S halom! Some of the most special memories I have of Jewish ritual practice involve the Sukkah – times spent eating hot soup on a cold night, sleeping outside with my siblings in our family Sukkah, reciting “Tisbe va Sukkah,” enjoying some good conversation and dinner with friends, shaking the lulav with my children under the starry sky, and certainly the sense of accomplishment felt in both erecting and taking down the Sukkah. As Jews, much of what we do to express ourselves ritually and culturally ultimately begins and ends with DOING. We take action. No matter how large or small, a step of faith, an outstretched hand to others, recitation of a prayer, preparation for a holiday, acknowledging the grief or happiness of others – we take action.

The Sukkah is meant to be striking in terms of its sudden appearance on our property out of nowhere, its seasonal arrival, celebrate a bit, and then equally quickly begin its deconstruction and find out what makes these athletes want to the campaign is developed and launched, there is an appeal to the generosity and compassion of the community, events are held to garner support and raise awareness, and before one realizes it… the campaign is over. Sukkot is a season of temporary celebration that produces lasting memories. The UJA Campaign also has a limited time frame, but the impact lasts the whole year. The critical funds raised support those who are vulnerable in our community, make sure we can celebrate and commemorate events throughout the year like Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom HaAtzmaut, provide support to our schools in their efforts to serve the diverse learning needs of our students, provide assistance to many families through our internationally recognized Integrated Bursary Program, support inclusion of those with physical or mental challenges, provide mivkah and kashrut support, enable PJ Library to be the leading program it is, make sure the community’s “Living Room” at the Calgary JCC stays active, and so much more.*

Just as we prepare for the holiday of Sukkot, we anticipate the arrival of the UJA Campaign season, build to acknowledge its arrival, celebrate a bit, and then equally quickly begin to contemplate its end. The process is not without some trepidation – what happens if our community is not able to raise enough to support essential services or create a funding envelope for new, innovative programs?

I am very pleased to share with you that this year, for only the second time ever, our community raised $1.1 million in September, the first month of the campaign – a true sign of the compassion and generosity of our donors, people who have recognized that there are many others in Jewish Calgary who are experiencing difficult times, and see the many challenges in front of us, and the many opportunities to embrace and celebrate being Jewish. We are so grateful to have reached this milestone, but we have much more work to do, and we need all of you to help. If you’ve not yet made a contribution to the campaign, please consider making a donation today. If you have, please let me thank you on behalf of all of those who will benefit. Really, we all benefit in one way or another.

As you shake the lulav and smell the incredible fragrance of the etrog remember that we are a people of action and doing. Know that there is a place for you in our community; there are ways to engage no matter your background, and that although short-lived, the UJA Campaign leads to critical impact that lasts for many months. We need each of you to be active in our campaign and in our community. Because… each voice and each gift matters. Because… together we are better. Because… together we are stronger. Wishing you and yours a meaningful and festive Sukkot season – Chag Sameach,

Adam Silver, CEO

*If you have questions or concerns about how community dollars are allocated, the programs and services supported by the campaign, or anything else, please contact me at 403-444-3151 or asilver@jewishcalgary.org.

A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

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If you see something, say something.

If you see suspicious activity or an emergency situation, immediate police attention is required. Do not try to handle the situation yourself. To report suspicious activity, please contact your local police department or call 911.

Meet the Israeli Skeleton Team

(really there is one!)

Four Israeli athletes are trying out to represent Israel at the Olympic Games in Korea in 2018. Come hear the crazy stories of how they are bringing a winter sport to a warm-weather country. See an Olympic skeleton sled up close and find out what makes these athletes want to race head first down a track going more than 100km/hr.

Thursday, October 20 | 7pm, Calgary JCC

For more information, contact Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

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All programs on these pages are funded in part by your donation to United Jewish Appeal.
Join Calgary Jewish Federation and Storybook Theatre for a special presentation of Hana’s Suitcase. In this inventive, multi-media staging of a true story, we discover a tale of family love, tragedy and hope for the future. Recommended for ages 10+. This performance will be followed by a Q&A session about the play. Special ticket price: $25 for adults and $18 for children – Tickets are limited and seats will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. For information please contact Ilana at 403-444-3162 or ilkrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org.

How about something with your kids, like learning how to make challah? Or an event tailored for adults, like an Israeli wine and cheese night, Jewish movie marathon, or book club get together? PJ Library families in Calgary who have ideas for Jewish experiences are eligible for a grant of up to $150 to make their ideas happen, courtesy of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to co-sponsor two films at the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival

My Hero Brother – Sunday, November 13, 4pm
Germans and Jews – Sunday, November 27, 3pm
(This film will be followed by a panel discussion)

Film Festival passes available at www.calgaryjewishfilmfestival.com or at the Beth Tzedec office 403-255-8688. Individual tickets available at the door.

Do you need to see the Israeli consul?

To renew a child’s passport, record a name change, apply for army exemption? The Israeli Consul will come to Calgary in November if there is sufficient demand.

To get on the list to see the consul, email Judy Shapiro at jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

What would you do if you were given up to $150 to create a do-it-yourself Jewish experience?

For questions contact jwaldman@jewishcalgary.org
The UJA Major Contributors Dinner on September 19th was an evening of inspiring and informative speakers, and an opportunity to discuss the importance of Federation’s UJA campaign to our community. Thank you to Ambassador Barak and Gil Troy for sharing their insights and Minnie Segal for sharing her community story.

Christina Farell, Sam Switzer and Jessica Miller Switzer
Riki and Don Heilik
Ann and Morris Dancyger
Marg Semel and Adam Singer
Stuart, Harriet and Phil Libin
Glenn and Brian Libin
Sasha and Stephen Goldwag
Gert Cohos, Dave Chetner, Jenny Belzberg and Glenda Chetner
Evan Gelman
Rochelle Rabinovitz

Growing up in Northwest Calgary, Kira Blumer was the only Jewish student in her school. She sometimes experienced overt anti-Semitism but more often witnessed a profound ignorance about Jewish people and Judaism. One summer, a scheduling glitch with the YMCA’s Camp Chief Hector forced her to look for a camping alternative, landing her in Camp BB Riback’s Leadership Training Program. This accident of fate altered her perspective completely. “The trajectory of my life suddenly changed, and nothing would be the same ever again after being exposed to an organized Jewish community.”

Her leadership training and staff positions at Camp BB Riback, and her BYBY and March of the Living experiences empowered Kira to speak to her classmates about Jewish life more comfortably.

Kira’s exploration of Jewish life convinced her to embark upon a career where she could facilitate such positive encounters for other young people. “There is no way I could have been a Jewish community professional if it hadn’t gone to Camp BB that summer. It changed everything.”

Calgary Jewish Federation’s annual campaign funds life-changing programs and experiences for Jewish youth.

When you increase your Federation UJA Campaign gift, a portion is directed to support your community agency. This year, the Calgary Jewish Federation’s annual campaign funds life-changing programs and experiences for Jewish youth.

Donate Now

Support your community by giving generously to the 2016 UJA campaign.

Online: www.jupiter.org/
In person: Jessica Miller Switzer at the Federation Office
Mail: Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA
1607 90 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 4V7
Phone: 403-444-557

Thank you to the 71 callers and canvassers who helped us raise our first $1 million and closed more cards than ever in the month of September.

100 DAYS OF IMPACT

You can make an impact... Volunteer for a Cell-a-thon!

Cell-a-Thon: Oct 27
To RSVP call Irena at 403-537-8594

JAC Cell-a-Thon: Oct 26
To RSVP call Jessica at 403-444-3157
All at 6:00pm. A light dinner will be served.

UJA Campaign

The impact of your gift

The Calgary Jewish Federation is the only Jewish charitable organization in the province of Alberta. We bring together the Province of Alberta.

For more information, our Annual Report, Pomegranate, E-Pom and contact Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154.

Our address: Calgary Jewish Federation, 88 – 1607 90 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 4V7. We are incorporated in the Province of Alberta.