



JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 2

SPRING 2014

On the Trail for Treasure: Sheldon Smithens Shares Stories from *Canadian Pickers*

Monday, September 15, 2014

JCC Auditorium

Silent Auction Viewing at 6:30 pm

Talk at 7:00 pm

Admission: \$10 at the door

Free for 2015 JHSSA members



Sheldon Smithens, "Canadian Picker", 2012. Source: Sheldon Smithens JHSSA #3132

The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta is pleased to host a special program featuring Sheldon Smithens, co-host of the popular TV show *Canadian Pickers*. Sheldon is also a well-known antiques dealer, appraiser and auctioneer – and past JHSSA president. Many may know Sheldon from his years as the auctioneer at numerous charity auctions in our community.

On September 15th, Sheldon will present an illustrated talk about his family background in the world of antiques and about his adventures on the trail for the *Canadian Pickers* TV show. He will also auction off a collection of promotional items from the show.

The \$10 admission fee will be waived for anyone who is a 2015 JHSSA member. Membership renewal forms will be mailed out prior to the event. JHSSA memberships will be available at the door.

In conjunction with this talk, JHSSA is hosting a silent auction of items relating to local family history, Judaica and Western Canada. The public is invited to donate items for the auction. Each item should be accompanied by a short description of its provenance and if possible, its history with its owner. Silent auction items will be available for viewing at 6:30 pm prior to Sheldon's presentation.

Proceeds from the sale of the items will go to the JHSSA. No reserve bids will be taken. Items can be dropped off at the JHSSA office, upstairs in the JCC, before August 29th. Call 403-444-3171 for further details.

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Chevra Kadisha Interpretive Plaque Dedication

Sunday, August 17, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the Erlton Cemetery Main Gate

In honour of the 2014 centenary of the Chevra Kadisha of Calgary, the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta invites the public to the dedication of an interpretive historic plaque on the main gate of Erlton Jewish Cemetery on Sunday afternoon, August 17, 2014. This cemetery has served the community since 1904 and is now fully reserved. The plaque will highlight the significance of this site to our community's history.

The plaque dedication will be followed by a communal burial of sacred texts (*shamot/shames*) such as worn out Hebrew prayer books and bibles in the communal book depository (*genizah*) on the cemetery grounds. The books or loose pages can be brought to the event for burial. This will be followed at around 3:00 pm by a tour of the cemetery led by historian Harry Sanders who will stop at some gravesites of particular interest – including the earliest 1904 grave, that of infant Goldie Bell.

This interpretive plaque is the third to be dedicated by JHSSA. In 2011 an interpretive plaque was dedicated at the original site of the Congregation House of Jacob synagogue (now Bow Valley College). A plaque marking the original site of Smithbilt Hats (now Hotel Arts) was dedicated in 2012.



The Main Gates of the Jewish Cemetery at Erlton. The inscription reads The House of Life (a common Hebrew name for cemeteries – referring to eternal life) of the City of Calgary. JHSSA #251

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS ALL OUR ACTIVITIES

Martha Ruth Block Cohen, C.M., AOE, LL.D.

An Opportunity to Serve

By Naomi Hashman

*"Who is honoured? One who honours his fellow man."
Ethics of the Fathers 4:1*

When one considers the pillars of our community, a name that immediately comes to mind is that of Martha Cohen. Martha Cohen's curriculum vitae lists dozens of honours throughout her long career of community service. Among these are: State of Israel Bonds Prime Minister's Medal, 1970; Member of the Order of Canada, 1975; Alberta Achievement Award, 1975; Queen Elizabeth Medal, 1977; Calgary Citizen of the Year, Calgary Jaycees, 1979; Honourary Doctorate, University of Calgary, 1982; Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner Honouree (with Harry Cohen), 1987; Confederation Medal, 1992; Honouree, Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University Tribute Dinner, 1994; Angel Award, International Society for the Performing Arts, 1995; Honourary Degree in Applied Arts, Mount Royal College; Honourary Patron, Royal Canadian Sea Cadets; Best of Alberta Award, *Calgary Herald*, 2008; Woman of Vision, *Calgary Herald*, 2009. Her name has been conferred on a theatre in Calgary's arts complex. The Harry and Martha Cohen Award for sustained contribution to the arts has been presented by Alberta Theatre Projects since 1986.

Interestingly, this same CV lists a total of only five years of paid employment (between the years 1942–49). In my recent interview with her, Martha remarked that interesting and meaningful volunteer opportunities came her way and she felt she should contribute wherever she had the skills. Clearly her skills were many. Her competence led to further requests to participate on organizational boards. These honours were bestowed on Martha Cohen for her numerous contributions in a variety of areas.

Martha Ruth Block was born on October 14, 1920 in Calgary. Her family background is similar to that of many in the community whose families emigrated from Eastern Europe. Martha is the only child of Rebecca and Peter Block (originally Bloch). Peter, the eldest of six sisters and a brother, first lived in North Dakota and then Chicago with his entire family and came to Calgary around 1914. They came from Kherson, near the vibrant city of Odessa. Peter was an educated man who had started studying medicine at the time of his emigration. After a few difficult years running a cigar store here, Peter went into the dry cleaning business.

Peter Bloch met Rebecca Diamond, the eldest of Philip Diamond's six children, in Canmore and they married in Calgary in early 1920. Phillip, brother of Jacob Diamond, Calgary's first Jewish citizen, arrived in Canada around 1900 from the shtetl of Oszmiana (near Vilna), today in Belarus. He settled in Canmore where he operated a dry goods store. Rebecca's mother had died in Europe before Phillip had had a chance to bring the entire family to Canada. In 1914 Rebecca traveled back to her hometown to erect a headstone on her mother's grave. She was caught in the German occupied area during World War I (see *Discovery*, Spring 2010). This family story must have made a deep impression on Martha, since years later Martha herself had her own grandfather Block's dilapidated headstone in Calgary rebuilt.

Although she was an only child, Martha recalls growing up in a busy home which was open to everyone. Numerous relatives came to stay with the family throughout her childhood years. Martha was especially close to her grandfather Phillip, who lived across the lane from the Block family in his later years. Martha attended a Montessori kindergarten, where she began to learn French, and then McDougall School and Central Collegiate. As a teen, she also attended the I.L. Peretz School for a few months to learn to read and write in Yiddish.

Since she had skipped a few grades in her earlier years, Martha started at the University of Alberta at age 16. Fortunately she was tall, so her fellow students did not suspect that she was younger. Martha never wanted to be a teacher and because her general arts degree did not qualify her for any specific career, she convinced Henderson's Business College to allow her to take only the specific courses she felt useful instead of the usual two-year curriculum.

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Martha Block with her parents Peter and Rebecca, circa 1925. Source: Martha Cohen. JHSSA #566.1

Martha Ruth Block Cohen

Continued from Page 2



Martha Block and Harry Cohen, 1945. Source: Martha Cohen. JHSSA #8

Because she had graduated before she had turned 19, Martha could not immediately continue on to graduate school. She did consider going to the U.S. to study journalism, but in 1939 only \$25 could be sent to the U.S. monthly, so there was no way to finance her stay. Instead, Martha found employment in Calgary with Empire Universal at the Film Exchange.

It was at the Film Exchange that Martha got to know Harry Cohen better. However, they had dated earlier. Harry had taken her to the Yom Kippur dance when she had returned for the holidays from university. He was already 25 at the time and probably did not realize that Martha was only 16.

Martha worked at the Film Exchange until, at the age of 21, she was old enough to start graduate work in social work at the University of Toronto. Harry continued to visit her during Martha's two-year program. They were married in Calgary in December, 1945.

They lived in a small apartment until the birth of their first child, when they built a house in Mount Royal. Martha designed the split level home herself to suit the lot. Many people interested in the new concept of a split level home came to see her design.

Right after her marriage, Martha served as secretary on the board of the Calgary Family Service Bureau. When a social worker left the agency, she was asked to fill in – she worked there for two

years, doing the intake for the Providence Creche, until she finally had to leave to get her appendix out. She returned to serve on the board and was asked to become president. Martha did eventually serve as president, after the bylaws exempting non-Catholic executive of Catholic Charities from being on the Catholic Charities board were changed. Another contribution Martha made to this, and many other organizations on which she served, was to change the constitution to limit terms for board members.

Martha was involved with the Jewish community upon her return to Calgary. She was active in the local branch of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and twice served as its president. During her term, NCJW started the Bargain Bazaar and the Golden Age Club (later called Friendship Club).

"One who gives and wants others to give is saintly" ibid 5:16

Through her involvement with Calgary Family Service Bureau and NCJW, Martha came to be instrumental in the founding of Calgary Jewish Family Service Bureau (now Jewish Family Service Calgary). Often, Jews needing help were referred to Martha. She would try to help on an ad hoc basis, but decided that this was not an adequate approach. With input from NCJW and funding help from NCJW and B'nai Brith, Martha acquired an office in the House of Israel community building. She worked there in the mornings as a volunteer. The agency also began to attract clientele from the First Nations, as well as others who did not want to go to the Catholic bureau. To cover the growing needs, Martha would approach individuals for funds – or as she states in her 1997 interview, "I just came and begged for it, that's all." This direct personal style of fundraising was the hallmark of Martha's approach throughout her career.

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Martha Cohen Banner for University of Toronto. Martha Cohen was one of the honoured alumni featured in a University of Toronto campaign. In 1977 Martha was named to the University's sesquicentennial year award to recognize an alumna who has served the people of her community with distinction. Source: Martha Cohen. JHSSA #1612

Martha Ruth Block Cohen

Continued from Page 3

After three years, the workload became too great for Martha to handle on her own so additional social workers were hired. Eventually, the agency grew to such an extent that a full time director was needed. Sabine Joffe was hired by the JFSC board.

One of Martha's proudest accomplishments is being the first female to be appointed to chair an educational institution (Mount Royal College, 1966–74) in Alberta. Martha was initially asked to be a representative of the public school board on the new board which was established by the Alberta government to create the community college that was to become Mount Royal College. Martha speaks with passion when she describes the process of developing the southwest college campus with a new and modern design. Their board fought a bitter battle against Mayor Rod Sykes to obtain the site. Martha chaired the board during the development process and was awarded an honorary degree from the College for her efforts.

Martha is also proud of her long service on the boards of Big Sisters of Alberta and William Roper Hull Homes. She recounts that she initiated the Hull Home "Hullabaloo" event after experiencing a carnival on vacation in Nassau.

Of course, most Calgarians would know of Martha Cohen from the theatre bearing her name that forms part of Calgary's Centre

for the Performing Arts (now Epcor Centre). Martha credits her lifelong love of theatre to the performance of "Maggie and Jiggs" at the Orpheum circuit that she saw at the Grand Theatre at the age of three. She was initially approached by Theatre Calgary to help find an appropriate new site for their productions. Eventually, Alberta Theatre Productions and the Calgary Philharmonic also required new performance space. When Ross Alger became Calgary's mayor, he supported building on the Centre's current site. Martha relates with pride how, together with Vera Swanson and a committee of four other women, she helped raise 15 million dollars in six years and "we did it without wasting money."

That project helped greatly in the development of downtown Calgary. It is not surprising that in 1991 Martha Cohen was the first woman to be allowed in the downtown Rotary Club – even though she did not technically meet the criterion of being a businessman. The decision to include women had been made nationally and so Martha and the 80-year-old niece of the founder of Rotary were put up for election. Martha was initially made an honorary member so she would not be obligated to attend weekly meetings, but when she actually showed up at meetings more frequently than many others, she was made a regular member.

"According to the effort is the reward" ibid 5:26

In all her interviews, Martha is asked how she managed to be involved in so much volunteer activity while raising four children. She always answers simply that she had help in the house, but is quick to point out that she was involved in their childhood, sewing costumes like any other Mom. She explains, "[Volunteering] just sort of happens. It really does just happen to you...It just sort of became a thing – and I just did it."

She is quick to describe the accomplishments of her four children. Dr. Phillip Cohen pursued a career in nuclear medicine; Cheryl is executive director of the Martha and Harry Cohen Foundation; Faye has a career in acting and David is a scriptwriter.

In November 1982, the University of Calgary granted Martha an honorary doctorate degree. Her accomplishments were beautifully summed up by Alan H. MacDonald:

"From a stronghold of faith and family, Martha Cohen has consistently reached beyond herself to improve and enrich the lives of those around her through dedicated and competent participation in a myriad of service, educational, religious and cultural organizations. Martha Cohen has received many honours in her time, but her greatest reward has been the most basic, the opportunity to serve others."

It was a privilege to interview Martha Cohen. I found her to be most intelligent and articulate. Her genuine concern for people and her warmth came through in our conversation. These traits are evidenced in her outstanding accomplishments in so many areas. Martha is a strong and determined woman who continues to be an inspiration and a role model.

Naomi Hashman is a retired Calgary social worker. This article is based on her 2014 interview with Martha Cohen as well as a 1997 oral interview, a 2000 video interview done by JHSSA and JHSSA reference files.



Martha Cohen on her 80th birthday, 2000. Photographer: Peter Gold Studios. Source: Martha Cohen JHSSA #3085

President's Message

By Betty Sherwood

In our Winter issue we suggested destinations of Jewish historical interest across the West. The following Jewish archives and museums located in Eastern Canada are well worth your attention; for specific research into genealogy or community history, an appointment in advance is always recommended.



TORONTO

The Morris and Sally Justein Heritage Museum located at Baycrest preserves over 900 Judaica treasures in its permanent collection, giving visitors informed glimpses into the past. Visitors of all ages and cultures can gain a new understanding of Jewish Toronto's varied communal and religious traditions.

416-785-2500 www.baycrest.org/care/culture

At the Ontario Jewish Archives you will find documents and records relating to Ontario Jewish communities from the 1830s to the present. With over 5,000 cubic feet of records and over 60,000 photographs, the Archives houses a wealth of information, much of it now available online.

416-635-5391 www.ontariojewisharchives.org

Open to the public but with limited hours, the Reuben & Helene Dennis Museum at Beth Tzedec Synagogue was established in 1965 with the acquisition of over 1,000 ceremonial objects from the collection of Dr. Cecil Roth. Today its holdings of over 2,500 artifacts illustrating the richness of Jewish tradition are displayed on a rotating basis and highlighted in special exhibits and events.

416-781-3514 ext. 232 www.beth-tzedec.org

OTTAWA-GATINEAU

The Canadian Museum of History, formerly called the Museum of Civilization, does not currently have on display an exhibit of particular Jewish interest but over the years numerous artifacts as well as interviews, memoirs and many other types of documents have been donated, including personal collections relating to Western Canada. To see artifacts, be sure to book at least a week in advance.

819-776-8431 www.historymuseum.ca

The Ottawa Jewish Archives houses the historical records of Ottawa's Jewish community, the collective memory of its families and institutions. Simple research requests by mail, telephone or email are welcomed.

613-798-4696 ext. 260 www.jewishottawa.com

MONTREAL

The Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives collects and preserves documentation on all aspects of Jewish life in Quebec and Canada. Some of the major collections in their holdings are those of the Jewish Colonization Association, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services and the Canadian Jewish Congress Organizational Records. Research requests by mail, telephone or email are welcomed. Visits are by appointment only.

514-031-7531 ext. 2 www.cjccc.ca www.cjhn.ca

Since 1914 the Jewish Public Library Archives has been collecting and making available the accomplishments of Montreal's Jewish community, including individuals, institutions and organizations,

some of which date back over 200 years. Open during regular business hours, its staff prefers being notified in advance of any visitors.

514-345-2627 ext. 3015 www.jewishpubliclibrary.org

The Montreal Holocaust Museum's mandate is to educate those of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust while sensitizing all to the perils of racism, hatred and indifference. Artifacts, photographs and films help to narrate the lives before, during and after World War II of the few European Jews who survived to re-settle in Montreal.

514-345-2605 www.mhmc.ca

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK

The only Jewish museum in Atlantic Canada, the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum has several permanent exhibits, occasional traveling exhibits and a library and archive of Jewish history with special emphasis on Saint John. Their unique exhibit for 2014 concerns the summer community of Pemdenc, home to a vibrant summer Jewish community from the 1920s to the 1960s and now a provincial historic site. Sharing the Museum's beautiful building is the Shaarei Zedek Synagogue.

506-633-1833 www.personal.nbnet.nb.ca/sjjhm

HALIFAX

On your visit to the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, you can learn about the experiences of immigrants as they arrived in Canada, particularly at that point of entry between 1928 and 1971. The Scotiabank Family History Centre in the Museum offers reference services beyond these years. Daniel Libeskind's Wheel of Conscience monument commemorating the tragic voyage of the St. Louis was unveiled at the Museum in 2011. A searchable database is available on the website and the public is invited to submit immigration stories.

902-425-7770 www.pier21.ca

If your research or your travels unearth a nugget relevant to the JHSSA, please be sure to share it with us!

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- | | |
|---|---|
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From Our Archives

Fiesta! A Mardi Gras Sponsored by Emuna Sorority, 1947

It was time for us to plan a function whose proceeds would go to Youth Aliyah. This year it was to be a dance again, with a South American theme. "Fiesta, a mardi gras sponsored by Emuna" sounded authentic enough. We discussed the possibilities of having a Mexican dish for refreshments and a floor show. Before we knew it, the tickets had been printed and we were stuck with turning those possibilities into realities. We discussed them until we could reiterate all our pros and cons backward. It was finally decided that Doreen Levitt would be in charge of having the Chili Con Carne made. Economy being one of our keynotes, the signs to be posted in advertisement were hand-made. To fill out our floor show we finally agreed to having a mock bull-fight.

The afternoon of Sunday, March 30th, all the girls went down to the Community to decorate the hall and arrange the tables. We hung up colored straw hats and huge paintings. Crepe paper was strung across the hall and all was ready.

Each girl wore a peasant outfit. Two huge pots of Chili Con Carne were brought from the Levitts' and the Engels' houses and were put on the stoves to be reheated. While the dancing was going on and the performers were getting ready for the floor show, girls were selling fruits on the floor and raw celery and carrots were placed on the tables. At last the floor show was ready to start – Rochelle, the little Mexican girl danced; Kippy did a fake Jolson number; Pearl and Florence did a piano duet as "Steinway and Eisensteinway"; and Bunny Carmen Pupita Geffen interpreted a rumba with the aid of four Emuna members in the background. We tried to have a serenading contest with an old ukulele and an imitation banjo, but it didn't work so well.

Last but not least, we had El-Toro in the form of Yale Joffe (tail) and Les Florence (head). The valiant matador role was handled by Moishe Belzberg and Joe Sheinin played the man with the white coat and shovel. The results were a riot and the costumes were even worse. Who ever heard of a matador wearing a straw boater, green tights and a striped jerkin? Where can one find a bull with a cardboard head and cloth covered body? The only practical property was the man with the shovel.

By this time the Chili Con Carne had been taken off the stove, burned on the bottom, and was cooling fast. The kitchen was a mad house, but we finally got the food served and the money collected. The Mexican food, a good item on the ticket, wasn't appreciated so



Emuna Girls, 1946-47. Top row across, left to right: Ida Zysblat, Dolores Gould, Jenny Lavin (president), Bunny Geffen, Pearl Isenstein. Second row: Sheila Kline, Fran Libin (treasurer), Reva Sheinin (vice president), Bertha Chester (secretary), Fay Nagler. Third row: Frances Lavin, Clara Belkin, Doreen Levitt (keeper of the log), Florence Stein, Sylvia Chernoff. Bottom row: Reva Sheinin, Muriel Dvorkin, Joyce Backer, Sema Switzer, Monica Engle. Photographer: Matthews Studio. Source: Doreen Levitt Kline. JHSSA #2741

much on the table, but it was good. We didn't have enough hot dogs.

The dance ended quite late. We cleared close to \$90 and were terrifically glad when it was all over.

The full names of some of the participants in this anonymous handwritten description of this Emuna sorority event include: Doreen Levitt (Kline); Rochelle ?; Arnold "Kippy" Kipnes; Pearl Isenstein; Florence Stein; Bunny Zinna Geffen (Goodman); Yale Joffe; Les Florence; Moishe Morris Belzberg; Joe Sheinin.

Notes from Genealogy Workshop with David Obee

Getting to the Land of Promise: Using Canadian Immigration and Census Records



David Obee, 2012. Source: David Obee

by R. Kerr

For anyone new to genealogy, or new to how government records can be used to find family information, our March 23, 2014 program, *Getting to the Land of Promise*, was time well spent. The speaker was David Obee, editor of the *Victoria Times Colonist* and genealogical researcher.

Obee's presentation provided an overview of the various primary sources useful to those looking to trace their family histories. He discussed census records, ship manifests and other immigration-related documents, including an outline of the many changes in the depth and breadth of these documents over the decades. One of the most interesting and useful aspects of the afternoon was the consideration of some of the challenges that come along with using these resources.

First and foremost, it is important to be aware of the potential for error and false information that can arise, quite innocently, when not consulting the actual document yourself. Many organizations have transcribed information from census records and ship manifests, and made this information available to the public. A few have used volunteers to compile and enter the information, and because the work is being done by people who care about it, consideration is given to the various possibilities when the original entry is unclear.

But many organizations use paid staff, whose main focus is simply to get through the lists as efficiently as possible. Looking at some of the many census returns that have been scanned by Statistics Canada and made available for viewing through the Library and Archives Canada site, it quickly becomes obvious how challenging it could be to transcribe the information accurately. Some of the entries were not clearly legible even at the time of recording, and fading ink has not improved the situation. Trying to let go of assumptions as to what a word or name should be, it is easy to see how slight variations in the formation of letters suggest very different names, especially when the information being recorded isn't English.

Even when the writing is

clear, it is important to remember that errors may have been recorded on the original document, perhaps by a census taker having misheard an individual, unintentionally substituting a name or word that was more familiar. Obee also shared a number of examples where an individual's first and middle names were flipped, or a familial relationship was mis-recorded. Spouses' names present a particular challenge in the early records, with one 1916 census-taker in rural Saskatchewan actually recording wives using their maiden name in place of their given name; a huge help to information seekers with other resources, but a great confusion to everyone else!

Whatever the root cause, errors and misinformation may lead to both false positives and false negatives, the former resulting in wasted time and effort, following an ultimately fruitless path; the latter wrongly discouraging a researcher from pursuing a particular line of inquiry. To minimize these frustrations, always consult the primary source yourself if it's at all possible; try not to make assumptions about what you're looking at; look for an additional source whenever you can; don't be discouraged. Just because the information you need isn't in one place, doesn't mean it won't turn up in another.

The JHSSA reference library has a number of materials that can assist you in your research, including maps and shtetl- and name-finders, as well as both of Obee's books. More links and information can be found at Obee's website, www.CanGenealogy.com



Kadima Fraternity Party 1945. Standing at the back: Doreen Levitt, Cecil Kline, Sheila Kline, Harry Tucker. Seated left to right around the table: Mort Libin, Fran Lavin, Cynthia Pearlman, Sid Maerov, Joe Sheinin, Marian Davis, Judah Shumiatcher, Frances Belzberg, Lil Bleiviss, Fran Libin, Will Manolson, Les Florence, Sylvia Chernoff, Walter Barron, Sylvia Shapiro, Morris Belzberg, Jenny Lavin, Jack Geffen, Joyce Becker, Sheldon Gurevitch, Fay Nagler, Sema Switzer, Yale Joffe. Source: Yale Joffe. JHSSA #189

JHSSA NEWS:

Historic Calgary Week: Erlton Cemetery Tour with Harry Sanders, Monday, July 28th at 4:00 pm at the gate on 30th Avenue closest to Erlton St.

2014 marks the centenary of the Chevra Kadisha – and 110 years since the first burial in the Erlton Jewish cemetery. Join historian Harry Sanders for a tour of the cemetery and for some insights about its history and about some of the Calgarians buried there. This popular tour is part of Chinook Country Historical Society's Historic Calgary Week. For more details of the numerous interesting programs offered July 25–August 4, consult www.chinookcountry.org.

Seeking our 80-year-olds

JHSSA is collecting the names of our community members who were born 80 years ago. We plan to honour these 80-year-olds at our Annual General Meeting on October 27, 2014. Please call our office at 403-444-3171 or email jhssa@shaw.ca with names.

Thank You to our Casino Volunteers

The work of JHSSA casino chairman David Busheikin and his team of dedicated volunteers at our June casino is much appreciated. It is estimated that each volunteer raised over \$1,600 at the event.

JHSSA Board of Directors Volunteer Positions

It is our society's mandate to collect and preserve documents, oral histories and photographs that reflect the history of the Jewish communities of Southern Alberta and to use these materials to educate the Jewish community and the general public about this history in a variety of ways.

We are currently looking for members of the community who have experience in such areas as writing, researching, editing, law, finances, communications, interviewing, public programming or genealogy to join our working Board.

Please contact our office at 403-444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.ca for further information.

JHSSA Education Kit for Grade Two Social Studies Curriculum

The education kit for the Grade Two Social Studies curriculum that was developed by Reva Faber for JHSSA with funding from an Alberta Government Community Spirit Grant has been completed and was piloted at the Calgary Jewish Academy this spring. The 12 lessons, which are a part of the Communities in Canada unit, focus on the Jewish homesteading experience as illustrated by the Montefiore Colony. The material includes oral histories and photos. JHSSA hopes to introduce this education kit to the Calgary Board of Education in the coming year.

Bubbies & Zaidas Blogging

JHSSA representatives attended the April 30th closing event of this special venture. JHSSA support of the program, mainly through publicity and background information, was acknowledged. The moving event featured a number of the new bloggers describing their amazement at finding themselves involved in the online world. They expressed their appreciation for the support provided by the organizers and volunteer tutors. A CJA student representative recounted

how impressed he was with the seniors who had gone through so much in their lives. Although the program facilitator, Mariette Sluyter, is leaving for BC, the dedicated graduates have decided to continue, with the help of the JCC, to guide other seniors into the world of blogging. Visit their blogs at <http://bubbiesandzaidasblogging.blogspot.ca>.

JHSSA Membership Updates

The following members have been added since the Winter 2014 *Discovery*: Benefactors – Murt & Helene Davis, Norman & Rosslyn Steinberg, Stephen Kennedy; Patrons – George & Connie Nagler; Members – Ron Hurov, Andy Kubrin, Susan Lubell.

JHSSA Hosts New Archival Organization

On June 11, 2014, JHSSA hosted a lunch meeting at the JCC of the Archivists of Faith & Religious Organizations Group (AFROG), an umbrella organization that was formed in the past year. The meeting focussed on issues common to these small archives and was followed by a short presentation about JHSSA, its operations and archival holdings.

JHSSA Honours Carey Smith

Long-time JHSSA volunteer Carey Smith is JHSSA's nominee for the 2014 Shem Tov Award of Calgary Jewish Federation. Carey served for a number of terms on our board. Her ongoing work as our Tribute Card Fund volunteer has brought in thousands of dollars over the years. Carey writes and mails our cards, maintains the database and takes care of the billing and receipting – even during her months as a snowbird.

To order a JHSSA tribute card, please contact Carey at careysmith@shaw.ca or 403-253-5152.

DISCOVERY

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

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Editors: **Katie Baker, Agi Romer Segal, Betty Sherwood**

The editors welcome submissions for publication relating to areas of Calgary and Southern Alberta Jewish history. All articles should be typed, documented and sent for consideration.

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