

## 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



[jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)



## A REFLECTION ON MY FIRST FEW WEEKS: A COMMUNITY TO BE PROUD OF

I'm so very proud to be part of Calgary Jewish Federation (CJF) and to call this incredible community my home.

In a few short weeks, I've been deeply inspired by the strength, warmth, and resilience of Jewish Calgary.

From day one, I've been welcomed with open arms, and I'm so grateful for the kindness and generosity I've experienced. This is a community that shows up for one another, that takes pride in its history while embracing growth and change. There's a strong foundation here—one built by dedicated leaders, passionate volunteers, and engaged families who care deeply about the future of Jewish life in this city.

Of course, no community is without opportunities for growth. But that's a testament to the strong foundation built by generations of leaders before us. As I continue my "listening tour," a few priorities are starting to take shape and I wanted to share **three key areas** that stand out to me so far.

### Advocacy & Education

Since October 7, the need for CJF to continue to be a strong and leading voice on antisemitism and anti-Zionism has never been clearer. Our leadership has built important relationships at the municipal, provincial, and national levels, and strengthening these partnerships will remain a critical priority.

Beyond government and advocacy, education is key. We're looking to expand our work at the post-secondary level while also deepening engagement with public and private school boards. Jewish students and teachers are facing new challenges in classrooms and schoolyards, and it's essential that we show up for them. While educating the broader community about Judaism is essential, there must also be a renewed effort to educate our own community about our shared history and values.

### Security & Safety

Advocacy alone isn't enough—we also need to ensure the security and safety of our community. CJF and the Paperny Family JCC have built strong partnerships with law enforcement at both local and federal levels, and we are committed to reinforcing those efforts.

At the same time, we recognize that our security infrastructure can always be stronger. Working with Jewish communities in Toronto, Montreal, and beyond, we'll explore new security models and funding opportunities to ensure a coordinated, sustainable approach to keeping Jewish Calgary safe.

### Community & Growth

At the heart of everything we do is one simple goal:

ensuring the long-term sustainability of Jewish life in Calgary. That means supporting the organizations that make up our community—helping them grow, evolve, and adapt to changing needs. This is a challenge every community faces, and we are committed to meeting it head-on.

In the coming months, we'll be launching a new **Strategic Plan** to guide us forward. The first step will be listening—to all of you. Through one-on-one conversations, focus groups, and surveys, we'll be gathering insights from as many community members as possible. Your voice matters, and I hope you'll take the opportunity to help shape the future of our Federation and our Jewish community.

If we haven't met yet, I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our events. And if we're already old friends—I promise, we'll catch up soon!

Together, we won't just face the challenges ahead—we'll thrive in spite of them.

B'Shalom,

Rob Nagus  
Chief Executive Officer  
Calgary Jewish Federation

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

## INCLUSION

POWERED BY CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION

## JDAIM

FEBRUARY 2025  
Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance & Inclusion Month

February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM), a time dedicated to fostering a more inclusive community.

We had the privilege of hosting the incredible Rabbi Hazan Daniel Benlolo for an inspiring event that left our hearts feeling light, motivated, and ready to take action in making Calgary inclusive for all. *Todah rabah* to Benji Weizman and Rebeccah Sussman for shining their light on JDAIM and sharing with us in song!

Rabbi Hazan Benlolo also visited our two Jewish day schools, Halpern Akiva Academy and The Calgary Jewish Academy, where he delivered powerful and uplifting presentations to the students.

Throughout the month, we continued our tradition of celebrating inclusion with a special Welcome Shabbat and various other activities that promote belonging and accessibility.

Inclusion is not just something we recognize once a year—it's a commitment we uphold every day. Inclusion is a birthright, ensuring that everyone feels welcome and valued in our community.



## Mark Your Calendars for Our Next PJ Library® Events!



**Craft-a-Palooza Bounce-a-Palooza Purim!**  
Sunday, March 9  
2:00 - 4:00PM  
Halpern Akiva Academy



**A Choco-licious Passover**  
Sunday, April 6  
3:00 - 6:00PM  
Paperny Family JCC



Questions?  
Contact Sydney Truax  
[struax@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:struax@jewishcalgary.org)

[jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)

## APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025



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

More information and application form available online at: [jewishcalgary.org/ibp](http://jewishcalgary.org/ibp) or by email to: [ibp@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:ibp@jewishcalgary.org)



Calgary Jewish Federation is a participating charity in Rogers Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink.

All donations made through Birdies for Kids will be matched up to 50% making your donation go even further!

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Stay up-to-date on action alerts, events, programming, and services offered through Calgary Jewish Federation and around our community. Join our email list by scanning the QR code or go to [jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)



with you  
WE CAN



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

# with you WE CAN



Calgary  
Jewish Federation  
The strength of a people.  
The power of community.

**UJA**  
2024



**With You We Are** paving the way for a strong and vibrant Jewish future. Our community shines as a source of hope – offering programs that inspire Jewish identity, develop leadership, and celebrate our rich cultural heritage.

Your contributions make a difference – YOU strengthen our community, empower lives, and secure our future. Together, we are building a resilient, compassionate, and united Jewish Calgary.

## ways TO GIVE



[jewishcalgary.org](http://jewishcalgary.org)



[lwolf@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:lwolf@jewishcalgary.org)



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Life & Legacy is about honoring a commitment to being Jewish and living out the values passed down by parents and grandparents. It's about giving back, making a difference, and being part of something larger than ourselves. It fosters unity with others who share similar values, commemorates loved ones, shares good fortune, and supports organizations that strengthen the community and uphold what matters most.

**Have you thought about the future of Jewish Calgary and your legacy?**

Contact Diana Kalef or Joseph Tappenden to learn about legacy giving  
[dkalef@jewishcalgary.org](mailto:dkalef@jewishcalgary.org) • 403.444.3154  
[josephappenden@jcfc.ca](mailto:josephappenden@jcfc.ca) • 403.640.2273

Thank you for assuring our Jewish tomorrows today.



Calgary  
Jewish Federation  
The strength of a people.  
The power of community.



JEWISH COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION OF CALGARY  
Your vision is our mission.  
Inspiring Philanthropy for more than 30 years.