A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

Shalom friends,

We recently completed our reading of the entire Torah, culminating on Simchat Torah, and started all over again with the reading of Parshat Bereisheet – “In the beginning...” Symbolically, completing all of the readings throughout the year, and beginning anew, can be associated with understanding and accepting what has transpired over the year in our lives, but also recognizing that sometimes we must refresh or rethink how we approach the months to come.

The renewed Torah cycle brings me to reflect on our communal year and the one ahead. In my last few articles, I’ve shared thoughts about how fortunate we are to live in a Jewish community that is rich in activities, wealthy in volunteer dedication and talent, and which offers a breadth in variety of program and services that many other places cannot imagine, let alone match.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Jewish Calgary volunteer dedication and talent, and which offers a breadth in variety of program and services that many other places cannot imagine, let alone match.

You might recall that approximately one year ago I was appointed in a dual CEO role, at that point adding leadership and supervisory responsibilities for the Calgary JCC to my portfolio. The year saw the JCC move forward with the planning of, and beginning steps for, a locker room and other facility renovations. Despite enduring a problematic water event over the summer, the year resulted in solid membership subscriptions and program enrolment; and was, overall, a success. At the same time, Federation was very busy with the UJA campaign, with special project fundraising and programming, planning for potential campus expansion, many Community Relations items, a renewed Program Allocations Committee process which now provides a two year commitment to funded programs, and increased need and demand for our community’s internationally recognized Integrated Bursary Program. To be able to properly, and successfully, deliver on all of the above and more, and after exploring the benefits and impacts of the last year’s dual CEO role experiment, the Boards of Federation and the JCC have mutually agreed (with my input and support) that I should continue to serve as CEO of Federation, and that Lynne Preston will be the top leadership professional at the JCC, serving as Executive Director. Lynne has a wonderful team surrounding her, and I am confident she (and they) will continue to work for the benefit of Jewish Calgary, and as strong partners of Calgary Jewish Federation. Beginning November 1st, I will be refocusing on the many opportunities and challenges facing Calgary Jewish Federation. Beginning November 1st, I will be refocusing on the many opportunities and challenges facing Calgary Jewish Federation. The year saw the JCC move forward with the planning of, and beginning steps for, a locker room and other facility renovations. Despite enduring a problematic water event over the summer, the year resulted in solid membership subscriptions and program enrolment; and was, overall, a success. At the same time, Federation was very busy with the UJA campaign, with special project fundraising and programming, planning for potential campus expansion, many Community Relations items, a renewed Program Allocations Committee process which now provides a two year commitment to funded programs, and increased need and demand for our community’s internationally recognized Integrated Bursary Program. To be able to properly, and successfully, deliver on all of the above and more, and after exploring the benefits and impacts of the last year’s dual CEO role experiment, the Boards of Federation and the JCC have mutually agreed (with my input and support) that I should continue to serve as CEO of Federation, and that Lynne Preston will be the top leadership professional at the JCC, serving as Executive Director. Lynne has a wonderful team surrounding her, and I am confident she (and they) will continue to work for the benefit of Jewish Calgary, and as strong partners of Calgary Jewish Federation. Beginning November 1st, I will be refocusing on the many opportunities and challenges facing Calgary Jewish Federation. Beginning November 1st, I will be refocusing on the many opportunities and challenges facing Calgary Jewish Federation.

Because...together we can do more. Because...together we support one another.

B’Shalom.

Adam Silver, CEO
*Provided enough funds are raised each year to support any commitments made.
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 at 403-389-6994 or karinas@jewishcalgary.org.

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

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 is coming to Calgary on December 6.

The Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) is the national advocacy agent of Calgary Jewish Federation and all federations across Canada. This is an opportunity to ask questions about CIJA’s work, how CIJA strives to represent us, and how to get involved in advocacy.

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

Sukkot in the Sukkah

On October 23rd, Kesher celebrated Sukkot in the beautiful JCC Sukkah with Rabbi Groner. There were Brachot and Lulav shaking, and songs and snacks to round out the festivities.

Eight intrepid Calgarians made the journey to Edmonton on November 1 for a Wine and Cheese reception for MLAs and staff, hosted by Calgary Jewish Federation, Edmonton Jewish Federation, CIJA and CJ PAC. The reception was a great success with MLAs from all parties attending, including several party leaders and cabinet ministers.

In the photos:
1. Wildrose Party and Official Opposition Leader Brian Jean with CJ PAC’s Eleanor Miller
2. Alberta Party leader Greg Clark with Federation VP Beth Price and Community Relations Committee Chair Jeff Smith
3. MLA Anam Kasim with Federation CEO Adam Silver and CFJS board member Max Feldman
4. Liberal Party leader Dr. David Swann with CIJA’s Judy Zelikowitz and CFJS’s Robyn Winograd
5. Minister of Culture Ricardo Miranda with Federation’s Judy Shapiro and CRC member David Bushkin
6. Premier’s Principal Secretary Anne McGrath with CIJA board member Carol Ryder and Adam Silver

Eight intrepid Calgarians made the journey to Edmonton on November 1 for a Wine and Cheese reception for MLAs and staff, hosted by Calgary Jewish Federation, Edmonton Jewish Federation, CIJA and CJ PAC. The reception was a great success with MLAs from all parties attending, including several party leaders and cabinet ministers.

In the photos:
1. Wildrose Party and Official Opposition Leader Brian Jean with CJ PAC’s Eleanor Miller
2. Alberta Party leader Greg Clark with Federation VP Beth Price and Community Relations Committee Chair Jeff Smith
3. MLA Anam Kasim with Federation CEO Adam Silver and CFJS board member Max Feldman
4. Liberal Party leader Dr. David Swann with CIJA’s Judy Zelikowitz and CFJS’s Robyn Winograd
5. Minister of Culture Ricardo Miranda with Federation’s Judy Shapiro and CRC member David Bushkin
6. Premier’s Principal Secretary Anne McGrath with CIJA board member Carol Ryder and Adam Silver
One of the primary goals of Calgary Jewish Federation is to ensure that every Jewish person feels at home in our community, regardless of religious affiliation, abilities, or financial situation.

During this ongoing UJA campaign, we turn collective philanthropy into focused, effective funding of our community’s vital programs and services. I’d like to ask you about just a few programs which address two sides of the same coin: inclusion and outreach. Inclusion is about removing obstacles to participating in Jewish life. Federation’s inclusion awareness initiative encourages all community agencies to ensure that Jewish adults and children of all physical and cognitive abilities can live Jewishly. Our Kosher Kids program gives adults with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy Jewish experiences, socialize, and grow as individuals, in an environment where they feel comfortable, respected, and accepted. Programs like these would not be possible without your gifts to the campaign.

Another critical community program addresses the inclusion of those with financial challenges. Living a full Jewish life is expensive and it is not ours, as a community, that no child be deprived of the experiences that build strong Jewish identities, just because of financial constraints. Through Federation’s integrated Bar/Bariyah Program (BBP), your donation to the UJA campaign provides subsidies for JCC membership, bursaries for enrollment at one of our Jewish Day Schools, and opportunities for kids to enjoy a sense of belonging at a Jewish summer camp. This is where the future of our community is built, and we must ensure - personally and financially - that ensuring that access to Jewish life has few barriers and is open to everyone.

Inclusion also means reaching out to those looking for the doorway into our community. Our PJ Library® program engages young families by offering free Jewish-themed books and music to children, as well as family programs like Tot Shabbat and the Chag Sameach series that provide communal celebrations and ideas, songs and stories to help enrich observances at home. Shalom Calgary welcomes newcomers, helps them meet new friends and make connections, and find their place in Jewish Calgary. Shalom Baby welcomes our little ones and assists in the rebirth of new Jewish life to keep, Jewish identity relevant and strong. These are the bonds that fortify Jewish life in Calgary.

Just as on Yom Kippur we take collective responsibility for our transgressions, the responsibility is our, yours and mine, to keep the doors of our community open to everyone. We all benefit from having a healthy, vibrant community where everyone can participate. Please give generously to this year’s campaign. Because... together we are stronger.

Lions of Judah

September 26 was an inspiring evening for the Lions of Judah at the home of Gail Sidosky together with co-host Wynne Thal. Jackie Halpern was welcomed as the newest Lion, bringing Calgary’s total to 71. Robyn Winograd spoke on behalf of the Lion of Judah Yachad Fund, which supports families by addressing their children’s needs so they can feel included, whether it be a bathing suit for camp, a gift for a birthday party or a suit for a bar mitzvah. Guest speakers Julia Berger Reitman, chair of Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA and Linda Kislowicz, CEO at the same organization, discussed issues involving our communities in Canada and the role JFC-UJA plays.

Linda Kislowicz, Julia Berger Reitman, Gail Sidosky, Wynne Thal

Calgary Jewish Federation supports engagement and inclusion:
• Kosher
• Inclusion Awareness Programs
• Community Chaplain
• PJ Library
• Tot Shabbat
• Chag Sameach
• Shalom Calgary
• Shalom Baby

The impact of your gift

For Leon Gelt, Kesher is a much loved pathway to Jewish experiences. One of the earliest members of Calgary Jewish Federation’s social and recreational club for Jewish adults with disabilities, Leon enjoys the warm and inclusive environment, surrounded by newfound friends.

“It’s beautiful, it’s great, they’re respectful and they treat me nicely,” says Leon. His parents, Ida and Lev, say that while he is often resistant to outside activities, Leon always wants to go to Kesher. For Leon, Kesher is about more than the planned activities. It’s about being part of a community where he can continue to celebrate Jewishness, and about being part of the greater Jewish community.

Calgary Jewish Federation works to ensure that nobody is excluded from living Jewishly, because of age, ability or economic status. Your gift to Federation’s annual UJA campaign helps ensure that Jewish continuity involves everyone in our community.

100 DAYS OF IMPACT

$3,000,000

$1,488,027

1112 donors

As of November 8, 2016

Prizes:

Any increase of $18 or more to the 2016 UJA campaign, made before November 30th enters donors into a draw for a set of Calgary Flames tickets.

Live Generously Donate Now

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

Online - www.jewishcalgary.org

In person - Jessie Wine Sametz at The Federation Office

Mail - Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA

1027 3C Avenue SW, Calgary AB T2V 4Y7

Phone - 403-444-3157

UJA Plus Giving

When you increase your Federation UJA Campaign gift, you may designate 50% of the increase to one of our partner agencies or funded programs. Ask your canvasser or see the online donation form at www.jewishcalgary.org/ways2give, and click on “give now.”