

# HaKOL

The Voice of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton

VOLUME 5, #2

JANUARY 2018

## Israeli Wine Meets Canadian Cheese in 2017



Minister of Culture Ricardo Miranda, David Friedland, Alyssa Demers, Edmonton City Councillor Sarah Hamilton and Immediate Past President of Jewish Federation of Edmonton Ellery Lew



JFE Past President Stephanie Hendin, newly elected Jewish Federation of Edmonton Board President Steve Shafir and Judy Zelikovitz of CIJA

### Message from the President



**F**ranklin D. Roosevelt, the former U.S. President, once said of December 7, 1941

that it was a “day which will live in infamy”. On a perhaps much less infamous December 7 – the one that just passed in 2017, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton held its Annual General Meeting. Ellery Lew, the President of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton for the past three years, did not have the opportunity afforded to FDR, to run for another term as President. The Federation’s By-Laws limited Ellery from carrying on for another year as President, and his term ended at the Annual General Meeting.

Prior to introducing myself to you, I’d like to take the time to thank Ellery for his remarkable 3-year stint as the President of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. Ellery leaves big shoes to fill, and his legacy includes (and is not limited to) some amazing

feats, including the introduction of the Integrated Bursary Program, which provides oversight over how Federation funds are used for bursaries given to our beneficiaries and by ensuring that the funds given by our donors reach those who need it most. Ellery was also led a campaign that resulted in the full funding of a Judaic Studies professor at the University of Alberta for at least the next 5 years. Thank you to Ellery Lew for his exemplary service to this community. I am grateful that Ellery will be staying on our Board as the Past President. I intend to lean on Ellery and use him as a valuable resource in the coming years.

At the Annual General Meeting, the Federation Board also said good-bye to Ben Ragosin, Lisa Redmond and Stephanie Hendin. All three dedicated their time to the community and I would like to thank them for their service, both personally and on behalf of our community.

Stephanie served 3 ½ years as the President of the Federation and for an additional 3 years as the Past President. Her leadership, eagerness to volunteer and institutional knowledge will all be missed as we move forward this year without her on the Board.

As promised, I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Steve Shafir, and on December 7, I was elected by the Federation Board of Directors to be your next President. I was born and raised in Edmonton. I am a graduate of the Edmonton Talmud Torah, an institution that I hold dear to my heart, where my children now attend and where my wife spends a great deal of her time volunteering. I largely credit my enthusiasm for being involved in the Jewish community to my grandfather Norman Silverman, who was the President of the Edmonton Talmud Torah Society in the 1960s, to the B’nai Brith Youth Organization, where I served as both a Chapter Presi-

dent and Northwest Canada Regional President, as well as to my many summers as both camper and staff at Camp BB-Riback. During university, I also served as the President of the University of Alberta Hillel, and spent my third year of my undergraduate degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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## Past President's Annual General Meeting Speech



This has been another busy year for the Federation staff and volunteers. We are just wrapping up the UJA campaign which had another successful year. The campaign did very well considering the Alberta economy is still sluggish. Congratulations to the UJA co-chairs Karen Oshry and Lisa Redmond for their leadership. Lisa's two-year stint as UJA co-chair comes to an end this year. Thank you to Lisa for your hard work and dedication to Federation and to the Jewish Community. Susan Schiffman also deserves thanks for her hard work supporting the campaign. This was her first campaign for Federation but watching her work at it you couldn't tell.

Federation undertook a new and somewhat unusual initiative this year, fundraising to support the continuation of Jewish Studies at the University of Alberta. This initiative was triggered by input from two professors who taught Jewish studies courses at the University who were retiring, Dr. Frances Landy and Dr. Andrew Gow. They were disappointed that the University would be retiring their positions and did not plan to replace them. They brought this matter to the attention of community members and it ultimately came to the attention of the Federation. This was not a conventional fundraising activity but we decided it warranted Federation intervention.

As a result, we engaged in discussions with the University as to what options were realistically available to ensure the continuation of Jewish Studies. A plan was formulated and a fundraising goal was set for \$500,000. We began meeting with potential donors to request financial support for the initiative. We also adopted this program as the "over and above" campaign for UJA.

I have an exciting update for you which has not yet been publicized. I saved it as a reward to all of you for the making the effort to come out to our AGM. I am very pleased to announce that as the result of the tremendous generosity of our donors and a U of A alumnus we have met and exceeded our goal! The U of A is planning an event to publicly acknowledge our donors in the new year and we look forward to celebrating this achievement with them and providing more details to you at that time.

In addition, \$165,000 was raised through the UJA over and above campaign or from other generous donors to this initiative. The additional funds will be applied towards funding for an additional year. The initial goal was to support a full-time instructor for 5 years.

With the funds raised, we can apply them in support of a 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> year of instruction! As part of the initial plan, the instructor hired will be expected to engage in community outreach. The specific nature of the outreach will depend on the person hired and their particular interests and expertise.

The University will now begin advertising for the position with the expectation of hiring for the 2018/2019 academic year. Thank you to all those who supported this initiative both financially and with their time and energy. The fundraising campaign is not closed. We intend to continue raising funds to be used to support a 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> year and for related purposes such as an endowment to support the program beyond that.

Another initiative, the IBP program, was introduced last year and continued this year. IBP stands for Integrated Bursary Program. The philosophy of the program is to create consistency with respect to decisions made to grant bursaries using funds raised by the UJA campaign to provide financial assistance to those in need to help make community involvement more affordable. Funding decisions are made by the IBP Committee, which is composed of a representative from each of the three main Federation beneficiaries including Talmud Torah, Jewish Family Services and Camp BB as well as a community social worker. The program is designed to enhance confidentiality and ensure applicants are treated with respect. This is the second full year of implementation and it generally went quite smoothly.

JFED is part of the national Jewish Federations of Canada – UIA which supports Jewish advocacy initiatives nationally. CIJA, the advocacy arm, is well known and respected for its advocacy work. Some advocacy is also done on a local level. JFED has also continued to develop and improve our level of political engagement. We hosted the third annual MLA meet and greet this month. We continue to look for opportunities to connect with our political leaders to ensure a strong and productive relationship with our municipal, provincial and federal government. MPs and MLAs are expressing interest in being invited to attend our community events. It is becoming more common for us to welcome MPs and MLAs as honoured guests at events.

Another important JFED task is to continue the process of exploring a replacement of the JCC. We made some progress this year. We have focused and continue to focus on creating a design plan as a framework to negotiate between the parties. We are engaging Stantec to assist with this plan. The purpose

is to create a platform or framework from which to negotiate the essential details of a relationship between the two organizations to locate a JCC on Talmud Torah lands.

If Federation and Talmud Torah can come to agreement on those details, then a design will be fine-tuned for the purpose of presentation to the Boards of both organizations and, if accepted by them, to the community as a whole for approval. As a reminder, the proceeds from the sale of the old JCC are invested and untouched!

I would like to publicly thank and recognize some people who have contributed to Federation and our community this year. Thank you to all the board members for their contributions this year. Ben Ragosin is finishing his term with the Board and I'd like to thank him for his service to Federation.

Thank you as well to Federation CEO Debby Shocter and the staff, Elianna, Dani, Susan, Tal, Yaara, Sapir, and Betty for all their hard work and dedication to Federation this past year. It's a very small staff tasked with a diverse range of responsibilities but they accomplish a tremendous amount for Federation. Debby is passionate about our community and works tirelessly at her job for the Federation and for the general betterment of our entire community.

This concludes my third and final year as President of Federation. It has been an honour and privilege to serve these past 3 years. Whatever has been accomplished in those 3 years is as a result of the work done by the entire team including the volunteer executive and board members, the committed staff, and the many volunteers who ensure Federation programming and initiatives are always a great success.

Federation works through the generous donations in time, money and energy from its donors and so many members of our community. We really can accomplish so much more together. Thank you for your contributions, for your trust, for your passion and interest in the welfare of our community.

*Ellery Lew*

Past President

Jewish Federation of Edmonton



## From the CEO's Desk



Federation's role in the community is three-fold: we raise money, put on programs and work behind the scenes. We raise money through our UJA campaign in order to fund our activities in turn on three fronts: here in Edmonton, Nationally and in Israel. We create and host programs for the people in our community here, such as holiday commemorations and celebrations, youth programs and educational programs. In addition, there is all the behind-the-scenes work that goes on for things such as the Integrated Bursary Program, political lobbying, the JCC Building Committee, Marketing and Communications such as Ha Kol, the UJA brochure, and the JFED E-weekly, etc.

But it is thanks to Edmonton UJA that any of these things happen. We address the needs of the community on three fronts: Youth, Adult and Seniors needs and activities. Thanks to UJA, our children are able to attend Camp BB, go to Talmud Torah, belong to PJ Library, and participate in family holiday programming. Thanks to UJA, our teenagers are able to participate in BBYO, go on March of the Living and the Asper Trip. Thanks to UJA, our young adults are able to participate in JCORE and go on Birthright trips or to Young Leadership events. Thanks to UJA, our community is visited by interesting speakers, you are able to attend the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival and Heritage Days, and are able to commemorate important occasions like Yom Ha Shoah, Kristallnacht, Remembrance Day, Yom Ha Zikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut in appropriate fashion. It is thanks to UJA that our community supports Seniors through the SMART and Holocaust Survivor programs of Jewish Family Services, through the Jewish Seniors' Drop-in Centre and Our Parents' Home. We have our own donors to thank for all of that, and of course our excellent co-chairs, Karen Oshry and Lisa Redmond, as well as all of our hard-working canvassers, and Susan Schiffman, our Director of Development, and Elianna Lisan, our Database Manager and IBP Administrator.

In addition, Edmonton UJA is part of the larger puzzle of the Canadian Jewish Community as a whole, which make our community a vibrant, and vital piece of the Canadian Mosaic. Together as Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA Canada, we support the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), which is our national advocacy arm, always at the ready to combat anti-Semitism, BDS and to lobby governments at every level for our rights and in-

terests. Together, we support smaller communities in need both here and abroad – we support our Partnership Together Region of the Northern Galilee in Israel, we support poor and elderly Jews in the Former Soviet Union through the Joint Distribution Committee, and we support other important programs in Israel through the Jewish Agency.

As a Jewish Community, we also get involved in larger issues which affect our lives here in Canada and around the world. This year, we had to contend with one of the worst hurricane seasons in history, which saw the devastation of large parts of the Caribbean and the U.S. But our community stepped up, as did the greater Edmonton, Alberta and Canadian communities. We, through JFNA launched a campaign to raise funds for the relief efforts, and it raised almost \$18m.

In addition, we launched a very successful campaign to raise funds for U of A's Judaic Studies courses in the Religious Studies department, we hosted Consul General Galit Baram for a visit, held a Security Seminar for our own institutions as well as those who participate with us in the Chief's Advisory Council of the Edmonton Police Service, helped defeat a potential BDS motion at U of A, funded several projects in our partnership region of the Northern Galilee, distributed High Holiday Security Grants, wrote letters and held meetings on various subjects to politicians and other community leaders, held a political lobby day and Wine & Cheese with Provincial and Municipal legislators, and participated in many of our partner organizations community events. We also managed to arrange for one of our own Federation Board Members to be certified as a Notary Public by the Israeli Consulate, so that our Israeli community members no longer have to travel to Toronto, Calgary or Vancouver to deal with consular matters. We also hosted an exhibit, the Canadian Jewish Experience, together with JAHSENA, to commemorate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. And we continued with our ongoing projects such as JCC and Strategic planning.

To do all these things throughout the year, it takes three essential elements: money, staff and volunteers. I am happy to report that we have an excellent group of staff including Betty, Dani, Susan, Tal, Elianna, Yaara and Sapir, who help to carry out the wishes of our lay leadership.

Our excellent Executive, consisting of Ellery Lew, Steve Shafir, Mor Barzel, Stephanie Hendin, Stacey Leavitt-Wright, Shane Asbell, Lisa Miller and Clive Oshry, have



Jewish Federation of Edmonton CEO Debby Shoctor and Past President Ellery Lew meet with Archbishop Richard Smith

worked long and hard this year to make us successful.

I would also like to thank the Chairs of our various events and committees, without whom, none of these events would have taken place: Thank-you to Christina Reboh for chairing Heritage Days, which again won a well-deserved award this year; thank-you to Sam Koplowicz for another successful Edmonton Jewish Film Festival; Thanks to Sarah Dolgoy and David Friedland for having wonderful JCORE programs this year, to Dina Apartsin and Michal Shaposhnikov for running an exciting and viable Hillel programs, thank-you to Yom Hazikaron committee for organizing a meaningful ceremony and to Yom Ha'atzmaut committee for a wonderful celebration, to Cheryl Goldstein, for organizing a meaningful Good Deeds Day, to all those organization reps who helped Dani organize and run numerous PJ Library programs; thanks to Ivan Steiner, Rebecca Asbell and their committee for running an incredible P2G program which includes educational exchanges and support of our partnership region in the Northern Galilee; and thanks to all the community members who volunteered for Heritage Days, Good Deeds Day and our other programs this year.

And finally, thanks to all of you who actually attended our programs and gave to UJA in order to make them happen. Without you, none of this would have happened.

*Debby Shoctor*  
CEO

Jewish Federation of Edmonton

## 2017/18 UJA Campaign Report

BY SUSAN SCHIFFMAN



This year, our Community has demonstrated remarkable generosity in its support of the Edmonton UJA Campaign. Despite the challenges of a weak economy and changing demographics, we hope to reach our goal of \$1.1 million.

With the success of the Campaign, The Jewish Federation of Edmonton will once again fund important programs and services that engage, enrich, and inspire our Community. We will share our culture and heritage through the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival, Yom Ha'atzmaut, and the Israel Pavillion at Heritage Days. We will fulfill our promise to remember the Holocaust, through educational programs in Edmonton high schools and commemorative ceremonies on Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah.

To awaken young hearts to Judaism and Israel, UJA dollars will fund bursaries to Talmud Torah, Camp BB Riback, BBYO, The Asper Program, March of the Living, and Maccabi Games. To help our neediest members, we will be able to continue support of Jewish Family Service's bereavement, resettlement, and advocacy services.

In Israel, funds we have raised will support projects in our partner region in the Upper Galilee, and will help new immigrants find homes and jobs. Around the globe, we will bring food, medicine and shelter to impoverished Jewish communities in dozens of countries.

Our most successful Over-and-Above Campaign in many years will fund a new initiative this year; we have raised close to

\$30,000 to support the renewal of the Jewish Studies Department at the University of Alberta. With these funds, together with those raised by the University and through individual gifts, we are happy to announce that this program will be fully funded for the next six years!

We extend our deep gratitude to our UJA co-chairs, Lisa Redmond and Karen Oshry whose leadership, dedication and enthusiasm were so vital to the Campaign's success.

We would also like to thank our incredible team of nearly 70 canvassers who are the engine behind the Campaign, working energetically, enthusiastically and expertly to bring in gifts. We are very grateful to have several new, younger canvassers who learned the ropes quickly and did a great job.

Most importantly, we give our profound thanks to the hundreds of donors whose generosity and commitment to our Edmonton Jewish Community and to Jewish people everywhere, are unmatched. Your support of UJA allows profound advances and strategic allocations that transform Jewish lives at home, in Israel and across the globe.

With the 2017/18 Campaign drawing to a close, we begin to look towards the upcoming 2018/19 UJA Campaign. Building on the overwhelming success of last year's UJA kick-off concert featuring Paul Shapiro we hope to bring you another great event to get you revved and ready for the Campaign. We will continue to work to engage the younger generation, giving them opportunities to assume leadership roles on our Board and committees, and involving them as UJA canvassers and donors. However, if we are to continue to support and build this community at current levels and beyond, we must grow our campaign. Prices for everything keep going up, and we lose key community members and gifts every year. If we want to maintain and even improve our community services, we must grow the campaign each year in order to do so.

Please help us to keep our Jewish community vibrant, strong and safe. Get involved. Make a gift. Attend an event. Volunteer. Participation will enrich your lives while improving the lives of Jewish people in Edmonton and around the world.

To make a gift or become more involved with the United Jewish Appeal Campaign, please contact Susan Schiffman at 780-487-0585 ext. 206 or via e-mail at [susans@edjfed.org](mailto:susans@edjfed.org).

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**Thank you for your support of  
the 2017/18 Jewish Federation  
of Edmonton UJA Campaign**

Your gift to UJA shines light for so many in  
Edmonton, Israel and around the world.

If you have not made a gift yet, you can still  
make it in time for a 2017 tax receipt.

Please contact **Susan Schiffman**  
at 780-487-0585 x 206.



## Remembrance Day – November 10, 2017

BY DANI URETSKY



On Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> the community gathered at the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery to remember those Jewish Edmontonians who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Canadian freedoms. Rabbi Gila Caine of Temple Beth Ora led us in a D'var Torah in the chapel.

The service then moved outside, where it was concluded with a recitation of the El Moleh from Rabbi Friedman. Ben Comer played "Revelry" on the bugle, which was followed by various Jewish community representatives laying their wreaths at the Cenotaph in remembrance.

As always, a special thank-you goes out to Ken Wasserman and Don Charnaw for helping make sure the program runs smoothly.



Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Edmonton Jewish Cemetery

After the service, we were treated to a nice, warm lunch at the Beth Shalom Synagogue, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of

Edmonton, Beth Shalom Synagogue, the Jewish Drop-In Centre, and Beth Israel Synagogue.

## Kristallnacht 2017

BY DANI URETSKY



On Thursday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the community came together to commemorate Kristallnacht. That evening we were joined by University of Alberta Professor Dr. Joseph Patrouch. Dr. Patrouch is the Director of the Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies; he is a Professor in the Department of History and Classics. He spoke to the community about life before the Holocaust and the Pogroms of 1938 leading up to the Holocaust.

We were joined by Holocaust Survivors Henri Cynamon, Abe Goldstein, Anne Sexter, Clara Kagan, Anna Linetsky, and George Kraus, who lit candles on our new Menorah, created by local artist Slavo Cech. We are forever grateful for their participation in our service. Thank you to Gillian Horwitz as emcee, Shane Asbell, and Cantor David Mannes for leading the service.



Kristallnacht Ceremony at Beth Shalom (l-r) Dr. Joseph Patrouch, Gillian Horwitz and George Goldsand



## Security Message

BY TAL TOUBIANA



When people think about security, they think about extra police or more security guards; it is about that and so much more. It is about making an assessment of the community's needs to implement a plan that is very strategic in nature, including information sharing and crisis management.

In response to the recent wave of violence in the world, especially toward Jewish institutions, the Jewish Federation of Edmonton has recently increased its focus on security matters. We offer ongoing training sessions and threat assessments that will help you in identifying protection goals, objectives and metrics consistent with your organization's strategic plan.

Presently, there is no indication of any threat or activity that would justify a change in your organization's security protocol. However, we should always be extra vigilant and conscious about our surroundings as our most effective security tool is situational awareness.

I remain in contact with Canadian Law Enforcement and Security officials, as well as Israeli security contacts and will advise the community if developments warrant a change in our community security plans.

if you  
**SEE**  
something  
**SAY**  
something™

Report suspicious activity  
to local law enforcement  
or in case of emergency  
call **9-1-1**

Did you **SEE** something suspicious in or around the Community?  
Then **SAY** something to local law enforcement to make it right.

**The Jewish Federation**  
OF EDMONTON

Tal Toubiana, Chief of Security    Office: (780) 487-0585 ext. 204    E-mail: [talt@edjfed.org](mailto:talt@edjfed.org)

Finally, if you are made aware of information pertaining to harassment, protest, or threats towards our community (including within the social media domain) please advise me at 780-487-0585 ext. 204 or at [talt@edjfed.org](mailto:talt@edjfed.org)

All the best for 2018; let's all work together to keep our community safe, secure and prosperous.

*Tal Toubiana*  
Chief of Security  
Jewish Federation of Edmonton

## JCC Building Update

The JCC Building Committee, chaired by Clive Oshry, has been continuing to work on planning a new JCC for the Talmud Torah Site.

The work of the Federation JCC Negotiating Committee continues. A meeting was held with representatives from the Talmud Torah Board, Federation and the Edmonton Public School Board on December 5th at the Talmud Torah school to help to move forward. The meeting was very productive.

Federation has engaged Stantec, an architecture/design firm to work with both Federation and Talmud Torah to create development permit-ready drawings. The purpose of the drawings is to help fine tune what is possible on the potential Talmud Torah school site, what synergies and limitations exist, and an estimate of construction costs. These

drawings will serve as a guide to focus the discussion and negotiations moving forward. Once these drawings are prepared, both the Federation JCC Building Committee and Talmud Torah will have a common frame of reference to work with in order to move forward with negotiations.

The meeting with the various groups helped to determine what all parties want from the new structure, and where it and the parking will sit on the site, which will help establish structure and add momentum to the negotiating process.

Over the summer, research was done into zoning and bylaw issues and the Joint-use Agreement currently in place governing the land around Talmud Torah, which is subject to an agreement involving the City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Public School Board, the

Catholic School Board and Talmud Torah Society. Meetings between the Talmud Torah Society and EPSB were held over the summer to discuss this, as well as other issues.

Currently, there is a negotiating committee set up consisting of members of the TT Society and Federation, as well as representatives from EPSB. They plan to meet over the next few months with Stantec in order to come to an agreement regarding resolution of the issues concerning what the building will look like, where it will be situated on the site, what will be inside the building, how much it will cost, and what the resulting implications will be of the zoning, bylaws and Joint-Use agreement.

This is a long process, and we appreciate, and thank you for your patience as we deal with the complexities of building a community building.

## What's New in P2G?

BY DR. IVAN STEINER – CHAIR, P2G

In October, we had the privilege to host eight high school students and two teachers from our partnership region in the Upper Galilee. The students were in grade nine at Emek Hahula regional high school. One of the accompanying teachers came from Emek Hahula, the other one from our other twinned school, the Lev Haemek elementary school.

Our guests arrived late, on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and were quickly picked up by the host families.

Next day was Thanksgiving, so school was out. We all went to the West Edmonton Mall Water Park, thanks to Triple Five. This was the ice breaker and the guests and local students had a lot of fun. After the Park, they gallivanted through the mall. A good time was had by all.

The next two days were school days and the Israelis participated with their local counterparts in class work. Also, they put on a show at the school assembly. In the evening, they went Sukkah hopping.

Thursday was Shemini Atzeret and the Israeli students went to Temple Beth Israel for services. The next day, on Simchat Torah, they were invited to Temple Beth Ora and had a fun time dancing around with the Torah. On Shabbat, they participated in services at Beth Shalom synagogue and even had the opportunity to be witnesses to a Bar Mitzvah. These visits to the three synagogues gave the Israelis an opportunity to witness the diversity of spiritual life in a Jewish community from the Diaspora.

Sunday was spent quietly with host families. Monday and Tuesday, the Israelis participated in school work. They went from classroom to classroom, sharing with the younger Canadian students vignettes of their life in the Upper Galilee.

On Wednesday, they and the Talmud Torah grade nine students participated in a field trip: "Visiting Jewish Edmonton". This interesting trip included a visit to The Jewish Federation of Edmonton. Here they had the opportunity to hear from CEO Debby Shoctor.

Debby described the role and workings of the Federation. JAHSENA archivist Colleen Paull described Jewish life in the early twentieth century, and they watched the JAHSENA film, "From Pedlars to Patriarchs". This gave the participants a glimpse into the history of Jews in Edmonton. The field trip ended with a delicious lunch at my home.

Then, it was time to pack and the next morning, very early, our guests were taken to the airport, for the flight home. Hugs and tears and thank-yous were said. The Israelis commented on how much they learned about Jewish life in the Diaspora and how challenging it must be to maintain one's Jewish identity here. Friendships were developed and all the students are looking forward to spring-time, when the Edmontonians will return the visit.

Overall the visit was deemed to be a major success by the Israelis and Talmud Torah partners.

## UPDATE FROM J.CORE

BY DAVID FRIEDLAND – CHAIR, J.CORE

Happy New Year from all of us at J.CORE! We are so happy that 2017 is done and are excited to update you on our progress as an organization.

First and foremost, we want to give a big thank you to all the volunteers that have helped us in the last few months with numerous projects and events. We couldn't have done it without you!

J.CORE Connects series is a traditional networking with a Jewish flavour! These events are meant to stimulate your mind while meeting new friends and seeing some cool venues! These events are more after-work type casual events. Our most recent gatherings were held at Central Social Hall and Padmanadi. We were so happy to meet friends from the community along with friends who are new to the city or to our community. J.CORE Beyahad Series brings social events with added value. These events inspire our community to take the next steps in our goal of being with family and friends! As part of this series we had two engaging discussions on the legalization of cannabis, and the architecture style of Bauhaus and the White City of Tel Aviv. We also had a wonderful Havdalah party hosted by Faren Hochman and Ari Sniderman, monthly Israeli sing-along events, as well as a Hanukkah-themed Israeli sing along in December, which was fantastic fun

for all! Our Tikun Time is about reaffirming the commitment of giving back to our community. As part of this series, we will be out and about in Edmonton, taking a few hours to give back to our community and our wonderful city. For Tikun Time, we have had a volunteer event at the Boyle Street Community Centre and a Cell-A-Thon event to help raise funds for UJA. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy New Year with the J.CORE Hevre category, which is simply social outings and creating new friendships (what more can one ask for?!). Some of our upcoming events are: **January 10** J.CORE is hosting an Israeli stand-up comedy show that is touring Canada. **January 24** Lookout! We are going bowling! **February 6** we are hosting a paint night. **March 2-4** we are planning a Ski Trip to Kimberley B.C. where we will have a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah in the mountains! Last but not least J.CORE Hevre is partnering with Festival Hatzafon and presenting a Rapid Fire theater show on **March 17**. Also mark your calendars on



J.CORE Beyahad - Discussion about the pathway toward cannabis legalization in Canada

**March 11** for an exciting Tikun time event at Evolution Wonderlounge with Drag Queen show and a silent auction as a fundraiser for UJA. This event is open to the entire community (the event link is coming soon).

Stay tuned for more information on all those wonderful events.

With our organization growing again and refocusing, we are looking to bring on some new members to the board. Some roles include social media planning, outreach, and database maintenance roles in addition to general board positions. If you might be interested, please feel free to send us an email at [jcore@edjfed.org](mailto:jcore@edjfed.org).

Thank you all and happy New Year!

## PJ Library 2017

BY DANI URETSKY



On Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, the last night of Chanukah, the community came together at the Westridge Wolf Willow Community League to celebrate. It was a chilly night, but we were warm with our Glow-in-the-Dark party. We ate pizza from Café Levi, danced, sang, listened to a PJ Library story, and enjoyed some sufganiyot from Bliss Baked Goods. A special thank-you to Yaara Shabtai for her continued help and support of PJ Library. Save the date for February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for our Pre-Purim Party!

We would like to welcome our newest subscribers to PJ Library. Should you wish to

subscribe to our Edmonton community PJ program and your child is between the ages of 6 months to 8 years old, please go to <https://pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community?id=209201> to enroll.

If you are one of our PJ Partners and would like to plan a holiday-themed program, please do not hesitate to contact me. We love bringing the community together by having programs with partner organizations.

Sign up your child for a **FREE** monthly, Jewish-themed book or CD. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 780-487-0585 ext. 205. This is an opportunity for engagement not to be missed!



PJ Library glow-in-the-dark Hanukkah Party

## President's Message

Continued from Page 1

I have been active in our community. I served as co-Chair of the Board of Directors of Camp BB-Riback as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Talmud Torah Society. I also have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs for the past 3 years.

I have spent the past 12 years on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, and have served as the Vice President to both Ellery and Stephanie, as well as the Treasurer. Many of my roles over the past couple of years have included Community Relations and Governance, including a revising of the Federation's By-Laws and a complete reorganization of the Jewish organizations in our community.

During my "day job", I am a lawyer at Witten LLP, where I articulated and am now a partner. I thank my firm for their support in my taking on the role of President, as they are aware that it will take a considerable amount of my time.

Along with me, the Federation Board of Directors is filled with passionate volunteers including Clive Oshry, our Vice-President, Facilities & Infrastructure, who has dedicated a ton of time toward getting a new JCC off the ground; Stacey Leavitt-Wright, our Vice-President, Programming, who continues to tirelessly make sure that all of the Federations programs run smoothly; Shane Asbell, our Vice-President, Holocaust Education, who ensures that Holocaust education is a priority both inside our community and in the community at large; David Eisenstat, our Vice-



Jewish Federation Leadership meets with UCP Leader Jason Kenney

President, Strategic Planning, who is in the midst of working on a strategic plan for the Federation; Mor Barzel, our Secretary, who devotes time to numerous endeavours to make sure that the Federation runs smoothly; Lisa Miller, our Treasurer, who is in constant contact with our bookkeeper and makes sure that we are on budget; and Karen Oshry, our UJA campaign co-Chair (her new co-Chair will be announced soon!). The Board is made up of additional individuals who have also spent time away from friends and family for the benefit of the Jewish community. It is a sometime thankless and tiring job, and I want to thank each member of our board and each member of the committees that work to make Jewish life vibrant in Edmonton.

Along with our volunteers, we have an amazing staff who make the Jewish Federation of Edmonton function. Without our staff, most of what we offer would be impossible.

Thinking about the team around me, I am enthusiastic and I look forward to serving as the President of the Federation over the coming year(s). My initial priority is to work to fulfill the Community's vision for a Jewish Community Centre on the Edmonton Talmud Torah site, and I am hopeful that in the coming months we will have more exciting news on this front for all of you.

I invite you to reach out to me to let me know what you would like to see from the Federation. I can be reached via e-mail at [steves@edjfed.org](mailto:steves@edjfed.org).

I hope to see you all out at our amazing programs!

*Steve Shafir*

President

Jewish Federation of Edmonton

## Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation

BY STEPHANIE HENDIN – CHAIR, EJCCF

As the new chair of the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation (EJCCF), I would like to thank the outgoing chair, Michael Paull, for his commitment and diligence in successfully managing and marketing the Foundation to the community. The most recent financial statements show a balance of over \$ 1 million dollars – for the first time. We thank Michael for attracting new donors and raising the profile of the EJCCF.

The EJCCF helps people support Jewish causes that are important to them. The Foundation provides resources to make the community's vision a reality, working in partnership with donors and striving to ensure the long-term financial security of the Jewish Community.

New and continued support for the EJCCF can make a difference today and help to shape the future. Your gift can be made with:

- An outright gift of cash or appreciated assets like stocks, bonds or life insurance policies.

- A bequest in your will. This is the easiest way to make a gift. You simply state in your will a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to be used for an endowment.
- A gift of a new or existing life insurance policy. By naming the Foundation owner and beneficiary, you may be able to deduct the premiums from your taxes.
- Pension Plans are subject to significant tax liability, making them ideal instruments to use, in whole or in part, to create a fund naming the Foundation as the beneficiary.

For the plan best suited to your personal situation and charitable objectives, we recommend that you consult with your legal and financial counsel and with the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation. For further information contact via email at [Stephanie.Hendin@gmail.com](mailto:Stephanie.Hendin@gmail.com) to discuss.



A planned gift to the Jewish community ensures the perpetuation of your family name - no matter where or when in the future, you can be there to help.

As it says in the Talmud, "As my father planted before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me."



J.CORE Israeli sing-along Hanukkah party (l-r) Asaf Sagi, Meirav Or, Yossi Ovics (standing), Omer Shabtai and Ben Ragosin

## Save the Date: Edmonton Jewish Film Festival

BY SUSAN SCHIFFMAN



Even though it is only January, it is never too soon to start thinking about spring, and the opening of the annual Edmonton Jewish Film Festival (EJFF). We are already gearing up to hit the screens at Edmonton's Landmark City Centre Cinemas, from May 6th through 9th and May 13th through 16th. The Festival will offer a diverse selection of great Jewish films from around the world. Carrying on an initiative introduced last year, we will also show short films to accompany several of the feature presentations.

EJFF Chair Sam Koplowicz and members of the EJFF Committee are reviewing dozens of films, before choosing the 10 favorite features for the Festival. The final line up will be announced in late February.

Once again this year, the EJFF will be accepting applications for the Earl Parker Award for Jewish Film. The award was established in 2016 in honour of Earl Parker, z"l, an active member of Edmonton's Jewish community. Eligible film projects must be related to themes of Jewish identity or culture, and may be fictional or non-fictional. Applicants must be engaged in a film or video project at any stage of production. Alternatively, the award may be applied to the costs of film courses or workshops. Look for more information on our Website in the coming weeks.

The EJFF relies on the generous support of our sponsors and advertisers. Without them, the screens would be dark! In exchange for their generous support, the EJFF provides perks such as: an invitation-only reception for sponsors on opening night, all-access festival passes, and charitable tax receipts for a portion of sponsorship value.

All proceeds from EJFF go to Partnership2Gether (P2G), our community partnership program with the people of the Northern Galilee Panhandle.

We urge you to support the EJFF through a sponsorship or an advertisement.

For more information, please contact Susan Schiffman [susans@edjfed.org](mailto:susans@edjfed.org).

See you at the movies...





### Maccabi International Youth Games Israel, 2018








**Sports**

- Basketball M/F
- Ice Hockey M/F
- Soccer M/F
- Volleyball M/F

**Ages**  
14 - 16 (2002 - 2004)

**Dates**  
July 22 - Aug 1, 2018

**Location**  
Israel

**More Info**  
[maccabicanada.com](http://maccabicanada.com)  
416-398-0515







**Maccabi Canada**

Join 1,500 athletes from around the world for 10 days of an unforgettable Israel Experience including sports clinics, Tikkun Olam, exciting festivities and a lifetime of memories!

**Maccabi Canada Strengthening Jewish Identity through Sports**



Jewish Federation of Edmonton was a part of the Multicultural Roundtable with MP Amarjeet Sohi

## Jewish Free Loan Association of Edmonton (JFLA): Offering a Helping hand with Interest-Free Loans

For close to a century, the Jewish Free Loan Association of Edmonton has provided financial assistance in the form of personal loans to individuals and families in our community; most recently for education, healthcare, life-cycle events, emergency shelter and food, or for people having difficulty making ends meet. In doing so, the JFLA offers temporary financial relief and a hand up during difficult times.

Historically “Gmachs”, commonly referred to today as Jewish Free Loan Associations, were established in Jewish communities at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the first large wave of Jewish immigration from Eastern Europe. They provided interest-free loans (or capital) essential for establishing a business. Currently, Jewish Free Loan Associations provide interest-free loans for a wide range of financial needs and are an integral part of Jewish communities; including our Edmonton Jewish community.

Based on the Jewish tradition of charitable lending, coupled with foresight and generosity, the JFLA was officially incorporated on August 15, 1927 as the “The Edmonton Hebrew Mutual Loan Association”. By recognizing the value of helping individuals in our Jewish community become financially self-sufficient, a powerful model of self-help in the form of interest-free loans was established. The importance of this form of charity is codified in the Mishneh Torah. According to Rambam, there are eight levels of charity, each one higher than the preceding one. The highest form is to help sustain a person before they become impoverished; which includes offering a substantial gift in a dignified manner, or by extending a reasonable loan to ensure the recipient need not ask others for sustenance [MT, Sefer Zeraim, Matanot Leevyonim, 10:7].

Jewish Free Loan Edmonton grants **interest-free loans** to members of the Edmonton Jewish Community who are in need of temporary financial assistance.

### How we can help you

**Personal Loans up to \$5000 including:**

- Education
- Healthcare
- Life-Cycle Events
- Or if you are simply having difficulty making ends meet.

### Emergency loans up to \$1000

For immediate needs such as food, clothing or shelter.

### Questions?

Call **780-487-0585** or

Email [jewishfreeloan@edjfed.org](mailto:jewishfreeloan@edjfed.org)

Confidentiality is assured.

Loan recipients maintain dignity and self-sufficiency while repaying loans.

### How to apply for a loan

- 1 Go to [jewishedmonton.org](http://jewishedmonton.org)
- 2 Select *Our Community* from the menu
- 3 Select *Partners and Beneficiaries*
- 4 Select *Jewish Free Loan Association of Edmonton*
- 5 Complete the application form, and send to: JFLA % Jewish Federation of Edmonton or email [jewishfreeloan@edjfed.org](mailto:jewishfreeloan@edjfed.org).

Jewish Federation of Edmonton  
#200, 10220 156 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5P 2R1



JFLA, while part of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, operates independently to maintain confidentiality, and recipients remain self-supporting while repaying interest-free loans. We are an accredited member of the International Association of Jewish Free Loans, a network of almost 50 worldwide interest-free lending agencies, as well as part of

a cross-Canada network of Jewish Free Loan Associations.

If you or anyone you know is facing financial challenges, please visit [goo.gl/YoxaTf](http://goo.gl/YoxaTf) or Jewish Federation of Edmonton's website. For further information or questions please call the Jewish Federation of Edmonton or email the JFLA at [jewishfreeloan@edjfed.org](mailto:jewishfreeloan@edjfed.org)

## Birthright-Taglit

BY TAL TOUBIANA



Did you hear the great news!? We are launching a Taglit-Birthright Israel trip for 27-32 year-olds this summer! This young adult trip will have all the classic Birthright elements you've been hearing about, with a tailor-made itinerary just for this age group.

Trip Dates: June 27-July 5, 2018. Spots are limited, so make sure to sign up TODAY! Early Bird registration opens Jan. 29, but ONLY to those who sign up ASAP! Spread the word and tell your friends who missed their chance to go on a FREE trip to Israel! <http://www.israelforfree.com/>

For more information please contact me at (780) 487-0585 ext. 204 or [talt@edjfed.org](mailto:talt@edjfed.org)

NEW TRIP OFFERING

# YOUNG ADULTS AGES 27-32

## CANADA ISRAEL EXPERIENCE






**JUNE 27 - JULY 5, 2018**



**AGES 27 - 32**

### Upcoming Events:

Feb. 14 - Jewish Federation of Edmonton Board Meeting - Federation Offices

Feb. 20 - Yad Vashem Righteous Gentile Award - TBA

March 12 - Jewish Federation of Edmonton Board Meeting - Federation Offices

March 20-21 - Holocaust Education Symposium - Provincial Museum Auditorium

April 9 - Jewish Federation of Edmonton Board Meeting - Federation Offices

April 12 - Yom Hashoah - Provincial Legislature

April 15 - Good Deeds Day

April 18 - Yom Hazikaron - Temple Beth Ora

April 19 - Yom Ha'atzmaut - Fort Edmonton Park

May 2 - Jewish Federation of Edmonton Board Meeting - Federation Offices

May 6-9, 13-16 - Edmonton Jewish Film Festival - Landmark Cinemas City Centre