



Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM DIANA KALEF

What a crazy year!?! When this issue of Alberta Jewish News lands in homes, it will be one year since Alberta went into lockdown and our lives changed. I know that one of the most difficult aspects, in the beginning, was the unknown – how long would the lockdown last? How will we get through Pesach without our families? Little did anyone realize that a year later, we would be looking to celebrate another Pesach via Zoom! I was amazed at how Jewish Calgary immediately set to work to ensure that our students at Halpern Akiva Academy and The Calgary Jewish Academy were able to continue learning; the Paperny Family JCC kept its members virtually active, and JFSC continued to provide support to their clients.

Federation pivoted to offer online programming for PJ Library® families, Keshet members, and our Holocaust Education department delivered virtual commemorations and offered the Annual Holocaust Symposium via pre-recorded videos and Zoom. None of these organizations can do what they do without the support of loyal donors and funds raised through the annual UJA Campaign. Going into my 16th UJA Campaign during COVID was a little nerve wracking to say the least.

You may think that COVID is Jewish Calgary's biggest challenge, but in fact, the changing face of Jewish philanthropy is an obstacle that we are going to continually navigate now, and into the future. Historically, an expectation to give to the communal *kuppah* was without question. As far back as Exodus, the annual Half-Shekel Campaign provided for the community's needs. It was an obligation and a *mitzvah* where the rich were not to give more than a half *shekel* and the poor were not to give less. Everyone had an equal responsibility for the community's needs.

Today, there are many important causes, Jewish and secular, all competing for our *tzedakah*. We need to ensure that Jewish Calgary remains relevant so that our community can continue to thrive. Thankfully, there are donors who consistently maintain their annual giving knowing that they are supporting something important and necessary.

So, did I need to be worried about the 2020 campaign? Not at all! Jewish Calgary stepped up and made it happen by not only renewing annual gifts but for those who could, increased donations were made enabling Federation to provide extra COVID resilience support to our agencies

through the Jewish Together Fund.

Federation was also a partner in the Shaw Birdies for Kids program in support of IBP, and we received matching dollars from Jewish Federations of North America as part of the Human Services Relief Fund to support COVID-related financial challenges.

I am grateful to not only work in a generous community, but I'm proud to be part of the *kehillah* that works to make a difference year after year. To say thank you to our donors, you will see a series of donor honor rolls being published over the next few months, starting with those who have given for 25+ years consistently. These donors are giving at all levels, from \$18 and up. This is a reminder that EVERY GIFT COUNTS and that **Together WE CAN** continue making an impact now and into the future.

Wishing you and yours, *Chag Pesach Kasher V'sameach*.

Diana

Diana Kalef
Director of Development
Calgary Jewish Federation

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

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A CHAG PESACH KASHER V'SAMEACH

FROM OUR CALGARY LIFE & LEGACY® PARTNERS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021

IBP opens doors

Calgary Jewish Federation's Integrated Bursary Program can help you, if you find it's a financial struggle to participate fully in Jewish life in our community,

With one application followed by a discreet, personalized session with a Federation volunteer, you can access subsidies for day schools, summer camp, and recreational activities – depending on your need.

For more information and to download the application form go online:
jewishcalgary.org/ibp-making-jewish-life-more-affordable
or email: ibp@jewishcalgary.org

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

SHOAH PROGRAMS

The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis

Thursday, April 1 | 7PM

Join historian Dr. David E. Fishman as he recounts the true story of Vilna ghetto residents who rescued thousands of rare books and manuscripts – from the Nazis and the Soviets. It is an epic tale of heroism and resistance, and of unwavering devotion – including the readiness to risk one's own life – to literature and art.

The Light of Days: The Untold Stories of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos

Wednesday, April 7 | 7PM

Do not miss an unforgettable conversation with author Judy Batalion and Belle Jarniewski as they discuss Judy's highly anticipated book. One of the most important stories of World War II that brings to light the extraordinary accomplishments of brave Jewish women who became resistance fighters – a group of unknown heroes whose exploits have never been chronicled in full, until now

Surviving the Holocaust: The Return to Life in the Displaced Persons Camps Commemorative Yom HaShoah Ceremony

Thursday, April 8 | 7PM

Join us for a virtual commemorative ceremony as we honour and remember the victims of the Holocaust and pay tribute to the Survivors, and their remarkable journey to freedom and a return to life. We invite you to visit the Holocaust Memorial at the JCC on April 8 or 9 to say *kaddish* and lay a rock in memory of those murdered in the Shoah. Rocks will be available on site.

Holocaust Survivor Testimony Hear from Fanny Wedro

Sunday, April 18 | 2PM

As the number of living Holocaust survivors decreases, it is a rare opportunity to hear directly from a Survivor. Fanny was 14 years old when Nazis invaded her hometown of Korsec, Poland and conditions for the Jews quickly deteriorated. Listen as Fanny recounts her harrowing experiences from the Holocaust.

Holocaust Survivor Testimony Hear from Ann Dancyger

Sunday, May 2 | 2PM

Ann recounts the horrors of her Holocaust experience from her early days in Ratno, Ukraine – spent in hiding with her mother, to her two-year walking trek to West Germany.

For more details and registration info for these virtual programs, go to:
jewishcalgary.org

Our community is grateful to these donors who have been giving for 25 YEARS OR MORE – keeping Jewish Calgary strong and vibrant – Thank YOU!

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**These donors made arrangements for their gifts to continue after their passing.*

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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