

Happy Chanukah

From the Board and Staff
of Calgary Jewish Federation



CALGARY
JEWISH FEDERATION

The strength of a people.
The power of community.



A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM DREW

Shalom Friends,
Although I am soon leaving this wonderful community, I am not saying goodbye. I am saying *todah rabah* – thank you for giving me the privilege and opportunity to work with the Calgary Jewish Community for a total of 14 years. It has been one of the absolute highlights of my 45 year professional career. I am very fortunate to have been able to work every day for organizations whose shared responsibility is *tikkun olam* – to heal, repair and transform the world. How lucky am I?

I also thank the community for opening your hearts and welcoming Ronnie to Calgary. I know she also considers Calgary a second home. We will miss Calgary – both the Jewish community, and all that Calgary has to offer.

Many of you know that our decision to leave Calgary is all about family. Together, Ronnie and I have amazing adult children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law, three grandsons, Ronnie's mom and our extended family. We want to spend more time with them. Except for one daughter in Kansas City, everyone else lives in New Jersey. Although we will not be full-time residents in this great city, we are leaving part of our hearts here and plan to return often to visit our many friends. Don't be surprised if you see us around town!

I am honored to have worked hand-in-hand with an outstanding group of community leaders who have stepped up to lead and work for our amazing community. Together we have strengthened our community and our people. I am also most fortunate to have phenomenal colleagues on our Federation team. I am extremely conscious of the fact that I get a lot of the credit for our many successes. While I am happy and proud of the role that I've been able to play, I know that any leader is really only as good as his or her team. Calgary has a great team of dedicated professionals, and I am proud to be working along side them.

My wish for Calgary is that we sustain our rich and long history. The Calgary Jewish Federation is the largest Jewish community fundraising organization in Alberta. The "Jewish" in our name reminds us to care about every Jewish individual in our community. It means that we are required to make Jewish education, camp, Israeli travel, and the panoply of Jewish experiences accessible for everyone. It empowers us to dream about a world where future generations are more secure than previous ones, and therefore are able to build an even stronger, more vibrant Jewish community.

We need to continue to welcome newcomers to our community and integrate them into Jewish life along with those who might need special accommodations to take advantage of all we have to offer. We need to expand our programs and leadership opportunities for young adults. They are our future. We need to continue to work with our day schools to strengthen the Jewish education of our children.

It is necessary to continue our connection with the land and the people of Israel. I am proud of the way in which we have expanded our work in Israel. We are not only sending more young people to Israel, we are building enduring relationships among members of our community and our partnership community in the Upper Galilee, and we are leveraging our philanthropic investments there to have a lasting impact on the quality of life in that region. We should be doing even more to connect members of our community with Israel and the global Jewish community, which will deepen and strengthen their personal Jewish identity and bind them to community in powerful ways.

We need to raise more funds to meet the pressing needs of today and to build a foundation of endowed funds for our future. The immense resources within our community can give life to dreams in the most impactful

and meaningful ways. We need to continue to work together, to match community priorities with donor passions, values, and ideas. **Everyone** can be a philanthropist; **anyone** can make an impact for generations to come. Imagine the power you have, even if you can only make a small donation!

There is no question in my mind that the greatest challenge we face is that of leadership. If we want to nurture our collective future, we need to invest in developing leaders who will be the passionate champions of the collective in our community. Going forward, it is important that our investment in programming aimed at empowering young adults must be at the core of our strategy.

In closing, I want to again thank the board of the Calgary Jewish Federation for their outstanding stewardship and leadership, the volunteer and professional leadership of our partner agencies, our community Rabbis for their support, and the dynamic professional staff of the Federation. Collectively, we build community – we weave the fabric within which Jewish life happens. *Todah rabah* to all of you.

Although I am sad to be moving on, I am pleased to be leaving Federation in the capable hands of Adam Silver.

Ronnie and I wish each and every one in our community a Happy Chanukah. May each candle you kindle on your chanukiah remind you that as individuals, and as a community, we can and do make miracles happen. As Anne Frank reminded us: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." *Shalom, Lchayim, and Am Yisrael Chai!*

L'hitraot,

Drew Staffenberg, CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

JEWDO
THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR IS BACK!
FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24 7PM BROKEN CITY 613 11 AVE SW
\$10 IN ADVANCE AND AT DOOR
Hillel Calgary
CONTACT JORDAN WALDMAN AT JWALDMAN@JEWISHCALGARY.ORG

SHALOM BABY
Calgary Jewish Federation
Shalom Baby Play Group:
For the Under Twos
Thursday Mornings
10:30am - Noon | Calgary JCC
2015 Meeting Dates
January 8 April 16
January 22 April 30
February 5 May 14
February 19 May 28
March 5 June 11
March 19 June 25

PJ Library®
tot Shabbat
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
2015 Meeting Dates
January 16 April 24
January 30 May 8
February 13 May 22
February 27 June 5
March 13 June 19
March 27

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

Shalom Calgary
Our wonderful Shalom Calgary and Inclusion Coordinator, Karina Szulc, is off on maternity leave – we wish her well! In her absence, Shalom Calgary inquiries should be directed to Paula Egelnick at 403-444-3152 or pegelnick@jewishcalgary.org. Inclusion inquiries, including questions about Keshet, should be directed to Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR CHANUKAH.
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

The Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program
Accepting applications until December 19, 2014.
For information, contact Ilana Krygier Lapidés at 403-444-3162 or ikrygierlapides@jewishcalgary.org

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 Judy Shapiro at 403-444-3153 or jshapiro@jewishcalgary.org.

Check out our beautiful newly redesigned website at jewishcalgary.org

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