

Calgary Jewish Federation wants you!

We have lots of exciting information to share about upcoming programs and events. If you are not already receiving our publications, please send us your contact information and we will be sure to bring you up to date on happenings in Jewish Calgary. To sign up today, please contact Aviva Kolotinsky at 403-444-3157 or akolotinsky@jewishcalgary.org.



A MESSAGE FROM ADAM

This year's General Assembly, put on by Jewish Federations of North America in Washington, DC, was anything but general. *Think Forward* was its theme, and for three solid days of plenaries, breakout sessions, and networking events, the over three thousand participants did just that. Professionals and volunteers came from all over the world (including North America, Israel, France, and Europe) and ranged from students to savvy veterans. Also in attendance were the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu, actress and celebrity Debra Messing, David Gregory, Dan Pallotta, Ambassador and political expert Dennis Ross, and the list goes on. All of those speakers were impressive, and I would be remiss if I didn't comment on Prime Minister Netanyahu's strong words of unity, of appreciation for global Jewish support, and of his comments in support of a pluralistic Israel that recognizes all Jews.

To raise the level of Canadian relevance, this year our national partner, Jewish Federations of Canada-United Israel Appeal (JFC-UIA) worked with our American counterparts to ensure the Canadian content was strong. As such, plenary speakers included Madame Justice Rosalie Abella, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird, and the Honourable Irwin Cotler. Perhaps most impressive were the 105 motivated, committed Canadians at the GA, with more than thirty percent being young leaders! This was one of the best showings for Canada in many years, and Calgary should be very proud of its participants – Danielle Braitman (who was given a Young Leadership award,) Brad Libin, Jaclyn Switzer, and Stephen and Debbie Ryder. Diana Kalef and I were fortunate to attend as staff, and we are excited to leverage the energy and ideas from the GA that were absorbed by our cohort for the good of Jewish Calgary.

We are very proud that Calgary Jewish Federation was selected to present its Integrated Bursary Program (IBP) as an innovative tool for educational engagement. Finally

this incredible program received the acknowledgement it deserves! Indeed, IBP was the talk of the room during the "FEDovation" sessions, as groups of ten people rotated through "speed-dating" type presentations. Each presentation allowed for a five minute explanation, followed by five minutes of clarifying questions, and concluding with five minutes of *tachlis* implementation conversation. What became clear as I presented the concept of IBP and its values – anonymity, dignity, and equity – is that many communities do not have a mechanism anywhere near as effective, nor do they have agency partnerships that are as strong as ours. We should be very proud about piloting, and then embedding, such a wonderful program in our community.

As a community, we are removing barriers to participation, making Jewish day school education, day and overnight camp, JCC membership and BBYO experiences available to all. Might participation involve a sacrifice? Certainly. But, no child will go without a Jewish education or camp participation of some sort, if his or her family truly desires it for them, and if that family is willing to partner with the community to make it happen.

Participating in Jewish day school education is only attractive if the quality of education is high, the social and emotional development opportunities are strong, and students come out of the experience having developed more confidence in who they are as people and who they are as Jews. Fortunately, Jewish Calgary has two amazing day schools – Akiva Academy, and Calgary Jewish Academy, both of which provide top tiered Alberta and Judaic studies curriculums, multiple opportunities for extra-curricular engagement, and a focus on developing our next cohort of talented, committed Jewish communal leaders, and moral global citizens. We should be incredibly proud of the work they do to provide a level of education that is unavailable in many larger communities, and the fact that IBP exists (in partnership with the schools) to remove barriers to

participation. Am I proud of what we have to offer? Certainly. Was I proud to share it with scores of my colleagues and their volunteers? Exceptionally so!

This is true for much of what we do. As a community of 8,400 Jews, we consistently "punch above our weight." We have a higher level of engagement than many larger cities, a stronger campaign, and an infrastructure that is the envy of many. We also have a great reputation with our peers and partners. Volunteers and professionals from all over North America commented to me about our programs, our volunteers whom they met at the GA, and how they only dreamed of offering some of what we have available.

One quick, touching moment for me, personally, was an informal exchange I had with Harold Grinspoon, patriarch of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation – creator of (and partner with us in) PJ Library®. Harold is a wonderful man, and a friendly guy, and was certain to stop me in the hall one of the days of the GA. He and I had met before and spent some time chatting at a retreat over the summer, so he knows who I am and, more importantly, he is familiar with Calgary and blown away by how strong our PJ Library® programming and book distribution is. He spent a few brief minutes expressing how "wowed" he is by what we do, and encouraged us to continue partnering with him and his foundation to do even more. Calgary, Jewish Calgary, is on the map! *Kol hakavod* to us all as we work diligently to live in the theme of this year's GA – THINK FORWARD!

Because, together we can do more, together we are stronger. B'Shalom,

Adam Silver, CEO
Calgary Jewish Federation and Calgary JCC




An Evening of Solidarity with Israel


More than 200 supporters of Israel came to the Calgary JCC on November 4 to hear from DJ Schneeweiss, Israeli Consul General for Toronto and Western Canada. Mr. Schneeweiss brought great insight into the complexities of Israel and the Middle East. His presentation was followed by a stimulating question and answer session. Calgary Jewish Federation then presented a memorial program in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.



From left: Bradley Libin, Danielle Braitman, Jaclyn Switzer, Debbie Ryder, Adam Silver, and Diana Kalef. Stephen Ryder is missing from the picture.



PJ Library® Tot Shabbat
Sammy Spider's First Chanukah
Friday December 4 • 10:00AM



Join us for a Chanukah Shabbat Celebration with songs, a very special menorah craft and treats.

For more information contact Kathie Wainer
403-537-8592 • kwainer@jewishcalgary.org



PJ Chanukah Family Dance PARTY
sung to the tune of *Maoz Tsur*

Chanukah is made for fun, Latkes and candles for everyone
Join with **PJ Library®**, For dancing and crafts **at the JCC**
If you are under eight, **Come at 6** and don't be late
December 12th, the perfect day, You and your parents can come and play
Then we'll join the family fun, **With JCC and everyone!**

All programs on these pages are funded in part by your donation to United Jewish Appeal.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION IS LOOKING FOR A **PRESCHOOL EDUCATOR** TO DEVELOP PLANS AND MATERIALS FOR A NEW PJ LIBRARY® INITIATIVE. Beginning in January 2016, this opportunity involves approximately 100 hours preparation time and eight hours of program delivery. **The successful candidate will have:**

- Teaching experience, preferably with children from 0-8 years,
- A familiarity with Jewish traditions, particularly holiday rituals,
- A pluralistic approach to Jewish education,
- Be available some Sundays.

SALARY COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE.

PLEASE SUBMIT A **RESUME AND COVER LETTER** BY **DECEMBER 1**
PAULA EGELNICK AT PEGELNICK@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG



Calgary Jewish Federation

**Shalom Baby Play Group:
For the Under Twos**

Thursday Mornings
9:45am - Noon | Calgary JCC

Next Meeting Date

December 10



Funded by Lion of Judah in honour of
 Jenny Belzberg, Myra Paperny & Faith Riback

**PJ Library® Tot Shabbat:
For the Under Threes**

Friday Mornings
9:45 - 10:30am | Calgary JCC

Next Meeting Dates

December 4

December 18

For information, contact Kathie at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592

THE PERFECT CHANUKAH GIFT



AN AMAZING SUMMER AND LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS

One Happy Camper provides grants of up to \$1,000 to children attending Jewish overnight camp for the first time.*

Visit OneHappyCamper.org to find your camp and apply.

For information, contact
 Judy Shapiro at 403.444.3153
 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org

**Some conditions apply*



DRINKSAFTERWORK

schmooze on the rocks

FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

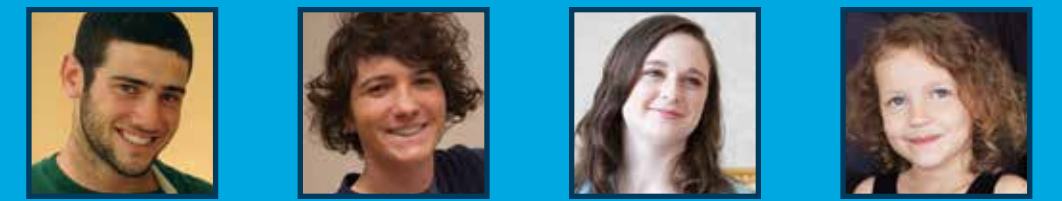
December 3, 2015 | 5:00pm | 1410 World Bier Haus, 1410 17 Avenue SW



For more information contact Jordan Waldman at
 403.444.3146 or jwaldman@jewishcalgary.org



2015 UJA Campaign



A Message from UJA 2015 Volunteer Paula Lexier



Because... we must remember.
Because... learning from the past creates a better future.

Calgary Jewish Federation's Holocaust Remembrance and Education programming has a significant impact on thousands of people each year – both Jewish and non-Jewish. Of all the valuable work done with UJA dollars, this is a program that embodies the principle of *tikkun olam* – repairing the world. I personally have witnessed the influence of these programs on individuals and my own family.

Thirty years ago, as a young staff person working for the Calgary Jewish Centre, I attended my first Holocaust Education Symposium. Survivors, many of whom had never spoken before, found the courage to tell their own painful and emotional stories to small groups of high school students. Since then, 60,000 Calgary high school students have had the opportunity to learn from survivors where racism and hatred can lead. One student wrote "I believe I've become more understanding and more aware of the strength of the human spirit as well as the capacity it has for evil." That speaks to the powerful effect of survivor testimony and a program that teaches the value of understanding, acceptance of diversity and taking action against injustice. Educational resources are available for all ages including speakers, videos and artifacts.

As junior high school students, my children participated in the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program. It was an important introduction to the concept of using the lessons of the Holocaust to be a positive force in the world. They also took part in the March of the Living, an unparalleled Jewish bonding and educational experience for high school students to study, and visit significant Jewish sites in Poland and Israel.

Our community Yom Hashoah commemoration is comprised of a haunting processional where

survivors and their families honour the memory of lost loved ones followed by an inspiring program. In 2007, David Shentow gave his testimony of loss and survival. I was deeply moved, as was everyone else in attendance. My daughter turned to me and said, "Now imagine listening to David's testimony while he is sitting on his bunk at Auschwitz." David Shentow had accompanied both of my children on the March of the Living.

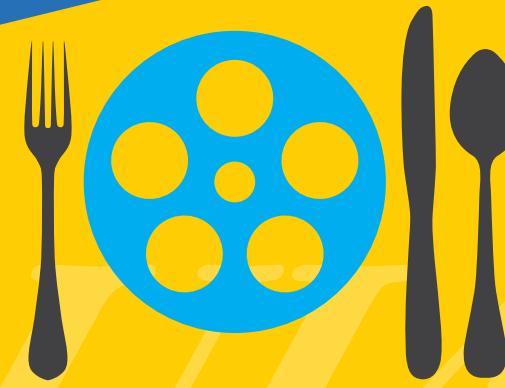
I had the privilege of leading a March of the Living group in 2012 with 22 outstanding teens, veteran co-chaperone Max Lipsman, and three remarkable survivors. Fanny Wedro gave her testimony as we lit candles at the mass graves in Tykochen forest. We joined Robbie Waisman on his emotional return to his birthplace of Skarzysko. Marie Dodeck enthralled us with her story of partisan intrigue. I will never forget these powerful stories.

The heart of our Holocaust education programs is the personal and painful survivor testimony. Calgary Jewish Federation is ensuring the continuity of these stories through a new initiative called *Through Their Eyes*, where family members are learning to share a loved one's story using their video testimony.

I believe that those who participate in any of the Holocaust Education programs of Calgary Jewish Federation will be better citizens of the world, and I am very proud that our community invests resources in that lofty goal. None of this could happen without your gift to Federation's UJA campaign. When a canvasser calls, please give generously.

Paula Lexier
Chair, Coast-to-Coast March of the Living

The value of a dollar



Because... Dinner and a movie for two costs about the same as an hour of counselling at Jewish Family Service Calgary.

JAC presents

Gold&BlackGala

Saturday December 5
Doors open at 7:30PM

Penthouse at International Hotel

JAC invites you to get dressed to the nines and join in this elegant casino soiree to support UJA.

Gamble for a good cause!

\$36 Early Bird Admission • \$45 at door

Register at www.jewishcalgary.org



UJA Update



\$2.04 MILLION

970 donors

Help our community reach \$3,000,000 and 2,000 donors!

Because...

those who fail to learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them.



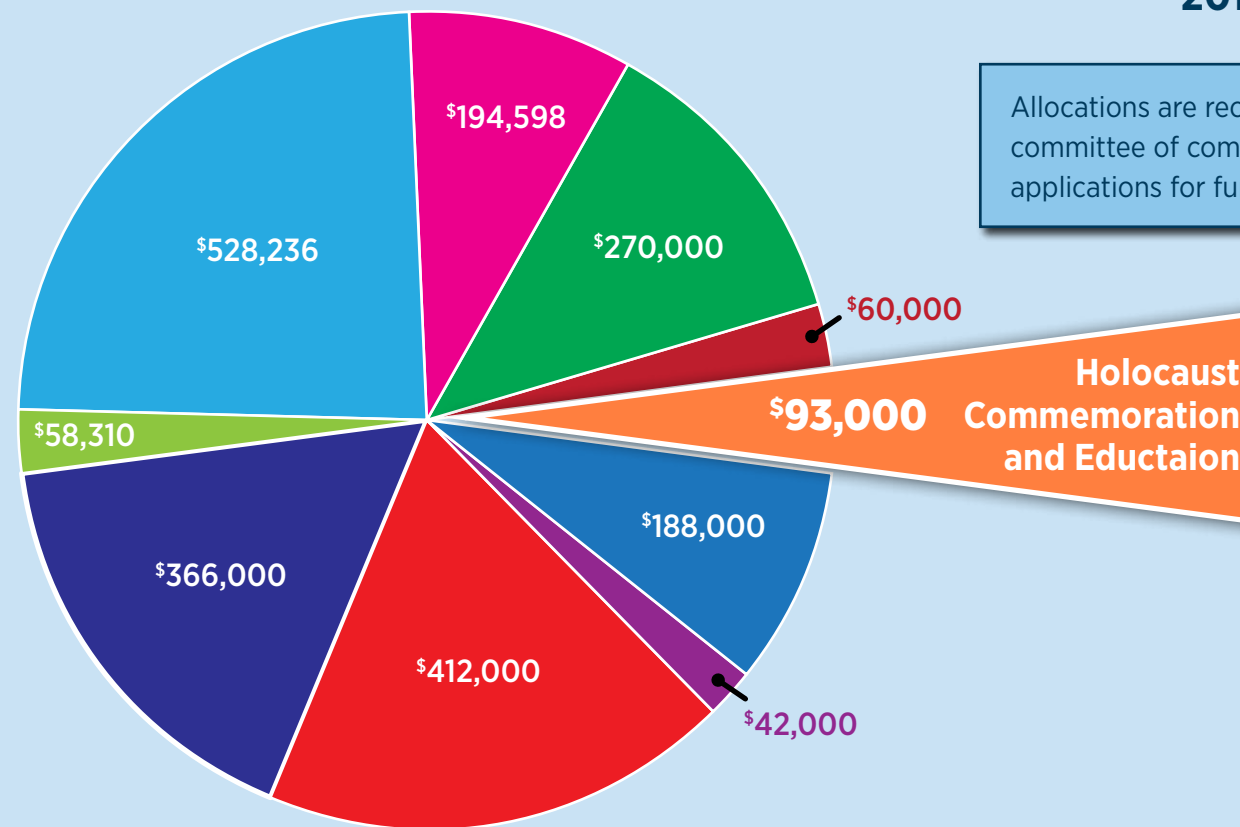
You never hear specifics about the Holocaust" says Sarah Keith, a student at Westmount Charter School and a recent graduate of the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Study Program, which is offered by Calgary Jewish Federation. "It's a taboo subject in school, they don't talk about it at all. Many kids in high school don't care, so it was really refreshing to be in the program with a bunch of kids who do." Sarah is one of 90 Calgary students who participated in the Asper program in 2015, which included 18 hours of study, 18 hours of volunteer work and a trip to Washington DC to visit the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other museums and monuments dedicated to freedom and human rights. Graduates of the program are asked to pledge to speak out against human rights abuses when they witness them. For Sarah, the Asper program had special significance because her grandmother's family was directly affected by the Holocaust. The program gave her a "really big picture of this enormous human tragedy" and had a great impact on her life.

The Asper Program is part of Federation's comprehensive Holocaust and Human Rights Education Program funded by generous donations to the annual UJA Campaign. Other projects include the observance of Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah, the March of the Living, school visits, and the Holocaust Education Symposium.

Your generous donation to UJA ensures the continuation of Holocaust commemoration and education.

2015-16 Allocation of Funds

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.



- Mikvah and Kashrut
- Jewish Education
- Youth and Young Adults
- Support for the Vulnerable
- Jewish Culture
- Holocaust Commemoration and Education
- Outreach, Engagement, Community Relations
- Active Seniors
- National, Israel and Overseas
- JCC Community Living Room

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

Lion of Judah and Women's Philanthropy with Amanda Lindhout

October 18 was an evening of personal, inspiring stories. The Lions of Judah – women who contribute more than \$5,000 a year to UJA – were engrossed by presentations by two local guest speakers who described how their lives were supported by programs and services funded by Calgary Jewish Federation. New Lions were pinned and a number of current Lions stressed the importance of endowing their gifts and leaving a legacy.

The Women's Philanthropy event featured a moving speech by Amanda Lindhout, who told her story of being kidnapped in Somalia and enduring profound deprivation and violence over 15 months in captivity. Her account of how she turned a horrifying ordeal into a positive worldwide charitable initiative was uplifting.



Live Generously Donate Now

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

Online: www.jewishcalgary.org
In person: Aviva Kolotinsky at the Federation Office
Mail: Calgary Jewish Federation / UJA
1607 90 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 4V7
Phone: 403-444-3157

Calgary Jewish Federation is planning to raise an estimated \$3,000,000 this year through the annual United Jewish Appeal Campaign. Estimated campaign costs are 12 percent of funds raised. UJA charitable gifts will be allocated to programs described in Federation publications including our Annual Report, Pomegranate, EPom and www.jewishcalgary.org. For more information, contact Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154. Our address is Jerusalem Road, 1607 90 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 4V7. We are incorporated in the Province of Alberta.

