



Member of



The Jewish Federations
OF NORTH AMERICA

Doug's Drash from Doug Seserman, President and CEO

Dear Community Members,

The secular New Year has come and gone. In some cases with a lot of fanfare, in others with very little. As Jews, we celebrate four different new year's throughout our calendar including Rosh Hashanah.

With so many new years, do we need another one? How does January 1st factor into our lives as Jews? While we use our Jewish calendar to guide our spiritual life, the secular year advance guides our secular lives and is an important part of living in the modern world.



But what about the new year from the perspective of resolutions? All the new promises we make to ourselves for the upcoming year? I find that this is a great time to go in for a spiritual check up. We have had several months since the high holidays, the days of reflection and awe. We made our teshuvah, we started with a clean slate... and how is our slate doing today? What do we need to remember going forward that we learned in the past few months?

As we take our bold steps into the secular New Year, let us remember the moments we experienced on the high holy days just a few months ago and feel renewed in our commitment to 5772!

Public Officials Return From Israel

This holiday season Federation sent two very important missions to Israel. The first was a Public Officials Mission where 10 legislators and one of the Governor's staffers from Colorado traveled to Israel to experience the commonality and shared interests between these two locations. With the challenging water situations, the ingenuity of the citizens, and advances in alternative energy solutions, these lawmakers from Colorado learned a lot from the Israelis. This program complies with Amendment 41 that limits contributions to Colorado lawmakers while offering them an important opportunity to expand and enrich Colorado/Israel relations. Many participants came back refreshed, renewed and with a greater understanding of the complexities of that region of the world. This is an extension of the Memorandums of Understanding that were signed by Former Governor Ritter last year.



Denver Young Adult Leaders Work Hard in Lod

A few days after our officials returned, seven young adults were off to Lod in Israel to make an impact with their hard work and



tireless efforts. These young adults landed in Israel and went straight to work. They helped refurbish the unused third floor of the Elyashiv Boys High School run by Garin Hatorani in Lod. This space became a learning and hang-out facility for the Ethiopian National Project's (ENP) Scholastic Assistance Program of Lod. Fourty percent of the students at this school are of Ethiopian decent and 75 percent are below average in several subjects including Hebrew, English, and math.



Once on the ground, the Denver team was surprised to find 25 local volunteers waiting for them. Together, they made a HUGE impact on the Lod community. Lod is known as the 'wrong side of the tracks.' A rough city, there is a stigma attached to those who live there. The Denver Community Center in Lod and the Garin Hatorani school inspire these kids to get up and out of town and make a difference with their lives. Our fabulous young adults made special Chanukah packages for local families and with the local youth, went door to door delivering gelt and dreidels. The impact on this community, one of our sister communities, was immeasurable and we are excited to have more young adults go back!

Boulder JCC Reflections Gala Event

Please join our friends at the Boulder JCC for their annual gala fundraiser, Reflections, on Saturday, February 4, 2012. They will be honoring friends of the Federation, Andy and Audrey Franklin as well as Danny and Karli Sherwinter. Mazal tov to all of you. The event will take place at the Omni Interlocken Resort in Broomfield at 6:30pm on the 4th. [Click here for more information or to register.](#)

Connect, Explore, and Celebrate with Jews Ages 22-45 in Vegas!

TribeFest is back! After an amazing showing of 1200 Jewish young adults last year, Jewish Federations of North American (JFNA) is hosting it again! An amazing opportunity for young adults to discover more about Jewish culture, food, music, and spirituality... not to mention meet new friends from across the country. This is an incredible event with amazing speakers like Rachel Dratch from SNL, Sarah Lefton and Matthue Roth from G-dcast.com, and famed JFNA Washington, DC advocate and Tweeter William Daroff. Register before January 20th to get the early bird rate and join us in Las Vegas! [Click here for more information.](#)



Jewish Disabilities Awareness Day is February 12th

The fourth annual Jewish Disabilities Awareness Day is February 12th. Come hear Rachel Simon, award-winning author of Riding the Bus With My Sister and The Story of Beautiful Girl, speak about taking the journey together. There will be great breakout sessions, a resource fair, art and music, and a kosher dessert! [Click here for more information.](#)

Super Sunday is BACK!

For more than 25 years, Super Sunday has been a cornerstone of Federation's Annual Campaign thanks to people like YOU! Without Super Sunday and the participation of our community and local agencies, Federation could not continue to support our Jewish community. Please join us! March 11th from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Robert E Loup JCC in Denver. There are several shifts available including a Tzedakah Happy Hour hosted by YAD from 6-9 p.m. If the 11th just doesn't work for you, we will have an additional calling shift from 5-8:30 p.m. on Monday, March 12th at the



Federation offices. [For more information or to RSVP, click here.](#)



The 16th Denver Jewish Film Festival is Right Around the Corner

MACC at the JCC has some incredible films lined up for this year's festival. The festival will run from February 23 to March 4. Enjoy this awesome film festival and get tickets before they are gone. We would especially love to see you at Dolphin Boy on February 26th at 1 p.m. Our own Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is co-sponsoring this film. [Click here to get more information.](#)

Incredible MASA Opportunities and Experiences

Unfortunately, many folks are not familiar with the awesome program offerings from MASA Israel Journey. MASA connects young adults, ages 18-30, to immersive five-12 month internship, volunteer, and academic programs in Israel. These programs include Israel Teaching Fellows, governmental internships, yeshiva study programs for men and women, as well as a number of other enriching and career developing opportunities. Being a part of MASA opens many doors for its alumni. For more information about MASA or their programs, [click here.](#) If you have any questions or want to talk about your options, feel free to contact our Israel Shlichah, [Michal Uziyahu](#) or YAD Director, [Devon Schad.](#)

Federation Staff Adopts Two JFS Families for the Holidays

In addition to recovering from the Five Days of Doing Jewish and getting ready for the holidays with their own families, the staff at Federation adopted two families that found themselves desperate this holiday season. Lisa Soicher, working in conjunction with Jewish Family Service, coordinated this staff project. The staff assessed the needs of the families, collected funds and unused gift cards from their co-workers, and shopped for gifts and necessities. While baby wipes and a winter jacket were all some of the family members asked for on their wish list, the staff got them toys and games in addition to socks, winter shoes, and necessities. It was an incredible experience for the staff, one that brought everyone together and reinforced why we do what we do... to help impact our community and to make a difference in Colorado, Israel, and worldwide.



Sincerely,

Doug Seserman
President and CEO

Follow us on:



Member of



The Jewish Federations
OF NORTH AMERICA



**ALLIED JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF COLORADO**

Your Partner in Jewish Philanthropy

300 S. Dahlia St., Ste. 300, Denver, CO 80246

Phone: 303.321.3399 | Fax: 303.322.8328

To unsubscribe, [click here](#) or send an email to: unsubscribe-122316@elabs10.com

[Privacy Policy](#)