



**ALLIED JEWISH FEDERATION  
OF COLORADO**

Member of



The Jewish Federations  
of North America

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

Dear Community Members,

Happy (secular) new year! I hope everyone enjoyed not only the secular holidays but Tu B'Shevat, the new year of the trees, as well. Tu B'Shevat gives us the opportunity appreciate the trees that give us food. We also use this holiday to try new fruits. Traditionally, we try to eat a new fruit at this time and say the Shehecheyanu (a prayer said to celebrate special occasions or to be thankful for new and unusual experiences). Additionally, many people choose to eat from the Seven Species (shivat haminin) described in the Bible as being abundant in the land of Israel. The Shivat Haminin are: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. Whatever your tradition, I hope you enjoyed this small preview of spring in the midst of our cold winter.



### Rose Grant Match Complete

I am proud to announce that we raised \$270,000 from 65 donors to complete the \$250,000 matching grant from Rose Community Foundation for our Jewish Early Childhood Scholarship. The total endowment is now \$520,000. Thank you to Carol Boigon, our ECE endowment chair, for spearheading our fundraising efforts. This is the first step in building a long-term endowment to support Jewish ECE in our community. Along with our community partners – Rose, CAJE and local Jewish ECE centers – we are helping the Denver metro area to become one of the best places to raise a Jewish child with access to quality Jewish ECE centers. During this three year fundraising match, we have enabled over 165 students through scholarships and distributed over \$285,000 to qualified ECE centers.



### Charitable IRA Rollover Extension- 2012 Deductions Still Available

The last-minute fiscal cliff compromise, H.R. 8, which will also be known as the "American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012" (or "ATRA") permanently extends the majority of tax cuts ("the so-called Bush tax cuts") that were scheduled to expire at the end of 2012. In addition, ATRA retroactively reinstates some rules that had expired in 2011, such as the IRA Charitable Rollover and extends the provision through the end of 2013. Thus, for people older than 70.5, rollovers during calendar year 2012 of up to \$100,000 directly from an IRA trustee to a

charity, other than a donor advised fund, supporting organization, or private foundation, will be treated as a qualified charitable distribution.

Because the bill was passed so late (technically after the end of 2012), ATRA provides that rollovers directly from IRAs made before February 1, 2013 can be treated as a qualified charitable distribution for 2012. A qualified charitable distribution made in January 2013 is permitted to be (1) treated as made in 2012 calendar year and permitted to count against the 2012 \$100,000 limitation on the exclusion, and (2) treated as made in the 2012 calendar year and thus permitted to be used to satisfy the taxpayer's minimum distribution requirement for 2012. Another ATRA relief provision permits the re-characterization of any distribution made in December, 2012 that would have qualified, as a qualified rollover to a charity for the calendar year 2012 if it is subsequently transferred in cash to a charity before February 1, 2013.

**Action required: Time is of the essence to insure that donors take full advantage of the ATRA provisions if they have not already made direct transfers to the Federation.** "Sample letters" to donors, plan administrators and professional advisors regarding the extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover are now available on the [PG&E website](#). Also, you may wish to review some helpful examples analyzing the application of ATRA to specific fact patterns provided [here](#) by Crescendo.

If you have any questions regarding the IRA Charitable Rollover or if you would like to learn more, contact the Jewish Community Foundation Executive Director, Dirk Bird, at [dbird@ajfcolorado.org](mailto:dbird@ajfcolorado.org) or 303-316-6448.

### Walk for Israel and Celebrate Family Festival

Save the date! We will have a community walk for Israel on May 19. Come together with Jews from across the Denver metro area to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) as well as Israel's 65th birthday, walking together as a community in support of our the homeland – Israel. A day of festivities and entertainment for all ages, beginning with the Walk for Israel and culminating with the JCC's 10th annual Celebrate Family festival. As the community's marketing umbrella, Federation will serve as the clearinghouse to promote all of the Israel 65 community events through [JewishColorado.org](http://JewishColorado.org) so be sure to check the website as the events get closer for more details.



### Light/The Holocaust and Humanity Project

*Light /The Holocaust & Humanity Project* is a contemporary ballet and Holocaust education partnership that promotes the protection of human rights against bigotry and hate through arts, education, and public dialogue. *Light/The Holocaust & Humanity Project* will take place in 2013 from the launch event on January 15 through April 15 (Holocaust Remembrance Week), with events/initiatives led by Community Partners. To see all the programs lead by the community partners, [click here](#). Federation is a proud community partner and supporter of this programming and Holocaust education.

In addition to the wonderful myriad of events produced by the community partners, Colorado Ballet, the driving force behind the project, will close out the season with the ballet *Light /The Holocaust & Humanity Project* March 29-31, 2013 at the Newman Center. Making its Denver debut, this one act contemporary ballet in five movements is inspired by the poignant journey of one Holocaust survivor. Set to the music of five notable contemporary composers including Philip Glass and Arvo Part, *Light* is a powerful, moving and uplifting experience. *Light* serves as a timely reminder of the importance of the protection of human rights. To purchase tickets to this ballet, [click here](#).



Photo by Ballet Austin

### Reimagining Update

Those of you who attended Men's Event and Choices heard all about how Federation is "Reimagining" our future. While we have been in the Reimagining process for some time, we have recently put together six task force transition teams to spearhead the implementation effort. This project will be led by consultant, Kim Schneider Malek, who will be working closely with our staff and lay leaders to build the Federation of the 21st Century.

We are committed to keeping the "restaurant open," as it were, and serving our constituents while we work towards building a better future for our community. Part of this process will be a relaunch of the JewishColorado.org website as a public square, providing resources that our community needs. I am thrilled with the reimagining progress to date and excited to share where we will go for the future.

Happy New Year,

Doug Seserman  
President and CEO