



# JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

## But We Survived: The Life of Doris Mittleman Miller

*This biography of centenarian Doris Miller is based on the 2015 biography submitted by her daughters, Lila Mydlarski and Reva Faber, and on the 1990 interview conducted by Bertha Gold on behalf of JHSSA.*

Eighty-five years ago, a young 15-year-old Doris Mittleman, all alone, travelled from Zelechow, Poland, and made her way to Canada on the Polish ship Kosciesko, disembarking at Pier 21. From there, with all of \$5.00 in her possession, she boarded the train bound for Calgary.

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*The Mittleman family, Poland, late 1920s. Standing, left to right: Baruch (who left to join their older brother Chiel in Calgary shortly after this photo was taken), Devorele (Doris), her sister Esther. Seated: father Motl, Esther's child Sarale, mother Leah. Source: Reva Faber. JHSSA #2844*

## President's Message

*By Sandra Lipton*



Jack Switzer<sup>21</sup>, in his many articles in *Discovery*, played a key role in highlighting the lesser known accomplishments and stories of Jewish Albertans. Continuing this tradition, in this issue we highlight centenarian Doris Miller. Additionally, members of our board, under the leadership of Rebecca Aizenman, have been hard at work putting together our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary AGM program which will pay tribute to 25 Jewish Southern Albertans whose contributions are not widely known. While some of the names may be familiar to you, their stories may be surprising.

As I mentioned in my last column, the JHSSA survives on membership fees, donations, grants and casino funds. Recently, the office staff (Katie Baker, Roberta Kerr and Agi Romer Segal) has been busy preparing grant applications to the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary (JCFC). We so much appreciate the support provided to the JHSSA by our individual supporters as well as a variety of foundation funds. Projects such as our Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I and II Database would not have been possible without the support of donors and foundation funds such as The Alvin and Mona Libin Foundation, Ghert Family Foundation and

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## But We Survived

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Doris, or Dvorele as her brothers called her, was born in the Polish shtetl Vashelkia, the youngest of nine children to Motel and Laya (nee Vremlevitch). Her twin sister died at age one. Her father was a shoemaker.

*Doris described her early days in her 1990 JHSSA interview:*

“And I must say we were very poor. We had only one room. There was no bathroom of course—only an outhouse which in the winter was very difficult. The snow and the *blotte* (mud) was really something awful—but we survived. My brothers—a few were tailors and a few were shoemakers. Do you know that most of the time I didn’t have a pair of shoes? Except before *yontif* (High Holidays) I had a pair of new shoes. But we were happy. We were a very close family. Most of the kids married and I was at home and my mother was bedridden for five years with cancer. I was the youngest and I had to carry the whole brunt. I remember I used to go to the market to buy something, which was very seldom because we didn’t have very much money. I remember during the winter it was very, very bad, and I used to go to a man who was a little bit better off than most of us in that *shtetele* (tiny village). People used to come and stay overnight, and he used to serve meals and drinks. I used to go there sometimes—they were very nice to me. He had herring, and he used to give me free juice from the herring. I used to buy a pound of black bread. I paid a few *groshen* for the herring and this was a very good meal. Lots of incidents like this. There were a lot of poor people and there was a lady on our street that was sick all the time. My mother was really such a good person. She used to go to some of the neighbours on Friday and collect a few *groshen* so she could buy something and take it to this lady’s house, so she could have something for *Shabbes*. We hardly had anything—but that did not stop my mother from trying to do something for somebody else.

“We had some people from other farms that we used to repair boots or make something for their holidays. They used to come in the winter time and bring us a loaf of bread. One time I remember he brought us a whole sack of frozen potatoes, and my sister and I did so many things with those frozen potatoes. Maybe I’ve got arthritis still from those potatoes. I also used to go to the river and



*Miller family, Calgary, c. 1953. Left to right: Reva, Doris, Max, and Lila, with Morris in front. Source: Reva Faber. JHSSA #2845*

wash the clothes. In those years, when you were eight years old you could have a whole world on your shoulders.

“Anyway, when my mother died Chiel (Harry), my brother, was over in Canada already. He married Shaindl (Charlotte). Meema [Bella] Singer brought them over and about two years later he brought my brother Baruch over.

“I came here on May 22, 1930 and stayed with Chiel and Shaindl, and Baruch stayed there too. Then Baruch got sick—he died of polio the first day of Rosh Hashana.”

Doris had started school two weeks before her brother’s death and did not return for two months afterwards. Always tiny, she was placed at first in kindergarten at Victoria School. Within six months, she quickly progressed to grade six, learning to read, write, and speak English with no trace of an accent. She then had to leave her schooling and go work.

Shortly after, Nate and Lily Horodezky convinced Doris to come help with the cooking and baking out at their farm in Rumsey. When she returned to Calgary, she had a variety of jobs including working as a seamstress and a short-lived stint at Star Cleaners, owned by the Switzer family. However, she had to leave that employment as she couldn’t take the fumes of the cleaning compounds. Luckily though, in 1934 this gave Doris the opportunity to travel to the States where she had a most glorious nine months living with Dina Cooper and family, enjoying the weather, and all that Los Angeles had to offer.



*Max Miller in Vancouver Clothing, 333 - 3rd Avenue SE, c. 1970. The family lived behind the store for a few years. It was demolished for an urban renewal project c. 1979. Source: Reva Faber. JHSSA #2846*

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## But We Survived

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Upon her return to Calgary, Doris was introduced to Max Miller, a dapper young man, originally from Ostrow, Poland. Max had been living with his brother and family in Vancouver and was on a visit to Calgary when he met Doris. After a short courtship, they married in November 1936. [See the article about the history of Doris's wedding gown in *Discovery* Volume 20, No. 2, Spring 2010.]

*Doris described her early years of marriage:*

"We rented a couple of rooms on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We lived there for quite a while and we had a little store. I worked again for some tailor shops. Then I worked for City Hall Market selling fruit.

"Then a few years later we had a little store on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE. We stayed there a while and paid \$25 rent. One month we were 25 cents short. We didn't have enough to pay the rent and he told us to move. Somehow we got together a few dollars and we bought the store at 333 - 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE [Vancouver Clothing]. It was a *heggdish* (dump) there and we got pregnant.

"We had two rooms at the back of the store. It was so cold there and there were so many mice. Lila was born there in 1940. I remember things were very bad. But we got along because things were very cheap ... I lived there for six years. Reva was born there also.

"I remember when the kids were small—we hardly did any business—but in the fall we stayed open on Saturday night until ten. On Wednesday we were closed (all the stores were closed in Calgary then). One Saturday, a man came in and bought some clothes—about a hundred dollars' worth. I think it was the first time that we ever took in a hundred dollars. It was raining so hard the people just couldn't go home. We had the kitchen and the bedroom, but we had a couch to pull out. There was that man with four sons and we didn't let them go home that night. They slept in our place and they were so thankful.

"After the war broke out, after 1939, a young man came in. He came to the store to sell his jacket. He must have been about 17



**Arnold Dvorkin and Doris Miller performing in "Lies My Father Told Me" at the JCC, February 1994. Source: Calgary JCC. JHSSA #2847**

years old. He had joined the army. I don't remember how much we paid—probably a quarter. I felt so bad. Lila was so small then. It came towards supper time and I felt so bad. That poor kid; he sold his jacket and it's getting cold. What is he going to do with a quarter? I took the jacket, made a couple of sandwiches and said, 'Max, you go find that boy.' He did. He went to the CPR station—he was there. He gave him the sandwiches, gave him the jacket. A few years later—1942/43 or so—somebody comes into the store, a young man and asks how we are. We talked and he said, 'Don't you remember me?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'I am the boy who sold you the jacket and you sent your husband with sandwiches and the jacket.' I was so happy he came back alive. Incidents like this make you feel good inside—that you could do something for a human being. Many, many incidents like this, even with Indians. They used to come in and if you gave them a good word, they were your friends for life.

"Anyway, we moved when Reva was a year old. We had to get out, the kids were sick all the time. We looked at a house every time we visited Chiel (once in a blue moon). We passed by a house at [309-13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE] and I used to say that some of these years, I would like to have a little house like that. When Lila was five, there was an ad that this house was for sale. I phoned up the agent and he took me to see the house. I didn't have enough money. It was \$4,500. We had saved up \$2,000. The agent said that the house had to be sold by Monday because the lady was very sick and they have to go someplace. I said, 'I can't raise the money by Monday, I'll have to let it go.' He was such a nice man. He said, 'I'll make it out that it was sold and you try and get the money during the weekend.' At that time we already owned a little house, but [the tenants] didn't pay the rent. I couldn't get anything out of them. I went to so many places. I went to Abe Belzberg ... then I went to Chiel and Shaindl. They loaned the \$2,500. We got the little house. Of course, I paid them back. We also sold our rented house. I was



**Lila, Doris and Reva in a choir performance directed by Lori Greif, at the piano, at the Calgary JCC, June 1994. Source: Calgary JCC. JHSSA #2848**

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# 25 Years of Inspiring Philanthropy: the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary

By R. Kerr

In 2015, the Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary is celebrating 25 years of supporting Calgary's Jewish community. Originally called the Calgary Jewish Heritage Fund, it was officially incorporated in 1989, with the discussions leading to its formation beginning at least a year before. As Founding Chair Gert Cohos stated in the *Report to the First Annual General Meeting* in November 1990, "The combination of changing demographics and the uncertainties of the economic climate in Calgary produced a concern about the future well-being of the Calgary Jewish Community. In an attempt to stabilize finances and to ensure the continuation of quality Jewish communal life, the Calgary Jewish Community Council undertook the establishment of a Foundation, separate from, but under the umbrella of, Community Council."



Notes from an early planning meeting show the painstaking deliberation that went into the undertaking, taking into account everything from legal and accounting considerations to the possible responses of community members. Extensive research was done into existing foundations in other Canadian Jewish communities, and a list of prospective members for a board of trustees was drawn up, with letters of invitation sent out in October 1988. Co-chaired by Marty and Gert Cohos, the board first met in December 1988 and would work diligently to oversee the establishment of the structure of the Foundation, developing a "Community Wish List" of "worthy beneficiary programs" that could be strengthened or initiated with the support of Foundation funds. These included scholarships for both Judaic studies and other educational pursuits, subsidies for leadership development and conferences, fund for Holocaust education, community relations and outreach programs, the development of a Judaica library, and the possible sponsorship of a local *shaliach*, "an Israeli resource person on all matters pertaining to Israel and Jewish youth."

Charitable status was received in 1990, and the first official meeting of the Calgary Jewish Heritage Fund was held in October of that year. The minutes show that 10 funds, with an approximated net worth of just under \$80,000.00, were available for transfer from "other entities of the Calgary Jewish Community Council and Jewish Centre."

Over the next five years, the number of funds and endowments grew to over 30, and according to an article in the *Jewish Free Press* in March 1995, the value of its resources doubled. The 2014 JCFC Annual Report lists 104 separate funds, with more than \$6.4 million under management. Since the time of its incorporation, the JCFC estimates that over \$2.4 million has been distributed from its many funds to support important causes locally, nationally and in Israel.

Now, as then, donors have the option of selecting the programs, organizations, or causes that their fund will support. Many chose

to leave their donations unrestricted, which allows them to be distributed at the discretion of the Allotment Committee. Many have also become Legacy Givers, declaring their intention to provide funds through a bequest or with a "deferred lifetime gift", such as a life insurance policy.

It is gratifying that so much of the 1988 "wish list" has been realized: subsidizing the cost of Jewish camp or day-school for local youngsters; providing scholarships for those pursuing higher education; granting funds to enable additions to the JHSSA Jewish Veterans Database; supporting Holocaust education initiatives; facilitating community programming; donating to Israeli causes ranging from Disabled Veterans to immigrant integration organizations to scholarships, after-school and special education activities.

The Jewish Community Foundation of Calgary is sure to inspire local philanthropy for many years to come.

Sources: JHSSA and JCFC files

## Historic Calgary Week 2015

### For Freedom and Country: The Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I and II Database

presented by Sandra Lipton and Roberta Kerr of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta.

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at The Military Museums

4520 Crowchild Trail SW 2:30 – 3:30 pm in the lecture theatre

This fully searchable database provides access to biographical and service information for about 500 Jewish veterans of the First and Second World Wars who were either born in southern Alberta or lived in the area for a significant amount of time. Access points for searching include: veterans' names, birth place, place of enlistment, occupation at time of enlistment, battles fought, decorations awarded and service number. In addition to providing a profusion of biographical information on specific veterans, the database is also useful for identifying a number of broader trends, for example, how many Jewish veterans from southern Alberta served in the RCAF or how many Jewish veterans enlisted in Lethbridge. This database, created to honour the Jewish veterans of World War I and II, is an important tool not only for family genealogists but also for future academic studies on the Canadian Jewish contribution to the war effort. This session will provide an overview of the evolution of this database and highlight the wealth of information on the history of the Jewish contribution to World War I and II that could be gleaned from this resource.

This public event is free of charge. Attendees are asked to meet in the main atrium in front of the theatre. Those who identify themselves as attending this Historic Calgary Week event will get free admission to The Military Museums after the presentation.



# Calgary's Built Heritage: Jewish Connections

## Sam Diamond and The President Apartments

By Agi Romer Segal

Samuel Diamond (c.1899–1974) arrived in Alberta with his father Philip in the early 1900s. In 1905, the family moved to Canmore where Philip operated a store. Sam stayed there until about 1922 when the Diamond Dry Goods, Shoe Store and Ice Cream Parlour burnt down. His brothers Joe and Harry had part ownership in the Canmore Opera House between 1915 and 1921.

Sam moved to Calgary and became active in the city's building boom of the late 1920s. His uncle, Jacob Diamond, was Calgary's first Jewish resident and, as long-serving president of Congregation House of Jacob, a community stalwart. In 1927, Sam purchased two lots in the Connaught-Beltline district and in the following year a three-storey apartment building, the President Apartments, was completed at 801 - 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW. It has been posited that the architect was Alexander Pirie, who designed the Devenish Apartments, but there is no conclusive documentation. It was a stucco-clad wood frame building in what has been described as the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It was considered a prestigious address at the time due to its proximity to some impressive mansions. It appealed to a range of tenants from office workers to business managers. These early tenants inhabiting the 24 units included Sam's brother Louis Diamond, manager of Central Auction Mart and A.E. Dworkin, a partner in Standard Motors of Calgary. Sam also developed the near-by Acadia (1929) and Niagara (1940) apartments. Sam lived in the new President Apartments until 1934 when he, together with his wife Ethel, became the owner and resident manager of the noted residential hotel Braemar Lodge at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Centre Street. This historic building had served as Bishop Pinkham's residence. The Diamonds retained ownership until 1949 and the building burnt down in 1965.

Sam's daughter, Marilyn Miller, remembered many interesting Lodge residents in what Sam referred to as the "Stopping Place". Among them was violinist Jascha Galperin who worked with the Mount Royal College Conservatory and the Calgary Symphony Orchestra.

Sam retained ownership of the President until 1949. Other later owners included Jack Singer and the Belzberg brothers (1953–54) and Solomon Samuel Bell and Abraham Albert Bell (1969–75).

The President Apartments have an additional connection to the Diamond family and the Jewish community. In her 1997 oral history interview with JHSSA, Martha Cohen described living in the President after her December 1945 marriage to Harry Cohen. "It was almost impossible to get a place to live. We went into a hotel for three months until my Uncle Sam, who owned the President Apartments, let us have an apartment there. It was a one-room apartment—a kitchen and bathroom—no bedroom. The bed came out of the wall." They lived there for four years, until her first pregnancy.

Sam also had connections to another historic landmark. In the late 1940s, he was a resident in the Doris-Anne House at 1215 - 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW. It is a recognized Century Home, built in 1912–13 and the home of Edgar Loughheed's family from 1939 to 1943.

In late 2005, the President Apartments were added to the Municipal Inventory of Potential Historic Sites. At around the same time, new owners applied for a demolition permit in order to erect a multi-storied tower. In response to community reaction to the project, this application was withdrawn and a new redevelopment permit was submitted. New plans involved a 33-storey tower with the refurbished President at its base. This plan called for the removal of the President onto 7<sup>th</sup> Street to allow for an underground parkade. The President would then be moved back to the base of the building to serve as a restaurant and café with a rooftop garden deck connecting the original building to the new tower. Whether or not this particular plan proceeds, the President Apartments are a legally protected Municipal Historic Resource and cannot be demolished so long as the designation bylaw remains in effect.

The President Apartments remain as a testament to Sam Diamond's contribution to Calgary's built heritage.

Sources: JHSSA files; City of Calgary Heritage Evaluation Form by L. Simpson, H. Sanders and D. Carriou, 2005; [www.calgaryheritage.org](http://www.calgaryheritage.org); [www.centuryhomes.org](http://www.centuryhomes.org) with thanks to Harry Sanders, Bob van Wegen and Darryl Carriou.



Sam Diamond. Source: Diamond Family Calendar. JHSSA #1490



President Apartments, 801 - 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW.

Source: <http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/PD/Pages/Heritage-planning/Discover-Historic-Calgary-resources.aspx?dhcResourceId=583>

# Photo to Identify



Unidentified Girl, c. 1930. Photographer: Lane's Studio, Calgary. This photographic postcard is from Doris Miller's photo collection. It was brought to JHSSA for our "Postcards from the Past" program. Contact us if you know her name.

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## But We Survived

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glad to get rid of it. Our son Morrie was born in the new house in 1948. The kids all went to I.L. Peretz School."

Doris's daughters recall the pink stucco house, especially the excitement of living so close to the Stampede grounds, taking in tourist lodgers and renting out parking space. [See the *Discovery*, Volume 22, No. 2, Spring 2012 for the family's Stampede recollections.] They also have memories of the whole family walking to services at the House of Jacob on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. They remember that their mother was always involved in their schooling. She was an active member of the *Mooter Farein* (Mothers' Union) and their *Leyen Kraiz* (Reading Circle). Reading was Doris's prime pleasure, as she could read fluently in English, Yiddish, and of course Hebrew in her prayer books.

*Doris described how she learned English:*

"When I came to this country, I used to watch people as to how they pronounced their words. This was before I went to school. And the few months I had of schooling were very important to me, because I always did want to learn. I started to work with people and I think this is what gave me the way that I could speak and read and write—because I did want to learn and I really taught myself. However, working with people gave me the opportunity to do it."

As the children grew up, Doris was involved with Hadassah, and especially enjoyed working at the famed Hadassah Bazaars held at the Stampede Grounds. She also worked for a time at the National Council of Jewish Women's store where they sold second-hand clothes donated by Calgary's Jewish women to support the Angel's Ball which was a much anticipated event.

While Max took care of Vancouver Clothing, Doris went to work at Ruth Belzberg's dress shop, also on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, and in 1961, at Jaffe's Bookstore, where her love of books was a perfect match for her interests in dealing with customers.

After Max passed away in 1978, Doris managed Vancouver Clothing until the City bought out the stores on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue for redevelopment.

Not one to take it easy, Doris continued to bake and cook, spent time with family and friends, babysat the grandchildren, sang in Lori Greif's Jewish community choir, and even acted in the Jewish community theatre production of *Lies My Father Told Me*.

Doris continued to live on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue until the City expanded Macleod Trail to make room for the LRT. In her new condo on Glenmore Trail SW, Doris spent many happy years forging close friendships with both the Jewish and non-Jewish residents. Her huge holiday and Friday night gatherings were full of sumptuous aromas of the delightful meals for family and guests. Doris's *challahs* and *bilkelech* were the tastiest ever.

Doris loved going to *shul*, and since she lived so close to Beth Tzedec she would often be seen walking to services. A few years ago, Doris moved to Trinity Lodge where she once more made new friends and discovered her newfound artistic talent—painting.

On January 20, 2015, Doris, now a resident at Chinook Nursing Home, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday; her family now comprised of her three children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren along with her extended family of stepchildren and many grandchildren. She is still able to read Hebrew, Yiddish, and English, and greets visitors with a huge smile.



# Postcards from the Past: Valuable Historical Documents

By Zena Drabinsky

On April 27, 2015, an attentive audience of 40 people was treated to an illustrated talk by David Daley about the significance of postcards, a relatively unexplored but highly interesting and valuable field of study. David's talk, "Postcards from the Past: Insights into history, technology and popular culture", proved this point.

David is a mixed collections conservator with Archives and Special Collections at the University of Calgary, and he is an avid collector of postcards.

In the past, he noted, it was prevalent to purchase and collect inexpensive postcards. They were an easy way for people to communicate. This was especially the case between 1906 and the 1930s. During that time, there were clubs and collector groups. Most of the postcards from that era were lithograph cards, not photograph cards, and the lithographed scenes were usually retouched for colouration.

Photograph cards, which made up only about 10% of the postcards at that time, were at first posed studio portraits, taken by professional photographers, often with painted studio backdrops. As photographic equipment became less expensive, the poses and scenes became more casual. Entertaining backdrops with holes cut in them for people to stick their heads in were considered very modern. A class of travelling photographers arose and interested amateurs increased. Candid, unposed and more casual outdoor shots of people also became popular.

David explained that all postcards can be classified into "view cards" and "topical cards". View cards depict an area of a city, town or region, and are photographed using a "main street", a "bird's eye" or a "panoramic" view. Topical cards, on the other hand, tell more of a story: for instance an event, a wedding, a war, advertising, or an amusement. David showed examples from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that incorporated the photographers' artistic skills, such as time-exposure night scenes.

Postcards can be dated by their format as well as the image. The earliest postcards were blank on the back and often had a white space on the front for a written caption. The divided back with designated space for an address and stamp was introduced in 1905. At this time postal rates also declined, contributing to the widespread use of postcards. Postcards can sometimes be dated by the markings around the stamp area. The following sites can be helpful for dating:

<http://www.the2buds.com/rp.htm>;

<http://www.playle.com/realphoto/>

While postcards are quite sturdy, they should be preserved in polyethylene and not in vinyl sleeves to prevent their deterioration.

Much information can be gleaned from postcards about events, dates, built heritage, social commentary and more. David stressed that postcards are great historical records and also useful research tools, and thus are valuable for anyone else interested in the past. Thank you to the many readers and JHSSA members who brought in their own vintage postcards or sent us scans.



Sandra Lipton thanks David Daley for his presentation about postcards, April 2015. Photographer: Ken Drabinsky. JHSSA #4106.11

## JHSSA Winter Program: The Fairmont Palliser Hotel and its Jewish Connections with Harry Sanders, February 22, 2015



Jeff Eichler honoured Kurt Kaiser with a poem on the occasion of Kurt's retirement from the Fairmont Palliser Hotel. Mr. Kaiser shared some fond memories of his years working with the Jewish community at the presentation by Harry Sanders in February. Source: Harry Sanders. JHSSA #2849

## JHSSA NEWS

### Honouring our Octogenarians

Once again, at our October AGM, we hope to acknowledge those in our community who have celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in the past year. Please contact our office at [jhssa@shaw.ca](mailto:jhssa@shaw.ca) or 403-444-3171 if you have any names to add to our list of honourees.

### From Discovery, Winter 2015 issue : Postcard image identified

Thank you to Brian Belzberg for the identification of Jack Belzberg on the left in the image of the postcard featured on page 8 of our last issue. Jack, born in Radom in 1911, was the son of Shlomo Belzberg. He was involved in amateur boxing in his youth for the Lethbridge YMCA. He later ran Capitol Furniture there. He moved to Vancouver with his wife Minnie, and died in 1986. The Vancouver JCC houses the Jack Belzberg Memorial Pool.

### President's Message

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the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Post #2 Calgary and the Nate & Lily Horodezky Fund of JCFC. We outline the 25-year history of JCFC in this issue.

I am very excited to be making presentations on The Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I & II Database at two upcoming academic conferences. Additionally, Roberta Kerr and I will be presenting a session on the database during Historic Calgary Week. I encourage you to come to this session July 29, 2:30 pm at The Military Museums. Preparation for these talks has uncovered a wealth of interesting information about our veterans, including the service of over 30 sets of siblings (five of the six sons of Joseph Cohen served and represented all branches of the forces). David Austin served in both World Wars. Leah Waterman, who volunteered for the US Army (her three brothers also served for Canada), Frances Binder (US Army) and Tanya Volovnik (RCACF) are so far the only female Jewish servicewomen we have been able to identify.

Over the last few months we have organized two very successful programs. In February, Harry Sanders presented on the Palliser Hotel's Jewish connections and it was delightful to have Kurt Kaiser there to reflect on his years working with our Jewish community. More recently, David Daley talked about his personal passion—postcards and how they offer insights into history. See Page 7 for further details about this program.

Last fall we witnessed the demolition of the Shaarey Tzedec synagogue despite pleas to preserve it as a heritage building. In this issue we are introducing what we hope will be a series about the Jewish connections to Calgary's built heritage, with a look at the history of the President Apartments built by Sam Diamond. This building is now a Protected Municipal Historic Resource.

Finally, a reminder that as you spring clean, any old photos, postcards, immigration papers, etc. might be of historic value. Please contact the office regarding possible donation or to allow us to make copies of the material.

### Looking for Family Information

As a member of the Shapiro, Bercov, Dvorkin, Hashman/Hochman/Hoffman families, it has been easy to acquire family history from the Shapiro/Bercov/Dvorkin families because of the activities and information available through the JHSSA. However, we are missing basic information on my father's mother's side of the family. My father was Ted Dvorkin and his father was David A. Dvorkin. His stepmother was Rose Sanford Dvorkin. His birth mother Raychel died in Russia around 1913. It is regarding her family that I am seeking information.

On my father's declaration made prior to his travel to Canada in 1922, it stated that Josel and Pesia Hoffman were his grandparents. We had always been told that the family name was Hochman which in Canada was changed to Hashman. They were from Gomel, White Russia, but were living in Vietka, which is not far from Gomel.

If there is anyone who knows the history of this family, I hope that they would provide me with whatever information they might have.

*Rena Cohen*

Please contact our office if you can provide further information about the families Rena has mentioned.

### JHSSA Membership Updates

The following corrections/additions have been made to our membership since our Winter 2015 issue. Benefactors: Hy & Jennie Belzberg, Joey Bleviss, Ken Drabinsky & Natasha Halikowski, Eric & Gay Libin; Patrons: Lou Bracey, Joel Fishman, Lorne Tucker & Bev Sklar; Members: Sam Fishman, Elizabeth Klein, Mel Ksienski, Paul & Katherine Pearlman.

### DISCOVERY

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Please address all communications on editorial and circulation matters to:

*Discovery*

c/o The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

1607 - 90 Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2V 4V7

Phone 403-444-3171

Email: [jhssa@shaw.ca](mailto:jhssa@shaw.ca)

Website: [www.jhssa.org](http://www.jhssa.org)

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