Friends,

As I write this message, I have just returned from attending the GA – the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America, along with four outstanding young leaders. As always, it was an inspirational gathering of thousands of committed, dedicated Jewish people who come together to share ideas, to seek new solutions to our communal challenges, and to celebrate our collective successes. Whenever I have the privilege of attending a gathering such as this, I am energized – and I am incredibly proud of our community, which in many ways is a model to others.

Our community has the reputation for hitting above our weight. We contribute more per capita than almost all Canadian communities, and many American ones. And we also enjoy a breadth and depth of Jewish life that far exceeds other communities of our size. We have come to expect a level of service and opportunity that is really admirable. And it is my job – and my sincere hope – that others are choosing to give elsewhere at the very time that the community needs them the most. As I’ve written in previous messages, if you participate in Kristallnacht, in Yom Hashoah, in Yom Ha’atzmaut, PJ Library, spend time in the JCC, have a child in CJA or in Yom Ha’atzmaut, in Yom Hashoah, in Yom Ha’atzmaut, you have heeded the call, and have made generous stretch gifts to this year’s campaign. I have also heard from canvassers that some members of our community are choosing to decrease their gifts, or to abstain from giving altogether. It is understandable that in this economy, some can no longer give because of financial challenges. But others are choosing to give elsewhere at the very time that the community needs them the most. As I’ve written in previous messages, if you participate in Kristallnacht, in Yom Hashoah, in Yom Ha’atzmaut, PJ Library, spend time in the JCC, have a child in CJA or Akiva Academy, or plan to send your child on March of the Living, if you are pleased that the community maintains contact with police and helps with communal security, and if you have capacity to give but do not contribute to the UJA campaign, then it is important for you to know that all of the above may be at risk. At a minimum, the less funds secured by Federation and our community’s UJA Campaign, the less funds available for distribution to our amazing partners, and the less likelihood of additional funds to support new programs and services.

This year, despite the personal sacrifice and generosity of many, we are likely to come up short, and this will impact allocations, bursaries, and programs.

As CEO, our campaign staff and volunteers share their jubilation with me when they are successful, and their frustrations and sadness when they are not. I have heard, to date, many nice stories about members in our community who have heeded the call, and have made generous stretch gifts to this year’s campaign. We have come to expect a level of service and opportunity that is really admirable. And it is my job – and my sincere hope – that others are choosing to give elsewhere at the very time that the community needs them the most. As I’ve written in previous messages, if you participate in Kristallnacht, in Yom Hashoah, in Yom Ha’atzmaut, PJ Library, spend time in the JCC, have a child in CJA or Akiva Academy, or plan to send your child on March of the Living, if you are pleased that the community maintains contact with police and helps with communal security, and if you have capacity to give but do not contribute to the UJA campaign, then it is important for you to know that all of the above may be at risk. At a minimum, the less funds secured by Federation and our community’s UJA Campaign, the less funds available for distribution to our amazing partners, and the less likelihood of additional funds to support new programs and services.

We recently read Parashat Lech Lecha (my favourite parasha). When Avraham responds to G-d’s commands, he says “Hineni” – I am here! He responds not that he WILL do it…but that he is in the present, NOW I AM here.

I appeal to each of you to think long and hard about how great our community is, how much you value participating in ritual and cultural programs and commemorations, how committed you are to ensuring a bold and inspiring future for all generations, and even if you have been displeased with an aspect or two of our community in the past, please think about all of the good in our community – no one gift impacts more Jewish lives.

I thank all of you who have already contributed, many at increased levels of support, and I invite all of you who still have yet to contribute to join us in saying “Hineni” – I am HERE!

Because…without community, we are not connected. Because…with collective support, we can do so much more. Because…Together, we are Stronger.

B’Shalom,

Adam Silver, CEO

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A MESSAGE FROM ADAM
Join us for the fourth of our Family Holiday Programming generously sponsored by Sam and Ida Switzer

Educator Amy Goldberg will answer some of our questions:
1. Why do we light candles every night of Chanukah?
2. Why do we eat oily foods?
3. Who were the Maccabees?

Sunday Dec. 11
10:30am • Calgary JCC

There is no charge but registration is required. Contact Kathie Wainer at kwainer@jewishcalgary.org or 403-537-8592.

Visitors from Israel

The tears were flowing at the airport when eight visiting Grade 9 students from Har Vagi School in Etzba Hagalil (Galilee Panhandle) said good-bye to their new friends from The Calgary Jewish Academy. The students and their teacher spent just over a week with the CJA Grade 9s, learning about life in Alberta and the Diaspora Jewish experience. They went to Banff, enjoyed a hockey game, heard about the history of Jews in Alberta from the Little Synagogue’s Irena Karshenbaum and local historian Harry Sanders, visited synagogues, participated in the community Kristallnacht commemoration, and much, much more. This “gesher chai” or living bridge is part of Calgary Jewish Federation’s Partnership 2Gether program, which is supported by funds raised in the UJA campaign. The other half of this ‘mifgash’ (exchange) will take place this spring when CJA students will spend five days with their Israeli friends as part of their Grade 9 Israel experience.

Also as part of the Partnership 2Gether program, a teacher from Uziel school in Kiryat Shmona spent a week visiting Akiva Academy, teaching the students about the Etzba Hagalil region and the important connection of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. The visit deepened the connection between Akiva Academy and Uziel School – and with this bridge built, the students of the two schools will enjoy a stronger relationship in the months to come.

Watch for more information about Partnership 2Gether in the next issue of Pomegranate!
Message from Our Community
Shalom friends,

Most of you probably know who I am, but let me introduce myself.

I am Jewish Calgary.

I am the tie that binds us together as one people.

I am a voice for our concerns, our needs.

I am the paper of a children’s book, delighting a family at bedtime.

I am a caring touch, reaching out to the isolated, the lonely.

I am dignity for those who want to live Jewishly, but are hesitant to ask for help.

I am a bridge across the ocean, connecting homeland and diaspora.

I am the spiritual water of the Mikvah.

I am the applause for a speaker, a performer.

I am the spirit of youth, its optimism, passion and energy.

I am but for the sake of learning that deals in every Jewish child regardless of how they learn.

I am our collective memory, respecting the past and advocating for our future.

I am a hand up to counter discouragement, and I am hand up for those on hard times.

I am the sounds, small, words, and music of our people.

I am camp songs and laughter and the warmth of friendships that only summer knows.

I am open arms, welcome.

I am good.

I am brand new.

I am different and not special.

I am average and I am exceptional.

I am all these things, but I am nothing unless you will it, because... you are also Jewish Calgary.

I am Jewish Calgary.

I am able to thrive, grow, extend a hand and care for the vulnerable because of the dollars donated to Jewish Federation’s UJA campaign. Without those funds, Jewish Calgary would not be the community we have grown to expect and love.

Calgary Jewish Federation has promised a level of support to the programs and services of Jewish Calgary - to all the great causes listed on these pages. To fulfill those promises, we must raise a minimum of $2.75million. Our success as a community is in your hands.

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We are all Jewish Calgary. We all care for our future. Now is the time to step up and be counted. Now is the time to guarantee our Jewish future.

Please give generously.

To donate or volunteer, call Diana Kalef at 403-444-3154.

Because... together we are stronger.

A Night in Vegas

Sparkles, suits, and cocktails set the tone for JAC’s “A Night in Vegas – Hit the JACpot” fundraiser for UJA on November 5th.

The large swanky crowd worked the “fun money” gambling tables, and tried their luck at 50/50 and great raffles. It was all for a good cause and it was all great fun. JAC has events of all kinds throughout the year for adults under 40, including ‘tikkun olam’ projects and casual social events. Contact Jordan Waldman for more information: jac@jewishcalgary.org, 403-444-3146.

Call to donate TODAY! 403-444-3157
Or donate online at www.jewishcalgary.org
(monthly payments available)

#GIVINGTUESDAY
Tuesday Nov. 29
90 by 90
Help our community raise 90% of our campaign goal by day 90 of 100 Days of Impact.

To give now ...

UJA Cell-a-thon

$1,965,704
1270 donors

100 DAYS OF IMPACT

The large swanky crowd worked the “fun money” gambling tables, and tried their luck at 50/50 and great raffles. It was all for a good cause and it was all great fun. JAC has events of all kinds throughout the year for adults under 40, including ‘tikkun olam’ projects and casual social events. Contact Jordan Waldman for more information: jac@jewishcalgary.org, 403-444-3146.

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