

# 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](http://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](http://jewishcalgary.org)**  
All programs on this page are funded in part by United Jewish Appeal.

Visit [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) to see our campaign  video  
United Jewish Appeal

## Your Volunteers' Words to Live By



*"It is not what one says but rather what one does that makes a difference in the world." Pirke Avot 1:17*

**Beth Price** lives by these words of our sages. A vice-president of Calgary Jewish Federation responsible for inclusion programs, Beth believes that it is our responsibility, through volunteerism and philanthropy, to ensure that every individual and family is integrated into our Jewish community. She is particularly proud of the Integrated Bursary Program she founded and chairs. IBP guarantees that finances will never be a barrier to leading a full Jewish life – and that those in need are treated with compassion, dignity and respect.

*"Doing for and giving to others not only improves the world, but allows each of us to find meaning and purpose in our lives."*

We need to raise  
**\$3.5 million**  
to meet community needs.  
Please consider increasing  
your commitment by  
at least **12%**,  
which represents the  
difference between  
community needs and  
funds raised last year.

RAISED  
TO DATE:

**\$2.512  
million**

# Thank You!

## United Jewish Appeal Cell-a-Thon

As UJA 2014 draws to a close, a dozen volunteers grabbed their cellphones on Monday December 1, for a night of dialing for dollars. Many cards were closed that night, bringing in much needed dollars to support community programs and services.

Throughout the campaign, volunteer canvassers have spent countless hours on the phone or in personal meetings, trying to reach out to every member of our community. Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard to make Jewish Calgary a wonderful place to live.



## Calgary Jewish Federation

# UJA 2014

## United Jewish Appeal

### Words to Live By

#### Integrated Bursary Program

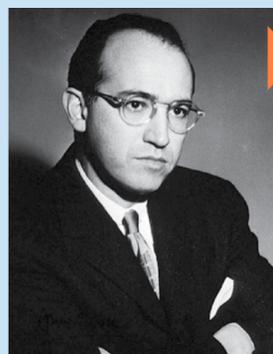


**"If you will it, it is no dream."**

For many in our community, Jewish education, camp and other Jewish experiences would only be a dream if not for the UJA-funded *Integrated Bursary Program*. IBP honours Judaism's highest ideals of tzedakah, which command us to "level the playing field" of those in need while protecting the dignity and anonymity of the recipient. With your UJA gift, we are able to fulfill our dream that no child will be deprived of Jewish educational, social and cultural experiences because of financial barriers.

*Theodor Herzl (1860-1904), Born in Hungary, Herzl grew up as an assimilated Jew. In 1896, Herzl wrote "Der Judenstaat" ("The Jewish State") envisioning the founding of a modern Jewish homeland. Herzl formed the World Zionist Organization and he is considered the founder of the State of Israel.*

#### United Jewish Appeal



**"Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors."**

Just as generations before us gave their hard-earned money to build a Jewish community, we have a responsibility to do the same today. Since 1889, when Jacob and Rachel Diamond became the first Jewish family to settle permanently in Calgary, people have understood that the only way to have an organized Jewish community is through an unwavering commitment to not only our own families but to building a Jewish communal infrastructure. Only you can ensure that Jewish life continues to survive and thrive.

Dor l'Dor – Generation to generation, we fulfill our responsibility to our ancestors by building for our descendants.

*Jonas Salk (1914-1995) was an American medical researcher and virologist who developed the first successful polio vaccine, at a time when polio was considered the most frightening threat to health. Salk refused to have the vaccine patented making it available to millions of people.*



In what has become an annual tradition, UJA supporters got together for a night of cards, schmoozing and boozing at the **Men's Poker Night** held on November 13. After an evening of friendly competition, Mike Berlin and Michael Men shared the top prizes and bragging rights as UJA 2014's Poker Mavens.

Drinks, food and a candy bar! What a better way to show support for our community and have a fun night out with the guys!



1. Michael, Benny and Will Katz; 2. Jordan Balaban and Michael Men; 3. Rich Nagan, Jeremy Yanofsky and David Hardin; 4. Joel Zimmerman and Nelson Halpern

Jewish Day School Education • Community Chaplain • Mikvah • Jews in Need Around the World • Integrated Bursary Program • Holocaust and Human Rights Education • Community Relations • Community Living Room • Engagement • Leadership Development • Emergency Response • Seniors Programs • March of the Living • Campus Programs • Social Services in Israel • Arts and Culture • Keshet • Teen Programs • Shalom Bayit • Taglit-Birthright Israel • Supporting the Vulnerable • PJ Library® • Jewish Summer Camp • Calgary YLD • Counselling • Gifted and Special Needs Programs • Emergency Financial Relief • Partnership 2gether • Inclusion • Hillel • Asper Human Rights and Holocaust Studies • Kashrut • Welcoming Newcomers

What does UJA fund?

**DONATE NOW**

## EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS...

Join us in the great enterprise that is the Calgary Jewish Community!

To maintain the level of service this community deserves, we need every person to make a gift to UJA – large or small.

If you have given your gift to UJA, **THANK YOU! TODAH RABAH!**

If not, please make your pledge today:

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

Pay your pledge before December 31 to receive a 2014 tax receipt.

Live Generously  
Donate Now

Support your  
community by  
giving generously  
to the 2014 UJA  
campaign.



Calgary Jewish Federation and UJA Partner Agencies

