



Dear Community Members,

We have all experienced too much tragedy lately. The bus bombing in Bulgaria of Israeli students, the fires in Colorado, and the most recent tragedy, a gunman who shot 71 innocent people in an Aurora movie theatre. It all feels overwhelming but there is a tradition within Judaism that helps us cope. How can one fathom the unfathomable? There is no rhyme or reason as to why this man walked into a theatre and started shooting. Thus, traditionally upon hearing of the passing of someone we say Baruch Dayan Ha'Emet or blessed is the true judge. It is a sentence when there are no words, a phrase unknowing knowing. It says, I cannot find a way to express my grief but my faith sustains me at this time.



Within this tragic time, our community found compassion and a drive to repair this broken world of ours. At Federation, we received numerous requests from YOU to open a fund for the victims of the Aurora movie theatre shooting and so we did. **Jewish Response Fund for Victims of the Aurora Movie Theatre Tragedy** is now taking donations. These funds will be used support and assist the victims and their families. One-hundred percent of all donations to the **Jewish Response Fund** will go to help the families who lost loved ones, those injured in the shooting, and other needs relating to the tragedy as they arise. There will be no administrative fees taken out of the donations to this fund. To donate, please go to [www.Jewi.sh/COShooting](http://www.Jewi.sh/COShooting).

To read *A Prayer for Peace – in the Aftermath of Terror – City of Aurora Prayer Vigil* by Rabbi Joseph R. Black, [click here](#).

If you or a loved one is have difficulty dealing with this situation and would like to speak to someone, the JFS Counseling Center is here to help. Speak to a caring, professional therapist by calling 303.597.5777.

Please consider joining us at a community gathering at BMH-BJ on Sunday, July 29th at 1:00 p.m. *Stand Up For Life* will give us, as a community, a chance to remember the Israeli athletes lost in Munich, the Bulgarian attack, and our terror at home, the shooting in Aurora.

Additionally, the Federation staff attended a very well done training by the staff of The CELL and the ADL. In it we learned that we can all prevent attacks by staying alert and reporting suspicious activity to the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC). If you see something, say something. CIAC can be reached at 1.877.509.2422 (CIAC).

**Colorado's Fire Response**

With over 175,000 acres and hundreds of homes lost these were the worst fires in Colorado history. Federation launched a **Colorado Fire Relief Fund** very soon after the outbreak of the fires. Through the Jewish Federations of North America (of which we are a member), we sent out a clarion call to our extended Jewish family. And they responded with vigor. It was through this response that we raised over \$75,000 from more than 500 donors. Many of these donors are from more than 20 states outside of Colorado.



Doug Seserman and Gino Greco, CEO of the American Red Cross Mile High Region

We are currently in the process of making distributions of these funds to local agencies that played an instrumental role in the first response and recovery for these fires. We have distributed \$10,000 to The Salvation Army's Rocky Mountain Region. They delivered 17,000 meals, 20,000 snacks and 44,000 bottles of water to fire survivors, first responders, emergency and military teams, FEMA response teams, and utility workers. We distributed an additional \$20,000 to The American Red Cross-Colorado Chapters. Their emergency response vehicles continue to provide hydration, snacks and relief items like clean-up supplies within the affected areas in Ft. Collins and Colorado Springs. We will continue to collect donations and allocate money as we hear about needs that arise, long-term, from these devastating fires.

I would like to thank all of you who contributed to our fund locally and nationally and if you haven't yet had a chance, consider making a contribution today. This fund will be benefiting the people who were affected, the fire fighters and other first responders, as well as any Jewish communities affected. Go to [www.Jewi.sh/COFires](http://www.Jewi.sh/COFires) to donate.



Melissa Gelfand, Janet Sherman and John Bennett, Major The Salvation Army

**Final Days of the Campaign**

The clock is ticking.... only a few days left of Federation's 2012 Campaign. In Colorado, Federation funds over 90 organizations to help support the programming that supports our community. By "filling the gap" in funding many organizations experience in this challenging economy, Federation ensures that seniors won't go hungry and children can go to camp, that thousands of public school students receive anti-bias training and ensures hundreds of additional hours of care for special needs students. Without your support, we cannot do this work. Consider a gift today.

**We need your gift or pledge to the 2012 Annual Campaign before July 30th.**

Every donor counts. Every dollar counts. Join me in supporting this year's campaign to help build and sustain Jewish life in Colorado, Israel and around the world. You make the work of the Federation possible. Thank you.

To give to Federation's 2012 Annual Campaign:

- Call Federation at 303.321.3399
- [Click here to donate](#)
- Send your pledge and/or check to: Allied Jewish Federation of Colorado, 300 S. Dahlia St, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80246

**A New Roof = Hope**

In the heart of Israel is one of the country's poorest cities: Lod. People are suffering daily with enormous problems including poverty, crime, violence, low self esteem and despair. Federation supports social services and programming in the Denver Community Center built by our community in the 1980s.

After more than 30 years, the physical condition of the cherished community center was clearly showing its age. Upon returning to Colorado from a visit to Lod and witnessing the impact our center has on the region, one of our generous supporters was so concerned about the building's condition and dilapidated roof that they graciously offered to match the city of Lod's funding for a new roof!

By giving to the Global Israel fund, you can provide education and training for not only the children of poverty but their parents as well.



Doug Seserman and Shilo Adler Executive Director Garin HaTorani of Lod

**Upcoming Events:**

It's nearly that time of year again! Enjoy your sunshine and summer but mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

- The Annual Meeting will be held on August 30, 2012. Keep your eyes on your inboxes. We will be sending out invitations this summer. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting where we will announce the outcome of our Reimagining process. Learn the future of the Federation!
  - We will be honoring Marnie Klein with the Charlotte B. Tucker Young Leadership Award and Ean with the Ruth and Warren Toltz Young Leadership Award.
  - In a change from last year, we will be honoring our local Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award winner, Carol Karsh. Carol will be receiving her award that the International Lion of Judah Conference in New York City in September
  - Additionally, we will be recognizing the GA Volunteer Leadership with our Leadership Award. Without their dedicated work, the GA would not have been such a success.
  - Lastly, we will be honoring the Beneson Group as our partner of the year. The Beneson Group has been instrumental in our Reimagining process.
- CHOICES, our annual women's event drawing over 2000 women together in one room, will take place on November 7, 2012. If you would like to be a table captain, please contact Seren Waldman at 303.316.6456 or [SWaldman@ajfcolorado.org](mailto:SWaldman@ajfcolorado.org)
- The Men's Event, rumored to be the largest gathering of Jewish men this side of the Mississippi, will take place on November 8, 2012. If you would like to be a table captain, please contact Marilynn Simon-Gersuk at 303.316.6455 or [msimon-gersuk@ajfcolorado.org](mailto:msimon-gersuk@ajfcolorado.org)

**Get ready for the 2nd annual Hineni: Here to Serve Day of Service**

Following the immense success of the Day of Service in conjunction with the GA, YAD Cares, the social action arm of our Young Adult Department will be hosting another day of service on August 26th. Join YAD Coloradans, ages 21-45, in giving back to our community. From 8:00am to noon, young adults from across the state will go to local non-profits and give back. For more information, contact Devon Schad at 303.316.6477 or [dschad@ajfcolorado.org](mailto:dschad@ajfcolorado.org)

**Take a moment, hug your family and see the hope, as I do, for a better tomorrow.**

Sincerely,

Doug Seserman  
President and CEO