A MESSAGE FROM ADAM AND CATHY

Shalom from the Upper Galilee! We write this column while in Israel for Partnership 2Gether (P2G) meetings.

This program is possibly the best kept secret in our community and should be a source of great pride.

For the last few days, we have spent time with the most fantastic group of volunteers and professionals from across Canada and the most northern region of Israel. Our conversations, site visits, and planning sessions all focused on strengthening Israeli, Jewish, and Canadian communities and on cultivating mutual respect and responsibility in our efforts. P2G pairs six Canadian communities – Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Atlantic Canada with the five municipalities of Etzba Hagalil – the Galilee Panhandle – Kiryat Shmona, Metulla, Yesod HaMa’ala, Upper Galilee Regional Council (kibbutzim), and Mevo’ot Hermon Regional Council (moshavim).

Our P2G relationship has two goals – to build Gesher Chai (living bridges) between Israel and Canada, and to build capacity in an underprivileged region that is of huge strategic importance to Israel.

Surrounded on three sides by Lebanon and Syria, it is essential that Etzba Hagalil remains populated and strong – and we take our partnership in that task seriously. Over our three-day visit, we have visited day care centres, schools, Tel Haas College, a seniors centre, a home for adults with special needs, community centres, municipal offices, a radio station, and other institutions and initiatives which receive support, both from the partnership and, in some cases, specifically from Jewish Calgary.

We should all take pride in the fact that the Canadian communities have made a significant and powerful impact on the social and educational framework of the north. Because of our support, Etzba Hagalil is a better place to live.

Many Jewish Calgarians are aware of the Gesher Chai youth exchanges, which are such an important part of our Calgary-Israel connection. In fact we are now preparing to welcome a delegation of Israeli students who will be hosted by Calgary Jewish Academy grade nines. But few of you have experienced the other amazing Gesher Chai that we have built as a result of P2G, mainly the relationships between the Canadian volunteers and professionals and our Israeli partners – the mayors and volunteers of the region. Because of P2G, we have become family.

Our ties go beyond the business we conduct or the goals we share to a deep personal and emotional connection. We invite everyone in the community to share this feeling by visiting our region, meeting our friends here, and visiting our projects. If you are looking for a project to support in Israel, let us discuss the needs of the region with you. If you are traveling to Israel, let us plan a few very special days for you in the north, one of the most beautiful areas in the country. We can arrange visits with the leadership and the residents of the region. If Israel is your passion, consider getting involved in the P2G decision-making, hearing directly from amazing Israelis about the vast array of needs in the region, and about their gratitude for how much we support them, morally and financially.

Let’s not keep this relationship a secret any longer. In the coming months, we will share updates on some of our partnered projects, as well as our Calgary specific ones, highlighting the leveraged impact we are making in the Upper Galilee with our Canadian and Israeli partners. P2G is (very quietly) one of the many meaningful things we do as a community – let’s shout it from the rooftops!

Adam Silver, CEO
Calgary Jewish Federation

Cathy Cole
P2G Chair
**Adult Asper Program**

Have you always wanted to attend the Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies program? Well, now you can!

Calgary Jewish Federation is proud to pilot an ADULT trip to visit the NEW Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**January 29, 30 and February 1, 2016**

Join us on both a guided and self-guided tour of the CMHR, listen to speakers from the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, visit the beautiful and fascinating Hermetic Museum at the Manitoba legislature, view the charming Manitoba museum, and enjoy delicious food and friendly Winnipeg culture.

$850 per person based on double occupancy includes flight, hotel, ground transportation, two breakfasts, dinner, taxes, tips, entrance fees into all museums and programs, and administration fees. Note: Space is limited.

Contact Ilana Krygier Lapides at 403-444-3162 or ikrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org for information.

---

**Shalom Baby Play Group:**

For the Under Twos

Thursday Mornings

9:45am - Noon  |  Calgary JCC

Next Meeting Date

December 10

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

---

**PJ Library® Tot Shabbat:**

For the Under Threes

Friday Mornings

9:45 - 10:30am  |  Calgary JCC

Next Meeting Date

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

---

**Save the Date**

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Wednesday January 27, 2016

Pomegranate is produced by Calgary Jewish Federation.
Because... community is built by its constituents.
Because... together we are stronger.

There’s a common misconception that the definition of the Hebrew word Tzedaka is “charity”, but it is really more akin to “justice.” That makes sense when you consider not what Tzedaka is, but more importantly, what it does. In a just society, provision is made for those in need. Ensuring that citizens live in safety and security is a just cause. To live a Jewish life as fully as one wishes to is a human right. That being said, good will paired with selfless deeds can help bring justice to the world, but it is a challenge to support these efforts without some financial commitment.

Calgary Jewish Federation’s expertise is in assessing the broad needs of our community, then strategizing and fundraising to meet as many of those needs as possible. By supporting the united campaign of our community, our partner agencies - who are experts in their fields - can spend more of their time on what they do best, rather than fundraising. The common good can only come from broad support of our community’s services and programs.

As we near the end of Federation’s 2015 United Jewish Appeal campaign, we urge everyone to consider their role in maintaining Jewish Calgary and sustaining the Jewish People across the globe. If you’ve already made a gift, thank you. If you haven’t, we would be eager to discuss the positive impact you can make.

There’s still time to donate and receive a charitable tax receipt. Please give generously, online at www.jewishcalgary/waystogive, by phone when your canvasser calls you, or at the office through Diana Kalef (403-444-3154), Irena Karshenbaum (403-537-8594) or Aviva Kolotinsky (403-444-3157).

Larry Katz, Debbie Ryder and Yannai Segal
2015 UJA Co-Chairs

Because... giving your time is a mitzvah.

Kol Hakavod and thank you to Cell-a-Thon volunteers for giving an evening on November 18, helping to sustain our wonderful community and make the world a better place by dialing on their cell phones – there’s no app to replace that kind of commitment.

CJA Fundraising for UJA

The Calgary Jewish Academy raised over $1,200 for the UJA campaign through a floor hockey tournament, treat sale, and draws. Kol Hakavod to the students for their efforts and to the teachers for their support!
Miri David and her husband found the transition from Israel to Calgary difficult. They were grateful at the time for the help of Jewish Family Service Calgary (JFSC), which helped them find an apartment and furniture. Miri felt good about planting Jewish roots in a new country, so naturally her next concern was where to send their children to school. She wanted to send them to The Calgary Jewish Academy but knew they wouldn’t be able to afford it without subsidy. Later, after a divorce and time spent in a women’s shelter, Miri again found herself in need of community support – and she credits JFSC with easing a very difficult situation.

Despite the significant obstacles she now faced, Miri was still determined that her children would be immersed in Jewish life. The Integrated Bursary Program of Calgary Jewish Federation provided the funds needed to send Miri’s children to CJA, join BBYO, and attend Camp BB Riback.

"IBP saved us, it was always there for us", says Miri.

Your donation to Federation’s annual United Jewish Appeal campaign enables participation in Jewish life.