A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

This message is being written on the heels of the horrific Tree of Life Congregation shootings and murders in Pittsburgh, PA. I have started and restarted this message a number of times. How does one grapple with the tragic enormity of the situation, while also trying to share a message of hope? It is easy to acknowledge that there are some people who hate Jews and would do us harm if presented with the opportunity. Statistics in Canada and elsewhere demonstrate that anti-Semitism is on the rise and that the Jewish community continues to experience the most frequent and often severe acts of hate crimes. It is easy to see why we must remain vigilant and continue to work for our safety in partnership with each other as one community. As well, we work with the Calgary Police Service and other law enforcement agencies, our politicians, and others to ensure we have appropriate protocols in place for our continued security. We must also build bridges with other faith communities, ensure that anti-Semitism and anti-racism are core pieces of our province’s educational curriculum, and ensure that perpetrators of hate crimes are treated with the appropriate severity the law permits.

On October 30th, close to 1,000 people from all walks of life came together to begin healing and to say “enough.” It was a powerful display of support from our Jewish community as well as the wider community. I was very proud of how quickly our community came together, to remember and honor those whose lives were taken in Pittsburgh. It was really something to see, and the many words shared by community leaders suggest we are strong, cohesive, and caring.

In the wake of the worst violence against Jews in the history of the US, our charge is to take meaning, to practice mitzvot, and to move forward. Though sense cannot be made of the senseless, it is up to us to make something constructive of this, to stand up in strength while at the same time being sensitive to those needing care. If our brothers and sisters in Pittsburgh can resolve to be Stronger Than Hate, I know Jewish Calgary can support them with added strength.

Let us not forget to put our thoughts into action. We must continue to come together and support one another. We must build meaningful relationships with people of all faiths and all backgrounds, standing up for those in need of help, and accepting support from those who really care. It is when we are seen as neighbors rather than the “other” that we can create secure, peaceful community.

While we will resolve to battle voices and actions of hate at every turn, let us also resolve to use our energy for good. Wishing us all only simchas and reasons to celebrate in the future...

B’Shalom,

Adam Silver
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT

WHO WILL WRITE OUR HISTORY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18 • 7:15 PM

In November 1940, days after the Nazis sealed 450,000 Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto, a secret band of journalists, scholars, and community leaders decided to fight back. Now, for the first time, their story is told as a feature documentary. Executive produced by Nancy Spielberg, this powerful and moving film masterfully intertwines the writings of Emanuel Ringelblum with new interviews, rarely seen footage, and stunning dramatizations. You will be transported inside the Ghetto and into the lives of these courageous resistance fighters who defied their murderous enemy with the ultimate weapon – the truth – and risked everything so that their archive would survive the war, even if they themselves did not.

SPECIAL GUEST
Robertta Grossman
Director, writer, and producer

INFORMATION
Ilana Krygier Lapides: 403-444-3162 or ikrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
BETH TZEDEC CONGREGATION

THE ISRAELI CONSUL IS COMING TO CALGARY

A representative of the Israeli Consul will be at the Calgary JCC on Sunday, November 25 and Monday, November 26. Complete the intake form online at jewishcalgary.org, after which you will be contacted directly by the Consul to set-up a formal appointment. For information contact Sandy Blass at sblass@jewishcalgary.org or 403-444-3152.

Chanukah Fun

CHANUKAH LIGHT SHOW
Sunday December 2
10:36AM - Noon | Calgary JCC
Celebrate Chanukah with a unique light show
Registration requested – contact Kathie

PJ @ JCC Chanukah Family Dance Party
Sunday December 9
2:00 - 4:00PM | Calgary JCC
Join us for this free and fun family event
For info contact Kathie at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592

LOX AND LEARN
Monday November 19 | 7:00-8:30PM | Calgary JCC
Join Hillel and Jess Burke from CIJA for a free evening of learning. Jess will be presenting on intersectionality, antisemitism in progressive and LGBTQ2+ spaces, and building meaningful community partnerships both on and off campus. This event is open to students from all post secondary campuses.

PLUS! Nosh with Hillel bi-weekly at our bagel lunch!
Tuesday meetings: MRT Nov 15, 27 | UC Nov 15, 29
For information, check out our Facebook page or contact Danielle at dbraitman@jewishcalgary.org.
From October 17 to 24, Calgary mission participants visited projects in our partner region Etzba HaGalil, enjoyed Shabbat in Jerusalem, and attended the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America in Tel Aviv. During the time spent in the north, the Partnership 2Gether meetings were taking place which allowed mission participants to meet with our regional mayors, dedicate new projects funded by Calgary, as well as give out award scholarships at Tel Hai College.