



Doug's Drash from Doug Seserman, President and CEO

Dear Community Members,

It is always with such excitement that I greet our fall holidays and again with relief when they wrap up. This year in particular the holidays seemed to keep on coming. I have long wondered why there are so many Jewish holidays in a row in the fall. Why not sprinkle them throughout the year? Why not give us a chance to clean the house and get some work done before we have to cook and prepare for the next one?

I am reminded as to why the holidays fall so close to one another when I am in Israel. It is in Israel that you can truly feel the rhythm of the year. Apples and pomegranates begin to make their appearance in the markets right before Rosh Hashanah. The land is ripe for harvest at Sukkot. We begin to ask for rain in Israel at the end of Sukkot and then the rainy season begins. Our Jewish year, our calendar is structured around the earth and it's cycles. It is almost as if G-d is reminding us to break up our busy lives and return to nature. As if the memo is, don't forget to stop and smell the roses (that are about to bloom)!



No matter how frustrated we get with shortened work weeks or too much holiday food, we should take this time to see the renewal of the world. Our tomato plants from the past summer may be withering but it's time to plant some garlic and refresh our soil. Not to mention that when the Jewish holiday season wraps up, it is not long until we get to hit the slopes and come together as a community at CHOICES and the Men's Event.

Shana Tova, to a good new year.

CHOICES 2013- November 7th

Join us for the 2013 CHOICES event, Federation's annual women's event, which honors, encourages and inspires Jewish women's philanthropy through community. CHOICES, which draws over 1200 Jewish women together in one room, will take place on November 7, 2012.



We are excited to announce that Dr. Einat Wilf, Member of Israel's Knesset and Chair of the Knesset's Education, Sports, and Culture Committee will be joining us as our keynote speaker. If you would like to be a table captain, please contact Seren Waldman at 303.316.6456 or SWaldman@ajfcolorado.org. [For more information or to RSVP, click here.](#)

Men's Event 2013- November 8th

Join us for Federation's largest annual fundraising event and the largest Jewish gathering of men west of the Mississippi. The Men's Event will take place on November 8, 2012.



We are very excited to announce that Michael Milken, philanthropist, financier, and medical research innovator, will be our keynote speaker this year. If you would like to be a table captain, please contact Devon Schad at 303.316.6477 or dschad@ajfcolorado.org. [For more information or to RSVP, click here.](#)

A Successful Candidates Forum

On October 10, the Jewish Community Relations Council, or JCRC, and the National Council for Jewish Women, or NCJW, hosted a Candidates forum at Temple Sinai. With nearly 300 people in attendance, this year's forum was a great success. Folks running for local office had the chance to meet and greet their constituents before the program began. We were fortunate enough to have surrogates for the Presidential candidates in attendance and they each had two minutes to address the crowd. Additionally, we heard from the CU Regent Candidates and people supporting and opposing several ballot measures. Finally, we closed with the main event - a question/answer debate moderated by Marty Meitus with candidates for the US House of Representatives. Marty was a great moderator and controlled the state candidates with flair. [Read about one of the most memorable moments for the debate here at the Denver Post.](#)



A special thank you to our event chairs, Dorothy Gotlieb and Barbara Kadin as well as Cindi Coleman, President of the NCJW Colorado Section and our JCRC board. Don't forget to vote on November 6!

Connect with Israel. Connect with Judaism. Connect with Each Other.

Celebrate Israel's 65th birthday with Federation and Mission Co-Chairs: Steven and Debra Weinstein.

Fall in love with the Land of Israel.

Locations include: Tel Aviv, Galilee, Jerusalem and Denver's partnerships— Ramat HaNegev & Lod. Enjoy insightful exchanges with leading Israeli speakers and dignitaries as well as an IDF visit. Experience Israel's vibrant cultural diversity. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with experiences in history, technology, arts and culture, and Israel's spiritual life. Enjoy food, fashion and shopping! Ideal for first timers & return visitors alike.

Mission Cost: \$3,200* double occupancy (single supplement \$1,100)

*Priced based on a minimum of 35 participants. Airfare NOT included.

Includes a tax-deductible \$180 gift to Federation's Annual Community Campaign

The deadline for registration is **November 15, 2012**. \$500 deposit & application due at that time. To learn more, contact Connie Eglund at ceglund@ajfcolorado.org or 303.316.6499. [Or click here to download the flyer.](#)



Thank you,

Doug Seserman
President and CEO