



DISCOVERY

The Journal of the

תגלית

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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FALL 2012

JHSSA 22nd Annual General Meeting Monday, October 29, 2012 – Calgary JCC Auditorium, 7:30 pm

Memories of Shaarey Tzedec

By Sandra Lipton

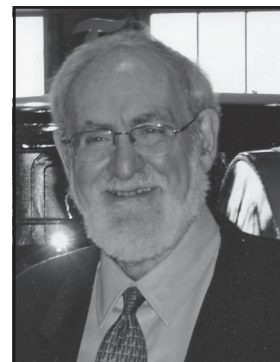
The 2012 Annual General Meeting will be dedicated to the memory of Jack Switzer²¹ (1937-2012) Historian, Writer, Mentor, President and Friend. Jack was active in recording the history and achievements of the Southern Alberta Jewish community. At a special event on May 6, 2013, we will pay tribute to Jack's research, writing, leadership and sense of humour with a full program of his work.

Our 2012 AGM, recalling Jack's interest in the larger Jewish Community, will offer a presentation on the history of the Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue. It has been over 25 years since the Shaarey Tzedec ceased functioning as a modern orthodox synagogue, and 2012 may mark the demolition of the former synagogue building on 17th Avenue. While the synagogue structure has been extolled as an "architectural treasure" and has been listed in the City of Calgary Inventory of Historic Resources, it has not been deemed a protected site.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta will help ensure that the memory of the Shaarey Tzedec is preserved by making the synagogue's history the theme of our upcoming AGM. Though only in existence for a brief period of time, this congregation had a major impact on our community. Both lay people and clergy involved in the synagogue represent key figures in the Calgary Jewish community (the cornerstone was laid by Jacob Barron, the Aron Kodesh built of

Galilee marble from Israel was donated by Bella Singer and original leadership included Leo Sheftel as president, Sybil Bercov as head of the sisterhood group and Murray Robins who led the men's club).

The AGM program will include a multimedia presentation on the Shaarey Tzedec, the election of a new JHSSA Board of Directors and the presentation of certificates to those in our community who have celebrated their 80th birthday this past year. The evening will conclude with refreshments.



Jack Switzer, 2009. JHSSA #2503

President's Message

Betty Sherwood

We live in such a visual and photographed world today that it is easy to forget that photos were once rare and costly items which are now valuable records of people and their times. Thus, pulling out an old photo album may turn out to be a portal to the past for the generations alive today. Encouraging your children's and grandchildren's interest in your family's history may eventually lead them to take an interest in the history of their community, city, country, the Jewish People and indeed, all of humanity.



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Aron Kodesh at Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue. JHSSA #2318

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COMPLIMENTARY COPY – PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING JHSSA

Community Milestones: 1912 and 1962

By Agi Romer Segal

We continue our series on communal events from 100 and 50 years ago. If you have documentation relating to these or other events not mentioned here, please let us know.

1912

In retrospect, the inauguration of the annual Calgary Stampede and its iconic Parade was the highlight of 1912 in Calgary history. Photographic evidence shows that the small Jewish community was also eager to partake in the festivities. Official photographs of the first Stampede Parade, taken by Marcel, document the presence of at least two of Calgary's early Jewish families. In one photo, Calgary's first Jewish resident, Jacob Diamond, is shown in the far bottom right corner with his family in front of his liquor business on 8th Avenue. His two daughters, Hattie and Dorothy, are dressed in their finest clothes and lovely wide brimmed hats. In a second shot, the Rabinovitz family is seen in the very front row. Matriarch Toba is accompanied by son George (Robbins) and daughter Marie Rose. These two 1912 photos did not fade into history. Avid local historian and Glenbow volunteer, Jay Joffe, located the photo of his grandfather watching that first parade. Through his involvement with Southern Alberta Pioneers and Their Descendants, he was instrumental in arranging for a 10 foot enlargement of the photo using the latest Kodak technology for the 1990 Stampede Parade float marking the centennial of the SAPD. The second photo featuring the Rabinovitz family was part of an historical display by the Glenbow Archives at the 2005 Stampede. It was spotted by Jacqueline and Joyce Robbins who were delighted to find father George in the front row. Their pride in that photo prompted the twins, who have retired to Vancouver, to make a special visit for the centenary Stampede Parade to "recreate" their family connection to this city's premier event.

The highlight of 1912 for the Jewish community was the formation

of a Community Council. The year opened with a bold decision by the board of Congregation House of Jacob to spend \$1000 to upgrade the annex to the newly opened synagogue building for use as a temporary school building for afternoon and Sunday Hebrew classes. Six months later, in June, visiting Rabbi Kahanovitz of Winnipeg was instrumental in spurring the local community of about 700 Jews to organize a va'ad ha'ir (Calgary Hebrew Council) to look after communal religious and educational matters. The 12 members elected were named in the Calgary Daily Herald of June 28th as: Joseph A. Guttman, Chairman; Charles Malkin, treasurer; L. Braunberg, secretary and chairman of Kosher committee; H.J. Cooper, chairman of board of education; members – Joe Greisman, N. Pasternack, H. Cohen; H. Rudink, H. Lipetz, A. Rabinovitz, Samuel Guttman, M. Muscovitz.

The new Council apparently reorganized the education of the community's youth and celebrated its great success in December with examinations and a special banquet. According to reports in the Calgary News Telegram and the Calgary Daily Herald, 70 pupils were taught by Rabbi Solomon Roubin (principal) and instructors Mr. Chaiken and Mr. Smith (Judah Shumiatcher). The curriculum included Hebrew reading, writing and grammar, Bible translation, Yiddish and Jewish history and ritual. There were three classes which met from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The annual \$3000 administrative cost was met by monthly tuition fees of \$1 to \$3 per child (with subsidies available) and by private subscriptions from supporters. The Herald noted the importance of Hebrew language instruction for Calgary, which was then starting a university. It also noted that new, larger premises are needed for the school.

The examinations, conducted by the chair of the Hebrew Council on Sunday, December 1st, went so well that it was decided to hold a banquet the following week. About 500 people attended the Hannuka banquet at which numerous prizes were awarded by

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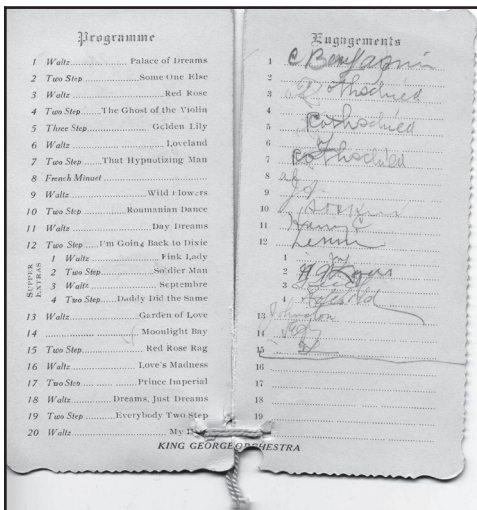
Dorothy Goldin and Jonathan Joffe, July 1990. Source: Jay Joffe. JHSSA #2646



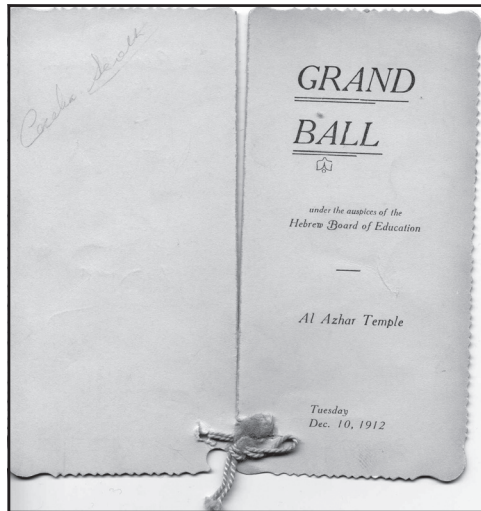
Celia Sereth. JHSSA #557A

Community Milestones

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Celia Sereth's dance card. ACC# 2001.003.1-3



congregational president and school patron Jacob Diamond to the top students. Students marched from the classrooms on 337 Fourth Avenue E. to the House of Jacob for the ceremony. 13 year-old Julius Lipetz led a choir of seven boys for the evening service and the students performed in Hebrew. The newspapers listed the names of all the prizewinners, thereby giving us the names of many of the early families of our community.

This showcase of achievement was immediately followed on December 10th by a fundraising Grand Ball in the Al Azhar Temple organized by the Hebrew Council. The Calgary Daily Herald reported that over 250 couples "tripped the light fantastic to a splendid programme" which concluded at 2:00 a.m. Miss Celia Sereth was voted "most popular young lady of the evening".

This was not the first successful Grand Ball for the Jewish community. In October 1912, a "brilliant" ball, first of the season, was given by the Hebrew Ladies' Aid Society at the "artistically decorated" Al Azhar Temple. Indeed, the December write-up about the Hebrew Council Ball credits the success of their Ball to help from the Hebrew Ladies Aid. The Society leadership included Mrs. Charles Bell, president; Mrs. Margolis, secretary; Mrs. Hart, V.P.; and Mrs. Sereth, treasurer. The article about the event provides detailed descriptions of the gowns of 34 of the ladies present. Mrs. Bell wore a gown of black champagne satin, draped in black chiffon and lace.

Not all 1912 news was so happy. On October 29th, the Calgary News Telegram reported the accidental death on the preceding Saturday of Rudolph (Raphael) Engel. It was surmised that the 36-year old Mr. Engel's gun accidentally discharged while he was alighting from his wagon on his homestead in Rumsey. He was a long time resident of Calgary and worked as a jeweler for D.E. Black. His expertise was clocks and he had been in charge of the construction and installation of the large clock in the brand new City Hall. Mr. Engel was buried in Calgary and was survived by his widow and four children.

Another tragic death occurred on December 19, 1912 in Lethbridge. The Lethbridge Daily Herald reported that 32-year-old Solomon Lecker hanged himself. He had come to Lethbridge from Montreal about a year earlier and ran a small clothing store.

Apparently he had been in debt. He was buried in the local Jewish cemetery which had opened in 1911. His grave is located in a far northeast corner, apparently somewhat removed from neighbouring graves – perhaps due to his suicide.

In Medicine Hat, the fledgling Jewish community formed the Sons of Abraham congregation. They used rented space for the services until a building was purchased for the congregation in 1930.

1962

In wonderful symmetry, the major news in the Calgary Jewish community fifty years later was the re-organization

of the Community Council and the hiring of professional executive director Harry Shatz (1922-1992) of Winnipeg. Working from the aging House of Israel building on 18th Avenue, Mr. Shatz aimed to have the many Jewish institutions in the city work together as a unified community. He initiated varied programming run in rented facilities all over town. It was under his leadership that the Calgary Jewish News first appeared in September 1962. He continued to serve for 23 years, until 1985.

Late in 1962, Jewish Community Council acted upon the results of a Kashrut survey that was conducted under the leadership of Saul Koschitzky. The survey revealed that the Kashrut program had "bordered on chaos", according to words of the Calgary Jewish News. A 14-member Kashrut Committee including three rabbis and chaired by Ben Sherwood was appointed by Council to implement a practical Kashrut program for the entire community. The poultry slaughter house was reopened and plumba metal tags were instituted for Kosher designation.

The year also had its share of celebratory events. Sam, Max and Morris Hector were the honourees of the JNF Negev Dinner. The theme of National Council of Jewish Women's second Angels' Ball, held at the Palliser Hotel on June 20th, was "My Blue Heaven". Again, the proceeds from the Ball, which was attended by over 300 guests, were applied to the hiring of a professional social worker for the Calgary Jewish Family Service Bureau.

The Sabra Hadassah chapter initiated a new event in 1962. "Hatful of Fun" in April at the Golden Age Club featured a fashion show, music and quirky headgear. In an effort to reach out to the wider community, it also included a public contest naming the oldest Calgary citizen and the mother with the most offspring. The winners were respectively aged 101 and the mother of 17 children. There were prizes for the funniest hat, the nicest hat and for a club (organizational) hat. The funniest hat featured an entire tea service. The event was so well received it was repeated twice on October 30th at the Al Azhar Temple. This time it also featured Men's Hats and "Mother of the Day". Media coverage and business support for these events was very strong. We know all the details because thankfully, as with most of the events organized by women's organizations, detailed scrapbooks were kept.

Open Hearts, Open Minds: UJA Women in the 1960s

By Maxine Fischbein for "Discovery"

The year 2012 is a golden anniversary for the Calgary Jewish community, marking 50 years since women began to make a significant contribution in their own right through the United Jewish Appeal Campaign.

Calgary Jewish Community Council (now known as Calgary Jewish Federation) – founded in 1956 under the leadership of inaugural president Jack Edelson – hired its first executive director, Harry Shatz, in 1962 and the operations of CJCC and its annual United Jewish Appeal Campaign were professionalized.

That same year, the growing desire of women to increase their involvement in community affairs was harnessed by Clarice Chodak, who spearheaded the formation of the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Calgary (referred to by various similar monikers including Jewish Women's Federation), which brought together representatives of Calgary's many Jewish women's organizations with the goal of maximizing community service and personal growth.



Bessie Maerov, 1962 UJA Women's Division Chair, c. 1960. Photographer: Stillings Drive In Studio. Source: Cynthia Prasow.



Clarice Chodak, founder of Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Calgary and chair of multiple UJA Women's Division campaigns, 1961. Source: NCJW Archives. JHSSA #1607.

Some women were already supporting UJA alongside their husbands, and the first issue of *Calgary Jewish News* (published by Jewish Community Council) referred to "Mrs. Bessie Maerov" as having been the 1962 Women's Division "chairman."

In the same issue, CJN advertised a Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations initiative to be held in cooperation with Council. The all-day workshop, *Operation Open Mind*, was intended "... to air communal problems and project practical planning for a better integrated and coordinated community in which women can participate on an active level."

Chaired by Clarice Chodak, the event included greetings from Calgary Jewish Community Council president Morris Hector, a keynote address by Edmonton Jewish Community Council Executive Director Morris Stein, and a panel called "Let's Talk about Ourselves," where representatives from 10 community organizations described their roles in the community.

Chodak discussed "... the need for participation by women in all areas of communal activity to strengthen the community and to bring about more coordinated and enlightened membership."

The planning committee for *Operation Open Mind* included "Mesdames Max Chodak, Aron Eichler, David Kovitz, Morris Maerov, Ben Pearlman, Sherwood Saltman, Morris Silver and Newton Zemans." Arrangements were in the capable hands of a group of young women who went on to become some of Jewish Calgary's most recognized volunteers and leaders including "Mrs. S. Saltman," registration; "Mrs. Maurice Paperny," publicity; "Mrs. Arnold Winston" and "Mrs. Ed Brodsky," lunch; and "Mrs. Abe Gold," mailing.

"Women are the heart of the community and men are the heads," said keynote speaker Morris Stein to the close to 100 women in attendance. Some were, no doubt, taken aback by the news.

A fundamentally important initiative to come out of that inaugural workshop was recognition of the need to organize a UJA Women's Division. The Women's Federation endorsed the proposal, electing Clarice Chodak as General Campaign Chairman and Rowena Pearlman as Co-Chairman.



Pat Hector, UJA Top Gifts volunteer, April 1959. Photographer: Matthews Photo Lab. Source: Jack Edelson. JHSSA #206.

In December 1962, CJN reported that women would, henceforth, play an active role in the UJA Campaign. Women were urged to "... 'set the pace' by leading the total community in the most significant campaign of the year – the United Jewish Appeal." (CJN February 1963)

"Across the country, statistics have shown that women raise about 10 per cent of the total U.J.A. budget," reported CJN.

"This year the Calgary Women's Division asks less than that – that the women of this community show their sense of responsibility and give the minimum of \$1.00 a month – only \$12.00 a year for ladies."

Women were encouraged to give gifts of "chai," \$18, if they could and a Special Gifts Luncheon was promised for those women with contributed more than \$25.

While today, plus giving refers to any gift over and above a donor's previous UJA gift, in the 1960s the expression had a different meaning:

"This is to be plus giving – in other words, donation from the women will be in addition to their husbands' donations. This is to be an all-out canvass of all women and we feel by working up enthusiasm among the women they in turn can influence their husbands."

"Plus Giving" must not be a deduction from a husband's regular donation. Instead it should serve as a demonstration of each woman's personal sense of responsibility to her own community, country, and – her answer to the call of Jewish people throughout the world," said CJN.

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Open Hearts, Open Minds

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Enticing women to answer that call were a host of campaign events.

"The first Women's Division Community Council U.J.A. Special Gifts Luncheon will go over the top," promised the March 1963 *CJN*. The event, chaired by Mrs. Pat Hector and Mrs. Betty Riback and held "at the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kalef" [on March 28], would feature guest speaker "Mr. Samuel Belzberg of Edmonton."

The entire list of women who promised to attend was listed in *CJN*, together with the names of the luncheon hostesses, "Mesdames Sam Hector, Ted Riback, Ralph Kalef, Harry Cohen, Jack Smolensky, Alvin Libin, Joe Hoffman, Morris Hector, Abraham Belzberg, Saul Nagler and Ben Sheftel."

The 1963 Women's U.J.A. Campaign featured a "Lucky Lady Luncheon" convened by Bessie Maerov and held on Tuesday, April 23 at the Community Building. It was billed as a "gala buffet luncheon and sherry party" for women who had made a minimum \$12 gift to the campaign.

Each woman in attendance received an envelope prepared by committee member Judy Parker. Four envelopes contained Lucky Lady Prizes of \$25. Another highlight was *It's a Most Unusual Day*, a musical skit written and directed by "Mrs. B. Pearlman." The cast included "Zelda Dean, Dinah Hashman, Vivian Katz, Gert Lerner, Betty Shawn, Sybil Soskin, Riva Wolf and Stella Wolfson."

During the 1963 U.J.A. Campaign, Women's Division raised \$5,800 from 368 donors. The following September, every woman in the community received an envelope and was encouraged to use it as part of a community "savings plan". One buck a month would yield the minimum gift for the 1964 campaign luncheon. Two bucks a month – and an extra dollar for good measure – meant a seat at the Special Gifts Luncheon.

Meanwhile, those who had attended *Open Mind II* had agreed that women needed new personal development opportunities.

"Today's world is a challenge to women," said one *CJN* blurb. "Women in every age group are feeling their responsibilities. More and more they want to know how to think clearly, and be able to express themselves dynamically. This ongoing learning experience is designed to help women to accept this challenge."

Organizers were happy to oblige and *Opportunity School* was born. For five dollars a year, the community's women could register for workshops:

- To understand and evaluate what you hear and read
- Expand your vocabulary
- Become an interesting conversationalist
- Overcome timidity and embarrassment
- Express your opinions with ease confidence [sic]
- Discover additional resources within yourself.

Field trips included visits to the Alberta Children's Hospital, the William Roper School for Boys and the Christine Mickle School for Retarded Children.

By 1964, the women's UJA campaign had introduced its own campaign theme: "Keep your line open; keep your heart open; keep your mind open."

The Lucky Lady Luncheon once again featured a male guest speaker – Dr. Avraham Biran, Director of the Department of Archaeology and Antiquities in Israel.

A top gifts champagne party was convened by "Mrs. Ted Riback" and held at the home of "Mrs. M. Katchen". Hostesses included "Mesdames A. Belzberg, H. Cohen, D. Halpern, S. Hector, J. Hoffman, R. Kalef, M. Katchen, A. Libin, T. Riback, Leo Sheftel, J. Smolensky and N. I. Zemans."

The 1965 Women's Campaign brought a new twist to the Lucky Lady Luncheon, held May 18, 1965 at the Calgary Inn, with a fashion show titled *From Pool to Patio to Posh Pelts*, coordinated by "Mrs. Ted Riback", assisted by "Mrs. Morris Hector". "Mrs. Samuel Katchen" was the luncheon convenor while "Mrs. Alvin Libin" assisted with décor.

Fashions were supplied by Dayton's, and Ron Chase of Channel 2 T.V. provided the commentary. Models included "Mesdames William Belzberg, Leon Libin and Art Fishman."

The fashion show franchise continued for quite a few years, sometimes featuring the work of local couturiers and community models.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations continued to provide workshops, and a conference on women was held October 13, 1966 at the Jewish community building then located on 18th Avenue at Centre Street, behind the Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue. It is interesting to note that the gender tide was starting to turn. Two of the speakers were women, acknowledged leaders in the community: Miss Sabine Joffe, Executive Director of Jewish Family Service, and Mrs. Abe Gold, the prominent community activist and JHSSA founding member whose name now graces the Bertha Gold Jewish Seniors Residence, adjacent to the Calgary JCC.

The trend continued at the Fifth Annual Women's Division U.J.A. Luncheon, held on April 11, 1967 at the Calgary Inn where Mrs. J. Spiro (nee Belva Libin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Libin) spoke about her experiences living in Israel. Some 300 women attended the 1967 luncheon.

In 1968, *CJN* reported a "record breaking response" to the U.J.A. Women's Division campaign, estimating a 12% increase from the previous year which would bring the women's campaign over the \$10,000 mark. This was in keeping with the historical concern and charitable support of Calgarians for the people of Israel and an unprecedented outpouring of generosity throughout the community and the Jewish world in the aftermath of the Six Day War in June 1967.

Kudos were given " ... Mrs. Jack Abugov, Chairman Women's Division and Co-Chairman, Mrs. M. Miller, and the Women's Campaign Committee who went beyond their goal for 1968."

By 1969, women were wisely engaging in some succession planning. "A Jewish Community-wide Young Marrieds' Division has been formed within the Women's Division in an attempt to achieve more coverage and participation with Mrs. D. Dietz Chairman and Co-Chairman, Mrs. J. Spier," reported *CJN*.

The division was soon referred to as Young Women's Division. Was this an acknowledgment that the community's women were becoming more diverse and independent? Or could it, perhaps, have foreshadowed society's later and ubiquitous embrace of political correctness?

During the 1970s, and subsequently, women's involvement in – and leadership of – the United Jewish Appeal continued to grow

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Smithbilt Hat Company Historic Plaque

By Paul Finkleman

As part of Historic Calgary Week, the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta hosted the unveiling of an historic plaque honouring the original Smithbilt Hat Company on Monday, July 30th. The well-attended event was held at the Hotel Arts, which now occupies the site of the former business established by Morris Schumiatcher just after the First World War.

The Smithbilt Hat Co. became best known for the manufacturing of Calgary's iconic white cowboy hat, which over the years has come to symbolize the local hospitality industry.

The programme was graciously hosted by our president Betty Sherwood. After spoken greetings by Dale Sivucha, General Manager of Hotel Arts; Val Jobson from Historic Calgary Week; Randy Williams, President of Tourism Calgary, and Bryce Nimmo, current CEO of Smithbilt Hats, the audience was treated to a passionate and endearing account of the founding of Smithbilt Hats and the life of Morris Schumiatcher presented by his granddaughter Tema Blackstone.

Coming all the way from Boston for this event, Tema gave a heartfelt tribute, emphasizing all the ups and downs of starting and running a family business. Harry Sanders, Calgary's Historian Laureate, rounded out the afternoon, showing a wonderful visual presentation he had assembled using many archival photos depicting the story of the Schumiatcher Family and the Smithbilt Hat Company.

The plaque will be located on the east side of 1st Street SW, just south of 12th Avenue. Have a look next time you go for a walk in the downtown area. Many thanks to the many JHSSA volunteers who helped to make this worthwhile event a success.



JHSSA Smithbilt Plaque, Unveiled July 30, 2012. Photographer: Andrea Searle.

Harry Sanders Crowned Calgary's First Historian Laureate

By Roberta Kerr

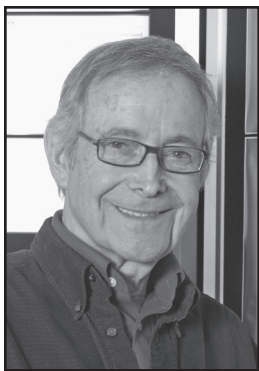
This past June, the Calgary Heritage Authority appointed our own Harry Sanders the city's first Historian Laureate. The position, which comes with a small honorarium and a mandate to "talk up Calgary's history and defend heritage sites", was created in part to highlight and celebrate the city's designation as the 2012 Cultural Capital of Canada. Harry was honoured at a noon-hour ceremony at Stephen Avenue Walk with welcoming remarks from Ald. Druh Farrell and poet laureate Kris Demeanor.

Since his appointment Harry has made several media appearances, including the noon-hour phone-in show on CBC Radio One, and appeared in 1912 attire at a Stephen Avenue Mall booth answering questions and telling people about local history. He also spoke at the Lion Awards, the Calgary Heritage Authority's biennial awards event for local heritage projects, which interestingly was held at the former Central High School (also known as Central Collegiate Institute) which had many Jewish alumni, including Harold Hanen, and was known at a later date as the Dr. Carl Safran Centre. His subject was the history and significance of the school – all in 8 minutes.

In addition to his public appearances and his ongoing commitment to JHSSA, Harry has been tweeting daily (@harry_historian) about events of the day exactly 100 years ago.



Sporting 3 Smithbilt Hats, left to right: Tema Blackstone, Clara Blackstone and Harry Sanders. Photographer: Andrea Searle.



4th Annual Jay Joffe Program

In Partnership with the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival Presents
DRESSING AMERICA: TALES FROM THE GARMENT CENTER

Once again the Jewish Historical Society will be honouring the memory of our founding President, Jay Joffe, by sponsoring an informative and entertaining film at the upcoming Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival in November. The film "offers a fascinating look at the New York garment industry, fondly referred to as the "shmatte business", which had its humble beginnings with Jewish immigrants who came to America seeking a better life in a new land. This informative documentary tells the story of how the rough and tumble efforts of

an interesting assortment of Jewish "characters" helped create an industry that grew by leaps and bounds, and paved the way for a legion of Jewish designers that included Ralph Lauren, Anne Klein, Donna Karan and Isaac Mizrahi. Contemporary reflections and interviews with industry insiders and experts, historical narrative, period movie clips and music, together with a healthy dose of nostalgia, all combine to provide an entertaining and affectionate portrait of a vibrant, colorful and creative industry that has grown up and been nurtured by a Jewish presence for over a century and a half."

Please look for screening details in the Film Festival Brochure.

Open Hearts, Open Minds

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and, with the establishment of the Lion of Judah Division in the early 1980s, the community's top female philanthropists took another leap forward. Those stories are for another time, but it is interesting to note that during last year's UJA Campaign, 796 women donated \$848,000, close to one third of the \$2,858,000 campaign total. Some of the professional and lay leaders who give their time, talent and resources to UJA are the daughters and granddaughters of women referred to in this brief exploration and the many others with whom they stood shoulder to shoulder.

Those women of the 60s began the transition from putting a dollar or two in their "Lucky Lady" envelopes to pushing the envelope as increasingly prominent and generous UJA contributors with hearts, minds and names all their own.

The names of the women referenced in this article are provided as they appeared in *Calgary Jewish News* articles throughout the 1960s. A few were referred to by their proper names. The identities of most were tied solely to their husband's names; yet the mark they made confirmed they were leaders in their own right. It is therefore fitting to acknowledge them one more time with their proper names:

Doreen Abugov	Pat Hector	Myra Paperny
Hinda Belzberg	Gertie Hoffman	Rowena Pearlman
Kendra Belzberg	Ann Kalef	Betty Riback
Annie Brodsky	Dorothy Katchen	Leah Saltman
Clarice Chodak	Kay Katchen	Bella Sheftel
Martha Cohen	Muriel Kovitz	Goldie Sheftel
Ellen Dietz	Beryl Libin	Pam Silver
Ida Eichler	Mona Libin	Ruby Smolensky
Mary Fishman	Bessie Maerov	Sondra Spier
Bertha Gold	Pat Maerov	Miriam Winston
Tybie Halpern	Sylvia Miller	Mozah Zemans
Hylda Hector	Nelda Nagler	

Maxine Fischbein is Communications Director for Calgary Jewish Federation. A former JHSSA Board member, she edited A Joyful Harvest. She thanks the lovely (and hopefully also lucky) ladies of the JHSSA office (Katie Baker, Naomi Kerr, Roberta Kerr and Agi Romer Segal) for their advice and assistance on this article and for all the work they do to preserve local Jewish history and herstory!

Genealogy Workshop

Ten genealogy enthusiasts gathered on Sunday, June 24 to participate in a workshop on Jewish Genealogical Resources available online. Alexander Sharon, editor of *Jewish Genealogy Family Finder* and co-author of *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*, presented a brief overview of immigration patterns from Europe and then highlighted a number of websites for genealogical research, focussing on the resources of Jewish Gen (www.jewishgen.org) – "... easy-to-use genealogy website [which] features thousands of databases, research tools, and other resources to help those with Jewish ancestry research and find family members." The session was held at the computer lab at the Calgary Jewish Academy so that participants had the opportunity to test out the resources. Attendees were also able to share tools and tips that they had learned in their own genealogical work.

The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta plans to continue presenting genealogical sessions, and we welcome suggestions for future topics.

Yes, I would like to join the Jewish Historical Society

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single – \$18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron – \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family – \$36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor – \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Institution/Corporation – \$36 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please make cheques payable to:

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

1607 - 90 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2V 4V7

Membership payable by credit card through our office.

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Signature: _____

Do not send cash through the mail

JHSSA NEWS:

Century Homes

During Historic Calgary Week several members of our Board met a woman whose family home on the Century Homes Tour was earlier occupied by Solomon Roubin. This led us to the interesting fact that he was named the principal of the Talmud Torah upon its founding in 1912. Do you or anyone you know live in a house that has a connection to the early years of our community? If so, please let us know. Perhaps an article or program is in the offing!

Jewish Western Bulletin Online

Since 2010 the website <http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca/> has made available 3520 issues of the *Jewish Western Bulletin* and its precursor publications from the years 1923 to 2004.

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

A recent article in *Canada's History* offers a variety of suggestions on how to further foster this interest in family history. Naturally, the types of activities undertaken will depend on the ages of the children. Visits to cemeteries, all the homes lived in by the family and even to cities and countries where family live now or formerly resided can be fascinating for everyone.

Making a family tree is usually more challenging than it sounds. A child can start with herself and record pertinent facts about siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, etc. You will be forever grateful that important dates such as births, marriages and deaths all appear on one chart. This may also be the time to introduce vocabulary such as ancestor, generation, maiden name, spouse and surname. There are several excellent genealogy books for young people which provide blank family trees which can be photocopied, as well as countless ideas for finding and sharing family stories.

In 2011 more than 90 regional heritage fairs were held across Canada. Generally for students in grades four to nine and usually held in April or May, much like the better known science fairs these are preceded by fairs at the school level. Researching, interviewing, writing, editing and speaking often lead to meaningful dialogue between generations. Relating a family story to a wider one such as the settlement of the West or World War II would be a truly educational endeavour for any youngster.

Of course the tragedies of the War can be balanced with many good news stories but even these can provoke questions that promote thought and study. For instance, my maternal grandmother was the first Jewish graduate of the University of Manitoba. Although we are immensely proud of her accomplishment, which occurred in 1896, we might ask why it took so many years for Jews to graduate from university in Winnipeg. After all, the community really took hold in 1882 and Jews had lived there prior to that.

All of the above provokes me to remind you to share your Southern Alberta stories and pictures with the JHSSA as you and your descendents uncover them.

Volunteers Needed

JHSSA continues to expand its collection of Oral Histories. If you have an interest in helping to preserve the stories of our community, please consider volunteering for this important program. We have established formats for conducting the interviews, and will provide all the training you need to help your subject fully share their story. We also need people to transcribe the completed interviews – all you need is a computer, and a bit of time. Just contact the office, and we'd be happy to get you started!

Thank You

JHSSA expresses heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteered their time to our August casino. David Busheikin again did a wonderful job of organizing everything, and although he himself was not in attendance, his always-attentive planning ensured that it was a smooth and successful event.

Enormous thanks are extended to David Cramer for sharing his time and expertise to set up the new office computer. The process was not without its challenges, and his willingness to answer yet-another-question is greatly appreciated.

Calling All 80-Year-Olds!

This year's AGM will once again include the presentation of certificates to those members of the Jewish community who have celebrated their 80th birthday this past year. This year JHSSA would also like to publicly acknowledge the 90-year-olds and also those who are 100 years or older. We will read out all the names of these seniors. Please contact the JHSSA office (403-444-3171) with names of such worthy seniors for our list.

DISCOVERY

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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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