

Want to know what's going on in Jewish Calgary? Check out the Community Calendar at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)

Have an event? Click on "Suggest an Event" to add it to the calendar

# Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



## A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER

As I write this message, we are approaching one of my favourite *chagim* (holidays) – *Sukkot*. For me, *Sukkot* is about the fall, the change of the seasons, the smells of the *etrog* and the act of shaking the *lulav* and, of course, the yearly reprisal of the ever-temporary *sukkah*. This year, despite the anticipated comfort of each year's permanent impermanence, things will be different for many of us.

Two central themes of *Sukkot* are the temporary but protective nature of the *sukkah* structure, and the combining of the four species into the *lulav* and *etrog*, an example where independent items come together to make something more special than apart. In a number of ways, these themes continue to play out in our community, especially during these very challenging last several months. Please indulge me while I connect both to the challenges and opportunities we continue to face.

The *sukkah* is a temporary (but sturdy) structure in which we eat our meals during *Sukkot*, with some families even sleeping in it overnight. The structure is built and torn down each year, yet the memories of our experiences with family and friends last and build on one another to create

a collective memory of *Sukkot*. We remember the years it was warm or, more likely, the years it was snowing – and we recall the huddling up we did over a warm bowl of soup in the *sukkah*. Perhaps we save the decorations our children made when they were three years old, and love the fact the very same decorations continue to be displayed when they are 18. We might share stories about the time our *sukkah* blew down in a chinook, and share details about how we reinforced it the following year, but still kept it *kosher*. A collective memory built over years of experiences, all creating a cumulative picture of what this time of year, what this holiday means to us. In our Jewish community, many of us have had seasonal or other episodic but formative experiences which have combined to make us who we are, and have shaped our dedication to Jewish Calgary. Like the *sukkah*, the experiences have likely been different each year but, even in their differences, there have been things to look forward to in regularity.

Following the other theme I'd like to explore, the four species: the date palm (*lulav*), myrtle bough (*hadass*), willow branch (*aravah*), and citron (*etrog*) combine to make one of Judaism's most recognizable symbols. Each, on its own, is

certainly valuable and interesting, but when bound together, the four items create something iconic. So, too, is Jewish Calgary built through combining families and individuals from different backgrounds, with varied religious and cultural observances, resulting in our amazing and resilient community. The *lulav* and *etrog* are not complete if even one of the species is missing, and Jewish Calgary is only complete through its breadth of inclusion.

At this time of the year, as we are in the thick of our community's UJA campaign to support important social and identity-building services and programs, we proudly proclaim "Together WE CAN..." and work each and every day to live by those words as a community. Together WE CAN support one another. Together WE CAN get through these challenging days. Together WE CAN be more. Together WE CAN accomplish anything!

Chag Sameach,

Adam Silver, CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

Building an inclusive community is a priority. Contact us and we will make every effort to meet your needs.

# COME TOGETHER

GA 2020 VIRTUAL

Oct 25-27

GENERALASSEMBLY.ORG



On October 25-27, we invite you to participate in JFNA's **Virtual General Assembly 2020**, an event like the Jewish world has never experienced. This gathering is a pivotal moment for each and every member of our community to connect, reflect, and celebrate being together. Check out the trailer at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) and join us for the gathering of the decade! #GA2020

## TODAH RABAH

At our September Board of Directors meeting, we acknowledged **Yannai Segal** as he moved to the position of past-president. We are so thankful for his tireless work over the last three years. Yannai has given generously of his talent and time for the betterment of our community. He has stewarded us through some challenging times, not the least of which was the onset of the current pandemic. You will have likely seen Yannai at many community events over the years, and certainly have read some of his insightful messages. We thank the entire Segal family for enabling Yannai to give so much of himself, and we are certain he will continue to contribute in meaningful ways to Jewish Calgary. We will find an appropriate time and way to recognize Yannai at a future event. In the meantime, we all say *Todah Rabah* and *Yasher Koach*!



## STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

Calgary Jewish Federation is pleased to welcome **Lori Wolf** to our staff team. A native Calgarian, Lori has work experience in both her family's retail business and the not-for-profit sector with JFSC. She volunteers for Na'amat Canada Calgary as their treasurer, and has extensive experience in book keeping and donor relations. Lori is excited about her new role as our database administrator.



PJ LIBRARY® AND THE JCC GOLDEN AGE PROGRAM INVITE YOU TO BAKE



## Challah at Home!

Everything you need to bake Nessie's challah is in your **FREE Challah at Home Kit!**



Register at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) for: Pick-up on **Wednesday, November 4** and Zoom with Nessie on **Thursday, November 5 at 5:30PM**

Pick-up and Zoom details will be provided at registration.

Contact Nessie 403-537-8599 or Kathie 403-537-8592 with any questions.

**Challah at Home Kits** are generously sponsored by **Len and Faigel Shapiro**.

Donations to the JCC Golden Age Challah Baking Program gratefully accepted.



# Kristallnacht

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9 • 7PM • VIRTUAL

Join Calgary Jewish Federation and the Beth Tzedec Calgary Jewish Film Festival in commemorating the **82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Kristallnacht, The Night of Broken Glass.**

**FREE** Featured film: **THE ESSENTIAL LINK: THE STORY OF WILFRID ISRAEL.** A commemoration video will precede the movie and a Zoom meet and greet with director, Yonatan Nir, will follow the film.

This intriguing documentary brings to light the little-known story of Wilfrid Israel, a remarkable individual who has been largely forgotten by history despite his having been instrumental in saving the lives of thousands of Jews in Nazi Germany. Playing a key role, Israel initiated and organized the Kindertransport rescue operation that transported thousands of Jewish children to safety in Britain.



All activities on this page are made possible by your gifts to Federation's annual UJA Campaign.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON