



JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

JHSSA 25th Annual General Meeting

Monday, October 26, 2015

Jewish Community Centre Auditorium – 7:30 pm

featuring

A Few Among Many:

Remembering 25 Community Volunteers

A quarter century of existence is truly a landmark to be applauded, and Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta is proud to celebrate its 25th Anniversary this year.

While the debt we owe to our founder, Jay Joffe, is incalculable, our continued existence would never have been possible without the dedication of our many volunteers. Their commitment to our organization is often behind the scenes and sometimes unacknowledged.

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Calgary Jewish Boy Scouts packing hampers, c 1924. Source: Minnie Florence Segal. JHSSA #242

President's Message

By Sandra Lipton



Summer 2015 has been a busy time for JHSSA staff and board members. Our two recent programmes, *Genealogy—What's the Point?*, presented by Ken Drabinsky, and our Historic Calgary Week talk on The Southern Alberta Jewish War Veterans Database were most successful. Thank you Roberta Kerr for your wonderful encapsulation of stories of our veterans. A number of events have already been scheduled for the coming year including our co-sponsorship of a Jewish Book Festival presentation by Richard Menkis on his new publication, *More than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics*. In late spring 2016 the JHSSA will be actively involved in the annual conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies being held at the University of Calgary. Mark your calendars for May 29th when we will host a special community event in conjunction with the conference.

Our amazing office staff, Katie Baker, Agi Romer Segal and our consultant Roberta Kerr continue to be very busy, not only with responding to requests for information on various aspects of Southern Alberta Jewish history and other ongoing duties, but also in preparing this issue of *Discovery*, developing the Southern Alberta

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SUPPORT JHSSA WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Degrees of Service: Contributions of Alberta Grads in WWII

by Betty Sherwood

On the occasion of the launch of our Southern Alberta Jewish Veterans of World War I and II database on November 4, 2013, keynote speaker Professor David Bercuson shared his observation that since Jewish people tend to be better educated than the general population, during World War II many Canadian Jews served their country behind the front lines in either a civilian or military capacity in legal, translation, engineering, instructional, medical and logistical roles, as well as being involved in scientific research and classified projects. Of course, many also did serve on land, sea and in the air. It is a pleasure to share the accomplishments of university graduates who grew up in Southern Alberta and /or lived their post war lives in Southern Alberta and who had the opportunity to make a difference during wartime.

Bob Barron (LLB/38 UofA) attained the rank of Flight Lieutenant in the RCAF and shared his knowledge and skills in the role of navigation instructor.

His family and neighbours got a glimpse of Major Alex Belkin (MD/28 UofM) who was away from home in England for over four years, when he popped up in a newsreel as a member of the audience at a soccer game.

Warned as an adult not to undertake work that was too strenuous or stressful, Len Bercuson (BA/35 UofA; MA/41 McGill) was a teacher and then principal at Smoky Lake, Alberta, and in 1942 appointed Adult Education Director of the Alberta Department of Education.

Having alternated working at Imperial Oil with attending university, Bob Berkoff (BSc/40 UofA) always told his daughters that the company said he was too valuable as a chemist to allow him to enlist.

Known by all for his pioneering work in the field of mental health, Morris Carnat (MD/34 UofA) served as a psychiatrist in England in the Royal Canadian Medical Corps with the rank of Major.

Born at the Mayo Clinic and therefore a US citizen, Joe Cooper (BSc/34 UofA; PhD/37 Chicago) joined DuPont in Newark, NJ upon graduation and conducted research at this important wartime facility.

25th Anniversary AGM *Continued from Page 1*

edged, and we realized that this is the case with many of our organizations and projects. To mark this special anniversary, the AGM program *A Few Among Many: Remembering 25 Community Volunteers*, will share 25 stories of volunteers you might not know much about—individuals no longer with us who served their communities quietly and without fanfare, remembering their contributions to Jewish life in southern Alberta.

In addition to the election of a new JHSSA Board of Directors, our Annual General Meeting will once again include the presentation of certificates to those members of the Jewish community who have celebrated their 80th birthday this past year. We will also publicly acknowledge the 90-year-olds, as well as those who are 100 or older.

The evening will conclude with birthday cake, of course, as well as other refreshments. We look forward to seeing you all at the party, as we mingle, schmooze, and reminisce.



Sam Viner, Harold Krivel, Murray Krasnoff, 1939

David Davids (BSc/42 UofA) enlisted in the RCAF and achieved the rank of Warrant Officer Class II, but when his credentials in entomology and bacteriology came to light, he was transferred to Experimental Station Suffield in Alberta and remained there as a scientist for his entire working life.

Described in his high school yearbook as possessing "a goodly amount of grey matter", Lucien Dworkin (BSc El Eng/35 UofA) was employed by coal mining firms in Coleman and Fernie. As a specialist in an industry vital to the war effort, Lucien remained on the job in Canada.

Quickly rising to the rank of Captain in the Canadian Army, Bill Epstein (BA/33 UofA; LB/35 UofA) became the senior lawyer at the Canadian Military Headquarters in London and in 1945 was named Secretary of the Canadian Claims Commission.

Albert Hanson (BSc Eng/42 UofA) served as a Captain in the Royal Canadian Engineers, suffering injuries in a mine clearing explosion in Belgium and being awarded the Military Cross.

Having obtained his degree, Hymie Hanson (BScPharm/42 UofA) was stationed in Ontario with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

A Leading Aircraftsman in the RCAF but the youngest of four brothers in the Armed Forces, Morris Hanson (BSc Agric/42 UofA) was prohibited from serving overseas. Posted to Ontario, he was always reminded that his work in food laboratories and dietary services was vital to the well-being of his fellow servicemen.

As a physician in the Royal Canadian Medical Corps, Sam Hanson (MD/37 UofA) rose to the rank of Major in his role tending to the wounded in Europe.

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Degrees of Service

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Dave Kovitz (DDS/43 UofT) was one of the numerous dental students to wear his uniform while obtaining his degree and then as Captain, was posted to Nova Scotia bases and later to Currie Barracks in Calgary.

One of a number of dentists who graduated from accelerated programs, Murray Krasnoff (DDS/43 UofA) cared for the dental health of service personnel in northern Canada.

Jack Lewis (MD/43 UofA) found himself first treating German POW's who had contracted malaria serving in the Afrika Korps. The Captain in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps later worked at various hospitals in England and Europe.

As a Captain in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, Leo Lewis (MD/36 UofT) saw service as a physician in England and Europe, in particular in a hospital unit in Brugge, Belgium.

Upon graduation, Max Lipkind (DDS/44 UofA) was immediately pressed into service as a dentist with the RCAF in several locations across Western Canada, rising to the rank of Captain.

Macey Milner (MD/43 Queen's) put his medical skills to work as a Captain in the Canadian Army in Canada, the UK, and with the Occupation Forces in Europe. He was among the first members of the Allied Forces to enter Bergen-Belsen.

Arriving in England with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps just at the onset of the Blitz, Mike Mitchell (MD/27 UofM) worked first in English hospitals and then returned to Canada as Lieutenant Colonel in charge of the training of ambulance personnel at Chilliwack.

Barney Moscovich (MD/34 UofA) served as a Major with the Royal Canadian Medical Corps in England for the duration of his military career. To Barney's great surprise, he bumped into his brother Captain Jack Moscovich (MD/28 McGill) on their outbound voyage on the Queen Mary. At that time the ship may have held over 16,000 personnel on their way to England.

Armed with his degree, Joe Moscovich (DDS/38 UofA) served in the Royal Canadian Army Dental Corps in Italy, where some of his talents were applied to the field of forensic dentistry.

As with most of the dentistry graduates, Sam Moscovich (DDS/44 UofT) served in Canada. A Captain in the RCAF, his postings were in Alberta.

Having realized he could attend university in the US, Norman Moss (DDS/38 UofMinn) obtained his degree and then set up his practice in Calgary. Later on he served in Canada as a Captain in the Royal Canadian Army Dental Corps.

David Pasternack (BSc/25 Queen's; MSc/26 McGill; PhD/28 McGill) worked for both private industry and government throughout his career and in 1944 rejoined the Scientific and Industrial Research Council of Alberta researching the extraction and commercial potential of the oil sands.

Research was also the wartime contribution of Simon Pasternack (BScHon Math/35 UofA; PhD Caltech/39) who was given a leave from teaching university physics in 1941 to enter National Defense research work at the University of Pennsylvania.

The first woman known to have graduated in engineering in Alberta, Esther Rabkin (BSc El Eng/35 UofA) first worked in the lamp engineering design and testing department of Canadian General Electric. In 1942 she entered the signals research and development division of the Department of National Defence in Ottawa.

Carl Safran (BSc/41 Montana School of Mines) served as a Captain in the Royal Canadian Engineers leading mine-sweeping and bridge building units in Europe. Giving physics lessons to fellow soldiers led to his interest in and enthusiasm for a career in education.

As a member of the Naval Reserve, Nate Safran (BSc/35 UofA; MSc/36 UofA) trained Armed Forces personnel at the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art (now SAIT). In 1944 he was awarded a prize by the Engineering Institute of Canada for his paper on "Synthetic Rubber".

"We'll Meet Again" was being sung through a megaphone by Vera Lynn as Lieutenant Colonel Max Sexter (MD/30 UofM) and thousands of other Allied personnel set sail from England, destination: Italy.

It was the construction of Canada's only synthetic rubber plant that gave Ben Sherwood (BSc El Eng/35 UofA) an opportunity to serve the Allied cause, as in 1943 he was seconded from Imperial Oil's Calgary refinery to become Assistant Chief Engineer at Polymer Corp. in Sarnia, ON.

Morris C. Shumiatcher (BA/40 UofA; LLB/41 UofA; LLM/42 UofT) served as an air gunner and gunnery instructor for the RCAF in Canada but was released early from his service at the request of Tommy Douglas, in order to provide legal and policy advice in Saskatchewan.

His degree enabled Captain Eddie Sklar (DDS/38 UofA) to serve Canada close to home in the Royal Canadian Dental Corps at a military base in Dundurn, SK.

Upon obtaining his degree, Sam Veiner (DDS/43 UofA) served as a Captain in the Army at Lac La Ronge, SK, where Canadian and American troops were being conditioned to cold and rugged environments in the event of an Allied invasion of the Soviet Union.

While working in Los Angeles, Leah Waterman (BHome Ec/40 UofS) volunteered for the US Army and worked as a dietician in both the US and France, garnering four medals for her service.

Captain Matthew Waterman (DDS/43 McGill) served with the Royal Canadian Army Dental Corps in various locations around Canada during the final years of the War.

Author's Note: Thank you to the countless people who provided information for and assistance with this article. Of course there are bound to be errors and omissions here. Please contact us if you can provide corrections or further information. In particular, we are looking for details regarding Solomon Elim Epstein, Bessie Deborah Lewis, Katherine Lewis, and Lewis Sosinsky.



Esther Rabkin graduation portrait, 1935

Community Milestones 1915 and 1965

By Agi Romer Segal

The main topics of concern in the articles about the local Jewish community that were published in the Calgary press in 1915 were the upheaval in Europe, especially the fate of the Jews, and the activities of the Canadians serving overseas.

Very few Jewish servicemen from southern Alberta had enlisted as early as 1915, but the local press reported on various efforts taken by the Jewish community on behalf of the war effort. The year opened with a special service led by Hirsch Sosinsky, featuring prayers for peace and for the King's welfare, in the House of Jacob in early January. The *Calgary News Telegram* (CNT) reported that 10,000 Jews from all over the British Empire were serving in the forces—300 of them from Canada.

The most active Jewish organization in this period was the Calgary Jewish Relief Committee for Jewish War Sufferers, chaired by J.A. Guttman. This was part of a Canada-wide effort. R.B. Bennett spoke at their fundraising event on January 26. A February 12 headline announced "Jew are Generous", stating \$635 had been collected. The lengthy list of donors was also published. The following month, Dr. Kerby featured as the keynote speaker at a second concert at the Al Azhar Temple. A Girls' Auxiliary of this committee was also formed under the leadership of Stella Sereth, daughter of the owners of Riverside Lumber. They organized a Bazaar and Dance later in 1915. The small community of Rumsey Jews were

also part of the relief effort, raising \$43 for the cause.

Calgary Jews also showed support for the war effort with their promise to contribute toward the purchase of a fourth machine gun for the troops. Their overall generosity was summed up in a November CNT report which stated that the local community, led by Jacob Diamond and Ben Ginsberg, had pledged to raise \$5,000 to aid the starving Jews of Poland "driven like sheep before the oncoming German armies."

This local effort was just part of a wider campaign. Starting in April, the local press mentions meetings aimed at bringing prominent Canadian Jews together to form a national organization along the lines of the American Jewish Congress. That national event finally took place in October.

The prolonged continuation of the war had ramifications for the local community. The economy suffered and in January it was reported that 21 Jews were among the 3,061 unemployed in the city. This was fewer than among the Swedes or the Italians. In May, there was news of Jewish street cleaners protesting having been laid off. In February, a magistrate offered a ruling about how many junk dealers should be allowed to operate in an area. The press mentions numerous incidents of Jewish merchants being fined for dealing on Sunday.

The economy was not the only issue. Anti-German sentiment ironically also affected Jews. A series of articles in July dealt with

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Girls' Auxiliary of the Jewish Relief Committee for War Sufferers picnic in Bowness Park, July 1916. Source: Stan Winfield. JHSSA #1717

Community Milestones 1915 and 1965

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accusations that "Herr Guttman" had naturalized "a large number of alien enemies and 'German-Russians' as well as a large number of Chinamen" to support the anti-prohibition lobby in the upcoming vote. What might well have been a dispute about prohibition was given wider political ramifications by alluding to Guttman's German name and Austrian birth. The judge in the case, in an effort not to influence the vote on prohibition, delayed his decision by a week.

An interesting article in November described Mrs. A.I. Shumiatcher's impressions of the European situation when she became a "war fugitive". Luba had returned to Gomel to give birth to her daughter Minuetta (born September 1914) and was forced to take a very circuitous route to find passage home. (See *Discovery*, Spring 2010)

1965

1965 does not seem to be a milestone year for any organization in the Calgary Jewish community. It was a time of consolidation. The Calgary Jewish Community Council (CJCC) had been reorganized three years earlier and both Council and United Jewish Appeal (UJA), its fundraising arm, were guided by a committed leadership.



Saul Koschitzky, from 1966 *Calgary Jewish Community Council* photo. JHSSA # 664

The CJCC's publication, *Calgary Jewish News* (CJN), did not report any major new developments throughout the year. Saul Koschitzky, who had served as president of the Calgary Zionist Council, was elected 1965 CJCC president to succeed Morris Hector. That year's JNF Negev Dinner, held in January, honoured Harry Reeve. *CJN* noted record attendance for the event which featured Mati Dagan of the Israel Embassy as guest speaker. Reeve, a long-time community volunteer, arrived in Calgary in 1922 and was a founder of the Calgary Jewish Literary Club. He was known for his willingness to perform any task, earning him

the label "Mr. B'nai Brith".

The main focus in every issue of *CJN* is the report on the progress of the annual UJA campaign. An interesting feature of the early campaigns was the allocation for Traditional Institutions. A member of the UJA executive, upon recommendations from the public and after consultations with the local rabbis, would decide on funds for religious and charitable organizations both in Calgary and elsewhere. In 1964 and 1965, a list of the various institutions which received a total of \$3,000 was published in *CJN*. The total goal of the 1965 UJA campaign was \$125,000.

Two issues that were dealt with by Community Council receive repeated coverage. Bertha Gold was at the forefront of the development of increased and relevant Jewish community programming. The efforts of her committee led to a special seminar, held in early April, which featured experts in Judaic programming and presented an opportunity for local individuals to offer input into future plans for the community building and the programs it hosted. One outcome of

this initiative was the development of a summer day camp under the auspices of CJCC. In September, *CJN* reported that the camp was held in Happy Valley from July 12 to August 20 under the direction of Harry Shatz, and it served 90 children. The name Camp Shel Atid (Of the Future) was chosen from the suggestions offered by the public.

Reports from the Kashrut Committee of CJCC appeared in *CJN* a number of times. In October, chairman Harry Sheftel described the progress made on reaching a community kashrut policy involving the two kosher retail butchers and with suppliers Kerr & Sons and Calgary Packers, with the input of the local rabbis and the paid kashrut supervisor, Isaac Pepper. Schaiers Meats advertised kosher chicken at \$0.30 a pound.

Women's organizations continued to take an active role in community life. The UJA Women's Division theme was "Keep your heart open, keep your line open." The third annual Lucky Lady Luncheon theme was "From Patio to Posh Pelts", featuring a fashion show of swimwear and furs. The number of "Pace Setters", women who donated over \$100 early on in the campaign, increased steadily. Women's Federation continued its successful Opportunity School project which taught women skills enabling them to become more involved in the community at large. An umbrella organization of all the local women's groups, under the direction of Rowena Pearlman, hosted a conference in October with the aim of examining the long-ranging needs of the growing community.

The local branch of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) went all out for their annual Angel's Ball in June with a "My Fair Lady" theme.

Long-time community activist Izzy Florence was honoured in November with a special plaque in the B'nai Brith room in the House of Israel community building.

Younger members of the community also made their mark. In November, local musician Marilyn Engle played with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and NJCW hosted a special reception afterward to mark the occasion. Sheldon Chumir was the special guest speaker at the Pioneer Women Donor Luncheon in December. He spoke about his travels in the Far East.

All in all, it seems that 1965 was a productive but not outstanding year for the community. As opposed to the turmoil of World War I fifty years earlier,

no major world events disrupted the agendas of community leaders. In an open letter to the *CJN* editor in October, CJCC president Saul Koschitzky expresses a sense of approaching change in the way the community operated. He lauds the dedicated individuals who viewed their tireless efforts as a natural duty and asks, "Will the future generation have the same Community spirit? Or will the values present in our society corrupt them?"



Marilyn Engle, *Calgary Jewish News*, 1965.

7th Annual Jay Joffe Memorial Program

Sunday, November 15, 2015, time TBA – In Partnership with the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival
Raise the Roof: A Feature Documentary by Yari & Cary Wolinsky

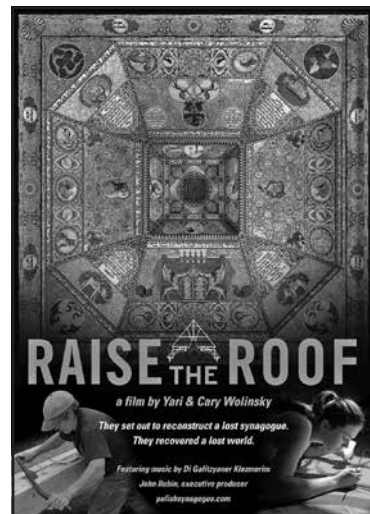
The mandate of the JHSSA's Jay Joffe Memorial Program is to present historical topics in a format accessible and interesting to a wide audience. This year's choice of movie fits that bill perfectly. "Inspired by images of the magnificent wooden synagogues of 18th century Poland—the last of which were destroyed by the Nazis—artists Rick and Laura Brown of Handshouse Studio set out to reconstruct a replica of the stunning, mural-covered Gwozdziec synagogue.

"Working with a team of 300 artisans and students from around the world, using only period hand tools and techniques, the Browns finally realized their dream. In 2014, the show-stopping reconstruction of the Gwozdziec synagogue roof was unveiled as the centerpiece of the new POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, in Warsaw.

"Filmmakers Yari and Cary Wolinsky's beautifully photographed and rendered film **Raise the Roof**, tells the story of this remarkable 10-year project against the backdrop of the 1,000-year history of Jews in Poland."

This film will be of special interest to all those Calgarians who have been involved with the Little Synagogue on the Prairie project.

Watch for the Beth Tzedec Jewish Film Festival brochure for further details and the exact time of the screening of *Raise the Roof*.



Unveiling our Roots

Since ancient times, it has been the custom to mark the graves of our departed loved ones with a monument. Genesis 35:20 states that after Rachel died, "Jacob erected a monument on Rachel's grave".

That compelling tradition was played out recently in a most interesting way on the day of the unveiling of the tombstone of another Rachel—Rachel Kaplan Smithens on August 4, 2015.

Rachel's son Sheldon, and her daughters Elaine and Renee planned a day that they felt their adventure-loving mother would have thoroughly enjoyed. And we, 25 of her relatives, were delighted to be included in the enjoyment of it in honour of her memory.

At the service at the Erlton Cemetery, where Rae's headstone was unveiled next to her beloved husband, Robert, we placed



Renee, Sheldon and Elaine at the Kaplan homestead. Photographer: Lorne Drabinsky
 Source: Zena Drabinsky

stones on the grave—but not just any stones. They were ones that Sheldon and his partner Theresa Munch had gathered from the Old-man River in Southern Alberta.

A bus trip, complete with photos and a running commentary by Sheldon, got us to the old Kaplan homestead, west of Okotoks. The present owners of the farm, the Connop family, were gracious to us, and we were given the opportunity to roam about the site to look at remains of old farming implements and the burned-out house where Rachel was born in 1925, and had lived for her childhood and youth. The Kaplan farm home had had an earlier existence as the Panima School (apparently a misspelling of Panama). This farm visit gave us pause for reflection on what life had been like in the early 1900s in rural Alberta. Rae's parents, Lizzie and Hyman Kaplan, had originally been settlers in the Rumsey area from 1905, but had left for 'greener pastures' to farm in the Okotoks area. They lived on the farm until 1948, when they sold it to the Connops, and moved to Calgary. Rachel had left the farm in the early 1940s to attend Balmoral school and later Western Canada High School in Calgary.

Back on the bus, we were heading south and west into foothills country, on the "Cowboy Trail", aka Highway 22. Sheldon resumed his commentary, and after just a short time, we were at the Bar U Ranch, which is designated a National Historical Site. Total distance to the ranch: 59 miles from Calgary city limits, but light-years away from the bustle of our modern-day metropolis.

Buffet lunch, with musical/poetic entertainment by the Cowboy Poet 'Lewis', followed by a video of Rae and family on her 75th birthday, revitalized and engrossed us.

On the bus again, the trip back to Calgary was equally interesting, with Sheldon once more holding forth with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the territory.

Thus ended a most memorable unveiling. Rae would have loved it all!

Brush with Fame



A thrilled Edythe Goldie Barsky meets Yvonne DeCarlo and Burt Lancaster, July 1948. DeCarlo and Lancaster starred in *Criss Cross* (1949) Source: Delsie Dworkin JHSSA #3149

Historic Calgary Week 2015

On July 29th, as part of Historic Calgary Week 2015, JHSSA President Sandra Lipton and researcher Roberta Kerr gave a presentation at The Military Museums called *For Freedom and Country: The Southern Alberta Jewish War Veterans of World War I and World War II Database*.

Almost 50 people attended the event, which included an overview of the development of the database and a demonstration of how it works. The stories of some of the veterans were shared, and the afternoon concluded with a lively question and answer session. Before and after the presentation, many attendees were able to explore some of the exhibits at the Military Museums. Of particular interest, of course, was the large mosaic in the foyer, which has several panels featuring Jewish veterans from our southern Alberta communities.

Genealogy Program

On June 22nd, our genealogy committee chair Ken Drabinsky gave an interesting and informative presentation on researching your family tree, called *Genealogy: What's the Point?* While the focus of the presentation was extremely practical, his advice was interwoven with stories and examples from his research into his own family history.

The main aspects of a genealogical search were laid out in seven steps: establish a "Family Footprint"; interview and record family stories, verifying as much as possible; become familiar with the available resources; "get a handle" on ancestral records and translation; remember the "missing links"—pogroms, World Wars I and II, the Holocaust; communicate your family stories and knowledge; commit to "Generational Transference".

The program was very well received by those in attendance, and Ken plans to offer more genealogical programming in the future. He can be reached directly at kenjdgen@gmail.com, or 403-815-1482.

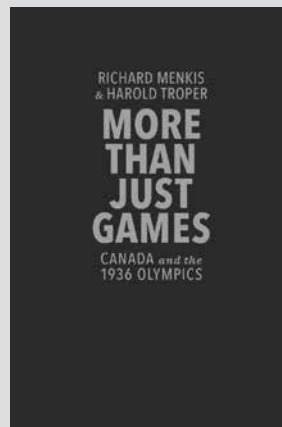
Jewish Book Festival

JHSSA is proud to co-sponsor this year's JCC Book Festival Opening Night presentation, which will feature Vancouver professor Richard Menkis, author of *More than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics*.

Held in Germany, the 1936 Olympic Games sparked international controversy, with many believing that athletes and nations should boycott the games,

to protest the Nazi regime. *More Than Just Games* is the story of the Canadian Olympic officials and promoters who were convinced that national unity and pride demanded that Canadian athletes compete in the Olympics without regard for politics; the story of those Canadian athletes, mostly young and far more focused on sport than politics, who were eager to make family, friends, and country proud of their efforts on Canada's behalf; the story of those Canadians who led an unsuccessful campaign to boycott the Olympics and deny Nazi Germany the propaganda coup of serving as an Olympic host.

Plan to join us on Sunday, November 29th 7:00–8:30 pm, when Richard Menkis will share some of the stories and images from the book.



2016 ACJS Conference in Calgary

JHSSA is pleased to announce that next year's Association for Canadian Jewish Studies conference, held annually as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, will take place in Calgary. Co-ordinated by Sarah Jane Kerr-Lapsley, currently completing her Master's in Education at McGill, the ACJS conference will feature presentations and panel discussions on many aspects of Canadian Jewish studies, with representatives from organizations and post-secondary institutions from across the country. A 'Community Day', with programs open to the general public, will be held on Sunday May 29th. We will be publishing more details closer to the date.

Become part of Canada's recorded history

In our connected world, history is no longer written only by historians. Two projects have come to our attention through which any citizen can contribute to the story of the nation. **Canada's Great War Album** invites Canadians to upload family World War I photos and letters (www.greatwaralbum.ca). In addition, a new television project will explore our history through "found footage" largely submitted by Canadians. For more information about the project and information of to submit home movie footage, explore www.CanadaHistory.ca/HomeMovies.

JHSSA NEWS

Still Seeking 80 year olds

Our upcoming AGM will again present certificates to those in our community who turned 80 this past year. We will also read out the names of our 90-year-olds, and those who are 100 years or older. Please contact the JHSSA office (403-444-3171; jhssa@shaw.ca) with the names of such worthy seniors for our list.

Call for Casino Volunteers

We have dates, now we need you! Our next fundraising casino will be Sunday and Monday, January 3rd and 4th at the Deerfoot Casino. This is a major source of income, and we need you to make it happen. All shifts are need, so please contact the office and let us know when you're available.

Archivist Visit

A half-dozen JHSSA members and staff had the opportunity to spend a morning with Aubrey Pomerance, Archivist at the Leo Beck Institute in Berlin. Raised here in Calgary, Pomerance came to his current position in a round-about way and brings a unique and interesting perspective to the collection, documentation and sharing of Jewish history. The holdings of the Leo Beck Institute are on a scale we can only imagine (some 500 metres of documents, compared to our 25 metres), and their funding allows them to take on some extraordinary projects. It was a most informative session, sharing expertise and ideas, and we hope to be able to do a program with him on one of his subsequent visits.

For one of his ongoing projects, Pomerance is looking for information and material about Calgarians with roots in German-speaking lands. He can be reached at a.pomerance@jmberlin.de

President's Message

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Jewish War Veterans database and writing grant requests. We are very grateful to all our members and funders whose generous support has enabled us to accomplish all of these activities. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us in our efforts to help ensure that the history of the Jewish community of Southern Alberta is recorded and preserved and presented.

Our Society also depends on its volunteers; in addition to all the work of our dedicated board members, I also want to acknowledge Naomi Kerr and our newest volunteer, Mona Rosenbaum and thank them very much for their "labours of love" in our office. Our next Casino (a key source of our funding) is January 3 and 4, 2016. If you are able to volunteer to work this Casino please call our office.

Recently our photo collection has been enhanced by a number of gifts. Among them are photographs from Minnie Zukier, which included my grandparents' (Rose and Max Shlafmitz) wedding portrait with Minnie's father Essie Lyon included among the wedding group. A request from the JHSSA office for assistance in identifying the people in the photo has led me to a personal quest to identify how exactly Minnie's father is related to us and who is the mystery man among all my relatives in the photo! While the search continues, I have in the process uncovered many distant relatives from the Calgary pioneer Weston (Westonitsky) family. Thank you for sharing your pictures with the JHSSA and for responding to requests for assistance in identification of photos.

Please join us for the celebration of our 25th anniversary at our upcoming Annual General Meeting on October 26, 2015. All the best for a happy and healthy 5776.

JHSSA Montefiore Education Kit

Created for JHSSA under the guidance of veteran educator Reva Faber, a Grade Two Social Studies unit called Communities in Canada, Montefiore Colony Unit, was implemented at Woodbine Elementary School in the spring of 2015. Teacher feedback on the unit, which meets all curriculum requirements, was extremely positive; "I'd love to do this again next year!" An ad has been placed in the Alberta Teacher's Association newsletter, and it is hoped that other teachers will also use the material for the Communities in Canada unit.



Tzedaka box from House of Jacob Synagogue c 1911; image used with Montefiore Colony Education Kit. Source: Sandra Morton Weizman

Chinook Country Book Project

Chinook Country Historical Society is also celebrating their 25th anniversary this year, and they are marking the occasion by publishing a children's book with input from over 23 volunteer authors. The first volume of the book will be available later this year, and JHSSA is proud to be included with a chapter written by Agi Romer Segal. Her chapter is a Hanukkah story involving fictional descendants of Calgary pioneers Jacob and Rachel Diamond, which also tells the story of the beginnings of Calgary's Jewish community. It is accompanied by images from the JHSSA photo collection.

POSTCARD PHOTO IDENTIFIED—Thank you to all those who contacted JHSSA to inform us that the lovely young lady in the photo on pg. 6 of the Spring 2015 issue of *Discovery* is Minnie Mendleman Gorasht (1910-2000). Minnie arrived in Calgary from the Radom area in 1928 (Bernie Switzer says 1927). Her oral history interview appeared in *Discovery*, Fall 1999.

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.

Statements of fact or opinion appearing in *Discovery* are the responsibility of the authors alone, and do not imply the endorsement of the editors or the JHSSA.

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