

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

President's Message

Betty Sherwood

Since my family has been in Calgary for well over a century, it fills me with pride to explore, preserve and share with everyone the history of our community.

It is always a pleasure for the JHSSA to take part in Historic Calgary Week (HCW) which is organized by the Chinook Country Historical Society. The historic plaque to honour Smithbilt Hats, which was unveiled as part of HCW last year, has now been installed on the exterior of Hotel Arts which currently occupies the Smithbilt site. Be sure to take a look near the corner of First Street and 12th Avenue SW. To visit many more downtown spots of Jewish interest, join Harry Sanders on a fascinating walking tour at JHSSA's 2013 Historic Calgary Week event. Meet Harry on Sunday, July 28 at 10:00 am at the Women Are Persons! monument in Olympic Plaza. Throughout Historic Calgary Week (July 26 to August 5) there will be a myriad of lectures, excursions and walks for you to enjoy. Check out www.chinookcountry.org for this year's exciting lineup.

The initial research for our First and Second World Wars Veterans database is now complete but can be quickly updated as new information becomes available. We plan to launch the database at a special program in the fall where we will demonstrate how to use the internet to access our treasure trove of information regarding more than 540 veterans.



Calgary Talmud Torah Students and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York

By Jack Chetner

This is the second of Jack Chetner's memoirs of his high school days in Calgary which he submitted to Discovery in 2010. Our Winter 2011 edition featured his memoir of Alberta's Hebrew Camp. That too was an initiative of Rabbi Aron Horowitz, principal of the Calgary Hebrew School, generally known as the Calgary Talmud Torah. In his article in the 1945 Calgary Hebrew School Yearbook, president S. Jaffe writes that as of 1944 a scholarship was awarded for graduates continuing their studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The success of the Jewish Zionist education of the late 1940s is evident in the biographies of the school's graduates as described by Mr. Chetner. Unfortunately, a number of these graduates are no longer alive, but their contribution to their communities will be remembered. We welcome any further information about these and other graduates.

Between 1948 and 1954 the Calgary Talmud Torah was well known at the Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York. Many could not understand how a small Hebrew school (not even a day school) could send such a number of graduates to study in New York. Few schools in larger Jewish centres had as many of their graduates studying at the Teachers Institute at one time.

This phenomenon was the result of the efforts of one man, Rabbi Aron Horowitz, the principal of the Calgary Hebrew School. For

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Smithbilt Hats historic plaque installation on Hotel Arts building, April 29, 2013. Left to right: JHSSA Director Harry Sanders, JHSSA President Betty Sherwood, Hotel Arts Manager Dale Sivucha. Photographer: Jin Casquenet. JHSSA #4000.8

A number of people in the community have been discussing re-constituting the southern Alberta chapter of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies. Attendance at our genealogy programs has demonstrated that there is sufficient local interest in this huge topic. Please contact our office, or me personally, if you would like to become

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Calgary Talmud Torah Students

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many years the Calgary Hebrew School had a lot of excellent teachers. Rabbi Horowitz brought enthusiasm and a love of the Hebrew language and culture to the school. Through such activities as Hebrew speaking clubs (*Chug Ivri*), Saturday Junior Congregation, and Hebrew camping (*Tchayah*), students were given many opportunities to experience the daily use of the Hebrew language as well as regular school studies.

The first student to go to JTS was David Sidorsky, a brilliant student in Calgary. David Sidorsky graduated from the Teachers Institute (TI) and New York University and went on to a career teaching at Columbia University. David was also on the board of the American Zionist Organization.

In those years the Seminary did not have a joint program with other educational institutions as it now has, and students wanting to obtain a general university degree had to register and attend two schools. This was very much like the situation in Calgary in those days, public school attendance during daytime hours and then Talmud Torah in the late afternoon and evening.

Following in David's footsteps were Dvorah Smolensky and Goldie Zahavah Hanen, both of whom graduated from TI and NYU. Dvorah had a career in the field of Hebrew education in New York. Zahavah returned to the Calgary area and made contributions in her own inimitable way, including publishing a number of books under the name Zahava Hanan.

Dvorah started a tradition when she became a leader in the Talmud Torah's Hebrew Arts Committee. Students had an opportunity to participate in dance, drama or choir. A concert was held each year. Esther Weisz (Wise) and I were also very involved in these activities.

Esther Weisz, Harry Shlafmitz (Sherman) and I followed in what was now becoming a tradition with the students from the Calgary Talmud Torah.

After graduation, Esther's career led her to the Los Angeles area where she devoted her life to the field of Hebrew education.

Harry Sherman went to Vancouver to work at the Hebrew School at the Beth Israel congregation. Later he contributed to Jewish life in Calgary.

I ended up in Edmonton at the Talmud Torah (the first Hebrew day school in Canada) and worked many years in Hebrew education with the Keren Hatarbuth (Hebrew Culture Fund) in Canada. I had the privilege of leading the first Hebrew speaking group of graduates to Israel, where all participants spoke Hebrew, much to the surprise of our Israeli guides.

Naomi Wolochow, Albert Baber and Fay Ziporah Smolensky were the next Calgary students to travel to New York. Naomi graduated and taught in a synagogue school in Philadelphia until she retired. Albert Baber chose another field of study after arrival in New York and went on to a successful career in Eastern Canada.



Graduating Class of the Calgary Hebrew School, May 1947. Back, left to right: Harry (Shlafmitz) Sherman, Mr. E. Malamud (principal), Harry Chetner, Jack Chetner. Front: Geta Gurevitch, Sarah Srolovitz, Mrs. Malamud, teacher, Eva Fishman, Fay Smolensky. Source: Sarah Engle. JHSSA #74

Fay Smolensky returned to Calgary and, in the family tradition, was active in the Jewish community.

I should also mention that at the time most of the above were in New York, Monica Engle, also a graduate of the Talmud Torah, was a student at the Julliard School of Music, which at that time was across the street, on Broadway, from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Monica has always been considered as one of the Calgary New York group. In fact, Monica married and raised a family in New York and has always kept close contact with her Calgary roots.

It is amazing that a relatively small Jewish community like Calgary could produce these students who would have an impact on many communities in North America. It shows that the seeds planted by a great teacher, Rabbi Horowitz, nurtured and supported by families and community, grew and spread and hopefully brought others to the love of Jewish life and Hebrew language and culture.

President's Message

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involved and invited to the first meeting, which may take place as early as this August.

With great devotion, Naomi Kerr helped us document and preserve our history for many years. Although she has now retired from her official duties, we hope Naomi will make time in her busy life of family, friends and travel to volunteer with us. In the meantime, we offer Naomi our hearty thanks and mazal tov!

Speaking of volunteers, we need more of them! If you are willing to play an active role on our Board of Directors or want to follow a passion by joining one of our committees or have a specific interest or skill to share, please come forward. The JHSSA can only continue to thrive if many hands and minds are not only enthusiastic and supportive, but actively involved.

It's How You Play the Game: Memories of our Hadassah Bridge Club

By Naomi Kerr and Therese Nagler

In 1955 we were members of a Hadassah chapter made up of newly married women, some of whom had jobs outside the home. Our chapter meetings were held in the evenings. Our Bridge Club was formed when two dedicated Hadassah members, Gertie Marcus and Fanny Mitchell, came to our Chapter meeting with an idea for a painless way to contribute money for Youth Aliyah. They suggested that anyone interested could form a card group at which each member would pay a small amount each time we played, with the money going to that important cause.

The idea met with enthusiastic approval with some of the girls wanting to play canasta while eight others opted for bridge. And the rest, as they say, is history.

We played every other Thursday night in each other's homes. In the early years, the hostess had to serve a late dinner – at times to 3 tables of bridge players. This became too cumbersome. As players left the group, they were not replaced, and eventually we dropped to a manageable two tables. Later, dinner was replaced by a snack

and an earlier meeting time was implemented. Although we did, and still do, pay a small amount each time we play, somewhere through the years we ceased to send it exclusively to Youth Aliyah. Now one of our favourite charities is Jewish Family Service, Calgary. Once a year our pooled income is used for a group lunch outing.

Over the years many people have moved away and others have dropped out for a variety of reasons, but replacements have always been found.

In 1985, Therese Nagler and Naomi Kerr organized a 30-year reunion of as many as possible of the ladies who had played in the group. About 30 women gathered for tea, a little bridge and a lot of reminiscing.

Some of our former members have gone on to become excellent players and even the rest of us have improved considerably over the years. We have changed our play times to Tuesday afternoon, but one thing has never changed – the purpose of the game is to have fun and it is safe to say that there has never been an angry word spoken.

The members of our Bridge Club, in approximately the order in which they played, are:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| *Therese Nagler | Hessie Switzer | Barrie Pollock |
| *Naomi Kerr | Faith Green | *Helen Walker |
| Bunny Goodman | Esther Goorvitch | Gertie Lerner |
| Frances Marks | Sandy Stern | Evelyn Gurevitch |
| Marilyn Faibish | Roz Steinberg | *Leni Hoffman |
| Edith Mittleman | Sheila Riesenberg | Minnie (Florence) Segal |
| Anne Tucker | Connie Nagler | Tiby Presma |
| Beverly Groberman | Phyllis Stochinsky | *Betty Mayer |
| *Delsie Dworkin | Doris Fishman | *Becky Hapton |
| Betty Filer | *Mona Joffe | *Sally Breslauer |
| Sarah Sair | Noni Lieberman | *Current members |
| Barbara Libin | Barbara Rapp | |
| Esther Robins | Lil Hector | |
| Pam Silver | Sondra Spier | |

Other similar groups existed in the community. Becky Hapton has provided JHSSA with the names of players who were members of two different Youth Aliyah Bridge Groups starting in 1949. She notes that a number of men also started a poker group which has held regular games over many years.



Bridge Group meeting, Fall 1991. Back table, clockwise left to right: Naomi Kerr, Molly Schecter (guest), Mona Joffe, Therese Nagler, Helen Walker (with back to camera); front table Leni Hoffman, Evelyn Gurevitch (partially hidden), Gertie Lerner, Delsie Dworkin. Source: Naomi Kerr. JHSSA #2682

Invitation to the 1985 Bridge Club Reunion

There's been many a bridge since the world was first new
And here we have space to list but a few:

There's Old London Bridge with the Thames underneath,
There's Mr. Lloyd Bridges, and bridgework in teeth.

There are bridges which span generations that gap,
And land-bridging continents found on a map.

But of all of these bridges, the best one must be
The Bridge Group whose roots are in antiquity.

Why, back in the days when this town had one horse,
Therese and Naomi were bidding, of course.

It's been 30 years (a crass figure to mention)

Since the very first group were defying conventions.

On alternate Thursdays, if mem'ry serves right

We always went out – 'cause it was Bridge Night.

Leaving husbands and babies to manage alone,

Away from the diapers, away from the phone.

Though all one could mention all night was "I pass"

The jokes and the stories were always first class.

The time often came when a girl moved away,

But another was found without much delay.

Although it is true that so many have gone,

It's not so surprising that Bridge Club lives on.

Our Group's evolution would strike Darwin dumb,

But still we are playing, and still we have fun.

So as a past member you're sincerely invited

To come to an evening and be reunited.

The date's June the Fourth, and the time will be eight –

We'll meet for dessert – so please save the date.

6107 on Belvedere Road,

We're setting it up at the Nagler abode.

It will be a good chance to see old friendly faces –

If you're able to join us, we'll be coming up aces!

In Appreciation: An Evening of Tribute to Jack Switzer^{z1} May 13, 2013

Over one hundred friends, colleagues and family members of the late Jack Switzer (1937-2012) gathered in the JCC auditorium on May 13, 2013 at an evening hosted by the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta in tribute to his many contributions to our community.

Master of ceremonies, Sheldon Smithens, presented vignettes from Jack's biography, based on a 2003 oral history that had been conducted by JHSSA Director Bertha Gold^{z1}. The presentation was accompanied by photographs of Jack, his family and his communal activities. The five speakers who addressed the different aspects of Jack's life succeeded in painting a full and colourful portrait. While similar threads were woven into each talk, the presentations were amazingly not repetitive.

Mitch Wise talked about Jack's long career at SAIT. He emphasized that Jack was a wonderful colleague and a hard worker who made many contributions to the institution. JHSSA Archivist Agi Romer Segal spoke about Jack's passion for our communal history and immense contributions his meticulous research and his devoted service have made to our society. Lindsay Moir, senior librarian at the Glenbow, painted a portrait of Jack as an atypical researcher, who gladly shared both his research findings and his passion for his subject. Norman Yanovsky spoke of the many years of friendship and cooperation he shared with Jack and his family within the small group who



Ted Switzer, with master of ceremonies Sheldon Smithens, speaking on behalf of the Switzer family at JHSSA's Jack Switzer Tribute event, May 13, 2013. JHSSA #4106.8

established Temple B'nai Tikvah. Norm related that no task was too small for Jack, who always went out of his way to make sure that every new face was made to feel welcome. Trudy Cowan spoke about Jack's passion for the Little Synagogue on the Prairie Project and his insistence that every detail must be just right.

The portrait was of a man dedicated to family and to community who had a passion for telling a story with a keen eye for detail – a serious, quiet and unassuming man with a wide range of interests. The most common theme however, throughout all the speeches, was Jack's wry sense of humour. A highlight of the evening was a short video clip of Jack performing a deadpan stand-up routine at a Temple B'nai Tikvah comedy night.

Ted Switzer thanked the speakers and the JHSSA on behalf of the entire family. By the end of the evening all one hundred attendees had learned something new about their friend Jack and they left with an even greater appreciation of this "gentle man". The JHSSA board is grateful to Laura Shuler, for developing the script, and to Sandra Lipton, for compiling the photo presentation with images provided by the Switzer family and from the JHSSA collection.

Who Were "Repstein & Brothers"?

By Betty Sherwood

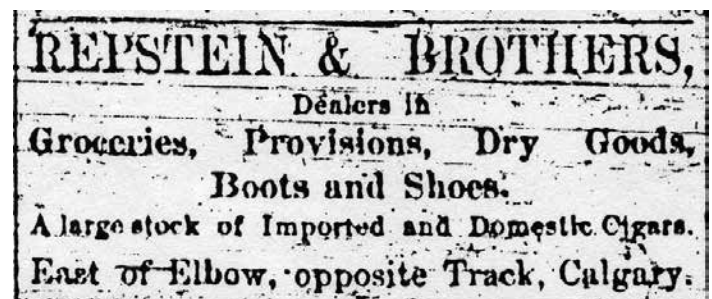
A small item in the Calgary Herald on October 12, 1883, advertised "Repstein & Brothers: dealers in Groceries, Provisions, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes." Their sales tent, set up east of the Elbow River and opposite the CPR tracks, bore the sign "Cheap Cash Store". But who were the Repstein brothers? To date, no other trace of them survives. However, if they were later known as the Ripstein brothers, we are speaking of a lively and enterprising trio who were born in Lithuania and arrived in New York City in 1870.

Not a great deal of information has been uncovered about Jacob (1850–1936), although a Mr. J. Ripstein made an appearance in Peterborough, Ontario in the early 1880s. In a 1901 Manitoba directory, he was listed as a commercial traveller. Jacob lived in Winnipeg until the early 1930s and died in Palestine. His eldest child, Isaac (1874–1930), was born in New York City and became a prominent Winnipeg businessman, community leader and father of seven children.

David (1851–1923) was the most well known and prosperous of the brothers. The New York Herald reported in 1875 that he and Jacob had been arrested for forgery in Montreal. In 1882 David and Simon were accused and acquitted of "selling liquor to Indians". David was also said to have been in Denver and in 1901 was a saloon keeper in Dawson. By this time, however, his permanent home was in Winnipeg, where his July, 1882 marriage to Annie Fineberg was the first Jewish wedding in Manitoba. David was one of the founders of Shaarey Zedek Synagogue and travelled throughout Manitoba soliciting funds from both Gentiles and Jews to erect its first building. He spoke out forcefully and publicly when Jews were singled out merely for being Jews and in 1906 financed the construction of a three-storey apartment building. Upon his death, David's estate was valued at more than \$200,000.

Often a partner with David in adventures and ventures, Simon (1858–1935) apparently arrived in Winnipeg in 1876. According to the 1901 Henderson's directory, he worked as a jewellery salesman. The father of nine children served as president of Shaarey Zedek Synagogue for several years and took part in the development of the Manitoba gold fields, having earlier sought his fortune in the Klondike. The United Hebrew Charities of Winnipeg named Simon as its founding president in 1909.

In the course of my research, I learned that early English variants of the Ripstein name were Raybshteyn and Reibstein. You may ask what piqued my interest in this surname. Simon married my great aunt Annie Finkelstein and Isaac married her sister Bessie. Naturally, I'm proud to claim these early pioneers as my great uncles!



“Palestine in Calgary” 100 Years Ago

By Harry Sanders

This article is a brief summary of the illustrated talk the author gave for JHSSA on April 29, 2013. Harry will be presenting his talk again as part of Historic Calgary Week on August 2nd at 10:00 am at the central branch of the Calgary Public Library

In April, Calgary’s Jewish community gathered on Yom Ha-Atzmaut to celebrate the 65th anniversary of Israel’s independence. On the day of Israel’s birth in 1948, Jews in Calgary were wild with joy. It was the culmination of the Zionist movement, which had been expressed locally with the establishment of the Calgary Zionist Society (Agudas Zion) in 1907.

Despite their interest in Palestine, Calgary Jews evidently showed no communal interest in an event that gripped the city 100 years ago this spring: The Palestine Exhibition.

From March 3-15, 1913, Calgarians had the opportunity to see “Palestine in Calgary” at the Victoria Park exhibition grounds (today’s Stampede Park). The exhibit was housed in the Industrial Building (now the site of the Stampede Corral) and the nearby Arts Building. There, Calgarians could see a model of ancient Jerusalem and another of the tabernacle, as well as Jewish antiques, biblical archaeology, and many other depictions of life in Palestine, past and present.

PALESTINE EXHIBITION

Admitted by all to be one of the most wonderful expositions ever produced.

Exhibition Buildings, Victoria Park

Will be opened at 3 p.m. today by Mayor Sinnott.

A Marvelous Revelation

The wonders of the changeless East faithfully portrayed.

An exhibition that has never been seen in Calgary before.

PALESTINE

Opens her doors today at 3 p.m., and will remain open until 10 p.m. for a fortnight.

Admission 25 cents; Children 15 cents. Five tickets \$1.00. Season tickets \$2.00. Costume lectures only extra.

REV. SAMUEL SCHOR,
General Manager

“The whole setting is so strikingly oriental that it is difficult to realize that one is still in Calgary,” wrote a *Calgary Daily Herald* reporter. Newspapers covered the event with daily stories about the exhibit and its visitors. “Everything shown in the booths has come direct from Palestine,” explained the *Herald*. “The houses and tents are as primitive as possible but are nevertheless exact facsimiles of

the homes of the Arabs and Jews of the present day.”

The exhibit was the work of Jerusalem-born Rev. Samuel Schor (1859–1933), the son of European Jews who had converted to Christianity and immigrated to Palestine. Schor was a member of the London Jews’ Society (formally known as the London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews), an Anglican missionary society founded in 1809. Besides its interest in converting Jews, the Society was an early manifestation of Christian Zionism, promoting the return of Jews to their ancient homeland as a precursor to the second coming.

HUNDREDS ATTEND PALESTINE EXHIBITION AT VICTORIA PARK

The large attendance yesterday at the opening ceremony of the Palestine exhibition at Victoria park augurs well for the success of this interesting exposition during its fortnight's stay in Calgary.

The large art building has been turned into a veritable Orient. No wonder that it has attracted huge crowds wherever it has been held, 400,000 people alone having visited it at the Royal Agricultural hall in London, Eng.

The Rev. Samuel Schor, the originator of the exhibition, was born in Jerusalem. The Orient is his country. The Bible is an oriental book. You must know oriental life, customs and manners. But as everyone cannot visit Palestine, he brings Palestine here with the greatest and most interesting collection ever brought together. Upon entering the building one is confronted with life in the East in a most realistic manner. A typical Palestine village home with eastern men women and children living their everyday life. In imagination one fancy oneself talking to Mary and Mar-



REV. SAMUEL SCHOR
Who is Conducting the Palestine Exhibition

Schor had first mounted The Great Palestine Exhibition in the Royal Agricultural Hall in London six years earlier. The Calgary engagement was part of a Canada-wide tour in 1912–13, with other stops in Montreal, Winnipeg and Toronto.

In Calgary, Schor secured assistance from over 600 workers representing the local Anglican, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. William R. Reader, who became Calgary’s long-serving Parks Superintendent just weeks later, was in charge of the exhibit’s Botany section.

At the end of the Calgary engagement, Rev. Schor announced that an appeal for funds in the city yielded \$170 – an amount higher than expected – and that it would help endow a new church on Mount Zion.

Individual Jews in the city doubtlessly went to see the exhibit, priced at 25 cents for adults, 15 cents for children, or a season ticket for \$2. But there is no evidence that the organized Jewish community took part. A column from the *Canadian Jewish Times*, remarking on the exhibit’s Toronto engagement, likely summarized the view of Calgary Jews as well. The correspondent saw the Palestine Exhibition as a tool of “strong Christianizing efforts” that meant to “sap the strength of Judaism.”

Photo to Identify



Group outing, c. 1930? Please contact us if you can identify some of the unknown people in this photo. Seated, front row left, Lucien Lieberman and far right, Sam Shlafmitz; standing in the background, Clara Maerov (Lieberman). Source: Lucien Lieberman. JHSSA #2697

New Books in our Library

The following are some of the recent publications that have been added to the Harry & Martha Cohen Library of the JHSSA. Tribute cards of \$54 or more can go towards the purchase of new library books. A bookplate with the name of the honouree is added to the library book. Our library is open for reference during our office hours and books may be borrowed by our members.

The Defining Decade: Identity, Politics and the Canadian Jewish Community in the 1960s, by Harold Troper, University of Toronto Press. This book will be of particular interest to those who were involved in communal organizations and the movements in support of Soviet Jewry and Israel in the 1960s.

The End! Radom and Szydlowiec Through the Eyes of a German Photographer, editors: Bella Gutterman and Nina Springer-Aharoni, Yad Vashem Publications. A number of Calgary Jewish families have roots in the Radom area. This photographic album documents the final days of these once thriving communities.

Imposing Their Will: An Organizational History of Jewish Toronto, 1933-1948, by Jack Lipinsky, McGill-Queen's University Press. This study of the development of the Jewish community structure in Toronto during the war era won the Joseph Brant Award of the Ontario Historical Society.

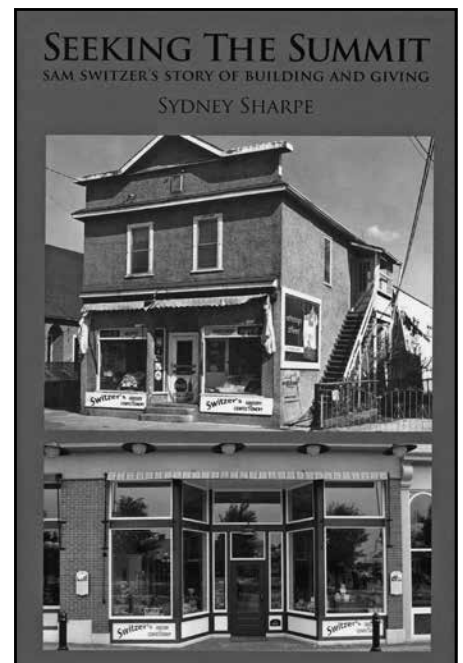
Jewish Roots, Canadian Soil: Yiddish Culture in Montreal, 1905-1945, by Rebecca Margolis, McGill-Queen's University Press. This illustrated study will be of interest to anyone who was active in the I.L. Peretz School. Its focus is on the development of Yiddish cultural organizations and features some of the well known personalities involved.

Reel Time: Movie Exhibitors and Movie Audiences in Prairie Canada, 1896 to 1986, by Robert M. Seiler and Tamara P. Seiler, Ath-

asca University Press. This detailed study by two local authors provides a picture of the development of movie theatres and movie-going in the West. The chapters on the early enterprises of the Allen family and later, of the Barron family will be of particular interest to our readers.

Seeking the Summit: Sam Switzer's Story of Building and Giving, by Sydney Sharp, Frontenac House. This is a story about a local personality by a local author. Sam Switzer is well known to the Calgary community and the story of his personal and business life illustrate what opportunities were available in Calgary in the past for those who dared to seize them.

Thank you to David Bickman, Shauna Switzer and Barbara Joffe who have recently donated books from their collections to the library.



JHSSA NEWS:

Keeping in touch just got easier!

We are delighted to announce that Harry Sanders will be tweeting for the JHSSA. Our Twitter account can be found at <https://twitter.com/JHSSA1> or by searching @JHSSA1 on Twitter. Up to date information on our upcoming programs can be found on our webpage (<http://jhssa.org>). If you haven't seen it since before the big update, it is worth having a look around. You can now order cards, renew your membership, and send research questions online, as well as finding our contact information and keeping up to date with our news.



Alberta Community Spirit Grant Update

The JHSSA is grateful to have received the Alberta Government's Community Spirit Grant again this year. "Since 2008, the Community Spirit Program benefited many nonprofit organizations across the province and successfully resulted in nonprofit/voluntary organizations increasing their private fundraising activity. The program was made up of two components – a donation grant and a charitable tax credit. The last year of the donation grant was 2012–13. Albertans continue to be eligible for the charitable tax credit." – Culture Alberta Website

Funding from this final grant will go towards our education kit project, website upkeep and development, genealogy projects and continuing work to make our archives more accessible to researchers through digitization of resources. Thank you to

everyone whose donations allowed us to qualify for this grant; we look forward to your continuing support in the future.

Laura Shuler 2013 Shem Tov Honouree

Laura Shuler has been named this year's JHSSA recipient of the Shem Tov award for outstanding contributions to our organization. The Shem Tov award is presented annually at the Calgary Jewish Federation AGM.

Laura has donated her many talents to JHSSA for over 20 years. She has performed dramatic readings of historical materials and even sung at our AGM programs. She is currently a board member and has developed scripts and helped organize a number of our recent programs. We are grateful for her creativity and energy.



Laura Shuler performing dramatic readings from historical memoirs at the JHSSA's October 1991 AGM with fellow performer, Donna Riback, looking on. JHSSA #4107.36

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- Single – \$18
- Family – \$36
- Institution/Corporation – \$36
- Patron – \$50
- Benefactor – \$100
- 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 or through www.jhssa.org.

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Visa MasterCard

Signature: _____

Do not send cash through the mail

JHSSA NEWS:

Seeking material about small town Alberta life

JHSSA's 23rd Annual General Meeting program will focus on Jewish life in the small towns of southern Alberta. If you have photographs, organizational records, business cards or letterhead or family stories from small towns such as Beiseker, Canmore, Drumheller, Irricana, Morrin, Rowley, Royalties and more, please contact 403-444-3171 or jhssa@shaw.ca to let us know what you have.



Joffe Bros. Store in Big Valley, c. 1915. The store was later sold to the Belkin family. Source: Jay Joffe. JHSSA #368

Celebrating our 80 year olds

Once again, JHSSA is asking our readers to submit the names of those senior members of our community who have celebrated an 80th birthday this past year so they can be honoured with a certificate at our October AGM. We will also be announcing the names of our 90 and 100 year olds. To submit a name, please call 403-444-3171 or email jhssa@shaw.ca

Bubbies and Zaidas Blogging: Gigabytes don't Bite!

JHSSA has agreed to be part of this new project sponsored by New Horizons for Seniors in partnership with a number of other Jewish community agencies. This new program is still in its planning stages and will be launched in September. It will provide a chance for seniors to learn some computer skills and to explore the world of storytelling in an intergenerational setting with expert facilitation. JHSSA sees this as an opportunity to encourage the preservation and the sharing of family histories. This program is free but space is limited. Please contact Shula Banchik at 403-537-8596 for further information or to be placed on a waiting list for registration.

The organizers are also looking for volunteers to help the facilitators. You can also help with this program by donating your old, working laptop. The program experts will strip it of all personal

information and it will be used by the senior participants to tell their life stories for future generations.

Chevra Kadisha of Calgary seeks archival material

In preparation for its centennial celebrations, Chevra Kadisha of Calgary is seeking archival material to form part of a display. If you have photographs or other memorabilia, either yours or belonging to family members, that you would be willing to lend or donate to the Chevra, please call 403-244-4717 or email them at chevraofcalgary@yahoo.ca

Corrections to Winter 2013 Discovery

Harold Lipton has informed us that in the photo of the Shaarey Tzedec choir photo Stanley Rubin was incorrectly identified as Stanley Rootman.

Corrections and additions to the 2013 Membership list: Benefactors: Richard Bronstein & Judy Shapiro, Larry & Deborah Katz, Donna Riback; Members: Shawn Blitz, Ken Drabinsky, Chana McKereghan, Keith & Barbara Samuels.

Tour of Jewish Calgary with Harry Sanders, Sunday, July 28, 2013 at 10:00 am

JHSSA is participating in the 2013 Historic Calgary Week by hosting a walking tour of historic Jewish Calgary led by JHSSA director and local historian Harry Sanders. The tour will start at the Women Are Persons! monument (Famous Five) in Olympic Plaza. The route will follow existing and vanished sites (as well as contemporary public art installations) that have connections to Jews and Jewish organizations.

Check www.chinookcountry.org for further Historic Calgary Week programming information.

DISCOVERY

Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta

Founding President: **Jay Joffe**^{*1}

Past President: **Jack Switzer**^{*1}

President: **Betty Sherwood**

Vice-Presidents: **Saundra Lipton, Paul Finkleman**

Treasurer: **Lil Hershfield**

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