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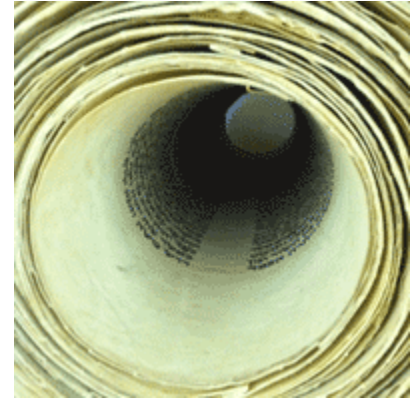
The Jewish Federations  
OF NORTH AMERICA

## Doug's Drash from Doug Seserman, President and CEO

Dear Community Members,

Fifty days after the second night of Passover, we count each evening in anticipation of Shavuot, (the holiday which commemorates the Jews receiving the Torah at Mt. Sinai). This year, Shavuot begins Saturday night, May 26.

Do you remember, as a child, being so excited for vacation or Chanukah or summer camp that you crossed the days off your calendar? That is one aspect of counting the days until Shavuot. There is this intense excitement that builds up to the Jewish people arriving at Mount Sinai and receiving the Torah. But, just like all aspects of Jewish life, that is not the only meaning. All of our Jewish holidays are tied to the harvest cycle. We just stopped including the prayer for rain in our regular prayers. Why? Because if Israel receives a drop of rain after Passover, the wheat harvest can be ruined. During the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot, we begin to see the first fruits appear. We, as a Jewish people, were, in a way, born when G-d gave us the Torah on Mount Sinai. Just as the earth renews itself every spring, so do we by remembering our roots.



Chag Sameach

### JCRC Luncheon A HUGE Success

On Thursday, May 17, Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado held its 6th annual Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Leadership Luncheon at Temple Emanuel. This year's event was quite the success. With over 300 guests in attendance, our honorees proudly accepted their awards in front of their friends, family, and supporters.

This year, JCRC was pleased to present awards to **three** very deserving community leaders—The Honorable Carol Boigon received the Jewish Public Official Distinguished Service Award, Representative B.J. Nikkel received the Legislative Appreciation Award and Mr. Howard Boigon received the Community Leadership Award. In addition, we were privileged to have two special guests—both Denver Mayor, Michael B. Hancock and Colorado Governor, John Hickenlooper joined us and spoke highly of the honorees and the work of Federation and JCRC in our community.



For those of you who were unable to attend this year's event, you missed a true bipartisan luncheon filled with inspiring stories demonstrating the impact that JCRC has on our legislative and Jewish community. Thank you to our Luncheon Co-Chairs: Harvey Allon, Edward Barad, Susan & David Brody, Senator Joyce & Rabbi Steven Foster, Judy & Stuart Heller, and Robert Kaufmann. Thank you also to our host committee: Judy Altenberg, Chad Asarch, Elaine Asarch, Harvey Deutsch, Phyllis Hanfling, Phyllis Knight, Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann, Blanca & Howard Lerman, Robyn & Bob Loup, Perry Moss, Scott Reisch, Michael Sidon, and Sheldon Steinhauser. This event

would not have been possible without our JCRC Luncheon sponsors: Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, MDC/Richmond American Homes Foundation, Oak Tree Foundation-Harvey & Sue Allon, and Joyce Zeff & Diana Anderson.

**Ben Gurion Society Appreciation Event**

The Ben Gurion Society (BGS) is a group of like-minded young adults who give at least \$1000 to Federation. These young adults step up and affirm that the Colorado Jewish community is important to them. As a thank you, BGS recently threw a cocktail party at the stunning home of Seth Wong, a BGS member. Delicious hors d'ourves and spirits accompanied a fabulous program where famed spiritual medium and Jewish maven, Rebecca Rosen, shared her personal story and did a group reading.



Her services are in high demand, with celebrity clients and a waiting list of over three years for a private session. The event was a great success. A special thank you to Amy Toltz-Miller for sponsoring this event and to the chairs: Whitney Chotin, Aaron Cohen, Yosh Eisbart, Jennifer Feingold, Lauren Goldtein, Carla Kutnick, and Seth Wong. Thank you to all the young adults, ages 21-45, who are BGS members and our BGS Chairs: Tiffany Glucksman and JJ Slatkin. For more information about young adult programming and the Ben Gurion Society, contact Devon Schad at 303.316.6477 or [DSchad@ajfcolorado.org](mailto:DSchad@ajfcolorado.org).

**Colorado Mega Israel Journey**

At our recent Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration, Israel Shlichah Michal Uziyahu announced a first for our Colorado community – a community journey to Israel to celebrate Israel's 65th birthday. We hope to bring over 100 members of our community to Israel April 17-27, 2013. A partnership between many Jewish organizations across our diverse community, Federation is coordinating this mission. You will fall in love with the land, traveling to Tel Aviv, the Galilee, Jerusalem and Denver's partnership areas – Ramat Ha'Negev and Lod. There will be opportunities for insightful exchanges with leading Israeli speakers and dignitaries. Join our community to have one-on-one engagement with agencies that support our community while experiencing the vibrant cultural diversity of Israel. To learn more about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, email [MegaJourney@ajfcolorado.org](mailto:MegaJourney@ajfcolorado.org) or call Connie Eglan at 303.316.6499.



**Holocaust Resolution Unanimously Passes Colorado Senate and House**

Last week, the 2012 Holocaust resolution, HB1090 passed unanimously by both Colorado Senate and House of Representatives. This was a Senate Joint Resolution, part of Holocaust Awareness Week, sponsored by Senator Lucia Guzman and in the House by Rep. Mark Waller –both of whom participated on the Legislative mission in December.



**State Level Iranian Sanctions Resolution Passes in Colorado**

In 2010, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Divestment and Accountability Act (CISADA) specifically authorized states and local governments to adopt and enforce measures that preclude any entity that has a large investment in Iran's energy sector from contracting with the government. Currently, 23 states have passed or implemented some form of divestment of state funds from Iranian entities, however the passage of CISADA provides the framework for new targeted sanctions legislation. In 2011, California became the first state to increase penalties and indemnity provisions under CISADA; already New York,

New Jersey, Georgia, and Michigan have expressed interested in supporting similar bills.

Thank you,



Doug Seserman  
President and CEO

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Your Partner in Jewish Philanthropy

300 S. Dahlia St., Ste. 300, Denver, CO 80246  
Phone: 303.321.3399 | Fax: 303.322.8328

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