

## community calendar

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

The last few months have tested our community, along with others around the globe, in ways we never could have expected. The elapsed time has also seen us come together like never before, supporting one another and working toward a Jewish Calgary for tomorrow built on how we address the challenges of today. While the work is tiring and never ending, I am so incredibly proud of the volunteer and professional leaders with whom I continue to have the privilege to partner with.

It so happens that I am writing this message as Shabbat *Lech Lecha* approaches. Besides being my Bar Mitzvah Torah portion thirty-six years ago, it is an incredibly important story of direction, faith, and blessings. We learn of Avram, soon to become Avraham, who was told by G-d to "Go Forth," to have faith, and as reward he and his ancestors will be made a great nation. Avraham is also told he will be a blessing and his ancestors will be blessings to the world. I would like to focus on those three themes: *Lech Lecha* ("Go Forth"), faith, and being a blessing.

Avraham was given an opportunity that was presented as a commandment – "Go Forth," an instruction to move out of his comfort zone and to embark on a new

journey. He was promised great success and a lasting ancestral legacy. Avraham is told to leave his home and travel to "a place he does not know." He had to find the motivation and confidence to refrain from dwelling on the loss he might feel and the fear he might experience, instead focusing on the possibilities in front of him and the future he will be able to build.

To do so, Avraham needed to have a strong dose of faith. Likely, this meant religious faith, but an expanded definition would include spiritual drive and mental fitness. To heed the initial calling is one thing, but to persevere and follow through is quite another. Leaving on a new path for the unknown instead of staying in the comfortable familiarity of one's current situation is scary at best and terrifying at worst. Avraham ventured out on a bold new path without any certainty of success other than his will to make the trip and his faith in his ability to navigate the journey.

His reward, in part, is that he and his ancestors would be blessings. Not that they would receive blessings, but that they would be them. That is, blessings aren't simply received. We experience blessings so we can pay them forward, so we can share them. We find positive energy and reward in blessings, but they are only worth

something if others can also experience them with us.

The themes of *Lech Lecha* connect very well to our current reality of living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our community and our families have had to be bold and "Go Forth," we've had to have faith and dedication to stewarding through some very challenging days. At the same time, we have been fortunate to experience some blessings – increased time with family and friends, a slowing of our daily pace, and the above-and-beyond efforts of many amazing people. A kind look, a text or call to see how we are doing, a package of food dropped on our front porch – these days have drawn out the very best in many people in our community.

Throughout all of this, we are only better if we work together. **Together, WE CAN** get through this. **Together, WE CAN** be caring. **Together, WE CAN** ensure tomorrow is even better than today!

B'Shalom,

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.



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# CHANUKAH at HOME

We have everything you need for a meaningful  
**CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AT HOME**

Bag Pick-up at JCC.\*

**Sunday, December 6 at 9:30AM - Noon**

Holiday Zoom with Temple B'nai Tikvah's Rabbi Glickman:

**Sunday, December 13 at 10:00AM**

Register online at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org) for a  
**FREE Chanukah at Home – It's in the Bag!**

Limited quantity of bags available for children under 10.  
Pick-up and Zoom details provided at registration.



For more info contact Kathie Wainer:  
[kwainer@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:kwainer@jewishcalgary.org) or 403-537-8592

\*If you cannot pick-up your bag,  
we can make alternate arrangements.



We are celebrating  
**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Sunday, December 6 | 3PM**

# EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Virtual concert and  
conversation with  
**Joanie Calem**

Register at [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)  
Limited spots available

**INCLUSION**  
POWERED BY CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION



For info contact **Karina Szulc**  
at 403-473-8073 or  
[karinas@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:karinas@jewishcalgary.org)



# Tribute Cards



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MEMORIALS, TO  
BIRTHDAYS, WEDDINGS...  
AND EVERYTHING IN  
BETWEEN! CALGARY  
JEWISH FEDERATION  
HAS SOMETHING  
FOR EVERYONE.

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