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Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM ADAM SILVER

This time of the Jewish calendar year is very purposeful. It is the season during which we count the time between the second night of *Pesach* (Passover) and the first night of *Shavuot* (The Festival of Weeks). This is called "counting the omer" – seven weeks long, to be exact. While Passover celebrates the initial liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, *Shavuot* marks the culmination of the process of liberation, when we became an autonomous community with our own laws, standards, and practices.

This is not a simple countdown procedure to mark the passing of time. In fact, we count UP to *Shavuot*. Some rabbis and scholars suggest that we don't simply achieve the transformation from our Egypt mentality to our *Shavuot* one. Rather, our hopes and dreams grow with anticipation over those weeks, and we emerge from our experience with persecution to our newfound freedom

with purpose. We aim to climb one step higher each day in our efforts, hoping we are ready to embrace all that Judaism and Jewish life have to offer.

Over this last year, many of us have been doing a different type of COUNTING UP – we have amassed the number of days between visiting certain loved ones and between vacations. We can share the number of days, weeks, and months we've been wearing masks and sanitizing our hands raw. We can highlight the milestones we have missed and the number of big moments that have passed and will never repeat. We can also cite the number of times we have felt overwhelmed, sad, and hopeless... or, perhaps, we've lost count.

However, we can't give up. Our community has remained strong and vibrant in the face of adversity and we are so close to the finish line. To throw our hands up now

demonstrates that the challenges we have faced over the last year and have been able to steward through are no longer important. Nothing is further from the truth. We must continue to care for one another. We must continue to be vigilant in our efforts and hopeful for brighter days. Together, WE CAN get through this. Together, WE CAN emerge from our sadness and frustration. Together, WE CAN – and will – ensure our tomorrow is better than today!

Chag Shavuot Sameach!
Take care and keep safe,

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.

YASHER KOACH

THANK YOU TO THE DONORS WHO HAVE SIGNED A LETTER OF INTENT TO ENSURE JEWISH CALGARY'S TOMORROWS

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