when the children went out of the sukkah to NOT see the moon. They waited and waited. We joined them, at one point, and waited as well. I think we possibly saw a bit of the eclipse through the cloudy sky, but the fact that I’m uncertain suggests that I probably missed it. Regardless, it was good fun yelling to the kids through the sukkah “can you NOT see the moon yet?” To which they giggled and answered “We don’t know… we think it’s still there.”

That evening got me thinking about our complete fascination with something’s absence, and our total apathy, that evening, and about how awesome the moon would look in the same breath, if any of the services, programs, or opportunities ever went missing… were eclipsed… the darkness left behind would certainly garner significant attention. It is all too common that we don’t really appreciate what is around us – until it is gone. We live with the comfort of knowing something or someone is THERE, but don’t always include that thing or person in our lives. We may recognize the value of that very something or someone, but lack of urgency or immediate need makes us apathetic. But when those people or things are gone – the apathy lifts and regret sets in. I am proposing we open our eyes, and appreciate all that we do have. That we embrace and make use of the opportunities in front of us, and that we wait for an eclipse to cause us to notice absences, especially of key elements.

Interestingly, as a contradiction to the lunar eclipse, Sukkot actually announces itself through what is newly present – the sukkah. Where there once was a parking lot, a driveway, some grass, or a deck, we now see a sukkah – temporarily constructed for dining, entertaining, sitting, and even sleeping. We gather to celebrate what is, not what is not requested; a passport is not necessary if a passport is not requested); Notification of change in marital status; Application for a name change; Application to revoke Israeli citizenship.

If you are interested in one or more of the services mentioned above, contact Judy Shapiro by email or 403-444-3153 as soon as possible.

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.
A Message from UJA 2015 Volunteers
Rabbi Chaim Greenwald and Michael Ullman

Because... we are educating the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.

For 35 years, Akiva Academy has been providing our community with high-quality educational experiences. We are grateful that our school is a partner agency of Calgary Jewish Federation and a beneficiary of funds raised through the United Jewish Appeal Campaign.

Akiva and Federation share key values – the raison d’etre of both agencies is to ensure the continuation of Jewish tradition and community. We both strive to be inclusive in opening the proverbial doors that allow Jewish children to develop and maintain Jewish identity. Together with Calgary Jewish Federation, we believe that no child should be denied a Jewish education – and with the support of funds raised through UJA, we are able to actualize that dream.

Federation’s primary financial support of Akiva Academy comes through the Integrated Bursary Program which allows our scholars to welcome students whose families can’t afford tuition. In addition, we receive program funding to help integrate students with either English or Hebrew as a second or third language in older grades so that no Jewish Child is denied a Jewish education.

Our aim at Akiva is to produce literate Jews fluent in reading, writing and speaking Hebrew, comfortable in all Jewish life cycle events and services. A Jewish day school education challenges students to set their goals high, producing active, passionate and articulate citizens who represent the Jewish community admirably. We can’t think of a better investment for your children.

Amanda Lindhout
Amanda Lindhout is a Canadian humanitarian and journalist who was kidnapped by Islamist insurgents in southern Somalia and held captive for 5 months. Amanda will share her story of survival in the face of lost hope and will illustrate the remarkable strength of the human spirit.

Tickets: $25 Purchase at: jewishcalgary.org

Because...

Today’s Jewish youth are tomorrow’s leaders.

Support your community by giving generously to the 2015 UJA campaign.

Live Generously
Donate Now

Online www.jewishcalgary.org
In person
Akiva Koltinsky at the Federation Office

Mail
Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA
1607 90 Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2V 4Y7
Phone 403-444-3557

Allocations are recommended to the Federation board by a committee of community volunteers who carefully review applications for funding. Requests always far exceed available funds.

You’re Invited...
Sunday October 18 • 7pm • Beth Tzedec Congregation
Lion of Judah and Women’s Philanthropy present
Amanda Lindhout

Amanda Lindhout is a Canadian humanitarian and journalist who was kidnapped by Islamist insurgents in southern Somalia and held captive for 5 months. Amanda will share her story of survival in the face of lost hope and will illustrate the remarkable strength of the human spirit.

Tickets: $25 Purchase at: jewishcalgary.org

The value of a dollar
A week’s worth of lattes can buy a week of JCC day camp for a family in need.

2015 Allocation of Funds

2015-16 Allocation of Funds

2015-16 Allocation of Funds

Support for the Vulnerable

Jewish Education

Outreach, Engagement, Community Relations

Mikvah and Kashrut

Youth and Young Adults

Holocaust Commemoration and Education

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G

G