

Pomegranate

NEWS, VIEWS AND SCHMOOZE WITH THE CALGARY JEWISH COMMUNITY

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

jewishcalgary.org

A MESSAGE FROM CEO ROB NAGUS



At the end of October, I had the privilege of travelling to Israel to visit our partnership region in Etzba HaGalil, the Galilee Panhandle. As part of the Coast to Coast / Partnership2Gether program, I travelled alongside colleagues from across the Canadian Jewish Federation system to see firsthand the impact of our collective work in Northern Israel.

During our visit, we toured community centres and rehabilitation facilities, learned about meaningful educational initiatives we help support, received updates from our partners at Tel-Hai University, and saw some of the vital infrastructure made possible through our partnership. Each visit offered an important reminder of how our support translates into meaningful, tangible outcomes for the people and communities who call this region home.

But most importantly, we spent time with our extended family throughout the region, including in Kiryat Shmona and Metulla. We listened to their stories, heard how they are navigating the challenges of the past several years, and learned about the extraordinary work they are doing to sustain, rebuild and nurture their communities.

Their gratitude was deeply moving, but it was their strength, determination and resilience that left the greatest impression on me. Despite everything they have endured, there is a profound commitment to rebuilding, investing in the next generation and ensuring that Northern Israel remains a vibrant place to live and grow. I returned home incredibly proud of what Calgary Jewish Federation is able to contribute, and even prouder of the remarkable partners and friends with whom we work on the ground.

My time in Israel also included an opportunity to be in Tel Aviv during the recent election. Since returning, many people have asked what it was like to be there on such a historic day. I left Israel before there was any clarity around the final results, but what was immediately apparent was how much the uncertainty surrounding the election permeated daily life and conversations.

There was anxiety and fear, but also hope and optimism. Above all, what struck me was a genuine desire for unity. People may have different perspectives about the country's future and the path forward, but there was a shared recognition of the importance of coming together at a pivotal moment. Now, back in Canada, as the results become clearer and Israel looks ahead, we continue to stand firmly with our extended family and the people of Israel as they navigate the road before them.

As the days grow shorter, our attention turns to *Chanukah* and to the final weeks of our 2026 United Jewish Appeal (UJA) Campaign. To everyone who has already contributed, thank you. And to those who are still planning to make a gift before the end of the year, there is still time to be part of this important effort.

Every contribution helps us advance our mission: To unite and serve Calgary's Jewish community, leading with purpose to ensure Jewish life here remains vibrant, proud, safe, and sustainable for generations to come. Whether we are strengthening Jewish identity, supporting those in need, advocating for our community, enhancing security or standing alongside our partners in Israel, our collective generosity makes this work possible.

The past few years have reminded us just how important community is. They have also shown us what we can accomplish when we stand together, support one another and invest in our shared future.

On behalf of the board and staff of Calgary Jewish Federation, I wish you and your loved ones a very happy *Chanukah* and a warm, peaceful, and safe holiday season. May the lights of the festival bring hope, strength, and renewed optimism to us all.

Chag Chanukah Sameach!

Rob Nagus
CEO, Calgary Jewish Federation

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

COAST TO COAST Partnership2Gether



Our recent visit to Israel reinforced just how meaningful and impactful our work is. Through our partnership meetings and time spent with the Calgary and Edmonton Momentum delegation, we saw firsthand how initiatives such as *Gesher Chai* strengthen the ties between our communities and bring our partnership to life.

Our people-to-people programs bring generations together, from children to adults, creating shared experiences and lasting bonds. They demonstrate that our relationship with Israel is not simply something we support from afar, but something we actively build, nurture, and grow.

This is not charity – it is an investment in a shared future. Through our **Coast-to-Coast Partnership**, Calgary is an active partner, working alongside our Israeli counterparts toward mutual growth and a stronger future. We are investing in people, opportunities, and a relationship that enriches both communities and will continue to shape our connection for generations to come.



CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

EIGHT NIGHTS OF WONDER – A FIRE & ICE SCIENCE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 • 6:30PM

Join us for an exciting ***Chanukah* Celebration** featuring a spectacular **Mad Science** show! Experience the wonder of science as fire, ice, and light come together in a fun-filled celebration of the Festival of Lights. Enjoy **music**, **dancing**, **festive treats**, ***Chanukah* crafts**, and **exciting surprises** for the whole family. All ages welcome!

JCC Calgary · PJ Library · Powered by Calgary Jewish Federation

HISTORY, HOLOCAUST AND EUROPE'S LEGACY of Antisemitism Today

Holocaust and Human Rights Remembrance and Education — Powered by Calgary Jewish Federation

Calgary Public Library



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2* ▪ 7:00PM

Join Israeli-American academic and influencer, **Benjamin Birely** (aka 'HolyLandSpeaks') as he discusses how Europe's Holocaust narrative and history has shaped its post-October 7th landscape.



MODERATED BY Cara Lebenzon

REGISTER at QR or go to eventbrite.com

***Location shared after registration**

QUESTIONS? Contact Amy Glassman-Boiko at holocaustedu@jewishcalgary.org

CALGARY JEWISH FEDERATION

WE'RE HIRING



Calgary Jewish Federation is seeking a warm, engaging, and community-minded **Hillel Coordinator** to help foster vibrant, Jewish student life across Calgary's post-secondary campuses.

The Hillel Coordinator will work closely with student leaders to build community, support programming, strengthen Jewish identity and belonging on campus, and create opportunities for connection across Calgary's Jewish community. This role supports students at the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, SAIT, Bow Valley College, and St. Mary's University campuses.

If you are passionate about Jewish community building, student engagement, and leadership development, and are interested in this part-time (25 to 30 hours per week), relationship-focused role, learn more and apply.

SCAN QR TO SIGN UP FOR **COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE** NEWSLETTER

A COMMUNITY BUILT BY PEOPLE.
REAL STORIES. REAL IMPACT.

> After losing my spouse, community programs helped me stay connected.

> As a **Holocaust** survivor, sharing my story helps ensure future generations never forget.

> Because of **IBP**, my family could say yes to meaningful opportunities that have made a lasting difference in our lives.



...THAT'S FEDERATION

UJA 2026

We are more that halfway through this year's campaign so if you haven't already done so, **DONATE TODAY!**

WAYS TO GIVE

jewishcalgary.org
403.444.3157
fedtransfer@jewishcalgary.org
1607 90 Avenue SW

TOGETHER,
we can create a future where Jewish life continues to grow, connect, and thrive.

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

UJA 2026

WOW!
A Culinary Celebration with



Food • Stories • Flavour • Connection

Ruhama

Wednesday, December 16* • 7PM

Join **Ruhama Shitrit**, the culinary sensation behind **@RuhamasFood**, for an unforgettable evening of live cooking, heartfelt stories, laughter, and plenty of WOW moments!

Discover the flavours, traditions, and personality that have captured hearts around the world.

Early Bird: $54
After December 1: $72
VIP: $180*

**Includes exclusive pre-event reception and meet-and-greet with Ruhama, along with admission to the main event, and priority seating.*

Register: Scan **QR** or go to **jewishcalgary.crowdchange.co**
**Location shared after registration*

Questions? Contact Sydney Truax: struax@jewishcalgary.org

...THAT'S FEDERATION