

# Upcoming gala to aid Israel water charity



**DAVID PARKER**  
AROUND TOWN

**D**avid Wallach, president of Barclay Street Real Estate, has accepted two appointments that will require even more of the energy he devotes to his work and volunteerism.

Wallach is chairman of the 2012 Negev Gala in support of the Jewish National Fund of Calgary, and TCN Worldwide has named him regional vice-president of its newly created Canadian region, with a seat on its advisory board.

TCN Worldwide is a consortium of independent commercial real estate firms comprised of over 800 commercial real estate professionals serving more than 200 primary and secondary markets.

It has been actively recruiting firms in Canada and besides Barclay's Calgary and Edmonton locations is represented by companies in Toronto and Montreal. Wallach has set his sights on quickly drawing in other major independent real estate companies in Vancouver and Saskatoon.

Wallach immigrated in 1999 to Calgary from Israel, where he had enjoyed a successful entrepreneurial career as president and general manager of a professional basketball team and owner of an insurance brokerage firm. He joined Torode Real Estate, the forerunner of Barclay Street, and is now sole owner of the company.

The fast-growing company currently has a staff of 46 including the latest addition of **Dan St. Pierre** in the role of operations manager of Barclay's Calgary property management group that oversees around 1.5 million square feet of properties here.

Wallach is continually setting goals for his agents and to celebrate breaking all of his 2011 targets he recently took 64 — staff and spouses — for a week to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico.

In the role as chair of the Negev Gala, to be held June 7 at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, Wallach has been joined by **Ken King**, president and CEO of the Calgary Flames, as honorary co-chair.

The event promises to be a great one, with **Rex**



**David Wallach, president of Barclay Street Real Estate and chair of his year's Negev Gala, has made a big mark in the local business community since arriving in Calgary from Israel in 1999.**

**Murphy** confirmed as the keynote speaker and Canadian Pickers host and third generation Calgary antique dealer and auctioneer **Sheldon Smithens** acting as master of ceremonies.

This year's honouree is volunteer and philanthropist **Sam Switzer**.

Born in Calgary in 1926 he has been a successful businessman in this city for more than 60 years, for the past several running the Elbow River Casino from which all profits are directed into the Sam and Betty Switzer Foundation that has helped improve the lives of so many people.

Switzer has also been a longtime supporter of Israel and the JNF; his family has planted a forest in Israel and provides annual scholarships for Israeli students in arts and culture at the University of Jerusalem.

This year's bow tie and blue jeans gala dinner is in support of the Sderot recycled water reservoir to help the people of the western Negev take a significant step toward solving a serious water pollution problem.

**Shannon Bowens-Smed**, president and CEO of Bowen Workforce Solutions, has a big heart for giving. She and her husband, **Peter Smed**, who owns the Oasis Spa and Wellness Centre, have built family rooms at hospitals and

donated hundreds of teddy bears thanks to their annual Scott Golf Tournament they administer which also benefits Community Kitchen and Calgary Parks Foundation.

They also support an orphanage in Uganda that they hope to visit this year.

And she came up with a unique plan for Bowen Workforce Solutions to also give back to the community.

It puts a nickel in the pot for every hour one of its temporary workers is hired and a \$100 bill for each permanent placement.

Through the 2010 program Bright Light's Foundation was able to donate a whopping \$70,000 to enable Community Kitchen to buy a refrigerated van to deliver 30,000 lunches each year to needy schoolchildren.

This year's Ad Rodeo and its presentation of the coveted Anvil Awards will be held April 27 at Hotel Arts.

A full showing of the entered works by Calgary's talented advertising community will be on display at a Creative Entry Showcase event held at the Gerry Thomas Gallery, 100, 602 11th Ave. S.W. on April 12.

DAVID PARKER APPEARS TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY. READ HIS COLUMNS ONLINE AT CALGARY-HERALD.COM/BUSINESS. HE CAN BE REACHED AT 403-830-4622 OR E-MAIL INFO@DAVIDPARKER.CA