A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.
– Albert Einstein

November begins, we’re heading into a time of change – the change from fall to winter, a change in our Federal government, and Jewish Calgary is also undergoing change. Although sometimes disconcerting, change always provides opportunities for growth, for new relationships, and better engagement. It is understandable if some members of our community are uncertain about the transition in government, considering the unprecedented support by former Prime Minister Stephen Harper for Israel. However, we have confidence that the relationships built with MPs of all stripes by our national advocacy agency, The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), will bode well for the future.

Locally, visitors to our community are always impressed by the vibrancy of our community is a result of the adaptability and creativity of those who came before us. What they built provides the foundation for us. The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), will bode well for the future.

Many of you reading this article will have heard that the boards of the Calgary Jewish Community Centre (JCC) and Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF) have appointed me as Chief Executive Officer of both organizations, and Lynne Preston as the permanent Executive Director of the Calgary JCC. Both Lynne and I are very humbled by this move, and equally inspired to work even harder for the community. These appointments are part of a thoughtful process, one that is focused on achieving more, even better services and programs for all stakeholders, more sensible alignment of the organizations, and maximizing the community’s use of finances and talent, both lay and professional. We are not interested in replicating the joint model that existed in the past. We are, however, very interested in identifying areas for strategic integration – some of which you might notice, other small tweaks that will be barely noticeable.

Over the next several months, the JCC and CJF boards, committees, staff, members, and the community at large will help shape what our future looks like. We will be looking to engage Jewish Calgary in innovative, different ways, continuing to serve our current members and active stakeholders, while also working diligently to ensure that everyone wanting to participate in community events, programs, or services knows about them, and feels comfortable accessing them. These are exciting times… times of change, times of new models of thinking and operating, with the future only limited by the limits we self-impose. I would value hearing constructive feedback or suggestions, and will be pleased to respond to email messages to asilver@jewishcalgary.org or meet with you to hear your thoughts. Please consider being part of the change, part of Jewish Calgary’s future planning process. The future will be shaped by all of us who care, who demand more, and who dream. Let’s dream, together, about where we have come from, and all that we can be. Let’s not change our commitment but, rather, change the way we think about that commitment. I know we will accomplish great things together.

B’Shalom

Adam Silver, CEO
Calgary Jewish Federation and Calgary JCC
Gil Hoffman is the Chief political correspondent and analyst for The Jerusalem Post. He has interviewed every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum and has been called “the most optimistic man in Israel”. Hoffman’s writing, television appearances and numerous speaking engagements provide a behind the scenes look at the intrigue and humor in the Israeli political arena. For more information please contact:

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GIL WILL ALSO BE SPEAKING AT THE U OF C CAMPUS
AT NOON • THE EMPTY SPACE, MAC HALL

The Israeli Consulate in Toronto is sending a representative to Calgary in November to provide services which cannot be completed through the mail and where the applicant must appear in person.

If you are interested in scheduling a meeting, please contact Judy Shapiro at jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3153.

For information, contact Kathie at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592.
A Message from UJA 2015 Volunteers
Stan Mayer and Marty Hornstein

Because…
all of Israel is responsible for one another.

Benevolence – a caring Community takes care of its most vulnerable.

A child wakes up and immediately starts wondering where he will sleep tonight. Will he have any meals today? Will he go to school?

An 81-year-old woman sits alone at her kitchen table. She has not seen or spoken to another individual in a week.

A family of four visits Miriam’s Well to receive groceries and grocery gift cards. Their car is not insured, nor has it been maintained in over a year.

Vulnerable children, isolated seniors, families in social insecurity and poverty. These are but three examples of the challenges that some members of our Jewish community face every day. Jewish Family Service Calgary (JFSC) is proud to be the organization funded by Calgary Jewish Federation to maintain a strong social safety net for those living in underserved situations.

JFSC reaches out to the aging, feeds the poor and strives to secure shelter for those living in underprivileged situations. JFSC’s community response to those requiring social support with basic needs such as food and shelter, guiding our work are the Jewish values of compassion and social justice.

JFSC supports to approximately 900 persons and families each year. Our dedicated staff and volunteers are able to fulfill our mission with the generous support of individuals and families throughout the Jewish community and the community at large.

Our statistics reveal that 800 members of our Jewish Community are living in poverty of which 400 are living in extreme poverty. Unfortunately our “business” is growing given our current provincial economy and will continue to grow as our population ages.

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Calgary has a vibrant Jewish community because of the generous caring and giving of individuals and businesses. We at Jewish Family Service Calgary strive to help the vulnerable in our community become self-reliant and engaged. We do so with dignity and respect. We are confident that we will be able to meet the challenges of supporting those in need within our community because you care and you support UJA.

When called upon by the dedicated volunteers of UJA please consider the members of our community that need our assistance.

Thank you for your support.
Stan Mayer
Chair, Calgary Jewish Family Service
Marty Hornstein, Executive Director, Calgary Jewish Family Service

Major Contributors Support UJA
Over 80 of Calgary UJA’s most generous supporters attended an inspirational dinner on October 16, included in the audience were several multi-generational families whose continuous support of our community guarantees the success of the annual fund-raising campaign. A highlight of the program was a presentation by Dr. Ronen Hoffman, an Israeli academic and politician, whose optimistic assessment of the current political situation was well-received.

UJA campaign co-chairs Larry Katz, Debbie Ryder and Yannai Segal presented a positive “case for giving” and thanked the donors for their generosity.

2015 UJA Campaign

Because…
Jewish continuity begins at home.

Because…
the success of the annual fund-raising campaign. A highlight of the program

Included in the audience were several multi-generational families whose continuous support of our

We engage our seniors with a Second Language (ESL) programs to older

Outreach, Engagement, Community Relations

Holocaust Commemoration and Education

Mikvah and Kashrut

Jewish Education

Youth and Young Adults

Support for the Vulnerable

Jewish Culture

The allocations depicted here do not include: Federation administrative overhead, annual campaign (UJA) expenses, designated gifts, special campaigns.

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Calgary Jewish Federation is planning to raise an estimated $3,000,000 this year through the annual United Jewish Appeal (UJA) campaign. Calgary Jewish Federation is pleased to announce that as of November 25th, $1,745,000 has been raised. In 2014, $2,000 donors!

Please volunteer your time!

Because…
giving your time is a mitzvah.

When it comes to Cell-a-Thon, every cent raised can count!

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